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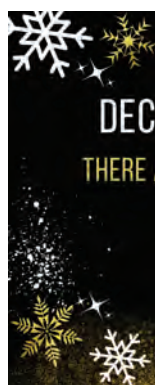


**Lighting up for
the holidays**

Plum Coulee flipped the switch on its community Christmas lights at the annual tree lighting celebration last week. For more photos, see Pg. 8.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

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Tim Reimer named new Morden fire chief

By Lorne Stelmach

Life is going to be getting busier now for Tim Reimer with his new role announced last week by the City of Morden.

Reimer is not only the director of operations for the city but is now adding the job of fire chief following the retirement of longtime chief Andy Thiessen.

"It is going to be a lot more work for me ... and the fire chief's role can be full time ... it's a 24/7 job, right," said Reimer.

"It's definitely going to make the plate a little fuller ... but both organizations have great groups of people to stand with me and work with me and support me," he said. "With my other role here at the city, I have a great group of guys here behind me."

Reimer seemed to be a natural choice to be the new fire chief as he comes with 36 years of service to the department, including 25 years as

deputy chief.

In the announcement by the City of Morden, Reimer was praised for "demonstrating outstanding leadership, operational knowledge and commitment to the safety and well-being of our community."

"Throughout his three decades with Morden Fire and Rescue, Tim has been instrumental in shaping the department's training standards, emergency response protocols and community safety initiatives. His experience, mentorship and steady leadership have earned him the respect of firefighters, partner agencies and residents alike."

Reimer welcomes both the challenge and the opportunity.

"I'm very excited ... it was an unbelievable day," he said.

He expressed his appreciation for not only Thiessen but all of the volunteers with the fire department.

"Working along side the newly retired fire chief, I've learned a lot from him, and I look to continue to bring the same direction that he brought to the department," Reimer said.

"We have a great department with unbelievable support from the crew that we have on our fire department. They work hard, and they have great dedication to the community. That's something that we really strive for, and the department is an unbelievable place to work."

"It definitely makes the leadership job easier when you have a crew like that behind you," said Reimer, who noted they not only have some new recruits but even more experienced members with anywhere from five up to 25 years of service.

"We do have a lot of experience on the department, and it is really good to have that here," said Reimer. "They're a really close group, and it's an honour to stand in front of them and lead them ... and having guys like that to stand behind you is great."

Reimer noted he sees the department having a continued emphasis on skill upgrading and training.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Tim Reimer has served with Morden Fire & Rescue for 36 years. He is now stepping into the role of fire chief.

"The guys have always shown a lot of interest in expanding their knowledge and getting into the speciality training. It's something they all want to do, and that's what makes the department so good and so strong."


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Winkler accounting firm marks 25 years by leaving a legacy

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A Winkler accounting firm is marking a milestone by giving back to the community in a big way.

Jim M. Smith Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. is celebrating its 25th anniversary by donating \$25,000 to the Winkler Community Foundation to create an endowment fund. They've also committed to donations of \$5,000 annually for the next 15 years, bringing it to \$100,000 in funding.

"We're not a real big company, but over time we can get it there," said Jim Smith.

"The idea of setting up a fund has been in the back of my mind for years," he said. "Things came together that this could be part of commemorating our 25th anniversary.

"We wanted this to be forward-thinking ... a legacy," Smith added. "You need to have a longterm thought process, thinking five, 10, 15 years down the road, because it goes so quickly."

Dubbed the 2025 Stride Forward Fund, the interest it generates will allow the firm to support community projects through donor-advised giving for years to come.

"Whoever's working here will get to decide annually how the income from the fund is donated, where it's donated," Smith said. "I like that part of it because it's kind of a group project. The nature of our business is we don't have a lot of group projects, that's not what we do. ... this will be a group decision and it's going to vary from year to year. The focus will be on local charitable community projects."

Winkler Community Foundation executive director Myra Peters says the fund will begin generating grants in 2027.

"We're so excited to work together with Jim Smith and the firm, because it is a great opportunity for the staff to work together to decide how the money is getting designated every year," she said. "It's educating more

people on what a community foundation can do, and it's giving back to the community."

Smith hopes other companies will be inspired to explore how they could support their local community foundation to celebrate corporate accomplishments.

"Most of our charitable giving is done in the dark," he said, noting they originally weren't going to seek publicity for this but changed course when they realized the exposure it would give the foundation. "In talking to Myra, in talking to some clients, it's almost a once in a lifetime opportunity to spread the word. And maybe there's other businesses, other organizations out there, when they hear about it, it might plant a seed. Maybe this is something we could do not just for the Winkler Community Foundation, but in communities far and wide there's lots of community foundations, lots of businesses that could set up their own donor-advised fund to mark a milestone.

"This was a fit for us—maybe it'll be a fit for someone else," Smith said.

The firm has been in Winkler for decades, even before being established under its current name.

Smith attributes their longevity to the dedicated team who work alongside him.

"One thing I want to make clear is the appreciation that we have for the staff that have worked with us over the past 30+ years," he said, noting a couple employees who have been with them for over 20 years. "I have so much appreciation for the staff over all those years and appreciation for our clients, obviously, because we wouldn't be here without them."

Looking back, Smith said he's proud the firm has built up a reputation of "undying commitment to client service" that has translated into relationships with some clients going back decades.

Continued on page 5



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Jim Smith (centre) and his team with Winkler Community Foundation executive director Myra Peters as the accounting firm donated \$25,000 to establish a new endowment fund. The company has also committed to donating \$5,000 a year to the fund for the next 15 years.

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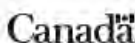
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Winkler council opts not to hold retail pot sales plebiscite

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler city council has voted against putting the question of whether the community should allow licensed retail cannabis stores on the ballot next fall—though that doesn't necessarily mean it won't end up there anyway.

In the 2018 municipal election, held just a week after marijuana became legal in Canada, 70 per cent of Winklerites voted against allowing legal retail sales in the community.

This September, council heard from a delegation asking that the matter be revisited to allow the city to enjoy the benefits of retail cannabis stores, including new jobs, tax revenue, and a reduction of illicit drug activity.

"I believe there would be tremendous benefits to the community of Winkler," presenter Jesse Lavoie told council at the time. Lavoie owns legal dispensaries in Winnipeg, Stony Mountain, and St. Anne. "Local investment would create small businesses and strengthen the local economy, as opposed to citizens driving out of the community to get their cannabis."

Lavoie noted the first plebiscite on

the matter was held at a time when there was a lot of uncertainty about the impact of legalization. Several years later, there is data to back-up the benefits of allowing legal cannabis retailers to operate, he said, sharing with council how it has played out in other communities.

Council took the matter under advisement and, at its Nov. 18 meeting, put it to a vote that resulted in a 3-3 tie, which means the motion was defeated.

Voting in favour of having a plebiscite was Mayor Henry Siemens and councillors Marvin Plett and Michael Grenier. Voting against it were Ryan Hildebrand, Peter Froese, and Andrew Froese. Coun. Don Friesen was not in attendance.

Plett noted that Winkler has a long history of putting contentious matters like this before voters. Winklerites have in the past weighed in on things like allowing video lottery terminals (VLTs) or liquor sales in the community.

"It seems something that was probably appreciated by the public—they were able to have input in this rather than have council on some of these items make a unilateral decision," he

said. "In that sense, it probably makes sense to do this in this case again."

It was a viewpoint echoed by other council members, though many shared they were still struggling with the decision to take steps as a municipality to reopen the matter.

"I think no matter what happens with this question today ... whether or not or how it gets onto the next election ballot, this will be a difficult decision that has a lot of emotion tied to it for many people," noted Mayor Siemens.

"I believe the citizens of Winkler have the right to make this decision," he continued, "and whether they have to make it twice with somebody knocking on their door to sign a petition to put this on the ballot or whether we put this on the ballot [as a council] and then give our citizens that opportunity to have that say, it's their right to have that say, and I'd like to give that to them with as little drama as possible prior to the question."

With the motion defeated, a petition is the route supporters must now take. They'll need signatures from 20 per cent of the eligible electorate to force a plebiscite.

Transitional housing project to be called Clearwater Place

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Genesis House 25-unit transitional housing project now has a name: Clearwater Place.

Executive director Ang Braun made the announcement as part of the agency's two-day radiothon last week, explaining it honours the memory of Amanda Clearwater, who along with her three young children—Bethany, Jayven, and Isabella—and teenage cousin Myah-Lee Gratton were the fatal victims of domestic violence in Carman last year.

"We wanted it to be a name that would have meaning—meaning for us but also for the community," Braun explained. "Amanda Clearwater and her children all lost their lives, and I can't think of something that resonates more or has more meaning for why we're building this space."

The apartment complex going up in Winkler will provide the survivors of domestic violence with a safe place to stay while they work to build a new life for themselves and their children.

While the current Genesis House shelter will continue to provide emergency housing to families in crisis, this new facility will provide longer-term affordable housing as well as supportive programming to help women get back on their feet after fleeing a violent partner.

"The most important thing for us is that we want everyone to feel like they will belong in this space," Braun stressed. "It doesn't matter what background you come from"

Braun noted the agency consulted with local Indigenous leaders and the Clearwater family before deciding on the name, receiving their blessing.

"For that family, we can't change what happened, but perhaps this new place might change it for someone else," she said.

They're now working on a logo that will capture the spirit of the project while also paying homage to Clearwater. A memorial project unveiled in Carman earlier this year incorporated a bronze turtle sculpture to symbolize Clearwater's legacy.

"We are also hoping to incorporate a turtle into the design of our logo for this space," Braun shared, noting they'll also have artwork inside the building reflecting those themes, as well as photos and memories of Clearwater and her children.

Work on Clearwater Place began this fall. It's expected to open by early 2027.

Continued on page 5

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View the Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca

Central Station reports on year of building relationships

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was another busy year of relationship building at Central Station.

At its annual meeting Nov. 18, the Winkler community centre shared a bit about the impact its programming is having.

"Over the course of the past year, Central Station has been doing, I believe and we believe, some of the most important work in our history," shared board president Phillip Valletly. "I believe we've made real progress in terms of the people's lives we've impacted."

Some of the organization's stats paint the picture: over 60,200 client interactions, 28 new affordable housing units added to their property management profile, 9,170 kilometres driven in its transportation program, and 177 volunteers giving back 9,256 hours.

"At the core of everything we do are three simple words: belonging, safety, and relationships," Valletly said.

"The concept of belonging is about creating accessible spaces where people feel welcomed, valued and connected," he explained. "Safety is providing comprehensive support that meets immediate needs while building long-term stability in the lives of people."

"And, finally, relationships—fostering trust-based connections between individuals, families and service providers," Valletly said, explaining their role is to serve as a hub for multiple social service providers in the community—the food cupboard, mental

health supports, affordable housing, addictions programming, and many others. "Organizations that I'm going to say do a lot of the heavy lifting, though we also do a lot of heavy lifting in terms of how we direct people and support people to find the right provider."

The social challenges of larger urban centres also exist right here in Winkler, Valletly stressed.

"I think it'd be fair to say housing vacancy rates remain at historically low levels, and homelessness is rising in Winkler, in other rural communities," he said. "Mental health services are fragmented and complex to access ... food insecurities continues to strain families and community resources."

"None of these things are changing, none of these things are actually going away, and it is increasing by the day."

It makes a place like Central Station so important, especially when it comes to looking beyond statistics and to the real human beings these challenges impact.

"The numbers are alarming, but they don't capture the human cost," Valletly said. "These are humans ... these are people that need to be supported."

"Because of the work of our team and the commitment of our partners, families experience care that is connected, dignified, and easy to access, which is something that we want to maintain."

Executive director Anita Wiebe shared a few of the highlights from the past year, including the launch of their new community mobilization program to help at-risk families,

a new eviction prevention program, and, just this past week, the addition of a full-time mental health counselor to the team.

The centre's staff and volunteers remain at the heart of everything they do at Central Station, Wiebe stressed.

"Our kitchen volunteers have baked thousands of muffins, and our advocates during the 230 advocacy office visits have probably filled up more government forms than any human should ever have to."

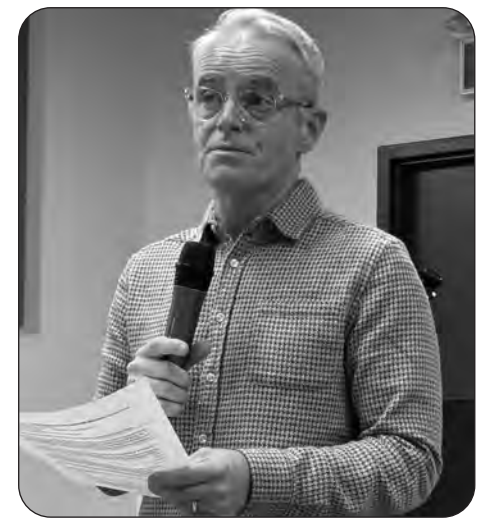
"We know how incredibly blessed we are to have the volunteer team that we do," Wiebe said. "We're so grateful for the passion and commitment they show in every interaction, and we couldn't do the work that we do without them."

On the financial side of things, the agency saw revenue of \$1.07 million and expenses of about \$1.1 million for a deficit of \$60,000. Part of that shortfall represents the ongoing depreciation of various assets, so the organization is still in good shape, especially considering it is entering into the final year of bank payments connected to its building, which will mean an additional \$55,000 annually that can go back into programming moving forward.

As they continue to grow, Central Station is looking for more stable forms of funding to support their work. To that end, they've set out to secure more monthly donors.

"We've set a goal that we'd like to engage 25 new \$25 per month donors, 20 new \$50 per month donors, and 20 people who are willing to partner at \$100 per month," Wiebe said. "Monthly giving allows us to budget differently knowing what we have coming in consistently."

"For those that like to break down the numbers, if we look at a million



President Phillip Valletly said the non-profit has "made real progress in terms of the people's lives we've impacted."

dollar budget stretched across 54,000 interactions [in the fiscal year], the cost per interaction comes up to about \$18.50," she shared. "So when we look at these meaningful moments, every \$20 that is received becomes a real conversation, a safety plan, a ride, a food hamper, or a warm coat."

"While larger financial gifts are always a welcome thing, we don't want to lose sight of the fact of what the gift of \$20 can do."

> SMITH, FROM PG. 3

"That loyalty when you have clients for 30 years, 20 years, it's a longterm

> CLEARWATER, FROM PG. 4

The \$16 million project already has funding commitments from multiple levels of government and local donors, but there's still a bit of a ways to go.

"The gap that we're trying to close right now is about \$600,000," Braun shared. "We've made some good progress and of course we're still applying for grants."

Donations can be made online at genesishouseshelter.ca.

relationship," he said. "I think I'm most proud of that, the reputation and the loyalty of our staff and our clients."

The company holds its annual Christmas open house for current and potential clients on Dec. 11 from 3-5 p.m. at its offices at 240 Main Street.

All are welcome to come down to enjoy music, food, and giveaways.

And if you'd like more information about the Winkler Community Foundation's donor-directed funds, head to winklercommunityfoundation.com.

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PHOTOS BY LILY KRUSHEL/VOICE

The Winkler chamber's Sneak Peek into Christmas shop-local celebration featured 20 business throughout town Saturday. Shoppers were given a passport to stamp as they made their way to them all, handing them in for a chance to win \$2,000 in prizes. A few of the stops included, clockwise from top left, Copper & Sparrow, Soul Iris, Pure Anada Boutique, Canadian Tire, and Co-op@Home



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Eden's Light Up the Night Sunday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Eden Foundation kicks off the holiday season this week-end with the second annual Light Up the Night event. This year's celebration takes over the Eden Mental Health Centre grounds (1500 Pembina Ave., Winkler) on Sunday, Nov. 30 starting at 11 a.m. with a new activity: a Christmas market chock-full of gift-giving ideas. "We have a little market with 10 or 12 vendors, people selling crafts and some food items and other interesting stuff for the season," shared Tyson Deceuninck, marketing and events manager for the foundation. The market will be set up in the Evergreen building on the property so everyone can stay warm while shopping.

There will be plenty of fun to be had outside as well, including bonfires, hay rides (from noon to 4:30 p.m.), and Christmas carnival games for the kids.

"We're going to have five different carnival games," Deceuninck said. "It's like an arcade for the kids."

There will also be a Wall of Art set up featuring colouring pages submitted by local youth, with one lucky kid walking away with an art set as a prize in a random draw. Details are on the foundation's social media pages.

A skating pad and snow sculptures were also on the schedule, but those will depend on whether or not Mother Nature cooperates in time.

The day will wrap up at 5:30 p.m. with a short ceremony that will see the giant metal Christmas tree lit up



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Continued on page 7

getinformed

Cutting the ribbon on Winkler's Jimmy John's

By Lorne Stelmach

Jimmy John's opened its seventh Canadian location last Friday in Winkler, and representatives of the sandwich chain known for its fresh ingredients and "freaky fast" service see great potential for the franchise here.

"I'm super excited, and I see the warm welcoming from the people who lined up here," said Winkler manager Pramod Patol, who was pleased to see so many people gathered to receive the perks of being among the first 100 customers: free food.

First introduced in Canada in 2024, and now with locations in cities like Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Vaughan, Jimmy John's hopes to woo Winkler residents thanks to its menu built around speed, quality, and freshly sliced meats and cheeses.

Located in the new strip mall off Hwy. 14 (where Starbucks recently opened), the restaurant will offer Jimmy John's lineup of made-to-order sandwiches.

"I think Jimmy John's has a lot of things that make us unique," Patol suggested, citing the example of using fresh bread for no more than four hours, and all of the meats, veggies, and

cheese toppings are freshly sliced and prepared.

"And we wash our veggies with ozone water. That's very unique. You won't see it in any other store," he added. "There are lots of options ... there are even four different options of chicken."

"I am very excited for this to be here in Winkler."

Jimmy John's, founded in 1983, is a big sandwich brand in the United States with more than 2,600 restaurants south of the border.

Also part of the picture is Foodtastic, which is a franchisor of restaurant brands in Canada.

"We are delighted to bring Jimmy John's to Winkler and serve this vibrant community," said Kim Slongo, director of operations at Foodtastic. "Our team is ready to deliver the quality, speed and freshness that Jimmy John's fans expect. We look forward to welcoming our neighbours and becoming part of the local fabric of Winkler."

"Jimmy John's continues to grow its footprint in Canada, and we are proud to bring our distinctive flavours and culture to more communities across the country," said Peter Mammias,



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Staff cut the ribbon at Jimmy John's new location in Winkler on Friday.

CEO of Foodtastic. "Our expansion into Winkler is another step in our mission to serve great sandwiches made with real ingredients and contagious passion."

> LIGHT UP THE NIGHT, FROM PG. 6

for the season as a beacon of hope for those who might be struggling with mental health challenges.

"We have the addition of a lot of extra trees as well this year—we've been reaching out to different sponsors to sponsor trees that will be placed around the venue," Deceuninck said, noting they range in size from five to 10 feet tall. "I think we're going to have about a dozen different trees."

Admission to the festivities is free, though donations will be gratefully accepted in support of mental health programming in our community.

"Mental health has a pretty strong connection to the Christmas season," Deceuninck noted. "Even though it's a joyous time, sometimes there's grief that comes with it."

To honour the memory of those loved ones your family will be missing around the table this Christmas, Eden Foundation will have ornaments available by donation to write their name on and hang on the trees.

They'll also be accepting dona-

tions of items to fill a giant stocking for the patients of the acute psychiatric care centre, wrapping them in love from the community.

"What we're hoping folks can do is

bring a pair of socks, a pair of gloves, maybe some basic toiletries," Deceuninck explained. "A lot of folks who come to the mental health centre, they're coming with the shirts on their back. They're not coming in with everything they need."

"Any time they get a new admission we're trying to find stuff as simple as socks for them," he said. "So that's a good way for people to support those patients."

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Plum Coulee lights up for the Christmas season



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE
Clockwise from above: Plum Coulee's annual tree lighting celebration Nov. 19 saw music from the elementary school choir, a visit from Santa Claus, Leonard Kehler ring the town bell as the light displays came on, free hot cocoa, and bonfires.



Giving Challenge raises \$42K in Altona, \$18K in Coulee

By Lorne Stelmach

The community foundations in Altona and Plum Coulee were pleased with the response to their fundraising campaigns held in conjunction with the Giving Challenge Week.

Giving to local community foundations between Nov. 10-16 saw donations bolstered with stretching funds of up to \$2,000 each from the Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba government.

In Altona, the final tally came in at \$42,000 with the matching dollars.

"It's a little bit lower than it was last year but still consistent with over the last five years or so," said chairperson Haydon Friesen. "Certainly there could have some economic factors that played into the lower total compared to last year."

The contributions will have a positive impact in the community.

"We're very grateful for every donation that we can get, and we're happy with the results," Friesen said. "It will have an impact on the ability for the community foundation to grant out

money in the coming years.

"We're very grateful that Endow Manitoba and the province of Manitoba continue to step up and stretch those donations."

In Plum Coulee, the foundation had a goal of \$18,000, and they beat it with just over \$18,300.

"We had a successful soup and pie fundraiser," said representative Moira Porte, who noted the foundation last year raised over \$13,000, which was matched up to over \$17,000.

"We had lots of people, lots of donors. It all went very well. We're very pleased with it. From the small donations to the large donations, we appreciate them all, and they all add up," said Porte, noting they had a significant donation from Sun Valley Tire in Winkler.

"And I just so appreciate the Winnipeg Foundation and the province of Manitoba," she added. "I hope they continue to match our dollars."

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Town of Altona holds Night of Lights this Friday

By Holly Thorne-Wiebe

Altona is ready for its annual Night of Lights celebration this Friday, Nov. 28, promising an evening filled with festive activities and family fun.

The event, marking the official start to the community's holiday season, begins at the Altona Civic Centre, where hayrides will run from 6-7:30 p.m. Recreation programmer Brittany Winkler said the rides have drawn big crowds in past years.

"We've definitely seen lineups at several of the activities, so we always encourage families to come early," Winkler said. "It's one of our most popular nights of the year, and we love seeing the community come together."

Also at the civic centre, families can enjoy a free wiener roast and holiday choir performance, with caroling

starting at 6:30 p.m. The fun continues with the highlight of the evening: the tree lighting ceremony and fireworks show at 7 p.m.

Following the fireworks, the celebration shifts to the Altona Mall beginning at 7:30 p.m., where visitors can warm up with free hot chocolate and cookies. The mall will be alive with holiday sounds thanks to performances from local band ensembles.

Visitors of all ages will also have the chance to meet Santa and his elves, who will be available for photos until 8:30 p.m.

Winkler noted that Night of Lights remains one of Altona's most loved events. With a mix of indoor and outdoor activities and plenty of free treats, the town welcomes residents of Altona and surrounding communities to a full evening of holiday cheer.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Hay rides are on the schedule Friday as the Town of Altona hosts its annual Night of Lights celebration. The fun begins at the Civic Centre at 6 p.m.

ARED reports on a successful year of growth, connections

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was a banner year for Altona and Rhineland Economic Development Inc. (ARED), economic development officer Stephanie Peters shared with municipal leaders earlier this month.

"It's always nice to look back at the year and look at what we've accomplished. We've been working really hard," she said.

The agency's role in the region is to "help create the conditions that allow local businesses and communities to grow and succeed," Peters noted. "That means not only attracting new businesses, but also supporting the ones already here, building connections, and making sure our region remains a great place to live and work."

"It's also important to remember that economic development takes time and strong relationships. Some results happen quickly, but many of our efforts are about setting things in motion, building a solid foundation that will lead to more growth and investment in the years ahead"

To that end, engaging with established as well as new business leaders in the community remained a key focus for Peters.

She met with more than 80 entrepreneurs in 2024-2025, resulting in

57 connections and 37 new business opportunities, including start-ups, expansions, and successful grant applications that led directly to job creation.

"I'm constantly meeting with new businesses, with pre-existing business to find out how can we get them started or what are their needs for growth, what can we do to help?" Peters said.

The Altona-Rhineland area is an attractive one to entrepreneurs, she observed.

"They talk a lot about the support that they receive from the community, the proximity and location of our region [to other urban centres], and the work ethic as well of the people that are here."

The agency administered \$131,075.56 in Business Grant Program funding to support new start-ups, business expansions, and acquisitions. Fourteen business benefited from this funding, Peters noted.

"Forty new jobs were created in the region just through that program," she said. "The feedback has been really positive ... [the program] has been really helpful in getting those businesses the funds that they need so that they can take the next step to start their business or to be able to grow an existing business."

ARED's tax incentive program also continued to support new commercial and industrial development. In 2024, municipalities provided nearly \$112,000 in tax rebates. That number jumped to nearly \$150,000 in 2025.

"These programs help businesses make the decision to build in the RPGA region," Peters said. "Receiving a tax rebate for the first three years of development is a major support when they need it most."

The agency is also involved in workforce development through immigration. In 2024, it launched the Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP). Since then, 18 job offers have been made through the program.

"The immigration program is really important in addressing the workforce and labour issues that some of our businesses face," Peters said.

She shared that they're also working with the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program on a new immigration initiative expected to be announced in 2026.

Another facet of the organization's work is in simply getting the word out about who they are and what they do. In 2025 they've rolled out a total rebrand, launched a new website, and expanded their social media presence.

"We definitely have built momen-

tum, really gotten the word is out there," Peters said. "But I find I'm still having conversations with entrepreneurs who say, 'I didn't know you guys existed' ... so we are still doing outreach."

ARED has big plans for the year ahead, and a new strategic plan to get them there. It revolves around four priorities: business retention and expansion, business and entrepreneurial support, workforce development, and organization structure.

Among the highlights of Peters' to-do list related to those priorities include launching a comprehensive new developer's package, undertaking a labour market needs assessment for the RCIP program, ongoing staff and board training, and overseeing the new subsidized rent program for commercial and industrial leases.

"We have been receiving feedback from some of the local real estate companies that entrepreneurs are looking at a location but that amount of rent that they're going to have to pay is just not feasible for them," Peters said. "So I'm excited about launching this new program to try to help alleviate some of those costs."

You can learn more about all ARED's programs online at ared-rpga.com.

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

New CEO for Kroeker Farms

By Ashleigh Viveiros

One of the nation's largest potato producers is seeing some big changes this fall.

Winkler-based Kroeker Farms has announced longtime chief executive officer Wayne Rempel is moving into an advisory role next month, paving the way for current chief operating officer Harwin Bouwman to step into the top job.

Rempel has headed up Kroeker Farms since 2022 when he became its first non-family CEO. He joined the company in 1988.

In the decades since, Kroeker Farms has expanded its specialty in premium table potatoes, became one of Canada's largest producers of organic potatoes, onions, and hemp, and invested heavily in long-term sustainability practices such as irrigation, tile drainage, reservoirs, and soil stew-

ardship. Rempel also spearheaded the major expansion and modernization of the company's wash and packing facility in Winkler.

"Our farm has changed significantly—and so has our shareholder group—but our values remain rooted in stewardship, service, and innovation," Rempel said. "It's time for me to step back, and I look forward to supporting Harwin and the team as they continue this legacy of the Kroeker family founders. Harwin and I have worked together a long time, and I'm confident he will lead with humility, purpose, and a commitment to always improving."

Bouwman joined the company nearly 15 years ago and has served in a variety of leadership roles in that time. His first day as CEO is Dec. 1.

"This company is full of talented, passionate people, and I'm honoured by the trust placed in me," Bouwman



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Kroeker Farms CEO Wayne Rempel (left) is moving into an advisory role with the company next month. Taking his place is Harwin Bouwman (right).

said. "My goal is to continue building a place where our team members can grow, innovate, and do meaningful work—and to lead Kroeker Farms in striving to be North America's choice

grower and packer."

Rempel will continue as an advisor to both Bouwman and the board of directors moving forward.

500 Stephen launching Warm Up & and Ride next month

Looking for community support to meet growing needs

By Lorne Stelmach

A program to provide transportation to those in need of the assistance is gearing up to run a second winter.

Warm Up and Ride launched in Morden earlier this year as a pilot project run by 500 Stephen Community Centre with the support of a \$10,000 grant from the Morden Area Foundation.

The initiative provides vouchers that can be used to get rides from services such as Morden Taxi and the Morden Handivan.

The trial project saw over 800 vouchers distributed, and organizers are anticipating the second go-round might see a similar number available as the program gears up to run from Dec. 1 to the end of March.

"It was just born out of the recognition that transportation, especially in winter time, is a big challenge for lots of folks in our community," said Kevin Driedger, executive director of 500 Stephen. "Having personal vehicles is not something everyone has ... so this was a way that we could maybe help alleviate some of that need."

"We did the pilot program and had a very positive response, so everyone was looking for it to return this year, so that's what we are trying to do."

Driedger emphasized that they rely on community support to ensure the success of this program. They have

less funding available this year than they did the last time, and they're starting it one month earlier as well.

"We have some funding, not quite the level that we did last year at this point," said Driedger, noting they will not be able to be as generous with providing free rides as last year, so they are looking for more community support to provide more necessary rides.

The vouchers are distributed through organizations including the Many Hands Resource Centre and Regional Connections to have those organizations select clients they see as being in need of the assistance. They will also be available through the Healthy Baby and Families First programs along with 500 Stephen and the Morden Activity Centre.

These rides can only be used for a limited number of reasons such as getting to appointments, classes, and acquiring food.

"We're simply trying to help people get to their essential needs, whether it's getting groceries, getting to medical appointments," said Driedger. "The rides are available to anywhere in Morden as well as to Boundary Trails Health Centre," he said. "If we can get more support then we can provide more rides."

People wanting more information or to support the initiative can contact Driedger at 500 Stephen. He expected their website will soon be set up for people to donate online as well.



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sports & recreation

PV Hawks best Chiefs

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The U18 female Pembina Valley Hawks doubled up on the visiting Yellowhead Chiefs in their lone game of the week Saturday.

Madison Froese had a 46-save night in net for the Hawks, giving up just one goal in the first period.

Scoring for Pembina Valley that same period was Claire Boyd, while Ella Victor got the game winner on a powerplay in the third to give the

Hawks the win 2-1.

With that, the team is in seventh place with 11 points, trailing Central Plains, the Winnipeg Avros, and Yellowhead by just one point. Topping the standings are the Winnipeg Ice (25 points), Eastman Selects (21), and Westman Wildcats (15).

This weekend the ladies are in Shoal Lake to play the Chiefs Saturday and then play the Westman Wildcats in Hartney Sunday.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley's Giana Yaschyshyn carries the puck through a couple of Yellowhead defenders Saturday. The Hawks won it 2-1.

Flyers in fifth place

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers made short work of Waywayseecappo and Virden before falling short in a shootout with Portage this past week in MJHL action.

The Nov. 18 game against the Wolverines in Waywayseecappo saw the Flyers battle their way back from a 3-1 deficit after 20 minutes (Winkler's lone goal coming courtesy of William Lyons) to tie it up at the second buzzer thanks to goals from Connor Vandal and Aidan Grant.

Jacob Michelson and Liam Carlone then fired home two more to give the Flyers the win 5-3.

In net, Leif Ekblad made 24 saves as the Flyers outshot the Wolverines 34-27.

It was a close affair a few nights later in Winkler against the Oil Capitals.

Winkler did all the scoring in the first two periods, with Charles Berni-

er doing the honours 14 minutes into the first and then Connor Rieger making it 2-0 midway through the second.

Virden finally got on the board a couple minutes into the final frame, but that was as close as they got, giving the win to Winkler 2-1.

Ekblad made 44 saves in net this game of 45 shots. His teammates sent 32 the other way.

It was Liam Russell in net the next night against the Terriers in Portage. Two goals got past him before his teammates began returned the favour. Tanner George scored late in the second and then Niklas Gudmundson got the tying goal with 1:15 left on the clock to force overtime.

The extra minutes solved nothing. In the resulting shootout, Kam Thomas was the lone Winkler player to find the mark, while two of Portage's scored to take the game 3-2.

Winkler outshot Portage that night 32-28, with Russell making 31 saves.

The Flyers are in fifth place in the MGEU East Division with a record of 10-9-1-2 and 23 points, six points behind the Steelers in fourth. Topping the standings are the Niverville Nighthawks (40 points), Steinbach

Pistons, (35), and Portage Terriers (33).

This week they head north to play the Blizzard Friday and Saturday and the Kings in Dauphin Sunday.

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Royals roll, Bombers rest, and Wild erupt in busy SEMHL week

By Annaliese Meier

The South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League tightened further this week as the Winkler Royals strengthened their hold on first place, the Morden Bombers prepared for a key home date, and the Red River Wild lit up the scoreboard on the road.

The first-place Winkler Royals (5-0-1) showed no signs of slowing down, powering past the Carman Beavers 7-3 on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Winkler.

Winkler struck early and often, building a 2-0 first-period lead on goals from Brett Stovin and Jamie Thiessen. Carman briefly cut into the lead with a second-period power-play marker, but Lawson McDonald responded just 26 seconds later,

restoring the two-goal cushion.

McDonald added the eventual game-winner at 3:22 of the third—as Winkler pulled away with a four-goal third period. Marcus Neufeld and Adam Henry also found the back of the net before Stovin capped the scoring with his second of the night.

Goaltender Matthew Thiessen was sharp, stopping 41 shots in the win. Carman's Luke Zacharias made 35 saves in a busy night for the Beavers.

Winkler now turns its attention to a marquee test this weekend, travelling to face the Red River Wild on Sunday, Nov. 30 at 3 p.m.

The Morden Bombers (4-2) held onto second place despite a quiet week on the schedule. With the standings tightening below them, the

Bombers will look to create some separation when they return to action on Friday, Nov. 28 at 8 p.m., hosting Portage. It marks the start of an important stretch for Morden as they try to keep pace with first-place Winkler heading into December.

The Red River Wild (2-2) made the most of their lone game of the week, erupting for an 8-4 victory over the Warren Mercs on Friday, Nov. 21.

Red River opened the scoring with a power-play



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Royals defenseman Mike Heppner tries to keep a Carman player from deflecting a shot in front of goalie Matt Thiessen.

goal from Justin Baudry, but Warren answered with two late first-period markers to carry a 2-1 lead into intermission.

The Wild responded with force in the second, scoring three straight—two from Jonah Wasylak and another from Matthew Hill—to regain control. After Warren briefly closed the gap, Teagan Fillion's late second-period goal stood as the game-winner.

Red River piled on in the third, striking for three goals in under 10 minutes, including Wasylak's fourth of the night and a shorthanded tally. Wasylak finished with a remarkable

five-point outing.

Jayden Catellier made 27 saves for the Wild, who now hit the road again on Friday, Nov. 28 to face Île des Chênes before hosting Winkler on Sunday afternoon.

Winkler continues to lead the SEMHL with 11 points, followed by Morden at 8. Springfield sits close behind with 7, while Île des Chênes is at 5. Five teams—Notre Dame, Red River, Carman, Portage and Warren—are locked in a tight cluster at 4 points each as the season settles into its mid-November rhythm.



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Red River Mudbugs grab three points

By Kieran Reimer

The Red River Mudbugs earned three points over two home games last week, edging the Warren 67's in a shootout on Wednesday before defeating the Niverville Clippers on Saturday at the St. Jean Arena.

Red River opened the Nov. 19 matchup against Warren with an early strike from Ziko Pankratz just 23 seconds in. The teams traded goals throughout a busy first period, including a Red River power-play marker from Reece Fehr and a pair from Warren's Colton Bruce, who completed his hat trick in the third. The Mudbugs kept pace with goals from Braison Penner and Traeton Peters before Tyson Froese tied the game 5-5 late in regulation. After a scoreless overtime, Fehr and Gavin Wiens scored in the shootout to give Red River the win. Goaltender Connor Parago stopped 35 shots in regulation and overtime

and turned aside two of three shooters in the tie-breaker.

On Nov. 22, the Mudbugs built early momentum again when Tyson Froese scored at 1:08 of the first period, followed by a late marker from Lukas Banman to make it 2-0. Niverville replied with two second-period goals — one short-handed and one on the power play — to even the score. Red River took control in the third when Caleb Boulanger scored the eventual game-winner 54 seconds into the period, then added another on the power play at 5:19. Wiens sealed the 5-2 win with a late insurance goal. Parago was solid once again, finishing with 42 saves.

With the win and shootout victory, Red River moves to 5-6 on the season, tied for seventh in the HTJHL with 10 points. Macdonald continues to lead the league at 14-0, followed by Springfield with 21 points.

Aces earn bronze at provincial JV girls volleyball championship

By Annaliese Meier

The W.C. Miller Aces capped an outstanding weekend with a bronze-medal finish at the Provincial AAA JV Girls Volleyball Championship, held Nov. 20–22 at Swan Valley Regional Secondary School.

The Aces were steady and disciplined throughout the round-robin, opening with a 25–19, 25–8 win over the Léo-Rémillard Renards. They followed with a hard-fought 26–24, 25–23 victory over the Springfield Sabres before defeating the Niverville Panthers 25–17, 29–27 in one of their tightest matches of the tournament. W.C. Miller rounded out pool play with a 25–13, 25–21 win over the St. John's Tigers to secure a strong play-off position.

In the quarter-final, the Aces continued their momentum, defeating the

Neelin Spartans 25–20, 25–13. Their semifinal matchup with the Virden Golden Bears proved to be one of the most competitive of the championship, with both sets decided by just three points. Virden edged out the Aces 25–22, 25–22 to advance to the final.

W.C. Miller regrouped for the third-place match and delivered a confident performance, beating the Dauphin Clippers 25–17, 25–21 to claim the provincial bronze.

The championship final saw the Virden Golden Bears prevail over the Linden Christian Wings in a dramatic three-set battle, 25–11, 25–27, 17–15.

For the Aces, the tournament underscored the team's consistency, depth and ability to perform under pressure — qualities that carried them to a well-earned spot on the provincial podium.



FACEBOOK.COM/W.C.MILLER.COLLEGIATE

The W.C. Miller Aces clinched third at the junior varsity girls volleyball provincial championship last weekend.

Pembina Valley Hawks down Parkland Rangers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Hawks are in the middle of the pack in the Manitoba 18U AAA Hockey League standings.

Their 5-4 win against the Parkland Rangers Saturday brought their record for the season so far to 12-6-0-1-1, good for 25 points and sixth place

in the 13-team league.

Nipping at their heels in seventh and eighth are the Eastman Selects (24 points) and the Parkland Rangers (23 points), while the Hawks are two points shy of the Winnipeg Bruins, Brandon Wheat Kings, and Southwest Cougars in third, fourth, and fifth place.

Last weekend's game saw the

Hawks up 2-1 after 20 minutes thanks to goals from Carson Hiebert and Ragnar Gillis.

Caden McMahon made it 3-1 early in the second before Parkland managed to the two they needed to tie it 3-3. The latter half of the period saw Parkland score once more and the Hawks twice (Gillis and Ocean Fehr) for a 5-4 Pembina Valley lead that

held through to the final buzzer after a scoreless third period.

Brody Peters stood tall in net, making 31 saves as the Rangers outshot the Hawks 35-25.

This week the Hawks play the Wheat Kings in Brandon Wednesday before hosting the Yellowhead Chiefs in Morden Saturday and Sunday.

Redhawks finish third at provincial JV boys volleyball championship



FACEBOOK.COM/ROSENORTSCHOOL

The Rosenort Redhawks boys team came in third at the junior varsity provincial championships in Hamiota last weekend.

By Annaliese Meier

The Rosenort Redhawks capped off a strong season with a bronze-medal finish at the Provincial A/AA JV Boys Volleyball Championship, held Nov. 20–22 at Hamiota Collegiate Institute.

Rosenort opened the tournament with three straight wins in round-robin play. They defeated the Warren Wildcats 25–20, 26–24 in their opener, followed by a 25–21, 25–14 victory over the host Hamiota Huskies. The Redhawks closed out pool play with a 25–15, 25–20 win over the Arborg Athletics to secure a top seed heading into the playoffs.

In the quarter-final, Rosenort continued rolling, dispatching the Pointe-des-Chênes Cavaliers 25–20, 25–16 to advance to the semifinals.

The Redhawks' provincial title

hopes came to an end in a tight and emotional semifinal against the Major Pratt Trojans. Rosenort pushed the Trojans to extra points in the opening set before falling 30–28, and Major Pratt carried the momentum into the second set to win 25–13.

Rosenort rebounded with a strong effort in the third-place match, defeating the Margaret Barbour Spartans 25–23, 25–19 to earn the bronze medal.

In Saturday's championship final, the Major Pratt Trojans completed their impressive run with a 25–14, 25–22 victory over the Elton Sabres to claim the provincial crown.

For the Redhawks, the weekend showcased resilience, depth and a standout team effort that placed them among Manitoba's top JV boys volleyball programs.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter; THE MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND BY-LAW 2025-16 Being an AMENDMENT to the MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND ZONING BY-LAW 2021-06, AS AMENDED

HEARING: Municipality of Rhineland
Council Chambers

LOCATION: 109-3rd Avenue NE, Altona, MB

DATE & TIME: December 17th, 2025 at 9:00AM

GENERAL INTENT: To serve as a general housekeeping amendment. The amendment will update the Irrigation Dugout, Pond, or Lagoon minimum setback requirements in the RR - Rural Residential Zone.

AREA: Municipality of Rhineland

FOR INFORMATION Lucie Maynard, General Manager

RPGA Planning District

Box 270, Altona, MB R0G 0B0

Phone: (204) 324-5357 ext.3

E-Mail: manager@rpgamb.ca

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken there from, upon request.

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The Winkler Morden Voice

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PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN NO. 46

- BY-LAW NO. 2357-25 FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTENNIAL ARENA

The Council of the City of Winkler has scheduled a public hearing at Winkler City Hall, 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB on the 9th day of December, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. to present the following local improvement proposal and to consider giving first reading:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN NO. 46

The proposed design concept for the redevelopment of the Winkler Arena is to demolish much of the interior of the existing arena and redevelop it into an approx. 1300 seat arena. Entrance into the redeveloped arena would be from the Meridian Centre at the Southwest corner. The proposed general scope of the renovation is to redevelop and modernize the existing arena by implementing energy efficient systems, constructing extensive code upgrades, and providing safe spectator viewing and inclusive public amenities. The recently constructed link connecting the Meridian Centre to the Centennial Arena would be expanded to enlarge the concessions, concession seating, and staff room.

The building envelope walls and roof will be upgraded to improve energy performance for a deep energy retrofit to meet the requirement for funding incentive programs including the Infrastructure Canada Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program Grant (GICB) and the FCM Community Building Retrofit Program (CBR). The existing mechanical and electrical systems are dated and past service life and will require full replacement. As per the Building Condition Assessment Report, a complete electrical distribution system replacement is recommended.

The estimated cost of the Local Improvement plan is to a maximum of \$28,500,000.00. The Government of Canada has committed \$7,962,240.00, the Province of Manitoba has committed \$3,137,500.00 and FCM has committed \$2,500,000.00 towards the redevelopment of the Arena. The City of Winkler has committed \$7,400,260.00 from the Recreation Reserves towards the project. The balance of up to \$7,500,000.00 is to be funded by borrowing. The term of the proposed borrowing is 10 years at an interest rate estimated for the time being up to 6.00% per year.

The annual debt payment of \$1,019,009.69 is to be raised by a local improvement tax calculated on the basis of the portioned assessed value of all taxable, grant-in-lieu and otherwise exempt properties within the City of Winkler.

Based on the 2025 Assessment Roll of \$1,264,153,400 an estimated mill rate of 0.806 mills will be required. Calculated on a residential property valued at \$300,000 (portion valued of \$135,000) a \$108.81 local improvement tax will be levied annually for 10 years.

The annual operating and maintenance costs associated with the proposed project will be covered under the City's annual recreation maintenance budget.

A written objection may be filed with the City Manager, at 185 main Street, Winkler, Manitoba, prior to the commencement of the hearing. At the hearing, Council will hear any potential ratepayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions or register an objection to the local improvement proposal.

All objections, written or verbal, must be filed prior to the adjournment of the hearing and must include the name, address and property description of the person filing the objection and the grounds of their objection.

Copies of the Local Improvement Plan No. 46 are available at the City of Winkler office at 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB, and on the municipal website at www.cityofwinkler.ca.

Dated at the City of Winkler this 31st day of October, 2025, and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The Municipal Act.

Jody Penner
City Manager
City of Winkler
204-325-9524

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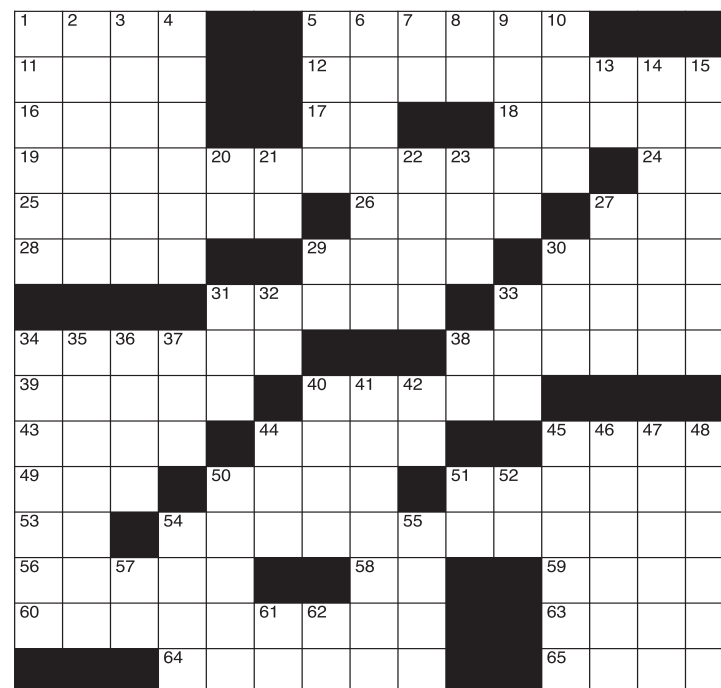
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CLUES ACROSS

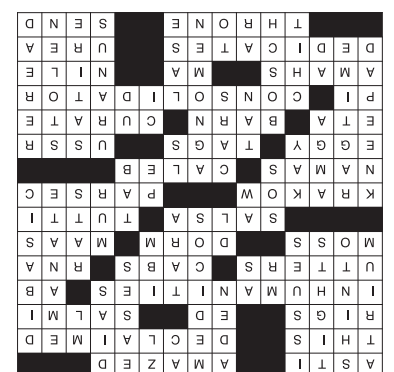
1. Popular wine ___ Spumante
5. Greatly impressed
11. ___ and that
12. Uttered with passion
16. Boats
17. Veteran actor Harris
18. Casserole with game
19. Reprehensible acts
24. They precede C
25. Says under one's breath
26. Taxis
27. It transfers genetic info
28. NFL great Randy
29. Where college students sleep
30. Major European river

31. Taco condiment

33. -frutti
34. Polish city
38. Astronomy unit
39. Khoikhoi peoples
40. Bears QB Williams
43. Scrambled, fried, boiled
44. Price indicators
45. One-time world power
49. When you hope to get somewhere
50. Farm building
51. Choose carefully
53. Magnum was one
54. One who combines
56. Nursemaids
58. Partner to Pa

59. Notable river
 60. Officially honors
 63. Colorless compound
 64. A fancy chair
 65. Email function
- CLUES DOWN**

1. The central area in a building
2. Religion of Japan
3. Leggings
4. Officially distributes
5. Arabian Sea seaport
6. Spanish doctors
7. It cools your house
8. Currency of Poland
9. Slowly moves into
10. Days (Spanish)
13. Unit of volume
14. Emit
15. With two replaceable hydrogens
20. Title for a man
21. Equally
22. Scarlett's home
23. One-time tech titan
27. Subway dwellers
29. One-tenth of a liter
30. Central European river
31. Distress signal
32. Expression of sympathy
33. The bill in a restaurant
34. Football equipment
35. Dance music
36. Russian river
37. Cosmetics giant Mary ___
38. Gym class
40. Automobiles
41. Roman honorific
42. Losses in sports
44. Skin tone in summer
45. Distant planet
46. Critical humor
47. Illegally obtained
48. Go back over
50. Home appliance brand
51. Unit of radioactivity
52. Home of the Flyers
54. Short official note
55. Emit coherent radiation
57. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
61. Most common noble gas (abbr.)
62. Toward



Crossword Answer

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BTHC expansion on track for opening in new year

By Lorne Stelmach

Work continues to progress well on the expansion of the Boundary Trails Health Centre, and things are so far on schedule.

The \$100 million expansion at Boundary Trails Health Centre has reached a key milestone with construction now mostly complete on the new two-storey inpatient unit and community services building.

Work continues on things like digital system installations, equipment setup, and furniture placement, but there is already now some work happening in terms of having clinical teams training and orienting in preparation for the opening in the new year.

Kyle McNair, who is the implementation lead for clinical programming, said it is very exciting to see the progress of the project.

"It's exciting to have the ability to really start getting into the building and start getting staff in," he said.

"This past week was really week number one of the general staff training. We're rotating nursing, allied health staff through the building, going through training programs, identifying those little things that need to get tweaked and fixed as we're getting closer and closer to the point of taking on patients.

"All that work is underway right now, and it's exciting for the team and exciting for the leadership group to finally get staff into the building and seeing the nice, larger rooms, the new single patient rooms, the workspaces they'll be able to work in," he added. "There's still quite a bit of stuff to do. We've got some of the furniture in and equipment in, but there's more to



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The \$100 million expansion at Boundary Trails Health Centre is on budget and on target to open in February or March. Below: A few photos of the interior spaces, which are nearly ready to welcome patients.

come."

McNair said the project overall is in on schedule.

"Everything is on track for our ability to start admitting patients into that area in late February/early March," he said.

"A lot of the training is happening now. We're introducing a few new technologies."

Once they are in a position in 2026 to start moving into the new space,

their attention will turn towards renovating some of the existing space at BTHC to convert it for other use.

"It will free up space in the hospital to start the renovation phases ... and it's still a little tentative but kind of spring or summer of 2026," McNair estimated, noting that renovation work would likely continue into 2027 before the project could be considered near completion.



Measles exposure in Winkler, at BTHC

By Voice staff

If you were at the Fawn and Cub Market at the Meridian Exhibition Centre in Winkler the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 15 or at the Boundary Trails Health Centre emergency department Nov. 16 from 3:45-6 p.m. public health officials advise you to keep an eye out for the symptoms of measles for the next few weeks.

The two locations are the latest local

measles exposure sites announced by the province. Anyone who attended the market between 1-5 p.m. that day should monitor themselves for measles symptoms until Dec. 7. Anyone at the emergency room that day and time should monitor until Dec. 8.

Symptoms of measles generally appear seven to 21 days after exposure. Initial symptoms may include fever, runny nose, drowsiness, irritability and red eyes. Small white spots

may also develop on the inside of the mouth or throat. Several days after the initial symptoms, a red blotchy rash appears on the face and progresses down the body. Measles can lead to complications including ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia (lung infection) and encephalitis (brain inflammation).

If symptoms occur, contact your health-care provider for direction on what to do next.

Those who may have been exposed are also encouraged to check their measles vaccination status is up to date.

Further information on measles, exposures and immunization is available at www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html or individuals can contact Health Links-Info Santé at 204-788-8200 in Winnipeg or 1-888-315-9257 toll-free in Manitoba.