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**VOLUME 15 EDITION 10** 

# The Winkler Morden

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

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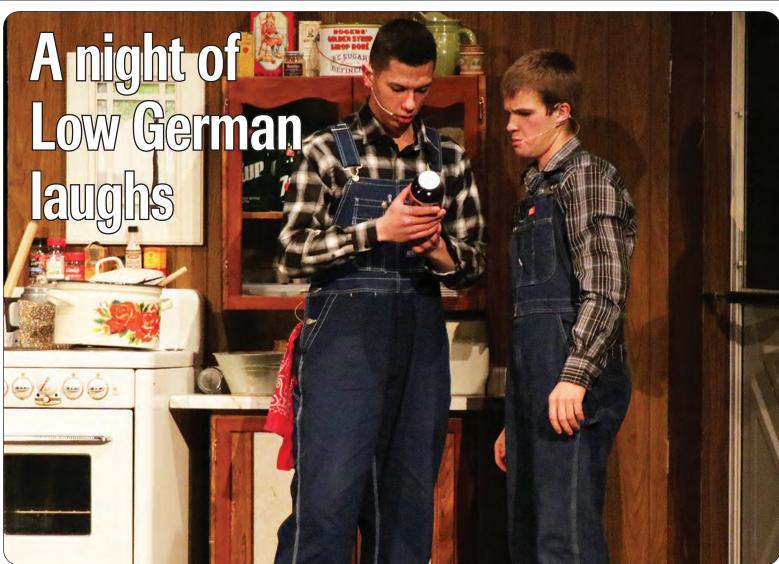


PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Jeremiah Wiebe and Jeffrey Elias played a pair of bachelors looking for housework help in one of two plays presented in last Friday and Saturday's Low German nights at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall. Both nights were completely sold out. Admission was by donation, with funds going towards the purchase of an electric duet bike for the Winkler personal care home's residents.

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# WSD unveils \$31M budget for '24-25

By Lorne Stelmach

Ratepayers in Western School Division are being asked to pay more in taxes this year to support education in Morden.

The tax hike comes with the division not only facing increased costs that include starting up a new school but also after having to largely hold the line on taxes in recent years under the cap enforced by the previous provincial government.

"It is a big tax increase ... what we are doing though is understanding that we have had some big tax decreases over the last several years, and that is unsustainable in our environment," chairperson Brian Fransen said at a public meeting last Wednesday that introduced the draft budget. "So what we're doing is we're looking back a couple years, and approximately 2020, that's kind of what we're looking at in terms of a burden."

"We've had a number of years where we've been restricted for our income. We didn't have the taxing authority," said secretary treasurer Carl Pedersen. "Anything that we're allowed to increase the special requirement from was reduced by an offsetting grant from the province.

"With our assessment growing well over two per cent every year and our student body growing over two per cent, it's been a difficult number of budgets for the last number of years," he continued. "So as a result, we've been kind of peeling back all those discretionary items that we could ... that's just not sustainable.

"There's lots of places where costs have really increased, and we're in a pinch," he added. "And when you don't have the funding to match that, we have only one source to go now."

The board is introducing a budget of about \$31 million for the 2024-25 school year, and the impact on taxpayers will vary.

On a house assessed at \$400,000, the local school levy will increase by \$369 to \$2,496.60, although it will be reduced to an increase of \$184.50 after the provincial rebate.

On a million dollar quarter section



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Western School Division trustees Lisa Burley, Darcy Wolfe, Brian Fransen, and Susana Hawryshko at the public budget meeting last week.

of farmland in the RM of Stanley, the levy will increase by \$533 to \$3,606.20. For a \$350,000 business, the increase will be \$444.54 to \$5,137.63.

Provincial funding represents about 65 per cent of the division's total revenue, with local taxation making up about 34 per cent. This compares to recent provincial averages of 57.7 and 36.1 per cent respectively.

Provincial funding overall increased by about five per cent (over \$830,000), however a large portion of that increase is targeted funding and not for general operating support.

The budget spends about 85 per cent on salaries and benefits, while the breakdown otherwise includes 6.9 per cent for administration, 6.56 per cent on transportation and operations, 5.74 per cent to instructional support, 1.89 per cent for tax and interest and 0.44 per cent on adult and community education.

Continued on page 11

## Winkler's pitch for federal housing dollars rejected

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler got some bad news last week about its application to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF).

The city had applied for approximately \$10.3 million of the \$4 billion earmarked by the federal government to help communities across Canada address the housing crisis.

Word came down from the fund's administrators last Thursday that Winkler's application was unsuccessful

"We're obviously quite disappointed," Mayor Henry Siemens said in sharing the news. "We submitted our application and had really good thoughts in terms of what we had put forward."

Winkler's application drew on data gleaned from a housing needs assessment council commissioned last year.

That report shows the number of private dwellings added to Winkler on an annual basis will not keep up with future demand, nor is there enough rental units to meet current and future demand.

The assessment also identified the growing need for a variety of different types of housing options in the community—more affordable units for young families looking to get into the market, accessible housing for aging seniors, and more subsidized and social housing units.

The HAF application outlined how the City of Winkler intended to use the funds to create incentives that would accelerate housing starts in the community.

It projected that without funding Winkler is looking at 244 new housing units over the next three years. With the funding, that number was expected to reach 519 units.

The plan called for 138 units to fall under the definition of affordable housing. The application noted two different non-profits in the area had 25-unit and 26-unit affordable housing projects ready to go in recent years, but both were unable to get shovels in the ground due to rising construction costs and insufficient grant funding. HAF dollars would have allowed those projects to move

forward

Siemens says they'll be speaking with HAF reps to see where Winkler's application may have fallen short, in the hopes that, if there should be a future round of funding, they can present a stronger case.

"Is there something we missed?" he said, wondering if perhaps Winkler's application was the victim of bad timing. "Potentially, when we look at it, a lot of the monies that were going out [to other communities] were going to try to get some significant changes to zoning bylaws and things like that. Things we have already been doing over the last three or four years ... so we're wondering if potentially being ahead of the game there maybe hurt us in that regard."

That said, it may have also simply been a matter of too many applications and two few available dollars.

"Four billion dollars sounds like an awful lot of money, but on a per capita basis it really doesn't go far," Siemens acknowledged, noting the HAF received over 500 submissions across the country.

So what's next? Siemens says Win-

kler can't afford to not address its housing shortage, and council will be looking at what it can do to encourage and support a range of residential projects.

"It's something that happens time after time in southern Manitoba," he said. "If we don't get support, then we find a way to just do it a different way"

"The need is definitely there. We have to do something."

A housing task force has been created to continue to discuss the matter and potential solutions.

"That task force isn't specifically [focused on] affordable housing," Siemens noted. "That is built to find ways to build housing along the entire housing continuum, to find ways to support the growth of housing in this area.

"Are there things that we can do as the City of Winkler?" he said, noting the city may not have the funds to financially support major housing projects, but the question they're asking is "how can we get out of the way and how do we help" make them a reality.

## Tickets for SCCR fashion show go on sale March 15

By Lorne Stelmach

For over a decade now, its annual fashion show has been a major fundraiser for South Central Cancer Resource, but it is just as vital for raising awareness.

All the models for the April 25 event will be cancer survivors, volunteers, or members of the community who have shared in a cancer journey with a loved one, so the opportunity to share those stories can have a big impact.

"For some people, it's a very personal journey, and they don't talk about it to even friends or family ... for those who are willing to share how and what they've gone through, it is huge," said Leora Hamm, administrative resource co-ordinator for SCCR.

Having volunteers like a couple of mothers honouring their young children who were former cancer patients and a few teenagers as well as seniors really gets the message across that cancer touches everyone, added Hamm.

"They're either cancer patients, former patients who might be in remission, or they're modelling in honour of a loved one or in memory of a loved one. We give them a little bit of an opportunity to share a little bit about their cancer journey."

Having an impact as well will be guest speakers Greg and Allison Heso sharing their family's experience dealing with Allison's breast cancer during the pandemic.

"They're going to talk a little bit, as immigrants to Canada, what that was like going through that during COVID and at a time when they didn't have a lot of support," Hamm says.

The fashion show is the SCCR's biggest fundraiser, netting over \$43,000

"That goes a long way to keeping our office doors open for sure," said Hamm, who noted there is still a lack of awareness that SCCR is not government funded and not associated with CancerCare Manitoba.

Founded in 2003, SCCR relies solely on the support of community donors, volunteers, and fundraisers to continue offering services and programs.

With its client numbers continuing to trend upwards, it is really counting on fundraising efforts to be a success in order to continue helping all of those in the south central region who need support throughout their battles with cancer, said Hamm.

**VOICE FILE PHOTO** 

**SEEN** ROYER

South Central Cancer Resource's annual fashion show takes place at the Morden Access Event Centre on April 25. Tickets go on sale March 15.

"We're here to kind of fill in that piece of the puzzle," she said, observing that the financial impact of cancer is often overlooked.

"Cancer is expensive. We often think about the emotional and the physical side of it ... when you're off work for months at a time, and your spouse is off work to care for you and drive you in for treatments," she said. "I don't think a lot of people really understand that piece to having cancer."

The Beauty in Bloom fashion show takes place at the Morden Access Event Centre Thursday, April 25. It will feature clothing and accessories from Fashions by Co-op, Knockabouts, Copper & Sparrow, Livienne Bridal, Stephen Street Wear, and Focal Point. The evening will also include a rainbow auction.

Tickets go on sale online at sccr.mb. ca on Friday, March 15 at 9 a.m. Last year they sold out within 24 hours.



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## Local Irish dancers shine at North American Open

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Three local youth kicked up their heels and did their community proud at the CRN North American Open Irish Dance Championships in Pittsburgh last month.

Luke Prusina, Eva Espenell, and Ella Kalinowski were joined by Morden Danceworks instructor (and Luke's mother) Cathy Savage at the Feb. 17-19 event.



**SUPPLIED PHOTO** 

Ella Kalinowski, Luke Prusina, instructor Cathy Savage, and Eva Espenell competed at the CRN North American Open Irish Dance Championships in Pittsburgh last month.

Prusina swept all his events, placing first in the Bunghrad (Level 1) Reel, Bunghrad Slip, and Bunghrad Light Jig to become an U18 North American champion.

Espenell, who earned her North American champion rank at last year's competition, placed first in the Ullmhuchan (Level 2) Slip and Meanghrad (Level 3) Hornpipe events and second in both the Meanghrad Reel and the Ullmhuchan Heavy Jig. She ultimately earned a second-place award in the Ullmhuchan U18 category.

Kalinowski finished first in the Ullmhuchan Single Jig and second in the Ullmhuchan Heavy Jig. She received a seventh-place award in the Ullmhuchan U15 division.

It was a great weekend of dancing, says Prusina, 14, noting it feels "pretty good" to have aced all his events and earned the champion title.

He's been dancing since he was in Gr. 3.

"I enjoy it. I find it fun," he says of what keeps him in it. He encourages other kids to give Irish dancing a try if they're looking for a new challenge that could help them out in the other sports they're involved in. "It's fun and if you play soccer it'll make your kick a bit better."

For Espenell, 16, it's the uniqueness of Irish dance that has had her practicing it since she was eight years old.

"It's just something different," she says. "I like the people that I meet while I'm doing it at the competitions. Everybody's always so friendly and it's nice to get to know new people with the same interest."

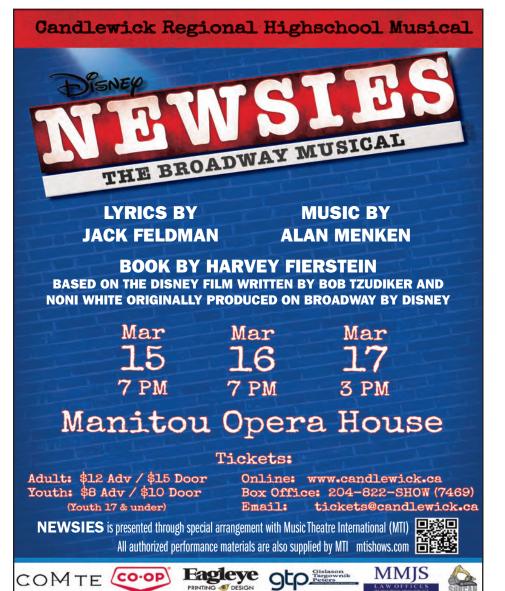
Seeing the kids grow in their abilities is a great reward for Savage, who has been teaching Irish dance locally for years.

"Each year I see the dancers improve and advance to the next level. As a teacher, it is amazing to see their progress," she says, noting the big draw of this form of dance is how, when you get it right, "it feels like you're flying across the stage."

The studio currently has about 45 Irish dancers of all ages, roughly half of which dance competitively at events here in Manitoba (the next one is in Winnipeg in June) and further afield at international competitions like the North American Open.

Continued on page 7





## **Eden Foundation hosting fundraising concert March 24**

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Eden Foundation invites the community down for an Evening With Elvis at the Winkler concert hall this coming Palm Sunday.

The show taking place on March 24 at 7 p.m. at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall will feature gospel music from Elvis tribute artist Corny Rempel and the New Covenant Quar-

"Both the New Covenant Quartet and Corny Rempel have been great supporters of Eden Foundation and are very open about sharing mental health stories and experiences that they've had," says Jayme Giesbrecht, the foundation's director of development. "It's just so great to watch and listen to such entertainers, as well as hearing a great message."

Admission is free, though donations will be accepted towards Eden's mental health programming.

"As always when funds are given to Eden Foundation, we collect it into one big pot and during our granting season we are able to support Eden's programs like Segue Career Options, the employment services department; Eden's residential care services, our housing and supports. We have housing or apartment units in Winkler, in Steinbach, and in Winnipeg that all need support beyond what the government gives.

"The Recovery of Hope counselling is probably the biggest way that donors are supporting Eden," Giesbrecht continues. "That is through the sliding fee scale—when someone that is not able to commit to the full payment amount for seeing a counsellor, Eden Foundation steps in to make sure that the rest is covered. Without donor support, we wouldn't be able to do that.

"We don't want to let a thing like money stop people from getting the help and the hope that they need."

If you can't make the Winkler concert on the 24th, the foundation is also hosting a Gospel Music afternoon show in Steinbach on Sunday, March

"Last year we did a Palm Sunday gospel concert in Winkler that went over really well," says Giesbrecht. "So I thought I would continue that trend and this time do one in Winkler and one in Steinbach, because Eden has a footprint in both places and we would love the support of people in both."

The Steinbach show is also admission by donation and features music from the New Covenant Ouartet,



**SUPPLIED PHOTOS** The New Covenant Quartet (above) and Elvis tribute artist Corny Rempel (right) perform at Eden Foundation's fundraising concert at the P.W. Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler March 24.



Giesbrecht, Kim Thiessen, Jon Guent-

ther details can be found online at

## **BTHC Hospital Auxiliary** avoids disbandment

Several new board leaders found, more members and volunteers are still needed

By Lorne Stelmach

A community organization that plays a key role in supporting the regional hospital will be able to carry on with its work.

A recent appeal for more volunteers to help fill some key committee roles was successful enough that the Boundary Trails Hospital Auxiliary will not have to consider shutting

Other than just needing to get more board members overall, the auxiliary particularly needed to fill the recently vacated positions of treasurer and hospital gift shop overseer.

"We got both, and we also got a few new members. We still need some more, but it's good," Margaret Ann Popplestone said, voicing her relief that the new additions to the board have "eliminated the dissolution of the auxiliary."

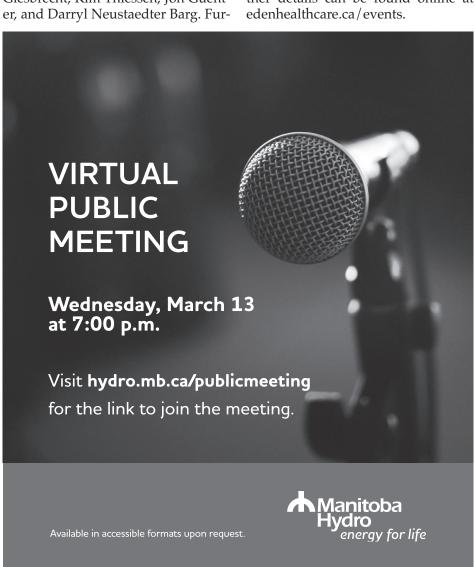
Popplestone said it would have been unfortunate if the auxiliary had to shut down, as it has played an important role in the area for a long time.

The Morden chapter of the auxiliary celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2018 before it amalgamated with the Winkler chapter.

"Morden actually has had an auxiliary since the Freemasons hospital ... so it goes back a long time," Popplestone said.

She noted the government only has so much money to fund all of the equipment that is needed at BTHC, so the auxiliary plays the important role

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## Now for the light

tor mentioned that people's negativity about the region on social media has been affecting the ability to recruit new health care professionals.

This is brutal.

I was shocked to learn that I have been writing for the Voice for almost 14 years now (time flies) and in that time I have shared my fair amount of critical content.

I do not apologize for that, as the role of the columnist is to present a view from where they stand and advocate and times that view is ugly.

Still, to know I

may have, in some



**By Peter** Cantelon

way, been a part of making it harder for the region to maintain and improve its health care is a tough pill to

Let me tell you about my experience with the Pembina Valley and its amazing communities like Altona, Plum Coulee, Winkler, Morden, Miami, and more.

The Pembina Valley is about opportunity. Like so many others, I moved here as an outsider in 2005 from Toronto. As a born and raised Ontarian. I never realized there were other places to live outside of a 200 km radius of Canadian Mecca.

Still, with a career change underway a persistent opportunity in Morden

ecently, a local doc- kept nagging at me and finally I employed the wise words of a mentor: "Walk through every door that opens for you because you don't have to stay in the room." So myself and family came to visit.

I expected a desert of culture and resource and what I found was an oasis beyond expectation. I came to the region with a completely biased mindset, expecting to not stay, and here I am 24 years later still here.

Why? There isn't a column big enough to contain all the benefits of having lived here, but I will offer a few reasons.

First and foremost, the people of this region are incredible, friendly and welcoming. Sure, there are always a few you could do without in any community and in these days where one negative voice sounds like 1,000 it can be easy to miss the majority who are quietly awesome.

We moved here with a variety of needs and they were abundantly met. We had unexpected reno needs. People helped. People helped us move. People reached out to make sure we were okay. There was an instant community that I had never experienced growing up in Ontario.

The beauty of the prairie is incompa-

rable to anything else. I marvelled at the sky that seemed to go on forever. I saw stars I didn't even know existed in the clear, dark nights. I felt a safety and security for myself and my children I never knew was possible.

This region has seen me through the most difficult times of my life. This region has given me the greatest gifts and loves I have ever been given. My children grew up here and continue to call Morden and Winkler home (one is only a 90-minute drive away). Every amenity I thought I would

miss in Toronto I can get here. The Pembina Valley has been one of the fastest growing regions in the country for well over two decades now. No one does diversity like we do. There are loud voices for the voiceless here. There are advocates that continue to seek justice and equality right here that will not be silenced.

In my life I have had the opportunity to travel for work and pleasure to nearly every continent on earth and visit literally hundreds of cities and towns form Peru, through Europe, from Australia through Japan and beyond, so I have a point of reference.

Continued on page 7

### **Letter policy**

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

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

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

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

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View the Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca

## letters

#### LET FREEDOM RING

For weeks this past summer our drive to town passed the large flag-bearing sign thanking truckers for the "Freedom Convoy." At first jarring, I became able to barely acknowledge what was once a looming

Growing up in the United States, the word "freedom" was engrained in the DNA of all of us within the public school system:

"My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing. Land where our fathers died, Land of the pilgrim's pride, From every mountainside

Let Freedom ring."

So we sang daily, along with the Pledge of Allegiance, revering our country's flag as the leader of freedom and precious democracy in our world. We were the best in the world; superior to all others. No other country held our prosperity, or so we believed. Protecting our freedomsseen as personal freedoms—became paramount.

As a child, these narratives were engrained, nurtured, and tied to its economic counterpart, free enterprise. In America, you could do what you want, work hard and gain all that you could, and attain the personal good life. This narrative is still held by many in that country, with the understanding that personal rights and goals are the highest value in society and must not be threatened.

Such an understanding of freedom is like seeing a digital picture so closely only its dots, or pixels, are visible. What is lost is the larger pic-

At freedom's core is its interconnectedness. What is isolated and functions on its own has no context, and therefore no accountability. To assert no accountability to anyone is not freedom, but a gross misunderstanding of democracy's companion tenets: "liberty and justice for all."

The "For All" part will challenge the world in coming decades as never before. We cannot act the same. Business and the economy are no longer and will not be as we have known it. The way we understand the natural world and our relationship with it cannot remain the same. We, and our world, are all connect-

The understandings of "liberty" and "freedom" cannot remain within the dangerous confines of the pixel dots of individual assertion. Our time calls us to a greater humanity which seeks the common good and nurtures our earth home.

Systemic changes are huge, and difficult to comprehend. The rehearsal we have experienced with the Covid pandemic shows us the complexities of a needed large-scale humanitarian response. We must learn from this experience to prepare us, as a larger society, and as communities, for the challenges to come.

Symbols are powerful and revered. The dangers of misusing symbols are great, because in the end it diminishes the people it seeks to represent. Let us seek a better path.

> Marilyn Houser Hamm, Altona

#### > IRISH DANCERS, FROM PG. 4

"They did amazing," Savage says of Prusina, Espenell, and Kalinowski. "Eva was dancing level three for the first time and Ella was dancing level two for the first time. And Luke, with his big win, has made it out of Level 1 and moves up to Level 2 for everything now. I'm so incredibly proud of them all."

You can enjoy the skills of the Danceworks Irish Dancers at their upcoming Irish Ceili. It takes place at the Kenmor Theatre in Morden on Friday, March 22 at 7 p.m.

#### > AUXILIARY, FROM PG. 5

of fundraising to support additional purchases.

"The funds we raise goes for equipment for the hospital here," she explained. "The auxiliary has been around for years and years. It's something that benefits everybody in the community. Everyone uses the hospital.

Now the auxiliary can move forward on plans for the year ahead.

"We will be making plans. I'm

ers," Savage says. "All five classes will be dancing in it." Also performing will be musician Tom McDermott, also known as The Irish Cowboy.

"It's a showcase for our Irish danc-

Admission is \$10 at the door, with proceeds going to support Dance-

"We're trying to get a new floor for the studio where we practice downstairs," Savage explains.

"It's just a great night out and it's open to everyone."

not sure what we're going to do for fundraisers yet, but we will be getting to that in a couple of weeks ... then we will have an idea of what we're going to do," said Popplestone, adding they're still in need of additional board members and gift shop volunteers.

Anyone interested or wanting more information can contact Popplestone at 204-822-6208.

#### > CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

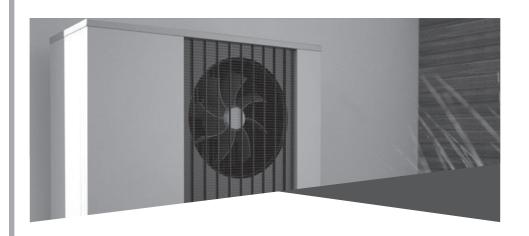
I have had lots of opportunities to leave this community but I'm still here. Heck, my full-time job is in Winnipeg, but I'd rather commute than move.

Why am I still here? How could I leave? There's so much light here in this place that has welcomed me and countless others.

When I sit in my backyard in the city's heart around a fire with family and friends enjoying a beer on a quiet, warm summer evening there is always one truth that rings loud: this is home. Every time I leave it calls me back in a way no other place has ever done.

For people on the fence about coming to the Pembina Valley I say this: walk through the door and come discover the home you never knew you were missing.

## **Voice** What's *You'v* story? Call 204-325-6888



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## Genesis House to host second annual Womens Health Expo

By Lorne Stelmach

The upcoming Womens Health Expo aims to enlighten and educate its participants.

Coming just a couple weeks after International Women's Day, the event set for the Access Event Centre in Morden on Saturday, March 23 will have something for everyone, suggested Sophie Gerbrandt, resource development manager for Genesis

"I hope people leave feeling empowered and maybe with at least one tidbit of knowledge that can help them with a healthier life," Gerbrandt said of the day which will include a variety of speakers and displays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Held for the first time last year, the expo was well received despite being impacted by poor weather.

"Unfortunately last year the event was held on, I think, one of the worst snowstorms that we had last winter, so a number of our presenters unfortunately had to present over Zoom because they weren't able to make it in, and we think that definitely reduced the number of folks who were able to join us at least in person," said



**VOICE FILE PHOTO** 

The March 23 Womens Health Expo, hosted by Genesis House, will feature a host of guest speakers and displays revolving around physical and mental wellbeing.

Gerbrandt. "We moved it a little bit further in March to hopefully combat that a little bit."

Gerbrandt said the thought behind the expo is "that prevention is key and supporting women in our community to be the healthiest, best versions of themselves only betters our community as a whole.

"Health can mean a whole bunch of different things, and it's important to take time for yourself, whatever that may look like for you," she said. "I think we often find, especially in our community, that women often take on ... roles and put other people before themselves, so this is really to promote personal wellness and to prioritize your own health."

The lineup of presentations and speakers includes:

- 10 a.m. Mental health with counsellor Tamar Gordon Stoesz.
- 11 a.m. Lymphedema: what is it and how does it affect women by Linda Menzies.

- 12 p.m. More Than a Shelter: Genesis House will address some of the social determinants of health.
- 1 p.m. Menopause and nutrition with Halee Verzyl, a dietitian with Southern Health-Santé Sud.

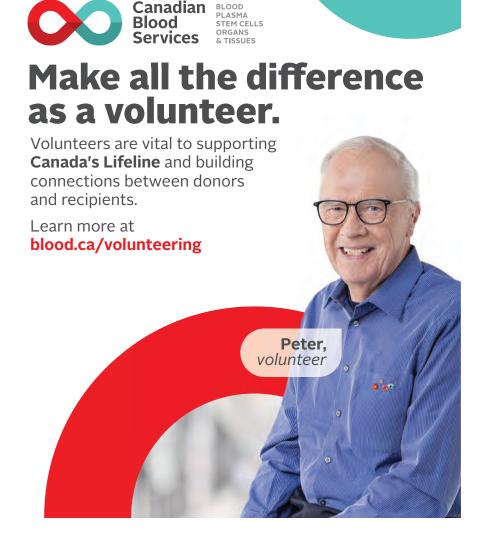
"We actually had that presentation last year as well, and it was very popular," noted Gerbrandt.

- 2 p.m. Endometriosis and pelvic health with Dr. Rachel Noble.
- 3 p.m. Empowering women with Catherine Wreford, who was on Amazing Race Canada and has performed on Rainbow Stage and is a cancer survivor.

"[Wreford's] going to be sharing on the importance of seeking help and treatment and advocating for yourself," Gerbrandt said. "She is a powerhouse. I've heard her speak before, and we're excited to have her end off the day.

"We also have a variety of booths that are going to be set up throughout the day ... covering all aspects of health," she added. "There are going to be movement breaks, so we have some local fitness instructors who are going to be leading us through some short workouts throughout the day."





## **Valley Motorsports** has big plans for 2024

By Lorne Stelmach

Now with one year under its belt, the Valley Motorsports Association is looking forward to moving ahead and building on its initial success.

The association recently held its annual meeting, and president Chris Unrau reflected on the positive response to the first year of events at the Dead Horse Creek Speedway.

"We're ecstatic. We never imagined that this thing would grow legs and take off the way it did. We obviously had hopes for success, but we hadn't imagined the community would take hold of it the way that they have," said Unrau.

"We've got a lot of people who are excited about what we are doing, a lot of people who are excited about attending, participating, sponsoring, volunteering. It's been an amazing journey to see the community coming together around it."

The association formed as a not-forprofit corporation in 2023 and took over operation of the former ALH Motor Speedway west of Morden. The speedway was constructed by Al Hildebrand in 2008 and operated from 2009 through 2019 before closing during the pandemic.

The association bills itself as grassroots enthusiasts whose mission is to advance motorsports for the enjoyment of the region.

Unrau highlighted the enormous efforts of the community, businesses, and volunteers that enabled them to revitalize the track, which most notably included reshaping and resurfacing it with 350 truckloads of clay donated by Kroeker Farms.

Despite posting a minor loss in its first year of operations, the group was generally satisfied with the financial



**VOICE FILE PHOTO** 

The Valley Motorsports Association has three race weekends planned for this summer at Dead Horse Creek Speedway.

performance, and it was able to make a \$20,000 donation to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation for the ongoing hospital expansion.

Three weekend special events are on tap for 2024, Unrau shared.

The McNaught Cadillac Cup will be May 25-26 and will include the attendance of the Northern Late Model Racing Association with a top level of late model competitors in the region.

The GVE Deere Run will go July 5-6 featuring the Watermelon Cup modified special as well as the Brad Wall Memorial.

Closing out the season in conjunction with the Corn and Apple Festival is the King of the Corn on Aug. 23-24.

Other plans include the addition of a lap/leaderboard that will be constructed prior to the start of the season and sponsored by LMS Ag Equipment. A proposed new championship points fund could pay out additional winnings to drivers who earn points for performance on and off the track

Some ideas for the future include seating expansion, corporate private suites, and the addition of other

With numerous projects on tap, the organization is looking for more volunteers to assist in construction, maintenance, track work and event operations, noted Unrau.

There is a really strong racing community. It's not just dirt track. We've also talked about doing potential drag race events. We're talking about doing a truck and tractor pull. There's a lot of people who are excited about various forms of motor sports."

More information is available online at www.deadhorsecreekspeedway.ca.

### Community weighs-in on Winkler PD

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Police Board has gotten the results back from its 2023 community survey.

Chief Ryan Hunt shares that 380 people filled out the questionnaire last fall, rating their overall level of satisfaction with the Winkler Police Service, on average, as 3.98 out of five.

"I'm pretty happy with that number," he says, noting it is a slight drop from the 4.09 reported in the 2020 survey. "There's always room for improvement.

"I think it's important that the community have a say in how their community is policed," Hunt says.

Much of the responses line up with the previous survey. Traffic (noise, speeding, e-scooter use, and so on) remains the top identified concern by a wide margin—200 respondents listed it as the most important issue in community that police should be addressing.

Drugs was in the number two spot (same as in 2020) with 140 responses followed by crime / theft at 41, other at 34, public safety at 24, domestic violence at 20, and visibility/police presence with eight.

As to what respondents feel the Winkler Police Service is doing well, the five top-ranked areas included public relations with 63 comments followed by visibility/police presence at 52, drugs at 48, other at 38, and response time at 34.

Continued on page 10



#### INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER **SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON MLA PAY**

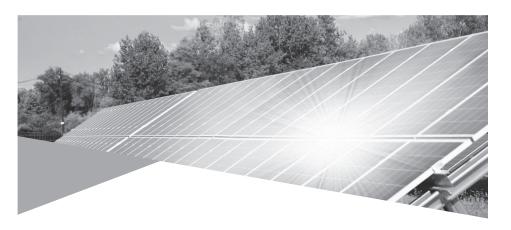
An independent commissioner of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly has been appointed to make decisions about the appropriate salary, allowances and retirement benefits for all MLAs.

The commissioner, Michael Werier, K.C., would like to hear from you before April 15, 2024.

Your submission may be sent to: Public Input for Independent Commissioner

302-386 Broadway Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R6 E-mail: commissioner@legassembly.mb.ca

Current MLA pay, allowances and retirement benefit information can be found at www.reviewcommissioner.mb.ca



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## Winklerites' ConstructionClock app gaining global reach

By Lorne Stelmach

A company started by a contractor from Winkler is on the verge of global growth thanks to its unique app.

ConstructionClock is touted as the first fully automated, hands-free time tracking app for construction companies, and the business driven by founder David Peters and fellow Winkler native Joel Wiebe as marketing leader is starting to catch on at more and more job sites.

"Our goal wasn't how fast can we grow. It's been on what's the most innovative product we can build to solve problems for contractors and people in the construction industry," Peters said recently. "We are very grateful for the success that we have had, and now we look at how do we make this a household name where we become the market leader?"

"There are competitors out there that do a basic version of what we offer, but they don't leverage GPS and geofencing technology to the fullest, and that is what makes construction clock definitely the most unique app," said Wiebe. "It's a concept that just seems to resonate with people."

By using GPS technology to automate clocking in and clocking out, companies can track hours with 100 per cent accuracy and unrivalled simplicity.

ConstructionClock enables company owners, employees, and book-keepers to optimize the most expensive material on the job site: time.

ConstructionClock has formed a strategic alliance with CompanyCam, which is one of the fastest growing construction tech companies in the world. The integration syncs projects and photos between apps, making job sites even more productive and accurate.

The International Builders Show selected ConstructionClock as a featured start-up, and it was selected to showcase how they're transforming the industry at the show in Las Vegas, the largest annual construction show in the world.

The genesis of the idea came from



**SUPPLIED PHOTOS** 

Winkler's own David Peters and Joel Wiebe have created a new app, ConstructionClock, that makes scheduling easier for contractors. It's gaining traction on job sites around the world.

Peters being a contractor and searching for a way to manage his employ-

"When I went to the industry to look for a piece of software that would be a solution to manage my teams, I was highly disappointed, and everyone I talked to kind of had the same outlook," he said. "They couldn't find a time attendance app for their crews that really worked well. I thought there might be an opportunity here."

He started working on it about two years ago and brought Wiebe on board.

"I said, look, I think we can build something that the industry really needs and nobody has really tapped into," Peters said. "It took me about an hour to convince him, and he quit his job ... it's been him and I ever since, and we've been delivering this incredible software."

They started pitching it initially to other construction companies in southern Manitoba and continued to perfect the app over the course of a year. Forty companies jumped on board to try it out.

"It's an amazing, robust product, and we feel we are just getting started," Peters said. "I think ConstructionClock does what all the other software does, but there is one very powerful thing and that is auto clocking in and out."

Wiebe noted the app then has a ripple effect for companies in terms of increased productivity, and it can work with Quickbooks online and allow users to export directly into that program to run payroll with a click of a button.

"We hear the comment all the time, 'You've given us our Saturdays back' ... those times when you have to sit down and organize all of that stuff and put it into the system," he said. "And now I get to play with my kids on Saturday mornings."

Wiebe observed that they are now starting to even see interest from other sectors such as catering companies.

"The only surprising thing is the applicability has been broader than we expected," he said. "We see some of the most interesting companies come through the funnel now on a regular

basis.

Peters is excited to see the potential for further growth globally.

"We started in Manitoba, and we expanded across Canada, and now we are in multiple countries," he said. "It's quite remarkable to see in a year and a half how much this has taken off, not just in North America but also in other parts of the world.

"In 18 months, we've become this global company, and we're based in southern Manitoba," he said. "I feel like if this is what we were able to accomplish in a year and a half, what can we do in a decade?"

Wiebe noted the app right now is largely being taken up by companies that average 10-15 users, but they recently picked up a company in Nebraska with about 150 people, so he sees them starting to get not only more users but particularly larger companies.

"It can work in any concept, in any geography. We'll continue to expand. We're still small players in this, but we do plan to expand," said Wiebe, noting they are for now focussing on English speaking countries although he sees that eventually changing as well. "The bigger the company, the more projects that you're working on, the more value our app can add into that process."

#### > SURVEY, FROM PG. 9

The results "gives us a guide as to where we should focus our resources," Hunt says, noting the identified issues line up well with their areas of focus. "The traffic issues and illegal drugs and property crime are still the top ones, first and foremost in people's minds, and certainly our day-to-day policing is geared towards that."

There are several officers who specialize in drug investigations, though the entire department plays a role when needed, Hunt says. Otherwise, the department's 20 officers (not including the chief and deputy-chief, who take more of an administrative role) are kept busy responding to calls and patrolling the community, keeping an eye out for things like traffic infractions.

"Overall, we'll keep doing what we've been doing," Hunt says, adding that they intend to do these surveys every four years or so to ensure the department's priorities continue to line up with the community's.





## Morden Festival of the Arts returns next week

By Lorne Stelmach

The 2024 Morden Festival of the Arts gets underway with three sessions coming up this month.

Plans are all in place for the 49th festival, which aims to foster and promote continued interest, growth and development of talent within the arts and provides a venue for student performance, instruction and adjudication in the areas of strings, sacred, piano, vocal, choral, band and French and English speech arts.

"It's a good opportunity for kids who have been practicing music to present it to an audience and receive feedback from the adjudicator," said spokesperson Erika Dyck. "It really is a great learning opportunity. It takes something special to be able to perform in front of an audience."

This year's festival has 431 entries ranging from solo, duet, and trio performances to ensembles, classroom choirs, and bands.

The schedule kicks off with the

Paul's United Church followed by sacred music March 17 at Westside Community Church and piano March 17-18 at Westside Community

Strings sessions start Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m., Monday at 9:15 a.m., 1:15 and 7 p.m., and then Tuesday at 9:15

There are 109 entries from beginner to Grade 10 and diploma with performances on violin, cello and guitar in a variety of classes. Adjudicator Karen Barg has performed solo recitals and with various professional string quartets as well as her own, the Windsor String Quartet, and has performed with touring acts and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

The sacred evening gets underway at 6:30 p.m. with performances both vocal and on piano. Adjudicator Daniel Tselyakov has won numerous scholarships, trophies, and awards and has shared the stage with many top musicians. He is the co-artistic di-

strings sessions March 10-12 at St. rector of the Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival Canada.

> Piano sessions start that Sunday at 2 p.m. and Monday at 9 a.m., 1:15 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. with 104 entries from beginner to Grade 9, including solos and duets in a variety of classes. Tselyakov is the adjudicator for these sessions as well.

> The festival then continues with vocal sessions April 8 at Morden Mennonite Church, choral April 9 at Morden Mennonite Church, speech arts April 23-25 at St. Paul's United Church, the highlights concert April 28 at Westside, and a band session April 30 at Morden Collegiate.

> Festival programs containing the complete schedule, adjudicator information as well as general information are available at Pharmasave and the South Central Regional Library in Morde for \$5. Programs can also be purchased at all festival venues.

> All sessions are open to the public, and organizers encourage everyone to



**VOICE FILE PHOTO** 

come out and support the hardworking performers as they showcase their talents. Admission is free for children and \$2 for adults per session.

Donations to support the festival can be sent to the Morden Festival of the Arts, Box 493, Morden, MB, R6M 1A5. Donations of \$20 or more receive a tax receipt and two free passes to all festival sessions.

You can learn more about the festival online at mordenfestivalofthearts.

#### > WSD BUDGET, FROM PG. 2

The division is forecasting a surplus of about \$115,000 for 2024-2025, and it would put the reserve balance as of June 30, 2024 at \$545,384. That would represent just under three per cent of expenditures, and the province restricts reserve to a maximum of four

Some of the key factors and priorities in the 2024-25 budget include the

- increased enrolment requires 5.8 full time equivalent teaching posi-
- increased allocation for guidance and resource positions that adds another 5.6 full time equivalent posi-
- increased speech and language and occupational therapy time.
- funding to continue to support behaviour consultants and staff train-
- increased vice principal time at Morden Collegiate.
- additional support staff for Ecole Discovery Trails.
- investments in technology and related infrastructure.
- increase student services administrator to a full time position.
- support to upgrade and replace band equipment at Morden Collegiate.

"The majority of it is, certainly, of the new expenditures this year, a lot of it is in staffing. It doesn't take much staff to add up to a lot of dollars," said Pedersen. "We have to deal with projected increments for staff ... staffing being 80 per cent of our total budget, and that's where we're taking the biggest increase.

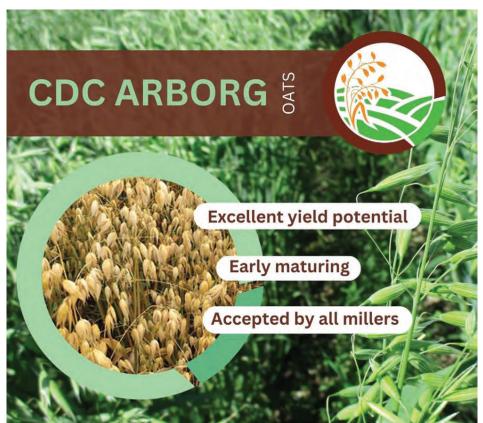
"The other thing too is with opening a new school and not having the support for that area, until we get through a full year, we have to kind of up front all that too," he added, noting that represents almost three quarters of a million dollars in new spending.

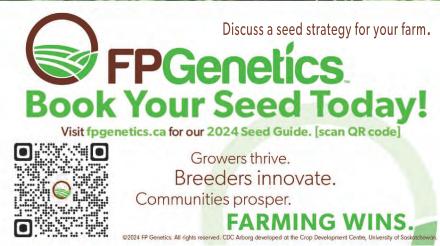
"We were looking at all the things that we needed to do this year. We're opening École Discovery Trails. There's a lot of new funding that is needed for that that is unsupported ... and we need to find that money somewhere," said Fransen.

"We also looked at a lot of supports that are needed in our schools and we wanted to make sure that those supports are available," he added. "We've seen and heard a cry for support for mental health in our community and in our schools, and this year, we were able to provide some resources and supports ... that's something we are really proud of ... this is something that we've heard from all of our sources."

Fransen added this was a draft budget that will still get some fine tuning, but there will likely be no significant

"People still have time to give feedback. We have until March 15 to finalize our special requirement."





## getinformed

# Morden COPP looking for more volunteers

By Lorne Stelmach

Community volunteers have been doing their part to help keep Morden safe for two years now.

The Citizens On Patrol Program (COPP) has been in operation in Morden since March 2022, and it has seen the membership as well as volunteer hours grow steadily.

"I think it's been going pretty strong," said coordinator Shannon Sylvester. "We're always trying to recruit some more so the ones who are active now don't need to volunteer as often ... the more volunteers we have, the better."

Volunteers with COPP serve as extra eyes and ears for the Morden Police Service. They patrol the community and keep watch, alerting police when needed without intervening in situations.

The Morden COPP currently has nine active volunteers along with five others who patrol less regularly.

They generally go out on patrol around town for a few hours two or three times a week, depending on individual schedules.

Since last March, the group's volunteers have logged 316 hours of patrol and put in just under 4,000 kilometres. That's on top of an additional 214 volunteer hours for special events like the Corn and Apple Festival.

"We do two-hour shifts when we go out, and some people are doing up to three shifts a month. It all depends on your availability," said Sylvester.

"The weekends are usually more important because there's usually more going on and more people are in town," she added. "According to the police, in the summertime especially, the later you can be out the better it is for them."

Sylvester sees a couple factors as drawing people to get involved in the program.

"I think a lot of it is people who have had something happen to them, like some kind of crime ... so they are just looking for it to be a safer community.

"There's others who are just looking for something else or different to volunteer with," she added. "Most



**SUPPLIED PHOTO** 

Morden Coun. Jim Hunt and Citizens on Patrol Program co-ordinator Shannon Sylvester received a certificate of recognition at the Manitoba COPP AGM last fall.

of them are interested in the safety of their community and hope perhaps it will bring more people in as well if you have a safe community.

"They are a great group of volunteers," Sylvester said, noting they range in age from early 40s up to 70-something. Anyone over 18 can volunteer.

"The hours are pretty flexible, so

whatever you prefer to do," she again stressed. "We're looking for more recruits, of course, and we also need funding for things like our fuel costs ... we use our own vehicles."

Anyone interested in becoming a part of the team can visit the COPP website at www.citizensonpatrolmb. ca or contact the Morden Police Service.

## Winkler's water treatment plant expansion costs pegged at \$14.6M

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler city council passed a resolution at its Feb. 27 meeting that paves the way for the planned expansion of the community's water treatment plant to get underway this year.

The numbers are in and it looks like the project will come with a price tag of approximately \$14.6 million. Council's resolution allows the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB) to now select the winning tender from those received.

Mayor Henry Siemens says the province has committed to providing about \$5 million for the work, leaving Winkler on the hook for \$9.6 million. But council has asked MWSB for some top-up funding, and Siemens is optimistic we'll get it.

"We have asked for an additional \$1.15 million. That request has gone to the treasury board and we're hoping that literally within days we'll hear about that."

If Winkler's bid for more provincial dollars is successful, the project will cost taxpayers \$8.45 million.

Either way, it's right in line with what the city hoped to spend, and bodes well for the fate of the Winkler Centennial Arena renovation project, which is in a holding pattern until the cost of both the water treatment plant expansion and the wastewater treatment facility build are confirmed. The latter project (expected to cost somewhere in the \$50 million range) went to tender last month; it will be a few weeks before those numbers come in. Winker's water treatment plant,

located in the north part of the city, opened in 2012. Siemens says it was built with this future expansion in mind, and now's the time for it as the city continues to grow in leaps and bounds.

The facility currently treats up to 42 litres of water a second using a reverse osmosis system. Once the expansion is done, it will be able to treat up to 113 litres per second.

"We will also create some additional efficiencies that will allow us to treat more of that brackish water and have less reject water," Siemens says.

"Currently our water treatment plant is running at about 70 per cent efficiency," he says, explaining that number represents the amount of drinkable water they can extract from the brackish water in the aquifer. "The

upgrade and expansion will bring us to 90-95 per cent."

Less reject water means less of a strain on the wastewater treatment system, Siemens notes, creating more capacity there as well.

Winkler currently gets its water mainly from the aquifer but also from Pembina Valley Water Co-op.

"Winkler takes the exact same amount of water from the Pembina Valley Water Coop today as we did 10 years ago," Siemens notes. "This expansion allows us to be able to move forward to a population of about 25,000 people before we'll need any more water from Pembina Valley Water Co-op."

Winkler currently has just over 15.000 residents.

## **Newsies The Musical performs in Manitou next week**

By Lorne Stelmach

The annual Manitou high school musical production has very much become a regional effort involving students from a wider area.

"The production has grown to encompass talented youth from across south central Manitoba," notes Candlewick director Richard Klassen. "This includes a number of youth from the Morden and Winkler area who have joined in this year to close out the ranks in the production."

The talented participants also repesent the communities of Crystal City, Pilot Mound, La Riviere, Manitou, Somerset, Notre Dame, St. Claude, and Darlingford.

"They are a diverse group, and their friendship and camaraderie behind the scenes definitely adds to their desire to do great work on stage, whether in song, acting or in the various choreography," Klassen says.

The production of Newsies The Musical takes place March 15-17 at the Manitou Opera House.

The musical is based on several historical events during the 1899 newsboys strike in New York when newspapers increased the price per paper the delivery boys had to buy in an attempt to make more money.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Students from the across the region are bringing Newsies to the stage at the Manitou Opera House March 15-17.

In this musical, homeless New York City newsboy Jack Kelly, played by Liam Hamilton of Notre Dame, befriends two newcomers to the trade in brothers David, played by Jaxon Hatcher of Pilot Mound, and Les Jacobs, played by Oliver Williamson of Manitou.

When publisher Joseph Pulitzer, played by Orie Plett of Tinker Creek, sets new rules that make it harder for the young newspaper salesmen to make a buck, the boys go on strike.

Katherine, played by Sara Lewis of Manitou, is a journalist who's sympathetic to their plight and gives them some tips in public relations as the newsboys' battle grips the city.

"There's an enthusiastic crew of singers, actors and dancers, so we are anticipating yet another wonderful musical the whole family will enjoy," said Klassen.

Tickets are available either online at www.candlewick.ca or by calling the Candlewick box office at 204-822-7469.

### Morden council gives final approval to two levies

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden city council gave final approval recently to a couple special services bylaws that add amounts to tax bills in support of health care and recreation.

The one bylaw covers funding for the Boundary Trails Health Centre expansion as well as support for the Menzies Medical Centre.

It overall comes to about \$1.6 million including over \$1 million for the hospital over four years, or \$275,000 annually for that period. As well, there is \$125,000 going annually to Menzies Medical Centre over the four years for a total of \$400,000.

The bottom line will be a flat rate of \$91 on Mordenite's tax bills.

"This will be for the next four years, and once that four years is up, that \$91 will drop off," explained Mayor Nancy Penner. "This is not going to be part of our mill rate but rather a special services item separately on your tax bill."

Similar bylaws have been put in place by both the City of Winkler and RM of Stanley.

"We kind of felt health care impacts every community member, and this way it pulls it out as a line item," Penner said. "Everyone can see it on their tax bill, and it doesn't impact the mill rate then."

Another special services bylaw is aimed at supporting recreation and particularly the track and soccer field project at the new École Discovery Trails. That project is not funded by the province, noted Penner, so the city felt it was important to support it with local tax dollars. The bylaw provides \$250,000 over five years, which means a levy of \$11.35 on tax bills.

"We feel sport and youth are very important to our community ... also because it is a community track, it will be available to the entire community," said Penner.

City council also dealt with a number of other matters at its Feb. 26 meeting.

Another bylaw related to the development of Pembina Connection on the eastern highway entrance to Morden. The mayor described it as a matter of the city catching up on collecting the local improvement tax contributions. The city put in place the infrastructure for the properties, and it now recoups those funds. Penner said it involves about a dozen properties in the area.

A couple property rezonings also received first reading, with one in the area of Willcocks Road and Road 28W involving land for industrial park expansion.

The second one north from First Street involves the section of land referred to as the "north 40" which is to be developed for soccer fields. One small area is being subdivided for some multi-family housing

Council also approved new subdivisions in the industrial park, including one that breaks up

Continued on page 14





PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Pembina Valley Blades sledge hockey team hosted a three-game tournament Saturday at the Meridian Exhibition Centre. It was a chance for the local team to move beyond scrimmages and have some real competition on the ice, says coach Nic Klassen. They went up against the Manitoba Express all three games, with the visitors taking game one 3-1, the Blades winning game two 3-2, and then the Express winning the final 1-0 in overtime. "It was a really good experience for the players and everyone involved." Klassen says.

## Local sledge hockey team squares off vs. MB Express



## Nominations open for Morden's Citizen of Distinction Award

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Area Foundation is calling for nominations for its annual Citizen of Distinction Award.

The deadline is March 31, and board chairperson Sue Nelson encourages residents to think about someone who may largely go unnoticed for what they do for the community.

"This is a great opportunity to hon-

our local residents who have shown their love and support to the community without being paid or doing it for recognition," she said. "We also welcome nominations that recognize an individual's paid work.

The Citizen of Distinction Award is presented annually and continues a tradition established in 1946 by the Kinsmen Club of Morden. The final Kinsmen award was presented in

2002 when the service club disbanded. From 1946 to present, 77 citizens have been recognized for their outstanding community service.

The foundation understands the importance of philanthropy, volunteerism, and leadership in creating a robust community and therefore chose to continue presenting this award to some of Morden's finest citizens, said Nelson.

While the award initially recognized exemplary contributions based solely on volunteerism, the foundation board agreed in 2018 there are many outstanding citizens making impactful contributions to the city even through their work, so nomination

criteria expanded to include volunteerism and/or paid work.

"We're looking to celebrate a person who loves Morden and works to have the best for it," Nelson said. "Often these folks are hidden gems, working in the background to make things better for all of us. They are instigators and doers."

More information about making a nomination can be found online at mordenfoundation.ca. You can also email info@mordenfoundation.ca or visit the office at 13-379 Stephen Street in Morden

An event to honour Morden's 2023 Citizen of Distinction will be held in May.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Some of the community members who have been honoured as Morden's Citizen of Distincition in past years. The Morden Area Foundation has put out a call for nominations for this year's award winner.

#### > MORDEN COUNCIL, FROM PG. 13

one larger area on Jefferson Street into three smaller sections for development.

Finally, council approved a park land dedication policy, which ties into the parks and urban forestry master plan and formalizes the idea that any new development in the city is to include a percentage of land to be reserved for park space. "Parks serve as a heart of our community, and we want to ensure that we promote wellness and provide a safe space to get outdoors," said Penner, who estimated the target is almost six acres of parkland per thousand residents. "We want to ensure there is enough green space in every new neighbourhood."



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## sports&recreation

## **Bombers up** 2-0, Royals knocked out by Aces

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The semi-final round of the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League playoffs got underway last week with the Morden Bombers squaring off against the Warren Mercs and the Winkler Royals facing the Ste. Anne

Morden closed out the week up 2-0 in the series.

They took game one 1-0 last Wednesday on the strength of a goal from Jay Fehr and a 45-save night from goalie Reed Peters.

Warren managed to get two past Peters a few nights later in game two, but a hat-trick from Jory Mullin and two from Logan Christensen gave Morden the win 5-2.

Game three is Friday night in War-

The Winkler-Ste. Anne series didn't go the Royals' way at all.

The Aces took game one Feb. 28 3-2 in overtime.

Tying goals from Remi Laurencelle and Aaron Lewadniuk in the second period, followed by a scoreless third, forced the extra minutes. Ste. Anne got the game-winner four minutes into overtime.

Jayme Janzen made 52 saves for Winkler in the loss as the Aces outshot the Royals 55-26.

Game two wasn't so close, with the only Winkler scoring coming from



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Above: Aces Tanner Harms tries to tip a shot past Winkler goalie Jayme Janzen in the SEMHL semi-finals. Right: Morden's Jory Mullin tries to get his stick on a loose puck in front of the Warren net.

Keith Grodin in the first and second periods.

The Aces, meanwhile, managed to get eight of their 52 shots on net past Janzen to win it. The Royals had 30 shots on goal this match.

It all came down to Monday night's game three in Ste. Anne, in which the Aces put the final nail in the Royals' championship hopes with a 6-2 win to take the series 3-0.

Scoring for Winkler was Cam McNabb and Mark Hildebrand.

Janzen saved 52 of the 58 shots he faced in net. The Royals had 20 shots on goal.



## Winkler Flyers best Virden Oil Capitals 4-3

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers started off the final month of MJHL regular season hockey right with a 4-3 win against the visiting Virden Oil Capitals last Friday night.

After a scoreless opening period, Virden drew first blood just seconds

into the middle frame, taking a 1-0 lead that held until Dalton Andrew and Jakob Jones finally got Winkler on the board in the final few minutes.

The Oil Capitals tied it up early in the third, only to have Winkler pull ahead minutes later with goals from Trent Penner and Andrew. The visitors managed one more goal, but it of 38-8-2-3 for 81 points, which has wasn't enough to close the gap.

Malachi Klassen got the win between the posts for Winkler, making 35 saves off 38 shots. His teammates fired 34 the other way.

The Flyers remain in second place in the MGEU East Division with a record

them eight points behind the Steinbach Pistons in first and nine points ahead of the Portage Terriers in third.

Coming up, the Flyers play a trio of home games against Steinbach (Wednesday), Portage (Friday), and Neepawa (Sunday).

# Local powerlifters win at provincials

David Banman and Carson Parago off to Westerns next week

#### By Lorne Stelmach

Two local competitors were on the podium for their performances at the recent Manitoba Powerlifting Association provincial championship in Winnipeg.

David Banman of Winker earned first place in his class, while Carson Parago of Altona also had a top showing in his class, including breaking the provincial squat record at 620 pounds.

The results qualified both to be part of the 2024 Western Canadian Powerlifting and Bench Press Championships next week in Moose Jaw and then possibly the national championship in September in Prince Edward Island.

For Parago, who bench pressed 341 pounds and dead lifted 600 pounds, his success at provincials came despite the effects of a lingering injury.

"The unfortunate thing is I got an injury in November and it hasn't quite gone away ... and I went into that competition with this injury, but despite that was still able to break the provincial squat record, which was great," he said. "It was just a matter of consistency and training smart and paying attention to the injury at the same time."

"It feels good. I just go in there trying to do the best that I can, beat some previous numbers and hopefully come out feeling good," noted Banman of his mindset heading into the competition.

Powerlifting consists of three attempts at maximum weight in three big lifts: squat, bench press, and dead



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Altona's Carson Parago (above) and Winkler's David Banman (below, centre) had first-place finishes at the Manitoba Powerlifting Association's provincial competition this winter, which qualified them to compete in the 2024 Western Canadian Powerlifting and Bench Press Championships in Moose Jaw next week.

lift. Unlike bodybuilding, which has more emphasis on the pursuit of the physique, powerlifting is a sport of attaining as much raw strength as possible.

Banman, who grew up in Blumenfeld, got into powerlifting about seven years ago, but he has been doing strength training overall for about 12 years.

"When I first started exercising, I was a really small, skinny kid, so the best way to gain weight, I thought, was to start exercising, and then eventually I started taking it more seriously," he said. "I found the sport of powerlifting and started training for it and actually really enjoyed it, and I eventually started competing.

"Lifting the heavy weights can be mentally straining but extremely challenging, and being able to lift heavier weights, going for your personal best, is a really good feeling. And the community of lifters is really great," Banman said in explaining the appeal for him.

There is a lot of regimented training and preparation that goes into it.

"The training leading up to it has to be quite specific," he said. "I personally follow specific programs to try to develop more strength in those exercises.

"As the weeks go on with training, the weights get heavier and the risk for injury increases a lot," he noted. "I managed to keep everything under control and come out of it pain free.

"I hope I can continue as long as I can, as long as my body can take it," Banman concluded.

Parago quit hockey at a younger age and his father encouraged him to participate in something, so he started out in Crossfit through Outland Health and Fitness in Altona.

As a teen, he started lifting more than some of the adults in his category, so the coach encouraged him to get into powerlifting.

"It's honestly just being able to see how much you are able to do," he said in explaining the appeal. "What are your own limits of how much you can lift?

"It's just fun to do ... and the drive is just seeing how far you can go with it," said Parago, who has six competitions under his belt now.

"I think it was just the consistency in your training and in your diet, setting some goals," he said of his success.



## Pembina Valley Hawks tie quarter-final 1-1

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks were fighting to stay alive in the post season this week.

Pembina Valley was on the ropes in their quarter-final series with the Southwest Cougars after dropping game one 6-2 in Souris last Friday.

The Hawks trailed 1-0 and 3-0 at the intermissions before connecting on a

pair of powerplays in the third, but that was as close as they could get.

Sam Delaquis and Acoyen Fehr scored for the Hawks, while Bryson Yaschyshyn made 18 saves as Pembina Valley held a 27-24 edge in shots on goal.

The Hawks bounced back in game two Monday night with a decisive 3-1 win.

Delaquis had a two-goal night in the

opening frame and then Cohen Pilkington added one more in the third. The Cougars managed their lone goal late in the first period.

Yaschyshyn made 16 saves this game as his teammates outshot Southwest 31-17.

Game three was set for Tuesday in Souris. Results were not available at press time.

Game four is scheduled for Thurs-

day in Morden and game five for Saturday back in Souris.

The Hawks finished seventh in the Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League regular season, while the Cougars ranked second. Southwest was victorious all four times the two teams went up against each other this season.





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About 385 skaters along with their coaches, family, and supporters and 1,900 spectators packed the Altona Sunflower Gardens Arena from March 1-3 for the 2024 Skate Manitoba Provincial Championships. Participants came from across the Pembina Valley, as well as Virden, Thompson, Winnipeg, and Kenora. The competition included several different classes and levels, like solos, team pairs, and synchronized skating. Above: Nahla Peters-Loewen of the Altona Skating Club was a Star 5 Women's 13+ silver medalist. Above, left: Members of the Morden Skating Club's synchronized skating team compete. Left: Altona skaters having some fun in the event's photo booth in between their time on the ice.

## Female Hawks coach reflects on the season

By Lorne Stelmach

The playoffs came to an end for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks, and their quarter-final sweep by Westman was very much like their season as a whole.

The seventh-place Hawks came up short in falling in three straight games to the second-place Wildcats last month, but they gave Westman a good battle.

In both game one and three, the Hawks got into a bit of penalty trouble towards the end, and it cost them. Game two, meanwhile, went to double overtime for a decision that could have gone either way.

"I would say it was probably the best hockey we had played since I

joined in," said Keith Graham, who took over coaching duties partway through the season. "Overall, I was fairly happy with how the girls played."

The Hawks kicked off the season with three straight wins, but they veered off course from there and ended with a six-game winless run.

The Hawks finished this winter in seventh place at 6-18-4 for 16 points, which was four points ahead of last-place Central Plains and six behind sixth-place Interlake.

A lot of their games were close though, and Graham couldn't fault the team at all for their effort and work ethic.

"I was fairly happy with how everything went," he said. "You come into

a situation like that, you're not too sure how they're going to respond and what the rest of the season is going to look like, but they responded quite well.

"They worked really hard throughout the second half of the season," Graham continued. "It's one of those things where if you have buy-in from the beginning of the season, you're just going to continue to be successful ... it took a little time for the buy-in to happen. Overall, I was pretty happy with the effort."

It is a tough, high level of hockey, he noted.

"There's a pile of skilled players in our province. The competitive level is very high. You're competing and battling with the best of the province. It's a great age group to watch."

Abigail Brigg led the Hawks offensively this season with seven goals and 11 assists for 18 points while Jessica Anderson was the top goal-scorer with nine to go along with six assists.

Kasia Rakowski carried the bulk of the workload in net with a 5.88 goals against average and .922 save percentage in 24 games.

Looking ahead, Graham is uncertain about the team's prospects for next season.

"That's kind of up in the air right now. Talking with some of the girls, they are planning on returning for next season," he said, noting he's not sure yet if he'll be back as coach. "I'll have to have a discussion ... we'll see what happens."

## Morris groups present \$24K to CancerCare MB

By Sean Conway

"Our CancerCare Manitoba fundraising efforts in February focused on hockey, but it is really all about community," says Pat Schmitke, part owner of the Pembina Valley Twisters of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League.

Representatives from the Morris Curling Club, Morris Fire Department, Morris Multiplex, Sun Valley Co-op, the Mavericks, and the Red River Wild stood at centre ice before the Twisters' home game last Thursday to present a \$22,457 cheque to

CancerCare Manitoba's Sherelle Kwan.

"It seems more and more people each year get behind the Twisters CancerCare Manitoba fundraising campaign," says Kwan. "It is just remarkable to think they have helped raise over two hundred thousand dollars."

Schmitke gives credit to the communities that step up and support the effort every year.

"It is all about rural communities coming together," he said, noting the team started the initiative in memory COMMUNITY
MORRIE BIGWAY FOODS

PROPARE

PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

Representatives from Morris Curling Club, Morris Fire Department, Morris Multiplex, Sun Valley Co-op, Mavericks, and the Red River Wild presented a \$22,457 cheque to CancerCare Manitoba's Sherelle Kwan last week.

of former Twisters player and owner Dale Rempel, who died of cancer in 2012

A cancer diagnosis touches the lives of not just the person living with it but their families and friends as well, observes Schmitke.

"Cancer is something everyone has had to deal with."

This year's fundraiser took place Feb. 3 and saw the Twisters, the SEM-HL's Wild, and the Morris Mavericks high school team lace up as part of the day-long event, which coincided with the Morris Winter Carnival festivities.

"It takes donations like this to make a difference," says Kwan. "The head shave, the curling events, a dunk tank gets people involved. We are grateful for all the organizing done to the fundraiser for CancerCare Manitoba." featured the last session of the Morris Area Recreation Lil Shooters hockey program.

The Twisters partner with the recreational hockey program to promote the game with kids learning the sport.

Youngsters get to visit the Twisters club dressing room before the game for the coach's message, be on the ice with the team for the national anthem, and take a few shots on the Twisters' netminder during intermission.

"My son's eyes were as big as dinner plates when he came out of the Twisters' dressing room," shares one parent.

The kids also take home a candy treat bag, a snack from the canteen, and their own shoot-out puck with a Twister' logo on it.

"Our players come from rural communities," Schmitke says, noting the program is a way for the kids "to become part of the team for a little while."



PHOTO BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Lincoln Inkster, Preston Peterson, Anno Mass got the chance to be honourary members of the Pembina Valley Twisters last week as part of the Lil Shooters program, which the team does in partnership with Morris recreational hockey.

#### LIL SHOOTERS

Last Thursday's Twisters game also

## Zone 4 hockey league hands out 2023-24 awards

## Thunder beat Aces to win championship

By Voice staff

The Zone 4 High School Hockey League handed out its 2023-24 awards at game two of the championship series between the W.C. Miller Aces and the Morden Thunder Sunday night.

The Aces headed into the game up 1-0 in the series, having won game one 4-3 Feb. 28, but Morden fought back with a 3-2 win to force game three Monday, which they won 3-1 to clinch the Zone 4 title.

At the awards presentation, Max Jago of the Pembina Tigers was honoured twice, taking home both the Heavy Metal Designs MVP Award and the Top Scorer Award. Jago is de-

scribed as a leader on his team.

"He is always encouraging his teammates to do better, even when behind in a game," the team's submitted bio for him reads. "He is always a go-to guy if the Tigers need a big goal or to kill off a penalty. Max plays 20-25+ minutes a game and is always ready to step back onto the ice when we need him."

Jago finished the season with 39 points (21 goals and 18 assists) in 21 regular season games.

Winning this year's Lew Mueller Defenseman of the Year Award was Nic Wiebe of the Morden Thunder.

"Nic plays a top two defensive role on the Thunder and is often called upon to match up against other team's top lines," the team shares. "He is big, physical, fast, a good playmaker, rusher and plays in all situations." Winning the Top Goaltender Award was Darion Penner of the WC Miller Aces. Penner posted a .927 save percentage with two shutouts and an 11-3 win-loss record in 19 starts (including tournaments) this season.

"Darion's high level of compete along with his sound technical skill makes him hard to score on and gives the team stability and a chance to win every night."

This year's winner of the Lloyd C. Orchard Most Sportsmanlike Player Award is Ethan Wilde of the Carman Cougars.

Wilde contributed 29 points (14 goals and 15 assists) through 17 games this season.

"Ethan's determination to do everything he can to help his team win leads him to be the hardest-working player night in and night out for the

Carman Cougars," his team shares. "Ethan plays the game hard between the whistles and has done so with minimal penalty minutes this season. He is a player who leads by example for his team but is also a great mentor for our players, often trying to help by giving advice and positive reinforcement."

The season's Coaching Staff of the Year Award, voted on by each Zone 4 team, went to the Pembina Tigers; the Charlie Maykut Fair Play Award, awarded to the team with the fewest penalty minutes, went to the Morden Thunder; the Top Defensive Team of the Year, awarded to the team with the least goals against, went to the Mountain Mustangs; and the Official of the Year Award, voted on by the Zone 4 member teams, went to James Nelson

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### Morden. **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITY OF MORDEN 2024 FINANCIAL PLAN**

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 2024 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 in Council Chambers at the City of Morden Civic Centre, 100-195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. Copies of the Financial Plan will be made available to the public on March 25, 2024. Additional information and other documents concerning the matter and the procedures to be followed at the hearing will be available for review at the municipal office at this time.

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#### COMING EVENTS

#### **PUBLIC HEARING** 2024 Financial Plan

Public notice is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the City of Winkler will present its 2024 Financial Plan at a public hearing to be held on:

#### March 26, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. City of Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan.

Anyone wishing to get a copy of the City's 2024 Financial Plan can contact City Hall by phone at 204-325-9524 or admin@cityofwinkler.ca during regular office hours. winkler

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER **RM OF MACDONALD**

Completed tender and a \$10,000.00 deposit per parcel are invited to be received up to 4:00 PM on March 25th, 2024, for the land described below, at:

PKF Lawyers - 71 Main St. S, Box 1240, Carman, MB R0G 0J0 Attn: Mona Brown/Jessica Waddingham Ph: 204-745-2028 mbrown@pkflawyers.com jwaddingham@pkflawyers.com

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- 2. THE SW 1/4 18-7-1 WPM (165 ACRES)
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- THE N ½ OF SECTION 12-7-2 WPM (320 ACRES)
- THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 13-7-2 WPM (127.57 ACRES) THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 13-7-2 WPM (128.71 ACRES)
- 8. THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 13-7-2 WPM (160 ACRES)

#### Total Acres: 1398.00 **Conditions of Tender:**

- 1. Financing must be pre-approved.
- Tender to be submitted on the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. To obtain tender form or more info contact Jessica Waddingham or Mona Brown at 204-745-2028.
- Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00 per parcel. Deposit of tenders not accepted will be returned to the Tenderers.
- 4. Highest tender or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.
- Possession and the due date of the balance of tender price shall be April 22, 2024. Please note that possession is subject to a lease on all the lands which will expire December 31, 2024, for lease terms please contact PKF Lawyers.
- 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 Tenderer is solely responsible to determine the value and quality of the land.

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE



You are invited to attend The Town of Altona 2024 Financial Plan Hearing Tuesday, March 26, 2024 6:00 pm Council Chambers of the **Altona Civic Centre** 

In accordance with subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, the Council will present the proposed 2024 Financial Plan for the Town of Altona at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 in the Council Chambers of the Altona Civic Centre. The presentation will include the 2024 operating costs, the 2024 capital budget and a five-year capital expenditure program. The presentation will be followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Copies of the proposed Financial Plan will be available after March 20, 2024 on our website at www.altona.ca or upon request at the Town of Altona Administration Office, 111 Centre Avenue during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may be directed by letter or email to our Finance Officer or through our email address at info@altona.ca.

Terry Fehr, CMMA Finance Officer Town of Altona terry.fehr@altona.ca Box 1630 Altona MB R0G 0B0

February 26, 2024

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### GARDEN VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION



**Public Presentation** 2024 - 2025 Budget 6:00 p.m. - Tuesday, March 12, 2024

The Trustees of Garden Valley School Division invite you to a presentation of the 2024/25 Operating Budget at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the GVSD Division Office.

The Division will provide a review of the proposed \$59.3 million annual budget and set the mill rate for the 2024 tax year.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR RE-ZONING By-Law # 1819-2024

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

To amend the Town of Altona Zoning By-Law 1792/2021, as amended, to add a Place of Worship as a Conditional Use to the "IG" Industrial General Use Table 5-9 as follows:

#### IG - Industrial General Zone Bulk/Use Table 5-9:

Use Class P-Permitted C=Conditional *-Use-Specific Standard Applies Underline = Only as a Secondary Use	Minimum Requirements						Maximum Requirements	
	Site Area (Sq. Ft.)	Site Width (ff)	Front Yard (ff)	Side Yard (ff)	Corner Side Yard (ft)	Reat Yard (ft)	Height (fi)	Site Coverage (知)
Flace of Wannie	10,000	100	20	10	15	20	45	60

**HEARING LOCATION:** Town of Altona Council Chambers 111 Centre Avenue East, Altona **DATE AND TIME:** March 26, 2024 at 6:00 PM

#### **GENERAL INTENT:**

To add a Place of Worship as a Conditional Use to the "IG" Industrial General Use Table 5-9. A Public Hearing is required for this purpose. Notices were sent to adjacent Municipalities and Planning Districts and advertised in the March 7th and March 14th issues of The Voice.

#### FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tanya Waddell, RPGA General Manager 109 – 3rd Ave NE, Box 270 Altona, MB R0G 0B0 Phone: (204) 324-5357 Email: manager@rpgamb.ca

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

#### **CITY OF MORDEN BY-LAW 04-2024**

#### Being an AMENDMENT to the CITY OF MORDEN ZONING BY-LAW 08-2017

**HEARING:** Morden Civic Centre

LOCATION: 195 Stephen St., Morden, MB

DATE: March 25th 2024

TIME: 7: 00 pm

From: "CR" Community Reserve

To: "MB" Industrial Business

For the development of the New Industrial

AREA: Corner of Willcocks Rd and Road 28 W Lot B Plan 45801 and Lot 4 Plan 50249 MLTO

Morden, MB As outlined in red lines on the map attached

hereto as Schedule "A" and forming part of this by-law.

#### **INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jose Yanez, Planning and Development Officer 133 7th Street, Morden, MB. R6M 1V3 Phone: (204) 822-2567

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

# SCHEDULE 'A' Morden.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

#### CITY OF MORDEN BY-LAW 06-2024

#### Being an AMENDMENT to the CITY OF MORDEN ZONING BY-LAW 08-2017

**HEARING:** Morden Civic Centre

LOCATION: 195 Stephen St., Morden, MB

DATE: March 25th 2024

**TIME:** 7: 15 pm

From: "CR" Community Reserve

To: "RM-L" Residential Multiple Family Large To provide new area for multi-family housing growth

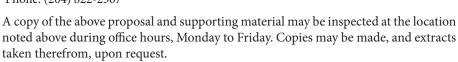
AREA: Southeast corner of Lot 3 Plan 23224 in N1/2 8-3 5WPM

Morden, MB

As outlined in red lines on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A" and forming part of this by-law.

#### **INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jose Yanez, Planning and Development Officer 133 7th Street, Morden, MB. R6M 1V3 Phone: (204) 822-2567





#### **FARMLAND TENDER**

#### **FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER**

Sealed, written tenders for land in the

#### **RM of Rhineland**

described below will be received by:

**Franz Hoeppner Wiens Law Office** Box 99, 1 - 880 J 15th Street Winkler, MB R6W 4A4 **Attention: Hannah Franz** 



PARCEL I: THE S 1/2 OF THE N 1/2 OF SW 1/4 6-2-3 WPM EXCEPTING - AN UNDIVIDED ONE-HALF INTEREST IN ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 113370 MLTO and PARCEL II: THE N 1/2 OF THE S 1/2 OF SW 1/4 6-2-3 WPM EXCEPTING - AN UNDIVIDED ONE-HALF INTEREST IN ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 113370 MLTO

78.18 acres of Bare Farmland with 42 acres cultivated and a creek through the land.

Located approximately 0.75 miles off PR 201.

#### **CONDITIONS OF TENDER:**

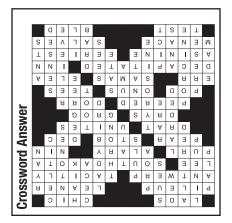
- 1. The parcels shall be sold together, and any tender bid for one parcel and not the other shall not be considered.
- 2. The parcel of land described will be sold "as is".
- 3. Written Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 PM on March 25,2024
- 4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
- 5. Date of Possession to be April 6, 2024, or as agreed between par-
- 6. Tender must be accompanied by a deposit of \$10,000.00, payable to Franz Hoeppner Wiens Law Office, to be returned if tender bid is not accepted
- 7. No right of first refusal.

#### **TERMS OF SALE:**

- 1. The successful bidder(s) shall enter a formal agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- 2. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
- 3. Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2024.
- 4. The purchaser shall pay applicable GST or shall self-assess for

For further information contact Franz Hoeppner Wiens Law Office at 204-325-4615 or hannah@fhwlaw.ca

## Classifieds Announcements The Winkler Morden The Coze



BIRTHDAY

Happy 90th birthday to our loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother,
Dorothy Lepage
You are so special in all our hearts and we love you to no end
Happy birthday!

**EMPLOYMENT** 

#### ROSEISLE **Backhoe Excavating**

#### **FULL TIME HEAVY DIESEL MECHANIC**

Roseisle Backhoe Service Ltd. is seeking a full time heavy diesel mechanic, for an excavating and trucking company. Pay is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Welding experience is an asset. Class 1 drivers license and or the ability to operate heavy equipment will also be considered an asset.

Call or text Jason Klassen at 204-750-0172 or email: jasonklassen.rbs@gmail.com

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OBITUARY

#### Susan E Hildebrandt 1927 – 2024

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at the Blumenort Mennonite Church in Rosetown, MB 16 km south of Plum Coulee.

It is with sadness that we as the extended family announce

It is with sadness that we as the extended family announce the peaceful passing of Susan Hildebrandt, age 96 on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at Boundary Trails Health Centre. We can also rejoice in her stated wish to "go home".

Susan was predeceased by her parents, Heinrich P and Anna Hildebrandt along with 11 siblings and their spouses. She will be lovingly remembered by her remaining sister, Eva and her many nieces, nephews and their families.

Susanna (Susan) was born February 24, 1927 in Blumenort south, near Gretna, MB. She led a full and vibrant life! She attended the Mennonite Collegiate Institute in Gretna and graduated from high school in 1947. She had her heart set on teaching and that led her to begin a teaching career in the Gretna/Altona area. Susan felt that she should continue her education, so she moved to Winnipeg after a few years and obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree. Susan enjoyed those learning years at the University. She continued her teaching career and attended evening classes in order to obtain her Bachelor of Education degree. Both Luxton School and Laura Secord School gave her much enjoyment as she often commented that the Grade 5 classes were never boring. During her time in Winnipeg, she and her friend, Anne Thiessen shared a home for many years. Susan and Anne often entertained, and they opened their home to many friends and relatives passing through the Winnipeg area. Susan involved herself in activities such as the handbell choir, church events, singing in choirs, retreats, dinner activities with friends, MVI alumni, MB Teachers' Society events, her bowling league and volunteering at the MVV Thrift Store and Ten Thousand Villages. These were some of the organized events that kept her social calendar full. She loved to assist in organizing family gatherings as she truly enjoyed spending time with her siblings and her nieces and nephews. Her church life was very important to her. She was baptized upon the confession of her faith in the Sommerfelder Church. She became a member in the Blumenort Mennonite Church next door to her parental village home. Later, while living in Winnipeg, she asked to become a member of the Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church which she attended faithfully. In her written testimonial dated April 10, 1973, she wrote, "My life has been such an ordinary life. When I think of what Christ has done for me in spite of my failings and shortcomings, I cannot help but be grateful for a Saviour who sought me and would not let me go until I committed my life to Him." She returned to attend the Blumenort Mennonite Church at Rosetown when she moved back to Winkler. Travelling was a great passion for Susan. She often commented, "It was still the best way to learn about another culture, people and geography." She travelled to Europe, Africa, the Middle east, the Orient, Mexico and she toured Canada from coast to coast. Northern Manitoba and the Northwest Territories were still on her wish list. Susan loved her family and was close to many. She assisted in many ways, and she prayed for every one of her family and could name them all by name. She had a gift for making new members in the family feel welcome and she demonstrated genuine interest in some of her younger great great nieces and nephews who has the opportunity to share a relationship with her. These newer family additions were very important to her and she welcomed them into the Hildebrandt family by sending cards signed in her beautiful cursive writing. We will miss her and we are looking forward to that Great Reunion.

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



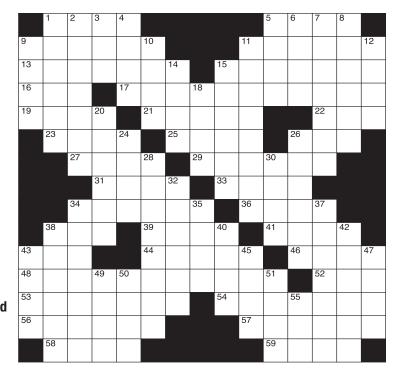
#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Chaps
- 5. Currently fashionable
- 9. Collision
- 11. More slim
- 13. European city
- 15. Implicitly
- 16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
- 17. The Mount Rushmore State
- 19. Gold or silver wire cord
- 21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
- 22. Trent Reznor's band
- 23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
- 25. Broken branch
- 26. Indicates ten
- 27. Expression of annoyance
- 29. Brings together
- 31. Ancient city in Thrace
- 33. Sailors' spirit
- 34. Looked into
- 36. Muckraking woman journalist Rheta
- 38. A type of cast

- 39. One's responsibility
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 48. Beheaded
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most supernatural
- 56. "Dennis" is a famous one
- 57. Ointments
- **58. Exam**
- 59. Leaked blood
- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Baseball managers assemble it
- 2. Revised
- 3. Mountain is a popular kind
- 4. Takes to civil court
- 5. Pouches
- 6. A type of veil
- 7. Chants
- 8. Boston hoopster
- 9. Elongated appendage
- 10. Sailboat
- 11. 2017 Oscar-winning film

- 12. Actor Gosling
- 14. Monetary units
- 15. Assembly
- 18. Russian pop duo
- 20. Embellished with expressions
- 24. Infrequent
- 26. Temperature unit
- 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
- 30. Honk
- 32. Legislative body
- 34. Swinish
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Take over for
- 38. Put in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Dutch cheese
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Strong insects
- 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 50. Ancient people of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- **55. Sick**





## Twisters dropped four games in MMJHL action

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters found themselves on the losing side of things with four losses last week. Despite the losses, the Twisters are firmly in second place in the MMJHL standings with a record of 27-13-3.

On Feb. 28, the Twisters blasted the St. Vital Jr. Victorias by a 7-4 scoreline. Merek Degraeve led the way with a hat trick, while Derek Wiebe had two goals. Zander Carels and Max Collett had the other goals for Pembina Valley, while Logan Enns had 24 saves in net for the win.

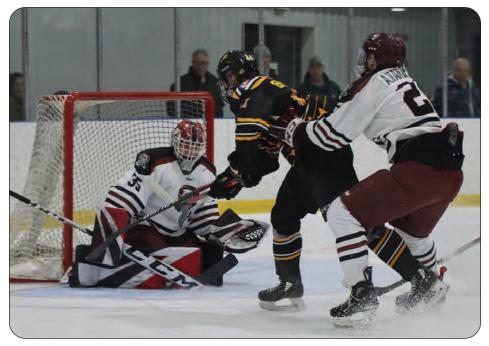
The following night on Feb. 29, the Twisters fell 2-1 in a shootout to the Stonewall Jets. Cody Clark had the lone goal for Pembina Valley, while Owen LaRocque made 42 saves in the

On March 2, the Twisters lost 3-2 at home to the St. Vital Jr. Victorias. Slade Sotheran and Riley Goertzen had the goals for Pembina Valley, while Logan Enns stopped 22 shots in goal for the loss.

The next night on March 3, the Twisters fell 4-2 to the Charleswood Hawks. Mike Heppner and Alex VanDeynze had the lone goals for Pembina Valley, while Owen LaRocque made 20 saves in net in a losing effort.

"Just the mental aspect of these recent games has been tough," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "We've been clinched in the playoffs for a while, and locked in second place, unable to catch first or be caught by anyone else. Each team we've played has been battling to make the playoffs, and fighting for playoff positioning, so it can be hard to find that same vibe this time of year when we have nothing to lose or gain right now."

Twisters' sniper Derek Wiebe is currently seventh in the MMJHL's scoring race with 67 points in 43 games,



PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

Pembina Valley goaltender Owen LaRocque made 42 saves in the shootout loss to the Stonewall Jets last Thursday.

while Merek Degraeve is in eighth with 64 points in 44 games. LaRocque is currently first in the goalie rankings as he boasts a 2.26 goals-against average and a .928 save percentage, while Logan Enns is in fifth with a 2.93 goals-against average and .914 save percentage.

The Twisters close out their regular season with a home game on March 5 against the Fort Garry/Fort Rouge Twins. The puck drops at 8:00 p.m.

"All we can do is make sure we are playing the right game, staying healthy, and building good playoff tendencies," said Beernaerts. "Our play has been good these last two games, and we've felt that the scores don't reflect the games at all as we are playing a good game. But we just couldn't get a bounce our way. Once playoffs hit, we should be firing on all cylinders, so it'll be exciting to see where this group can take us.'



**Provincial finalists** 

PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

The Morden Vigier team battled right to the end at the Hockey Manitoba Under 11 Rural A2 Provincial championships in Stonewall this past weekend. Morden lost 3-2 against the Warren Mercurys in overtime to win the silver medals. In round-robin play Morden Vigier defeated Mitchell 5-4 and MacDonald 2-0 before facing off and beating Winkler 4-3 in the semi-finals. Pictured in no specific order: coaches Natalie Vigier, Kurt Pazmandy, Corey Hiebert, Travis Penner; players Mason Kervel, Oakland Penner, Hartley Hutton, August Gerbrandt, Xavier Bitton, Harrison Hiebert, Leah Pazmandy, Rowan Major, Kaleb Meekis, Nathan Breiter, Kole Schoonbaert, Bailey Leite, and goaltender Conor Gavigan.



The Twisters' Cody Clark scored Pembina Valley's lone goal in the loss.



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### Canada's leadership in Multiple Sclerosis research

Canada remains at the forefront of MS research around the world. Through generous contributions from donors, corporate sponsors, and fervent fundraisers, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada has invested over \$190 million dollars in research since its inception in 1948. This investment has led to significant results for people affected by MS. More specifically, MS Society funded studies have gone the distance in areas such as imaging, diagnosis, genetics, tissue repair, rehabilitation, and disease-modifying therapies. With each passing year research continues to reveal new knowledge around the cause of MS, as well as the mechanism by which MS impacts the central nervous system.

Although much progress has been made, many questions regarding MS remain unanswered. As a result, Canadian researchers with diverse scientific backgrounds and expertise are turning their attention to MS and working together to uncover important knowledge and develop treatments that will effectively manage symptoms and slow progression. To ensure that momentum in MS research continues, the MS Society administers an annual research competition that provides support for researchers whether they are in the early stages of graduate school or conducting research as independent investigator. Funding researchers across the academic and clinical spectrum enables education and training for the next generation of MS leaders, while reinforcing their passion for the field.

In addition to supporting research, the MS Society engages young researchers in education and training programs, mentorship initiatives, and networking opportunities which aim to stimulate interest in MS research and encourage collaboration amongst the future generation of MS experts.

The overarching goal of the MS Society is to invest in research that will provide the greatest benefit to individuals who are deeply affected by MS. Each year the organization is hopeful that its commitment to research will bring the MS community one step closer to finding a cure for this complex and often unpredictable disease.

If you're one of the 90,000 people who have been diagnosed with MS in Canada, you know that living with this disease can be difficult. You may experience physical changes that affect day-to-day life and mental wellness. Our programs can provide emotional support and help you — and your loved ones or caregivers — navigate the daily challenges of MS. Let's take a closer look at the programs we offer and the unique benefits they bring.

#### What Support Can We Offer You?

Whether you're looking for more information on MS or are looking to connect with the MS community, we're here to help. Here are some of our programs.

When you or someone you know gets diagnosed with MS, your first instinct might be to learn more. There are tons of resources that provide insight into things like symptoms, treatments, and research. The downside of this, however, is that it can be difficult to find credible sources. To help you find reliable information about MS that is customized for your journey, we've created the MS Knowledge Network.

This network is made up of MS Navigators located across Canada. Experienced in information services, our team can provide resources and support tailored to your unique needs. Many people connect with our MS Navigators for information about the following:

Multiple sclerosis and allied diseases

Symptom management and treatment options

Local support and health services

MS research

Income support program information Supporting loved ones with MS

How to get connected to the programs we offer

Looking for support? Our team is available to Canadians from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET, Monday to Friday. Simply reach out via phone, email, or live chat. It's im-

portant to note that our MS Navigators are not healthcare or crisis professionals — for personal health-related questions, we encourage you to speak to your health care team.

Phone: 1-844-859-6789

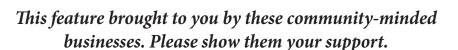
Email: msnavigators@mscanada.ca

Live Web Chat: visit our website

We are here for you, but we're not a crisis centre. If you need urgent help, contact 9-1-1 or go to the nearest hospital. Canada's 9-8-8 suicide crisis helpline is also available for anyone who is thinking about suicide or is worried about someone they know. Call or text 9-8-8 toll free, anytime for support in English or French. Learn more at 988.ca There are also mental health resources for people of all ages available across









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