

The *Winkler • Morden*
Voice

VOLUME 17
EDITION 10

THURSDAY,
MARCH 19, 2026
www.winklermordenvoice.ca

LOCALLY OWNED HISTORY BOOK FOR THE COMMUNITY

**FAST, FRIENDLY SERVICE
— DRIVE IN TODAY**

SPRING ARRIVES SOON...

ED'S TIRE

**SPRING TIRE CHANGEOVER
FREE TIRE STORAGE
REBATES**

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

80 Thornhill St, MORDEN
204-822-6127
273 Main St S, CARMAN
204-745-2300

AUTHORIZED MPI
WINTER TIRE PROGRAM DEALER

HOURS: Mon-Fri 8AM-5:30PM | Saturday 8AM-12 noon

Skating through the seasons

The Winkler Skating Club held its annual ice show Saturday afternoon with a theme that took viewers through all the seasons. Here, CanSkate program members on the ice during the "spring" routine. For more photos, see Pg. 10.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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

Pembina Valley
Local Immigration
Partnership

Connect to our
Guide & Toolkit for
Building Communities
that are Welcoming
and Inclusive.

pvlip.ca

Got Connections?
When we connect, we belong.

Scan the QR Code to help build connections in your community.

Pembina Valley
Local Immigration
Partnership



Checking out the new rink

Community members were invited to come explore the Winkler Centennial Arena last Thursday at the recently renovated facility's open house. The Winkler Flyers were involved throughout, kicking things off by skating with local families in the morning, hosting an open practice, and doing a meet and greet to round out the day. There were also facility tours provided by rink staff and complimentary refreshments for all. An official grand opening celebration is expected to take place for the arena in fall.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



PRAIRIE CONNECT 2026

Central Manitoba Tourism's FIRST Tradeshaw at the Access Event Centre! Join us to see what Central Manitoba all has to offer!

Saturday, March 28, 2026
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Access Event Centre
111-D Gilmour St, Morden, MB

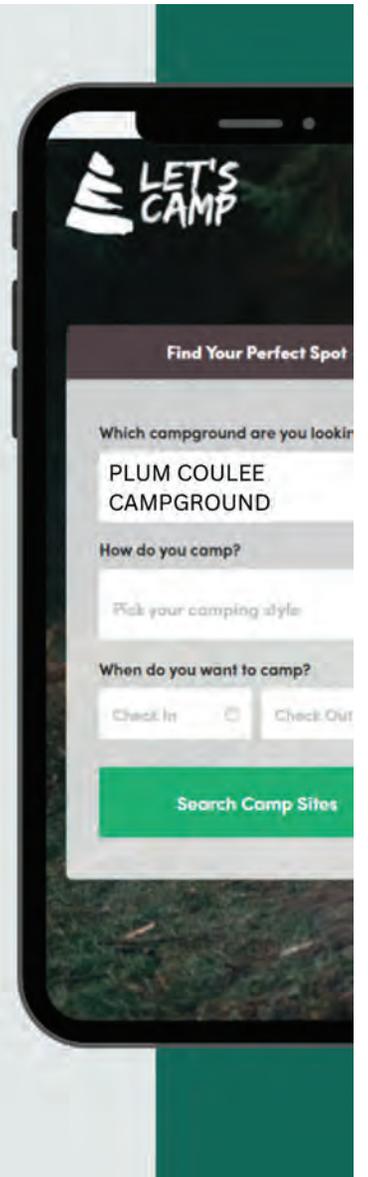
Drinks and Snacks

Trade Show Exhibitors

Live Band

hey
We've switched to online booking.

VISIT LETSCAMP.CA TO BOOK YOUR CAMPSITE AT THE PLUM COULEE CAMPGROUND!



Leslie hosts town hall in Winkler re: Bill C-9

By Lorne Stelmach

Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie has joined the chorus of critics condemning what he says is the Liberal government's attempt to push through a controversial change to the criminal code that would remove a long-standing safeguard protecting the good-faith expression of religious beliefs.

The change is being considered as part of Bill C-9, which is legislation that amends various aspects of the Canadian Criminal Code. During committee consideration of the bill, the Liberal government with the support of the Bloc Québécois proposed removing an existing provision in the code that protects individuals from being convicted of hate propaganda offences for expressing an argument or opinion based on a religious text in good faith.

That safeguard has existed in Canadian law for decades, and it does not protect hatred or violence, which are already illegal under the Criminal Code, say critics, including Leslie. Instead, it has ensured individuals cannot be criminally prosecuted simply for reading, quoting, or expressing beliefs drawn from religious texts.

"The bill, as it originally was, I think

did have laudable intentions. We should absolutely try to protect people going to their place of worship," said Leslie. "Hate speech is one element ... that is the problem that we need to be tackling."

He cited how the bill was originally targeted at tightening the language around hate speech and protecting religious institutions. However, through the committee process, the Bloc Québécois proposed an amendment which would remove the safeguard from the code that Leslie says protects people from fear of conviction when expressing an opinion based on sacred texts.

"Given that the Liberals didn't have anybody to help them pass this piece of legislation, they basically made a trade with the Bloc ... okay, we'll get rid of this section, this particular safeguard in the criminal code, if you give us support for the broader bill," Leslie said. "We've seen basically every type of religious organization come out in opposition to this safeguard removal ... diverse groups have come out and said what are you guys doing? Where did this come from?"

Leslie said the proposal has triggered a significant response from his constituents across Portage-Lisgar, including at a town hall meeting held



FACEBOOK.COM/BRANDENCPC

MPs Branden Leslie and Andrew Lawton spoke at a public forum on Bill C-9 in Winkler Saturday that drew several hundred people.

Saturday in Winkler.

About 400 people came out to hear from Leslie and fellow Conservative MP Andrew Lawton, who represents the Ontario riding of Elgin-St. Thomas-London South and has been one of the leading voices raising concerns about the proposed changes.

"Over the past few weeks, I have received more correspondence about this issue than almost any other during my time as a Member of Parliament," Leslie said. "People from many different faith communities and people with no religious affiliation at all are concerned about what it

means to remove this protection from the criminal code."

Leslie said those concerns had intensified after the Liberal government introduced a motion in the House of Commons March 5 that would limit debate and force the legislation through Parliament on an accelerated timeline.

The motion will force the justice committee to immediately resume clause-by-clause consideration of the bill and to vote on all remaining amendments without further debate.

Continued on page 5

When you laugh over lunch

Your next dining experience, a trip to the museum or day at the spa—it's all part of the \$1.89 billion economic boost tourism provides every year in Manitoba. So, the next time you take some time to explore, know you're helping build a stronger Manitoba.

When you change how you look at tourism, you see it everywhere.
Learn more at travelmanitoba.com/tourism

THIS IS MANITOBA TOURISM

FREE GOSPEL CONCERT

THE FEHR FAMILY BAND IN CONCERT

Friday, March 27 @ 7:00 PM

Emmanuel Mennonite Church
750 Fifteenth Street, Winkler

FREE

With their roots planted in bluegrass, The Fehr Family Band shares music featuring closely-knit family harmonies, skillful musicianship, and uplifting lyrics. Their acoustic sound encompasses a variety of genres, including beloved hymns, energetic Celtic tunes, and Southern Gospel songs. As a family they love the Lord and want to exalt Him through music. The Fehr family, comprised of James and Heather and their eleven children, lives near Edmonton, Alberta. The band travels across Canada playing music and sharing the hope and joy that are found in knowing Jesus Christ.

FREE admission with a freewill offering to help children in Latin America go to school

No Tickets Required

www.genrising.org/events

Garden Valley SD passes \$67.3M financial plan

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley School Division's board of trustees approved a \$67.3 million financial plan for the 2026-2027 school year at a special meeting Friday.

It's an increase of over \$4M from the year before to meet the growing needs of the projected 4,371 students throughout the division this fall.

The budget planning process began late last year when trustees met with local parents, teachers, and school administrators, explained board chair Leah Klassen

"We asked them what they thought: what do we need? What do we not need?" she said. "The response we heard again and again was: don't cut. Don't cut staff, don't cut programming, try to maintain the status quo as much as we can."

When they began crunching the numbers early in the new year, well before the provincial government had announced any details about what funding GVSD would be receiving, the financial outlook was pretty sobering.

"We did a status quo [draft] budget, so if we were not to add anything and just go based on last year's funding. We were short by \$2.9

million," Klassen shared. "The majority of that is the contractual obligations that we have—[teacher salary] harmonization comes into this next budget year. That's just the reality of what we're working with."

The province has mandated that teachers in all schools across Manitoba be paid the same rates, which for many rural divisions means a significant expenditures increase year over year.

Salaries and benefits in fact make up the largest piece of the financial pie for GVSD—84 per cent of the entire budget for the more than 700 staff employed across the division—coming in at \$56.8M (up from \$53M in the current school year).

That's followed by services at \$5.3M (up from \$5.1M), supplies and material at \$3.5M (up from \$3.3M), and transfers at \$1.5M (down from \$1.8M).

On the revenue side, GVSD receives the bulk of its funding from the Province of Manitoba. Year over year operational funding totals \$34.9M for 2026-2027, an increase of \$821,144 or 2.4 per cent, though that does include several significant pieces of funding earmarked solely for things like nutritional programs, special needs, and salary harmonization.

The budget further calls for revenue of \$19M from municipal taxes (up \$2.3M from the current year) and about \$1.3M from other sources (up \$200,000).

With the directive from the community to, at the least, maintain the current level of teachers and programming, the board had quite a task ahead of it to figure out how they were going to make ends meet this year, Klassen said.

"We had to have that conversation, and it was really a philosophy conversation—do we cut teachers? Eighty-four per cent of our budget is staffing, so if you're going to make cuts that's where they're going to be," she said, noting they also discussed not filling vacant administrative positions and taking another look at whether the time is right to introduce new programming like Big Picture Learning (an alternative form of high school education slated to launch in GVSD this fall).

Ultimately, though, the board decided raising taxes a modest amount was the most responsible move to ensure the level of education in GVSD is where it needs to be.

"We're really doing a status quo budget, with one new position, a behavioral specialist, and that is to hopefully help with the classroom complexities issues that we've been hearing so much about from our staff," Klassen said, noting an increasing number of students are struggling in classroom environments. "There are a lot of different needs that are coming into our classrooms that maybe haven't been there in the past."

Beyond that position and the hiring of additional educational assistants to further support teachers in the classroom, there are no new big-ticket items in this budget—no capital projects, bus purchases, or other costly items.

Continued on page 9



NOW OPEN & SERVING THE COMMUNITY!



WINKLER MEDICAL CLINIC

Your new community clinic providing
quality, compassionate care right here in Winkler.

 **Location:**
Unit 2, 344 1st Street, Winkler, Manitoba

 **431-804-4610**

 **Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

WE ARE ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS & WALK-INS!

Our dedicated team is here to support your health needs with timely, friendly, and professional care.

Your health matters—visit us today!



RURAL BUDS

CANNABIS SHOP

MORRIS • CARMAN
ST. PIERRE • ST. ADOLPHE



Access CU named top employer for 12th year

By Lorne Stelmach

Access Credit Union has been recognized as one of Manitoba's top employers for a 12th year in a row.

The honour was announced by the editors and organizers of Canada's Top 100 Employers last week. Access CU chief executive officer Myrna Wiebe said it is recognition they value but also something they do not take for granted.

"It encourages us as an organization to keep doing better with our employees," she said. "It actually does keep us in check to make sure that we are doing the best for our employees."

Wiebe emphasized that Access strives to be an employer of choice by supporting engaged, highly competent employees who are inspired to achieve their personal best while reflecting their vision, priorities and values. They prioritize the wellness and satisfaction of their employees with benefits like paid training and

continuing education, flexible hours and work locations, matched pension plans, competitive salaries, 100 per cent tuition subsidies, a fully paid health plan and family coverage, and the opportunity to contribute to the community.

The dedication, support and teamwork demonstrated daily by the employees is what supports the success and continued growth of the credit union, said Wiebe.

"We're proud of our employees' dedication to providing exceptional service to our members and clients and how well they represent Access both inside and outside the workplace," she said. "For myself, it gives me such pride. It just reflects a long term commitment that our employees have and that the organization has to our employees."

"It reinforces that as we invest in our employees, it just strengthens our entire organization. It confirms and affirms the positive impact that we



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Access Credit Union has been named one of Manitoba's top employers by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers. Right: CEO Myrna Wiebe says the honour is an encouragement for the organization.



want to have, that we intend to have and that we intentionally encourage our staff to have in the communities that we serve," Wiebe added.

"Going through the process of the application, it brings to light some of the things that we can do better ... even though we have fantastic loyalty and dedication now, anything that we can do to encourage that, increase that and enhance that for our employees, that's what we want to do ... it keeps it forefront in our minds ... we

need to continue to do better things to keep moving forward."

In addition to the top employer honour, Access was also selected as one of Canada's best employers for recent grads as featured in The Career Directory 2026.

Prairie Connect 2026—come see what the region has to offer

By Ashleigh Viveiros

March is the perfect time to start planning out your "stay-cations" for the summer, and Central Manitoba Tourism (CMT) has just the thing to help you figure out where to go.

The agency hosts the first annual Prairie Connect event at the Access Event Centre in Morden on Saturday, March 28.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day, mu-

nicipalities, businesses, and community organizations from across CMT's service network will have exhibits set up to highlight all there is to see and do in our area.

"We have over 20 signed up, and there's still some registrations coming in," CMT general manager June Letkeman shared last week.

"I really want people to come and enjoy the day and see what we all have in our area, because we have so many hidden gems that people don't know about," she said of the myriad of museums, galleries, festivals, and recreational offerings that span the region. "I want them to see what we all have in our catchment area ... come plan out

your summer."

It's very much a come and go type of event, though the Beerjammers will be taking the stage at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. There will also be food available around midday. Admission is free.

"Come and have a look to see what we all have to promote in our area," Letkeman urged.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM

Public Notice is hereby given that the Province of Manitoba intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2026 within the province right of way.

1. To control invasive plants and noxious weeds on Manitoba Provincial right of way.
2. The herbicides include: Dicamba, 2,4-D amine, 2,4-D Choline, 2,4-D Ester, 2,4-D, Mecoprop-p, Dichloroprop-p, Aminopyralid, Metsulfuronmethyl, Diflufenzopyr, Fluroxypyr, Imazapyr, Triclopyr, Picloram, Aminocyclopyrachlor, Chlorsulfuron, Saflufenacil, Iron (as FeHEDTA), Glyphosate, Clopyralid, Bromacil, Acetic Acid, LI 700, Non Ionic Surfactant, Flumioxazin, Diuron, Indaziflam, Florpyrauxifen, mineral oil, Methyl Ester & Ethyl Ester.
3. The proposed dates of application for this program will be from April 15, 2026 to October 31, 2026.

The public may send written submissions or objections within 15 days of the publication of the notice to the department below.

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
Environmental Approvals Branch
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard, Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6
pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca



> TOWN HALL, FROM PG. 3

It directs the committee to continue meeting until the bill has been disposed of and requires the bill to be reported back to the House within two sitting days. The motion also limits debate in the House of Commons to one sitting day at report stage and one sitting day at third reading before forcing votes on the legislation.

Leslie said the move represents an extraordinary attempt to push a controversial change through Parliament while avoiding proper scrutiny.

"The Liberals are trying to remove a long-standing safeguard protecting religious expression from the criminal code, and at the same time they are trying to rush the bill through Parliament and shut down debate," he said.

Leslie had hoped the government would reconsider, but not only did they stick to it but they also limited debate and "basically just crushed all opposition voices at committee and in parliament and pushed this bill through," he said.

Leslie concluded by describing it as a solution in search of a problem, and he is concerned that they went in an entirely different direction with the bill.

"They've offered no explanations. This safeguard has been tested in the courts ... they couldn't point to a single case where this prevented a prosecution, that this prevented something happening within the legal system."



Yes, it's a poop test. And yes, it could save your life.

Order yours today: ColonCheck / 1-855-952-4325



The **Voice**

getheard
EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



PUBLISHER
Lana Meier



MARKETING & PROMOTIONS
Brett Mitchell



EDITOR
Ashleigh Viveiros



REPORTER
Lorne Stelmach



REPORTER
Holly Thorne-Wiebe



COLUMNIST
Peter Cantelon



SALES
Gwen Dyck



PRODUCTION
Nicole Kapusta



PRODUCTION
Tara Gionet



DISTRIBUTION
Christy Brown

The newspaper is supported by advertising dollars. If you enjoy the paper and would like to see it grow and prosper, visit any of the advertisers and businesses in our rural communities. Keep your dollars working at home and shop local.

Our commitment to you: we want to help build stronger communities through articles that both inform and entertain you about what's going on throughout the Pembina Valley. This is your community newspaper—let us know what you want to see in it.

OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Barking up the wrong tree

I apologize for the ridiculous headline, but I could not resist.

Woodpeckers are currently working on demolishing a large ash tree in the middle of our front yard.

Sigh. This cannot be a good sign. I have made calls.

I noticed the vandalism when I went out to stock our Little Free Library. I happened to glance over to the tree and saw a great pile of bark around the base, as if small wood smiths had been hatcheting away at the poor thing.

I suspect the worst ... infestation. Ugh. I have contacted the city and we shall see.

If this is a case of unwanted occupants who refuse to evict, the tree will likely have to come down. You never know, though I tend to be a pessimist when it comes to such things. The tree in question is on the north side of the property and thus it provides no shade for us. Still, I like looking at it and the varying bird or squirrel residents and I am not fond of having to kill a thing regardless of what that thing is.

Speaking of trees, did you know the City of Morden (where I live) has an ISA-certified arborist on staff? They do. This is a great example of the city proactively investing in a part of what makes Morden unique—the extensive tree canopy.

What, you ask, is an ISA-certified arborist and why do I care? Good question.



By Peter Cantelon

ISA stands for International Society of Arboriculture. It's a widely recognized organization that offers certification to specialists in all things related to tree care.

The City of Morden in fact has two ISA-certified arborists, one being deputy city manager Shawn Dias and the other being urban forestry manager Jeff Guenter. Dias also has an advanced ISA certification called TRAQ (tree risk assessment qualification) which allows him to assess the likelihood of tree failure, associated risks, and recommended mitigation. TRAQ certified individuals can also create written reports for municipalities and insurance companies.

That's a lot of tree expertise in little old Morden and it should make residents feel hopeful for the future of the city's tree canopy. It is rare for a city of Morden's size to have such expertise, typically reserved for much larger municipalities like Winnipeg.

But back to the tree in question. Should it come down, conversations

will have to be had. Senior management at Cantelon Inc. will have to convene to a special meeting to discuss options and alternatives for the impending bare spot on the lawn.

There are many options for a spot in the middle of a front yard in Morden: a festive May Pole for example; small 30-foot-tall replica of Sauron's tower of Barad-dûr (complete with glowing orange eye); a fine shrubbery; a merry-go-round ... the mind reels with options.

Personally, I like the idea of replacing the current tree with a Scotch (Scots) Pine. Meanwhile, as I write these words, I imagine the current tree indignantly calling out ala Monty Python: "I'm not dead yet!"

But I imagine it is "nearly" dead and so perhaps we will have to help it along. Who knows. It really depends on what the experts say. Let us hope I am simply being overly negative and the tree will remain for years to come.

Knock on wood (just not too hard).

"THERE'S A LOT OF TREE EXPERTISE IN LITTLE OLD MORDEN, AND IT SHOULD MAKE RESIDENTS FEEL HOPEFUL FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CITY'S TREE CANOPY."

Letter policy

The *Voice* welcomes letters from readers on local matters.

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

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

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

Send your letters to us by e-mail at news@winklermordenvoice.ca.

All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Voice.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

GENERAL INQUIRIES:
204-325-6888

ADVERTISING:
Gwen Dyck 204-823-0535
gdyck@winklermordenvoice.ca

Advertising Deadline: Monday at 4 p.m.

NEWS DESK:

Ashleigh Viveiros Editor
204-332-3456 news@winklermordenvoice.ca

Lorne Stelmach Reporter
204-823-2655 lstelmach@winklermordenvoice.ca

MAILING ADDRESS:

Winkler Morden Voice
Box 39, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

The Voice is published Thursdays and distributed as a free publication to 21,141 households. Republishing in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Printed in Canada by Prolific Printing. The Voice received financial support from the Government of Canada in 2021.

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

Sound bath sessions coming up at WAC, 500 Stephen

By Lorne Stelmach

Area residents will have an opportunity to experience a sample of a new therapeutic service being offered by a Manitou-based business.

Brandon Gascho opened a practice in Manitou called In Depth Resolution, which specializes in therapeutic coaching and conflict resolution as well as offering community sound baths.

Gascho is excited to be providing these services locally, and he is looking forward to giving people a taste by way of a pair of free sound bath experiences taking place at Winkler Arts and Culture March 27 and 500 Stephen Community Centre in Morden April 7. Both events begin at 7:30 p.m.

“My hope is that people who might not otherwise have the opportunity will get the chance to enjoy an evening of deep relaxation, free from distractions and reconnect with themselves,” said Gascho.

“Very little is required of participants. People can bring a yoga mat, blanket or pillow to lie down with and simply enjoy an hour of peace with themselves,” he said. “There will be time afterwards to talk more about the experience or anything else that comes up as a result.”

Gascho lost his sister to brain cancer, and this loss, among others, initiated a process of grieving and disconnection for him that lasted years. It led him to the social development studies program at the University of Waterloo followed by a graduate degree in peace and conflict studies.

“It was through a workshop learning to facilitate circle practice and another on conflict coaching that gave me clarity on the values and approach of how I would want to start my own practice,” Gascho said.

His journey then led him to learn about sound bath treatment.

A sound bath is a meditative experience where participants lie down and are immersed in resonant sounds and vibrations. It is designed to promote deep relaxation, reduce stress and restore mental balance.

“Sound bath healing is a practice that was introduced to me when I first moved to Manitoba,” Gascho shared. “During my first session, I experienced a strong emotional release followed by a deep rest that I hadn’t felt in months.

“When the opportunity to become a certified practitioner presented itself, I felt strongly that this was a tool I wanted to offer.”

Other services Gascho provides includes mediation, conflict resolution for organizations, and therapeutic coaching for couples and individuals.

“The common goal uniting these approaches is to support people navigating emotional strain, inner tension, personal conflict and life transitions by offering a calm, judgment-free space to slow down and reflect,” said Gascho. “Through thoughtful conversation, clients gain greater self-awareness and emotional clarity so they can move forward in ways that feel aligned with who they are.

“I hope to offer moments of mindful presence and reflection, as I believe there is significant power in feeling seen and heard, something that is difficult to replicate in our fast-paced, often distracted lives.”



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Brandon Gascho is leading a pair of sound bath sessions in Winkler and Morden.

**LOCATED IN MORDEN AT
400 LOREN DR. (204-822-1237)**



www.homesteadmanitoba.ca



PREMIER SENIORS' RESIDENCE IN SOUTHERN MB

RENT INCLUDES:
Meals, Housekeeping, Linen Service
Hair Salon, Library, 1 & 2-bdrm Suites
Activities, Outings & more!

~ Active Living ... for Independent Seniors ~

**Call for a tour or
to go on the waitlist!**



MANITOBA
LIQUOR
& LOTTERIES

#MBLLGoodTogether

\$730M earned for Manitoba last year

We also worked with Manitoba’s hotels, bars and restaurants, First Nations, and private liquor, cannabis and lottery retailers to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for their businesses. Read more about how we’re working with Manitobans to do good together by scanning the QR code below.













Read the report
at mbl.ca/ESG



Your FARM



Thoughts and numbers on climate change

By Lorne Stelmach

A detailed presentation last week at the monthly meeting of the Pembina Climate Action Network (PCAN) painted a picture of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in Manitoba.

Entitled *Thoughts and Numbers on Climate Change - Through a Manitoba Lens*, professional agrologist Daryl Domitruk touched on not only a wide range of data but also what is and isn't being done well.

Domitruk, who is also a research director of the Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers and has served on a provincially-appointed committee

to advise the government on climate change policy and greenhouse gas reduction targets, suggested it all needs to start with greater understanding and awareness.

"Before we do anything to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, we have to understand our local environment better," said Domitruk, who applauded the work of organizations like PCAN to help advocate for and educate about climate change and its impact, particularly in the Morden-Winkler area.

Domitruk suggested there are a few key things for people to consider.

"There's a lot of things that people think about where they live; some



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Agrologist Daryl Domitruk was the guest speaker at this month's Pembina Climate Action Network meeting.

of them are true, some of them are myths, and sometimes we have to see through all of that to really understand where we live," he said. "It's so that we know what we can do in any kind of an issue like climate change, which may be different than what people that let's say live in a big city or even live in another part of the country or any other part of the continent or even another part of the world.

"So it starts with greater understanding," said Domitruk, who went on to touch specifically on Manitoba's record on greenhouse gases and climate change.

"What are the sources in Manitoba of greenhouse gases? Those are different from what they are in other places ... and what steps has Manitoba taken so far, and how successful have we been?"

He noted that people might think Canada is doing fairly well in terms of overall being ranked 10th in terms of emissions, but it paints a different picture when you take a look at it in a different way.

"If you look at the per person emissions ... we're at least number three on a per person basis, and that's primarily because we live a pretty good lifestyle," Domitruk said. "Each one of us is emitting quite a bit, but when you add it all up, it doesn't amount to as much.

"The important thing is that Manitoba, within Canada or within the

world, is a relatively low emitter, especially amongst the developed countries as a western advanced economy," he continued. "It's primarily because roughly 98 per cent of our electricity comes from hydro electricity ... we have a very green electricity source, so that means our total emissions are actually on the low side.

"On the other hand, that makes it hard because we don't have as switch we can just throw to reduce emissions; we have to look around and take little bits of emissions from a thousand different places that aren't related to our electricity grid."

So the fact that we may be doing better than other places doesn't take the pressure off.

"It comes down to personal responsibility. We need to look at our individual emissions and what we can do, and again, that needs to be in the context of where we live," Domitruk said. "There's no point in copying someone who lives in a completely different environment. We need to learn what works in our environment and act on an individual basis, and hopefully that creates some kind of collective action as well.

"I also hope to actually bring forward the notion that we're all focussed on trying to slow climate change and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. We really ought to be spending more time on adapting be-



Plan for your future farm & business needs.

Join us at 2:00 p.m. April 23, 2026 at the Morden Royal Canadian Legion

Expert advice to equip agricultural families and businesses owners with tax & investment strategies and succession planning. RSVP to tara.ritchie@sunlife.com by April 16.



Brad Ritchie*, CFP®
Financial Planner, Sun Life
TruPath Financial Solutions Ltd.
(204) 822-6777
brad.ritchie@sunlife.com

*Advisors and their corporations conduct insurance business through Sun Life Financial Distributors (Canada) Inc. Mutual fund business is done with your advisor through Sun Life Financial Investment Services (Canada) Inc. Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is the insurer and is a member of the Sun Life group of companies. © Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 2025.

Your FARM



> DOMITRUK, FROM PG. 8

cause the emissions are increasing, and there are changes afoot. There are changes happening now, and some of them we need to more proactively respond to by adapting.

"It's not that it's too late to mitigate, but we have to adapt."

Another key takeaway from his presentation was that we need to recognize that we live in what has been a grassland region.

"This was grassland and not too long ago. So that means that the model for sustainability going forward is in that grassland, and there's precious little of it left," Domitruk noted.

"So we really, each one of us, needs to recognize that, you know, things like trees are nice, but they're maybe not the solution to climate change as they are sort of played out to be," he said. "For us, we need to look at our grassland ... what's there that can

help us sequester more carbon ... we have it in how a lot of cattle producers manage their pastures and how they manage their herds."

Domitruk also pointed out we all need to rethink how we regard things like home heating and transportation.

"Transportation is a big one for Manitoba," he suggested. "There are electric vehicles, sure, but there's also other options in respect to things like public transit. There are other things we can advocate for that can make a difference in our emissions for transportation.

"And then there's just the kind of regular lifestyle changes in concert with new technologies, recognizing who's doing a good job out there and encouraging them, whether it's people building energy efficient homes.

"It's also paying attention ... I think we take for granted our hydro electricity. It's clean, it's green, but it's limited, and we can't just buy a whole

bunch of electric vehicles and expect the electrical grid to supply it all. We need to look at other alternatives."

Domitruk also concluded that we should seriously consider nuclear

power as an energy option.

"It has been off the table for a while, but I think it's time to look at those kinds of options again."

• A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM DOMITRUK'S PRESENTATION

On provincial government initiatives and priorities:

- Government leadership toward net zero including a new climate change committee of cabinet and making changes to climate legislation.

- Collaborating with Indigenous nations on renewable energy and net zero initiatives.

- Creating jobs in the low carbon economy.

- Enabling actions across all sectors to support Manitoba's net zero economic transition.

- Co-develop wildfire prevention and preparation.

- Develop a net zero innovation and labour market plan.

- Climate change education for Manitobans.

He also highlighted a few key areas such as potential nature-based solutions:

- Restore, conserve and enhance natural eco-systems.

- Plant one million trees each year.

- Modernize land use planning for net zero.

- Protect waterways from impacts

of climate change.

- Recognize Manitoba's sensitive marine eco-system.

Domitruk also touched on other areas ranging from funding programs for emissions reductions and developing low carbon mining techniques to incentivizing waste diversion.

Finally, he offered a number of thoughts on some key areas and ideas for taking action:

- Improved wildfire response systems, given their increasing frequency.

- More hot days will require more interior and exterior cooling.

- Extreme water events require capacity upgrades to infrastructure.

- Some municipalities in grassland ecosystems must secure water supplies.

- Come face to face with our energy sources—generation infrastructure is no longer "just up north."

- Replace the top down approach of policy and some advocacy groups with informed education and advocacy from organizations like PCAN.

> GVSD BUDGET, FROM PG. 4

"We just can't do it this year," Klassen said, noting the maintenance budget, which was increased in the current school year's budget, will see to ongoing needs on that front. The 2026-2027 financial plan also has a surplus of about \$660,000 to be put into reserve for any emergency needs that might pop up.

When it comes to the mill rate, GVSD is increasing it to 13.39 from the current 12.18, a jump of 9.88 per cent.

What that translates into is that for a home currently valued \$393,050, school taxes will increase from \$2,154 to \$2,367 annually. But after the provincial school tax rebate, the homeowner would pay \$768 in net school taxes—an increase of about \$113 from the year before.

Meanwhile, a business valued at \$552,500 will be paying nearly \$433 more annually in school taxes, after rebates, while farmland valued at \$2.28M will see an annual net increase of about \$359.

"We're doing what we can on our end to be modest and conservative in our spending," Klassen said, noting she hopes taxpayers are aware that the board most certainly grappled with the decision to raise taxes. "We do not want to have to put any more burden on our taxpayers than what we absolutely have to ... but there are

cost pressures that are beyond our control.

"With an increase on a residential home of about \$113 per year, \$9 per month, we hope that taxpayers will recognize the benefit in us trying to keep class sizes smaller, trying to have additional supports that our children need to be able to excel in school."

JOIN US FOR THE MARCH CONSIGNMENT SALES 2026

MARCH OFFSITE Consignment Sale

Viewing: March 16th-19th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: March 19th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on March 25, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Friday, March 27th & Saturday March 28th from 9 AM to 5 PM

MARCH ONSITE Week 3 Consignment Sale

Viewing: March 23rd -26th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: March 26th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on April 1, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Thursday, April 2nd & Friday April 3 from 9 AM to 5 PM



MARCH ONSITE Week 2 Consignment Sale

Viewing: March 16-19 from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: March 19, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on March 26, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Friday, March 27th & Saturday March 28th from 9 AM to 5 PM



Call today if you would like to consign your items! Office (204) 434-6519 • Brad Kehler (204) 346-2440 Darryl Enns (204) 216-0931 • Ed Pylypijuk (204) 392-8442 • Russ Harder 204-371-4771 ITEMS ARE SOLD AS YOU SEE THEM. Call Now to Consign in Upcoming Auctions. If you require help or do not have internet access please call the office at (204) 434-6519.

Winkler figure skaters spin through the seasons



CanSkate skaters dressed for beach season.



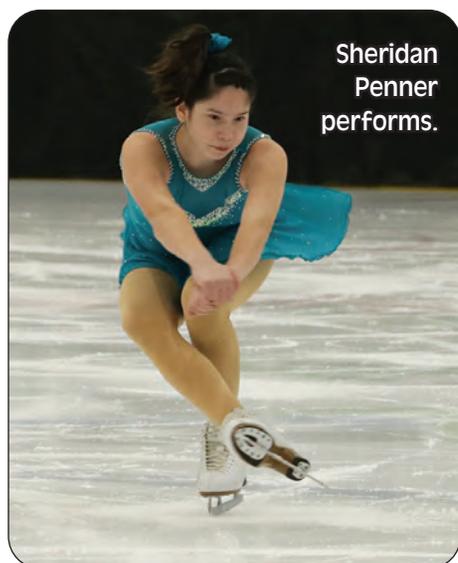
CanSkate skaters in the "Fall" performance.



A solo performance from Alina Dimova.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler Skating Club members showed off the skills they've honed this season at their year-end ice show Saturday, themed "Spinning Through the Seasons."



Sheridan Penner performs.



"Springtime" with Naomi Hildebrand and Hailey Penner.



Rising Star skaters in a Valentine's Day routine.

Notice of Environment Act Proposal

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change invites public comment on the following proposal:

CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC. – ALTONA TO WINKLER GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINE – FILE: 6262.00

Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. proposes to build a 31-kilometre-long and 8-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline that will originate north of Altona and end in Winkler. The proposed route passes through portions of the Municipality of Rhineland, the Rural Municipality of Stanley, and the City of Winkler. If approved, construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2027 and take up to a year to complete. The pipeline will become a component of the natural gas system in the area which includes the recently licensed Dominion City to Altona gas pipeline development.

This proposal can be viewed at www.manitoba.ca/sd/eal/registries. Anyone affected by the proposal who wishes to provide feedback should submit their comments using the online form at www.manitoba.ca/sd/eal/registries by April 20, 2026.

Information submitted in response to this proposal will be available to the proponent and placed on the public registry per Section 17 of The Environment Act.

**Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change**
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard
Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-8069
Website: www.manitoba.ca/sd/eal/registries



Winkler-Morden-Stanley moving forward on regional airport master plan

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The municipalities of Winkler, Morden, and Stanley have taken the next step towards potentially building a regional airport.

They've awarded a contract to Intervistas Consulting Inc. to develop a master plan that will lay out exactly how a regional facility would be operated. Each community is contributing \$30,000 towards the plan.

"This is the next step towards figuring out what a regional airport could look like," Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens said at the March 10 council meeting where the contract was given approval.

In a later interview, Siemens stressed how important it is to get preliminary work on this project rolling.

"There's the three of us working together on it, so each step and each approval of the next phase has to go through three councils, three CAOs,

and all that," he said. "The key with this [master plan] is we want to be completely ready and have a shovel-ready project if [provincial or federal] funding ever becomes available. So that's why we're going through the steps of creating a governance model ... to find out how the three of us are going to work together to operate an airport together.

"The final steps of this would be community engagement," Siemens continued. "Talking to our residents, to those that might be users, businesses, other stakeholders. But that's still some ways down the road. We first want to do these initial steps."

Demand for a larger airport in the region have been growing for years. Where it might be located and what it'll look like are some of the details that still need to be hammered out.

Winkler's facility is surrounded by the city's

Continued on page 11

Tickets available for Power of the Purse 2026

By Lorne Stelmach

An annual initiative with the aim to engage women of all generations in community philanthropy in Morden is growing this year to involve more women and in turn give more back to the community.

The 2026 Power of the Purse is hoping to boost their numbers—both in terms of attendance and funds they're able to grant out—with a price bump to \$125 from \$100.

"We thought the charities and projects are getting more expensive ... so we decided to increase it," said Morden Area Foundation board member Sue Nelson.

Along with a contribution from the foundation, it is anticipated the total granted out that day to three local community organizations could increase to around \$15,000.

Initiated 11 years ago, Power of the Purse started out as the Women's Giving Circle with the goal to raise \$10,000 from 100 women giving \$100 each. The idea was to bring local women together to learn about needs in the community and to support related initiatives through their donor-directed grants.

"The focus, as in other years, has been on projects that mainly affect the well-being of women and chil-

dren," said Nelson. "Some of them have been a bit broader than that, but in general that is what we are striving for, and I think we have three really, really good projects and charities this year. I'm really happy with what we have to offer to people."

The participating charities are a secret until the event, but each one has been approved by the organizing committee and foundation board. Nelson offered a hint about one of the charities, describing it as an organization that has been quietly doing something on their own but which are now bringing their work to light in the greater community.

"We do have one that is a very long standing charity in the area ... we have one that has been in the area for awhile but they are doing a project that I didn't even know that they did."

Nelson feels the Power of the Purse is well established in the community now, and it has traditionally had more applicants than they have room to support each year.

Last year it supported Chance 2 Camp and Chance 2 Grow of the Child and Family Services Foundation with \$6,000, Pembina Hills Arts Council's open art studio project with \$6,000, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley for its Grow Youth



VOICE FILE PHOTO

This year's Power of the Purse brunch takes place at the Morden Activity Centre on Saturday, April 11.

workshop with \$5,500, and the Douglas Kuhl School of Music in support of the string orchestra programs with \$5,200.

This year's gathering takes place on Saturday, April 11 at the Morden Activity Centre at 9:30 a.m.

For tickets, call 431-349-1850 or email info@mordenfoundation.ca by March 31.

Nelson encourages people to consider being part of it.

"I think it's a great event. It's a nice social event because people come out for brunch," she said. "It's nice to come together and see people again," she said. "And it's a philanthropic event too. There's the opportunity for people to find out about the charities in the area."

> REGIONAL AIRPORT MASTER PLAN, FROM PG. 10

growing industrial park, Siemens noted, while Morden's, located northeast of the community, potentially has a bit more wiggle room to grow.

"We can't build the length of runway in Winkler that we would like to have, so we know that it can't be here," he said. "Winkler has absolutely no problem with it being in Morden, assuming that we're able to do it there."

"We know that we need more in terms of air transport ability in south-

ern Manitoba," Siemens stressed. "Our businesses sell worldwide. They have suppliers and customers that need to come in. Our hospital's doubling in size, so there's opportunities there medical-wise."

"There are so many different things that we can do if we had the right size airport, and we recognize today that what we have in either community isn't enough. That means we have to figure out what 'enough' would be and then how are we going to do it?"



SAVE WITH A HEAT PUMP

- ✔ New enhanced offers
- ✔ Financial support for every home
- ✔ Energy-efficient heating and cooling

Find the heat pump offer best suited for you at efficiencyMB.ca/heat-pumps.



The **Voice**
 What's *Your* story?
 Call 204-325-6888

Buy here, spread cheer!



Why Every Local Purchase Matters

In the vast stretches of Southern Manitoba, as the snow finally recedes to reveal the black earth and the light lingers longer each evening, the soul of our communities is found on Main Street. As puddles form on gravel roads and the region prepares for a new season, local business owners are sharing a simple, heartfelt message: "Thank you for choosing us."

For our rural entrepreneurs, a sale is never just a transaction; it's the engine of the local economy. When you buy garden seeds from the local hardware store, tires from the corner garage, or a coffee from the café, your money doesn't disappear into a distant corporate headquarters. Instead, it stays here, circulating through our schools, hockey rinks, and community halls.

"Every time a neighbor walks through my door, it's a vote of confidence in our town's future," says one local shop owner. "That support allows us to sponsor ball teams and provide first jobs for the students down the road."

Statistics show that for every \$100 spent locally, roughly \$68 stays in the community, compared to less than \$45 at big-box retailers. In rural Manitoba, that difference is the lifeline that prevents "Main Street" from becoming a memory. These businesses are owned by the people who sit next to you in the pews and cheer alongside you at the rink.

In return for this loyalty, our business community is doubling down on service. From staying open late for a producer pre-

paring for seeding to sourcing specific parts for a backyard project, the "local advantage" is built on relationships an algorithm can't replicate. Our merchants understand that spring is a race against the clock; they ensure you have what you need without the long drive to the city.

Choosing local is vital during this seasonal shift. Your decision to shop around the corner provides the stability these businesses need to weather the year. It ensures that when you need expert advice or a quick fix during the spring rush, your neighbors are there to help.

As we look toward the planting season, "Shop Local" remains an act of rural pride. By choosing the shop around the corner, you aren't just buying a product—you are investing in the neighbor who owns it. To the customers who continue to choose local: our businesses thank you. You are the reason our towns remain vibrant and ready for the season ahead.



JANZEN'S
PAINT & DECORATING LTD.

Tel: 204-325-8387
600 Centennial Street,
Winkler, MB
janzenspaint.com

THANKS FOR
SUPPORTING
OUR LOCAL
ECONOMY!



There is no better way to support your local community than by shopping and supporting local businesses.



VERN'S
CARPETS INC.
QUALITY & SERVICE

100 Stephen St, Morden, MB
Phone: (204) 822-4616
vernscarpets.ca



ALWAYS GOOD DEALS!

204.542.0815

MON. - FRI.
8 AM - 5:30 PM

545 COMMANDER DRIVE UNIT 1



SHOP LOCALLY!! WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED - HEAD TO TOE!



WESTERN HATS WRANGLER SHIRTS & JEANS
20% OFF



KEENS RUNNERS
25% OFF



CANADA WEST BOOTS
25% OFF



CHECK OUT OUR CSA WORK BOOTS
CLEARANCE SECTION UP TO 50% OFF



MUCK BOOTS **20% OFF**



LAST CHANCE TO GET 30% OFF WINTER BOOTS

K.C.'s

WORK & WESTERN WEARHOUSE
YOUR FAMILY FOOTWEAR STORE
WINKLER, MB • Ph: 325-5538
Service & Selection Guaranteed
Company charges welcome (must be arranged ahead of time)

HOURS: Monday to Friday 9:30 am to 5:30 pm
Saturday 9:30am to 4:00 pm
325 Kimberly Rd. - East of Canadian Tire

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Prairie Singers take the stage Saturday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Prairie Singers wrap up another season of singing with two concerts in Winkler this weekend.

The choir, made up of 42 vocalists from across southern Manitoba, take the stage at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church (750 15th St.) at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. Tickets are available from choir members in advance or at the door for \$15 per adult and \$5 per student. Kids under five get in for free.

"I think this is now going on our third year of doing two concerts on the same day," shared conductor Rick Heppner-Mueller. "It's been well received."

This year's show theme is *This Finely*

Woven Earth, which Heppner-Mueller explains highlights how connected we all are in this life.

"We ourselves are interconnected, and it just kind of explores that theme of life and all the things that make up life," he said. "And also the sense of community, the sense of how do we go about our lives knowing we're so tightly woven together?"

"So we're focusing on acts of kindness and looking at the beauty in the world. Through music we explore all those different themes."

The song list is about as varied as it can be, ranging from a 500-year-old song in Latin to pieces in Tagalog and Russian to a few selections by Paul Simon and Bob Dylan.

"The feedback we get from our sing-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Prairie Singers close out their season in Winkler this Saturday with two shows.

ers is that they like that variety," Heppner-Mueller said.

The Prairie Singers are an auditioned community choir for adults looking for another venue in which to grow and share their love of choral music.

"We do audition our singers just to make sure that they can handle the level of repertoire that we sing," noted Heppner-Mueller. "We try to pick music that challenges the group, because that's what they're looking for."

Their season of rehearsals begin each year in January and end with a spring concert.

"We rehearse basically once a week, every Tuesday," Heppner-Mueller explained. "It's sort of a compressed season, which allows the singers to be able to commit to a shorter timeline. It works well for us."

You can learn more about the choir online at prairiesingers.ca or check out this weekend's concerts.

Three illegal migrants arrested thanks to citizen reports

By Voice staff

Citizen reports helped border enforcement officers find and arrest three people believed to be involved with illegally entering into Canada from the United States last week.

On March 10, at approximately 8 a.m., officers from the RCMP Federal Policing Northwest Region's Integrated Border Enforcement Team (IBET) in Manitoba responded to a citizen report of two possible migrants traveling on foot along Hwy. 201 near Neuenberg.

The officers patrolled the area, located the migrants at the hospital, and confirmed they had crossed into Manitoba from the U.S.

Following treatment for minor cold-related in-

juries, the two were arrested without incident and transferred to the custody of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

While at the hospital, at approximately 9:40 a.m., IBET was advised of another possible migrant who had attended a Rosengart business seeking transportation to Winnipeg.

IBET headed to the scene and, with support from the RCMP's Black Hawk helicopter, which was already conducting aerial patrols in the area, officers located the migrant hiding in an unlocked parked vehicle. They were arrested and transferred to the custody of CBSA without incident.

At around noon that same day, RCMP dispatchers received a report of a suspicious indi-

vidual loitering outside a school in the Rhineland area.

As per school protocols, the principal initiated a "hold and secure" to ensure students and faculty were safely secured within the building until police arrival.

Upon arrival, the individual was arrested for human smuggling, taken into custody, and later released without charges.

The matter remains under investigation.

"This investigation demonstrates how critical it is for law enforcement and the public to work together when responding to incidents," said Superintendent Sheldon Hollingworth, federal operations officer for Manitoba with the RCMP Federal Policing Northwest Region.

"We thank the members of the public who took the time to report suspicious behavior, as those reports allowed the RCMP to quickly coordinate resources and respond in a timely and effective manner."

Noelle Francis performs

The latest Home Routes concert coming through the area this month featured the folk music of Noelle Francis.



Francis performed an acoustic concert at The Gardens on Tenth in Altona March 9 (above). Next up is the Juno-nominated folk duo Burnstick performing at The Gardens April 14 and at Winkler Arts and Culture April 25. For the full tour schedule, head to homeroutes.ca/concerts.

PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

The **Voice**

News tip?
Reach us
at 204-325-
6888

Mom, someone's asking me to send them nudes. what do i do?

NOT SURE WHAT TO DO NEXT?

Report to **cybertip!ca**

OPERATED BY CANADIAN CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION | SUPPORTED BY Manitoba

©2026, Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc. ("C3P"). "CANADIAN CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION" and "Cybertip!ca" are registered trademarks of C3P. The Government of Manitoba logo is used with permission.

sports & recreation

Winkler Flyers end regular season in fourth place

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers split their final two games of the regular season, but those results had little impact on their fourth-place finish in the MGEU East Division standings.

It's right where the MJHL team has been for weeks, trailing the top three teams by a wide margin with a record of 34-20-2-2 and 72 points.

The Niverville Nighthawks clinched first place with 103 points followed by the Steinbach Pistons in second with 96 and the Portage Terriers in third with 79.

Rounding out the bottom of the standings was the Selkirk Steelers (43 points), the Winnipeg Blues (40), and the Winnipeg Monarchs (24).

In the league standings overall, Winkler's record has it in fifth place behind the Nighthawks, the Steinbach Pistons, Virden Oil Capitals, and Portage and ahead of the Dauphin Kings, Waywayseecappo Wolverines, and the Neepawa Titans.

Those eight teams now move on to round one of the Turnbull Cup play-offs, where Winkler is slated to square off against Niverville. Game one is in Niverville Saturday followed by

game two in Winkler Monday, March 23.

The Nighthawks will be a tough nut for Winkler to crack. In the eight times the two teams squared off this season, Winkler only won once, 7-5, though most of the other games were only won by Niverville by one or two goals.

ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE

The Flyers last week faced off against the Winnipeg Blizzard and the Selkirk Steelers to close out the regular season.

Tuesday night's game in Winnipeg saw the home team win it 6-5. Winkler held period leads of 3-1 (goals courtesy of Connor Vandal, Graeme Pickering, and Liam Carlone) and 5-3 (Charlie Weaver and Caden McMahon) before the wheels fell off the cart. Winnipeg scored three in the finale frame's first 10 minutes to come from behind and win.

Liam Russell took the loss in net for the Flyers, making 27 saves as Winkler outshot Winnipeg 47-33.

The Flyers ended things on a much higher note a few nights later in Selkirk, downing the Steelers 6-2.



PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL/VOICE

Connor Vandal battles for the puck last Friday in Selkirk when his team defeated the Selkirk Steelers 6-2.

The shots battle was a close one—30-27 in Winkler's favour—but it was the Flyers' shooters who found their mark, most notably in the second period.

They were up 1-0 thanks to a goal 12 seconds into the first courtesy of Kade Stringer.

McMahon, Charles Bernier, Carlone,

William Lyons, and Jack Swaenepoel then drowned out Selkirk's lone goal in the second.

The home team managed just one more, late in the third—nowhere near enough to close the gap.

Russell was between the posts again this game for Winkler. He made 25 saves.

Altona to host 2027 Manitoba Bunge mens curling championship

By Lorne Stelmach

Altona has hosted nearly the whole range of provincial curling championships over the years, but now they are looking forward to striking the one remaining big one off their to-do list.

Curl Manitoba has announced the 2027 Manitoba Bunge mens curling championship will be played at the Sunflower Gardens Arena in Altona's Millennium Exhibition Centre Jan. 26-31, 2027.

Altona was touted as not only the home of a vibrant curling club but also of a major Bunge oilseed processing facility. The event also co-incides with a couple major milestones in the community.

"We are pleased to be bringing the men's championship to Altona in 2027 as part of the Altona Curling Club's 100th anniversary celebrations," said Curl Manitoba executive director Craig Baker. "I think it is also signifi-

cant that we are going to be Altona in the 25th year of Bunge's presence in the community.

"Since 2000, Altona has hosted every Curl Manitoba championship except for the men's and master men's categories," Baker said. "The energy and imagination of the Altona curling volunteers and the support of the entire community have always provided us with successful and memorable events."

The Altona host committee will be co-chaired by Quinn Hildebrand and Keith Stoesz, who have advocated for an Altona-hosted championship for about the past three years.

"Curling started in this community in a one sheet curling rink in 1927. It is important to celebrate that heritage on the 100th anniversary," said Stoesz. "What better way could there be to kick off our centennial year in curling than by hosting the best men's

curling teams in the province in the Bunge championship?"

Stoesz said Altona has a good track record of hosting major curling events, ranging from the Scotties Tournament of Hearts and senior ladies and men bonspiels to mixed as well as junior and U18 events.

"It's a big deal for the community. It's a big deal for the region," he said. "We have hosted pretty much all of the events that Curl Manitoba puts on, and this was the big one that we were hoping to get next."

"I think it's going to be a great event for the community. I think our community really likes to show off the facilities we have here in Altona," Stoesz said. "I think our facility is a great size for this event. I think having the social hall connected to the complex is a real benefit."

In the next month or two, they will put together the various committee

chairs, and Stoesz expects come summer or fall they will be putting out the call for volunteers.

Braden Calvert's Heather team featuring Corey Chambers, Kyle Kurz, Brendan Bilawka, and Rob Gordon, as 2026 champions, are the first team identified to compete in the Altona event. Twenty-three other teams will qualify over the next season in their attempt to become Team Manitoba at the 2027 Canadian championship Montana's brier.

"We're pleased to continue our longstanding support of this premier event, which is always an excellent showcase of competitive curling in Manitoba," said Kyle Jeworski, head of Bunge in Canada. "Bunge has a significant presence in Altona through our oilseed processing facility, and we're excited that Curl Manitoba has selected its curling club to host the Bunge championship in 2027."

Altona, Morden host during final weekend of youth hockey provincials

By Voice staff

The final weekend of Hockey Manitoba provincial youth hockey championships took place across the province last weekend, including right here in Altona and Morden.

Altona welcomed teams for the U15A and U15B championships, and the hosting Maroons in U15A finished the weekend with a 1-2-1 record and third in the round robin. In the end, the Notre Dame Hawks beat the Southwest Stars 4-2 in the final game.

In the co-ed U13A championship, Carman went unbeaten at 4-0-0 and wrapped it with a 9-5 victory over Swan Valley.

There was also a co-ed U13AA championship in Morden where the Morden team finished fifth at 1-2-1.



PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCANAL SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

Altona hosted the Girls U15A and U15B provincials last weekend. The U15A event featured the Altona Maroons, who in this game above narrowly fell to the Rock Lake Rebels 3-2. The home team ultimately went 1-2-1 for the weekend.

Notre Dame went 3-0-1 and wrapped it up with a 3-2 win over Steinbach.

And in the co-ed U13B championship, Pilot Mound ended up fifth at

1-1-1. The title was eventually captured by Flin Flon.

Finally, in the co-ed U13D championship, the host Morden team fin-

ished last at 0-3, while Notre Dame was just above them at 0-2-1. Cross Lake went unbeaten in four games to finish atop the heap.

Royals open SEMHL final with shutout victory

By Annaliese Meier

The Winkler Royals opened the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League final in impressive fashion on Sunday night, defeating the Ile des Chenes Northstars 3-0 to take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven championship series.

Matthew Thiessen was outstanding in goal for Winkler, turning aside all

38 shots he faced to record the shutout. At the other end, Northstars netminder Matthew Radomsky made 35 saves but took the loss.

Winkler struck early and never trailed. Braden Hildebrand opened the scoring just 2:28 into the first period, finishing a play set up by Aaron Lewadniuk and Mike Heppner. The goal held up as the game-winner.

The Royals extended their lead midway through the second period when assistant captain TJ Matuszewski scored on the power play at 12:30. Justin Augert and Lewadniuk drew the assists on the goal, with Lewadniuk picking up his second helper of the night.

Lucas Ens added insurance in the third period, scoring at 6:46 off passes from Brett Bergman and Jordan Wall to seal the 3-0 victory.

Winkler went 1-for-4 on the power play, while the Northstars were unable to convert on five opportunities.

Lewadniuk led the Royals offensively with two assists, while Hildebrand, Matuszewski and Ens each scored once.

The series now shifts to Ile des Chenes for Game 2 on Wednesday, March 18 at 8 p.m. Game 3 returns to Winkler on Friday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m., before the teams head back to Ile des Chenes for Game 4 on Saturday, March 21 at 8 p.m. If necessary, Game 5 will be played March 25 in Winkler, Game 6 on March 27 in Ile des Chenes and Game 7 on March 29 in Winkler.

Thunder win Zone 4 banner



ZONE4HOCKEY.COM

The Morden Thunder are the Zone 4 champs after blanking the Morris Mavericks 3-0 in game three March 9. The best-of-three series was tied at a game each when Thunder netminder Kali Hildebrand made 24 saves to help his team bring home the banner. Scoring for Morden that night was Carter Dyck, Connor Olson, and Kiru Griffen. It's Morden's fourth league championship in a row. Over the weekend, the Thunder competed at the Provincial AAAA Boys Hockey Championship, where they were 0-2 in the round robin with losses to Sturgeon Heights (2-4) and Oak Park (1-5).

Pembina Valley Run Club expanding routes and building community

By Annaliese Meier

A grassroots running initiative in southern Manitoba is picking up momentum as it prepares for a new season.

The Pembina Valley Run Club, a free, volunteer-run group that began last year, is expanding its reach in 2026 with additional meeting locations, more running opportunities and a broader regional focus.

The club was launched by organizers Linnea and Erik Buchsman after they noticed the growing popularity of community run clubs while living in Winnipeg.

"Run clubs created a sense of accountability, encouraged outdoor



fitness and helped people connect with others in their community," the Buchsmans said. "When we moved

Continued on page 16

Team Sugden is off to U20 nationals next week

By Lorne Stelmach

A young curling team based in Morden will have another crack at a national title in the week ahead.

The Manitoba number two team competing at the U20 national curling championship in Sudbury March 28 to April 4 will be the team skipped by Nash Sugden and featuring third Tyler Fehr, second Tanner Treichel, lead Ryan Thiessen, and coach Lorne Hamblin.

Also representing Manitoba in the men's event is Team Boutet from the Heather Curling Club, while Carman-based Team Hayward is there on the women's side..

Team Sugden has been together for five years now. This will be their fourth time competing on the national stage.

They were at the U20 championship last year, and they hope to crack what is now the top six who advance to the playoffs as opposed to what was formerly the top ten.

"It's a very big deal, and it's amazing that we get to go again, and we're hoping to put up some better numbers than last year and see how well we can represent Manitoba," Sugden said. "This year, we're hoping to at least qualify for the playoffs and then see what we can do from there."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Team Sugden—Nash Sugden, Tyler Fehr, Tanner Treichel, Ryan Thiessen, and coach Lorne Hamblin—are headed to Sudbury next week to compete in the U20 national curling championships.

Sugden thinks the fact that the team has stuck together in itself makes a big difference.

"With curling teams, there can be a lot of switching around," he said. "We're also all friends off the ice, so

that helps a lot with the chemistry of the team, so it works out pretty well when you stick together.

"It's like we're very much a team; we're not individual players out there," Sugden added, noting they all

grew up with curling. "Everyone one of us curled in juniors in Morden and Winkler ... I think I started curling at six ... it's been quite a while."

There is also a lot of time put into it, he noted.

"I think a lot of it is the willingness to put in the time and sacrifice the time from other things. Instead of going out at night, we're at the curling club or doing mental stuff with the coaches and stuff like that," he said. "The more time on the ice, the better you get."

"I think most of us are pretty committed at this time," Sugden said, noting their preparation goes all year long with not only practice and training but with the help of a number of people including a mental coach as well as nutritionist and a strength coach. "They all help us to improve throughout the year."

"And this level of competition just allows you to learn so much more and get so much better," said Sugden.

Speaking last Friday in advance of a fundraising event held in support of the team at the Morden Motor Inn, Sugden stressed they appreciate that they have lots of community support behind them.

"The community around us has been so good to us throughout the five years that we have curled."

> RUN CLUB, FROM PG. 15

to the Pembina Valley area, we hoped to meet others who shared the same enjoyment of running."

With few organized opportunities



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Pembina Valley Run Club head out on a group run during the club's inaugural season. The volunteer-run club is expanding across the region in 2026 with additional routes and meet-ups.

locally, they decided to create their own.

"In the end, we decided to go ahead and create the kind of running community we felt was missing here," they said.

During its inaugural season, the group operated as the Morden Run Club, meeting primarily at Morden Park on Saturday mornings. Participants would run a loop ranging from three to eight kilometres.

Attendance varied week to week, with some runs attracting as many as 20 people. Participants included runners of various ages, families with children and even the occasional dog.

Organizers say that variety and the relaxed atmosphere are part of what makes the club special.

"It's truly a mix of everyone," the Buchsmanns said. "Some very accomplished runners come out, but we also have people celebrating their first three kilometres, along with walkers and run-walk participants."

Encouraged by growing interest, the group has rebranded as the Pembina

Valley Run Club and plans to expand beyond Morden this season.

New runs are planned in Winkler, along with trail routes near Minnewasta Lake and other areas throughout the Pembina Valley. Organizers also hope to incorporate track runs and additional route options to provide more variety.

The club previously met about twice a month on Saturday mornings, but the upcoming season will introduce additional opportunities to run together, including Tuesday and Thursday evening meet-ups.

Each gathering begins with a brief welcome and overview of the route before participants set out with others who match their preferred pace.

"After the run, people usually stay for a bit to stretch, chat and get to know one another," the Buchsmanns said. "We often bring some post-run refreshments to share as well."

Most routes are planned around five kilometres, though participants are encouraged to adjust distances to suit their comfort level.

The club intentionally operates without membership fees or formal structure in order to remain accessible to everyone.

"Running is one of the most accessible forms of fitness, and we wanted to keep the club in that same spirit," the Buchsmanns said. "Our goal has always been to grow community and encourage people to get active."

Looking ahead, the group hopes to continue building a supportive running community across the region.

"Our main goal is to grow participation and continue building the local running community," the Buchsmanns said. "The more people who come out, the more fun and supportive the atmosphere becomes."

The club's first run of the season is expected to take place in mid-April.

Residents interested in joining or learning more can follow the Pembina Valley Run Club on Instagram (@PembinaValleyRunClub) or Facebook.

Magics host first competition in new home

By Lorne Stelmach

The Magics gymnastic club has been settling into its new location in its own space in the Winkler industrial park, recently holding its first competition there.

The competition is one they host annually for their competitive team. This year's event saw them welcome about 110 athletes from such centres as Winnipeg, Steinbach, Portage, Selkirk and Neepawa, with 50 competitors coming from the local club.

There were a number of age categories from about age six and up with the usual array of apparatus and events.

"They did really well," registrar Tracy Bueckert said of the Magic members. "There were definitely lots of medals and ribbons handed out to our club."

The Magics left Morden late last year after decades in the community, operating out of the Access Event Centre community hall. They're now enjoying having their own dedicated location at 890 Adora Ave. in Winkler.

"It's a huge step forward for us as it gives our athletes more time to train, and it just gives the chance for more kids in general to try gymnastics," said Bueckert. "We are able to offer more classes and more days now, and we were also able to purchase a spring

floor, which was a huge thing because you need to be in a permanent facility in order to be able to do that."

Bueckert said things overall have gone well since making the move.

"It's been going good. We've been in there for about two and a half months ... and it seems like



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Magics gymnastics club welcomed gymnasts from across Manitoba for a competition in their new Winkler location earlier this month.

people are happy with it," she said. "It's nice ... you don't have to have a team to take down and set up every week. We have access to it all the time, so that's really nice."

Bueckert noted having the full-time dedicated space likely will have an impact in helping local gymnasts really advance their training and skills.

"That is a huge thing for us," she said. "We're now able to host our competitions any weekend we want."

"We're able to offer more programs than we used to," she added. "We're offering spring classes now from April to June. We are offering quite a few rec and competitive camps in

summer. Registration is open for all."

She noted they also have something planned for spring break.

"We're offering some rec classes that are just an open gym. You don't have to be a member. It's just open to the community, and it's just \$5 a participant. You just have to sign up ahead of time. It's just to get more kids to come try it."

Bueckert said that they are grateful for the support they have received, ranging from their landlord Henry Friesen to the City of Winkler bringing in bleachers for the competition as well as the community along with all their coaches and volunteers.



Redhawks claim consolation title at JV provincials

By Annaliese Meier

The Rosenort Redhawks finished on a high note at the Provincial A/AA JV Boys Basketball Championship, capturing the consolation title at the tournament hosted by Carman Collegiate from March 12-14.

Rosenort opened the provincial tournament in the quarterfinal round against the Souris Sabres on March 12. In one of the closest games of the opening day, the Sabres edged the Redhawks 63-61, sending Rosenort to the consolation side of the bracket.

The Redhawks bounced back the following day with a strong effort in the consolation semifinal, defeating the Immanuel Christian Falcons 70-62 to keep their tournament run alive.

That set up a matchup with the Arbog Athletics in the consolation final on March 14. The teams traded baskets

throughout the game before Rosenort pulled out a narrow 57-55 victory to secure the consolation championship.

Several Redhawks were recognized for their performances during the provincial weekend. Matthew Manning was named a tournament all-star and also earned player of the game honours in Rosenort's opening matchup against Souris. Bryce Ginter was selected player of the game in the Redhawks' victory over Immanuel Christian, while Hayden Siemens earned the honour in the consolation final against Arbog.

Eight teams from across Manitoba competed in the three-day Provincial A/AA JV Boys Basketball Championship, including Carman, Warren, Souris, Frontier, Rosenort, Arbog, St-Joachim and Immanuel Christian, with games played at Carman Collegiate.



PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Left: Bryce Ginter of the Rosenort Redhawks was named player of the game following his team's 70-62 win over the Falcons in the A/AA JV Boys provincials consolation semifinal. Right: Fellow Redhawk Hayden Siemens earned the same honour in the team's 57-55 victory over the Athletics in the consolation final.

Classifieds Announcements *The Voice* Winkler Morden

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

EMPLOYMENT



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

PRINCIPAL FOR ÉCOLE PARKSIDE SCHOOL IN ALTONA, MB

This position will commence for the 26/27 school year.

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

EMPLOYMENT



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

FULL-TIME FINANCE ASSISTANT IN ALTONA, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

YARD MAINTENANCE TENDER

YARD MAINTENANCE TENDER

Access Credit Union Altona



Access Credit Union's Altona branch located at 129-3rd Ave. NE, requires the services of a contractor to provide yard and grounds maintenance.

Duties include:

- Grass maintenance including cutting, bagging, weed control, and fertilization
- Flowerbed and garden maintenance
- Litter control of exterior property

Tender information can be obtained by emailing: Vickie.Addison@accesscu.ca

Tenders or resumes, accompanied by a minimum of two references, must be received on or before April 3, 2026, before 4:30 p.m.

Walk throughs available by request.

Tenders may be delivered, mailed or emailed to:

Access Credit Union
PTH #14 Unit 2 - 23111 Stanley Business Centre Winkler, MB R6W 4B4
Email: vickie.addison@accesscu.ca



Response Builder Advertising WORKS!

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$239.00 (includes 35 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 31 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at 204.947.1691 or email classified@mcna.com
www.mcna.com

LIVESTOCK



SPRUCE RIDGE STOCK Farms at Ashern has a good selection of 2 yr old and yearling Angus bulls on offer. These are big growthy bulls developed on TMR silage based ration in 15 acre runs to ensure longevity. Perfect feet, strong joints, moderate birth, combined with top of the breed growth. These are hard muscled bulls sired by some of the top A. I. bulls in Canada. Semen tested, delivered when needed, guaranteed. Call Ross and Helen Jerney and Family. 204-768-0333

SCRAP METAL

Buyer for all farmyard scrap, machinery and autos. No item too large! Best prices paid. Phone Alf at 204-461-1649.

WANTED

Firearms wanted. Looking for all unwanted firearms. Fully licensed for both non-restricted and restricted. Anywhere from individual items to estates. Cash buyer, paying top dollar. Please call or text Adam at 204-795-2850.

Please support our advertisers
SHOP LOCAL

NOTICES

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

TIME TO BOOK YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS FOR SPRING 2026! Let us help you book your blanket classified ads across Manitoba, and increase your presence. Let people know about your business, item for sale or event, by placing an ad with us! Your ad will be seen in the MCNA Member Newspapers, in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. Take advantage of our great pricing! MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

Please support our advertisers

HEALTH

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

WILBERT GIESBRECHT HOMES

Celebrating over 40 years of building quality RTMs.

Check out our website for floorplans.

Custom builds also available.

Taking orders for delivery Summer 2026.

Phone: 204-346-3231
www.wgiesbrecht-homes.ca

CLASS 1 TRUCK DRIVER

To run Canada - must have experience

- Paid pick, drops, layovers and stat pay
- Multi drop runs
- Benefit package
- Dedicated truck
- Sign On & Annual bonus
- BC Experience an Asset
- Reset at home
- Weekend home time
- Paid training
- Referral program

Derek (204) 793-7465
CENTENNIAL TRANSPORT & LEASING LTD.

Cash 4 Coin Collections!



Also BUYING Old Jewelry, Nuggets, Bullion, Gold, Silver, Platinum, Sterling Silverware, Franklin Mint sets, Royal Canadian Mint Coins, pre 1937 Paper Money, old coins, numismatists, Rare Coins, Silver Coins, Gold coins, etc.

Covering Winnipeg & Rural Manitoba. I drive to you!
CALL ME NOW!!
TODD:
1-204-904-9705

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

BRAND NEW STUDIO APARTMENTS FOR RENT IN ALTONA.

Utilities included.
Fridge, stove and dishwasher included.
Indoor parking extra.
Call Rick at
204-324-7222

Please support our advertisers

58TH ANNUAL BULL SALE

58th Annual LUNDAR BULL SALE "Where the good bulls come"

April 4, 2026 1:00 P.M. Lundar Agri-Ed Centre - Auctioneer - Tyler Slawinski

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 4 - 2 year Herefords | 4 - 1 year Angus |
| 9 - 1 year Hereford | 3 - 1 year Limousin |
| 13 - 1 year Simmentals | 2 - Hereford Heifers |
| 7 - 1 year Charolais | 2 Charolais Heifers |

Watch and bid online at DLMS.ca 5 pens commercial heifers

SALE DAY: Mike (204) 739-3158. Jack (204) 739-3645

For more info contact Jack (204) 739-3645 or Kevin (204) 371-8277
View catalogue online at www.buyagro.com

TAXES/BOOKKEEPING SERVICES

TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

LAITY TAX

& BOOKKEEPING SERVICES INC.

Our team is fully competent in your Financial, Bookkeeping and Tax Service needs.

Winkler, MB • 431-775-7742

Classifieds Announcements



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

OBITUARY



Carol Ens
September 6, 1944 - March 5, 2026

Carol Ens (nee Fosker) passed away suddenly on March 5, 2026, at the age of 81.

She leaves to mourn, her beloved husband of 64 years, Cornelius Ens; son Michael (Jeanette) and family, daughter Erika (Kerry) and family, son Tony (Janet) and family, son Bill and family, son Neil (Corinne).

Carol treasured every moment spent with family and will be greatly missed by them, and by all who had the good fortune to have known her.

The family is grateful to longtime neighbours, Anne and Mel Lantz and Tom and Yvette Baron, who called the ambulance, stayed with Cornie, and provided comfort and support. Thank you to the paramedics who worked so hard to help Carol. Thank you,

as well, to those who sent food, flowers, and condolences. Our family appreciates all of you.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Carol's name to Siloam Mission (mail cheque to 300 Princess Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1M3).

She was laid to rest at the Lakeside Cemetery in Morden prior to the memorial service at the Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden on Saturday, March 14, 2026.

Wiebe Funeral Homes, Morden
in care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Rural Municipality of Stanley's 2024 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements are available for review in the office of the Rural Municipality of Stanley and may be viewed by any persons during regular business hours.

Luc Lahaie, CAO
Chief Administrative Officer
R.M. of Stanley

90TH BIRTHDAY

Happy 90th Birthday to our MOM

MARY HEPPNER
ALL family, friends & everyone who wants to Bless her is invited to help her celebrate

March 22nd, 2026

At the Altona Pioneer Center 227-10th Ave. NW

2:30 to 7:00 PM

Let your presence be her Gift

PUBLIC NOTICE



R.M. OF STANLEY PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the R.M. of Stanley intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a Public Hearing in the Council Chambers of the Municipality on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the Financial Plan, as provided. Copies of the 2026 Financial Plan will be available for review prior to the Hearing at the Municipal Office at 1-23111 PTH 14W in the Rural Municipality of Stanley.

PUBLIC NOTICE



BUDGET 2026-2027 PRESENTATION

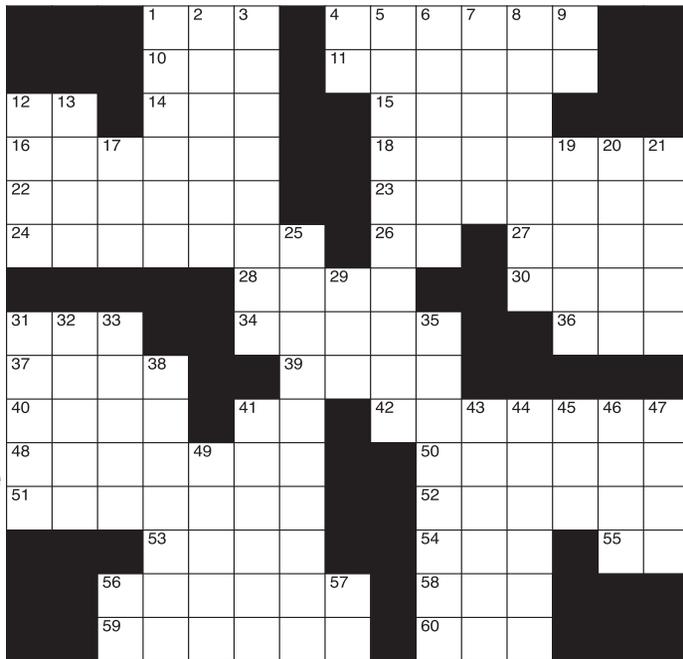
PRSD is hosting its public Budget 2026-2027 Presentation at the Prairie Rose School Division Office, 45 Main Street South, Carman, MB, on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 PM. The presentation will be recorded and posted on our website (g.prsdmb.ca/board/financebudget) following the live event, and a feedback form will be available until Friday, April 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.



Constituents may attend in person or online. To register, please complete the [Budget 2026-2027 Presentation Registration](#) form using the QR code above or the link here (tinyurl.com/26-27prsdbrdgt). Registration is required for the live event. If you need support registering or have questions, call the office at 204-745-2003 or send emails to prsd@g.prsdmb.ca.

CLUES ACROSS

1. Inclined to do
4. Sketches
10. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
11. Atomic #58
12. Dorm official
14. Small Eurasian deer
15. Southern constellation
16. Workers' groups
18. Former
22. Excellent
23. Romance language related to Spanish
24. Reference
26. Equally
27. Dirty towels
28. A cargo (abbr.)
30. Ammunition
31. You get one in summer
34. Slang for trucks with trailers
36. Swiss river
37. Exchange rate
39. British School
40. College teacher
41. Foreign Service
42. Horse gear
48. Cost to fly
50. A salt or ester of boric acid
51. Mocking
52. One who bird-watches
53. Concluding passage
54. A major division of geological time
55. Sodium
56. A way to produce
58. Soak
59. Laughed loudly and harshly
60. Affirmative



CLUES DOWN

1. Moth species phalonia ___
2. Quantum of energy
3. Break the law
4. Location of White House
5. Official cancellation of a decision
6. Where rockers work
7. Cut of beef: ___ mignon
8. Nocturnal burrowing reptile
9. Atomic #62
12. Genus of evergreen shrubs
13. Flowering plant of the legume family
17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
19. Tropical fruit
20. Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust
21. James ___, painter
25. Popular dessert
29. Payment (abbr.)
31. Cuisine style
32. Genus of true flies
33. City in western France
35. Arrogance
38. One holding a position of command
41. Weekday
43. An evening party
44. Print errors
45. Not good
46. Egyptian Sun god
47. East German town
49. Olfactory property
56. Atomic #37
57. "Pollock" actor Harris

CAMPER FOR SALE

FOR SALE

2022 GRAND DESIGN 28BH30 REFLECTION 5TH WHEEL



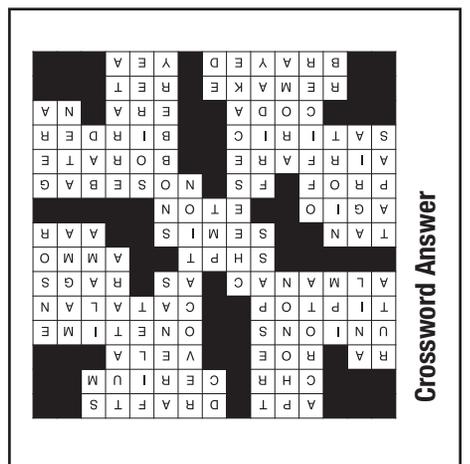
Warranty is good until August 2030

- Sleeps up to 8 people • 2 automatic slide outs
- LED awning • 9280 Dry Weight • 80 gallon fresh water tank • 43 gallon black water tank • 86 gallon gray tank • U-shaped dinette • Dual propane tanks
- Auto level system • 50 amp service • Indoor/outdoor speaker • Roof mounted solar panels
- Spare tire • 34f long, 12f high

The Grand Design Reflection 28BH is a popular, family-friendly fifth wheel with a rear private bunkhouse, featuring 2 slide-outs and sleeping capacity for up to 8-10 people. This unit was purchased brand new, and is still like brand new as we only camped once since the purchase in 2024. Camper would require pickup near Oak Bank. Asking \$70,000.

Please contact Teri Young 204-745-0419 or Kristian Dreolini 204-904-8175 to arrange a viewing. Serious inquiries only.

<https://aem-dev.granddesignrv.com/fifth-wheels/reflection/28bh> - visit this link for further specifications and features



Crossword Answer

get informed

Balmoral grower credits seminar for 1,000-pound pumpkin success

By Lana Meier

A friendly neighbourhood bet in Balmoral has grown into a full-fledged giant pumpkin rivalry—and one grower is crediting a winter seminar for helping tip the scales in his favour.

Travis Williams captured both first and second place in this past season's Balmoral pumpkin growing competition, highlighted by a massive 1,022-pound entry. The success followed his attendance at the Manitoba Giant Growers Association's Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar last year.

"A few years ago, my good neighbour Don Slater and I had a bet to see who could grow the biggest pumpkin," Williams said. "In 2024, five families from Balmoral decided to have a pumpkin growing contest. As the size of the pumpkins got bigger, so did the number of entries."

This past season, nine families entered what Williams describes as a "friendly" competition.

As interest intensified, so did the search for a competitive edge.

"The Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar became of high interest for those looking for a competitive edge," he said.

The seminar, which returns March 28 at the Blair Sharpe Active Living Centre in Miami, features experienced growers sharing techniques on producing pumpkins weighing 1,000 pounds or more.

Williams said the event proved invaluable.

"The seminar is of tremendous value. Arthur Cameron is very welcoming. Milan Lukes is an excellent presenter," he said. "In addition to the table stakes of lots of sunshine, water and space, Milan gave helpful hints on pumpkin placement, plant maintenance and fertility."

Despite the knowledge gained, the growing season came with challenges.

"Pumpkins love sunlight and water. The smoke from the forest fires reduced the amount of sunlight. May, June and July had very little rain," Williams said. "We can water our pumpkins, but irrigation is not a direct substitute for rainwater."

Even so, he knew he had something special in his patch.

"I could see that my pumpkins were much bigger this year, but I was surprised with how much they weighed," he said. "My dad thought we might have underestimated their size when he could feel the weight of the pumpkin on the tractor when we picked them up to move them."

The competition itself added to the excitement.

"It was kind of like a game of poker," Williams said with a laugh. "There was a lot of posturing, embellishing and bluffing throughout the growing season. We never saw each other's pumpkins until the official weigh-off. We then had to show our hands as we weighed each grower's pumpkins one at a time. The Slater barn was filled with music, cheers and laughter."

When the final weights were announced, Williams stood atop the podium—twice.

"It was rewarding to be on the medal podium holding the championship belt with my family," he said. "Marc Van Hussen and family brought home the bronze with a pumpkin that was more than twice the size of last year's winner."

The leap in size from one year to the next was dramatic. In the previous season, the largest pumpkin weighed under 200 pounds. This year, the top three pumpkins tipped the scales at 1,022 pounds, 734 pounds and 414 pounds.

"Everyone grew bigger pumpkins," Williams said.

He strongly encourages others to attend the upcoming seminar.

"Having the correct genetics is super important to grow a giant pumpkin," he said, noting that free seeds are provided. "Art, Milan and other growers are very approachable. The seminar is a must."

For those who may find the idea intimidating, Williams offers simple advice.

"If you're committed to implementing the best practice, be prepared to commit the time," he said. "And remember, no different than farming, that you'll learn something new every year."

The Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar runs from 1 to 3 p.m. March 28 in



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Manitoba Giant Growers Association will host its annual Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar March 28 at the Blair Sharpe Active Living Centre in Miami, offering tips, techniques and free seeds for aspiring growers.



Travis Williams, joined by his wife Jamie and family, celebrates at the official weigh-in after their 1,022-pound pumpkin captured first place in Balmoral's friendly giant pumpkin competition.

Miami. Admission requires an MGGA membership for growers, while others are welcome to attend by donation. Memberships cost \$10 for individuals or \$15 for families. Free refreshments and snacks will be provided.

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