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EXPRESS PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL
Michael Carlson and Janessa Johnson of Matheson Island arrived at Selkirk's Hospital to deliver a baby girl after getting ahead of the fire that closed down the Highway at Beaver Creek Provincial Park last week. Naomi's great-great-uncle Smitty (pointing at window), great-great-auntie Connie (in pink), great-auntie Cyndi Devaney and great-grannie Edie Carlson patiently waited on the lawn at the hospital. See story on page 2.

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Matheson Island baby beats the flames at Beaver Creek to make her debut

By Patricia Barrett

Michael Carlson and Janessa Johnson were carrying some extremely precious cargo on June 1 when they boarded the cable ferry at Matheson Island, sailed to the mainland then made a harrowing journey down PR 234, the only road in and out of a scenic peninsula that runs along the west shore of Lake Winnipeg.

Michael and Janessa made it past Beaver Creek just in the nick of time, before the wind sent flames from a huge peat fire soaring across the road where it destroyed and damaged a dozen cottages and outbuildings. The couple didn't look back, continuing along their 210-kilometre journey to the Selkirk Regional Health Centre.

Later that evening, at precisely 8:29 p.m., Janessa delivered the cargo: Naomi Lyne Joyce Carlson (8 lbs, 10 oz, 21" long).

Because of COVID-19 visitor restrictions, members of Naomi's family — who also made the two-and-a-half-hour trip from the Island — had to wait outside on the hospital's lawn for the big moment.

They were all there: Naomi's great-auntie Cyndi Devaney, great-grannie Edie Carlson, grandma Lynette McDonald (Janessa's step-mom), afi Robert Johnson (Janessa's dad), grandpa Mike Cure (Michael's dad), auntie Carrigan Johnson (Janessa's sister)



Michael and Janessa's family were excited to hear the news that Baby Naomi had arrived safely.

and uncle Carter Comeau (Carrigan's boyfriend).

The family cheered and waved congratulatory placards and pink and white balloons when Michael waved from the hospital room to signal the very important debut of their new family member.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Michael Carlson and Janessa Johnson are back home in Matheson Island with their baby girl Naomi Lyne Joyce Carlson.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

From left: Naomi's grandma Lynette McDonald (Janessa's step-mom), afi Robert Johnson (Janessa's dad), Uncle Carter Comeau (Carrigan's boyfriend) and Auntie Carrigan Johnson (Janessa's sister).

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A matriarch on the mend: Fisher Branch senior returns home

By Evan Matthews

After a fall that left her without feeling in one of her legs, a Fisher Branch woman is on the mend and back at home, with thanks going to her son and daughter for her speedy return.

Gerry Johnson, 83, lives at Fisher Branch Chalet. Cooped up over the last two months due to COVID-19, Johnson said her daughter invited her to stay overnight in Chatfield at their guest house.

"We decided to have a barbecue. My daughter said, 'Mom, come in and fix your hamburger up,' so I went inside and did that, and I came out onto the front step with a hamburger in one hand and a cup of coffee in the other," said Johnson.

"The door shut behind me and, all of a sudden, I started falling backwards. I hit my head on the side of the house and cut my head open, and I hurt all my ribs along my back. (My daughter) Susan (Allen) helped me up, and we sat outside for a little bit.

"I did actually have the hamburger, and then another one," she said.

As the night went on, Johnson said the pain got worse. She requested to go back home to Fisher Branch and told Allen to leave her because Johnson insisted she would be fine.

In the middle of the night, the pain reached its worst point, and Johnson phoned the Percy E. Moore Hospital in Hodgson.

"I had to go. I ended up losing feeling in one of my legs," said Johnson, adding she was eventually sent to Winnipeg's Health Science Centre for additional testing. She spent three days in the HSC while undergoing tests and was then to be discharged home.



The Peace Lutheran Church is still accessible using the steps.

"I decided to isolate for two weeks because I didn't want to come back to the chalet and maybe give someone here something.

"I asked Susan if I could go back to Chatfield to the guest house to isolate. She said yes, but asked how I would get in because there were steps on the house, and I had lost feeling in my leg," she said.

Taking care of her family's matriarch, Allen said she and her siblings all have roles.

Allen said she began to delegate jobs to the family — her brother David Johnson and her sister Pat Fedorchuk — in order to ensure they could get Johnson home and make her comfortable.

"In our family, I'm medical services and my brother David is technical services. Our other sister Pat is food services," she said, laughing.

"I called David and asked if he could figure out a way to get mom into the house. I told him I didn't care if he wanted to make a ramp or what he did, but he needed to figure it out. 'You've got two



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY SUSAN ALLEN

Fisher Branch Chalet resident Gerry Johnson was thankful to have borrowed the ramp during her recovery at her daughter's home in Poplarfield.

hours, I told him," she said.

Sure enough, two hours later, Allen arrived home with her mother.

Johnson said she still hasn't been able to get over what she found when she arrived.

"There was this beautiful ramp in front of the house and I was so excited. I wondered how he did it so fast. It was painted and everything. It is so beautiful," said Johnson.

Susan had told her to look over at the Peace Lutheran Church. Johnson noticed the ramp from the municipal

heritage site was gone.

David cut the ramp off of the church with a saw, Allen said, and recruited the help of his friend Anthony to drag the ramp over to Allen's, and they attached it to the front of the house.

"I got into the house and I stayed there for two weeks. He's my hero. I feel like he saved me and maybe others because if he hadn't been able to do what he did, I would have had to come back to the chalet and put oth-

Continued on page 6

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Manitobans urged to keep up the good work in COVID-19 fight

By Lorne Stelmach

The message to Manitobans Monday remained the same as it has for weeks: to keep up the good work in fighting COVID-19.

As the province continues to relax restrictions and further reopen the economy, Manitobans still need to remain vigilant and take precautions, stressed chief public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin.

"We're still going to need to be dealing with this virus in one form or another for the foreseeable future," he said in his update Monday afternoon.

"Our numbers have remained favourable, and we've been able to gradually and cautiously reopen our economy," Roussin continued, while again stressing that it is certainly not a return to normal.

"Manitobans have learned to live with this virus, to take precautions,

and each Manitoban needs to decide on their own their level of risk that they're willing to accept."

There were no new cases of COVID-19 identified over the weekend, so the total number of lab-confirmed and probable positive cases in Manitoba remains at 300.

At press time, there was no one in hospital with the illness and only nine active cases. A total of 284 individuals have recovered from COVID-19. Seven Manitobans have died.

Between June 5 and 7, 2,217 laboratory tests were processed, bringing the number of COVID-19 tests performed in the province since early February to 49,591.

Chief nursing officer Lanette Siragusa also provided an update at the briefing on the testing of health-care workers and first responders. A total of 361 were tested over the past week.

"None came back positive, so it has been about a month since we've had a positive health-care worker, which is really great news," Siragusa said, noting that 26 health-care employees who had previously tested positive have all recovered and returned to work.

In addition, she noted Manitobans in general continue to make use of services like Health Links, which had received about 5,000 calls in the last week. More than 2,100 people had viewed test results through the online portal in the past week, and nearly 900 received their results by calling the contact centre.

Roussin concluded his portion of the

update by promoting June 8-14 as National Blood Donor Week.

Amidst the uncertainty of the pandemic, Canadian Blood Services has experienced a significant drop in donations.

"That need does not go away during a pandemic," Roussin said in encouraging people to donate blood. "The blood supply is just as important now and even more important because of all the decrease in donations during this time."

Head to blood.ca for the upcoming clinic schedule in your community.

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Manitoba, visit www.manitoba.ca/COVID19.

"WE'RE STILL GOING TO NEED TO BE DEALING WITH THIS VIRUS."

Interlake hospitals to expand visitor access

By Evan Matthews

As the spread of COVID-19 slows, Manitoba hospitals and health centres will begin to restore visitor access for patients as part of provincial Phase 2 re-opening.

As of Friday, June 5, all hospitals and medical centres in the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA)

will be opening visitation in accordance with Shared Health guidelines.

"Our hospital staff members fully understand how important visits from friends and family are to patients. We've all looked forward to this day, where we can start lifting restrictions," said IERHA CEO Ron Van Denakker, noting the ease of restrictions is not indicative of a return to the way things used to be.

"We are not welcoming all visitors at this time. The number of people visiting a patient is limited and these people must be identified and scheduled in advance.

"We are working with patients and families (or key contacts) so they are aware of our processes and the steps they need to take to continue helping us keep everyone safe," he said.

In order to keep protocols uniform, the IERHA said the visiting process will be handled the same way in all of its hospitals:

- The number of visitors for each patient is being limited to one or two people for most patients based on provincial guidelines. During a patient's last two weeks of life, a maximum of four designated support people may be identified to visit (two of the designated support people may visit within a 24-hour timeframe).
- Limits will be in place regarding the number of visitors allowed into the hospital at any given time.
- Visitors must be pre-determined in consultation with patients. Visiting is not open to all members of the public.
- A listing of visitors to a hospital is being maintained so it is essential that all visitors follow the process outlined for entering and leaving a hospital.
- Hospital staff may make exceptions to the visiting guidelines based on their professional judgment.

- People are strongly advised to contact the hospital for more information prior to visiting.

Upon arrival at the hospital all visitors can expect:

- To be asked questions about their health status and recent travel status.
- To perform hand hygiene prior to entering and leaving a facility.
- To be required to maintain physical distancing (6 feet/2 metres apart) at all times.
- If required, visitors may be asked to wear personal protective equipment.
- Only visitors who have been pre-determined by the patient will be allowed to enter.

Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen said as COVID-19 remains part of the "new normal" for a longer duration, the situation requires government and medical professionals to find a longer-term balance between preventative measures and the many benefits of in-person interaction between patients and their loved ones.

"We recognize that solitude and separation can have a significant and negative impact on a patient's health and well-being," said Friesen.

"Our goal is to find a balance for the longer-term; a balance enabling visits with loved ones to occur, with all the necessary precautions in place," he said.

Anyone interested in setting up visits or anyone with questions are encouraged to contact hospitals, with phone numbers being available at www.ierha.ca.

"We encourage people to call their local hospital before making a visit to avoid disappointment," said Denakker. "COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities, and we must take steps to continue protecting patients and staff."

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Kicked to the CERB: Interlake businesses struggling to get workers

By Patricia Barrett

Manitoba's government may have scaled back some coronavirus-related restrictions a few weeks ago and let businesses re-open as new cases of COVID-19 became an intermittent blip on the provincial radar, but businesses in some Interlake communities can't get their laid-off staff to return to work or attract new hires because of CERB.

The federal government's Canada Emergency Response Benefit was meant to provide up to 16 weeks of financial support to Canadians experiencing layoffs and job losses directly related to the virus. It's expected that workers return to their jobs when summoned by their employers, in keeping with the spirit in which the program was offered.

With Manitoba having fared relatively better than most of the country in terms of the numbers of COVID infections and deaths, the provincial government launched a recovery phase June 1, maintaining rigid physical distancing and disinfection rules but expanding indoor and outdoor gathering sizes.

Gimli Chamber of Commerce co-presidents Melanie Specula and Cheryl Buhler, who surveyed several local businesses and organizations over the past few weeks, said CERB was a life-saver during the height of Manitoba's COVID outbreak, but it's now posing staffing difficulties for many employers.

"Several businesses stated they had issues trying to bring their staff back after they were laid off, specifically those on CERB," said Buhler last Friday.

Specula said she herself is among the many businesses struggling to get enough staff. She owns the Chicken Chef restaurant in downtown Gimli and had prepared for the re-opening of her dining room on June 1 (she's been providing take-out service with a core group of workers). As of last Friday, she still couldn't fully open because of a lack of staff.

Specula put out job ads after her staff told her they wanted to continue to collect CERB, she said. And to make matters worse, she's had no response to those ads.

"I was so proud to be Canadian when [Prime Minister Justin] Trudeau offered CERB and helped everybody so much," said Specula. "But at the same time, businesses have a huge problem now getting their staff to come back to work."

Specula was forced to resort to the power of moms, asking a few of her core employees to get their high school-aged kids working shifts. She said she knows local students are aware of the jobs up for grabs in the community.

"One of the students working for me showed me on her phone the list of jobs they were sent from the school," said Specula.

Her core employees are exhausted and her customers are growing somewhat frustrated with having to wait outside the restaurant for their takeout orders, she said. She opened the foyer last week so that people can wait inside for their takeout, and she's thinking of opening her dining room with the staff she's got.

"We don't have to go to half-capacity; we can try to serve customers just with the staff we have," said Specula.

Gimli businesses are not the only ones experiencing difficulty getting workers on the job.

Kahleigh Dubois, owner of Kahleighs' Brew Barn Restaurant & Lounge in Riverton, said her staff returned to work, but she's having trouble finding additional staff — especially experienced workers such as cooks — that she needs to meet the demands of cottagers in the Hecla-Grindstone region.

"All my staff were really good about coming back so I was really lucky," said Dubois. "But we always double our staff in the summer because there are so many cottagers. In that respect I'm having trouble finding new staff be-

cause everybody has been getting CERB and they're not going to come to work if they're able to collect."

Susan Bauernhuber, president of the Central Interlake Chamber of Commerce and co-owner of the Watering Whole beer and wine shop in Arborg, said some area businesses are struggling to find workers because of CERB.

"I have been hearing that from some businesses here," said Bauernhuber last Friday. "As for us [her business], we took a hit but not as bad as other businesses in the area."

Another Arborg business owner, who preferred not to have his establishment named, said rural communities are at the best of times faced with hiring challenges as they lack a large pool of either available workers or skilled workers. With a pandemic and its fallout thrown into the mix, "we're having an even harder time finding them."

A spokesperson for Carla Qualtrough, federal minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, said CERB is intended to help Canadians who've had to stop working because of COVID-related reasons.

"We have been very clear that workers cannot voluntarily quit their job and collect the CERB," said Qualtrough's press secretary Marielle Hossack by email. "If and when it becomes possible for Canadians to safely go back to work, they should do so."

Many business owners have expressed uncertainty about CERB rules, whether they're obliged to take back dissenting employees after having hired new workers to replace them.

Some staff may be unable to return to work for legitimate reasons such as having a health condition that could be exacerbated by a COVID infection or living with a family member who has underlying health issues and would be at risk should they be exposed to the virus.

Hossack said employees concerned about the safety of their working conditions should discuss the issue with their employer.

"They may wish to consult the website for the department of labour in their province or territory for further information on their rights to refuse work and the process they should follow," said Hossack. "Our priority is to make sure all Canadians have the support they need and we will continue to support businesses and workers during these difficult times."

In the meantime, the province's annual summer student job program may help fill the worker gap. The Summer Student Recovery Jobs Program is focusing on hiring high school and post-secondary students who've been impacted by COVID. It offers employers a wage subsidy of \$7 an hour for a total of \$5,000 in funding for up to five students per organization.

The province also launched a free Student Jobs MB app that connects employers with student job-seekers.

"We're having a tremendous success with the job program," said Minister of Economic Development and Training Ralph Eichler (Lakeside MLA).

His department has heard some talk about people un-



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF KAHLEIGH DUBOIS

Kahleigh Dubois, pictured here with her family outside her Riverton business, Kahleigh's Brew Barn Restaurant & Lounge, can't find enough new workers to hire because of CERB.

willing to return to work because they want to continue to collect the monthly \$2,000 on CERB, he said. And that may come down to income disparities between provinces. Employers in cities such as Toronto and Vancouver may have no problem getting laid-off staff to come back to work because they likely earn over \$2,000 a month.

"For us in the Prairie provinces, it's a big deal because not a lot of people make \$2,000 a month to begin with. I can see it being a problem," said Eichler.

Those able to return to work, but won't, are encouraged to think about the importance of demonstrating via their resumes their willingness to work rather than having chosen to live off an assistance program, he said. Because it's early days into the province's re-opening, the situation may improve.

Going forward, Buhler and Specula said the Gimli chamber will continue to reach out to its provincial MLA and federal MP about CERB's challenges and work collaboratively to find answers for their members.

"We've talked to the government already about this and we'll continue to do so, as well as bring the issue forward to the Manitoba chambers of commerce," said Buhler.

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Similar yet different: Canada and the U.S.

By Evan Matthews

The conversation surrounding police brutality has taken over headlines.

In the United States, it was George Floyd.

In Canada, most recently, it was Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam.

While Adam thankfully didn't suffer the same fate as Floyd, he alleges fearing for his life as Wood Buffalo RCMP officers beat and arrested him in Fort McMurray earlier this year. Allen described dropping to his knees, going unconscious, and his only real memory being blood gushing out of his mouth.

Since February, three RCMP shootings happened in Nunavut, with two of them being fatal.

In Winnipeg, between April 8 and 18, three Indigenous people were killed by (city) police during a 10-day stretch: 16-year-old Eishia Hudson, 36-year-old Jason Collins and 22-year-old Stewart Andrews.

These are just glimpses, but there have been seven fatal engagements with Canadian law enforcement so far in 2020.

While Canadians have a lot to be thankful for on the topic of police brutality, as the overt violence we see in the United States is less common here, we are not immune to police

brutality, nor are we immune to systemic racism.

In the United States, the Black Lives Matter movement has flooded social media with a cause so worthwhile in talking about, raising awareness and emphasizing the difference between reacting to a situation and responding to a situation.

Part of being an active participant — a person who responds — in change is being aware. Because so much of what's going on in society right now is happening in America, we should draw attention to some of the cultural differences.

In Canada, our racial issues are slightly different. It's not to say people of any and all colours haven't experienced racism in this country. However, in Canada, our most notable example of systemic racism is the over representation, overt ostracization and oppression of our Indigenous peoples.

Look no further than the over representation per capita of our Indigenous peoples in jails.

Our societal response to socioeconomic disparity and intergenerational governmental abuse and its associated trauma has been to punish those affected even further.

It's gone on since this country's inception, and it continues to this day.

This isn't to say it's all doom and

gloom, but we — as a society — can continue to demand and do better. We can affect change. We should affect change.

Anybody can make a social media post, but not everybody gets involved. This is a chance for our society to once more denounce racism in Canada, but we can do so with more than words. We can mobilize movements and critically engage with the world around us.

There are local charities you can donate your time and/or money to, and there have been successful peaceful protests in our own province you can participate in.

Black Lives Matter is the movement currently working toward and demanding change in the United States. Which movement do you believe in and support here at home? What change do you want to see for the world?

There doesn't have to be another situation like George Floyd. There doesn't have to be another situation like Allan Adam, Eishia Hudson, Jason Collins or Stewart Andrews.

Our sincere hope as a society should be that positive change comes.

The views in this opinion piece are those of the writer and may or may not be the view of the newspaper.

> SENIOR RETURNS HOME, FROM PG. 3

ers at risk. My kids take such good care of me," Johnson said.

Fast forward two weeks and Johnson said she is on the mend, improving each day.

While at HSC, she visited with a

neurologist who thought the impact to Johnson's head may have done something to affect her leg.

"I don't have those results back yet," said Johnson. "But I'm starting to get feeling in my leg back."

For anyone worried about the state of the Peace Lutheran Church, too, Johnson added David has one job left as the family's technical expert: return the ramp to the church.

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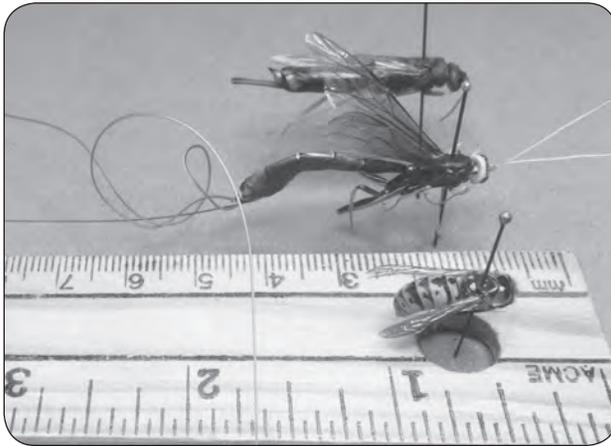
By John Gavloski

Asian giant hornets are the largest species of hornet in the world and are native to Asia (Japan, China, India, Nepal). There has been some concern that it may show up in Manitoba. Although not impossible, it's highly improbable. In this month's Incredible Creatures, we will explore the interesting world of Asian giant hornets, why the concern and hype, and the odds of them establishing in Manitoba.

Are Asian Giant Hornets in Canada?

Asian giant hornets were found in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island in September 2019. The nest was successfully eradicated. Last October a single hornet was photographed, but not collected, in White Rock, B.C., and in December a dead specimen was found near Blaine, Wash. Lab findings determined that the specimens from Vancouver Island and Washington State were from different colonies. This May, an Asian giant hornet was killed near Langley, B.C. It is still uncertain whether there is an active colony in North America, but hornet traps have been placed in southern B.C. and residents are asked to report suspected sightings.

Like our native species of hornets, Asian giant hornets would rather not mess with people but could if they felt threatened. While getting multiple stings by Asian giant hornets would be of greater concern than stings from a honeybee, an individual sting is not dangerous unless you are allergic to bee and wasp stings, in which case even a honeybee sting is of concern. Advice in China is that people stung more than 10 times should seek medical help.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JOHN GAVLOSKI

Other large insects from the bottom to top: a yellowjack, a large wasp called a Megarrhyssa and a horntail.

Bees Cooking Hornets

If Asian giant hornets ever did establish in some parts of Canada, one of the biggest threats would be to honeybees. But some bees in Asia have a way of fighting back. The Japanese honeybee (*Apis cerana japonica*), which come from the same region as Asian giant hornets, can protect itself from Asian giant hornets by overheating them. As the hornet enters the bees' nest, it is swarmed by hundreds of bees. The bees decouple their wings and rapidly vibrate their wing muscles to create heat. This creates temperatures and CO2 levels that are lethal to the Asian giant hornet at the centre of the swarm. The western honey (*Apis mellifera*), the species kept by beekeepers in Canada and many parts of the world,

can't do this, however.

Local Large Wasps

Only queens overwinter for many of our common local wasps. These can be bigger than the workers. Early in the year, before the nest is established and workers produced, larger queens can be seen flying around. Asian giant hornets' nest in the ground. So, a large hornet nest in a tree or some other above-ground location likely is from one of the native or already established wasps.

Some other insects that are quite large and wasp-like are shown in the attached photo. A yellowjacket is shown at the bottom of the photo to give perspective to the other insects. The insect at the top of the photo is a horntail. They lay eggs into trees, where their larvae live. The insect in the middle of the photo is a large wasp called Megarrhyssa, which parasitizes larvae of horntails living under tree bark. These are both quite large and what may appear to be a stinger in both of these is actually used to lay eggs under the bark of trees. They are harmless to people.

Asian giant hornets prefer to live in low mountain areas and forests in the areas they are native to, while almost completely avoiding plains. The United States Department of Agriculture predicted where this wasp could survive in North America. It is unlikely to be found in large numbers across most regions of Canada. It has the potential to survive in southern regions of Canada with milder climates such as the west coast and southern Ontario. Our odds of them establishing in the Canadian prairies is very low.

RDFC growing relationship with seniors

By Evan Matthews

The Riverton and District Friendship Centre continues to cultivate and grow positive relationships in the community, most recently donating to a seniors' lodge.

On Friday June 5, RDFC staff presented Icelandic River Lodge board members with a new planter to help provide more access to gardening for seniors at the facility. RDFC will donate another planter to the facility the week of June 8.

"We wanted to help lift the spirits of the seniors," said RDFC executive director Tanis Grimolfson.

"Some really enjoy gardening, and it's a bonus to have access to a planter right outside your home."

The planter is located directly across from the facility's front access door.

A local carpenter built the planter, according to Grimolfson, who declined to be more specific. Seniors will have the ability to plant whatever they choose to grow, and the lodge's clients will maintain the plants.

Grimolfson said RDFC have a few planters at the food bank, too, which will be shared with community members.

The Icelandic River Lodge offers 30 independent living suites and nine supportive housing suites, according to the IERHA, adding the facility is geared toward seniors who want the freedom and privacy of living in a luxurious and spacious suite combined with support and care options.

The building is owned and operated by Riverton-Bifrost Holdings Inc., which provides meals and housekeeping with the IERHA providing the care component.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY TANIS GRIMOLFSON

The RDFC staff presented Icelandic River Lodge board members with a new planter to help provide more access to gardening for seniors. Left to right: Colin Bjarnason (Icelandic River Lodge), Desarae Bilinski (RDFC), Peggy Vigfusson (Icelandic River Lodge) and Dylan Furgala.

Humans cause fire that spread from peat moss harvester to provincial park

By Patricia Barrett

A peat fire that jumped a provincial road and destroyed and damaged a dozen cottages and sheds near Beaver Creek Provincial Park, about 48 kilometres north of Riverton, was deemed by the province to have been human-caused.

The fire broke out June 1 west of PR 234, the only road in and out of a boggy, forested peninsula that serves as prime moose habitat and where several communities, cottage subdivisions and Beaver Creek Provincial Park hug the west shore of Lake Winnipeg.

Companies such as Sun Gro Horticulture and Sunterra Horticulture are provincially licensed to mine the area's peat moss, which serves as a natural carbon sink and purifier of water running into Lake Winnipeg. The companies provide employment to some local residents.

A person who lives in the general area around Beaver Creek told the *Express* last Wednesday they noticed smoke at about 4 p.m. on the day the blaze broke out, but the fire may have started earlier that afternoon.

"The fire started in a peat bog and it jumped the road [PR 234]," said the source, who asked that their name not be used because peat mining may be a sensitive issue to some people. "It spread to the cottages near Beaver Creek park."

The combination of high temperature — 30C that day — and strong wind made it a fast-moving fire.

"The water bombers we saw got there quickly, but the fire travelled so fast because of the wind and I don't think they would have had time to save those cottages," said the source.

The *Express* had spoken with a fisher on the night of the fire (see June 4 edition) and he said he was told the fire started at Sun Gro's mine in the vicinity of Beaver Creek.

Sun Gro staff at the company's Riverton office referred the *Express* to



Provincial water bombers were used to extinguish a peat moss fire that destroyed and damaged a dozen cottages and sheds near Beaver Creek Provincial Park.

the bog manager for comment. Messages left on the manager's two phone numbers weren't returned.

Conservation's online FireView map, viewed June 3 and again June 7, shows the blaze was "human caused" and active for six days.

A Conservation spokesperson said the Manitoba Wildfire Service, which co-ordinated the fire-fighting response, determined that the fire had started in an "area of peat harvest."

When asked about its "human-caused" status and how exactly it was started, the spokesperson said the cause has "not yet been determined."

"Fires in peat are difficult to extinguish because the fire can smoulder for long periods of time underground, undetected," said the spokesperson by email last Friday when the fire was still active.

Six cabins and a shed were destroyed. An additional six cabins and two sheds were damaged, said the spokesperson, and approximately 600 hectares were burning.

The FireView map downgraded the size of the fire from 611 hectares on Wednesday to 479 hectares by Sunday.

The fire required the assistance of provincial water bombers and municipal fire departments.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY SHELLEY SPRING

Shelley Spring captured a water bomber fighting the fire at Beaver Creek on June 1.

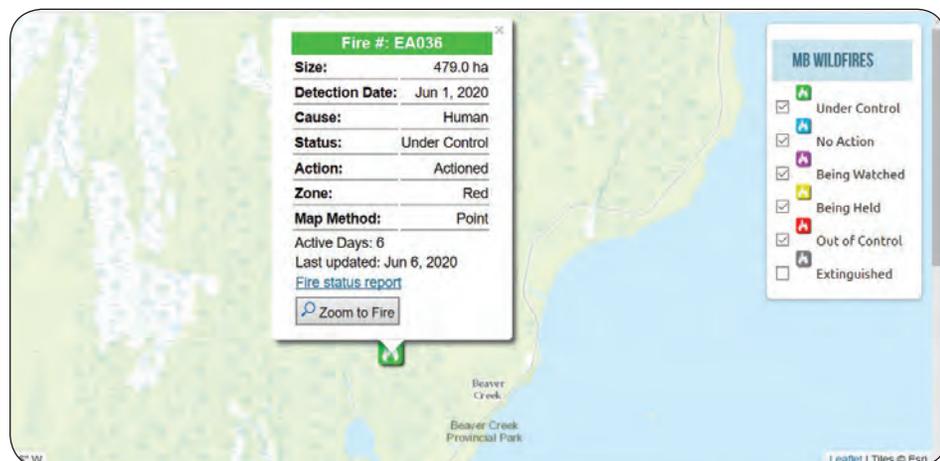


Provincial water bombers could be seen scooping water from the shore of Lake Winnipeg.

"At one point there were seven initial attack crews (teams of four) assigned to the fire, with the support of three water bombers, bird dog aircraft, heavy equipment, three municipal fire departments (Arborg, Gimli and Riverton) as well as crews from the

Office of the Fire Commissioner, who set up value protection (sprinklers) at local cottages," said the spokesperson.

Additional questions sent to Conservation, such as whether there will be any fines levied against Sun Gro, weren't acknowledged.



MANITOBA CONSERVATION

Conservation's FireView map, viewed June 7, shows the blaze was human-caused and broke out in peat near Beaver Creek Provincial Park.



Shelley Spring was at Beaver Creek Provincial Park among dozens of other people photographing the approaching fire.



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Eriksdale fitness instructor keeping seniors active

By Evan Matthews

An Eriksdale woman is making sure her fellow seniors are getting their physical and social exercise, and she's doing it from a garage.

Maggie Greig, 82, is a certified fitness instructor through the Manitoba Fitness Council. As people age, she said maintaining one's muscle mass, bone density and flexibility becomes of the utmost importance. If you can socialize while maintaining your health, she said all the better.

"For people who can't do boot camps, I have chair exercises to keep them active and engaged. I've always done the chair exercises for seniors," said Greig, who added she's been putting on classes in Eriksdale for eight years.

"Because of COVID, I haven't been able to put on any classes. When the government first eased restrictions to allow socially distanced gatherings of up to 10 people, I decided it was time to put on a class."

Lindell Manor has a four-door garage, which Greig said offers enough space to socially distance while also offering protection from the elements.

Everyone moves their vehicles out of the garage before class starts, and

depending on weather, Greig said the group will open as many of the bay doors as possible.

"The ladies bring their folding chairs and their two- or three-pound weights, and we do our exercises in the chairs or sometimes standing," said Greig.

The classes place a lot of emphasis on range of motion and stretching. Other exercises to maintain strength include bicep curls, shoulder press and body weight squats.

"Eight years ago, I walked past a full-length mirror and saw this hunched over, little old lady staring back at me. I thought, 'Holy, that's me.' I couldn't find anyone to help me with exercise in the area, so I went to Winnipeg and became certified.

"I subsequently discovered how much better I feel, so this is what I do, and I try to get all the other old girls to join me."

By stressing one's bones, strength and resistance training can increase bone density and reduce the risk of osteoporosis, according to the Mayo Clinic. Strength and resistance training increases muscle strength by making your muscles work against a weight or force.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY MAGGIE GREIG

On June 5 at Lindell Manor in Eriksdale, pictured second from the left, Maggie Greig leads a class of ladies throughout exercises designed to increase flexibility, muscle mass and bone density. By exercising, Greig said seniors can proactively avoid injury and pain.

Activities that lengthen and stretch muscles — improving one's flexibility — can help prevent injuries, back pain and balance problems, according to Mayo Clinic, as a well-stretched muscle more easily achieves its full range of motion.

"The classes have been received really well. Normally, I had four classes per week. I've been down to two with all that is going on. There is usually around 10 of us," said Greig, who also teaches in Lundar.

"As we age, our bones can become

brittle and we get a bit weaker. We're trying to maintain strength and bone density, flexibility in our ligaments and tendons, especially in our ankles and wrists. If we happen to fall, which apparently we do, we want to avoid injuries."

Greig added she also teaches a yoga class in her front yard once a week, as yoga increases flexibility and emphasizes the connection of one's breathing and movement. Anyone interested in taking a class should contact Maggie Greig at 204-739-3523.

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Seniors are calling on seniors for sustainability

By Becca Myskiw

Seniors across the province are calling on each other for sustainability.

In a May 22 news release, Manitoba Seniors for Sustainability said they launched a fundraising campaign to support three environmental groups in the province.

The three groups — The Green Action Centre, Climate Change Connection and the Manitoba Eco-Network — are receiving no provincial funding this year. That's a total loss of \$360,000 to the organizations.

Seniors are calling on seniors now to use their \$200 from the government and send it to these organizations.

This \$360,000 is less than one per cent of the \$45 million Pallister is sending the seniors, regardless of their need for it.

Muriel Smith of the Manitoba Seniors for Sustainability said the mon-

ey should be going to people who need it — and not all seniors do. She's sending her \$200 cheque to one of the environmental organizations because they need it more than she does.

"Cutting funds for the environment during a climate crisis makes about as much sense as slashing health care during a pandemic," she said in the news release.

The pandemic is difficult, said Smith, but the environmental issues don't go away when other problems arise. Allocating the funds, the way the provincial government did was "blatantly wrong," she said.

Smith understands some seniors do need the \$200 they'll receive. She said Manitoba Seniors for Sustainability are calling on the ones who don't need it to help out the organizations who spend their time helping the environment.



Environmental change is slow moving, Smith said. The economic problems usually drown out other ones, like the climate crisis, but without healthy air, water and soil, Smith said life on earth will no longer be able to be supported.

"Environmental issues are those if we don't pay attention to, we're going to find that our food lacks the nutrients that we need, that our air is not pure enough..." Smith said. "There will be the warming of the climate,

less things we can grow."

The news release says all those who donate to one of the three organizations will receive a tax receipt and all funds raised will go to environmental programs.

More information about the group and their cause is on Facebook and Twitter @mbseniors4sust.

Camp Arnes serves as inspiration for campsite finding site

By Becca Myskiw

After struggling to find the perfect camping spot, an Australian native now living in Winnipeg created a website to do it for him.

Aaron Newnham has a seasonal spot at Camp Arnes that he loves — but it wasn't easy for him to get there. He scoured the province's campground booking website for days and found it difficult and general.

Newnham wanted a way to find a camping spot that was tailored to him. So, he created Campsite Canada, an "Airbnb-style" website for private campground listings.

Campgrounds from all across Canada can add their listing on the Campsite Canada website. They can be seasonal spots or one-time use spots. The website also allows people to sell and rent RVs.

"Rather than the consumer have to visit each private campground website, we thought it's be good to have a website where they can search them all," said Newnham.

When a campground or RV seller adds a listing, they can upload their own images and descriptions. The website it a self-serve platform, Newnham said, where the sellers have to upkeep their own profile and listings.

People can refine their search by geography — they can look up a specific region in Canada and the website will show all private campgrounds that have listings on Campsite Canada. They can also search by amenities like washrooms or power, or search keywords that connect with what they want.

If someone finds an RV or campsite they like, they can click a button that says "reply to listing" and then they'll be prompted to create a Campsite Canada account so they can connect with the desired campground.

Newnham launched the website six weeks ago and already has over 100 campgrounds listed, 11 RVs for rent and 11 RVs for sale. The site is also generating close to 1,000 page views a day — something Newnham said is good news.

Nineteen of the campgrounds on the site are in Manitoba, 13 in Ontario, 34 in New Brunswick, four in Nova Scotia, 21 in B.C. and six in Saskatchewan. Using Campsite Canada is completely free for consumers and sellers.

Newnham said there's a lot of sites similar to his out there, but he hasn't seen one with campgrounds all across Canada.

"If you're wanting a one-stop shop to look at all the campgrounds throughout Canada, we've sort of collated them," he said.

As the site is for private campgrounds, he said it helps people discover the "undiscovered gems" of the country — for him, that was Camp Arnes.

For more information, visit <https://campsite-canada.com>.

Riley 'Forever our angel'



Maxine Isobel Arrissa Riley

By Evan Matthews

Maxine Isobel Arrissa Riley, 23, of Eriksdale succumbed to life-threatening injuries on June 1 following a single vehicle collision on Highway 6. Riley was airlifted by STARS to the Health Sciences Centre.

RCMP Cpl. Paul Manaire said the car accident was reported on May 30 at 4:10 a.m., four kilometres north of Eriksdale. The investigation has determined that a vehicle being driven by Riley was heading southbound on Highway 6 when it lost control, entered the ditch and rolled.

She is survived by her daughter Aspen; the love of her life Braden Tkach; her father and mother Michael Riley and Cindy Waters; sister Justine Riley; niece Kinnley; nephew Connor; aunts Cheryl Waters, Maureen Waters and Janet Waters; and grandmother Gertrude Waters, along with numerous cousins.

Riley is remembered by her sister Justine as her "Forever Angel."

Lundar RCMP, along with a forensic collision reconstructionist, continue to investigate.

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Dandelions go down in Matlock despite provincial ban on pesticides for cosmetic use

By Patricia Barrett

A woman who observed what appeared to be the clandestine spraying of dandelions on a privately owned, unoccupied lot in a residential area of Matlock a few weeks ago was told by a provincial environmental officer that it was illegal.

Lawns, boulevards and lots are off limits when it comes to applying pesticide to a plant many people consider to be an unsightly weed.

The man, wearing an orange hazmat-like suit and gas mask, had rigged up a lawn tractor with a tankard of chemical and sprayed the large lot at dusk, said the woman, who asked that her name be withheld as the community is small and she doesn't want any hard feelings to arise.

"It was quite a big tankard, equal to about two large blue water tanks," said the woman. "Pesticides are harmful to birds, squirrels, pets and insects like bees and butterflies."

Not knowing what chemical(s) the man was spraying and thinking it may have been illegal, the woman said she called the RM of St. Andrews for information.

That's when her quest for answers turned into a "complicated and lengthy process."

She said she was referred by the RM office to the RM's bylaw officer, who told her the spraying was "breaking the law and you need to call the RCMP." So she did.

The RCMP told her it was a bylaw issue and that she needed to call the RM's bylaw officer back. "So I did that."

The bylaw officer didn't call her back, she said, so she went on the RM's website to track down a councillor. She spoke with a "really good" councillor who she thought was the ward rep for Matlock, but wasn't. Nevertheless, he referred the matter

to the councillor overseeing Matlock (Coun. Laurie Hunt), who sits on the RM's environmental committee.

After that the woman said she got a call from a woman who she thought sat on the RM's environmental committee. The woman called "Kristin" told her she needed to call the provincial department of Conservation and Climate's Selkirk office.

"So I did. And the compliance officer there said I did the right thing reporting this because it is an offence," said the woman. "He told me he was going to visit the person doing the spraying and explain that it's illegal."

The woman said people need to be dogged when trying to track down answers to incidents they feel might not be in the public's best interest.

St. Andrews Coun. Laurie Hunt told the *Express* councillors will refer residents to the Selkirk Weed District when it comes to matters such as weeds and spraying.

"We direct residents to the Weed District and they determine whether it is something that's a hazard," he said. "They'll assess it."

Kristin Pingatore, supervisor of the Selkirk Weed District, told the *Express* the first thing she had to determine was whether she was dealing with a lawn or a field because the province has a non-essential pesticide regulation that governs the use of pesticides on lawns.

"A lawn or a piece of property that's treated like a lawn, other than a golf course or a professional sports field, is subject to these regulations," said Pingatore.

And the enforcement of those regulations has to come from provincial environmental officers rather than the Weed District, she said. Her position focuses on ensuring that people are complying with the Noxious Weed Act.

She generally doesn't have power



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Dandelions, like the ones pictured here, were sprayed on an unoccupied residential lot in Matlock a few weeks ago by a man wearing a hazmat-like suit and gas mask.

over what people do on their private property, she said, except if someone were to plant a forbidden plant that's outlawed by the province.

"If it was something like a giant hogweed, we would take fire and brimstone and all measures necessary to eradicate it," said Pingatore.

She said she understood the Matlock woman's concern about the spraying of strong-smelling chemicals.

"It's scary when you don't know what it is," said Pingatore.

Some sprays that are authorized along public paths are "industrial-strength vinegar products," which smell like "there's a fish and chips truck around," she said. Because the Matlock issue was a "spraying issue" rather than a "weed issue," she referred the woman to an environmental officer.

A spokesperson for Conservation and Climate did not say whether the man who killed the dandelions was fined, but did note "a fine of up to \$50,000 or up to six months imprisonment" can be meted out depending on

the severity of the offence under the law.

That law is currently being reviewed.

"The Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation remains in effect in Manitoba, but is under review," said the spokesperson. "That review is ongoing and no changes are anticipated for this season."

The law limits the sale of certain products and the use of pesticides on areas such as lawns, school yards, childcare centres, playgrounds, pathways, parking areas and areas around hospitals, the spokesperson said. There are, however, exemptions, which apply to invasive or poisonous plants and to golf courses, cricket fields, internationally sanctioned sporting events and to agriculture and forestry.

A list of allowable products, along with other information, is available on the government's website. Visit www.gov.mb.ca/sd/envprograms/initiatives/pesticide_red/index.html.

Missing a book? Evergreen Regional Library's got everyone covered

By Patricia Barrett

The Evergreen Regional Library has teamed up with TD Bank to offer a summer reading club for kids of all ages. The annual bilingual reading program, which starts June 15, focuses on Canadian writers and illustrators.

Kids will be able to access free e-books and comics, and share book recommendations, stories and jokes with kids across the country. The program also entails a Battle-of-the-Books competition, which will allow readers to vote for their favourite story each week, and online readings and workshops by authors and illus-

trators.

Kids can register online with TD's summer reading program.

Evergreen also launched a curbside pick-up service which started June 2. Tuesdays and Thursdays are reserved for people to come to the library and pick-up books they ordered ahead of time.

All three Evergreen libraries — Gimli, Riverton and Arborg — are offering the service on those days between 2 and 6 p.m. so that patrons can continue to access books over the summer.

"All across Manitoba every library is doing something different," said

Gimli library's head librarian Sandra Reykdal. "Some libraries are staying closed, but Evergreen is doing curbside pick-up at all our branches."

The three library buildings must remain closed to the public as the stacks are considered "high-touch" displays, she said.

"Because of public health orders around COVID-19 — we're under the first health order — we need to close off our entire stack area to the public, but we still want to offer services. People are missing their books," said Reykdal.

In addition to patrons that are resi-

dents in the area, Reykdal said the library offers non-residents, who don't live in the Evergreen catchment area, a fee-based membership.

Patrons can place their book orders by phoning their respective library, emailing or using the online catalogue at www.erlibrary.ca Staff will call patrons and make an appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a pick-up time.

Interlibrary loans are not available at this time because of COVID.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Johnson receives Darci Instance Foundation Award

By Brian Bowman

There are many very talented players in the Manitoba Women's Junior Hockey League.

But only one player received the Darci Instance Foundation Award in the amount of \$1,000 — and she lives right here in the Interlake.

Arborg's Jamie Johnson was the deserving winner of the award, which was announced by the league last week.

"I was really excited to get it and it's an honour to receive it," said Johnson, who plays defence with the Prairie Blaze. "It's given to somebody in post-secondary that is planning on going into education."

Some of the requirements for the scholarship is volunteering in the community, said Johnson. She admitted it was a little different getting the award online rather than at a season-ending banquet that was forced to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

Johnson and her Prairie Blaze team had a very good season. The team finished the regular season in second place with a 15-7-2 record and were third in the playoffs.

Their season ended with an overtime loss to the Polar Ice.

"We had a really good team this year," she said. "We had a lot of (solid) players and we really gelled as a team this year. We worked really well together and got along really well."

Individually, Johnson, a self-described "defensive defenceman," had a real good season with two goals and 14 points.

She is currently awaiting the start of the baseball season. Johnson plays for Team Manitoba in women's baseball and also competes with the boys as a member of Grosse Isle's U18 AA team. "I'm excited to get playing," said the 20-year-old. "I've been pretty antsy to get going — because I am a girl I can play until I'm 21."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Arborg's Jamie Johnson was awarded with a \$1,000 Darci Instance Foundation Scholarship last week. The award was presented by the Manitoba Women's Junior Hockey League.

Golf Manitoba championship season begins

From Golf Manitoba's website

The 2020 Golf Manitoba championship season officially opened last Saturday with the Match Play Championship qualifying event. The championship matches will then move to the St. Charles Country Club and will be contested June 12-14 and 20-21.

Most Golf Manitoba events for the month of June and July are currently scheduled to be held and include the following:

Women's City & District Championship – June 27 & 28 at the Portage Golf Club

Junior Bantam Championship – June 27 & 28 at the Portage Golf Club

Diamond Athletic Men's Mid-Amateur & Women's Amateur Championship – July 6-8 at the Bel Acres Golf &

Country Club

Junior Men's & Women's Championship – July 12-14 at the Selkirk Golf & Country Club

Nott Autocorp Men's Amateur Championship – July 16-19 at the Minnewasta Golf & Country Club and the Glendale Golf & Country Club

Senior Men's & Women's Championships – July 27-29 TBA

The Golf Canada NexGen Prairie Championship that was scheduled for June 12-14 at the Quarry Oaks Golf Course and the Provincial Junior Skills Challenge that was to be held on July 5 at the St. Charles Country Club have both been cancelled. The remaining Golf Manitoba events in August are currently under review as are all 2020 Golf Canada competi-

tions.

A few changes have been added to select Golf Manitoba events in 2020, some that were introduced in response to competitor feedback received in the fall of 2019. The event changes include the following:

The winner of the men's amateur Match Play Championship will earn an automatic berth into the 2020 Golf Canada Men's Amateur or Mid-Amateur Championship (should both events be held).

A new "forward tee" division has been added to the Women's City & District Championship and the Men's & Women's Senior Championship.

The final two rounds of the Nott Autocorp Men's Amateur Championship will see a weekend finish concluding

on July 19 at the Glendale Golf & Country Club.

The Rural Provincial Championship has been suspended for the 2020 season.

All events will be played under new protocols and conditions of competitions developed in co-ordination with Golf Canada that take into consideration competition under the current state of public health. In addition to following golf protocols as mandated by the provincial government, modifications to the rules have been made to allow for competition. Additionally, all participants will be required to read and agree to the Golf Manitoba event waiver during the registration process.

Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League announces changes to league executive

Staff

The Manitoba AAA U18 Hockey League executive has a new member.

Glen Parker of Brandon has been appointed to the position of vice president (sponsorships and awards) as of last Thursday.

Parker brings a wealth of experience

to the AAA U18 Hockey League. He was the president of Hockey Brandon for 17 years, a board member with Hockey Brandon for 24 years, a lead instructor with The First Shift for seven sessions, and a former Intermediate level certified coach for 15 years.

Beyond hockey, Parker was elected

to Brandon's city council in May of 2016 and October 2018.

Meanwhile, the league has also appointed a new commissioner — former vice-president Levi Taylor.

Taylor takes on the role of commissioner after five seasons as vice-president.

League contact information has been updated and is as follows:

Manitoba AAA U18 Hockey League
Levi Taylor, 64 Dublin Dr., Morden, R6M 0C8. Telephone: 204-292-8335. Email: u18commissioner@gmail.com.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Canada West scraps first-term sports

Staff

Canada West announced Monday that no conference competition (regular season, playoff, or championships) will occur in football, men's and women's soccer, women's rugby 15s, and women's field hockey during the first term of the 2020-21 season.

All of the decisions were ratified unanimously through a vote of Canada West's 17 member universities last Friday.

Additional decisions on whether first-term conference championships scheduled for men's and women's golf, men's and women's cross country, and men's and women's swimming will be made by July 15.

The decision to cancel first-term competition in team sports also impacts men's and women's hockey, men's and women's volleyball, along with men's and women's basketball.

Conference play in these sports will commence no sooner than January,

2021 with a decision being made by Oct. 8.

Whether second-term competitions (men's and women's wrestling, men's and women's track and field, and women's rugby 7s) are staged will also be made by the same Oct. 8 deadline.

"Bison Sports supports the decision announced by Canada West. Our priority as we collectively move through this pandemic continues to be the health and safety of all involved in competition and the delivery of our programs," said Gene Muller, director of athletics and recreation at the U of M. "However, with this decision comes deep disappointment to our Bisons student-athletes, coaches and support teams. I am always encouraged by the resilience and character of our student-athletes and together we will emerge from this stronger than before. We will continue to work closely with Canada West, U of M and government health authorities to plan

a future return to play."

Canada West's announcement came the same day as both Atlantic University Sport and Ontario University Athletics announced their own first-term cancellations, which were made independently by each conference's board of directors.

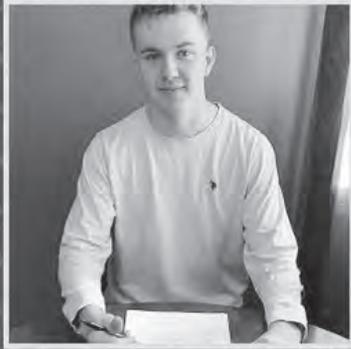
Nationally, U SPORTS also announced the cancellation of all first-

term national championships, as decided by the U SPORTS board of directors.

The national governing body also made an announcement pertaining to athletic financial aid and eligibility, ensuring student-athletes will not be negatively impacted by the cancellation of their respective seasons.

Jones headed to the Blues

COMMITTED



CAM JONES
INTERLAKE LIGHTNING | MMHL

POSITION:	FORWARD
HEIGHT:	6'3
WEIGHT:	195LBS
SHOOTS:	RIGHT
DOB:	04/04/03

19-20 STATS:
46GP | 3G | 9A | 12TP

EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Interlake Lightning forward Cam Jones has committed to the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Winnipeg Blues for this upcoming season. Jones scored three goals and had 12 points this past season.

Soccer to return next week

Staff

Soccer will be returning later this month from the coronavirus shutdown that occurred back in March.

The Manitoba Soccer Association announced last Wednesday it will be launching Phase 1 of "Return to participate in sanctioned soccer" on June 17.

The initial phase will range from 12 players on a quarter of a field to a

maximum 50 players on a full pitch.

There will be COVID-19 protocols of screening and signing waivers and a list of soccer-specific protocols to follow.

Phase 2 of the return to play plan will include games with limited contact while Phase 3 will be a full resumption of competition.

No dates have been decided for those next two stages.

Hockey Canada lifts ban on sanctioned activities

Staff

Hockey Canada lifted its ban on sanctioned activities last Thursday and is allowing its 13 member organizations to individually determine when it's safe to return to the ice.

Hockey Canada cancelled all activities on March 12 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The best approach for a resumption plan was for each member to work with regional public health authorities to determine the appropriate steps to return in areas that fall under their jurisdiction," read a statement.

The sport's national body expects

a return to the ice will differ among its members. Certain regions of the country are further along with plans to reopen and roll back restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Hockey Canada's 13 members include Hockey Manitoba, BC Hockey, Hockey Alberta, Saskatchewan Hockey Association, Hockey Northwestern Ontario, Ontario Hockey Federation, Hockey Eastern Ontario, Hockey Quebec, Hockey New Brunswick, Hockey PEI, Hockey Nova Scotia, Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador, and Hockey North.

Baseball Manitoba 2020 provincial championships cancelled

Staff

Baseball Manitoba recently made the decision to cancel all provincial championships in 2020.

This decision was made after consultation with championship host chairpersons, following a vote from the Baseball Manitoba competition

committee and final ratification by the management committee on May 31.

"The decision was made with the safety and development of our members as the top priority," read a statement on Baseball Manitoba's website. "Provincial championships create environments with large gatherings

with people from across the province. Also, by cancelling provincial championships, we believe that there is more opportunity for a longer season for more players, as they compete late into summer within their regions."

Baseball Manitoba is hopeful to host provincial championships in 2021.

"Baseball Manitoba would like to thank our 2020 championship host groups for all the work they have done this year. We will be working with each host, as we plan our 2021 provincial championships."

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All resume with references can be sent to:
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Box 555, Arborg, MB, R0C 0A0
Email: tom.abprc@mymts.net

The Express Weekly News Classified
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Application deadline June 22, 2020
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Riverton Coop

39 Reggie Leach Drive
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- Riverton Coop, Box 160, Riverton, MB R0C 2R0 or
- Drop off at the Riverton Co-op - attn Darlene Yaremus or
- Email: Darlene (bcdyarem@mymts.net) or Kris Collins (groceryrivertoncoop@mymts.net)

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of DONALD ALLAN REIMER, late of the Postal District of Faulkner, Manitoba, Deceased.

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at his office at P.O. Box 200, Ashern, Manitoba, ROC 0E0, on or before the 17th day of July, 2020.

DATED at Ashern, Manitoba, this 3rd day of June, 2020.

PAUL D. GEISLER J.D. DUNCAN E. GEISLER LAW OFFICE Solicitor for the Executor

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of SHIRLEY FRANCESCA REIMER, also known as SHIRLEY FRANCISCA REIMER, late of the Postal District of Faulkner, Manitoba, Deceased.

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at his office at P.O. Box 200, Ashern, Manitoba, ROC 0E0, on or before the 17th day of July, 2020.

DATED at Ashern, Manitoba, this 3rd day of June, 2020.

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Proposal forms may be obtained at the Rural Municipality of Fisher Office, Monday, June 15, 2020 at 12:00 p.m., 30 Tache Street, Fisher Branch, Manitoba.

Envelope must be marked **"Gravel Proposal"**.

Proposals must be received by **4:00 p.m. Monday, June 29, 2020** at which time they will be considered by Council at a Regular Meeting.

The RM of Fisher reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and to award the proposal in the best interest of the RM of Fisher in its sole discretion.

Kelly Marykuca, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Fisher
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Payment and pickup day is June 29, 9 am to 5 pm. We did have a seeding equipment auction for Hink farm this spring.

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OBITUARY

Shirley Pinder (nee Lajimodiere)
1949 - 2020



Shirley Doreen Pinder, born January 29, 1949 passed away at age 71 years, peacefully with her daughter Wendy by her side on May 18th, 2020 at Betel Home in Gimli, MB.

Shirley was a kind and gentle soul, who loved her family "more than words can say." Shirley grew up in Alberta with her siblings, later moving to Chilliwack, BC where she spent the 60's and 70's raising her children, Michael and Wendy.

In 1977 she met Fred. They married in August 1979 and moved shortly after to Fred's birth province, to farm in Eriksdale, MB. Shirley and Fred later became foster parents after her children were grown. Shirley was a dedicated foster mother, sharing her love and teachings with many children. Besides treasuring time spent with her children and family; Shirley enjoyed sewing,

following The Royal Family and Elvis history.

Shirley's love of people and passion for food/cooking was a perfect fit for her career choice - the food service/hospitality industry. Throughout her life she's cooked numerous meals for family, friends and strangers. She owned and operated Shirley's Restaurant in Ashern in the '80's and later in life when her and Fred moved to the Bloodvein/Pine Dock area, Shirley owned a restaurant and catering business, until her retirement.

Shirley is survived by her husband of 40 years, Fred Pinder of Gimli, MB; her son, Michael (Leanne) Pinder of Winnipeg, MB; her daughter, Wendy (Jock) Parrill of Fort Saskatchewan, AB; her five grandchildren: Alanna Partin, Mandy, Cory and Robby Parrill and Hope Smordin; her six great-grandchildren: Mackenzie, Hudson, Liam, Jaxon, Charles (CAP) and Mia; and her siblings Sonny, George, Frank and Wanda Lajimodiere.

Shirley was blessed with two step-daughters Christine Pinder and Lisa Pinder both of AB; four step-grandchildren: Amanda Simpson, Chelta Kroeker, Jackie and Kristine Parker and six step-great-grandchildren.

Shirley was predeceased by her parents, William and Elizabeth Lajimodiere; brother Victor Lajimodiere and sisters: Marjorie Grant, Joan Coombes, and Barbara and Kathleen Lajimodiere.

The family would like to thank staff at Betel Home and Johnson Memorial Hospital in Gimli for the care Shirley received while staying there. A special thank you to those select staff who chose to make a difference in Shirley's daily life by partaking in conversations about family and current events. Her children would like to extend an extra special thank you to special friend Charlene Kaartinen for all her support.

Cremation has taken place and due to Covid-19 restrictions a memorial and interment will be at a later date.

The professionalism and caring ways of Gilbert Funeral Home were greatly appreciated and will fondly be remembered.

Condolences may be left on her tribute wall at www.gilbertfuneralhome.com

Gilbert Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



Rural Municipality of
FISHER

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Tel: 204-372-6393, Fax: 204-372-8470

GRAVEL CHECKER

The Rural Municipality of Fisher invites applications for the position of Part-Time Gravel Checker for the 2020 Graveling Program.

Applications will be received by the undersigned until 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 26, 2020.

Applicants must be 18 years or age and hold a valid driver's license. Previous experience in related duties preferred.

Salary is set out in the CUPE Local 4348 Collective Agreement. Mileage for private vehicle, when necessary, is \$0.43 per kilometre.

For further information regarding this position, please contact the Municipal Office at (204) 372-6393.

Kelly Marykuca
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Fisher
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Call or text Jeff at 204-292-0483.

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**DUECK DAVID AND COLLEEN
RETIREMENT FARM AUCTION
TIMED ONLINE WED, JUNE 24.
CLOSING BEGINS AT 12 NOON ,
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FOR INSPECTION. TWO MILE
WEST OF LOWE FARM ON 23
ONE NORTH, ½ WEST.**



This farm auction was in our spring auction catalog & now rescheduled due to C-19. Versatile 9682, Ford Genesis 8770, Massey Ferguson 2400 compact with loader only 196 hrs. John Deere 9600 Combine, MF 9220 swather, 30 ft new Cummins engine, 2004 Freightliner Classic, tandem grain truck, Bourgault air seeder, harrows etc. **See our www.billklassen.com** to check out the specs on this real clean farm equipment auction & register to bid online only, question on equipment call owners **204-746-8754 Bill Klassen auctioneers 204-325-4433 cell 204-325-6230**

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**Classified booking deadline is Monday at 4 p.m. prior to Thursday's publication.
Please Call 204-467-5836**

Classifieds Announcements

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836

BIRTHDAY



Lovie Cherniak
Lots of love and best wishes for a very
Happy 90th Birthday Mom.
-Love Alan and your family

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sandy Hook Golf Course intends to spray the following pesticides from the period of June 1, 2020 to Nov. 1, 2020:

Daconil 2787, Daconil Ultrex, Banner Maxx, Par 111, Mecoprop, Banvel VM, Spreader Sticker, Tourney, Pyrate, Roundup, Civitas and Instrata.

Direct enquiries to:

Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Climate
1007 Century St.
Winnipeg, Mb. R3H 0W4

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Don't forget to send your special wishes to your friends and family.

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Summer Employment Opportunity

Maintenance Assistants in various facilities for various locations within the IERHA:

Locations: Arborg, Ashern, Eriksdale, Fisher Branch, Lundar, Teulon, Selkirk & Stonewall
Competition number: IERHA 775/20

Please refer to complete job posting in Careers at www.ierha.ca
Please apply on-line at www.ierha.ca or fax (204) 785-4736, stating competition number and location.
Deadline for submissions is Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

 **Interlake-Eastern**
Regional Health Authority



Town of Arborg INVITATION TO TENDER Sidewalk Construction

The Town of Arborg is accepting tenders for **Sidewalk Construction**.
A detailed tender package is available for pick up at the Town Office, 337 River Road in Arborg, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.
Deadline for tender submission is **4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 22nd, 2020**.
The municipality reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and to award the project in the best interest of the municipality in its sole discretion.

Cindy Stansell, CMMA, CMML, Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Arborg, 337 River Road, Box 159, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
Ph: 204-376-2647; caorborg@mymts.net



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Dealers may sell for less. Pricing on all chain saws and blowers will remain in effect until June 30, 2020. Pricing on all other power tools and accessories will remain in effect until July 31, 2020. Illustrations and descriptions are as accurate as known at the time of publication and are subject to change without notice. STIHL Limited is not responsible for a printing error, the local STIHL Dealer has the final authority to set product pricing. Pricing valid at participating dealers only.
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