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EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Kindergarten students at Sigurbjorg Stefansson School perform Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer at their Christmas concert this past Monday.

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



Christmas Lights brighten homes, bring communities together







By Jeff Ward

More communities than ever before are taking part in friendly competitions to find the house or business with the most extravagant light displays.

For these communities, and those who participate, these contests aren't a cutthroat competition to see who wins but rather a way to reward those who make their community brighter.

My routine trips up the highway are made more pleasant by these displays. Ashern's Courtney Roehl, who organized their competition, said she and her daughter often spend time driving around looking at the lights. She said the competition in Ashern is meant to encourage more residents to discover and display festive colours in their community and to enjoy family bonding time while doing so. Devan McCoubrey, administrative assistant for the RM of Grahamdale, helped organize the competition for her area and mentioned during our interview that it is satisfying to see the growing number of people taking part in the competition each year, and that rewarding people for their efforts is a

lot of fun.

These competitions accomplish two things, in my opinion. First, they make conditions that are otherwise tough to enjoy, like heavy snow and bitterly cold weather, more bearable. They encourage people out from the warm comfort of their homes to stroll along the streets in a glow of multi-coloured LED lights. In areas that are free from the light pollution that I experience living in the city, it's like someone grabbed the stars from the sky and stuck them on their home.

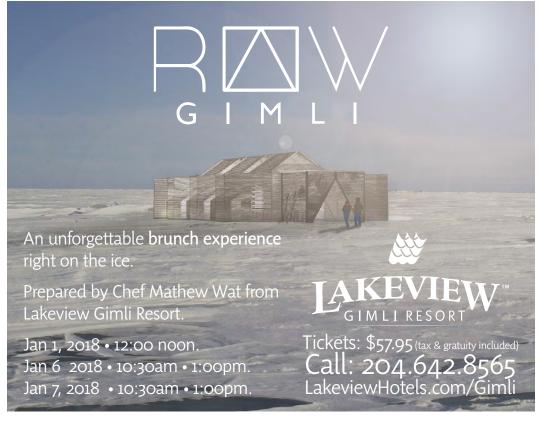
Secondly, the competitions bestow a sense of pride on the homeowners when they know their displays are appreciated. The creators of these displays don't do it for the reward — many have been putting up lights far longer than these contests have been around — but because they like to do it. There is a community pride in their work, and when it's recognized by others, it makes that feeling grow.

Before long, these lights will be gone and we'll have to wait another year to enjoy them again. So before that happens, go out and see them for yourself





EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JEFF WARD







All-weather road linking Berens River with Bloodvein First Nation complete

By Jeff Ward

The completion of a \$200-million allweather road will provide year-round travel for residents of Berens River, and their chief hopes it will provide new economic opportunities as well.

The new road, located on the eastern side of Lake Winnipeg, is nearly 70 kilometres long and includes three bridges. The final 21.6-km stretch was completed three weeks ago.

Berens River First Nation Chief Hartley Everett said he was happy to see the opening of this road and that many in his community are looking forward to driving on it. Berens River Mayor Allan Atlookan said the road is "50 years in the making" and that there are some elders who have "gone to the spirit world" and unfortunately won't have the opportunity to travel the road themselves. Nevertheless, he is happy to see its completion.

"I went on it a couple of times and,

yes, the road is good," said Atlookan, who added that the road connects Berens River to the rest of the world.

Manitoba Minister of Infrastructure Ron Schuler said he was pleased to be able to celebrate the opening of the road with the community where he was greeted with hot soup, fresh bannock and jam.

"The opening of this road represents a transformational change for the people who call Berens River home," said Schuler.

When asked if there are plans to begin any new sections of the road, Schuler said he couldn't provide a timeline but he will continue to work with the federal government and First Nation partners on those details.

This 70-kilometre section is only a small part of the proposed \$3-billion all-season road that would connect communities on the east side of the lake and span a total of 1,000 kilome-

The community of Berens River has just over 2,000 residents, and Chief Everett explained this road will cut their costs of freight and create new opportunities for tourism and economic development.

"There are always challenges for winter road travel in the spring and fall, but the completion of this road will provide year-round travel for our community," Everett said.

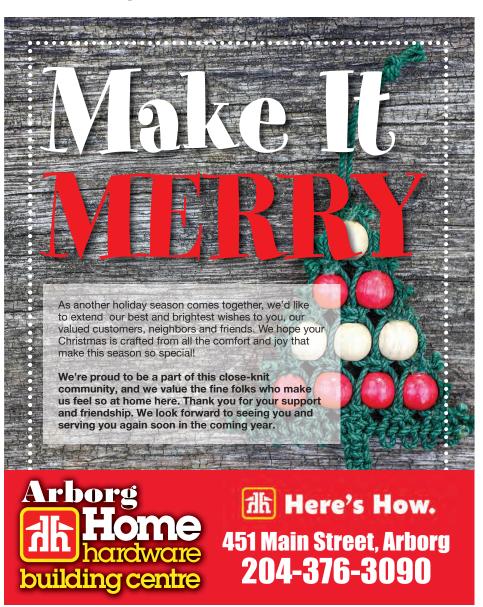
With the road completed, residents

of the community now have only a four-hour drive to Winnipeg in the summer instead of a six-hour boat ride. It also makes winter travelling much safer as a winter road across the lake is no longer needed.

First Nations communities were contracted for clearing land and producing gravel as part of the road's construction, which Chief Everett said gave some community members experience operating heavy duty equip-



From left: Chief Hartley Everett, Ron Schuler and Allan Atlookan celebrate the opening of the 70-kilometre all-season road that connects their community to Bloodvein First Nation.





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Eriksdale celebrates Christmas early in the park

Freshly fallen snow twinkled in the light of two roaring bonfires as attendees roasted marshmallows and hotdogs last week at Eriksdale's Railway Memorial Park.

The falling snow provided a truly festive atmosphere for the Eriksdale & District Chamber of Commerce's event, which organizers hope will be the first of many. Attendees were treated to free hotdogs, chips, hot chocolate and marshmallows, all donated by the Co-op and chamber. The small event was free and organizer Dolly Lindell said it was a nice way to bring residents together. It might even be the start of a new Eriksdale tradition.

In a Facebook post to the chamber's page, Lindell said it was a perfect evening and that she appreciated those who came out to have fun. The chamber is involved in a few other new activities this year, including a Christ-Day Care decorated a tree last week.





EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JEFF WARD

mas light competition and a public invitation Visitors to Railway Memorial Park in Eriksdale were treated to a bonfire, roasted marshmallows and to decorate trees within the park. The Eaglets hotdogs during a free event organized by the local Chamber of Commerce.

zen snowmobile theft caught on security cameras

By Patricia Barrett

RCMP are searching for three suspects caught on surveillance video stealing snowmobiles from a Gimli powersports dealership last week.

Staff at the dealership spotted three suspects on the property, located just west of town, on Dec. 13 at around 1:35 a.m. and notified the RCMP. Three Polaris snowmobiles worth a combined value of \$50,000 were stolen.

"The security system was being

progress," said media relations officer Sgt. Paul Manaigre. "The suspects did get away. They drove the snowmobiles

All three suspects were wearing balaclavas, and two had distinctive snowmobile jackets.

One suspect was wearing a hoodie under a red and black jacket with white stripes along the side. The second suspect was wearing a jacket with

monitored and [staff] saw the theft in a camouflage-like pattern and coloured accents. The third suspect was wearing a black jacket.

> Sgt. Manaigre said it's possible the suspects could have later loaded the snowmobiles onto a vehicle and transported them to another location.

> Thieves have been known to dismantle sleds and sell the parts, or store them in trailers or containers and transport them to other locations before selling them.

The RCMP are requesting the public's assistance in identifying the suspects. If anyone has any information, contact Gimli RCMP at 204-642-5106.

The public can also call Manitoba Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477, submit a secure tip online at www.manitobacrimestoppers.com or text"TIPMAN" plus your message to CRIMES (274637).





As the Holiday season is upon us, we take joy in extending a sincere 'THANK YOU' to those who have helped to shape our business in a most significant way. We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the year to come. We wish you a safe and Happy Holiday season along with a New Year filled with peace and prosperity.

Season's Greetings

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

Holiday Hours:

Dec. 25th: Closed Dec. 26th: Closed Jan. 1st : Closed

Regular operating hours on all other days. Fisher Branch: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm Eriksdale: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm





EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF GIMLI RCMP RCMP are requesting the public's assistance in identifying three suspects who stole three Polaris snowmobiles, valued at approximately \$50,000, from a Gimli business on Dec. 13.



Interlake Coop, 24 Railway Ave, Eriksdale

Interlake Coop 253 Main St, Arborg

McMunn & Yates
16 Main St, Eriksdale

Riverton Coop39 Riverton Ave, Riverton

Moosehorn Coop

1 Main St, Moosehorn

Ashern Coop 53 Main St, Ashern

Gimli Snowmobile Centre HWY 9, Gimli

> **Pharmasave** 45 Centre St, Gimli

Ukrainian Farmers Coop 22 Tache St. Fisher Branch

Interlake Auto & Tractor Parts

161 Sunset Blvd, Arborg

One Stop Gas & Grocery
Corner of HWY 17 & Tache
St. Fisher Branch

Arborg Pharmacy 275 Main St, Arborg

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Pharmasave Gimli celebrates a semi-retirement

By Patricia Barrett

One of Gimli Pharmasave's longserving pharmacists is taking a break after 43 years of dedicated care and service to the community.

Garry Fedorchuk decided it was time to spend more time with his grandchildren and to enjoy all life has to offer.

"I'm telling everyone I want to smell the daisies before I have to push them up," said the affable pharmacist during a semi-retirement party at the Centre Street store last Thursday. "When I was 61, I was sitting on my deck, a beautiful warm day, geese flying overhead, and all of sudden I wondered how many more spring days I'll see. So that was getting me towards thinking about retiring."

But Fedorchuk won't be packing away his mortar and pestle just yet.

"I'll be coming back on a casual basis," he said. "If somebody gets sick, I can work, or I can fill in on a week-

Fedorchuk arrived at Pharmasave in 1975, intending to give it a go for a short time period to see whether he'd

"I thought, 'I'll stay here for a year and see what happens," he said. "And 43 years later, I'm still waiting to see what happens!"

Dozens of friends and customers stopped by Pharmasave to wish Fedorchuk well and enjoy a slice of chocolate cake that staff supplied for the happy occasion.

"I've known Garry for years," said customer Bob Coulter."I moved here 17 years ago and I've been coming in here pretty well for 17 years and having coffee with him at Kaffe Haus."

Pharmacist Victor Evolfson from the Arborg Pharmacy also stopped by to wish his friend a happy semi-retire-

In between customers, staff helped celebrate Fedorchuk's upcoming free-

"I'm sad to see him go," said pharmacist Claire Gillis. "Gosh, what are we going to do? Somehow we'll keep going. But he's coming back because remember it's 'semi semi-retirement.'



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

From left: pharmacist Victor Eyolfson from the Arborg Pharmacy, Bob Coulter, and Pharmasave pharmacists Garry Fedorchuk, Ernest Stefanson and Claire Gillis.

We don't want to let him go that eas-

Pharmacist and managing partner Ernest Stefanson wished Fedorchuk

happy days ahead and thanked him for "holding down the fort" when he had to be away.

Correction

In the Dec. 14 edition of the Express Weekly News, we published the story "Kiwanis and Lions team up with Winnipeg Beach School for a jolly good breakfast" and reported that Debbie Kashuba was in the photograph with Lakeside Lions' members Brian Magnusson and Marielle Wharton. In fact, it was Lions' member Carol Hainsworth.

We apologize for any confusion this might have caused.

Letters to the Editor: letters@expressweeklynews.ca

Ukrainian Dance Group providing cultural opportunity for youth

By Jeff Ward

A new Ukrainian dance group has Ashern youth hopping to the music and practising traditional footwork every week.

Friends Courtney Roehl and Darla Nickel teach the traditional Ukrainian dancing classes weekly.

The class was the brainchild of the duo, who have both spent their lives Ukrainian dancing and wanted to bring that to the youth of Ashern. Roehl said that she and Nickel spoke about how a class would work in the area at the end of summer and held their first class a few weeks ago. The students, range in age from three to 16, and will perform live on Jan. 20 for Malanka, or Ukrainian New Years, at the Ashern Centennial Hall.

"There are many regions that have different dances, but we're working with the main region right now, which is Poltava," said Roehl.

"Every class has a different structure to suit the age of the kids in it. So for our three-year-olds, we do games like Follow the Leader and Simon Says, things that show them the basic moves. For our older dancers, there is a much more involved warm-up and stretching period before we start practice."

Roehl describes the dances as high energy and says dancers need good endurance to keep up with the hightempo music. Classes run until May and registration is \$150 per student for the entire dancing season. Traditional costumes have been ordered from Ukraine and will be in Ashern before the Jan. 20 performance. Roehl said costumes are very expensive and can cost as much as \$500 each. However, the rental cost to students is covered by their registration fees.

Roehl said that so far the students have been really into their classes and that she already sees many of them picking up the moves and memorizing their dances. A lot of practice and effort is going into their upcoming performance and Roehl believes it'll show on stage.

"I think the class will grow next year, too, because there are a lot of parents here that are Ukrainian and they want to see their kids learn more about the culture," said Roehl.

"Exposure to different cultural backgrounds and traditions is a good thing for youth, and living out that culture and performing it for others will be an exciting thing to see for parents."

A speed limit solution for Sandy Hook

Finally someone has come up with a solution to the Sandy Hook speed limit dilemma.

Manitoba's Infrastructure roadside safety engineer Harold Larsen has recommended seasonal maximum of 60 km/h in the summer (currently 50) and 80 km/h in the winter (currently 90).

In my opinion, this is the first sensible recommendation I have heard. Having driven this section of road

for the last 60 years, 50 km/h is too slow in the summer and 90 km/h is to fast in the winter with all the curves and ice conditions.

Note: Sandy Hook has paved shoulders for walkers and bicycle riders.

So I hope that our council will pass a resolution supporting Mr. Larsen's recommended solution and finally put this 10-year speed limit crises to bed.

NormanValgardson, Arnes



EXPRESS WEEKLY DEWS





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More work reaps the bigger the reward

Season's greetings, gang.

Two weeks ago, I mentioned that the Lake Winnipeg south basin ice pack was dotted with ice shacks as far as the eye could see. Last week, north of Patricia Beach, it was even more packed.

I rumbled along in Old Red past a hundred shacks until I came to an old converted trailer with a stove pipe sticking out of its roof. I stopped, knocked on the door and two young, thin, dark-haired guys, Chris Czescik and John Moniz from Winnipeg, asked me in.

After introductions, they told me how odd things always seem to happen to them. For example, years ago they were fishing off "the point" at Nutimik Lake and a wind took their umbrella, which quickly sank as the gust left it. Years later at the same place, Chris snagged it and was surprised to learn it still worked.

Again that summer, they were shore fishing at the point and a fox kept coming around, running in between their feet. They tried everything to shoo him away and finally John tossed his shoe at it, whereupon the fox decided to leave, taking John's shoe with him. They never saw the fox or the shoe again!

Last Tuesday, I was just pulling up to the north "monkey trials" on the Red when I saw two anglers pulling their loaded sleigh on land. These lifelong buddies, Rick Carriere and Lindsay Zaborniuk, had come in from Winnipeg. As we talked, Rick remembered last winter when they were fishing here in their ice shack, he snagged a giant catfish in the tail section. They



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL

Lindsay Zaborniuk on the left and Rick Carriere on the right with some of their catch on the Red River.

had a terrible time bringing it up through the 10-inch hole, and to make matters worse, the cat must have been lying in the mud. So as soon as they had it up, it began spraying wet cold mud all over. Both men got down on their hands and knees, slipping and sliding in the stinky mud, trying to get the hook out of the thrashing beast. Finally they got it out and sent the fish back down the hole while they attempted to clean themselves up enough to get in the door at home.

Sometimes the giving of a Christmas present isn't easy. I met George McPherson of Petersfield last week and he described how he was filled with the warmth of the opportunity to give his grandson, Brayden, a bright shiny snowmobile for Christmas. He drove to the lad's house on Christmas morning pulling his friend Lawrence Proulx's trailer with the sled on it. As he came into Brayden's yard, the boy rushed out of the house, arms outstretched, eyes wide, shrieking with joy as he leapt onto the trailer to touch his new tov.

George slipped out of his truck, silent, awash with love as he watched his grandson tremble in excited happiness. Brayden's eyes leapt to his granddad and he jumped off the trailer, walking quickly to him, and since neither was used to shows of affection, gave him an awkward hug. After a bit, George got underway and headed to Lawrence's to return his trailer. The trailer, however, had other ideas and lost its axle coming to rest in the ditch. What to do, George thought.

Levi VanDyck of Dunnottar, he would help. Levi was his friend, a smart, energetic and very strong fellow.

"Lawrence's trailer lost its wheels," George said to Levi over the phone, "I'll pick you up and we'll go over to

Continued on page 9



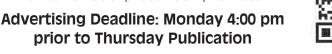




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The Express Weekly News is published Thursdays and distributed through Canada Post to 13,183 homes by BigandColourful Printing and Publishing, a division of Interlake Graphics.

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Funding announced for community development programs

Submitted

The province will be providing more than \$2.6 million in grants to projects for non-profit and community-led organizations, community-driven neighbourhood revitalization and local community development projects, Municipal Relations Minister Jeff Wharton announced this week.

"These are important investments that build and revitalize our commu-

nities," said Wharton. "Our government is committed to working with our community groups and supporting projects that will provide longterm benefits to communities and enrich the lives of many Manitobans."

The Manitoba government has committed more than \$20 million in 2017-18 through existing commitments and the recent single-window intake to support community development.

The Community Places program provides funding and planning assistance to build, upgrade, expand or acquire facilities focused on culture, recreation and wellness. Successful grant applicants must also contribute to project costs, often through local fundraising efforts, grants from other sources or donated labour and materials. This year, 98 community groups from across the province will receive

This year, six communities were approved for projects through the Partners 4 Growth program, which provides cost-shared funding for regions to identify and pursue economic development opportunities and assist communities and regions to strengthen or diversify economic activity.

A total of 81 projects were approved through the Hometown Manitoba program, which provides financial support for rural and northern community projects initiated by local communities, organizations, co-operatives and businesses that enhance main street public places and building exteriors.

Neighbourhoods Alive! supports and encourages revitalization efforts in designated neighbourhoods across Manitoba in a number of key areas including employment and training, education and recreation, safety and crime prevention, and housing and physical improvements. This year, 37 community-driven projects were supported under the program.

Following thorough consultations and a review, the province revamped its community development programs and created a single portal for application intakes and assessments in 2017. This new process has allowed for better planning and outcomes which help to sustain community efforts in community revitalization, the minister noted.

More information on the programs above and a list of all funded projects can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/mr/ bldgcomm/index.html.

Riverton & District Friendship Christmas party



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Riverton & District Friendship Centre ended a busy month of events with over 300 attending the annual Children's Christmas Party on Dec. 17. Children of all ages enjoyed a visit from Santa, storytelling from Mrs. Claus, a Zumba dance party, a passport to different North Pole zones filled with jam-packed activities, Candy Cane Crafter's Lane, Prancer's photo booth, Frosty's face painting and elves games. Each child left with a goodie bag, a toy, reindeer food, a cookie and a craft they created. Fun was had by all as parents and grandparents participated along with the kids.

> GET FISHING, FROM PG. 8

his place, get the other trailer and put the 'cripple' on it to get it home."

"OK," said Levi. Lawrence happened to be snow blowing his driveway when the boys showed up and he just stood there scratching his head with a perplexed look as the boys hooked on the other trailer and took off without saying a word.

Soon the stricken trailer was on the big one and parked at George's place.

"Well, we still have the better half of a day left. Let's go fishing,"Levi offered. So off to George's ice shack, which was a half mile offshore, they went. With the heat and coffee on, lines in the ice holes, it wasn't long before Levi caught a 28"inch jack, which they cooked up with all the trimmings. Then they sat listening to Christmas carols on the radio while enjoying their dinner.

"Boy, getting Brayden's present and getting back took a little effort," Levi said. "Yeah, but the look in his eyes, it made it all worthwhile, buddy," George said.

"Merry Christmas, George,"Levi said as he raised his cup to him. "And to you, my friend," George returned. Until next week. Bye for now.





Christmas puppies not the best gift idea, but dog rehab can save lives

By Patricia Barrett

Surprising a loved one or the kids with a puppy on Christmas Day may seem like a wonderful idea, but it can often lead to trouble down the road when pet owners find themselves faced with day-to-day caregiving, veterinary expenses and sometimes behavioural issues that require specialized training and/ or rehabilitation.

Shelters and other animal-services organizations often see a surge in relinquished or abandoned dogs several months after the Christmas holiday.

"In early spring, we have an influx of dogs coming into animal rescues because the dog got too big or the dog's too much, and it's not the same novelty it was on Christmas Day," said Teulon-based animal trainer Sammy Mar. "The dog's going to get bigger, the dog will need training, the dog is going to pee in the house, he's going to chew the furniture, we need to buy him food, we need to get him vaccinated, we need to get the dog spayed or neutered."

Mar runs SMART Dogs (which stands for Sammy Mar's Assessment, Rehabilitation and Training), a daycare and climate-controlled boarding kennel. And she specializes in the rehabilitation and training of dogs with minor and severe behavioural issues.

Owners unable to cope with the demands of pet care will drop off dogs at shelters, advertise them on Kijiji, toss them from their vehicles on the highway, systematically abuse and injure them or outright kill them.

Mar, who works collaboratively with several local rescues and provides advice to owners either looking to get rid of or help their dogs, has a litany of horror stories.

"One of my own dogs was in a garbage dump. He had BB pellets in his testicles and back end. His shoulder was shot out and full of shrapnel and he had all his teeth removed. And he was beaten.

"I have another dog — we don't know what happened — but he was found with his muzzle tied shut and part of his lip had been cut off. He had multiple scars on his face and the inside of his mouth was embedded with pieces of wood. And last week there was a post that went viral on Facebook about a girl who was laughing because she had hit a dog with her Ski-Doo and was dragging it behind her Ski-Doo."

People who adopt dogs and later notice behavioural issues or the onset of aggression may become overwhelmed by what to do to help the animal.

Lisa O'Dell rescued Loki, a one-year-old bluenose pit bull, from a shelter and found out later that he had been repeatedly attacked and traumatized by



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sammy Mar at prince Albert Exhibition association.

other dogs. As he grew older, Loki began to react to her other dogs and strangers' dogs in a defensive and aggressive way.

"We honestly weren't sure if we were going to keep Loki," said O'Dell, who lives in the Gimli area. "I didn't know if I could do this."

She took Loki to one dog trainer for a while and was told to use a choke collar because of his strength.

"I didn't like that idea, but we did it," said O'Dell. "We'd take him home after a walk and he'd have puncture marks in his neck."

Some of the suggestions the trainer offered were helpful, she said, but Loki's aggressiveness towards dogs didn't stop.

"People will come up and pet him because he's 100 per cent human friendly, and he'd probably lick you if you broke into my house and show you where the TV is," she said. "But he's one of those dogs that doesn't like dogs."

She finally took Loki to Mar, who teaches positive reinforcement techniques that can be used on dogs of any age.

Mar did a few weeks of individualized training with Loki, and then got him to the point where he can now participate in group training.

"Since we started with Sammy in August ... Loki pays attention to us and does what we want him to do," said O'Dell. "And he's not terrified [he's going to be attacked] by other dogs. I can take him for a walk and not worry he'll rip my arm off and go chasing another dog because Sammy has taught me so much about knowing how to look for signals. And if he does lose it, I've learned how to stop him and get him to concentrate on me."

Mar has rehabilitated a number of bully breeds, as they're called, and has personally rescued 20 of her own dogs — some severely injured and traumatized and exhibiting unhealthy behaviour. They have now become part of her training program, helping rehab and train her clients' dogs.

"Some of them were on death row from the issues they had," said Mar, who has extensive training in animal behaviour and showcases her dogs' talents at national events. "And I had rehabilitated them in the same way that I now teach my clients."

For Loki, that meant slowly desensitizing him to the presence of other dogs and teaching him to focus on O'Dell's commands.

Mar said not all dogs can be rehabilitated, depending on the extent of the ingrained behaviour, neurological diseases or brain tumours. Her job is to inform clients about what's going on with their dogs, assess safety risks and provide rehabilitation and management options.

"We need to be practical about it, especially in Manitoba. We have a huge over-dog population ... and there just aren't enough rescues and financial supports to help all these dogs," she said. "When we look at a dog that has severely bitten someone or has killed another animal, even if that dog may be able to be rehabilitated, there are only so many people who know how to rehab them."

Mar's love for animals also extends to cats, snakes, rabbits, a pig, a tortoise and a ferret, which she cares for on her property.

"My goal always is to just share my joy of animals with people and create empathy," said Mar. "And to show that you can have such a wonderful relationship with animals once you get on their level and understand them."

She said people frequently call her for advice on how to care for their pet or for information on what resources are available to help them with the cost of pet food.

"I want to help animals not only in the training/behaviour department but in any way I can."

As an alternative to buying someone a dog for Christmas, Mar suggested they make a monetary donation to a local animal rescue or fostering service, such as Earthdog Terrier Rescue of Manitoba.

Visit Sammy Mar's SMART Dogs Facebook page or contact her at 204-793-3575.

Ashern kids celebrate early Christmas with Santa

By Jeff Ward

The Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre fundraiser saw over 200 people come out to support the centre's programming and get a photo with Santa.

Resource centre director Carol Hull said her breakfast with Santa event, which took place Dec. 9, was the start of what she hopes to be an annual tradition. She remarked that many local families flocked to the event and that it was a success. Hull said profits from this event are uncertain right now, as she is still balancing the expenses, but it was cer-

tainly profitable.

The fundraiser had fun activities for kids like games, a hot chocolate bar and photos with Santa. Shawn Cote provided her photography services free of charge, Noventis Credit Union provided candy bags and Ashern Foods and the Co-Op in Ashern provided breakfast.

"I'm actually not sure if we've ever had a breakfast with Santa in Ashern," said Hull.

"And I think that with how many people showed up that it's something we'd love to have here every year. People supported our silent auction with donations for prizes and we greatly appreciate the support."

The Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre provides a myriad of important services to the Interlake area. It acts as a refuge for women facing violent situations at home and offers many programs and counselling services. The money raised through the event, Hull explained, will go directly to maintaining this programming.



We work very hard throughout the year to keep you informed with the news that matters most to you. Local information is of significant importance because it concerns the various subjects that affect you as well as the projects of the people we have elected, our school, town and municipal council, the local economy and the businesses in our area.

As your local newspaper, it is our mission to connect people through stories to build stronger communities. We will keep you informed and we are very proud to be the local resource for news and information in this community. We sincerely thank you for making our newspaper what it is today. Your loyalty means the world to us.

We wish you a Joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with much happiness!

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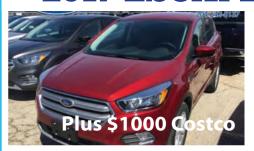
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Christmas Greeting

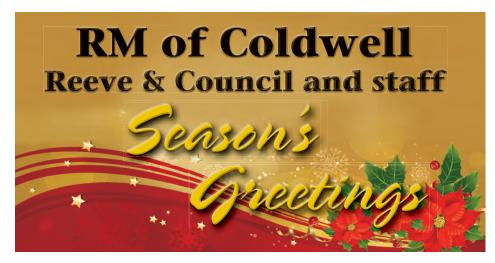


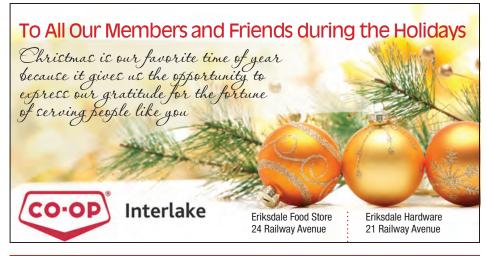


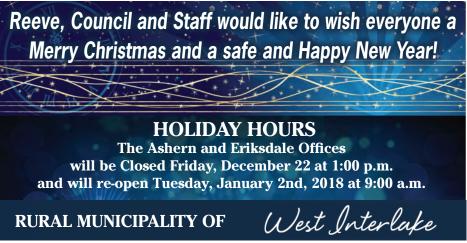
Students spreading **Christmas** cheer

EXPRESS PHOTO BY JEFF

Ashern Early Years students performed a myriad Christmas tunes for a packed house of more than 200 friends and family members. The school's melody choir performed a funny rendition of "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer" complete with matching antlers.











Phristmas Greetings 2017



Ashern Early Years students delight crowd at Christmas concert

By Jeff Ward

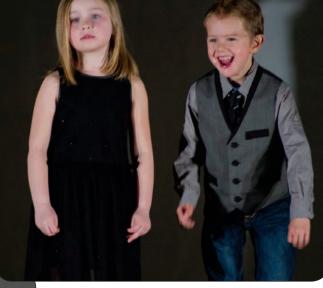
Over 200 people packed into Ashern Centennial Hall last Thursday to watch dozens of Ashern Early Years School (AEYS) students take to the stage and perform their hearts out.

The annual Christmas concert featured many holiday favourites like "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Up on the Housetop." Each performance was punctuated with a musical number and dancing to the delight of the parents and family members in the audience.

Grade 4 students performed a Christmas drama that had them build a time machine and travel back to certain eras to ask historical figures to help them save Christmas. Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley and even characters from classic Christmas films were all corralled into 2017 to save the day. The performance included a video, stage acting and a musical dance finale that played well to the room.

AEYS principal Karen Carmichael said the silent auction at the concert helps the school provide enrichment programs and funds things like field trips and extracurricular events.

























Christmas Greetings 2017



Riverton and Arborg joint concert highlights diverse musical styles

By Patricia Barrett

Students from Riverton and Arborg collegiates showed their musical chops and mastery of different styles during an annual winter concert for the community last Thursday evening at the Riverton Hall.

About 50 students from grades 7 to 12 made up the Beginner Band, Concert Band, Choir and the Vocal Jazz group, performing gospel, pop, jazz and traditional Christmas songs.

"They did extremely well," said music director Lauren Dobko, who's in her second year of teaching the joint band and choir program."This was the Grade 7s first ever performance on their instruments since starting in October. They were nervous but they stepped up. And some of the pieces that we did, like the Spanish piece, was our best performance of it."

Spanish Christmas Carol"Riu Riu Chiu," attributed to a 16th-century Spanish composer, recounts the story of the Immaculate Conception and the Nativity of Christ.

"It was a capella, had a mixed metre, clapping, drums and a recorder," said Dobko. "And we had one of our students, who is from Venezuela, helping us a lot with pronunciation. She did a solo and it was a real treat to hear her."

Band students performed a folk ballad called Cherry Tree Carol and an African piece called Swahili Folk Hymn.

"The Folk Hymn is a cheery tune that's very rhythmic and upbeat, which gave our percussionists a chance in the spotlight," said Dobko.

In the new year, students will be preparing for their annual spring concert and gearing up for a number of festivals.

"I think the beginner band will do a version of Stand By Me," said Dobko, referring to their spring concert. "And there's a professional group called Lucky Chops who have online videos. The kids said, 'Why don't we do one of their songs?' So I'm going to arrange that for them."

The Beginner Band will be participating in the Level One Band Festival, and the Concert Band will be performing at the Optimist Festival in the spring. The choir will be taking part in the Evergreen Festival of the Arts, and the Vocal Jazz group will be going to the Brandon Jazz Festival.

"We'll be holding recruitment concerts at each of the schools and each of the elementary schools," said Dobko.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY TAMMY EINARSON













Christmas Greetings 2017 Gimli High School concert marks a number of firsts

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli High School's music students had a few surprises up their sleeves last Wednesday evening when they entertained a 400-plus audience in the school gym.

The annual band and choral performance was an eclectic mix of traditional Christmas carols, pop, folk and jazz numbers, and it included a number of firsts in the form of student conductors, paper bags and the addition of a bassoonist.

"Never in my seven years at Gimli High School have we had the good fortune of having this particular instrument," said band director Rob Chrol."I didn't know when it was going to happen, but it happened 'bassooner' than I thought!"

He had Grade 9 student Malia Berthaudin, who just took up the instrument this year, play a C to demonstrate the instrument's deep resonance. She had a tied a glove to the bell ring at the top the bassoon, and it slowly filled with air and waved at the audi-

"Only the bassoon can do that," said Chrol as the audience burst out

The high school's music program not only teaches students how to read music and play but also how to conduct through its Music Leadership Experimental Conducting Band program. Its first-time conductors were given the opportunity to showcase their skills.

"It might look easy but looks are deceiving," said Grade 9 student Johannah Thordarson, who conducted the song Defender of Time. "Having to read everybody's part in a score while keeping the time with one hand and cueing with the other is really tricky."

Grade 9 student Angelica Bochurka also took up the baton for Defender of Time, and Grade 9 student William Smith conducted Fanfare and Fireworks.

"This is a brand new course in the province of Manitoba," said Chrol. "Music leadership is a new opportunity that pairs learning about how to teach music with learning about leadership."

Band director Lindsey Collins led the grades 9/10 and 11/12 Guitar Ensembles through a series of sublime

performances of contemporary pop songs by Neil Young, The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Van Morrison, as well as a traditional Catalan folk song.

Paper bags were the instrument of choice for the six-member Percussion Ensemble. And if the audience thought paper bags could not possibly make music, the percussionists proved them wrong. They puffed, crinkled, poked and fanned ordinary paper bags that sounded at times like a marching band and kept feet tapping.

Principal Leona Groot thanked parents for supporting the music program.

"We recognize the additional hours of practice time that is put in by students and we also recognize their strong desire to learn music," said Groot. "We want to thank parents for the driving done to support the musical programs that run outside of our school day. I see a lot of you at 7 a.m. And we can't forget the work done by the Evergreen Band Boosters."

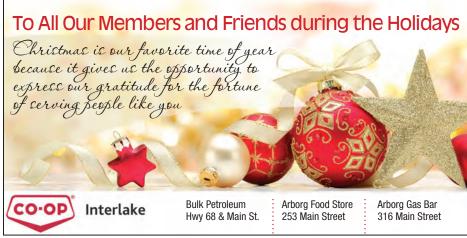






EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Clockwise from top left: Band director Lindsey Collins accompanies the Grade 10 and 11 Guitar Ensemble on Catalan Folk Song; Band director Rob Chrol led the Grade 9 Concert Band in Tu Ungane; Grade 9 student Angelica Bochurka conducts the Music Leadership Experimental Conducting Band in Defender of Time.









Phristmas Greetings 201







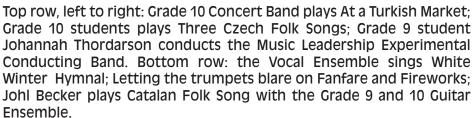




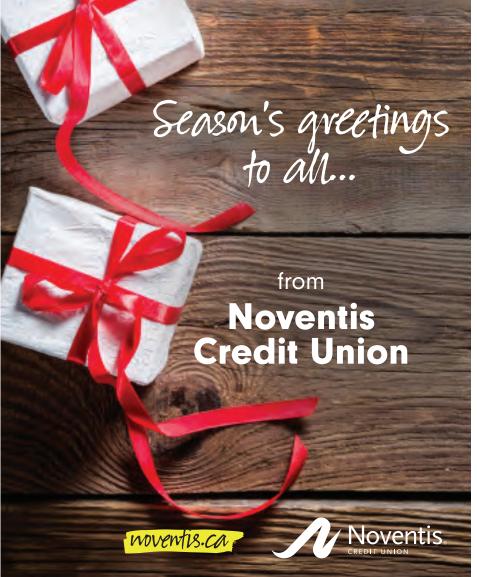




EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT









Christmas Greetings 2017



Christmas Story 1st Place

'Twas the night before Christmas

By Torger Bjornson, age 10

Twas the night before Christmas when all through the barn, Not an animal was awake all through the farm, The pitchforks were hung over the wall with care, With hopes that the farmer would soon be there, The cattle where huddled all warm in their beds, While visions of hay bails danced in their heads, The cows in their halters and I got a snack, Had just settled down for a long winters nap, When out in the field there arose such a clatter, I jumped over my stall to see what was the matter, Away to the barn I ran like the flash, Tore open the latch and threw up the hatch, The light on the pole shone over the snow, Gave the luster of midnight to objects below, I saw something that was kind of unclear, But a miniature sleigh and eight steers, With a little old farmer so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St Nick, Plodding along slowly his steers they came, He flew like a missile and called them by name, Now Bessie! Now Molly! Now Annie and Anna On, Hershey! On midnight! On T-Bone and Angus To the top of the silo he flew out of sight, Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

Thank you for all of your business in 2017 from all of us at J. Brandt Enterprises! We look forward to working with you in the coming year! I. Brandt ENTERPRISES

2nd Place Family Traditions

Jayden Crave, 11 years Old

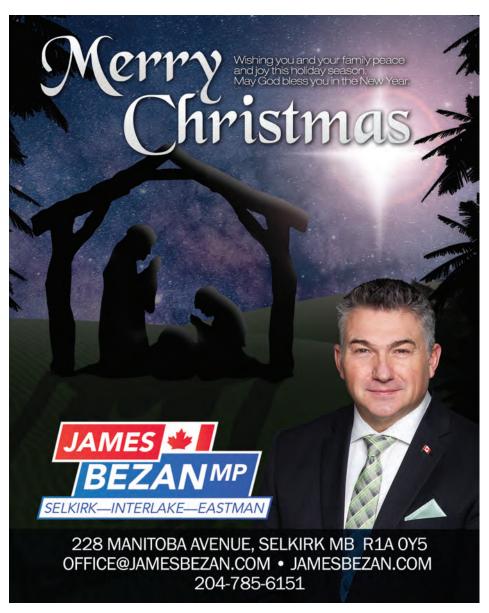
In our family traditions are very important. We always start off December by buying Christmas tree ornaments that represent all of us. This year my Christmas ornament was a sparkly Pineapple to represent my sparkly and sweet personality!! My Dad got a pair of shiny gold antlers, my mom a snowy owl and my sister got a chocolate Shopkins ornament because she loves anything with chocolate!! Once we get our ornaments we set up our Christmas tree. Every year we chose a color theme. We go from red to blue to purple and silver and way more different color combos! This year we decided to go for a more subtle color and we picked gold.

Every December 1st to the 24th our Christmas elves come to visit us. Their names are Crystal and Beautiful and are dressed in the cutest skirts. Every morning when we wake up our elves have hidden and usually caused some sort of trouble in our house. We have found them doing the strangest things. Hanging from the lights to fishing for marshmallow's in the bathroom sink!

When Christmas Eve comes we always go to my Avi and Ammas house for a delicious meal. We open our presents from them and my Auntie Jackie and end the evening with a wonderful tasting dessert. We always have so much fun!!

When we go home we always find a Christmas book and new Pajamas on our fireplace. After we put on our new Christmas pajamas and read our books we leave out a snack for Santa and his reindeer, and head straight to bed. So excited for the morning!!!

This year we decided to start a new tradition and made a Christmas shoebox for the less fortunate. I picked a girl age 11 and filled the box full of things I know she would love! I hope I can share some of these special tradition for my family when I am older.





Christmas Greetings 201





The Magic Of Christmas

By Chloe Black, Age 8

Once upon a Christmas there was a very grumpy elf. His name is Grumpy Pants. He was the grumpiest elf in the universe. But there is an elf that tries to make him happy. Her name is Buttercup. She has nice brown hair and green eyes. She loves Christmas. She cant understand why Grumpy Pants is always grumpy at such a great time of year.

She thought to herself " how could I make him believe in Christmas, and not be so unhappy", Oh I know shouted Buttercup, a nice mistletoe hat as a gift for Christmas. I could knit one for him. So she gathered yarn from her Grandma to make the hat. Her grandma told her to not forget to put the magic of Christmas inside if it, She made the hat with red and green stripes, and a white pom pom. 'Thanks shouted Buttercup, he is going to love this."

Christmas Eve came and all of the gifts were loaded into Santa's sleigh and delivered to all the children in the world. On Christmas Day Buttercup brought her gift to Grumpy Pants. She handed his gift to him, and he opened it started to cry with tears of happiness. He had never received a Christmas present before. He put the hat on his head and started to feel the Magic Of Christmas.

Buttercup felt great giving her gift to Grumpy Pants and sharing the magic of Christmas. It's better to give a gift then to receive this time of year



By Joely Halldorson, age 11

Twas the fright before Christmas and all through the house not a bug was stirring not even a louse.

The tube socks were hung by the electric heater with care in hopes there won't be a fire over there.

The children were looking at their iPod in their beds while thoughts of new Xbox games entered their heads. And mom in her pajamas and I in my shorts had just laid down so I can watch my sports. When out in the yard I heard a loud sound, I jumped out of bed to see what was around. Toward the window I jumped like a freak ripped open the curtains to take peek.

The night before Christmas

The street lights lit up everything outside nothing could hide.

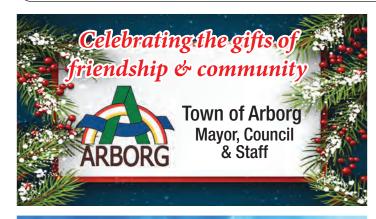
When what my blood shot eyes should appear, but a stray dog knocked over all my plastic reindeer.

With a little yelp a bark and a whimper

I could see the dog couldn't handle the winter.

Then a thought occurred to me to bring the dog in quick for this is the home he picked.

A Christmas name he shall have like Dasher or Dancer or Prancer or Vixen maybe Comet or Cupid or Donner or Blitzen. My new dog did sleep at the bottom of my Christmas tree Merry Christmas to all merry Christmas to thee.













As we wrap up another year, we think about how lucky we are to know good folks like you. Thanks for making us feel so at home here. We sincerely appreciate your patronage and support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our entire team!



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Phristmas Greetings 2017

Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School students bring down the partridge

Bv Patricia Barrett

Students at Gimli's Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School searched for solutions to get a partridge out of a pear tree during their annual Christmas concert Monday afternoon that drew about 300 spectators.

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 4 delighted the audience with Christmas favourites such as Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer and Santa Claus is Coming to Town, and delivered stellar performances in the holiday musical, "A Party in a Pear Tree."

The musical's storyline revolves around a partridge named Party who climbed a tree to snack on a few pears, but couldn't climb down because his ladder broke. Characters from the 12 Days of Christmas, including turtle doves, geese, swans and milkmaids, tried to think of ways to get him down.

The play had a number of hilarious scenes, allowing students to demon-

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strate their comedic talents. In one scene, the geese become embroiled in a debate over the proper use of the verbs lay (to place) and lie (to rest, recline), forgetting about the plight of Party. In another, the milkmaids stack their pails against the tree in an unwieldy attempt to build Party a makeshift ladder.

They finally manage to build a proper ladder for Party, and break into song when he joins them.

"The best place to be is on the ground with friends and family beside you."

Music director and assistant principal Krystal Isfeld's enthusiasm and prompts - along with support from the teachers – helped the youngsters deliver strong dramatic performances, and their timing and pitch-perfect singing enthralled the audience.

Principal Rosanna Cuthbert congratulated all the students for their hard work and "amazing performance."

Leece Neville

BOSCH DENSO

SSES celebrated its 15th Anniversary this spring and is currently selling an anniversary cookbook for \$15. All

proceeds will go towards a new playground. For cookbook information, call SSES at (204) 642-1500.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The swans try to think of ways to get the partridge out of the pear



The ducks discuss how to get the partridge down from the pear tree.

Elin Isfeld and Lily Donohoe play Turtle Doves in A Party in a Pear





Grades 1 students sing All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth.



solo in Christmas Dreams (2)





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hristmas Greetings 20





Grades 1 and 2 students in Ms. Raine's class sing Teddybear Tanao



Music Director and Assistant Principal Krystal Isfeld conducted the SSES Christmas Concert Dec. 18.



Sugar Plum Fairy from the Nut-Torcia's class sing All I want for



SSES students sing Dance of the Grades 1 and 2 students in Mrs. Christmas.



The grades 3 and 4 choir sing Santa Claus is Coming to Town.





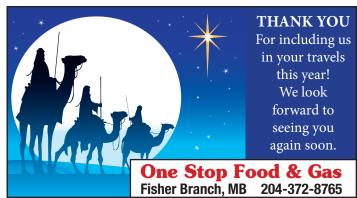


Grades 1 and 2 students in Ms. Raine's class perform Christmas Dreams.















Christmas Greetings 2017 Sarta Claus The North Pole Sarta Claus The North Pole Sarta Claus The North Pole The North Pole Sarta Claus The North Pole



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ANDERS KUUSSELKA Emmett and Charlee Miller saddle up to Santa for their photo with Santa at the Lundar Daycare fundraiser.

MERRY

NEW YEAR!

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,

How are you? How old are you? Do you love people? How are your elves doing? Which chocolate do you like? I want littlest pets and babies. What kind f cookies do the elves like? I also want a LOL doll. Where's your house? How do you walk in your shoes? Does the elves like chocolate? When it was Halloween, did you go to walk Halloween? Do you like if I made you a picture? I'm making a picture right now! Do you like my picture? How do you build toys? Do you like building toys? Santa! How do you spell Santa? I don't think there's anymor! Can you bring me a Christmas tree for my roo, but it has to be rainbow!

Thank you.

borg VETERINARY SERVICE

Love Addison Crave, 5 years old

Dear Santa,

My name is Nataliya and I am 2 years old. I have been a very good girl this year. I'm sure my Elf, Johnny will tell you that. I don't want much for Christmas just a red monkey, a red car, leaves, scissors and an orange juice box.

ors and an orange juice bo Thank you Santa.

Love, Nataliya

Dear Santa,

We made holiday cookies already! For Christmas, i hope I get a hatchimal and a slinky.

From Kathryn Age 5

I have been a good girl. For Christmas I want Hatchimals please.

- Jadyn Johnson, Age 6

Dear Santa

My name is Alison. I'm in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle School. I have 2 sisters and 1 brother. Who is your favourite reindeer? Who eats the cookies, you or your reindeer?

This year I got a fish named Aqua Marine. Also my uncle painted my walls green. I am 6 years old. This year I tried to be good. I did my chores that include vacuuming, making my bed, and mopping the floors. Sometimes I am early for school. I am really good at school. My teacher is Mrs. B. I think my teacher is really nice, could you make my teacher some candy cane tea to make her feel better? Santa can you please treat my friends good this year?

I think I was good this year. I really hope I can get the game Pie Face. I also want the Num Noms lipgloss truck.

I am so excited for you to visit my house on Christmas Eve. I left you your favourite cookies.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Love, Alison

Dear Santa,

My name is Ally, and I am in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle School. Do the reindeers eat cookies? What do the elves eat? What kind of cookies do you like?

I am reading Little Charmers. In my book there is a race to see who gets the most candy.

I think I've been a good girl this year because I helped my mommy clean the dishes, and I cleaned my room and made my bed.

I am hoping to get Hachimal surprise, water paints, and new earrings.

Merry Christmas Santa!

Love Ally

Continued on page 23







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Christmas Greetings 2017 ACS students perform Christmas Cabaret

By Jeff Ward

Ashern Central School senior high students took to the stage last week to deliver musical performances of Christmas favourites, both old and

Extra chairs had to be brought into the multi-purpose room at ACS to accommodate over 100 people who attended. Students put their musical talents on display for their families and handled their instruments well through familiar Christmas songs like "We Three Kings," "Ode to Joy" and "Mistletoe."

ACS music teacher Jennifer Bjornson said she was proud of her students' efforts this year and that performances like these are difficult. Not only do students have more commitments outside of class than ever before, which limits their practice time, but the act of simply getting up in front of a crowd and performing is a daunting task.

Students Clay O'Sullivan and Kirt Garrioche also treated the audience to some country music with a rendition of Chris LeDoux's "This Cowboy's Hat," and Catherine Price sang "Mary Did You Know?"













EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JEFF WARD

> LETTERS TO SANTA, FROM PG. 22

Dear Santa,

My name is Andrea. I'm in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle School. How are the elves? Are they still working on our presents? Does Rudolf still have his red nose?

Every night I say good night to my little brother Stefan. I also help put my laundry away

I think I have been a good girl. This Christmas I am hoping to get a big Hatchamal and a tiny one

Merry Christmas! Love, Andrea

Dear Santa,

My name is Annika, I am in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle school. I am 6 years old. How are the

reindeer? Are they still playing together? What about the elves, they must be making everything pretty and ready for Christmas?

This year my family found a cat and now we are taking care of it. We feed it and play with it.

I think this year I've been a really good girl! For Christmas I would really like a little Hatchamal, a big hatchamal, and a Shopkins playhouse.

Merry Christmas San-

Love, Annika

Dear Santa,

My name is Colton I am in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle School. How are you doing this year? Tell Rudolf that I said hi. Is Mrs. Claus doing good this year?

I am 6 years old and my favorite color is blue. I have 5 dogs and 3 cats. I am doing good this year. I have 6 family members. Danielle and I helped our Mom clean the living room. I also make my mom's bed and organize her candles.

Thank you for bringing me those toys last year. I think that I have been a good boy this year. I was wondering if you could bring me a Pokémon stuffy, checkers, and Minecraft Lego.

Love Colton

Dear Santa,

My name is Deklen. I am in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle School. Kyle, Kristyn, Madden, and Keltie are my family. I love them so much. play with my family. What are your favourite cookies? Do like chocolate milk?

I was good this year. I play nice with my brother. I also empty out the garbage cans.

Santa I am hoping to get the game Pie Face, a new chest protector for hockey and the game Bean Boozle.

I hope that's not to much that I am asking for. Thanks for the great gifts last year!

Merry Christmas! Love, Deklen

Dear Santa,

My name is Hayden. I am in Grade 1. I go to Riverton Early Middle School and my teacher's name is Mrs. B. I like

school, my favorite things to do at school are writing, playing the gym and going outside. Ollie is my best friend.

I have been a good boy. I am happy. I have to wash the dishes and clean my bedroom. For Christmas I would like a bow and arrow with suction cups so that they stick to the wall. I want a boat and a truck and trailer that I can haul the boat on. I want a toy treasure box with money in it so my sister can hide it and I go find it.

How many elves do you have working for you?

Merry Christmas Santa, I'm going to leave you some milk and cookies and carrots for the reindeer.

Love Hayden

Dear Santa,

My name is Ivy. I am in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle School. Here are some questions I have for you. What does Rudolph look like? What type of magic do you use to get in all those houses?

This year I have been a good girl such as, me letting my brother Alex play with me. I have also been very nice to my friends.

I think that I have been a good girl this year and I hope I can get some presents such as, having a holiday Barbie that has a red dress or a Soggy Doggy game that you can bring me in the house.

I love how you give all the kids presents. Merry Christmas!

Love, Ivy

Continued on page 24



> LETTERS TO SANTA, FROM PG. 23

Dear, Santa

My name is Izzy. I'm in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle School. How has your year been? Who is your favourite reindeer? Don't worry, I won't tell anyone. How are all the elves at the North Pole? Are they busy making lots of toys?

I have been helping with chores every day at my house. I have been sweeping the floor and cleaning my room. I make my bed every day in the morning. I have been nice to my family and friends too. I give them hugs when they are sad. During the summer I had swimming lessons, it was lots of fun. I am very excited to decorate my tree this year.

I think I have been good this year. This year I am hoping for a Frozen puzzle. I love doing puzzles. I also want a frozen slinky because slinkies are very fun. Lastly, I want an Elsa toy. I love Frozen.

Mrs. B is a very kind teacher. I want to make sure that she gets a present from you too.

Merry Christmas!

Love, Izzy

Dear Santa,

My name is James. I'm in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle School. Do you have a dog? What is your favorite type of cookie? What's your favorite kind of milk?

This summer I went to a park. I used to live in Red Deer Lake. I built a snowman there. I help clean the house for my family. I have made my bed every morning. I have gone to vacation in Hawaii.

I think I have been a good boy this year. I'm hoping to get a Star Wars Lego kit, a comic book and a German Shepherd dog.

Merry Christmas!!! Love, James

Dear Santa,

My name is Jo. I am in Grade 2, my teacher's name is Mrs. B. I go to Riverton School. At school I like read, do math and gym. I like to play with Eli and Jake.

I have been a good boy. My little sister hasn't been good, but you can still bring her a present. For Christmas I would like a new flashlight that can flash different colors. I could use it when we go camping. I would like a new video game called Mario Cart and a nerf gun.

How do you make the reindeer fly? I'll make sure the door isn't locked so you can get in.

Your Friend Jo

Dear Santa

My name is Johannes. I am in grade 2 at Riverton Early Middle School.

I swam in my pool and I went to the beach with my grandpa this summer. I went to my Ammas. I watched the Winnipeg Blue Bombers game with my family. I watched the movie Wonder Woman with my family.

I think I have been nice because I washed the dishes and I helped my mom do the laundry. I hope for a blue Winnipeg Jets jersey, a flush the toilet game and Pittsburgh Penguins jersey.

Next year I want to be

more polite and say kind words to my family and my friends. Thank you for the white Winnipeg Jets jersey from last year.

Merry Christmas! Love, Johannes

Dear Santa

My name is Kanyen. I am in grade 2 at Riverton Early Middle School. Are your reindeers white? What does Rudolph look like? How small are your elves? How big is your beard? What do your reindeer like eating? What is your favourite kind of cookies? Whatever it is I will make it for you. How are you and Mrs. Claus doing?

I am doing good this year. Me, my dad and my sister went to Nitro Circus. I liked that you gave me a pellet gun last year.

I cleaned my room by picking up my toys and putting them in my closet.

This year I would like a FlipaZoo and soggy doggy.

gy.
Merry Christmas to you and everyone that you love. Oh, and Merry Christmas to the elves.

From your friend, Kany-

Dear Santa,

Hi, my name is Kristjan. I am in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle School. What is your favorite cookie? Are you almost done making the toys? By the way, what is your reindeer's favorite treat?

I have cleaned my room and I was nice to my brother and sister. I got some cats that are named Patches and Tiger.

I hope for an iPad case and the game Hockey Sports.

Merry Christmas Love, Kristjan

How are you doing Santa?

My name is Kristjana. I am in Grade 2 at Riverton Early Middle School. Do you like any frozen treats? What do your Elves do when they get cold? How is your family doing? Do you have any dogs? How is Rudulph doing?

I have 3 horses, 4 cows, 20 kittens and cats and 1 dog. I have 1 sister named Kalli and 1 brother named Tanner. Please leave some presents for my Mom and Dad.

I think I have been good this year by doing my chores and going to bed when my Dad asks me too. This year I can help with baking. I am hoping to get Silly Sense, Sew and Style and a Coloring book.

Good luck with delivering the presents this Christmas.

Merry Christmas Santa! Love, your friend Kristjana.

Dear Santa,

My name is Lilly. I am in grade 2 at Riverton early Middle School.

I have been cleaning my room lately. I've been nice to my friends. This year me and my family went to a Jets game and they beat the Flyers. I have 6 people in my family counting me.

I think I have been a good girl this year and I'm hoping to get a new Panda case for my ipad. I also want the new Lego snow set. And I was also hoping to get the Sew in Style sewing machine. It's a machine where you

can design or make your own backpack.

I am hoping I'm not asking for too much. I wanted to know how many elves you have and do your reindeer fly? How old are you and Mrs. Claus?

I hope you have a Merry Christmas!

Love, Lilly

Dear Santa

My name is Siggi. I'm in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle School. I have some questions for your elves. How many elves are there in the North Pole? Do the elves eat anything? My questions for you are: how many letters do you get each year? Do you prefer white milk or chocolate milk? How hard is it to get all the presents delivered in that one night?

This year I think I have been a good boy. I have played and have been nice to my little brother. My birthday was this year and I turned 6 years old. It was on May 20th. I drew a picture, it was about my family. I would like an Avengers Lego set, and some small toy cars. That's all I would like

I appreciate all your hard work Santa, reindeer, and elves. Merry Christmas.

Love, Siggi

Dear Santa

My name is Spencer. I am in grade 2. I go to Riverton Early Middle School. Every day I wonder what does the North pole looks like? I was also wondering what kind of cookies do you like? My favorite kind of cookies is rainbow cookies. How are the reindeers doing?

How is Mrs. Claus, the elves and yourself doing? I bet your cold out there in the North pole, but you must have hot chocolate. Do you have a pet Santa?

I have a dog named Marley. My dog is 7 years old just like me. I love her very much and she loves me a lot. I have a baby niece. She's real cute. Her name is Aroura and she's so small. I think I was good this year.

I wanted to thank you for gifts last year. They were so cool!! So I wanted to tell you what I want this year so this year for Christmas. I hope to please get a Christmas Barbie doll, a Barbie horse set that has a horse that moves. I also hope I get a baby alive doll.

Thank you for last year! See you this year!!

Love, Spencer

Dear Santa,

My name Is Thomas. I am in grade 1 at Riverton Early Middle School. Who is your favorite reindeer? How are you doing Santa? Is everything going well in the North Pole? Santa, what are doing right now?

My bunnies are doing good! I have nine of them! To be good I have been giving people Pokemon cards that they want. I have been helping my dad by working for a whole day with him!

I think I have been good this year. I am hoping for a spider web with a Spider-Man mask and an elf toy.

I love you so much Santa and I hope you love me too!

Merry Christmas,

Love your Friend, Thomas



Gimli council defers final decision on pot retailers; intent misinterpreted

By Patricia Barrett

During its regular meeting Dec. 13, the majority of Gimli council voted in favour of deferring a final decision on whether or not to allow cannabis retailers to operate in the municipality.

And a resolution they adopted indicating a decision is yet to come - along with a promise to consult ratepayers — was either overlooked or misinterpreted by the public who took to social media to criticize coun-

The resolution states: "Council do hereby say 'No' to allowing cannabis being sold in the municipality subject to public consultation with our ratepayers and the opportunity to review and reconsider our position once the provincial legislation and regulations are confirmed."

In late November, the province told municipalities they had three weeks to decide (by Dec. 22) whether or not to allow cannabis retailers in their respective areas. Municipal leaders from a number of jurisdictions felt it unfair that the province put the burden of the decision on their shoulders, with Winkler's mayor Martin Harder calling it "political suicide" because of a potential for division in the commu-

The deadline was too tight for Gimli's Mayor Randy Woroniuk, Deputy Mayor Peter Peiluck and Couns. Richard Petrowski and Danny Luprypa.

"All we're doing is deferring the decision until we get some firm commitments from the province," said Woroniuk when reached by phone last week."We need more information from the government on how this will be rolled out."

Although the province introduced the Safe and Responsible Retailing of Cannabis Act (Bill 11) Dec. 5, it won't be passed until next spring and could be debated and subjected to changes. Regulations, which will contain the details of how the industry will be governed and the rules enforced, have not yet been released.

In mid-December the province the only jurisdiction in Canada — rejected the federal government's 75/25 pot-tax offer, saying there are too many "unknowns" around what costs it will incur in the areas of policing, public safety and health. The province also said it needs "more time" to decide whether it should accept the feds' deal or create its own taxation scheme.

The federal government offered provinces and territories 75 per cent of pot-tax revenues, which will be based on \$1 per gram or 10 per cent of retail sales, whichever is higher. It's

unclear what percentage, if any, municipalities will receive.

The RM of Gimli pays about \$400,000 a year to cover the costs of three RCMP officers and the detachment's building. The level of resources needed for cannabis enforcement is not yet known and it's unclear whether RMs will have to pay more for policing services when pot becomes legal next July.

Woroniuk said if the province grants municipalities a share of pot revenues, the formula would likely be based on population.

"People have to understand this isn't going to be some huge economic windfall for us because it's going to be based on our population. It would be given out like VLT revenues are," he said. "Because of our population, we'd get a small percentage back. Larger communities like Winkler and Steinbach, which may not allow these stores at all, would get a larger share because of their population. They'd get more of that tax than we would, yet we may [allow] marijuana stores."

Another unknown is how much the RM of Gimli could benefit from property taxes on standalone marijuana businesses wishing to set up shop. Thus far, the RM has received one expression of interest from a retailer who wants to sell it, said Woroniuk.

Other Interlake municipalities have yet to make their decisions public as to whether they'll allow pot retailers.

"Winnipeg Beach, apparently, hasn't yet made a decision. Neither has Bifrost-Riverton or Arborg," said Woroniuk."I haven't heard from those mayors. I did read that St. Laurent and the City of Flin Flon are going to allow it."

Thora Palson was the only councillor to vote against the resolution.

"I believe that cannabis regulation, education and public awareness will be more effective in protecting our society, and in particular young people, than it would be to prohibit a legal cannabis retail outlet in Gimli," said Palson by email.

She said she attended a cannabis information session in November at the Association of Manitoba Municipalities' convention where the province spoke about the "big picture" regarding municipal economic stimulation.

"They spoke about many possibilities for economic opportunities including manufacturing, agricultural, medical and wide-spectrum products that will be possible with cannabis becoming a legal commodity in Canada," she said. "How exactly this will all be integrated and regulated will take time."

The question of whether cannabis

	2017 - Regular Med			
Sale of Ca	nnabls In the Munic	ipality		
Resolution # 17 23 05				
MOVED BY: Councillor Danny Luprypa SECONDED BY: Councillor Richard Petrowski				
Councilor Danny Luprypa requested a recorded	vote.			
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EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Gimli council cannabis resolution Dec. 13.

should be legally sold in towns and cities"has already been answered nationally," she added, and the question now is "how" it will be sold.

Although council's resolution was posted on social media sites such as What's Up Gimli and on CJ107's website, a number of people offering comments either overlooked or misunderstood council's statement that it will consult with ratepayers before it renders a final decision.

"It shouldn't just be up to the council since it doesn't just affect them it affects a whole community," commented one person on CJ107. "Therefore

the town should have had a meeting for any tax paying residents to attend and be informed or opposed to the disicion [sic]."

Woroniuk said he and council intend to do just that once the legislation and regulations are finalized.

"I have no idea when the province will do that," he said. "Until this is all sorted out, we have to think of our community. Is this worth it to our community? Is this what our community wants? When we get the rules from the government, we'll revisit this."

Manitoba Hockey Standings

1								-			_				
MANITOBA JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	Yellowhead	27	14	12	1	29	91	79
Raiders Jr. Hockey Club	26	21	2	3	45	106	49	Southwest	27	13	13	1	27	88	88
Charleswood Hawks	26	19	4	3	41	75	45	Parkland	28	12	14	0	26	98	114
Transcona Railer Expres	s26	17	7	2	36	107	74	Central Plains	26	9	13	2	22	96	110
Stonewall Jets	26	16	9	1	33	85	70	Kenora	27	8	15	0	20	85	100
St. James Canucks	27	13	12	2	28	81	80	Interlake	26	6	19	1	13	60	123
Ft.Garry/Ft.Rouge Twins	27	13	13	1	27	77	69	Norman	29	2	26	0	5	79	196
St. Vital Victorias	26	12	14	0	24	90	111	AAA CITY MIDGET							
Pembina Valley Twisters	26	11	13	2	24	103	100	HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	0TL	PTS	GF	GA
St. Boniface Riels	27	8	16	3	19	74	99	Monarchs	18	18	0	0	36	134	32
River East Royal Knights	27	2	24	1	5	41	142	Hawks	19	13	6	0	26	102	60
KEYSTONE HOCKEY LEA								Selects	17	12	5	0	24	89	55
Central Division	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	Warriors	20	7	13	0	14	68	97
Peguis Juniors	18	16	2	0	32	153	54	Sharks	16	6	9	1	13	40	65
Arborg Ice Dawgs	19	13	4	2	28	85	62	Lightning	22	0	22	0	0	26	150
Fisher River Hawks	20	1	18	1	3	46	173	AAA BANTAM							
North Division	GP	W	L	0TL	PTS	GF	GA	HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	0TL	PTS	GF	GA
OCN Storm	19	14	4	1	29	157	74	Monarchs	22	19	2	1	39	132	48
Cross Lake Islanders	20	8	12	0	16	129	105	Sharks	21	17	2	0	36	109	43
Norway House								Hawks	21	17	4	0	34	155	59
North Stars	19	2	16	1	5	60	224	Selects	16	11	4	0	23	91	34
South Division	GP	W	L	0TL	PTS	GF	GA	Lightning	24	7	17	0	14	74	143
Selkirk Fishermen	20	16	1	3	35	106	58	Warriors	18	1	16	0	3	32	103
St. Malo Warriors	18	9	6	3	21	80	58	MANITOBA FEMALE MIC)GET	AAA					
Lundar Falcons	19	9	7	3	21	91	86	HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	Reg	W	Reg L 1	r 01	TW OTI	L Pts
North Winnipeg Satelites		8	12	0	16	83	96	Winnipeg Avros	17	8	5	- 4	1 -	24	
AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUI	E GP	W	L	0TL	PTS	GF	GA	Eastman Selects	18	10	6		2	22	
Brandon	27	24	2	0	49	147	62	Yellowhead Chiefs	16	9	5	- '	1 1	21	
Wild	27	22	3	1	46	152	60	Westman Wildcats	16	8	4	- '		21	
Bruins	26	19	5	1	40	105	77	PV Hawks	16	8	U	- '		19	
Thrashers	32	18	13	1	37	113	120	Central Plains	17	6	U	- '	2	16	
Eastman	27	17	7	1	37	108	84	Interlake Lightning	10	-	15		-	2	
Pembina Valley	27	14	11	1	30	89	98	STATS AS OF TUESDAY,	DEC	EMBI	ER 19)			

SPOTES UPSIDE DOWN

Reimer playing well as Panthers' starter

By Brian Bowman

James Reimer has a very good excuse for not being able to do much Christmas shopping this year.

Reimer has been a busy man lately as the Florida Panthers' starting goaltender in replace of an injured Roberto Luongo.

Reimer, a Morweena product, was in goal for all three Panthers' games last week.

In a 2-1 overtime win over Detroit on Dec. 11, Reimer made 34 saves. The next night, he stopped 25 Chicago shots in a 3-2 OT loss.

Patrick Kane ruined Reimer's night, wiring a hard wrist shot on a breakaway during the 3-on-3 overtime pe-

Last Thursday, Reimer was very good once again in a 2-1 loss to the Colorado Avalanche.

"I thought we battled hard for the most part," Reimer said on the Florida Panthers' website. "Another good game where we worked hard and unfortunately just didn't get the bounces at the end. ... I'll be ready to go next game."

All three Panthers' games came within a four-day period on the road.

Reimer's recent strong play has brought high praise from Panthers' head coach Bob Boughner.

"He realizes that we have no other option," Boughner said on a telecon-

ference earlier this month."It's (Luongo) and him. Obviously, (Harri) Sateri is a quality goaltender, but he doesn't have a lot of experience.

"(James) knows he needs to be good and step it up, and help this team get where we need to be. He's certainly done that in the last couple games."

Reimer is expected to stay the Panthers' No. 1 netminder with Luongo expected to be out for an extended period of time.

Luongo was hurt — and replaced by Reimer — in a 5-4 shootout loss to the New York Islanders on Dec. 4. Two nights later, Reimer was the starter in Florida's 6-4 home loss to the Winnipeg Jets.

This is Reimer's second stint as Florida's starter this season. Back in October, Luongo suffered a hand injury and missed two weeks.

The Panthers — and Reimer struggled in his absence, posting a 2-3-1 record. Reimer had a sub-par .894 save percentage during that time.

The loss of Luongo is obviously a big one for the Panthers. But Florida players feel confident that Reimer can provide the team with solid goaltend-

"This is a pretty big loss for us. (Luongo's) been awesome for his whole career with Florida,"Panthers' forward Aleksander Barkov told Pro Hockev Talk. "Of course it kind of sucks, but



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RAT TRICK

Morweena's James Reimer has had some strong play in net for the Florida Panthers.

that's the luxury of having James Reimer as a second goalie for us. That's a pretty good thing that we have two goalies that can be first goalies in the

The Panthers continued their fivegame road trip against the Golden Knights in Sin City on Sunday and then were in Arizona on Tuesday to

battle the Covotes.

Florida will then have four home games to end 2017, beginning with the Minnesota Wild this Friday.

Reimer had a 6-8-0-4 record and a 3.48 goals-against average with a .896 save percentage heading into the game against Las Vegas.

Falcons knock off North Stars

By Brian Bowman

There were a lot of red lights flashing in Warren on Friday evening — at least in the hockey rink.

The Lundar Falcons were in a festive mood last Friday, skating to an impressive 13-3 victory over the Norway House North Stars in Keystone Junior Hockey League action.

Lundar scored early and often in this one, netting five first-period goals and then adding five more in the middle

Zach Bone led the Falcons with four goals and an assist while Dennon Sichewski added a hat trick to go along with a helper. Sichewski is now second on the team in goals scored with

Lance Laycock (two), Derek Benson

(two), Brent Johannson and Colton Gadoury also scored for the winners.

Gadoury added three assists for a four-point game while Josh Eardley also chipped in with three assists.

Clinton Apetagon, Glen Paupanekis and Quinton Courteoreille replied for Norway House.

Christopher Lesage made 33 saves for the win.

The lopsided victory snapped a three-game losing streak and improved Lundar's record to 9-7-0-3. The Falcons have 21 points to sit tied for second with St. Malo in the South Division standings.

The Falcons will be looking for two wins in a row this Saturday when they hit the road to tackle the OCN Storm. Puck drop is 8 p.m.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The Falcons' Zach Bone led his team with four goals and an assist in Lundar's 13-3 victory against the Norway House North Stars in KJHL action last Saturday.

Bantam Lightning drop tight battle with Warriors

By Brian Bowman

The Interlake Lightning had a great battle with the Winnipeg Warriors in Bantam "AAA" hockey action on Saturday in Stony Mountain.

The Warriors overcame a 3-2 thirdperiod deficit to defeat the Lightning

Charlie Kosman scored both Winnipeg goals in the final frame, including the game winner on the power play at

After a scoreless first period, Winnipeg took a 2-0 lead on goals by Michael Tanchak, on the power play, and Paison Butler.

But Interlake battled back to take 3-2 lead with second-period goals from Karson King (assisted by Kaden Stewart), Peyton Bateman and Michael

Two of those goals came on the power play while Crave's marker was a shorthanded tally.

Gavin White made 17 saves in the

Interlake played the Warriors on Wednesday to wrap up play for 2017 but no score was available at press time. The Lightning will then host the Rangers on Jan. 7 in Warren.

Interlake Lightning City Midget

In City Midget action, Interlake lost 7-0 to the Winnipeg Hawks last Friday and 9-2 to the Eastman Selects on Sunday in Warren.

The Lightning will host the Hawks this Saturday at 3:30 p.m. in Stonewall.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Lightning captain Colby Bear carries the puck up ice against the Warriors last Saturday.

Midget Lightning zap eight-game losing streak

By Brian Bowman

Christmas came a little early for the **Interlake Lightning Midget Provincial** hockey team this season.

Interlake snapped a frustrating eight-game losing streak with a solid effort in a 3-2 overtime win over the Yellowhead Chiefs in Shoal Lake on Sunday.

It was just the Lightning's second victory in their past 16 games.

"(The win) was long overdue," said Lightning head coach Dwayne Swanson Monday morning. "We've been playing pretty well for quite a while now and just can't seem to find a way to get a win."

Hunter Halcrow was the hero, scoring the game winner in OT. The goal was assisted by Dylan Fontaine and

Interlake's Gabe Odowichuk scored the game's first goal at 19:56 of the first period.

Yellowhead's Logan Wotton, on the power play, and Interlake's Jaytey Towle traded second-period goals before the Chiefs' Chad Nychuk tied the score at 2-2 with a power-play goal at 15:03 of the third.

Riley Buhay was very good in goal for the Lightning, making 39 saves for the win.

"(Riley) was good for us all weekend," Swanson praised. "He's been nominated by our group for the player of the week in the league."

Last Saturday, Interlake was doubled 4-2 by the Southwest Cougars in Virden. Once again, the Lightning played very well in the tightly-contested game.

"We made a few mistakes in the

third period that cost us,"Swanson recalled."It cost us a win."

Interlake led 2-1 late in the third period but Southwest scored three unanswered goals 6:15 apart for the comeback win.

The Lightning's Connor Dowhy and the Cougars' Callum Fortin traded first-period goals and then Evan Palmer gave Interlake a 2-1 lead at 8:31 of the third.

It was Dowhy's first goal of the sea-

Jared McCorrister replied with a power-play goal about five minutes later and then Fortin netted the eventual game winner at 18:33.

McCorrister added an empty-net goal with 15 seconds left in the third.

On Dec. 20, the Lightning were defeated 6-2 by the Winnipeg Thrashers in Teulon.

After a scoreless first period, Winnipeg came out flying to start the second, building a 5-0 lead by the 9:46 mark.

Three of those goals came on the power play.

Interlake's Corey Soorsma scored a power-play goal of his own at 17:17 of the second period, assisted by Marcus

Trailing 6-1 late in the third, Jagger Bonkowski scored for the Lightning, assisted by Rhys Bremner.

Six different players — Ryden Fedyck, Jordan MacFarlane, Riley Barroso, Austin Thorarinson, Reid Robertson and Jacy Kennedy — scored for the Thrashers.

Both teams had six power-play opportunities, with Winnipeg scoring on three chances and Interlake twice.

Buhay made 30 saves in the game.

Interlake (6-19-0-1-0) will wrap up play for 2017 with a game against Eastman on Friday (7:30 p.m.) in Gimli and then will have a road tilt versus the Winnipeg Bruins on Saturday (3:15 p.m.) at Southdale Arena.

Interlake owes the Bruins a little payback from their last meeting.

"The last time that we played the Bruins, we gave up a late goal that allowed them to win it," Swanson remembered. "We're looking forward to Eastman. The last time we played them, we were really short (players) and injured.

"We've been playing better - we're not getting hammered down by anybody. All of the games that we're playing now, we're (in them). It's just a matter of finding ways to win and getting a couple of goals."

Ice Dawgs skate to pair of KJHL victories

By Brian Bowman

The Arborg Ice Dawgs were twice as good as their Keystone Junior Hockey League opponent on two different occasions last week.

The Ice Dawgs doubled the North Winnipeg Satelites 4-2 last Thursday and then defeated the Fisher River Hawks 6-3 on Saturday.

After a scoreless opening period against the Hawks, Arborg scored twice in the middle frame and then added three more in the third.

Colton Davies led the Ice Dawgs with a goal and three assists while Clint Torfason tallied twice and added a helper.

Cal Finnson, with a goal and two assists, Dylan Fugula (goal, assist) and Gordie Longbotton also scored for Arborg.

Joey Fratantonio made 53 saves in the win.

Arborg's game against North Winnipeg was close until the third when the Ice Dawgs scored three straight goals to take a 4-1 lead.

Finnson scored twice while Torfason had the other. Two of those three goals came on the power play.

North Winnipeg's Nico Lisi scored with the man advantage in the first period and then Torfason replied in the second.

The Satelites' Nathan Jones closed the game's scoring with 18 seconds left in regulation time with the game well out of reach.

Fratantonio was busy in goal once again, facing 47 shots for the victory.

Arborg (13-4-0-2) will play at Peguis this Friday for an 8 p.m. game to wrap up play before the holiday break.

Fisher Branch spikes its way to Grade 5/6 volleyball titles

By Brian Bowman

Having a hard work ethic and passion for a sport is a good start to having success.

The Fisher Branch Grade 5/6 boys' and girls' volleyball teams have that dedication to volleyball and it resulted in a tremendous amount of success at a recent Eriksdale tournament.

Fisher Branch took three boys' teams and three girls' squads to the tournament. The boys defeated an Eriksdale team 25-23 in the final while the girls' championship game was a battle between two Fisher Branch teams.

Fisher Branch trailed by about 10 points in the boys' final, recalled Nottveit, but they roared back behind the "rocket serving" of Klyd Miranda. Miranda served "about 10 points in a row," said Nottveit.

The boys' tournament featured 12 teams while the girls' side had 10. The tournament consisted of several schools within the Lakeshore School Division.

The tournament was a great experience for the Fisher Branch players.

"In our school, which goes (from Grade 5) up to Grade 12, one of their favourite sports is volleyball," explained Fisher Branch physical education teacher/athletic director Kyler Nottveit."The students are passionate and we practice volleyball a lot. It was a great accomplishment for them because they take it seriously.

"Many of their older siblings are playing volleyball, so they're pretty proud."

It was quite the accomplishment

for Fisher Branch to have two of their teams playing in the girls' final.

"They love (the sport)," Nottveit said.
"They are even more passionate than the boys and they spend a lot of time talking about volleyball."

For the Grade 5 students, this is their first year at Fisher Branch and they had their first taste of volleyball tournament action in Eriksdale.

There was a lot of hard work that went into getting ready for the tournament.

"Especially, the Grade 5s, they love volleyball," Nottveitt said. "They can't get enough of it. They love bumping and setting to each other — they straight-up love the sport. "I've never been to a small community where volleyball was so popular."

The players have improved quite a bit over the course of the short season, said Nottveit, who also coaches Fisher Branch's varsity team.

"For the Grade 5s and 6s, it's pretty foundational bumping and setting and a lot of them had never done that before," he explained. "There was a lot of improvement technique-wise with basic bumping and setting and serving. Serving was big. They all learned how to serve, bump and set."

Nottveit is eagerly looking forward to developing these young athletes throughout their volleyball careers.

"I'm looking forward to guiding and molding these athletes to what they are passionate about," he said. "If they want to build a (volleyball) program, then I'll build it with them."





EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Fisher Branch Cougars won both the boys' and girls' Grade 5/6 volleyball tournaments in Eriksdale recently.

Peguis scores 18 against Norway House

By Brian Bowman

The Peguis Juniors had a chance to pad their stats in a home game against Norway House on Saturday.

Peguis scored a whopping 18 goals — including 11 in the second period — in a dominating 18-3 win in Keystone Junior Hockey League action.

Every skater in Peguis' lineup recorded at least a point. The Juniors were led by Dalen Schulz' seven-point game.

Goal scorers for the Juniors included Ethan Daniels (three), Travis McPherson (two), Shaydon Mousseau (two), Tyrome Spence-Bair (two), Coulson Nepinak (two), Wyatt Bear (two), Romano Paul, Quinton Flett, Darian Murdock, Schulz and Storm Swan.

Clinton Apetagon, Tanner Poker and Glen Paupanekis replied for Norway House.

Allan Kohli made 30 saves for the win.

Last Thursday, Peguis outlasted the Fisher River Hawks 9-8 in a shootout. Schulz and Spence-Bair scored for Peguis in the shootout while Joshua Beaulieu replied for Fisher River.

The first period was a wild one as the two teams were tied 4-4 after 20 minutes. They were then deadlocked at 7-7 after two periods.

Christian Cochrane paced Peguis

with a goal and five assists while Spence-Bair scored twice and added a helper.

Dylan Stevenson, Murdock, Ethan Daniels, Schulz and Bear also scored for the Juniors.

Joshua Beaulieu had a monster game for Fisher River, scoring four times and adding three assists. Johnny Beaulieu was as equally as dominant, finishing with three goals and three assists.

Parker Beaulieu scored Fisher River's other goal.

Juniors' goaltender Nolan Favel made 41 saves for the win.

Peguis visited Fisher River on

Wednesday but no score was available at press time.

The Juniors (16-2) will then host the Arborg Ice Dawgs this Friday at 8 p.m.

Fisher River, meanwhile, was doubled 6-3 by Arborg on Saturday evening.

Elmer Maytwashing, Darryl Thaddeus and Evan Thickfoot scored for Fisher River in the losing cause.

The Hawks, now 1-18-0-1, will play at the Cross Lake Islanders on Friday (8 p.m.) and Norway House Saturday (1:30 p.m.).

With the busy lives that we lead to-

day, often the family vacation is seen

as an oasis of fun and relaxation off

in the distance. We look forward to it,

and this anticipation helps to get us

through those tough days. If the va-

cation does not live up to our expecta-

tions, we are often disappointed, and

feel somehow cheated out of an ex-

perience that should have been ours.

Unrealistic expectations often set the

stage for disappointment and frustra-

tion. What are some of these high ex-

expect that it will be like a second

honeymoon; and that communication

and intimacy will improve dramati-

cally. Parents may feel that a family

vacation will help them to re-create

the harmony and closeness that has

been dwindling away due to busy

schedules and high stress. Children

may expect that vacation time will

be fun time, and that parents will be

relaxed and jovial and will let up on

They may also expect that they can

participate in all of the attractions that

are available, without regard to the

family vacation budget. Sometimes

it works out that we experience the

perfect vacation, or one that even ex-

ceeds our expectations. This is beau-

tiful when it happens, however many

factors work against this. First of all,

there is the change in daily routine.

This requires adjustment, even when

the change is positive. Then there

may be tiredness, change in diet, or

anxiety related to the traveling itself.

These factors introduce stress into

demands.

A couple vacationing alone may

et inspired



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Prep time: 5 minutes

Yield: rub for 1 turkey (about 15 pounds)

2 teaspoons Spice Islands Crushed Rosemary

1 teaspoon Spice Islands Thyme 1 teaspoon Spice Islands Onion

Powder

Traditional Turkey Rub

1/2 teaspoon Spice Islands Garlic Powder

1/8 teaspoon Spice Islands Ground Saigon Cinnamon

sea salt

Spice Islands Ground Black Pepper pure olive oil (optional)

1 turkey

In small bowl, combine rosemary, thyme, onion powder, garlic powder and cinnamon. Generously add salt and pepper. Lightly coat turkey with oil, if desired.

Rub all surfaces of turkey with seasoning. Roast according to package directions.



Prep time: 15 minutes Total time: 45 minutes

Yield: 2 cups

1 bag (12 ounces) fresh or frozen cranberries

1/4 cup water

2 large apples, cored and chopped 11/2 cups sugar

2/3 cup finely chopped onion 2/3 cup golden raisins

2 teaspoons minced fresh ginger 1 teaspoon Spice Islands Minced

Cranberry Apple Chutney

1 teaspoon salt

3/4 teaspoon Spice Islands Ground Allspice

1/4 teaspoon Spice Islands Ground Saigon Cinnamon

1/8 teaspoon Spice Islands Ground

2/3 cup dark corn syrup

1/3 cup cider vinegar

2/3 cup chopped pecans

In large saucepan, combine cranberries, water, apples, sugar, onion, raisins, ginger, garlic, salt, allspice, cinnamon and cloves. Bring to boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat; cover, stirring occasionally, 15 minutes. Add corn syrup, vinegar and pecans. Cook uncovered 15 minutes, stirring frequently.

Serve with roast turkey, pork roast or baked ham.

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Cheesecakes



Prep time: 15 minutes Total time: 1 hour, 50 minutes Yield: 18 mini cheesecakes 18 paper baking cups (2 1/2 inch diameter)

When Family Vacation **Goes Awry**

the traveling environment, and often the couple or family is in closer proximity than usual. Traveling in a car, or sleeping in motels or hotels does not allow people to get the quiet time or space from each other that is required to reduce stress. Children do not have the security of their own room to retreat to when they are having a bad day. So what can be done to reduce stress, and enhance the enjoyment of vacation time?

The first step begins when the vacation is in the planning stages. Try to ensure that the activities planned suit the age and temperament of young travelers. Talk beforehand about some of the difficulties that may arise, and plan how to deal with them in advance. Agree on ways to let others know when we are getting irritable, or need some time alone.

Most of all, see this time as an opportunity to practice forgiveness and letting go of negative emotions. Keep your sense of humor. Start each day fresh, leaving what happened yesterday in the past. Time together is too precious to spend in anger or holding grudges. Vacation time passes all too quickly.

Difficulties cannot be eliminated, and will not disappear just because we are on holidays, but we can learn to deal with them, to heal wounded feelings, so that we can get on with the good stuff. It is not so important that we remember the details of all of our vacations, only that it was good to be together.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and award-winning Psychotherapist. For permission to reprint this article, or to obtain books, CDs or MP3's, visit www. gwen.ca. Follow Gwen on Facebook for daily inspiration.

Mini Pumpkin



18 gingersnap cookies

12 ounces cream cheese, softened

3/4 cup sugar

1 tablespoon corn starch

1 teaspoon Spice Islands Pumpkin Pie Spice

2 eggs

1 cup canned pumpkin

1/3 cup light corn syrup

Heat oven to 325 F. Line muffin tin with paper baking cups. Place 1 cookie in each cup.

With electric mixer, beat cream cheese, sugar, corn starch and pumpkin pie spice. Add eggs and mix well. Add pumpkin and corn syrup; beat 1 minute.

Pour filling into liners, dividing evenly. Bake 30-35 minutes until just set.

Chill 1 hour.



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PUBLIC NOTICE RM OF GIMLI

NOTICE OF CHANGE TO RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE SCHEDULE

As of January 15, 2018, all residential garbage will be picked up on the same schedule as the current residential recycling schedule, which is as follows:

MONDAY:

The area east of Highway 8 to Lake Winnipeg and between Seagram Road south to Minerva Road, including, but not limited to, the following subdivisions:

- Pelican Beach
- Loni Beach
- Gimli Urban Centre (including Autumnwood, Centre Ave W, and Vesturland)
- South Beach
- Willow Island

WEDNESDAY:

The entire Rural area West of Highway 8 from Boundary Road south to PR 229. Also the area east of Highway 8 to Lake Winnipeg and between Seagram Road north to Boundary Road, including, but not limited to, the following subdivisions:

- Silver Harbour
- Arnes
- Spruce Bay
- Bay Shore Heights
- Spruce Sands
- Glen Bay
- Ness Country
- Loch Woods
- Lake Forest
- Camp Morton
- Gilwell Estates
- Kings Park
- Aspen Park
- Gimli Business Park
- Brewster Bay
- North Gimli Estates

FRIDAY:

The area east of Highway 8 to Lake Winnipeg/Winnipeg Beach boundary and between Minerva Road south to PR 229, including, but not limited to, the following subdivisions:

- Odin Green
- Sandy Hook West
- Siglavik
- Sandy Hook
- Miklavik Husavik
- Sandy Hook Golf Course
- Boundary Cove

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

For statutory and civic holidays that fall on Monday or Wednesday the pickup will occur the day after the holiday. For a statutory and civic holiday that falls on Friday, the pickup will occur the day before.

PLEASE PLACE ALL RECYCLABLES AT THE SAME LOCATION AS YOUR

GARBAGE BY 7 AM THE DAY OF COLLECTION.

Mayor & Council

Rural Municipality of Gimli

Classified booking deadline is Monday at 4 p.m. prior to Thursday's publication. Call 467-5836



PUBLIC NOTICE RM OF GIMLI

At the Regular meeting of Council held on December 13, 2017. Council passed the following resolution in response to the survey put out by the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) on behalf of the Province of Manitoba:

RESOLVED THAT Council do hereby say no to allowing cannabis being sold in the Municipality subject to public consultation with our rate payers and the opportunity to review and reconsider our position once the Provincial legislation and regulations are confirmed.

The survey was distributed with the wording provided below:

At the AMM Convention, the Minister of Growth, Enterprise and Trade stated the government would survey AMM to ask if municipalities would be participating in the province's strategy to establish retail cannabis stores in communities across the province. The following information is collected for immediateterm planning purposes. The province intends to have an open and ongoing dialogue with municipalities about cannabis and your municipality can indicate a change in position on this subject at any point. Please respond to the AMM which will collect and forward your responses to the Minister. Your response is requested by noon, December 22, 2017.

Please confirm if your municipality currently intends to allow cannabis to be sold from a retail location situated in your municipality.

_ Yes, we intend to allow.

No. we do not intend to allow.

We understand our community can change its position on this matter at a later date and that the response above is not binding.

We, the Mayor and Council of the Rural Municipality of Gimli strongly believe that this decision was not as simple as providing a yes or no response. Council's resolution reinforces their position that they have not been provided with sufficient information from higher levels of government to make an informed decision to meet the deadline imposed in the survey. Council fully intends to revisit their decision after meeting with the ratepayers of the Municipality and Provincial legislation and regulations are confirmed.

Mayor & Council Rural Municipality of Gimli

RECYCLING

Buying scrap metal, cars, tractors, combines, farm scrap, any metal material, any farm machinery. Ph Lonnie at 204-886-3407 lve, message or cell at 204-861-2031.

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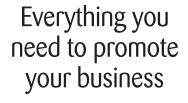
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ANNOUNCEMENT

CARD OF THANKS

FINNSON - HEESAKER

We would like extend a big thank you to all of our family, friends and members of the community for their generosity and kindness throughout our engagement. The huge crowds of smiling people who attended and made possible our May 7th wedding shower and June 10 social showed us nothing but love. We feel truly blessed to have so many people supporting us as we begin a new chapter in our lives.

Thank you again to those who donated food and drink, social prizes and time committed to create and share our special times!

-Curtis and Jasmine

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Tudor House Personal Care Home

is accepting applications for the position of **BUSINESS MANAGER (Full Time)**

Start Date: As soon as possible, Hours: 8:30 to 4:30 - Flexible Rate of Pay: \$20 - \$25 per hour 40 hours per week Work Location: On site of Nursing Home, 800 Manitoba Ave., Selkirk, MB **General Duties:**

Responsible for maintaining the financial records of the personal care home by accurately recording the day to day financial transactions of the company and managing a small business office staff. Responsible to: CEO/DOC

Specific Skills: Balance the A/P and the A/R, Post Journal entries, reconcile accounts, maintain general ledger and financial statements, prepare other statistical, financial and accounting reports, keep financial records and establish, maintain and balance various accounts using manual and computerized bookkeeping systems, import payroll into the G/L, and be familiar with Resident/Client Trust Accounting.

Job Requirements:

Languages: English

Education: College Bookkeeping/Accounting Certificate 1 -2 years or University Bachelor's Accounting Degree

Experience: Bookkeeping 2-3 years, Nursing Home/PCH Bookkeeping experience desirable but not required.

Security and Safety: Criminal Record Check - Vulnerable person,

Bondable, Adult and Child Abuse Registry Checks. Transportation: Own car, Public transportation available.

Personal Suitability: Effective interpersonal skills, excellent oral and written communications, organized, accurate, resident focus, Team player, reliability, dependability, flexibility.

Business Equipment and Computer Applications: Adagio or ACCPAC Software Accounting (3 module systems A/R, A/P and G/L), MS Office, MS Word, MS Excel and MS Outlook.

Attention: John A. Martyniw by email: jamartyniw@mytudor.ca Note: Only those selected for interviews will be contacted.



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If this position is of interest to you please contact: Blanche Bernardin

Transportation Supervisor 204-642-6263 • blanche.bernardin@esd.ca

ANNOUNCEMENT

IN MEMORIAM



Christmas Without you Evan Tree isn't up No decorations anywhere We avoid the gatherings It just isn't Christmas for us; you should be

here! Instead we miss you; Mum a hug and kiss on the forehead Dad a hug and I love you

Dylan a hug and Micheal Jackson Chassi an I love you...a shut up and a laugh Mama and Papa a hug, I love you and tea

You were our hug

You were our crazy

You were our laugh

You were our dance You are our cries....

Till we hug again Evan, see you in our dreams...

Forever and always Always and forever

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