



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Author Eva Klassen (right) shared her book, *Fox in a Box*, with Janelle James and her daughter Tianna at the Winkler Library Saturday.

Sharing a message of giving, minimalism

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A former Winklerite was back in town last weekend to unveil her first foray into children's literature.

Eva Klassen, who today calls Winnipeg home, stopped by the Winkler and Morden libraries Saturday to read from her new book, *Fox in a Box*, which includes colourful illustrations by Leanne Thiessen.

The story about finding value in the people we love rather than the things we own is something Klassen hopes will resonate with kids this holiday season and beyond.

"It's about a fox who has accumulated so many things in his box, his home, that he can't fit inside anymore," she explains. "So he goes on a bit of a journey of giving his things away to people that need it and he creates really sweet relationships as a

result of that.

"And then at the end he has space in his box again."

It's a simple tale, but a powerful message.

"I didn't really set out to write a book about minimalism or the importance of giving," reflects Klassen. "It was just kind of what I was going through at the time. I was in the process of purging my things, getting rid of things I didn't need because they were just taking up time and space.

"I went through that process of getting rid of a lot of stuff and I think it was really valuable for me," she says. "And I know, just from working with kids, that it can be a great thing for them as well."

It was during her time as a Forest School Facilitator at FortWhyte Alive

Continued on page 18

WCB
Workers Compensation
Board of Manitoba

Sprains & strains have dropped by **44%** over the last 10 years

**SAFE WORK
MANITOBA**

f t y i n safemanitoba.com

Speeds up to 25 Mbps¹ with **unlimited data** now only

\$59⁹⁹ /month²

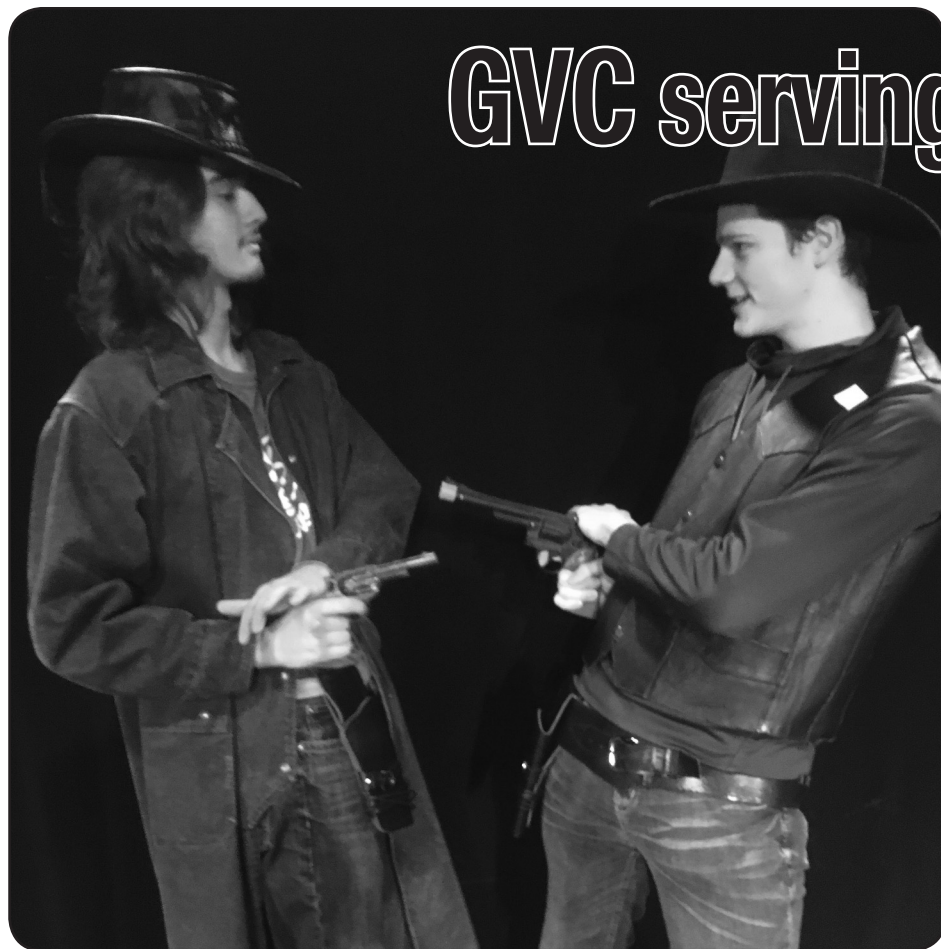
For the first 3 months

\$49 basic installation fee applies.³ Price in month 4 is \$99.99/month.

Call 1-844-859-7405 today!

XPLORNET | xplornet.com
Connect to what matters

¹Speed online may vary based on Internet traffic, servers, computer/router configurations and other factors. Traffic Management policy applies, see xplornet.com/legal. ²Offer is available until January 31, 2020 for new customers only where available. Limited time offer. Taxes apply. Monthly service fee includes rental cost of equipment, except optional Xplornet Wi-Fi router. ³Plans are subject to network availability at your location. Site check fee may apply. If installation requirements go beyond the scope of a basic installation, additional fees apply. See dealer for details. Xplornet® is a trade-mark of Xplornet Communications Inc. © 2019 Xplornet Communications Inc.



GVC serving up dinner and a show

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley Collegiate's drama program is offering dinner and a show next week.

The Winkler high school is presenting a dinner theatre production of Tim Kelly's *West of Pecos* at the school Dec. 17-18 at 6 p.m. nightly.

Student actors are in the final stages of rehearsal for the three-act comedy that tells a fictionalized story about the legendary lawman Judge Roy Bean (a.k.a. The Hanging Judge).

GVC's Chef Johnathan will be serving up a three-course meal alongside the on-stage antics. Supper includes caesar salad, penne pasta with chick-

en parmesan, and brownie bites for dessert.

Show director Gerald Pauls notes this is the first time the school has hosted a dinner theatre.

"It's a learning process, for sure," he says. "We'd like to do this more in the future because I think it has a lot of potential as a vehicle for student actors as a different type of theatre experience than the usual musical we do in alternate years.

"And it's another opportunity to bring the public into the school, our home."

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased in the school office at 736 Main St. or by calling 204-325-8008.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cody Wiebe (left) as bad guy Johnny-Behind-the-Ace in a showdown against Jesse Ryman as Judge Roy Bean during a rehearsal for GVC's production of *West of Pecos*. The dinner theatre runs Dec. 17-18.

> FOX IN A BOX, FROM PG. 12

that Klassen began to come up with the idea for *Fox in a Box* and other stories she hopes to follow it with in the future.

"I would see kids playing with sticks and rocks and that's all they needed to have fun," she says. "You don't necessarily need a whole room full of toys."

Klassen and Thiessen launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds to print the book at Friesens in Alto-

na. Over \$14,000 was raised in just a few weeks.

"So many people supported the Kickstarter. We're really grateful for that because we couldn't have done it without them," Klassen says.

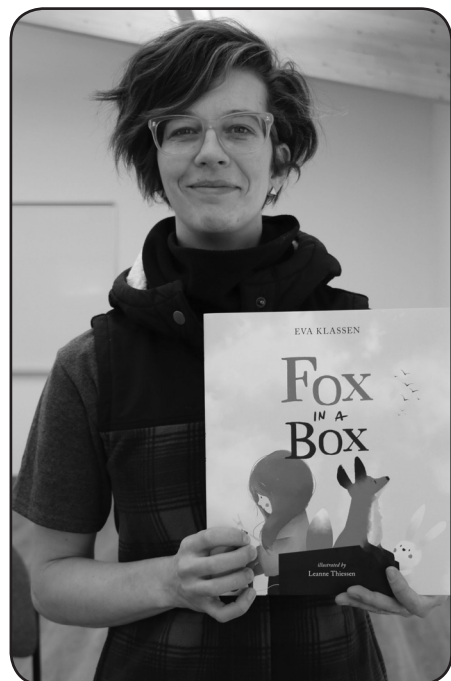
She was there at Friesens when the first copies of the book rolled off the presses.

"It was surreal because I grew up in Winkler and I remember going to Friesens on a field trip," Klassen says. "And now I'm seeing it from a totally different perspective ... to see our own book being made felt a little crazy."

While Klassen acknowledges there is a contradiction of sorts in promoting the purchase of a book about minimalism, she's come to terms with it.

"We created a book with what I believe is a really important message considering the effects of climate change and our role in that," she says, adding the book was printed on recycled paper using vegetable-based ink and is designed to last. "We'd also love nothing more than for people to give it away once they've outgrown it."

Fox in a Box is available right now through Klassen's publishing company, Big Mind Books, online at bigmind.ca or locally at The Olive Tree in Morden and Bloom Petals and Gifts in Winkler.



Author Eva Klassen with her new children's book, *Fox in a Box*. It's available now at The Olive Tree and Bloom Petals and Gifts.

Bringing health-care services closer to home

The provincial government rolled out plans for the next phase of its health-care system overhaul last week.

At the heart of it is a commitment to bringing improved health-care capacity closer to home, said Health Minister Cameron Friesen.

"Our government has committed to investing \$2 billion in Manitoba's health-care system over the next four years including \$250 million for initiatives identified by clinical leaders that will improve access to services and reduce wait lists for Manitoba patients," he said. "This made-in-Manitoba plan provides a blueprint to improve how we plan and where we deliver services, allowing us to better meet the needs of rural and northern residents while reducing their need to travel to Winnipeg."

Manitoba's *Clinical and Preventive Services Plan* was developed by nearly 300 clinical leaders over the past 18 months and included the input of thousands of front-line providers.

The plan outlines the historical challenges of delivering care to rural and remote populations and offers recommendations to enhance primary and community care across Manitoba, including improved access to digital health solutions, diagnostics, emergency response, and patient transportation.

New investments that support the plan's recommendations will reduce the need for patients to travel to Winnipeg for services, which will also

free up capacity at the city's acute-care hospitals.

"This plan will guide our efforts to improve local access to health services and meet the needs of communities in areas like prevention, screening and management of chronic diseases," said Lanette Siragusa, provincial lead, health system integration and quality, and chief nursing officer, Shared Health.

"It will support our efforts to build up some sites to care for sicker patients closer to home, enhancing local capabilities and connecting providers with specialty teams."

Over the next five years, the plan is expected to:

- move 21,000 days of care away from Winnipeg's acute facilities and back into local communities across the province;
- prevent the need for 2,500 patient transports to Winnipeg, as rural facilities are better equipped to provide care;
- give all Manitobans access to lab results via a new secure patient service portal, eliminating the need to travel to doctors and specialists to retrieve those results;
- provide 50,000 additional in-person home care visits while modernizing the system to provide more and better care;
- provide 800 Manitobans with access to remote monitoring of their chronic conditions, allowing them to

Continued on page 21