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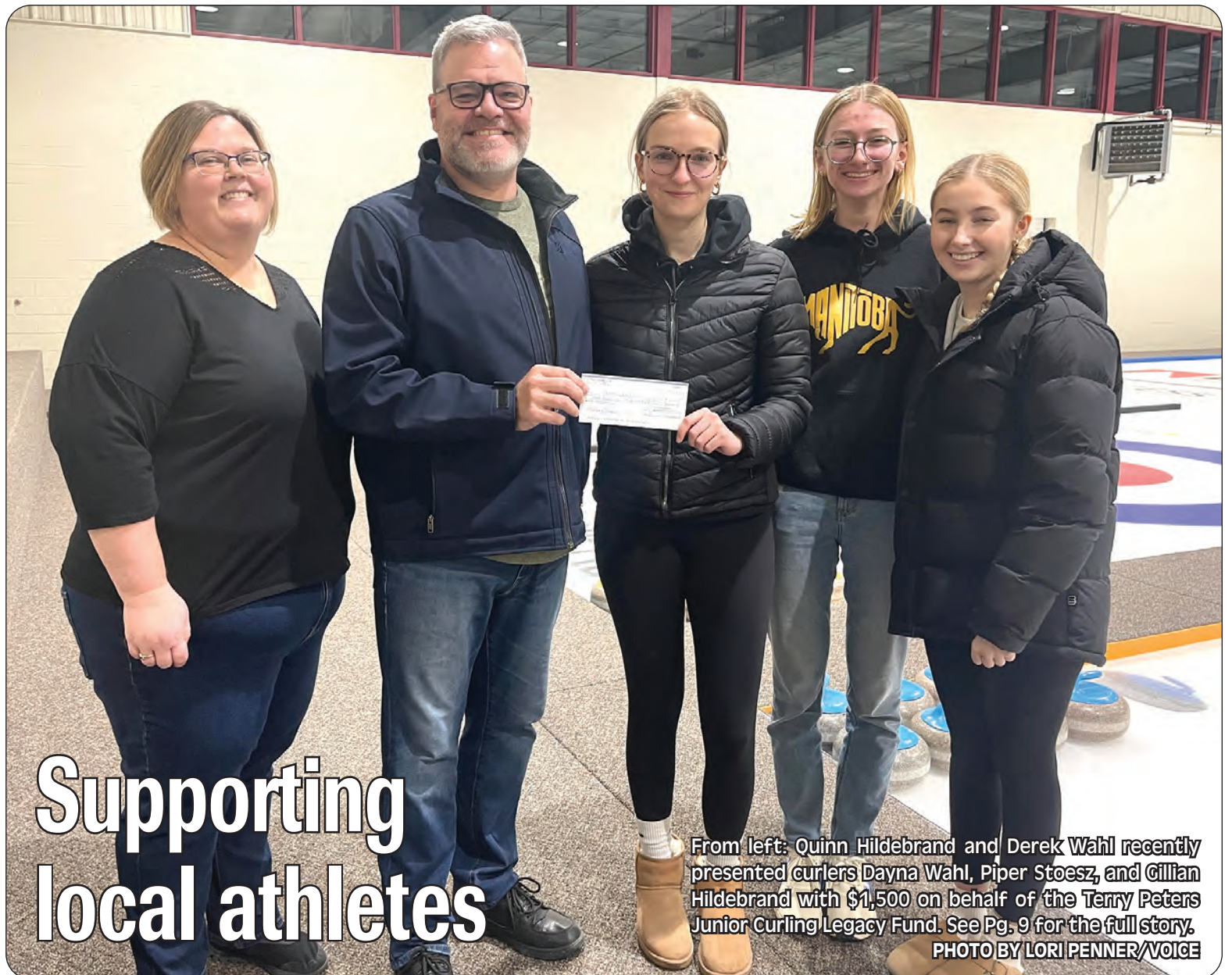



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**Supporting local athletes**

From left: Quinn Hildebrand and Derek Wahl recently presented curlers Dayna Wahl, Piper Stoesz, and Gillian Hildebrand with \$1,500 on behalf of the Terry Peters Junior Curling Legacy Fund. See Pg. 9 for the full story.  
 PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE


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## Altona mayor looks back on a successful 2023 and shares high hopes for 2024

By Lori Penner

Harv Schroeder is looking back on his first year as mayor of Altona with a blend of gratitude and pride.

"It's been good. Of course, it always comes with challenges. But there is such a great group working around the table and town staff that make it even more rewarding."

He says 2023 was excellent for business growth, with the community welcoming a dozen new businesses to town and major headway made on the industrial park.

"The landscaping and infrastructure, and the roadways are complete for Phase 1," Schroeder said. "We're already selling a lot of lots and seeing businesses already putting up buildings, while others, such as Sun Valley Tire, Bunge and Altona Farm Service have expanded."

"We're also very excited to see the development of Tim Hortons in our town," Schroeder said. "We're so thankful for the hope we see in this community, and that people are seeing the need for growth in this community and responding to it. We're

thankful for their confidence and forward thinking."

Last year saw a real estate development boom, with contractors and developers putting up new houses, apartments, and condos. Schroeder says 38 building permits were issued.

"While that's slightly lower than the previous year, the values are higher. They're putting their time and funds into our community and we're deeply thankful for that."

One of the top stories in Altona for 2023 was the Main St. renewal project.

"That was a dream for decades, beginning years ago with a letter to the province from former mayor Art Dyck," said Schroeder. "Working with our MLA and Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, we finally came to an agreement with some cost share, and they finally delivered on it last year. That's been so great to see."

Looking forward, Schroeder says council will continue to discuss future repairs to Centre Ave.

"Hopefully that will be added to their five-year plan."

Last year also saw several infra-



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder looks back on 2023 with a blend of gratitude and pride for all the community was able to accomplish.

structure repairs in and around the community.

"The southwest drainage project on Martin Crescent was a huge item. In Phase 3, we modified the existing ditch to allow storm water to pond in the ditch rather than on the street and boulevard. We completed the south side of the dike on the southwest corner and enlarged the ditch, and working together with the farmer, we can move forward on improving our drainage system."

New water meters were added to residences and businesses, with remote readings, a monthly reading system to detect abnormal flows, a 20-year warranty, and better data storage. Altona received a \$459,923 Manitoba Water Services Board grant for 50 per cent of costs of the meters.

The community also spent \$350,000 in sewer relining and manhole restoration. The soapstock relocation project was completed, with more work to be done to cover the material.

With respect to environmental stewardship, Altona added an EV charging station on the west side of the Rhineland Pioneer Centre.

"We had a Green Audit done by the Climate Action Team, and they assessed areas of impact, and created a final report," explained Schroeder. "As part of their action plan, we implemented upgrades to the temperature control and lighting at the Millennium Exhibition Centre."

The town also purchased an electric Zamboni to eliminate propane fumes. Public Works also planted and replaced 100 trees along town boulevards and vacant spaces.

Last year, the Accessibility Committee partnered with the local Community Garden team to create eight u-shaped raised garden beds that will be available for use in the 2024 growing season. Another addition was a crosswalk on 10th Ave. NW connecting the Altona Centennial Park path to the Millennium Drive trail.

"This is a good start and we're thankful to those who volunteer on that board," Schroeder said.

In terms of recreation, Altona enjoyed a great turnout for annual events such as the Manitoba Sunflower Festival, Night of Lights, Winter Carnival, the Community Garden grand opening, and Canada Day.

Approximately 43 recreation programs ran successfully in 2023, and the local Accessibility Committee focused on specific areas of concern at the park and local recreational facilities.

Looking ahead, Schroeder says council will continue making decisions for the Town of Altona based on their strategic plan and priorities by making fiscally responsible decisions, practicing good environmental stewardship, and preparing for sustainable growth.

"I want to wish the community of Altona a great New Year and thank them for doing what they do," he said. "We're going into 2024 on an optimistic note. We've seen a lot of progress in the past year; it's always good to move forward and see new things. But you have to look back, too. Things don't last and they often need repairing. So, we also have to plan ahead and fix what we leave behind."

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# Maria and the Mennos debuts on YESTV

By Ashleigh Viveiros

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

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

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

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

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

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

"My phone blew up," he says.

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

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

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

growing."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 'A QUIRKY, FUN-LOVING SHOW'

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

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

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

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

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



SUPPLIED PHOTO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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# Morden Library closed until Jan. 20 for renos

By Lorne Stelmach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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

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

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

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

brought in another \$1,000.

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

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

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

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

By Ashleigh Viveiros

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

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

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

This year's fundraiser pivoted away

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

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

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

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

Continued on page 5

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

By Ashleigh Viveiros

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

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

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

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

WCF's annual grants are drawn

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

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

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

The new fund will begin granting in 2025.

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

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



SUPPLIED PHOTO

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

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

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

# Forecast centre warns of high water levels on the Red River

By Voice staff

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

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

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

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

The centre noted the rise in water

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

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

## > HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, FROM PG. 4

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

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

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

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

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

You can donate to Habitat for Humanity online at [habitat.mb.ca/chapters/winkler-morden/](http://habitat.mb.ca/chapters/winkler-morden/) or connect with them via email to [info@wm.habitat.mb.ca](mailto:info@wm.habitat.mb.ca).

# Our contest winners



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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

*The* **Voice**

# get heard

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## Don't pee on your stuff

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**By Peter Cantelon**

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

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

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

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

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

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

It really is quite wonderful when

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

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

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

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

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

### Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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# Genesis House is hosting a puzzle night on Jan. 29

By Lorne Stelmach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I think there's the added benefit



VOICE FILE PHOTO

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

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

so that's always an added bonus."

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

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

By Voice staff

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

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

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

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

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

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

any way contributed to the injuries sustained.

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

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

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

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

The IIU has now closed the file on the case.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congratulations Harley!



Ring in 2024 at the WFRC

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



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

# Back 40, WA+C hosting coffeehouse Jan. 19

By Ashleigh Viveiros

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

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

Admission is free.

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

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

theme," he says.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You can stay on top of Back 40 announcements online at [back40folkfest.com](http://back40folkfest.com).



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# New vending machine at Morris School run by middle years students

By Sean Conway

The next time you are in the halls of Morris School, take a moment to find their vending machine and drop a few coins in the slot.

In return, you'll get a kid's preferred snack and become part of the middle years student challenge.

While on maternity leave, Gr. 5/6 teacher Jenna Skoglund pondered the thought of how to challenge her students.

Using her own money, she purchased a vending machine and had her husband and father move it to the basement of the school while she developed a plan.

"I thought it was such a good idea, so I invested in the project," says Skoglund. "It was a lot of work doing the research."

The cost of the machine and ongoing maintenance were issues that needed to be addressed, but the first real hurdle before the curled wires of the machine could release treats to student was the approval to have it in the school.

Prepared with her research, Skoglund pitched her grand plan to her principal: middle years students would operate the vending machine, taking on the responsibility of select-

ing and ordering products, figuring out pricing, doing the bookkeeping, and keeping the machine stocked.

One final responsibility in the challenge would be the decision making on what to do with the profits.

Skoglund arranged for local business owner Pat Schmitke to visit the school and talk to the students about running a vending machine. The Morris Bigway store now stocks Twinkies.

"We purchase most products from Bigway to stock the machine. Twinkies are a big seller," shares Skoglund.

"I spoke to some local businesses and they commented that it would be a lot of work. The big thing was repairs. They could be costly," she says. "The machine cost \$650. The students challenge has already repaid that debt. The challenge has used some profits to provide teachers with a pizza supper during parent-teacher night."

Skoglund assigned the responsibilities of operating the vending machine to a group of students that includes 12-year-old Addison Hamblin.

"I enjoy having something to do," the Gr. 7 student shares. "I mostly look after the machine. Schoolwork comes first. I might have to give up doing something to go stock the ma-



PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE  
Gr. 7 student Addison Hamblin is one of the students at Morris School in charge of keeping the new vending machine stocked and deciding where the proceeds will go.

chine. I get some help from other students, but it is mostly me."

Hamblin confesses she doesn't like to sit around.

"I like to read, but I'd rather be doing something, especially learning new stuff."

A new bank account for the vending machine gave her the opportunity to fill out her very first deposit slip.

"I really enjoy learning stuff that will be helpful in life," says Hamblin, who notes she's also developing time management skills with this project. "As I did the work, it became a lot bigger. Sometimes I can't do what I want because the machine needs to be

stocked. That is why some kids don't want to work on it. It can take time away from doing other things, but I do really enjoy it. I know I always have something I can do."

This budding Morris entrepreneur gives mom and dad some of the credit for her focus.

Her favourite subject is math, she adds, and she has plans to become either a teacher or an optometrist when she grows up.

"I have really bad eyes. With so many visits to the eye doctor, I've learned how the eyes work and that interested me."

# Curling club distributes Terry Peters legacy fund dollars

By Lori Penner

The Altona Curling Club has handed out four grants this season from the Terry Peters Junior Curling Legacy Fund.

The fund was established last year to help club members 18 and younger over costs related to things like clinics, camps, bonspiels, and equipment.

The largest grant, \$1,500, went to Team Dayna Wahl to help cover a portion of the season's coaching costs. The team consists of skip Dayna Wahl, third Piper Stoesz, second Gillian Hildebrand, and lead Lauren Weselak.

"This is a team that's been doing a lot of curling over the last couple of years, and this was our opportunity to help them out a little bit," said committee member Derek Wahl. "This is more than just a one-year thing for us. It's looking backwards a little bit to support them for all the things they've done and all the work they've put in over the last number of years."

"The girls haven't accessed this fund since 2019 and we know they're almost 18 now, so we wanted to make this a nice retroactive contribution to their team," agreed fellow committee member Quinn Hildebrand. "Our

curling club has really added a lot to the curling scene. We wish them the best of luck and it's good to have role models like them. We have a lot of up and comers looking forward to trying to follow in their footsteps."

"This will go very far for coaching, covering just under half the costs," shared Dayna Wahl. "We're pretty excited about that."

"We've all been practicing together and individually, and we've come a long way as a team," she added. "Practices and bonspiels have been going great this season. We're very grateful to the curling club and the

Terry Peters Fund for this generous donation."

The fund also supported Team Friesen, which attended their very first bonspiel, an U13 event in Carman in November, and won. The team includes Ellie Friesen, Seolah Kim, Myla Froese, and Savannah Friesen.

Grants were also used to purchase Curl Canada's new Rock Star Instructional Manual for use by the curling club's Little Rocker and Junior programs, and to send 13 Altona youth curlers to the Regional Hit, Draw, Tap competition in Steinbach Jan. 13.

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# Lots of projects ahead for Rhineland in 2024

By Lori Penner

As the Municipality of Rhineland begins their planning for the year ahead, Reeve Don Wiebe says council still has several projects that are continuing from 2023.

The priority roads project, for example, is a multi-year plan with about 80 per cent funding from the federal government. Last year, a concrete road was installed along Road 18 West, which provided a new hard surface and dust-free access to the Rhineland West Ag Park. The drain tile was also installed.

"This year, the project will focus on rebuilding the road base so as to better accommodate ag-related traffic," Wiebe said.

Another pending project is the Gnadenthal water reservoir. Rhineland has completed a study with assistance from the Water Service Board.

"The study concluded that a much larger water reservoir was needed, and this appears in our planning session," Wiebe shared.

Rhineland has also applied for an infrastructure grant to enhance the road network for the agricultural community.

Wiebe expects that the much-anticipated Gretna arena project will begin early this year.

"The insulation in that arena is very poor. It's getting an insulated roof, new weather-proof doors, and the front entrance will be redone for better accessibility."

The \$800,000 project will be largely covered by an energy grant, with Rhineland covering remaining costs.

With approval of DFA flood claims from floods in 2022, reparation has just begun on the border road east of Gretna. The south side of the road was severely eroded, and this portion of the road will be reinforced with large rocks to prevent this from happening again.

"This is a roughly \$3 million endeavour that needs to be addressed," stressed Wiebe.

Two other sites along the South Buffalo have also been approved, and the engineering work has been completed. That work is anticipated to begin this year.

"The 2023 flood claims are much smaller and many of the repairs were completed by our Public Works department," Wiebe said. "The final approval of these claims will help with the unbudgeted expenses."

Last year welcomed a much-needed project in Plum Coulee: the conversion of the old cardboard box plant into two sections, housing the public works and fire department.

Wiebe says they are presently waiting for new metal siding for the old part of the building, and the project will be complete.

"It's going to look really good. The siding is scheduled for this winter, and we're hoping to hold a grand opening in March."

Although there were some initial project delays because of design and tendering issues, Wiebe says the new design with attached auxiliary space for the department was more feasible cost-wise.

"Generally, this project, with revenue from the sale of the old office and the two municipal buildings, came in close to the budgeted numbers. This means that the local debenture of \$195,000 that was approved earlier will not change. This is good news for Plum Coulee."

Last year saw several personnel changes in Rhineland. Long-time community development officer and RPGA manager Susan Stein left to take on the CAO position for the Town of Carman.

After a shuffle in job descriptions, Tanya Wadell was hired as the new RPGA manager, with Maria Kahler hired to work as the community and

administrative support person.

In addition, Perry Batchelor was contracted to be the emergency coordinator for Rhineland and the Town of Altona. His role begins this month, with an agreement between the two municipalities that includes a backup plan if a second coordinator is required.

Looking ahead, Wiebe says lobby work with the provincial government will continue in 2024.

Rhineland council recently held a meeting with the new Minister of Agriculture to express their concerns regarding an adequate supply of potable water for economic development and the growing need that ag has for livestock production and crop spraying.

"Farms do better with clear water and chemicals are more effective. So that's a peak demand and a big concern for us. The new Pembina Valley Water Co-op CEO and all the municipalities have been talking about water and the need to expand the Letellier plant."

Council also discussed the importance of reconstruction and maintenance of provincial drains with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

"The South Buffalo and Aux Marias are prime examples where the drains have not been maintained, which results in more spring flooding and crop damage in heavy summer rains. Sections of both drains merit reconstruction," Wiebe said.

Rhineland also continued to advocate for a change in the department's policy with respect to low level crossings.

"Low level crossings are relatively low cost as compared to bridges and they are a huge convenience for transporting agricultural equipment. We have quite a few of them, but the province doesn't build them anymore. We want them to reconsider

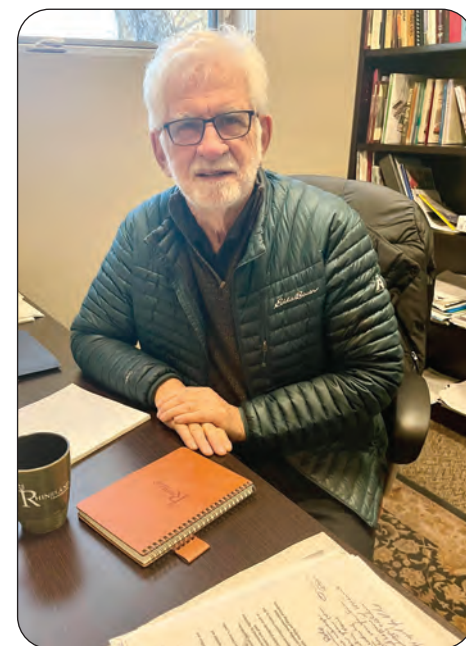


PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE  
Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe says 2024 will be a busy year for the municipality.

them because they make sense. Bridges aren't getting replaced because of cost, and these crossings are a huge convenience so they can avoid having to haul equipment along highways."

Other concerns brought forward to Transportation and Infrastructure include timely snow clearing and the need to repair bridges in a timely fashion.

"There are bridges where the decking has holes in it," said Wiebe. "You don't want that."

Together with Altona, Rhineland has also been engaged with the province regarding Hwy. 30. The current status is quite restrictive to development and a new joint plan is needed.

"There's been a traffic study and there are more meetings scheduled early this year. Hopefully with the new government, we have a chance to present some sensible scenarios."

Continued on page 11

# Family resource centre hosting Puzzle Palooza Jan. 19

By Lori Penner

National Puzzle Day occurs on Jan. 29 and the Altona & Area Family Resource Centre (AAFRC) is hosting an event to commemorate it a few days early.

AAFRC's second annual Puzzle Palooza fundraiser takes place Friday, Jan. 19 from 7-9 p.m. at École Elmwood School and promises to be just as challenging and fun as last year's

competition.

Each four-person team will be given two hours to complete the same 750-piece jigsaw puzzle. The team who gets the most done will be the winners.

AAFRC coordinator Nina Edbom-Kehler says last year's event was a very close competition, but one team—made up of Loren Braul, Steve and Joanna Reimer, and Shauna Hiebert—managed to claim victory

with 441 pieces of a 1,000-piece puzzle remaining after two hours of puzzling. They are on the registration list again this year to defend their title.

The 2023 palooza raised just shy of \$1,000 for the AAFRC, which offers free early childhood education programs for local families. They're hoping to surpass that total this year.

"Being a non-profit, every little bit helps," Edbom-Kehler says. "We are grateful for the grants, but usually

those are for physical things. It's nice to raise funds for things you can't find grants for, like wages or events.

"Altona seems to be a town full of puzzlers. And this is a great way to showcase what AAFRC is all about."

Edbom-Kehler says that they decided to go with fewer pieces this time around due to feedback from participants.

Continued on page 11

# Southeast Journal publishes final edition after decades of coverage

By Sean Conway

On Dec. 21, the *Southeast Journal* newspaper stopped distribution.

Volume 35, Number 25, was the final edition for Don and Brenda Piett after 16 years in the newspaper publishing business.

In 2006, Don retired from the Inco Refinery in Thompson and moved to Emerson. The next year, the *Journal* advertised it was for sale. Though they had no experience running a newspaper, the Pietts said "We can do this" and bought the paper.

When they took over, they got the services of the editor for six weeks. They also kept the Girl Friday that had worked at the local office for a few years.

They sent the *Journal's* electronic form to Grafton, North Dakota for printing, which meant a weekly trip across the border and back to pick up the finished product and deliver it to sixteen postal distribution points for disbursement.

"We published a story from the community of Sperling one issue. Front page colour picture to make it special," recalls Brenda. "The newspaper never made it to the community. The post office lost it."

The paper's office moved three times between 2007 and 2012.

"We had a contract with Sears to be a distribution point in Emerson," says Don. "People could get their newspaper and pick up their Sears packages."

In 2016, they moved the offices to their home on Church Street.

"It allowed me to look after my dad who was living with us and get out of paying rent," Don says.

The *Journal's* biggest printing ever was 24 pages, packed with local happenings.

"In the summer, there was a Drive 75 Spring advertisement that highlighted all the activities the different communities were hosting," Brenda says. "People crossing the border had access to things that were happening in the area."

Don's responsibilities were as the editor/news reporter, while Brenda handled news, sales, and circulation. Truth be told, they both became the newspaper. Brenda assumed Don's role of keeping the paper running when his health failed in 2019 and he had to spend time in the hospital.

The decision to close the paper was a financial one, Don says, explaining the advertisement revenue was what covered the cost of printing and distribution. In 2023, some weeks the paper was operating on a deficit.

"A main advertising stream dried up and in November and December we had to pay out of our own pockets to print," he says.

## A LOT OF MEMORIES

A decade and a half of journalism makes for a lot of memories for the Pietts.

"I remember there was a movie being filmed in Emerson, I went out to get a story," shares Brenda. "They were using the mayor's house because he had done a period restoration of his home. I was told by the film crew one actor was in the movie Star Wars."



PHOTO BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Don and Brenda Piett decided to stop publishing the *Southeast Journal* last month after 16 years of heading up the regional paper.

Don says they tried to fill the *Journal* with stories you wouldn't necessarily see elsewhere.

"When we started the paper, I didn't want to repeat news you could get in a newspaper or watch on television. I know it upset some people. We didn't write stories about people crossing the border illegally. Why would I cover what they did on the news broadcasts? I wanted to do stories that didn't make it to those media."

The Pietts want to thank everyone for the support they received over the years.

This was never just a two person operation, they stress, but was supported by the many people who submitted articles and bought ads.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The team of Loren Brault, Steve and Joanna Reimer, and Shauna Hiebert won the AAFRC's first Puzzle Palooza last year and will be back at the Jan. 19 event to defend their title.

## > PUZZLE PALOOZA, FROM PG. 10

"This year we are hoping for a completed puzzle by the end of the night," she says. "It's such a fun fundraiser to set up and we generate some extra funds via the rainbow auction. The snacks and refreshments add to the fun portion."

"Similar to last year, we have purchased the exact same puzzle for all teams, have them wrapped so nobody can see them ahead of time

## > RHINELAND, FROM PG. 10

Another project Wiebe is excited about is Phase 2 development for the Rhineland West Ag Park.

"That development is now moving forward," he said. "A multi-family development has been conditionally approved for the LUD of Rosenfeld."

Rhineland has also approved a host of drain tile applications and is in the process of reviewing their bylaws. "

As well, our joint economic development initiative with Altona is going well and a number

to gain any type of edge from another team. The teams come in, they pick their lucky table, and then at 7 p.m. sharp, they open them up and get going."

The registration fee for each four-person team is \$100. There are limited spots available, so pre-register via email to [aafrc1998@gmail.com](mailto:aafrc1998@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

of business grants have been issued."

Going forward, Wiebe says Rhineland will continue to connect with the new provincial government to dialogue about their commitment to work closely with municipalities in the region.

"Looking back, 2023 was a vibrant year for the Municipality of Rhineland. It was a busy year, with some challenges, and we're looking forward to a productive new year."

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# sports & recreation

## Hawks split pair of games with Bruins, fall to Selects

By Lorne Stelmach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On Saturday, it was the Bruins who



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Winkler Flyers start 2024 with three wins in a row

By Ashleigh Viveiros

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

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

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

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

their mark.

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

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

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

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

saves in net.

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

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

way.

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

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

Continued on page 13



# Altona's Team Campbell wins U18 championship

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

PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL/VOICE



# Female Hawks looking to get back in the win column

By Lorne Stelmach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## > FLYERS, FROM PG. 12

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

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

trade.

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

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Competition # 93-23/24

Brandon, Manitoba

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

**For full position details or to view all career opportunities visit:**  
[www.assiniboine.net/careers](http://www.assiniboine.net/careers).

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

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

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

[careers@assiniboine.net](mailto:careers@assiniboine.net)

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



**CAREERS**



**MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT**

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

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

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

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

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

Starting Wages:

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

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

**Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.**

**CAREERS**



**Wide Open Welding is seeking a qualified structural steel erector.**

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**



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

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

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

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

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

**AREA:** TOWN OF ALTONA

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

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

**SCRAP METAL**

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

**FOR RENT**

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

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

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

**WANTED**

Gold, Silver & Platinum!!



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

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

**Todd The Coin Guy**  
250-864-3521

**WANTED**

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

**FLIGHT ACADEMY**

Want to learn how to fly? Interested in a career as a commercial pilot? LS Airways Flight Academy is the most affordable in Canada. We have students from all over the world. We offer flight training & ground school (air law, navigation, meteorology, aeronautics general knowledge. Call 204-651-1402.

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

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

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

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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

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

**MCCULLOCH MOONEY JOHNSTON SELBY LLP**  
**ATTENTION: JULIE TOEWS**

Solicitors for the Estate of Neil Alexander Johnson

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**NOTICES**

**URGENT PRESS RELEASES** - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

**NOTICES**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MCNA!** The 31 Member Newspapers which are seen in over 368,000+ homes, the Publishers, Editors, Journalists, Photographers, Graphic artists and All Staff thank you for your support during 2023. We wish you all the blessings of Health, Happiness and Prosperity in 2024. Now booking advertising for January, February and March. Please Call 204-467-5836 to book, or call MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

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**SHOP LOCAL**

**FARMLAND TENDER**

**FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER**

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

**LAND:**

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

\*\* Please see [fhwlaw.ca/tenders](http://fhwlaw.ca/tenders) for sketch of land location

**BUILDINGS:**

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

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

\*\* Please see [fhwlaw.ca/tenders](http://fhwlaw.ca/tenders) for photos of the bins

**NOTES:**

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

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

**CONDITIONS OF TENDER:**

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

**TERMS OF SALE:**

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**



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

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

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

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

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

**AREA:** Municipality of Rhineland

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

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

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[www.revolutiontrailers.ca](http://www.revolutiontrailers.ca)

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204-955-7377

**Meyers Auctions**

Blue Hills 30' Stock Trailer  
- Tri Axel

JD 3130 Tractor w/ Loader

New Idea 4845 Rnd baler

NH 273 Hayline Sq Baler

Heston 1160 Haybine 14'

**Online Closes Jan 25, 2024**

**Bradley Meyers,**  
Auctioneer

**text 204-476-6262**

[www.meyersauctions.com](http://www.meyersauctions.com)

**BRED COW SALE**



**FARMERS AND RANCHERS**

Plan to attend the Bred Cow sale

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

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

125 cows for 3Bar Cattle  
50 cows for Danilo Krahn

More consignors are welcome

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

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## take a break

> GAMES

### LAND TENDER

#### TENDER FOR SALE OF LAND

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

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

#### Terms and conditions of sale:

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

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

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

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

**Sudoku Answer**

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

**Crossword Answer**

# SUDOKU

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

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

Level: Intermediate

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

# X CROSSWORD

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

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

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



# Classifieds Announcements

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The **Winkler Morden** Voice

**BIRTHDAY**



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

**Remember Your Loved Ones with an Announcement in the**

**The Winkler Morden Voice**

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

**OBITUARY**



**Bernard G. Wiebe**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts*

**OBITUARY**



**Corneil Hiebert**

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

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

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

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

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

**REGISTRATION**



**Western School Division**

**Kindergarten Registration for September 2024**

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

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

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

Catchment areas are:

**Minnewasta School**

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

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

**Maple Leaf Elementary School**

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

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

**École Discovery Trails**

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

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

**Kindergarten Information Session**

Western School Division will be holding a Kindergarten Parent Information session on January 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Maple Leaf School. We look forward to seeing all the new Kindergarten parents on this evening.

More detailed information is available online at [www.westernsd.mb.ca](http://www.westernsd.mb.ca), at the schools, or at Western School Division Office, 204-822-4448.

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**OBITUARY**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**OBITUARY**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**OBITUARY**



**Alvin Glenn Phillips  
1945 - 2023**

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

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

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

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

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

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**OBITUARY**



**Katrina Dyck  
1918 - 2023**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**OBITUARY**



**Victor Gerhard Schulz  
1937 - 2024**

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

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

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

He was predeceased by his parents, six brothers, one sister and four sisters-in-law.

Memorial service will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 13th, 2024 at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church, 252 6th Street, Winkler. Viewing will be from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Friday, January 12 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden.

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

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





## Showing some pizzazz

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

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



# Altona Maroons down Red River Wild 5-4

By Ashleigh Viveiros

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

er Wild, respectively.

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

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

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

There, Clark got the game winner 52 seconds in.

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

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

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

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

Cole Holdnick made it 4-2 for Al-

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

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

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

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

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



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

PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT/ARGENAL/VOICE

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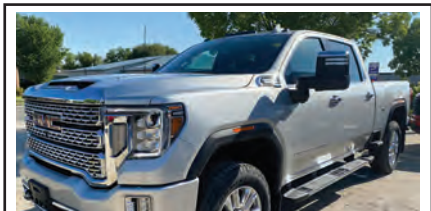
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