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The Winkler Morden

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021

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**VOLUME 12 EDITION 29** 



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler Roosters Rugby invited kids age 5-14 to Emerado Park last week to try their hand at the sport. Some proved to be a natural at keeping their flags out of the hands of their competitors. For the full story, see Pg. 21.

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



# Council votes to take down Winkler water tower

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After 57 years of defining Winkler's skyline, the city's water tower is coming down.

At its July 13 meeting, city council voted unanimously, if reluctantly, to tear down the Park St. structure rather than spend over \$1 million on repairs necessary to keep it standing.

The cost of demolition, in contrast, is estimated to be in the \$250,000 range.

"It's an excruciating decision," Mayor Martin Harder says, calling the tower an icon in the community. It has stood sentinel over Winkler's growth for generations, been the backdrop of countless photos, and long been used as part of the city's marketing materi-

But age has caught up to the structure, which has not been used to pump water since 2011 when the new water treatment plant opened.

"Taking it down has always been an option but there's always been a reluctance to do so because it is a landmark," Harder says.

The city has known the tower was in need of repairs for some time now, but Harder maintains little could have been done to save it, even if steps had been taken sooner.

"Number one, we did not even know that the coating on the outside of it

has asbestos, so that was a big surprise," he says, explaining that while the form of asbestos is considered low-risk for inhalation as it comes off in chunks from the tower (it's been landing in neighbouring yards for several years now) that risk goes up should it get crushed or shredded in

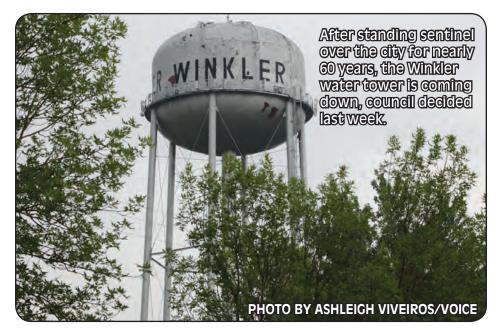
The city has been going up and removing loose pieces as needed in recent years, Harder says, and the prevailing thought was that the tower simply needed a good scraping and a new coat of paint.

The presence of asbestos, though, complicates that plan, as does the lead paint that's underneath the exterior coating.

Added to that are a number of major structural issues that have recently been identified: the integrity of the railing around the bowl, the ladder leading to it, some of the cross members, and some of the welded seams inside the bowl as well as concerns about the thickness of the metal of the bowl due to erosion from the inside.

It all adds up to both a safety issue and a matter of making sure taxpayer dollars are being used wisely, the

Harder notes that if someone wants to take on the repair and ongoing upkeep of the tower, council would cer-



tainly be open to hearing from them. In the meantime, the tower is expect-

ed to be torn down by the end of this

# Winklerites get high marks in recycling

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The fate of Winkler's water tower

wasn't the only thing on the docket for city council last week.

Councillors also received a report from Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba that put Winkler among the top recycling communities in the province.

On average, Winklerites recycled 103.3 kilograms per person in 2020 for a total of 1,276,260 kg.

Mayor Martin Harder noted we were beaten, mainly, by resort communities with very low populations and so a higher per-capita recycling rate.

"I do want to acknowledge and recognize Gateway Resources because I think they are the reason for our success," he said of the agency, which employs intellectually disabled individuals to oversee the collection and sorting of the community's curbside recycling.

Gateway's staff do that work with an enthusiasm that is to be lauded, Harder said.

"They are there with bright shiny faces ... we appreciate all of the citizens of the city of Winkler that choose to recycle, but also those that pick it up and find meaning in a job that some would not want."

Council also received a letter from Garden Valley School Division trustees asking them to officially stand

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Continued on page 4

# **Burger Week back for round two**

#### Two dozen restaurants in Morden-Winkler taking part

#### By Lorne Stelmach

Explore Morden Winkler is hosting its second Burger Week July 26-31.

The shop-local campaign has 24 restaurants signedup to take part, though this time they won't be competing with each other.

"We did take away the voting aspect of it this time," noted executive director Shane Neufeld."We thought that it was getting away from what we had planned it to be, which is about just coming together instead of being in competition.

"We decided we wanted to make this more about coming together to support these businesses, and especially now the restrictions being lifted ... people can go inside now, people can come in groups," he said."It's just get out and support them; it's not about whose is the best. Just get out and try them."

Explore Morden Winkler's first Burger Week featured 14 participating restaurants, all serving up a signature burger for patrons to enjoy.

They then followed that up with hugely successful pizza and poutine week campaigns.

Neufeld said this is another great opportunity to support local businesses that have been especially hard hit by the pandemic restrictions over the past

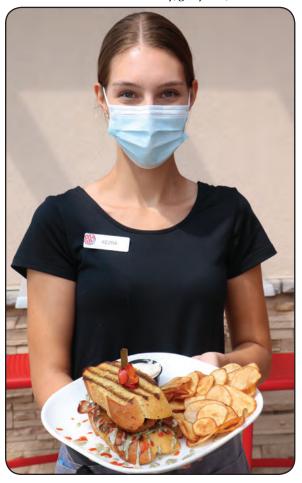
He's looking forward to seeing what the eateries come up with.

"Everyone is being creative with their burgers," Neufeld said. "There's a lot of very interesting creations out there. I've been able to try a few of them already ... they're all going to be good."

Head to exploremordenwinkler.com or follow the agency on social media for a full list of participating restaurants.

#### PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Kezra Gerbrandt serving up a burger at Boston Pizza, which is one of two dozen restaurants taking part in Explore Morden Winkler's second Burger Week July 26-31.



# Landmark Cinemas remained dark last weekend

#### By Ashleigh Viveiros

The screens remained dark at Landmark Cinemas in Winkler last weekend.

While the provincial government gave the green light for movie theatres to reopen at 50 per cent capacity to Manitobans who have been fully vaccinated, low vaccination rates in

the Winkler area kept the local theatre shuttered.

"We're just a business trying to figure out if we have enough customers," Landmark CEO Bill Walker said late last week, noting that while he's pleased movie theatres were included in this next phase of the province's reopening, it is frustrating that they're being used as an incentive for vaccination in a way that other businesses are not. "Our point of frustration is why can I go to the gym, why can I go to a restaurant and not [confirm full vaccination] but I do need to do it at the theatre?"

Walker said movie theatres were given no advance warning about the fact they'd be allowed to reopen Saturday with these restrictions.

"We were given information on Wednesday and we said, 'Okay, what do we know about these markets?"he

The company was able to get the Brandon and Winnipeg theatres up and running for the weekend, but with so few vaccinated people in the

Continued on page 4









# Curbside recycling now offered in Stanley villages



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Residents of the RM of Stanley now have access to curbside recycling pickup.

By Lorne Stelmach

A recycling program including curbside pickup for villages and other residential areas has been launched in the RM of Stanley.

The new curbside service is in addition to residents of all other areas of the municipality having free access to depots at Gateway Resources in Winkler and MWM in Morden.

"It's kind of an exciting thing for us. We worked on this for a bit and accomplished it, and I think it will be good for the municipality," said Deputy Reeve Ike Friesen.

"We met with groups from all of the villages to let them know that this was coming, and there was good response to it. People were very happy for it," he added. "The first route of pickup has been completed, and I think things had gone well."

The municipality suggested the program will not only keep waste out of the landfill but provide an

alternative to and reduce unnecessary burning in the villages. All this, they say, will help encourages a greener and healthier community overall.

Council wanted to ensure all residents and business in Stanley would have an option to dispose of their recycling with no direct cost.

About 70 per cent will be serviced with curbside cart service, with around 1,500 recycling carts delivered to customers in the villages and other rural residential clusters.

The service will be funded through general taxation; the estimated cost for 2021 of around \$50,000 comes with the support of a provincial program where about 50 per cent of the costs are rebated back to the municipality.

The curbside pickup will be a bi-weekly service utilizing 360 litre rollout carts. The recycling that is collected will go to Gateway Resources unless it hits capacity, at which point it will be taken to Blue Sky Opportunities in Altona.

# Winkler eager for seat at the PVWD table

From Pg. 2

with the school board in opposing the provincial government's plan to overhaul the public education system with Bill 64. The bill, in part, intends to do away with elected school boards—a move critics maintain will remove local input in the operation of local schools.

"I think the challenge here is that education reform is vital and necessary. It's important to regularly review how we do things," Coun. Henry Sie-

# New principal for Pine Ridge

By Voice staff

Winkler's newest school will start the 2021-2022 school year with a new principal this fall.

Garden Valley School Division announced last week that Pine Ridge Elementary School vice-principal Ashly Dyck will step into the term principal role in September until next June.

Dyck has been with GVSD for 18 years, teaching everything from Kindergarten to Gr. 7.

The division shares that her educational philosophy belief, in part, states: "We are all learners, and we each influence the culture of teaching and learning in our school community.

"I believe in practicing what I preach ... I strive to build community and work collaboratively with others."

mens said.

"We feel, though, that in this situation the input from the community that most is affected—those that deliver education ... the stakeholders, the parents, and the children that are involved—we don't believe that they have been adequately consulted through this," he continued before reading a resolution that voices council's opposition to "Bill 64 as presented to locally remove accountability from public education."

The resolution further calls on the province to amend the bill after dialogue with the education community and associated stakeholders "so that legislation will retain the right of the community to democratically elect its local representatives."

The resolution was passed unanimously by council.

#### JOINING THE PVWD

The meeting wrapped up with a presentation from the Pembina Valley Watershed District.

The City of Winkler expressed an interest in joining the regional conser-

vation organization a few years ago.

Now, thanks to additional funding commitments from the provincial government, PVWD is ready to welcome the community to the table. It was announced last week that both the Pembina Valley and the Redboine watershed districts have received \$353,000 from the province to aid in expansion efforts.

"We're in," Mayor Harder told PVWD reps after they went over the benefits the organization offers its members, including access to a variety of water, soil, wildlife, and public education programs and related funding.

In a later interview, Harder noted PVWD has had a presence in the Winkler area for some time now, assisting with such projects as the Discovery Nature Sanctuary. Formalizing the partnership just makes sense, he said, and will be of great benefit to the city's own efforts when it comes to the stewardship of the Winkler Aquifer.

The aquifer's recharge area is already part of the area covered by the watershed district, Harder pointed out, so it's prudent for Winkler to have

some say in decisions that may affect it

The details still need to be worked out, but the city had already earmarked \$1 per capita (just over \$12,500 in total) in its 2021 budget for PVWD.

"I'm quite thrilled that Winkler has come on board with so many things involving water," PVWD board chair Bill Howatt told council, noting the community has put forward representatives and funding in the past to things like the Tri-Lakes Development Group and the Red River Basin Commission. "It's just been a very good relationship.

"What we're offering here is a chance for you guys to be able to access programs," he continued. "That's what will come out of this is you'll have a chance to access some money for certain programs and it will be you guys that decide what kind of programs would work for you."

PVWD is also in discussion with a number of other municipalities about joining, including Rhineland, Altona, Montcalm, Emerson-Franklin, Morris, and Roland.

#### > LANDMARK CINEMAS, FROM PG. 3

Winkler area (36.5 per cent in the city at press time and 20.3 per cent in the surrounding RM of Stanley) they had to make a quick decision to hold off on the Southland Mall location for now.

Walker said they'll be taking a close look at the market to determine if there's enough business to support the theatre's reopening in the weeks anead.

"My gut reaction is we'll probably reopen in the next week or two regardless of the vaccination status and, listen, if there's not enough people and we're standing there by ourselves every day, we'll have to close again," he said, pointing out they need to be able to recoup the costs of wages and food and beverage expenses.

"There's a backlog of interesting movies and lots of new stuff still coming," Walker said, adding he's optimistic these restrictions are only a temporary measure. "Our thinking is it's a phase, let's just get through this phase ... we hopefully won't need to wait too long in those markets."

# Making art in the park



The Art In The Park summer art camp of the Pembina Hills Arts Council was in full swing in the Morden Park last week. About a dozen youth between the ages of 6 and 10 got creative under the direction of instructor Margie Hildebrand. Their projects ranged from making anime self-portraits to creating batik T-shirts.

> **PHOTOS BY** LORNE STELMACH/



# Morden taking steps to improve water supply

By Lorne Stelmach

A regional project that will boost water supply capacity will also help Morden address its water concerns.

Morden is moving to take advantage of a Pembina Valley Water Co-op initiative to increase the water supply into the area.

The water co-op is replacing 26 kilometres of pipeline from a Roland area reservoir to the corridor near the Boundary Trails Health Centre with 12 inch pipe replacing the existing six inch line, and Morden will do the same to boost what can be supplied here.

The work will cost the city just over \$65,000, with the project being done in partnership with the Manitoba Water Services Board.

"We've authorized that construction, and it will be done this season before winter. We haven't negotiated the volume yet, but we have negotiated the construction of the infrastructure to supply it," Mayor Brandon Burley said last week.

"This Pembina Valley Water Co-op line is going to provide substantial relief," said Burley, who heralded this as a good step in the right direction towards diversifying their water sources and reducing reliance on the lake while cautioning that this alone will not be a solution. "It gives us the benefit of weaning some of our dependence on our lake ... but we have to continue to diversify our sources. With the ability to store some water in our system, it does give us a bit more comfort. It's not the be all end all yet, but it's a very good first step,

"This is a huge step forward for us ... and the Pembina Valley Water Coop has been very good; our MLA has been active in this as well," he continued. "There obviously still is concern though ... there still would be concern, if our lake dried up, there wouldn't be enough water that this line could supply the whole city ... if we were to use some variety of storage mechanism overnight ... we could make a big dent into our need."

In the meantime, the city has also done some drilling to explore other possibilities for water, but those to date have not produced positive re-

Burley noted there is at least one other short term option that might be available to the community as well.

"If worse comes to worse, and we have to, we can apply for an emergency licence to draw out of the Winkler Aquifer ... we do have the ability to lay overland pipe if it's necessary," he said.

"It would be up to the province to determine if there's enough volume out of that location to supply us," Burley added. "Our city engineer is already working on that contingency."

City council is also working with the Pembina Valley Watershed District to explore the idea of a secondary dam further upstream from Lake Minnewasta.

"We would be able to control the

flow, and it would also help catch sediment from agricultural runoff and things like that," explained Burley. "Essentially, it would enable us to capture more water seasonally and also to capture the sediment runoff that's filling the lake."

In the works as well is a detailed study on algae in the lake and options that may be available to that end, Burley added, noting a number of these things might all come into play to help secure and protect Morden's water supply.

"If we can double our holding capacity, we would be able to expand our licence out of the lake because we can control the supply into it a lot better," he said.

Burley stressed that it remains vital water users continue to do what they can to restrict water usage, given the conditions that are obvious when viewing the level at Lake Minnewasta.

"It's still going down, as it has been," he said. "It's going down about five and a half to six inches every two weeks at this point because of evaporation and the heat ... and that bowl shape of the lake comes into play and you end up losing water quicker.

"We're basically sitting at a winter level for consumption, which would be essentially indoor use mostly," he suggested, noting that overall usage may not have gone down substantially but people are making some difference by doing what they can to collect and reuse water.

#### WATERING THE GOLF COURSE

The mayor went on to touch on concerns around the usage of lake water for the Minnewasta golf course, which has a water licence with the province independent of the city.

"So we can't control their consumption of their draw from the lake ... but I know our city engineer has been in discussions with them to look at reducing their usage.

"My understanding right now is they are watering greens but that would basically be it," said Burley, who further suggested there can be discussions about how to possibly "change consumption from freshwater draw to water being discharged from processing ... because in order to make water potable, you have to use a certain amount of it."

Minnewasta Golf and Country Club executive member Kevin Pauls said there are a lot of misconceptions out there that they are pumping water from the lake unabated.

"We follow government mandated limits as far as water usage goes, and we work closely with the province,"he stressed. "They tell us what our parameters are, and we try to stay as far below it as possible.

"It's very focused," he continued, explaining that they take a number of measures such as using fertilizer to keep things greener, wetting agents to help retain moisture, and hand watering to eliminate waste.







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# give their opinion. It can be a one on one, in a group protesting something, speaking at a gathering to many people in person, in magazines, newspapers and in TV posicil modic and the us in

#### TIME TO STOP MAKING UP **EXCUSES**

It's a mystery to me that Canadians in 2021, particularly in this area, refuse to "roll up their sleeves" and get the vaccine so we can all get back to pre-COVID life!

Be part of the solution, protect others in your community instead of finding excuses to ride out the pandemic until there is enough of us who have done our part to return to normal.

The science has proven that it works and there is light at the end of this tunnel. I agree, it's a choice, but when you make that choice by reading social media (fiction, not fact) you are personally responsible for others being isolated, losing their income, and putting a huge strain on our economy and our community growth.

Perhaps its time you get off your social media platforms, read a science journal, or speak with your physician. Most of us have no problem seeking medical advice when we are feeling unwell and we are thankful for our doctors to solve our medical issues and provide care. Why would we ignore their professional advice for a shot in the arm, but would take medication they prescribe to help us feel better?

If you chose not to participate and be part of the solution, then for those of us who have please show us respect by following the public health guidelines: wear a mask in public (not halfway down your face), wash your hands, and please keep your distance.

Remember you are part of a community and your actions, or lack thereof, affect all of those around you.

Kathy Peters, Morden

#### PROVIDING A VOICE

I think that the name of this newspaper speaks volumes. It is a medium in which people can have their 'Voice' heard. It wasn't founded just for the editors to express their opinions, but to give us, the people, a way for us to also express our opinions.

There are many ways for people to

pers, radio, TV, social media, and the list goes on. We also give our opinion when we vote for our leaders.

We have the privilege of living in a democratic country and one of the advantages of that is that we have the right to express our opinions. Many, many countries in the world the people don't have that right, expressing their opinions could end up with jail time or worse.

Because we are human, sometimes we feel offended when people don't like or challenge our opinion. But, that's not always a bad thing because it can foster dialogue that could result in changes to issues. The definition of bullying is "abuse and mistreatment of someone vulnerable by someone stronger, more powerful, etc., the actions and behavior of a bully." So, to challenge or disagree with someone's opinion doesn't constitute bullying. It's being human—we don't all think alike.

The purpose of letters to the editor in newspapers is to give everyday people an opportunity to publish their opinions, comment on a recent article, and respond to the issues of the day. This makes writing a letter to the editor one of the easiest ways to get your message across to thousands of readers. Some of us may be sick of other people's opinion, but they have the right to give them.

I applaud the Winkler Morden Voice for giving us, the people, a voice. That's my opinion!

> Richard Gallant, Morden

#### THINKING OF OTHERS

Your cities, towns and R.Ms are a model for entrepreneurship to all of us in Manitoba.

That thinking and way of living demands a strong individualism and goget-it day to day life.

It only works fully when equal amounts of thought and action are put towards others, not only oneself.

Individual decisions not to take a medical choice—that is, the anti-virus vaccine-impact the entire community and area because the virus cares not for individual rights but desires, wholeheartedly, an environment where it can run rampant.

This impacts all. Everyone is in danger, not just the individual deciding not to vaccinate.

Is that a responsible life?

Bill Knott, Portage la Prairie

#### DISAPPOINTED

I was very disappointed with the editor's note to the letter from Nettie Freund in the March 25, 2021 paper ["A better plan is needed," Letters, Pg. 7]. I've been waiting for an apology; there have been a few recently, but none for this one.

Before you call somebody a liar, be sure to do your homework. Nettie said "I found it interesting that the death rate for 2020 is not that different from other bad flu years." Nettie did not say the "flu" death rate as your Ed. Note implied.\*

It's hard to find accurate numbers for Manitoba, so I did some research on our local funeral homes in Carman, Morden, Winkler, Altona, Morris, and Steinbach and totaled the deaths from a few previous years. Total obituaries are: 2016-762, 2017-749,

Continued on page 7

### **Letter policy**

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Stanley-Winkler vaccination rates lagging behind rest of MB

By Ashleigh Viveiros

While Manitoba is poised to hit a first-dose vaccination rate of 80 per cent in a matter of weeks—likely long before the original Labour Day goal uptake in the Winkler area has proven to be significantly slower.

As of Monday, just 36.5 per cent of Winklerites had received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The only Manitoba community with a lower rate is the surrounding RM of Stanley, which is at 20.3 per cent.

In comparison, nearby Morden has

hit 65.2 per cent, Altona is at 47.3 per cent, and even "Jantsied" has a rate of 56.8 per cent (Steinbach) and 42.5 per cent (Hanover).

**Stanley Reeve Morris** Olafson is keeping an optimistic outlook on his community's vacci-

nation rate, which has climbed about seven per cent in the past two months.

"I am encouraged by our increasing numbers as we go along," he said. "We're slow and steady, but we will get there at some point.

"We're going to keep plugging away

Meanwhile, Winkler Mayor Martin Harder expressed some hesitation to comment on the community's reluctance to roll up its sleeve.

"The more I say the worse it gets," he observed last week, noting that a video he shot with local physician Dr. Don Klassen earlier this summer encouraging people to get informed

about vaccination netted him an avalanche of angry calls and emails from those steadfast in their decision not to get the shot.

Harder, who is himself fully vaccinated, lays a large portion of the blame for the area's low uptake at the feet of the provincial government.

"The people that were questioning whether they should or they shouldn't dug in their heels the minute the government came up with running a lottery trying to impress upon people they needed to get vaccinated," he said, explaining it made those al-

> ready distrustful of the government's motives even more so.

More recently, creating a two-tier system for the vaccinated and the unvaccinated hasn't helped matters either, Harder added, pointing to recent public health orders allow-

ing only fully vaccinated Manitobans to go see a movie, sit down at a restaurant with people outside their households, or tour a museum.

"WE'RE GOING TO

**KEEP PLUGGING** 

AWAY AT IT."

These perks are seen as discriminatory by some, he said, and so, rather than acting as a carrot, they serve to antagonize people into doubling down on their insistence not to get the vaccine.

"Every time we have come up with something that is not targeted toward health reasons but rather targeted toward guilt and penalty it has created a further division," Harder lamented, adding that perhaps people would be more open to the idea of vaccina-



STOCK PHOTO

Manitobans by and large have been rolling up their sleeves for the COVID-19 vaccine, but residents in Winkler and Stanley have proven to be much more hesitant to do so.

tion"if the approach would have been different, where the whole sales job would have been based on the values [of vaccination] rather than based on the punishment."

Meanwhile, Harder grows increasingly concerned about what low vaccination rates and lax public health order compliance are doing to the community's reputation.

One doesn't have to look far on social media to find people from across Manitoba insisting they will never again set foot in or spend a dollar in the Winkler-Stanley area in response to how the community has dealt with the pandemic.

"I'm very much concerned about it," Harder said, noting

this could affect attracting professionals or even businesses to the community long after the pandemic is behind us.

"That should be one of our motivations to get vaccinated," he reflected, adding, though, it's most certainly not the only

"People need to understand we are responsible

to do our part ... our number one obligation is to respect others and to do what we can in order to protect others," he stressed, adding that whether or not you disagree, as he does, with how the government has handled the pandemic and the ongoing restrictions, not getting vaccinated isn't the answer. "Whether you fundamentally agree with it or not is irrelevant, but do it because you have a moral obligation and a responsibility to protect others."

He urges his fellow Winklerites to talk to their family physician or seek out information on the vaccines from other valid sources to ensure they're making an evidence-based decision.

"If there's any message I would like to share it's simply look at the actual evidence. Look at the number of vaccinations that we have in Manitoba, look at the reduction of the cases," Harder said. "The vaccine is working."

#### ADDRESSING CONCERNS

Dr. Joss Reimer, one of the leads of the province's vaccination task force and a former Winklerite herself, sees this whole situation as more of a marathon than a sprint.

"It's clear that in Winkler and Stanley there are people with a lot of questions and people who don't feel confident in the vaccine as their best decision, and that's going to take a long time to address," she said.

Reimer isn't par-

ticularly surprised at the low vaccine uptake in the two communities, which traditional have had low rates for other vaccines as well.

"Vaccine concerns were present when I lived there," she observed. "That sentiment has seemed to have grown in the last few years."

"If a certain feeling or sentiment or belief starts to grow in a community it very quickly can become a lot bigger and more entrenched because people

> LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

2018-795, 2019-705, and 2020-751. And the first half of this year it was about 390. So at least in the southern part of our province the deaths haven't increased.

It is quite obvious that some of the deaths they claim were due to CO-VID-19, which although they may have had COVID, actually died because of something else.

According to a few of the funeral directors, one statistic that appears to have gone way up is death by sui-

It pains me when our local paper is just adding to the fear mongering; there is enough of it going on already in our world today.

> Andy Fehr. Winkler

\*[Ed. Note: The editor stands by the original note, as it was meant to provide readers with accurate statistics about the deaths due to COVID when compared to the deaths attributed to similar respiratory illnesses in a "bad flu year." To that end, Statistics Canada has reported its provisional "excess mortality" data shows an excess of 13,798 deaths above what would have been expected for 2020 had there been no pandemic about five per cent more deaths than expected for the year after accounting for changes in population, such as aging. Excess deaths encompass not just those caused by the virus but also those caused indirectly by the pandemic as a whole (suicides, overdoses). We would direct people looking for sources of information to head to the websites of Statistics Canada or the Province of Manitoba for the latest numbers and context.]

"IT'S CLEAR THAT IN WINKLER AND STANLEY THERE ARE PEOPLE WITH A LOT OF QUESTIONS ..."

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# Central Station volunteers to receive leadership award

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Central Station's dedicated volunteers will be in the spotlight later this summer as they collectively receive an award from Volunteer Manitoba.

The provincial agency announced the winners of its 38th annual Volunteer Awards last week, and the Winkler community centre's team was selected to receive the 2021 Association of Manitoba Municipalities Community Leadership Award.

"We're very, very excited," said Julie Nikel, Central Station's volunteer coordinator, who explained the non-profit put its volunteers forward for this award in recognition of the vital work they do in keeping the centre up and running.

Once they heard Volunteer Manitoba had a group award amidst all the individual volunteer honours, they felt it was a perfect fit to nominate the local team

"They are the best volunteers," Nikel said. "Everything that we do we couldn't do without our volunteers."

With the pandemic restrictions this past year, Central Station had a core group of about 60 people helping out with its various programs and services, but Nikel noted they have closer to 100 on their volunteer contact list.

Even with the facility having to close its door at various points in recent months or modify how certain programs are run, volunteers still contributed over 3,000 hours to Central Station's operations.

Volunteer Manitoba communications and outreach manager Dawn Bourbonnais said they'll be coming to Winkler next month to present the volunteers with the award and to film footage for the virtual awards ceremony being broadcast on their Facebook page Sept. 23.

"Really the goal of this event is to highlight all the incredible work be-



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Volunteers with Winkler's Central Station have been named the winners of Volunteer Manitoba's AMM Community Leadership Award.

ing done by volunteers across the province," she said. "It really is outstanding the mobilization and the willingness of people to just jump in and help their neighbours, their community, their province at a moment's notice when the call goes out."

The Central Station team certainly lives up to that characterization, Bourbonnais observed.

"They were chosen because of the

work they've been doing in and around Winkler, especially with their drop-in space and the food cupboard and meal programs they've been hosting," she said, adding that those are just a few of the programs volunteers make possible.

Nikel said they're planning to hold some kind of volunteer appreciation event to coincide with Volunteer Manitoba coming to town.

# "There's no such thing as arriving too late to this party"

From Pg. 7

start to hear the same message from all the people around them.

"That's where getting the trusted voices [out there] is so critical," Reimer said, lauding the work local health care professionals have done to reach out and dispel some of the misinformation running rampant about the virus and the vaccine. "It's really important that we work with people that are part of the community today to help change those conversations that are happening every day."

To that end, local doctors and pharmacists have spoken with numerous businesses, churches, and community leaders to try and reach a variety of different segments of the population to address any concerns they may have.

Things like pop-up clinics have also helped hundreds of people get vaccinated without having to drive to the Morden super site.

Reimer is confident that as more people get vaccinated those on the fence will begin to feel more comfortable following suit.

"It will take time for people to process, to see what happens with other people around them," she said. "People aren't going to quickly change their minds or quickly feel comfortable, so we do expect it's going to take lot of work and time."

Reimer said she and fellow task

force leader Johanu Botha, who also happens to be from Winkler, will continue putting out a message of inclusivity when speaking to the vaccinehesitant.

"It's really important that we meet people where they're at and don't make them feel bad about their choices and instead try to address what are the concerns that led to those choices and see if we can help bring answers to those questions, rather than shaming somebody.

"There's no such thing as arriving too late to this party," Reimer stressed. "We welcome everyone whenever they arrive. So if someone is only now thinking that they're comfortable with the idea of getting the vaccine, then we're excited to have you come."

#### > WATER SUPPLY, FROM PG. 5

"We're minimizing usage the best we can, and we focus on key areas like tee boxes and greens to keep them from dieing," Pauls explained, explaining that letting the greens dry out would have long-term implications for the course. "The economic fallout from that would probably run us into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"We understand that we may be looking at a long drought here, and

"We're minimizing usage the best we're just taking measures to preve can, and we focus on key areas serve the most important parts of the like tee boxes and greens to keep course."

> Burley said there needs to continue to be collective conservation efforts, including, for example, looking at how users like the golf course could make use of discharge water that can be repurposed and made usable.

> "If we're looking at ensuring the city doesn't end up in a situation like this again anywhere down the road,

we have to look at all the users and ensure that their needs are being met but in the most environmentally responsible way possible," he said. "We know there will be some more steps the city will have to take as well."

Morden residents can head to conservation.mymorden.ca for water conservation tips and to take part in the city's ongoing conservation challenge contest.



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# Stanley working to get more trees in the ground

By Lorne Stelmach

The RM of Stanley is targeting two ways to encourage more tree planting across the municipality.

The initiative is not only providing trees to local elementary schools but also offering an incentive for agricultural producers.

Providing trees to schools can be used as part of educational programs and encourages students to value the importance of them, while the incentive program for agricultural producers provides \$1,500 per half mile of planting over a three-year period for approved new shelterbelts.

"We see the many benefits of trees, so we would like to see more across the whole municipality," said Deputy Reeve Ike Friesen.

They also see a lot of potential to expand on the school program, as it was restricted in part because of the pandemic restrictions this past year, he noted.

"We'll definitely do that again. We want to try continue doing that for the schools, and hopefully we can expand on it," said Friesen. "They were able to use it as a teaching tool, which is really good. They were excited to be part of it because they could make good

Morden Nurseries was able to provide 227 trees to students in some of the elementary schools in the RM of Stanley. Varieties included Siouxland Poplar, Sundance Poplar and Pussy Willows.

School officials welcomed the initia-

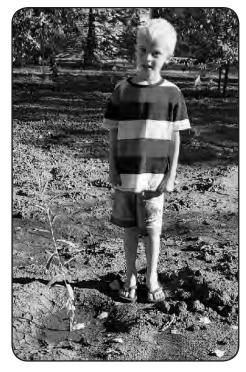
"As educators, we are eager to find ways to celebrate the natural world with our students," said Donovan Giesbrecht, principal of Border Valley School. "Distributing these trees to our students was a small step in this direction, and we were pleased to partner with the RM of Stanley in making this happen."

"In Kindergarten, our science curriculum covers trees and the importance and how they change," added teacher Lois Guenther. "All the Kindergarten students at Border Valley received a tree to take home and plant. We are grateful to the RM of Stanley for providing these trees and look forward to watching students and trees grow."

Supporting shelterbelts was seen as a vital part of the program as well, given the fact they are often on private land but have huge benefits to the broader community.

It was also noted that farming and tillage practices continue to change and the farming community is progressive, so the RM can adjust by being a little more flexible with shelterbelt locations to accommodate things like irrigation systems and drain tile networks.

The RM also used to have a very strict policy of not planting near roadways, primarily for snow drifting, but



**SUPPLIED PHOTOS** 

Border Valley School students Ryan Klassen and Isla Suderman got the chance plant trees in their communities thanks to the RM of Stanley.

improved snow clearing tools make that rule less important than in the

With drier conditions over the last few years, shelterbelts are more important than ever to prevent erosion something companies like Haskett Growers takes very seriously.

"Haskett Growers has been planting trees as part of our long-term sustainability plan," noted the company's Lyndon Thiessen.

"Trees provide shelter from wind that really helped our crops this year during the hot June windstorms, and they also add beauty to the landscape. We are planting them where we can



age efficiently, while accommodating large farm equipment," he said.

"GPS is used to make sure that the trees run exactly east/west or north/ south so that technology like auto steer can be used," Thiessen added. "In the past, GPS was not available, so some tree rows are not exactly east/ west or north/south and may not be parallel to the road or the tree row beside creating challenges for producing row crops."

For more information on these tree planting initiatives, head online to rmofstanley.ca or call the municipal

# Winkler moves to severe water restrictions

#### Stanley reeve also encouraging RM residents to curb water usage

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Local leaders continue to call on residents to take care with their water usage as drought conditions continue.

Last week, the City of Winkler moved into Level 3/Severe water restrictions owing to a week of high average usage and very little rain.

While indoor reduction of water usage is voluntary for residents under this level, it does put several restrictions in place for outdoor water use, including banning yard watering for new or existing lawns and limiting garden and new plantings watering to one or two days a week based on one's house number.

City water also cannot be used to fill pools or run sprinklers for recreation, nor to wash vehicles.

Businesses are also required to limit water usage to essential operations

Full details are available online at cityofwinkler.ca, as are regular updates on the current restriction status.

Meanwhile, the RM of Stanley remains on voluntary water reduction, but Reeve Morris Olafson very much urges people to do whatever they can to cut back on their usage.

"Folks, we are in a really dry situation," he stressed. "Take care with your water usage."

While the forecast is for more hot and dry weather in the weeks ahead, Olafson reminds residents that it's going to take more than a rainy day or two to improve conditions in any meaningful way.

"Remember that two-tenths is not a rain anymore," he said. "Don't kid yourself."

The RM is asking the public to use non-potable water for gardening and yard watering whenever possible, limit filling up pools, and use outside water on odd/even days depending on your home number.

Stanley has also shut down its truck-

filling station near Lake Minnewasta due to low levels there.

Olafson also stressed the importance of fire safety amidst these dry conditions.

"Crops are ripening and they are a tinder box," he said.

The RM, along with the rest of the region, was under a fire ban earlier this week, but even once that lifts people still need to keep a close eye on current conditions.

"Be careful with your fires," Olafson stressed, noting a backyard fire or agricultural burn could very easily get out of control and not only run the risk of spreading but also wasting massive amounts of water to put out.

"You could drain 10,000 gallons in a few minutes there."

# New public health orders now in effect

By Lorne Stelmach

A further easing of restrictions came early for Manitobans last week as the province reached the next target in the government's reopening strategy.

While announcing the implementation of the second phase of the 4-3-2-One Great Summer plan, Premier Brian Pallister and chief public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin also encouraged Manitobans to keep doing what has gotten the province to this point.

"We are close to achieving all of our vaccination milestones ahead of schedule. Now we just need that extra effort by every Manitoban not yet vaccinated to roll up your sleeve and push us across the finish line so we can fully reopen, safely, and quickly," said Pallister.

"Vaccines are the safest and quickest way out of this pandemic. The sooner all eligible Manitobans get fully vaccinated, the sooner we can all get our lives back," he continued. "Thanks to the incredible efforts of Manitoba's vaccine team and Manitobans' willingness to roll up their sleeves—not once, but twice—we are able to move forward earlier than anticipated with fewer restrictions on our economy and our communities."

The second vaccination milestone of at least 75 per cent first dose and 50 per cent second dose for those age 12 and older was reached nearly a month ahead of schedule July 6. That, coupled with continued improvement in the overall COVID-19 situation, meant restrictions were able to be eased somewhat this past Saturday.

The new orders include:

• Indoor gatherings at private resi-

dences are now permitted to a maximum of five people plus the household members.

- Indoor gatherings in public spaces are permitted to a maximum of 25 people.
- Outdoor gatherings on private property increase to a maximum of 25 people.
- Public outdoor gatherings increase to a maximum of 150 people.
- Retail businesses increase to 50 per cent capacity or 500 people, whichever is lower.
- Restaurants, licensed premises,

and food court capacities expand to 50 per cent capacity; outdoor maximum table size remains at eight people. Patrons may sit together indoors if they are from

the same household or if all 12 years of age or older are fully immunized (unvaccinated children under 12 may dine with fully vaccinated members of their household in this case).

As well, opening hours extend to midnight, and the requirement to purchase food when ordering alcohol no longer applies.

VLTs may be operate with all other restaurant/bar rules applying (two-metre distance, only households or fully vaccinated people seated together.

• Personal services (haircuts and styling, nail salons, estheticians and massage) continue at 50 per cent capacity; appointments are no longer required.

"THIS IS A SAFE, REASONABLE,

AND APPROPRIATE NEXT STEP

IN OUR REOPENING."

- Dance, theatre, and music school capacities increase to 50 per cent capacity to a maximum of 25 people per group.
- Indoor sporting facilities may host groups up to a maximum of 25 people; interaction between groups and tournaments are not permitted.
- Day camp capacity increases to groups of 25; joint activities between groups and overnight camps are prohibited.
- Outdoor recreation including games and practices may take place

to maximum group size of 50 people; spectators are permitted and do not count towards this capacity limit; tournaments are not permitted.

- Gym and fitness centre capacities expand to 50 per cent capacity; masks and increased physical distancing (three metres) are still required.
- Outdoor weddings and funerals may include up to 150 participants in addition to photographers and officiants; indoor weddings or funerals increase to 25 people in addition to photographers and officiants.
- Libraries may open to 50 per cent capacity to a maximum of 150 people, whichever is lower.
- Faith-based and cultural gatherings may expand to 50 per cent capacity or 150 people indoors, whichever is lower; masks and physical distancing between households is still re-

quired. If the facility design allows, the capacity limits may be applied to different physical spaces within the venue. Outdoor faith-based and cultural gatherings permitted up to 150 people and drive-in services continue to be permitted without restriction.

- Movie theatres, bingo halls, VLT lounges and casinos, museums and galleries may now reopen for fully immunized people only to a maximum capacity of 50 per cent. Unvaccinated children under 12 may attend as appropriate if accompanied by fully vaccinated members of their household.
- Large-scale outdoor professional sports or performing arts events may operate with capacities up to 100 per cent after developing an approved event plan in consultation with public health.

In all cases, following the COVID-19 fundamentals including indoor mask use and physical distancing is still required to protect the health and well-being of all Manitobans, officials stress

"This is the safe, reasonable and appropriate next step in our reopening," said Roussin. "More and more vaccinations allow us to loosen public health restrictions, but COVID-19 is still circulating in the province and continues to challenge our hospital and ICU capacity. A phased reopening is a safe reopening."

The current public health order is scheduled to expire on Saturday, Aug. 7 and will be reassessed at that time in the context of vaccination rates and the province's overall COVID-19 situation.

# Manitoba inching ever closer to a post-pandemic world

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba reported 37 new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, on top of 106 over the weekend.

The majority of the day's new cases were in the Winnipeg health region (21) followed by eight each in both the Interlake-Eastern and Southern Health-Santé Sud heath regions. The Northern and Prairie Mountain regions had no new cases at the start of the work week.

The data also shows Manitoba currently has 922 active cases of the virus, 55,117 recoveries, and a total of 1,165 deaths.

The five-day test positivity rate was at 3.6 per cent provincially and 3.1 per

cent in Winnipeg.

People hospitalized with the virus total 117, including 27 in intensive care units.

The last Manitoban receiving ICU care out of province was returned to a Manitoba hospital on Friday. A total of 57 COVID-19 patients were transported to hospitals in Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta between May 18 to June 9 for care due to a lack of ICU beds here.

Locally, case counts range from highs of 47 in Red River South, 18 in Lorne/Louise/Pembina, and 11 in Winkler to none or just a handful of cases in communities like Morden, Roland/Thompson, and Carman.

As the numbers continue to drop across Manitoba, the time is coming when daily case reports become a thing of the past, noted Dr. Jazz Atwal, Manitoba's deputy chief public health officer, at a press conference in Winnipeg Monday.

"In a post-pandemic Manitoba we will see public health guidelines, not orders, we won't be reporting daily case counts, and our health system won't be overrun by a single cause," he said.

"We have the power to make this happen through vaccination, but we will have to remember that the virus that causes COVID-19 will likely continue to be present in our communities even after the majority of Manitobans are fully vaccinated. We need to learn to live with COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses."

To that end, Atwal said, it will still be important for people to make risk assessments for certain activities, especially if they are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill with the virus or interact regularly with people who

All Manitobans age 12 and over are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Information about booking an appointment, finding a pop-up clinic, or tracking down walk-in availability can be found at protectmb.ca or by calling 1-844-626-8222.

# Manitou newcomer launches rabbit rescue

By Lorne Stelmach

Starting something like the Manitou Rabbit Rescue and Advocacy group seemed inevitable for Lydia Sarra when she moved here from British Columbia three months ago.

Having worked as a foster co-ordinator at a Vancouver-based domestic rabbit rescue, it is very much a labour of love for her, but she didn't necessarily expect something similar to happen so quickly and suddenly while still settling into her new home.

"When I moved over here, I realized very quickly there was not a rescue solely dedicated to rabbits ... and then I came across a local woman who reached out to me asking for help," explained Sarra.

"She said she had kind of an explosion of rabbits," she noted, estimating it led to catching around 300 rabbits over a period of days and then working away at getting them to vets to be able to send them then to multiple other rescues, some all the way to B.C.

"I still have about 60," said Sarra. "So it kind of started accidently. I didn't plan on starting it this soon, but I just saw there was a huge need.

"A lot of rescues cater to dogs and cats, but not many will cater to smaller animals. It's something I was passionate about and there was nowhere for these things to go."

Manitoba currently has just two rescues that accept rabbits at all and none that solely cater to them.

Sarra's aim is not only to serve as a rescue but also get into an advocacy role as well as education and awareness-both of which are vital given what she sees as some of the key contributing factors that make this an issue of concern.

"I think one of the biggest problems is specifically around Easter time. People want to get a rabbit for their children," she suggested.

"Everyone thinks they're a starter pet, and it's quite the opposite. A rabbit can be just as much work or more than a dog or a cat," Sarra stressed. "People aren't prepared for their vets not taking them because they need to see exotic vets, and they're not prepared for the diet and the care that they need.

"There's a lot of misconceptions around rabbit care," she continued. "They don't do well in little cages. They don't do well with children most of the time because they hate being lifted up; they're prey animals.

"So people aren't prepared. They're



**MANITOU RABBIT RESCUE AND ADVOCACY PHOTOS** 

Lydia Sarra has started up the Manitou Rabbit Rescue and Advocacy group to help find homes for hundreds of rabbits caught in and around the community in recent months.

expecting a cute little cuddly rabbit that their kid can carry around, and the reality of it is they're an exotic animal that requires so much care, and they have a life expectancy of eight to 14 years, so it's a big commitment that people are getting into."

Getting this new rescue and advocacy group up and running has likewise been a big commitment for Sarra as she worked at not only relocating 300 rabbits but also getting them all fixed beforehand.

"That's a huge expense in itself," she said."I drive two hours into Winnipeg every time I need to see a vet with my rabbits, so I go at least once a week. It's a busy time for us right now."

She encouraged people to consider getting involved if they are in a position to provide a good home for a rab-

"We're really desperate for fosters, and we're really desperate for adopters as well," Sarra said. "The main need is dedicated fosters, and all of the stuff they need will be supplied.

"I just need the rabbits to be in a socialized home, get them used to the way they are supposed to be living. I provide all the supplies; I pay the vet bills ... I just need people who can provide a clean home and lots of love for these animals."

In the meantime, she will likely continue to have rabbits to take care of, but she doesn't seem to mind.

"I'm lucky it's something I'm passionate about; I like to spend time around my rabbits."

For more information, you can find the Manitou Rabbit Rescue and Advocacy group on Facebook.



## Manitobans invited to weigh-in on water management strategies

By Voice staff

As the much of the province remains in drought conditions, the government is giving Manitobans the opportunity to have their say on a new water management strategy.

It recently launched an online public engagement seeking feedback.

The last provincial water management strategy for Manitoba was done in 2003, but much has changed over the 20 years, noted Blaine Pedersen,

who had been in the role of Agriculture and Resource Development Minister until cabinet changes announced

Pedersen said a new water strategy will ensure effective and sustainable management of our water resources and that the province looks forward to working with all Manitobans in the development of a made-in-Manitoba water strategy.

"Water is a key resource for Manitobans, the environment and the economy, and our government is committed to the careful management of this precious resource," he said.

"We encourage Manitobans to share their thoughts with us and recognize we must work together to sustainably manage water, while considering the impacts of a changing climate and growing economic and social needs."

The public input follows the commitment of \$1 million in funding announced earlier this year to support development and implementation of the water strategy, and a committee will review and approve projects under the fund.

"Manitoba has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a water management strategy to drive economic and environmental prosperity in our province," said Ray Bouchard, chair of the oversight committee for the fund.

"Over the next year, this fund will

Continued on page 13

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# Two facing drug trafficking charges after police bust

By Voice staff

Two Carman men are facing drug charges after a bust near Morden last

On July 11, Morden Police pulled over a vehicle near the PTH 3 and PTH 14 intersection.

Officers observed the passenger to be acting in a suspicious manner and further checks revealed that the driver had an invalid licence.

Through a subsequent investigation, and with the assistance of members of the Winkler Police Service, police arrested both the driver and the passenger for trafficking methamphetamine.

Police say that a search of the vehicle and the accused found several small bags believed to contain meth, a baggie containing a substance believed to be fentanyl, a syringe containing an unknown substance, a scale, cellphones, cash, and other drug trafficking paraphernalia.

The two men, a 40-year-old and a 23-year-old, are charged with possession of controlled substances for the



purpose of trafficking and possession of goods obtained by a crime.

Both accused were released on conditions to appear in Morden Provincial Court in October

Police continue to investigate this matter and note that further charges are pending.

#### > WATER SURVEY, FROM PG. 11

support building a roadmap for a long-term water management strategy with identified projects from key economic sectors. Insights from a diversity of stakeholders in Manitoba is an integral part of this process and will be sought through

the EngageMB survey as well as engagement sessions planned for the

To take part in the engagement, visit engagemb.ca. The deadline for feedback is Aug. 13.

# Having fun with 'mad science'



#### PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A classic, simple science activity had kids doing the rubber egg experiment last Wednesday as part of Mad Science Week at the Gateway Resources summer camp. The seven-week program is an annual effort by Gateway to help build connections in the community. "We're limited to ten kids per week ... so we do have smaller numbers than normal," said organizer Tim Hamp. "It's a community event we do every year to try to create some inclusivity," he added. "We have different people who rotate throughout the summer, so we have some positive interaction with the kids."



# arts&culture

# Local filmmaker's latest project making the festival rounds

By Lorne Stelmach

A filmmaker, writer and director who has lived and worked in many varied places around the world now calls Morden home.

It is somewhat surprising as well to Santiago Larrauri himself, but he is happy to be able to continue pursuing his passion while based in southern Manitoba, where he is currently holding down a day job with Fentro Technologies in Morden.

Describing himself as a writer/researcher by trade and a filmmaker by heart, Larrauri and his family moved here about a year ago from Asia, where he worked for many years based mostly in the Philippines.

"I was almost finished with a project there back home when the pandemic hit," he explained. "I eventually moved here, and everything went on hold ... but eventually, we were able to finish it here."

His family's interest in Morden goes back a ways.

"My wife applied through Morden immigration five years ago, maybe six ... for about four years, they didn't call us, so we thought they had forgotten about us, and we actually forgot about applying in the first place," Larrauri said. "Then the pandemic hit, I sold my company ... things went bad back home ... so then we moved here.

"Morden was one of the few choices we had through the provincial nominee program," he added. "After looking at the different photos and all the different places, Morden just appealed to us."

It has been quite a journey for Larrauri, who as a teen landed in front of the camera and then started editing scripts for film companies at age 19 quite by accident.

He was an actor working on an action film when he was given a script and asked for his thoughts.

He went on to do work as a freelance writer and came and went from the business a number of times before eventually landing behind the cam-



"I WANTED TO DO

SOMETHING REALLY

DIFFERENT ... NOT

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DO SILENT MOVIES

ANYMORE."

**SUPPLIED PHOTOS** 

Filmmaker Santiago Laurraurie now calls Morden home.

era, starting out casting for movies, TV, and commercials. That led then to writing and eventually directing.

He has written a variety of scripts ranging from a thrillers called *Target* and *San Kriminal* to an adventure comedy called *Isla*, which he also directed. He also wrote and directed video content for *The Manila Mayhem* show featuring everything from restaurant features to indie film reviews and other industry related news.

"So I started in front of the camera. I eventually started writing, eventually started filming and directing, and it all just grew from there, one thing led to the next ... it is my passion," he said.

Having been involved with a variety of styles and genres, Larrauri noted he is most inspired by the work of Quentin Tarantino

"I like his style, nonconformist, he writes

scripts based on his ideas, and he doesn't follow the norms of filmmaking ... there's really no one like him. He's definitely different, he's ahead of the curve."

His latest project is again something quite different and unusual.

Based on a story by Geraldine Tan, *Makeover* #2*dye4* is about someone with autoimmune disease.

The film just earned an honour at the Venice Shorts Film Awards for best short film editor and an indie short honorable mention. It's also an official selection for the Toronto International Women Film Festival and a nominee for the Hollywood International Golden Age Festival.

A key difference that makes the film stand out is that it is a silent movie.

"I wanted to do something really different," Larrauri said. "Not too many people do silent movies anymore."

It posed a challenge when it came to finding actors who could pull it off.

"It took us about three months to cast them back home simply because we needed people who could just come off with expressions, who could tell a story just with the way they look, the way they express themselves."

As far as what the future may hold for Larrauri now,

he would like to establish some sort of base of operations here to pursue filmmaking with his son.

"We're sort of gathering a small group here in Morden and teaching three or four guys to do the rest of the stuff so that we could actually start a small production team here," he said.

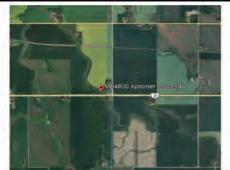
"I've been doing this my whole life. I've travelled the world, and wherever I've ended up living, I've ended up putting up something similar, some kind of production company."



#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Xplornet Communications Inc. would like to notify area residents of a proposal of a new telecommunications installation situated on SE 12-3-7 WPM within the Rural Municipality of Pembina. The proposed installation will be a 45m self-support tower. All of the equipment required to operate the facility will be located inside an equipment shelter at the base of the tower.

This new telecommunications facility will improve coverage to the Rural Municipality of Pembina area.



Your comments are welcome at (780) 702-5687
Written comments can be faxed to (403) 263-5623
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All comments will be accepted until August 21, 2021.



# What to do when you don't like, undestand an art piece

#### PHAC Art Talk tackles art interpretation

By Lorne Stelmach

The theme focused on what to do when you see art you don't like in a gallery, so the Third Thursday Art Talk last week was more about us than the artwork itself.

The monthly forum of the Pembina Hills Arts Council saw Lauren MacLean lead a group of 10 people in examining how we respond to an artist's work and how we come to perceive the meanings.

MacLean encouraged people to think about what all might be influencing how they come to respond to such art, and she likes to take a sociological approach including considering how society and broader culture will influence our internal evalua-

"I think everybody who's been into an art gallery has come across some piece of art that is so weird or so out of left field that they just don't understand it," she said. "I think art though can provide an easy way to have that conversation and to start practicing our side of that conversation."

She touched on how it can be intimidating going into a gallery and perhaps having the assumption that you are supposed to like whatever is on display.

"When I decide I'm going to see an exhibition, it's like pure excitement. Then to come across that piece that kind of ends that spell can be disarming, and it can take a bit to come back from that," she said. "So I think it can help us to kind of deconstruct what

other people think we should think about it."

There were three pieces viewed at the talk which programs and outreach co-ordinator Tricia Dyck chose because they would likely be thought provoking.

"She intentionally chose them because they are a little bit controversial, and we wanted something that would make people think and have a reaction," said MacLean. "It doesn't matter if the reaction is positive, negative or somewhere in the middle, as long as there is a reaction happening.

"You can use that as window to reflect and give us that opportunity to see what's going on inside us," she continued."[Claude] Monet was challenging in his time, even though we accept him now, and there's those Monets of this day and age."

MacLean stressed that she also wanted to get across how art can be a very strong means for people to connect and engage with each other.

"I really wanted to give people the opportunity to practice just connecting with each other by connecting with art," MacLean concluded.

"Through COVID, a lot of people have become a little divisive, so I just wanted to give people an opportunity where it's safe to be able to interact with another opinion, another point of view that might be a little bit con-

"I hope it can help us understand our thoughts and what's going on in that kind of situation."

## **Conditions ideal for West Nile virus skeeters**

By Voice staff

The hot, dry conditions this summer are making for perfect breeding grounds for the mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus (WNV).

The provincial government warns that the Culex tarsalis mosquito is on the hunt for water to lay their eggs, and, not finding it in the usual places thanks to the drought, are making due with unusual locations.

"While normally not suitable, the drought has caused some smaller rivers and creeks to stop flowing, thus creating ideal spots for Culex tarsalis

Continued on page 16



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Lauren MacLean led last week's art talk at the Morden gallery, which discussed how we respond to an artist's work and come to perceive its meanings.



### Thank You, Manitoba Teachers

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers demonstrated their dedication to educating and inspiring the next generation of outstanding Manitobans.

To say thank you to teachers, Manitoba Pork launched "Manitoba's Best Teacher", a contest to acknowledge and celebrate teachers across the province who have gone above and beyond for their students during these trying times.

Each of our winning teachers received a \$500 VISA gift card and a delicious pork-based lunch for the entire school staff. Congratulations to M. Hirsch from Springfield Middle School, J. Maclennan from Royal School (Winnipeg), L. Creighton from Rivers Elementary School, and C. Ziegler from Elwick Community School (Winnipeg).

Given the volume of nominations, four additional teachers received secondary prizes of \$500 each to put towards improving their schools.

Manitoba Pork is grateful for all the province's dedicated teachers and for the 403 heartfelt nominations we received from students, parents, and educators.

To learn more, visit manitobapork.com/teacher

SPONSORED CONTENT

# **Credit unions partner to bring Inuit art to rural communities**

By Nicole Brownlee

Manitoba 150 has partnered with Manitoba credit unions to share Inuit art across the province.

"The Manitoba 150 Host Committee has been, from the very beginning, looking for ways to engage all Manitobans in this acknowledgement of our 150 anniversary," said Monique LaCoste, co-chair of the Manitoba 150 council.

Alongside the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Tour 150 will showcase several pieces from the Qaumajug Inuit art centre through municipalities across the province, stopping at a credit union in each town.

"We tried to think of organizations that are firmly embedded in rural communities, so of course credit unions are a perfect fit," said LaCoste. "They're the backbone of rural Manitoba"

Tour 150 will be stopping at the Access Credit Unions in Carman and Winkler, among several other locations throughout the province.

"We were just happy to play our part in bringing this amazing exhibit out at some of our communities that might not have a chance otherwise," said Adam Monteith, chief marketing officer at Access CU.

"I want to bring my kids," said Monteith. "I want to show them how diverse Canada is, how diverse Manitoba is and celebrate again."

A retrofitted tour vehicle, named

Nakatamaakewin, which means "to leave something behind" in Michif, will house the artwork and act as a portable exhibit for visitors to explore. Riva Symko, the head of collections and exhibitions at the WAG and a curator of Canadian Art, said the gallery wanted to choose pieces that showcase the diversity and variety of Inuit art

"I think people, you know, generally think of Inuit art as carving almost exclusively," said Symko."We have carvings represented in the van as well, but we also have textiles, wall hangings... dolls made out of felt and a range of materials."

They also worked closely with the learning and programs team to create educational material about Inuit culture, Inuit voices included in the artwork and engaging stories about the pieces.

"We've been really thinking about, like, how do we make our collection of Inuit art accessible to audiences in the north as well as the south. Or how do we reach audiences that aren't necessarily in Winnipeg," said Symko.

The van, decorated with Inuit artist Kailey Sheppard's designs, became a way for the WAG to share artwork some communities otherwise would have never seen.

"The van sort of represents part of that larger objective in being able to bring art or make art accessible to these audiences," said Symko. "We're the Winnipeg Art Gallery, but in a lot of ways, we represent all of Manitoba too."

"When we live in small towns, we don't always have the opportunity to be in touch with art on a daily basis, and certainly not Inuit art," said LaCoste. "We hope people will really take advantage of the opportunity."

LaCoste said she also hopes the accessible art will also spark conversa-





#### **SUPPLIED PHOTOS**

Cathy Cox, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage and Tour Team member Albyn Carias check out prints, wall-hangings, and sculptures inside Nakatamaakewin, the Tour 150 van. Below: The Manitoba 150 team in front of van, which will be touring credit unions this summer.

tions about Manitoba's culture and history.

"We really hope that people have an opportunity... to be proud of who we are as Manitoban. To be in awe of our province's beauty. To, you know, look at our past, which is not an easy one,

but to have conversations around it and appreciate the culture that surrounds us," said LaCoste.

To find a tour stop near you, visit https://manitoba150.com/en/programs/tour-150/.

#### > WEST NILE VIRUS, FROM PG. 15

to lay their eggs," the province's first West Nile Virus bulletin read last week. "As a result, larval control will be conducted along these unusual larval development sites to reduce the numbers of Culex tarsalis adults that emerge and reduce the risk of WNV."

To that end, the City of Winnipeg sprayed for skeeters last week along a number of rivers and creeks.

Currently, no human cases of West Nile virus have been identified in Manitoba

While the risk for WNV exposure is low right now, the province warns that's likely to change as we head further into the summer.

Between 2012 and 2018, there were 112 cases of WNV in Manitoba. Nearly 40 per cent of those cases were hospitalized and 11 required intensive care.

You can protect yourself by taking the following preventative measures:

- Reduce the amount of time spent outdoors during peak mosquito hours between dusk and dawn.
- Use an appropriate mosquito repellent.
- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing with long sleeves and pant legs.
- legs.
   Maintain door and window screens.
- Clean and empty yard items that collect water.

For more information on West Nile virus, head to www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv or call Health Links at 1-888-315-9257.









**Open hours:** Mon to Sat 8am-10pm, Sunday 9am-6pm **Our store in Winkler** is now refreshed and improved. Please join us on Friday July 23, 2021 for our grand re-opening!

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# Save the herd: the drought is more than a farmer's problem

By Becca Myskiw

Manitoba is facing one of the worst droughts in recent history, and farmers are feeling the brunt of it.

Andre Steppler, a Charolais producer from Miami, said there's no doubt the situation is terrible—and only getting worse. Pockets of the province have been dry in recent years, but now the drought is fundamental across Manitoba.

Pastures are drying up, leaving cattle without feed, and causing farmers to give them their feed reserves. That means the hay and grain they'd use in the winter is being used now — but crops aren't producing enough for feed, either, meaning they won't have anything for the cows come fall.

Along with that, everyone's fighting grasshoppers, and water quality and accessibility are becoming a huge issue.

"It's not just one element of this drought that's affecting producers," said Steppler.

So, what happens next is a cull. That means farmers will identify which cows have less production in their herd, and they'll take them to market. From there, producers out east will likely buy them to add to their herds



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

Cattle farmers are desperate for feed and need the government to step in to help.

or they'll go straight to the meat market, depleting the cattle herd overall in Manitoba.

When the market gets flooded like that, it lowers prices, giving the farmer less money for their animals. But Steppler said this isn't a problem that's going to affect farmers for a few days. Instead, it will affect the entire Canadian economy for years to come.

"If we don't get substantial rain, everything is just going to be amplified as we go," he said. "Instead of 15 per

cent going it'll be 25, then 30."

Once cattle herds start to go, they don't typically come back. That means new retirement plans for local farmers and the income coming off in rural areas simply won't exist. If it doesn't exist rurally, it won't exist nationally. Cattle herds are the engine, said Steppler, and without an engine, the car can't run.

There is still time to save the herds, though. Steppler said it's all a matter of what can be controlled, which

means being proactive.

Crops across the province aren't producing this year, meaning grain farmers will be taking a hit too. Companies like MASC need to step in, evaluate the crops in a timely manner, write them off, and then the grain producers can work with beef producers in terms of feed.

If their crops are getting written off, grain producers need to sell that feed source to the beef producers. That keeps money in the pocket of the grain guys and cows in the herd of the beef guys.

Many producers don't know where they can access deals like that, though, said Steppler, so adjusters need to be out in the communities helping producers to make the right decisions. Along with that, they need transport assistance and a federal agriculture recovery program to get everyone back on their feet.

"If they buy 3,000 straw bales in southern Manitoba and have to take it to Fisher Branch, they'll need transport assistance for that," he said.

But it's almost August and the combines are ready to get rolling. Steppler said action needs to happen now to ensure every producer is making the right business decisions.

# Blaine Pedersen steps down from role in cabinet



Midland MA Blaine Pedersen has announced his intention not to run for re-election.

By Becca Myskiw

After five years in cabinet, Midland MLA Blaine Pedersen is stepping down from his role there.

Last Wednesday's cabinet shuffle changed a few things in Manitoba's government, one of the most significant changes concerning Pedersen. For the past two years, he's been the Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development, but he never planned to stay in that position for more than that time.

He said in 2019 when the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba came in with their second majority, Premier Brian Pallister asked him to take over the role. A new department was an expansion of the previous agriculture one, and Pedersen was happy to accept the job.

He decided, however, that 2019

would be his last election, this term his final, and was planning on stepping back. He's 67, he said, has been in government since 2007 and is ready to spend more time with family and do some hunting and fishing.

So, he told the premier he'd take on the role for two years, but then he'd step back and work on things in his constituency.

And that's just what he's doing.

"To be in cabinet is just a tremendous honour, but it is a lot of work," Pedersen said. "It's a lot of responsibility ... it's time to step back and begin to phase out of my political career."

He calls this his succession planning. He will be MLA for Midland until the next election, but when nomination time for that rolls around, he'll help the Conservative candidate in the area as much as he can.

For now, he's focusing on the Mid-

land area and bettering it. The number one thing on his list is increasing the water supply. However, a few other special projects have yet to come to fruition that Pedersen will be working

"You need a plan on where you're going to go," he said. "This is the beginning of mine. It's a tremendous relief to be able to step back from the duties of being in cabinet and being responsible for a department."

Taking over his role is MLA for Lakeside Ralph Eichler. He was elected in 2003, re-elected in 2007, 2011, 2016, and 2019, was recently the minister of Economic Development and Jobs, and the agriculture minister before that.

Eichler's immediate priority, according to the province, is to develop drought relief support.

# **PVLIP** sets a date with diversity

By Iris Dyck

A Pembina Valley non-profit is bringing back one of its 2020 COVID-19 projects for a second year: a calendar celebrating diversity in the workplace.

Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) connects newcomers, business owners, and community leaders in the Pembina Valley. PVLIP aims to facilitate communication between these groups to create more inclusive communities.

"Part of our job is to bring those conversations together to see how we can support those communities and stakeholders, as they are also experiencing massive growth and change," said Elaine Burton Saindon, PVLIP coordinator.

Normally, PVLIP's summer activities include supporting events across the region, like Winkler's Culture Fest. But last summer, as COVID-19 spread across the province and country and restrictions were put in place, PVLIP realized it would need to find a different way to promote multiculturalism

They put a calendar together with funds leftover from their cancelled summer events. The calendar featured images of different cultural celebrations in the Pembina Valley from the past 10 years. PVLIP distributed them to their various community partners and contacts, who then gave them to the public free of charge.

"It was just a neat way to connect and show support for the various events in the various communities," Burton Saindon said.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, prompting PVLIP to continue the project this year. Unfortunatelv. PVLIP was unable to redirect this year's funding to cover the printing costs. Instead, they moved to a sponsorship model.

Pembina Valley businesses and organizations can contribute at gold, silver, or bronze sponsorship levels. All sponsors will have their names listed on the calendar and get copies to dis-

A contribution at the gold level (\$500 or more) gets the sponsor a professional, on-site photoshoot showing diversity in the workplace. The photos will be featured in the calendar along with the sponsor's name and company logo.

The calendars are also an opportunity for PVLIP to support local businesses; the layout will be created by an Altona graphic designer, and printing will be contracted to Friesens Corporation, also in Altona. The sponsorships will cover the production costs so that the calendars can once again be offered for free to the community.

Burton Saindon admits securing sponsorships during the pandemic has been difficult.





**SUPPLIED PHOTOS** 

The PVLIP created a calendar when COVID-19 made it impossible to hold in-person events. Right: Deborah Giblin holds the 2021 calendar at Portage-Lisgar Candice Bergen's office in Morden. The 2022 calendars will be available in December across the region.

"COVID has been a bit of a challenge in trying to make those face to face, or one on one, connections," she said."As a non-profit organization, we really just rely on public hope that this would come together."

She hopes this year's calendars, like last year's, inspire hope during a difficult time.

"It really brought a positive light to a dark, dismal year," she said.

PVLIP is accepting sponsorships

from businesses and organizations in the Pembina Valley until July 28.

Photoshoots will take place in August, and the calendars will be available beginning in December.

Anyone wishing to sponsor the calendar or get more information about PVLIP can fill out a contact form on their website: www.pvlip.ca.

# Big Bros Big Sis expanding into Carman

#### Volunteers needed there and in communities throughout the region

By Becca Myskiw

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley is expanding into Carman.

The non-profit organization provides mentoring to youth facing adversity in Morden, Winkler, Altona, Plum Coulee, Manitou, and now Carman.

Executive director Jenelle Neufeld said there's a wide range of reasons someone might need a mentor, some of them being as simple as wanting an impactful relationship. Big Brothers Big Sisters offers two programs: one-on-one mentoring and group mentoring.

Go Girls is a form of their group mentoring and it's already in Carman. It brings five or 10 girls together with a mentor at a time and is centred around healthy bodies, healthy minds, and healthy lifestyles.

Neufeld said bringing the one-on-one option to Carman next just made sense.

"It's always been our goal to expand," she said. "With the transition into servicing the Pembina Valley as a whole, we definitely find value in expanding into Carman."

For the program to be a success, though, they need volunteers. Neufeld said there's a real need for mentors across the region, with over a dozen kids already on the waiting list.

Interested volunteers can contact Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley for details. Mentors must be over 18 and willing to commit for a minimum of one year.

In their application, mentors will write their interests so they can be matched with a mentee with similar ones. Neufeld said that helps them to form a meaningful relationship, spend quality time together, and allows for more fun between the pair.

"The mentee comes to us for a reason," she said. "They need consistency of some kind and matching them based on similar interests allows that to occur more naturally."

The program also gives mentees an opportunity to explore interests other people in their lives might not have, leading to new career options and a more confident youth. To become a mentor, contact Neufeld at Jenelle.neufeld@ bigbrothersbigsisters.ca.

# What's You'v story?

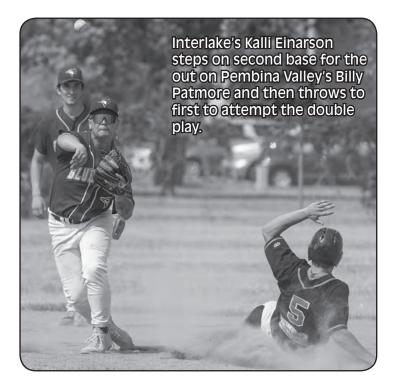
#### We want to hear from you.

The Winkler Morden Voice connects people through stories to build stronger communities. Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion? A senior celebrating their 100th birthday? A young entrepreneur starting out?

Please share your story ideas at news@winklermordenvoice.ca Phone 204-332-3456



# 



#### By Voice staff

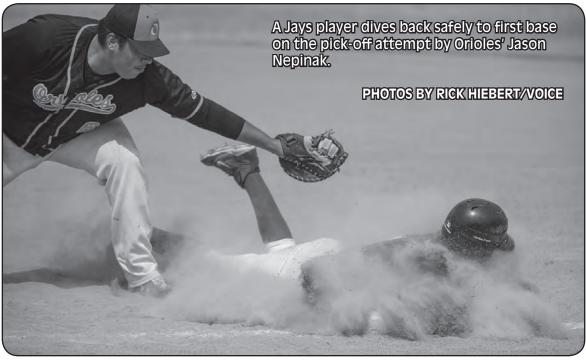
The Pembina Valley Orioles split their last four games neatly in half.

Last week, the Manitoba Junior Baseball League team bested the St. James A's 5-1 July 14 but then narrowly bowed to Winnipeg South 9-7 on Friday.

In their Sunday home double-header against the Interlake Blue Jays, the Orioles took game one 5-1 but then faltered in game two, giving it to the visitors 8-3.

In the early going the Orioles are in fourth place with a 3-4

# **Orioles split with Blue Jays**



record, trailing Altona in first (6-1), Elmwood in second (5-0), and Carillon in third (2-3), with the Giants and the Sultans each having a game in hand.

Coming up this week, Pembina Valley hosts Carillon Wednesday at 7 p.m. and then hits the

road to play at Altona Friday and St. James on Sunday.

Spectators are allowed under the current public health orders but are limited to 150. Home games are played at the Morden ball diamonds.

# Winklerite drafted to the major leagues

By Lorne Stelmach

A Winklerite is taking the next step towards his dream of playing professional baseball.

Tristan Peters can now add Major



League Baseball draft pick to his resume after being selected 207th overall in the seventh round by the Milwaukee Brewers.

As a bonus, he was able to learn the news while having his parents

and brothers with him in Savannah, Georgia, where he is playing summer baseball following his season at Southern Illinois University.

"It was really unreal; it was kind of unreal for that whole day ... it's kind of sunk in now, but it feels incredible," Peters said when reached last week.

After a successful couple of seasons with Southern Illinois University, Winkler's Tristan Peters has been drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers.

**SUPPLIED PHOTO** 

It has taken a lot of hard work, determination and perseverance to get himself to this point.

"It's really cool now to see it pay off," he said. "I've been in many places, many different schools ... it's taken a lot to get here."

Peters first and foremost credited the many coaches who have been instrumental in helping him advance his game at every level.

"There's been so many good coaches that I've had, and they've all played a huge role. My dad coached me when I was young," he noted, also particularly citing a high school coach in Alberta (Peters spent his last two years of school at the Okotoks Dawgs Academy) for helping with the mental part of the game as well as improving his hitting.

"I'm going to have a lot of people to thank," he said.

Peters recently enjoyed a strong

season in his third year playing for Southern Illinois University, where the Salukis outfielder batted .355 with six home runs, 55 RBIs ,and 14 stolen bases in 60 games and was named to the 2021 Division 1 all midwest regional team.

The team's 11-0 start was tied for the best in program history and had bumped them into collegiate baseball's top-30 national rankings at 25 and ranked nationally for the first time since 1990. They ended up with a 40-20 record to makeit to their conference playoffs, but fell short of getting to the regionals.

Peters previously earned a gold glove and all-conference honours in 2019 when he hit .373 as a freshman with six home runs and 26 stolen bases. He then hit .354 with 13 stolen bases in the shortened 2020 season.

Now he has the opportunity to keep

Continued on page 21

### Flag rugby league getting going in Winkler, Morden, & Coulee

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Roosters Rugby club's first workshop of the summer gave youth a chance to try their hand at the

Kids were invited out to the football field at Emerado Park last Wednesday to run through some basic rugby

"I think everyone had a lot of fun," said organizer and coach Adam Porte, explaining these free events are meant to give families a chance to see what non-contact rugby is all about. "Mostly its just trying to get people out, shake the cobwebs off, and give the sport of rugby a try.

"I think it will be a popular sport here, it's just going to take time."

A junior flag rugby league is gearing up to run Saturday mornings in Winkler, Morden, and Plum Coulee this summer.

This non-contact league for U7 and U12 boys and girls will begin Aug. 14 and run until Oct. 16.

Each week will rotate between the three communities for drills and games, pitting the Winkler Roosters against the Morden Magpies and the Plum Coulee Sparrows.

Registration is \$80 and includes a rugby ball, backpack, T-shirt, shorts and socks—everything a kid needs to get into the sport.

To register visit rugbycanada.sportlomo.com and select"Pembina Valley."

If you'd like to give your kids a taste of rugby before registering, Morden is hosting its free Try Rugby Day for ages 5-14 at the Morden Collegiate soccer field this Wednesday, July 21. Plum Coulee hosts the same event next week Wednesday, July 28 at the Plum Coulee school field.

At both, U7s run 5-6 p.m. while U14s are 6-7 p.m. Pre-registration is not re-

Porte, who grew up in Plum Coulee, was bitten by the rugby bug while spending a year in Australia a decade ago. He's been an avid player ever

"I fell in love with it," he said. "And I want to make sure that kids in my former area have the opportunities to play that I didn't.

"What I love about rugby is that if I were to move France, Italy, Uruguay, Australia, wherever, and I knew no one, I could join the rugby club and I'd have instantly 50 friends just off the hop," Porte said. "I've played hockey and I've played baseball—the camaraderie of rugby is unmatched."

And while the sport has a reputation among the uninitiated as being a more violent form of football, Porte points out there are actually fewer injuries than in other sports.

"I know a lot of people are really scared of the physicality of rugby, but a lot would be surprised to hear rugby has fewer concussions than basketball," he said, explaining the lack of padding and hard equipment actually makes the hits softer in comparison to sports like hockey or football.

Of course, flag rugby is a different beast entirely, with no physical contact at all, but it does give kids the basics skills needed to continue on in the sport when they're older.

"The thing I like about flag rugby is it still allows you to learn that body positioning," Porte said. "You can't be lazy like you could with a touch game. With flag you've got to reach the person and you've got to get their flag, so there's a little more skills and brain work involved."

For more information about the local rugby program, you can reach Porte at 204-250-2888.



**PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE** The Winkler **Roosters Rugby** club hosted a free event last week to give kids a chance to try flag rugby. Similar events are planned for Morden this week and Plum Coulee next

week.



#### > PETERS, FROM PG. 21

moving forward and devote himself entirely to the game. He would have had two years of college eligibility remaining but expects he will go to Arizona, where the Brewers have a training complex, and it is possible he could land with their single A team in North Carolina.

"I'll need to work my way up and

keep working hard," Peters said. "I don't know how long it would take or if it will happen, but I know I'm going to have to just keep working really harder. I'm willing to learn. I really want to learn from these professional coaches now. I know they have a lot of knowledge of the game."

# Winkler Flyers loses Cech as head coach

By Lorne Stelmach

A month after losing their general manager, the Winkler Flyers are now in search of a new head coach.

The junior hockey team announced last week that Kelvin Cech has stepped down from the role he's held since the spring of 2019. The reasons for his departure were not provided.

Cech came to Winkler after a threeyear stint as assistant coach with the UBC Thunderbirds. He guided the Flyers to a third place finish in his first year and then saw his second season with the team cut short by the pandemic.

His resignation comes just weeks after general manager Jean Jeanson also stepped down, citing personal reasons. Assistant GM Justin Falk has since moved into Jeanson's role.

Given the wealth of hockey experience Falk has, Flyers board president Caleb Suderman expressed confidence they will be able to keep moving forward with preparations for the upcoming season while in the process of hiring a new coach.

"We've got Justin in place and we're working on some other staff to join him," he said last week. "We're very confident with him in the interim

"We're figuring out our next steps," Suderman said, adding that the hope is to have a new coach in place sooner rather than later. "There would be some degree of urgency, but we're not going to rush anything. We fully expect to have a full coaching staff in place before we get going, but we're

going to do it right."

In other Flyers news, the team last week traded 20-year-old forward Eric Fawkes to the Winnipeg Blues for future considerations. Fawkes played 30 games for Winkler in the 2019-2021 season and contributed seven goals and eight regular-season assists plus one assist in the playoffs.

The season before he scored 15 goals and had 22 assists for Winkler in 59





#### PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Baseball Manitoba's
Girls Baseball Tour made
a stop in Morden last
weekend. Members of
Senior Womens Team
worked with girls age
7-13 who wanted to learn
to play the sport. The

worked with girls age
7-13 who wanted to learn
to play the sport. The
goal, the agency says, is to develop and improve a baseball skill-set while giving
players an opportunity to grow and develop in a fun, all-girls setting. The tour,
which kicked off with camps in Winnipeg and Steinbach, continues this week in
Brandon, Souris, Hamiota, Dauphin, and Winnipeg before wrapping things up in
Stonewall Sunday.



## CJHL endorses Portage in its request to host 2023 Centennial Cup

From the MJHL website

Prior to the pandemic, Portage la Prairie was scheduled to host the 2020 Centennial Cup.

With the cancellation of the 2020 event due to the pandemic, Portage

requested through Hockey Canada and the CJHL the ability to have an opportunity to host a future Centennial Cup.

At this point, the MJHL supports the Portage Terriers and the City of Portage la Prairie in their request to host

the 2023 Centennial Cup. Portage has also received full support of the CJHL and Hockey Manitoba on this proposal.

Over the coming months, the MJHL, CJHL and Hockey Canada will work together on finalizing a hosting plan for Portage that, once complete, would require final endorsement of the Hockey Canada Board to be fully ratified.

"It was disappointing when the event was cancelled in the spring of 2020 due to the pandemic," said Kevin Saurette, MJHL commissioner. "The MJHL and CJHL are fully supportive of the request made to Hockey Canada to allow Portage the opportunity to host the event in 2023.

"The Province of Manitoba and the City of Portage la Prairie have proven to be an excellent host for Canada's National Junior 'A' Championship, and the Portage Terriers are proven competitors and champions in previous events."

Portage is excited to host the championship.

"We are thankful for the support from the MJHL, CJHL and Hockey Manitoba and are eager to work with Hockey Canada for final approval to host this prestigious national event in the spring of 2023," said Dale Deschouwer, co-chair of the Centennial Cup host committee.

"We have everything in place from our 2020 Centennial Cup preparations to move forward seamlessly with planning and execution of the 2023 Centennial Cup."

# **Border Baseball season begins**



The Border Baseball League was finally able to kick off its season last week. The Morden Mudhens got things off to a strong start with an 8-3 victory against the Altona Bisons July 13 (at left) and then followed it up with a 10-0 trouncing of the Carman Cardinals. The Winkler Whips split their opening games, besting Carman 7-0 and then falling to Altona 10-6. This week, the Whips hosted Morden Tuesday night and will see the Bisons come to town on Friday. The Mudhens, meanwhile, are slated to play in Carman Friday.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

# get inspired > MEALIDEAS



Total time: 1 hour Servings: 3-4 Salted water

3 tablespoons olive oil

3 tablespoons shallots or white onion, minced

2 cloves garlic, minced

1/4 teaspoon chili flakes

1 cup white wine

2 cups pappardelle noodles

3/4 cup vegetable stock

3 tablespoons capers (optional)

2 vine-ripened tomatoes, sliced in wedges

1 handful baby kale

1 fresh lemon, juice only

2 tablespoons butter (optional)

### Pappardelle with **Garden Vegetables**

sea salt, to taste

freshly ground black pepper, to taste 1 handful fresh basil, torn

Bring large pot of salted water to boil. In fry pan on medium-high heat, add

olive oil and onions; saute 2 minutes. Lower heat slightly and add garlic and chile flakes. Saute on medium heat 2-3 minutes. Add white wine and deglaze pan. Cook 3 minutes. Remove from heat and keep warm until ready to add freshly

In pot of boiling water, add pappardelle. Cook according to package instructions

Place fry pan back on medium heat. Add drained pasta; vegetable stock; capers, if desired; tomatoes; baby kale; and lemon juice. Add butter, if desired, and toss well. Cook 2-3 minutes, tossing occasionally, and season with salt and pepper, to taste, and fresh basil.

Toss again, remove from heat and serve.



Total time: 2 hours Servings: 2-4

2 medium Yukon Gold or russet pota-

3/4 teaspoon sea salt, divided

2 teaspoons water

1 cup all-purpose flour, divided, plus additional, for surface

1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg 1/8 teaspoon white pepper

2 large egg yolks

Preheat oven to 400 F. Place potatoes on sheet of foil, add 1/2 teaspoon salt and water; wrap. Bake 40 minutes, or until cooked through.

Peel potatoes while hot. Cut and rice potatoes. Let potatoes cool completely.

To make dough, sprinkle potatoes with

#### Homemade **Potato Gnocchi**

flour. Aerate with bench scraper then add remaining salt, nutmeg and white

Break up egg yolks and pour over potatoes. Cover surface with flour. Continue cutting and gently lifting dough.

Test dough by squeezing gently; it shouldn't stick. Add flour, if needed.

Shape dough into rectangle and fold several times, using fingertips to bring together. Flatten dough out until it reaches finger thickness. Sprinkle with flour and let rest 5-10 minutes.
Cut finger-width strips of dough and

sprinkle strips with flour. Roll out each strip and cut ropes into 3/4-inch pieces. Separate slightly and flour well.

Fresh gnocchi can sit at room temperature 30 minutes before cooking.

To freeze: Place gnocchi on tray, making sure they aren't touching. Once frozen, transfer to plastic freezer bag and freeze up to 2 months. Cook gnocchi from frozen and serve with desired sauce.



Servings: 6-8 1 cup strawberries, halved 2 cups heavy cream

1 cup powdered sugar

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

assorted fruit, for serving

In blender, puree strawberries until smooth. Set aside.

In mixing bowl, whip heavy cream and powdered sugar until fluffy.

In separate mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Add strawberry puree to cream cheese and mix until combined. Add whipped cream and stir until combined.

Serve in bowl with fruit.

# **Questions About Pregnancy**



#### By Gwen Randall-Young

Occasionally I work with couples who dearly want to have children, but are having difficulty conceiving. I hesitate to use the word 'infertility' because it sounds so definitive and final. In fact, many who have been labeled infertile have ended up conceiving at a time when there were no extraordinary measures taken to conceive. It just happens.

Nonetheless, difficulty conceiving is one of the most emotionally trying experiences a couple can face. It is a very personal issue, and can be compounded by well meaning friends and family members. If a couple wants to talk about starting a family, they will. If they are not bringing up the topic, it is best left alone. Some couples choose not to have children, and should not have to justify or explain this choice to anyone. Often, once couples have been married several years, they begin being bombarded with questions about plans for a family. While such questions seem innocent enough, they can be emotionally loaded for the couple.

For those who are trying, being

questioned puts them on the spot. If they have been trying for a long time, it just reminds them of the pain of their disappointment. Once a couple decides to start a family, they get excited, and think it will happen right away. If not the first month, then it will happen the second month. If not the second, then, for sure the third. With each month that passes, frustration and anxiety begin to build. They may fear it will never happen. They start questioning themselves, and their capability to produce a child. After a year or more of trying, it is a huge issue.

It can be difficult, especially for women, to hear that a friend is pregnant. It can be emotionally unbearable to attend a baby shower. And it can be heart wrenching just seeing a baby in a television commercial. Most women carry this suffering very privately, perhaps not even confiding in close friends. Consequently, even a casual question can result in more emotional agony once she is by herself.

The best course is to take your cue from her: if she brings up the subject of children, then certainly talk about it. If she does not, perhaps there is a reason.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and award-winning psychologist. For permission to reprint this article, or to obtain books, CDs or MP3s, visit www.gwen.ca. Follow Gwen on Facebook for daily inspi-



Servings: 8 Crust: 1 1/4 cups flour 1/4 cup granulated sugar 1/4 teaspoon salt 1/2 cup cold butter, cut into small cubes 1 large egg 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

uncooked rice Filling: 8 ounces reduced-fat cream cheese 1/4 cup sour cream 2 tablespoons extra-fine sugar 1 tablespoon lemon zest 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract 1/2 cup strawberry fruit spread 3 teaspoons lemon juice (optional) 1 pound strawberries, halved whipped cream (optional) Heat oven to 375 F.

To make crust: In food processor, add flour, sugar and salt; pulse until combined. Add butter, egg and vanilla ex-

#### **Strawberry Cream Cheese Tart**

tract; pulse until combined and crumbly. Lightly flour surface then form dough into ball. Slightly flatten to form thick disc. Wrap dough in plastic wrap; refrigerate 1 hour.

Flour surface then roll dough to 11-inch circle. Place dough in 9-inch tart pan with removeable bottom. With rolling pin, roll over top to trim excess dough around edges.

Cover dough with plastic wrap and freeze until firm, about 30 minutes.

Press aluminum foil against crust, covering edges to prevent burning. Fill and distribute uncooked rice evenly. Bake 20 minutes. Cool completely.

To make filling: In medium bowl, beat cream cheese, sour cream, sugar, lemon zest and vanilla extract until blended and smooth. Spread cheese mixture evenly over crust. Refrigerate 1 hour.

In small bowl, microwave fruit spread and lemon juice, if desired, stirring often. Arrange strawberry halves around tart. Drizzle heated fruit spread over strawberries. Top with whipped cream, if de-

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#### LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

#### **Land for Sale by Tender**

Completed Tenders and a \$10,000.00 per parcel deposit of the Tender Price are invited to be received up to 12:00 PM (noon) on July 28, 2021 (the "deadline") on the property described below, which Tenders and Deposits shall be received at:

#### PKF Lawyers,

326 Stephen St., Morden, MB R6M 1T5 (Morden Office) OR 71 Main St S, Carman, Box 1240, MB ROG 0J0 (Carman Office) Attn: Stéphane Warnock or Karen Montgomery

Ph: 204-745-2028

#### **Property for sale:**

1. NE 1/4 6-4-8 WPM 160 acres (155 cultivated) including all buildings (excepting one temporary bin) CT #1555929/4

(the "Land")

Rural Municipality of Pembina

#### **Conditions of Tender**

- 1. Financing must be pre-approved
- 2. Tenders to be in the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. To obtain tender form or more info, contact Stéphane Warnock or Karen Montgomery @ PKF Lawyers or 204-745-2028.
- 3. Each Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00. Deposits of tenders not accepted will be returned to the tenderers.
- 4. Highest Tender or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.
- 5. Vacant Possession date and the due date of the balance of Tender Price shall be November 1, 2021.
- 6. The maker of any Tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the Land, independent of the representations made by the vendor or the solicitor and agent of the vendor. The Land will be sold "as is" and the bidder is solely responsible to determine the value and quality of the Land.

#### **Employment**



Walinga Inc. in Carman, Manitoba is looking for flexible, enthusiastic, reliable, team players to fill the following positions:

#### **CNC Machinist**

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- · Minimum 1 year experience preferred

#### **CNC Machine Operators**

- Some experience operating CNC or Manual machines is considered an asset.
- · Ability to read and understand drawings.
- Willing to train the right candidate.

#### **Service - Trailer Technician**

- Experience with semi trailer repairs is considered an asset.
- Steel and/or aluminum welding experience preferred but not mandatory.
- Ability to read and understand drawings.
- Willing to train the right candidate.

#### **General Labourer**

- Assist in day to day activities.
- Welding experience is an asset but not mandatory.
- Must be able to lift 50lbs and work outdoors when required.
- Be able to do repetitive tasks as required.

Walinga offers modern machinery, competitive wages, full health benefits, company pension, and a great work environment. Apprenticeship programs are available for the pursuit of Red Seal Certification in the trades listed above.

If you are looking for a rewarding career in any of these areas or would like to share a resume please contact Ray Beukema at 204-745-2951 (ext 440) or email him at ray.beukema@walinga.com

> We thank all applicants for their interest, but only those considered for an interview will be contacted.

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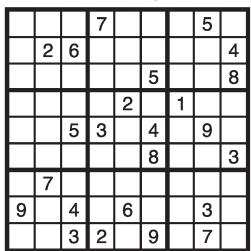
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#### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



#### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

#### **PROJECT ENGINEER/ PROJECT MANAGER**

#### Position Overview:

This opportunity is to provide Engineering / Project Management support for the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Inc. located in Altona, Manitoba. The role is to support the execution of major capital projects at the Water Treatment Plants located in Letellier, Morris and Stephenfield and in the Distribution System connecting the plants to our customers in south central Manitoba. This involves interfacing with government, customers, engineers and employees.

#### What You Will Do:

- Manage capital projects and work with the operations team for completion.
- Develop Design Basis for capital projects to give direction to the engineering firm.
- Develop RFP's for Engineering Services for capital projects.

- Support detailed design for proposed projects with identified engineering firm.

  Support the development of plan layouts, P&C drawings and engineering drawing development.

  Specify major valves, piping instruments and other equipment consistent with existing standards.
- Work with plant operators to incorporate their ideas for an improved design
- Provide innovative ideas to reduce potential project costs.
- Research technology to ensure appropriate design for our water characteristics and plant conditions.
- Hold drawing reviews with plant operators to ensure thorough input to engineering design firm.
- Identify a plan to build safety into the design and construction of the project.
- Monitor and manage project schedule to ensure milestones are met Ensure detailed construction plans are completed for execution of the project.
- Field supervision for ongoing projects.
- Ensure a training plan is developed to train all operations staff on the new equipment and processes.
- Manage the purchasing process and status on equipment delivery.
- Develop a list of required spare parts for plant upgrades.

  Develop a process for pre-start-up checks, start-up of new equipment and final project verification.
- Participate in and lead Project meetings.

#### Requirements:

- Youthful energy of a new engineer or experience of a seasoned engineer.
- Excellent communication, planning and organizational skills. Knowledge of mechanical, electrical, civil and process control systems.
- Ability to work independently.
- Engineering Degree, Engineering Technology Diploma or equivalent.

#### Assets

- Experience in project management up to \$5 million.
- Prior experience in budgeting, cost tracking and forecasting.
- Experience in working with Engineering Design firms
- Have knowledge of the safety regulations
- Experience in managing construction projects

Interested applicants should forward their resume to martin@pvwc.ca by August 6, 2021 or call 204-324-1931 for more information.

Pembina Valley Water Coop is Manitoba's 3rd largest water utility in the province, producing potable water for 14 municipalities in south central Manitoba. Three water plants feed a network of over 9,000 square

### **CROSSWORD**

16

20

#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Language group with Iranian influence
- 5. No seats available
- 8. Health insurance organization
- 11. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- 13. Defunct European economic organization
- 14. Dutch word for "language"
- 15. Hard to penetrate
- 16. When you'll aet there
- 17. Iranian city
- 18. Small fishes
- 20. Dry white wine drink
- 21. Turkish city
- 22. U.S.-born people
- 25. Synthetic resin
- 30. Major nerve in human body
- 31. Type of recording
- 32. Small drum
- 33. Alters
- 38. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 41. Venezuelan capital
- 43. Free of deceit
- 45. Member of Ancient Hebrew nation
- 48. Competition
- 49. Launch an attack on
- 50. Cavalry sword
- 55. Spiritual leader
- 56. One point east of due south
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Database management
- system 60. Snakelike fish
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Small drink
- 63. Not wet
- 64. Impudence

- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Father 2. Performed perfectly

60

63

- 3. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 4. Thin, compact object
- 5. One attempting to find something
- 6. No longer working
- 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 8. Book of Genesis
- character
- 9. Volcanic craters 10. Brand of American automobile (slang)
- 12. Hip hop icon Kool
- Moe 14. Bangladeshi
- monetary unit 19. Self-immolation by
- fire ritual
- 23. Family of genes 24. Et \_\_: indicates
- further 25. Pacific Standard
- Time 26. S. American wood

- sorrel
- 27. Women's movement
- 28. Chinese hoopster Ming
- 29. Layers of rock
- 34. Patriotic women's group
- 35. Solid water
- 36. Shade of brown
- 37. Very fast airplane
- 39. Put clothes on 40. Quality of one's
- character
- 41. Time zone
- 42. Primates 44. Pleasantly
- 45. Metrical feet
- 46. Rogue 47. German river
- 48. Relieves from 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Those who resist
- authority 58. Criticize

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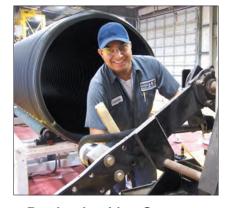


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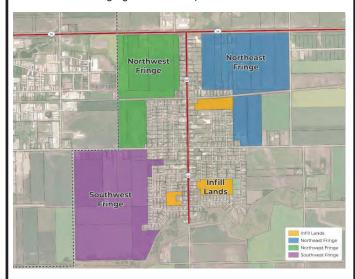
> THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY BY-LAW 18-21 Being the adoption of the Reinfeld Secondary Plan

**HEARING** R.M. of Stanley Council Chambers LOCATION: 1-23111 PTH14. SW 7-3-4W July 29, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. DATE & TIME:

GENERAL INTENT: To adopt a secondary plan for the fringe areas of

Reinfeld as well as infill areas shown on the map below. A Secondary Plan is a land use policy document that contains guidance on land use, infrastructure, servicing, and future zoning related decisions for the specific area.

Future growth areas within Reinfeld highlighted on the map below.



#### FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melissa Groening, Planning and Development Officer **CONTACT:** Rural Municipality of Stanley

1-23111 PTH 14 Phone: (204) 325-4101

Email: mgroening@rmofstanley.ca

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

\*Please note: If you wish to provide comments regarding the application, we ask that you consider submitting your comments in writing to our office by email or mail (drop off box also located at the office). We encourage those wanting to participate to contact our office two days in advance to sign up to attend electronically. Due to limited seating, if you wish to be present at the hearing we will require you to contact our office a minimum of 2 business days prior to the scheduled hearing so that we can ensure we can meet the physical distancing requirements. Anyone attending the office will be required to wear a face mask. Please contact mgroening@rmofstanley.ca or call 204-325-4101 two days prior to the hearing. Thank you for your understanding

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**IN MEMORIAM** 



In loving memory of Carol Giesbrecht December 8, 1955 - July 22, 2020 I thought of you today, but that is nothing new; I thought about you yesterday, and days before that too. I think of you in silence. I often speak your name; All I have are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is a keepsake. from which I'll never part: God has you in His arms. I have you in my heart.

Love, your family

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#### **OBITUARY**

#### **Peggy Katherine Kirk (nee Taylor)** 1944 - 2021

On Wednesday July 7, 2021 at Oakview Place in Winnipeg, MB, Peggy Kirk, 76 formerly of Morden passed away.

She leaves to mourn her passing two sons Dan (Gail), Randy (Sheri), Rachel and grandson Kodie and son-in-law Pete Filman. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and six greatgrandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Craig Fields (2007) as well as her daughter Joanne and her son Jonathan.

She was very involved with the Humane Society in Morden until her health prevented her from continuing.

Special thanks to everyone who helped Peggy throughout her life. Please view Peggy's funeral at www.wiebefuneralhomes.com

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden In care of arrangements www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



#### **OBITUARY**

Private funeral service was held on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden

#### **Mary Penner-Pedersen** nee Giesbrecht 1929 – 2021

On July 10, 2021 at Boundary Trails Health Center Mary Penner-Pedersen passed away at the age of 92.

She leaves to mourn 3 daughters Alice Harder-Holenski (Robert), Judy Georges (Larry) Shirley Funk (Cal) and 1 son Edward. She also leaves to mourn 7 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren,

6 great-great grandchildren, 4 sisters and 1 brother.

She was predeceased by her first husband Ed Penner (2005), her second husband Jeff Pedersen (2007), one son-in-law Larry Harder (2004), 2 sisters and 1 brother.

If friends so desire donations may be made to your local soup

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden In care of arrangements

www.wiebefuneralhomes.com

with interment at Hillside Cemetery.



**AUCTION** 

#### **34TH ANNUAL CONSIGNMENT AUCTION Timed Online** Bidding will be Saturday, July 31, 12 noon







Looks like we'll be running 3 lines, Auction yard open for delivery July 22, 8am-5pm, till July 27. Yard closes with bidding closing July 31. We have many larger items listed at the farm yards, in many different communities. Buy from home, pay bill Klassen auctioneers on

payment and pickup day, Monday Aug 2, 9am to 7pm. NOTE: Nothing moves till its paid for. Questions call Bill at 204-325-6230.

#### See www.billklassen.com for listing



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#### **CAREERS**



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Boyne Lodge in Carman is now accepting applications for the following positions:

#### Maintenance Technician Cooks

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Resumes with references will be accepted by email only to: tvler@townofcarman.com

Only successful applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

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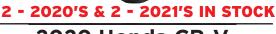
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