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VOLUME 3 EDITION 6

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Fun at the carnival

From left: Keira Smith, Coleb Smith, Wren Paetkau, and Walker Dea chow down on cotton candy at the Morris Winter Carnival Saturday, which featured a host of fun activities for the entire family. For the full story, see Pg. 9.

PHOTO BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

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Canada

Friesen retires after three decades with ARES

By Lori Penner

One of Altona Rhineland Emergency Services (ARES) longest serving members has hung up his helmet.

Barry Friesen has been a member of the Altona fire department since February 1991. After 33 years, he's moving on to another adventure as assistant municipal emergency coordinator with the Town of Altona and the RM of Rhineland.

Friesen recalls how his firefighting career began when a couple of friends in the department suggested he join.

"It was so much more than I thought it would be. It's not just fighting fires, it's also the training that goes into it, the fire science, why we do the things we do, and when we do them, and how we do it. When that all clicks in you think, 'This is kinda interesting.'"

Climbing the ranks saw him evolve from rookie firefighter to lieutenant, to captain, and ultimately to deputy chief.

"It went to where I took a lead role in the firefighting, and you start to learn more tactics which require more training. Just about half my career here has been as deputy chief. I taught Level 1 firefighting three or four times over my years here. I taught the EMR course to our guys when we used to run the ambulance. And then the regular monthly training on top of that."

Friesen says he's enjoyed his time with the department for a variety of reasons.

"You spend so much time working here, training with all these people. When you do the Level 1, you spend all winter here, from September every week until April. And when they're

"YOU SPEND SO MUCH TIME WORKING HERE, TRAINING WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE."



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona Rhineland Emergency Services Deputy Chief Barry Friesen has hung up his helmet after 33 years with the department.

finished and do their testing, and they feel that pride, that feels amazing as an instructor as well."

Most of the training was in-house, but Friesen says, years ago, Enbridge

would send one member from Altona and Gretna to Sarnia every year for training.

Continued on page 12

Thank you

to all the businesses for their continued support and to the volunteers that made the 2024 Halbstadt Open Bonspiel a great success!



The 2024 Halbstadt Open Bonspiel was held from February 1st to 4th.

We had 16 teams with 4 events.

1st event was won by the Jordan Friesen rink.

2nd event was won by the Jeff Wiebe rink.

3rd event A side Collin Sawatzky rink.

3rd event B side Jake Neustater rink

Despite the warm weather, and with the help of two reefer trailers to help cool the ice, we were able to pull off another successful bonspiel! The support of the people who came out to enjoy the food, curling and good company, and support the club by buying 50/50 and silent auction tickets was overwhelming.

The board of the Halbstadt Co-op Community Centre would like to thank all the Sponsors and volunteers for their tremendous support that continues to make this event possible. An extra special thank you to the 2 reefer semi trailers that were made available to us. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Rosenfeld Winter Carnival

24 February 2024

9:00AM - 10:00AM	Pancake Breakfast Rosenfeld Good Neighbour Centre
10:00AM - NOON	Sleigh Rides Rosenfeld Skating Rink
10:30AM - 1:00PM	Broomball & Curling Rosenfeld Skating Rink
11:30AM - 2:00PM	Hot Dog Lunch Rosenfeld Skating Rink
1:30PM - 3:00PM	Hockey Tournament Rosenfeld Skating Rink
2:00pm - 4:00PM	Frisbee Golf Rosenfeld School

Activities for kids at the Rosenfeld Good Neighbour Centre throughout the day!

RHINELAND Municipality

Morden Physio donates \$5K to track project

By Lorne Stelmach

The fundraising drive for a track and soccer field as part of the École Discovery Trails school project in Morden got another financial boost last week.

Morden Physiotherapy presented a \$5,000 donation last Friday.

"It's a perfect fit for us," said physiotherapist Tim Shantz, noting the centre is celebrating 10 years in the community in 2024. "We were looking for a capital project, a larger scale project in the area that's going to be good for health and wellness and fitness, especially for the youth.

"It's kind of thinking about tomorrow, and we're hoping other businesses will follow suit and make donations as well."

"We're looking forward to having more businesses and organizations coming on board," said Western School Division trustee Darcy Wolfe, who is helping spearhead fundraising efforts.

"Every bit of support we get is super important. We've gotten a good response so far," he said. "We've got a little ways to go yet to finish off the project ... we're well along the way, and we've had really good support."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Representatives from Morden Physiotherapy met with Western School Division reps at the École Discovery Trails construction site last week to present a \$5,000 donation towards the school's track project. So far, about \$800,000 of the \$1 million needed has been raised through community donations and grants.

Wolfe estimated they've raised just over \$800,000 of their \$1 million goal. He feels people are really embracing the project and recognize what it could do for the community.

"We look forward to building a project that the whole community and surrounding area can use, and it will bring a lot of people to Morden."

The addition of the track and soccer field will be a major addition to École Discovery Trails. The K-8 school will open this fall.

The project became possible initially with the City of Morden handing over 2.6 acres of adjacent land that will al-

low the division to include a soccer field and a full-size running track on the school property.

You can support the effort and find more information online at www.discoverytrack.ca or www.gofundme.com/f/discoverytrack.

The Voice

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Crochet-a-thon for Eden a success



By Ashleigh Viveiros

Last week's Warmth in Winter crochet-a-thon at the Winkler Library was a huge success.

Library clerk Linda Funk invited crocheters to drop by that day to spend some time assembling afghans

for patients at the Eden Health Care Centre.

"We had eight completed afghans donated to us and about 465 squares which we've put together or are in the process of putting together," Funk shared afterwards. "We're going to be needing people to help us with it, but



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Volunteers were at the Winkler library last Tuesday to contribute to the Warmth In Winter crochet-a-thon. Left: MaryAnne Plett and Mary Fehr at work creating afghan squares. Above: Library clerk Linda Funk looking over the results of the day's work as well as the hundreds of finished square donations they received.

we've got seven afghans laid out."

Funk notes she wasn't sure what to expect from this event. The library has had yarn and needles available in their reading nook for a few years now, allowing patrons to put together a square or two as time allows. But this is the first time they've held an organized drive like this, and the response was overwhelming.

"We had people who heard about this and thought, you know, I've got that bag of squares in the back of my closet I've been meaning to put together and I'm not, so I may as well donate them to you," Funk said. "So

we had a good number of donations and also some lovely people who showed up and said, okay, what do you need me to do?"

She figured they had about 16 or so people stop by throughout the day.

"We had somebody in our main area crocheting pretty much from start to finish," Funk said. "We are definitely doing this again, and we are going to continue accepting donations of squares and completed afghans.

"And we'll have the yarn basket out so people can drop by and do a square or part of a square any time the library's open."

Police warn residents to beware of Grandparent Scam making the rounds

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Police are warning people to be vigilant in the wake of scammers victimizing several elderly individuals in recent weeks.

Chief Ryan Hunt says three Winkler residents lost significant amounts of money and a fourth was targeted in a grandparent scam in January.

He says the cases are believed to be connected and they also fit the description of a scam reported by RCMP in La Broquiere last month.

In all the cases, the victim receives a call from someone claiming to be their grandchild saying they're in trouble

with police.

They ask for a large sum of money to be released from custody and then arrange for someone to come pick it up at the victim's house.

"That's something new that we haven't really seen before," Hunt notes. "It's a bit of a new twist on the old grandparent scam where often it was all done over the phone and they would ask somebody to transfer money, a wire transfer or whatever the case may be.

"So this is a little more brazen in the fact that these people are willing to

Continued on page 5

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Government announces public schools funding

Local divisions crunching the numbers

By Lorne Stelmach

The announcement of provincial funding levels for education last week now has local school divisions assessing the impact on their budgets.

The Manitoba government is increasing base operating funding for public schools overall by 3.4 per cent, but another key part of the announcement is the NDP government is lifting the restriction on local school taxation.

"They are allowing school divisions to tax again ... it's going to be something the board will need to look at," said Dan Ward, superintendent of Garden Valley School Division. "I think every school division across the province will have to look at, financially, their bottom line, and determine what the needs are, recognizing that any time you look at local taxation, it's balancing the needs of the school division with the cost pressures that everybody in the community is facing."

"I'm not sure that our initial funding is going to allow us to do the things we need to do to grow next year and to open that new school next year without some taxation ... we're waiting for some answers to the questions we have," said Stephen Ross, superintendent of Western School Division.

Border Land School Division reps did not return requests for comment as of press time.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning minister Nello

> GRANDPARENT SCAM, FROM PG. 4

take the risk to come right to the door and get the money."

Hunt says the fraudsters have been very convincing in pretending to be the victim's family member and in claiming to be in desperate need of their help. But he urges people to be skeptical if they find themselves on the receiving end of one of these calls.

"We're putting the message out there and hoping it gets to the elderly, but we're also asking people, if they have elderly parents or friends, to get the message across to them: police officers almost never request money so that somebody can be released from custody.

"So if somebody's phoning and asking you to provide money for them to get out of jail, that should be a red flag immediately."

If you get such a call and are concerned it may be legitimate, Hunt

Altomare trumpeted the provincial increase was higher than the provincial inflation rate as well as the new initiative supporting school divisions in rolling out a universal nutrition program.

"After years of feeling the pinch, schools and kids deserve a government that's ready to fund them at the level they deserve," said Altomare. "Funding will be stable and predictable for divisions while we develop a new funding model for the next fiscal year. For kids, this funding will ensure every student gets the support they need including a universal nutrition program to keep kids fed, healthy and ready for learning."

Garden Valley is receiving \$34.6 million in operating support, a 2.1 per cent increase.

It is a fairly modest increase that works out to an additional \$735,000 for operating support, so it doesn't necessarily go very far, noted Ward.

"We're looking at the numbers and looking at the increase," he said. "We're certainly not in as good a position as some [divisions], but definitely any increase is positive."

"It's definitely going to present some challenges as the board goes into budget deliberations," Ward added, noting inflation has been high and is putting a lot of pressure on a whole range of costs for a growing division that needs to keep up with programming and staffing.

In Western, operating support is increasing by 4.1 per cent to \$17 million.

urges you to hang up and call the family member in question directly to see if they're okay. If you can't reach the family member, call police to see if there's any truth to the claims being made.

Do not use any phone number the scammers have given you, Hunt stresses. Instead, look up the correct number for the police department (and your family member) yourself.

"Any phone number that they give you will just go back to the scammer again," he says. "If they're reporting to be from a police service, look up the phone number for that police service, whether it's online or through other avenues."

If you have elderly family members, Hunt encourages you to discuss this scam with them and ensure they have contact numbers readily available to phone if they need them.

Ross said they are still assessing the numbers and the potential budget implications.

"We've got lots of questions yet because next year, for us, we have, of course, many expenses with the new school coming online," he noted. "We have some questions we have posed to government in regards to funding there."

"Next year is very different for us with many new expenses," said Ross, while acknowledging also "the changes potentially with the ability for boards to tax again."

The division has posted a budget survey on its website for the community to have their input, and the division will also be holding its annual budget expo at Morden Collegiate the evening of Feb. 28.

Other school divisions in the region are also receiving varying levels of provincial support:

- Border Land: 0.7 per cent increase in operating support for \$20.2 million.
- Red River Valley: 0.8 per cent increase in operating support to \$15.7 million.
- Prairie Rose: 1.8 per cent increase in operating support to \$16.7 million.
- Prairie Spirit: 1.3 per cent increase in operating support to \$16.2 million.

Altomare maintained the 3.4 per cent overall operating funding increase addresses growing enrolment and supports classroom needs, and he noted it provides higher levels of funding to divisions with high enrolment growth and divisions with a smaller tax base to enable students across the province to receive the supports they need.

As announced earlier, the province is also investing \$30 million to deliver a universal nutrition program in schools and another \$3 million to lower early-years class sizes.

According to the province, the 2024-25 funding of schools is an overall increase of \$104.2 million that includes:

- \$51.5 million in operating costs for public schools;
- \$3 million toward smaller class sizes;
- \$27.5 million for nutrition programming, which builds on the 2023-24 current funding for a total of \$30 million;
- \$11.3 million for capital support, which includes principal and interest costs related to building schools; and
- \$10.9 million to independent schools as per their funding agreement.

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



PTM reports on a solid year, puts call out for volunteers

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year was one that saw the Pembina Threshermen's Museum get a couple more larger projects done and attract good attendance for its feature events.

Challenges also remained, though, including getting enough volunteers to make it all happen at the pioneer heritage museum in the Morden-Winkler highway corridor.

"We need to get new people," president Ike Elias said after the museum's recent annual meeting. "We have to keep getting other people involved to try and keep things going here.

"We especially need to connect with the younger generation," he added. "Almost all of the core volunteers are older. There's very few younger ones."

Elias felt there were a few highlights from the past year, including having good attendance at some of their events, including the Reunion Days and Heritage Days festivities.

"Our Heritage Days went well, despite the fact that we were somewhat short of volunteers," he said, noting their summer staff were restricted as far as how much time they could put into it. "That put a little bit too much on the rest of us as volunteers to get a hundred per cent of everything covered."

It always becomes a challenge when they rely so much on volunteers, reflected Elias, who noted he had that in mind in planning for the annual meeting.

"I put out a bit of a challenge to the rest of the board to all bring at least one friend who would be a potential volunteer. I think it was successful



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Pembina Threshermen's Museum is looking for volunteers to make events like Reunion Days and Heritage Days a success this summer.

because it was better attended than normal."

The museum completed three major projects this past year.

"The exterior of the seed plant elevator was redone from the outside. That was the big one," said Elias. "The building is 60 feet tall, so it takes the right group of people to do that job.

"We also built a picnic shelter, and we actually got both of those projects done before the museum opened up for the season, so it was nice that they were done early," he said, noting they also finished off the parking lot with more gravel.

"We had those three major projects, and we spent a fair bit of money," he said, explaining it contributed to

what ended up being a minor deficit for the year. "We fared alright ... we were short of where we were one year ago in terms of cash on hand, but we were ahead of where we were two years ago."

Looking ahead, Elias shared there isn't as much in the plans for this summer season, but he sees that as a good thing for the museum.

"There's only a couple of smaller projects in mind, but our planning meeting hasn't happened yet," he said. "This year's projects would be more catch-up on the smaller items like fixing up the storage sheds ... we did a few major ones last year, and the little ones sort of get left behind, so it's catch-up time."

MFNPS investigating Roseau River death

By Voice staff

The Manitoba First Nations Police Service is investigating a death that occurred in Roseau River over the weekend.

Sunday morning at approximately 8:30 a.m., Roseau River officers re-

ceived a report of a male lying on the ground in a backyard in the community.

Emergency crews responded and a 39-year-old man was transported to De Salaberry District Hospital in St. Pierre-Jolys, where he was pronounced deceased.

The cause of death remains under investigation as police await autopsy results.

Anyone with any information in regards to this investigation is asked to call the MFNPS Roseau River Detachment at 204-427-3383 or the tip line at 1-833-978-0048 or Tips@mfnp.ca

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Ice sculptures on display at Lake Minnewasta this weekend

By Lorne Stelmach

The art of ice sculpture will be on display this weekend at Lake Minnewasta.

The annual workshop of the Pembina Hills Arts Council has been well received in its first three years, and organizers anticipate that will be the case again this Saturday.

"I think it's going to continue to build, and I think with the connection to Winterfest the same day, that's how we're getting people to register," said director Lisa Isakov. "We've had a lot of people interested ... we're very excited about it."

The workshop is overseen by Peter Hargreaves from Sputnik Architecture in Winnipeg along with local volunteers Earl Dyck and James Friesen.

It brings together 10 registered teams of two or more people to participate.

"Early in the morning the day before, we're going to be harvesting the ice," noted Isakov. "On the 10th, when people come in, they will be in-

structing everyone on how to use all of the chisels and all of the equipment that's involved."

She noted there are some participants who have come back year after year to further hone their skills.

"It's a lot of people who have done it before and they have enjoyed it, so maybe they're bringing a friend or their family," she said. "I think it's very much a family friendly event for the community."

"IT'S QUITE INCREDIBLE WHAT THEY ARE ABLE TO DO."

Isakov noted the workshop has also received good support from the community to help make it happen.

"There's been a lot of people in the community who have been offering free services to support it," she said. "I find that really inspiring.

It's fun to see that support."

People are invited to stop by throughout the day to see the sculptures taking shape out.

"It's quite incredible what they are able to do," Isakov says. "They really have an idea when they come in ... they've thought about this, and they know what they would like to be doing with it."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Pembina Hills Arts Council is hosting an ice sculpture workshop at Lake Minnewasta this Saturday. Ten teams have signed up to take part, and their work will be on display through the weekend.

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Ten facing charges in regional drug investigation

By Voice staff

Ten people are facing a litany of charges in the wake of a joint drug investigation between the Altona, Morden, and Winkler police departments.

Project Hat Trick took place between Nov. 1 and Dec. 23 and resulted in arrests in all three communities and the seizure of illicit drugs, weapons, and drug trafficking paraphernalia.

Three drug search warrants were first executed in Morden and Winkler on Dec. 15 by members of the Regional Support Tactical Team, local K-9 units, and general patrol officers.

Nine people were arrested and cocaine, methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, and weapons.

Then, on Dec. 23, an additional search warrant was executed in Altona which saw three people arrested and meth, drug parapher-

nal, and proceeds of crime seized.

As a result of this joint investigation, police were able to seize 44 grams of meth, cocaine, and pills; five firearms, one being a sawed-off rifle; a stun gun, bear spray, and a collapsible baton; and drug paraphernalia, including scales, safe, and packaging.

"The results of this Joint Force Operation would not have been possible without the partnerships between these three police services along with the support of Manitoba Justice and the Manitoba Criminal Intelligence Centre," the three departments said in a statement. "This is an example of what can be achieved through regional policing collaborations."

Grab a mug

What better way to enjoy National Hot Chocolate Day by not only sampling some but also creating your own special mug for it? Pembina Hills Arts Council and Clay Owl Studio & Boutique hosted a mug painting workshop last Wednesday, welcoming about a dozen participants.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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getinformed

Lack of snow makes for a modified Winter Carnival in Morris

By Sean Conway

Unseasonably mild weather across Southern Manitoba forced the Town of Morris organizing committee to find other activities to replace the traditional ones at their Winter Carnival last Saturday.

"The outdoor toboggan hill is too soft and there are spots of pavement showing through the surface on the outdoor rink," said facilities manager Arien Peterson.

And so, snow cones replaced snow hills and indoor public skating replaced outdoor shinny and broomball for the day.

"I set up a snow cone machine in the hall with the cotton candy," said Peterson. "Mother Nature wasn't letting us keep the snow for our hill so I figured we make our own and we can eat it too.

"We moved the firepit to the front of the Multiplex," he added, "away from all the snow melt and closer to other activities going on inside the multiplex."

Firefighters from the Morris Fire Department stoked the fires in the bonfire boxes, and Chief Trevor Thiessen, in his turnout gear, barbecued hot dogs for the public.

As carnival-goers stepped into the Morris Multiplex entrance hall, a wall of prizes greeted them. Local businesses and community leaders donat-

ed to create a Winter Carnival silent auction prize package. An auction for an autographed Bobby Hull hockey stick and other sport memorabilia was also part of the event.

The Morris Curling Club opened their ice to the public. Visitors with clean shoes could throw a few rocks or play all the ends for a full game.

The halls of the multiplex whined with the sound of blower motors keeping the bouncy castles inflated. The stage was open and music played for kids and adults to dance and show off their moves.

The Winter Carnival activities were complemented by the Pembina Valley Twisters' annual CancerCare Manitoba fundraiser, which also saw participation from the Morris Mavericks and Red River Wild teams (see story on Pg. 19).

Throughout carnival venues and activities, organizers placed bright silver donation cans to collect funds for CancerCare.

Sun Valley Co-op was also on hand all day to supply hot chocolate and cookies.

"I love coming to Morris to support their events," noted Co-op spokesperson Vickie Friesen. "There is always a great turnout. The community seems to just come together."

Late afternoon, when the Winter Carnival was winding down and the

"IT WAS A GREAT TURNOUT DESPITE ALL THE OBSTACLES."



PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Morris Bigway's Pat Schmitke got dunked in support of CancerCare Manitoba at the Morris Winter Carnival Saturday.

Morris Mavericks high school hockey game was concluding, the dunk tank arrived.

Mavericks coach Seth Cory and Morris Bigway owner Pat Schmitke agreed to be dropped into the frigid water to raise money for CancerCare.

The event was at risk of being cancelled when the tank arrived late with a hole in the side after it fell off the truck during transport, but a bit of duct tape saved the day.

Instead of throwing balls to hit a target, an auction was held to sell the opportunity to pull the handle that plunges the swimmer into the tank.

Schmitke posted a bounty that had to be raised or he was staying out of water. In less than three minutes that bounty was passed and he agreed to meet his fate.

The Winter Carnival activities ended in the afternoon, but the CancerCare fundraiser continued into the evening.

As organizers were closing up shop around eleven, Peterson commented, "It went really well. We smashed our fundraising goal."

"It was a great turnout despite all the obstacles. We are looking forward to the challenge again next year."



Left: The Morris Curling Club opened its ice to the public to try their hand at the sport. Above: The fire department manned the bonfires outside and served up barbecued hot dogs.

ARES reflects on a busy year, expects the same in 2024

By Lori Penner

After a busy 2023, Altona Rhineland Emergency Services (ARES) is anticipating that 2024 won't be much different.

Chief Greg Zimmerman says last year saw a high number of calls for the department.

"We had 85 calls, which was consistent with the year before, but still higher than normal for Altona. The numbers did fluctuate in terms of the type of calls. In 2022, we had 16 motor vehicle incidents. Last year we attended 32, so it was more than double. In 2022, we attended 11 fires, and last year we only attended three accidents. A lot of this could depend on weather and road conditions."

Other incidents in 2023 were more consistent, with 22 fire alarms, and eight mutual aid calls.

While there were no major equipment acquisitions in 2023, Zimmerman says they have noticed that the compressed air foam truck acquired two years ago continues to make a big difference in their call responses.

"We are showing up on site with the fire apparatus now, five to six minutes quicker than we used to. That's great for the RM, because they're further out, and time is our enemy. Quite often, as I'm going for the call, I leave

right from my house, I can see that truck down the road behind me with the lights flashing.

"When it gets there, we basically have four people on scene, with the fire truck they can use. That fire truck has a hose, it's got foam and water, and ladders and axes. We can initiate the firefighting to begin with, and that truck is designed to really fight the fires from the outside, so that makes it even better with a short staff. It's made a big difference."

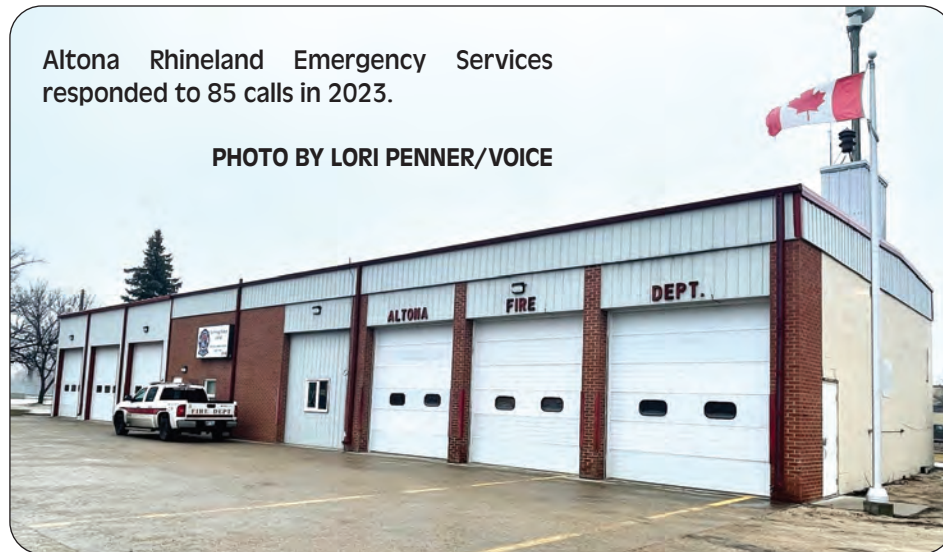
During his seven years at the helm of the department, Zimmerman says they've added a bigger tanker, ladder truck, foam truck and new air packs, and a bunch of other smaller equipment to their arsenal.

"Now we're just transitioning to a better foam delivery system, so we can fight fires at Enbridge and any other ag centres if need be," he says. "The Enbridge contractor can be down here in 15 hours to fight a fire. We can be set up to fight the fire in two or three. That's a big difference. We want to make sure we can handle it, which means adding a bit of equipment for the foam, and more training for the crews. I think it will lead to a good partnership with Enbridge."

Zimmerman says their fire rating has improved with the extra training required by its members.

Altona Rhineland Emergency Services responded to 85 calls in 2023.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE



"We've moved from a seven to a six in the commercial/industrial side. In Manitoba, there are only five fire departments that are at Level 6, so that's impressive. It was all part of purchasing the equipment to deal with the hazards we had, but also to improve our insurance ratings, to make insurance cheaper for everybody."

He says training standards have become tougher over the last few years.

"We're working really hard to obtain them. We need to go to Level 2 now. That will come after our Level 1 is done. Between all my officers, we've been doing all the required training to meet the officer standard."

The department currently has 28 members.

"We've been able to hold around 30 pretty good. We used to be restricted to 30, but council has now raised the number to 35," says Zimmerman. "That way I can bring in the cadets. Usually when we bring in the stu-

dents, about 50 per cent of them stay. It's a good recruiting tool, and we'll probably get back to that."

Looking ahead, Zimmerman says 2024 will be an exciting year.

"Unfortunately, I've had senior members Barry Friesen and James Stoesz leave, so we are losing a lot of knowledge there. But I was able to re-adjust my officer group as the vacancies occurred. I had members that just naturally progressed into those new positions. Now I've got one deputy, two captains, and three lieutenants, which is more officers than I had before."

"I've got a good team. The members of the department are really motivated and a lot of young people are just super gung ho. It's looking to be a good year. I'm happy they're doing their training and will be firefighters here pretty quick. Instead of standing on the sidelines, they'll be participating. They're ready for it."

Altona PD, FD taking part in Push-Up Challenge

Participants do 2,000 push-ups and raise funds for mental health

By Lori Penner

The Altona Police Service (APS) is challenging members of the community to participate in a fun and healthy way to support a worthy cause.

The Push-Up Challenge is a unique way to get fit, have fun, and learn about mental health while raising funds.

Constable Tristan Fournier-Jones says he'd been looking for an interesting fundraiser for the department for a while when the Push-Up Challenge showed up on his Facebook page.

"It really looked doable and fun. I thought this is a great way to get the community involved and talking about the subject of mental health and bring awareness. It also supports the

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) So I talked to everybody here about it, and they were all on board."

Participants are challenged to do 2,000 push-ups from Feb. 1-23. The number represents the 20 per cent of Canadians who experience a mental illness each year.

Each day of the challenge, participants receive a daily target with a corresponding mental health fact so they can learn while they push for better mental health.

Fournier-Jones says if you can't do push-ups, you can substitute them with alternative exercises, or aim for a smaller portion of the target if the full target is too challenging.

"Everybody is at a different fitness

level or strength. We want this to be fun and safe for everybody."

Funds raised support people living with mental illness, as well as preventing ill-health and promoting mental health and resilience for all Canadians.

"Fundraising is an optional part of this, but I would encourage it because it goes to a really important cause," says Fournier-Jones.

Team APS began with only police officers, but the Town of Altona employees have also hopped on board. Now other community members have joined the team as well.

"The team just keeps on getting bigger, which is amazing," says Fournier-Jones. "The Altona Fire Department

now has a team going as well, Team ARES, so there's a bit of friendly rivalry there too. Anyone can donate to wherever you choose, and it all goes to a great cause."

APS members initially set a goal for \$500, which was reached in less than 24 hours. As of Monday, they'd raised \$790.

The website also keeps a tab of national numbers, and as of earlier this week, \$1,350,494 had been raised for CMHA, with 4,866,147 push-ups logged across Canada.

You can get involved by signing up to take part or by making a donation at thepushupchallenge.ca

"We want to thank everyone who has supported our push up challenge so far," says Fournier-Jones.

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

getinformed

Community meal puts call out for volunteers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Community Exchange in Altona is looking for more volunteers for its monthly Community Meal program.

Everyone is invited to TCE's space at 116 Main St. the last Saturday of every month to enjoy an evening of food and fellowship.

Since getting started in fall of 2022, the program has grown to serve over 150 people each month.

"It's grown from maybe a bit over 100 people the first couple of times. I think word has gotten out in the community," says Mark Thiessen-Dyck, a TCE board member and pastor at the Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, which started up the program. "It's such a diverse group, one that's more representative of the population of our town than most other events or gatherings that I go to."

Thiessen-Dyck says they drew inspiration from the monthly community meal, Café 545, at Central Station in Winkler.

"When I went there and I saw how diverse a group of people came and the connections that happened there ... I just thought this would be a really great thing for Altona, and lots of people in our church and beyond agreed."

Making it free ensures there's no barrier to an individual or family coming out to enjoy the evening, he adds.

"Our hope was that it would bring people together in the community who don't normally connect. It could build connections, relationships, contribute to a healthier, more peaceful, more connect community."

The meal has been such a success that organizers hope to expand it to twice a month later this year.

To do that, though, they need a bit more help by way of sponsorships and volunteers.

"Right now we're working at building capacity, getting more volunteers involved, reaching out to other churches, community groups, and businesses to see if they're willing to help out," Thiessen Dyck says.

It takes a team of about 10 people to help with set up, serving, and clean up. Ideally, they'd like to have a different group on hand every month so as to not burn volunteers out.

"If you're a group of friends, if you're a church small group or a business and you and your colleagues want to get together and give back to the community" then they want to hear from you, Thiessen-Dyck says, encouraging potential volunteers to reach out to him at 204-324-6717 or marktd@abchurch.ca

The call for volunteers has already gained some traction, with Access Credit Union sending a team out for the January meal, Altona town council on tap for February, and Golden West Broadcasting scheduled to help in March.

"We're very grateful that it's been embraced and supported," Thiessen-Dyck says.

Thiessen-Dyck notes they're also looking for another cook or two to relieve the current chef in the kitchen some months.

"One of our biggest needs is a cook—somebody, or a couple people, who could take leadership in cooking the food."

Upcoming TCE community meals take place Feb. 24, March 23, and April 27.

Supper is served from 5-6:30 p.m.



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160'acres (1/4) land auction for Marc and Michelle Robidoux, land is in the RM of De Salaberry MB, SW quarter 32 -4-5E, selling on timed online auction with Grunthal auction service opening Feb 29 and closing March 7 /2024, Marc and Michelle are continuing to

dairy farm like they have for several decades and have decided to liquidate this property by public auction. Terms and conditions of this sale. Contacts for registering at our office will be Barb, Debbie or Becky at home office 204-434-6519.

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is online only. All items must be removed by March 15/2024, any items remaining after March 15 /2024 become the property of the new owners. Grunthal Auction Service thanks Brad and Doug for the privilege of selling there machinery and thanks all the bidders for taking part in the sale.

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Toadstool Ceramics is open for business

By Sean Conway

Out back of their family's home in Morris, the Crick sisters Elisabeth and Grace have converted a single-car garage into a commercial ceramics enterprise called Toadstool Ceramics.

The duo can or will do anything in ceramics.

"Come to our studio to paint your own stuff, learn how to make your own ceramics or tell us what you are looking to do in ceramics and we will can tailor to your needs," says Elisabeth, the older sibling. "The business is our hobby gone wild.

Grace started learning ceramics in high school. She furthered that study in university and began teaching her sister the skills at home.

"Once Grace got her first wheel and kiln, we taught classes," says Elisabeth. "It can be an expensive hobby, so we decided why not make it a business?"

The business venture started last November.

"Our ceramics are vintage that looks freshly made. We found someone up north selling original slip [casting] molds from the 1970," explains Grace. "We purchased them and started making the scouring pad frog holders grandmothers would have on their kitchen sink. People loved them."

The duo make all the ceramics on display, mixing their own slip, pouring their own molds, and firing the finished product.

Old ceramic pottery used lead-based glazes with cadmium that could leach into food or drink, making them toxic.

The sisters use modern, food-grade glazes to provide colour to their pieces.

"There are new commercial standards for glazes today that make them dinnerware food safe," says Grace.

The back room of the studio holds several kilns. The entire process of creating a ceramic products takes about two weeks.

"Ceramics depends on the weather and the kiln schedule. The final stage, called the glaze fire, requires a kiln temperature of 1000 degrees Celsius," Grace says. "The kiln has to have someone watching it all the time."

The shop has plenty of seasonal molds for Halloween, Easter, and Christmas.

"The vintage fish mold was first made as a personal cigarette ashtray in the '70s," Grace notes. "We now make it as a tree ornament but with a great story.

"A landlord had a renter move out and leave molds. The landlord put them up for sale and we bought them. We know of one person who broke up molds to make building material. Most people don't know what to do with old molds. We will buy them," says Elisabeth.

Toadstool Ceramics has products on display at Bloomin Sense, a Morris flower and gift shop. The ceramic entrepreneurs have also marketed at the craft sales held at the Morris Multiplex and the St. Jean Artist Market.

Elisabeth and Grace are working to get the word out about ceramics and their flexibility in what they can offer clients looking for a unique gift.



PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE
Sisters Elisabeth and Grace Crick have opened Toadstool Ceramics at their family home in Morris, offering a host of unique gift ideas.



"We had a lady ask us to make our vintage slip mold frogs. She wanted the greenware so she could put false teeth in them for gag gifts," says Elisabeth.

Toadstool Ceramics is located at 109 Willow Drive in Morris. You can learn more and reach them online at www.toadstoolceramics.ca or call 204-712-7249 or 204-712-0568.



> DEPUTY CHIEF RETIRES, FROM PG. 2

"I got to go twice for that. It's more industrial training. There were also annual fire conferences in Brandon. We would try to send some people every year. I also enjoyed training other fire departments in the province through the Emergency Service College, so I went to different departments and worked with them. I've done that since 2000. I met a lot of really interesting people across the province that way. It's been just great."

In 2002, Friesen and retired assistant chief James Stoesz traveled to New York City to look at a heavy rescue unit to purchase. While there, they visited Ground Zero where the

World Trade Centre buildings once stood.

"It was very weird to see the size of that empty space," Friesen reflects. "We lost a lot of brothers that day."

Through the years, there have been a host of great memories with the crew, but none of this journey would have been possible, he says, without the support of his wife, Carla.

"You're gone Monday nights, and two training sessions a week. At the chief level, there's another meeting once a month for the mutual aid district. Plus, calls that come whenever. She knew that and she was always supportive."

Some of the hard memories includ-

ed responding to the fatalities at CSP Foods years ago, and a number of bad car crashes, but, thankfully, Friesen says there have been far more good outcomes than bad ones.

"As a firefighter you always train for the worst, like when you rescue someone out of a burning building. It was three years ago, we had a lady who was not able to get out of the basement of her house, and we had guys go in and get her out. That's why we do this. There's been car accidents where we've been able to get people out of their vehicles and get them to EMS. Those are good stories."

Friesen says he's looking forward

to his new role and sees it as a natural progression.

"It's a nice change. Even as an EMO coordinator, we will be in contact with the fire department, so it will be good to have some of that background knowledge about what the crew is doing on the ground."

Chief Greg Zimmerman says Friesen will be missed at the fire hall.

"It's been wonderful working with Barry, already having worked many years as deputy chief when I arrived here seven years ago. He's taking a lot of knowledge with him. I wish him all the best in his new role."

sports & recreation

Local teams in Ottawa for 2024 Canadian Curling championships

Hayward, Campbell, and Sugden on the national stage

By Lana Meier

Manitoba's next generation of curling stars headed off to Ottawa last Friday morning to compete with some of Canada's best curlers in the 2024 Canadian Under-18 Curling Championships.

Team Hayward representing Manitoba and the Carman Curling Club of Shaela Hayward, Keira Krahn, India Young and Rylie Cox played their first game Sunday defeating Quebec #1 (Fortin) 8-4. The girls then defeated British Columbia #2 (Rempel) 9-1 Monday morning before beating Newfoundland and Labrador #2 (Connolly) Monday night by 9-4.

Representing Manitoba on the Men's side are Manitoba #1, Team Campbell of the Altona Curling Club including Rylan Graham, Nick Senff, Logan Zacharias, and Rylan Campbell.

After two days of competition Team Campbell had one win and one loss, defeating Yukon #1 (Snider) 8-2 but lost 3-5 to Alberta #2 (Hiebert) on Tuesday.

Manitoba #2 Team Sugden of Morden Curling Club including Ryan

Thiessen, Tanner Treichel, Tyler Fehr and Nash Sugden has had a rough start and conceded 2-6 to Alberta #1 (Hlushak) and 3-5 to Newfoundland and Labrador #1 (Perry).

A total of 42 teams — 21 female and 21 male entries — will be competing for the national championships, which will be decided on Saturday, Feb. 10 in the medal-round games that will take place at the RA Centre.

The 21 teams were distributed to all 14 Member Associations, with additional spots awarded based on a two-year ranking of results from the Canadian Under-18 Championships. If any province or territory declined an entry, additional teams were accepted from the next highest ranked Member Association.

As a result, many provinces will be represented by two teams.

Teams are separated into three pools of seven teams and will play a round-robin schedule within each pool. 12 teams — the top four in each pool — advance to the playoffs for an opportunity to win a gold medal on Feb. 10.

Live-streaming coverage of selected games at the 2024 Canadian Under-18 Curling Championships will be available on Curling Canada +, Curling Canada's streaming platform.

Schedules, team lineups and other information are available on the official event website: www.curling.ca/2024u18.

cial event website: www.curling.ca/2024u18.

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Female Hawks have three more games to go

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks were looking to halt a three-game losing streak as they came into the final week of the regular season this weekend.

Their lone game of the past week saw the Hawks blanked 3-0 by the Avros in Winnipeg Saturday.

It was a 31-save shutout for Winnipeg netminder Adriana Almeida, while Pembina Valley goalie Kasia Rakowski kept it close for the Hawks in stopping 38 of 41 shots on goal.

Pembina Valley now sits at 6-15-4 for 16 points, and they seem destined to finish in seventh place, as they are eight up on Central Plains and five back of Interlake.

With three games remaining, it leaves them with an outside shot at reaching sixth place, but they would need to win all three of their games and need Interlake to lose their final three match-ups.

Based on the current standings, the Hawks would face then second-place Westman Wildcats in the first round of the playoffs, but the upper tier of

the standings could still shift in this final week.

Pembina Valley is on the road this weekend to play Central Plains in

Portage Friday, continues with Eastman Saturday in Niverville, then Interlake Sunday in Arborg.

Male Hawks down Thistles twice

By Lorne Stelmach

A weekend sweep has positioned the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks to possibly make a move in the standings in the stretch run.

They travelled east to Kenora this past weekend and took both games of the doubleheader with 4-0 and 6-2 wins over the last-place Thistles.

Bryson Yaschyshyn got the 28-save shutout in game one Saturday, while Pembina Valley blasted 42 shots at the Kenora net.

The Hawks could not connect until the final period, but they then scored four unanswered goals by Cohen Pilk-

ington, Lane Apperley, Sam Delaquis, and Haiden Friesen.

In game two, the Hawks took period leads of 1-0 and 3-0 before outscoring Kenora 3-2 in the final frame.

Scoring for the Hawks were Friesen as well as Liam Goertzen, Ryder Wolfe, Cade McCallum, Adrien McIntosh, and Acoyen Fehr, while Ryler Gates made 40 saves with Pembina Valley holding a 45-42 edge in shots on goal.

The Hawks improved to a .500 record at 15-15-3-4 for 37 points, and it has them sitting in eighth place. They are four ahead of Eastman and just one back of Norman and six behind

Interlake and the Winnipeg Thrashers.

A doubleheader this week with Interlake could go a long way in determining their fate, with the Hawks visiting Teulon Wednesday then hosting the Lightning in Morden Saturday followed by a Sunday matchup with Eastman.

The schedule could prove to be favorable for the Hawks as they then have a road doubleheader with 11th-place Yellowhead the following weekend, and they wrap up the regular season with a home doubleheader with 12th-place Kenora.

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

On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the Bunker youth ministry, I would like to thank the following businesses for their support in the past year:



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Bunker Youth Ministry

SEMHL regular season wraps up

Ste Anne Aces in first place

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Red River Wild will play the SEMHL's final regular season game of the year this week.

The Wild headed to Notre Dame Tuesday to take on the Hawks. Results were not available at press time, but the outcome will decide whether it's Warren or Red River in the number two spot in the standings.

Ste. Anne finished the season in first place with a 15-3 record and 30 points. Two points behind them at the start of the week were the Mercs at 14-4 and 28 points. Red River was in third at 12-3-0-2 and 26 points.

Further down the list is Morden in fifth place (8-7-1-2, 19 points), Winkler in sixth (8-8-1-1, 18 points), and Altona in 10th and last place (3-14-0-1, seven points).

The final week of games saw Morden fall to Portage 5-4 and Winkler beat Ile des Chenes 5-2 last Wednesday night. On Thursday, Warren beat Altona 7-3.

Over the weekend, Red River downed Warren 6-4 Friday, Winkler beat Notre Dame 5-4 Saturday and then battled their way to a 4-3 overtime win against Portage Sunday to close out their season on a high note, while Red River lost a 1-0 shootout against Portage Saturday.

The final standings and playoff schedule will be released this week. Head to semhl.net for details.

In other league news, Mark Friesen of the Red River Wild was named the SEMHL's Goaltender of the Year. Friesen leads the league in goals against average, save percentage, and shutouts.

Altona's Adam Henry was named



ABOVE PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE
Jayme Janzen stops a close-in scoring attempt by Braeden Binda as the Winkler Royals defeated the visiting Ile des Chenes Northstars 5-2 Wednesday.



the Defenceman of the Year for the third year in a row.

And Dexter Kuczek of the Warren

Mercs was selected as the Rookie of the Year. He contributed 21 goals and 25 assists in his 18 games with Warren



PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Above: Altona Maroons Adam Henry was selected as the SEMHL's Defenceman of the Year. Altona GM Ryan Kehler presented him with the trophy last week. Left: Red River goaltender Mark Friesen made 36 saves in his team's 1-0 shoot-out loss against the Portage Islands in SEMHL action Saturday night. On Feb. 3, Friesen was announced as the SEMHL's Goaltender of the Year.

this season.

The season's other awards have not yet been announced.

Vintage sled races coming back to Miami

By Ty Dilello

The upcoming Miami Power Toboggan Vintage Sled Races, hosted by the Miami Power Tobogganing Club, are scheduled for Feb. 24 at noon at the Miami Fairgrounds.

The Miami Power Tobogganing Club promotes trails and looks after their snowmobile shack in the Pembina Valley Escarpment.

The Vintage Sled Races are a family fun event with free admission for everybody. Food and drinks will be made available.

The cost to enter is \$10 per class entry fee, with a 100 per cent payout of the entry fees going towards the racers. Trophies will be awarded.

"We are expecting upwards of sixty snow machines aged 1985 and older," said organizer John Friesen. "Last

year's event was an amazing success, and this year seems to be gearing up to surpass it."

Friesen notes that competitors are lined up to be coming from all over Manitoba, Ontario, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Saskatchewan.

Registration ends Feb. 24 at 11:00 a.m., so get your entries in as soon as possible.

"This is one of our biggest events we put on during the year," said Friesen. "This is a nonprofit event from a nonprofit organization passionate about snowmobiling. We also host a truck and tractor pull with the famous mud bog on June 1 that we are looking forward to down the road."

More info on the event can be found on the website: <https://miamipowertoboggan.com>.

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NOTICES

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R.M. of MONTCALM

Title #	Legal Description	Total Acres
1464186/1	W 1/2 OF SE 1/4 3-2-1 EPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS INCLUDING PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND RELATED HYDROCARBONS AND THE RIGHT TO WORK SAME AS SET FORTH IN A TRANSFER REGISTERED IN WLTO AS NO. B47683	80
1012109/1	E 1/2 OF THE SE 1/4 3-2-1 EPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS INCLUDING PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND RELATED HYDROCARBONS AND THE RIGHT TO WORK SAME AS SET FORTH IN A TRANSFER REGISTERED IN WLTO AS NO. B 47683	80

When submitting an offer, please note:

1. The highest, or any, offer will not necessarily be accepted.
2. Offers may be for both or either parcel.
3. The date of closing will be thirty days following the receipt of a Grant of Probate from the Court of King's Bench.
4. The date of possession will be March 15, 2024.
5. The date of adjustments will be January 1, 2024.
6. You must provide a certified check or bank draft in the amount of \$10,000.00 payable to Cole & Mace Law Office. The cheques accompanying unsuccessful tenders will be returned.
7. You must rely on your own research of the property.
8. Tenders are binding upon acceptance and not subject to any conditions precedent.
9. Tenders may only be submitted in the form provided by Cole & Mace Law Office; a form of tender may be requested from Cole & Mace Law Office in person at the address below, or by emailing: adam@colemacelaw.com.
10. The Vendor will be responsible for the taxes on the property up to the date of adjustments.
11. The Purchaser will be required to pay GST unless the Purchaser is registered for GST and agrees to self-assess.
12. Title to the land will be transferred free and clear of all encumbrances and liens, excepting Caveat No. 3614190/1 and a right-of-way respecting a shared driveway to be registered prior to, or on, the date of closing.

Signed and sealed Tenders will be received up to 4:00 p.m. on February 27, 2024 at:

Cole & Mace Law Office
26 Centre Ave. East, Box 2039,
Altona, Manitoba, R0G 0B0
Attn: Adam Mace

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Mon - Thurs 9-5; Fri - 9-2.

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TENDER

INVITATION TO TENDER

We invite TENDERS for the purchase of approximately 104.75 Acres of land in the R.M. of Rhineland described as:

PARCEL I: THE SLY 412.5 FEET OF THE NLY 825 FEET OF THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 7-1-2 WPM

Title No. 3047365/4 Roll No. 0080700 (approximately 25.00 acres)
PARCEL II: LOT 2 PLAN 1867 MLTO EXC PLAN 2357 MLTO IN SE ¼ 7-1-2 WPM

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

Tenders may be submitted for each individual Parcel.

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

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

The highest or any Tender may not necessarily be accepted.

ADDRESS: DOELL LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 1150
1-655 Main Street, Winkler, MB R6W 4B2
Ph. (204) 325-8807

To the attention of Scott C. Doell

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

CAREERS



MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

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

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

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

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

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

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

Starting Wages:

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

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

Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Minimum 1 year experience.

CARPENTER

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Churchill, Manitoba, Canada

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RED SEAL MECHANIC Wages D.O.E.

eMail résumé with references to jef@lazybearexpeditions.com

EMPLOYMENT

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES Pembina Valley Watershed District

TERM: early May – end of August 2024 (40 hours per week)

• PROGRAM ASSISTANT

DUTIES: The position requires water testing, computer work for watershed planning, project monitoring and compliance checks, shelterbelt maintenance, trail maintenance, participating in educational events and tours, newspaper article writing and assisting with water and soil projects within the district. **This position is based out of Manitou, MB, but involves travel throughout the entire district.** A district vehicle will be provided.

• TECHNICIAN ASSISTANT

DUTIES: assisting with water and soil projects within the district; including surveying, construction, hauling supplies and materials to job sites, water testing, computer work for watershed planning, shelterbelt maintenance, trail maintenance, participating in educational events and tours. This position requires you to work in wooded areas, swampy lands, and inclement weather. You will likely come into contact with insects, snakes and other outdoor rodents, so you must be comfortable in this setting. **This position is based out of Manitou, MB, but involves travel throughout the entire district.** A district vehicle will be provided.

Applicants must meet the requirements of the Canada Summer Jobs and Green Team eligibility criteria (be between the ages of 15 – 29), have a valid drivers license, be physically fit and able to work outdoors in all weather, be self-motivated, have the ability to work independently, experience with operation of quad, various mowers, trimmers an asset and good oral communication skills.

Please submit resumes with 3 references and cover letter to:

Pembina Valley Watershed District, Attn: Lexine LeBlanc

Box 659, 261 Main Street, Manitou, MB R0G 1G0

Phone: 204-242-3267 Fax: 204-242-3281

E-mail: administrator@pvwd.ca

Application Deadline: Wednesday February 21, 2024

PVWD would like to thank all applicants, however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

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

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Twin Valley Co-op Russell Agro

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www.twinvalleyco-op.crs



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Todd The Coin Guy 250-864-3521

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Manitoba Government Job Opportunities

Assessment Officer (Developmental Opportunity) - Open until filled Assessment Officer 3 (Underfilled at AS2 Assessment Officer 2)

Regular/full-time; Term/full-time
Municipal and Northern Relations
Various locations: Minnedosa, Selkirk, Morden, Portage La Prairie, MB
Advertisement Number: 42257; 42258; 42259; 42261
Closing Date: March 31st, 2024
Salary Range: \$55,983.00 - \$67,066.00 per year

The Manitoba government recognizes the importance of building an exemplary public service reflective of the citizens it serves, where diverse abilities, backgrounds, cultures, identities, languages and perspectives drives a high standard of service and innovation. The Manitoba government supports equitable employment practices and promotes representation of designated groups (women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, visible minorities).

Employment Equity is a factor in selection for this competition. Consideration will be given to women, Indigenous people, visible minorities and persons with disabilities.

Candidates who do not meet all essential criteria may be considered on an underfill basis at a commensurate rate of pay.

Please note, Assessment Officers will be hired at the Assessment Officer 2 (AS2) level (\$48,210 - \$57,004) unless the incumbent completed a Certificate in Real Property Assessment, IAAO designation or equivalent and have experience valuing and/or inspecting a wide range of residential, farm, and/or small to medium sized commercial buildings. Upon successful certification, incumbents are eligible for appointment to the AS3 Classification.

Introduction

The Department of Municipal and Northern Relations is seeking highly motivated individuals to fill several Assessment Officer positions throughout the province.

If you have a background or interest in building construction, industrial sales/financing, agriculture, land survey systems, municipal government, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), real estate or appraisal, we encourage you to consider this new career opportunity. Assessment Officers are provided on-the-job training and financial assistance to complete required education.

Duties:

This developmental opportunity will allow you to learn the necessary skills to be an Assessment Officer while completing the required education and training. As an Assessment Officer you will: inspect residential, farm and commercial property; record land and building characteristics for valuation, classification and assignment of liability to taxation; update property and ownership characteristics using computer software and determine value, class and liability; and attend boards of revision and defend assessments.

In addition, you may respond to assessment enquiries from the public and municipal government councils, prepare and present defense of residential and non-residential assessments at Boards of Revision and Municipal Board hearings.

For complete description of the conditions of employment and qualifications please visit the Manitoba website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/govjobs/>.

Apply to:

Advertisement #42257; 42258; 42259; 42261
Talent Acquisition Branch
Human Resource Services
6th Floor - 259 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3P4
Phone: 204-945-7518
Fax: 204 945 0601
Email: govjobs@gov.mb.ca

We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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Alternate formats available upon request

OBITUARY

Rebecca Jane McGavin



Rebecca (Becky) Jane McGavin died on January 31, 2024, at the age of 75, in the arms of her family at home in Ottawa, Ontario.

Becky is survived by her husband, Michael Siddons, their son Jay Alexander and daughter Sarah Elizabeth. She is survived by her sister, Marilyn Wardrop, and her brothers and sisters-in-law, Ruth-Anne, Jay and Christine, Kim and Lisa, and John Strobele. She is further survived by her many nieces and nephews in Canada, Australia, and Europe.

Becky was predeceased by her parents, Elizabeth and Hugh James McGavin, her sisters Joan McGuire and Ida Strobele, and her brother Brian McGavin.

Becky's paternal grandfather was Dr. Hugh McGavin (1871-1958) who practised medicine in Plum Coulee from 1902 to 1952. Her paternal grandmother was Emily Christine Bryans of Morden

(1883-1918). Becky's father, Hugh James McGavin (1908-1976), was a lawyer who practiced law in the Gretna and Altona Area until he joined the Federal Department of Justice in 1961. Becky's mother, Elizabeth Fedronka, was born in Gretna, Manitoba and died in 1989.

Born on March 23, 1948 in Altona, Manitoba, Becky was raised in southern Manitoba and moved to Ottawa with her family in 1961. After attending Rideau High School and Hillcrest High School, she graduated from Carleton University in 1972. Becky had a career in the federal civil service, notably at the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as well as Health Canada.

Becky and her husband Michael loved and adored each other and had a loving and supportive marriage for over 50 years. Becky deeply loved her children Jay and Sarah and wholeheartedly supported their dreams and endeavours.

Known for her incredible kindness and infectious smile, Becky was a joy to her friends and family throughout her life, welcoming everyone with her warm and genuine nature. Becky loved to socialize and travel, having enjoyed many memorable dinner parties and vacations with her family and loved ones. Becky's companionship and her joyful approach to life will be deeply missed, and her memory will be forever cherished.

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SUDOKU

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

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Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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Hockey teams raise \$22K for CancerCare Manitoba

By Sean Conway

Annually, the Pembina Valley Twisters Manitoba Major Junior hockey club hosts a fundraiser to support CancerCare Manitoba. The fundraiser started in 2012 as a tribute to Dale Rempel after his passing.

Dale loved hockey. He was a player and later became an owner of the Twisters hockey club. Dale and the Rempel family received support from CancerCare Manitoba when he was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2008.

Rempel Insurance and the Twisters wanted to acknowledge the support CancerCare Manitoba provided to the Rempels by teaming up in hockey to raise awareness and donations for the cause.

Scheduling their regular season games for Feb. 3, the Twisters, South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League's Red River Wild, and the Morris School Mavericks put their skates to ice for the day-long fundraiser for CancerCare. The team partnership also included the Town of Morris Winter Carnival and the Morris Curling club.

The Mavericks welcomed Brody Gobel to centre ice for a ceremonial puck drop. In 2017, when Gobel was seven years old, his family was told he had an Ependymoma, a rare brain tumour.

Since then, Gobel has endured several surgeries, two rounds of radiation chemo, and many trips to CancerCare and the Winnipeg Children's Hospital.

Besides gate sales, the Morris Mavericks hosted a chuck-a-puck contest. Participants purchased a numbered puck and got to throw it onto the ice between the second and third period. Closest to the dot at centre ice won a

prize.

The annual fundraiser holds special meaning for players on the Red River Wild.

Captain Brendan Heppner held his hand to his heart as spoke of his relationship to Dale.

"He recruited me to play for the Twisters when I was younger. In 2007, after a practice, Dale just said, 'Hey you want to come work for me in my business.' He was a mentor to me."

Wild players Jonah Wasylask and Gavin Froese pledged to shave their heads if the team could raise \$2,000. The clippers were in action after the game to deliver on the promise.

Cancer has of course touched many others in the local hockey community.

Corey Mazinke, who played 136 games with 143 points as a forward for the Twisters from 2013 to 2017, lost his grandfather to cancer.

Since 2020, Katherin Enns, mother to the Twisters' Logan Enns, has been battling the disease.

"During my 2021-2022 season, my mom had surgery in her battle with cancer," Logan Enns says.

The 20-year-old netminder is in his fifth season with the club. Enns and his younger sister live in Winkler with their mom.

"I don't like to talk about it, but my mom had chemo on Wednesday," he shares. "She goes every two weeks. It is working well every round. It is shrinking."

The plumber's apprentice was MMJHL's player of the month in December, helping the Twisters earn a 13-game winning run, one win short of tying the club's record of 14 consecutive wins.

The Twisters organized a silent auc-



PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Brody Gobel dropped the puck in the Morris Maverick's game Saturday. He was diagnosed with cancer at age seven. Below: Twisters players braved the razor in support of CancerCare Manitoba.



tion for CancerCare featuring a hockey stick signed by Bobby Hull alongside other sports memorabilia.

The day's 50/50 ticket sales generated a prize of \$1,062.50 won by Nelson Norris

Pat Schmitke, part owner of the Twisters, sat in the dunk tank earlier in the afternoon. He promised that if \$500 was raised he would match the amount and take a dunk.

While seated over the water, the

event coordinator sold the chance to pull the lever that put the shirtless owner in the water for an additional \$40 donation.

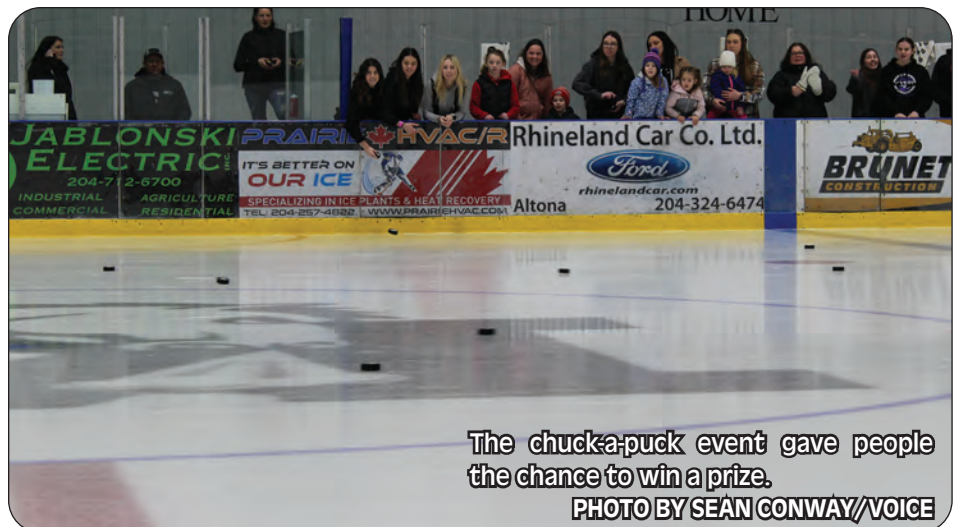
The Pembina Valley Twisters players and team staff also pledged to have their heads shaved if fundraising efforts for the day reached \$20,000.

The hair clippers came out after their game, as the final total came to \$22,008.



PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

The Red River Wild's Jonah Wasylask, left, and Gavin Froese, right, agreed to shave their heads if they raised \$2,000 in support of CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. The team raised \$4,020 and teammate Colin Baudry joined in for support.



The chuck-a-puck event gave people the chance to win a prize.

PHOTO BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

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Permit #5353

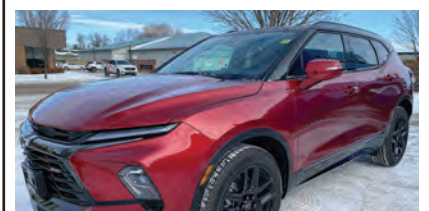
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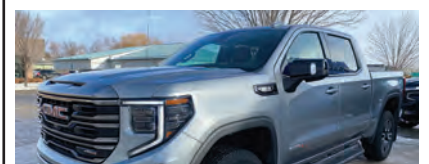
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2500 HD Duramax Crew Cab
\$72,988 + tax Stock # 287195



2023 GMC Sierra AT4

Diesel, AT4 Preferred Pkg.
\$73,988 + tax Stock # 240956



Delwyn Doerksen



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