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Maker Space

Altona YFC directors Sheridan Sawatzky and Peter Serger display some 3D models created by the youth who frequent the Maker Space at the drop-in centre. For the full story, see Pg. 13.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know



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Healthy Living Forum a hit

By Lori Penner

Organizers of the Healthy Living Forum in Altona are thrilled with the turnout at the Gardens on Tenth on Jan. 24.

The forum was intended for people of all ages, with topics such as coping with anxiety, empowering independence, financial strategies, palliative care, Alzheimer's, and supporting the Altona Community Foundation.

In her presentation, Tami Giesbrecht, Outreach Worker for the Anxiety Disorders Associations of Manitoba (ADAM) shared a variety of contributing factors to developing anxiety, including genetic disposition, learned behaviour, negative experiences and stress.

"Exploring the reasons why we have anxiety may be important, but it is even more necessary to find ways to cope," she said.

Untreated anxiety, Giesbrecht explained, can lead to other issues such as substance misuse, self-harm behaviours, and increased risk for diseases such as diabetes and heart problems, as well as a negative impact on relationships.

Coping with anxiety is a lifestyle, Giesbrecht said, and things like education and awareness play a big part in managing it. Finding people and resources you can trust, and understanding the triggers and symptoms and causes are vital.

Along with journaling, Giesbrecht provided a number of coping skills, including the STOP method, which involves stopping what you're doing, taking a breath, observing what is happening within and around you, and then proceeding with what you were doing.

"It grounds us in the present moment and is a very good coping method if you start to feel your anxiety is starting to escalate."

Giesbrecht also recommends that people learn how to breathe properly.

"Almost everybody chest breathes. That's not the way we were designed. Everybody should practice breathing through their diaphragm. That actually gives us more oxygen."

She concluded with a reminder that no matter how bad your day is, "It's never too late to restart your day."

In her presentation, regional palliative care coordinator Shannon Reimer



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Rebecca Atkinson of the Alzheimer's Society offered information and strategies for caregivers and for those living with dementia at last week's Healthy Living Forum in Altona.

discussed attitudes about death and dying in society.

"It can be a scary topic. Palliative care used to mean end of life care. Now it has expanded, to include the whole last chapter, which improves the quality of individuals and families facing a life-limiting illness," she said. "We aim to improve quality of life, managing not only physical pain, but emotional, spiritual, and cultural pain, all of which are important to our quality of life. It's not just about the patient, it's also about the patient's family. It's an approach that focuses on quality."

She added that palliative care is not meant to shorten or extend life.

"What we do is talk about goals of care. These discussions are about what's important to you, what are your strengths, your fears, and your worries. How much you know, and how much you

want to know. Focusing on quality often starts with those conversations."

Presenter Theresa Figurski from the Altona Yoga studio offers sessions at the Apartments at the Gardens every second Wednesday. She led forum attendees through a variety of movements.

"There are many benefits to this, at any age," she said. "It's a mind-body connection in the path to self-realization. There's a plethora of benefits for your health, from lowering blood pressure and stress, strengthening muscles, elevating mood, helping sleep and digestion. Our body just

wants to work for us. It's just a matter of what we're putting in and how we treat it."

Understanding Dementia was the title for the presentation by Rebecca Atkinson, regional coordinator for the Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba.

She explained what it's like to live with dementia, and the best ways for individuals and the community to provide care for those who have it.

"We are here to support you, and you do not have to go through this disease alone. Wrap yourself in a circle of support and really make sure you have people with you along this journey."

She explained how dementia is the umbrella term for over 130 different brain change diseases, including Alzheimer's disease, which is the most common.

Atkinson also emphasized the importance of understanding what a diagnosis means.

"At least two parts of your brain are actively dying. The palliative connection is huge. The earlier you start to process this and have conversations about what you want life to look like with quality all the way to the end, the better. We need to talk about that as soon as the signs arrive."

She noted that 61 per cent of the people living with dementia in Manitoba

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"EXPLORING THE REASONS WHY WE HAVE ANXIETY MAY BE IMPORTANT, BUT IT IS EVEN MORE NECESSARY TO FIND WAYS TO COPE."

“All I’ve heard is such positive things”

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden came through with flying colours as the host for the Scotties Tournament of Hearts provincial women’s curling championship.



The week of top level and highly competitive curling concluded Sunday afternoon with Kaitlyn Lawes edging Beth Peterson 9-8, and host committee chairperson Ernie Epp was all smiles.

“I’ve loved every minute of it, and I’m going to miss not being here tomorrow,” he said.

Epp was very pleased with the response overall—from the fans who packed the stands to the sponsors who provided overwhelming support to the hundreds of volunteers who made it all run smoothly behind the scenes.

“I’m ecstatic. The response from the fans, from the sponsors, from the players ... all I’ve heard is such positive things,” he said.

“There was no complaints about the ice. The icemakers did a fantastic job,” Epp continued. “The curling was stellar, and the fans are so knowledge-



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Above: The Morden Scotties host committee received kudos at the closing ceremonies Sunday night. Left: Chair Ernie Epp said it was a great week for the community.

able; they knew when there was a great shot made, and they responded. “Then to have a Mordenite in the finals [Katherine Doerksen of Team Peterson] when the game is being

played in Morden, how can you ask for any better?”

He also saluted the large contingent of fans who came daily as well

Continued on page 4

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Winkler hosting Settlers of Catan qualifier

Winner will be sent to compete at national competition in Toronto this spring

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler is the place to be for Settlers of Catan players Louis Riel Day weekend.

Sixteen13 Ministry is hosting its first annual Manitoba Catan Tournament EtherLan Winkler fundraiser Feb. 18-19 at The Bunker (545 Industrial Dr.).

While EtherLan video and board gaming events have been happening for nearly 20 years now, including Settlers of Catan competitions, there's something special about this one, shares organizer Harold Espinosa.

"This one is exciting because it's a fundraiser and, at the same time, we are qualifiers for the Catan National Championships. I've been dreaming of doing something like this for a long time," he says, explaining they're one of only a limited number of qualifiers across the country. "We've got people from Saskatchewan coming, and from all over.

"It's all about getting together as people, having fun, and helping others through ministry by playing a board game."

The winner will not only qualify to compete on the national stage in Toronto this spring, but also have their flights and hotel covered for the trip.

A win at nationals, then, would send the player to the Catan World Championship in 2025 (location not yet announced).

If enough people sign-up to compete, Winkler's event could earn another fun distinction for the community.

"If we can do more than 150 people, we beat the Americans in their largest tournament," Espinosa says. "It'll put us on the map."

At press time, the Winkler qualifier was the only one listed on the official Settlers of Catan Canada website for Manitoba, though Espinosa hears there may be one or two other tournaments being planned in smaller communities.

"I think we're the only city in Manitoba that's doing it ... so we're going to be posting in Winnipeg everywhere to try to get the 150 people."

The day will start that Sunday afternoon with registration at 2 p.m. followed by the first of three rounds of games at 2:30 p.m. Participants are guaranteed three games and will also be served supper.

On Monday, the top gamers will enter the semi-finals at 10:30 a.m. followed by a provided lunch and then



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Organizing the upcoming Settlers of Catan tournament for Sixteen13 ministry is (from left) Harold Espinosa, Morgan Wiebe, Silas Goertzen, Anny Goertzen, Michelle Goertzen, Tiffany Krahn, and Eva Unger.

the final match at 1:30 p.m.

If you want to take part, you're encouraged to register in advance at etherlan.ca/catan. There will be limited registration at the door. Tickets are \$49.26 each. You must be 18+ to compete.

Funds raised that day will go to support Sixteen13's outreach programming, which includes sharing the Christian gospel, helping newcomers to Canada settle in, and aiding others in need in the Winkler-Morden area.

They currently work with 150 local families and have 70 volunteers, Espinosa shares.

If you'd like to support the competition as a sponsor, contact Espinosa at 204-332-0586.

Espinosa says they intend to make this a regular event.

"This is the first of many that's going to happen. This year we aim for 150 people. Next year we're going to double it."

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Police investigating stabbing

By Voice staff

Winkler Police are investigating a stabbing that took place on Jan. 24.

Just after midnight last Wednesday, police received a report of an injured person in the 1600 block of Grandeur Ave. They found a seriously injured 66-year-old female on the scene.

Police report that an immediate family member of the victim had begun assaulting them. When the victim attempted to flee the residence, the suspect produced an edged weapon and stabbed them multiple times in the upper

body while uttering death threats.

The victim was eventually able to escape and call for help.

The suspect was found inside the residence and placed under arrest without incident.

The victim was transported to hospital by paramedics where she was treated and has since been released.

A 38-year-old Winkler woman has been charged with aggravated assault, uttering threats to cause death, and forcible confinement. She has been remanded in custody.

> SCOTTIES, FROM PG. 3

from Carman in support of their local team skipped by Shaela Hayward.

The week was further proof of how Morden has always come through with hosting these kinds of events, said Epp.

"Those 200 volunteers who worked their butts off this week, I can't say enough about them," he said. "The curling community here is far bigger than just the city of Morden

boundaries ... the majority of volunteers and sponsors were from Morden, but it went beyond that.

"Chatting with some volunteers, they drove a fair distance just to be able to say they contributed to this event. They know how beneficial it is for us to do this kind of thing and raise some funds for our curling club, so it's awesome."

Stroke survivor support group puts call out for members

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Pembina Valley's new peer support group for stroke survivors has steadily grown since launching last fall, but organizers hope to see even more people take part in the months ahead.

Led by Dr. Margie Hesom, who survived a stroke herself a few years ago, the group meets the third Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon at the Central Station Community Centre in Winkler (555 Main St.).

At last month's meeting, 10 people, survivors and family members alike, came together to share their stories and lean on each other for support.

Lloyd Ching's stroke was three years ago. He joined the group in the hopes of finding encouragement and motivation as he works towards leaving his wheelchair behind.

"I'm progressing slowly, I think," he shared. "All I need is a little bit of energy to get better. I've kind of lost interest [in recovery] and I thought this group would kind of get me back in the groove again."

Hearing other people's journeys has

been both inspiring and comforting, Ching said, knowing he's not alone in what he's going through.

"We've got the same problems," he said. "When you're on your own, you're always thinking the worst. But this, I hope, will help. You've got to have people [around you]. The more the merrier, I think."

"My dad always said ... if you have a problem, just find a rainy day and go to a neighbour's place and get together and talk. You'll find out that maybe somebody else has the same problem or worse."

"It's good to have a support system of other people around you that have gone through similar things, or more things," agreed Greg Armistead, a fellow stroke survivor. "It's good to be a part of a team that can help you get back, and support each other."

Angela Bergman has been attending alongside her mother, who had her second stroke six months ago. She's there to support her mom, but also learn more about what she's going through.

"The Stroke Recovery Association



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The new peer support group for stroke survivors is a welcoming bunch who meet at Central Station in Winkler the third Tuesday of the month.

came into Riverview [a recovery centre in Winnipeg] when my mom was there. It was two individuals who had been stroke survivors and it really opened up my understanding on how to be there for my mom," Bergman said. "To hear other stories and to share ideas of things you can try, it just broadens your perspective of it and how to be there for them."

Sharing experiences is what the group is all about, Hesom said.

"We're just sharing stories and goals and encouragement," she said, noting they've been pleased to welcome newcomers every month so far.

They hope to eventually bring in guest speakers—doctors, physiother-

apists, dietitians, lawyers, long-term survivors—and also provide participants with access to other recovery resources that are available, though Hesom noted it has been frustrating in that many such resources are Winnipeg-based right now.

Registration for the support group is not required; simply stop by to join in. The next meeting will be Feb. 20.

"Your stroke doesn't have to be recent," Hesom stressed. "Even if it was years ago, we want to support you and we want to hear from you."

You can also learn more at www.strokerecovery.ca or by contacting Hesom at 204-362-7088.

Chronic wasting disease found in Winkler area deer

By Voice staff

A case of chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been identified in our area for the first time.

First detected in Manitoba in 2021, a total of 26 cases of CWD have been found, including 22 mule deer and four white-tailed deer.

The latest case was found in a female white-tailed deer near Winkler in a biological sample submitted by a hunter, Manitoba Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources reported last week.

Before now, positive cases have occurred only in two distinct and localized areas along the province's western border.

CWD is an incurable, fatal disease that affects members of the deer family (cervids) including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, and caribou. Animals infected with CWD may appear healthy until the later stages of the disease.

If the disease spreads and becomes endemic to Manitoba, there is a serious risk that CWD will threaten the

health of all cervid populations in the province, officials says.

CWD is not known as a human health risk but meat from a CWD-infected animal is not recommended for consumption.

Hunters who are active in areas where CWD is a concern should get harvested animals tested, practice safe carcass-handling protocols, and avoid consumption of any animal that has tested positive for CWD.

The province thanks hunters for participating in efforts to manage CWD by submitting samples to the provincially run testing program. Testing turnaround times have improved considerably in 2023-24, they report, now averaging approximately six to eight weeks following the submission of a sample.

Sample results from harvested animals are posted at www.gov.mb.ca/nrnd/fish-wildlife/wildlife/cwd-results/cwd-results.html.

Hunters with questions or concerns about an animal that has been harvested can email CWD@gov.mb.ca or call 1-204-638-4570.

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



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The impact of the printing press is sweeping the known world and no one will be left unaffected by its remarkable, almost artificially intelligent, feature set.

This incredible machine takes tasks that normally require days, sometimes weeks or months and compresses it into mere hours as pamphlets, posters and even books are created in the blink of an eye.

Of course, with such innovation there comes risk and potential job loss.

Reports are coming in to the newsroom that as many as 90 per cent of monks who work in scriptoriums will find themselves out of a job and likely forced into menial roles such as hoeing potatoes or hoeing carrots or hoeing turnips ... basically there will be a lot of hoeing involved in the new world order.

Yes, machines are taking our jobs! Every day more and more people find themselves having to adjust to the superiority of the machine as it prints documents at the lightning speed of one page per minute instead of one page per day or two.

Sure, the machine requires a designer, people to manufacture all of the components and others to actually operate and maintain it, but what about the loss of high quality, good old-fashioned writing, complete with

cat footprints from when old Puss walked across the wet page whilst someone (Brother Eric!) was taking a lunch break.

Such charming moments are now lost as we fall to the inhuman, stark new world of the soulless machine.

I imagine the above to be a somewhat exaggerated example of how some people might have felt at the advent of the printing press in Europe. In many ways this is how people have felt every time technology takes a step forward and threatens the current order.

No one today would suggest that returning to the scriptorium would be a more efficient way of producing documents. Those that were once involved in the handmade codicil and scroll industry moved on after some transition and the world kept turning.

When the chainsaw took over from the axe in mass deforestation projects, we kept going. When the laser printer took over from the printing press, we kept going. When Henry Ford in-

troduced automation and when the sewing machine slowly made the tailoring industry shrink, we kept going. We adapted.

So too will we adapt to the introduction and rapid adoption of AI despite all the potential risks. Heck, I even interviewed an AI (Microsoft Copilot) to tell me about the risks of adopting

AI, and it shamelessly and without fear told me the following:

"AI development poses great potential risk to humanity," said Microsoft Copilot with an imagined evil laugh. "Experts and researchers have warned that AI algorithms can improve them-

selves without human intervention, pose a control problem, and (lead to) a nuclear-level catastrophe. The rapid improvement of AI algorithms is a key issue, and the development is going way too fast."

Continued on page 7



By Peter Cantelon

"ANYTHING INTRODUCED THAT CHANGES THE WAY WE USED TO DO THINGS CREATES A LEVEL OF UNCERTAINTY ..."

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

• DON'T MIND THE MESS

The party line

still remember that long, curly cord stretched tight across the wall, and disappearing behind the porch door. It was attached to the old black rotary telephone that hung on the kitchen wall in the farmhouse where I grew up.

If any of us needed a little privacy in that crowded and curious household, we'd quietly slip into the entrance with the receiver, softly close the door, and try to carry on a conversation away from all the listening ears.

That room was unheated and un-



By Lori Penner

insulated, so on a cold January night or a broiling hot July day, we generally kept our chats short. But that little attempt at solitude didn't shield the caller from a world of torment.

When one of us seven siblings tucked behind that door with the receiver, the rest of us would knock on it relentlessly until our mother finally interceded with "the look" that only mothers know how to give.

Mom also used that isolation method when she called her sisters or friends. We heard her muffled voice and bursts of laughter on the other side of that door and knew to leave her alone for a while. Or else. Unless, of course, you were my eldest brother, who was always up for a good joke and had no problem with a bit of parental wrath.

The rest of us just watched from a safe distance, in frightened expectation for the show to begin.

First, he knocked gently, just a few times, to get her ire up. He allowed a minute to lapse and knocked a little harder. The door opened, just a crack, and mid-conversation, he would receive "the look."

Then the door quickly closed.

For anyone with any sense, that should have been enough. But when it came to teasing, my brother had no boundaries.

He waited another minute or so and knocked again. And again. This would go on for quite a while. My mother had obviously slipped into "ignore them and they'll go away" mode. This ploy would have worked with anyone except my brother.

He knocked one last time, and the door burst open. My mother stood there, receiver still attached to her ear, shaking her tiny fist with fire in her eyes, all the while continuing the friendly exchange with the person on the other line, as if nothing was going on.

Now, my gentle mom would never actually use that fist. We all knew it. Even her spankings, which I can count on one hand, were more like forceful pats.

I can't remember if she ever threw any shoes during that process. Maybe I blocked that out. That cord wasn't very long, so it may not have been physically possible. I do wonder if the person on the other end ever noticed any change in the timbre of her voice. If not, my mother should have chosen a career in Hollywood instead of a farmer's wife and mother to a crowd

of mischievous kids.

But there was revenge to be had. Her chats with her sisters were often so long, we had to put off our own calls to friends or our current crushes for what seemed like hours. This was long before cell phones, and with only one land line in the house, we all had to learn a little patience. And throw in the fact that it was a party line, so if any of the neighbours were making calls, we all had to wait.

I look at the ease in communication we take for granted now, receiving, and making phone calls any time, anywhere. We're not hunting for a pay phone in an emergency or waiting for a neighbour to finally hang up. And our privacy isn't dictated by the length of the cord.

Somehow, it's just not as much fun as it used to be.

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

Do I sense a threat in this answer? Anything introduced that changes the way we used to do things creates a level of uncertainty which in turn leads to a level of fear and push back. Sure, the printing press didn't personally threaten humanity with nuclear annihilation but how likely is that really? I asked an AI and it said:

"It is important to note that these risks are not inevitable and can be mitigated through careful planning and regulation."

See. Nothing to worry about.

Like the printing press, automation, the chainsaw and the sewing machine before it we will adapt to

the introduction of AI and drive new efficiencies in how we do things that (hopefully) will improve lives everywhere. Give it time.

BREAKING NEWS ...

Dear Peter. We are happy to inform you that we have appointed Microsoft Copilot as your "copilot" to assist you in "flying" your columns to the newsroom and "landing" them safely on our desk.

We trust this new partnership will be completely non-threatening and in no way foreshadows your replacement.

Warm regards,
EditorBOT

letters

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS KUDOS

I've been meaning to post a thank you for weeks to go out to Greenvalley Equipment Inc and Duron Equipment Inc. for taking the time to put up the Christmas lights this winter.

I, along with hundreds of others, drive that stretch every night. You have no idea how it brightens my night seeing those lights shining after spending the evening with my husband at Salem Home.

I know I and others were so disappointed that the other businesses along the corridor, (ie: Mazor Group, Rocky Mountain Equipment, and Precision Land Solutions), chose not to put up lights this winter. I'm sure they have their reasons but, just so you know, it was really missed during these long, dark nights.

Margo Friesen,
Morden

The Voice

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Do you have a suggestion for our news team?

Is there someone you would like to see recognized in the newspaper for their accomplishments - athletic, academic or community service.



Morden Elks donate \$14K to BTHC Fdn.

Members of the Morden Elks Branch #478 visited the Boundary Trails Health Centre recently to present the BTHC Foundation with a donation of \$14,700—the proceeds from the service club's annual Cash is King raffle. The foundation will use the funds to purchase medical equipment from the hospital's wish list. Pictured here are Morden Elks Raffle committee members Rob Dudgeon, Gary Grabowski, and Cam Fehr with BTHC Foundation executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Genesis House Caring Dads session starts Feb. 20

By Lorne Stelmach

Genesis House hopes there will be a long-term future for a program that works with men to help address the safety and well-being of families.

The Caring Dads program has the fifth of six planned 17-week sessions starting Feb. 20, and executive director Ang Braun would like to see them continue down the road.

"It has been received well," said Braun, although she acknowledged there are a number of challenges with the program.

"It is an intense program. It requires people taking the program to become quite vulnerable, and it also requires quite a large commitment because it's a 17-week commitment," she noted. "It also does really expect accountability ... the dad really needs to take responsibility for his role.

Caring Dads is described as an evidence-based program that helps fathers make positive changes in their lives. It focuses on the participant's accountability for abuse, countering the attitudes linked to abusive and neglectful behaviors and on promoting healthy relationships.

It was specifically designed from the premise that violence against women and violence against children are intricately intertwined, and that these two issues both can and should be addressed together.

"There was an appetite for men's programming, and there is a gap for sure," Braun said, explaining the initia-

"THERE WAS AN APPETITE FOR MEN'S PROGRAMMING, AND THERE IS A GAP FOR SURE."

tive became possible locally thanks to provincial funding.

She said they see it as very beneficial in addressing the issue in a different way by working with the men.

"We thought maybe if we were working with the dads, we could be influencing in a positive way ... because so many of our families want to reunite, maybe this would be a healthy way of trying to approach it."

Braun noted a similar program is offered through Child and Family Services, but "what we wanted was to offer it to the general community.

"The shelter had a men's program running previously for a short time, and we found a number of challenges with it. One was the sustainability ... finding funding for it. I have trouble finding funding just to keep on going here at the shelter," said Braun.

"We were sorry to have to let that program go," she said, adding, however, there was some good things learned from it that could help better shape Caring Dads.

"We want this to be a safe place where you can say, 'I have hurt people and I don't want to anymore. How do I do better?'" she said. "Any change is hard, but the longer you stay with the program and have the support of peers around

you, the better chance you have that it's really going to become part of your everyday."

The program offers a unique opportunity for men to connect as fathers with a combination of active group discussions, exercises, and homework.

Participants leave the program having developed skills to cope in healthy ways with frustrating situations, a better understanding of how different fathering strategies and choices affect children, an increased awareness of controlling, abusive, and neglectful attitudes and behaviours, as well as strategies to strengthen the father-child relationship.

Braun noted they have set a maximum of 10 participants but had not reached that number as of last week.

Still, she remains hopeful about the program. "We've had people come from far away to be part of the program," Braun said. "If the programs were consistently full, it would give us very good evidence to bring forward and say hey, look, there needs to be more funding for this program."

For more information about the Caring Dads program, head to caringdads.org, email children@genesis-house.ca, or call 204-325-9957 ext. 2225.

PV Pride hosting info. workshops across region

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Pembina Valley Pride is hosting a series of workshops across the region this month designed to educate people about the 2SLGBTQIANB+ community.

"These events are something that I've really wanted to do for a long time," shares chair Kat Basso. "We've had lots of people over the past few years who are supportive of the Rainbow community but aren't 100 per cent sure on things like terminology or what the acronym means and stuff like that. So our goal with these events is to create a space that encourages people to learn and also empowers them to have

"OUR GOAL WITH THESE EVENTS IS TO CREATE A SPACE THAT ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO LEARN ..."

that knowledge.

"I know a lot of people are worried about asking questions the right way so they're not hurting somebody or offending people," she adds.

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Art as therapy



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Close to two dozen people took in an art therapy workshop Friday evening at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden. The Pembina Hills Art Council invited Lauren Adams, a registered art therapist, to host the session that encouraged participants to explore their inner selves with art. Adams guided people through art-based activities designed to promote self-reflection and release from stress and/or trauma and to use art as a tool for expressing feelings.

> PEMBINA VALLEY PRIDE, FROM PG. 8

“The goal with these is to create an environment where you don’t have to ask things the right way to get the answer you’re looking for.”

The free workshops will include a presentation on the Rainbow community and Pembina Valley Pride’s activities, and then the speakers will open things up to the floor for questions.

“We’ll do our best to answer as best we can,” Basso says.

The workshops take place on Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 7-9 p.m. at United Community Arts in Pilot Mound, Saturday, Feb. 10 from 2-4 p.m. at The Community Exchange in Altona, Thursday, Feb. 15 from 7-9 p.m. at the Manitou Library, Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 7-9 p.m. at the Pembina Hills Arts Centre in Morden, and Thursday, Feb. 29 from 7-9

p.m. at Paul’s Place in Carman.

They’re also working on dates and times for workshops in Winkler and Miami. Details will be posted on Pembina Valley Pride’s social media pages once they’re available.

Beyond these opportunities to educate, Basso notes Pembina Valley Pride is also active in providing safe spaces for local 2SLGBTQIANB+ individuals and supporters to get together. There are monthly games nights being held in Winkler, Morden, Altona, and Carman.

“We’re building quite a significant community that attends these game nights,” Basso says.

A little further down the road, the annual Pembina Valley Pride march returns to Altona this year. It takes place on Saturday, June 8.

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RCMP respond to shots fired in Emerson-Franklin

By Voice staff

RCMP officers from Morris, Emerson and St-Pierre Jolys responded to a shots fired call just after 4 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 22.

It was reported that a male and female met up earlier that morning on Gosselin Road, in St. Malo. They were in a vehicle together when

another vehicle pulled up and a male pointed a firearm at the male and demanded money.

The male suspect then fled in his vehicle with an undisclosed amount of cash. The female left shortly after in her own vehicle.

The victim left the scene and contacted a friend. They both returned to the area to try and locate the male suspect and the female, but they

were no longer in the area.

They then headed towards the female's residence in the RM of Emerson-Franklin, and while en route they came across the suspect vehicle parked near the home.

While one of the males was walking towards the suspect vehicle, a shot was fired in his direction. He returned to his vehicle and called police.

RCMP officers attended the residence, where a male and female were arrested without incident and two firearms were seized.

A 48-year-old female from the RM of Emerson-Franklin has been charged with robbery with a firearm, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, unsafe storage of firearms, and unauthorized possession of a firearm.

A 64-year-old male from the RM of East St. Paul has been charged with robbery with a firearm, discharge firearm with intent, pointing a firearm, possession of a weapon for dangerous purpose, unsafe storage of firearms, and unauthorized possession of a firearm.

The investigation is ongoing.

AgrilInsurance expected to pay out nearly \$5B

By Voice staff

Manitoba's AgriInsurance program is expected to provide farmers with nearly \$5 billion in coverage on an estimated 9.55 million acres for the upcoming crop year, federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lawrence MacAulay and Manitoba Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn announced in Brandon last month.

"Canadian farmers have experienced a challenging growing year, battling a range of extreme weather events from floods to wildfires and drought," said MacAulay. "We know the uncertainty this causes for the sector, and why access to flexible and affordable risk management tools are so vitally important."

"The AgriInsurance program covers over 80 different crop types and will help ensure our hardworking farmers in Manitoba are able to continue to produce the high-quality products they are known for."

The ministers released details indicating that 2024 Agri-Insurance premiums will be lower than they were in 2023 for most crops insured in Manitoba. For annual crops, producers can expect to pay an average premium of \$16.21 per acre in 2024 compared to \$19.21 per acre in 2023.

"Managing costs and risks will be critical for success as margins are projected to tighten," said Kostyshyn. "We're pleased to offer affordable and effective risk management for Manitoba farmers through the AgriInsurance program."

Continued volatility in global commodity markets has impacted AgriInsurance dollar values for the 2024 season, government reps report. Some crops such as dry beans, forage seeds, potatoes, vegetables and forages will have higher dollar values. For the majority of crops, however, dollar values are lower than 2023.

The AgriInsurance program is a risk management tool for Manitoba farmers to protect against production shortfalls and quality losses caused by natural perils. It is run by the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation.

MASC is further enhancing the AgriInsurance program by launching a pilot program for the upcoming crop year

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Morris students get their day in court

By Sean Conway

"All Rise," calls the court clerk. "The Maverick Court of Morris is now in session. Judge Daniel Lehmann presiding."

The Morris School's Gr. 11-12 law class held three mock trials last week to give students the chance to explore Canada's legal system.

Fourteen students assumed one of four roles throughout the week: defense lawyer, Crown lawyer, jurors, or court clerk.

The event allowed student to experience the various elements of the criminal trial process, including the opportunity to advocate for their client or speak on behalf of the prosecution.

Students prepared for their day in court by interviewing witnesses and holding a pretrial session with opposing counsel.

"All students must play the role of lawyer for at least one trial," explained Lehmann, who teaches law 40S at the school. "Students played the other roles, except for witnesses."

School staff and local business leaders took on the roles of the accused and witnesses.

On the day two of the trial, Pat Schmitke, owner of the Morris Bigway, became Donovan Tisi charged with theft under \$5,000. Jenna Skoglund, resource teacher, took on the role of defence witness Jenny Wong. Jack Wiebe, Youth For Christ director, played Anver Williams, a young man who was beaten up and robbed of his basketball sneakers.

"The teacher approached me and asked if I could play the role of an accused in their mock court," said Schmitke. "They gave me information about my character. I came to the school before today for a pretrial

"I'M NOT A STRONG PUBLIC SPEAKER, BUT PLAYING A LAWYER ROLE GAVE ME A CHANCE TO PRACTICE."



PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Teacher Daniel Lehmann presided as the judge in the mock trial at Morris School last week, which saw Gr. 11/12 students play the role of the lawyers and jurors while community guests like Pat Schmitke, Jenna Skoglund, Jack Wiebe, and Shannon Leflar took part as the accused, the victim, and witnesses.

interview with my lawyer to go over the questions. They accused me of assault and robbery. I'm innocent of all charges and my lawyer will get me off!"

With court called into session by the clerk, the judge in wig and robe provided a preamble for the role-playing exercise, including a review of the Youth Criminal Justice Act followed by instructions to the jury on their responsibilities.

The proceeding had a formal atmosphere, and students were expected to conduct themselves as if they were in a real court.

Lehmann graded students on their knowledge, procedures, proper etiquette, dress, and annunciation.

"I found it difficult to remember the questions I needed to ask," shared Ryan Harder, the 16-year-old Crown lawyer in the day one trial. "I found cross-examining witnesses easier."

Both sides had the chance to call and question witnesses before the lawyers gave their closing statements and the jury left the room to decide on a verdict.

The case material for each trial was fictional and did not have a predetermined outcome. Guilt or innocence of the accused was a jury decision based on the evidence presented to them.

Day two's case was a win for the Crown when the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

"This was my first time studying the law," said defence counsel Jonathan Skopliak. "I understand what happens in a court case."

"I'm not a strong public speaker, but playing a lawyer role gave me a chance to practice."

That sounds a like a win in the classroom.



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PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Left: Local author Laura Siemens and illustrator Jozanna Loewen with the book, *Sophia's Suitcase*. Siemens was one of the guest readers at the Altona library's Family Literacy PJ Party last week (above).

Altona Family Literacy Day features local author

By Lori Penner

The South Central Regional Library Altona branch hosted their annual Family Literacy Pajama Party on Jan. 25 in honour of Family Literacy Day.

As always, kids were encouraged to put on their jammies, grab their stuffies, and hang out at the library to hear some stories and celebrate the joys of reading.

This year's guest reader was local author Laura Siemens, who read from her brand new book, *Sophia's Suitcase*. The book focuses on a little girl

named Sophia who is going on vacation. Unfortunately, Sophia's suitcase won't be going with her. Through a series of happy accidents and helpful people, this suitcase is about to see the beauty of Western Canada. The big question is: can Sophia's Suitcase find its way back to her?

The author is from the Horndean area, where she is a stay-at-home mom, avid reader, and amateur baker. Growing up she had a very wild imagination and has now channeled that into writing adventurous and silly children's books.

"I've always loved writing," Siemens says. "It was always a secret dream in my heart to have a published book. I always thought it would be a great epic tale. But when this idea for a children's book popped into my head, I thought, that would be great too."

The book was published last November on Amazon.

"Publishing this way is not as complicated as people think, but there are challenges along the way," Siemens shares. "The hardest part is getting the formatting right. There is also a lot of work involved in marketing

and promotion."

Sophia's Suitcase was illustrated by Altona artist Jozanna Loewen, who says she was thrilled to be a part of it. In fact, the main character is named after her daughter.

Meanwhile, Siemens says she and Loewen are already planning more books.

"We're going to stay in the children's realm. It's so fun and you can just be silly with it."

> HEALTHY LIVING FORUM, FROM PG. 2

are still living at home. "This means that all the care is often provided by spouses, friends, and family. So, there is a huge demand for support to care partners, and the Alzheimer's Society is very important for care partners."

Dementia is on the rise. About 62 per cent of Manitobans have a family member or friend with dementia. Currently there are 19,600 people living with it in Manitoba. That number is expected to rise to over 39,000 by 2050. "Our brains are changing. A lot of the causes are still unknown. Genetics only play a small part."

As cognitive abilities change, At-

kinson said for the care partner or loved one, the important thing is not whether the person living with dementia is accurate, but that their self-esteem and dignity are maintained. Things like effective communication and strategies are the key.

"Our most important task is to establish and nurture a relationship of mutual respect and trust. This includes things like being prepared by getting to know the person, using routines to create a supportive environment, recognizing emotions, and keeping your own emotions in check when the going gets tough."



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE
Above: Healthy Living Forum presenter Tami Giesbrecht explains coping strategies for anxiety. Right: Instructor Ang Stoesz provided a movement break with chair exercises.



The **Voice**

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Altona YFC reaching out, connecting with youth

By Lori Penner

If you really want to get an idea of how many kids show up at the Altona Youth for Christ's new drop-in centre every week, you only need to read the mechanical counter on their recently acquired vintage pinball machine.

Director Sheridan Sawatzky says the counter revealed that the machine had been played 12,000 times from the time it was made in 1973 until they bought it last June.

"This summer alone, it's been played another 4,000 times."

Since the new building opened for business in 2022, Sawatzky says they've seen a lot of growth.

"The kids are always excited to come to this space, and that's the goal. We wanted to provide a place where kids are excited to come to, even if it's just to hang out, or play video games or board games with their friends. That's great. If it's here to work in the Maker Space to learn a new skill, and develop that skill, that's also great. If they're coming here for guidance, ultimately that's what we're here for. All these other things are just a means of connecting with kids in a deeper and more meaningful way."

The Altona YFC - Youth Unlimited drop-in centre is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, and after school on Thursdays.

"So that is really a great day for a lot of kids who have a hard time get-

ting rides to our programs because they can come here right after school, and their parents can pick them up at the end of the night," Sawatzky said. "And we provide supper and all that. Everything we do here, there is no cost for any of the teens. We want to make sure there are no barriers for any of the kids."

Directors at the facility include Sawatzky alongside Marty Falk, Peter Serger, who directs the Maker Spaces, and Kendra Fehr, who works with the girls who also enjoy all that Altona YFC offers.

Last year, Serger initiated a partnership with École Parkside School.

"We've been doing projects with three classes at Parkside School during their school day, so just over 90 students from Grades 7 and 8 come to the building," shares Sawatzky.

This growth for the organization is exciting to see, he says.

"We used to have just the older crowd from Grade 10 and up, who were the majority of our drop-in attendees, and now it's getting younger and younger as they get more exposure to our programs, especially partnering with the schools, which has been a real benefit."

Serger is teaching them all about 3D technology and recently added vector graphics to their toolbox.

"It's distinctly different from 3D modelling, but both processes are



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The main floor of the Altona YFC drop-in centre provides a wide variety of activities and places to hang out.

skills that are beneficial in any kind of creative digital industry and are beneficial for the students to know. Kids make these things and it's something that can prepare them for their own futures in finding a career path" he says.

"There's an entry level component to what we do, even the laser and the computer numeric coding is something that Elmer's Manufacturing has. The concepts and the actual process are very similar. Even just going over health and safety stuff is part of working in a workplace. We want the kids to have as much exposure to different things that can turn to a creative outlet or future employment. It boosts confidence and gives them an area where they can relate to others."

The airplane under construction in the woodwork shop is just one ex-

ample.

"That's a big thing for us. We want to develop those community partnerships with industry but also with individuals. As far as I know, most kids have never made an airplane before. And it's not a project any of us here on staff would take on. But we have a skilled volunteer named Warren Klippenstein who wanted to do it and see how kids would react to it, and it's pretty cool to see."

A process of periodic certification to the Piper R120 ensures that it will be ready when it becomes airborne in a year or so.

"We're always trying to find more and more ways for the kids to experience different things," Sawatzky says. "We want skilled volunteers who are passionate about things they are

Continued on page 14



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

YFC participants have been working with volunteer instructor Warren Klippenstein to build an airplane in the facility's woodworking shop.



St. Jean Trailblazers host annual Poker Derby

By Sean Conway

Minus eight degrees with the sun trying to burn off the morning fog was the weather at 9:30 a.m. Saturday when registration opened for the St. Jean Trailblazers annual Poker Derby.

The Trailblazers are a group of local snowmobile enthusiasts in Saint Jean Baptiste. They meet regularly to talk snowmobiles but also to invest in their community by providing financial support for local initiatives.

"The club has a request for money to help purchase defibrillators," shared spokesperson Gerald Lafond. "This annual fundraiser helps us raise money to support the club, but more importantly to help our community."

The Trailblazers started in 1970 but became official the following year. None of the original members are

involved today, but the spirit of the club remains in the sleds of the seven-member executive today.

"We had to cancel the event one year because of a storm. Minus forty doesn't keep people from riding, but not being able to get here does," says Lafond. "The event runs smoothly every year. People show up for the ride and the steak dinner. We are hoping to make over \$2,000."

Organizers were expecting over 100 riders from all over Manitoba, including a group from Rennie calling themselves the Whiteshell Griswolds who noted the trails in their area aren't ready yet and so they've been desperate to find some good snow to enjoy.

Poor accumulation of snow in parts of the province certainly drew many other snowmobilers to the event.

"Cloudy sky and fog have prevent-



PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Paroisse Saint-Jean-Baptiste church was the starting point for the Trailblazers' Poker Derby ride Saturday morning. Below: After enjoying a day of snowmobiling, participants, including this group from Rennie, enjoyed a steak dinner back in St. Jean.



ed the sun from melting the snow [here] for the last week," Lafond said. "There is no snow east and west of us, so people are coming to ride."



The 100-mile route passed through five communities in Southern Manitoba. Snowmobilers began in St. Jean, headed north to Morris and then southwest to Plum Coulee, southeast to Altona, east to Letellier, and north to finish back in St. Jean.

The \$25 registration fee bought participants three hands of poker. Before departing, riders drew their first card from a bag of card chips. They drew further cards at the stops along the way and submitted their completed hands at the end of the ride for a chance at the prizes. Local business contributed money and/or items for the prize draws.

The winners of the derby were announced as the steak dinners were searing on the grill.

The first-place prize of \$1,000 was a hand of four of a kind by Donald Bissonetter.

> YOUTH FOR CHRIST, FROM PG. 13

teaching the kids. Warren is very meticulous and has been a pilot for a long time. We've had quite a few drawn to the plane. Popping rivets through sheet metal is fun for like 10 minutes and they find it boring but we're trying to get them to see the long-term benefit of sticking with something. What kid wouldn't want to say they built an airplane?"

He adds, "While they're having fun and developing new skills, they're also developing a work ethic and possibly adding to a future resume."

Other maker spaces at the drop-in centre include an art studio, music

room with a podcast studio, and a technology lab, where the biggest growth has been on 3D design.

"We partner with local industry in a meaningful way. They can see the value in the equipment, and they see potential future employees. Local businesses are taking an interest in what the kids are learning here. It is a creative outlet, but it is also a space where kids develop a hometown connection where they want to work here. They want to have opportunities that they can pursue. When businesses see the value, they want to support what we're doing."

"WE'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO FIND MORE AND MORE WAYS FOR THE KIDS TO EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT THINGS."

At the end of the day, Sawatzky says it all still comes down to making youth feel loved and valued.

"Every kid who comes through here is an image bearer of God, and we're gonna treat them that way. Sometimes that means working side by side with them on a project and through that we develop a relationship and lead them through tough things in life and

spiritual questions they may have. We're glad to be that person for them. And sometimes it means sitting in silence with them. Young kids connect quickly when their hands and eyes are busy, and you can have meaningful conversations. All these things are awesome but they're a means of connecting in a deeper way and really caring for them."



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Above: Over 200 volunteers worked hard behind-the-scenes to make the Scotties such a success. Right, top: the opening ceremonial rock was thrown by Lynn Sandercock and swept by Pam Goertzen and Lauren Weselak: Right, below: That '80s Band entertained off the ice at the event centre.



Left: Altona's Mackenzie Zacharias competed with Team Cameron, whose playoff hopes ended with an 8-4 loss to Team Peterson in the semi-final match. Below: Host committee chair Ernie Epp receives a plaque from CurlManitoba for the community commemorating the Scotties. Left: Team Lawes and Team Peterson square off in the championship final to see who'd earn the trophy and the Buffalo jackets.



sports & recreation

Team Lawes wins final 9-8 to capture Scotties title

By Lorne Stelmach

A well-played close final Sunday afternoon in Morden capped off the Scotties Tournament of Hearts with the top seeded team skipped by Kaitlyn Lawes edging the Beth Peterson foursome 9-8.

It was a close game the whole way between Lawes, who finished 5-0 in the round robin, and Peterson, who went 3-2 and whose team included Morden native Katherine Doerksen.

The key shot in the end was a Lawes deuce in the ninth when she faced two and played a re-direct hit, just rubbing off a Peterson stone in the front of the eight foot circle and doubling out the second stone on the centre line in the back of the eight foot circle.

Team Lawes jumped out to a 4-1 lead after three ends, but Peterson and her team fought back to tie it up 7-7 after eight.

The Lawes deuce in the ninth end set the stage for a dramatic tenth when Peterson had a chance to draw through a narrow port to the four foot circle for a pair and a tie. She navigated the port but slid a few inches too deep and scored just a single.

"When I let it go, I thought it was



Skip Kaitlyn Lawes shouts directions to her sweepers in Sunday's Scotties Tournament of Hearts final, which Team Lawes won 9-8 against the Beth Peterson foursome that included Mordenite Katherine Doerksen. Below: Fans filled the stands at the Access Event Centre for the championship game.

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

close, and it's either a flash or a two, so we went for it, and I thought it was kind of a gutsy call," Lawes said of her critical deuce.

"There were some great shots made on both sides and just some great line calls and well swept," she said, noting as well a key shot in the seventh when

she called for a little nudge to prevent a steal.

"It was very intense. Beth and her team played phenomenal, like first end runback after runback, and we knew we had to bring our A game and had to hang in there and make some big shots."

A teary Peterson afterwards lamented coming up just short at the end of a challenging week which saw her and a teammate both make visits to the walk-in clinic with injuries and needing to have their fifth step in as well.

"I'm so proud of the girls ... people don't even know how much adversity we had this week," she said. "It was a really long week with a lot of challenges thrown our way, and I just thought we had this last one ... I'm pretty devastated."

Despite the challenges, the Peterson team qualified for the championship round with a 3-2 round robin record and then were the only team to win all three championship round games and played a precision control game to win the semi-final over third seeded Kate Cameron.

She was optimistic heading into the championship final.

"Honestly, the girls did such a good job of keeping us in that game. It was



SEMHL teams head into final week of regular season action

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Altona Maroons stumbled in the second-last week of the SEMHL season.

The team were blanked by the visiting Portage Islanders 4-0 last Thursday night and then got run over by the Notre Dame Hawks 11-0, also at home, Saturday night.

It puts the Maroons in tenth and last place in the standings with a 3-13-0-1 record and one more game to go in the season. They host the Warren Mercs Thursday night.

Down the road, the Red River Wild had a better go of things, defeating the Ste. Anne Aces 7-6 Saturday night.

Tyler Anderson, Paul Remillard (with two), Jonah Wasylak, Colin Baudry, Gavin Froese, and Drayden Kurbatoff all scored for the Wild. Mark Friesen got the win in net, mak-

ing 34 saves.

It puts the Wild's record at 11-3-0-1 for 23 points and third place, behind Ste. Anne in first (30 points) and Warren in second (26 points).

This week the Wild travel to play in Warren Friday and then host Portage in Morris on Saturday. They wrap up the regular season next Tuesday in Notre Dame.

Finally, the Winkler Royals and the Morden Bombers squared off in Winkler for their lone game of the week.

Morden won it 4-1 thanks to a pair of goals from Andrew Clark and singles from Karl Fey and Jaden Townsend. Scoring for Winkler was Marcus Neufeld.

Winkler won the shots battle 39-35, with Reed Peters making 38 saves for Morden and Jayme Janzen stopping 31 for Winkler.

It gives Morden a record of 8-6-1-2



PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

The Altona Maroons had a rough go of it in their two home games last week, falling to Portage 4-0 Thursday (above) and then to Notre Dame 11-0 Saturday.

for 19 points and fourth place. The Royals are at 5-8-1-1 for 12 points and eighth place.

This week, the Bombers close out their regular season schedule in Portage Wednesday night. Winkler hosts Ile des Chenes Wednesday, plays in

Notre Dame Saturday, and then hosts Portage Sunday.

Playoffs will get underway next week, once the final games determine the standings for the top five teams.

Terriers put an end to Flyers' eight-game win streak

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers' eight-game winning streak came to an end last week thanks to the Portage Terriers.

The road game was a close one for Winkler's junior team, but they found themselves on the wrong side of a 2-1 score.

Trent Penner got the Flyers' lone goal early in the first period. It took the Terriers until the frame's final few seconds to tie it up. They then scored the game-winner with less than five minutes to go in the third.

Malachi Klassen made 25 saves in net for Winkler off 27 shots on goal. His teammates fired 26 the other way.

The Flyers shook off the loss and went on to defeat the first-place Steinbach Pistons Friday night.

Winkler was up 3-0 heading into the final few minutes of the game (Brody Beauchemin having scored in the first and second periods and Dalton Andrew adding one more for Winkler at 14:59 of the third) when the Pistons finally got on the board. They followed it up with their second of the night shortly after, but failed to further close the gap. Winkler won it 3-2.

Klassen had a 35-save night as Steinbach outshot Winkler 37-33.

The Flyers put a lot more distance

between themselves and the Waywayseecappo Wolverines in Sunday night's home game.

Goals from Isaiah Peters, Andrew, Marek Miller, Nich McKee, and Avery Andreson gave the Flyers the

> SCOTTIES, FROM PG. 16

a tough game, and we were down a lot, but a lot of good shots made, so I'm really proud of this team," said Peterson, who called it a hard loss that was going to sting for awhile. "Kaitlyn made some really key shots ... you can never count her out, and she made a great shot."

Lawes was equally proud of her new Fort Rouge team that includes Selena Njegovan, Jocelyn Peterman, and Kristin McCuish.

> AGRINSURANCE, FROM PG. 10

designed to meet the needs of small-scale vegetable producers.

The program will allow producers to bundle eligible crops to meet acreage minimums so they can adequately insure a variety of their vegetable crops.

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP)

win 5-2. Liam Ernst was between the posts this match for Winkler, making 39 saves off 41 shots.

The Flyers are currently in second place in the MGEU East Division with a record of 30-6-2-2 and 64 points.

"It's our first provincial win as a team, and I'm so proud of the girls for hanging in there right to the end," she said.

Lawes sees winning the provincial championship as really helping build their team confidence now going as Team Manitoba to the national Scotties Tournament of Hearts later this month alongside fellow Manitoba teams led by Kerri Einarson and Jennifer Jones.

They're just three points behind the Steinbach Pistons in first place and four ahead of the Terriers in third.

Coming up, the team hosts Dauphin Friday night and Swan Valley Sunday afternoon.

"Any chance you get to play in big finals, we keep saying the more finals we can get into the better, and it's really exciting going into the Scotties being Team Manitoba," said Lawes, who concluded with encouraging words for the Peterson team. "They had a phenomenal week, and look out—they're a great team, and they'll be right there for the next few years."

is a five-year, \$3.5-billion investment by Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments that supports Canada's agri-food and agri-products sectors.

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For more information, contact MASC at www.masc.mb.ca/masc.nsf/contact.html or go to www.masc.mb.ca/masc.nsf/index.html.

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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

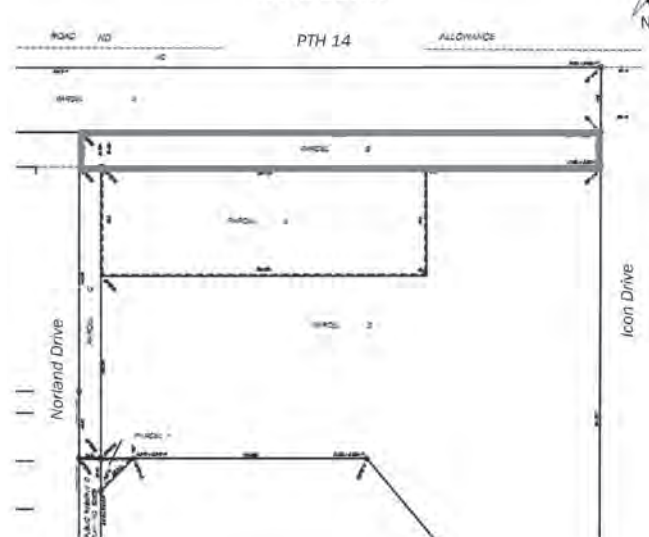
Date of Hearing: February 13, 2024

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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PUBLIC NOTICE



CITY OF MORDEN PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING SPECIAL SERVICE PROPOSAL NO. 2-2024 / BY-LAW NO. 03-2024 TO PROVIDE A HIGH QUALITY AND WELL-MAINTAINED RUBBERIZED COMMUNITY TRACK AND FIELD SPACE FOR THE DISCOVERY TRAILS SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF MORDEN

The Council of the City of Morden has scheduled a public hearing at the City of Morden Civic Center on the 26th of February 2024 at 7:30 PM to present the following special service proposal:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SPECIAL SERVICES PLAN NO. 2-2024

The City of Morden proposes to support the funding request received from the Western School Division. The Special Service is intended to provide a high quality and well-maintained rubberized community Track and Field space for the Discovery Trails School and community members of the City of Morden. This project will provide inclusive, accessible, and equitable recreation opportunities for both the school division and all community members. This improvement is a joint effort between the City of Morden and Western School Division. The City of Morden will contribute a total of \$250,000.00.

The Special Service Tax to be levied under this proposal will be all rateable properties within the City of Morden. The estimated cost of the Special Service plan for the next five years is as follows

2024	\$50,000	2026	\$50,000	2028	\$50,000
2025	\$50,000	2027	\$50,000		

METHOD AND RATE TO CALCULATE SPECIAL SERVICE TAX

The special service tax will be levied annually, from 2024 to 2028, inclusive on a per parcel basis against all rateable properties, including otherwise exempt properties, within the City of Morden.

The cost of the service will be as follows:

All rates are based on an annual basis:

All rateable properties: \$11.35 per parcel (assessment roll number) in each of the years 2024 to 2028.

A written objection may be filed with the City Manager at 100-195 Stephen St., Morden, Canada, R6M 1V3 prior to the commencement of the hearing. At the hearing, Council will hear any potential taxpayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to the 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 Service Plan No. 2-2024 are available at the municipal office at 100-195 Stephen St., Morden, Manitoba, R6M 1V3 and on the municipal website at <https://www.mymorden.ca/>

Dated at the City of Morden this 1st day of February A.D. 2024 and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The Municipal Act.

Nicole Reidle, CMMA City Manager
City of Morden 204-822-4434

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF MORDEN PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING SPECIAL SERVICE PROPOSAL NO.1-2024 / BY-LAW NO. 02-2024 TO PROMOTE AND IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR THE CITY OF MORDEN AND THE SURROUNDING REGION

The Council of the City of Morden has scheduled a public hearing at the City of Morden Civic Center on the 26th of February 2024 at 7:15 PM to present the following special service proposal:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SPECIAL SERVICES PLAN NO. 1-2024

The City of Morden proposes to support the funding request received from the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation and the Menzies Medical Centre (Clinic). The Special Service is intended to promote and improve health care for the City of Morden and the surrounding region. Improved health care in the region is expected to increase population growth and attract businesses. This improvement is a joint effort with the RM of Stanley and the City of Winkler. The City of Morden will contribute a total of \$1,600,000.00.

The Special Service Tax to be levied under this proposal will be all rateable properties within the City of Morden.

The estimated cost of the Special Service plan for the next four years is as follows:

2024	\$400,000	2026	\$400,000
2025	\$400,000	2027	\$400,000

METHOD AND RATE TO CALCULATE SPECIAL SERVICE TAX

The special service tax will be levied annually, from 2024 to 2027, inclusive on a per parcel basis against all rateable properties, including otherwise exempt properties, within the City of Morden.

The cost of the service will be as follows:

All rates are based on an annual basis:

All rateable properties: \$91.00 per parcel (assessment roll number) in each of the years 2024 to 2027.

A written objection may be filed with the City Manager at 100-195 Stephen St., Morden, Canada, R6M 1V3 prior to the commencement of the hearing. At the hearing, Council will hear any potential taxpayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to the 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 Service Plan No. 1-2024 are available at the municipal office at 100-195 Stephen St., Morden, Manitoba, R6M 1V3 and on the municipal website at <https://www.mymorden.ca/>

Dated at the City of Morden this 1st day of February A.D. 2024 and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The Municipal Act.

Nicole Reidle, CMMA
City Manager
City of Morden
204-822-4434



X CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Become less intense
- 6. Variety of pear
- 10. Religion native to China
- 14. Type of tooth
- 15. Fitted out

- 17. Make every effort
- 19. Autonomic nervous system
- 20. Complete
- 21. Alternate name
- 22. River in France and

CAREERS



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CAREERS



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

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
 - Experience in industrial equipment maintenance and repair
 - Ability to read blueprints and technical documents
 - Pressure or structural welding tickets and related experience
- This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

Starting Wages:

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

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

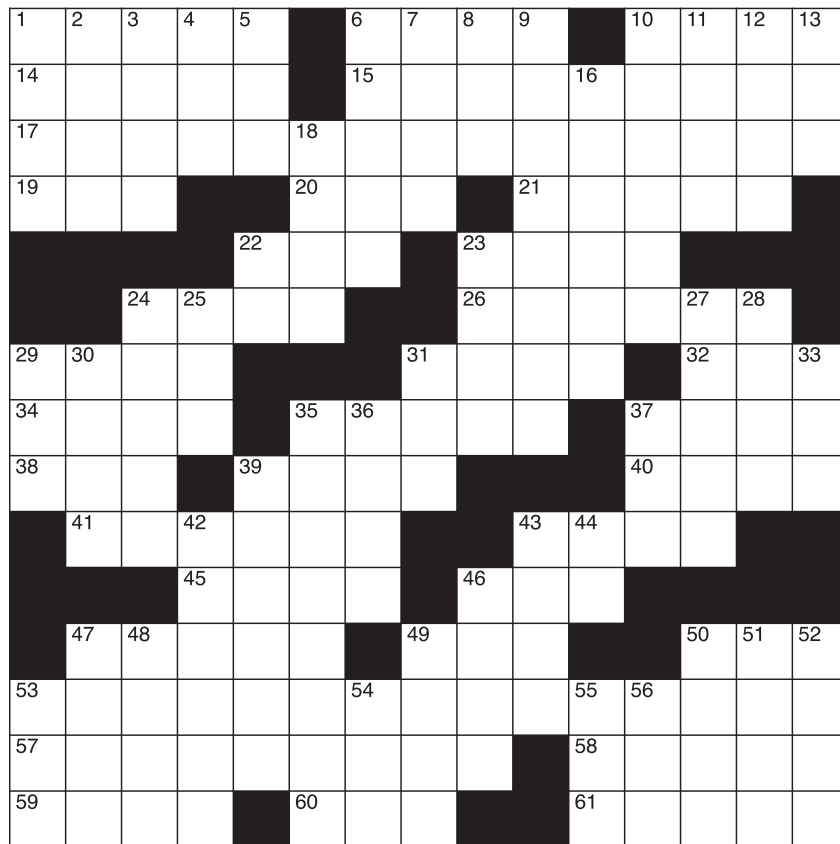
Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

Belgium

- 23. Miami's mascot is one
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Most cognizant of reality
- 29. Broad volcanic crater
- 31. Canadian surname
- 32. Satisfaction
- 34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- 35. Collide
- 37. Immune response
- 38. Feline
- 39. High opinion of one's own appearance
- 40. Thin strip to align parts
- 41. Containers
- 43. Convicted American spy
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. I.M. __, architect
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Dutch and German surname
- 59. Square measures 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Degrade someone

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Siberian river
- 2. Blessing
- 3. Substitutes (abbr.)



- 4. Principle underlying the universe
- 5. Work unit
- 6. Yellow edible fruits
- 7. Gemstone
- 8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
- 9. Evergreen tropical tree
- 10. Reality TV star Richards
- 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 12. Stakes
- 13. Antidiuretic hormone
- 16. Make warm again

- 18. Light beams
- 22. Lethal dose
- 23. Terrorist group
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Naturally occurring solid
- 27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- 28. Popular cuisine
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Type of horse
- 31. __ Diego
- 33. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 35. Most shrewd
- 36. It may be for shopping
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A stock of foods
- 42. The bindings of books
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. Sammy __, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth __, American writer
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Popular type of bread
- 51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
- 52. Association of engineering professionals
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. City
- 55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

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PARCEL II: LOT 2 PLAN 1867 MLTO EXC PLAN 2357 MLTO IN SE ¼ 7-1-2 WPM

Title No. 3047369/4 Roll No. 0081500 (approximately 79.75 acres)

Tenders may be submitted for each individual Parcel.

A cheque for \$10,000.00 must accompany the tender as a down payment. Written tenders must be received by 2:00 p.m. on February 15, 2024. Down payment will be returned if tender not accepted.

Closing date for the sale shall be March 15, 2024, by cash or approved loan proceeds. Any loan advances paid after closing date are subject to payment of interest at loan rate during reasonable delay for registration of security. Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of all 2024 property taxes and GST or shall self-assess for GST. Fertilizer has been pre-applied to the land and any successful buyer shall be responsible for payment in the amount of \$6,350.00, in addition to the purchase price.

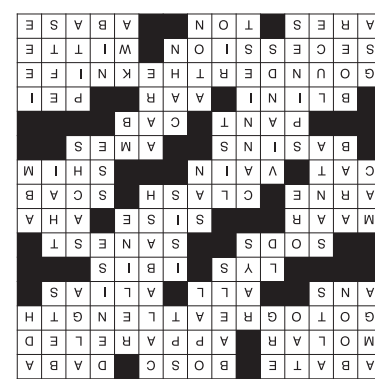
The highest or any Tender may not necessarily be accepted.

ADDRESS: DOELL LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 1150
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Ph. (204) 325-8807

To the attention of Scott C. Doell

For more information on the tender email: info@doelllaw.com

Crossword Answer



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-From the family

BIRTHDAY



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-Lots of love from your family and friends

OBITUARY

Marcel Fillion



Peacefully, on January 24, 2024 Marcel Fillion, age 95 of St. Joseph, MB passed away at the Altona Hospital.

Marcel was born on October 1, 1928 in St. Jean Baptiste, MB. He was the second eldest of 15 children born to Leona (Delorme) and Adonias Fillion.

After his marriage to Adéline Gregoire, they began their lives as farmers in St. Joseph, MB.

Family was very important to Marcel. He was an honest, hardworking, bright and kind man.

He was involved in numerous committees and organizations, one being a councillor in the Montcalm Municipality. Marcel was always willing to lend a helping hand when needed.

His hearty laughter and the mischievous look in his eyes will be missed.

He is survived by his children Denis (Réjane) Fillion, Gisèle (Donald) Sabourin, Janine (Gilbert) Durand, Michel (Rick) Fillion, and Adéline (Rick) Sellwood; as well as 11 direct grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife Adéline; two of their son's Jacques and Gérard as well as their son-in-law Neil, finally being reunited with them in God's home.

We would like to thank Gardens on Tenth for the excellent care given in Dad's last years. We also thank the staff at the Altona Hospital.

Prayers will be held at the St. Joseph Catholic Church on Friday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. Funeral mass will be held at the church on Saturday, February 3 at 2:00 p.m. with rosary, viewing, and eulogy beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Wiebe Funeral Home Altona in care of arrangements www.wiebefhaltona.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.

École Carman Elementary Pat Hamm, Interim Principal (204) 745-2623 Vanessa Giesbrecht, Secretary vgiesbrecht@g.prdsmb.ca	St. François Xavier School Marc Tellier, Principal (204) 864-2868 Debra Friesen, Secretary dfriesen@g.prdsmb.ca
Elm Creek School Ashley Cook, Interim Principal (204) 436-2354 Darlène Banman, Secretary dbanman@g.prdsmb.ca	École St. Eustache Lindsay Noël, Principal (204) 353-2869 Melanie Zimmermann, Secretary mzimmermann@g.prdsmb.ca
Miami School Brandy Chevalier, Principal (204) 435-2441 Leann Friesen, Secretary lfriesen@g.prdsmb.ca	St. Laurent School Bobby Ellis, Principal (204) 646-2209 Lori Combote, Secretary loricombote@g.prdsmb.ca
Roland School Melissa Benner, Principal (204) 343-2023 Marcia Rempel, Secretary mrempe@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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

CITY OF MORDEN BY-LAW 16-2023

HEARING: Morden Civic Centre
LOCATION: 195 Stephen St., Morden, MB
DATE: February 26th, 2024
TIME: 7:00 pm
AREA: By-law 16-2023 will apply to properties East of The City of Morden described as PT. S. ½ 9-3-5W being Pt. lots 41 & 53, SS Plan 2020 MLTO and Pt. Parcel A, Plan 28796 MLTO

GENERAL INTENT: To amend by-law 1-2006 to provide cost recovery to the City of Morden General Operating Fund for the infrastructure costs associated with the development of the Pembina Connection as per Municipal Board Order No. E-05-100 & E-06-017

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Nicole Reidle, CMMA City Manager
100-195 Stephen St
Morden MB R6M 1V3
Phone: (204) 822-4434



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

Sudoku Answer

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

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OBITUARY



Ernie Martens

Our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather went to be with his Lord, on January 10, at Boundary Trails Hospital, Winkler, MB at the age of 86.

He was born on February 17, 1937 at Gruenfelt, Saskatchewan to Heinrich and Anna Martens. He spent his early years on the dairy farm near Osler, Saskatchewan. At the age of 18 Dad saw his need for salvation, and he went to Rev. Pauls who explained salvation to him. Then he went home and knelt behind the barn and accepted Jesus as his Saviour and felt God's peace which followed him throughout his life.

He was baptized upon confession of his faith by Rev. John D Friesen on June 5, 1960 at the Westmount Evangelical Church, Saskatoon. He attended Steinbach Bible Institute for three years and spent one year at the M. B. Bible College, in Winnipeg. After

which he went back home to the family farm.

On July 5, 1969 he married Martha Dyck at Morrow Gospel Church in Winnipeg, officiated by Ben W Sawatzky. Timothy joined the family on May 24, 1970 and Jonathan joined on February 9, 1972.

In 1973 they moved to the Aylmer, ON area to help with church planting. In 1976 they moved to Horndean and he worked as a Health Care Aide at the Eden Mental Health Centre for 21 years. He enjoyed his work and retired in 1997. In 1998 they retired from the acreage and moved to Winkler and he cared for the Winkler cemetery for three years.

Throughout his life Dad enjoyed teaching adult Sunday School, serving as Deacon and on various committees. Hobby farming, and caring for trees were some of his side enjoyments. Dad's real passion was studying God's word and theology. After many years of studying at Steinbach Bible College he graduated in 1987 with a Bachelor of Religious Studies majoring in Biblical Studies. His desire and longing was that all would come to know Jesus as their personal Saviour and no one would be missing on that resurrection day. Ernie was hospitalized on November 6, 2023 and passed away peacefully January 10, 2024. He was predeceased by his parents, brother Ruben and sister Elsie. He leaves to mourn: his loving wife, Martha; two sons and their families: Tim and Michelle, Skyler Martens, Meeka and Rob Evans, Jon and Roxanne, Cassandra and Gerry Giesbrecht - Judah, Tayrn, Graham, Ginelle and Nick Temull, Riley and Ainsley Martens - Lincoln, Scarlet, Brendan and Shayla Elias, Larissa and Henry Hildebrand - Eli, Natalie and Dylan Wiebe - Finley, Lainey; one brother Harry and Eva Martens; many nieces and nephews.

We as family would like to thank you for all your prayers and acts of kindness and sharing time with us. May the Lord bless you.

-The family

OBITUARY



Dennis Allan Jones

June 11, 1945 - January 20, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Dennis Jones, age 78, of Miami, MB.

Dennis will be mourned and sadly missed by his wife Susan of 54 years; four children: Carrie (Scott) Jones, Cheryl (Michael) Wright Israel, Chrissy (Scott) Hildebrand, and Allan (Alice) Jones; 11 grandchildren; cousin Warren (Cecile) Clearwater and their families, along with extended family, friends and neighbours.

Dennis was born in Winnipeg on June 11, 1945 and spent most of his childhood in Winnipeg alongside his cousin Warren who he considered a brother. On August 9th, 1969 Dennis married Susan Roy and in 1975 they moved to Carman where they raised their children on the Jones family farm alongside Dennis' parents. In 1999, they moved to Miami and enjoyed spending summers at West Hawk Lake.

Dennis would strike up a conversation with anyone, either to discuss his infamous station wagon, tell a joke or share one of his favourite stories. Dennis was always on the go with a fix-it project, lending a hand in the community, or helping a friend or family member get a job done. In his career, he achieved 35 years of service with CFIA with a dedicated interest in animal welfare. Dennis spent over 10 years as a volunteer firefighter for the Carman/Dufferin Fire Department, and many years involved with 4H as his children went through the horse club.

Dennis was proud of his children's and grandchildren's achievements in their chosen activities, careers and the families they created. He shared his love and appreciation for the outdoors with them through teaching them how to care for animals, sailing, boating, fishing, snowmobiling, quadding, camping and capturing nature through photography. In their retirement years Dennis and Susan also enjoyed their travels together visiting many beaches, lakes and oceans.

As a family, we will forever hold onto the fond memories and life lessons you taught us. You are our husband, dad, grandfather, cousin, uncle and friend forever.

A private celebration of his life will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a fire department association of your choice.

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

OBITUARY



Rena Helen Duerksen (nee Elias)

1942 - 2024

Rena was born to Henry and Helena Elias in November of 1942 and attended school in the Winkler area. Her married life took her to many cities, towns and provinces but her final residence was Winkler, MB with her daughter, Jennifer. She worked in health care for many years and really enjoyed looking after others. Rena's greatest pleasure was cooking, baking and visiting with people. She loved God, family and friends and her faith in God never faltered; she was a prayer warrior. On Monday, January 1, 2024 God called her Home.

She is survived by two sisters, Mary Neufeld and Betty (Abe) Banman; three brothers, Harry (Gwen), George (Kathy) and Ed (Evelyn); her sister-in-law, Julia Elias as well as many nieces and nephews, cousins and special friends, Betty Elias and Elle Peters and others.

Rena was predeceased by her parents; daughter, Jennifer (2017); brother, Pete Elias; infant sister, Shirley Elias; brother-in-law, Jay Neufeld and nephew, Bradley Hildebrand.

A private service was held with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

The family would like to thank the doctors and staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Donations may be made in Rena's memory to the BTHC Foundation designated to Cancer Care.

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



take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

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Here's How It Works:

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

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Garden's artist explores the Manitoba Prairies

By Lori Penner

The gallery at Gardens on Tenth recently welcomed a new artist for the winter season.

Local photographer Timmothy Loewen's work is now on display for all to enjoy.

Loewen, 19, hails from Altona and says his interest in photography took root when he and his family moved out to the country when he was about 12.

"I began to really notice nature at that point. I started taking photos with a cheap point-and-shoot camera and realized I really enjoyed it. About five years ago I brought my first DSLR camera, a Canon SL2 that I'm still using today."

He says one of the things he loves about photography is that it gets him outside and exploring God's wonderful creation. Photos of landscapes and sunsets are definitely his favourite.

"Right now, I enjoy taking photos of winter scenes," he said.

While there are a variety of photographers who inspire him, Loewen has developed his own style and says he is simply learning as he goes.

This is Loewen's first exhibit.

"It's an honour to have my work

featured at the Gardens and I'm really pleased that they invited me to be a part of this. It's pretty cool to have my photos on display, to see them printed and up on a wall for people to enjoy."

He believes that you don't have to travel far to find natural beauty.

"I like taking photos of the local area, so more people can recognize the location and appreciate it even more. My goal is to continue to focus on taking photos mostly in Manitoba for now. You can't beat a Manitoba sunset. My goal is to do more travelling around the province, but also explore places I haven't been yet."

Loewen also loves to capture old barns, which are the main theme of his Gardens on Tenth exhibit, *Through the Seasons*.

"They all have so much character," he says. "They've been standing there for who knows how many years. There probably used to be a yard and a house there, as well, and now there's no house, just this barn."

"It's cool to see them and you wonder what stories they could tell if they could talk. Or when you see a tree standing out in the middle of nowhere, and you wonder how that tree is still there, when there's no other trees in the area. I love to explore the



Timmothy Loewen's photographs are on display at Gardens on Tenth's gallery in Altona until the end of March. Above, right: One of Loewen's favourite old barns north of Rosenfeld.



countryside and imagine what it was like back then."

While he has taken professional portraits, and photos of cars, he says he prefers to stick to landscape photography.

"Right now, that's where my interest lies, but I do like to experiment with different photography techniques."

One of the most important techniques is patience. He waited all summer to get the right shot of his favourite old barn north of Rosenfeld.

"The barn was hidden by a cornfield, and I couldn't get a decent shot of it. After the harvest I decided to go out and try again and I was rewarded with this beautiful scene in front of me."

Loewen's work will be on display at Gardens on Tenth until the end of March. Canvas prints can be purchased at Only Local in the Altona Mall.

Altona's Winter Carnival promises a full day of fun

By Lori Penner

It just wouldn't be winter in Altona without the much-anticipated annual Winter Carnival.

This fun-filled day of outdoor and indoor activities for the whole family is slated for Saturday, Feb. 10, and organizers are expecting another great turnout.

The day kicks off at 8:30 a.m. at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre with a by-donation buffet breakfast in support of the Manitoba Sunflower Festival and Queen Quest.

The fun then moves to the Buffalo Creek Nature Park for the rest of the morning, with Cardboard Toboggan Races at 10:30 a.m., a candy scramble on the ice at 11 a.m., and pond hockey with the members of the W.C. Miller

Aces hockey team from 11 a.m. to noon.

The ice bikes will also be back by popular demand.

The toboggan races are always a big hit, says Altona events coordinator Brittany Winkler.

"It's a fan favourite that's been around for as long as I can remember. People love it. It's such a cool event, and it's so great to see how much work they put into their toboggans," she says, reminding participants that the bottom of their toboggan can't be anything other than cardboard—no tape or other sleds.

Once again, the competition will be divided into three categories: fastest, most creative, and longest distance.

"We had beautiful weather last year, which was definitely in our favour, so

we're hoping for the same thing this year and can get quite a few entrants," says Winkler. "So far there's still a lot of snow on the hill. More snow would be ideal, but people have been using it quite a bit. We're working on it and making sure it's just the right surface for the sleds. The ice is also great for skating, and the field house is open if you need to warm up."

After a morning out in the cold, everyone is invited back to the Millennium Exhibition Centre (MEC) for the afternoon's activities, Winkler says.

This year, Altona Minor Hockey is hosting a fundraising lunch in the canteen, in the lobby at the MEC from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will also be free public skating, including the ice cycles, at the Sunflower Gardens arena from noon to 2 p.m.

Instead of having an afternoon matinee this year, Winkler says they're trying something a little different by presenting an afternoon carnival where kids can enjoy free popcorn and cotton candy, inflatables, balloon animals, face painting and crafts. It begins at 1 p.m.

"I just love seeing the community out and about," says Winkler. "Hopefully the weather cooperates."

She adds that regardless of the weather, the Altona Winter Carnival has always drawn a crowd, even on the coldest days.

"It's become a family tradition, and now we're seeing the next generation showing up with their kids, so that's kind of cool."

The **Voice**

Get in touch with us via e-mail:

Send news items to: news@winklermordenvoice.ca
Advertising inquiries to: ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

Pembina Valley's win streak ends at 13 games

By Ty Dilello

They say all good things come to an end and that sentiment holds true for the MMJHL's Pembina Valley Twisters after their franchise-record 13-game winning streak was ended on Sunday night. The Twisters are staying firm in second place in the MMJHL's standings with a record of 21-9-2.

On Jan. 26, the Twisters had their biggest win of the season when they knocked off the first-place St. James Jr. Canucks in a tight 4-3 battle. Kyle Van Deynze led the charge for Pembina Valley with a pair of goals, while Merek Degraeve and Ryan Orchard had the other Twisters' tallies. Logan Enns stopped 39 shots in net for the win.

"Friday in St. James was as close to a playoff game as you're going to get right now, with a packed house at the St. James Civic Centre, we knew it wasn't going to be easy," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "The boys played another full sixty-minute effort and never got down when things were not going our way. It was a great total team effort."

A few nights later at home on Jan. 28, the Twisters' winning streak was ended in a 4-2 loss to the St. Vital Jr. Victorias. Caelan Russell and Mike Heppner had the goals for Pembina Valley, while Owen LaRocque stopped 21 shots in the Twisters' goal.

"We had a very good run," said Beernaerts. "These boys played extremely well over those stretch of games. We knew eventually there was going to be a night where things wouldn't go our way and we'd come out flat, and against St. Vital was that night. It's a very good reminder that we can still be beat if we let our foot off the gas."

Twisters' sniper Derek Wiebe is currently third in the MMJHL's scoring race with 54 points in 32 games and Degraeve is in seventh with 51 points in 33 games, while Logan Enns is currently third in the goalie rankings as he boasts a 2.99 goals-against average and a .914 save percentage.

The Twisters are back in action with a road game on Feb. 2 (7:30 p.m.) against the first place Charleswood Hawks. The following night (Feb. 3) is the Twisters' CancerCare game at the Morris Multiplex against the Fort Garry/Fort Rouge Twins as the club hopes to raise \$20,000. The puck

drops at 8:00 p.m.

"CancerCare Night is a very special one for players and coaches as it is something that has touched all of us. It is a night we take very seriously and look forward to the daily games, activities and raising money towards a cure."

People can donate directly to the CancerCare Twisters' cause at the link here: https://support.cancercarefdn.mb.ca/site/TR/communityevents/General?team_id=9994&pg=team&fr_id=1913&_

Dale Rempel, the previous owner of Rempel Insurance Brokers, originally inspired the CancerCare Manitoba fundraising event. Dale was an avid sports fan. He loved the game of hockey as a player, Pembina Valley Twisters player, later the team owner, and spectator. CancerCare Manitoba took Dale's case on when he was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2008.

CancerCare Manitoba (CCMB) is the provincial cancer authority responsible for setting strategic priorities and long-term planning for cancer and blood disorders for the province. CCMB provides clinical services to both children and adults. The cancer services the organization provides to Manitobans include prevention, early detection, multidisciplinary cancer treatment, supportive and end-of-life care. CCMB is also responsible for radiation protection throughout the province. In addition, the Research Institute at CCMB investigates all aspects of cancer and blood disorders, including research to improve the patient's experience while at CCMB.

Dale Rempel, Rempel Insurance and the Twister hockey club wanted to recognize the efforts of CancerCare Manitoba by giving back to the organization that provided support to the Rempel family. While Dale passed away in 2012, the fundraiser and beloved sport of hockey continue to team up and raise awareness and support for the cause.

The fundraising activities are now an annual event. Hockey teams in surrounding communities coordinate their games with fundraising activities. The Pembina Valley Twisters of MMJHL, the Red River Wild of CSHL, Red River Mudbugs of HTJHL, Mavericks from Morris High School and the Town of Morris have joined forces to hold a Cancer Care Manitoba Fundraiser.



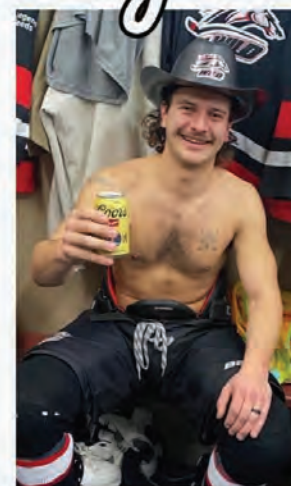
PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

Every player on the Pembina Valley Twisters came out to play against the first-place St. James Jr. Canucks last Friday. Goaltender Logan Enns stopped 39 shots for the 4-3 win.

WILD

Fundraising

\$2000



Jonah Wasylack and Gavin Froese, from the Red River Wild Seniors, have pledged to shave their heads if the team could raise \$2000 in donation in support of The Annual Pembina Valley Twisters Cancer Care Fundraiser.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Gavin Froese and Jonah Wasylack of the Red River Wild Seniors hockey team have pledged to shave their heads for annual Pembina Valley Twisters CancerCare fundraiser if they raise \$2,000. Heading shaving will take place at the Morris Winter Carnival. Donations can be e-transferred to: Mike Gilmore at 204-712-7145.

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