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# EBN on a fundraising drive for Christmas hampers and new toys

By Patricia Barrett

Although inflation has inched down somewhat from its post-pandemic high, Manitobans are still finding life unaffordable in a number of areas including housing costs and continuing high prices at the grocery store.

Evergreen Basic Needs in Gimli is once again rising to the food-security challenge by launching its annual Christmas food hamper and new toy drive.

The need for a Christmas hamper has increased this year by about 10 per cent, said EBN executive director Karen Bowman.

"We expect to make 230 hampers this year. We had 212 last year. There has been a 10 per cent increase in demand," she said. "And we analyzed the cost of the food we put in the hampers — we purchase everything that goes into them — and it's down only .05 per cent, so it really hasn't changed at all. It's just under \$200 per hamper for all the food items."

With an expected demand for 230 hampers this year, EBN is looking to raise around \$46,000.

EBN serves low-income individuals and families in the RM of Gimli, Town of Winnipeg Beach, the Village of Dunnottar and parts of the RM of Armstrong in the Fraserwood area.

Bowman said there are many rea-



EBN prepared 212 Christmas food hampers last year. This year the food bank is expecting that to rise to 230 hampers.

sons people turn to food banks for help. But the rising cost of housing, food, gasoline and other products has resulted in an unprecedented demand across the country for food assistance.

"In the larger cities, food bank need is more apparent to the public, but here in our catchment area, we have seen an increase again over last year — and last year was a record-breaking year. The numbers [of people needing help] are still going up, but not as quickly," said Bowman. "We're finding that many of our clients who were coming to us five or 10 years ago are coming back. That was a trend



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN BOWMAN

EBN received hundreds of new, unwrapped toys from generous donors last year to help the children of families struggling to make ends meet. The food bank is welcoming new toy donations again this year as the number of people in the community needing help at Christmas has increased with continuing inflationary pressures.

that started last year. We also have a lot of newcomers to our community. They don't have a lot so they have to rely on us. We're seeing an increase in that population using our services."

In addition to monetary donations, people are welcome to donate a non-perishable food item that the food bank can use for regular hamper requests in first quarter of the new year

when donations typically drop off.

"If people do donate non-perishable food items, what that does is stock our shelves for January. Traditionally, food donations, or any kind of donation, drop off in January," said Bowman. "This will help us make it through the January-to-March period,

Continued on page 7



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# Santa Claus parades happening in the Interlake this season

By Becca Myskiw

Santa Claus is coming to town — quite a few of them, to be exact.

Santa's first stop in the area is Ashern on Friday, Nov. 29. Leading up to his arrival, Railway Park will host free family-friendly activities, including making birdseed ornaments for a tree in the park, snowshoeing and more. There will be hot dogs and hot chocolate from 5 to 6:30 p.m., and from 5 to 6:15 p.m. families can take pictures with Santa with their own camera. Children are also encouraged to bring their letters to Santa to the event.

The parade will kick off at 6:30 p.m. and will roll down the road, followed by others decked out in Christmas cheer, with Santa bringing up the rear. After the parade, the town will light the tree.

On Friday, Dec. 6, Santa will visit Fisher Branch for their Santa Claus Parade. Starting at 6:30 p.m., vehicles decorated with lights and music will make their way down Tache Street, beginning at the Fisher Branch Community Centre, passing the hotel, various businesses, the health centre and stopping at the World's Largest Wagon Wheel.

The Fisher Branch Santa Claus Parade typically sees tens of floats going down the mile-and-a-half route and lasts an hour. Candy will be given away at the parade, and after it ends, there will be fireworks at the wheel starting at 8 p.m.

If people still want to submit a float for the Fisher Branch parade, they can do so until it starts.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, Santa will be in Gimli — first for a pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Gimli Rec Centre, followed by a Christmas market,

kids' cookie decorating, a free public skate and then the parade, which is set to start at 6 p.m.

The parade will begin on Centre Street at the corner of 6th Avenue. It will then go down, turning onto 1st Avenue and following the road around until it ends at the library.

For those still wanting to enter a float to the Gimli Christmas Parade, they can do so until Friday, Dec. 6.

Also included in the festivities on Friday:

- 3 to 10 p.m.: Moonlight Madness throughout Gimli
- 4 to 9 p.m.: Christmas market at the New Iceland Heritage Museum
- 4 to 8 p.m.: Pictures with Santa at the Lakeview Gimli Resort
- 6:15 p.m. Performance by Adam T. Elvis
- 6:30 p.m. Christmas tree lighting
- 6:45 p.m. Christmas carolling by the Dr. George Johnson School Choir
- 7 p.m. Romanna Klymkiw Music Studio performance

Santa will then be in Lundar on Saturday, Dec. 14 for the rural municipality (RM) of Coldwell's Santa Claus Parade. Starting at 6:30 p.m. on the east end of Main Street, vehicles of all kinds will drive down the road to the arena, where the parade will end. This is the third year the RM has opened up the parade to anyone who wants to submit a float, and recreation co-ordinator Breanna Malcolm said it's been growing each year. They hope this year's parade will have more floats than last year's.

People can show up with a float —



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO

Santa Claus parades are happening all over the Interlake this season.

as long as it's appropriate and family-friendly — on the day of the parade, with no pre-registering necessary. Along with people giving out candy at the parade, there will also be elves collecting non-perishable food items, new, unwrapped toy donations, or monetary donations for the local food bank.

15 minutes. Christmas music will play throughout its duration, hot chocolate and popcorn will be available for attendees, and bonfires will be lit for warmth.

"It really kicks off the holiday season and spreads Christmas cheer," said Malcolm. "It makes it feel really festive in town."

The Lundar parade will last around

**Arborg & District Christmas Cheer Board**

Once again, the Arborg & District Christmas Cheer Board is preparing Christmas hampers. To request a Christmas hamper, please contact Courtney at 204-671-0354. The deadline for requests is Monday, December 16th and the Christmas hampers will be available for pick up or delivery on Monday, December 23rd.

Monetary donations can be sent by e-transfer to ADcheerboard@gmail.com, mailed to Box 185 Arborg MB R0C 0A0, or may be deposited at the Arborg branches of Access Credit Union or CIBC. Non-perishable food items and new toys can be dropped off at participating local businesses.

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# Interlake-Gimli MLA sees little progress in health in NDP throne speech

By Patricia Barrett

Premier Wab Kinew delivered his second throne speech last week, outlining his government's priorities to take Manitoba forward after over a year of the NDP forming a majority government.

The theme is hope for the future, with Manitobans working together and a government improving their lives.

"The challenges we face today in our province are not unique: a health-care system in need of repair, family budgets under stress, the humanitarian crisis of addiction and homelessness that weighs on all our hearts," states the Nov. 19 throne speech. "Yet how we respond to these challenges is what sets us apart. Our great nation has never been perfect. But here in Manitoba, we are giving people reasons to hope with a plan that makes your life better."

The throne speech outlines steps the government has already taken and what it promises to do in a number of areas including health care, with the hiring and retention of more doctors, the environment, with a promise to make big polluters pay, the economy, with a promise to get Manitobans into the workforce, and immigration,

with a plan to bring in a "record-number" of new immigrants to Manitoba through the provincial nominee program and extend work permits. Other priorities include housing, education, agriculture, freedom of the press and the protection of democracy.

In a news release, premier Wab Kinew said the government is "making progress" in a number of areas and "won't stop working to make life better for all Manitobans."

The government is hiring a "record number" of doctors and retaining them at a "higher rate" than in years past, listening to nurses and implementing solutions to provide them with work-life balance, increasing wages for health-care support workers and bringing in foreign-trained medical graduates.

"To the young people thinking about a career in health care: come and be a part of this positive change. Here in Manitoba, you will find a government that listens to you and a job offer the day you graduate. We will continue to staff up our health-care system after years of cuts," states the throne speech.

Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson said he doesn't see a lot of evidence of the NDP having made progress in

health care.

"If progress is having our ERs in rural Manitoba closed, they've made progress. They haven't made any improvements so I don't know what their definition of progress is," said Johnson. "We've [former Conservative government] put more doctors in school and it takes a long time for them to graduate. As well, we doubled nursing seats and we're having more graduates. That's coming to fruition now, but rural Manitoba is still struggling to keep its ERs open, and open ERs is something [Interlakers] want and deserve."

In the western half of the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority, Teulon and Arborg have had their ERs permanently closed. Eriksdale's ER is open only six days a month, and other hospital ERs in communities such as Ashern, Gimli, Stonewall experience regular disruptions to service because of inadequate staffing levels. The three hospital ERs in the eastern half of the health region are also struggling to provide service.

The NDP promised to build a new ER in Eriksdale, but Johnson said a new building won't solve a staffing deficit.

"The reason why Eriksdale is not open [most of the time] is because of staffing issues. But during the election, people believed they would get a new ER," he said. "If you don't solve the problem of not having staff there, it will be a new ER that will be closed. This is a human resource issues that needs addressing."

The government says it's retaining doctors at a higher rate, but Johnson said he's not sure of that as Manitoba is not a welcoming place for new graduates. Doctors will determine



**FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT**  
Conservative MLA Derek Johnson (Interlake-Gimli) said he sees little progress by the NDP to address ER closures in the Interlake.

what province is most advantageous to their bottom line. With the NDP having made income tax changes, doctors in the \$200,000 income bracket and above may think twice about working in the province.

"The NDP are making it easier for doctors to decide not to come to Manitoba because they'll pay more taxes," said Johnson.

The NDP says in the throne speech that there's reason to hope regarding the economy as families are "starting to feel relief because of the action we've taken to lower costs and create more good jobs."

Some of those relief measures included a temporary 14-cents-a-litre reduction on gasoline. And the government promises to introduce a one-

Continued on page 5

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## > THRONE SPEECH, FROM PG. 4

year freeze on Hydro rates starting in 2025, as well as a plan to “stop anti-competitive contracts that make groceries more expensive.”

The government says it’s growing the economy through areas such as job creation, mineral exports and new infrastructure projects, and plans to expand the forestry sector. It wants Manitobans who aren’t working to “join the workforce.” The premier’s Business and Jobs Council will release a “new economic development strategy outlining the next phase of economic growth in Manitoba with a new focus on productivity.”

Johnson said he’s all for the NDP’s gas-tax reduction and would even like to see it become permanent, but that has to be in conjunction with a balanced budget.

“The PC party is the party of less tax and more bang for the buck, so I would say that if you can balance the budget and make this tax reduction permanent, that would be ideal,” he said. “But it has to be in conjunction with balancing the budget.”

Currently, the province is running deficit, he said. And Manitobans will be in for sticker shock when the temporary gas-tax holiday ends and the province’s low inflation rate will “shoot up substantially” in January.

“I believe that reducing income tax to put money in people’s pockets and letting them decide how they want to spend it is a better way to make life better for Manitobans. It’s far more important to increase the basic personal exemption for people who are struggling; that’s what we did when we were in government,” said Johnson. “Someone who’s struggling to pay their bills and put food on the table probably won’t go driving around every day so they’re not really benefiting from the gas tax holiday.”

The dream of buying a home in Manitoba is out of reach for many workers. Renters, too, have not escaped housing profiteers as they’re seeing yearly rent increases, some so excessive that they’ve been driven out of their units. Making housing unaffordable has also exacerbated homelessness.

But the NDP says home ownership in Manitoba is within reach, and that

they’ll make “life more affordable for renters by strengthening protections with new laws.” The throne speech has no details of how that will happen. They’ll also tackle homelessness.

“There should be no chronic homelessness in a rich country like Canada. We’re moving forward quickly by bringing organizations, governments and Indigenous nations together to move people from tents to housing with our new plan to end chronic homelessness over the next seven years,” states the throne speech.

The NDP also promises to introduce a tax credit for rental housing builders.

Johnson said it remains to be seen whether a tax credit will spur on construction, and the NDP could reduce red tape that hinders construction from moving forward.

In October the NDP announced they were putting a “pause” on moving forward with the proposed Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin outlet channels that will help mitigate catastrophic flooding from water the government sends through the Portage Diversion into Lake Manitoba. In the throne speech, the government said it’s “moving forward with the channels project in the Interlake.”

“I think the NDP heard loud and clear from people around Lake Manitoba. There were so many people who were beyond angry when the NDP said they wanted to pause it. My phone was ringing off the hook from people who were upset with the government,” said Johnson. “I’m not surprised at all they’ve decided to move forward with it because it’s too important for Manitoba. And our party carried out robust consultations on the channels with First Nations. Kinew’s government said there were no consultations because I think they wanted to put a pause on it then come back as the heroes of the project.”

The NDP promises to protect the environment through a number of initiatives, including making polluters pay and establishing a new stakeholder group to address pollution in Lake Winnipeg.

“The health of Lake Winnipeg matters to all of us. In the spirit of One Manitoba, we will establish a Lake Winnipeg stakeholder working group

with producers, environmental experts, Indigenous nations and industry representatives to ensure the sustainability of our lake,” states the throne speech.

There have been numerous stakeholder groups over the past decades addressing pollution in Lake Winnipeg from sources such as wastewater, raw sewage and agricultural nutrients. Johnson questions why there’s a need for a new group.

“Will they now disregard all the hard work that previous stakeholder groups and people like Robert T. [Kristjanson, a commercial fisher] have done and start from scratch again?” said Johnson. “Maybe this is a delay tactic where they’re distracting and redirecting attention.”

In terms of making polluters pay, Johnson said “we’ve heard this before from the NDP” and they did nothing. The Conservatives, on the other hand, worked hard to get the federal government to share the cost of upgrading the city’s North End Water Pollution Control Centre — which is a point source for phosphorus — and provided funding to the city, which was reluctant at the time to raise taxes.

“I also don’t know what [make polluters pay] is directed towards, whether it’s the City of Winnipeg and its combined sewers or carbon release,” he said. “They’re so evasive in their throne speech that you can’t really pin them down on anything.”

As far as the NDP’s agricultural initiatives, Johnson said there’s really nothing new. The Crown land rent freeze was his own initiative when he served as Manitoba’s agriculture minister, and the NDP are simply “continuing on” with it.

What the NDP could be doing is fulfilling a promise to provide life leases on Crown land and look at ways to compensate livestock farmers who lose animals to predator kills, he said. The provincial-federal compensation program requires a carcass before farmers can claim a loss, but wolves will often eat the entire carcass or cart it off somewhere else.

“We need to make it easier but not make it easy to be fraudulent,” said Johnson. “If I ever served as ag minister again, I would rally other ministers across the country to pressure the

federal minister to expand agriculture insurance.”

Manitoba already faces challenges on the economic, health care and housing front, and a new set of challenges could arise when president-elect Donald Trump takes office in January and institutes a new set of policies to protect the American economy.

Johnson said Trump’s made-in-America agenda could affect Manitoba in areas such as agriculture and trade.

“One of the things we’ll have to watch for is country-of-origin labelling,” he said. “The meat products on the shelf in the U.S.A. have to be 100 per cent born, raised, harvested and packaged in the U.S.A. in order to have a U.S.A. label. Manitoba beef and pork is born, partially raised here then shipped down to the U.S.A. for finishing and processing. Those products will not be eligible for a U.S.A. label on it in the stores there. So, if you have identically priced meat products from comparable countries of origin, consumers will likely pick a U.S.A. product over Canada, the same way Canadian shoppers would likely choose a meat product with a Canadian label. Country-of-origin of

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# letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor: [news@expressweeklynews.ca](mailto:news@expressweeklynews.ca)

Now more than ever  
before, your voice  
matters.

On deliberations related to road, drinking water and sewer infrastructure investment, resource allocation for public schools and the programs they offer, and other matters within the governance and decision-making authorities of our local municipal councils and school boards — your voice matters.

For all school boards and municipal councils in Manitoba, October 2024 marked the “halfway point” of their current terms, and therefore, the time has come to start thinking about the next election in October 2026. It might seem early for the electorate at large, but for incumbents and prospective candidates alike, the wheels should already be turning on the topic of seeking or making nominations. Many locally elected politicians who serve as mayor, reeve, councillor or trustee will tell you that their decision to run the first time was one that took months or even years to make — which brings me to the crux of my message.

The first quarter of this 21st century has been tumultuous and challenging, with many democratic institutions stretched to their limits, not only on the global stage but internationally in the North American context and certainly in the national, provincial and local arenas across Canada as well. General discontent and distrust among citizens have, in most cases, including right here in Manitoba, led to poor voter turnout for all levels of government.

As a point of reference, according to Elections Manitoba, the average voter turnout for Manitoba’s provincial elections since 2000 has been about 55 per cent, while the most recent municipal election for the City of Winnipeg yielded a turnout of only 37.5 per cent — the lowest turnout in the last 25 years. While statistics for individual municipalities and school boards in Manitoba are difficult to come by, it is a reasonable assertion that voter turnout for councils and school boards has followed the same alarming trends.

So while discontent and distrust are contributing factors to our collective sluggish attendance at the polls, a lack of candidates and, therefore, a lack of choice undoubtedly make the problem worse. Frustratingly, we can all think of examples of elections where the slate of candidates prompts us to stay away from the voting booth or, in the case of acclamations, has us saying, “You’d think with all of these issues, more people would put their name forward to make things better.”

That’s why I’m writing this. Because you likely either know someone or you are someone who can get in there and make a positive impact.

Public education is funded directly or indirectly by all those who pay taxes because it forms the foundation of our society’s future: the workforce, parents and leaders. Public education is of interest to everyone. With this in mind and contrary to popular misconception, you don’t need to be a current parent to be a school board trustee. Indeed, the argument could be made that diverse perspectives, including those without children in the public school system, make for highly representative school boards.

The same logic applies for candidacy for election to your local municipal

council. You don’t have to be a land developer, business owner or direct user of public transit, for example, to make a valuable and informed contribution to your local municipal council. While perspectives informed by those backgrounds are important, the same diversity of experience and expertise around the council table is as vital as it is at the school board table.

As a closing thought, I offer an acknowledgment of the obvious and a call to push back at it; few people think they have either the time or the patience for the thankless job of locally elected public life. If we think low voter turnout is a problem, by comparison, low candidate turnout is a crisis. All communities across Manitoba, whether urban or rural, now require stronger and more progressive voices to inform the local governance decisions that impact their citizens most.

Let’s be honest: if you’ve continued reading to this point, your level of interest in the topic almost guarantees that, at a minimum, you know someone who should consider running in 2026. Or, you should consider seeking a nomination. Start having these conversations within your own network of friends and colleagues. If you’d like more information on what elected office entails, don’t hesitate to contact your local school board, municipal council, the Manitoba School Boards Association or the Association of Manitoba Municipalities.

“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

- The late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

- Sincerely, Alan Campbell  
Stonewall

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# getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > GIMLI > ARBORG > HIGHWAY 6 > SURROUNDING AREAS

## > EBN, FROM PG. 2

which is traditionally a leaner time for donations."

EBN is also in need of new, unwrapped toys that people can drop off at several locations around Gimli and one in Winnipeg Beach. EBN organizes a free toy-shopping day for its food bank clients a few weeks before Christmas.

"Toy shopping day is when all the new, unwrapped toys people have donated to us get put on to tables and our clients get to come in and choose a toy for their children. This gives the clients more personal control and a more normalized experience when they can pick out gifts for their children. It's one of our favourite days," said Bowman.

People needing a Christmas hamper should call EBN by Dec. 4 so that the food bank can order the correct amount of food, said Bowman. However, calls after Dec. 4 can likely be accommodated.

EBN will deliver Christmas hampers to clients on Tuesday, Dec. 10 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Clients can pick up Christmas hampers on Thursday, Dec. 12 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. And the free toy shopping day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Other community members are stepping up to help EBN reach its target for toys.

Friends/family of Janice Smith are holding a toy drive for EBN until Nov. 30, with drop-off locations at the Gimli Legion, Access Credit Union, and 4L Communications. Adam. T. Elvis is organizing his annual Rockin' Elvis Christmas Toy Drive at EBN on Sunday, Dec. 1 from 1 to 2 p.m. Admission is a new, unwrapped toy. And the Gimli Red Apple store is holding a

Fill the Sleigh Day on Dec. 7.

Those are some of the fundraisers Bowman knows about.

"What we find every year is that people hold fundraisers for us and don't tell us until they show up at our door with buckets of food or boxes of toys, which is wonderful and absolutely awesome," she said.

Bowman said if the Canada Post strike carries on at length, EBN's monetary fundraising efforts could be impacted.

"Our biggest problem this year is the postal strike because this is our critical fundraising period to cover the cost of our Christmas hampers. It will have a huge impact on us if it lasts too long. A lot of our donations come in through cheque in the mail," she said.

But people can donate using other methods, Bowman said. There is a link on EBN's website to Canada Helps.org. Or people can call her directly at EBN at 204-642-9736 to make a monetary donation by credit card or they can drop off a cheque to her at the store. Tax receipts can be issued.

People can drop off a new, unwrapped toy at the following locations in Gimli: Evergreen Basic Needs, Pharmasave, CIBC, Access Credit Union, Real Changes Fitness, Sugar Me Cookie Bakery, the Evergreen School Division office, Home Hardware, Red Apple, Faroex, Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School, Dr. George Johnson Middle School and Gimli High School. Home Hardware is Winnipeg Beach also has a toy donation box. The boxes will be picked up on Dec. 12.

EBN is located at 71 Fourth Ave. in Gimli. Visit EBN's website at [www.evergreenbasicneeds.com](http://www.evergreenbasicneeds.com)

## > NDP THRONE SPEECH, FROM PG. 4

labelling could be a problem for our agricultural producers."

About eight per cent of Manitoba's GDP is agriculture, he added. Pork accounts for about two per cent of the provincial GDP, and 85 per cent of pork is exported outside the province. A "huge" proportion of Manitoba piglets are sent to the U.S.

If Trump also puts a tariff on all goods coming into America, Johnson said consumers on both sides of the border could suffer from inflation.

Some Manitoba companies that build products and have markets in the U.S.A. have to ship pieces of their product down to the U.S. where they're assembled by American workers. That's a requirement under America's 50 per cent built-in-the-U.S.A. rule, said Johnson.

"If that requirement gets changed

[under Trump] to say maybe 70 per cent built in the U.S.A., a company here would probably have to consider moving down to the States," he said. "That's the biggest fear with the buy American campaign."

The throne speech is available online at [www.gov.mb.ca/thronespeech/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/thronespeech/index.html)

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EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Manitoba Highways plow truck was heading south on Highway 6 last Sunday clearing the snow that fell throughout the week. Mother Nature dumped her first snowfall this week around the province, forcing some school closures in southern Manitoba last Wednesday. A low of -7 degrees and a high of -4 degrees was recorded on Sunday in the Interlake.

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# 91st Holodomor, Ukraine's 1,000 days of invasion and potential nuclear threat

By Patricia Barrett

Ukrainian Canadians, Ukrainian newcomers and supporters of Ukraine held ceremonies last week across Canada to commemorate the 91st anniversary of Holodomor and remember the millions of Ukrainians who died from starvation in the early 1930s under a Soviet regime.

They also marked 1,000 days since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan spoke at a Holodomor memorial in Ottawa last week to mark the Soviet-orchestrated famine in Ukraine where an estimated 3.5 million to 10 million people died from starvation.

Bezan told the *Express* it's important that people commemorate Holodomor, which means death by hunger, and continue to advocate for Ukraine as the Russian invasion entered its 1,000th day on Nov. 19. There are survivors of Holodomor and families of survivors in Winnipeg and elsewhere in Canada, and the commemoration includes a statement that the victims shall never be forgotten.

"If we want to ensure we do not repeat the atrocities of the past, then we need to commemorate these solemn events. Holodomor is one of

five genocides that are officially recognized by Canada. Joseph Stalin in 1932-1933 tried to eliminate not only Ukraine but also Ukraine's national identity, culture, language and religion," said Bezan. "And we must make sure that's never repeated, that food is never again used as a weapon and that these types of pogroms are listed as war crimes. Those who commit genocidal crimes against humanity must be held to account."

Canada officially recognized Holodomor as a genocide after Bezan brought a private member's bill forward about 16 years ago.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014 (Crimea) and in 2022 were other attempts to "eliminate Ukraine's sovereignty, identity and culture," he added.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics formed in 1922. Ten years later, in 1932 and 1933, millions of Ukrainians and other ethnic groups were systematically starved to death under Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, who introduced a series of five-year plans to transform the Soviet Union. The plans included collectivizing agriculture in which rural Ukrainians were divested of their land and livestock and forced to join large state-run collective farms.



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN LANE

Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan spoke at the 91st Holodomor commemoration event in Ottawa last week. Millions of Ukrainians starved to death during a Soviet-directed famine under Joseph Stalin in 1932 and 1933.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 included attacks on food, with the destruction of farmland, grain storage silos, farm equipment and food warehouses, all of which undermined food security and nutrition in Ukraine and affected farmers' income.

Bezan said the fight is currently "not going well" in Ukraine. The country is under constant bombardment by Russia, which lately brought in an estimated 11,000 to 12,000 North Korean troops to help wage war against Ukrainians.

"We're continuing to see indiscriminate attacks and bombings using drones, missiles, rockets and artillery shells from Russia against Ukrainian civilian infrastructure. We see people being killed at daycares and schools and hospitals and seniors' centres. These are war crimes and atrocities that must be prosecuted," he said. "It's important to continue to support Ukraine and ensure they can hold strong until there's peace."

A thousand days after its full-scale invasion, Russia launched a missile strike on Dnipro in eastern Ukraine, hitting a centre for people with disabilities and an industrial site. The strike last week came after Ukraine received permission to fire U.S.- and U.K.-made missiles into Russia to target a weapons depot and a military command post.

"Ukraine had been asking for this [permission to use missiles] for months," said Bezan. "And they've asked Canada to assist in adding

pressure on NATO allies who've put restrictions on the use of missiles."

Russia's retaliation against Ukraine for using U.S. and U.K. missiles came with a veiled threat — through the updating of Russia's nuclear doctrine allowing the Russian Federation to use nuclear weapons in response to conventional weapons being used against it — that Vladimir Putin could escalate his attack against Ukraine or NATO countries using nuclear weapons.

The Russian missiles used against Dnipro were said to be experimental, nuclear-capable missiles with a range far enough to reach Europe. Later last week, unidentified drones were seen flying over three air force bases that the U.S. uses in eastern England.

"Canada is aware of Putin's escalation," said Bezan in response to the missile attack on Dnipro. "It's not Ukraine that's escalating; they're defending themselves. It's the Russian Federation that continues to escalate and make all sorts of threats. ... I believe Ukraine has to continue to take the necessary steps to bring an end to this war — and that means they have to defeat Russia on their terms, not on Russia's terms, not on anyone else's terms. It has to be that way when we get to the negotiating table. This has to be settled in the best interests of Ukraine and the people of Ukraine, not in the best interests of Vladimir Putin."

In terms of a potential threat to

Continued on page 12



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# Creating unique wooden decor for your home

By E Antonio

Lori and John Koley are a husband-and-wife duo who make wooden mandalas from their home in Mulvihill.

“We make mandala art out of plywood,” said John. “Mandala is a layered art.”

After what started out as a post-retirement hobby for him in 2021, the Koleys now sell their works of art at craft sales under the name Koley Creations.

“When I decided to retire, I knew I needed a hobby. I had always been interested in lasers, so I bought one and it has grown from there. Now, we do everything together.”

They started with a small laser and began engraving ceramic tiles. After discovering the thrill of engraving, John purchased a larger laser to cut



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY NICOLE KAPUSTA

Lori and John Koley of Mulvihill make mandala art from plywood.



wood.  
“There are so many things that you can do with a laser,” added Lori. “You got to find what you like and go with that. You can laser everything; you

Continued on page 13

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# Gimli's Moonlight Madness passport game set to take shoppers on rewarding trip

By Patricia Barrett

The Gimli Chamber of Commerce is getting set to give shoppers an opportunity to win big on Dec. 6 with exclusive deals, extended shopping hours and a sweet reward via a passport game.

By shopping locally, people can help support their local economy and find unique gift ideas for their loved ones.

And one lucky local-shopping supporter will be going home with a suite of gift cards from over a dozen participating businesses. All they have to do is pick up a Moonlight Madness passport, get it stamped at one of the businesses during the Moonlight Madness event then drop it off at Interlake Brewing on First Avenue to be entered into the grand prize draw.

Passports can be picked up at the Lakeview Resort, Flatland Coffee and Pharmasave the week of Dec. 2.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF EXPLORE GIMLI

## Community Support Service

### A.A Meeting in Ashern

Location: #11 2nd Ave North  
- Pioneer Manor  
(beside the main door entrance  
of Pioneer Manor)  
Contact Jackiem.lwrc@gmail.com

### AA Arborg

Thursdays - 7:30 pm  
Arborg Support Centre  
327 Main Street  
Contact 204-376-5861

### AA Eriksdale

Eriksdale United Church building  
#7 Main Street, Eriksdale (side door)  
Meetings are Mondays  
at 6:30 p.m.

### AA Winnipeg Beach

Lady of the Lake RC Church  
Corner of Hwy. 9 and Lake Ave.,  
Winnipeg Beach  
Meetings are Saturdays  
between 7 and 8 p.m.  
Contact Ann J 204-389-3417

### Gimli Group AA

Bldg 18 Municipal Rd  
Industrial Park  
Fri & Sun Mtgs at 7:30 pm

### Al-Anon

### Gimli and Winnipeg Beach

Join us at 17B Loni Beach Road, next  
to New Horizon building... Gimli at  
7:00 pm Wednesday evenings for an  
hour of support, strength, guidance  
and Hope. Contact 204-389-4777.  
All ages welcome.

### AA Riverton Group

12 Main St. at the  
Riverton Senior Centre  
Mondays 7:30 p.m.

"Moonlight Madness is more than just a shopping event; it's an opportunity for local businesses to showcase their unique offerings and connect with customers in a festive, supportive atmosphere," said chamber president Samantha Hampton. "By encouraging shopping locally, we help strengthen Gimli's economy and celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit that makes our town thrive."

Shoppers aren't the only ones who will be cashing in. Businesses that jazz up their storefronts and show their festive spirit can earn bragging rights and a prize.

The chamber is organizing a Christmas Business Decorating Contest in which the public will get to vote for their favourite decorated storefronts. The first-place business winner will receive a chamber membership and a \$50 gift card from Johnson's Fashion & Footwear. The second-place winner will receive a Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries gift card courtesy of chamber board members Michelle and Rayme Thomson. And the third-place winner will receive Gimli Gold, money that can only be spent at Gimli businesses.

The chamber is working in collaboration with the RM of Gimli and other local partners to offer a fun and festive event.

Moonlight Madness kicks off at 3 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m. The New

Iceland Heritage Museum will be hosting a Christmas Market from 4 to 9 p.m. The Lakeview Resort will be hosting a Pictures with Santa event from 4 to 8 p.m., and Adam T. Elvis will be performing at 6:15 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. the RM will light up the Christmas tree by the harbour followed by the Dr. George Johnson Middle School choir at 6:45 p.m. Students from the Romanna Klymkiw Music Studio will perform at 7 p.m.

On Saturday Dec. 7, the festivities continue with food, markets, fun for the kids, skating and a parade.

A Pancake Breakfast with Santa at the Gimli Recreation Centre will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. A Christmas Market will be held there from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., along with a Kid's Cookie Decorating event from 12 to 1 p.m. and a free public skate from 1 to 4 p.m. At 6 p.m. the streets will be packed with people for the Gimli Christmas Parade.

"We are always so thankful for the hard work and creativity of the recreation and tourism department at the Rural Municipality of Gimli and love the opportunities to collaborate on their events to bring even more value to our community," said Hampton. "We also want to recognize the Gimli Christmas Elves, who have been working tirelessly to bring the magic of Christmas to our town."

Two businesses that have previously

participated in Moonlight Madness are organizing some special events on Friday night.

Hidden Treasures is hosting a Paint 'til You Faint event from 5 to 10 p.m. People can choose pottery or fused glass on which to paint, and there will be a candy draw for special deals that include no tax, discounts or gift cards. And Interlake Brewing — the place where passports are submitted — is offering free hot chocolate for kids, food and drink specials, merchandise bundles and discounts and live music.

There are 16 businesses so far that are participating in Moonlight Madness: The Hula Hut, H.P. Tergesen & Sons, Salon 41, Johnson's Fashion and Footwear, Interlake Brewing, Ship & Plough, Garriock Insurance, Hidden Treasures, Gimli Lakeview Resort (Pier Lounge), Carlo's Cucina, Steinas, Interlake Handmade Boutique, New Iceland Heritage Museum, Deals for Dollars, Diamond Beach Jewelry and Heaven Scents.

"This initiative brings our community together during the holiday season, creating memorable experiences for families and fostering a sense of togetherness," said Hampton. "From the Christmas parade to festive markets, Moonlight Madness captures the magic of the holidays and reminds us of the importance of supporting one another."

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# One dog theft affects communities as a whole

By Becca Myskiw

With dog thefts becoming increasingly common among pet owners, a Fisher Branch family is sharing their story to warn others.

Amanda Ermel and her family are dog lovers. They have numerous dogs in their family at all times, and Chevy was one of those family members just a couple of years ago.

The family's rough collie was a best friend to everyone, but especially Ermel's daughter. One evening, she let the indoor dogs out for a nighttime pee, and when she called them back in, two of the three dogs returned.

"We did the typical search and call," said Ermel. "And in the morning, he still wasn't home, which was so odd."

Two-year-old Chevy has never run away from Ermel's farmyard, and with livestock guardian dogs outside at all times, she didn't expect him to. The evening he went missing, his best friend, Ermel's daughter, wasn't home, so she had to break the news over the phone. The morning after he went missing, she called Prairie Helicopter to do an aerial search, and though she was prepared to pay the fees, they donated an hour and a half of flight time.

"I just needed to know that he wasn't stuck in a bush or got in a fight with a coyote," she said.

After clearing a large area surrounding their home, Prairie Helicopter didn't find Chevy, so Ermel and her family were back on the drawing board.

They took to social media to spread the word about their missing family member. Using their collie networks, friends, family and any channel possible, they asked the world if anyone had spotted Chevy. In addition, each family member and neighbour was driving down gravel roads with the windows down in the winter cold, looking mercilessly for the rough collie.

But it was to no avail.

Ermel and her family have received no answers as to what happened to Chevy, but they aren't stopping their search. Ermel has a theory that someone in a white truck took him. To this day, their guardian dog will chase white trucks as far as she can, eager to rip the tires right off.

"She's been a completely different dog since he was stolen," said Ermel.

And when the family got a new collie pup to fill some of the void that was left in their home, someone broke their fence trying to take her. The family now put up two layers of fences around their yard, along with dog runs, gates and multiple cameras. They still follow every lead they get, some coming from as far as New York or Missouri. Because Chevy's microchipped, he'll show up as stolen if he's taken to a vet.

"I can't lose another dog to dog theft," said Ermel. "The heartache is so, so strong."

Ermel doesn't know where Chevy is or why he was taken from them. She worries it was for dog fighting, money or something else entirely.

"When you let your mind go, it's actually quite horrific," she said.

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EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Chevy, a two-year-old rough collie, went missing two years ago and still hasn't been found. His family thinks he was stolen from their yard.

Ermel describes Chevy as a sibling to her children. His absence has emotionally debilitated her daughter, so the family planted a tree for Chevy this summer.

"It was 'how do I make life a little bit easier for her that she can get through every day without sobbing or crying herself to sleep?'" said Ermel. "I explained we aren't searching anymore but we need a place to put our grief so we can live daily until we get answers."

Seven in 10 animal thefts reported in Canada involve dogs. In 2024, around 2,000 dog theft crimes were reported in Canada, and a staggering 30 per cent of missing dogs in the country cannot be traced to their owner. Purebreds and small dogs are the most targeted, with puppies being common, too.

"He's going to get her through graduation, her first



heartbreaks," said Ermel. "And somebody comes and just robs all of that. What they've done to my children, to me, to our whole family ... the community even."

Ermel said neighbours for miles didn't let their dogs out unwatched for months after Chevy's disappearance. Sadly, his isn't the only in the area — Ermel's heard of at least three others that went missing in the vicinity around the same time as Chevy.

"We can't change it," she said. "We have to just learn to live with this until something comes different."

In Canada, stolen dogs are treated as theft under \$5,000, which is a felony offence that carries a maximum penalty of two years in prison. Besides filing a police report and looking endlessly, nothing else can be done to find a lost pet, but knowing your dog's microchip number will help prove it's yours if your lost dog is found and brought to a vet.

"They could have taken everything else in my house and I wouldn't have been this angry," said Ermel.



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**Sunday, December 1st from 1 pm - 3 pm**

**Location: 146 Sixth Street - Gimli**



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Parents/Guardians and Children under 12 are welcome.

## > 91ST HOLODOMOR, FROM PG. 8

Canada from Russian long-range missiles, Bezan said we're not protected because Canada is not part of NORAD's Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) program even though Canada is a member of NORAD (North American Aerospace Defence Command). Past Canadian governments failed to take advantage of opportunities to join BMD.

"We as Conservatives have long advocated for Canada to join Ballistic Missile Defence under NORAD with the United States. Currently, we're not part of that. Although the U.S. has capabilities to defend against ballistic missiles, they aren't necessarily responsible for defending Canada.

We've advocated over the last decade, as things continue to get more dangerous in this world, that peace dividends from the end of the Cold War have all but dissipated," said Bezan.

"We now have more adversaries than just Russia: we have what we call the CRINKs, which is China, Russia, Iran and North Korea, which are all active in conflicts we're seeing in the world today, whether it's in Ukraine with North Korean soldiers alongside Russia's troops or Iranian drones being used by Russia or China providing technology to Russia. It's important that Canada does more to defend ourselves. We need air defence systems to protect Canadian cities, our

country and our citizens."

In addition to attacks on Ukraine, some NATO countries are experiencing what is called hybrid warfare, or irregular methods of war that include cyber attacks, sabotage, targeted murders, electoral intervention, the use of misinformation and disinformation campaigns — and even the weaponizing of asylum seekers by directing them to NATO country borders.

"[Telecommunications] cables were severed [last week] under the Baltic Sea impacting the Baltic countries. This is the second time an undersea cable has been severed. Who's responsible? There's been plausible deniability. That's what Russia is counting on," said Bezan. "We know there have been cyber attacks launched against energy infrastructure, against medical infrastructure and other [facilities]. That includes attacks here in Canada. It continues to escalate from Russia and Beijing. There's also misinformation and disinformation war-

fare that's running rampant and I get to witness it every day on my social media."

Last week the federal Liberal government marked the 1,000 days since Russia invaded Ukraine and reiterated its commitment to continue to support Ukraine as it defends its people, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Russia's invasion is nothing more than a land and resource grab, an attempt to redraw internationally recognized borders by force," said foreign affairs minister Melanie Joly in a Nov. 19 statement. "Instead of protecting Ukrainians, Russia has for a thousand days inflicted death and injury upon countless Ukrainians, torn apart families, illegally deported Ukrainian children, destroyed homes and devastated communities. Russia has committed grave human rights abuses, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and despicable acts of sexual violence against innocent people."



**Fri. Dec. 6** Fisher Branch Christmas Parade 6:30pm

**Mon. Dec. 9** Dr. George Johnson Middle School Winter Concert  
Gimli 2:00pm and 7:00pm

**Tues. Dec. 10** Riverton & Arborg Band Concert 7:00pm  
Riverton Hall (silver collection and tin for the bin)

**Wed. Dec. 11** Gimli High School Winter Concert 7:00pm

**Thurs. Dec. 12** Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School Christmas Concerts 1:30pm and 7:00pm  
(Kindergarten - Mrs. Svienson, Grade 1 - Mrs. Johannesson, Grade 2 - Ms. Elsworth, Grade 3 - Mrs. Svienson, Grade 4 - Mrs. Casper)

**Thurs. Dec. 12** Riverton Early Middle School (Grades K-6) Christmas Concert 2:00pm and 6:00pm

**Mon. Dec 16** - Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School Christmas Concerts 1:30pm and 7:00pm  
(Kindergarten - Mrs. Gibson, Grade 1 - Mrs. Michaluk, Grade 2 - Mrs. Poloski, Grade 3 - Mrs. Mager & Mrs. Thordason, Grade 4 - Mrs. Kristjanson)

**Tues. Dec. 17** Alf Cuthbert School Christmas Concert 7:00pm  
Moosehorn

**Tues. Dec. 17** Arborg Early Middle School Winter Concert 6:00pm  
Kindergarten - Grade 2

**Wed. Dec. 18** Arborg Early Middle School Winter Concert 6:00pm  
Grades 3-4

**Wed. Dec. 18** Fisher Branch Early Years School Christmas Concert 1:30pm and 7:00pm

**Wed. Dec. 18** Winnipeg Beach School Holiday Concert 1:30pm and 7:00pm

**Wed. Dec. 18** Lundar Early Years School Christmas Concert 6:30pm

## Gimli Knights EBN support



EXPRESS PHOTO BY KAREN BOWMAN

Eugene Zalevich of the local Gimli Knight's of Columbus 7288 service club donated \$600 to the Evergreen Basic Needs Christmas Hamper program.

# Interlake Co-op donates Fuel Good Day funds



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

On Tuesday, Sept. 17, Interlake Co-op participated in the Western Canada Co-op gas stations' Fuel Good Day fundraising initiative. Last week, Interlake Co-op managers made cheque presentations to the Riverdale Place Homes in Arborg and the Eriksdale Fire Fighters Association. Riverdale Place Homes will use their funds to help create a more inclusive environment, while the Eriksdale Fire Fighters Association will use their funds to purchase a new inflatable fire safety house. Left photo, left to right: Jordan Cook (Co-op general manager) presents a cheque for \$702.37 to Davina Mason with the Eriksdale Firefighters Association. Right photo: Andrea Masiak (Co-op Arborg gas bar manager) and gas bar employee Milton present a cheque for \$702.37 to Kathy Finnson, executive director for Riverdale Place Homes and resident Michael. Interlake Co-op donated 10 cents per litre of fuel sold on Sept. 17 for Fuel Good Day.

## > WOODEN, FROM PG. 9

can do whatever you want."

She went on to explain that each piece normally takes a week to be made.

They start by painting the plywood and then cut each piece out individually with the laser. Once the pieces are cut, they are glued together and left to dry for a few days. To finish the designs, they stain the pieces and coat them with a finishing spray.

"We use a UV coating to give them a bit of a finish. It makes the colour pop a little bit more."

Right now, the Koleys are just using designs that they find online, but they hope to soon start making their own.

If you have a specific design in mind for your mandala, Koley Creations will do their best to bring your visions to life with what they can find online.

The possibilities are endless for your new piece of mandala art. From animals to mountains, Koley Creations can do it all.

"If there is a file available, we can do it," said Lori.

Koley Creation mandalas are also very light. John explained that he typically uses three mm. plywood, with the odd piece being made with five mm. wood.

"We make our pieces to go on walls. The biggest one we make is about 20" by 20" and is eight layers of wood."

Since the pair of artists want to keep their hobby small, they currently only sell at craft sales. Koley Creations has one more craft sale left before they close for the year.

You can find them at the Indoor

Christmas Craft and Vendor Market on Dec. 7 at the Gimli Rec Centre. If you want to connect with the Koleys about their art, you are also welcome to email them at [koleycreations@gmail.com](mailto:koleycreations@gmail.com).

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## Attention Kids...

### What's *your* Christmas story or poem?

Pick one of the following themes and tell us your best story:

1. Sam's mother was the hardest person on the planet to buy a Christmas gift for, but he had the perfect idea....
2. When a family goes to bed, their holiday decorations come to life!
3. Does your family have a unique holiday or wintertime tradition?
4. It's a snow Day! What are you going to do today?

**Cash Prizes are \$50, \$40 or \$25.**

Please include your first and last name, age/grade, town, and full contact information on your entry.

Stories or poems should be no longer than 600 words in length.

Send your story to: [news@expressweeklynews.ca](mailto:news@expressweeklynews.ca)

**DEADLINE: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024**

**THE EXPRESS**  
WEEKLY NEWS

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## NHL greats take over Selkirk Recreation Complex for unforgettable weekend

By Kieran Reimer

The Bryan Trottier Legendary Hockey Heroes Weekend brought together National Hockey League greats and hockey superfans for a special two-day alum event at Selkirk Recreation Complex on Thursday and Friday.

On Thursday, fans in attendance got to meet former NHL stars Bryan Trottier, Marcel Dionne, Bernie Nichols and many more during a gala dinner presented by the Manitoba Métis Federation and the Selkirk Steelers. The dinner included lively roundtable discussions about the players' NHL careers.

Then, on Friday, the players and some fans took to the ice for a friendly alum game.

For some, it was the first time they had touched the ice in years, while for others, like Trottier, it was yet another special alumni game with old teammates and friends from his NHL days, when he won Stanley Cups with the New York Islanders in the 1980s.

In the game, the NHL Legends team came out on top 19-14 over the Selkirk Steelers alum team, with fans sprinkled in on both teams throughout the game.

One of those fans was 81-year-old Don Buchko of Arborg, who was playing in his fourth alumni game of this type. He had also played a decade ago in Montreal Canadiens alumni games when they came to Brandon



Bryan Trottier, left, and 81-year-old Don Buchko of Arborg share a moment ahead of Friday's NHL alumni game at Selkirk Recreation Complex. The NHL Legends defeated the Selkirk Steelers alumni 19-14 in the game.

and Arborg.

On Friday, Buchko had the opportunity to play hockey and the guitar as he joined the NHL Legends room to play a few country classics before and after taking to the ice.

"I had the time of my life," said Buchko following the event. "The best part was the NHLers and coaching staff treated me like royalty. It was the



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

NHL star Bryan Trottier waves to fans at the Bryan Trottier Legendary Hockey Heroes Weekend event.

most eventful event I've ever had."

Buchko grew up playing hockey but never had the chance to play competitively, aside from the men's league, which he currently still plays in Arborg.

Following the event, he said he had the opportunity to feel like an NHLer for the day, and it was a moment he wouldn't forget.

He also had the chance to take a penalty shot and scored on his attempt.

"For some reason, I was treated like royalty," said Buchko. "The fans wanted pictures of me, so I took my helmet off and took pictures. Every time I skated by, they wanted to talk, and they were really great to me. Then

Continued on page 15

## Henry's breakout year earns her Athletics Manitoba honour

By Kieran Reimer

Gimli track and field star Jencie Henry cleaned up at the Athletics Manitoba Awards Banquet on Nov. 15 in Winnipeg.

Henry, 15, was awarded the Outstanding Female Throws Award, the Chuck Sigfusson Memorial Discus Award, and the Most Improved Female Award based on her incredible breakout season in throws.

In addition, Henry was also honoured for having the furthest throw in female discus across all age categories this season.

"This year I wanted to win something," said Henry on Friday afternoon. "I wanted to improve myself and do better and it

worked."

In just her second season of "taking the sport seriously," Henry has been on the fast track to stardom.

This season, she has won in discus and shot put at the high school, provincial and Western Canada Team Challenge levels.

Now up to number five nationally in the indoor and outdoor shot put and hammer throw rankings, Henry credits the support of her peers for her ability to go out and perform when the stakes are the highest.

In July, she competed in the Western Canada Team Challenge in Winnipeg, setting personal bests in all her events.

"I was feeling really good about it because it's kind of the preparation for nationals," said Henry. "I knew that I had been working so hard and that's what I wanted to do. The goal was to win and I did. The fact that I was seeing some improvement made me happy."

As the track and field season has slowed, Henry is still practicing once a week with her high school team in Gimli to prepare for next season.

As a Grade 11 student, Henry still has two more seasons to rule the Manitoba circuit before potentially moving on to the university level.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Gimli's Jencie Henry won Outstanding Female Throws Award, the Chuck Sigfusson Memorial Discus Award and the Most Improved Female Award at the Athletics Manitoba Awards Banquet on Nov. 15.

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Falcons trending upward after weekend triumphs

By Kieran Reimer

The Lundar Falcons created some separation from one of the Capital Region Junior Hockey League's top clubs over the weekend.

Heading into the week the Beausejour Comets, St. Malo Warriors, and Falcons all shared top spot in the CRJHL with 27 points.

With five possible six points over the weekend, the Falcons moved into sole possession of second place while remaining only one back of the Comets, who remained in first after two wins of their own on the weekend.

The Falcon's weekend slate kicked off Saturday night in Arborg, where they defeated the Ice Dawgs 4-1 after a big second-period push.

Joel MacMillan scored two goals, Ryan Benson and Morgan Mantik scored the others. Goaltender Aiden Poseluzney made 27 saves for the win.

On Sunday, things were knotted up

1-1 through 60 minutes against the Selkirk Fishermen in Selkirk.

Overtime went all the way down to the final minute when Falcons' Troy Johannesson put the game away with an unassisted tally.

The win brought the Falcons to 10-3-0-1-0 this season with 32 points in their 14 games.

Having moved five points up on the St. Malo Warriors this week, the Falcons now eye the Comets top spot in the CRJHL and will have a chance to take it from them on Friday night in Beausejour.

The puck drop Friday goes at 8 p.m. at the Sun Gro Centre.

### UPCOMING GAMES:

Friday, Nov. 29 at Beausejour Comets, 8 p.m. at Sun Gro Centre

Saturday, Nov. 30 vs Arborg Ice Dawgs, 7 p.m. at Lundar Arena



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RAYME THOMSON

The Falcons Ryan Benson scored Lundar's first of four goals against Ice Dawg's goaltender Paxton Moore, who made 50 saves for a .926 SV percentage. The Falcons won the game 4-1.

## Ice Dawgs weekend split providing separation from CRJHL's basement teams

By Kieran Reimer

The Arborg Ice Dawgs' weekend had mixed results. They split a pair with the North Winnipeg Satellites and the Lundar Falcons.

On Friday, the Ice Dawgs picked up a positive result with a 4-3 win on home ice over the last-place Satellites.

Brandon Burak scored twice, Tyson Barylski and Dainen Jacobson had the others, and Paxton Moore stopped 24 of 27 in goal.

The Ice Dawgs then quickly pivoted to the Lundar Falcons the following night, who entered the game in a share of first place in the Capital Region Junior Hockey League.

After a Brandon Burak marker kept the Ice Dawgs tied at one after the first period, the Falcons eventually took over the game with a two-goal second

period and another in the third.

The 4-1 loss saw Paxton Moore again standing on his head for 50 saves in his second game in two nights.

Despite the negative outcome on Saturday, the Ice Dawgs three of a possible six points over the weekend moved them four points ahead of the La Broquerie Habs to remain fifth in the CRJHL.

They now head into Lundar on Saturday night for a rematch against the Falcons before taking on the St. Malo Warriors on Sunday night in St. Malo.

### UPCOMING GAMES:

Saturday, Nov. 30 at Lundar Falcons, 7 p.m. at Lundar Arena

Sunday, Dec. 1 at St. Malo Warriors, 2:30 p.m. at St. Malo Arena



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RAYME THOMSON

The Ice Dawgs' Brandon Burak put up the first marker in the Falcons' 4-1 win in CRJHL action last Saturday.

### > NHL GREATS, FROM PG. 14

they wanted me to do a penalty shot, which I scored. These were all great moments and I can't understand why I achieved so much attention. It was almost like a miracle or a dream come true playing hockey."

Another memorable moment on Fri-

day was when Dennis and Cody Watterman, a father-son duo, played in the game together.

Cody, the son who co-owns Keystone Source for Sports in Selkirk, is a corporate sponsor of the Steelers, which opened the door for him and Dennis, the father and former co-owner of Keystone Source for Sports, to play in the game.

The two also got to hang out with the NHLers in the dressing room before and after the game.

Dennis said sharing the moment with his son is something he'll never forget.

"It was a phenomenal feeling and brought back so many memories and sharing it all with my son was something I'll always remember," said

Dennis. "That brought back many memories of playing hockey myself in the community. To see the community brought together with that type of game was fantastic. I'd like to congratulate Jordan Fillion and the members of the Steelers, it was a great success."

# Lightning Report: U18s bringing 'recipe for success' into doubleheader

By Kieran Reimer

The U18 AAA Male Interlake Lightning is currently on the upward trend in the Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League after a slower, rougher start to November than they had hoped.

Earlier this month, head coach Aaron Katz said the team was still working on establishing its identity despite a busy schedule and some losses against some of the league's best teams.

Now, after a busy start to the month, the Lightning have seemingly found the identity they were looking for and have cruised to wins in three of their last four games, including an 8-0 win over the first-place Brandon Wheat Kings.

"They've found a bit of a recipe for success right now," said Katz. "They are playing the right way, competing hard on every puck and every game, and winning the little battles, I'd like to say. When they do that, the big things, such as the score, kind of takes care of itself, and we end up getting a few wins that way."

The Lightning's recent victories have brought them back up to the

middle of the pack to sit ninth with an 8-7-1-1-2 record through 18 games this season.

After a nine-day break from games in late November, the Lightning are getting ready to cap off the month with a doubleheader weekend against the Parkland Rangers, with both games on the road in Dauphin.

The Rangers, who currently sit fifth in the MU18HL, beat the Lightning in their lone season meeting in October after they tied the game up late and eventually won it in a shootout.

For this weekend's doubleheader, the Lightning know they will need a 60-minute effort in both games if they want to earn a full four points. Winning both could potentially move them into the top half of the league standings, and they still have games in hand on most teams.

"We'll have to manage the puck properly and be efficient with our playmaking," said Katz. "Having more quick strikes and being sure that pucks are managed properly. If we got to get them deep, we've got to get them deep; if we got to throw them at the net, we've got to throw them



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

The Lightning U17 AAA's Cohen Constant scored in Interlake's 4-2 loss against the Winnipeg Wild last Saturday in Warren.

at the net. It's nothing of getting into trouble trying to make fancy plays or giving up turnovers instead of making a sure play. That's something we will have to do on the road. It will be a typical road game, north-south, fast and efficient, and shoot the puck."

The first of the two games at Credit Union Place is on Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and the doubleheader will be wrapped up on Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

The U13 AA Female Interlake Lightning lost 3-1 to the Eastman Selects on Wednesday night in Niverville. They currently sit seventh with a 3-5-0-1 record.

Next game: Sunday, Dec. 1, vs Titans, 3:30 p.m. at Stony Mountain Community Centre

The U13 AA Male Interlake Lightning lost both weekend games, 5-1 to the Eastman Selects Grey on Saturday, and 8-2 to the Eastman Selects White on Sunday. They currently sit 15th with a 3-4-0-1 record.

Next game: Saturday, Nov. 30 at Winnipeg Bruins Brown, 2:10 p.m. at Dakota Community Centre

The U15 AA Male Interlake Lightning scored none and gave up none for a 0-0 tie with the Winnipeg Wild White on Sunday in Lundar. They currently sit 11th with a 3-5-2-1 record.

Next game: Thursday, Nov. 28, vs Winnipeg Bruins White, 7:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Sports Complex

The U15 AAA Female Interlake Lightning picked up two wins and

a tie at the Rivalry Cup in Minnesota over the weekend. They currently sit seventh with a 1-10 record.

Next league game: Saturday, Dec. 21 at Central Plains Capitals, 5 p.m. at BDO Centre

The U15 AAA Male Interlake Lightning had the week off after losing to the Southwest Cougars last Saturday. They sit fifth in the Central Division with a 3-10 record.

Next game: Friday, Nov. 29 at Winnipeg Thrashers Blue, 7:15 p.m. at Gateway Recreation Centre

The U17 AAA Male Interlake Lightning lost both weekend games, 4-2 to the Winnipeg Wild on Saturday and 3-1 to the Winnipeg Hawks on Sunday. They currently sit seventh with a 3-9-3 record.

Next game: Tuesday, Dec. 3 at Winnipeg Wild, 7:40 p.m. at Hockey For All Centre

The U18 AAA Female Interlake Lightning went 3-1-1 to take Silver at the Wickfest Tournament in Calgary over the weekend. They currently sit ninth with an 0-8-0-0-1 record.

Next game: Saturday, Nov. 30, vs Westman Wildcats, 8 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Sports Complex

The U18 AAA Male Interlake Lightning lost 3-1 to the Winnipeg Bruins on Wednesday night at Southdale Community Centre. They currently sit eighth with an 8-7-1-1-2 record.

Next game: Saturday, Nov. 30, at Parkland Rangers, 7:30 p.m. at Credit Union Place

## Operation Red Nose in gear



EXPRESS PHOTO BY DAVID CONNORS

Operation Red Nose mascot Rudy came to the Lakeview Gimli Resort on Nov. 20 to help Gimli Mayor Kevin Chudd, left, Gimli Red Nose co-director Dwayne Binns, middle, and Safety Services Manitoba's Adam Paoletic launch the popular service. Rudy wants to remind everyone in the RM of Gimli to call 204-642-9000 if they need a safe ride home after an evening of a little too much good cheer. The service runs Friday and Saturday nights during December, plus Saturday, Nov. 30 and New Year's Eve. Call Dwayne Binns at 204-299-7793 or Dave LeBlanc at 204-641-4049 to volunteer or for more information.

# Classifieds

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Firewood for sale. Spruce, Poplar, and Pine available starting at \$260 a cord. Contact me at 204-641-8651.

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## STRAW FOR SALE

Flax straw for sale, Stonewall. \$4/bale. Call Nick at 204-461-0706 or Bill at 204-461-1906, Monday - Saturday.

## MISSING

Two black calves in the Berlow-Arnes area. If spotted please call Ed 204-642-5771 or cell 204-641-3837.

## FIREWOOD

Birch, Tamarack, Ash, Poplar, Pine and Oak for sale. Call or text 204-904-8441.

## APARTMENT FOR RENT

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

1 bdrm. apartment for rent. Fully furnished. Parking (with plug) & utilities included. Quiet corner in Winnipeg Beach. Available immediately. Call 204-886-2774.

**News Tips?**  
call the Express  
204-467-5836



## FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Plan to attend the Bred Cow sale  
**December 7th at 1:00 pm at the Ashern Auction Mart**

**Reduction Sale of 130 for Craig and Lenore Brown**  
100 cows 30 heifers (90% char cross 10% red angus cross) everything 7yr and younger selling from their herd.

Start calving March 15th  
Bred to Triple C Charolais, Denbie Ranch Hybrids, or Prime Ridge Red Angus.  
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For further information contact:  
Ashern Auction Mart - 204-768-2360  
Kirk - 204-768-0019  
Scott - 587-280-0612  
Licence #1128



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Winnipeg Beach Bandstand Coordinator Part Time Contract Position

Position Qualifications & Details:

- Experience in securing Bands and Entertainment
- Flexible work hours required, including weekends, to oversee Summer Bandstand Performance Series
- Ability to lift event products up to 50 pounds
- Available use of personal vehicle and cell phone
- 150 hour part time term position. Pay rate \$20/hour
- Will receive guidance from the Tourism Manager
- Priority will be given to residents of Winnipeg Beach

Email resume and cover letter by Dec 6th to:  
[tourism@winnipegbeach.ca](mailto:tourism@winnipegbeach.ca)



## Rural Municipality of FISHER

Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0  
Tel: 204-372-6393, Fax: 204-372-8470

## NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given, under Clause 8.4 of the Rural Municipality of Fisher Procedures By-Law No. 1133/10 that the Regular Council Meeting scheduled on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 9:00 AM. has been **POSTPONED to December 5, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.**

**Dated** at Fisher Branch, Manitoba this 19th day of November, 2024.

Kelly Marykuca, CMMA  
Chief Administration Officer  
Phone: (204) 372-6393 Ext 4  
Fax: (204) 372-8470  
Email: [fishercao@mymts.net](mailto:fishercao@mymts.net)



## TOWN OF ARBORG EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY OFFICE ASSISTANT TERM POSITION

The Town of Arborg is accepting applications for a Full-Time 6 Month Term Position.

In addition to customer service and general reception duties, the successful applicant will be responsible for general office duties such as receipt processing, cash handling & deposits, general accounting, word processing, filing, photocopying and other duties as assigned. Organizational and communication skills as well as the ability to work cooperatively and independently are necessary skills. Onsite training for the successful candidate. Familiarity with Accounts Receivable would be considered an asset.

Resumes with three references will be accepted until **December 9th, 2024** at 4:00 P.M. to:

Town of Arborg Email: [arborgadmin@mymts.net](mailto:arborgadmin@mymts.net)  
Box 159 Arborg MB R0C 0A0 In person: 337 River Road

We thank all applicants for their interest however,  
only those selected for interviews will be contacted.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Winnipeg Beach Winter Event Coordinator Part Time Contract Position

Position Qualifications & Details:

- Experience in event planning and execution
- Flexible work hours required, including weekends
- Ability to lift event products up to 50 pounds
- Available use of personal vehicle and cell phone
- 75 hour part time term position. Pay rate \$20/hour
- Will receive guidance from the Tourism Manager
- Priority will be given to residents of Winnipeg Beach

Email resume and cover letter by Dec 6th to:  
[tourism@winnipegbeach.ca](mailto:tourism@winnipegbeach.ca)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### PART-TIME ASSISTANT

**EMPLOYER:** Western Interlake Planning District  
**OFFICE LOCATION:** St. Laurent, Mb



#### Full Job Description

The Assistant Office Administrator will assist with duties such as receiving and examining various forms of proposed and existing development applications including but not limited to development permits, re-zonings, subdivisions, variances, conditional uses, etc. to determine compliance with respective zoning by-laws, development agreements and development plans.

The AOA will interpret zoning and development by-laws, investigate property history and perform zoning analysis in order to process a development proposal, and perform other duties as assigned.

#### As the Assistant Office Administrator, you will:

- Receive and examine various forms of development applications to verify compliance with the respective zoning by-laws, development/zoning agreements. Investigate property history, use GIS programs and perform zoning analysis to process the application.
- Work with the building inspector to approve plans and issue building/development permits.
- Provide information to the general public, professionals, developers, contractors, other levels of government, and perform other duties as assigned.
- Work closely with staff and council from member Municipalities in the Western Interlake Planning District.
- Provide advice and information to Municipal Councils and Administration.
- Provide general administrative support to the Board of the Planning District.

#### Your education and qualifications include:

- Experience applying/interpreting zoning by-laws (preferred).
- Knowledge and/or experience working with or for a Municipality or Planning District.
- Knowledge and experience with GIS would be an asset.
- Understanding in land development process would be an asset.
- Ability to read and interpret building plans and specifications would be an asset.
- Ability to read legal descriptions of properties and to identify the property on zoning maps.
- Ability to comprehend and interpret by-laws, agreements, and to convey such information to architects, developers, contractors and the general public.
- Written communication skills with the ability to prepare concise and accurate correspondence.
- Verbal communication skills with the ability to effectively communicate information to others.
- Ability to work in a multi-task environment.

Please note that all training will be provided.

Salary will be based on the successful applicant's qualifications, education and experience.

To apply for this opportunity send your resume to: [wipd@mymts.net](mailto:wipd@mymts.net) or drop off at the Western Interlake Planning District office at #16 Veterans Memorial Rd in the Recreation Centre, St. Laurent, Mb, during regular office hours.

The deadline to apply is December 13th, 2024. Start date TBD.

# Classifieds Announcements

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email [ads@expressweeklynews.ca](mailto:ads@expressweeklynews.ca)



## CARD OF THANKS

The Gimli council of the Knights of Columbus #7288 would like to congratulate the winners and thank all those who purchased tickets. 1st quarter: John Pawluk, \$200 & reverse: Gord Sumka, \$100; 2nd quarter: Ty Vandriel, \$200 & reverse David Kozoriz, \$100; 3rd quarter: Florence Campbell, \$200 & reverse: Trevor Magnusson, \$100; final: Sheryl Groot, \$1000 & reverse: Tyson Groot, \$200.

## BIRTHDAY



December 3rd  
Happy 60th Birthday Mom/Nana!  
We love you!

## OBITUARY

Julia Hodge

March 20, 1931 – November 19, 2024

Peacefully at Betel Home in Gimli on November 19, 2024, Mom passed away at the age of 93 years.

Mom was predeceased by her husband Ned; infant son; parents Olga and Josef Valka; brother Joe (Nettie); sisters Emily (Jerry), Betty (George), Mary and Anne (Ed).

She will be remembered by her children Lyle (Rosemary), Myles (Jean), Gwen (Chris) and Cory (Marie). Her grandchildren Alison (Dean), Owen; Curtis (Jake); Tim (Lauren), Scott (Ashlee), Michelle (Ben), Joel (Chelsea) along with 11 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. As well as Godsons Larry Valka and Barry Hudyma and special friends Alice Boychyn and Delores Darowany.

Mom was born in Fraserwood and then the family moved to Teulon where she resided until April 2019.

Mom enjoyed crafting, baking, cooking, gardening, sewing and knitting.

She was first employed as a school teacher at Skogan School. After raising her children, she took a healthcare-aid course and worked at Goodwin Lodge in Teulon for 21 years. But she most enjoyed looking after her grandkids, visits from them, phone calls or facetime with them.

We would like to thank all staff at Betel for making Mom feel welcome and also for the care she received especially in her final days. Words cannot express our gratitude to the staff. There are too many to mention by name.

Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Gunton - Greenwood Community Hall, Gunton, MB., viewing at 10:30 a.m. with interment at Windsor Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, Mom's wish was for donations to the Windsor Cemetery c/o John Logan, Box 246, Teulon, Manitoba, R0C 3B0.



204-886-0404

**Land For Sale**  
FISHERTON AREA  
*Rental Considered*  
EAST HALF OF  
27-24-3W  
Around 270 acres of Cultivated Land  
PIG BARN 2 MILES AWAY  
*House not included*  
CALL ARCHIE THOMPSON  
AT (204)-642-2764

## RECYCLING NOTICE FOR DECEMBER / 2024

Riverdale Place Workshop Inc.  
**WILL NOT** be picking up Recycling on the below **MENTIONED DATES**  
December 3

at Arborg curbside pickup

December 5

at Riverton curbside pickup

December 24

at Arborg curbside pickup

Christmas eve

December 26 at Riverton curbside pickup Boxing Day

*The workshop will be closed on  
December 25 Christmas Day  
December 26 Boxing Day and  
January 1/2025 New Years Day*

*Please rinse your containers*

*Thank you for recycling*

*Happy Holidays*

## FARMLAND SALE BY TENDER

Pt SW 19-24-1W  
approx. 128 acres  
Hwy 17 and PR 233  
(Fisher Branch Corner)

Owner Woloshyn invites offers submitted in person or by mail to Pitblado Law, 349 Main Street, Box 4045, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0 by November 30, 2024. Offers must include a deposit of not less than 2% of the tendered amount (to be returned if not accepted). The highest or any offer may not be accepted. Successful offeror to be notified upon acceptance. If interested please call 204-376-5156 for info package.



WANTED

COIN COLLECTIONS



CASH FOR COIN COLLECTIONS & ACCUMULATIONS OF COINS! ROYAL CANADIAN MINT COINS, OLD COINS, OLD PAPER MONEY, SILVER COINS, GOLD COINS, RARE COINS ETC.

Also buying all Silver, Gold, Nuggets, Scrap, Coins, Old Jewelry, Bullion, Ingots, Sterling Silver, Old Quality Watches working or not, Rolex, Omega ++

Todd  
204-904-9705

**News Tips? Story Ideas?**  
call the Express  
204-467-5836

**Online McSherry Auctions**

**Estate & Moving**

Featuring Diecast Toys  
December 4th @ 7:00PM

**Estate & Moving**

Featuring Coins  
December 11th @ 7:00PM  
\*Last Sale of 2024\*

**McSherryAuction.com**  
204-467-1858  
or 204-886-7027  
[mcsherryttd@gmail.com](mailto:mcsherryttd@gmail.com)

# JANITORIAL TENDER

Access Credit Union Gimli

Access Credit Union Gimli requires the services of a contractor to provide daily general cleaning duties for the interior and exterior of the building, sidewalk snow clearing and exterior plant care.

Duties include:

- Vacuum all carpets and mop floors
- Gather and dispose of all garbage and recycling
- Dust and clean offices, staff room and public area
- Clean and sanitize washrooms
- Other cleaning requirements as necessary

Tenders or resumes, accompanied by a minimum of two references, must be received on or before **December 11, 2024, before 4:30 p.m.**

Tender information can be obtained by emailing [allan.croy@accesscu.ca](mailto:allan.croy@accesscu.ca).

Tenders may be delivered, mailed or emailed to:

Access Credit Union  
PTH #14 Unit 2 - 23111 Stanley Business Centre  
Winkler, MB R6W 4B4  
Email: [allan.croy@accesscu.ca](mailto:allan.croy@accesscu.ca)



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# Classifieds Announcements

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## WANTED

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

## NOTICES

**URGENT PRESS RELEASES** - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

**News Tips?**  
call 204-467-5836

## NOTICES

**BOOK YOUR December/CHRISTMAS ADS RIGHT NOW!** Maximize your business plan before year end. Now booking advertising for the remainder of 2024. Plan your success! Have your blanket classified ads seen in the 31 Member Newspapers which are seen in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

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**Classified booking deadline is Monday at NOON prior to Thursday's publication Please Call 204-467-5836**

7	9	9	2	8	2	1	8	6
8	8	2	1	9	6	7	2	9
1	2	6	8	7	9	2	8	9
9	8	7	6	9	8	2	2	1
6	2	8	8	2	1	9	9	7
2	9	1	7	2	9	8	6	8
9	7	2	9	8	2	6	1	8
2	1	9	9	6	8	8	7	2
8	6	8	2	1	7	9	9	2

Sudoku Answer

# take a break

> GAMES

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

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

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jackfishcreekfarm@gmail.com

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wheathilltransport@gmail.com

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