

Corrections

An error appeared in the Nov. 6 edition of the *Yellowknifer* ("Burn, baby, burn (the mortgage)"). The younger Stuart Hodgson is 18 years old. In the Nov. 13 edition of *Yellowknifer*, Felix Lockhart was misidentified ("No idle thoughts on fracking"). *Yellowknifer* apologizes for any confusion or embarrassment these errors may have caused.

NEWS Briefs

Baby on board

A woman unexpectedly went into labour aboard a KLM flight from Amsterdam to Calgary, causing the plane to make an emergency landing in Yellowknife on Thursday afternoon.

Lisette Ebeling Koning, press officer for KLM, said the woman was taken to Stanton Territorial Hospital upon landing and would not be getting back on the plane, adding the woman was doing fine.

- Cody Punter

Search and rescue

Those driving along Highway 3 tomorrow might catch sight of a training exercise conducted by Yellowknife Search and Rescue, with members in the sand pits practicing a grid search technique typically used to scour the land for missing people.

Searchers will return to the sand pits Nov. 23 for another practise session.

- Josh Long

Proposed bike lanes tour

City planners hoping to install bike lanes in 2014 are asking for help from the public.

Walking tours began yesterday and carry on again at noon today. Residents are asked to meet at city hall to discuss the widening of the McMahon Frame Lake Trail. Residents are also asked to meet at the parking lot on the corner of School Draw Avenue and Franklin Avenue to discuss a bike lane from 44 Street along Franklin to School Draw Avenue and at St. Patrick's Church to discuss a bike lane and road construction along 52 Avenue.

The city is beginning a five-year plan to construct bike lanes on city roads.

- Daniel Campbell

Group concerned about gym condition

Councillor Rebecca Alty wondered how user fees collected from groups that use school gyms after hours are spent during a Tuesday council meeting.

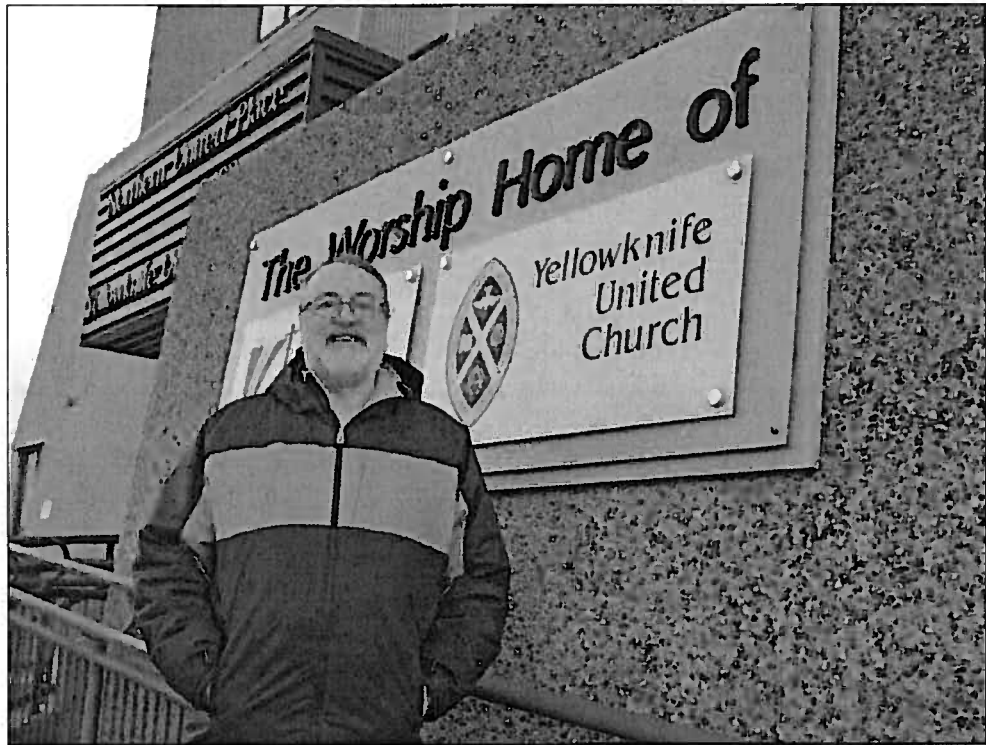
Alty said she has received complaints from NWT Basketball, which pays \$5,000 a year to use the gym at William McDonald Middle School, that the floor of the gym is degrading and presents a hazard to people who use it.

When asked where the money from user fees went, community services director Grant White said money spent on maintaining the school gyms is equal to the revenue collected by the city.

- Cody Punter

Markets

Gold: \$1,289.07
Last week: \$1,306.69
Canadian Dollar: \$0.9560
Last week: \$0.9565
Overnight rate: 1.00%



The Yellowknife United Church, led by Rev. Peter Chynoweth, will mark its affirmation to accept those of all sexual orientations and gender identities into its congregation during Sunday's morning service.

With open arms

Yellowknife United Church welcomes LGBT community, pastor says affirmation will put gay churchgoers at ease

by Josh Long
Northern News Services

The Yellowknife United Church is celebrating its acceptance of the gay and lesbian community this Sunday during its 11 a.m. service.

In June 2012, the church voted to apply to become what is known as an affirming ministry - a status which proclaims the congregation is accepting of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, according to the United Church of Canada's website.

"We think it's important to let people know in a public way that we intend for this to be a safe place for people to come and express their Christian faith," said Rev. Peter Chynoweth. He said the vote to adopt the affirming status was supported nearly unanimously.

Chynoweth said it is important for the United Church to be public

about its acceptance of various sexual orientations and gender identities because many people experience conflict between their religion and those aspects of their identity.

"I don't want to malign other faiths," said Chynoweth, "but some in the Roman Catholic tradition have had long-standing conflict with being gay."

Lorne Gushue, now a member of the Yellowknife United Church's congregation, stopped attending Catholic mass because he felt it posed a conflict with his sexual orientation.

"Some beliefs expressed by the Catholic church are quite offensive to gay people," he said. "I've always known that being a gay person didn't have to come at the expense of my spirituality."

Susan Waddell, the Catholic pastoral assistant at St. Patrick's

Church, said the church does not make an effort to exclude people from the LGBT community. However, it also doesn't specifically reach out to them either.

A welcoming atmosphere

"We don't single them out, we have a welcoming atmosphere and we welcome everyone who comes regardless of sexual orientation or ethnic background. We welcome everyone," said Waddell, who added she finds it unfortunate some don't feel that way. "I don't know what to say. I'm just really sorry they don't feel welcome."

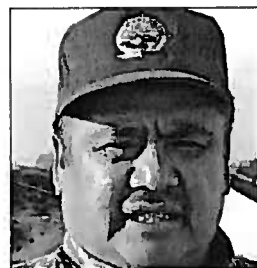
A minister from the first United Church in Alberta to become affirming will be making the trip to the territorial capital to speak at the service.

"It's about saying, 'we stand with you and support you, we affirm who

you are, we celebrate the diversity and we are enriched by the gift of being a diverse community," said Rev. Nancy Steeves, a lesbian member of the Southminster-Steinhauer United Church in Edmonton, who left the Presbyterian Church after being ordained in 1981.

While she said she considered a return to church leadership after the United Church of Canada decided that sexual orientation should not bar anyone from ordination in 1988, it wasn't until 2003 that she felt secure returning to the ministry full time. Steeves said it was a few years before a church was affirmed near her, and until that point her sexual orientation threatened her livelihood.

"I wasn't even prepared to consider going back without an affirming congregation to go to," Steeves said.



Monday in News/North

NWT 3 is no good

Dettah chief voices displeasure over new electoral boundaries