The Altona Rhineland • Morris
Voice

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

LOCALLY OWNED HISTORY BOOK FOR THE COMMUNITY

Curling for a cause

Fourteen teams came out to take part in the K4K Charity Funspiel Saturday at the Altona Curling Club. For the full story, see Pg. 13.
PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

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Winkler transit system averaging 900 trips a month

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's On-Demand Transit System is about halfway through its 30-month pilot timeline, but city staff are already crunching the numbers as to what's working and what's not.

The City of Winkler has released usage data for the system's first full year of operation, along with the results of a recent user survey

The made-in-Winkler system is unique in that unlike a traditional fixed-route bus system like you see in larger urban centres, it operates based on rider requests anywhere within the city or to the Boundary Trails Health Centre, with the transit vehicle picking patrons up wherever they may be.

Users can book a ride in advance—using a mobile app, the program's website, or by phone—up to seven days in advance and be told when the shuttle will arrive within specific time window. Riders are prioritized in the order that their bookings are received, with drivers potentially doing multiple pick-ups and drop-offs on a given run.

The fare is a flat $5 per booking, regardless of where you're going or how many other passengers are along for the ride.

One thing the first year's assessment clearly shows is that there is very much a need for public transit in Winkler, noted Mayor Henry Siemens.

"We anecdotally felt that there was a need, but from the usage stats and the fact that it continues to grow, we now know how big the need really was," he said.

During 2025, the program provided nearly 10,800 trips, averaging about 900 a month. Ridership peaked in the fall and winter months and slowed down a bit through the summer.

Commercial areas made up the bulk of trips (41.1 per cent), with riders also using it to get to residential destinations (34.5 per cent), institutional locations such as medical or civic facilities (16.3 per cent), and industrial sites.

"We're finding we have some regular users and we're seeing patterns in terms of when people need rides and where they more need rides from and to," Siemens noted.

When it comes to the rider experience, most have been rating the service high—averaging 4.6 out of five.

Only 1.5 per cent of requested trips could not be accommodated, which, the City says, indicates the service generally has had enough capacity with its lone active vehicle to meet demand.

VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Winkler On-Demand Transit shuttle has become a familiar sight around town over the past year. It logged nearly 10,800 trips in 2025.

Respondents rated the service high on affordability, ease of booking and use, safety and security, and accessibility, but some voiced concerns about its timeliness and reliability—46 per cent of respondents noted that wait times are too long or are unpredictable and 19 per cent said they weren't able to get a ride for the times they wanted.

That said, the city's usage data shows over 90 per cent of booked trips over the past year have arrived within the promised 10-minute pick-up window. On average, the shuttle completed 2.7 trips per service hour, with the average trip taking a little under 11 minutes.

Siemens noted this system doesn't operate the way one might expect, for example, a taxi service to run. It does

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Menzies clinic welcomes new doc with help from MAF grant

By Lorne Stelmach

Menzies Medical Centre has recently welcomed another new physician, and his recruitment came with the assistance of the Morden Area Foundation.

Dr. Chiedozie Okoye has started practicing in Morden, and the foundation last week presented a $15,000 grant as part of its commitment to help support physician recruitment.

"We're super excited for Morden Area Foundation partnering with us on more than one occasion to support the good work of recruitment and hopefully retention in our community, build our system, to be a stronger support for our community," said clinic executive director Nicole Walske.

"In order to recruit physicians, we need to provide incentives so that they come and stay," said Yvonne Stoesz, a foundation board member and grant committee chairperson. "It feels good having another physician provide the needs for health care for our community.

Stoesz noted they presented a $15,000 grant in support of a new physician last year as well, so it is not only encouraging to see it making a difference but also to hear that Okoye wants to settle here.

"That's so awesome," she said. "I think that's the biggest hurdle is to recruit, and once people move here, they feel what a great community Morden is for themselves … we hope they stay."

And she was pleased to hear that the recruitment efforts here are paying off in providing so many people with a consistent family doctor.

"This means a lot to those people … it's adding to the team here."

"I'm here to stay," said Okoye. "I'm thinking it's easier day by day … I do hope to enjoy my stay here. I intend to make it a home for my family."

Okoye was born in Nigeria, where he completed his undergraduate medical training with University of Nigeria. He then worked as a senior medical officer for a few years before moving to the United Kingdom to complete his postgraduate training in general practice family medicine. He worked as a family doctor in the United Kingdom until moving to Canada with his family.

"Relocation wasn't easy, especially when you've got family," he said. "It was a big challenge in terms of the unknown."

A big difference for him was that he had a classmate who had previously relocated here and had good things to say, so some of his fears were eased because it was coming from "someone I've known for 20 years, and I trust his judgement.

"He couldn't stop praising his time here," said Okoye. "I would have had a soft landing because I've got someone here showing me what to do."

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Menzies Medical Centre received a $15,000 grant from the Morden Area Foundation to help recruit Dr. Chiedozie Okoye (second from right).

He hasn't been here very long yet, but he very much likes what he has seen and experienced.

"So far, it's been very good … nice community, nice patients. I'm enjoying my time here so far," he said. "I'm getting use to things day by day. I suppose it's a journey. We'll take it as it comes."

He also noted another factor in choosing Morden:

"Personally, I like a quiet life. I'm not a city boy. I like it here; the quietness, a small community. You get to know your patients," he said, emphasizing how he appreciates having more time to really work with his patients and establish a relationship with them.

Walske noted they very much appreciate the impact of their recruitment efforts, noting how different it is now even from four years ago when it seemed so hard to both retain and recruit physicians.

"It's a huge impact," she said.

"We've had a few weeks now where our walk-in is not at capacity on a more regular basis because people have family doctors," she noted. "We're depleting that list on Family Doctor Finder, and patients are feeling supported and connected again in their health care, which is the ultimate goal."

And Walske stressed as well how vital it is that someone like Okoye can be welcomed and integrated into the community.

"Our community does that so very well … and just overall the community within our clinic, our physicians do work very hard to stay connected," she said. "They really do work hard at building that connection, and I think that is a key component for us retaining our current physicians and recruiting more."

> TRANSIT, FROM PG. 2

require a bit of advance planning on behalf of users and some patience during peak times when multiple riders may need to get picked up or dropped off.

"Ultimately you can still get a ride, you just may not be able to get a ride exactly when you want, and I think that's probably the biggest learning curve when I talk to people—this isn't like jumping in the car at home and driving to the store," he said. "The trip is going to be a little longer, it's going to require a little bit more planning, but it's also going to be less expensive.

"This is an affordable way to move from A to B, but you have to be better at scheduling it and knowing when you need to go and pre-arranging your rides."

Most riders noted they were happy with the service's hours of operation, though there was a desire for expanded service weekday evenings and on Sundays. The program currently operates weekdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It does not run Sundays or holidays.

When it came to where the transit vehicles can take people, the most asked-for location not available was Morden. Siemens noted they are not currently in talks with the City of Morden about expanding the system there, but those discussions could come in the future as Winkler firms up its long-term plans for public transit.

The pilot program will continue until the spring of 2027, at which point city council will need to have made a decision about what comes next.

"We don't yet know—and won't until probably the pilot is nearly done—what the next step is and how we're going to build it, but whatever we bring forward is going to be something that the community can afford and something the community needs," Siemens said.

The mayor noted it's unlikely, given the data the pilot is already providing, that Winkler would be able to sustain a fixed-route bus system. The current system seems to be working pretty well overall, he said, and is likely a taste of what the permanent program might end up looking like.

"We're actually having a lot of compliments from people about the fact that they pick you up right from where you want to go and bring you where you want to go," Siemens said.

Having more transit vehicles on the road could alleviate some of the complaints about the timeliness of the service, though that does come with added costs. Council will need to weigh those types of decisions during budget planning next year. Siemens noted they won't be making any major changes along those lines until the pilot is nearly complete.

"Council was asked this year if we would change the pilot, would we increase some funding to it, maybe add a second vehicle," he said. "We chose to take a step back and let the pilot run its course ... where we are right now is to stay with it and learn as much as we can."

He noted they do intend to make decisions about the long-term future of transit in Winkler well before the pilot program officially comes to an end to ensure a seamless transition

"We always go into our annual public planning sessions and make decisions for the following year. Then we finalize that in January," he said. "I would expect that this will be a huge topic on next fall's council planning agenda."

Based on current operating expenses, it's estimated the annual operating costs of running this program will be about $365,000, with fare revenue coming in at about $3,500 per month.

Siemens hopes the provincial and federal levels of government will come on board to make that price tag more financially sustainable for Winkler.

Local Irish dancers shine at international competition

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden-based dance program had a successful showing at a recent major competition in the United States.

Irish dancers from Danceworks headed south over the February long weekend to take part in the North American Irish Dance National Championships in Minneapolis.

The group of 13 dancers came home with 12 first places, nine second places, 12 thirds, three fourths, six fifth places, one sixth place, one seventh place, and three honourable mentions for 44 placings overall.

Dancers then advanced to the awards levels one and two on the Sunday. The most significant achievement there was in level two where there was a first-place finish in U18 for 17-year-old Ella Kalinouski. Many other local dancers reached the podium or ranked in the top 10 in their categories.

"Our dancers were amazing," said instructor Cathy Savage. "We had really, really good results. I was so incredibly proud of them. This is a really great bunch of kids."

She attributed their success to "a lot of hard work, practicing and listening to their teacher. It was just really working at it and correcting the mistakes that need to be corrected … and it's even just having the confidence to go out on stage and compete, which is huge."

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Thirteen dancers from Danceworks' Irish dance program competed at the Irish Dance Nationals in Minneapolis last month.

Continued on page 5

Clare's Law comes into effect in Manitoba

Legislation provides access to a partner's history of violence, support services

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitobans who find themselves with a potentially abusive partner now have a way to find out about that person's documented history of violence thanks to the launch of Clare's Law.

The Disclosure to Protect Against Intimate Partner Violence Act was passed by the provincial government in 2022 and finally came into effect March 1.

"Clare's Law is critical in Manitoba, where we have the second highest rate of intimate partner violence and family violence across Canadian provinces," said Families Minister Nahanni Fontaine, minister responsible for women and gender equity. "This made-in-Manitoba approach centres survivors, connecting people to information but also to community-based and trauma-informed supports and services to protect and empower Manitoban families."

Clare's Law is named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by her former partner in England in 2009. After her death, her family learned her killer had a lengthy history of violence against women. They campaigned to create a legal process that allows police to warn potential victims of intimate partner violence, or their families, about a partner's documented violent past.

Versions of Clare's Law have since been adopted in the United Kingdom and in some Canadian provinces.

Manitoba is the first Canadian jurisdiction to broaden the disclosure protocol to include both family and sexual violence, and is also the first jurisdiction in the world to, as a stated goal in the legislation, include connections for the applicant to the various supports and resources available to them as someone at risk of intimate partner violence.

"Manitoba's unique approach to Clare's Law will make a difference in keeping Manitobans and their families safe, combining access to crucial information, safety planning, and community-based supports," said Justice Minister Matt Wiebe.

Ang Braun, executive director of Genesis House, which provides safe haven for the victims of domestic violence in Southern Manitoba, hailed the launch of Clare's Law as a positive step forward.

"What Claire's Law does is it allows, legitimately, a pathway for people to find out whether the person they're dating or in a relationship with has a prior history of domestic violence or gender-based violence or sexual violence," she said, noting having that information can help people make informed and safer choices.

Many women find themselves in a situation where red flags are telling them something might be wrong, but they're perhaps uncertain how concerned they should truly be about their safety.

"Knowing how domestic violence or gender-based violence works is that it often doesn't start with the physical," Braun pointed out. "It can start with gaslighting, with emotional abuse or financial abuse, or really just very controlling behaviour.

"A lot of times if this is your second relationship or third relationship and you're bringing children into this relationship, you can see how people might say, 'You know what, I'm not great with this controlling behaviour, but I might be able to tolerate it ... but what if there's more?'

"And sometimes you can be in a relationship where there's violence or abuse, but it's not all the time, so you can become complacent: 'It was my fault' or 'It was just this one time.'

"But when you hear a third party, if you go through this process [for a Clare's Law application] and that third party tells you there's been three other protection orders taken out against this person, I think that really validates that, oh my goodness, I have been minimizing this. Because that's one of the big things that happens is people often minimize the violence or abuse they're experiencing. But when you get that validation, I think it could prompt a person to say, 'Hey, I'm out.'"

Braun said the shelter is looking forward to receiving training to aid people in applying for the program, which the province says will initially will be offered out of offices in Winnipeg and virtually before and eventually expanding to include satellite locations across the province.

"This cannot just be a Winnipeg-based program," Braun stressed. "They've talked about satellite sites, so I imagine that shelters and women's resource centers will become those satellite sites ... I would strongly advocate for those of us in the rural areas, the agencies that are already familiar with and equipped in dealing with gender-based violence, that it would make sense that we would be the satellites for helping people find out more about this and make their applications."

Applications for Clare's Law are available at gov.mb.ca/familylaw/safety/clares-law.html.

> DANCERS, FROM PG. 4

And Savage suggested others in the competition took notice of these dancers coming from rural Manitoba.

"There were dance schools from all over the States, and there were three schools from Ireland, so it was a really big competition for us to be there," she said. "Small-town Manitoba is competing against these dancers from places like Kansas City, Ohio, Minneapolis … competing against these bigger schools from places like Boston and Chicago.

"They do really, really well compared to these other schools … so it's just a huge accomplishment for them."

For many of the dance students, who range in age from nine to 17 and hail from across the Pembina Valley, this event was a new experience.

"Of those 13 who went, only one girl had danced at the nationals before," Savage noted. "For six of them, it was their first competition ever. So that is amazing in itself, and some of them were trying new dances they had just started learning in September."

She suggested their success reflects a high level of passion and dedication for Irish dance among the students.

"They have to love it and enjoy it," she said, adding her thoughts on the attraction of Irish dance.

"I think it's just the music … and it's just a little different from a lot of the other genres," she suggested. "Irish dance is hard work, but once you start doing it and you get it … and the physicality of it too is amazing. It's like a workout every time you get on the stage."

Local dance students can now look forward to April when they travel to Regina for another competition. Before that, Danceworks will also be hosting an Irish ceilidh March 27 at the Kenmor Theatre in Morden. Tickets are available through the Danceworks website.

Two killed in Hwy. 428 collision

By Voice staff

Two men were killed in a multi-vehicle accident last Friday on the road to Roland.

Emergency crews were called to the scene just north of the intersection at Highway 428 and Road 19 North in the RM of Roland around 7:30 p.m. on March 6.

RCMP say two trucks had stopped on the southbound highway lane to assist a man who had driven his car off the road and into the ditch.

As this was occurring, a 17-year-old woman driving south didn't immediately recognize the trucks were stopped on the road. She swerved to miss the truck that was in her lane, but clipped one of the stopped trucks, went off the highway, and hit the back of the car that was already in the ditch.

The two men who had been standing in the ditch—the 44-year-old owner of the first car and a 73-year-old from one of the trucks—were injured in the collision and died.

The female driver and her passenger, also a 17-year-old female, were taken to Boundary Trails Health Centre as a precaution, but no other injuries were reported.

Road conditions were described as icy at the time of the collision, RCMP report.

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• FAITH FOCUS

A new season

Easter is an interesting part of our calendar.

It is a "moveable" remembrance or celebration. In an attempt in the early church to establish a date which would reflect accurately the time of Jesus' death and resurrection, coinciding with the Jewish Passover observance, it was determined that the Sunday following the first full moon after spring has begun would be the date known as Easter Sunday.


By Randy Smart

In the Bible, the Gospels tell us of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was alluded to in the Old Testament in preparation for what would be revealed in the New Testament. For Christians this truth is essential to our belief. The apostle Paul was skeptical of the claims about Jesus until he came to a personal moment of realization orchestrated by the Lord. He became a bold voice for absolute belief in Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 15:3,4 we read "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures…" Paul went on to list, for the record, witnesses to the risen Lord and briefly acknowledged his own past as one who had been a persecutor of "the church of God."

We need occasions to stop and remember that we are loved by God and to consider again the incredible way that God demonstrated his love for us (Romans 5:8). Like exercise and fresh air assist us physically – meditation in the Scriptures, prayer, and songs of worship can give us a new awareness of God's love for us and invite us to understand eternal truths.

Some composers of classical music took seriously the message of Jesus as God's Son. We still value their musical expressions today. The "Messiah" by George Frideric Handel would be one example. It was unveiled for public performance in Dublin, Ireland as an Easter offering on April 13, 1742.

Rev. John Newton published a series of sermons in time for Easter of 1785 based on the Messiah. Newton wrote that the "Messiah" speaks of Jesus' "person, grace and glory; his matchless love to sinners; his humiliation, sufferings and death; his ability and willingness to save to the uttermost; his kingdom and the present and future happiness of his willing people…"

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letters

LET US EXIST IN PEACE

Today I read the open letter "The Truth Will Set You Free" [*Feb. 26, Pg. 7*] and I have a few things to say in response.

Firstly, Kendall Klassen mentioned that they felt the Peter Cantelon column [*Who Will They Meet, Feb. 12, Pg. 6*] was a "mockery" of Christianity. I would like to ask how? Religion was only mentioned a few times, and it is evident that most, if not all, religious institutions in Winkler promote homophobia and transphobia. Cantelon was simply stating fact. Queer people often do not feel safe here—I don't feel safe here sometimes—because of people who choose to make us feel unsafe. A large majority of those people are religious.

Secondly, they mentioned that Cantelon misused statistics. He did not. Every statistic mentioned (a total of two) is correct.

Firstly, he had stated the amount of queer people in Winkler. Secondly, he mentioned suicidal ideation rates among queer people in Winkler. Neither of these statistics are misused; they simply point out fact.

Pointing out queer people have suicidal tendencies is not offensive or false, it is pointing out how unsafe queer people have been made to feel among the rest of the population. This ties back into my first rebuttal: the reason queer people have worse mental health is due to being ostracized from

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Letter policy

The *Voice* welcomes letters from readers on local matters.

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

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

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

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

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Western School Division unveils $36M budget

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden area residents will be paying a minor amount more in school taxes in the year ahead under a new Western School Division budget that aims to do more for students with just a bit more provincial funding.

At a public meeting last Wednesday, the board introduced a budget with projected revenues of $36.6 million and expenditures of about $35.7 million, which leaves a surplus of around $535,000 after about $357,000 is transferred to capital.

The mill rate, which determines the education taxes, is increasing to 14.61, which is a rise of 6.8 per cent, so it will have a varying impact on the tax bills this coming year.

"People will see a modest increase in their school tax bill," said board chair Darcy Wolfe, who noted a provincial rebate of $1,600 that comes off the taxes will help quite a bit.

"We do have a few new expenses in Western School Division. A lot of it has to do with school staffing, staffing increases, harmonization costs with the teacher contract and a number of other things that the schools, division and board identified that were priorities," he said. "Things like new buses, which are definitely not cheap to purchase, new school equipment, technology equipment, some other staffing positions.

"And obviously there's a lot of inflationary pressures that come every year," Wolfe added. "It's impossible to do everything we would like to do. Our ratepayer can only handle so much, right, so we don't want to tax them too much.

"As a board, we look at these expenses as an investment into our students, into our community … we do try to be very mindful of the way that we spend our money and only spend it on things that are actually needed and things that are important."

The budget is supporting a growing division, which is projecting an overall enrolment increase to over 2,400 students for the 2026-2027 school year.

Provincial funding represents just under 70 per cent of revenues with municipal taxes coming in at just over 29 per cent and other sources around one per cent.

The provincial funding comes in at about $15.7 million, a 2.4 per cent increase at $426,710. The expenditures have salaries and benefits representing 83.76 per cent of the budget with transportation and operations at 7.02 per cent, instructional support at 6.34 per cent, tax and interest at 1.71 per cent, division administration at 0.87 per cent and adult and community education at 0.30 per cent.

In the end, it means a home assessed at $382,000 will see its 2025 school taxes of $849.87 after rebate increase to $911.46 after rebate—an increase of $61.59 in school tax per year.

On a quarter section of RM of Stanley farmland valued at one million dollars, the 2025 school taxes of $3,554.20 will increase to $3,798.60 for a rise of $244.40. And a business assessed at $350,000 will see its 2025 school taxes of $4,959.05 jump to $5,008.87 for an increase of $49.82.

Wolfe noted the proposed budget takes into account feedback from the public budget survey, which identified a number of key community priorities, including:

- Maintain adequate staffing levels.
- Priorize technical and vocational and real world learning.
- Pursue a new high school and École Discovery Trails addition.
- Ensure continued excellence in curricular programming and high quality teaching practices.
- Exemplary student academic achievement and access to mental health resources.

As a result, some of the main focus areas for expenditures include the following:

- Investments in wages and benefits for the staff.
- New teacher positions, more educational assistant hours and other new staff positions to properly support the growing population.
- New buses/vehicles, cafeteria equipment, science lab, security cameras and other technology.
- A small surplus so that the division can respond to unanticipated and emergent needs next year.

Other key specific items include:

- Additional educational assistant hours based on anticipated programming needs.
- A workplace safety and health officer position.
- Funding to continue to support an in house behaviour consultant and staff training.
- Investments in wage and benefit increases for staff.
- Harmonization costs for teachers with provincial funding support only covering about a third of the cost to the division.
- Increased instructional coach time allotment.
- Inflationary increases on fuel, utilities and insurance.
- Investments in information technology devices and infrastructure to support learning.
- Funding to support board priorities initiatives.
- Upgrades to the MCI/ÉMMS cafeteria.
- Transportation - new buses.
- Custodial and maintenance vehicle purchases.
- Capital upgrades to schools.
- Security cameras.
- Science lab equipment.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Western School Division board chair Darcy Wolfe noted there are a lot of inflationary pressures each year as they draft the budget.

WSD continues lobbying for capital projects

Western School Division continues to press the provincial government on its need for more capital projects and school space in Morden.

Following the division's presentation of its draft budget for the 2026-27 school year last week, the capital needs were addressed in the question and answer session.

Touching on the division's needs for more space, board chairperson Darcy Wolfe noted their five-year capital plan emphasizes the need not only for a second high school but also an expansion of the new École Discovery Trails school as well.

The division had long had two new schools on the capital plan, Wolfe noted, and Discovery Trails only partially addressed the need as it opened at near-capacity.

"They always talk about how tight things are," he said of their discussions with provincial representatives. "Everybody's asking for money, and we are no different.

Wolfe said they have had lots of discussions with the province, and they had an opportunity a couple months ago to meet with a deputy minister of education.

"We have spoken with people in government … we have been for years … and we've been talking with the city whenever they have the opportunity to talk to people in government that we may not have access to.

"I think conversations are going well," he said, adding they recently had the chance to connect with the Education Minister Renee Cable on a tour of Red River Technical Vocational Area program sites a few weeks ago.

"She was very receptive to the needs of Western School Division," Wolfe said. "They are familiar with our area, and they know what's going on here, and we repeat it to them as many times as we can … we plead the case."

Wolfe said they will continue to reach out to the province as much and as often as they can, and he added it is helpful for their case to be made to the province by multiple sources.

"Having that voice come from other directions can always make a difference," he suggested.

—Lorne Stelmach

Our mistake

The Pg. 11 article in the March 5 issue of the *Voice* entitled "Morden, Stanley, Winkler developing joint strategic planning" wrongly stated that Morden city council had just approved the collection of an accommodation tax.

In fact, the tax had already previously been approved, but council that week passed a resolution to set up a new reserve fund for the tax funds to support events, economic development, and tourism in the City of Morden.

We apologize for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

Chamber luncheon marks International Women's Day

By Lorne Stelmach

It is often said the only constant in life is change, and that became a theme among the three speakers at the Morden Chamber of Commerce's International Women's Day luncheon last Friday.

The trio of local women speaking at the Morden Activity Centre all touched on how they had evolved and pivoted in their life journeys to date.

Describing her journey as an adventure, Kaylee Meakin touched on how you may face challenges in life but you need to just keep getting back up.

"It takes courage to evolve … or does it just come naturally and or with ease?" said Meakin. "I would like to say it's both … how I got to where I am today, I never would have believed it."

Meakin is a registered massage therapist specializing in prenatal, postpartum, and infant care as well as a certified spinal flow practitioner supporting nervous system health and overall wellbeing.

Through her business, The Prairie Dragonfly, she has created a space where families feel supported during pregnancy, early motherhood and infancy. Alongside her clinical work, she is also a small business owner with a retail shop featuring high-quality baby gifts—blending compassionate care with entrepreneurship.

"Some of those paths have been easy, smooth; others are winding and rocky," observed Meakin.

She touched on facing choices along the way but being open to embrace possibilities and open doors.

"I have evolved to be a woman who wears many, many hats," she said, going on to reflect on the name of her business and what drew her to the image of a dragonfly. "Some would say it's my spirit animal … because the dragonfly changes form throughout it's life, it represents becoming your true self through transformation. It also means great change, adaptability in hardship, joy and rebirth and new beginnings."

Up next, Janet Neduzak commented on the importance of International Women's Day.

"We take time to recognize the journeys of women … the ones shaped by purpose, resilience, leadership and often quiet sacrifice."

Neduzak has dedicated her career to dentistry and community health. Since 1984, she has practiced as a dental assistant and for the past 18 years has shaped the next generation of professionals as a dental assisting instructor at Red River College Polytechnic. Neduzak has also served as president at both provincial and national levels within the dental profession.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

From left: Janet Neduzak, Kelly Vipond and Kaylee Meakin shared their life stories and the lessons they've learned at the Morden chamber's International Women's Day luncheon March 6.

She observed that her story is not unique but does reflect the challenges faced by so many women who seek to balance life, family, and career.

Working in dentistry in Morden taught her about the importance of connection and relationship with patients, while her provincial and national roles highlighted that representation matters not just for yourself but for all of the women coming behind you.

"None of this happens in isolation. Family has always been the anchor of my life," Neduzak noted.

"And long before any career decisions were made, I was fortunate to be shaped by strong and influential women in my own life," she added, citing how she learned such traits as adaptability and grace as well as an unshakable work ethic and resilience.

"A woman's career does not have to follow a straight line. It can be rooted in community and still reach far beyond it."

Finally, Kelly Vipond traced her varied path which had her working in the area of environmental education at one point before working back stage in the theatre and then teaching in The Pas. She later lived in Kuwait for a couple years before eventually landing in Morden where she was the director of the adult education centre for many of years.

She has since transitioned from career in education to becoming a therapist in private practice.

Her journey is a powerful example of embracing change with intention, trusting the pull toward purpose, and allowing past experience to strengthen future impact.

Vipond urged women to pay attention to what is inside them and what is true for them and "taking care of ourselves, but we can take care of other people too."

> "IT'S A REALLY GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO GET TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE THE WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY."

For her, a lot simply comes down to compassion.

"People come to you, as a counsellor, in the lowest part of their life," she said. "Be connected to your heart.

"If there's something speaking to you … you gotta listen to that stuff. That's where the good stuff comes from."

Morden Chamber of Commerce executive director Clare Agnew observed that the speakers all had such inspirational stories to share.

"It just really speaks about our community and how we support each other," she said. "I just think it's a really great opportunity for us to get together and celebrate the women in our community."

Touching on the theme of pivoting, Agnew noted how it came up in each of the three speakers in terms of how their careers had evolved, yet it was different from one woman to the next.

"They're often juggling other responsibilities with their families at the same time," said Agnew. "I think the women who spoke today really shared what that looked like for them and why they got there, and that's often a different reason as well. I think the topic was served well.

"I think that it was awesome to have men in the crowd today," she added. "I think that's one of the things I have been trying to talk about … and specifically ask men to come … women's day isn't just for women. I think men also have to support women … I think it's really important they also hear those stories and why it's important to support them."

> LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

regular society for the unforgivable crime of being queer (which we cannot choose to be or not be, courtesy Shakespeare).

Now, I would like to note that this is simply the first few lines of the letter I have responded to, but the rest of the letter speaks of "finding one Truth." This seems odd; why are queer-identifying people not included in Truth? We cannot choose to be queer, and excluding us from that is discrimination on the same line of racism, insinuating we are less than people and that we aren't worth being part of this Truth.

Pushing this narrative that queer people existing in Winkler is an offensive and egregious act is harmful and showcases a lack of empathy and understanding of others. Us being here does not affect faith; one can simply choose to not interact with the queer people around them and it won't affect them. So please, let us exist in peace, let us be joyful in peace, let us prosper in peace, and let us live our lives in peace without fear of backlash for simply being here. Thank you.

Asher Friesen,
Winkler

Students weigh-in on budget planning

By Lorne Stelmach

School trustees met with local students in Morden recently in advance of Western School Division introducing its proposed budget for the 2026-27 school year.

It has been an annual initiative for the board for a number of years now, and it is an important opportunity that brings together students to speak directly with board members and administrators about their school experiences, concerns, and hopes for the future.

"It's a great exercise for us, and it's really a breath of fresh air," said board chairperson Darcy Wolfe. "When you sit down with a group of kids from Gr. 4 to Gr. 12, it gives you a chance to talk about school in a lighthearted way … but also really learn from them.

"It's one of the most impactful times that we have every year as trustees, sitting down with them, and we get to see and hear from the students who we are impacting with the decisions that we make," he added.

At the Feb. 26 forum, discussion tables were organized around the division's priorities including improving learning, strengthening community relationships, and ensuring students have a voice in their education. Each table included a trustee and/or school administrator and a mix of students from different grades and schools.

"I think often trustees hear from staff, they hear from parents, and we hear from other adults, and this is a good chance for us to take some time aside, sit down and actually talk with the people who are the reason why we are here," Wolfe said of the opportunity to connect directly with students. "We talk a little bit about their experiences in school. We try to make it fun; we play some games, and we ask them a few questions."

Wolfe said the forums do influence their budget decisions each year.

"Every year we hear new things from the students," he said, citing such examples as wanting more sports or music equipment or having problems with the technology in schools or even having ideas for new classes.

Another thing they have heard about is students wanting to learn about financial literacy, which he noted will be part of a new Gr. 9 math curriculum.

"Often, mental health is a huge one," Wolfe said. "Some students are thriving, but some of them are struggling and need some more support. It's something that we definitely take seriously and something that we do allocate budget dollars for to try to help students who are having a bit of a tougher time in school.

"They'll mention a whole host of different things," he said. "It definitely impacts our board priorities. We go to develop those priorities every four years, and we do take into account a compilation of the things that we have heard at the student leadership forums, and it goes directly into helping guide those priorities."

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Gr. 4-12 WSD students shared viewpoints about their experiences in local schools.

> FAITH FOCUS, FROM PG. 6

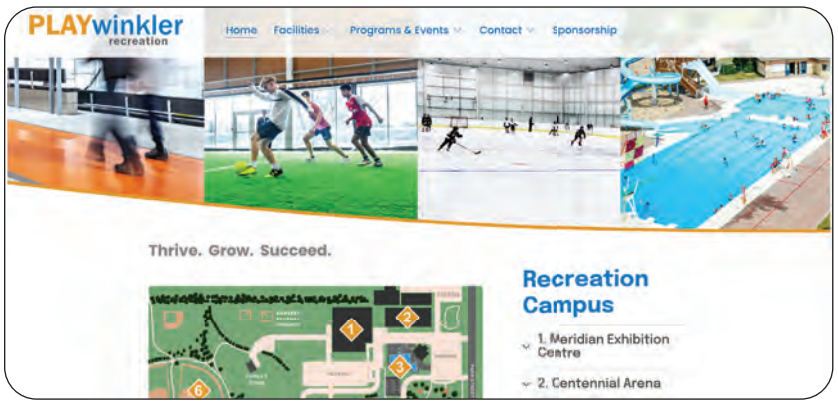
Every season of the year is an appropriate time to consider our needs and the message of God's provision for all people through Jesus Christ. We may despair in the daily news of wars, shootings, political animosity, economic unrest, disagreement about moral values, and more.

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30).

Are you looking forward to a new season? We long for the warmer weather and blossoms on the trees. We should also consider the seasons of the heart and God's message to each of us in the season we call "Easter."

Randy Smart has been a pastor in Southern Manitoba since 1979.

Winkler launches new one-stop recreation website



PLAYWINKLER.CA

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The City of Winkler has launched a new website to make for a more user-friendly experience when it comes to accessing the community's recreational facilities and programming.

The idea for playwinkler.ca, which went live a few weeks ago, came as work was underway on upgrades to the Winkler Centennial Arena, shared assistant city manager Wendy Klassen.

"We kind of said, hey, we have a Meridian Exhibition Centre website and then we also have some recreation stuff on our City of Winkler website—wouldn't it be great if we had just one nice, big recreation website? So that's what we've done."

"The growth that we're seeing in the recreation community as well as in the city as a whole really warranted some restructuring," agreed Kelly Morgan, community services office manager. "Similar to how we're always revising our policies, our procedures, our efficiencies with the public in other areas as we grow, the website just felt like maybe it wasn't keeping up or meeting the needs."

The "Play" tab on the City of Winkler website that formerly showed recreation department programming now takes people directly to the new site, which also replaces the old MEC web presence.

Everything you need to find information about what's going on in all of Winkler's parks and rec. facilities is accessible from the new website, Morgan explained, including links to program registration and bookings.

"You can go under the umbrella of this recreational campus, go right to the home page of the Meridian Exhibition Centre, the Centennial Arena, the RCU Aquatic Centre, the campground, Winkler Park, and the Parkland," she said, noting there are also links to other public spaces—the Discovery Nature Sanctuary, various sports fields, playgrounds, and parks, etc.—and to upcoming community events in all those spaces. "It's all under one canopy of recreation now."

Being able to more easily find the right place to make bookings online is something Morgan expects is going to be the most well-liked part of this new site.

"That's one of the biggest comments that we've received over the last few years as everyone's going more and more to online, to having something more user-friendly, mobile-friendly, website-friendly," she said. "Hopefully we've really made it a one or two-step process rather than lots of administrative back and forth for our community members."

The new website has already gotten the thumbs up from user groups.

"We've gotten a lot of good feedback, especially from folks that are using the ice, and I think in the next few weeks we'll really hear more because mid-April our campground and shelters go live for bookings," Morgan said. "So I think folks that are in the spring and summer kind of mode already are going to get a chance to really see the features and hopefully provide ongoing feedback for us."

"As with any new website, it's a bit of a flowing document," Klassen noted. "If we hear feedback of something that's not working, we'll make adjustments as we go."

getinformed

Crokinole tourney raises $25k for Salem

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The second annual Salem Crokinole Tournament hosted by the Salem Ladies Auxiliary was a resounding success March 5, with 32 two-person teams of all ages taking part and numerous fans coming out to cheer them on.

Donations were still coming in at press time but organizers estimated the evening had already raised over $25,000, which will be used by the care home to make improvements to its aging staff lounge.

While the financial support is vital, the heart of the event was the atmosphere it created within the facility, organizers noted.

"The most important benefit of this event was that residents could participate and watch as it happened right here in their home," said Salem Home CEO Karin Oliveira.

The teams played on boards donated by Sun Valley Cabinets and Janzen's Paint & Decorating. Also on display that night was an official world-class crokinole board, the same model used in the World Championships in Ontario.

Winning the A-side of the competition were the Two Old Crokes, John Friesen and Frank Reimer. The B-side winners were R&T Games, Robert and Terry Hildebrand.

The ladies auxiliary sends thanks out to everyone who took part or had a hand in making the evening such a success.

"There's a story behind most of them"

Artist Bev Friesen's work on display at The Gardens

By Ashleigh Viveiros

You still have a little bit more time to check out the artwork of Bev Friesen adorning the walls at The Gardens on Tenth in Altona.

Over a dozen pieces by the local oil painter have been on display at the senior living facility for the past few weeks and will remain up until the end of the month.

"My main theme is Mennonite connections," shared Friesen, noting her favourite subjects are old photographs of people depicting a slice of everyday life.

"There's a story behind most of them," she said, whether it's a house barn from the 1920s or a group of ladies having coffee at the MCC store. "I love to paint people.

"And sometimes I paint things a bit tongue-in-cheek," Friesen shared of one piece called *Faspa in Curlers*. "I found it really funny that they would go out in public on Saturday with curlers in their hair so that they would look good on Sundays."

Friesen describes her style as a sort of romantic realism—they're not photo-perfect recreations but instead seek to capture the feel of a moment frozen in time.

"I'm sure some people might look at the pieces and critique them, maybe, but I hope for the most part it's more 'I remember doing something like that' or 'that is kind of crazy that our people do these things,'" she said, laughing as she recalled one painting of her husband's grandparents, who lived in Paraguay in the 1940s. "They're sitting in a room with a blank wall and it's totally off-centre. They're sitting on a couch and on the table beside them is a doll standing on it. It's just them and a doll. They took a picture of themselves with a doll. It's a little weird ... but they were proud of that doll. It must have been like a status thing."

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Bev Friesen tries to capture a moment of time in each of her pieces, which often focus on everyday people. Above: "Faspa in Curlers." Left: "Trio in Paraguay."

Art has been a part of Friesen's life since she was a child.

"I always loved art. I just loved to draw," she shared. "Even in school, I drew too much. It was definitely where my interest was and I was limited to how much paper I could have to draw."

> "SOMETIMES I PAINT THINGS A BIT TONGUE-IN-CHEEK"

She picked up the paintbrush in earnest about 25 years ago under the mentorship of Neubergthal artist Margruite Krahn

"Marguerite was very important to me, so I always have to give her credit for all the doors she opened for me and all the encouragement," Friesen said.

Though she still loves to create, Friesen has slowed down a bit in recent years when it comes to exhibiting her work.

"I'm not terribly aggressive in that because it takes a lot of effort and I've gotten busy in my life with being a grandmother; that has sort of taken a priority in my life," she said. "I still like to paint. It's just not the only thing I do."

You can check out Friesen's work at The Gardens on Tenth until month's end or find her on Instagram (@bevfriesenart).

Stone acclaimed as PC candidate for Midland

By Voice staff

Manitoba's Progressive Conservative Party last week announced the acclamation of two PC candidates for the next provincial election: Lauren Stone for Midland and Derek Johnson for Interlake-Gimli.

"These two candidates are running for re-election as part of a New Era of our PC Party with the full support of Leader Obby Khan," said party president Peter Smith. "Along with every one of our MLAs, they've worked incredibly hard over the years to stand up for their constituents, pushing for real solutions on how to make Manitoba a more affordable, safe, and vibrant place to live."

Stone has served as Midland's MLA since 2023. In that time, she has advocated for tax relief and introduced legislation to ensure budget accountability in government and to eliminate trade barriers.

Johnson has served as MLA for the Interlake-Gimli region since 2016, including as a cabinet minister and sitting on the Treasury Board in government.

Other Tory candidates previously announced in February include Kathleen Cook, who will be seeking re-election in Roblin (Charleswood and Headingley) and Konrad Narth, who will be seeking re-election in La Vérendrye.

The 44th Manitoba general election will be held no later than Oct. 5, 2027.

Kurl for Kids raises $11k

Fourteen teams came out to the Altona Curling Club Saturday to take part in the second annual K4K Charity Funspiel. The day raised $11,152 for the child and youth rehabilitation centre at Boundary Trails Health Centre. "It exceeded what we were hoping for," shared organizer Zoé Fraser. "It went wonderfully. It was a perfect day, and everybody had a lot of fun." Organizers send thanks out to everyone who came out to curl, made a donation, or sponsored the event. "We're really grateful for all the donations, and we can't thank our curlers enough for allowing this event to happen and for being the reason why we raised so much," Fraser said.

PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

Love Well centre hosting fundraising concert March 21

By Lorne Stelmach

A vital resource and source of support for women in Altona is holding a fundraising concert this month.

The Love Well Women's Drop-In Center is hosting the event called Worship Around the World Saturday, March 21 from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Altona Pioneer Centre.

The theme is "Unity in our Comm-Unity" and it will feature a whole day of worship with seven groups from Altona and the surrounding area: Dennis and Phyllis Reimer, Promise and Tuesday, Ron and Coleen Giesbrecht, Noel Gonzales and friends, The Marten's Brothers, Jayme Giesbrecht and the Zion Church Choir.

Love Well director Robyn Sierks noted they have a number of monthly donors, but community support including fundraising is vital to their operations.

"We are here as supports for women, and we have moms coming," she said. "It's a place for women to build friendships and relationships and to build supports."

There are not necessarily a lot of options otherwise specifically for women, she suggested.

"And we have a lot of seniors who come too because a lot of them feel alone," Sierks added. "We offer everything for free, so that's why we do fundraising … a lot of times with seniors or single moms, they can't afford to go out. We don't want that to be reason they don't come."

SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Love Well Women's Drop-In Center has become a gathering space for women of all ages. They're hosting a fundraising concert next week featuring a host of gospel music performers.

Even though they are only open part-time, they average 250 women of all ages per month—a number that has been steadily increasing over the past year.

"It tells us there is a real need within our community," said Sierks. "Women are really wanting friendships and relationships … people feel alone. People just want some place to connect where they are able to talk and express how they feel and feel connected."

In addition to the day of worship, the March 21 fundraiser will also have a table with representatives from Wycliffe Bible Translators, Bibles from Give the Word, a canteen by Oma's Kitchen, and baking by the Love Well ladies for dessert. There will also be a $500 custom music store birdhouse to be raffled off.

Love Well is non-profit organization dedicated to supporting, mentoring, and assisting women and girls of all social and economic backgrounds. The ministry is not affiliated with any churches as all of the women come from different denominations.

The directors and volunteers are women who have experienced many of life's twists and turns, and they glean from each other's experiences. The goal is for women to take care of all aspects of themselves—body, soul and spirit—and they want each woman to know that they are loved and valuable.

"It is so rewarding," said Sierks. "Sometimes I feel I almost get more out of it than the women do because when you are serving these women you see how God is working in them … it's amazing to see the friendships that develop here."

sports&recreation

Local youth athletes medal at Winter Games

By Voice staff

Some young athletes from the south central region of Manitoba had strong showings at last week's Manitoba Winter Games hosted by Thompson.

There were even some medals earned in a few sports and categories, and Team South, which takes in a large portion of the southern half of the province, finished atop the overall medal standings with a total of 86 including 32 gold, 27 silver and 27 bronze.

The largest contingent from the region was likely from the Boundary Trails Nordic Team, which sent eight athletes and brought home 14 medals in three races over three days. The team is part of a provincial development program in which athletes train year-round for cross-country skiing.

Here is a breakdown of their results:

- U12 male classic technique: Josh Wiens, gold.
- U12 male skate/open technique: Josh Wiens , gold.
- U14 male classic technique: Ryder Loewen, gold; Syelas Hoeppner, silver; Colin Klessens, bronze.
- U14 male skate/open technique: Colin Klessens, gold; Ryder Loewen, silver; Syelas Hoeppner, bronze.
- Mixed team relays: Syelas Hoeppner, silver.
- U16 male skate/open technique: PJ Earl, silver.
- U12 female skate/open technique: Rosalynn Hoeppner, silver; Gloria Brodland , bronze
- U12 female classic technique: Rosalynn Hoeppner, bronze.
- U16 male classic technique: PJ Earl, bronze.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Boundary Trails Nordic Team were among the local youth athletes to bring home a medals from the Manitoba Winter Games in Thompson this past week.

Continued on page 17

4 stimulating activities for a HEALTHY BRAIN after 50

Have you passed the 50 mark and want to keep your mind sharp for as long as possible? Experts agree that you can slow cognitive decline by stimulating your brain every day. Simple, fun activities are sure to help. Here are four to explore.

1. Games

Sudoku, crosswords, brain teasers and chess all require strategy and concentration. They challenge your brain and keep it active. Board games give you the chance to play with your children, grandchildren or friends. The social aspect boosts your mood while you exercise your mind.

2. Foreign languages

Are you looking for a challenge? Learning a new language will surely put your brain to the test. Mobile apps and online courses can make it easy for you to explore Spanish, Italian, German and more. Why not set yourself the goal of practising to become more fluent before your next trip?

3. Volunteering

Giving your time to people in need or an organization that shares your values is also a great way to keep your brain active. Meeting new people with similar interests can help break the cycle of loneliness and reduce anxiety and depression. Contact your local community centre to find out what options are available to you.

4. Reading

Whether you prefer books, magazines, comics or newspapers, reading offers many benefits. It stimulates the imagination, strengthens focus and sharpens visual processing. Most importantly, reading has a direct impact on memory. Visit your neighbourhood library, join a book club or read your local newspaper.

Stay healthy with mental stimulation!

It's one of the best ways to enjoy all the wonderful things life has to offer for many years to come.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Register Online: **Visit the Active Aging in Manitoba website to access registration forms.**

Registration Deadline: **Ensure you register before May 9, 2026.**

Summer Challenge: **If you cannot travel to the main games, AAIM also hosts a Summer Challenge from June 30 to August 31, allowing you to track and submit your personal physical activities to win prizes.**

Here are some great ways to stay active:

Walk, run or roll with a friend	Pickleball
Cycling on your own or join a group	Badminton
Bocce Ball	Tennis
9 Hole Golf or 18 Hole Golf	Cribbage
Horseshoes	Whist
Arts & Crafts	Scrabble
Gardening	5 or 10 Pin Bowling
Kayaking/canoeing/water sports	The options are endless!

Wild put an end to Hawks' season in quarter-finals

By Lorne Stelmach

The playoffs came to an end last week for the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks as they lost their best of five quarter-final series in three straight games to the Winnipeg Wild.

After a 9-2 loss in game one Feb. 28, the Hawks made it closer but still dropped game two March 2 by a score of 3-2 in overtime before being edged 4-2 in game three last Wednesday.

"At the end of the day, we had some injuries," noted coach Jeff Andrews. "We were kind of playing a little beat up in the playoffs, and we played a really good team."

Games two and three were close, and Andrews felt they could have easily gone the other way with another break or two.

"We had our chances. In a tight series like that, when you get the opportunities, you've got to cash in, and unfortunately, we weren't able to do that, and they found ways to score when they needed to."

He was happy with the power play, which was clicking at about 30 per cent, as well as the penalty kill, which was at about 80 per cent.

"We just needed more secondary scoring, and we needed to get a couple breaks," he said. "I'm happy and proud of the guys with how they pushed it and made it a good series."

In game two, the Hawks were just barely outshot 44-43. They scored early in the third period to tie things up before giving up the game-winning goal at 1:46 of overtime.

Tyson Pethybridge and Carson Hiebert scored for Pembina Valley, while Koen Bleznuk had a good effort in goal with 41 saves.

In game three, the Hawks fell behind 3-1 after 40 minutes. They then drew within one in the final frame before Winnipeg sealed the victory with an empty net goal with 27 seconds remaining. Hiebert scored both of the Pembina Valley goals on power plays, and Bleznuk made 23 saves as the Wild held a 27-25 edge in shots.

Andrews thought they had a pretty good season overall.

"There were lots of improvements," he said. "For me, it's nice to see some of those new players take a big step forward, and I think that will be huge for us moving forward, to get some of those guys who were new to the program this year to see how they develop over the summer and move forward and push to fill big roles with our hockey team in the future.

"Overall, I think our defensive game is something that we really need to have the guys buy into and embrace so that we give ourselves a chance to win every game."

Andrews concluded there is good potential for next season with a solid core of returning players.

"It's huge when you can get some returning guys and have those guys take a big step forward and push to be difference makers next year. You're always going to add young players, and it's going to take a little bit of time for them to adjust and figure things out. That's one of the things that we always have to deal with each year."

Navigating the Shift: Smart Money Moves for Canadians in 2026

As the Canadian economic landscape continues to evolve, many households find themselves at a financial crossroads. With shifting interest rates and a fluctuating housing market, the "set it and forget it" approach to personal finance is becoming a relic of the past. Financial experts are now urging Canadians to adopt more dynamic strategies to protect their wealth and maintain their purchasing power.

The primary focus for most advisors this year is the optimization of registered accounts. The Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) remains a powerhouse for long-term growth, especially as the cumulative contribution room reaches new heights. "Maxing out your TFSA is no longer just a suggestion; it's a necessity for tax-efficient wealth building," says Elena Rossi, a senior wealth strategist. Meanwhile, the First Home Savings Account (FHSA) has become the gold standard for aspiring homeowners, offering the dual benefit of tax-deductible contributions and tax-free withdrawals.

However, saving is only half the battle. Debt management is taking center stage as many Canadians navigate mortgage renewals in a higher-rate environment than the previous decade. Experts suggest "stress-testing" your own budget before the bank does. Shifting from high-interest consumer debt—like credit cards—to lower-interest lines of credit or consolidated loans can save the average household thousands in annual interest payments.

Finally, the rise of low-fee Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) and robo-advisors has democratized investing, making it easier for beginners to start small. Diversification across global markets, rather than just the TSX, is being hailed as the best defense against domestic volatility.

The message from the financial community is clear: proactive planning is the best hedge against uncertainty. By prioritizing high-interest debt repayment and maximizing government-incentivized accounts, Canadians can build a resilient foundation for whatever the market brings next.

Flyers play first games in revitalized arena

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Centennial Arena was filled to near capacity last weekend as the Winkler Flyers played their final two regular season home games.

The City of Winkler had received the keys to the renovated facility just days before, and for most Winklerites it was the first chance they'd had to see the new look. The 59-year-old arena was completely gutted over the past year and then rebuilt into a more modern space that will serve the community for another 50 years.

The junior team gave it their all to start the next era in the arena off with wins, but fell just short as they hosted the top two teams in the MGEU East Division: the Steinbach Pistons Friday night and the Niverville Nighthawks Saturday.

Friday's game saw the Pistons up 1-0 after 20 minutes. Early second-period goals from William Lyons and Trevor Dalton pulled Winkler into the lead, but it was short-lived—Steinbach tied it up midway through the frame and then scored two unanswered goals in the third to win it 4-2.

Liam Ernst was between the posts for Winkler. He made 22 saves off 25 shots. His teammates fired 33 the other way.

Saturday night's game needed overtime for a decision after 60 minutes of back-and-forth play.

A pair of goals from Tanner George in the first, sandwiched around a lone goal from Niverville, had Winkler in good shape at the first intermission. But then the Nighthawks did all the scoring in the second period, sending the game into the final frame with Winkler down by one.

Kam Thomas got the tying goal seven minutes in, and then neither team was able to break the deadlock before the final buzzer sounded.

In overtime, Niverville got the game winner at 1:20.

Ernst took the 4-3 loss in net with 28 saves. Winkler outshot Niverville 45-32 overall.

With that, Winkler remains in fourth place in their division with a record of 33-19-2-2 and 70 points. They trail the Portage Terriers in third by five points, the Pistons in second place by 22 points, and the Nighthawks in first by 29. Rounding out the bottom of the standings are the Selkirk Steelers in fifth (43 points), Winnipeg Blues in sixth (36 points) and Winnipeg Monarchs in seventh (24 points).

The Flyers close out the regular season this week with away games against the Blues Wednesday night and the Steelers Friday.

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Above: Flyers Liam Carlone and Ryan Winklebleck work together to keep Steinbach's Eric Han at bay in Friday's game. Right: William Lyons reacts to the roar of the crowd after scoring the first Flyer goal in the newly renovated arena. Left: On hand for the very first puck drop in the new and improved facility was, from left, Winkler's Kam Thomas, MLA Carrie Hiebert, Mayor Henry Siemens, and Steinbach's Jack Greenwell.

GUDMUDSON NAMED MVP

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League announced its 2025-2026 awards last week.

Niklas Gudmudson from the Flyers won the most valuable player award, while Portage's Owen Witt and Trevor Hill were named the top defenseman and rookie of the year, respectively and Niverville's Austin Dubinsky got the top goaltender award, Merik Boles received the hockey ability and sportsmanship award, and Dwight Hirst was named coach of the year.

Gudmundson was also named to the league's First All-Star team. Making the Second All-Star team from the Flyers was Owen Wallace.

> GAMES, FROM PG. 14

Meanwhile, in archery, Noah Philapott of St. Claude won gold in archery recurve in individual U17 male.

In figure skating, Kierra Bree Penner of Morden won silver in singles star 6/7 figure skating, Tessa Shae Dyck of Miami won silver in figure skating pre-novice mix, and Ky-Lynn Jenner of Morden won bronze in singles novice female.

In futsal (indoor soccer), the U14 female south team earned silver. Team members from this region included Hayley Lilyanna Sherington-Voth, Josey Heisinger, Miriam Fehr, Lyann Fochtberger, Kari Born, Sydney De Santis, Zaharra Hildebrand, Ciara Grace Nadeau, Jocelyn Funk, and Oleksandra Motuziuk.

On the boys side, the U14 male south team also won silver. Team members from this region included Pol Angelo Morales Oyardo, Oscar Mbabazi, Lukas Bergen, Ryan Phillip Strickland, Micah Olusola, Lukas Enns, David Geppo, Omer Shahab, Oakley Jerema, and Oliver Titchkosky.

Other results included mixed doubles curling, where the South 2 team of Alex Bitton and Anna Lanthier and the South 1 team featuring Carman's Chloe Winkler both went 2-2.

In U13 male hockey, the South 1 team lost in the consolation game, while the South 2 team won the bronze medal with a 3-2 win against Winnipeg Gold. Team members from this area included Brody Duncan, Griffin Wiebe, Gaige Gorden Gelo, Nixon Nakonechny, and Hudson Samuel Neufeld.

In hockey U14 female, the South 2 won the bronze medal with a 3-1 win over team east. Team members from this area included Macey Darby, Quinn Hildebrand, Kaydence Willow Ewbank, Charlotte McCutcheon and Emma Peters. The South 1 team lost in the consolation round.

Royals sweep Wild to advance in SEMHL playoffs

By Annaliese Meier

The Winkler Royals are moving on in the SEMHL playoffs after sweeping the Red River Wild in three straight games in their best-of-five opening-round series.

Winkler clinched the series Thursday night with a 5-2 victory on home ice after earlier wins of 5-3 on March 1 and 6-0 on March 3.

Justin Augert led the Royals offensively in the series, highlighted by a hat trick in the series-clinching Game 3. Cody Fowlie, Aaron Lewadniuk and Braden Hildebrand also contributed key offence throughout the series while goaltender Matthew Thiessen picked up all three wins, including a shutout.

In the opener March 1 in Red River, the Wild struck first on a power-play goal by Brendan Harms early in the first period. The Royals responded quickly when Braden Hildebrand tied the game less than a minute later before Aaron Lewadniuk gave Winkler the lead later in the period.

Phil Letkeman extended the lead in the second period and Hildebrand added the eventual game-winner early in the third. Lewadniuk scored his second of the night while Red River replied with goals from Jared Magne and Harms in the 5-3 final. Lewadniuk finished with two goals and an assist while Hildebrand added two goals. Thiessen made 32 saves for the win.

The Royals took full control of the series with a 6-0 shutout victory March 3 in Winkler. Lucas Ens opened the scoring late in the first period before Winkler exploded for four goals in the second from Cody Fowlie, Justin Augert, TJ Matuszewski and Mitch Dyck. Augert added another in the third while Fowlie finished with a goal and three assists. Thiessen stopped 29 shots for the shutout.

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Above: Winkler's Matt Thiessen dives to make the save on this open net scoring opportunity by Red River's Colin Baudry in the March 3 game, which Winkler won 6-0. Right: Phil Letkeman delivers a thunderous body check on the Wild's Gavin Froese late in the game. Winkler went on to sweep the series in game three March 5 with a 5-2 win.

Red River jumped out to a 2-0 lead in Game 3 on Thursday with goals from Alex Tetrault and Justin Baudry early in the second period. The Royals quickly answered as Augert scored twice just 32 seconds apart to tie the game before Matuszewski put Winkler ahead on the power play later in the period.

Augert completed the hat trick in the third and Fowlie sealed the win with an empty-net goal as Winkler finished the series sweep.

The Royals outscored the Wild 16-5 in the series.

Winkler will now face the Ile des Chenes Northstars in the next round after Ile des Chenes eliminated the Springfield Winterhawks three games to one in their quarterfinal series, clinching the matchup with a 5-2 win on March 7. The semifinal schedule has not yet been announced.

Local teams compete in hockey provincials

By Voice staff

Local and regional teams were competing again this past weekend in a number of Hockey Manitoba provincial championships:

- U11B tournament: Winkler won three straight games—4-3 over Virden, 7-0 over Fisher River and then 7-1 over Portage—but they then came up short of gold in the championship game by falling 5-1 to Roblin, which had also gone unbeaten.

- Co-ed U15AA: Central Flyers came in second in the round robin at 3-1 and then fell 2-0 to Eastman in the final game. Meanwhile, the Pembina West Rockets were 0-2-1 and the Pembina Valley Twisters were 0-3.

- Co-ed U15A - Morden was fourth out of five teams at 2-3.

- Co-ed U18B - Pembina Valley Royals were fifth at 1-2, while the Morden Hawks were also 1-2 and the Pembina Blizzard were 0-2-1.

- Co-ed U15C: Altona finished in seventh place at 1-2.

- Co-ed U15B - Carman was fifth at 2-1, while Winkler was eighth at 0-3.

‘HEARTfelt’ hockey raising funds Friday

By Siobhan Maas

A “HEARTfelt” hockey game takes place between the Pembina Valley Twisters and the local RCMP Horsemen this Friday night to raise funds for the Hutterian Emergency Aquatic Response Team (HEART), a local organization specializing in underwater search and recovery.

“What brings community together?” asked Cst. Gilles Gravelle about the organizing of this second annual event. “A hockey game. This is about thanking the community and the importance of supporting local.”

Gravelle also assured that the Horsemen, comprised of local RCMP officers, firefighters, and men from the Oak Bluff Colony, will be going full force.

“Most of the team is pushing 50. Last year we had to get the oxygen tanks out in the dressing room and were passing around the A535,” he said. “But we will give it our best again.”

Pat Schmitke, co-owner of the Twisters, believes in the cause.

“Our ownership group feels hockey is more than a game, but rather about our community. We like for the team to work and play locally. The HEART Team provides a service that is sadly necessary out of the goodness of their hearts, and it doesn’t come cheap.”

Started in 2016 by Manny and Paul Maendel, brothers from Oak Bluff Colony, HEART aids in the recovery of drowning victims.

Over the last 10 years, the team has attended over 70 call-outs across the country.

“There are continued unresolved drownings around the province and across Canada,” explained Manny Maendel, who works as the group’s search lead, remote operating vehicle (ROV) pilot, diver, and sonar technician. “Because HEART can’t be everywhere, in recent years we are focused on enabling and equipping other organizations and law enforcement to do underwater work and recovery themselves.”

Training is provided on-site at the colony east of Morris, and between the training facility and a large gravel pit, both classroom sessions and open water techniques are learned.

“We are able to do mock-up exercises with dummies that we sink and I teach teams how to look for them with sonar and underwater robotics,” Maendel said.

The HEART team provides ongoing support to communities.

“We’ll head back to Grand Rapids to help with recovery once temperatures clear up and the ice clears off,” shared Maendel. He also spoke recently at the Grand Chiefs Emergency Management conference in Winnipeg. “It is my dream to enable First Nations communities in underwater recovery so they don’t need to rely on outside entities. Any agency that reaches out for training or support, I try to share my knowledge and expertise as best I can.”

Donations are vitally important to HEART’s operations, with all funds going directly to training, equipment and maintenance, travel, and logistics involved in searches.

“We don’t charge for our services and it is difficult to get funding from the province,” said Maendel, noting donations can be made online at hearteam.ca.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Friday night's benefit game between the Pembina Valley Twisters and the RCMP Horsemen is raising funds for the Hutterian Emergency Aquatic Response Team (HEART).

Maendel will be stepping out onto the ice on Friday to play with the Horsemen.

“I love hockey and need to get my fix twice a week. My friends in the RCMP and the firefighters in Morris show that [HEART] is a meaningful mission, even just locally. The support is incredible.”

In last year’s fundraising game, the Horsemen beat the Twisters 5-3.

“We had to push ourselves playing against the young Twisters players,” laughed Gravelle. “I’ve already started my combat breathing this year and we’re thankful for the young Mavericks goalies who are coming back to help us out.”

The puck drops at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 13 at the Morris Multiplex.

Zone 4 championship series down to the wire

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Morden Thunder took game one (at right) 4-0 in the 2026 Zone 4 High School Hockey championship series last Thursday night, but the Morris Mavericks fought back Friday with a 2-1 victory to force game three. That took place Monday night in Morden, though results were not available at press time. Thursday's game saw Corby Stemkoski have a two-goal night. Morden's other two came courtesy of Logan McPhail and Owen Harries while Kali Hildebrand got the shutout in net with 16 saves. On Friday, Cedric Gosselin and Ethan Funk scored to give Morris the win, while Morden's goal came courtesy of Kiru Griffen. Sam Johnston made 35 saves in between the posts for Morris. Above: Johnston manages to get a toe save off this scoring opportunity by Morden's Holden Frost in game one. Right: Thunder players Corby Stemkoski and Kiru Griffin find themselves surrounded.

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The Winkler Morden Voice

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Comp #54-25/26
Salary: $65,184 to $102,262 annually
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Reporting to the Chairperson, you will develop and deliver curriculum that integrates inclusive, culturally responsive, play-based learning and Indigenous perspectives, while supporting students through mentorship, assessment, and field placements. You will also collaborate with community partners to strengthen practicum opportunities and contribute to program promotion, planning, and continuous improvement.

For more information, please visit www.assiniboine.net/careers.

Assiniboine welcomes applications from all qualified candidates who are legally entitled to work in Canada, including Indigenous peoples, persons of all abilities, members of visible minorities, all genders and sexual orientations, and all other groups protected by the Human Rights Code.

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For accommodations or alternative formats, contact careers@assiniboine.net or 204 725 8729.

If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to Competition #54-25/26 to:

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We thank you for your interest. Those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

Assiniboine College

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PUBLIC NOTICE

LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION
PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PEMBINA PINT AND RESTAURANT,
operating as **THE PEMBINA PINT AND RESTAURANT**
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Morden, MANITOBA
has applied for **GENERAL LIQUOR SERVICE LICENCE**
to serve liquor from: **MONDAY TO SUNDAY 9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 A.M.**
1:00 P.M. TO 2:00 A.M. REMEMBRANCE DAY

Citizen and community input is an important part of the application process.
Please contact the Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba at 204-927-5300, if you have questions about this application.
Please contact your municipality if you have questions about zoning bylaws and requirements.
If you want to make a formal objection to this application, please send us your objection in writing by 4:30 p.m.

14 DAYS FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT

You can email, mail or fax your objection. Please include your contact information.
Email: objection@LGCAmb.ca
Mail: LGCA Objections
1055 Milt Stegall Drive,
Winnipeg, MB
R3G 0Z6
Fax: (204) 927-5385

- We respond to all formal objections and will work to resolve objections before issuing a licence.
- A copy of the objection, including the name of the person who submits the objection, will be provided to the licence applicant.
- Each person who submits an objection will be advised in writing of the outcome to the licence application.

LIVESTOCK

SPRUCE RIDGE STOCK Farms at Ashern has a good selection of 2 yr old and yearling Angus bulls on offer. These are big growthy bulls developed on TMR silage based ration in 15 acre runs to ensure longevity. Perfect feet, strong joints, moderate birth, combined with top of the breed growth. These are hard muscled bulls sired by some of the top A. I. bulls in Canada. Semen tested, delivered when needed, guaranteed. Call Ross and Helen Jermey and Family. 204-768-0333

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WANTED: Older gas stove 4 burner with griddle. No electric pilot light, manual. Phone 204-655-3549.

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NOW BOOKING YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS FOR SPRING 2026! Let us help you book your blanket classified ads across Manitoba, and increase your presence. Let people know about your business, item for sale or event, by placing an ad with us! Your ad will be seen in the MCNA Member Newspapers, in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. Take advantage of our great pricing! 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.

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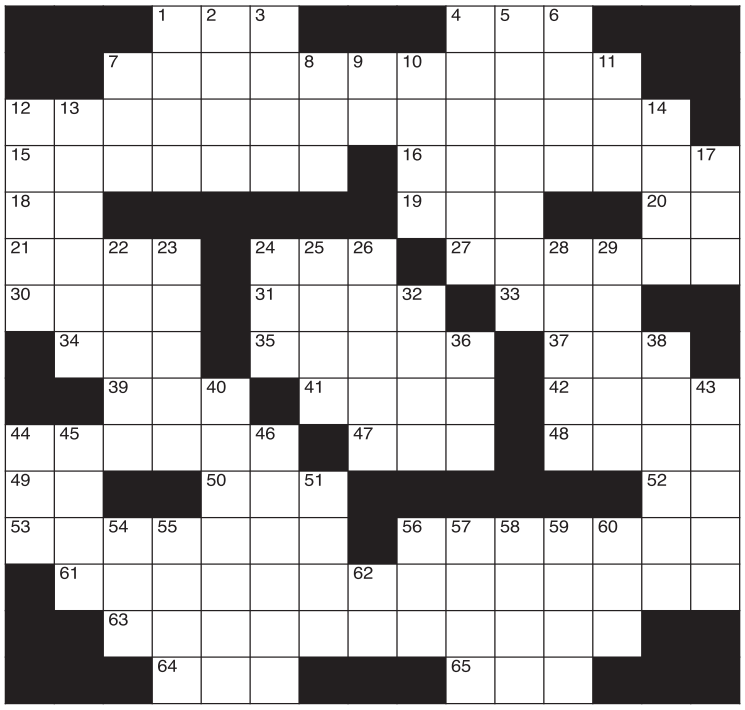
> GAMES

CLUES ACROSS

1. Blockchain-based entity
4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
7. Painted with glue
12. Legendary crooner
15. Structure made with strips of wood
16. Tropical fruits
18. Commercial
19. Comedienne Gasteyer
20. The Ocean State
21. Ancient Scot
24. Basics
27. Stated propositions
30. Scottish island group
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Large tree
34. Engine additive
35. Conspiracy
37. Drunkard
39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
41. Ancient Syrian city
42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
44. Carry (slang)
47. Sweet potato
48. European river
49. The Golden State
50. Windy City ballplayer
52. New Testament
53. Possess spiritually
56. A treeless grassy plain
61. Popular historical novel
63. In a law-abiding way
64. A place to sleep
65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

1. Impression in a surface
2. Computer language
3. Relating to the ear
4. Occupant
5. Member of Great Plains people
6. Social media firm
7. Digital audiotape
8. Midway between east and southeast
9. Chronic, progressive disease
10. Chinese lute
11. Not wet
12. Moves wings up and down
13. Communication devices
14. Swiss river
17. Female sibling
22. Receive
23. Relating to a type
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Steep bank
26. Taxi driver
28. Moves into without difficulty
29. Bicycle manufacturer
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on it
38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
40. Die
43. Matched
44. Literary genre __-fi
45. Cannot
46. Pounded
51. British rock group



54. Debt relief order
55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Ailments
60. Famed singer Charles
62. Camper

PUBLIC NOTICE

Altona

You are invited to attend
The Town of Altona
2026 Financial Plan Hearing
Tuesday, March 24, 2026
6:00 pm
Council Chambers
of the Altona Civic Centre

In accordance with subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, the Council will present the proposed 2026 Financial Plan for the Town of Altona at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 in the Council Chambers of the Altona Civic Centre. The presentation will include the 2026 operating costs, the 2026 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 person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Copies of the proposed Financial Plan will be available after March 19, 2026 on our website at www.altona.ca or upon request at the Town of Altona Administration Office, 111 Centre Avenue during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may be directed by letter or email to our Manager of Finance or through our email address at info@altona.ca.

Terry Fehr, CMMA
Manager of Finance
Town of Altona
terry.fehr@altona.ca
Box 1630
Altona MB R0G 0B0

February 24, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

RHINELAND Municipality

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Municipality of Rhineland
2026 Financial Plan Hearing
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers of the
Municipality of Rhineland

In accordance with subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, Council will present the 2026 financial plan for the Municipality of Rhineland at 6:00 pm Wednesday, March 18, 2026 in the Council Chambers of the Municipality of Rhineland office.
The presentation will include the 2026 operating budget, the 2026 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 2, 2026 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

TENDER

ACCESS CREDIT UNION

JANITORIAL TENDER

Access Credit Union Altona

Access Credit Union's Altona branch located at 129-3rd Ave. NE, requires the services of a contractor to provide general cleaning duties.

Duties include:

- Cleaning of interior and exterior areas of branch

Tenders or resumes, accompanied by a minimum of two references, must be received on or before March 23, 2026, before 4:30 p.m.

Walk throughs available by request.
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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PUBLIC NOTICE

RHINELAND Municipality

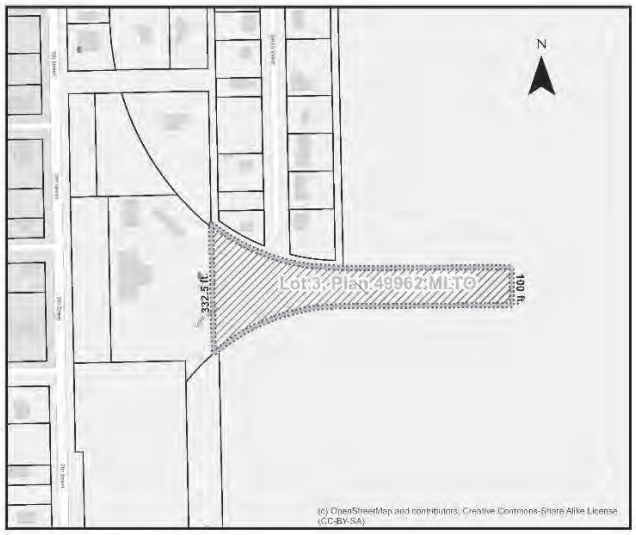
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT

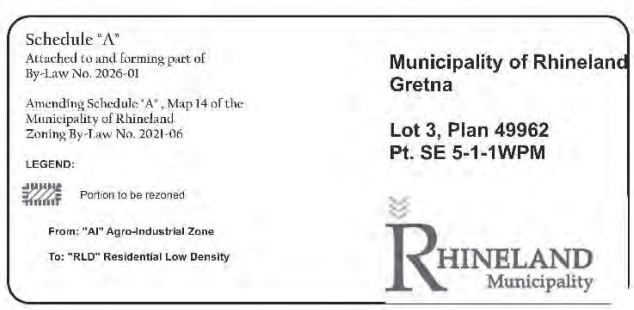
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

THE MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND BY-LAW 2026-01
Being an AMENDMENT to the MUNICIPALITY OF
RHINELAND ZONING BY-LAW 2021-06, AS AMENDED

HEARING:	Municipality of Rhineland Council Chambers
LOCATION:	109-3rd Avenue NE, Altona, MB
DATE & TIME:	April 8th, 2026 at 9:00AM
GENERAL INTENT:	To rezone the property from AI – Agro-Industrial to RLD – Residential Low-Density Zone.
AREA:	Lot 3, Plan 49962 in SW 5-1-1W in the LUD of Gretna





FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Lucie Maynard, General Manager
RPGA Planning District
Box 270, Altona, MB R0G 0B0
Phone: (204) 324-5357 ext.3 or E-Mail: manager@rpgamb.ca

The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the above proposal. All information and documents related to this matter, along with the procedures for the upcoming hearing, are available for review at the Municipal Office during regular business hours.

You may submit a written submission by regular mail or email, provided it is received by the Municipality at least two days before the hearing.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of Edmund David Heinrichs late of the Town of Altona, Manitoba, Deceased.

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

GBH LAW OFFICE
Solicitor for the Estate

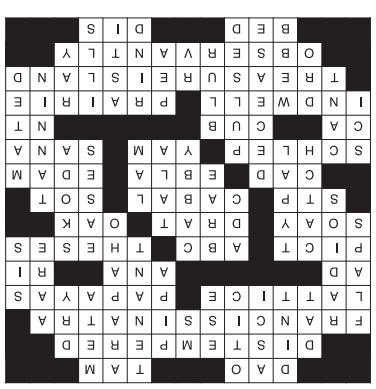
PUBLIC NOTICE

PRAIRIE ROSE SCHOOL DIVISION

BUDGET 2026-2027 PRESENTATION

PRSD is hosting its public Budget 2026-2027 Presentation at the Prairie Rose School Division Office, *45 Main Street South, Carman, MB*, on **Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 PM.** The presentation will be recorded and posted on our website (g.prsdmb.ca/board/financebudget) following the live event, and a feedback form will be available until Friday, April 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Constituents may attend in person or online. To register, please complete the Budget 2026-2027 Presentation Registration form using the QR code above or the link here (tinyurl.com/26-27prsdbdgt). Registration is required for the live event. If you need support registering or have questions, call the office at 204-745-2003 or send emails to prsd@g.prsdmb.ca.



Crossword Answer

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FARMLAND TENDER

FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for centrally located farm land in the **RM of Rhineland** described below will be received by:

Franz Hoeppner Wiens Law Office
Box 99, 1 – 880 J 15th Street, Winkler, MB R6W 4A4

LANDS:

1) S ½ OF E ½ OF NW ¼ 7-3-3 WPM (39.75 acres)
2) NLY 660 feet of S ½ OF NW ¼ 7-3-3 WPM (40.00 acres)
3) SLY 660 feet of S ½ OF NW ¼ 7-3-3 WPM (40.00 acres)
4) NLY 1188 feet of the E ½ OF SW ¼ 7-3-3 WPM (36.00 acres)

(The above sketch is for illustrative purposes only)

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. All parcels to be sold together. Tenders for less than all lands will not be considered.
2. The parcels of land described will be sold "as is" by current ownership group.
3. Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 PM on March 19, 2026. The successful bidder will be informed by 5:00 PM March 23, 2026.
4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
5. Possession to be April 10, 2026.
6. Tender must be accompanied by a refundable deposit of $10,000.00 (cheque made payable to Franz Hoeppner Wiens Law Office).

TERMS OF SALE:

1. The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter a formal agreement with all current owners, covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
3. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid on the due date, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages.
4. Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2026.
5. The purchaser is responsible for GST or shall self-assess for GST.
6. The successful bidder(s) may enter into an agreement to rent an adjoining 40 acres in SW ¼ 7-3-3 WPM at their option following completion of the sale.

For further information contact Franz Hoeppner Wiens Law Office at 204-325-4615 – fhwlaw.ca/tenders.

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CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

Boundary Trails Health Centre FOUNDATION

CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

The Boundary Trails Health Foundation Board is looking to fill a membership opening for 1 (one) citizen representative for the City of Morden.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Be a resident of the City of Morden
- Attend monthly meetings, every fourth Monday at 5:30PM either at Boundary Trails Health Centre or virtually.
- Should be very comfortable and confident with approaching and connecting with businesses and individuals for support via attendance, participation and/or sponsorships.
- The candidate should have a heartfelt passion for enhancing the healthcare of our region.

For further questions regarding this exciting opportunity, please contact Shannon Samatte-Folkett, Executive Director for the BTHC Foundation, at 204-331-8808 or by email at office@bthcfoundation.ca.

How to apply: Please provide a short letter describing your interest in serving on the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation and why you feel you would be a good representative on the board. A letter of interest can be sent by e-mail to Morden City Manager, Nicole Reidle at nreidle@morden.ca or dropped off at the **City of Morden Civic Centre: 100 – 195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba, R6M 1V3.**

Applications are due by March 20, 2026.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
2026 PROPOSED PESTICIDE PROGRAM – CITY OF MORDEN

Public notice is hereby given that the City of Morden may conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2026. An Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) has been developed for the City and will act as a guide for pest prevention, treatment and management. One of the goals of the IPM is to reduce the use of chemical controls by means of using preventative, mechanical, and biological controls. The City will adhere to provincial legislation and regulations pertaining to the use and implementation of a pesticide program.

1. For the control of noxious weeds within the City of Morden and in accordance with the Noxious Weed Act, Environment Act and the Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulations between May 1st and October 31st, 2026, the following herbicides may be used:
   - Par 3 (mecocorp-p, 2,4-D, dicamba)
   - Round-up (Glyphosate)
2. To control larval mosquitoes in stagnant/standing water, within the City of Morden and 1 mile beyond the city boundary on public property, rights-of way, and ditches between May 1st to October 1st, 2026, the following biological larvicides may be used include:
   - Aquabac (Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis –Bti)
3. To control adult mosquitoes along streets and lanes, City parks, golf courses, cemeteries, and rights-of-ways within the City boundaries between May 1st and October 31st, 2026, by way of ultra-low volume mist sprayers the following insecticide may be used: DeltaGard 20EW ULV
4. To control Dutch Elm Disease by way of macro injection directly into the root flare of American elm trees, Arbotect 20-S fungicide will be used between June 1st and August 31st, 2026.
5. To control other insect pests between May 1st and October 31st, 2026, the following may be used:
   - Safer's Trounce Insecticidal Soap (potassium salts)
   - Copper Fungicide Spray
   - Foray 48B (Btk)
6. To control noxious weed European Buckthorn in City parks, greenspace, and natural areas between May 1st to October 1st, 2026, the following product may be used: Garlon RTU Herbicide (triclopyr, present as butoxyethyl ester)

Within 15 days of the publication of this notice, any person may submit written comments to Manitoba Conservation regarding the above control program or file a written objection with the department concerning the use of pesticides adjacent to their property:

Pesticide Use Permit Program
Environment and Climate Change
Environmental Approvals Branch
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard
Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6
T: (204) 945-7107
F: (204) 945-5229
E: pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca
W: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/environment_and_biodiversity/pesticides

Any person who may wish to discuss the control policy may also contact the City of Morden, Parks & Urban Forestry Department by email at info@mymorden.ca

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PRICE $27,900
2.0L EcoBoost, AWD, Heated Leather Seats & Steering Wheel. Previous Daily Rental.
Stk# FP003 – Kms: 92,486

2023 F-150 RAPTOR

PRICE $95,900
3.5L HO EcoBoost, Fox Live Vale Shocks, Loaded with Features.
Stk#DT017 – Kms: 19,301

2021 ACURA RDX A-SPEC

PRICE $34,900
2.0L Turbo, AWD, Heated & Ventilated Seats, Loaded with Features.
Stk# EP017A – Kms: 94,144

All advertised prices are subject to PST and GST.

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$35,995

2023 Buick Envision Preferred AWD

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$27,995

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2025 Meridian 20 - 45 Canola Ready Reliabelt Conveyor

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