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Wild Wednesday

EXPRESS PHOTO BY CORRINE EINARSSON

Arborg Early Middle School celebrated I Love to Read Month last Wednesday with a "Wacky Wednesday" Misfit theme. The provincewide, month-long celebration is held annually and encourages reading, writing and sharing in the joy of literacy and sniffing out news stories.

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Home Hardware aggressively purchasing ahead of American tariffs on steel, aluminum

By Patricia Barrett

With American President Donald Trump threatening Canada with a suite of tariffs in March, Arborg's Home Hardware Building Centre has embarked on an aggressive strategy to try to stabilize prices and have as much stock as possible for its customers should the president make good on his tariff threats.

Trump said he'd impose 25 per cent tariffs on all Canadian products entering the States and 10 per cent on energy, starting around March 4. Last week he announced another 25 per cent on steel and aluminum from all countries including Canada, which is slated to start March 12. That would, in effect, stack tariffs on top of tariffs, resulting in a 50 per cent tariff on steel and aluminum. The "stacked" tariff plan was confirmed last week by the White House.

The steel and aluminum tariff announced by Trump, who's known for making sudden and erratic decisions that create uncertainty and instability, sent shockwaves through the Canadian industry and saw reports of U.S. companies cancelling orders and Canadian distributors halting shipments to the U.S. Trump imposed a tariff on Canadian steel and aluminum in 2018 during his first run as president.

Arborg Home Hardware dealer-owner Ray Reimer, who runs his store

with partner Stan Loewen, said he had been in contact with the store's steel cladding supplier in anticipation of the potential American tariffs so that they can maintain reasonable prices for as long as possible through what may be temporary but tumultuous times.

"In regards to steel and aluminum tariffs, we feel at least for the time being we are well prepared," said Reimer. "We have purchased a larger volume of aluminum products for the coming year to carry us through any price surges that may happen. We need this strategy to stay as aggressive as we can for our customers."

The Arborg store supports Canadian steel manufacturers who supply made-in-Canada steel for products such as metal roofing, panels, railings and other materials.

"On the steel side, we support Canadian companies that produce their product in Canada, not North American products that are advertised by others," said Reimer. "Our Canadian manufacturers supply steel that is produced in Canada by Canadians from raw and recycled materials. These materials are being used to manufacture metal roofing and siding panels for our customers' agriculture, commercial and residential building needs. We are proud Canadians that support our Canadian workers who



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF RAY REIMER

Arborg Home Hardware staff with some of the store's made-in-Canada products, including the BeautiTone paint brand.

produce the steel, paint the steel and form it into various configurations all in Canada."


Arborg Home Hardware Building Centre is part of Home Hardware Stores Ltd., a 100 per cent Canadian-owned company with retailer-owners across Canada. The Arborg home improvement store has experience in serving the unique needs of Arborg, surrounding communities and other customers in their home and cottage needs. The store carries a wide range of products, including building materials (e.g., lumber, drywall, insulation, railings), hardware supplies, electrical and heating/cooling supplies, ap-

pliances, outdoor power equipment and farming supplies. In addition to its products, the store offers a number of services such as screen repair, key cutting and home and cottage design.

The store is highlighting made-in-Canada products and product-of-Canada items in-store to help customers make informed decisions about where products come from and to enable them to support Canadian businesses and Canada's economy, which could be seriously impacted by American tariffs.

"As a locally owned and operated

Continued on page 11



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RM of Gimli celebrates 60th anniversary of the Canadian Flag

By Patricia Barrett

Canadians don't typically bang the drum when it comes to showing national pride, but in light of U.S. President Donald Trump's threat to make Canada America's 51st state and impose punishing tariffs in March, Canadians across the country celebrated the 60th anniversary of Canada's iconic maple leaf flag on Feb. 15, showing pride in the true north strong and free.

The RM of Gimli festooned Centre Street with the national flag in recognition of the anniversary and to bring the community together in a show of unity and patriotism.

"It's important for all of council to show we are proud to be Canadian. And in my mind, it doesn't matter who you are, this is our home in one way or another and our flag is a symbol of that," said RM of Gimli Coun. Andy Damm.

The RM was proud to join Canadians across the country celebrating National Flag Day, said the RM's manager of community engagement Christine Payne. The RM shared a special message on its website and on social media to highlight the "enduring importance of our national flag and encouraging community participation in the celebrations."

"The RM of Gimli remains commit-



ted to supporting Canadian enterprises, promoting community spirit and celebrating our shared heritage," said Payne.

The Maple Leaf design was adopted in 1965 with a proclamation from Queen Elizabeth II in January of that year. It was then inaugurated with a ceremony on Parliament Hill on Feb. 15. The National Flag of Canada Day was proclaimed on Feb. 15, 1996, according to the federal department of Canadian Heritage. The flag rep-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE PAYNE

resents Canada's sovereignty and connects Canadians to their national identity and values such as respect, equality and generosity.

Prior to the adoption of the maple leaf flag, Canada flew the Union Jack

(U.K.) and the Canadian Red Ensign, a red flag with the Royal Union Jack that saw design variations over the course of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

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Winnipeg Beach celebrates 59th annual winter weekend



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER AND KELSEY MACDUFF MORGAN



RM of Gimli changes procurement policy to buy local/Canadian products and services

By Patricia Barrett

The RM of Gimli council is changing its procurement policy to buy local and/or Canadian products and services over American goods and services in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to impose tariffs on all Canadian products sent to the United States and to make Canada America's 51st state.

Over the past few weeks, Trump signed executive orders to impose a 25 per cent tariff on all Canadian goods and a 10 per cent tariff on energy, scheduled to start March 4, and a further 25 per cent on Canadian steel and aluminum. Trump told reporters last week the steel tariff would be "stacked" on top of the 25 per cent on all goods, thereby making it 50 per cent. That tariff is scheduled to start March 12. Trump is mercurial and erratic, and no one can be certain whether his tariffs will be implemented as promised, whether he'll delay them or whether he'll suddenly introduce new tariffs.

At council's Feb. 12 regular meeting, Coun. Andy Damm introduced a motion to put procurement on council's agenda, suggesting the RM pivot to purchasing Canadian products and services to help support the country's economy and to provide a measure of stability for an uncertain economic time ahead.

Council unanimously passed a resolution to support the change to its procurement policy.

"I had asked for a discussion on procurement because I thought it was important that we address this issue at

this moment in time. The tariffs that are likely coming will negatively affect everybody," said Damm a day after the meeting. "As the municipality is the leader of the community, I think it's incumbent upon us to make sure we support our local businesses and the individuals working in our community."

The RM had already committed to purchasing a ladder truck for the Gimli Fire Department before Trump's tariffs and it won't be able to cancel that contract, he said. The ladder truck was procured though Calgary-based Rocky Mountain, which in turn sourced it though Rosenbauer in the States.

"But going forward, we have other major procurements coming up, such as a pumper truck [for the fire department] that has to be purchased, and we've got some issues with one of our graders, which we may have to replace. These larger items are in addition to the products and services the municipality normally procures," said Damm. "What this means is that RM administration will be putting local, provincial and Canadian products first on our procurement list."

In terms of services, the RM already has a contract (signed prior to Trump's threats) with an American-based online portal in which RM of Gimli property owners can apply for a short-term rental licence.

The Express asked the RM whether its contracts for products and services with American suppliers can be cancelled or whether it would have to

wait until they expire, as well as requested a rough accounting of how much the RM's American contracts are worth.

The RM's manager of community engagement Christine Payne said the municipality will be taking stock of all its contracts and purchases, keeping in mind its legal obligations under trade agreements.

"With the resolution just passed, administration will be reviewing all contracts and purchases and, where possible, prioritizing Canadian goods and services in our procurement practices. This decision reflects our commitment to supporting Canadian businesses, strengthening our local economy and responding proactively to the potential economic impacts of ongoing U.S. trade tariffs," said Payne.

American tariffs and Canadian countervailing tariffs have the potential to disrupt supply chains, increase prices and negatively impact Canadian industries, she said. But prioritizing Canadian products and services could pay off in the long run.

"By updating our procurement by-laws and policies, the RM of Gimli aims to protect local jobs, foster economic resilience and contribute to the stability of our national economy," she said. "While prioritizing Canadi-

an products, the RM of Gimli remains fully committed to upholding its legal obligations under international and domestic trade agreements, including the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) and the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA)."

Payne said the RM doesn't have, at this time, information about how much its American contracts are worth.

Analysts and Canadian politicians are warning about rising inflation should Trump impose his tariffs and Canada respond in kind. The cost of food, gasoline and probably everything else will rise, hurting both Canadian and American consumers.

Just how badly the municipality, local businesses and residents could be hit if Trump makes good on his tariff threats is "difficult to gauge" at the moment, said Damm, but he expects it to be "far-reaching."

Because Canadians are in no position to influence American policy, Damm said we have to use our financial power to effect change and protect ourselves, our communities and the Canadian economy.

"We can't vote in an American elec-

Continued on page 8

RM of West Interlake councillor resigns after transitioning to non-resident status

By Patricia Barrett

A councillor with the RM of West Interlake had to give up his seat late last year after he sold his property in the municipality and moved to a neighbouring municipality.

Coun. Keith Lundale said he was required to resign based on rules in the provincial Municipal Act.

"Unless you live or own property in the RM, you can't be a councillor. So I had to resign as soon as I sold my property," said Lundale. "Since I now reside in the RM of Grahamdale and I don't own property in West Interlake, the rules of the Municipal Act state I had to resign."

Lundale said he leaves behind some unfinished business he would have liked to address on council.

"I am disappointed that I'm not going to be able to carry out the remain-

der of my term, there's no question about that," he said. "I had some unfinished business."

The RM of West Interlake's meeting minutes from Jan. 7, 2025, show council accepting Lundale's resignation effective Dec. 17, 2024, and state that a byelection process would begin.

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Province buys advertising in local newspapers for 'buy local' campaign

By Patricia Barrett

After the provincial government announced a few weeks ago it was launching a "digital" buy local advertising campaign that included paying for radio and billboard ads, but made no mention of supporting Manitoba's print media outlets, it's now allocating advertising dollars to dozens of community newspapers.

In the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated threats to make Canada America's 51st state and impose economically damaging tariffs on the country, the province launched a campaign to encourage Manitobans to spend their money on local businesses and on Canadian products as the country heads into uncertain and assumedly painful economic times.

The province spent a portion of its reportedly \$140,000 advertising budget for its buy local campaign on Meta platforms, Facebook and Instagram, according to the Canadian Press, raising concerns from critics about the decision to support American multi-billionaire Mark Zuckerberg, who owns both platforms, has aligned himself with Trump and announced earlier this year that Facebook will no longer fact-check content.

There were 49 print media outlets in Manitoba in 2023, according to Ad-Canada Media, an agency that places advertising in over 900 newspapers across Canada. A spokesperson for the agency said the provincial government bought advertising for its buy-local campaign in 27 newspapers across the province.

"Through AdCanada Media / MCNA (Manitoba Community Newspapers Association), the Government of Manitoba placed a quarter-page ad for their shop local campaign in 27 local community newspapers through-

out Manitoba," said the spokesperson.

Community newspapers are locally owned businesses that employ Canadians, support democratic inquiry and debate, provide sponsorship or in-kind support to the rural communities they serve and act as advertising conduits to help drive dollars to local businesses.

Supporting local, independent media outlets is more important than ever since Trump came to power. Just last week, Trump "indefinitely" barred Associated Press reporters from the White House Oval Office and Air Force One, accusing AP of "dishonest" reporting; Trump did not like the 175-year-old American news wire agency referring to the formerly named Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America.

And as he was telling reporters last Thursday there'd be a "staggering amount" of money arising from his tariffs, Trump unexpectedly slammed American broadcaster CNN (Cable News Network), saying "CNN has no credibility."

Trump's administration is threatening American public broadcasting outlets, too. In January, the 10-day old administration ordered an investigation of PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) and NPR (National Public Radio) for allegedly violating federal law by airing commercials.

Trump is well known for his dislike of fact-checking, liberal media outlets, and his attempts to sideline them are viewed by critics as attempts to censor information the public needs to make informed decisions on everything from health and politics to education and the economy.

Trump is closely aligned with multi-

billionaire Elon Musk, who owns the social media platform X (formerly called Twitter). A recent study titled "X under Musk's leadership: substantial hate and no reduction in inauthentic activity" published in the journal *PLOS One*, says there was a spike in the weekly rate of hate speech that occurred after Musk bought the platform in 2022.

The World Press Freedom Index, which is produced by Reporters Without Borders, ranks press freedom in 180 countries every year. Last year it showed a decline in respect and support for press freedom.

"A growing number of governments and political authorities are not fulfilling their role as guarantors of the best possible environment for journalism and the public's right to reliable, independent and diverse news and information," states Reporters Without Borders. "[We see] a worrying decline in support and respect for media autonomy and an increase in pressure from the state or other political actors."

In the 2024 index, Norway was first for the highest press freedom with a score of 91.89. Canada was in 14th place with a score of 81.7. The United States placed 55 with a score of 66.59. Russia was 162 with a score of 29.86. China was 172 with a score of 23.36. Eritrea was the worst country for press freedom, in last place with a score of 16.64.

The *Express* had asked the federal government a few weeks ago whether it would provide advertising support to Canadian media outlets rather than to American social media platforms such as Facebook on which it advertises, and change its procurement pol-

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EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The RM of Gimli uploaded a few photos of Lake Winnipeg access last weekend reminding the public to access the lake by turning east off of Highway 9 onto Centre Street and turning left on First Avenue. According to AccuWeather the temperature on Monday was -25 C. in the afternoon but with the wind it felt like -29. Help the Express record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or family enjoying the outdoors. Email: news@expressweeklynews.ca

Gypsumville RCMP investigating fatal house fire

By Annaliese Meier

Gypsumville RCMP responded to a report of a house fire off Highway 6 in Pinaymootang First Nation at 8:25 p.m. on Feb. 7.

RCMP officers arrived at the scene alongside the local fire department and found the house fully engulfed in flames. Unfortunately, the structure was completely destroyed by the fire.

On Feb. 9, the remains of an individual were discovered in the rubble. Due to the suspicious nature of the

fire, RCMP Major Crime Services are now conducting an investigation.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Gypsumville RCMP at 204-659-5224, call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477, or submit a secure tip online at www.manitobacrimestoppers.com.

The Gypsumville RCMP, along with RCMP Major Crime Services, will continue their investigation.

> SHOP LOCAL, FROM PG. 6

icies — which can include paying for media advertising — in light of the threat from the south.

“The Government of Canada is closely monitoring the trade situation in the U.S., assessing potential impacts to existing projects, and exploring the use of tariff and non-tariff countermeasures to have a strong

and balanced response should one be needed,” said a spokesperson for the department of public services and procurement Canada. “We will always stand up for Canadians, stand up for Canadian jobs, and stand up unequivocally for Canadian sovereignty.”

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Berens River RCMP investigating homicide

By Annaliese Meier

Berens River RCMP received a report of an assault around 4 p.m. on Feb. 13.

The victim, a 45-year-old male, was taken to the nursing station, where it was determined that he had sustained serious, life-threatening injuries. Unfortunately, the victim was pronounced deceased shortly thereafter.

The investigation revealed that three individuals, who may have been involved in the assault, left the community in a black Dodge Ram pickup truck and were believed to be heading to Bloodvein First Nation.

Officers located the suspect vehicle near Bloodvein First Nation, where they arrested the three males — aged 43, 31 and 22 — without incident.

On Feb. 14, the RCMP charged Michael Oliver Franklin (31) and Thomas Bryton Goosehead (22) with second-degree murder. Russell Lee Franklin (43) was charged with accessory to murder after the fact. All three have been remanded into custody.

Anyone with information regarding this homicide is encouraged to contact Berens River RCMP at 204-382-2436,

call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477 or submit a tip online at www.manitobacrimestoppers.com.

Berens River RCMP, along with RCMP Major Crime Services and Forensic Identification Services, are continuing their investigation.

> CHANGES PROCUREMENT POLICY, FROM PG. 5

tion and change any outcomes, but we can certainly vote with our dollars," said Damm. "There are many cultures in the world that don't say a thing when they're [aggrieved] —

they just don't come back."

As far as who could support those unduly affected by tariffs, Damm said it's "everybody's duty" to support businesses, jobs and people across the nation.

"Support can't be put on one single entity, such as the provincial or federal governments," he said. "This requires everybody to stand up at this point and do their best to support our nation."

OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

- In addition to discussing procurement at its meeting last week, council discussed the new fitness centre that will be built near the Gimli Recreation Centre.

Damm said he has some concerns about fiscal security in relation to the building, which a majority of council had approved last year. The initial price tag was around \$950,000, and council had the funds budgeted. But the cost is expected to increase.

"I asked that administration, to the best of their ability, provide not just the cost of what the fitness centre will be, but also to make sure we're going to be able to fund it fully," said Damm. "The fitness centre was around \$950,000 and we had all the funds secured for it. If that price goes up with inflation and with other requirements for the building, I'm very

concerned about our ability to get those funds lined up. I don't want us to be scrambling to try to finish the fitness centre and finding out we don't have the funds to do it."

Coun. Richard Petrowski was the only councillor who voted against approving the fitness centre last year in April, saying there was no professional conceptual plan presented and that money could be better spent on waterline renewal.

He said last week he has reservations about the affordability of the fitness centre.

"I don't want to burden our ratepayers with another potential multi-million-dollar project at this time," said Petrowski.

- The RM issued cheques to Chudd's Chrysler Ltd., Mayor Kevin Chudd's family-owned dealership, for a total of \$141,611.50 for a new truck for fire Chief Mike Chudd.

Two preliminary cash disbursements were issued in January, one for \$134,880 on Jan. 24 and another for \$6,731.50 on Jan. 29.

The new truck will be used by the fire chief to attend fire calls and other fire department-related business.

"A older-model truck the former fire chief used, which Mike Chudd took over when he became fire chief, was on its last legs at that time. Inevitably, what happened is council ordered a new vehicle for the fire chief and just before we were to take possession of it, the old truck died," said Damm. "Instead of incurring the cost of repairing it, we accelerated the process of getting the new truck and the ad-

ditional equipment it needs such as lights bars and identifying decals."

- The RM posted council members' indemnities and expenses for 2024 on its website.

As of Dec. 31, 2024, Mayor Kevin Chudd was paid \$45,725 plus \$3,135.60 for expenses. Deputy Mayor Kurt Reichert was paid \$38,015.78 plus 2,238.19 for expenses. Coun. Thora Palson was paid 36,343.80 plus \$1,750.31 for expenses. Coun. Richard Petrowski was paid \$36,790.62 plus \$2,217.49 for expenses. Coun. Andy Damm was paid \$35,846.88 plus \$3,899.96 for expenses. In total, the RM paid its council \$205,963.64.

Differences in pay are attributable to how many meetings, events and so forth councillors participate in and how far they have to drive to the administration building in Gimli from their residences (and back) to attend to municipal matters.

- After working in collaboration with the provincial government to improve safety, the RM announced that speed limits changes on Highway 9 through Sandy Hook, a densely packed subdivision, will be altered.

The summer speed limit of 50 km/h has been extended further north (towards Gimli) beyond Kencaron Crescent. The seasonal speed limit period has also been lengthened to run from the Friday before Victoria Day to the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. The winter speed limit of 90 km/h remains unchanged for the time being but could change depending on the RM's evaluation of the impact of its upcoming Master Trails Plan.

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Roll Up to Win returns with Tim Hortons' beloved Roll Up beverage cups

By E Antonio

Tim Hortons is bringing back the cherished Roll Up to Win campaign with specially branded hot beverage cups available at restaurants across Canada. Customers can get these unique cups with the purchase of a hot beverage while supplies last from Feb. 24 to March 23. When participants roll up the rim, they have a chance to reveal a prize, bringing back the contest's original essence.

"Guests loved celebrating the 60th anniversary of Tim Hortons with us last year and it inspired us to bring back some classic Roll Up cups this year for a limited time," said Tim Hortons Stonewall owner Jamie Pope.

"We've heard a ton of really positive feedback from Canadians across the country who are excited for the return of Roll Up and the chance to reveal a prize under the rim of Roll Up To Win-branded hot beverage cups."

Customers can also win prizes by purchasing other items, including cold drinks, breakfast sandwiches, wraps or lunch and dinner entrees, by entering through the Tim Hortons app.



For more than 35 years, Canadians have been rolling up and winning great prizes when they visit Tim Hortons. Roll Up To Win offers the chance to win exciting prizes including new all-electric vehicles, getaways, electronics, gift cards and millions of Tims coffee, doughnuts and 10-pack of Timbits prizes.

For a complete list of prizes and contest rules, please visit www.timhortons.ca/rollup.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Tim Hortons' Roll Up to Win beverage cups earn you an extra roll along with the digital roll when scanning for rewards with a hot beverage purchase from Feb. 24 to March 23.

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Manitoba

Local family loses everything, including pets, in devastating fire

By E Antonio

Lacey Hollands and her twin daughters lost their home in a devastating fire on Feb. 13.

The family, who resides in the RM of Armstrong, was not home when the fire started, resulting in a total loss of their possessions, including their beloved pets.

The Fraserwood Fire Department was called to the fire at 6:28 p.m. last Thursday and quickly responded. Sixteen members from Fraserwood attended, along with 12 members from the Arborg-Bifrost Fire Department who provided mutual aid.

"Upon arrival, the roof had already collapsed into the building," said Fraserwood fire Chief Brad Genik.

It took approximately two hours to extinguish the blaze, which ultimately led to a total loss of the home. The origin and cause of the fire are under investigation by the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

Hollands is requesting privacy at this time but is accepting donations of new or gently used books,

games, crafting supplies and items for the girls' bedroom to replace what was lost with the fire.

"We also need to replace their Chromebook for school still," added Hollands.

Donations are being accepted at the Arborg Travelling Inn Bar, Arborg Hotel Bar, Arborg Pharmacy, Arborg Livestock Supplies, Fraserwood Country Pub and the Inwood Arena.

"UPON ARRIVAL, THE ROOF HAD ALREADY COLLAPSED INTO THE BUILDING."

Hollands intends to personally purchase additional necessities for her family and asks that item donations come exclusively from the list above. She is also accepting monetary donations to help buy personal items, including clothing and hygiene supplies. If anyone

has furniture or larger items that they would like to donate, please text Hollands and leave your number since the family does not have a home at this time.

Monetary donations can be sent via e-transfer to lacey.h.may.21@gmail.com or 204-641-0650.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Donations are being accepted for Lacey Hollands (centre) with her twin girls, Uhriya and Myla, who lost everything they own in a house fire on Feb. 13.

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and that the new space enhances patient care.



Clarification

In the story "RM of Gimli holding come-and-go session on Trails Master Plan, inviting public feedback" in the Feb. 13 edition of the *Express Weekly News*, we accidentally overlooked mentioning the Urban Promenade Group as one of the stakeholders in the RM's trails plan. The Urban Promenade Group is providing valuable input into the process along with the Gimli Active Trails Advisory Committee, the Interlake Off-road Club, Interlake Snow Trackers and the Gimli Cross-country Ski Club.

> AGGRESSIVE PURCHASING, FROM PG. 2

store, we are proud to serve our community with the products they need for both their homes and businesses," said Reimer. "We understand the importance of highlighting our made-in-Canada and product-of-Canada items, and we are adding signage and labelling in-store to help our customers easier identify these products. This includes our BeautiTone Paint brand, which has always been made in Canada (with domestic and import materials) in Burford, Ont."

The Arborg store is reminding its customers that as a locally owned and operated Canadian business, it's "embedded" in the community, he added.

"We take pride in not only living and working here, but also in doing our part to give back. Our marketing tagline, 'Locally Owned, Genuinely Canadian,' reinforces this commitment and emphasizes the importance of shopping local," said Reimer.

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Your FARM



The potential impacts of tariffs on canola farmers

By E Antonio

What does the announcement of tariffs on all products imported to the United States from Canada mean for Canadian farmers?

Rick White, present and CEO of the Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA), addressed his concerns for Canadian canola farmers.

President Donald Trump initially announced a 25 per cent tariff on all Canadian imports on Feb. 1, 2025.

"This would be the worst-case scenario in terms of tariffs with the United States as it would like to soften prices on this side of the border, ultimately lowering market rates," said White.

He explained that annually, Canada and the U.S. trade approximately \$6.3-billion worth of canola oil and an additional \$2 billion of other supplies.

"With that market amount, that is a whole lot of tariffs for somebody to pay."

On Feb. 13, President Trump announced the possibility of applying reciprocal tariffs to every country that deals with the U.S. trade markets.

"If India places a two per cent tariff on imported products, the U.S. will replicate that amount and place a two per cent tariff on products from India," explained White.

This is the best-case scenario for Canadian farmers, since Canada currently imposes zero tariffs on U.S. imports.

With all the risk and uncertainty in the trade markets, the financial outlook for business owners, farmers and industry workers is not hopeful.

Whether the tariffs will impact this year's growing season is still unclear.

"It is a matter of if and when these changes will be made. It is possible that it can affect the crops this year."

White is not quite sure how Canada will respond if the tariffs go into effect. Trades between the two countries may be discontinued, farm production may slow or farmers may begin exploring trades with other farming markets.

Fortunately for canola farmers, most of their demand comes from domestic markets, but international markets with U.S., China and Japan still have a significant impact.

As for supplies, most canola seeds are being grown and sourced in Canada.

The potential tariffs imposed on other tools and supplies will become a problem for Canadian growers.

"Canada is committed to reciprocal tariffs from all imports from the U.S.," explained White.



FILE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER
Canada and the U.S. trade approximately \$6.3-billion worth of canola annually.

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"Phosphorus, nitrogen, farming imports, chemicals for prop protection, machinery and more could all be a part of the tariff package put forward."

He said that the canola farmers' prices ultimately depend on how the Government of Canada responds to the imposed tariffs.

White wants Canadian farmers to know that they are doing all they can to give their support and guidance.

"We are very active at trying to make this work. We want to make sure that farmers' best interests are in mind for both the industry and economy."

CCGA is working hard to ensure that farmers' needs and concerns are addressed during this time of uncertainty.

"Their voices are being heard," said White.

Your FARM



Crop meetings giving growers knowledge amid uncertainty

By Becca Myskiw

Central Region Crop Meetings are underway, and with them, a whole slew of crucial information for Manitoba producers.

After starting the meetings in Carman last year, Callum Morrison, crop production extension specialist with Manitoba Agriculture, is bringing them back to the region. He started the crop meetings to make Manitoba Agriculture's talent and expertise more accessible to growers in the province.

On Tuesday, growers filled the Carman Legion Auxiliary Hall from 8:30 a.m. until noon, getting information on four main topics:

- Verticillium stripe in canola
- Insect updates and management tips
- Weeds to watch and control strategies for them
- Finding profit in 2025

"It's just really important so they'll gain valuable insights just to help them set the stage to do the best they can during the 2025 growing season," said Morrison. "It's just a great way for producers and industry profes-

sionals to come and connect with fellow farmers. Those peer-to-peer connections are important."

Oilseeds specialist Sonia Wilson spoke on verticillium stripe. Verticillium stripe was first identified just outside Winnipeg in 2014 and has been found in six Canadian provinces since. Damage from the disease typically isn't seen until late in the season, when canola plants start to ripen prematurely. The plant stems eventually dry out, turn beige in colour and begin to shred, resulting in significant yield losses for the grower.

Last year's hot, dry weather created perfect conditions for verticillium stripe to thrive — the disease was found in 60 per cent of canola fields surveyed in Manitoba. In 2019, that number was 20 per cent, and in 2017, it was just two per cent.

With the disease becoming more prevalent, it's also becoming more disastrous. There are currently no fungicide options for dealing with verticillium stripe, which leaves growers with very few options.

Next, entomologist John Gavloski discussed insects seen commonly in

fields last year and predictions for the 2025 season. Using preserved insects people could look at up close, Gavloski showed growers how to identify common insect pests and how to manage them.

Morrison deemed the third presentation crucial. Weeds specialist Kim Brown discussed a few weeds that have been moving into the region from the U.S., most commonly water hemp.

Waterhemp hasn't yet been identified in Saskatchewan or Alberta, but it has been found in Manitoba, and the weed is proving to be a significant concern. In 2023, the weed was limited to Dufferin's rural municipality, but it's since spread out and is now found in much of southeastern Manitoba.

Waterhemp typically grows four to five feet tall but can grow as tall as 10 feet high. Its thin branches produce around 250,000 seeds per plant, sometimes as many as one million, which causes significant problems. As the seeds emerge during the growing season, herbicide control becomes increasingly difficult and the weed

overtakes fields entirely, causing yield losses of up to 100 per cent in some crops.

The final topic of the day was profitability and how to find it in 2025.

"It's really, really key because everything is up in the air this year," said Morrison. "There are a lot more questions people have this year."

Answering growers' questions and fears, farm management specialists Crystal Berthelette and Roy Arnott talked money amid U.S. tariffs and economic uncertainty.

On Wednesday, there was another of the same meetings in Altona. On Friday, there's one in Holland at the community hall from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Morrison encourages all growers in the area to attend the meetings, not only to gain knowledge and make connections but also to support Manitoba agriculture.

"We can gain practical feedback from farmers," he said. "We learn from them, and they learn from us."

get inspired
> MEAL IDEA

Quick Breakfast Skillet

- Prep time: 2 minutes
Cook time: 6 minutes
Servings: 1
1 Minute Butter & Sea Salt
Jasmine Rice Cup
1 slice bacon, chopped
1 egg
1/4 cup cheddar cheese, shredded



cracked black pepper
Heat rice according to package directions.
Heat medium frying pan over medium heat and add bacon. Cook about 4 minutes, or to desired doneness.
Scramble egg and add to frying pan. Cook 1 minute, or

to desired doneness.
In bowl, mix rice, egg and bacon mixture and cheese. Top with cracked black pepper.
Tips: Breakfast sausage or breakfast potatoes can be substituted for bacon. Add favorite hot sauce for a little heat.

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Interlake Brewing Co. takes curling to new heights

By E Antonio

A new weekend curling rink has opened up on top of Gimli's Interlake Brewing Co. restaurant.

Interlake Brewing Co. owners Graeme Maclean and Kristin MacCary opened the rooftop curling rink in mid-January for restaurant patrons who wanted to brave the extreme temperatures.

"We opened Interlake Brewing Co. one-and-a-half years ago, and last winter, we wanted to open the rink, but the weather did not co-operate," Maclean explained.

"My business partner and I took part in a brew bonspiel last year at Buchanan's Jugs Club, which inspired us to try and bring it here. We recently finished renovating and had lots of leftover materials, so we figured we would give the curling rink a go."

If the weather permits, everyone is invited to enjoy the curling rink on the rooftop patio at Interlake Brewing Co. on weekends from 2 to 4 p.m. The patio has been winterized to create a fun seasonal experience for guests.

The building team thought of everything to ensure your comfort outdoors. They have built wind blocks, heaters, bathrooms, blankets and benches to help you stay warm. They have also opened their Ice Bar, which features unique mocktails and warm beverages to keep your energy high when you curl with your friends and family.

"We have bar tenders serving beers, wines, spirits, coffee and hot chocolate. We have even started to make 'ice shots' by making shot glasses out of ice."

They are even considering making



The ice surface is half the size of a regular sheet.

specialty cocktails uniquely for the ice bar.

Interlake Brewing Co. has everything you need when it comes to a game of rooftop curling. They have made their own curling rocks out of milk jugs, and no brooms are required for their family-friendly curling game.

"You just need to show up and dress appropriately for the weather," added Maclean. "We encourage everyone of all ages and abilities to come out; you don't have to be a curler to have fun."

Once warmer weather returns, Maclean plans to host bonspiels and other more formal curling events, hoping to extend the rink's hours as interest grows. With the Gimli Ice Festival approaching, he looks forward to seeing a lot of activity on the rink.

"It is a fun reason to get outside and spend together. Creating community



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Interlake Brewing Co. has opened a rooftop curling rink. The outdoor rink is currently open on weekends from 2 to 4 p.m., and it plans to expand its hours once temperatures rise.

is something we strive for as a business."

Interlake Brewing Co.'s curling rink is open Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. at 72 1 Ave. in Gimli. Hours

are subject to change and are based on current weather conditions. You can find updates to the rink's operating hours on their Facebook page, Interlake Brewing Co.

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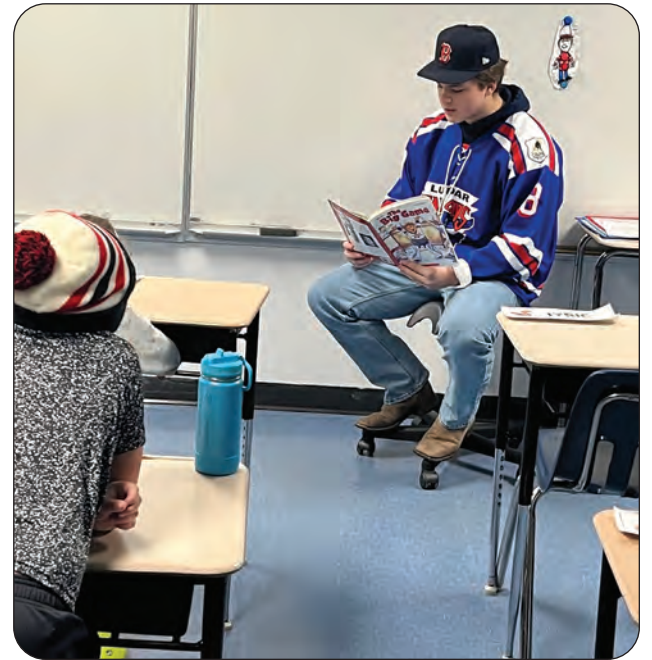


Poutine Queen

EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kahleigh's Brew Barn, owned and operated by Kahleigh Dubois in Riverton, was named the Manitoba champion of La Poutine Week with her Sweet Home Manitoba poutine. Dubois enhanced the restaurant's Crispy Chicken Honey Dill Fries for the competition by using classic KBB McCain fries grown in Manitoba, topped with cheese curds, mozzarella cheese, warmed Manitoba-made honey dill sauce, crispy chicken, applewood smoked bacon crumble and fresh dill. This delicious poutine will be available for a few more weeks.

Lundar Falcons read to students for I Love to Read Month



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Lundar Falcons players Slater Farthing (2) and Kade Laughlin (8) visited Lundar Early Years School last week to read to students as part of I Love to Read Month. A variety of reading activities are planned for the month, including reading your favourite book to a friend, exploring books about athletes, dressing up in a silly outfit inspired by a book, reading a book that is older than you, enjoying a book that has been adapted into a TV show or movie, wearing a shirt with words on it, participating in pajamas and reading day, reading a Dr. Seuss book, choosing a book by your teacher's favourite author, reading a book about animals and wearing a hat with words on it. In the left photo, Slater Farthing reads to the Grade 2/3 class. In the middle photo, ASL interpreter Kristen introduces special guest readers to the Grade 2/3 class. On the right, Kade Laughlin reads to Grade 4 students.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY HAILEY HUEGING

The Manitoba government encouraged residents to enjoy winter activities by offering free ice fishing from Feb. 15 to 17 during the Winter Family Fishing Weekend, when anglers could fish without a licence. Natural Resources Minister Ian Bushie said it is a great opportunity to experience ice fishing and gather family and friends on the ice. Anglers must follow possession limits and size restrictions, with additional information available online. A federal angling licence is still needed in national parks. Additionally, Manitoba is offering free entry into provincial parks for February, although Snopasses are required for snowmobiling on groomed trails. Pictured are Robyn MacMillan, left, and MyKenna Holtmann ice fishing in Steep Rock over the weekend.

Free ice fishing weekend

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Tuesday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit hydro.mb.ca/publicmeeting

To request accessible formats visit hydro.mb.ca/accessibility.



Talking to Donald Trump with our wallets, buy Canadian movement snowballing

By Patricia Barrett

Say, have you heard, by word of mouth and other means of communication, that Canadians so proudly in the Interlake and o'er the country far are rising gallantly, yeah, in their quest to help each other find Canadian goods and services while U.S. President Donald Trump continues to rattle his manifest destiny sabre and promises to impose a trio of tariffs on Canada?

By this point in time, Canadians have probably lost count of the number of times Trump has expressed interest in making Canada his trophy wife and as they await his 25 per cent tariff on all Canadian products heading south, a 10 per cent tariff on energy and another 25 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium that the White House confirmed last week will be "stacked" on top of the first one.

In a mere month since he became president, Trump has irritated Canadians by unwelcomely pontificating on Canada, doing it down for alleged failure after alleged failure.

It's just "nasty," for instance. It's not "viable" as a country. It taxes stuff like digital services, which Trump just doesn't like the sovereign, democratic nation doing. It can't defend itself. And this is likely his most chilling comment to date: Canadians would get "better health care" if they were Americans because, after all, who wouldn't love to live under America's ultra-capitalist health regime in which people — even those with health insurance — grapple with exorbitant medical bills that throw them into crippling debt or deal them a hand of lawsuits and bankruptcies and premature deaths.

Trump's multi-billionaire adviser Elon Musk has even been pressed into service against Canada, calling the country's articulate, tactful and dapperly dressed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (love him or hate him) a "girl" and an "insufferable tool."

Canadians know Trump only wants to get his hands on really good Canadian stuff such as the Arctic, critical minerals, oil and gas reserves, its peaceful next-door neighbour Greenland and maybe some of our high-octane hockey players who fought in La Confrontation des 4 Nations last Saturday.

Given their well-rounded sense of fair play and their ability to recognize reality, Canadians have had enough: they've decided to speak to the American president with their wallets.

According to a Leger poll conducted between Feb. 7 and 10, a majority of Canadians (81 per cent) plan to or have already increased their purchasing of Canadian-made products, while 59 per cent will or have already stopped buying U.S. alcohol. Fifty-six per cent are avoiding travelling to the U.S.

To help her fellow Interlakers and Canadians identify Canadian products and services, RM of Gimli resident and social media influencer Brittany Isfeld is offering practical advice on how to navigate the rocky economic road ahead.

She launched a "Buy Canadian, Build Canada" campaign a few weeks ago on her personal social media sites. The campaign has a number of goals, including encouraging Canadian retailers to phase out American products, enhancing labelling on goods to help consumers easily identify what's Canadian, lobbying governments to enact procurement policies in favour of Canadian goods and services, and educating consumers on the positive impact of buying Canadian-made goods, to name



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITTANY ISFELD
Kraft Dinner was created by a Canadian. RM of Gimli resident Brittany Isfeld is using her considerable social media following to help Interlakers and other Canadians find Canadian products and services while U.S. President Donald Trump treats Canada like an enemy.

a few.

"I think it's important to prioritize purchasing Canadian goods and services and because of everything that's happening with the United States," said Isfeld.

It may require a bit of effort for consumers to identify Canadian products, and Isfeld wants to make that process easier by encouraging others to share lists of Canadian products — Canadian tech innovators recently launched apps that can scan and identify items by origin — to launch websites with a database containing Canadian product alternatives, and to ramp up social media campaigns on buying Canadian.

"I've gathered a lot of common-sense information and put it together for people," said Isfeld, who has years of experience in economic development and tourism, and currently works for the RM of Reynolds as its economic development officer. "We've never been put in a position like this where we've been threatened and have had to become more Canadian-minded in terms of what we buy. A lot of people like myself are prone to convenience and don't bother checking labels. Now that we're determined to buy Canadian products, it's going to take some time to educate people."

Because Canada and the U.S. are so integrated, with many companies operating in both countries, Isfeld said the first thing consumers should be aware of is the difference between a label saying Made in Canada, which means only 51 per cent of that product is Canadian content, and a label saying Product of Canada, which means 98 per cent of the product is Canadian content.

"I saw a flood of misinformation on social media and I took it upon myself to try to correct a lot of it," said Isfeld, who has a healthy 45,000-strong fol-

lowing on TikTok alone, more than half of whom are Canadians.

And it's not only the tangible products on the shelves that Canadians can make decisions about but also the services they purchase and their tourism and travel decisions.

"People may not be thinking about Canadian content creators, for example. There's a huge fad of hiring a content creator with lots of followers to promote your product in various social media spaces," said Isfeld. "And Canada has notable content creators. By working with one of them and tapping into their following, you might be able help your own business flourish and get more exposure. As a Canadian creator myself, I'm adamant about utilizing us because that money will go into the pockets of Canadian creators and they'll in turn spend it locally."

For people thinking of travelling, Canada has its fair share of stunning destinations and things to do in all kinds of weather, and Canadians can help support their local economies and businesses by spending their travel dollars here. And Isfeld said we should also be extending a welcoming hand to Americans.

"I think right now we should be playing on the fact that our dollar is low and get Americans to visit us and spend their money in Canada," said Isfeld. "We need to promote ourselves as a destination. We're still neighbours and there's no reason Americans can't come here to visit us. This potential trade war isn't about us hating Americans and them hating us; we need to work on our relationship and stay together as neighbours. That's super important."

With the tariffs anticipated to start in a few weeks, Isfeld said municipalities need to be prepared to attract Canadian business to their borders to help cushion the blow of potential supply-chain interruptions.

"I did a call-out to Canadian economic development officers, saying we should have a town or municipal land inventory ready to go where we've identified lots with all services such as sewer, water and so forth and make them available to a Canadian company that needs to set up," said Isfeld. "We need to be ready to hold the hand of Canadian businesses and have them produce a product from start to finish here in Canada."

Isfeld said she's not buying advertising space on TikTok or on the American-owned social media platforms she uses, such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn. She's using the platforms for her own personal use and for her buy Canadian campaign. She's also posting content she's created to identify certain products and/or companies that are wholly Canadian.

"All of us Canadians need to walk hand-in-hand right now and really stand up for each other," she said.

Ontario MP Charlie Angus, who's been strongly exhorting the Canadian government to stand up to, in his words, the "narcissist in Mar-a-Lago," continues to encourage Canadians to boycott American goods.

"When Canadians stop buying, it sends a message," said Angus last Friday, with reference to Canadians boycotting American products such as Kentucky whiskey.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Lightning Report: U18 playoff race comes down to final week

By Kieran Reimer

The U18 AAA Male Interlake Lightning are in a dogfight for a playoff spot, and two big wins last week provided a much-needed boost to their chances.

On Saturday, the Lightning defeated the Yellowhead Chiefs in a 7-6 thriller at Teulon-Rockwood Arena.

The Lightning led by as much as 6-3 after a hat trick from Blake Farthing and other goals from Talon Hogg, Mason Bernier, and Lucas Spencer.

The Chiefs then scored back-to-back goals to make it 6-5 before Drew Russell restored a Lightning two-goal lead in the third.

The Chiefs added one more with just under five minutes remaining, but the Lightning shut it down from there.

With the win, Interlake picked up two points and moved on to another big home game against the Kenora Thistles the following day.

Against Kenora, the Lightning offense once again broke free for seven goals, this time led by Lucas Spencer's two goals and two assists.

The Lightning went on for a 7-1 win with other goals scored by Tytan Johnson, Drew Russell, Talon Hogg, Jake Keryluk, and Will Van Norman, while Dylan McFayden stopped 37 shots in the net.

The win moved the Lightning back into a tie with the Eastman Selects for the eighth and final playoff spot. However, the Lightning still hold two games in hand on the Selects.

"We knew that we had to gain some ground with games in hand so we wanted to make sure the weekend started off strong," said head coach Aaron Kaatz. "It was a little closer than what we needed but they were able to still put pucks in the back of the net at a seven goals per game average between the two games so that was a positive."

Kaatz also spoke about the impressive weekend of his team's offence, which scored 14 goals over the two games.

Blake Farthing and Lucas Spencer's massive performances also raised their combined points to 46, which puts them tied for the team lead after 44 games.

"It's important. We know in this league you have to have multiple threats in your lineup," said Kaatz. "If you only have a single threat on a line it's easy for other teams to take that away and then you're asking for quite a bit from the rest of your depth so having them getting free and getting some monkeys off their back and being able to score at an almost goal per game pace, they are finding that confidence, those open opportunities, and it's happening at the right time which is nice to see as well."

The Lightning are tied for the fewest games played in the league, which means they will have a slight advantage as they look to clinch the playoffs with four games remaining.

They are currently among four teams that have either 48 or 47 points and are vying for the final three playoff spots, which will make for a playoff-esque finish to the regular season.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY TANYA SWANSON

Interlake Lightning U18 graduating players, left to right, Cole Swanson, Blake Farthing, Lucas Spencer, James Franklin, Tytan Johnson, Talon Hogg, Drew Russell, Jake Keryluk and Noah Schneiderat.

The Lightning's remainder will include a road game on Tuesday against Central Plains, their final regular-season home game on Wednesday against the Winnipeg Thrashers, and then a road pair against Yellowhead on Saturday and Sunday to conclude the regular season.

Overall, it is set up for four games in six nights. Kaatz said each game will feel like Game seven.

"It's kind of setting up nicely to them. Kind of what you look at as a pro hockey schedule where there's not a lot of practices; you're playing two games, then get maybe a practice in and a day off, and then you've got to go play another two games in probably less than 48 hours so it's a little bit like a sprint to the finish," said Kaatz."

UPCOMING GAMES:

Tuesday, Feb. 18 at Central Plains Capitals, 7:30 p.m. at Stride Place

Wednesday, Feb. 19 vs Winnipeg Thrashers, 7 p.m. at Teulon-Rockwood Arena

Saturday, Feb. 22 at Yellowhead Chiefs, 7:30 p.m. at Shoal Lake Communiplex

Sunday, Feb. 23, at Yellowhead Chiefs, 2 p.m. at Shoal Lake Communiplex

The U18 AAA Female Interlake Lightning beat the Central Plains Capitals 4-1 on Wednesday and 3-0 on Friday to take the best-of-three play-in series 2-1. With the win, they advanced to the quarterfinals and will play the Eastman Selects.

Upcoming Games: Wednesday, Feb. 19 at Eastman Selects (game one), 8 p.m. at Niverville Centennial Arena, Saturday, Feb. 22 vs Eastman Selects (game two), 2:30 p.m. at Access Credit Union Arena

The U13 AA Male Interlake Lightning lost 7-1 to the Winnipeg Bruins Black on Friday and lost 4-1 to the Pembina Valley Hawks West on Sunday. They currently sit 13th with a 12-13-0-1 record.

Upcoming Games: Tuesday, Feb. 18 vs Winnipeg Wild Red, 7:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Sports Complex, Saturday, Feb. 22 at Pembina Valley Hawks East, 4:30 p.m. at Rosenort Arena

The U13 AA Female Interlake Lightning lost 9-0 to the Saints on Saturday and 4-2 to the Rangers on Sunday. They currently sit seventh with an 8-16-0-1 record.

Saturday, Feb. 22 at Brandon Wheat Kings, 4:15 p.m. at Enns Brothers Arena, Sunday, Feb. 23 vs Predators, 2:15 p.m. at Access Credit Union Arena

The U15 AA Male Interlake Lightning lost 2-1 to the Winnipeg Thrashers Red on Saturday afternoon. They currently sit ninth with a 9-11-5-2 record.

Upcoming Games: Sunday, Feb. 23 at Winnipeg Thrashers White, 12 p.m. at Seven Oaks SportsPlex

The U15 AAA Male Interlake Lightning lost 5-0 to the Central Plains Capitals on Friday and tied 2-2 with the Yellowhead Chiefs on Saturday. They currently sit fifth in the Central Division with a 5-25-1 record.

Upcoming Games: Friday, Feb. 21 vs Brandon Wheat Kings, 7:45 p.m. at Access Credit Union Arena

The U15 AAA Female Interlake Lightning lost 6-1 to Central Plains on Saturday. They currently sit seventh with a 3-21 record.

Upcoming Games: Friday, Feb. 21 at Pembina Valley Hawks, 7:30 p.m. at Manitou Community Arena, Saturday, Feb. 22 at Norman Wild, 7:30 p.m. at Roy H. Johnston Arena, Sunday, Feb. 23 at Norman Wild, 1:30 p.m. at Roy H. Johnston Arena

The U17 AAA Male Interlake Lightning lost 5-4 to the Pembina Valley Hawks on Saturday and lost 7-1 to the Brandon Wheat Kings on Sunday. They currently sit seventh with a 7-21-5-0 record.

Upcoming Games: Saturday, Feb. 22 vs Winnipeg Thrashers, 7:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Sports Complex, Sunday, Feb. 23 vs Winnipeg Bruins, 12 p.m. at Southdale Community Centre

Local Manitoba curling rinks take centre stage at Scotties

By Ty Dilello

The 2025 edition of the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, Canada's national women's curling championship, is currently being held from Feb. 14 to 23 at the Fort William Gardens in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

This year's Scotties features a field of 18 teams. The fourteen Canadian curling member associations sent a representative. Team Canada is represented by Rachel Homan, who won the 2024 Scotties Tournament of Hearts. There are also three wildcard teams.

The wildcard spots initially went to three Manitoba-based teams: Chelsea Carey, Kerri Einarson, and Kaitlyn Lawes. However, on Jan. 2, Karlee Burgess left Team Carey to join Team Einarson, meaning that Carey no longer retained three of its four players from the previous year. Carey's wildcard spot was then given to the next highest-ranked team in the CTRS rankings, Selena Sturmey of Alberta.

Similar to the previous few years, the field will be split into two pools of nine, where an eight-game round-robin will take place.

The top three teams from each pool at the conclusion of the round-robin

will advance to a six-team playoff, with the first-place team from Pool A taking on the second-place team from Pool B and vice versa. The winners will advance to the 1 vs. 2-page playoff, while the losers meet the third-place finishers in the pools. Those games will serve as qualifiers for the 3 vs. 4-page playoff game. From there, a regular page playoff will take place, with the winner crowned on the evening of Feb. 23.

Manitoba will have three entries in the field: Gimli's Kerri Einarson (Val Sweeting, Karlee Burgess, Krysten Karwacki), Heather's Kaitlyn Lawes (Selena Njegovan, Jocelyn Peterman, Kristin Gordon), and Heather's Kate Cameron (Taylor McDonald, Brianna Cullen, Mackenzie Elias).

The three Manitoba rinks are all grouped together in the same pool, which means that they all play each other at some point during the round-robin, as they all hope to qualify for the playoffs. Every single draw from this week can be watched by the home viewer on TSN.

Gimli's Einarson is ranked number two in the field this week and likely has the best chance of anyone in the



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Gimli's Kerri Einarson is one of the favourites at this week's 2025 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Thunder Bay, Ontario. From left to right: Kerri Einarson, Val Sweeting, Karlee Burgess, Krysten Karwacki and Lauren Lenentine.

field in upsetting the powerhouse Rachel Homan in the final. Lawes is ranked third in the field, while Cameron is the seventh seed.

The winning team from this week's

Scotties will go on to represent Canada at the 2025 World Women's Curling Championship at the Uijeongbu Indoor Ice Rink in Uijeongbu, South Korea.

Falcons close out regular CRJHL season with win over Fishermen

By Kieran Reimer

It's playoff time for the Lundar Falcons after officially concluding the regular season on home ice against the Selkirk Fishermen on Saturday.

The Falcons wrapped up an impressive regular season with a 4-3 victory over the Fishermen, finishing with a record of 17 wins, 11 losses and 2 overtime/shootout losses.

The Falcons jumped out to an early lead, scoring three goals in the first period from Ryan Benson, Dylan Vitelli and Dylan Care, making it 3-0.

The Fishermen fought back, scoring three goals across the second and third periods to tie the game.

With the score deadlocked at 3-3,

Jake Plett netted the go-ahead goal with just 22 seconds remaining in the third period, sealing the game at 4-3.

Kennedy Kerr had a strong performance in net, stopping 37 of 40 shots, earning his 11th win of the season.

Earlier in the week, the Falcons faced a 5-3 loss against the Beausejour Comets in their final road game. Daniel Masters scored in the first period, and both Liam Russell and Dylan Care found the net in the second period, which cut the Comets' lead to 4-3. However, the Comets added an insurance goal late in the second period and held on for the victory.

With the regular season now complete, the Falcons will enter their first-

round playoff series as the third seed against the sixth-seeded Arborg Ice Dawgs. The series will be a best-of-five format, starting with games one and two on the weekend.

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE:

- Game 1: Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m. at Lundar Arena
- Game 2: Saturday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. at Arborg & District Arena
- Game 3: Tuesday, Feb. 25, 8 p.m. at Lundar Arena
- Game 4: Friday, Feb. 28, 8 p.m. at Arborg & District Arena (if necessary)
- Game 5: Saturday, March 1, 7 p.m. at Lundar Arena (if necessary)



PHOTO BY AVA CAMERON PHOTOGRAPHY Lundar Falcons' Jake Plett scored the game-winning goal in his team's 4-3 victory over the Selkirk Fishermen on home ice on Feb. 15.

Arborg to host Hockey Manitoba U18A Provincials in March

By Kieran Reimer

Arborg will welcome nine teams from across Manitoba for the 2025 Hockey Manitoba U18A Provincials next month.

This marks the first time in over a decade that Arborg has hosted the tournament.

The Arborg Falcons will be one of the nine teams competing in the provincials from March 7 to 9 at the Arborg & District Arena. The other eight

teams include the Flin Flon Bombers, Grunthal Red Wings, Lakeside Falcons, Landmark Blues, Mitchell Mustangs, Rat River Saints, Steinbach Millers and Thompson King Miners.

The festivities will kick off with a match between Landmark and Lakeside on Friday morning at 10 a.m., marking the first of six games scheduled for that day. The day's events will also feature the opening ceremonies before the Arborg Falcons play

their game against Thompson at 6:45 p.m.

On Saturday, there will be six additional games, including a skills competition that will take place following the 12:30 p.m. game between Thompson and Steinbach. Saturday will conclude with the first three playoff games in the evening.

The final day of the tournament, Sunday, will include the semi-finals, consolation finals, bronze game, and

championship game.

The Arborg Falcons will compete in the White Pool alongside Steinbach and Thompson, playing each team once.

Lakeside, Landmark and Grunthal will form the Gold Pool, while Rat River, Mitchell and Flin Flon will compete in the Black Pool.

Sunday's schedule will end with the bronze game at 2:45 p.m. and the championship game at 4:45 p.m.

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APARTMENT FOR RENT

Tollak Place has 1 & 2 bedroom suites, located at 40 Eveline Street. Spacious suites, with F/S, A/C, storage areas and large balconies; utilities are included, parking is extra. Tollak 2 is a 55 plus bldg., river view apts. with central air, F/S, DW & microwave; large storage area off the kitchen and a balcony; utilities and parking extra. Call the onsite office 204-482-2751 for AVAILABILITY.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

For sale - 17.14 acres with treed yard site with 24x40 fully wired shop with heated floor and washroom; also, 36x44 truck shop with 3 doors, fully wired with 200 AMP service; approx. 15 acres is pasture with heated drinker; property has hydro service, 4 year old well & septic field. Ready for mobile home, RTM or build on site. Located 9 miles NW of Riverton. Call or text 204-642-2249.

HAY FOR SALE

Round hardcore bales, 1st & 2nd cut, alfalfa & brome grass. Call 204-461-0722.

HELP WANTED

Two Grooms for 2024 season at Assiniboia Downs. Horse experience helpful. Call Carl 431-335-3049.



PETS

PUREBRED BORDER COLLIE PUPS. Ready Feb. 1st. 4 males & 3 females. Call 204-448-2317.

WANTED

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

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Want to learn how to fly? Interested in a career as a commercial pilot? LS Airways Flight Academy is the most affordable in Canada. We have students from all over the world. We offer flight training and ground school (air law, navigation, meteorology, aeronautics general knowledge). Call 204-651-1402.

Riverton Bifrost Holdings Inc. NOTICE OF RE-TENDER April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

RBH Inc. invites tenders for **Electrical** for Housing Units located in Riverton.
For information call 204-378-2937.

- Contract will be awarded with option for a one year extension
- Tender will not necessarily be awarded to lowest bidder
- Submission Deadline
- Friday, February 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
- Submit quotes by mail or email to:
Riverton Bifrost Holdings Inc.
RBH Houses
Box 448, Riverton, MB R0C 2R0
rbh.inc@outlook.com

BASIC Bifrost Agricultural Sustainability Initiative Coop Annual Meeting

Bifrost-Riverton Farmers & Guests are invited to attend

Date: Wednesday, February 26th, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Arborg Curling Rink

Guest Speaker

David Drozd - 4 Year Market Forecast,

AgChieve Corp

Bifrost-Riverton Drainage Report

Update In BASIC Activities

BASIC Annual Meeting

News Tips? call the Express 204-467-5836

take a break

> GAMES

SUDOKU

		9	7	3				
7	3							4
	2	1						
								9
					1	5	6	
	9	8					2	
			2					3
	5	2	8			4		
8		6	5					

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	7	4	6	1	8	2	5	3
3	5	8	7	9	2	4	1	6
7	2	3	4	5	9	8	6	1
8	9	5	1	7	6	3	4	2
6	4	1	2	8	3	7	9	5
5	3	7	8	9	4	1	2	6
4	8	6	9	2	1	5	3	7
2	1	2	3	5	7	9	8	4

Sudoku Answer

E	U	V	T	S	T	E	R	E
L	N	E	C	O	S	I	N	I
V	W	N	V	S	V	M	I	N
R	V	E	L	N	V	D	I	R
D	U	T	E	H	C	V	R	O
T	E	S	S	V	T	S	V	D
V	V	D	I	S	N	I	V	E
N	E	S	S	U	C	O	C	H
E	P	M	T	C	V	S	A	F
S	V	R	O	T	P	I	C	I
T	H	G	I	B	L	V	E	S
N	O	R	A	V	A			

Crossword Answer

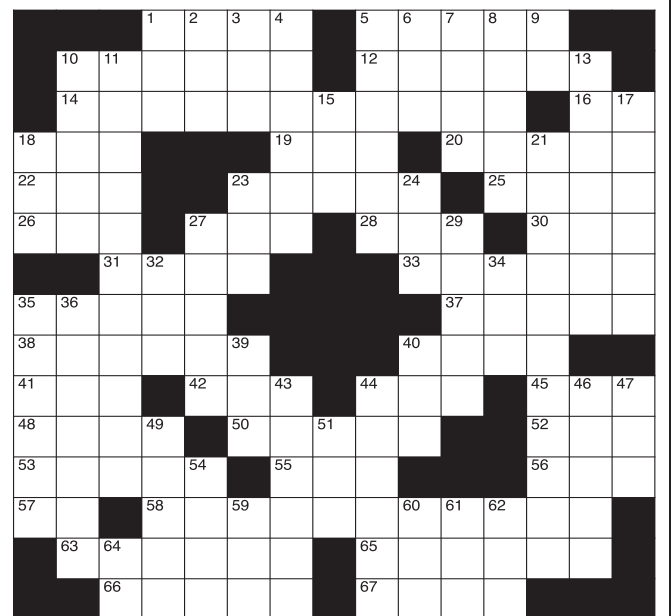
CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Tropical Asian plant
5. Yankees' slugger Judge
10. Helps to preserve food
12. Plant disease
14. One who predicts
16. Equally
18. Burundian franc
19. Pouch
20. Arizona city
22. Surround
23. Hard, heavy timber
25. Witnessed
26. They ___
27. French river
28. A way to drink
30. Small constellation
31. Peruse a written work
33. Type of hound
35. Plant of the goosefoot family
37. Evade or escape
38. A way to confine
40. Volcanic crater
41. Weekday
42. Women's service organization (abbr.)
44. Local area network
45. Sensory receptor
48. Posted
50. Tibetan pastry
52. Licensed for Wall Street
53. Very willing
55. Golf score
56. Consume
57. Touchdown
58. Tends to remind
63. In a way, smoothed
65. Poke holes in the ground
66. Herbaceous plants
67. Taiwanese river

CLUES DOWN

1. Body art
2. Boxing's GOAT
3. Film for posterity (abbr.)
4. Prayer
5. Calculating machine
6. Keyboard key
7. Outburst
8. Man-eating giants
9. New Hampshire
10. Type of sword
11. Counting
13. Pants style
15. Political action committee
17. U.S. government legislative branch
18. Civil Rights Act component
21. Contractors take one
23. Spanish soldier
24. A person's brother or sister
27. Expressed pleasure
29. Song of praise
32. Shock treatment
34. Patti Hearst's captors
35. Counteract
36. Goes over again
39. Popular Dodge truck
40. Male adult
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Rope used to lasso
46. Become less intense
47. Subway rodent
49. Lead alloy
51. Japanese honorific title
54. Advise someone
59. Famous NYC museum
60. Ocean
61. Cathode-ray tube
62. Cologne
64. It starts with these two



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NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR A MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION R.M. OF WEST INTERLAKE

Please be advised that a municipal by-election will be held on **Friday May 2nd, 2025** for the office of

COUNCILLOR WARD 1

To obtain a registration form contact the Senior Election Official at:

Myrna Little, SEO
Cell 1-204-941-0156
Office: 204-739-2666

Email: seo@rmofwestinterlake.com

Dated at Eriksdale, MB this 20th day of February 2025

Myrna Little
Senior Election Official
RM of West Interlake

MORTGAGE SALE

The building and land known as 42 Colleen Avenue, Arnes, Manitoba, (RM of Gimli) as described in Certificate of Title No. 2671670/1 will be sold at auction by a licensed Auctioneer on Wednesday, the 12th day of March, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. The auction sale will be held by way of video or teleconference. There will be no in person attendees at the auction.

In order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Lindsay M. Mulholland at 204-346-5124 or lmulholland@snj.ca.

The vendor is informed that there is situated on the mortgage property a single family dwelling, of approximately 3,930 square feet in total living area, with five bedrooms and three bathrooms, on a 0.47 acre lot with a detached garage.

The property is sold subject to taxes, and penalties. Property taxes are paid up to the 31st day of August, 2022. Caveat 224628/1 will remain on title.

Purchaser is responsible for payment of any outstanding water accounts owing by the Mortgagor.

TERMS: Deposit of \$79,900.00 in cash, certified cheque or bank draft payable to SMITH NEUFELD JODOIN LLP within 24 hours of auction sale (cash component of the deposit not to exceed \$7,500.00) and the balance according to conditions to be announced at the sale.

Sale is subject to Reserve Bid which will be announced at the auction. If the highest bid does not meet the Reserve Bid then there is no sale.

The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: www.teranetmanitoba.ca

Further information and copies of the Conditions of Sale may be obtained from:

SMITH NEUFELD JODOIN LLP
Barristers & Solicitors
85 PTH 12 North
Steinbach, MB R5G 1A7
File No. 110949-24
Attention: Lindsay M. Mulholland
Phone: 204-346-5124
lmulholland@snj.ca

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TOWN OF ARBORG REVISED WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES ARBORG WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY

February 5, 2025

The Town of Arborg (Town) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for revised water and wastewater rates for Arborg Water and Wastewater Utility (Utility) as set out in By-law No. 7-2024, read the first time on August 28, 2024 and second reading on September 17, 2024. Rates were last approved in 2016 in Board Order No. 65/16, with current rates coming into effect January 1, 2018.

The current and proposed rates are as follows:

	Current Rates		Proposed Rates			
	By-Law 4-2015	By-Law 07-2024 Year 1	By-Law 07-2024 Year 2	By-Law 07-2024 Year 3	By-Law 07-2024 Year 4	By-Law 07-2024 Year 5
Quarterly Service Charge	\$ 35.50	\$ 37.52	\$ 39.54	\$ 41.56	\$ 43.57	
Water (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 9.40	\$ 10.30	\$ 11.20	\$ 12.10	\$ 13.00	
Wastewater (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 2.85	\$ 3.13	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.69	\$ 3.97	
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$ 72.25	\$ 77.81	\$ 83.37	\$ 88.93	\$ 94.48	
Wastewater Only - Unmetered - Residential**	\$ 71.13	\$ 62.56	\$ 66.82	\$ 71.08	\$ 75.33	
Wastewater Only - Unmetered - Commercial***	\$ 71.13	\$ 76.65	\$ 82.17	\$ 87.69	\$ 93.20	
Bulk Water Sales**	\$ 20.00	\$ 18.75	\$ 22.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 25.00	
Disconnection Requests	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	

*Based on 3,000 gallons

**Current rates based on 12,500 gallons, proposed based on 8,000 gallons

***Based on 12,500 gallons

Details of the Town's application are available for review at the Municipal office or the Public Utilities Board's office. Any questions concerning the application for revised rates, or the operation of the Utility, should be sent directly to the Town.

If you have concerns/comments regarding the Town of Arborg's application for water and wastewater rates, please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and provide your comment. Please note all comments will be forwarded to the Town.

Questions or comments should be sent on or before **March 22, 2025.**

Room 400 - 330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C4
www.pubmanitoba.ca

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Estate & Moving

March 8th @ 7:00PM

McSherryAuction.com

204-467-1858

or 204-886-7027

mcserryttd@gmail.com

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG

REQUEST FOR QUOTE

2025/26 HOURLY EQUIPMENT RATES

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong is seeking quotations from qualified bidders for hourly rates for Private Owned Equipment for the 2025 / 2026 season.

Request for Quotation packages, including specifications and submission documents are available at the Municipal Office, 1094 PTH #17 Inwood or from the Municipality of Armstrong website www.rmofarmstrong.com

Sealed submissions clearly marked "2025 Private Owned Equipment Hourly Rates" will be received at the Municipal of Armstrong office, located at 1094 PTH #17, Inwood, MB up until 12:00pm, and opening the tenders will be at 1:30pm, local time on February 28, 2025.

All inquires related to Request for Quote should be directed to Angie Dzuba at 204-278-3377.

The lowest or any hourly rate bid not necessarily accepted.

Quotations may be submitted to:

Angie Dzuba, Clerk
RM of Armstrong
1094 Highway 17
Box 69, Inwood, MB ROC 1PO
Phone: 204-278-3377 Fax: 204-278-3437



NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST / PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION R.M. OF WEST INTERLAKE

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be revised at

R.M. of West Interlake municipal offices,

38 Main Street, Ashern, MB Or 10 Main Street, Eriksdale, MB

Before March 26th, 2025 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

During this time, we will be available to update the voters list by:

- Adding the names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
- Deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
- Making such other correction of errors to the list as required.

VOTER ELGIBILTY:

A person is eligible to have his or her name added to the Voters list if he or she is:

- 1) A Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
- 2) A resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to election day, OR a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to election day.

APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROECTION:

A voter may apply in writing to the SEO (at the address/fax/ email number below) no later than March 26th, 2025 to have his/her name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail, email, or fax and must include your name, address and include proof of identity.

All changes to the voters list must be completed on or before March 26th, 2025. If you are new to the area please call or visit the RM office to ensure your name is on the voters list.

Dated at Eriksdale in the Province of Manitoba on February 20th, 2025

Myrna Little
Senior Election Official

R.M. of West Interlake
10 Main Street
Eriksdale, Manitoba ROC 0W0
Cell: 1-204-941-0156
Fax: 204-739-2073
Email: seo@rmofwestinterlake.com



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

RM of Gimli - Administration and Finance

Position Classification - Clerk 4 - Payroll Coordinator

Position Location - Blend of Office and Remote Work

Position Summary:

The RM of Gimli is hiring a part-time (minimum half-time) highly motivated and self-directed employee responsible for payroll. The Payroll Coordinator is responsible for the accurate preparation and submission of the bi-weekly payroll for all employees of the R.M. of Gimli through Payworks, the RM's payroll processing provider. This position is also responsible for the accurate processing of Council and Fire Department indemnities.

Key Payroll responsibilities include:

- Performs all payroll functions to ensure staff are paid in accordance with employment contracts and all collective agreements.
- Ensures receipt of all necessary information for new hires and returning seasonal employees.
- Receives, verifies and enters the bi-weekly payroll hours submitted by the various departments. Ensures all hours are processed accurately and in accordance with the various collective agreements.
- Maintains accurate and up to date records of all employees' vacation, sick leave, overtime and other leave accumulations and salary updates.
- Works closely with the Human Resources Officer on payroll related matters.
- Ensures that all employees who are either laid off or leave the RM have their final pay processed, and record of employment.
- Prepares all required payroll related reconciliations including for benefits, banked time, vacation etc. monthly, or as required.
- Gathers information and prepares related payroll reports
- Develop and implement new processes, procedures, forms and other related documentation to support the effective and efficient processing of payroll through Payworks.

Supports the Director of Finance by assisting with budget development, prepares ad hoc reports, and assists with the Year End process and reconciliations. Works with the external auditor as requested by management.

Serves as backup to the Accounts Payable Clerk and works as part of the office staff team and responds to in-person or telephone as required.

Qualifications:

- Completion of a Canadian certified payroll program or a suitable combination of education and payroll experience may be considered.
- Completion of a post-secondary accounting/bookkeeping program and a CMMA would be assets.
- A minimum of 2 years prior payroll experience is essential, and prior experience working with Payworks or another computerized payroll provider would be beneficial.
- Prior experience working with collective agreements, particularly as they relate to payroll would be an asset.
- Demonstrated experience with computerized accounting, spreadsheets and in preparing documents utilizing a variety of computer programs.
- Demonstrated analytical, problem solving and decision-making skills plus strong organizational, time management and attention to detail skills are required.
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills, highly motivated and with the ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team.
- Intermediate level training and experience with excel is required.

Salary Range: \$25.07 - \$28.24 per hour

Hours of Work: On initial appointment, the RM anticipates that the successful candidate will be required to work full time for approximately one year (70 hours bi-weekly). Subsequently, the anticipated ongoing hours of work will be half-time (35 hours bi-weekly).

The RM of Gimli offers a comprehensive pension and benefit package. This position is part of the Administration and Finance Collective Agreement.

The RM will consider a blend of remote and in-person (office) for this position subject to qualifications, position and operational requirements.

This position will remain open until filled. Applicants will commence being considered **March 11, 2025**.

Resumes and a cover letter can be sent in confidence to:

Trilbee Stirling-Kattler, Chief Administrative Officer
TStirlingKattler@rmgimli.com

We thank all applicants for their interest in this position but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Classifieds Announcements



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CARD OF THANKS

We wanted to thank everyone that attended the Bridal Shower and Wedding Social this past weekend on Saturday, February 8th, 2025. The cards, gifts, and kind words, were all so lovely and appreciated. Thank you to everyone including family, friends, and all who helped make things run smoothly, it was truly appreciated. It was amazing to see all the support from our community. Thank you!!

-Sincerely,
Morgan Sumka and Dylan Stobert

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Florence Brown would like to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone for the prayers, phone calls and visits, cards sent, food delivered, and donations made after her passing. Your kindness was so appreciated at this difficult time.

Also, a big thank you to the ELW who prepared the funeral lunch, Dawn Tober for everything you did, not just then but throughout the years, and to Karen and John Gray for their guidance and professionalism.

Additional thanks to the Ashern Personal Care Home for the years of great care that Florence received while living there. We are truly blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful family, friends, and community.

Thank You

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of
Clayton Brown

December 22, 1970 – February 20, 2023

To lose someone so special,
Is really hard to bear;
It hardly seems believable,
That you're no longer there.
You left us far too early,
Before your time, it seems;
And now you'll never have the chance,
To fulfil all those dreams.
However hard it is though,
We'll take comfort in the thought;
Of all the memories we have,
And the happiness you brought.
You always lived life to the fullest,
But ours won't be the same;
Until the day when we can see,
Your smiling face again.
Mom is now with you in the presence of our Lord.
Loving you and missing you until we meet again.

-The Brown family

IN MEMORIAM



Joseph E. Skibinsky
February 10, 1925 - February 18, 2023
In loving memory of
our dear husband, father, Papa,
uncle, and friend

Joe lives on through the many cherished pictures, family videos and stories we share. He is remembered everyday with love by his wife Joyce, his children Marilyn (John), Joanne, John (Lori), his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Forever in our hearts and around our table. We love you.

OBITUARY



Patricia Yablonski

Peacefully, with her family by her side, Patricia Jean Yablonski (nee Gooley), aged 84 years, passed away on February 9, 2025 at the Gimli Community Health Centre.

She is survived by her children Vicky (Ron), Diana (Roger), and Brian (Tracy); grandchildren Amanda, Michael (Kara), Nicole, Kerstin (Tyler), Alex, Braden, Matthew, Ethan, Jenifer, Landon, and Ryder; great-grandchildren Kelly, Kody, and Westyn; daughters-in-law Andrea and Amanda; and sister Ruth.

She is predeceased by her husband Peter (2004); son Robert (2024); son James (2021); grandson Steven (2009); sister Esther (2016); and brother Art (2019).

Pat was a very kind and generous person, always willing to lend a hand. She always had a funny story to tell about her many adventures and her stories were very grand. She very much enjoyed laughing, often with tears in her eyes, about the situations she got herself and sometimes her sisters, into. She was very passionate about doing things in her own way. She had a bright outlook and very seldom complained about her own struggles. Even in her last few days, although it was obvious she was in great discomfort, she did not complain. She was a beautiful person inside and out and maintained her positivity throughout. She will be dearly missed by her family and everyone who knew her.

Funeral service was held on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. at St. Michael's Church, Gimli, MB.

The family would like to extend their sincere thanks to the staff at the Gimli Community Health Centre.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Patricia's memory to CancerCare Manitoba Foundation.

Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY

Irene Bergthorson

August 22, 1925 – December 30, 2024

Irene Bergthorson, a cherished member of the Lundar, Manitoba community, passed away on December 30, 2024 at the age of 99. Born on August 22, 1925, Mom's life was a rich tapestry of service, creativity, and heartfelt community involvement.

Mom proudly lived most of her life in Lundar and, in her later years, resided in Stonewall. Over the decades, she embraced many roles that touched countless lives: she worked as a guitar teacher, EMT, day care assistant, barber/hair stylist, and golf clubhouse manager. Her vibrant spirit shone through her many passions. An avid golfer and gardener, a talented artist, and a gifted musician, Mom also dedicated over 50 years to coordinating the local choir—bringing music and joy to everyone around her. Her love for music was especially evident when she played guitar or harmonica, often jamming with family and friends. She also played an instrumental role in the development of the Lundar Golf Course, leaving a lasting mark on the community she loved.



Momsie, aka "The Grams" is lovingly survived by her daughter, Trina; sons and daughters-in-law Max and Pat, Mike and Terry; son-in-law Rob; 17 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; her sister Judith; brother Robert (Ilene); and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded by her parents, Donald and Polly; her husband, Mickey; daughter Judy and son-in-law Muzz; and siblings Howard, Don, Vick, Isabel, Eva, Rose, Trudy, Val, and Cora.

Throughout her long and fulfilling life, Mom's creativity and warmth enriched her home and community. Her paintings, proudly displayed on the walls of her loved ones, are a testament to her artistic flair. Whether tending to her garden, enjoying a lively game of cards at New Horizons, or traveling with her sisters, Mom embraced life with open arms and a joyful heart. She will be remembered for her unwavering love, her musical talents, and the light she brought into every room.

A huge thank you to the staff at Rosewood Lodge who showed Irene (Mom) such compassion and respect! Your caring and kindness allowed her to live out her final years with dignity! We appreciate you!

A Celebration of a "Life Well Lived" will be held on Saturday, May 17 at 11:00 a.m. at the Lundar Legion, with interment to follow at the Lundar Cemetery. A luncheon will follow at the Legion.

We were so lucky to have Mom with us for so long. Her loving presence, infectious spirit, and boundless passion for life will be deeply missed every day. Rest in peace, Old Gal.

MACKENZIE FUNERAL HOME STONEWALL
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OBITUARY

Olga Chomokovski (nee Bidochka)

March 2, 1935 - February 3, 2025

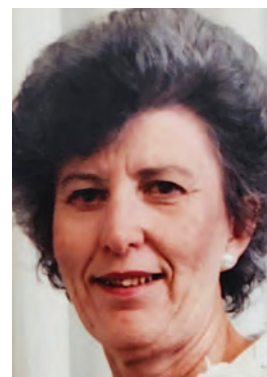
Peacefully, one month shy of her 90th birthday, Olga passed away at Lion's PCH.

Left to fondly remember her are son Ken Chomokovski (Kathy, Wade and Kayla), daughter Charlene Okrainec (Burke and Erin).

Olga and Walter lived and farmed in the Arborg area until 2011, when they moved to Lac du Bonnet.

Friends and family can find a full obituary online at ethicaldeathcare.ca

We welcome you to celebrate Olga's life on Sunday, March 2, at 1:30 p.m. at South Transcona Community Club, 124 Borden Avenue, Winnipeg.



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Icelandic River Lodge
Box 448, Riverton, MB R0C 2R0,
rbh.inc@outlook.com

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OBITUARY



Carol Ann O'Neill
September 12, 1943 – February 7, 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Carol Ann O'Neill, who passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 7, 2025 at Red River Place Care Home in Selkirk, Manitoba.

Born on September 12, 1943 in Winnipeg, Carol was raised in a military family, living on Canadian Forces Base Kenaston and later in CFB Shilo, where she met her husband. They started their family in Winnipeg before moving to the Gimli area in 1968. Together, they built a life with their children Laura, James and Billie.

A devoted homemaker, Carol filled her home with warmth, love, and the comforting aromas of homemade bread, cinnamon buns and home-cooked meals. In addition to raising her children, she found joy in crafting for the Women's Auxiliary at Gimli Hospital. She gave generously of her time to her children's activities, always

ready to drive kids to practices, competitions, and events. Her unwavering support ensured her children and many others in the community could pursue their passions.

As her children grew older, Carol re-entered the workforce, starting as a bank teller at the Bank of Montreal in Gimli and working her way up to branch manager. Throughout her life, she remained an active participant in the community, volunteering for committees, organizing fundraisers and ensuring her children had every opportunity to thrive. She was honored to host Gimli Rotary Youth Exchange students and considers them part of the family to this day.

After retirement, she embraced a new chapter in Aspen Park, forming cherished friendships and enjoying Saturday breakfasts with the ladies. She also found joy in travelling and treasured the time spent with her grandchildren. Carol lived by the motto pay it forward, believing in kindness, compassion, and always seeing the best in people.

Carol will be deeply missed by her children, Laura, James and Billie O'Neill; granddaughters Samantha Rogers and Lacey O'Neill; cherished relatives and her many dear friends.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Gimli Hospital, Dr. Ade's office, Senior Resources, Gimli Home Care, Red River Place Care Home, Selkirk Hospital, and her beloved Aspen Park and Gimli community.

A celebration of life will be held in early summer.



204-949-2200
Gimli 204-642-7124
neilbardalinc.com

OBITUARY



Kristijan Matthias Johnson
December 25th, 1932 – January 31st, 2025

Kris passed peacefully with family by his side at the age of 92.

Kris was predeceased by his wife Gladys; brothers Erik, Bill, and Dennis; sister Helga; brothers-in-law Jim and Earl; sisters-in-law Lil, Jeannette, and Liisa; daughter-in-law Cindy; as well as many other family and friends who sadly passed before him.

Kris is survived by his sister Eileen; daughter Marlene (Brad); son Allan (Brad); grandchildren Sean (Shannon), Drew (Tiffany), Matthew (Nancy) and Bradley (Ty); as well as his great-grandchildren Kaitlyn (Brody), Samantha (Darren), Emma, Natalie, Brendan, Damion, Carter, Miller and Parker. He will also be remembered by many nieces and nephews, all of whom Kris was very fond of.

Kris was born and raised in Lundar and grew up playing sports, hockey in particular, during which he proudly wore number 9. He always said that anyone who was any good wore number 9. It was in Lundar where Kris met the love of his life, Gladys. Together, they enjoyed 66 years of marriage.

Kris began his career with Manitoba Hydro at the age of 18 and enjoyed a bit of a nomadic life before finding a permanent spot in Inwood. With a young family, Kris and Gladys put down roots and became heavily involved in the community. Many life-long friends were made through helping with the church and other community activities. A particular point of pride for Kris were his integral contributions to fundraising and building the Inwood Arena.

In 1975 they started the next chapter of their life by picking up, house and all, and moving to Gimli, where Kris was the Supervisor for the local Hydro office. There were many good times at the place in Gimli: partying in the gazebo, having the grandkids over for good portions of the summer, and then moving into retirement in 1987, where Kris thoroughly enjoyed woodworking, golf, bowling, and whatever else he could find to keep busy with.

Kris (Dad/Afi) was a great mentor to us and taught us to be hard workers, community leaders, volunteers, teachers, coaches, lovers and caregivers. He carried his witty sense of humor and kind heartedness with him right till the end.

We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful staff at Betel for their fantastic care of both Kris and Gladys over the past number of years - it's greatly appreciated.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to Betel Home Foundation.

Expressions of condolence may be sent to www.neilbardalfuneralhome.com



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