


A member of
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The Free Press

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We are not publishing papers
the week of December 25
and January 1.
Happy Holidays!

Vol. 34 No. 50 Morinville, Gibbons, Bon Accord, Legal, and surrounding areas Wednesday December 11, 2024

A sister publication to The Review, Redwater, Alberta

Community Christmas Celebration returns to MCCC

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By Stephen Dafoe

Morinville and area residents are invited to attend the 44th annual Community Christmas Celebration on Tuesday, December 19, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre.

This beloved inter-denominational event highlights local talent and continues its tradition of uniting the community through music, faith, and

festive cheer.

First established in 1978 by John Unsworth, a respected educator and community leader, the celebration has been a hallmark of the holiday season. Although paused during the pandemic, it returned two years ago with enthusiastic participation.

This year, however, organizers faced new challenges.

"This year has been challenging.

To date, we have had poor responses from the schools. Probably due to staff turnovers – losing music or band teachers or new teachers – new people in the schools may not be aware of the importance of this celebration to the long-time residents," said Judy Baker, who is co-organizing the event with Carol Kaup and other members of the

Continued on page 2



Santa Claus spends some time with Ava Doucette and mom Krysten at the Morinville Lions Club's Breakfast with Santa event at the Morinville Rendez-Vous Centre. – Stephen Dafoe Photo

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* Only available in select communities.



The Bulger family sings *Let It Be Christmas* at the 2022 edition of the Community Christmas Celebration. – **Stephen Dafeo Photo**

Christmas Celebration
Continued from page 1

Morinville Minstrels.

The pair hopes to overcome the challenge by contacting the schools in person.

"Carol (Kaup) & I plan to visit the schools to encourage them to participate & hopefully get them onboard. We did this last year and had a great turnout," Baker explained.

The program for the evening will include a variety of performances that reflect the spiritual essence of the holiday.

"We will portray the Christmas story a little differently through the readings (done in the past before Covid). Our lineup for the program

has not yet been finalized," Baker said, adding they are looking for family or individual performers to showcase their talent.

As in past years, all performances must be faith-based Christmas songs instead of Jingle Bells and Santa songs.

The celebration thrives on the generosity of local talent, and Baker believes it offers a unique experience.

"You won't be sorry when you come to watch. Hopefully, you will feel 'Christmas' all around you. It's an enjoyable evening of local talent," Baker said of the opportunity to connect with the community.

"The Non-Denominational Community Christmas Celebration was and hopefully will continue to be a special evening – an evening to share with your community through communal song and entertainment.

The evening definitely warms the heart and prepares you for Christmas.

All are welcome, and there is no admission fee.

However, attendees are encouraged to bring donations for the Morinville Food Bank, which the Knights of Columbus will collect.

The event is sponsored again this year by MorinvilleNews.com.

SUDOKU

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 6

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LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

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!



Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Sturgeon County is hosting a free, one-day event for producers who want to create (or renew) an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP).

The EFP is a voluntary, whole farm, self-assessment tool that helps producers identify their environmental risks and develop plans to mitigate those risks.

Producers are required to have proof of an EFP completion date within the last 10 years of the date of application to be eligible for most cost-share funding programs.

Please bring a laptop. A light lunch will be provided.

Thursday, January 9, 2025
9 a.m. – 3 p.m., in person only
9613 100 Street Morinville
Register by January 6, 2025



www.sturgeoncounty.ca 

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGISTRAR OF MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES DECLARATION

SERVICE ALBERTA AND RED TAPE REDUCTION

Due to the Canada Post mail strike, expiry dates for the interim driver's licence issued from November 1, 2024 to January 14, 2025 are extended to expire on February 15, 2025. Albertans with interim driver's licences can continue to operate a motor vehicle while awaiting the final driver's licence card once mail service is reinstated. Motor Vehicle Services continue to be delivered through Alberta's Registry Agents and online.

Visit Alberta.ca for additional information



RCMP

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE



Morinville RCMP have charged two youth in connection with the arson of the Alexander Roman Catholic Church on October 1, 2024

On September 30, 2024, at 00:40 a.m., Morinville RCMP received a report of a church fire on Highway 642 and Range Road 272 on Alexander First Nation. Upon arrival, the Roman Catholic church was fully engulfed in flames.

Fire departments from Alexander First Nation, Sturgeon County and Morinville were able to bring the blaze under control, however, the church had very extensive damage and

was believed to be a total loss.

The Morinville RCMP General Investigations Section took over the investigation and worked together with a fire investigator to determine the cause.

Two youths were arrested and charged with arson. Both youths were released from custody with their next court dates set for January 21, 2025, at the Alberta Court of Justice in Morinville.



www.wombania.com

Morinville Council Briefs

By Colin Smith

Here is an overview of some of the items from the Nov. 26 regular meeting of Council.

Collective Bargaining to Begin

Town council has directed administration to begin collective bargaining with Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 2426.

A motion to that effect was passed after the matter was discussed in closed session at council's Tuesday, November 26 meeting.

Another motion granted bargaining authority and the ability to sign a memorandum of agreement of with CUPE Local 2426 to Morinville's bargaining committee for ratification by council.

A further motion ensures that the CUPE collective bargaining mandate report will remain private as set out in

various sections of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.

Meadows of Morinville

A group of Meadows of Morinville residents attended the meeting in support of a measure to address concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety in the area.

Councillor Maurice St. Denis made a motion "that council direct administration to provide an information report regarding the pedestrian and traffic safety concerns brought forward in the Meadows of Morinville correspondence."

Efforts by area residents to make their concerns known have included circulation of a petition.

St. Denis noted that an in-depth analysis of the situation using reports and data is now underway.

"This motion is to

signal to residents that this administration and council value their input and concerns and that community safety remains the highest priority for all of us," he said.

The motion passed unanimously. Councillor Scott Richardson was not in attendance at the meeting.

Elections Bylaw

Council has given first reading to a new Election Bylaw.

The bylaw needs revision to ensure that Morinville conforms to changes to the Local Authorities Election Act recently made by the provincial government.

One major change is a provincially mandated prohibition on automated voting systems, including tabulators, which means that ballots will need to be counted manually.

In addition, use of drop boxes for collecting special

ballots is prohibited.

Special ballots must now be received directly by the Returning Officer or Substitute Returning Officer.

Under the revised act, the council could require criminal record checks for candidates for office, increase the number of signatures required for nomination and move the election date from the third Monday in October to the preceding Saturday.

However, none of

these discretionary options were included in the revised bylaw.

Tax penalties

A full review and update of the Unpaid Property Tax Penalty Bylaw is to be brought forward by administration.

The bylaw was last reviewed almost eight years ago.

This announcement came in connection with a report requested by council on tax penalties for late payments.

The issue arose when a Morinville property owner made a presentation

to council seeking cancellation of interest charges applied to the tax bill on her property because the 2024 penalty date fell on the weekend and bank processing times delayed the receipt of payment.

In that situation, council decided to waive the interest charges.

However, a review of the tax penalty policies of seven regional municipalities found that six clearly state that the responsibility for payments being made

Continued on page 4



The St. Albert United Church's Genesis Ringers and United in Bronze performed at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre during Lite Up the Nite on Saturday, November 30. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

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McDonald's Morinville sponsored the Dance Party during the 2024 Lite Up the Nite Christmas Festival last week. Over 300 people filled the dance floor, celebrating the holiday season while supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities Alberta.

Through the McDonald's concession, more than \$500 was raised, and dozens of toys were collected to spread joy and magic to the Ronald McDonald House. Gratitude poured in for the generous donors and the dedicated volunteers who made the event a resounding success.

Pictured with the toy donations, from top left to bottom right, are Mayor Simon Boersma; Councillor Jenn Anheliger; Councillor Ray White; Councillor Maurice St. Denis; Councillor Stephen Dafoe; Deputy Mayor Rebecca Balanko; Mike Caza, McDonald's Operations Manager; Gurpreet Takhar, McDonald's Owner/Operator; and Conrad Penno, McDonald's Operations Supervisor.

Morinville Council Briefs

Continued from page 3

on time, regardless of payment date or other processing issues, resides with the property owner.

St. Albert is the regional exception, while the Canada Revenue Agency also provides flexibility through a moving

due date.

The report also notes that Morinville's tax penalty rate, 7.5%, is the lowest of the municipalities reviewed and well below the 15% average.

Community Services Advisory Committee Mandate

The 2024-25 mandate letter for the

Community Services Advisory Committee has been approved by council.

The committee acts in an advisory capacity on matters pertaining to the social well-being of Morinville residents in the areas of sport and recreation; Family and Community Support Services; and culture and events.

Specific priorities include volunteer development and opportunities, a community services fee review, community and stakeholder engagement,

operational work plans engagement, barrier-free programming and select community development initiatives.

The committee will also advise Council

on potential gaps or barriers in the service area and provide a public forum for community sharing of information, ideas and feedback on trends and issues.



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Morinville

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
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| Petro Canada 9504-100 St | Napa 10031- 100 Ave |
| Library | Pharmasave |
| Shell 10609-100 Ave | UFA Card Lock |
| Castle Building Supplies (Wolf Creek) 8804-95 St | Pet Valu |

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- Husky

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| Petro | Remedy's Rx Pharmacy |
| Luck 7 Food #3 - 56016 Hwy 28a | |

Visit: www.morinvillepress.com



Master Balloon Artist Russ Neibel works on a creation during the Lite Up the Nite Festival on Saturday, November 30. Neibel offered one of several activities at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 6

P H U H A P P Y H O U R S M K P H S U R
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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| WORDS | BAR-BACK | DROP | PARTY |
| | BARTENDER | EARLY BIRD | POINT OF SALE |
| | BISTRO | FILLER | REGULAR |
| | BOUNCER | FLATTOP | RESERVATION |
| | COMP | FRONT OF HOUSE | RUN |
| | COVER | HAPPY HOUR | RUSH |
| | DISH | LINE | SEATING |
| | DOUBLE | ORDER | TICKET |



CROSSWORDS

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 6

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Thou __ do it
- 6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 9. Brainstem part
- 13. Town in New York state
- 14. Little (Spanish)
- 15. Continent
- 16. Retch
- 17. Short-billed rails
- 18. Small period of time (abbr.)
- 19. Confused
- 21. A team needs one
- 22. Woman in ancient times
- 23. Republican Party
- 24. Spanish be
- 25. "The Godfather" character Johnny
- 28. Not around
- 29. City in Zambia
- 31. A type of beginning
- 33. Numb
- 36. Gurus
- 38. Small, gray-headed crow
- 39. Vehicle type
- 41. Disorders
- 44. One point east of southeast
- 45. Indian soldier
- 46. Tree type
- 48. Midway between south and southeast
- 49. It cools your home

- 51. Corn comes on it
- 52. Ship's deck
- 54. A way to bake
- 56. Improvised
- 60. Butterfly genus
- 61. Baseball fields have them
- 62. Designated space
- 63. Discharge
- 64. Two of something
- 65. Once more
- 66. Part of your face
- 67. Tax collector
- 68. Cassia tree.

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One-time Aaron Rodgers target
- 2. Wings
- 3. Overly studious person
- 4. They protect your valuables
- 5. The Volunteer State
- 6. Non-hydraulic cement
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Jackson and Diddle are two
- 9. Splendid displays
- 10. Mountain in NE Greece
- 11. A daughter or your brother or sister
- 12. German surname
- 14. Having more than one husband at a time
- 17. Romanian city
- 20. Energy
- 21. Makes less hot
- 23. Gas diffusion electrode
- 25. Former CIA
- 26. Set an example for others
- 27. Support of a particular person
- 29. One from the Big Apple
- 30. Mountain range
- 32. Violate the sanctity of something
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Talks
- 37. Persian male given name
- 40. Born of
- 42. Forcibly take one's possessions
- 43. Discounts
- 47. Knockouts
- 49. Posh Colorado destination
- 50. Form of therapy
- 52. British rock band
- 53. Type of virus (abbr.)
- 55. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 56. Volcanic crater
- 57. Middle Eastern nation
- 58. Sinn __, Irish organization
- 59. Ethiopian lake
- 61. Bits per inch (abbr.)
- 65. Equally.

Town of Morinville crews work to remove the windrow on 100 Street on Saturday, November 30. - Stephen Dafoe Photos



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER



Shoppers Drug Mart Vice President of Operations Todd Small and owner Neire Monteiro cut the ribbon to officially open the Morinville location on Saturday, November 30. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

Christmas Open House

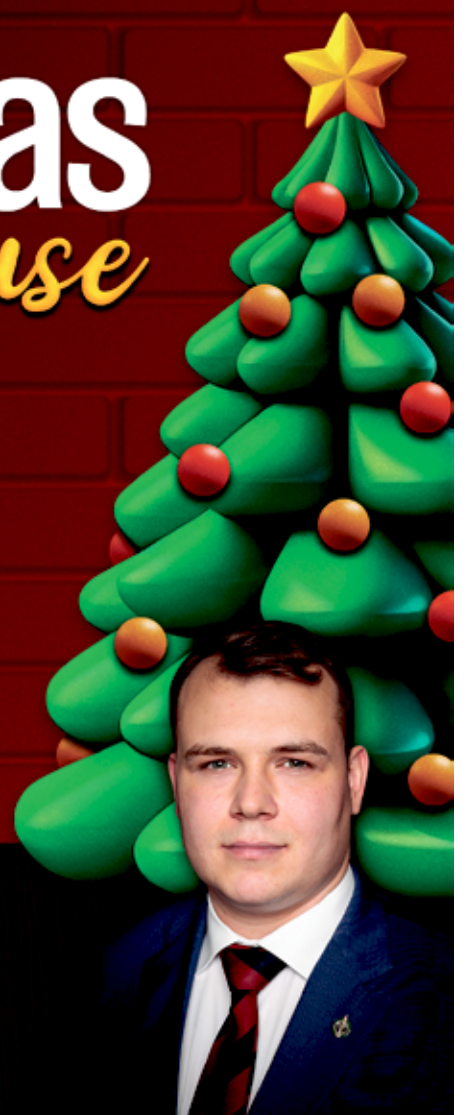
December 19, 2024
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

St. Michael's Fenwyck Heights
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WORDSEARCH

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 B C E L B U O D U E I L H U T O S D D D
 Y A D Y F E N I L L F I F Y H K I L V T E
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 E Y R L R O S E A T I N G B D D V G A V



Benson Carpenter works on a snowman craft at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre during the Lite Up the Nite Festival on Saturday, November 30. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

SUDOKU

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CROSSWORDS

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HOROSCOPE

ARIES Mar 21/Apr 20



Your pioneering spirit is in full swing this week, Aries. Embrace new challenges and don't hesitate to get out front and take the lead. You just might inspire others with your confidence.

TAURUS Apr 21/May 21



Make finances a priority this week, Taurus. A bit of budgeting could ease some of the financial stress that has been affecting you lately. Indulge in a small luxury as a reward for hard work.

GEMINI May 22/June 21



Conversations could be interesting this week, Gemini. You're curious about what others do when they are home behind closed doors. Don't pry too much.

CANCER June 22/July 22



Cancer, nurture your relationships this week, particularly if work has garnered most of your attention of late. Pay attention to your own needs, too, and enjoy some relaxation.

LEO July 23/Aug 23



Employ your natural charisma to forge new connections and network at upcoming events, Leo. You are good at sharing ideas and expressing yourself with confidence.

VIRGO Aug 24/Sept 22



Tackle one job at a time and focus on what is important to get done this week, Virgo. It can be easy to get side-tracked by side projects. Or that might be your way to procrastinate.

HOROSCOPE

LIBRA Sept 23/Oct 23



Libra, surround yourself with positive influences this week. You want others supporting you at every turn while you take on an important project that comes up.

SCORPIO Oct 24/Nov 22



Use your intense focus and attention to detail to delve into projects that require those specific skills, Scorpio. In fact, someone may ask you to work on a project for these traits alone.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23/Dec 21



Embrace the unknown this week. Let yourself get led off in different directions from those you normally travel, Sagittarius. Who knows what you may find along the way?

CAPRICORN Dec 22/Jan 20



Revisit your goals and make a plan for the future, Capricorn. Remember to take the people closest to you into consideration. Do not trample them in the process of getting ahead.

AQUARIUS Jan 21/Feb 18



Aquarius, collaborate with like-minded individuals who are ready to think outside the box. It is amazing what you can accomplish when you multiply your power.

PISCES Feb 19/Mar 20



You might need to warm up before the creative energy starts to flow, Pisces. Don't worry, once you have the right inspiration, things will begin moving at a rapid pace.

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12/31/24

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Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.

How they say that in...

English: Flour
Spanish: Harina
Italian: Farina
French: Farine
German: Mehl

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

KEAB
ISTF
RLUFO
HCSP I

7 4 1 6 1 2 3

3 6 1 5 1

Answer: Preheat the oven

NEW WORD

FOLD
gently mix one ingredient into a batter

CANADA MONTH

HISTORY

1913

The High Level Bridge (Edmonton) opens, with two lanes of traffic on the lower deck, and two streetcar tracks and one CPR track on the upper deck.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Jelly thumbprint cookie

Did You Know?

Food historians trace gingerbread back to the ancient Egyptians, who used it for ceremonial purposes. The ancient Greeks came up with the first gingerbread recipe.

Food FACT!

These cookies are made from a stiff dough that is rolled out and cut into shapes.

Answer: Rolled cookies

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