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THE EXPRESS

VOLUME 6 EDITION 20 THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019

WEEKLY NEWS

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Golden smiles

EXRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT
Dancers Kyle Dudar, Arthur Henderson, Maggie Bird and Harper Pearce perform the Poltava, showcasing their exceptional dancing and dramatic skills during Arborg's Reechka Ukrainian Dance Club spring tea last Friday night at the Arborg Hall. The dancers won a gold medal at the Manitoba Ukrainian Dance Festival in March.

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

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Vincent Van Gimli has local schools staging homage to Vincent van Gogh

By Patricia Barrett

Art students at two Gimli schools have teamed up to pay homage to Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) under the aptly titled banner Vincent Van Gimli.

Rather than enter formal art competitions, students at Gimli High School and at Dr. George Johnson Middle School are preparing to exhibit their own works in a few weeks, inspired by paintings from the famous artist's late period.

GHS art teacher Kristine Dubois came up with the Vincent Van Gimli idea after one of her students started painting van Gogh-inspired works such as *Iris*, *Starry Night* and *Sunflowers* on old windows that Dubois had pulled from trash cans and back lanes around town.

"I have always wanted to do this Vincent Van Gimli show," said Dubois during a break between classes. "I had taught at Dr. George two years ago, once a day, with grades 5 and 6, and I had done *Starry Night* with them so I knew they could do it. And then we [teacher at Dr. George] introduced *Wheatfield with Crows*, which is the other painting in his late period."

In addition to art, Dubois teaches her students about art history, placing the artist in the context of his/her time. She gave them a fact sheet about



Gimli students are hosting Vincent Van Gimli at Dr. George Johnson Middle School on June 6 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

van Gogh's life and showed them the 2017 movie *Loving Vincent*, an experimental animated and painted film that focuses on his last days.

Teaching painting gives students a lasting appreciation of art, said Dubois.

"The kids gets really excited about art and as they move through life they'll remember that they did van



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Art teacher Kristine Dubois (left) with Grade 12 student Brandy Bergman and her homage to Vincent van Gogh.

Gogh in high school," she said.


Grade 12 student Brandy Bergman has entered her own work in the show, based on Van Gogh's *Wheatfield with Crows*. Bergman neatly captures the moodiness of an isolated path through a sweeping field, drawing the eye to the ominous crows flapping overhead.

Dubois said she has been sending about eight of her Grade 12 students to Dr. George to teach the younger students how to create their own van

Gogh works.

"I've prepped my students on how to get started and I've given them a tip sheet," said Dubois. "The little kids could choose oil pastel or paint and I sent everything over — brushes, paint, oil pastel. My students said the kids were enthusiastic."

The show takes place at Dr. George Johnson Middle School on June 6 from 6 to 8:30 p.m., the same night as Dr. George's band concert.



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Express brings home seven community newspaper awards

Staff

The Manitoba Community Newspaper Association (MCNA) celebrated 100 years of connecting communities, and the *Express Weekly News* was honoured to receive a total of seven awards during the MCNA's annual Better Newspaper Competition Awards last Saturday evening.

The *Express Weekly News* received third place awards for Best in Class, Best Layout and Design, Best Front Page, and Best Christmas Edition.

Express reporter Patricia Barrett won first for Best Agriculture Story for the article entitled "Wolves killing cattle in Moosehorn have producers calling for government action." The judges commented that it is an "interesting story about an important topic" and that Barrett "covers the bases well."

She also won first place award for Best News Story for the article entitled "Fishers owed about \$1 million after a month of open market dealing." The judges commented, "The reporter did a lot of things well in crafting this article. It's well-researched and well-written, with a good balance of colour and facts. There's evidence of the reporter going above and beyond to acquire documents, and the contents

are presented in an interesting manner. The article is timely, balanced, and gives information about what's happened and what might happen next."

In addition, Barrett won the second place award for Best Photo Essay.

The *Express* shared the joy with its three sister papers, which also brought home multiple awards.

The *Stonewall Teulon Tribune* received first place honours for Best Layout and Design and second place awards for Best in Class and Best Front Page in their circulation category. Publisher and Interlake Graphics owner Lana Meier also received the third place award for Photographer of the Year and *Tribune* reporter Jennifer McFee won the third place award for Best Arts and Culture Story.

The *Selkirk Record* brought home a first place award for Best Front Page and second place awards for Best in Class and Best Layout and Design in the 10,000 and over circulation category.

Record Reporter Justin Luschinski earned the first place award for Best First Nations Coverage and a second place award for Best Habitat Conservation Story, while Brett Mitchell

received third place for Best Photo Essay. Editor Lindsey Enns received third place in the Reporter of the Year category.

The *Winkler Morden Voice* took home first place for Best in Class for newspapers with a circulation of 10,000 or more and also received the first place award for Best Layout and Design and a second place award for Best Front Page. Editor Ashleigh Viveiros received the second place award for Best Tourism Story, Peter Cantelon

won second place in the Best Columnist category, and production staffer Tara Gionet received a third place nod for Best Advertisement. The *Voice's* Corn and Apple Festival special section also won a third place award for Best Special Section.

Meier said winning these awards is always a huge honour for our staff and the communities we cover.

"Everyone's work ethic is second to none and clearly shines through in

Continued on page 5



EXPRESS PHOTO BY HALEY CVAR

Back row, left to right: Lucy Kowalchuk, Corrie Sargent, Georgia Campbell, Stephanie Duncan, Michelle Balharry, Lindsey Enns, Ashleigh Viveiros, Lana Meier, Patricia Barrett; front row: Justin Luschinski, Brett Mitchell, Rick Reimer, Jennifer McFee and Branden Meier.

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Lake Winnipeg commercial fishers unanimously dissolve co-management board

By Patricia Barrett

Lake Winnipeg's commercial fishers voted unanimously last week to dissolve the Lake Winnipeg Fisheries Co-management Board, citing betrayal by the provincial Conservative government.

Fishers were due to meet with Sustainable Development's new co-chair and assistant deputy minister (ADM) Elliott Brown and minister Rochelle Squires May 8 for their first meeting of 2019 but decided there was no point.

Fishers from 13 areas covering the North Basin, the Narrows, the South Basin and the whitefish fleet held an in-camera session before the scheduled meeting to discuss the government's recent unilateral mesh size change they say will decimate their industry and other attempts to undermine them.

On the fisher's side, Sam Murdock served as the board's co-chair for the past 18 years and has seen several ADMs and ministers come and go. The board was known as the Lake Winnipeg Fisheries Advisory Board until 2012 when it was re-vamped.

Murdock said he gave each area representative a chance to speak about his/her concerns and that the overall feeling in the room was one of frustration with the department.

"There's absolutely no trust in terms of this ministry. The confidence that was built up is all gone now," said Murdock. "They're talking about having sleepless nights because of the hundreds of thousands they've invested into their businesses. It's almost like a feeling of hopelessness when a government is attacking your livelihood."

Commercial fishers have been speaking out for the past few years about lobbying by the angling industry to get the government to scale back commercial fishing. The province and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation — which represents anglers and whose former president Rob Olson was appointed Sustainable Development's Director of Fisheries — have said pickerel (walleye) is in danger and sauger is at the point of extirpation. But the province refuses to release the data it claims shows those declines.

In 2011, the Lake Winnipeg Quota Task Force said the jury was out as far as knowledge about the status of fish stocks because of lack of scientific data, and economist Harold Westdal's 2016 report on the fishery said the province must find ways to estimate stocks.

Commercial fishers have told the *Express* they haven't seen a decline in fish stocks.

"You can travel to the North Basin and down to the south and we're wondering where [Sustainable Development] is getting all this data. Nobody has seen them on the lake. We think they're catering to the sport fishing industry and to the Manitoba Wildlife Federation," said Murdock, who's also a commercial fisher.

"And if the province wants to talk about sustainability, why are they allowing angling on the rivers while pickerel is still carrying spawn whereas the commercial fisher has to wait until the fish are 80 per cent spawned out? We're doing our part in terms of sustaining the lake. Unfortunately, it's all about the mighty dollar when it comes to the province."

Sustainable Development announced last week that angling opens May 11 in the southern division and May 18 in the rest of the province. "Anglers are encouraged to carefully handle and release any fish they catch that is spawning or full of eggs. By releasing spawning fish, anglers will help protect stocks and sustain Manitoba's fisheries," states its new release.

During their in-camera session, Murdock said fishers were "displeased" with Squires' oft-repeated public statements about having consulted with them and that "nobody seems to know which fishers those were."

The intent of the co-management board was to have commercial fishers and the province make joint decisions for the welfare of the industry and the lake.

The board's 2012 Terms of Reference states the department is to "strive to achieve consensus amongst users of fishery resources and communities with regard to decisions affecting them." A separate clause singles out the duty of the fisheries department and the Crown to consult with Aboriginal people about any proposed action or decision that affects their rights under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution.

"It seemed we were going down the right path then it just went into a complete 360," said Murdock. "When the Pallister government came in, unfortunately, it totally changed to the point where they were basically dictating to us what had to be done. If we didn't agree, then the minister stood up and said, 'I've consulted with the commercial fishers.'"

Over 80 per cent of Manitoba's commercial fishers are Indigenous. The Manitoba Metis Federation held an emergency meeting last week with the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak and the Southern Chiefs Organization to discuss the fallout from



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

A commercial fisher at the Hecla Island jetty loads his boat with totes.

Sustainable Development's quota buy-back program in March and its failure to consult with Indigenous fishers.

"The commercial fishing industry is one of the last remaining traditional economies in the province," said MMF president David Chartrand in a May 9 news release. "Now, one snap decision by the Pallister government and people lose their jobs. Imagine the domino [effect] if the provincial government decides to expand the buy-back program. This will destroy rural fishing villages and leave the countryside littered with ghost-towns. Is this what Pallister calls fiscal responsibility?"

NDP environment critic Rob Altemeyer read a brief statement by the co-management board's fishers into the official record May 8, adding none of the government's promises about regulations and consultation had materialized.

"Co-management is a special relationship. It's where government is actually willing to share power with the people affected and most connected to the resource that is involved," said Altemeyer. "A government's job is to make life better for its residents, not worse. This premier, his minister, his government have failed."

Murdock said after dissolving the board, fishers made a motion to support a newly formed not-for-profit organization called the Pioneer Commercial Fishers of Manitoba.

According to a PCFM brief obtained by the *Express*, the intent of the organization is to build a united commercial fisher front, ensure other fisher organizations "are not dictating what happens with our industry" and commission third-party scientific fishery data,

something fishers weren't allowed to do under the co-management board.

It also wants to work "hand in hand" with the province to continue operating the fishery in a sustainable manner.

An elected executive consisting of Einar Sveinson (president), Raymond Smith (vice-president), Liam Olson (treasurer) and Trevor Kristjanson (secretary) is already in place and will serve a four-year term.

Murdock said the PCFM wants to work collaboratively with the department, but the province has to recognize fishers' experiential knowledge of stocks and health of the lake. Fishers are on the water on a daily basis and they "know that fish" and know when to switch to a different sized mesh to sustain stocks.

"Truly, if we want to see this lake survive, we've got to look at the health of the lake," said Murdock. "It doesn't matter if you're a sports fisher or a commercial fisher — everybody has to do their part. But the provincial government is not doing it."

A Sustainable Development spokesperson told the *Express* that Squires will engage in "shared management" and develop certification strategies "in consultation with all resource users, including Indigenous and commercial and recreational fishers."

When asked for a list of all the commercial fishing communities with whom Squires consulted specifically in regard to the quota buy-back program and the mesh size change, the department was not forthcoming. The spokesperson said instead that Squires has been actively engaging with industry stakeholders since becoming minister in 2018.

Lakeside Quilters preparing for annual show

By Patricia Barrett

The Lakeside Quilters group is preparing to host its annual quilting showcase next month at the Gimli Recreation Centre and has an exciting lineup of events.

The two-day event attracts quilters of all abilities from Gimli, Winnipeg Beach, Fraserwood, Selkirk, Arborg, Lockport and Beausejour, to name a few.

The group's co-president Heather Dankochik said Lakeside Quilters started hosting shows in 2012 to promote the art, build connections in the quilting community and help support worthy causes.

"The monies raised from our quilt shows go to different groups and projects in the community," said Dankochik, who will be displaying her own work at the show.

After each show, the group's nine board members get together and discuss how the proceeds — after paying expenses such as advertising in local newspapers and the quilting paper Country Register, rental fees for display racks and venue rental fees — should be divvied up among potential recipients.

Over the past seven years, the Quilters have donated \$9,900. Past recipients include Camp Stepping Stones, the Evergreen School Division meal program for its eight schools, the Nova House women's shelter in Selkirk, Winnipeg Beach School's new playground, the Gimli Recreation Centre's after school program, Arborg Collegiate's outdoor track, Arborg Personal Care Home for a blanket warmer and the Gimli & District Health Auxiliary for a power stretcher.

Out of its 2018 show proceeds, the Quilters donated \$500 to Heima Er Best, a support home for adults with developmental challenges. Dankochik said it's up to the home as to how to use the money but could likely be put towards a day trip for the residents or to make their home more comfortable.

Quilters who aren't formally part of the Lakeside group are welcome to participate in the show.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The Lakeside Quilters are busy preparing for their annual quilting showcase at the Gimli Recreation Centre on June 1 and 2.

"We don't just ask people that are part of our Lakeside Quilters," said Dankochik. "We're so pleased to highlight anybody that wants to show us their work as simple or complicated as it is. It's still a quilt and we love quilts."

Quilter Rita Wasney is the special guest this year. She'll be bringing a vintage button collection to the show on Saturday and demonstrating how they can embellish a quilt.

"That's part of the excitement of the quilt," said Dankochik, who has also used buttons on her own quilts. "I've never seen her work so it will be exciting to be at her presentation."

The show will also include a quilt raffle, a barn quilt sale, vendor demonstrations, a scissor-sharpening service and a Make 'N' Take session.

"We're going to 'make and take' a collage quilt," said Dankochik. "It's just like a paper collage that uses words or letters or pictures that are all put together. You can do that with material. We

have kits of collage quilts. You can take your quilt home."

The Quilters will once again be collecting layettes (sets of clothing for newborns that includes crib quilts, cuddle blankets, vests, sleepers, hoodies, socks, booties, bibs, hats, etc.) for the Thelma Wynne Project, which distributes quilted baby items to 22 social agencies in Winnipeg, Gimli Selkirk and Stonewall.

Dankochik said the items go to new moms in need, and she herself will be donating two quilts to Thelma Wynne.

The quilt show takes place Saturday, June 1 from 10 to 5, and Sunday, June 2 from 10 to 4. Admission is \$5 for one day or \$8 for two days.

For more information, email Lakeside Quilters at lakesidequiltersinterlake@gmail.com.

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> AWARDS, FROM PG. 3

the job we do delivering the news and advertising in our communities," she said.

"Our newspapers are interesting, newsworthy, accurate and compelling. Our staff are professional, talented and committed, and we were rewarded at the MCNA Better Newspaper Awards 2019 ceremony."

The awards were handed out on Saturday, May 11 during the 100th annual awards banquet at Canad Inns Destination Centre and Club Regent Casino Hotel in Winnipeg, which was attended by Lt.-Gov. Janice C. Filmon.

"For more than a century and a half, Manitoba's newspapers have connected the people of this province," Filmon said during her address to the crowd. "They've alerted readers to danger, they have helped them to anticipate and understand changes, they've celebrated achievements in every field and endeavour.

"Manitoba's newspapers have chronicled the passing of years, people and generations."

Filmon said since before Manitoba's founding, newspapers have been essential to the understanding of our lives.

"Newspapers have been there through wars and economic upheavals, floods. ... They have helped us understand our growth, our neighbourhood and ourselves," she added. "So to all of tonight's award nominees and to all of those who make Manitoba's community newspapers possible, thank you for all you do to inform, connect and entertain people of this province.

"Here's to many more years of meeting deadlines and writing headlines."

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Thanks to the mothers

By Evan Matthews

A pair of mothers who have kids playing in the NHL reflected on raising elite hockey players with CBC this past week.

Anne Brown and Kelly McDavid — mothers of Connor Brown and Connor McDavid, respectively — told reporter Dwight Drummond they hadn't sacrificed anything in order to be mothers of two pro hockey players.

The article read that despite out-of-town commutes, early mornings and late nights in cold rinks, it was all worth it.

While no one questions whether or not parenthood is "worth it," to say those mothers did not make any sacrifices to have their kids be where they are today just wouldn't be true.

That's what mothers do. They wake their kids up in the morning. Mothers guide their kids through

the day, from what clothes to wear and what foods to eat to following their hearts and dreams in everything their kids do.

They think not of themselves first but of their kids.

They think about how to improve the existence of their child, and then themselves.

We thank them formally only once a year, but our mothers sacrifice every day.

Sometimes it is conscious, and sometimes it is not.

But without our mothers, we would not be.

I was recently told a story second-hand, about an immigrant mother who fled to Canada in 1907.

With nothing but uncertainty, a pregnant mother got on a boat, travelled to a very young country and gave birth to a child.

It would have been easier for her to stay in her homeland.

But she risked and sacrificed everything so her child could have a better life.

A friend of mine posted a photo of his mother on social media, captioned, "I will love you forever."

It resonated with me because for so many of us, it's one of the few and far between times where someone can say that, unconditionally.

My friend's commentary was beautiful.

Whether a mother raises a pro hockey player, crosses international borders (for what could be an array of reasons) or raises your average, everyday Manitoban, they are the glue that holds our society together.

Our mothers raised us.

Our mothers nurtured us.

Our mothers will care for us as long as they live.

We love you. Happy Mothers Day.

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor: letters@expressweeklynews.ca

How could the provincial education review affect our children's education?

Since the time of Confederation in 1867, school boards and provincial governments have collaborated to ensure the best outcomes for all students. Governance of the education of children and youth in Canada has been entrusted to locally elected trustees across the country by members of the communities we serve. Protecting local voices to ensure local choices through school boards is important for all citizens.

The Provincial K-12 Education

Review may significantly impact schools, and the communities, within Evergreen School Division. The education review is looking at all aspects of education: governance, funding, teacher development, curriculum and testing. Consultation on the education system is a healthy process for continued improvement and, it is important to note, our division welcomes the review. However, we believe strengthening of the public education system needs to be

collaborative and in the best interest of students and communities. The board of trustees is concerned that similar reviews in other provinces have led to the abolition of democratic school boards, which makes responsive local programming more difficult.

Historically, the board of trustees has been able to respond to school, student and community requests to strengthen education in Evergreen School Division. The following list of programs is not specifically funded by the provincial government

Continued on page 7

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That's the way of life

Hi gang.

I hope you didn't mind my toying with you these last two weeks by bringing to life Nikki Benish's story of her love of fishing with her father and Larry Skoleski's story of watching his friend Jackie Pyle catch masters after announcing they had won. We needed time to get everyone rounded up for this week's photo in front of Selkirk Canadian Tire but we finally did it. Nikki and Larry, enjoy your prizes!

Life-awakening spring and open-water fishing is once again ours! The pier at Hnausa was jam-packed with anglers last Saturday when I arrived mid-afternoon. The sun was high and bright, the wind fair with folks sitting in folding chairs beside their cars or trucks jiggling their fishing lines, snacking and chatting with family and friends having a fine old time.

A tall young chap waved me over as I got out of my car to visit with everyone. I walked over to him as he held out his hand to shake mine saying, "Boy, everybody all along the pier is catching walleye."

"Yeah," I returned, smiling, "the pickerel are all along the shoreline in Lake Winnipeg's south basin."

"Pickerel?" my new friend looked at me inquiringly.

"Oh, yeah, walleye and pickerel are generally known as the same thing," I said. "What's your name, pal, and do you have a fishing story for your fellow anglers?"

"My name's Jonathan Buckolz from Winnipeg and, yes, I remember a time years ago one of my sisters changed from a frightened child to a lover of the outdoors and angling in one day."

He went on. It seems he was fishing with his two very young sisters off the dock at Wendigo by Lac du Bonnet. Little spindly, rosy-cheeked, blond-haired Jessica was playing with her little fishing rod laying on her tummy, raising and lowering her lure and slapping it on top of the water.

Without warning, a jack maybe a foot and a half long broke from the water, its mouth gaping, its eyes locked on the lure. Though the child was quite a bit higher on the dock than the water, she was terrified. She sprang up screaming and ran from the dock to the safety of the grass of the lake bank.

Jonathan knew this was a moment that would mould Jessica's view of the outdoors and fishing for some time to come. Slowly he walked from the pier to her side and sat down on the ground. He spoke gently to his sister until she became calm and then led her back hand in hand onto the pier. He picked up his rod, cast it out into the glassy water and then scooped up her floating rod.

He handed it to her saying, "Jessica, look around us. Those nice spruce trees find their food in the ground. That seagull over there on the water searches for minnows. The fish that scared you was only after the lure



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ROSE BLAND

MIFA award ceremony in front of Selkirk's Canadian Tire, from left to right, MIFA board members Guy Proulx, Chuck Reuther, Lawrence Proulx, Canadian Tire rep. Dylan Collins, portable ice shack winner Nikki Benish, ice auger winner Larry Skoleski and Arnie Weidl of the *Selkirk Record*, the *Express Weekly News* and the *Stonewall Teulon Tribune*.

because it thought it was food. Fish catch food to live and we need food to live. That's the way of life, Jessica. Now what do you say we try and catch some fish for dinner?"

Jessica smiled, nodding her head. She wiped away the last of her tears and cast her lure a little ways out in the water.

Not long ago, I met Bev Gardener and his buddy Ken Leochko, who had an unusual experience when they were ice fishing on Sandy Bar by Riverton. Ken, a stocky, powerful chap, got a hard hit on his baited hook. Bev, a big easy-going guy, made room for him to play his fish in the small portable ice shack. Ken braced his legs wide as best he could on the slippery floor, the ice having melted with the warmth of the propane heater. He tightly gripped his short rod, which

was whipping with great force. He played his catch slowly, reeling in careful not to break his line.

In time, the head of a great jack appeared in the ice holes water. With his gloved hands, Ken reached down and grabbed it by its gills. Unfortunately, Ken's legs weren't as long as the jack. Lifting it as high as he could, only three quarters of the fish was out of the hole. Suddenly, the strain on his legs from the slippery floor and the weight of the fish were too much. Ken seized with excruciatingly painful leg cramps and let go of the fish. As they parted company, Ken took a bath on the wet floor while the fish disappeared back down into the ice hole's water as it slipped the hook. He was too big to eat anyway, Ken!

Till next time, my friends. Bye for now.

> LETTER, FROM PG. 6

and made available because of decisions made by the local school board: junior kindergarten; kindergarten three days a week; staffing for tiered supports — extra teacher and/or educational assistant help for students; current investments in band and music programming; new music learning space at Gimli High School; maintaining independent High Schools — ACI and RCI: small schools stay open; mature student program; smaller class sizes; reading recovery (1:1 reading help with a teacher specialist); Career Trek — Wonder of Work program; middle years vocational courses/explorations; one-time annual school fees

K-8; subsidized extra-curricular and field trips; fibre optic cable and technology; student support/social work/psychologist/speech and language pathologist.

In the event of a significant change to local governance or funding, these programs will be in jeopardy. Further, in the event of an amalgamation of Evergreen with neighbouring school divisions, the division has the following concerns:

- An amalgamated division may result in local job losses as offices and the bus garage may be relocated. Further, if programs and services are reduced, additional jobs may be eliminated

- Taxes after amalgamation are estimated at \$250 more on a \$200,000

property. The 2019-2020 ESD budget included a tax increase of only \$6 per year. We currently have the fourth lowest mill rate in Manitoba.

If an outcome of the education review erodes the protection of democracy and the right to elected representation at the community level, it will become more difficult to have local voices and local choices heard and addressed. This will have a negative impact on our rural communities. We want to keep jobs in our communities and continue to make decisions for our schools locally.

Please consider joining us in support of local decision making so that we may continue to respond to student needs with programs such as those listed above. Together, we can

shape the future of education locally and provincially. Please consider voicing your view at <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/education-review-public/>

Yours in Education,
Ruth Ann Furgala, Chairperson
ESD Board of Trustees

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to news@expressweeklynews.ca.

Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.

GHS Enviro Club to take part in Siglavik-Willow Island wetland event

By Patricia Barrett

The Enviro Club at Gimli High School is getting set to visit the wetlands between Siglavik and Willow Island to help educate the public on the importance of their preservation.

"We've been invited to the wetland event to have a youth presence," said math, social studies and geography teacher Heida Arnbjornsson, who will be taking part in the event with fellow teachers Melissa Anderson and Ashley Komar. "The students are really knowledgeable about wetlands and if anyone has any questions, the students should be able to answer them."

The 10-15 member club has already gone on wetland ecology fieldtrips to Oak Hammock Marsh where they took water samples and studied the chemistry.

Wetlands are nature's best defence against water pollution. They filter out harmful nutrients from agricultural run-off and wastewater that's pumped directly into water bodies such as Lake Winnipeg, hold back flood water, store carbon thus mitigating the effects of global warming and provide habitat for a diverse array of

species that support the food chain.

Arnbjornsson said there will be food at the Siglavik-Willow Island event and Riverton principal and teacher Rob Jantz will be bringing his kayaks (Jantz runs a kayaking school called Prairie Sea Kayak Adventures) so that people can get out in the wetlands and Willow Creek.

The date of the event is yet to be finalized.

The Enviro Club is also hoping to get out on Lake Winnipeg with the Namao research vessel this year.

"We are hoping to get some of the kids who are interested in studying environmental sciences in university out on the Namao," said Arnbjornsson. "The Namao goes out and researches every spring and fall so I'm hoping to get a group of kids going out with them so they can get some hands-on experience."

The Enviro Club is also joining forces with students from Riverton Collegiate to urge the Manitoba government to take action on climate change. They'll be going to the climate action strike at the Legislature on May 24th.



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF HEIDA ARNBJORNSSON

GHS Enviro Club students researching at Oak Hammock Marsh.

Selkirk to host 24th annual Kids Fishing For A Cure Derby June 1

By Lindsey Enns

A special fishing derby that helps children battling cancer be kids for a day will mark its 24th year in Selkirk next month.

The 24th annual Kids Fishing For A Cure Derby will take place in Selkirk Park on Saturday, June 1.

The event kicks off at around 8 a.m. with a pancake breakfast for the participating children and their family members before volunteer boat operations and avid anglers take children and a family member out on the Red River to fish.

Selkirk resident Bobbi Carter, who has been helping organize the derby in some capacity since its inception, said the free event is all about letting kids who are currently undergoing cancer treatment just be kids for a day.

"That, to me, is what it's all about. It's very rewarding working with these children," said Carter, who is currently the event's secretary and derby chairperson. "These kids are in the fight for their lives, and at the end of the day, when you see them going home with

their loot smiling and laughing, it's just great."

Various fundraisers are organized throughout the year to raise money and support from local sponsors and donors help make the fishing derby a reality each year. Help from dozens of volunteers is also an invaluable part of the event, Carter said.

Derby day includes a pancake breakfast, boat operators taking participants out to fish on the Red River, followed by a lunch of hotdogs, hamburgers, drinks and treats.

Children are also treated to face painting, a visit from local and area mascots as well as RCMP and members of the fire department. The event also includes a raffle and silent auction, and then a presentation of trophies, medallions and the presentation of a bicycle to the overall derby winner.

Kids Fishing For A Cure is a non-profit organization, with net proceeds going to benefit pediatric cancer patients.

The fishing derby was founded in 1996 by Selkirk resident John Harbor. Harbor was a volunteer driver for Cancer-

Care Manitoba, and on these trips, he noticed the many children battling cancer. Being an avid fisherman himself, Harbor thought of the idea of taking kids out for a free, fun-filled day of fishing.

After Harbor passed away in 2000, a group of dedicated volunteers agreed to keep the annual event alive.

Carter says she still remembers Harbor asking if she could help cook hotdogs during the first derby.

With the derby's 25th anniversary right around the corner, Carter says they're hoping to plan something special next year to mark the occasion.

"I would personally like to see every child that's ever been at the derby to come back for the 25th," she said. "We have lots of survivors and some even still come out and volunteer."

Anyone interested in volunteering or taking part in this year's event can call 204-785-8526 or 204-482-6706 or register online at <https://kidsfishingforcure.com/>. You can also find "Kids Fishing For A Cure Manitoba" on Facebook.

A promotional graphic for the "Ride For Dad" event. At the top is a logo with a motorcycle wheel and the text "MANITOBA MOTORCYCLE RIDE FOR DAD". Below the logo, the text reads "Join the fight against Prostate Cancer". Further down, it says "Saturday May 25th - 10am Start Earls - Polo Park Shopping Centre WINNIPEG". At the bottom, it says "Register to Ride. Make a Pledge. Donate" followed by the website "ridefordad.ca/manitoba". The background features a close-up of a motorcycle's handlebars and mirrors. Logos for TELUS and PLAY NOW.COM are visible in the bottom corners.

Profiling the Interlake's art exhibits riding the WAVE

By Evan Matthews

Over the next five weeks, *The Express Weekly News* and *The Stonewall Teulon Tribune* will profile many of the Interlake's artists as part of the WAVE Tour.

WAVE is a non-profit organization working toward promoting the Interlake's artists.

On June 8 and 9, and then again on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, the WAVE Artists' Studio Tour is taking place in a variety of locations across the Interlake region.

On Friday, May 3, WAVE launched its brochure at First Friday's in Winnipeg's Exchange District. The brochure cites locations for each artist's studio. The brochure is available online at: <https://www.watchthewave.ca/brochure>.

With the help of the brochure, guests are encouraged to plan their route visiting the studios. Most areas have a number of studios within a close proximity so guests can maximize the number of studios and exhibits they take in.

Tours will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and guests are encouraged to watch for the blue and white WAVE signs and flags along the highways and within the towns.

This week's features will showcase the work of Julia Penny (Farmsteads near Winnipeg Beach) and Amanda Onchukenko (Ponemah).

Amanda Onchukenko Wisdom at the Crossroads

Art is often one person's interpretation of the physical world around them.

When a life-altering event happens, that interpretation can change.

"I was in a car accident in 2009, and it kind of changed my perspective on things," said Amanda Onchukenko, an author and painter.

"It felt like I had an angel on my shoulder."

On her way to pick up her children from school, Onchukenko was t-boned at an intersection. She struggled to recover from a severe concussion, she said.

"I had a lot of trouble remembering things. ... I had trouble cutting an onion or even carrying my purse," Onchukenko said. "It was a very long process."

Colour therapy was a part of Onchukenko's recovery, she said, referring to herself as a "maker."

She turned to meditation, turning meditation into (creative) development, which started to bring her peace.



After being in a serious car accident, which she says left her suffering from brain trauma, Amanda Onchukenko turned to art. She says that for her, colour was therapeutic.

"I would write while I was meditating," said Onchukenko.

"I was honing into wisdom deep within my soul. We all have that capacity, but this world we live in can be so noisy."

Onchukenko started small by creating bookmarks, of which she'd put a quote on the back.

"I had always written, but I never previously had the courage to put my words out there," said Onchukenko.

As time went, Onchukenko says she spent more time thinking about the structure of a book and came up with a premise, which expanded upon her original idea.

Onchukenko's book, *Wisdom at the Crossroads*, was self-published in October 2018.

Onchukenko uses her paintings as illustrations in the book, pairing them with quotes and short stories of relevance.

"You can pick it up and be inspired by the illustrations, or you can be inspired by a quote," said Onchukenko.

"It's easy to write a long book, but it takes a long time to edit it down. ... It doesn't take long to read."

Onchukenko has another project she calls *The Healing Blanket*, which offers guests the chance to add a "stitch in time" to the blanket in honour of someone they love or have loved.

People will often share stories throughout the process, something Onchukenko says has been moving.

Down the road, Onchukenko plans to donate money from *The Healing Blanket* to a non-profit such as CancerCare, an organization that values



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY EVAN MATTHEWS

Julia Penny has written a book in which she personally interviews and documents the experience of immigrants, all of whom live in the Interlake. Her hand-drawn portraits (seen on the right) are combined with text for an "elegant" layout (seen at the bottom).

colour therapy.

"Colour is therapy for me," said Onchukenko. "I hope it's an inspiration so people know they aren't alone in tough times."

To get inspired, visit Onchukenko at 13 Melville Lane, Ponemah.

Julia Penny From All Walks of Life

Canada may not be perfect, but to some who have experienced life elsewhere, it is the best country in the world.

Julia Penny is one of those people.

"I'm an immigrant. I've been here 52 years now. ... I came in 1967," said Penny, who lives just south of Winnipeg Beach.

"In 2017, I was here for 50 years and thought I needed to do something special for (the commemoration)," she said.

The idea to pursue and procure 50 portraits of immigrants was born.

But quickly, more and more stories came to Penny, and 50 portraits turned into 151.

"They're all done on (wood) panels. I would interview the person, or I would interview the families if the person had died... I'd get their story from a relative," said Penny.

"We're all part of this world. We're all human beings. Canada shows we can live together, really," she said, referring to Canada as a cultural mosaic.

Penny released her book *From All Walks of Life* in December 2018.

"Some of these people have just amazing stories," said Penny. "In the 1800s, these people were coming off the boat to absolutely nothing."

For Penny's own story and 150 others, visit Penny at The McKenzie Homestead Studio at 2868 McKenzie Rd., Winnipeg Beach.

Gimli Community Health Centre Non Urgent Walk-In Medical Clinic

A non-urgent walk-in medical clinic will be available 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays.

The clinic will be open to accept walk-in patients starting May 18 until September 2, 2019.

Appointments for the non-urgent medical clinic are not necessary.



Interlake-Eastern
Regional Health Authority

This clinic is in the physicians' offices in the Gimli Community Health Centre. Please use the 6th Avenue entrance (204-642-4595).

The emergency department will be available for urgent health concerns only. Always call 911 in the event of an emergency.

West Interlake to see minimal tax increase in 2019

Staff

The RM of West Interlake presented its 2019 financial plan on May 7 with six people attending the public hearing.

"Most people asked questions about the capital projects ... mostly just clarifications and explanations," said RM of West Interlake CAO Larissa Love.

For Eriksdale, capital projects and purchases include McEwen Park, the wellness parking lot, firemen radios and fire truck repairs, sidewalks, tech and office upgrades, and a grader.

Capital projects and purchases for the Siglunes area include office upgrades, boat launches, the Ashern fire hall plan, Centennial Hall, the lagoon, tech upgrades and a grader.

For the Ashern LUD, a security program, sidewalks, Jaws of Life for the Ashern Fire Department, Railway Park, Main Street enhancement, a

generator and garbage truck tires are all budgeted under capital projects and purchases.

The RM of West Interlake will use \$693,500 in reserve funding for the capital projects and purchases. The RM will also borrow \$590,000 for graders and the Siglunes Lagoon. Both are to be paid back on a five-year term, totaling \$130,700 in repayment each year.

Due to the RM being an amalgamation, the municipality uses a differential mill rate to determine tax rates for property owners, meaning taxes are not consistent across the RM.

"Though, I did a tax comparison for a number of properties, and (the increase) was minimal," said Love.

To calculate one's current taxes, please see the attached chart from the RM of West Interlake.

Property Tax - Mill Rate

Property taxes are calculated by applying municipal and school mill rates against the portioned assessment of your property. By definition, a mill is a one-thousandth part. For calculating taxes, one mill represents \$1.00 of taxes for every \$1,000.00 of portioned assessment.

Portioned Assessment	x	<u>Municipal Mill Rate</u> 1000	=	Municipal Taxes
			+	
Portioned Assessment	x	<u>Provincial Education Mill Rate</u> 1000	=	Prov Ed Taxes
			+	
Portioned Assessment	x	<u>School Division Mill Rate</u> 1000	=	School Div Taxes
			+	Local Improvements
			=	Total Current Taxes (Gross)

West Interlake 2019 Financial Plan Hearing, May 7, 2019, p. 10/11

Permit teachers, a vanishing species

Submitted by former permit teacher Ed Arndt

Whenever we hear or speak of the term, "a vanishing species," we are inclined to confine our thinking to that of a vanishing plant or animal species.

There are several other vanishing species of the "homo sapiens" variety: Second World War veterans and permit teachers — and the two are connected much more closely than most people expect.

Although the history of permit teachers, dates back prior to the 1940s, it was during the war years of 1939-1945 that the move to employ permit teachers was accelerated as replacements for regular teachers because many qualified teachers enlisted to the military or had taken military assignments.

According to Margaret (Szwaluk) Lesperance, who taught at Keyes Union School, "It was the patriotic and popular thing to do."

Cathy (Madill) Orchard taught at Excelsior School from 1945-46.

"It seems strange to thank the war for anything, but I can say that if it hadn't happened the way it did, I might not have experienced teaching and the enjoyment I have had during my years in the classroom."

Anne Yanchyshyn, another permit teacher of this era, is quoted as saying, "Simply put, they are the teach-

ers (mainly teenagers) who kept our schools open during World War II to aid Canada's war effort. Without the permit teachers, many schools would have had to close."

Many of the permit teachers had completed their Grade 11 or Grade 12 and some were fortunate enough to enroll in a six-week "quickie" teacher training course to prepare them for the "adventure ahead." Others went directly from being a student in the previous year to become a teacher the following year. One aspiring young teacher expressed his experience this way: "I was working on the CN Railroad as a section hand pounding spikes one day and several days later I was pushing chalk at a one-room rural school called Tartakiw located northwest of Gilbert Plains."

The experiences these novice teachers endured varied as did their number, with some estimates as high as 250 during the peak war years. There is, however, a common thread of shared experiences shared by these young aspirants to the teaching profession.

Irene (Arnal) Kuhl shared this experience: "At 17 and a half, I began my teaching career in a one-room rural school in the Glenboro district. I had 16 students from grades 1 to 9. This was quite a challenge but very enjoyable. I had come from a home that had

electricity and running water, so the lack of these in my school presented a challenge. I was faced with the challenge of learning how to light coal oil lamps and fetching water from a well."

Other challenges and new experiences faced by those teachers would fill volumes and could hardly be related in an article such as this. Some of the common themes included homesickness; being overwhelmed trying to teach eight or nine grades in a classroom; disciplining students, some not much younger than the teacher; getting to school; enduring cold classrooms with malfunctioning or temperamental stoves — remember the Waterman Waterbury Stoves?

Of course, teachers also had to prepare Christmas concerts that rivalled other schools nearby and make sure the students kept up the requirement for sports excellence at the local Field Days. Sometimes the living quarters, known as teacherages, left much to be desired with no indoor plumbing, poor construction, etc.

Another event during the school year was the dreaded visit(s) by the school inspector, who always seemed to manage to show up at the most inopportune times. Many were kind, understanding educators, but there were some who could almost be described as tyrannical. One teacher recalls his days as a student in north-

western Manitoba seeing his teacher sitting at her desk sobbing after a visit from one of these latter type inspectors.

Despite many of the difficulties faced by permit teachers in their initial year of teaching, they were not dissuaded from continuing on to "normal school/teachers college" to become qualified teachers and have left a legacy of quality education delivered to hundreds of Manitoba students.

To commemorate the contribution of permit teachers, Dr. Louisa Loeb, a retired Brandon University professor who once taught on permit, initiated in 2005 a permit teachers reunion, solicited articles about permit teachers experiences and compiled them into a book called *Manitoba Permit Teachers of World War II*.

These permit teachers' reunions have continued on an annual basis since the initial one, and this year permit teachers are gathering for their Dr. Louisa Loeb 15th Annual Permit Teachers of Manitoba Reunion on July 11 at the Viscount Gort Hotel in Winnipeg. All former permit teachers and former students of permit teachers are invited to attend, hence the theme, "Students and Teacher Together Again"

For more information on this reunion, please contact registrar Edith Alexiuk at 1-204-256-6484.

GHS woodworking students get Barvinok dancers better organized

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli High School's woodworking students offered up their exceptional carpentry skills and community-minded spirit by designing and building custom-made wardrobe storage units for the local Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Club.

Teacher Tony Michaluk's woodworking class cut, drilled and glued pieces for about a dozen different sturdy units that stack together and will help the dancers better organize their costume storage room.

"I gave it to my Grade 11 and some of my Grade 12 students as a cabinet-making

project and they would knock off a pair of units in about a week and a half," said Michaluk last week during the final leg of the project that had students sanding the pieces.

The wardrobes and special units for accessories will maximize space in the Barvinok's "den" or storage room in the town hall and prevent accidental damages to the elaborate costumes and items such as headpieces and props.

"It will help keep the costumes neater and less crumpled up," said Michaluk. "Right now, they just have regular clothing racks, like you find at department

stores, and as you walk down a row you're always rubbing against clothes and they're falling off the hangers. This way they're in their own cubicles and they'll stay cleaner and more organized."

Dance club parents will likely be moving the units to the den, said Michaluk, and he will bolt all the pieces together for stability.

The 61-member dance troupe just completed their spring season, earning dozens of medals at provincial dancing competitions and delighting the home-town audience a few weeks ago with a stellar performance of traditional Ukrainian dance.



Caleb Martin sands part of the shelving unit.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Grade 11 and 12 woodworking students at GHS made custom wardrobes for the Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Club. From left: Dylan Porteous, Coleman Grushka, Hank McPherson, Jon Peterson, James Stringer, woodworking teacher Tony Michaluk, Turner Spakowski, Johannes Bergman, Caleb Martin and Jaden Seymour.



The dance club displayed some of the units at its recent spring performance.

You can now call
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We continue to recruit doctors to our region, however, services in some emergency departments may be temporarily unavailable if a doctor is not onsite.

Reechka Ukrainian Dance club showcases medal-winning performances

By Patricia Barrett

Arborg's Reechka Ukrainian Dance Club wound up their stellar performance season last Friday night, showcasing group dances and solos, duets and trios that earned them 19 medals at recent provincial competitions.

The 28-member troupe started the evening with the Pryvit, a traditional Ukrainian dance that welcomes the audience with bread, salt and sheaves of wheat, followed by the Poltava, the Buko, the Hutzul, the Volyn and dozens of other traditional dances.

Club president Rachelle Burak said the troupe works hard and is dedicated to dance.

"They spend many hours practising and representing our club," said Burak to a 200-plus audience gathered at the Arborg Hall. "At all the competitions we do fairly well for such a small club."

MC Krista Borgfjord said new dancers are always welcome to join the club.

"We're always looking for more dancers. They can be pre-beginners or beginners. And you don't have to be Ukrainian to dance," said Borgfjord. "It's a real family feel in our club."

The pre-beginners, made up of dancers Kyle Dudar, Arthur Henderson, Maggie Bird and Harper Pearce, stole the show with a Poltava that had the audience spontaneously clapping along. The youngsters won a gold medal at the Manitoba Ukrainian Dance Festival in March.

After the performance Burak thanked long-time coach Garrett Gottfried and Brenna Klym for taking the time to teach the dancers.

"Garrett has been with us for a very long time," said Burak. "We appreciate all you do for our kids and our club and we'd like to thank you. And Bren-

na came on board this year to help us out with the beginners and juniors. Thank you for all you've done for the kids this year."

Senior dancers Kirsten Stobert and Amanda Stogrin are retiring this year as they move on to post-secondary studies in the city. They have been dancing with the club since they were 4 and 7 years old, respectively. Burak thanked them for their hard work.

Foster Ag Service will once again be planting corn and donating it to the club at harvest time to help pay for expenses such as costumes.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT





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Furry friends and flowers at local garden centre

By Evan Matthews

A family-owned Arborg business is expanding its endeavours, bringing in some fluffy friends for its youngest customers.

Friendly Flowers Garden Centre is creating a petting zoo on site.

"We've always tried to diversify. We've always been expanding our selection, and we've moved into custom landscaping (tree planting, paving stone, etc.). We've been purchasing animals over the last few weeks," said Charlie Loewen, co-owner of Friendly Flowers with his wife, Clara.

The petting zoo will house animals like Winston the pot-bellied pig, a couple of ducks, rabbits, quail, budgies and finches.

Kids always want to go spend time in the sandbox or hang out with the animals, according to Loewen.

"People have been wintered in. We want this to be a place where families want to spend time and want to come to. People are coming out of hibernation, and it's been spring here for a while already," said Loewen.

"It's very much a family thing. It's a lot different coming here than it is coming to a big chain."

The couple took over the gardening centre from Clara's aunt in 2003.

The business was previously known as Frieda's Flowers and operated under the same name for nine years before switching to Friendly Flowers.

The concept started for Frieda as a hobby, according to Loewen, growing



Winston the pot-bellied pig waits patiently for the season to begin and for kids to attend the petting zoo. Winston is fully housebroken, though he has a very comfortable spot in the barn.

on the windowsill, expanding to a bigger greenhouse and slowly beginning to supply neighbours.

"We were set up small and simple on a farm property nine miles north of town. ... With the road conditions deteriorating we were really keeping our eyes open for property closer to town," said Loewen.

"This one became available in 2012, and we moved over here. The customers seem to appreciate the convenience of being closer to town."

They now operate the business together with the help of their kids Brittany, Clayton and Hannah Loewen, along with their daughter Deborah McMurray and her husband Solomon



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY EVAN MATTHEWS

Charlie, Clara, Davis, Brittany, Clayton and Hannah Loewen, along with Deborah and Solomon McMurray, make up the family-owned and operated business Friendly Flowers Garden Centre.

McMurray.

The garden centre sells a wide range of bedding plants, vegetable plants and hanging baskets, according to Loewen.

"We have lots of perennials, too," said Loewen.

"In Manitoba, we're always fighting the late frost in spring and the early frost in fall. ... Our grow-

ing season isn't too long, but people have adapted to that and know what they can grow."

Friendly Flowers Garden Centre and Petting Zoo can be found on the south side of Provincial Trunk Highway 68, roughly one kilometre west of Arborg.

Compost is part of the circle of life

The bounty of the garden can be made more abundant and fruitful with the addition of the right soil amendments. Compost is a key element of rich, nutritious soil. Scraps from items that have been grown in the garden can be reused in the production of the compost that feeds that same garden.

Choose an outdoor space near the garden but far away from the home. Some people opt for an open compost pile, while others choose closed bins to contain the possible smell and to camouflage the compost. A sunny spot will help the compost to develop faster.

Keep a bucket in the kitchen to accumulate kitchen scraps including eggshells, fruit peels, vegetable peels

and scraps, coffee grounds, shredded newspaper. In addition to these materials, grass and plant clippings, dry leaves, bark chips, straw, and sawdust from untreated wood can go into the pile. Avoid diseased plants, anything with animal fats, dairy products, and pet feces.

A low-maintenance pile has equal amounts of brown and green plant matter plus moisture to keep the bacteria growing and eating at the right rate. Aerating the compost occasionally, or turning the bin will allow the compost to blend and work together. Compost will take a few months to form completely. The finished product will resemble a dark, crumbly soil that smells like fresh earth.

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Dr. George Johnson Middle School students' alien wins 11 science medals



Interlake

Notice of Annual Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 29, 2019
Meeting: 7:00pm

Where: Arborg Community Hall
409 Recreation Centre

Agenda Items to include:

- Minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting
- Audit/Financial Report
- FCL Delegate Report
- General Managers Report
- Board Report
- Appointment of Auditors for 2019
- Board Election

Interlake Consumers Co-op Ltd
Box 40
Arborg, MB R0C 0A0



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DR. GEORGE JOHNSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Dr. George Johnson Middle School science medal winners.

By Patricia Barrett

Grade 5 and 6 students at Dr. George Johnson Middle School in Gimli walked away with a bagful of medals after competing at the 2019 Manitoba School Science Symposium last month.

Students earned 11 medals, consisting of one gold, three silver, five bronze and two honourable mentions.

The symposium's theme "Invent an Alien" challenged students from across the province

to use their artistic skills and science-based knowledge to create every aspect of their alien's life on a given planet.

"Students are told what this planet is like, what the atmospheric and geologic characteristics are and they had to invent an alien that would be able to survive on that planet," said principal James Gibbs.

"They also have to construct the alien physi-

Continued on page 19



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The Prairie Sky, 1603 sq.ft.
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The Kalleigh, 1476 sq.ft.
\$126,200*
Vaulted ceiling! Landings optional

The Interlake's lucrative lumberjacks

By Evan Matthews

A pair of Arborg lumberjacks aren't just cutting down trees, they're cutting their customers expenses.

John Dziad and Kevin Miller, co-owners of Interlake Firewood and Lumber, are providing customers' firewood, but in addition to firewood, the duo is saving their customers' labour time and lumber cost.

Interlake Firewood and Lumber brings its portable mill to a requested property and customizes cuts of wood from trees already located on site, which saves the customers' lumber costs by using timber from their own land.

"The mill is very portable. You cut down cost on transporting your logs from Point A to Point B, say from a farmer's yard to a (processing mill)," said Miller.

Dziad said farmers can then use the their own lumber for whatever purposes they see fit.

"Many farmers use it for fencing, etc. They don't have to haul it away and process it. They have the land. They don't want to go buy the lumber when they can go cut down trees in their backyard," said Dziad.

"We show up, and they say, 'I want 1 x 4s, or I want 2 x 4s, or I want 4 x 6s. ... We can make posts, etc. It's huge savings on something that's normally very expensive.'"

The men started the business about a year and half ago. Dziad lives in Arborg, while Miller lives on a farm north of Arborg.

Both men know the Manitoba woods quite well, they say, with Miller having over 30 years of industry experience and Dziad being a longtime woodsman.

"Kevin really knows what he's doing. Firewood is a need. There aren't a lot of people doing this anymore. ... A lot of the older guys are out of (the business). You need equipment, etc. It's hard work," said Dziad.

"For firewood, people call us and we deliver. We're all about service and quality."

In terms of firewood, the men have a two-cord dump truck for delivery. A cord is four feet high by four feet wide by eight feet long.

Cheaper grades of firewood available include poplar and spruce, before moving up a grade to jack pine and then to tamarack and birch. Price is dependent on the grade of wood a customer chooses.

The higher the grade of wood, the harder it is, which results in the wood burning both longer and hotter. The higher grades of wood also produce



Kevin Miller has been in the lumber industry for roughly 30 years. Every so often, he still counts the rings of a tree he cuts so he knows the age. This tree is "a virgin," so no re-growth had happened prior (due to logging or fire, for example).



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY EVAN MATTHEWS

Kevin Miller (left) and John Dziad are working together to provide firewood to Interlake dwellers.



John Dziad prepares a log prior to rolling it (to the right) into the portable mill's track, which will customize the cut of the wood.



John Dziad (left) and Kevin Miller stand behind their portable mill. They will go anywhere in the Interlake a customer requires them to.

less ash.

The men say they'll deliver firewood and/or bring the portable mill almost anywhere in the east and west Interlake, having done deliveries to Win-

nipeg Beach, Hecla-Grindstone and Stonewall.

"It's always worth the call," said Miller. "We're cheaper than the store."

Call Interlake Firewood and Lumber at 204-641-1053.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

for
MOOSEHORN CONSUMERS
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Monday, June 3, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Moosehorn Community Hall



- Financial Report
- General Manager Report
- Election of Directors
- Appointment of Auditors
- Door Prizes

6:30-7:30 Refreshments, Co-op Product Food sampling:
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7:30 Annual General Meeting commences.

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Eriksdale students take their learning outdoors

By Evan Matthews

Students in Eriksdale are cultivating crops right at the school.

For the second consecutive year, teacher Fran Mosienko said the school has started a gardening program.

"We're planting onions, carrots, watermelon, peppers, potatoes, tomatoes, zucchini and eggplants," said Mosienko.

"Some of the food will be ready by the end of June, the rest will be ready by September."

The school's breakfast program will use the zucchini to make muffins, while the potatoes and carrots will be used for the lunch program.

"I have a sweet pepper, a jalapeno pepper, burning bush peppers, a beefeater tomato and a cherry tomato at home," said Grade 5 student Aidan Miller, who added that the burning bush pepper is earmarked for his old man.

"I wanted good food and to be outside in nature."

The program has students learning to become more knowledgeable about the various vegetables and crops, as well as where they come from and what it takes to grow, the students said.

Many of the students said their fam-



Planting onions.

ilies have gardens at home that they use, too, so it isn't exactly their first time in the garden.

With an extremely busy school schedule, the administration has ensured the gardening program is extra-curricular, meaning its participants are genuinely intrigued and engaged with the concept of gardening and growing, and they're participating on their own time.

"This is something to do, hands-on, and they'll know where their food comes from," said Mosienko. "It gets us out in the sunshine. We purchased a grow light and a seed starter kit, and we went to it."



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY EVAN MATTHEWS

Left to right: Liam Kirby, Aidan Miller, Marcus Koch, Ethan Brand and Austin Harrison plant onions outside Eriksdale School.



Dancing success



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ANDERS KUUSSELKA

Arborg-based Dancers Kiera Chwaliboga and Sydney Burak won the Kiwanis Trophy for performance excellence during the Evergreen Festival of the Arts Hi-Lites concert in Gimli.

Arborg presents 2019 financial plan

Staff

The Town of Arborg presented its 2019 financial plan on May 8 with no one from the public in attendance.

Property owners can expect to see a minimal increase as a result of a slight increase in the special school levy, according to CAO Lorraine Bardarson.

The town's levy requirements for municipal purposes did not change in 2019 from 2018, she said.

For a residence with a total assessment of \$250,000, the total 2019 taxes will be \$3,278, an increase of \$6.50 from 2018.

The Town of Arborg does have some

land assessed as farm land, and those property owners will see the same change in taxes as the aforementioned, according to Bardarson.

Arborg's 2019 capital projects include \$40,000 in sidewalk renewals, \$40,000 in drainage improvements, \$85,000 for the library cedar shingle

replacement and \$175,000 for a grader.

Arborg will use \$305,000 in reserve funding for the capital projects and purchases but will not borrow any monetary amount in loans.

Completely separate from those reserve funds, Bardarson says, the town will see improvements to its water treatment plant control system, though that project will be funded through the utility capital fund.

Gimli High School's Student Council organizes inaugural Walk So Kids Can Talk

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli High School's student council organized its 1st Annual Walk So Kids Can Talk event last week to raise money for the free Kids Help Phone service and to bring more awareness to mental health challenges among youth.

Council also invited grades 1 and 2 students from Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School to take part in the walk. They planned a route through the streets of Gimli and held banners the GHS design class made.

Grade 12 students Skyelar Illienko and Elizabeth Johnston sit on student council and broached the idea of holding the walk after receiving general information about the Help Phone from counsellor Penny Helgason at the Interlake Women's Resource Centre.

"We had to talk to our principal to make sure we could do the walk," said Illienko. "We made posters and told all the teachers when we were going to do it. And we planned and organized the route through town."

The Kids Help Phone is a national, bilingual support service offering children and youth emergency support in times of crisis, confidential counselling and referrals to support agencies.

The 24-7 service, which provides access by phone, text or live chat, helps youth deal with issues including emotional health, bullying, sexting, dating, LGBTQ, school, work, family, friends and physical health. Counselling is confidential and students are not obliged to give their names.

A 2012 Winnipeg Regional Health Authority study of Grade 7-12 students found 58 per cent of students overall reported good mental health. Despite that 36 per cent reported being bullied, taunted or ridiculed and 25 per cent said they were physically threatened or injured. A continuing concern is social media, with 21 per cent of students reporting someone having asked for personal informa-

tion and 14 per cent reporting they had been bullied or picked on.

Cyber bullying may not necessarily happen during school hours, said Dr. George Johnson Middle School principal James Gibbs, but the fallout can definitely affect students' ability to concentrate.

"I wouldn't say the actual cell phone is the problem. I would say the interactions between kids on the cell phones after-hours leads to problems at school. The kids then come to school and they're preoccupied," said Gibbs.

"A student may have said on Instagram, 'I'm this, this and this,' and they both come to school the next day and they're mad at each other. And their friends get mad. And this drama plays out, taking away from learning."

Gibbs said cyber bullying and kids interacting online with inappropriate people are big challenges in education, and the province told principals a few years ago they're responsible for dealing with it. Gibbs spends an inordinate amount of time investigating his students' reports of social media bullying and helping them cope with the negative emotions it can create.

The Kids Help Phone is another good tool to help kids cope with personal issues. GHS student council had posters made with the phone number on it, said Illienko, and they stuck them up in every classroom and in the hallways.

Johnston said the Help Phone isn't well known in the school and student council wanted to get the word out to all students that it's a good resource.

"It's a line you can call if you're having distress. It doesn't have to be huge problems, but if you have problems you can't talk to anyone about and just need advice, it's a line you can call," said Johnston. "We felt we wanted to raise awareness just because mental health issues, I feel, are not super talked about in our school."

The Home Economics class baked treats which students offered to donors. Gimli Sobey's also provided stu-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Grade 12 student council members Elizabeth Johnston (left) and Skyelar Illienko helped organize GHS' 1st Annual Walk So Kids Can Talk fundraiser for the Kids Help Phone.



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF GIMLI HIGH SCHOOL

Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School students walked through the streets of Gimli.

dent council with cookies for the students to hand out to donors.

Students raised about \$100, which will go to the Help Phone service.

Visit the Kids Help Phone at Kidshelpphone.ca or call toll free 1-800-668-6868.

> SCIENCE MEDALS, FROM PG. 16

cally and describe what the biological characteristics are so it can survive."

The first day of the symposium had students focusing on hands-on science activities. Then the second day was reserved for judging, he said. The judges visit each student booth and ask them questions about their alien.

If students were given a planet with a particular gas on it, for instance, they would have to create an alien with a special respiratory system that either

used or filtered out that gas. Or students could create an alien that could draw oxygen from the soil that would sustain it for a certain number of hours.

"Every year it's so different," said Gibbs. "Everyone seems to come up with something really original. It's scientific and it's also very creative."

The Grade 5-8 school sends alternating grades to the symposium each year and there are always a "healthy

group of students that win prizes and medals," he said.

The following Grade 5-6 students earned a medal or an honourable mention: Norah Williamson (gold), Delaney Groot, Jencie Henry and Ava Michaluk (silver), Sage Closen, Elin Isfeld, Ava Vermette, Dylan MacLean and Linden Gottfried (bronze), and Sophia Flasha and Callie Sylvester (honourable mentions).

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Coldwell Lundar Foundation continues to grow

Submitted by Irene Runolfson

The Coldwell Lundar Community Foundation (CLCF) has been incorporated for 15 years and on April 27 celebrated the occasion with a community fish fry in conjunction with awarding their annual grants.

The support was amazing with all the tickets being sold and a delicious pickerel dinner enjoyed by the nearly 100 people in attendance. Nine grants were awarded totalling \$15,439.

Grants were awarded to the following groups:

- Lundar Agricultural Society — \$5,000 to help with establishing a kitchen, concession and deck within their new multi-purpose building.

- Grettir Co-op Inc. — \$2,500 to help with the installation of automatic door openers for the new arena.

- Lundar Museum Society Inc. — \$2,000 to help upgrade the electrical panel and wiring in the main building.

- Lakeside Minor Hockey — \$1,000 to help with the purchase of half-ice divider boards for the novice league hockey program.

- Lundar Branch of Royal Canadian Legion — \$1,000 to assist with the purchase of floor curling equipment as they introduce this new activity into the community for all ages and physical abilities.

The named (designated) funds es-



Lundar Museum Society chairperson Greg Brown, left, and Coldwell Lundar Community Foundation chairperson Brian Thomas upon creation of Lundar Museum Society Trust Fund with Coldwell Lundar Community Foundation.

established within the foundation also received their annual interest payments in the form of grants. They are Lundar Heritage Park Fund, the Diane Jacobs Trail Fund and the Myrtle Smith Memorial Fund that supports the Eriksdale United Church.

Additional excitement that evening was the announcing of a new permanent endowment fund created for the Lundar Museum (\$2,500 from RM of Coldwell & CLCF jointly) under the Manitoba Museum Trust Fund Program, introduced last year by The Winnipeg Foundation with stretch dollars provided by the provincial govern-



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Pictured left to right: Yvonne Groff, Carole Boychuck and Donna Kingsley representing Eriksdale United Church; Darlene Sweetland, president of Lundar Royal Canadian Legion; Isabelle Thorvardson, Lundar Museum; Michael Kostyshyn, Lundar Ag. Society; Virgil Johnson, deputy reeve of RM of Coldwell; Sandra Johnson of Grettir Co-op Inc.

ment. This is a three-way partnership between the Lundar Museum, The Winnipeg Foundation and the Coldwell Foundation. The museum has until March 31, 2021, to raise funds and receive donations that will be stretched by the province 1:2. In other words, for every \$2 donation the museum receives, the province will stretch it by \$1. If the museum raises \$50,000 during this time frame, the province will award them an additional \$25,000. There are also bonus stretches if this amount is exceeded.

By partnering with a local founda-

tion in your area, this is a wonderful way all museums in Manitoba can get the help they need to assist with upkeep and preservation of their buildings, artifacts and history. For details of how to support this new fund with CLCF, please call Isabelle at 204-762-5434 or Irene at 204-762-5727.

The Coldwell Foundation has a board of dedicated members and a resource of wonderful caring community volunteers that together have a shared vision of a community where life flourishes for all.

Local musicians release CD

Submitted by Carol Gudmundson

"Finding old music you used to love, is like getting back in touch with an old friend."

How true these words are.

Roy Gudmundson and Dick Johnson have been singing together for 40 years. For them, it all began when they were a part of the Fine Country Folk band. They decided to save some of those old songs on a CD titled *Old and Older*. We don't know if that refers to the songs or to the singers — or maybe both. They recorded this album in their own studio in Riverton.

Those who have listened to Roy and Dick sing know full well they are going to hear the golden oldies with harmonies only they can produce together. Their love of the old country singers is stellar. The album contains a lot of those oldies, some very familiar and some not. The criteria for them to be on the album was "how good can we harmonize on this song."

Joining Dick and Roy with added harmonies are Jenny (Johnson) Smith and Mitch Johnson, with violin inserts

by Brady Collins, keeping it all in the family. We hope listeners enjoy this music as much as Dick and Roy do.

They often sing in seniors' homes where it's not uncommon to hear them sing along with the guys, perhaps remembering their early years dancing to these familiar tunes. Nothing brings back those memories more than music.

This album is dedicated to the memory of Fine Country Folk bandmates Laugi Johannesson (d. 1994) and Cliff Lindstrom (d. 2009). Songs they sang together and were never put on their albums in the 1980s are included on the CD tracks 11-15. Laugi plays guitar on all these tracks. Dick and Laugi wrote the music for "I'm Going Home" and "Growing Old." Dick wrote the song "Broken Man." "One More Time" was written by Fred Oleson. Sweet memories, indeed.

The CDs are available in Hnusa General Store, Nic Nacs & Flowers in Arborg, the New Iceland Heritage Museum in Gimli and Kaylee's Hair Salon in Riverton.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Roy Gudmundson and Dick Johnson are selling CD's with some of their favourite old songs.

Riverton Elks celebrate 50 years of community support

Submitted by Doug Anderson

Riverton Elks Lodge #530 celebrated 50 years of community support since its founding in 1969 with 43 members.

Their motto is "Working with the Community for the Community." To that end, they make annual charitable donations.

The Elks of Canada was founded in 1912 in Vancouver, B.C., and expanded across the country. It is now the largest fraternal organization in Canada with over 250 lodges and 11,000 members. Their mission is to serve as a "Canadian volunteer organization of men and women serving communities" and their vision is to be "the best volunteer organization in Canadian communities."

The qualifications to become an Elks member include being a person of good reputation, believing in a Supreme Being, supporting lawful government and being age 16 or over. Members are initiated by their home lodge and become members of the National Order. They receive a warm welcome in any lodge they visit across Canada.

National programs include support for lodges' charitable activities and the Royal Purple Fund for Children, which funds programs for children with hearing and speech disorders.

Manitoba programs include the Central Speech & Hearing Clinic, the Westman Regional Hearing Clinic, Camp WannaKumbac and the Manitoba Special Olympics.

The Riverton Elks' first projects were a senior citizen's home and/or hospital, a swimming pool and an ambulance. We also donated Christmas hampers to needy families, sponsored a Carnival Queen candidate, minor hockey, curling, high school scholarships, candy for Christmas concerts and community dances.

Since 1969, we have supported the following initiatives:

Annually: Christmas hampers for needy families, Christmas concert candy, Carnival Queen candidate, Wee/Squirts hockey tournament awards, Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children.

Community events: Centennial Celebrations, Hecla Provincial Park opening, Fun Fest, Reunion Days (parades, dunk tank, duck races, casinos, turkey shoots), Kids' Fishing Derby (July 1), fish fries, Balaton Beach Cottager's Association, Power Toboggan Race prizes, dances (New Year's, Halloween, Sadie Hawkins, Valentine, Old Time, Youth), Fun Fair, several Poker Derbies, several Riverton Talent Shows, Bingo (many years), Sisters of the Holy Rock, Socials for Harley Draw/Winner's Choice, Sandy Bar and Matheson Island Fishing Derbies, Canada Day parades and fireworks.

Sports & Recreation: baseball supplies, baseball tournaments, golf tournaments, students to Peace Gardens, men and ladies curling, Funspiels, Broomball, youth curling, East Side playground equipment, tennis court, minor hockey (TV, prizes, donations), Take a Hike, Volleyball tournaments, Squirts uniforms, Hockey Schools, Youth Gym Equip. and the Riverton Food Bank.

Services: Handivan (purchased two, operation donations), ambulance (stair chair, defibrillator/heart monitor), Fire Department (radios, Jaws of Life, thermal imaging unit), Riverton & District Friendship Centre (freezer, drug awareness training, Dolly



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF DOUG ANDERSON

The Riverton Elks 50th Anniversary ceremonies May 4 included the appointment of new officers and 50-year pins for four members who've been part of the Riverton Elks since its inception. From left are 50-year members Stefan Eyolfson, Anton Peterson, Wilbert Thorarinson and Carl Monkman with the new Exalted Ruler Brady Collins.

Parton Imagination Library, Northern supper/Senior's Dinner, donations), Community Calendars, Food Bank freezer and Clinic (donations, eye wash station).

Facilities: Curling rink (two ice shavers, \$25,000 for ice plant, bar enclosure, lights, painting, two TVs, \$6,000, \$10,000), Memorial Arena (\$25,000, Carnival Queen sponsor, canteen enclosure, \$6,000), ball park repairs, park house painting, first Walking Bridge, Riverton Hall (\$42,000 for land, stoves, piano fund/tuning, donations, defibrillator, \$6,000), Heritage and Transportation Centre (four bingos in Wpg., deck, lighting, railing), Hall AV system \$15,000.

Seniors: donated land/started the Icelandic River Lodge for seniors (also donated walkers, Lifelines, TV, Wii, Christmas tree), Personal Care Home consultant, New Horizons Program, Senior Resource Program, Senior's Dinner and provided land and kitchen supplies for the current expansion of Icelandic River lodge.

Youth: 4-H club, Defensive Driving course, student support, Career Start (several youth), Evergreen Library Story Hour (annually), Day Care (wagon/stroller, Breakfast with Santa annually), Manitoba Youth Choir, Cub Scouts, athletes/teams, Bike Rodeo, Summer Day Camp, Cadets trip and Day Care painting.

Medical: Blood Donor Clinic, Dental Clinic, St. John's Ambulance courses and three community AEDs.

Education: high school/post-secondary scholarships (annually since 1973), Evergreen Festival of the Arts scholarship (annually for Music Camp), drug awareness contests, RCI yearbook/breakfast program fridge/breakfast program/renovations/donations, Evergreen Science Fair, Riverton Parent Council - Bingos in Winnipeg/school programs/drug awareness, REMS playground equipment and \$18,000/fitness trail.

Charitable activities: donations for the Deaf Protection Program, National Fund for Children, families with house fires, CAMR, medical expenses for many children, Special Olympics, Cancer Society, churches, home wheelchair door, diabetes, wheelchair lift, annual Walk-a-Thon, cards and flowers for hospitalized, child's electric wheelchair, benefit

socials, CNIB, Palliative Care, child's hearing aid, bus turnaround, glass eye and a special needs chair.

Representation: Recreation Facilities, Senior Citizens Housing, Ambulance, Riverton Handivan, Rec Commission, Riverton 150, Centennial Park Renovation and many letters of support for Riverton groups/initiatives.

Donations for 2018 included the National Fund for Children, the high school band program, lighting for the Transportation Museum, minor hockey, junior curling, Christmas hampers, Christmas concert candy, mixed spiel, scholarships, library story time, July 1 fireworks, July 1 Kid's Fishing Derby, Curling Club renovations and the Riverton Food Bank.

The Elks will fundraise for 2019 through the sale of Grey Cup tickets and a Harley Mega Draw. Proceeds will go to Centennial Park Revitalization, the Riverton Memorial Arena and other community activities. We are also looking at adding an elevator to the Riverton Curling Rink.

The Riverton lodge is proud of the fact that it has always had a different Exalted Ruler for each of its 50 years.

1969 Ron Appleyard; 1970 Paul Holyk; 1971 John Sigurdson; 1972 George Loewen; 1973 Gordon Polka; 1974 Dick Thorsteinson; 1975 Sigmar Johnson; 1976 Ben Dueck; 1977 Anton Peterson; 1978 Alex Zagozewski; 1979 Stefan Eyolfson; 1980 Thor Johannson; 1981 Stan Stadnichuk; 1982 Donald Vigfusson; 1983 Clyde Sigurdson; 1984 Jonas Thorarinson; 1985 Julian Popowich; 1986 Paul Koomen; 1987 James Nickols; 1988 Anthony Hryhorchuk; 1989 Rene Jaramuske; 1990 Otto Gergatz; 1991 Steven Gergatz; 1992 Irwin Schellenberg; 1993 Jim Zagozewski; 1994 Earnie Gergatz; 1995 John Klimack; 1996 Nelson Brown; 1997 Laugi Johnson; 1998 Gary Johannesson; 1999 Kris Collins; 2000 Garvis Bonkowski; 2001 James Bjornson; 2002 Boyd Rozecki; 2003 Jack Monkman; 2004 Kevin Johnson; 2005 Ivan Grimolfson; 2006 Len Loewen; 2007 Jason Henry; 2008 Tom Mulvihill; 2009 Kelvin Einarson; 2010 Percy Marks; 2011 Doug Anderson; 2012 Darrell Popowich; 2013 Greg Nordal; 2014 Mitch Johnson; 2015 Aaron Magnusson; 2016 David Fontaine; 2017 Steven Enns; 2018 Jeff Blahey.

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Thunder well represented at RMFL all-star game

Staff

The Interlake Thunder were very well represented at the Rural Manitoba Football League's all-star game last Saturday at the East Side Eagles Field.

Team East had 18 Thunder players on the roster, more than any other team. The game was played as 12-man compared to the nine-man played during the regular season.

Interlake players name to the team included Joshua Charison, James Crate, Brady de Laroque, Karsen Karish, Keenan Karish, Brandyn Linklater, Tanner McCallen, Aden McLean, Colton Meisner, Colton Nedotiafko, Benjamin Olafson, Andrew Perrier, Graeme Perrie, Jesse Pretau, Corey Proctor, Gabriel Simard, Cordell Sumner and Eric Zotter.

The East coaching staff was also primarily Thunder coaches. They included Mitch Obach (head coach), Ed de Laroque (defensive co-ordinator, Derek Charison (offensive co-ordinator), Walter Stewart (defensive line), Kurt Karish (offensive line) and Richie Arndt (offensive line).



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Interlake Thunder was well represented at the Rural Manitoba Football League all-star game last Saturday. Interlake players were on Team East, which lost 18-6 to Team West.

Team East was comprised of the Interlake, Dauphin, Southwest and Neepawa. Team West included Swan Valley, Park West, Virden and Moosomin.

In preparation for the game, two a days (four hours of practice each day) were held in Neepawa the previous two Saturdays.

Orioles have slow start to 18U AAA baseball season

By Brian Bowman

The Interlake Orioles saw their record drop to 0-5 after losing a home doubleheader to the Bonivital Black Sox in 18U AAA baseball action last Sunday.

Bonivital won by scores of 9-2 and 6-0.

The Black Sox (5-2) are currently tied for first place with the Winnipeg South Chiefs (5-0).

On May 7, the Orioles lost 16-3 to the St. James A's.

The North Winnipeg Pirates swept the Interlake in a doubleheader at Stonewall's Quarry Park back on May 5. The Pirates won games by scores of 10-3 and 6-0.

"Both games we gave up a few runs

in the last inning," said Orioles' head coach Eric Swanson. "They felt like closer games than they ended up being. We got down early and stuck around for a while until the last inning where we gave up a few more.

"It wasn't too bad, (North Winnipeg) is going to be one of the better teams this year and that was our first time out for an actual game."

Interlake's offence had trouble getting going against a pretty good Pirates' pitching staff.

"It was our first time out and it was real cold," Swanson said. "Once we get a few more reps we'll kind of figure it out.

"We definitely have some guys at the top of our lineup that are pretty

quick and we have some guys that can hit for power a little bit. We're not going to be a team hitting a bunch of home runs but we have guys that can hit doubles and stuff like that."

Pitching-wise, the Orioles have plenty of guys that can throw but they don't have much experience at this level, Swanson admitted.

"The guys that played last year were younger players and they didn't pitch much or they played AA last year," he said. "They're just getting their feet wet in AAA. Not a lot of guys have seen this talent level yet so it will be tough to figure it out."

The Orioles' roster of 13 players is a young one filled with 16- and 17-year-olds. They don't have any third-year

players on this year's team.

Sure, they would love to win a lot of games this season but player development will be a major emphasis.

"We obviously want to win as many games as we can but without having any third-year players, in theory we could have the same team next year, so it would be nice to build on that," Swanson said.

Interlake's first scheduled game of the season against the St. James A's was rained out May 3 in Winnipeg.

Interlake hosted the Elmwood Giants this past Tuesday but no score was available at press time. The Orioles will then visit the Winnipeg South Chiefs this Friday. First pitch is 7 p.m.

Interlake wins first game of 15U AAA baseball season

By Brian Bowman

The Interlake Orioles are off to a slow start so far in the 15U AAA baseball season.

Interlake saw its record fall to 1-4 after a pair of losses to the North Winnipeg Pirates in a doubleheader last Sunday at the Sunova Centre in West St. Paul. But no one is ready to push the panic button just quite yet.

"The kids are going to be really competitive, we'll be OK by towards the end of the season," said Orioles' head

coach Dave Myers. "We'll be fine. We just need a little more practice time. It's about getting yourself motivated from playing A ball to AAA because you have to be at your best when you're playing AAA and if you're not, there's mistakes."

The Pirates defeated the Orioles 6-0 and 17-6 on Mother's Day.

"The first game was a really good game," Myers said. "The score really didn't dictate the game because we gave them four runs. It was actu-

ally 2-0 because we created four errors that cost us four runs and they're probably the best team in the league."

Interlake started its season May 5 with a doubleheader loss to the Red River Pioneers. Red River won games by scores of 3-0 and 11-10 while both teams played in cold temperatures.

"We probably should have won both those games," Myers said. "We were up 5-1 and 10-7 in the second game but it was just little mistakes and at that level, you can't make those mis-

takes or it will come back and bite you right away."

Last Friday, the Orioles beat the Winnipeg South Chiefs 8-5 on the road. Interlake had some great pitching in that game and hit the ball well.

"That was a good night and they played really well," Myers said. "The pitching was good and stuff like that."

Interlake will visit the St. James A's (1-2) on Friday (6:30 p.m.) and then will play the Bonivital Black Sox (5-0) Monday (2 p.m.)

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Kodiaks have tough draw at WC Miller Baseball Classic

By Brian Bowman

The Lundar/Ashern Kodiaks had a tough draw at the WC Miller Baseball Classic in Altona last weekend.

Lundar/Ashern finished with an 0-3 record in pool play and failed to advance to the playoffs.

"It was definitely good to see that higher level competition to see where we need to get if we want to compete across the province," said Kodiaks' head coach Rory Tycoles. "The kids did get to see a lot better pitching so they should be ready when we play the higher competition in our zone."

Lundar/Ashern started the tournament with a 12-0 loss to a very good WC Miller Aces team. The Aces al-

lowed just one run in three pool games before defeating the Steinbach Sabres 8-2 in the championship game on Saturday.

In their second game, the Kodiaks were defeated 12-1 by the Boissevain Broncos.

"They are two strong teams and traditionally always will be," Tycoles noted. "They're kind of in the baseball belt of Manitoba. Boissevain isn't quite as strong as they historically have been but WC Miller is definitely strong."

The Kodiaks then gave Beausejour's Edward Schreyer School a real good battle in a tough 9-7 loss.

Lundar/Ashern led 7-4 going into

the top of the sixth. Zach Halldorson pitched well in his five innings of work and also had a very good tournament offensively.

"We definitely could have won that game," Tycoles said. "We kind of ran out of pitching and if we had our top guys left on Saturday morning we could have won that game."

The Kodiaks played Stonewall Collegiate and Warren Collegiate in a pair of Zone 5 games this past Tuesday but no scores were available at press time.

The Zone 5 championship is slated for next Wednesday in Stonewall. The winner of the zones advances to the MHSAA provincials, which will take place May 30 to June 1 in Winnipeg.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Lundar/Ashern Kodiaks' righthander Alex Ryden delivers a pitch during tournament action in Altona. The Kodiaks finished the tournament with an 0-3 record.

Interlake swinging for a Manitoba Junior Baseball League title this season

By Brian Bowman

After a pair of first-round Manitoba Junior Baseball League playoff losses, the Interlake Blue Jays are eagerly looking to make some noise in this year's postseason.

The Blue Jays feel they will be very competitive this season.

"We're going to compete again," said Blue Jays' manager Adam Kirk before the season started. "We lost a couple of guys that went to other places and stuff like that. We're going to have to make up in those areas and guys are going to have to step up and throw a few more innings and play a position they normally don't play."

The Blue Jays will be dependant on a key core group of players in their third season with the team. Guys like Derek Petrasko, Baily Proctor, Emerson Klimpke, and Brennan Cheasley will be heavily counted on this season.

"Those guys run the bus for us," Kirk said. "If they go and have good years then, hopefully, guys in their second years like (Noah Cnockaert) Ducharme, (Ben) Anderson and (Jeremy) Wasilewski will have a good sophomore year - then we can be in really good shape."

"Things are definitely looking up. We have lots of numbers (in terms of players) so hopefully those numbers turn into good baseball."

Pitching-wise, the Blue Jays are going to have to rely on several players to chew up innings over the course of the season.

Those pitchers are also going to have to consistently throw strikes, Kirk said.

"A big thing in the junior league is if you can keep your walks and errors down, you're going to have success if you throw the ball over the plate,"

Kirk said. "If we can manage to do that, we should be alright at the end of the day."

Offensively, the Blue Jays have a lot of good sticks in their lineup. Interlake should be able to score plenty of runs this season.

"Our hitting is probably one of the better rosters in the league, in my mind," Kirk said confidently. "We have a lot of third-year guys and they have proved already that they're pretty decent hitters in this league. One through nine, any one of those guys can get on base."

The seven-team league should boast a lot of parity this season. The Elmwood Giants and St. James A's expect to be strong this season but the rest of the league should be good enough to hand them some losses.

"Anybody can beat anybody on any given night," Kirk said.

But the Blue Jays struggled in their first games of the season, losing three times last weekend. Interlake lost both ends of a doubleheader Sunday to the St. Boniface Legionaires at Whittier Park in Winnipeg.

St. Boniface won Game 1 of the twinbill 3-2 and then were victorious in the next game 5-3.

Interlake started its season with a 16-9 home loss to the Elmwood Giants last Friday.

Meanwhile, in Interlake's home opener, the Blue Jays' Brittney Langlais made MJBL history as being the first female player to be on a roster in the league's 43-year history.

The Blue Jays (0-3) will host the first-place Carillon Sultans (2-0) Wednesday and the sixth-place Pembina Valley Orioles (1-2) on Friday. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.

Manitoba teams win gold, silver at NACH

Staff

It was a golden moment for Manitoba at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Whitehorse last weekend.

Manitoba's male team defeated Saskatchewan 6-1 in the gold-medal game on Sunday.

But the gold didn't come without controversy.

Alberta was disqualified from the tournament because of a schedul-

ing issue. Alberta's flight home was scheduled a couple of hours before the gold-medal game was to be played. They refused to change their flight plans and tournament organizers refused to alter the tournament's schedule.

The result was Manitoba earning a spot in the gold-medal game just a few hours after beating B.C. 5-3 for the bronze.

Manitoba had lost 6-4 to Alberta in a

semifinal contest last Saturday.

Manitoba head coach Kevin Monkman, in his sixth season at the helm of the provincial team, previously was the bench boss for the Keystone Junior Hockey League's Peguis Juniors.

Manitoba's women's team, meanwhile, brought home silver from the championship after a 4-1 loss to Saskatchewan.

Manitoba cruised to three consecutive victories to qualify for the semifi-

nals and then shut out Ontario 7-0 to reach the gold-medal game.

Manitoba's female team has medalled at 10 of 17 national Aboriginal hockey championships while Manitoba's male squad has brought home nine medals since 2002.

The annual Aboriginal hockey championships attract teams from across Canada, with players aged 15-18.

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King drafted by WHL Swift Current Broncos

Staff

Warren's Karson King was one of 33 Manitobans chosen in the 2019 Western Hockey League Bantam Draft last Thursday in Red Deer, Alta.

King was drafted by the Swift Current Broncos with the first pick in the sixth round. He was the 111th selection in the draft which saw 228 players chosen (129 forwards, 77 defencemen and 22 goal-tenders).

King, a 5-foot-9, 162-pound defenceman, led the Interlake Lightning Bantam "AAA" team in scoring with 21 goals and 41 points in 35 regular-season games this past season. Six of those goals came on the power play while he also had a shorthanded marker.

Meanwhile, the Winnipeg ICE had the first-overall pick and they selected forward Matthew Savoie from St. Albert, Alta. The offensively-talented player led his Northern Alberta Xtreme Bantam Prep team in scoring with 31 goals and 71 points in just 31 games.

Winnipeg then made a major trade to get the second-overall pick where they chose 6-foot-3, 175-pound centre Conor Geekie of Strathclair, Man.

The ICE acquired the second-overall pick from the Prince George Cougars in exchange for a third-round pick in 2020 and the third-overall choice, which had been acquired minutes earlier from the Saskatoon Blades.

The Ice obtained forward Reece Harsch and the third overall choice from the Blades for Winnipeg's ninth overall pick, a pair of second-round picks, and a fifth-round selection.

Players eligible for the 2019 WHL Bantam Draft were 2004-born players residing in Alberta, B.C., Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER
Karson King was drafted by the Swift Current Broncos in the 2019 Western Hockey League Bantam Draft last Thursday.

NCN Flames added to the KJHL for next season

Staff

The Keystone Junior Hockey League announced last week the addition of the NCN Flames for the 2019-20 season.

The team will play out of the Gilbert McDonald Arena in Nelson House.

Previously a member of the Norwest Junior Hockey League, the Flames captured the Baldy Northcott Trophy in 2002 after sweeping the North Winnipeg Satellites in a best-of five series.

The Flames were two-time NJHL champions — repeating as league

champion in 2003.

With Nelson House minor hockey growing, the Flames decided to add the Junior "B" team.

NCN will be the fifth KJHL team for 2019-20, joining the Cross Lake Islanders, Norway House North Stars,

OCN Storm and Peguis Juniors.

The Fisher River Hawks, who went on a hiatus for the 2018-19 season, have until July 1 to inform the KJHL Board of Governors of their intentions for next season.

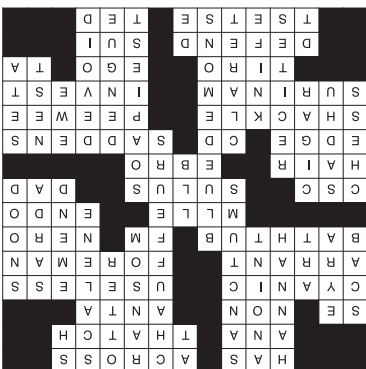
take a break > GAME

CLUES ACROSS

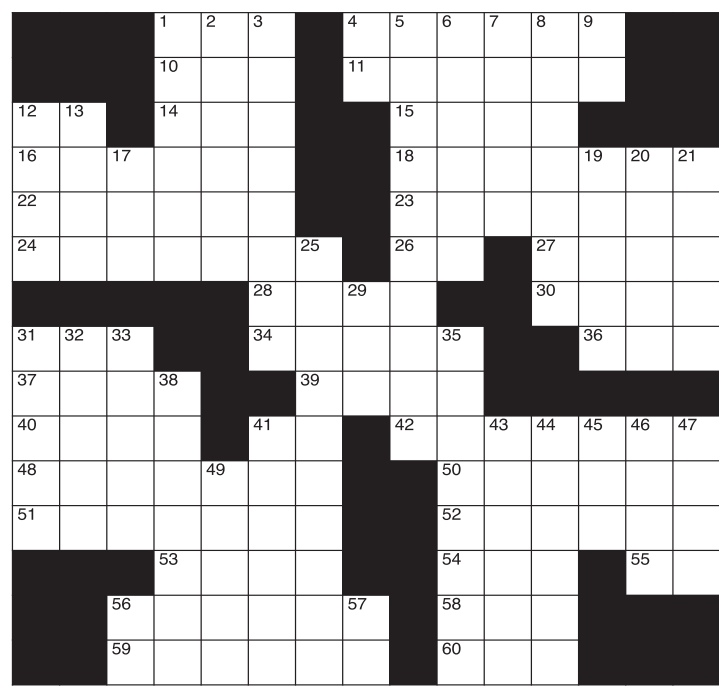
- 1. Maintains possession of
- 4. Other side
- 10. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 11. Lawn buildup
- 12. Southeast
- 14. Negative
- 15. Greek temple pillar
- 16. Blue

- 18. Pointless
- 22. Complete
- 23. Supervisor
- 24. Where kids bathe
- 26. Radio frequency
- 27. Cruel Roman emperor
- 28. Young woman (French)
- 30. Within
- 31. Civil Service Commission
- 34. Sarongs
- 36. Father
- 37. It grows on heads
- 39. A Spanish river
- 40. Boundary
- 41. Contains music
- 42. Causes to feel sorrow
- 48. Used to restrain
- 50. Fictional kids character
- 51. South American country
- 52. Devote resources to
- 53. Beginner
- 54. Everyone has one
- 55. University worker (abbr.)

- 56. Resist an attack
 - 58. Unifying Chinese dynasty
 - 59. Blood-sucking African fly
 - 60. CNN's founder
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. ___ and her sisters
 - 2. Smear or rub with oil
 - 3. Holy places
 - 4. Indicates position
 - 5. Drives around
 - 6. Price
 - 7. Semiaquatic mammal
 - 8. With three uneven sides
 - 9. Sacrifice hit
 - 12. Covers a wound
 - 13. Jaguarundi
 - 17. Works produced by skill and imagination
 - 19. A way to improve
 - 20. River along India and Nepal border
 - 21. Hairnet
 - 25. DePaul University athletes
 - 29. Bachelor of Laws
 - 31. Game of skill
 - 32. Holy man
 - 33. Cylinder of tobacco
 - 35. Most ingratiating
 - 38. Repeats aloud
 - 41. Red wine



Crossword Answer



- 43. Debilitating tropical disease
- 44. Entirely lacking
- 45. Female sheep
- 46. Where a bird lives
- 47. Stalk that supports the capsule
- 49. Cutlery
- 56. Symptom of withdrawal (abbr.)
- 57. Delaware

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OBITUARY



Emily Helga Jonasson

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of our dear Mom and Amma, Emily Jonasson, at the Arborg Hospital on May 6, 2019.

Emily is lovingly remembered by her children Wendy (Dexter), Lyle (Debbie), Kevin, Wesley (Sandy) and daughter-in-law Cathy; grandchildren Erin (Joel), Mark, Laura, Reid, Dana, Kate, Aleah, Luke and Matthew. She also leaves behind her brother Leo (Johanna) Gudmundson; sister-in-law Merrilyn Gudmundson; nieces and nephews and their families. Predeceased by her husband Bjossi; son Glenn; parents Ragnar and Rannveig Gudmundson; siblings Marvin and Violet; niece Donna; in-laws Bjorg Bjornson, Konni and Kristjana Sigurdson, and Helga Jonasson.

Mom was born on April 6, 1935 in Winnipeg. She was the oldest of four children and grew up on the family farm in Vidir. After grade school she attended Success Business College in Winnipeg and then returned to Arborg to work - but not for very long - as she and dad married on August 18, 1956. They enjoyed 47 years of married life together. They lived and raised their family in Arborg until 1969 when they decided to return to their home community of Vidir to farm, where with Kevin's help mom lived until her passing.

Mom devoted her life to her family. She worked hard her entire life raising her children, running the household and helping with the farm. When grandchildren came along she always had time to play. She was very proud of her children and grandchildren. She was compassionate, caring and kind to everyone she met. She was also a tireless caregiver for others, including for dad in the later years of his life. She so enjoyed spending time with her sister-in-law Helga with whom she had such a special relationship. She was a long time member of the Ardal-Geysir Lutheran Church and the ELW, and later a member of the Vidir Ladies Aid.

Mom loved farm life - being in nature, looking for the first signs of wild flowers in the spring, tending to her garden and flowers, picking raspberries, taking the grandkids for walks after dark to look at the stars. Most of all she loved her family and in recent years couldn't tell us that enough.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 24, 2019 at 2 p.m. in the Ardal-Geysir Lutheran Church in Arborg.

In lieu of flowers, donations gratefully accepted in her memory to the Ardal-Geysir Lutheran Church or to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba.

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ENGAGEMENT



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Debbie and Brad and Gwen and Tom are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Brettlynn and Shane an August 2019 wedding is planned. A Bridal shower will be on May 25, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Winnipeg Beach Legion A Jack & Jill Shower and Wedding Social is on June 15, 2019 in Gladstone, MB. The couple is registered at Walmart; Bed, Bath & Beyond; Canadian Tire and Clarke's of Gladstone Join us in celebrating this wonderful couple!

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