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VOLUME 6 EDITION 18 THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019

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EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT
Eva Reichert, left, Kenzie Sokil, middle, and Josie Pinsent perform the Junior girls' character dance at the Gimli Barvinok Spring Concert this past Saturday.

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

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Sigurbjorg Stefansson students explore nature for Earth Day

By Patricia Barrett

Students at Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School in Gimli celebrated Earth Day on April 22 by pulling on their rubber boots and exploring Mother Nature's springtide miracle.

Embarking on their first spring adventure, Mrs. Leanne Mager and Mrs. Cherie Thordarson's Grade 3/4 classes took to the forest where students identified signs of the coming bloom.

"We sat in a circle and expressed our gratitude for the earth. We believe that every day should be Earth Day and we explored the ways that we can take better care of the earth," said Mrs. Mager. "The main purpose of our excursion was to discover signs of spring, especially with plants. Pussy willows in Manitoba are a sure sign of the arrival of spring!"

Earth Day is an annual worldwide celebration that started in 1970 to raise awareness of and encourage environmental protection.

Outdoor experience is part of the overall philosophy of SSES where hands-on exploration and experiential learning lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of nature and help instil in students a sense of responsibility for the environment.



A student uses a magnifying glass to examine plant growth.



This student reveals green shoots emerging from the ground.



Students examine pussy willows.

EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED



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Fisher Branch RCMP respond to fatal vehicle-pedestrian collision

Submitted

On April 23 at approximately 10 p.m., Fisher Branch RCMP received a report of a vehicle-pedestrian collision on Highway 224 on Peguis First Nation.

The investigation has determined that a truck, being driven by a 46-year-old female from Peguis First

Nation, was travelling southbound when it struck a 42 year-old-female, also from Peguis, who was walking on the highway.

The driver of the vehicle stopped and stayed at the scene.

Fisher Branch RCMP along with a forensic collision reconstructionist continue to investigate.

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Learning about ourselves and others through music

By Ty Dilello

The Music Leadership Course is unique to the Evergreen School Division (ESD), though it was designed in such a way that it could be taught anywhere.

It was developed at a provincial curriculum writing session in the spring of 2017, and it was offered for the first time in ESD the following September.

The course is offered at all four grade levels in combined classes of Grade 9/10 and Grade 11/12. The learning explores two connected areas: skills specific to teaching music to others and how understanding people and building relationships support us in being effective 21st-century leaders in all areas of society.

"The class is not just a how-to for being a music teacher (though we do learn a lot about instruments, conducting, gear repair and sequencing learning for others). It is a deep dive into the skills and concepts that underpin authentic leadership and the self-awareness it takes to work alongside others with heart, compassion and understanding toward shared

goals," says Rob Chrol, a band teacher at Gimli High School.

"As the course unfolds, we discover together the ways in which what we gain through learning music helps us be contributing members and co-leaders of a democratic society. Learning through music helps us better know ourselves, each other and the ways in which we can work independently and together to solve problems. It is a truly interdisciplinary course that explores both the inherent and applied value of music."

The student learning is organized around five themes: Music Teaching Skills and Concepts, where students themselves become teachers for younger music learners at SSES and DGJMS; Conducting Skills, when students have the opportunity to conduct a live ensemble in concert at the GHS performances; and Self-Reflection, in which students explore the ways in which music is present in our society and opportunities for work in the music field.

Finally, there is Servant Leadership (working for the success of others), as

there is a foundational emphasis on understanding oneself as a foundation for supporting others; and Articulating the Connection between Music Education and Leadership Development, where students practise presenting their perspectives, engaging in group discussion, navigating challenging topics together and honouring the opinions of others in a respectful way.

In addition to the personal learning that students do within the classroom,

there is shared learning and community connection through their partnerships with the music students at Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School (SSES) and Dr. George Johnson Middle School (DGJMS). This year, the Music Leadership students from Gimli High School have been travelling to SSES one day each week to work with their "Music Buddies" in a Grade 1/2 classroom.

Continued on page 7



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The SSES students visit the Music Leadership teens at Gimli High School.

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Lake Winnipeg fishers at legislature demand scientific data on stock status

By Patricia Barrett

If Sustainable Development has a stash of scientific data on Lake Winnipeg's fish stocks, it's not sharing it with commercial fishers or Manitobans after Minister Rochelle Squires declined to answer questions last week about alleged threats to stocks.

Over the past several months, the department and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation — which represents sport fishers and hunters — have said Lake Winnipeg stocks (notably wall-eye and sauger) are near the point of collapse and commercial fishing needs to be scaled back.

But commercial fishers — both Indigenous and non-Indigenous — say their experience on the lake runs counter to what the province is contending, and they went to the legislature on April 25 to request the department's evidence.

Commercial fisher Gerald Valiquette from Poplar River on the east side of the lake attended question period with a group of fishers and later participated in a press conference and Facebook broadcast with NDP environment critic Rob Altemeyer.

Valiquette said he doesn't see fish stocks in "jeopardy or decline."

"Listening to Ms. Squires ... she was asked a question she didn't answer. Where is the scientific proof? I've been on this lake for 40 years now and I don't understand where they're getting their scientific data," said Valiquette during the broadcast. "In the last 15-20 [years], I have seen no biologist or fisher on my end of the lake collecting data. I would definitely like to see the scientific data."

Fisher River Cree Nation band coun-



Fisher River Cree Nation commercial fisher Fred Sinclair, with new fishing pants, started earning a living from fishing at 13 and may have to call it a day.

cillor Vince Crate, who also attended question period, said about 200 jobs in his community will be lost if the department implements a one-size-fits-all mesh change that will drastically reduce catches.

"I think there really is no data to back up what Sustainable Development is indicating," he said during the broadcast, "and now we're being forced to close down fishing in our area."

The second largest inland commercial fishery in North America has been ignored for decades as far as stock assessments are concerned, according to a 2011 report titled *Technical Assessment of the Status, Health and Sustainable Harvest Levels of the Lake Winnipeg Fisheries Resource* by the Lake Winnipeg Quota Review Task Force.

"Absolute estimates of current or



EXPRESS FILE PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Sam Murdoch (left), co-chair of the Lake Winnipeg Fishery Co-management Board, went to the legislature last week to ask the government to consult with fishers.

past biological productivity ... are not possible with the data that is currently available," wrote the task force. It called for adequate surveys, monitoring and additional research to understand "the fishery, the fish and the broader ecosystem."

Fisher River Cree Nation's Sam Murdoch, co-chair of the Lake Winnipeg Fishery Co-management Board, also sat in the gallery and later said what Squires stated during question period regarding consultations with commercial fishers is "inaccurate."

"There was no consultation with the commercial fishing groups throughout Lake Winnipeg. Legislation — I want to touch on a bit — it does state that First Nations are to be consulted prior to any decisions that are made that would affect our livelihood — and that's exactly what's happening," said Murdoch, who also fishes on Lake Winnipeg.

It's not only First Nation communities that stand to lose jobs but also non-Indigenous fishing communities, he added.

"If we lose the commercial fishing industry — and it almost seems like this is what the government is pushing — there's going to be devastation in terms of employment."

In March, Sustainable Development gave commercial fishers two weeks to consider selling their quota to the department (i.e., permanently retire from the industry) and at the same time announced a proposed mesh-size change that fishers say will effectively put them out of business, destroy fishing communities and undercut retailers that rely on fishers' business.

That same month, the Manitoba Wildlife Federation posted a news release dated March 25 on its website, stating it's pleased the government has "acknowledged that there is a problem with the current quota level."

Third-generation commercial fisher

Clinton Whiteway from Matheson Island said he's been unable to get answers about why the province is clamping down on commercial fishers and threatening to decimate their communities.

"Every time I ask that to any particular government official or MLA, nobody can answer it. And to be quite honest, as a commercial fisherman, I think we know where the pressure is coming from: it's coming from the sport fishing and angling side," said Whiteway, speaking during the broadcast.

"Being on the lake this past winter, there's more fish we've ever seen in our whole lives. There's whitefish; there's tullibee; there's pickerel. So why is there concern?"

News of the threat to the commercial fishery, which supplies fresh and frozen fish, roe and other fish products to about 40 countries around the globe and employs thousands of people, has trickled down from the Interlake to the city, where organizations and citizens have started a petition.

"People in Winnipeg have noticed what [Premier Brian] Pallister is doing to commercial fishers," Altemeyer told the *Express* by phone. "I've received a petition with over 500 names on it from Winnipeg. People are demanding the Pallister government rescind the new rules and enter into meaningful consultations with the fishers."

He said Squires "ignored the substance" of what he asked in question period: where is the data the government is using to justify its position?

Squires had instead stated her party is "getting real changes for sustainability on Lake Winnipeg" and also accused Altemeyer of "misogyny" for saying she was "irrelevant" as far as decision-making goes.

"This is not a democratic province anymore," said Altemeyer. "Pallister has claimed all the power for himself and his ministers are irrelevant."

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Councillors express concern over lack of information on cannabis facility

By Patricia Barrett

Some of Gimli's councillors are expressing concern about moving ahead just yet on a proposal from a company that wants to purchase RM-owned land beside the Gimli Airport and build a cannabis greenhouse.

Council had unanimously passed a resolution earlier this year stating it was willing to sell the land for \$500 an acre to Alta Greens Ally Ltd. (AGA). But the sale is contingent upon the company and the RM entering into a development agreement. No agreement has yet been signed.

At its regular meeting on April 24, council heard from a delegation consisting of lawyer Brian Pauls, who appeared on behalf of AGA and told council the company is interested in moving the process forward.

AGA has expressed interest in roughly 80 acres of RM-owned farmland that borders the airport, but has provided council with no details about its proposed facility or a business plan. It also hasn't identified what possible environmental impacts its operation could have.

"There's a lot of information required on the size of the facility," said Coun. Thora Palson by phone a day after Pauls made his presentation. "We need a profile of this company, financial asset disclosure documents and an environmental assessment. Where would any effluent be going? Would there be a smell? What are the disruptions to the physical environment?"

In addition to that, she said she'd like to see Health Canada issue a medical

cannabis licence to the company before council sells the land.

Alta Greens Ally was registered as a corporation on April 26, 2018, to an address in Calgary, Alta., according to the federal government's Corporations Canada website. Mohammad Reza Rezaei Afsah is listed as director.

AGA's WordPress site (viewed last week) states family members have over 75 years' experience in "Agri-Foods industries, greenhouse and agriculture farming." It also states the company has decided to grow cannabis and is "working to become a licensed medical cannabis producer in Canada." The website has no items listed under its products tab and does not identify any person associated with the company.

AGA's director had council sign a non-disclosure agreement at their first sit-down meeting.

Palson had released a public statement in March stating her concern over selling the land without first carrying out all the checks and balances. She said she signed the non-disclosure agreement in good faith and as a stepping-stone to building trust with the company.

"There are ways to work with ambitious start-up companies while still safeguarding taxpayers' assets," she wrote. "I suggested leasing or starting off with selling a smaller parcel or other arrangements that weren't just a rush to transfer title of a considerable amount of public land to a company that had not followed normal processes."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Alta Greens Ally is interested in this RM-owned parcel of land beside the airport.

Speaking to the *Express* by phone, Deputy Mayor Richard Petrowski said, in hindsight, agreeing to the resolution was a little premature, but it's essentially "void" until council and AGA enter into a development agreement.

Like Palson, Petrowski said he felt somewhat obliged to sign the non-disclosure agreement at the first meeting.

"It was right before the meeting. If you want to talk about this huge project, you've got to sign this," said Petrowski. "If I knew then what I know now, I don't think I would have signed it. I don't think anybody would have. It sounded so great at first and we didn't want to scare anybody away."

The deputy mayor said Pauls didn't seem to be 100 per cent familiar with all the details of the proposal but indicated Mr. Afsah is willing to sit down again with council and see if he can "move this ahead." For his part, Petrowski is willing to hear him out.

Pauls responded to the *Express*' email

for comment but said he's unable at the present time to provide information about AGA and its proposal.

Mayor Lynn Greenberg said he respects his councillors' right to question process, but he himself has few concerns about the proposal.

"I want to see this happen because they are intending to create a number of jobs," he said by phone, "and employment is important for our municipality."

After the municipal election last year, Greenberg and council approved Stonewall-based developer Brian Couch's proposal to build a modular home park. The first phase will see up to 100 units built on property just west of the Vesturland neighbourhood near the Highway 8 and PR 231 intersection.

"People always say we can't build in Gimli any manufacturing because there's no place to stay," said Greenberg. "Now that will change. People that will work at this cannabis operation can potentially purchase a home from Mr. Couch."

RCMP provides cannabis clarity

By Evan Matthews

The RCMP are making a conscious effort to educate the public on cannabis.

Gypsumville RCMP Sgt. Kevin Elliot outlined the new cannabis legislation during a presentation on the Pinaymootang First Nation on April 15.

"We discussed the provincial and federal regulations, the differences between them and how it's going to be enforced," said Elliot, "what you can and cannot do, and the penalties associated with the acts."

Sgt. Mark Hume was part of the presentation and is part of the traffic services unit, while Hume is also the expert on cannabis legislation, according to Elliot.

Hume could not be reached by press deadline to discuss the regulations, differences and enforcement.

However, some of the enforcement rules are available on the Province of Manitoba website, such as:

- Growing non-medical cannabis in a residence can result in a fine of \$2,542
- Smoking or vaping cannabis in provincial parks can result in a fine of \$672
- Drivers who carry (open) cannabis containers in or on their vehicle can result in a fine of \$237
- Drivers who carry (open) cannabis containers in or on their off-road vehicle can result in a fine of \$237

- Consuming cannabis in or on a vehicle on a highway can result in a fine of \$672

- Consuming cannabis in or on an off-road vehicle on a highway can result in a fine of \$672

Roughly a dozen people attended the presentation.

The majority of people in attendance were from Pinaymootang First Nation, though a couple business owners from Ashern also showed, according to Elliot.

Staff change

In addition, RCMP Gypsumville will soon have a new sergeant.


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Elliot says Jeremy Wilson will take his place, though a specific date has not yet been named.

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Importance in the arts

By Evan Matthews

The past week was an extremely exciting one for the Interlake's art community.

Gimli and the Winnipeg Beach areas saw the Evergreen Festival of the Art while Fisher Branch hosted the Northern Lights Festival of the Arts.

Teulon did its part in hosting the Rockwood Festival of the Arts.

All the festivals, in combination, brought together the best local talent in the region — singers and writers, musicians and dancers.

If you didn't find your toes tapping, fingers twiddling or humming a tune under your breath, you were quite likely on your own.

Each community hall or church filled with anywhere from 50 to 100 people, and the communities were buzzing.

Whether the buzz came from family pride — watching kids and relatives — or from genuine excitement, it was there. People were excited.

A week such as this past one speaks

to the important role the arts can play in our society.

Political views and opinions seemingly take centre stage every week, polarizing people and pushing people to pick a side.

So few things unite communities and societies in the same way that the arts does.

Rather than highlighting people's differences — whether opinions, cultures, etc. — art celebrates them.

We all come together and enjoy the offering presented to us by the various dancers, singers and musicians.

It's said by many art professors that art can be a barometer to measure cultural sophistication. If this is true, the Interlake has a lot to be proud of.

In big cities, talented artists are aplenty. There is a supportive community, one to access as a resource, and one to push artists to their potential.

It is so encouraging to see the very same thing in our rural Manitoba

communities.

So, a big kudos is in order to all the participating acts, their supportive parents and families, the teachers who got the artists to this point, and of course, everyone who supported the arts by attending.

The art community is only renowned and appreciated if people, aside from artists, choose to engage with it. It's the important side of art that should not and cannot be forgotten.

One other note is funding pots.

Whether through your municipality or through the province, financial grants for the arts exist.

If not for new equipment, the ability to record, funds to travel to festivals (such as the ones this past week), the money can always be used to further an artist's education.

If you are an artist and haven't looked into these funding pots, it's worth a look.

Until next year.

Interlake conservation changing boundaries

By Evan Matthews

The East and West Interlake Conservation Districts are changing their respective boundaries.

Manager of the East Interlake Conservation District (EICD), Armand Belanger, says the change is mostly happening to accurately reflect the boundaries of the region's watershed, as opposed to following political boundaries.

"The changes happening in the EICD aren't as big as some of the changes happening in the west, which is seeing some amalgamation," says Belanger.

"The EICD is expanding its northern

boundaries to include Grahamdale in the watershed (near the) Mantago Lake and Creek area."

Belanger presented to the RM of Grahamdale council on April 11, citing the changes, stating that it has always been an EICD goal to have its boundaries in line with watershed boundaries as opposed to municipal ones.

Belanger also informed council of some restorative projects happening in the region.

"Residents brought up a number of times that fish habitats along the Fisher River — riffles, pools and rapids — had been removed to increase drainage," says Belanger.

"Fish habitat was lost, and we're working to re-establish some of those riffles, pools and rapids that were lost."

Aeration is a critical component to river systems, according to Belanger, in order for the water to become oxygenated. This happens in areas called riffles, as well as rapids, he says.

Equally critical are feeding areas called pools, according to Belanger.

The EICD will attempt to re-establish some of those riffles, pools and rapids by strategically placing boulders and rock formations, in order to create an effective stream path.

Continued on page 7

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IERHA is 'Busting the Myths' about hospice palliative care

Submitted

Hospice palliative care week is observed from May 5 to 11 to celebrate and share achievements and information about hospice palliative care.

This year, Interlake-Eastern's palliative care team and the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) are calling on Canadians to talk about "Busting the Myths" with a friends and family to bust palliative care myths permanently. Working together to educate one another is a vital step in the pursuit of providing excellent hospice palliative care in Canada.

Interlake-Eastern RHA palliative program manager Tammie-Lee Rogowski, agrees.

"There are many myths around what

and where palliative care is and myths about advanced directives," she said.

Advanced directives spell out a person's preferences about life-sustaining treatment in the event they're unable to make those decisions themselves. Advanced directives can also include a person naming a substitute decision maker that they trust to speak for them in a situation where they cannot speak for themselves.

"Palliative care is not about giving up; it is about living to your fullest in the time you have left," says Rogowski.

"Palliative care is a type of care, not a location, and it is provided by all care providers for people of all ages."

Some myths about palliative care that need "busting" are that palliative care is only offered in a hospice pal-

liative care setting, when the reality is that palliative care can be provided at home, in a long-term care facility, hospice or hospital.

Sharon Baxter, executive director of CHPCA, sheds light on another myth.

"People still tend to think that hospice palliative care is offered only for seniors with advanced illness, which is really not the case," she said.

"In reality, hospice palliative care is provided to people of all ages — from children, teens to younger, older and senior adults."

For questions regarding the region's palliative care program or opportunities to volunteer for palliative care programs in your area, please contact Tammie-Lee Rogowski 204-785-7756 or trogowski@ierha.ca. Visit www.ierha.ca

"Care in Your Community" and "Palliative Care" for additional resources.

To continue the conversation online, social media users are invited to test their knowledge to debunk myths by engaging with CHPCA's Facebook (CanadianHospicePalliativeCare) and Twitter (@CanadianHPCAssn) "Debunking Myths Poll" throughout the week. In addition, Canadians are encouraged to use the hashtag #BustingtheMyths to share myths they've encountered.

Hospice Palliative Care Week is coordinated by CHPCA. For more information and downloadable resources, please visit www.chpca.net/week.

Grahamdale revokes all burn permits, but no ban in place

By Evan Matthews

Despite an actual fire, and swirling rumours of a total fire ban, the RM of Grahamdale does not currently have a fire ban on.

However, following the regular Monday council meeting council will be offering burn permits.

"Burning Permits must be applied for in person, and all necessary precautions must be taken," said Nyla Klatt, municipal emergency coordinator for the RM of Grahamdale.

"There is most definitely a fire concern. Everybody is worried because

of a dry season. The fires can spread so quickly if it stays dry like this," she said.

During Easter weekend, Klatt said the Town of Grahamdale experienced a fire that got somewhat "out of hand."

It was thanks to the quick work of the local fire department that things didn't get really bad.

Moosehorn Fire Chief Mikey Price could not be reached by press deadline for comment on the Grahamdale fire.

"They managed to get it under control," said Klatt, adding that once the

fire was under control last week, the RM decided to revoke existing burn permits temporarily.

That message was misinterpreted by a couple of towns, one being Steep Rock Beach, which put out a notice stating the RM had issued a fire ban, according to Klatt, who clarified to say that was untrue.

While life and property are obviously the greatest risk in the case of a fire, Klatt said so too is the region's vegetation, ecosystem, etc.

"Fire is fire," says Klatt. "No matter where or how it starts, it can get out of

hand very quickly. It can damage any and everything."

The public is being encouraged to watch campfires and burn barrels closely, as both are high up on the list of fire origins. Smokers, too, are encouraged to dispose of butts in an appropriate fashion.

In May 2018, a fire between Ashern and Mulvihill caused a local state of emergency in the RM of Grahamdale, resulting in three schools being shut down. Though no homes were forced to evacuate, all residents were put on evacuation alert.

> BOUNDARIES, FROM PG. 6

The EICD also informed Grahamdale Council about water sampling and storage, and other habitat enhancement projects.

Part of the presentation, according to Belanger, is to keep watershed issues in the spotlight and keep municipalities communicating about them.

"Flooding, erosion, contamination, things of that nature — they're all consistent issues. We gave a synopsis to the municipality of what we've been up to over the past 13 years," says Belanger, adding part of "what the EICD has been up to" was developing four integrated watershed management plans.

Within those plans are actions, Belanger says, which help work toward goals in each watershed.

"Grahamdale seems very forward thinking when it comes to these issues," says Belanger.

"We're fortunate to have them on board."

RM of Grahamdale Reeve Clifford Halaburda says he's new to working with the EICD but is eager to work together.

"There are lots of benefits to working with the EICD," says Halaburda. "The boundaries will affect the funding that comes from the province."

The EICD was formed in 2005.

If anyone would like to acquire an integrated watershed management plan, Belanger says they are available through the EICD website, the RMs or by contacting the EICD directly.

> MUSIC, FROM PG. 3

"The relationships being built between these students who are up to 13 years apart in age is something special to experience," says Chrol.

"The students work together to facilitate learning for the youngers about music, relationships and identity through composing music, drawing, performing and conversation. The learning is far from isolated to the youngers, though. The transformation in our high school Music Leadership students is obvious week to week as they discover their own capacity for leading through example and supporting their little buddies. Needless to say, the music teachers are constantly in awe of the wisdom shared by these students, young and old alike."

The Music Leadership course will continue to evolve in the next while, meeting the needs of local learners and continuing to explore mutually supportive learning partnership from kindergarten right through to Grade 12.

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> Fish tales?

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Don't forget to untie that floaty tube

Welcome, my good friends. Happily and quite by chance this particular week, three of our sister anglers have graciously offered to share fishing experiences that have come to stand out in their memories.

I met Nikki Benish of Winnipeg at a gathering not long ago and was instantly taken by her love for fishing and the outdoors. She told me how after years of angling with her father, she still gets excited when off on a fishing trip. She remembered once when she was a young girl and went ice fishing with dad, she was so eager to commence fishing she baited her hook and tossed it into the ice hole water, only then realizing she had not tied it onto her line. It became the source of much ribbing from her father! This picture of her with a big bass she caught when shore fishing at Beaver Creek north of Hecla shows what a great angling lady she is! Incidentally, Nikki will be with us again in the near future. She has something special to show us.

It was a grey overcast day a few months ago, as I pressed Old Red's gas pedal down firmly, making it toss over and around the white snowdrifts on the ice of the mouth of the Red River. Off in the distance, I saw a young lady in a red and black snowsuit sitting beside a portable ice shack jigging a fish line in an ice hole. I stopped my truck

with a wobbling halt in front of her and slid out, my feet sinking into the snow. A truck sat by the tent with the sounds of good-natured banter and joking coming from within the shelter.

"You don't seem to mind being out here by your lonesome," I joked, opening up a conversation.

"No, I like it out here," this rosy-cheeked gal responded.

"I don't see any fish lying on the ice, so I guess you haven't had much luck today?" I quipped. "By the way, I'm Arnie Weidl. What's your name and where are you out of?"

"I'm Nicole Sterne from Winnipeg," she answered, "and I have had what you might call some backhanded fishing luck a little upstream from here last week."

She went on saying she was ice fishing with friends in their portable shack and got a bite. Because the tent was so small, the anglers had holes close to each other and her fish went on a crazy tearing trip getting itself tangled in every one's lines. Try as she might, every time Nicole got her fish to the bottom of the ice hole, which now appeared to be a pickerel, it lay sideways straddling the hole wrapped in a tangle of lines. Determined to bring this fish in, she got one of her friends to run out to the truck and get an old long fishing rod that had been rattling around in the truck box since

last summer and pushed the fish down in the water guiding to come up backwards, tail first.

"There are many ways to land a fish," Nicole concluded, looking at me with a crafty smile.

Maybe a month ago, I met a very nice couple, Carly Martens and Jeremy Amos from Winnipeg. Carly's jolly nature was enhanced by her broad smile while Jeremy presented an unassuming air and athletic physique. Quick-witted Carly wasted no time telling us of a humorous thing that happened to them by Minaki on Gun Lake last summer. They and another couple were anchored offshore and fishing off the front of Jeremy's boat while Carly was sitting in a "floaty" (an inner tube) tied to the back of the boat, her face raised to the bright warm sun and hands dipping in the cool water.

Suddenly, Amos got a strike. Feeling he might lose it, he started the motor and began going forward following the fleeing fish. Amos forgot the boat was still anchored, which caused the it to go sideways. The anchor rope let go. The boat shot forward with Carly on her floaty being jerked along, desperately hanging on to the sides of her tube! She screamed at Amos to stop. He turned his head and, seeing her plight, cut the motor. Unfortunately floaties don't have brakes. She



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
Nikki Benish of Winnipeg with her Bass catch out of Beaver Creek.

and her tube slammed into the boat. Holding on to the gunwale, Carly cast a few choice words at Amos as his catch slipped his hook. Carly pulled herself into the boat, and after untying the floaty rope, she was about to pull it into the boat just as a wind caught it and sent it skipping away. Upset now, she took Amos' rod and almost immediately caught and hauled up a big bass, its silver-white sides shimmering, wiggling in the air. Everyone cheered as Carly landed her prize with a thump into the boat. Amos, a little embarrassed, pointed the boat for their cottages dock.

Till next week. Bye for now.

Arborg PR 326 (Jacob's Line) included in Manitoba 150 road works

By Ty Dilello

On April 24, Premier Brian Pallister rolled out a series of road projects to mark Manitoba's 150th birthday.

The province listed 17 projects, which included two Interlake pieces: Concrete rehabilitation on PTH 9 in Selkirk and paving 19.7 kilometres of PR 326, to bring it to RTAC loading. These upgrades are going to be worked on from April 30 to June 18.

"We have committed \$45 million to infrastructure projects across the province that will leave a lasting legacy and help provide a better future for Manitobans to look forward to," the premier said last Tuesday in a press release, describing this as the first phase of the big Manitoba 150 projects to come.

Arborg Mayor Peter Dueck is beyond thrilled that PR 326 was included in these upgrades as it is extremely

important for the town of Arborg and its surrounding communities.

"This is huge," says Dueck. "There are 200-plus jobs along that road just in the manufacturing industry and this 'paves' the way (pun intended) for each of those companies to expand. I have heard six people tell me that if the road comes in, they will finally be able to buy a new vehicle."

This has been a project that has been in the works for decades and has finally been approved thanks to the great people of Arborg who wanted to see their community continue to improve. Manufacturing and farming are two very essential things to the economy of all the Interlake, so whenever a chance to upgrade a major road is available, you should take it.

"The businesses north of Arborg have been lobbying for this road for 20 years. The big turn-around hap-

pened during the last provincial election when Brian Pallister made this road an election promise. This riding had never in its history been 'blue,' but with that promise and MLA Derek Johnson's diligent work, he won the riding and now it appears the government will honour their election promise," said Dueck.

"Anyone who has driven PR 326 remembers driving on it. Your vehicle will have paint chips and the windshield will be cracked. But the mud, stones and pot holes actually aren't the worst of it. What's worse is the load restrictions in spring. How are manufacturers and farmers supposed to get their product to market when an empty truck exceeds the weight limit? Add to that that the businesses ship product around the world and if your product has to be hauled in mud or dust for the first part of the journey,

it will land at your customers' door covered in mud or dust. Companies north of Arborg ship product as far as Australia and the first 19 kilometres of a 10,000-mile journey destroys the pristine image of your load."

The news of the PR 326 (Jacob's Line) was big for Arborg residents and people from the nearby towns as these new highway upgrades will have a significant impact on anyone who regularly uses it.

"I'm sure thousands of people are going to benefit from the new highway upgrades. This road will allow people to drive newer and cleaner cars. But the real benefit is safety. The dust on the road was just too dangerous. People avoided that road just to stay safe. This is huge for the community and all the jobs in the area."

Dr. Burnet officially retires after 45 years of service

By Evan Matthews

After 45 years of service in Manitoba's Interlake, the well-known Dr. Neil Burnet is calling it a career.

The general practitioner and family physician, Dr. Burnet cites the fact he is "getting to retirement age" as his rationale for leaving his own private practice — that in addition to the fact his wife told him now is time.

"She certainly thinks it is time," says Dr. Burnet, chuckling. "We've come to the conclusion together. It's time to wind it down."

Originally from Australia, Dr. Burnet says once he arrived in Canada in 1975, there was never any doubt that the Interlake would be his forever (Manitoba) home.

"I never once considered going back. Everything was working for me here right from the start," says Dr. Burnet.

"There is more cohesion amongst the communities. All the communities, Eriksdale and Lundar, there is a sense of community."

Over the course of his career, Dr. Burnet had a clinic in St. Laurent, Lundar and one at Lake Manitoba Reserve.

Dr. Burnet's clinic is a private practice, meaning it is not part of the West Interlake Regional Health Authority, and also meaning there will not be an immediate replacement.

In order for the community to get a new consistent doctor, someone will



Dr. Neil Burnet says there was no turning around once he arrived in Canada. The Interlake immediately became his home.

have to want to go there, purchase the practice and set up shop.

"It's not that easy to get just anyone to want to come out here. But in terms of a private practice, it's an ideal situation, I think," he says, adding he's keeping an eye out for prospective takeovers.

While he hasn't noted any consistent health trends over his career, Dr. Burnet says he has noticed the number of vehicle accidents that send patients to the emergency room decrease.

"It's actually a big difference," says Dr. Burnet.

"When I first came, it seemed there was a bad car accident every weekend,



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Many of Dr. Neil Burnet's friends and peers came out to support him, as he gets set to retire after 45 years of service to Interlake communities.

just about. ... But otherwise there isn't any specific worries about health."

Dr. Burnet did say, however, he would greatly like to see Eriksdale Hospital stay where it is and even expand in size.

There is a need there, he says, based on use of the hospital and population.

As he gets set to leave his practice, Dr. Burnet offered up some health advice not specific to diet or medications.

"In family practice, it's best to have a family doctor you actually get along with, that you connect with," says Dr. Burnet.

"It's not just the medical stuff that

is important. You need to have a relationship. It's important. ... That and people should actually see a doctor once in a while."

Having called the Interlake home for so long, Dr. Burnet says he's identified the biggest challenge facing rural communities: Snow.

"I've realized it's quite a challenge," says Dr. Burnet, laughing again.

To avoid the chill and the snow he has come to know so well, Dr. Burnet has a second home in Vancouver, B.C., where he intends to spend a lot of his retirement time.

RCMP investigate serious motor vehicle collision

Submitted

On April 22 at approximately 7:55 p.m., Gypsumville RCMP responded to a single vehicle rollover on Fairford Road, approximately half a kilometre south of the junction of Little Saskatchewan First Nation Main Road.

The vehicle was travelling south on Fairford Road when it went off the road and rolled multiple times. An 18-year-old female passenger from Fairford was thrown from the vehicle and taken to hospital with life threatening injuries.

The 16-year-old female driver from Fairford was not injured and was arrested for impaired operation causing bodily harm.

RCMP continue to investigate.

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Noventis brings high-speed internet to Eriksdale and Lundar

Submitted

Noventis Credit Union and CommStream have partnered to provide high-speed internet access to residents of Eriksdale and Lundar.

Two towns in the Interlake will have some of the fastest internet speeds in rural Manitoba, thanks to an innovative partnership between Noventis Credit Union and CommStream.

Together, the two companies have cost-shared the infrastructure needed to provide high-speed internet access to Eriksdale, Lundar and their surrounding communities. Through this project, more than 1,000 homes will have some of the fastest internet in rural Manitoba, with speeds up to 1 Gbps through a cable connection and 50 Mbps over wireless.

"Noventis is committed to finding ways we can re-invest in our communities that will benefit their long-term needs and the overall well-being of the community members. Helping provide high-speed internet to these communities is giving them access to a resource that has become a foundation in today's society," says Kevin McKnight, CEO of Noventis Credit Union.

The project scope included gaining access to the fiber backbone in Manitoba and building towers and fixed wireless systems in both communities.

The cable systems in Eriksdale and Lundar are live now, and the wireless service will be available come May 1.

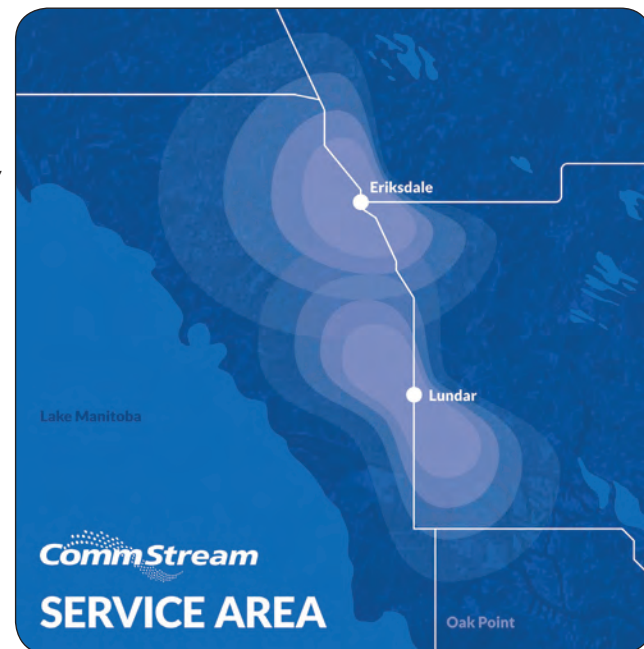
"Living in small communities has many benefits, but often the price people pay to live there is to sacrifice on services that urbanites take for granted," Trevor Finch, sales and marketing director with CommStream. "Noventis has shown how a business with vision and a commitment to its community can solve a problem and help improve the lives of the people they serve."

Rural areas in Manitoba are in desperate need of improved internet connections. Typically, a rural Manitoba resident can only expect speeds of up to 5 Mbps through old copper lines, compared to speeds in excess of 300 Mbps in Winnipeg and other urban areas.

The barrier to most rural communities is the cost of internet infrastructure. Bringing fibre lines or building towers in rural areas can cost millions of dollars, and bringing connections to each home can be just as expensive.

Noventis and CommStream will evaluate this project with the potential of expanding to more towns in the future.

For service area and packages for Eriksdale and



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Noventis and CommStream have partnered to provide highspeed internet to Lundar and Eriksdale.

Lundar, visit www.commstream.net.

Arborg's Reechka Ukrainian Dance Club earns 19 gold medals

By Patricia Barrett

Arborg's Reechka Ukrainian Dance Club took dozens of gold medals at two recent competitions that showcase

Ukrainian dance across the province.

The club earned 10 gold medals at the Manitoba Ukrainian Dance Festival in Winnipeg in March. Dancer Sydney Burak earned the Highest Solo Award in the 10-12 years of age category and the Adjudicators Choice Award for the Intermediate Trans Dance.

In Dauphin, the club walked away with nine gold medals and a mark of 93, one of the highest in the competition, said club president Rachelle Burak. Arborg also tied with another troupe for their performance of the hopak, earning a mark of 90.

The club performs at events across the Interlake, including parades, the Arborg Street Festival and the Winnipeg Beach Women's Evening, and at Winnipeg's Folklorama and in Gretna for the Mennonite Committee.

Foster Ag Services steps up every year with

a generous donation of corn that parents and dancers sell to help them with expenses such as costumes and travel.

"We continue to strive every year to fundraise through the generous donation of corn from Foster Ag Services. We appreciate all that they do for us," said Burak. "We also would like to thank our community for always supporting our small club, and allowing us to continue the Ukrainian culture in our children through dance."

The club will be hosting a Spring Tea in Arborg on May 10 at the Arborg Hall. The dancers will showcase "everything we've done throughout the year including the group dances, solos and duets," said Burak.

Tickets are available at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the performance is at 7 p.m. A late lunch is included.



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Nominations must be submitted in writing, no later than 5 pm on May 15, 2019 to:

**The Nominating Committee
Interlake Co-op
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The Arborg Reechka Ukrainian Dance Club recently competed in Winnipeg and Dauphin.



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Gimli's Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Club ends season on a high note

By Patricia Barrett

To close out a busy performance season, Gimli's Barvinok Dance Club performed last Saturday night at Gimli High School to a 400-plus crowd.

The troupe has grown over the past year with the addition of young artists eager to hone their dancing and dramatic chops.

"We had a few at the top who aged out of the club and then we got lots of little ones this year," said past-president Samantha Michaluk. "We got two groups of four- and five-year-olds."

The now 61-member dance troupe showcased a wide range of traditional dances, including the Pryvit, Volyn, Hutsul, Bukovyna, Bobon Divchyna, Druzi, Arkan and Hopak.

The "little ones" — the pre-beginner girls under the instruction of senior dancer Kennedy Kowalski — performed a Poltava with such precision and flair, you'd think they'd been at it for years.

MC Pam Einarson, who teaches at Dr. George Johnson Middle School, said there's a lot of hard work that goes into learning Ukrainian dance. It's not as simple as downing a shot of

vodka and getting up to do the polka, she said, cracking up the crowd.

The 16 coaches and helpers — past and present club dancers — lend a tremendous amount of expertise to the art. They helped the troupe earn 13 gold, six silver and three bronze medals at the Manitoba Ukrainian Dance Festival this March. The club will be performing at the Betel care home, Winnipeg's Folklorama and the Icelandic Festival.

Fundraising over the past year enabled the club to purchase mirrors, which helps dancers perfect body position and dance moves. And Grade 11 and 12 dancers, who attend Gimli High School, helped build wooden custom wardrobe shelving in a wood-working class led by Tony Michaluk. The cabinets will help organize the club's "den," which is a room in the municipal office where they store their costumes.

The club presented dancer/coach Jayda Welch — who's graduating from Gimli High School this year — with a \$250 bursary to help her with post-secondary studies. Welch has danced with the club since she was three years old.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT



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Fisher Branch hosts Northern Lights Festival of the Arts concert

by EVAN MATTHEWS

With dancers and singers showcasing culture from all over the world, performers nearly blew the roof off the Fisher Branch Community Hall for the fifth annual Northern Lights Festival of the Arts.

Festival Chairperson Annette Holowka says the 23 acts worked extremely hard to put on a fantastic show, and she believes everyone accomplished that goal.

"We really showcased the talent of our young people — and not so young people — in the northern Interlake region of Manitoba," says Holowka.

"We have so many talented local artists and teachers... It's not a talent show or recital, this is an adjudicated event," she says.

Though there wasn't a set ticket price, the festival raised funds by donation (or silver collection), all of which goes directly back into the festival, according to Holowka.

"We're not excluding anyone because of financial constraints," says Holowka. "We find people to be quite generous."

The Festival gives out a number of scholarships.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY EVAN MATTHEWS
Chaika Dancers (Fisher Branch) - Transcarpathian

Quentin Pascal from Oak Point, performed Too good at goodbyes, and received \$400 to attend the 2019 International Peace Gardens Music Camp.

"We are still a relatively new festival... We don't award trophies or anything. Just monetary scholarships, with the main one being our \$400 Interna-

tional Peace Gardens scholarship," says Holowka. "The rest of the scholarships vary," she says.

Outside of the silver collection, many donations to the festival come by the way of in-kind donations.

The church, the school and the community hall have all offered either a space or equipment, according to Holowka, which has translated to a lot of volunteerism, too.

"This festival exposes our youth to something other than sports, and it provides an opportunity to kids who have interest in the arts," says Holowka.

"Like all communities, our population is not only dwindling, but changing," she says.

Many families have immigrated to Canada, and now call rural environments, such as Fisher Branch, home.

Holowka says it's a fantastic opportunity to share culture and bring people together.

"We're extending invitations to (all people) and cultures," says Holowka.

"We have many original Canadians, and they get exposed to dance from the Philippines, or from India, and vice versa," she says.



Pictured clockwise from top left: Conrad Sanderson (Fisher Branch) - Take me home, country roads; Emily Mazur (Fisher Branch) - Sarabande Suite, Sonata in G minor; Emily Schwartz (Ashern) - Minuet; Family and Friends Music - Shanley Sigfusson and Beth Schwartz - Cleopatra; Fisher Branch Adult Choir - I'll Fly Away; Keara Barrett (Fisher Branch) - Georgia; Lily Pohlman (Ashern) - The Cowboy Waltz; Loa Thorkelson (Lundar) - Fire Away;

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Evergreen Festival of the Arts celebrates student talent

Hi-Lites concert May 6

By Patricia Barrett

The annual Evergreen Festival of the Arts, which showcases the talents of students in kindergarten to Grade 12 in the Evergreen School Division, wrapped up last week.

The two-week festival has students competing in a number of performing arts, such as choral and solo singing, dancing, musical instruments, speech and Orff, which is a form of music education that combines music, speech and drama.

Students from Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School are featured here, polishing their speech and dramatic skills. SSES student Elin Isfeld wrote an amusing rhyming poem titled "Junk in My Hair," which was published last year in a young writers' poetry anthology. Her classmates per-



Mrs. Mills Grade 1/2 class recited "Sick" and "Smart" by Shel Silverstein in the Speech choir, 20th/21st Century Own Choice class on April 24.

formed it at this year's festival.

A Hi-Lites concert will take place May 6 at Gimli High School. It includes dozens of community-sponsored awards for students displaying great aptitude.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY EVAN MATTHEWS



Mrs. Johannesson's Grade 2 class performed "Always Sprinkle Pepper" and "No Grown-Ups," both by Shel Silverstein.



Students in Mrs. Michaluk's class performed "The Sloth" by Theodore Roethke and "Junk in My Hair" by Elin Isfeld.

Steep Rock looking for local acts

By Evan Matthews

Steep Rock's Canada Day celebration is facing a challenge, but nothing organizers can't handle.

The celebration, which has been going on as long as (this year's) organizer Darlene Springer can remember, is short on local talent.

"We're looking for talent from the surrounding communities. They're coming in, slowly. This is something all the campers enjoy, and we want to feel good about our community. We have so many talented people. We want to bring our great community together and showcase it," she says, adding organizers are also looking for a few volunteers to help

with the kids' activities during the day.

The Canada Day Celebration starts on Saturday, June 29 and kicks off with a pancake breakfast.

The celebration then kicks into high gear with festivities for the kids throughout the day including face painting, a sand castle contest, bouncy castles, a bike and float parade, and much more.

For the adults, Chase the Ace will happen at the pavilion.

Following the jam-packed day, organizers are hosting a dinner — ham, meatballs, potatoes, coleslaw, marinated carrots, buns and cake — with 200 seats available. Tickets cost

\$15.

"After that, we'll all sit back and listen to the local talent list. ... We're definitely trying," says Springer.

"Fireworks will happen after the music."

On the final day, organizers are putting on a movie in the park.

Though a few acts have committed, including Lundar's Loa Thorkelson, organizers are hoping to secure a few more

acts in the coming weeks, according to Springer.

In the hopes of bringing rural communities together, the acts must be local.

"It's going to happen," says Springer, adding she's in the process of finalizing 15 more acts.

Steep Rock Beach Park will play host to the Canada Day celebration, which will double as Manitoba's 150th anniversary.



Gimli's Flatland Coffee Roasters expanding operations

By Patricia Barrett

Flatland Coffee Roasters on Centre Street in Gimli is expanding its operation with a move across the street and will be offering an enhanced menu, a 40-seat outdoor patio and licensed beverages.

Owner and founder Chad Ermel is in the process of renovating the new Flatland location at 41 Centre St. in the Lighthouse Mall, directly across the street from his present location. Launch day is tentatively scheduled for June 1. Until then it's business as usual.

"We've sort of outgrown this space to some degree," said Ermel last Saturday amid the crowds at the popular coffee shop. "We'll have more seating plus patio space in the summer. That's one of the big things. We only have four [outdoor] seats here and we'll go up to 40."

Travel Manitoba named Flatland among its Top 11 "java joints" across the province, partly for its ambience and partly for its good roasted coffee.

The new location will offer beer and

wine — no hard liquor — and a wider selection of food.

"Right now we have a small sandwich menu. In the winter we expanded a little bit with soups," said Ermel. "But we're going to do salads, soups and sandwiches — and all healthy food, too, no deep-fried. We want a more health-focused approach to the menu."

Ermel and a number of his friends with electrical, carpentry and plumbing experience are re-designing the new space, which was once occupied by Kaffe Haus. They've already added two wheelchair-accessible washrooms as part of the new layout.

"We're doing very extensive remodeling," he said. "We pretty much gutted it down to the studs and ripped out all the tile. It's quite an undertaking."

With about a month to go, Ermel is putting in a lot of overtime. He serves customers twice a week at the coffee shop, but spends the majority of his time building. He's also in the process of hiring for newly created positions,

which will help boost the local economy.

"We already started hiring because we will be licensed so that will create a whole other approach to the business that I'm not used to. I'd rather be over-staffed than under-staffed," he said. "All of our staff right now live in the Interlake and we have returning staff that have gone to university and come back. So between them, they're all local."

Ermel said he's not planning on having a grand opening party per se but more of a low-key celebration in honour of his patrons. And Mayor Lynn Greenberg and council are more than welcome to attend.

"One of the main things is to show appreciation to those who've helped you get to where you've gotten," he said. "And we've got a fantastic customer base. This is for them. We'd like to try to invite as many local patrons as we can — obviously people who come in the summer are just as supportive — and we want to make sure everyone is welcome."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT
Chad Ermel, owner of Flatland Coffee Roasters, is renovating his new space in the Lighthouse Mall.

Visit the Flatland website at flatland-coffee.com.

Bald eagles fly aplenty throughout the Interlake

By Evan Matthews

A local photographer has been following Gimli's newest summer residents as they settle in.

Sixty-five-year-old Ben (Rick) Hewson likes to take his dog for a walk along Lake Winnipeg, and he normally brings his camera, too. At various points throughout the spring, he's come across groups of 50 or more bald eagles.

"I don't usually take pictures of buildings and landscapes," says Hewson, who lives in the Siglavik area. "I love birds. I love deer. I love wildlife."

Bald eagles is typically call Manitoba

home during the summer months, according to *Manitoba Bird Atlas*, arriving as early as February and departing mainly through November and December.

Adults have the white head and tail, while their body is dark brown, but *Manitoba Bird Atlas* says immature birds — up to three years of age — can be more difficult to identify, as they are often mistaken for Golden Eagles.

Hewson noted many immature birds, saying their heads had not yet turned white and looked somewhat disproportionate to their bodies.

"They're an awkward looking bird

at that age. ... It looks like a longer animal," says Hewson, who has spent years hunting and fishing before switching to photography.

"Several eagles nest in this area, kind of up and down Lake Winnipeg. ... Everybody out here has seen them at one time or another. They don't 100 per cent primarily feed on fish, but my understanding is they like to be close to water."

Many of Hewson's photos have come from between Sandy Hook and Arnes, he says.

The Bald Eagle breeds across the boreal, montane and forested coastal regions of North America, according to *Manitoba Bird Atlas*, while more recently occupying areas south of the Great Lakes, and increasingly re-occupying the conterminous U.S.A. and Canada, especially in areas with rivers and large water bodies and surrounding woodlands.

The Bald Eagle is a common breeder in Manitoba, the *Manitoba Bird Atlas* reads, with numbers having increased substantially from the 1,300 breeding pairs estimated to be in the province during the early 2000s.

People often observe eagle nests along rivers, along the shores of lakes of various sizes, and occasionally well away from water, but *Manitoba Bird Atlas* says the highest relative abun-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BEN HEWSON
Bald Eagles are primarily a summer resident in Manitoba, according to *Manitoba Bird Atlas*.

dance of eagles was found around Lake Winnipeg.

The eagles' nests are most commonly constructed in mature live trees (either deciduous or coniferous), according to *Manitoba Bird Atlas*.

The eagles will often return to the nest, sometimes for decades, and they continue to grow in size as the adults add nesting material throughout the years.

Dr. Neil Burnet retires after 44 years serving Interlake residents



Dr. Neil Burnet

Dr. Burnet was born in Melbourne, Australia and graduated from the Sydney University. After a brief stint at EM Crowe Hospital in Eriksdale in 1974, he established a new medical clinic in Lundar in 1976. Over the years, Dr. Burnet has gone above and beyond in his service to residents of Lundar, St. Laurent, Oak Point, Eriksdale, Lake Manitoba First Nations and area. On behalf of the staff and physicians of Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority, thank you Dr. Burnet for your many years of dedicated and compassionate service to the people in our region. We wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement. Please note, the physicians at Eriksdale Medical Clinic, 35 Railway Ave in Eriksdale, are accepting patients. Call 204-739-2672 to make an appointment.

 Interlake-Eastern
Regional Health Authority

RM of Gimli council sets financial budget for 2019

By Patricia Barrett

The RM of Gimli's Assistant CAO Kelly Cosgrove provided an overview of the 2019 budget last week, and property owners will see a slight rise in property taxes.

The provincial levy rose from 10.984 to 11.050 for an increase of 0.066 of a mill. And the RM's general mill rate is increasing from 12.571 to 13.279, a difference of 0.708 of a mill.

A \$200,000 dwelling in the rural area paid \$1,310.04 in 2018. Taxes will rise to \$1,370.16 in 2019, an increase of \$60.12. A \$200,000 dwelling in the urban area paid \$1,376.55 in 2018. Taxes will rise to \$1,435.68 in 2019, an increase of \$59.13.

CAO Joann Murphy said overall the RM is in good financial shape.

"I would say we're doing well. We are cognizant of trying to move away from debt and certainly there's savings immediately when you don't have to borrow money," said Murphy. "The reserves are being built up over time with the idea they'll be used to fund capital projects."

Cosgrove noted a number of achievements over the course of 2018, including the launch of the outdoor pool, upgrades to the Recreation Centre's fitness room, water main renewal along Seventh Avenue (Highway 9), the beautification of a walkway on First Avenue and the purchase of accessible wheelchairs for both Gimli Beach and the pool.

But the RM faces several challenges in 2019, including servicing the debt, finding cost-effective ways to deliver municipal services and providing a "balanced approach to managing the needs of the municipality while remaining mindful of the importance of being stewards of the environment."

Perhaps the biggest impact has been felt by Public Works, said Murphy, as the province eliminated its road grant last year. Going forward, council will have to modify the scope of some of its projects.

The RM used to receive a \$224,000 road grant from the province, said Deputy Mayor Richard Petrowski, but last year they got "zero."

Coun. Thora Palson, chair of Public Works, said it was "certainly a disappointment" not to receive the grant money last. "As for new funding this year, we're getting something but not what we've received in the past. We're hopeful with the federal funding announcements that have been released."

The province started a new funding scheme this year to replace its Municipal Roads and Bridges program. It rolled road grants into "basket funding," which is "part of their reduced red tape for grants,"



Gimli Mayor Lynn Greenberg



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT
Assistant CAO Kelly Cosgrove (left) and CAO Joann Murphy

said Cosgrove. A number of grants the RM used to see have been amalgamated in one pot. The municipal road grant will be set at a maximum of \$138,500, a cut of \$85,500.

"The municipality owns \$10 million worth of roads," said Cosgrove. The grant this year "is not a lot of money" and will put pressure on the RM. Projects the RM will have to "modify" are two roads in Pelican Beach.

The good news is the federal Liberal government will be giving the RM a one-time only double gas tax grant.

Another challenge facing the RM is Recreation Centre revenues. Last year the RM budgeted \$681,000, but only brought in \$542,000, a difference of \$139,000.

"The main reason for the Gimli Rec Centre was largely due to the aquatic centre. It was the first year of operation and we had taken comparable numbers to other facilities similar to Gimli. We put in their numbers for user fees and they didn't come in," said Cosgrove. "This year we're going to take an aggressive approach to marketing the aquatic centre and we're anticipating revenues of about \$609,445."

To balance its role as steward of the environment while spurring on economic growth, Palson said the RM will be moving to green technology. Council budgeted for an electric car charging station. It's being considered for the Second Avenue public parking lot but hasn't been finalized. Council will apply for applicable green grants to help with the expense.

The RM will be contributing \$300,000 over two years to Phase 2 of Viking Park, a project worth



The RM will contribute \$300,000 to Viking Park for improvements to the bandstand area and sidewalks.

\$900,000.

Mayor Lynn Greenberg said the RM's contribution will match a \$300,000 grant from the provincial government and a \$300,000 grant from the federal government. "They're coming up with \$600,000 total and we're coming up with \$300,000."

The project includes improvements to the First Avenue sidewalk between Viking Park and the core harbour area and additional improvements in the bandstand area.

"One of things we spoke about when we did commit the funding," said Palson, "was the responsible use of those funds. And because it's being spent on municipal property, the municipality would be the final decision-maker in the improvements. One of the things we stipulated is that we really want to see the opportunities come to local contractors so it may be tendered out in smaller parcels that locals can bid on."

Terriers, North Stars battling it out for the ANAVET Cup

Staff

The ANAVET Cup is now tied at a win apiece after the first two games of the best-of-seven series between the Portage Terriers and the Battlefords North Stars.

Portage evened the series after a thrilling 4-3 overtime victory on home ice last Saturday evening.

Kolton Shindle was the hero, scoring the game winner at 16:53 of OT. The Terriers had tied the score at 3-3 when Orca Wiesblatt tallied at 19:15 of the third.

Portage took a 2-0 first-period lead on a pair of goals by Scott Mickoski.

But Battlefords' Owen Lamb and Austin Baker replied with second-period goals and then the North Stars' Noah Form gave his club its first lead of the game at 9:50 of the third.

Ethan Peterson made 27 saves for the win.

The North Stars took a 1-0 series lead with a 3-2 comeback victory over the Terriers on Friday in Portage.

Ryan Gil scored the game-winning goal at 19:09 of the third period.

Battlefords' Macgregor Sinclair had tied the score at 2-2 with a power-play goal at 6:29 of the third.

Portage took a 2-0 first-period lead with a pair of

goals from Jared Roy.

But the North Stars started their comeback with a second-period goal from Dylan Esau.

Portage outshot Battlefords 31-18 as Joel Grzybowski posted the win in goal.

Game 3 of the series was played this past Tuesday in Saskatchewan but no score was available at press time.

Battlefords will host Game 4 of the series Wednesday and Game 5 on Thursday.

If necessary, Game 6 would return to Portage on Sunday while a series-deciding Game 7 would be played Monday.

sports & recreation

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Local players invited to POE Top-40 camps

Staff

Hockey Manitoba announced last Friday the selections for the Program of Excellence Top-40 camps which will take place in Portage la Prairie from May 9-14.

Hockey Manitoba operates three Provincial Team programs within the Program of Excellence on an annual basis which include the Male U16, Female U16 and Female U18 teams.

Warren's Karson King of the Bantam "AAA" Interlake Lightning has been invited to the Male U16 camp. King, a forward, led the Lightning in goals (21) and points (41) this past season.

Stonewall's Anya Epp has been invited to the Female U16 camp. She played for the Interlake Lightning

Midget "AAA" team last season.

Lundar's Kenady Christensen has also been invited to the Female U16 Top-40 camp. The forward played last season for the Bantam Lightning.

The Female U18 camp, meanwhile, will see Arborg forward Brenna Barylski take to the ice. She led the Lightning in goals scored (seven) and points (12) this past season.

The camps are the second phase for each group which is the provincial high-performance development and selection program that leads to the formation of Male U16 Team Manitoba, Female U16 Team Manitoba and Female U18 Team Manitoba.

The Male U16 Team Manitoba will compete at the WHL Cup in late Oc-

tober while the final Female U18 Team Manitoba roster will compete in Mor-den at the U18 Women's National Championship in November.

The Male U16 Top-40 camp will take place from May 9 to 12 in Portage la Prairie and will feature skills sessions, team building and inter-squad exhibition games.

The 44 athletes will be comprised of 24 forwards, 16 defencemen, and four goalies. They were selected by the Team Manitoba coaching staff and evaluators following the U16 Spring Selection Camp which took place in Winnipeg in late March.

The Female U16 Top-40 camp is set for May 10 to 12 in Portage la Prairie and will also feature skills sessions,

team building, and inter-squad exhibition games.

The 41 athletes, comprised of 25 forwards, 12 defencemen and six goalies, were selected by the Team Manitoba coaching staff and evaluators following the Female U16 Spring Selection Camp which took place in Winnipeg in early April.

The Female U18 Top-40 camp will take place from May 12 to 14 in Portage.

The 41 athletes, comprised of 25 forwards, 12 defencemen, and four goalies were selected by the Team Manitoba coaching staff and evaluators following the Female U18 Spring Selection Camp which took place in Winnipeg in early April.

Kodiaks hope to repeat as Zone 5 baseball champs

By Brian Bowman

The Lundar/Ashern Kodiaks will be looking to make a return trip to the MHSAA baseball provincial championships this season.

But it won't be easy.

With a young lineup, it may be tough for the Kodiaks to win its second-straight Zone 5 championship.

"I would say we're back in the rebuilding stage," said Kodiaks' head coach Rory Tycoles Monday afternoon. "We have a few talented players but we're really heavy in the Grade 9 and 10 age stints, freshman, sophomore type of guys, so we'll be battling again trying to rebuild to try to get back to the top."

Lundar/Ashern will be led by its returning shortstop/pitcher Riley Wirgau, who will be batting either third or fourth in the lineup this season.

Two returning players — Zach Hall-dorson and Alex Ryden — are in Grade 10 this season and will be key players.

"They have come a long way and you can really tell that the practice time last year has improved their skills, especially their arm strength," Tycoles said.

On the mound, the Kodiaks will be looking at several different players to throw this season.

"I've really been stretching it this year trying to get as many arms as

possible," Tycoles said. "I have an indoor mound here and we have had seven guys throwing on a regular basis to try to stretch out our pitching depth as much as we can.

"We're really concentrating on throwing strikes and, hopefully, our defence can hold up and get guys out."

Offensively, Lundar/Ashern has a bit of speed in its lineup while their top three or four hitters are decent and they should be able to get on base consistently.

Lundar will begin its league schedule next Tuesday when it travels to Fisher River for a 2 p.m. game.

The Kodiaks will then play at least three games at an Altona tournament

on May 10-11. Lundar will be in a pool with Boissevain, Altona and Edward Schreyer.

That tournament features some of the top high school teams in the province.

"That will give us a look at some of the higher competition in the province," Tycoles said.

After a long winter, Lundar/Ashern is eager to get out on the ball diamond and play some games.

"We've been practising since the start of March, end of February, so guys are really scratching to get out on the field and see if anything they practised in the winter is going to help them win some games," Tycoles said.

Tirinzoni tops Einarson to win GSOC Champions Cup

Staff

Silvana Tirinzoni got the best of Kerri Einarson in the final of the Humpty's Champions Cup last Sunday in Saskatoon.

The reigning world champions from Switzerland doubled Einarson's Gimli rink 6-3.

It was the final Grand Slam of Curling tour event of the 2018-19 season

With the victory, Tirinzoni took home

\$40,000 of the \$250,000 purse and also earned a berth into the Humpty's Champions Cup next season.

Einarson and her rink of third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard and lead Briane Meilleur, reached the final after defeating Sweden's Anna Hasselborg 5-4 Saturday evening. Einarson scored three in the eighth end for the comeback win.

Einarson won the women's Players'

Championship in Toronto just two weeks ago and is third among women's teams in the World Curling Tour rankings.

Their rink enjoyed a great first year together, with three former skips playing new positions. Einarson has competed in 10 finals while winning four consecutive World Curling Tour events at the beginning of the season in addition to the Players' Champion-

ship.

In Men's action earlier Sunday, Edmonton's Brendan Bottcher edged Calgary's Kevin Koe 6-5 for their third consecutive Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling championship.

Winnipeg's B.J. Neufeld, formerly of Gimli, is the third on Koe's reigning Brier championship team.

MMJHL final decided in Game 7

By Brian Bowman

There is no question that this year's Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League's playoffs was a real exciting one.

The MMJHL final came down to the very last game as the Pembina Valley Twisters hosted the St. James Canucks in Game 7 of their best-of-seven final this past Tuesday evening (no score was available at press time).

Pembina Valley forced the final game after a 5-1 road win Sunday afternoon in Winnipeg.

St. James' Wyatt Kemball opened the game's scoring at 16:14 of the first period.

But Pembina Valley's Travis Penner tied the score 1:12 later and then Nico Vigier gave the Twisters a 2-1 lead with a second-period goal.

Jeremie Goderis made it 3-1 just 24 seconds into the third and then he added his second goal of the game midway in the third.

TJ Matuszewski made it 5-1 Pembina Valley at 13:11 of the final frame.

Travis Klassen made 21 saves for the win. St.

James' goaltender Nathan Cvar, who lives in Stonewall and is formerly of Gimli, stopped 26 Pembina Valley shots at the other end.

St. James took a 3-2 series lead with a hard-fought 4-3 road win in Morris on Saturday.

Kieran Ursel scored the eventual game winner at 2:37 of the third period. The Canucks' Tyler Meixner had tied the score at 2-2 at 19:20 of the second period.

Pembina Valley took a 2-0 lead on a pair of goals by Wyatt Sabourin (the second came while shorthanded) but St. James replied with tallies from Adam Thurlbeck and Ryan Ostermann. Thurlbeck's tally came on the power play.

The Twisters' answered, though, with a power-play goal from Brendan Beenaerts.

Cvar made 39 saves for the victory.

The Canucks evened the series at two wins apiece after Cvar backstopped St. James to a 4-1 home win last Thursday.

Penner snapped Cvar's shutout bid at 12:07 of the third period. Cvar finished the game with 26

saves.

Special teams played a huge role in this game as St. James scored three power-play goals in six chances. The Twisters, meanwhile, were blanked in six opportunities.

Thurlbeck scored the lone goal of the first period and then Chris Sass made it 2-0 after 40 minutes. Eric Wankling and Craig Weiss tallied in the third.

Pembina Valley took a 2-1 series lead with a 4-2 home win on April 23.

Goderis, James Van De Velde, Brendan Keck and Dylan Dacquay scored for the Twisters.

Ostermann and Tristan Ezako replied for the Canucks.

Cvar made 38 saves in the loss.

Provincial award



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Arborg Skating Club's Olivia Orbanski was the recipient of the 2019 Skate Canada Manitoba Sectional Merit Award. This award, chosen by the judges panel, went to the most deserving performance of the 2019 SCMB Sectional Championships, which were held in Morden in November. Skate Canada Manitoba Chairperson Donna Yee, left, presented Orbanski with her award at the Skate Canada Manitoba Annual Gala Evening on April 27.

Colton Lott joins Team Gushue at Champions Cup

By Ty Dilello

The final Grand Slam event of the 2018-19 curling season wrapped up on Sunday as Gimli's Kerri Einarson fell in the final of the Champions Cup to Switzerland's Silvana Tirinzoni 6-3 at Merlis Belsher Place in Saskatoon.

Einarson was oh so close to winning back-to-back Grand Slam events (having previously won the Players' Championship) but fell in a spirited affair to the reigning World Champions from Switzerland after missing a raise-double on her final rock that ultimately gave the game to Tirinzoni.

On the men's side of the Champions Cup, Alberta's Brendan Bottcher capped off a wonderful season by winning their third-straight Grand Slam event when they defeated provincial rival Kevin Koe 6-5 in an extra end in Sunday's final.

For Winnipeg Beach's Colton Lott, he had a great experience at the Champions Cup that will be sure to stay with him for the rest of his life as he was asked by Brad Gushue of Newfoundland, two-time Brier champ and 2006 Olympic Gold Medalist to sub in at the event while the team's second Brett Gallant was off in Norway playing at the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship.

The next day after Lott and Kadriana Sahaidak dropped the semi-final of the Canadian Mixed Doubles championship in Fredericton was when he got the unexpected text from Gushue asking him to play in a Grand Slam with his team.

"I just got a text from Brad asking me to play in the Champions Cup after I got back from the Mixed Doubles Nationals and it went from there," said Lott. "The week ended up going awesome. I had a great time curling with those guys and learned a lot over the week. Stuff like how much more precise you have to be and getting everything you can out of each stone thrown."

Lott and Team Gushue went 3-1 in the round-robin at the Champions Cup and ultimately lost a tough 6-3 game in the quarterfinals to this year's Brier champ Kevin Koe.

It was a great week for Lott but his curling season is still not over yet as he and Sahaidak are headed this week to Beijing, China, to take part in the Grand Final of the 2018-19 Curling World Cup, which will take place from May 8 to 12.

"It's super exciting to have the chance to represent Canada once again this year at the grand finale in Beijing," says Lott. "Both Kadriana and I are thrilled for the experience and it'll be a blast being able to compete at that level once again. We're both super excited for it and can't wait to start that journey on Saturday this week."

It was also recently announced that Lott (third) will be joining his brother Tanner (lead) to play with East St. Paul's Kyle Doering (second) and Tanner Horgan (skip) on the World Curling Tour for the upcoming 2019-20 season. Horgan will be coming in from Northern Ontario after a very successful junior career to skip this new team out of Manitoba.

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VILLAGE OF DUNNOTTAR LANDFILL ATTENDANT - SEASONAL

The Village of Dunnottar invites written application for the seasonal position of Landfill Attendant.

Anticipated start of May 23, 2019 to September 27, 2019.

Under the direction of the Landfill Manager, the Landfill Attendant is responsible for checking vehicle loads and access tags as they enter the landfill, collecting payment and writing receipts, writing invoices for contractors accessing the landfill, general maintenance, and overseeing the proper deposit of various materials.

The successful candidate will possess the following:

- Strong organizational skills
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to deal with disgruntled individuals in a professional manner
- Salary range is dependent upon qualifications and experience.

Applications should be marked "Application for Landfill Attendant" on the outside and should contain a full resume with three references. Applications to be forwarded to the undersigned no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 10, 2019.

J.M. Thevenot, Administrator
Village of Dunnottar, P.O. Box 321, Matlock, Manitoba, R0C 2B0

Phone: 389-4962 Fax: 389-4966 E-mail: info@dunnottar.ca

We thank all applicants in advance, however, only those considered for interviews will be contacted.

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CARD OF THANKS

KAMINSKI - We want to thank our family and friends for their support and generosity with baking, food, flowers, cards, visits and phone calls. Our sincere thanks to Fr. Mike Nwosu and Fr. Art Seaman for the beautiful service, to Marilyn for the solo and playing the organ and to Chris and the choir. Thank you to the C.W.L. Ladies and everyone who helped serve the lunch. We'd also like to thank Dr. Adeniyi Adegbesan and the wonderful nursing staff (especially Betty) at the Gimli Community Health Centre for their care and compassion to our mom, Victoria. Thank you so very much to David and Wes at Gilbert's for all their help and guidance. Everyone has been absolutely wonderful and we really appreciate everything you have done for us. May God bless you all.
-Linda, Jane and family

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who brought food, sent flowers, gift cards and helped out through this difficult time. It was all greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank Dr. Donnelly, Brittany and Natalie and the Arbog and District Hospital for the care and support while Michael had his stay there, and also the staff at the Health Sciences Centre. Many thanks to Broad Valley Catering, Shirley Williams for officiating and Ken Loehmer for the support and all the arrangements. We appreciate the help we have received on the farm, as well as from our many great supporters throughout this time. Thanks again and forever grateful to all.
-Karen, Jasper and Zak Leochko and family

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



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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

Sudoku Answer

S	E	A	R										
L	T	E	N	V	S		S	E	L	S	V	I	
N	A	H	I	V	K	O	E	S	I	N	V		
I	B	O	S	I	S	E	N	I	X	E	T	E	I
T	I	N	S	W	E	O	O	M	O	R	S		
S	O	V	L	O	I	O	V	T	I	V			
H	L	E	S	O	E	T	I	E	A				
T	E	E	S	O	S	V	A	S					
S	E	O	I	S	V	S	I	E	S				
O	I	O	S	E	O	I	S	V	I	O	V		
I	T	E	I	O	H	E	T	I	S	O	N	I	R
I	S	N	O	H	E	T	I	S	O	N	I	R	
S	E	O	I	S	V	S	I	E	S				
S	E	O	I	S	V	S	I	E	S				

Crossword Answer

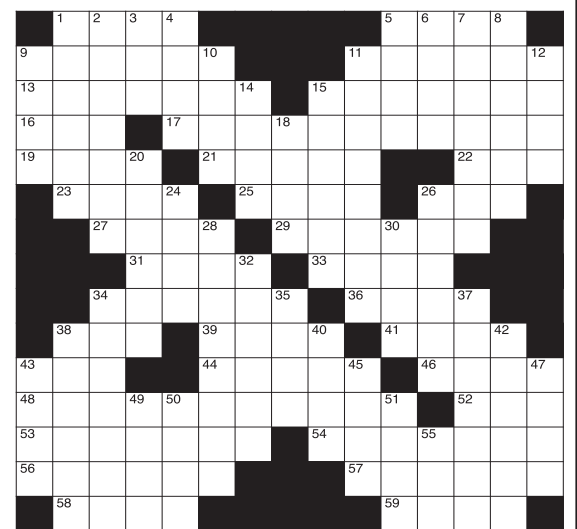
CLUES ACROSS

- Type of fruit
- Unit of time
- Oil company
- Benson's "partner"
- Fictional mob boss Tony
- Visual record
- Small constellation
- Popular family TV series
- Tough outer layer
- Cut
- Vietnamese offensive
- Horizontal mine passage
- Greek war god
- Have already done
- Six (Spanish)
- Remarks for the audience
- Relaxing spots
- Prevent from seeing
- Disguised
- Comedian Rogan
- Afflict in mind or body
- Sour
- People native to N. Mexico
- No seats available
- Ned __, composer
- A fit of irritation
- Ability to move objects mentally
- Luke's mentor __-Wan
- Herbal medicine ingredient
- Oscar-winning director Bigelow
- Likes
- In a sound way
- Part of a staircase
- Exemptions from play

CLUES DOWN

- How will it play in __?

CROSSWORD



- Grows
- Swiss river
- Canadian flyers
- Affirmative! (slang)
- Root of taro plant
- Large, long-legged rodents
- Recycled
- Pre-1917 emperor of Russia
- Sometimes it's on you
- Contrary beliefs
- Remain as is
- Spicy stew __ podrida
- Play time
- Italian monetary unit
- Type of fuel
- Portable conical tent
- Yazoo and Mississippi are two
- What people earn
- Insect repellent
- After first
- Plays the viola
- Not good
- Esteemed guest
- Where rockers ply their trade
- Office furniture
- Ancient Greek oracles
- Quantitative fact
- Missing soldiers
- Minute
- This (Spanish)
- Maintain possession of
- Knife
- What to say on New Year's Day (abbr.)

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BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday to Mary Kowalchuk who celebrates her 97th birthday on May 7th

To our wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, thank you for teaching us by example with your wisdom, patience and acceptance, your good humour and your good nature.

God bless you!

-With love from your whole family

ENGAGEMENT



Wendy and Carl Anderson and Gail and Karl Emms are excited to announce the engagement of their children, Carlene and Kelvin. A July wedding is planned. A come-and-go bridal shower will be held on May 19 at 1 p.m. at Gimli Recreation Centre Lounge. All are welcome. The couple is registered at Bed Bath & Beyond. A social evening will follow at 8 p.m.

OBITUARY

Vordis Oddleifson

With deep sadness we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved mother Vordis Oddleifson on April 26, 2019 at the age of 95.

Vordis is survived by her children Karen Foster, Enid Oddleifson, Kathy Finnson and Kevin Oddleifson; her grandchildren Kelly Bedard (Dan), Kendra Mitchell-Foster (Sheona), Alanna Finnson (Adam), Eric Lafond, Cole Finnson (Mallory) and Gaetane Lafond; great-grandchildren Kira and Jake Bedard, Zen and Jai Finnson, Destiny, Amilie and Jaiden Mitchell-Foster, Halldor and Thea Finnson; sisters-in-law Grace Fridfinnson and Norma Fridfinnson; numerous nieces and nephews and extended family members. She was predeceased by her husband Einar Oddleifson; her parents Kristmundur and Jakobina Fridfinnson; her brothers Leifur, Numi (and wife Dora), Kjartan (and wife Lillian) Skapti and Junius; sons-in-law Guy Lafond and Grant Finnson; and in-laws Siggie and Lolla Oddleifson, Thorey Fjeldsted (and husband Asgier) and Sammy Oddleifson (and wife Norma).

Vordis was born May 18, 1923 on her parents' farm in the Geysir district, the eldest of six children. She always spoke fondly of her family and her life on the farm – working alongside her parents, brothers and hired hands – milking cows and doing farm and household chores. She enjoyed the culture and spirit of the Geysir community, the Icelandic language, playing with neighbouring children and attending the Island School.

As a young woman, her adventurous spirit led her to the University of Manitoba where she obtained an Honors Degree in Philosophy. She was later employed by the government in Ottawa, taught at the Island School and worked for the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture, travelling to rural Manitoba communities to co-facilitate the Folk School program for young adults. Vordis was an intelligent, educated and accomplished woman who loved the rural life.



She married Einar Oddleifson October 22, 1949 and together they worked their farm and raised four children. Vordis was a loving and devoted wife and mother who handled the many activities of homemaking with skill and enthusiasm. She was a wonderful cook, seamstress and gardener and provided a happy, relaxed home environment for her family. She enriched our lives through her appreciation of literature and education and her love of nature. Vordis actively served her community, as a member of the Hospital Board, PTA, Unitarian Church School and Ladies' Aid. She was a sought-after speaker throughout her life, giving toasts and readings at weddings, showers and memorial services.

Mom valued individuality and saw the good in everyone. She had a deep affection for her relatives and close friends – her brothers and their families held a special place in her heart. She valued simplicity; lived with dignity, presence and reverence for life. She possessed a calm vitality, an earthy acceptance of "what is", and a rich sense of humour. Mom amazed us with her ability to quote verses of poetry that had inspired her throughout her life. She was a whiz at crossword puzzles and enjoyed Scrabble, rarely losing a game. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought her tremendous joy. They loved her, appreciating her nurturing presence and homemade oatmeal cookies.

Mom was our rock, a constant source of strength, inspiration and loving kindness. She lived her life with grace and equanimity and left the world a better place.

Sincere thanks to the wonderful Dr. Donnelly, and the excellent staff of the Arborg Personal Care Home, Arborg Memorial Hospital, Riverton Supportive Housing, Arborg Seniors Directorate and Home Care Services, who provided care to her over the last two years.

As per Vordis' request, a private family funeral will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Arborg & District Ladies Health Auxiliary, Box 301, Arborg MB R0C 0A0 or a charity of one's choice.

Mom, Amma, Lang Amma, we love you and miss you. Goda Nott Elskan.

My Symphony

To live content with small means,
to seek elegance rather than luxury,
and refinement rather than fashion;
to be worthy, not respectable,
and wealthy, not rich;
to study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly;
to listen to stars and birds, to babes and sages with open hearts,
to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasions, hurry never;
in a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious,
grow up through the common;
this is to be my symphony.

-William Ellery Channing

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ENGAGEMENT



Kostuik/Nudds

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