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High flying model air show



EXPRESS PHOTO BY KAITLIN VITT

The 13th annual Gimli Model Fest attracted spectators from across Canada and pilots from around the world for the three-day festival. Model airplanes, helicopters, and 3D models were all buzzing around in Gimli on the weekend for what might just be one of the most unique model airshows in the country. Marc Sharpe (left) and John Valenta work on Sharpe's model plane, the Hawker Hurricane. See story pg. 2.

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Gimli Model Fest celebrates planes and people

By Kaitlin Vitt

Harry Ketterer sits on a chair with his plane's controls in hand. Someone stands behind him, arms crossed, looking out into the sky. He's there to spot Ketterer, telling him the plane's altitude throughout the trip.

Ketterer is at the Gimli Model Fest, which took place last weekend. He's operating his model plane first person. There's a camera on his plane that's hooked up to the goggles he's wearing. This is how he navigates it — it's as if he's in the aircraft.

The first time he flew first person, it was a "sensory overload," Ketterer said. Other planes buzz overhead while he concentrates on his. He has to recognize what the green or yellow or white objects are that he's seeing.

"That's our flying field that you're looking at right there," he said, as a rectangle of light-coloured campers and vehicles, standing out from the green field, come into view on his goggles.

It's difficult to distinguish what anything is without Ketterer pointing things out.

It took him a day to learn the area to safely fly the site, he said.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY KAITLIN VITT
Wilf Ansell shows his incomplete model plane Saunders, based on the single aircraft of the same name built in Gimli in the 1970s.

"Once you're in the goggles, you can't see anything else around you," he said. "You don't know what's going on."

After four minutes of first person flying, Ketterer lands the plane.

People attending said this is one of their favourite model fests because of the field. It's big, flat and treeless.

The site is ideal also because of its location close to town, said Jeff Esslinger, the Gimli Fest Group Inc. vice-president and air show chairman. There are shops, restaurants and beaches in Gimli for festival-goers and their families to check out.

The festival is a way to get people meeting and visiting, he added.

Model pilot Wilf Ansell agrees. He said he likes the camaraderie at the festival.

Ansell had his plane Saunders on display, sitting along the fence at the Interlake Radio Control Model Club site on Minerva Road, where the festival is. He's worked on the plane for two winters and said he expects to finish next year.

This is his first scratch built plane. He's making all the parts and not following a kit.

The plane is a model of one that Saunders Aircraft Company built in Gimli in the 1970s. The government cut funding for production, so the company only made one, Ansell ex-



Ten model planes line the fences at Gimli Model Fest, taking place at the Interlake Radio Control Model Club site on Minerva Road west of the Town of Gimli.



Callahan Corrie flies his model plane at the Gimli Model Fest Aug. 13.

plained.

The company also couldn't get certification of the 22-passenger plane in the U.S. because it had a wing spar through the cabin, so people had to step over it when in the plane, he said.

Ansell worked for Saunders Aircraft Company for a couple years. He built jigs, though the jigs the company ended up using were built in England. He said the ones the company built in Gimli must have not worked.

The Saunders plane sat at the Gimli Industrial Park Airport until a couple years ago when it was removed and destroyed, Ansell said.

"It was sad to see that it didn't go into a museum," he said, since it was "one of a kind."

When Ansell completes his Saunders model, it should weigh about four pounds. Hopefully his flight with Saunders lasts longer than the flight with the first plane he built, which lasted 10 seconds.



Harry Ketterer navigates his model plane first person. He wears a goggle headset that uses a camera on the aircraft to show the view from the plane.

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Interlake-Eastern RHA physician shortages leads to ER closures

By Patricia Barrett

The majority of emergency rooms in hospitals across the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority will experience scheduled closures starting Sept. 6.

Until more doctors can be recruited, about eight of the region's 10 hospitals will experience ongoing, temporary ER closures.

"The only one for sure that we know ... won't be affected to any degree is the Selkirk General Hospital because that's where we have true emergency docs with 24-hour coverage," said Interlake-Eastern RHA CEO Ron Van Denakker during a conference call with media last Thursday. "It really depends on the availability of the doctors."

For the past few years, nurses have been staffing ERs in the absence of physicians, but that system will be replaced with scheduled closures.

In addition to Selkirk, Van Denakker said Pine Falls, which is fully staffed with five doctors, will unlikely see service disruptions.

"The east side of the lake is quite a bit more stable right now," said the CEO.

But hospitals along Highway 6 — Er-

iksdale and Ashern — will continue to suffer from physician shortages.

"I have a lot of compassion ... and empathy for the people on Highway 6," said Van Denakker, "and we are working really hard to try to deal with that."

Scheduled closures are expected to bring stability and predictability to ER service.

Physicians have agreed to provide the health authority with advanced notice — either one, two or three months — indicating what days they'll be available to staff ERs.

"I'm available on Thursday this week,' and it's already Tuesday. Or, 'I really can't make next Tuesday' — that's just not good enough," said Van Denakker. "...our local health involvement groups ... they absolutely clobbered me on the fact that there was no predictability."

Physicians' ER schedules will be provided to the public through a toll-free number and posted on the Interlake-Eastern RHA's website.

Nurse-managed care of ERs came under fire this spring when a group of doctors in Selkirk spearheaded a petition to have it abolished.

"At the end of the day, what hap-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The majority of emergency rooms in Interlake-Eastern RHA hospitals, including Arborg shown above, will be subject to scheduled closures starting Sept. 6.

pened was the doctors did take a bit of a position on things and said that the status quo was no longer sustainable from their perspective," said Van Denakker. "And effectively the May long weekend, they wanted us to move towards removal of nurse-managed care."

The health authority negotiated with

doctors to provide ER service over the summer months when the region's population doubles and asked them to support nurse-managed care until it could find an alternative.

The "Band-Aid" measure, as Van Denakker calls the scheduled closures,

Continued on page 9



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Arborg Street Festival set for this Saturday

By Patricia Barrett

During the Town of Arborg's regular meeting on Aug. 10, council reported that permission to close a section of Main Street on Saturday, Aug. 20 for the Street Festival was granted by Manitoba Infrastructure.

Council had discussed the temporary closure at a regular meeting on July 13, recommending provisions be put in place for emergency vehicles and approval be obtained from MI, which has jurisdiction over Main Street (PR 326).

The Street Festival will include a pancake breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Legion, kids' fun zones at the Arborg Bakery, a dunk tank, dog show, chili cook-off and Amazing Race. Arborg's Reechka Dance Club and Irish dancers will perform at 11 a.m., and local bands will perform at 4 p.m. A street hockey tournament will get underway at 9:30 a.m.

Other council briefs:

A tarp structure erected for use as a garage in the driveway of one resident's home will be removed at the request of council in keeping with a town bylaw.

CAO Lorraine Bardarson said a letter had been sent to the owner asking that the structure be taken down, but no action was forthcoming.

"It can be used for temporary stor-



EXPRESS FILE PHOTOS

A section of Arborg's Main Street will be closed down on Saturday, Aug. 20 for the annual Street Festival.

age," said Deputy Mayor Rob Thorsteinson, "but it has to be in a backyard. It can't be in a driveway. We don't want them all over town because they tear and look like [an eyesore]."

Coun. Susan Bauernhuber reported that recent fires at Bar Waste resulted in local residents alerting the fire department. The waste disposal site burns trash on a regular basis.

"The advice was to have them more

often and smaller," said Bauernhuber. "If you burn every day, there's not as much."

Coun. Larry Speiss said the smoke made it appear as though there was a major fire at the site.

Council will apply for a grant under the Small Communities Fund, part of a federal infrastructure grant program, to pay for additional upgrades to the town's water treatment plant.

The upgrade is estimated to cost about \$400,000, said Bardarson. If the grant application is successful, the project will be cost-shared between the RM and the federal and provincial governments, each paying one third of the cost.

"The primary focus of the program is on wastewater," she said.

Council has until Aug. 26 to apply for the grant.

Premier appoints additional members of Treasury Board

Proposed legislative change would allow for appointment of members of the Legislative Assembly

Submitted

Premier Brian Pallister announced Monday the appointment of an additional member of Treasury Board to support Manitoba's new government's commitment to fiscal responsibility.

"Manitobans have inherited a challenging fiscal situation that threatens our government's ability to deliver the services, infrastructure and quality of life that citizens of our province expect and deserve," said Pallister.

"Our government has identified the targets that we must deliver in order to get Manitoba back on track, and I am confident in the ability of this team to implement many of the initia-

tives that will eliminate wasteful government spending while ensuring the protection of front-line services."

Treasury Board is the financial oversight committee of the executive council of the government of Manitoba. It consists of the minister of finance and other government ministers.

Treasury Board members now include:

- Finance Minister Cameron Friesen as chair;
- Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler as vice-chair;
- Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Cliff Cullen;
- Families Minister Scott Fielding;
- Infrastructure Minister Blaine Ped-

ersen; and

- Justice Minister Heather Stefanson.

"As deputy premier and minister of justice and attorney general for Manitoba, Heather Stefanson has navigated many of the most complicated files facing our government in our first 100 days," said the premier.

"Having successfully finalized discussions with the federal government and Air Canada to protect and strengthen our province's diverse aerospace sector and leading the continuing consultations with Indigenous leadership and the federal government on the National Inquiry for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Heather will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Treasury Board process."

The premier also announced plans for the appointment of Reg Helwer, MLA for Brandon West, and Colleen Mayer, MLA for St. Vital, as members of the province's Treasury Board to

provide further scrutiny of government expenditures and operations.

On June 14, the government introduced Bill 6, the financial administration amendment act, which would permit the appointment of members of the Legislative Assembly other than ministers to be appointed to Treasury Board. The proposed bill, currently at first reading, would require the chair, vice-chair and a majority of the members of Treasury Board to be ministers.

"An experienced businessman and entrepreneur, Reg Helwer serves as vice-chair of the Public Accounts Committee in his role as MLA while Colleen Mayer brings extensive board experience and dealings with business owners," said Pallister.

"The addition of these two MLAs to Treasury Board would enhance the ability of government's legislative branch to ensure value for money and the responsible management of Manitobans' tax dollars."

Eriksdale kids learn about community at free reading program

ABC Come Read With Me runs every Wednesday at 10 a.m. until Aug. 31

By Kaitlin Vitt

Kids in Eriksdale have the chance to learn more about their community this summer while getting free books and snacks.

ABC Come Read With Me meets at the west side of Eriksdale School's playground Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Kids come to the event, listen to a community member read a book, have snacks and leave with a free book.

In addition to reading to the kids, the community members talk about what they do. Organizer Natalie Sweetland said someone once came to play guitar, and another time someone showed her rock collection.

"It gets (kids) to learn about the community, community members, what their community offers them,"

Sweetland said.

Sweetland said mostly kids from the daycare come to the event, but it is open to kids of all ages from the area.

The kids leave each week with a book. There are chapter books for older participants and learning-to-read books for younger ones.

"The more you read to children, the more (they are) exposed to words and language," Sweetland said.

The event lasts about an hour. Besides reading, Sweetland said she gets the kids moving around and singing. In the case of rain, the group goes into the school.

The free drop-in program has run for about five years. This year, it started on July 13 and goes until Aug. 31.



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIE SWEETLAND

Amie Whiteside reads to kids at Eriksdale's ABC Come Read With Me Aug. 10. Whiteside is the president of the daycare's board and a teacher.

Daylong activities planned for Gimli's Terry Fox Run

By Kaitlin Vitt

Along with communities across Canada, Gimli will host a Terry Fox Run in September. Organizer Carrie Gottfried said she hopes this year's daylong activities will bring people to

Gimli Park, whether they're participating in the run or not.

For the event on Sept. 18, there will be activities from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Gimli Park.

There will be a DJ, bouncy house for

kids, silent auction and barbecue. Run participants will get a complimentary hotdog and drink.

Gottfried said people should come to the event, since it's raising money for a good cause.

"There is not many people who haven't been touched by cancer," she said.

During the event's opening ceremonies, organizers will acknowledge Terry's Team made of local cancer survivors.

Before the run, Gottfried, who is a certified fitness leader, will do a warm up with participants.

People can run, walk or bike the five- or 10-kilometre route through town.

Registration starts at 10 a.m., and the run starts at 11 a.m. People can register at terryfox.org in advance or onsite on the day of the race.

There will also be a hotdog fundraiser in support of the event at Gimli's Sobeys on Aug. 27.

To donate to the run, which raises money for the Terry Fox Foundation, visit terryfox.org and search for Gimli's event.

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> ARNIE WEIDL Derby winners and fish tales

Good friends, welcome.

It's been a busy week juggling fishing trips with summer visitors but it's all been in good fun. Anyway, I felt it was time for a visit to the good old Selkirk pier last Tuesday.

I parked beside a couple enjoying themselves sitting in folding chairs, rods in hand beside the open tailgate of their SUV. Their eyes squinted against the hot afternoon sun as they checked their lines close to the pier's edge, pushed there by the Red's strong current.

"How's the fishing?" I inquired, walking over to them. "Slow going," father and daughter Dwayne and Ceilieh Miller from Winnipeg responded.

It was easy to tell they enjoyed each other's company, engaging in the sport they both liked. It didn't take long, however, for me to realize that Dwayne, a stocky man with short brown moustache and hair, had a teasing sense of humour.

As we talked, he told a story where he and a friend were fishing in Pakwash Lake. Since they knew the lake, they had no trouble catching their limit. Later, they went for lunch at a local eatery where visiting Americans, saw their catch and continuously pressed them for their great fishing location. Dwayne refused to give up their special fishing spot but shared some of their fish in consolation. You're a tricky angler, Dwayne, but a good sport.

A most delightful story came to us by way of Len Ducharme, who I met on the north shore of the Winnipeg Beach marina a few days ago. He was fishing with his granddaughter Lily



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL
Deanna Zaretski from Libau at the Brokenhead Ojibway fishing derby with her winning sunfish.

Parenteau, who had just turned 10 and had caught her first fish, a nice pickerel.

Len laughed as he explained that when he was her exact age to the day years ago fishing on Wanipigou Lake west of Bissett, he caught his first fish, a jack. Now there's a pleasant similarity they can reflect on as the years roll by.

One of the great joys of my yearly fishing experiences happens when I go to the Brokenhead Ojibway Treaty Days fishing derby, along with Lawrence Proulx, the president of the Manitoba Ice Fishing Association. It was held on the big cross bridge over the Brokenhead River last Thursday, and like every year before, it was an absolutely wonderful day.

We chose to fish in comfort off the bridge while many others used boats running out to first creek or the

mouth of Lake Winnipeg. We sat in folding chairs totally relaxed with a cool breeze at our backs and popcorn clouds overhead shading the sun. All afternoon, folks caught, weighed in and released fish at the registration cabana on the bridge. Boating anglers hurriedly rushed their catches in water-filled containers from their docked boats to the weighing station, knowing that first weighed-in counted in case someone caught the same fish of the same weight. As the afternoon wore on, I heard a shouting by the boat landing. I walked quickly over to see what was going on.

A guy, Ken Cote, already on the bridge holding a container with fish, looked back at the boat landing with a questioning expression on his face. He called to the gal in their boat who suddenly sprang backward, her arms high in the air as a great splash erupted beside the boat. It wasn't until later as the prizes were being given out that I learned this lady angler, Nicole Satlack, had caught a giant jack and was trying to call Ken to take it in for a weigh-up just as it flipped itself out of the cooler back into the water. Sometimes, though, even when you lose, you win because just as Nicole finished her story, the announcer called out her son's name as the winner of two tickets for the Turtle water slide in Grand Marais.

The first place winner in the jack fish competition was John Wesley. Sadly, his picture was too dark, so here is a picture of Deanna Zaretski with her winning sunfish in that category.

Come by next week, won't you? Bye for now.

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Gimli councillor portfolio shuffle concerns resolved

By Patricia Barrett

Coun. Thora Palson's concerns with a recent cabinet shuffle the mayor and the majority of council initiated and adopted a few weeks ago seem to have been resolved.

During Gimli council's regular meeting Aug. 10, Palson voted in favour of the third and final reading of the amended Organizational and Procedures Bylaw (16-0012) that accompanies changes in councillor duties, and an amended Council Portfolios, Community Organizations, Committees, Boards document, both of which she opposed six days earlier during a special meeting.

Mayor Randy Woroniuk and the majority of council had decided to swap portfolio, board and committee duties a few weeks ago and held a special meeting Aug. 4 to vote on the changes. At that meeting, Palson had expressed dissatisfaction with her transfer from chair of Public Safety and Recreation to chair of Community Services (see the Aug. 11 edition of the *Express*).

"After the last meeting, there was comment made by Coun. [Danny] Lyprypa that we had assigned Coun. Palson over 12 ... committees," said CAO Joann King, explaining what had changed between Aug. 4 and 10. "There was some discussion with other members of what they were willing to switch back or switch to."

The Council Portfolios document dated Aug. 4 showed Palson having been assigned to 15 committees/boards. She will now sit on 12. She is still chair of Community Services.

The amended document dated Aug. 10 is posted on the main page of the RM's web site.

"I think that it's a good shift. Thank you for bringing that up at the meeting, Danny," said Palson, referring to the Aug. 4 meeting. "Appreciate that. ... I look forward to the new challeng-

es."

During question period, Palson said she "welcomes the opportunity to make new connections in the community" and that she's "excited" to take on cultural and heritage responsibilities and to review the RM's strategic plan.

That said, she still wants a review of RM governance.

"I think we should have a review of the governance. I was talking to different people in the municipal field and ... one of the recommendations they have is to remove question period ... that that's kind of the trend in municipalities. So I'm not suggesting that, but I'm just suggesting that there's a lot of different ways to do business and it's always good to look at that."

Palson made it clear that her reference to the trend to abolish public question period was not something she is recommending.

King said question periods are offered at the discretion of individual RM councils. There is nothing in the Municipal Act that says a council has to offer them.

Deputy Mayor Peter Peiluck said about four years ago, Gimli did not have question period.

Other council briefs:

Peiluck, sitting in for Mayor Randy Woroniuk who was on vacation, reported on what topics were discussed by council in camera: a legal matter that was referred to administration to proceed with; municipal building heating and cooling options that were referred to administration; compensation for a damaged crop from a drainage project that was referred to accounts payable in an open meeting. Council voted in favour of the report.

Council approved a \$275 grant to a Kid's Pumpkin Party to pay the cost of rental fees for the Gimli Park Pavilion. The party, which will be hosted by the



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Coun. Thora Palson, seen at a special council meeting Aug. 4 to vote on a cabinet shuffle, indicated six days later that she is satisfied with changes to her duties.

Gimli Chamber of Commerce, will take place Oct. 29.

"Any net proceeds will be donated to a non-profit organization that supports children," said Palson.

Council voted in favour to enter into two agreements — one with the federal government and the other with the provincial government — for expansion of the town's wastewater treatment plant that will see additional households in the RM connected to the system and improved quality of effluent.

Combined federal and provincial funding in the amount of \$53 million will be made available to Gimli and Selkirk to expand and replace, respectively, their wastewater treatment plants.

Gimli's award is worth \$18 million, said King. The federal and provincial governments, as well as the RM, will split the cost of the expansion, each paying \$6 million.

She also said the two agreements are necessary in order to take the process to the next step. The RM, however, is not committed to carrying out the project until an authorization

agreement is signed.

Council approved a payment for \$119,336.89 to the Receiver General for the first quarter municipal policing agreement.

Council approved the purchase of a 2008 Ford F150 truck from Gimli Auto Ltd. for \$7,500 plus applicable taxes.

Council approved progress payment No. 1 for \$43,706.25 to Western Recreation and Development Inc. for an outdoor swimming pool that will be built beside the Recreation Centre. All councillors voted in favour, even though some had voted against the proposal in the past.

"We have to pay even if we don't agree with it," said Lyprypa, prompting laughter from council.

"Good job, everyone," said Peiluck. "We'll make sure you're the first one in the pool."

Western Recreation will be furnishing council with a revised site plan.

"The drawings are being done," said Peiluck, "and they should be rolling out here in a few weeks."

He said the plan needs approval from Public Health.

Golf tournament in memory of Lundar man

By Kaitlin Vitt

A golf tournament in Lundar this September will raise money to support mental health initiatives.

The Ryan Sigfusson 3rd Annual Golf Tournament will be held at the Lundar Co-op Golf and Country Club at 10 a.m. on Sept. 17.

Tim Sigfusson, 31, started the tournament in memory of his brother, Ryan, who committed suicide at age 27 in 2014. Sigfusson said his brother suffered from depression.

Money raised from the tournament's

silent auction will go toward Bell Let's Talk. The program focuses on anti-stigma, care and research of mental health, according to its website.

Sigfusson now lives in Woodlands, but he and his brother grew up in Lundar.

Ryan's friends from Alberta, where he worked on power lines, come out to the tournament each year.

"A lot of guys I never even knew," Sigfusson said. "They come out to Manitoba just for the tournament."

The 18-hole tournament, a day be-

fore Ryan's birthday on Sept. 18, is Texas Scramble style, where golfers play the team's best ball each shot.

The cost is \$65 per golfer, which includes a cart, or \$55 per golfer with no cart. Registration fees cover the cost of dinner.

To register or donate to the silent auction, contact Sigfusson at 204-739-3673. The deadline for registration is Sept. 2.



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM SIGFUSSON

The Ryan Sigfusson 3rd Annual Golf Tournament will be held at the Lundar Co-op Golf and Country Club on Sept. 17.

PR 234 a “slap in the face” to taxpayers: Part 1

By Patricia Barrett

Provincial Road 234 is in dire need of repair and is jeopardizing the safety of those who have to use it, according to residents living in communities in the region.

The road hugs the west side of Lake Winnipeg between Riverton and Matheson Island and sees daily convoys of semitrailers hauling peat moss from the mines clustered throughout the peninsula north of Hecla Island.

It's the only road in and out for those living in Matheson Island at the tip of the peninsula near the narrows. Communities to the south, such as Pine Dock and Calder's Dock, as well as a 100-plus cottage development near Beaver Creek, also rely on the road to access groceries, gas, banks and medical services in Riverton.

A Matheson Island resident, who also has a home in Pine Dock, said that the province has neglected the road for the past 15 years and that he has made repeated requests to get it fixed.

“The road has been getting worse and worse ...,” said William Mowat, who used to own and operate the air service in Pine Dock and has 30 years of experience grading roads and runways. “And it doesn't really make any sense because the government opened up these peat moss plants here, and they're letting between 5,000 and 10,000 semitrailers come down a road that a car can hardly drive down, and they've made no provisions to repair it, fix it or do extra maintenance on it.”

Mowat said that there were “over 6,000 semitrailer truckloads of peat moss” that went down PR 234 last year and that the province has since allowed two more peat moss plants to open.

The road stretches about 109 kilometres between Matheson Island and Riverton. Mowat estimates about half of it (40 to 50 kilometres) needs to be “repaired.”

“I don't believe the whole thing has to be done,” he said. “... There are good areas on the road that they have fixed in the past with ... geotech blankets.”

Based on an estimate he obtained from a retired Highways superintendent, it would cost \$100,000 per kilometre (about \$5 million) to fix.

Although the province does undertake some “maintenance” work along the road (grading, filling in potholes), Mowat said it doesn't last long with the high volume of semitrailers.

“It's putting a Band-Aid on something. As soon as you get a little bit of truck traffic, the Band-Aid busts ...”



Matheson Island is a prime fishing spot.

he said. “They need to come out here and repair the road and then they can maintain it. They cannot maintain this road with the holes that are in it.”

The only way to repair it is to lay down a geotech blanket, said Mowat.

“They lay down a membrane of fabric, they put crushed rock on top and then put gravel on top of it. And they have done a couple of small sections, maybe 500 metres, here and there, on the road, and they've never had a problem with those sections again.”

Mowat said over the years he has contacted two former Interlake MLAs and MP James Bezan, among others, about the state of the road.

“I wrote at least 15 emails to our former MLA [Tom Nevakshonoff],” he said. “At one point in time, he forwarded my email to the deputy minister of Highways, Lance Vigfusson. He [Vigfusson] sent me back a letter and told me that perhaps people should drive slower on the road and it wouldn't seem so bad. That was the only response I got.”

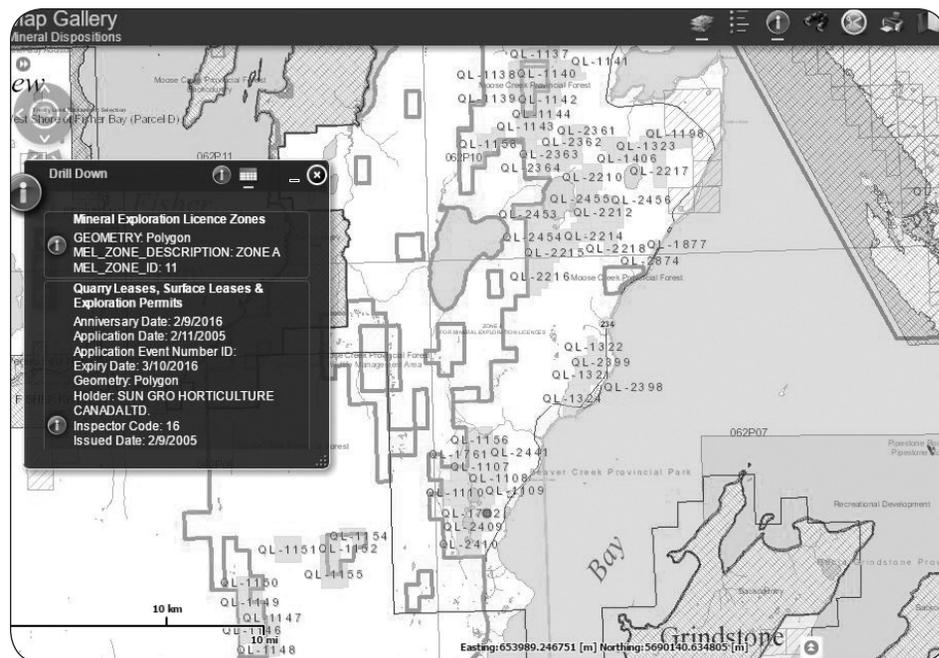
In May, Mowat said he contacted Interlake MLA Derek Johnson, who agreed “there has to be something done.”

Thus far, Mowat said he hasn't heard from anybody in Manitoba Infrastructure.

The peat moss mines' delivery vehicles are also being affected by road conditions.

Part of PR 234 lies in the RM Bifrost-Riverton (up to Sugar Creek near PR 325), and council raised the issue of road conditions with Derek Johnson at its regular meeting July 13.

Many of the RM's residents work in the peat moss mines near Beaver Creek and use the road to get to and from work.



MAP FROM MANITOBA MINERAL RESOURCES

This map shows the extent of expired or current mining operations in the area along PR 234.



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILLIAM MOWAT

PR 234 was built on boggy ground in the 1950s. Almost two decades of neglect and the constant pounding of semitrailers hauling peat moss from the area has degraded its condition.

Council has been in receipt of reports of semitrailers from the mines going into the ditch south of Beaver Creek.

“They couldn't get by it ...,” said Coun. Warren Ostertag. “And they were going to work one morning and the truck was in the bottom of the ditch and the trailer was across the road.”

Some councillors said they were told the road sees a high volume of peat moss truck traffic, somewhere in the range of 4,000 to 5,000 trucks a year.

Sunterra, one of the peat moss companies on the peninsula, declined two requests for an interview about road conditions and traffic volume.

When Coun. Colin Bjarnason asked “where the government is” with regard to fixing PR 234, Derek Johnson said it would be attending to spots affected by frost boils but wasn't sure where those spots were.

Reeve Harold Foster asked Johnson about the new government's long-term plan for the road.

“I know there's a short-term plan,” said the MLA. “And the long-term plan — they haven't gotten back to me on that one.”

Coun. Chad Johnson said he believes peat moss hauling will steadily increase on PR 234 because of the number of operations in the region.

Statistics compiled from four traffic count years (2008, 2010, 2012, 2015), which are available in the province's annual Traffic Report, don't seem to mesh with Mowat's and council's estimate of semitrailer volume. The provincial tally shows a combined average of 527 vehicles using PR 234 north and south of PR 325.

Mowat said he thinks he knows why those numbers are so low.

“They [the province] used to put a counter at 325 or just to the north of 325,” he said. “And after they opened these peat moss plants [around Beaver Creek], they kept moving them north of the peat moss plants, like they didn't want that count to go up. So if you ask somebody where are they putting these counters, you're going to notice that the counters went north on the road.”

And with the semitrailers pounding it to “nothing,” Mowat said personal safety is a major concern.

Read Part 2 of “Slap in the face” in an upcoming edition.

> ER, FROM PG. 3

doesn't sit well with some RHA staff. A paramedic in the RM Rockwood took to Facebook after learning of the scheduled closures from MGEU, the union representing paramedics and other health professionals who may go on strike.

"We have a region who is willing to close our hospitals and let EMS ... professionals go on strike rather than negotiate," wrote the paramedic. "I'm not usually one to be political but this is just downright offensive as a Canadian citizen that our health care in this region has been allowed to get to this."

It's unclear whether a possible strike by ambulance attendants could complicate the scheduled ER closure system.

"Both parties in this negotiation have agreed to get back to the negotiation table," said an Interlake-Eastern RHA spokesperson contacted after the conference call. "If they were to strike, essential service agreements are in place."

According to Van Denakker, nurses themselves raised concerns about scheduled closures.

They were "adamant" that they be permitted to assess patients who overlook or are unaware of a scheduled closure and show up at an ER, he

said. "There will be a sign that says something to the effect, 'No doctor. ... we're not accepting patients here; however, please do come in and speak with the staff,'" said Van Denakker.

The physician-led push to abolish nurse-managed care was not viewed favourably by many in the region. It was felt that doctors were short-changing the public by asking for their removal yet making no provision themselves to fill the breach.

The Interlake-Eastern RHA needs, at a minimum, 20 to 25 doctors in order to maintain ERs 24-7, said the CEO.

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Manitoba, which oversees standards of medical practice, indicated that it's up to the health authority to address physician shortages.

"The College would not comment on this issue. It is a Regional Health Authority issue," said a spokesperson by email.

The Interlake-Eastern RHA is funded by the provincial government.

Van Denakker said the Interlake-Eastern RHA (formerly two separate health regions until 2012) is underfunded in comparison to other RHAs. The provincial average is about \$6,000 per head, but the Interlake-Eastern RHA is "somewhere around \$2,000



Ambulance attendants and other health professionals voted for a strike mandate. Their union, the MGEU, is negotiating with the Interlake-Eastern RHA.

per head."

"The former North Eastman health and the former Interlake health region were very, very low-funded regions, and they were combined," he said, "so it's basically combining — I hate to say the term the poor sisters — but, quite frankly, that was the case."

A government spokesperson sent the *Express* information about the global funding model used to allocate

resources to RHAs but did not say whether the Interlake-Eastern RHA will receive additional funding to help attract and retain doctors in order to avert future service crises.

An email statement from Minister of Health Kelvin Goertzen said "reliable access to front-line services for all

Continued on page 14

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Gimli's new fire hall about to be unveiled

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli council and members of the Fire Department are throwing open the doors of the community's new fire hall on Saturday, Aug. 20.

The public is invited to attend the hall's grand opening from 1 to 4 p.m. Residents and visitors will have an

opportunity to tour the new building and ask questions about firefighting.

Refreshments will be served.

The fire hall is located at 66 2nd Ave. across from the RM's administration office. For more information, call the RM at 204-642-6650.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The public is invited to attend the grand opening of the Gimli Fire Department's new fire hall on Saturday, Aug. 20 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Playing in memory of King



EXPRESS PHOTO BY KAITLIN VITT

The Evan King Memorial Road Hockey Tournament was held last weekend in Gimli with 12 seniors teams and four junior teams taking part. The annual tournament is played in memory of King, who died at 20 years old in a single vehicle rollover in 2010. This year's event raised over \$6,000 that goes towards a scholarship in King's name awarded to a Gimli High School student.

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Shutting out the world: Artists' retreat in Ukrainian Park

By Patricia Barrett.

If there's one thing writers, poets, painters and other creative types desire above all else, it is prolonged periods of isolation in which they can hone their respective craft.

And there may be no better place to shut out the world than along the shores of Lake Winnipeg north of Gimli.

Ukrainian Park Camp plans to convert a former residence called the Summer House into an artists' retreat that can be rented out this autumn on a short- or long-term basis until the October long-weekend and again in June the following year.

"It's a perfect artists' getaway because of the time of year," said Gimli Mayor Randy Woroniuk, who acts as the camp's Hospodar, a position that entails just about everything from seeing to the needs of guests to handy-man construction.

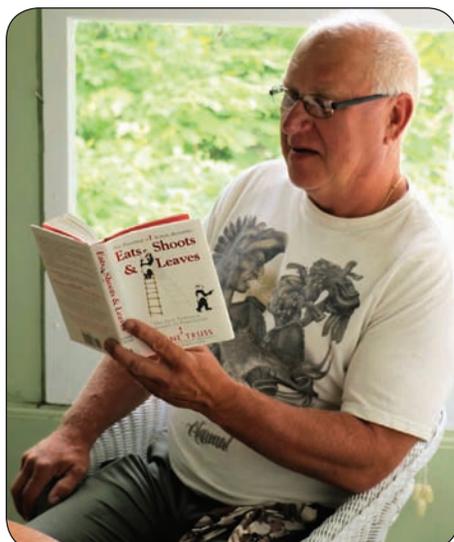
Owned and operated by the Ukrainian Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Manitoba, Ukrainian Park holds a children's camp every July, and during the September long weekend, it welcomes kings, queens and other Mediaeval-era characters who joust, practise their archery skills and make merry on the central green.

Engineering students from the University of Manitoba, Junior Rusalka Dancers from Winnipeg and families hosting reunions or other special events also rent the camp during the summer.

But in a few weeks, it will be virtually empty – except perhaps for the resident spectre.

The 'White Lady' has allegedly graced the camp with her presence on a few occasions, but the mayor has not seen her.

"I heard about her last year," said Woroniuk, who has been Hospodar for 18 years. "At night a white lady comes from the north end of the park and floats towards the House of Grace



Gimli Mayor Randy Woroniuk takes a break in the sun porch of the Summer House to brush up on his grammar skills. In September, the house will be made available to artists and others looking for peace and isolation

(a church that's used by the children's camp). No one knows who she is."

A few camp counsellors said they've seen her, but she hasn't approached anybody. And as far as the mayor knows, she has not made it as far as the Summer House, which lies at the south end of the park, about a 10-minute walk from the camp's dormitories, kitchen and dance hall.

The 79-year-old Summer House is nestled in a thick patch of woods a stone's throw from the lake.

"You'll hear the lake, the wind in the trees and at sunrise you'll hear the birds," said the mayor, who attended the camp when he was a boy and now lives close to the park. "I still don't know why birds are so happy at 4 a.m., but they sure start singing."

The Summer House was built in 1937 for Lt. Col. R. Hunter Young, the son of Manitoba's first psychiatrist Dr. David Young, founder of the Selkirk Mental Hospital. Lt. Col. Young called his property Moccasin Beach and started



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The Summer House in Ukrainian Park will become an artists' residence.

a fur farming business.

The house was built to withstand cold weather. Its stacked-log design, consisting of one-foot poplar logs caulked with mortar and lime, was modelled after Norwegian-built houses. The windows and doors were rescued from Winnipeg's renowned Ashdown House, which was once owned by hardware merchant J. H. Ashdown.

The Young family sold the property and the house to the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg in 1953 and it served as a private summer residence for bishops and archbishops. In 2004, it was refurbished and became an ecumenical retreat centre for use by the public.

The house is furnished and has a fully-equipped kitchen and bathroom. A sun porch attached to the side of the house seems quite conducive to either quiet contemplation or flurries of creativity.

Woroniuk said the house will see some upgrades to the plumbing before it is made available.

And one doesn't necessarily have to be a bonafide artist to rent it, said the mayor.

It can be had exclusively for a day, a weekend, a week or however long an

individual or group wants it.

Although there are a few bed and breakfast establishments in the Gimli area – the 2016 Interlake Visitor's Guide lists two – a lack of human contact may give the Summer House an edge.

It also lacks everyday distractions such as the Internet and television.

"It's an electronic-free zone," said Woroniuk.

Cell service may be somewhat iffy in the house, but guests can take the steep wooden staircase down to the beach where they'll be "bouncing off towers on the east side [of the lake]."

Guests will be asked to supply their own food and towels, but bed linen will be provided. The house does not have a washing machine, but if clean clothes are a prerequisite to creative activity, Gimli has a laundromat.

Woroniuk said he will be on hand if guests have any concerns or need to know how to access the plethora of services offered in Gimli and the surrounding area.

Ukrainian Park Camp is about 10 kilometres north of Gimli on PR 222, between roads 117 and 118 N.

For more information about availability, terms and prices, call Ken at (204) 416-0050.

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EXPRESS PHOTOS BY KAITLIN VITT

The Gimli Yacht Club hosted the Leukemia Cup Regatta on Aug. 13. The event raised more than \$10,000 to donate to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada.

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- Gidget is the name of the Taco Bell dog
- Obesity is the #1 health problem among dogs
- Dog's nose prints, as human's finger prints, can be used to accurately identify them
- Dogs judge objects first by their movement, then brightness, and lastly by shape
- The longer a dog's nose, the more effective its internal cooling system
- Many foot disorders in dogs are simply an issue of long toenails
- Dogs are naturally submissive to any creature with higher pack status – human or canine

CATS

- The technical term for a cat's hairball is a "bezoar."
- Female cats tend to be right pawed, while male cats are more often left pawed. While 90% of humans are right handed, the remaining 10% of lefties tend to be male.
- A cat's hearing is better than a dog's. A cat can hear high-frequency sounds up to two octaves higher than a human.
- A cat can travel at a top speed of ap-

proximately 31 mph over a short distance.

- Some cats have survived falls of over 65 feet, due largely to their "righting reflex." The eyes and balance organs in the inner ear tell it where it is in space so the cat can land on its feet. Even cats without a tail have this ability
- The biggest wildcat today is the Siberian Tiger. It can be more than 12 feet long and weigh up to 700 pounds.
- While many parts of Europe and North America consider the black cat a sign of bad luck, in Britain and Australia, black cats are considered lucky

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> ER, FROM PG. 9

Manitobans" is a priority and the government will continue to work with the Interlake-Eastern RHA.

"The health region has assured government that a plan is in place to provide safe, accessible care to people throughout the area and to make emergency department care more predictable," said Goertzen.

For his part, Van Denakker said he is working with the province to address physician shortages, which includes recruiting international medical graduates. But for long-term stability, he said the region needs homegrown

doctors who would be more likely to stay.

"We are the only region in this entire province that does not have a residency teaching program, which means it makes it very difficult to retain students," he said.

Van Denakker said he had met with municipal leaders in the region to advise them of the upcoming closures and to seek their assistance in communicating with residents.

Based on what Van Denakker told Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton councillors on Aug. 10, Arborg Mayor Randy Sigurdson said emergency room services will likely improve in the near

future.

"As soon as we get some more doctors — and there's going to be some more coming into the region next year — ... we'll have emergency rooms open all over the place," said Sigurdson. "We're in short supply right now and they're just trying to ... streamline it. They're not shutting down any emergency rooms as such."

A number of hospitals will see new physicians on board shortly.

Beausejour will get two and Pinawa is scheduled to get one from the U.K.

Arborg, Eriksdale and Gimli will be getting one each. The Amenity health-care group in Gimli may have another

doctor willing to take ER shifts.

The Interlake-Eastern RHA is in talks with the government to get access to a graduate from the Northern Rural Health program for Ashern.

Teulon and Stonewall were not discussed during the conference call.

"I want to be very clear ... that there's absolutely no intention to close hospitals," said Van Denakker.

"There's no intention to close beds. And there's absolutely no intention to close emergency rooms."

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Let's break it down. First there is the blower fan that circulates the air through the heating/air conditioning system. The fan can blow at different speeds, depending on how much hot or cold air you need to be comfortable. The blend box can either draw in fresh air from outside, or recirculate air from inside the cabin. Interlake drivers often choose to recirculate air when first starting the vehicle until it starts to either cool down or warm up.

The next thing the blend box does is direct airflow over the heater core to warm the air, or over the air conditioner evaporator core to chill it — or a blend of hot and cold to get it just right. From there the blend box can direct the air out into the passenger compartment through the floor vents, the panel vents, the defroster, or a combination. All of this allows Interlake drivers to customize the climate just the way you like it.

Some vehicles have different climate control zones, like one for the driver and one for the passenger — or even more zones for the back seat. Additional blend boxes are used for this. Climate controls could be manually adjusted or computer controlled depending on your vehicle.

The blower motor and all of the little actuator motors that open and close the various blend doors can fail and need to be replaced. Most new vehicles come with a cabin air filter. This filter cleans the air before it gets into the blend box. If you neglect changing the cabin air filter, it can get clogged, smelly, and even allow mildew and other microorganisms to build up in the blend box.

The pros at local Service Provider in the Interlake can perform a heating/air conditioning system cleaning service that will clean and disinfect the system, restoring a fresh clean scent. If you are not getting enough hot or cold air, your service center can inspect your system, diagnose the cause and set things right. And don't forget to replace your cabin air filter on schedule. If you drive in the dusty Interlake road conditions or where there is a lot of pollen or other pollutants, you may need to replace your cabin air filter more frequently.

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Proposed arts and well-being centre for Arborg sparks interest

By Patricia Barrett

An Arborg woman wants to establish an arts and well-being centre that would serve as a gathering place for creative endeavour, promote well-being and boost tourism.

Carissa Rempel, who was a delegate at the Town of Arborg's regular meeting on Aug. 10, provided an overview of the proposed centre she's tentatively named the Creative Cocoon and asked council to consider donating a piece of land along the Icelandic River for its establishment.

The centre would provide residents (of all ages), artists, organizations and schools with an opportunity to engage in personal and shared creative endeavours in one central location, open up exhibit space for artists throughout the province and promote health and well-being.

"When used as a supplement to medicine and care," said Rempel, citing her background in counselling and psychology, "the arts have been proven to improve the health of people experiencing mental or physical health problems."

Rempel, who is the director of the Bridge youth drop-in centre, said Arborg could benefit from having a centre dedicated to creative endeavours.

"Arborg is a beautiful community ...," said Rempel, "but one thing that has been missing is a place for creative outlets and therapies."

The town once had a thriving community theatre group, she said. And although dance is an important part of the community and private music lessons are offered, there is no dedicated spot where budding and accomplished artists can get together and share experiences.

The proposed centre could also help promote tourism.

Rempel said she envisions a centre of creative interactivity that will "help propel Arborg forward as a competitive and attractive destination ... to visit and [in which] to live."

She would, ideally, like to see the proposed centre situated on a pleasant stretch of green the town owns. It runs east-west along River Road near David Street. The area overlooks the Icelandic River and historic buildings at the Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village.

Rempel wondered whether two lots near the large sundial could be gifted to the centre on a 100-year lease.

Rempel, who possesses visual-arts skills as evidenced by the watercolour gracing the front of the project's proposal document, said her concept includes a large gallery space in which art can be displayed or in which po-



Carissa Rempel, director of the Bridge youth drop-in centre, wants to establish an arts and well-being centre in Arborg.

etry and book readings can take place, music and dance rooms where people can practise and take lessons, a yoga studio, quilting and sewing rooms, and a porch with a swing from which people can gaze out across the river.

She also sees the possibility of establishing spaces for an artist-in-residence and a fair trade tea shop.

Council expressed its enthusiasm for the idea.

"This would be fabulous for the town," said Mayor Randy Sigurdson.

Coun. Vivian Leduchowski commended Rempel for her idea.

"It's nice of you to have the foresight to bring this to our community," she said.

Although the project is in the initial stages, the mayor wondered how it



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

A piece of land near a pastoral park with a large sundial and views of the Heritage Village across the Icelandic River is being sought as the ideal location to establish an arts and well-being centre.

would be financially structured, citing council's need to carefully consider land donations if they are to be used for the purpose of operating a business.

Rempel said she's proposing the centre be structured as a non-profit organization whose intent is not to make money.

She also said she would like to apply for grants but would prefer to have a location firmed up before doing so.

"I wanted to see where the town is on that," said Rempel, "or if I have to buy land."

The mayor broached the idea of having the arts and well-being centre become part of the Town and RM Bifrost-Riverton's proposed new personal care home that they want to build on Ingolfs Street.

"Would that work for you?" he said. "There will be a lot of room."

"That's a great thought," said Rempel.

But she wondered whether the "industrial" look of the PCH would work from an aesthetic standpoint. The park area with its sundial, greenery and pleasant views across the river might be better suited to the intent of the centre.

Council advised Rempel it would need a bit of time to consider her request.

"We're happy you're such a visionary and have done the groundwork," said Sigurdson. "We just have to ask the tough questions. ... We need to absorb this and do a little research ourselves. But we're not trying to stop this."

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Gimli Handbell Ringers welcome new members

By Jennifer McFee

If the Gimli Handbell Ringers rings a bell for you, it's for good reason — the musical ensemble has been showcasing its bell-ringing expertise for about a decade.

And now the group is welcoming new members to join in on the fun, even if they can only make a part-time commitment.

Val Maier, director of the Gimli Handbell Ringers, said the group began in 2005 with help from Ron Vert of the Gimli Lutheran Church. In 2007, the members formed their own group called the Gimli Handbell Ringers in an effort to gain more members from the community.

Their efforts were a success, drawing ringers from the Gimli area and beyond, with some participants coming from as far as Selkirk and Winnipeg Beach. Youngsters from the local school also participate with the group.

"They're very talented young people who can learn handbells super fast," Maier said. "If we're short, we can just bring them on in."

The youngest ringer they ever had was three years old and the oldest ringer was 99, so there is no restriction on age. There are also no restrictions based on ability, since you don't need any musical knowledge or experience to participate.

"Knowing music is not the most importing factor. It speeds your initial learning, but all you have to do is be able to count and hang on to the bells and know when to come in," Maier said. "You watch your music and count as you're progressing along with each bar. So musical experience is a benefit but



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Gimli Handbell Ringers are welcoming new members of any age and any musical ability.

it's not a requirement."

The non-profit community group aims to provide a musical and social outlet for people of all ages who have an interest in playing handbells.

The ringers play as many bells as they're comfortable with, ranging from one up to four in each hand.

"An English handbell can ring only in one direction, so if I move it backwards and it's not turned to ring that way, it won't ring. If you ring it forward, you'll get the sound, but if you ring it sideways, you won't," Maier explained.

"So if you ring two bells (in each hand), you have to set it up so one rings forward and the other one

rings the other way. You turn it to make that work. If you really get into it, it's amazing what you can do with those bells."

The Gimli Handbell Ringers meets each Wednesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. upstairs at the Gimli Lutheran Church. They often perform at the church prior to services and they also perform at various concerts and fundraising events.

Maier welcomes anyone and everyone who would like to participate, even if they can only attend occasionally.

"A lot of people are concerned that they can't make the full commitment, but I feel that any time you can commit can be very beneficial to our group," she said.

"Even as a part-time member, you can come and be a sub. We would love to get some more people interested because it just helps us keep going."

For more information, drop by the Gimli Handbell Ringers' hotdog sale fundraiser, set for Saturday, Aug. 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside of Sobeys in Gimli (weather permitting). While you enjoy a hotdog and drink for \$3, you can also speak with members about the group. The fundraiser will help cover costs to maintain equipment and buy music.

In addition to fundraising, the group has received donations from individuals and local service clubs to buy expensive equipment such as bells, chimes and cases.

Maier is also pleased to provide information by phone or text at 204-642-7995 or by email at ktvp@mymts.net.

Quilters gather for annual Lakeside Quilters Show and Sale



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY KAITLIN VITT

Evelyn Smith's quilt features farming scenes. It tied for first place at the Lakeside Quilters Show and Sale voted by show attendees.

By Kaitlin Vitt

Quilters from across the Interlake and beyond gathered for the fifth annual Lakeside Quilters Show and Sale at the Gimli Recreation Centre Aug. 13 and 14.

This quilt show is different from other quilt shows since participants don't have to be part of a certain group, co-chair of the show Janice Skene said.

Show attendees voted for their favourite quilts. Evelyn Smith from Fisher Branch and Dianne Sandulak from outside Gimli tied for first place in the main competition.

Smith's quilt had octagons filled with farm scenes. Sandulak's had diagonals of patterns and neutral colours that blended into one another.

Some quilts, as Skene explained, tell stories, while others are more about the colours and design.

Skene won first place of the challenge quilts. For the challenge, people created quilts from repurposed and recycled materials. The event will donate these quilts to teenage boys at Nova House, a shelter for women and children in Selkirk.

"To make a quilt, it can cost a lot of money if you bought everything new, so we're

trying to encourage people to make them and use up stuff that they have around the house," Skene said.

It can cost up to \$800 to create a quilt if using all new material, she said. By using leftover material, Skene said it cost her less than \$10 to make her challenge quilt.

On her quilt, Skene put the seven sacred teachings — bravery, honesty, humility, love, respect, truth and wisdom.

She said she wanted to do this to connect with indigenous people who stay at Nova House.

It took Skene between 50 and 60 hours to complete this quilt, though some quilts can take up to 200 hours, like Smith's, she said.

Attendance was slightly higher than last year, Skene said, with about 500 people coming to the event.

There were 97 entries for the main show and eight for the challenge. Five of the 97 quilts will be part of the show and sale Crafted at the Winnipeg Art Gallery Oct. 28 and 29 before being donated to the Children's Hospital of Winnipeg.

The next Lakeside Quilters Show and Sale is scheduled for Aug. 12 and 13, 2017.

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Interlake makes history in basketball at Summer Games

By Brian Bowman

Team Interlake made history in basketball at the 2016 Power Smart Manitoba Summer Games last week.

For the first time ever, Interlake won a medal in basketball.

Interlake's great run in girls' basketball ended abruptly after a 60-39 loss to Team Winnipeg Gold in the 16U championship game but the local squad were still proud owners of some shiny new silver medals.

Winnipeg Gold was a very dominant team throughout the three-day tournament.

"They were undefeated and I don't think a team came within 20 points of them the entire tournament," said Interlake co-coach Sue Gilmour. "They have a lot of skill and a lot of experience."

Sarah Buchan and Callista Howard each led the Interlake with 10 points apiece.

Interlake had trouble shutting down Winnipeg Gold's talented Sonum Sidhu. Sidhu scored a game-high 17 points.

"We keyed in on her a little bit but she just found a way around us and didn't miss," Gilmour said. "Most of their shots went in — they shot very, very well."

Interlake reached the gold-medal game after upsetting Team Winnipeg Blue 55-48. That was a huge revenge win for the Interlake, which was defeated soundly by Winnipeg Blue the previous day.

"I was so proud of the girls," Gilmour said. "They played so well against Winnipeg (Blue). They finished well and played as a team. Everyone contributed and it was a really, really good team victory to get us into the final."

Interlake's Annika Loeppky did a great job shutting down Winnipeg Blue's Deborah Nkiasi. Nkiasi, who was averaging 18 points per game at the Summer Games, was held to just four points by the Interlake.

Gilmour said her girls really came together as a unit at the Summer Games.

"This has been an exceptional group of young women," Gilmour said proudly. "They bonded right off the hop and they have



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SUE GILMOUR

Team Interlake girls' basketball won silver at the 2016 Power Smart Manitoba Summer Games last week.

been so supportive of each other. The kids that maybe didn't get as much floor time never complained and they were encouraging and loud on the bench.

"Overall, I was extremely impressed with everyone on the team."

On the boys' 16U side, Interlake lost 73-49 to Team Norman on Aug. 9 to finish eighth overall.

Carl LeBlanc of St. Andrews led the Interlake with 14 points while Jacob McCutcheon of Grosse Isle added 10.

Team Winnipeg Gold took top spot after an 82-75 victory over Team Winnipeg Blue while Team Parkland won the bronze after beating Team Westman 52-47. In other basketball news, the Selkirk Royals will be hosting a Girls Basketball Camp 2016 at the Comp from Aug. 29 to Sept. 2.

The U18 girls will practise from 9 a.m. to noon each day, followed by the U14s from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost for the camp is \$100 and each player will receive a T-shirt if registered by this Friday.

Space is limited to 25 players per session. Anyone interested can contact Trish Hallson at thallson@lssd.ca or Sue Gilmour at sgilmour@lssd.ca.



Interlake loses fifth-place game in boys' baseball

By Brian Bowman

Team Interlake lost a heart-breaking 6-5 decision to Team Westman in the fifth-place game of the boys' 14-and-under baseball event at the 2016 Power Smart Manitoba Summer Games.

Westman scored twice in the bottom of the eighth inning for the wild comeback win. Westman's Jayce

Soder smacked the game-winning RBI while teammate Zach Maddes drove in the game-tying run in the seventh inning.

Interlake scored three runs in the fourth inning and then added single runs in the seventh and eighth.

Arborg's Austin Adair and Westman's Jake Pool

had home runs in the game.

Devon Cassan of Argyle took the loss on the mound.

Team Eastman won the gold medal after defeating Team Central 5-3. Team Winnipeg Gold earned the bronze medal after thrashing Team Winnipeg Blue 10-1.

Interlake wins silver in softball at Summer Games

By Brian Bowman

Team Interlake won a silver medal in girls' softball after losing 7-5 to Team Central in the championship game at the 2016 Power Smart Summer Games in Steinbach.

Interlake had the bases loaded with one out in the seventh inning but couldn't cash in a pair of runs to tie the score. In the sixth inning, Interlake had the tying run on second base and also failed to score.

"The girls put in a tremendous effort and the team really jelled over the week," said Interlake head coach Blaine Shewchuk. "It was quite exciting to be part of (and) while it's disappointing to lose in the final, as I mentioned to the girls, it will sink in (soon) and they'll appreciate what they accomplished."

Interlake advanced to the final after defeating Team Winnipeg Gold 5-2 in a 1-vs.-1 game Friday afternoon.

Interlake started play with a tight 3-2 win over Westman early last Thursday morning.

"That was a real critical game to win right off the hop," Shewchuk said. "It was a very close game and we won it in the bottom of the seventh."

Interlake then knocked off Team Norman 10-3 in six innings and edged Team Winnipeg Blue 3-1.

The Interlake roster included



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER
Interlake's Grace Goodman hit the ball in the seventh inning to help her team beat Westman 3-2 last Thursday.

Meghan Cabral, Alexandra Chester, Sarah Fines, Rikki Frost-Hunt, Grace Goodman, Miranda Holod, Jamie Johnson, Hanna Marshall, Loren Proven, Amber Schneider, Kyra Shewchuk and Ashton Wallack.

Courtney Kwasnitza and Taylor Studler were the team's other coach-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BRENDA SHEWCHUK
Back row: coach Blaine Shewchuk, Grace Goodman, Sarah Fines, Rikki Frost-Hunt, Alex Chester, Loren Proven, coach Taylor Studler, coach Courtney Kwasnitza; front row: Megan Cabral, Amber Schneider, Ashton Wallack, Kyra Shewchuk, Jamie Johnson, Miranda Holod and Hanna Marshall.

es.

Nine of the 12 girls on the Interlake Summer Games team are on the South Interlake Phillies' U16 squad that will be competing at the nationals in Montreal this week.

The Summer Games were a perfect setup for the Phillies before they com-

pete at nationals.

"The timing was really good," Shewchuk said. They're playing with confidence and really jelling as a group and building momentum. They're in a good state of mind going into nationals."

Interlake golden in 14U girls' volleyball

By Brian Bowman

Team Interlake was golden in 14U girls' volleyball at the 2016 Power Smart Manitoba Summer Games.

And they now have gold medals to prove it.

Interlake was sensational in volleyball on their way to winning gold after defeating Winnipeg Gold 2-1 by scores of 25-19, 19-25 and 15-6 on Saturday.

Interlake advanced to the gold-medal game after notching playoff wins over Westman (25-13, 28-26) and Winnipeg Blue (13-25, 25-22 and 15-10).

The comeback win over Winnipeg Blue was an exciting one.

Interlake started play last Thursday afternoon with a 2-0 sweep over Eastman, winning by scores of 25-18 and 25-22. Later that evening, Interlake was beaten 2-0 (19-25, 24-26) by Winnipeg Gold.

The U14 Interlake girls' roster included Taylor Barron, Emma Benson, Abigail Benson, Holly Feschuk, Jana

King, Quinn Moroz, Hannah Nick, Kendall Sorokowski, Sheriden Wagner, Peyton Wagner and Makenna Wryha.

Interlake coaches included Nicole Clemons, Aaron Cyr and Megan Cyr.

On the boys' side, Interlake placed sixth after losing 2-0 (6-25, 19-25) to Winnipeg Gold on Friday evening.

Team Interlake started the playoffs with a 2-0 (18-25, 23-25) loss to Winnipeg Blue but they rebounded with a solid 2-0 (25-18, 25-22) victory over Parkland.

In pool play, Interlake was 1-1 on Thursday after a loss to Winnipeg Gold and a victory over Norman.

The Interlake's 14U male roster included John Donald, Brandon Doucet, Spencer Grahame, Josh Jehle, Sean Mullin, Aidan Mulvihill, Nicholas Murray, Conner Nagy, Hunter Olson, Joseph Phillips and Samuel Warken-tin.

The coaches were Tristan Hodges and Michael Munday.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
Team Interlake captured the gold in 14U girls' volleyball at the 2016 Power Smart Manitoba Summer Games last Saturday.

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Interlake places fourth in medal standings at Summer Games

Staff

Interlake athletes had a multitude of outstanding performances at the 2016 Power Smart Summer Games in Steinbach from Aug. 7 to 13.

Local athletes brought home 71 medals — which included 24 gold, 20 silver and 27 bronze — to place

fourth out of eight regions.

Team Winnipeg Blue finished with the most medals at 104. That included 39 gold, 41 silver, and 24 bronze.

They were followed by Winnipeg Gold (34-32-29-95), Central (40-22-28-90), the Interlake, Eastman

(19-21-24-66), Westman (8-14-12-34), Parkland (3-11-9-23) and Norman (0-5-11).

Here are the Interlake medal winners from the 2016 Power Smart Summer Games.

Gold

Athletics 100m Midget Female
Alex Chester
Athletics 200m Midget Female
Alex Chester
Athletics 4x100m Midget Female
Interlake
Athletics High Jump Bantam Male
Brayden Wiebe
Athletics Long Jump Midget Male
Andrew Hopko
Athletics Javelin Midget Female
Grace Goodman
Athletics Shot Put Midget Male
Andrew Hopko
Athletics Discus Midget Male
Ben Kelly
Athletics Cross Country Team Bantam Female
Team Interlake
Athletics Tetrathlon Midget Male
Interlake
Athletics Team Shot Put Midget Female
Interlake
Athletics Team Triple Jump Midget Female
Interlake
Athletics Team Long Jump Midget Male
Interlake
Athletics Team Javelin Midget Female
Interlake
Athletics Team Discus Midget Male
Interlake
Golf Individual Competition
Special Olympics Open Female
Dominique Abraham
Sailing Laser Radial Female
Molly Ingenmey
Swimming 50m Freestyle Junior Female
Jillian Friesen
Swimming 50m Breaststroke Junior Female
Sofia Paunovic
Swimming 50m Backstroke Junior Female
Jillian Friesen
Swimming 100m Freestyle Junior Female
Jillian Friesen
Swimming 100m Backstroke Junior Female
Jillian Friesen
Swimming 100m Individual
Medley Junior Female
Jillian Friesen
Volleyball 14 & Under Female
Team Interlake

Silver

Athletics 100m Midget Male
Andrew Hopko
Athletics 4x200m Midget Coed
Interlake A
Athletics Distance Medley Bantam Female
Interlake
Athletics Distance Medley Midget Female
Interlake
Athletics Triple Jump Midget Male
Andrew Hopko
Athletics Javelin Midget Female
Asha Gurney
Athletics Shot Put Midget Female
Brenna Barylksi
Athletics Shot Put Midget Male
Ben Kelly
Athletics Cross Country Team Bantam Male
Team Interlake
Athletics Tetrathlon Midget Female
Interlake
Athletics Team High Jump Midget Female
Interlake
Athletics Team Shot Put Midget Male
Interlake
Athletics Team Long Jump Midget Female
Interlake
Athletics Team Javelin Midget Male
Interlake
Basketball 16U Female
Team Interlake
Sailing Optimist Male
Tomas Green
Sailing Windsurfing Mix
Alex Martin
Soccer U13 Female
Team Interlake
Softball U16 Female
Team Interlake
Triathlon Individual 12 & 13 years of age Female
Anja Krueger

Bronze

Athletics Medley Relay Bantam Female
Interlake
Athletics Medley Relay Midget Female
Interlake
Athletics Distance Medley Bantam Male
Interlake
Athletics 80M Hurdles Midget Female
Asha Gurney

Athletics High Jump Bantam Female
Rofiat Badmos
Athletics Javelin Midget Male
Ben Kelly
Athletics Shot Put Midget Female
Laine Vandersteen
Athletics Individual Cross Country Bantam Male
Tyson Barylksi
Athletics Individual Cross Country Midget Male
Jordan Simko
Athletics Cross Country Team Midget Male
Team Interlake
Athletics Team Shot Put Bantam Female
Interlake
Athletics Team Standing Long Jump Bantam Male
Interlake
Cycling Individual Cross Country U15 Female
Ella Russell
Cycling Individual Cross Country U15 Male
Grafton Hopkins
Cycling Individual Short Track U15 Female
Ella Russell
Cycling Individual Short Track U15 Male
Cody Brown
Golf Individual Competition Special Olympics
Open Female
Amanda Coutu
Golf Team Competition 17 & Under Female
Team Interlake
Swimming 50m Breaststroke Youth Female
Sapphire Johnson
Swimming 50m Butterfly Junior Female
Jillian Friesen
Swimming 50m Butterfly Youth Female
Jill Smuttell
Swimming 100m Freestyle Youth Female
Sapphire Johnson
Swimming 100m Breaststroke Youth Female
Sapphire Johnson
Swimming 100m Butterfly Junior Female
Anja Krueger
Swimming 100m Butterfly Youth Female
Jill Smuttell
Triathlon Individual 14 & 15 years of age Female
Megan Van Heyst
Triathlon Individual 16 & 17 years of age Female
Serena Derksen

Interlake wins bronze in girls' golf at Summer Games



By Brian Bowman

Team Interlake needed a strong Day 2 of the girls' 17-and-under golf event to win a medal at the 2016 Power Smart Manitoba Summer Games in Steinbach.

And that's exactly what they accomplished.

Interlake was very good on Aug. 9 as it combined for a second-best 163 to finish third overall at 333 after 36 holes of competition.

Only Team Westman (320) and Team

Winnipeg Gold (321) finished ahead of the Interlake.

The local team was led by St. Andrews' Reece Carter's sizzling 78. Her two-day total 165 placed her fourth. Matlock's Lexie Kopp placed sixth after carding rounds of 83 and 85 for a 168, followed by teammates Dayna Dubnicoff of West St. Paul (91-90-181) and Selkirk's Mikyla Albert (95-98-193).

East Selkirk's Lorrin-Jeanne Baker, meanwhile, competed for Team Parkland and shot 130 on Monday and 129 the following day for a 259.

Rebecca Kuik of Winnipeg Gold was the low women's golfer after firing impressive rounds of 73 and 76. That was five strokes better than Westman's Bobbi Uhl.

On the boys' side, Interlake finished fourth after combining for a 497 total. That was behind Team Winnipeg

Gold (452), Team Winnipeg Blue (487) and Team Central (491).

Selkirk's Brady Bandura was the low Interlake golfer in the 15-and-under male division after carding rounds of 72 and 82 for a 154 total. Bandura's Interlake teammates Adam Ingram of West St. Paul finished at 170, followed by West St. Paul's Brent Ingram (176) and East St. Paul's Noah Johnstone (180).

Josh Shuster won the gold after a 149 total, which was three strokes better than Nick Fernandes and Blake Jacques.

Meanwhile, St. Laurent's Dominique Abraham won the gold in the Special Olympics Open Female division for golf. She finished with a two-day total 142, which was ahead of Parkland's Tammy Lumax (145) and St. Laurent's Amanda Coutu (159).



Matlock's Lexie Kopp

Wirgau, Sinclair cowboy up in Europe playing hockey

By Brian Bowman

A pair of local hockey players spent some time recently sightseeing over in Europe.

And, of course, they played some hockey along the way.

Riley Wirgau of Narcisse and Bryden Sinclair of Peguis First Nation spent 10 days in Europe playing against international competition. Both athletes played last season for the Interlake Lightning Bantam team.

"The experience was awesome," said Wirgau, 15, Monday evening. "They have really good hockey players over there and it was a really good sightseeing trip, too."

Wirgau and Sinclair were playing on a Team Canada Cowboys hockey club based out of Calgary. The pair was selected to play for the team after competing at a Regina tournament this past season with the Lightning.

The Cowboys played one game in Sweden and eight more in Finland. The Canadian squad lost all nine of those games.

"Most of the teams were older than us," Sinclair, 15, noted. "And they were pretty good."

Despite struggling in the win column, Sinclair, a defenceman, enjoyed the unique trip of playing hockey in Europe. It's a tad different than here in Manitoba, he added.

Wirgau agreed it was a tough challenge competing against the older

players.

"We didn't do too (well in the win) department," admitted Wirgau, a 5-foot-8, 180-pound power forward. "But the majority of the games we played, (the other team) was older than us by one or two years."

"It was a good experience playing against them, though, because some of them had played together for eight years, so they really got to bond."

In comparison, the Cowboys had just 10 practices together in Alberta before the tournament. The Canadian team was made up of players scattered across western Canada.

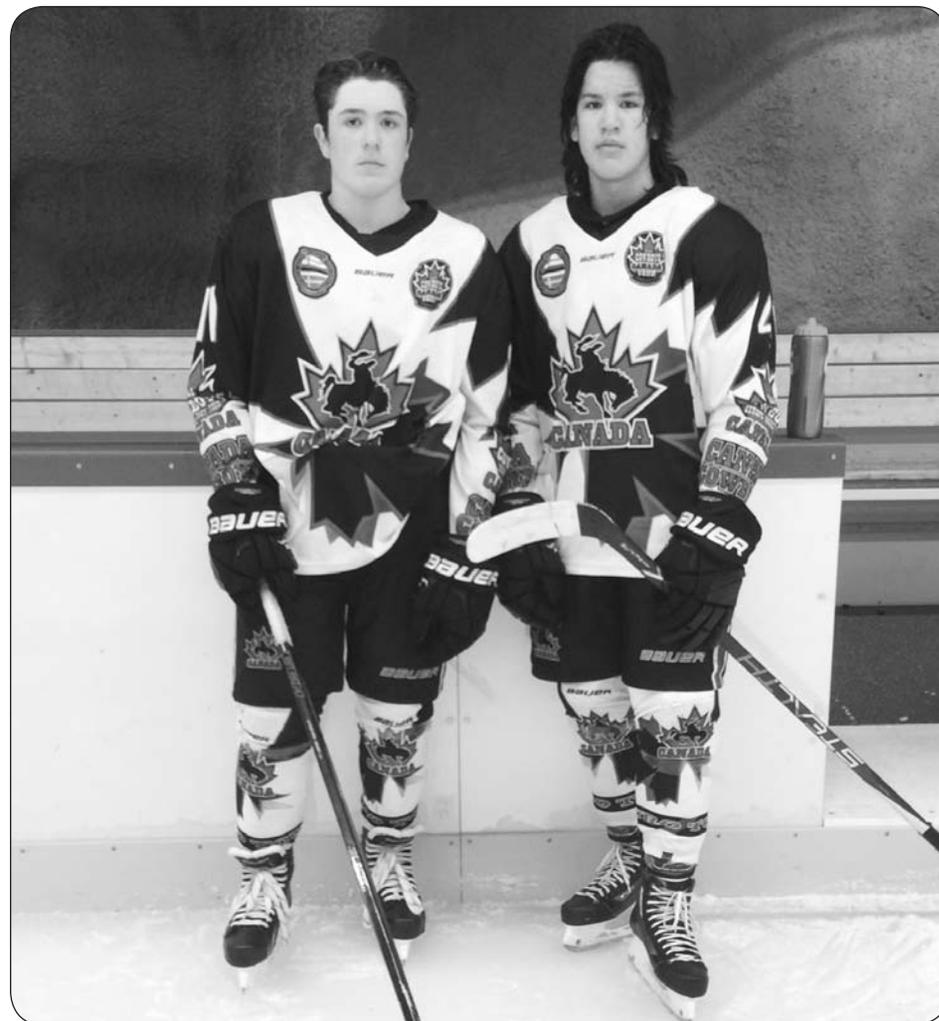
Wirgau admitted it was difficult getting used to being on the ice during the summer months.

"I wasn't on the ice for a month before that," he said. "At the beginning, we were all really out of shape because no one had really been on the ice. But after a while, we started to get the feel back for it."

The Cowboys did play against one Finnish team that was their same age and they faired pretty well, losing by just a goal.

Wirgau said he would love to go on a similar-type trip in the future and highly recommends it to other young hockey players from the Interlake.

"I would go again hands-down and I would definitely recommend it," he said. "It was a really good experience."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Local hockey players Riley Wirgau of Narcisse, left, and Bryden Sinclair of Peguis First Nation returned home last week after playing hockey in Europe.

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Manitoba wins bronze at 14U girls' western baseball championship

By Brian Bowman

Team Manitoba won a bronze medal at the Western Canadian 14U Girls' Baseball Championship in Dauphin last weekend.

Manitoba crushed B.C. 19-8 to place third on Sunday.

"On the Sunday, we really started to put things together," said Manitoba head coach Darrell Humeniuk on Tuesday morning. "We had some girls finally hit the ball. The first couple of days we struggled...and, unfortunately, it took us a couple of days to put it together."

Manitoba lost its first three games at the westerns, which relegated them to the bronze-medal game.

Manitoba's team included Stonewall's Anna Shewchuk, Sarah Dowsett, and Megan Humeniuk, Teulon's Jacey Ledochowski, and Arborg's

Brenna Barylski.

"Our (local) girls played really well all weekend," said Humeniuk, noting Interlake players were selected as game stars in three of their four games.

"I think in the final game, Brenna had two home runs and she played really well for us. Jacey, I think, had a grand slam in that final game for us, too."

The Manitoba team was also coached Teulon's Rod Ledochowski.

"As a coach you always have experiences that you never forget," said Humeniuk, noting that Manitoba scored the most runs of the four teams at westerns. "This season with Team Manitoba's 14U girls will rank up there as one of the best for me."

Humeniuk said the Manitoba girls improved tremendously over the

course of the summer. He noted that many of the Manitoba players have previously played softball.

The future of girls' baseball in Manitoba, though, appears to be very bright.

"From where we started with these girls back in the early spring at the camps in Portage, to the westerns in Dauphin this past weekend, this group was committed to learning, practicing and playing baseball," Humeniuk said, noting their game schedule consisted of tournaments and exhibition contests.

"We packed a lot of information into a very short time and then practiced for hours at a time and not once did I hear from any of the girls that they wanted to take a break."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
Arborg's Brenna Barylski returned home last weekend with a bronze medal from the Western Canadian 14U Girls' Baseball Championships.

Thunder howl past Coyotes in shutout win

By Brian Bowman

The game between the Interlake Thunder and Sunrise Coyotes was a tale of two very different halves.

In the first half, Interlake, at best, looked like an ordinary football team. But in the second half, the Thunder suddenly became a potent team that has the potential to be very dominant.

Interlake scored 35 unanswered points in the second half on their way to a 35-0 victory over Sunrise in Midget Football League of Manitoba action last Saturday at the Selkirk Rec Complex.

"It was a great win," said Thunder head coach Kris Johnston. "And this team needed to get over the hump a little bit. It was our second game of the season and you have a new mix of guys with veterans and young guys. Until they do it, they don't know what they are capable of doing."

After struggling in the first half, the Thunder really played well after the break.

"There was an explosion of confidence and everything just came together," Johnston said.

Alex France got the party started with an impressive 68-yard punt return for a touchdown just four minutes into the second half. That play appeared to give the Thunder a huge lift - and a much-needed spark - to its offence.

Thomas Dunlop had a great game at quarterback, rushing nine times for 89 yards and three touchdowns. He was also effective in the air, finishing 6-for-11 for 115 yards.

Interlake did a good job running the ball. Colton Nedotiafko finished the game with 56 yards on nine carries and a touchdown.

On defence, the Thunder played really well as a unit and had some great individual performances. Cordell Holder had eight tackles and two sacks while putting consistent pressure on the Sunrise quarterback.

Tanner McCallen, meanwhile, snagged his second interception in as many weeks.

With the win, Interlake is now 1-1 and will host the Southwest Wolves (0-1) this Saturday (4 p.m.) in Stonewall.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY KIM DELAROUQUE
Interlake Thunder's Colton Meisner (11) of Moosehorn and Tristan Kisilowsky (32) of Stonewall take down a Coyote player during Saturday's win.

"This is a huge opportunity for us to go 2-1, provided we play the game that we're capable of playing," Johnston said. "We don't want to count our

chickens before they hatch, obviously, but we're going to work our tails off all week."

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Note: This is only a partial list. Check out the website for full listing!

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invites applications for the following part-time contract position:

Families and Youth Regional Support Team (FYRST) Coordinator

Effective: ASAP

The FYRST program is a collaborative, communication and safety initiative of the key agencies that are involved with at risk youth and families in the North East Interlake. The program's main objectives are to identify, plan for, intervene and assist these youth in becoming productive members of our community.

Working under the direction of the FYRST steering committee, and located in the Gimli R.C.M.P. detachment, the coordinator will collaborate with agency partners as a case manager/advocate for the youth clients and their families.

Skills and Qualifications:

- 2 years minimum Social Services experience
- Post-secondary training in social service delivery such as applied counseling certificate and/or an equivalent combination of training and experience
- Experience in interviewing, coordinating, and planning for youth clients and interagency groups
- A clear Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check; Child Abuse Registry Check; and Adult Abuse Registry Check

For more information about the position and how to apply, see www.esd.ca under Employment, Support Staff Postings.

CLOSING DATE: August 23, 2016 (3:30 p.m.)

We wish to thank all applicants for their interest, however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

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OBITUARY

Lil Hubar (Mollard)
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Peacefully on Sunday, August 7, Mom lost her courageous battle with cancer.

She leaves in mourning her children Lynn (Russ) Linklater, Gary (Karen), John (Barb), Jason (Adrienne) Hubar; her grandchildren Tom (Amanda), Jamie (Luisa) Linklater, Tammy (Dennis) Rakar, Matthew and Holly Hubar; her great-grandchildren Brandon, Samantha, Frankie, Jeremy, Marianna Linklater and Emily Rakar. She was predeceased by husband Steve and sons Tom and Randy.

Mom was the bionic woman, she never complained, she never wanted anyone to worry about her. She never wanted to bother anyone. She could make a full course meal out of an empty fridge. She loved her family dearly. You would say to her, Mom do you want anything and she would say no. We knew she was hurting in the end but when asked she would say no because she didn't want us upset.

We have great memories of her and Dad. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren had many great times with her at the farm. Memories, that is all we have now.

Respecting Mom's wishes, immediate cremation has taken place with no funeral service.

The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff at Percy E Moore Hospital that cared for Mom during her stay.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mom's memory to a charity of your choice.

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