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## Sunflower royalty



Queen Lacey Toews (centre) flanked by First Princess Claribelle Thiessen and Second Princess Alexia Loewen at the Manitoba Sunflower Festival Queen Quest crowning ceremony Saturday. For the full story, see Pg. 6.

PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

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# getinformed

## 'After the Bell' keeping kids in healthy snacks this summer

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and District Food Cupboard and Central Station Community Centre are making sure local families have access to nutritious snacks for their kids through the summer months.

The food cupboard received a grant from Food Banks Canada to bring its After the Bell program back to the community.

"This is actually the second year we've gotten it," shared Phyllis Kroeker, who is involved in the food bank's food rescue program. "It was so well received last year that we applied again."

After the Bell supplies food banks across the country with shelf-stable snack kits filled with healthy,

kid-friendly foods to be distributed weekly to school-aged children during the summer when the school meal programs are on hiatus.

"We got 800 healthy food packs this year," Kroeker said, explaining they're full of things like granola bars, oatmeal, cereal, crackers, and other tasty but nutritious treats. They also received funding to add fresh fruits and vegetables to the kits each week.

"The kids are really enjoying it all this year," she noted. "They enjoyed it last year, but this year they've said it's even better."

Those 800 kits are enough to keep 100 children in snacks through the summer. The food cupboard has worked with Central Station, Child and Family Services, and school liai-



Central Station summer student Ryanne Shepherd with some of the After the Bell kits the community centre and Winkler and District Food Cupboard are handing out to families this summer.

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sons to ensure the families who need it most have access to the kits.

"They've got some great connections, so we've partnered with them on this," Kroeker said.

Not all, but certainly some of the participating kids access the school meal programs through the rest of the year.

"Some of them might be getting topped up at school with granola bars or lunches," Kroeker said. "Now parents have their kids home 24/7, and you want to have snacks in the cupboard for them."

These kits help fill the gap, and they've been getting rave reviews from kids and parents alike.

"One of the moms last year told us, 'This saves my summer,'" Kroeker shared. "That, to me, just summed up why we do this."

It's certainly been a godsend for Eva Wiebe and her three kids, age eight,

11, and 13. This is their second summer in the program.

"This helps so much because everything's already packaged, everything's individual, there's one for each kid, and so it's equal and it's so convenient," she said, sharing she's set up a little snack bar in her home where each child can dive into their respective stock of treats as needed. "Everything's neatly organized because they all really like the structure ... so I put it all there and I'm like, 'There's your options.'"

And it's much more options than the kids would have access to without the program.

"They've even gone and tried things they normally wouldn't have tried," Wiebe said, noting her kids especially love the fresh fruits provided.

"I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to receive these snack kits," she said. "Grateful and blessed."

The **Voice**

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# Blessings and gratitude

## Work to begin soon on Genesis House transitional housing complex

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Sacred smoke wafted over a property in Winkler Monday as supporters gathered to celebrate the impending construction of the Genesis House transitional housing project.

James Nelson, an elder from the Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation, led the assembled guests in an Indigenous land blessing ceremony for the future home of a 25-unit apartment complex that will give the survivors of domestic violence a safe and supportive place to stay while they build a new life for themselves and their children.

It's a longer-term option than the emergency shelter Genesis House also runs, explained executive director Ang Braun, giving women the help they need to get back on their feet after leaving an abusive partner.

"This is a huge day for us," she said. "We've been talking about it since I started working at the shelter [decades ago]."

Genesis House currently has limited transitional housing in its service area; the need for more, especially given the lack of affordable housing across the region, has only grown in recent years. Last year, just 14 per cent of women who came to stay at the shelter successfully found stable housing when they left it. The rest found themselves staying with friends or family or, in some cases, returning to the violent domestic situation they had fled.

The price tag for the project has risen to \$16 million, but Genesis House is well on its way to drumming up the funds needed to make this dream a reality.

"We are probably about \$2 million shy of where we need to be," Braun said, noting they've come a very long way with the funding in a short time period. "If you think about last October, we were \$14 million shy ... so now we've closed that gap to \$2 million."

They'll continue pursuing various grants and corporate sponsorships



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Monday was an emotional day for Genesis House executive director Ang Braun (far left) as the women's shelter officially kicked off work on the site that will become its new transitional housing complex with an Indigenous land blessing. This project has been a dream at the women's shelter for decades, Braun shared.

and will be organizing several fundraisers in the months ahead to get the project across the finish line financially.

"You'll see us all over the place doing different things and knocking on doors, seeing how people might want to be involved," Braun said, noting the next big fundraiser is the Ride for Refuge coming up in October.

The plan is for construction at the site to begin in August and for the first families to move in sometime in early 2027.

prayers.

"For our people, tobacco is a sacred thing," the elder said, explaining it acts as a "covenant or a connection" with the Great Spirit. "This is probably the most powerful ceremony among our people, because we're talking to the Spirit."

He went on to smoke the tobacco, pray in his native tongue, and share a sacred song.

Also bringing prayers to the event was Karen Tjaden, a Christian minister from the Carman area.

"There are people of many faiths in this community and in Manitoba, and people who might claim no faith tradition at all, but all of us join our prayers, or we call them positive thoughts, and our actions together to recognize the important and life-giving work that's going to happen on this land," she said, leading the group in a prayer of gratitude.

Braun said it was very important to take a multi-faith approach to blessing the site.

"The people that will be sharing this space with us, the women that will be living here, are going to come from every background," she stressed. "So whoever you are, this space is for you."



Left: Pastor Karen Tjaden led the assembled supporters in a prayer of thanks. Below, left: Some of the many people involved in turning this dream into a reality. Below, right: A conceptual drawing of the finished building.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

### "THIS SPACE IS FOR YOU"

A large crowd came out for the blessing ceremony, showcasing the community's commitment to this project.

"Looking around this space and seeing all these faces that have supported the project right from the beginning was just awesome," Braun observed.

Before Nelson could begin the land blessing, he requested Braun share what their hopes are for this facility.

"The blessings that we're looking for on this land is that the woman that are able to come to our program will feel safe, will have an opportunity to experience joy and happiness and know their value," she said before presenting Nelson with tobacco to use in his







# Community celebration



PHOTOS BY  
EDWARD VINCENT  
ARCENAL/VOICE  
Altona was the place  
to be last weekend as  
the 60th edition of

the Manitoba Sunflower Festival played out. Clockwise from above, left: A cultural display at the Saturday morning parade; feats of strength at the Outland Games: kids reach dizzying heights on the climbing wall; the ARES fire truck pull; Legends Car Club's 44th annual car show; fun at the petting zoo; manning the grill at the kick-off barbecue; Shaina Twin on the main stage Saturday night.







Clockwise from left: Winnipeg Pro Wrestling; dancing in the park; face painting; juggling antics; an entry in the Saturday morning parade; Queen Quest fashion show; the fire department's Family Fun night; and face paint art.



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# Lacey Toews is Altona's new Queen

By Pam Fedack

Lacey Toews had barely registered what she'd heard when her name echoed through Altona Centennial Park Saturday night. But when the realization set in, the new Manitoba Sunflower Festival Queen stood in shock, trying to process the moment.

"I had to second-guess it," Toews recalled in a phone interview. "I heard my name, and it didn't register. And then I realized I heard my name... it was pure shock."

The day after her crowning, the excitement was still fresh.

"I'm thrilled and excited, and I haven't stopped smiling," she said. "My friends and family are just so excited. I'm so lucky to have a support group like them."

For Toews, being crowned Queen

wasn't just the end of a journey — it was the realization of a childhood dream.

"I remember one of the queens years ago had a purple dress, and I just looked up to her so much. I said, 'I'm going to have a purple dress too when I'm in Queen Quest one day' — and I did, just because of her."

Toews graduated from W.C. Miller Collegiate in 2023 and currently works as an educational assistant at École West Park School. She says the two summers she spent working as a Bible camp counsellor helped prepare her for the experience — and life.

"Camp made me a more confident and positive person. You meet so many kinds of kids, and it opens your mind," she said. "It really helped to shape me."

Still, Toews admitted she hadn't expected just how involved the Queen Quest experience would be.

"I didn't realize how much time and effort it would take," she said. "All the dance rehearsals, the speech prep... it's a lot. However, working with the other girls made it all worthwhile. We all bonded so quickly, and I'll miss them so much."

That bond extended across continents, as Altona welcomed guests from its long-standing sister city of Emerald, Australia — a connection that has seen festival royalty travel between the two communities since 1983. This year, 2025 Central Highlands Easter Sunflower Festival Queen Jessica Mitchell and First Princess Hannah Ryan took part in the celebrations in Altona as part of that tradition.

Toews said she and Mitchell connected right away.

"It means so much to have my bestie Queen from another world away," she said. "We've had such a good bond."

That connection will continue next year when Toews travels to Emerald to represent Altona at their Sunflower Festival — her first international trip.

"I didn't see this coming at all," she said. "It still doesn't feel real, but I'm so excited. I've never travelled outside North America, so this will be my biggest adventure yet."

Mitchell, who made the journey to Canada with her mother, Peta, and princess Hannah Ryan and her mother, said the welcome they received in Altona has been unforgettable.

"Our festival back home is very different," Mitchell said by phone. "The community gets involved, but not to this level. Here, it's everything — the dance, the fashion show, the crowning. Altona does it big."

One of the most memorable moments of the trip came together at the last minute — a spon-

taneous community baseball game organized on the spur of the moment.

"One of the moms put out a message on Facebook that the Aussies wanted to play baseball, and the whole community showed up," said Mitchell. "There were like 30 or 40 people. They had music ... it was amazing."

The game turned into a whole evening of fun, complete with a mid-game line dance.

"We taught them the Nutbush — it's like our version of line dancing in Australia," Mitchell said. "Everyone was just having a blast. It was all planned over lunch, and it ended up being one of the highlights of the week."

Mitchell said being part of the sister city exchange has been a meaningful experience.

"You don't get to say every day that you went to Canada to represent your hometown," she said. "It honestly means a lot."

Her advice for Toews ahead of the 2026 trip?

"Take it all in — every moment," said Mitchell. "I've been writing down everything we've done each night, just to remember it all. It's so much fun and it goes by fast."

She also offered words of encouragement to other young women considering Queen Quest.

"If you're thinking about it, just do it," she said. "Lacey's been dreaming about this for years and look at her now."

Toews echoed that same sentiment.

"If you're thinking about doing it, just do it, and do it with everything you've got," she said. "Have the most fun you can. I'm just excited for this upcoming year. It's going to be a great one."

Also recognized at this year's crowning ceremony were Claribelle Thiessen, named First Princess, and Alexia Loewen, named Second Princess. Thiessen was also voted Miss Congeniality, an honour chosen by her fellow Queen Quest participants.



PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

Lacey Toews, alongside her Queen Quest peers, reacts as her name is called at the Manitoba Sunflower Festival crowning ceremony Saturday night in Altona.



**"IT WAS PURE SHOCK  
... I'M THRILLED  
AND EXCITED, AND  
I HAVEN'T STOPPED  
SMILING."**



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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

# Pulling for a cause

By Lorne Stelmach

People put their strength to the test Sunday in Winkler in support of a good cause.

The Forge Gym hosted a truck pull fundraiser for the Candlelighters childhood cancer support group program. It was the gym's second fundraiser for the group, with the first one being an axle lift challenge in late 2023.

"This year we wanted to change it up a little bit. There's a dead lift fundraiser that happens a little bit later in the year, and there's an overhead press fundraiser that happens earlier in the year," noted The Forge owner Ryan Froese. "We're going to try to make it an annual event where we do the truck pull for the Candlelighters."

Froese said it was a good way for people to put their strength to the test and also support a worthwhile organization at the same time.

"It's a fun experience ... and there's some people who may be kind of interested in the strongman sport but want to try it out ... so it's a great opportunity for that," he suggested. "It's a really cool experience, and we had every single one of our competitors pull the semi today."

The participants ranged in age from 16 to 60 or so.

"We picked an event where we thought just about anybody could do it," said Froese, who noted they had 23 participants, and he estimated that the financial tally would come to somewhere in the vicinity of \$1,000.

Candlelighters exists to be a shin-

Nearly two dozen participants came out to The Forge in Winkler Sunday to try their hand at pulling vehicles in support of the Candlelighters childhood cancer support group.

ing light for Manitoba families who are affected by childhood cancer, and its vision is to provide meaningful emotional, social, informational and tangible support as well as creating connection between families.

"As a small volunteer run charity, events like this are incredibly important to us. Not only does it help raise funds for the programs that we provide but it also helps with awareness," said Naomi Fehr, board chairperson for the group.

As a family that experienced loss through childhood cancer, Fehr noted that "most of the things that are in place now weren't available when our child was going through treatment ... sometimes when you go through

something you can see the needs more than somebody from the outside."

"They get a lot less attention, which is why I like to support them," said Froese. "They are a really, really great functional charity, and they play such a huge role in people's lives."

"They're helping out so much with people, and it goes unnoticed ... it takes so much of the burden off these families when they are going through one of the most horrifying events."

Froese hopes to continue with this fundraiser.

"Once we get this going more regularly, my end goal will be to get this to a fundraiser where we can raise maybe \$5,000."

# Faith Mission hosting live auction Aug. 4

## Salvaged goods from the Quality Inn & Suites fire on the auction block

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A bit of good is rising from the ashes of the Winkler Quality Inn & Suites fire.

While the blaze that tore through the Main St. hotel in April destroyed much of the facility, there were sections untouched, leaving behind dozens of rooms filled with salvageable items.

Schinkel Properties, which owns the site, has donated those items to Faith Mission, a Winkler non-profit that sends aid shipments and runs programming for people in need in Ukraine and Moldova.

"It was an answer to our prayers," shared mission executive director Nathan Elias. "They had reached out to us to see if we were interested in some of the beds and bedding, the furniture in

the north wing that didn't burn. So we went and looked at it and decided we could make use of some of it by sending it to Ukraine."

The mission was able to add a number of high-quality beds and linens to their most recent shipments overseas.

"We have locations at the other end that can definitely use them," Elias said, adding there was also a lot of undamaged silverware that will be put to good use at their children's camps over there.

But those shipments only really scratched the surface of the recovered goods, which range from night stands and dressers to televisions, sleeper couches, chairs, mirrors, even alarm clocks. There were also undamaged electric fireplaces, microwaves, toilets, shower inserts,

industrial kitchen equipment, cabinets, steel doors, and more.

Continued on page 9

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# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## Charge me up

**A** little over 140 years ago Thomas Parker patented a charging system for electric carriages. In 1914 General Electric offered the first network of DC charging stations around New York City.

Now there are more than 2.7 million stations around the world—40,000 charging stations in Italy alone, and more than 33,000 stations scattered throughout Canada.

Happily, the City of Morden is joining this wonderful network with the announcement that they will be adding five electric vehicle charging stations in the city.

Huzzah! The city received \$156,000 in grants toward these stations which will include one 300-watt fast charger and four level two chargers. The goal is to have these installed by the fall.

Regionally there are seven charging stations in Winkler and two in Altona, not to mention other stations for guests at Best Western in Morden and at Hometown Ford in Winkler.

Really, this is great news considering the increasing adoption of electric vehicles. In 2024, 22 per cent of all new cars sold globally were electric.

From an environmental perspective EVs have a smaller lifetime carbon footprint than standard internal com-

bustion engine vehicles even when you consider that the manufacture of EV batteries has a significant carbon footprint.

Adding to the fractured EV charging network across Canada (as Morden is doing) will encourage continued adoption of these vehicles. After all, no one wants to buy a vehicle that can only be “refueled” at home.

But ... (if you have read my columns for any length of time you knew there was a big but coming and that I love big buts) I am puzzled by Morden’s decision to put two of the five chargers at 500 Stephen, a city-owned building from which operates Many Hands food cupboard and numerous non-profit related programs.

I mean, this is a weird choice.

The city owns nine properties along or adjacent to Stephen Street, including 500 Stephen, the library, the art gallery, the parking lot next to Appelt’s Diamonds, the old Land Titles building, the offices housing Morden’s planning and engineering department and others, the parking lot west of the Friendship Centre, the Civic Centre, and the property where Menzies Medical Centre is housed.

Every single one of those properties would be a far better choice than 500

Stephen. Every single one of those properties is closer to Morden’s commercial zone than 500 Stephen.

Every week people come from all over the community to avail themselves of the food cupboard at 500 Stephen (where there is VERY little parking). Now two of those spaces are going to be for electric vehicles.

The average cost of an EV in Canada is \$73,000. I’m not sure how I would feel about going to the food cupboard to get my bread and milk and having to navigate around a cybertruck or a \$150,000 Model X. I think it would be odd.

I am not for a moment suggesting the city NOT install those. I am suggesting that LITERALLY every other property the city owns along Stephen Street would be a better location than this.

Dear city council and administration: please reconsider this location in favour of somewhere closer to the core and away from a social service space that absolutely needs all the parking it can get its hands on.

There’s still plenty of time to reconsider locations.

## Letter policy

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# getinformed

## Morden Fire raising funds to repair outdoor ice rink

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden fire department is appealing to the community to help fix up its outdoor rink near the courthouse.

For the past 25 years, the outdoor rink beside the courthouse has been more than just a place to skate; it's been a space for community connection, family memories and even fire-fighter training.

"We never thought of it having been going that long ... 25 has gone by fast," said Chief Andy Thiessen.

"When we set up the rink initially it was for the community, but selfishly it was for us as well to practice pulling water in the wintertime. It's a totally different thing than in the summer," he explained. "So I wanted my pump operators to learn how it works and what needs to be done extra so that things don't freeze up.

"Rather than just spraying it out in the middle of nowhere, we thought

we could make it useful, so we thought why not make a rink ... so it was kind of a win-win situation."

The department received a provincial grant to initially set up the rink, but the ongoing maintenance of the site comes with some costs, and the site needs urgent repairs to replace the aging and worn boards.

"It's worked great, but we've just noticed in the last year or so that there are some noticeable repairs that really need to be done," Thiessen said. "It's a small way for the community to help us out a bit."

The cost of the project is about \$36,000. The Morden Area Foundation has offered to match donations if the department can raise \$18,000.

"So it's great to have their support for this project," said Thiessen.

Donations can be made directly to Morden Fire and Rescue or through the Morden Area Foundation and Access Credit Union. Donations over



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The outdoor rink beside the Morden courthouse has been in use for 25 years and is need of a refresh. The Morden fire department is aiming to raise \$18,000 to make it happen.

\$50 can receive a tax receipt.

Thiessen looks forward to seeing the rink continue for years and generations to come.

"It's used quite well ... and at this

time, because it's been there that long, it's already multi-generational ... my kids used it, and now when they come home, they take their kids to use it."

### > FAITH MISSION AUCTION, FROM PG. 7

"Right away we realized there was a bunch of stuff there that we couldn't send over, but was still valuable," Elias said. "So we said, if they were okay with it, we would love to have the opportunity to sell it and use those funds to further our mission."

The company agreed, and now Faith Mission volunteers are hard at work getting ready for a live, in-person auction set to take place at their facility at 520 Circle K Drive on Monday, Aug. 4 at 10 a.m.

"We've never done anything like this," Elias said, "so it's going to be very, very exciting to see what comes of this and how it affects us going forward."

Elias estimates this could bring in a significant amount of money for the ministry.

"My initial thoughts when I got the phone call from the insurance company, when we went and looked at it, I was hoping for somewhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000," he said. "But as we started cleaning stuff out

and getting permission to take more and more of it ... I'm guessing now, when everything is said and done, we're going to be somewhere between \$50,000 and \$80,000."

Those funds are earmarked specifically for Faith Mission's annual Christmas gift box program, which has been running at a deficit for years.

"Last year our gift box project ran between \$40,000 and \$45,000," Elias said, noting it will be quite a blessing to potentially have those costs covered for the next year or two.

"In a lot of cases, that's the only gift those kids are going to get for Christmas," he added, explaining they fill the boxes with school supplies, hygiene items, warm clothes, and more. "I have videos of kids that are just ecstatic because of this gift.

**"IT'S JUST GOING TO BE A WONDERFUL TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AND A GOOD, OLD-FASHIONED AUCTION SALE."**

It's such a powerful ministry that not only gives them this physical gift, but then it gives the pastors or the groups that are distributing them the opportunity to share God's love with them and explain to them why people from across the world are sending these gifts to them.

"We're so, so grateful to Schinkel Properties," Elias said. "I had been wracking my brain for the last year for fundraisers ... and God just kind of dropped this into our laps and said, hey, here's an opportunity to do something like this.

"It's been tremendous to see the amount of stuff that we've gotten, but also even the amount of help that we've gotten from people ... helping us take some of this stuff out of the hotel, going through everything. It's hundreds and hundreds of man hours that we've spent there."

You can see some of what's up for sale at the Faith Mission website (faithmission.ca) or stop by the mission anytime during business hours over the next few days.

"We have more than what's on the website right now," Elias said, urging people to come down Aug. 4 to check it all out.

"There's going to be a food truck on site that day, and it's just going to be a wonderful time of fellowship and a good, old-fashioned auction sale."

#### From Sunday noon at MSF

4 "Hear, Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! Deut 6

Praise the Lord . . .

Who made heaven and earth,

The sea and everything that is in them;

Who keeps [f]aith forever;

The Lord seeks justice for the oppressed;

The Lord gives food to the hungry.

The Lord frees the prisoners.

8 The Lord opens the eyes of those who are blind;

The Lord raises up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over strangers;

He [g]supports the fatherless and the widow,

From Psalm 146

[createnewways.org](http://createnewways.org)





**PHOTOS  
BY LORNE  
STELMACH/VOICE**  
Swim Smart day at the RCU Aquatic Centre in Winkler featured rescue demonstrations (above, right) and lots of fun and games (left) to teach kids the importance of water safety in honour of National Drowning Prevention Week.

# RCU Aquatic Centre hosts Swim Smart

By Lorne Stelmach

There were important lessons to be learned but it was done in a fun way when the RCU Aquatic Centre in Winkler hosted its annual Swim Smart event last Wednesday.

In addition to just enjoying the pool, there were a variety of events such as obstacle courses, water basketball, water volleyball, and a diving competition as well as the Coke dive where you could dive into the deep end to get a can of pop.

Most important, though, may have been the lifeguard demonstration where pool staff went through a scenario where three people had to be rescued.

"We demonstrate some of the life saving skills that we practice as life-

guards," said Dean Klassen, who is one of the aquatic programmers this summer alongside Brooke Animalla.

Klassen noted Swim Smart is done annually to coincide with National Drowning Prevention Week in Canada.

"It's just to highlight the high numbers of drownings that happen, especially in rural areas," she said. "So we're just trying to spread some awareness."

"We were sharing some water safety messages from our lifeguards while we also do some fun activities for people to help spread that message."

"I hoped they had fun, but I also hope they gained a little bit of water safety knowledge from all of the various activities," added Animalla.

"We want people to be aware of the dangers and also some of the ways that they can prevent those tragic accidents," said Klassen. "It really does just come down to basic factors in preventing fatal drownings .... life jackets, not swimming alone and making sure there's no substance abuse around water. That's part of the strong messaging that we share with adults as well as the kids."



# Remembering Danny



**PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE**

A car show Sunday in the Morden Park served as both a fundraiser and a tribute to a late, dear friend. The Danny Berg Show 'n Shine is an initiative of a trio of friends who are involved with Westside Community Church in Morden, and the funds raised at the show support programming in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where Berg had been involved in doing mission work before his death. A final tally of donations raised at this year's event wasn't available at press time, but so far the show has raised over \$12,000 over the past two years.



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## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

## SUNDAY

ACTIVITIES		ACTIVITIES		ACTIVITIES	
<div> <b>FREE SWIMMING</b> 1:00PM - 5:00PM</div> <div><b>MIDWAY</b> 3:00PM - 12:00AM</div> <div><b>VENDORS OPEN</b> 3:00PM - 11:00PM</div> <div> <b>INFO BOOTH</b> 3:00PM - 9:00PM</div> <div><b>GOLDEN WEST</b> <b>PRAIRIE EXOTICS</b> 3:00PM - 8:30PM</div> <div> <b>PETTING ZOO</b> 3:00PM - 8:30PM</div> <div> <b>KIDS TRAIN</b> 3:00PM - 8:00PM</div>	<div><b>FAWN &amp; CUB MARKET</b> 3:00PM - 9:00PM</div> <div> <b>SHINING EXPRESSIONS</b> 3:00PM - 5:00PM</div> <div> <b>PRINCESS / HERO PHOTOS</b> 3:00PM - 5:00PM</div> <div> <b>ETHERLAN</b> 12:00PM - 9:00PM</div> <div> <b>OBSTACLE COURSE</b> 3:00PM - 8:00PM</div>	<div><b>ACCESS CU PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b> 7:00AM - 9:30AM</div> <div> <b>CLOVER CREEK LEARNING CENTRE QUIET MORNING</b> 10AM - 12PM</div> <div><b>PARADE</b> 10:00AM</div> <div><b>MIDWAY</b> 10:00AM - 12:00AM</div> <div><b>VENDORS OPEN</b> 12:00PM - 11:00PM</div> <div> <b>INFO BOOTH</b> 12:00PM - 9:00PM</div> <div> <b>STRONG MAN COMPETITION</b> 1:00PM - 5:00PM</div> <div> <b>FREE SWIMMING</b> 1:00PM - 5:00PM</div> <div> <b>PETTING ZOO</b> 10:00AM - 8:00PM</div> <div> <b>KIDS TRAIN</b> 12:00PM - 8:00PM</div>	<div><b>ACCESS CU PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b> 7:00AM - 9:30AM</div> <div> <b>SHINING EXPRESSIONS</b> 2:00PM - 5:00PM</div> <div> <b>PRINCESS / HERO PHOTOS</b> 3:00PM - 5:00PM</div> <div> <b>ETHERLAN</b> 12:00PM - 8:00PM</div> <div> <b>CATAN TOURNAMENT</b> 1:00PM - 5:00PM</div> <div><b>GOLDEN WEST</b> <b>PRAIRIE EXOTICS</b> 12:00PM - 8:30PM</div> <div> <b>OBSTACLE COURSE</b> 10:00AM - 8:00PM</div>	<div><b>MIDWAY</b> 12:00PM - 12:00AM</div> <div><b>VENDORS OPEN</b> 12:00PM - 11:00PM</div> <div> <b>INFO BOOTH</b> 12:00PM - 9:00PM</div> <div> <b>FREE SWIMMING</b> 1:00PM - 5:00PM</div> <div> <b>CAR SHOW</b> 1:00PM - 4:00PM</div> <div><b>GOLDEN WEST</b> <b>PRAIRIE EXOTICS</b> 12:00PM - 8:00PM</div> <div> <b>PETTING ZOO</b> 12:00PM - 8:00PM</div> <div> <b>KIDS TRAIN</b> 12:00PM - 8:00PM</div>	<div><b>SUNDAY SERVICES</b> 9:45 AM - Worship Music 10:00 AM - Church Service</div> <div><b>FAWN &amp; CUB MARKET</b> 12:00PM - 7:00PM</div> <div> <b>SHINING EXPRESSIONS</b> 2:00PM - 5:00PM</div> <div> <b>PRINCESS / HERO PHOTOS</b> 3:00PM - 5:00PM</div> <div> <b>OBSTACLE COURSE</b> 12:00PM - 8:00PM</div> <div> <b>KIDS TRAIN</b> 12:00PM - 8:00PM</div>
<div><b>TRIPLE E RECREATIONAL VEHICLES</b> <b>MAIN STAGE</b></div> <div>6:00PM - Joe Wilson 7:15PM - Catie St Germain 8:45PM -</div> <div><b>OWEN RIEGLING</b></div> <div>Friday Main Stage Entertainment Sponsored By: <b>sawatzky's FURNITURE &amp; APPLIANCES</b> WINKLER   MORDEN</div>		<div><b>TRIPLE E RECREATIONAL VEHICLES</b> <b>MAIN STAGE</b></div> <div>6:00PM - The M'Ladies 7:15PM - Link and the Moustaches 8:45PM -</div> <div><b>BIG SUGAR</b></div> <div>Saturday Main Stage Entertainment Sponsored By: <b>ACCESS CREDIT UNION</b></div>		<div><b>TRIPLE E RECREATIONAL VEHICLES</b> <b>MAIN STAGE</b></div> <div>6:00PM - Quonset Brothers 7:15PM - The Color 8:45PM -</div> <div><b>TENTH AVENUE NORTH</b></div> <div>Sunday Main Stage Entertainment Sponsored By: <b>Parkside Home Hardware building centre</b></div> <div><b>FIREWORKS</b> At 10:00PM</div>	
<div><b>Heritage Farms Harvest BEER GARDENS</b> 3:00PM - 1:00AM</div> <div><b>Mechanical Bull</b> 7:00PM - 11:00PM <b>Beer Jammers</b> 10:30PM - 12:00AM</div>		<div><b>Heritage Farms Harvest BEER GARDENS</b> 12:00PM - 1:00AM</div> <div><b>Mechanical Bull</b> 7:00PM - 11:00PM <b>Karaoke</b> 10:30PM - 12:00AM</div>		<div><b>Heritage Farms Harvest BEER GARDENS</b> 12:00PM - 12:00AM</div> <div><b>Mechanical Bull</b> 7:00PM - 11:00PM</div>	





# Welcome to the Winkler Harvest Festival!

There's a certain feeling in the air when the Winkler Harvest Festival rolls around each summer—a feeling of celebration, community, and gratitude for all the blessings this prairie town shares. As the sun shines over our golden fields and families gather from near and far, we extend a heartfelt welcome to everyone joining us for this cherished annual tradition.

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a lifelong local, the Harvest Festival offers something for everyone. From the aroma of freshly grilled food drifting from vendor booths to the sounds of music, laughter, and children playing—this is Winkler at its finest. We're proud of the spirit of hospitality and hometown pride that defines this event and makes it such a highlight on the calendar.

The Harvest Festival is more than just rides, parades, and entertainment—though there are plenty of those to enjoy. It's a celebration of our roots, our resilience, and the hardworking people who have shaped this vibrant community. It's a time to recognize our farmers and producers, whose dedication and long hours in the fields bring bounty not only to our tables but to many across the province and beyond.

Throughout the weekend, take a stroll through the festival grounds, catch a performance, cheer on a local talent, or simply relax with friends and family as you soak up the summer vibes. Visit the exhibits, enjoy the midway, and don't forget to grab a piece of pie (or two) from one of the many local vendors keeping the tradition alive with home-grown flavor.

Let the little ones enjoy the magic of discovery and fun, and take a moment yourself to breathe in the joy and community that this festival inspires. The best memories are often made in the smallest moments—sharing a laugh over cotton candy, dancing to a local band, or waving to the floats during the parade.

To our guests from out of town, we're glad you're here. To our fellow Winkler residents, thank you for making this festival shine year after year. And to the volunteers, organizers, and sponsors who work tirelessly behind the scenes—your efforts are the heartbeat of this celebration.

So, whether you're here for the food, the fun, the music, or simply the company—we invite you to make yourself at home. Celebrate, connect, and create new memories with us.

We hope you enjoy every moment.

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JOE WILSON, 6 P.M.

Joe Wilson is a country and western singer / songwriter from Winkler. He is currently focusing on writing and performing songs that have a balance between two prominent ways of life in the west: farming and ranching. Two ways of life that have been significant in his family history, and are discussed in his debut album, Denim and Roses. His latest single is a tribute to another large part of the community: industry. "Here's To The Working Man" is dedicated to the hard-working employees of the Triple E/Lode King corporation, a staple in Winkler, helping the small city grow and thrive.

CATIE ST GERMAIN, 7:15 P.M.

Catie St. Germain is a Métis country singer from Niverville and the granddaughter of Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame legend Ray St. Germain. With a powerful and versatile voice, combined with her authentic songwriting, Catie made a significant impact on the Manitoba country music scene in 2023. Her debut single, released independently, resonated deeply with her loyal fanbase, leading

to an outpouring of support. This momentum earned her an unprecedented six Manitoba Country Music Association (MCMA) award nominations, including the prestigious MCMA Emerging Artist category, which she won. Catie's live performances are a blend of energy and heartfelt emotion, leaving audiences eager for more.



OWEN RIEGLING, 8:45 P.M.

If Broadway was a dirt road and tourists were trees, maybe Owen Riegling would spend a hell of a lot more time in Nashville. Until then, he's just fine writing big songs from a small town. Owen's roots have taught him a good deal about humility, honesty, and the kind of hand me down lessons that turn a good kid into a

good man. Growing up in a town of under 1000 people will do that to ya. Big cities, big stages, bright lights, letting go in the rear view mirror – those all come along with writing the kind of timeless songs that still sound good in 20 years. There's no doubt bigger things are calling. But Owen knows that when you've got

Continued on page 6

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> OWEN RIEGLING, FROM PG. 5

one foot planted in big dreams, you better have the other planted on solid ground, or you might not be standing when you get there.

Owen ain't pretending to be anyone he's not. He's too honest for that. He knows it's not 3 chords and half the truth, it's 3 chords and the whole thing. But just because he's being himself doesn't mean he's got it all figured out. And honestly, who does at 24?

It's part of the growth process as an artist – write 100 songs, write 100 more. Play 100 shows, play 100 more, and as you step further and further down the road you discover more and more about who you are and how you want to show that to the world.

There is no race to artistry. Owen knows that. Maybe it's the slow pace of his hometown coming into play, but you can't rush the slow burn of artist coming into their own. Owen's next batch of songs are bound to coincide with the biggest stages and brightest lights of his young career, and there's no doubt that the journey of figuring it all out will be worth watching along the way.

He's an old soul with a new guitar, the kind of guy who's gonna play the Ryman and still be home for dinner. There's nothing ordinary about staying grounded, the best work always comes from the roots up.



**THE M'LADIES, 6 P.M.**

Hailing from the heart of Canada, The M'ladies are a high-energy cover band that brings the best of country, rock, and pop to every stage they hit. Known for their crowd-pleasing setlists and dynamic performances, the band delivers the hits you love with a fresh, infectious energy that gets audiences dancing, singing, and coming back for more.



**LINK AND THE MOUSTACHES, 7:15 P.M.**

Link and the Moustaches are a raw electric blues group hailing from Southern Manitoba. Their live show is foot stomping, high energy blues inspired from a variety of sources including Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Paul Butterfield, Canned Heat, Howlin' Wolf, Jimmy Reed, and others. Link Neufeld leads the group with his blistering harp playing and

vocals. Steve Dueck handles the guitar, and shares lead vocal duties. The rock-solid rhythm section features Scott Bell on bass and Gil Dudgeon on drums. Link and the Moustaches have a deep passion for the history of the blues and love to share their energy with the crowd.

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## SATURDAY NIGHT - MAIN STAGE



### BIG SUGAR, 8:45 P.M.

The legendary Big Sugar celebrate their ground-breaking "500 Pounds" deluxe vinyl world wide release from Third Man Records with "An Evening With" two-set theatrical presentation that spans their storied career from Hugo Boss suit days to their more recent Roots Rock Reggae vibes.

Gordie Johnson's power trio breathe life into their early blues and jazz-tinged song-

*The Winkler Harvest Festival* Thursday, July 31, 2025 **7**

book that has influenced generations of guitarists. Johnson has returned to the stage with new bassist and fellow Austinite Anders Drerup and 22-year-old phenom drummer Root Valach. "Our music has always been about roots and culture and this is a perfect piece of that evolution," Johnson says.

They have become a seamless unit of deep musicality and soaring vocals providing fans with some of the best Big Sugar shows yet.

Since the '90s, Big Sugar have been a staple on the airwaves and highways with a unique combination of Jamaican rhythms, blues tonality and heavy rock aggression. Songs like "Diggin' A Hole", "If I Had My Way", "Turn the Lights On" and "Roads Ahead" with their Roots Rock Reggae style featuring Johnson's signature guitar playing have built a loyal following, earning Big Sugar a Road Gold Award as they continue to sell out concerts across North America.

## SUNDAY NIGHT - MAIN STAGE



### QUONSET BROTHERS, 6 P.M.

The Quonset Brothers have been entertaining audiences since 2013 with their unique blend of classic country and gospel music. Their setlists feature timeless covers of iconic artists like Don Williams, John

Denver, and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, as well as uplifting gospel songs and quartet numbers. With their tight harmonies, impressive musicianship, and dash of humor, this band is sure to delight.



### THE COLOR, 7:15 P.M.

A two-time Juno Award-winning CCM Pop Band residing from the Canadian Prairies, these bona fide road warriors have been touring North America for the past 10 years and have garnered great success in the industry with a number of singles charting in the Top 50 on Billboard's CCM Audience Airplay (Surprise at #27 and The Kind Of Man at #42).

Along with 20+ GMA Covenant Awards, The Color has received not one, but two Juno Awards for Contemporary Christian/Gospel Album of the Year. One in 2018 for the album First Day of My Life and most recently, in 2022 for the album No Greater Love.

These small town prairie boys boast an energetic live show and songs that emanate hope.

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SUNDAY NIGHT - MAIN STAGE



TENTH AVENUE NORTH, 8:45 P.M.

“I Have This Hope,” and “Control (Somehow You Want Me).”  
In four independent albums, eight studio albums, three EPs, a live album and countless live shows, Tenth Avenue North has used music to explore the depth and breadth of the human condition and God’s enduring love. Now Tenth Avenue North is returning with a few new faces, the same passion for using music to foster connection, spread joy and share grace, and new music that picks up right where they left off.  
Tenth Avenue North’s newest song, “Invited,” is about the welcoming heart of God. Mike Donehey shares, “When I read scripture, it leaves me with the impression that God has a heart of invitation. Jesus ate with tax collectors, prostitutes, and the Pharisees. It’s like He was saying whether you’re feeling screwed up or quite religious, everyone is My kind of people.”  
“The message is simple. Come. Just come. Forgiveness is the only thing that can outweigh it. It’s an invitation to fall into grace and let it set you free.”

Tenth Avenue North started in 2000 when Mike Donehey, Jason Jamison and Bryan Homan met at Palm Beach Atlantic University in Florida. The group needed a name for their band before a local show, and figured the name of the street they lived on – 10th Ave. N. – was good enough for the first gig. The rest is history.  
Since their acclaimed national debut album, *Over and Underneath*, Tenth Avenue North’s career has been built one hit song at a time thanks to radio and streaming favorites like “Love is Here,” “By Your Side,” “Worn,”



Community worship service

Sunday activities at the Triple E Main Stage begins at 9:45 a.m. with worship music followed by the community church service at 10 a.m.

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# Saturday morning parade

The festival parade makes its way through the city starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9. The route begins at the corner of Pembina Ave. and 15th St., heads east down Mountain Ave., north on Main St. to Roblin Ave., and west down Roblin to wrap up at Park St. Don't forget to bring along some change for the Winkler Fire Department's annual boot drive.



# Fawn & Cub Market

Vendors will be showcasing a wide variety of wares at the Fawn & Cub Market in the west side of the Meridian Exhibition Centre Friday from 3-9 p.m., Saturday 12-9 p.m., and Sunday 12-7 p.m.



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The festival Car Show takes place on the Winkler Storm soccer field from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 10.

## Jammin' in the beer gardens



The Heritage Farms Brewing Co. Beer Garden are open 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. on the Friday, noon to 1 a.m. Saturday, and noon to midnight on the Sunday. King's Deli Market & Eatery will be serving up the food and there will be entertainment nightly, including the Beerjammers Friday and karaoke Saturday (both starting at 10:30 p.m.) and mechanical bull riding from 7-11 p.m. all three nights of the festival..



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# Wheels that wow



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Wonder Shows Midway's rides and games are sure to delight. The midway is open festival Friday from 3 p.m. to midnight, Saturday 10 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday from noon to midnight. Ride All Day wristbands, ticket packages, and single ride tickets are available from the midway ticket booths.



## No shortage of fun in the Kid's Zone



This year's Kid's Zone is chock full of activities, including train rides, inflatable bouncers, an obstacle course, petting zoo, the Motion Zone, princess and hero photos, and glitter tattoos.



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# Game zones



Put your gaming skills to the test at the festival's Etherlan tournament, featuring competition for ages 10 and under, 11-13, 14-16, and 17+ in Mario Kart World and Super Smash Bros Ultimate. There are also free play sessions on the schedule. The gaming takes place in the Meridian Exhibition Centre Best Western conference room. If video games aren't your thing, downstairs in the RCU concession area there's a Settlers of Catan board game tournament that will run Saturday afternoon starting at 1 p.m.



**Feats of strength**

The Strong Man competition returns Saturday from 1-5 p.m. on the east side of the Meridian Exhibition centre, outside.



# sports&recreation

## Winkler Whips stay alive with game three win

Mud Hens lead series 2-1; game four in Morden Tuesday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Tuesday night's Border League Baseball game was do or die for the Winkler Whips.

The Morden Mud Hens led the East Division final two games to one coming off the weekend, so Winkler needed a win to force game five.

Results were not available at press time, but if the Whips were successful the fifth and final game of the series will take place Friday at 7 p.m. in Winkler.

The two rivals' first game in the league semi-finals swung Morden's way 13-5 July 23, followed by a 14-10 win for the Mud Hens July 25.

Sunday night in Winkler, the Whips won it 7-1.

Meanwhile, in the West Division, the Cartwright Twins knocked the Pilot Mound Pilots out in three straight games to clinch the title and a seat at the championship table.



Winkler's Bill Fehr can't get to the throw from his catcher in time to prevent Morden's Branden Hatley from reaching second base safely.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

## End of the line for Pembina Valley Orioles

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Orioles took the Elmwood Giants to the limit in their MJBL semi-final, but in the end came up just short of advancing to the championship round.

The third-place Orioles dropped the first two games of the best-of-five series against the first-place Giants by scores of 8-1 and 10-9 before rebounding with wins of 9-3 and 6-5 in games three and four.

Pembina Valley's comeback came to an end in game five last week, which Elmwood took 9-2 to advance.

"In game two, we could have won that game ... that was a game that we definitely could have won for sure," said coach Dan Giesbrecht in reflecting on the ups and downs of the series. "I think the team really progressed and became very competitive as the year went on, and I think we gave Elmwood a good run for their money."

Game four last Tuesday was tied at five until the bottom of the eighth inning when Ty Magarell came up with a sacrifice bunt that drove home the winning run.

Brayden Fehr had a solid game on

the mound in surrendering six hits and two runs through five and two-thirds innings, and he struck out 11 batters overall. Chris Peters earned the win in allowing no hits or runs over one and two-thirds innings.

In game five, the Giants jumped out to a 3-1 lead after one inning then took a stranglehold on the game by adding four more runs in the bottom of the second. Elmwood had an 11-9 edge in hits, and Karsten Peters, Owen Goertzen and Kieran Madill each had two hits for Pembina Valley.

Elmwood is now taking on the second-place Carillon Sultans in the fi-

nal.

Giesbrecht in the end was pleased with how the team progressed through the year and into the playoffs.

"I'm very happy with the ways the boys played and how the team developed over the year ... they left it all on the diamond, and as a coach, you can't ask for anything more," he said.

"There's a good nucleus for next year if the boys want to keep playing," he noted. "We lose two valuable veterans, but the rest of the team is eligible to continue, so it speaks well for the future."



# Local paramedic medals at World Police & Fire Games

By Siobhan Maas

Just a year ago, Morris local Kaylie Anderson never imagined herself an athlete, let alone a medalist.

This summer, the advanced care paramedic with the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service returned from the BHM 2025 World Police & Fire Games (WPFPG) with three medals won alongside her dragon boat teammates.

Anderson competed in several dragon boat events as part of a Canadian team made up of 18 Winnipeg coworkers and dragon boat coach David Anderson (no relation). They raced in 10- and 20-person teams and brought home the hardware.



"I was asked if I'd be interested in competing about a year ago, and I said yes," said Anderson. What started as strength training in January quickly moved to paddling outside at the Winnipeg Rowing Club once the ice broke. "I've never competed in



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Above: Team Canada won five medals at the BHM 2025 World Police & Fire Games in Alabama earlier this month. Left: Morris local Kaylie Anderson with the three medal she won with her teammates. Below: The 10-person women's team on the water before their bronze medal finish.

team sports before and the amount of group effort and how it pays off has been amazing. The support from team members is incredible."

Anderson's 10-woman team placed third in one of the 250m dragon boat races. Her 10-person mixed team won silver, while the 20-person mixed team won gold. Two other silver medals were won by Team Canada's 10-man and 20-man teams.

Held June 27 to July 6 at Oak Mountain State Park in Birmingham, Alabama, the WPFPG had 8,500 athletes competing in 60+ sports to represent more than 70 countries. From ultimate fire fighter to football, and cycling to cross fit, the "Games of

Heroes" are Olympic-style competitions for current and retired first responders, including law enforcement, firefighters, and corrections, border protection, immigration and customs officers.

First held in 1985, the Games continue to grow, attracting about 9,000 athletes annually. Winnipeg hosted the event in 2023 and Perth, Australia will welcome competitors in 2027.

"I never would have seen myself in my thirties starting to compete, especially to train for an entirely new sport," shared Anderson. "It was a new thought – that I can do it. With the right coaching, you really can turn yourself into an athlete."



ABOVE PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler Warriors were undefeated at the 11U AA Tier 1 provincials in Winkler last weekend.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The home team won it all at the 11U AA Tier 1 provincial championships in Winkler last weekend.

The Winkler Warriors went undefeated on their home turf, downing

Reston 17-0 and the Portage Phillies 17-1 Friday and then the Red River Valley Pioneers Blue team 11-1 and the Red team 8-0 Saturday to clinch first in their pool.

Continued on page 25

# Warriors win gold





# Central Energy hosts Fun Day

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Local minor ball kids got the chance to try their hand at fast pitch at the U15 Central Energy AAA team's Fun Day last week.

The team, which is gearing up to host the U15 Canadian Fast Pitch Championships next month, welcomed nearly 40 kids to the Parkland ball diamonds in Winkler.

"It's an idea we've been tossing around for a couple of years now," shared assistant coach Kevin Convery. "We thought it'd be nice for the current players to give back to the local minor ball community ... it let the younger kids see the big girls in action and learn from them a little bit.

"We welcomed them onto the field, we did a little welcome cheer, and then we split up into groups," Convery explained. "The younger kids got to do base running, hitting, throwing, and fielding ground balls with the older girls. They showed them some techniques and talked to them about how to hold a bat, how to swing a bat."

It all wrapped up with a free hot dog supper courtesy of Gardenland Co-op.

Convery says they'd love for this to become an annual event for the Central Energy organization, which has several teams that draws players from all across the region.

While the point of the day was just to have some fun, it was also neat to see the future of the Central Energy team in the faces of the younger kids, he said.

"There were a few kids who are really talented and that we can see they have their technique down pat already."

It's been a busy summer for Central Energy as they prepare to host Softball Canada's male and female U15 championships. The two tournaments will take over the ball diamonds in both Winkler and Morden Aug. 13-17.

Thirty-one teams featuring hundreds of players, coaches, and officials—not to mention all the family members coming out to cheer them on—are expected to attend.

"Planning is going really well," Convery shared. "The executive committee meets on a regular basis and then all the different subcommittees have been doing lots of hard work to get ready.

"Each time we meet we get a little nervous because there's still so much to



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Fun Day at the Winkler ball diamonds last week.



do," he laughed, noting, however, they're confident it's going to be a stellar week of high-quality ball.

They're still looking for both volunteers and sponsors for the event.

"We've had a lot of volunteers step up since our last big request, but we could always use more," Convery said, sharing they're looking especially for people to act as scorekeepers and announcers at the games. "So if people are looking to do that, we could use a lot of help."

If you'd like to get involved, head to [www.softball.ca/u15womens](http://www.softball.ca/u15womens) to learn more.

# Storm fall to Northern United, in fifth place

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm are in the middle of the pack in Division 1 of the Manitoba Major Soccer League.

Sunday's 3-0 loss to the visiting Northern United put their record at 3-3-1, good for 10 points and fifth place.

They trail Northern United in first place, Grant Park Sporting Club in second, SWB, in third, and

UDM in fourth, but with a few games in hand.

Nipping at their heels is Lucania United FC2 in sixth and Bonivital 2 in seventh place.

Coming up, the Storm host Lucania United FC2 Monday at 5 p.m. at the 15th St. field.

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The **Voice**

## > WARRIORS, FROM PG. 24

Sunday's championship final saw Winkler defeat the Carillon Orioles 2-1 to win gold.

Meanwhile, bringing home provincial silver from the 15U AA provincials in Brandon last weekend was the South Central team.

The South Central Cubs lost to Portage 5-4 in the championship final. The narrow defeat came after a flawless weekend for the team where they beat the RRV Pioneers 19-9, Carillon 5-2, Pembina Hills 15-4, and North Winnipeg 17-7 before knocking out Fort Garry 8-2 in the semi-finals.





# Track athletes shine at nat'l competition

By Lorne Stelmach

A group of young Morden-Winkler area athletes had the opportunity recently to compete at a high-level track and field competition.

Five local students accompanied by coach Al Wirth took part in the Western Canada Track Challenge in Edmonton July 18-20.

The event helped fill a void that was left with the cancellation of the provincial high school championship in June due to air quality concerns.

The local contingent included Kemi Omoleye competing in shotput and discus, Lincoln Cantlon in shootput, Lua Pauls in javelin, Lenaya Roberts in javelin and discus and Jayla Dycks, who qualified in pentathlon, but because there was no pentathlon at the event competed instead in the 80 meter hurdles, the long jump, and the 300 meter.

Coach Wirth said they had a very good time meeting and competing with kids from all of the western provinces and the territories.

"We didn't win any medals but had a number of top eight finishes," he



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Members of Team Manitoba at the Western Canada Track Challenge in Edmonton included a local contingent: Lua Pauls, Lenaya Roberts, coach Al Wirth, Kemi Omoleye, Jayla Dyck, and Lincoln Cantlon.

noted. "I am most proud of the way the athletes competed and really worked hard to compete.

"I hope we all came home with a renewed vigour for training for the coming year and look forward to competing again in this meet and

then maybe national Legions, which is a U-18 national competition," he added. "I hope this ignites an interest in track in the region especially with the new track [in Morden] and the opportunities to train and hopefully host zone and provincial competitions."

Roberts really enjoyed and appreciated having the opportunity to compete at the event.

"Going to this meet gave me a completely different perspective on sports, I have never seen that many athletes unite into one. Everyone was rooting for each other from the sidelines, and Manitoba was one of the loudest teams out there.

"The opportunity was incredible, and I couldn't have gotten there without coach Wirth. Such a good person inside and out, and no matter what the results were, I could look to the side, and he'd still be sitting there with a smile, cheering us on," Roberts added.

"Lastly, I got on to the bus not knowing many athletes there and was dreading the 16 hour bus ride. However, a couple hours in, we began to get to know each other, and the weekend ended up being one I won't forget," Roberts concluded. "Athletics Manitoba really made the effort to make it a memorable weekend, and I give all my thanks to them. I was proud to be a part of Manitoba."

## Central Energy U19 earns AAA provincial silver

### Team qualifies for Western Canadian Championship in Brandon

By Lana Meier

Central Energy U19 battled through a packed provincial schedule and a hot and humid weekend to earn silver at the 2025 Softball Manitoba U19 AAA Female Provincial Championships, held July 17-19 and 26 at Quarry Park Ball Diamonds in Stonewall.

The tournament started July 17 and was interrupted on July 18, by poor air quality from wildfires and resumed the following weekend. The top team advanced to the U19 Canadian Championships in Surrey, B.C., while the second- and third-place finishers qualified for the Western Canadian Championship, taking place Aug. 7-10 in Brandon.

Central Energy opened the tournament with a commanding performance in round-robin play. On July 18, they defeated the Smitty's Terminators 11-3, then followed up with a

7-2 win over the Winnipeg Lightning. The next day, Energy topped the Angels-Phillies 9-5.

When play resumed July 26, Energy faced a tough Westman Magic squad that would prove to be their biggest obstacle. In their first matchup that day, Energy fell 9-0. Westman scored early and often, capitalizing on free passes and errors. Starter Karli Toews gave up five hits and nine runs (six earned) over four and two-thirds innings, while Westman's Emma Franklin pitched three no-hit innings in the shutout win.

Later that day in the first round of playoffs, Energy fell again to Westman, this time by a score of 8-1. Christina VanDeVelde opened the scoring with an RBI double in the second, but Energy couldn't maintain momentum. Westman capitalized on walks and fielding miscues, taking the lead in the fourth and never looking back.

Central Energy bounced back with a 1-0 win over the Winnipeg Lightning in the semifinal. The tight defensive battle gave them a shot at redemption in the gold medal game against Westman.

In the championship final, however, Westman edged Energy once more—



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The U19 AAA Central Energy softball team earned silver at the 2025 Softball Manitoba Provincial Championships, held July 17-19 and 26 in Stonewall. The team will represent Manitoba at the U19 Female Western Canadian Softball Championship in Brandon, Aug. 7-10. Pictured left to right: coach Kassidy Cunningham, Delaney Penner, Bria Bonik, Ella Harkness, Heidi Reimer, Emma Klassen, Christina VanDeVelde, Nelia Fehr, Karli Toews, Molly Conrad, Ava Sanders and coach Mark Friesen. Missing: Rory Lumgair and Maddy Friesen.

this time by the narrowest of margins, 1-0. Despite strong efforts in the circle and solid defensive play, Energy couldn't manufacture the offence needed to take gold.

With a second-place finish, Central Energy U19 will represent Manitoba at the 2025 U19 Female Western Canadian Softball Championship in Brandon, Aug. 7-10.





PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



## Cripple Creek marks 44 years of music

The Cripple Creek Music Festival marked its 44th year at the stage outside Morden on Sunday. The event brings people out each year for traditional bluegrass, country, folk and gospel music performed in the shade of the mighty oak and ash trees at the site just south of the Glencross Church. The emphasis is always on local talent from across southern Manitoba, and the lineup this year included Joe Wilson and the Yodeling Farmer's Daughter Juanita Clayton, among many others. There was also food available from The Bunker as well as snacks from Sunny Day.



### PLAYER PROFILES

Meet your Hometown team  
Central Energy U15AAA



### THANK YOU SPONSORS



#### AMELIA WYTINCK

- Catcher, Outfield
- Carman, MB
- 1 yr with Central Energy
- 5 yrs playing Softball

#### BLAINE WIEBE

- Pitcher, Center field
- Osterwick, MB
- 1 yr with Central Energy
- 6 yrs playing Softball

#### PAYTON MANNESS

- Outfield
- Domain, MB
- 1 yr with Central Energy
- 8 yrs playing Softball

#### KELSEY DYCK

- Outfield
- Winkler, MB
- 2 yrs with Central Energy
- 8 yrs playing Softball

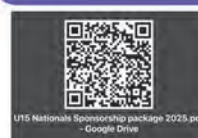
#### SHAYNA DRIEDGER

- Pitcher, 1<sup>st</sup> Base
- Neurenberg, MB
- 1 yr with Central Energy
- 7 yrs playing Softball

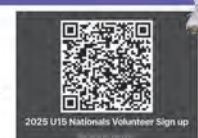
#### KYLIE WIEBE

- Pitcher, Short Stop
- Osterwick, MB
- 2 yrs with Central Energy
- 8 yrs playing Softball

<https://softball.ca/u15womens>  
<https://softball.ca/u15mens>



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2025-005 and By-law No. 2348-25, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2348-25, is to zone the land described below, Namely::

**180 15th Street, legally described as Lot 7 & 8, Plan 614 MLTO.**

as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

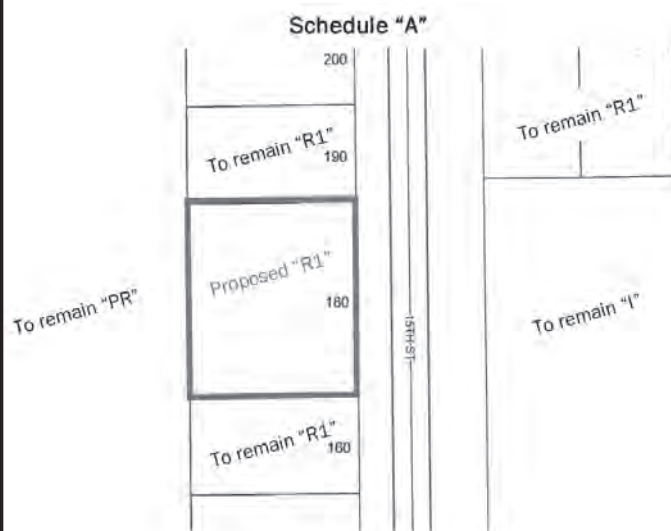
**FROM: "R3" RESIDENTIAL HIGH DENSITY ZONE**

**TO: "R1" RESIDENTIAL LOW DENSITY ZONE**

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2348-25 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office..

**Date of Hearing:** August 12, 2025  
**Time of Hearing:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Winkler Council Chambers,  
 185 Main Street,  
 Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 9th day of July 2025.  
 Designated Officer  
 City of Winkler



185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W1B4  
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 Call 204-467-5836

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2025-006 and By-law No. 2349-25, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2349-25, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

**A portion of 124 Albert Street, legally described as proposed Lots 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Plan No. (dep. 514-2025) MLTO in SW 1/4 Section 3-3-4 WPM.**

as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

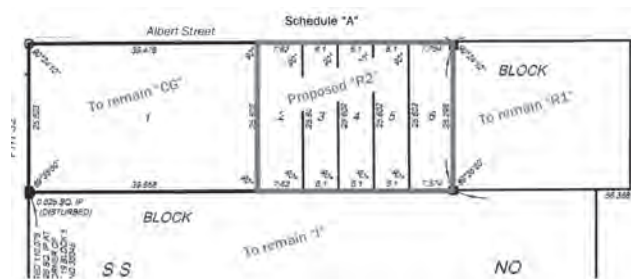
**FROM: "CG" COMMERCIAL GENERAL ZONE**

**TO: "R2" RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY ZONE**

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2349-25 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

**Date of Hearing:** August 12, 2025  
**Time of Hearing:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Winkler Council Chambers,  
 185 Main Street,  
 Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 9th day of July 2025.  
 Designated Officer  
 City of Winkler



185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W1B4  
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5	4	7	8	2	6	1	8	9
8	8	9	5	1	4	6	2	7
2	1	6	9	8	7	5	4	8
6	8	2	4	9	5	7	8	1
1	5	8	7	6	2	8	9	4
7	9	4	1	8	2	5	6	

## Sudoku Answer

S	E	O	R		S	H	d	W	A	N	
O	E	L	V	N	E	L	V	C	N	O	O
V	R	V	G	V	I	N		E	O	I	O
I	S	V	O	L				O	I	T	O
					W	I	H			V	R
					T	V	R	E	S		S
					B	V		S	T	O	E
					d	O	E		V	I	O
I	R	S			d	O	R	O		L	V
B	N	T	S		S	V	E	d	I		
V	X	V	K							V	R
H	N	O	C	V	S				O	S	S
S	S	E	S	B	O			O	N	V	G
		N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D
		X	N	I	H	P	S		P	I	H

## Crossword Answer

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## get inspired > MEAL IDEAS



## Shrimp Spaghetti

and shrimp. Mix in 1 tablespoon garlic powder and paprika. Remove shrimp after they begin to turn pink; set aside. Add chicken broth, Parmesan, heavy cream, remaining garlic powder, onion powder and spinach to skillet and mix well. Add shrimp back to skillet to finish cooking. Mix in noodles and serve with bread.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"  
Servings: 4-6  
1 pound spaghetti noodles  
2 tablespoons butter  
1/4 cup avocado oil  
1 package (12 ounces) raw shrimp  
2 tablespoons garlic powder, divided  
1 teaspoon smoked paprika  
1 cup chicken broth  
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
1/4 cup heavy cream  
1 teaspoon onion powder  
1 cup frozen or fresh spinach  
bread, for serving  
Cook spaghetti noodles according to package instructions.  
In skillet over medium heat, add butter, avocado oil

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PRIME SPECIAL CROPS FARM LAND IN THE RM OF RHINELAND

Sealed, written tenders for farm land in the described below will be received by:  
**Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office**  
Box 99, 1 - 880 J 15th Street  
Winkler, MB R6W 4A4

#### LAND:

**Legal Subdivisions 15 and 16**  
in Section 9-3-3 WPM excepting  
out of Legal Subdivision 15 the westerly 363 feet (69 acres)



(The above sketch is for illustrative purposes only)

#### CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. The parcel of land described will be sold "as is".
2. Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 PM on August 14, 2025. Successful tender will be informed by 5:00 PM August 18, 2025.
3. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
4. Possession is November 1, 2025 or after the 2025 crop has been harvested.
5. Tender must be accompanied by a refundable deposit of \$10,000.00 (cheque made payable to Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office).

#### TERMS OF SALE:

1. The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter a formal agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
3. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid on the due date, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages.
4. Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2026.
5. The purchaser is responsible for Land Transfer Tax and GST or shall self-assess for GST.

For further information contact **Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office** at 204-325-4615.

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:  
**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY BY-LAW 9-25**  
Being an AMENDMENT to the R.M. OF STANLEY ZONING BY-LAW 8-18, AS AMENDED.

#### HEARING LOCATION:

R.M. of Stanley  
Council Chambers  
1-23111 PTH 14, SW 7-3-4W  
August 7, 2025 at 9:05 a.m.  
To amend Appendix 1 Use Table within Zoning By-law 8-18 to allow for the use of "Liquid Waste Disposal Site" as a conditional use in the Agriculture Limited Zone  
Melissa Groening,  
Planning and Development Officer  
Rural Municipality of Stanley  
1-23111 PTH 14, Stanley MB R6P 0B1  
Phone: (204) 325-4101  
Email: mgroening@rmofstanley.ca

#### DATE & TIME: GENERAL INTENT:

#### FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken there from, upon request.

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**TAKE NOTICE THAT** the Council of the Rural Municipality of Stanley will consider, and if approved, pass a by-law for closing the public roadway described below and located in part of the NW 11-3-6WPM, at a meeting of the Council to be held:

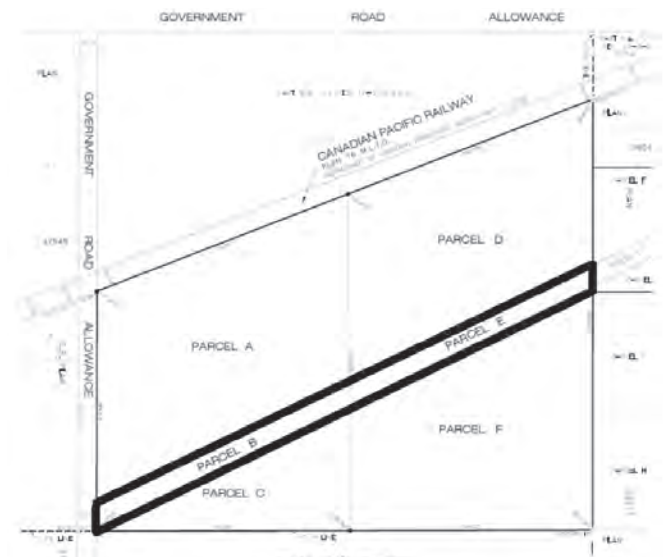
#### HEARING LOCATION:

R.M. of Stanley  
Council Chambers  
1-23111 PTH 14, SW 7-3-4W  
Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 9:25 a.m.  
Melissa Groening,  
Planning and Development Officer  
Rural Municipality of Stanley  
1-23111 PTH 14, Stanley MB R6P 0B1  
mgroening@rmofstanley.ca  
Phone: (204) 325-4101

#### DATE & TIME: FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

**THE ROADWAY AT NW 11-3-6W, SHOWN AS PARCELS B AND E TO BE CLOSED IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ALL THAT PORTION OF THE MUNICIPAL ROAD AS SHOWN ON PARCELS "B" AND "E" ON A PLAN OF SURVEY (DEPOSIT NO. 0036/25) PREPARED BY JESSE PAUL SIMON CARELS, MANITOBA LAND SURVEYOR**



**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** that Council will, at the time and place aforesaid, hear any person or by his agent, any person who claims that his land will be prejudicially affected by the by-law and who applies to be heard. The Plan referred to above may be viewed at the Municipal Office, 1-23111 PTH 14, Stanley, Manitoba, on any weekday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



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Email: [OakviewCondoSale@gmail.com](mailto:OakviewCondoSale@gmail.com) or call/text 204-362-1829 for additional information.



get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS

PUBLIC NOTICE



### UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

**CITY OF MORDEN BY-LAW 23-2025**  
**Being an AMENDMENT to the**  
**CITY OF MORDEN ZONING BY-LAW 08-2017**

**HEARING LOCATION:** Morden Civic Centre, Council Chamber  
**ADDRESS:** 195 Stephen St., Morden, MB  
**DATE:** August 25, 2025  
**TIME:** 7:00 pm

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**  
To add Yurts as a conditional use in the Community Reserve (CR) and Parks and Recreation (PR) Districts, add use specific standards and use definition.

Interested parties may speak or submit comments in person, by agent, or in writing.

**INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Jose Antonio Yanez, Planning Development Officer  
133 7th Street, Morden, MB. R6M 1V3  
Phone: (204) 822-2567

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during office hours, Monday through Friday. Copies and extracts may be made upon request.

### Potato Pizza Puffs

Recipe courtesy of Potatoes USA  
Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: 8 minutes  
Servings: 12

- 1 medium (5.3 ounces) Wisconsin russet potato
- 2 cups cold water
- 3 whole garlic cloves, crushed (optional)
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry dough
- nonstick cooking spray
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 1/2 cups mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup pepperoni
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1 cup marinara sauce

Wash and scrub potato thoroughly. Pat dry and thinly slice into 1/8-inch rounds.

Place sliced potatoes in saucepan and cover with cold water. Add crushed garlic cloves to the water, if desired.

Parboil potatoes 5 minutes until slightly tender.

Thaw puff pastry and roll out slightly with rolling pin. Cut into 12 equal strips.

On foil-lined tray generously sprayed with nonstick cooking spray, sprinkle with Parmesan and Italian seasoning then shingle 3-4 par-cooked potato slices with 3-4 pepperoni slices. Top slices with mozzarella followed by puff pastry strip. Push edges of pastry down onto foil to slightly "seal" puffs, keeping contents within pastry.

In air fryer set at 400 F, bake 7-8 minutes.

Wait for cheese to cool before removing puffs from tray. Gently peel potato pizza puffs off foil. Serve with marinara sauce.

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> GAMES

### SUDOKU

9	5							
		8			7	3		
				6	4	2		
		5	7	8				
							8	
6		1	9					5
5			3	7				
	9	4			2			
	7		1	8				

Level: Intermediate

**Fun By The Numbers**

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**Here's How It Works:**  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted 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!



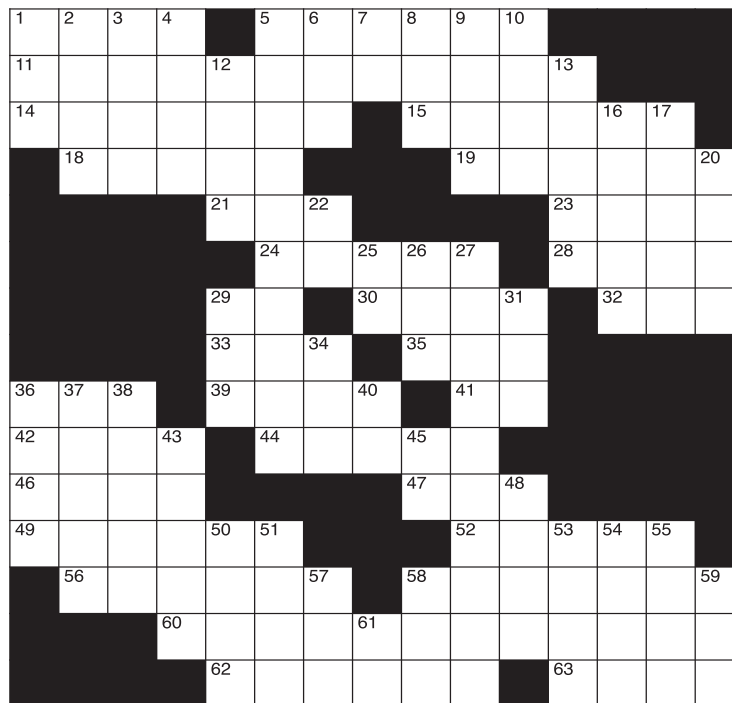
# **X CROSSWORD**

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular potato snack
5. Guards the Pyramids
11. Furnish anew
14. Herb
15. Preoccupy the mind continually
18. The lowest adult male singing voice
19. NATO commander (abbr.)
21. A major division of geological time
23. New Zealand parrot
24. Notions
28. Lump in yarn
29. Indicates position
30. Lose hold of
32. Hindu honorific
33. Former OSS
35. Electronic data processing
36. Cost per mile
39. Snake-like fish
41. They start the alphabet
42. Taylor Swift's tour
44. Intermediate ecological stage
46. Scarlett's home
47. Of he
49. Ohio city
52. Breakfast item
56. An evening party
58. \_\_\_ Falls
60. Linked together
62. Mythological spirits
63. Small Eurasian deer

## CLUES DOWN

1. Earliest human form: \_\_\_-Magnon man
2. Flavoring
3. Notion
4. Bundy and Fenwick are two
5. Qualities of sound
6. One who gets paid
7. Expresses surprise
8. O.J. trial judge
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. Shield bugs genus
12. Container for shipping
13. Upper body parts
16. Closes tightly
17. Nigerian World Heritage Site
20. Volcanic island in Fiji
22. Commercial
25. - \_\_\_: denotes past
26. They \_\_\_
27. Confraternities
29. A way to gain a point
31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
34. Brew
36. Badgers group
37. Sailing boat
38. \_\_\_ Polo, explorer
40. Elder citizen (abbr.)
43. Frankish law code
45. Exclamation of surprise
48. Groan
50. It presses clothing
51. Do not allow
53. Gelatinous substance
54. Common Japanese surname
55. Present in nature
57. Electronic countermeasures
58. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
59. Commercials
61. News agency



## PUBLIC NOTICE



### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY PUBLIC NOTICE

#### REGARDING LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 10/25 - BY-LAW NO. 10-25

#### VILLAGE LOW-PRESSURE SEWER CONNECTIONS

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Stanley has scheduled a public hearing in the Council Chambers on the **21st day of August, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** to present the following local improvement plan:

*Local Improvement Plan No. 10/25 will provide the spending, borrowing authority and imposition of taxes for installation of, and connection to, a low-pressure wastewater system as a local improvement within the R.M. of Stanley. Potential taxpayers will be those benefiting properties within the villages of Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld who wish to connect to the system.*

*The proposed local improvement tax is calculated on a 'per parcel (benefiting property)' basis with each benefiting property contributing \$9300.00. The local improvement tax can be prepaid in full to the municipality or alternatively paid via an annual levy on the property taxes of the benefiting property over a 20-year period plus the estimated interest rate of 5.325% per year.*

Potential taxpayers wishing to object to the local improvement plan may file a notice of objection by email, mail or in person, with the Chief Administrative Officer at 1-23111 PTH 14. All objections, written or verbal must be filed prior to the adjournment of the hearing and must include name, address and property description of the person filing the objection and state the grounds of objection.

If you wish to be present at the hearing, we request that you to contact our office a minimum of 2 business days prior to the scheduled hearing so that we can ensure adequate seating is available.

Copies of the local improvement plan are available at the municipal office at 1-23111 PTH 14 and on the municipal website at [www.rmofstanley.ca](http://www.rmofstanley.ca). Feel free to call the RM Office for additional information at 204-325-4101.

Dated at the RM of Stanley this 24th day of July 2025 and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The Municipal Act.

Terry Penner, Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of Stanley

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## OPEN HOUSE



### MSTW PLANNING DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

## Open House

The MSTW Planning District is updating its Development Plan. The purpose of a Development Plan is to guide future land use and development decisions throughout the Planning District.

Please **drop in at the open house** to learn more about the project, speak with the project team, and provide feedback on the draft Development Plan. Presentation boards and maps will be available for your review.

### Open House Details

Date: August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM  
Location: RM of Stanley Office  
1-23111 PTH 14, Stanley MB  
Format: Drop-in (come and go)

#### Questions? Contact:

Lauren Lange, Project Manager, WSP  
T: 204-259-1919  
E: [Lauren.Lange@wsp.com](mailto:Lauren.Lange@wsp.com)





# Sunflower surprise: festival-goers try unique ice cream flavour



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lennox Braun and Paisley Veeder enjoy sunflower seed ice cream cones at The Ice Cream Hut during the Manitoba Sunflower Festival. The unique flavour, featuring a vanilla base and toasted sunflower seeds, has become a local favourite and returns annually for the festival.

By Annaliese Meier

A local favourite returned to the menu at The Ice Cream Hut this summer as the sunflower seed ice cream made its annual debut during the Manitoba Sunflower Festival in Altona.

The unique sweet-and-salty treat has been part of the shop's legacy for years, and according to the current owners, it's one of their most talked-about offerings.

Darryl and Vanessa Toews, now in their fourth season as hut owners, have continued the tradition since taking over the business.

"The sunflower seed ice cream was actually created before our time at The Ice Cream Hut," said Vanessa Toews. "It's been part of the shop's history for years and has become a unique local favourite, especially during the Sunflower Festival."

The flavour blends a creamy vanilla base with toasted sunflower seeds, offering a smooth texture with a rich, nutty crunch. Though the Toews family didn't invent the recipe, they've proudly continued the tradition since taking over the business four years ago.

"It's different, but in the best way—definitely a must-try during the festival," she said.

While the shop carries a rotating selection of ice cream throughout the season, the sunflower seed flavour is their only in-house made specialty, brought back each year specifically for the festival.

"It always sparks conversations and adds a little surprise to their visit. People are curious at first, and then they're hooked. Many come back just for

the sunflower seed flavour during the festival," said Toews.

The Ice Cream Hut, located at 63 4th Ave NE in Altona, is marking a milestone this year—its 50th anniversary on Aug. 9. Toews and her family are the eighth owners of the shop and the third generation to operate it.

"We're proud to be celebrating our 50th anniversary this summer. It's a legacy we're honoured to continue."

Beyond the frozen treats, Toews said the shop prides itself on offering a nostalgic, small-town experience, quality service, and a supportive work environment for youth.

"We're also proud to give many local kids their first opportunity at employment and provide a fun, enjoyable working atmosphere. It's about more than just ice cream—it's about community."

That sense of connection is especially strong during events like the Sunflower Festival.

"The festival brings people together—from long-time locals to folks just passing through—and it's an honour to be part of something that reflects our town's roots and spirit," said Toews.

She added that while no new in-house creations are currently in development, the shop keeps things fresh with rotating flavours from their suppliers.

"We always keep things fun and fresh throughout the season."

Toews confirmed the sunflower seed flavour will remain a summer staple.

"It will absolutely be back—it's our signature festival flavour."

## "We have something new and fun each week"

By Siobhan Maas

There is something joyful about messy play, especially when someone else cleans it up.

"That's the point: someone else gets to clean up the mess for the mothers," shared summer coordinator Morgan Dickens of the almost daily summer programming being offered through the Red River Valley Parent Child Centre. "We have something new and fun each week. Often with a little bit of mess."

A recent biomedical science graduate from Australia, Dickens is at Stagecoach Park in Morris every Monday

through Wednesday, usually from 9:30-11:30 a.m. A rotating series of activities with a different theme each Wednesday—All About Me, bugs, and STEM field interactives, to name a few—there is always something new for the preschoolers and their parents.

"I like to see the kids' personalities come through," Dickens said. "There is always one part of the activity that is

fun for each individual child."

The regular interaction is also good for the parents.

"Moms come to see other parents, they vent, and their children share their attention with other adults."

Tuesday morning offers a twoonnie swim at the adjacent pool. Dickens is the support person at the beginning of the session, offering a book and song. Parents can splash in the shallow end with their children afterward.

"I would love to see your face if you are around," Dickens said, encouraging local parents to drop by for a craft if they are able.

She asks that families check the centre's Facebook page regularly for potential changes and to stay current on the "week of fun coming your way."

The Red River Valley Parent Child Centre has a fun activity happening in the park every Monday through Wednesday. From left: Ruger, 5, summer coordinator Morgan Dickens, and Mya, 4, with mom Brianna following The Paper Bag Princess' Book Walk and craft on July 21.

PHOTO BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE



Pickup *Your* Community  
Weekly News at



IN MORRIS MB