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Ho-Ho-Ho - The Royal Canadian Legion Gimli Branch #182 hosted children under 12 and their parents/guardians for its Children's Christmas Party last Sunday. There were hot dogs, chips, face painting and crafts, along with a special visit with the jolly elf himself.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY RAYME THOMSON

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Arborg seniors come together for holiday feast

By E Antonio

The holiday season is all about coming together, sharing joy and creating lasting memories.

On Nov. 27, the town of Arborg embraced this spirit wholeheartedly at the Seniors Resource Dinner. In total, 227 seniors gathered for lunch at the Arborg Community Hall for an early Christmas feast.

There was no shortage of delicious eats to be had. Mouthwatering turkey, meatballs, freshly baked buns and sweet desserts were just some of the offerings available to the diners.

"We had a very good turnout and the response seemed to be very positive with all the seniors," said Maureen Sigurgeirson, senior resource coordinator for Arborg.

Seniors from Arborg and the surrounding area, including those from the personal care home and assisted living facility, attended the dinner.

Volunteers spent many hours preparing for the holiday feast, spreading out the work over several evenings.

"One night we made the meatballs; another night we made cabbage rolls. ... We also spent all day Tuesday getting ready for the dinner. We did pull in lots of volunteers to help us with this work. There were four to five key



volunteers who really stepped up to the plate."

Arborg Congregate Meal Program cooks Jacquie Sigurdson and Lena Dueck spearheaded the kitchen work. It was because of them and the strong group of volunteers that all of the meals were produced.

"We had volunteers from the Seniors Resource Council board, as well as four people from the Co-Op management team come to help us," explained Sigurgeirson.

She also added that the Co-Op volunteers delivered 16 meals to seniors in Arborg who could not dine at the hall.

"They also contributed to the event by donating towards the purchasing of groceries for the dinner. The Royal Canadian Legion also supported the

Continued on page 3



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CORRINE EINARSSON

Over 200 seniors gathered in the warmth of the Arborg Community Hall for Arborg Seniors Resource Christmas feast and dance.



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> HOLIDAY FEAST, FROM PG. 2

event by donating funds to make the dinner successful."

Another group of volunteers who deserve special recognition include a crew of 13 Grade 8 students from Arborg Early Middle School (AEMS). These students spent their afternoon helping greet seniors, serving beverages and escorting seniors to help get their food.

"They were a huge, huge, huge asset to have there," said Sigurgeirson. "I give these students a lot of credit because it was actually early dismissal, and they came out and helped us on

their afternoon off from school. Their interaction with the seniors was absolutely incredible."

Joanie Gudbjartson and Jackson Ewert were two of the teens who volunteered at the dinner.

"I volunteered at the dinner because I thought having a dinner for the elderly people was a great idea and I really liked that I got the opportunity to help," explained Gudbjartson. "It is important because when we help, we can do lots of good around the community."

Joanie and Jackson are both mem-

bers of the AEMS leadership team, a group of students dedicated to helping out around their school and the community.

"It was an option for all of the leadership group and I wanted to do something for the community," Jackson added. "It felt good to help with this event. Whether it was just carrying a bin of forks and knives or helping get someone food."

Throughout the afternoon, guests were also entertained with live music by Country Pride. Sigurgeirson added that the music made the afternoon feel lively as the seniors got up to dance with one another.

To end the afternoon of holiday cheer, 28 poinsettias were gifted to some lucky guests who came for the fest.

"We had 28 businesses who donated these beautiful poinsettias as our centrepieces on the tables. We then gave them away as door prizes by having the seniors pick random names in a draw."

This gathering wasn't just about food; it was about fostering connections across generations — a reminder that community spirit thrives through acts of kindness and shared experiences.

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'Post and fill positions' and human resources plan for allied health needed; MAHCP

By Patricia Barrett

If one part of the health-care system is broken, it will undoubtedly hobble the system as a whole. That's evident in the Interlake where staffing shortages in hospitals have resulted in permanent or temporary emergency room closures and patients are spending hours on the highway in ambulances.

The labour union representing almost 90 per cent of Manitoba's allied health professionals is calling on the government to hire more workers and take a bold approach to retaining them as some allied health professionals such as MRI technologists and perfusionists are near critically low levels in the health-care system and the number of paramedics in rural Manitoba are nowhere near sufficient.

In response to the NDP's throne speech released on Nov. 19, Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals president Jason Linklater said the government has created some new allied health positions, but those positions aren't being filled. And there's a need to address the retention of workers who are integral to the functioning of the health-care system as a whole.

The throne speech emphasized the government's hiring of a record-

number of doctors, retaining doctors at a higher rate, improving the work-life balance for nurses and providing wage increases for health-care support workers. But nothing was said about a hiring plan or improving conditions for allied health professionals.

With government data currently showing a 56-week wait for an MRI (adults) at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, patients are the ones paying the price.

Linklater told the *Express* there are a number of reasons why positions aren't being filled and the vacancy rates are getting worse. It mostly boils down to what kind of working conditions are optimal to attracting and keeping allied health workers on the job.

Difficulties filling positions stem in part from a limited pool of workers — and that's a byproduct of system instability. Like all working Canadians, allied health professionals want proper working conditions and competitive wages and benefits. If they can find those basics in another jurisdiction, they'll likely leave Manitoba. Currently, allied health workers have been without a contract since April 1. And prior to that they had no contract for about five or so years, which re-

sulted in a drawdown of staff.

"We had an exodus out of allied health from our different [professional] areas during that period because Manitoba had fallen so far behind," said Linklater. "We got a contract in place under the Conservatives near the end [of that government], and that plugged the hole for a period of time. But that contract has expired and we're sort of back in the same position that we were. We're in active negotiations, as we speak, and we're hoping to button up a competitive contract."

MAHCP represents over 7,000 allied health professionals who work in about 45 essential specialties including addictions treatment, audiology, cardiology, dietetics, EEG, home care, Indigenous health, infection control, MRI, laboratory services, nuclear medicine, occupational therapy, orthopedics, palliative care, paramedicine, radiology, respiratory therapy, social work and speech-language pathology. MAHCP is the only labour union in the province dedicated to professional, technical and paramedical health care. Allied health professionals work in virtually all health-care settings.

Linklater said the number of allied health staff in some critical specialties — for example perfusionists, who are required for cardiac surgery — is small, and that results in recruitment challenges.

"Perfusionists are extremely difficult to recruit," he said, "and every province has difficulty recruiting them. We have many allied health groups that are very small but very important to keeping the health system functioning."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAHCP

Jason Linklater is president of the Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals, which represents nearly 90 per cent of Manitoba's allied health workforce.

And educational institutions that teach allied health specialties are lacking a full complement of students, he said, citing respiratory therapists as an example, yet there are respiratory therapist vacancies "all over the place."

MAHCP thinks there are a number of solutions the government could implement in order to attract and retain allied health workers. That in-

Continued on page 5

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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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> MAHCP, FROM PG. 4

cludes incentives for working in rural areas. The NDP had committed to providing incentives to workers in rural settings, and Linklater said “we’ve not seen that materialize yet.”

He met with Manitoba’s NDP health minister, he said, and impressed upon them the need to create a long-term allied health human resources plan.

“Other jurisdictions such as Saskatchewan and Alberta have created such plans. In Manitoba we know we have available training seats that are empty [i.e., no students] — that includes seats for paramedics at Red River College — and there needs to be a comprehensive plan to address the future workforce in allied health,” said Linklater. “The government should be looking at the numbers of students in school right through to how many staff could be retiring in any given year so that those positions can be filled.”

There was no mention in the throne speech about a long-term plan for allied health and MAHCP has not been engaged on such an endeavour — something it’s well positioned to do as it represents 90 per cent of the allied health workforce in the province.

Other reasons why allied health positions are not being filled have to do with nature of Shared Health, he said, a large organization that moves too slowly on posting vacancies or doesn’t post them at all for strategic reasons.

“We know there’s vacancy manage-

ment in place: even if there’s positions available in certain areas, Shared Health will try to drive applicants to areas they view as most crucial. For example, Prairie Mountain RHA has some real issues hiring paramedics and diagnostics. They won’t post the positions in the RHA even if there are people willing to take those positions because they want to drive those applicants to other areas,” said Linklater. “I don’t think there’s data to say holding those positions back from posting is impacting anything. But our position is that if you have positions available throughout the province, post them. I don’t think it’s the right approach to drive applicants to a certain area when the entire province is damaged. Maybe somebody wants to live in the west or in Interlake-Eastern RHA, but they can’t because there’s no job posted.”

Regarding the NDP’s promise to build a new ER in Eriksdale, Linklater said it will “require” allied health workers — lab and X-ray technologists — in order to stay open.

Eriksdale’s ER is currently open only six days a month, and in the past has had to temporarily close for a long stretch because of a lack of laboratory staff. Other ERs in Interlake-Eastern have either been permanently closed or temporarily close because of physician and other staffing problems.

“We know those closed ERs are a problem for the public, but they’re also a problem for paramedics because patient transport times go from

half an hour if there’s an open ER to sometimes an hour and a half if they have to go to a different ER and paramedics are tied up,” said Linklater. “This is tying up paramedics for a very long stretch. That means patient waiting times for ambulances increase. It’s a vicious cycle. Shared Health needs to fill all positions so that they’re able to provide a system in Manitoba that can be sustainable.”

One in three paramedic positions are still vacant, he said. Ninety paramedics were promised (excluding Winnipeg and Brandon) in the first year, but they have only seven. In a profession that sees people on leave for PTSD, exhaustion and other factors such as maternity leave and vacations, Shared Health has to “plan for leaves” and “post and fill positions.”

MAHCP has heard from many licensed and qualified paramedics who’ve said they’ve been made to wait for a job, and that’s resulted in a loss of candidates. And there are paramedics who’ve been “turned away during the application process.” Paramedics that are on the job are reducing their hours because they’re burnt out, he added.

“I see a scenario where, if Shared Health doesn’t act proactively on this, we are going to end up in a bigger problem than we’re in right now,” said Linklater. “We could potentially be worse off at some point.”

With Thompson having recently announced it’s closing its paramedic service because of provincial under-

funding, and Shared Health taking it over in February, Linklater thinks the region will likely draw paramedics from other Manitoba health regions.

He said he hears from elderly residents in rural and northern Manitoba that they’re afraid to remain where they’ve lived their entire lives because if they need a paramedic, they “don’t know when a paramedic will be coming” or if they’ll even be able to get to a hospital and be treated in a timely manner.

“People contributed their whole lives to the economy in Manitoba,” said Linklater. “To see things decline where you’ve put all your efforts doesn’t seem right.”

As far as communication with the NDP government — something that was difficult to get with the previous Conservative government — Linklater said he’s happy to keep the conversation going about what MAHCP thinks could be done to improve the retention and recruitment of allied health professionals. He wants those lines of communication to remain open.

“But at the day, there’s needs to be action towards some of the issues we’re pointing out as very problematic,” he said.

Eastman Immigrant Services in Arborg full time

By Becca Myskiw

Eastman Immigrant Services once again has someone working full-time in the Arborg office.

After receiving funding to do settlement services in the Interlake in 2020, Eastman Immigrant Services set up an office in Arborg, from which they service the entire region. Program director Gwen Reimer said the office has remained open since then, but having someone there full-time has been on and off.

Eastman Immigrant Services offers settlement services and employment services for permanent residents,

refugees and newcomers to the area. Those services include:

- Orientation about life in their region
- Assistance with Canadian citizenship application
- English language training referrals
- Assistance with documents (Manitoba health card, permanent resident card application and renewal, social insurance number and more)
- Notary public and commissioner for oaths
- Overview of Canadian law
- Referrals to local organizations
- Resume updates and job applica-

tions

“We might not necessarily be able to do all the assistance but we would work with the community and refer them,” said Reimer. “We’re basically helping with their needs.”

The Interlake region settlement facilitator is Beverly Magaway, who speaks English and Tagalog. The office is at 5-356 River Rd. in Arborg and is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Magaway may also see clients in the Gimli area on Wednesdays.

Continued on page 9

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Temporary GST/HST tax holiday bill passed

Liberals and NDP for, Conservatives and Bloc against

By Patricia Barrett

The federal Liberal government moved a step closer last week to delivering a temporary two-month GST/HST tax holiday to Canadians after securing the support of the federal NDP and moving legislation through the House of Commons.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland introduced Bill C-78 on Nov. 27 to halt the GST/HST on certain products such as taxable food items, children's clothing and toys, video games and Christmas trees.

"We understand that it's a good thing to be there for Canadians to help them to address affordability issues and we brought in measures last Thursday that will do precisely that," Freeland told the media in French after an evening meeting on Nov. 27 with provincial and territorial leaders to discuss U.S. president-elect Donald Trump's threat to impose a 25 per cent tariff on Canadian goods. "So, I'm very happy it will now be possible to move forward with the GST suspension. I think that will really help Canadians with affordability, particularly during the holiday season."

The Tax Break for All Canadians Act

passed three readings in the House of Commons, with third reading on Nov. 28. The house voted 176 in favour of the bill with 151 against it. Both the Bloc Quebecois and the Conservatives voted against it.

The bill is on its way to the Senate for three readings in that chamber before it can potentially come into effect. If passed, the tax-relief measure will take effect on Dec. 14 and end on Feb. 15, 2025.

In estimates provided to the CBC, the federal government said the GST/HST break would cost about \$1.6 billion in lost tax revenue.

The proposed tax holiday sparked a great deal of debate from opposition parties and critics.

The Conservatives contend the cut to the GST/HST is a political gimmick designed to prop up a flagging Liberal government, and that the measure will drive up inflation.

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre said Canada has a "weakened" economy, border, military and prime minister, and that the Liberal leader is "desperate" for leverage.

"He's [Prime Minister Justin Trudeau] lost control but he's trying to hold on to power," said Poilievre before third reading of C-78 on Nov. 28. "And so he's come up with an irresponsible and inflationist \$6-billion tax trick that he will take away right before raising the carbon tax on heat, housing, groceries and gas in just a few months."

The Liberal government first announced the temporary suspension of the GST/HST on Nov. 21, adding that it would be followed by a \$250 "Working Canadians Rebate" cheque for those who made up to \$150,000 in 2023. Both measures would help Canadians continuing to struggle with the high cost of housing, food and gas. The federal NDP wanted the \$250 rebate cheque to be voted on as a separate bill, so the Liberals excluded the proposal from C-78.

According to the government's backgrounder released on Nov. 21, the GST/HST will be excluded from children's clothing and footwear, diapers, car seats, toys, video game consoles, controllers or physical game media, print newspapers, printed books and Christmas trees (natural or artificial).

The tax will also be suspended from food and beverages including wine, beer, cider and coolers (spirits excluded), carbonated beverages, candies, chips, popcorn, salted nuts, seeds, granola, dried fruit, juice bars, frozen yogurt, ice cream, fruit bars, cakes, muffins, pies, pastries, cookies, brownies, pudding, prepared salads, sandwiches, cold cuts, food or beverages sold at restaurants, coffee shops, lunch counters and bottled water.

Low-income Canadians who file an income tax return every year are eligible to receive a GST rebate.

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Lakeshore Hospital Guild members sew 'quilted hugs'

By Becca Myskiw

The Lakeshore Hospital Guild is sewing up quilted hugs to give others some extra warmth this winter.

After reading about a woman who created a pattern for a wearable blanket, Lakeshore Hospital Guild member Shelly Bjornson decided to try the pattern herself. It was created for personal care home residents who were looking for a blanket they could wear around their shoulders.

"I watched a YouTube video and I thought, 'hey, this is something we can do in winter,'" she said.

After creating the shawl-like piece, Bjornson took it to the Hospital Guild meeting and asked if anyone else would like to get together to make more.

"A few of them were, so I made some calls and six of us got together and went crazy," she said.

When they got together, Bjornson showed the quilters what the shawl looked like at different stages in the quilting process and gave each of them a pattern. The group planned their pieces, swapped and cut fabric until everyone had what they needed. They all went home and sewed, creating 13 "quilted hugs" together.

The shawls are like shoulder wraps



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Lakeshore Hospital Guilds members sewed 13 quilted hugs for Ashern Personal Care Home residents. The shawls come around the shoulders so residents can wear them while doing things.

that come over the shoulders down the front, completely hugging the person wearing them and covering them in warmth.

"I had just got three big boxes of

fabric," said Bjornson. "I had lots. I thought, 'let's pay it forward.' My mom was always cold when she was getting older; she was getting smaller. She always wanted something around

her shoulders. I thought of her and thought this would be a great idea."

The Lakeshore Hospital Guild plans to give the shawls to the Ashern Personal Care Home, where the recreation director will decide how to distribute them. Residents can use the shawls however they want, wearing them while playing cards, watching TV, reading, eating and more.

"If they go over really well and they want more, January's a long, cold month and sewing is something to keep you busy," said Bjornson.

The shawls the guild members quilted can be worn by anyone and are gender-neutral, as they are in patterns and colours of all kinds. The guild members will deliver the quilted hugs to the care home on Dec. 9.

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:
news@expressweeklynews.ca

Hope for Manitoba

Last week, the Honourable Anita Neville, lieutenant-governor of Manitoba, read the throne speech for the new session of the provincial legislature. This annual tradition lays out the government's priorities for the next 12 months. While the speech contained a number of goals that the provincial government has that will improve Manitobans' lives, the overwhelming theme, in particular for rural Manitobans, can be described in one word: hope.

As I travel the province meeting with producers, small business owners and everyday families, I hear about a new sense of hope and optimism about the future. Hope for the future of rural health care, hope that children get a high-quality education without having to leave their rural homes, hope that farmers and ranchers have a bigger say in how they sell their products and protect their land for future generations and hope that local governments gain the freedom to make decisions that they feel best reflects the priorities of the citizens

who elected them.

I believe their hope is justified. In the last year, in our goal of bringing ER wait times down, we announced a new doctor in Grandview and a nurse practitioner at the Gilbert Plains Medical Clinic, significantly improving rural accessibility. Our government opened 201 fully staffed beds in Winnipeg, Selkirk, Brandon and Dauphin as well as the Carberry ER, and we are moving forward on the design of the Eriksdale ER, and two new surgeons at the Selkirk Hospital will perform 800 new hip and knee surgeries a year. In fact, we are hiring a record number of doctors and retaining them at a higher rate than we have in years. When you add the expansion of the Nursing Re-entry Program, finally, rural and northern health-care options are increasing.

When it comes to affordability, saving Manitobans 14 cents a litre every time they fill up has led to Manitoba having the lowest inflation in the country. This coming spring, our new tax credit will give homeowners up to \$1,500 in relief, and starting in January, hydro rates will be frozen for all

of 2025.

For producers, in the next year, we will make new investments in agriculture and manufacturing and increase support for small businesses. We will also open two new Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) offices in western Manitoba.

I am so proud to have been a tireless advocate for the reopening of the Dauphin jail. In last week's throne speech, Premier Kinew made it clear that our government will be moving to the design phase of a new Dauphin justice centre.

We made a number of commitments for the people of rural Manitoba, and under the leadership of a premier who truly understands the needs and concerns of rural and northern communities, we are getting it done. I'm proud to be a rural Manitoban, and I am proud of the team of ministers working with communities across the province to offer hope for the future.

- Ron Kostyshyn
MLA for Dauphin
Minister of Agriculture

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.

Canada Post employees in Interlake and Eastman post offices refuse the news

Canada Post accepts payment for newspaper delivery, but rural post office staff instructed to down tools

By Patricia Barrett

Canada Post employees in rural post offices across the Interlake and parts of the Eastman region have been told to not put newspapers in mailboxes during the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) strike even though post office employees are members of a different union that's not on strike.

Over the course of two weeks following CUPW's launch of the strike on Nov. 15, rural post office employees were "instructed" by their Selkirk-based manager to refuse to deliver the *Express Weekly News*, the *Selkirk Record* and the *Stonewall Teulon Tribune*, which are published by the Stonewall-based newspaper company Big and Colourful Printing and Publishing (BCPP).

Delivering the newspaper entails post office staff folding the newspaper and placing it in resident and business mailboxes that are housed in post offices or postal outlets in various towns in the two regions, including Stonewall, Warren, Woodlands, Fisher Branch, Teulon, East Selkirk, Arborg and Libau.

Rural post office employees of the federal Crown corporation belong to the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA) union. CPAA is not on strike. It is, however, currently negotiating with Canada Post for a new collective agreement that expired in December 2023. That agreement still applies, according to negotiating updates posted on CPAA's website.

If rural post office staff were on strike in conjunction with CUPW workers, the down-tools approach to delivering newspapers would be perfectly understandable. And it would probably be a given that Canada Post wouldn't take BCPP's money in exchange for the delivery of those newspapers.

But Canada Post did in fact take payment from BCPP co-owner Lana Meier in exchange for its post office employees placing those newspapers in mailboxes, which are mere steps away from post office counters.

Last week [Nov. 18-22] some of the post offices in the Interlake accepted and delivered BCPP papers, but others refused. This week [Nov. 25-29] the same thing happened at post offices in different Interlake towns and in the Eastman region.

"What they're all doing is illegal. Canada Post can't take my company's money then refuse to provide the service I paid for," said Meier. "Rural post office employees are not on strike. They're getting paid to work."

Using the Arborg and Libau (north of Selkirk) post offices as examples, Meier said she paid Canada Post on Tuesday, Nov. 26 for the delivery of the *Express Weekly News* and *Selkirk Record* newspapers.

When she arrived in Arborg on Wednesday, Nov. 27 to deliver bundles of the *Express Weekly News*, post office staff told her they had been instructed by their manager via email to refuse to accept and handle newspapers.

"An email was sent to the Arborg Post Office on Monday morning [Nov. 25] from their manager — who we confirmed is Erin Lachman in Selkirk — telling them not to accept the newspaper," said Meier. "The same thing happened in Libau — post office staff received the same email from Erin telling them to refuse the newspaper."

With the newspapers carrying Black Friday flyers that rural advertisers were counting on being delivered, Meier said it was "imperative" she get the newspapers out to readers.

After a one-hour, 93-kilometre trip to Arborg, Meier said she had to drive

back to Stonewall with the newspapers, hire half a dozen or so extra staff on the fly, bag newspapers in plastic sleeves then drive back to Arborg and deliver the newspapers herself. Delivery in this case meant Meier driving down every street in Arborg and tossing a newspaper on to driveways, as well as driving the back roads outside Arborg.

She wasn't the only one who had to drive around pitching newspapers out the car window.

"Some staff delivered papers until 4:30 a.m. in other towns. I finished Stonewall at about 2 a.m. and went back out the next day at 8 a.m. And we were out all day today [Nov. 28], driving newspapers around to people's homes, to guarantee that everyone had a paper by midnight Wednesday," said Meier.

She said she took a newspaper box to Arborg and placed it between the post office and the Red Apple store in anticipation of Canada Post's non-striking employees being instructed once again to refuse to handle newspapers this week.

"I took a picture of the box, made a flyer and stuck it in all the newspaper bags to say that as of next week (Dec. 2-6), this is how readers will be able to get their paper. We have hired Riverdale Place employees for door-to-door delivery starting this week," said Meier. "The Arborg Post Office put a sign on their building telling everyone the paper is in the red box outside."

Meier said she can't take any responsibility for being blindsided by Canada Post as BCPP staff had called all the post offices on Nov. 15 when the strike was announced and "we were told by all of our post offices that striking CUPW workers — Canada Post employees who drive and deliver our newspapers to post offices — would have an effect on us, but not the CPAA employees." She was given no indication that post office employees would refuse to handle the newspapers.

"At that time [Nov. 15], I was able to adjust production and take some newspaper boxes and papers out to certain locations," said Meier. "But what we were told the first week of the strike and then the second week, changed very last minute. We weren't forewarned the week of Nov. 25; they had received Erin's email on Monday, Nov. 25. If they had called us that day to let us know they had been told to refuse our newspapers, I would've had time to adjust production, I wouldn't have submitted a payment to Canada Post and my staff and I

wouldn't have dropped off newspapers at post offices."

Last week an employee at the Libau Post Office, north of Selkirk, refused to accept the *Selkirk Record*, which BCPP staff had dropped off, and Meier said she called the staff member and told her she'd have no choice but to report her to Canada Post's head office.

That's when she got some action, she said. The Libau employee asked Meier if she could call her manager and get back to her. Fortunately, the Libau manager called Meier back, leaving a voice message saying she had spoken with Erin [Lachman] and that she'd be allowed after all to place the *Record* in mailboxes.

Meier said she verified Erin Lachman's phone number and left a message on her phone. Lachman never returned her call. Other BCCP staff tried to call Lachman but could not get her. This reporter independently confirmed Lachman's phone number and also left a message. Lachman did not call back.

Post office staff told this reporter they are not on strike and confirmed they were following orders from Lachman to not handle the newspapers. Some expressed sympathy for Meier, saying she could have been notified ahead of time that certain post offices would be refusing her newspapers.

"They [Canada Post] didn't deal with their customers," said one post office employee, whom the *Express Weekly News* is not naming as they fear backlash.

It's unclear under whose authority Lachman was working — her own, Canada Post's, the CPAA union or the CUPW union — when she instructed rural post office employees to refuse to handle newspapers.

The *Express Weekly News* reached out to CPAA's Manitoba representatives (president, vice-president, director, etc.). Some phone numbers listed on CPAA's website were not in service. Others did not respond to voice messages.

The *Express Weekly News* also reached out to the federal government's department of public services and procurement, which is responsible for Canada Post, asking questions such as why Canada Post accepted payment then refused to provide service, why Canada Post employees who are members of the CPAA union and who are not on strike were refusing to provide service, and why Canada Post didn't alert BCPP that post office employees would refuse newspapers.

The department did not respond.

DEER HEAD COMPETITION
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Gunton Greenwood Memorial Hall
Saturday, Dec 7th, 2024
Scoring by Manitoba
Big Game Trophy Association
Adult & Youth Categories
Entry Deadline is 7 p.m.
For information call
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Fisher Branch Christmas Lights Contest considering every house this year

By Becca Myskiw

The Fisher Branch Christmas Lights Contest is back for the third year in a row, and this year's prize is as merry as it gets.

For the last couple of years, the Local Urban District (LUD) of Fisher Branch has held a Christmas Lights Contest, but they've had trouble getting a good response from the community. Coun. Dave Plett said they got around six entries each year but were hoping for more.

So, this year, the LUD committee changed how the contest works — this year, residents won't have to enter the Christmas Lights Contest; every decorated house will be considered. That means anyone and potentially everyone could be in the running to win one of three prizes for having the most festive home.

"So we're just telling everyone to decorate their houses and the week of Dec. 16, we'll be going around and looking at every yard," said Plett. "We'll pick the three best yards, and they'll win prizes."

To choose the "best yards," the LUD committee members will look



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

This year, all decorated homes in Fisher Branch will be considered for the Christmas Lights Contest. First, second and third place winners will receive a Christmas food hamper as a prize.

at which displays have the most lights, the best-looking lights, the best-arranged display, the neatest and tidiest display, and the overall look and feel. On Dec. 16, prizes

will be awarded for first, second and third place.

In past years, the contest winners have received monetary prizes, but this year, the LUD committee is offering something else: a Christmas food hamper.

"We just thought it's a little tough nowadays," said Plett. "And this could really help that. Someone mentioned doing food hampers at a meeting and we all went for it."

The committee will directly contact the winners on Dec. 16 to award them their prizes.

Plett and the LUD committee hope many families will decorate their homes and yards for the holidays this year. He said decorating for Christmas makes the holidays better and gets everyone into the spirit of them.

Also happening this holiday season in Fisher Branch is the Santa Claus Parade on Friday, Dec. 6. At 6:30 p.m., floats will parade through town, starting at the community centre and ending a mile and a half later at the wheel, with Santa Claus being the final float. The parade will last about an hour, followed by a fireworks show starting at 8 p.m.

> EASTMAN IMMIGRANT SERVICES, FROM PG. 5

Reimer said client numbers fluctuate depending on the year and circumstances. When the influx of Ukrainians came to Canada recently, they saw their highest number of clients at a time. Over the five years in the Interlake region, Eastman Immigrant Services has worked with up to 75 clients in total.

"People need assistance with lots," said Reimer. "Often, it's not understanding an application. That can be very difficult for someone who doesn't

know the language. Our services help with that — even getting around the area, the local communities. Settlement work can be so diverse."

She added that part of settlement work also provides a safe space for people to share their stories, feel comfortable and find the support they need.

"They want to come here, and they want to integrate," said Reimer. "We help them do that. We learn from each other."

Over the years, Reimer has

worked with people from various backgrounds and cultures, each having something to offer.

"It's a win-win situation for the community, for the people, and our workers," she said.

Eastman Immigrant Services' Arborg office phone number is 431-303-9548. If Magaway is ever away from the office for a time, a note with her contact information will be posted on the door.



ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join us virtually to learn more about Manitoba's Crown corporation dedicated to energy efficiency.

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Blue Crescent HOTELS

GRAND OPENING

Sat. Dec. 14 @ 2pm Arborg MB



east of Hwy 7 & 68 junction

Ribbon cutting ceremony beginning at 2. Tours and refreshments to follow. Come and go from 2-6pm

bluecrescent.ca Scan to book



Lighting up Gunton, local resident's outdoor display brings cheer

By E Antonio

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Larry Possberg's Gunton home.

For over five years, Possberg has been lifting Gunton's spirits with his impressive light display.

With what started as a light-up and animatronic ferris wheel, his display has expanded to include over 15 moving pieces to celebrate the holiday season.

"Gunton has always been a well decorated town and I wanted to join in on the fun. I started with the ferris wheel, and the display has only grown ever since."

This year, Possberg gave the community a sneak peek of what they can expect at his display. He and his son put together a float for the Teulon Christmas Lights Drive-thru Parade using a select number of pieces that you would find at his Gunton home.

"My son suggested putting a float in the parade, so we jumped on the idea."

He said that the float was more work than he was expecting, but the duo managed to set up the animatronics over the course of two days.

"At the house, we have quite a bit more and we add a little bit to it every year."

Possberg's 2024 display is now officially set up. He explained that it usually takes ten days to assemble, wire, and display his festive animatronics.

"I do about a week's prep work in the garage getting everything put together. Then I bring out the tractor to put it out. They are all made out of steel so they are very heavy. I normally spend three days



The merry-go-round is one of 15 moving pieces set up in a Gunton yard.

placing everything."

He has always had a passion for handy work and likes playing around in the garage.

"I like to be kept busy. I will weld and build everything, and my wife does a lot of the painting and artwork."

Possberg can't even estimate how many lights he uses on the display.

"The two small light up trees have over 1,000 LED. I guess if I ever get bored, I



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Larry Possberg's float at the Teulon Christmas Lights Drive-thru Parade gives a preview of what he has set up at his Gunton home on 78 Gunn St.

could try to figure out how many lights are here."

Even picking a favourite structure poses a challenge. He receives many comments on the ferris wheel, but when people visit the display they all have a different favourite.

You can visit Possberg's light display at 78 Gunn St., and while you are there, be sure to visit the other decorated homes in the community. "It's worth a drive to see all the decorations here," added Possberg.

His yard lights up nightly from 4 to 9:30 p.m. It will be decorated until Jan. 1, when he will disassemble everything and put it in the shed to store for next year.

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CO-OP Interlake

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CAR WASH

Valid until December 24, 2024

A dedicated advocate's journey to help local animals

By Haley Cvar

Karen Bittner, a dedicated animal advocate of Gimli, has begun her annual fundraising event for the Gimli Humane Society (GHS). Due to the rising number of surrendered, abandoned and neglected pets in the region, Bittner saw the pressing need to aid the rescue's efforts in caring for these animals.

Named "Pets Need Christmas Too," Bittner's initiative strives to collect more than 1,000 pounds of pet food. She promotes her cause and inspires contributions through various social media channels, local gatherings and collaborations with the community. Every donation of cans, bags of food and litter contributes to reaching the goal.

According to Bittner, this directly assists in guaranteeing that these creatures receive proper nourishment and necessary care during their time in the shelter before finding their permanent homes.

Bittner has a local donation drop off at Gimli's Robins Donuts. From now until Dec. 21, pet supplies or food can be left beneath the Robin's Christmas tree. For monetary contributions, please send directly to the GHS or contact Bittner at 204-739-6552.

For the past eight years, the Gimli event has been a resounding success, drawing pet enthusiasts from all over



the community to support this fundraiser.

Bittner has dedicated herself to this passion for 31 years as a tribute to her late mother Ann's advocacy for animal welfare. Through her fundraising campaign, Bittner hopes to inspire community members and those in the surrounding area to join in and support the local rescues of both large and small animals.

Bittner persistently gathers support, reiterating the message that "together,



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Janet and Alfi stopped at Robin's Donuts in Gimli in to drop off a donation for the Gimli Humane Society. Donations can be made until Dec. 21.

we can make a difference in the lives of these animals."

Individuals looking to support the "Pets Need Christmas Too" campaign can find details regarding food donations or monetary contributions on

Bittner's Facebook page, Pets Need Christmas Too.

Every contribution, regardless of its size, plays a crucial role in shaping a brighter future for these deserving animals.



JOIN US FOR THE DECEMBER CONSIGNMENT SALE 2024

DAY 1 ITEMS AVAILABLE TO VIEW DECEMBER 2ND TO 6TH, 9-5PM

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Canada Post strike inconveniencing some businesses, planning district and Hydro

By Patricia Barrett

The Canada Post strike is inconveniencing some rural businesses and customers in the Interlake, as well as providing an opportunity for fraudsters to prey on people who can't get their bills in the mail.

The Watering Whole, a family-run water-and-ice supply and brewing company in Arborg, has not been affected too badly by the postal strike, said co-owner Susan Bauernhuber, but some customers are having to come by with a cheque to pay for products.

"The strike is not really affecting us that much. We do



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Watering Whole co-owner Susan Bauernhuber (shown in 2017) said her company hasn't been affected too badly by the Canada Post strike, but customers are having to drop off cheques in person to pay for products.

almost everything, including invoicing, through the internet," said Bauernhuber. "For anything that's not done through the internet, the local businesses here are hand delivering their cheques to the store."

The Gimli-based Eastern Interlake Planning District, on

the other hand, is experiencing a little more pain because of the strike.

CAO and development officer Nancy Thom said bill payments have become problematic, as has the requirement to send out planning notices to people in the mail about issues that could affect them.

"The strike has definitely created a bit of a hiccup for us. For bill payments, for example, we do everything by cheque. So we've had to find alternative methods of payment," said Thom. "We've transferred over to EFT [electronic funds transfer], which can be difficult as it all has to be arranged through a financial institution. So that's definitely creating a problem for us."

The EIPD serves the RM of Gimli, the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton, the Town of Arborg and the Town of Winnipeg Beach. The planning district provides planning services such as building and development permits, occupancy permits, and deals with variance and conditional use applications.

Getting public hearing notices out to members of the public who could be affected by a development will be tricky with the strike. Thom said this time of year is typically a slower time for the EIPD. But anyone with a development application could "walk in tomorrow."

"Thankfully, knock on wood, at this time [Nov. 28] we don't have any public notices we need to send out with the exception of one public hearing that's coming up in Bifrost-Riverton.

MANITOBA FORAGE SEED ASSOCIATION

2025 MB Forage Seed Producer Forum & AGM January 9, 2025

Victoria Inn, Winnipeg

The Manitoba Forage Seed Association invites you to their Annual Forage Seed Conference and AGM. A range of topics will be covered dealing with various aspects of growing and managing forage and turf seed crops. This year's conference is featuring:

- Highlights from EMILI's Innovation Farms
 - Herbicide & Fungicide Options
- Peace Region Production & Research Update
- Seed Production Research in Minnesota
 - Precision Planting Solutions

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the members of the Manitoba Forage Seed Association Inc. will be held on January 9, 2025, at 10:30 am at the Victoria Inn, Wpg. Member is defined as an individual or entity who has paid a levy fee for the sale of Forage seed crops between the period of July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024.

The Board of Directors will be proposing amendments to By-Law No. 1/2005 at the AGM for discussion. A vote to approve the amendments will be held immediately following discussions. Limited copies of the proposed amendments will be available at the AGM.

Advance copies can be obtained by emailing Lisa at: loneill@forageseed.net

To register contact the office at: 204-376-3309 or email Lisa. Details on our website: www.forageseed.net

Royal Canadian Legion Gimli Branch 182

Children's Christmas Party!

Sunday, December 1st from 1 pm - 3 pm

Location: 146 Sixth Street - Gimli



There will be Hot Dogs, Chips, Drinks, Face Painting, Activities for the kids and a visit from Santa.

Parents/Guardians and Children under 12 are welcome.



THANK YOU

The Westshore Community Foundation would like to thank everyone who donated to our Community Fund during this year's Giving Challenge Week. Together we raised over \$23,000 which will go towards projects in the Riverton, Gimli, Fraserwood, Winnipeg Beach and Dunnottar areas.

Donations can be made any time throughout the year on our website at www.westshorefoundation.ca

We would love to see you at our upcoming New Year's Eve fundraiser!

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Last Chance Christmas Market at Gimli Art Club featuring unique artwork

By Patricia Barrett

The Gimli Art Club is hosting an upcoming two-day Christmas market where art lovers can shop for unique watercolour and acrylic paintings, photographic art, pottery and other artworks for that special someone on their Christmas list.

The Last Chance Christmas Market will feature works by several club members.

“There will be about 10-12 artists represented, and Gallery 1 will also be open that represents 30-plus artists as well,” said artist Alice Smith, who specializes in pencil and coloured pencil works of nature.

“This is for the community. It’s an affordable last-minute shopping ex-

perience that supports local artists and brings the community together.”

The artists taking part in the market will pay a commission and a table fee to the club, which will use the proceeds for renovations, community events or club events, said Smith.

There will be coffee, tea and dainties and shoppers are encouraged to bring a Tin for the Bin for the Evergreen Basic Needs food bank.

The Last Chance Christmas Market will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14 and Sunday, Dec. 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Gimli Art Club is located at 3 Centre St. across from the Lakeview Resort.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Gimli artist Alice Smith encourages the public to stop in at the Art Club to do some last-minute shopping that supports local artists while bringing the community together.

> INCONVENIENCING, FROM PG. 12

In the Planning Act, it states that the requirements for notification — if it can’t be met for some reason, such as the postal strike — will be deemed to have been met if we post a notice in the municipality and in our office — which we always do anyway,” said Thom. “And if someone does apply for something, we would try to get them to postpone their application until we can provide appropriate notice [i.e. through the mail].”

Thom said they can also provide notice through the EIPD and municipalities’ websites, as well as the newspaper.

“We would go above and beyond; we wouldn’t just put the notice on the bulletin board here in the EIPD office. We would also put it on our website and we would have the municipality post it on their website,” said Thom.

“To err on the side caution, even though there is no requirement for variance and conditional use applications to go into the newspaper, we might resort to putting a notice in the paper, which would go beyond and above what the Planning Act states.”

Public hearing notices are posted on the EIPD’s website under the name of each municipality the district serves.

Refunding deposits that developers have to pay as a condition of their development is also causing the EIPD problems as it usually puts a cheque in the mail.

“We’re having to call all the permit holders and ask them to come to the office. And that inconveniences them, especially if they have to make a special trip in to Gimli from another municipality,” said Thom.

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Our toll free number is 1-866-269-1786 press 2 for Admin

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding during this time

Fraserwood Friday night bingo jackpots won



Candice Toback, right, was the lucky winner of the 50/50 draw. She took home the \$76 prize.



Leithin Deaffie celebrated with his mom when she called bingo, winning the Fraserwood Lucky star jackpot of \$4,099. B10 was the lucky star.



Lennie Welchinski hands Joan Bartmanovich a cheque for \$1,505. Bartmanovich was the winner of the Houdini jackpot. Bartmanovich and Welchinski both volunteer at the bingo every Friday night.

2024 Holiday Events

- Fri. Dec. 6** Fisher Branch Christmas Parade 6:30pm
- Sat. Dec. 7** Breakfast with Santa 9:00am-12:00
Poplarfield Community Centre
- 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** Ashern Early Years 7:00pm
Ashern Centennial Hall
- 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
1:00pm and 7:00pm
- Wed. Dec. 18** Lundar Early Years School Christmas Concert
6:30pm



Birthday greetings were announced to Dennis Podaima who was celebrating his 72nd birthday.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY NICOLE KAPUSTA
Lois Karish calls the numbers for the Bonanza game.

> INCONVENIENCING, FROM PG. 13

the postal strike to accommodate customers who receive paper bills in the mail and don't have online accounts.

The utility will be sending its customers an automated phone call or text message to inform them a new bill has been issued.

It's also warning its customers to be careful as scammers are posing as Hydro employees in phone calls, text messages, emails and in person.

"With the labour disruption at Canada Post delaying delivery of bills, there are more opportunities for fraudsters to mislead customers about what they owe, and when and how they should pay," said media relations officer Peter Chura in a Nov. 26 statement. "Scammers will try just about anything to trick people into giving them money or personal information, and that includes posing as Manitoba Hydro employ-

ees in calls, texts, emails, even in person. They may claim that power is about to be disconnected to make it appear urgent that payments be made immediately."

The utility is reminding customers that it will not do or does not do any of the following for security reasons:

Hydro will not share account balances in automated messages to customers who do not have an online account. Hydro will not threaten to immediately disconnect power or demand payment over the phone. And Hydro does not accept credit card payments, Interac e-transfers, cryptocurrency or phone payments.

"Never give out personal banking or credit card information," said Chura.

Hydro customers can avoid scams by speaking only with Hydro's customer service centre: 1-888-624-9376 or by popping into a service centre in one of the rural areas including Arborg, Ashern and Selkirk.

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4 - 9PM CHRISTMAS MARKET NEW ICELAND MUSEUM

4 - 8PM PICTURES WITH SANTA IN THE LOBBY OF THE LAKEVIEW GIMLI RESORT.

6:15PM ADAM T ELVIS

6:30PM - WELCOME & CHRISTMAS GREETING FOLLOWED BY TREE LIGHTING & SANTA

6:45PM - CHRISTMAS CAROLING DR. GEORGE JOHNSON SCHOOL CHOIR

7PM - ROMANNA KLYMKIW MUSIC STUDIO STUDENTS PERFORMANCE

GIMLI REC CENTER DECEMBER 7

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10AM-3PM - CHRISTMAS MARKET

12PM-1PM - KIDS COOKIE DECORATING

1PM-4PM - FREE PUBLIC SKATE

6PM - GIMLI CHRISTMAS PARADE

10AM - 4PM CHRISTMAS MARKET NEW ICELAND MUSEUM

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sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

They shot, they scored: Interlakers inducted into the 2024 Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame

By Patricia Barrett

Former hockey players and hockey supporters from Riverton, Gimli, St. Laurent and Warren were inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame (MHHF) and recognized and lauded for their achievements.

Former Cartwright Clippers' players Allan Johnson, who lives in Riverton, and Terry Krulicki, who lives in Gimli, were among the players, coaches, officials and other hockey personnel who attended the MHHF's 2024 induction ceremony on Oct. 5 in Winnipeg.

The Cartwright Clippers won five South West Hockey League championships from 1986 to 1992 and were inducted into MHHF's Dynasty category for a multi-game-winning streak and entry after entry into the playoffs.

Cartwright is a small rural town southeast of Brandon and is located close to the Manitoba-North Dakota border.

Johnson is originally from Baldur, Man., and played hockey from age 17 until he was "well into his 30s." He said he spent the majority of his hockey career with the Cartwright Clippers. And Krulicki is originally from Gimli but was living in Brandon at the time he was playing for the Clippers.

Johnson said that when he walked up on stage during the ceremony, he got a "butterflies-in-my-stomach" feeling because it was so nice to see the Clippers being recognized.

"It was great [to get this recognition] because we always played as a team, won as a team and lost as a team; it was always a team effort," said Johnson. "This was a town of only about 300 people, and we were the only team that was able to beat Brandon."

According to the MHHF, the Clippers sidelined the competition as they slid into a winning streak and hit the playoffs.

"Each year, the Clippers would go deeper in



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Terry Krulicki from Gimli (left) and Allan Johnson from Riverton played hockey with the Cartwright Clippers in southern Manitoba. The team was inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame in October. Travis Kornelson from Riverton, Laurent Kerbrat from St. Laurent and Laurie Langrell from Warren were also inducted under other categories.

league playoffs. In the 1986 season, the Clippers rode a league record 25 game winning

streak into the playoffs," states the MHHF's short profile honouring the inductees. "After knocking off the Souris Elks in the semis, they defeated the 2-time defending champion Brandon Spectrum Sportsmen 4 games to 2 to claim their first SWHL title."

In 1992 the Clippers earned their fifth straight crown.

"It was a special team for a little town and it had all those guys come back after playing junior and some playing pro-hockey," said Johnson. "It was a tough league to win."

The Cartwright Clippers were honoured under the Hall's Dynasty category, whose criteria include having achieved success over a number of years.

"We are a dynasty; I guess that says it all!" said Johnson, laughing. "But it really was an accomplishment for the team to have won that league five years in a row. I got to play with some really good players."

MHHF inductees are nominated by the public and then considered by a committee. There are eight categories including Player, Builder, Teams, Dynasty, Veterans and Grassroots.

Travis Kornelson, who is from Riverton, was inducted in the MHHF's Teams category as part of the Southeast Prairie Thunder team that won the 2011-2012 Allan Cup. The Allan Cup is a top Canadian amateur hockey crown.

The Southeast Prairie Thunder were originally the Grunthal Red Wings, which won two Manitoba senior titles before moving to Steinbach in 2008 and

Continued on page 19

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sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Varsity Thunder present team awards for RMFL achievements

By Kieran Reimer

One month after experiencing heartbreak in the Rural Manitoba Football Championship, the Varsity Interlake Thunder were back together in Stonewall for one final time this year to celebrate the many incredible moments of the 2024 season.

Though the Thunder didn't win the ultimate prize this season, they still proved they were right there as one of the top varsity football programs in the province in a season where things felt stacked against them from the get-go.

The RMFL re-aligned them to a three-team Urban Division at the start of the season, which surprised many of the team's staff and players. Thus, they had to pivot their approach to the entire season early on.

After a short regular season, multiple intersquad games on bye weeks and still making a run to their second consecutive championship game, the Thunder managed to make it a positive season.

On Saturday, team players and staff gathered at the Stonewall Legion to honour the season's accomplishments with their annual team awards and put one final bow on the 2024 campaign.

"I was really proud of the team for the way they pushed through some adversity this season with some of the rejigging of the league," said head coach Christof Hasselfield on Wednesday morning. "I told them I appreciate the way they still showed up and did their job. It was still a successful year. With the awards I'm always torn because I like that we get to recognize the guys we do and it's well deserved but there's also a part of me that feels like we preach being a team and doing your job. Like I told the team, sometimes your job isn't glamorous and isn't the one that's going to win you an award, but it doesn't mean it's any less important."

Though the staff was di-



Jessie Batenchuk



AJ Nadon



Jake Rogoski



Luke Robinson



Jackson Nichol



Jamie Dandeneau



Quinton Favel



Trevin Smith

vided on who should receive some of the awards, they ultimately decided on who should receive this year's individual awards.

Headlining the eight-handed out on the night, the most valuable player, to no surprise, went back to the player who won it last year.

Junior Jessie Batenchuk, the winner of this year's team MVP, received the award for an incredible season playing quarterback.

After leading the Thunder's offence in 2023 as a wide receiver, Batenchuk made the full-time switch to quarterback this season and had a breakout performance in their week one game against the Falcons.

After leading the Thunder to a 2-2 record in the regular season, Batenchuk continued to up his game throughout the season, leading the Thunder to a semi-final victory and nearly an upset over the undefeated St. Vital Mustangs in the championship game.

Still, just a junior, Batenchuk

is eligible to return next season for the final year of his varsity career.

"It's his leadership from spring camp all the way through, he really set that tone and kept the guys on track during practice," said Hasselfield. "This is his first year at quarterback and we put a lot on him. He's a team first guy, a great athlete, and great attitude. In crunch time you can lean on him, and you know he'll make a play. He definitely earned it."

His right-hand man on offence, AJ Nadon, also received an award as the Thunder's Offensive MVP this season.

In his junior campaign, Nadon ran for a touchdown in every game, including one in the championship game.

"He was the motor that made the offence run," said Hasselfield. "His ability to make a couple guys miss and turn a two yard gain into a seven, we were able to build off that. His threat opened up the passing game as well and

he was a catalyst for the offence. Maybe one of the most dynamic players I've ever got to coach. He's a special talent."

Then, on the other side of the ball, senior Quinton Favel received the Defensive MVP Award.

In his final season with the Thunder, Favel switched from defensive end to middle linebacker, his career position.

The move turned out to work wonders, as Favel was able to cover all areas of the field and shut down many of the opposition's top offensive threats gamely.

"I don't know if I have the words to say how big he was, he was such an impact," said Hasselfield. "He's a tone setter, a great leader and a guy that will be really sorely missed next year. He's got big things ahead of him for sure. The pace he plays with, he's kind of a freak athlete for how big he is and he never turns it off."

Rounding out the awards

were Jackson Nichol winning the Leadership Award, Trevin Smith winning Rookie of the Year, Luke Robinson winning Special Teams Player of the Year, Jamie Dandeneau winning Impact Player of the Year, and Jake Rogoski winning Lineman of the Year.

The RMFL also awarded Rogoski as the top lineman of the entire league as well as Jakob Samborski, who battled a knee injury all year, with the RMFL's Outstanding Student Athlete Award.

Now, with the season over, the Thunder have 10 players aging out of the program who will become eligible to play junior-level ball in 2025.

Hasselfield believes some will pursue the Canadian Junior Football League or the Manitoba Major Junior Football League as the next step in their competitive football careers.

The players returning next year will get the winter off before Thunder Spring Camp in the new year.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

NHL greats takeover 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 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 Bu-



Eighty-one-year-old Don Buchko of Arborg played in his fourth NHL alumni game.

chko following the event. "The best part was the NHLers and coaching staff treated me like royalty. It was the 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,



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

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

and they were really great to me. Then 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 Friday was when Dennis and Cody Waterman, the 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."

Falcons weekend pair overshadowed by late collapse on Saturday

By Kieran Reimer

The Lundar Falcons will feel mixed emotions after coming up just short of a perfect weekend on Saturday.

The weekend began with a thrilling 2-1 overtime win over the Beausejour Comets on Friday.

Gavin Miller scored the game's opening goal, and Braeden Lukas was the overtime winner as the Falcons jumped back into a share of the top spot in the Capital Region Junior

Hockey League.

Then, on Saturday against the Arborg Ice Dawgs, the Falcons had an opportunity to take sole possession of first place, and through the first two periods, it looked like they might.

After goals from Braeden Lukas, Dylan Vitelli and Gavin Miller, the Falcons were in control in the game's final frame.

They led up until the final eight minutes of the third when the Ice Dawgs

scored an equalizer that had the game likely headed for extra time.

But a late penalty from the Falcons sent the Ice Dawgs on the man advantage with two minutes left, and it proved costly. Ice Dawgs forward Tyson Barylski scored with a minute left, and the Ice Dawgs skated off with a 4-3 win.

The late-game blunder kept the Falcons tied with the Comets for first place, as they failed to capitalize on

their chance to take sole possession of first.

They now hold a 10-4-0-2-0 record and look ahead to next Sunday's home game against the La Broquerie Habs.

UPCOMING GAMES:

Sunday, Dec. 8 vs La Broquerie Habs, 3 p.m. at Lundar Arena

Lightning Report: U17s searching for offence after break in schedule

By Kieran Reimer

The U17 AAA Male Interlake Lightning are hoping for better starts and more offence in their upcoming games.

Last week the Lightning found themselves playing from behind for most of their two games on Saturday and Sunday.

Both times, the Lightning couldn't find the back of the net until the third period of losses to the Winnipeg Wild and Pembina Valley Hawks.

Head coach Niels Kaczorowski believes part of it was due to their previous 13 days off from games. The team now sits seventh with a 3-9-3 record.

"Unfortunately, we had a pretty light schedule, so we had almost two weeks off and didn't have our legs at the start," said Kaczorowski. "We went down early in both, found ourselves chasing, and just couldn't climb back. It was definitely a good effort from the boys, though, in some tight games. We're having difficulty scoring right now; unfortunately, we ran into two of the better goalies in the league."

Kaczorowski added that since last week they've been working on scor-

ing in practice as they get set to take on the Winnipeg Wild once again on Tuesday night.

So far this season, the Wild have bested the Lightning 4-2 in both meetings, with goal-scoring being the deciding factor.

This time, he said they will need to shut down the Wild's top line if they want a chance at winning.

"The Wild we definitely know," said Kaczorowski. "They got some high-end scorers that, as long as we can shut them down and get some more shots, we can definitely win. We just have to get more shots from better-scoring opportunities and get more from the slot. We've changed up the lines and we'll see if we can get some goals."

Puck drop Tuesday went at 7:40 p.m. at Hockey For All Centre in Winnipeg. Due to our press schedule the score was unavailable at the time.

The Lightning return to game action on Saturday against the Winnipeg Thrashers at 5:30 p.m. from Gateway Recreation Centre.

The U13 AA Female Interlake Lightning lost 4-2 to the Titans in Stony

Mountain on Sunday. They currently sit seventh with a 3-6-0-1 record.

Next game: Sunday, Dec. 15 vs St. Vital Victorias, 3:30 p.m. at Stony Mountain Community Centre

The U13 AA Male Interlake Lightning lost 6-5 to the Winnipeg Bruins Brown on Saturday afternoon at Dakota Community Centre. They currently sit 17th with a 3-5-0-1 record.

Next game: Friday, Dec. 6 at Brandon Wheat Kings, 6:30 p.m. at Brandon Flynn Arena

The U15 AA Male Interlake Lightning won 5-3 over the Winnipeg Thrashers White on Saturday in Arborg. They currently sit 10th with a 4-6-3 record.

Next game: Friday, Dec. 6 vs Brandon Wheat Kings, 7:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Sports Complex

The U15 AAA Female Interlake Lightning had the week off games after last weekend's Rivalry Cup in Minnesota. They remain 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 lost 9-1 to the Central Plains Capitals on Sunday in Portage la Prairie. They currently sit fifth in the Central Division with a 3-12 record.

Next game: Thursday, Dec. 5 at Winnipeg Wild Red, 6:15 p.m. at Hockey For All Centre

The U18 AAA Female Interlake Lightning split the weekend beating the Westman Wildcats 3-1 on Saturday and losing 7-1 to the Winnipeg Avros on Sunday. They currently sit ninth with a 1-10 record.

Next game: Friday, Dec. 6 at Pembina Valley Hawks, 7:30 p.m. at Access Event Centre

The U18 AAA Male Interlake Lightning shutout the Parkland Rangers 3-0 on Sunday in Dauphin. They currently sit seventh with a 10-7-1-2 record.

Next game: Wednesday, Dec. 4 at Winnipeg Bruins, 6:45 p.m. at Southdale Community Centre

Ice Dawgs split difficult weekend schedule in CRJHL

By Kieran Reimer

The Arborg Ice Dawgs came away with a split in a pair of games against two of the league's best on the weekend.

On Saturday, the Ice Dawgs were victorious by a score of 4-3 over the then Capital Region Junior Hockey League leading Lundar Falcons in dramatic comeback fashion.

Down 3-2 in the game's final minutes, Ben Danielson got the game

back to even before Tyson Barylski scored the game winner on the powerplay with just a minute left.

Barylski's goal was his second of the night while Danielson's equalizer and Brandon Burak's first period marker were the other Ice Dawgs goals on the night.

Ice Dawgs' Paxton Moore also won the goaltending battle stopping 46 of 49 while Falcons' Seth Hasker stopped 31 of 35.

The Ice Dawgs however were losers the following night in a 7-2 road loss in St. Malo to the Warriors.

The Ice Dawgs didn't score until the third period when Brandon Burak and Harris Dankochik each tallied to soften the blow.

The loss brings the Ice Dawgs to 5-11-0-1-0 after the weekend and they remain fifth in the CRJHL.

Their schedule won't get any easier either next week as they take on the

first place Beausejour Comets on Friday and rematch the Warriors on Saturday.

UPCOMING GAMES:

Friday, Dec. 6 at Beausejour Comets, 8 p.m. at Sun Gro Centre

Saturday, Dec. 7 vs St. Malo Warriors, 7:30 p.m. at Arborg & District Arena

> HOCKEY HALL OF FAME, FROM PG. 16

rebranding as the thunder.

Also inducted this year was Laurent Kerbrat from St. Laurent.

Kerbrat, who passed away in 2020, was honoured in the MHHF's Grassroots category for his dedication to making and maintaining natural ice for his community for over three decades, and ensuring kids could get in on the game.

"Throughout Manitoba, the hockey rink is the heart of every community in winter. Its pulse kept up by the efforts put in through long hours of work, mostly by volunteers. All the

residents of St. Laurent and its neighbouring towns would agree that for 35 years, without the efforts of 'the hockey man', there would not be any ice and no hockey," states the MHHF profile. "St. Laurent, MB's Laurent Kerbrat is a true profile of the spirit of dedication and community engagement."

Kerbrat had been presented with an RBC Local Hockey Leader Award in 2008.

Laurie Langrell from Warren was inducted into the MHHF under the Players category.

"During his pro career from 1959/60 until 1965/66, [Langrell] played a season in the EHL and then headed to the IHL with St. Paul, Minneapolis, Port Huron and Des Moines. Langrell also had short stints in the WHL with the Winnipeg Warriors and the Seattle Totems," according to the MHHF's profile. "Following his pro career, he

played for the Warren Mercurys in Intermediate C, then the Selkirk Fishermen in the Manitoba senior league, and then was the playing coach for Morden in the Southeastern League."

Visit the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame at www.mbhockeyhalloffame.ca For more information about 2024 inductees.

To see more photos of your favourite Interlake Athletes

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Local groomers bring essential pet care to Norway House

By E Antonio

A volunteer trip to Norway House by dedicated groomers from Winnipeg Beach has fostered a new wave of pet care in remote communities.

By teaching residents how to groom their dogs, Jamie Taylor, Robyn Sul and Debra Vandekerkhove have opened doors for better animal welfare. The impact on community health is already evident with improved access to grooming services.

In early November, the three gals embarked on a meaningful journey to the remote community in Northern Manitoba.

Sitting Pretty Pet Spa owners Jamie Taylor and Robyn Sul and Manitoba Animal Alliance founder Debra Vandekerkhove visited Norway House from Nov. 15 to 18 to train locals to become pet groomers. Unfortunately, Norway House lacks proper pet care services.

"We were offering grooming services to animals in the area, and we were also teaching two of the local ladies out there how to do the grooming basics," explained Taylor. "This includes nail trims, brushing, shampooing and fur cuts so they can hopefully start up their own grooming business."

For Vandekerkhove, it has been a long-time goal to have trained animal groomers in remote communities, and since she is a client of Sitting Pretty Pet Spa, she knew who to ask to be the teachers.

"When Debra approached us, we both thought it was a great idea," Taylor said.

It was then, the crew made the nearly 12-hour drive to Norway House to train Jenna Hart and Sarah McLeod. The drive took much longer than expected because the ice and snow on the roads made for dangerous driving conditions.

Over two intensive days, they groomed an impressive 83 dogs despite the challenges.

"We were up at 6 a.m., and we groomed all day long. Normally, we would typically groom eight dogs each day."

Hart and McLeod's ability to offer grooming services in the remote community will positively impact the animals' lives.

Vandekerkhove said she is thrilled that Norway House now has access to proper animal care.

"It is just so incredibly awesome that we are able to have something like this because it creates jobs. Usually, a groomer would be five hours away, if not more, and that car ride is no fun for the animal or the human."

She also added on that a well-



Sitting Pretty Pet Spa owners Jamie Taylor and Robyn Sul.

groomed dog is also a healthier dog.

"There are lots of large dog breeds up there with matts in their fur and matts are not good for large breed dogs because they don't keep them warm. The difference in having access to proper grooming care is incredible."

Hart herself also makes an impact as a trained groomer. She sees the need in the community for dog groomers, since driving a long way can be a hassle.

"I really enjoyed this experience," she said.

It is now her goal to have a physical grooming shop set up with running water in Norway House.

"I am hoping I can figure out everything after Christmas. It would be nice for this to keep me busy."

Dog grooming wasn't the only action happening that weekend. Manitoba Animal Alliance, in conjunction with Dr. Aaron Mooi from Centennial Animal Hospital and Dr. Camilla Nichol from Alpine Animal Hospital, held a spay, neuter and birth control implant clinic for over 60 animals.

"Through donations, we were able to only charge \$49 for a spay, neuter or implant," said Vandekerkhove.

With the help of veterinary staff members, they effectively control the animal population and aggression up north.

She explained that with newer technology of birth control implants, their team can quickly and easily control animal reproduction without surgery.

"The implants are a great solution for remote locations. They are the size of a grain of rice and it takes 30 seconds to place it in between their shoulder blades with an injection. They can last for a year in male dogs, and even longer in females. They work by pausing the hormones and depleting the sperm counts, making



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Jenna Hart and Sarah McLeod were trained by Sitting Pretty Pet Spa owners on how to groom animals properly.

them infertile and less aggressive for the time it is placed."

While up north, Vandekerkhove also ensures that the locals are left with enough supplies for the animals. These include food, shelter, winter supplies, dewormers and now grooming gear such as brushes and shampoo.

"If we give these people the chance to change the lives of their animals, then we are already so much stronger than before. We are leaving the community with people and things who can do so much more for the welfare of animals."

Even though everyone has recently returned from their volunteer excursion, Manitoba Animal Alliance and Sitting Pretty Pet Spa are already

planning on returning to Norway House in the spring to train more locals in pet grooming.

You can help fund their next mission by donating to Manitoba Animal Alliance. The funds will go towards the grooming or spay, neuter and birth control implant clinic.

In the meantime, if your pet in the Winnipeg Beach area needs grooming, you are welcome to book an appointment with Sitting Pretty Pet Spa.

"At Sitting Pretty, we always focus on the health and safety of every dog," added Taylor. "It has been a phenomenal experience opening up in a small town."

You can text 204-389-5870 to book an appointment at Sitting Pretty Pet Spa.

Winter woods, feathered friends



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BEN HEWSON

Camp Morton was a popular spot following the fresh snow for chickadees and nuthatches in search of snacks on Nov. 27. The temperature ranged from -8 degrees C. for its low to -4 for the high on the day. Help the Express record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or family enjoying the outdoors. Email: news@expressweeklynews.ca

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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.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

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

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.

FLIGHT ACADEMY

Want to learn how to fly? LS Airways Flight Academy is the most affordable in Canada. Recreational, private and commercial certificates. We offer flight training and ground school (air law, navigation, meteorology, aeronautics general knowledge). Call 204-651-1402.



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.

BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS ADS RIGHT NOW! Maximize your business plan before year end. Early deadlines are in place. 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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HEALTH

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail stonewood elkbranch@mymts.net

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Part-time Branch Librarian (20 hours/week) Siglunes Library (Ashern)

Must be enthusiastic and service-oriented to provide library service at our Ashern branch.

The ability to promote the library in the community, to work with people of all ages, and the creativity to try new things is essential. Computer skills required.

Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Criminal Record Check (including Vulnerable Sector Check) and Child Abuse Registry Check required.

Apply in writing with resume and cover letter by **Dec. 13/24**
Email: director@parklandlib.mb.ca or Parkland Regional Library, 504 Main St. North, Dauphin MB R7N 1C9

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.

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



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- Presentation Folders



Call 204-785-1618

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF: THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM SASS (aka BILL SASS), late of Camp Morton, Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the undersigned at Unit 210B - 10 Fort Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1C4, on or before January 20th 2025.

DATED at the City of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, this 3rd day of December, 2024.

PUNZALAN LAW

Fort Garry Place, Unit 210B - 10 Fort Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1C4
Attention : Athanasia Zoe Guerrero
Solicitors for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the Estate of **Marie Evelyn Ivy Letexier (also known as Ivy Letexier)**, late of Fisher Branch, Manitoba, Deceased.

All claims against the above estate, supported by Statutory Declaration must be sent to the attention of: Amanda Adam, Estates Officer, at 155 Carlton St Suite 500, Winnipeg MB, R3C 5R9 on or before the 22nd day of January, 2025.

Dated at Winnipeg, Manitoba, this 20th day of November, 2024.

Jana Taylor
Deputy Public Guardian
and Trustee of Manitoba
Administrator

FARMERS AND RANCHERS
Interlake Cattleman's Group
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:
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Kirk - 204-768-0019
Scott - 587-280-0612
Licence #1128

Classifieds Announcements



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@expressweeklynews.ca



**MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Road Grader Operator

The Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton is looking for a 1-year term full time Road Grader Operator. Must be energetic and dependable and able to work evenings and weekends when snow events occur. Duties include snow plowing, grading and maintenance of municipal roads, service and maintenance of equipment, assisting other employees and must be able to work independently with good problem-solving skills.

The preferred candidate should possess:

- Experience operating a motor grader
- Experience operating any and all equipment
- A valid driver's license with a class 3 with air endorsement
- Mechanical skills would be an asset
- Strong communication skills and the ability to work within a team setting

Resumes will be accepted by the undersigned until a suitable candidate is found.

Jason Comeau, Public Works Manager
Box 70, 329 River Rd, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
Ph: 204-376-2391
Fax: 204-376-2742
Email: pwm@bifriv.ca



Rural Municipality of FISHER

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

NOTICE OF TENDER

Caretaking Municipal Office

The Rural Municipality of Fisher invites tenders for the position of **Caretaker** of the Municipal Office.

Complete job description available at the RM of Fisher Office.

Cleaning supplies to be provided by the RM of Fisher.
Tender to state expected salary per month (two cleans per week).

Criminal Record check required


Closing Date for receipt of tenders is **4:00 pm on December 18, 2023**

Duties to commence Wednesday January 1, 2025 for one year term.

Sealed envelopes marked "Caretaking Municipal Office"
Please submit to:
The Rural Municipality of Fisher
Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0

Drop Off or email fisherap@mymts.net
(Persons are responsible for receipt of email)

BIRTHDAY



If you see Richard's honey, Ann this week, wish her a Happy 80th Birthday!



**Town of Winnipeg Beach
CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

**JUNIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TOWN OF WINNIPEG BEACH**

Are you looking for a role where no two days are the same? Are you organized, friendly, and eager to make a difference in your community? We are seeking a full time (35hrs/wk) - 5 Month Term position for Junior Administrative Assistant to join our dynamic team and support the essential operations that keep our municipality running smoothly. Full details of the position can be found on the Town website and Facebook page.

How to Apply: If you're ready to make a meaningful contribution to the community while building your career, we'd love to hear from you! Please submit your resume and a cover letter explaining why you're the perfect fit for this role.

Term Details: Start date January 6, 2025 - May 31, 2025. May have the opportunity to become permanent full-time position. Starting wage \$17.95 - \$19.25 per hour based on aptitude & experience.

Applications will be accepted until December 13, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m. (noon) or until position is filled. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Town of Winnipeg Beach
Attn: Chief Administrative Officer
PO Box 160
Winnipeg Beach, MB R0C 3G0
Email: cao@winnipegbeach.ca
Phone: 204-389-2698
After hours drop box available



**Eriksdale Creamery Days Fair and Rodeo Presents
Holiday Activities and Santa Clause Parade**


December 7, 2024
3:00 pm Eriksdale Rec Hall - Movie
"That Christmas"
4:30-6:00 Holiday Crafts, Hot dogs, Hot Chocolate, large games and Glitter Tattoos
4:45-5:45 Pictures with Santa
Please Bring your own Camera
6:00 - Santa Clause Parade

To be in the Parade please call Davina @ 204-612-3337

Bring your Letters to Santa to the Parade

Thank you to:
Interlake Coop
The Eriksdale Fire Department
Eriksdale Creamery Days Fair and Rodeo
Eriksdale MMF local
Eriksdale Chamber of Commerce
RM of West Interlake
Eriksdale

IN MEMORIAM



Stanley Firman
March 05, 1934 - December 08, 2022

May the winds of love blow softly,
And whisper in your ear,
"We love and miss you,
And wish that you were here".

-Love you still,
Shirley, Ron and Angie,
Bob and Sheri, Tracy and Ray,
Curtis and Courtney, Joel and Marilyn,
Hunter and Ryan, and Brooke

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OBITUARY



Florence Doris Chartrand (Née Kallstrom)
November 2, 1939 – November 27, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Florence Doris Chartrand at the age of 85, on November 27, 2024, in Lundar, Manitoba. Born in Ontario, Florence was the daughter of Gustaf Kallstrom and Marie (Emma) Kallstrom (Monkman) and spent much of her life surrounded by the love of her family and community.

Florence was predeceased by her husband, Leo Joseph Chartrand, in 1969 and her sons, Alvin (Rose) and Darin (Jodi) and also her other siblings Mirtle (Clement), Clarence (Kay), Stanley and Edith (Armand).

She is survived by her four sons, Melvin (Shirley), Brian (Mary-Lee), Andy (Lori), and Dwaine (Cheryl), 16 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Mary (Rene), and will be lovingly remembered by her many nieces,

nephews, and friends.

Florence's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the light of her life. Whenever the kids were around or talked about, she would smile and show her proudness.

Florence was a strong and resilient woman, facing life's challenges with grace, humor, and unwavering determination. She was a widow at a young age and later found love again with her partner, John for 40 years. Florence was known for her quick wit and her sense of humor, always ready with a joke to brighten anyone's day.

Her contributions to the Lundar community were countless. She was a member of the local Legion Ladies Auxiliary, where she volunteered her time and energy for the betterment of others.

Florence also worked for many years in personal home care for other residents in town with the same compassion and dedication she showed to her own family. She was also a skilled baker with Lundar Bakery. She was known for often sending her sons home with bags of homemade goodies—a tradition that will be missed by all who knew her.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff at the Lundar Personal Care Home, the caring, loving nurses who provided such exceptional care and support to Florence during this past year. Your kindness and compassion meant the world to her and her family.

Florence will be deeply missed by her family and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her legacy of love, laughter, and kindness will live on in the hearts of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and all who were touched by her presence.

A small ceremony will take place on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the Lundar Royal Canadian Legion Branch 185, 50-3rd Ave, Lundar, Manitoba.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Florence's memory to the Lundar Legion or CancerCare Manitoba.

MACKENZIE FUNERAL HOME STONEWALL
(204) 467-2525 • info@mackenziefh.com



Announcements



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

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