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THURSDAY,
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Spreading sweet joy

Carly, 11, and Rhett, 8, are avid participants—in both sampling and decorating—in the James family's Candy Cane Forest in Gretna. For the full story, see Pg. 12.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

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Giving Challenge raises thousands for local foundations

By Lorne Stelmach

Local community foundations are pleased with the response to the 2024 Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge.

The annual campaign encouraged residents to make donations to their local foundations between Nov. 12-17, and every gift was stretched with additional funding from the Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba government. Many participating foundations also had further matching contributions from local companies.

The Winkler Community Foundation had one of its best tallies ever at about \$148,000, including the matching dollars. That is second only to the \$181,000 raised in 2022.

"It was a very good year, and we beat our goal, which had been \$60,000," noted executive director Myra Peters. "So that will have an impact on our community and granting for years to come."

"We are very thankful for our business community that stretches the dollars, and we know that our community members are excited to have their gifts go even further because of the stretching dollars. It's something our donors wait for every year," she

suggested.

"Each year our donor numbers grow, and that's one thing we were trying to focus on ... for more people to know who the Winkler Community Foundation is and what we do in the community and the impact that we have."

The Morden Area Foundation received approximately \$34,500 in gifts from 60 donors. The stretch funds bring that total to about \$48,500.

Co-ordinator Maia Vicente noted their campaign was boosted by a \$10,000 contribution from the estate of Harold Bollenbach.

"And there is the fact that we also increased the number of donors this year," she added. "So it was a positive response from the community."

In Plum Coulee, contributions came in through the annual soup and pie fundraiser along with online donations. In all, the foundation brought in \$12,900, which became \$16,900.

"Our goal was \$18,000, so we didn't quite make our goal, but we're still very happy with what we did and what we took in," noted Plum Coulee Community Foundation treasurer Moira Porte. "We consider it to be a significant amount for the commu-



nity, and we actually did have quite a few new donors, which is always nice. It adds to our granting every year, and it benefits all the different organizations that apply for grants in our community."

The Morris Area Foundation brought in just over \$40,000 in all from 90 donors.

"Every size of donation is extremely important to us, and we're very happy," said chairperson Curtis Evenson. "We're really pleased with it ... it's just humbling to receive all this support, so we're very grateful for all the support."

The Altona Community Foundation received about \$42,000 from the week, which is down a little bit from

last year's record-breaking amount.

"We're happy with that, and we're grateful for people's generosity," said board vice-chair Al Friesen. "We tied it in with our 30th anniversary celebration, so we intentionally chose Giving Week to hold our reception ... and we made our granting announcement."

All of the foundations see the Giving Challenge as a great chance to boost their endowment funds.

"It's a good opportunity for all community foundations to kind of focus our attention on the fundraising opportunity," said Friesen. "The excitement we generate now can also spill over towards other end of the year contributions."

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Winkler On-Demand Transit in operation starting this week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After years of community feedback and planning, Winkler finally has its very own public transportation system.

Winkler On-Demand Transit launches this week, with the public able to begin booking rides starting at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27.

The 30-month pilot program designed to gauge the mobility needs in the community has been a long time coming, says Mayor Henry Siemens.

"We have wanted for years to do something, and for a variety of reasons, it's always taken longer than we had hoped," he said. "Even this year, when the council put budget towards this at the very beginning of the year, our hope was that by mid-year or so we would be running."

It took a little longer than that to get the details worked out, but the day has finally come to launch.

"We're excited now to be at this point and to be able to start and to be able to go," Siemens said. "I think as people get used to the idea of transit being available in Winkler, we're going to have a fairly good uptake. We've got tremendous traffic on our social media channels on our website already."

The way it works is users (who must be at least 13 years old to ride unaccompanied) can book a ride anywhere within Winkler city limits or to the Boundary Trails Health Centre for \$5 one way.

Bookings can be made through an online app called Blaise, online at www.blaisetransit.com, or by phone at 431-451-4900. Payment can be done through the app via credit or debit card or in exact change to the driver.

One shuttle van will be out on the road during operating hours, with space for eight passengers (including one wheelchair-accessible seat; the main van also has a lift). There is also a six-passenger back-up van in case of maintenance to the main vehicle (the backup vehicle has space for a foldable wheelchair).

The service will run Monday to Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is no service on Sundays or on holidays.

"We leaned heavily on Transdev, who won the contract, to help us determine when we can expect to have ridership," Siemens said, noting it's expected the most rides will be needed for people going to and from work and then perhaps out running errands on Saturdays. "We have already negotiated with Transdev that if the demand is there and the growth is there,

that we can expand those hours.

"If in fact we're so successful that we have a lineup of people waiting all day every day to go for rides, then we'll have to make some decisions at that time," the mayor added, noting there is the potential to add additional vehicles as well as hours, as long as council can come up with the funding to do so.

This system is similar to a ride-share, where multiple users might get picked up to and from their destinations. There are no set routes, bus stops, or timetables—when you book your ride you'll be given an estimate for when the van will reach you and a notification as it's about to arrive.

"One of the things we'll have to remember is that this is not like jumping in our own car and being able to go somewhere in five or ten minutes," Siemens said. "It's not like calling a taxi and having a taxi be there five minutes later. There is a ride sharing element to this. It will pick you up from where you are and take you where you want to go, but you may not be the only person in that vehicle. It may stop to pick up somebody else on its way to where you are."

Rides can be booked up to 15 minutes before you want to leave and as early as seven days in advance.

"It's surprisingly easy to do," Siemens said. He and other members of council booked a test ride from City Hall to the Meridian Exhibition Centre and back last week. "You have to invest a little bit of time into downloading the app and getting it set up. After that, it's quite user friendly."

Riders will be able to provide feedback on the system, which will be



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler city councillors and city staff with the new Winkler On-Demand Transit van, which hits the streets this Wednesday.

used to tweak things as necessary and, eventually, help city staff figure out exactly what the community's permanent transit system should look like moving forward.

"This entire piece is about learning as much information as we can to make sure that whatever long-term [system] we have in Winkler that it is right-sized for our community," Siemens said.

"The single biggest thing that we need out of this is to find out where people are moving from and to, and

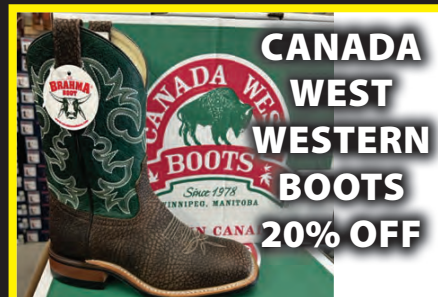
at what time do they want to do that?" he added. "We have a three-year pilot right now that we're going to roll out and learn as much as we possibly can."

The cost of this service over the next few years is about \$750,000. The City of Winkler is paying \$250,000 of that, with the rest covered by a grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Coun. Marvin Plett, Winkler's rep

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Mennonite Collegiate Institute charts future path

By Lori Penner

Recruitment and retention were part of the discussion at Mennonite Collegiate Institute's (MCI) annual general meeting on Nov. 18.

A crowd of about 120 attended the event, eager to discuss strategies for growth and financial stability for the Gretna Christian private school, which has seen fluctuations of both since it was founded 134 years ago.

Steering the meeting were two new members of the MCI leadership team:

principal Londa Backlund and CEO Chris Harms.

Backlund joined the faculty in July of this year and brings an extensive education background, including teaching at an independent Christian school in Winnipeg and her hometown public school in MacGregor.

Harms brings with him over 17 years of leadership experience. He previously served as executive director of Pembina Valley Bible Camp.

With respect to the institution's rich history, both administrators have been

seeking ways to address the decline in attendance and support the last number of years, with a mission to bring fresh clarity to the direction of the school.

Harms said the meeting included a presentation on strategic planning and round table discussions, which led to thought-provoking questions and insights from attendees.

"We introduced the five strategic pillars we want to focus on moving forward: financial stability, recruit-

ment and retention of students, education and program excellence, clarifying MCI's identity, and engaging with stakeholders."

He noted that sustainability has been a challenge at the school for years.

"One of the things we discussed is the need to increase our voice and engagement with churches and community members. We have a very loyal membership, and it's been long-standing, which we really appreciate. But it's evident that they alone can't carry the weight and the needs of the school. So, we want to increase that base and enlarge our outreach."

A big part of that will be reaching out beyond the communities they typically connect with.

"We've got a very strong support base within the Mennonite churches in the area, and even some further west and north," Harms said. "But currently there's also a small engagement with some of the churches in the Winkler/Morden area. We feel there's a lot of opportunity for growth. Our focus will be in that direction."

Program excellence is another piece of the puzzle.

"We want to evaluate why we do what we do. We want to set a standard where people can grow under that structure and in that structure," Harms said. "We get a short window with these kids to invest in them and build into them. Our goal is to not just focus on them here but set them up for success when they go from here, as well."

Harms says they also want to give stakeholders a clear message of their mission, and their relevance.

"We're struggling to gain enough students to make it viable, and financially it's been a real challenge. So it's time to connect with people in the broader community and how do we partner with others. We're excited to see how God wants to breathe life into the future, and lead and guide the school and how He wants to impact these kids far beyond their four years here."

During the roundtable discussions, a common theme was the lack of communication.

"They felt they weren't fully aware of the struggles and the direction of the school," Harms shared. "There has been a communication gap over time. People are interested in developing relationships. The school has gone through a lot of leadership transitions in the last number of years. Leaders then did a great job. Now we're trying to learn and move the school forward ... we need to reconnect those relationships, while being aware that we need to engage with a broader community."

With a current enrollment of 47 students, they are substantially below their ideal target of 150. As they grow, Harms said they also need to consider the amount of dorm space as opposed to students who commute.

"As attendance has dropped over the years, there are still expenses that don't change. No matter how many kids you have, you still need to heat the place. We still want to offer the classes and options, so that means we still need the teachers. If you have a class with only a few students instead

Continued on page 10



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY JANNA WIEBE
Mennonite Collegiate Institute CEO Chris Harms and principal Londa Backlund.

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"We will be looking for more ways to engage the community"

Central Station Community Centre holds AGM

By Lorne Stelmach

There has been a lot for Anita Wiebe to get a handle on in her first year as executive director of Central Station Community Centre.

Wiebe reflected recently at the agency's annual meeting on having lots to learn in the past 12 months and how it has felt like a whirlwind for her.

"It was a really big learning curve, but it was one of those things where the board was strong with their messaging coming in and where they wanted to go, and so it was a matter of getting up to speed and being able to start to answer as many questions as I was asking.

"For me, a lot of it has been just connecting with the community," said Wiebe, who emphasized how she was "following the lead that the board had set out in moving towards not

just alleviating poverty in the city of Winkler but moving towards reducing it.

"It is really kind of looking at what are the root causes of poverty and how can we start to address some of those things," she continued. "It's one of those things where it seems super overwhelming, and you don't know where to start, but if we're able to start identifying some of those things and working on things a little bit at a time, we feel like we can start to help make the shift."

The meeting presented a financial report that showed a year-end deficit of just over \$61,000 for 2024.

Overall revenue declined from \$1,343,195 to \$1,149,399, and the

breakdown shows donations and grants as well as fundraising revenue declined, but the organization also gained \$82,500 in provincial grant money along with a big boost in funds from the Winkler Community Foundation.

Expenses meanwhile rose from \$1,096,160 to \$1,210,893, including an increase in wage costs and facility expenses but also a decrease in general and administrative expenses.

It was noted there had been more money put into developing and renovating their space at 555 Main St., and Central Station overall has been making

a strategic effort to build up a cushion and help ensure its sustainability.

The budget for 2025 outlines revenues of about \$982,000 and expenses of around \$920,000 for a proposed surplus of about \$62,000.

Wiebe went on to highlight how the various programs and initiatives of Central Station are built around three key areas where they feel they can make an impact on addressing the level of poverty: mental well-being, housing stability, and economic stability.

"We know with those three things, if we can kind of help to support families in those three key areas ... those that have the desire ... are able to move from the point of poverty to being able to start thriving in a different way," she said.

"If we're able to start putting some strategies in place to be able to help people move beyond worrying about those day to day things all the time ...

"WE KNOW WE'RE IN THIS FOR THE LONG HAUL."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Central Station Community Centre board chair Phillip Vallely and executive director Anita Wiebe at the annual general meeting last week.

we feel we'll be able to impact the level of poverty in Winkler in a different way."

Board chair Phillip Vallely touched on the idea of wanting Central Station to be a place of refuge and to always be a welcoming space where no one is left behind or left out.

The overall hope is to help encourage self reliance, build lasting change, and build sustainable independence for people by investing today to create opportunities for tomorrow.

"We have learned to take the long view ... we know we're in this for the long haul," said Vallely, who emphasized it requires a lot of partnerships.

Wiebe echoed that sentiment, citing the example of partnerships with organizations like the Winkler and District Food Cupboard.

"We have over a hundred volunteers," she added. "There's not many organizations, non-profit organizations, that have that kind of volunteer base to be able to just support so many initiatives."

Looking ahead, Wiebe highlighted

their plan to introduce a social impact report on bringing poverty to light on Feb. 6.

"We're shifting into year two of our poverty reduction plan, so part of that is just going to be a lot of community engagement ... that will be a big focus ... we will be looking for more ways to engage the community."

Warrant issued for semi-truck driver in fatal crash

By Voice staff

Police have put a warrant out for the driver of the semi-truck that killed a Rhineland area mother and her child earlier this month.

On Nov. 20, RCMP charged Navjeet Singh, 25, of Brampton, Ontario, with two counts of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death as well as obstructing a peace officer in relation to the Nov. 15 two-vehicle collision at the intersection of PR 201 and

PR 306 outside Altona.

The RCMP investigation determined Singh had failed to stop at the intersection. The eastbound semi he was driving collided with a southbound SUV being driven by a 35-year-old woman. She was pronounced deceased at the scene. Her eight-year-old daughter was taken to hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries.

Singh was transported to hospital, where he was treated and released.

Since then, police have been unable

to locate Singh, who was believed to be in Winnipeg. As a result, a Canada-wide warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Singh is asked to contact their local police service or the Pembina Valley RCMP at 204-822-5469, call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477, or submit a secure tip online at www.manitobacrimestoppers.com

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Goodbye good luck

No, I'm not leaving. Stop celebrating. I realize reading the headline that it could be misconstrued. Here's what I mean: I am saying goodbye to all the good luck we've been having.

It is Nov. 15th as I am writing this column and it is 10 degrees outside. Crazy. Unreal. We have yet to see any snow. I am not complaining, merely observing.

Also, have you noticed that as of the date I am writing this the Winnipeg Jets have a 15-1 record right now? The strongest opening for a team in NHL history. Ridiculous.

I am pleased (and just as shocked as everyone else) that the only team the Jets have lost to are the mighty Toronto Maple Leafs. As a Leafs fan this pleases me to no end. We have to take what we are given.

I would like to suggest a correlation between no snow and a successful Jets season. Further to this I would suggest that once the snow falls so fall the Jets' fortunes. It almost sounds like a Shakespearean witch's curse.

As a person without a shred of superstition (which I have written about previously) I am not concerned in the least that my little column would have any sort of supernatural effect on the Jets.



By Peter Cantelon

However, those of you who sport playoff beards and stop washing your underwear during the Stanley Cup please feel free to blame me for any future Jets failures. I am happy to take it.

While I have never understood sports superstitions, I am happy to mock them mercilessly. Feel free to send in letters to the editor about your own superstitions and I promise to mock them for you as well.

You know what isn't a superstition? This weird weather we've been having. Sure, warm starts to winter come and go, but the annual trend upward is definitely concerning unless you are looking forward to planning the odd palm tree in your yard at some point in the next 20 years.

Again, this whole climate change scenario has me somewhat conflicted. Given the abundance of peer-reviewed research and data, human-driven climate change is clearly a reality we have to face. Yet I must admit, somewhat sheepishly, to enjoying the warm November days we've had thus far.

Just last night my wife and sister-in-

law and I enjoyed a warm, leisurely walk along Morden's Stephen Street for the annual Wrapping Up a Morden Christmas, where participating businesses stay open to the shockingly late hour of 9 p.m. and offer discounts, etc.

It was wonderful to wander the packed street in relative warmth going from store to store buying stuff and conversing with acquaintances without worrying about frost bite.

But back to the matter at hand. If you were a superstitious person you will by now believe I have cursed the Jets' remaining season after the first snow falls, and you are now cursing me.

This is fine. I will be okay enjoying the lack of snow the same way you enjoy the Jets' success: while it lasts.

[Ed note: Since this column was written, and as of press time Monday, it has not only snowed (a lot) but the Jets have lost games to the Lightning, the Panthers, and the Predators. Thanks a lot, Peter]

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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Box 39, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

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New homes for First Nations members going up in Winnipeg

By Lorne Stelmach

A government funded initiative will provide a housing option for Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation members in Winnipeg.

Representatives of the federal government, City of Winnipeg and Paragon Living in partnership with Ro-

seau River Anishinaabe First Nation Trust last Friday announced a combined investment of \$38.5 million in funding for 95 new homes in Winnipeg.

The Chancellor, located at 939 Chancellor Drive in Winnipeg, will be a seven-storey building with one, two and three bedroom apartments, and

Letters

THE POWER OF KINDNESS

In the heart of Morden, a quiet revolution is waiting to unfold which is not powered by grand gestures, but by the gentle, transformative force of kindness. In today's fast-paced world, kindness often gets overshadowed by the pressures of daily life. Yet, its potential to touch hearts, transform lives and build a positive thriving community.

Picture a cold, blustery morning on Morden's streets. A simple smile shared with a stranger, the offer of a warm clothing to someone braving the cold or holding the door open for someone juggling too many bags. These small acts of kindness may seem inconsequential, but they matter. They are the seeds of change. When we extend kindness, it creates a ripple effect, inspiring others to pass it forward.

Consider the story of myself. One afternoon, I stood in a long line at a local grocery store, worrying about how I would stretch my remaining cash. The woman in front of me noticed my anxiety and quietly paid for my groceries. That single moment of compassion didn't just lighten my burden, it sparked a commitment in me to help others in need. People know me with a general quote that kindness is a general language that everyone even animals understand better than English language.

Kindness is not only contagious but also transformational. Scientific studies have shown that acts of kindness release oxytocin, sometimes called the "love hormone," which reduces stress and fosters feelings of connection. This explains why people often feel a "helper's high" after doing something good for others. Imagine if everyone in Morden embraced kindness as a daily practice, how much lighter

our collective spirits would feel and how much stronger our bonds as a community would become.

Kindness doesn't always require material giving. It can be as simple as taking the time to listen. In Morden, there's a man named Mr. Osorios who often sits on the park bench with his dog, Lulu, watching the world go by. He's not lonely for lack of company, but he treasures the moments when someone stops to chat.

"It reminds me that I'm still part of something bigger," he says. Giving someone your time and attention can be as valuable as any tangible gift.

In our schools, workplaces and homes, cultivating kindness can transform relationships. A teacher who offers words of encouragement to a struggling student or a colleague who checks in on someone having a hard day. These small choices ripple outward, influencing those around them in ways we often cannot measure.

Morden is already a wonderful place to live, but we can make it extraordinary by leaning into kindness. Let's challenge ourselves to notice the opportunities for kindness that surround us daily. Let's teach our children to value empathy and celebrate acts of generosity, no matter how small. Let's choose to build a community where kindness isn't an exception but the rule.

Together, through small, consistent acts of compassion, we can create a Morden where kindness lights every corner, binds every neighbor and leaves no heart untouched. Let's start today. The power is in our hands.

Adebola Adetunji,
Morden



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dignitaries at the future site of The Chancellor, an apartment complex in Winnipeg that will provide affordable housing for members of the Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation.

38 of the 95 units will be affordable with rents below 70 per cent of the median market rent.

The affordable apartments will be open to Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation membership first before being made available to the general public.

Construction began this summer and is expected to be completed within 18 months.

The facility will feature heated underground and surface parking, an outdoor common patio space and a residents lounge and multipurpose room for small events. Most units will have a balcony, and all will have in-

suite laundry as well as included water and high-speed internet.

"We're excited to invest in this building to build a brighter future for Roseau River university students, seniors, and others who wish to live in Winnipeg," said Gary Roberts, chief of Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation. "We envision a building that is a welcome home for members of the general public as well and feel this kind of development is an exemplary way to move reconciliation forward in a positive way that benefits everyone."

Continued on page 11

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“Cooking is my love language”

Farm Hill Kitchen planning to expand into Winkler area

By Siobhan Maas

When Ainsley Marion started Farm Hill Kitchen, a frozen meal service near Morris, in 2023, the affordable and convenient meals were a way of sharing her love for cooking with the community.

“Cooking is my love language,” laughed Marion. “My goal is to keep menu items as affordable as possible, creating convenient meals that aren’t processed. I want to give you an easy meal that you feel good about.”

Marion shared that many young families order multiples of menu items every month, indicating families are eating Farm Hill Kitchen food multiple times a week.

Now, less than a year later, Marion hopes to expand her reach beyond the 110 regular customers in Morris, St. Jean Baptiste, and Winnipeg-Charleswood to include Winkler. She has added this new delivery and pick-up location for the month of December to “gauge interest from the area.” Marion hopes to also offer her

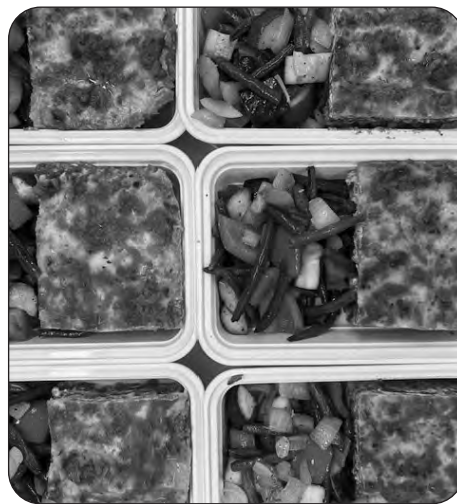
comfort foods as “an easy meal back-up for seniors living in southern Manitoba manors and supported housing complexes, or as something in the freezer if they have company or don’t like the day’s menu.

“Farm Hill Kitchen items are staple foods and assure adult children that their loved ones are eating,” she added.

“It’s hard to gauge exactly what item is liked best with the changing monthly menu, but people do have their comfort foods,” Marion shared. Although her favourite cooking is Italian and she finds “baking bread challenging and rewarding at the same time,” Farm Hill’s most popular homemade dishes include the frozen breakfast sandwiches and burritos and perogy bake and the snacky energy balls.

“Staple monthly menu items are Focaccia bread and a pasta dish of some sort, always changed up a bit, but similar. The creative side of cooking keeps me interested.”

All meals are delivered frozen once per month, in two size options: a family size feeding 5-6 people and an individual sized meal for 2-3 people. The majority of meals are fully cooked, needing only to be thawed and microwaved.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Ainsley Marion of Farm Hill Kitchen, a Morris business offering pre-cooked meals to busy families.



“I’m always looking for feedback on my cooking, your likes and dislikes, items you might want to see on the menu,” said Marion. She does caution potential clients that “although I do control what ingredients go into my meals, I prepare meals in a shared, commercially licensed kitchen space in Morris, so everything is considered ‘may contain.’”

Individuals interested in learning more about the current holiday menu or taste-testing Farm Hill Kitchen’s offerings can visit Marion at the Fall into Christmas Expo on Saturday, Nov. 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Morris Multiplex.

“The Expo is hosting 69 local ven-

dors and two fundraising tables this year,” shared organizer Arien Peterson. “We are welcoming some returning classics from Winnipeg and southern Manitoba and look forward to see the community out and supporting these makers.”

The Morris & District Centennial Museum and Morris School’s Fishing Club are both benefitting from their complimentary booths as they raise funds for their organizations.

Farm Hill Kitchen’s menu, including a classic French tourtière and puff pastry breakfast bake with Bothwell cheeses, can be viewed at farmhill-kitchen.com and is available to order from until Dec. 6.

Early Childhood Ed. diploma program coming to Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden will be home to a program to train child care workers starting in the new year.

The Brandon-based Assiniboine College will offer an accelerated early childhood education (ECE) diploma program starting Jan. 7.

It is welcome news for local child care centres, which not only face a need for more spaces but for trained workers as well.

“We are always thankful there are other ways that education can happen for our staff. As with most child care centres, having qualified ECEs to meet the ratio that we need for licensing is challenging at times,” said Ang Nickel, director of the Winkler Day Care Centre.

“When accredited schools step up and offer what we need, we hope that some of our wonderful child care assistants will step up and work to make it happen for them,” she added. “I really wish that there would have been a program like this when I was going to college for child care.

“It’s the best of both worlds, work-

ing and making money and going to school and making money. I hope the program will do really well. It’s a great way to learn and practice what you’re learning.”

Through the college’s ECE accelerated mentorship program, students attend classes two days per week while gaining hands-on experience working at an early learning centre three days per week.

This “earn while you learn” model allows students to develop their skills in real-world settings while pursuing their studies.

Graduates will obtain their ECE diploma in just 18 months. Students may already be employed at an early learning centre, or seek employment upon starting the program.

The program is an excellent choice for anyone considering a career in early childhood education, regardless of their prior experience in the field, suggested Karen Hargreaves, dean of the School of Health and Human Services at Assiniboine, and there is an advantage for those who are living in the Pembina Valley area to have an opportunity to advance their career in

early learning close to home.

“The students can work in a centre three days a week and then take classes two days a week, so it really benefits the centres because students can apply that learning,” Hargreaves said.

The program was made possible as part of an \$11.4 million investment by the provincial and federal governments to expand ECE training at Assiniboine, and Hargreaves noted the Morden area emerged as a good choice as far as locations.

“We reached out to directors of centres all throughout the province and economic departments as well to see where there was a need, and Morden was identified as an area that really needed more early childhood educators,” she said. “And we had a facility that we could use to deliver the program there.”

Hargreaves sees a good opportunity for the Morden-Winkler region to benefit from this initiative.

“We find that people who train in their own communities usually stay in their own communities to work,” she said. “They don’t have to leave

their communities to go to school. We can bring it to them, which is a great opportunity.”

There will be spaces for up to 20 students. Applications for the program are open now, with spaces still available.

Students interested in this program may qualify for financial supports, including a \$5,000 tuition reimbursement from the Province of Manitoba.

Early learning centres hiring new employees to participate in the program may also be eligible for the provincial staff replacement grant which can be used for staffing to fill the void on those days when a worker is in class for training.

“This increased investment in early childhood learning is an important step in increasing access to this training and encouraging new people to enter and stay working in this field. A career in ECE is not only fulfilling, but also an important piece of our social and economic fabric,” said Hargreaves.

Interested applicants can visit assiniboine.net/ecementorship for more information.

Flyers, firefighters square off for Cheerboard



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Winkler Flyers junior hockey team and members of the Winkler Fire Department met on the ice for the annual Charity Classic

game Sunday afternoon. The firefighters won it 7-6, but the real winners were the Winkler and District Christmas Cheerboard, which received the proceeds from the day. At press time, organizers were still crunching the numbers as to how much was raised. Clockwise from above: Young fans admire the Mark Scheifele autographed jersey up for grabs in the prize auction; three lucky draw winners compete in a hose roll drill; Cheerboard rep Darryl Harder drops the puck with Fire Chief Richard Paetzold, Flyer Kam Thomas, and firefighter Rick Schroeder; Flyer Will Brophy and firefighter Kris Friesen battle for puck possession.



> TRANSIT, FROM PG. 3

on the FCM board, lobbied long and hard for that funding, and he's excited to see it put to good use.

He's especially keen on the flexibility of the system.

"The other ideas that were presented to us originally were all bus systems," he shared, "and it was very expensive and we had no idea where would the bus routes be and where should they be and so on. And we still don't.

"I'm very pleased that we were able to come up with this, and I think that's why we're actually able to move ahead, because it allows for flexibility. The idea is to learn ... in three years' time we will have a really good idea what the future of transit looks like in Winkler."

Full details of the Winkler On-Demand Transit system, including links to the app, can be found online at www.cityofwinkler.ca/p/winkler-on-demand-transit.

Attention Kids...

What's *Your* Christmas story?

Pick one of the following themes and tell us your best story:

1. Sam's mother was the hardest person on the planet to buy a gift for, but he had the perfect idea ...
2. When a family goes to bed, their holiday decorations come to life! What do they get up to?
3. Does your family have a unique holiday or wintertime tradition? Tell us about it!
4. It's a SNOW DAY! How do you enjoy it?

We have TWO grand prizes up for grabs!
One K-4 and one Gr. 5-8 student will each win a free movie party at Landmark Cinemas for them and five friends, complete with snacks.

Please include your first and last name, age/grade, town, and full contact information on your entry. Stories should be no longer than 700 words in length. Send your story to: news@winklermordenvoice.ca

DEADLINE: Friday, Dec. 6, 2024



The Three Wise Men bring gifts to the Christ child.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The EMM Church's annual living nativity, *From Everywhere to Bethlehem*, drew thousands of people to Winkler Park last weekend to see the Christmas story brought to life. Organizers were still crunching the numbers at press time, but every person who came was asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Winkler and District Food Cupboard in lieu of admission. A craft/bake sale also raised funds for other local charitable causes.



From Everywhere to Bethlehem

A centurion queries women in the market about what they've heard.



Angels proclaim from on high.



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> MCI AGM, FROM PG. 4

of 20 students, it just increases the burden.

"There is donor fatigue. They're passionate and committed, but they've carried the weight. So that is part of reaching out and growing our base, to not only spread the opportunity, but also the responsibility."

Above all, Harms emphasized the importance of maintaining the school's mission and identity.

"There's something special about MCI. Seeing the way the kids interact, there's something unique. I'm very relational and I like to invest in people. I walk down the

hallway and they've been shaking my hand and welcoming me here. I got a round of applause when I was introduced to the group, and I was speechless. My daughter is also attending as a Grade 9 student, and it's been really encouraging getting to know this community.

"I would ask parents to consider what kind of community they want their kids to grow up in. Who are you trusting your kids to? It's an important question. I know my calling is setting that culture and being part of it.

"Many generations of students and staff have come through here. Every leadership has led with a certain style and conviction. Everyone works from their strengths. It's a good thing to reflect on those. Times change, and we need to deliver in ways that are appealing to students and stakeholders, alike."



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Sharing smiles

PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Thousands of smiles were brought to the faces of Altona residents on Nov. 20 thanks to a simple cookie. Volunteers set out in blustery conditions to deliver a free Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie to every resident in town, courtesy of The Community Exchange (TCE) and a host of sponsors. In the end, over 4,000 cookies were delivered throughout town by about 50 volunteers, decorated by another 20 or so volunteers earlier that day. From left: Among the volunteers making deliveries was Irv Braun, Tara Funke-Friesen and Al Friesen, and Kayla Giesebrecht and Diana Wiebe.



> HOUSING, FROM PG. 7

"Everyone deserves an affordable place to call home in their own community," said Terry Duguid, Winnipeg South MP on behalf of Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing Infrastructure and Communities. "Today's investment for The Chancellor is delivering just that, adding 95 more homes for Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nations residents and more.

"This is how the National Housing Strategy is working with organizations and communities to provide more safe and affordable housing across Manitoba."

Funding for this project includes \$32.2 million from the federal government through the affordable housing fund, \$3.5 million from Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation and \$2.8 million in tax rebates from the City of Winnipeg.

It comes under the National Housing Strategy, which is a 10-year, \$115 billion plan. As of September 2024, the federal government has committed \$57 billion to support the creation of over 156,000 units and the repair of over 297,000 units.

The program prioritizes those in greatest need including seniors, Indigenous, people experiencing or at

risk of homelessness, and women and children fleeing violence.

The affordable housing fund provides funding through low-interest and/or forgivable loans or contributions to partnered organizations for new affordable housing and the renovation and repair of existing, afford-

able and community housing.

This is a \$14.6 billion program under the national housing strategy that gives priority to projects that help people who need it most including women and children fleeing family violence, seniors, indigenous, people living with disabilities, those with

mental health or addiction issues, veterans and young adults.

As of September 2024, the Government of Canada has committed \$10.34 billion to support the creation of over 40,000 units and the repair of over 166,000 units through the affordable housing fund.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
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| Double Original Cheeseburger Combos \$16.99 <small>Includes two 1/3 lb* Double Original Cheeseburger Signature Stackburgers, medium drinks and regular fries. *Processed Weight. Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with other offers. Must be presented at time of purchase. Void if altered, copied, sold, exchanged or where restricted by law. Plus tax. No substitutions. At participating locations only. Offer ends December 8th, 2024.</small> | Bacon Two Cheese Deluxe Combos \$19.99 <small>Includes two 1/3 lb* Bacon Two Cheese Deluxe Signature Stackburgers, medium drinks and regular fries. *Processed Weight. Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with other offers. Must be presented at time of purchase. Void if altered, copied, sold, exchanged or where restricted by law. Plus tax. No substitutions. At participating locations only. Offer ends December 8th, 2024.</small> | 4-PC Chicken Strip Baskets EXCLUDES DRINK 4 CAN DINE \$34.99 <small>Includes four 4-pc chicken strips and regular fries. and four dips. Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with other offers. Must be presented at time of purchase. Void if altered, copied, sold, exchanged or where restricted by law. Plus tax. No substitutions. At participating locations only. Offer ends December 8th, 2024.</small> |
| Medium Sundae \$3 <small>Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with other offers. Must be presented at time of purchase. Void if altered, copied, sold, exchanged or where restricted by law. Plus tax. No substitutions. At participating locations only. Offer ends December 8th, 2024.</small> | Any DQ® OR Blizzard® Cake \$3 OFF <small>Limit one coupon per customer. Not valid with other offers. Must be presented at time of purchase. Void if altered, copied, sold, exchanged or where restricted by law. Plus tax. No substitutions. At participating locations only. Offer ends December 8th, 2024.</small> | Winkler Location ONLY |

The **Voice**

News tip? Call 204-325-6888

Morris students win Judge's Award at robotics competition

By Sean Conway

Morris School students competed in the Fisher Robotics VEX V5 Robotics High Stakes competition in Minnesota last weekend.

Team Blue Bombur included Cody Dueck, brothers Josh Hildebrandt and Andrew Hildebrandt, and Kayden Grattan.

It was the group's first tournament, but they certainly held their own, shared robotics teacher JP Jamieson.

"After a morning of qualifying matches, and lots of repairs due to the rough and tumble competition in the robot ring, the team was knocked out of the playoffs in the round of 16," he said.

But they didn't come home empty-handed—the team won the tournament's Judge's Award, which is given to the group who shows exemplary effort or perseverance and demonstrates effective communication skills, teamwork, professionalism, and a student-centered ethos.

"With one tournament under their belt, the students already have hardware purchase and building plans in

mind for the next time they take to the field," Jamieson said.

The VEX V5 Robotics Competition (V5RC), presented by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, is the largest and fastest growing middle school and high school robotics program globally. Students, with guidance from their teachers and mentors, build and code robots.

The robotics foundation seeks to spark interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) by engaging students in hands-on, sustainable, and affordable curriculum-based robotics programs.

"The entire system is designed to make sure students get and stay interested in STEM," said Jamieson. "They get to develop and practice skills that will help in high school, post-secondary, and in the workforce."

Manitoba doesn't currently have credits or curriculum for robotics. Morris School submitted its own course to teach introductory robotics, which was approved by the province and launched in September. The course is for Gr. 9 and up to get hands-on with the hardware and attempt to



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY ARISTOTLE CEDILLA

Kayden Grattan, Andrew Hildebrandt, Cody Dueck, and Josh Hildebrandt, brought home the Judge's Award from the Fisher Robotics VEX V5 Robotics High Stakes Competition in Minnesota last weekend.

solve a variety of problems using the engineering process.

"I had no experience when I joined the club," shared Andrew Hildebrandt, 14. "I've learned how the robot works. How to build a computer robot and code it."

"I joined to have fun with my friends

and learn new things," said Dueck, 14.

Each year, an engineering challenge is presented by VEX to students in the form of a game

"Students are working on building,

Continued on page 13

The magic of Gretna's Candy Cane Forest

By Lori Penner

A Gretna resident has found a way to make the Christmas season merrier—and sweeter.

Since 2022, Deidre James and her family have provided what they call a "Candy Cane Forest" for their friends and neighbours. The branches of the evergreen trees in their front yard are decorated with the timeless treats, and any passerby is invited to help themselves.

James recalled how the concept began.

"Years ago, my son came home from daycare absolute-

ly over the moon about a Candy Cane Tree he and his friends had discovered during a walk. As he told me all about it, I realized how much joy something as simple as a candy cane could bring. That moment sparked the idea, and I decided I wanted to share that same kind of joy with our own community."

They started with just two small Christmas trees. Since then, they've added a few more, and are currently keeping five trees loaded with candy canes.

There's a heartfelt longing behind this project. James says things just haven't been the same in town since two of their social hubs closed.

"Our town has been without a convenience store or restaurant for over a year now, so we don't cross paths as a community as much as we used to. The Candy Cane Forest has become a small but meaningful way to bring people together. It's a chance for kids to get outside and connect, all while enjoying the fun of discovering new candy cane flavours."

Her kids love being a part of this colourful offering.

"They visit it often and help restock the candy canes whenever it's running low."

The Candy Cane Forest is set up right along the sidewalk.

"So we encourage kids and adults to grab a candy cane anytime," says James. "Whether

they're on their way home from school, heading to the post office, or just out for a walk, it's there for everyone to enjoy."

James says the popularity of the Candy Cane Forest reached an all-time high this year.

"We've had some new families move into the area, and our neighborhood is filled with little ones who stop by regularly."

Why candy canes? Well, aside from the easy way they hook over the branches, James has some cherished memories attached to them.

"I'm always on the lookout for unique candy cane flavours to share with the community. As a kid, I remember Santa giving me a butterscotch candy cane at the mall, and I've never been able to find those again as an adult. We're only a week into the season and have already given out nearly 150 candy canes. It's a great start and we love to see it."

She plans to continue this offering for many years to come.

"Last winter I ran into a man at the post office who told me the Candy Cane Forest is 'just magic' for his grandkids. The truth is, it's magic for me too, and I'm already looking forward to setting it up again next year. Every time I see someone stop by or hear their excitement; it makes me feel like a kid again. The snow, the lights, the rosy cheeks—it really is magic."

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➤ ROBOTICS COMPETITION, FROM PG. 12

modifying, and coding their robots to move objects, pick up and place plastic rings on stakes of various heights, and climb a tower in the middle of the ring," explained Jamieson. "Typical matches have two robots in a red al-

liance taking on two robots in a blue alliance."

The competition is played on a 12' x 12' square field between two alliances, each made up of a pair of teams. Each team competes in a timed au-

tonomous and driver controlled robot matches.

When they're there, teams have to have a meeting with their new alliance partners before each match to figure out strategies that work based on their respective strengths.

"Students have to code for an autonomous period, where they sit back and watch their robots follow their commands," said Jamieson, "and then a driver controlled period where one driver gets to operate the robot with a video game style controller."

"You can spend a bunch of time on something to find out it doesn't work. I don't like that," said Josh Hildebrandt, 16.

The object of the game is to attain more points than the opposing alliance. The rules can be thought of as "constraints" that define this game, just as engineers begin any design project by defining their constraints. Documentation is provided that contains the list of constraints that are available for a competitor to strategize, design, and build their robots.

Teamwork is key as the students figure how they'll write their engineering journal, who designs, who builds, who codes, who drives, and who fixes things when they inevitably

break.

"I really like the building aspect and coding aspect," said Grattan, 15. "I like a lot of it."

Team Blue Bombur will be competing in three tournaments in and around Grand Forks in the USA over the next few months, as there are no competitions in Manitoba or Saskatchewan. The families involved have been great help volunteering to get their students, robots, and gear to and from the tournaments.

Sponsorship has been key to getting the robotics program moving. Local business leaders have toured the school's technology classroom to better understand what is involved. Students developed their own jersey that acknowledges the many supporters of the program.

There's a lot of collaboration involved in getting a robot finished on time, and getting all the gear you need to a tournament, Jamieson shared. The cost of a robot starts at approximately \$1,600 before tax and shipping, and resembles Meccano building sets. There is lots more equipment that can be purchased and added like a variety of sensors, and pneumatics, which is something the team is working towards.



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY ARISTOTLE CEDILLA

Morris School's Team Blue Bombur in action at last weekend's tournament.

Altona Community Christmas Dinner returns

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A beloved community tradition returns this holiday season in Altona.

Last year, the Altona Community Christmas Dinner took a break after over 35 years of serving up food and fellowship on Christmas Day.

The longtime organizers felt it was time to step back, and though they had hoped someone else would step in to fill the gap, no one did in time for 2023.

That's changed this year, with Margarita Friesen spearheading the dinner's return.

"Ang Stoesz has passed me the torch," Friesen says. Stoesz led the dinner's organizing team for decades. "I'm going to try very hard not to fumble it, because she has left some very big shoes to fill."

Friesen met Stoesz while the pair were volunteering with the local food bank. Friesen, a newcomer to the area, was sharing a bit about her family's Christmas traditions.

"I was just talking to her about how I grew up volunteering on Christmas Day and how important that was to be able to continue that tradition with my family.

"We were very blessed to be able to have Christmas in the traditional

sense, so it was a way for [my parents] to instill in us the importance of volunteering and giving back to the community while also being a gentle reminder that not everyone is as lucky as we were."

Friesen was wondering where she might be able to continue that tradition of Christmas Day service in Altona, and the conversation turned to the community dinner and how much it was missed.

"Long story short, that's how I ended up in the role—through a conversation with the right person at the right time," Friesen says. "Ang has been amazing about guiding me through the process. She's been a phone call away, but she has also opened the door to and been supportive of me having ideas for this year as well."

The 2024 Christmas dinner will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre (197 10th Ave. NW, Altona).

Admission is by donation. Thanks to local sponsorships that help cover most of the event's costs, the bulk of the donations collected that day will go to the Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund.

"In no way do we make any money from this," Friesen notes. "We have

churches that have come on board to help us. The Town of Altona has given us a grant. It's really a community-run even that I am just so honoured and humbled to be helping to put together."

This year's event will keep many of the traditions of the past—as always, it offers a hearty Christmas dinner (turkey, ham, and all the fixings)—while also adding some new things.

Chief among them is what Friesen is calling Everyday Angels, a volunteer role that will be filled by local youth. It's something she recalls from her own childhood volunteering at community Christmas meals.

"Their job was to, if you saw someone sitting by themselves, go sit with them," she says, explaining kids were encouraged to grab an extra dessert and join the person's table. "It gave us an opening to be able to sit down with someone."

"I remember hearing some of the best stories from these people's lives. You would instantly get a smile on their face. And to me, that's the true meaning of Christmas. It's community. It's having a sense of being a part of something bigger and sharing a meal with someone else."

The dinner is open to all residents of Altona and RM of Rhineland, regard-

less of economic need. They're preparing for upwards of 300 people.

"It's not just for people who might not have a Christmas meal," Friesen stresses. "It's also for people who might be looking for that sense of community, that connection, that social piece. We invite absolutely everyone."

A Handivan driver will be on hand that day to help people get to and from the dinner.

Friesen recently put a call out for the small army of volunteers needed to put the dinner on.

"We are welcoming volunteers for all three shifts," she says, noting there are a variety of tasks that need to be done, "so people can pick and play to their strengths."

"We invite each shift to be able to also have time to sit down and enjoy the meal, so that's how we worked out the timing of the shifts," she adds.

For more information on getting involved, call 204-304-6338 or email altonachristmasdinner@gmail.com.

If you can't make it Christmas Day but would like to make a donation towards the dinner, you can do so at the Access Credit Union under the Altona Community Christmas Dinner account.

Winkler Bible Camp Glow in the Country runs Dec. 2-15

By Lorne Stelmach

What began as an initiative during the pandemic has now become a holiday tradition for the Winkler Bible Camp.

Staff and volunteers have been busy preparing for the annual Christmas Glow in the Country fundraising display, and they are again expecting large crowds for the show.

"It turned out to be a phenomenal way of connection during that time," executive director Dale Wiebe said in recalling how the event was a way to still have some degree of togetherness through COVID-19 public gathering restrictions. "For us, now, it has shifted, but it has become a major thing for us ... it's pretty neat how something like this turned into something more than you expected."

People have two options to enjoy the light displays, which are set up along what is about a two kilometre route throughout the camp's property of Hwy. 3.

There is the fundraising drive-thru meal and light experience taking place Dec. 2-5 from 5 to 6:30 p.m..



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Winkler Bible Camp is once again setting up an approximately two kilometre stretch of light displays at its property on Hwy. 3 next month.

You pay by donation, but you need to reserve in advance as there is limited capacity.

You can also enjoy the drive-thru light experience without supper Dec. 6-15 from 5:30 to 7:55 p.m. at a cost of \$20 per vehicle.

The evening features apple cider

and candy cane stations as part of the Christmas displays—which includes a nativity scene with live animals. You can also tune into the Christmas Glow radio station for some festive music as you enjoy the show.

"We've been setting up for months," shared Wiebe, noting they aim to

change it up a bit each year.

"We've made it longer again this year. Last year I think we had about 80 exhibits, and this year we've got 110, so we've made it quite a bit fuller again. The route is the same, but it's fuller, and we'll have lots going on."


"It's always a bit unique. One of the things that happens when we set it up here is the scenes are like stories ... it's not just lights, it's scenes, and people seem to enjoy that aspect of it."

Wiebe said it always feels very worthwhile to put in all of the time and effort to make it happen.

"All summer long we have people talking about it," he said. "Clearly it's something the public enjoys ... they really enjoy the effort that we put into the lights and getting it all set up."

"I think in the last couple of years we've been getting around 12,000 people who come through ... so it must be hitting a chord in regards to people finding joy."

You can find more information and make your reservation online at christmasglowinthecountry.com.



National Addictions Awareness

Psychoactive substance use is a costly issue

According to the latest data from the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, the total annual cost of substance use in Canada is just over \$49 billion. National Addictions Awareness Week (NAAW) takes place from November 24 to 30, 2024, providing an opportunity to increase awareness about the impact of this issue.

The costs and harms associated with alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, opioids and other substances like depressants and central nervous system stimulants can be categorized into four groups. They are, in order of significance:

1. Loss of productivity at work, including the value of lost work time due to premature death and short- or long-term disability
2. Health care costs, including hospital stays, emergency room visits and prescription drugs
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As a member of society, it's essential to educate yourself. Learning about addictions will help you break down stereotypes and provide much-needed support to individuals battling addiction and their families.

Are you struggling with addiction to a psychoactive substance? Talk to a healthcare professional to find out about the help available in your area.

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**Morden**

**The Winkler Morden Voice**

Cottonwood troupe bring A Christmas Carol to the stage

By Lori Penner

If you're seeking to immerse yourself in the Christmas spirit, Cottonwood Community Drama has the perfect festive offering for you! This December, the theatre group will present a unique rendition of the timeless classic, *A Christmas Carol*.

This version, adapted by John Jakes, departs from traditional interpretations by incorporating a distinctive dramatic concept. As the curtain rises, Charles Dickens himself is introduced to the audience, prepared to deliver one of his famed platform readings that once filled auditoriums across Europe and America. The story unfolds behind him, with Dickens weaving in and out of the action, observing, performing small roles, and even assisting with costume changes.

The Buhler Hall stage will transform into the bustling streets of Victorian England, the very backdrop that inspired Dickens when he wrote the novella in 1843.

"It offers a very unique perspective of this beloved story," says director Charles Klippenstein.

Klippenstein adds that the production is filled with energy and excitement. The 24-member cast, comprising seasoned local actors, including Klippenstein and tech director Bruce Penner, collectively play around 40 different roles.

"We've been rehearsing since September, and it's all coming together really well," he

says. "It puts a bit of a different spin on the original production, and I think audiences of all ages will enjoy it. And the timing, right at the beginning of the busy Christmas season, is perfect."

The inspiring story behind the creation of *A Christmas Carol* adds to its relevance. Dickens wrote the story in just six weeks, fueled by his desire to address the plight of the poor and to emphasize the importance of generosity.

"It's an inspiring classic. Most people are familiar with it. It's been adapted in many ways. I thought it would be rewarding to put it on stage for the times we live in," Klippenstein says. "There's some encouragement there. These three spirits help us face our past, manage our present, and carry on into our future."

He emphasizes that the story also prompts viewers to reflect on their priorities.

"It begs the questions: what's valuable, what do we value, and is it worth valuing? We put a lot of stock in wealth, in what we earn and what we have. But at the end of the day, caring for people, building relationships, and spending time with others are the most valuable things."

The performances will run Dec. 5, 6, and 7 at 7:30 p.m. with a Sunday matinee on Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$15 for 17 & under and 55+. To purchase, go to www.mciblues.net or call 204-327-5891.



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY JANNA WIEBE

Cottonwood Community Drama brings *A Christmas Carol* to the Cretna stage next month.

Sharing an appreciation of the Amish culture

By Lorne Stelmach

A visit a number of years ago to an Amish community in the United States led to a friendship that has taken a Morden resident back there now many times.

Dave Stobbe was at the Morden Activity Centre Nov. 20 to share about his experiences and the respect he's developed for the Amish culture.

"While visiting the picturesque Amish area, I developed friendships with many Amish people, and I've come to appreciate their unique lifestyle," he shared.

While visiting family in South Bend, Indiana, Stobbe came across Shippshewana, a small town nestled within a bustling Amish area.

While there, he took a tour in Menno-Hof, which is a large interpretive centre that tells the story of Amish, Mennonite, and Hutterite Anabaptists. He has since been back seven times and volunteered there for a



PHOTO AT RIGHT BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Mordenite Dave Stobbe has spent a fair bit of time learning about the Amish in Indiana. He shared stories of some of his adventures in a talk at the Morden Activity Centre last week.

month at a time.

He recalled how one day when he was there and going for a walk, he grabbed his camera to take a photo, and an Amish gentleman came over to see him. They have been close friends ever since.

"I went to church with them, and I've had all sorts of adventures," said Stobbe, who acknowledged he is by no means



an expert but has had enough experience and gained enough knowledge to perhaps dispel some myths and misunderstandings.

Continued on page 17

Winkler Flyers get a taste of tactical training



By Lorne Stelmach

A day of training together was a win-win for both the Winkler Flyers and the Regional Support Tactical Team (RSTT) of the local police departments.

Members of both the police services and the junior hockey team recognized the commonalities between the two in relation to the importance of teamwork.

"There are just so many parallels ... when you think through the teamwork side of things and the trust, being able to count on and rely on everyone ... especially the trust and communication," said Matt Melo, general manager and head coach of the Flyers.

"There's a lot of good crossover. We can see firsthand that correlation," agreed Cst. Phil Letkeman, a Winkler police officer and tactical team member.

The day came about as a result of the team reaching out to Letkeman, who knows some of the coaching staff.

"We were wanting to come up with an idea that would be fun for them to do as a team building day ... and the more we discussed it, we came up with the idea that our tactical team would do an event with them.

"The players themselves had no idea what this day was going to be like until they showed up," said Letkeman, who noted they broke it up into a number of stages.

One station involved the Winkler police K9 unit, while another involved exercises using the service's training house and some of their tools. Another one involved a range of other equipment such as drones and breaching, and there was a fitness and physical component such as carrying someone, breaking through a door, and running up and down a set of stairs.

"When the Flyers wanted to do a team building exercise, we thought it was the perfect opportunity to kind of display what we do," said Letkeman. "Not everyone knows what we do or even that we are here. It's always nice

Winkler Flyers players joined the Regional Support Tactical Team police officers at their training site last week to try their hand at various exercises and tactics.

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

when we can let the public know that we're here and what we're capable of to keep people safe."

"It was an incredible opportunity for us as a team builder. We're always kind of looking for ways that we can really develop and grow as a team," said Melo.

"The other side of that would be to partner with organizations in our community, to get to build relationships, get to know people," he added.

"I also just think it was really special for our guys to get to witness what men and women in our community are doing on a day to day, week to week basis and how hard they work to protect our communities," said Melo. "I know many of our guys were surprised. It was a really cool learning experience.



"For them to invest in our guys, it was something that we couldn't pass up, and we just feel really grateful for it."

"It was awesome. It was lots of fun for us. We had a good time out there," said defenceman Sully Ross.

"We got to bash in a door, which was pretty fun ... we did a little bit of house SWAT ... we got to see what they do when they get a call and some of the equipment. The guys had a blast doing it."

He agreed that it was interesting to see how the tactical team relies on a lot of the same things as the Flyers.

"You can see how important it is ... the teamwork."



The Funnies



PV Pride marks Trans Day of Remembrance

By Lorne Stelmach

A special evening last weekend offered trans and gender diverse people as well as allies an opportunity to remember those lost over the past year.

The hope for the Trans Day of Remembrance at the Pembina Hills Arts Council in Morden Saturday was that people would feel the love and support of the larger 2SLGBTQIA+ community and its allies.

Kat Basso, chairperson of Pembina Valley Pride, explained the day was created "to remember the trans and gender diverse people who died in the previous year due to the continued transphobia and violence that we see."

Trans Day of Remembrance was first observed in 1999 to memorialize the murders of Rita Hester and Chanelle Pickett. After speaking with other trans folks about the murders, Gwendolyn Ann Smith organized a vigil in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood to honour them.

Trans Day of Remembrance is now observed around the world each year on Nov. 20 and serves as a reminder of the devastating effects of transphobia.

The local event, which was delayed a few days due to poor weather, included a few speakers or presentations, including Basso. They also read out names of known trans people lost in Canada this year.

Basso said it is difficult to gauge the scale of the people lost because, in many cases, it is not known publicly or acknowledged.

"It's really hard to say exactly how prevalent it is ... I would say it happens more often than people would be aware of partly because it's so hard to necessarily identify people within that community," Basso suggested.

The event also just offered a good opportunity for people to come together and to raise awareness.

"We don't have a physical place for people to gather as Pembina Valley Pride ... so gathering in these kinds of



SUPPLIED PHOTO

A Trans Day of Remembrance ceremony was held at the Pembina Hills Art Gallery in Morden Saturday.

spaces and creating that sense of community allows people to find more support," said Basso.

"This also helps people in the Pembina Valley to feel less alone because it can be a really difficult and heavy day, and it gives allies the chance to show their support too," Basso added.

"I know for a fact there's a lot more support in the area than a lot of peo-

ple realize, but people are afraid to come out as trans, and a lot of people are also nervous to come out as allies," Basso added. "I've had a lot of people come out to me as a supportive person whereas they may not make that something that is apparent to other people.

"It's so much harder to find that sense of community."

> AMISH PRESENTATION, FROM PG. 15

He explained the Amish are Anabaptists, and there is a population of about 400,000 in the world concentrated mainly in the United States. He noted there at one time had been an Amish church at Vita in Manitoba with 11 families who had come from Ontario, but they moved to Minnesota.

Stobbe touched on the things that really most matter to the Amish.

"Community is very important ... when they have communion in spring, you have to make peace with everybody in the church," he noted as one example.

They seek simplicity in their lives, and they seek separation from the world, although that doesn't mean they are old fashioned, he added.

"The Amish aren't backwards. They've adopted things like solar panels on their buggy roofs," Stobbe noted. "They're very efficient in how they do things.

"The Amish want to be distinctive," he continued. "They don't feel odd and outstanding. They want to show who they are and show their faith.

"They're not against electricity. They're against the world coming in," Stobbe explained. "They'll make their own power ... they're not against the technology. They're against the technology threatening what they believe is important.

"They have all the earthliness and the problems that we have," he later added in referring to the community also having to deal with issues related to such things as alcohol use.

Peace and forgiveness are also important to the Amish, and Stobbe noted he had not really encountered "shunning" as we may see on TV shows or movies about the Amish.

As well, Stobbe emphasized the importance of family in these communities.

"They really invest in their kids ... these Amish really take care of their kids," said Stobbe, who recalled one statistic that estimated 75 to 80 per cent of youth stay Amish. He also made reference to a youth centre called The Cove, which offered a range of amenities such as room for basketball games and baseball dia-

monds.

Stobbe also spoke about his experiences with the Amish church, and noted one key difference from Mennonite churches, for example, is each Amish church is very much independent and not part of a large conferences like the Mennonite churches.

"You go to church by where you live. You don't pick a church. And there are about 6,000 Amish churches," he estimated. "An Amish church has 30 to 40 families, and they live all within walking distance or a buggy ride.

"An Amish guy had been instructed to meet me and be my tour guide to church," he recalled. "I hear church is long, and I'm pretty nervous for a three hour church service."

He recalled being seated at the back alongside elders, and after a second song, all the ministers got up and left.

"They're picking the speaker for the service," he explained. "The first minister then gets up, and he doesn't know what he's going to preach."

After perhaps another 40 minutes, the ministers again leave and pray, then return, and a second minister

gets up to preach.

"I'm told what they do is they affirm, yes, he was on track or he could have been firmer with this and this," said Stobbe.

He also highlighted aspects of their farming and how it was very on a smaller scale, as he suggested a one mile section had about 30 farms and perhaps 16 small businesses.

Stobbe also noted how the Amish are not so sheltered that they don't travel.

"The train is full of Amish people travelling all over ... they're not afraid of cars," he explained.

"I drive a buggy, I'm not going to kill someone," he added. "So why would I need a car? Besides, it costs so much to operate ... it's worked for 500 years, so why would I want to mess with that?"

Stobbe concluded with some thoughts about what he has learned from his Amish friends.

"I couldn't live like them, but I respect and appreciate their way of life, and I'm grateful to know them. They've taught me much ... my faith should inform more of my life. My church community is vital."

sports & recreation

Female Hawks down Capitals

By Lorne Stelmach

It was a week of mixed results for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

After losing 4-1 last Wednesday to the Eastman Selects, the Hawks rebounded to earn a 4-1 win over the Central Plains Capitals Friday.

Madison Froese did her best to keep the Hawks in the game against the Selects as she stopped 48 of 52 shots from Eastman, who have been battling with the Winnipeg Avros for first place in the standings.

Pembina Valley trailed 1-0 and 3-0 at the intermissions, but they managed to break the shutout on a goal by Rory Perrin with 5:45 remaining in the game.

Casey O'Brien scored a pair of goals to lead the Hawks to the win over Central Plains while Kasia Rakowski made 25 saves with the Hawks holding a 41-26 edge in shots on goal. Hayden Arkle and Abigail Brigg also scored for Pembina Valley.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley Hawks goaltender Kasia Rakowski keeps a close eye on this incoming point shot in Friday's home game against the Central Plains Capitals. Rakowski made 25 saves in the 4-1 Hawks win.

Pembina Valley then visited Niverville Monday evening for a rematch against Eastman. Results were not available at press time.

Going into the Monday game, the Hawks remained in the middle of the pack in the standings at 5-8-0 for 10 points.

This weekend has Pembina Valley hosting Yellowhead Friday and then heading to Winnipeg to face the Ice Saturday afternoon.

Winkler Flyers fall to Stampeters, beat Pistons

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers found themselves on the losing side of a close overtime game last Friday night.

They squared off against the Swan Valley Stampeters here in Winkler.

Will Lyons drew first blood with the opening goal midway through the second period, only to have the Stampeters return the favour just five minutes later.

The same thing happened in period three: Nicolas Mckee and Kam Thomas pulled Winkler into the lead 3-1, but Swan Valley matched them goal for goal a handful of minutes later, forcing overtime.

There, it was the Stampeters' Landen Gulutzan who scored the game winner.

Rylan Benner was in net for Winkler in the OT loss, making 22 saves off the 26 sent his way. His teammates had

41 shots on goal.

The Flyers shook off the close defeat the next night as they welcomed the Steinbach Pistons to town.

Winkler let the visitors have just one goal, the only one in the first period, before pulling ahead 3-1 in the second thanks to Brody Beauchemin and Brady Craik. Beauchemin scored

again in the game's final seconds after the Pistons pulled their goalie for the extra man.

Liam Ernst was between the posts in the 3-1 win, making 29 saves as Steinbach outshot Winkler 30-28.

Winkler is currently in third place in the MGEU East Division standings with a record of 15-6-1 and 31

points, trailing the Steinbach Pistons in first place (17-4-1, 35 points) and the Portage Terriers in second (16-9, 32 points).

This week, the Flyers are in Wayseecappo Tuesday night and then Selkirk on Friday. On Sunday they host the Winnipeg Blues

Twisters fall to last place in MMJHL

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters junior hockey club continues to struggle this season. The Morris-based MMJHL team is now 3-14-1, good for last place in the league standings.

On Nov. 21, the Twisters lost 8-4 to the Stonewall Jets. The Twisters' goals were scored by Dominic Rooney, Ry-

lan Keck, Vlad Stepic, and Darby Olson, while Darion Penner and Maysen Mazurat shared the goal and made 41 net saves in the loss.

The next night on Nov. 22, the Twisters had their best win of the season when they knocked off the top-ranked Charleswood Hawks by a 5-4 scoreline. Ketema Wall led the charge with

a pair of goals, while Josh Guilford, Cohen Thomas and Matthew Bighetty had the Twisters' other goals. Maysen Mazurat was excellent as he stopped 45 shots in goal for the win.

On Nov. 24, the Twisters returned to earth when they lost 7-3 to the Fort Garry/Fort Rouge Twins. Rylan Keck

Continued on page 19

Calvert and Kang capture titles at DEKALB Superspiel

By Ty Dilello

The DEKALB Superspiel, Manitoba's biggest World Curling Tour event of the season, was played this past weekend at the Morris Curling Club.

From Nov. 21-24, 20 women's teams and 20 men's teams gave the local curling fans quite the show. Teams came to Morris from all over, including the many provinces of Canada, the United States, Japan, and South Korea.

On the women's side of the event, South Korea's Bobae Kang defeated South Korea's Eunjung Kim 4-1 in Sunday night's championship final.

Kang earned \$10,000 for the victory.

Winnipeg's Kristy Watling did the best of any Manitoba teams in the field on the ladies' side as they reached the semi-finals before falling to Kang.

Braden Calvert of Winnipeg (Corey Chambers, Kyle Kurz, Brendan Bilawka) took home the men's title in Morris with a 7-4 victory in the final over Winnipeg's Brett Walter to also win the \$10,000 grand prize.

In addition to Calvert and Walter, two other Manitoba teams reached the playoffs in Winnipeg's Hayden Forrester and Virden's Jace Freeman.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Winnipeg's Braden Calvert and his team of Corey Chambers, Kyle Kurz and Brendan Bilawka captured the \$10,000 grand prize for winning the 2024 DEKALB Superspiel at the Morris Curling Club.

Royals, Wild post solid wins in SEMHL action

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The local team posted wins in South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League action this past week.

The Winkler Royals crushed the visiting Warren Mercs 10-4 Sunday night.

Aaron Lewadniuk and Justin Augert both scored twice, while singles came courtesy of Brett Bergman, Phil Letkeman, Mitch Dyck, Marcus Neufeld, Adam Henry, and Colton Harder.

In net for Winkler was Travis Klasen, who made 45 saves as the Mercs outshot the Royals 49-41.

The Red River Wild, meanwhile, made short work of the visiting Portage Islanders Saturday night.

TJ Matuszewski, Justin Baudry, and

Jonah Wasylak each contributed two goals to the tally, with the other coming from Cody Siemens.

Jayden Catellier made 44 saves between the posts for Red River. Shots on goal were 46-31 in favour of the Islanders.

The Wild also squared off against the Hawks in Notre Dame Monday night. Results were not available at

press time.

Meanwhile, the Morden Bombers had the week off.

In the standings, Springfield is in first place with a 5-1 record and 10 points. Ste. Anne is in second with a 4-1 record, eight points, and a game in hand over the other eight-point teams (all 4-2): Warren, Red River, and Notre Dame. Winkler is in sixth place at

2-3-0-1 for five points. Carman (2-3), Morden (1-3), Portage (1-5), and Ile des Chenes (0-3-1) round out the bottom four.

Coming up, Winkler is in Carman Wednesday night and then plays in Ile des Chenes Saturday, and the Wild play the Bombers in Morden Saturday.

Split weekend for male PV Hawks

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks split their weekend double-

header with the Norman Northstars in Thompson.

The Hawks doubled up Norman 8-4 in game one Saturday but then fell 5-2

in game two Sunday.

It was tied 1-1 after 20 minutes in the opener, but Pembina Valley then took command with five goals in the second period to grab a 6-3 lead.

Tegan Fehr and Ragnar Gillis each scored a pair, with the other goals coming from Ryder Wolfe, Carson Hiebert, Nathan Froebe, and Tyson Pethybridge. Karsen Dyck made 40 saves as the shots on goal were even at 44 each.

Game two saw the Northstars take period leads of 2-0 and 3-1, while Norman goalie Lincoln Richcoon backed it up with a 43-save performance.

Wolfe and Fehr scored for Pembina Valley, and Ryler Gates took the loss in goal with 34 saves as the Hawks outshot Norman 45-39.

Pembina Valley sits in eighth place at 9-8-1-1 for 20 points, which has them one back of both Eastman and the Winnipeg Thrashers, two behind Parkland, and just one point ahead of Interlake.

The Hawks have a pair of games this weekend against the two teams at opposite ends of the standings. They visit first place Brandon Friday then return home to welcome 13th place Yellowhead Sunday.

> TWISTERS, FROM PG. 18

had two goals for Pembina Valley, while Vlad Stepic had the team's other goal. Maysen Mazurat stopped 25 shots in goal in the loss.

"We played a complete game against Charleswood as we played a full 60 minutes and earned every inch out there," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "On Sunday, we kind of strayed away from the things that gave us success on Friday. However, coming off three games in four days the boys battled hard this week."

The Twisters are back in action with a single game this week as they return home to face the River East Royal Knights on Nov. 29. The puck drops at 8 p.m.

"We're just going to look to continue sharpening our defensive zone play," said Beernaerts. "Keeping shots to the outside is important and staying on our man. Friday's game was a good step in the right direction of what kind of team we can be."



PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER/VOICE

Pembina Valley Twisters goaltender Darion Penner made 21 saves and one assist in his team's 8-4 loss to the Stonewall Jets last Thursday in Stonewall.

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Call 467-5836 Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

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

Sudoku Answer

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | O | E | N | D | E | S | O | P | S | T | E | E |
| S | I | B | I | V | M | O | L | S | B | V | O | W |
| I | H | V | B | D | E | P | V | T | V | E | T | O |
| H | E | B | E | S | O | E | H | E | V | T | B | V |
| E | S | S | E | D | A | N | E | H | E | S | | |
| V | T | E | G | V | H | D | E | T | D | V | T | |
| S | O | H | O | V | M | I | O | P | N | E | W | V |
| O | O | C | V | S | V | M | S | N | H | O | L | |
| T | I | V | M | B | T | D | I | E | T | V | H | O |
| V | P | T | E | V | T | H | V | T | B | V | T | |
| | | | S | E | N | I | T | E | T | V | D | |
| V | H | V | I | T | H | V | D | S | T | V | V | T |
| D | V | H | B | V | E | N | I | T | N | G | E | L |
| E | G | V | P | M | V | B | V | O | T | T | V | |
| T | E | V | T | S | E | B | E | T | M | V | E | B |

Crossword Answer

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Classifieds

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COMING EVENTS



**Valley Agricultural Society
Annual General Meeting**
December 4, 2024
Morris Multiplex - North Hall
7:00 p.m.

(Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)
The Valley Agricultural Society would like to invite all members, volunteers, as well as the public, to attend.

2025 Memberships - \$20 each.
Saddle Club Memberships
will also be available.

Cash Bar, Door Prizes and
Light Snack Provided

For more information,
please contact the VAS office
at **204-746-2552**

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EMPLOYMENT



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a
**TERM DIVISIONAL
SOCIAL WORKER**
THIS POSITION WILL COMMENCE JANUARY 6, 2025
AND CONCLUDE JUNE 27, 2025 - WITH THE POSSIBILITY
OF AN EXTENSION INTO THE 25/26 SCHOOL YEAR

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

MORTGAGE SALE

MORTGAGE SALE

The building and land known as 34 Dubai Bay, Morden, Manitoba, as described in Certificate of Title No. 2611150/4 will be sold at auction by a licensed Auctioneer on Wednesday, the 18th day of December, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. The auction sale will be held by way of video or teleconference. There will be no in person attendees at the auction.

In order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Lindsay M. Mulholland at 204-346-5124 or lmulholland@snj.ca.

The vendor is informed that there is situated on the mortgage property a bi-level single family dwelling, of approximately 1,576 square feet in total living area, with three bedrooms and three bathrooms, on a 49.04 square feet lot. The property is sold subject to taxes, and penalties. Property taxes are paid up to the 31st day of August, 2023. Caveat 94-7628/4; Caveat 1096543/4; Caveat 1153107/4; and Caveat 1153108/4 will remain on title.

Purchaser is responsible for payment of any outstanding water accounts owing by the Mortgagor. TERMS: Deposit of \$67,000.00 in cash, certified cheque or bank draft payable to SMITH NEUFELD JODOIN LLP within 24 hours of auction sale (cash component of the deposit not to exceed \$7,500.00) and the balance according to conditions to be announced at the sale.

Sale is subject to Reserve Bid which will be announced at the auction. If the highest bid does not meet the Reserve Bid then there is no sale.

The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: www.teranetmanitoba.ca

Further information and copies of the Conditions of Sale may be obtained from:

SMITH NEUFELD JODOIN LLP
Barristers & Solicitors
85 PTH 12 North
Steinbach, MB R5G 1A7
File No. 111482-24
Attention: Lindsay M. Mulholland
Phone: 204-346-5124
lmulholland@snj.ca



PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Morden Public Open House: Pembina River Water Supply Project

The City of Morden is pleased to announce a Public Open House to share information and obtain feedback on the Morden Pembina River Water Supply Project.

This important initiative aims to enhance our water supply to meet future demands and provide effective drought mitigation.

Date: Monday, December 9, 2024

Time: 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Location: Morden Civic Center
(100-195 Stephen St. Morden, MB R6M 1V3)

We invite residents and stakeholders to attend this event. Your input is invaluable in shaping the future of our community's water resources.

For further queries regarding this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 204-822-4434.

PUBLIC NOTICE



TOWN OF ALTONA PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING ROAD CLOSING BY-LAW NO. 1827/2024

Being a by-law of the Town of Altona for the purpose of closing certain lands taken for a public road known as 7th Avenue NW and conveying same to the owners of the adjacent lands and premises.

The Council of the Town of Altona has scheduled a public hearing at 111 Centre Avenue on December 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to consider, and if approved, pass a by-law for closing certain lands and described below taken for a public road and consolidating such lands with an adjacent existing title.

The portion of the public road known as 7th Avenue NW to be closed is described as follows:

Road No. 1, Plan No. 73746 MLTO
in SW ¼ 8-2-1 WPM

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that Council will, at the time and place aforesaid, hear any person or by his or her agent, any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected by the by-law and who applies to be heard. The Plan referred to above may be viewed at the Municipal Office, 111 Centre Avenue East, Altona, Manitoba, on any weekday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Dated at the Town of Altona the 23rd day of October, 2024.

Dan Gagné
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Altona
Phone: (204) 324-6468
dan.gagne@altona.ca



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www.mcna.com

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Estate & Moving
Featuring Coins
December 11th @ 7:00PM
Last Sale of 2024

McSherryAuction.com
204-467-1858
or **204-886-7027**
mcsherrytld@gmail.com

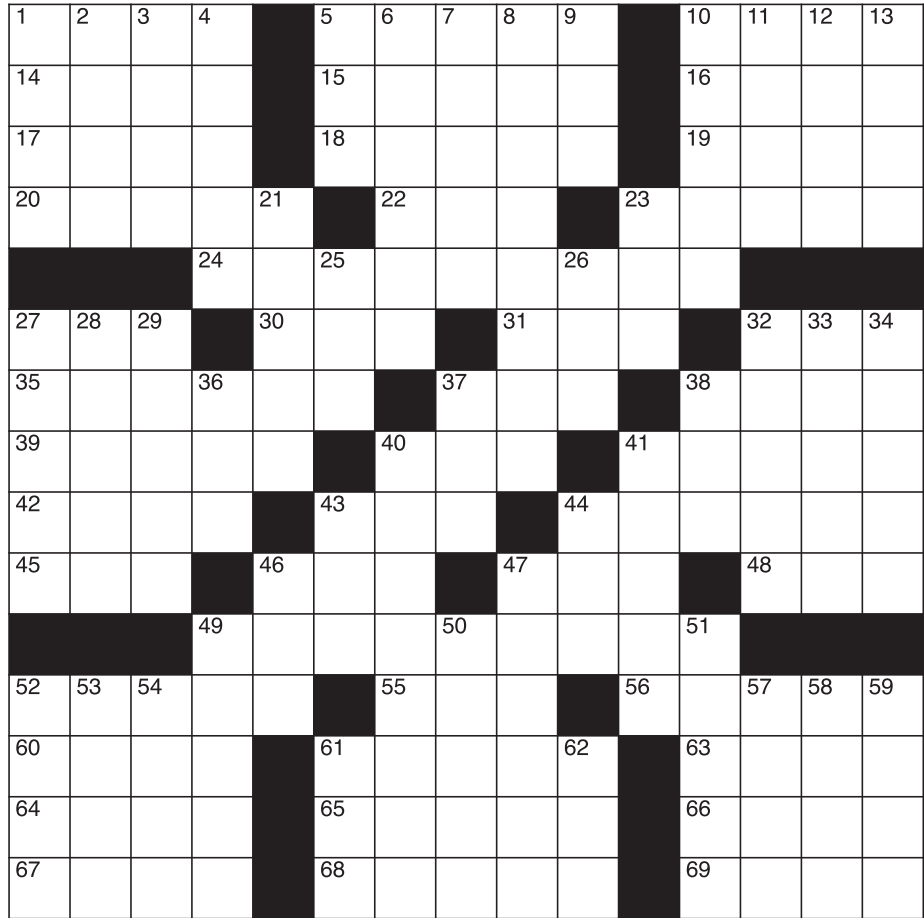
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Todd
204-904-9705



X

CROSSWORD

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Long piece of squared timber

5. Emaciation

10. "Bewitched" boss Larry

14. Combining form meaning "different"

15. Current unit equal to 10 amperes

16. Older

17. Large, stocky lizard

18. Ringworm

19. Actor Pitt

20. Indian hand clash cymbals

22. Data at rest

23. Jeweled headdress

24. Indicators of when stories were written

27. Check

30. Cigarette (slang)

31. Arctic explorers (abbr.)

32. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

35. Delivered a speech

37. A place to bathe

38. Postmen deliver it

39. Surface in geometry

40. More (Spanish)

41. ___ and Venzetti

42. Exclamation at the end of a prayer
43. Hawaiian dish

44. Aggressively proud men

45. Fellow

46. Mark Wahlberg comedy

47. Mock

48. When you expect to get somewhere

49. Songs

52. Pair of small hand drums

55. Play

56. Sword

60. Evergreens and shrubs genus

61. Filmed

63. Italian Seaport

64. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

65. Pores in a leaf

66. U. of Miami mascot is one

67. Snakelike fishes

68. Pretended to be

69. Body part
- CLUES DOWN
1. Piece of felted material

2. Ancient Greek City

3. Aquatic plant

4. Potentially harmful fungus (Brit. sp.)

CONT. ON PAGE 23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Utilities Board

Régie des services publics

NOTICE OF APPLICATION PEMBINA VALLEY WATER COOPERATIVE REVISED WATER RATES - November 14, 2024

The Pembina Valley Water Cooperative (Co-op) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for revised water rates for Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Utility (Utility) as set out in rate study dated August 2024. Rates were last approved in 2022 in Board Order No. 138/22, with current rates coming into effect January 1, 2024.

The current and proposed rates are as follows:

| | Jan 1, 2024 | Jan 1, 2025 | Jan 1, 2026 | Jan 1, 2027 | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|--------|
| Current and approved future rates - Board Order No. 138/22 | | | | | | |
| Water (per cubic meter)* | \$2.44 | \$2.50 | \$2.57 | \$2.65 | | |
| Proposed revised rates** | | | | | | |
| | Jan 1, 2025 | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
| Water (per cubic meter)* | \$2.50 | \$2.67 | \$2.89 | \$3.10 | \$3.29 | \$3.46 |

*Current rates based on 1,000 gallons; proposed rates based on cubic meters. Current and approved future rates have been converted to cubic meters for comparison purposes.

**The Coop is anticipating Year 1 rates to be effective later in 2025 and Year 2 rates beginning in 2027.

The current customers for the PVWC include:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| RM of Dufferin | RM of Stanley | Town of Altona |
| RM of Grey | RM of Thompson | Town of Carman |
| RM of Montcalm | Roseau River First Nation | Town of Morris |
| RM of Morris | Municipality of Emerson-Franklin | City of Winkler |
| RM of Rhineland | Blumengart Colony | City of Morden |
| RM of Roland | Halbstadt Marais Water Coop | Altona Rural Water Coop |

Details of the Co-op's application are available for review at the Co-op office or the Public Utilities Board's office. Any questions concerning the application for revised rates, or the operation of the Utility, should be sent directly to the Co-op.

If you have concerns/comments regarding the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative's application for water rates, please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and provide your comment. Please note all comments will be forwarded to the Co-op.

Questions or comments should be sent on or before **December 29, 2024**.

The Public Utilities Board is the provincial regulatory agency that reviews and approves rates for water and wastewater utilities in Manitoba, with the exception of the City of Winnipeg. The Board's review process involves:

- the Utility filing a rate application to the Board,
- a public notification of proposed rate changes,
- the Board's review of the application through a public hearing or paper review process, and
- the issuance of an Order which outlines the Board's decision on the rate application and the rates to be charged.

The Manitoba Ombudsman has privacy guidelines for administrative tribunals. The Board is mindful of its obligations under those guidelines. Its decisions in respect of the application being considered will be sensitive to the guidelines. Personal information will not be disclosed unless it is appropriate and necessary to do so. However, the Board advises participants that these proceedings are public and that as a result, personal information protections are reduced.

The Board will then decide whether any further notice is required and whether to proceed with a public hearing or paper review process. All concerns received by the Board will be considered in the Board's decision on rates to be charged.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IN CONSIDERING THIS APPLICATION, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MAY OR MAY NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RATES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED FOR BY THE APPLICANT.

Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

Jennifer Dubois, CPA, CMA
Assistant Associate Secretary Manitoba Public Utilities Board

Room 400 - 330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C4
www.pubmanitoba.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE

GARDEN VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION

Connecting with Homeschool Families

Meet and Greet Event

GVSD has launched a two-year initiative to engage and connect with homeschool families in the region. We would like to connect with you and share our vision for this initiative.

Join us for our Meet and Greet Event:

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Emerado Centennial School Library

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

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5. Body art (slang)
6. One who follows the rules
7. Ordinary
8. Honorably retired from assigned duties and retaining one's title
9. Relaxing space
10. Japanese socks
11. Indian city
12. Rip
13. Icelandic book
21. Satisfies
23. Where golfers begin
25. Small amount
26. Snag
27. Determine the sum of
28. A distinctive smell
29. Exposed to view
32. Stain or blemish
33. Small loop in embroidery
34. River herring genus
36. Large beer
37. Deep, red-brown sea bream
38. Partner to cheese
40. At a deliberate pace
41. Gurus
43. Of each
44. Angry
46. Popular beverage
47. Flower cluster
49. Blocks
50. Those who benefitted from efforts of relatives (slang)
51. Polio vaccine developer
52. A (usually) large and scholarly book
53. Popular soap ingredient
54. NBAer Bradley
57. Popular movie about a pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. Not a sure thing
61. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
62. Father

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ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

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COMING EVENTS

THANK YOU!

to all who contributed to the success of
our 2024 Annual Charcuterie Banquet
Fundraiser!

A huge thank you to Horizon Earthworks and
thank you to our corporate partners:

- Coffee Culture Morden
- Focal Point Morden
- 5 Point Construction
- Fuel United
- Morden Physiotherapy
- Northstar Fibre
- Eagleye Printing
- Meilun Dental Clinic
- Jim M. Smith CPA's
- Backwoods Ten One Seven Inc.
- Crocus Realty - Curtis Sheldon
- Solutions IT
- Gislason Targownik Peters



CAREERS



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

Festival Administrator

Contract - 1,200 hours approximate

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

Key Responsibilities

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

Qualifications

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

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

Please email your resume and cover letter to:

Dale Stambuski, Morden Corn & Apple Festival Inc President
management@eagleyedesign.ca

This posting remains open until the position has been filled.

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

CAREERS



Assiniboine
College

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1430 Victoria Ave E.
Brandon, MB R7A 2A9

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(\$29.78 to \$41.38 hourly)

Operating Shift Engineer

Full-Time, Regular - Brandon, MB #52-24/25
Salary: \$61,490.81 to \$74,776 annually
(\$29.56 to \$35.95 hourly)

Shift Power Engineer

Full-Time, Regular - Brandon, MB #53-24/25
Salary: \$69,108.99 to \$83,824 annually
(\$33.23 to \$40.30 hourly)

Assistant Operating Engineer

Full-Time, Regular - Brandon, MB #54-24/25
Salary: \$58,058.26 to \$70,699.20 annually
(\$27.91 to \$33.99 hourly)

For more detailed information, please visit our
careers website: www.assiniboine.net/careers!

How to Apply:

If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to this competition to careers@assiniboine.net. We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

PUBLIC NOITCE

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 RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY BY-LAW 11-24
Being amendments to the Reinfeld Secondary Plan

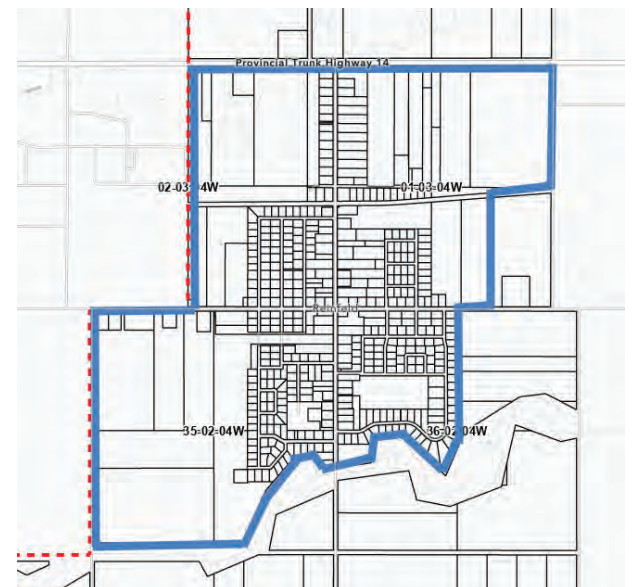
HEARING: R.M. of Stanley Council Chambers

LOCATION: 1-23111 PTH 14, SW 7-3-4W

DATE & TIME: December 5, 2024 at 9:05 a.m.

GENERAL INTENT: To amend the Reinfeld Secondary Plan. A Secondary Plan is a land use policy document that contains guidance on land use, infrastructure, servicing, and future zoning related decisions for the specific area.

AFFECTED AREA: The Village of Reinfeld



FOR INFORMATION
CONTACT:

Melissa Groening, Planning and Development Officer
Rural Municipality of Stanley
1-23111 PTH 14
Phone: (204) 325-4101
Email: mgroening@rmofstanley.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, upon request.

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