

A sister publication to The Review, Redwater, Alberta

# Four Winds science teacher Samantha Ur chosen for National Geographic Fellowship program

#### By Stephen Dafoe

Four Winds Public School Grade 5 and 6 science and outdoor teacher education Samantha Ur is one of 35 North American educators to join the Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship program, a collaboration between the National Geographic Society and Lindblad Expeditions.

Ur, one of only four Canadians selected

for the honour, will Sturgeon School Didepart for Costa Rica and Panama aboard the National Geographic expedition vessel Quest from December 14 to 21.

The one-week trip will offer Ur and other educators the opportunity for hands-on, field-based learning experiences doing research in partnership with National Geographic experts.

The science teacher has been with vision for nine years.

She started her teaching journey at École Morinville Public School.

UR was a Sturgeon student attending Namao and Sturgeon Composite High School before furthering her education.

UR had previously applied twice for the Teacher Grosvenor

Continued on page 3



Four Winds Public School Grade 5 and 6 science and outdoor education teacher Samantha Ur stands by the school's rooftop solar panels. Ur is one of 35 North American educators to join the Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship program, a collaboration between the National Geographic Society and Lindblad Expeditions. She will travel to Costa Rica and Panama on an expedition trip this December. - Stephen Dafoe Photo



Morinville's Fire Chief and Manager of Community Safety Services, Brad Boddez, poses at the Don Found Fire Station with one of the 72-hour emergency preparedness kits families could win during the Department's open house on Wednesday, May 8, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

# **Morinville Fire Department** wants you to get ready for a 72-hour emergency

#### By Stephen Dafoe

Pre-Emergency paredness Week runs May 5 to 11, and the Morinville Fire Department wants to help families prepare for a 72-hour emergency.

The Department will hold an open house at the Don Found Fire Station on 100 Street on Wednesday, May 8, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Boddez. Brad

Morinville's fire chief and manager of community safety services, said the idea of the event was to promote home and family education on preparing for an emergency or disaster by making an emergency preparedness kit to sustain a family for 72 hours.

"That's kind of the window they've got - 72 hours. So, some non-perishables, blankets, first aid kits, that kind of stuff," Boddez explained, noting that last year's event drew 200 people.

"We've purchased some 72-hour kits as giveaways. We have a 4-person 72hour kit, a 2-person kit, and a pet kit. So, there are three types of raffles that we're going to have.

Boddez expects a full complement

Continued on **page 4** 





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# Morinville allocates part of 2023 surplus to lower 2024 property tax increase

#### By Colin Smith

Part of an unexpected \$2.3 million financial surplus will be used to lower the 2024 property tax increase for Morinville residents and businesses.

Council decided to devote some of the surplus to reducing this year's increase at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Apr. 23, when it passed the 2024 Property Tax Bylaw.

Property taxes will go up by 3.8%, rather than the 4.4% set out in the property tax bylaw when it was given first reading Mar. 26.

That bylaw had already been amended to reduce the rate increase from the 5.5% anticipated in the 2024 Operating Budget. The rate cut was based on higher than anticipated muassessment nicipal

values.

At the Tuesday meeting, Financial Manager Travis Nosko reported that the Town of Morinville had an unexpectedly strong financial year in 2023.

Total revenues exceeding budgeted expectations by \$332,957 and total expenses ere lower than budgeted by \$2,029,131, resulting in a total surplus of \$2,362,088.

The major source of higher revenue was investment income and sales and user charges, including increased user fees from the MLC and MCCC.

While expense reductions occurred throughout the town organization, with most departments under budget, contracted services prothe largest vided savings.

Chief among them

the \$303,869 was saved because snow removal/hauling needs were lower in the 2023 fiscal year.

Also, the policing contract was \$304,401 under budget, along with salaries, wages and benefits at \$205,917 under, after accounting for the \$350,000 in budgeted attrition.

The 2023 net surplus is \$1,816,110 after designated transfers, including to the parks, recreation and culture, and offsite levy reserves.

A surplus was anticipated in the development of the 2024 budget, and \$1 million of that was assigned to reserves in the document. Administration recommended that Council also put the remainder entirely into reserves.

In accordance with reserve polithe cy, the \$303,869 in snow and ice removal funds would go into the snow removal reserve. Also, according to policy, 25%, \$454,000, would be allocated to the capital projects reserve. The remainder would be designated for the operating reserve.

The move to utilize part of the surplus to reduce the 2024 tax increase was spearheaded at the meeting by Councillor Stephen Dafoe.

In discussion of second reading of the bylaw, Dafoe moved that administration allocate \$158,000 from the surplus to go toward lowering the tax rate. His concept was that \$100,000 would come from snow removal funds, plus \$58,000 in what had been described as council discretionary funds.

"I like the fact that we are turning the corner," he said.

"When we have so much surplus, I think some of that should go back."

In debate, Dafoe's received motion widespread support from other council members, with the exception of Deputy Mayor Jen Anheliger, who cited the need to plan for financial stability.

"I think this decision to shave a little bit off the top is short-sighted," she said, "I think it's important that we stick with the plan."

A 10-minute recess was called following the proposal of an amendment by Mayor Simon Boersma.

Discussion during resulted in recess

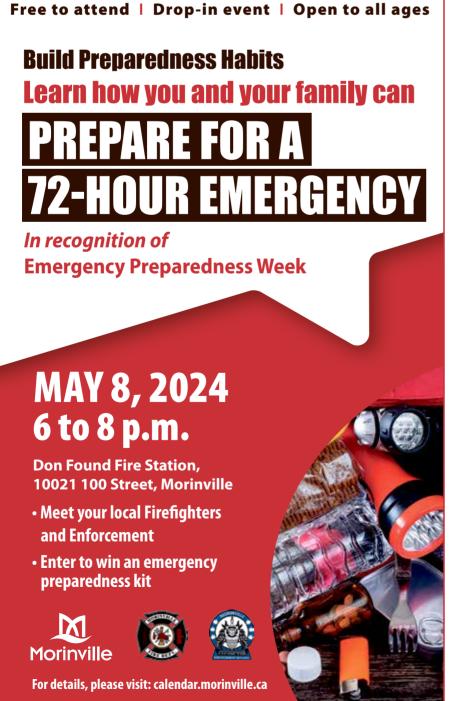
council direction to administration to allocate the surplus as follows: \$103, 869 to the snow removal reserve, \$129,107 to the capital projects reserve, \$129,107 to the general operating reserve, from which funds would be transferred to allow for a lower tax rate increase.

The remainder would be allocated in accordance with the reserve policy or other agreements.

The second reading of the amended tax policy bylaw passed six to one, with Anheliger opposed.

The bylaw was then given a third reading and unanimously approved.







Landowners can enter into an agreement to restrict herbicide applications on municipal land adjacent to their property. These agreements are valid for the year of issue and must be renewed on an annual basis.

Property owners/ residents who participate in this program will be responsible for vegetation control on the municipal lands that the agreement applies to.

The deadline to complete a Limited Control Area Agreement is May 3, 2024.

For more information contact Agriculture Services at 780-939-8349 agricultureservices@sturgeoncounty.ca









#### Samantha Ur

Continued from page 1

Fellowship program but was not accepted.

Last December, Ur decided to give it another shot, going through the lengthy essay and video questions process.

Then she got the call.

"When I found out, I was ecstatic. I started crying. I kept saying, 'I can't believe this,'" Ur recalled of the February voicemail she heard in her truck after school.

"It's honestly a dream come true. This program is just amazing, and I'm so incredibly excited to be part of it. I still can't believe it's happening. I'm just so over the moon about it."

Ur said she is excited about the opportunity to work with National Geographic's experts.

"On this trip, there's going to be a lot of opportunity to get hands-on with a lot of field-based knowledge. They

have naturalists on board, so I'm going to be able to go and learn from these naturalists on the ship," Ur said, noting that bird and plant life is considerably different in Costa Rica and Panama from Canada.

"That's what I'm really going for – the differences in the adaptations, the difference in the biodiversity that they have there. They've got a scientist on board, so it's going to be really easy to ask all the questions."

Ur plans to involve students in formulating questions she can ask the National Geographic naturalists, information about biodiversity, adaptations, and culture that she can bring back to the students and the Division.

"We get an opportunity to visit local cultures, local families and learn from them about what they're doing in that area," Ur said, adding her plan is to bring that scientific information back to her students through photos, stories, and evidence to bring the curriculum to life for them. "I want to share that not only with my students but with everyone."

Four Winds Principal Dan Requa said the Division is proud to showcase its amazing teachers and expressed pride that Ur was selected for the prestigious fellowship opportunity.

"It's always great to highlight the amazing staff we have here,' Requa said, noting Ur would be tapped on the shoulder to share the experience from what she's learned or creates from the experience.

"She'll be sharing with all the other elementary science teachers and whoever needs it. I think it's just exciting when you get to dive into your passions."

Requa went on to praise Ur for taking students outside for hands-on science. "The atmosphere

she builds around the subject is so crucial,"

he said. "That's what they're going to remember, and that is what these kids remember."

The Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship program is open to

pre-K-12 educators.

selected Those commit two years to support National Geographic's education initiatives. Since it's inception in 2006, 400 educators have received the honour. Ur is one of only two Alberta teachers chosen. Tyler Dixon of West Ridge School in Calgary was also selected and will travel to Antarctica.

### GIFTS FROM THE GARDEN WORD SEARCH

#### **SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 6**

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www.alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx

# **RCMP** ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

# **Morinville RCMP investigate** break and enter to rural shop

On March 25, 2024, at 3:55 p.m., Morinville RCMP received a report of a break in that occurred at a rural shop on Township Road 570 in Sturgeon County.

The victim interrupted the two suspects during the break in. The suspects quickly left the property driving a Black BMW SUV.

It is believed that the suspects stole a Reveal Tacticam X Trail camera.

Later in the evening, Morinville RCMP were conducting patrols in the area and again observed suspects at the same property.

The suspects upon seeing police left the scene at a high rate of speed.

While RCMP continue their investigation, photos of the two suspects and the vehicle are being released in hopes that the public can identify them.

If you have any information about this incident or those responsible, please call Morinville RCMP at 780-939-4520.

If you wish to remain anonymous you can contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), by Internet at www.tipsubmit.com or by SMS (check your local Crime Stoppers www. crimestoppers.ab.ca for instructions).

To report crime online, or for access to RCMP news and information, download the Alberta RCMP app through Apple or Google Play.







# Morinville RCMP responding to serious motor vehicle collision

On April 26, Morinville RCMP responded to a serious two-vehicle collision on Highway 28 near Township Road 572 in

Sturgeon County. While emergency crew responded, police directed traffic. No further updates at this time.



Don Found Fire Station - Stephen Dafoe Photo

#### **Morinville Fire** Department Continued from page 1

with the members on hand as the event falls on the Fire Department's training night.

In addition, enforcement services officers, RCMP, and Region Northeast Community Awareness Emergency Response (NRCAER) will be present.

"We'll talk about fire safety, fire prevention, and emerpreparedgency ness," Boddez said, adding that handouts will list what items should go into a 72hour emergency preparedness kit.

The Fire Chief explained that emergency preparedness kits are essential across the province in the event of wildfires, flooding, or tornados, as well as in cases of longterm power or heating outages or the need to evacuate one's home.

Boddez and his crew hope to see a significant turnout again this year to see emergency services at work and to learn about the importance of making a 72-hour emergency preparedness kit.

"I think a key thing when it comes to emergency preparedness is that

we never seem to do the whole preparedness part," he said, noting that the time to make a kit ready to go is before the emergency arrives.

"We need to get into that habit of getting things done ahead of time so when the emergency does happen, we don't have to think about it; we're ready go. Because, to during that time, you're not going to have time to get ready."

The free drop-in event is open to all ages and occurs at the Don Found Fire Station on Wednesday, May 8, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



#### **CROSSWORD** southeast monk 15 16 17 20 21 22 33 plant 38 43 55 56 one 59 60 color 62 32. Former 62. Doctor of **CLUES ACROSS** Cowboys coach

#### **SEE SOLUTIONS** PAGE 6

14. Benedictine 19. Self-immolation by fire ritual 23. Family of regulator genes 24. Surrendering 25. Political action committee 26. S. American 27. Long-term memory 28. Bark 29. Breathes in 34. Take hold of 35. Everyone has 36. Valentine's Day 37. Drivers' licenses and passports 39. Outer walls of 40. Enters with force 41. One thousandth of an inch 42. Deceased Chinese politician 44. Sugary secretion of plants 45. Expressed pleasure 46. Shelter 47. Utilizes 48 Forest resident 51. Fashion accessorv 52. A sharply directional antenna 53. Kristofferson. actor 54. A bad place to end up 58. MLBer Gordon

Attention all businesses and individuals! It's that exciting time of the year again, as we approach the graduation of the remarkable Classes of 2024.

Do you want to send your heartfelt congratulations to these bright young minds? Whether you're a local business, a proud family member, or a supportive community member, now is your chance to shine!

利 Showcase your support and admiration by placing a congratulatory ad in our special editions dedicated to the graduating classes. Your message will be prominently featured, expressing your pride and well wishes.

To reserve your spot in this memorable edition: Email: morinvillepress@gmail.com 📱 Call: 780-222-2016

Let's come together to celebrate the achievements of these outstanding individuals and wish them success on their journey ahead. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of their special moment!

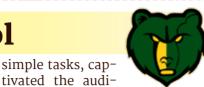
Thank you for your support and congratulations to the Class of 2024! 🎉 🞓

1. Lions do it 5. In favor of 8. Rest here please (abbr.) 11. Pulpits 13. Leisure activity 14. Fertility god 15. Financial obligations 16. When you anticipate getting somewhere 17. Spanish river 18. Sporting events 20. Type of tree 21. Ceased to be 22. Persons 25. Synthetic resin 30. Relates to photochemical reactions 31. Father

33. City in Finland 38. Run batted in 41. Got through 43. They darken skin 45. In a harmful way 48. Form of weaving 49. City of Angels hoopster 50. Caucasian language 55. Syngman \_\_, Korean president 56. Sun up in New York 57. Paddled 59. Fishes 60. Affirmative 61. Nimble

Education 63. Soviet Socialist Republic 64. A small island **CLUES DOWN** 1. Cool! 2. Hebrew unit of measure 3. Swedish rock group 4. College army 5. Favor over another 6. Called it a career 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument 8. Israeli statesman 9. Hurries 10. Slog 12. Midway between south and

# **Gibbons School**



fos-

ence with their elaborate designs

The entire school communi-

achievements,

ty came together to celebrate the

tering a spirit of curiosity and

Congratulations to all the par-

ticipants for their dedication and

and innovative solutions.

students'

creativity!

collaboration.

In an exciting display of creativity and ingenuity, Grade 8 students at Gibbons School presented their Rube Goldberg projects to staff and fellow students. Organized by teachers Mr. Wirth and Mr. Yasinski, the event showcased the culmination of weeks of hard work in science class.

Rube Goldberg projects, famous for their complex and whimsical contraptions designed to perform





# **Landing Trail School**

Landing Trail School, participated in Teal Day at Guthrie School on Friday, April 12, 2024.

Any of our students who have a connection to the Military were invited to participate in a variety of activities and games, to





families who make sacrifices for



SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 6			KU		SUI		
Here's How It Works:	)	9					
Sudoku puzzles are formatted				9	2		

# **DUAL-TRACK PROGRAMMING** At École Notre Dame **Elementary School**



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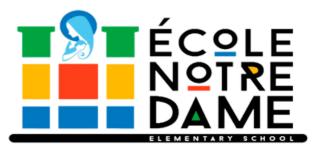
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as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear 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 squeare off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

LEVEL: **INTERMEDIATE** 

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(March 21 - April 20)

(April 21 - May 21)

(May 22 - June 21)

(June 22 - July 22)

(July 23 - August 23)

(August 24 - September 22)

HOROSCOPE

Aries, your friends have stepped up to support you, and it

is time to get together and enjoy one another's company.

Taurus, the people around you may work more slowly than you, so you will likely need to be patient this week while work-

ing on a particular project. Eventually things will work out

Gemini, exercise caution when dealing with people who

financial dealings with anyone you have not fully vetted.

promise big returns on your investments right now. Avoid

Cancer, some people around you would like to use flattery to

get you to do what they want. However, you are too savvy to fall for people who may be guiding you in the wrong direction

Loved ones and friends in your life deserve your time

on hours spent on the job this week.

and energy right now, Leo. Figure out a way to cut down

Virgo, things going on in your life right now may be a bit more

Think about an activity that everyone can get behind.

ARIES

TAURUS

GEMINI

CANCER

LEO

VIRGO

# **Morinville Fire Department** moves to fire restriction

As of April 25, Morinville Fire Department is implementing a fire restriction due to ongoing dry conditions.

Residents are urged to be cautious and comply with safe fire practices as the likelihood of grass fires and wildfires increases.

following The measures are currently in place:

 Approved Fire **Pits:** Only the use of approved backyard fire pits that meet the specifications of the Land Use Bylaw are permitted.

• CSA Approved Appliances: Residents may use CSA approved appliances powered by natural gas, propane, or pellets that are designed for cooking or heating. This includes barbecues, patio heaters, and similar devices. No Open Burning or Fireworks:

All open burning on fringe farmland and fireworks are prohibited under these conditions.

• Cigarette Disposal: Please exercise extreme caution with all smoking materials. Cigarette butts should be disposed of in metal containers

specifically designed for this purpose. Do not throw cigarettes into backyard vegetation, or out of vehicles.

Furthermore, do not extinguish cigarettes into flowerpots, planters, or organic material at any time.

Residents are encouraged to check the Town's website at https://www.morinville.ca/en/living-here/fire-prevention.aspx for more information backyard fire on pit requirements and safe burning guidelines.

Please be advised

use

yourself or a loved

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able 24 hours a day,

seven days a week

via the Addiction

332-2322; or by call-

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health

that this fire restriction may escalate to a full fire ban with minimal notice, depending on changes in weather conditions. Visit www. albertafirebans. ca for up-to-date information.

### Safety Reminder:

Morinville Community Safety Services urges all residents to remain alert and adhere to all safety protocols to prevent fires. Protecting our community requires everyone's participation.

To report any suspicious fire activity, please call 911.

## Consider the effects of cannabis use on mental health

cannabis

Helpline,

Mental

811.

Health Alberta Services (AHS) is reminding Albereducate tans to themselves about the effects of cannabis use on mental health.

All forms of cannabis cause shortterm and long-term health effects and can harm your mental health by:

•worsening sympto suicide attempts.

The only way to

completely avoid health risks related to cannabis is to not consume it.

If you are considering use of cannabis to manage stress, you can instead visit Help in Tough Times for resources and services such as Mental Wellness Moments, Text4Hope or AHS' mental health online sessions.

If you are concerned about use cannabis, find information on reducing your risk through Canada's Lower-risk Cannabis Use Guidelines, or visit ahs.ca/cannabis or DrugSafe.ca.

If you are concerned your child has been exposed to cannabis, do not induce vomiting and call: Poison & Drug Information Service (PADIS) (toll-free 1-800-332-1414), or 911.



and start planning your itinerary.

CAPRICORN

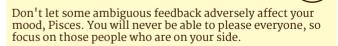


Capricorn, is your schedule flexible right now? Try to rearrange things to take advantage of some last-minute recreational opportunities. You deserve to have more fun.



Aquarius, you may be feeling moody and introspective right now. Take time to evaluate your dreams and the thoughts going through your head. There may be common threads

PISCES (February 19 - March 20)





# PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

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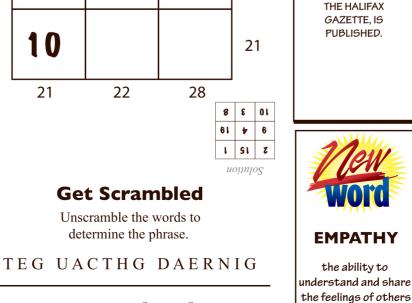
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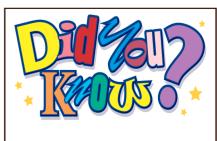
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