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# THE EXPRESS

VOLUME 7 EDITION 4 THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020

WEEKLY NEWS

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## Celebrating Malanka

The lively Hopak, performed by senior girls and pre-senior girls and boys, rounded out the performances at this year's Barvinok Malanka this past Saturday.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

> everything you need to know in your locally owned and operated community newspaper

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# Wellness Festival coming to Gimli on Feb. 1 and 2

By Evan Matthews

A Riverton woman is planning to bring some holistic wellness to Gimli, as she hopes to connect communities through the event.

The event happens over Feb. 1 and 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both days, according to Holly Olafson, the event's organizer and owner of Envisioned Events by Holly.

"We're looking at and talking about overall human wellness," said Olafson, noting there are many components that make up one's wellness.

"We're touching on how people can have successful careers, a healthy social life, spirituality, positive physical health, financial health, intellectual and mental health, positive creative outlets, and being environmentally conscious."

Workshops will range from yoga, Zumba, gel moments, Chalk Couture, reflexology, massage, chiropractor, reiki, card readers, mediums, Voxx representatives, women's holistic retreats, Acupuncture Aurora Recovery, essential oils, and more, she said.

Olafson said there are already over 50 vendors participating.

"I did a lot of my own research on what goes into holistic wellness, and I began reaching out to local companies and vendors," said Olafson, who plans a variety of different events all over the Interlake.

"It's nice to have Gimli as a bit of a central hub, so everybody from our various communities can come. People want to come out and enjoy our local caterers and vendors," she said.

Olafson said she had hosted a wellness festival at South Beach Casino last February, and the interest was overwhelming.

With the success she had, Olafson decided to focus in on her own community.

"People have businesses right here, and I want to pull people in and show them what the Interlake has to offer," said Olafson.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY EVAN MATTHEWS

Holly Olafson, a Riverton resident, stands behind the bar at her daughter's restaurant, Kahleigh's Brew Barn. Olafson said "wellness" is a popular topic right now, and her festival in Gimli aims to bring Interlake communities together.

"So many things, it's like, 'Hey, you don't have to drive in to Winnipeg for that. We have it right here.' I want to focus on our communities, and wellness is really popular right now."

At every event Olafson hosts, she said she brings in a non-profit organization to do fundraising, as well. At Gimli's Wellness Festival, St. Amant will have a presence in order to raise funds.

The fundraising is an aspect Olafson said she is

very proud of, as Riverton tends to be a generous community.

"St. Amant isn't just a Winnipeg thing," said Olafson. "They're all over. Fundraising always helps."

With any questions or interest relating to the Wellness Festival, contact Olafson at holly200@lakenet.ca or on her Facebook page called Envisioned Events by Holly.

# RCMP arrest male for arson following house fire



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Fisher Branch RCMP have charged Danton Flett with Arson-Disregard for Human Life and Arson - Damage to Property following a house fire on Peguis First Nation on Jan. 24.

Submitted by RCMP

On Jan. 24, at approximately 11:10 p.m., Fisher Branch RCMP received a report of a house fire on West Road, on Peguis First Nation. While officers were en route, they were advised that a suspicious male was walking on Highway 224, and appeared to be burning items and throwing them on the road. Officers were advised that this male was in close proximity to the house fire.

RCMP officers, the Peguis Fire Department and EMS personnel all responded to the fire. Four people who were in the residence at the time of the fire were able to get out. Two were treated on scene by paramedics, and two were taken to hospital.

Additional RCMP officers headed to Highway 224 and located the suspicious male, who was being checked by firefighters from Peguis Fire Department. Further investigation led to the arrest of the male.

Danton Flett, 22, of Peguis First Nation was charged with Arson- Disregard for Human Life and Arson- Damage to Property. He was remanded into custody.

The two victims that were in hospital have been released. The house continued to burn and is a complete loss.

RCMP along with the Office of the Fire Commissioner, continue to investigate.

# Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Club celebrated Malanka

By Patricia Barrett

The Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Club held their 37th annual Malanka New Year's dinner and dance on Saturday at the Fraserwood Hall.

This year's event included plenty of dancing, story-telling and eating together in one of the last big celebrations ahead of Lent.

Ukrainian dancing is known for its precision, grace, youthful exuberance and fearsome sword dance, showcasing folk dances from different regions of Ukraine.

Dancers of all ages performed one dance after another before enjoying a Ukrainian buffet and dance with family and friends.



Pre-senior girls Buko.



The pre-beginner girls, performing the Hutzul, delighted the audience.



The Pryvit or Welcome Dance featured the senior girls and the pre-senior girls and boys.



Junior girls perform a dance from the central region of Ukraine.



High-energy beginner girls performing the Volyn.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Who stole the kishka? The beginner and mixed dancers performed a hilarious character dance.



The beginner and mixed dancers performed a hilarious character dance.



High-energy beginner girls performing the Volyn.



The Pryvit.



The Pryvit featured the senior girls, the pre-senior girls and boys and guest dancers Maggie Michaluk and Kennedy Kowalski.

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## Fish now, work later

Welcome, buddies. Thanks for stopping by.

Our fellow anglers gave us some funny fishing stories last week. I think they'll give you a chuckle. One of the guys, Tim Campbell, originally from the Stonewall area, was a tall man with thick, curly, bushy, salt and pepper hair squeezed under a cap that showed the words "FISH NOW WORK LATER."

I soon found out the humour of his cap's slogan didn't come close to his natural-born sense of humour. His rugged commanding look, emphasized by a greying full moustache, was in absolute contrast to his bursts of gravelly guffaws that punctuated the end of his many hilarious fishing stories. One time not long ago, he revealed, he and his lifelong buddy Garry Ostrowski were ice fishing on the Red by Selkirk. Now, it needs to be noted at this point that they teased and played tricks on each other constantly, without mercy.

As usual, Tim caught the first fish which obviously required him to immediately point out to Garry that he couldn't catch a fish if it jumped out of the ice hole onto his lap! This barb was supported by the fact that Garry was so unsuccessful at fishing over the years that instead of saying he got "skunked" when he came home empty-handed, Tim started calling those days "getting Garryed!"

This time Garry smirked but said

nothing. He was already hatching a plan of revenge. Tim unzipped the tent door and tossed his fish onto the snow. The men then settled back, their lines in the water, and continued fishing. Garry bid his time and as soon as it felt right, he arose, telling Tim he had to answer the call of nature. What Tim didn't see was Garry slipping his filleting knife into his parka pocket as he left the tent. Tim, sitting over his ice hole and jigging his line, could hear Garry shuffling around outside but thought nothing of it. Garry soon returned and dropped into his chair, resuming jigging.

Soon, it was Tim's turn to commune with nature. As he ducked out of the low tent door, the first thing that caught his eye was his jackfish lying in the snow looking peculiar. He remembered when he had thrown it onto the snow it was clean but now it had blood on its side. Perplexed, he walked over to it, bent down, picked it up and was shocked to see one half of the side of the fish that was hidden in the snow had been cut away. Instantly, he knew Garry had cut the fish in half long ways when he was outside! Tim started laughing as Garry stuck his head out of the tent door, beaming with pride at having pulled another joke on his friend.

"That's OK," Tim kidded Garry back saying, "The only way you'll ever take fish home is to steal some of mine!"

Tim wasn't done with the funny sto-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL

The four very lucky "limited out" anglers on Lake Winnipeg. From left to right: Nathan Szymesko, Paul DuBois, Christian Caicas and Ryan Leslie.

ries and passed this one along. Some time ago, a friend of Tim told of an occurrence at the boat launching pad at Betula Lake east of Lake Winnipeg. Because this story involves, with respect, a conservation officer, let's call Tim's friend "Bert." It seems Bert had just bought a new boat. Elated with his new buy and anxious to try it out, he towed his new trailer-boat rig out to the launching pad at Betula and began backing it into the water as a conservation officer waved him to stop. Bert got out of his truck and stood before the officer who had his back to his Conservation boat.

"How come you don't have your ID numbers on the front of your boat?" the officer asked.

"I'm sorry officer. I just bought the thing and haven't had time to put them on," Bert countered.

"Well, you must know them. What are they?" the officer inquired.

Bert, without hesitation, rattled them off. The officer stood quietly for

a moment then with a sly grin said, "Well, you certainly have good eyesight. You just gave me the Conservation boat's numbers behind me. Good try, though!"

Four young lads were ecstatic over their good luck when I met them on the south end of Lake Winnipeg last weekend. They had come in from Winnipeg at daybreak, set up their tent in the dark and started catching pickerel. By mid-afternoon when I met them, they were at their limit and packing up. While we were standing around talking, we were shocked to see Nathan Szymesko's rod and holder, not yet packed, get pulled down his hole saved only by getting jammed in the ice hole wall. Nathan, laughing, knelt down and pulled his rod out of the water along with another arm's-length pickerel. He stood there for a moment and then tossed the fish back down the ice hole saying, "Take off. We've caught enough today!"

Till next week, friends. Bye for now.

## Province launches new social impact bond to help Manitobans quit smoking

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Manitoba government is launching what is believed to be the world's first social impact bond dedicated to helping people quit smoking announced by Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen on Jan. 8.

"We know that approximately 160,000 Manitobans currently smoke, causing adverse health effects for themselves and those around them," said Friesen. "This new social impact bond will help more Manitobans quit smoking and live healthier lives, creating savings for the health system that can be re-invested towards further improvements to care."

A social impact bond is an innova-

tive social policy tool that brings together government, the private sector, not-for-profits and other stakeholders to deliver effective and prevention-focused solutions. Private investment is used to fund the programs initially, and then is repaid if social outcomes and cost savings are realized. These types of programs allow the government to explore more innovative solutions without financial risk, with the ultimate goal of delivering better outcomes for Manitobans.

In this case, the Manitoba government will partner with Shoppers Drug Mart and Pharmacists Manitoba on a smoking cessation social impact bond, beginning in April. Under this model, Shoppers Drug Mart will in-

vest \$2 million over the next five years to fund activities around smoking cessation including counselling and nicotine replacement therapies. Research shows these forms of treatment can increase the chances of long-term smoking cessation by up to 40 per cent, which in turn reduces hospital, medication and physician costs.

The goal of the bond is to enrol up to 4,500 smokers over a three-year period based on their readiness to quit and to ensure a minimum of 12 per cent quit smoking with the support of one of more than 500 Manitoba pharmacists trained in smoking cessation. Increasing the number of Manitobans who successfully quit smoking could save the province more than \$1 mil-

lion annually in lower health-care costs, Friesen said.

Success metrics will focus on the number of people who participate in an initial assessment with a trained pharmacist, the number of people who have quit smoking for at least 12 months and the number of people who continue to abstain from nicotine after 24 months. If outcomes are met or exceeded, the company will receive up to \$2.12 million.

"The health risks associated with smoking are among the costliest and the most preventable. Shoppers Drug Mart pharmacists are trained to support patients through their journey,

Continued on page 5

# letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:  
letters@expressweeklynews.ca

## Setting the record straight for Lake Winnipeg phosphorus

Dear Mr. Duguid ( MP for Winnipeg South)

On Jan. 14, you were heard, on the radio saying that five per cent of the phosphorus comes from the Winnipeg North End Treatment Plant, but that the other 95 per cent comes from south of us from the U.S. Really? For a person who has a master's degree in environmental science, that kind of statement is extremely revolting.

This, to me, was an immoral and shameful act on your part, and especially when you have been entrusted with the recovery of Lake Winnipeg by the Government of Canada. I believe you realize that Manitoba hogs do contribute a huge source of phosphorus to Lake Winnipeg and Manitoba's water sources. Your comment that 95 per cent comes from the south of us from the U.S. is completely wrong and without justifiable evidence.

Old studies provide evidence. Huge source of phosphorus revealed in Red River area of Manitoba.

It's a sad state of affairs when the studies of science are set aside because the facts are not in the governments liking, and water pollution concerns are abandoned.

The deceitful action of ignoring the grave situation of Lake Winnipeg, by the Pallister government deserves recognition.

For when in opposition, "all party members of the Manitoba Legislation" voted in favour of Bill 46, which became enacted as The Save Lake Winnipeg Act (2011). This placed certain restrictions to producers wanting to build hog barns.

Now, however, our Manitoba government has opened the flood gates to unrestricted hog barn building, in all areas of Manitoba.

This will allow the pork industry to literally proceed, at will, with an increased forecast production of more than 450 thousand hogs. According to former Ag Minister Ralph Eichler, as he wanted 1,500 more hogs to be processed per day ... to meet demands.

It seems, no one knows — or wants to know — how much Manitoba hogs contribute to the phosphorus overloads into Lake Winnipeg, although

many already have a pretty good idea. And the only individuals who don't seem to want to know are Manitoba Pork and the Manitoba government (Environment - Hog Industry Clash, *Winnipeg Free Press*, 24 Oct. 2017)

With that in mind, I reviewed some of the previous studies that had been carried out on Lake Winnipeg during the past years, namely by Environment Canada, Manitoba Water Stewardship and Manitoba Conservation.

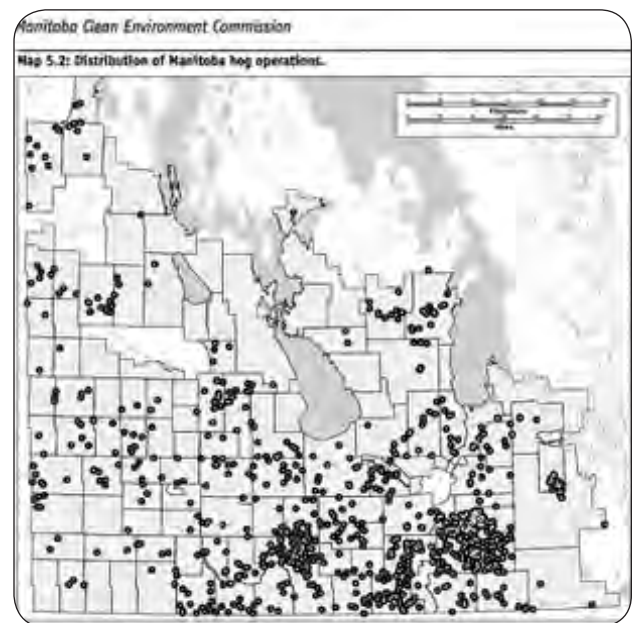
Although these studies are not recent, the findings that I arrived at reveal a situation that should not be ignored or taken lightly, for it discloses that Manitoba's Red River system, although six times smaller in area and length than the U.S. portion of its Red River, contributes nearly six times more phosphorus per linear kilometre than the southern portion of the Red River area in the United States.

The phosphorus load from the Red River entering Manitoba calculated and averaged over a 14 year period (1994-2007) was 2,798 tonnes per year. The combined phosphorus load of the entire Red River system taken at the Forks at Winnipeg was calculated and averaged at 5,380 tonnes per year. (U.S. phosphorus portions vary from one study to another, from a high of 60 per cent to a low of 43 per cent, averaging at 52 per cent).

It is discouraging that our government has chosen to put aside such studies. They cancelled the previous hog barn moratorium. Then disregarded the 2007 Clean Environment Commission report that cost taxpayers \$730,000. Those recommendations were previously acted upon and initially placed the moratorium on the hog industry within the Red River basin area. The studies reveal that this particular area accounts for 48 per cent of the Red River phosphorus pollution to Lake Winnipeg.

Often referred to as hog alley, it is the core of hog production. It's little wonder that the contribution of phosphorus would be extremely high. The Clean Environment Commission map of 2007 displays the distribution and density of the factory hog barns. It was readily identified as a "hot spot" area.

As a former director of Manitoba HogWatch and one of the many advocates attempting to preserve our Manitoba water sources and restore Lake Winnipeg to a state of health and recovery, I submit



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Clean Environment Commission map of 2007 displays the distribution and density of the factory hog barns in Manitoba.

that our government must re-evaluate their economic priorities of industry agriculture and initiate whatever needed action is necessary to resolve the phosphorus situation that has been pointed out in the scientific facts that have been provided. The consequences are everlasting. There is no place for complacency when water needs protection.

Lake Winnipeg cannot be replaced!

Rather than continually making references to the vast watershed that ultimately feeds and contributes pollution to Lake Winnipeg, the province of Manitoba must set and show the example of doing "their part" to substantially reduce and eliminate phosphorus within our borders at the home front, which, by itself, has been scientifically calculated at 35 per cent for agriculture.

- John Fefchak

## > QUIT SMOKING, FROM PG. 4

providing counsel and different approaches based on individual needs," said Jeff Leger, president of Shoppers Drug Mart. "We are confident in this new collaborative program and our ability to work with patients, the Manitoba government and Pharmacists Manitoba to help make our province healthier."

Anyone over the age of 18 is eligible for assistance and can approach participating pharmacies for an initial assessment. The program will initially focus on health regions where smoking rates are highest — Northern (33 per cent), Interlake-Eastern (23 per cent) and Prairie Mountain (22 per cent).

The provincewide smoking rate is 14.5 per cent, slightly below the Canadian average of 15.1 per cent.

"Pharmacists work tirelessly every single day to make a difference in patients' lives and this is another opportunity to demonstrate the positive contribution our members make to improved health care for Manitoba families," said

Pawandeep Sidhu, board president of Pharmacists Manitoba. "A social impact bond dedicated to helping people quit smoking will positively impact countless Manitobans and we look forward to partnering with the government to implement the new program."

A 2015 report commissioned by Manitoba Health determined direct smoking-related illnesses cost the province's health-care system approximately \$244 million per year.

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## Clarifying 'Beware of bombing' narrative

By Evan Matthews

In the Jan. 16 edition, the editorial titled "Beware of bombing narrative" appeared, in which I provided an opinion on the U.S.A.'s assassination of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani.

Since the editorial ran, we've received a number of emails from the public relating to the topic, many of which have misinterpreted the editorial's purpose.

I'd like to take the time to clarify on what I perceive to be a very important topic.

Firstly, many have miscategorized the editorial as an article. We've explained the difference before, but once more: an editorial is an opinion piece offering brief commentary, whereas an article is an unbiased, factually based story.

The original editorial offered up the opinion that we, as people living in the Western world, are given similar narratives when people from the Middle East — often labelled as "terrorists" — are killed in military operations.

That storyline often reads, "in a heroic effort, the U.S. has killed one of its most notorious enemies, thus the world is a safer place."

The editorial mentioned that Soleimani was known throughout the Middle Eastern military community as an opportunist, even an "expert" of clandestine warfare.

My point was: the narrative that Western world citizens are fed —

through the propaganda machine — is likely a different narrative than the understanding people have in the Middle East.

The editorial explained that the Iranian general's death, not unlike the war itself, is a complicated, complex and nuanced situation.

Despite only being afforded 400 to 600 words per week in an editorial, the editorial even provided examples of how the situation could be — and is — nuanced (Soleimani's role in the Syrian Civil War or his role in fighting Israeli forces while executing operations in Afghanistan at the same time).

The point of the editorial was to have people question their understanding, dig a little deeper and question the narrative we're fed from mainstream North American media sources, and acknowledge nuance before picking extreme sides to a complicated issue.

The editorial was not intended to advocate for Soleimani to say he was a good person; it wasn't even to say he shouldn't have been targeted. The editorial was not intended to discount the efforts of North American military veterans, either.

The editorial was intended to have people question the mainstream narrative. Case and point: again, a couple of these emails cited the fact the Soleimani was directly responsible for the loss of roughly 600 North American lives and countless other lives of

his own people. Nobody discounted this fact, for the record.

But what these emails failed to question was how many Afghani, Iranian and Iraqi lives have been lost and directly attributed to North American military occupation, in a region the Americans have no legitimate business being in?

The "war on terror" spans over two decades, and the editorial encouraged people to ponder that fact, too.

Nobody said terrorism is a good thing or that terrorists are good people, but firing drone strikes in countries the Western world has not been invited into is a form of terrorism in its own right.

Yet, for some reason, because it's not happening on North American soil, it's seemingly OK to some people.

Some labelled the downed plane as a "mistake," while others said it was direct retaliation. Don't get hung up on the semantics because that plane was brought down due to heightened international tensions and a response to the drone strike. Those facts are not in question.

Media reported 63 Canadian citizens dead after the plane was brought down.

If you are of the opinion that drone strikes and killing military generals without warning are positive international relations, speak to some of the Canadian families who lost loved ones in the days following.

## New councillor in Grahamdale

By Evan Matthews

The RM of Grahamdale has a new councillor in Ward 4 following a byelection on Jan. 7.

Greg Jabusch won Ward 4 by garner-

ing 65 votes, with Tom Johnson coming in second with 49 votes, Larry McDonnell coming in third with 26 votes, and Janice Lowry finishing fourth with 21 votes.

Jabusch was sworn in at the Jan. 9 regular meeting of council.

Ward 4 encompasses Steep Rock, Faulkner and the surrounding rural areas.

The byelection was needed after Coun. Maretta Philippon passed away in September 2019.

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# Get your skates, skis and sleds in motion: Arborg river trail open

By Patricia Barrett

Arborg residents have a new outdoor skating rink on the Icelandic River thanks to volunteers who stepped up to build and groom it.

Arborg's Deputy Mayor Ron Johnston said the trail is 3.8 kilometres long and extends from the foot of the Main Street bridge to west of town.

"There's over 14 inches of ice now and it's very safe," said Johnston. "And there's a cross-country ski trail beside it, which is maintained by community members."

Individuals and local businesses supplied pucks and nets for outdoor hockey games, a warm-up/changing hut, lights fixed to a boom for evening skates, and even a chair to help beginner skaters find their balance.

With very few fissures and aquatic plants frozen just under the surface, the natural rink is a delight.

"The nice thing about the Icelandic River is that it'll freeze more readily than a deeper, faster flowing river,"

said Arborg Hotel owner Owen Eyolfson.

In addition to cross-country skiing, Eyolfson said skijoring, in which a person on skis is pulled (usually) by a dog or dog team, may be one of the winter sports people can take part in as the area is well-suited to it.

Arborg Mayor Peter Dueck acknowledged the effort of community members who built and donated materials. Volunteers will also be maintaining the rink and trail throughout the winter.

"This is a real celebration of volunteerism," said Dueck. "People have supplied the electricity for the lights and the boom to put up the lights, as well as snowblowers, sweepers and the warm-up shack."

Dueck said he was out in his yard on the weekend and could hear screaming and cheering from a group of kids skating by, obviously enjoying the natural playground.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT AND RON JOHNSTON  
The trail snakes away to the west of town.

## Gimli Key Club students treat Kiwanis Club members

Submitted by Pamela Larner

The Kiwanis Club of Gimli & District Inc. was treated to a gastronomic delight prepared by Gimli High School Key Club students prior to their meeting on Jan. 22.

The Foods and Nutrition room had been transformed into a Mexican venue, which included music and cultural artifacts, plus great ethnic food and drinks. Even a bit of Spanish was to be heard during the course of the evening.

The purpose of the Key Club is to

provide high school students with opportunities for leadership development, decision-making and community activities. This event was a thank-you from the students to the Kiwanis club for their service to the community.

Home Economics teacher/Key Club advisor Jasmine Schumack and Francis Petrowski, Man Friday and Key Club co-advisor, assisted in preparing the feast.

The Kiwanis of Gimli was most appreciative of the kind gesture.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY CINDY ANDERSON

Gimli High School Key Club members hosted the Kiwanis Club of Gimli & District members for dinner and entertainment on Jan. 22.



Warm-up, change hut and boom lighting.



Adara goes skating for the first time with her mom Yvonne and dad Earl.

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# You'll want to move to Arborg: new rental housing makes its debut

By Patricia Barrett

You'll want to move to Arborg after you set eyes on one of the units in a newly constructed housing complex built by Evergreen Properties.

The property developers held a grand opening ceremony and open house last Saturday that saw scores of people, including Central Interlake Chamber of Commerce members and Arborg town council members, drop by to check it out.

"This is really needed in Arborg and long overdue," said Arborg's Deputy Mayor Ron Johnston before he cut the ribbon to launch the new rental suites.

Arborg has few vacancies. The new development will help accommodate the area's industrial expansion that's expected to come after the completion of the paving and reconstruction of PR 326 by the provincial government. It will also help attract professionals and serve the needs of staff for the proposed new personal care home, which the province has yet to approve.

Located on Third Avenue between Main Street and William Street on the west side of town, over half of the 1,100-square-foot bungalow-style dwellings have already been rented, said Arborg Mayor Peter Dueck.

"I think what sets these apartments apart is that each unit has in-suite laundry, stainless steel kitchen appliances and the backyard is going to be fenced with a deck and grass," said Dueck.

The two-bedroom, one-bath units have a fresh, modern appeal. Those who love to cook will appreciate the spacious kitchen, the double-basin sink, dishwasher, microwave and walk-in lighted pantry. The units come with blinds, air conditioning and an attached heated garage.

The property developers are in the process of completing stucco work on the outside of some of the dwellings and will be building the decks.

The rent is \$1,200 a month, excluding utilities. For more information about the suites, call 204-364-2442, ext. 1020.

**"THIS IS REALLY NEEDED IN ARBORG AND LONG OVERDUE."**



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Arborg's Deputy Mayor Ron Johnston cuts the ribbon.



Arborg Mayor Peter Dueck (back left) and many of the visitors who wanted to see the new rental housing.



The new housing complex is on Third Avenue in the west end.

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# Riverton School students helping fire-stricken Australia

By Evan Matthews

Students at Riverton Early Middle Years School are making efforts from Manitoba's Interlake to help those down under in Australia.

Alison Lubinski, the school's assistant principal and resource teacher, is spearheading the schoolwide project, with the 145 students ranging from kindergarten to Grade 8.

"This is really just about helping people in need. We showed students where Australia is in comparison to our school and then put up some pictures of the animals, the wildfires, the firefighters, etc.," said Lubinski.

"We wanted to provide the students with some knowledge and understanding as to what this continent is going through."

Lubinski said the students became passionate about the cause after seeing the animals, specifically.

Grade 4 students Leah Cormack and Kristjana Jonasson said they want to do their part by raising funds.

"We don't want to see animals become extinct or people's homes getting ruined," said the two students.

"We have learned how quickly the fires can spread."

There are a variety of projects taking place throughout the school, according to Lubinski, with education still being at the forefront of each individual project.

Kindergarten students are writing cards to the animal rescue workers and firefighters. Grade 1 and 2 students are making crate blankets for displaced animals. Grade 3 and 4 students created a "write-up" to con-

textualize who REMS is and why the school felt compelled to help, as well as a bake sale on Jan. 31. Meanwhile, Grade 5, 6 and 7 students are doing a float and hot dog sale on Feb. 7 with the funds raised going to medicine for displaced animals.

On Feb. 14, the school will host its "I Love Australia" assembly to showcase everything it has done and speak to the issue once more before sending away the gifts, according to Lubinski.

"We've been in contact with Air Canada, too, to subsidize some of our shipping costs," said Lubinski.

"Our librarian has combined 'I Love to Read' month with our Australia theme, too. We also have a high school across the street and they've partnered with us, offering up their home economics room.

"Our grades 7 and 8 classes are going over to sew pouches and do some over there, as well," she said.

Empathy is at the centre of the discussion, according to Lubinski, as our Western society is presented with an opportunity to give back to people in need.

The goal is to have students understand; the hope is people would help out here if needed, too.

"Some students asked, 'Why are we not helping the people?' But we explained we are helping the people, as Canadian firefighters have been sent over to aid in fighting fires, for example," said Lubinski.

"But something that touches kids is animals. Many of our students didn't understand so many of these animals



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY ALISON LUBINSKI

REMS will be hosting a bake sale on Jan. 31 at the school and Riverton Co-op between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to raise funds for Australia.



Chad and Brody are cutting out crate blankets for displaced Australian animals.

are exclusive to Australia and could become extinct."

Media has reported roughly 26 million acres of the continent has burned, with 27 people dead and roughly 2,000 homes destroyed.

Media reports suggest 100 fires are still burning across the continent.

To donate, contact the Riverton Early Middle Years School directly at 204-378-5145.

# Gimli RCMP to engage area communities on safety strategies

By Patricia Barrett

Staff from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment in Gimli will be leading a town hall next Thursday at the Waterfront Centre to engage the general public, political leaders and other community stakeholders on safety issues of mutual concern.

Staff Sgt. Rob Gray said the service has invited councillors from all the communities in its catchment area, including Matheson Island, Pine Dock, Riverton, Arborg, Gimli and Winnipeg Beach, as well as staff from local schools, hospitals and mental health services.

The meeting will focus on three primary topics: how the community and the police service can move towards making the community safer; what activities the community feels the po-

lice service should focus on in order to make their communities safer; and how the community can work as one to help achieve concrete actions.

In addition to providing an overview of how rural policing operates, Gray said staff will have town hall participants take part in group brainstorming sessions to come up with ideas and possible strategies to improve community safety. Those ideas will be shared and discussed.

Police engagement with the community helps foster positive interactions, enhances lines of communication and helps prevent and solve crime. Officers from the Arborg detachment organized a town hall in Riverton about a year or so ago to focus on how the community could work together to prevent and find solutions to youth crime.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Gimli RCMP are inviting the general public to a town hall meeting to discuss safety issues.

The town hall will take place Thursday, Feb. 6 at the Waterfront Centre

in Gimli. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. and will run for about two hours.

# Community multi-sport complex at Gimli High School needs donations

By Patricia Barrett

The proposed construction of a multi-sport complex at Gimli High School that students, members of the community and visitors can use is entering its final push for donations, requiring \$50,000 by at least July in order to see the project proceed.

The sports complex, located on the site of the rundown and disused tennis courts behind the school, will have a number of courts dedicated to pickleball (a combination of badminton, tennis and ping pong), tennis, badminton, ball hockey and basketball. Fencing will also be part of the project as well as the addition of some parking spots closer to the courts.

The new iteration of the parent advisory committee (PAC) at Gimli High School has been tasked with raising the \$50,000 after previous a PAC initiated the idea and undertook preliminary planning of the courts in order to have a space for their kids and the wider community to play.

"This has been so important to so many people for a long time," said current PAC president Heidi Helstrom, "and that's why as a new school board PAC we voted in favour of it."

Helstrom said the school division just gave its approval to the project and let the seven-member PAC board know that it has to embark on a fundraiser for the remaining money.

The PAC has only four to six months to raise that big chunk of money, she said, which is based on quotes contractors have submitted to the school division.

"If we don't proceed quickly, things will change in price and go up," said Helstrom. "If the project doesn't happen, we'll have to return everything to everybody and say that we tried."

Cottagers returning to Gimli in the summer, snowbirds, Gimli High School alumni, Gimlites living in Selkirk or other nearby communities, and older adults who like playing summer sports are just some of the donors Helstrom said they're hoping to attract.

The area could become a central recreation hub, she said.

"It's not far from the Recreation Centre, the swimming pool and the skateboard park," said Helstrom. "The kids can all hang out in this area. With the Wave Youth program that will be coming in, this will be ideal."



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The Gimli High School PAC is tasked with raising \$50,000 for a new multi-sport complex on the site of the rundown tennis courts.

The community has really stepped up to help the project along, said the school division's secretary-treasurer Amanda Senkowski. Donors such as Noventis Credit Union, the municipality of Gimli, the Westshore Community Foundation, Jason Borchurka, and the province's Building Sustainable Communities Program have all contributed to the project.

"The construction will involve peeling back the existing surface, com-

puting the base and re-asphalting to have a finished product that is similar in quality to a brand-new court," said Senkowski.

Donations over \$20 are eligible for a tax receipt, she said.

Anyone interested in making a donation to help PAC raise the remaining \$50,000 can email the school division at: info@esd.ca or call the division office at 204-642-6260.

# Interlake ladies receive recognition at Disaster Management Conference

By Evan Matthews

The Interlake represented well at the 2020 Manitoba Disaster Management Conference, as two local ladies took home awards.

The RM of Grahamdale's Nyla Klatt won the award for Municipal Emergency Coordinator of the Year, while the RM of Armstrong's Patricia Stein won the award for Volunteer of the Year.

"Several months ago, and leading up to the conference, we sent out notices to RMs asking them for nominations," said Manitoba Disaster Management Conference's executive committee chairperson Shelley Napier. Napier also owns Napier Consulting, a consulting firm that works with RMs to better their respective emergency preparedness.

"Part of the criteria — in reference to the Municipal Emergency Coordinator of the Year — deals with whether or not the co-ordinator has actually dealt with an emergency," she said.

"In (Klatt's) case, it was an easy choice. Grahamdale had fires in 2019. They had a large-scale event with the ice storm back in October (2019). ... There was flooding further back in 2011 and 2014. I've worked with her, and anything that has happened, she's been tremendous. In addition,



EXPRESS PHOTO BY SUSAN SMERCHANSKI

Interlake winners Patricia Stein (Armstrong) and Nyla Klatt (Grahamdale) proudly showcase their awards at the Canad Inns Polo Park.

she has a great attitude and is always trying to improve and grow to ensure her community is prepared."

Neither Klatt nor Stein could be reached for comment by press time, but both women were praised by local representatives.

RM of Armstrong Reeve Susan

Smerchansk said adequate emergency preparedness would not be possible without the likes of the RM's volunteers.

"So much thanks an appreciation go out to women like Patricia and Nyla for their tremendous dedication and commitment to making our commu-

nities safer places," said Smerchanski.

"The RM of Armstrong is very proud of the work we have done moving our EMO program forward and is extremely pleased with the progress."

## The Conference

The 2020 disaster management conference saw over 400 guests attend from all over Manitoba, but the Interlake specifically had representation from highways 6, 7 and 8, with many of the various communities participating, according to Napier.

The conference has taken place since 1991, according to Napier, and is intended to further increase the level of emergency preparedness in Manitoba and promote the principles of disaster management planning and public awareness by sharing experiences, showcasing technologies, providing information, tools and solutions to problems, and creating networking opportunities.

This year's conference saw many guest speakers, including Frank DeAngelis, who is the retired principal from the Columbine High School tragedy in Littleton, Colo., as well as Vallie Collins, a passenger on US Air Flight 1549 that made an emergency landing on the Hudson River.

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## St. Cloud's Cvar scores in fourth straight game

By Brian Bowman

Olivia Cvar has played some outstanding hockey this month.

For her efforts, the Western Collegiate Hockey Association named the St. Cloud State University Huskies' freshman forward as its Rookie of the Week for two consecutive weeks.

"It was awesome to get that (honour) and I feel I worked hard to get it," said Cvar on Tuesday from St. Cloud. "I'm just going to keep going and hopefully I can get player of the week or forward of the week or something like that if I keep playing hard and work on my game."

Cvar admitted that it took her a while to get used to playing at the Division I level.

"It's been going pretty good," Cvar said. "I would say at the beginning of the year there were some nerves with being a freshman and going out there making sure I wasn't making mistakes. I think I was focussing too much on that and when you get carried away, it takes away from your game."

"But in the last 10 games, I have just been going out there not worrying. If you make a mistake, it's OK, and I think that has given me more confidence."

Cvar, whose family now lives in

Stonewall, has played in all 27 games this season for the Huskies, scoring seven goals while adding three assists.

She has now scored in four straight games after tallying in both home games last weekend against the University of Minnesota Duluth.

The previous weekend, Cvar tallied twice against Minnesota State. She is now second on the team in goals scored and tied for fifth in points.

"I think I have been getting more scoring chances," said Cvar. "I'm more comfortable and I have that mind aspect where I'm looking for open ice now. I feel my vision is open more... and I find it easier to make plays."

Division I hockey in the United States is loaded with talented players from various countries. Playing against elite competition has made Cvar a better player.

"The speed (of the game) surprised me," she said. "The summer before, I tried to work on my speed and train myself so I would be more prepared. It was a little adjustment at the beginning but now I feel really comfortable with it."

While this season has been a successful one for Cvar on a personal level, the Huskies have struggled with a 5-18-4 record. St. Cloud is just 1-16-1



PHOTO SUBMITTED

St. Cloud State Huskies' forward Olivia Cvar was recently named the WCHA's rookie of the week.

in conference play but Cvar is really enjoying the experience.

The Huskies expect to be better next season.

"It's been an adjustment but with the girls everyone gets along," Cvar said. "It's just awesome. When I first came here I was kind of nervous going to the rink because you don't know anyone and you don't know how it's going to be but after the first

couple of days, I wanted to go to the rink. I wanted to go to their apartments and hang out or go bowling or something like that. The girls are just awesome and they make it really easy to be away from home."

St. Cloud will be in action this weekend when it travels to Madison to play the University of Wisconsin Badgers this Saturday (3:07 p.m.) and Sunday (2:07 p.m.).

## Interlake skaters have fine form



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

The Interlake's Hunter Dankochik left, and Keira Erlendson performed Star 3 Elements competition at the 2020 Interlake Regional STARSkate Championships at the East St. Paul Arena on Sunday.

## U18 lose pair of weekend games

Staff

The Interlake Lightning U18 boys' hockey team let two valuable points slip away on Sunday afternoon in Teulon.

Interlake lost 6-4 to the Norman Northstars. It was just Norman's fourth win of the season.

The Northstars' Albert Sinclair iced the win with an empty-net goal at 18:46 of the third period. The goal came just 53 seconds after Karson King scored to pull the Lightning to within a goal.

Ashton Fisher, Kaydyn McMahon, and Matthew Vandel also scored for the Lightning.

Jordan Ploh (two), Sinclair, Ryan Monias and Dredyn Robinson netted Norman's other goals.

On Saturday afternoon, Interlake

lost 4-2 to the Winnipeg Bruins at Southdale Arena.

Nicholas Guberman gave Winnipeg a 1-0 lead with a shorthanded goal at 19:06 of the first period.

Dakota MacIntosh and Sam Alsip made it 3-0 just 1:05 into the middle frame before Vandel struck on the power play about five minutes later.

The Bruins answered with a power-play goal from Tyler Dodgson midway in the second period.

Interlake's Aiden Manningway then closed out the scoring at 12:13 of the third.

Interlake, currently in ninth place and battling for the final playoff spot, will host the first-place Winnipeg Wild on Friday (8 p.m.) and then will take on the Winnipeg Thrashers Sunday (1 p.m.) at Gateway Arena.

# Riverton Atom, PeeWee teams advance to provincials

## Staff

For the second year in a row, Riverton has a PeeWee hockey team advancing to the provincials.

At an Arborg tournament, the Riverton Eagles defeated the Lakeside team (Lundar, Ashern region) 8-3 and Arborg 8-4.

In the final game, Riverton edged Arborg 7-6.

The PeeWee provincials will take place March 13-15 in Elkhorn.

Meanwhile, Riverton will also have an Atom team at the provincials for the third consecutive season.

Riverton swept Gimli in a best-of-three series, winning by scores of 13-7

and 10-4.

In the first game, Riverton's Tavyn Sigurdson scored 10 goals while Chase Murdock had a pair and Hudson Charrier also tallied.

Gimli replied with two goals each from Tyler Hartwell, Brendan Johnson and Dawson Bisson and a single from Colton Leger.

In the second game, Sigurdson scored nine times while Kristofer Asmundsson also tallied. Gimli goals were scored by Solomon Lewis, Leger, Henrik Vigfusson and Christian Mozden.

The Atom provincials will be hosted by Deloraine from March 6-8.



Riverton Eagles PeeWee team back row, left to right: Colin Cormack (assistant coach), Kevin Johnson (head coach), Simon Mitchell, Emilee Danielson, Skylar Farrington, Tytan Johnson, Ryan Ostertag (assistant coach), Lloyd Roche (assistant coach); front row: Alexander Ostertag, Braedan Cormack, Darren Mitchell, Jake Selkirk, Madden Mowatt, Tristan Klatt and Payton Mowatt.

## Peguis offence potent in Sunday road win

### Staff

The Peguis Juniors' offence suddenly caught fire in the third period on Sunday.

Peguis scored six times in a 14:03 span in the third period on its way to a 9-4 road victory over the OCN Storm in Keystone Junior Hockey League action.

Tyrome Spence had a great game for Peguis with four goals and an assist while Darian Murdock had two goals and two helpers and Quinton Flett chipped in with a goal and five assists.

The Juniors' Ethan Daniels and Nathaniel Murdock had a goal and an assist apiece.

Troy Head (two), Sheldon Chartier, and Noah Butler scored for OCN.

Drey Flett made 28 saves for the win.

On Saturday, Peguis was doubled 6-3 by OCN.

The third period, once again, was a wild one as the Storm outscored the Juniors 5-2.

Murdock had a goal and an assist for Peguis while the Juniors' other goals were scored by Marcus Crate and Flett.

OCN's goal were tallied by Keith Monias (two), Ron Campbell (two), Tanner Barbeau and Dion Fontaine.

Peguis, now 10-7-1 and in third place with 21 points, will host the Cross Lake Islanders in a pair of games this weekend. The Juniors will play the Islanders on Saturday (7:30 p.m.) and Sunday (1:30 p.m.).



### EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Riverton Eagles Atom team, back row, left to right: Matt Hardy (assistant coach), Tyler Sigurdson (assistant coach), Michael Johnson (assistant coach) Jason Johannesson (assistant coach); middle row: Ashlynn Sigurdson, Hudson Charrier, Kristofer Asmundsson, Eli Kornelsen, Jake Collins, Kanyen Mowatt; front row: Tavyn Sigurdson, Callan Hokanson, Johannes Magnusson, Josiah Hardy, Levi Johnson, Chase Murdock and Brycen Johannesson.

# Lundar Falcons late goal snags Selkirk Fishermen

## Staff

The Lundar Falcons won a really exciting game on Sunday at the Selkirk Rec Complex.

Elmer Maytwayshing's second goal of the game with three seconds remaining in the third period lifted Lundar to a 4-3 victory over the Selkirk Fishermen in Capital Region Junior Hockey League action.

Ryan Gleich and Josh Wilkinson scored Lundar's other goals.

Maytwayshing and Braden Paulic each had three points in the game.

Travis Spratt, Cole Wasnie and Re-

ece Tessier replied for Selkirk.

Chris Lesage made 25 saves for the win.

On Friday, the Falcons defeated the North Winnipeg Satellites 5-2 in Lundar.

Josh Wilkinson, Tristan Shorting and Mason Medeiros scored first-period goals for Lundar and then Gleich and Paulic tallied in the second.

Paulic and Wilkinson each finished the game with three points.

Nicholas Doerkson and Miguel Vilante had second-period markers for the Satellites.

Dillon Rapinchuk made 21 saves for the win.

Lundar, now with 32 points to sit in third place, played at North Winnipeg on Tuesday and then will host St. Malo on Friday (7:30 p.m.).

The Arborg Ice Dawgs, meanwhile, lost 4-3 in overtime to St. Malo in Gimli on Saturday.

Rachonne Henry scored the game winner in OT.

Arborg trailed 3-1 in the third period but Dayton Moneas scored a power-play goal with 4:09 remaining in regulation time and then Logan Clarke

tied the score about three minutes later.

Clarke gave Arborg a 1-0 lead with a goal just 2:19 into the game.

The Ice Dawgs' Preston Seymour and Shaydon Mousseau each had two assists.

Maxime Collette, with a pair, and Alex Murry scored St. Malo's other goals.

Fourth-place Arborg will host Selkirk this Friday at 7:30 p.m.

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Please apply in writing to: Executive Director Riverdale Place Homes Inc. Box 968, Arborg MB ROC 0AO

Or email: kfinnson\_rph@outlook.com

Application Deadline: Feb. 12, 2020

For more info contact: Kathy Finnson, Exec. Director 204-376-2940

### MORTGAGE SALE AD

The building and land know as 10 Skinnydip Drive, Lake Manitoba Narrows, MB as described in Certificate of Title No. 2068273/1 will be sold at an auction, by a licensed auctioneer, on Thursday, the 20th day of February, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at Geisler Law Office 24 Main Street, Ashern, MB.

The vendor is informed that the property consists of 1000 sf cottage built in 2005, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen, living room, dining room, loft, deck; storage shed (120 sf); located on well water. Lot size 96 x 170 ft.

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Contact: PITBLADO LLP, Barristers/Solicitors 2500 - 360 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4H6 Attn: Donna Riedel for Robert B. Giesbrecht Phone: (204) 956-0560

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The Contract will be awarded for a negotiated period of time.

The successful candidate must be familiar with Microsoft Office products.

Must have a valid Manitoba Driver's License. Applicants selected for interview will be requested to bring a current driver's abstract to the interview. The successful applicant must be able to obtain RCMP security clearance before commencing work. Medical information pertaining to job responsibilities may be requested.

Applications for both positions will be accepted in confidence until 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 7th, 2020, to:

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\*\*\*Please indicate which position you are applying for. The town will consider applicants that are interested in both positions. If you are interested in applying for both positions, please indicate this in your cover letter. \*\*\*

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 Standing left to right: Great-Grandma Gerri Sigurdson, Mother Jessica Vandersteen, Grandma Lynne Stobert.  
 Seated is Great-Great-Grandma Emily Sigurdson holding baby Rhett Vandersteen.

## OBITUARY



**Jean Harrison**  
 November 18, 1945 – January 24, 2020

It is with such deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beautiful mum.

Mum grew up in England and moved to Canada in 1984 with her husband Alan and three children to start a new chapter of their lives as dairy farmers. They braved the winters and soon became hardened Canadians.

They moved to Arborg in 1990 and were embraced by the kind spirit of the wonderful people of Arborg. They were very soon made to feel at home and made their lives here.

Mum enjoyed spending time in her garden, visiting with friends, reading, walking, volunteering in the community and looking after her great-grandchildren.

She will be sadly missed but will be remembered with such fondness for her kind heart and generous nature.

She is survived by her children, Mark (Marnie), Chris (Monique), Jaki (Paul); her grandchildren Ashley, Steven, Niki, Ben and Abby, Jamie and Charlotte; and great-grandchildren, Cora and Loki and Cali and Ayla.

In lieu of flowers, family requests donations to the Arborg Bifrost Recreation Commission, (Garden Club), Box 555, Arborg, MB, ROC 0A0.

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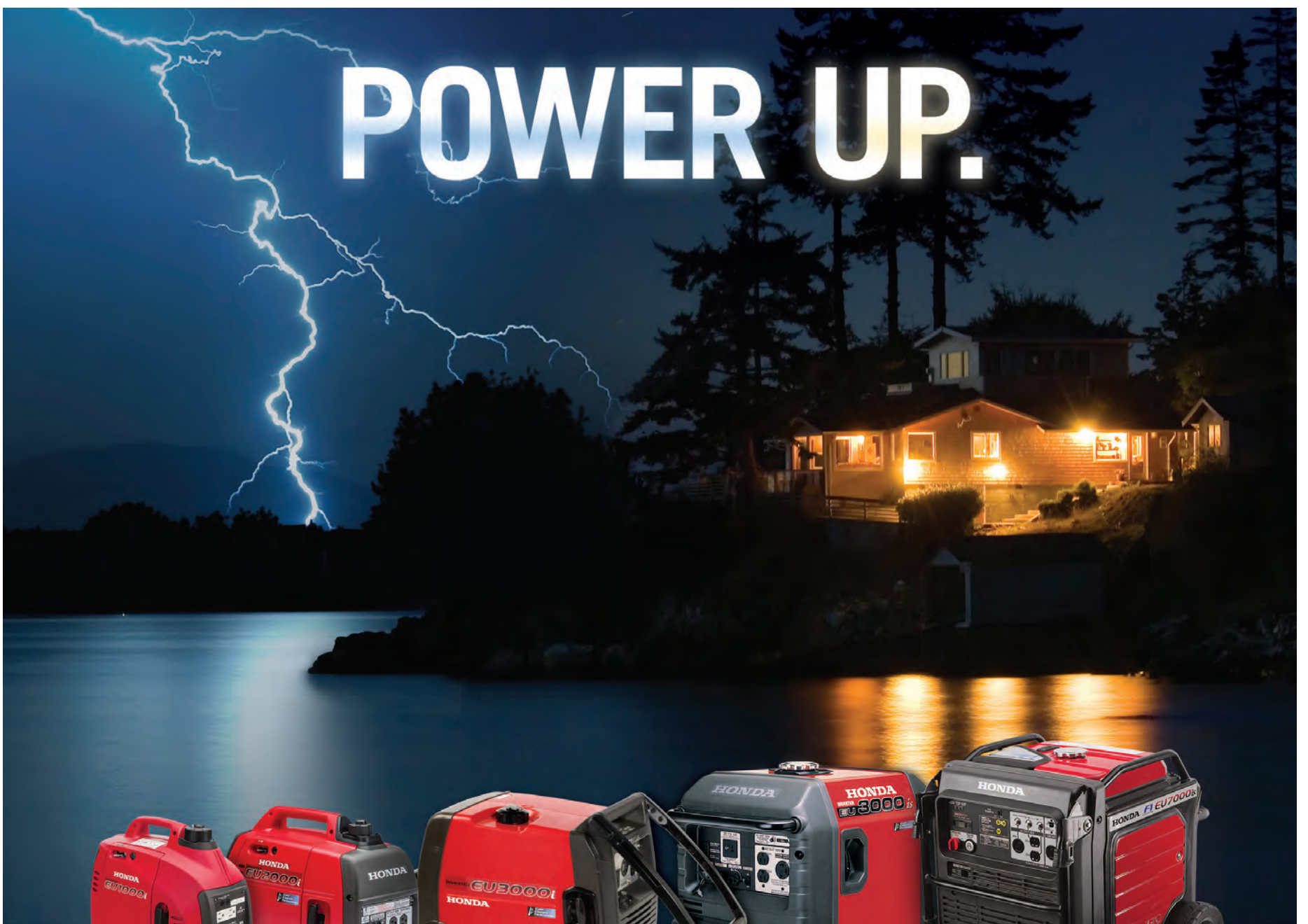
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