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INSIDE

In the city:

Brandon police have charged Delbert Shayne Chapman in connection with a fatal Thanksgiving Day accident on Richmond Avenue. Norman Hailes, 75, was crossing Richmond in his motorized wheelchair when he was struck by a pickup truck driven by Chapman — story Page 2.

In the region:

Shoal Lake history buffs are hoping to establish a regional facility that would accommodate several museums from the area. The Prairie Mountain Regional Museum would provide a separate room for each small town or private museum to enable each to maintain its identity — story Page 2.

Living news:

This year's Halloween party for your favorite ghosts and ghouls is sure to be a big hit when spook-tacular Halloween Burgers are served as the main course. Or for a fun snack, serve kiwi green goblin pudding — recipes Page 9.

In sports:

The Wheat Kings have dealt second-year defenceman Jeff Katcher and goaltender Robert Muntain to the Tri-City Americans for Dauphin giant Scott McCallum and future considerations — story Page 13.

The nation:

Provincial education ministers are calling on Ottawa to start a national grant program for university students to help alleviate ballooning student debt that is leading to shrinking enrolment and a record number of students walking away from their loans — story Page 7.

The economy:

The millennium bug plaguing the world's computers is destined to become the litigation motherlode, with lawsuits streaming in from those falling victim to the colossal programming error — story Page 6.

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Bust triggers review

By Scott Gibbons
The Brandon Sun

Turtle Mountain School Division is reviewing its policies following allegations of drug trafficking on Boissevain school property.

"The board is taking this seriously," said Dorothy Thiessen, Turtle Mountain's acting chief executive officer. "No one in the division is feeling this is a light matter.

"We will be looking to see if other strategies can be put in place, but I do want to make the comment the strategies and the supervision and everything else (we have) are up to par."

Boissevain RCMP charged five youths with trafficking the controlled substance Ritalin on Friday after being tipped off by parents that their children's prescriptions were being used up rapidly.

The youths, aged 13 to 15, would give or sell the drug to friends and classmates at Boissevain school. Police know that at least seven youths were involved in the misuse of the drug, five of whom are the youths charged.

The youths would crush the Ritalin pills and then snort the powder. The users told police the method of ingestion produced a short-lived high. Three of the individuals charged had access to Ritalin at their residences.

Turn to **SCHOOL** — Page 3

Don't shoot

BRUCE BUMSTEAD/ Sun Staff

Mountain bikers Jim Cable and Glenn Shields make their way through a grove of birch trees in the Brandon Hills Wildlife Management Area on Tuesday. Riders using the walking and ski trails are advised to wear bright clothing between August and December because hunting is permitted in the area. Cable and Shields have gone one step further, adding noise makers to their bicycles to let hunters know they're not prey.

River tourism centre close

Ducks Unlimited project underway

By Patrick Copps
The Brandon Sun

Construction is set to begin this week on a huge conservation and tourism centre in the city's north end that will be the anchor component of the riverbank enhancement project.

When completed next summer, the Brandon Conservation Centre will be home to a multi-media regional travel and tourism centre as well as the regional offices for Ducks Unlimited.

"It's just fantastic that after all these years of working on it to start seeing some real results," said Brandon Riverbank Inc. president Dave Wallace.

The contractor, Gaiser Construction Specialists of Brandon, hopes to get started on the project this week. However, an official sod-turning ceremony will likely take place sometime in November.

Work at the project site southeast of Kirkcaldy Drive and Eighteenth Street will continue through the winter.

Adjacent to the facility, Ducks Unlimited has already built the dikes for two ponds that will attract migrating waterfowl in the spring and fall.

During the winter months, the pond area will be used for public ice skating, although Wallace said that will not take place this season.

The project was officially announced back in March after the non-profit riverbank group secured a $1.5 million interest-free Western Economic Diversification loan.

The 1,100 sq.-ft building and landscaping will cost about $1.6 million.

The overall costs of the project will be in the range of $3 million with the remainder of contributions coming from private sources, the city and the province.

Both the City of Brandon, which will rent out space to house the tourism centre, and Ducks Unlimited have made 20-year rental commitments at the conservation centre.

The interest-free loan is scheduled to be re-paid over a 20-year period, or $75,000 a year.

Work on some of the necessary infrastructure components — a parking lot, roads and streetlighting has been done already. Hydro, natural gas and telephone feeds and water and sewer services still have to be completed.

Mobile sign bylaw ready to enforce

By Patrick Copps
The Brandon Sun

New rules governing mobile signs in the city are now official.

City council has passed a zoning amendment bylaw pertaining to mobile signs that officials said provide authorities with clear regulations to enforce.

"The changes make the language in the bylaw being enforced much clearer, simpler and easier for our bylaw enforcement officers to work with," city solicitor Robyn Singleton said.

Among the bylaw regulations:

- Only one mobile sign is allowed on a commercial or industrial site.
- However, on multiple use properties, such as strip malls, a maximum of three mobile signs are now permitted.
- Signs must be located a minimum of 20 metres apart and must stay the same distance away from residential zones.
- Signs must also be kept at a minimum of one metre from property lines. This is an attempt to establish a setback to prevent encroachment into the public right-of-way and improve sight lines for motorists near property entrances and exits.

Ron McCullough, general manager of the Brandon and Area Planning District, said bylaw enforcement officers will police the new zoning bylaw.

Penalties for non-compliance range from maximum fines of $1,000 for individuals to $5,000 for corporations, or six months in jail.

HOME SWEET HOMECOMING: RESTORATION IS COMPLETE

New life for landmarks

By Kathleen Martens
The Brandon Sun

They're considered the heart of campus and, thanks to a recent transplant, they're ticking with a stronger beat.

"They're nice, very nice," fourth year student James Hobson said recently as he enjoyed some sunshine on the front stoop of Clark Hall.

"The outside still looks the same, but the inside is just beautiful."

Dignitaries, including Premier Gary Filmon, will cut the ribbon to officially reopen Brandon University's historic centrepiece — adjoined Clark Hall and the Original Building — tomorrow. The structures went under the knife in 1995 for a $12.5-million retrofit that modernized the interiors while rescuing the exteriors.

"It's a nice facility and something Brandon should be very proud of," added Hobson, a member of the general studies faculty. "They used to be pretty creepy inside when I first started here."

President Dennis Anderson laughs at that description and says he's heard worse. Professors' offices were little more than "rabbit warrens" on the lower level. And more than one person was known to dread visiting the dark and damp basement.

Today it's a different story. The complex has a most comfortable feel, thanks to the abundance of wood and soothing colors on the walls and floors. At times it seems like a tastefully appointed rec room.

"It has renewed the heart of the campus in the physical sense and also appears to have raised the spirits of the employees and the alumni," said Anderson, who is incredibly pleased with the finished product.

BRUCE BUMSTEAD/ Sun Staff

EUROPEAN FLAVOR — A student pauses in the new archway connecting the older buildings with the library. The extensive use of glass is a real European touch.

INSIDE

Take a mini-tour of the historic buildings and share some recollections of the restoration in Solid Foundation, a special section in today's edition of the Sun.

"As I've walked around the buildings, I ask the people I meet, 'How do you like your new home?' And I've had some very warm expressions by faculty and staff. Statements like, 'I never thought anything like this would have happened at BU. It's so nice to come to work. The building is beautiful.'

"I take those statements to mean the renovation/reconstruction project indeed has been a morale boost for the entire campus."

There was some surprise

Turn to **CLASSY** — Page 3

DOTC, mayor chat

Mayor Reg Atkinson met with DOTC officials Wednesday to learn firsthand what it will take to keep Winter Tribal Days in Brandon.

It was the first contact any city officials have had with the organization since its Oct. 9 announcement it was pondering moving the event to Winnipeg.

COMPLETE STORY PAGE 2

School active in fighting abuse

CONT'D from Page 1

Some of the offences, which dated back to June, occurred at the kindergarten to Grade 12 Boissevain school during school hours.

The students have been suspended indefinitely from school as set out in the division's student code of conduct policy on drug use.

Thiessen said the division has always been proactive in drug and alcohol education for students.

The students have access to a number of programs at the schools, including the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba's new curriculum on alcohol and drug use.

In Boissevain, the school also has a program designed to provide alternative activities to drug and alcohol. The program is a partnership between the school, RCMP and the community.

Thiessen said despite the division's efforts to keep students informed about the dangers of alcohol and drug use, some are still going to get involved.

"Our students get a lot of proactive information, education and strategies in terms of drugs and alcohol," she said. "But I think that overall, we all have to recognize there are going to be situations and there are going to be problems."

Ritalin, a mild central nervous system stimulant, is prescribed to children who have Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

The drug acts as a sedative for hyperactive children, but once a child reaches puberty, Ritalin becomes a stimulant, said Gary Cavanagh, Brandon Mental Health Centre's pharmacy director.

A person who abuses the drug could experience hallucinations and psychotic episodes if taken in large quantities, he said.

"The generality is if you increase the dosage, you increase the effect. If it is a stimulant, obviously you are going to get a good high off the drug," Cavanagh said.

But taken in large enough doses, the drug poses a danger.

"Any drug that is a stimulant is going to increase the heart rate, among other things," he said. "Certainly your heart can only beat so fast until it beats itself into fibrillation and that could be fatal."

Even by ingesting one tablet, a person who had never taken Ritalin would experience some stimulus, although not likely hallucinatory, Cavanagh said. Afterwards, the individual may experience nervousness, insomnia, dizziness, headaches and muscle cramps.

Crushing tablets into powder and snorting the drug speeds up the stimulus process, he added.

Classy buildings proving morale boost on campus

CONT'D from Page 1

and much gratitude when the Manitoba government agreed to pick up most of the restoration tab. The province came through with an $11.3-million cheque, while the $1.2-million balance was to be raised privately through the College Legacy Campaign.

To date, more than half the target amount has been reached. Former students were strong donors.

"To the alumni, this project did pull at their heart strings," said Anderson, a BU grad himself. "We had great participation. . . Many dropped by to visit the facilities and many more will, I'm sure."

It is only fitting, the president says, that the grand opening kick off this weekend's Alumni Reunion and fall convocation festivities. Seven classes from 1947-67 are returning.

AT A GLANCE

The grand re-opening ceremony for Clark Hall and the Original Building is Friday at 2 p.m. in the newly named Lewis D. Whitehead Hall. Signs will be posted to direct visitors to the ceremony room on the second floor. There will be an open house and tours to follow until 5 p.m.

"The uniform reaction (of alumni) has been that they're amazed to see their former (residence) home restored," Anderson added. "They're particularly pleased about the architectural detail that (Corbett-Cibinel Architects of Winnipeg) have put back into the building."

Anderson is among the firm's biggest fans.

"We were fortunate to have architects with the creativity and the sense of value and history of the institution that we found in George Cibinel and Doug Corbett."

As construction wrapped up over the summer, tenants started moving back in. Anderson was one of the first. Then came faculty members.

"My office is nice," noted economics professor Joe Dolecki. "It's good to be back."

Then it was the students.

"To see them using the (new) study spaces is great," said vice-president Pat Carrabre, who is also settling into his office in the complex.

Places for students is something that was missing before and Carrabre believes it will add much to the future academic life of the buildings.

"This place holds such great memories for the alumni," he said. "I think it will give the next generations of students the same."

Audio bank machine

OTTAWA (CP) — The blind, visually impaired or people who are not comfortable with modern technology are getting a chance to do their banking just like everybody else. A new audio banking machine launched Wednesday by the Royal Bank is equipped with a jack that lets customers plug in their headphones to hear a voice that guides them through a transaction.

Convicted sex offender loses sentence appeal

The Canadian Press

WINNIPEG — Convicted sex offender Stuart McMillan has lost his bid to have his sentence reduced.

McMillan, serving 10 years for sexually abusing his daughters and other girls, had appealed a two-year sentence he received in July on other charges relating to his eldest daughter.

The Manitoba Court of Appeal did not change the sentence.

But it did quash a probation order that was to have kept McMillan away from the town where his oldest daughter now lives, away from his former wife and away from children in general.

That order was to have kicked in when McMillan is released from prison in 2002, but the appeal court said such probation orders are usual only with sentences of under two years, said Jill Duncan, McMillan's lawyer.

Duncan also said no new charges have been laid against her client nor has the Crown attempted to have him declared a dangerous offender to keep him in prison.

Police across Canada were looking for other possible victims last summer after scores of photographs of undressed children were found at McMillan's former home in Gimli.

Much of the police investigation was concentrated in the Ottawa area where McMillan once lived. At least three people said they were abused by McMillan, but so far no charges have been laid.

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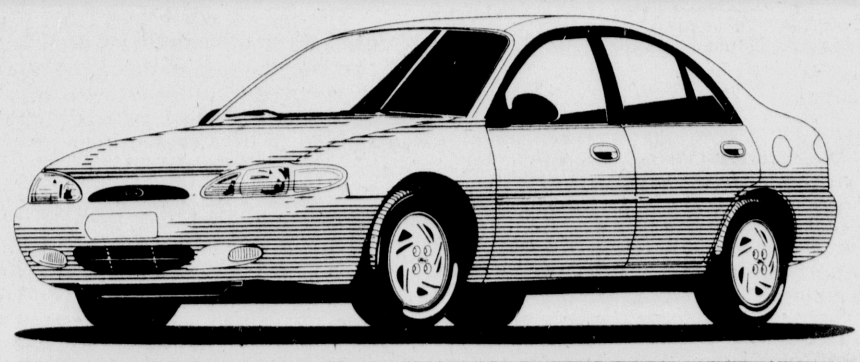
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