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Altona royalty Down Under

Sunflower Festival Queen Olivia Driedger (far right) and her sister Chloe Driedger (far left) with Central Highlands Sunflower Festival Queen Paige McKenzie and her fiance Cohen Archer in Emerald, Australia. For the full story, see Pg. 2

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Sunflower royalty visits Australia

By Lori Penner

Altona's 2023 Sunflower Queen Olivia Driedger has rave reviews about her recent journey to Australia, where she attended the Central Highlands Easter Sunflower Festival in Emerald, Australia.

Emerald came to be Altona's sister city a number of years ago, and their festival royalty have been exchanging visits ever since.

Joining her on the 18-day journey was her sister Chloe. First Princess Lanea Friesen and her father Mike joined them in Emerald as well.

The weather was as warm as a Manitoba summer when they arrived on March 22, and Driedger said she was amazed by how similar it was to her hometown.

"It's a smaller city and the people were all just so warm and welcoming. Everybody seems to know everybody. I felt right at home."

The landscape was beautiful, she added. "So green with these huge hills. It was all just gorgeous."

While in Emerald, the visitors participated in preparations for the Highlands Festival, listening to the queen contestant speeches and interviews.

"Their pageant is a lot different than ours. There are no performances or a fashion show. It's more about fundraising, and who has raised the most for local causes. This year's queen raised an amazing amount and is an absolute sweetheart."

The 2024 Central Highlands Easter Sunflower Festival Queen is Chloe Wright, and the Princess is Abbey Fouracre. Both girls will be visiting Altona this July for the Manitoba Sunflower Festival.

"The entrants all did a spectacular job on their speeches; they should be very proud," Driedger said. "They both raised a phenomenal amount of money for their chosen charities, raising just over \$18,000 combined."

Touring the region proved to be just as exciting as the festivities.

"Rainbow Falls was just stunning. And we also toured the Jellinbah Mine in Blackwater, Queensland. I was blown away by the massive trucks they use. I learned that mining is a huge part of their economy. Almost everybody there has a family member who is involved with the mine."

All the girls visited the Comet State School to judge their Easter bonnet



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

From left: Mike Friesen, Chloe Driedger, Caitlyn Horn, Lanea Friesen, Paige McKenzie, and Olivia Driedger on a tour of the Jellinbah Mine in Australia. Below: Olivia Driedger, McKenzie, and Lanea Friesen in front of Emerald's giant version of van Gogh's Sunflowers painting.

competition and attended a council dinner to meet all the local dignitaries. While there, Driedger and Friesen enjoyed High Tea, presented speeches, and gifted the community with a souvenir Altona sunflower plate.

Another unique opportunity was panning for sapphires and touring local bat caves.

"We had to sift through the rocks to find the sapphires. You could tell

they were real by shining your phone flashlight on them; they glow in different colours. We were even allowed to keep the sapphires that we found."

While bats may not be everybody's favourite creature, Driedger found them endearing.

"The bat cave was really cool, and we named one of the bats 'Moose.'"

The girls also took photos in front of Emerald's version of a giant painting on an easel, featuring van Gogh's "Sunflowers."

"Seeing that made it feel like home. It's really cool how this painting connects our two communities."

While there was no opportunity to hold a koala, the group did visit a zoo where they saw not only koalas but wombats and kangaroos as well.

Looking back, Driedger still marvels at how at home they felt in Emerald.

"Everyone really opened their arms to us. They wanted to chat with us and get to know us. It was just a great environment. Welcoming the visitors from Australia to Altona this summer is going to be just amazing. I think the first thing I want to do is introduce them to Mennonite food."

She says she is grateful to Bunge for sponsoring the trip, and to the Manitoba Sunflower Festival for giving her

this amazing opportunity.

"I'm going to miss everybody. I made lifelong friendships there. I would love to go back one day, and I probably will."



Public Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that the Municipality of Rhineland intends to conduct the following **Pesticide Control Program in 2024**.

1. To control noxious weeds on road allowances, boulevards, public drains and golf course within the Municipality of Rhineland, The projected dates of application will be from May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024. *Herbicides to be used may include the following: 2, 4-D, Banvel II, Dyvel DSP, Milestone VM, Par III, Round UP Weather Max, Tordon 22K, Vantage Plus Max II.*

2. To control insect pests, including grasshoppers, mosquitoes, etc. The proposed dates of application for this program will be from May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024. *Insecticides to be used may include the following: Aquabac 200G, Decis 5EC, Malathion 85E, Malathion ULF, Pyrate 480EC, Sevin XLR Plus.*

3. To control fungus at the golf course. The proposed dates of application for this program will be from May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024. *Fungicides to be used may include the following: Banner Max, Daconil 2787, Trilogy 5C, Vectobac 200G*

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Any person wishing to make representation in this matter may send written submissions **within 15 days of the publication** of this notice to the following:

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“It’s a nice way to start your day”

In last week’s edition of the Voice, we shone a spotlight on some of the volunteers and companies involved in the Winkler Food Rescue program, which collects donated groceries from local businesses and distributes them throughout the community. Here’s a look at a few of the agencies putting all that rescued food to use.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The school bell rings out over the grounds of Parkland Elementary School in Winkler, and the kids start to pour inside.

Before heading to their classrooms to stow their jackets and bags, most of them make a beeline for the canteen tucked in beside the main office.

There, teacher Ian Hart and educational assistant Taylor Cudmore are busy making toast (both the buttered and jammed varieties) and setting out fruit and, when they’re available, drinkable yogurts.

It’s a spread that’s offered for free to all students, staff, and visitors to the school every single morning.

“The thing I really like is it’s now open for everyone,” says Hart. “We’ve offered breakfasts for families that maybe have a little trouble providing in the morning, just for those kids, but now this year we have it out for everyone and there’s no stigma—you just walk up and take something if you want it.”

The Parkland breakfast program is funded by the school itself and, in recent months, a provincial grant, but being a recipient of the Winkler Food Rescue program operated out of the Central Station Community Centre and the Winkler and District Food Cupboard has allowed them to take things to the next level, says principal Mandy Friesen.

“Initially when we started it last year, the food rescue became kind of the most important part of it because it was a way for us to access what we needed to run it in terms of cost,” she says. “For them to be able to even supply the breads for us on a regular basis allowed us to only have to purchase margarine or jam and, initially, the toasters to make it all happen.”

Each week, Parkland staff fill out a request form with the school’s needs. Food Rescue volunteers then work to pull together those items, often throwing in additional products depending on what comes in from the local stores and restaurants who donate their unsaleable food (stuff nearing its best-buy dates or with damaged packaging but still perfect edible) to the program.

Parkland is one of seven Winkler schools that stop by Central Station

regularly—Winkler Elementary, J.R. Walkof, Emerado Centennial, Pine Ridge, Garden Valley Collegiate, and Northlands Parkway Collegiate all also receive food weekly.

You never really know for sure what you’re going to get, Friesen says, which has given the kids the chance to broaden their palates a bit.

“They’re trying things like cranberry raisin bread,” she says, chuckling. “They’re getting adventurous.”

The program has been so successful that Parkland has burnt out several toasters over the past year trying to keep up with the daily demand.

“We can get up to 20, 30 loaves of bread in a week,” Friesen shares, noting they’ve purchased a deep freeze so they can make the donated bread last even longer. “I think this year we’ve only had to purchase bread once.”

And it’s not just breakfast they’re able to offer—they also put fruit out in the office for kids to grab as a snack throughout the day (the recent provincial funding made it possible for them to buy fresh fruit more regularly) and have lunch fixings ready to go if a child arrives without one.

“It’s another way of being able to support them, and there we use what Food Rescue has given us as well,” Friesen says.

The strength of the program, as Hart noted, is that it’s not singling out any specific student or families. Everyone is welcome to partake, whatever their reason for not eating breakfast before coming to school.

“Not only do we know that we’ve got families in our school that need it on a regular basis, we also know that we have families that sometimes need it,” Friesen says. “Sometimes things just don’t go well in the morning, and that can happen to anybody at any time.”

She estimates about 40 per cent of the school population grabs a slice of toast from the canteen every morning.

“Breakfast is so important. With this, families know, every kid knows that they can come to school in the morning and still have something to eat, regardless of what happened at home,” Friesen says.

“It’s been a huge community builder for us,” she adds, noting the daily lineup “has everybody from K-8 in it, including staff members.”

“It’s just been such a positive thing, and I’m just so thrilled that we can partner with Food Rescue and we can be that middle man for them.”

Down the street at Garden Valley Collegiate, chef Candace Hughes relishes the opportunity to get Food Rescue items into the students’ hands.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Parkland Elementary School students stop by the canteen before heading to class. The school’s breakfast program is open to everyone in the school—both staff and students—who needs a bite to eat in the morning.

Every morning, Hughes stocks several rolling carts with fruit, cheese, crackers, cookies, yogurt, and drinks. Staff wheel them downstairs to the main foyer to greet students as they arrive at school.

“It’s a nice way to start your day when you’ve got an EA or a teacher welcoming you to school and then

you can grab whatever you want to eat,” Hughes says, adding that the carts are pretty well picked clean by the time the first bell rings. “I go through about 10 boxes of crackers and cookies a day.”

Continued on page 4

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Garden Valley Collegiate chef Candace Hughes with the spread of free breakfast items the school offers students every morning.

> **FOOD RESCUE, FROM PG. 3**

A hot breakfast station is set up upstairs in the cafeteria so the teens can make themselves toast, and additional carts are parked at the top of the stairs to give latecomers a chance to get something.

"The kids just keep grabbing stuff," Hughes says. "Some days it's all gone by nine; some days it's there until 10, 10:30."

"It's providing something nutritious for the kids when they come in the door in the morning, no stigma attached. Anybody's welcome. That's my goal."

As at Parkland, recent government funding has helped supplement the food they're able to purchase for the breakfast program, especially fresh fruit, though the bulk of what they're offering each day still comes in from Food Rescue.

Hughes has plans to grow the program with the addition of a breakfast bar in the student lounge.

"It's going to be a permanent fixture and then that way I can stockpile it in the morning and the kids can head there," she says. "I'm going to have a fridge with yogurts and juices and whatever in there all day."

Making sure kids are heading into their studies each day with full bel-

lies, regardless of their home situation, is what it's all about, Hughes says, noting some students, including those who very much needed it, were hesitant about accessing the free food when they first started offering it.

"But we've made it so welcoming—like, this is all yours—that now they just come and grab something and I get a 'Good morning' and I get smiles, and to me that's the most important thing," she says. "I don't know what's going on in their lives, but if I can get them a little smile in the morning, get them a little bit of food in their belly, that makes for a better day."

"We can't do it without the support of the community. We really, really couldn't do this," Hughes stresses. "It's amazing what they're doing for us as a school."

"IT'S A BLESSING"

While the school breakfast programs are regular beneficiaries of Food Rescue, they're certainly not the only ones.

Central Station Community Centre kitchen coordinator Marian Hildebrand says the food they receive from the program helps them feed countless people every week.

Continued on page 5

Heavenly Care adds meals to its service offerings

For the past six years, the Heavenly Care Agency has been providing excellent private home care services in the Pembina Valley and Winnipeg areas to seniors, people with mental and physical disabilities, palliative care individuals, and others.

Heavenly Care's staff are trained to assist clients with all aspects of daily living, including bathing, meal preparation, light housekeeping, medication monitoring, and other daily care routines. They also provide companion services to help clients get to appointments or undertake other required travel.

"Our clients come first," stresses owner Celma Pinto, explaining Heavenly Care for years has offered these services on an in-home basis, with staff travelling to clients' homes to work with them on their individual needs.

More recently, the agency tackled the need for more personal care home options in southern Manitoba by opening one of their own.

"Seniors and others needing personal care often get shipped to remote facilities and families need to travel miles to visit their loved ones," says Pin-

to. "That led to the creation of our first care home facility in Neuenberg/Winkler in January 2024. We offer daytime respite care, short time and indefinite stay."

Now, Heavenly Care has set its sights on addressing another need in the community: the lack of consistent and reliable availability of meal services to seniors, people with mental and physical disabilities, and other vulnerable individuals.

"It has become obvious these vulnerable individuals do not have easy access to nutritional and tasty meals on a daily basis," says Pinto. "In response, we have expanded our services to provide nutritional meals to the most vulnerable people in the community, and offer delivery as necessary."

The service is available seven days a week. Staff can either deliver meals to your door or arrange for clients to eat at the Heavenly Care facility.

A minimum order of three meals is required per delivery. Orders must be placed 48 hours in advance, and a minimum of 24 hours notice is required to modify or cancel an order.

Arrangements for meal services can be made on an individual basis or through an organization or business.

In consideration of individuals with restricted diets, Heavenly Care is also offering pureed as



well as gluten and lactose-free meals available upon special request.

The cost per meal is \$10. For a special request meal, the cost is \$15.

Orders can be placed by emailing info@heavenlycare.ca. "At present, this is inaugural and we are testing the waters to design a meal program that is seamless and cost-efficient," Pinto says. "We also welcome a food services agreement that will serve to streamline our service to [clients] and make it a pleasant experience."

For more information, email Heavenly Care at the address above or head to their website: heavenlycare.ca.

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> FOOD RESCUE, FROM PG. 4

"We use a lot of food rescue on Wednesdays," she shares. That's the day the Winkler and District Food Cupboard is open weekly. "When food cupboard clients come in on a Wednesday to receive their food, we provide them a hot breakfast and a hot lunch, and a lot of the food that we use is from Food Rescue."

Without that boost of extra groceries, they likely wouldn't be able offer such a varied menu of items as they do.

"We try to make sure we have one protein, one dairy, one fruit," Hildebrand says, "and we're able to accomplish that with the help of Food Rescue."

She explains that they aim to create a welcoming atmosphere for the people coming to use the food bank, giving them a place to sit down, eat, and chat with others as they wait their turn.

"Food creates community," she says.

Hildebrand pops in regularly as the Food Rescue volunteers are sorting any given day's haul, and she's often wowed by what's all coming in.

"Every time I come back here they probably get tired of me saying, 'It's like Christmas,'" she says. "You never know what you're getting, and sometimes the sheer quantity or the items that have come in, it just blows my mind away."

"It's food that is still really, really good to use, and I'm really grateful that we are so close to the Food Rescue that we can see what's coming in and plan our Wednesday menu accordingly."

They also use rescued food in some of their other programming, including the weekly community meal and their breakfast/snack bar, which is stocked with food for visitors to the community centre to access all day

long.

"Without Food Rescue, we probably wouldn't be able to offer that service," Hildebrand says of the grab-and-go food.

"It's a blessing to be able to partake of it," she says of the program, adding it helps them stretch their funds as they work to support people in need and build relationships in the community.

"WE TAKE WHATEVER THEY'LL GIVE US"

Another recipient grateful for the help of the Food Rescue program is Genesis House, the regional shelter for the victims of domestic violence.

Damaris Dueck heads up the shelter's kitchen operations. She stops by to pick up rescued groceries about once a week.

"We take whatever they'll give us," she says, noting she often returns to the shelter with at least a couple overflowing boxes, and sometimes more. "It really does help out, and I really appreciate it."

In addition to bread, dairy products, and, on occasion, meat, they also get the opportunity to stock their shelves with some comfort food—chips, cookies, and whatnot—that are lower priority when working with a tight budget.

"The things that we're looking for often have to do with who's in the shelter," observes executive director Ang Braun. "So if we have kids in the shelter that are going to school and would be needing to bring a lunch, like individually packed lunch type things, then she would grab those kind of things."

The shelter has five bedrooms that



ABOVE PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Central Station staffer Leane Funk in front of the snack bar the community centre has set up for people to access. Right: Some of the other goodies made with rescued groceries and offered to visitors.



can house women and children fleeing abusive situations. Guests have access to the kitchen to prepare food and snacks, and Dueck also makes meals for the entire group.

Genesis House also passes along some food to clients who are staying in transitional housing or elsewhere in the community, to help them get on their feet as they leave an abusive relationship.

"We keep a bit for ourselves here, but a lot of the time we pass it on to people that we're seeing in counselling," Braun says, noting it's the Food Rescue program that allows them to do that at all. "It's fairly strict as far as our budget that we get from the province. We have to be careful we're not giving away food that is earmarked for residential clients [and purchased with provincial funding] ... but this [rescued] food that comes in has no restrictions on it. So when a person is moving out of the shelter, we can provide a kind of start-up package for them."

It also gives them the flexibility to pull together a care box for a family in crisis.

"You can't always predict how life is going to go," Braun says, "so we do use some of that food in emergency situations as well."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Genesis House kitchen coordinator Damaris Dueck in the shelter's stocked pantry. The food they get from Food Rescue feeds not just shelter guests but also allows them to help women getting on their feet after an abusive relationship.

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Overcoming white saviour complex

As long as I can remember I have had a drive to combat what I perceive as inequity and injustice.

Why we feel the way we feel is extremely complex and each person is different. For me, my family circumstance likely kicked off these feelings, and as I grew and became aware of the world around me so too did this drive grow.

I went to university in 1987 at the height of the anti-apartheid movement and quickly became a voice and champion of the ideals. That same year the Academy Award-nominated film *Cry Freedom* starring Denzel Washington as acclaimed anti-apartheid activist Stephen Biko was released so obviously, I went to see it.



By Peter Cantelon

The film tells the story of how white South African journalist Donald Woods (played by Kevin Kline) befriends Biko and eventually tells his story to the world, thus contributing to the anti-apartheid movement.

I recall leaving the theatre having enjoyed the film but carrying with me a vague sense of discomfort. Something about Biko's story needing this white journalist to really spread bothered me.

Year later I was part of a tour of South America led by Microsoft. The premise was simple: I would represent Gartner, the company I worked

for, to talk about the importance of measuring TCO (the total cost of ownership of a networked IT environment) and my counterpart from Microsoft would talk about how they were developing tools and partnerships to assist with this.

From country to country, I would get up before a room full of CEOs, CIOs, and varying other C-level executives and evangelize. After a while I began to feel this same level of discomfort I felt after *Cry Freedom*.

After one event in Lima, I was speaking with a counterpart from Gartner Peru, and it became clear he knew far more than I did on the topic I was presenting at. I asked him, "Why aren't you the one presenting here? Why incur the expense of having me come down?"

"You are American [as a polite Canadian I didn't correct him], people will listen to you. They won't listen to us."

Ouch. This made no sense to me, but again and again I have seen this destructive and corrosive belief all over the world and in myself as well. The idea that we need the powerful outsider to rescue us dominates pop culture throughout the 20th and 21st

centuries and earlier. You can clearly see it in films like *Avatar*, *Lawrence of Arabia* and most recently even in *Dune*...although I believe Denis Villeneuve is aware of this and leading us to a surprise.

I do my best to restrain and retrain this impulse in myself, but it often seeps out, typically in social media.

Recently I was outraged on behalf of the Muslim community for the hosting of an event by another faith group I felt was insensitive. I ranted and pointed fingers publicly and eventually I reached out to a Muslim friend and community leader whom I value and asked their opinion (something I should have done first).

"To be honest Peter, I don't mind about this event. I think most people of faith are full of love, care and passion and they want to make sure everyone goes to heaven. Out of that love they approach everyone, including other faith's people."

Then they finished with the punch to the gut statement:

"I am trying to stay away from political stunts on social media. Sometime people drag you in and then enjoy the rest of the game."

Continued on page 7

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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Winkler Co-op to become Gardenland Co-op

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It's official: Winkler Co-op will soon be known as Gardenland Co-op.

Members voted overwhelmingly in favour of the name change at the cooperative's 93rd annual general meeting held in Winkler April 10.

Board president Milt Olfert said they're excited to start a new era for the business with a name that better reflects the growing area they serve.

"It's a nice fit: we are the gardenland of southern Manitoba," he said. "There's so many good things that come with that. And the growth that this Co-op has had, it's just like having a great bumper crop in these great soils we have here."

The business has grown in recent years to include locations not just in Winkler and Morden but also Plum Coulee, Rosetown, Lowe Farm, Rose-nort, and St. Joseph.

Olfert acknowledges that it's likely most people will still refer to the Co-op by the name of whatever town they're in.

"It will take time to get used to it. And I think some of the communities will always call it by their home community's name, and that's fine because it can be Gardenland Co-op at Lowe Farm or Rosenort. Really, the brand is Co-op, not Winkler.

"Winkler has been the hub of southern Manitoba for so many things, but

it's great that we can now branch out and partner with other communities and be stronger together."

Last year was a challenging one in some ways for the Co-op, which saw total sales dip somewhat to \$144.8 million, down from the \$158.4 million of the year before.

Rising fuel costs and fluctuations in the value of fertilizer and chemicals played a big role in that dip, as did other ongoing challenges including inflation, interest rate pressure, government regulation, market fluctuations, and increased competition, directors shared.

Nonetheless, the store is able to give back a 2023 patronage allocation to its 20,806 members totalling over \$4.9 million—over 80 per cent of their net savings for the year.

Diversification has helped the Co-op weather the up and downs of the marketplace, observed Olfert.

"A lot of smaller Co-ops can't make money locally on their own without Federated's help," Olfert said. Federated Co-operatives Limited is the wholesaling, manufacturing, marketing, and administrative co-operative the local Co-op is a member of.

"We've been able to do it for so many years and, yeah, sometimes there's a little blip of things that you can't control, but we've weathered those storms better than other Co-ops



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Co-op board chair Milt Olfert (left) and general manager Evan Toews at the store's annual general meeting last week, where members voted to change the name of the business to Gardenland Co-op to better reflect its growing service area.

were able to, so the losses were minimal compared to what others have experienced.

"Diversification has been huge, and we saw it really through the pandemic," Olfert said, noting fuel sales dropped significantly in those years, but the Co-op's other departments—grocery, clothing, appliances—carried them through the worst of it. "We had that diversity to fall back on."

The push for diversity sees the Co-op adding a new pharmacy at the Morden grocery store. It's slated to open in the next few weeks.

"Every time you add another division into your portfolio, everything gets stronger, and a pharmacy is one of those. It's a great fit in with the

Morden store," Olfert said, noting the pharmacy is already staffed and just waiting on final inspections.

In addition to its patronage cheques and the equity given to its members, Co-op also gave back by donating \$491,000 to more than 300 community projects and causes in 2023.

"It's the community that has built the Co-op," Olfert stressed. "So we have to give it back.

"If we can continue to give back and build the community, it's just going to make us stronger and the community stronger. It's in the Co-op's DNA to do that, and we don't want to move away from that."

Four men facing charges in child pornography bust

By Voice staff

Four individuals from southern Manitoba are in custody after a major investigation conducted by the Manitoba RCMP Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE)

Over an eight-day period at the end of March, ICE officers executed five search warrants, made four arrests, and removed three children under six years of age from situations where they were being sexually abused and exploited.

The searches resulted in tens of thousands of child pornography images being located.

Police say that three different communities in southern Manitoba were involved. To protect the identity of the victims, RCMP are not releasing

the names of those arrested or of the communities the searches took place.

All four arrested suspects were male, aged 37, 40, 42, and 56.

All of them were charged with distributing/uploading/possessing child pornography, and one was additionally charged with making child pornography.

The RCMP National Child Exploitation Crime Centre provided reports to the Manitoba RCMP ICE Unit that assisted them in locating these individuals and executing some of the search warrants.

"This is four arrests and three children removed from traumatic situations in a span of only 10 days. I wish I could say that this is a success, and it absolutely is in terms of getting these kids to safety, but it is really a drop in

the bucket when it comes to the material we seized," said Corporal Gord Olson of the RCMP ICE Unit. "I know people will be surprised at how much child sexual abuse and exploitation material we encountered, but the truth is, this problem is prolific. It is in every community, and so many chil-

dren are affected by it. We continue to do everything we can to combat child exploitation and encourage parents to be mindful of how your children are engaging on social media."

The investigations continue.

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

Convicted and found guilty.

Look, it is okay to be a voice for the disenfranchised and those facing inequity BUT sometimes our voices drown theirs' out and take space away from the very people we are trying to help.

I am slowly learning to shut up and listen. I am learning that perhaps my

biggest value can come by making myself and my resources available when a community asks me to stand up with them in the face of injustice, but it is not my place to be that face or to lead the charge unless I happen to be part of that community or asked by them to take on a role.

Local Ukrainian church celebrates 10 years of growth, community

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden-based Ukrainian faith community has not only grown in size but in importance over the past decade.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church, which uses space at the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, has been a valuable source of support for area families, especially since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war.

"Since the war started, the life of the parish changed completely," noted pastor Mykhaylo Khomitsky, who is based in Winnipeg but also serves a number of rural communities. "When problems happen in our life, we turn to God."

"Many families do have members serving on the front lines in Ukraine, and for them to have spiritual support is really essential. It's not just about the cultural community, it's about spiritual community," said parish member Kate Tykhonova.

The church held a special service Sunday to mark the 10th anniversary of the Morden congregation, which first gathered together for Easter 10 years ago.

Following the Liturgy with Rev. Lawrence Huculak, metropolitan and archbishop for Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg, there was a dinner and anniversary program at the Morden Activity Centre.

Pastor Khomitsky came here from Ukraine in 2010, and he initially

served in the Rossburn, Russell and Shoal Lake district before going to St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Winnipeg.

"I never expected to serve in Canada ... but God had different plans, and he called me here to Canada ... wherever God will send me, I am willing to go," he said, noting there was a desire to have services provided here in Ukrainian. "We don't have so many priests who are fluent in Ukrainian.

"It's become a vibrant parish," said Khomitsky, who recalled though that it started small. "It was basically 20 people, 25 ... in the Morden-Winkler area, the Ukrainians were just arriving ... that first service happened in the living room of one of the parishioners.

"So when I started, I think it was about 20 people ... and at Easter now, we had 120 people. The number has changed, and it's not a surprise because so many have settled in Morden and Winkler and the area.

"I can't say it was a stable parish at first because some people came, some people left," he continued. "The people started to come and be active members of the parish ... and now we have grown very quickly."

The last few years, particularly with the war in Ukraine, the church has really drawn people together.

"It's not only because of the belief but some people are just going through a difficult time, and it's so important to have a place where we



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY SOFI GAPON

The Ukrainian Catholic Church in Morden marked its 10th anniversary Sunday with a church service followed by a dinner and a special program at the Morden Activity Centre.



can come together," said Khomitsky. "Most important, after each service, we try to have coffee and doughnuts and just sit together, listen to each other. We can talk and help each other.

"It can be so hard to settle, and this is a place where we can share our experiences and we can help each other."

He also noted they welcome all people, Catholic and Orthodox alike.

"We keep an open door for everyone who would like to come and find a home, a spiritual home ... that is the

main part of our ministry."

Khomitsky expects that the community will continue to grow.

"For Morden and Winkler, there's opportunities for people to find jobs ... and it's a wonderful place to live in the Morden and Winkler area," he said. "The communities here have opened their hearts and their doors."

Tykhonova reflected how much the church has grown in recent years.

Continued on page 13

April is Parkinson's Awareness Month

By Lorne Stelmach

Life has changed a lot for Ron Hayes over the past five years.

It was 2019 when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and the impact on not only him but his wife and family and friends as well has been significant.

"I guess I was slowing down, so finally I went to the doctor and got diagnosed," the Winnipeg resident said recently. "It's been a change that's come fast, even now. It's been a challenge because I used to be a lot more active than I can be now.

"If you haven't had it or lived with it, then you don't know how unpredictable it can be."

April is an awareness month for the disease that is estimated to impact more than 100,000 Canadians. On av-

erage, 30 more people are diagnosed with Parkinson's every day.

Parkinson's is a neurodegenerative disease. Movement is normally controlled by dopamine, a chemical that carries signals between the nerves in the brain. When cells that normally produce dopamine die, the symptoms of Parkinson's appear.

Parkinson's is commonly characterized by its motor symptoms, but many people experience other changes that are often not identified as symptoms of the disease. These are known as non-motor symptoms and are often left untreated. Parkinson's is characterized by slowness of movement, rigidity, tremor and postural instability.

A diagnosis of Parkinson's can take time. A family doctor might notice it

"IT AFFECTS PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING YOU DO ... IT TAKES A BIT MORE PLANNING TO GET THINGS DONE."

first, and you may then be referred to a neurologist who will check your medical history and do a physical examination and certain tests to rule out other conditions which may resemble Parkinson's.

Currently there is no cure, but you can live with Parkinson's for years; the symptoms are treated with medication.

Hayes said the bottom line is having to carefully plan and manage your day, although you never really know what any given day will bring.

"Everyone gets involved in it. My wife is the primary caregiver," said Hayes, who noted even just a walk around the house can be tough, and he often makes use of walking sticks when he needs them.

"I have to plan my day out a lot more than I ever did before," continued Hayes. "I'm good for about two and a half or three hours and then I need a rest. So it affects pretty much everything you do. It's quite unpredictable

Continued on page 15

Deadline nears for Pembina Valley Studio tour stops

By Lorne Stelmach

This fall's Pembina Valley Studio Tour will again offer a unique way to explore the region through its art.

And organizers are hoping visitors who come out for the self-guided tour the weekend of Sept. 14-15 might have the chance to see a bit more variety of artists.

Organizing committee chairperson Margie Hildebrand noted the tour could be a little different this year with some of the core of artists either not participating or choosing to be part of group exhibits.

"It would be good then for us to get some more new people in there," she said last week as the April 30 deadline for artists or galleries to register drew near. "We would love to get some new faces and some new studios involved, and it can take in a wide region."

It's been going now for over two decades, but the Pembina Valley Studio Tour always offers reasons for people to come back again and again.

There are usually at least a new artist or two, and the familiar faces who

are there most years always have new work to show, noted Hildebrand. She encourages any artist who has not been part of the tour before to consider it.

"All of the main galleries are always involved ... so it's the individuals who we need more of now," she said. "It's a great way for people to see your work who wouldn't necessarily come across you otherwise. People are interested in seeing new artists."

"You could put some paintings up in your garage or your living room. You don't need to have a special studio. You can put your stuff up however you might be able to display it," Hildebrand noted. "Some of the artists do some kind of demonstration during the tour or sometimes even have something that people can try to do."

Hildebrand noted they had made a master list of participating artists from 2015 until the present, and she estimated the total came to around 70 or more artists who have been involved at one time or another, so there is a great pool that they can potential-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Artists who would like to invite art-lovers into their studios this fall are invited to register to be a stop on the Pembina Valley Studio Tour, which runs Sept. 14-15.

ly draw on for the 2024 tour.

"There is a lot of talent all over this region," she said.

There are usually over two dozen stops across a wide region, including

locations in Emerson, Altona, Winkler, Morden, Carman, Miami, Darlingford, La Riviere, and Pilot Mound.

Continued on page 13

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Be wary of potential scammers this tax season: CRA

By Lorne Stelmach

The Canada Revenue Agency is aiming to raise greater awareness of scams that defraud an increasing number of Canadians.

Some people especially fall prey to the many scams making the rounds that use the name of Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) because they will believe it must be trustworthy.

"We often notice that with seniors and newcomers ... they're more targeted," said CRA spokesperson Ahmad Almuqarqash. "Especially, for example, newcomers. They're probably new to the country. They don't

know about the rules. There's also language barriers."

He stressed people need to be cautious if they receive any communication that claims to be from the CRA and requests personal information such as a social insurance number (SIN), credit card number, bank account number, or passport number.

Scammers may insist that personal information is needed so that you can receive a refund or a benefit payment. Some also involve threatening or coercive language to scare you into paying a false debt to the CRA. Others could direct a person to a fake CRA website where you are asked to veri-

fy your identity by entering personal information.

"This is the new trend we are seeing with these scams," said Almuqarqash. "People think it is legit and fall victim to these scams ... it seems legit because it has your social insurance number on it and your name.

"So we warn taxpayers to be extra careful, because these scams are getting more sophisticated as technology evolves," he noted. "Guard your personal information like a treasure. Don't give it away easily."

People need to be aware that a legitimate CRA employee will identify themselves when they contact you by phone and provide you with their name and phone number to call them back if needed.

The CRA will never, under any circumstances:

- Demand immediate payment by Interac e-transfer, cryptocurrency (bitcoin), prepaid credit cards or gift cards.
- Ask you for a fee to speak with a contact centre agent.
- Set up a meeting in a public place to take a payment.
- Use aggressive language or threaten you with arrest, deportation or sending the police.
- Leave voice mails that are threat-

ening or include your personal or financial information.

- Send you an email or text message with a link to your refund.
- Email or text you a link asking you to click on it or fill in an online form with personal or financial details.
- Use text messages or instant messaging such as Messenger or WhatsApp to start a conversation with you about your taxes, benefits or account.

As an added security measure, the CRA has introduced multi-factor authentication for all of its sign-in services. If you enrolled with the telephone option and selected the 'text me' option, you will receive a text message with a one-time pass code each time you sign in to your CRA account.

Almuqarqash also sought to raise awareness about tax schemes, which are different from scams in that they are plans or arrangements that go against the Canadian tax laws.

"Tax schemes go against the Canadian tax laws, often promoted by individuals or businesses promising you to reduce your taxes or give you a big tax cut or tax free income," he said. "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Tax return deadline is April 30

By Lorne Stelmach

If you have yet to take care of your income tax return this year, you've got just a few more weeks to get it done.

If your return is straightforward, it can be easy to do yourself online, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) representatives noted last week.

April 30 is the deadline for most Canadians to file a return, and if you owe money to the CRA, that is also the payment deadline.

But if you or your spouse or common-law partner are self-employed, June 15 is the deadline to file your tax returns. As this date falls on a Saturday, your return will be considered filed on time if the CRA receives it or it is postmarked on or before June 17. If you owe money to the CRA, you'll still need to pay by April 30 to avoid interest.

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Altona Police Service reflects on a productive year

By Lori Penner

The Altona Police Service (APS) recently released their annual report, noting some of the challenges in 2023 and highlighting their priorities for the coming year.

Chief Dan Defer says community relations was a big priority in 2023.

"This was one of the first years where we really put a focus on it, and we're hoping to increase on that this year. It is important to us."

New to the APS was their Coffee Meet and Greet nights. Defer says they held several of these in 2023, and they were such a success that they plan to host more this year.

"We believe in a strong, community-based approach in our policing, and this really helped us make important connections."

To engage with local schools and organizations, the APS held their first bike rodeos since the pandemic in Altona and Plum Coulee. They also competed in a basketball game against the Altona Panthers Special Olympics team.

Recruitment continues to be a challenge for the department. Last year saw the arrival of Constable Tristan Fournier-Jones, who came to Altona after working for the Manitoba First Nations Police Service in OCN. With the possibility of one or two officers leaving this year, they are presently looking to fill those gaps.

"That process can take awhile. I'm really concentrating on hiring someone who understands Altona, and the challenges of living and working here," Defer said. "And people who want to stay here and raise their families here."

Ongoing training and professional development continued in 2023, with succession planning in mind.

"I have a young department and I want to get some of the advanced training in place, in preparation for the future," the chief said.

In their ongoing effort to support and build strong relationships with surrounding communities, APS opened an office in Plum Coulee and are planning an official grand opening later in spring.

Last year the Department of Justice funded a joint forces operation, which saw the Morden, Winkler and Altona Police Services form a unit to investigate drug trafficking in the region. This operation concluded with numerous persons being charged with drug and firearm

charges. One search warrant was executed in Altona, resulting in three Altona residents being charged with drug related offenses.

Last year also saw their continued partnership with MPIC through the Roadwatch Program, whereby MPIC pays the overtime salaries for officers to conduct various road safety initiatives throughout the year, helping to keep pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users safe.

The APS opened a total of 2,039 files in 2023. Of those, 1,378 were opened in the primary RMS system, and 561 were opened in the secondary RMS systems, the majority of these files being Criminal Record Checks.

In terms of last year's call volume, Defer noted there were small increases in crimes against persons and crimes against property.

"Most of the categories have gone up, but not a level that would concern us. After 40 years of policing, I know there's always going to be an ebb and flow. Unfortunately, we continue to see drug use and trafficking within the community, so that generally leads to an expected increase in other areas of crime. We tackle these problems, there have been search warrants and charges have been made. Unfortunately, illegal drug use and drug trafficking remains an issue in our region."

The APS continued its public awareness and education around frauds in 2023, which unfortunately continue to be a common occurrence. The most prevalent was the Grandparent Scam, the Romance Scam, and frauds in which a victim is told they've won a sum of money but to claim it must send the scammer processing fees.

"It seems to be the same ones over and over, where they take advantage of people where they are most vulnerable," said Defer. "They're touching on human needs. Everybody wants more money. Everybody wants to be loved."

"This will be an ongoing campaign. We'll continue to do what we can to educate the public on how to avoid falling into these traps."

Meanwhile, the APS was thrilled to see an increase of about \$140,000 to the provincial policing grant last year.

"That's huge. The costs have all gone up, from salaries to equipment, and the last increase was 2016," Defer said. "We've been able to utilize that increase very well. The new computers are in the office, and we ordered three new laptops

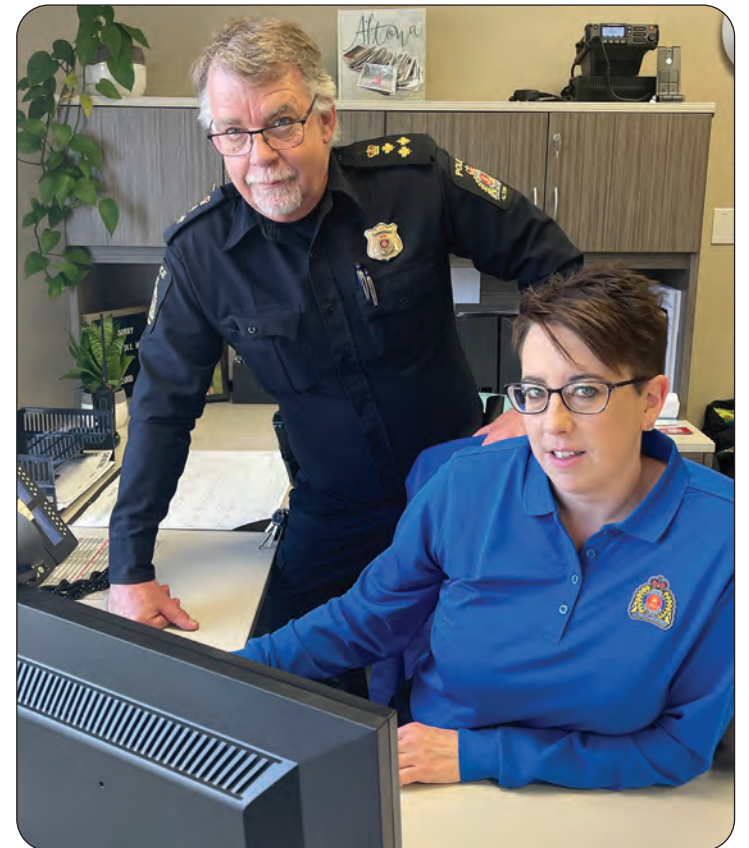


PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona Police Chief Dan Defer says community engagement is an important part of their service. Along with her other duties, Special Constable Julie Seniuk ensures that the public is kept up to speed with updates and announcements through social media.

for the vehicles. Hopefully this level of support will continue going forward."

Courtesy of the province's Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund, the department also acquired an electric bike last year, which will make patrolling during outdoor public events such as the Sunflower Festival a bit easier to navigate.

"I think it's important, again, for community relations. Now, as opposed to officers driving around in a car, officers are more visible, they're more accessible."

Looking ahead, Defer says they are looking forward to serving and connecting with the citizens of Altona and Plum Coulee in 2024.

"Many more events are being planned for this year, where residents and officers can meet and visit in a social setting. We feel it is important for our community to know their officers, as these fine men and women have chosen to serve in this community that they all home."

Spring Fling Market, Job & Volunteer Fair in Morris April 27

By Siobhan Maas

On Saturday, April 27, the Morris Multiplex will play host to hundreds of people—visitors as well as the local community.

The annual Spring Fling Vendor & Craft Market will return and, for the first time ever, the Morris Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Job & Volunteer Fair alongside it.

"By connecting individuals with

job and volunteer opportunities in the area, we hope to help people find meaningful opportunities [and] organizations the support they need," said Cheryl Crick, chamber assistant.

Chamber president Cheryl Demarcke concurs.

"Chamber members are struggling to find volunteers and workers. They are struggling to exist and their future is up in the air. Bringing awareness to local opportunities helps everyone."

Demarcke notes that many individuals never returned to volunteerism following COVID-19.

"People got used to not doing things. [Lack of volunteers] is stressful on the volunteers that are already there."

She feels the fair is a fantastic opportunity for change in the community.

"So often people want to get involved, but don't know where to start. We expect this fair will help break down barriers to helping peo-

ple connect."

With almost 20 local businesses and non-profits attending the event held in the lobby area of the Multiplex, there is plenty of opportunity for all.

"Youth are a large, untapped demographic. We know local employers need staff, and many organizations need youth engagement," Demarcke said. "One goal of this event is to get

Continued on page 14

Your FARM



Look what the wind blew in

By Lori Penner

John Gavloski is a fascinated observer of almost any type of wildlife, with a particular interest in all the creepy, crawly visitors that not only harm your crops, but also benefit them.

Based in Carman, with a Ph.D. in entomology, Gavloski has been working with Manitoba Agriculture since 1997, monitoring and providing information on insects that are both beneficial and potential pests to farmers, agronomists and those working with agriculture.

In a recent presentation, Gavloski listed the top insect concerns that

producers faced in 2023 and offered a forecast for this season along with scouting and management tips.

The list includes flea beetles in canola, grasshoppers, armyworms, diamondback moths, alfalfa weevil, cutworms, aphids in small grains, field peas and soybeans, and Lygus bugs.

"Flea beetles, grasshoppers and armyworms were major insect concerns in every agricultural region of the province," Gavloski said. "The others were of concern, but more localized and weren't as widespread. Five of those 10 are things that overwinter well here, and five either blew in or migrated in. So, flea beetles, grasshoppers wintered well. Armyworms migrate in a purposeful migration. Diamondback moths don't winter well; they blow in. The alfalfa weevil doesn't winter as well as cutworms. Pretty much all aphid species, if they're going to be a problem, it's because they've blown in."

Flea beetles in canola

Gavloski says last year resulted in many issues with flea beetles.

"They were widespread. But it wasn't as bad as the year before. What puts you at a higher risk for flea beetles is sitting and not growing quickly early on."

Producers were treating canola seed with neonicotinoid seed treatment, and many fields received additional insecticide applications. There were also heavy feeding or insecticide applications reported from all agricultural regions.

Gavloski said slow emergence and early season growth makes canola more vulnerable to flea beetles.

"The challenge is to get the canola plants to a stage where they can naturally tolerate flea beetle feeding (3-4 leaf stage) without significant feeding injury."

Last spring's excellent growing conditions and warm soil resulted in quick germination and emergence in some areas.

Cultural controls for flea beetles in Canada include planting seed as shallow as available moisture will allow. Direct seeding also provides a microclimate which is less ideal.



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

John Gavloski recently shared with producers the top insect concerns for last season and the season ahead

"FLEAS, BEETLES, GRASSHOPPERS, AND ARMYWORMS WERE MAJOR INSECT CONCERNS IN EVERY AGRICULTURAL REGION ..."

Producers could also consider stem cutting.

"But there's an art and a science in scouting for females. We're factoring in a variety of things, so you really have to use a bit of intuition and common sense in your decision making."

Grasshoppers

"In our areas, there are many different crops, so some farmers don't have to deal with them in any significant way. Other farmers do. So, it can vary within a region."

Pest species can lay a lot of eggs, and Gavloski says if you get them in early frost, sometimes it cuts down the egg laying before they get a chance to lay their maximum amount.

"Last year, the frost came quite late, and they were able to lay their maximum numbers. They were in warm enough conditions, so they were quite active."

In terms of winter mortality, Gavloski says don't count on it.

"Soil temperatures of -15 degrees, about two to three inches into the soil are required to cause substantial winter mortality."

This depends on snow cover since eggs are usually laid where snowfall accumulates.

"Even an inch or two of snow is

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Your FARM



> GAVLOSKI, FROM PG. 13

enough to insulate them."

If spring is too dry, it can delay hatch. Grasshoppers need a bit of moisture

> CHURCH, FROM PG. 8

"We have grown, the same as the Ukrainian community in Winkler and Morden has grown," she said, agreeing that it plays an important role for families, especially those new to the area.

The growth of their community has also come with more children, so last year they started a summer camp program which had about two dozen youth, and Tykhonova expects there will be more this year.

In addition, the church community also does a few fundraisers throughout the year to help send support back home to Ukraine.

"This is what church is supposed to be ... social, cultural and spiritual connection," said Tykhonova.

She expressed gratitude for having use of the local Catholic church space, but noted they have a long-term goal to find their own larger space to own or rent.

"They opened their door and their hearts for us, but at the same time, their church is growing too," she said. "We are kind of keeping an eye out for something ... our need is growing too."

> STUDIO TOUR, FROM PG. 9

The variety of galleries, studios, and homes will be open that Saturday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and the Sunday between noon and 5 p.m.

Brochures will be available at various locations a little closer to the weekend, including Gallery in the Park in Altona, Winkler Arts and Culture, and the Pembina Hills Arts Council in Morden.

The charge to participate as a tour stop is \$75 for individuals or \$125 for galleries and groups of artists in one location.

You can register and find more information online at www.pembinavalleystudiotour.com.

for hatch, but not a lot. Temperature is what drives the cycle.

"Scout your ditches and field edges, and areas where grasshoppers tend to emerge in your region, starting in early June. That's when you can probably expect to see the hatch starting."

Armyworms

Armyworms are in the same family as the cutworm, Gavloski said.

"These are major pests. They migrate north in springtime, like butterflies. We had some very high levels last year, in late June and July, right across the province."

Armyworms like dense grassy vegetation to lay their eggs, so scouting for them isn't difficult.

"If you have areas that are denser, especially a cereal crop, check those areas carefully. We do monitor and set traps for these adults, and we can give you at least a bit of advance notice if we see them in our traps."

Any field in areas that have significant bird activity should be scouted.

Also check the backs of armyworms for parasite eggs. Natural enemies of the armyworm are Cotesia wasps, who lay eggs into the army worm.

Diamondback moth

The Diamondback moth is blown in by strong south winds into Manitoba across Eastern, Interlake, Central and Northwest regions in July and August.

Their numbers are hard to predict.

"It can vary from year to year. The numbers were extremely high in the Altona and Horndean areas last summer," Gavloski said.

Few, if any, survive winters in the Canadian prairies.

"When they move in and get established, the pod feeding is the most damaging. If you have good soil moisture and they're feeding on flowers and buds and things, usually plants like canola will produce more flowers and buds and compensate for that feeding. But the plant can't produce more pods and seeds once it gets to that stage. The pod feeding is really what we want people to watch out for."

Aphids in cereals

"Aphids were a concern and are also something that blows in on the winds. They were an issue in quite a few regions. Probably more so in the western part of the province and the central region.

"The problem we ran into last year was they came in quite late, well into July. People were scouting and they weren't quite at soft dough yet. They were still in the susceptible stages. But spring was an issue because we're limited to two registered active ingredients: malathion and dimethoate."

Dimethoate has a 35-day preharvest interval.

"So, when you're almost at soft

dough, that's not an option. And malathion wasn't all that readily available. It's an okay product on aphids. Dimethoate is probably the better product in the long run, but because of the long pre-harvest, it's not an option."

Lygus bugs

Lygus bugs are sap feeders, with a beak like a mosquito. They suck the juice from the plant, and like to feed on nitrogen rich newer growth, like flowers, buds, and seeds.

"They can become a real problem when they're feeding directly on your seeds and will do this with a lot of plants. Last year we had issues in canola, dry beans, and high levels in rye and wheat."

The new economic thresholds for Lygus bugs in Canola suggest a threshold of 20-30 per 10 sweeps for good growing conditions. Using the lower end of the threshold (about 20 per 10 sweeps) may be appropriate for stressed canola with less ability to compensate for feeding.

The most vulnerable crop stage for Lygus feeding is when seeds are enlarging on lower pods. When most pods become "leathery" and when seeds inside are firm, Lygus bugs can no longer penetrate the pods or seeds with their mouthparts and are no longer an economic threat.

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Fruit Jam raises \$5K

By Lori Penner

The Altona Community Action Network (ACAN) hosted their first-ever “Fruit Jam” fundraiser at The Community Exchange in Altona Saturday. Left: Latin performers Dejavu. Above: The Sixagons. Right: Liam Martin shares ACAN’s hopes and dreams for the Community Orchard project.

The concert, which raised about \$5,000, drew a large crowd eager to support the new venture and to enjoy a full lineup of entertainment, which included local performers such as The Sixagons, Liam Martin, and Paul Bergman. Winnipeg-based group Dejavu also took the stage, offering a variety of Latin music, as well as contemporary and classic pop and rock. Fruit Jam also included a raffle and

refreshments, as well as a silent auction for a quilt designed and created by local quilter Lori Hiebert.

Members of ACAN and the Community Orchard Task Force also shared their goals for the project, with music and poetry thrown in just for fun.

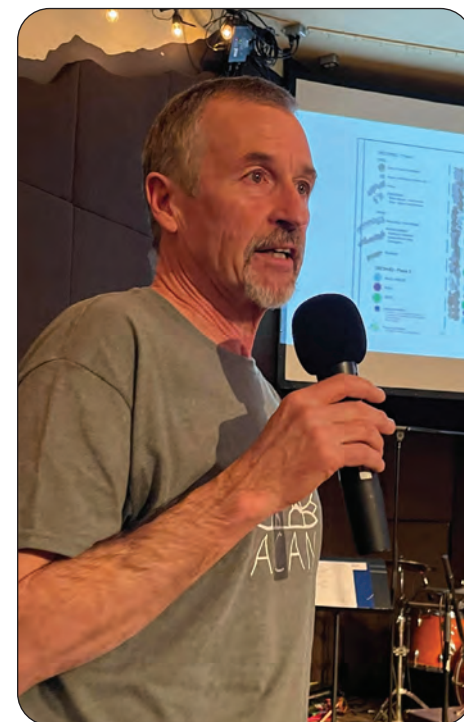
Committee member Joel Martin said years ago when they started the Community Garden and pavilion, they were already dreaming of an orchard to add to it.

“This is the next step. The orchard will be just north of the garden. It will be about two acres, consisting of a variety of trees, bushes, and shrubs.”

Unlike the garden, Martin said this is a long-term project, which will take much longer to reap the results.



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE
Fruit Jam filled The Community Exchange in Altona Saturday. Left: Latin performers Dejavu. Above: The Sixagons. Right: Liam Martin shares ACAN’s hopes and dreams for the Community Orchard project.



“We’re going to need help from the community, and we’ll be asking people to be part of it, and have some ownership in the project.”

The project will be completed in phases, as funding comes in.

Event emcee Al Friesen said the event was another great example of enthusiasm, and an opportunity to become financial partners for an exciting new phase in the development of the property near the MEC, which already features an ever-expanding Community Garden.

“It will bring to the community another source of local food production and create a community space that produces food and provides an ex-

ample of a climate resilient food system. And dare I say, along the way, grow our community and us as its residents.”

> JOB AND VOLUNTEER FAIR, FROM PG. 11

these youth into the local workforce and engaged with organizations that can use youthful enthusiasm and perspectives.”

Leslie Poulin, Morris Museum and Morris Area Senior Services (MASS) chair and Morris Manor secretary, is equally excited about the volunteer fair.

Like Demarcke, she has seen firsthand the effect of having too-few volunteers on the community.

“Whereas before [COVID-19], the Davidson Centre would have 50 volunteers helping with the Congregate Meal Program, served Monday to

Friday from 3:30-6 p.m., now we get maybe five. Everyone was three years older and many volunteers were seniors and decided not to return. Youth these days are busy with sports or not community-minded.”

Opportunities abound for those interested in growing and bettering the community. Perhaps a family can commit to serving and cleaning up dinner once monthly for MASS, someone can share their love of gardening with the Morris Manor, sit or play games with a local senior, or learn the local history and share their knowledge with visitors at the Mor-

ris Museum.

“The aim of volunteerism is to bring joy to the community,” said Poulin. “There is something for everyone.”

“Community organizations benefit from the networking opportunities that fairs provide, allowing non-profits [and businesses] to engage with prospective volunteers and employees,” said Marielle Dyck, Valley Volunteers Auxiliary president. “The fair is the true meaning of a community working together to build on our future and be strongly connected. It is an incredible way for people to learn about their community.”

Community is top-of-mind for all the April 27th activities.

“Every year the Spring Fling provides a table free-of-charge to a community group fundraiser,” noted Arien Peterson, facilities manager at the Multiplex. “This year’s complimentary table was awarded to the Morris School who is hosting a wine raffle and 50/50 draw to support their canteen renovations. We hope to see many people out and supporting one another.”

The vendor sale is one of the largest and most successful in the region.

“We have a high rate of returning vendors every year,” said Peterson. “This year we have a waitlist of 16 vendors and all tables have been booked since the end of February.”

arts & culture

Pine Ridge students perform A Lighter Shade of Noir next week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Pine Ridge School in Winkler invites you to an evening of noir comedy.

The school's theatre program is putting on three performances of the play *A Lighter Shade of Noir* next week.

Co-director and playwright Patrick Derksen describes it as a comedic mystery.

"The story is about five detectives that have very different personalities, and they come together to celebrate their greatest achievements at a big gala."

But then a dastardly villain makes off with all the treasured objects at the gala, and the detectives need to work together to solve the case.

"It involves a kidnapping and all sorts of other shenanigans as well," Derksen says.

This is the first public theatrical production the school has put on since it opened in 2019.

"We had planned to do something when we started, and then COVID interrupted that," Derksen says. "We've slowly been building up to a big show."

There are upwards of 35 kids involved in the production as actors, plus even more helping out behind the scenes.

"It's been great seeing the kids forming their own community," Derksen says. "And just seeing them shine on stage ... seeing them come out of it with a lot more confidence."

Actors Monique Peters (Gr. 5, playing the villain Big Billy), Abin Mathew (Gr. 7, playing gumshoe Trent Trowel), and Ellen Wieler (Gr. 6, playing Shirley Holmes) feel that audiences will get a lot out of the show.

"It's so funny," says Mathew. "You will laugh your head off."

"It's got some interesting stuff going on," Wieler adds. "If you like twists and turns and surprises, you should definitely come out and see it."

The kids have been working on this show since January, and they've been having a blast with it.

"It just thought it seemed like fun," Mathew says of what drew him to it. He's done a few other school plays and very much enjoyed the experience.

The best part, he says, is "the friends



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left: Ellen Wieler, Nene Abdulsalami, Abin Mathew, and Ire Adebayo run through a scene of *A Lighter Shade of Noir* ahead of next week's trio of performances at Pine Ridge School in Winkler.

you make, and the good vibes" at rehearsals.

This is both Wieler's and Peters' first foray into the world of theatre.

"I saw there was a British character on the sign-up sheet and I thought, 'I'm very good at a British accent' so I've been using it while we're rehearsing and I'll be using it on stage," Wieler says.

Peters notes she's enjoyed bringing her character to life, especially since

she's playing the bad guy.

"It's fun," she says, adding that the kidnapping part of the story has been especially exciting to portray.

A Lighter Shade of Noir runs Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. and Friday, April 26 at 1:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the school. All shows are open to the public.

Admission is \$5 at the door for ages five and up (under five get in for free). Donations will also be accepted towards the school's theatre program.

> PARKINSON'S, FROM PG. 8

... it takes a bit more planning to get things done."

Hayes noted the motor symptoms are all pretty common to everyone, but it is the non motor symptoms that can be quite varied.

"The motor symptoms are all similar like the trembling and shaking ... but one person's non-motor symptoms can be quite different from the next person."

He is involved in a Winnipeg support group called Movers and Shakers which meets once a month and brings in a variety of speakers.

They always appreciate having the chance to ask questions and share experiences, Hayes said.

Hayes stressed the importance of finding a support group and encourages families to seek one out closest to them.

"It can make a world of difference.

> TAX RETURNS, FROM PG. 10

To save time, you can file your tax return online using NETFILE-certified software or through an EFILE service provider.

"If you have a CRA account, you can use the autofill function which will auto fill your return for your automatically. It takes just a few minutes to do, and you're done with your taxes," noted CRA spokesperson Ahmad Almuqarqash. "I did mine in just under 10 minutes with this feature.

"If you combine online filing with your direct deposit, you can get your refund in as little as eight business

And for one thing, I've decided I have to stay positive, and the second is I do a lot more planning than I ever did before now."

The Parkinson Canada website (par-

days," he added, noting paper returns aren't as fast and can typically take up to eight weeks to process.

He stressed it is important that people file their tax return by the deadline. If you make a mistake on the tax return or forgot to include important information, you can request a change to your tax return.

Almuqarqash also encouraged people to register for an online account where they can easily update or check their personal information. You'll also be able to view what you owe to the CRA, your tax-free savings account

kinson.ca) lists support groups nationwide. You can also call them at 1-800-565-3000 or email information.referral@parkinson.ca to be referred to a support group near you.

and registered retirement savings plan limits, your benefit and credit information and the status of your income tax and benefit return.

"If you haven't registered for a CRA account, it's not too late. This is going to be your new best friend, basically," he suggested.

"You can easily update your personal information ... you can see if you owe money to the CRA and much more," he said, noting however that "one of the common mistakes during the tax season is not updating personal information with the CRA."

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

sports & recreation

Flyers advance to MJHL finals

Game six needed four OT periods for a decision; Jakob Jones got the winning goal

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It took six games and four periods of overtime in game six, but the Winkler Flyers finally ousted the Virden Oil Capitals to move on to the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's championship final for the first time since 2002.

The Flyers won Monday night's game 2-1 to take the series four games to two.

The marathon final game was tied at 1-1 in the first 10 minutes after Zach Nicolas drew first blood for Winkler, only to have Virden's Josh Lehto tie it up a minute later.

That was it for goals through the rest of regulation and three overtime periods that saw the Flyers outshoot the Oil Capitals but fail to find the mark.

Finally, in the fourth extra period, Jakob Jones got the game winner unassisted 51 seconds in to put an end to Virden's hopes of extending the series to game seven.

Malachi Klassen made 36 saves in net for Winkler as the Flyers won the shots battle 49-37.

The entire semi-final series was a close one. Virden took game one 4-0 but then Winkler tied it up with a 2-1 win in game two.

In game three on April 9, Virden reclaimed the lead with a 4-1 win. Dalton Andrew scored the Flyers' lone goal while Klassen faced 19 shots on net, stopping 16.

The Flyers bounced back in a big way in game four on the road last week Thursday.

Nicolas got Winkler on the board early in the first, but Virden tied it up with just a few minutes left on the clock.

Two goals from the Oil Capitals in the second to Winkler's one (scored by James Richard) had Virden in the lead 3-2 after 40 minutes.

The Flyers managed to tie it up 40



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE
In Saturday's game, which Winkler won 2-1, Malachi Klassen makes an insane stick save before Virden's Grady Lane would fall forward and knock the puck into the net with his hand. The goal would be disallowed. Right: Flyers Dalton Andrew celebrates after the Flyers scored the winning goal in double overtime, giving the Flyers a 3-2 lead in the series.

seconds into the third thanks to Jones, and then Andrew pulled his team into the lead 4-3 in the fifth minute, but Virden got that one back in the 13th to ultimately send the game into overtime.

The first overtime period solved nothing, but then Andrew managed to fire home the winning goal midway through the second to give Winkler the win 5-4 and tie the series at two games each.

Klassen stood tall in net once again, making 26 saves off 30 shots. His teammates sent 45 the other way.

The Flyers then took a 3-2 series lead with another double overtime win Saturday night in Winkler.

This time they won it 2-1, Nicolas having scored the only regulation goal for Winkler in the second period (Virden got their goal just a handful of minutes later). Trent Penner then scored the winning goal 11:13 into the second overtime period.



Klassen made 39 saves this match as the Flyers outshot Virden 44-40.

The Flyers will now face either the OCN Blizzard or the Steinbach Pistons in the final round. The Pistons managed to hang on with a win Monday night that tied that series at 3-3. Game seven is Wednesday night.

PENNER HEADED TO ALASKA

In other Flyers news, team captain Trent Penner has signed with the

NCAA Division 1 University of Alaska Fairbanks Nanooks Hockey Program.

The Winkler native has played four years with the Flyers, contributing 151 points (70 goals and 81 assists) in 164 games with the team.

"I believe Fairbanks is a place where I'll have the ability to develop my game and get a good education," Penner said of the decision to play

Orioles, Bisons raring to start prep for 2024 season

By Lorne Stelmach

Baseball season is approaching, and the region's two Manitoba Junior Baseball League teams will soon be gearing up for the campaign.

Both the Pembina Valley Orioles and Altona Bisons had challenging seasons last year, but there is always optimism when it comes time to play ball.

"You have one goal in mind, and that's to bring a championship back to Altona. It's been a few years," said Bisons coach Evan Anstett. "I think we have a good group of guys, so if we show up every day and play as well as we can, I think we could beat any team in the league."

"If we improve in various spots, I think being at least a .500 or better club is attainable," said Orioles coach Dan Giesbrecht. "I think we came a long ways last year."

The Bisons finished seventh in the regular season last summer, while the Orioles were in the cellar in eighth place.

The playoffs then saw Pembina Valley fall in three games to first-place Elmwood, while the Bisons surprised second-place St. James and then gave Elmwood a tough battle until coming up just short in the deciding fifth

game.

A few potential players for the Orioles have had some informal training sessions since January indoors at the Meridian Exhibition Centre, but Giesbrecht expects more formal practices will be starting shortly.

"There's still a lot of guys away at university or playing hockey. In Manitoba, that's how it goes," he said. "We expect in the next couple of weeks that players intending to play will be there."

"We're anxious to get going," he continued, noting he anticipates having a team with a bit more experience this year.

"We've got some newcomers coming, but I think the bulk of the players from last year will be returning. We're still going to be quite young. We were very young last year ... there's a couple of good players who came up from the U18 team who we expect to make the roster."

"We started the process last year, and we knew that for a couple of years, it would be a building process. That doesn't mean we don't have our sights set on being as competitive as we can be," said Giesbrecht.

"It's a very competitive league, and a lot of the teams, they have a majority of their players who play college



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Pembina Valley Orioles have high hopes for the MJBL season ahead, as do the Altona Bisons.

ball in the U.S. for most of the fall and winter," he noted. "They come back to Manitoba for the summer to play with their local teams. We don't have that happening with our team ... it's always a slight disadvantage."

"I'm looking for improvement in all areas ... continuing that process, and hopefully we can add a little bit of depth in some spots as well."

Serving as coach for the Bisons brings things full circle for Anstett, who played minor ball in the area and moved up to the junior team and then joined as an assistant coach.

In the case of Altona, there are usually not formal tryouts as they typically don't have a large number of potential players to draw on, noted Anstett.

"We have our guys and that's what we roll with," he said. "We have our

Altona crew and then we have a few from Portage that we were kind of lucky to snag.

"We do have a decent group returning, but we did lose five pretty talented ball players," said Anstett. "With our returning guys, we should have a decent amount of guys, so that's a good sign for us."

He will come into the campaign with high hopes that they can pick up from where they left off last year.

"We played some good ball at the right time last year," said Anstett. "Talent will be the main thing I'm looking for ... but I also I love a guy who comes and works hard ... I pay attention to who's there early, getting their stuff ready."

The 2024 MJBL season gets underway next month.

Twisters season comes to an end in MMJHL finals

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters dream season has come to a close after a four-games-to-one defeat in the MMJHL championship series to the St. James Jr. Canucks.

After splitting the first pair of games in the series, the Twisters dropped the final three games to end their season.

On April 9, the Twisters lost 3-2 in overtime on the road in Game 3. Alex Van Deynze and Derek Wiebe scored for Pembina Valley, while Logan Enns stopped 35 shots in goal in the loss.

A few nights later, on April 13, back at home in Morris, the Twisters lost 4-3 in a double overtime heartbreaker. Slade Sotheran scored twice for Pembina Valley, while Derek Wiebe had the other tally. Owen LaRocque stopped 35 shots in net for the loss.

The Twisters' season ended with a

rough 5-1 road loss in Game 5. Sotheran scored the lone goal for Pembina Valley, while Enns stopped 18 shots in the loss.

"I think the difference in the series was that they just capitalized on their chances," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "I felt like we eventually matched them, but it just came down to who could capitalize on a bounce here and there. We've had lots of goalposts that didn't go the way we wanted, and it got frustrating."

Beernaerts notes how coming up short in the two overtime games was the critical factor in the series for his Twisters' club.

"The double overtime game was the biggest dagger. We were down 2-1 in the series and had come back from being down 3-0 in the game. Up until the last game of the series, we felt as if

we had outplayed them four games in a row. To come short again and to go down 3-1 and back to their barn really took the wind out of our sails."

Despite the heartbreak, coach Beernaerts is incredibly proud of the 2023-24 Pembina Valley Twisters squad that left everything out on the ice all season long.

"These boys took the reigns and

ran with it," said Beernaerts. "I don't think many people could say early in the year that we would've gone this far. From the thirteen-game win streak to sweeping our way to the finals, there's lots to be proud of. It wasn't the outcome that we wanted, but every player can hold their heads high tomorrow and be proud of the year that happened."

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 16

Alaska. "The great coaching staff and facilities as well as the chance to experience a new part of the world made the decision pretty easy."

"Trent has been an integral player and person to the Flyers and city of Winkler. A resilient young man, he has overcome many moments of adversity throughout the last few

seasons and continues to come out stronger," said Flyers head coach and general manager Justin Falk. "We are excited for him that he gets to continue playing hockey at an elite NCAA Division 1 level while furthering his education at a tremendous program in Alaska Fairbanks."

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

Local jiu-jitsu athletes win 18 medals at Western Kids Open

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Thirteen jiu-jitsu athletes from Rise Combat Sports in Winkler came home from the Western Kids Open in Regina last week with a lot of hardware in tow.

Coach Marcos Gaubert said the group had a blast at the event, which is the biggest youth competition in Canada, bringing in athletes from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.

"It is always a test to measure our level against other provinces and teams," he said, sharing that the kids brought back 18 medals: four gold, six silver, and eight bronze.

Medal winners included:

- Brandt Kauenhofen: second place in the boys nogi/white, 8-9 years, 60 lbs below category and third in the boys gi/white, 8-9 years, 60 lbs category.

- Colt Friesen: third in boys nogi/white, 8-9 years, 61-67 lbs.

- Langdon Seenie: first place in boys gi/white, 12-13 years, 135 lbs above and second place in nogi/white category in the same age and weight classes.

- Karsten Unruh: first place in boys gi/grey, 10-11 years, 75-80 lbs.

- George Polynko: second place in boys gi/grey, 10-11 years, 81-87 lbs and third in the boys nogi/grey in the same age and weight classes.

- Judah Loewen: second place in boys nogi/grey, 10-11 years, 81-87 lbs and third in the gi/grey in the same age and weight classes.

- Spencer Heinrichs: first place in the boys nogi/grey, 10-11 years, 81-87 lbs and second place in gi/yellow, 10-11 years, 88-94 lbs.

- Benjamin Unruh: third place in boys gi/grey, 8-9 years, 61-67 lbs.

- Finnley Friesen: second place in girls gi/white, 6-7 years, 47 lbs.

- Zelda Friesen: third place in the girls gi/grey, 6-7 years, 56-61 lbs and third place in the nogi/grey division



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The jiu-jitsu athletes from Rise Combat sports includes (back row, from left) Coach Andrew, Coach Darrius, Brendt, Grayden, Langdon, Judah, Coach Dallas, and Coach Marcos, (front row, from left) Colt, Finnley, Sky, Spencer, Karsten, and Benjamin.

of those age and weight classes.

- Sky Rempel: first place in the girls nogi grey, 10-11 years, 81-87 lbs and third in the girls gi/grey in those age and weight classes.

The team now sets its sights on another level of competition, Gaubert said.

"Rise Combat Sports has been working hard with our kids performance team to start to go for bigger challenges. We are now in conversations to bring some of our kids to the Jiu Jitsu Kids Pan American Championship."

That event takes place in Kissimmee, Florida in July.

RWB School and Liv Dance to perform in Carman on April 17

By Ty Dilello

Royal Winnipeg Ballet's On the Edge Tour will be making a stop in Carman this week on Wednesday, April 17. The show will also feature local dancers from the Liv Dance Company.

"Our competitive dancers are always excited for opportunities to get on stage and perform," said Jill Livingston, Studio Director of Liv Dance Company. "The girls have been working hard and competing these pieces this season, so we are happy to be able to perform them again with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet."

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) School's Professional Division is thrilled to be visiting Manitoba communities and performing stunning, powerful repertoire that highlights the extraordinary talent of the dancers of the Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program in the On the Edge Tour.

"We are beyond excited to bring our On the Edge performance to 10 communities throughout Manitoba and into Ontario," said Vanessa Leon-

ard, director of the Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program. "The Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirants have been rehearsing and refining an incredible program that highlights their versatility with various styles of dance that promise to delight all audience members."

This year's dynamic and intimate series of performances will delight audiences of all ages with repertoire ranging from classical ballet to contemporary and neo-classical. From timeless classics to daring new creations, On the Edge will celebrate the artistic legacy of the RWB and demonstrate the School's continued innovation.

The performance will include excerpts from the lively and charming classical ballet, Don Quixote, filled with romance, fun, and Spanish flair, as well as an excerpt from Rudi Van Dantzig's beautifully haunting Four Last Songs. On the Edge will also feature modern creations by RWB School Resident Choreographer Gabriela Rehak, fiery flamenco from RWB School Artistic Faculty Maritel Centurion



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The RWB On the Edge Tour will be performing in Carman this Wednesday, April 17.

and a new work from former RWB Company Soloist Yosuke Mino.

The show will be at the Carman Collegiate Auditorium on April 17 (Wednesday) at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available through Golden Prairie Arts

Council (GPAC). To reserve or purchase tickets, visit www.goldenprairieartsCouncil.com or call 204-745-6568.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST PROSTATE CANCER. RIDE DAY - SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2024. 10 A.M. start - Earls Polo Park (Winnipeg). Visit: ridefordad.ca/manitoba to register or make a pledge

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PUBLIC NOTICE



R.M. of ROLAND PUBLIC NOTICE - 2024 FINANCIAL PLAN

Pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act. The Council of the Rural Municipality of Roland will hold a Public Hearing to present the 2024 Financial Plan:

**Thursday April 25, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

Roland Memorial Hall

Interested persons may make representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the Plan. Copies of the Financial Plan will be available for review from the Municipal Office after April 22, 2024.

CAREER



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a
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LAND TENDER

Land for Sale by Tender

Completed Tenders and a \$10,000.00 per parcel deposit of the Tender Price are invited to be received up to 12:00 PM (noon) on April 29, 2024 (the "deadline") on the property described below, which Tenders and Deposits shall be received at:

PKF Lawyers,
326 Stephen Street, Morden, MB R6M 1T5
Attn: Stéphane Warnock
Ph: 204-822-4463

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2. THE ELY 1320 FEET PERP OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 24-1-5WPM EXC PLANS 47657 MLTO AND 72918 MLTO CT #3287586/4 60.99 acres

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2. Tenders to be in the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. To obtain tender form or more info, contact Stéphane Warnock @ PKF Lawyers.
3. Each Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00 per parcel. Deposits of tenders not accepted will be returned to the tenderers.
4. Highest Tender or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.
5. The Possession date and the due date of the balance of Tender Price shall be May 10, 2024.
6. The maker of any Tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the Land, independent of the representations made by the vendor or the solicitor and agent of the vendor. The Land will be sold "as is" and the bidder is solely responsible to determine the value and condition of the Land, Land quality, Land use, environmental condition and any other information pertaining to the Land.

CAREER



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

PERMANENT DIVISIONAL COLONY RESOURCE TEACHER

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE 2024 PROPOSED PESTICIDE PROGRAM - CITY OF MORDEN

Public notice is hereby given that the City of Morden may conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2024. 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 the following herbicides may be used:

- Fiesta (Iron HEDTA)
- 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, 2024 the following biological larvicides may be used include:

- Aquabac (Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis -Bti)
- Vectobac (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, 2024, by way of ultra-low volume mist sprayers the following insecticide may be used:

- DeltaGard 20EW ULV

4. To control elm bark beetles, the carrier of Dutch Elm Disease, by spraying Pyrate (chlorpyrifos) onto the lower 50cm of elm trees on both public and private property from approximately June 1st until October 15, 2024.

5. 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.

6. To control other insect pests between May 1st and October 31st, 2024, the following may be used:

- Safer's Insecticidal Soap (potassium salts)
- Copper Fungicide Spray
- Foray 48B (Btk)
- Sevin (carbaryl)

Any person may, within 15 days after this notice is published, send a written submission to Manitoba Conservation regarding the above control program or register with the department their written objection to the use of pesticides next to their property to:

Pesticide Use Permit Program
Manitoba Environment and Climate
Environmental Approvals Branch
Box 35, 14 Fultz Blvd, 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 at 204.362.3999 or email sdias@mymorden.ca

Morden

EMPLOYMENT



**1.0 FTE PRINCIPAL/TEACHER
Competition #2024-16
Prairie Mountain High School (Somerset)**

Prairie Spirit School Division invites applications for a **1.0 FTE Teaching Principal** position to commence September 3rd, 2024. Deadline for applications: **Noon April 23rd, 2024.**

Details available at: www.prairiespirit.mb.ca
or phone 204-836-2147

EMPLOYMENT

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
FOR CULINARY CREATIVITY**

Morris Area Senior Services (M.A.S.S.) is a non-profit organization seeking a Meal Coordinator for their Congregate Meal Program. The Congregate Meal Program assists to meet the nutritional and social needs of its senior participants. The meal is served to those 55 plus and older (some exceptions apply). The successful applicant will plan one month in advance, a meal program served daily to these participants.

We are looking for someone to prepare and serve nutritious meals while keeping a clean and sanitized work and eating area. We are looking for someone who takes pride in their work and has an eye for presentation, so that the quality of the food, and its visual appeal, will keep our participants coming back. All those with a love for cooking are encouraged to apply! Training is provided. Must be a minimum of 18 years of age or older.

Full job description on Facebook and Pembina Valley Online

For more information about the job or to apply please:

Mail resume: to Morris Area Senior Services,
PO Box 997, Morris, Mb. R0G1K0

Email resume: to morrisareaseniorservices@gmail.com

Drop off or visit us @#20 - 153 Montreal Ave E. Morris, MB
(Davidson Centre entrance) Phone 204-746-6336

CAREERS



MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

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

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

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

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

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

Starting Wages:

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

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

Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

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NOTICES

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FLIGHT ACADEMY

Want to learn how to fly? Recreational Pilot Program is the best way to get started, must be 16 years of age. Privileges: fly for fun in a certified airplane, a home-built aircraft or an ultralight; fly by day only in Canada with one passenger; can easily add float rating to permit. LS Airways Flight Academy 204-651-1402.

HEALTH

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

EMPLOYMENT



**1.0 FTE PRINCIPAL/TEACHER
Competition #2024-04
Nellie McClung Collegiate (Manitou)**

Prairie Spirit School Division invites applications for a **1.0 FTE Teaching Principal** position to commence September 3rd, 2024. Deadline for applications: **Noon April 23rd, 2024.**

Details available at: www.prairiespirit.mb.ca
or phone 204-836-2147

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE



**CITY OF WINKLER
PESTICIDE USE PROGRAM
Permit No. 2022036-3RR
May 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024**

Public notice is hereby given that the City of Winkler and/or its designated agents may conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2024, if necessary, depending on infestations.

1. To control noxious weeds on road allowances and rights-of-way within the City of Winkler. The herbicides that may be used if required include: **Round-Up, PAR III, Fiesta.**
2. To control rodents at the Winkler Municipal Airport, Cemetery, and any location within City limits where the designated Officer deems necessary using rodenticide: **Ratak and/or Rozul RTU.**
3. To control mosquito larvae in stagnant water within the corporate limits and a 3-kilometer buffer area using **Aquabac 200G and Vectobac 200G**, on both private and public property. To control adult mosquitoes using **Delta Gard.**
4. To control horticultural insect pests using **Malathion, Pyrate 480 EC, Trounce and Pounce.**

The duration of each program will vary within this period depending on weather conditions and pest population levels.

All pesticides used and procedures applied will be in accordance with the approved label recommendations. The public may send written submissions or objections to the program within 15 days of the publication of this notice to the department below:

**Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
Box 35 -14 Fultz Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB, R3Y 0L6**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Rhineland Area Food Bank

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

7:00 p.m.

**162 Centre Avenue, E.
Altona, MB R0G 0B0**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KATRINA DYCK, also known as TINA DYCK, late of the Town of Pilot Mound, in the Province of Manitoba, Deceased. ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate duly verified by Statutory Declaration must be sent to the undersigned at P.O.

Box 1150, 1-655 Main Street, Winkler Manitoba, R6W 4B2, on or before Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

DATED at the City of Winkler, in the Province of Manitoba, this 10th day of April, 2024.

DOELL LAW OFFICE

per: Christopher G. Doell
Solicitor for the Administrator

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The **Winkler Morden**
Voice

take a break
> GAMES

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. For each
7. Airborne (abbr.)
10. Photographs
11. They ___
12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
13. Monetary unit
15. Cool!
16. A son of Jacob
19. Cut off
21. Devour
23. Agent of one's downfall
24. Best
25. Network of nerves
26. Partner to "oohs"
27. Origins
30. Sewing utensil
34. Alias
35. Swiss river
36. Greek mythological figure
41. Type of whiskey
45. Lay to rest
46. "Rule, Britannia" composer
47. Select jury
50. Feeling
54. Action regarded as morally wrong
55. Makes angry
56. Act incorrectly
57. Defensive nuclear weapon
59. Class of escort aircraft carrier
60. To what degree
61. Buzzing insect
62. The human foot
63. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
64. A place to stay
65. Sun up in New York

CLUES DOWN

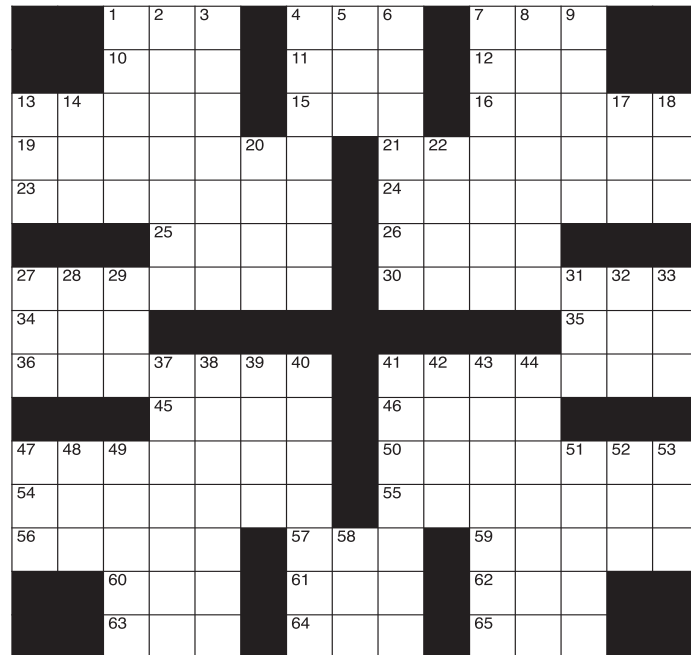
1. An involuntary muscular contraction
2. Earnest
3. Cuts out surgically
4. Can't move
5. Baseball stat
6. British soldier
7. Traditional medicine plants
8. Political party controlled by managers
9. Hebrew prophet
13. Supporter
14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
17. Liberty Mutual mascot

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www.mcna.com

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22. Large, deep-bodied fish
27. Clothing retailer
28. Supplement with difficulty
29. Annoy constantly
31. Founder of Babism
32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia
33. Sea eagle
37. Leave behind



38. Time of day
39. Colorless crystalline compound
40. They lay out course requirements
41. A diamond has three
42. Algerian coastal city
43. Remove cover
44. Rechristened
47. Distinctive practice
48. Defunct phone company
49. Turkish officer of high rank
51. Eliminate from the body
52. Witness
53. Soviet Socialist Republic
58. Founding Father Franklin

EMPLOYMENT



The Morden Corn & Apple Festival is offering an exciting new opportunity for a vibrant, enthusiastic, self-motivated person. If you are passionate about the City of Morden and the Festival, are a strong team player with excellent people skills and computer skills, then you need to apply for this position.

Executive Director

Contract - 1,200 hours approximate

The Executive Director is the primary face and representative of the Morden Corn & Apple Festival to the larger community. The Executive Director is responsible for all day-to-day operations of the Corn & Apple Festival and is responsible to execute the strategic initiatives laid out by the Board of Directors.

Key Responsibilities

- To execute the strategic initiatives of the Corn and Apple Board.
- To be financially efficient in the day to day operations of the Corn & Apple Festival.
- To provide administrative responsibilities on a day to day basis, including preparing reports, answering phones, etc.
- Coordination of grants, lotteries and other sources of revenues.
- Social media execution and website maintenance.
- Maintain a positive public image with all levels of stakeholders.
- Recruit and supervise Corn & Apple Festival staff.
- Responsible for Volunteer relations.

Qualifications

- Administrative and/or public relations experience required.
- Well-developed leadership skills
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Excellent computer proficiency
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to build rapport across all generations.
- Proven ability to work independently.

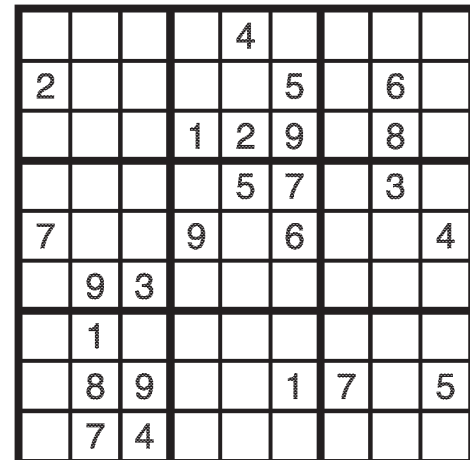
The Morden Corn & Apple Festival offers a competitive negotiable rate of pay and flexible work life balance.

Please email your resume and cover letter to: Dale Stambuski, Morden Corn & Apple Festival Inc President at: management@eagleeyedesign.ca

Deadline to apply: Friday, April 26, 2024

We thank all applicants; however only those invited for an interview will be contacted.

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

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

AUCTION LISTINGS



AUCTION SERVICES

Consignments | Appraisals | Farm, Estate & Industrial Auctions

AUCTION LISTINGS

Tina and the late Bill Reimer.
(Farm/Collector sale)
April 22-May 1 Blumenfeld, MB

Willie Voth Auction
(Household sale)
April 16-22. Winkler, MB

Mary Heide Estate
(Building Lots sale)
April 22-May 1. Hochfeld, MB

Jake and Sylvia Peters
(Acreage Sale)
May 8-17 Green farm, MB

Roy Paul Estate Auction
May 16-24. Emerson, MB

Robert and Elizabeth Loewen Auction
May 21-28. Altona, MB

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pvauctionservices.ca

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The *Winkler-Morden*
Voice

OBITUARY



Mary Warkentine March 12, 1932 - April 6, 2024

With her family close beside her, Mary Warkentine passed into Jesus' loving arms on Saturday, April 6, 2024. She was born to Abram P. and Anna (nee Nordorf) Janzen. She leaves to mourn, her children, Paul (Sharon), James (Maria), Gary (Lisa), Rosemary (Don), Steve (Val); grandchildren, Scott, Jonathan (Hally), Joshua (Leah), Andrew, Joel, Jordan, Phillip (Emily), Nicole, Anica, Sophie, Madelyn; and one great-grandchild Clara. She is survived by one sister, Helen Friesen and one sister-in-law, Tina Janzen. Predeceased by her husband Rev. John H. Warkentine; her brothers, Peter (Elizabeth) Janzen, Abe (Helen) Janzen, John, Jake; sisters, Anna (Gus) Westfall, Susan (Jake) Suderman, Tina (Abe) Hildebrand, and brother-in-law Isaac Friesen.

Mary was raised in Blumenfeld, MB, and lately asked us regularly for 'news from the village.' She was an avid student in the school next door, especially after it was discovered she needed glasses. Mom regretted having to quit after grade eight, but that was the custom back then. She worked out of the home briefly as a nanny before meeting and dating John. Mom and Dad married in 1957. At the time, John was a dragline operator for CN Rail in Winnipeg. Shortly after Paul was born, they switched to farming for a livelihood. Farming was how they made a living, however, studying was a passion Mom and Dad shared. While raising the family and farming, Dad earned his Bible School diploma, and by this time was already pastoring at the Evangelical Rudnerweider Church in Morden (later became EMMC). Life was busy for Mom, being married to such a busy man, but they kept grounded by starting each day with Bible reading and prayer. Dad encouraged Mom to pursue her talent of art, taking courses and taking time to paint many beautiful portraits and landscapes. She never stopped reading, and later earned her own GED. No one could beat her at Scrabble, but sometimes our enthusiasm lessened as the game went on. No problem, she would help everyone with the more tricky words, and if the perfect word required an extra tile off the board, that was allowed too. Her other passion was gardening, and we saw this really accelerate when they moved into town, as she tended to many of her beautiful roses. Roses were also her favourite subject to paint or to take photos of.

Mom's faith was evident as she supported Dad in the ministry, even in later years when they went church planting in Kansas. At times we thought she could cut him a break critiquing his preaching style, but her insights and discernment were usually dead-on. Even with dementia, she still seemed to have a sixth sense to know what we all were up to behind her back. Mom didn't profess to love cooking or housework, but she was often singing, humming, or whistling a hymn while going about the most mundane tasks. When Dad passed suddenly in 1999, the first thing Mom made us do was turn to the Lord in prayer, and that never stopped for the next 25 years. She knew she needed God to be right there beside her through life and that was consistent, no matter what 'pail of troubles' life threw at her. She enjoyed numerous Bible coffees during these years, and went to work at the Thrift Store. This was a happy place for her among the books, and she took her work very seriously. Her family was very important to her. She was witty and intelligent, enjoyed lots of banter with her sons, and gave us the gift of much laughter even with dementia these last years in Tabor Home.

She was much loved and will be greatly missed. The family would like to express their gratitude for the kind and loving care our Mom received at LMH in Swan Lake, at Tabor Home in Morden, and at BTHC. We would also like to thank Trevor and staff at Wiebe Funeral Chapel for the patient and professional service.

A Celebration of Life took place on Saturday, April 13, at 2:00 p.m. at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler. Donations in memory of Mary may be made to Back to the Bible.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
in care of arrangements



OBITUARY



Alice Helen Porte (nee Hildebrand) 1927 - 2024

On Sunday, April 7, 2024, Alice Helen Porte Nee Hildebrand, aged 96 of Morden, went to her eternal rest. Alice was born on June 19, 1927 in a trailer East of Rosenfeld to Jacob and Helena Hildebrand.

She was predeceased by her parents, Jacob and Helena Hildebrand, husband Archibald Duncan Donald Porte, son Keith Spencer Porte, brother Jake Hildebrand, and brother Harry Hildebrand.

Alice will be greatly missed by her family, son Gene (Cheryl), granddaughter Tiffany (Johnny) Blanchard, great-grandkids Abby and Logan. Granddaughter Stacey (Julian) Kulbacki, great-grandsons Braeden and Barrett. Son Bruce (Moira), granddaughter Meagan (Dwight) Heppner, great-granddaughters Danyel and Cameron, grandson Adam (Sara), great-grandkids Persephone and Leander. Son Kim (Kimberley), grandson Jason (Carolyn), great-grandkids Zahra and Everette, grandson Colin (Shannon), great-granddaughters Madelyn, Melanie, and Claire, and granddaughter Michelle (Lindsey) Kergen, great-grandsons Barrett and Grayson. Son Kevin (Jane), grandsons Jaxon and Liam. She is survived by her siblings Edna Jackman, Edwin Hildebrand, Gloria Hildebrand, and Dale Hildebrand.

Alice lived most of her life in Plum Coulee, then in 2000 they moved to the Lions Manor in Winkler, and in 2022 she moved in Tabor Home in Morden where she spent her final years.

Along with living on a farm prior, Alice was employed at Marshall Wells and at Plum Coulee Co-op. She was active in the Plum Coulee New Horizon Centre, she enjoyed sports, especially when her grandchildren were involved. Alice loved curling and was a big Toronto Blue Jays fan.

Memorial service will be held on Tuesday, April 16th at 2:00 p.m., at Wiebe Funeral Homes in Morden with Reg Hildebrand officiating. Private Interment for immediate family at the Plum Coulee Cemetery prior to the memorial service. Wiebe Funeral Homes Morden is in care of arrangements.

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude for the support. Your thoughts and prayers have been greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Tabor Home in Morden for their care and compassion.

If so desired, donations can be made to the Plum Coulee Community Foundation.

Wiebe Funeral Chaple, Morden
in care of arrangements
www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



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

Sudoku Answer

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| S | E | G | V | N | E | T | V | D | N | V |
| S | S | E | N | D | V | S | T | E | N | V |
| E | N | B | V | A | R | N | B | | | |
| N | O | B | U | O | B | S | U | S | V | G |
| H | V | V | | | | | | | V | K |
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| W | N | S | N | O | C | S | I | S | S | E |
| H | E | H | S | V | A | D | R | V | C | N |
| V | O | C | E | V | A | V | X | I | P | |
| N | A | B | N | A | R | A | E | R | S | S |

Crossword Answer

WANTED

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Coin Collection,
Old Jewelry,
Bullion +!

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

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Todd
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getinformed

Morris Handi-Van provided 2,000 rides in 2023

By Siobhan Maas

In a nondescript white garage at the Town of Morris Public Works yard is parked a small fleet of vehicles owned by the Morris District Handi-Van Service Inc.

This transport service was developed specifically for seniors and those with mobility challenges in the Morris area almost 20 years ago. With passionate volunteers, community support, and various government grants, the operation has thrived.

"We operate three vehicles on a break-even budget through grants and the fees charged for service," explains Bill Ginter, treasurer and original board member. He finds it surprising how many clients insist on paying the regular \$10 flat rate fee for transport inside of town instead of waiting until \$3 Wednesdays. "[Often times] clients request rides to get the mail, groceries, or for medical appointments. [The service] is about providing a level of independence to local seniors."

Even though only board members were in attendance at the annual general meeting on April 8, the volunteers know the value of the service

they provide.

"We provide transport for close to 150 clients," shares Ginter. "In 2023, approximately 2,000 individual trips were booked."

Board chair Allen Recksiedler is quick to point out that service options weren't always this way.

Originally, the organization only owned and operated a 12-passenger, two-wheelchair bus, allowing local seniors and families' access to shopping trips, appointments, or entertainment outings.

A Dodge Caravan was purchased in 2009 as demand for the service increased along with the necessity for better fuel mileage. The van was replaced in 2019 by a wheelchair-accessible Toyota Sienna. The latest vehicle in the fleet is a smaller Ford Escape.

"This vehicle gets a lot of gravel driving time," Ginter says.

Operated through the passion of eight core drivers, the retirees, seniors themselves, enjoy their role in the community. When asked why they have remained in their commitments for so long, Recksiedler says "It is pride of service [to the community]."

Ginter adds in, "The seniors are given a level of independence and can



PHOTO BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

Morden District Hand-van board members Allen Recksiedler (left) and Bill Ginter with one of the three vehicles the service has to provide rides.

rely less on their families."

Rides are given on a priority basis, with medical appointments and work trumping recreational or personal uses. All rides begin or end within Morris or the RM of Morris.

"Three members of the community are driven to Altona and back every day for work purposes and we regularly drive to St. Boniface Hospital," says Ginter. "The service is confidential too. Sometimes clients begin needing rides to CancerCare."

The service could not operate without gears turning quietly in the background. Ellayn Ridalen is the organizer of the fleet schedule and the voice

at the end of phone line.

"It's all about how I can contribute to the community," she says about her 18 years of volunteer service.

"[Ellayn] is available at all times of day [for bookings]," says Ginter, "although we do request bookings 24 hours in advance."

The drivers and volunteers look forward to their continuation of service to local seniors and those with mobility issues and handicaps.

"Sometimes all three vehicles are out at once," says Ginter, with a slight shrug of his shoulders. "And medical appointments never stop."



Supporting STARS

The STARS Air Ambulance got a welcome financial boost from the employee-owners of Friesens Corporation this spring. The company's vice-president of finance Andrew Fennell (third from left) recently presented STARS reps (from left) Manny Hildebrandt, Wendy Lavallee, Melanie Vieira, and Angele Cuthbertson with a cheque for \$11,831 from Friesens' employee-directed giving program, where staff get to vote on which charitable causes they'd like the company to support. "We are a proud supporter of STARS Air Ambulance that provides exceptional service for Manitobans," says Fennell. "We appreciate how STARS provides unparalleled emergency responsiveness to rural Manitoba."

SUBMITTED PHOTO

An evening of remembrance at the Morris Curling Club



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CHERYL CRICK

Barb Stevenson shares memories of the Morris Curling Club Ladies at a special event last weekend. Below: Linda Petroni and Ev Edel were among those who attended to reminisce.



By Siobhan Maas

A piece of Morris history was relived Friday evening thanks to Barb Stevenson, director and organizer of the now retired Morris Curling Club Ladies.

Former members and loved ones came together for appetizers and reminisced over the many skits performed as entertainment for the club's annual bonspiels.

In 1983, the Town of Morris' centennial year, and for a period of nine years, the Ladies created humorous skits, usually a loose take or spoof on a well-known story, to share with the community.

The story line and songs always centred around curling at the Morris Bonspiel, made all the more outrageous with the play-on-words of popular curling lingo.

Some of the skit videos shared on Friday evening included 'Country Rock n' Roll', 'The Wizard of Ice', 'Skipperella and the Glass Slider', and 'The Long Branch Saloon'.

The form of entertainment quickly became popular in the surrounding area, increasing entries at Morris Curling Club's annual ladies' bonspiel to 40 teams several years running, with a wait list. The Ladies were also asked

to perform at special events over the years, including the club's 100th anniversary in 1998, as host of the Diamond Ladies' tournament in 2001, and at the provincial Scotties Tournament of Hearts in 2007.

Several newspaper clippings and photos of these happenings are framed in the stairwell of the Morris Curling Club.

"[The skits] were good ol' fun," gushed Cheryl Crick, one of the youngest former skit performers. "I performed in the final skit in 1992.

"Last night was a way to commemorate the women who were active in the community. They volunteered for ev-

"[THE SKITS] WERE GOOD OL' FUN."

everything."

There was much laughter and a few tears throughout the evening, as the videos brought to life many of the stars that have since passed away.

"The one regret is that we didn't have this reunion earlier," said Stevenson of the last team effort performed 32 years ago. "[The ladies] would have so enjoyed being with us last night, and I'm sure they were there in spirit. Many of their daughters were able to attend and it was an absolute honour to have them."

Katie Cares, Ronald McDonald House to benefit from Access CU golf tournaments

By Voice staff

Access Credit Union has announced the date for its 11th annual charity golf tournament.

The 2024 edition will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 11. Tournaments will be held that day at both the Minnewasta Golf & Country Club in Morden and at Bridges Golf Club in Starbuck.

The two charities selected as recipients of the proceeds from this year's tournaments are Katie Cares and Ronald McDonald House Charities Manitoba.

"These two organizations provide a priceless service for families in our province during challenging times," said Larry Davey, CEO of Access

Credit Union. "We value the work that they do, the compassion they provide, and the feeling of community they deliver to every family they serve. We are excited to work together, in turn helping Manitobans for years to come."

Katie Cares operates the Katie's Cottage respite home beside Boundary Trails Health Centre and also distributes stuffed animals and care packages to kids receiving care in hospitals across southern Manitoba.

It was founded by the late Kaitlyn Reimer. Her family carries on the teenager's vision today.

"Katie Cares is pleased to have been selected by Access Credit Union to join Ronald McDonald House as one

of the beneficiaries of the annual Access Charity Golf Tournament," said CEO Ruth Reimer. "It is exciting to be aligned as co-benefactors with RMHC for this golf event, as Ronald McDonald House was the inspiration for Kaitlyn's dream and vision to build the home at Boundary Trails hospital. A huge thank you to Access Credit Union for recognizing Katie Cares as an important part of the fabric of our province."

Ronald McDonald House Charities Manitoba is a charitable organization that supports the health and well-being of children receiving medical care by providing essential services and a home away from home for their families.

"Annually across RMHC Manitoba's two core programs (Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Family Room), the health and well-being of over 1,000 families are supported with essential services and a home away from home when their ill or injured child receives medical care in Winnipeg," said CEO Wendy Galagan. "We are deeply grateful to Access Credit Union for recognizing and valuing our mission, and for making RMHC Manitoba families stronger because of this generous partnership."

Tournament registration will open later this spring. Details will be posted online at accesscu.ca/charitygolf.

The **Voice**

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