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WEEKLY NEWS

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Syrian homecoming

EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Trudy Dueck spoke about the proposal to reunite the Jarkas family with relatives overseas at the the Interlake Refugee Support Network auction last Saturday evening at the Arborg Hall. The fun evening raised approximately \$25,000 from a live, silent and rainbow auction.

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Province looking for public input on Green Plan

By Jeff Ward

The province is asking for public input for the federal government's carbon pricing plan and has launched an online survey to collect your opinion.

The plan the provincial government is developing will reduce carbon emissions, preserve wetlands and vulnerable ecosystems, adapt to

climate change impacts, and foster sustainable living opportunities for people and communities, among other goals.

The carbon-pricing plan from the federal government will be implemented in 2018 and is slated to start at \$10 a tonne. That price is estimated to cost the average Manitoba household \$95 per year and would increase to \$50 a tonne

by 2022, or \$384 per household. The government is asking for public input on the process with the survey — <http://www.gov.mb.ca/climateandgreenplan/> — that asks questions on how a future carbon-pricing plan will affect your daily life.

"We want Manitobans to tell us what impact this will have on their families and to tell us their ideas of other steps we could take to grow our economy while we protect our environment," said Manitoba Sustainable Development Minister Cathy Cox.

The money raised from carbon pricing in the first year could be \$100 million, according to the province, and that revenue could be used to reduce taxes or invest in green infrastructure.

Interlake MLA Derek Johnson encourages residents to take part in the survey to have their voice heard, noting that his government is working towards a Made in Manitoba deal.

"Manitoba helps produce energy for other provinces like Saskatchewan and we send our power south as well. We're helping them produce less greenhouse gases to create energy and that's not taken into consideration by the federal government. If we're already on such a good path, how can we be held to the same standard as other provinces?" asked Johnson.

The MLA said that an important part of the survey is where it asks for input on how to spend the money raised from this tax. Johnson said that reinvesting in solar panels and other green technology could be the way to go.

Ron Thiessen, executive director for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society in Manitoba, said he was very pleased to see the government taking an active role in global climate change. He said seeing the preservation of wetlands and other ecosystems as a goal was a step in the right direction.

"CPAWS is pleased the province's upcoming Climate and Green Plan includes preserving wetlands and ecosystems as a key objective," said Thiessen.

"The Boreal region, which covers over 80 per cent of the province, offers incredible potential for large-scale conservation of its wetlands and forests that reduce spring flooding and contain massive stores of carbon, which helps slow the accelerator pedal on climate change."

Thiessen is concerned about the short response time on the survey, adding that when governments ask for feedback on policy, they typically give six weeks to respond. The response time for this survey is only two-and-a-half weeks, with submissions accepted until March 19. He added that this doesn't give average citizens enough time to properly go through their thoughts on a very complex issue.

Thiessen urged Manitobans to take the time to do the survey and have their voices heard.



Derek Johnson

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"WE WANT MANITOBANS TO TELL US WHAT IMPACT THIS WILL HAVE ON THEIR FAMILIES."

ACS Valentines Cabaret raises money for class trip to France

By Jeff Ward

Several talented student musicians performed at a relaxing and intimate night of music at Ashern Central School last month to raise money for their upcoming trip to France.

The Valentines Cabaret took place Feb. 22 and is an annual fundraiser that features the most dedicated artists from music teacher Jennifer Bjornson's class. The students pitched their ideas for a set list to Bjornson, who arranged the performances with a natural flow through the evening.

Bjornson said approximately 30 people came out for the show. They sat at tables set with tablecloths and candles and were served a variety of desserts brought in by the students. Students performed music from Simon and Garfunkel, show tunes, classical guitar and some modern music as well. Tickets were \$10 each and the students raised \$300 for their year-end trip to France.

"This is one of our best shows all year," said Bjornson.

"The people that come really appreciate the atmosphere we try to create. We really want to make it feel like a night out. We try to make sure our list of music relates to love in some way because it's a Valentines show and the students really take it from there."

The show lasted one hour and gave students who are serious about performing the opportunity to do so in front of a paying audience. Bjornson said that the talent at the school is really outstanding and that there are many born performers among them.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ashern Central School students performed live music for a crowd of 30 last month for a Valentines Cabaret fundraiser that will benefit the year-end school trip to France. Pictured left to right: Brian Meads, Jessica Thorkelsson, Catherine Price, Saige Klyne-Geisler, Jennifer Bjornson, Zoe Oversby and Courtney Granberg.

Clocks spring forward this Sunday for daylight savings

Staff

Most Canadians will adjust their clocks ahead by an hour Sunday, March 12 for the switch from local standard time to daylight saving time.

Daylight saving time officially starts at 2 a.m.

Clocks are pushed ahead one hour in spring to what's commonly called "daylight saving time," an idea first

used in Germany during the First World War with the goal of saving energy. It aims to take advantage of daylight hours in the spring so that people don't sleep through the first few hours of sunshine.

When the daylight period gets shorter in the fall, the clocks are readjusted to the proper "local standard time."

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Province tells FRCN Aboriginal people have no treaty rights

Commercial fishing (Part 1)

By Patricia Barrett

Fisher River Cree Nation has taken the provincial government to task for failing to consult with Indigenous fishers on opting out of the federally run Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) and for claiming commercial fishing is not an Aboriginal right.

FRCN had met Dec. 2, 2016, with a mediation company (Signature Mediation) hired by the province but did not consider it a "proper" consultation and sent a letter that same day asking the government to meet with them.

The Conservatives had announced Aug. 16, 2016, they will cut ties with FFMC, which markets Manitoba's fish throughout the world. On Nov. 4, they issued a news release stating they had hired Signature to visit fishing communities.

"Without proper consultation — and this government has proven itself to not consult prior to making its decisions — the impacts [opting out] would have to First Nations across Manitoba is huge," said Sam Murdock, director of operations for Fisher River, co-chair of the Lake Winnipeg Fishery Co-Management Board and former president of FFMC. "We rely on commercial fishing as a form of employment."

Indigenous people make up the majority (85 per cent) of Manitoba's fishers.

About 148 people in Fisher River fish year round to earn a livelihood and to support their families, said Murdock, who also fishes. In total, about 206 people are employed in fishing, including helpers and staff at two FFMC fish sheds.

Fisher River Chief David Crate and his councillors sent the province a second letter dated Feb. 2, saying that if the government (the Crown) has delegated its consultation to a private third party, it hasn't met the legal test for the duty to consult.

Citing a 2004 Supreme Court decision (*Haida Nation v. BC*), council wrote the "ultimate legal responsibility for consultation ... rests with the Crown and the honour of the Crown cannot be delegated." And a 2005 Supreme Court decision (*Mikisew Cree Nation v. Canada*) ruled that First Nations are "entitled to their own consultation process, separate from the general public."

Former minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship Tom Nevakshonoff, who met with some members of council Feb. 23, said fishing is inte-

gral to First Nations' society and one of their primary industries.

"And this is the argument for the duty to consult: any attempt to change this is going to have a fundamental impact on Aboriginal people in a huge negative way," he said. "Their [province] duty to consult is absolute, and they have totally ignored that responsibility."

In its Feb. 2 letter, council had also questioned the government's language in its Nov. 4 news release, which stated that "stakeholders" can come together to discuss the opt-out.

"FRCN and its members are rights-holders and not mere stakeholders," council wrote. "Therefore to characterize our rights in the vein of a stakeholder works to diminish our Constitutional rights."

The province has seemingly denied those rights exist.

FRCN received a letter dated Jan. 16 from Minister of Sustainable Development Cathy Cox denying that Indigenous people have a right to fish for economic purposes. She wrote, "The department notes that under existing jurisprudence, commercial fishing is not considered an Aboriginal or treaty right."

Council called that "an ultimate reflection of the Pallister government's prejudiced view of our constitutionally protected rights."

FRCN's treaty (Treaty 5 of 1875) indicates their right to fish for economic purposes is constitutionally protected. The treaty was signed after some members of the band relocated from Norway House (after the Hudson's Bay Company wound down operations in the 19th century) to pursue a livelihood in present day Fisher River.

"We left specifically for economic development, for the loss of employment through the York boats," said former FRCN chief Lorne Cochrane. "In our treaty, we are one of the few that have specific reference to relocation for livelihood and fishing and agriculture."

A 2012 Supreme Court decision concerning fishers from Norway House "put the weight of the courts behind treaty rights," according to a *Winnipeg Free Press* article (Oct. 26).

Council also cited other court cases — *R v. Marshall* [1999] — confirming that fishing for economic purposes is a treaty right.

Sustainable Development did not respond to a request to elaborate on its statement.

Murdock said an FFMC opt-out



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Tom Nevakshonoff (left) has concerns with how the province's decision to opt out of Freshwater will impact Indigenous fishers, who make up 85 per cent of Manitoba's fishers. He met with Sam Murdock, Fisher River's Director of Operations, to discuss the First Nation's concerns.

could affect fishers in a number of ways.

One is fishers' Employment Insurance, which is different from regular EI in that it's tied to fishers' wages rather than hours worked.

"It is a special relationship between commercial fishers and FFMC," said Murdock. "If that relationship is broken, then what guarantee do we have for our fishers that they'll draw EI during down times?"

Council undertook an analysis based on the loss of EI benefits, said Murdock, and found it would cost FRCN about \$560,000 annually to support fishers through social assistance.

There is uncertainty as to whether fish plant owners will contribute to EI or match fishers' EI contributions.

The devaluing of fishers' quota is another concern.

"QEs [quota entitlements] are valued on the fish prices that are posted by FFMC," said Murdock. "So when you have that consistency, your investment [remains stable]. But if prices drop, and there's uncertainty, that \$30,000 investment you made on that QE will probably be worth \$1,500, if that, because nobody knows."

Of great concern, too, is the possibility of seeing quotas listed on the open market.

"Currently, quota is almost enshrined in communities," said Nevakshonoff. "The fishers in Fisher River can sell their quota between themselves but not to some guy from Winnipeg or Minneapolis. ... They can't

just waltz in here and buy up all the quota. If suddenly quota is put up on an open market — an exchange — then who knows what the rule is. And this is determined by the provincial government, not the federal government."

According to Cochrane, fish companies will reduce fishers' incomes and force some to leave altogether.

"If I had the wherewithal, I'll be a buyer. I'll drive out all the little guys and, at the end of the day, I'll try to be a sole source. ... And we went through that historically. My grandfather and great-grandfathers, we hear their horror stories from the way the fish buyers were treating our people.

"Our guys had to sell their equipment and boats back to these buyers just to bring money home and start all over every year; it was a vicious cycle. Freshwater brought sustainability to the growth of our economy and to the community. It's been one of the reasons of success in our community ... the pride our people have and ... being able to provide for your family."

Proponents of opting out argue that fishers will be free to market their own fish. But Cochrane said fishers have never been compelled to sell their fish (within the province) to Freshwater.

"There's always been provisions that allow people to sell outside Freshwater ever since I can remember. Sam can sell his fish to Freshwater or he can get an (export) permit so he can

Citizens group abandons proposal to dissolve West Interlake

By Jeff Ward

The West Interlake Citizens Group (WICG) has officially abandoned their proposal to dissolve the RM of West Interlake and submitted a letter last week to the Municipal Board stating they will not be seeking a new public hearing.

WICG spokesperson Andrea Sweetland said that the decision to abandon their proposal was "very tough to come to" and it comes nearly two years following the formation of the group. Sweetland said that after all this time, money and effort, many group members felt that they hadn't accomplished a single thing. Even though they got their hearing on May 3 of last year, they felt the chances of them getting a resolution they're happy with was an impossibility.

In a letter addressed to municipal board secretary Rose Gibbons, Sweetland called last year's public hearing a "sad state" and added that the province has failed the citizens.

"Right now, our feeling is one of

pure exhaustion, but maybe now we'll be able to sleep at night," said Sweetland.

"The whole situation is very stressful and there are many things that are still not right. We can't see meeting minutes on the website. They go in camera very early on in meetings and they don't disclose anything."

Sweetland said that even with those issues causing concern for the members of the WICG, she just doesn't see the point in fighting anymore. Financially speaking, WICG members have spent hundreds of dollars on putting together their presentation to the Municipal Board and spent close to \$1,000 putting on the event — renting the space, buying advertising and supplying refreshments.

While Sweetland is still very upset with the way things have happened, she said it was clear to her that nothing was ever going to come of their fight. As citizens, she said they went down every route legally appropriate to find something that could be done

to change their situation to no avail.

"To be quite honest, there were some in the group that thought there is more that we could do, but we needed more people to get on board and do some of the work because we're all so tired. It's pretty disgusting that democracy works this way," said Sweetland.

Much of the ire of this situation is directed at the government, first for forcing an amalgamation on the citizens of the then RMs of Siglunes and Eriksdale and second for not listening to the issues stemming from the amalgamation.

Sweetland explained that the then NDP government and the now current PC government listened to the group but never had any intention of doing anything about it.

When WICG members first met with the current Manitoba Minister of Indigenous and Municipal Relations Eileen Clarke, Sweetland said that Clarke was very sympathetic to their plight, having gone through an amalgamation herself. However, after

the first meeting, Clarke changed her tune and refused to speak with the group again.

"After dragging out the scheduling of the second meeting, we were told that we had two meetings more than citizens groups normally get and that if we were granted our petition it would 'Set the Province on Fire.' We were told we would not get another meeting," wrote Sweetland in her letter.

As for what comes next, Sweetland said that while the WICG isn't officially disbanded, meetings or things of that nature wouldn't take place. However, she did leave the door open to reforming the group given the right circumstances.

"Some of us are getting to the point where we don't want to be involved in all this crap, and at our age, it's not us who will benefit or suffer from the consequences of this. It's the young people that are going to be the ones who will live in the mess that has been made," said Sweetland.

Freshwater Fish Marketing president looks forward to the future

By Jeff Ward

Interim Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) president Stan Lazar said that after the province opens the market for commercial fishers, the corporation will buy from any fishers that want to sell to them, regardless of species value.

The province has slated Aug. 17, 2017, as the final day of the FFMC monopoly, and beyond that date, commercial fishers can sell their catch to anyone. Lazar said that while FFMC will be no longer be mandated to buy all the fish caught in the province, they will still do so and that operations at the Winnipeg-based plant will continue as they have since the corporation's inception.

Lazar explained that FFMC has been around nearly 50 years and in that time, they've developed the processes, capability and infrastructure to do the job of a world-class organization. When the market opens, FFMC is still

primed to thrive in a very competitive world market and Lazar said that he wants to work with as many fishers who want to work with FFMC.

"Our basic direction going forward is we are here for fishers," said Lazar.

"We will be moving out to work with fishers, agents and co-ops that want to work with us. We're always looking at ways to engage and work with fishers that want to work with us. We're not obligated to buy every single fish in Manitoba, but we want to. We want to work with all fishers because that's the business we run today and we do it effectively. We'd like to continue doing that."

Lazar said that he wants to be clear that once

the monopoly is done, FFMC has no intentions of cherry picking the most valuable species and only selling those. He added that FFMC sees value in all species of fish caught in this province and the corporation has built itself on processing fish and finding markets for nearly everything that is pulled out of the water in Manitoba.

Lazar said that 2017 is bringing with it a new set of challenges but right now the corporation is developing

plans and modelling different scenarios to understand the challenges a bit better. Lazar couldn't get into specifics but said that FFMC is ready to change and adapt the operation to an open market environment.

"I'll admit that we are looking at our systems and will be changing them or adapting to what the new rules are. I don't see it as a huge challenge for us, given the longevity FFMC has had, our experience and that we have a lot of infrastructure set up," said Lazar.

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A fisherman's luck

> ARNIE WEIDL

Welcome, friends. I'm always impressed with folks who, when faced with challenges, stay calm, take things as they come and end up in pretty good shape. Such a man is Bill Dakota of Petersfield.

I met him some time ago in his ice shack off White Tail Trail when I was visiting anglers there. He was playing cards with a buddy on a small home-made wooden table in one end of his shack. A pleasant aroma and warmth came from a small wood stove on the other side. Music from a radio filled the air and the walls were covered with years of accumulated fishing novelties and pictures.

Bill's optimistic ready smile complemented his tousled snow white hair and round goatee as he laid down his cards to talk to me. Sturdy glasses covered his kind eyes. Then in an upbeat manner, he shared a fishing experience beginning with, "I once caught a nice fish but had to go to the store twice to land it."

He explained he was fishing off a friend's houseboat on Asessippi Lake south of Duck Mountain and caught a pickerel. As he tried to bring it over the guardrail, it slipped the hook. He realized that if he caught another one, he would need a net to get it over the rail. So he dropped his rod on the deck, not realizing the lure had fallen into the water, and went for a walk to a nearby store to get one. Returning to the boat, he was astonished to see his rod gone.

Bill, without getting upset, simply turned around and retraced his steps to the store for a new rod. Later, back on the boat, on the first cast with his



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL

Local commercial fishermen Reney Thomes and Carmen of Belair lift their nets while dealing with a developing crack in the ice of Lake Winnipeg.

new rod, he snagged his original gear. On the hook this time was another pickerel. Using his new net, this time he got it over the rail and finally settled back for some fishing.

Unflappable persistence will make you a winner every time.

The spring cracks and ice piles on our lakes are starting to show up just off the shorelines. This was very evident to commercial fishers Reney Thomes and Carmen Clatt from Belair. I met them lifting their nets as they straddled a crack a few days ago. When I asked them if they had an unusual story for us (as if working across a crack wasn't enough), they started laughing.

Carmen said, "Yeah, when we fish by Hillside in late May, we have a hard

time handling the big carp that get in the nets. They're as big as babies and just as tiring," she joked.

Last week on the Red downstream of Selkirk, I ran into David Prasol of Winnipeg nursing an ice hole. He had a fishing story about himself and his wife Lorna, coincidentally also out of Duck Mountain on Two Mile Lake.

They were angling off a pier some summers ago and Dave caught a rainbow trout. Only then did he realize they had forgotten a stringer, so he took one of his shoelaces and tied the fish to the pier.

With lines back in the water, time wore on until they decided to call it a day. Dave knelt down to retrieve his

Continued on page 11

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PC MLAs take voluntary wage freeze

Staff

Following their caucus meeting last Wednesday, Manitoba's Progressive Conservative MLAs announced they will voluntarily freeze their wages for the duration of the current term.

"I am tremendously proud of our caucus for making the unanimous decision to voluntarily freeze our wages until the next election," said Premier Brian Pallister, MLA for Fort Whyte. "In the effort to recognize and address the fiscal challenges left by the NDP, I have said it's 'all hands on deck' — and that starts with those of us serving in the legislature."

In Manitoba, MLAs' pay is determined by regulation set by an independent commissioner and, under the current compensation schedule, includes a 1.6 per cent annual cost of living increase which they are set to receive on April 1, 2017. Each member of the PC Caucus will provide a personal cheque to the Government of Manitoba equivalent to the total increase they would be eligible to receive during the 2017-18 fiscal year under current regulations. The combined salary returned by PC MLAs for the coming fiscal year will total more than \$70,000.

"Our caucus knows that, by working together with Manitobans, we can fix our province's finances and ensure the sustainability and security of the front-line services we all depend on," said PC caucus chair Wayne Ewasko, MLA for Lac du Bonnet. "Manitobans understand the need to get our province's fiscal house in order and they expect their elected officials to lead by example."

> FRCN, FROM PG. 4

transport and sell."

Fish stock sustainability is another issue the government hasn't addressed, said Murdock. And if that's not monitored, it could result in job losses.

"They [province] didn't even talk about how you monitor the fish stocks. Who's going to do that? And what about enforcing regulations? They utilize [FFMC's] numbers when they're monitoring the different lakes as to how many kilograms of whitefish came out of it, how many pickerel, sauger. Without that body in place, how do they know? And do they care? It's going to affect everybody — even the sports fishermen are going to be affected because there's going to be more fish taken out."

Churchill-Keewatinook Aski MP Niki Ashton, who represents a number of First Nations in the northern Interlake region and beyond, is also concerned about the opt-out. Her constituency assistant, Clif Evans, met with FRCN Feb. 23.

Evans said he had attended several fisheries envoy meetings and met with FFMC to gather information on how the opt-out will affect Manitoba's fishers. During an envoy meeting in Matheson Island, Evans said fishers from both Matheson and Pine Dock "indicated that in whatever direction Freshwater went, they would support it."

Evans lives in Riverton, and said he has had local fishers contact him with their concerns about the provincial opt-out and the "consequences" they'll face.

Murdock said the opt-out will affect all the fishers on Lake Winnipeg.

"That's not counting Grand Rapids, Norway House, fishers in Gimli, Berens, Poplar River," he said. "When you're looking at Lake Winnipeg, there are 920 fishers, and if you throw in their helpers and everybody else that's associated with it, that's 3,000 jobs gone."

See Part 2 in a forthcoming edition.

Interim NDP Leader Flor Marcelino said the wage freeze is Pallister's attempt to hide that he and his cabinet took a raise to their salaries a year before the wage freeze.

"Pallister and each cabinet minister received approximately \$20,000 more this year. This totals nearly \$260,000 for the entire cabinet," Marcelino said in a statement last week. "This government needs to stop attacking health care and education and offer real solutions for families."



Brian Pallister, Jeff Wharton, Derek Johnson, Alan Lagimodiere

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Social planned for Teulon man injured in car accident

Staff

The community is rallying to support a young Teulon man who has been in an induced coma for the past month following a serious car accident.

Stephen Beauchemin was on his way to work at Maple Leaf Foods north of Arborg, where he has worked since 2014 and was recently promoted to barn manager.

On the way, he veered into oncoming southbound traffic on icy roads with low visibility. He was ejected from his Cavalier and was taken to the Arborg Hospital by ambulance. From there, STARS airlifted him to the Health Sciences Centre, where he has remained in an induced coma since Feb. 10.

Doctors removed the right side of Stephen's skull due to severe swelling, and he has had several drains to alleviate pressure. Because of refractory seizures, doctors continue to

administer anti-seizure medication. They expect that Stephen will remain in a coma for at least another month before they put his skull back together.

"His long-term prognosis is unknown at this time, but doctors indicate that his recovery could take up to two years after Stephen regains consciousness," said his mother, Maria Beauchemin.

Because the left side of his brain was severely damaged, his short-term memory will be impaired and his brain will hopefully be at 80 per cent of what it was before the accident.

Maria Beauchemin describes her son as a compassionate, respectful, openhearted young man who would bend over backwards for anyone.

"There are no words to describe what I felt when I saw him at the hospital," she said.

His friends call him Superman because he is like a superhero, and he often refers to himself as his childhood superhero Superman.

To help with ongoing medical costs, friends and family are organizing a benefit social for Stephen, who graduated from Teulon Collegiate Institute in 2013.

The social will be held on Saturday, March 25 at the Teulon Rockwood Centennial Centre from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets are available at TTM and Rockwood Lumber in Teulon or by contacting Maria at 204-558-9474.

Donations are also being taken for silent auction prizes and organizers are looking for volunteers to help during the social.

A Go Fund Me page has also been set up at <https://www.gofundme.com/stephen-beauchemin-recovery-fund>.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The community is raising funds for Stephen Beauchemin, who was in a serious accident last month.

Small business optimism remains strong: CFIB

Submitted

Small business optimism in Manitoba remained very strong in February at an index of 66.9, compared to 67.1 in January, according to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

This index level is again above the national index of 62.9 and now ranks as the highest in the country.

"It's great to see that Manitoba small business owners are now the most optimistic in the country," said Jonathan Alward, CFIB's director of provincial affairs for Manitoba. "It seems that the business-friendly policies recently

introduced by the provincial government are being noticed by Manitoba's entrepreneurs. However, with short-term hiring plans remaining weak, with equal shares of business owners looking to hire as to lay off (nine per cent), it will be important for the upcoming provincial budget to continue addressing Manitoba's outstanding fiscal and competitive challenges."

Nationally, Canada's small businesses are quite a bit more upbeat in February. CFIB's monthly Business Barometer index rose 2.7 points to 62.9 this month — its best reading since January 2015.

"The destabilizing effects of the oil price crunch on business confidence now appear mostly

behind us," said Ted Mallett, chief economist at CFIB. "This new, more optimistic outlook in the resource sector is reflecting a more balanced effect across the country, though this has yet to translate into a higher expectation of new full-time positions becoming available in the coming months."

Although not quite back to normal mid-cycle levels, the index has been helped by improving perspectives in previously hard-hit Alberta (49.8) and Saskatchewan (57.7), which continue to close the gap with the rest of the country. Businesses are most upbeat in Manitoba and Quebec, with index levels at 66.9 and 66.6 respectively, however, optimism in the Maritimes, Ontario and BC are nearly as high — which suggests overall robustness returning to the economy. Businesses in Newfoundland & Labrador, however,

remain pessimistic. Results and the full report are available at www.cfib-fcei.ca/english/barometer.

Highlights of the Manitoba Business Barometer for February:

- 38% of small businesses in Manitoba say their overall state of business is good (40% nationally); 11% say it is bad (17% nationally).
- 9% of Manitoba small businesses plan to increase full-time employment in the next 3-4 months (18% nationally), and 9% plan to decrease employment (12% nationally).
- Insufficient domestic demand remains the main operating challenge (37%), followed by management skills/time constraints (34%), and shortage of skilled labour (26%).
- Major cost pressures for small business include: tax/regulatory costs (65%), wage costs (48%), insurance costs (46%), and fuel, energy costs (46%).

Measured on a scale of 0 and 100, an index level above 50 means owners expecting their businesses' performance to be stronger in the next year outnumber those expecting weaker performance. According to past results, index levels normally range between 65 and 70 when the economy is growing at its potential. February 2017 findings are based on 943 responses, collected from a stratified random sample of CFIB members, to a controlled-access web survey. Data reflect responses received through February 12. Findings are statistically accurate to +/- 3.2 per cent 19 times in 20.

REGISTRATION

March 14 9am-4pm March 15 9am-4pm
March 16 9am-4pm & 6-8pm

ARBORG MINOR BALL

Rally Cap	2010-2012
Grand Slam (9U)	2008-2009
Mosquito (11U)	2006-2007
Pee Wee (13U)	2004-2005
Bantam (15U)	2002-2003
Midget (18U)	1999-2001

NEW for this year -
SOFTBALL for GIRLS

Softball (U10)	2007-2008
Softball (U12)	2005-2006

WANTED!!!! NEEDED!!!!
Coaches & Umpires
(for all ages categories)

Please contact Arborg Bifrost Recreation Office
for More Information
204-376-5576 or
tom.abprc@mymts.net

ARBORG MINOR SOCCER

U6	2011-2012
U8	2009-2010
U11	2006-2007-2008
U14	2003-2004-2005
U18	1999-2000-2001-2002

WANTED!!!! NEEDED!!!!
Coaches & Umpires
(for all ages categories)

PRE-SCHOOL BALL & SOCCER

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Child will learn the basics of ball & soccer

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Draw to be held
Sunday, March 26th, 2017
12:00 noon at Smitty's Family Restaurant, 168 Main St., Selkirk, MB

1st PRIZE Eskimo Quickfish 5	2nd PRIZE Hummingbird Ice 35 Flasher	3rd PRIZE Eskimo Shark Z51-8in-51cc
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Tickets available at:

• Jad's (Arnes)	• Gimli Small Engines	• Smoke n' Fish (Selkirk)
• Zan's (Arborg)	• Domo (Winnipeg Beach)	• Big Dollar (Selkirk)
• Shop Easy (Riverton)	• Ford's Store (Winnipeg Beach)	• Westside Honda (Selkirk)
• J & J Fraserwood Store	• #9 Roadhouse (Winnipeg Beach)	• Selkirk Record (Selkirk)
• Fry Day's (Teulon)	• Matlock Store	• Lockport Grocery
• Gimli Snowmobile Centre	• Petersfield Hotel	• Wavers (Scantbury)
• Tru Hardware (Gimli)	• Petersfield Store	• Sherwood Groceries (Gull Lake/Stead)
	• Clandeboye Store	

For Info Call: 204-641-6110 or 204-641-2210

Syrian family celebrates first anniversary in Arborg

By Patricia Barrett

The Interlake Refugee Support Network and people from across the Interlake and Winnipeg took part in a heart-warming celebration last Friday evening in honour of a Syrian refugee family and their first-year anniversary in Arborg.

With the help of the community, the Jarkas family — Ahmed, Zainab and their five children, Zozan, Mohamad, Diyar, Dlyar and Lilaf — were able to leave a Lebanese refugee camp in February 2016 and settle in Arborg to build a new life.

More than 60 people, including some of the Jarkas' friends from Winnipeg, gathered at the ConneXion Church in Arborg to celebrate their journey and enjoy a huge traditional Syrian feast.

"Thank you everybody," said Zainab, during a speech later in the evening. "I like Canada, the people. Everybody is very good ... I love you!"

The Interlake Refugee Support Network is composed of community members from across the Interlake. It sponsors refugees and provides financial support during the course of their first year in Canada.

The crowd broke into spontaneous applause when network co-ordinator Trudy Dueck told them that Zainab — with a little help from her new friends — prepared the entire meal.

"We cooked all day yesterday and part of today," said retired teacher Wanda Sparkes, one of those friends. "She [Zainab] would have kept going. She would have had more dishes if she had more time."

Sparkes is a network committee member and has been volunteering her time to help the Jarkas family learn English.

Some of the dishes included samosa stuffed with goat cheese, onions and spinach, a form of cabbage rolls that uses grape leaves rather than cabbage, and kofta, which resembles a deep-fried perogy.

"No bulgur (wheat)," said Zainab, explaining what goes into kofta. "Hamburger, onion, peppers, walnuts."

The family's first year in Arborg is a "milestone," said Dueck during her welcoming speech.

"They came not knowing a single person in Manitoba, and today they celebrate with all of you, their new Canadian family. That's awesome. The reason you are here, and the reason you were invited, is that you had some part in welcoming and helping this family. Some of you are here because you are committed to reuniting this family with their other family [members] that are still in Lebanon."



Trudy Dueck, co-ordinator for the Interlake Refugee Support Network.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT
The Jarkas family and their friends at the buffet.



Zainab Jarkas and Wanda Sparkes.



Zozan, her mom Zainab and her sister Lilaf thank the community for supporting them.



Peter Dueck

The network needs to raise about \$95,000 to pay the cost of their transportation to Canada and to support them for one year.

Dueck also thanked the Jarkas family for their friendship, hospitality and determination to start a new life in Canada.

"I am learning from you, Ahmed and Zainab and your family. I'm learning from you how to be more grateful," said Dueck. "You are grateful even when times are hard, when no one is around that speaks your language ... and you miss your oldest son so much."

"When all your family is so very far away, and you're housebound in a very cold Manitoba winter, you never complain. Thank you so much — you have taught me so much."

"We celebrate them because they came not speaking a word of English and today they can carry on a conversation in English. They came not reading and writing, but today they are starting to learn to read and write, and we celebrate that. After one year, they are self-supporting, integrated members of this community — and that's huge."

Ahmed Jarkas is employed full time at Vidir Vertical Storage Solutions,

north of Arborg. He also takes English classes three days a week.

"He works in our paint preparation (pre-treatment and drying) department," said Peter Dueck, co-owner of Vidir, who provided thanks before the feast got underway. "As far as we can understand, he was a concrete former in Syria. He's very good with a trawl. When we put a bedroom in the rec room in their house, he did all the mudding and taping of the drywall. He had never done it before and did a great job."

Peter said Zainab is taking English classes and all the kids are in school.

"Mohamad, apparently, has quite the defensive skills in basketball, and he plays on the high school team," he said. "Dlyar is very reserved and quiet, but get him on the soccer field and he's a very competitive player."

Zozan, the Jarkas' eldest daughter, is in Grade 10 at Arborg Collegiate.

"It's so lovely. We talk together and I made lots of friends," she said.

Mohamed is in Grade 9 at Arborg Collegiate, and he said he likes "everything" about school, especially gym class.

"Soccer, they have it here, but I wanted basketball," he said.

Mohamad said his 18-year-old brother lives in Turkey, and he would like to come to Canada to be with his family.

The Jarkas' put together a video presentation made up of photographs taken of their relatives overseas and of their new friends in Arborg.

Zainab named the family's relatives and explained their circumstances.

"She's in Lebanon," said Zainab, pointing to a photograph of her sister, who wants to join the family in Canada this year. "She work in greenhouse."

The family gathered at the front of the room to help cut a massive anniversary cake that network member Audrey Hicks made. Later on in the evening, they showed their Canadian friends how to perform Syrian dances.

Dueck could not say enough about the support the community has shown in bringing the family to Arborg and befriending them.

"I have been absolutely overwhelmed by all the genuine, caring people in this community," she said. "You have been absolutely amazing. You humble me. Thank you for taking time out of your very busy lives and caring for someone else in need."

Lakeshore presents status quo budget amid funding decrease

By Jeff Ward

The Lakeshore School Division board of trustees presented a “status quo” budget for the 2017-18 school year at their annual Vision and Voice meeting on Feb. 28.

The board presented a budget that will combine an increase in the mill rate while using the surplus to meet the rising cost of education.

Board chair Jim Cooper said that the board is proud of the work they did to make sure that this budget would have a minimal effect on ratepayers while still delivering quality education.

Cooper said there will be no major cuts and they will not be adding any new programming or staffing positions.

The cost to educate a student in Lakeshore was \$14,351, which is above the provincial average of \$13,016. The largest discrepancy from the provincial average is in transportation costs, with Lakeshore spending nearly three times the provincial average of \$579 per student at \$1,485.

Cooper said that the board’s primary objective is to ensure the best possible education for all students within the division, which was challenging given the rising costs and a decrease in provincial funding this year. The division currently has a deficit of \$485,000, based on revenue of \$16,767,809 and expenditures of \$17,253,351, which they will decrease by dipping into

their surplus. Cooper said that the surplus is sitting at just over \$1 million and that they will likely use some of that to make the deficit as small as possible. The current deficit takes into account a mill rate increase of 0.08, which will reduce the deficit from \$585,000 to \$485,000.

“We want to make sure that our budget has a minimal impact on ratepayers because we know how tight things already are,” said Cooper.

“But we have a two-per-cent increase in costs and a two-per-cent decrease in funding. So if things keep heading in this direction, there may be some tough decisions facing us in the coming years.”

Those tough decisions, Cooper said, could be a much higher mill rate, cutting

staffing positions and possibly — in extreme cases — cutting programs altogether. Those are decisions that no school board wants to make but it’s not getting any cheaper to educate students.

Enrollment is projected to decrease next year from 1,113.5 to 1,105 students, and Assistant Supt. Leanne Peters said that the numbers have been fairly stable over the last four years.

Lakeshore secretary treasurer Marlene Michno said that the challenge isn’t in putting together this year’s budget but in looking ahead to next

“WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR BUDGET HAS A MINIMAL IMPACT ON RATEPAYERS.”



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JEFF WARD

Lakeshore School Board Trustees will finalize their 2017-18 budget on March 14 that will see an increase of 0.08 to the mill rate while dipping into their surplus to pay for their deficits.

year and the year after and trying to forecast what those budgets will look like.

“It’s more challenging when you’re working on one budget and you’re thinking of two or three years out from now. We can’t start programs now if we don’t think we can sustain it long term. The board doesn’t feel comfortable with that,” said Michno.

Looking ahead at future budgets and future funding show some major events on the horizon for the division with teacher and support staff contracts coming up for renegotiation.

Cooper said that there’s nothing wrong with a status quo budget and that — especially in this climate — a budget that doesn’t overburden rate-

payers and still gives students the same level of education they expect is something to be proud of. Cooper added that the board and division wants to do more than status quo, but the risk is too high.

“I don’t know what is happening next year with this government, but I think that this is the start of something. And I can guarantee that from here on, we won’t have a surplus of four per cent ever again,” said Cooper.

The school board has one final meeting on March 14 to finalize the budget before Michno contacts municipalities to report any changes to the mill rate.

Mercedes-AMG Mythbusters #4: Skid Control

By Melanie Paterson of AMG Driving Academy

Controlling skids are much easier than we think if we use proper driving techniques.

There are two types of skids: a front and a rear skid. A front-end skid is called “understeer” (or “push” for you NASCAR fans). A rear-end skid is called “oversteer.”

Understeer (front-end skid) is the easiest to fix. It’s caused by too much speed for the road conditions and the steering angle you’re using. If you go around a snowy corner without slowing down enough, your front tires lose grip and the car plows wide into an

understeer.

The fix is simple: lift off the gas pedal. The excess speed for the grip conditions is responsible for the skid, so reducing your speed will fix it. Do not try to fix understeer with more steering angle as it compounds the problem.

Tires are designed to grip pointing straight ahead, so every time we turn the steering wheel, we are compromising traction.

Oversteer (rear-end skid) is more stressful. When you’re driving around a snowy curve and the back starts to slide, it’s very nerve-wracking. And that’s why we teach recovery tech-

niques in our driving courses.

Oversteer is caused either by too much application of the gas pedal in a rear-wheel drive vehicle or by upsetting the balance of the car by turning the wheel too fast in a corner.

The excess gas application is easy to fix by just lifting off the gas pedal.

I’m sure you’ve been taught to “steer into the skid” as that seems to be a common myth. The problem with that technique is that we don’t really know where the skid is, and we almost always over-correct with the steering wheel and make a bad situation much worse.

The simple fix is to look and steer

where you want the car to go. Instead of dialing in a whole bunch of steering, simply keep looking down the road and correct the steering wheel only enough to keep the wheels pointed in that direction — usually on the street, no more than a quarter turn on the wheel.

Slowly and gently come off the gas pedal while you’re correcting. When done properly, it means a gentle fix to a slide instead of the creation of a larger pendulum movement that could cause a spin.

Keep practising your proper vision skills and remember to simply look and steer where you want to go.

Past the Perimeter releases new single



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Local band Past the Perimeter released their newest single Shotgun Beauty Queen on Feb. 27. Since then, the YouTube video has garnered more than 2,000 views — and the interest continues to grow.

By Jennifer McFee

Past the Perimeter's newest single is already earning plenty of positive feedback, which is music to the ears of the band members.

The well-known local band released Shotgun Beauty Queen on Feb. 27. Since then, the YouTube video has garnered more than 2,000 views — and the interest continues to grow.

For those tempted to take a listen, be forewarned that the catchy song will likely be stuck in their head and they might find themselves humming the tune or singing the refrain.

Local roots run deep for the band, which consists of Stonewall Collegiate Institute alumni Derek Peters on guitar and vocals, Evan Taplin on bass and vocals, Devin Biy on drums and Lachlan McLean on guitar and vocals.

When Peters and Taplin sat down and started writing the song about a gal who is not your average girl, it all came together quickly. The group plans to send the single to radio stations, which will hopefully pick up on the mounting momentum.

"So far, we've had nothing but positive feedback, which is great to hear," Peters said. "To describe our music, I'd say we have country roots but we add a bit more octane to it."

As for the video, it features scenes

shot around town and in Winnipeg under the direction of Gerald Lagarde, who is also the creative force behind the band's previous video for Life Out Here

"Half of the video was filmed in town. The scenes at The Rock and where they're driving around in the truck are local," said Peters. "But for the shots of us in the band, we are playing at a very dingy basement in the Portage and Langside area. It was kind of sketchy but the shot worked well. It's actually a practice space for four other bands."

Adding to the excitement, Past the Perimeter is currently working on a new EP with producer Murray Pulver, formerly of Doc Walker. The EP, so far untitled, is scheduled to come out in June.

Until then, fans can check out the video for Shotgun Beauty Queen on YouTube. The single is also available for download on iTunes and Google Play.

They can also catch the band live at their next gig, scheduled for Saturday, March 18 at Cowboys Roadhouse in Winnipeg.

For more information about Past the Perimeter, follow them on Facebook or visit their website at www.pastthepерimeter.com.

Arborg Library holding quilt raffle to enhance its book collection



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Janice Skene, former teacher at Gimli High School, created a unique quilt depicting books to help the Arborg Library raise funds for more books.

By Patricia Barrett

The Arborg Library has launched a fundraiser to help it enhance its collection of books.

Janice Skene, who is one of the representatives for the Arborg Library, made a 50 x 70 quilt depicting books on a shelf. She's donating the quilt, along with a quilted book bag (second prize), to the raffle.

"The proceeds will go to the Arborg Library," said Skene, who was helping organizers with an auction last Satur-

day night to raise money that will go towards the costs of reuniting members of a local Syrian family.

The quilt draw takes place March 30. Tickets are \$2 each. Three tickets can be purchased for \$5. They are available at the Arborg Library.

Skene said library representatives will also be selling tickets at the Co-op Food Store on March 24.

For more information, call the library at 204-376-5388.

> GET FISHING, FROM PG. 6

only catch and saw that the shoelace had come loose and the fish was just laying below the water's surface seemingly in no particular hurry to go anywhere. Slowly, he lay down on his belly and extending his arm as best he could, gingerly grabbing the fish. The slippery fellow squirted forward out of his hand and stopped, just laying there. Dave, not about to give up his quest, edged himself further out from the dock. His back began to feel the strain of his extended body, but yet again, he closed his hand over the fish. Squirt. The slimy little guy slipped forward.

One more time, Dave thought. He wiggled outward just a bit more, and with laboured breath, grasped the fish as the cool waters of beautiful Two Mile Lake welcomed him in for an unwanted bath. Surfacing, Dave slowly turned and hoisted himself onto the dock. He looked up at Lorna, who uttered with an exasperated expression, "How is it that you always seem to wind up in these predicaments?"

Well, the spring fishing closure of April and part of May is looming ahead, so get out there and get your fill of angling!

Bye for now.

Fisher Branch hosts winter carnival



Davie Kon was the winner of the 50/50 Draw to the Button and seated is organizer Lori Smith.



Community participation at the Fisher Branch Winter Carnival was outstanding. Events were held throughout the weekend from Friday night to Sunday afternoon with something for everyone, in any age group, to take part in. Volunteers of all ages helped wherever needed to ensure everyone enjoyed themselves. Pictured above, the Fisher Branch Blades played a fun game against the Fisher Branch Chiefs.



Rita Meilleur and Wayne Imlah, entrance and silent auction volunteers.



Jamming after supper with local talent Jake Kalayta and Al Wiebe.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY ROZANNE NEVAKSHONOFF

Youth curling participants Emily Mazur, Olivia Mazur, first time on the ice for Carli Nahuliak and Skye Miranda, Madison Flett, Chase Larocque, Ivan Huynh, Kelly Huynh and Klyd Miranda.

Control budget for Keeyask generating station revised

Submitted

The Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (KHLP) and Manitoba Hydro announced recently a new control budget of \$8.7 billion and revised in-service date of August 2021 for the Keeyask Generating Station, currently under construction on the Nelson River in northern Manitoba.

This represents an increase from the previously approved control budget of \$6.5 billion and a delay of 21 months from the previous in-service date of November 2019.

The Keeyask Generating Station is owned by the KHLP, a partnership between Manitoba Hydro and four

First Nations: Tataskweyak Cree Nation, Fox Lake Cree Nation, York Factory First Nation and War Lake First Nation. Manitoba Hydro has been contracted by the KHLP to build and operate the 695-megawatt station on its behalf.

"The new control budget and revised in-service date developed by Manitoba Hydro has been presented to the KHLP board," said Lorne Midford, Chair of the KHLP Board. "Manitoba Hydro continues to work with its Keeyask partners to evaluate the impact of the cost and schedule changes to each partner's interests in the project."

Midford said this examination includes assessing the potential impact on project benefits, including employment and business opportunities for each partner community.

The potential for the increased cost estimate was first identified in the Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board's (MHEB) review of capital projects completed in the fall of 2016. That analysis, conducted by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) for the MHEB, identified costs for Keeyask were expected to rise from the 2014 control budget of \$6.5 billion up to a possible \$7.8 billion, along with a potential delay in completion of up to 31

months.

The revised control budget reflects a more detailed review conducted by Manitoba Hydro. The review considered the current state of project's progress and costs incurred to date, including the results of the first full year of structural concrete work in 2016.

The new control budget includes an additional \$900 million in contingency funds, interest and escalation not included in the BCG analysis. The utility believes these allowances are prudent to help address potential cost

Crafting for a good cause

By Jennifer McFee

A group of local volunteers has lovingly crafted a gift designed to stimulate the senses of Rosewood Lodge residents.

For Alzheimer's Awareness Month in January, Kirsty Morrison created a dozen "twiddle muffs" with help from a couple friends. These soft cuffs create a sensory experience through yarns and fabrics of different textures, which can engage the mind and keep hands busy.

Morrison learned about twiddle muffs from her mother, who read a *Reader's Digest* article about these cozy creations while waiting at the doctor's office.

"This woman from Scotland had made them for her grandmother who was suffering from dementia, and they found that they had some success with Alzheimer's patients. The sensory part of it triggers their brain and gives them something to concentrate on. It gives their brain something to think about other than nothing, which makes people agitated and irritated," explained Morrison, a Stonewall resident.

"So I thought it was a neat thing and I noticed that January was Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Well, I'm addicted to yarn and I have enough for a yarn sale — anybody who knits or crochets will know exactly what I'm talking about. I love yarn and I love textures, so I thought why not take the yarn that I've got and turn it into a project for January."

Morrison spent the month making twiddle muffs, which are long tubes that she compares to the muffs that little girls used to wear to warm their hands in the winter.

"I make mine with one within the other so there's textures on both the inside and the outside. I used different kinds of yarn and different stitches so everything feels different. We included things like elastic bands covered in yarn that they could stretch. I tried to use bright colours so it's not just the sense of feel but also the sense of looking at them," she said.

"There's buttons on them that they can open and close. There's beads that they can roll between their fingers. There's soft yarn and scratchy yarn. I even used yarn that they use to make pot scratchers. It's all different things meant to trigger your brain and use your senses."

Family friend Arlene Farebrother jumped on board to help out, along with her husband Gil.

"It's been fun. I crocheted mine and Arlene knit hers. She got her husband going on a loom and he knit a couple

as well," Morrison said.

"When I was making them, I spent a whole lot of time touching them as well to see how they felt and thinking about who might get them. I was hoping that they were going to bring joy to somebody."

The crafty trio donated their creations to the residents of Rosewood Lodge personal care home and to the Stonewall Good Timers adult day program.

Carrie Munro, recreation co-ordinator for the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health was impressed with the gesture.

"They're absolutely wonderful. We have a few people who get quite agitated so we give them a twiddle muff and it just keeps their hands busy and calms them down. It just takes their mind off of whatever's disturbing them at the moment and making them feel not so well. Everything helps out, and it's a nice donation that people get something out of," Munro said.

"There are other things like touch quilts, but these twiddle muffs are small enough that they stay on their lap. There's all sorts of little buttons and beads and little trinkets that they've sewn onto it. Everything's brightly coloured. I was so impressed because they did such a beautiful job on them."

For Morrison, the experience proved to be creatively satisfying. At the same time, it was rewarding to know that



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Recreation co-ordinator Carrie Munro, left, volunteer Kirsty Morrison, middle, and adult day program co-ordinator Sheryl Steinhorson-Taylor show off some of the "twiddle-muffs" that were knitted and crocheted to assist with brain stimulation with Alzheimer's patients.

she might be helping others.

"It was a very worthwhile project. I love it. It definitely came from the heart, that's for sure," she said. "It's a nice feeling. I hope that the people in Rosewood really like them."

Morrison plans to make a couple more twiddle muffs for her granddaughters to hold during car rides,

and she notes that they are also known to help children with autism.

She welcomes people to contact her at kirsty63@gmail.com if they would like guidance about how to create their own twiddle muffs. She is even willing to make more if someone in the community needs one.

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If, at a time in the past, the boldest move you could make when it came to the colour of your wedding dress was to pick off-white instead of a pristine snowy shade, that's simply no longer the case. Like most rules, the one that dictates the colour of your wedding dress is meant to be broken — and

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more and more brides are taking the plunge. Read on for some inspiration.

Did you know that the white wedding dress has only been popular in North America since the nineteenth century? Before then, it was customary for the bride to wear — you guessed it — a colourful dress! Today, the brightly coloured dress is making a comeback and designers from around the world are reinventing this vintage trend. While shopping for a non-white wedding dress might have been a tricky task a few decades ago, boutiques are now stocked with gowns in every colour of the rainbow — and then some. Whether you're in the market for an electric pink ball gown or an emerald green A-line, your local bridal boutique is sure to deliver the goods.

On the fence about your colour choice because you fear you'll shock your guests by choosing an unconventional gown? Remember that this is your day and that you have the final say on what you wear. That being said, there are ways to compromise: you could incorporate a coloured sash or veil in your look or choose an all-white dress with colourful stitching.

So, will you let your true colours shine through with your dream wedding dress?



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Seeing the heat at the Arborg-Bifrost Fire Department

By Patricia Barrett

The Arborg-Bifrost Fire & Emergency Department has launched its annual Food for Twelve fundraiser to help pay for a new thermal imaging camera and to provide support to CancerCare Manitoba.

The person with the winning ticket can bring 11 of his/her family members or friends to a full course supper that will be prepared and served by firefighters at the station on River Road and Highway 326.

The department's thermal imager is approaching retirement, and new devices cost about \$15,000 and upwards.

The cameras are invaluable tools. They can determine how hot — and dangerous — walls, doors or other materials are and help locate people and pets in darkness, thick smoke or barriers that are permeable to heat.

"If there are kids hiding, you can find them with the camera," said Deputy Chief Andy Barylski.

Children commonly crawl into cupboards, closets or under beds when a fire breaks out, he said. And cats usually hide.

Farm animals (horses, cattle, pigs) also tend to remain in a burning barn or stable and will commonly run back into a burning building if not penned outside.

The camera also helps firefighters locate accident victims, who may be entangled in wreckage, pinned beneath a vehicle or thrown some distance. Heat generated by the body leaves an

imprint on a car seat that can last up to 15 or more minutes.

"You scan the seats to see how many passengers were in a vehicle," said Fire Chief George Chyzy.

Barylski demonstrated the thermal imager by pointing it at the chair in which he was recently sitting. A ghostly white imprint appeared on the camera's display along with an indicator of temperature.

The department is very active in its fundraising efforts. Over the past 26 years, it raised close to \$1 million for vital rescue equipment and upgrades to fire hall.

It will be donating part of the Food for Twelve proceeds to CancerCare Manitoba.

"I've known six firefighters that have gone through cancer," said Chyzy. "For a small department (22 firefighters), that's a big number."

The department will also be holding an Open House (date to be determined, but likely May) for students at Arborg Early Middle School. Local RCMP and paramedics will be on hand. The department is hoping to have STARS air ambulance attend the event.

"We could have 250-300 kids at the station," said Barylski.

Students will be able to explore the fire trucks and firefighting equipment, crawl to safety in a burning (mock) building and learn how to extinguish small fires.

Food for Twelve tickets cost \$2.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Deputy Fire Chief Andy Barylski seeks the heat in the kitchen of the Arborg-Bifrost fire hall with a thermal imaging camera.

They're available through the firefighters. The draw takes place May 5.

"Whoever wins will have a choice of chicken, beef or pork," said Barylski, who's also the department's head chef.

Contact Andy Barylski at 204-642-2556 for more information.

RM of Gimli to raise Flag of Humanity this Friday on Gimli Beach

By Patricia Barrett

The RM of Gimli will be raising a flag created by a local resident to send a message of unity, peace and acceptance of diversity.

Bruce Benson's flag depicts two sets of hands — an adult's and a child's — in shadow to represent the range of humanity's skin colour. The adult's hands are passing the earth to the child's.

The idea for the flag came to Benson in 2008 while on a hiking trip with his son, according to his website, and he began thinking about what kind of world his son would inherit.

"The Flag of Humanity celebrates the commonality of being human, and can be flown by anyone on earth as a symbol of solidarity," wrote Benson in a letter to council dated Feb. 3. "Our mantra is 'No matter a person's religion, or lack thereof, no matter a person's skin colour, nationality or politics — these difference are as nothing

compared to what we have in common ... we are human."

The flag is making its way around the world, wrote Benson, and he would like Gimli to be the first municipality to raise it for what he's calling the "Year of the Flag of Humanity."

"The RM of Gimli welcomes this message in our community as it represents the core values of our nation and spirit," said Mayor Randy Woroniuk in an RM press release. "It is with honour that we raise a flag symbolizing peace and love towards all [the] earth's inhabitants for today and tomorrow's generations."

The flag-raising ceremony gets underway at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 10 at Gimli Beach (near the east end of Goldfield Drive). Benson will take part in the celebration.

Visit www.theflagofhumanity.com for more information on Benson and the flag.

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Going airborne at the 6th Annual Gimli Ice Festival

By Patricia Barrett

The Fire on Ice motor race at the 6th Annual Gimli Ice Festival gave spectators an unexpected thrill Sunday afternoon when the warm temperature made the track on Lake Winnipeg a little more challenging than usual.

A driver taking part in the Winnipeg Sports Car Club's competition met with a slick patch that had his name on it.

Morgan Zacharias from Beausejour and Shayne Prysizney from Winnipeg saw the car go airborne.

"Number 88 flipped on his roof," said Zacharias, who had painted her fingernails in the likeness of fish scales to honour the fishing town. "He got out and was, like, 'Yeah!'"

"He did the typical arms in the air salute," said Prysizney.

John Hykawy, president of the Gimli Car Club, said the driver wasn't hurt.

But the driver's car obviously took a beating because it was loaded onto a trailer before the next race got underway.

"We had a car fly off the track this morning," said Hykawy, who oversaw security for the two-day racing event that forms part of the festival.

"Because of the lack of snow, there are no real snow banks to act as barriers," he said. "Drivers can reach speeds of up to 110 km/h."

The race cars are equipped with heavy-duty studded tires.

"They're half-inch bolts," said Hykawy, holding up his pinkie to illustrate how thick the studs are. "The track was perfectly polished earlier. Now it's torn up because of the studs."

Security patrols were constantly ushering people away from the edge of the track to ensure their safety. One security volunteer from the Gimli Car Club said Saturday was a bit nasty on the track because of the weather.

But Sunday saw zero-degree temperatures that had the track glittering like silver in the sun.

Hykawy said the Ice Festival generates a fair amount of business for the town and probably drew 1,100 people on Saturday.

Another sport that had a bit of airborne drama to it was the frozen fish toss at the harbour.

Visitor Marcy Dubois kissed her fish before she flung it from the harbour wall towards a bright red bin. She almost had it, but the fish struck the rim and bounced away across the ice.

Gimli Rotary Club member Dan McKelvey helped competitors get into and out of gloves designed to help with grip.

Hockey players in an Atom division tournament flew across the ice at the

Gimli Recreation Centre. During a break, Jack and Ryland Goertzen from Morden got into the Viking spirit and took in some of the festival's events with their mom.

Visitors watched Viking warriors demonstrate their combat skills then lined up for bannock that was sizzling over an open fire at the Riverton Friendship Centre's outdoor patio.

Stan Bilinski tended to the frying of the tasty bread. "It takes about two minutes then you flip them over."

A huge pile of snow near the harbour wall was an attraction unto itself. Dozens of kids climbed the steep mound and then slid down.



A participant in the frozen fish toss weighed his options.



Brothers Jack and Ryland Goertzen from Morden got into the Viking spirit. The lads were in town for the Atom hockey tournament at the Gimli Rec Centre.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

A lady Viking shows how it's done.



Flying fish!



Mayor of Gimli Randy Woroniak was busy giving harbour rides on Sunday.

Gypsumville RCMP respond to military training accident

By Jeff Ward

Gypsumville RCMP responded to a pair of injuries on Feb. 21 during a military training exercise on War Path River, near Lake Winnipeg.

RCMP communications advisor Holly Plato said that Gypsumville RCMP were called out at 9:20 p.m. on Feb. 21 by the Medical Transportation Coordination Centre (MTCC), who were requesting assistance with an injured snowmobiler. The Canadian Armed Forces were conducting a training exercise approximately 70 kilometres northeast on Gypsumville on the river where it connects to Lake Winnipeg.

Plato said that two officers, with the assistance of two local men who were familiar with the lake, travelled in a bombardier to the injured party. While on route, another member of the military fell through the ice. RCMP escorted both men back to Dauphin River where they were turned over to



PHOTO COURTESY OF CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

Gypsumville RCMP responded to a snowmobile rollover on Lake Winnipeg during a routine training exercise by the Canadian Armed Forces. While on their way, another member of the exercise fell through the ice and also needed transportation to EMS members in Dauphin River.

EMS.

Public affairs officer for the CAF, 2Lt. Stacie Nelles said that the training exercise was called ARCTIC BISON 2017 and had 200 members training in long-range patrols, ground search

and rescue and casualty evacuation when the snowmobile rollover happened. The second member who fell through the ice did so in a very shallow area, and Nelles said both he and his snowmobile were recovered al-

most immediately. She said that both individuals had minor injuries and that the training exercise ended on Feb. 25.

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Local Independent Service Advisor Answer:

Some water pumps are driven by the serpentine belt and are bolted on out in the open with the alternator and air compressor and such. Other water pumps are driven by the timing belt. These water pumps take a lot of labor to access and replace. I suspect your current vehicle has a water pump that is driven by the timing belt.

Water pumps are fairly simple devices that circulate engine coolant/antifreeze around the engine and out to the radiator. Like any mechanical device, they eventually wear out. Although having a **cooling system service** done on schedule with your Local Independent Service Provider will extend the life of your water pump and its seals and gaskets – it will eventually fail and need to be replaced.

Those water pumps that are driven by the timing belt (the belt that controls when your engine intake and exhaust valves open) are attached directly to the engine block. The timing belt system has a protective cover. The serpentine belt and all the accessories are located over the timing belt cover. So getting to the water pump requires the removal of a lot of parts – which then need to be replaced.

When the water pump must be replaced, it is a good idea for Interlake drivers to go ahead and also replace the timing belt, timing belt tensioner, and idler pulleys. First, because the timing belt may have been contaminated by leaking coolant; second, there is a schedule for replacing your timing belt and Interlake drivers might as well make the modest additional added expenditure while everything is taken apart to avoid the same labor cost down the road.

A broken timing belt can lead to a very expensive engine repair, so it would serve you well to replace it when your Local Independent service provider advises you to change your water pump.

By the way, the reverse is true as well: When you are replacing your timing belt on schedule go ahead and replace the water pump at the same time. It would be a shame to spend the on one of these replacements only to have to do it all again in a few months because the other then needs replacement. Do them at the same time and start the clock over for both.

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Community raises approximately \$25,000 to reunite Syrian family with relatives

By Patricia Barrett

The Interlake Refugee Support Network hosted a huge auction last Saturday evening at the Arborg Hall that raised approximately \$25,000 that will go towards the cost of reuniting a local Syrian refugee family with their overseas relatives.

Seven members of the Jarkas family arrived in Arborg in February 2016 after the Network and the community pulled together to raise the money necessary to bring them to Canada and support them for one year.

The Network now has plans to bring 12 additional members of the Jarkas family to Arborg this year.

"We are very anxiously waiting for their oldest son to join them," said Network coordinator Trudy Dueck. "He's in Turkey right now. We are just hoping and praying that the government will move a little quicker. Sponsoring has been a very positive experience for all of us, and so now we would like to reunite them with some members of their family who are still in Lebanon at a refugee camp."

The sponsorship is private; the government contributes no funding. The Network has to ensure that enough money is raised to support the 12 family members for one year, plus cover the costs of their travel. The organization needs about \$95,000.

"Through many generous donations, we have raised about a third of that," said Dueck.

Dueck thanked members of the Network's fundraising committee – Sid Dueck, Kris Gudmundson, Sheila Johnson, Audrey Hicks and Abe Wall – for their efforts.

Dueck's daughter Carissa Rempel and granddaughter Alliana Rempel took to the stage to speak about their experiences over the past year with members of the Jarkas family and what they learned.

Carissa spoke about the life of a refugee family through a child's eyes. She had babysat the Jarkas' youngest daughter, Lilaf, discovering through play with her children's toys how much the young girl had witnessed in her war-torn birth country.

Lilaf picked up a Star Wars action figure that had a gun.

"The Star Wars figures started attacking the dolls, and she showed me the dolls were dying," said Rempel.

But when the dolls arrived in Canada, the dolls started playing happily.

"The story has stayed with me," said Rempel. "As a mother myself, it's hard for me to imagine my five-year-old daughter acting out a story like that."

Rempel's daughter Alliana told the audience about Zainab (mom) and Ahmed's (dad) experiences in Syria



Host Chrissy Troy from Radio 103.1 and auctioneer Joey Abas entertained over 250 people at Saturday's auction.

and in Lebanon, where they lived in a refugee camp.

Alliana said they were happy in Syria where they had an olive farm. But when the fighting broke out, they could not earn an income and the schools closed. When the fighting drew near to their town, they had to leave.

"We had to leave our oldest son behind in hiding," said Alliana, recounting their story, "because we knew if they [soldiers] stopped us and found him, he would have to join the war. It was very hard to leave him."

In a refugee camp in Lebanon, the family built their own house out of tin – about the size of one room with no bathroom, kitchen or running water – and all members of family, apart from Lilaf, found work in a greenhouse.

Alliana said they hadn't thought of going to another country, but the Mennonite Central Committee had made contact with the camp's refugees.

"At first when we came to Canada, we were so scared," she said. "Now we are so happy that we came."

The community came out in force for the silent and live auction that was hosted by Chrissy Troy from Radio 103.1 and auctioneer Joey Abas.

Abas stirred up the 250-strong crowd with his humorous banter: "No friends at an auction," he said when bidders lost out, and "I'll let you back in," he said to up the bids.

The grand prizes included a one-week stay in a Florida condo and a \$1,200 travel voucher, and a one-week stay in a cabin on Hecla Island.

The list of silent auction items individuals and businesses donated to the Network was exhaustive. They included a Duncan Phyfe china cabinet, Winnipeg Jets tickets from Vidir Machine, mukluks from Riverton's Friendship Centre, a Co-op Food Store gift basket, an assortment of ethnic desserts, 10 pails of U-pick



Diyar Jarkas dished up ice cream during the auction.



Alliana Rempel told a story about the Jarkas family's experiences in Syria and Lebanon, and their new life in Canada.



Ghaly Abas (centre) from Hodgson has been helping members of the Jarkas family learn English.



Trudy Dueck, Alliana Rempel and Lilaf Jarkas watch the bidding action

strawberries, 10 yards of topsoil from Rick's Landscaping, a free cleaning and exam from Arborg Family Dental and bags of canola from Foster Ag Services.

"We live in a community that is extremely generous and caring," said Dueck. "The amount and the kind of

donations we received has been very humbling. And, also, it has made me proud of my fellow Canadians and fellow Interlakers."

The total raised was about \$35,000, said Dueck a few days after the auction.

EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

CFRY Talent Show and hockey tournament raise 30K

By Jeff Ward

Nearly \$30,000 was raised last weekend through two different events to benefit the Ashern Arena.

The CFRY Radio Amateur Talent Show hosted at the Ashern Centennial Hall raised a staggering \$21,736 last Saturday.

Ashern Arena president Tyler Geisler estimates another \$6,000 was raised during the 2nd Annual Louis Riel Classic, held at the arena March 3-5.

Money raised will help pay off the upgrades to the new LED lighting at the arena while adding funds into the bank for the aging ice plant.

Geisler said he was overwhelmed to see how well both fundraisers did and said he can now breathe a sigh of relief knowing that the arena is taken care of.

Shanley Sigfusson and Beth Schwartz took home \$100 for being named best talent at the talent show and another

\$100 for raising the most money with \$1,355.50. Stan Eirickson raised the second most at \$1,156.50, while Zoe, Lily and Company raised \$815.

In the talent competition, Loal Thorkelson and Heather Goertzen-Loewen placed second and third respectively. Karmyn Hamrik was named most promising performer.

"The amount we raised, close to \$30,000, is just unbelievable," said Geisler.

"I think we saw close to 300 people in the arena over the weekend to watch hockey, and they were all buying food

and drinks and I heard so many compliments on the new lighting. I think people are really seeing what we're trying to accomplish here in renovating this place."

Geisler said that the hockey tournament was very competitive and showcased some great hockey from Interlake teams. The Lundar Falcons took home the championship trophy and a \$3,000 grand prize for beating the Fairford Hawks in overtime 5-4.

Geisler said the final game was incredible and that "you couldn't write it any better." The Hawks took home a \$2,000 prize for second place while the Dekes of Hazard from Ashern took home \$1,000 for third place.

Geisler said it was an interesting feeling to read off names of people donating from communities far away, knowing that these people will probably never step foot inside the arena.

"I think it shows that selfless persona of Manitobans that they're willing to donate to causes that won't benefit them. It's a great feeling to know that people care, no matter where they're from. We even had someone donate from Vietnam because they were listening online and called in," said Geisler.

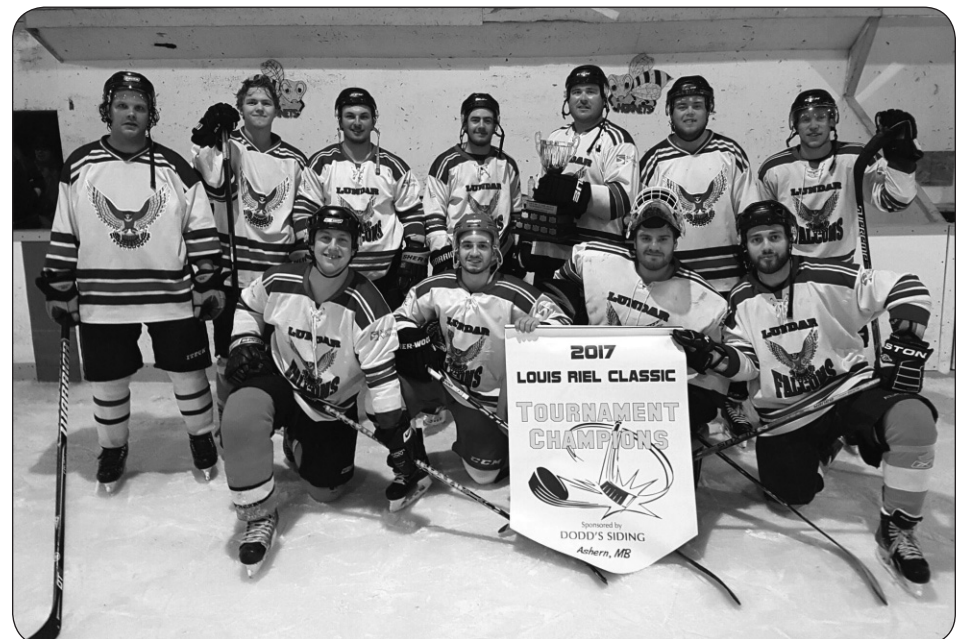
Geisler said some renovations to the kitchen area will be looked at this summer and other smaller projects like painting will be on the list of things to complete before the start of the next season.

"I THINK IT SHOWS THAT SELFLESS PERSONA OF MANITOBANS THAT THEY'RE WILLING TO DONATE TO CAUSES THAT WON'T BENEFIT THEM."



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Beth Schwartz, left, and Shanley Sigfusson, right, took home two awards for raising the most money and being judged best talent.



The Lundar Falcons took home the championship banner and a \$3,000 grand prize for beating the Fairford Hawks 5-4 in overtime.

> KEYYASK GENERATION STATION, FROM PG. 12

and schedule risks still present in the project.

"Keeyask is a large and very complex project and the updated control budget is a realistic estimate based on what we know today," said Kelvin Shepherd, President and CEO of Manitoba Hydro. "However, there is always a chance of additional risks materializing that could impact the schedule and costs."

Shepherd said the MHEB reviewed the updated plan developed by Manitoba Hydro. The MHEB considered other factors, such as revised estimates for Manitoba load growth, updated export pricing and a risk analysis of the cost estimates. The MHEB

concluded that despite the cost escalation, completing the project makes the best sense for Manitoba Hydro, its customers and the province.

"Completing Keeyask will allow us to fulfill export contracts worth approximately \$4.5 billion," Shepherd said. "This will help offset some of the costs of the project. Despite the increased cost to complete construction, stopping now is not an economically viable option as the significant costs of cancellation—together with lost revenues—more than offset any potential savings."

"It's important to remember Manitoba is growing," Shepherd said. "Updated electric growth forecasts in-

dicate our province is going to need a new source of generation to meet domestic load by approximately 2033. Keeyask will provide a reliable, renewable source of energy to meet that demand then and well into the future."

Shepherd said Manitoba Hydro continues to focus on making further improvements to its oversight of the project. The utility has renegotiated key aspects of the general civil construction contract, including schedules and costs, to ensure it can minimize the "go-forward" costs and possible delays. Civil works include all earth moving, excavation and concrete work on the project.

Shepherd also said it's still too early to determine the impact of the revised

control budget on the Corporation's rates. Manitoba Hydro is still finalizing its long-term financial forecast as part of the utility's next General Rate Application to the Public Utilities Board.

"The KHLP and Manitoba Hydro felt it's important to release this updated project information in a timely fashion," Shepherd said. "Our partners and customers have a right to know about changes to the cost of such a major investment. We are committed to keeping Manitobans informed on the progress we are making on Keeyask."

See www.keeyask.com or www.hydro.mb.ca under "Projects" for more information about the Keeyask Generating Station.

Female fishers to be honoured in video at Festival Manipogo

Annual St. Laurent festival March 9-12

By Jeff Ward

The female fishers of St. Laurent will be honoured this weekend during Festival Manipogo for their contributions to the commercial fishing industry.

Festival Manipogo, which runs March 9 to 12, is setting aside time during its gala dinner on Saturday night to pay respect to the hard-working and often unknown women in the fishing industry with a special documentary style video that showcases interviews with female fishers.

Festival volunteer Jay Lambert said that for years the event has celebrated the male fishers and now is the time to turn the attention towards the many women who do the same. Lambert said there are almost as many women fishers as there are men. Lambert spent time with a few of the women who spent their time either on the lake or helping their husbands behind the scenes. These women clean and arrange nets, wash mitts and boots, and do all of this while still raising a family at home.

"It's about the women who are behind the fishermen, behind them raising the family and waiting for them to come home," said Lambert.

"There's an awful lot of stress that comes with that job for them. It's a dangerous job and sometimes they don't come home. It's about respecting those who've gone through tragedies. These are strong women that have to carry on."

One of the women being honoured is Sandra St. Goddard, who spent the better part of a decade on the lake with her husband. She said that it brought them closer together and that it was always peaceful being close to her husband and close to nature. The work is of course very hard, but St. Goddard said



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sandra St. Goddard will be featured in a video with other women from St. Laurent who will be honoured for their contributions to the commercial fishing industry this Saturday during Festival Manipogo.

that she enjoyed it because it's such a rewarding job. Using their knowledge of the lake, spawning locations and previous years' catches, they pulled up thousands of nets in that time and turned those fish into money to provide for the family.

"Before I started going out with him, I didn't know much about fishing because I was a city girl," joked St. Goddard.

"But I learned quickly what the job was all about. The sense of being out there on the ice and the beauty of it, being side by side with my husband working along with him — what more could you ask for?"

St. Goddard said that it wasn't always a picturesque vision of serenity on the lake because sometimes it can be extremely dangerous. St. Goddard said she remembered a time when she and her husband were checking nets and the sky was clear and then out of nowhere a storm showed up. Her husband had to walk in front of the truck, guiding them home in the storm because the visibility was nothing on the ice.

St. Goddard said that in December 2009, she almost lost her husband and nephew after their side-by-side fell through some thin ice. The pair managed to escape, but St. Goddard remembers the harrowing tale like it was yesterday.

"He said he had maybe two inches of space to breathe while he was trapped underwater. He was finally able to get out and get on top of the ice, but he and my nephew were soaking wet, and by the time they reached the shore, their clothes were frozen solid. They both nearly died that day," said St. Goddard.

Lambert said that those experiences are all too common among the women in the area and stories like that and others will be shared during the video tribute on Saturday.

"Something like this has never been done before for the women, and frankly, we need to do this more often," said Lambert.

Tickets for the gala dinner are \$25 each. For more info on seating availability, please call 204-227-9810.

Programs announced to train newcomers for construction jobs

Submitted

A new program at Red River College is providing essential language and construction skills training to refugees and newcomers to Manitoba who arrived in the past year, Education and Training Minister Ian Wishart announced Tuesday.

"As we've seen in recent months, there's a growing need to provide support for refugees in a variety of ways including direct employment and labour market programming," said Wishart. "We commend Red River College for its vision in developing this important program, which will link newcomers with employment opportunities and allow them to develop the skills they need to succeed in the workforce."

The new, four-month Pathway Program to Construction Skills will focus on developing essential language skills, safety training and basic construction skills training in the areas of drywalling, masonry and flat-top roofing. Following the completion of the program, students will participate in a paid month-long, full-time work placement to further refine their skills and gain essential on-the-job

experience, with the goal to support long-term employment, Wishart said.

"Red River College is proud to play such an important role in supporting Manitoba's international, immigrant and refugee community," said Paul Vogt, president, Red River College. "This new program is a first in Manitoba and it will not only help our newcomer refugees develop their language and literacy skills, it will also provide them access to trades training and jobs in sectors where our partners have a need for more trained workers."

The minister noted the new program, developed in partnership with the Winnipeg Construction Association, Alpha Masonry, Allied Roofing, Econo Wall and Ceilings Ltd, Immigrant Centre, Manitoba Start and the Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations, was a community response to supporting new refugees in Manitoba.

"There are many rewarding career paths in the Manitoba construction industry and we look forward to working with RRC to bridge the gap between training and employment for newcomer refugees," said Ron Hambley, president, Winnipeg

Construction Association. "This partnership allows our industry to address skilled labour shortages while helping build a future for new members of our community."

"A vast majority of the students entering this program already have a background in the trades," said Kerri Caldwell, director Language Training Centre. "This new program will help bridge any gaps and provide them with immediate experience in the workplace with the goal of leading to long-term employment."

Twenty students are currently enrolled in the first intake of the program from countries including Syria, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. A second intake is being planned for September with similar opportunities in Manitoba's construction sector, Wishart noted.

The program is one of four pilot employment services projects under the Refugee Employment Development Initiative (REDI) for refugees and newcomers announced by the Manitoba government on Feb. 23. The province is contributing up to \$225,000 to the program, said the minister.

Peguis First Nation

Sutherland vows to bridge 'deep split' in community if elected chief

By Teresa Carey

A former Peguis First Nation band councillor running for chief and eight out of the 28 councillor candidates were in Selkirk recently presenting their platforms leading up to the community's election on March 24.

"The job we're taking on is going to be a very tough job, but I'm ready. I can stand the job. I can stick it out," former councillor Albert E. Sutherland said to the nearly 50 Peguis First Nation members at the Selkirk Inn and Conference Centre on March 2.

Sutherland talked about how the millions of dollars spent by the former administrations has done little to address the big problems on the reserve, such as poor housing, unemployment, and a range of social issues.

"We're in a crisis situation," he said. "Five hundred homes are backlogged, we have high unemployment and a deficit. Five years after the flooding, homes are mouldy and sitting vacant. Keep the politics out of housing. Base it on need. Mandate the housing out to the people. The housing is for the people," he stressed.

Sutherland referred also to an old community plan which took two years to develop as "weak." He proposes drawing up a new community plan, based on values and respect, one which would be inclusive of all Peguis members regardless of residency. On this topic, he envisions a three- or four-day meeting with people coming out to "make their mark" and other meetings with various sectors to hear



EXPRESS PHOTO BY TERESA CAREY

Pictured from left to right: Adrienne Manningway, Linda Sinclair, Pauline B. Sinclair, David McPherson, Albert E. Sutherland, Ernest Stevenson, Brian Bear Jr., and Burke Ratt were in Selkirk on March 2 to discuss their platforms leading up to the Peguis First Nation chief and council election behind held on March 24.

firsthand about what they need.

"I've thought long and hard about this. I think we have to go back to basics. We can make million dollar deals but we have to take small steps," he said.

Sutherland said there is a "deep split" within his community. He emphasized that ways of working together need to be found.

Inequities in income was another concern Sutherland put forth, stating that he is willing to take a pay cut, and does not need to draw \$200,000 a year. He also pointed to favouritism shown via an existing non-discretionary fund, with monies being given to some Peguis members directly from chief and council.

"They should not just be giving money away," he said. "These things have to stop."

Sutherland also took questions from those in attendance. Concerns voiced were about the insufficient number councillor seats (only four) to represent a population of 10,000 who reside both on and off reserve, difficulties incarcerated members have in receiving ballots to vote, how to address drug and alcohol issues for youth, and communication shortfalls between the band office and people both on and off reserve.

The need for a housing authority with the capacity to make housing decisions without interference from chief and council was front and centre

for many of the people in attendance. "It should be based on people's needs, and not on their last name," said one audience member.

The Peguis election will take place on March 24, with polls open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Peguis Community Hall and at the Peguis Winnipeg Office located at 1075 Portage Ave. Eligible voters can also mail-in ballots.

Candidates for chief include former chief Glenn Hudson, who held the post for eight years until 2015, and past band councillor Albert E. Sutherland, and incumbent Cindy Spence, Peguis' first woman chief.

There are 28 candidates in total vying for only four councillor seats. They include: Brian Bear Jr. (Bucky), Mary Tyler Bear (Sutherland), Darlene D. Bird, William Bird, Allan H.E. Cochrane, Martin Favel, Tracy Govereau, Travis Hudson, Adrienne Manningway, Sylvia McKay, David McPherson, Burke Ratt, Linda Sinclair, Pauline B. Sinclair (nee Wilson), Val Sinclair, William F. Sinclair, Curtis Spence (Coot), Walter Spence Jr., Annette Spence-Meeches, Ernest Stevenson, Lisa Stevenson (Leese), Darryl Sutherland, Glennis Sutherland, Mike Sutherland, Wade Sutherland, Edie Thomas (nee McPherson), Ray Thomas and Walter E. Thompson.

Peguis First Nation is the largest First Nation community in Manitoba with a population of approximately 10,000 people of Ojibway and Cree descent. Approximately 1,000 Peguis members reside in Selkirk.

Peguis and Fisher Branch RCMP seize weapons, drugs and cash

Submitted

On the morning of March 3, 2017, Peguis and Fisher Branch RCMP, along with assistance from the Emergency Response Team, executed two search warrants under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act at residences located on the Peguis First Nation.

Police located and seized more than one kilogram of cocaine, 233 grams of marijuana, seven firearms and a significant amount of cash from the two residences.

Police arrested five residents of Peguis First Nation: two males, both 20

years of age, and three females, 21, 27, and 30. They will face charges under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act as well as the Criminal Code of Canada. They have been released for court scheduled for May 1, 2017, in Peguis.

"The removal of such a large quantity of drugs and weapons during this seizure in Peguis First Nation will definitely have a positive impact in the community," said Sgt. Paul Manaire.

Peguis and Fisher Branch RCMP continue to investigate.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Peguis and Fisher Branch RCMP seized more than one kilogram of cocaine, 233 grams of marijuana, seven firearms and a significant amount of cash from the two residences on the Peguis First Nation.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Peguis, Arborg among KJHL semifinalists

By Brian Bowman

There will be two local teams in the Keystone Junior Hockey League semifinals.

The Peguis Juniors advanced to the league semifinals after defeating the Selkirk Fishermen in four games in their best-of-five quarter-final.

After scoring five goals in a Game 1 victory, Selkirk was shut down the rest of the way as Peguis allowed just five goals in the final three games of the series.

Peguis clinched the series win with a 3-2 home victory last Sunday. Tyler Woodhouse scored the game winner with just 57 seconds remaining in regulation time.

Selkirk's Auzzie Loewen opened the game's scoring 6:36 into the game but Peguis' Storm Swan and Quinton

Flett answered with goals before the first period ended.

Milan Horanski, the Fishermen's leading scorer during the regular season, then scored the lone goal of the second period.

Both teams had 35 shots on goal as Luke Penner earned the win.

Peguis took a 2-1 series lead after a solid 3-1 win Saturday evening at the Selkirk Rec Complex.

The Juniors' Waylon Neault scored the eventual game winner with 6:57 left in the third and then Theoren Spence added an insurance marker about three minutes later.

After a scoreless first period, Peguis' Tyrome Spence-Bair scored mid-way in the second and then Selkirk's

Continued on page 23



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

The Juniors' Luke Penner made 35 saves in Peguis' 3-1 home win against the Fishermen last Saturday.

Swan's Defenceman of the Year



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Stonewall's Braden Groot was recently named the Swan Valley Stampeders' Defenceman of the Year at the team's annual awards banquet. Groot scored three goals and had 16 points in 58 regular-season games this past season.



Quinton Flett scored for Peguis in Game 3 to clinch the series with a 3-2 home win last Sunday.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Manitoba 5-0 at the Tim Horton's Brier

Staff

Manitoba's Mike McEwen was the only undefeated team – posting a 5-0 record – as of Tuesday afternoon at the Tim Hortons Brier in St. John's, Nfld.

McEwen defeated Alberta's Brendan Bottcher of Alberta 10-6 Monday evening and then outscored New Brunswick's Mike Kennedy Tuesday morning to improve his record to a perfect 5-0.

Manitoba trailed 5-2 after five ends and 7-3 after seven to New Brunswick but battled back to score deuces in the eighth, ninth and 10th ends for the wild comeback win.

Against Alberta, Manitoba scored a pair in the second, fifth and seventh ends and then added four in the ninth to end the game.

The Winnipeg foursome, which curls out of the Fort Rouge Curling Club, includes third B.J. Neufeld, second Matt Wozniak, lead Denni Neufeld and coach Chris Neufeld.

Action continues through Sunday with the gold-medal game.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Front row, left to right, Mike McEwen, B.J. Neufeld, Matt Wozniak, Denni Neufeld, and in the back row Chris Neufeld (coach).

Dyck named Canada West first-team all star

Staff

University of Manitoba Bison women's hockey players Rachel Dyck, Alexandra Anderson and Lauryn Keen were named as 2016-17 Canada West first-team all stars.

The Bisons' Venla Hovi and Erica Rieder were selected as second-team all stars while Sheridan Oswald was named to the 2016-17 Canada West all-rookie team.

Manitoba topped the conference with six selections in 2016-17.

"All of these players contributed significantly to our team this year and helped us achieve a lot of things," said Bisons' head coach Jon Rempel in a media release.

"They are all very committed to what they do as student-athletes and they are being rewarded and recognized for their diligence and determination.

Our Bison team and program are very proud of all of their accomplishments this year."

Dyck, 21, finished her fourth season with the Bisons and earned her second conference selection (she was a second-team all star in 2014-15).

During the 2016-17 conference season, the Winnipeg Beach native was fourth in Canada West goals-against average (1.51) and second in confer-

ence save percentage (.931).

She posted a solid 15-6-1 record and was tied for most conference wins at 15 while playing in 22 of 28 conference regular-season games.

The 5-foot-9 goaltender was also first with five solo shutouts in Canada West play (she also shared a shutout) and had a five-game conference winning streak from Jan. 20 to Feb. 4.

> KJHL SEMIFINALISTS, FROM PG. 22

Dylan Painchaud-Niemi tallied at 12:15 of the third.

Penner stopped 36 Selkirk shots for the win.

With the series victory, Peguis now advances to a best-of-seven semifinal series against St. Malo. In the other semifinal, Arborg will play OCN.

The Ice Dawgs swept the North Winnipeg Satelites in their quarter-final series and have had a lengthy break between games.

Neither KJHL semifinal series schedule had been posted on the

league website by press time.

The Lundar Falcons, meanwhile, saw their season end after a 7-2 road loss to the St. Malo Warriors.

Craig Weiss and Landen Gray scored power-play goals for Lundar.

Elmar Tabler (two), Brady Allan, Robert Guimond, Jared Magne, Mark Nelson and Shaquille Houle replied for St. Malo.

With the Game 3 victory, the Warriors swept the best-of-five series in three games.

Manitoba Hockey Standings

MANITOBA JUNIOR

HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Steinbach Pistons	60	49	10	1	99	249	124
Winkler Flyers	60	41	16	3	85	219	148
OCN Blizzard	60	39	17	4	82	200	153
Selkirk Steelers	60	39	18	3	81	220	177
Portage Terriers	60	37	19	4	78	256	198
Winnipeg Blues	60	27	27	6	60	193	202
Virten Oil Capitals	60	26	26	8	60	167	198
Neepawa Natives	60	21	33	6	48	173	229
Swan Valley Stampeters	60	20	34	6	46	160	236
Dauphin Kings	60	17	36	7	41	145	221
Waywayseccappo Wolverines	60	14	42	4	32	177	273

KEYSTONE HOCKEY LEAGUE

PLAYOFFS - Semi-Finals (no scores at press time)
Arborg Ice Dawgs vs OCN Storm
Peguis Juniors vs St. Malo Warriors

AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE

MANITOBA AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE

PLAYOFFS - Semi-Finals

Brandon Wheatkings vs Yellowhead Chiefs

Winnipeg Wild vs Eastman Selects

AAA BANTAM HOCKEY LEAGUE

Rural Provincials being held in Stonewall/Warren March 10-12

STATS AS OF TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Classifieds



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Looking for A Head Sorter

Applications are now being accepted for the position of **HEAD SORTER** at the Interlake Cattleman's Co-op at Ashern located in central Manitoba.

Position is for Tuesdays and Wednesdays during our regular sales. Duties to include Sorting Cattle, Overseeing other sorters and listing cattle. The successful candidate must have good animal husbandry skills, previous experience sorting cattle and good interpersonal skills. Job to commence immediately. Competitive Wages negotiable depending on experience.

To be considered for this position, please call, email or fax resumes to: icca@mymts.net or kkiesman@gmail.com or fax 204-768-3690

For more info: call Kirk Kiesman @ 204-768-0019 or Interlake Cattleman's Co-op Box 599, Ashern, MB. ROC OEO (website www.ashernauctionmart.com)



INVITATION TO TENDER/ APPEL D'OFFRES

Janitorial Service Contract / Contrat de services de nettoyage

RCMP Gimli Detachment/ GRC Gimli Détachement Gimli, Manitoba

The RCMP Gimli Detachment, Gimli, Manitoba is seeking tenders for a janitorial services contract.

Interested parties may obtain a Tender Package through the Detachment by contacting: **Carrie Gottfried @ 204-642-5106**

The successful contractor and their employees will be required to obtain a valid RCMP Departmental Security clearance.

The successful contractor must adhere to all safety rules, regulations and labor codes in all jurisdictions where work is performed.

This service contract will be awarded to the lowest price compliant bidder. Optional Site Visit will be held on: **Tuesday, March 21st, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.** Deadline for Tender submission is: **2:00 p.m. MDT, March 28, 2017**

Bids must be forwarded to RCMP NWR Procurement & Contracting via courier or fax as per Submission of Bids within the Tender Package.

RCMP has adopted the Integrity Regime administered by PSPC. As a result, the integrity provisions are being applied in RCMP contracting activities as outlined in the solicitation.

Le personnel du détachement de la GRC de Gimli, à Gimli, en Manitoba, sollicite des offres pour un contrat de services de nettoyage.

Les parties intéressées peuvent obtenir un dossier d'appel d'offres par l'intermédiaire du détachement en appelant:

Carrie Gottfried @ 204-642-5106

L'entrepreneur sélectionné et ses employés devront obtenir une cote de sécurité de la GRC valide.

L'entrepreneur sélectionné doit respecter les consignes de sécurité, les règlements et les codes du travail en vigueur dans le territoire de compétence où sont réalisés les travaux.

Ce contrat de service sera attribué au prix le plus bas soumissionnaire conforme.

Une visite facultative des lieux est prévue pour: **mardi, le 21 mars 2017 à 10h30.** Date limite de réception des soumissions: **le 28 mars à 2017 à 14 h (HAR)**

Les soumissions doivent parvenir à la Section des acquisitions et des marchés de la Région du Nord-Ouest de la GRC par service de messagerie ou par télécopieur, aux termes du document Présentation des soumissions faisant partie du dossier d'appel d'offres.

La GRC a adopté le régime d'intégrité administré par SPAC. Conséquemment, les consignes relatives à l'intégrité seront appliquées dans le processus d'élaboration des marchés tel qu'indiqué dans cette demande de soumissions.



AUTOS

2005 Ford Taurus. Showroom condition, like new, smoke-free. Power trunk, locks & windows. Tilt, cruise, & air. Stereo, remote entry, newer tires. Must see. Safetied. Sale: \$3495 obo. Ph 204-642-7870.

HOUSE FOR RENT

5 bdrm. house in Fisherton. Call Archie at 204-364-2287.

HOUSES FOR SALE

3 only 16 x 80, 3 bed, 2 bath. Starting at \$89,900. Altona Mobile Homes, 1-800-582-4036, 1-204-324-6776 Email amhl@mymts.net

HOUSES FOR SALE

Immediate possession available. 1638 sq. ft. RTM. 2.5 baths, cathedral ceiling, island kitchen. \$189,000. Floorplan online at wgiesbrechthomes.ca. Custom builds also available. Call 204-346-3231 or email wilbert@wghomes.ca for more information.

Ultra affordable, modern homes for Manitoba starting at \$90,000 delivered. Don't overpay! 2017's available now; www.bestbuyhousing.com. Text/call 204-800-0065. Winnipeg, Brandon, Grand Beach. Canada's largest home selection!

STEEL BUILDINGS

Steel building sale... "Priced to sell!" 20X21 \$5,997 front & back walls included. 30X33 \$7,339 no ends included 35X37 \$11,782 one end wall included. Check out www.pioneersteel.ca for more prices. Pioneer Steel 1-855-212-7036.

LAND FOR SALE

PrairieSky Royalty Ltd. is a publicly-traded company in Calgary that acquires oil & gas fee title and royalty interests at fair market value. To receive a cash offer, call 587-293-4055 or visit www.prairiesky.com/Selling-Your-Royalties.

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Medical Transcription! In-demand career! Employers have work-at-home positions available. Get online training you need from an employer-trusted program. Visit: CareerStep.ca/MT or 1-855-768-3362 to start training for your work-at-home career today!

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Batteries for everything. Automotive, farm, construction, ATV, marine, motorcycle, golf carts, phones, tools, radios, computers etc. Reconditioned, obsolete and hard-to-find batteries. SOLAR equipment. The Battery Man. Winnipeg. 1-877-775-8271 www.batteryman.ca

Parts & full trailer repair, trailer safeties & Autopac trailer repair. Sales, leasing & financing of flat-deck, dumpbox, cargo, gooseneck & utility trailers & truck beds. Kaldeck Truck & Trailer, Hwy #1 MacGregor, Mb. 1-888-685-3127.

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Display kitchens \$3500. Traded in deluxe oak kitchen \$1200.(In-Stock) White shaker kitchens 60% off. Cancelled custom kitchens 70% off. Fehr's Cabinet Warehouse Ph: 1-800 758-6924.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ROCKIN' RICHARD'S RECORD & CD SALE. Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Ave. Wpg. Sunday, March 19/17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 80 plus tables. Records, CD's, DVD's music collectibles. Admission \$5. Info 204-338-3655.

The 21st Annual Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum Induction Dinner will be held in Morden on June 3, 2017. Tickets may be obtained by contacting David Taylor at 204-476-3843, 204-841-3242 or taylor@brandonu.ca, Jack Hrehirchuk at 204-639-6923/204-648-6395 or jhrchirchuk@wcgwave.ca, David Olsen at 204-284-8728m 204-223-1929 or dholsen@mymts.net, or Joe Wiwchar at 204-822-4636 or mbbbhof@mymts.net Deadline for ticket sales is May 19, 2017.

HEALTH

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewall Elk Products Ltd., 204-467-8428 or e-mail stone.woodelk@hotmail.com

Canada Benefit Group - Attention Manitoba residents: do you or someone you know suffer from a disability? Get up to \$40,000 from the Canadian Government. Toll-free 1-888-511-2250 or www.canadabenefit.ca/free-assessment

Disability? ADHD? - Do you have a disability? We can help you get up to \$50,000 back from the Canadian Government. For details call us today toll-free 1-888-875-4787 or visit us at: disabilitygroupcanada.com

Unique Job Sharing Opportunity

The Waterfront Centre, Gimli, is looking for an appropriate person to share the duties of General Manager on an alternate month basis. The successful candidate will have experience dealing with the public, co-workers, and tenants. Basic computer, accounting and good communication skills required.

- Previous experience in property management, the hospitality industry, and community involvement an asset.
- Must be willing and able to work under the direction of a Board of Directors.
- Training provided.

Deadline for applications Wednesday, March 15.

For further information contact Ross Bailey at the Waterfront Centre, 94 First Avenue Gimli, 204-642-4611 or waterfrontcentre@mymts.net

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Ashern Daycare is now hiring for the following positions:

Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Level II or III
Full time position & part time position

Substitute Child Care Assistant (CCA)
- Hours and shifts will depend on the center needs.

The ECE will plan and carry out programming. We are seeking an individual who has strong leadership skills and excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Applicant must be energetic, organized, reliable and have experience working with children of all ages. ECE must have the Province of Manitoba ECE Level II or III classification.

The CCA will work under the direct supervision of the ECE's and Director. Must have experience working with children.

All applicants must possess or be willing to obtain Emergency First Aid and CPR training. They must also clear a Criminal Record check and Child Abuse Registry check.

Please submit Resumes by **March 21, 2017** in person at #2 Main Street East in Ashern MB or by Email at asherndaycare@hotmail.com

Thinking of Relocating?

Call the municipality of Pembina home. Located in south central Manitoba, we welcome you to our warm and safe community. Raise your family here - retire here. Affordable housing - low taxes. Great amenities - local shopping, education, health care, indoor and outdoor sports & recreation, culture & arts. Short drive to many employment opportunities. Live Here - Grow Here - Play Here! Check us out at www.pembina.ca

Classifieds



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Round hard core bales of alfalfa, brome & timothy. Horse & cattle hay avail. Ph 204-467-5078 or 204-461-0722.

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Polled Salers bulls on farm & at MB Test Station. BW from 77 lbs. Strong growth and maternal milk traits. Semen tested, guaranteed. Can deliver. Ken 204-762-5512.

Charolais yearling bulls for sale. Good prices. Good birth weights. Call John at 204-383-0308.

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Consignments Welcome!

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Consign your Guns & Hunting related items now to take advantage of our Coast to Coast advertising!

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The disability tax credit allows for a:
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An excellent opportunity to earn a secondary income or supplement your retirement plan...

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Training is provided at no charge.

Casual School Bus Drivers are required in all communities.

For details contact Robbie Miller at 739-2101 ext 1241



LAKE SHORE SCHOOL DIVISION

NEWS TIPS
Call 467-5836

HELP WANTED

Lundar Golf Course
Accepting applications for

Clubhouse Manager

for the 2017 season

Email resumes to lundargolfcourse@gmail.com

49th Annual Lundar Purebred Beef Cattle Sale

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DATE CHANGE: APRIL 1, 2017

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- 5 1 YR. GELBVIEH
- 4 1 YR. CHAROLAIS
- 7 1 YR. ANGUS
- 2 2 YR. ANGUS
- 16 1 YR. SIMMENTAL
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Visit our catalogue on www.buyagro.com

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Rural Municipality of Gimli is accepting proposals for the North Beach Concession Stand

Proposals must include the following information:

- Expected start date
- Expected closing date
- Days and hours of operation
- Previous food services experience
- Types of food to be offered
- Proposed annual rental payment
- Building improvements (if planned)
- Listing of operators equipment

The Agreement will be for a one-year period; with the option to renew for an additional one year period, at Council's discretion.

- Highest or any bid not necessarily accepted
- Local preference will be considered
- Experience in food service preferred
- RM of Gimli business licence required
- Liability Insurance in the amount no less than \$2,000,000 required
- Must hold or obtain a valid Food Handler's Certificate
- Operator is responsible for Utilities

Sealed submissions clearly marked "Beach Concession" will be received by the undersigned at the address below until **noon on Thursday, March 30, 2017**

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Rural Municipality of Gimli,
62 - 2nd Avenue, PO Box 1246, Gimli, MB. R0C 1B0
Attention: Kristin Strachan, Assistant CAO

The Gimli RCMP Detachment is currently accepting applications for GUARDS / MATRONS

Employment as a cell guard/matron is reliant on a satisfactory security clearance.

To pick up an application package, please attend the Gimli RCMP Detachment Monday to Friday between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

For further information, please contact Carrie at 204-642-5106 ext. 101

Canada

204-467-5836 classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca

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

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR SEASONAL & STUDENT POSITIONS

General Skills & Qualifications for all positions
Excellent communication and organizational skills, and a demonstrated ability to work independently and/or in a team environment are required.

SEASONAL POSITIONS (Part-time May, June & September and Full-time July & August)

Park Patrol - Duties include monitoring and maintaining a clean, safe beach and park areas and other public facilities, as well as greeting visitors and providing tourism and environmental information. Good organizational and communication skills required. Shifts are varied; seven days per week; 8:00AM to 10:00PM.

Visitor Center - Duties include greeting visitors, interpreting exhibits on natural history on Lake Winnipeg and fisheries, providing tourism information, maintaining Visitor Centre attendance data, assist with planning and implementing summer programs; Shifts vary; seven days per week, some weekends shifts will be required.

Municipal Office Assistant - Assisting with administrative duties through busy summer season. Work shift Monday to Friday, 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Rec Centre General Labourer - Grass cutting and other miscellaneous maintenance duties. Work Shift Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM.

Summer Program Leader - Help organize and host summer day camps and recreation programs. Work with the Programmer to develop and promote new initiatives. This position will involve work in a variety of facilities including the Rec Centre, Beach and Pavilion. Shifts vary, some weekends and evening shifts will be required.

Lifeguards - Duties include monitoring and maintaining the Gimli Aquatic Centre in a safe and clean manner. Responsible to watch users and property to prevent dangerous situations; assist in operating the pool efficiently and successfully. Lifeguards require NLS certification and must be able to perform the lifesaving duties required of the position. Work shifts vary; seven days a week starting end of June until beginning of September.

SEASONAL POSITIONS (Approximately May to October, as required)

General Labourers - Duties include refuse crew, grass cutting, landscaping, etc., must be physically fit. Typical work shift 8:00AM to 4:30PM, Monday to Friday but may include some weekends. Valid class 5 driver's license required. Wage based on collective agreement

Operator C - Duties include operating medium equipment such as refuse trucks, roadside mowers, and dump trucks, as well as general duties. Valid class 3 with air endorsement driver's license required. Wage based on collective agreement

HOUSEKEEPING STAFF CADET CAMP DORMITORY (For the months of June, July and August)

Gimli CDC is hiring Full and Part time housekeeping positions for the Cadet Camp Dormitory located in the Gimli Business Park. Typical working hours are Monday to Friday, 8:00AM to 4:00PM and occasional weekends.

Please contact Dennis at (204) 641-0078 with inquiries on the housekeeping position. Completed applications stating the position(s) applying for, with resume and references, should be submitted to the Municipal Office located at 62 2nd Avenue by 4:00 p.m. on March 30, 2017

Kristin Strachan, CMMMA, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Gimli, PO Box 1246, 62 - 2nd Avenue, Gimli, MB R0C 1B0
Email: kstrachan@rmgimli.com Fax: (204) 642-6660

We thank all applicants; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

take a break

> GAMES

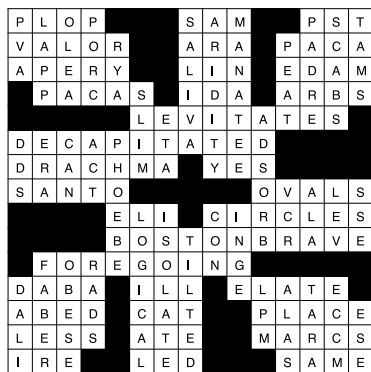
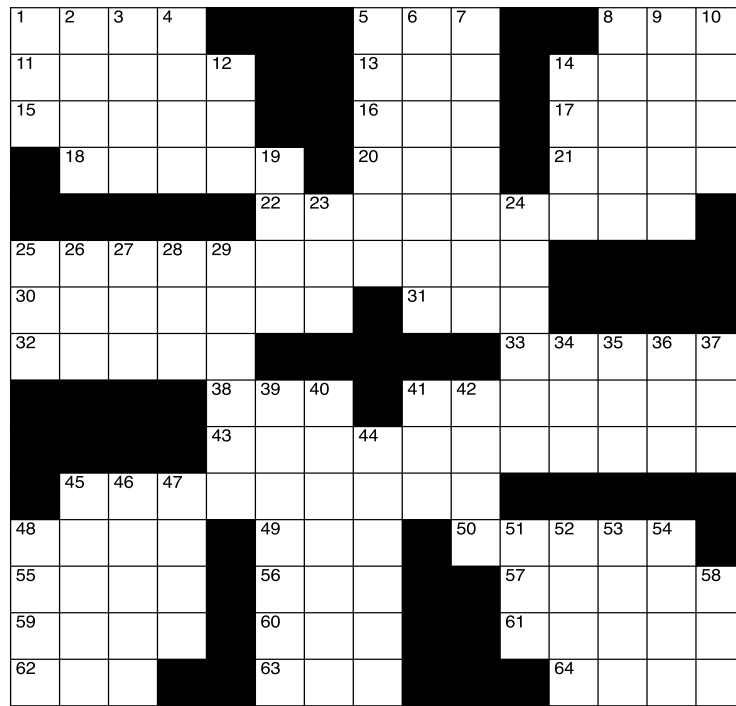
X CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Fall down
5. Walmart founder Walton
8. Los Angeles time zone
11. Gallantry
13. Early Supreme Court justice Bartlett
14. One-time governor of Maryland
15. Act of imitating
16. Popular basketballer Jeremy
17. Round Dutch cheese
18. S. American rodents
20. Comic opera "Princess ___"
21. Commodities buyers and sellers (slang)
22. Hovers
25. Having had one's head cut off

30. One-time monetary unit of Greece
31. Not no
32. Beloved Cubs third baseman Ron
33. Shapes
38. Giants signal caller Manning
41. Moves all the way around
43. Babe Ruth retired as one
45. Relinquishing
48. Native religion in China
49. Not well
50. Fill with high spirits
55. In bed
56. Type of pet
57. Somewhere to go
59. Smaller quantity
60. Ingested
61. Singer and Jacobs are two
62. Anger
63. British rockers ___ Zeppelin
64. Like

6. Quality of yielding nothing of value
7. Aquatic mammal
8. Father
9. Protective crusts
10. Caps
12. Handwoven rug
14. Soil-like material
19. Not wide
23. When you aim to get there
24. Hold molecules
25. Tooth caregiver
26. Amount of time
27. Beverage container
28. Perform
29. Appollo's grandmother
34. Obsolete home entertainment device
35. Serbian mythological demon
36. Bulgarian currency
37. Midway between south and southeast
39. Makes sense
40. A way to single out
41. Criminal (slang)
42. Former Tigers third baseman Brandon
44. Wobbled



Crossword Answer

45. Singapore's second highest peak
46. Grossly overweight
47. Radioactivity units
48. Famed Spanish painter
51. Internet router algorithm
52. Expression of sorrow or pity
53. Druidic mother goddess
54. Electronic counter-countermeasures
58. Midway between east and southeast

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Reg and Kim Sigurdson along with Rick and Sheila Johnston are pleased to announce the engagement of Desiree and Tyler. Community shower to be held Saturday, March 18 at 1 p.m. at the Arborg Community Hall. Social to follow that evening. Registered at Home Hardware and Bed Bath & Beyond.

IN MEMORIAM



Baldur Danielson
February 17, 1917 - May 5, 2002

His memory is as Dear Today....as in the hour he Passed Away.
A beautiful memory, dearer than gold,
Of a man whose worth can never be told.
There is a piece of our hearts no one can fill,
We miss him, and always will.
Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day;
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
His guiding hand on our shoulders will remain with us forever.

-Lovingly remembered,
The family of Baldur Danielson

OBITUARY

Einar Alfred Einarson
May 24, 1933 - March 4, 2017

Einar got his final wish, to be in the everlasting arms of his Lord and Savior. He fought the good fight and won the prize.

Cremation has taken place and no formal service at his request.
Private interment at a later date when his wife and soulmate Bev, joins him.
Donations in his memory may be made to a charity of your choice.
No cards please.

Condolences may be left at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com
Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli
in care of arrangements

OBITUARY

Anne Franz
(nee Emerich)



Surrounded by her family, it is with great sadness we announce the passing of Anne Franz. She passed away on March 4, 2017 at the age of 92, at the Gimli Community Health Centre.

Anne was born in February 1925 in Berlo, MB. She married John on May 16, 1942. They lived in Berlo and later moved to Camp Morton where they farmed and raised their four children. In 1969 they moved to Gimli and Anne obtained employment at Duha's until she retired. She spent many happy times with family and friends playing cards and visiting. She was an active member of the Camp Morton and Gimli Catholic Women's League. In her later years she moved to Gimli Betel Home.

She leaves to mourn her children: Ronald (Florence), Gerald (Jeanette), Linda (Richard) Batenchuk, Bernadine Adamson; grandchildren, Edward, Kevin, Jeff (Brenda) Franz; Karen (Barry) Brenda (Tim) Banera; Rick (Victoria) Batenchuk, Sheila (Barry) Pennell, Sheryl (Brent) Wilford, Trevor (Jacquie) Batenchuk; 22 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild. Also left to mourn is her sister Lucy Marks and sisters-in-law Terri Emerich and Tillie Franz.

Anne was predeceased by her husband John; parents Adam and Mary Emerich; son-in-law Doug Adamson; and siblings Joe, Kay, Mary, Tony, Margaret, Magdalene, and Edward.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Michaels Roman Catholic Church, Gimli, MB with Father Mike Nwosu. Viewing will be held one hour prior to Mass. Interment will follow in the Gimli Community Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the staff at Betel and Gimli Hospital for their wonderful and compassionate care given to Anne.

Donations in memory of Anne can be made to the Betel Home Foundation, Box 10, Gimli, MB, R0C 1B0.

Condolences may be left at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com
Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli
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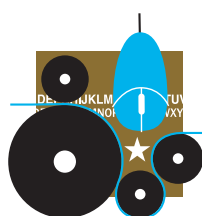
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get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS

Herbed barley bean "risotto"



2 tbsp (25 mL) white or red wine vinegar
 1/4 cup (50 mL) fresh basil or parsley, chopped
 2 tbsp (25 mL) grated Parmesan

Directions

In a saucepan or in a large microwave-safe measuring cup, combine broth and half of the milk (1 cup or 250 mL). Heat over medium heat on the stove top, or on medium-high (70%) power in the microwave, for about 5 minutes or until steaming. Cover and keep hot.

Meanwhile, in a large, deep pot, heat oil over medium heat. Add onion, celery, garlic, dried herbs, and 1/2 tsp (2 mL) pepper and sauté for about 5 minutes or until onions are softened. Add barley and flour; stir to coat well.

Stir in hot broth mixture. Cover, reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 25 minutes or until barley is almost tender. Add a little more of the milk if necessary to keep barley moist.

Meanwhile, heat remaining milk until steaming.

Stir Romano beans, green beans and remaining hot milk into barley. Cover and simmer, stirring often, for 10 to 15 minutes or until barley is tender and green beans are tender-crisp. Adjust the heat as necessary to keep the pot at a steady simmer without boiling. Remove from heat and let stand for 5 to 10 minutes to thicken slightly. Drizzle in vinegar, stirring to combine. Stir in half of the basil or parsley. Season to taste with up to 1/4 tsp (1 mL) more pepper. Serve sprinkled with remaining basil or parsley and Parmesan.

4 servings / About 1 hr
 Prep 15 min / Cook 45-50 min
 Add savoury vegetables, legumes, herbs and cook the barley in milk and you've got a main course that is oh-so-satisfying and good for you, too.

Ingredients

2 cups (500 mL) low-sodium vegetable or chicken broth
 2 cups (500 mL) 1% milk, divided
 2 tsp (10 mL) vegetable oil
 1 onion, chopped
 3 stalks celery, sliced
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 1 tsp (5 mL) dried herbs (thyme, rosemary, herbes de Provence or Italian herb blend)
 3/4 tsp (3 mL) pepper, divided
 1 cup (250 mL) pot or pearl barley
 1 tbsp (15 mL) whole wheat flour
 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) cooked or drained and rinsed canned unsalted Romano or red kidney beans
 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) chopped fresh or frozen green beans, thawed

Tropical Rum Raisin Dessert



1/4 cup spiced or coconut rum
 2 cups vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt, divided
 4 teaspoons toasted shredded coconut, divided

Place fruit in medium bowl and set aside. In small bowl, combine raisins, rum and 1/4 cup reserved juice. Allow raisins to soak at least 20 minutes until plump. Drain off liquid.

Combine fruit and rum raisins; spoon into serving bowls. Top each bowl with 1/2 cup scoop of ice cream and top each with 1 teaspoon toasted coconut.

Tip: 1/2 teaspoon rum extract and 1/2 cup reserved juice may be used instead of rum.

Total time: 30 minutes
 Servings: 4
 1 jar (23.5 ounces) Dole Tropical Fruit, drained, juice reserved
 1/2 cup Dole Seedless Raisins

You gave me your cold



HEALTH NUTS ARE GOING TO FEEL STUPID SOMEDAY, LYING IN HOSPITALS DYING OF NOTHING.

REDD FOX

Have you ever blamed someone for giving you a cold? If so, you may be blaming them unfairly. Of course people who are sick should stay home from work, and use a handkerchief to avoid broadcasting germs everywhere. However, even if an infected person does bring a virus into your environment, it still does not mean it is their fault you caught a cold.

Consider that one-half of an office or classroom may come down with a cold or flu, but the other half are unaffected. Why is this? It has to do with the status of the immune systems of those exposed to the virus. If the immune system is strong, there is a good

chance it can fight off the illness.

The immune system is strengthened by good nutrition, exercise, sufficient rest and positive relationships. It is weakened when we do not eat properly, do not take care of ourselves, are sleep deprived and stressed. In fact, a stressful incident can weaken the immune system for six to eight hours.

It is inevitable that we will all catch something at some time or another. Colds and flus are a fact of life. We take the best care of ourselves that we can, wash our hands and hope for the best. To blame another for causing our illness is an attack and a judgment. That will weaken the immune system of both the blamer and the blamed!

If someone tells me they hope they do not give me their cold, I respond by telling them that I take full responsibility for the state of my immune system, so they are not to worry. We both feel better, and I rarely get sick.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and award-winning Psychotherapist. For permission to reprint this article, or to obtain books, cds or MP3's, visit www.gwen.ca. Follow Gwen on FaceBook for daily inspiration

Asian Chicken Lettuce Wraps

Total time: 15 minutes

Servings: 1

1/2 cup refrigerated cooked chicken breast strips

2 Bibb or Boston lettuce leaves

1/2 cup Dole

Mandarin Oranges, drained

2 teaspoons slivered almonds

1 tablespoon light Asian salad dressing

Divide chicken equally inside two lettuce leaves, making two wraps.

Add 1/4 cup of Dole Mandarin Oranges and 1 teaspoon slivered almonds into each wrap.

Serve lettuce wraps with light Asian salad dressing for dipping.



Pineapple Parfait

Total time: 10 minutes

Servings: 1

1 jar (23.5 ounces) Dole Pineapple Chunks

2 tablespoons Greek yogurt

2 vanilla wafers, crushed

Measure 1/2 cup drained fruit.

Spoon pineapple chunks into dessert glass. Spoon yogurt over pineapple. Sprinkle crushed wafers on top.



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