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Speedy puzzlers

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Altona and Area Family Resource Centre's second Puzzle Palooza Friday drew 13 teams and raised \$1,200 for early childhood education programming in our area. The big winners were (above, from left) Kathleen Wiebe, Sarah Bartsch, Laura Plett, and Trudy Wiebe, who completed the 750-piece puzzle in just one hour. "Everything just went fantastic, and we're hoping to keep doing this every year," said AAFRC coordinator Nina Edbom-Kehler, thanking the community for its support.

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“It’s best to be prepared”

By Lori Penner

Emergencies never wait until you’re ready for them.

“That’s why it’s best to be prepared, and to know what resources there are to protect you when the unexpected happens,” said Perry Batchelor, who recently took on the dual role of municipal emergency coordinator (MEC) for the Town of Altona, and the Municipality of Rhineland.

Explaining the duties of that role and how citizens can best prepare for emergencies was the focus of an Emergency Preparedness Session hosted by Batchelor at the Altona Senior Centre on Jan. 17.

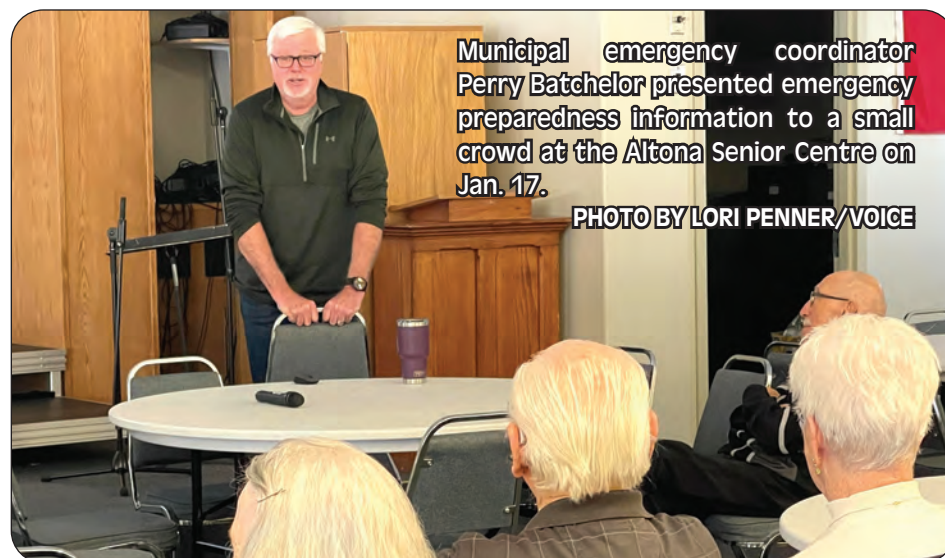
Encouraging public awareness, he said, is one of his biggest responsibilities. He also prepares citizens for emergencies through response, mitigation, and recovery.

To illustrate how quickly a situation

can change, Batchelor began the session with a newsclip of the F5 tornado that rocked the community of Elie in 2007. Miraculously, despite causing \$39 million in damage during its four-minute journey, no one was hurt.

While no amount of planning could have predicted the path of that twister, preparation for the potential aftermath of such an event is vital, Batchelor said.

“It’s all about being prepared. For example, many people don’t realize that the first 72 hours is up to them. If we’re experiencing a disaster, for example, public works could be overwhelmed, and they may not necessarily be able to respond to individual needs if water and sewer are compromised. In situations such as a tornado, emergency resources could be stretched, and people may have to shelter in place and make sure they have food and water for those first 72



Municipal emergency coordinator Perry Batchelor presented emergency preparedness information to a small crowd at the Altona Senior Centre on Jan. 17.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

hours.”

Batchelor also encouraged attendees to register for Altona Connect.

“If you have a cell phone, you’ll get a text message. If you have a computer, you’ll get an email. If you have a landline, you’ll get a phone call. And you’ll get the information about what we are experiencing, whether it’s flooding or a tornado or a mass casualty event.

“There’s no cost for this program. It just involves going to the Town of Altona or the Municipality of Rhineland website and signing up. It provides information and updates, so people will continuously be told how things are going, or if a state of emergency is declared, and when that declaration is rescinded. To me, it’s a no-brainer.”

There are currently 1,000 individuals registered with the program, and Batchelor said they’d like to see that number go up.

Along with public awareness, Batchelor listed his other duties, which includes the development of an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), annual collective training with the Local Emergency Response Control Group (LERCG) and volunteers with tabletop and live exercises, and developing a business continuity plan with the municipality to determine how they would continue to provide vital services during an emergency.

“I also develop an effective volunteer base. Our community is outstanding for volunteers. In the last flood in 2022, I had phone calls constantly reaching out to help. I think we’re way ahead of the game because we’ve already done so much volunteering in other areas.”

He must also present an annual review of the risk analysis featuring a possible emergency scenario, as well as an annual review of the emergency

plan, budget, and succession plan.

“As part of our succession planning, we’ve appointed Barry Friesen as our assistant municipal emergency coordinator. He has tons of experience in emergency management and it’s great to keep that role local.”

In terms of mitigation, Batchelor said, “I think we’ve done a good job preparing our communities for emergencies, but there’s always room for improvement.

“We’ll continue to chip away at some of the areas that I know are a potential liability. In terms of flooding, it would be great to raise 9th St., where much of the flooding occurred in 2022. The southwest drainage project is close to complete, with the potential for another phase there.”

“And right now, one of the projects is to get auxiliary power for the Pioneer Centre. In the event of an emergency and it becomes our reception centre, we’ll need power. Overall, we’ve got the outdoor warning siren, we’ve got a lot of auxiliary power to our key infrastructure, but we do have a few gaps.

“I’m grateful to both councils and CAO’s for working with me on that. We’ll continue to do our best to look after everyone.”

Session attendee John Harder of Altona says he enjoyed the presentation.

“I saw the devastation a tornado can cause when one of them came through a few miles north of our place near Lowe Farm. My boys and I helped with the clean up. There were steel granaries that had been bolted down, and they were all scattered around. And on a farm nearby, the roof of a barn was ripped off. It’s important for people to learn more about what can happen during a tornado, and what you can do to prepare.”

Reminder



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No person shall deposit snow from private properties onto public roads, streets, lanes and ditches.

Nordic club starts up weekly community ski night

By Lorne Stelmach

A community group is aiming to get more people out to enjoy cross country skiing this winter.

The Boundary Trails Nordic Club and Country Cycle are holding weekly community ski nights at the Burwalde Nordic Centre on Highway 3.

They are especially hoping to get more adults out skiing, but the ski nights that started last Thursday at 8 p.m. are open to all ages.

"We've been wanting to get more adults into skiing and kind of grow our community. The thought was if we have a night where people felt safe and welcome to learn," said Luke Broadland, shop manager at Country Cycle and a board member of the Boundary Trails Nordic Club. "A lot of time, there's kid's programs, but there isn't a lot of programming in sports for adults."

They hope it will be an easy and welcoming environment for people to learn or improve their skiing skills.

"It's a place where people can ask questions, and we'll have a bit of a structured time at the start to give some skill-based instruction and do some things to help people learn and improve," said Broadland. "We'll go for a ski together and then have snacks in the cabin by fireside and candlelight, because it's an off-grid cabin."

"There's lots of people out there who have skied for years ... maybe they would like to improve but they don't really have the space to do it,"

he said. "It's completely wide open to the community. All ages are definitely welcome."

He suggested Burwalde is an ideal place for people to learn or develop their skiing skills.

"It has about 20 kilometres of trail, so it's definitely a really good place to start," said Broadland, who noted people might want to bring along a head lamp for light.

"There's very few hills ... there's a few creek crossings and that kind of thing, but it's nice and flat, so it's a great starting place," he said. "It's all very close; the main trail system is all pretty close to the yard site, so as far as safety, it's really good."

The ski nights could also provide a boost for the nordic club by further increasing its membership.

"It's always dependent a little bit on snow and the conditions, but there is a good skiing community here," said Broadland, who pointed out that people can rent equipment at Country Cycle in Winkler and call there for more information.

He encourages people to come out some evening if they are at all interested.

"We're going to be doing it every week now. The plan is for the rest of the winter, unless there may be the odd week we miss because of the weather perhaps," he concluded. "It's good for motivation, to get out in winter. It's often kind of hard for us all to get motivated when it's a little cooler out."



BOUNDARY TRAILS NORDIC CLUB PHOTOS

The Boundary Trails Nordic Club is hosting a weekly community ski night at its trails off Hwy. 3 every Thursday this winter.



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SCRL stats have bounced back to pre-COVID levels

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year largely marked a return to normal for the South Central Regional Library.

The library network with branches in Winkler, Morden, Altona, Miami and Manitou of course did face controversy around protests concerning certain content on their shelves, but they otherwise saw library use rebound post-pandemic.

"We're finally back to our pre-COVID numbers ... it's good to see," said director of library services Cathy Ching.

She noted there were approximately 280,500 check-outs overall in 2023, an increase of about 9,000 from the previous year.

"A lot of that was due to a tremendously successful summer reading program," Ching said. "We had about 2,200 kids participating, so that's a good thing to see as well."

"With all the stuff going on in the past year where people were concerned about what was in our libraries, it didn't scare people away," she added. "We've had almost 1,200 new

members get cards ... so people are still coming, and especially our newcomers in our communities are using our libraries."

Ching wondered if people perhaps were recognizing the importance of supporting their local library.

"I think when it was threatened, it really brought people in, first of all, to see what all the fuss was about and then ensure that things didn't get removed," she said.

"What we are finding as well though is that some branches are really benefiting from the newcomer communities," continued Ching, while noting the Morden branch perhaps has seen some lower numbers particularly related to newcomers now going more to the 500 Stephen Community Centre right next door. "I think it has given newcomers a place to go when it perhaps used to be the library. It's definitely changed what's been going on in the Morden branch, but having 500 Stephen is a good thing for the community."

Ching also highlighted how all of their branch staff have been doing a great job of trying to really boost programming again.

"I think, across the board for all of our branches, we do an amazing job with programming and stuff, but we've kind of lost our connection with some of our home school families ... we need to set up stuff for them," she said. "So a direction we might go for is to try to encourage them to come use our libraries as a field trip day of sorts."

"It's not anything outside the box. It's more going back to the basics," Ching continued. "Give them what they maybe use to have ... we need to show we have



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Programming, such as the regular Nerf battles at the Winkler library, has really been ramping up at SCRL's branches over the past year.

stuff to offer again.

"We've had some great programming," she noted of the past several months. "We had a lot of local authors who are contacting us to do readings, which is great. What a great way to get to know your communities and people to get to know the authors."

The Winkler branch has also promoted a new astronomy club led by a local resident with a high-quality telescope who has led several sky viewings for the public. Another unique initiative has been the Nerf battles held once a month at the branch.

"I think, just before Christmas, they had 22 people in there, and I think the adults had more fun than the kids," said Ching.

She also noted how they have added to their diversity of material that can be loaned out, including some 700 puzzles across the five branches.

"We have a huge board game collection. We purchased about 150 new board games, and we bought some locally," Ching added. "We have the expensive ones that everybody has wanted to try but doesn't want to



put the money out, so you can check out a board game for three weeks."

Looking ahead, Ching shared that they are beginning to think of plans to mark SCRL's 60 anniversary in 2025.

"We are going to work throughout the year to start working towards a celebration of some sort for a big event. That's something we are looking forward to," she said.

"We are thinking maybe we can have some sort of fundraiser and possibly by ourselves a van or something that we can move books around in," Ching added. "Right now, when we need to move books, we haul them in our little vehicles and drive back and forth."

As well, they will partner with Morden Fire and Rescue on the large annual book sale this spring.

"We're going to have the book sale on the same weekend as the quilt show this year ... so we're looking forward to that as well."

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Single-family housing starts down across the region

By Lorne Stelmach

Economic conditions are likely behind the drop in new housing starts across the region in the past year.

Year-end building permit statistics for 2023 reflect that decline in both of the south central region's two planning districts.

"A lot of doors are still getting built but not so much in the single-family market," said Glen Wieler, general manager of the MSTW (Morden Stanley Thompson Winkler) Planning District. "That seems to be a regional trend ... it's not just a MSTW territory reality ... it's just what's happening."

"I think the economics are just flattening out the incentive to build," agreed Tanya Waddell, general manager of the RPGA (Rhineland, Plum Coulee, Gretna and Altona) Planning District.

In Winkler, permits for new single-family housing starts were down from 34 to 18, although the value of the development was up from \$6.5 million to \$8.1 million.

New multi-family starts were down from six to three, while new duplexes however were up from 10 to 17 and accounted for \$11.4 million in development value.

Morden saw new residential single-family starts drop from 20 to only six, and the value dropped also from \$5.3 million to just under \$2.4 million. New multi-family developments remained steady at four permits, while new duplex units were down from six to two.

New single-family housing starts were down from 21 to 11 in the RM of Stanley, although the value was up from \$4.7 million to \$5.3 million.

In Altona, new single housing starts decreased from 24 to 14 with a corresponding drop in value from \$9.1 million to \$5.6 million. Permits for other residential related development rose from 16 to 21, and the value doubled

to \$1.4 million.

The RM of Rhineland saw an increase in new single housing starts from seven to 12 with an increase in value from \$1.5 million to \$5.1 million. Other residential related development however had plummeted from 61 to 14 with a large drop in value from \$10.3 million to \$1.6 million.

"Things seem to be moving more towards multi-family. Inquiries are more about multi-family than single-family," said Waddell.

"I think it's getting too expensive, and the demand is not there," she continued. "It's quite expensive to build a single-family house now and even a smaller one is quite expensive."

"During the last few years, with COVID and stuff, I think that really inflated some of the numbers. There were a lot of people spending money on improving their own yards and homes ... that really increased the building permit numbers for a couple years until the interest rates went up, and the cost of building went up."

"The number of permits that we've had over the last year is very similar as in previous years, but the single-family housing has dropped. You're seeing more multi-family housing like the duplex, fourplex, eight and twelve unit," said Wieler.

"I think interest rates have a lot to do with it and just the cost of a new house today ... I don't think \$350,000 would buy you a new house anymore."

In Winkler, building permits overall increased from 185 to 192, and the value also jumped from \$43.1 million to \$75.3 million.

New institutional permits remained steady at just three, while there was no change as well in new industrial development with just four.

New industrial improvements however increased from two to ten, and the value was up from under \$100,000 to over \$26.7 million. New commercial permits were down slightly from

25 to 22, although the value was up from \$6.6 million to \$13.1 million.

Morden saw total permits down from 111 to 96, but the value however was up substantially from \$25.6 million to \$69 million.

There was a significant boost from construction of the new École Discovery Trails school, which is reflected in the institutional category where just three permits carried a value of \$49 million.

New industrial development was down from three to one permit \$4.6 million to \$800,000, while new commercial development had an increase from seven to 18 with a jump in value from \$1.7 million to \$6 million.

In the RM of Stanley, there was an overall decrease from 114 to 102 permits, but the value shot up to \$93.5 million from \$20.2 million. The municipality was boosted by the expansion of the Boundary Trails Health Centre

Stanley has seen a large increase in the value of new commercial development. Although permits decreased from 12 to 9, the value shot up from \$6.1 million to almost \$80 million.

In the RM of Thompson, building permits were down overall from 25 to 22 with a corresponding decrease in value from \$2.9 million to \$1.7 million

Altona overall saw building permits decline from 50 to 42, and the value also dropped from \$11.5 million to almost \$8.9 million. Commercial permits were down from 10 to seven, but the value went up from \$1.6 million to \$1.7 million.

In the RM of Rhineland, permits overall were down substantially from 75 to 30 with a drop in value from \$13 million to \$7.5 million. Commercial permits also decreased from seven to four with the value also down from \$1.1 million to \$690,000.

Other permits including such development as industrial and institutional were up from six to 22, and the value also jumped from \$1.9 million to \$23.7 million.

There is optimism that development overall will continue to pick up in 2024.

"We've got some big projects in the region happening," said Wieler. "There's lots of stuff going on outside of housing. We anticipate that is going to continue this year."

"I think multi-family will continue to pick up more than single-family," said Waddell. "We've also got a couple industrial parks we're hoping will develop some more and bring some more investment into the communities."

Candlewick presents 'Busybody'

By Lorne Stelmach

The Candlewick Players are dipping back into a favourite genre again for their annual Valentine's Day theatre production.

They will be presenting *Busybody*, which is a British comedy thriller set in the '60s, and assistant director Chuck Fefchak says it promises to delight.

"The appeal of the play is that it's a funny one obviously," said Fefchak, who has a personal affinity to it from

having been part of a production of *Busybody* when he first got involved in theatre years ago.

"A British comedy has various appeals, not the least of which is the accents and the concept of different sayings that we in North America don't use as often," he added. "With a murder mystery, the reveal is at the end, as one would expect, so it keeps the audience engaged."

This comedy centers on a voluble

Continued on page 7



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• FAITH FOCUS

Habits

If you've ever signed up for the weight loss program Noom, they ask you all these questions at the beginning to put together a customized plan.

Then there's a quiz to test whether you were paying attention. One of the questions was, "What do you need to do to achieve your weight loss goal?" Of the multiple choices listed I picked, "eat salads at lunchtime," and instead of telling me I was wrong, they said, "Almost!" Noom said the biggest factor in me achieving my weight loss goal was actually believing I could do it; because if you believe that you will achieve your goal, ultimately, you'll figure it out.

When it comes to your goals and where you want to see improvement in your life, how important is the belief that you can do it? I think the folks at Noom are probably onto something! But here's the thing, the very next thing the program did had nothing to do with how strong my belief was, but it was all about creating a system of habits. Terry, do you believe you can achieve your goal? Yes? Then here's how we're going to get you there...

Sean Covey says, "Our habits will make us or break us. We become what we repeatedly do." I've been thinking about this quote particularly from the context of relationships. My relationship with my wife, my co-workers,



By Terry Dueck

my church, my God. Every healthy relationship needs consistency and rhythms of connection to flourish. We become what we repeatedly do.

One of the main writers of the New Testament, the apostle Paul, was no stranger in struggling to build good habits into his life. In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul pours out his heart, his frustrations, his longing to be better, and his words have resonated with believers across the centuries. He shares this tension between his desire to do good, and his relentless propensity to fall short. "I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate...I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway." You can understand why people have resonated with these words!

Paul goes onto to write, "I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power, another law within me that is at war with my mind. This power, this law makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me."

And then he asks this question, "Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?" And he looks to the only source, the only one who can truly change him, and he writes this wonderful proclamation of faith, "Thank God! The answer is in

Jesus Christ our Lord."

I think what Paul is describing here is that for who put their trust in Jesus and his power to change, we have been given everything we need to defeat sin, we are free from it's captivity, but not the war. In other words, we're still going to have to battle bad habits.

James Clear in his book *Atomic Habits* writes this: "You don't rise to the level of your goals, you fall to the level of your systems." Goals aren't enough. If you want to grow and be better, whether that's in your health, relationships, or faith, goals aren't enough, you need to develop good habits. We become what we repeatedly do!

Jan 12 was quitters day—the day most people give up on their new year resolutions. I think we most often fail in our good intentions because we don't see progress fast enough. We wrongly conclude that small good decisions don't matter that much; or the flip-side, that small bad decisions don't matter that much either. I want to encourage this year to not give up on change! Small consistent habits really can lead to big change in your life.

Take this ancient advice from Paul, "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap of harvest of blessing if we don't give up."

—Terry Dueck is the lead pastor at the Winkler MB Church

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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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PVLIP cultural celebration night is coming up

Party takes place at Altona's Community Exchange Feb. 22

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership hosts its fourth annual Connecting Cultures and Community Celebration in Altona next month.

The event serves to shine a spotlight on the agency's activities over the past year while also providing a chance for people to get together and celebrate the growing diversity of our region, says PVLIP coordinator Elaine Burton Saindon.

"This year we're hosting it in a new community that we haven't been able to be super active in to date," she says, noting that's changing with the hiring of staff who will work out of Altona three days a week moving forward. "We're super excited that we were able to expand our program there."

This year's celebration takes place at The Community Exchange (116 Main St.) on Thursday, Feb. 22 from 6:30-9 p.m.

"It was the perfect fit for us," Burton Saindon says of the community centre, which hosts an evening that will feature a buffet meal from Potpourri of Flavours, local musicians,

and dancers. "We want to highlight as much local culture and talent as possible."

Raising awareness about PVLIP's mission is a big part of the night, Burton Saindon says, stressing the evening is open to anyone interested in learning more or simply enjoying a fun cultural night out.

"Our main feature of it is usually to help attendees understand better what it is we do," she says.

The organization is tasked with helping to create welcoming and inclusive communities by developing various projects and supports in partnership with local stakeholders and newcomers alike.

"A lot of our efforts are about hearing the stories or the lived experiences of those in our region," notes Burton Saindon. "This evening is one way to share that."

"It's primarily for the general public, and any employers or other people who have heard or seen some of the resources that we've developed over the years and want to know a little bit more about what we can do to promote their own connection to either a multicultural workplace or how to get involved volunteering, how to just be a good neighbour to people who might be living within your network or down your street."

Admission to the celebration is free, though attendees are asked to bring a

donation for the Rhineland Area Food Bank.

You also need to pre-register for your

ticket, as space is limited. A link to the event's registration page is available at pvlip.ca.

Letters

A THANK-YOU TO THE COMMUNITY

As the holiday season is behind us for another year, it is a great time to sit down and reflect on the season and recognize how much our community steps up to help one another out.

It may seem redundant to continually voice, but year after year we are truly overwhelmed by the generosity and support provided to ensure Christmas Cheer can continue to operate. It invokes a deep sense of pride to call this place home.

On behalf of the Morden Christmas Cheer Board, we would like to extend a massive thank you to ev-

eryone for making our 2023 season so successful! Through your generosity and community support we were able to deliver 364 hampers and make the holiday season a little more bright for over 1,000 people.

Thank you to everyone who organized events, volunteered their time, promoted events in support of Morden Christmas Cheer, attended fundraising events, and/or donated items and money to go directly into filling the hampers. It truly takes a community and we can't express the amount of gratitude we have towards this wonderful community of ours. Thank you!

Morden Christmas Cheer Board

> CANDLEWICK VALENTINE'S SHOW, FROM PG. 5

cleaning woman who keeps telling the cops how to mind their business and who steps forward with the right evidence in every pinch.

She lives in the basement of the office building she cleans and one night finds a body. By the time the police arrive, there is no body and no evidence. The wrong alarms are sent out, murdered men turn up alive, and the whole thing is chalked up to the cleaning woman's imagination until an unidentified body is discovered on a distant hill and the cleaning woman uncovers more evidence in the course of her duties.

Candlewick is offering the option of enjoying the production either on its own or as a dinner theatre presentation. The latter is always an interesting variation for the cast and crew, said Fefchak.

"Dinner theatre tends to be quite enjoyable because in between acts one gets to interact with the patrons while staying in character, so it's fun for the actors and the audience," he

said. "But because of that, it is more work. You don't get as big of a recuperation time between acts."

"Valentine's is more of a classic dinner theatre as compared to the Christmas version," he suggested. "Christmas dinner theatre is theatre in the round, and you're literally staring at someone's entrée while on stage. The Valentines theatre in Manitou doesn't have patrons up on stage. The cast interacting between acts is something that many Manitou patrons love."

The dinner theatre presentation is at the Manitou Opera House Friday, Feb. 9 and Saturday, Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

The theatre-only presentation is at the Kenmor Theatre in Morden Friday, Feb. 16 and Saturday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 18 at 3:30 p.m.

Tickets can be reserved online at www.candlewick.ca by clicking on the CW Players tab or calling 204-822-7469.

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Bruce gets an upgrade

CFDC uses its new 3D printer to create a more accurate fossil display

By Lorne Stelmach

The most famous resident of the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre collection has undergone a bit of cosmetic surgery.

The lifesize replica of Bruce the mosasaur has had some pieces of its skull replaced with more accurate pieces, a project that became possible with the museum now owning a high quality 3D printing system.

It is a good example of the possibilities that are opened up now through the 3D printing, said executive director Adolfo Cuetara.

"It allows us to do things that were impossible before," he said. "We could still do some traditional silicon molds ... but a problem with the silicon mold is the bone is very fragile. It is a tough process for the bone, and you can damage the bone in the process."

"With the 3D scanning, you are not handling the bone, and it is super accurate and super precise," Cuetara continued. "You can print hollow replicas that are very lightweight ... and you can work easily with them."

It is fitting to give Bruce some work now in the 50th anniversary of the year when he was discovered at a site just north of Thornhill.

The replica on display in the museum was made about 25 years ago. With a few fossil pieces missing, Cuetara noted there was some guesswork in a few areas, leading to some parts not being as accurate as they could be.

Today, with the benefit of being able to compare to other fossils, they have a better idea of how it all should look, and they now have the capabilities to finish it off more completely and accurately with their 3D printer

"Bruce's replica is a good replica, and it always was, but we are trying now to improve it with a few of the details we now have about it," said Cuetara.

They've 3D scanned and printed the proper right and left quadrate bones and replaced the old incorrect pieces of Bruce's skull.

The quadrates are very distinctive bones in mosasaur skulls, Cuetara noted, connecting the lower jaw with the rest of the skull. The quadrates were

independently movable in all mosasaurs and acted to protract and retract the lower jaws, providing



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

CFDC executive director Adolfo Cuetara explains how they were able to replace a few pieces on the Bruce fossil display to create a more accurate representation of the giant mosasaur. Below: A fossil and its 3D print.

those marine reptiles a very effective way to grab and swallow big preys.

"We disassembled the skull from the replica and took it apart ... now the skull is looking more accurate like how it should be," Cuetara explained. "In the future, we will be completing all of that ... the idea is just to keep what is good and to improve where it is needed."

They are now also working on scanning part of another famous fossil of the same species as Bruce: the tylosaurus peminensis specimen on display in the Miami Museum

"We are scanning the skull from this specimen from Miami through the 3D printing and completing the bones that are missing using another specimen," said Cuetara. "What we will have at the end is the very first accurate reconstruction of the whole

skull of a tylosaurus peminensis. It's going to be a very good complement to the Bruce exhibit."

Given it is now 50 years since the discovery of Bruce, Cuetara noted they are making some special plans to mark the occasion this year.

"We are preparing a few events, probably for late spring depending on the melting and how it is going with the terrain," he said. "It is going to be a surprise. We want to wait until that time, but it's something that is connecting again with the land where Bruce was found."

"We are also preparing a few documents. We are researching the history of what happened at that time," he concluded. "It's really something that we need to tell people, to know the story of Bruce because he has a very unique story."

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February 8, 2024 • Access Event Centre, Morden, MB
Cocktail Reception 5:30 • Business Awards Program 6:30

THE VOICE
OF
BUSINESS

TCE hosting its first Bands Night this Saturday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Community Exchange (TCE) follows up its monthly community meal this Saturday with its first-ever Bands Night.

After chowing down at the free community supper from 5-6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to stick around for an evening of live bands playing classic hits starting at 6:45 p.m.

“At The Community Exchange, one of the things that we have wanted to do all along is to bring music to the community because we believe that music is just a natural connector,” says music night organizer Carol Braun.

A grant from the Manitoba Arts Council made it possible for TCE to not only provide a stage for local performers but also ensure they’re compensated for their talents.

“People will already be coming together to eat, so this will be another way for them to enjoy each other’s company and extend their evening,” Braun says.

Taking the stage is an lineup that includes Filipino band AlterLimitz and

youth rockers The Sixagons.

AlterLimitz was established back in 2017 with a rotating group of members playing a mix of genres. Today, its roster of permanent performers have mainly become known for playing alternative rock hits.

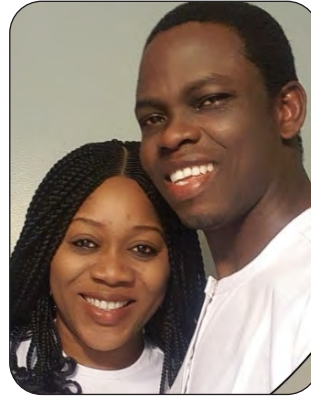
The Sixagons, meanwhile, are a young rock ‘n roll outfit from Altona whose roots stretch back to the inaugural SPRKL Studio rock band camp in 2021. The current group has been together since last February, performing both their own music and covers of popular songs.

Performing between the two bands’ sets will be musical duo Promise & Tuesday, who sing a collection of mostly gospel songs.

Admission to Bands Night is free—just stop by to enjoy the show.

The Manitoba Arts Council funding will allow TCE to hold two more music nights in the months ahead, Braun shares.

“At this point, we have plans for three events,” she says, noting the dates have not yet been set for the second and third shows, though one will shine a spotlight on local singer-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Promise & Tuesday (above), AlterLimitz (right), and The Sixagons (below)



perform at The Community Exchange’s first Bands Night this Saturday after the monthly community meal. Admission is free.



songwriters while the other will feature a night of piano music.

They’re also not sure if the other nights will follow community meals or be held on a different day.

“We want to see how this goes together with a community meal [this

first time],” Braun says, encouraging people to stay tuned to TCE coming events for further details.

Upcoming Community Meal nights include Feb. 24, March 23, and April 27.

Valley Regional Library offering free tax services

By Sean Conway

For the fifth year, the Valley Regional Library will offer a free Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) to residents in the R.M. of Morris, including the Town of Morris.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) sponsors the program, which sees community organizations host free tax clinics where volunteers complete tax returns for people with modest incomes and simple tax situations.

“To say the program has been a benefit to many in our community is an understatement,” says Claudia Schmidt, a Valley Regional Library board member and director of the program. “Since its inception five years ago, more and more people use this free service.”

After consulting some local tax preparing services, the Valley Regional Library identified a need to help individuals file their income tax returns.

Even if a person makes no money, has a low income, or lives on Employment and Income Assistance, they should file a tax return every year. Failing to file returns could mean an individual is missing out on additional income and benefit programs that could improve their household’s financial situation.

But many tax filers may not be able to afford the cost of a professional tax preparer. They may use the services of a company that will give them their refund immediately in exchange for taking a ‘cash back’ fee that is calculated as a portion of their refund.

“Many of our clients have not filed

tax returns for years,” Schmidt noted. “They are pleasantly surprised that they can file returns for missed years and claim benefits they weren’t even aware of receiving.”

The CVITP guidelines suggest the program be available to single individuals with incomes of \$35,000 or less, single parents with one child and incomes of \$45,000 (plus \$2,500 for each additional dependant), and couples making a household income of \$45,000, plus \$2,500 for each additional dependent.

The service can file tax returns for both the current year and back ten years. No receipts? No problem—workers can retrieve tax receipts for the client that are on file at the CRA.

The volunteers are currently working on the schedule for this year’s

clinic, which will be by appointment only. It will run Mondays from 9 a.m. to noon and Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. March 1 to April 30 at the Morris library.

“We are more than happy to offer this free tax service to our area and like to thank the volunteers who keep the program running,” says Schmidt.

If you wish to take advantage of this program, call 204-746-2136 for more information or to book an appointment.

To better serve clients in the area, a tax clinic is also being offered in St. Jean. Volunteers will be available at the Bibliothèque Montcalm Library on Wednesdays from 3:30-8 p.m. March 1 to April 30. Contact the library to book an appointment.

The **Voice**

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Morris Manor reports positive financial outlook at AGM

By Sean Conway

The Morris Manor board of directors released their 2023 financial report Jan. 9. Increased revenue and reducing expenses has created a positive financial outlook for the 55+ residence.

The construction of the 19-suite facility took place in 1963. In 2020, rumours circulated around the community that the building was condemned and replacing it was the only option.

The financial report released at the building's recent annual general meeting reveals that they have eliminated the deficit and the Manor now has a small cash reserve. A combination of sound fiscal management and volunteer sweat has extended the life of the facility.

In 2020, there were just five of the 19 suites rented in the building.

"Mayor Crick and I couldn't find the bylaws for the Manor. The previous admin and board were absolutely negligent in their management of the building and the financial resources they were granted by Geordie Davidson estate," said board member Ralph Groening. "We had to throw out a fridge in one suite because food had been left in it. There was a calendar in the suite dated 2011."

Beautification efforts took place in 2021, with community volunteers stepping up to clean up the grounds and put a new coat of paint on the ex-

terior.

The facility's board of directors was also revitalized, with new volunteers filling the vacant positions.

"A new board was established," says Groening. "With a creation of bylaws they took over management."

The books showed a \$50,000 deficit in 2020. Little money coming in and an enormous debt put the building on a shaky foundation for the future. The board's first decision was to cut costs by eliminating the building manager position. Board volunteers took on the management responsibilities.

"In 2021, the Town of Morris forgave the municipal tax obligation for the building," Groening shared. "The Manor paid its tax obligation in 2022. [In] 2023, the town once again provided relief from taxes."

The board volunteers performed a maintenance review of all unoccupied suites. They prioritized the level of renovations required, completing suites with minimal work first and renting them as soon as possible.

"We reviewed inspection reports completed by a Winnipeg licensed building inspector in 2006 and a 2011 report completed by a local building inspector," said Groening. "Both reports identified some improvements that would add to the safety of residents and allow the Morris Manor to continue to operate and provide affordable accommodation for Morris



PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Morris Manor's board of directors, which includes Ralph Groening (right, in the complex's common room), has spent the past few years steadily sprucing up the facility, which provides housing for people 55+.



and area 55+ individuals."

Where possible, volunteers overhauled the vacant suites. Morris Buildall, Jablonski Plumbing and Electrical, Morris Home Hardware, Luc's Contracting, and the Town of Morris lent a business hand to further the efforts of volunteers.

Wes Dueck Roofing undertook a roofing renovation on an outbuilding on the property, creating additional

space for storage that could be rented to generate revenue.

The Morris Area Foundation provided some needed capital to continue the transformation.

Today, all 19 of the Manor's suites are occupied.

"Properly maintained, the complex can provide a few more years of safe, affordable housing," concluded Groening.

Community action network hosts native plants workshop

By Lori Penner

The Altona Community Action Net-

work (ACAN) and members of the Altona-Gretna Trans Canada Trail committee hosted a workshop at the

Millennium Exhibition Centre (MEC) on Jan. 13.

Glen Koblin of Ducks Unlimited and Kelly Leask of Prairie Originals were invited to explain the benefits of native plants and how to start planting them in your own backyard.

While the weather prevented Leask from attending, Koblin educated the small crowd with a slide presentation featuring various species and how to manage them.

"It's easy to plant introduced species because they are plant-bred to pop out of the ground and grow very easily," he said. "Native species and native plants aren't plant-bred so they're harder to grow and it's harder to understand what it takes to make them grow."

"I'm trying to make people understand that there is some thought process into growing. There is a stepwise approach. It's not overly complex but you have to put more thought into it.

There is a science to it, and you have to be somewhat methodical."

Koblin has been working on the Trans Canada Trail project, which will see over five miles of tall prairie grass inhabit the landscape between Gretna and Altona.

"I'm seeing more and more projects where communities are getting back to nature with their local environment or in their backyards," he said. "I think it's the right thing to do, but there's also a lot of economics driving it. A lot of places can't afford to keep spending money on maintaining and managing and they start to run out of resources."

"When you put in a sustainable landscape that's low maintenance and low management, there's other options besides intensive management that is cost saving to everybody. So, it's really lucky that economics are



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Glen Koblin of Ducks Unlimited explained the benefit of growing native plants in your community or property during a workshop at the MEC on Jan. 13.

Continued on page 11

Check out the Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or altonavoiced.ca

getinformed

Donations are up at Red River Food Bank—but so is the need

By Sean Conway

The Red River Food Bank released its financial report for 2023 this month.

The report shows an improvement from 2022, thanks to an increase in private donations and a decrease in expenses. Unfortunately, the demand for their services continues to grow.

The food bank is a non-profit, charitable organization that distributes food to those who struggle to put food on the table. The 1,020 clients that were served in 2023 was a 40 per cent increase from the previous year.

Located at 156 Boyne Avenue West in Morris, it serves those in need from the Town of Morris, R.M. of Morris, and R.M. of Montcalm. The three municipalities share the rent expense of \$6,768 based on the number of clients served at the food bank. Eighty per cent of the clients were from the Town of Morris, with 13 per cent from the R.M. of Morris and seven per cent from Montcalm.

“Since the first of the year we have been very fortunate,” shares director Pat Rempel. “The word of mouth and good volunteers have worked together to make us a healthy food bank. Church rotation through the year has also helped to promote the food bank with food donations and monetary donations.

“Knowing that cheques can be made out to the Town of Morris for a tax receipts has also helped the food bank,” Rempel added. “Our food drive this last September also brought the food bank to mind. With posters up in town and the bags going out in the



PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Volunteers like Claudia Schmidt (left) and Pat Rempel are the lifeblood of the Red River Food Bank, located at 156 Boyne Ave. West in Morris (above).

mail, people know that the food bank volunteers are working together to do their part in making the food bank healthy.”

The fall food drive donations in food items and cash greatly helped improve the financial bottom line, Rempel said, and a large donation by a local business eliminated the expense of purchasing hamburger meat, a protein staple.

The Red River Food Bank opens its doors to clients at 8:30 a.m. every Friday morning.

It’s run by volunteers, some of whom arrive at 7 a.m. to get things ready for the day ahead.

Volunteers may work in one or more of several roles on a Friday, greeting clients, bagging food, stocking the shelves, or helping with food pick-up and delivery.

Typically, volunteers complete pickup and delivery tasks before Fridays, but on days when more products are needed, they might be asked to make a run to the store.

The front staff



greet clients and confirm they are eligible for aid. To use the services, clients must live in the catchment area.

Clients of the food bank are eligible to come once every two weeks. The food bank expects them to bring a completed order form of the items they would like and a reusable bag to carry the foodstuffs.

“The food bank helps me get through,” one client shared last week. “Coming here helps me make it.”

The food bank board sends thanks out to all the volunteers, businesses, and individuals who have donated time, money, and food to keep it operating.

“THE WORD OF MOUTH AND GOOD VOLUNTEERS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE US A HEALTHY FOOD BANK.”

> WORKSHOP, FROM PG. 10

involved in planting a product that should be in the ground anyway, but now there’s a driver in society because of that.”

Koblin says the communities of Gretna and Altona are lucky to have this opportunity.

“It makes sense to put the intrinsic value next to a trail so when you think about how the land is broken, railways are put in, and how it changes the landscape. We’re letting the railway change the landscape to be there but we’re bringing back the intrinsic value that was there prior to it. You wonder what it might have been like at the turn of the century when they did break that land or even before the 1800s, what the original settlers would have seen when they went down that trail. This is what it was like and how peaceful it was. You talk about the wind blowing in the

grasses and the songbirds and all the biological activity that’s alive out there.”

Koblin notes there is still much work to be done along the Trail.

“This is going to be an ongoing project. We’re perfectionists, and we won’t stop until we’re satisfied with it.”

Trans Canada Trail committee member Gord Sawatzky says the regeneration and revegetation of the Gretna-Altona Trail is a two-year contract with Ducks Unlimited.

“We started planting last summer and we’ll continue this summer to get that whole trail—50 feet from the center of the trail on both sides —planted and growing. They’ll be there around May long weekend to reseed a few places that didn’t germinate last year. Then we’ll start planning what kind of native trees to plant there, as well.”

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The Voice

sports & recreation

Flyers' win streak continues

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers added three more games to their win streak last week. The MJHL team hasn't lost a match since before Christmas.

Wednesday's home game against the Winnipeg Freeze saw Winkler take a 4-0 lead in the first period. Tanner George, James Richard, Marek Miller, and Dalton Andrew did the honours.

Winnipeg's Elliot Perreault managed a hat-trick in the second to get his team in the game.

The third period saw Avery Anderson and Zach Nicolas respond for Winkler to make it 6-3 for the home team. The visitors managed just one more, giving the Flyers the win 6-4.

Liam Ernst made 10 saves off 13 shots during his 40 minutes in net for Winkler. Malachi Klassen played 20 minutes and gave up one goal on the eight shots that came his way.

It was a much closer match two nights later when the Flyers welcomed the Selkirk Steelers to town.

The Steelers were up 1-0 after the first period; that score held through to midway through the third when Nicolas finally got Winkler up on the board. A goal from George with less than two minutes left on the clock gave the Flyers the win 2-1.

Winkler outshot Selkirk 27-22. Klas-



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE
Goatender Malachi Klassen stops the initial shot and Will Brophy tries to stop Selkirk's Joel Purdom from getting the rebound in Friday's 6-4 Winkler win. Right: Fans celebrate with Flyers Zach Nicolas and his teammates after he scores the tying goal midway through the third period.

sen made 21 saves in net.

The team then hit the road Sunday to play the Wolverines in Waywayseecappo.

Winkler took it 4-3 thanks to a pair of goals from Dalton Andrew and singles from George and Jakob Jones. Klassen made 25 saves in net off 28 shots. His teammates fired 31 the other way.



The Flyers are in second place in the MGEU East Division with a record of 28-5-2-2 for 60 points. That puts them five points behind the first-place Steinbach Pistons and five points ahead of the third-place Portage Terriers.

Coming up this week, the Flyers play the Terriers in Portage Wednesday night and then host the Pistons on Friday. On Sunday, they welcome the Wolverines to town.

Hawks struggle with losses against Yellowhead, Westman

By Lorne Stelmach

It was a tough weekend on the road for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks as they dropped a pair of games to a couple of the league's top teams.

A 5-1 loss to second-place Yellowhead Saturday was followed by a 6-1 defeat against third-place Westman Sunday.

Pembina Valley trailed 3-0 and 4-1 at the intermissions against Yellowhead in Shoal Lake.

Sophie Armit had the only goal for the Hawks, while Kasia Rakowski made 39 saves as the Hawks were outshot 44 to 34.

Pembina Valley was tied at one with Westman after 20 minutes but then gave up five unanswered goals the rest of the way.

Ava Dalebozik had the lone goal for the Hawks, and Rakowski did her best to keep Pembina Valley in the game in facing 58 shots, including 29 in the third period alone. The Hawks managed 24 shots on goal.

Pembina Valley remains stuck in seventh place at 6-14-4 for 16 points. They are eight ahead of last-place Central Plains and three behind Interlake.

The Hawks have a break from regular league play this week as they take part in a tournament in Headingley. It includes games against Rocky Mountain Riders Thursday followed by Rink Hockey Academy and the Winnipeg Ice Friday.

Their next regular season game is Feb. 3 when they visit the Winnipeg Avros at Seven Oaks.

2024 EDUCATION

SPRING/SUMMER

Getting a great start at Canada's Finest Regional University

BRANDON, Man. – Brandon University is proving that starting small can lead to big things.

Centrally located in Manitoba's second-largest city, BU has about 3,500 students in the Faculties of Arts, Education, Health Studies, Science and the School of Music. Specializing in personalized education, the university offers 19 undergraduate degree programs, six graduate programs and four certificate programs.

"Brandon University is a great place to start your post-secondary educational journey," said Leanne Barcellona, BU's Director of Recruitment and Retention. "We're a smaller school, where students get to know each other and their professors in a friendly, welcoming environment. At the same time, we're able to appeal to a wide variety of people. Some students come here because they want to immediately begin their career following graduation, while others are looking for a strong foundation for further studies. They may be preparing for graduate programs or beginning their undergraduate degree here as a first step before continuing in a specialized program at a larger university."

Education and Health Studies, which has recently expanded to make more spots available in Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing, are two faculties that offer professional programs allowing many BU graduates each year to step into rewarding careers. Manitoba's most comprehensive Co-operative Education program, which was successful in helping every participant in 2023 find employment related to their education, gives Arts and Science students a leg up as they earn while they learn, gaining valuable real-world experience. Brandon University also offers 19 pre-professional programs, allowing students to complete one to three years at BU before seamlessly moving into professional programs at other universities.

"Students face so many choices, that sometimes it's hard for them to know where to start," Barcellona said. "At BU we really make that easier by supporting them every step of the way and letting them know we are here to help.

All it takes is a chat with our academic advisors, who can discuss your interests with you and help you plan out a program to get where you want to go."

Other assistance available to students includes career planning, personal counselling and accessibility services. The Indigenous Peoples' Centre provides a welcoming home-away-from-home for many students and the support of Knowledge Keepers, while the Healthy Living Centre is a gateway for wellness and recreation on campus. Extracurricular activities like the Student Leader program and 50 clubs are another way for students to meet new friends and develop new skills and interests.

"I met like-minded individuals from differing programs, connecting with students who are now friends, being able to study through the most difficult courses together, and finding out I was not alone in my journey," said Kim Dunthorne, whose student research was recently featured in BU's Research Connection publication. "It really made a difference, and, more often than not, it was fun."

The opportunity for student research is another one of Brandon University's strengths. Because of its small size, many undergraduate students get the chance to work on projects with world-class researchers that might be limited to only graduate students at larger universities. Recent student research at BU has included projects focusing on cancer detection, environmental protection, mental health, and astronomy.

Brandon University's success is evident in its alumni, who play important leadership roles in their communities, both locally and internationally. The pride is shared by BU alumni, with 93 per cent saying their education prepared them to excel in the workforce, while 98 per cent recommend Brandon University.

All of that is why BU is proud to be Canada's Finest Regional University. Learn more about Brandon University, take a virtual tour, or set up an in-person visit at BrandonU.ca/Future-Students.

Education that gets you through every twist and turn

let's start

BRANDONU.CA

CMU graduates chosen for prestigious Manitoba Legislature internships

by Myles Tiessen

Two Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) graduates from the class of 2023 were recently accepted into the highly competitive Manitoba Legislature Internship Program. Willms and, both graduates of 2023, will be a part of the prestigious 10-month internship from September to June.

Open only to six Manitoban students each year, the program provides opportunities for recent university graduates to experience firsthand the legislative process within the Manitoba legislature.

Interns are assigned to work with the incumbent or opposition caucuses, where they participate in various government operations, seminars, and many other legislative processes.

"I'm excited to get wrapped up in the whole energy of the place," says Nicholas Harder. "I'm excited to do this because interns do a lot of different things in a day, and it's very important to me that I have a job that has a variety of tasks."

Kyla Willms is also excited to embrace the consistency of a high-paced full-time position. "I've heard that sometimes the interns will get to the legislature and have a half-hour to write something for the MLAs to say [during legislative assembly]," she says. "I think it'll be a challenge, but also a good challenge."

Regardless of the swirling nerves, Harder and Willms say they feel prepared for the role.

Harder spent his CMU practicum placement with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Manitoba Office, which he says helped him develop skills that will transfer to the internship program. "During [my practicum], I started picking up what other community activists and community researchers are doing and what the socio-political ecosystem is like in Manitoba."

In conversation, Harder and Willms were vocal about their initial skepticism about the political process. As political studies majors, they spent years analyzing, evaluating, and often judging the form and function of government. However, as they thought more about their desire to make a difference in their community, they became increasingly drawn to the internship program.

In Willms's instance, an independent study at CMU led her to conceptualize and draw political cartoons satirizing government officials. "In a way, I was doing critique from the public's view, so it'll be interesting to see the process from the inside," says Willms. "It'll be nice to feel like I'm a part of this large process. And thankfully, I wasn't drawing any MLAs," jokes Willms.

Harder and Willms aren't the first CMU graduates to participate in the program. Hannah Drudge (CMU '22) was among the select few chosen this past year. "Getting to be a part of the important work done in the Legislature was amazing," says Drudge. "I really felt like I was contributing—in a very small way, of course—to the democratic process."

She says that between the policy, research, communications, outreach, and legislative business, she was able to try on different vocational hats and fully explore, in-depth, what she learned through her time at CMU.

Nathan Dueck (CMU '21)—currently in law school and went through the internship just a few short years ago—says, "CMU prepared me by setting consistently high expectations for my writing throughout my degree. As a result, I went into the internship with a much more refined ability to write well and quickly than I would have had, I suspect, had I undertaken my undergraduate studies at any other school in the province."

"I really enjoyed the stress of [the program] and am now better equipped to work in high-pressure environments going forward. It was also really fun to hear MLAs deliver speeches that you played a role in drafting," says Dueck.

Harder says he's excited to see the tangible evidence of his hard work. He says, "It's cool to think that all these skills you build up can actually be used for something, to propel movements forward, create certain policies, and make a difference in people's lives. I'm excited to see the impact."

Jonathan Daman (CMU '17), a graduate of CMU's Redekop School of Business, was also selected to participate in the Manitoba Legislature Internship Program in 2018/19.

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Male PV Hawks fall to Wpg. Thrashers, Wild

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks dropped a pair of games to Winnipeg teams this past week.

After suffering a 4-1 loss to the Winnipeg Thrashers last Wednesday in Morden, the Hawks fell 6-3 to the Wild in Winnipeg Sunday.

Pembina Valley fell behind 3-0 in the first period against the Thrashers and couldn't recover from that deficit.

Ryler Gates stopped 31 of 35 shots on goal for the Hawks, who only managed to score once on their 23 shots, with Cohen Pilkington getting the lone Pembina Valley goal.

The Hawks then trailed 2-1 and 4-1 at the intermissions against the defending champion Wild.

Cade McCallum, Kam Thomas and



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Hawks goalie Ryler Gates secures the puck despite efforts to free it by Thrashers players in last Wednesday's game, which Winnipeg won 4-1.

Liam Goertzen did the goal scoring for the Hawks, while Haiden Friesen assisted on all three markers. Shots on goal were 40 to 27, with Bryson Yaschyshyn taking the loss with 34 saves.

Pembina Valley has slipped to ninth place now on a record of 11-14-3-4 for 29 points. They sit four and five ahead of Parkland and Yellowhead and one and two back of Norman and Eastman.

The Hawks have a busy weekend ahead with three games against the always tough Winnipeg teams. It starts with the Bruins in Winnipeg Friday then continues with the Thrashers Saturday and the Wild Sunday, with those games both happening in Morris.

Twisters tie franchise record with 12th consecutive victory

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters tied their franchise record with their 12th consecutive win over the weekend. With the victories, the Twisters are staying firm into second place in the MMJHL's standings with a record of 20-8-2.

On Jan. 19, the Twisters were 5-2 winners at home over the St. Boniface Riels. Derek Wiebe led the charge for Pembina Valley with a pair of goals, while Merek Degraeve, Mike Heppner and Ryan Orchard had the other Twisters' tallies. Logan Enns stopped 32 shots in net for the win.

A few nights later, on the road on Jan. 21, the Twisters blasted the Stonewall Jets by a 5-1 count.

The offence was spread out as the Twisters' goals were scored by Orchard, Degraeve, Josh Guilford, Wiebe and Riley Goertzen. Owen LaRocque stopped 22 shots in the win.

"This weekend we were able to get two huge wins, as I think Friday night with St. Boniface was some of the best hockey we've played all year," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "Sunday in Stonewall with a short bench I thought that we stayed patient, played our game and was able to open the game up in the third period with our powerplay scoring twice."

The Twisters recently added goaltender Larocque, who had been a member of the MJHL's Virden Oil Capitals for the past season and a half, into the fold. Larocque is 3-0-0 since joining the Twisters.

"We are extremely happy having Owen and Logan Enns on our team, and we are satisfied with both of our goaltenders in net," said Beernaerts.

Twisters' sniper Wiebe remains in third in the MMJHL's scoring race with 52 points in 30 games and Degraeve is in sixth with 48 points in 31 games, while Enns is currently fourth in the goalie rankings as he boasts a 2.98 goals-against average and a .913 save percentage.

The Twisters are back in action with a road game on Jan. 26 against the first-place St. James Jr. Canucks. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

"We are looking forward to our toughest test of the year on Friday and hope to keep the wins going."



PHOTO BY EMMA GISTI/VOICE

Assistant captain Derek Wiebe leads his team with 52 points in 30 games.

Winkler Royals down Beavers 5-3

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Royals were the only local team to post a win in SEMHL action last week.

In their first game after the holiday break, the Royals downed the Carman Beavers 5-3 Saturday night on the road.

Phil Letkeman contributed three goals to Winkler's tally, which was bolstered with additional goals from Brett Harder and Remi Laurencelle. Jayme Janzen got the win in net, making 39 saves as the Royals outshot the Beavers 51-42.

Saturday wasn't such a good night for the Altona Maroons, who fell to the Northstars in Ile Des Chenes 8-2. Justin Augert and Geordie Keane scored for Altona while Cole Kehler made 49 saves in net.

The Morden Bombers, meanwhile, battled the Aces in Ste. Anne Wednesday night.

Morden was up 3-1 after 40 minutes thanks to goals from Andrew Perrault, Mike Rey, and Evan Weurch.

The home team caught up in the third period,

though, and then won it 19 seconds into overtime.

Reed Peters made 55 saves in net in the 4-3 OT loss for the Bombers, who lost the shots battle 59-35.

Finally, the Red River Wild bowed to the Notre Dame Hawks 2-1 Sunday afternoon.

Justin Giesbrecht scored the lone Wild goal in the first period to tie the game at 1-1. The Hawks then got what proved to be the game winner midway through the third.

The Wild outshot the Hawks 45-43, with Mark Friesen making 39 saves in net for Red River.

The standings at press time have Ste. Anne in first with 44 points, Warren in second with 26, and Red River in third with 21 points. Not far behind, in fourth, is Morden with 17 points.

Winkler (12 points) and Altona (seven points) are in eighth and ninth place, respectively, ahead of only Carman (six points).

This week, Altona hosts Portage Thursday and Notre Dame Saturday. Saturday also sees the Royals host the Bombers and the Wild host Ste. Anne.

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CAREERS



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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.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANN DECIMA late of the Town of Morris in Manitoba, Deceased.

All Claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, Box 811, 164 Boyne Avenue, Morris, Manitoba, R0G 1K0, on or before the 22nd day of March, 2024.

DATED at the Town of Morris, in Manitoba, this 22nd day of January, 2024.

BRUCE D. GREGORY LAW CORPORATION
Box 811, 164 Boyne Avenue,
Morris, Manitoba, R0G 1K0
Solicitor for the Executor

PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE

Municipality of Rhineland

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 194 of the Municipal Act of Manitoba, the audited financial statements for the Municipality of Rhineland for the year ended December 31, 2022 have been completed and are available for inspection by any person during regular office hours at the Municipality of Rhineland Administration Office, 109 - 3rd Street NE, Altona, MB.

Michael Rempel
Chief Administrative Officer

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PUBLIC NOTICE



CITY OF WINKLER PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING SPECIAL SERVICE PROPOSAL NO. 45 - BY-LAW NO. 2312-24 FOR THE PROVISION OF WASTE, COMPOST AND RECYCLING SERVICES

The Council of the City of Winkler has scheduled a public hearing at Winkler City Hall, 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB on the 13th day of February, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. to the present the following special service proposal:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SPECIAL SERVICES PLAN NO. 45
The City of Winkler provides solid waste collection, as well as compost and recycling services to residents within the City of Winkler. The City of Winkler contracts out these services to private contractors. The purpose of this Special Service Plan is to levy a fair tax to all residential properties. The plan will show the amounts to be levied to single and multi-family properties in the levy area.

The Special Service Area to be levied under this proposal will be all residential properties within the City of Winkler.

The City of Winkler has contracted MWM Environmental for curbside collection of solid waste, Green Opportunities Inc. for collection and processing of compost materials and Gateway Resources has been contracted for curbside collection and processing of all recycling materials in the City of Winkler. The estimated annual cost for providing this service is a total cost of \$709,760 for 2024 to a maximum of \$1,109,000 for 2028. The cost is based on a total number of 4,436 dwelling units.

The special service tax will be levied annually, from 2024 to 2028, inclusive on a per parcel basis.

The cost of the service will be as follows:

All rates are based on an annual basis:

Single Family Residences \$160.00 up to a maximum of \$250.00

Multi Family Residences \$160.00 up to a maximum of (Duplexes and up) \$250.00/dwelling

These rates are based on weekly waste, compost and recycling pickup.

A written objection may be filed with the City Manager, at 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba, prior to the commencement of the hearing. At the hearing, Council will hear any potential ratepayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions or register an objection to the special service proposal.

All objections, written or verbal, must be filed prior to the adjournment of the hearing and must include the name, address and property description of the person filing the objection and the grounds of their objection.

Copies of the Special Services Plan No. 45 are available at the City of Winkler office at 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB, and on the municipal website at www.cityofwinkler.ca.

Dated at the City of Winkler this 4th day of January, 2024, and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The Municipal Act.

Jody Penner
 City Manager
 City of Winkler
 204-325-9524

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

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:

General Intent: Subject to Section 290 (1 & 2) of The Municipal Act, a municipality may close a municipal road by passing a by-law closing the road and must give public notice and hold a public hearing in respect of the proposed closure. This hearing is required to amend and correct By-law 2294-23, adopted on August 8, 2023, to allow the portion of Russet Road described as Parcel B on Schedule A below (already closed) to remain under City of Winkler control for land drainage purposes.

Area: All that portion of Russet Road, Parcel B, Plan (Dep 1597-2022) MLTO in the NW ¼ 2-3-4 WPM, as shown in heavy solid lines on the map attached hereto as Schedule A. (By-law 2311-23)

Contact: Jody Penner, City Manager
 City of Winkler
 Phone: (204) 325-9524

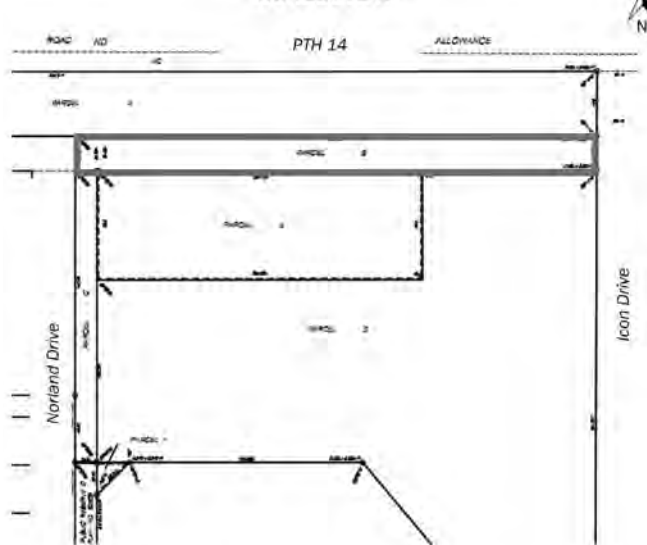
Date of Hearing: February 13, 2024

Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom upon request.

SCHEDULE A



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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of Randolph John Frank Rietze, late of the City of Winkler, Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the undersigned at 504 Stanley Avenue, Winkler, Manitoba, R6W 0M3, within four (4) weeks of the date of this publication.

GBH LAW OFFICE
 Solicitor for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the estate of **Jacob Hamm**, late of the City of Morden, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased.

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at 326 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba, R6M 1T5, on or before the 30th day of February A.D. 2024.

Dated at the City of Morden, in the Province of Manitoba, this 20th day of January, A.D., 2024.

PKF Lawyers
 326 Stephen Street,
 Morden, MB R6M 1T5
 Attn: Stéphane Warnock
 Solicitors for the Executor

Classifieds Announcements

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OBITUARY



Jake A. Wieler

With great sadness we announce the sudden passing of our husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, son and friend Jake A. Wieler. Otherwise known as "The Pool Table Man".

Left to mourn is his beloved wife Debbie (of 47 years); daughter Cynthia (James), son Vance (Michelle), daughter Connie (Jordon); and grandchildren Emily, Jesse, Benjamin, Damian, Noah and Angelica. Jake also leaves behind his brother Ed (Connie), Sisters Carol, Kathy (Eldon), Nancy (Randy) and numerous nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. Jake is predeceased by his beloved son Andy, brother Kenneth, father Cornelius, mother Agnes and sister Martha.

Jake was born and lived in the Winkler area before his family moved to Stephenfield. There he grew his passion for nature, gardening and fishing. At a young age Jake was taught the value of hard work and the foundation of his faith. Jake met Debbie in Winnipeg and went on to have four children. Jake had a passion for travelling and adventure that he enjoyed with Debbie and his children. In Jake's younger days he sold farm machinery and farmed. His true calling came as a hobby that turned into his life long career of pool tables. This took him and Debbie all over North America.

Family would like to thank the health care teams at Boundary Trails, HSC and the amazing staff at Carman Memorial Hospital that gave him comfort and care for his final days.

Donations to be made to the Palliative Care department at the Carman Memorial Hospital.

Funeral service was held on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at the Carman United Church. Interment took place in Greenwood Cemetery, Carman.

Doyle's Funeral Home
in care of arrangements
www.doylesfuneralhome.ca

OBITUARY



Kenneth Edward Friesen

Kenneth Edward Friesen, loving husband, father, brother and friend, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and went to be with his Saviour Jesus Christ on January 11, 2024.

Ken was born in Altona on July 30, 1940 to Edward and Gertrude (nee Heppner) Friesen and was the eldest of five children. He started his childhood living on a grain farm north of the village, Horndean. In 1947, Ken and his family moved to Plum Coulee where they continued to farm grain.

In school, Ken loved playing baseball, hockey and football. Growing up, he always had fun adventures with his cousins, including water skiing behind a car in a water filled road ditch and driving to Kansas City to watch a baseball game.

On July 6, 1962, Ken married his sweetheart and love of his life, Susan Friesen, in a ceremony at the Mennonite Brethren Church

in Winkler.

With a strong dedication to follow Jesus, Ken went to the Alberta Bible Institute in Camrose, Alberta and graduated in 1965. Ken applied his education, talents and faith in various ways from leading singing at church, teaching Sunday school, attending men's prayer breakfast to being a committed volunteer to help the Morden Christian Programs Committee right up until last year.

Ken and Sue farmed and raised their two boys, Jeff and Mike, in Manitou before moving to Morden in 1985. Ken's career evolved into real estate, trucking and sales. Ken sold recreational vehicles for Sun Valley RV in Winkler for 15 years before retiring at the age of 81.

Ken and Sue enjoyed meals with family and friends, traveling to warm places, curling and reading. They were passionate about cheering on sports together, especially their favorite teams, the Winnipeg Jets and Blue Bombers.

Every one who knew Ken will say he was a kind, gentle person with a heart for Jesus.

Ken was diagnosed with cancer in 2021. He continued his purpose into the halls of the hospital and care home greeting, introducing himself, "Hi, I'm Ken Friesen", and shaking hands with all those he met.

He will be lovingly missed by his family, wife Susan of 61 years; two sons, Jeff Friesen and Mike (Julie) Friesen; his three sisters Eileen Penner, Lynette (Lloyd) Penner, Lorna Friesen and brother, Blair Friesen.

Ken was predeceased by his parents Edward and Gertrude and sister-in-law, Bridget.

Ash interment to be at a later date.

Special thanks to the staff at The Manitou Care Facility, Boundary Trails Hospital and South Central Cancer Resource.

In Ken's memory, donations can be made to South Central Cancer Resource.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
in care of arrangements
www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



OBITUARY



John Loeppky January 25, 1974 – January 17, 2024

John Loeppky from Rosebrook Place, Winkler, MB passed away on January 17, 2024 due to a large tumour in his liver.

John will be deeply missed by his mom, Eva Loeppky; his sisters Elena Friesen and Eva and Al Harder; as well as his seven nephews and nieces, Alex and Kim Harder, Ariel and Thomas Marx, Michael Friesen, Ashley Friesen, Celena and Eric Pauls, Tiffany Friesen, Josiah Harder and great niece Nora Marx. He will also be missed by many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

John was predeceased by his dad, John P Loeppky.

Funeral was held at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 2 p.m. with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

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



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REGISTRATION



PRAIRIE ROSE SCHOOL DIVISION KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If your child was born in 2019, they are eligible to attend kindergarten beginning September 2024.

Parents/guardians are asked to contact one of the following schools.

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(204) 745-2623
Vanessa Giesbrecht, Secretary
vgiesbrecht@g.prdsmb.ca
Elm Creek School
Ashley Cook, Interim Principal
(204) 436-2354
Darlene Banman, Secretary
dbanman@g.prdsmb.ca
Miami School
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dfriesen@g.prdsmb.ca
École St. Eustache
Lindsay Noël, Principal
(204) 353-2869
Melanie Zimmermann, Secretary
mzimmermann@g.prdsmb.ca
St. Laurent School
Bobby Ellis, Principal
(204) 646-2209
Lori Combot, Secretary
loricombot@g.prdsmb.ca

Your child's birth certificate or Manitoba Health Card
MUST be presented at the time of registration.

Registrations will be accepted between February 5 - February 23, 2024.
Please contact the school by phone or email to make arrangements.

Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

OBITUARY



**Mary Wiebe
1940 - 2024**

Heaven gained a special angel Sunday afternoon, January 14 2024. Mom left this world with family by her side at Boundary Trails Health Centre after a short forty eight hour admission. She was born in Winkler, Manitoba.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her spouse Cornie David Wiebe; three children Brian (Kirby) Wiebe of Morden, Sherry Plett of Morden, Kim (Randy) Harder of Morden; as well as seven grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents Helen and Jacob Thiessen, one son-in-law Ray Plett and one grandson Kenton Harder.

Mom was born in Winkler, Manitoba and raised in the village of Schanzenfeld and enjoyed the village life. She attended the local school up to grade 8, she was not allowed to go to Winkler to attend high school as that was considered too worldly, because of this it was very important that her children graduate from high school. Her greatest wish was to see her five eldest great-grandchildren graduate, unfortunately God had other plans for her.

She was an only child and voiced many times how she wished she had a brother or sister, and that set the stage for who she was and her ability to make many friends in her lifespan. It also gave her the opportunity to spend many hours as a child with her Ginter grandparents. She often was in the company of her grandfather learning the trade of butchering and mechanics of vehicles. Mom was required to learn to change a tire, check the oil and back a trailer before she could get a drivers license. When her grandfather passed away it was very devastating for her and she was overwhelmed with sadness...just imagine their reunion in Heaven.

When it came to Christmas, Mom was very extravagant, she loved all the lights and sparkles. She said as a child growing up they never had a Christmas tree but she would go over to the neighbours "The Krahn's" and enjoy their big tree. She also helped her grandma Ginter decorate their tree and wrap presents Christmas Eve. Later in her early married life she would cut down her own tree alongside her mother-in-law Sarah Wiebe. Mom recalled two of her best and favourite gifts. One was a black pleated skirt and a pink blouse with ruffles and puffed sleeves, the other was a guitar she received when she was 11 years old. Her dad taught her to play the guitar and she loved music. She continued to play that guitar into adulthood and would often sing and strum to country music-mostly Johnny Cash-to her children. Her love of music never ceased.

Mom met the love of her life at the early age of 15. There was a large church gathering in a tabernacle set up in Morden, many of the villagers attended along with Mom and her parents. Mom and her friend decided to sneak out and were walking along Morden's main street enjoying the freedom. My dad and his friend, Ike Hoepfner, were cruising in a pickup truck. They spotted the young pretty girls and formed a friendship. Mom and Dad fell in love and were married October 6, 1957. The wedding was a big event with no limits. She would tell of the neighbours, her aunts, family and friends helping to make food for the 250 guests. Mom and Dad were baptized as a married couple in a creek south of Morden "The Dyck's" property by The Church Of God. In their early married life they made their home on the Wiebe homestead. They lived in Morden their whole life with one exception of a few years in Winnipeg. They went on to have three children.

Throughout her life Mom worked in the hospitality and retail sector. One of her first Winnipeg jobs was in 1962, working in a grocery store/post office. She said it was called "Gilliam's" and it had a men's club in the basement. The only time the women were allowed to enter the club was when they would make food for the men. She was very excited when she got the opportunity to do this as they would get tips of 200.00 dollars. She also worked at The Little Corner Store, Morden Shoe Store and M&A Fabrics in Morden. Mom continued her work in the food industry. She cooked in construction camps, fly in fishing camps and various restaurants. Mom's final job was owning and operating "Maryo's" a fast food restaurant in Morris. She made many friends doing what she did and was well liked. Mom retired at the age of 70. In 2011 Mom and Dad moved to her last home on Rampton Street.

A few of Mom's favourite past times over the years was being the catcher for Morden Ladies Baseball Team, curling, both participating as well as watching the Scotties Tournament of Hearts yearly. Mom was a community person, she was a leader in Tops, and Weight Watchers. She also participated in The Lady's Lioness Club of Morden. Mom loved to drive, she was not afraid to get in a vehicle and go. She got her motorcycle license in the early 1970's, she was a woman who enjoyed life and was not afraid of a challenge. Mom enjoyed her friends immensely and would get together with them as much as she could, she would spend hours playing Dice with Margaret Wiebe. The friends she made in Morris were very special to her and they supported and visited with her until the end. In later years you could always find Mom sitting in her favourite chair watching Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune. Her love of flowers could be seen every year on Mom and Dad's yard. Mom spent many hours sitting at the kitchen table looking out onto the street. She loved to watch the neighbour's cats and dogs and really enjoyed the small children who came into the yard to look at her Christmas ornaments. Mom appreciated her neighbours. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her whole world. She loved them unconditionally and was so very proud of them.

We as children appreciated many things about our Mom. She made sure we were always dressed well from the latest styles, fashion and new outfits for church, we never did without. Mom taught us to be entrepreneurs as well as hard workers. She was an encourager to her family and friends.

As all human beings, Mom wasn't without her shortcomings. In her last years Mom renewed her relationship with Jesus and grew in her walk with the Lord. Mom confessed with her mouth that Jesus was Lord and asked for forgiveness. Mom was so thankful that Dad stood by her and helped her and cared for her. Mom and Dad prayed together nightly before he tucked her in.

Mom, we love you and we will miss you, we know that you are in the arms of Jesus... see you later!

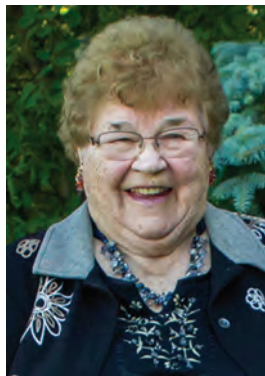
My heart, O God, is steadfast; I will sing and make music with all my soul.

Psalms 108:1 NIV

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OBITUARY



**Irma Jean Spencer (nee Millar)
April 1, 1928 - January 13, 2024**

Jean Spencer (nee Millar) passed away peacefully at the age of 95 on January 13, 2024 at Buhler Villages Winkler, with her son and daughter-in-law by her side.

Jean was born on April 1, 1928 at Grandma Boyd's house near Miami, Manitoba. She was the sixth of seven children born to James and Bessie (Boyd) Millar. She attended Lloyd George Country School. Jean married the love of her life, Mervin Spencer, on November 28, 1945. They had four children, Garry (Denise), Barbara (Fred), Grant (Grace), and Rock (Linda). They farmed until 1980 when they retired and took on the caretaker role at the Miami Community Centre until 1986. Jean was very proud of her large garden, property, and 150 tree apple orchard, picking and selling

all the apples by herself until she was 70. Jean was a school bus driver for 35 years. Jean and Mervin loved dancing, especially polka. They were active in The Polka Club of America from 1985-98 and were chosen King and Queen of the club. She enjoyed traveling throughout Canada and the USA, as well as a Caribbean cruise to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. She was actively involved in the Dunston community, as well as sang in the choir at St. Paul's United Church in Morden until 2010. She lived on the Spencer Centennial Farm until she was 90, when she moved to the Buhler Villages. Jean loved watching the birds and deer from her living room window. Jean was a grandma to all that knew her and was known for her incredible hugs, taffy on snow, amazing apple pies, and waffle breakfasts. She had a generous spirit and opened her home and heart to everyone who visited (with the exception of squirrels).

Jean is survived by her children Garry, Grant (Grace), and Rock (Linda), and son-in-law Fred (Betty); grandchildren Jennifer, Jason (Stella), Carolyn, Patricia (Rick), Wendy (Darrin), Trevor (Kerrie), Curtis (Danielle), Leigh (Sara), Michelle (Alain), and Melanie (Jay); great-grandchildren Kaylee, Kira, Merrick, Winston, Charlyze, Nyomi, Tom, John, Mike, Benjamin, Charlie, Katie, and Emma; sister-in-law Joyce; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband Mervin, daughter Barbara, daughter-in-law Denise, grandson Jeff, her siblings and their spouses Dorothy (Gordon), Verna (Pete), Alma (Bill), Jimmy (Jean), Donny (Thelma), and Earl, as well as Mervin's siblings and their spouses Mildred (George), Baden (Edith), Sterling (Kay), Cora (Rupert), Myrtle (Alfred), Orval (Edna)(Grace), Velma (Harry), Helen (Cameron), Ralph (Hazel).

Special thanks to the staff at Silver Lining Care at the Buhler Villages for their compassionate care. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Alzheimer Society of Manitoba or Dunston United Church.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Morden
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PUBLIC NOTICE



**WINKLER
POLICE BOARD
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Winkler Police Board quarterly meetings will be held on
**April 10, July 10, & October 9
of 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**

Meetings are open to the public and will be held at City Hall in the Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB. Anyone wishing to come forward with a delegation is asked to contact the City of Winkler Administration Office a minimum of 14 days prior to the meeting.



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Maryna Krut to perform in Morden next week

By Lorne Stelmach

An acclaimed young Ukrainian musician is coming to Morden as part of her first Canadian tour.

Maryna Krut is a renowned Ukrainian singer and songwriter who plays the traditional bandura but also writes and performs her own original material with a contemporary feel.

She is making three stops in Manitoba including a Jan. 31 performance in Morden as part of the tour which is raising funds to support Ukraine, and local organizer Yevgeniya Tatarenko is overjoyed to have Krut coming here.

"It will be an unbelievably cool concert," said Tatarenko, who noted the plan is for the show to be a candlelight concert.

"This is really something unique coming to Morden, so I am super excited about it."

Krut is originally from Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine. Her whole family had a talent for singing, but she is the only one who has pursued music professionally.

Her musical path began playing in places like garages before going on to play in bands and perform at a myriad of smaller events.

She was a finalist in a Eurovision Ukrainian contest, placing third in 2020 and second in 2023. She has also participated in the Ukrainian TEDx KyivWomen program, speaking about the fateful choices in her life and revealing her greatest passion.

Krut's live album made a shortlist of 10 best Ukrainian albums of the year. She is working on her third album and has released multiple singles, including collaborations with various Ukrainian artists.

The Voice of Ukraine and The X Factor participant delivers a unique combination of an atmospheric voice and the extraordinary musical elegance of the bandura, a stringed instrument widely considered the national musical instrument of Ukraine.

"She is amazing and unforgettable in what she does because she plays a traditional Ukrainian folk instrument, but she creates her own songs," said Tatarenko. "People have opened their hearts to this music because of her voice and the words she puts together ... and she has performed for the defenders on the front lines which is something you don't experience in your life."

Tatarenko noted Krut's music connects with a wide range of people because it is rooted in tradition but is also contemporary.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Ukrainian musician Maryna Krut brings her show to Morden Jan. 31 to raise funds to support troops in Ukraine.

"The audience who can enjoy her music is so wide," she suggested. "It's from young kids like my oldest son, who loves to listen to her music, and to older people who actually know more about the bandura and the classic musical education. They also love her."

"That's why she is so popular in Ukraine ... she does it everything all together."

together."

The concert is raising funds for the Second Front Ukraine Foundation to help buy medical supplies and other supports.

It takes place at St. Pauls United Church at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31. Tickets are available for \$35 plus fees and can be purchased through Eventbrite. Tickets will also be sold at the door, space allowing.

"That's why she is so popular in Ukraine ... she does it everything all together."

Steps in HOPE support group starting new session

By Voice staff

The Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre's support group for women who have experienced miscarriage and stillbirth begins another session next month.

Steps in HOPE (Healing Our Pregnancy Experiences) is a free and confidential support group that runs for seven weeks starting Feb. 8.

Sessions focus on sharing your experience with other women, learning to cope, cycles of grief, self-care, honouring your difficult journey, and creating a keepsake.

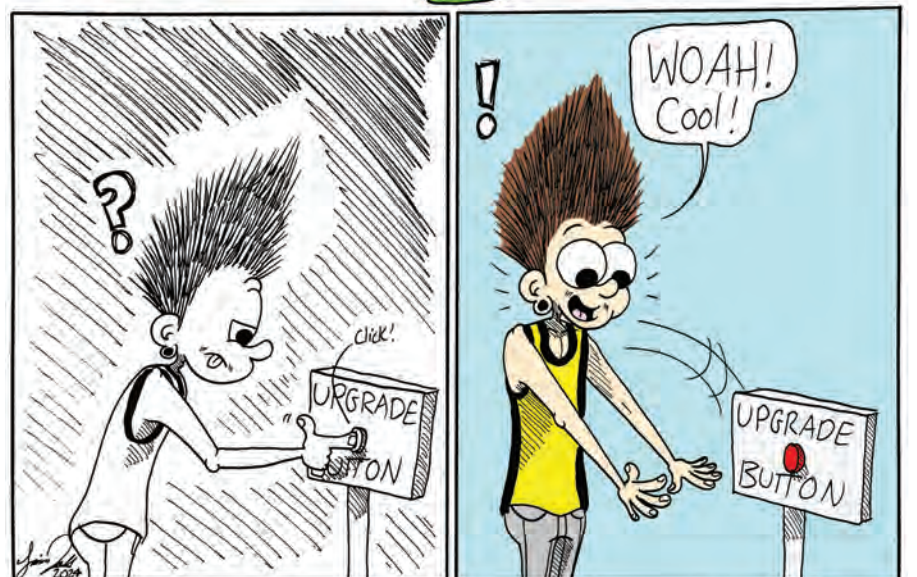
"Losing a baby can be one of the

most difficult experiences anyone can go through and giving women a place to connect and share, knowing they aren't alone, is so important," says executive director Linda Marek. "Sometimes the pain is so deep, women grieve alone, maybe they have been told to just try again, or they feel misunderstood when they do take that brave step to be vulnerable about their experiences."

Pre-registration is required for Steps in HOPE. You can do so online at www.pvpcc.com/miscarriage-and-loss-support/ or by calling 204-325-7900.

The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Harrison Droll
Inspired By: Bill Watterson



Altona Library has the cure for the winter blues

By Lori Penner

For many, winter can seem very long, but the South Central Regional Library Altona Branch is offering a variety of ways to help you find your sunshine and chase the winter blues away.

They now have their own light therapy box for patrons to use for free.

A light therapy box mimics natural outdoor light. It's thought that this type of light may cause a chemical change in the brain that lifts your mood and eases symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

SAD is a common condition that people in northern climates experience when the seasons change. It typically occurs when days become shorter and exposure to sunlight decreases, and can make you feel run down, have trouble sleeping, and can sometimes cause you to feel anxious or depressed.

Counseling, therapy, and medication may all be effective for this condition, as well as outdoor activity or heading to a sunnier climate, but these options may not be possible for everybody.

Altona branch administrator Rachael Friesen encourages local struggling with the dark days of winter to give light therapy a try.

"We purchased this lamp for the library to make sure that people can just come in during our regular hours and use this lamp to help combat some of the symptoms of SAD. It's a big investment. These lamps are not cost effective for many people, so it's great to be able to offer this as a free service for our patrons who need it."

Friesen adds that people are definitely making use of it.

"And don't worry: you won't feel overheated, and it will not give you a tan. But there are instructions attached that you should read before you use it."

It is recommended you use the lamp for 20 to 30 minutes a day at about 12 inches away, or for an hour at about 20 inches away. You'll want to face the lamp, but not look directly into it.

If you have been told you must wear sunglasses in sunlight or if you have a history of eye problems, you should contact a health care professional before using a SAD lamp. Medications like lithium, melatonin, tetracycline, St. John's Wort, acne creams, creams with retinoic acid, and some chemotherapy drugs can also make you very sensitive to light.

The lamp is located at the back of the library beside a comfy chair, so you can just grab a favourite book or magazine and hunker down while enjoying a bit of prefabricated sunshine.

Friesen notes the library also has other options to get you through the long Manitoba winter.

"We have a huge selection of jigsaw puzzles and board games. If you're stuck inside or if you know you have friends coming over, and you want to try a new game without going out and buying it, you might just find it here."

She says the puzzles especially have been flying off the shelves.

"We can barely keep them on. Puzzles can be pricey. And you finish it the one time, and then you're done with it. So now, we have them here."



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona Library administrator Rachael Friesen demonstrates the light therapy box available for patrons to use to try to stave off the winter blues.

Southern Chiefs launch Sixties Scoop awareness campaign

By Voice staff

The Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) last week launched a new education and awareness campaign focused on honouring and caring for the survivors of the Sixties Scoop and their families.

"We often talk about resilience when it comes to our peoples, and that certainly applies to those who survived the Sixties Scoop," SCO Grand Chief Jerry Daniels said in a statement announcing the launch of the Stronger Than the Scoop campaign.

"The Sixties Scoop was another dark chapter in what was an epidemic of First Nations child apprehension, starting with residential schools," he said. "We need to acknowledge the systemic harm and generational trauma that was caused and do what we can to help with healing."

The Sixties Scoop was a period in which a series of federal and provincial policies were enacted in Canada that enabled authorities in child welfare to take First Nation children from their families for placement in foster and adoptive homes. In many cases, the "scooped" children were adopted by non-Indigenous families.

The practice left a lasting negative impact on First Nations communities,

severing children's ties with their culture and families.

"I extend gratitude to the National Sixties Scoop Healing Foundation of Canada for providing support to raise awareness of the impact of the Sixties Scoop," said Chief Gordon Bluesky of the Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation. "I am pleased and proud to see SCO create this campaign to help bring awareness to this practice that continues to impact our citizens. It is essential that all citizens in Canada learn the truth about the practice and the ongoing impact of the Sixties Scoop."

The National Sixties Scoop Healing Foundation of Canada aims to help all survivors of the Sixties Scoop. The foundation has provided funding for this education campaign.

The campaign will also help SCO enhance its current programs and services that are geared towards survivors, including the Pathways to Healing Program. You can learn more online at scoinc.mb.ca.

"While we cannot turn back the hands of time, we can still commit to doing everything we possibly can to help our survivors and their families regain their languages, cultures, and identities," said Daniels, calling on everyone to learn more about the Sixties Scoop and its effects.



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Altona Library also offers a huge selection of puzzles and games for patrons to borrow.