

During this holiday season, we are truly grateful for all the friends, family, colleagues and clients who have supported us through the steady uncertainty that is 2020. We enter 2021 with a renewed focus on what is the most important, our families, friends and those we serve and work with, and an appreciation of what our homes mean to us. We look forward to helping our clients with all their real estate needs!

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- Susan, Brandt, Matt, Alycia & Blair

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THE EXPRESS

VOLUME 7 EDITION 50 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

WEEKLY NEWS

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Sending cheer

Arborg's Grade 3-4 class showed their appreciation for Canadian veterans by making holiday cheer cards for them last week.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY CHERYL CHWALIBOGA

> everything you need to know in your locally owned and operated community newspaper

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WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Arborg students reach out to local seniors and Canada's veterans

By Patricia Barrett

There's nothing like a handmade card from a youngster to lift the spirits during what is expected to be a relatively bleak holiday season for seniors and veterans.

Because of COVID-19 public health restrictions, seniors and veterans may not be able to have in-person visits with their families.

To stave off the COVID-19 blues and a sense of isolation, students in grades 3-4 and 7-8 at Arborg Early Middle School put their artistic skills to work last week, making greeting cards with personal messages.

Students in teacher Cheryl Chwaliboga's Grade 3-4 class focused on bringing some joy to the lives of veterans.

Draya Johnson said it's important to send cards to them to help them "feel loved."

"When I send cards, I think I am giving them love and also I hope they have a Merry Christmas," said Draya in an audio message to the *Express* forwarded by Chwaliboga.

Chwaliboga had asked her class whether they'd like to make holiday cheer cards after the Veterans Affairs Canada Learning Team invited school



Grade 3-4 student Draya Johnson wrote a heartfelt message to a veteran.

children to help lift veterans' spirits in the midst of the pandemic.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has made this a very difficult time for Canadians living in long-term care facilities, including many older veterans. Visits have often been restricted in the effort to keep residents safe, but a sense of isolation can take a steep toll," wrote the team.

"One way we can try to brighten the days of these real-life heroes is to have



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CHERYL CHWALIBOGA
Students in teacher Cheryl Chwaliboga's Grade 3-4 class made cards and wrote messages for Canadian veterans last week.

students send them handmade cards offering their best wishes for the holidays and personal thanks for all that veterans have done for our country."

Draya said veterans probably miss

their family and want to see them this year but can't because of lockdown restrictions to keep them safe.

Her card featured a tree with colour-

Continued on page 3

Holiday Early Booking Deadlines

December 24 (Boxing Week)
Booking Deadline - Regular and Classified
Flyer Deadline

Thurs., December 17 4:00 pm

Fri, December 18 4:00 pm

December 31
There will be NO newspaper printed this week, but we will continue to distribute our flyers, so please watch for them in your mail and distribution boxes.
Our offices will be closed from December 21 to January 3.
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> REACHING OUT,
FROM PG. 2

ful ornaments, a jolly outdoor scene and a candy cane.

"Dear veteran," she wrote, "I hope I fill your heart with love and kind[ness]. I appreciate what you did to help me have a good life. I hope you have a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Love Draya."

Draya's classmate Lucas Caldeira said he imagines this holiday season will be especially difficult for veterans.

"I think they feel lonely and sad because they cannot spend time with their family and friends," said Lucas by audio message. "So I think it's important to give them [a card] to remember them for fighting in the war."

Veterans fought for freedom and peace, he added, and they made Canada "very well for what it is. If nobody did anything, it would have been destroyed."

In teacher Rachelle Burak's Grade 7-8 health and physical education class, students made personalized cards for local seniors living at the Arborg Personal Care Home, the Mary Thorarinson Estates supported-living facility and the House of Hope assisted-living facility.

Grade 7 student Noah Smolinski



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RACHELLE BURAK

Teacher Rachelle Burak's Grade 7-8 class at Arborg Early Middle School made greeting cards last week for local seniors.

said he's optimistic that their cards will help lift seniors' spirits.

"They've had a rough time through the pandemic and it will bring them some joy that they might need," said Noah by email. "I know they will appreciate our gifts and I hope that this lifts their spirits."

Grade 8 student Aleah Jonasson said their cards could even "trigger" seniors' happy memories about their own childhoods and bring them some

much-needed joy.

"It could take them back in time and help them remember a gathering on Christmas with their families," said Aleah by email.

"I think the residents in the care homes will feel lonely due to the fact that everyone is in lockdown and no one can visit family during these hard times. Maybe our cards will help bring some joy to this joyless time."



Rachelle Burak's Grade 7-8 class made cards for seniors.

Luda Kozlova

Grant Hjordleifson

Calvin Kuch

Dayna Clark

Jim Boulton

Laurence Humniski

Cindy Little

Kathy Marks

John Wishnowski

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Recipe for a Merry Christmas

A dash of joy mixed with a touch of Peace.
Add a pinch of Magic and stir with Hope.
Garnish with Love and have a Wonderful Holiday!

Manitoba community newspaper awards held virtually

Staff

The *Express Weekly News* and their staff were recognized with a number of writing and industry standard awards during Manitoba's Better Newspaper Competition on Friday afternoon.

The 101st Annual BNC Awards were announced in a virtual ceremony, in accordance with Manitoba's public health orders.

All of the articles and newspapers judged were for stories published in 2019.

Big and Colourful Printing and Publishing is locally owned and operated, employing 24 full-time staff, 20 part-time and employing more than 100 door to door paper carriers. The small independent chain is home to the *Stonewall Teulon Tribune*, *Express Weekly News*, *Winkler Morden Voice*, *Selkirk Record* and the *Carman Dufferin Standard*.

The *Express Weekly News* received a second place award for Best Layout and Design and third for Best Editorial Page in their circulation 10,000 and over. Reporter Patricia Barrett was awarded first place for Best News Story for her article "Lake Manitoba

Narrows residents barbecue and share fuel in aftermath of storm," first place for Best Habitat Conservation Story "Siglavik wetland preservation group vows to fight destruction" and second for Best Environmental Story for "Riverdale Place offers recycling tips for environmentally conscious consumers." Evan Mathews received first in Best Health Story for his "I live with MS. That's why I ride" and first in Best Sports Story about when Arborg native Jermaine Loewen scored his first AHL goal.

Sister publications the *Selkirk Record*, the *Winkler Morden Voice* and the *Stonewall Teulon Tribune* also received numerous awards.

The *Stonewall Teulon Tribune* earned first place in Best in Class, Best Layout and Design, Best Front Page and second for Best Editorial Page in Class for their circulation of 3,600-9,999.

Reporter Jennifer McFee received first place in Best Arts and Culture for her article titled "Music from the Hart" and placed third for Reporter of the Year. Reporter Evan Mathews received first place for his article "Inter-lake cattle farmers being forced to sell



EXPRESS PHOTO BY MATTHIEU MEIER

Express staff (pictured left to right) Jo-Anne Procter, Jasmin Wolf, Nicole Kapusta, Corrie Sargent, Lana Meier, Christy Brown and Debbie Strauss. Missing from the photo are Jennifer McFee, Patricia Barrett, Allana Sawatzky and Evan Mathews.

livestock" in Best Agriculture Story category, second in Best News Story for "Teulon council attempts to strip mayor of duties."

Lana Meier received second for her photo essay in "Skills from the past on display at threshing event." Patricia Barrett received third for her Best Habitat Conservation article for "Researcher finds Lake Winnipeg commercial fishers portrayed as villains."

Nicole Kapusta won first for her Best in House ad promoting "National

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There will be some carols, a skit put on by children who attend our church, a reading of the Christmas Story, among other items.

Livestream Link:
<http://tiny.cc/FWCXmas2020>

Information about Freedom Worship Centre:
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Arborg Collegiate raises \$285 and 200 food items for Cheer Board

By Patricia Barrett

Community well-being was at the top of Arborg Collegiate students' to-do list this month and they delivered by making a large food and monetary donation to the Arborg & District Christmas Cheer Board.

Students and staff collected over 200 food items and raised \$285 for the non-profit organization, which distributes a food hamper and toys to families and individuals in need every Christmas.

Principal Randy Semenek said students and staff wanted to help people who are struggling in the community, as well as share the spirit of the season with each other.

"Staff and students could purchase candy canes for \$1 and attach a message to be delivered to another student. Two hundred and thirty-one dollars was raised and will be donated to the local Christmas Cheer Board," said Semenek by email.

Grade 11 students Emily Shrupka and Paige Abuda led the candy cane grams fundraiser, which was held last Wednesday. Shrupka dressed as Santa and Abuda dressed as one of his reindeers. As Santa was not yet on official duty, he got away with wearing one of his ugly Christmas sweaters.

Students also took part in Hat Day, when they paid \$2 for the privilege of wearing a hat for the day. That raised an additional \$54 for the cheer board.

To ensure the cheer board had enough food for its annual Christmas hamper, the school collected over 200 non-perishable food items.

Students are taking part in Spirit Week this week before they break for holidays on Dec. 21. Teachers Krista Borgfjord and Rachel Orbanski are



Staff and students at ACI collected more than 200 food items for the local Christmas Cheer Board.

spearheading most of the events, which include theme days such as ugly sweater day, a classroom-decorating contest and a pancake breakfast.

Semenek said students and staff are following provincial public health protocols such as physical distancing, wearing masks and hand-washing to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19.



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF RANDY SEMENEK
Grade 11 student Emily Shrupka dressed as Santa and Paige Abuda as a reindeer. The two delivered candy cane grams to her fellow students at Arborg Collegiate for \$1. The school raised \$285 for the Arborg & District Christmas Cheer Board.

**RM of Coldwell
Reeve & Council and staff**

*Season's
Greetings*

**Seasons Greetings
& A Happy
New Year**

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF
STAY SAFE EVERYONE
RURAL MUNICIPALITY
OF GIMLI



THE **EXPRESS**
WEEKLY NEWS



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Lana Meier



SALES
Brett Mitchell



SALES AND MARKETING
Jasmin Wolf



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Jennifer McFee



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Brian Bowman



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
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patricia@expressweeklynews.ca



Call Evan Matthews
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evan@expressweeklynews.ca

Acknowledging the boss

By Evan Matthews

This was a big week for the *Express Weekly News*.

Our news group, Big and Colourful Printing and Publishing, which owns and operates five weekly newspapers — including the *Express Weekly News*, the *Stonewall Teulon Tribune*, the *Selkirk Record*, the *Winkler Morden Voice* and the *Carman Dufferin Standard* — took home a combined 32 awards at the Manitoba Community Newspapers Association's 2020 virtual event last Friday.

The awards ranged from best advertisement to best story (in a variety of categories including news, agriculture, arts and culture, habitat conservation, health and sports) to best front page to best layout and design.

A big thanks goes out to our team and our staff, who work together each and every week to provide our communities with engaging and professional content.

But a big thanks should go out to our advertisers, readers and our communities, too.

Without you, your stories and your willingness to share them, our papers would be empty.

We are thankful for the opportunity to share your stories, and we hope you as a reader — as an active community member — are thankful to have them chronicled.

But there are two people, very specifically, who deserve thanks as much (or more) than the rest: Lana Meier and Brett Mitchell, the co-owners of our organization.

These people are entrepreneurs, leaders, contributing employees, friends and, maybe most importantly, community members.

In a time where we hear so much about failing media outlets, Meier and Mitchell have found and continue to showcase the model of success every single week.

Our group showcases hyper-local stories and advertisements, and really does keep the word "community" in community newspaper.

If it were not for their dedication to the craft, to the industry and to our

communities — as we've seen from closures of other papers that have lost touch with what it means to be a community newspaper — community news as we've understood it could have ceased to exist in the Interlake.

The existence of our news group, in itself, is worth celebrating.

Then factoring in a global pandemic, combined with the fact that this team seemingly sets the standard for community news in our province, it is truly and honour and a privilege to work with — and for — such trailblazers.

So, once more, thank you to our readers and to our communities; thank you to our team; and thank you to our organization's owners.

As we bid farewell to 2020, which has been challenging to say the least, we set our sights for 2021 even higher. Our news group's mission is to connect people through stories, to build stronger communities.

These awards exemplify those efforts, and we hope to continue building into the future.

RCMP remind operators of off-road vehicle laws and safety

Submitted by RCMP

Every year, RCMP respond to numerous calls about snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes and other off-road vehicles. Here are the laws that apply to anyone operating an off-road vehicle.

When operating an off-road vehicle on public land (ditches, Crown Land, roads, groomed snowmobile trails, etc.) the following laws apply:

- The ORV must be registered;
- Must be at least 14 years of age to operate an ORV without supervision;

- 12-13-year-olds must only operate an ORV under the direct supervision (within direct sight) of a parent;

- Must be at least 16 years of age and possess a valid driver's licence in

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Advertising Deadline: Monday 4:00 pm
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View the Express Weekly News online at
www.expressweeklynews.ca



Province extends public health orders ahead of the holidays, with minor adjustments

By Manitoba government

The Manitoba government has extended public health orders from Dec. 12 until Jan. 8, 2021, as part of protecting Manitobans from COVID-19 during the holiday season, Premier Brian Pallister and Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief provincial public health officer, announced last week.

"It is crucial that Manitobans continue to limit their close contacts and only gather with members of their immediate household in order to bend our COVID curve down and protect our most vulnerable friends, families and communities," said Pallister. "We recognize this holiday season will be difficult and lonely for most, but the best thing we can do for our loved ones right now is to stay safe at home so that we can gather together in person next year."

The existing Critical (red) level restrictions have been extended by public health order, with several modifications based on feedback from public, stakeholders and enforcement

officials. Changes to the public health orders include:

- allowing thrift stores to open with some capacity limits, to allow access to second-hand clothing and other items;
- ensuring acupuncture and manual osteopathy practices are allowed to open to align with other health services;
- clarifying the operation of food banks and food hamper services;
- allowing private residences to allow legal services, landlord access and access for home businesses;
- encouraging safe outdoor physical activity for individuals and immediate households only by providing guidance to clarify that people not from the same household need to keep two metres of distance between them and that gathering sizes must not exceed five people;
- adding school supplies as an essential item under the restrictions to retail services;
- allowing drive-in events as a temporary measure subject to compliance with the restrictions, and cars must contain members from one household only and no one may leave the car while at the event; and
- permitting the Winnipeg Jets to train in Manitoba in preparation for an eventual NHL decision on a 2021 playing season.

A seasonal change to the order will also be included to allow for the sale of holiday decorations such as garlands and ornaments, and religious items like menorahs and candles.

"Our modelling has shown the Critical level, or red, restrictions have helped us avoid even higher case numbers right now," said Roussin. "But our numbers are still too high and now is not the time to let up. That is why we're extending the public health orders with some adjustments to ensure Manitobans can access the goods and services they need, and have clear direction stay safe at home before and during the holiday season."

The updated orders and the list of items deemed essential are posted on the province's Pandemic Response System website at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/orders/index.html#current>.

Manitoba has announced the Safe at Home Manitoba program to provide support to Manitobans staying home during this critical time. Organizations, businesses and artists can visit www.safeathomemb.ca for more information.

Manitobans can report compliance and enforcement issues by visiting www.manitoba.ca/COVID19 and completing the reporting form, or by calling 204-945-3744 or 1-866-626-4862 (toll-free) and pressing option three on the call menu.

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Manitoba, visit www.manitoba.ca/COVID19.

Keeping safe on the ice

Ice fishing safety tips for the upcoming winter season

By Nicole Buffie

The weather has cooled across Manitoba, which means the water on the rivers and lakes is beginning to freeze over. With that, winter activities on the ice are starting to take place, including ice fishing.

While some brave individuals are already setting up tents and shacks on the fresh freeze, casting their lines in hopes of reeling in their next big catch to later release it or turn it into that night's dinner, safety should still remain top of mind for fishers, both amateurs and seasoned veterans alike.

The Express caught up with the newspaper's fishing columnist, Arnie Weidl, for some tips on keeping safe during a day on the ice by going through what a typical day of ice fish-

ing would be like for him.

It's a beautiful day on Balsam Bay, one of Weidl's go-to spots in the winter. First things first: make sure someone knows you're going out on the ice for the day.

"When you are out on the ice, you have to realize that you're in a hazardous location," he said.

Going fishing with a friend is always preferred — and might make for a better day — but if you are to go alone, sending a message to a friend or family member will work.

Next: know the conditions of the ice you plan to be on.

"Ice structure and conditions change almost daily. One thing you need to know is clear, blue ice is very strong, and opaque ice with a lot of air bub-

bles in it is very weak," Weidl said.

When it comes to driving on the ice, the general rule of thumb is the ice must be at least 40 centimetres for vehicles, 25 centimetres for a snowmobile and five centimetres if travelling by foot. In Weidl's case, driving out on his truck calls for at least 40 centimetres thick.

After making sure the ice is up to par for driving on, check the ice for snowdrifts or rocks near the shore, as they serve as insulation for the sun's heat and may thin the ice as a result.

With that in mind, slowly make your way out on the ice, being sure to have an escape plan in case your vehicle hits a thin patch of ice.

"Personally, I have a quick release buckle on my seat belt and I always leave the driver's window open. That way, you will be able to escape from the truck very quickly," Weidl said.

If all is going well and you suddenly hear a crack from under your vehicle, Weidl said to try and pinpoint where the noise is coming from and to do your best to steer away from it.

"If there's a dramatic shift in a tem-

perature up or down, you're going to get cracking so you've got to be wary of that," he said. "It doesn't hurt to pick up the phone and ask other people who are going out, or who have been out the day before, what the conditions are like."

With these tips, you're set up for a successful day on the ice. However, bearing the COVID-19 pandemic in mind, a provincial spokesperson for Manitoba Conservation and Climate said the rule of outdoor gathering sizes limited to five people still stands.

"It is strongly recommended that anyone using ice-fishing shelters or hunting blinds limit participation to people already living in their own household," the spokesperson said.

They encouraged limiting interactions with others, but if choosing to fish in a group to ensure physical distancing, covering your cough, wearing a mask and frequent hand washing.

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Stonewall Teulon Tribune

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Numbers continue to rise for Northern Remote community

Staff

Public health officials advise nine additional deaths in people with COVID-19 have been reported as of Monday, including:

- a male in his 40s from the Winnipeg health region;
- a male in his 50s from the Winnipeg health region;
- a female in her 80s from the Winnipeg health region, linked to the outbreak at the Park Manor Personal Care Home;
- a female in her 80s from the Winnipeg health region, linked to the outbreak at the Convalescent Home of Winnipeg;
- a male in his 80s from the Winnipeg health region, linked to the outbreak at the Fred Douglas Lodge;
- a female in her 80s from the Winnipeg health region;
- a female in her 90s from the Winnipeg health region, linked to the outbreak at the Convalescent Home of Winnipeg;
- a female in her 90s from the Winnipeg health region, linked to the outbreak at the Convalescent Home of Winnipeg; and
- a female in her 90s from the Southern Health-Santé Sud region, linked to the outbreak at the Rest Haven Nursing Home.

The current five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate, as of Dec. 14 is 13.6 per cent provincially and 13 per cent in Winnipeg. As of 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 241 new cases of the virus had been identified, bringing the total number of lab-confirmed cases in Manitoba to 21,264.

Monday's COVID-19 data showed:

- 10 cases in the Interlake-Eastern health region;

- 23 cases in the Northern health region;

- 12 cases in the Prairie Mountain Health region;

- 38 cases in the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region; and

- 158 cases in the Winnipeg health region.

The data also showed:

- 5,791 active cases and 14,974 individuals who have recovered from COVID-19;

- there are 303 people in hospital with 39 people in intensive care due to COVID-19; and

- the total number of deaths due to COVID-19 is 499.

Laboratory testing numbers show 2,133 tests were completed yesterday, bringing the total number of lab tests completed since early February to 390,503. Case investigations continue and if a public health risk is identified, the public will be notified.

At this time, there is a very limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine. Only eligible front-line health providers will be immunized with the first 900 doses, which are expected this week. Members of the public have been calling for appointments, which means eligible health-care providers cannot get through. If you are not an eligible front-line health provider, do not call for an appointment. More information will be shared with the public about immunization clinics as the supply of vaccine increases.

The Interlake-Eastern total case breakdown by district as of Monday, is as follows: A total of 1,498 cases, up by 213 from last Monday: 400 active cases, 1,075 recovered, 18 currently in the hospital with six of those in ICU

and 23 deaths.

Arborg/Riverton 5 active cases, 45 recovered; Beausejour 28 active cases, 41 recovered; Eriksdale/Ashern 27 active cases, 75 recovered and 8 deaths; Fisher/Peguis 36 active cases and 254 recovered, 2 deaths; Gimli 5 active cases, 21 recovered; Northern Remote 127 active cases, 80 recovered and 1 death; Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet 3 active cases, 34 recovered; Powerview/Pine Falls 48 active case and 20 recovered; Selkirk 19 active cases and 49 recovered and 2 deaths; Springfield 34 active cases and 104 recovered and 3 deaths; St. Clements 26 active cases and 40 recovered; St. Laurent 4 active cases, 10 recovered; Stonewall/Teulon 8 active cases, 116 recovered and 4 deaths; Unknown District 18 active cases and 81 recovered, 1 death; Whiteshell 10 recovered and Winnipeg Beach/St. Andrews 12 active cases and 95 recovered and 1 death.

On Sunday, Dec. 6 a male in his 70s from the Interlake-Eastern health region, linked to an outbreak at Kin Place Personal Care Home in Oakbank passed away.

Manitoba's first COVID-19 immunization clinic

Manitoba's Premier Brian Pallister had the opportunity to tour Manitoba's first COVID-19 immunization clinic, which has been set up to begin administering the life-saving immunization to protect the first group of high-risk health-care providers this week.

Pending the safe arrival of the first limited supply of immunizations in Manitoba as scheduled in the days ahead, the clinic is ready to tentatively start vaccinating the first pri-

ority group of health-care workers Wednesday morning. To date, 668 workers have booked appointments and appointments for 232 workers remain available.

"We want to express our gratitude for those workers for stepping up to protect themselves, their patients and their fellow Manitobans as we begin our immunization campaign. We also want to thank everyone in the first priority group for their patience in making appointments and understanding that there are not enough vaccines for everyone in the initial shipment. We are constantly looking to improve our processes," said Pallister.

Manitoba is scheduled to receive enough doses of the Pfizer vaccine to immunize 900 people. Based on recommendations from the task force, the first vaccines, which are administered during two separate appointments, will be reserved for higher-risk health-care workers who work in immunization clinics or critical, acute or long-term care facilities.

At this time, because of the extremely limited supply, Manitobans are being reminded that these first appointments are reserved for specific front-line health-care providers. A dedicated phone number to book an appointment has been shared internally within the health system for booking purposes. We ask only those eligible for an appointment to use that phone number at this time.

Pallister asks Manitobans for their patience and understanding at this crucial time as we gradually roll out our immunization program as more vaccines become available and arrive in Manitoba.

> AWARDS, FROM PG. 4

Newspaper Week" and the *Tribune* placed third in Best Special Section for "Teulon celebrating 100 Years."

The *Selkirk Record* placed first in Best in Class, circulation 10,000 and over, and first in Best in Front page and Best Layout and Design. Brett Mitchell placed second in the province for Photographer of the Year while Katelyn Boulanger placed second in Best First Nations for "Red ribbons tied to Lockport Bridge to remember MMI-WG2S."

The *Winkler Morden Voice* placed second in Best in Class, circulation 10,000 and over, second in both Best Front Page and Best Editorial Page. Graphic designer Tara Gionet was awarded first in Best Advertisement for her well designed Pharmasave ad. Reporter Lorne Stelmach placed third in Best Tourism for "Museum brings First

World War to life." Ashleigh Viveiros placed third in Best Education for "Forging future leaders." Rick Hiebert received second for Best Feature Photo while Peter Cantelon placed third in Best Columnist.

In 2019, there were 46 member newspapers belonging to MCNA. Throughout history, newspapers have been relied upon to provide in-depth, trusted and important information in times of crisis. The current COVID-19 pandemic is no different. In fact, the need for vital information to be communicated uniformly and without prejudice is perhaps greater now than it has ever been. Community newspapers are on the front lines, keeping citizens of their communities updated on the latest developments directly affecting the lives of individuals living outside of the large media hubs.

OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
December 21st - January 3rd, 2020
Opening January 4th, 2021

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Tribune Stonewall Teulon **The Winkler Morden Voice** The Carman-Dufferin **STANDARD**

THE EXPRESS WEEKLY NEWS **Selkirk Record**

Province proclaims legislation to eliminate Sunday and holiday shopping restrictions

Expedited legislation allows expanded retail business hours to provide businesses and customers more flexibility and protection during the pandemic

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Manitoba government has expedited the proclamation of new legislation that allows retailers to stay open later on Sundays and holidays starting Saturday, Dec. 12, Finance Minister Scott Fielding announced recently.

"Given the current public health restrictions in place to protect Manitobans, we want to provide flexibility to businesses and customers and allow more opportunity for curbside pickup and delivery options as well as longer in-person shopping hours to minimize crowds," said Fielding. "During this critical time for retailers across

the province, we believe these updated laws will help many businesses with additional revenues as we head into the holiday season."

Bill 4 - The Retail Business Hours of Operation Act (Various Acts Amended or Repealed) eliminates retail shopping hour restrictions so businesses are no longer required to close after 6 p.m. on Sundays and certain holidays. It will give all businesses in Manitoba the choice to remain open later on Sundays and during statutory holidays. However, it gives municipalities the authority to pass bylaws, should they prefer to keep some re-

strictions in place.

Fielding noted the province expedited the passage and proclamation of this legislation over the past month, which was recommended from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, Retail Council of Canada and the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. In mid-November, an open letter to government on behalf of those organizations made a shared recommendation to expedite the implementation and passage of the bill.

"Given the current Critical level (red) restrictions facing all retailers across the province, it is important that we pass Bill 4 in time for the holiday season," said the organizations in the joint letter. "It is our belief that this will help many retailers with additional revenues during this important time of year. Importantly, this change will also provide addi-

tional opportunities and or extended times for customers to shop in-store or pickup curbside orders in order to minimize how close we are when outside our residences."

"A majority of Manitoba's business owners support these changes, and we want to give all businesses in Manitoba the choice to remain open later on Sundays and statutory holidays," said Fielding. "Manitoba was the only Western Canadian province to restrict retail business hours on Sundays and holidays and our government has been committed to modernizing our outdated and complicated shopping laws."

The province will maintain its current retail hour restrictions on Remembrance Day. Public education materials will be prepared to help employers and the public understand the changes.

New tire repair and auto service up and running in Winnipeg Beach

By Patricia Barrett

People living in Winnipeg Beach won't have very far to travel to get their tires repaired or have an oil change as a local mechanic has stepped in to fill a void left behind by an auto service business that had closed earlier this year.

Marty and Michelle Poloski applied to town council for a conditional use and variation to operate a small business called Winnipeg Beach Tire and Service from their home at 266 Eaton St., on the west side of town.

Marty Poloski will offer tire repair and basic vehicle maintenance, including tune-ups and oil changes.

"As we know with the closing of the Domo service station, there's been a need to fulfil the maintenance requirements of the community's vehicles and tire safety," said Poloski during a public hearing held during council's Nov. 25 regular meeting. "I have over 30 years' experience as a red seal mechanic and I can offer the knowledge and expertise necessary to fulfil this much needed service in our local community."

Poloski said he has a full-time job in Winnipeg but will be operating his business year-round on a part-time basis. During the week he will operate from 5 to 8 p.m. and on weekends from 10 to 4.

"We'll operate only by appointment with a maximum of one or two customer vehicles on site at any time," he said.

There should be no additional traffic on Eaton and no customer parking will be allowed on the street, said Poloski. His driveway is large enough to accommodate customer vehicles. The repairs will be carried out in an existing hobby shop that Poloski intends to enlarge from 400 to 700 square feet.

"There will be no additional noise or dust created. We're doing no bodywork or painting of any kind," said Poloski. "We'd also like to post

a business sign on the corner of the garage to identify the business, keeping in mind to maintain the residential appearance and curb appeal of our property and community, which is our number one priority."

From the street, the shop is not visible as the property has bush on all side, he said, and there will be no concerns about unsightliness.

Coun. Pat Green said while Poloski's service is needed in town and the property is obscured by trees, she has a few concerns about the business being located in a residential neighbourhood especially regarding the potential for unsightliness, as well as how Poloski intends to store tires on the property.

"When you drive down Eaton, there are two other businesses that are grandfathered and ... in one of them the whole driveway is full of tires," said Coun. Green. "There's one further down ... that in the summer is [hidden] but the minute the leaves fall, it's a mess and this is supposed to be a residential area."

Poloski said that in order for his insurance policy to be valid, he can't have more than 20 tires on site at any time.

"We keep tires in a closed carport and in properly installed tire racks because they can't be piled for insurance purposes; they have to be stacked with space between them," he said.

His wife Michelle indicated that she wouldn't be in favour of seeing tires scattered about the yard.

"For me, it's my house and the appearance [is important]. I want people to come over to a house I'm proud of," she said.

Mayor Tony Pimentel asked Poloski how he'll dispose used oil.

"The oil goes to Dunnottar Landfill," said Poloski. "We keep our oil on a spill pallet and if a jug is punctured in the shop on the spill pallet, there's no risk of environmental impact."

Poloski said he spoke with people in the neighbourhood about his proposal business and found a lot of support.

And chief administrative officer Roger Bouvier said the town received no opposition.

"There were no objections to the application," said Bouvier. "We had a petition of 22 names in favour and also a private letter in favour."

Council voted unanimously in favour of approving Poloski's business.

Notice of Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act Application

Manitoba Conservation and Climate has received an application pursuant to The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act regarding the following operation and invites public participation in the review process:

PINEMUTA WASTE DISPOSAL GROUND HAZARDOUS WASTE DEPOT – FILE: 6086.00

A Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act application has been filed by the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale for the operation of a hazardous waste depot at the existing Pinemuta Waste Disposal Ground located on parts of NE and NW 18-31-09 WPM, Rural Municipality of Grahamdale. The material will be transported to a licensed facility for further processing, reuse or disposal. All material is transported from this facility and no hazardous waste is disposed of at this location.

Anyone likely to be affected by the above operation and who wishes to comment on the application should contact the department in writing or by email to Edwin Yazon, Environmental Engineer, at Edwin.Yazon@gov.mb.ca, not later than JANUARY 17, 2021. Further information is available from the Public Registry: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/

Information submitted in response to these applications is considered public information and will be made available to the applicant and placed on the public registry.

**Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Climate**

1007 Century Street
Winnipeg MB R3H 0W4
Toll Free: 1-800-282-8069
Fax: 204-945-5229

Website: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries



Eriksdale students helping those less fortunate

By Evan Matthews

Students in Eriksdale are helping Manitoba's struggling and less fortunate population over the holidays.

Jen Cameron, principal at Eriksdale School, said students are participating in two different drives, but one drive specifically is warming the hearts of many.

"Usually, we've done food hampers, but this year we're doing things a little differently to keep things simple and safe," said Cameron. "We're raising money first to help people locally in partnership with the Eriksdale United Church. Then we'll shift our focus on the collection of warm clothing for the group called Help Our Homeless."

Cameron said the fundraising efforts with the church ceased as of Dec. 11, but clothing bags have continued to file in to the school and will subsequently be donated to the non-profit group called Help Our Homeless.

Help Our Homeless

Help Our Homeless is a non-profit group started by Damien Wilts, a Ste. Anne resident.

The group's aim is to help create awareness about the high rates of homelessness in Winnipeg, as well as providing warm winter clothing to the Main Street Project and, in turn, people in need.

Wilts said addiction, mental illness and homelessness can often be stigmatized, something he understands personally, and he said the world needs more kindness and compassion.

"In my life, I had it hard as a young man. I found myself homeless at 15. I lost

my mother and father very young and found myself with some mental health issues. People don't truly understand the devastating effects of addiction," said Wilts in a previous interview with the *Express Weekly News*.

"I ended up living in a tent and didn't have anywhere to go. I had to build myself up. I know the struggle. It's not as simple as people think — go get a job or whatever — it's not as easy when you don't have a cell phone, clean clothes for an interview, etc. It's not easy," he said.

For more information, vis-

"KIDS NEED THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK BEYOND THEMSELVES."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JEN CAMERON

Left to right: Kylee, Keegan, Carter, Ms. Stafford and Drake hold some of the Eriksdale School's collection for the less fortunate.

it: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/666863894263225/>

Teachable moments

Casey Stafford, a teacher at the school, has been teaching Indigenous education to the students in a literacy class.

With a recent study showing a high percentage of homelessness in Winnipeg and an even higher rate per capita within the Indigenous community, Cameron said that after having in-depth discussions on the intersectionality of the topics, the students in the class have become passionate

about helping.

"The class also made pamphlets to create awareness about homelessness, and Ms. Stafford will choose the most well-done pamphlet to go out to families for educational purposes," said Cameron, emphasizing a balanced education involves having students attempt to understand perspectives outside of their own.

"Kids need the opportunity to look beyond themselves. We just want everyone to understand why we're doing this drive. We're happy to do something to help," she said.

Warmest wishes to our many best friends at this joyous time of year!

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Supplies & More

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Merry Christmas

Wishing You Loads of

JOY at Christmas!

Here's hoping your Christmas season is filled with friendship, love, laughter and many happy surprises!

 Rural Municipality of **GRAHAMDALE**
www.Grahamdale.ca



"The Weary World Rejoices"

As 2020 comes to a close we are grateful for the "thrill of hope" we can have because of that Holy Night long ago. May you and your family experience health, joy, peace, and hope this Christmas season.

We are filled with gratitude for communities like you. While we may be apart this Holiday season, we are certainly not alone. Thank you all for your hard work and care for each other during this difficult year.

"Wishing you peace and joy. Merry Christmas from Vidir Solutions"

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IERHA helping each other through grief this holiday season

Interlake-Eastern RHA launches Virtual Memory Tree; encourages phone calls and virtual connections

Submitted by Jason Permanand

The holiday season can lift spirits and fill hearts with hope. For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, it can also bring feelings of sadness and despair.

At the best of times, it is very challenging to grieve the loss of someone close to you. During the holiday season when so much focus is on family, and with pandemic restrictions keeping us apart from others, it can be overwhelming.

"Grief is a mostly unpredictable journey that's hard to navigate," says Jill Hodgson-McConnell, a clinical team manager who works in the area

of mental health with Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority. "It can manifest itself in many ways, including sadness, shock, numbness, denial, anger, fear, mood swings, anxiety, panic and guilt. Any of these feelings are normal ways of coping. The key is to acknowledge and validate your feelings, and take care of yourself through activities like exercise or meditation, sleeping well and reaching out to others."

Hodgson-McConnell added that people who want to reach out to others shouldn't worry about what some

Continued on page 18



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Interlake-Eastern RHA launches Virtual Memory Tree.

Our Arborg and Gimli clinics are open for virtual and in-clinic treatment. We are considered an essential service and are following all public health orders to provide a safe environment for our staff and patients.




GIMLI AND ARBORG CLINICS ARE PROVIDING ATHLETIC THERAPY

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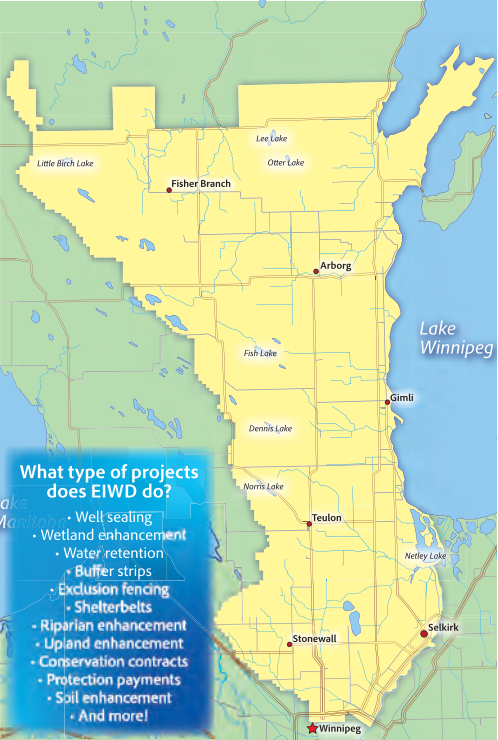
204.376.2406
204.642.5353
inmotionnetwork.ca

Our staff wishes everyone a happy, safe and healthy holiday season.

Give a gift that fits all budgets – Purchase a Gift Certificate for massage, foot care or personal training.

Attn: Landowners

Who is the EIWD?
In 2005, the local governments within the East Interlake partnered with the Province of Manitoba to deliver land and water conservation projects on a watershed basis.




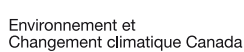
What type of projects does EIWD do?


- Well sealing
- Wetland enhancement
- Water retention
- Buffer strips
- Exclusion fencing
- Shelterbelts
- Riparian enhancement
- Upland enhancement
- Conservation contracts
- Protection payments
- Soil enhancement
- And more!


STEPS TO COMPLETE A PROJECT

- 1 DISCUSS**
EIWD and Landowner to discuss project design and partnership.
- 2 DEVELOP**
EIWD staff will work with landowner and partners to develop project design and Enhancement Protection application/bid.
- 3 APPLY**
Project design and application/bid submitted for evaluation by Watershed Sub-District/ GROW committee.
- 4 APPROVAL**
Project Approved or Denied.
- 5 IMPLEMENT**
EIWD staff will work with landowner and partners to complete project as designed.
- 6 EVALUATE**
Completed/ongoing projects will be inspected and evaluated regularly by project team with reports submitted to Watershed Executive Board.
- 7 REVIEW**
Executive Directors will review project reports and may make recommendations on project design and delivery. Directors will finalize annual reports then deliver results to project partners.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :

 Environment and Climate Change Canada
 Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

 THE CONSERVATION & GROW TRUSTS

Manitoba 

For more information, Call or visit us online:
1.204.642.7578
eastinterlake.ca

Season of giving in full swing at Gimli Lutheran Church with Jesse Tree and food pantry

By Patricia Barrett

The spirit of giving has really taken off in Gimli at the Lutheran Church on Third Avenue after the pastor erected a Jesse Tree on the lawn and hung a multitude of colourful hats from its branches.

Church pastor Rick Schulz said he and his church members erect an indoor Jesse Tree every year during Advent, a period of preparation and anticipation, over the course of four Sundays, leading up to Christ's birth. They place donated items under the tree then pack it up and deliver it to a charity or mission.

But this year Schulz decided to situate their tree outside because of provincial public health orders restricting indoor gatherings. Church members provided the first donation of winter apparel, including mitts, hats and scarves.

Dangling from the tree branches like Christmas ornaments, the winter garb quickly garnered attention.

"What so surprised me was that

the tree wasn't even up for 24 hours and over half the stuff I put on it was already gone. I was here yesterday [last Tuesday] and the branches were hanging down it was so full of items. And this morning it was half empty," said Schulz by phone last Wednesday. "This has just absolutely blown

my mind to see how engaged the community has been with it."

A Jesse Tree depicts the family history of Christ. It's used during Advent to share stories from the Bible from creation to the birth of Christ.

In addition to church members donating items for the tree, Schulz said community members, of their own volition, have been stopping by to replenish the branches with their own

donations of winter woollies.

"I had not envisioned it would be so well used and it's only been up for four days," said Schulz.

The church has had a free outdoor library (a small box with glass doors affixed to a pole) for quite some time now, but this spring — after COVID

"I HAD NOT ENVISIONED IT WOULD BE SO WELL USED AND IT'S ONLY BEEN UP FOR FOUR DAYS,"



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PASTOR RICK SCHULZ

Pastor Rick Schulz and church members put up a Jesse Tree inside the church every year, where donations for low-income people are collected over the course of Advent. Because of COVID-19 public health orders this year, Schulz put the tree on the lawn and the spirit of giving has blossomed in the community.

hit — a mysterious soul built an enclosed pantry below it for non-perishable food items.

"We don't know who built it, but we call it a free pantry," said Schulz. "We've been stocking it with food items. We say take what you need and leave what you can. People can take what they need anonymously and nobody needs to know. And if you have something to donate, please donate it."

He said he's guessing that over the course of the pandemic, about 200 to 300 pounds of food has gone through the box every week.

He's even spotted children filling the pantry with food.

"I remember just after school started in the fall, I was in the yard doing some work and happened to notice two young girls, who I'm thinking were students at Dr. George Johnson Middle School across the road, with two bags of groceries. They put the items into the little free pantry," said Schulz.

The Jesse Tree will stay up until at least Christmas Eve, but Schulz said he may leave it on the lawn for a bit longer depending on supply and demand — and the temperature.

FOR UNTO US
A CHILD IS BORN

Merry Christmas

JAMES BEZAN MP
SELKIRK—INTERLAKE—EASTMAN

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Take care of your finances from the comfort of home this holiday season.

Happy holidays from Noventis.

noventis.ca

Noventis CREDIT UNION

Manitoba Beef Producers need farmers' engagement

By Evan Matthews

The Manitoba Beef Producers are working to reduce the number of cattle lost to predators, but the predation program's genesis needs farmer engagement to be effective.

Raymond Bittner, livestock predation lead for the Manitoba Beef Producers, said the organization has released a survey, which will be a key component of the Manitoba-based livestock predation prevention pilot project.

The project is part of a three-year \$300,000 grant from the Province of Manitoba.

"Predation of both cattle and sheep is a serious issue. The numbers don't add up to huge amounts in Manitoba municipalities, necessarily, but for individual producers it can be very drastic," said Bittner, emphasizing that the project has been designed to improve prevention and mitigation strategies in order to reduce economic livestock loss caused by wild predators.

Farmers have presented the issue to MBP at its annual AGM more than once, Bittner said.

"When you lose multiple animals from the same herd, it can really harm the producer's income," he said.

He added that the Manitoba government is funding the project in partner with MBP and the Manitoba Sheep Association, with additional support from Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, Manitoba Agricultural Service Corporation and the Manitoba Trappers Association.

Livestock producers who experience herd loss due to predators — as well as producers who have not experienced herd loss due to predators — are welcome to fill out the survey, according to Bittner, and all Manitoba producers who fill out the survey will be entered in a prize draw.

In addition to the prize, Bittner said by taking the survey, farmers are making it clear they're willing to work with MBP, which would make it more likely for farmers to have access to both information as well as implementation of risk mitigation practices.

The survey asks questions like: In the last five years how many head of livestock have you lost to predators? How many acres can your livestock access during calving/lambing/birthing season? What proportion of your summer pasture land is within walking distance from calving/lambing base?

"This program will help us to design risk mitigation practices."

Continued on page 14



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MBP

In the Interlake, Bittner said wolves, coyotes, fox, cougars and (black) bears are typically the most common predators.

Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
to all our Customers

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Wishing you a
bright holiday!

PHARMASAVE

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Best Wishes
in the
Holiday Season!

Thank you for your
support over the past
year. We look forward to
continuing to serve our
communities and focus
on learning in 2021!


LAKESHORE
SCHOOL DIVISION

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year


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Eriksdale, MB

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Christmas
Sparkles
Stay Safe
this Holiday
Season


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Breaking the ice in Lake Winnipeg



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Matt, Colby and Austin were literally iced while taking a break from fishing on Lake Winnipeg this past weekend.

> ENGAGEMENT, FROM PG. 13

es, methods farmers can apply on their farms. We want to find out which methods work best," said Bittner, adding different predators have different habits.

In the Interlake, Bittner said wolves, coyotes, fox, cougars and (black) bears are typically the most common predators.

"One example is a dead stock composting area. Any time there is mortality on the farm, the farmer is presented with an opportunity to put the deceased animal out of the reach of predators," he said.

"This way, we're not providing a food source to predators. That's one of our most simple risk mitigation practices."

Other examples of risk mitigation practices include having farmers engage with veterinarians to consistently evaluate animals and to proactively ensure the animals' health is where it should be, as well as installation of game cameras to correctly identify which predator farmers are actually dealing with.

MBP has placed the survey inside the December issue of *Cattle Country* and is asking for surveys to be returned for Dec. 21.

For more information, visit <https://mb-beef.ca/our-news/livestock-predation-prevention-pilot-project-survey/> or call 1-800-772-0458.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL ... AND TO ONE A NEW DENTURE!

Brock Vantor
Denturist

It was 2010, I was a fresh denture school graduate and had suddenly taken over my dad's denture clinic due to health reasons. My only employee was my mom, who I convinced to come out of retirement (but, of course, if you ask her, it was her idea to come and be with her son).

Christmas was coming and Dennis, the local newspaper salesman came into the office and said, "Brock, your dad always liked to put some sort of Merry Christmas wish in the paper. Would you like to do that too?" "Of course, I would love to put something in the newspaper, but let me think about what", I replied, wanting my very first newspaper Christmas wish to be great.

Dennis, my mom, and I thought about it for a few minutes; and I couldn't help but think, 'I am a Denturist, I now own a denture clinic, wouldn't the best Christmas gift we could give be a denture?' "I want to make someone smile for Christmas," I said. "We could do a Merry Christmas denture



giveaway!"

"I love it, it's like the song 'All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth', Dennis laughed. So my mom and I posed for a picture, and Dennis' team edited some garland and bows around us, and the annual denture contest was born!

We used a Christmas story trivia question as the ballot, put all the entries into a box and when we picked the winner, it was a lady named Jean. When we called her to say she had won, she was in tears. She not only wanted (and needed) teeth for Christmas, but for many years. I still remember when she came in. She had a brilliant white coat that I had no idea how she kept it so white! We made her a beautiful

white smile to match.

For going on 10 years now, even though the days of just my mom and I as the only employees are long gone, we continue the Christmas contest. What is amazing is that every year we have such an amazing winner. Spending time with them, sharing stories, giving gifts - it's what Christmas is all about! It's like we expand our families just a little bit more. We could never pick a winner, so we do a draw to make it fair. There are no strings attached, just a gift in honour of the greatest gift of all, Jesus. Which brings us to this year's trivia question: see ballot.

How to enter:

- Call us at (204) 482-6698 with your answer.
- The deadline for entering the draw is December 21 @ 4pm
- The draw will be held on December 21 @ 5pm

BALLOT

Who was the prophet that foretold a virgin shall give birth to a son called Immanuel?

ANSWER: _____

VANDOR • DENTURE • CENTRE
AWARD-WINNING DENTURES AND IMPLANTS

Lundar School assists Operation Christmas Child

By Evan Matthews

A teacher at Lundar School is educating students about the struggles of children in the developing world as the students participate in Operation Christmas Child.

Chloe Reimer McCaughan, who is both a teacher and the guidance counsellor, said she had personally participated in the drive to help under-privileged youth across the globe and wanted to share the experience with her students.

"They put together gifts (in shoeboxes) for children in under-developed countries — everything from school supplies to hygiene products, as well as toys — as a way to give back during the holidays," said Reimer McCaughan.

"We did it as a grade wars-type idea. Each grade brought in items and were awarded points for whatever it was they brought in. A group of Grade 10 girls from my geography class offered to help me put the shoeboxes together."

Reimer McCaughan said the school ended up with 22 boxes in total, which will now be shipped to the Operation Christmas Child's continental shipping depots to then be distributed worldwide.

According to the Operation Christmas Child website, the organization

will send shoeboxes from Canada to El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone, though Reimer McCaughan noted where exactly their boxes go will remain a mystery.

Putting Christ in Christmas

Operation Christmas Child is a hands-on way for Canadians to help struggling children in the developing world by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies and other items, according to its website. The initiative has religious origins as the collection and distribution of the boxes is done in the name of Jesus Christ.

Reimer McCaughan said she first heard about Operation Christmas Child through her own church in Oak Bluff.

"Operation Christmas Child was started by Billy Graham's son, actually," said Reimer McCaughan, referring to Graham's eldest son, Franklin, who serves as president and CEO of Samaritan's Purse, which runs the Operation Christmas Child organization.

"They've reached over 180 million children over last 17 years, and we just thought it might be a nice thing to do as a school."



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CHLOE REIMER MCCAUGHAN

Lundar School students, back row, left to right, Madison Monkman-Pagee, Emma Christensen, Ally Weatherburn, Sam Miller, Mrs. Reimer McCaughan; front row, Sascha Unrae, Madison Olafson, Autumn Hanslip and Mackenzie Sweetland helped put together Operation Christmas Child boxes.



Reimer McCaughan's Grade 10 geography class had a group of volunteers help put the shoeboxes together.

GARRIOCK INSURANCE

HOLIDAY HOURS

Happy Holidays

	GIMLI	WPG BEACH
DEC. 24	9-1	9-1
DEC. 28	9-5:30	CLOSED
DEC. 29	9-5:30	9-5
DEC. 30	9-5:30	9-5
DEC. 31	9-3	9-3
JAN. 2	9-3	CLOSED

BOTH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
DEC. 25, 26, 27 & JAN. 1

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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MOOSEHORN COOP CHRISTMAS HOURS

Grocery & Hardware	Dec 24	8 am - 4 pm
Grocery & Hardware	Dec 25 & 26	CLOSED
Grocery & Hardware	Dec 28, 29 & 30	OPEN
Grocery	Dec 31	9 am - 5 pm
Hardware	Dec 31	8 am - 5 pm
Grocery & Hardware	January 1	CLOSED
	January 2	OPEN

ASHERN BRANCH CHRISTMAS HOURS

Dec 24	8 am - 4 pm	Dec 30	9 am - 6 pm
Dec 25 & 26	CLOSED	Dec 31	9 am - 5 pm
Dec 27	12 pm - 5 pm	January 1	CLOSED
Dec 28	9 am - 6 pm	January 2	OPEN
Dec 29	9 am - 6 pm		

Merry Christmas

Derek Johnson

MLA for Interlake-Gimli

InterlakeGimliMLA@gmail.com

204.641.8525 (Gimli) 204.376.3401 (Arborg)

> OFF-ROAD VEHICLE LAWS AND SAFETY, FROM PG. 6

order to operate across a roadway or shoulder;

- Must not operate an ORV with more passengers than the ORV is designed to carry;

- Everyone riding an ORV must wear an approved helmet, unless:

- i. The ORV is equipped with occupant roll-over protection and seat belts, and the seat belts are being used, or

- ii. The ORV is being used for farming, commercial fishing, hunting or trapping operations;

- Must not operate on roadway or shoulder (see Section 34 of the Off-Road Vehicle Act for exceptions for agricultural purposes)

- May only cross a roadway or shoulder at an in-

tersection or designated ORV crossing such as a snowmobile trail crossing, and must hold a valid driver's licence (see Section 35 of the Off-Road Vehicle Act);

- Must not carry open liquor or cannabis;

- Must operate the ORV in a safe and prudent manner;

- Must have headlights and tail lights on from 30 minutes prior to sunset until 30 minutes after sunrise.

When operating on private land (yards, farm land, pasture land, etc.):

- Ensure you have permission of the land owner;

- While some provincial laws such as the Off-Road Vehicle Act do not apply to private

property, the Criminal Code of Canada does. Therefore, operating an ORV while impaired or with a blood alcohol concentration or blood drug concentration over the legal limit is a criminal offence, as is operating an ORV in a dangerous manner.

"This past year, 50 per cent of fatal ORV collisions involved alcohol and/or drugs," said Sgt. Mark Hume, officer in charge of Westman traffic services. "In 60 per cent of the collisions reported to police, the operator was found to be driving too fast and either lost control or struck an object. Of those killed in collisions, one in three were not wearing a helmet. All of these deaths could have been prevented."



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2020 has been a challenging year that we all would like to forget. We are fortunate to have family and friends as we battle through this together (well at least 6 ft. apart). Lets all enjoy the holidays. Please make the best of our new holiday season landscape that is expected of us to stop the spread.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our entire team!

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From Dwayne Smith & Staff at the Eriksdale and Fisher Branch offices.

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Dec. 24: Closing @ 12pm.
Dec. 25, 28 & Jan 1: Closed

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Lundi the Moose gets his COVID mask

By Evan Matthews

While anti-mask and anti-vaccination messages are being spread throughout the country, a boy from Riverton is using a local symbol to educate the region.

Riverton Collegiate Institute student Sage Traverse spearheaded a project in which he researched how COVID-19 masks help to reduce transmission. He presented his findings to the RM of Bifrost-Riverton council and then pitched the idea of placing a mask on Lundi the Moose.

"I wanted to show the responsibility of (people who wear) a mask," said Traverse. "It helps us to be safe, and as long as people keep wearing masks, I feel safe."

Though Traverse was never scared of wearing a mask. Learning about how masks can help to reduce transmission helped him to understand it's a responsible and neighbourly thing to do.

Alison Lubinski, a resource and Grade 9 teacher at RCI, said the project was 100 per cent student-led and was sparked by the class's general interest in why people should be wearing masks during a global pandemic.

"Coming back to school in September, we've had students experience some difficulty wearing the masks," said Lubinski, emphasizing that with some education, perspective shifts happen all the time.

"Given the opportunity to learn a bit more about it, why it's important, etc., it was all part of the project."

Lubinski said a big part of Traverse's project was to interview his teachers and peers to investigate differing opinions on the subject.

Eventually, the survey asked participants if they'd like to see Lundi the



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY ALISON LUBINSKI

Riverton Collegiate Institute student Sage Traverse, right, made a COVID mask for Lundi the Moose to help promote the togetherness of the pandemic and how to slow the spread.

Moose donning a COVID-19 masks as a symbol of togetherness.

"Council agreed to the completion of the project, which obviously brought Sage a lot of excitement," said Lubinski. She added the project wasn't just about symbolism, as tangible, teachable skills were involved in the project, too.

"The biggest thing was to alleviate students' fears of wearing a mask and to promote engagement. Sage used math, writing, research, sewing, etc All of his core subjects were covered. He engaged with municipal council. It was something he and his teachers felt would tie in nicely to his classroom learning."

Benefits to masks

According to most medical experts, in this case the Mayo Clinic, masks approved by public health are said to slow the



After the installation of Lundi's mask, Steve Rayner, Sage Traverse, Alison Lubinski and Erin Furgala stand in front of Lundi sporting masks of their own.

spread of the virus.

An average community member wears cloth masks typically, while N95 respirators and surgical masks are often seen being worn by health-care and front-line workers.

Cloth masks are intended to drop vapour droplets, according to Mayo Clinic, so the wearer slows potential spread while talking, coughing or sneezing.

The American Centre of Disease Control recommends people wear a cloth face mask while around people associated with others outside their household and in public settings when social distancing is difficult.

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF
WEST INTERLAKE**

*Reeve, Council and Staff
would like to wish everyone
a Merry Christmas and a
safe and Happy New Year!*

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Ashern and Eriksdale Offices will be closed Thursday, December 24th at 12 noon and will re-open Tuesday December 29th at 9:00 am.

Offices will be closed Thursday, December 31st at 12 noon and will re-open Monday, January 4th, 2021 at 9:00 am.

*Reminder - Offices are still closed to the public, but staff are available from
9:00 am - 4:00 pm to assist with any inquiries.*

Ashern - 204-768-2641 & Eriksdale - 204-739-2666

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> VIRTUAL MEMORY TREE, FROM PG. 11

might perceive as interfering with another's perfect holiday season. "The reality is that all of us are going through something; we all have ups and downs. Connecting with others — even if it's only by phone or video calling — is extremely important."

Interlake-Eastern RHA is offering one way to help people trying to cope with loss this year. Normally, the palliative care program places trees in facilities throughout the region that people can hang messages on to honour someone who has died. With pandemic restrictions in place, this year they are inviting everyone to honour loved ones by adding a public message to their Virtual Memory Tree. Simply visit www.is.gd/MemoryTree and fill in your mes-



Interlake-Eastern RHA is inviting everyone to honour loved ones by adding a public message to their Virtual Memory Tree.

*Wishing everyone a
wonderful holiday season
and a happy, healthy 2021!*

The Board and Staff,

**Community
Futures** West Interlake

sage along with who it is for, and your note will appear on the page within 48 hours.

Hodgson-McConnell said that she hopes people can find some comfort in sharing their messages. Other ways people can mark the departure of a loved one include creating a virtual memory book, blog or web page so family and friends can honour the memory of your loved one and

share stories. Another idea is to prepare your loved one's favourite meal or any other gesture that had significance and can remind you of them.

According to Hodgson-McConnell, it's not just those who have lost someone that need support.

"Because of isolation and the significant disruption to pre-COVID-19 routines, all of us are facing some sort of grief. Whether it be the loss of social contact, cancelled events, loss of a job or income, or the loss of anything that typically makes you happy, we are all dealing with strong emotions and grief. This year more than ever, stay in touch with each other and let your loved ones know they are not alone."

Anyone experiencing loss or grief or struggling with depression, loneliness or other personal issues is encouraged to make use of the many resources available locally, which can be found at www.is.gd/mentalhealth1. If you notice that your symptoms of anxiety are causing you significant distress or interfering with your ability to function normally, call the region's 24-hour crisis line at 204-482-5419 or toll-free at 1-866-427-8628.

*A Wish for You
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Riverton's Friendship Centre hosts virtual Christmas party

By Evan Matthews

Riverton had special seasonal guest appearances last week, as both Santa and the Grinch came to town.

The Riverton and District Friendship Centre hosted a virtual Christmas party on Dec. 13 from 2 to 3 p.m., with over 60 children attending.

"We had a jam-packed agenda filled with fun activities including a reindeer craft with Elsa and Anna (from *Frozen*), games with the Grinch, an elf Zumba party, storytelling with Ms. Claus and a special visit from Santa himself," said Desarae Bilinski, a youth worker at RDFC.

"Every year we host a family Christmas party at the hall, and we typi-

cally have 350 people from Riverton and the surrounding areas. It's such a fun event for everyone to get into the Christmas spirit with fun activities, and we thought we would switch it over to a virtual platform."

RDFC has been busy over the holiday season doing curbside meals for seniors and daily activities for kids. The organization has also done an advent calendar, a craft and book giveaway, and now a virtual Christmas party.

The organization has been able to support the community in creative ways as funding has been freed due to the cancellation of traditional events such as the Santa Breakfast, the se-



In the back, Elsa and Anna (*Frozen* stand-ins) are pictured, while in the front, Desarae Bilinski, left, and Jillyan Hokanson host the virtual party.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY DESARAE BILINSKI

Over 60 children from Riverton and the surrounding areas participated in a Zoom Christmas party.

niors' dinner, the Christmas market and the pancake breakfast.

"It's so important for us to keep doing our part to keep our community residents and surrounding areas engaged and involved in these challenging times," said Bilinski.

"A Zoom virtual kids' Christmas party was the perfect way for us to get in the Christmas spirit together, while

being apart."

Up next for RDFC? Bilinski said the organization has created a "Snowman Challenge," with winners receiving local gift cards for prizes.

Check the RDFC Facebook page for details regarding how to enter your unique snowman and for all upcoming virtual programs and events, or call 204-378-2800.

RED AND BLACK ANGUS BREEDER

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Down-Home Holiday Wishes

May your season be filled with the people and traditions that bring a smile to your face and joy to your heart.

Merry Christmas!

Residents frustrated by lack of public health enforcement at Gimli Post Office

By Patricia Barrett

With online shopping and the subsequent sending and picking-up of parcels intensifying in the lead-up to Christmas, the Gimli Post Office has come under increasing scrutiny by local and area residents who say public health orders to help protect them from COVID-19 are being flouted.

Residents who spoke with the *Express* say too many people queue in the lobby area, blocking access to mailboxes and giving them no choice but to risk their health or make several trips to find a quieter time. They've even seen the odd person refusing to comply with the mandatory rule for mask-wearing inside the building and improper physical distancing.

Gimli resident Tanis Benson, who is one of hundreds of residents with mailboxes located in the lobby of the Centre Street building, said she and family members have seen too many people waiting in line inside the post office. And numbers swell when people "just wanting to check their mailbox" come in.

Canada Post stipulates that a maximum of five people can be in the lobby at one time and three can be in the service area, which offers services such as parcel pick-up and drop-off and stamp sales.

Calling it a potential COVID hotspot, Benson said she saw around 10 people in the lobby last week while she was in line for counter service, and she pointed it out to a staff member.

"The postmistress told me it's up to us to 'police' ourselves," said Benson. "She said, 'Do you expect me to leave you here and stand out there all day?' I said no, but she can go into the lobby and check once in a while. She said, 'You say something.'"

Benson said she asked the people in the lobby — "mostly over 60-year-olds and mostly women" — to mind the rules, but they didn't budge; they just "stared" at her.

"I felt I had been reprimanded by the postmistress," said Benson, "and felt like the bad guy when I got silent looks from people in the lobby."

She knows the building is not configured to handle separate lines for residents who want to check their mailboxes and those who need counter service, she said, but there's a reasonable expectation during a pandemic that staff monitor what's happening the way staff in supermarkets and big box stores do.

"Are the post office staff not responsible for what goes on in their building? They state they're following the guidelines, but are they? A sign is there but it's not being enforced, a fact they're aware of," said Benson.

Ashley Tupper, who lives outside Gimli, told the *Express* she tried a number of times to pick up parcels but decided not to go in the building as she felt her health could be compromised.

"There were three times when we tried to get in the lineup at the post office, but there were more than 10 people in the lobby area," said Tupper. "So we walked away. We weren't willing to wait in that line."

Has this been a private business, Tupper said she's sure there would've been some sort of clampdown by now. And rather than risk the possibility of dealing with aggression had she reminded people in line about the rules, she addressed her concerns on Facebook in a Nov. 30 post:

"Gimli Post Office — anyone else feel like 20+ people lined up in the small lobby to get their packages this afternoon is a dangerous mismanagement of public health guidelines? How will this get any better as people turn to online shopping more and more?"

Tupper said she also filed a report on the COVID tip line "in hopes the issue would be addressed."

Gimli resident Bill Buckels took things a step further, filing formal complaints with Canada Post and apprising provincial and federal politicians of the potential for a "spreader event."

"The post office is the heart of community in rural Canada. There's not a single resident in Gimli that isn't impacted by this travesty we call the post office," said Buckels. "This could contribute to transmission of the virus."

There have been lineups down the street and 20-30 people inside the building at times, standing cheek-by-jowl in an unventilated building while blocking access to resident mailboxes, he said. There's no way to get in there, grab your mail and get out quickly. He's also seen people without masks.

Gimli residents have no choice but to use the town post office because Canada Post doesn't deliver letter mail door-to-door in rural areas (with some exceptions) as it does in some neighbourhoods in Winnipeg.

Although residents' mailboxes and the service counter are in different rooms with a shared door between them, Buckels said there's a constant flow of people and air through the door. And the mailboxes, when opened, facilitate an exchange of air between the two areas.

"It's like peek-a-boo because you can see through your mailbox into the back room where staff work," said Buckels. "If you have a bit of COVID in the air, it goes everywhere. The door will not keep people safe."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JOEL BALDWIN

People were queued on Centre Street last Tuesday to get into the Gimli Post Office, where residents say overcrowding, lack of proper physical distancing and building design flaws can facilitate the spread of COVID-19.

The problems with the building's design existed prior to COVID's arrival, but Canada Post has never addressed them, said Buckels. It's just too small to adequately serve the town and the needs of people from outlying communities.

Parcel drop-off is currently congesting the post office to the point where people are effectively being denied service, he said. Residents like him who live some distance from the post office have to waste gas making several trips to see if they can get to their mailboxes or buy stamps.

Not only has demand resulted in

lengthy waits, but one of the post office's two weigh scales is also broken, forcing people to wait even longer and increasing everyone's chances of being exposed to COVID, said Buckels. And many older people need staff to help them fill out customs forms for parcels being sent out of the country.

To help reduce congestion and lower the risk of COVID transmission, Buckels said parcel drop-off or pick-up could be temporarily moved to an empty storefront in town.

"They shove a parcel pick-up notice

Continued on page 21

What's *Your* story?

We want to hear from you.

The Express Weekly News connects people through stories to build stronger communities.

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THE **EXPRESS**
WEEKLY NEWS

Manitoba Conservation and Climate enforcement update

Submitted by Manitoba government

Manitoba Conservation and Climate advises that conservation officers are continuing enforcement against illegal night hunting and illegal hunting in moose conservation closure areas. In the early evening of Dec. 11, conservation officers from the Gypsumville area spotted a vehicle driving off road on a decommissioned rail bed in the RM of Grahamdale.

Officers watched as the vehicle stopped and a single light was used to slowly sweep across the fields. The vehicle moved slowly around the area, looping back around the field before heading back down the rail bed, still shining a light back and forth across the fields. When the vehicle came back onto a nearby road, officers determined it was an off-road, side-by-side ATV and they pulled it over. A

43-year-old male from the Fairford area and 48-year-old female from Pinaymootang First Nation were arrested, and issued appearance notices for hunting at night when not permitted. A 2015 Polaris Ranger, as well as two loaded rifles, a spotlight and various other hunting equipment was seized. One of the firearms was found to be stolen, so RCMP attended and took custody of the two individuals for other offences including a prohibition to possess firearms.

Since Oct. 10, conservation officers have conducted patrols to enforce Manitoba's new Wildlife Amendment Act (Safe Hunting and Shared Management), resulting in:

- charges or appearance notices to 47 individuals for serious wildlife offences;
- warnings to 19 individuals for night

hunting without a permit or for hunting in a moose conservation closure;

- charges to 11 individuals for possessing illegally taken wildlife;
- seizures of 10 vehicles;
- seizures of 20 firearms; and;
- restitution orders totalling \$20,500.

On Oct. 10, the Wildlife Amendment Act (Safe Hunting and Shared Management) took effect with the goal of ensuring a safe hunting environment. Night hunting is now illegal in Manitoba on all private land. The act also allows the establishment of shared management committees, which can be an important tool for improved wildlife conservation including for moose.

The province has implemented a permit system to allow opportunities for rights-based hunting on some Crown land, with different require-

ments for northern and southern Manitoba based on extensive Crown-Indigenous consultations that contributed to the development of the legislation.

In northern Manitoba, Indigenous hunters may hunt at night on Crown land and do not need to apply for a permit, though it is subject to a three-kilometre safety buffer around occupied sites and provincial roadways.

In southern Manitoba, night hunting is prohibited except with a permit that allows rights-based hunting on Crown land, subject to terms and conditions establishing where it can be done safely.

Anyone with information on illegal activities is asked to call their local Manitoba Conservation and Climate office or the Turn In Poachers (TIP) line at 1-800-782-0076.

Arborg RCMP make several arrests in large theft from local business

Staff

Arborg RCMP received a report of a break and enter at a business located north of Beaver Creek, on Provincial Road 234, where suspects made off with two forklifts, a front-end loader, flatdeck trailer, welder and other various tools and equipment on Dec. 2. The theft is believed to have occurred overnight.

The employees, who had discovered the break-in that morning, followed the tracks left by the suspects to a

property located approximately five kilometres north of the business. The employees immediately provided this information to the officers who, when they arrived, observed many of the stolen items in plain view in front of the residence, including a forklift that had been abandoned in the ditch. Officers spoke with three adults on site who were arrested and taken into custody.

"It's imperative that the public report any suspicious activity to the

police, and the sooner you report it, the better chance we have to reach a successful outcome," said S/Sgt. Rob Gray, detachment commander for the Gimli/Arborg RCMP detachment. "Although this outcome was positive, we remind everyone to not attempt to follow suspects or locate stolen items. Call the police immediately and allow officers to investigate. We do not want anyone to get hurt."

RCMP have charged 41-year-old Blain Deruyck of Winnipeg with four

counts of possession of stolen property obtained by crime and remanded him into custody. A 30-year-old male and 31-year-old female, both from Winnipeg, were also arrested on scene and released for court scheduled April 12, 2021, in Arborg. They will each face several charges of possession of stolen property obtained by crime.

All of the stolen items have since been recovered. Arborg RCMP continue to investigate.

> LACK OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENFORCEMENT, FROM PG. 20

in your mailbox and you should be able to go to a drive-thru pick-up window where you can hand someone the notice and be given your parcels right there on the spot, just like at McDonald's when you get your burgers and fries," he said.

Or Canada Post could allow parcel service and stamp sales in rural pharmacies as it does in urban centres.

"Canada Post needs to bring in a workflow expert because this goes beyond ridiculous. Public health is at stake here," said Buckels. "If a workflow expert came in, they would separate the different activities."

Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan said he has received "several complaints" about the Gimli Post Office regarding public health measures and has reached out to Canada Post.

"We advised constituents to call the Canada Post customer service line," said Bezan by email. "Additionally, my staff made a direct inquiry directly with Canada Post about the situation

at the Gimli Post Office."

There are likely to be delays at all post offices in his riding because of COVID restrictions and Christmas orders, he said. But people can continue to contact his office with concerns.

"I ask everyone to remain patient and be kind with our Canada Post workers who are doing their best in a difficult circumstance," said Bezan.

Enforcement of public health orders remains in "provincial jurisdiction," he added.

But a spokesperson for the provincial government said public health orders "do not apply" to federal government operations such as Canada Post.

Yet people are still "required" to wear a mask in federal buildings and can be ticketed by the province.

"In response to public tips about a lack of mask use, inspectors have visited the post office in Gimli and ensured that the operators had appropriate signage indicating mask use was required and that efforts were taken to ensure physical distancing

while waiting in line for postal services," said the spokesperson. "Additional visits may occur, and if a customer is found not wearing a mask they could be ticketed."

On Canada Post's website, the Crown corporation said it's dealing with high volumes of parcel mail because of early online shopping and there may be delays as "we put safety first during COVID-19."

When asked if Canada Post is exempt from following Manitoba's public health orders, media relations spokesperson Nicole Lecompte said the corporation "has been committed to closely following the advice of public health officials at the national and local level" in order to keep its employees and the public safe.

Lecompte said a provincial health inspector visited the Gimli Post Office and confirmed "we are following the proper processes and guidelines."

A number of safety measures have been implemented in post offices, she said, including signage, visible

markings and limits on the number of people allowed inside. But she didn't address the broken scale that's causing lengthy waits or possible plans to reconfigure the building.

Because of the demand for service, the Gimli Post Office is offering extended hours from Monday to Thursday (8:30-7), Friday (8:30-5) and Saturday (9:15-1:15), and its employees are "working very hard" to serve Gimli customers, said Lecompte.

The municipality of Gimli isn't able to enforce matters that fall under federal and provincial jurisdiction, but its bylaw officer, Chris Steinke, said on Friday that he contacted Canada Post quite a few times with concerns about public safety at the post office; he has yet to hear back from the corporation.

He's also keeping tabs on mask-wearing and lineups.

"I do inspect that area on a regular basis, and it seems that the problem has somewhat resolved itself for the most part," he said. "But I'm not sure if it's ongoing or not."

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Gleich putting up nice offensive numbers in Lundar

By Brian Bowman

Ryan Gleich put up some great offensive numbers in his rookie season with the Lundar Falcons a year ago.

His start to his second season in Lundar has been equally impressive.

Gleich scored five goals and had two assists in just six games before the Capital Region Junior Hockey League was halted last month due to COVID-19.

"It was a good start," said Gleich, an Eriksdale product. "Our line was really connecting and I finally got to play with one of my friends that I grew up playing hockey with throughout my years. It was nice to get back on a line with him."

Last year, Gleich scored 16 goals and had 27 points in 27 regular-season games.

"I surprised myself last year after

taking a year off of hockey," he admitted. "I really enjoyed coming back to play. I like playing in the new barn."

Gleich has been very good with the Falcons this season, playing on a line with Brent Johnson, a rookie, and Jayden Allary. Lundar's top line, which includes Dennon Sichevski and rookie Tyler Earl, was red-hot to start this season. The pair combined for 12 goals and 18 points in just six games.

That offensive production helped Lundar jump out to a second-place start with 12 points, just two back of the Selkirk Fishermen.

The Falcons have plenty of depth in their lineup and the players are having fun gelling as a team.

"In our locker room everybody is getting along and everybody is connecting together," Gleich noted. "From

(the attitude) in the locker room, it shows on the ice. Each of our lines brings a different style of play. We have one line that is really physical and defensively, we're a lot stronger this year than we were last year."

Anyone in the five-team CRJHL can win the title this year but the front-runners include Selkirk, Lundar and Arborg.

The Falcons split a pair of 3-2 games with the Ice Dawgs and then lost 5-4 in overtime to Arborg back on Oct. 31.

Lundar also dropped a hard-fought 3-1 decision to Selkirk in their lone matchup this season.

"I would consider us in the race," Gleich said. "Selkirk is one of our biggest challenges. ... They have a couple of guys that like to (bother) our players to put us in the box."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
Lundar Falcons' forward Ryan Gleich has five goals and seven points in six games this season.

Prospects of a WSHL season slipping away

Staff

It's not looking promising for the Winnipeg High School Hockey League to ice a season due to COVID-19.

The provincial government announced on Dec. 6 that it would be extending Manitoba's state of emergency by another 30 days.

Manitoba first entered a state of emergency on March 20. Since then, the province has extended it eight times.

The WSHL has not played a game this season as it's league was shut down on Nov. 12.

Last year, the league had 36 teams but just 12 — including the Selkirk Royals — had committed to playing in 2020-21.

"Assuming that these restrictions are not going to change because I doubt that they will, then obviously that puts us into January with the high schools running remote learning for two weeks," WSHL president Dana Gordon told the *Winnipeg Free Press* last week. "So we're not making any decisions as of yet but the writing's going to be pretty much on the wall. I mean, our season would end at the end of spring break, so an eight-week hockey season is kind of ridiculous."

Gordon expects to meet with the league executive to make a final decision soon.

Third-year Royals' player Nolan Milgaard admits it's been frustrating playing the waiting game.

"It would be nice to be back playing and hopefully in the new year we'll play," he said Monday afternoon. "But right now it's not looking too promising."

Milgaard really enjoyed his time playing high school hockey.

"It was a really good time," he said. "Lots of great people, the coaches helped out a lot. It was a good couple of seasons and this year looked to be the most promising until it all got shut down."

If the WSHL does not go this season, many of the players will be left without a team. Some, though, do have a possible option of playing elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the Manitoba Junior Hockey League also has been affected with the recent news from the province.

The MJHL's 12 teams have not seen action since code red restrictions were put in place on Nov. 12.

The league had hoped to resume league play in early January.

"It definitely affects us in the sense we set a tentative start date for Jan. 1 to hopefully allow players to return back to their communities," said MJHL commissioner Kevin Saurette. "Obviously, that'll be pushed back

due to these restrictions. Internally, we're going through our schedule process and different timelines for when it is deemed safe to return to hockey activities."

Cvar picks up pair of assists

Staff

Olivia Cvar picked up a pair of assists as the St. Cloud State Huskies earned a split with the Bemidji State University Beavers in women's Division I hockey action last week.

Cvar assisted on Emma Gentry's third-period goal to tie the score at 2-2 in a 3-2 overtime loss on Friday.

Cvar also assisted on Taylor Lind's first-period goal in St. Cloud's 3-2 overtime win against Bemidji State on Thursday.

Cvar, a Stonewall product who is originally from Gimli, now has two points in six games this season.

With the split, the Huskies are now 2-4.



Olivia Cvar

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Roche hopes to lead Ice Dawgs to a CRJHL title

By Brian Bowman

Josh Roche is in his final season of junior hockey.

And he hopes to experience it out on the ice while all players across Canada eagerly await to get the green light to play again after a pause to their seasons due to COVID-19.

Roche was off to a great start this season with four goals and five points in just four games.

Still, he feels he could have done even better.

"I definitely think I could put up more points and staying out of the box would help with that," said Roche, who has already racked up 39 penalty minutes this season. "That's something that I'll try to work on. Going into this year I really wanted to try to stay out of the box but I need thicker skin, I guess."

Roche has started the season playing on a line with Tyson Barylski, a talented 17-year-old rookie.

The pair have clicked nicely in just four games.

"I love the guy," Roche said. "He's a good guy to have on your line. He'll back you up if there's any scrums or anything. For 17, he's not the fastest kid, but he has a heavy shot and he likes to bang bodies."

Roche feels Arborg has what it takes to be a championship team this season.

"Every year I want to win pretty bad but this year more than ever, obviously," he said, noting the team has a very good coaching staff and a solid

mix of veterans and rookie players. "I definitely think this year we have the team to do it."

Ice Dawgs' head coach Murray Monkman had high praise for his team captain.

"He's a quiet leader but demonstrates his passion for the game every practice and every game," Monkman said in a text. "(His) work ethic is through the roof. The team plays its best when he's in the lineup."

The 21-year-old Roche is currently in his fourth season with the Ice Dawgs. He has scored 30 goals and collected 57 points in 71 regular-season games.

Last season was a breakout year for Roche as he tallied 13 goals and 26 points while racking up 111 penalty minutes. He also had three goals and seven points in seven playoff games.

Roche, a Teulon product, has really enjoyed his time with the Ice Dawgs.

"I love playing in Arborg," he said. "I have lots of family there and it's close to home. It's great and the new dressing room at the rink is awesome as well."

Roche, the Ice Dawgs' team captain for the second consecutive season, relishes his role as a leader on the team.

"Growing up and going to the Ice Dawgs' games with my old man when they were in the finals and you had to park down the road, the captain was from Teulon," he recalled. "I always wanted to do the same when I got older. It means a ton to be captain for the second year in a row. Having Derric



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Arborg Ice Dawgs' captain Josh Roche, a Teulon product, has four goals and five points in four games this season.

Gulay in my first two years was great. He was a mentor and guys definitely looked up to him and he played his heart out every night, which is something that I try doing."

Roche, who is now six-foot and 180 pounds after beginning his junior career at 140 pounds, landed in Arborg with the Ice Dawgs after playing for the Interlake Lightning and then with Teulon at the Midget level.

Roche had a great time with Teulon, winning a provincial title in Winnipegosis.

"That was pretty awesome," he said. "That was great and the whole reason I came back. It was all of my high school buddies and guys I grew up playing with in Novice and Atom. We were actually combined with Arborg and Riverton so it was pretty sweet to play with those guys, too."

2020 Manitoba Games cancelled

Submitted by Sport Manitoba

To keep Manitobans safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19, Sport Manitoba and the Dauphin Host Society are announcing the cancellation of the 2020 Manitoba Games powered by Manitoba Hydro.

The decision was announced last Thursday.

Earlier this year, the decision to postpone the Games to July of 2021 was made first and foremost to ensure the health and safety of all the

participants, volunteers, and spectators expected to attend the Games in Dauphin. The unknowns of the pandemic, including when it might end, impacted decision-making required by the Host Society and continued postponements to important planning was no longer possible.

Sport Manitoba and the Dauphin Host Society worked with the City of Dauphin and Provincial Sport Organizations to reach the collective decision to cancel the event and will work

with all Games partners in the coming months to prepare for the new Games date.

The City of Dauphin will host the 2024 Manitoba Games powered by Manitoba Hydro in the summer of 2024, which is the next Games available to host. The age categories, sports, and technical requirements for these Games are all still in the planning phase and will be confirmed and announced at a later date.

The Manitoba Games powered by

Manitoba Hydro are staged every two years, alternate between summer and winter sporting events, and is the largest ongoing multi-sport event in the province.

Each Games involves upwards of 3,000 athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers, and represents an opportunity for young athletes to compete and prepare to reach national and international sporting stages.

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Tel: 204-376-5584
Fax 204-376-5584
email riverdalew@mymts.net

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Sealed bids for the purchase of the following parcels of land, located in the RM of Fisher, should be mailed to **Colin and Laura Grzenda, Box 7, Broad Valley, MB, R0C 0K0** by **Friday, Jan 29th, 2021.**

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2	SW 11-25-3W1	160.00 ac	110 ac

Parcels have been farmed as a single unit. Both parcels are well drained and produce well. They also offer excellent hunting and recreational opportunities. Parcel 2 includes access to a gravel pit (excludes mineral rights).

- Tenders accepted until Friday Jan 29th, 2021.
- Sealed bids must be accompanied by a certified cheque for 2% of the tendered amount.
- Possession date of April 1, 2021.
- Purchaser will be responsible for the total of 2021 property taxes.

To obtain a complete tender notice outlining all terms and conditions, or if you have any questions, please contact Colin Grzenda at 204-880-9747 or 204-372-6167.

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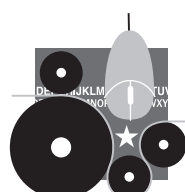
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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Emma Geraldine LeCunff
Dustin and Julie are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Emma Geraldine LeCunff. Emma was born on September 15, 2020. She weighed 7 lbs 9 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Emma is also welcomed by her proud big brother Jack; grandparents Frank and Geraldine Zabudny and Allan and Arlys LeCunff; and great-grandparents Jerry and Mary Monkman, and Lucille LeCunff.

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Herman Friederici
December 17, 2010
In Loving Memory of

our dear brother and uncle Herman
Time slips by and life goes on,
But in our hearts you are never gone.
We think about you often,
And we talk about you too;
We have so many memories,
But we wish we still had you.
Though no longer in our lives to share,
In the hearts of your loving family, you are
always, always there.

IN MEMORIAM



Ronald J. Franz
February 21, 1943 – December 18, 2019
In Loving Memory of
my Dear Husband, Father, Grandfather,
and Great-Grandfather,
who left us one year ago

Partings come and hearts are broken,
Loved ones go with words unspoken,
Deep in our hearts there's a memory kept,
For a husband and father we'll never forget.
We miss you dearly.

-Love Florence and family

OBITUARY



Linda Emma Fehr (Laughlin, nee Nixon)
December 17, 1946 - December 6, 2020

It is with deep sadness the family of Linda announce that after many years of struggle with a variety of health issues, Linda let go of her hold on this life.

Born in Invermere, BC to Walter and Mona (Johnson, nee Campbell) Nixon, the one constant in Linda's life was a keen pursuit of knowledge in humanities, politics and all the world holds. She was a brilliant woman who never shied away from a challenge, was determined to have her voice heard and amplified the voices of those often silenced. She could be an extraordinarily kind person to the most random of people and forever altered many peoples lives for the better. At times she could be challenging and passionately argumentative to a fault, but it was part of her fabric and we were all enriched by the challenge.

Life held many struggles for her, but she was a survivor through and through. Linda's formal education was cut short by an early marriage that fell victim to grief and the arrival of her four children, but it was the death of her two youngest children in infancy that altered her path dramatically. It was nearly a decade before she was able to shake free from the shackles of opioid addiction that began with a well-meaning prescription for a grieving young mother. But she did it and with determination and the help of the love of her life, Henry Fehr, together they built a life centred around their careers and family. Their careers were both very demanding and stressful, but numerous friendships in Abbotsford, BC where they are both fondly remembered kept them active and happy. She had a remarkable strength to keep rising from the ashes that tragedy and a lifelong struggle with addiction and mental health issues brought, but set an excellent example that despite it all one must strive to "keep on keeping on" and aim high. Linda protested in the Gastown Riots in Vancouver in the early 70's and assisted Vietnam draft dodgers, as she had a strong social conscience and felt compelled to act. Linda's career was an eclectic mix ranging from typesetting for the Aldergrove Star in the 60's, catching chickens in a commercial barn as a mole to out Labour law abuses, to being a highly valued Systems Analyst with the Federal Government for Corrections Canada, the Department of National Defence and lastly she finished out her working life as a Regional Recruitment officer for Air Traffic Control for Transport Canada/NavCan. In 1992, Linda and Henry relocated to Komarno, Manitoba to be closer to her surviving daughter. Unfortunately, after five short years in their new home Henry passed away after which Linda spent 10 years on her own working part time at a collection of local establishments for social contact until she met her last love, Larry Lambert in 2007. For the first few years they genuinely enjoyed developing and supporting each other in their many and varied artistic talents and sharing their treasures with the surrounding communities, until her health deteriorated to such a degree that she could no longer pursue any of her passions. She was an avid reader to the end and before confinement took its hold she was constantly working on some new creative output. All through her life, she tried to pass on her passions to any and all who showed interest. An active volunteer, able-handed and quick to help, Linda made an impact on so many with her willingness to be a team player for the right cause, including the National Council on the Status of Women, various community organizations and charities. Those who knew her and loved her will miss her quick wit, her love of all things beautiful and her passion, which made her garden the envy of many, a place of solace and home to many happy memories for her family. And oh, the Karaoke! She loved a good spotlight and a catchy tune where she could really let her bright light shine. And she was loved, by many.

In her life Linda grieved the loss of her parents, step-father John H Johnson of Vernon BC, husband, Henry Fehr, son Marty Schnurr, son James, daughter Natasha and much loved son-in-law Scott A. Dowsett. She leaves to mourn her daughter Lisa Dowsett (Grant Vandersteen) of Fisher Branch MB, daughter Tracey MacEwan of Whitehorse YT, step-daughters Lorri Fehr and Leann Fehr, brother Allan Nixon (Cheryl) of Vernon BC, grandchildren Andrew, Curtis (Nina), Sarah (Cam), Jordan, Alicia, Reece and Dawson, great-grandson Scott Dowsett, two nieces and her partner Larry Lambert who kept up till the end being a support for Linda for which she so was grateful. Staying in her own home was extremely important and wouldn't have been possible without him and their good friends.

In accordance with her wishes, a private family gathering will be held when COVID restrictions allow but family would ask, if you knew Linda or even if you didn't, the next time you raise a glass, raise one for her to note the passing of a remarkable woman.

OBITUARY



Darrell Leslie Lindell
August 31, 1959 – December 9, 2020

After a long battle with cancer, Darrell suddenly passed away on December 9, 2020 at the age of 61 years.

He leaves to mourn his loving wife of 41 years, Jo-Ann Gryba; his mother Violet Lindell; brother Larry (DeeDee); sister Lynne (Shawn); brother David (Jeff); brother Kelvin (Charlotte); in-laws Kathy (Cliff), Andrew (Angie), Leon (Brenda), Karen (Dave) along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

Darrell was predeceased by his father Rickie, mother-in-law Josie, father-in-law Archie, sister-in-law Diane and nephew Justin.

Darrell and Jo-Ann spent years together farming in Mulvihill. Darrell worked away on powerline construction until he became ill. You could not stop him from working and often offered his help to others. He enjoyed trapping, fishing and spending time with family.

Darrell had a kind heart, was soft spoken and a very gentle man.

Cremation has taken place. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a service will be held at a later date.

Special thanks to Dr. Soliman and the nursing staff at the E. M. Crowe Memorial Hospital in Eriksdale, MB and Julie and staff at CancerCare in Gimli, MB.

Arrangements by:
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OBITUARY



Janet Zilinski

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Janet Zilinski of Winnipeg, formerly of Matlock, Manitoba at the Grace Hospital on December 9, 2020 at the age of 82.

Janet was predeceased by her parents Mike and Mary (nee Ksionzek) Zilinski of Matlock; her brother, Frank Collins; sisters Helen Hughes (Bob), Evelyn Propper (Al) and Gladys Ross and nephew Larry Hughes. She is survived by her brother-in-law Joe (Anne) Ross.

Cremation has already taken place, a memorial service will be arranged at a later date when we are all able to properly toast her memory and remember her together with laughter, tears, food and drink.

Condolences may be left on her tribute wall at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



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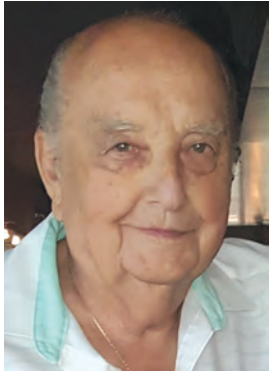
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OBITUARY



Edward (Eddie) Powrozniak
June 9, 1939 – December 6, 2020

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of a kind and gentle soul. Just like he dealt with all experiences in life, he managed his cancer with strength and grace, and wanted to spend as much time with his loved ones as possible. On his final day in God's hands he was surrounded by his family, who he adored more than anything else in the world.

Dad was born in Teulon and raised in Meleb, Manitoba. He began perma teaching at age 17. He completed his education at the University of Manitoba and spent 35 years as a school teacher in the Evergreen School Division and 27 of these years were taught at various Gimli schools.

In his retirement years he enjoyed his walks, bike rides and sporting events especially with his brother-in-law Ron Oakes as well as playing slot machines at South Beach Casino with special friends Joe, Jennie, Walter and Vivian.

Ed will be lovingly missed and forever remembered by his wife of 52 years Audrey, daughter Michelle (Ryan), grandchildren Chloe and Ethan, son Andy (Sharon). Eddie will be dearly missed by his sisters Jean Oakes of San Diego, California, Margie Tymofichuk of Winnipeg and numerous nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly.

Dad was predeceased by his mother Mary in 1969, his father Andrew in 1980, brother Sam in 1974 and sister Stella in 2018.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

If tomorrow starts without me,
please try to understand,
that an angel came and called my name
and took me by the hand;
She said my place was ready
in a heaven far above,
and that I'd have to leave behind
all those I dearly love.
So when tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart,
for every time you think of me,
I'm right here in your heart.

Condolences may be left on his tribute wall at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



Quinn David Valgardson
August 18, 1973 – December 6, 2020

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a very strong and courageous man who lost his battle with Type One Diabetes.

Quinn will be forever remembered by his mom and dad, Dodie and Norm, brothers Jeff (Marilyn) and Shane, his sisters Michelle (Tyler) and Mandi (Dave). Also remembering Quinn are his nieces Recene (Jason), Raven, Sadie, Destiny and Cassandra (Eri); nephews Tyson, Colby (Janine), Nik (Ameiy), Theo, Johannes, Andrew (Kerry) and Luke (Shannon), along with many great-nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Quinn was predeceased by his brother Brad and his brother Scot, fiancé Corinne, grandparents Katherine and Joe Syczlo, Gordon Stark, Rose and Jack Dixon.

Quinn was diagnosed at the age of 7 with Type One Juvenile Diabetes, and he never let it affect him or his life. He was a Kitchen Manager at Boston Pizza until losing his vision. He taught himself how to live without sight and used his computer to counsel others who were losing their sight. He lived many years on his own. It was only in the last 10 years as his health declined, he had to move back home, where he worked endlessly on his recipes for his cookbooks. If you ever needed a recipe or tips on cooking, he was more than willing to share. Quinn always had jokes or riddles to tell and was a very good storyteller.

No matter how many times he was knocked down he got back up. You can rest now dear Quinn, you fought a great battle, and we will miss you very much.

On behalf of the family we want to thank Lisa and Sue from the Gimli Dialysis Unit, Paula and Darlene from Home Care, Larry and Bruce from Gimli Handi-Van for all their care and support over the years. Thank you to Neil Bardal Funeral Centre and Mona for all your help, love, and support.

In accordance with Quinn's wishes a private Celebration of Life will take place at a future date. Quinn always had to have the last word. So, from Quinn, "Yeh, OK See Ya Later."



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