

The *Winkler • Morden*  
**Voice**

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**Teddy bear checkup**


Stuffed animals of all stripes got their annual checkups at the Morden Family Resource Centre's annual Teddy Bear Picnic Saturday in Morden Park. For more photos, see Pg. 11.  
PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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# Medical students get to know region through Rural Week

By Lorne Stelmach

A group of first-year medical students spent last week in Morden and Winkler to get a taste of both rural health care and rural life.

The annual Rural Week initiative had students spend time at the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre, the Menzies Medical Centre, and the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

"The week was great. We've had a diverse range of different exposures. I worked with a couple different doctors at Menzies Medical Centre and then I also worked on the chemo ward," said student Kara Klassen, who is originally from Morden but has been in Winnipeg for the last several years.

"It was a really fun experience to have gone from having lived in the community and having grown up here," she said. "It was a really interesting experience to have been on the other side and having helped facilitate medical care.

"Since I moved away, the community has really grown and expanded,

and there's a lot more services available to people now. A lot more doctors have come to the area too. It's been a really interesting journey to learn what that looks like," Klassen said. "As first-year medical students, we don't have a lot of clinical exposure yet, so it's been really great to learn some hands-on clinical skills as well."

"Being able to spend a week in a rural community like Winkler was great," said Sohaib Jomha, who is originally from Lebanon. "I found everyone so welcoming, so nice. I did not feel out of place even once.

"I think the number one thing I noticed right away was just how connected the community is," he said. "We've experienced mainly the health care system, but every doctor, every physician, every nurse, they're also so nice to one another and so connected ... they were all always available to us.

"I could see myself working in a rural area and would probably prefer to work in a rural area rather than urban," Jomha said. "I could see myself



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The health centres in Morden-Winkler welcomed a group of first-year medical students from the University of Manitoba last week for Rural Week 2026. The program gives future doctors a glimpse into what a career in rural medicine is like.

coming back to Winkler."

Dr. Sherwin Gacutan, who is one of the site leads with the residency program, feels Rural Week is a very worthwhile initiative.

"I came here as a med student and I saw how rural medicine was here," he said. "I fell in love with the rural life. This is exactly how I want to practice medicine with a mix of in-hospital, ER, clinic, surgical assist ... kind of the breadth of medicine.

"We're so happy to have med students come and visit and see how rural medicine is here," Gacutan added. "We really enjoy having these students out here and even just showing them around, not just the medicine part of things but also just rural life.

"This area is a rural setting that is growing quickly with great people and diversity, and we're glad to have students come and experience it."



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# Margie Hildebrand receives Citizen of Distinction Award

By Lorne Stelmach

Margie Hildebrand was reluctantly in the spotlight Sunday afternoon as she received the Citizen of Distinction Award from the Morden Area Foundation.

Like many other past recipients of the honour, Hildebrand prefers to stay behind the scenes as she works to make a difference in her community.

"It feels a bit strange to be singled out in this way. I prefer to kind of sneak in and sneak out and do things in the background," she shared. "I just do all the things that I do just because that's what I enjoy doing. I enjoy being part of the community ... I certainly didn't go looking for it, and it feels kind of strange to be receiving all these accolades."

Hildebrand's lengthy list of community involvement includes volunteering with the Pembina Valley Arts Council and Pembina Hills Gallery, the Pembina Valley Studio Tour, the Morden Horticultural Society, her church community, the Morden Corn & Apple Festival, Winterfest, Arbor Day, and many other celebrations.

It was a testament to her dedication and commitment that she received not just one but two nominations for this award.

Speaking to one of the nominations, Yvonne Stoesz commented on how whatever Hildebrand touches turns into something beautiful.

"Above all, Margie cares for others, for the earth, for the community. She's a person who knows what

needs to be done, who sees the good around her."

Karen Denise Cyr, chairperson of the arts council speaking along with gallery director Anna Ishkhanyan, noted how Hildebrand does so much to help people to be inspired and to want to be creative, and how she has played a vital role in providing and supporting arts programming in the community.

"She's endlessly creative and talented in absolutely everything she does," added Ishkhanyan. "It's also your generosity, your dedication, and your willingness to help others ... whenever the gallery faced a difficult moment or urgently needed help, you were always there ... you helped because you genuinely believe in the community."

Hildebrand said she likes to think she has perhaps inspired others to pursue art.

"I hope so," she said. "There's people here who have taken my pottery classes, and it's nice to see that they are going full bore with it and are inspired."

"I think sometimes people are not sure how they can get out and help make things happen," she observed. "I also enjoy organizing opportunities for people to get together and make things or learn something new or just make connections with each other."

"I feel the key word is citizen. Being a citizen of the community of Morden is wonderful, and I hope that maybe some of the things that I do help it to be a better community for all."

As part of the award, Hildebrand received \$1,000



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE  
Morden Area Foundation chair Brad Ritchie presented Margie Hildebrand with the Citizen of Distinction Award Sunday.

from the foundation to gift to an organization of her choice. She chose the arts council, which then donated it back to the foundation with the thought of starting up an endowment fund to help support arts students.

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# get informed

## Salem Home walks for Alzheimer's awareness



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Students from Emerado Centennial School joined residents of Salem Home in Winkler's annual Walk for Alzheimer's May 28. The event saw the inter-generational group loop around the care home's grounds on 15th St. to raise awareness that those living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia are still very much an integral part of our community.

## Municipality of Rhineland declares state of local emergency

By Lorne Stelmach

The Municipality of Rhineland declared a state of local emergency last week as a result of the May 14-15 severe windstorm event that caused widespread and significant impacts throughout the municipality, particularly within agricultural areas.

The declaration formally clears the way for the municipality to be eligible for some provincial government funding support and allows the municipality to undertake emergency response measures that were not identified in the 2026 municipal budget.

"It's very unusual," said Reeve Don Wiebe of the storm's impact. He said he had never seen anything quite like it in his 20 years with the RM, adding this is quite different from some years when you perhaps get severe flood-

ing or drought. "Some people were saying it's never been as bad as this, so it's very unusual."

Extremely high winds lifted large volumes of topsoil, field debris, and crop residue which were subsequently deposited into municipal ditches, roadways, and drainage infrastructure.

The municipality's public works department identified over 130 locations requiring remediation. Those sites vary significantly in length, depth, and severity.

While the northern portion of the municipality experienced the most substantial impacts, with considerable accumulations of soil and debris within multiple municipal drains and

ditches, the effects of the wind storm were felt across the entire municipality.

In addition to impacts on drainage infrastructure, the accumulation of blown dirt created hazardous conditions on numerous municipal roadways. Although some impacts were not immediately apparent following the storm, subsequent precipitation

revealed the extent of the damage. In several instances, the combination of soil and moisture had rendered roads difficult or nearly impassable.

"We were totally surprised," said Wiebe. "When the staff, after the wind storm, did an assessment, toured the

municipality and saw the amount of debris in the ditches ... there were some places where it was two feet deep and maybe even three feet. We have to do something because we are 96 per cent arable land, and drainage is critical."

And he also noted how it had a ripple affect.

"Then the rain came and some of our roads were really slippery because the gravel mixed with the dirt made some spots almost impassable ... so this dirt has an interesting impact on roads as well."

Wiebe noted they have already hired a number of private contractors to help out with the cleanup and repairs.

"We hoped to be finished by the end of this week."

Continued on page 6

"PEOPLE WERE SAYING IT'S NEVER BEEN AS BAD AS THIS ..."

## Pride march and rally in Winkler Sat., June 13

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Members and allies of the local 2SLGBTQA+ community will gather in Winkler next week for the city's first-ever Pride celebration.

Pembina Valley Pride has hosted six parades and rallies in recent years to mark June as Pride Month. Based on

feedback from those events, organizers felt it was time to bring the festivities to the region's largest community, said president Pauline Emerson-Froebe.

"We've done Altona, we've done Morden, and we've done Carman," she said. "There are queer people in

Winkler too."

A public gathering of like-minded community members and supporters can go a long way towards making 2SLGBTQA+ individuals feel welcome and loved in the place they call home, Emerson-Froebe said.

"For some people, this is once a year

where they get the internal strength to know that they are accepted by friends and family, by peers, by allies, and that can carry you through a very long time to know that you're not alone in this area."

Continued on page 5

# Morden-Winkler pays it forward in ways both big and small

By Lorne Stelmach

The Winkler and Morden community foundations area pleased with the community participation they saw during Pay It Forward May.

Bev Wiebe, community development co-ordinator with the Winkler Community Foundation, said they were incredibly grateful for everyone who took the time to pay it forward in ways both big and small over the past four weeks.

From businesses hosting barbecues and giveaways to neighbours helping neighbours to students giving back through acts of kindness and service, every gesture made a difference.

“These acts, big and small, have the power to brighten someone’s day and strengthen the sense of community around us,” Wiebe said. “The Winkler Community Foundation and Morden Area Foundation have been so encouraged to witness how our communities continue to care for one another, show up for each other and promote what it truly means to be a good neighbour.

“We know that many acts of kindness happen quietly behind the scenes without recognition. While we only hear about some of the good taking place, we are certain there is far more happening every day than we will ever know,” she continued. “Being a good neighbour does not require a great deal of time, money or effort. Even the smallest act of kindness can leave a lasting impact, and we believe our community will continue to feel the positive effects of this campaign all summer long.

“Thank you to everyone who participated in this campaign. Our community is stronger because of

each person who chose to make a difference through one simple act of kindness.”

Here are just a few of the Pay It Forward events that the foundations were made aware of over the past few weeks:

- Breezy Way Farm gave away free eggs to families.
- KM Seasonal Services offered free mowing services.
- Regional Connections hosted a “Play it Forward” community food drive and family activity afternoon.
- Winkler Wizards Special Olympics paid it forward to the Winkler Elementary School by hosting a walk-athon and donating the funds raised to the school for gym equipment.
- Emerado Centennial School organized a bake and craft sale in support of Genesis House and Cancer-Care Manitoba.
- Northlands Parkway Collegiate students made Pay It Forward pins for each student and staff in the school and took part in challenges every day to encourage kind actions.
- Garden Valley Collegiate business management students delivered gift baskets to business neighbours and shared gifts at the Winkler Chamber of Commerce gala for all attendees.
- Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership encouraged community members to complete a checklist of tasks to promote getting to know their neighbours and being a friendly community.
- Triple E had their staff serve the meal at Central Station Community Centre’s Café 545 as a way of paying it forward.
- Choice Realty hosted a Pay It Forward barbecue May 28 for the community.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE  
Participants at Regional Connections’ “Play It Forward” event in Morden Park Saturday, where volunteers collected donations for the local food bank and organized a host of friendly competitions, including potato sack races.

## > PRIDE, FROM PG. 4

The day kicks off with a Rainbow church service at 10:30 a.m. at a local church before the festivities move to the Winkler Parkland stage area with a Rainbow Makers Market and a by-donation barbecue lunch starting up at noon.

“We have various local artisans that are coming, and artisans from across the province,” shared Emerson-Froebe. “And then we’ll also have tables for community groups. Some are local community groups and some are queer groups coming from out of town.”

Several guest speakers will take the stage at 1 p.m. before supporters head out on a short march along the bike/walking paths in the area before heading back for an afternoon of stage entertainment and activities.

“We’re going to have lawn games, we’re going to have a photo booth, we’re going to have face painting,”

said Emerson-Froebe. “And then we have a mural where people will be able to write or design on.”

Their goal, Emerson-Froebe stressed, is to create an inclusive, safe space for the 2SLGBTQA+ community and its allies to come together in celebration and support. To aid

in ensuring everything runs smoothly, there will be security on-site throughout the day.

Emerson-Froebe acknowledges there are people upset a Pride event is happening in Winkler. Her message to them and the community at large about this gathering is simple:

“That it’s a family-friendly event, that it is a safe space,

and it is a joyous event. And know that if you’re not interested in this, then carry on and do your regular Saturday thing. There’s no need to come if this isn’t your thing,” she said. “This is a welcoming event for the queer community and, very importantly, its allies.”

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**OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS**



# The crazy days

**S**ome days things just stack up, if you know what I mean.

You do your best to plan things out so that the next stretch of future is manageable, but it doesn't always work out that way.

Recently my wife and I got back from a pretty amazing vacation (everybody goes aww poor you). I know, I know, what could a guy complain about?

Look, I'm not complaining about the vacation, I'm whining about the effect of 10 days off work when you return.

(ASIDE: I took 694 photos while in Paris and The Azores. There is a whole column on why I do such things.)

At any rate you come back and open your laptop and crank up the ol' email and it's a little like opening the release valve on a pressure cooker. SO. MUCH. NEED.

But you suck it up and do what anyone would do. You start shoveling until the inbox is clear.

(EXTRA ASIDE: My inbox has 11,144 emails in it. I need to clean that up. My personal Gmail inbox has another 10,554 emails in it. Ugh. This sounds like a job for AI.)

So maybe, based on inbox statistics, I might be responsible for these predicaments I find myself in. I feel like more organized people have a more organized approach to life and schedules.

In the midst of all of this, we finally took down the big tree in the front yard, and our car was T-boned at an intersection for good measure, so lo-

gistics are a tad more confusing.

Well, I have a week to get through these emails, respond, schedule meetings, etc, and then the following week (the one just ending as I write this) I have to attend and speak at a national conference on social finance I helped organize/plan.

This means more time away from the email backlog that built up over the vacation and a whole new week to let it build up again.

The conference was amazing (although very peoply ... not my thing ... I like to be in the crowd but not of the crowd if that makes sense). Much business was business and mucho investment opportunities were hatched.

Each day I would come home wildly overstimulated and so then when my wife gets home it's me and the cat at the door telling her about our days before she can get her shoes off.

I need to learn to mediate and practice mindfulness.

At the quietest times my mind is a whirring, clanking machine of constant craziness with a dozen lines of thought going at any one time so these types of exercises typically elude me.

What I'm doing right now helps. Writing. Writing to you about this stuff helps. It focuses me. It's my fa-

avourite activity. Sometimes I feel as though you are the collective diary or journal. Maybe that pen pal I never had ... whatever you are, you help. Thanks.

The days ahead are going to be more manageable (you hear that, fate? Does that sound tempting?) Things could be substantially worse. I have it pretty good these days actually.

Thanks for listening.

**> RHINELAND, FROM PG. 4**

The municipality will continue to assess affected areas and undertake remediation efforts as resources allow. Municipal staff were working to address priority areas to restore safe access, maintain drainage, and minimize further infrastructure impacts.

Residents are encouraged to use caution when travelling on municipal roads and to avoid areas where remediation is underway.

Rhineland isn't the only local RM to declare a state of local emergency due to the wind storm—the RM of Montcalm did the same May 20 as they, too, worked to deal with the damage it left behind.



**By Peter Cantelon**

## Letter policy

The *Voice* welcomes letters from readers on local and regional issues and concerns.

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](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca).

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# Cardiac rehab program provides local support

By Lorne Stelmach

A regional program focused on heart health is marking five years of services and 25 cohorts this June.

The Pembina Valley Cardiac Rehabilitation (PVCr) program is an education and exercise program designed to support recovery after heart disease, heart surgery, or a heart attack.

Kinesiologist Nolan Turnbull said it is a great collaborative effort that involves staff from the Menzies Medical Centre in Morden and the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre in Winkler along with a variety of allied health care professionals across the region.

“Cardiac rehab was identified as a need quite a while ago,” said Turnbull, who noted they worked with a cardiac rehab program in Portage with support and direction as well from programs in Winnipeg.

“Prior to this, there was no cardiac rehab program in the Pembina Valley. There’s various heart health classes that have been offered over the years, but there’s never been a comprehensive rehab program ... people would have had to go to the Reh-Fit Centre in Winnipeg, and it’s an amazing program, but the problem is not everyone can afford to get there, and it’s a longer program, so it’s a bit more of a commitment. The biggest barrier for most people is the travel and the time, so to have something local is just more accessible.”

One of the participants in the program this spring was David Devloo from the Somerset area. He first had a heart attack in 2021 and took part in a cardiac rehab program in Winnipeg at that time. He then had heart surgery this past April.

“I found out there was a program here based out of Winkler, so that was a bonus,” Devloo said. “I’m a little early into the program, given my surgery was just in April, but I think it’s a wonderful resource. I’m super impressed with the people who are involved.”

He appreciates and values the support provided through the program.

“We’ve had wonderful speakers so far ... and there are good resources for everything, really.

“If I had to go into Winnipeg, I would have just skipped it. I wouldn’t have gone into the rehab ... it just didn’t make sense ... so I was just so happy that there was something local,” said Devloo. “They’ve got a lot of options and resources depending on what

you’re dealing with ... these are caring people who are involved with this program.”

PVCR consists of two weekly two-hour sessions for six weeks. The cost is only \$50, and participants learn skills for longterm heart health through regular supervised exercise, heart-healthy nutrition, medication management, stress management, lifestyle education, and counselling. Each group aims to help up to a dozen people in their recovery from a heart event or procedure.

The PVCr health care team helps clients manage symptoms and develop confidence in making healthy lifestyle changes through exercise and routine physical activity.

Throughout the program, the kinesiologist monitors each participants’ exercise program and provides feedback and encouragement regarding their lifestyle goals.

The bottom line is that the expert cardiac rehab team ensures people’s experience in the program is designed to meet their individual needs so that they can live their best lives and get back to doing the things that they most enjoy.

Turnbull suggested it can be a game changer for some people. There is a lot that comes into play in relation to cardiac health, he noted, so that is the focus of their work.

“Our program is a bit unique in that it does have the collaboration of all these different health care professionals,” he said, noting they can offer referrals to a wide range of services such as a dietitian, respiratory therapist, pharmacist, kinesiologist and a mental health clinician. “The resources are available for referrals if needed to support the patient if throughout the program we identify the various areas of need.

“It’s a very special program in that most cardiac rehab programs are run by a physiotherapist or kinesiologist and a nurse or something similar. Our program is the only one that I know that has such a multi-disciplinary approach. We also have a doctor who comes in and presents as well,” Turnbull added. “So there really is a team effort, and the multi-disciplinary approach to it keeps it more interesting and engaging for patients.

For more information about the program and upcoming sessions, email [pvcr@southernhealth.ca](mailto:pvcr@southernhealth.ca) or call 204-361-6043.



## SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Participants in the Pembina Valley Cardiac Rehabilitation Program meet in Winkler twice a week for six weeks to discuss heart health (above) and engage in some light physical activity, such as walking the track at the Meridian Exhibition Centre (right). It’s a local option for patients recovering from heart disease, surgery, or a heart attack. Being able to attend sessions closer to home—instead of having to drive all the way into Winnipeg each week—makes it much easier to take part, say participants and organizers.



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# Morden doc honoured

By Lorne Stelmach

A local physician was recognized this spring for her time and efforts to give back to help build rural medicine.

Dr. Amanda Bergman was recently awarded the Fellowship of Rural and Remote Medicine in recognition for her leadership and dedication to rural health.

Bergman last week briefly reflected on how she would like to be a support and encouragement to others in the same way as she had people to offer her guidance.

"I had Dr. Bob Menzies and Dr. Gord Zacharias, who were two of my mentors when I went into med school," she shared. "They really influenced me, so I like to help people out that way as well.

"It's about teaching and having extra training and being involved, so it's nice to see that that work is appreciated."

Bergman works out of the Menzies Medical Centre in Morden. Born and raised in Morden, she earned her bachelor's degree from the University

of Winnipeg and completed her master's and medical degrees at the University of Manitoba.

She went on to complete rural-based family medicine training in Thunder Bay along with additional anesthesia training.

Bergman practices in anesthesia, emergency medicine, family medicine, travel health, and low-risk obstetrics.

Now living in Winkler with her husband and two children, she values the rural lifestyle and enjoys biking, travelling, and photography while remaining deeply committed to providing compassionate, community-focused care in southern Manitoba.

She recognizes the importance of helping to build and develop health care, especially in rural areas.

"That's all part of how we get people interested in rural medicine," said Bergman, who noted having had the opportunity last week to connect with some first-year medical students as part of the annual Rural Week initiative.

"I was talking to the Rural Week students ... and they really appre-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Dr. Amanda Bergman from the Menzies Medical Centre in Morden was recently honoured with the Fellowship of Rural and Remote Medicine in recognition of her leadership and dedication to rural health.

ciate how everyone out here really seems to love to teach and really are involved in all the different things you can do," she said. "It's opened up some doors that I don't think they have really thought about before, for

at least some of them. You're catching them before they think about what they want to do ... It gives them some time to maybe contemplate coming out and joining us out here maybe at some point."

# Comedian Matt Falk at the Kenmor June 12

By Lorne Stelmach

There will be good laughs to be had, but it will also be for a good cause next week when comedian Matt Falk comes to Morden for a fundraiser in support of the Kenmor Theatre.

Falk will be here on Friday, June 12 at 7 p.m. as part of the Take a Seat fundraising initiative to help support improvements to the historic venue in

downtown Morden.

The popular Winnipeg-based comedian was named one of the "Best of the Fest" at the Burbank Comedy Festival in California and placed second in The World Series of Comedy in Las Vegas, but he still very much enjoys taking his show on the road to rural Manitoba.

"Supporting the Kenmor Theatre is a no-brainer," said Falk. "The arts are so vital for any community. Not only does it enrich our lives as viewers, but as a participant in the theatre, it teaches us valuable skills that we can translate to every area of our lives.

"I absolutely love performing at the Kenmor," he added. "It's a phenomenal venue. And Morden seems to know that. And with the continued support of the community, it'll be around for a long time to come."

Falk reflected on what drew him to doing comedy.

"For me, comedy started as a defense mechanism of sorts, and it turned into a career," he said.

"Looking back, it would have been nice to channel all my inner angst into something with a higher salary. Something like neurosurgery," Falk joked. "The lesson is, if you're gonna let your childhood pain fuel your career choice, make sure it's lucrative."

It's been a long road toward finding success in making comedy his career.

"Getting established in comedy feels like an ongoing vocation. It kinda feels like you have to keep making yourself relevant over and over again," Falk reflected. "There's just so much happening all the time in the world. It's easy for people to forget about you. It's not like 50 years ago when there were only like 15 comedians. Now there's more than 15 comics just from Kleefeld.

"I do think doing the World Series of Comedy in Las Ve-

gas was really helpful in establishing myself as a legitimate comedian in people's eyes, but the work is always ongoing."

Is it perhaps not a tough life being a comedian?

"I mean, that's all relative. This job is tremendously easy when you compare it to people working in the trades, stay at home parents or nurses or something," Falk said. "But the hard part of comedy is that you have to do everything. You have to advertise, write, perform, network, film stuff, edit, book shows, answer emails and do all the financials.

"That being said, at the end of the day, it's still gotta rank up there as one of the easier jobs in the world. But I'd trade it all for a six figure salary and vacation pay."

Falk reflected briefly on what kinds of things or topics particularly appeal to him for his performances.

"I do my best to take my humour from my everyday life," he said. "But I think, I tend to find big outlandish premises very funny. I try to ground them in something universal and personal. My act now is much more honest and real than it used to be, but it's still silly, which I'm quite proud of."

And he will do often some research on the locales where he is performing.

"Like, when I do the 'Not So Late Show with Matt Falk' at the Morden Corn and Apple Festival every year. I do a lot of research for that," he said. "But mostly, I just try to pay attention when I'm in a city or town and express to the audience what I feel when I'm there. Plus, if you listen to locals, they end up giving you a lot of info in a relatively brief conversations."

At press time there were still seats to next week's show available. Head to [candlewick.ca](http://candlewick.ca) to book.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Matt Falk takes the stage in Morden next week to raise funds for renovations at the Kenmor Theatre.

# DNS hosts Water Festival

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Discovery Nature Sanctuary (DNS) Water Festival returned after a four-year break last week, giving over 150 Morden-Winkler students the opportunity to learn all about the value of water.

Gr. 4 students from Pine Ridge Elementary, Winkler Elementary, and Minnewasta schools trekked all over the Winkler nature preserve to take part in hands-on activities at six different educational stations.

"They're learning about the water cycle, about plants, we've got some critter dipping where they get to identify what they find in the water, and they're learning about freshwater and just how valuable it is—it's less than one per cent of all water on the planet," shared organizer Renee Penner. "So it's getting them thinking about that and learning to appreciate water, to respect it, and how their actions can potentially impact the way water is being used."

It took nearly 40 volunteers to pull off the event, working both behind the scenes and at the various stations.

"Every station has a bit of a lesson and then a lot of them have a hands-on activity component as well," Penner said. "We have people from Manitoba Forestry here, Manitoba Agriculture, and we have lots of help from the staff at the Manitoba Association of Watershed, staff from the Pembina Valley Watershed District ... we're very grateful to have them all come and spend a very hot day outdoors with us."

Manning the "Dig It" station was Tiffany Hemphill from Hemphill Seeds. She brought along a few different types of soil for the kids to get their hands on to feel the differences between them.

"And we talk a lot about farming, so I show them how much a bushel



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Volunteers manned six different educational stations throughout the Discovery Nature Sanctuary May 27 to teach Gr. 4 students all about the importance of water. Above, left: Identifying critters found in local waterways. Above, right: Learning about beavers. Right: Tiffany Hemphill showcases different types of soil. Below: Manitoba Forestry's Ty Funk and Shay Gaunt taught kids all about trees.



of wheat is and how farmers measure their harvest," Hemphill explained, then gesturing to a row of bottles filled with different colourful materials. "And this is the amount of nutrients that it takes to grow one bushel of wheat."

Down the trail, Shay Gaunt and Ty Funk with Manitoba Forestry were talking to the kids about the different types of trees they might encounter while out on a walk.

"The difference between coniferous and deciduous trees, how to age the

different trees, and the different parts of the tree," said Gaunt, noting the kids were all quite engaged and excited to be learning outside in the sunshine.

"We're providing them each with some seedlings so that they can plant some trees themselves," she added.

One of the final stations before the students headed back to the classroom had them running around making a bracelet representative of the hydrological cycle.

"The idea is they're each an indi-

vidual water molecule and they're travelling their own personal unique journey through the water cycle," explained Lynda Nicol, executive director of the Manitoba Association of Watersheds, as kids rolled giant dice to see where their molecules would go next. "They stop at each station and they take a bead representing soils, lakes, animals, groundwater ... everybody ends up with a unique bracelet at the end."

The DNS hopes to make the Water Festival an annual event.

"EVERY STATION HAS A BIT OF A LESSON ..."

The **Voice**

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# Salem BBQ raises \$26K

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Salem Home's annual community barbecue was a resounding success last week, raising \$26,000 for the Winkler care home's new handivan.

Six hundred meals were served at the May 27 event, which was organized by the Salem Foundation and the Salem Home Ladies Auxiliary. The evening included a by-donation barbecue supper, prize raffles, and music from the Quonset Brothers.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support shown by our community,"

said foundation chair Henry Enns. "It was wonderful to see so many people come together to support our residents while enjoying great food, music, and fellowship. The arrival of the handivan in time for summer outings makes this especially exciting for everyone involved."

The handivan, which replaces an older vehicle that had fewer seats, has already been purchased and is about to be put into action, but fundraising continues to help Salem cover the full cost of it. You can connect with Salem Foundation to make a donation.



Hundreds of people came out to Salem Home in Winkler last week for the annual fundraising barbecue where they enjoyed a supper of burgers, chips, and cookies and music from the Quonset Brothers.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

# Teddy Bear Picnic takes over Winkler Park Saturday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Saturday is the day—the day the teddy bears have their picnic.

The Winkler Family Resource Centre (WFRC) hosts its annual Teddy Bear Picnic in Winkler Park June 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission is free, and stuffed animals of all kinds are welcome to come in for a friendly health check-up.

"We've got several tables of medical professionals coming by," shares WFRC executive director Monica Dueck. "Doctors, nurses, dentists, physiotherapists, optometrists, pharmacists ... the idea is to get kids feeling comfortable with what happens in these different offices in a really low pressure, easy way.

"They don't have to have a check up, they don't have to have any shots or anything—their teddy bear can take

it all for them. And then they can see what happens, what it's like to have your eyes checked or to go to the physiotherapist or go to the pharmacy, and hopefully the next time when they have to go do one of these things they'll feel a little bit more comfortable, a little bit more familiar with the process."

Also setting up shop in the park that day will be Genesis House, the Imagination Library, the Winkler Whips, Regional Connections, and the Winkler Fire Department, all with information about the work they do and fun activities for the kids.

There will also be inflatables, face painting, a few costumed characters walking around, and plenty of great eats on offer.

"This year we're doing things just a little bit different. We've done a barbecue lunch in the past, but this year we're actually going to do food vendors instead," Dueck says. "We've got Superior Smash Burgers coming, Swirl and Twirl Cotton Candy Co. and the IceCycle."

Any donations collected at the picnic will go to help support WFRC's early childhood education programs, which are offered free to local families.

"This is our biggest fundraiser of the year," says Dueck. "And it gives a chance for more people to be involved and to see what we're all about."

If the weather doesn't cooperate, the festivities will move indoors at the resource centre's space at 750 15th St. (inside the Emmanuel Mennonite Church).



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Winkler Teddy Bear Picnic is this Saturday, June 6.

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# Morden hosts Teddy Bear Picnic



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Family Resource Centre hosted its annual Teddy Bear Picnic in Morden Park Saturday, inviting the community out for an afternoon of fun and games. Clockwise from top left: A host of local health care providers were on hand to provide checkups to furry friends; the Morden Fire Department gave future firefighters the chance to try their hand at using the hose; as always, the face painting tables were a popular place.

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JUNE 13 & 14 JUNIN, 2026

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JUNE

# Men's Health MONTH

Prioritize your well-being

## Men's mental health: 4 tips to be your best

Did you know that about 70 per cent of the chronic health conditions affecting Canadian men are caused by lifestyle? Men must pay close attention to their lifestyle habits and stress levels to live a long and healthy life. Organized by the Canadian Men's Health Foundation (CMHF), Men's Health Month invites men of all ages to participate in the Move for Your Mental Health event.

### Benefits of physical activity

Health professionals recommend engaging in 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every week. For example, activities like walking, running, swim-

ming and gardening can positively impact your physical and mental well-being.

Moreover, physical activity has been shown to reduce symptoms of depression and chase away negative thoughts. Moving your body also reduces pain and stress by stimulating the neurotransmitters that release cortisol and endorphins.

### Self-assessment tool

It's normal to occasionally experience symptoms of anxiety or depression, like difficulty concentrating and low energy. However, if these feelings become overwhelming, don't be afraid to seek help.

The CMHF has a self-assessment tool to help you determine whether chronic stress, anxiety or depression are affecting your health. This resource can be found in the Mind-Fit Toolkit on the CMHF website. This tool shouldn't be used as a substitute for professional medical advice.

Visit [menshealthfoundation.ca](http://menshealthfoundation.ca) to learn more about Men's Health Month and donate to show your support and help the men you love live healthier lives.



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SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Above: Clare Agnew from the Morden Chamber (far left) and Tanya Chateaufeuf from the Winkler chamber (far right) present Charlotte Guenther, Larissa Heide, and Nadilyn Giesbrecht from Charley B's with their award. Right: Suzanne Krahn and Natalie Heppner from Butter Cup Café. Below, left: Moment in Thyme owner Alex Kanski. Below, right: Lily Krushel from the Winkler chamber and Agnew with DominYons' Younes Akherraz.



# Burger Week winners

Burger lovers had 12 different tasty creations to try at this year's Burger Week in Morden-Winkler May 15–21. Reps from the Morden and Winkler chambers of commerce, which organized the competition, made the rounds last week to present the winning eateries with their awards. Winning the People's Choice award was Charley B's for its entry, "The Maverick." Buttercup Café won Most Creative honours for their croissant smash burger. Moment in Thyme received the Best Tasting award for its "Pineapple Express" burger. And DominYon's in Manitou got the nod for Best Burger Presentation for their new "Manitower" burger.



## Man charged with second-degree murder in Carman homicide

By Lana Meier

A 44-year-old Killarney man has been charged with second-degree murder following the death of a Carman resident whose body was discovered near a burning vehicle earlier this week.

On May 25 at approximately 1:15 a.m., Carman RCMP responded to reports of a vehicle fire inside a self-storage compound on 2nd Street Northeast in Carman.

Police said the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames when officers arrived. A deceased male was located near the burning vehicle.

The investigation was immediately taken over by RCMP Major Crime Services.

Following an autopsy, RCMP confirmed the 52-year-old Carman man died as the result of a homicide.

Investigators arrested a 44-year-old man and a 36-year-old woman on May 27 in connection with the death.

On May 28, Gordon Blaine McTaggart, 44, of Killarney, was charged with second-degree murder and remanded into custody.

The 36-year-old woman was released without charge after investigators determined she had no involvement in the homicide.

RCMP Major Crime Services continues to investigate. Contact RCMP or Crimestoppers if you have information to share about this case.

No further details about the victim or the circumstances surrounding the homicide have been released.

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# Manitoba 55+ Games

## SCHEDULE

### DAY ONE - TUESDAY

JUNE 9, 2026

-  8:00 AM Pickleball Women's Doubles
-  8:00 AM Equestrian **BIRDHILL PARK**
-  9:00 AM Disc Golf
-  9:00 AM Slo-Pitch
-  9:00 AM Floor Shuffleboard
-  9:30 AM Bridge - Contract
-  9:30 AM Bowling - Singles
-  9:30 AM 8-Ball 55+ Singles
-  9:30 AM Snooker 70+ Singles
-  9:30 AM 18 Hole Golf - Net: Callaway
-  9:30 AM Arts & Crafts
-  1:00 PM Swimming
-  2:00 PM Bridge - Duplicate
-  5:30 PM **Opening Ceremonies & Reception**



**OPENING CEREMONIES & RECEPTION**

ACCESS EVENT CENTRE IN MORDEN



## 2026 EVENT GUIDE

**HQ Headquarters/Registration**  
Access Event Centre, Morden  
Meridian Exhibition Centre, Winkler

**8-Ball & Snooker**  
Morden Legion - 285 N. Railway, Morden

**9 & 18 Hole Golf**  
Winkler Centennial Golf Course - 400 15th St, Winkler

**Bocce Ball**  
Meridian Centre, 1045 Grandeur Ave, Winkler

**Bowling**  
Carman Bowling Alley, 120 Main St., S., Carman

**Card Events**  
Morden Active Living Centre - 306 N. Railway St., Morden  
Morden Legion - 285 N. Railway, Morden

**Disc Golf**  
Stanley Park - 23111 MB-14

**Equestrian**  
Birds Hill Park, Birdshill MB

**Floor Shuffleboard**  
Winkler Senior Centre - 650 South Railway Avenue

**Horseshoes**  
Stanley Park - 23111 MB-14

**Predicted Walk & Run**  
Discovery Trails School - Parkhill Dr., Morden

**Pickleball**  
Access Event Centre, 111-D Gilmour St, Morden  
Meridian Event Centre - Centennial Arena, Winkler

**Slo-Pitch**  
Winkler Ball Diamonds, Winkler

**Swimming**  
Winkler Aquatic Centre - 580 Park St, Winkler

**Track**  
Discovery Trails School - Parkhill Dr., Morden

### REGISTRATION DESK HOURS

**MONDAY - 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM**















**TUESDAY - 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAY - 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**THURSDAY - 8:00 AM - NOON**













### DAY ONE - TUESDAY

JUNE 9, 2026

-  8:00 AM Pickleball Women's Doubles
-  8:00 AM Equestrian **BIRDHILL PARK**
-  9:00 AM Disc Golf
-  9:00 AM Slo-Pitch
-  9:00 AM Floor Shuffleboard
-  9:30 AM Bridge - Contract
-  9:30 AM Bowling - Singles
-  9:30 AM 8-Ball 55+ Singles
-  9:30 AM Snooker 70+ Singles
-  9:30 AM 18 Hole Golf - Net: Callaway
-  9:30 AM Arts & Crafts
-  1:00 PM Swimming
-  2:00 PM Bridge - Duplicate
-  5:30 PM **Opening Ceremonies & Reception**

### DAY TWO - WEDNESDAY

JUNE 10, 2026

-  8:00 AM Pickleball Mixed Doubles
-  8:00 AM Equestrian **BIRDHILL PARK**
-  8:00 AM Track
-  9:00 AM Slo-Pitch
-  9:30 AM Cribbage - Pairs
-  9:30 AM Bowling - Teams
-  9:30 AM 8-Ball 70+ Singles
-  9:30 AM Snooker 55+ Singles
-  9:30 AM 18 Hole Golf: Gross
-  1:00 PM Floor Shuffleboard
-  1:30 PM 1km/3km Predicted Walk/Run
-  1:30 PM Cribbage - Individual

Best wishes  
to all the participants  
in the 2026  
**Manitoba  
55+ Games!**



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# get informed

## Town of Altona distributes annual grants

Fifteen local organizations receive \$56,100

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder has been making the rounds this spring with giant cheques in hand—literally.

The Town of Altona's huge novelty cheque has been put to good use as Schroeder presented 15 different organizations with a total of \$56,100 in grants to support a variety of programs and projects.

"There's always difficult decision to be made," he shared of the annual municipal grant program, noting

they try to support as many eligible community groups as possible representing a host of age groups, interests, and needs in the Altona area.

"Many of them are right in the community, they're hands-on with moving the community forward," he said. "They're organizations who take care of things that sometimes we as council can't. It's always good for us to support the non-profit organizations in the community that look after those needs.

"Many businesses support so many



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder (second from left) presents The Community Exchange's (from left) Paul Peters, Susie Fisher, and Kayla Giesbrecht with \$10,000.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Schroeder presents the Altona Community Action Network's Joanne Wiebe (above) and The Gardens on Tenth's Lisa Smiley (right) with their grants.



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

of these organizations," Schroeder added, "and we, as a council, we also want to get behind them."

This year's recipients include:

- Youth for Christ Altona: \$10,000 in support of their youth outreach programming.
- Altona Minor Hockey: \$1,000 to support Altona and Gretna hosting the U15 Female A and B Provincial Hockey Championships.
- The Community Exchange: \$10,000 in support of their Community Connector Program.

Continued on page 21

# French students shine at provincial competition

By Lorne Stelmach

An annual provincial French speaking competition shows the strength of the Morden French immersion program, judging by how local students perform in it each year.

Western School Division (WSD) in collaboration with the Canadian Parents for French Morden chapter hosted Concours d'arts oratoire March 17, with French Immersion students from Grades 4-10 competing for a chance to present their speeches at the provincial Concours d'art oratoire hosted by CPF Manitoba.

The provincial event was held at the Université de Saint Boniface May 1-2, and WSD sent a number of kids to compete, including Georgia MacAulay in Grade 3-4, Amber Barnuevo in Grade 5-6, Chloe Ha in Grade 7-8, and Addison Wiens in Grade 9-10.

Ha came in first place with her speech "Différente Mais Pas Moins Importante" (different but no less important) while Barnuevo finished in third for her speech "Ma Vie Come un Chat" (my life as a cat).

"I joined the competition with no expectations of winning but rather with the goal of enjoying the experience and learning along the way,"

said Barnuevo. "I felt nervous at first, but I kept reminding myself that I had prepared and all I could do was give my best."

Ha had participated in the event previously but battled some serious nerves while doing so. While she admitted to still being nervous this time around, she powered through to earn a podium finish.

"It really got me motivated to do well this year. I did my best, and I ended up winning first in Manitoba," Ha said. "I felt really proud of myself, especially because I feel it was a more sensitive topic, but I'm proud to share about it."

"The years before were more happy, joyful speeches, however this year it was a little more emotional and sensitive for me," said Ha, who speaks Korean and English as well as French. "Having that gift and ability to speak three languages I think will impact my career throughout my life."

Sara Convery, a representative of the Morden chapter of the Canadian Parents for French, said the growth of the competition locally is a reflection of having a strong and well-supported French program.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Western School Division in Morden hosted a French language competition this spring (above) that resulted in several kids taking part in the provincial event in Winnipeg earlier this month.

"The French Immersion program in Morden for the last number of years has continued to grow, and for the last number of years, we have hosted this public speaking competition locally," she said.

"We've expanded from essentially only doing the middle school students when we first started to including Grade 4 all the way to Grade 10," she said. "So we're seeing a lot more kids participate in the competition, which is awesome."

Convery observed how it is a good thing to see that there is the desire for kids to learn the language and how it will be a benefit to them in their lives.

"Just in general, I think most people don't like speaking in front of an audience, so if the kids can have a chance to practice when they're younger and especially in a second language, I think that will just give them more confidence that they can use their French going forward," she said.

"We've definitely got good support from all levels in the school division and the parents as well who are putting their kids in French Immersion and they're seeing the value of it," said Convery. "We're seeing kids staying in French Immersion, so it's all just very positive."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Gearheads gathered at Janzen Chevrolet Buick GMC in Winkler Saturday for Legends Car Club's annual fundraising barbecue and car show. The event came a week after the club's Drive for Cancer, which saw nearly two dozen owners of classic cars brave rainy weather to take a drive across the Pembina Valley, stopping in multiple communities. Between the two events, \$27,215 was raised for South Central Cancer Resource, which provides a host of free supports to local people battling cancer, including an active transportation program offering free rides and reimbursements to help defray the costs of travelling for treatment.

## Drive for Cancer, BBQ raises \$27K for SCCR



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# sports & recreation

## Bisons hunt for a win, Orioles are 4-3

By Lorne Stelmach

The Altona Bisons are still in search of their first win in the 2026 Manitoba Junior Baseball League season, while the Pembina Valley Orioles are just a notch above .500 and in the middle of the pack in the standings.

The Bisons were blanked Friday 9-0 by the Elmwood Giants and then dropped both games in a Sunday doubleheader in falling 14-5 and 15-3 to the Interlake Blue Jays.

The Orioles, on other hand, split a Sunday doubleheader with Elmwood in losing game one 10-3 but then rebounding to win game two 9-5.

It leaves the Orioles in fourth place at 4-3 while the Bisons remain in the cellar at 0-9.

The Bisons were outthit 13-3 in being blanked by Elmwood, who collected two runs in the third and four more in the fourth. Dillan Thiessen gave up five hits and four runs over three and one third innings for Altona.

In game one against Interlake, the Bisons gave up three runs in the first and three more in the third, while the Blue Jays had a 14-7 edge in hits overall. Altona managed to get five runs



PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

The Altona Bisons fell to the visiting Interlake Blue Jays 14-5 and 15-3 in Manitoba Junior Baseball League Action over the weekend.

on two hits in the bottom of the sixth. Logan Lesser gave up eight hits and eight runs over four innings.

Interlake then collected six runs in the top of the fourth before adding five more in the fifth inning of game two while outthitting Altona 13-8. Lochlan Rempel gave up eight hits and nine runs over three and a third innings.

For the Orioles, Pembina Valley kicked off game one with two runs in

the first but then trailed 8-2 after four innings and were edged 10-8 in hits. Sam Blatz surrendered seven hits and eight runs over three and two-thirds, while Karsten Peters was three for four and Jaren Hildebrand was two for three.

In game two, four runs in the top of the sixth turned the tide in favour of the Orioles, who ended up with a slight 9-8 edge in hits. Josh Dyck gave up eight hits and five runs over six

and one-third innings, while Jackson Friesen had three RBIs with Teemu Peters going two for three.

The Orioles are at home in Winkler this weekend for a Sunday doubleheader with the Winnipeg South Wolves. Altona was scheduled for a Wednesday game with Carillon followed by St. Boniface Friday and a Sunday doubleheader in Interlake.

## Manitoba 55+ Games kicks off next Tuesday

800 athletes coming to Morden-Winkler-Stanley June 9-11

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Hundreds of athletes from all over the province will be in Morden-Winkler-Stanley next week for the Manitoba 55+ Games.

"We've got over 800 athletes registered, but many of them are doing multiple events," shares Linda Brown, executive director of Active Aging in Manitoba, which organizes the Games. "So it equates to about 1,300 entries, which is exciting to see.

"Every year we're growing," she says, reflecting on how the first Games held back in 1983 had just 300 entries. Since then, the event has become a huge draw for older athletes of all abilities.

It is, first and foremost, a friendly competition, Brown says.

"It's a chance for people to compete in their age group," she says. "A lot of times people will say, 'Well, I'm 80, I'm not going to be able to compete against a 55-year-old.' But

you're not ... and you're never too old to enter—we have 75+ categories, 80+, 85+.

"The whole idea is to promote active living at any age," Brown stresses. "So that's why we always say it's a friendly competition, though it is amazing how it brings out the competitive spirit as well."

Events are taking place at venues across the region and beyond Tuesday, June 9, through to Thursday, June 11.

Snooker and eight-ball takes place at the Morden Legion, nine and 18-hole golf are at the Winkler Centennial Golf Course, bocce ball is indoors on the turf at the Meridian Exhibition Centre, the various card events (bridge, cribbage) are at the Morden Active Living Centre and the Legion,

Continued on page 20

Active Aging in Manitoba executive director Linda Brown encourages sports fans to come cheer on the 55+ Games athletes next week.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



Check out the Voice online at [www.winklermordenvoice.ca](http://www.winklermordenvoice.ca) or [altonavoice.ca](http://altonavoice.ca)

# U13, U17 and U19 squads post strong weekend for Central Energy

## U13 team goes 4-0 while U17s sweep and U19s split opening weekend

By Annaliese Meier

The Central Energy U13 squad turned in a strong weekend, posting a 3-1 record during Manitoba Premier AAA Softball League action despite competing in hot, sunny conditions with temperatures approaching 30 C. Central Energy opened play May 30



**PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE**  
The starting pitcher for Central Energy Heidi Reimer was stellar on the mound Saturday, limiting Westman Magic hitters' success at the plate.

at Friedensfeld Community Centre Diamond 1 with a 13-6 victory over the Eastman Wildcats before falling just short in the second game of the doubleheader, dropping an 11-10 decision.

The U13 team bounced back the following day at LaSalle - Jays Care, earning a pair of close victories over the Manitoba Angels. Central Energy won the opener 13-12 before completing the sweep with a 9-7 victory in game two. One of the weekend's most dramatic moments came in the 13-12 win when Milaunia W. delivered a walk-off hit to secure the victory. Central Energy also collected 14 hits in the contest.

The U13 squad will now travel to Stonewall on June 6 for a doubleheader against the Interlake Phillies before facing the Westman Magic on June 7 at ANSC WSA. Both doubleheaders are scheduled for 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

The Central Energy U17 team also enjoyed a successful weekend, sweeping a pair of games against the Westman Magic on May 29 at ANSC Boston Pizza.

Central Energy earned a 10-2 victory in the opener before following it up with a 16-6 win in the second game of the doubleheader. Taylor Wall powered the offence with four RBIs, a home run and two doubles



**PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE**  
Westman Magic's Kendra Grift can't get a handle on the ball as Central Energy's Emma Klassen slides safely into second base Saturday at the Winkler ball diamonds.

in the opener before adding four hits in game two. Shyanne Goertzen also had a standout performance, driving in four runs, including a two-run home run, in the 16-6 victory.

The U17 squad will return to action June 7 when it travels to Riel Park for a pair of games against the Winnipeg Lightning scheduled for 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

At the U19 level, Central Energy opened its season with a split weekend against the Eastman Wildcats and Westman Magic.

The Wildcats earned 12-8 and 11-4 victories in Friedensfeld on May 29, but Central Energy responded the following day in Winkler with an 11-5 win and a 13-3 victory over the Westman Magic as players battled through temperatures approaching 30 C under sunny skies. Molly Conrad drove in three runs in the 11-5 victory, while

Rory Lumgair provided a strong relief outing, tossing three scoreless innings without allowing a hit. Hailey-Jo Guffei added two RBIs in the 13-3 win.

The postponed games against the Westman Magic originally scheduled for May 17 have been rescheduled for June 21.

The Central Energy U15 team did not see game action during the week but is scheduled to return to the field June 3 for a rescheduled doubleheader against the Westman Magic at Republic of Manitobah Diamond 9. The games were originally postponed because of weather and high winds and are scheduled for 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Across the organization, Central Energy teams combined for a strong week, highlighted by the U13 squad's unbeaten run and convincing sweeps by both the U13 and U17 teams.



**MHSAA.CA PHOTOS**  
The Northlands Parkway Collegiate Nighthawks boys varsity baseball team and the Morden Thunder girls varsity softball team will both compete in the provincial championship tournaments taking place this weekend. Both teams punched their ticket to provincials by coming out in first place at the Zone 4 playoffs last week, with the NPC boys downing Morden Thunder to bring home the banner and the Thunder girls besting Garden Valley Collegiate.



# Nighthawks, Thunder win Zone 4 banners

# Outdoor rink set to get a facelift this month

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden fire and police departments are preparing to do a major overhaul of the outdoor rink just west of the Morden courthouse.

Over the past 26 years, the rink has become a hub of community connection, family memories, and even fire-fighter training, but it has also begun to show its age.

The fire department began fundraising last year to replace the worn boards, receiving a major boost when the Morden Area Foundation pledged to offer a matching \$18,000 if the com-

munity contributed the same.

"A lot of the fundraising has been done, and there's been a lot of donations from many people throughout the community," said Chief Tim Reimer, who noted a \$3,000 grant was also coming from the Morden Community Thrift Shop.

They're aiming to get to work on the improvements this month.

"We'll be removing all of the exterior puck board and then we'll be assessing the condition of the wood framing and then reinstall and also remove the chain link fencing around all of the top," the chief explained.

"We'll do an overall assessment of the whole structure, and then from there we'll be installing new puck board and then reinstalling or replacing the chain link fencing.

"It's going to be a big project," acknowledged Reimer. "It's kind of a joint group between the fire department and police department, who look after that rink."

Both departments welcome the hands-on opportunity to get involved in something for the benefit of the community.

"A lot of the guys take a lot of pride in it. It's a good way for them to give back to the community in a way that

so many people can actually make use of it," Reimer said.

"So many of the guys take a lot of pride in that outdoor rink. It's something we've been working on and maintaining for so many years," he added. "And hopefully now doing a bunch of upgrades to it will hopefully carry on the tradition of having the police and fire outdoor rink for the community to use."

And he noted the rink has been really well used by the community.

"You drive out there almost any time of the day or the evening and there's almost always people out there, which is always really good to see."

> 55+ GAMES, FROM PG. 18

floor shuffleboard takes over the Winkler Senior Centre, horseshoes will be tossed in Stanley Park, pickle ball is at both the MEC and the Access Event Centre, slo-pitch is at the Winkler ball diamonds, swimming is at the RCU Aquatic Centre, arts and crafts are at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre, and the predicted run/walk and track and field events are all at the Discovery Trails School in Morden.

Outside the immediate area, the Carman 5 Pin Bowl is hosting the bowling events and the equestrian competitions are at Birds Hill Park near Winnipeg.

The detailed daily schedules are available online at [activeagingmb.ca](http://activeagingmb.ca).

"We certainly encourage people to come and watch," Brown says. "There's no charge—just show up and enjoy."

Slo-pitch is always a big favourite for athletes and fans alike, though pickleball has surpassed it in sheer athlete numbers—there are 300 pick-

leball entries this year.

"We have the women's playing on Tuesday, mixed on Wednesday, and men's on Thursday," Brown says.

Helping to pull off this massive sporting event are 135 local volunteers, who all got together for an appreciation supper in Winkler last week.

"We've always struggled with finding volunteers for things, so I think this is great ... it really speaks to the commitment and excitement," says Brown, noting the three communities of Morden, Winkler, and Stanley have embraced sup-

porting these Games financially as well.

"The sponsorship has been amazing. We have great support from Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries every year and Manitoba Credit Unions, Blue Cross, but locally the businesses have really stepped up. It's been amazing what they've all done, so that's really great to see."

## Bisons blank Mud Hens



PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

Above: The Altona Bisons blanked the visiting Morden Mud Hens 4-0 in Border Baseball League action last Tuesday night. That same night, the Winkler Whips trounced the Carman Cardinals 13-2 at the diamonds in Winkler. The Whips went on to beat the Holland A's 9-4 on the road Friday night. On Saturday, Morden fell 11-2 to Clearwater. This week, Tuesday evening sees the Bisons in Morden while on Friday Winkler hosts Cartwright, Morden plays in Baldur, and Altona welcomes the Holland A's.

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# NPC hosts year-end bash



PHOTOS BY KEAN REDHEAD/VOICE

As the school year enters its final month, local schools have their year-end parties coming up to mark the occasion. Northlands Parkway Collegiate hosted their big bash last Friday already, featuring dancing, food trucks, carnival games, and more.

## Tips for safe ORV use

By Voice staff

Manitobans gearing up to climbing onto their off-road vehicle (ORV) over the next several months are encouraged by RCMP to have their fun while keeping safety top of mind.

Every spring, RCMP officers respond to reports of Manitobans being injured, or worse, because of mistakes made while operating their ORV.

Police urge drivers to consider the following rules and safety tips regarding their ORV usage:

- Learn about the area you will ride in and ensure you carry your cellphone and/or GPS device.
- Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to be back. It's always safer to ride in a group of two or more.
- No person under the age of 14 is allowed to operate an ORV unless supervised and accompanied by an adult.
- You must wear your seat belt if your ORV is equipped.
- No person should be operating an ORV without a helmet—and it must be securely fastened.
- You cannot carry a passenger unless your ORV is designed for two riders.
- You are not allowed to travel on or through private property, including farmland and gravel pits.
- Operating an ORV on a roadway is strictly prohibited. Crossing a roadway is permitted if you hold a valid driver's licence.
- Riders should never operate an ORV while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Every ORV must be equipped with a noise muffler in good working order.
- Carry the proper safety equipment related to the type of ORV you're operating.

For further information regarding ORV safety, visit [mpi.mb.ca/off-road-vehicle-safety](http://mpi.mb.ca/off-road-vehicle-safety).

### > GRANTS, FROM PG. 16

- Altona Community Action Network: \$5,000 towards the community orchard and edible garden assistant position.
- Altona and Area Family Resource Centre: \$3,000 towards its free parent-child programming.
- Altona Community Christmas Dinner: \$1,000 to cover the facility rental costs.
- Altona & District Heritage Research Institute: \$2,000 in support of its historical documents preservation efforts.
- Regional Connections Immigrant Services: \$1,000 towards Culture Fest 2026 in Altona.
- Altona Elks: \$4,000 towards programs, services, and community improvements that create positive and lasting impacts.
- Rhineland Food Bank: \$5,000 to help provide food to struggling local families.
- South Central Cancer Regional Library:

\$600 so the Summer Reading Club can rent the pool for a fun activity day for participants.

- South Central Cancer Resource: \$1,500 in support of their wig program.
- STARS Foundation: \$4,500 towards the air ambulance service providing care across rural Manitoba.
- Steps Towards Reconciliation: \$2,500 in support of their work creating opportunities for community and cultural connection.
- The Gardens on Tenth: \$5,000 to help them implement a Roam Alert/Wander Guard system in The Manor.

There are still a limited amount of funds left in the 2026 grant budget, giving council with a bit of wiggle room throughout the year to support additional groups or programs as they come up. To see the town's granting policy and apply for late consideration, head to [altona.ca/p/community-grants](http://altona.ca/p/community-grants).



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The STARS Air Ambulance has received a grant of \$4,500 from the Town of Altona.

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-Ike and Diane

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The public may, within 15 days after this notice is published, submit written comments to the department or register a written objection to the use of the pesticide next to their property.  
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## OBITUARY



### Ronald Ernest Sawatzky

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Ronald Ernest Sawatzky, who peacefully left us on May 22nd, 2026. Born on June 20th, 1938 in Winkler, Manitoba, he was a beloved spouse, partner, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, sibling, and friend.

Ron was blessed to experience two great love stories in his life. First, married to his high school sweetheart for 36 years, the late Margaret Friesen. Then, for the last 27 years with his second love, Annie Drab (Kurdyla).

Ron will be dearly missed by his loving son Brendon and his wife Robin, his cherished grandchildren and great-grandchild, Jake (Lauren), Rhiana (Tim), and Elwood, his step-daughters Lisa and Nancy, step-grandson Adriano, his siblings, Marianne, George, the late Harold, Ed, Bob, Elaine and their spouses, and a multitude of

relatives and friends.

Ron admittedly loved living. He did so until his last day with love, kindness, generosity, gratitude and grace, touching the lives of and inspiring all who got to know him.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all the doctors, nurses and support staff at the Lakeshore General Hospital and the Teresa Dellar Palliative Care Residence.

A celebration of his life will take place at Rideau Funeral Home, located at 4275 Sources Boulevard, Dollard-des-Ormeaux (Quebec) H9B 2A6, on June 13th, 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation or to the Teresa Dellar Palliative Care Residence would be appreciated.



## PUBLIC NOTICE



### UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING By-Law 06-2026

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:

By-law No.06-2026, being an amendment to Zoning By-law No. 08-2017

**Hearing Location:** City of Morden Civic Center  
195 Stephen St, Morden MB

**Date and Time:** June 22, 2026 at 7:00pm

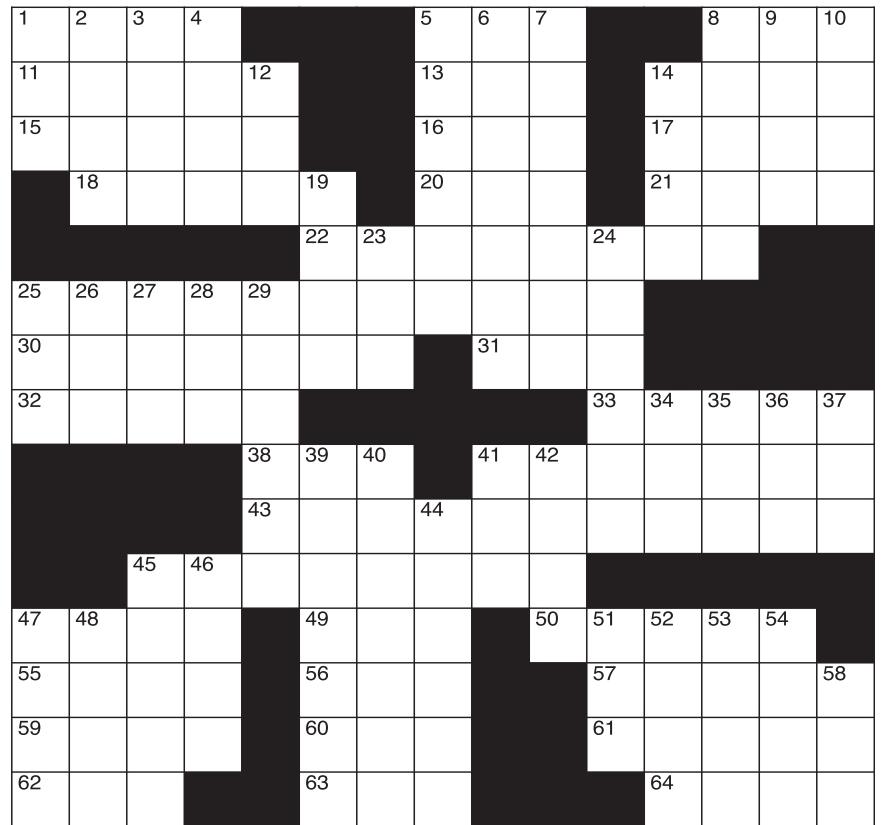
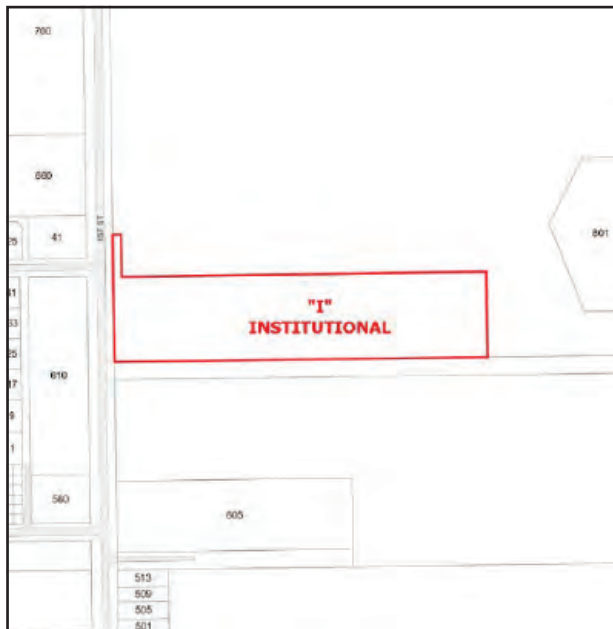
**General Intent:** To rezone the area as shown on the map below, from CR (Community Reserve) to I (Institutional) for the purpose of constructing a church

**Area:** Southwest portion of: Pt. NW 9-3-5 WPM  
Lot Rng 05 Plan PT NW, Sec 09

#### For More Information Contact:

Ihor Nikitin,  
City Planner  
133 7th Street,  
Morden MB R6M 1v3  
204-822-4434 ext. 1106

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.



#### CLUES ACROSS

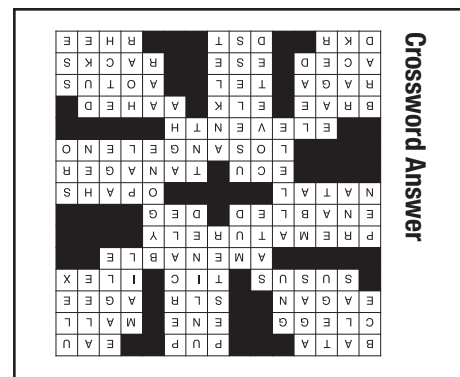
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16. Single lens reflex
17. NY Mets great Tommie
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Habitual twitching
21. Holm oak
22. Willing to consent or submit
25. In an early way
30. Made possible
31. Language in Ghana
32. Relating to one's birth
33. Deep-bodied fishes
38. Defunct European currency
41. Small American songbird
43. One from L.A.
45. After tenth
47. Hillside
49. Red deer
50. Partner to "oohed"
55. Indian musical pattern
56. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
57. Golden peas plant
59. Breezed through
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Frameworks
62. Danish krone
63. Fall back
64. Influential Korean leader

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky lizard
4. Turkish leader title
5. Nag
6. Blank
7. Closely woven cotton fabric
8. A nice shot in golf

#### 9. Away from wind

10. Evergreen shrub genus
12. Large African antelope
14. Something you receive
19. Satisfy
23. Wet dirt
24. No longer here
25. Writing utensil
26. Ribonucleic acid
27. Consume food
28. Licensed for Wall Street
29. Alternative forms of a gene
34. Buddy
35. We all do it
36. Chicken
37. No seats available
39. Yearned to possess
40. Ineffectual
41. Explosive
42. Turkish title
44. Worn near the foot
45. Impatient
46. Set an example for others
47. Actor Pitt
48. Instrument of torture
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. A way to print
54. Storied college hoops program
58. Midway between south and southeast



Crossword Answer

**WINKLER  
AUTO  
DEALERS**

**HOMETOWN**



**SERVICE**

**JANZEN**



**CHEVROLET BUICK  
GMC**

**Southland**



**HONDA**



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