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The Morden Community Thrift Shop gave back \$320,000 to a host of community groups and projects last week. See Pg. 4 for the full story.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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



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**lifestyle
hearing**

Parents question GVSD's doctor note requirement for mask exemptions

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A large crowd of parents and students gathered outside the Garden Valley School Division offices last week to express their frustration about the mask mandate in Manitoba's schools.

Inside, the GVSD board of trustees were addressed by parents Heather DiFrancesco and Mandy Thiessen, who voiced concerns about the division's decision to require students have a note from a medical doctor to secure an exemption. Without a note, all students in Grade 4-12 are required to wear masks at school whenever physical distancing of two metres is not possible.

"We are a large group saying that we want a choice to care and advocate for our kids," DiFrancesco told the board, noting they've gathered signatures from over 1,200 community members asking the province to relax the school mask mandate, which they assert infringes on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, especially in

areas with low infection rates.

"There are many parents who believe wearing a mask may cause psychological and physical harm to our children," DiFrancesco stressed. "In mandating mask wearing our government has violated our freedom of conscience as well as our children's freedom of conscience."

They're asking the province to consider rescinding the blanket mandate for Manitoba's schools in favour of targeted mask requirements in regions with high rates of transmission.

"We are not an urban centre and are not in a region with rising cases. We don't have Code Orange here," DiFrancesco said, referring to the Winnipeg metropolitan area's "restricted" ranking on Manitoba's Pandemic Response System, which has made masks required in all indoor public spaces and limited gathering sizes. "In our region currently there is one active case and zero deaths. The question is when does this end? What is the magic number?"

"WE WANT A CHOICE TO CARE AND ADVOCATE FOR OUR KIDS."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hundreds gathered at the GVSD offices last week Tuesday to voice their concerns about the mask mandate in Manitoba schools.

[Ed note: In the days following this comment, Winkler's one active case became the community's first COVID-19 death.]

The group have taken their concerns to Minister of Health and Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen and Minister of Education Kelvin Goertzen, but what brought them out to the school board meeting last week was what they perceive as local trustees overstepping their authority by requiring a doctor's note for a mask exemption.

The provincial government's documentation about mask use in schools states that a note from a health-care

provider is not required for an exemption, and so Thiessen and DiFrancesco question why GVSD opted to make that change in its policy on the matter.

"You as our board have taken a hard line on requiring exemptions for the mask mandate and have taken parents out of the equation," Thiessen said, adding that parents are finding it difficult to book appointments with local physicians to get a note if their child did not already have a qualifying medical condition prior to the pandemic.

Continued on page 7



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Morden Community Thrift Shop gives back \$320K

By Lorne Stelmach

A dozen organizations and services are sharing \$320,000 in funding put back into the community by the Morden Community Thrift Shop.

The thrift store handed out cheques to a wide variety of beneficiaries last Wednesday, and all recognized the tremendous gift that results each year from people supporting the store.

"It shows how much the community supports the people who live here, and that doesn't happen everywhere," said Tabor Home CEO Carolyn Fenny after receiving \$50,000 for beds and blood pressure equipment for the personal care home. "The volunteers that we have and the amount of time and resources that people have provided is incredible."

"This gift will go a long way to helping us with the additional programs we can offer," added Daryl Braun, community relations officer for the STARS air ambulance, which received \$50,000 towards its operating costs. "Ultimately we're here to save lives, and if we can save another life through this donation, that's gold."

Other local groups and projects receiving funding included:

- Menzies Medical Centre: \$100,000 for office equipment.
- Access Event Centre/Southern Emergency Response Committee:



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Last week, representatives from 12 community groups received a piece of the \$320,000 the Morden Community Thrift Shop was able to give back this year.

\$50,000 for an emergency generator.

- Morden Community Handivan: \$15,000 for operating costs.
- Morden Youth for Christ: \$12,000 for counselling services.
- Darlingford Fire Department: \$10,000 for breathing apparatus to be shared with Manitou and Morden.
- Pembina Counselling Centre: \$10,000 for counselling services
- Morden Minor Baseball: \$9,000 for training equipment.

- Morden Collegiate: \$6,000 for six scholarships.

- Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre: \$5,000 for counselling services.

- Morden Figure Skating Club: \$3,000 for rubber slings and cables to help younger children skate.

Thrift store board president Normand Poirier noted the COVID-19 pandemic did have an impact on the shop this past year (they normally give back closer to \$500,000) but they're still thrilled to be able to distribute over \$300,000.

"It's actually humbling to be part of such a great organization," said Poirier, who stressed they are grateful for the community support and the many volunteers that make it all possible. "The community is fantastic. The thrift store is, I think, one of the best success stories ... we're the closest thing to Santa's elves south of the pole."

"I think the fact that we do work

without salaries and everything that we do get goes right back out to the community resonates with everyone in the surrounding area."

HAVING AN IMPACT

Braun noted it's donations like this that allow STARS to have highly trained staff and vital equipment.

"Our basic operations are government funded, but we carry things like ultrasound on board to assess internal injuries, and that's been used a number of times here in the Pembina Valley to determine who needs to be flown first," he said. "We do blood on board. There's been times we've done transfusions while a person is still trapped in their vehicle. That's all funded through donations."

"The [thrift shop] donation will go a long way to helping those programs," Braun said. "Through the course of a year, we probably raise several million dollars towards these programs, so a donation of this size is a huge piece of that puzzle."

A \$50,000 gift is also significant for Tabor Home, noted Fenny, as something like specialized palliative care mattresses can cost up to \$12,000.

"This is a pretty special donation for Tabor Home ... it's a really generous donation," she said. "The last six months have been a real challenge in terms of being able to manage the equipment needs and the staffing so that we can provide that excellent care that the residents of Tabor certainly deserve."

"Things have changed so much, so we're really excited about being able to purchase some new mattresses and some other equipment because of the pandemic and to be able to supplement some of those staffing positions ... right now, staff have been so graciously picking up shifts to try to do more to help."

Dufferin teen killed in ATV accident

By Voice staff

A 14-year-old boy from the RM of Dufferin was killed in an ATV accident near Stephenfield last week.

Pembina Valley RCMP were called to the scene of an ATV rollover just north of the provincial park on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at approximately 1

p.m.

Initial investigation shows the ATV was coming down a hill into a sand pit when it rolled. The driver and lone rider of the ATV was pinned by the vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The youth was wearing a helmet at the time of the collision.



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Community serves up meals to Winkler area educators

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The community pulled together in a big way last week to ensure staff at Winkler area schools know their work is appreciated during these challenging times.

A post on social media by The Bunker's Kevin Hildebrand led to 16 different businesses, community groups, and individuals stepping up to send a thank-you meal out to every single person employed by Garden Valley School Division.

"This is covering every staff person in our schools," Hildebrand said on Friday. "Teachers, principals, board trustees, the administration staff, maintenance staff, the bus drivers—everybody."

Hildebrand put out a call for sponsors last Wednesday morning. By that evening he had secured enough to cover the costs of food for GVSD's more than 800 staff spread out across 14 schools and the division office.

"I had thought maybe it would trickle in a little bit over the week and then, if nothing else, I'd make a few calls to people that I know to see if I could get them on board," he said. "But it just came flooding in."

It's a chance for the community to show its appreciation for everything educators are dealing with in light of COVID-19 restrictions.

"Everybody in the school division right now is so stressed, so anxious, and overworked with all of the extra work around COVID restrictions that they have to put up with," Hildebrand said. "We wanted to try and counter some of the negativity that's out there and show them the vast amount of people and businesses in this community appreciate what they do."

"I'm hoping they feel the gratitude and that they feel a little bit encouraged and that it gives them a little boost to keep going."

Hildebrand said he was inspired to get this project going after being



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Garden Valley Collegiate staff were the first to benefit from a free meal sponsored by local businesses, groups, and community members last week. Spearheaded by The Bunker's Kevin Hildebrand, all of Garden Valley School Division's 800+ staff will be getting a thank-you meal this fall.

contacted by Winkler Canadian Tire owner David Dunseath, who wanted to hire The Bunker's food truck to feed the staff at Garden Valley Collegiate. That meal was served last Thursday afternoon as parent-teacher meetings were taking place online and via phone.

"So then it came to me Wednesday morning, wait, why can't I find a bunch of other businesses to do the exact same thing for everybody?" Hildebrand said. "It was a little idea that just snowballed."

For his part, Dunseath said he simply wanted to show staff at his daughter's school that he appreciates all the extra work they've had to tackle since the pandemic began.

"The teachers did not sign up for teaching like this," he said, pointing to the increased online learning and many in-school restrictions in place since the pandemic began. He said he and his wife, Lori, wanted them to "know how grateful we were that every day they were coming to work and every day they were putting a smile on their face to teach."

Dunseath is quick to give Hildebrand credit for taking the idea and re-

ally running with it.

"He really put this thing on steroids," he said. "He found a way to do every school ... it's so cool and so indicative of this wonderful community that we live in that within hours businesses,

people just jumped on board."

Hildebrand will be working with local restaurants to ensure the meals can be delivered over the next few weeks in accordance with the COVID-19 protocols in place at the schools.

Hwy. 32 nearly complete

By Lorne Stelmach

Work is nearing completion on the reconstruction of PTH 32 through Winkler.

Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen last week heralded the progress of the project, which had reached the 80 per cent completion mark by the end of the week.

As of Thursday, concrete was be-

ing poured for the main southbound lanes.

"If that all goes well then we think the road will be sufficiently cured to be open to the traffic by Oct. 20," said Friesen, who anticipated curb and turning lanes might be completed this week alongside the installation of new traffic lights at the Mountain Ave intersection.

Continued on page 6

Have your say on measures to stop rural crime in Manitoba

The Manitoba government is seeking feedback on proposed measures to combat rural crime and metal theft.

Four legislative initiatives have been proposed based on recently passed legislation in Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C to reduce rural crime.

- Amendments to The Petty Trespasses Act (PTA)
- Amendments to The Occupiers' Liability Act (OLA)
- Amendments to The Animal Diseases Act (ADA)
- New scrap metal dealer legislation to combat metal theft by bringing transparency and accountability to scrap metal sellers transactions.

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The *Winkler Morden*
Voice



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Winkler Morden Voice

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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Change the system

People spend way too much time screaming at politicians and not enough time scrutinizing the systems they take advantage of.

What do I mean by this? Let me provide you with some examples:

As a child I did not like having an early bedtime that never seemed to change no matter how old I got. Now, I could have spent a lot of time screaming at Mum about how she was abusing her authority as household czar and ranting until I was blue in the face. It would change nothing (and likely see further restrictions placed upon my freedoms).

Instead I presented a thoughtful and reasonable plan for later bedtimes based on age and obedience. Mum appreciated this approach and the system was changed.

Canadians have moaned and groaned for years about our unelect-

ed Senate. I think the harrumphs and varying complaints have been appropriate. It makes no sense to have a body with so much legislative power be unelected in a democratic system.

So year after painful year, election after painful election, we scream at our prime ministers for having the audacity to appoint people to the Senate.

In the lead up to his first term as prime minister, Justin Trudeau promised he would lead the charge to change the rules ensuring senators are no longer appointed.

Not long after becoming PM this promise was abandoned. Why? Because it is hard to change the constitution to make this happen. To make this happen requires a constitutional amendment approved by a minimum of seven provinces whose populations together account for at least half of the national population.

Like I said, very difficult.

So instead of going about the hard work of seeking these requirements Trudeau decided to remove Liberal senators from the Liberal party and created an independent advisory board to recommend senators. Still, at the end of the day, the prime minister appoints them, they are not elected.

In the United States the populace is currently screaming about a similar but different scenario vis-à-vis a

new member of the Supreme Court. It is a similar scenario because these members are appointed by the president of the United States, not elected. It is different because we are talking about a different country and a different branch of government altogether.

Like Canada, the American populace has always freaked out when a president appoints a member of the Supreme Court, especially when it happens close to an election. Democrats and Republicans alike start challenging the legitimacy of the whole process and the person making the appointment when it happens.

Currently Democrats are losing their minds over Trump's nomination of Amy Coney Barrett. They are unhappy because last time around Obama conceded to Republican pressure and chose not to nominate close to an election while Trump, being Trump, has ignored similar calls.

But here's the thing: no matter what you think of Trump making the nomination, the process as it is occurring is perfectly legal. Barrett will almost certainly be appointed to the Supreme Court because the system, as it exists, allows it.

Once again, if you do not like a process/system than work to change the system and stop whining about the politicians taking advantage of it.



By Peter Cantelon

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

> HWY. 32, FROM PG. 5

"So that is exciting news for the community, for the citizens of Winkler and indeed for the entire region because that roadway carries such a significant traffic load," said Friesen.

"The City of Winkler has been an excellent project partner for us ... they also have investment in this project," he added, noting it was estimated the city may be able to finish 30 per cent of the new sidewalk this year as well.

"This has been a long time coming," said Friesen. "There has been enormous work undertaken with

this project ... to communicate well with each other and with external groups like the businesses along the route to trade information and to come up with a plan of attack that would allow for the least amount of disruption.

"Maybe this will be new template and a new standard that other projects going forward will also adhere to."

Meanwhile, Friesen said he was also pleased to see that improvements were being completed on PTH 3 in Morden with the repaving

of the two eastbound lanes.

He estimated the work to be about a half million dollar project that also could be completed this week and called it "just another example of the way that our province and this government is prioritizing infrastructure investments.

"We're keeping a list and watching the weather, and as we get to the end of a construction season, if we have some additional ability to advance projects, we're able to go back to priority lists and execute those before the snow flies."

get informed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

Developers advised to “figure out who’s responsible for what”

Council weighs in on conflict between neighbouring apartment developments

By Lorne Stelmach

A new residential development got planning approval from Winkler city council last week—but not without a conflict with a neighbouring development needing to be settled.

A conditional use and variation orders were needed for the proposed construction of the ten 12-unit apartment buildings on Northlands Parkway in an area zoned for multiple family residential use.

The conflict arose with the neighbouring property, where there is an existing apartment but where further planned development has not yet occurred.

Council heard that there is sewer and water infrastructure in place there, but it now crosses onto neighbouring property and conflicts with the plans for the new development.

Councillor Henry Siemens echoed the thoughts of council as a whole in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Winkler city council added some serious flavor to their meeting last Tuesday by congratulating King Pinz as the winner of the Explore Morden Winkler Burger Week. Council said it was pleased to see the participating restaurants get so much support from the public, especially in light of the difficulties many have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

encouraging the two sides to “figure it out in a fair way to both.”

“It makes it more complicated when the original developer and the original plans aren’t completed, and things go wrong, and sometimes things go wrong,” added Mayor Martin Harder.

“They need to figure out how they’re going to fix it and whether or not it’s the existing landowner from the adjoining property that is responsible to relocate some of his services or whether it’s the new development.

“It’s the landowners’ problems on

both sides, so they need to figure out who’s responsible for what,” the mayor said. “That’s why we need a three party agreement with our staff having their input, the developer and the landowner both having their input.”

A doctor the best person to speak to mask exemptions: GVSD

From Pg. 3

“We do keep hearing it’s just a mask, it’s just tracing, it’s just the imminent lockdown of schools ... but no one is really talking about the numbers,” added DiFrancesco, stressing again our area’s low active caseload. “If we are to learn to live with this ... what kind of life are we giving our kids and what example are we setting? Living in fear is not an option for a very large group of people.”

DiFrancesco noted simply keeping kids at home isn’t a viable option for many families, nor is it in the best interests of the children.

“We love our schools. That’s why we have our kids there,” she said, emphasizing, however, that “we feel like the government gave us parents a choice to advocate for our kids and the division took that away.”

The pair asked trustees to reconsider the need for a doctor’s note and instead take a more case-by-case, “child-centred” approach to the matter of exemptions.

SCHOOL BOARD RESPONDS

GVSD board chair Laurie Dyck said that these concerns will be considered by trustees at their next meeting, but she stressed that the board’s decision to make a medical note a requirement of an exemption was made to keep things fair for everyone.

The provincial government has made it clear in its directives to school divisions on mask use that most people with underlying medical conditions can wear a mask safely, and so exemptions should only be issued in “exceptional circumstances” to avoid compromising public health measures designed to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The list of conditions that might be considered for an exemption includes some pre-existing medical conditions that make it difficult to wear a mask, developmental and cognitive disorders, and severe sensory processing disorders, to name a few.

“As a board we decided that, to be fair and objective in the process of masks exemptions, we would require a medical doctor’s note with the ex-

emption form, as a doctor is the best person to speak to these specific bullets that were put in the provincial document,” Dyck said. “Us as educators, as divisional staff, that’s not our profession. Our profession is educating our children.”

Dyck said that schools are working to ensure kids are able to take off their masks whenever it’s safe to do so.

“We are working hard at creating spaces for that mask-free time,” she said, noting there are some smaller classes where masks are not needed

when kids are in their seats.

In more crowded schools where physical distancing is challenging, administrators have been trying to spread kids out whenever possible.

“Our schools, our admin, our teachers are very aware that mask-free time, if they can create it, they’re wanting to do that,” Dyck said, adding that most kids have been doing okay with the COVID-19 restrictions, including masks. “We’re being told overall it is going well, that students are adapting well.”

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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

Winkler Community Fdn. distributes \$250K

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Community Foundation has been making the rounds in recent weeks distributing its 2020 grants.

The agency gave back over \$250,000 this year by way of 36 grants to local charities and 26 scholarships. Further funding is also slated to go out from the federal government's Emergency Community Support Fund.

With the annual Citizen of the Year banquet cancelled this fall, executive director Myra Peters has been visiting the various recipients to drop off the grant cheques in person.

As always, the decision of which organizations and projects to support was a tough one.

"We definitely had more applications than we had funding," she said, noting that \$250,000 is on par with what the foundation was able to give back in 2019.

WCF board members look for projects and programs that have the potential to reach a wide and diverse

group of people, Peters said. The long-term impact of proposed projects on the community is also a key factor in the decision making process.

The grants come from the interest earned on the foundation's various endowment funds, pooling community donations together for greater impact.

It's too soon to say what effect the COVID-19 pandemic will have on those earnings for the 2021 granting period, but Peters said the foundation is anticipating seeing more need for support than ever before next year.

"We know that the need is going to be there," she said, noting the foundation will continue trying to raise awareness and funds over the next year through such campaigns as its annual Giving Challenge, which takes place for a full week next month (more details are slated to be released soon).

Receiving funds from the Winkler Community Foundation's Community Fund this year was Genesis House, Winkler Senior Centre, Pembina Val-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Winkler Community Foundation executive director Myra Peters stopped by the Winkler Bible Camp recently to present a grant for a new zip line. The camp is one of 36 grant recipients for 2020.

ley Humane Society, Winkler Heritage Society, Winkler Family Resource Centre, Pembina Threshermen's Museum, Winkler Elementary School, J.R. Walkof School, and Winkler Bible Camp.

There were also grants going out through the foundation's various designated, agency, and donor advised funds to the Alzheimer Society, Salem Home, Winkler Recreation, C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre, Gateway Resources, Katie Cares, Winkler Fire & Rescue, Winkler Heritage Society,

Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre, J.R. Walkof School, and Central Station.

As well, the Youth in Philanthropy groups at Garden Valley Collegiate, Northlands Parkway Collegiate, and Winkler Elementary School together gave back over \$3,700.

The foundation also facilitated the distribution of \$40,000 to a variety of projects through the national ECSF program, with a second round of applications currently underway.

COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Manitoba

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A Winkler area man became the province's 38th COVID-19 death last week.

Public health officials reported last Thursday that the man in his 40s had succumbed to the illness.

By press time on Monday, four more Manitobans—all Winnipeggers—had died, bringing the COVID-19 death toll to 42.

The province's case numbers continue to rise. At press time on Monday, Manitoba had reported 727 new cases of COVID-19 over the previous seven days, bringing the total number of cases to 3,382.

There were 1,743 active cases listed at the start of the week and 1,597 recoveries. Twenty-eight people were in hospital with the virus, six in intensive care.

Fifty-one of the 80 new cases announced on Monday were found in the Winnipeg health region—an ongoing trend that has led public health officials to roll out new targeted restrictions in the Winnipeg area to battle the spread of the virus by reduc-

ing close, prolonged contact between people

That includes, in part, imposing stricter gathering size limits, reducing capacity in restaurants and stores, and closing casinos and bingo halls. Masks are also mandatory in all indoor public spaces in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region.

Manitoba's chief public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin last week showed a graph demonstrating how fast one COVID-19 case can spread, using a real-life example of a Winnipegger who attended a social gathering on Sept. 11 while showing symptoms.

That one case led to 40 COVID-19 infections and 243 close contacts in just 12 days, ranging in age from 10 to 86 years old.

"We can see the significant impact of just that one exposure," Roussin said.

"Forty people infected, 243 people had to self-isolate, meaning they had to miss work, miss school, and added to the workload of public health, added to the workload of testing, all from that single night.

"We can see that this transmission event is not from having a couple contacts. These are large gatherings, large amount of contacts, and we can see how quickly that builds up."

Roussin again urged people to stay home when showing even mild symptoms, wash/sanitize your hands and cover your cough, physically distance when with people from outside your household, and wear a mask when physical distancing is not

possible.

"Older Manitobans or people of any age with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness," Roussin stressed, "and the more community transmission that occurs the more at risk they are.

"This is why we all have to take steps to reduce the spread of the virus. Even if you perceive your risk as not extremely high, your risk is not your own. We spread this virus to our loved ones and to other parts of our communities.

"We all know what we need to do: we need to reduce the amount of contacts that we have."

"WE NEED TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF CONTACTS THAT WE HAVE."

The *Winkler Morden* **Voice**

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Province encourages Manitobans to get a flu shot this fall

By Voice staff

Public health officials are urging all Manitobans to roll up their sleeves and get this year's flu shot.

"It is recommended that all Manitobans six months of age and older receive their influenza vaccine early in the fall each year, but even more so this year as we deal with a surge in positive COVID cases in Winnipeg and throughout the province," said Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief provincial public health officer.

"This year it is crucial that we all work together to protect each other, which can be done safely and effectively by getting your influenza vaccine, staying home when you're sick, practising good hand hygiene, covering your cough, physical distancing and wearing a mask."

Premier Brian Pallister got the jab at the Manitoba Legislature last week.

"It has never been more important for Manitobans to get the flu shot," he said. "Manitobans have a long and proud history of taking care of each other and facing our challenges together. That is what the flu vaccine does: it protects each of us, and it protects our family, friends and fellow Manitobans."

"I encourage all Manitobans, especially those at increased risk, their caregivers, and close family and

friends to get the flu shot this fall."

A record 26.3 per cent of Manitobans got the vaccine last flu season.

In an effort to protect those most at risk and to reduce the strain on the health-care system, the province has increased its vaccination order by 20 per cent.

In addition to the regular flu shot, the province also offers a high-dose version of the vaccine for people age 65 years and up, who are at a greater risk of flu complications.

Last year Manitoba ordered 11,500 high-dose influenza vaccines. This year they plan to order up to 21,500.

The higher dose was previously only offered to residents of long-term care facilities, clients in interim or transitional care beds, respite care clients, or unimmunized residents admitted to long-term care facilities during the flu season.

This year, the high-dose flu vaccine criteria is expanding to allow more seniors to get the it for free starting this fall.

In addition to those who were eligible previously, Manitobans 65 years of age and older who meet one of the following criteria are now also eligible:

- residents of supportive and assisted living housing;
- those who are newly incarcerated or transferred from other federal or out of province correctional facilities;



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Morden-Winkler MLA and Manitoba Health Minister Cameron Friesen received his flu shot from Winkler Shoppers Drug Mart's Zahid Zehri over the weekend.

- those receiving home care services while on a waiting list for admission into a long-term care facility;
- those living on a First Nation or in a remote or isolated community; and
- those living north of the 53rd parallel of latitude.

For details on where to get a flu shot this fall, head to manitoba.ca/health/flu/where.html.

More families opting to homeschool this fall

GVSD, WSD report an increasing number of parents keeping their kids home

By Lorne Stelmach

Concerns around the coronavirus have led more local families to opt for homeschooling their children.

Both Garden Valley and Western School Division reported drops in enrolment numbers as of the end of September.

It is a trend province-wide with almost 7,400 students having been enrolled for homeschool as of the end of September compared to about 3,700 students a year ago.

The Manitoba Association for Schooling at Home had seen its membership almost double to around 1,000, and Manitoba Education had to reallocate staff to support the increased demand on its homeschool-

ing office.

"It was expected," said Janice Krahn, assistant superintendent of Garden Valley School Division. "Usually, every year we lose some and gain some students. There are some who have said with COVID, I am not sending my child to school."

"We would have seen another growth in students this year if it wasn't for COVID," noted Carl Pedersen, secretary treasurer of Western School Division.

Pedersen said enrolment was at 1,883 as of the end of September—down 123 students or about a six per cent from the 2,006 students reported a year earlier.

The division has over 180 additional students homeschooling this year.

"Just over half of the students who had indicated they are homeschooling this year are in the early years, with just under a third approximately in the middle years and the balance in high school," Pedersen noted.

"I think people perhaps are a little bit more comfortable in their abilities to home school the early years kids, whereas the further along they are in their education, the more difficult it is," he suggested. "It's a little more of a job to homeschool a kid in the middle years and certainly in high school."

For Garden Valley School Division, enrolment that had initially been projected to be at 4,577 came in at 4,108, which is a decline of 469 or about a 10 per cent. The division meanwhile has at least 610 students registered for homeschooling.

"We have lost some students who have moved away ... and we also have lost some students to private school and then we have lost a number to

homeschooling," said Krahn.

"It's right across the board. You kind of expect maybe it will be in a particular area, but it's been in all grades," she noted. "I think maybe more so in elementary because with younger children, parents are quite concerned about their little ones, and high school they are more independent and can carry on."

The big question for the divisions further down the road then will be how provincial funding may be impacted for the next school year, as it is based in large part on enrolment.

"We have been told that it won't change from last year. We're hoping that is the case, obviously, but until we get that funding, we cannot be sure," said Krahn.

"This year isn't affected ... it's when we do the budget for next year, for 2021-22, it will be interesting to see

Continued on page 13

Check out the Winkler Morden Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca

Bale fire rages near Osterwick

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The investigation continues into the cause of a bale fire that began south of Winkler last week.

The Winkler Fire Department was called to battle a blaze that broke out at a hay bale storage facility near Osterwick on Thursday just after 9:30 a.m.

Firefighters arrived to find two hay storage sheds containing approximately 15,000 large bales on fire, said Chief Richard Paetzold over the weekend.

“Due to the size of the fire, a defensive line was established to give time for the owner to first move all nearby equipment,” he said. “Morden FD along with water tankers from Altona FD, Emerson Franklin FD and the RM of Stanley were called in for mutual aid. These fire departments along with two tankers from local farmers successfully held this fire line to protect other adjacent properties until things could be stabilized

“With the help of neighbors, nine loaders were used to save all bales from two more hay storage sheds that



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY RAYMOND KLASSEN

Firefighters from across the region came together to battle a fire at a hay bale storage facility south of Winkler this past week.



RCMP PHOTO

were in direct proximity to the fire.”

Firefighters from Winkler and Plum Coulee spent the weekend manning fire protection lines on the perimeter of the site to protect surrounding residential properties and hay storage sheds.

The building itself has been structurally compromised, making it unsafe to have personnel or equipment under it, Paetzold noted.

“The fire is being allowed to burn and consume as much fuel as it can,” he said, explaining equipment is being used to stir up the burning bales from a distance to allow them to burn faster.

Still, given the amount of fuel avail-

able to the fire, it was expected to burn for several days.

“Emergency personnel will be on scene for days to ensure adjacent properties are protected during the operations,” the chief said. “So we ask the public for patience as we continue to deal with this incident.

“Thanks again to all those who have dropped off food and other goodies to help us all along the way,” Paetzold added. “It has been another example of community coming together in a time of need.”

The investigation into the cause of the blaze continues. Pembina Valley RCMP say it does not appear to be suspicious.



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The downsizing dilemma: retirement home or condo?



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If you're still not sure which option is right for you, consult a housing advisor or real estate agent. These professionals can help you determine your priorities and find the perfect home for the next chapter of your life.

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Koats for Kids accepting donations in Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden and District United Way is working with a community partner this year in offering its Koats for Kids campaign.

The organization now has the support of The Hub Community Centre in its annual effort to collect gently used winter clothing for distribution to others in the community.

“We think it’s a real plus. I think partnering with The Hub will be a really good thing. We think it’s a better fit for the community,” said Koats for Kids organizer Terry Gibson, who notes the campaign is an opportunity for the United Way to thank the community for its financial support each year.

Koats for Kids accepts donations of gently used coats, snow pants, and other outerwear which is then distributed to families who need a bit of extra help keeping warm this winter.

The involvement of The Hub means there will be two collection points this year: the familiar red bin behind the Morden Fire Hall and also at The Hub’s programming space in the Morden Mennonite Church (enter via the back door).

Donations are being accepted now with an eye to holding distribution days at the church for three consecutive Tuesday evenings Nov. 3-17.

“The coats and clothing will be free to anybody who needs them,” said Gibson. “Any kind of winter clothing that kids can use, we really appreciate. It seems we get a lot of coats for everybody, so we may even have something for adults.

“It’s the community helping the community,” he added. “It’s not hard to go through 300 pieces of clothing; some years it’s up into the 400 range.”

The turnout for the first distribution night often depends greatly on the weather.

“What we have to predict is when it might first get to minus 10 ... and if we



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden United Way board members Andrew Plett and Terry Gibson with Fire Chief Andy Thiessen at the Koats for Kids drop off box, which is back again at the Morden fire hall. Donations can also be brought to The Hub in the Morden Mennonite Church.

get that right, we get a real good turnout the first night,” Gibson said. “The Hub is open Tuesday nights regardless. So if we get a sudden cold spell at the end of October, they could give coats away when they are needed.”

Teaming up with The Hub is exciting, but Gibson noted the United Way is also grateful for the longtime support of the Morden Fire Department with this campaign.

“They have been such good partners for us,” he said. “They just do a whole bunch of behind the scenes work for us.”

And with an amalgamation of the Morden and Winkler United Ways in the works, Gibson noted there are plans to potentially run a similar program in Winkler next year.

“We will be looking to address the need in Winkler as well.”

> HOMESCHOOLING, FROM PG. 9

the level of funding and how this affects the funding for next year,” said Pedersen.

“I know the province has considered the costs and drops in enrolment and what that does for funding, but it’s a little wait and see ... hopefully that picture will become more clear.

“The expenses aren’t going away, even with the slightly smaller numbers. The numbers are spread

throughout, and actually our costs are higher this year than had been budgeted because we were certainly even limited with the numbers that can be in a classroom ... we’ve had to have that many more homerooms for the kids,” said Pedersen.

“Budgeting certainly and funding for next year are major question marks that we don’t have the answers for yet.”

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Central Manitoba Youth Choir goes virtual

By Lorne Stelmach

The show will go on for the Central Manitoba Youth Choir, although in a different way while in the midst of pandemic restrictions.

The assembly of talented young singers from around the region would have normally have been out on tour this past week, but life under COVID-19 means they had to do an online performance instead.

The shift has posed a challenge for both the youth and volunteers involved with something that normally so relies on the group dynamic, observed committee member Loretta Thorleifson.

"I really take my hat off to these kids because they are singing in a choir without getting one of the most important rewards we normally associate with singing in a choir, which is being together," she said.

"A year ago, we would have thought that would be a crazy idea, but we've seen a lot of these online and thought it was worth a shot," Thorleifson said. "We definitely wanted to try to keep the choir alive this year and give the singers something to look forward to still."

The singers, who auditioned in spring, participated in a virtual camp on Oct. 3 via Zoom with director Marla Fontaine and accompanist Loren Hiebert.

They then recorded videos of themselves singing, which were pieced



CCMYC members met virtually instead of in person this fall to prepare and record a song released online last week. [INSTAGRAM.COM/SINGWALKPLANT](https://www.instagram.com/singwalkplant)

together and edited by Virtual Music Productions and posted online last Friday.

The group included 44 singers drawn from a region that stretches to Altona and Gretna in the east, as far north as Langruth and Gladstone, and to Glenboro in the west.

"It's a really big region," said Thor-

leifson. "One of the things we didn't have to worry about this year was all the driving."

Things were further simplified by focusing on just one song selection.

"As you can imagine, trying to pull together a whole concert when you're not together would be a challenge," Thorleifson said, adding it was cer-

tainly a learning process for everyone involved. "They're singing alone. They can hear the accompaniment and they can see the conductor, but they only hear themselves. So it's just different from any kind of choir.

"Even when they recorded their parts, they did it individually ... it's definitely a challenge when they're not in the same room," she said, adding one saving grace was that most of the students were familiar with the Zoom platform.

"Most of them have been doing a lot of different learning by now ... so they were at least somewhat more familiar with the technology."

In the end, she was proud of how the students came through it all despite the many challenges.

"The biggest difficulty for a lot of the singers was a lot of them are from small towns or rural settings, and with the internet being what it is ... but we were able to support them if they needed it," Thorleifson said. "They just rose to the occasion ... and I think it's going to be emotional [when we all see it]."

Head to centralmca.weebly.com/cmyc.html to see the video.

FCC's food drive raises enough for 86,506 meals

By Lorne Stelmach

The region came through again to support a national effort to help address hunger despite the fact the campaign was limited as a result of pandemic restrictions.

Farm Credit Canada's annual Drive Away Hunger campaign still came close to totals from recent years despite not being able to undertake all of its

usual activities.

"I think people are going above and beyond," said Morden-based FCC relationship management associate Margie Toews, who suggested people are perhaps that much more mindful of the need to support those struggling to put food on the table right now. "It's really about the awareness. We may not be able to do the same as we normally are, but there still is the need."

Food and monetary donations were still coming in at press time, but on Friday the campaign figured it had raised enough to cover the cost of 86,506 meals, including 50,654 in Winkler and 20,509 in Morden.

Donations were taken at a variety of

locations including Giant Tiger and the Co-op grocery stores on behalf of The Hub, Morden Caring and Sharing, and the Winkler and District Food Cupboard.

"We're very happy with it ... considering we couldn't do the schools and we couldn't do the youth drives, it's been pretty good," said Toews of the campaign, adding her gratitude to the stores for serving as donation drop-off locations.

"The Morden Achievers 4-H Club also did a fundraiser amongst themselves, so there's those kinds of things that people have done on the side, so that's all great too," she added, noting

Continued on page 15



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Remains found in Roseau River identified as missing man

Winnipegger Bud Paul's body was found four days after he was reported missing

By Voice staff

RCMP have confirmed that remains found on the Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation this summer are those of a Winnipeg man who has been missing since early August.

Police announced last week that the remains of Bud Paul, 56, were found on Aug. 11, four days after he was reported missing.

Investigators with the RCMP, Winnipeg Police Service, and Manitoba First Nations Police Service have been piecing together Paul's last days alive and determining how his body ended

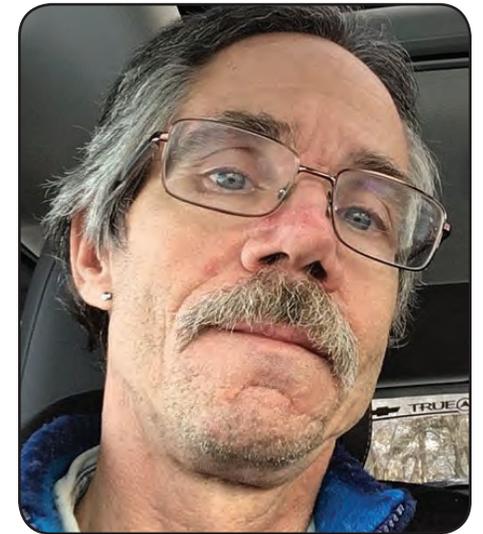
up hidden in deep brush in Roseau River.

Paul was last seen alive on Aug. 1 with two individuals at a Manitoba Liquor store. On Aug. 10, his burned car was discovered on Queen Street in Winnipeg. The next day his body was found in Roseau River.

On Oct. 13, investigators were back at the scene in Roseau River conducting an additional evidence search

Investigators believe that those responsible for the murder of Paul continued to access his bank account and use his cell phone after his death.

Police have also revealed that the



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The remains of Bud Paul, 56, were found on the Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation in August. Above: Police are looking to identify this woman in connection with their investigation.

man who parked the vehicle prior to it being burned also discarded evidence in a nearby garbage bin.

"Police are still looking to identify the woman who was present when the vehicle was parked," RCMP said in a statement. "Finding her and speaking with her is essential to this investigation."

"We are very close to solving this

homicide, and need public assistance to put these last few pieces of the investigation together."

If anyone has any information as to the identity of the woman involved with the burned vehicle or Paul's whereabouts between Aug. 1-10, or any other information related to this investigation, call the tip line at 431-489-8551.

> FCC FOOD DRIVE, FROM PG. 14

as well that Kroeker Farms donated potatoes

FCC nationally is contributing an additional of \$100,000 in support of feeding children. One hundred schools or divisions selected

by FCC offices across Canada will receive \$1,000 each to support food programs. The regional FCC office will be giving their donation to the Garden Valley and Western school divisions.

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Conservation group encourages people to leave their leaves be

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is encouraging Canadians to keep the rake in the shed this fall.

The blanket of leaves shook loose by the autumn winds can actually do a lot of good for your yard if you simply leave them be, says Dan Kraus, the non-profit's senior conservation biologist.

"While it's great for cities to provide collection programs to compost leaves, the most energy-efficient solution is to allow nature to do its thing and for the leaves to naturally break down in your yard," he says, pointing out the resulting mulch can greatly improve soil health.

The trick, Kraus says, is to only leave a light, spread-out covering of leaves on your yard or garden, as thick piles can have a negative impact on grass and other plant growth come spring.

Foregoing fall raking can also help support backyard diversity by giving local critters a safe space for the win-



ter.

"Backyard animals such as toads, frogs, and many pollinators once lived in forests and have adapted to hibernate under leaves," says Kraus. "The leaves provide an insulating blanket

that can help protect these animals from the cold and temperature fluctuations during the winter."

"Plant stalks and dead branches also provide habitat for many species of insects," he adds. "By cleaning up our

yards and gardens entirely, we may be removing important wintering habitats for native wildlife in our communities.

"Migratory and resident birds can also benefit from your garden during the winter. Fruits and seeds left on flowers and shrubs are a crucial food source that sustains many songbirds during the winter, including goldfinches, jays and chickadees. Providing winter habitats for our native birds and insects is just as important as providing food and shelter during the spring and summer."

Letting your yard go just a little bit au natural before the snow flies is more important than ever considering so many Canadians—about 80 per cent of us—call towns and cities home these days.

"One of the biggest opportunities to improve the health of nature in urban areas is through the collective action we can all take in our yards," says Kraus.

Rainbow Resource Centre offering counselling locally

By Lorne Stelmach

A new initiative is offering free counselling services to members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community across the region.

The Winnipeg-based Rainbow Resource Centre received a \$20,000 grant through the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund to support free short term counselling for people in southeastern Manitoba.

It is partnering with Manitoba Video Counselling (formerly Affirm Counselling) in Winkler to offer both in-person and online services

"Counselling services may centre around issues common to many people, such as anxiety, depression, transition, trauma, grief and difficult pasts, but 2SLGBTQ+ individuals may also seek counselling for issues specific to gender or sexuality," said therapist Greg Costen. "No matter the reason, we are so pleased to offer this free counselling opportunity."

Peter Wohlegemut, an Altona resident and a member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, feels that having access to closer-to-home counselling will help to break down the isolation so many may experience in this area.

"I hope it will be an important part of building strength within the community," he said.

Wohlegemut said many members of

the 2SLGBTQ+ community in southeastern Manitoba have benefitted from the counselling services offered by the Rainbow Resource Centre, but there are likely more who would like to access such services but are unable due to the time and cost involved in travelling to Winnipeg.

The community faces unique challenges, he noted, and the Rainbow Resource Centre has provided vital support for a long time.

"They have a wealth of experience in providing support particularly to the 2SLGBTQ+ community. They have knowledge, and they have that background that not all counsellors will have," he said.

"Greg is particularly aware of what the issues are and will be able to help people work through things," added Wohlegemut. "It's even things like just being aware of using people's correct pronouns ... and what do some of the terms mean.

"There are a lot of things developing and changing within the community in terms of what do certain terms mean, how do people choose them ... how do you be respectful. Those are all really important for a counsellor to be aware of," he said. "It makes such a difference if you know right from the outset this is someone who is going to be affirming, this is someone who knows what's going on ... and you're not going to have to do that educating the counsellor that you might have to do in other settings.

"If you're seeking counselling already, you don't want to go into a situation where is this person going to be respectful, do they understand ... it's hard enough for some to seek coun-

selling in the first place.

"For young people in particular, that can be very challenging, whereas now they will be able to access that kind of support locally. That's a huge help."

Representatives of the Rainbow Resource Centre said they were pleased to be able to access the funding, which allowed them to hire an additional counsellor to provide this service.

"We know that coming out can be an isolating experience and support during this process greatly contributes to people's mental health and well being," said executive director Noreen Mian. "We have heard from individuals and families living in southeastern Manitoba and wanted to let them know that they are not alone."

"WE WANTED TO LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE."

The role of trees in watersheds

Submitted by Samuel Goertzen, Stanley Soil Management Association

One of the simplest ways to keep our water sources clean is to plant shel-

terbelts. But how exactly do trees help with this?

Most importantly, they reduce erosion. Soil erosion can be a problem for fields, washing good soil away and leaving poorer soil behind. It can also

harm aquatic environments, washing sediment downstream banks quicker than the river or lake can deal with, making it harder for aquatic plants

Continued on page 17

ACU hands out Jeans for Charity donations

By Voice staff

Access Credit Union staff were out in their communities last week to mark International Credit Union Day by handing out the proceeds of the Jeans for Charity program.

Over the past year, ACU staff have donated at least \$3 a week to be able to wear jeans to work on Fridays. The financial institution then matched those donations, resulting in \$77,330.50 going out to 23 local organizations this fall.

The 2020 recipients selected by ACU's branches include the Lowe Farm Zamboni shed project, Vita Healing Gardens Inc., RM of Piney Christmas hampers, Hearteam Inc., Manitou/RM of Pembina Christmas Cheer Board Miami and Area Christ-

mas Cheer Board, Pembina Valley Childcare Centre, Boundary Trails Palliative Care, Youth for Christ, Macdonald Fire Fighters Club, Rhineland Food Bank, Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund, Plum Coulee Campground, Dominion City Community Hall, Emerson Care Home, Gretna Public School, Salem Home, Boundary Trails Palliative Care, the Grunthal Meal Program, Steinbach and Area Animal Rescue Inc., Genesis House, Central Station, and the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre.

"Community support is in our DNA," says Larry Davey, president and CEO of Access Credit Union. "Those values are deeply held by all staff inside the credit union and we are proud to be able to help strengthen the communities where we all live, work, and play."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Access Credit Union staff were making the rounds last Thursday handing out the proceeds of this year's Jeans for Charity program. Both the Manitou/Pembina Christmas Cheer Board (above) and the Miami Christmas Cheer Board (below) received over \$900.



> WATERSHEDS, FROM PG. 16

to grow. With less plants, there's also less food for fish.

But trees help hold loose soil in place so it can't wash away. Not only do they reduce the effect of runoff, but they also reduce the amount of runoff itself.

When rain hits bare dirt, the dirt tends to compact slightly, meaning that there's less space between soil particles for water to soak through. The less compacted the soil is, the better the water can soak through. Trees slow the rain's fall (because of their canopies), and because they drop leaves, also help keep the soil more absorbent, even when the soil is frozen in winter. And more absorption means less runoff.

It has been estimated that compared to a forest, urban developments produce about four times as much runoff, and paved parking lots produce about 33 times as much.

Because these trees are reducing runoff, they are simultaneously reducing water pollution. Runoff contains traces of whatever was on the land it's been through. So from fields and pastures that could include fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, bacteria,

sediment, and manure. From urban and construction sites, that could include salt, antifreeze, oil, sewage, and heavy metals such as lead and mercury.

Fortunately, both plants and the bacteria in the soil can act as filters for many of these contaminants, breaking them down or trapping them in areas where they won't be transferred to sources of drinking water or animal habitats.

Trees can even help trap some air-borne pollutants, preventing them from getting in the water too.

Through reducing runoff and letting more water soak into the ground, shelterbelts help recharge sources of groundwater. This is very important in areas where the aquifers

are used for drinking water or irrigation. You may have heard that the Winkler Aquifer has been getting concerningly low in recent drier years.

Trees help with aquifer recharge by trapping snow. With the drifts that form around shelterbelts, snow melts over a longer period of time, allowing more time for it to soak back into the ground.

In fact, shelterbelts have been proposed as part of the solution to help

recharge the Winkler Aquifer.

Studies on the Winkler Aquifer have estimated that seven miles of shelterbelts in the main recharge area (where the aquifer gets close to the surface of the ground), contributes about 43 million gallons of water per year.

That's not to say trees only help in the dry years either. In wet years, if the water can't soak into the ground and stays as runoff, flooding is a bigger risk.

All in all, trees perform a very important role in maintaining the health

of our watersheds, and by extension, our drinking water and our environment.

In the Pembina Valley area, the Stanley Soil Management Association is an organization that provides shelterbelt planting and maintenance services to help with this, for the benefit of all rural residents.

Samuel Goertzen is the summer assistant at the Stanley Soil Management Association.

"TREES PERFORM A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF OUR WATERSHEDS ..."

WAC's ace of spades is found

Winkler Arts and Culture crowned its Chase the Ace winner last week. Arlene Peters found the ace of spades Oct. 13 and won the jackpot of \$2,516.50. That brings an end to the game that started in spring and had to take a hiatus due to the pandemic. WAC's Jennifer Penner says they're going to be taking a break on Chase the Ace for the foreseeable future. The Tuesday night Bingo game held the first week of the month will continue, though.

SUPPLIED PHOTO



sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Carter Hynes of the Pembina Valley Hawks battles Eastman's Isaac Gordon for the puck in front of the Hawks' net. The Selects won it 5-3. The two teams square off again with a pair of games Wednesday and Saturday.

Hawks fall in season opener against Eastman

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks dropped their season opener Saturday in Morden with a 5-3 loss to the Eastman Selects.

Three second period goals led the Selects to the victory in the first game of a three game set between Eastman and Pembina Valley.

Tyler Parr did all the scoring for the Hawks including powerplay markers in the first and third periods as part of his hat trick, while Pembina Valley also gave up one goal on a man advantage for Eastman.

Logan Enns took the loss in goal with 34 saves as the Hawks were out-shot 39-36.

The Hawks take another crack at the

Selects this Wednesday on the road before returning home to play them

again on Saturday. Next week they face Interlake in

games Oct. 21, 23rd, and 25th.

Flyers split games with Neepawa

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers split their second weekend of home-and-away games against Neepawa Oct. 17-18.

After opening the season with a pair of wins against Neepawa the weekend before, the Flyers found themselves on the losing side of a 4-2 game Friday night.

Tanner Andrew opened scoring

just two minutes in, but the home team evened things out six minutes later and then took a 2-1 lead at the end of the second.

Two more Neepawa goals widened the gap 4-1 in the third period, and though Winkler's Mike Svenson managed a goal with a minute to go, it wasn't nearly enough.

The home team dominated on shots on goal—34 to Winkler's 18—

with Dylan Meilun making 30 saves.

Game two Sunday in Winkler was a much closer affair on all fronts, requiring overtime for a decision.

After a scoreless opening frame, Neepawa drew first blood minutes into the second period. In response, Andrew and Kyle Lamoureux scored for Winkler at 7:01 and 9:26.

Continued on page 19



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Pembina Valley Hawks fell to the Winnipeg Avros 4-3 on Sunday. The loss came just a day after the team earned their first win of the regular season by beating the Eastman Selects 4-2.

Female Hawks beat Selects, fall to Avros

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks picked up their first win of the season last weekend.

The Hawks doubled up the Eastman Selects 4-2 Saturday in Morden before then being edged 4-3 Sunday afternoon on home ice by the Winnipeg Avros.

A pair of second period goals Satur-

day broke open a game that was tied 1-1 after 20 minutes. The teams then traded goals in the final frame.

Quinn McLaren had a goal and assist for the Hawks with the other goals coming from Abbey Bourdeaud'hui, Anika Braun and Natasha Driedger. Regan Durand picked up the win with 25 saves with the shots on goal even at 27 apiece.

The game started off well for the

Hawks Sunday as they took a 2-0 first period lead before the Avros came back to tie it up after 40 minutes.

Bourdeaud'hui contributed a pair of goals with Braun also scoring for Pembina Valley, which had a slight 31-30 edge in shots on goal. Tria Enns made 26 saves in goal for the Hawks.

It leaves the Hawks sitting in fifth place in the early going with a 1-3 record alongside the Selects. Yellow-

head is unbeaten in four while the Avros are 3-1.

The Hawks next have a home-and-home series this weekend with the Winnipeg Ice, who have two wins and an overtime loss in their first three games. The set starts in Morden Saturday and then continues in Winnipeg Sunday.

Twisters fall to St. B 6-2, down Twins 10-6

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters earned a split on the opening weekend of the MMJHL regular season.

They rebounded from a 6-2 loss to St. Boniface at home Friday by outscoring Fort Garry Fort Rouge 10-6 Sunday in Winnipeg.

The Twisters trailed 1-0 and 4-0 at the intermissions before getting back into the game in the third period with a pair of goals 25 seconds apart, but the Riels capitalized on special teams with a pair of powerplay markers and a short-

handed goal.

Caelan Russel and Brett Bergman scored for Pembina Valley, which had a 41-38 edge in shots. Brock Moroz stopped 28 of 33 shots while Martin Gagnon gave up one goal on five shots.

On Sunday, the Twisters were firing on all cylinders in grabbing period leads of 3-1 and 8-3 while outshooting the Twins 43-34. Moroz made 28 saves in net.

TJ Matuszewski had a five point night including a pair of goals, while Travis Penner contributed a pair of goals and assists and Russel had a goal and a four point night as well. Nico Vigier

also had a pair, with other goals coming from Quade Froese, Jordan Keck, Merek Degraeve, and Nick Hatley.

The Twisters pay a visit to the Raiders this Friday and then are back home in Morris to host River East Saturday.

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 18

The lead was short-lived, though, as the visitors scored the tying goal at the 11:23 mark.

Period three saw the Flyers pull ahead 3-2 thanks to a Mike Svenson goal, only to have Neepawa tie once again just 17 seconds later.

In the extra period, Jayden McCarthy got the game-winner at 4:32 to finish things 4-3 for Winkler.

The two teams were more evenly matched in shots this night, with Neepawa just barely edging Winkler 43-42. Reid Dyck stood tall in net for Winkler, making 40 saves overall.

The Flyers this weekend play two games against the Virden Oil Capitals. Game one is Friday in Virden while game two is in Winkler Saturday.

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The Winkler Morden **Voice**



Smooth moves

Kids showed off their best tricks Saturday at the BSI Skatepark in Morden as part of a fundraising skateboard and scooter tournament. There were prizes to be won as part of the event, which as of Monday had raised about \$1,300 to build a gazebo at the park. It will be named in memory of Anika Ginther, a local teen who recently lost her battle with cancer.

PHOTOS BY
LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



Winkler public skating programs waiting on MEC opening

Morden's are up and running

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Recreation Department is eagerly awaiting the completion of the Meridian Exhibition Centre so it can get its public skating programs up and running.

Recreation programmer Kelly Morgan says the projected opening date for the MEC is Nov. 23, so they hope to be able to roll out all their rink programs a week or so later.

"When the MEC doors open we definitely want to make sure the word gets out and that we're able to get the community in there as soon as possible," she says, noting this second indoor rink has been a long time coming. "We're really excited about the new facility ... our one ice space is pretty full with our regular user groups. We've really been waiting for this second ice surface."

Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, all skaters this year need to pre-register in order to take part in any given program. You can do so online at winklerrec.maxgalaxycanada.net/BrowseActivities.aspx. Walk-ups are not permitted.

Free public skating sponsored by D.A. Loewen runs Sundays in two slots: noon to 12:45 p.m. and 1-1:45 p.m. Registration for both slots opens on the Wednesday of each week and closes Fridays at 4 p.m.

Skate/Stick & Puck runs Fridays from 9-10:30 a.m. (skating only), 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 12:30-2 p.m., and 2:15-3:45 p.m. It's \$5 per skater per

timeslot. Registration opens each week on the Monday and closes Thursday night.

Participants in Winkler's remaining three programs can register for the entire season. The free Senior Skate takes place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:15-9:15 a.m.; Parent & Tot, also free, runs Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:15-10:15 a.m.; and Farmer's Hockey (which is open to anyone 18+, farmer or not) is Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at a fee of \$50 for the season (November to March).

There is no dedicated homeschool skating/hockey slot this year.

"We're looking at 25 participants max for each of these programs," Morgan says, noting they added an extra day for both the Senior and Parent & Tot skate in a bid to meet demand there despite the restrictions. "They are pretty popular, which is neat to see and it's something that grows every year."

Masks are not currently required for Winkler's skating programs, though

Morgan notes that could change as per provincial public health orders.

Everyone coming into the MEC will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entry.

For finalized program start dates, stay tuned to the City of Winkler website and social media postings in the weeks to come.

MORDEN SUBSIDIZED ICE PROGRAMS

Meanwhile in Morden, the season's subsidized ice programs are already up and running at the Access Event Centre.

There, too, skaters need to register in advance to take part and attendance will be taken at each session to keep track of who's at the rink when. Register online at mymorden.ca/rec#IcePrograms.

"We're happy to keep some element of normal in our current pandemic world. We want people to be careful, but we also want opportunity for ac-

tive fun," said Morden rec. programmer Stephanie Dueck. "We are asking participants of all programs to be careful by staying home if ill, wearing a mask in the facility (except on ice), and sanitizing hands when entering and exiting the Access Event Centre."

The Morden skating schedule includes Parent & Tot Skate (five and under) Tuesdays from 10:15-11:15 a.m. and Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m., \$2 Homeschool Skate every other Thursday from 2:30-3:30 p.m., \$2 Homeschool Stick & Puck every other Thursday from 2:30-3:30 p.m., \$5 Morning Skate Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-8 a.m., \$5 Morning Stick & Puck Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-8 a.m., Seniors' Stick & Puck Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-1:15 p.m., and Seniors' Skate Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Dueck said they're also working on potentially running some version of public skating, but those plans have not yet been finalized.

Virtual Thanks for Giving Run raises over \$10K

By Lorne Stelmach

Going with just a virtual event this year due to pandemic restrictions appears to have had minimal impact on the success of the Thanks For Giving Run.

The annual Winkler event had originally been scheduled for Oct. 3, but participants were instead encouraged to run on their own instead of gathering together that day.

The aim was to still keep it in the

public eye and raise funds for the Winkler and District Food Cupboard, and although there were less runners, they still brought in almost as much money as in past years.

Sixty-five runners pre-registered and ran their distances between Sept. 25 and Oct. 12, including 25 for the half marathon distance, 19 for the 10 k, 20 for the 5 k and even one in the 1.5 k for kids.

Local businesses supported the campaign to the tune of \$8,650, while indi-

vidual pledges and donations added another \$1,560 to the tally.

"It's pretty close to what we've done in the past ... and our expenses are lower," said organizer Dwight Suderman, noting for example they spent less on T-shirts for participants.

"It's pretty good ... really for a non-race event," he added. "Everybody basically was encouraged to run on their own, and that's I think kind of a vic-

Continued on page 21

Ladies Golf Club gives back

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Ladies Golf Club executive closed things off with a bang last week by making a \$2,000 donation to South Central Cancer Resource.

Janet Ginter explain that after the club disbanded last year (ladies golf is now overseen by the pro shop at the Winkler course), it had money from years of fundraising events still in the bank.

"It was from over a number of years where we would have a silent auction or 50/50 draws at tournaments," she said. "It just really built up over the years and with the executive dis-

solving ... we wanted to do something with it."

Cancer has touched the lives of many members of the golf club over the years, so SCCR seemed the perfect place for the funds to do some good.

"We just felt it was a very good cause," Ginter said.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Janet Ginter (far right) of the Winkler Ladies Golf Club presented SCCR reps Richard LaRiviere, Tina Penner, and Deb Thiessen with a \$2,000 donation last week.



CWE's Extreme Consequences tour in Morden Nov. 5

By Lorne Stelmach

Live professional wrestling is returning to Morden, albeit with restrictions in place.

Canadian Wrestling's Elite is back in town with The Extreme Consequences Tour Nov. 5.

"There are many places across North America that cannot host live professional wrestling right now but Morden is not one of them," said promoter Danny Warren.

"Luckily, we have produced 13 live events since June, including one in Morden, with a safety plan in place and are happy to report zero COVID cases attributed to one of our live events," he noted. "And the Morden and Winkler wrestling fan and busi-

ness community continue to be very supportive and encouraging of us resuming entertainment for people."

The event is being held with social distancing in place along with other measures in cooperation and compliance with the provincial government, Warren stressed.

That is something that largely hasn't been possible in much of the country this year.

"It has been extremely tough this year to tour. In the spring, we were forced to cancel our 36 event, five province tour," Warren said. "We thought we'd be in the

clear come October and rescheduled for the fall ... eight of our originally scheduled 24 event fall tour dates are still taking place.

"Unfortunately, with not only each province having different restrictions

but now each individual region, it has been a logistical nightmare," he added. "Each individual regional health inspector is

interpreting the rules and restrictions completely different from the next, so what is being allowed in one region isn't always being allowed in the next."

Those who are able to take in the Nov. 5 event here will see CWE champion Hotshot Danny Duggan, tag team champions the Canadian Crusher AJ Sanchez and the Boston Bruiser Kevin O'Doyle, and CWE icon and international lucha libre star the Zombie Killer Mentallo. The card also features women's stars Kylie Morgan and the Masterpiece of the East Alix Zwicker as well as former CWE tag team, hardcore, and open rules champion Misfit Mike Mission, Sammy Peppers, and more.

It takes place at the Morden Friendship Centre starting at 7 p.m. Nov. 5.

Tickets are available at Giant Tiger, online at cwtickets.com, or at the door.

"IT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY TOUGH THIS YEAR TO TOUR."



> THANKS FOR GIVING RUN, FROM PG. 20

tory there as people took initiative on their own to do this.

"I'm really happy with the way things went," Suderman continued, adding that while some people opted to run their distance on the usual course many others set their own routes.

Suderman noted they appreciated that the businesses who support them remained fully committed despite the changes. They in fact had more sponsors than usual this year.

And while businesses could always

directly support the Winkler Food Cupboard on their own, this way also promotes and encourages activity and supports a community event.

"Because they do it through us, we have an event that encourages physical well-being by getting out there and running. A lot of people like organized events like this," Suderman suggested.

"I think runners feel a double win. They like getting out there and running a race and then supporting a good cause like this is a double win."

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The Winkler Morden
Voice

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Our family would like to thank everyone for the sympathy shown on the loss of our husband, father and grandfather, Howard Lilke. We appreciate all of the flowers, food, baking, cards, visits and donations to the Boundary Trails Health Foundation dialysis unit made in his memory. He will be greatly missed and all of your kindness has made this difficult time a little easier.

-Mary Lilke,
Darryl Lilke,
Darlene and Harry Hiebert
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20 years later

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OBITUARY



Henry (Hank P) Hoepfner 1933 - 2020

On Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Hank Hoepfner, aged 87 of Morden, MB was released from his struggle to be embraced in the arms of his Savior and his sweetheart, Helen. Gratefully, his daughters, Debbie and Barb were able to be by his side at his passing, although the entire family wishes they could have been there. Hank's family grieves at his passing, but the peace and end to his suffering brings great relief.

He leaves to mourn his passing his three daughters, Debbie (Noel) Brown, Barb (Deryl) Rampton, Shelly (Terry) Walde and one son, Kelly Hoepfner; his brothers, Peter (Mary) Hoepfner, Jake (Emily) Hoepfner and Ike (Dianne) Hoepfner; his sisters, Anne

Sherren and Tiny (Cliff) Hauk and one sister-in-law, Anne Broeren; his grandchildren, Holly (Jeff) Ritchie, Kristi Rampton, Sherri (Jeff) Hoepfner, Jason (Pam) Nelson, Tara Brown, Amy (Joel) Pankewich and seven great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and dear friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Peter and Annie Hoepfner (nee Zacharias); stepmother, Sara Hoepfner (nee Nickel); brother, Tony Hoepfner and beloved sweetheart, Helen.

Hank was born at home in the RM of Stanley, MB on February 12, 1933. Hank met his sweetheart, Helen, when he was living in Morden and they were married on August 17, 1958. Together they had four extremely good-looking children who blessed them with six even better-looking grandchildren (insert Hank saying, "you got that right!"). While Dad began his working years on the pipeline, the majority of his working years were spent as a grader/maintainer operator for the RM of Stanley. During those years, he held the unofficial title of "Best Grader/Maintainer Operator ever" in the eyes of his family and probably, everyone whose roads he maintained with dedication and skill. Hank retired at 65 in 1998 in a celebration with colleagues, friends, and family. After his retirement, Dad continued to enjoy many of the simple things in life - hunting, camping, fishing, baseball (well, the Jays), and curling, all of which allowed him to spend time with his friends, brothers, nephews, children, and grandchildren. However, one of the things he enjoyed most in life was gardening - the yearly activity he cherished doing with Helen. His family remembers getting "gentle reminders" to come and pick pails of raspberries, apples, and cucumbers every summer. Dad continued to love and cherish gardening until the day he was no longer able to do so. He is missed already and will continue to be missed by all who knew and loved him. Family was Dad's #1 joy, and he made that known to all of us, every day, until he passed.

Due to the current healthcare restrictions, a private funeral for Hank was held with interment at Hillside Cemetery.

Hank's family would like to thank the caring and compassionate staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre, including the palliative team who supported him in his final days. A special, heartfelt thank you also to his doctor of many years, Dr. Kevin Convery. Our family and Dad were so blessed to have encountered so many wonderful health care professionals over the years and we are forever grateful for their support.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Hank's memory to the BTHC Foundation Rehab/Surgery Unit Box 2000, Station Main Winkler, MB R6W 1H8.

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



OBITUARY

Elizabeth Ens (nee Fehr)

1927 - 2020



Early Sunday morning, on October 11, 2020 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Elizabeth (Betty) Ens, of Tabor Home in Morden, MB formerly of Winkler and Reinland, aged 92 years passed away and went to her eternal rest.

Betty was born on October 25, 1927, she was the daughter of Isaak and Katharina Janzen Fehr. She was baptized on her confession of faith on May 28, 1947 by Elder Peter A. Toews in the Sommerfelder Mennonite Church in Reinland, MB. Betty was united in marriage to Franz Ens, from Reinland, MB on July 30, 1949 officiated by Rev. F. F. Sawatzky, in the Blumenorter Mennonite Church in Reinland, MB.

Betty was predeceased by her son-in-law, James Peters on October 25, 1981; her husband, Franz Ens on March 29, 2007; and her son, Alfred Ens on March 10, 2018. Mom leaves to mourn her passing six daughters: Irene (Henry), Henrietta, Margaret, Hildegard (Bill), Wilhelmina (John), Rosemarie Monica; and three sons: Theodur, Helmut (Gladys), Adolph, and one daughter-in-law, Betty; 19 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Mom is the last member of the Fehr family to pass away.

Mom and Dad lived in many places, but the most of their time together was spent in Reinland, where they lived in two different houses. This is where they both devoted their time to gardening, apple trees and flowers were their specialty. On the first yard that they lived on, the garden was huge. We grew everything that you can imagine: musk melon, cantaloupe, watermelon, kohlrabi, tomatoes, etc. At one time our garden was over an acre large. A lot of the food from the garden was sold to "Yankees". People from Walhalla, North Dakota and surrounding areas in the USA would show up daily to purchase vegetables and fruit from the garden. Mom loved to show these people around her garden. Canning season was a lot of fun. We would set up the caldron and tables. Corn would be boiled and cut off the ears and then put into jars. We would carry approximately 40 burlap sacks of potatoes into the cellar. In the spring we would carry out about 30 bags of potatoes that had gone bad. My favorite was the melons. We loaded them into wheelbarrows and I would sing "Bring them in the sheen" as that is where we would store them. Mom must have been a very efficient worker because we never missed a meal while all this was going on. When we moved to the second yard in Reinland, we moved to the other end of the village. The garden was much smaller, but I think more efficient. The melon patches were replaced by an orchard of apple trees. Thousands of flowers appeared all over the yard. The lawn was cut up to accommodate all the flowers. To this day when people talk about our yard in Reinland they talk about all the flowers. Mom made countless centerpieces from these flowers for events and weddings. Dad loved to show off the orchard, but all he would give us was the apples that had fallen. Later, mom would give us bags of good apples. Dad never knew!

Mom loved to sing, and read stories to us kids. When I got older and read "Brothers Grimm or Hans Christian Anderson", I felt like the magic had gone somehow. All the stories she read were in German, and it was like I was right there in the stories. Mom often listened to Aunt Olly with us when we were young. When we finally got a TV, and the cartoons came on, I found myself going to the radio instead. When my mother was washing dishes or preparing food, which was nearly all the time, I remember her singing. "Shall we gather at the river", "Church in the Willwood", "Gott ist die liebe" and on and on. I am not sure she even knew one secular song other than the ones that were sung at 4H or other clubs. Incidentally, after mom moved to Tabor Home, she requested music to listen to and she said she only wanted Christian music or songs. Hymns were her favorite. I will always remember mom and Irene singing a duet of "Star of the East". I was so proud.

I blame mom for my weight problem. She was a sweets maker. My two favorite desserts were Marshmallow squares with pineapple and banana or chocolate chips. The other favorite was midnight buns, which we still have every Christmas at our house. Most of Springstein Church has had a taste of this belly growing delight. Most people say "what are midnight buns?" and when I tell them they want to try them. Then they are hooked. Her main course specialties included keeltiya and schmaunt fat, schinkjefleische, klups and of course, potatoes. I almost forgot vereneke made with cottage cheese or fruit. I really don't know how mom managed to do all that she did. She attended every function in the village, and always brought food as well. She also sang at many events. Mom was my 4H leader in Garden Club. When we were marching in the parade in Morden, Winkler or Altona, she not only coached us, but she also made and designed the banner we would carry. She also sewed my outfit for the parade. That brings me to one of her greatest talents - her ability to take a piece of cloth and make it into clothing. She could sew, man, did she sew. No one in our family bought a suit. Mom made them all. The girls had countless dresses all made by mom. She also made wedding gowns and bridesmaid dresses, grad dresses and best of all, those crazy flowered shirts from the 70's.

Tante H. called me to offer her condolences and then she started to reminisce. She told me about a friend from her time in Mexico who was in Manitoba for a short time. Her friend wanted a dress, so Tante H. took her to see Tante Garete at Penner's Dry Goods. Fabric and a pattern were chosen and then Aunt Margaret told them to take these to Betty (my mom). In two or three days this lady from Mexico had a new dress. She told Tante H. it was the nicest piece of clothing she had ever owned.

My mom was one of the richest people I have ever met. She never had much money, but had a happiness that could not be extinguished. She had more disappointments than most people have in two lifetimes, yet she remained happy. Her happiness was infectious. You could not stay sad around her. Whether she was serving food, or playing games with the grandchildren, she was always happy. After mom moved to Tabor Home in July 2019, she slowed down for a short time to watch the Blue Jays baseball team and embroider. I must confess that I did not visit her nearly often enough. I would like to thank Adolph for his faithful visits every day. You made her life a lot less lonely. I would also like to thank John and Wilma for their tireless support they have offered mom and the rest of the family.

In closing, I would like to say "thank you" to our mother who cared so much for all of us. She made mistakes but she never stopped loving us all.

May she rest in peace.
Private funeral service was held at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church with interment at the Reinland Cemetery.

Donations may be made in Betty's memory to Katie Cares.

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