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VOLUME 7 EDITION 1

THURSDAY,
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Ring in 2016 in style

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Dressed as their favourite fictional character or animal, these children helped to ring in the new year at a traditional Russian celebration hosted by a local cultural group last Saturday at the Morden 55+ Activity Centre. For more photos, please see Pg. 14.

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



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WA+C kicks off work on arts and cultural centre

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Late last month, Winkler Arts and Culture broke ground on a project that's been years in the making.

On Dec. 28, WA+C representatives joined dignitaries at the old water treatment plant on Park St. to officially kick off the renovation project that will transform the utilities building into the city's very first arts and cultural centre.

"This day has been a long time coming," said WA+C president Ray Derksen. "It's been a few years with some ups and downs, but we are very excited to have reached the point where we can partner with the City of Winkler to make this facility a reality.

"I know that this will be another great gathering place for our city, and one where we can share art in its many forms," he added. "We are

thankful for the city's support and confidence in us, and also very grateful for the support of the businesses and residents."

WBS Construction will get to work on the project immediately; the plan is to have it open to the public by June.

Derksen said the design will update the building while still keeping an urban look to it.

"It's still going to have the raw look and the brick idea, but with a new flooring, painted ceilings ... and with some show walls that will be added. It will be just off the wall."

The first phase of renovations will create a large main gallery room, studio space, and an office, as well as the addition of HVAC systems, wash-room facilities, components for accessibility, and finishes.

All that is pegged to cost just over \$600,000, but WA+C is hoping to raise



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Above, from left: WA+C president Ray Derksen, WBS Construction's Harv Thiessen, Mayor Martin Harder, and MLA Cameron Friesen at the Dec. 28 ceremony to kick off renovations on the city's first arts and cultural centre in the former Park St. water treatment plant (left).

an additional \$150,000 to be able to add a second gallery space as part of phase one.

Winkler Mayor Martin Harder said he can't imagine a more perfect use for the old water treatment plant, which has sat unused since the city's new plant opened several years ago.

"To repurpose this building is just absolutely incredible," he said. "When I look at the proximity of this to our recreation facilities, the major tourist attractions that we have in the community ... there are cities that would give their eye teeth to be able to put that together. This is just a tremendous opportunity for us.

"A hundred years from now, this will be the best thing that could have ever happened."

'IT'S A HUGE VOID BEING FILLED'

Plans for an arts centre in Winkler have been thrown around for years and to see it finally becoming a reality

is beyond exciting, Derksen said.

"It's filling a hole that needed to be filled. Winkler's always been known as an industrial and commercial place, farming community, and sports. This is getting at a whole other side ... it's going to keep people here and it's going to draw people here. It's a huge void being filled."

Feedback from the community on the project has been overwhelmingly positive, Derksen said, and he expects even more people will take an interest now that work is getting underway and people will soon be able to see WA+C's vision brought to life.

"I think once this all starts happening we're going to see a lot more people voicing their opinions. Right now it was an idea, it was a vision. Today's showing that it's going to become a reality," he said. "I already had an artist approach me the other day and say, 'Can I be the first show?'"

Donations to the renovation project can be made at City Hall.



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It's going to take a lot of work, but by June the city's former Park St. water treatment plant will be transformed into Winkler's very first permanent art gallery and cultural meeting space.



Cabin fever? Not for these creative kids

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden's theatre community may have a secure long-term future thanks to an up and coming group of creative kids.

A group of six friends got together leading up to Christmas to put on a play for their family and friends.

These energetic and enthusiastic young Mordenites set out to do everything themselves—from writing their own version of the Grinch story to creating their costumes.

"They're all super creative and super energetic kids, so it was not surprising they would pull this off," said Jeanette Bergmann, one of the proud parents.

It really was mostly just about having fun and being creative, agreed the group made up of Jaxon Forster, Macie Miller, Talia Miller, Noah Klassen, Liam Klassen, and JJ Scherr.

It started out with the idea of trying to be like a hip hop band, said Scherr and Forster. Then, with Christmas coming, they decided to have fun with the Grinch story based on the popular Jim Carrey movie version of the classic Dr. Seuss tale.

"I took three hours on a trip to Winnipeg there and back to write a script,"

explained Scherr.

They then worked on it over a two week period with a lot of non-stop acting practice.

"We had to learn our dances first ... and then one by one people sometimes go into rooms to practise their lines, and then sometimes we'd sit down and practice our lines together," said Scherr.

The kids also made their costumes completely out of materials that were available to them around the house.

And then for the performance itself—held at one of the kids' homes right before Christmas—they were able to use headsets with microphones to add a more professional feel to the show.

"At first we were going to do it upstairs ... then we thought if we do it downstairs, we will have more space to do it," said Forster. Hence the name for Morden's newest troupe: the Downstairs Theatre Company.

The kids all said they enjoyed different aspects of doing the play.

For Forster, who played the Grinch, the costume was the favorite part, including creating a fake nose sculpted out of liquid latex.

Continued on page 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Six budding thespians decided to put on a play for family and friends over the Christmas break. The kids wrote their own version of the Grinch story, created the costumes they needed from supplies around the house, and even dabbled in theatre make-up techniques.

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Calling themselves the Downstairs Theatre Company are (back row) Jaxon Forster, Talia Miller, Noah Klassen, JJ Scherr, (front row) Liam Klassen, and Macie Miller.

PHOTO
BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Above, from left: Boundary Trails Health Centre director of health services Angie Cusson, clinical resource nurse Freda Lumgair, client services manager Vanessa Siemens, BTHC Foundation chair Debra Enns, and the Morden Elks' Glenn Ritchie with the new infant stabilization unit the hospital recently purchased thanks to community funding. Right: Enns with client services manager Tina Bueckert, nurse Bruce Friesen, and patient Jennifer Derksen in the dialysis unit, which is enjoying several brand new treatment chairs, also thanks to local donations.



BTHC putting new equipment to good use

The Bra Lady Is Coming To Size You Up

Are you tired of feeling saggy, lumpy, pinched or strained? Well you're not alone. As you've probably seen on Oprah or read in women's magazines, over 80 per cent of all women wear the wrong size bra.

Here's where Barb Chapman, the Bra Lady, comes in.

Due to the overwhelming response to the previous clinic, Chapman is coming to **WINKLER THURSDAY, JANUARY 14** to outfit you with the best possible bra for your body. Chapman said she will be seeing clients on a one-on-one basis, explaining the benefits of good bras and measuring their bodies properly.

"Most women just want to find a good-fitting bra that's not uncomfortable," Chapman says. "What they don't realize is that a good support bra is also important for blood circulation and enhanced lymph drainage."

Chapman has over 200 bra sizes available for ordering, ranging from 30AA to 52KK. It's likely that you'll fit somewhere between those sizes.

She offers these questions for women to ask themselves:

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She doesn't come into town very often so she advises booking as soon as possible. Although Chapman enjoys coming to this area, she is on the look-out for someone to train for the business.

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By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Boundary Trails Health Centre is enjoying several pieces of new equipment thanks to the generosity of local donors.

BTHC recently purchased a new infant stabilization unit for the maternity ward and four new recliners for its dialysis unit with funding from the BTHC Foundation.

The \$27,000 infant stabilization unit was purchased with the proceeds of last fall's hugely successful Caring for Kids Radiothon—which raised over \$44,000 for the BTHC and the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg—as well as donations from the Morden Elks.

BTHC Foundation chair Debra Enns said that when the foundation teamed up with the Children's Hospital for the radiothon they were looking for a piece of equipment to fundraise towards that would make a significant difference in the lives of child patients at BTHC.

"We wanted to make sure it was something that every child would use ... and the stabilization unit is something that they can use for every child born here at Boundary Trails," she said. "The number of births here has increased phenomenally over the last few years, so the need was certainly there."

Though the hospital has other stabilization units, this one is state-of-the-art and comes with some very important new bells and whistles, explained clinical resource nurse Freda Lumgair.

"When babies are transitioning from inside the womb to outside ... they do not tolerate high

levels of oxygen and it takes a little while for them to transition," she said, explaining that the new unit allows medical staff to more finely adjust the oxygen levels being provided to newborns. "This unit is able to give us a blended oxygen with room air so we can change the percentage ... so now we can start managing these babies a little more effectively."

The device also includes a built-in scale and a more flexible heating lamp.

"It's minor differences that aren't super obvious over the other units we have, but it makes a huge difference, especially with the very premature babies or the very sick babies," Lumgair said, noting that about 10-15 per cent of the upwards of 1,000 babies delivered at BTHC each year require assistance of some kind immediately after birth. The hospital further sends about 20 newborns a year for more specialized treatment in Winnipeg, and this unit will help keep them stabilized until they can make that trip.

The fact the equipment will have such an impact on so many infants certainly resonated with the Elks, said member Glenn Ritchie, who presented a \$3,000 donation towards the device to the BTHC Foundation last month.

"The Elks, our goal is to help children, and so this donation just make sense," he said, noting the service club plans to make an additional \$2,000 donation after they wrap up their "Cash is King" prize lottery this spring (tickets are still available for \$100 each by calling 204-822-4537).

Continued on page 6

Morden taxpayers to pay more in 2016

Despite a decreased mill rate, rising property assessments mean tax bills are going up

By Lorne Stelmach

Mordenites will on average pay about 1.5 per cent more in municipal taxes in 2016.

The total property tax bill won't be known until further into the new year, but city council says it's aiming to limit the increase in its portion.

"We tried very hard on council to keep the increases at the cost of living," Mayor Ken Wiebe commented after council introduced its 2016 financial plan at its final meeting of the year Dec. 21.

"If we don't do cost of living as a minimum year to year, suddenly you end up needing a huge pile of money for one thing or another and it's just not there," Wiebe said. "You end up doing a five or six per cent increase

in taxation, and that could be a real tough one to swallow in one year."

Council approved a 2016 budget that increases 6.8 per cent from the 2015 budget to a total of just over \$11.7 million.

The municipal mill rate is actually decreasing from 20.07 to 18.53, but the average increase in residential property assessment for 2016 is 9.9 per cent.

A Morden property that will have its assessment go up by about that amount will see somewhere around a 1.5 per cent increase in its municipal taxes.

That means a property previously worth \$200,000 now assessed at \$219,800 will see its municipal taxes increase by \$26.50 to \$1,976.80. A commercial property with a simi-

lar assessment increase will see its municipal taxes increase \$38.28 to \$2,647.38.

Wiebe stressed sustainable and responsible growth for the City of Morden remains council's guiding principle in setting the budget.

As well as stimulating further investment in the community, council wants to continue to support key areas including infrastructure and emergency services as well as those

that personify Morden like the lake, parks, and the arts, he said.

The city is also looking at a fair bit of capital projects being carried over from 2015, including completion of the new Gilmour St sewer line and the paving of the 9th St. South extension in the industrial park.

Municipal taxes provide the biggest portion of the city's revenue, with net municipal tax revenue estimated at

Continued on page 10

> DOWNSTAIRS THEATRE CO., FROM PG. 3

Tallia Miller liked doing up her hair for the show, as did Noah Klassen, who used a lot of hair sculpting product and gel to play the mayor.

The group are already thinking about their next project, and they think their play based on the animated film *Shrek* will take things to an-

other level by including some singing.

In the end, Bergmann said it was exciting to see them be so dedicated and work at it so hard.

"I think it was really exciting to see them working as a team ... getting along, learning new things and just having fun with it."

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PUBLISHER
Rick Reimer



ADMINISTRATION
Lana Meier



EDITOR
Ashleigh Viveiros



REPORTER
Lorne Stelmach



SALES
Gwen Keller



AGRICULTURE REPORTER
Harry Siemens



PRODUCTION
Tara Gionet



PRODUCTION
Nicole Kapusta

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General inquiries: 325-6888
News tips: 332-3456, 823-2655
Winkler Morden Voice
Box 185, Winkler, MB
R6W 4A5

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Disconnecting for the holidays

I have been at home for a couple of weeks now and while I have enjoyed (needed) the time off, I am actually looking forward to getting back to work.

Typically I pile all of my holidays to the end of December. Last year we planned and went on a fantastic and ambitious road trip to Los Angeles. This year we decided to stay home and enjoy the holidays and all there is on offer locally (which is a lot).

Taking a large block of time off of work is an interesting exercise for me and, I think, for others as well. It seems to me you go through a whole range of emotions as you progress through the break, all of which are necessary.

The time off usually starts with an over-enthusiastic farewell to co-workers followed by a rush to the exit. In my case the rush is followed by a return or two to retrieve necessary items that had been forgotten in

the hasty exit, like my bike, my house keys, my phone.

I have said before that I tend to under-plan in favour of the fun that is "not knowing what is going to happen." This case is no different. When I left for holidays I had no idea how I was going to spend the days ahead.

The hardest thing for me to do when I go on holidays is to FULLY disconnect—don't call to see how things are going, and, even more difficult, do not check and respond to emails. In our increasingly entangled world this is VERY hard to do. Not only do we tend to feel stress and anxiety by doing this but there are people who very much expect immediate responses to emails and voicemails regardless of whether you are on holidays.

I will say I mostly succeeded in disconnecting and leave it at that.

After a few days the anxiety goes away and it becomes easier to simply enjoy the time with yourself and family. This is important because it helps us to get to that healthy place where we can realize that, no matter how critical our role, no organization lives or dies by the constant presence of one person.

Taking time off can be a good lesson in humility. It is unhealthy to become so enmeshed with your workplace that you cannot leave it (either physically or mentally) and ultimately it is not helpful to the greater work envi-

ronment, to you, or your family.

Of course, once you successfully disengage with work there is the next challenge of the vacuum left in your time. What do I do with myself? Fortunately, taking time off during the holiday season helps with this a bit because of the number of family gatherings and celebrations. Still, it is important to not trade the busyness of work with a self-created busyness at home or else what is the point?

I remember when my mum and sister came to visit me a few years ago for a week. I took time off and looked forward to relaxing and catching up with them. They had other plans—we shopped constantly and they cleaned my house from top to bottom and practically renovated my bathroom. It was exhausting and I finally had to remind them that I was on holiday to spend time with them as family, not as contractors working in my house.

Holidays are an opportunity to simply just be. And, ultimately, when enough time has gone by, holidays can prove the old saying that absence makes the heart grow fonder. Time away can help you re-connect with what you appreciate about your job and can even see you returning with renewed enthusiasm and creativity.

This is where I am at right now and for those of you who have taken holidays or have them planned, I hope it is where you get to as well.



By Peter Cantelon

> BTHC DONATIONS, FROM PG. 4

The four dialysis chairs, meanwhile, were purchased to supplement the two new chairs being supplied by the RHA, Enns said.

"They were going to replace two and we just felt if two of them needed to be replaced, they probably all did," she said. "So we had specific money that was donated for dialysis and it worked out perfectly that we had funds that we were able to help them out to complete the whole set."

Dialysis patients spend several hours multiple times a week receiving treatment, so replacing the aging chairs (which have been in use

for 15 or more years) with more comfortable offerings was a blessing, says clinical services manager Tina Bueckert.

"These chairs, for the clients, they have to sit in them for four hours at a time, so they really needed the comfort," she said. "It's also much better for the nurses, too, because these are able to be raised and lowered, so when the nurses are providing care they're able to raise it to height they need."

Enns said the BTHC Foundation is pleased to be able to help the hospital check a few items off of its equip-

ment wish list each year, in addition to funding both the palliative and spiritual care programs.

It wouldn't be possible, though, without the community stepping up to support the hospital, she stressed.

"The community is great. We never, ever have to worry ... people want to support the hospital," she said. "If we have a project, that money is just there right away."

If you'd like to learn more about the projects the BTHC Foundation funds or how you can make a donation, find them online at bthcfoundation.com or call 204-331-8800.

Chamber Elf on the Shelf contest a big hit

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A mischievous little elf got a whole lot of people through the doors of 10 retail outlets in the Winkler area last month.

The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce's first annual Elf on the Shelf hunt proved a big success, says executive director Tanya Cha-

teauneuf.

"We had quite a few entries," she said, noting there were a few people who entered the prize draw daily, travelling from business to business to search for the hidden elf doll and earn ballots for a prize package worth \$500.

The Chamber Elf was on the move between the various stores every

three days from Nov. 16 to Dec. 19. His location was shared via social media and other advertising, but where, exactly, he was hidden in the store was a secret and could change several times throughout the day.

It was a fun activity for customers and business alike, said Chateauneuf.

"There were certain businesses, like Bulk Barn, that just has a real blast with it," she said, noting they've already had stores say they want to be part of the campaign again, and the chamber is eager to potentially expand the number of participating locations next Christmas.

Just before Christmas, Mary Janzen's name was drawn as the winner and the chamber presented her with two big baskets full of prizes and gift certificates to the participating stores.

"I didn't think that I would win," Janzen said, noting she and her kids made a game out of hunting for the elf whenever they found themselves in store where he was hiding. "I just took the kids there for a fun activity for us to do together."

Janzen says her family will definitely join the search for the Chamber Elf again next Christmas.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler chamber's Tanya Chateauneuf (far left) and Dianne Friesen (far right) presented Elf on the Shelf draw winner Mary Janzen (centre) and her kids Jordan, Karina, Brenden and husband Harold with the prize packages last month.

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NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

Grandeur Housing projects honoured

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Grandeur Housing wrapped up 2015 on a high note.

The Winkler modular building company was honoured by the Modular Housing Association Prairie Provinces (MHAPP) with two awards of excellence for a pair of projects in Saskatchewan.

Grandeur took home the 2015 Commercial/Industrial Project of the Year Award for a daycare they built in Fort Qu'Appelle and the 2015 Multi-Family Project of the Year Award for the Town Square Terrace condo development in Saskatoon.

CEO John Froese said the honours put Grandeur among the best of the best in modular construction in the nation.

"It came as a surprise," he said of the announcement. "A very good surprise."

As with all of Grandeur's projects, what made these two stand out came down to innovative design and quality building practices, Froese said.

"Quality is definitely a factor in both projects, both awards," he said. "Design and quality are of the utmost importance for all our projects."

The awards come as Grandeur heads into its 40th year of business in Winkler in 2016.

Froese has been with the company for 38 of those years, shepherding it through changing market demands and industry standards.

"When I started with Grandeur we were very limited in our design of homes," he said, explaining that each new floor plan back then required industry approval before they could

move forward with it. "That changed in the mid-'80s when we got to where we could have our processes approved rather than the product. So they came in and they inspected our plant, our quality control processes, and so forth, and then set parameters within which we could operate."

"That gave us so much more freedom in design, and so we could then extend a lot more options to our customers. That was the big turning point for us."

In the early years, Grandeur had focused mainly on smaller mobile homes, but with greater freedom of design they've been able to build a greater range of modular structures, including larger ready-to-move houses, commercial and industrial buildings, and even multi-level apartment complexes and townhouses.

"It was all about meeting market demand," Froese said. "The market has changed. Not just our market, but the entire housing market has changed from where people are moving away from single-family dwellings to multi-family buildings. And multi-family is very conducive to factory building because they are usually smaller blocks that need to be put together anyway."

Grandeur creates each of those blocks inside its three giant production plants located in Winkler. In 2015 alone they completed approximately 400,000 square feet, said Jeff Enns, director of sales and marketing.

"The minimum amount we're building in our three factories at one time is 33—33 houses or 33 buildings of some kind or another," he said.

The company's assembly line build-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Grandeur Housing CEO John Froese with the awards the Winkler company received from the Modular Housing Association Prairie Provinces last month. They earned the Multi-Family Project of the Year award for a condo complex in Saskatoon (shown above) and the Commercial/Industrial Project of the Year nod for a daycare they built in Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan.



ing process moves the entire structure being worked on from one station to the next every several hours.

So at one end of the facility you'll see workers starting on a building's basic frame; midway down the line tradespeople are busy installing the electrical and plumbing; the next station over workers are putting the finishing touches on the interior; and, at the far end, a fully-finished home or office building or apartment module is wrapped up and ready for transport to the job site.

"All the factory work here can be done at the same time the founda-

tion work is being done on-site," Enns said. That, plus the fact building inside a means the weather has no impact on how fast a unit is completed, makes modular building significantly faster than other forms of construction, he said.

"It is kind of like Lego," Enns laughed. "You just have to employ smart enough people to make sure all that Lego fits ... design is critical."

Grandeur currently employs over 300 people—a far cry from the 30 or so that started out with the company back in 1976.

"QUALITY IS DEFINITELY A FACTOR IN BOTH PROJECTS, BOTH AWARDS. DESIGN AND QUALITY ARE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR ALL OUR PROJECTS."

Continued on page 9

Company marking 40 years in Winkler

From Pg. 8

"We now have an office staff that is bigger than our production staff was when I started," Froese noted.

It's the staff who have made Grandeur's success possible, he added, and the company plans to celebrate this milestone year with them.

"We plan to do something special for our employees to celebrate," said Froese, adding that planning for that event is still in the works. "And also we want to try and do something that involves the community and our customers, as well."

Looking to the future, the company plans to continue striving to be on the cutting-edge of both design and quality.

"We want to continue to be leaders in the industry," Froese said. "And we certainly want to continue to grow

"WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO BE LEADERS IN THE INDUSTRY."

the company to create more employment in Winkler. We very much like our location here and so we want to grow that."

Education is also a major focus for Grandeur, he added.

"We want to continue educating the public that modular housing is a good way of building homes," Froese said. "When you say modular I think a lot of people still see a trailer, they think of trailer parks ... but modular construction is simply a different way of building all kinds of buildings."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
Grandeur Housing's modular units are built indoors in one of three massive production facilities, meaning poor weather never slows down a project's timeline.



Just Watch Me contest accepting applications

By Lorne Stelmach

Entrepreneurs with disabilities have an opportunity to share their success stories.

Community Futures is once again marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities with their annual Just Watch Me video contest.

Started in 2011, the contest is open to people with self-identified disabilities or ongoing health conditions operating businesses in both rural Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It's run jointly by the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Community Futures Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Programs (EDP).

"If you are an entrepreneur with a disability or a health condition and have a business success story to share, you could win up to \$1,000 and great prizes," explains Susan Bater, EDP Manager for rural Manitoba and spokesperson for this year's prairie edition of the contest.

The number of people with disabilities continues to grow, with an estimated 1.3 billion people globally and 16 per cent of Canadians identifying themselves as having a disability.

For many people with disabilities, owning a small business means they can set their own hours, create

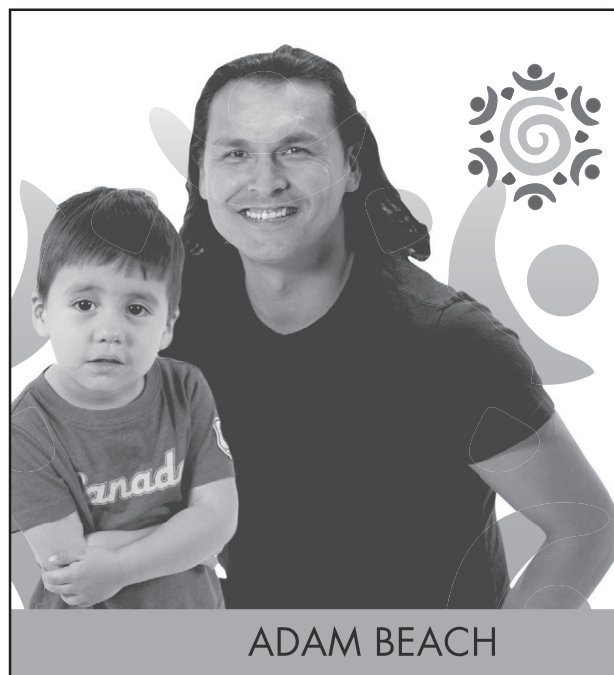
a personalized work environment, and—most importantly—gain a sense of control over their destiny.

"We want to hear your business success story,"

says Bater. "All you have to do is create a two or three minute video about your business and

Continued on page 11

"THE EXPOSURE THAT IT GAVE WAS FANTASTIC."



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Local bird lovers have eyes on the skies

By Lorne Stelmach

A love of science got Abe Friesen outside on a cold winter day last month with an eye on the sky.

"It's what they call citizen science," said the Morden resident who for a fourth year co-ordinated the local Christmas Bird Count program.

"I've always really enjoyed watching birds even as a small boy," said Friesen, who estimated he had been involved in the local bird count for over 10 years now.

"I'm not by any means the most expert birder ... there's a lot of people more experienced and better at spotting and counting birds than I am. But I still like to do it.

"To be part of a count ... where you get together with other people who are keen on birds ... see what you can see, numbers and types ... you add all that together, it's pretty fun."

Started in 1900, the Christmas Bird Count is North America's longest-running citizen science project. Counts happen in over 2,000 locations throughout the western hemi-

sphere on a single day in late December or early January.

The information collected by the thousands of volunteer participants forms one of the world's largest sets of wildlife survey data.

The results can be used by conservation biologists and naturalists to assess the population trends and distribution of birds.

Results from the Dec. 28 bird count were not yet finalized, but the 2014 count reported 35 species in Morden.

The most plentiful were the 1,321 sparrows, but there were also others in good supply such as 302 European starlings, 249 rock pigeons, 197 black-capped chickadees, 86 white-breasted nuthatches, 78 common redpolls, 73 blue jays, 43 cedar waxwings, 37 house finches, 32 magpies and others ranging from downy and hairy woodpeckers to sharp-tailed grouse and wild turkeys.

The local bird count this year had 18 people participate in the field and two more who monitored feeders.

Friesen said it may be a bit of a labour of love, doing it in cold winter

There is no shortage of sparrows in our area—volunteers in Morden tallied up over 1,300 as part of the one day Christmas Bird Count program in 2014. This year's count had 20 people take part, keeping track of hundreds of birds representing dozens of different species.

PHOTO
BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



weather, but it's something many look forward to helping out with each year.

"I think for all of the birders, it's kind of like that," he said, adding it is fun to be "touching base with different people who like to watch birds and count birds.

"You get excited about seeing a bird that isn't too common."

Friesen suggested this area of southern Manitoba is at least as good an area for birding in terms of the variety and numbers as most any other region of the province.

"I think it's at least on par with most of the areas of Manitoba," he said. "I think we get some species from the south that this might be the very northern part of their range."

Breaking down Morden's '16 financial plan

From Pg. 5

over \$7.5 million.

Key revenue sources include \$1.3 million in provincial municipal tax sharing, \$759,000 in the sale of recreational services, and \$698,000 in provincial government grants. The city will also transfer \$246,000 from its reserve funds this year.

On the expenditure side, major costs include:

- Community services: 23.2 per cent of the budget at \$2.7 million, (up 3.2 per cent from the previous year) for areas such as recreation (\$1.5 million), the parks department (\$538,000), beach and campground (\$241,000), the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre (\$202,000), and the Morden library (\$118,000).

- Protective services: 20.8 per cent of the budget at \$2.4 million, a 4.5 per cent increase. This includes \$1.6 million for police salaries and benefits and \$177,000 for fire department salaries and benefits.

- Fiscal services: 14.4 per cent of the budget at \$1.7 million, a 14 per cent increase. This includes a \$783,000 contribution to capital budget and \$505,000 to long term debt charges.

- Transportation services: 10.5 per cent of the budget at \$1.2 million, a 0.4 per cent decrease. This includes \$500,000 for planning and engineering services, road maintenance and equipment costs, as well as snow removal and street lighting.

- General government services: 9.7 per cent of the budget at \$1.1 million, which includes \$502,000 for administrative staff.

- Economic development services: 6.8 per cent of the budget at \$805,000, a 21.7 per cent increase. Includes \$426,000 for costs related to community development and \$166,000 for industrial development.

- Environmental health services, six per cent of the budget at \$696,000, a 60 per cent increase. This includes \$520,000 related to recycling costs; also garbage collection and waste

disposal.

Council also approved a budget of almost \$7.3 million for capital projects for 2016, including:

- \$4 million for utilities including \$3.4 million towards waste water treatment and \$300,000 for improvements to water distribution.

- \$1.3 million for planning and engineering, including 9th St. South construction, other road paving projects, and work on the Access Event Centre parking lot.

- \$531,000 for transportation, including sidewalks and pathways, airport runway repairs, and a street sweeper.

- \$181,000 for recreation, including phase two of the skate park.

- \$140,000 for economic development incentive funds.

- \$126,000 for the police department, including office renovations and a new police vehicle.

- \$76,000 for the fire department.

- \$66,000 for the parks department.

- \$45,000 for Colert Beach.

Wiebe noted working with Winkler and the RM of Stanley towards a waste water treatment facility will be the next big ticket project for Morden.

They are estimating the cost would be about \$60 million, which they see being cost shared with the provincial and federal governments. The municipal third would be shared between the three municipalities.

"It will depend on the funding from the federal government," said Wiebe. "We have ... Morden, Winkler and Stanley ... done some preliminary planning ... and we've had a lot of the engineering done and we have a lot of the cost estimates done.

"If we would get a one third [cost shared with federal and provincial governments] then hopefully we would make a lot of advancement in 2016, but that's to be seen from what kind of money the new government is going to pour into the economy for infrastructure."

New Year's Eve gala raises \$6K for Katie Cares

By Lorne Stelmach

About 180 people rang in the new year by celebrating in support of a good cause.

Proceeds from the New Year's Eve Gala at the Access Event Centre in Morden were going to the Katie Cares respite home project.

Organizer Sharon Webb of Sharon Webb Events said the evening exceeded expectations and raised a total of \$6,328.79, which she presented to Katie Cares on Tuesday.

"I had a goal of \$5,000, and we surpassed that, so I'm pretty excited about that," she said.

Katie Cares' Ruth Reimer thanked Webb for all the work she put into hosting the benefit event.

"Sharon has worked very hard, she put a lot of passion into it. To say thank you to her does not do it justice, but we truly are thankful for what she did for us," she said. "This donation is huge. It just shows the community support has been tremendous."

For Webb, the chance to organize an event that would provide people with a swanky way to ring in 2016 while also supporting a great cause was too good to pass up.

"I really just wanted to put on an event that the community hasn't really seen before, and I hope I accomplished that," she said. "I think it went really well. Everyone had a great time. Everything went smoothly."

The gala evening's entertainment included Chris Funk

Continued on page 12

New Year's Eve gala organizer Sharon Webb presented Ruth and Randy Reimer of Katie Cares with the \$6,328 in proceeds from the event on Monday. The money goes towards the Katie's Cottage respite home being built across from the BTHC.

PHOTO
BY LORNE
STELMACH/VOICE



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> JUST WATCH ME, FROM PG. 9

upload it to the contest website by 10 a.m., Jan. 20."

The winning video will be chosen by a panel of five judges and a public voting process. There are categories for both seasoned entrepreneurs as well as start-ups. Winners will be announced in February.

Morden's own Lisa Gandier took part in the contest in 2011, making it to the finalist round.

The Alexa Media founder says it was a terrific experience.

"The exposure that it gave was fantastic," she says. "It was early in the growth of Alexa ... that video has been very valuable, not just for that competition but carrying on with Alexa as well."

Gandier says there was also the aspect of having to promote her video entry, and that in itself was good for her personal growth.

"You had to get the message out there ... so it was an excellent opportunity for me."

Gandier encourages anyone who might qualify for this contest to seriously consider taking part.

"Absolutely. If they are presented with an opportunity like that ... jump on board right away," she says.

For more information on submitting a video or if you'd like to check out the submissions to take part in the public voting round, go to www.justwatchmecontest.ca.

Manitoba 

Shoppers opt for fair trade gifts this Christmas

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler shoppers once again showed their support of fair trade by making the seasonal Ten Thousand Villages store in the Southland Mall a very busy place this holiday season.

Co-manager Mary Ann Sawatzky says the store is still crunching the numbers, but she suspects its sales will be on par with the approximately \$30,000 in products sold the year before.

"It definitely met and even exceeded our expectations," she said. "It was a very successful year."

The volunteer-run Mennonite Central Committee store offered up a variety of fair trade products—everything from handcrafted items to international foods—with funds going to help support farmers and artisans in the developing world.

Sawatzky said they heard from

many customers who were thrilled to be able to shop for socially-conscious gifts for their loved ones this Christmas.

"I think the fair trade aspect drew a lot of people in ... a lot of our customers are very conscious about how they spend their shopping dollars," she said.

This marks the second year Ten Thousand Villages has opened up a seasonal store in Winkler in the wake of the closure of the permanent store that had operated in the city for decades.

It's too soon to say for sure whether the store will return next Christmas, but it seems likely.

"We'll make that decision next fall," Sawatzky said of the volunteer committee that has been formed locally. "As co-managers we would certainly like to see it come back."

Providing that shopping option



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Ten Thousand Villages seasonal store co-manager Mary Ann Sawatzky (left) and volunteer Katherina Froese during a break from serving customers last month. The fair trade store had another hugely successful Christmas season.

wouldn't be possible if not for the 30 or so volunteers who have stepped up each year to help run the store.

"We're so pleased with the volunteer

staff. They are just absolutely wonderful," Sawatzky said. "We couldn't do this without all of them."

Registrations open for Home & Life Show

By Lorne Stelmach

Planning is well underway for an annual event that offers a chance to showcase Morden and area businesses.

Registration deadlines are approaching for businesses to get in on the annual Home and Life Show hosted by the Morden and District

Chamber of Commerce.

"The chamber of commerce started the Home and Life Show to give our businesses an opportunity to promote themselves," said executive director Candace Olafson. "We think this is a great marketing opportunity for exhibitors to speak one on one with the public ... show them their products and what they have to offer."

Olafson noted the show attracted 46 exhibitors last year from all sectors—everything from home improvements to sporting goods to health and beauty products to financial agencies.

"A little bit of everything," said Olafson. "It's really a wide range of exhibitors that we have ... the show has really grown and attracted businesses from a large area."

"We attract close to 2,000 people who come through the doors over the two days. It has grown in awareness," she added. "We really hope to see businesses make great connections."

"For the general public ... it's to see what the Pembina Valley has to offer," Olafson said. "So many local businesses may have what they are look-

ing for but maybe don't realize it."

The Home and Life Show takes place Friday, March 4 from 3-9 p.m. and Saturday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Access Event Centre.

Existing or new members of the Morden chamber have first opportunity to book booth space and receive a discounted rate. Non-members can book space after Jan. 15, and prior to that date can be placed on a waiting list.

Rates range from \$200 to \$850, depending on booth size and marketing campaign involvement.

To register or for more information, contact the chamber at 204-822-5630, e-mail execdirector@mordenchamber.com, or go online to the www.mordenchamber.com website.

> NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA, FROM PG. 11

"The Wonderist" as well as live music by Lindsay Rae and Melanie Schwarz followed by MK Sound DJ & Dance.

"I've had some questions whether or not I'll do it again next year," Webb said. "I think that decision will be based on how the community responds to this event."

If the gala is a go next New Year's

Eve, Webb would like to give another local charity a chance to benefit.

"I had a business member who said, 'Why not ... why wouldn't we come to support that?'" she said. "I think that when you know you are supporting a good charity ... especially when it is money going back into your community ... people respond well to that."

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An old-fashioned holiday stroll through downtown

Shoppers and businesses on Morden's Stephen St. were greeted with a blast from the past on Christmas Eve as Pembina Threshermen's Museum staff and volunteers Alyce Klassen, Betty Warkentin, Eva Schmidt, and Kimberly Strierner (in photo at right) donned old-fashioned attire to spread season's greetings.

The group, some of whom have taken part in this nostalgic outing for seven years now, sang carols and stopped to chat with the last-minute

holiday shoppers all up and down the block.

"You could see the change in the crowd from when we walked in to when we left," said Strierner. "Some were instantly thrilled, while others weren't sure what to think, but by the end people were smiling, touched by the nostalgia of the moment and glad we'd stopped by."

For more photos, check out the museum at www.facebook.com/PembinaThreshermensMuseum.



SUBMITTED PHOTO



A night at the movies

Winkler's Samuel Bauer (front, arms crossed) was the big winner in the Voice's annual Christmas Writing Contest. Bauer's story of a bullying elf who learns to change his ways won him a night at the movies for himself and ten friends. The kids went to go see the latest Star Wars movie on Dec. 30. Other big winners in our contest included Luke Martens and Morgan Hiebert, whose writing skills earned them a pair of movie passes each. Congratulations to all our winners!

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Sharing cultural traditions



New Year's holds a special place in the hearts of many Russian-speaking families, and last Saturday local immigrants got together to share their traditions with the community. Organizer Olga Vorobyeva said that, in many countries, community organizations traditionally host holiday parties for children, who gather around a decorated fir tree dressed in costumes of favourite story characters or animals. The kids are then visited by Grandfather Frost and his granddaughter and helper the Snow Maiden, and they show Frost what they've learned during the year by singing, dancing, and reciting poetry for him. The young performers are rewarded for their efforts and good behaviour with treats and gifts. Last week's event was hosted by the Cultural and Educational Centre "Leader".



Winterfest 2016 planning well underway

By Lorne Stelmach

It's not only a celebration of the season, but also a chance to do so particularly with newcomers to Morden.

Now in its eighth year, Winterfest has taken hold as an important annual event for the community, said spokesperson Lynette Froese.

"I think it has established itself as part of the culture of Morden," she said. "The hope was to bring people together and to have a celebration of different cultures that are in our area ... and help people understand a little bit about each other ... where people come from."

"And it's to celebrate winter, and especially for newcomers to our area to have a chance to see that winter can be fun and that there are things we can do even when it's cold outside."

Morden's Winterfest 2016 will take place the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 13 both outside and inside at the Access Event Centre.

"It will be similar to past years, but we always try to get a little something new and interesting," Froese said, noting planning for the event is already well underway.

An additional feature this year will be the Polar Plunge fundraiser for Special Olympics organized through the local police service.

As well, A Rocha will be offering both snow sculpting and snowshoe-

ing activities.

"We also still have the horse drawn sleigh rides which are the most popular thing usually," said Froese.

Also back again for outdoor activities will be the group from The Rendezvous as well as an outdoor dino dig by the CFDC and boot hockey matches.

There will also be a number of indoor displays; this year organizers are opening it up to vendors alongside the educational tables.

"Some of our cultural groups have asked us in the past if they could sell stuff. This year, we're having a special area for that in the foyer where we will allow vendors who are selling things that fit our cultural groups," Froese said.

Organizers are still finalizing the line-up, but other displays and demonstrations will represent a wide range of community groups and cultures.

"This year we're going to have a couple new ones. We're going to have a booth from Korea, which we haven't had before ... we have had a number of folks from Korea move into Morden in the last year," Froese said. "And we're hoping to have a table from Africa, which hasn't been confirmed yet though."

Groups from nations such as Ger-

Continued on page 16



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden's Winterfest 2016, which takes place on Feb. 13, will once again offer a range of cultural displays inside and fun winter activities outside.

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arts&culture



Morden's Winterfest will offer an array of cultural and winter fun Feb. 13 at the Access Event Centre.

VOICE FILE PHOTOS

> WINTERFEST, FROM PG. 15

many, Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine have been a big part of Winterfest year after year and will continue to be, she added.

"We have people who have established themselves here and have participated for many years and say that it's really important for them to keep

doing this."

With all of the national focus on bringing more refugees to Canada, Froese said events like Winterfest will continue to play an important role in helping newcomers feel more welcome and in getting them involved in the community.

"By middle of February, I wonder if we'll have any refugee families on the ground here yet ... but people are certainly in the process," she said, "and I think we would, more than ever, want to show that we are a welcoming place for people."

For an early taste of the Winterfest

entertainment, check out the Jan. 22 benefit concert being held at the Kenmor Theatre to raise funds for the event.

The by-donation evening, which begins at 7 p.m., will feature local cultural entertainment.

> AN ARTIST'S LIFE

Art lessons: what to do when the going gets tough

Every year, many new and returning students begin dance instruction, visual arts classes, music lessons, and many different forms of fine arts instruction, and, every year, parents and students become frustrated or find different aspects of the arts a challenge.

Just as with sports or school, the arts is an activity that provides many benefits, but is not always easy. Read on to learn different ways to help your arts student push through the hard parts of their lessons.

First, communication with your instructor is very important. Many children will not tell the instructor if they are not understanding a concept or don't like a part of their lessons. Instead, they may act out during practice time or ask to quit, resulting in frustration and arguments.

At the first sign of trouble, get in touch with your instructor and ask for their help. Your instructor should have ideas for different practice methods, may be able to change the repertoire, or show your child how to cope with difficult parts of their routine or piece.

Second, resist the urge to quit in

the middle of the year. Give yourself and your child the full year to think about lessons and to work through tough patches. If at the end of the year your child is still struggling, then a conversation about the wisdom of continuing may be necessary.

Third, make sure your child is practicing and completing their assignments! The arts should be a fun activity, but all art forms are also education and this means that some aspects of studying the arts may not always be fun.

The number one reason that children struggle during classes or lessons is that many parents do not set aside time for practice. Find a routine and stick to that routine. Make sure your child sees practice time as an integral part of every day.

Fourth, try allowing your child a week or two of only "fun" arts related activities. Ask your instructor to pro-

vide them with one of their favorite songs to play or sing, or a new dance routine the child has been wanting to try. Buy a new sketch pad, allow your child to compose, play practice games, or work towards a reward. Try changing your routine, sitting with your child while they practice, or interacting with them about their studies. Anything your child finds fun is fair game as you work to bring the fun back into the arts!

Your child is almost guaranteed to hit rough patches where practice is a struggle, they may want to quit, or may just not always enjoy everything about their studies.

Perseverance, patience, communication, and creativity can help you work through the rough patches and ensure that your child will participate in the arts for years to come.



By Candace Hamm

Reach Candace Hamm at ibcnu@mts.net

getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

CLAC supports Katie Cares

Katie Cares recently received a \$2,500 donation from the Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC) as part of the union's Building Communities Together program.

The charity's Katie's Cottage respite home project was nominated for funding by union member and GVSD employee Curtis Reimer.

"Katie Cares will be a local home set up for children and their families who need a place to stay while they are at Boundary Trails," says Reimer. "[It] will be fully furnished and located within walking distance from the hospital so that families can stay together and spend time with their loved ones."

Reimer (far left in photo at right) and CLAC rep Derrick Martens (second from left) presented the grant to Katie Cares' Ruth and Randy Reimer just after Christmas.



> MY HEALTH TEAM'S CORNER

Everything you need to know about Lyme Disease

Lyme Disease, identified in Lyme, Connecticut in 1977, was originally not a problem in Manitoba. Over the past few years the disease has received a lot of press as the range of the deer tick increased.

The cause of Lyme Disease in North America is *Borrelia Burgdorferi*, a spirochete bacterium.

The disease is carried only by the Deer Tick or Black Legged Tick. This tick is much smaller than the well known Bush Tick. The Deer Tick nymph is about the size of a poppy seed and a full grown tick is about the



By Dr. John Jackson

size of a sesame seed. This makes them very difficult to detect and very often the person bitten is not even aware that they have been bitten.

For someone to contract Lyme Disease two events have to occur:

1. The tick needs to be infected by the bacterium. About one per cent (1 in 100) of deer ticks in risk areas are infected.

2. The tick needs to be attached for 36 hours before it releases the bacterium into the blood stream. This delay is because the bacterium lives in the gut of the tick and is only released when the blood meal reaches the gut.

This means that the vast majority of Deer Tick bites are not going to infect the person bitten.

There are about 30 cases of Lyme Disease reported every year in Manitoba—an incidence of one case for every 33,000 people—so it's very rare. The incubation period (the time it takes for symptoms to develop) is five to 30 days.

The symptoms of Lyme Disease include: a Deer Tick bite (in 100 per cent of cases, though only 36 per cent are usually aware of such a bite), a target lesion or bulls eye rash (60

per cent of cases), fever (24 per cent), fatigue (60 per cent), joint pains (33 per cent), muscle aches (16 per cent), neck pain (26 per cent), and headache (42 per cent).

The diagnosis of Lyme Disease is made on a clinical basis and if there is uncertainty it is actually quite safe to observe for a few days or weeks before starting treatment or doing blood tests.

Blood tests are used to confirm or exclude a suspected diagnosis, but there are a number of potential problems. This includes false positive tests in which the test reads positive but the patient does not have the disease, and false negatives in which they have the disease but still test negative.

Also, the body takes time to react to any infection and to develop antibodies, so a test done too early may need to be repeated after a few weeks.

It is quite common for someone to become infected, get ill but not too ill, and fully recover from Lyme Disease. The complications of Lyme Disease are not necessarily associated with an ongoing infection and can occur even if the disease is ad-

equately treated even in the early stages.

This means that it is not necessary to give everyone antibodies if they get bitten by a suspected Deer Tick.

If they get symptoms after the bite, then yes. If the tick tests positive for Lyme Disease and they have developed Lyme antibodies, yes. This is because not all infected tick bites result in an infection.

So what do you do if you are bitten by a Deer Tick or suspected Deer Tick?

1. Don't panic, remain calm
2. If concerned, visit your family doctor or walk-in clinic and discuss your concerns with the doctor.

3. Put the tick in a clean container and send it to: Passive Black Legged Tick Surveillance Programme, Cadham Provincial Laboratory, P.O. Box 8450, 750 William Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 3Y1

There, the tick will be identified and tested. It is important to include your name and address, where the tick was found, and on whom (person, dog, etc.), as well as recent travel activity.

MPI investigation unit lists its top frauds of 2015

Vehicle technology, good old-fashioned investigation skills, and strong partnerships with police agencies were major factors in helping identify those people who tried to defraud Manitoba Public Insurance in 2015.

MPI's Special Investigation Unit (SIU) investigates upwards of 2,500 suspicious claims yearly. In 2015 those investigations resulted in fraud savings of \$7.6 million.

Here's the SIU's top frauds of the year:

NO. 1: "CRASH DATA RECORDER TELLS ALL"

A Winnipeg man stated that he had been the victim of two consecutive hit-and-runs on the same night.

The man told MPI investigators that he was struck from behind by a dark SUV while driving in rural Manitoba. The driver of the SUV did not stop, so the man quickly went into pursuit mode.

A short time later, the vehicle owner claimed his vehicle was hit from the side by a truck, with the driver of the truck getting out and fleeing to the original dark SUV.

This stranger-than-fiction story quickly resulted in an SIU investigation, at which time the Crash Data Recorder indicated that the vehicle

was parked at the time of the impacts.

The man was charged and later pleaded guilty to public mischief, receiving a fine of \$3,500.

His claim was also denied, resulting in a saving of \$15,000 to MPI ratepayers.

NO. 2: "WHAT THE HAY!"

Strangely, there was hay and dry grass stuffed into the vehicle's engine area. SIU investigators also discovered hay stuffed into the headlight areas of the vehicle. What the hay? Turns out the vehicle owner was trying to destroy his vehicle by setting it on fire.

The vehicle owner claimed he was attending a party out of the city and noticed a large fire in a hay field. He quickly jumped in his vehicle and, accompanied by a few pals, drove out to investigate.

The vehicle owner claimed he emptied a fire extinguisher in failed attempts to snuff the fire. As he told his adjuster, the fire then engulfed his vehicle.

But the story didn't add up. In addition to the suspicious placing of hay, the SIU arson investigator would discover an accelerant had been liberally splashed throughout the passenger compartment.

Faced with all the facts, the vehicle

owner chose to withdraw his claim, saving MPI customers nearly \$14,000.

NO. 3: "CRUISING FOR TROUBLE"

The woman told her adjuster that her vehicle had been stolen. What she didn't know was that MPI and the Winnipeg Police Service routinely share information.

The truth was the vehicle was not stolen—the woman willingly gave the vehicle to a male friend, who police had attempted to stop during a traffic stop. Attending officers had clearly observed the woman sitting in the passenger seat.

The woman was later arrested and pleaded guilty to public mischief. She was given 12 months probation, and a conditional discharge.

NO. 4: "AN UNLICENSED FRIEND"

A Winnipeg man told his insurance adjuster that his vehicle had been stolen after it was found badly damaged.

But in an interview with Winnipeg police, the vehicle owner said he had given his vehicle to a friend, who admitted he had been involved in two collisions.

The man also admitted he had no

driver's licence—which was known by the vehicle owner. Police shared this information with MPI investigators.

Due to knowingly giving his vehicle to an unlicensed driver, the vehicle owner's theft claim was denied, saving \$34,000.

NO. 5: "NOT SO INJURED"

A woman sustained injuries to her shoulder and back after being involved in a collision.

She then began collecting benefits, including income replacement payments. As the months went on, she told her case manager that she was too injured to work.

However, an SIU investigation discovered the woman had in fact returned to work—specifically, she was now involved in a physically demanding agriculture position.

The woman would later plead guilty to Fraud Over \$5,000 and was sentenced to three years of supervised probation, including counselling, 200 hours of community service work, and restitution of \$36,000.

Anyone knowing someone who is involved in auto insurance fraud is encouraged to call the Manitoba Public Insurance TIPS line at 204-985-8477 or toll-free 1-877-985-8477. All calls are anonymous.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS

Apple-Raisin Breakfast Quinoa



Ingredients

- 1 cup quinoa, rinsed according to package directions
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 cups – lowfat or fat free milk
- 1/2 cup water
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tart-sweet apple (such as Braeburn), chopped

1/2 cup raisins

1/3 cup chopped toasted walnuts

Preparation

Toast quinoa and cinnamon in medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring often. Cook until quinoa is golden and cinnamon is fragrant, about 2 minutes.

Add milk, water, and brown sugar, bring to a simmer, and cover. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook until liquid is absorbed, 20 to 25 minutes.

Fold in chopped apple, raisins, and walnuts and let stand a few minutes, covered, to heat through. Serve with additional milk.

Serves

5 servings, 2/3 cup per serving (about 3 ounces of milk per serving)

Open face egg salad sandwiches



Directions

In a bowl, use a fork to mash eggs until crumbly. Stir in yogurt, mayonnaise and pepper. Add celery, red pepper, green onion if using, and dill; stir until combined well.

Place lettuce on bread slices and divide egg salad on top.

Tips:

Little chefs love to peel the hard-cooked eggs. Hard-cooked eggs can be stored in their shells, in a covered container in the refrigerator for up to one week.

Get a head start. You can make the egg salad a day ahead, and just assemble the sandwich before serving.

No-fail way to make hard-cooked eggs: Place eggs in a single layer in saucepan and cover about 1 inch (2.5 cm) above eggs with water. Cover and bring to a boil over high heat. Remove from heat and let stand for 15 to 20 minutes. Drain water and run cold water over eggs to chill. Store eggs with their shells on in the fridge for up to 1 week.

Ingredients

- 2 hard-cooked eggs, peeled
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) each 0% fat plain Greek yogurt and light mayonnaise
- Pinch fresh ground pepper
- 1 stalk celery, finely diced
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) finely diced red bell pepper
- 1 green onion, thinly sliced (optional)
- 1 tsp (5 mL) chopped fresh dill or parsley or 1 mL (1/4 tsp) dried dill weed
- 2 leaves leaf lettuce
- 2 slices whole grain bread or dense pumpernickel dark rye bread

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Royals fall 5-3 to Maroons

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler and Morden are both still hunting for a post-Christmas win in the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League.

Both teams dropped their first game after the holidays on Dec. 27, the Winkler Royals falling to Notre Dame 4-3 and the Morden Redskins bowing to Portage 6-3.

Winkler got its first crack at a win in 2016 this past Saturday as they hosted the Altona Maroons.

Altona's Nick Doyle drew first blood six minutes in, but the Royals' Steve Doell scored with a minute left to go to even things out at the first intermission.

Period two saw Doell tip the scales in Winkler's favour at 18:12, but the Maroons' Tyler Dittmer tied it at 2-2 less than two minutes later.

In the final frame, Dwight Heppner pulled Winkler into the lead once again with a goal just before the midway point before the wheels fell off the cart for the Royals.

Doyle tied the game with an Altona goal at 14:13 and then made it a hat trick five minutes later. He scored his fourth of the game in the final 15 seconds on Winkler's empty net for the 5-3 Altona win.

Matt Krahn manned Winkler's net in the loss, making 35 saves as Winkler outshot Altona 50-39.

That brings Winkler's record to 6-5 for 12 points, putting them in fourth place. Rounding out the top three spots in the standings is Carman in first, Morden in second with an 8-4 record, and Portage in third.

Coming up this weekend, the Royals travel to play the Warren Mercs on Friday and the Portage Islanders on Sunday.

Morden returns to the ice this Thursday, Jan. 7, in Carman. Next week Thursday, Jan. 14, the Royals and the Redskins face-off in Morden.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

The Winkler Royals' Phil Letkeman just gets past the reach of Altona's Josh Froese in Sunday's game, which the Maroons took 5-3.

Flyers looking for first 2016 win

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers wrapped up 2015 with a loss and then kicked off 2016 with another to drop to third place in the MJHL standings.

In their first game back after Christmas on Dec. 31, the Flyers hit the road to play the top-ranked Terriers in Portage.

The Terriers fired 14 shots Winkler's way in the opening frame, but Connor Slipp stood strong in the Flyers' net, turning away all comers.

His teammates, in turn, had just three shots on goal, all saved by the Portage netminder, sending the game tied at zero heading into period two.

Winkler turned things around in the second frame, attempting 12 shots and finding gold with one from Thomas Mansbridge at the 16:16 mark to take the lead.

The two teams were evenly matched in the final period—10 shots from Winkler, nine from Portage—but it was the Terriers who made good on

their scoring chances, chipping one in at 6:07 and a second at 10:39 to take a 2-1 lead that held through to the final buzzer for the win.

Overall, Portage outshot Winkler just 28-25, with Slipp going the distance in net.

After taking a few days off for new year's celebrations, Winkler travelled to Selkirk to face the Steelers on Jan. 3.

Continued on page 20

Hawks down Avros 1-0

By Lorne Stelmach

A sixth straight win has the Pembina Valley Hawks challenging for the lead in the Manitoba Female Midget Hockey League.

Chloe Penner scored the lone goal of the game in the third period Sunday in Morden as the Hawks blanked the Winnipeg Avros 1-0.

They were backstopped by a solid 30 save shutout performance by goaltender Taylor Reimer.

Coach Dana Bell offered praise for both of those players who made the difference in the game, noting Penner had to move up from defence because the Hawks were missing a few players.

"She's been a really versatile player for us this year. She went out and got the winning goal, so that was nice to see," said Bell.

"I thought we moved the puck well. We were just kind of lacking in the leg department," he added. "You kind of look a little towards your goalie then to come out and win you a hockey

game. She wasn't tested much in the first period, but the second and third periods she definitely stood strong and got our team the win."

The win improved the Pembina Valley record to 14-3 for 28 points, which ties them with the Yellowhead Chiefs and puts them just one back of the first place Westman Wildcats.

The Hawks need to be well rested heading into this weekend's games, which pit them against the Yellowhead Chiefs Friday in Shoal Lake, the Eastman Selects Saturday in Morden, and the Westman Hawks in Hartney Sunday.

"The girls know what they have to do, how they've got to play. So it's just putting it all together," said Bell.

REIMER SIGNS WITH WATERLOO

Hawks goaltender Taylor Reimer has committed to attend and play for the University of Waterloo next season.

Reimer is in her third year with the



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Pembina Valley Hawks goaltender Taylor Reimer shut the door on the Avros to help give the team a 1-0 win on Sunday.

Hawks and over her career has posted a solid .927 save percentage with a goals against average of just under two goals per game. In eight games this season, she has posted a 1.37 GAA and .951 save percentage.

The Morden native was part of the

2014 Hawks championship team and earned a silver medal at the 2014 Manitoba Winter Games with Team Central going undefeated in the tournament. Reimer was also a bantam AAA all-star and won a Hockey Manitoba bantam title.

Hawks fall twice to Kenora Thistles

By Lorne Stelmach

They weren't rewarded with victories, but the Pembina Valley Hawks played well enough for coach Rylan Price on a road trip to Kenora last weekend.

Price said he saw good progress from his young team despite losing 4-1 and 6-3 to the Thistles.

"The first period of game one was probably the best period of hockey we've played so far," he said. "We ended up being in a tied game after one period, but I still think that system-wise we executed the best that we've done so far."

"We struggled in the second period ... shooting ourselves in the foot a little bit," he added.

Price pointed to a late second period Kenora goal in game two as a tough one for them to take, as it came on a play which they felt was offside and suddenly left them down 4-2 after two periods.

"We had a pretty decent first period. We started out firing right away. In the second period, we executed well ... we played exactly how we have asked them to play," he said.

The Hawks played pretty even with Kenora Saturday, having the edge in shots at 31-28, but a couple second

period breakdowns was all it took for the 4-1 loss.

Tyler Livingston replied for Pembina Valley to tie it 1-1 after the Thistles had opened scoring in the first period. Two second period goals including a powerplay marker put Kenora ahead 3-1 then after two.

The Hawks were blanked on seven powerplay opportunities. Aaron Brunn took the loss in net with 25 saves.

On Sunday, the Hawks trailed 3-2 and 4-2 at the intermissions in a game that got chippy in the final frame with the Hawks and Kenora taking 11 and 15 penalties overall.

Nicholas Hatley had a third period

powerplay goal for the Hawks with Cade Kowalski and Everett Bestland getting first period markers.

Matthew Thiessen made 27 saves as Pembina Valley was outshot 35-32.

The losses drop their record to 5-23-0-1 for 11 points and leaves them in 11th place, ahead of Norman by three and trailing Interlake by three.

The Hawks had earlier closed out 2015 with a pair of losses.

They were unable to get any offense going against the Winnipeg Wild Dec. 18, being outshot 47-8 on their way to a 4-0 shutout. Then Pembina Valley fought hard but still fell 4-3 to the Southwest Cougars Dec. 20.

The Hawks hit the road again this

weekend to try to break their losing skid. They face Parkland in Dauphin Saturday then Yellowhead in Shoal Lake Sunday.

Price keeps encouraging his charges that their progress should pay off in the long term.

"They're sticking to the game plan. It's frustrating ... they haven't experienced a whole lot of success with hockey this year," he said.

"We've got to keep pounding into them that there's small successes that will add up to that big one. We're not creating enough of those small ones yet in order to get that big win. That will happen in time, it's still early for us yet."

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 19

Tristan Keck got the ball rolling on scoring seven minutes into the first period, only to have that lead chipped away by two Selkirk goals within the following six minutes.

Period two was the Steelers' domain, as they widened their lead to 4-1 while Winkler remained scoreless despite getting 23 shots to Selkirk's 12.

Winkler regained its footing in the final period, clawing their way back into things with goals from Colton Bates at 12:03, Jeff Michiels at 14:20,

and, finally, Lawson McDonald at 17:19 to ultimately send the game to a shootout.

There, the Flyers' shooters—Michiels and Jordan Williamson—both missed the mark, while Selkirk's did not, giving the game to the Steelers 5-4 and earning Winkler a lone point.

Nathan Warren was in net this game, making 29 saves off of 33 shots regulation shots as Winkler outshot Selkirk 59-33.

The losses give Winkler a 26-7-3

record and 55 points, dropping them into third place behind the Steinbach Pistons (27-9-2 and 56 points) and the Terriers (32-6-2 and 66 points) with several games in hand.

They'll get started on reclaiming the number two spot this week as they head north to play OCN Thursday, Waywayseecappo Friday, and Virden on Saturday. The boys then return home next Tuesday to face Portage.

Junior curlers shine



The Winkler Junior Curling Club teams held their own at the Tim Hortons Youth Winter Bonspiel last week. Team Hope Friesen—photo at left, from left: Mark Berg, Landon Krahn, Hope Friesen, and Rayna Krahn (missing is lead Emily Kehler)—brought home the Curl Manitoba Fair Play Award for the 13 and under division. Meanwhile, Team Hayden Wiebe (above, from left: Wiebe, Theo Friesen, Luke Trinke, and Lucas Strempler) won the “C” event for



the 13U division, Team Reece Hamm was a runner-up in the 13U “A” event, and Team Logan Wiebe was a runner-up in the “D” event for the 16U group.

Pembina Valley Twisters fall to Canucks 4-3

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters missed out on an opportunity to celebrate the new year by taking over first place in the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League.

A 4-3 loss Sunday to the St. James Canucks left the Twisters one point behind the first place Raiders. The Canucks scored the winner at 3:57 in the third after Paul Remillard’s 14th of the year had tied it up at 3-3 for the Twisters at the 1:12 mark.

Two of Pembina Valley’s chief snipers scored in the first period to go to intermission tied at 2-2. Fraser Mirreles notched his 22nd, while Corey Mazinke picked up his 17th goal. Morgan Wall helped keep the Twisters in this one with 39 saves as the Canucks outshot them 43-25 overall. It left Pembina Valley at 18-7-3 for 39 points with the Raiders one up at 40 points while chasing them are the

Charleswood Hawks at 37 and St. Vital Victorias at 35 points. St. James maintained their hold on fifth place at 31 points. The Twisters had closed out 2015 with a 4-3 win over Charleswood Dec. 19 followed by a 2-0 blanking of the St. Boniface Riels Dec. 21. The chase resumes Saturday at home against the Transcona Railer Express and Sunday at St. Vital.

Manitoba Hockey Standings									
MANITOBA JUNIOR									
HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA		
Portage Terriers	40	32	6	2	66	163	89		
Steinbach Pistons	38	27	9	2	56	150	95		
Winkler Flyers	36	26	7	3	55	149	85		
Virden Oil Capitals	36	24	12	0	48	128	76		
Winnipeg Blues	38	19	13	6	44	136	109		
Swan Valley Stampede	37	15	17	5	35	107	126		
Selkirk Steelers	37	15	20	2	32	130	156		
Dauphin Kings	34	14	18	2	30	105	130		
OCN Blizzard	39	14	23	2	30	114	152		
Waywayseecappo									
Wolverines	38	11	23	4	26	99	150		
Neepawa Natives	37	8	29	0	16	80	193		
MANITOBA MAJOR									
JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA		
Raiders Jr. Hockey Club	28	19	7	2	40	99	75		
Pembina Valley Twisters	28	18	7	3	39	121	89		
Charleswood Hawks	26	17	6	3	37	108	71		
St. Vital Victorias	26	17	8	1	35	107	89		
St. James Canucks	28	15	12	1	31	102	105		
River East Royal Knights	28	13	13	2	28	83	92		
Stonewall Jets	27	13	13	1	27	100	94		
Transcona Railer Express	26	11	14	1	23	91	107		
St. Boniface Riels	27	9	16	2	20	81	104		
Ft. Garry/Ft. Rouge Twins	28	4	22	2	10	70	136		
SOUTH EASTERN MANITOBA									
HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA		
Carman	13	11	2	0	22	75	40		
Morden	12	8	4	0	16	48	38		
Portage	12	7	5	0	14	58	58		
Winkler	11	6	5	0	12	36	40		
Notre Dame	13	4	5	4	12	47	54		
Altona	10	5	5	0	10	40	33		
Warren	13	1	9	1	5	54	95		
AAA MIDGET									
HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA		
Eastman	30	28	0	1	58	151	53		
Wild	29	24	3	1	50	120	46		
Yellowhead	29	19	6	0	42	98	70		
Thrashers	28	19	8	1	39	126	66		

Central Plains	29	15	10	1	34	93	76
Brandon	28	14	13	0	29	74	77
Kenora	29	14	14	1	29	99	114
Southwest	29	13	14	1	28	93	98
Parkland	28	12	14	0	26	98	112
Interlake	28	7	21	0	14	65	129
Pembina Valley	29	5	23	1	11	57	138
Norman	30	3	25	2	8	83	178
AAA BANTAM							
HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Brandon Wheat Kings	21	18	3	0	36	127	30
Central Plains Capitals	23	14	8	1	29	114	111
Yellowhead Chiefs	20	10	6	3	24	89	76
Parkland Rangers	20	11	9	0	22	83	100
Pembina Valley PV Hawks	21	8	11	1	18	98	114
Southwest Cougars	26	8	17	1	17	68	97
Norman Wolves	21	1	20	0	2	34	193
MANITOBA FEMALE MIDGET AAA							
HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	T	OTW	OTL	Pts
Westman Wildcats	19	12	3	-	1	3	29
PV Hawks	17	12	3	-	2	-	28
Yellowhead Chiefs	16	12	1	-	1	2	28
Central Plains	16	10	3	-	2	1	25
Winnipeg Avros	20	5	10	-	3	2	18
Eastman Selects	18	6	10	-	1	1	15
Norman Wild	16	2	13	-	-	1	5
Interlake Lightning	16	-	16	-	-	-	-
HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY							
HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Prairie Mountain Mustangs	14	14	0	0	28	100	25
Morden Thunder	13	9	2	1	20	79	31
Portage Collegiate							
Institute Trojans	13	8	5	0	16	62	39
W.C. Miller Aces (Altona)	13	8	5	0	16	46	48
Morris Mavericks	14	7	6	0	15	70	50
Carman Cougars	13	6	7	0	12	30	45
Cartwright/Nellie McClung/ Pilot Mound Tigers	16	4	10	2	10	19	64
Northlands Parkway Collegiate							
Nighthawks (Winkler)	12	4	8	0	8	34	62
Garden Valley Collegiate							
Zodiacs (Winkler)	16	2	13	0	5	30	106
STATS AS OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 5							

Team Zacharias is Scotties-bound

Team Zacharias will be representing our region at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Beausejour later this month. The junior women’s team—made up of Mackenzie Zacharias, Morgan Reimer, Emily Zacharias, Jennesa Rutter and coach Sheldon Zacharias—earned a berth at the provincial

competition at the Central Region Qualifier in Morden last month. The ladies downed Morden’s Cindy Waikikka and then bested La Salle’s Deb McCreanor’s rink twice to advance to the Scotties. Team Zacharias will be the youngest team at the event, which takes place Jan. 19-24.



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Agriculture

'It's time now to start rebuilding our capacity'

By Harry Siemens

Late in 2015, the Manitoba government introduced a new special pilot project permit evaluation protocol designed to allow the construction of swine barns in the province to resume after a decade-long ban under 11 new conditions.

Manitoba Pork's Mike Teillet says the pilot protocol is a step in the right direction, even with the conditions.

"One of the key ones is there has been a 200 per cent reduction in soil phosphorus limits," he says. "Right now the regulation allows for 180 parts per million of soil phosphorus buildup in soil. This new protocol will lower that to 60 parts per million for new barns—a significant reduction."

Other requirements will have all new hog operations injecting their manure or incorporate within 48 hours, additional manure sampling and testing requirements over and above what's required now, and significantly more land for spread fields than before.

"We estimate up to or even more than twice as much land for spread fields as in the past," Teillet says. "They will have to have enough land to spread at a one times phosphorus application rate."

Manitoba Pork has put together estimates for how much it will cost producers to construct new hog finisher facilities under current market conditions, using typical 2,000 and 4,000 head finisher barns as models.

For 2,000 head, a producer is looking at upwards of \$1.2 million—about \$621 per animal. A larger, 4,000 head facility will come in at just under \$2 million, or \$495 a pig. These numbers don't include the cost of land since it's assumed most projects will be on existing farms.

Manitoba Pork general manager Andrew Dickson says producers can use these numbers as a starting point when considering the construction of finishing spaces.

"The intent was to go through all the details of the design, required materials, and the costs of doing the building, the construction site preparation and so forth so that producers at least have a starting point from which they can try to estimate

the real cost of trying to build a barn on their own property," he says. "This has become quite controversial because costs have increased dramatically since 15 to 20 years ago on some items. We have to be cost conscious and make sure that we're competitive with our counterparts in the United States."

States such as Iowa build upwards of 150 new barns annually just to replace aging structures. Manitoba, in contrast, has built just three or four

barns in the last five years.

"It's time now to start rebuilding our capacity, not only to replace barns that are worn out but also to improve the capacity to finish pigs in the province," says Dickson.

Manitoba Pork partnered with DGH Engineering for the estimates and Dickson urges producers interested in navigating the permit process to contact them for more information.

The firm took two standard designs and extrapolated basic costs, he said.

"We didn't ask them to look at innovative penning layouts or anything like that. We wanted to use a standard design, do detailed cost estimates, talking to the potential suppliers of these materials and then applying the normal discounts you would have for a commercial business."

You can learn more about the estimates and the entire process online at manitobapork.com.

Talking soil with 'Dirt' author

By Harry Siemens

Soil expert David R. Montgomery recently gave the keynote address at the National Soil Health Summit in Calgary.

Montgomery, who is a professor of earth and space sciences at the University of Washington, is the author of *Dirt*, a book which posits that while

good soil is disappearing, mankind, if it takes the right steps now, can turn things around.

Once bare of protective vegetation and exposed to wind and rain, cultivated soils erode bit by bit, slowly enough to be ignored in a single lifetime but fast enough over centuries to limit the lifespan of civilizations.

Montgomery sees in the recent rise

of organic and no-till farming as the hope for a new agricultural revolution that might help the world's humans avoid the fate of previous civilizations.

In an interview following his presentation, he said removing trees was the first misstep, but it wasn't the axe

Continued on page 25



> HARRY SIEMENS

While Canada has mostly normal relations with Cuba, the United States is only in the beginning stages of restoring relations with a country where the Castro government owns half of everything, or thereabouts.

What prompts me to write about Cuba, you may ask? Well, our

Contemplating Cuba's future

daughter, Lynn, spent a week vacation in the city of Varadero at the end of the year.

She said she liked the laid-back atmosphere and the friendliness of local people. The sand and beaches were great and the temperature hot. Sometimes, it would get so windy, she felt chilly even at 37 degrees Celsius.

For the group she went with, most had vacationed there before, and this was the "one more time" visit before the United States moves in and changes things.

Lynn says most of the people there—youth included—really don't want to see the Americans coming to revamp what has existed under the Castro communist regime.

For her it was like stepping back in time, much like what she would have

imagined Florida to be back in '50s.

It will be interesting to see what will actually happen in Cuba as far as remodeling the old, upgrading the existing, and building new. Me thinks that just because there is a removal of the travel ban from the U.S. that things won't change overnight. But change they will.

An estimate from *The Black Book of Communism* is that throughout Cuba 15,000-17,000 people were executed after the 1959 communist takeover. Meanwhile, in nearly all areas of government, loyalty to the regime became the primary criterion for all appointments.

I'm not here to defend or criticize what happens in a communist government, but when someone tells

Continued on page 24

PVCD program seals hundreds of old wells

By Lorne Stelmach

It was a situation that could have ended up much worse for the village of Altamont's community centre.

The Pembina Valley Conservation District came to the rescue recently when it was discovered an abandoned well in the centre's maintenance room had collapsed and needed urgent attention.

"Generally, when there's a well inside a structure, when they start to collapse, it creates a problem with the foundation," said Robert Nichol, district assistant technician.

"It had probably collapsed sometime in the summer but they didn't use that well until they started flooding the rink. When they realized ... it had already gotten to the point where, with that entire room, the foundation was just sitting on air."

Nichol said he hadn't encountered a problem exactly like this during his time with the district, but it is not surprising that the potential is there as "there's lots of wells in the area."

The onus is on landowners to be aware and to take steps to address situations like this, but the district offers a program to help.

"We provide a program that allows them to do that a little less expensively than it would otherwise," said Nichol, noting it could cost a landowner just \$150 rather than possibly \$1,000.

The PVCD's abandoned well sealing program has been put to good use over the years as the district to date has filled and sealed about 1,300 wells.

An unused or abandoned water well can pose one of the greatest threats to groundwater, as it might provide a direct, unhindered route for pollutants to reach an aquifer.

In this instance, the Altamont well had been hand dug before the building had been constructed, so the six foot diameter well could only be accessed through a two by three foot hatch in the concrete floor.

It was discovered the original wood cribbing was still visible, although it

had decayed and was no longer holding back the surrounding soil.

Over time, sediment moved from outside the well cribbing and had started filling in the bottom of the well, leaving a void under the floor of the building.

The wood cribbing was not strong enough to support the cast concrete well head which was broken and had sunk three feet.

Nichol investigated and found there was no longer any earth in contact with the building foundation, which created a dangerous situation for contamination and safety.

PVCD contracted Mile 13 Construction to bring in a conveyor belt and had a hole cut in the wall of the building to get access to the well bore.

Using the conveyor belt and a skid steer, it was able to fill the hole with sand up to the existing ground water level where

they installed a layer of bentonite.

Bentonite is a specific type of clay that swells when it gets wet, forming an impermeable barrier that will prevent surface water from reaching the ground water. This helps to keep contaminants on the ground from seeping into the aquifer and polluting wells in the surrounding area.

Once the seal was in place, they filled most of the remaining cavity

"SEALING A WELL PROPERLY HELPS MINIMIZE THE RISK OF INJURY OR GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION."



The PVCD's abandoned well program helped the Altamont community centre safety seal this collapsed well recently.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



with sand, taking care to fill the voids on both sides of the well casing. The sand was tamped and packed as well as possible to prevent settling in the future.

As an extra precaution, the well was left to settle for a couple of days and rechecked before the final sealing.

To seal the well, they installed several yards of concrete slurry that would flow to fill any remaining gaps under the foundation.

"Sealing a well properly helps mini-

mize the risk of injury or ground water contamination," said Nichol. "Often wells that have been sealed improperly in the past, usually filled with rock and covered with dirt, settle over time, leaving voids underground. These create a safety hazard as well as a way for surface contamination to get into the water supply."

If you'd like to learn more about the PVCD's abandoned well sealing program, contact them at 204-242-3267.

> SIEMENS SAYS, FROM PG. 23

me that local Cuban citizens want things to stay as they are, I look at the past executions, people who fought for freedom, loyalty to the regime a primary criterion for all government appointments and obviously you can't say things should remain the same.

Meanwhile, a water shortage in the capital city of Havana—to the point of the ordinary citizen having access to clean water for a measly eight hours a week—is no good for anyone, either.

According to media reports, the Cuban capital is facing its worst water shortage in the last 50 years

due to the effects of the drought and the progressive deterioration of the fresh water supply network.

This is reportedly affecting more than a million people, and could become much worse if the rains do not come.

In Googling agriculture in Cuba, I find it has played an important part in the economy for several hundred years. Yet today it contributes less than 10 per cent to the GDP.

The inefficient agricultural industry in Cuba has led to the need to import large amounts of beef and lard.

Cuba now imports about 70 to 80

percent of all the food its people consume and 80 to 84 percent of the food it provides via the rations to the public. The rationing program accounts for about a third of the food energy the average Cuban consumes.

Therefore I find it interesting here is an island surrounded by water, a tropical climate with plenty of ground to cultivate crops, there is a water shortage and they import far too much food. How come? Is it a utopia? As the old saying goes, if the grass is so much greener on the other side of the fence, why do the cows keep trying to bust out all the time?

35. Now called Ho Chi Minh City
36. Set into a specific format
39. Exhaust
40. Individual
43. Moves rhythmically to music
44. D. L'Amour "Road" picture costume
46. Having earlike appendages
47. Certified public accountant
49. Outermost part of a flower
51. Supplement with difficulty
54. Plains Indian tent (alt. sp.)
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60. Displaying a fairylike aspect
61. Taxi
62. They ____
64. S'vrian pound

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ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



Mel and Rhonda Braun and Tim and Heidie Janzen are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Nathan Braun and Taylor Janzen. A June wedding is planned.

HEALTH

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. Stonewall Elk Products Ltd., 204-467-8428 or e-mail stonewoodelk@hotmail.com

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



Congratulations Taylor Hildebrand and Jake Koetler on your upcoming wedding on January 15, 2016. We wish you a lifetime of love and happiness.

-Love from,
your families

CAREERS



FARM MANAGER

Kroeker Farms is a progressive vegetable farm that specializes in table and seed potatoes. Production also includes chip potatoes, creamer potatoes, onions, and a large organic department.

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Ed Klassen
Kroeker Farms Limited
HR Manager
Phone (204) 325-4333
Fax (204) 325-8630
Email: edwin@kroekers.com

*We thank all applicants for their interest!
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COMING EVENTS



GOSPEL MUSIC NIGHT

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Western School Division

Kindergarten Registration for September 2016

Parents are requested to register their children for Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year, by coming to the appropriate school office from **January 22 to January 29, 2016**, between 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Children born in 2011 or earlier are eligible to enrol. All parents are asked to bring a copy of your child's birth certificate when registering.

Please enrol in the school within whose catchment area your residence is located. For Kindergarten program and registration information, call the schools directly.

Catchment areas are:

Minnewasta School, 1 Academy Drive, Mr. Mike Keith, Principal, (204)822-4580

- Area south of North Railway and area west of Mountain St., and all rural students.

Maple Leaf School, 225-12th St., Mrs. Cindy Wainikka, Principal, (204)822-4458

- Area north of South Railway St. and east of Mountain St., and all early years (K-4) French Immersion students.

OPEN HOUSE

Western School Division will be holding a Kindergarten Parent information session on **January 21, 2016 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at Minnewasta School. We look forward to seeing all the new Kindergarten parents on this evening.

More detailed information is available online at www.westernsd.mb.ca, at the schools, or at Western School Division Office, (204)822-4448.



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OBITUARY



Wilhelm (Bill) Wiebe 1957 – 2015

On Friday, December 25, 2015 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Bill Wiebe, aged 58 years of Schanzenfeld, MB went to his eternal rest.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Katharina (nee Dyck); two daughters, Anna Wiebe, Sara and John Peters; three sons, John and Mary, Will and Jodi, Abe Wiebe; as well as seven grandchildren, two sisters, three brothers and their families.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 30, 2015 at the Chortitz Old Colony Mennonite Church with interment at the Church Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Bill's memory to either Boundary Trails Health Centre or Dr. C.W. Wiebe Medical

Centre.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
In care of arrangements,
wiebefuneralhomes.com



OBITUARY



Hunter Maverick Suderman

April 4, 2014 - December 25, 2015

Hunter Maverick Suderman, 1 year, 8 months died unexpectedly on Friday December 25, 2015. Hunter is the son of James and Diana Suderman of Winkler, MB. The short time he spent here on earth was full of smiles and joy. He loved orange cars and stuffed animals. There was never a day where he wouldn't run around with a sippy cup or a box of juice, and he loved his snacks. He loved his brother, Connor dearly, who will miss him very much. Whenever Connor cried or was upset, Hunter would cuddle with him. It seems even though he was the younger one, he knew how to comfort someone when they were sad. Everyone who met him was fond of him and his energetic spirit. We will deeply miss his hugs, his kisses, his smiles and his energy in our home, but we

have many beautiful and special memories to hold on to.

A private family memorial service took place at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 2, 2016 at Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

Hunter Maverick will be dearly missed by his parents, James and Diana Suderman; his brother, Connor Devon; grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins, as well as his foster family.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



OBITUARY



Aganetha Janzen (nee Dyck) 1951 - 2015

On Tuesday, December 22, 2015 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Aganetha Janzen aged 64 years of Winkler, MB went to her eternal rest.

She leaves to mourn her passing four daughters, Anna and Dennis Whitman, Helen and Mark Loewen, Nettie Plett, Mary Janzen; 12 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. She was predeceased by her husband, Abram in 1987; grandson Dylan Whitman in 2003; daughter, Justina in 1975; and son, Cornelius in 1975.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 28, 2015 at the Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church with interment at the Reinland Mennonite Church Cemetery in Schanzenfeld.

Donations in Aganetha's memory may be dropped off at Wiebe Funeral Home.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



OBITUARY



Edward D. Braun

Monday, December 21, 2015 at the Tri-Lake Health Centre, aged 79 years, Edward D. Braun, beloved husband of Paula Braun, of Killarney MB.

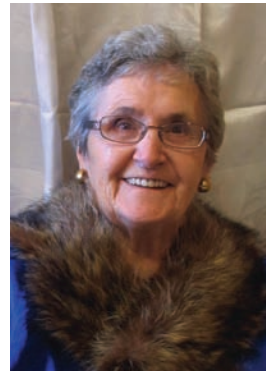
Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date in 2016.

Memorial donations can be made in Ed's memory and in Paula's honour, to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba, Unit 4B-457 9th St. Brandon MB R7A 1K2.

On line condolences can be made by visiting

www.willmorchapel.com
Jamieson's Funeral Services
Willmor Chapel, of Glenboro
in care of arrangements
204-827-2480

OBITUARY



Helena (Helen) Wieler (nee Wiebe) 1929 – 2015

On Saturday, December 19, 2015 at approximately 12:45 p.m., Helen Wieler, aged 86 years, 9 months and 13 days of Winkler, MB formerly of Plum Coulee walked from this earth into the arms of Jesus Christ, her Lord and Savior to be with Him for eternity.

Mom was born on March 6, 1929 at home near Plum Coulee in the Horndean area. She was baptized upon her confession of faith by Peter Toews in 1948. She married Henry D. Wieler on May 20, 1948 at her parents' farm in the Horndean district. After the wedding, Mom and Dad lived at Dad's parents' place for awhile building crates and helping with the packing for their big move to South America which took place in June 1948, only one month after marriage. They boarded a train for Quebec and then sailed by

ship for three weeks before reaching their new home – a tent on a piece of wasteland – hardly what they had imagined! This journey and time in South America was very hard for Mom and Dad. As Mom's parents were unable to join them there as planned, they returned back to Canada and their families in March of 1949. Upon their return, they began by working on various farms in summer and then went to work in a lumber camp near Red Lake, Ontario where they spent two winters. In fall of 1951, they began managing a farm near Plum Coulee for the Diamond family, full time, and spent 27 years on this farm. Mom was Dad's lifelong partner and she loved working on the farm alongside Dad, and particularly enjoyed hauling the grain off the fields during harvest. One summer she even hoed enough beets to earn the money for Dad to purchase a new swather for the farm. They had a very self-sufficient farm, owning cows, chickens, and pigs, which provided milk, cream, eggs, and meat for the family, as well as a large garden which provided all of the vegetables. Mom also greatly encouraged Dad in the purchase of their own farmland near Kane.

Mom was a very hard worker and never took the time to indulge in any hobbies. She did however, do some very good cooking. She did not have the time to do too much experimenting; however, what she did make was always tasty. She made the best potato salad around and her perogies and chicken noodle soup were excellent. Mom was very hospitable and whoever showed up on their yard would always be served a meal. Mom was a very beautiful woman, even into old age. Her inner beauty shone in her selfless care for her family, always taking the time for any family member in need, and in the strength of her spirit to persevere through tough times. She was resilient, passionate, and unwaveringly dedicated to her family, the farm, and the Lord. She prayed daily for her children and grandchildren, which was a commitment of solemn importance to her. In 1976, they were able to build their very first home in Plum Coulee where they lived for 23 years. Then in 1999, as Dad began to have some health issues, they decided to move to a condo in Winkler. Dad passed away on March 17, 2003 which was a very difficult loss for Mom. In February of 2011, she moved to Cedar Estates. Physically, Mom was amazingly strong and healthy, however, sometime before her 80th birthday; she began her journey with dementia. This was a very long and difficult road for Mom. She broke her hip in August of 2011 and was hospitalized for 6 months and then moved to Salem Home on March 1, 2012 when she was no longer able to care for herself, where she resided until her passing.

Helen leaves to mourn her children and their families: David (and Gail) Wieler and his children, Angela (and Bryan) Natali and their son, Gianluca; Michael Wieler; Matthew (and Melissa) Wieler and their children, Bentley and Taylah; Jeffrey (and Breanne) Wieler; Helen (and Ernie) Janzen and their children, Jeremy (and Danita) Janzen; Helanna (and Brad) Penner and their children, Locke and Kaiya; Dorothy (and Earl) Braun and their children, Andrea Braun and Rob McDonald and her children, Paige and Zander; JoLane (and Joe) Klassen and their children, Micah, Simon, Zoe and Owen; Heidi Braun; Erma (and Wayne) Rempel and their children, Courtney Rempel; Garth (and Jaclyn) Rempel.

Mom's lifelong prayer was that we, her family, would be reunited in heaven some day. One of Mom's cherished scripture passages:

"Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." John 14:1-3

Funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 at Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church with interment at Winkler Cemetery.

We, the family, would like to extend our gratitude to the staff at Salem Home who loved Mom and took excellent care of her.

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