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Cozying up with a good book

Staff and students at École Elmwood Elementary School in Altona are enjoying I Love to Read Month. Curling up around the "fire" with a good book last week were Olson Sawchuk, Gaella Ntaganira, Rhea Hiebert, Benjamin Fortier Muirhead, Emmy Njorge, and Zhiyon Salinas. For more, see Pg. 2.
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Altona Elks support Kiddie Sunshine Centre project

By Lori Penner

The Altona Elks were thrilled to donate the proceeds of their recent Chase the Ace fundraiser to the Kiddie Sunshine Centre to support furniture and program supplies for the new childcare facility, which is set to open this September.

The \$10,000 donation is one of three big cheques that the Elks have presented to the centre.

"We're excited to support them, and we're very grateful for their efforts to provide care for children in our community. The Kiddie Sunshine Centre is a wonderful place," says Elks member Guy Mullen.

"Our businesses could not thrive without a place for families to bring their children. Right now, we have a shortage of childcare spaces in our town. There are people who can't work at some of the companies because there's no one to care for their kids. So, this really becomes an economic growth issue."

Thanks to a plethora of corporate

and individual donations, along with a sizable government grant last year, construction of the new facility is nearly complete.

However, the grant does not cover many items, such as furniture and programming supplies.

"We're also waiting for a quote on the new playground, which is not usually funded by the province," says board vice-chair Nicole Friesen.

Currently the new facility is at the finishing stage, with paint and a drop ceiling coming in this week. Exterior siding is also in progress.

"It's starting to feel real now," says Kiddie Sunshine Centre director Patty Klassen. "We're incredibly grateful to the Altona Elks for their generosity."

"We're always open to receiving more support because the operating grant doesn't cover everything. Furniture, shelving and toys, games and puzzles, craft supplies and books—everything you can imagine in a classroom. It adds up pretty fast. There are also specific guidelines for what we can purchase, and there are certain



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona Elks member Guy Mullen, Kiddie Sunshine Centre director Patty Klassen, and board vice-chair Nicole Friesen, along with a group of the children who attend the centre, holding the big cheque, which will support the new daycare facility in Altona

things that are mandatory to have in a room."

The new facility will hold 118 spaces, because the current 20 spaces located at the Regional Alternative Education Centre within the Border Land School Division office will be moved into the new space. That means they are creating 98 additional spaces to what they already provide in the community.

At an estimated cost of \$6 million, the 10,800 square foot building will include an office, kitchen, storage room and bathrooms, as well as three infant rooms, four preschool rooms, and a school age/nursery school room.

"It's all one level, all accessible. We're just so excited," Klassen says, adding that they'll be advertising for more staff in the coming months.

"The biggest thing is finding trained staff. That will be the challenge. We're hoping to bring another 20-25 support staff on board."

"The current building is still fully functioning, and even when the new centre opens, it will stay open," adds Friesen. "This centre will still be very much needed, along with the new facility. We are very grateful for all the support we've received so far."

A fun-filled month of reading

By Lori Penner

Principal Scott Hiebert says students and staff at École Elmwood School are having a lot of fun celebrating I Love to Read Month.

"Every February, to celebrate, our Home and School Association puts on the read-a-thon, so the halls and classrooms are filled with fun decorations to promote literacy. This year it was a Camp theme, which is why we have a 'fire' in the library. Kids have really loved that."

Hiebert adds that the read-a-thon is a great way to promote reading at home, and an opportunity for students to do some fundraising.

"We have Stop, Drop and Reads throughout the month. We had a fun one where the minute we turned off

the lights, they had to read by flashlight or glow stick, which was really exciting for the kids."

There have also been a number of guest readers at the school, including the French Immersion students from W.C. Miller Collegiate, and some staff members from Friesens Corporation.

Working together with Regional Connections, they also have parents reading to the students in a variety of languages.

"We've done that a few times, and it's a really interesting experience for the kids."

The fun-filled month will culminate with a book fair, where students can purchase their own books, and on March 1, they'll wrap up the festivities with a pancake brunch with the students at W.C. Miller Collegiate.

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Community pep rally sends off Special O athletes

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Two athletes and three coaches/support staff from our area are off to the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Calgary next week.

Snowshoers Trenten Heinrichs (Rosengart) and Janell Brown (Winkler) will be joined at the Feb. 27 to March 2 competition by coaches Sabrina Klassen (Winkler) and Julia Thiessen (Altona) as well as Team Manitoba mission staff member Chris Sumner (Altona).

The four were given a big send-off last week at a community pep rally in Winkler attended by family, friends, and dignitaries.

“Four thousand athletes and coaches from across the country will be descending on venues in Calgary to compete in events like curling, five-pin bowling, figure skating” and, of course, snowshoeing, said Sumner, noting Team ‘Toba’s snowshoeing team includes 18 athletes and six coaches. “Some have been to the Canada Games before. But for some this will be their first time that they’ve

ever been at a national level event.”

That’s the case for Heinrichs, though Brown represented Manitoba at the national games in track and field a decade ago.

The pair train with the Winkler Bear Paws and won their events at the Special O provincial snowshoeing competition last winter to earn the chance to compete nationally.

Heinrichs says he’s most looking forward to “having fun, hanging out with friends” at the Games and “trying to win some medals and make my parents proud.”

“I’ve been working out in our fitness room at NPC [Northlands Parkway Collegiate],” he added. “I’ve been training hard doing workouts, been practising snowshoeing, doing some leg lifts and leg workouts and running.”

Brown shared she’s been training multiple days a week as well. She said she’s eager to take to the field against athletes from other provinces and is determined “to win medals” in her events.

It will be Thiessen’s first time coach-



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Back row, from left: Winkler Councillor Peter Froese, Special Olympics Manitoba's Colleen Lowdon-Bula, Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens, Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert, Winkler Police Chief Ryan Hunt and Deputy Chief Chris Kalansky at a pep rally held last week for (front row, from left) Julia Thiessen, Sabrina Klassen, Janell Brown, Trenten Heinrichs, and Chris Sumner, who are off to the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.

ing on the national stage. Her home club is the Altona Panthers Special Olympics team.

“This is my first time going to national Games, and so it’s been really nice to have an experienced assistant coach [in Klassen, who has attend-

ed several national competitions] to check with and learn from and ask questions to, because it’s a big learning curve,” Thiessen said. “I’m excited to see the athletes. From what I saw at the provincial Games, there is

Continued on page 5



Family and friends cheered the local athletes and coaches ahead of their trip.

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WORK & WESTERN WEARHOUSE

Habitat for Humanity puts call out for skilled volunteers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler-Morden chapter of Habitat for Humanity is inching ever closer to getting shovels in the ground on its new build in Winkler.

Last week they announced they have a location for the house they're planning to build for Congolese immigrants Binwa and Idolo (last name withheld at the request of Habitat) and their three children.

"It's on Makena Way, in the newer development off of Northlands Parkway," shares chapter rep. Christina Falk.

The lot is being supplied by Triple E Developments at 50 per cent of its usual cost.

"That donation alone is worth about \$50,000," Falk says. "So it's a really big deal for us ... it takes a lot off the amount we need to fundraise.

"They've been a big supporter of us in the past," she adds of Triple E. "They actually gave us our first lot that we built on in Morden, our first house that we ever built. That lot was free from them and that kind of got us started off."

Fast-forward a few years and five Morden-Winkler Habitat houses later,



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Binwa and Idolo, Winkler's latest Habitat for Humanity family, in front of the lot their home will be built on this year.

and the cost of construction has skyrocketed.

To keep those costs as low as possible, Habitat hopes to use more skilled volunteers on this build than they have in the past.

"We will be using volunteers who have no construction skills as well,

people who just want to come out and help, but we're really looking specifically for skilled people who are able to volunteer their time," Falk says.

A number of people have already stepped up to add their name to the volunteer list, but there's always room for more.

"We would like to do a big call out for people who are skilled in the trades and would be willing to volunteer their time to work on this house," Falk says. "Electricians, plumbers, framers, drywallers—you name it."

Falk estimates they need to raise roughly \$300,000 for this build. They need 75 per cent of that (\$225,000 or so) in the bank before they can get started on it. They're only about \$9,000 short right now.

"We're almost 100 per cent confident we can do it this year," Falk says, noting they're hoping for a June start for the build.

"We also have to know, or have a very good idea, of where the rest of the 25 per cent of funds are going to come from," she says. "We do have some ideas, but we are still really looking for some larger donations from businesses. Maybe businesses in town who haven't partnered with us before? We'd love to talk with people about it."

If you'd like to get involved with Habitat for Humanity as a donor or a volunteer, you can connect with them at www.habitat.mb.ca/chapters/winkler-morden or via email to info@wm.habitat.mb.ca.



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Catan champ

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Morden's Nastasha Kroeker-Ortiz will represent Manitoba at the Catan National Championships in Toronto in May.

Kroeker-Ortiz beat out 35 other Catan players at Sixteen13 Ministry's inaugural Manitoba Catan Tournament, held at The Bunker in Winkler over the weekend.

"It feels unbelievable," Kroeker-Ortiz said shortly after the final match Monday afternoon.

An avid board gamer, she notes she doesn't play Settlers of Catan all that often these days, though there was a period a few years ago where it was getting to her table multiple times a week.

"I love strategy games and planning ahead, being able to interfere with other people's plans," she says with a grin.

While she felt a bit out of practice, Kroeker-Ortiz figured the tournament would be a fun weekend of gaming for a great cause—funds raised from the event go to support Sixteen13's outreach programming, which includes sharing the Christian gospel, helping newcomers to Canada settle in, and aiding other families in need.

The final game included Kroeker-Ortiz, Morgan Wiebe, Duane Falk, and Patrick Hildebrand. By winning, Kroeker-Ortiz not only qualifies for nationals but, thanks to local sponsors, has her airfare and accommodations covered.



Sixteen13 president Harold Espinosa says they will definitely be hosting the tournament again next year.

"I went around and asked everybody how they felt about it, and they all said it was excellent. Everybody was kind, even though they were competing," he says. "The cool part was they were all talking and getting to know their stories. It was just really nice."

Building relationships is what the ministry is all about, notes vice-president Tiffany Krahn.

"It's such a fun experience for everyone. We want to provide fun experiences for the community, get our name out there," she says.

They hope to see even more people come out to compete next year.

"I think now that we've done one, the word can get out," Krahn says. "I'm sure lots of people want that experience, that opportunity to get into the big leagues."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Nastasha Kroeker-Ortiz (left) will compete on the national stage after winning a Settlers of Catan qualifying tournament in Winkler over the weekend. The two-day event drew 36 players from across southern Manitoba.

Police respond to call of domestic violence involving a firearm in Plum Coulee

By Voice staff

Police from across the region responded to an incident in Plum Coulee Friday afternoon.

On Feb. 16 at approximately 4:30 p.m., police received a report of a domestic disturbance involving a firearm.

Altona Police Service officers, with assistance from the Winkler and Morden police departments, attended the

scene and located a male standing outside his residence.

He was arrested without incident. Police retrieved three firearms from a vehicle.

Further investigation determined that no shots had been fired and no injuries occurred during the domestic dispute.

A 24-year-old man from Plum Coulee is now facing several firearms and domestic related charges.



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> SPECIAL OLYMPICS, FROM PG. 3

such a community amongst the athletes and families, so I'm excited to see those relationships as well."

"We haven't been at Games for four years," noted Klassen, "so being able to see the hard work and dedication the athletes have put in—they've been training up to three to four times a week—and then just being able to compete and showing all the hard work they've done, being able to see other athletes from across Canada. We haven't seen some of them in a long time. So yeah, [we're] super excited."

The pep rally heard greetings from Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens, Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert, Winkler Police Chief Ryan Hunt, and Special Olympics Manitoba's director of sport Colleen Lowdon-Bula. Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder was unable to attend, but he also sent along warm wishes of support for the team.

"You have worked tirelessly to reach this point," Hiebert told the athletes. "We are so very proud of your achievements."

"This is your moment to shine," she said, "and I believe in you and your potential to do great things."

She also lauded the Special O volunteers for helping to make it possible for the athletes to compete.

"None of this would be possible without the amazing help and guidance of the coaches and volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to these amazing athletes sitting here today."

"So much hard work went into it," agreed Mayor Siemens. "So much support from friends and family goes into this type of an event."

"We are exceptionally proud that you're going to go and represent Southern Manitoba. We're certain that you're going to represent us well."

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



In the shadow

This week's column was supposed to be fun. A nice light, airy fluff piece to give people a break from some of my more serious or sarcastic columns. Believe it or not, these columns follow something of a plan.

I knew what I wanted to write about, had been ruminating on it for a week or two. But it just doesn't feel like the right moment to be light. Not after Carman. Not after the brutality of five lives ended in terror and violence.

By the time you read this, a couple of weeks will have passed and the world, through no fault of its own, will have already begun the process of moving on. This, in itself, is a lesson in humility.

But for many, especially the residents of Carman, especially family members, neighbours, classmates, and friends, the idea of moving forward seems impossible, like a betrayal somehow.

We have a sense for what happened but knowing what happened has never really been enough for people. We desperately want to know why these things happen. Honestly, everything we hear will be conjecture. I will not engage in conjecture here.

As of the writing of this column, mere days after the event, here's what

we know, according to various news outlets like CBC, APTN, and others. We know names: Amanda, Bethany, Jayven, Isabella, and Myah. A woman, two young girls, a young boy, and a teenage girl. Gone now.

We know the family was making a life for themselves in Carman. We know the kids went to Carman Elementary and Carman Collegiate.

Then, of course, we know the name Ryan.

But we don't know why.

We want to know why because maybe if we knew why we could begin to work on making sure it doesn't happen again.

We do know something of a journey, the very sketchiest of details.

We know Ryan had a history of struggle with addiction and mental health issues. We know he had been in foster care since he was eight.

We know we feel a range of emotions at this point, but really, mostly we feel sad.

We know what Manitoba's top First Nations leader Grand Chief Cathy Merrick has said in response to the tragedy:

"It's not our way as a people, it's not our way in our culture and our lan-

guage ... violence is something that we have learned as a people."

But we don't know why this happened.

We do know there is now silence where once there was laughter. There is now absence where once there was presence. There is grief where once was joy. There is death where once was life. We know these things.

We know there are first responders who will never, for the rest of their lives, forget what they have seen.

But we don't know why.

We do know there are good people seeking to help those who struggle with addiction, and mental trauma. We do know there are good people seeking to help women and children who are victims of violence. We know this.

If you are looking for ways to help, I was going to suggest a donation to the family's GoFundMe page to help defray funeral expenses but at just over \$5,000 raised in a few days the family has suspended the fundraiser having met the needs they have identified.

You can donate to organizations

Continued on page 7



By Peter Cantelon

Letter policy

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getinformed

Low German show is raising funds for Salem Home

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Salem Foundation and the Salem Ladies Auxiliary are teaming up on a new fundraiser that's sure to have people rolling in the aisles of the Winkler concert hall next week.

With the help of several local homeschool families, the Winkler personal care home is putting on a Low German Play night at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall March 1-2. Shows run at 7 p.m. both nights.

Auxiliary member Grace Toews explains both shows feature two Low German skits: *Ons Faelt ne Kjaekjsche* and *Grottelren komen to Kjast*.

She has role in the second one, a skit written for this show by its actors that revolves around a young couple getting ready for their wedding.

"The grandparents are coming from Paraguay and they don't speak a word of English, and in Canada it's very worldly compared to what they're used to. They're very Mennonite," Toews says, cracking up as she tries to explain the culture shock plot. "I'm laughing just thinking about it."

Ons Faelt ne Kjaekjsche, meanwhile, has been shown in Winkler before. Another comedy, it's about two messy

bachelors interviewing women to be their maid.

There's a cast of over 30 youth and adults coming together to put on these skits, which Toews says are generating lots of advance buzz in the Low German speaking community.

"We're hearing a lot of positive comments already," she says, inviting everyone to come check it out.

Admission to the show is by donation at the door.

Funds raised from the two evenings will go towards Salem Home's new electric duet bike.

The home currently has non-electric duet bikes that allow mobility challenged residents to take a spin around town with help from staff or loved ones manning the pedals.

The new bike, being electric, will be easier for people to use and also allow for residents to remain in their wheelchairs for the ride, rather than having to be transferred into a bike seat.

"It makes it a little bit easier for the staff and also for families members if they want to take their loved ones for a bike ride," says Salem CEO Karin Oliveira. "They might be able to go a little bit further now because they



SUPPLIED PHOTO

A talented crew of actors are bringing two Low German skits to the Winkler concert hall stage next week to raise funds for Salem Home.

won't have to be working so hard pedaling."

Salem has already put in an order for one of the bikes, at a cost of over \$20,000.

They hope to have it in time to hit the roads for spring/summer. If it's well-received, Oliveira says they may look into purchasing an additional unit.

RCMP investigate reports of a suspicious vehicle

By Voice staff

Manitoba RCMP are warning people to be careful when pulling over to help someone apparently stuck on the side of the road.

Just after noon on Feb. 13, Pembina Valley RCMP responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle on Hwy. 3 be-

tween the communities of Thornhill and Darlingford.

It was reported that two males in a light blue BMW SUV with an Ontario licence plate were stopped on the highway, flashing their vehicle lights and waving their arms in an attempt to get other motorists to stop.

Once stopped, the males approached

the motorists and offered to sell them jewelry, such as watches and rings, or asked for money for gas, stating they were not from the area.

RCMP say they have received several similar reports in this area and elsewhere in southern Manitoba over the last week.

While no threats were made and

nobody was injured, many motorists reported they felt intimidated in these interactions.

Manitoba RCMP are warning the public to be safe and aware if pulling over to assist someone roadside.

If you have any information about these incidents, contact RCMP at 204-745-6760, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477, or send a tip online at www.manitobacrimestoppers.com.

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

like Clan Mother's Healing Village or Genesis House, who work hard with little resources to help women and children seeking refuge from violence and aid men in the form of education.

You can lobby your municipal, pro-

vincial and federal levels of government to provide more funding assistance to such organizations as well for they are wildly underfunded.

The shadow will pass. Even the memory of it will one day pass. In the meantime, hug your loved ones in consideration of these lyrics from

Bruce Springsteen's song "One Minute You're Here."

"Big black train comin' down the track; Blow your whistle lone and long; One minute you're here; Next minute you're gone."

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The psychology of bullying: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

Bullying is a harmful behaviour that can have profound psychological effects on both the perpetrator and the victim. Understanding the underlying psychology of bullying is crucial in effectively addressing its harmful effects.

CAUSE

Bullying can have multiple and complicated causes. In many cases, bullying stems from feelings of insecurity, a de-

sire for social dominance or a need for attention and popularity. In some cases, bullies themselves may have been victims of bullying, thus perpetuating a cycle of abuse. Other factors, such as a lack of parental supervision and tolerance for aggression, can lead to bullying tendencies.

CONSEQUENCES

Victims of bullying often experience a

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

range of negative psychological consequences, including anxiety, depression, low self-esteem and a sense of hopelessness resulting from the relentless nature of the bullying. These effects can extend well into adulthood.

Furthermore, bystanders who witness bullying may experience feelings of guilt, fear or powerlessness for not intervening, contributing to a culture of silence that perpetuates the problem.

This Pink Shirt Day, February 28, 2024, stand up against bullying. Look for initiatives and events you can get involved with in your area to make a lasting impact and end this harmful cycle for good.



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Friesens supports BTHC expansion project



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Friesens Corporation's Pamela Hiebert stopped by the Boundary Trails Health Centre last week to present the BTHC Foundation with two cheques: one for \$25,000 from the company itself and another totalling \$6,865 from their employee-directed giving program. The funds go towards the foundation's capital campaign for the hospital's \$10 million expansion project. Hiebert (centre) is shown here with the foundation's Altona board member Pauline Villeneuve (left) and executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett. "Boundary Trails Health Centre is a critical regional hospital for the Pembina Valley and serves many of our employees and their families," Friesens CEO Chad Friesen says of the donations. "We are proud to support health care in the Pembina Valley."

The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Harrison Drell ©
Inspired By: Bill Watterson



Country Cycle to launch Indigenous Bike Program

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A Winkler bike shop is rolling out a new program it hopes will inspire youth in communities across the province.

Country Cycle's Peter Loewen has teamed up with fellow cyclist Eric Mentuck from Waywayseecappo First Nation to develop the Country Cycle Indigenous Bike Program.

"We're creating a structured bicycle program ... creating weekly gatherings for kids to learn about cycling and teach them skills," Loewen says, explaining the program will be for youth age 5-18. "It's something to get the kids outside in a fun and engaging way, building relationships ... expressing their emotions through biking."

"We want to bring them up from a young age, get them on bikes, and educate them about taking care of their bikes. Teach them all the skills, and then we'll get them up into racing shape, if they want."

Plans are already in the works for a

bike race to be held in a northern Indigenous community this fall.

Loewen has travelled to many communities in Northern Manitoba over the past several months, hosting bike workshops and developing the idea for this program with Mentuck.

Feedback from these events as well as discussions with Indigenous leaders has the pair feeling optimistic about the program's chance to really catch on.

"I think why it's going to work is because what Indigenous communities are looking for are ways to teach their kids more about those traditional ways of seeing the world," Loewen says. "When you're on a bike, you feel a little bit more connected to the world around you, so it opens up opportunities to speak about traditional medicines, about certain plants, the water scene, birds ... it just opens up those opportunities when you're out in the middle of the trail. I think it's going to be a stimulating way to do that."

The program will be run by volun-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Kendrick (left) and Aurora were among the kids who took part in Country Cycle's various bike repair workshops over the past few months. The company's Peter Loewen travelled to several northern communities to put on the sessions and connect with local youth.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Peter Loewen of Winkler's Country Cycle (left) has teamed up with Eric Mentuck to develop a new bike program for Indigenous youth. They hope to launch it in multiple communities up north this spring.

"IT'S SOMETHING TO GET THE KIDS OUTSIDE IN A FUN AND ENGAGING WAY, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ... EXPRESSING THEIR EMOTIONS THROUGH BIKING."

teers in each community, with support from Loewen and Mentuck.

The pair met at a bike race in Colorado several years ago. They hit it off and stayed in touch.

"He works with quite a few Indigenous communities," Loewen says of Mentuck. "He wants to really focus on reconciliation with Indigenous communities ... so he opened up the conversation with me, and that just got my head spinning."

"We want to inspire people that the reconciliation is there and it is possible," Mentuck says. "No matter your skin colour, you can work together on a common goal."

Mentuck has worked with other bike shops on similar programs designed to get kids into cycling.

He credits the sport with having a huge impact on his own life.

"It actually helped change my life for the better in terms of physical health and mental health. Growing up, I never had someone to do that for me, so that's what I want to do."

"There's a lot they will take away, many different paths they can take away," Mentuck says. "Number one is the physical and mental health. We want kids to get something they can use lifelong."

"In the Indigenous communities we

have a high rate of diabetes, so we really want to combat that, educate people on how cycling can help prevent it and help maintain it if they're already diabetic.

"We would also like to see some kids take up cycling competitively," he adds. "You never know who's out there."

"The dream is to get this program into as many of the Manitoba communities as we can, and Northwest Ontario, Nunavut," Loewen says. "That's the goal, the big dream. But first we have to get it started."

They're in talks with several communities and schools right now and hope to get a few clubs started this spring.

The pair are working on securing funding to ensure the cost of bicycles, helmets, and other accessories isn't a barrier to a child taking part.

Loewen notes Country Cycle will also be introducing a new product that will provide financial support for the program. Details are expected to be released soon.

In the meantime, if you'd like to learn more about the Indigenous Bike Program or how you can support it, get in touch with Country Cycle through its website, countrycycle.ca.

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get informed

Altona Tim Hortons on track to open in April

By Lori Penner

One of the most anticipated projects in Altona is nearly complete.

After beginning construction last fall, the new Tim Hortons on Centre Ave. is set to open April 3.

Franchisee Rupesh Patel says he is excited to see people's reaction when they see the new restaurant. With over 2,700 sq. feet, it will provide indoor seating for 40, as well as a huge outdoor patio for customers to enjoy their coffee outside when the weather is warm.

Patel says they're looking at a staff of about 30-35.

"We have hired a few already and they're getting training right now at our Morris location. We're looking to hire more local team members, for full and part-time positions. We want to make sure most of those staff are in place before the business opens."

He operates one location in Winnipeg, as well as rural locations in Swan River, Thompson, and Morris, and says he loves to work in smaller communities.

"I grew up in a small town, as well. There are friendly people, and I love



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Franchisee Rupesh Patel is excited to bring Tim Hortons to Altona.

the warmth and the small-town vibes. And Altona is a good size that can support a franchise like this."

Initially, Patel was planning to open

the restaurant at the end of January, but the contractor they hired had a conflict with timing due to vandalism at another construction site.

"That cost us a major delay. But we're making very good progress now."

The weather was a huge advantage, he adds, allowing them to complete the paving of the parking lot, concrete floor, and sidewalks earlier this winter.

Patel adds they are looking forward to getting involved in the community through their Tim Bits soccer and hockey programs, and fundraisers like the Smile Cookie Campaign which supports local non-profit organizations.

"That will be running in May. Last year, over three days, we raised \$25,000 at our Morris location for a basketball and pickleball court. This year we're partnering with Altona and Area Family Resource Centre. Our goal will be to match what we raised in Morris. Altona has more than double the population, so if they can do it, I'm sure Altona can."

With the Smile Cookie campaign, the entire \$1.50 cost per cookie goes to charity.

"We sold over 18,000 cookies in Morris, so you can imagine how many will be sold here," Patel says.

Manitoba contributes 30,000 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes

By Voice staff

Donations from people across the Pembina Valley last fall helped Samaritan's Purse send 11,330,126 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world, the agency has announced.

Manitoba's contribution to the 2023 campaign tally was 30,413. Canada as

a whole packed 425,209 boxes.

"We are thrilled to see the enthusiastic participation of Canadians in Operation Christmas Child," said Kendra Shields, Operation Christmas Child's Canadian director. "It is very encouraging to know that so many generous people want to give hope and joy to children in need around the world."

Amongst the Manitoba drop-off locations, Winnipeggers contributed the most shoeboxes, with 10,083. The Winkler drop-off site came in second, with 5,224 boxes, followed by Landmark (2,519), and Blumenort (2,415).

Samaritan's Purse, which is a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization, partners with churches around the world in the distribution of the shoeboxes, which are filled with toys, school supplies, and personal care items.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Kids in Costa Rica enjoy the gifts found inside their Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Manitobans packed over 30,000 boxes in 2023.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered 220 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and

territories.

You can learn more or pack a box virtually online at PackaBox.ca.

Looking Glass Theatre brings Dietrich & Maria to the Kenmor March 1-2

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Looking Glass Theatre brings its latest production to the area next week.

The Steinbach group is touring playwright Scot. N. Moir's newest piece, *Dietrich & Maria*, with shows at the Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach this weekend, the Kenmor Theatre in Morden March 1-2, and the 7 Gen Educational Centre in Kenora March 8-9.

Dietrich & Maria is the true love story of German pastor, theologian, and spy Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his fiancé Maria Von Wedemeyer.

Based on their real-life prison letters, the story takes place in Germany during the early days of the Second World War when Bonhoeffer was imprisoned on charges of conspiracy for his alleged role in a plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler.

The play is set during one of Von Wedemeyer's secret prison visits—the last time the two would ever see each other.

Playing the title roles are Marc A. Moir and Laura Kathleen Turner.

"It's a two-handed show, which means that it's just going to be Marc and I on stage the entire time," shares Turner, noting that brings a measure of pressure and thrill to the performance's 100-minute run time.

"It's a very different kind of experience, both as actors and also for the audience," agrees Moir. "There's a real intimacy to a two-hander because there's just one relationship on stage, so you form an even deeper relationship than you might ordinarily do with an audience. You're inviting them inside this relationship, inside this love story. There's more potential, I think, to create these genuinely human moments that people can identify with."

"It will be a really special experience for everyone in the audience," Turner adds.

"It's a gut-wrenchingly beautiful play," Moir reflects. "It's got a little bit of everything. It's got laughs, it's got tears, it's got some very, very deep things. It's just a genuinely beautiful human story of this very complex relationship in a very complex situation."

"IT'S A GUT-WRENCHINGLY BEAUTIFUL PLAY. IT'S GOT A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING."

Playing real-life people can come with its own challenges, but the pair say they focused on trusting the material created by the playwright, Turner's husband, who poured through the couple's letters to get a glimpse at the core of their relationship.

"Whereas ordinarily I would do a lot of research, with this one I decided I'm just going to play it off what's on the page, off of what Scott has given, because he's given us so much in the text of the script," says Moir.

"There isn't a whole lot known to us about Maria Von Wedemeyer," says Turner. "Not nearly as much known to us as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the majority of what we know about her happened after the engagement, after the events of this play."

Turner says she quickly realized her husband had modelled some of Von Wedemeyer's mannerisms after her own.

"I just kind of looked at him and I was like, 'Is Maria me?' Because the way she says things and her cadence and what she says and how she acts, they feel very personal to me.

"I know that Maria Von Wedemeyer was a real person who lived and had her own personality, but I also know that the playwright has written a very specific personality into her," Turner says. "I think that's a really beautiful thing we're able to do with art, because we're not taking a picture where everything is exactly the same as it would have been. It's more like we're painting a picture. We might change some colours to bring certain aspects out that might not have been realized otherwise."

Advance tickets to *Dietrich & Maria* are available at lookingglasstheatre.ca/dietrich-and-maria or at the door. Shows begin nightly at 7 p.m.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Laura Kathleen Turner and Marc A. Moir play the title roles in Looking Glass Theatre's performance of *Dietrich & Maria*, coming to Morden next weekend.

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get informed

Habitat MB takes on an ownership role with Red River Group

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A unique gift will provide a stable source of support for years to come for Habitat for Humanity Manitoba.

The non-profit that builds homes for low-income families recently became part owner of the Red River Group, a real estate appraisal and consulting firm with offices and staff working across Manitoba, including here in the Pembina Valley.

In honour of its 25th anniversary in 2023, Red River Group's shareholders donated 10 per cent of their shares to Habitat Manitoba, valued at nearly \$125,000.

Habitat has been their charity of choice for years, says Red River Group president Gordon Daman. This gift cements that partnership.

What drew Red River to Habitat, Daman explains, "is their commitment to address barriers that working Manitobans face with home ownership."

Habitat provides low-income working families with no-interest mortgages that require no down payment. It allows families that might not other-

wise qualify for traditional mortgages to finally own their own homes.

In return, selected families contribute hundreds of hours of sweat equity, either helping to build their home alongside Habitat workers and volunteers, or by volunteering in the community. They also attend financial education workshops to prepare themselves for first-time home ownership.

AN OBVIOUS CHOICE

Prior to bringing Habitat Manitoba on board, Red River's ownership group included 10 shareholders, all company staff and five of whom are nearing retirement age.

"So we're starting to look at what succession looks like," Daman says.

Bringing a non-profit to the table as a shareholder not only benefits the charity, he notes.

"Habitat Manitoba becoming a shareholder not only means that they will receive a portion of all company dividends, it also means long-term ownership stability and governance for Red River Group with one of the



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Red River Group shareholders welcomed Habitat for Humanity to the table recently. The charity now owns a 10 per cent stake in the company.

shareholders now being a not-for-profit charitable organization."

When this idea first came up, the only question was what charity to partner with.

Given Red River Group's involvement with Habitat, which has included pro bono consulting and appraisal services for years as well as volunteers for various builds, it was the obvious choice.

Daman says the shareholder group were on board with the idea and eager to welcome Habitat to the Red River Group family.

"I think it's an acknowledge-

"WE'RE COMMITTED TO THE COMMON GOOD AND UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE NEEDS TO BE A BALANCE BETWEEN PROFITS, PEOPLE, AND PLANET."

ment of our culture at Red River, that we're committed to the common good and understanding that there needs to be a balance between profit, people, and planet," he says. "Having a not-for-profit charity have a seat at the table, providing a voice for those that face economic barriers ... just makes us a better firm for the sake of the communities we serve."

This gift is a next-level one for the charity, says Habitat for Humanity Manitoba CEO Jamie Hall.

"Each year when we do our budgeting, we set targets for our fundraising. We've got lots of great relationships with companies and individuals, but this is the next step where it's a steady source [of income]," he says. "Of course, dividends are dependent on how well Red River Group does, but it's a lot more stable in that sense, so this is wonderful."

"Red River Group has been supporting Habitat in many different ways for many, many years, so it's an interesting extension to that generosity."

Reading with raptors



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Julia Burcar from the Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre made stops at the Winkler and Altona libraries last week to mark I Love to Read Month with a Reading with Raptors session, bringing along a few feathered friends for kids to get up close and personal with.

sports & recreation

Local sledge hockey players win gold

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Blades teamed up with the Manitoba Express junior team to form an unbeatable sledge hockey squad for the Para Hockey tournament in Regina last week.

Wearing Manitoba Express jerseys, they swept the Feb. 9-11 tournament, defeating the Regina/Kindersley Avengers 6-1, the Melville Sledgedogs 3-0, and the Calgary Venom 5-0 ahead of downing Melville 3-1 in the final to bring home the gold.

The joint team was coached by Winnipeggers T.J. Ehman and Shay Hawthorn and Winkler coaches Silas Pen-

ner and Nic Klassen

Klassen says it was an exciting weekend for the six local kids who took part.

"We have players from Morden, Winkler—all across southern Manitoba," he says, noting they range from 12 or so to 16 years old, though there is no age limit to be part of the team.

Sledge hockey is an adaptation of hockey for people who have a physical disability. Players get around the ice on sleds and use special hockey sticks to navigate and handle the puck.

With only a handful of players, the Blades mainly get together locally to train and scrimmage, so getting the chance to partner with the Winnipeg team to compete was a great opportunity.

"This was something new this year for us," Klassen says. "We had been working together this year with them, and this came up.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Members of the Pembina Valley Blades joined the Manitoba Express junior sledge hockey team from Winnipeg to compete at the Para Hockey tournament in Regina last week. They were undefeated and brought home gold.

"We're still growing. We mainly just do practices, scrimmages, but last year we did host a small tournament in Winkler and we're planning to do that again this year," he says, noting the date for that competition is March 2 at the Meridian Exhibition Centre. Further details were not available at press time.

Klassen, a sledge hockey player himself, says he's had a blast coaching the Blades and hopes to see more people come out to try the sport or simply cheer the team on.

"It's open to the public to watch, so

we're hoping it will get people watching and garnering interest," he says of the upcoming tournament.

"It's been a really fun season for coaching ... when I started I wasn't sure how this whole thing was going to go, but the more I coach, the more I enjoy it.

"I'm really enjoying seeing the growth of the new athletes to this sport and just seeing what they can do and seeing them grow."

You can learn more about sledge hockey at sledgehockeymanitoba.com.

Hawks clinch playoff spot

By Lorne Stelmach

A weekend split of a doubleheader with Yellowhead was good enough for the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks to officially clinch a playoff position.

The Hawks blanked the Chiefs 4-0 in game one Saturday at Shoal Lake but were then edged 3-2 in game two Sunday.

It leaves Pembina Valley locked to finish seventh with a record of 18-16-4-4 for 44 points with just two regular season games remaining on the schedule. They are five back of Interlake and six ahead of Norman.

Bryson Yaschyshyn got the 29 save shutout in game one while the Hawks connected on 35 of their 39 shots on goal. Scoring for Pembina Valley were Jayden Penner, Cohen Pilkington, Liam Goertzen and Kam Thomas.

The Hawks then took a 2-0 lead in game two but gave up three unanswered goals, including two in the third period.

Goertzen and Haiden Friesen scored for Pembina Valley, and Ryler Gates

Continued on page 18

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Filing taxes last minute: common mistakes to watch out for

Filing taxes last minute can be a stressful task, and the rush to meet the deadline often leads to common mistakes that can cost you time, money and peace of mind. Be aware of these common errors to ensure a smooth last-minute tax filing process:

- **Incomplete information.** Rushing through tax preparation can result in missing crucial information, such as forgotten deductions or credits.
- **Forgetting to sign.** Failing to sign your tax return can result in it being rejected. Ensure you've signed and dated all necessary documents.
- **Filing under the wrong status.** Choosing the wrong filing status can affect your tax liability. Make sure you select the correct one, such as single or married, based on your situation.
- **Ignoring e-file options.** Electronic filing is fast and secure and reduces the risk of errors compared to

paper filing. Opt for e-filing to save time and ensure your return reaches the CRA on time.

- **Missing the deadline.** Filing late can result in penalties and interest. If you can't meet the deadline, file for an extension.
- **Neglecting documentation.** Keep records of all tax-related documents and receipts for deductions. This ensures accuracy and helps in case of an audit.
- **Not seeking professional help.** If your tax situation is complex or you're unsure about deductions, credits or changes in the tax code, consider seeking assistance from a tax professional.

The deadline to file your taxes is April 30. Avoid the stress of filing taxes at the last minute and contact a local professional tax services company to ensure a smooth and accurate process.

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Royals knock out Wild

MerCs advance as well, while Bombers and Aces both lead their series 2-1

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Royals move on to the next stage of SEMHL playoffs, having made short work of the Red River Wild.

The best-of-five series pitted the Royals, who had finished sixth in the regular season, against the third-place Wild last week.

Winkler emerged unscathed, win-

ning game one 2-1, game two 7-5, and game three 4-1.

Remi Laurencelle was the high scorer for the Royals through all three games, contributing five goals. Jayme Janzen stood tall in net, making 36 saves in game one and 35 in both game two and game three.

Across the rink, TJ Matuszewski and Daniel Taillefer led the team in

PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE
The Winkler Royals knocked the Red River Wild out of the SEMHL playoffs last week, winning the best-of-five series in three games, including game three in St. Jean Thursday night (above, left).

playoff goals with two each. Mark Friesen manned the Wild's net, making 69 saves.

In the league's other playoff series, the Warren MerCs also knocked out the Notre Dame Hawks in three games straight, the Ste. Anne Aces were up two games to one against the Ile des Chenes Northstars, with game four happening this Saturday, and the Morden Bombers headed into the week one win away from eliminating the Portage Islanders.

After stumbling in game one, losing it to the fourth-ranked Portage 5-2, Morden (who finished the season in fifth place, just one point behind the Islanders) took game two and three by one goal each (2-1 and 3-2).

Jaden Townsend leads the Bombers in playoff goals with two, while Reed Peters had 44, 40, and 42-save nights between the posts for the team.

Game four is Thursday night in Morden.



Winkler bonspiel winners

The Winkler Curling Club hosted its Mens' Bonspiel Feb 9-11, with 16 teams competing. A Event Bonspiel winners included (left, top) Myles Friesen, Raphael Malo, Rhyllind Peters, and Marcus Titchkosky. B-side winners were (left, bottom) Riley Sager, Jesse Mutcheson, and Joey Mutcheson (missing from photo is Bryson Reimer). C1 event winners included (right, top) Jon Doell, Rick Suderman, Richard Pauls, and Colby Wall. And the C2 Event team was (right) Bill Menzies, Blair Smith, Larry Borus, and Mike Mahon.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



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PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

The Morris Curling Club hosted the Manitoba Stick Curling Association's 19th Provincial Stick Curling Championship last weekend. Teams of two from across the province were in town to compete, including Morris' own Quinn Brandt and Curt Brandt (above) and Janice and Charlie White. Representing Carman at the event was Charlie McCullough and Wayne Johnston (right). McCullough/Johnston finished first in their pool, while Team Brandt and Team White both placed sixth in the round robin. McCullough/Johnston got knocked out in the second playoff round on Sunday. The championship title ultimately went to the Harold Peterson/Herb Sulkers team from Beausejour. They'll represent Manitoba at the 2024 Canadian Open Stick Curling Championship in Toronto in April.

Morris hosts stick curling provincials



A week of mixed results for the Winkler Flyers

By Lorne Stelmach

A busy four-game week brought mixed results for the Winkler Flyers.

A 7-2 victory over Niverville last Wednesday was followed by a narrow 3-2 shootout loss to Portage Friday, but the Flyers then rolled to an 8-0 win over Neepawa Sunday before wrapping the long weekend up with a 7-2 loss to Steinbach Monday.

The Flyers remain in second place in the east division at 35-8-2-3 for 75 points, which has them six behind Steinbach but ahead of Portage.

Trent Penner contributed a pair of goals and Dalton Andrew had a goal and a four-point night against Niverville as the Flyers took period leads of 3-1 and 5-2.

Also scoring were Isaiah Peters,

> HAWKS, FROM PG. 15

made 25 saves as the Chiefs held a 28-27 edge in shots on goal.

The Hawks close out the regular sea-

son this weekend with a home doubleheader against the last-place Kenora Thistles.

Mike Svenson, Brody Beauchemin, and Will Brophy. Shots on goal were 40-27 for the Flyers, with Liam Ernst getting the win on 25 saves.

Winkler gave up the game-tying goal to Portage with 42 seconds left in regulation and then failed to connect in the shootout. Svenson and Andrew scored for the Flyers in the second period, while Ernst made 33 saves as the Terriers held a 36-28 edge in shots. Six unanswered second period goals paced the Flyers to the romp over Neepawa.

Jayce Legaarden and Blake Matheson each scored a pair for Winkler with singles from Svenson, Penner, Andrew, and Zach Nicolas. The Flyers held a massive lead in shots at 45-16, with Burke Hood getting the shutout. Steinbach took control of the game

Monday with three straight goals in the second period and then again in the third. Leegarden and Jakob Jones scored for the Flyers, who were out-

shot 45-31.

The Flyers host the Winnipeg Freeze this Friday and then welcome Selkirk Sunday.

Zodiac named MHSAA athlete of the week



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Garden Valley Collegiate's Dante Dyck was named one of the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba High School Athletes of the Week by the Manitoba High School Athletic Association last week. The Gr. 12 student averaged 39 points, 13 rebounds, and seven assists in four games played for the Zodiacs basketball team. "In a game against the #5 ranked Miles Mac Buckeyes, Dante broke his school's single-game scoring record with a 56 point, 19 rebound, seven assist performance," noted coach Danny Friesen. For the season, Dyck has averaged 31 points, eight rebounds, and six assists per game, helping to lead GVC to an undefeated Zone 4 record.

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Want to learn how to fly? LS Flight Academy is the most affordable in Canada. Recreational, private and commercial certificates. We offer flight training and ground school (air law, navigation, meteorology, aeronautics general knowledge). Call 204-651-1402.

NOTICES
SEASONAL CRAFT SHOW? REGISTERING spring programs? Having an AGM? Have your blanket classified ads seen in the 31 Member Newspapers which are seen in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Now booking winter and spring advertising for 2024. Please Call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

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

HEALTH
Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail stonewood elkbranch@mymts.net



RECRUITING FOR
Full Time Permanent French Immersion Teachers

Resumes are being accepted for Ecole St. Eustache and Institut Collégial St. Paul's Collegiate in anticipation for the 2024-2025 school year. All grade levels from K-12 are welcome. Candidates interested in less than full time are also welcome to apply. Currently posted: Grade 5/6 teacher at Ecole St. Eustache (Comp: #004-24-25) Ecole St. Eustache and Institut Collégial St. Paul's Collegiate are both 20-30 minutes west of the Winnipeg perimeter on Hwy 1. Apply to hr@g.prdsmb.ca For postings, please visit www.prdsmb.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2024-001 and By-law No. 2314-24, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21, as amended, of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2314-24, is to zone the land legally described as:

Lot 3, Plan 66348 MLTO in the SE 9-3-4 WPM

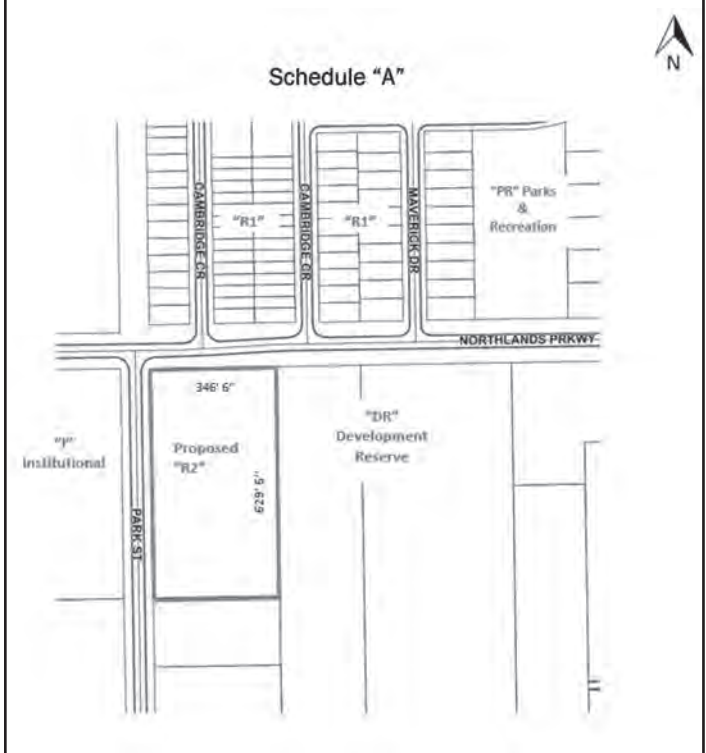
as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

FROM: "DR" DEVELOPMENT RESERVE
TO: "R2" RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2314-24 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office. DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 9th day of February 2024. Designated Officer, City of Winkler

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2024
Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 9th day of February 2024. Designated Officer, City of Winkler



FARMLAND TENDER

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER R.M. of MONTCALM

Title #	Legal Description	Total Acres
1464186/1	W 1/4 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 1/4 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:

- The highest, or any, offer will not necessarily be accepted.
- Offers may be for both or either parcel.
- The date of closing will be thirty days following the receipt of a Grant of Probate from the Court of King's Bench.
- The date of possession will be March 15, 2024.
- The date of adjustments will be January 1, 2024.
- 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.
- You must rely on your own research of the property.
- Tenders are binding upon acceptance and not subject to any conditions precedent.
- 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.
- The Vendor will be responsible for the taxes on the property up to the date of adjustments.
- The Purchaser will be required to pay GST unless the Purchaser is registered for GST and agrees to self-assess.
- 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

PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Municipality of Rhineland 2024 Financial Plan Hearing Wednesday, March 20, 2024 10:00 am Council Chambers of the Municipality of Rhineland

In accordance with subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, Council will present the 2024 financial plan for the Municipality of Rhineland at 10:00am Wednesday, March 20, 2024 in the Council Chambers of the Municipality of Rhineland office.

The presentation will include the 2024 operating budget, the 2024 capital budget, and a five-year capital expenditure program. The presentation will be followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested persons to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection.

Copies of the proposed financial plan will be available after March 11, 2024 upon request at the Municipality of Rhineland office, located at 109 3rd Avenue NE, Altona during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may be directed by letter or email at info@rhinelandmb.ca.

Michael Rempel, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Box 270
Altona, MB R0G0B0

EMPLOYMENT



BORDER LAND SCHOOL DIVISION
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Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

PERMANENT FRENCH IMMERSION TEACHER (1.0 FTE)

FOR ÉCOLE WEST PARK SCHOOL
IN ALTONA, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

EMPLOYMENT

MORRIS COMMUNITY POOL

is now accepting applications for:

Cashiers Lifeguards Instructor / Guards

For the 2024 Pool Season
Full position description can be found online at
<https://wp.me/P9y002-HM>
Please submit your resume and cover letter to:
Megan Thiessen, Pool Supervisor
MorrisPool@townofmorris.ca
Application Deadline: March 11th @ 5pm

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for interviews will be contacted

CAREERS



MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

Bunge Altona has an opening for a Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright. Work involves process equipment installation, maintenance and repair, lubrication, steel fabrication and welding. Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible. Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player. The following would be considered an asset for this position:

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

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

Starting Wages:

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

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

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Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at **204.947.1691** or email classified@mcna.com
www.mcna.com

EMPLOYMENT

Are you a Hygienist or Phase 3 Assistant with Scaling Module?

Morris Dental Centre is looking for a full time, part time and or casual!

Our hours are
Mon – Thurs 9-5; Fri – 9-2.

We would love to get your resume at morrisdental@mymts@mymts.net

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Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call **467-5836**

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES
MUNICIPALITY OF EMERSON-FRANKLIN**

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **19th day of March, 2024**, at the hour of **1:00 PM**, at Municipality of Emerson-Franklin, 115 Waddell Ave East, Dominion City, MB, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
*116700	LOT 6 BLOCK 31 PLAN 18410 WLTO IN N 1/2 OF SECTION 20-2-3 EPM - 30 CENTENNIAL DR	L -\$6,000 B -\$16,700	\$6,281.39
137300	THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 15-2-4 EPM EXC FIRSTLY: ROAD, PLAN 7129 WLTO AND SECONDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AND OTHER MATTERS AS SET FORTH IN THE CROWN LANDS ACT 21060 9N	L -\$104,600 B -\$166,800	\$7,040.08
210600	ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SW 1/4 12-3-4 EPM CONTAINED WITHIN THE FOLLOWING LIMITS: COMMENCING AT THE SW CORNER OF SAID SECTION, THENCE NLY ALONG THE WESTERN LIMIT OF SAID SECTION TO THE CENTRE OF THE ROSEAU RIVER, THENCE ELY FOLLOWING THE SAID CENTRE OF THE ROSEAU RIVER UPSTREAM TO THE EASTERN LIMIT OF SAID QUARTER SECTION, THENCE SLY ALONG THE SAID EASTERN LIMIT TO THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF SAID SECTION, THENCE WLY ALONG THE SAID SOUTHERN LIMIT TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT EXC PLAN 44897 WLTO - 23031 13N	L -\$103,600 B -\$230,900	\$15,509.94
324100	LOTS 381 AND 382 PLAN 1 WLTO (MN DIV) EXC OUT OF LOT 382 ELY 37.5 FEET IN RL 2 AND 4 PARISH OF STE AGATHE 138 DENNIS ST	L -\$5,900 B -\$55,700	\$10,097.38

*Roll 116700 is known to be an environmentally impacted site and the purchaser assumes all liability and responsibility for clean-up and remediation of the site, including both land and buildings.

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any unpaid municipal utilities and any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the MUNICIPALITY OF EMERSON-FRANKLIN as follows:
 - i) The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
 - ii) If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
 - iii) A fee in the amount \$498.75 (\$475 + GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2024.

Managed by:



Tracey French
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Emerson-Franklin
Phone: (204) 427-2557
Fax: (204) 427-2224

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Twin Valley

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To deliver Anhydrous Ammonia (NH3): May/June (4-6 wks), Oct. (4 wks)

Highway: Brandon/Bloom to Harrowby.
Paid by MT delivered.
\$1200-1600/load

Field: Local Deliveries.
Paid by MT delivered.
\$1000-1400/day

**Twin Valley Co-op
Russell Agro
Contact: Mark or Lori
(204) 773-2166
www.twinvalleyco-op.crs**

WANTED

Coins,
Coin Collection,
Old Jewelry,
Bullion +!



Cash paid for silver coins, gold coins, rare coins, old coins & paper \$, Olympic coins, Royal Canadian Mint Coins, Franklin Mint, US Mint etc, unwanted jewelry, old Rolex & Omega watches, nuggets, sterling silver, Bullion, all Gold & Silver!

Wanted:

USA, Canada, World Coin Sets & Coin Collections.

Will buy entire collections & accumulations!

Todd

250-864-3521

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the ESTATE of **JAKE ALVIN WIELER**, late of the Postal District of Roland, in Manitoba, deceased.

All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at 175 Broadway Street, Box 450, Treherne, Manitoba, R0G 2V0 within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication.

DATED at the Town of Treherne, in Manitoba this 14th day of February, 2024.

McCULLOCH MOONEY

JOHNSTON SELBY LLP

Attention: **JULIE TOEWS

Solicitors for the Estate of Jake Alvin Wieler

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF **PAUL JOSEPH ALBERT ROY** late of the **Town of Emerson in Manitoba, Deceased.**

All Claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, Box 811, 164 Boyne Avenue, Morris, Manitoba, R0G 1K0, on or before the 15th day of April, 2024.

DATED at the Town of Morris, in Manitoba, this 14th day of February, 2024.

BRUCE D. GREGORY LAW CORPORATION

Box 811, 164 Boyne Avenue, Morris, Manitoba, R0G 1K0
Solicitor for the Executor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

The Minnewasta Golf & Country Club will be conducting its Pesticide Control Program from April 2024 to November 2024.

The program intent is to control Noxious Weeds, Turf Diseases, and Mosquitos on the property.

The control products to be used include:

Chlorothalinal, Fludioxinol, Propiconazole,

Mefentrifluconazole, Trifloxistrobin,

Tebuconazole, Bacillus Thuringiensis, Glyphosate,

24-D, Mecoprop-p, Dicamba, Tetraniliprole,

Triticonazole, Pyraclostrobin, and Mineral Oil.

Anyone having concerns over the use of these products may send written submissions within 15 days of publication to the department below.

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change

Environmental Approvals Branch

Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard, Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6

TENDER

INVITATION TO TENDER

We invite **TENDERS** for the purchase of approximately 53.30 Acres of land in the City of Winkler described as:

PARCEL I: THE W ½ OF THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 34-2-4 WPM EXC PLANS 26372 MLTO, 54624 MLTO AND 62886 MLTO

Title No. 3048820/4 Roll No. 201640 (approximately 35.30 acres)

PARCEL II: THE WLY 297 FEET OF SE ¼ 34-2-4 WPM

Title No. 3048818/4 Roll No. 201740 (approximately 18.00 acres)

PLEASE NOTE: the lands are subject to a 3 year lease.

Tenders may be submitted for each individual Parcel.

A cheque for \$20,000.00 must accompany the tender as a down payment. Written tenders must be received by 2:00 p.m. on March 8, 2024. Down payment will be returned if tender not accepted.

Closing date for the sale shall be April 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.

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 Christopher G. Doell

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

PUBLIC NOTICE



**R.M. OF STANLEY
PUBLIC NOTICE
REGARDING THE 2024
FINANCIAL PLAN**

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sub-section 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the R.M. of Stanley intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2024 at a Public Hearing in the Council Chambers of the Municipality on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the Financial Plan, as provided. Copies of the 2024 Financial Plan will be available for review prior to the Hearing at the Municipal Office at 1-23111 PTH 14W in the Rural Municipality of Stanley.

FARMLAND TENDER

**FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER
RM OF MACDONALD**

Completed tender and a \$10,000.00 deposit per parcel are invited to be received up to 4:00 PM on March 25th, 2024, for the land described below, at:

**PKF Lawyers - 71 Main St. S, Box 1240, Carman, MB R0G 0J0
Attn: Mona Brown/Jessica Waddingham Ph: 204-745-2028
mbrown@pkflawyers.com jwaddingham@pkflawyers.com**

LAND FOR SALE:

Any or all of the following:

1. THE SW ¼ 18-7-1 EPM (168.48 ACRES)
2. THE SW ¼ 18-7-1 WPM (165 ACRES)
3. THE SE ¼ 18-7-1 WPM (160 ACRES)
4. THE NW ¼ 18-7-1 EPM (168.24 ACRES)
5. THE N ½ OF SECTION 12-7-2 WPM (320 ACRES)
6. THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 13-7-2 WPM (127.57 ACRES)
7. THE NW ¼ OF SECTION 13-7-2 WPM (128.71 ACRES)
8. THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 13-7-2 WPM (160 ACRES)

Total Acres: 1398.00

Conditions of Tender:

1. Financing must be pre-approved.
2. Tender to be submitted on the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. **To obtain tender form or more info contact Jessica Waddingham or Mona Brown at 204-745-2028.**
3. Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00 per parcel. Deposit of tenders not accepted will be returned to the Tenderers.
4. Highest tender or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.
5. Possession and the due date of the balance of tender price shall be April 22, 2024. Please note that possession is subject to a lease on all the lands which will expire December 31, 2024, for lease terms please contact PKF Lawyers.
6. The maker of any tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the land, independent of the representations made by the Vendor or the Solicitor and Agent of the Vendor. The land will be sold "as is" and the Tenderer is solely responsible to determine the value and quality of the land.

Classifieds Announcements

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The *Winkler Morden* Voice

OBITUARY



**Doreen Baker Hiebert (nee Penner)
1932 - 2024**

On Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 2:45 p.m., Doreen Baker passed away peacefully to be with her Savior, Jesus Christ.

Doreen was born on October 4, 1932 and grew up in Lowe Farm, MB. She was the oldest of nine children, born to Ben and Katherine Penner. Doreen had an aptitude for school, being a formidable student. Her love for learning turned into her vocational pursuit of being a school teacher. She attended Teacher's College (Normal School) in Winnipeg. Once becoming a certified teacher, Doreen moved to Morden, teaching in one-room schoolhouses, such as The Diamond School. While in Morden, Doreen met Jim Baker, whom she married on September 29, 1956. In their early years of marriage, Jim and Doreen lived in Bissett, MB and Estevan, SK.

Their best years were spent in Morden where they settled down in the community and raised their family. Once Jim retired from a long career, serving the town of Morden as barber for more than 40 years, Jim and Doreen moved to Oakbank, MB. Jim and Doreen were together for nearly 50 years, before Jim passed away on August 16, 2005. Doreen loved the daily puzzles in the paper and was an avid reader. But it was not enough to take away the loneliness she had from losing Jim. In 2010, Doreen met John Hiebert of Alexander. John had also grown up in Lowe Farm and on June 4, 2011, John and Doreen were married. They were together for 10 years before John passed away on March 28, 2021. Alone again, Doreen, was given the opportunity of returning to where family life had begun ... back to Morden to live at Oak West Estates, moving in on December 6, 2022. However, her health began to wane and in July 2023, she moved into Tabor Home to finish out her time here in this world.

Doreen was predeceased by her sister, Anna Wiebe, father, Bernard Penner, mother, Katherine Penner, husband, James Baker, husband, John Hiebert and brother, Harry Penner, sister-in-law, Deanna Penner.

She will be lovingly remembered by children: Terry (Margaret Ann) Baker, Joanne (Rick) Cram, Thomas (Cara-Lynn) Baker, Robert (Darlene) Baker; grandchildren: Lisa (Tyler) Maes, Terri (Mark) Kroeker, Nicole (Kelly) Guille, Tyler Dyck, Brittany Dyck, Brent (Kelsey) Titchkosky, Stephanie (Nikolaus) Sarlakis, Kristen (Jonathan) Stanners, Steven (Madeline) Baker, and Joseph Baker (Elsbeth); great-grandchildren: Aiden Perrault, Gracie Perrault, Spencer Guille, Wyatt Maes, Virginia Maes, Deacon Maes, Aubrey Kroeker, James Stanners, Leila Stanners, Eliana Sarlakis; stepson: Jim (Bernice Hiebert); siblings: John (Esther) Penner, Walter (Doreen) Penner, Eddy Penner, Bernard Penner, Margaret (Ken) Wiebe, Lorne (Irene) Penner. Doreen will be greatly missed and has left a legacy of faith in Jesus for her family to remember, cherish, and follow.

Memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden.

Donations in Doreen's memory may be made to Tabor Home Inc. in Morden, MB.

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



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Engraved within our hearts*

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newbeginningsadmin@protonmail.com Fax: (204) 542-9082
Unit 7 - 385 Mountain Avenue, Winkler, MB R6W 0M5

COMING EVENT

**Valley Mennonite Academy
Fundraiser**
Sat., Feb. 24, 2024
4:30 - 7:00 PM

Bethel Bergthaler Mennonite Church
4130 MB-32, Hochfeld, MB
Dine-in and Take-out
Soup, Pulled Pork, Coleslaw & Pie

Proceeds go to the general operating fund of the school
VMA is non-government funded
all donations are greatly appreciated.

Nordic Ware & cookbooks available for sale

COMING EVENT

Coming to the Manitou Opera House!

Konektis Choral Choir

Sat., March 2 at 3:00 pm.
Doors open at 2:30 pm.
Rush seating. Admission is \$15 (17 and under \$10).
MANITOU OPERA HOUSE
325 Main Street, Manitou, MB.

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The *Winkler Morden* Voice

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

TENDER

JANITORIAL TENDER

Access Credit Union Morris

Access Credit Union Morris requires the services of a contractor to provide general cleaning duties daily for the interior and exterior of the building.

Duties include:

- Vacuum all carpets and mop floors
- Gather and dispose of all garbage and recycling
- Dust and clean offices, staff room and public area
- Clean and sanitize washrooms
- Other cleaning requirements as necessary

Tenders or resumes, accompanied by a minimum of two references, must be received on or before **March 8, 2024, before 4:30 p.m.**

Tender information can be obtained by emailing Vickie.Addison@accesscu.ca.

Tenders may be delivered, mailed or emailed to:

Access Credit Union
PTH #14 Unit 2 - 23111 Stanley Business Centre
Winkler, MB R6W 4B4
Email: Vickie.Addison@accesscu.ca

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The *Winkler Morden* Voice

arts & culture

Konektis choir coming to Manitou March 2

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Konektis is coming to the Manitou Opera House next week.

The Brandon-based adult choir features vocalists from across southern Manitoba singing a varied repertoire of musical genres, says founder Michelle Chyzyk, who co-directs alongside Marla Fontaine and assistant conductor Clint McLachlan.

“This is a wonderful adult choir,” she says, noting they represent a range of ages and backgrounds.

“The name Konektis comes from the language of Esperanto and it means connected,” Chyzyk explains. “So we try to have a very vivacious, charismatic approach to the music. We try to connect with each other and with our music and with the audiences.

“We do a lot of really charismatic, cool music. Different languages, movement, instrumentation. It’s quite a vivacious program for a choir.”

Konektis got its start in 2016 under the direction of Chyzyk, who was a recipient of the Manitoba Choral Association’s inaugural Award for Artistic Excellence. In 2021, Manitoba Choral Association awarded the choir its New Voice Award.

In the 2022-2023 season, Konektis enjoyed collaborations with the Win-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Konektis choir, which includes a locals Jackson Hacault and Sarah Sharpe, performs at the Manitou Opera House next week.

nipeg Symphony Orchestra, multiple concerts with community and high school choirs in addition to stand-alone performances, and a performance at Carnegie Hall under the baton of Carrie Tennant and Jamie Hillman.

This season’s Konektis singers hail from eight different Manitoba communities and from all walks of life. Many are graduates of Brandon Uni-

versity’s music program.

The group includes two familiar faces: Manitou natives Jackson Hacault and Sarah Sharpe.

“Everywhere that we go, there’s some local connection,” Chyzyk says, encouraging people to come “cheer for their homegrown talent.

“The show will be entertaining for all ages, for anybody who loves music and choral music,” she adds. “It’s

an opportunity that might not come around that often.”

The Manitou show takes place on Saturday, March 2 at 3 p.m. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. for rush seating. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 or youth 17 and under).

Joining the choir in their performance is pianist Justine Burke.



‘Busybody’ in Manitou & Morden

FACEBOOK/CANDLEWICK PRODUCTIONS

Candlewick Players offered up the comedy thriller *Busybody* as its Valentine’s dinner theatre production at the Manitou Opera House Feb. 9-10 followed by additional shows—sans supper—at the Kenmor Theatre in Morden Feb. 16-18.



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

Carman to host U21 Provincials this week

By Ty Dilello

The Carman Golf and Curling Club is proud to be the host of this week's 2024 U21 Provincial Curling Championships, taking place from Feb. 21-25.

There will be a total of 18 teams participating in the provincial championships, which will take place in Carman.

The boys' teams are Nash Sugden (Morden), Tanner Graham (Heather), Ethan Marshall (Brandon), Rylan Campbell (West St. Paul), Colin Desaulniers (Heather), Zachary Norris (Morris), Colton Olafson (Portage), Jace Freeman (Virden), Jordon McDonald (Assiniboine Memorial).

The girls' teams competing are Robyn Buchel (East St. Paul), Bethany Allan (Heather), Zoey Terrick (Heather), Shaela Hayward (Carman), Gina Giasson (Killarney), Dayna Wahl (Altona), Emily Cherwinski (Assiniboine Memorial), Karys Buchalter (West St. Paul), Rylie Buchalter (Heather).

Team Hayward is coming off their gold medal at the U18 National Championships, while Team Jordon McDonald is coming off a third-place finish at last week's Viterra Championships.

The local host committee in Carman has been doing very well in the lead-up to the U21 event, as preparations have been in place over the past year. The Opening Banquet is on Feb. 21, and Opening Ceremonies will take place on Feb. 22 at 6:45 p.m.

"Everything is going well for U21 Provincials that start next week," said organizer Kyle MacNair. "The event starts on Wednesday evening with the opening banquet for the athletes. Draws start on Thursday morning, and the opening ceremonies will take place on Thursday night. We are excited to have arranged a piper to pipe the teams into the ceremony and have arranged four former Provincial Junior Champions from the Carman area to deliver and sweep the ceremonial opening rock."

MacNair and his fellow organizers anticipate that there are going to be a lot of fans for the event, considering that the local team, Shaela Hayward, won the U18 Canadian Curling Championships that took place in Ot-tawa last week.

"We also have confirmed that the draw set-up will mean we only have to use four of the five sheets at the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Carman's Shaela Hayward and her team will be the hometown favourites at this week's U21 Junior Provincial Curling Championships being held at the Carman Golf and Curling Club. Pictured, left to right, Rylie Cox, India Young, Keira Krahn and Shaela Hayward.

curling club for the event, so we will be setting up chairs and tables on sheet one so that fans can enjoy an ice-level viewing experience."

Twisters clinch playoff spot after big two win week

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters earned two wins out of their three games last week to stay a contender in the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League (MMJHL). With the wins, the Twisters have clinched a playoff berth and are staying firm in second place in the league standings with a record of 25-10-3.

On Feb. 14, the Twisters were 3-1 victors on the road against the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club. Twisters' goals on the evening were scored by Kyle VanDeynze, Max Collet and Cohen Thomas, while goaltender Owen LaRocque made 23 saves for the win.

On Feb. 16, Pembina Valley team secured a thrilling 4-3 victory over the Transcona Railer Express in overtime. VanDeynze was instrumental with two goals, and Heppner and Bergman also contributed to the score. Enns made 25 impressive saves in goal to secure the win for his team.

On Feb. 18, the Twisters win streak was snapped with a 4-1 loss to the St. Boniface Riels. Riley Goertzen scored the Twisters' lone goal on the day, while LaRocque made 21 saves in the loss.

"I've been very pleased with our game as of late we've been outworking teams and getting lots of pucks to the net without sacrificing on defence," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "We

played a very good game against St. Boniface, but they capitalized on three little mistakes. And we didn't generate enough pucks and traffic to their net. It was a great test and a playoff-type feel game."

Beernaerts is looking forward to the final run of games on the season.

"It feels good to clinch a playoff spot and be in the situation we are in," said Beernaerts. "However, with the standings so tight, we still need to stay focused and battle to keep the playoff position we are in currently."

Twisters' sniper Derek Wiebe is currently sixth in the MMJHL's scoring race with 61 points in 38 games, Merek Degraeve is in seventh with 58 points

in 39 games, and Riley Goertzen is in tenth with 48 points in 38 games. Enns is currently third in the goalie rankings, boasting a 2.91 goals-against average and a .915 save percentage.

The Twisters are on the road this week with their first game on Friday, Feb. 23 when they travel to Stonewall to play the Jets. The puck drops at 8 p.m.

Then on Sunday, Feb. 25, they will take on the first-place St. James Jr. Canucks at the St. James Civic Centre at 2:45 p.m.

The **Voice**
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