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VOLUME 1 EDITION 13

THURSDAY,
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Heading home

The local minor baseball and softball leagues are up and running across the Pembina Valley. Last Tuesday night, the Altona U13 team hosted Winkler, who went home the winner. Here, Mya Falk braces for the ball as Ashley Dyck heads for home plate.

PHOTO BRETT MITCHELL/VOICE

news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know

JUNE 3 - Timed online auction for Victor & Helen Elias - Rosa, MB

· 9000 lb, car hoist, JD 4230 with 640 Loader, very good furniture & Shop items.

JUNE 10 - Timed online auction for William & Karin Thiessen - Poplar Point, MB

· JD 4066 Compact tractor, 2032 compact tractor & attachments, large wood working shop, tools etc.

JUNE 13 - 5 pm LIVE auction, Dave Giesbrecht 3 RD St, Winkler

· Wood working tools, 12 x 16 insulated shop to be moved.

JUNE 18 - 10 am LIVE Auction - Estate of the late Irvin & Eveyln Enns

· All furniture, large wood working work shop, 2 senior scooters.



Additional auction details and photos are available at www.billklassen.com

get informed

Mug rugs for Ukrainian relief

By Ty Dilello

Altona's Sharon Friesen has been working hard lately from her home, creating a unique product with a Ukrainian twist to help raise money for various Ukrainian relief funds.

Since Friesen retired from teaching 20 years ago she has been madly trying to make up for lost time and is quilting like there's no tomorrow.

"My specialty is the making of T-shirt memory quilts, but I have made everything from table runners to king-size quilts," she said. "Altona's Heirloom Quilters has some very talented members, and I feel like I have a long way to go to match their expertise."

About a month ago, Friesen saw a picture of a sunflower-based mug rug (a 7.5 x 9.5-inch rug for your coffee mug) and decided to create her own.

To help the cause, Friesen gave it a Ukrainian spin with the country's national flower, the sunflower, and the blue and yellow of the Ukrainian flag.

"With financial assistance and donated fabrics from the Heirloom Quilters' Guild, of which we are members, Carol Schroeder of Rosenfeld and I have had orders for over 220 of these mug rugs and are madly trying to keep up with the production, as they are very time-consuming and labour-intensive," Friesen shared.

"Thanks to Carol's expertise with the handy-dandy Cricut Cutter, we have been able to create many more than we thought we could. Everyone has been very patient while waiting for orders to be filled. The weather has not been good for outside work but has been great for sewing."

Friesen has been selling them for \$20 each, or a donation, with all proceeds



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Altona's Sharon Friesen has been working hard to make Ukrainian mug rugs to raise funds for the Red Cross and MCC Ukrainian relief efforts.

going to the Red Cross or MCC Ukrainian Relief. So far, more than \$4,000 has been raised.

"Most sales have been by word-of-mouth, and I have been quite persistent in 'encouraging' sales," she said. "I'm grateful to the friends and relatives who have been the first ones to support the cause, even before it be-

came a cause. I have also mailed some out to BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario, as well as parts of Manitoba."

If anyone is interested in supporting this project and getting a Ukraine mug rug, Friesen can be reached at 204-216-1944 or flabandsharon@icloud.com.

Giveaway Weekend

June 4 - 5
All Day
Curbside

Place gently used items at the curb for other members of the community to "shop". You are responsible for cleaning up any items left behind by Monday June 6th.

Drop-Off Waste Loop

June 6 - 10
8 am - 9 pm
MEC Parking Lot

The drop off zones will include Scrap Metal, Household Waste, Mattresses, Box Springs & Furniture, Appliances, and Tires. For easy unloading, try loading your vehicle in the reverse order! Our staff will direct you to the appropriate drop-off spot.

Branch Pick-Up

June 10
All Day
Curbside

Place branches in a neat stack on the boulevard, parallel to the curb by no later than 7 am for our Public Works team to collect.



Our mistake

Our story last week on the Rhineland and Area Food Bank had a typo in their mailing address.

The correct address to send donations to is: Box 1107, Altona, MB, R0G 0B0. They also accept donations by

e-transfer to rhinelandfoodbankinc@gmail.com.

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

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Honouring Peter George Dyck

Buhler Active Living Centre renames second floor in memory of former Pembina MLA

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Buhler Active Living Centre's second floor of specialized housing for older adults has a new name: The Peter George Dyck Villages.

It's a fitting memorial to a man who worked tirelessly for years on behalf of the community and who was The Villages' very first resident, observed board chair Alvin Thiessen.

Dyck moved into The Villages when it opened in 2018, his wife, Irene, settling into an apartment on the facility's third floor.

Supportive housing at this level was something new for Winkler, Thiessen noted. The floor offers residents private rooms but also communal living spaces designed to feel more like a home than a health facility. On-site care is provided 24/7 by Silver Lining Care.

The Dyck family "took a chance" on the concept, Thiessen said. It quickly caught on—by summer of 2020, the 24-bed unit was full. Over the past few years, a total of 58 people have called The Villages home in their final years.

"Peter is an example for aging in place," said Thiessen. "As he needed more care, The Villages was able to provide."

Thiessen noted the floor now has a wait list and the board is currently

looking at how it might better meet the needs of the community's aging population in the future.

"A gap that's becoming more and more visible is the group identified as those in cognitive decline, Alzheimer's, or particularly the caregiver, the one who's taking care of someone in cognitive decline," he said, acknowledging the struggles caregivers face in supporting a loved one in this state.

"We are at this point in the discovery stage," Thiessen said of their plans to help those families. "We are committed to identifying those gaps, speak for those who cannot speak anymore, help those who may need resources and find them for them."

To that end, they're looking for community partners to walk alongside them in this project. The plaque that recognizes the second floor as The Peter George Dyck Villages includes not just past funding partners but a space as well for Legacy Builders—those people and businesses who Thiessen is confident will come forward with their support to fill the gaps that remain in seniors housing.

'MORE LIKE HOME'

For the Dyck family, The Villages

Continued on page 6



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Peter George Dyck's wife Irene, daughter Shannon, and son Patrick with the sign that will go up on the Buhler Active Living Centre's second floor, officially renaming the space as The Peter George Dyck Villages.

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Tina Reimer receives Make It A Reality Award

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Community Foundation's latest Make It A Reality Award recipient has her sights set on becoming a teacher.

On May 17, the foundation announced that Tina Reimer will receive the Gordon Wiebe Education Fund's largest scholarship totalling \$20,000

(\$5,000 a year for the next four years).

Reimer has been working as an educational assistant at Garden Valley Collegiate since graduating there herself six years ago.

This past winter she returned to school part-time to pursue a teaching degree. She plans to continue working full-time while doing distance learning and taking summer courses

at the University of Manitoba over the next few years.

"Teacher by 30!" an enthusiastic Reimer said when asked about her post-secondary game plan.

Scholarship or no, Reimer was intent on making that happen, but the award money takes a lot of pressure off.

"To have the financial burden lifted off is just such a great feeling," she said. "It's such an honour to feel like the Winkler Community Foundation sees the potential in me and wants to support me, and it just feels like I have another group of people that are backing me throughout this journey."

It's taken Reimer a few years to find that path, though she began taking the first steps on it back in high school. In her senior year, she volunteered as an EA in the school's Life Skills program.

"It really was through volunteerism that I discovered my passion for working with students," Reimer recalled. "I just fell in love with it."

But the jump from EA to teacher-in-training required some confidence-building, she shared.

"I didn't always think that I would ever be able to become a teacher. That was something that I just thought I couldn't, I didn't have X, Y, X resources to do it. Through the support of everyone around me and the people that surround me at GVC, I've just had so much growth and I feel like I can do it now."

Reimer's enthusiasm and passion made her stand out as an applicant, as did her volunteer involvement with such local non-profits as the Pembina Valley Humane Society (she's part of the team who plans and runs fundraising events for the animal shelter).

"Living and working in Winkler, Tina knows the community, its resources, and has a desire to help create a positive environment and impact for those around her both in her work and volunteering," said Vi Enns-Woelk, who heads up the foundation's scholarship selection committee. "Her tenacity and grit, drive

and passion are qualities that will support her well in her studies."

The Gordon Wiebe Education Fund was created from the bequest left behind by its namesake, who wanted to help local students overcome barriers to post-secondary education.

"Often students have to move to a new community, incurring many costs associated with such a transition on top of tuition, textbooks, lab fees, and other student fees, which can create a daunting situation for rural students," Enns-Woelk said. "We are grateful for the foresight Mr. Wiebe had in creating an ongoing and tangible way to support young people from Winkler."

The Make It a Reality Award has a very specific focus amongst the many other awards handed out through the fund each year.

"It was felt important that an award be designated for an individual for whom a significant amount of money may make an educational experience possible when it might be considered only a dream or perhaps impossible altogether," Enns-Woelk noted.

For Reimer, it means she'll be able to continue working in a job she loves as long as possible while also pursuing school.

"It means that I can just focus on learning and having fun learning," she said. "University is so cool because you get to really dive into the subjects on a deeper level and I feel like I'm already learning so much that I can take into my job as an educational assistant."

One day soon, she plans to take all she's learned into her own classroom, hopefully right here in Winkler.

"Winkler is where all of the experiences that I've had have happened," Reimer said. "I've had such a great experience at Garden Valley School Division. The admin and the people and the teachers and the educational assistants and everyone there ... growth is the main theme, I would say. It's just such a hopeful environment."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler Community Foundation presented Tina Reimer with the Make It A Reality Award last week.

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City staff work to bring turbidity levels down

Morden had been under a boil water advisory for three weeks

By Lorne Stelmach

The boil water advisory faced by Mordenites over the past few weeks can be traced to the impact of such a drastic change in conditions here.

Going from extreme drought in the past year to flash flooding this spring produced challenges as far as processing and treating water because of what all was coming with the water, said Mayor Brandon Burley.

The concern was around the turbidity, which is a measure of the relative clarity of the water.

"The turbidity from the large amount of water coming into the watershed not only brought in poor quality elements from the watershed itself ... and we haven't had substantial flow through that watershed in the last couple years ... it also raised a lot of suspended solids from the lake

bottom," Burley said a few days before the boil water advisory was lifted May 20. "Essentially, what happens is the turbidity now, the murkiness of the water, we couldn't produce enough water to supply at the quality that it has to be supplied. It was just a matter of time."

Santokh Randhawa, deputy city manager of operations, said the high flood water inflows into the lake caused the turbidity in the raw water to go up to almost 1,000 NTU (nephelometric turbidity unit) while the hardness levels dropped to 140 mg/l.

This impact on the treatment process meant the turbidity in the treated water went above 0.3 NTU—the rate beyond which regulations require a boil water advisory to be issued.

The water treatment plant over the past few weeks has been trying different chemical dosages and different coagulants to bring the turbidity down to the required level.

"The water treatment plant initially tried with changing the dosages of the alum and lime and soda ash to bring the turbidity down, but due to the high turbidity in the raw water, the treated water turbidity could not

be brought down to the license limit," Randhawa said.

"Since then, the city has done tests on different coagulants and is currently testing with the new coagulants to bring the turbidity down to the permissible level," he reported last Tuesday. "As of today, the turbidity is within the permissible level of 0.3 NTU, and the water plant will be taking samples and sending them to the lab for testing. Once the test results are obtained, they will be sent to the drinking water officer with a request to lift the boil water advisory."

"I know it's been a long two and a half weeks ... I know there had been a lot of angst," said Burley.

He noted that council in its previous budget had approved two projects that would have helped prevent this, but they were held up by supply chain delays.

"One is a variable stand pipe so we can select water from the best areas of the lake rather than from a fixed location close to the bottom ... it allows us to automatically select better water coming in.

"The other improvement that would help prevent this is variable speed

drivers in the facility," Burley continued. "When the water's coming into the plant into the clarifier, it has to push out quick enough at a constant pace. What we need to be able to do is to move the water through at a variable rate so we can take a longer time to treat the water."

Being able to push the water through faster or slower will be an advantage in all varying conditions, he added.

"At a time when the water quality is good in the raw water supply, we could move it through at a quicker rate, which decreases our production costs and our bottom line in terms of producing the water quality that we need."

Burley noted they anticipate that both of those projects will be completed this year.

"This is also why secondary water sourcing is important to us," the mayor added. "If we had the ability to slow our plant down to a point where we can better treat it, then we have that additional supply from the Pembina Valley Water Co-op. We're planning to be able to service almost a third of our water from them when required by 2024."

Winkler wastewater treatment plant on hold

Lowest tender came in millions higher than projections

By Lorne Stelmach

Significantly higher costs have put the wastewater treatment plant project for the City of Winkler on hold.

The tender process for what was originally estimated to be a \$48 million project cost-shared three ways between the City of Winkler and RM of Stanley along with the provincial and federal governments came in with a low bid that was substantially higher.

After further discussions, it became clear the project is not financially feasible for the city at this time, said Mayor Martin Harder.

"From a taxpayer's perspective, it just didn't work," he said. "We requested support to try to cover that gap, which we were willing to share a piece of. The deadline passed, and the individual who had the low bid refused to extend the bid for 30 days, so it went to the next tender, which was even higher.

"That's when we said no, we just can't afford that ... if you look between Stanley and Winkler, those numbers are too high."

The project had been ready for construction with the final design completed and environment permits in place, and the city had worked with the province and federal government to secure funding and meet all other requirements.

In the fall of 2021, the cost estimates were updated and found to be in an acceptable range compared to the initial estimates from 2018. Then, earlier this year, the Manitoba Water Services Board sent out the tender for the project and found the costs had escalated significantly due to current market conditions.

The city worked with the board and province to consider various funding options to address the escalated costs, but were unable to arrive at an agreement.

"With the changes in the current pricing structure from the time it was approved to now when the tenders came in ... it was just unbearable," Harder said. "We were going to be the ones who were going to be stuck with that entire bill rather than dividing it up between the three supporters of the project."

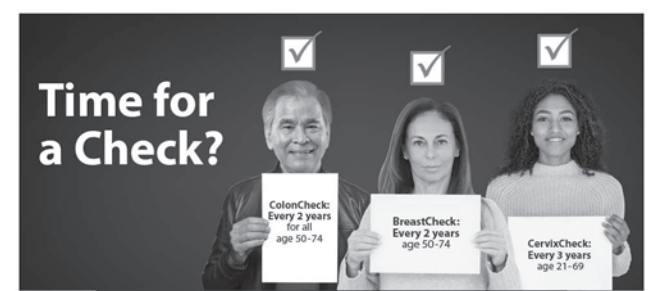
Harder emphasized they did not feel it was in the best interest of taxpayers to continue with the current scope of the project without a sustainable funding model in place, but he stressed they are working with provincial and federal representatives to pursue all options, including potentially a re-design, to find a cost-effective, sustainable solution for the city's wastewater needs.

"It's very disappointing. We thought we had this nailed," he said.

He expressed some optimism that the parties involved will arrive at an answer.

"FROM A TAXPAYER'S PERSPECTIVE, IT JUST DIDN'T WORK."

Continued on page 6



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Jayme Giesbrecht steps into role at Eden Fdn.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After more than decade as an on-air personality at Golden West Radio, Jayme Giesbrecht is shifting gears to take on a new role with the Eden Foundation.

The foundation's board of directors announced last week that Giesbrecht is coming on board as their director of development, filling the shoes of Earl Reimer, who retired earlier this spring.

"She has a vibrant personality and she stood out to us in the fact that mental health and what's related to supporting it is important to her," said Bill Elias, Eden Foundation board chair.

The role of director of development is an important one, Elias noted, responsible for raising awareness about mental health and spearheading fundraising events for Eden Health

Care Services' myriad programs across southern Manitoba.

It's a challenge Giesbrecht is eager to tackle.

Mental health is a cause that's near and dear to her heart, she says.

"When you look at the numbers of the cases of mental health and how it affects our daily lives, if it's not you that's struggling at some point it's somebody you know," said Giesbrecht. "I've seen that firsthand in my own life with people that struggle every single day with mental health.

"I think Eden does a great job of painting a picture of mental health for people" as being a key part of self-care when it comes to one's overall well-being, she said.

Eden's programs and services go a long way toward "changing our communities for the better by caring for everyone's individual mental health," Giesbrecht said. "It was not a question



Jayme Giesbrecht

for me that that's something I want to be a part of."

Giesbrecht got to work with Eden on Tuesday. She's already got several summer fundraisers to oversee, including the upcoming Visit the Villages Tractor Trek.

"He was a pioneer one last time"

From Pg. 3

provided a welcoming place for Peter George to live his final days in comfort and dignity.

After a lifetime spent giving back—he served on the boards of numerous community organizations and was MLA for the Pembina riding for 16 years—Dyck was looking forward to spending his retirement enjoying time with family and travelling.

But a few years into it, the family noticed Dyck was struggling with balance issues. He was eventually diagnosed with a rare disorder called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy.

"It was extremely hard to watch his quick deterioration," shared son Patrick. "He went from walking miles a day to being unable to walk a few steps without losing his balance and falling. It wasn't long until he was wheelchair bound and then finally bed bound."

When it became clear that Irene

could not longer care for Dyck at home, the family started looking for what to do next.

The Villages seemed the perfect fit.

"It seemed to be more like his home instead of a hospital setting," Patrick said. "We thought it would be great that he could be in control of his day and not subjected to certain routines and schedules that he didn't feel comfortable with. It made sense to us that this would be the perfect place for him.

"It didn't take very long for him to love his new home at The Villages. He loved the staff at Silver Lining, and I think they loved him as well ... the staff treated him like a king," he said. "We are grateful for the care and love that Dad received on the second floor. We are thankful for the staff that cared for him and treated him with dignity and respect until his last day."

Patrick observed that his father being the first person to call The Villages home is fitting.

It was, "his final work. He was a pi-

oneer one last time.

"It is a blessing to see that the second floor is full and thriving," Patrick said. "It's wonderful that Dad's love for community will be reflected by having his name displayed. He would be honoured and humbled."

> WASTEWATER, FROM PG. 5

"They are all feverishly working at alternative solutions ... and we believe we can find a solution that will meet the financial commitment that they have made; we don't want them to not support us," said Harder.

"There's no idea of timeline now," he added. "All I do want to say is I am very pleased that we bought an additional 113 acres of land next to our lagoon, and I'll just leave it at that ... no decision has been made what the future looks like, but it's a very wise decision that we own that land."

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getinformed

New wheels for Youth for Christ Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

A new van is going to be much more than just a means of transport for Youth for Christ in Morden.

The 15-seat passenger van unveiled recently as a surprise to both staff and board members is going to play a valuable role in their mission and outreach in the area, suggested executive director Ryan Smith.

"It's going to be a great tool to be able to reach out, take more kids on more trips, do more stuff, reach more kids, so we're excited about that," he said.

The organization had been fundraising for awhile towards the purchase of a van that could accommodate a larger group of kids to go on excursions together. They recently were close enough to the goal that they did order the van from Hometown Ford, and it was then taken to WinkCity for decaling.

Smith noted an anonymous donor provided a substantial amount towards the van, which also received donations from a number of other supporters and grants from the United Way Pembina Valley and Morden Community Thrift Store.

"They all joined in to help us, so it's been great," said Smith, who noted the entire cost was covered by community support.

"We're so grateful for the generosity of the community," he said. "We're excited that the community came behind us and raised a whole bunch of money to provide it."

Recalling a recent example where numerous vehicles were needed to take 30 kids bowling in Winkler, Smith said the van not only makes more trips easier but also opens up more possibilities.

"We do a lot of events that are out of town or require picking up kids



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Youth for Christ staff and board members celebrated the arrival of a new 15-seat passenger van last week.

around different parts of town ... this is enabling us to take a lot more kids at the same time on those sort of trips."

"I'm also going to beaches like Grand Beach ... for some of them, it's the farthest that they've even been in their life," Smith added. "For a lot of young people, they are able to do things through Youth for Christ that they're not able to do ... that many of us would take for granted.

"Also it enables us to pick up kids potentially and connect with kids who are farther away, maybe even potentially in communities that are outside of Morden, to bring them in for programming.

"This enables us to get together in a bigger group and have a lot more fun together. It's great to build relationships."

50+ now eligible for second booster shot

By Lorne Stelmach

The province has cleared the way for more Manitobans to get a further booster shot to protect them from COVID-19.

The government announced last Friday it is expanding eligibility for the second vaccine booster dose.

Now eligible are:

- Individuals aged 50 or older who live in the community.
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis people aged 30 or older regardless of where they live.
- Individuals aged 18 to 49 years who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.
- Residents of any age of personal care homes and elderly persons housing congregate living sites.

The province is also shortening the intervals to be eligible for booster doses. The first booster can now be given four months after the person's primary vaccine series (usually two

doses). The second booster dose can now be given four months after the first booster.

"We really encourage Manitobans to take whatever dose you are eligible for as soon as you become eligible for it," said chief provincial public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin.

COVID-19 continues to circulate throughout the province, Roussin stressed, and vaccination is the best protection against serious outcomes. It is not too late for people to receive their primary vaccine series or booster, he noted.

"We really see that ongoing benefit from being vaccinated, and we know that's the best way to protect ourselves and even people around us," Roussin said.

To date, more than 590,000 first booster doses have been given to eligible Manitobans, including nearly 80 per cent of those aged 60 and older. Nearly 10,000 people have received their second booster dose to date.

To find a location that offers the COVID-19 vaccine, Manitobans can use the online vaccine finder at www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/finder.html or call 1-844-626-8222 (toll-free).

The province also announced last week that eligibility for COVID-19 treatment now includes adults who have symptoms that began within the last five to seven days, tested positive with either a rapid antigen or PCR test, and are at higher risk for severe illness. The latter includes a number of factors including that they are not fully vaccinated, have not received a booster dose, have not been previously infected with COVID-19, are an older adult, have one or more chronic medical conditions, are moderately to severely immunocompromised, due to a medical condition or treatment, are obese or are pregnant.

Some people who have received all of the vaccine doses they are eligible for may still be eligible for treatment

if they are at higher risk for more severe outcomes for other reasons.

These criteria are broader than the requirements previously in place, and people who may be eligible should speak with their health-care provider to determine which treatment may be right for them.

Paxlovid is an antiviral pill that can be prescribed to treat COVID-19 and is now more broadly available by prescription at more than 175 community pharmacies across the province.

Meanwhile, Roussin also noted in the Friday update that there has continued to be a downward trend in terms of hospital and ICU admissions related to COVID-19.

"We see that the situation remains fairly stable in Manitoba," he said. "We see, with our hospital admission, it does appear that we have had a peak and things are trending in the right direction."

Morris Olafson will not seek re-election this fall

RM of Stanley reeve has served two terms

By Lorne Stelmach

There will be someone else at the head of the RM of Stanley council table this fall. Morris Olafson recently announced he will not seek a third term in office.

Olafson last week said the decision simply came down to uncertainty that he could fully commit to the role for another four years.

"If it was maybe a two-year term or something like that, I might have considered it, but not another four years," he said. "It's been eight years now in this job and I just didn't feel like I wanted to do another four."

"I think I've done my part now," Olafson continued. "I've got a little bit of age to me, and I was thinking it's time for somebody else to take the reins and let her rip."

Olafson is proud of the work he and council have accomplished over the past several years.

"We've had a pretty good run. We've done a lot of good things, and we've had a great council and staff," he said, listing a few highlight projects. "I think one thing is our paving pro-

gram that we did through the villages ... it's almost done now. It's always ongoing, but we've done the major part of it."

Olafson also noted the importance of reaching agreements with Morden and Winkler on making contributions towards recreation. He has also liked seeing to projects like the new Tabor Home and the coming expansion of Boundary Trails Health Centre come together.

"I hope that comes to fruition. It's all in place; it's just a matter of getting the shovels turned on that ... that's one of the major things."

Infrastructure issues as well have been a top priority.

"We've done a tremendous amount of planning in regards to wastewater and water ... we need more water," Olafson said, noting the importance of such projects as regional wastewater treatment and the water reservoir to go in near the hospital to build some extra reserve and boost supply.

Another initiative which he celebrated is the development of a park property for the village of Reinfeld.

"That was probably a little overdue

... for a village of that size to have no major green space," said Olafson. "I think that's going to be a really good thing for that village."

There are many challenges that come with trying to support the continual strong growth of the region, Olafson observed.

"Every year we've grown ... people want to come here, and we've got enough industry and work around here that people can come," he said. "Our major hurdle right now is housing. We need places for people to live. That is a major hurdle that needs to be addressed ... it takes time and money."

He concluded by reflecting on what his overall aim was while serving as reeve and offered a bit of advice for whoever comes next.

"My main intent for the municipality was just to be a caretaker and make things just a little bit better than they were ... that was the goal."

"There's lots to do," Olafson said. "The main thing I would say is to

"I THINK I'VE DONE MY PART NOW ... IT'S TIME FOR SOMEBODY ELSE TO TAKE THE REINS AND LET HER RIP."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morris Olafson will not be seeking a third term as Stanley reeve this fall.

come in with no real agenda ... you've got to care about the community, and you have to care about the entire municipality.

"That's the real trick to this job; to maintain an evenness throughout the municipality so that everybody gets some kind of benefit with everything we do. Everybody has to feel that they are getting something for their tax dollars."

Regional Connections hosting info. sessions next month

Topics include severe weather prep and drug and internet safety

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Regional Connections Immigrant Services' Settlement Worker in Schools program is hosting a pair of information sessions at Garden Valley Collegiate in Winkler aimed at informing newcomers and longtime locals alike.

First up, on Monday, May 30, Southern Emergency Response Committee emergency coordinator Darin Driedger will present on *Severe Summer Weather Preparation*.

Driedger will discuss how best to prepare your family and household for severe weather events such as

thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail, and more.

The Pembina Valley has welcomed a host of newcomers in recent years, and many of them aren't necessarily fully aware of the potential weather emergencies that can break out during a typical Manitoba summer.

Settlement worker Aubrey Krahn recalls speaking with one newcomer about Winkler's outdoor air siren test a few weeks ago.

"When we had the tornado siren test and I mentioned it, she said, surprised, 'You guys have tornados out here?' So it really dawned on me that

a lot of our new families don't know what our weather can be like or what to do if the worst happens."

Attendees at the talk will also go home with a safety brochure, courtesy of Manitoba Hydro, that further lays out the dos and don'ts of riding out a Manitoba summer storm.

The week following, on Wednesday, June 8, RCMP officer Christopher Joven will be on hand to talk *Drug and Internet Safety*, going over the dangers children might encounter online and how parents can protect their kids against drug use.

Krahn notes it's been a number of

years since the local schools have been able to host an event like this.

"Just like weather can be different in different communities, drugs can be different here than back at home as well," she pointed out, adding that when it comes to internet safety, plenty of parents are at a loss about what apps kids are using and what dangers they may pose.

Both sessions take place at GVC (736 Main St., Winkler) from 6:30-8 p.m.

Advance registration is not required, but if you have any questions you can call 204-325-4058 or email swis.winkler@regionalconnections.ca.

The **Voice**

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Morden's K9 officer completes drug training

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden's newest police officer is ready to starting hitting the streets.

Police service dog Ice recently finished a major part of her training with the completion of the drug detection course through the Winnipeg Police Service K9 Unit.

There is more work to go yet, but Cst. Curtis Warkentin sang Ice's praises after having gone through the eight weeks of training on drug detection with a large focus on cocaine, meth and heroine, which are the main drugs dealt with in Morden.

"There was some obedience stuff but mostly just straight drug detection in places like luggage, vehicles, lockers and just general rooms," said Warkentin.

"It was pretty intense. It was long days, and then she would spend the night in the hotel with me and she would be completely out, just sleeping the whole time and completely exhausted."

Officially welcomed last fall to begin her training, Ice is a Belgian Malinois who came to Morden through the Winnipeg Police Service K9 Unit breeding program.

The breed is described as smart, confident, and versatile, and one that is known for forging strong bonds with their human partners. Originally bred to be herding dogs, they now are widely employed as police and military dogs.

It is a long process to acquire and train a police dog. With basic obedience training and drug detection training now behind her, Ice will move on to tracking, apprehension,

and search training.

"It's about a 20 week program in total," said Warkentin, who noted tracking training may not happen until closer to next year. Tracking is even more intensive and takes place over a four-month period.

"We've been back in Morden now for about two weeks, so we've been doing some more training around our office ... we haven't been deployed yet, but she's doing really well," said Warkentin.

"For now, she'll be able to assist our members with things like executing search warrants for drugs as well as vehicle searches for drugs as well," he said. "She's available 24 hours a day for the guys if they need assistance in

a search or anything drug related."

Warkentin very much appreciates how Ice has done so far.

"She's been learning very quickly," he said. "We're fortunate to be able to take advantage of the Winnipeg Police Service breeding program. They have very good dogs and a good ge-

netic line, so she's a very fast learner and just loves to work.

"She's still just a working dog and not a pet," he noted, "but she follows me around when I'm in the yard and at work; she stays pretty close to me, and we're working very well together."



SUPPLIED PHOTO
Morden police dog Ice, along with handler Cst. Curtis Warkentin, recently completed eight weeks of drug detection training.

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- Shash Patel, General Manager, Microtel Inn & Suites, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba

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Winkler chamber looking for youth board reps

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce has put a call out for business-minded youth.

After a two-year absence, the chamber is once again seeking high school student representatives to attend its executive board meetings during the 2022-23 school year.

"We're looking for student reps from each of the high schools to attend all of our board meetings throughout the year and play active roles as board members," explained executive director Tanya Chateaufneuf, noting the selected applicants are asked to provide reports on what's going on at their

Continued on page 10



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Poutine Week

Louanes Harra of Ichkaben Doner Kabab restaurant in the Morden Food Hall was serving up some shawarma doner poutine last week as part of Explore Morden Winkler's Poutine Week promotion. "The number of restaurants that participated are a bit lower," said executive director Shane Neufeld of the 15 Winkler and Morden restaurants that took part. "We're happy with it. There was a great variety. There were a couple with buffalo chicken, some shrimp. It's been good."

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

> YOUTH REPS, FROM PG. 9

school and to get involved in chamber committees of interest to them.

It's a great chance to get a youth perspective on the board while also giving those youth a glimpse at the work of the chamber and its members and an opportunity to start networking in the community even before they graduate.

"We know that these are the people that are going to be working in our business community in the future," Chateaufeuf said. "Maybe one day we'll have these faces as board members in the future. We're planting seeds."

The chamber board meets at City Hall over the lunch hour every second Tuesday of the month (lunch is provided).

Upon graduation, student reps receive a \$500 scholarship toward

post-secondary education in thanks for their work.

Interested students must be attending Gr. 11 or Gr. 12 at Garden Valley Collegiate or Northlands Parkway Collegiate next fall.

A 250-word essay describing what you think makes a healthy business community along with a cover letter outlining why you'd like to be a representative on the chamber board is required. Those are due in by June 17.

To apply, contact the chamber at director@winklerchamber.com. Put "Student Rep Entry" in the subject line. Applications can also be mailed to the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce, c/o Executive Director, 185 Main St., Winkler, MB, R6W 1B4.



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Project aims to plant 100 trees at Altona's Access Field

By Ty Dilello

Altona's Field of Dreams Committee is hoping to raise \$10,000 to plant 100 trees at Access Field this year.

The One Hundred Trees For Access project plans to plant some of the trees along the first and third base sides of the field to provide shade for spectators in the years ahead.

The rest will be planted inside the row of spruce trees on the east, north, and west sides of the field. The goal is to make Access Field look similar to nearby Centennial Park, with the hope of adding a walking/biking trail in the future.

"These will provide a strong definition for the park boundaries as well as provide some shelter from winds," said project spokesperson Ken Wiebe. "This will make it more consistent

with the look of the Centennial Park across 10th Avenue."

There are also plans to provide recognition for some of Altona's baseball pioneers with a plaque along the first base side of the diamond to recognize their contributions.

"Wilbert Funk will be recognized for his long-time service as an umpire," said Wiebe. "Menno H. Friesen for his many years of volunteer service in promoting baseball in Altona. Gerry Rempel will also be recognized as the founder of the Little League program and Johnny Kehler for his contributions in building Diamond #1 in the Centennial Park and some early Bantam and Midget programs in town. The founders of the Altona Minor Baseball Committee will also be recognized."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The "One Hundred Trees For Access" project plans to raise funds for trees and plaques to be placed at Access Field in Altona.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$10,000. If you'd like to contribute, cheques can be made payable and sent to the Town of Altona with

"Access Field Tree Project" in the subject line. Tax-deductible receipts will be issued.

Memorial Walk & Run in Altona this weekend

By Ty Dilello

This Saturday, May 28, the Curtis Klassen Memorial Fund (CKMF) will be hosting its annual Walk & Run to Remember in Altona.

The CKMF has raised over \$70,000 during the nine walk and runs they have organized over the years.

"The committee members were all classmates and friends of Curtis when he tragically was taken from us," said committee spokesperson Ryan Hildebrand. "The event has turned out to be a great way to honour him because it has been a great way for our friends, his family, and the greater community to come together and remember him and others we may have lost along the way. It is one of the reasons we call it the 'Walk & Run to Remember.'"

The event features 5 k and 10 k routes, both of which get underway at 9 a.m. Saturday.

"The event is suited for people of all ages, skill levels, and abilities," Hildebrand said. "You can run and compete for the fastest time, or you can leisurely walk with friends and family. The event concludes with a BBQ in the Altona Park for those that are

registered or volunteering at the event. It often brings family and friends to the park as well to cheer those participating on, so it makes for a lot of fun."

The CKMF's mission is to remember Klassen and work to provide funds to various causes in honour of him. The CKMF raises money for three basic areas: sport, community, and education.

"With grassroots sports, we have helped fund sports equipment, jerseys and support families that are challenged to afford the fees for our minor sports programs such as baseball, softball, hockey, and soccer," Hildebrand said. "Community projects support for things such as playground equipment, memory garden, and swim passes for families through local resource programs. And with education, we provide two \$1,000 bursaries for W.C. Miller Collegiate high school graduates every year."

If anyone is interested in walking, running, volunteering, or wants to know more about the race, check out the Curtis Klassen Memorial

Fund on Facebook or get in touch with Hildebrand at 204-319-0314.

Advance registration is required before Saturday. People can register using the link on the CKMF Facebook page or by going to the Manitoba Runners Association website (mraweb.ca).



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get informed

Altona Aquatic Centre opens Saturday, June 4

By Ty Dilello

Opening on June 4, the Altona Aquatic Centre is excited to be coming into a summer season with the expectation that they will be able to operate under normal, non-restricted conditions.

Last summer, all swimming facilities in the province faced challenges due to ongoing public health orders.

Altona recreation services manager Eric Hildebrand noted that the pool season in 2021 was challenging in many ways, but was quick to point out that aquatic centre staff went above and beyond in navigating through the various hurdles, which included a delayed opening, capacity restrictions, and masking requirements.

"Every outdoor seasonal pool facility was under the same restrictions, so there was nothing we could do differently with the public health orders," said Hildebrand. "I thought we han-

dled it very well, and I was very impressed with how adaptive the staff was to the changing restrictions and how they all maintained a positive attitude throughout the entire season.

"It wasn't an ideal situation in that we had to limit the time people spent in the facility and that people couldn't freely come and go at their leisure, but everyone made it work. In that regard, we're looking forward to the return of day, weekend, and season passes available. We are also excited to be able to offer a full slate of swimming lessons, so we should be able to accommodate everyone's needs."

This summer, Altona Aquatic Centre employee Abby Dyck will take over the head lifeguard role from Chantel Thiessen-Rempel. She has been busy interviewing returning and first-year staff members. There should be a full complement of approximately two dozen staff members as well as several ticket clerk/campground attendants.



The Altona Aquatic Centre kicks off a season of fun June 4.
TOWN OF ALTONA PHOTO

Registration for swimming lessons started on May 18.

"With five sessions of swimming lessons, the facility should be able to accommodate over 500 lessons while still scheduling plenty of time for Public Swimming, Family Swimming, Early Bird, Aquasize classes and Teen Swim slots," Hildebrand noted.

Swimming lessons will be broken down into five different two-week sessions, with every class level available within the sessions. The first session starts on June 20.

Before commencing session one, Altona Aquatic Centre staff will be working with Regional Connections

to facilitate some swimming lessons for newcomers. Hildebrand noted that a grant from the Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters has made this endeavour a possibility.

"Our office applied for this grant prior to the 2021 season, and we were awarded the funds based on the completion of this program," he said. "However, due to COVID-related restrictions last year, we were not able to offer this program. We're looking forward to being able to provide swimming lessons to the individuals that Regional Connections has helped identify as people that could benefit from lessons."

Shingoose was an Indigenous trailblazer

By Ty Dilello

Curtis Jonnie, better known by his stage name Shingoose, was an Ojibwe musical singer and songwriter that paved the way for many Indigenous musicians to follow in his footsteps.

Shingoose was born on the Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation on Oct 26, 1946. From 1950 to 1960, he lived with a Mennonite missionary family in Steinbach, where he sang in church choirs as his talent for singing started to show.

A survivor of residential school and the Sixties Scoop, Shingoose moved to Omaha, Nebraska, at the age of 15. There, he toured as a member of the Nebraska-based Boystown Concert Choir and played with a variety of rock bands in Washington D.C. and New York from about 1965-1973.

During this time, he joined a band called Puzzle that had signed on with

ABC Records, and later met musical legends such as Jimi Hendrix and John Lennon.

After Puzzle broke up, he moved to Toronto in 1973, where he performed solo in coffee houses, taking the name Shingoose after his grandfather's surname.

In 1973, he met Indigenous artist Duke Redbird. Three years later they recorded "Native Country" accompanied by Bruce Cockburn under their own label. It was the first of many independent projects that he would undertake with Redbird.

Shingoose later returned to Winnipeg and worked on the promotion of other Indigenous artists, leading to the award-winning *Indian Time* television specials. He joined singer Buffy Sainte-Marie and songwriter Elaine Bomberry in creating the Juno Awards' Aboriginal Music Committee in 1994, which led to the creation

of the Junos' Indigenous Album of the Year category.

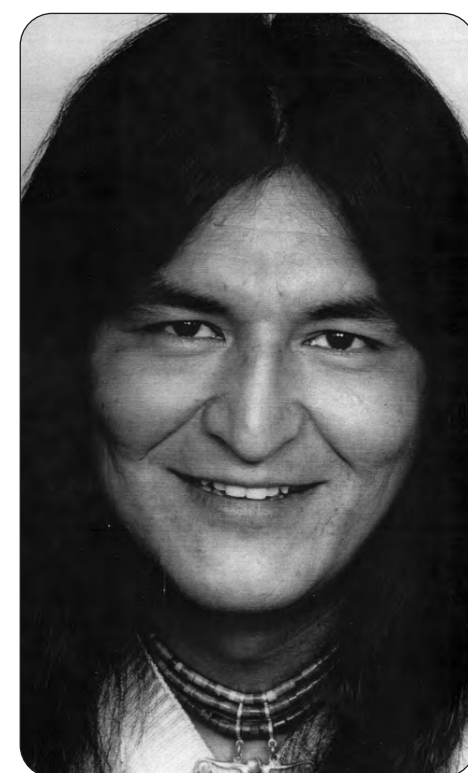
In 2012, Shingoose was inducted into the Manitoba Music Hall of Fame, and in 2016, he was a part of a Grammy-nominated album entitled *Native North America Volume 1* with his hit song "Silver Road."

Shingoose passed away from COVID-19 in Winnipeg at the age of 74 on Jan 12, 2021.

Throughout his life and music career, Shingoose became an activist on behalf of Indigenous peoples. He tried and succeeded in amplifying the voices of other Indigenous artists and helped bring many Indigenous issues to the forefront.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Shingoose was an Indigenous musical artist from the Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation who was known for his hit song "Silver Road."





Back 40 returns June 5

By Lorne Stelmach

It's been both exciting and challenging for the Back Forty Folk Festival to return after being shutdown the last two years as a result of the pandemic.

Set to go in the Morden Park bowl Sunday, June 5, the 2022 festival will have all of the tried and true features, including a couple fan favorite headline acts and local talent.

What they all have in common is the thrill to be back to making music for live audiences, suggested festival chairperson Scott Bell.

"It's great to return to these kinds of celebrations," he said. "It's really exciting. It's been strange to have this hiatus from live music, and it's felt good to get back into things with the 70s Show and some coffeehouses.

"It's been enough time that we have had to kind of remind ourselves about all of the things that need to be done for the festival," Bell added. "It's a good chance as well to rethink things but also just remember what all needs to be done."

As always, their emphasis in setting the musical lineup has been giving the local talent the chance to shine.

"One of our priorities has always been that we give local musicians the

chance to be up on that stage," said Bell. "We tend to prioritize people who are actively writing and recording original music. That's a big investment of time and finances, and it's a really big deal to put out a record.

"In terms of the headliners, we're just looking for quality acts. In some cases, they approach us," he noted. "So just the fact that they're aware of our festival and have an interest in being part of it is enough for us to say yes, we'll have you.

"In some cases, it's acts that we have thoroughly enjoyed and just knew that our audience would really enjoy as well," said Bell, who noted that was the case in selecting the Dirty Catfish Brass Band.

Based in Winnipeg, the band strives to surprise, challenge, tickle and pay homage to the New Orleans tradition by giving it a new audience in an unsuspecting locale.

"They performed here about five years ago and just did an amazingly energetic and enjoyable set, and it had the crowd dancing," recalled Bell.

"They were dynamic, and it's just a really cool style of music that they do, and they won the crowd over big time. We were just so impressed with the show they put on, and we've



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Leaf Rapids (above) and the Dirty Catfish Brass Band (left) are headlining this year's Back 40 Folk Festival alongside a host of local talent.

been looking forward to having them back."

The weekend's other headline act is Leaf Rapids, which features acclaimed singer and songwriter Keri Latimer. Latimer was previously part of the Juno Award-winning alt-country quartet Nathan.

With this new musical journey, she plunged into the depths of her family's ancestral memories, resurfacing with stories that had been tucked away and forgotten, and all of those stories come together on the record *Citizen Alien*. The project was a labour of love for Latimer and her husband, Devin.

"When artists of that stature want to be part of our event, we'll do what we can to make sure that we include them ... it was a no-brainer," said Bell.

"They are fantastic musicians and very accomplished ... even on a national stage, they are known across the country, and they are great songwriters and great performers."

Local artists who will also be featured throughout the day include Morden's Brian Jacobs, Paige Drobot and J.P. Lepage as well as Bill Dowling and the Even Breaks.

Also on hand will be returning favorite Shotgun Jimmie and comedian/musician Dean Jenkinson hosting this year's show.

The festival will also feature a children's tent and an artisans' village organized by the Pembina Hills Arts Council.

"We're just encouraging people to come out ... we've gotten too use to being homebodies," said Bell, who also encouraged people to get involved if interested. "It's run on volunteer power, so we're always looking for more volunteers."

Advance tickets are \$20 and are available at back40folkfestival.com and the Co-op gas bars. Tickets at the gate are \$25 (cash only). Kids 12 and under get in for free.

RCMP urge motorists to drive safely

By Ty Dilello

The RCMP and Winnipeg Police Service met with the media last Tuesday on a service road just south of the Perimeter Highway to talk about road safety at the scene of a fatal collision earlier this year that took four lives.

The RCMP responded to 71 fatal collisions in 2021 across the province.

Already this year, there are 26 people who have died on Manitoba roadways in RCMP jurisdiction.

To mark Canada Road Safety Week, the RCMP and Winnipeg Police Service wanted to have an open conversation about what police are seeing on the roads in Manitoba.

Continued on page 23



PHOTO BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

Members of the RCMP and Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) met at the site of a fatal car accident last week to discuss road safety. From left: Sargent Ken Pinsent (RCMP), Inspector Doug Roxburgh (WPS), and Inspector Joe Telus (RCMP).

A labour of love

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Agatha Wall was seven or eight years old the first time she put needle to cloth to embroider something beautiful.

Over 70 years later, she's still at.

The 81-year-old recently completed decorating a king-sized quilt and a pair of pillowcases with an intricate floral design.

It was her winter project, she explained.

"I quilt pretty well every winter, or embroider, just to keep myself occupied," Wall said during a visit at her Winkler home earlier this month.

Wall has made more than a few quilts herself from start to finish, but in recent years has been putting her embroidered designs on quilts made by Katie Friesen.

"I embroider first and then she does the quilt," Wall explained, noting Friesen does very fine work.

Wall recalls her late husband, Corrie, would pass the cold winter days as a boy embroidering as well. He actually taught her a stitch or two after they were married.

"He had to do this when they were stormed in to keep them out of mischief," she said, chuckling. "He showed me how to tighten up the stitches, but I liked the longer stitch better. You can blend better with that, so that's what I use."

Avoiding mischief isn't so much a concern for Wall, but keeping both her mind and body active most certainly is.

"I always have this feeling that people think once you're old everything stops, or you're useless. And I don't want that to be the case, because there are definitely older people that are not useless."

Age is just a number, Wall observed. For her part, as long as her health allows, she's going to continue to live a life of activity, creativity, and volunteerism.

"Most people think once you're old you get shut off every which way. And you do up to a certain point, but not totally. Not if you don't want to be shut down."

When she's not working on her own sewing projects, Wall keeps busy tending to her garden, patching up



Agatha Wall spent hours this winter embroidering the flowers for this quilt and pillow set. It's one of over a dozen quilts she's created over the years. Right: An up-close look at the work.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



and hemming things for her family, and baking—no one leaves her house without a tray of goodies in hand.

When she embroiders, Wall gives it her full attention. It's not a hobby she feels she can tackle well while also, say, watching television.

She recalls she got started embroidering dresser scarves in her youth and then worked her way up to more intricate designs and larger projects.

"I just grew into it, I guess. See, I had a grandma that was blind and had only one hand and I spent a long time with her ... I would sit there and embroider while she was telling me stories about her growing up days."

She's sewn so much over the decades that she has a badge of honour she displays proudly.

"My finger has gone crooked from always holding the needle," Wall said, holding up the bent finger, a tes-

tament to thousands of hours of work and, truly, labours of love.

"To me, it's just something fun to," Wall said, noting, after all these years, it comes so naturally to her that it's "almost like breathing."

But as well-versed as she is in the art, she's not one to stand still, either.

"I like to teach myself," Wall said of new techniques she tries out. She's not one for online tutorials, though. "I just work with the fabric until finally, oh, this is the way it goes ... live and learn."



Another work Wall did a few years ago—she lost count of how many tiny leaves she embroidered on this one.



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Steps for Pets returns

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Humane Society is excited to be holding one of its main annual fundraising events once again.

Cancelled last year due to the pandemic, the 2022 Steps for Pets walk-athon is set for Saturday, June 11 in Morden Park.

"It's an opportunity for us not just to raise funds but also help people in our community see that we are here, we do the best we can to help the stray and unwanted animals in our community, and lets us get in front of people and talk about what it is we do and why we do it," said public relations chair Holly Thorne.

The Pembina Valley region has welcomed countless newcomers in recent years, many of whom may not be familiar with the regional shelter's work.

"With the pandemic coming to an end, we have more opportunity again to get out face to face with people and

answer their questions and ask questions of what the community wants and how we can be of better service," Thorne said.

Everyone is welcome to take part in Steps for Pets, with or without a furry canine walking companion.

Participants can register online at pvhsociety.ca to collect pledges as an individual or as part of a team. Those who still prefer paper pledge forms are able to print them off the website or pick them up at a participating retailer.

Registration on the day of the walk starts at 1 p.m. The walk gets underway around 2 p.m.

The first 100 people to register get a 'swag bag' with items from event sponsors.

Participants have their choice between a three kilometre or a five kilometre route, both of which should bring participants back to the start area by about 3 p.m., at which point there will be an agility demonstration by Extreme Dogs.



The PVHS Steps for Pets walk-athon takes place in Morden June 11. VOICE FILE PHOTO

There will also be pet related vendors on site as well as refreshments and food available.

Thorne was optimistic that the walk, which was last done in 2020, will get good support.

"Aside from the comedy night, it is our biggest fundraiser of the year,"

she noted. "We don't have specific goals in mind for this year, just because we are coming out of the pandemic ... but in the past the walk has raised between \$10,000 to \$15,000, so obviously our hope is to get up to that level."

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3. **Cleome.** This beautiful ball-shaped flower is often overlooked at greenhouses and nurseries because it rarely blooms at the start of spring. Give it a chance — you won't regret it.
4. **Canna.** This bulbous plant tends to bloom late in the season. Therefore, it's best to plant it indoors

four to six weeks before the last frost. Better yet, you can buy dwarf varieties that fill out quickly.

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sports & recreation

Orioles, Bisons open season with wins

By Ty Dilello

The 2022 Manitoba Junior Baseball League (MJBL) season kicked off last Wednesday evening with a pair of games that went the way of our southern Manitoba teams.

The Pembina Valley Orioles defeated the St. Boniface Legionaires by a 3-2 scoreline, while the Altona Bisons won 6-2 over the Interlake Blue Jays.

The Orioles trailed for most of the game but fought back in the final inning to give themselves the win.

St. Boniface committed a two-out throwing error on Orioles' Mike Hepner's ground ball in the bottom of the seventh inning that allowed Owen Sager to score the tying run from third base. Darius Peters then came all the way home from second base to give the Orioles the winning run.

"The boys were pretty rusty batting, but our pitching did the job," said Orioles manager Jim Odium. "Drew Hillhorst had a good start pitching, and Johnny Martens came in for middle relief and shut them down. Kyle Peters then came in and closed the game for the win.

"Our team worked hard, and we're going to get better with their hard-working attitude. Our goal this year is just to get better throughout



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley first baseman Owen Goertzen braces for the ball as St. Boniface's James Pinchin dives for safety in the two teams' Manitoba Junior Baseball League season-opener last week. The Orioles got the win 3-2.

the year and peak at playoff time."

The Orioles were scheduled to follow up their season opener with a double-header against the Blue Jays on Victoria Day. Game scores could not be confirmed at press time.

For the Altona Bisons, ace pitcher Connor Cory was at his best as he went all seven innings, allowed just two infield hits and struck out an impressive 18 batters to lead his club to

a 6-2 win over the Interlake Blue Jays.

Cory recently completed his sophomore year at Mayville State University (NAIA), where he was named to the All-North Star Athletic Association First Team. Cory posted a 2.74 ERA over 42 2/3 innings out of the Mayville State bullpen.

"Our guys were a little rusty at the plate, which is understandable as for most, it was the first live pitching

they've seen this year, and for a couple, it was the first time they'd picked up a bat," said Bisons manager Curt Letkeman. "Interlake is a fairly young team as I only recognized three of their players from last year, but Connor pitched a great game. He was All-Conference this year at Mayville, and you could tell he'd been throwing a bunch. He struck out 18 and only gave up two infield hits as Interlake didn't get one ball to the outfield."

Coming up, the Bisons play the Giants in Elmwood Wednesday and then play a double-header on the road against the St. James A's Sunday.

The Orioles play an away double-header against St. Boniface Sunday.



The Altona Bisons won their home opener last Wednesday to open the 2022 MJBL season. They bested the Interlake Blue Jays 6-2.

PHOTO BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

"OUR TEAM WORKED HARD, AND WE'RE GOING TO GET BETTER WITH THEIR HARD-WORKING ATTITUDE."

Winkler pool opens for the summer this Friday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Aquatic Centre is preparing to dive into a more normal season of programming this summer.

The pool opens its doors this Friday, May 27.

It will be the first time in years they're able to operate without pandemic-related capacity limits and with a full roster of programs, says aquatic programmer Lani Ens.

"A big thing for us this year is, hopefully, no restrictions coming in," she says. "It's the first time since 2019, which, when you think about that, is kind of crazy."

"For me, this is my second year in this position but last year it was all about restrictions and how can we make this work and what can we do. This year it's like, oh my word, we can do anything we want."

That means the return of much-

missed programs such as pre-school swimming lessons.

"The past two years we hadn't been able to get those running just because you have to be literally within arm's reach of each child so you can't really social distance there," Ens said. "We're so happy that we can have the little ones back in the water with Parent and Tot swimming lessons and programs. For me, I noticed that was a huge hole in what we were able to offer the past two seasons."

Swimming lessons for older kids are also back to normal, with registration opening last week.

In addition to swimming lessons and public swimming, the pool also offers programs such as Early Bird swim (starting at 6:30 a.m. weekdays), Adult Swim (Wednesday evenings from 9-10 p.m.), and, new this summer, a Teen Swim Tuesday nights.

"It's something different," Ens



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Winkler Aquatic Centre is excited to be opening for the season this week.

said. "We thought if this is the year to make some changes and try some new things, then we may as well do it. We're bringing everything back, so we can kind of reinvent the wheel if we want to."

When it comes to facilities, Ens noted the aging speed slides are still out of commission. The city had hoped to replace those in the off-season, but supply issues has pushed that back.

"So far they're closed until further

notice," she said. "We're hoping we can see them soon."

Meanwhile, the Heat Wave concession booth is slated to open its doors again this summer, offering cool treats and eats during the busiest swimming times.

Check out the Winkler Aquatic Centre's social media pages to stay up-to-date on upcoming events at the pool.

Winkler Storm kick off season with a loss

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm kicked off the 2022 soccer season with a 6-0 loss to the FC Winnipeg Lions last week.

It's certainly not the start coach Reinaldo Oliveira wanted, but he's optimistic the team will grow in the weeks and months ahead, with some hard work.

"We need to practise more. We didn't have too much time in the field—it was pretty much our first time out," he said of the opening game, noting they've had practises in the indoor pitch at the Meridian Exhibition Centre but the outdoor fields have been too wet to play on of late. "We're going to need to work hard to be at the same level as the other teams."

The Storm are once again playing in the Manitoba Major Soccer League's top division: Premier.

The league has opted not to promote or demote any team on the strength of this summer's season. They did that

last summer as well due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions.

While it takes some of the pressure off, Oliveira wishes that wasn't the case.

"I'd like to have the pressure on, actually, because it motivates a little bit more to get better," he said.

The Storm have welcomed a handful of new players this season, some of them fresh out of high school.

"New blood is always good," Oliveira said. "And they're good players—they've come up from the U16 team."

A lack of coaches means the SC Riot,

the Storm's feeder team, isn't playing this summer.

"The downside is whenever players come for tryouts we have to do some cuts. I'd like to be able to offer another option would be to play for the Riot," Oliveira said, noting the whole point of that team was to give younger players a place to grow their skills before moving on to the Storm. He hopes to see them back on the field next season.

The Storm's next game is at home in Winkler at the 15th St. soccer pitch on Sunday, May 29 at 5 p.m. against Luso

Canadian CCS.

CANES STUNG BY HORNETS

Meanwhile, the local senior ladies team the SC Hurricanes posted their third loss last week, falling to Hornets SC 4-0.

The 'Canes took on Synergy this Tuesday night. Results were not available at press time.

Next week Tuesday they face Frozen Water.

SEMHL adding three new teams for 2022-23

By Voice staff

The South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League will operate with 10 teams this fall, the league announced on its website earlier this month.

Representatives of the Altona Maroons, Carman Beavers, Morden Bombers, Notre Dame Hawks, Portage Islanders, reigning-league champions Warren Mercs, and the Winkler Royals, voted on and accepted the ap-

plications of the Ste. Anne Aces, Red River Wild and Ile des Chenes Northstars.

The Aces, Wild and Northstars were

Continued on page 19

The **Voice**

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BIRTHDAY



Join us in celebrating Diane's 80th Birthday Sunday, June 5 from 2 – 5 p.m. At the Altona Seniors Centre

ANNIVERSARY



Please join us at an Open House to celebrate the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Howard and Judy Thiessen of Morden, MB. Saturday, June 11, 2022 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Pembina Threshermen's Museum 24102 - #3 Hwy Winkler

IN MEMORIAM



John Wall 1947 – 2021

Death leaves a heartache, No one can heal; Memories are treasures, No one can steal. Some may forget you, Now that you are gone; But we will remember, No matter how long. You will always stay Loved and remembered, In every way. No tears, no verse, Can ever say how much We miss you every day. -Remembered and missed by Mom and the Wall family

PUBLIC NOTICE

Winkler Senior Centre
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 May 26 at 2 pm

- Annual meeting of the membership
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Siemens-Suderman Reunion Sunday, 12 June 2022 From 1-5 p.m. Program at 2 Plum Coulee Senior's Centre on Main 265 Main Street, Plum Coulee Bring YOUR OWN FASPA and travel mug Coffee and juice will be provided Contacts: Verna Pfrimmer at 204 626-3230 or vernapfrimmer@gmail.com Peter Suderman at 204 774-3312 or psuderman@shaw.ca

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OBITUARY



Leah Margaret Douglas (née Follett)

August 11, 1934 - May 15, 2022

It is with heavy hearts that we announce Leah's peaceful passing at Tabor Home on Sunday, May 15, 2022.

Leah was born to John and Violet of Miami, Manitoba on August 11, 1934. She spent most of her life in Miami and Morden, with a brief time in Gimli.

Leah enjoyed playing darts, dancing, bingo, puzzling, knitting, crosswords and Sudoku. Above all, she took great pleasure in spending quality family time with her children, grandchildren, great and great-great-grandchildren. She loved her family very much and was very proud of them all.

Leah will be lovingly remembered by her daughter, Joyce (John) Forscutt, son, Les (Kylee) Douglas, son, Ryan (Michelle) Douglas. She will also be missed by her brother, Ron Follett, sister, Myrna Mann as well as her many grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends.

Leah was predeceased by her parents, John and Violet; her brother, Reg Follett, sister, Audrey Bruce, son, Raymond (Butch) Douglas, daughter, Julie Peterson and grandson, Keith Peterson.

Our family would like to thank the staff at Tabor Home (Aspen) for their care and compassion over the years.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Leah's memory to Tabor Home Inc.

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OBITUARY

Jean Millar-Prior 1929 - 2022



Margaret Jean Stevenson was born in Morden on February 27, 1929. She was the eldest of five children: Jean, Elmer, Don, Blaine and Barry born to Walter and Henrietta Stevenson. Jean was raised in the Dunston area. She attended Shannon School, Lloyd George School and completed her high school years in Morden. Jean then went to Winnipeg to Marvel Beauty School to train as a hairdresser. After returning from Winnipeg, she lived with and kept house for her bachelor uncles. It wasn't long before she began dating her soon to be husband and love of her life, neighbour boy, Jim Millar. They were married on December 15, 1951 and had three children: David James, Raymond Walter and Wendy Louise.

Living on the Millar homestead, Jean ran the household with her mother-in-law, Bessie Millar. The tasks of a farmwife included many professions. She was a gardener, housekeeper, cook, canner and preserver of fruits and vegetables, educator, counsellor, vet, hairdresser, nurse, truckdriver, painter, planner, inn keeper, hostess and anything else the day required. She was known for keeping an immaculate yard, flower gardens and orchard. A large portion of Jean's life was spent as a caregiver for aunts, uncles, her mother-in-law and immediate family. After Jim's passing in 1993, Jean married her companion, Don Prior. With Don she developed an interest in golf, china painting and traveling, including a cruise to Alaska and winters in Texas. They lived in Miami for several years before moving to Homestead South in Morden. Don passed away in 2016. Jean remained at Homestead until moving to Prairie View Lodge in Pilot Mound in August 2021.

Throughout her life, Jean's heart remained on the farm. She continued looking after the farm books into her 80's, and to her last days asked for regular updates on what the boys were up to and joined the crew for field suppers whenever possible. Jean passed away peacefully on Saturday May 14, 2022 accompanied by family.

Celebrating her life are her family: son, Dave (Kathy), grandchild, Adam (Michelle), great-grandchildren, Tristan, Cole and Adrienne, grandchild, Tara (Vince), great-grandchild, Jacob, grandchild, Lucus (Kerri-Rae) great-grandchildren, Max and Kate; son, Raymond (Joyce), grandchildren, Shay and Ryan (Chelsea), great-grandchildren, Noah and Rowan; daughter, Wendy (Garry), grandchildren, Brandi (Aaron) and Darla (Kevin), great-grandchildren, Gabriel, Sam and Sydney; brother, Barry (Tannis) Stevenson, in-laws, Jean Spencer and Earl (Joyce) Millar and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial service was held at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden with ash interment at Miami Cemetery.

The family would like to say thank you for the condolences expressed by all. We would also like to send our appreciation to the staff at Homestead South in Morden. A special thank you to the excellent staff at Prairie View Lodge in Pilot Mound for the exceptional care.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Jean's memory to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Alzheimer's Society.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
In care of arrangements
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EMPLOYMENT

Daniel Trucking Ltd. Class 1 Driver

We are accepting applications for a Class 1 Driver for southern Manitoba based out of the Morden Winkler area. Duties include hauling sand, gravel and soil with end dump and centre dump trailers. Super B experience an asset. Most of the work is within a hour or two from Morden. Wages DOE. **Contact info.: send resumes or your inquiries to danandco@mts.net**

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Please forward a cover letter, resume, three references (one from your pastor), and a statement of faith to R. Sawatsky at lcs@mymts.net.

For more information, visit www.lcskillarney.com or call 204-523-8240.

AUCTION



Live Auction for Dave Giesbrecht at 344 3rd St. in Winkler, MB Tuesday June 14 at 5 pm, selling 12 'x16' insulated shop including floor, this building is to be moved. All wood working equipment is coming out along with lumber and cabinet making hardware. See our website for pictures. www.billklassen.com

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AUCTION



Estate auction for the late Jacob & Helen Suderman in Chortiz Village, south west of Winkler. This timed on line auction. Bidding closes Tuesday, June 7 at 5 pm. Wednesday & Thursday June 8 & 9 will be payment and pickup day from 10 am to 6 pm at the residence, 85 Chortiz St South. Large auction of tools, antiques & yard items. See our website of over 300 lots. Inspection day will be Saturday, June 4, 9 am to 2 pm



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A life well lived in teaching

By Ty Dilello

She had a love for helping others that stretched her entire life.

Mary Ruta (nee Nabozniak) was born in Tolstoi on April 4, 1925, where she was the oldest of four children. Her father had studied engineering in Poland before immigrating to Canada and was quite the entrepreneur.

"Mom talked a lot about how she used to watch as people came and went visiting her father. He operated a grist mill in a large shed on the property where he ground grain for the town," said Mary's eldest son Jim Ruta. "He also had a windmill-powered electric generator that he used to charge storage batteries and provide electric light for their home. Mom said after a while, my grandfather strung a power line from his batteries to the hotel and arranged to bring electric light to the hotel."

Ruta's father was quite a handyman and also made gravestones out of cement for the people of Tolstoi. He also made coffins for people who bought them well in advance and kept them in their attics until required.

Although it is nearly a ghost town today, Tolstoi was a thriving community when Ruta was growing up. It had a post office, three general stores, three churches, a creamery, two rectories, a pool hall, the Tolstoi Hotel, two-vehicle garages, a blacksmith shop, and a two-room school.

Growing up, Ruta attended Holy

Trinity Polish Roman Catholic Church in Tolstoi, walking there each week as it was not too far from their home.

"Most of mom's friends were from school as there were not that many children in Tolstoi at the time, and she was Catholic too. Most of the children in town were Orthodox [Ukrainian], so she was not popular," recalls Jim. "Mom talked about being bullied and called names, especially by the 'Orthodox boys.' She never forgot that, right to the end."

The home that Ruta grew up in was a two-bedroom bungalow with an attic bedroom, a kitchen, a living room, an earthen cellar to store preserves and food, and a back porch. They had an outhouse and only got indoor plumbing after Ruta was away teaching as a 17-year-old.

The family collected rainwater and melted snow for bathing, and the water was heated on the stove.

"Water also came from a hand-dug well which is also where milk and butter could be kept cold in the summer due to its depth," said Jim. "They also had an icehouse where more perishables could be kept over the summer."

To attend Grade 12, Ruta was forced to move to Emerson and be billeted with a family for the school year. Even though Emerson was not that far away by today's standards, for a teenager it felt like moving to another province.

After high school, where she re-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

After a childhood growing up in the small town of Tolstoi, Mary Ruta became a well-loved teacher across Manitoba.



ceived the Red River Grade 12 Scholarship, Ruta became a permit teacher at Sunbeam School in Sundown when she was just 17 because teachers were in short supply. She then completed her schooling to become an official teacher.

Her younger teaching days were in the country at Zora School, Cook's Creek School, Cloverleaf School, and then Oakbank. She later got married and moved into Winnipeg with her husband and taught at Argyle School first and then Glenelm School in Elmwood, where she taught for over 20 years before retiring.

Ruta loved her church and attended Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Church from 1955 to when she was forced to move to St. Joseph's Resi-

dence in West Kildonan due to failing health.

After her husband passed away, Ruta stayed independent and continued to live alone in her own home and was known to cut grass and even shovel snow into her nineties. She drove her own car, a 1989 Volkswagen Jetta, right up till she was 92.

Ruta passed away at the age of 97 on Aug 25, 2021.

"She loved her whole family. Nothing was more important, and she would do anything to help them," Jim said. "My mom was a force of nature and as a committed teacher, friend, mother, and wife as could be imagined."

> RCMP, FROM PG. 13

However, this is not just about education anymore.

"People know to avoid high-risk driving behaviours," said Inspector Joe Telus, Officer in Charge of RCMP Traffic Services. "They know to slow down, buckle up, pay attention to the road, and drive sober. At this point, it is time to realize this is about people making choices, and some of those choices have cost people their lives."

The Winnipeg Police Service is also very concerned about the same high-risk driving behaviours on its city streets that has led to six motor vehicle fatalities already in 2022 (in comparison, there were nine in all of 2021)

"Some of that has to do with increased traffic volumes, but it also reflects some of those seemingly small decisions motorists make that have a big impact on our roadways," said Inspector Doug Roxburgh, commander of the Winnipeg Police Service Traffic Decision. "The decisions drivers

make don't just affect them. They can affect their passengers, other drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians."

The police forces are using increased enforcement, and more enforcement tools are being used to combat high-risk driving behaviours. Mandatory alcohol screening, automated license plate readers, and continued work by front-line traffic enforcement officers are some of the ways they are doing that.

"It is so important to have the message of making safe choices get through to people," said Sargent Ken Pinsent, a forensic collision reconstructionist with the RCMP and the officer who investigated the fatal Perimeter collision last August. "It is my job to go to the worst collision scenes, and I have been to many. What I saw that day will stay with me forever. The amount of tragedy on that little stretch of roadway is haunting. I can't help think, if only."



PHOTO BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

"People know how to avoid high-risk driving behaviours," says RCMP Inspector Joe Telus. "At this point, it is time to realize this is about people making choices, and some of those choices have cost people their lives."

National EMS Week

May 15 to 21, 2022



4 common types of EMS calls

National EMS Week, which takes place this year from May 15 to 21, is a time for all Americans to learn more about the lifesaving work emergency medical service (EMS) providers deliver every day. These front-line health-care workers are trained to arrive at the scene of an emergency and deliver medical aid. Here are some of the most common types of EMS calls they face.

1. TRAUMA

Traumatic injuries happen quickly and require immediate medical attention. They can be wounds sustained in car crashes, drownings, shootings and falls. About 100,000 Americans die from traumatic injuries every year and it's the leading cause of death in the country for people under 45. However, thanks to the medical training EMS workers have, many lives are saved.

2. ABDOMINAL PAIN

Pain in the abdomen can be a symptom of gas, indigestion or a pulled muscle. However, it can also be symptomatic of pancreatitis, an intestinal obstruction or appendicitis. EMS workers have the training to assess and diagnose abdominal pains on the scene.

3. RESPIRATORY DISTRESS

Determining why a patient can't breathe properly is complicated and requires extensive medical knowledge. Respiratory distress can be caused by an allergic reaction, asthma, pneumonia, a stroke or a drug overdose. Each scenario requires a different treatment before the patient can be safely transported to the hospital.

4. CHEST PAIN

Chest pain can be caused by a variety of conditions including anxiety, acid reflux, pneumonia, and a heart attack. An EMS worker's first job on a call pertaining to chest pain is to rule out the most life-threatening condition, which is cardiac arrest, then move on to other possible causes.

EMS workers face many challenges during an average shift, but their training and dedication help save lives. This year in May, be sure to show your appreciation for these medical professionals during EMS Week.

5 things you didn't know about paramedics



National Paramedic Services Week, which takes place this year from May 22 to 28, is an ideal time to educate yourself about the lifesaving work these front-line health-care workers do every day. Here are five things you may not know about paramedics.

1. THEY MAY LOOK AT YOUR VEINS

When you meet a paramedic, they'll probably look at your arms. Inserting IV drips into patients is a part of their job, so they're often looking to see whose veins are fit for a 14-gauge needle.

2. THEY'RE FAST EATERS

A paramedic rarely finishes a meal. As soon as they start eating, the crew will get a call. They generally eat quickly because they never know when the next emergency will occur.

3. THEY CARE DEEPLY

For most paramedics, the work they do is more than just a job. In fact, most care deeply about people. In general, paramedics enter their line of work because they genuinely love helping others.

4. THEY WANT YOU TO CALL THEM

Paramedics don't want you to drive yourself to the hospital if you're experiencing chest or abdominal pain. Instead, they prefer to bring the hospital to your doorstep, saving critical minutes that could mean the difference between life and death.

5. THEY HATE BEING CALLED DRIVERS

Never call a paramedic an ambulance driver. Paramedics are highly educated

and dedicated health-care professionals. They're much more than mere drivers.

Paramedics are trained to respond to medical emergencies and are valuable members of the communities they serve. This year for National Paramedic Services Week, consider thanking a paramedic you know for their hard work and commitment to the profession.

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