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The *Altona Rhineland* Voice

VOLUME 2 EDITION 5

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 2, 2023

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The South Central Regional Library Altona Branch hosted a Pyjama Party on Jan. 26 in celebration of Family Literacy Night. The evening included snacks and storytime featuring guest readers like École Elmwood School principal Scott Hiebert.

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getinformed

Altona Winter Carnival returns Saturday, Feb. 11

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Altona's Winter Carnival is poised to make a triumphant return this year.

After a virtual go of it last year, the long-running celebration returns with a full slate of in-person activities on Saturday, Feb. 11.

The day kicks off at 8 a.m. at the Altona 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 the Cardboard Toboggan Races at 10:30 p.m., a candy scramble on the ice at 11 a.m., and pond hockey with the members of the W.C. Miller Aces team from 11 a.m. to

noon.

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. It's such a cool event. People put so much work 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.

Also at the park that morning, there will be free hot chocolate and marshmallows, ice cycles to try out, and crokicurl (Winkler noted the crokicurl surface is available all winter long—just call the recreation department to access the rocks).

After a morning out in the cold, everyone is invited back to the Millennium Exhibition Centre for the after-

noon's activities, Winkler says.

A soup and pie lunch runs inside the Pioneer Centre from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person (\$5 for kids 10 and under) with proceeds going to Altona hospital/personal care home projects.

There will be free face painting, a craft corner, and free cotton candy in the MEC lobby from 12:30-2 p.m., free public skating and a photo booth with "Beauty" and "Spider-Guy" in the Sunflower Gardens Arena from 1-2 p.m., and a free showing of *Minions: The Rise of Gru* at 2:30 p.m. in the Pioneer Centre.

This is Winkler's first year organizing the Winter Carnival, after spending her entire life attending it. She's excited to be part of it in this new way.

"I just love seeing the community out and about."



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SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Pond hockey with the high school team (above) and the cardboard toboggan races (right) are two of the many fun events on the schedule for the Altona Winter Carnival next weekend.




I Love to Read

Employee-Owners support literacy in school... February 1 - 28

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Cameron Friesen looking to make jump into federal politics

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Cameron Friesen is stepping down as the Morden-Winkler MLA and throwing his hat in the ring for the nomination to represent the Conservative Party of Canada in Portage-Lisgar.

Friesen, who was also Manitoba's finance minister, gathered supporters in Winkler Friday to announce he had notified Premier Heather Stefanson he would be leaving her cabinet and resigning from his seat in the legislature.

Friesen leaves his provincial job behind in the hopes of stepping into the shoes of Portage-Lisgar MP Candice Bergen, who announced last fall she would not be seeking re-election.

In recent weeks, several other cabinet ministers in Stefanson's government have announced they will not be running in the 2023 Manitoba general election. Friesen acknowledged the timing of his own departure from provincial politics will likely generate questions, but he stressed the opportunity to potentially make the leap to the federal stage is one he can't pass up.

"I want to be clear—I do not feel like I am moving away from something. I feel like I am moving towards something, seizing this opportunity to do a next thing," he said. "I think today's decision is about saying I believe I

have more gas left in the tank. I believe the last eleven-and-a-half years have prepared me well for what's next, and now it will be up to the people of Portage-Lisgar to decide for themselves."

Friesen believes his track record as an MLA coupled with his experience as Bergen's chief of staff prior to his own foray into politics makes him well-suited to represent Portage-Lisgar.

"I embraced the provincial issues because they were near and dear to me. But it's interesting how, after having done that for eleven-and-a-half years, I felt myself prepared for other challenges," he said. "I believe that Canada is in need of change at the federal level, and it needs leaders and servants of the people to show up, put their name on the ballot, and be part of a move to describe a new vision for Canada and who Canadians are.

"I couldn't be more delighted by the leadership that Pierre Poilievre is giving the Conservative Party. That factored into my decision."

Friesen outlined three pillars behind his campaign for the nomination: roots, relationships, and results.

"I think they are three key ingredients for anyone who wants to represent Portage-Lisgar going forward," he said. "I am from Southern Manito-

Continued on page 5

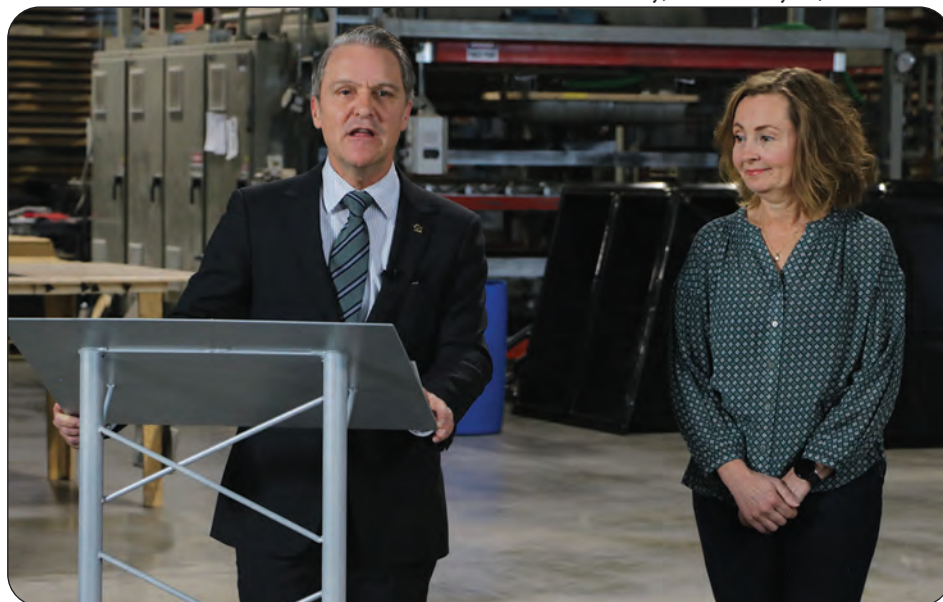


PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
Cameron Friesen, with wife Shelley on hand to show her support, announced last week that he will be leaving his role as Morden-Winkler MLA to try for the Conservative Party of Canada nomination for Portage-Lisgar.



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Local teen creates treaty acknowledgement art for Regional Connections

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A new piece of artwork up on the walls of the offices of Regional Connections Immigrant Services serves not only to beautify the space but also as a colourful reminder of the land on which we all tread.

Last fall, Regional Connections commissioned Winkler Gr. 10 student Taylor Hildebrand to create a treaty acknowledgement poster recognizing the Pembina Valley as being part to Treaty 1 Territory.

Four framed copies of the finished product were unveiled last week, three of them slated to go up in the agency's offices in Winkler, Morden, and Altona while the fourth was gifted to Hildebrand, who also received ceremonial tobacco in thanks for her work.

"We wanted to put up a treaty acknowledgement because there wasn't one and we felt it was important," said Allan Jones, who heads up the Settlement Workers In Schools program. "It's one thing to have the words, but a picture really tells a story.

"So we went looking for a local artist



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Taylor Hildebrand (left) and Settlement Workers in School staffer Aubrey Krahn with the treaty acknowledgement Hildebrand created for display in the Regional Connections offices in Winkler, Morden, and Altona.

who could do it for us ... we're so happy with how it turned out."

Hildebrand is no stranger to Regional Connections—her parents are current and former employees and she herself has been volunteering with

the SWIS program the past few years.

"I really like hanging out here," Hildebrand said, "so I've helped out with some art classes and field trips, especially during the summer and at CultureFest."

When she was invited to put her artistic skills to the task of creating a piece of Indigenous art for the agency, Hildebrand jumped at it.

"I feel really connected to my Indigenous heritage," she said, sharing her family's Métis background. "With my art, it's a great opportunity to connect with that side of my family and that side of my heritage.

"And getting to share that with other people is really awesome."

She spent a few months this fall designing the image and then bringing it to life with pencil crayons, markers, and pastels.

Central to the piece is a bison, representing our province's mascot, decked out in colourful adornments. There are also prairie crocuses, the Northern Lights, a forest of trees, and a several feathers representing Truth and Reconciliation.

"It's important to know the land that you're on and to know the history," Hildebrand said, explaining it fits right in with Regional Connections' celebration of all the cultures who have come to call this area home.



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Major provincial funds coming for regional water, wastewater projects

Morden, Winkler-Stanley and Letellier projects all make the cut

By Lorne Stelmach

A provincial commitment to help meet a significant portion of the increased costs for water and wastewater treatment was welcome news for communities across the Pembina and Red River valleys last week.

Eight municipal projects in rural Manitoba are receiving a piece of up to \$100 million in infrastructure funding, and the local projects include wastewater treatment for the City of Morden, the joint City of Winkler and RM of Stanley project, and the expansion of the Pembina Valley Water Co-op water treatment plant in Letellier.

The finer details of the funding had not been released at press time, but Morden Mayor Brandon Burley understood it to be a commitment of possibly up to \$19 million in matching funds in addition to earlier commitments of support.

The promise of the “top up” funding will go a long way to making these projects a reality, suggested Burley and other local leaders.

“We don’t anticipate that a 100 per cent of that will be utilized,” he said. “We have a fairly good enough right now as far as project cost ... but it’s nice to have the commitment.”

“We view it as a game changer. There was no path forward for our wastewater project before this announcement ... we would not be able to fund the project and stay within our provincially mandated borrowing ceiling,” he noted.

“We’re going to be in a really good place to move forward fairly quickly,” suggested Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens. “It will get [the cost] considerably down already, so this top-up funding now is extremely exciting. It helps get us to a place where we can hopefully finalize something in fairly

short order and then get out and tender it with confidence now that we are going to have at least on the top-up piece 50-50 funding.”

“I’m thrilled that this funding will support such an important project within our communities,” noted Borderland MLA Josh Guenter. “The funding being provided by our government will greatly assist the work being completed to upgrade our water treatment systems. This is an exciting day for the area.”

The investments in rural Manitoba came in addition to a commitment of up to \$40 million towards a \$60 million project with the City of Winnipeg for CentrePort Canada’s Airport Area West regional water and wastewater project.

The total cost of the jointly funded rural municipal water and wastewater projects in rural Manitoba has yet to be confirmed, but it was estimated the nine jointly funded municipal water and wastewater projects including in Winnipeg could be \$259 million, and \$100 million is being invested in eight municipal projects outside Winnipeg.

“We are very happy for the top-up funding that the province has committed to the project,” said RM of Stanley Reeve Ike Friesen, who said everyone was clearly “realizing our costs are definitely higher since the proposals were put out.”

“So I feel quite confident that this will definitely help us to move ahead together with Winkler on this project,” Friesen said. “I think it is moving ahead ... we are reviewing what type of system, that’s being worked on right now, so once that is figured out, then it will probably be able to go out for tenders and can move ahead.”

“When we tendered our original project, it came out so far above what

we could do,” Siemens agreed. “We’ve been in discussions regularly with the province to try to look at changes to the scope of our project and to try to find different ways to make it work.”

“In terms of economic development for Stanley and Winkler, this is hugely exciting. It will definitely help us plan for the future and to move forward confidently,” said Siemens.

“It’s unfortunate the federal government is not in on it as well in terms of the top-up, so it does make it heavier on both the province and the city, but it still is a huge commitment from the province,” added Burley.

There was no way the City of Morden could afford what the impact would be otherwise on utility rates, Burley noted, adding that their aim will be to lessen the burden on taxpayers as much as possible.

“We are looking at a modest increase to utility rates,” he suggested, “but we do have very low utility rates compared to the rest of the province.”

Burley was now anticipating a special meeting on Feb. 7 would see council meet with engineers to examine the project models under consideration for wastewater treatment.

“Our government is eager to work with our municipal partners to invest in critical infrastructure projects that support the growth of our communities and our economy,” said Premier Heather Stefanson in announcing these funds.

“Municipalities and communities across our province are facing inflationary pressures that impact their ability to deliver important projects and services that Manitobans rely and depend on.”

“Our government recognizes that investing in critical infrastructure projects is necessary for the growth of our cities, our communities and our economy,” Stefanson concluded. “Our government is pleased to provide much needed certainty to our municipal partners on strategic infrastructure projects that will benefit their communities now and well into the future.”

“THIS IS AN EXCITING DAY FOR THE AREA.”

> FRIESEN, FROM PG. 4

ba. I live here. We raised our family here.

“And I have relationships throughout the region,” Friesen continued, noting he’s taken the time over the past decade “to get to know my constituents, to work in my roles as finance, justice, and health minister, to meet people in communities and get things done.”

“And finally, results ... we’ve gotten a lot of things done in the last number of years, and I think that

people want to know that a representative in Ottawa has the ability to get things done.”

So far, two other people have formally announced their intention to run for the Tory nomination in the riding: Portage la Prairie’s Branden Leslie and Morden’s Liz Reimer.

Only members of the Conservative Party of Canada can vote on who they want to be their candidate for the riding. A date for the nomination vote has not yet been set.

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Hold on tight

Fragile. Self-centered. Unrealistic. Just some of the criticism leveled at Generation Z.

For those of you not keeping track, Generation Z are the people born between the mid-'90s to early 2010s. They are generally the children of Generation X (my generation).

Between Gen X and Gen Z are the Millennials (aka Gen Y). This group is similar in some ways to Gen X due to their late Boomer parentage but it remains to be seen what their children will be like.

What we do know is that those in Gen Z annoy the heck out of Boomers (those born between 1946-1964) and those who style themselves after the Boomer generation ... hence the criticism you see.

But here's the thing: Gen Z is, in part, a product of the parenting style of Gen X, and this style was influenced by and, in many cases, opposite to the Boomer style they were subjected to.

Growing up Gen X these are the kinds of things we heard from Boomers between a lot of racist and homophobic conversation and jokes:

"Stop crying or I'll give you something to cry about."

"Suck it up buttercup ... your life is so much easier than mine was."

"Awww, you fell down and skinned your knee? When I was your age my friends used to tie me to a pole and throw rocks at me every day."

"Life sucks and is hard. I only had one pair of shoes I had to share with

my 13 brothers for 10 years. Get over it."

"Get a job...you don't have to like it."

"Take what you've been given and be grateful you got something at all."

You get the idea. Boomers were "tough." They didn't like to hear you complain about anything and they really wanted you to know how much harder they had it than you. They were, after all, the children of the Greatest Generation.

As Gen X grew up hearing this we internalized a lot of it and just tried to fly under the radar. As parents however we took a different approach with our kids. We decided that just because we might have had it rough didn't mean our kids were required to suffer as well.

We told our Gen Z kids they were the most valuable things anywhere. We told them never to settle. We told them to seek out happiness. We told them they deserved the best. We told them they could be whatever they wanted to be. We told them they could change the world. We told them to be better than us ... and you know what? They believed us.

Now what we are seeing in Gen Z are people like Greta Thunberg, Zendaya, Mala Yousafzai, David Hogg,

Millie Bobby Brown, Billie Eilish, Amanda Gorman and more.

Loud, strong-willed, unapologetic, powerful individuals who are the tip of the iceberg of a generation that will plow through this world like a force of nature and I, for one, couldn't be prouder watching them.

This is a generation enacting many of the dreams embedded in them by their parents, who never felt empowered to do it themselves. This is a generation who, when screamed at by elders for being ridiculous, simply reply "Okay, Boomer" and move on.

For the generation who told everyone to "shut up, and stop complaining" it is ironic how much Boomers complain about Gen Z and their perceived lack of respect.

In the meantime, Gen Z doesn't really pay much attention to the haters ... they have been looking forward and focused on fighting for climate, building a more equal and diverse society, and refusing to allow people to shout them down and dismiss them.

If what we have seen so far is a sign of things to come then strap yourselves in and hold on tight; Gen Z is going to transform everything.



By Peter Cantelon

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.

Send your letters to us by e-mail at news@winklermordenvoice.ca.

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

getinformed

Two facing drug, weapons charges after fleeing police

By Voice staff

A vehicle pursuit in Morden last week ended with two men in custody for a litany of charges.

Just before midnight on Sunday, Jan. 22, Morden officers observed a vehicle travelling on Thornhill Street at a high rate of speed.

Police activated their emergency lights and siren and observed the suspect vehicle speed up and make a quick turn down a side street, run a stop sign, and then make another quick turn before finally pulling over to the side of the road.

The driver and the front seat passenger were taken into custody.

While searching the vehicle, police observed a firearm in plain view. The search resulted in the seizure of two more firearms, ammunition, and a quantity of methamphetamine.

Both individuals were arrested and

transported to the Morden Police Service. A subsequent investigation revealed that one of the firearms had been stolen from a business in a nearby jurisdiction.

As a result of this investigation, a 24-year-old male resident of Stephenville is facing charges of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, unauthorized possession of a firearm, possession of a weapon obtained by a crime, and possession of methamphetamine.

A 27-year-old male resident of Morden is facing charges of motor vehicle flight from a police officer, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, unauthorized possession of a firearm, possession of a weapon obtained by a crime, and possession of methamphetamine.

Both men are scheduled to appear in Morden Provincial Court in April.



MORDEN POLICE PHOTO

Morden Police found weapons and drugs after pulling over a speeding vehicle last week.

Winkler council okays Valley Fiber communications tower

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler city council has given Valley Fiber the green light to construct a communications tower on its property north of Hwy. 14.

At its Jan. 24 meeting, council unanimously approved the setback variances and conditional use needed for the technology firm to build a 195-foot tower just south of the water treatment plant.

Communication towers over 49.2 feet require a conditional use in Winkler's commercial highway zones. The approved variances, meanwhile, dealt with the minimum setback requirements to the property lines.

Winkler planning department staff advised council they had received no objections to these requests. It was also noted that the tower's "fall area" does not include the nearby water treatment plant or its planned expansion in the unlikely event the tower ever collapses.

The meeting also saw council give first reading to its indemnity rates for the year ahead. Second and third readings will be at the next council meeting.

The rates include an annual indemnity of \$38,692 to the mayor, \$20,747 to the deputy mayor, and \$17,719 to the councillors, in addition to per diem and other rates when representing the community at various events or meetings outside of the regular council/committee meetings.

Finally, council's Community Spotlight presentation that night focused on the Winkler

Community Foundation.

Executive director Myra Peters and board chair Corey Hildebrand thanked the City for all it has done for the foundation over the years.

"Your support is greatly appreciated," said Peters, noting the City has allowed the foundation to have its offices in City Hall and has also been a financial supporter of initiatives such as the Vital Signs project and the Giving Challenge campaign.

Donations to the foundation are never spent, Peters explained. Instead, they are strategically invested to generate interest which is then given back to the community by way of annual grants in support of local charities and projects.

Since its creation in 1994, the foundation has issued over \$2.3 million in grants.

"The Winkler Community Foundation makes it our business to identify our community's needs and respond in ways that allow for Winkler to be the best possible place to dream, build and live," noted Hildebrand.

Looking ahead, the foundation plans to launch its next Vital Signs campaign in 2024.

This survey and subsequent report, previously compiled in 2012 and 2018, provides a snapshot of the successes and challenges facing the community.

"This report measures the health of our community and supports action towards improving collective quality of life," said Peters, noting they're in the process of finding a project manager ahead of the survey's launch next year.

Mayor Henry Siemens lauded the foundation for the work it does in the community.

"I have the opportunity to sit on your board with you and I'm impressed with how engaged and involved and committed a board you have that is there, really, to give in perpetuity," he said. "It's an awesome responsibility and it's good to see a really good group of people there."

Notice of Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act Application

Manitoba Environment, Climate and Parks invites comments on the following application:

MWM ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITED HAZARDOUS WASTE DEPOT- FILE: 5887.00


Municipal Waste Management Limited seeks to build a used oil collection facility within its existing household hazardous waste depot at 456 Jefferson Street, Morden. The depot plans to serve the City of Morden and its surrounding region. The company plans to move all hazardous wastes to a licensed facility for further processing, reuse, or disposal.

Anyone affected by the operation and who wishes to comment on the application should contact Mehak Bajwa, Senior Environmental Engineer, in writing or by email at Mehak.Bajwa@gov.mb.ca no later than March 2, 2023. Further information is available from the Online Public Registry: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/>

Comments submitted in response to this proposal will be posted on the public registry.

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Manitoba 

Ten more locals honoured with jubilee medals

By Lorne Stelmach

Ten area residents were honoured last week for their community service with Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee medals.

Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen presented the awards as part of a Jan. 24 ceremony that included Lieutenant Governor Anita Neville and Premier Heather Stefanson.

The awards mark the 70th anniversary of Her Late Majesty's accession to the Throne, and Friesen cited the 10 constituents for dedicating themselves to the service of their communities.

"It was certainly a surprise and quite an honour," said Ang Braun, who was cited for her role with Genesis House, Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters, and her ongoing work to advance local models for transitional housing units for women and children. "To me, it has felt like a gift actually just being able to be part of this work. To be given this award, it's wonderful.

"It kind of feels like I'm sure there is somebody else who would deserve this more," she added. "It's such a

privilege to be able to work with and walk alongside the women who are having to make some really difficult choices ... and it's such a really great team of people I get to work with every day."

"I think everybody would say that it's a surprise ... it was an honour to be chosen," said Shelly Voth, who was honoured for her work in coordinating the Morden immigration initiative and her contributions to the 500 Stephen Community Centre in Morden. "The people who are gathered for these awards are the types of people who feel really awkward about it.

"It's great teams of people who all deserve awards," she added. "I am on a handful of really good teams, so when I am recognized, I would like those teams to be recognized. Everything I am working on, I have a team of people with me, and they are all just really fabulous people."

"It was a complete surprise and very much appreciated. I wasn't expecting anything like this, but it was quite nice," said Joe Wiwchar, who was recognized for his decades of work with Baseball Manitoba, Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame and Morden minor ball.

"It was nice that there was quite a variety of people selected," he noted. "There are many other people who could receive this honour. There's a lot of people who are unknown heroes.

"I do it just because I love it ... I love being involved in it," he added.

"It's a special honour," said Alvin Thiessen, who was cited for his leadership and vision to build assisted seniors living complexes in Winkler.

"I WASN'T GETTING INVOLVED FOR MYSELF. THESE PROJECTS WERE FOR THE COMMUNITY."



SUPPLIED PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS LITTLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Premier Heather Stefanson, Lieutenant Governor Anita Neville (seated) and Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen presenting the Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee medal to Ang Braun.

"I didn't think it was real when I first saw the invitation ... it was entirely unexpected, but I'm honoured.

"I wasn't getting involved for myself. These projects were for the community and to try to be creative and figure out how to solve some things and meet some needs," he emphasized.

He also noted how he was in esteemed company with the other recipients.

"There were people from various parts of the community who were chosen, and that's good. It's a good way of acknowledging the various gift and talents that we have here."

Others honoured at the ceremony were:

• Bev Wiebe for her role with Central Station Community Centre in

Winkler.

• Sherry Janzen for her role as a leader in elder care and 31 years of service at Salem Home.

• Sharron Wiens for her roles with the Morden Festival of the Arts, Manitoba Arts Network and Manitoba Arts Council.

• Bonnie Gerbrandt for her role as a long-time volunteer in palliative and chemotherapy at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

• Terry Elias for his role as a community builder and philanthropist.

• Dr. Don Klassen for his role as a long-time physician in the community and his leadership on the clinical and preventative services plan master committee to improve the delivery of health care in Manitoba.



Bonnie Gerbrandt (left) and Alvin Thiessen (above) receive their awards. Other locals honoured last week included Shelly Voth, Joe Wiwchar, Bev Wiebe, Sherry Janzen, Sharron Wiens, Terry Elias, and Dr. Don Klassen.

PVWC water rates to climb over next five years

By Lori Penner

Pembina Valley Water Co-op (PVWC) customers can expect their water bills to go up as part of a series of rate changes spread over the next five years.

CEO Greg Archibald says these changes are not what they originally proposed to the Public Utilities Board (PUB).

According to the PVWC's application, rates would increase 6 per cent in both 2023 and 2024, and 5 per cent in 2025, 2026, and 2027.

"We had hoped to maintain a more even increase from year to year, but the greater loan costs from 2023 to 2024 made it impossible," Archibald explains.

"Our request for increases is based on the cost to run the water treatment plants and distribution plants over the five years, and includes things like wages, hydro, gas, and maintenance. We put very little in for capital upgrades this time."

Amortization and interest rates resulting from upgrades, Archibald says, would cause them to operate in the negative in 2024 and 2025.

"In our application, we had said that at the current income level, we could go negative for a couple of years before we came around, just to equalize the numbers."

The PUB disagreed, as it is against provincial policy to allow municipalities, including municipal-owned organizations like the PVWC, to run a deficit. As a result, it came back with a revised scale through 2027. According to the PUB order, rates will go up 4 per cent in 2023, jump 11.8 per cent in 2024, and increase 2.6 per cent, 2.7 per cent and 2.8 per cent in 2025 through 2027.

"We were hoping they'd allow our proposal because it kind of smoothed things out, but in the ruling they said no," Archibald says. "We always have the option if, at any time in the five-year window, our situation changes significantly then we can go back to the Public Utilities Board and put a case in front of them for a different rate."

According to a survey conducted by the PVWC, the average water costs in the area range from 80 cents to \$1 per day, per person.

"If you think of an 11 percent increase, it sounds like a lot. But it's still a very small amount in the big scheme of things," Archibald says.

Archibald says the PVWC is coping with inflation. Chemical costs from 2022 to 2023 went up by almost 23 per cent.

"This is what it costs to maintain the water treatment plants and the water operation. We use a lot of chemicals to



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Pembina Valley Water Co-op (PVWC) will be raising their rates over the next five years to meet the rising cost of maintenance.

treat the water. Hydro has also gone up. Wages have gone up. Maintenance costs went up. And we can't go negative, so unfortunately, we must pass those costs on."

The PVWC supplies potable water to 14 municipalities and four non-municipal customers. At about 9,000 sq. kilometers, it is the largest water distribution system in the province.

Besides drinking water, 30 per cent of the product goes into the ag sector.

"In some cases, in the spring months, 9 per cent of the total potable water used by the nine rural municipalities goes into spraying crops over a three-month period," Archibald shares. About 25 per cent of the water distributed to the municipalities of Morris and Rhineland goes into hog barns. And the canola plant in Altona consumes 15 per cent.

"There's about 60,000 citizens, but that's a bit deceiving when you think of all the cattle, hogs and chickens.

The ag sector is quite huge."

The PVWC now also supplies 35 per cent of Winkler's water and 10 per cent of Morden's.

"We have improved efficiencies to improve our costs, but people need to realize we have to pass costs on because we have no place to raise the money," stresses Archibald. "Our model is a not-for-profit organization. We're supposed to provide service, and that's what we do.

"We understand that times are difficult, with inflation and all these other things going on. I hope the public understands that we're doing our darndest to keep costs down. These increases are not going to make us a profit. They're to run the water treatment plants to be able to continue to provide service. The number sounds big in terms of percentage, but it's still a good value."

Western SD to put newcomer support grant to good use

By Lorne Stelmach

Provincial funding will help Western School Division ramp up its assistance for newcomers in the school system here.

The Intensive Newcomer Support Grant is a provincial initiative introduced last spring as the province was emerging from the pandemic with significant numbers of people settling and adjusting to life in Manitoba.

"It is something we had a significant ask for," said superintendent Stephen Ross. "We had people coming from so many different areas of the world in Morden, and not just the Ukraine."

"We're seeing more needs and more intensity in those needs than we usually have," added assistant superintendent Marianne Fenn. "While we have good plans and supports in place for kids typically, what we've

seen this year is that there is an additional need simply because of the higher numbers."

She sees the initiative as really helping support the needs of many students and staff overall but particularly with the numbers of newcomers in local schools.

What it will mean is further extending some existing resources, including looking for a third home school liaison worker.

"We would love for them to be able to help families in all kinds of circumstances, but a lot of time is being spent working with newcomer families, and maybe some of those other families who have needed ongoing support are seeing less time in support," explained Fenn.

Other ideas include additional technology to help provide translation services as well as additional clinician time such as psychological evalua-

tions to help diagnose learning disabilities.

"It helps teachers by providing recommendations for how to approach learning for a particular student so that they will be able to be more successful," said Fenn.

"We know these are good practices that we are just leveraging up because the current intensity of the need is a little bit higher ... so we're doing the things that we know work for kids. We're just doing them on a larger scale."

STUDENT INPUT

Western administrators also welcome an upcoming student leadership forum set for Feb. 8.

It is an initiative the division has done in the past, though it's been on hold through the pandemic.

"We bring in kids grades 4 to 12 and basically we take them through

a bunch of questions that trustees put together that give us a kid's perspective of what is and isn't working in the school system right now," said Ross. "The board uses that information both for budget planning as well as for their board priorities plan, their strategic direction.

"It is perhaps the best day of the year. Kids tell us what they like and what they think sucks, and we can be in a position to do something about it. It's been really tremendous in the years that we have been able to do it. This will be our first in-person one since the pandemic began."

Trustees will lead the table groups with a mixture of kids from different grades in each group and different topics at each table.

"In the past, questions might have focused around how are schools pre-

Winterfest returns this weekend

By Lorne Stelmach

There has been increased planning involved with the Morden Multicultural Winterfest returning with a new expanded format this year, but organizers also see it as being a benefit.

The annual wintertime celebration

of the community's cultural diversity is back Saturday with a half dozen different pavilion locations around Morden rather than the one location at the Access Event Centre.

"It has been a lot busier than we had expected but in a good way. With the

expansion, everything is six times more because there's six pavilions," said Shelly Voth, immigration co-ordinator for the City of Morden and a lead member of the organizing committee. "It has all been coming together really well. We had a few things to put in place for last minute things.

"Each pavilion now has its own food and its own entertainment and display tables," she said. "But the pavilion managers are taking care of things for their own pavilions, so things are calm and frantic at the same time."

The Winterfest pavilions include Africa at the Kenmor Theatre, Latin America at 500 Stephen Community Centre, Southeast Asia at the Morden Activity Centre, Europe at St. Paul's United Church, South Asia at the Morden Legion, and a Canada pavilion at Lake Minnewasta.

Among the attractions at the Canadian pavilion will be Pow Wow dancer Kelly Chinchilla and Indigenous hoop dancer Rylee Sandburg (weather permitting), a Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre snow dino dig, an ice sculpture workshop through the Pembina Hills Art Council along with crokicurl, broom ball, skating, snowshoes, snowfeet, and a toboggan hill.

"It's kind of like what we used to have outside of the Access Event Centre," noted Voth, "but there's just so much more space to do more things."

Some highlights of the other pavilions include:

- South Asia at Morden Legion - India and Bangladesh: Indian fusion

dance, singing, yoga dance fusion, classical dance, bhangra dance and Hindi classical song; Bengali - English mix song, Bangladeshi dance, solo songs, Bangladeshi classical dance.

- African pavilion at Kenmor Theatre: Liberia - African drumming of Uganda, DJ performance; displays highlighting Algeria, Nigeria, Congo, Kenya.

- Southeast Asia pavilion at Morden Activity Centre: Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines and Taiwan; Philippine bands The Seven Pines, One Hit Combo and The Geebs Youth Band, dance and cultural dance performances and a T'ai Chi demonstration.

- Latin American pavilion at 500 Stephen Community Centre: performances highlighting Mexico, Brazil and Colombia; displays highlighting Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela.

- European pavilion at St. Paul's United Church: Kazakhstan dancing, Ukrainian dance, songs; highlights and presentations from Kazakhstan, Portugal and Ukraine.

The Canadian pavillion activities run from 1-6 p.m., while all other pavilliions are open 1-4 p.m.

Voth is optimistic that this new format will go over well.

"I think even the change of the format is generating some buzz and even just because so many more volunteers are involved, I'm thinking there's going to be more people drawn in because of that."



VOICE FILE PHOTO

You can kick up your heels and enjoy cultural entertainment at si pavilions at the Morden Multicultural Winterfest this Saturday.

Stanley council sets water, sewer project priorities

By Lorne Stelmach

The RM of Stanley has set out a number of water and sewer projects as key priorities in the coming years.

Council recently approved its five-year plan for the Manitoba Water Services Board, and it provides the provincial body with an outlook on what types of projects the municipality might be after funding for in that time frame.

"The area is growing, and we realize that we have to continue to think and plan ahead," said Reeve Ike Friesen.

First on the priority list is a sewer lift station and main in the Morden-Winkler highway corridor to enhance wastewater collection capacity for new development in that area.

"I'm thinking that will be able to go ahead this year," said Friesen, who sees that as a key project along with the water reservoir now under construction near Boundary Trails Health Centre.

"Once we have the okay, then we will follow-up and apply for that

with Manitoba Water Services Board. It's very important to work closely together with them on these major projects."

Other priorities include a reservoir and booster for the area north and west of Morden to enhance the water supply as well as an additional Rein-

feld reservoir and Massey water system pressure chamber upgrades.

Once the municipality wants to move ahead on any of these projects, it will get cost estimates and then seek an agreement with the Manitoba Water Services Board for funding.

Meanwhile, Stanley council also re-

cently approved an increase in their pay for the year ahead.

The 3.5 per cent increase in the indemnities means the reeve is now paid \$19,584 while councillors receive \$13,832.

> WSD, FROM PG. 9

paring you for what you want to do when you are done school. So kids can really tell us here's what I want to do, and I think this is doing a great job of helping me get ready or this isn't," said Ross.

"Sometimes, questions have been what really helps you learn in school, and kids will tell you everything that helps them or the question could be what gets in your way. What are the things preventing you from learning well at school. Almost every year, there's at least one thing if not more that come out of that conversation that the board then adds into their

budget for the next year."

NAME, MASCOT CONTEST

WSD is also looking for input from the community at large when it comes to naming the new K-8 school going up in northwest Morden.

They're looking for both a school name and a mascot. Pitches should include a rationale for the suggestion.

Provincial policy dictates that a school name be tied either to local geography or landmarks unique to a community/area or a person who has made a significant contribution

to the community or to the field of education at the local or provincial levels, a famous historical Canadian who rendered distinguished service in areas related to education, or a person considered an appropriate role model for youth.

The division will be accepting ideas online at www.westernsd.mb.ca until Feb. 10. Paper submission forms are also available at the division office.

The winning selection will be announced at the school's sod-turning ceremony (date to be determined)

Learn the basics of ice sculpting

PHAC hosting workshop this Friday, Saturday at Lake Minnewasta

By Lorne Stelmach

Lake Minnewasta will again be a destination this weekend not only as part of Winterfest but also for a display of the art of ice sculpture.

The City of Morden and Pembina Hills Arts Council are hosting an ice sculpture workshop Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

They were looking for 10 teams of three or four people to participate, with the additional option of a preliminary instructional gathering on Friday evening.

The workshop has been well received and generated some buzz the first two times around, suggested Tye Dandridge-Evancio, programs and outreach co-ordinator for the Pembina Hills Arts Council.

"Last year we had a ton of people come out to check out the ice sculptures and thinking that they might participate next time," he said. "It's been a good time, and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves."

"It can seem a little daunting at first, but once people get the hang of it ... people get very creative with it, and I've really enjoyed seeing that happen."

On Friday, participants will learn the best practices for sharpening their tools and easy techniques for making their first ice sculpture with a preliminary crash course going from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the lake.

Then Saturday will be the day for teams to make their own sculptures with help and guidance from Spudnik Architecture reps.

"It's accessible for all levels of experience," Dandridge-Evancio said. "I think it can be fun for all ages, although obviously parental guidance is advised."

He was confident that the spots would be full by the weekend, and he sees it as being a good fit to tie in with Winterfest.

"We had intended to do that last year, but obviously due to events outside our control, it didn't happen,"



VOICE FILE PHOTO

he said. "It's perfect. It's celebrating culture as well as winter and winter activities, and this is a perfect winter activity ... especially if you've never tried it before, this is a good chance to

give it a shot."

To see if there's still space, head to www.pembinahillsarts.com/events, call 204-822-6026, or e-mail info@pembinahillsarts.com.

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MANITOBA CANADA'S HEART IS CALLING



Morden chamber honours local business leaders

By Lorne Stelmach

Outstanding members of the business community were honoured last Thursday at the annual awards gala of the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce.

Crocus Real Estate was named as the top business with less than seven employees over fellow nominees Sharptooth Adventures and Morden Towing and Repair, while the award for business with seven or more employees went to True North Electric over Giant Tiger and Wiebe's Steel Structures.

Other honours previously announced but presented last week were entrepreneur of the year to Lili Krushel of Bella's Castle and non-profit of the year to the Morden Legion.

"We're honoured to be chosen," said Randy Reimer in representing Crocus Real Estate, which has been in Morden for about seven years now.

"We feel privileged to be in a position to be able to give back to the community ... to showcase our vibrant community," he noted. "It reinforces that our business model is the right approach ... you've got to give back to your area, your town, your causes."

Reimer also spoke highly of the business environment in Morden.

"This is a great area to do business. This area is a power area of the province," he observed.

"It's been really positive for us ... we've always had a good market share here," he continued. "And there's a lot of positive things hap-

pening here overall. It's just a powerhouse of business in this area."

"It's an honour to be recognized along with the other finalists for their contributions and efforts this past year," said Bryan Rutledge, co-owner of True North Electric.

"We recognize this award as a great achievement to the many sacrifices and long hours in now operating successfully for just over ten years," he continued. "But in all honesty, it's our team of staff members that have helped earn our customers trust in making us a reputable electrical contractor."

"I would also like to recognize our loyal customers because without them this doesn't happen," Rutledge added. "We appreciate the support and hope to continue working together with the local community in the years to come."

Krushel noted she's truly honoured to receive this recognition.

"I feel very, very thankful for all the people who helped me along this journey," she said, expressing her gratitude for her employees and especially her family for supporting her in so many ways.

In particular, she thanked not only her husband Chris Krushel but her mother for involving her in every aspect of their family business at an early age.

"Because of her, I know what it means to work hard. I'm very thankful for her to have had confidence in me and telling me to go as far as I can."



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Reps from True North Electric accept the Top Business Award for a company with seven or more employees from the Morden chamber.

Morden Legion vice president Jason Evert offered his thanks for the recognition bestowed on the organization.

"Morden has so many deserving organizations, so we're very fortunate to be receiving this tonight," he said.

Evert also thanked the executive and members for what they contribute to the Legion.

"Without them, their willingness to give their time, service, their support, it allows us to continue to fulfill our mission."

The evening also had dignitaries offer their greetings and remarks in celebration of the Morden business community.

"Business is about risk, and all of you are managing and mitigating those risks, and you are building your businesses, you are building this com-

munity, you are building enterprise," said Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen. "Thank you for all of your efforts to grow this community."

Morden Mayor Brandon Burley cited all of the "people who put this community in front of them and build ... as the mayor of a city like that, it's a tremendous honour to be able to just kind of shovel in the rewards of that growth."

Chamber chairperson Scott Hoepner reflected on how one word that could describe the business community in Morden would be resilient, and he noted how it contributes so greatly to the community and economy.

"We are gathering here not only to celebrate our award winners and nominees but all local business and our collective success."



The Morden Legion (left) received this year's Not-for-Profit Award while Lili Krushel of Bella's Castle went home with Entrepreneur of the Year honours.

Big map teaches big lessons at École Parkside School

By Lori Penner

Most of us are used to seeing maps pinned or taped to a wall, but the one that recently appeared at École Parkside School was big enough to walk on.

The North American floor map covered half of their gym floor, but what made it truly unique was that it has no political borders to identify provinces or territories. Instead, it details the historical land areas of the Indigenous people.

On loan from Canadian National Geographic, the giant map gave students the opportunity to discover and explore the diverse aspects of geography in a unique and interactive way.

Parkside School teacher Courtney Yeo-Thiessen says the map accommodated a number of teaching styles and was easy to integrate for all the Grade 7 and 8 classes at the school.

“There’s a group of teachers at the school who are working together to figure out how we can infuse Indigenous perspectives into our school,” she says. “We thought this would be a great resource. I attended a session at another division that used it, and we thought it would be great to bring it to our school.

“I think it’s important that the students in the school who identify as Indigenous see that their culture is being represented and celebrated.

They’re learning and they’re able to learn from one another. Students who aren’t Indigenous are able to appreciate the culture from the knowledge they get, learning about their history, their stories, and their way of life, and just figuring out how we can do better. How do we work toward reconciliation?”

The map is separated into different parts, to illustrate space, timelines, and culture.

“The only things on the map are the things that are pertinent to the Indigenous people,” says Yeo-Thiessen. “So this includes things like treaties, reserves, and any community within Canada that has a high First Nations, Inuit, or Metis population. There are also language groups. It takes away the provinces and territories and replaces them with all the information you want to see about Indigenous people.”

The outside edge of the map features a timeline with facts, dates, and important events that happened throughout Canada’s history regarding Indigenous people. There is also a kit which explores facts and dates concerning residential schools.

Yeo-Thiessen says every classroom at the school used the map to explore different themes.

“We started with the simple questions like, what do you see? What do you notice? Most of them have never



The map gave students and teachers the chance to discover and explore the diverse aspects of North American geography in a unique and interactive way.



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

This giant map made a visit to École Parkside School in Altona, helping students learn about the Indigenous journey and their own.

seen a map this large and the way it’s laid out. Just the size of it was fascinating, and we could stand on it, walk on it, and explore it.

“We looked at our connection to the land, so there was a little bit of a lesson where they got to discuss the question, what is place? What is land? We shared stories about our own connections to the land. The kids got to go on the map and figure out where on the map they feel most connected. Some shared stories about the places they have been.”

One class explored the “push and pull” factors that encourage the movement of people from place to place.

“We learned about the Beothuk people from Newfoundland and Labrador, and we also discussed some Mennonite history,” says Yeo-Thiessen. “What brought Mennonites to Southern Manitoba, and all the things that encompassed getting here, to the east and west reserves.

“We also learned about reserves. We hear the word reserve, and we automatically connect it to Indigenous people and sometimes, there’s a negative connotation. It was cool for the kids to hear that Mennonites put themselves on reserves because they actually wanted to be separate. And between those two reserves, there are a lot of Métis and Red River settle-

ments, and French communities that separate the two. They learned that Mennonites and Indigenous communities have probably been working together more than we know.”

Initially, she says the students thought the map was tied solely to the past.

“But then they realized they were looking at the current representation of what Canada is and when it comes

to Indigenous people they realize wow, this is actually powerful.”

After utilizing the map for two weeks, Yeo-Thiessen says the school wants to suggest that the division purchase one of their own, to be easily accessible for every school.

“There’s so much that can be done with that map. It’s made of rubberized fabric, so it’s really durable. It’s easy to transport. It arrives all folded up and, along with the resources, fits into a hockey bag.”

Feedback from the students has been great, she adds.

“The whole school found a use for it, and they all had a chance to participate. It was really a whole school venture. All the teachers brought their classes to the gym and used it as a teaching tool. It was such a great visual and such a positive learning experience.”

“IT WAS SUCH A GREAT VISUAL AND SUCH A POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE.”

5 fresh bridalwear trends for 2023

What you wear as you walk down the aisle is one of the most significant decisions for your wedding day. Do you envision yourself in a classic bridal gown, or do traditional styles feel confining to you? To help you express your unique personality on your big day, 2023 has plenty of fresh design trends to inspire you.

1. Something blue

An alternative to classic white, blue is the darling of bridal dress designers for 2023. Look for gowns in shades like periwinkle, ice blue and cornflower.

2. The little white dress

If you have a playful spirit, a darling cocktail dress provides ease of movement so you can kick up your heels. Bridal designers offer an array of white party minidresses embellished with ornate details befitting the classic bridal gown.

3. Bridal pantsuits

Do you want a look that's less fairy princess but doesn't compromise on the drama? Bridal fashion is making huge strides with striking white heirloom separates. These immaculately tailored suit pieces will easily integrate with your post-wedding wardrobe. You may consider adding romantic flourishes like lace, bows or a tulle train.

4. High slits

Picture the classic bridal gown with a flash of femme fatale. An elongating glimpse of the leg can balance the fullness of your dress's silhouette. Wear a delicate strappy sandal to extend your leg line.

5. Conscientious choices

If you want to express your values in your gown choice, look for a brand that uses sustainable fabrics or repurposed antique lace. Some

designers also contribute portions of their earnings to support environmental and social justice efforts.

Visit your local bridal boutique to explore exciting new bridalwear options.



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You both long for open spaces and fresh air? You'll discover intimate and magical places during a romantic trip to the countryside. Whether you prefer the woods, mountain tops, or remote jungles, this kind of honeymoon is for adventurous couples only.

A FIVE-STAR DESTINATION

For a shorter honeymoon, especially one that's close to home, treat yourselves to a few nights in a luxury hotel suite. Elegance, peace, and sensual pleasures are on the schedule; what a great way to start married life.

A MYSTERY DESTINATION

Instead of traditional wedding gifts, you could ask your families or guests to work together in choosing a surprise destination for you and your beloved. Are you brave enough to play along? Just be sure to take your budget into consideration before spinning the globe to pick your dream destination. Have a great honeymoon!

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Friesens Corporation saw record success in 2022

By Lori Penner

Friesens Corporation is looking back on an incredibly successful 2022, breaking records for revenue, profits, and number of employees.

CEO Chad Friesen said all four of their businesses grew last year—trade books, yearbooks, packaging, and publishing services—and there were many factors that contributed to this success.

“Our trade book business, for example, had just a phenomenal year. A lot of that had to do with the demand for books in North America. At the same time, there was also a shortage of book manufacturers. Many of them chose not to send their titles overseas, which created a lot of demand, and Friesens was in a good position to meet it. Having upgraded our facilities and equipment, we had the available capacity. It’s a classic case of increase of demand, while at the same time, a shortage in supply. This ultimately led to the success of our business in 2022.”

In the last five years, Friesens has invested over \$40,000,000 in new equipment, expanded facilities, and new technology.

“We didn’t realize how much those investments would pay off when the demand for books skyrocketed in 2021 and 2022,” Friesen says.

In the coming year, he says they will continue to invest, with a record \$19 million capital budget involving several new presses, including the largest single investment they’ve ever made in a printing press: a new Timson T48 that will arrive in 2024.

“It was fortunate timing that right at the same point we had made all those big investments in the company, it was right at the point where we hit one of the biggest growth streaks in our company’s history.”

At the end of the day, Friesen says the best part of it is that people are buying more books.

“You ultimately have to have customers who are buying and reading more books, and even after all the news of recession and doom and



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Friesens Corporation CEO Chad Friesen says 2022 was a record year of growth for the Altona-based company, and they expect continued success in 2023.

gloom in the forecast, retail book sales are still stronger now than before the pandemic, so overall, I think the industry is in a really good space.”

There were many other achievements last year as well.

The company-wide theme for 2022 was “You Own It” with a focus on celebrating and promoting employee-ownership. In 2022, \$5,000,000 was distributed to employee-owners (a 200 per cent increase from the prior year). The average employee-owner received almost \$10,000 in ownership benefits in 2022. And recently, the company distributed another \$2,250,000 to employee-owners.

“These ownership rewards have helped our employees and their families during a time of high inflation and have ultimately had a trickle-down benefit for the community,” says Friesen.

The 115-year-old company has also added 52 new people to their staff of 650. Thirteen of them were Ukrainian newcomers.

“Immigration nearly ground to a halt in 2020 and 2021, but now we’re welcoming newcomers again,” Friesen says. “We’re also hiring more people on a local level, as well. Getting more applications is a good sign because we are eager to hire.”

Friesen stresses that when the company does well, so does the community.

“Being a major employer in a small community, we have a different relationship than companies in larger urban centers. We see ourselves as community builders and we try to contribute to initiatives that help build supports in Altona and the surrounding area.”

Along those lines, Friesen supported a host of local charities and

organizations in the community last year, including major contributions to the new childcare facility fundraising campaign, the newly renovated Altona YFC Station, and the Altona Library relocation project.

Friesen notes that much of their giving is through their Employee-Directed Giving Program that distributes gifts to numerous local charities.

“We give them about 17 different places to choose from, and each employee owner is given one vote as to where the money should go. It’s a grassroots initiative, and it gives them the opportunity to support local causes.”

This year, the company’s corporate theme is “Embrace Community.” It’s all part of celebrating community, Friesen says.

“We have so many employees who are active within the community, so we want to help them connect with volunteer opportunities. We’re going to make hours available so if somebody wants to give more time than they can, we’re going to give them paid time so they can give back to local charities.”

He says 2023 will be all about building bridges.

“We’re coming through a period where things have been a bit divisive in society in general, and in a small way, we want to do our part to build bridges and get people connected more in the community.”

While inflation reached levels not seen since the 1980s, and with talk of recession in the news, Friesen wants to reassure everyone that the company is financially strong and they feel very good about the future.

“It was inevitable that markets would slow down and over the last several months, retail book sales have slowed in North America (albeit compared to record highs). However, we have plenty of orders already for 2023 and expect to have a very busy year. While we don’t ignore short-term issues, our focus is on building long-term success.”

“WE SEE OURSELVES AS COMMUNITY BUILDERS ...”

Local artist sees her students bloom with every brush stroke

By Lori Penner

No matter what your age or skill level, Cheryl Krahn believes it’s always a good time to pick up a paintbrush. The Altona artist offers acrylic painting classes for children and youth

through the Altona & Area Recreation Dept.

This is a dream come true for Krahn, who began taking classes herself through another local artist years ago when her daughter was a baby. It soon became an emotional and men-

tal outlet for her, finding a little time for herself and discovering that it was something she really enjoyed.

As her own skills improved, she began to see how it was boosting her own confidence.

“I’ve continued painting ever since.

I love the process. It is both relaxing and yet invigorating at the same time. It makes me feel alive.”

Eventually the thought came that maybe she could help others find that

Continued on page 27

Premier announces \$200M 'Carbon Tax Relief Fund'

By Voice staff

Premier Heather Stefanson last week announced a \$200-million Carbon Tax Relief fund aimed at helping Manitobans cope with the negative impacts of rising winter costs, from food to fuel.

"It is getting hard to afford the basic necessities," Stefanson said during a press conference at a Winnipeg Foodfare Jan. 26. "We hear Manitobans when they tell us they can hardly afford to put gas in their cars.

"I've repeatedly called on the prime minister to pause the federally imposed carbon tax to ease some of that financial pressure on Manitobans, and instead the carbon tax has only increased and Manitobans are telling us it hurts the bottom line.

"We've listened, and today we are acting."

Care home visitation rules ease across province

By Voice staff

Visitation for residents of long-term care facilities across Manitoba is expanding as restrictions in place throughout the COVID-19 pandemic continue to loosen in light of high rates of vaccination and reduced severity of illness, Shared Health announced last week.

Effective Jan. 23, individual long-term care facilities began managing visitation according to the capacity and outbreak status of their facility. Previous guidance placed limits in some circumstances on the number of designated caregivers and general visitors that could attend at a time.

Guidance remains in place to limit general visitation during outbreak situations.

Shared Health notes that changes in visitor restrictions are informed by the latest data and advice from experts in infection prevention and control.

Visitors and designated caregivers should continue to screen for signs or symptoms of illness and should stay home if they are unwell. Mask use and hand hygiene requirements as well as physical distancing where masks are not worn remain in place.

There are no changes to visitation for acute care facilities.

To review the latest provincial visitor guidelines head to <https://shared-healthmb.ca/files/expanded-visitation-acute-and-pch.pdf>

Stefanson explained the fund will pay out to all Manitobans, including seniors, singles, and couples with or without children who lived in the province on Dec. 31, 2021, and whose family net income that year was less than \$175,000.

The Carbon Tax Relief Fund will provide \$225 per single person and \$375 per couple (the lower income earner will receive the payment).

"Our initial affordability package focused on helping families with children address back-to-school costs and seniors with fixed or low incomes address inflation-related challenges," Stefanson said, referring to cheques that went out to 145,000 families and 52,000 seniors last year. "Our new

Carbon Tax Relief Fund will broaden access to support almost every Manitoban who has to drive to work, take their kids to activities or go out to buy groceries."

Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index reached a near 40-year high in June 2022 in Manitoba, peaking at 9.4 per cent growth year over year. In December 2022, the rate of growth was eight per cent, the highest among all provinces.

"We are committed to helping Manitobans make ends meet and truly hope this new Carbon Tax Relief Fund will help ease the strain many Manitobans are facing this winter," Stefanson said.

The government's critics took a dim

view of this new fund, coming as it does in an election year.

"Manitobans are smart enough to know when the premier is trying to buy their vote," said NDP finance critic Mark Wasyliv. "Families are in a cost-of-living crisis. They need a real plan to lower their monthly costs so they can get ahead."

Manitoba Liberal Leader Dougald Lamont called the plan a "\$200-million Band-Aid that manages to combine bad policy with dishonest spin about inflation.

"Manitobans need meaningful, long-term, targeted investments. Instead, we're getting money sprayed out of the back of a plane like a crop-duster."

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Things are looking up at Pembina Threshermen's Museum

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year was a good one for the Pembina Threshermen's Museum.

The pioneer heritage museum in the highway corridor between Winkler and Morden saw increased attendance and an improvement in its bottom line post-pandemic.

There are always challenges, of course, whether that be attracting volunteers or keeping up with sig-

nificant maintenance, but the outlook overall was very positive as directors held their annual meeting last week.

"The museum had a very good year in 2022," said president Ike Elias.

"Attendance for our events was very good, and a lot of projects that have been looming for a couple years all got completed ... so we got a lot of work done with lots of support from the public.

"It was more like normal again ...

and possibly, even thanks to the pandemic, people were more ready to come and support us and turn out."

There were no major projects that needed to be tackled in the past year, Elias suggested, aside from the completion of improvements to the 1878 Reimer House as well as some work on the Siemens House, which had been moved to the museum a year earlier from its previous location in Winkler.

"It's been about getting back to business," Elias said. "The projects were mostly just the completion of a lot of small projects."

In the works now for this year is a picnic shelter as well as possibly redoing the exterior of the grain elevator.

"Both of them are fairly significant," Elias suggested. "The elevator is a 60-foot tall building, so we need to get the right people to look after that one.

"The picnic shelter I think will be a very nice addition to the museum," he continued. "At a certain time of day, it can be nice to sit down in the shade and have your pie and ice cream."

Financially, the museum showed a surplus of around \$39,000 last year thanks largely to a boost in revenue to about \$145,000, including an increase in donations from about \$30,000 to \$50,000, which represented 34 per cent of the revenues.

"It's great that our bank balance is a

little healthier now than it was a year ago," said Elias.

As far as priorities for the year ahead, he suggested they will be looking at how they might be able to improve and expand on key events such as the Pioneer Days and Reunion Days.

"We've had different ideas around the board table about adding some stuff. There's been a few suggestions about what we can add, but we haven't sorted it out yet, but we plan on adding at least something to some of our events.

"Otherwise, if we have the one new building coming up and renovation of another building, that's probably enough for one season other than all the minor stuff that comes up as we go along," he said.

Elias concluded with a word of thanks for the volunteers as well

as a word of encouragement for more people to get involved.

"Volunteers are definitely what always makes things happen. We do always seem to be a little bit short of that, so anybody who has an interest in history or want something to do, by all means come out ... there's a lot of different things that can be done around here."

The museum opens for the season in mid-May.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Pembina Threshermen's Museum saw increased attendance in 2022.

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get informed

"She's had the life of Riley"

By Lorne Stelmach

The longer its stay in a shelter like the Pembina Valley Humane Society, the more of a toll it can take on an animal, but there are success stories that show dogs can overcome the challenges.

The organization based in Morden has over the years had a number of dogs who have stayed longer than is ideal before adoption, but one such dog has been living a good life in southern Manitoba.

The border collie Riley was in the shelter for about a year and a half and went through a couple failed adoptions before finding her permanent home with Colleen Barnes-West and her husband Jeff.

They welcomed Riley into their Winnipeg home in the fall of 2015 and have been living in the La Broquerie area for the past five years.

"One look at Riley, I knew she was going to be our dog," Colleen recalled recently. "We've been very happy with her; she has had a happy home ... she's had the life of Riley."

Born sometime in late 2012 or early 2013, Riley's journey first brought her to the humane society through area animal control officers in December 2013.

Sometime after that, she was adopted, but her new home didn't work out due to family health reasons. She then had another family try to adopt her, but she was returned again.

It was through Hull's Haven Border Collie Rescue that Riley first caught the attention of Barnes-West.

"When she had her two adoptions that failed, it must have been really hard on her," said Colleen. The couple were told that Riley was wary of men, but when they went to get her she sat right down beside Jeff.

"She saved a life when she came into Jeff's life. He really truly needed that," Colleen noted. "It was amazing ... I guess with some people, they can tell if they're threatening, and some people, they can sense that they're not ... border collies are an excellent breed for reading people.

"Some are more high energy," she acknowledged. "I think sometimes they maybe take on the characteristics of their owners too ... she's often right here beside me on the floor of the office."

There were challenges, of course, such as Riley being wary of workers wearing fluorescent safety vests as well as people coming on to their property.

"She still doesn't like vehicles, like a white pound vehicle ... she will definitely let you know she is not pleased."

Riley also had a companion dog when she first joined their home, but their other dog unfortunately had to be put down after a month or so, but Riley adjusted.

"Riley's been an only dog since that time, but we live on an acreage so she has the run of the property, and loves it out here. She goes for a walk every morning with my husband ... she's still in perfect health."

Riley no longer holds the record for the longest stay at the PVHS shelter, as that dubious honour belongs now to Jughead, who was in care for about two years before finding a home.

Alesha Unrau, animal care co-ordinator for the humane society, shared someone finally "fell in love with his story and his big goofy face, and it was finally just a perfect fit."

People might become reluctant to adopt just because a dog has been in the shelter for an extended time, she suggested, but Jughead didn't really have any major issues.

"He had a bit of an eccentric personality, which not everyone will always enjoy. He was quite out there with all his mannerisms and his quirks. It kind of just takes a little bit of a different person to like a dog with a little different personality."

Some dogs have been adopted as quickly as two weeks after arrival at the shelter, though the average stay is about 74 days.

"Ideally, being in and out of here within three months would kind of be the average time," Unrau suggested. "Our longest term dog right now is Riggins. He's been in our care for about six months now. He's luckily in foster now."

Unrau noted you can start to see some stress signals with a dog in care, such as diarrhea, circling their kennel, trying to escape, excessive barking, or destroying things.

For dogs who have been in the shelter for a longer stretch, PVHS may look to transfer them to another rescue for a change of scenery. Another



ABOVE PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Alesha Unrau, PVHS animal care co-ordinator, and animal care attendant Kathleen Wiebe, with Jerry, who is available for adoption. Right: Jeff Barnes-West with Riley, who previously held the record for the most time spent at the shelter.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

option is to find a local foster home for them to get a break from the shelter. That's where Riley spent her last few months in PVHS care.

The humane society is looking for more foster homes.

"We're seeing people who have fostered for us in the past have adopted in the past couple of years," Unrau noted. "So we're definitely looking for more experienced people who can handle those dogs who have been sitting and stressed," she said.

"It's definitely a good way to see what you can handle," she suggested. "It's a good way to kind of test out the waters, see what you can handle dog-wise."

For more information, head to www.pvhsociety.ca website.

Meanwhile, Colleen noted they would definitely consider adopting a shelter pooch again.

"We would definitely take on a rescue again another time. It's the reward of knowing whatever life Riley had prior to this ... we don't know

what she experienced ... we just know what we have had with her, and we would do it all again.

"I would very much encourage people, but just know exactly what might be the difficulties that lay ahead ... what are the challenges you may have with this dog, and are those ones you are willing to have for the next 10 to 15 years."

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The Voice

sports & recreation



Bombers best Maroons

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Morden goalie Reed Peters does the splits in order to make the save off the scoring attempt by Altona's Craig Neufeld last week Thursday at the Access Event Centre. The Bombers won it 11-2. The SEMHL regular season comes to a close this weekend.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Bombers sent the Altona Maroons packing in SEMHL action last week.

The Thursday night game in Morden saw the Bombers win it 11-2. Adam Hughesman contributed four of those 11 goals.

Reed Peters made 39 saves in net for the Bombers, while across the ice

Cole Kehler and Brady Klassen split the time in net. Kehler made 35 saves and gave up seven goals while Klassen made 29 saves and let past four.

Morden went on to fall to the second-place Warren Mercs 13-4 a few nights later

Altona fell as well to the Red River Wild Sunday night, this time by a score of 6-1.

The Wild, meanwhile, lost to Notre

Dame 5-4 in a shootout. Mark Friesen made 31 saves in net for Red River as the Hawks outshot the Wild 35-25.

With that, Portage, Warren, and Ste Anne remain in the top three spots in the standings, followed by Morden, Notre Dame, Red River, Ile des Chenes, Winkler, Carman, and Altona in tenth and last place.

The final SEMHL games of the regular season take place this and next

week. Tuesday night sees Red River travel to play in Carman while Morden is in Notre Dame. On Wednesday, Winkler hosts Warren. Thursday has Morden hosting Portage and Altona hosting Ile des Chenes.

On Saturday, Red river hosts Warren and Winkler hosts Carman. Sunday has Altona in Ile des Chenes, Winkler in Warren, and Morden in Portage.

Winkler Flyers win two against Neepawa Titans

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers made short work of the Neepawa Titans to add two more to the win column last week.

Game one Friday night in Winkler saw the home team double up on the visitors 4-2.

Mike Svenson and Zach Nicolas scored in the first to make it 2-1 heading into the middle frame. There,

Trent Penner made it 3-1 before the Titans closed the gap by one with a few minutes left on the clock.

Period three was very nearly a scoreless affair until Trent Sambrook put the final nail in, scoring Winkler's final goal with 1:12 to go.

Malachi Klassen made 28 saves in net as the Flyers outshot the Titans 33-30.

Winkler won the rematch in Neepawa the next night 3-1. Goals this time came courtesy of Nicholas, Svenson, and Jayce Legaarden in the second and third periods. Neepawa managed their lone goal midway through the second.

It was Aidan Comeau between the posts this match. He made 32 saves off 33 shots. His teammates fired 25

the other way.

Winkler remains in third place in the MJHL MGEU East Division standings with a record of 26-10-5-1 for 58 points, trailing Steinbach in first (62 points) and Portage in Terriers (also 62 points).

The team kicks off February with a home game against the Winnipeg Blues this Friday night.

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

Team Jennifer Jones wins Manitoba Scotties

Altona's Mackenzie and Emily Zacharias successfully defend provincial title

By Ty Dilello

St. Vital's Jennifer Jones and her rink of Karlee Burgess, Mackenzie Zacharias, Emily Zacharias, and Lauren Lenentine are headed to the Scotties after winning the Manitoba provincial championship on Sunday afternoon.

In the championship final, Jones and her team capped off a perfect 9-0 week after defeating Abby Ackland's rink 10-5. They will now head to Kamloops, B.C., next month as Team Manitoba for the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

Also with the win, The Zacharias sisters of Altona have now defended their Scotties Manitoba title, as they also won in 2022.

"The girls played as good as I've ever seen them play," said Jones. "They were on fire. They made everything. They made it real easy for me. I couldn't be more proud of them."

It was a close game for the first half of the game until Jones made a hit for two in the fifth end to take a 6-3 lead.

She stole two more in the sixth, and by the time the eighth end was over, the gloves were off to shake hands with Jones winning 10-5.

For the young players on Team Jones, it will certainly help that Jennifer Jones is no stranger to the Scotties as she will be making her 17th appearance at the National Championship. An event she has won six times in the past, with the most recent coming in 2018.

"Bring it on," said Team Jones third Karlee Burgess. "It just makes you more excited. Having Jenn, having the crowd, having our family there, it's going to make it better for all of us. "We're going to win. It's our third time back, so we're going to make some moves."

A big consolation prize for the finalist Team Ackland rink (featuring Marquette's Sara Oliver at second) is that they will still be heading to the Scotties Tournament of Hearts as one of the three Wild Card teams.

"It's always a privilege to be at the



CURLMANITOBA PHOTO

St. Vital's Jennifer Jones and her rink of Karlee Burgess, Mackenzie Zacharias, Emily Zacharias, and Lauren Lenentine are headed to the Scotties after winning the Manitoba provincial championship on Sunday afternoon. Left to right: Jennifer Jones, Karlee Burgess, Mackenzie Zacharias, Emily Zacharias, Lauren Lenentine, and (back row) coach Sheldon Zacharias.

national Scotties," said Team Ackland's fourth shooter Meghan Walter. "To be there for our first time as a new team and all of our first times at the national women's, it would be an honour, still."

Gimli's Kerri Einarson and Kaitlyn Lawes of Winnipeg will also be playing at the Scotties next month as well

to make it a record four Manitoba teams playing in the event.

The Scotties Tournament of Hearts winner in Kamloops (Feb. 12-17) will go on to represent Canada at the World Championships, which will be running from March 18-26 in Sandviken, Sweden.

Mixed week for Pembina Valley Twisters

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters had mixed results this past weekend against teams they are pursuing in the MMJHL standings.

The sixth-place Twisters dropped a 6-2 decision Friday to third-place River East but rebounded for a big 9-2 win Sunday over Fort Garry Fort Rouge.

Pembina Valley was stymied by

Royal Knights netminder Ashton Howarth Friday as the Twisters held a 48-34 edge in shots on goal, but it was River East who connected for five unanswered second period goals.

Riley Goertzen and Kyle VanDenyze on a powerplay scored for the Twisters. Logan Enns stopped 23 of 28 shots before being replaced after two periods, then Matt Grysiuk stopped five of six shots in the third period.

Goertzen then had a big six point game Sunday including a goal and five assists as the Twisters took period leads of 2-0 and 6-1 over the Twins.

Slade Sotheran, Merek Degraeve, and Brett Bergman each scored a pair for Pembina Valley with the other goals coming from Caelan Russell and Derek Wiebe. Enns got the win in net with 31 saves as the Twisters were outshot 33-26.

Pembina Valley sits at 13-11-3-2 for 31 points, which has them four ahead of St. Boniface and just one ahead of Transcona while sitting even with Charleswood, though the Hawks have the edge with one more victory.

Pembina Valley remains at home this weekend as they welcome St. Boniface Friday and then the Raiders Saturday.

Male Hawks make short work of visiting Rangers

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks swept their at-home doubleheader against the Parkland Rangers last weekend.

Both were close games against the 11th-place Rangers, but the third-place Hawks edged Parkland 5-4 Friday evening and then 4-3 Saturday afternoon.

Carter Campbell, Cedrik Robidoux, Sebastian Hicks, and Liam Goertzen all contributed a goal and an assist for the Hawks in game one, while Kam Thomas also connected for Pembina Valley.

The Rangers held a major edge in shots on goal at 45-20, but Raiden LeGall had 41 saves to help backstop the Hawks to the win.

Thomas' power play goal mid-

way through the final frame was the winner Saturday as Pembina Valley trailed 2-0 after one period but had it even at 3-3 after 40 minutes.

Hicks, Adrien McIntosh, and Campbell scored the three unanswered second period goals for the Hawks while Bryson Yaschyshyn made 33 saves with the shots on goal even at 36 apiece.

Pembina Valley maintains their hold

on third place at 25-7-5 for 55 points. They trail Brandon at 62 and the Winnipeg Bruins at 59 points while remaining six ahead of the Winnipeg Wild.

The Hawks will have a good chance to build a winning streak as they have a home-and-home doubleheader with seventh-place Eastman Friday in Morden and Saturday in Beausejour.

Check out the Voice online at www.winklormordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley's Mya Pearce tries to get a shot on Central Plains netminder Elyse Denbow Sunday in Morden. The Hawks got the win 2-1.

Female Hawks earn 2-1 shootout win over Capitals

By Lorne Stelmach

They needed to go to a shootout to get it done, but the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks picked up a win in their lone game of the past week.

The Hawks edged the Central Plains Capitals 2-1 in Morden Sunday afternoon with Leah Pouteau connecting for the shootout winner after the game went scoreless in overtime.

The last-place Capitals opened scoring in the first period and then Mya Pearce connected in the second to tie it up for the Hawks.

The win boosted the Hawks' record to 7-16-1 for 15 points, but they remain stuck in sixth place. They are

four and seven points ahead of Interlake and Central Plains and eight behind Eastman.

Pembina Valley has four regular season games remaining starting with Interlake this Friday in Warren and then against the first-place Ice in Winnipeg Saturday.

The Hawks also had a pair of exhibition games over the weekend against the Pilot Mound Prep team. They came away with 3-2 and 4-2 wins.

Game one saw two goals come in from Jessica Anderson and one from Pearce. Pearce scored again in game two, along with Caitlin Anderson, Gracie Carels and Emma Durand.

Miami's McKerlie is a Manitoba baseball pioneer

By Ty Dilello

Alymer McKerlie was one of the finest catchers to come out of our province. It's even more impressive how he got to be so good at the game, despite only starting to play baseball at the advanced age of 21.

McKerlie was born in Miami on March 11, 1926. He played hockey, amongst other sports growing up, as baseball wasn't readily available in the 1930s.

"It wasn't in the schools, and there wasn't really baseball around, so we played hockey all the time," recalls McKerlie.

McKerlie began baseball at 21 and started as an all-star catcher for the Fort William (now Thunder Bay) Legion squad that won the Northern and Central Ontario titles.

McKerlie signed with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1948 for a whopping \$165 a month, which was good money in those days.

The Cardinals noticed the 5'11" backstop at the St. Louis-Free Press tryout camp. A year later, he attended the big-league clubs training camp in St. Petersburg, Florida.

One of the camp highlights was playing alongside the great Stan Musial, one of the finest ballplayers of all time.

"He was quite a character and a really great player. He was one of the best, that's for sure," remembers McKerlie.

"The first two weeks at training camp, I thought I was at a track meet and not a

baseball camp as all we did was callisthenics and running. Then I got blood poisoning and was in the hospital for two weeks."

A shoulder injury suffered at home plate shortly after he returned meant the end of his camp.

After the Cardinals training camp, McKerlie was to be assigned to Johnson City (Tennessee) Cardinals of the Class D Appalachian League. However, the Miami native decided against a career in pro ball in favour of playing close to home in southern Manitoba.

Back then, MLB teams were reluctant to take Canadian players on their teams for fear of taking jobs away from American players.

"I deserved a better look, but I was a Canadian, and they didn't want anything to do with us in those years. I was only a minor leaguer in their eyes. Another thing was when I had to take out my passport and give them my age when they found out I was 23; they felt I had no years left to get better and make the team."

McKerlie was later offered a chance to manage a Single-A team in Minneapolis but turned it down as he and his wife were expecting their first daughter.

McKerlie returned to Manitoba and began a 40-year career playing and coaching baseball in the Carman area. He played five seasons for the great Carman Cardinals teams



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Circa 1948, George Sisler Jr. of the St. Louis Cardinals looks on as Miami's Alymer McKerlie inks a contract to the big-league club.

of the Mandak League in the late 40s and early 50s. He hit .333 one season and even played a few games against the great Satchel Paige, who played briefly for the Minot Mallards.

"As a pitcher, Satchel had three speeds. Fast, faster and out of sight. He was terrific."

McKerlie was an excellent umpire and hockey referee for 20+ years and was elected to the Manitoba Baseball Association Honour Society in 1987. He was later inducted to the inaugural class of the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2007 he was named to Manitoba's All-Century baseball team.

A relic of the golden age of baseball, McKerlie is still living healthy at 96 years young in Morden.

The **Voice**

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The **Winkler Morden**
Voice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Morden.
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CITY OF MORDEN
2023 FINANCIAL PLAN**

Pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act, Council of the City of Morden invites all ratepayers of the City of Morden to a Public Hearing in respect to the 2023 Financial Plan (Budget) for the City of Morden. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested persons to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan. A presentation of the Financial Plan will be made in Council Chambers at the City of Morden Civic Centre, 100-195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba on **Monday, February 27, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** Copies of the Financial Plan will be made available to the public on February 17, 2023. Additional information and other documents concerning the matter and the procedures to be followed at the hearing will be available for review at the municipal office at this time.

**Reporter/Photographer
Wanted**

Are you a natural born storyteller with an eye for photography and a passion for community news? Carman-Dufferin Standard is currently seeking a full-time reporter and photographer to join its multi award-winning weekly community newspaper.

We are looking for someone who is both motivated and passionate about being the best outlet of interesting and breaking news stories and event coverage in the Carman-Dufferin area and surrounding area communities.

Qualifications:

- A post-secondary degree/diploma in journalism or equivalent experience in a related field
- Strong photography and writing skills with an interest in social media
- Self-starter with the ability to exercise solid news judgement
- Ability to establish professional relationships to consistently source and write a wide range of stories and cover events in a fair, balanced and accurate manner
- Able to work both independently and as a team on a flexible work schedule including both evenings and weekends to meet our weekly editorial deadline
- Experience covering council and school board meetings
- Knowledge of CP Style and about the Interlake and its surrounding communities would be an asset

Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to:

Lana Meier
Email: news@stonewallteulontribune.ca

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PERSONALS

39 year old Christian farmer near Lloydminster, SK looking for a Christian lady who would like marriage, family and farm-life. Please reply with a photo, phone number and info about yourself to: Christian Farmer, Box 39 Stonewall, MB. R0C 2Z0.

NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Rural Municipality of Stanley purchases water from the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative (PVWC) to supply water to portions of the Municipality. The Public Utilities Board approved a rate increase for PVWC for \$0.38/1000 gallons, effective January 1, 2023. This rate increase reflects a "pass through" rate increase of \$0.38/1000 gallons for RM of Stanley consumers.

Public notice is hereby given that the water rate increase will be \$0.38/1000 gallons for the March 31, 2023, quarterly billing in the Rural Municipality of Stanley. That being from the present rate of \$12.98/1000 gallons to \$13.36/1000 gallons.

Chad Harder
Finance & Administration Supervisor

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT



Is now accepting applications for the 2023 swim season:

HEAD LIFEGUARD

Job Description

We are looking for an enthusiastic and responsible individual with great people and leadership skills to oversee lifeguards and instructors.

As head lifeguard you will:

- Create staff schedule
- Co-ordinate staff training schedules
- Teach high-quality swim lesson programs for all ages
- Provide Safety supervision for all swimmers
- Delegate duties to provide a clean and safe swimming environment
- Perform water tests to ensure adequate water quality and will occasionally work with Chlorine and other chemicals related to pool operation.
- Train fellow lifeguards and instructors
- Maintain adequate public relation skills and handle any complaints/ concerns.

Required Qualifications

- 17 years of age or older
- Available evenings & weekends
- Comfortable taking money
- Current National Lifeguard Certification
- Current Standard First Aid with CPR-C Certification
- Current Water Safety Instruction Certification
- Current Lifesaving & First Aid Instructor Certification - Optional
- Available to start in May 2023
- Current Lifesaving and First Aid Instructor Certification - Optional

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To apply, please forward resume and photocopies of documents verifying qualifications no later than **February 24th, 2023** to

Municipality of Pembina

Box 189, 360 PTH 3, Manitou, Manitoba R0G 1G0

Fax: 204-242-2798 Phone: 204-242-2838

E-mail: admin@pembina.ca

Only those being interviewed will be contacted.

CAREERS



MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

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

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible.

Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

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

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

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

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OBITUARY



Elizabeth Duncan (nee Neudorf) 1930 - 2023

It is with a deep sense of sadness and loss that we announce the passing of Elizabeth Duncan. Elizabeth died in her sleep on the morning of Sunday January 22, 2023 at the age of 92.

Known to all as Betty, she was predeceased by her husband of 70 years, Jim (2021). Betty's memory will be cherished by her sons, Thomas, Alex and his wife, Pauline, Michael and his wife, Audrey and Garth and his wife, Tina. Jim and Betty were blessed with eight grandchildren, Kanesa, Andrew, Nikita, Christopher, Derek, Kelsey, Sabina and Hannah and three great-grandchildren, Laola, Ethan and Blake.

Betty was born in the Mennonite community of Rosthern, Saskatchewan on July 15, 1930. She was the second youngest of a large family that included one brother and five sisters. Soon after she was born, the family moved Austin, Manitoba where her parents owned and operated a small general store. When Betty was a teenager, the family moved to Morris, MB and it was here that she graduated from high school. From Morris, Betty moved to Winnipeg to begin what she believed was to be a promising career with the Great West Life Insurance Company. However, in short order, life took a different direction. It was not long before a mutual friend introduced her to her husband to be Jim, and after a courtship of five months, they were married on April 10, 1950. Life in rural Manitoba in the 1950's had its challenges. In her first visit to the farm a few months before they married, Jim picked up Betty at the Thornhill Railway Station and because a snowstorm had blocked the roads, he transported Betty to the farm home six miles distant in a horse drawn sleigh. Betty and Jim raised their four boys in a small country home. The boys fondly remember Betty's cooking and baking skills. From freshly baked bread to donuts and pastries, Betty's cooking was renowned not just with her family but by neighbours and friends. As the boys grew up, Betty began a career as a stenographer for the RCMP. She started part-time and first travelled to Manitou and then later moved to full-time with the Morden RCMP. Her language skills came in handy as she was able to converse in low German to the Mennonite population in the area. In their early thirties, Jim and Betty took up golf, and the rest, as they say, is history. They both developed a passion for the game that stayed with them into their 90's. Betty was Jim's equal in competitiveness and his superior in the short game. What she lacked off the tee, she made up for with her uncanny ability to drain putts from any distance on the greens. After retirement, Jim and Betty loved their winter vacations in the U.S., playing golf in Florida, Arizona and Palm Springs. In addition to their golf vacations, Jim and Betty enjoyed an adventurous and energetic retirement, travelling to many exotic destinations including Egypt, Turkey, Europe and Mexico. Jim and Betty loved to entertain guests in their beautiful home overlooking the Morden Golf Course and enjoyed playing bridge with their friends and neighbours. In their later years they participated in the Morden Senior's Centre bridge club.

By request, a private service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Betty's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

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



Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

COMING EVENTS

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EMPLOYMENT



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SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT



Is now accepting
applications
for the 2023
swim season:

LIFEGUARD/INSTRUCTOR

Job Description

We are looking for enthusiastic and responsible instructors and lifeguards to supervise the safety of swimmers, and provide excellent customer service, high quality learn-to-swim instruction and fun and interactive public swim programming.

As a lifeguard and/ or instructor you will:

- Teach high-quality swim lesson programs for all ages
- Provide safety supervision for all swimmers
- Provide a clean and safe swimming environment
- Perform water tests to ensure adequate water quality and will occasionally work with Chlorine and other chemicals related to pool operations.
- Looking for full time, part time and casual positions

Required Qualifications

- At least 16 years of age
- Evening & Weekend availability
- Current National Lifeguard Certification
- Current Standard First Aid with CPR-C Certification
- Current Water Safety Instructor Certification
- Current Lifesaving and First Aid Instructor Certification - Optional

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Fax: 204-242-2798 Phone: 204-242-2838

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OBITUARY



**Susannah (Susan) Penner
(nee Wiebe)
1923 - 2023**

On Saturday, January 21, 2023 our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother went to her heavenly home at the age of 99 years, 8 months and 18 days.

Mom was born on May 3, 1923 to Jacob and Katharina Wiebe. She grew up in the Rudnerweide School District. She was baptized upon her confession of faith on May 29, 1944 and became a member of the Plum Coulee Bergthaler Church. Together with her closest friend and confidante - her sister, Anne, they shared a life on the farm that was not always easy, but they always had each other. Their mother taught them how to work hard and love what they did. She taught them about gardening, cooking, baking and all the skills needed to run a farm home back in those days. Mum worked as a domestic aide in Winnipeg before she married Dad. She learned how to run a household and in turn how to make her home a welcoming place. Then one day Mom caught the eye of one Henry W. Penner when he came to visit her brothers. He complimented her on her tasty lemon pie and she fell for his blue eyes. Henry travelled by horse and cutter from north of Plum Coulee to Rudnerweide in the frigid winter to see his Susie. It was love! They were married on June 26, 1949. It was a muggy, muddy Sunday, but their smiles told of joyful days ahead. Dad had been homesteading on land he purchased west of Lowe Farm and it was here they built their farm from the ground up. Working long hard hours, they were proud of their farm. Family and friends helped build the house, machine shed and barn and the yard began to take shape. Trees were planted by hand and weeded in the early morning hours. Mum dedicated herself to fulfilling the calling of her servant heart. She was always ready for company and extended her hospitality whenever she could. Her baking was legendary! Mum's dream of becoming a mother came true when first Elva and then Connie were lovingly adopted by her and Dad. Her heart was full! Mum's greatest joy was raising her two girls and working alongside her husband. She was also involved in church activities such as Ladies Group and attended Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church and the Winkler Bergthaler faithfully through the years. They retired to Winkler in 1981 and enjoyed 16 years there before Dad passed away. Mum missed Dad every day he was away from her - and now they're together at last! Mum had an unflinching faith in God and a true servant heart. She spent lots of time praying for her children and grandchildren - our prayer warrior! Mum's family was the most important to her. She was so proud of each one of them. They brought her so much joy - lots of love and laughter was shared. In 2017 Mum had her first fall and her advancing dementia meant she could no longer live on her own at Crocus - a community she loved dearly! She came to live at The Lodge in Morris and although the transition wasn't easy, she learned to love the staff there who looked after her with such compassion and care. They were ALL her angels. For that we are forever grateful.

Mom was predeceased by her husband, Henry and all her siblings and their spouses as well as her in-laws and their spouses.

She is survived by her daughters, Elva (Barry Dyck) and Connie (Murray Dyck); six grandchildren, Jared Dyck (Danielle), Colin Dyck (Cristin Embury), Jasmine Brunet (Cole), Mackenzie Dyck (Darrel Nadeau), Brendon Dyck (Nikki) and Shane Dyck and two great-grandchildren, Warner and Renna Brunet.

Private family service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, January 27, 2023 at the Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler with interment prior at the Plum Coulee Cemetery.

We as a family would to express our heartfelt thanks for the many prayers, acts of love and kindness shown to our family and our Mum.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Susan's memory to the Red River Valley Lodge Personal Care Home Palliative Care, Morris, MB.

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



OBITUARY



**Anne Giesbrecht
(nee Bergman)
1929 - 2023**

Anne Giesbrecht died peacefully of advanced years on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at age of 93 in the Villages wing of Winkler's Buhler Active Living Centre.

She was born October 3, 1929 in Plum Coulee, MB, the first of 18 children to Bernhard (Ben) and Helena Bergman of Bergfeld. She was baptized in the Bergfeld EMMC Church.

Anne was predeceased by her husband, Peter Giesbrecht in 2007; by her parents, Bernhard and Helena Bergman; two brothers, Peter and Ben and one sister, Minnie.

She is survived by her son, Ron and daughter-in-law, Suzanne Giesbrecht of Chilliwack, their children, Benjamin, Alexandria and Paige and Ryan with great-grandchildren, Claire and Kaia; her daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and Albert Penner of Winnipeg their children, Carissa, Lara, and Scott and Kayla with great-grandchildren, Poppy, Corbin and Anola; her son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Elizabeth Giesbrecht of Toronto, their daughter, Laura and Alex with great-grandchildren, Nikolaos and Atticus, as well as 14 remaining siblings and their families.

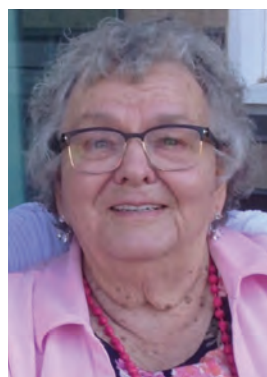
Funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at the Winkler EMMC Church with interment at the Bergfeld Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations are welcome to be made in Anne's memory the EMMC Low German Curriculum Project for children in grades K-8. Cheques can be made to EMMC, with the note "Low German Curriculum Project", Etransfers can be sent to finance@emmc.ca marked "Low German Curriculum Project" (available on the EMMC website). Or, go to emmc.ca/donate and select MEM: Low German Curriculum Project.

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



OBITUARY



**Sarah Isabel Fraser
(Bella Nordquist)
(nee Deamel)
September 26, 1930 -
January 18, 2023**

Our beautiful mom has passed away at 92 years, at Tabor Home Personal Care Home in Morden.

She is survived by her five daughters, Valerie (Vernon Williamson), Nowell (Barry Kunzelman), Dolores, Gloria and Melva (Doug Touchette); 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; step-children Debby (Ken Jorowski), Ray JR. and David; two sisters, Donna (Harold Veldhuis) and Joyce (Ewart Hudson) and brother

Maurice (Linda Deamel).

She was predeceased by first husband Melvin Nordquist of Miami in 1974 and her second husband Raymond Fraser in 2019.

Celebration of Life will be held in the spring.

Donations in her memory to Miami Cemetery, C/O RM of Thompson, Box 190, Miami, MB. R0G 1H0.

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> ART CLASSES, FROM PG. 26

peace and confidence, as well. Having been an educational assistant at a local school, and teaching little ones at DVBS in the summer, she says her heart was always with those children who didn't seem to fit in with the regular crowd. The ones who weren't good at sports and still struggled to find their interests.

"My goal became to provide a space where kids could get together and share their passion for art. A place where they can express themselves, encourage each other, and grow in their confidence and self-esteem, as well."

Krahn began offering acrylic painting classes in September 2022. She says she is grateful to the Altona Recreation Dept. for helping her make this dream a reality.

It was a step outside her comfort zone, but she soon discovered a room filled with eager students, ready to learn a new skill the way she had. The role as teacher came naturally.

She has seen kids blossom through the classes, as they learn new skills and discover that you don't have to have experience to try something

new.

Along with learning about different types of brushes and all the various techniques, the toughest lesson, she says, has more to do with confidence than brush strokes.

"I teach them that it's okay to make mistakes. To be able to take risks and be okay if the result isn't exactly what you thought it would be. Tomorrow is a new day, and you can try again. This is how we learn, improve, and grow."

As an artist and lifetime learner, Krahn says she understands the hesitancy to try something new.

"If you would like to try painting, but are feeling nervous or doubtful about your ability, you are in good company. Being a perfectionist, I still feel like that some days, and I've been painting for over 20 years. I believe that you can do it.

"I would encourage you to join a class where the instructor starts at the beginning, walks you through the process one small step at a time, and takes the time to work one on one with you to learn a technique. I have experienced many moments where my students' jaws will drop, and they



SUPPLIED PHOTO

A group of delighted students enrolled in one of Cheryl Krahn's recent acrylic painting classes.

will exclaim, 'Wow! I never knew I could paint like this!'"

One of her most recent ventures is teaching seniors at the Gardens on Tenth in Altona.

"We all have a lot of fun. It's never too late to learn something new."

Krahn will be teaching two more sessions this year, from Feb. 28 to April 11 for 11-16-year-olds and from March 1 to April 12 for 7-10-year-olds at the Gallery in the Park.

Call the Altona Rec. Dept. to register at 204-324-9005.

Premier announces \$200M 'Carbon Tax Relief Fund'

By Voice staff

Premier Heather Stefanson last week announced a \$200-million Carbon Tax Relief fund aimed at helping Manitobans cope with the negative impacts of rising winter costs, from food to fuel.

"It is getting hard to afford the basic necessities," Stefanson said during a press conference at a Winnipeg Foodfare Jan. 26. "We hear Manitobans when they tell us they can hardly afford to put gas in their cars.

"I've repeatedly called on the prime minister to pause the federally imposed carbon tax to ease some of that financial pressure on Manitobans, and instead the carbon tax has only increased and Manitobans are telling

us it hurts the bottom line.

"We've listened, and today we are acting."

Stefanson explained the fund will pay out to all Manitobans, including seniors, singles, and couples with or without children who lived in the province on Dec. 31, 2021, and whose family net income that year was less than \$175,000.

The Carbon Tax Relief Fund will provide \$225 per single person and \$375 per couple (the lower income earner will receive the payment).

"Our initial affordability package focused on helping families with children address back-to-school costs and seniors with fixed or low incomes address inflation-related challenges," Stefanson said, referring to cheques

that went out to 145,000 families and 52,000 seniors last year. "Our new Carbon Tax Relief Fund will broaden access to support almost every Manitoban who has to drive to work, take their kids to activities or go out to buy groceries."

Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index reached a near 40-year high in June 2022 in Manitoba, peaking at 9.4 per cent growth year over year. In December 2022, the rate of growth was eight per cent, the highest among all provinces.

"We are committed to helping Manitobans make ends meet and truly hope this new Carbon Tax Relief Fund will help ease the strain many Manitobans are facing this winter," Stefanson said.

The government's critics took a dim view of this new fund, coming as it does in an election year.

"Manitobans are smart enough to know when the premier is trying to buy their vote," said NDP finance critic Mark Wasyliv. "Families are in a cost-of-living crisis. They need a real plan to lower their monthly costs so they can get ahead."

Manitoba Liberal Leader Dougald Lamont called the plan a "\$200-million Band-Aid that manages to combine bad policy with dishonest spin about inflation.

"Manitobans need meaningful, long-term, targeted investments. Instead, we're getting money sprayed out of the back of a plane like a crop-duster."

Care home visitation rules ease across province

By Voice staff

Visitation for residents of long-term care facilities across Manitoba is expanding as restrictions in place throughout the COVID-19 pandemic continue to loosen in light of high rates of vaccination and reduced severity of illness, Shared Health announced last week.

Effective Jan. 23, individual long-term care facilities began managing visitation according to the capacity and outbreak status of their facility. Previous guidance placed limits in some circumstances on the number of designated caregivers and general visitors that could attend at a time.

Guidance remains in place to limit general visitation during outbreak

situations.

Shared Health notes that changes in visitor restrictions are informed by the latest data and advice from experts in infection prevention and control.

Visitors and designated caregivers should continue to screen for signs or symptoms of illness and should stay home if they are unwell. Mask use and hand hygiene requirements

as well as physical distancing where masks are not worn remain in place.

There are no changes to visitation for acute care facilities.

To review the latest provincial visitor guidelines head to <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/expanded-visitation-acute-and-pch.pdf>

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Excludes discounted, clearance, outdoor, Sofi™, Sofa Lab™, BELDIVO™, Hot Buy deals and Buyer's Best items.

UP TO 20% OFF⁺

Sectionals & Recliners

Excludes discounted, clearance, outdoor, Sofi™, Sofa Lab™, BELDIVO™, Hot Buy deals and Buyer's Best items.

UP TO 45% OFF⁺

Mattresses & Sets

Excludes discounted, clearance, Nectar, DreamCloud, Tempur-Pedic, Serta iComfort and adjustable sets.

25% OFF⁺

Home Entertainment Furniture

Excludes discounted, clearance, Hot Buy deals and Buyer's Best items.

UP TO 30% OFF⁺

Bedroom & Dining Furniture

Excludes discounted, clearance, outdoor, Hot Buy deals and Buyer's Best items.

20% OFF⁺

Area Rugs

Excludes discounted, clearance and Buyer's Best items.

BUY MORE, SAVE MORE
Get up to an extra

10% OFF⁺

Select Brands of Major Kitchen Appliances

Appliances must be of the same brand.

PLUS
We'll pay the **GST**[§]

on Select Major Appliances

Includes Samsung, LG, Frigidaire Professional, Frigidaire Gallery, Whirlpool, Maytag, KitchenAid, Bosch, Café, GE and GE Profile major appliances. Excludes Inglis, Amana, Galanz, Midea, Hisense, microwaves, freezers, accessories, clearance and commercial or builder products.

10% OFF⁺ Sofa Lab™

Excludes discounted, clearance and Buyer's Best items.

15% OFF⁺ Coffee Tables

when you buy a sofa, sectional or lamp

Excludes discounted, clearance and Buyer's Best items.

UP TO 10% OFF⁺ Accent Chairs

Excludes discounted, clearance, Hot Buy deals and Buyer's Best items.

10% OFF⁺ Home Accents

Excludes discounted, clearance and Buyer's Best items.

Twin, Full, Queen ONE LOW PRICE!

45% OFF⁺

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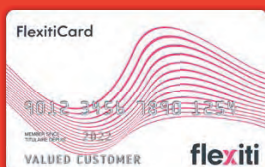
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70"

SAMSUNG

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UN70TU70



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EQUAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS UNTIL 2027* ON FURNITURE & MATTRESSES

TAXES, FEES, AND OTHER CHARGES ARE DUE AT TIME OF PURCHASE.*See reverse for details.