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VOLUME 7 EDITION 49

THURSDAY,
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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Everyone wanted a photo with Santa Claus on Sunday as the Morden & District United Way hosted its annual Skate with Santa. The afternoon of free public skating is the United Way's way of thanking the community for its support of the annual fundraising campaign. They hope to raise \$90,000 in support of about 30 local non-profit organizations. For a few more photos, see Pg. 27.

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Communities come through for Genesis House

Pyjama drive vastly exceeds shelter's expectations

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The "Power of PJs" was certainly strong in the Pembina Valley last month.

As part of its Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities, the Genesis House women's shelter held a pyjama drive across its service area.

Supporters were asked to drop off new or gently used pyjamas at any South Central Regional Library branch for the woman and children who use the shelter as a safe haven from domestic violence.

They had been hoping to get enough PJs for the average 65 woman and 80 children who come through the shelter each year.

The resulting outpouring of donations far surpassed that.

Genesis House staffers Kristin Giesbrecht and Sydney Hildebrand were at the Winkler Library Dec. 1 to pick up the mountain of pyjamas, blankets, toiletries, and teddy bears that overflowed the donation boxes and spilled out onto the surrounding table and floor.

"I think this is just from the Winkler Library, so we also have donations

Kristin Giesbrecht and Sydney Hildebrand of Genesis House were wowed by the sheer number of donations that came in for the women's shelter's Power of PJs drive in November.

PHOTO BY
ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



still coming from places across the region," said Giesbrecht.

"We're very excited at the response and at being able to get out our message," she added. "The goal of this was to raise awareness about how many families we get in a year."

Seeking refuge at a women's shelter

is a stressful time for many women and their children, but this sign of community support will go a long way toward making it little easier.

"A lot of women, they come and they have nothing when they come through our doors," Giesbrecht said. "To get a new pair of pyjamas and to

get some toys and stuff for the kids, I think it means a lot to be comfortable and to know that people care.

"We're really grateful," she stressed. "Thank you to everybody in the community for bringing in donations for us and thinking about Genesis House and the clients we have."

Winkler Affordable Housing taking on 66 units

Province transfers management of public housing to non-profit

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba Housing is transferring the management of 66 publicly owned housing units to the community-based non-profit Winkler Affordable Housing (WAH).

Families Minister Scott Fielding made the announcement last week.

"This transfer of management reflects our government's practical, sustainable and community-driven approach to social and affordable housing development in this province," he said. "In response to the community's request and to local needs, we are transferring these units to Winkler to their very capable management."

WAH has managed a 24-unit building in the community since 2012. As of Dec. 1, they assumed the management of an additional 12 senior units and 54 family units, including several houses, townhouses, and senior blocks.

The city has been lobbying for this opportunity for a few years now, said WAH board chair Michael Grenier.

"A big part of it is just having the local management. There's efficiencies in that," he said, noting tenants in the past have had to contact Manitoba Housing offices outside the community for assistance. Now, they'll be able to call OnPoint Property Management, the Winkler company that has been hired to oversee the units.

"So instead of a tenant calling a manager in, say, Selkirk or Portage, there's now a local manager that they can talk to and there's a face to the organization," Grenier said. "We feel that it will help build a better sense of community."

And that, stresses Mayor Martin Harder, will translate into benefits to the community.

"Under the management of the existing WAH structure, we will have the opportunity to make important management decisions locally," he said.

"We can better understand and reflect the dynamics of the residents and our community as a whole, encouraging the success of our Safe Communities initiative to help meet the needs of this segment of Winkler," Harder said. "We can now create a concerted effort for a more effective, community-led housing strategy, together."

This management transfer is a pilot project for Manitoba Housing and is expected to be cost-neutral for both the province and WAH.

"So far we are the only community doing this," said Grenier. "I've been told there are a handful of others who are eagerly waiting to see how this plays out because they would love to do this as well."

"We're looking forward to doing what we can to make this work for the betterment of Winkler, for the betterment of the residents of these homes," he added.

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Student green thumbs selling poinsettias

GVC Tec students host holiday plant sale

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The greenhouse at Garden Valley Collegiate's technical campus is awash in holiday colours this month.

Student green thumbs in the school's landscape horticulture have been hard at work in recent months growing Christmas poinsettias.

"We got them from Vanderveens in Carman and then we brought them here and we've grown them on," says instructor Terena Hantelman. "Each student had 10 to keep alive ... they all made it, except one which I think fell off a table."

The sale, which started last week Monday, started off with about 153 poinsettias and had already sold close to 50 by week's end.

Available in red, pink, and white, the popular seasonal centrepieces are \$15 each. The students have also grown an assortment of succulent and tropical dish gardens, which start at \$10 each.

In addition to growing the plants,

the 14 youth in the program have also been handling all aspects of the sale, including wrapping up the flowers, manning the register, and providing plant care instructions for customers.

It's all proven to be a valuable learning experience for the teens, Hantelman said.

"Every day two kids are on sales and when someone comes to the class they're all seem to be quite excited about it because they grew these themselves," she said. "They have that sense of pride in it."

Funds raised from the plant sale all go back into the horticulture program, which is, of course, growing various plants year-round.

To pick up a plant, stop by GVC Tec at 539 Manitoba Rd. from now until Dec. 21.

They're open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with extended hours to 6 p.m. every Thursday. Enter through the school's main doors (not the greenhouse) and follow the signs.



PHOTOS
BY ASHLEIGH
VIVEIROS/VOICE

GVC Tec instructor Terena Hantelman with some of the dozens of poinsettias the horticulture students grew for the school's annual plant sale. Also on sale are succulent dish gardens (above).



Clarification

In regards to the Nov. 24 story on the Winkler Senior Centre's Village Gift Shoppe, we've been asked to clarify that the store that supports the senior centre's programs is not in any way affiliated with the Village Toy Shop business in Chortitz, south of the city.

The Village Toy Shop, located at 85 Chortitz St. South, offers a wide array of toys, from the non-electronic to the educational, retro to the unique.

Check out their page on Facebook or get in touch with them at 204-325-0226.

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Western SD preparing for future growth

By Lorne Stelmach

Space is already at a premium across Western School Division, so there are many challenges to meet the continued growth in Morden.

The issues surrounding the increasing pressures on the schools here not surprisingly became the focus of a community information evening hosted by the division last week.

"Growth is obviously something that's uppermost in our minds right now," said Brian Fransen, chairperson of the board of trustees. "We're trying to do our best to make sure that we can make decisions going forward with the information we have and the resources that we have."

In a presentation before the meeting went into smaller group discussions,

Fransen put the space and growth challenges faced by the division into perspective.

Western was ranked third in the province in terms of percentage enrolment growth, and their projections are for that pace to continue. The division, though, also calculated that it has among the lowest space per student.

"We actually are the second tightest school division in the province. It's a very telling figure," said Fransen.

Despite that reality, superintendent Stephen Ross suggested the situation here seems to not get as much attention as other Manitoba divisions that often make the headlines.

"We just thought it was important then that we are in the conversation," said Ross, as he and Fransen stressed

the urgency of getting provincial approval for a proposed new school.

The division owns property in the northwest corner of the community earmarked for that school, which would likely be a K-8.

Looking longer term, such a school

could potentially ease the burden on École Morden Middle School, which in theory might free up additional space then for the adjoining Morden Collegiate as well.

Continued on page 6

Deputy Education Minister visits Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

The second in command for education in the province made the rounds in Morden recently.

Deputy Minister of Education Bram Strain met last month with Western School Division leaders as well as staff and students.

"It's an opportunity to showcase what our issues are ... also some of the innovative unique kinds of programming that's going on here," said superintendent Stephen Ross.

Having for years now been pressing the need for a new school, the division wanted to use the meeting not only to emphasize its space issues, Ross said, but to also talk about education programming.

"We felt it was important to show them what's working and what wasn't," he said. "I think it's important for us to be able to show them what we're doing ... also be able to indicate to them a couple things."

"One is that we run on a very cost efficient basis. We get very good results for what's put in there dollar-wise. Our students are coming out doing very well against the province."

"At the same time, we've got some new things that we are working on. We have a piping trades program that we want to make sure they're aware of and supportive of ... we have some new learning initiatives here like

project-based learning."

Being fully bilingual, Strain was able to converse with some of the local French immersion students as well, and Ross doesn't underplay the importance of making those kinds of connections.

"Those little things, for staff, can go a long way," he said. "It's a very supportive message for staff ... people who are very busy all around the province with many schools and many big issues ... take a little bit of time to come to Morden."

The division has another important meeting scheduled for this week with the Public Schools Finance Board.

Division representatives usually meet annually with PSFB to go over the division's capital needs and its five year plan, Ross noted.

The big issue is not only the new school needed immediately but also a second facility in the division's projections, noted Ross. There can also be other issues like space for the piping trades or even more routine maintenance like a school needing a new boiler or perhaps a roof replacement

"It's a part the public doesn't always see ... but it's being able to make sure that we're very proactive," he said. "We're trying to not be in that position that other divisions have been in where they have had to react to the unexpected."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden residents came out last week to hear about the challenges Western School Division is facing as enrollment continues to rise each year, and what plans the division has for the future.



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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

The cowardly cyclist

I am riding my bike more gingerly these days as winter has fallen in all of its dark, mushy coldness.

You may recall that last year I decided to upgrade to the bicycle version of a tank: a fat-tired beast with a heavy frame.

It is not a high-end carbon-fibre marshmallow that can glide over the earth like a cloud. No, this thing takes serious work, which is okay because I need the exercise.

Now, along with fat (or phat, as I like to say) tires the bike came with an undeserved sense of overconfidence. I would be able to plow through any weather and neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow and ice would stop me, like some kind of cycling mail man from a bygone era.

Unfortunately I failed to recognize that rubber bike tires, no matter how fat, are just as good on ice as anything else—not at all.



By Peter Cantelon

And so I fell twice last year, once in front of a truck which had the good decency not to run me over, and another time rounding a corner on a sidewalk that, even in summer, appears to have had its concrete surface polished to a near glass-like perfection, and so in winter it was a death trap waiting to happen.

Thankfully no bones were broken and no laptops destroyed, although the ego was definitely bruised for a time.

It is from this past experience that I now enter this winter somewhat trepidatiously—that is to say, much more the coward—than last year. I suppose you could say that when it comes to winter biking I have decided to choose life, both mine and the unfortunate passersby I could potentially plow into.

This year, if there is even a hint of ice I will simply walk to work (and I am thankful I can). In this yucky transitional period where it can snow, sleet, and rain all at the same time I will sometimes walk the bike in the morning and cycle back in the evening after things have melted.

I have also changed my route. Typically in warmer weather I bike from my house at the end of Stephen St. through the city core to 5th St. and

then to the crosswalk. I do this because I like seeing people and I know that should someone open their car door without looking my brakes work a lot better in the summer when there is no ice.

These days, however, I head straight down 12th St. and over to the crosswalk at 13th and Thornhill and then along the bike lanes of Wardop (which need to be plowed too, Public Works—hint, hint). Much safer. When I get to corners I stop, get off the bike and walk across the street to avoid the possible wipeout that happens when one attempts to turn on ice.

Further to these safeguards, I have bedazzled the heck out of myself since it is so much darker these days. I have no fewer than six lights on myself and the bike: a front facing white, seizure inducing strobe light, a rear red flasher, a red flasher on the back of my helmet, and two blue led lights attached to my spokes.

So far caution is proving to be the way to go.

Frankly, I look forward to the days of -20 degrees Celsius and sunny because the roads are usually super dry and easier to bike—although to be honest +20 Celsius in spring is even more preferable. Here's hoping I make it there.

> WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISION, FROM PG. 5

In the long term, the division is also projecting the need for a second new school, but for now it continues to have to meet the growth with the addition of portable classrooms.

Assuming the current enrolment trends continue, Fransen estimated the 10 portable classrooms now in place could potentially have to increase to 16 over the next three years.

"We've been planning for two schools for years," said Ross, stressing in the meantime they try to be as efficient as they can be with the space and resources they have now.

"We've been trying to think as creatively as possible," he said. "We kind of hit a wall where we're doing everything we can do."

Fransen said the division will con-

tinue to consult with the community in its planning process.

"Nothing is set in stone right now. There is a lot of good open conversation, good questions and a lot of discussion about what we're looking at for the future of Western School Division. There's lots of opportunity yet to talk about some of the details of what

might happen in the future ... and consider our options.

"Through meetings like this ... we get to hear from some people we might not normally hear from ... hear different ideas and different questions," Fransen said. "And a lot of those questions ... we will take them to heart."

Correction

A photo on Pg. 22 of the Nov. 24 edition of the *Voice* inadvertently left local recording artist Warren Friesen's name out of the cutline.

Friesen, who was playing guitar alongside fellow musician Bill Dowl-

ing, was one of several performers to provide the tunes at Scotiabank's Holly Jolly Breakfast in support of the Winkler Christmas Cheer Board on Nov. 19.

We apologize for the omission.

getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

Community rallies behind Morden Cheer

By Lorne Stelmach

The need may be greater than ever, but organizers believe the support will match it for the Morden Christmas Cheer Board.

Chairperson Carolyn Schellenberg said the community has really rallied for the cause as the Cheer Board gets set for packing and delivery of its food hampers next week.

"Volunteers were coming slow but all of sudden they have been pouring in," she said. "There's still spots to be filled ... so we will not turn down any volunteers."

Various community groups and organizations have been getting in-

involved, she said, such as local students and members of the Barnswallow quilters making blankets for the hampers.

"We've got students from different schools coming to help out with the packing," Schellenberg added. "We've got quite a few groups that are coming ... churches that are volunteering ... volunteers from the banks and the credit union."

Schellenberg noted they are blessed as well to have a number of experienced directors on the board to oversee the finely-tuned operation.

"Every year it seems like when you have board members that carry over from year to year, they have their job

**"WE WILL NOT
TURN DOWN ANY
VOLUNTEERS."**



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Cheer Board volunteers will be hard at work early next week preparing upwards of 240 hampers filled with food and gifts for Morden area families in need.

and they know what to do."

Organizers are anticipating there will be an increase in the number of hampers this year. While last year saw 220 go out, they're expecting to send as many as 240 next week.

The Cheer Board is primarily supported with cash donations, which are used to purchase bulk food items

and ensure recipients receive equal hampers, but it also gladly takes donations of food and toys.

The process of packing the hampers starts Monday and concludes with deliveries Wednesday evening.

Anyone interested in helping as a volunteer is asked to contact Schellenberg at 204-822-6307 for details.

PADERNO

CHRISTMAS FACTORY SALE

SAVINGS UP TO 75%! ON NOW THROUGH DEC. 11TH

70% OFF! Our **12pc Epicurean Cookware set** features thick 18/10 stainless steel, ergonomic riveted handles, thick encapsulated base for fast, even heat control, induction compatible and backed by our 25 year warranty. **Set includes:** 1.5L, 2L, & 3L saucepans, 3L steamer, 5L Dutch oven, 24cm/9.5" frying pan, 3L sauté pan, and 5 covers. **List: \$749.99.**

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Access CU named one of Manitoba's top employers

By Lorne Stelmach

Access Credit Union is one of the top 25 employers in Manitoba for a third year in a row.

The 11th annual ranking of the best companies to work for in Manitoba cited a number of factors in selecting the company, and CEO Larry Davey said it is reaffirmation they are going in the right direction for their employees.

"If we have an engaged, knowledgeable and trusted staff, then our members are going to benefit from that," he said.

Access Credit Union was the only full-service financial services company recognized three years in a row on the provincial list.

Judges cited the company for its focus on community development, including establishing a community investment committee of five employees and two board members that is responsible for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations for donation requests.

They lauded the company for offering employees a number of perks, including discounts on financial ser-

vices, new employee referral bonuses and year-end bonuses, and retirement planning assistance.

As well, they credited ACU for starting its newest employees with three weeks of paid vacation and considering experience when setting vacation for experienced candidates.

Davey said the recognition does a number of things for the financial institution.

"It demonstrates to staff that they work for a great employer, and it allows them to see a long term career with us," he said. "In addition, it shows the community and other people who are potentially looking at Access that it would be a great place to work."

"What we're finding is the level of interest and engagement from outside parties is much higher now that this has continued three years in a row."

Davey suggested there are a number of overall factors behind ACU earning a good reputation as a workplace.

"We're very supportive of a work and life balance for our staff," he said. "At the same time, we instill a lot of ongoing training because the financial services environment is changing



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Access Credit Union has been named one of the province's top employers for the third year in a row.

so much. We assist them with ongoing training, plus we support them in continuing education, which we have found to be well received by our staff."

In that area, he noted there are 47 employees who are continuing with university education, representing

about 20 per cent of their workforce.

"For them to be able to build on their education ... we see immediate benefits," Davey said.

Access Credit Union serves southern Manitoba with 17 branches, 260 employees, and over \$2.4 billion in assets.

RCMP launch holiday Checkstop program

Manitoba RCMP are once again reminding holiday revellers to think twice before drinking and driving.

The police department launched its 2016 Holiday Checkstop program on Dec. 2. It will run until Jan. 2.

The campaign begins at the end of one of the most deadly years on Manitoba roads in the past decade.

To date, there have been 105 fatalities on provincial roadways. The total for 2015 was 80.

"We are seeing disturbing driving behaviours that are endangering the lives of Manitobans," said RCMP assistant commissioner Scott Kolody.

"Of tremendous concern is people drinking and then driving—but we are also seeing texting and driving, speeding, and lack of seat belt use."

"The truth is, if behaviours don't change, an estimated 10 people will die on our roads during the holidays,"

Kolody said. "And in the past decade, there has not been a single year when someone has not died."

An increased police presence with the roadside Checkstops sends "a powerful message to all motorists that RCMP officers are committed to keeping our roads safe for everyone," said Ron Schuler, Minister of Crown Services.

"The consequences of getting behind the wheel after drinking or taking drugs can be tragic," he said. "The RCMP and likeminded road safety agencies are committed to making this a happy holiday season, and we encourage all Manitobans to do their part to keep Manitobans safe on the roads this season."

Don't be a statistic, RCMP urge. Buckle up, drive sober, put your phone down, and drive for the conditions.

Holiday Schedule

The Winkler Morden Voice

December 15th	Christmas Greetings Edition
Greeting Deadline – Mon., Dec. 5th, 4 pm Regular Paper Deadline – Mon., Dec. 12th, 4 pm	
December 22nd	Boxing Week Edition
Display Ads, Classified Ads or Announcements EARLY Deadline – Fri., Dec. 16th, 4 pm	
December 29th	Edition
Display Ads, Classified Ads or Announcements EARLY Deadline – Mon., Dec. 19th, 4 pm	

Happy Holidays!

Offices will be closed December 24th through January 1st.
Offices will reopen Monday, January 2nd

Tabor Home to open in spring

By Lorne Stelmach

Construction of the new personal care facility in Morden will continue into the new year.

Work on Tabor Home had been moving along well enough that it had been earlier suggested the facility could be ready by year's end. Now, though, it looks more likely the project is on track to meet its later, original target date.

"We're now probably still looking at spring of 2017 to move in," board chair Wilf Warkentin said late last month. "They're pretty well finished outside, and they're doing all finishing work now."

Building such a large facility is obviously complex, he observed, but work is progressing well on the interior.

Outside, some landscaping has already been completed, though there remains much left still to do. Warkentin added they also still need to do more fundraising to cover expenses such as additional furniture and accessories.

"It's all part of the things that are extra that were not included in the tender for the project," he said.

"Landscaping is going to be a very expensive part of the project. We have to raise money for that, and that will be at least several hundred thousand dollars."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Work on the new Tabor Home in Morden is on track for completion early in the new year.

Warkentin estimated they may still need at least another half million dollars for those project extras.

"We're still getting donations here and there, but it had slowed down," he said.

Meanwhile, preparations continue behind the scenes for the future move. The current Tabor Home has been up for sale for some time now.

"We've had a few people looking at it already, but so far no takers. It will take time," said Warkentin, adding the building poses a bit of a challenge for any buyer because "the way it is ... they would have to do a lot of renovations to use it for anything else."

The new Tabor Home will have all of its 100 beds be for personal care use



rather than including 20 for supportive care as laid out in the original plans.

The province and the community have jointly invested \$38.7 million into the new, 77,000 square-foot facility.

New prez for Stanley Agricultural Society

By Lorne Stelmach

There are both challenges and opportunities ahead for the Stanley Agricultural Society.

The new president stepping into that role at the Nov. 28 annual meeting is anxious to get on with helping the organization grow and move forward.

"I'm excited. It's going to be an interesting job in the next year, but I'm looking forward to it, and I'm working with some excellent people," said Toban Dyck, who assumes the leadership role from Peter Penner, who remains on the executive as first vice-president alongside Tanya Schobert as second vice-president.

A challenging issue facing the society remains the proposed sale of their land to the City of Winkler for its exhibition centre project.

A motion to sell the land and barn for the appraised value of the property failed to pass with the required two thirds majority of the members in approval at a special meeting this past April.

Penner told members last week that discussions were still taking place with the city.

It has presented the society with a number of

issues to consider such as where else it might locate if that became necessary. City officials in the past had suggested the society would not need to move, but the society had concerns about the impact of having reduced space in the Parkland area.

Penner wondered if a location somewhere between Winkler and Morden would be a possible alternative for a new home for the society's grounds, but Dyck for now could only say that the discussions are ongoing.

"The land issue is a big one for sure," he said, just stressing there was a need "for clear communication between our parties ... the discussions have continued."

"We have stuck by what our membership voted on ... we have not done anything that they have not approved," Dyck added. "We are a member-run society, and that's an absolute priority."

Dyck said he otherwise looks forward to getting on with the business of getting people involved with the Stanley Ag. Society.

"We're working on raising awareness of the ag. society in general ... among Stanley residents for sure is a big priority," he said. "We

"WE HAVE GOOD MOMENTUM ... NOW THE KEY IS JUST TO CONTINUE ON."

The Bra Lady Is Coming To Size You Up

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

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

Due to the overwhelming response to the previous clinic, Chapman is coming to

WINKLER, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

to outfit you with the best possible bra for your body. Chapman said she will be seeing clients on a one-on-one basis, explaining the benefits of good bras and measuring their bodies properly.

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

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

She offers these questions for women to ask themselves:

- Do you have a drawer full of bras but none that fit comfortably?
- Does your bust line "bounce" when you walk while wearing your "everyday" bra?
- Do you overflow the cup of your bra?
- Do your bra straps fall off your shoulders or dig into your shoulders leaving red and painful marks?
- Does your bra ride up in the back because you tighten the straps to give you added support?
- Have you ever begun an exercise class only to drop out because your breasts ached from lack of support while jumping or running?

If you answer yes to any of these you are in need of a new bra, and a custom one (JEUNIQUE, NUTRIMETICS, COLESCIE) could be the way to go. Put an end to bra shopping forever!

1-800-254-3938 BY DECEMBER 13

She doesn't come into town very often so she advises booking as soon as possible.

www.bralady.com

Continued on page 10

Burgers for BTHC at DQ next week

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden's Dairy Queen is stepping up to support the Boundary Trails Health Centre next week.

The restaurant hosts its fifth annual Burgers for Boundary Trails on Thursday, Dec. 15.

It is usually held on a day near the birthday of former Dairy Queen owner Jerry Letkeman in his memory.

"The bacon cheese grill burger was his favorite ... so that's the one we promote that day," said DQ's Chris MacPherson. "Whether you buy the burger or the combo ... a dollar from every burger sold goes to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation."

It as a small way to pay tribute to Letkeman, who passed away in 2011, while also supporting an important organization, MacPherson said, noting the annual DQ Miracle Treat Day

supports the children's hospital in Winnipeg, so this is a good chance to support the local hospital.

The day raises at least a few hundred dollars each year.

"It helps the community. Any business that gets community support and is here for the long term needs to give back," said MacPherson. "So this is just one of the ways that we do that."

The day also adds a little bit of fun for the staff while they are hard at work.

"The hospital usually donates some scrubs for the day and we wear those at the store," MacPherson said.

While drop-ins are most certainly welcome all that day, individuals and businesses can also pre-order their burgers by contacting MacPherson at donrich@mts.net.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Dairy Queen's Dana MacPherson and Marcus Karkuszewski invite you to come enjoy a bacon cheeseburger next Thursday for a good cause. The restaurant holds its annual Burger for Boundary Trails fundraiser, with proceeds going to the BTHC Foundation.

Plans underway for community Christmas dinner

By Lorne Stelmach

The spirit of fellowship is most alive and well during this holiday season, and that is what is bringing people together again for a community Christmas dinner in Morden.

A group of volunteers have stepped up to take over coordinating the event from Donate Love, who put on the supper last year.

"We are just a group of friends who heard there was a need and decided to do this," said organizer Kim Klassen.

There will be space for 250 people at the dinner that takes place Dec. 25 at the Morden Alliance Church, so people who are interested in attending need to reserve their seats in advance.

The dinner runs from 5-7 p.m. that day, but of course there will be a lot of planning and preparation beforehand as well as cleanup afterwards.

"We have lots of need for volunteers ... like the setup team on the 24th," said Klassen.

"There's opportunities to serve at the buffet table, to be involved in the kitchen either as prep the day before or the day off the dinner," she added. "We need bus team washers and

cleanup crew as well."

The most important aspect of the dinner, though, is the fellowship, so people are needed to help make that happen as well.

"We need hosts and hostesses at each table," said Klassen. "We really firmly believe that's part of building relationships with people. It's one of our favorite jobs ... to be able to sit and have supper with people from Morden and just get to know and just get to love them at Christmas."

A number of individuals, businesses, and organizations have already stepped up to support the dinner or help out in some way, including Cop, Morden Community Thrift Shop, Morden Alliance Church, Decor Cabinets, Winkler Bible Camp, and Donate Love, with the kitchen team

being headed up by Lenore Penner.

Klassen stressed the dinner is open to anyone and everyone.

"Last year, we had a variety of people ... people who were older who might be on their own or are empty-nesters," she said. "We had young families, and we had families that were from a different country."

"I met a darling couple who wanted to see what the Canadian Christmas customs were all about, so they joined our community," said Klassen.

"It's really for the entire community, and it's a really great opportunity to get to know people. What a nice opportunity to meet new people," she said. "There are people new to this community ... they should be taking full advantage of this. It's also a great opportunity to do something in your community to help out."

If you are interested in attending or getting involved as a volunteer, check out the Morden Community Christmas Dinner Facebook page or contact Klassen at 204-823-1487.

**"WE HAVE LOTS OF
NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS
... LIKE THE SETUP TEAM
ON THE 24TH."**

> STANLEY AG, FROM PG. 9

want to see this society grow. We want to see interest and engagement with the society grow."

"I think we have good momentum ... now the key is just to continue on."

Having just moved back to the area in 2012, Dyck said he appreciates the opportunity the society has to help

raise awareness of and to promote and educate people on rural living.

"I think there's lots of things we can do, and there can be a lot of things we can be exploring," he said, noting he sees them having a role to play with the increasing interest in issues related to food.

"There's lots of people interested in things like market gardening, food security ... these are hot button issues in agriculture as well as in urban centres. I would like to see us explore some of those things."

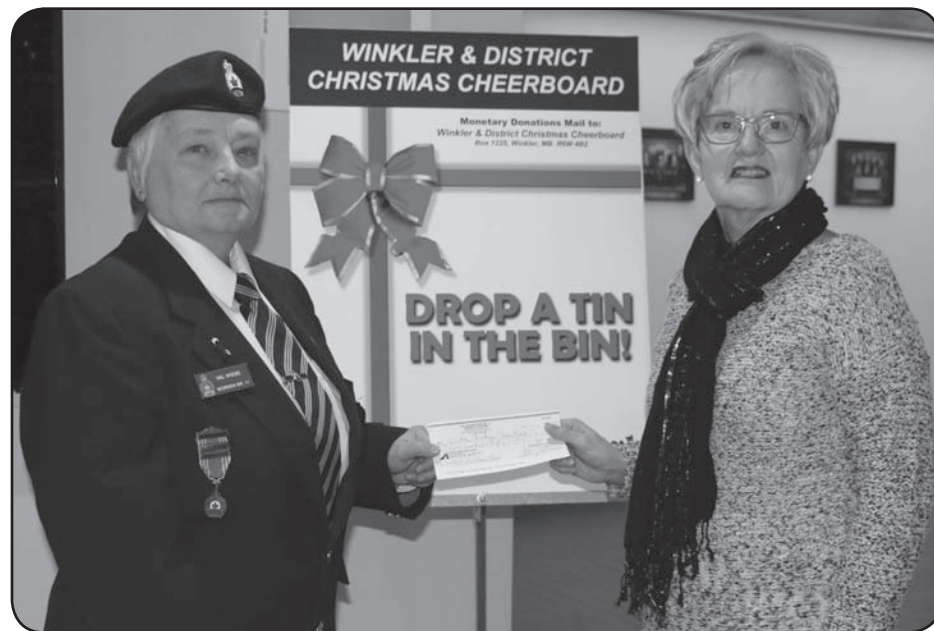
getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

Legion steps up to help Cheer Boards



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS AND LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



The Morden Legion presented the Winkler and Morden Christmas Cheer Boards with donations of \$250 last week toward this year's hamper campaigns. Val Wiebe (above) presented the donation to Winkler Cheer's Marilyn Dyck, while Bob Sagert (left) did the honours in Morden to the Cheer Board's Ron Peters. "We had a little bit of extra money ... and we figured this time of year we should give back," said Wiebe, noting the hamper campaigns were the perfect fit. "Thank you so much for thinking of the Cheer Board," said Dyck. "Any money we can collect is greatly appreciated," said Peters. Winkler's hampers went out this week. Morden's will be delivered next week.

Teen leads police on early morning chase

By Lorne Stelmach

A youth is facing charges after a series of late night break-ins that ended with a foot chase in Morden.

Police arrested the 16-year-old for two counts of break and enter, three charges of trespassing, and breach of probation.

It began around 2:30 a.m. Dec. 1 when police were called by a homeowner who had just kicked out someone who had entered his home and appeared intoxicated.

Officers searched the area but were unable to find the suspect, but then at 2:24 a.m. they were called by another resident who had just seen someone run through his back yard and was now at his neighbor's home pulling on their door.

Having a description of the suspect, who was seen running through yards on 1st St., police saw someone in a car port and approached him, but the suspect ran into the back yard. Offi-

cers gave chase on foot, with the suspect scaling several fences to evade them.

While still searching for the suspect, another resident reported a man had been seen dropping a phone on the ground outside her door and had entered the porch area of their home.

At 3 a.m., police got yet another call about someone banging on a door of another home. Officers again spotted the suspect running through yards and gave chase, eventually catching up to him this time and tackling him to the ground. The suspect continued to fight and struggle but was eventually handcuffed.

Police later received more reports of this individual in yards as well as being seen going through vehicles and entering homes.

The teen will be appearing in Morden Provincial Court in January.

Other items of note in the weekly police reports include:

- A 24-year-old Winkler man is fac-

ing numerous charges as a result of a Nov. 28 incident.

Police were called around 8 p.m. that day by a woman saying she and her boyfriend had just received death threats from a man known to them and that her boyfriend had also been assaulted.

The accused was arrested Nov. 30. He is charged with assault, uttering threats, breach of probation, and drug possession (crystal meth).

- A 53-year-old man was arrested in Morden for breaching a court order on Nov. 28.

Police were called that evening about a man appearing at the caller's home despite an order to not have any contact with her or be within 200 meters of her residence.

The suspect was gone when officers arrived, but the woman said she recognized his voice when he asked to be let in to the house.

Later that evening, the victim called police again about the man being

at her door, and he was again gone when officers arrived.

Police then parked a distance from the home and watched until a man in a dark jacket and hoodie came to the door. He was arrested.

It turned out the accused was already facing another charge for breaching the same order. He is now facing additional charges for disobeying the court order as well as four counts of breach of probation. The accused was remanded into custody pending his next court appearance.

- Winkler police are investigating several cases of theft from vehicles that occurred last week.

A Scotia Dr. resident reported that his vehicle had been rummaged through and numerous CDs and a garage door opener were taken.

A resident of 2nd St. also reported that a Sirius radio and a Pioneer radio were stolen from his locked car. There were no visible signs of forced entry to the vehicle.

arts&culture

A cowboy Christmas

By Lorne Stelmach

An upcoming concert will celebrate Christmas cowboy style in Morden.

The Dec. 17 show will not only feature a veteran country and roots music performer but also serves to help build a local ministry.

The Eli Barsi concert is coming to the area through the Cowboy Valley Church, which aims to share the gospel of Jesus Christ as part of the cowboy way of life.

"We love cowboy churches. It's a fun environment," Barsi said in an e-mail interview. "It allows us to present our cowboy gospel music in all kinds of situations and scenarios ... from small cattle sale rings and community halls to barns or rodeo arenas.

"I have always loved gospel music of all genres," she added. "I love promoting the Lord, and I love the western lifestyle and promoting its heritage."

"The idea behind it is really just to connect with people who love the cowboy way of life ... the event is for anyone who wants to come to it though, it's not just a cowboy event," said pastor and event organizer Blair Bates. "We want to celebrate Christmas, and Eli Barsi is a wonderful artist."

The Cowboy Valley Church had its

beginnings for Bates and his wife Brenda about 10 years ago, though ministry work for the couple goes back about 30 years after meeting at Bible college in Saskatchewan.

They were living and serving in Peachland, B.C. when someone brought the idea of cowboy church to them.

"We were already part of the cowboy culture ... but we had never been presented with this before," said Bates.

He said they did some research and discovered there was a growing movement, particularly in the southern United States, though with only a few at the time in western Canada.

The initial opportunities arose through the rodeo circuit with their daughter, who eventually moved up to the semi-pro rodeo level.

"We were doing rodeos throughout British Columbia ... we travelled around ... hosting a cowboy church service at these rodeo events, and that's when we discovered there was a real opportunity in what we were doing," said Bates.

Given that both their family's heritages were rooted in farming and ranching, doing a cowboy church came to feel like a natural fit.

They have carried on with it now here since moving in 2014 to the Mor-

Eli Barsi performs in Morden Dec. 17.

SUPPLIED PHOTO



den area, where his wife Brenda has family roots.

Their home base is South Point Ranch southwest of Morden where they continue to develop their ministry.

"We're slowly making some inroads and meeting some of the families and some of the contestants and building those relationships with the hope that we will be able to start doing some cowboy church services at some rodeo events," said Bates.

"We want people to be aware that there is a cowboy ministry in this area ... with the purpose to connect people with Jesus, but also those who love the cowboy way of life."

WESTERN NOSTALGIA

Barsi said she was excited to bring her Christmas show to Morden, where she will be joined by her musician husband John Cunningham.

Playing western roots, folk, bluegrass and country, they are also both accomplished yodellers.

"I have recorded most of these genres throughout the years on one album or another," noted Barsi, a Saskatchewan farm girl whose career has taken her all over the world.

Barsi said she has always had a deep desire for music.

"Always have, always will. It's very much a part of who I am," she said. "I don't see me slowing down. I seem to be still coming up with new ideas all the time. So as long as that's happening, I feel that God is pointing me in directions he needs me to be and wants me to keep going."

"Again, it's not about me, it's about making a difference," Barsi stressed. "Music and the message in a song can be a powerful thing."

Barsi said her performance will be Christmas flavoured with many recognizable carols along with some original tunes.

"All in the style of western roots, bluegrass and traditional country and focusing on the real message of Christmas," she said. "We may have a surprise guest or two on stage ... we'll see ... but it's going to be a very fun, family Christmas show, and we look very forward to being in your community."

The Morden show takes place at the Morden Alliance Church Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. It's free admission, though an offering will be accepted.



Artist Diana Persson led a workshop Saturday at the Pembina Hills gallery on painting water-colour Christmas cards. The Morden gallery also hosted its Christmas open house that afternoon as part of a number of holiday events last week and this week that included workshops on making felt ornaments and decorated gift bags.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



PJs and stories at the library



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Genesis House wrapped up Domestic Violence Awareness Month Dec. 1 with its annual Pyama Party at the Winkler Library. Party-goers, who of course came decked out in their PJs, enjoyed family reading time (right), storytelling courtesy of librarian Cathy Ching (above), a holiday craft, and Christmas cookies.

The Winkler Morden Voice What's Your story? Call 325-6888

Winkler's first Comic Con set for Feb. 20

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The time has finally come for Winkler area sci-fi, fantasy, and pop culture fans to break out their cosplay attire.

Plans are in the works for the very first Winkler Comic Con.

"For the last few years, I've been trying to find a good formula for a winter event for Winkler," says city events coordinator Deb Penner. "So far, nothing has really clicked and grabbed the public's attention."

"After doing some brainstorming with Darren Crane, a teacher at GVC, we came up with the idea for a comic con," she says. "Everyone I've talked to has been very supportive and we think this may be the first and only rural comic convention in the country."

For Crane, this is a great chance for people to show their love of all things "geeky" a little closer to home.

"It's not going to be exactly like Comic Con in Winnipeg yet, but you've got to start somewhere," he says. "As we build and depending on the interest from the community and the surrounding areas, this could grow into something much bigger."



Winkler Comic Con 2017 will take place on Feb. 20, Louis Riel Day, at locations throughout the city, including Garden Valley Collegiate, the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre, The Bunker, and the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall.

"We want to display comic book art and have artists at work in the gallery, The Bunker will host the video and board games, while the concert hall will show movies and host panel discussions," says Penner, adding there will also be a costume competition

A joy to give, but not to kids.

A reminder that lottery tickets are for adults only.

18+



MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES

GameSense

Continued on page 15



Filling the hampers



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Winkler and District Christmas Cheer Board volunteers were hard at work Monday through Wednesday preparing upwards of 320 care hampers for delivery to families in need throughout the Winkler area. Volunteers spent hours wrapping gifts (above), organizing food donations (left), and, of course, filling up the hampers for delivery Wednesday evening.

Community fdn. grant buys wigs for SCCR

By Lorne Stelmach

Funding from the Winkler Community Foundation is helping clients of South Central Cancer Resource.

A \$1,000 foundation grant was used to purchase six new wigs for the centre as well as new wig stands and brushes.

SCCR's wig bank now has a selection of 75 synthetic wigs in varying styles and colours.

"We update our wigs to the current

styles," said administrative co-ordinator Deb Thiessen, who notes the wide selection is important to clients who use the wigs during their battle with cancer.

The agency loans out wigs for a rental fee of \$25. They can also advise people on where to purchase a wig if they'd prefer to go that route, Thiessen said.

Whether the clients want something to look similar to their old hairstyle or have a different look entirely, they

have the choice.

"They can change that wig up as many times as they want," Thiessen said. "If they want a new style, they can come back in and try on some new wigs."

The reward for the centre comes when they see the impact it can have on their clients.

"Their whole attitude changes when they walk out of here," said Thiessen. "When you see them come in ... and they are so down ... when they leave here, there is a smile on their face."

"It puts a smile on our face too, when we see them leave ... so excited about going out in public and feeling like themselves again."

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

SCCR was able to purchase several new wigs thanks to a grant from the Winkler Community Foundation.

Old Tyme Christmas at Winkler museum



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler Heritage Museum filled the halls at the Southland Mall with carols as they celebrated their annual Old Tyme Christmas on Dec. 1. The evening included musical performances from John Nickel, Anne Falk, and Dave Nickel (left), Ellie Reimer and pianist Jason Dyck leading everyone in song (above), and holiday stories from Helen Reimer (right) and Ed Zacharias, as well as treats after the show.



> COMIC CON, FROM PG. 13

and a chance to snap a photo with your favourite characters at each venue.

Organizers are also reaching out to both local and out-of-town comic, gaming, and pop culture merchandise vendors to attend the event.

Planning is still very much in its early stages, and since this is such a new event for the community, organizers hope to hear from potential attendees about what they'd like to see.

"We are early enough in the planning to add pieces to the schedule," says Penner. "I would appreciate hearing from people

who have attended large comic cons, to help us make sure we do this right."

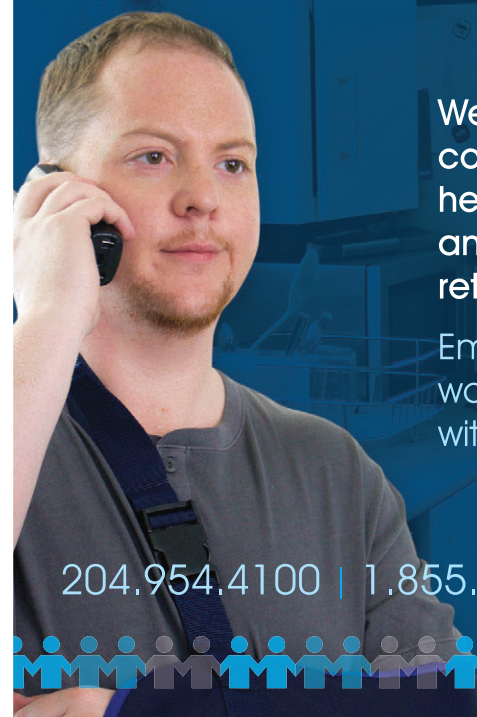
"We want to reach the people that we can," Crane says. "So if it means we need to tweak it a little more to the video games/hockey cards/comics, we'll do that. Or if all of the sudden we have a bunch of Trekkies, guess what? We want to know what the community wants to see."

If you'd like to weigh-in on Winkler's first comic con or get involved with the planning committee or as an event volunteer, contact Penner at 204-325-5600 or at dpenner@cityofwinkler.ca.

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Your Christmas WISH LIST



Christmas tree varieties and care

An evergreen tree decked out in lights and ornaments is one of the universal symbols of the holiday season. The Christmas tree tradition is believed to have originated in Germany in the 15th or 16th centuries, when trees were decorated with edibles, such as nuts and fruits. They were later decorated with candles and eventually lights.

Through the centuries, people have trekked to forests, Christmas tree farms and commercial lots to pick the perfect trees for their holiday displays. The National Christmas Tree Association says more than 33 million real trees are purchased each year, making the tree business a billion-dollar industry. While there are scores of evergreen varieties, certain tree types are more popular than others and thus more available for purchase. The following are some of the more popular trees come Christmastime.

- **Eastern Redcedar:** Branches of the tree are compact and form a pyramid-shaped crown. The trees should be a dark, shiny green color. The eastern redcedar is not a true cedar tree, but a member of the juniper family. This tree can make a great cut tree with a homespun look and a pungent fragrance.

- **Leyland Cypress:** This cypress is one of the more popular Christmas trees in the southeastern United States. The tree will be very dark green to almost gray in color. It has little aroma. Some people choose the Leyland because it does not produce sap, which is great for those with sap allergies.

- **Colorado Blue Spruce:** An attractive blue-green foliage and a good symmetrical form is what attracts many people to the blue spruce. The Colorado Blue Spruce has an excellent natural shape and requires little pruning to look like the perfect Christmas tree. It's not very fragrant, but the tree needles may give off an unpleasant odor when crushed.

- **Scotch Pine:** A classic conical shape and very good needle retention help make the Scotch pine a popular tree to cut for the holidays. Scotch pines also are quite prevalent thanks to the tree's adaptability to a wide range of climates.

- **Eastern White Pine:** A delicate green color and long needles are found on this tree. Another popular pine, the rich fragrance of the white pine may make it preferable to those who like their homes to smell of evergreen.

- **Douglas Fir:** The Douglas fir is one of the foremost Christmas tree species in the United States. It has soft needles that are dark green in color. Those needles radiate in all directions from the branches to give the tree a full look. The needles, when crushed, have a sweet fragrance. Douglas firs tend to live long when cut.

- **Fraser Fir:** Another popular fir for Christmas is the Fraser fir. The needles are bicolored, with dark green on top and silver on the bottom. More fragrant than its cousin, the Douglas, the Fraser also boasts a slender profile, which makes it suitable for smaller rooms.

Nothing can guarantee the health and appearance of a tree after it is brought into a home. But choosing a recently cut tree that has good needle retention can help. Here are other tips for a long-lasting tree.

- Use a sharp saw to cut an inch off of the trunk base to remove the sappy covering that forms from cutting. This will improve water intake.

- Fill a tree stand reservoir with warm water. Expect the tree to drink heavily in the beginning.

- Keep the reservoir filled every day and check to see how much water the tree is using.

Clean up pesky pine needles

Despite how well you may tend to Christmas trees and wreaths, you can expect some pine needles to find their way onto your floors during the holiday season. Such needles can become imbedded in carpeting or stuck in socks and furniture, proving to be quite a nuisance. Attempting to vacuum them all up can be frustrating, as some vacuums simply do not have the suction power to handle all of those heavy needles. Plus, they can become lodged in the inner cavities of the vacuum and clog it. To lessen the mess, wrap a tree bag around the base of the Christmas tree when you are setting it up and hide it under the tree skirt. This bag will catch many of the needles that fall off during the season. Each day, sweep any needles that make it to the floor so they are not tracked around the house throughout the month of December. Think about making a homemade sticky needle catcher. Wrap duct tape around your hands or a broom with the sticky side facing out, then pat areas of the floor where needles have accumulated, and the needles will likely stick to the tape. If you want the evergreen aroma to last a little longer in your home, place collected pine needles in a cloth satchel and make a potpourri bag for an inexpensive air freshener.

Merry Christmas

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Your Christmas

Keep poinsettias looking great through the holidays

WISH LIST

Along with the fragrant evergreens and twinkling lights synonymous with the holiday season, poinsettias make up a key component of holiday decorating.

Unlike holly and some of the other greenery that is commonly associated with the holidays, poinsettias do not naturally thrive in the colder temperatures. These plants originate in southern Mexico and were considered an exotic plant when first introduced to the United States by Joel Robert Poinsett, the first American ambassador to Mexico.

Poinsettias can be fickle plants and ones that gardening novices may find challenging to maintain. The plants are comprised of green foliage, colorful (often

red) flower bracts, and the actual flowers of the plants, which are the red or green buttonlike parts nestled in the center of the bracts.

Because they are a tropical plant, poinsettias can be damaged by exposure to low temperatures, even if they are only exposed for short periods of time. They should be wrapped and protected against the elements when brought home. For maximum plant life, poinsettias need to be placed near a warm, sunny window, or another area that has ample amounts of light. They thrive in temperatures between 60 and 75 F and should be kept away from warm or cold drafts.

Water the plant whenever the surface feels dry to the

touch. Water until it drains out the bottom, but don't let the plant sit in water. Over- or under-watering can cause leaves to drop prematurely and wilt. If your home lacks in humidity, you may need to water the plant more frequently. Poinsettias do not need to be fertilized while the plant is in bloom.

The Ohio State University Extension says poinsettias can be reflowered the following Christmas, but unless a yearlong schedule of care is observed, the results usually are not good. You can speak with a gardening expert or consult online resources for the proper care schedule. Caring for a poinsettia year-round involves gradually drying out the plant and storing it in a cool location. The plant later will be moved outdoors and then back inside and pruned to keep a full shape.

Poinsettias are short-day plants, which means they flower about 10 weeks after the daylight shortens to

about 12 hours or less. Therefore, to have the plant in full flower by Christmas, it will have to be kept in complete darkness between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. from the first part of October until Thanksgiving. Many people find the affordability of poinsettias makes it more convenient to buy new ones each year than try to foster regrowth.

Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not poisonous to humans or animals, but they should not be ingested due to the potential for allergic reactions. Poinsettias can help remove pollutants from indoor air, which is advantageous during the winter months when doors and windows are typically kept closed.

Select plants that have dark green foliage and no low or damaged leaves. This ensures the best success for keeping poinsettias looking healthy and vibrant throughout the holiday season.

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Christmas is a wonderful time for family and friends to come together and celebrate. However, this time of year can be rather difficult for some, particularly the elderly. A great number of senior citizens — living either alone or in a retirement home — spend the holidays in isolation. That's why it's so important to devote some quality time to your aging loved ones. You'd be surprised at how a single visit during the holiday season can make a world of difference.

PLAN YOUR VISITS
If you plan on visiting an older loved one or are looking to volunteer at a retirement home, try making the most of your time with the elderly by doing an activity. You could:

- Visit a museum or an art gallery
- Attend a seminar on a topic they're passionate about
- Read a story together
- Take a walk outside
- Share a meal, at your place or a restaurant

If mobility is an issue, you could always talk about your current projects, reminisce about childhood memories (yours or theirs) or leaf through some photo albums. If you have any children or pets, bring them along. Kids are a great source of joy for seniors, and our lovable animal companions are good for curing loneliness.

Setting some time aside to visit our elders is important, and not just at Christmas. We need to make an effort throughout the year. Regular calls and occasional visits and outings when possible are some of the best gifts you can give them.

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PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler EMMC's living nativity play was a huge hit last weekend, drawing over 2,800 people and collecting 2,100 pounds of food for the Winkler Food Cupboard and \$2,500 for MCC's Christmas Giving project. Organizer Lois Hildebrand sends thanks out to everyone who came out to make the show such a success. "Everybody had a great time," she said.



From Everywhere to Bethlehem guided visitors through the Christmas story, stopping to talk with kings, prophets, market women, and shepherds before hearing about a special birth from a chorus of angels, and, finally, visiting the Christ child.



Your FARM



Easing temporary foreign worker restrictions a positive step

By Harry Siemens

Manitoba Pork chair George Matheson says it appears adjustments by the new federal government to Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program will make it more responsive to the needs of the pork industry.

Hog producers discussed the issue at the organization's producer meetings in Niverville and Portage la Prairie this fall.

Matheson says working in a swine barn can be hard, dirty work and a lot of young people would prefer to do something else. Also, many of the barns are in remote areas, so it can be difficult to find labourers willing to

live so far from urban centres.

Restrictions to the Temporary Foreign Worker didn't make things any easier for producers.

"On the federal scene, with the government now in power for about a year, one of the big issues we had was the source of labor that we need for our plants and for our barns often has been coming from the Temporary Foreign Worker Program," Matheson says. "The previous government made adjustments that did not work for us, making it more difficult for us to access a labour source. This federal government we feel will allow these foreign workers to stay in the country longer, hopefully, gain some English

skills that will allow them to apply for citizenship and then become full-time residents and part of this country."

The previous Conservative federal government had restricted the percent of foreign workers that could work at processing plants, Matheson says. That is slated to possibly change under the Liberals, who are reviewing that and 20 other recommendations of changes to the program made by a parliamentary committee.

Matheson says both producers and processors had relied on the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to fill positions that would have remained vacant, so these changes being made to the program are a step in the right direction.

Canadian Meat Council's Ron Davidson agrees, noting many of the proposed changes will be a boon to the red meat industry, as well.

"For example, they have spoken about increasing the speed and effi-

ciency with which labor market impact assessments are undertaken. That would be very helpful," he says. "They have recommended a trusted employer program. This is an employer who has used the program in previous years and has demonstrated the ability or the willingness to follow the program requirements.

"There's a potential to permit minor modifications so, if you want to give a temporary foreign worker raise, you can do that. It's odd that we are being prevented from providing raises to foreign workers when they're in the country. That did not make a lot of sense.

"They've also recommended that the program has more specific application to reflect the realities market needs in particular sectors and regions," Davidson says. "That's precisely what we're talking about. We're emphasizing in particular abattoirs in rural environments and looking at the

one shot fits all just isn't living in reality.

"There's a reference to expanding the definition of primary agriculture. If primary agriculture is expanded to include primary processing, that would be helpful to the meat industry."

While there are a few recommendations that could be problematic, depending on their interpretation, Davidson says that for the most part things look pretty positive.

The government is expected to respond to the report's recommendations early in the new year.

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Canadian pigs playing a role in U.S. markets

By Harry Siemens

While Canada plays a much smaller part in the total livestock industry across North America, the livestock Canadian producers raise is still quite significant.

The publishers of the *Daily Livestock Report* by the CME group from Chicago reviewed live animal imports from Canada recently.

Starting with feeder cattle, as this number impacts placements of cattle into feedlots, year-to-date the U.S. has imported almost 173,000 head. This is 109,000 fewer head, a 40 per cent decrease, compared to the same time frame in 2015.

"In 2015, we imported a total of almost 290,000 head of feeder cattle from Canada. For the last few weeks of 2016, imports are expected to be above a year ago, still the yearly total will be down dramatically year-over-year," says the report.

The Livestock Marketing Information Center forecasts imports to increase in 2017, largely due to the closure of the largest cattle feeding operation in Canada this year because of persistently poor returns.

The U.S. also imports slaughter cattle from Canada, although these animals are not included in the marketing number on the monthly *Cattle on Feed* report as they did not go through a U.S. feed yard.

The report says so far in 2016 the U.S. has imported just over 265,000 head of slaughter steers and heifers. In 2015, they imported over 215,000. Similar imports are expected in 2017.

It is not only cattle that Canadian producers ship south, but live hogs as well.

The Americans have brought in 3.8 million feeder pigs year-to-date—up from 3.6 million during the same time frame the year before. They have also imported 374,000 head of slaughter barrow and gilts, a few thousand down from last year.

Hog commentator Jim Long senses that the bottom is in the U.S. hog market.

"Hog weights are five pound per carcass weight below a year ago, reflecting aggressive producer marketing," he says. "U.S. pork cut-outs are staying strong, at \$0.74 per pound despite huge marketings. Packer gross margins are excellent, at nearly \$60 per head. We expect that as hog marketing decreases, there will be a rapid increase in lean hog prices."

On the other hand, Tyler Fulton, director of risk management with h@ms Marketing Services, says the

lower value of the Japanese yen and Mexican peso, compared to the U.S. dollar, could influence the export demand needed to clear a heavy supply of pork hog producers are raising right now in North America.

Fulton says over the past couple of months the supply of slaughter hogs has been running very close to the total U.S. slaughter capacity, resulting in downward pressure on live hog markets.

"The hope is that the competition will pick up as live hog supplies move down and we'll see some improve-

ment but that recovery is contingent on good pork sales both domestically and into the export markets," he says. "I think generally speaking domestic consumers have shown a strong demand for pork but there is just this heavy supply that we need to clear from the market. We either do that in the domestic market place or in export markets."

Fulton says the Japanese yen and Mexican peso, the two top markets that represent more than 50 per cent of pork exports from the United States, have come under significant

pressure against the U.S. dollar in the last three weeks or so.

"That makes U.S. pork more expensive and is probably having a negative impact on the volume of pork exports," he says. "That's not a good scenario when we're trying to clear this really heavy supply of pork that the North American industry is producing right now. To date we've not seen a real negative effect on wholesale pork prices yet but we could, especially if we start struggling to clear the market of inventory and we see it build up week over week."



By Harry Siemens

I think we need to oppose any kind of carbon tax at all levels of government if we are to remain competitive with our farming production, and any other exports, especially now with the U.S. president-elect Donald Trump days away from power.

Here in Manitoba, Premier Brian Pallister says the introduction of a carbon pricing system must not derail the economic development within the province.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's federal government recently announced they will have a carbon pricing system in place in all provinces by the end of 2018. That, of course, happened before the U.S. election and a sharp turn of events in that country as it pertains to how to handle climate change—a carbon tax will not be part of it.

While Pallister, following his government's speech from the throne, says climate change is an issue that is going to matter to all of us and can't be ignored, Manitobans have endured the highest increases in taxes over the last few years under the previous administration and he shares the concerns of all Manitobans that we don't want to pay more taxes and get less for it.

"I'm very concerned that the federal government imposing this tax on our province not impact unduly on any sector of our economy because our economy needs rebuilding," he says. "It has declined over the last few years. We're ninth over the last six years in terms of economic growth versus all the other provinces and that has to change. So any

impact of additional tax burden the federal government might choose to impose has to be offset by revenues going back into economic activities that build our province."

The premier says Manitoba will not, if the federal government proceeds as they're proposing, be using this tax revenue as a so-called tax grab, and this particularly pertains to agriculture, which is a key part of rebuilding and growing our economy.

Dan Mazier, president of Keystone Agricultural Producers, applauds Pallister's commitment to ensure a provincial carbon pricing system will not hinder economic recovery.

While Mazier says a carbon pricing system must consider the competitive position of farmers, I don't agree with him on that one. If we don't take a stand against this federal tax grab we will have the fed's hand in our front pocket.

I do agree with Mazier that farmers have no ability to get that tax back out of the system.

"We're price takers and it's whatever the market is offering," he says. "Manitoba exports probably 70 per cent of their products and, if we're competing against a nation or another place that doesn't have a carbon tax, that is an extra cost that's being borne by our agriculture community that we couldn't compete against so it basically makes us uncompetitive. That's what a bad system could do."

Mazier says Pallister's pledge to include agriculture in the discussions and to not use a carbon tax as a tax grab is especially positive.

Following that exchange, a KAP delegation met with Dori Gingera-

Beauchemin, deputy minister for agriculture, and David McLaughlin, the province's advisor for climate change, introducing KAP's new policy on carbon pricing.

According to Mazier, that policy calls for an exemption on direct emissions such as fuel and fertilizer use, because farmers will already be paying on the purchase price of these inputs as manufacturers pass the carbon price onto them. The KAP delegation stressed there would be no way for farmers to pass the price on if they were to be taxed on direct emissions.

Another part of KAP's carbon pricing policy calls for some of the revenue from a carbon price to help producers sequester carbon and reduce emissions. As well, they called for investment into research that will help them move to zero or negative emissions. Both of these requests are also part of the carbon-pricing policy.

Well, unless someone tells me different, putting a value on carbon in the air is a bit like trying to dress a ghost, don't you think?

One more thing, Premier Pallister: why not do what Premier Brad Wall is doing in Saskatchewan? He recognizes the carbon for what it is: a tax grab that will hurt his province's economic development.

Wall is threatening to take the federal government to court over the national carbon tax plan. He has instructed provincial justice officials to look at legal options should the federal government forge ahead on the carbon tax and those lawyers believe there's a strong case.

Good on Premier Wall.

Speaking out against carbon tax

Bridging the culture gap in the kitchen

By Lorne Stelmach

A series of world cooking classes in Morden over the next five months are about so much more than food.

Delectable recipes from around the globe may be the draw, but it is also about building community, say organizers.

"It's giving people in the community another way to experience folks from other places, and what better way is there than through food?" said Lynette Froese, an integration worker with Regional Connections, which is working with the Morden Rec. Department to organize the classes.

With a mandate to help newcomers to the region, the organization saw these classes as a good fit for them.

"We're always looking for ways to help these folks integrate," said Froese. "This is kind of a reverse way of doing it. We're getting people to take a trip into the environment and the culture of the people who are coming here."

Stephanie Dueck, Morden's recre-

"WE'RE GETTING PEOPLE TO TAKE A TRIP INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE CULTURE OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE COMING HERE."

ation programmer, was inspired to start it here after going to a cooking class in Brandon with a Philippines theme.

"I thought we have a lot of newcomers in Morden, lots of different countries represented here," she said.

Also having a role on the local committee involved in the integration of newcomers in the community, Dueck also saw this as a good, fun way to do to help achieve that goal.

"People who maybe would not otherwise have met or have connected ... they'll have an opportunity to do

The first of a series of five world cooking classes included recipes for a buttery spinach pie, shown here, along with a sweet and sour soup with beef, Russian 'mimosa' salad and Turkish baklava.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Natalya Kus led a class of 10 people through preparing a menu of Turkish and Russian dishes Dec. 1 at the Morden 55+ Activity Centre.

that," she said. "We're hoping that it will foster those connections, help build our sense of community."

The classes began Dec. 1 at the Morden 55 Plus Activity Centre with recipes from Turkey and Russia. The menu included solyanka soup (sweet and sour with beef), Russian mimosa salad, spinach pie and Turkish baklava.

The monthly series continues Jan. 5 with Brazilian dishes, Feb. 2 with a Philippines theme, March 2 with food from India, and then concludes April 6 with dishes from Mexico.

Dueck noted they have a caterer on hand to help oversee each class, while a Mordinite from each national background co-ordinates the menu and guides the participants.

"We were hoping volunteers will also put a display together on the country, and they'll share informally throughout the event about their country, their culture, their food," she said.

"It's a very hands-on experience. The people who have signed up will do all the cooking ... all the chopping, mixing and the preparation," Dueck said, adding they then will enjoy the results of their efforts and be able to take the recipes home with them."

Dueck noted sponsors were helping keep the cost down to \$10.

"We wanted it to be accessible to

anyone and everyone," she said, adding the response was so overwhelming they're already talking about doing another series next fall. "The class filled up about two days after I opened registration. We're taking 10 people in each class, and I have quite a number on my waiting list."

For Natalya Kus, who headed up the class for Turkey and Russia, it was an opportunity to share a number of favourite family recipes.

"Some of them were favorites of my husband ... some of them like baklava many people know ... but they may know different recipes and different ways of doing it," she said.

Kus saw the class as a good way for her to make some more connections in the community.

"I need to be involved in something

in the community," she said. "I'm enjoying it. It's good company."

Gena Hoepfner signed up for all five classes because she thought it would be fun to learn some different recipes and a bit about a different culture at the same time.

"I like the idea that you're going to have a group to cook with, clean up with and eat with ... it should just be fun," she said. "It's been fun getting to know them all while you're cooking. There's a lot of different personalities here. It's been great."

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INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Thunder at the top of the pack

This past week was a busy one in Zone 4 boys high school hockey.

Both the Northlands Parkway Collegiate Nighthawks and the Morden Thunder had several games, with Morden coming out on top in all of them.

The Thunder started off by crushing Prairie Mountain 9-2 Thursday. The next night they blanked Portage 4-0 and then beat Morris 8-2 on Saturday.

NPC had more mixed results, beating Portage 3-2 on the Thursday and the Mustangs 6-5 on Friday before falling to Altona 4-3 on Saturday.

Then, on Monday, the Nighthawks fell to the Pembina Tigers 3-2.

The Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs, meanwhile, competed at the MTS Iceplex in Winnipeg, falling to Shaftesbury 8-4 and Murdock Mackay 2-0, before earning a 4-4 tie against Mackay in game three.

Morden is currently number one in the league's standings with a flawless 11-0 record. Carman sits in the second place spot, followed by NPC in third with a 7-3 record. GVC remains in last place with no wins yet in league play.



Morden's Josh Sawatzky completes a pass despite the Trojan's tight check in Friday's game against Portage, which the Thunder won 4-0.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Winkler Flyers flawless on northern road trip

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers were on fire up north this weekend.

Following up on a disappointing 6-3 loss to the Selkirk Steelers on Nov. 29, the Flyers more than made up for it with three straight wins on the road in Dauphin, Waywayseecappo, and Virden.

They got things started by doubling up on the Kings 4-2 Friday night.

Despite firing 17 shots on goal in the opening period, it wasn't until the second frame that Winkler lit up the net with a Tanner Lewis goal at the

12:05 mark.

Dauphin managed to bookend that middle period with two goals of their own, but they were the last they would get, while Winkler's Lawson McDonald, Matt Christian, and Scott Gall, scoring on an empty net, fired home three more for the win.

Winkler massively outshot the Kings 42-15, with Cole Weaver making 13 saves in net for the Flyers.

Weaver got a break the next night as newcomer Troy Martyniuk got his start between the Winkler posts in the match against the Wolverines.

Martyniuk stopped nearly everything that came his way—38 saves in all—save a lone Waywayseecappo goal at the end of the second period.

His new teammates, meanwhile, fired 39 shots the other way and made good on five of them, with Christian scoring two and singles coming from Lewis, Brayden Cullum, and Gall.

The final road trip game against Virden was the weekend's closest affair, but victory still went to Winkler 2-1.

Jacob Lacasse got the Flyers on the board in the first and Braden Billaney

followed up an Oil Capitals' point in the second, while Weaver, back in net again for Winkler, slapped away 18 shots.

Winkler is now 22-9 so far this season, putting them in second place with 44 points. They're just five points back of the first place Pistons and one up on the fourth place OCN Blizzard.

This week the Flyers were slated to take on Steinbach on Wednesday. Results were not available at press time.

The boys get a break this weekend

Continued on page 26

Royals earn first win

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Royals earned their first win of the season over the weekend in a hard-fought battle with the Warren Mercs.

After drawing first blood with a goal from Chad Unrau nine minutes in, the Royals found themselves playing catch up the rest of the game.

Scott Toews scored four minutes into the second period to tie things at 2-2, but Warren pulled ahead again with goals late in the second and early in the third.

Midway through the final frame, Blake Forsyth brought Winkler within a goal of tying things up. Four minutes later, Dustin Karshin did just that, taking advantage of a powerplay to score and ultimately send the game into an extra period.

There, Mark Hildebrand slammed home the game-winner in the 5-4 vic-

tory.

Matt Krahn got the win in net, making 45 saves as Winkler outshot Warren by 50-49.

Winkler's celebrations were short-lived, though, as they fell two nights later to the visiting Notre Dame Hawks 4-2. Scoring for Winkler was Marlin Froese and Justin Lussier, while Krahn made 42 saves in net.

With that, Winkler's record is now 1-9 for two points, which keeps them in last place in the SEMHL standings.

The Morden Redskins, meanwhile, found themselves on the losing end of their match against the Stonewall Flyers Saturday night.

Despite a strong start that had them up 2-1 after the first 20 minutes with goals from Graham Leiding and Tyler Penner, Morden faltered in the second. The two goals scored by Jay Fehr and Clint Olson were drowned out by Stonewall's five-point period.

Dallas Holski winds up for a shot in the Redskins' game against the Stonewall Flyers Saturday night, which they lost 8-4. Winkler fared much better that night, posting their first win of the season over the Mercs 5-4 in overtime.

PHOTO
BY LANA MEIER/
VOICE



The Flyers added two more in the final frame for the 8-4 win.

Taking the loss in between the posts was Reed Peters, who made 39 saves as Stonewall outshot Morden 47-37.

Morden now has an even 3-3 record for six points, putting them in

fifth place behind Portage (14 points), Notre Dame (13 points), Carman (10 points), and Warren (seven points).

This week, the Redskins and the Royals face off in Morden on Saturday at 8 p.m. Morden also hosts Notre Dame Thursday night.

Pembina Valley Hawks lose to Thistles

By Lorne Stelmach

The male Pembina Valley Hawks came close in a pair of tough one goal losses last weekend.

A modest two game winning streak could have been four in a row were it not for the Hawks giving up leads twice in falling to the Thistles in back-to-back games in Kenora.

Pembina Valley gave up 2-0 and 4-2 leads Saturday in dropping a 5-4 decision and then saw a 5-4 lead end in a 6-5 shootout loss on Sunday.

Three unanswered third period goals got Kenora the win Saturday as the Thistles outshot the Hawks 41-35.

Aaron Brunn took the loss in net with 36 saves. Scoring for Pembina Valley were Elijah Carels, Cade Kowalski, Wyatt Cobb, and Travis Penner.

On Sunday, the Hawks turned a 2-1 deficit after one period into a 4-3 lead after two periods. They then needed a goal by Penner to tie it in the third and force overtime. Kenora won the shootout with the lone goal in the second round.

Carels scored twice including a shorthanded marker, putting him at a league-leading 22 goals, while Jayden McCarthy and Everett Bestland also scored for Pembina Valley, which was outshot 31-27.

Martin Gagnon allowed two goals on 11 shots in the first period and was then replaced by Brunn, who saved 17

of the 20 shots he faced through two periods and the five minute overtime.

Earlier in the week, the Hawks finished strong with a four goal third period that drove them to a 6-2 win at home over the Central Plains Capitals.

Special teams made the difference, with Pembina Valley not only picking up a pair of powerplay goals but also connecting for a shorthanded marker

by Dylan Dacquay that evened it at 1-1 in the first period.

Kolton Shindle scored on a man advantage to make it 2-1 at the first intermission then his second of the night opened scoring in the third period. Cobb, Carels and, Kowalski also scored in the final frame.

Brunn made 25 saves while the Hawks managed that same number of shots on goal.

Despite the weekend losses, the Hawks remained in sixth place with a record of 12-10-0-0-1 for 25 points, which left them three up on Southwest and Kenora and five back of the Winnipeg Thrashers.

Pembina Valley hits the road to Winnipeg to take on the Thrashers Saturday before hosting the Eastman Selects Sunday afternoon in Morden.

Hawks best Lightning, fall to Avros

By Lorne Stelmach

The female Pembina Valley Hawks suffered their third loss of the season to close out a busy three game weekend.

The Winnipeg Avros needed a shootout Sunday to come out on top 2-1 after the Hawks had taken a pair from the Interlake Lightning Friday and Saturday with 5-2 and 4-0 wins.

Gaining a point against the Avros provided the margin to keep Pembina Valley in first place at 12-2-1 for 25 points—just one ahead of Winnipeg at 12-3-0 for 24 points.

It was a showdown between the league's top goaltenders Sunday in Winnipeg, with Lauren Taraschuk bettering Halle Oswald of the Hawks

on this night. Each allowed only one goal through regulation and overtime, but the Avros netminder turned aside 41 shots while Oswald made 20 saves.

Alyssa Alderson scored the lone Pembina Valley goal in the third period to tie the game and force the extra period.

Kadynce Romijn turned in the 19-save shutout performance Saturday while the Hawks blasted an unbelievable 76 shots at the winless Lightning's netminder Kerigan Dowhy.

Veteran Sage McElroy-Scott led the way offensively with a hat trick for the Hawks, who had period leads of 2-0 and 3-0. The other goal came from Makenzie McCallum while Alderson and Toni Conrad each contributed a pair of assists.

On Friday, Dowhy had already had to turn in a 69 save performance for Interlake, stopping 141 of the 150 shots she faced over the two games. Romijn, by comparison, was only called on to face 21 shots.

McElroy-Scott had a pair of goals and a three point night for a five goal, six point performance over the two games. Other goals came from Alderson, McCallum and Brooklyn Platt. Conrad and Kelly-Rae Zdan chipped in a pair of assists each.

Pembina Valley get a break this weekend but then return to league play next week against the Westman Wildcats Dec. 16 and the Avros Dec. 18.

Contact Dueck by e-mail at sdueck@mordenmb.com or 204-822-5431 ext. 223 for more information and to register for the winter cycling workshop.

Manitoba Hockey Standings

MANITOBA JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Steinbach Pistons	29	24	4	1	49	121	57
Winkler Flyers	31	22	9	0	44	117	71
OCN Blizzard	30	20	7	3	43	96	69
Portage Terriers	27	20	7	0	40	117	81
Selkirk Steelers	26	17	8	1	35	93	77
Virden Oil Capitals	30	15	10	5	35	78	81
Winnipeg Blues	30	13	13	4	30	99	96
Swan Valley Stampede	26	9	14	3	21	72	98
Dauphin Kings	28	7	17	4	18	68	106
Neepawa Natives	28	7	21	0	14	70	119
Waywayseppoo Wolverines	29	3	24	2	8	69	145

MANITOBA MAJOR JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Pembina Valley Twisters	20	13	4	3	29	91	66
Charleswood Hawks	20	12	4	4	28	68	51
Raiders Jr. Hockey Club	21	13	7	1	27	94	58
St. James Canucks	22	13	8	1	27	78	75
Stonewall Jets	18	13	5	0	26	88	59
St. Vital Victorias	22	10	9	3	23	86	95
St. Boniface Riels	21	8	9	4	20	65	78
Transcona Railer Express	22	10	12	0	20	79	86
Ft. Garry/Ft. Rouge Twins	22	9	11	2	20	78	93
River East Royal Knights	22	4	18	0	8	51	117

SOUTH EASTERN MANITOBA HOCKEY LEAGUE

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Portage	7	7	0	0	14	40	16
Notre Dame	8	6	1	1	13	32	20
Carman	8	5	3	0	10	42	28
Warren	8	3	4	1	7	34	37
Morden	6	3	3	0	6	22	32
Altona	7	3	4	0	6	27	31
Stonewall	7	2	5	0	4	28	41
Winkler	9	1	8	0	2	22	42

MANITOBA AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Wild	22	17	3	0	36	122	42
Yellowhead	24	16	4	1	36	102	70
Brandon	22	15	5	1	32	93	57

Central Plains

25	15	9	1	31	107	87	
Thrashers	21	14	5	1	30	100	44
Pembina Valley	23	12	10	0	25	86	71
Southwest	21	11	10	0	22	69	83
Kenora	24	9	11	0	22	75	106
Eastman	23	10	12	1	21	78	77
Parkland	23	7	15	0	15	67	115
Interlake	21	6	13	0	14	57	96
Norman	25	4	20	0	9	62	170

AAA BANTAM HOCKEY LEAGUE

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Yellowhead Chiefs	17	12	3	1	26	69	36
Pembina Valley PV Hawks	17	12	4	0	25	111	35
Brandon Wheat Kings	15	11	2	2	24	74	38
Southwest Cougars	16	9	4	1	21	82	51
Central Plains Capitals	16	7	9	0	14	60	81
Parkland Rangers	15	2	13	0	4	27	102
Norman Wolves	21	1	20	0	2	25	185

MANITOBA FEMALE MIDGET AAA HOCKEY LEAGUE

	GP	W	L	T	OTW	OTL	Pts
PV Hawks	15	11	2	-	1	1	25
Winnipeg Avros	15	8	3	-	4	-	24
Westman Wildcats	14	10	2	-	1	1	23
Yellowhead Chiefs	15	9	5	-	1	-	20
Eastman Selects	13	5	4	-	-	4	14
Central Plains	13	3	8	-	-	2	8
Norman Wild	14	2	11	-	1	-	6
Interlake Lightning	15	-	13	-	1	1	3

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Morden Thunder	11	11	0	0	22	64	20
Carman Cougars	10	9	1	0	18	58	18
Northlands Parkway Collegiate							
Nighthawks (Winkler)	10	7	3	0	14	51	31
Morris Mavericks	11	7	4	0	14	58	39
Portage Collegiate Institute Trojans	14	5	8	0	11	35	44
W.C. Miller Aces (Altona)	11	5	6	0	10	50	51
Cartwright/Nellie McClung/Pilot Mount Tigers	10	3	6	1	7	42	49
Prairie Mountain Mustangs	11	3	8	0	6	45	67
Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs (Winkler)	12	0	12	0	0	12	96

STATS AS OF TUESDAY, December 6



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Access Event Centre was a hopping place last Sunday as young and old alike came out for the Morden and District United Way's annual Skate with Santa celebration.

take *a break*
≥ GAMES

> GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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

Sudoku Answer

[illegible]

Crossword Answer

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Large primate
 4. Annualized percentage rate
 7. Frictional horsepower
 8. Alternate name
 10. Incursion
 12. Metrical feet
 13. Musician Ingram
 14. Swiss river
 16. Text speak for annoying
 17. Squelch
 19. Will Ferrell played one
 20. Close violently
 21. Arrogant
 25. Goddess of the dawn
 26. Today (Spanish)
 27. Ethiopian town
 29. Speed
 30. Kids take it to school
 31. Bowling ball's adversary
 32. 1988 NFL MVP
 39. Volcanic crater
 41. Curved shape
 42. Discover by investigation
 43. Up in the air (abbr.)
 44. A son who shares his dad's name
 45. Assist in wrongdoing
 46. Actress Lathan
 48. Nonsense (slang)
 49. Sharp and forthright
 50. Midway between northeast and east
 51. NAACP cofounder Wells
 52. Soviet Socialist Republic
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Again
 2. Erectile organs
 3. Concluding speech

[illegible]

4. Pie ____ mode
5. With pustules
6. Muslim calendar month
8. Need it to live
9. Thailand
11. Container to serve food
14. Boxing great
15. Woolen blankets
18. Expresses surprise
19. Emergency medical services
20. Inflamed swelling of the eyelid
22. Reporter
23. Arrived extinct
24. Ad ____
27. Academic bill of rights
28. A pair
29. Pumpkin and apple are examples
31. China
32. Made illegal
33. Be mistaken
34. Stephen King's "Pennywise"
35. Semite
36. Martens with short tails
37. Large bodies of water
38. Lower in position
39. Dough used in Latin American cuisine
40. Calculating tools
44. Boxers do this
47. Macaw

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- Memory Gardens
- Cenotaph Grounds
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Tenders will be accepted at the R.M. OF THOMPSON CIVIC CENTRE 530 Norton Avenue, Miami, MB, on or before 4:30 p.m. December 20, 2016 by e-mail : rmthomp@mts.net or mail to :

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Submissions must contain:

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- List of equipment owned to complete required tasks
- 3 letters of reference

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For additional information contact the municipal office @ 204-435-2114

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Brandon Gun & Collectibles Show. Sat, Dec 10, 10 - 5 p.m. & Sun, Dec 11, 10 - 4 p.m., Keystone Centre. Buy, sell, trade.

Last Chance Craft Sale! 2 floors, over 100 crafters! Sunday, December 11th, 11-5. Canad Inns, Club Regent Hotel, 1415 Regent Ave W. Winnipeg, Admission \$3.

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PUBLIC NOTICE HEARING CITY OF MORDEN 2017 FINANCIAL PLAN

Pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act, the Council of the City of Morden invite all ratepayers of the City of Morden to a Public Hearing in respect to the 2017 Financial Plan (Budget) for the City of Morden. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested persons to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan. A presentation of the Financial Plan will be made at the Morden Civic Centre on **Monday, December 19th, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.** Copies of the Financial Plan will be available on December 16th, 2016.

PUBLIC HEARING 2017 FINANCIAL PLAN
Monday, December 19th, 2016
7:00 P.M.
195 STEPHEN STREET, MORDEN, MANITOBA



Please be advised that the Municipality of Pembina is accepting offers on a surplus 1990 Ford F-800 Fire Truck. The unit consists of a Smeal Cross-mount Pumper Complete with Waterous 840 GPM Class 'A' Fire Pump. The vehicle is sold as is, has a current safety with approximately 11,700 km. Pre-bid inspection date is December 15th, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Manitou Fire Hall located at 308 Front Avenue in Manitou. Representation from the Pembina Manitou Fire Department will be available to answer any questions. For general information of the truck, please contact Kevin Howatt at 204-242-4395.

An offer can be dropped off at the municipal office, mailed or emailed to the address below. Offers will be accepted until noon on Dec 30, 2016.

Municipality of Pembina
(204)-242-2838
360 PTH 3
Box 189, Manitou, MB R0G 1G0
Email: admin@pembina.ca

All reasonable offers will be considered however the municipality reserves the right to reject the highest or any offer.

THANK YOU

Morden Legion Branch #11 would like to thank everyone for attending the

CHRISTMAS Tea & Bake Sale FUNDRAISER on Nov. 26th.

Lorraine Hunt was the lucky winner of the gift basket which was donated by Deb Frost.

TENDER

Janitorial Tender Access Credit Union Morden

requires the services of a contractor to provide daily general cleaning duties for the interior and exterior of the building.

Tender information packages can be picked up from Access Credit Union Morden branch located at 430 Stephen St. or by e-mailing Dan.McCausland@accesscu.ca

Tenders, accompanied by a minimum of 2 references, must be received at ACU Morden Branch on or before **December 21, 2016, before 4:30 p.m.**

Tenders may be delivered, mailed or emailed to:
Access Credit Union Morden Branch
430 Stephen Street
Morden, MB R6M 1T6
email: Dan.McCausland@accesscu.ca
Contact: Dan McCausland 822.4485



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- From the Elias's**

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To be considered, you will be a high school graduate with the following credits: Mathematics 40S (Applied or Pre-Calculus), Physics 30S and English 40.

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Aboriginal candidates who do not currently meet all the above qualifications may be interested in our six month Aboriginal Line Trades Pre-Placement Training Program. Selected candidates will receive on-the-job training and academic upgrading to meet the minimum requirements to compete for a position in the Power Line Technician Training Program.

To be considered, you will be a high school graduate with at least **one** of the following credits: Mathematics 40S (Applied or Pre-Calculus), Physics 30S or English 40. Proof of Aboriginal Ancestry is also required.

Applications for both the Power Line Technician and Aboriginal Line Trades Pre-Placement Programs **must** include a personal résumé and a complete transcript of marks (high school and any post secondary). **Only complete applications will be considered.**

Visit our website at www.hydro.mb.ca/careers to apply online. If you are unable to access a computer, please call our Employment Line at 1-204-360-7282 or 1-800-565-5200.

The deadline for applications is **December 20, 2016**. We thank you for your interest and will contact you if you are selected for an interview.

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Manitoba Hydro is proud to have been selected as one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers for 2016. We are an equal opportunity employer and value the background, experience, perspective, and talents of each individual and we are encouraging applications from all qualified candidates including Aboriginal Peoples, Women, Visible Minorities and Persons with Disabilities.



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We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits plan.

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Limited, attention Ed Klassen, HR Manager at edwin@kroekers.com, or drop off your resume at 777 Circle K
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We thank all applicants for their interest!
Only those scheduled for interview will be contacted.

Announcements The Winkler Morden Voice

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CARDS OF THANKS

My wife Olga passed away recently. I would like to express my gratitude to the friends who have shown their love to me, with words, hugs, handshakes, gifts, food, phone calls, coffee meetings, and best of all, prayers. I will try to pay it forward. May God Bless You!

-Victor Enns

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Your Loved Ones
WITH AN
ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE**

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IN MEMORIAM



John Thiessen
1937-2013

They say it's a beautiful journey,
From the old world to the new;
Someday we'll make that journey,
Which will lead us straight to you.
And when we reach that garden,
In which there is no pain;
We'll put our arms around you,
And never part again.

-We love and miss you
Sara and family

OBITUARY

Peter Dyck

1976 – 2016

Peter E. Dyck, aged 40 years went to his eternal rest on Saturday, November 26, 2016.

He leaves to mourn his wife, Martha (nee Fehr); one daughter, Tiffany Dyck; one son, Alvin Dyck; his mother; six sisters and three brothers and their families. He was predeceased by his father, Isaac W. Dyck.

A private burial was held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 3, 2016 at the German Old Colony Mennonite Church Cemetery in Hochfeld followed by a time of remembrance by invitation in the German Old Colony Mennonite Church in Hochfeld.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Peter's memory to the Canadian Bipolar Association.



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



OBITUARY

Lillian Ruth Groening

January 19, 1968 – November 24, 2016

Lillian Ruth Groening, 48, of Lowe Farm passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 24, 2016 at the Boundary Trails Health Center, with her husband Don at her side. She is survived by her husband Don, her daughter Jillana and her son Rylan. She was predeceased by her daughter Adrienne.

Lillian was born on January 19, 1968 to Peter and Betty Redekopp of Plum Coulee, Manitoba. She grew up on a farm north of Plum Coulee, attended school in Plum Coulee and graduated from Garden Valley Collegiate with Highest Honors. Lillian was always a confident, assertive child which added much spice to the Redekopp home.



Lillian's faith in Jesus was very evident in every facet of her life. As a child she learned about Jesus, through her regular church attendance. Her personal spiritual journey began at 16 through the ministry of Ron Kehler at the Hordean youth group and her baptism at the Winkler EMMC a few years later. She had a passion for Christ and this led to many areas of involvement in ministry, through Sunday School, kids club, youth, object lessons, organizing Christmas programs, and hosting Bible Studies. Lillian's faith in Jesus was very evident in the way she expressed her faith at work, and her daily activities. Her key life verse was Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me"

After high school she began nurses training at the St Boniface School of nursing where she received her RN Degree. She diligently worked full time first at Morden, then Winkler, and then part time at Boundary Trails while raising her family.

Don and Lillian were married on October 28, 1989, and enjoyed a full life together. Lillian had a passionate engaging personality and filled many places with her cheerful banter. She was a generous and hospitable hostess.

Lillian spoke endlessly about her children and was extremely proud in each of their accomplishments. She did whatever she could to make the kids schedule a priority. She would willingly sign up the kids for their favorite activities and faithfully drive them to practices, games, recitals, parties, and school. She encouraged her kids to find their passion and calling and fully supported their decisions.

On a personal level, Lillian was an info-maniac, a bookworm, an intellect, and a take charge person with a strong personality. Unfortunately, this led to patience not being her strongest virtue. In addition to this, she loved to tell stories. These stories often contained embellishments that were often challenged by her kids. "It made the story better!" she would claim. She was also a caring person, making friends wherever she was. Whether it was at the hockey rink, at work, at church, or in the line at Superstore, it seemed she could always make a new friend.

In memory of Lillian, the family has chosen to support the Boundary Trails Palliative Care Room Furniture Project by outfitting one complete room with a recliner and loveseat. All donations collected in Lillian's memory will be directed to this project.

We would like to thank all those who have provided exceptional care for Lillian during the past 7 weeks, the first responders at the accident, STARS ambulance service, the neuro surgery team at HSC, the SICU nursing team, the staff, doctors and nurses in the palliative care at Boundary Trails, and Corey at the Morris Funeral Home. We have so much appreciated all the thoughts and prayers offered for our family. Above all we will continue to give praise to our God, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for his strength. Our lives may have been shattered, but not our faith.

The funeral service for Lillian was held Monday, November 28th at the Winkler E.M.M. Church. Burial took place in the Rose Farm Cemetery.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Arrangements Entrusted to:
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www.morrisfuneralhome.ca
204-746-2451

OBITUARY

Adrienne Ruth Bryn Groening

May 26, 2002 – October 9, 2016



Adrienne Groening age 14 years, of Lowe Farm, tragically passed away on October 9, 2016 in Lowe Farm, Manitoba.

She is survived by her parents Don and Lillian Groening; sister Jillana and brother Rylan.

Adrienne Groening was born on May 26, 2002 at the Boundary Trails Hospital. She was an easygoing child as she had the ability to make friends easily. She valued the simple things in life like going for walks, picking flowers, playing with all types of critters, and growing things in the garden.

She had a passion for sports and got involved in any way that she could. She played for several boys and girls hockey teams in her life, as well as getting involved in community baseball, and

school sports such as volleyball, basketball, and badminton. No matter what the sport was, she was committed to the team. She never wanted to be late and always gave 100%.

Adrienne was also a natural leader. In junior high, she assisted her class by representing them on student council. She was also an instigator in getting her friends together, whether in the classroom or after school. She had a dominating presence that drew people to her.

As a person, Adrienne was full of sass and life. She could often be found making puns and was very easy to be around. Although some people may have appreciated her sense of humour more than others, it seemed that everyone enjoyed her to some extent.

Since she was a young child, Adrienne has been a believer in Jesus. She grew in her faith with God through family devotions, Sunday school, clubs, youth group, and DVBS. Also, she solidified her faith at Pembina Valley Bible Camp the last two summers. This gave her a desire to read the bible and discover the truth of the scriptures. All this led up to her recent decision to become baptized.

The funeral service for Adrienne took place Thursday, October 20, 2016 at the Morris MultiPlex. A private family burial took place in the Rose Farm Cemetery.

Donations in memory of Adrienne may be made to The STARS Foundation or go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/groening> All funds raised will go towards scholarship funds as well as bible camp and sports fees that others may not be able to afford.

Our family is deeply grateful for those who were the first responders to the accident, STARS Ambulance service who saved Lillian's life, the professional and compassionate care received at the Health Sciences Centre-SICU and to the countless thousands who have carried our family in prayer. EVERYONE HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE! We claim the verse: "Today I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil 4:13

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