



Courtesy Trailer NOW AVAILABLE*

Call to plan your next move! *conditions apply



Rhineland • Morris Altona

VOLUME 4 EDITION 31

SHOP LOCAL-**BUY CANADIAN**

THURSDAY, **AUGUST 7, 2025**

altonavoice.ca

LOCALLY OWNED HISTORY BOOK FOR THE COMMUNITY





Constituency Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm

Contact: (431)323-2968 info@laurenstone.ca

Unit 2-195 Main Street S. Carman, MB



news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know



It's Free. It's Fun. It's for **Everyone!**

August 22-24, 2025

JUST BE 18+ AND MANITOBA RESIDENT TO PURCHASE I LGCA LICENSE 810-RF-47920

Volunteers keep nature sanctuary looking spiffy

"THIS SPACE OPENS

UP WITH COLOUR."

By Lorne Stelmach

A team of volunteers turned out at the Discovery Nature Sanctuary in Winkler last month to lend a hand with weeding its gardens.

The crew included a number of City of Winkler summer staff as well as several volunteers, including some

from the Pembina Valley Watershed District.

Paul Goossen, chairperson of the Discovery Nature Sanctuary committee, stressed the importance of volunteers to the development and upkeep

of the expansive nature preserve in northeast Winkler.

"We're fortunate that the City of Winkler has helped out here a lot, but certainly a lot of work is done by volunteers," he said. "It can be a little tough these days to try to get volunteers to come out to do this work ... we would always welcome more volunteers."

The overall development and maintenance of the site is an ongoing effort, but a lot of their focus last week was on the pollinator garden area to control the weeds

"We've got beautiful plants that are blooming here right now including Goldenrod and Bergamot and Yarrow and a variety of other plants," said Goossen. "We basically have this set up as a place where pollinators can come and gather nec-

tar ... and just provide a nice habitat. The other thing we've got here is the shrub garden, and it's a great habitat as well hopefully birds find it accommodating.

"It's all turned out quite nice, and I think people enjoy it. You come



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Discovery Nature Sanctuary hosted a weeding day last month, in which volunteers came out to clear the pollinator garden.

around the corner and you see a lot of greenery and shrubbery, and this space opens up with colour."

Goossen encouraged people to consider getting involved as volunteers with the sanctuary.

"It's a great opportunity even just to come out and see the beauty of the garden and the sanctuary and also just to do something for the benefit of the environment and also just for other people who come by and enjoy it as well.

"It's amazing that we have this right here within the City of Winkler ... for some, it's probably still a bit of a hidden oasis that they're maybe not aware of ... it's always great to see people coming here."

You can find more information online at discoverynaturesanctuary.ca.





"If you need food, you qualify"

The Pantry is getting rescued food into the hands of more people in our community

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A new program aimed at tackling food insecurity in the Winkler area is having a big impact on local families, but they could use a few more dedicated volunteers to keep things running smoothly.

In February, The Pantry, which is run under the umbrella of the Winkler and District Food Cupboard in its space in the Central Station Community Centre on Main St., started up an open shelf system twice a week where everyone is welcome to stop in and supplement their food supplies.

Unlike the weekly food cupboard program, which runs on Wednesdays and asks recipients to come only every other week, The Pantry does not require a referral or registration. Anybody is invited to stop by on Mondays from 5-6:30 p.m. or Fridays from 3-5 p.m. to pick up a selection of the food available that week at no charge.

The shelves at The Pantry are wholly stocked with items from the Winkler Food Rescue program (all monetary donations and food drives organized on behalf of the Winkler Food Cupboard still go specifically to that program; The Pantry is rescued food only).

All of Winkler's major grocery stores participate in the rescue program, donating products that have been overstocked, discontinued, or are nearing their best-buy dates but are still perfectly edible.

This food is put to good use by several schools for their breakfast programs, Central Station for the hot breakfasts and lunches it offers, the Genesis House women's shelter to feed the women and children in their care, and the food cupboard to supplement the staple grocery products it purchases for its clients.

But the sheer amount of rescued items weekly far exceeds those needs, so The Pantry was launched to ensure no one in our community needs to worry about going hungry when there's so much available food around.

"We had so much food rescued that it felt like it could go to even more people," says Phyllis Kroeker, a volunteer with the food rescue team and The Pantry. "The hope was to open it up more to the community, and we really do feel we've accomplished that."

The Pantry sees representatives from between 85-110 households stop in to pick up groceries each week.

"It's for anyone in the community, anyone who is open to getting rescued food," stresses Kroeker, noting the service area is roughly defined as being the Southern Health-Santé Sud regional health authority catchment. "Our hope would be for it to reach people struggling with food insecurity, but we don't ask questions ... we want to see good food going into bellies instead of out to the landfill."

By keeping the program broadly accessible, volunteers hope that people who might hesitate to ask for help from the food cupboard, for example, even if they could use it, will feel comfortable coming to "shop" at The Pantry.

Volunteer Carla Hamm says they do see some overlap between families who regularly use both food pro-

Continued on page 5



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Sandra Banman (left) and Phyllis Kroeker were all smiles as they stocked the shelves of The Pantry last week.



"WE'RE SLOWLY ACQUIRING MORE AND MORE VOLUNTEERS, BUT WE'RE OPEN TO MORE."



HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:30 pm **Saturday** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm





MCC Thrift Shop distributes \$45K to local non-profits

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Non-profits across the region are benefitting from the success of the Winkler MCC Thrift Shop.

Board member Dr. Don Klassen began making the rounds last week to distribute grants to 11 Morden-Winkler area charitable organizations.

"We have a local grants budget each year," he explained. "It was \$35,000, I think, last year and we upped it to \$45,000 this year."

As a fundraising arm of Mennonite Central Committee, the bulk of the shop's profits go to relief efforts and programming all over the world—about half a million dollars this past year.

But it's important, Klassen said, to also give back to the community that has supported the store for over 50 years.

"You're allowed to, up to a certain percentage, do local granting, and we've pushed the envelope on that to maximize it," he said.

"It all happens by people bringing

donations to that back door," Klassen stressed of the store's downtown location, where donors keep the shelves stocked with gently used, resalable goods.

While the thrift shop has a handful of paid employees, it very much relies on the 300+ volunteers who come in regularly to sort and fix donated goods, price and get it all out on the shelves, and man the tills.

A volunteer board of directors oversees the big-picture stuff, including making decisions about the annual local grants.

Klassen will spend the next few weeks distributing those cheques. His first stop last week was at Katie's Cottage, which received \$5,000.

Katie Cares executive director Ruth Reimer said she applied for the support because she feels their work lines up well with the values of MCC.

"I wrote in my letter that I felt our mandate and the MCC mandate were so similar in how we operate. We operate with transparency, with integrity, just like MCC does. And it's not



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Dr. Don Klassen presented Ruth Reimer from Katie Cares with a \$5,000 donation last week towards the Katie's Cottage breakfast program. It was one of 11 grants issued from the MCC Thrift Shop in Winkler.

just about giving a handout, but it's a hand up to somebody," she said, explaining respite home guests pay a modest fee for their stay—enough to keep the facility operating but not so much as to be a burden on families dealing with health challenges. "So you're making them feel good, not like they're getting something for nothing. It gives them their dignity."

Likewise, MCC's global programs help people not just in emergency situations but also by providing sustainable solutions to ongoing problems, observed Klassen.

"A small farmer in Cambodia, for example, somebody who was always flooded out and now grows their crop on a trellis because somebody gave them a few dollars to do it," he said.

Katie Cares will use its donation to support its breakfast program, which provides Katie's Cottage guests with a free meal to start their day.

"It's one less thing for them to worry about," Reimer said

Continued on page 7

Central Energy U15 earns silver, heads to nationals as host team

After a highly competitive U15 AAA season that included more than 40 regular season games and two tournaments, Central Energy captured the silver medal at the Manitoba Softball Provincial Championships—securing their berth at the 2025 Softball Canada Nationals.

The accomplishment is especially meaningful for the team, as they will also have the honour of hosting the Canadian Championships for the first time in Winkler and Morden. Central Energy will be joined at nationals by two other Manitoba teams: the gold medal-winning Eastman Wildcats and the bronze medalist Interlake Phillies.

Central Energy is led by a dedicated and talented coaching team that has committed countless hours to practice and goal-setting with this group of young female athletes.

Coaching staff (Top left photo, L-R):

Todd Folkett (Morden) – longtime high school coach, 1st year with Central Jenai Buchanan (Crystal City) – Central alumni, 1st year coaching with Central Kylyn Shindle (Portage) – Central alumni, 4th year coaching, 1st year as head coach Morgan Miller (Portage) – Phillies alumni, 4th year coaching with Central Kevin Convery (Morden) – 2nd year coaching with Central

"The coaching staff was very proud of how the team performed at provincials, achieving their goal of finishing in the top two," said assistant coach Kevin Convery. "We feel like we're in a good place heading into nationals in a few weeks. We're looking forward to hosting this amazing event and hope to meet our next team goal—qualifying for the A-side playoffs."

From Aug. 13 to 17, 2025, the softball diamonds in Morden and Winkler will host the 15U AAA Female and Male Softball Canada National Championships, welcoming 31 teams from across the country for a celebration of sport, unity and youth achievement.

Event details and schedule: www.softball.ca/u15womens www.softball.ca/u15mens

Instagram: @u15_canadian_fastpitch_2025





getinformed

A welcome support

"IT'S ABOUT MOVING

FOOD INTO PEOPLE'S

HOMES ... WE'VE GOT

EXCESS HERE AND

WE'RE SHARING IT."

From Pg. 3

"There's some familiar faces for sure, but there's a lot that aren't," she says.

"The goal is to offer a dignified kind of shopping experience," Hamm continues. "They come in here and they can choose from whatever we have that day. It's always different, but they can pick their own stuff."

The item limits per household depend greatly on what kind of goods they have on the shelves—sometimes it's 10 items, other weeks it might be

"Ten adds up pretty quickly, so we

don't know if we've figured out the formula yet, but we're trying it out," Kroeker says. "It's meant to be a supplement [to regular grocery shopping or the food cupboard hampers families receive]."

People are often invited to take as many fruits and vegetables as they can reasonably use, while dairy

and meat products are often restricted to one or two per household to ensure there's enough for everyone.

"Our hope is that if anybody is experiencing hunger and they don't have enough to get by, just come," Hamm says. "We want to see everybody fed and nourished. If you need food, you qualify."

"It's about moving food into people's homes. It's nothing more than that," Kroeker says. "We all need food to eat and we've got excess here and we're sharing it."

Many people start lining up hours before the doors open, though Kroeker stresses that isn't necessary there's plenty of food to be had, and more in the back to restock the shelves if they should start to empty.

"I would say every 15 minutes or so we're bringing out more," she says. "All the good stuff doesn't go out at [the start] ... we're trying to keep it equal throughout the time that we're open."

They're still working out some of the kinks in the program. Ideally, rather than having people line up outside, they'd like to figure out a way to stagger people's arrival or perhaps even set up a comfortable waiting room space at the community centre where shoppers could relax and chat. For that, though, they need more volun-

Right now a dedicated group of volunteers set up The Pantry each Friday afternoon, taking it all back down Monday evening so that the food cupboard program can fill the space a few days later.

"After Monday we pack everything away and make it so it's ready for them on Wednesday," Hamm says. "It's a lot of work.

"We're slowly acquiring more and more volunteers, but we're open to more," she says, noting that if they could get a couple of teams going it would lessen the burden on any one group.

If you'd like to get in-

volved, stop by or give Central Station Community Centre a call (204-325-0257) and they will put you in touch with The Pantry team.

"I LOVE THIS INITIATIVE"

During a recent session at The Pantry, a few of the shoppers shared what the program has meant for them and their families.

Floyd Robles came to the area from the Philippines nearly a year ago. He heard about The Pantry through Central Station and has become a regular there in recent months.

Robles' wife is still back home; he's trying to save as much as he can to bring her to Canada.

"Since the pandemic, it's hit hard, we're still trying to cope, to get back on our feet," he says, noting his company has also felt the financial sting of recent tariffs by the U.S.

The Pantry has been a godsend, Ro-

"This has been very helpful," he



A dino-mite day at camp

It's been busy at the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre this summer with the Dino Day Camps going on each day. It is for kids aged 6 to 12, and there can be between eight and twelve kids each day. "We're all about dinosaurs here," said summer instructor Ariana Dueck, who noted they do a wide array of arts and crafts with everything from flower pot painting to making volcanoes to creating hanging squids. "The kids love the sandbox a lot. They love the idea of digging for fossils," she noted. "And we go to the splash park every week as well. They love that, and we do a tour through the museum."

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

says. "I always recommend [it] to the Filipino community here because it has helped us so much."

Soukaini Rochdi moved to Winkler from Morocco with her husband and two daughters last summer. He works at a local fast food restaurant and she has a part-time job in retail.

They've come to love their adopted

"I feel like we live in a big family here," Rochdi says. "Everyone wants to help everyone. This is what I love in this city."

Making ends meet has been a challenge for the family as they deal with skyrocketing grocery costs and high rental rates. When all is said and done, she has just a few hundred dollar to spend on groceries, Rochdi shares, so she needs to stretch that as much as possible.

"So this is why I come in here all the time," she says, noting the money they save on food is money they

can save for the future or put towards the other costs that come with raising two young children. "They help me so much just to feed my family. I love this initiative."

The fact that it's rescued food bothers Rochdi not in the slightest.

"Even if I can use [produce] for just one or two days, it's so helpful and useful," she says, noting sometimes when there's been an excess in the produce section on a given week she's taken a bit more to pass along to her neighbours or friends to ensure it's put to good use. "Why throw it

One day, Rochdi hopes to thank The Pantry and the community of donors and volunteers that make this program possible.

"In the future, if I found a good job and I can feed my family, I would not need to come back [to shop], but I will come back here just to give a donation for other people."



PUBLISHER



MARKETING & PROMOTIONS **Brett Mitchell**



FDITOR Ashleigh Viveiros



REPORTER Lorne Stelmach





COLUMNIST Peter Cantelon



Gwen Dvck



PRODUCTION Nicole Kapusta



PRODUCTION Tara Gionet



DISTRIBUTION

The newspaper is supported by advertising dollars. If you enjoy the paper and would like to see it grow and prosper, visit any of the advertisers and businesses in our rural communities. Keep your dollars working at home and shop local.

Our commitment to you: we want to help build stronger communities through articles that both inform and entertain you about what's going on throughout the Pembina Valley. This is your community newspaper let us know what you want to see in it.

OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS











Voice Sethens > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

The things we carry

nce | was in the ar- camp, and stood in formation. tillery. It was a while ago. I was honorably discharged after four years.

Among the many forms of training was a grueling event in midsummer that required us to stay awake for 72 straight hours.

They didn't even tell us this prior to the event. We thought we were going on a three-day exercise that included sleep.

So, on day one, we set up our tents,

stripped naked (it was insanely hot and humid at this base along the shores of a great lake), and climbed into our sleeping bags ... blissfully ignorant of the future.



By Peter Cantelon

Then, at about 2 a.m., we were

shocked awake by the sound of artillery simulators exploding next to our tents.

(ASIDE: An artillery simulator sounds like the firing of an artillery gun and can reach more than 170 decibels. For reference, sounds above 150 dB can be life-threatening—170-200 dB can cause lung damage, pulmonary embolisms, or even burst lungs. Much of what we endured is no longer legal in the strictest sense. In hindsight, it was still fun, and, BONUS, no one died.)

So, shocked awake by artillery simulators and screaming corporals, sergeants, and warrant officers, we rapidly got dressed in a panic, packed up

Dress consisted of fatigues, heavy combat boots, helmet, thick socks, belt, large backpack filled with extra clothing, camp supplies, food, weapon (approximately 4.5 kg or 10 pounds), several magazines of ammo (0.68 kg or 1.5 pounds) etc.

Overall, the average kit weighed between 36 to 45 kg or 80 to 100 pounds.

Orders were received. We were the good Canadian artillery (in infantry roles this week). Our officers and senior ranks comprised the enemy (somewhere out there).

Our role was to patrol the area and set up trenches on high ground surrounding a new camp before day's end. Then, we would vigilantly guard the camp through the days ahead.

Temperatures reached well over 30 degrees. Our senior ranks intentionally made us belly crawl through poison ivy. I left the experience infested with it. No showers. Warm water in our canteens.

Most of us were exhausted before day one even came to an end.

Before sunset, we were digging trenches in the heat with crappy combat shovels through almost two meters of shale.

The evening consisted of night at-

tacks by "the enemy" filled with flares, artillery simulators, flash bangs, rifle and machine gun fire, and shouts of orders over the noise.

Rinse and repeat for three days without sleep. Clearly, I survived, and while I hated almost every moment of it, time has turned it into a good

The point of this story? Throughout the whole experience, I wanted nothing more than to strip to my shorts, throw away my helmet, and run away.

In a real combat experience this would have gotten me killed. This can be the same in life.

Often, the greatest weights we carry, the burdens we want to shed, are there for good reason. People, responsibilities, and experiences—they can keep us alive, they can keep us going, even when we may want to shed them the most, often, especially then.

When we are depressed, for example, we want to shed things that feel like burdens. We don't want to get out of bed. We don't want to shower or brush our teeth. We don't want to get dressed. We don't want to see other people. But these are often the very

Continued on page 7

Letter policy

The Voice welcomes letters from readers on local matters.

Please keep your letters short (excessively long letters are less likely to be published), on-topic, and respectful.

The *Voice* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject any submission.

Please include your full name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. Your name and city will be published with your letter. We do not print anonymous letters.

Send your letters to us by e-mail at news@winklermordenvoice.ca.

All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Voice.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

GENERAL INOUIRIES: 204-325-6888

ADVERTISING:

Gwen Dyck 204-823-0535 qdyck@winklermordenvoice.ca

Advertising Deadline: Monday at 4 p.m.

NEWS DESK:

Ashleigh Viveiros Editor 204-332-3456 news@winklermordenvoice.ca

Lorne Stelmach Reporter 204-823-2655 Istelmach@winklermordenvoice.ca **MAILING ADDRESS:** Winkler Morden Voice Box 39, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

The Voice is published Thursdays and distributed as a free publication to 21,141 households. Republishing in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Printed in Canada by Prolific Printing. The Voice received financial support from the Government of Canada in 2021.

View the Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca

Winkler Harvest Festival is on this weekend

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's largest community celebration is on this weekend.

The Harvest Festival takes over the Parkland fairgrounds Friday through Sunday, offering a little something for everyone.

Coordinator Karina Bueckert is most looking forward to this year's stage acts, which include up-and-coming country crooner Owen Riegling on Friday, '90s rockers Big Sugar on Saturday, and Christian band Tenth Avenue North on Sunday.

"I'm excited about all of them. We have some pretty big names coming, and we also have quite a variety of

> MCC, FROM PG. 4

"We do all our own baking here," she shared, noting they source all their supplies from area growers and stores. "It's important to us that we support local."

Also receiving MCC funding over the next few weeks will be the Central Station Community Centre (\$6,000), Tabor Home (\$2,000), The Bunker youth ministry (\$5,000), Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley (\$2,000), Genesis House (\$5,000), the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre (\$4,000), Segue Career Options (\$4,000), Gateway Resources (\$4,000), Sixteen13 Ministry (\$4,000) and the Winkler-Morden chapter of Habitat for Humanity (\$4,000).

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

things that stave off depression and lift us from it.

There were so many moments I wanted to drop everything and run. But I couldn't ... they were there to keep me safe even when I hated the burden. Not only that, I was there to keep others safe.

No different than a firefighter's heavy clothing, helmet, mask, and oxygen tank. Brutal burdens, but imagine if they were discarded in a moment of frustration; injury and death would soon follow.

What are you carrying with you that you want to toss? Is it people? Responsibilities? Existence? Before doing so, consider the reason the burden is there. They may just be keeping you and others alive.

local Manitobans taking the stage as well," she said, pointing to opening acts like Joe Wilson and Catie St. Germain Friday, The M'Ladies and Link and the Moustaches Saturday, and the Quonset Brothers and The Color Sunday.

The rest of the festival schedule is full of familiar favourites: the Fawn & Cub market, Prairie Exotics displays, a host of children's activities (the petting zoo, obstacle course, and more), board and video gaming competitions inside the exhibition centre, the Saturday morning parade, entertainment in the beer gardens, a Strong Man competition, free swimming at the RCU Aquatic Centre, the community worship service, the car show, fireworks, and, of course the Wonder Shows midway filled with rides and games.

This year you can avoid the lines for midway wristbands by picking them up at the Meridian Exhibition Centre offices during business hours in the days before the festival.

"Those lineups are always so long, so I'm excited to see how that will play out," said Bueckert, noting you can buy a band for any specific day of the festival for \$40, which gets you unlimited rides.

Speaking of the midway, Bueckert notes they're once again offering a quiet morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Though all are welcome during this time, the rides and games will operate without any music or bright lights to help those with sensory challenges



VOICE FILE PHOTO

There's something for everyone at the Winkler Harvest Festival this weekend.

feel more comfortable.

"We did it for an hour last year and this year we've built it into a twohour morning during the parade," Bueckert said, adding it was pretty well received last year and they hope to grow the attendance at it this and future years.

With construction ongoing at the Winkler Centennial Arena, Bueckert reminds festival-goers that parking is going to be even more limited than usual in the Parkland area this week-

"We're asking for a little grace from

people," she said, urging anyone who can get to the fairgrounds without a car to consider doing

However you get there, come ready to celebrate and to greet all the old friends you'll most likely

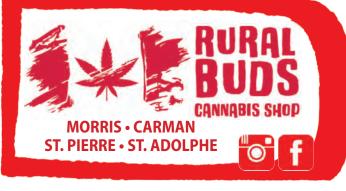
run into at the festival.

"There's so many different people that come out. It's like a homecoming every year," Bueckert said. "Everybody comes home and gets to see everybody again.

"That's what I love about being the director is I remember when I was a kid, all those memories of the festival. seeing everyone. Being part of it now is very cool for me."

learn Y011 can about more the weekend's schedule at visitwinkler.ca/harvest-festival.







AUGUST 21 OFFSITE DAY 1 AUCTION – TIMED ONLINE AT 9:00AM VIEWING: AUGUST 18TH TO AUGUST 22ND Bidding Starts: August 21st at 9am offsite week 2 day 1 – Closes Wednesday August 27th 10 am PICKUP DAYS: FRI., AUG. 29 & SAT., AUG. 30 9AM TO 5PM. AUG. 21 ONSITE DAY 2 AUCTION – TIMED ONLINE AT 9:00AM VIEWING: AUGUST 18TH TO AUGUST 22ND BIDDING STARTS: AUGUST 21ST AT 9AM ONSITE WEEK 2 DAY 2 CLOSES THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH 10 AM















CLOSED SUNDAYS

SALE WILL CONSIST OF FARM EQUIPMENT, GENERAL MERCHANDISE, OVERSTOCK AND SURPLUS ITEMS, **PLUS MUCH MORE!**

If you require help or do not have internet access please call the office at (204) 434-6519.

Call today if you would like to consign your items! Office (204) 434-6519 • Brad Kehler (204) 346-2440 Darryl Enns (204) 216-0931 • Ed Pylypjuk (204) 392-8442 ITEMS ARE SOLD AS YOU SEE THEM, Call Now to Consign in Upcoming Auctions.

Plum Coulee ready for Plum Fest Aug. 15-17

By Lorne Stelmach

Organizers of the annual Plum Fest in Plum Coulee see a couple of key factors working in its favour to draw people.

There is just something about the small-town vibe combined with everything being along the main street in town that makes for a winning formula for the community.

"Something about being out on the street in the middle of town is just fun," said organizing committee chair Erica Dyck.

The Plum Fest has been running for 23 years now, full of a host of favourite activities that draw decent crowds every year. This year's edition is Aug. 15-17.

"I think it's because it's free, and it's smaller," Dyck said of its ongoing success. "It's not as overwhelming maybe as the bigger events."

"We plan our stuff, or the majority of our stuff, so that you can attend everything. You don't have to miss out on one thing or the other or have to split up a family to go to different activities," she said. "This year, we wanted to have stuff for adults, teenagers, and for kids ... so you can be

any age to participate and enjoy.

"This year, we have some new stuff happening," Dyck shared, citing the example of the stuffy riders—plush electric animals that can be riddenwhich will be available Friday night along with the stage shows.

And on Saturday, there will be a bike decorating contest sponsored by Access Credit Union with the lure of potentially being able to land a new bike as a prize.

"And of course we have lots of children's activities. We have the bouncers, the inflatables, a petting zoo," Dyck noted, adding there are also a few things that might appeal to older youth and adults, such as axe throw-

The entertainment kicks off with The Bob Catz and Brothers Keep Friday evening, which will also feature a community supper.

On Saturday, following the pancake breakfast, there will be a parade along with the traditional duck race at 1 p.m. and the firemen's rodeo at 2 p.m. Legends Car Club will also be there for a show Saturday afternoon.

Continued on page 2



From community meals to activities for the kids to old-time dances, there's something for everyone at the Plum Fest in Plum Coulee August 15-17.

PLUM COULEE

Join us for a weekend of Free Family Fun!

What does Plum Fest have to offer? A little bit of everything, and it's all free! From it's parade and duck race to the petting zoo and inflatables for kids, the live entertainment throughout the weekend on the main stage, the adrenaline-charged Firemen's Rodeo to it's spectacular fireworks display, and so much more, there is something for everyone. Come check us out this summer!

August

Follow us on Facebook or see our website www.plumfest.com for update to date event schedule, volunteer opportunities and more.





FRIDAY 5:00-6 p.m.

Supper (Hosted by the Plum Coulee Baseball

Stuffy Riders (Main Avenue) The Bob Catz (Main Stage) 5:00-9 p.m. 6 p.m. Brothers Keep (Main Stage)
The Bob Catz (Main Stage) 7 p.m.

8 p.m. 7:30-9 p.m. Line Dancing (West of the Elevator)

SATURDAY

Waffles and Crackles Breakfast - \$10 per person 7:30 a.m.

(Hosted by the Plum Fest)

10 a.m.

Plum Fest Street Market 11 a.m.

11 a.m. Food Trucks 11 a.m. A Country Princess

Access Credit Union Bike Decorating Contest!!

Main Stage after the Parade

11 a.m.-7 p.m. Inflatables by Southern Bounce-A-Rama

11 a.m.- 7 p.m. Petting Zoo'by Riklyn Farms

11 a.m. Climbing Wall 11 a.m.

Ax Throwing Prizes awarded for best bike. Sponsored by 11 a.m.

Plum Coulee branch of Access Credit Union

Children's activities sponsored by the Plum Coulee Community Foundation

Open Mike (Main Stage) 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Duck Race (Sunset Beach) 1 p.m. Legends Car Club Car Show n'Shine 1 p.m.

Fireman's Rodeo (Sunset Beach) **Bull Riding**

3 p.m.-5 p.m. 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Line Dancing (West of the Elevator) 5 p.m-7 p.m. Supper (Hosted by the Plum Fest)

6 p.m. 6 p.m.-10 p.m. 7 p.m. 8 p.m.

Dusk (10:30 p.m.)

SUNDAY

10 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

1 p.m. 1:30 p.m.

Low Stake Affection (Main Stage) Vinyl Revival (Main Stage) Fireworks by ArchAngel Church Service (Main Stage) Lunch (Hosted by Plum Fest) - Hot Dogs,

Sponsored by McMunn & Yates

Farmer Sausage dinner, baked potato,

The Dueling Pianos (Main Stage) Dark by 3 (Main Stage)
Olde Tyme Dance (West of the Elevator)

The Janzen Boys (Main Stage)

homemade buns, garden salad, dessert

home made fries and a revel Jordan Janzen (Main Stage) **Corn Hole Tournament Registration** Bags Fly!

Our 2025 Sponsors Plum Coulee Plum

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsors, whose generosity helps make our work and mission possible.



J.K.W. Construction Ltd.







Manitoba













GOLDEN



Plum Coulee & District **Chamber of Commerce**

SUNVALLEY

















HAVE A GREAT TIME!

Your advertising is what allows us to produce your newspaper each week. Shop Local - Stay Local. Call or text Gwen Dyck at 204-823-0535 or gdyck@winklermordenvoice.ca



> PLUMFEST, FROM PG. 1

Then the evening will feature a farmer sausage dinner and stage entertainment from The Dueling Pianos, Dark by Three, Janzen Boys, Low Stake Affection, and Vinyl Re-

The day wraps up with the old-time dance followed by fireworks at dusk.

"We try to keep with as many local bands as possible," noted Dyck. "We want to support local."

Sunday will include a community worship service as well as Jordan Janzen on the main stage and then a cornhole tournament.

"Every year we always talk about

maybe going down to one day, but we just keep getting a little bigger," said Dyck.

She sees it as perhaps helping draw people to come back to Plum Coulee again and again.

'And Plum Coulee has continued to grow," she noted. "It's growing by leaps and bounds, so it's nice to see that it's not a dying small town.

"We have huge support. We have lots of sponsors from within Plum Coulee, and without them, we wouldn't have a festival at all."

You can check out the full festival schedule online at plumfest.com/.



JOIN US!

PLUM FEST 2025

AUGUST 15TH, 16TH AND 17TH

WWW.PLUMFEST.COM







Treats, not tickets

Altona Police encouraging safe biking

By Pam Fedack

Cyclists in Altona and Plum Coulee could be in for a cool treat this summer—but only if they're riding responsibly.

The Altona Police Service has brought back a popular community initiative that rewards both kids and adults for safe biking. Officers are handing out free treat cards, redeemable for a slushie or ice cream cone, to those spotted following the rules of the road.

"It's the opposite of writing tickets," said Chief Dan Defer. "If officers see someone biking safely, they'll stop and hand them a treat card. It's a way to reward positive behaviour instead of punishing negative behaviour."

Officers keep the cards with them while out on patrol and are encouraged to interact with cyclists when they observe safe habits, such as obeying stop signs, wearing helmets, or using proper hand signals.

The initiative covers both the Town of Altona and the LUD of Plum Cou-

lee.

Defer said the goal is twofold: to promote bicycle safety and create more positive interactions between officers and the community.

"We've noticed an increase in cyclists maybe not operating as safely as they could—running stop signs, just dangerously riding bikes," said Defer. "We're just trying to get ahead of that, because unfortunately, the longer it goes, something will happen, and it won't be good."

But the program also reflects a broader goal of building trust and familiarity between officers and residents.

"We don't want to be seen as just the people driving around in police cars," Defer said. "We want to be out in the community, talking to people. This is a small town, and this is what we should be doing."

While the initiative has only been running a short time, Defer said it's a return to a program that was previously successful in past years. The department plans to evaluate its impact



ALTONA POLICE PHOTO

Altona Police officers are armed with treat cards this summer to hand out to cyclists in Altona and Plum Coulee that they spot following the rules of the road.

at the end of August.

"We haven't crunched the numbers yet," he said. "But we're hoping it has the same kind of positive results it did last time."

The treat cards were purchased by the police service from a local establishment and serve as a lighthearted way to encourage good habits while reinforcing safety and community connection.

With summer in full swing and more people out on bicycles and scooters, Defer said the timing couldn't be better.

"It's the perfect season for this—and a good reminder that safety can go hand-in-hand with fun."

Summer reading program encourages active minds

By Siobhan Maas

Across Morris and area, children are flipping pages as they participate in the annual TD Summer Reading Club delivered through 2,200 public libraries across Canada, including the Valley Regional Library in Morris.

"We always strive to keep children interested in reading throughout the summer," shares head librarian Diane Ali. "The summer club is a fun way to keep them motivated. Everyone likes to be challenged, win prizes, and have friendly competition.

"The under eight age group is our biggest participant group. They love the idea of picking their own books, choosing a prize from the treasure box, and taking home what they want to read. They are still excited to come to the library."

Registration is as easy as a name, phone number, and age shared with the front desk staff. Participants receive a package of activity sheets, stickers, and postcards along with a reading log. For every five books read and verified by a parent, children can return to the library for a prize.

This year's theme "Around the World" includes an interactive website with trivia, jokes, a book battle, and videos featuring authors and illustrators.

Library clerk and summer reading program coordinator Brooklyn Williamson says watching the kids choose their prize is the most rewarding part of the program.

"You can see how proud they are of their hard work. This program encourages them to read more and have active minds during the summer."

Local parent and Altona adult education teacher Coralie Potetz has both her sons registered in the reading club this summer, the youngest for the first time.

"Archer reads constantly," says Potetz as her three-year-old was nose deep into a Paw Patrol reader. "Especially since he got new glasses last week."

Her older son heads into Grade 2 in the fall.

"For Atticus to colour in his squares and get a prize, he needs to read a book at his reading level this summer," she says. "It doesn't count if an

adult reads the story to him."

When asked how many books he's read, Atticus answers, "A lot."

His favourite? Lego-themed books.

With over 30 years at the library, Ali acknowledges that keeping older readers engaged is a challenge.

"We are competing with electronics and organized entertainment all summer. It is difficult, but a library is a living entity and we change with the times."

Despite its smaller book collection, the Valley Regional Library is stocked with new releases and offers access to every library in Manitoba through inter-library loans.

"Unlike the city libraries, where you might wait weeks for a new release, we often have it right away," Ali says. "We try to keep our library current. Even though we might not have everything in a series, we can bring it in for you. Elibraries, magazines, audiobooks, and books in different languages are accessible through your library card."

Potetz, who has loved reading from an early age, is happy to foster similar interests for her children. She visits the library often and loves that "access is so close to where we live" and that "the kids feel welcome in the library."

The Summer Reading Club runs until Aug. 18. Participants can register in person at the Valley Regional Library or visit tdsummerreadingclub. ca for more information.



Palliative care program draws early bird winners

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Red River Valley Palliative Care (RRVPC) drew the early bird winners for its 25th annual Butterfly Golf tournament raffle last week, and also honoured one of their own.

Committee members met at Bigway in Morris July 28 to pick the winners for Winnipeg Blue Bombers tickets (won by Rikki Erhart) and \$250 in Bigway Bucks (won by Norma Hunter).

Prior to the draw, the RRVPC committee presented member Fred Kelesnik with a commemorate T-shirt designating him as "Raffle King."

"Each year, for many years now, Kelesnik has been the top ticket seller for the Butterfly Raffle, and he has done it again," shared RRVPC coordinator Holly Rafferty. "Kelesnik has had close to \$5,000 worth of ticket sales this summer, and the final draw isn't until the Butterfly Golf tournament date of Sept. 7."

Still up for grabs are the raffle's top four prizes: a Yeti Cooler package, a Pit Boss pellet propane combo barbecue, a birdbath, and a whimsical wood carving.





SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Left: Bigway's Pat Schmidtke draws the early bird winners for Red River Valley Palliative Care's 25th annual Butterfly Golf tournament raffle. Right: The event's organizing committee—from left, Holly Rafferty, Betty Dyck, and Sharon Kelesnik honoured fellow member Fred Kelesnik for being the "Raffle King." He's already sold nearly \$5,000 worth of tickets.

Rafferty said they're aiming to raise \$20,000 from this year's raffle and tournament.

"Which would be our highest ever, as costs have risen for education, mileage, maintaining the palliative rooms and events that support volunteers and client and their families at their end-of-life."

Tickets are available at the Morris Hospital, Red River Valley Lodge, and the Emerson Health Centre as well as from committee members

There's also still space in the tourna-

ment, which takes place at Riverview Golf Course on Sunday, Sept. 7. You can register at the golf course or by emailing hrafferty@southernhealth.

Funds found for feral felines

By Siobhan Maas

A new initiative to help stray cats live better lives was formalized this summer after the feral feline population had risen to over 40 cats and kittens in the small town of St. Jean Baptiste.

"We do know there are more strays, in the park along the river, and a farmer north of town says the same," explained Meaghen Fillion, founder and co-chair of St. Jean Hearts for Strays, a volunteer-run Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program that formed after several local residents found themselves feeding strays independently of one another while watching the population grow.

"I'm a cat and animal lover," said Fillion. "My husband and I have been caring for strays for years. We've found homes for over 30 cats. You feed one momma cat and she brings back her kittens. With many animal rescues at capacity across the province, we knew we could only do so much and we'd need to implement a TNR program."

Controlling and maintaining the animal situation in St. Jean is the goal of the 12-person committee.

"Our hope in the long run is to have a stabilized population where cats are spayed or neutered and monitored

for the rest of their lives," explained Fillion. "We also hope to inspire other municipalities and communities to implement their own TNR programs."

Fillion is quick to point out that St. Jean Hearts for Strays is not affiliated with a petition with over 250 signatures that circulated in July requesting better animal control resources in the RM of Montcalm.

"We actually asked to be removed from the petition and have had nothing but positive interactions with the RM," she noted.

Jolene Bird, CAO with the RM of Montcalm, understands the situation.

"Our municipality no longer has a pound that accepts cats," she said. "We have nowhere to take them and [the population] is hard to address when there is nowhere to go."

Although the RM is still "finding their way" with this, Bird thinks the Heart for Strays program is a fantastic

"They are organized and came with a full proposal that council was happy to accept."

Bird encourages any local animal advocates to have open communication with the RM so they can work together to find a "sustainable way to approach animal control."

Continued on page 20



The Future of Internet is Local.

Valley Fiber is committed to delivering a fiber internet network that rural communities deserve. Stream movies, make video calls and more – and never worry about lag time or inconsistent signals. We're there for you like a good neighbour.

Sign up online or by phone. shop.valleyfiber.ca | 1-800-958-5698 As not all homes are on our fiber line, availability may vary. Check website for eligibility for fiber and wireless internet.

getinformed

Winkler Arts and Culture hosting festival mini escape room

By Ashleigh Viveiros

If you need a short break from the heat and the crowds at the Harvest Festival this weekend, the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre has got you covered.

The Park St. gallery is hosting its first-ever mini escape room Friday and Saturday.

"We wanted to kind of try to capitalize a little bit more this year on the Harvest Festival being right across the street," explained executive director Jered Hildebrand. "We wanted to bring more people in and thought what could we do for a special one or two-day event that wouldn't take too much away from the festival, because we don't want to do that. Just something people can stop in, do for a bit, and then head back out again."

WAC staff have transformed the

upper gallery into an escape room that tells the story of Parisian artist Jacques L'Artiste, who has gone missing on the opening night of his first

The curator of the Cool Art Gallery has called you in to recover Monsieur L'Artiste and save the gallery's reputation before the public begins to ar-

"You need to follow the clues as you would normally in an escape room," Hildebrand says, sharing that they've created a few custom paintings to set the scene. "Hopefully at the end you'll have found Jacques and you can bring him to us and have your group's name put in for a draw for a \$50 Winkler Arts and Culture gift

He says the puzzle will take people less than 20 minutes to solve, so it's the perfect bite-sized break.



"Come in, have some fun, enjoy the air conditioning," Hildebrand says.

The escape room is available on Friday from 3-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's aimed at groups

of two to six people and designed for ages 10+.

Admission is free, and pre-registration is not required.

Measles exposures at BTHC, Winkler clinic

By Voice staff

Public health officials are warning

the public about two new measles exposure sites in our area.

Anyone who was at these locations

during the dates and times indicated are asked to monitor for symptoms

until the identified date:



riday Entertainment Starts at 7:00 pm



7:00-8:00 pm **Hearts on Fire**

A 5 piece country band specializing in 1990's country music. Grab your cowboy hat and boots and get ready to two-step to the country hits from the 90's.



8:30 pm **Kates Outlaw**

The Indigenous four-piece band from Dauphin has earned a reputation for gritty guitar work, rich harmonies and storytelling songs rooted in prairie life and outlaw spirit.

Street Vendors

Beer Gardens Slo-Pitch Tournament

Show 'n Shine Car Display - Sunday Sponsored by Stonewall Home Hardware and Rockwood Motor Inn

QUARRY PRODUCERS Friday 10 pm at VMSC

FAMILY FUN ZONE DAILY

SATURDAY Face Painting 12-6:00 pm **Dinomite Adventures**

12-6:00 pm Mini Golf, Dinosaur Visits, Dino Shop, Dino Photo Ops Magic Show - Time TBD

Canada Trust MEMORIAL **PARK SUNDAY** Yoga in the park
with Britt Andrew 11am-12 **Face Painting** 12-6 pm Stonewall's Got Talent



• Boundary Trails Health Centre emergency department on July 26 from 10:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Aug. 18.

• C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre urgent care, 385 Main St., Winkler on July 25 from 3-5:30 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Aug. 17.

Public health is asking anyone who was in these locations during this time to check their immunization records and ensure they are up to date with measles vaccine (MMR or MMRV).

If symptoms occur, contact your health care provider. You're urged to call ahead before going to a health care facility so medical staff can take steps to reduce the exposure of other people to the virus.

A full list of exposure sites and further information about measles is available at gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html.



For more information visit www.stonewallquarrydays.ca • Only 15 minutes North of Winnipeg • Off Hwy #7 or Hwy #236

Tickets to Katie Cares fashion show on sale Aug. 14

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Katie Cares is shaking things up for its 12th annual Celebration of Life Fashion Show next month.

Tickets for the popular fundraiser in support of the non-profit and its respite home, Katie's Cottage, go on sale Thursday, Aug. 14 at 9 a.m.

This year's event is moving to Morden, taking place at the Access Event Centre on Saturday, Sept. 27.

Also new this year is there are two different time slots for people to choose from: a 12:30 p.m. matinee and a 7 p.m. evening show, each with their own bands and raffle prizes.

"We have a raffle with so many beautiful prizes," said organizer Ruth Reimer said, sharing that the matinee show will feature music from M'Ladies while the Bare Yogis will take the stage for the evening show.

The events will both include a charcuterie board, a sparking wine reception, and a full bar.

"We tweak it a little every year," Reimer said. "Lots of tweaking and making it better and better."

Although there are two shows, it's still about the same number of tickets as in past years.

"We'll do 320 seats at the matinee and then again at the evening show," she said. "We did 684 there [at the Meridian Exhibition Centre] last year and we wanted to kind of keep it similar and not go too far backwards."

She's excited at the opportunity of potentially drawing people from further away for whom the evening show simply didn't work.

"We've already had inquires about, let's say, a seniors group from Carman. They can drive out together on a bus, come for the afternoon, and then they're home for the evening."

As always, the models strutting the catwalk are people whose lives have been touched by cancer. They'll be sharing their stories.

"They're also going to hear stories of what it means to stay at Katie's Cottage," Reimer said. "We have a guest who's going to be sharing that, and we're going to hopefully have some parents share what getting a Beanie Baby meant for their child.

Katie Cares hands out thousands of Beanie Babies and other care items to children receiving treatment in local health care facilities each year.

The fashion show is always a soldout event, often within days of tickets going on sale.

"We have not had an event where we've not sold out," Reimer said, urging people to book their seats early to avoid disappointment. "I think it's going to go fast again this year."

It's \$75 per ticket (with a \$50 tax receipt) or \$600 per table (\$400 tax receipt). Tickets can be purchased starting Aug. 14 at Katie's Cottage or by calling 204-312-8445 or 204-362-1173.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The 12th annual Celebration of Life Fashion Show will have both a matinee and an evening showing to choose from on Sept. 27.

Katie Cares also has its online auction running this fall in partnership with Grunthal Auction Service.

"That's creating a lot of excitement," Reimer said. "There are a lot of good items up for grabs."

Go to grunthalauctionservice.com to see what's on the auction block. The auction opens Sept. 20 and will close the day of the fashion show.

Both these fundraisers are vital to

the operations of Katie Cares, which includes offering the families of patients at nearby Boundary Trails Health Centre an affordable and welcoming place to stay.

"We rely on our fundraisers and then the grants and donations," Reimer said. "We work hard to be fiscally responsible with that money, being truthful and transparent and honest in how we spend it."

Southland Mall marking 40 years with Friday grand reopening

By Voice staff

The Southland Mall is marking 40 years in the community with a special celebration this week.

The complex is holding a grand re-opening Friday, Aug. 8 starting at 11 a.m. with a ceremony featuring speeches from dignitaries, a performance by Indigenous dancers, and a cheque presentation to a local charity.

That will be followed by a free pulled pork lunch for the first 500 guests, live music from noon to 2 p.m., kid's activities, community booths highlighting local non-profits, and door prizes.

"We're thrilled to celebrate this milestone with the people who have made Southland Mall a cornerstone of the community for 40 years," said Brienne Wright, CT REIT property manager, Western Canada. "This event is not only a celebration of our past, but a look forward to an exciting future."



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY MERLIN HEPPNER

A giant timeline mural at the north end of the Southland Mall lays out the facility's history stretching back to its grand opening in August of 1984 through to today.

The mall has recently undergone major renovations to welcome new retailers, including Winners, which has also been installed at the mall's

opened there earlier this year.

A timeline of the facility's history

north end showcasing key milestones and memorable moments.

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

sports&recreation

Central Energy U15AAA claims silver after rain-delayed provincial final

By Lana Meier

The Central Energy U15 AAA softball team brought home silver from the 2025 Softball Manitoba U15 AAA Female Championships, which concluded Wednesday in Winkler after rain delays paused play the previous weekend.

Central fell 10–6 to the Eastman Wildcats in the rescheduled gold medal game, despite a strong offensive performance. The squad collected 15 hits to Eastman's seven but couldn't hold a late lead, surrendering eight runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Ella Conrad went 3-for-5 with two doubles and an RBI, while Payton Manness, Shyanne Goertzen, and Bree Pearce each added multiple hits. Central opened the scoring in the first with an RBI single from Zoey Shantz and led 4–2 by the fourth, but Eastman capitalized on defensive miscues and timely hits to secure the championship.

Earlier in the day, Central earned a berth in the gold medal game with a 14–5 comeback win over the Interlake Phillies, who took home bronze. Down 5–0 in the first, Central exploded for five runs in the third and seven more in the fourth.

Hailey Baldwin powered the comeback with two hits and four RBIs, including a key two-run single. Manness, Pearce, and Conrad also drove in runs, while Goertzen picked up the win in the circle, allowing one earned run over five innings.

The strong finish capped a dominant run through round-robin and early playoff play, where Central posted shutout wins over the Manitoba Angels, Winnipeg Lightning Slatch, Westman Magic, and Interlake Phillies, as well as high-scoring



Central Energy's Shyanne Goertzen pitched back-to-back games in the bronze and gold medal matchups, helping secure a comeback win over Interlake before delivering a standout performance against Eastman. Goertzen held the Wildcats scoreless through five innings and was named player of the game by her coaches.

victories against Smitty's Terminators and others. Their only losses came at the hands of eventual gold medallists Eastman.

With their silver medal, Central Energy now turns its attention to the U15 Female Canadian Championships, which they will host in Winkler from Aug. 13–17. Eastman and one other top-finishing team will join them at nationals, while Interlake and another qualifier will represent Manitoba at the U15 Female Western Canadian Championships in Calgary, Aug. 1–4.



The Central Energy U15AAA team poses for a photo after winning silver at the 2025 Softball Manitoba Provincial Championships. Pictured left to right, back row: Morgan Miller (assistant coach), Kylyn Shindle (head coach), Shyanne Goertzen, Hailey Baldwin, Shayna Driedger, Ella Conrad, Kylie Wiebe, Blaine Wiebe, Jenai Buchanan (assistant coach), Kevin Convery (manager/coach); front row: Harper Manness (bat girl), Bree Pearce, Amelia Wytinck, Sinead Convery, Payton Manness, Kelsey Dyck, Zoey Shantz, Arabella Goertzen (bat girl); Missing from the photo are Todd Folkett (assistant coach), Melissa Pearce (manager), and Ashton Wytinck (bat boy).



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Central Energy's Zoey Shantz slides safely into third base, beating the throw to Interlake Phillies' Brynn Williams during the bronze medal game at the 2025 Softball Manitoba U15 AAA Female Championships.

Local athletes off to Canada Summer Games

By Lorne Stelmach

The south central region of the province is well represented on Team Manitoba that is competing at the 2025 Canada Summer Games starting this week.

There are 374 athletes overall who will compete for Manitoba at the 19-sport competition Aug. 8-25 in St.

John's, Newfoundland along with 94 coaches and managers and 26 mission staff.

Among the mission staff is Winkler area teacher Pat Alexander, who has been involved in a number of Games over the years.

"I've kind of covered the whole gamut. I've been an athlete, a manager, a coach, and I've been part of the mission staff for a number of Western Canada and Canada Games," he noted. "I love the Games. I love going ... and in whatever capacity that is, I'm more than willing to give back ... it's a really fun opportunity.

"I just love the whole atmosphere of the Games. I love the excitement, the energy; I like being around the athletes ... I like helping whether that's cheering or coaching or whatever role it is I'm in," Alexander added.

"Growing up, I got so much from sports and coaches in the past ... I always want to make it my number one priority to give back because I got so much from it, and this is one of those opportunities to do that."

Continued on page 16

Central Charge takes silver at U17 AA provincials in Carman

By Lana Meier

The Central Charge came within a run of a provincial title at the 2025 Softball Manitoba U17 AA Female Championships, earning silver after a dominant run through round-robin play and a standout semifinal perfor-

The Carman-hosted event began July 25 and was initially scheduled to conclude on July 27, but heavy rain shut down the medal round last Sunday, bringing the tournament to a premature halt. Play resumed on July 31 to complete the semifinals and finals.

Central Charge stormed through Pool A with a 4-0 record, including a 16-0 shutout over the Manitoba Reapers, a 15-3 win over the Southwest Strikers, and a 13-6 win against the Eastman Blaze. They capped round-robin play with a 14-5 win over the Bonivital Bolts.

"I think there were a couple factors that helped the girls peak for provincials," said head coach Matt Victor. "They had a disappointing Showcase in June that saw them outside the top-tier teams. They took that one hard. Jason [Wolfe] has been instrumental—keeping the girls focused in the practices and games, and giving them purpose. They really improved from start to finish. Lastly, the ladies want to play for each other. That's

In the semifinal on Thursday, Central defeated Westman Storm 13-0 on the back of a clutch performance from Megan Preteau, who drove in four runs on two hits, including an insidethe-park grand slam in the second inning. The team scored five runs in that frame alone and added insurance in the third with an RBI single from Lauren Kutny.

"That was a big moment for Me-

gan—and our group," said Victor. Down two strikes, bases loaded and able to square up the barrel like that for a grand slam... just special."

Pitcher Brielle Thiessen earned the win, allowing just four hits over five innings while striking out six.

"Brielle was absolutely dominant on the mound," said assistant coach Jason Wolfe. "She was hitting her spots, changing speeds effectively, and keeping hitters off balance all game. Even with the pressure of the game on the line, she didn't flinch. She worked quickly, stayed focused, and trusted her defence."

The Charge tallied 14 hits, including multi-hit games from Kutny, Delany Darby, Ivy Hildebrand and Alexa Desrochers. Defensively, the Charge played error-free ball and turned a double play, with Madison Guthrie recording a team-high six chances in

"Those were standout performances in the semis, no question," said Wolfe. "But if you ask them, they'll be the first to tell you it was about the team. Every success was shared, and that's what made it so fun to be a part of."

In the gold medal game later that evening, Central's comeback effort fell just short as they dropped a 7-6 heartbreaker to the Westman Heat. Down four runs in the fourth, the Charge clawed back to take a 6–5 lead in the top of the seventh, with runs scored by Thiessen and Presley Wolfe. But the Heat tied the game in the bottom of the seventh and pushed across the winning run to take gold.

"It was a rollercoaster of a gameespecially the seventh inning," said Victor. "There wasn't much to say after those types of games. We were proud of their season and how resilient they were to come back from 5-1 and fight to take a 6-5 lead into



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Central Charge earned silver at the 2025 Softball Manitoba U17 AA Female Provincial Championships, falling 7-6 to the Westman Heat in a thrilling gold medal final July 31 in Carman. The team went undefeated through round-robin play and shut out Westman Storm in the semifinal. Pictured left to right, back row: Tasha Worms (assistant coach), Matt Victor (coach), Megan Preteau, Madison Guthrie, Brielle Thiessen, Presley Wolfe, Ella Victor, Lauren Kutny, Jason Wolfe (coach), Delany Darby, Ivy Hildebrand, Kara Hildebrand (manager); Front row, Taytum Worms, Alexa Desrochers, Mia Van Den Bosch. Missing from the photo are Leah Marek and Madeline Bergen.

the bottom of the seventh. We talked about how these moments build character and will make you stronger. We had a great group."

Desrochers went the distance in the circle for Central, striking out nine and walking six while allowing four earned runs. Thiessen led the team with two RBIs, while Darby and Mia Van Den Bosch collected two hits apiece. Central showed discipline at the plate, drawing 12 walks and turn-

ing two double plays.
"These ladies will remember the bonds created with each other and not the one-run loss," added Wolfe.

Looking ahead, Victor said the tournament reinforced the importance of building strong development pro-

"The AA program is growing and showing more interest throughout our region," he said. "These programs need to continue to teach the basic skills and build them into habits, and have good mentors to keep the players engaged and curious. Make the programs competitive and fun—we'll keep players coming back if there is purpose and fun doing it."

Despite the narrow defeat, the Charge left Carman with heads held high after a tournament full of strong pitching, timely hitting and excellent team defence. Westman Storm claimed bronze with a 14-1 win over Bonivital in the third-place match.

Mud Hens crack Whips

Morden, Cartwright square off for championship

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Mud Hens are the Border Baseball League East Division champs after knocking out the Winkler Whips in the semi-finals last

Morden dominated the series, winnings games one and two (by scores of 13-5 and 14-10) before faltering in game three with a 7-1 loss.

But they bounced back to down the Whips 5-2 last Tuesday night in front of a hometown crowd, earning the division title and a seat at the championship table against West Division champs the Cartwright Twins.

Game one Friday night in Cartwright went Morden's way 7-4.

The Mud Hens then pulled off a 4-3 win Monday night at home in game two to take a 2-0 series lead.

Game three is back in Cartwright Tuesday night.

The series continues with game four, if needed, in Morden next week Tuesday, Aug. 12, and then game five in Cartwright Wednesday, Aug. 13.



Mutcheson fdn. presents annual scholarships

By Lorne Stelmach

The lasting legacy of a Mordenite carries on with the presentation of annual scholarships through the Michael Mutcheson Memorial Foundation.

The 2025 Michael Mutcheson Memorial Scholarship Fund scholarships were recently presented to Morden Collegiate graduates Easton Hildebrand and Logan Lesser.

"I am extremely grateful ... receiving this scholarship means a lot to me, as it will assist me in my goal to pursue a degree in secondary education as well as my dream to play college baseball at Northeast Iowa Community College," said Lesser. "I would like to thank the scholarship committee and Mutcheson family for selecting me for this award."

"Out of all the scholarships I applied for, this was the most personal, as my uncles received this scholarship when they were my age," noted Hildebrand. "I also had the privilege of being trained by Mike along with Ray Mutcheson when I was younger. I feel extremely honoured and blessed to use this towards furthering my education and playing hockey in On-

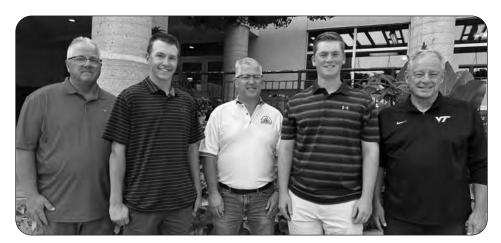
tario.

The \$3,000 awards are presented annually in memory of Mutcheson, an MCI alumnus whose remarkable life continues to inspire.

Mutcheson went on to represent Hockey Canada at the European university tournament—leading the team in scoring—then signed with the Detroit Red Wings. He later rose to become vice president of AIG Insurance. He passed away at age 42, leaving behind a legacy of excellence, generosity, and friendship.

In his memory, friends and family established the Michael Mutcheson Memorial Foundation, which has since donated over \$1 million to children's charities across Canada, including \$50,000 to the Boundary Trails Health Centre neonatal unit. The foundation has also awarded more than \$300,000 in scholarships to students who, like Mutcheson, demonstrate grit, promise and heart.

"Being able to support youth in pursuing their dreams through Michael's legacy has been a meaningful part of our family's healing journey after the loss of our beloved brother," said Ray Mutcheson. "The letters we receive from recipients, sharing how



SUBMITTED PHOTO

2025 Michael Mutcheson Memorial Scholarship winners Easton Hildebrand (second from left) and Logan Lesser (second from right) with (from left) Michael Mutcheson Memorial Foundation board members Jack Mutcheson, Jim Mutcheson, and Ray Mutcheson.

the scholarship has helped them work toward their goals, have been deeply moving and cathartic.

"We are incredibly grateful to continue honouring Michael's memory more than 30 years after his passing by helping young people take steps toward bright and promising futures"

At this year's Morden Collegiate graduation ceremony, Ray Mutches-

on addressed the class of 2025 and offered a heartfelt message of encouragement, particularly for students who may not have achieved top academic standing.

"Michael's story proves that success is not measured by grades alone," he said. "To all the graduates ... there are many paths to greatness. Your story is just beginning."

From Pg. 14

Other local athletes and coaches joining Alexander on Team Manitoba include:

- Katie Heppner, apprentice coach, baseball, Winkler.
- Andrew Giesbrecht, athlete, baseball, Altona.
- Kirsten Giesbrecht, athlete, baseball, Altona.
- Soren Reid, athlete, baseball, Manitou.
- Hudson Nikkel, athlete, baseball, RM of Stanley.
- Graham Thiessen, athlete, baseball, RM of Stanley.
- Halle Penner, athlete, basketball, Carman

- Brooklyn Friesen, athlete, softball, RM of Stanley.
- Nelia Fehr, athlete, softball, Morden.
- Kate Sawatzky, athlete, cycling, Altona.
- Mia Sawatzky, athlete, cycling, Altona.
- Séléstine Braun Liu-asomua, athlete, volleyball, Altona.

Nelia Fehr said she was extremely honoured to represent Manitoba on the national stage.

"It has been a dream of mine since I was 10 to play on Team Manitoba, and it's really cool to see that my hard work payed off. I remember watching the Team Manitoba girls practicing when I was younger, and

I really looked up to them. I told my mom that one day I wanted to play on that team too.

"I started playing softball at the competitive level when I was 11, and since then I've been spending my summers going to tournaments and playing games, and my winters were filled with training and practicing," Fehr noted. "Being a pitcher, you have to put in a lot of hours of practice, and it can be mentally challenging at times, but I had a goal in my mind, and I knew that I could accomplish it if I put in the work."

Fehr said being able to play for this team has helped her grow as an athlete and challenge herself.

"I am so excited to play against

some of the top athletes in the country and push myself to a new level," she said. "Our team has been training together and going to tournaments for the last year, and I can't wait to see what we will accomplish together in Newfoundland."

"Softball has brought me so many cool experiences and brought me so many different places, and I'm so thankful to get the opportunity to visit another province while playing the game I love," Fehr added. "This will be the highest level of competition I have ever played, and I'm excited to do it surrounded by such an amazing team."

Alexander observed that these Games are a really major opportunity for these young athletes.

"Most of the athletes are maybe use to going to interprovincials or even possibly into the States for various competitions, but it's usually just your own sport," he noted. "This is a true multi-sport Games."

"I would have loved to have been involved in something like this," he said, adding he is pleased to see good representation from our region. "I didn't realize how many were from this area. That's great to see. It just shows the strength of minor sports in our region and the development that we get."

What's **You'r** story?

Call 204-325-6888

Do you have a suggestion for our news team?

Is there someone you would like to see recognized in the newspaper for their accomplishments - athletic, academic or community service.

Classifieds Announcements "Va"

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

SCRAP METAL

Buyer for all farmyard scrap, machinery and autos. No item too large! Best prices paid. Phone Alf at 204-461-

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

Mobile home to be moved. 3 bdrm., 1 bath, all appliances. 952 sq ft. Fire commissioner inspection. Asking \$55,000. 204-792-0772.

PERSONAL

65 year old widow, wanting compan-Serious reionship. only. lyndapol lard2022@gmail.com

WANTED

wanted. Firearms Looking for all unwanted firearms. Fully licensed for both nonrestricted and restrict-Anywhere from individual items to estates. Cash buyer, paying top dollar. Please call or text Adam at 204-795-2850.

WANTED: Buying estates, contents of homes, farms, barns, garages, etc. Buying most anything old & interesting! TEXT/ PHONE: 204-918-1607. Junkies Estate, Salvage, Antiques & Oddities.

NOTICES

URGENT PRESS RE-LEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www. mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

BATTERIES FOR EVERYTHING! 50,000 BATTERIES IN STOCK

*Auto *Farm *Truck *Construction *ATV *Motorcycle *Golf Carts *Rechargeables *Tools *Computers *Medical *All phones *Chargers *Marine *RV & more Shipping/Delivery avail.

THE BATTERY MAN

1390 St. James St. Winnipeg

TF 1-877-775-8271 www.batteryman.ca

NOTICES

DIGITAL ADS NOT **GETTING** YOU RE-**SELLING** SEEDS? LAND? HAV-ING AN EVENT? Let us help you book a blanket classified ad! You will be seen in the 31 Member Newspapers, in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. Take advantage of our great pricing! MCNA -Manitoba Community Newspapers Association, www.mcna.com

HAY & STRAW

FOR SALE

· High-End Alfalfa

• Low-End Alfalfa

Premium Grass

Call or Email NOW!

Rob: 1-204-209-1066

redriverforagesales

@gmail.com

redrivforage.com

mcna

Response Builder

Advertising

WORKS!

GET SEEN by over

mind awareness

Homes!

or event

space) • The ads blanket the

community

newspapers

audience

360,000 Manitoba

Create instant top of

Showcase your info,

job, announcements

business, product,

We format it, to

make it look great!

Starting at \$239.00

(includes 35 lines of

province and run in

Very cost effective

means of getting

your message out to

the widest possible

Contact this newspaper

204.947.1691 or email

classified@mcna.com

www.mcna.com

NOW or MCNA at

MCNA's 31 Manitoba

Semi-loads

Delivered to you

ANNOUNCEMENT Voice

BOOKYOUR

FINANCIAL SERVICES

checks done. Deal di-

rect with lender and get

firstandsecondmort-

ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

HEALTH

Private mortgage lend- Are you suffering from joint er. All real estate types or arthritic pain? If so, you considered. No credit owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found requick approval. Toll free lief. Benefits humans and 1-866-405-1228 www. pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail stonewood elkranch@gmail.com

News Tips? Story Ideas? call the Voice

FIND THE RIGHT

PERSON FOR THE POSITION EMPLOYMENT/ CAREERS AD in oice

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

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

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. 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

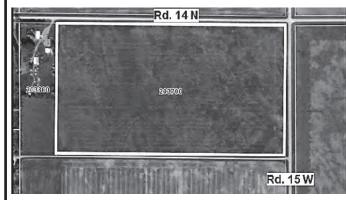
PRIME SPECIAL CROPS FARM LAND IN THE RM OF RHINELAND

Sealed, written tenders for farm land in the described below will be received by: Franz Hoeppner 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.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
- Possession is November 1, 2025 or after the 2025 crop has been harvested.
- Tender must be accompanied by a refundable deposit of \$10,000.00 (cheque made payable to Franz Hoeppner Wiens

TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION with an EMPLOYMENT/ **CAREERS AD in**



Call: 204-467-5836 or Email: ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

Classifieds Announcements Volce

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

CAREERS



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

FOR ROSENFELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN ROSENFELD, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

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 13th, 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



COMING EVENTS

South Valley Pillow Mission BBO Fundraiser

We here at South Valley Pillow Mission, work on weekdays and evenings. We prep and shred donated clothes, fabric, and sponge, to fill pillows. We then sew inner and outer pillow cases, then assemble pillows. Christian Aid Ministries have made it possible to ship to needy areas, such as war zones.



Friday August 15th 2025

Location: 2 miles west of Iceburgs in Winkler, Rd 24W #11112

4:30pm - 7:30pm

Christian Aid Ministries guest speaker presentation at 5:45pm

Burgers, chips and a drink will be served

Everything is by donation

For more information call John J. Elias at 204-362-2757

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone for your kindness, following the death of our dad, Gerald Barclay. Your gifts of food, cards and visits have supported us during this sad time. We appreciate that you joined us for Dad's memorial and will remember the great stories shared that honour our beloved dad.

-Barbara, Cathy and Kent Barclay



Online McSherry Auctions

Estate & Moving August 13th @ 7:00PM

Estate & Moving
August 20th @ 7:00PM

McSherryAuction.com 204-467-1858 or 204-886-7027 mcsherryItd@gmail.com

News Tips?
Story Ideas?
call the Voice

CASH FOR COINS, JEWELRY, GOLD, SILVER & PLATINUM!

> BUYING ALL COIN COLLECTIONS Big & Small.

Also Numismatics, Rare Coins, Sets, Gold & Silver coins, Nuggets, Sterling sets, Old money, ROYAL CANADIAN MINT, FRANKLIN MINT, US MINT, Silver Dollars, World sets etc.

CALL TODD NOW! Ph: 204 - 904 - 9705 I COME TO YOU!

ARMOUR OF GOD



Please support our advertisers **SHOP LOCAL**

REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED

Are you a natural born storyteller with an eye for photography and a passion for community news?

The Carman-Dufferin Standard is currently seeking a full-time reporter and photographer who lives in the area to join its multi award-winning weekly community newspaper.

We are looking for someone who is both motivated and passionate about being the best outlet of interesting and breaking news stories and event coverage.

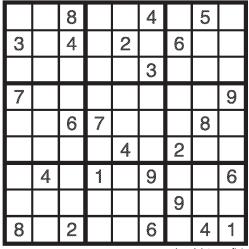
Qualifications:

- A post-secondary degree/diploma in journalism or English degree.
- Strong photography and writing skills with an interest in social media
- Self-starter with the ability to exercise solid news judgement
- Ability to establish professional relationships to consistently source and write a wide range of stories and cover events in a fair, balanced and accurate manner
- Able to work both independently and as a team on a flexible work schedule including both evenings and weekends to meet our weekly editorial deadline
- Experience covering council and school board meetings
- Knowledge of Canadian Press Style

Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to: Lana Meier Email: news@carmanstandard.ca



take a brea > GAMES

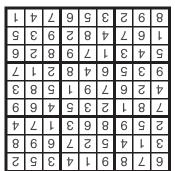


Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put vour sudoku savvy to the test!

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!



Sudoku Answer



Crossword Answer

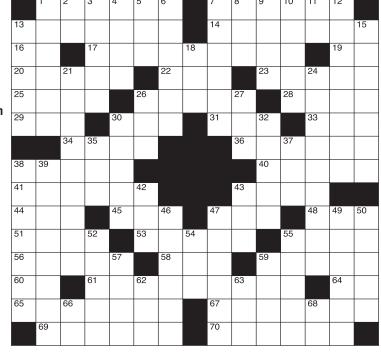
CROSSWO

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. They precede C 17. A way to compare
- 19. State lawyer
- 20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
- 22. Eighth month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- __ ex machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Mountain in New Zealand
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular Dodge truck model
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. One of the founders of modern psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. You can get stuck in one
- 45. Partner to feather
- 47. Passive optical network
- 48. French ballet dynasty
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Bottom layer
- 55. Sound
- 56. Yankee great Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. Late beloved TNT sportscaster
- 60. South Dakota
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Gold
- 65. Longtime Braves hurler Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial 3. Necklace materials
- 4. Containers



- 5. Investment account
- 6. Colorado Heisman Trophy winner
- 7. Dipped down
- 8. Head injury category (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. Not ves
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Muslim spiritual leader
- 15. Showing sincere conviction
- 18. Not in
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Lawn nest
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Ancient language in India (abbr.)
- 30. Start over
- 32. Wild white flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Visual way to interact with

- computer (abbr.)
- 38. Side by side and facing the same way
- 39. Religious conflicts
- 42. Touch lightly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the pope
- 49. Malaise
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Inauthentic person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. Japanese city
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile 66. The man
- 68. Top government lawyer

getinformed

Clothing and toy swap



PHOTO BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

A group of 12 adults and teens and six children gathered at a local park in Morris July 29th to swap clothing, toys, and summer conversations. All remaining clothing was donated to the local MCC Thrift Shop, toys brought to the Red River Valley Parent Child Centre, and infant clothing shared with new mothers in the area. Another mid-October swap is planned.

> FELINE FUNDING, FROM PG. 11

After getting the green light for a proposal submission from the RM of Montcalm in March of this year, Fillion and the committee have pre-

sented to the Local Urban District of St. Iean Baptiste and the RM of Montcalm. On July 17 they learned that both LUD and RM will jointly fund phase one of the TNR program to \$5,000 and are quickly putting their plan into action.

Phase one focuses on the spaying of all females and neutering of males that can be caught in a trapping the weekend before their planned

"We hope to get to a maintenance level this summer and have identified two cat colonies that we'll focus on," said Fillion. "A cat can have up to three litters a year. We have to understand how expensive it is to neuter and [an out-of-control population]

impacts the ecosystem of rescues."

The first Spay and Neuter Clinic will be held Aug. 18 at the St. Jean Centennial Hall. If space allows, there will be

> limited spots for community members to get their animals fixed for a reduced price of \$155 for spaying and \$125 for neutering.

> St. Jean Hearts for Strays continues to accept funds and food for colony management and ongoing monitoring of the cats, including emergency vet bills, which are not included in the funding acquired from the RM and LUD.

> Food items be dropped off the St. Jean grocery store and e-trans-

fers sent to the group's email at stjeanheartsforstrays@gmail.com.

Anyone wanting to register their animal for the spay/neuter clinic waitlist can submit their request by email.



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Denim & Dust barrel racing series is back Tuesday nights in Carman. If you missed the last few weeks, you have another chance to catch the action on Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. and at the finals Saturday, Aug. 16. Above: Joe Zomer of Miami competes on his horse Sparky. Right: Jill Goff of Carman competes on her horse Loki.

Denim & Dust is back

"OUR HOPE IN THE

HAVE A STABLIZED

CATS ARE SPAYED

OR NEUTERED AND

THE REST OF THEIR

MONITORED FOR

LIVES."

POPULATION WHERE

LONG RUN IS TO



Check out the Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca