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EXPRESS PHOTO BY CHERYL LAW

Six year old Hannah Stuart, sponsored by the Eriksdale Skating Club, was crowned the 2018 Carnival Princess. This year's contestants including Jamie Grant and Penny Giesler raised a combined \$12,000 for the Eriksdale Community Centre.

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

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Dr. George Johnson Middle School in Gimli is on a mission to fight for intellectual freedom by highlighting books that have been either challenged or banned from schools and public libraries.

"One of the reasons I did it was to highlight our freedoms within the country," said Smith as she helped students find books and use the library's computers. "We have to protect our freedoms. They're very important and they can slip by so easily. The students need to be able to make their own choices — but that's not to say that there are times when as parents and teachers we need to make choices for them."

"Books are banned for lots of different reasons. Harry Potter has magic in it and a lot of religious people are not happy with those types of books," she said. "The Junie B. Jones (*Stupid Smelly Bus*) is not written in a good grammatical way because she's a kin-



Morgan, Ava, Parker, David and Anika.



dergarten student. Parents in the past have been upset by the grammar in the book, and she's a sassy kindergarten student who doesn't always do as she's told and makes bad choices; they don't want their children to be influenced by that."

David and Anika, who were in the library checking out titles. During I Love to Read Month, Smith organizes a number of initiatives to encourage students to read, such as Blind Date with a Book, in which students randomly choose a book wrapped in paper. And throughout the school year, students participate in literacy challenges such as the Accelerated Reader program in which they can earn points and prizes.

Continued on page 5

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Hilbre family gain permanent residency in Canada

By Jeff Ward

The future is looking very bright for a Hilbre family who emigrated from the Ukraine in 2012 and who have now received their permanent residency (PR) cards.

Alex, Tanya and their daughter Emily Vasylies gained their new permanent residency cards on Feb. 2. Permanent residency does not make them Canadian citizens, but it does entitle them to many of the benefits. The family is entitled to health-care coverage and education. They can live and work anywhere in Canada. They are protected under Canadian law and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. And, perhaps most importantly, they can apply for Canadian citizenship.

Just two years ago, the young family's situation wasn't as hopeful as Alex Vasylies was staring down an impending expiration date on his work visa, which would have had him going back to the Ukraine without his family in May 2016. Alex Vasylies said that the Interlake banded together behind his family and called and wrote letters to Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan in support of their family.

"There were lots of people who were writing letters in support. The whole school in Moosehorn wrote asking for us to stay in Canada," said a humbled Tanya Vasylies.

"When Emily would go to school, they would ask her if she was staying. They all cared about her, and us, so much. The whole Interlake helped

us, even communities and people we don't know."

Alex Vasylies, who works installing internet, said that on many occasions he would walk into the home of someone he'd never met before and they would know who he was because of the stories of his family featured in the Express. He said that the support was overwhelming.

Closer to home, they credit the hard work of their friends John and Karen

Linde and Eleanor Koop, who started petitions and letter-writing campaigns to help get the family's message in front of elected officials.

"They have been helping us for five years, ever since we got here. They wrote letters and made phone calls and went with us everywhere," said Tanya.

The family recalled getting their

Continued on page 4



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Alex, Tanya and Emily Vasylies recently gained their permanent residency cards, allowing them to remain in Canada and apply for citizenship in two years.



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Trucking company may sue fish sheds for freight cost

By Patricia Barrett

A trucking company hired by Northern Walleye Inc. [NWI] president Donald Salkeld to ship fish from four Manitoba sheds to American processors indicated it may have to take legal action against the sheds and/or the processors for freight costs.

The Express obtained a communique written on Feb. 4 by River City Bulk Transport president Richard Holland, alleging his trucking firm is owed \$106,011.11 U.S. and \$35,202.02 Canadian.

In December, the Eddystone, Ashern, Waterhen and Dawson Bay fish sheds supplied Salkeld with fish that made its way to at least three American fish processors — Schafer Fisheries, Stoller Fisheries and Dan's Fish. The sheds are owed about \$1 million and the RCMP has launched a fraud investigation into Salkeld.

When contacted about his letter, Holland said Salkeld hired his firm but did not pay him. And since NWI is an incorporated entity, it may be fruitless to take legal action against Salkeld. But the sheds and the processors "benefitted" from River City's services and should compensate him.

"Whoever sells the fish and whoever receives actual cash money for the product is the one who's responsible to pay [for trucking]. That's basically our position," said Holland last Thursday. "We're not going to sue Donald.

Donald as Northern Walleye Incorporated, I don't think he owns an office chair ... so why would I pin all my hopes on getting my money back?"

Holland partnered with his brother Robert to truck the fish to the U.S., and that brought them "right to the brink of bankruptcy" and is taking an enormous toll on their families, he said. His four-truck operation could not handle a 400 per cent increase in fish the sheds produced, and he had to spend \$70,000 out of his own pocket to hire third-party carriers.

Salkeld is a friend of his in-laws and his brother, he said, and had inquired about their trucking services just before the open market came into effect Dec. 1.

"He phoned my brother, laid out what he needed and what his plan was, and we told him we can do it for this amount of money per mile," said Holland. But Salkeld did not provide documentation stating the terms upon which they had agreed.

"[NWI wasn't] set up properly. We had to do all the custom invoicing and paperwork ... that's usually done for the trucking company before the truck rolls up," said Holland. "We had to get the loads to Winnipeg and we had to move the fish from one trailer to another because it was like a grocery list they handed us. They wanted certain species going this direction, certain species going that direction. I

had to hire people, buy forklifts and pallet jacks. There was so much more involved than just trucking. That's why our bill got so big."

Holland said the bills of lading for everything his company did constitute a "little trucking contract" between him and the sheds and the processors.

"The sheds all signed them. Dan's signed for the ones he received and Stoller signed for the ones they received. I didn't stop in Petersfield and have Northern Walleye sign them mid-trip," he said. "I would love it if Donald would pay me. I would love for him to pay me and I could just go on with my life. But if he decides he's not going to pay me, then I have to go to the next person in the chain that benefitted from my services."

The solution is to get the fish on the market so that both he and the sheds can get paid, said Holland. Right now it's "mired" in legalities. The intent of his letter is to encourage the sheds to persuade the Americans to allow the fish in their possession to be sold, and to work together with Salkeld, whom everybody has cut out of the equation.

"And then Donald should be distributing the money between the sheds and the trucking," said Holland.

Waterhen shed manager Lorne Huhtala said Salkeld told him NWI would cover freight costs.

"We had nothing to do with the hir-



FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT
Northern Walleye's Donald Salkeld

ing of the trucking company," said Huhtala, who attended a Manitoba Metis Federation emergency fisheries meeting at which the sheds' dilemma over payment, trucking and other issues were discussed. "None of the sheds had anything to do with it, as far as my understanding is with the trucking."

Continued on page 7

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> RESIDENCY, FROM PG. 3

cards as one of the happiest moments of their lives. They made their way to the U.S.-Canada border, where they had to sign some paperwork before being presented with their PR cards.

"They said 'Welcome to Canada' and we were so very happy," said Tanya.

The family said they have no intentions of moving away from the Interlake. They've grown their family here, made friends, have jobs and want to be productive and active members of the community. They did say that the knowledge that they can choose to leave and live somewhere else is a freedom they didn't have before, and it's one that is life-changing and profound.

The path to Canadian citizenship is the next thing on their list and that is a process that will take a few years. The family needs to have two years living as permanent residents

before applying for citizenship, and it is something they intend to do. Permanent residency affords them of nearly every right a citizen has except for voting privileges, the ability to run in an election and to work some jobs that require high-level security clearance.

A primary concern for Alex and Tanya was their daughter Emily, who was only six months old when they moved to Canada. This is the only country she's ever known and the threat of moving back to the Ukraine was scary.

"We told her that we get to stay here now and she was so happy. It's such a relief, I can tell you. She knew what was happening and understood what could happen to us. But we got to tell her that Canada is her country now," said Alex Vasyliys.

After the news broke in Ashern, Tanya Vasyliys said that people would stop in at the

Co-op where she worked to give her a hug. She said many people were so happy that they were crying and it made her feel good to know she is so loved in the community.

As they look ahead into their future, there is less trepidation about where they might be living a year from now. The family has been permanent residents in the eyes of the many Interlake residents that know them personally, and now they have a card to prove it to the rest of the country.

"Two years ago, we weren't sure if I would be here by the summertime and now things are so different. I want to be more involved in our community and support Canada. I'm so happy. I can't describe what it feels like. It feels like freedom. This part of our journey is finished and it had a happy ending," said Alex Vasyliys.

Gimli to get reeling with ice fishing derby

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli's Colder Than Ice Fishing Derby is set for this Saturday and anglers are lining up to reel in a \$1,000 grand prize.

"We have about 30 people registered right now," said the municipality's economic development and tourism clerk Brittany Isfeld last week. Derby participants will be supporting a good cause because "30 per cent of all proceeds go to the fire department."

Isfeld, who's organizing the event, said the \$1,000 top prize also nets the winner 20 per cent of ticket sales. The second place winner earns up to a maximum of \$750 and 25 per cent of ticket sales, and third place gets \$500 plus 15 per cent of ticket sales.

"There will other prizes awarded, as well, such as a pop-up fishing shack and fishing equipment," said Isfeld.

The derby takes place Saturday, Feb. 24 south of the harbour. Registration starts at 11 a.m. with rules provided at noon. Lines are dropped at 12:30 p.m. and prizes awarded at 4:30 p.m.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Svala Thrastardottir won a prize for the first catch of the day in the 2016 derby.

Eriksdale New Horizons hosts pancake fundraiser

By Jeff Ward

Eriksdale New Horizons Club volunteers served a breakfast of pancakes and sausages to over 50 people last week for an annual club fundraiser.

Yvonne Groff is one of those volunteers and the secretary of the New Horizons board. She said that the group raised approximately \$350, which will help with small repairs and maintenance bills while keeping the club running smoothly.

Groff said she was very pleased with the turnout last week and was surprised that so many came out to support the event, considering the very cold and windy conditions the day brought. The fundraiser even brought in a few new volunteers who helped make pancakes, stir batter and cook up sausages.

"It's only a few hundred dollars but it all stays in the club and every few hundred pays a bill," Groff said.

"It helps us keep the wolf from the door. We still have our congregate meal program, which helps generate money, and we have a few more groups using the building nowadays, so they're contributing to our funds as well."

Groff said that both a chair yoga group and a scrapbooking group use the space once a week. She said that the fundraisers work to bring in new people to the club and attract

new volunteers. The fundraisers also show off the building to people who are perhaps looking to host their next meeting or event in the space.

"We do really appreciate the support we get from these fundraisers because we always like to have a contingency fund. You never know when you're going to have to replace an appliance and things like that," said Groff.

> I LOVE TO READ, FROM PG. 2

Books are selected by the school rather than by the Evergreen School Division, said Smith, and if parents express concern about a particular title, the school discusses it with them first before referring them to the division.

"It's a very difficult subject in that, as parents and teachers, we want the best for our students, but we also need to allow them to make their own choices," said Smith. "A lot of these

books are banned time and time again, and you have to wonder, 'Who is making this choice for me? Who's taking this is out of our public libraries and school libraries?'"

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getfishing

RED RIVER > CHALET BEACH > LAKE WINNIPEG

> ARNIE WEIDL Some people have all the luck

Hi gang.

Around the middle of last week, I got the feeling it was time to visit the ice anglers on the Red River off the Selkirk Park area. Perched on the high river bank in Old Red overlooking the ice pack, I could see a fisher sitting in his truck with the door opened so he could watch his two rigs close by. I eased my way down the slope and idled along slowly until I came abreast of him. He slid out of his truck as I left mine and I asked him if he had caught anything.

"Just a sauger that I threw back," said this averaged-sized fellow who had a black beard with a wisp of grey.

"Brian Parisien from Sandilands," he added as he came forward and shook my hand. His sideways glance at the sign on my truck door illustrating my fishing column prompted him to offer, "I have a story from when I was a kid."

He launched into it describing how years ago his older brother, Clarence, used to take him fishing in Whitemouth River. It seems Clarence would give him an old rusty baited hook on a leader to fish with while he used his nice new tackle. Fishing luck being so unpredictable, however, bestowed a great big beautiful pickerel on the end of Brian's rusty hook while Clarence caught nothing! A little later that day, Brian also had a jack strike. But somehow as he was reeling it in, Clarence's hook snagged Brian's leader, and according to his big brother's rules, that jack belonged to him. Brian, being a little guy, went along with his big brother's rule. Weeks later, they went fishing again and Brian noticed with shock that Clarence took Brian's rusty hook to fish with and gave Brian a new one.

"That taught me right then," Brian observed with a faint smile as we stood on



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
Rose Bland of Inwood with her catch of a beautiful pickerel.

the river's ice, "that fishermen are always looking for an edge."

Some time ago I had the good fortune to meet a very classy, caring lady by the name of Rose Bland of Inwood. She hadn't fished much yet graciously offered this next story and picture for our pleasure.

Bland went ice fishing with her MIFA friends off the west shore of south Lake Winnipeg. After having one of the men put the "sardine" on her hook, she sat back and began jigging her rod as explained to her. In time, someone remarked, "I think you have a fish on your line."

Rose slowly reeled up the line and soon a rather docile pickerel emerged from the ice hole's water on the end of her hook. As it hung in the air just above the shack floor, "fish juice" trailed from its tail. Rose, slightly repulsed, asked anyone in general, "How come they're

so slimy? Does anyone have a towel?" Her friends teased her about her lack of angling knowledge, but since she had caught her first fish, they had to allow that she was one of them.

Last weekend on the south end of Lake Winnipeg way off shore, I met Louis Van Den Bussche, a man with a strong, straight, pure white beard, sturdy body and a thin face. His long-time buddy Larry Bonnetean, with a short salt and pepper beard over a full face, was big and powerful. Both anxiously told that after it had taken them a fair bit of time getting here from Holland which is south of Portage la Prairie, they had gotten stuck in a snow bank off Beaconia. In hindsight, they said they wished they had come off Balsam Bay because St. Clements had done such a great job of clearing a road far out onto the ice for anglers.

We began telling fishing stories standing out on the endless snow-ice pack of Lake Winnipeg, which stretched to the horizon. Larry started kidding Louis because he seemed to have a talent for getting bitten by fish.

Not long ago, apparently when he was bringing a jack up an ice hole, it jumped and clamped onto his finger so hard it was hanging in the air off his finger. Just then, some anglers stopped by to ask how the fishing was going. Louis stepped out of his portable shack, holding one end of the fish as it was hanging on to his finger of the other hand and said, "Does this answer your question?"

Again, a few days later when he was home after a day of fishing, he was about to clean a jack at the kitchen sink and it twisted forward clamping onto his finger on the same hand. Fortunately, it was a different finger.

See you next week. Bye.

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Get your thinking caps on for the Smart Cities Challenge

By Patricia Barrett

The RM of Gimli and the Gimli Community Development Corporation will be competing for a \$5-million federal government award for innovative ways to improve a community through the use of technology, and needs the public to share its bright ideas with organizers this Sunday.

The Smart Cities Challenge, which the federal government launched last November, is open to communities of all sizes across Canada, including Indigenous communities, and is offering up to \$80 million in prize money.

The challenge awards communities for “bold and innovative plans to improve the quality of life for their residents,” states federal Infrastructure and Communities Minister Amarjeet Sohi on the program’s website. The challenge asks community leaders to team up with businesses, civic organizations and academics to come up with solutions that use technology.

“Part of the application process is to hold a public consultation, so we’ve partnered with Communities Futures East Interlake to be our facilitator,” said the RM’s manager of parks and recreation Chris Hornby, who’s help-

ing with the initiative. “We’re trying to get people out on Sunday to share their ideas of what would benefit the town and what areas there are for improvement.”

Ideas put forward across Canada and from other countries hosting their own challenge include improved transit through traffic-signal timing, better road weather data, flood warning systems and bike sharing.

“The idea is to use technology to solve a problem,” said Hornby. “In our case, it might be developing public Wi-Fi in the beach front.”

Gimli’s economic development and tourism/CDC clerk Brittany Isfeld is encouraging people to think “outside the box” for ways to improve Gimli.

“There’s a lot of people that have ideas and this is their time to come out and shine and tell us what they want,” said Isfeld. “If we make it past the application process and get picked for the finalist, we get \$250,000 to start our project and planning process.”

The winning city with a population of over half a million will receive \$50 million. Cities with a population of 500,000 or fewer will receive \$10 million each, and communities with a



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Beachgoers might benefit from free Wi-Fi.

population of 30,000 or fewer will receive \$5 million.

Isfeld said the RM of Gimli’s Facebook page will be live streaming the public consultation. It gets underway Sunday, Feb. 25 at 1 p.m. in the lounge of the Gimli Recreation Centre. Refreshments will be served.

People can submit their ideas and

comments to the RM’s Facebook page or email the Gimli CDC at Gimlicdc@rmgimli.com.

The application deadline for the challenge is April 24. For more information, visit Impact Canada Challenge Platform at <https://impact.canada.ca/en/challenges/smart-cities>.

> FISH SHEDS, FROM PG. 4

Over 100 fishers attended MFF’s Feb. 13 meeting in Winnipeg. When Salkeld showed up late in the day, MFF president David Chartrand allowed him to tell his side of story.

In an audio-video recording viewed by the *Express*, Salkeld told fishers it was not “legally possible for [NWI] to buy fish and export it,” and that it was Mike Schafer’s deal.

“We [NWI] didn’t want to get paid for anything we did,” said Salkeld. “We were just trying to support the open market — to sustain the open market — so when we had our facility built in Gimli, we have an open market still alive and well.”

Salkeld told fishers they knew Schafer was the buyer of their fish because they had made out all their “documents” and “invoices” directly to Schafer, not NWI.

Speaking on behalf of his Ashern shed buddies, Frank Kenyon accused Salkeld of “crooking everybody” and that both he and Schafer “were in it together.”

“Don, you and Mike insisted on doing everything,” said Kenyon. “You even said to the Ashern shed that we owed the truck driver for transportation. You ordered the truck, Don.”

Salkeld claimed the Americans stole the sheds’ fish, and he encouraged

fishers to “rally together” with him to discuss “how we should move forward.”

“These buyers in the States, they don’t deny they didn’t get the fish. They don’t deny it’s in good shape. It’s sitting there,” he said. “They’re just trying to get it for nothing, steal it, I don’t know. But we need to have a meeting.”

Huhtala took the mike and told Salkeld that when he and his stepsons visited Skownan, they said NWI would be buying and paying for their fish.

“You’ve the gall to stand here and tell everybody that you did not buy our fish when you walked in the very first day rubbing your hands and saying, ‘I want to buy your fish.’”

Another Waterhen fisher told Salkeld flat out he’s a thief.

“The only person that stole fish is the guy that’s standing beside you there, Mr. Chartrand,” said [inaudible] Catcheway. “He’s the only guy that stole it. His company came to my reserve, promised ... \$8 a kilo for pickerel.”

At one point during the 30-minute debate, Salkeld implied there had been collusion between Dan’s Fish and Freshwater Fish, and that had disrupted NWI’s operation. Dan’s

came to Winnipeg in early January and met with all the parties to discuss payment. But the following day, Dan’s had a meeting with FFMCC and “everything’s fallen apart since then.”

“There’s no reason for these people to steal the fish now down there,” said Salkeld. “We need to stick together and band together to deal with these problems and deal with these federal Crown corporations that think they can bully free enterprise and oppress it. There are rules in Canada against that.”

Attorney Brett Reetz, who represents Dan’s Fish owner Dan Schwarz, said the collusion allegations are “ludicrous and slanderous” and that there were also allegations a few weeks back of the trucking company “making threats that Dan’s owes them money.”

Schwarz became embroiled in the chaos when Salkeld showed up at his Wisconsin doorstep, asking if he could use Schwarz’s cold storage for fish he claimed Schafer wasn’t able to pay for, said Reetz.

“Dan’s interest is to pay for good product, process good product and sell good product. That’s it,” said Reetz, who’s collaborating with Waterhen’s lawyer Norman Boudreau to sort out payment to the sheds. “You’ve got a bunch of people in this system right now who have a huge vacancy

of credibility and integrity. The list of people who lack those things do not include the sheds, First Nations, Norman, Dan’s Fish or Larry Stoller. Everybody else is questionable.”

Freshwater’s vice-president of field operations dismissed Salkeld’s claim that the Crown corporation conspired in some way with Dan’s Fish.

“Mr. Salkeld’s accusation of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation colluding against him is completely untrue,” said Dave Bergunder last Friday. “The corporation routinely meets with customers and industry partners. [FFMC] will not be commenting further on any statements on this matter made by Mr. Salkeld.”

A spokesperson for Sustainable Development said the department’s investigation is continuing but is unable to discuss what transpired during a meeting with Salkeld.

“Minister Squires met with Northern Walleye officials a few weeks ago to discuss the unacceptable non-payment to fishers at four sheds,” said the spokesperson Feb. 16. “Due to the ongoing investigation being conducted by the province’s chief conservation officer, the details of that blunt conversation cannot be publicly discussed at this time. However, the minister’s focus remains on ensuring fishers are paid for the goods they provided.”

Hannah Stuart named Eriksdale's Carnival Princess

By Jeff Ward

A fun, inviting and family-friendly atmosphere was just one of the many reasons why hundreds flocked to Eriksdale last weekend to celebrate the annual winter carnival.

The four-day event crammed in a ton of fun activities for attendees to take part in over the weekend. A combination of events gave visitors the chance to have some fun outdoors with some favourable weather and come in to warm up with some hot food and drink. Stick curling, kids' movies, public skating and board games began the weekend event, which only cost \$5 per person per day or a \$30 for a family pass for the whole weekend. The bulk of the activities took place on Saturday with a free pancake breakfast sponsored by the Eriksdale Fire department, kids' games like jumbo Jenga and a mini sticks hockey tournament.

"It's one of those weekends that's for the kids," said Vienna Kinkead, one of the event's organizers.

"It's a lot of hard work, a lot of planning, volunteers coming in and helping out. But it's nice to have something like this for your town. There's lots to keep people busy and it's just fun to see everyone together."

A roaring bonfire kept people warm between sleigh rides and tobogganing, while a few clowns entertained with juggling, magic and balloon artistry. A fish fry was on the menu for Saturday night just before the Ice Show, which featured the talents of the Eriksdale Skating Club with the

theme of "Welcome Earthlings."

Following the ice show was the crowning of the Carnival Princess. This year's contestants included four-year-old Jamie Grant, sponsored by the Eriksdale Community Centre; six-year-old Hannah Stuart, sponsored by the Eriksdale Skating Club; and four-year-old Penny Giesler, sponsored by the Eriksdale Legion. The three youngsters, with the help of their parents, raised a combined \$12,000, which goes towards the Eriksdale Community Centre. Hannah Stuart was crowned Carnival Princess.



Photography by

Dillynn Kinkead are all dressed up for their performance in the theme of "Welcome Earthlings" during the Ice Show.



Photography by C. Law

EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CHERYL LAW

Emerson Billekop and Charley Miller are having too much fun on their trip down the hill.



Firefighters Merle Day, Brian Bottrell and Keith Lundale were hard at work making pancakes for the free breakfast.



Aiden Spalding was working hard to keep possession of the ball during the mini-sticks hockey game.



Clayton Kinkead and Hannah Stuart play a game of Connect Four that's bigger than they are.



Eric Lloyd carves his way down the snow hill.

Ashern Holubka Dance Group holding PaintNite fundraiser

By Jeff Ward

The Ashern Holubka Dance Group is holding a PaintNite fundraiser next weekend to support their goal of purchasing 50 new costumes for their spring concert and upcoming competitions.

Dance teacher and fundraiser organizer Courtney Roehl said that the group is very close to having raised all the money they need. It's likely that this event, if successful, will put them over the top.

PaintNite artist Silvio Butti will instruct participants through the process of replicating the painting Beach Moonlight. At the time of writing this article, there were 34 tickets left, which can be purchased at www.PaintNite.com, but Roehl said that they could accommodate more people if the demand is there.

Roehl explained that the group has rented costumes from other dance groups in previous performances, but they are looking to obtain their own. Currently the dance group has 26 members, and depending on the dance they're doing, different costumes are needed. The group is looking to purchase 50 costumes.

"They do dances from different



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
Participants will recreate Beach Moonlight at a PaintNite fundraiser on March 2.

regions and have multiple dances, which means multiple costumes," explained Roehl.

The popularity of the dance group, which only started back in December, was surprising to Roehl. She is looking forward to expanding the group



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY COURTNEY ROEHL
Ashern's Holubka dance group is hoping to raise money to purchase new costumes for their upcoming competition and sprint concert.

for their next season, which begins in September. She said that the group is open for anyone to participate when the new season rolls over.

The PaintNite is planned for Friday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$45 with \$15 going directly to the dance group.

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Intimate concert setting for Valentine's Day fundraiser

By Jeff Ward

Some of Ashern Central School's most eager musicians performed a series of music during their annual Valentines Cabaret, a fundraiser for an upcoming trip to Europe.

Students performed for a crowd of 40, who were treated to cheesecake, coffee and tea, served to them by other students participating in the event.

Music teacher Jennifer Bjornson said that the fundraiser is in its fifth year and aims to provide a nice relaxing concert for visitors and give students who are eager to perform the chance to do so and to choose their own music.

Bjornson said the students raised \$350 this year, which will go into a communal fund in the event extra money is needed. She said that typically the money is used to pay for museum visits or to go up the Eiffel Tower. The trip is expensive and she wants every student to be able to experience what those countries have to offer.

"A lot of the students are stretched thin just paying for the trip, so we don't want them to miss out when we do something special," said Bjornson.

"So when we raise extra money like this, that's typically what we use it for. One year, a girl on the trip hurt her knee really bad and needed crutches so we had to find a place in Sorrento to buy them, so it can be used for emergencies too."

Students performed music by Coldplay, Elvis, Bruno Mars, City & Colour, Leonard Cohen, Adele and more using the piano, guitar and their voice. Bjornson lets students pick the music they want to perform, but it is something that she screens to make sure it's the right piece for the show and for the student.

"We want the show to be a nice intimate setting and people really seem to enjoy it every year we put it on," Bjornson said.

She said that the show is a learning opportunity for students who want to perform more to get a feeling of what it's like to create a coherent set list of music that flows well together. The students all work together to make sure no one is repeating music and check in with their teacher who gives the green light.

"Most of the show is in their hands. The students work to supply the food. They wash dishes, set up tables, set up the stage and perform. I'm there for help and anything they need, but it's mostly a student-directed production," said Bjornson.

Music students will have one more concert performance before the end of the school year.



Beth Schwartz and Stanley Sigfusson performed two pieces during the Valentines Cabaret: Coldplay's Yellow and the song Angela by The Lumineers.



Rayanne Nickel performed the City & Colour song Northern Wind.



Jaydean Nickel sang Bruno Mars' song When I Was Your Man and Leonard Cohen's classic Hallelujah.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER BJORNSON

Dyland Webster and Chelsea Gasper were among the students who helped prepare and serve food to the attendees to last week's Valentines Cabaret at Ashern Central School.



Ashern Central Students put on a Valentines Cabaret last week to help raise money for their upcoming trip to Europe.

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Eriksdale School reading their way across Canada

By Jeff Ward

Eriksdale School students are reading their way across Canada for I Love to Read month as well as engaging in other literacy-based activities that encourage reading.

Early years students started on the East Coast of Canada while middle years students started their journey on the West Coast. Every minute students read translates into one kilometre on their journey. So far, students have read their way to the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border and Montreal and will likely meet somewhere in Ontario before the month is up.

School vice-principal Chris Hunt and is heavily involved in reading intervention. He explained that I Love to Read month is a perfect opportunity to build an entire month of activities that encourage reading and that his school is doing a lot of different events over the month. Some of the activities are oral-based, like the reading of morning trivia announcements and mysteries. The theme of the month is Canadian, so the activities and much of the reading is focused with that in mind.

"We have a big map in our hallway that shows how far our students have read across Canada," said Hunt. "We want it to be a collaborative thing for our students, and this approach was the idea of our EA Marilyn Meunchow. We're also hosting Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP) for a production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, which is one of the all-time classic children's books."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY CHRIS HUNT

Cash Kinkead, Bre-Ann Lucier, Andrew Miller and Madison Saunders are all taking part in Eriksdale School's effort to read their way across Canada. Each minute they spend reading counts as one kilometre on their trip.

Hunt explained that every month is I Love to Read month as teachers and staff are always encouraging students to read as much and as often as they can. The benefit, though, to having an entire month branded this way is that the school can be more active in the celebration of large volumes of reading over a short period of time. When students eventually do complete their journey across Canada, they will get to celebrate with the entire school in a special school lunch.

More importantly for staff, I Love to Read month gives them the opportunity to look at all of the ways their students are absorbing and retaining literacy lessons.

"A big focus this year is their phonological understanding, so things like rhyming, syllables and oral language. Two things that don't get mentioned often is how are students expressing and receiving information. I Love to Read month puts the onus on why reading is so important," said Hunt.

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Coldwell revisiting unsightly property bylaw

By Jeff Ward

RM of Coldwell council is revisiting their unsightly property bylaw in an attempt to modernize the rules and deal with some local issues.

CAO Nicole Christensen explained that council is still in the middle of discussions on what a new or updated bylaw could look like and that they are looking at other municipalities around the Interlake for inspiration. Christensen said that council is exploring language like how many vehicles can be parked in a yard and how they are parked as possible ways the bylaw can be updated.

"We don't want to be dictating how people use their yards so we're trying to find a balance," said the CAO.

The discussion at last week's regular meeting was about generating new ideas and Christensen said that council will be bringing more ideas to their next meeting.

In other council news

- Council declined a proposal to clean the RM's lagoon from Nordevco Associates Ltd. in the amount of \$25,000. The project was to clean six inches of sludge off of the lagoon. Christensen explained that Reeve Brian Sigfusson said he didn't feel that the amount of sludge was enough for it to need to be looked at right now.

- Council did a third reading and approved the municipality's accessibility plan.

- Council discussed an ongoing road work project with Road 14W. The CAO said that the project is on hold until the proper licensing is acquired.

- Council resolved a garbage pickup issue with a resident. Christensen said the garbage pickup rules are very clear. Residents are allowed two bags per week and unlimited recycling, which needs to be packaged together. She said the owner wasn't tying their loose cardboard together, which led to the issue.

Boathouse gets go-ahead despite a potential legal challenge

By Patricia Barrett

During its regular meeting Feb. 14, the majority of Gimli council voted to approve the Canadian Coast Guard's proposal to build a boathouse at the harbour despite the possibility of legal action from a community stakeholder.

Council received a communique near the close of the working day (Feb. 14) from Betel Heritage Foundation, saying legal action could be pursued should council approve the boathouse.

Representatives from the Betel Heritage Foundation/Waterfront Centre (BHF/WC) had spoken at a public meeting on the boathouse that council arranged Jan. 29. They contended there had been a lack of public engagement and non-compliance with the RM's zoning bylaw, and also spoke of the harm that will come to some Waterfront condo owners whose view of the harbour will be blocked.

BHF/WC president Roy Eyolfson had said at that meeting that the BHF board would pursue legal action should the "breaches" not be corrected.

Before council voted on the boathouse, Coun. Thora Palson asked that they suspend their decision.

"I want to make a motion to say I absolutely support the coast guard and Vakta," said Palson, "and I'd like to make a motion that the decision for the coast guard variance be tabled pending legal advisement on the notice of a legal challenge received by the RM of Gimli today."

Mayor Randy Woroniuk, Deputy Mayor Peter Peiluck and Coun. Richard Petrowski voted against the mo-

tion, while Palson and Coun. Danny Luprypa voted in favour of it.

Having defeated the motion by a majority vote, council then voted on whether to approve the boathouse. Palson and Luprypa voted against it, and the other three council members voted in favour.

The following day, the mayor said the communique indicated legal action could be taken, not that a lawsuit had already been launched.

"Based on our dealings with the Eastern Interlake Planning District's Nancy Thom, the information received from our CAO [Joann Murphy] and from the coast guard, I'm fully confident we've followed the proper steps," said Woroniuk by phone. "And there was no reason not to approve this boathouse."

Other council briefs:

- Council adopted a resolution to support the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's proposal to develop a primary health-care centre and clinical teaching unit in Selkirk that will have a "broader mandate of serving the region."

The IERHA is seeking to strengthen all communities in its region by stabilizing primary health care and emergency department services, according to its own resolution that's posted on the RM's website under the Feb. 14 agenda.

"I've been sitting in on these meetings," said Woroniuk, "and it's worked in other regions."

- Deputy Mayor Peiluck reported that council held an in-camera meeting before its regular meeting at which an incentive agreement was approved between the RM and Dr. Jo-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The coast guard laid a tarp over the boathouse's cement foundation to protect it from the elements.

nah Fulmore, who works at the Gimli Community Health Centre.

Such agreements are permitted under the Municipal Act.

"In the Municipal Act, a municipality can enter into an incentive agreement with a doctor to encourage a doctor to practice and remain in their community," said Murphy by email. "We have provided an agreement to provide a \$10,000 incentive for ten years for Dr. Fulmore to specifically take additional medical courses to upgrade his medical skills and knowledge, which will benefit the community. If he leaves the community at any point, the incentive will not be paid. He is to report annually to council on the courses he has completed."

- Council approved four payments relating to the Aquatic Centre: \$39,165 plus taxes to King's Flooring for floor-

ing for the Pavilion building; \$13,104 plus taxes to Clearly Insight for cameras; \$32,760 to Fin-Cab Builders for interior finishing of the Centre; and \$3,335 to Tony Zapotochny for 15 picnic tables.

- Council accepted a quote from Cory Thordarson of Wired for \$6,762 plus taxes for security cameras for the Recreation Centre.

- Coun. Palson, who sits on the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, said MHAC will ask Splash Printing for a quote to scan and laminate photos and documents from the former Gimli Public School.

"We received \$400 from Mae Peiluck in assistance in preserving the [documents], whether we laminate them or whatever we do," said Palson, "and we're very grateful for her donation."

Intertribal Child & Family Services cuts the ribbon on new office complex

Staff

The Intertribal Child & Family Services, which is headquartered in Fisher River Cree Nation, is one step closer to moving into its new office complex.

Fisher River Chief David Crate and ICFS board chair John Murdock cut the ribbon Feb. 9 outside the new complex on land that's leased from the community. Members of council and ICFS director Kevin Amos were on hand to celebrate the launch.

The ICFS needed a larger facility to accommodate its present staff and to enable it to hire additional staff. The new building includes two boardrooms, which can be rented by the community, and more space for programs.

The ICFS helps children, youth and families access programs, resources and services in the community and promotes their development and well-being, according to the ICFS website. It also has an office in Winnipeg.

Staff are scheduled to move into the new building next month.



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF FISHER RIVER CREE NATION

Fisher River Cree Nation Chief David Crate (centre, left) and ICFS board chair John Murdock cut the ribbon Feb. 9 outside ICFS's new office complex.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Einarson splitting from Scotties finalist team

By Brian Bowman

After five years curling with the same team — which recently lost in the Scotties national final — Kerri Einarson has decided to move on.

The Camp Morton skip will be leaving her East St. Paul rink at the end of this season.

Einarson will skip a new women's curling team next season with three other former skips — including three-time Alberta champion Val Sweeting.

Einarson and Sweeting, who will play third, will be joined by Shannon Birchard and Briane Meilleur.

Sweeting has lost two national finals while Meilleur played in the Olympic pre-trials late last year.

"With a new quadrennial approaching, this team assembled with the hopes of qualifying for and succeeding on the Grand Slam Circuit, making a strong run in the 2019 Manitoba Scotties, and building towards the ultimate goal — the 2022 Olympics," the new Einarson team announced on its Facebook page.

"After skipping their respective teams, Val, Shannon and Briane are ready for the challenge of a new position and look forward to joining up with Kerri.

"We are all very excited to build and grow as players and cannot wait for next season to start."

Einarson, who grew up in Petersfield, curled in two of the past three national Scotties events. She lost in the final this year after winning a wildcard game over Alberta's Chelsea Carey and then quickly becoming a fan favourite in Penticton.

Team Einarson will compete in two Grand Slam of Curling events in April before breaking up.

"We're just going to go into it with a positive attitude," said Beausejour's Selena Kaatz, who plays third.

"We had a lot of good times as a team so, hopefully, we can go into those events with a good attitude and have a good couple of last events together."

Team Einarson posted this comment on Feb. 12 via Facebook.

"Five years have come and gone and we have gone through some major highs and lows as a team," read the post. "We've each grown personally and as athletes and have travelled across Canada many times over together.

"We've won some huge games and lost some heart-breaking ones. We've made some amazing memories together and will never forget the great times we've had but have decided that this version of Team Einarson will be no more."

Meanwhile, the remainder of Einarson's rink, which includes Kaatz,



EXPRESS PHOTO BY CURL CANADA

Kerri Einarson has decided to move on after curling with the same team for the past five years.

second Liz Fyfe and lead Kristin MacCuish, have elected to stay together.

They will be led next year by Sudbury's Tracy Fleury, who placed fourth while representing Northern Ontario at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

"We're really, really excited," Kaatz said last Sunday afternoon. "Tracy is a really good shooter and she's super, super nice. We're really excited to get started with her next year."

Kaatz reached out to Fleury to skip their squad because she believes they

will work real well together.

"We get along well off the ice, so I'm sure that will transfer on the ice," Kaatz said. "We have had a head start on that by getting to know her. We're really looking forward to that."

Kaatz isn't too concerned about having an out-of-province skip.

"We're going to fly her out for a few practice weekends," Kaatz said. "Kristin, Liz and I have practised a lot, just the three of us. It won't be too different but we will fly her out."

Lightning zapped twice in Kenora last weekend

By Brian Bowman

The Interlake Lightning lost a pair of close games to the Thistles in Kenora weekend.

On Sunday afternoon, Interlake was defeated 3-2 in overtime by Kenora.

Cooper Witherspoon scored the game winner in OT. Interlake's Hunter Halcrow had tied the score at 2-2 at 5:42 of the third period.

The Thistles' Ethan Carlson-Jourdain and Witherspoon scored first-period goals before the Lightning's Bryce Krauter replied at 15:23 of the second.

Last Saturday evening, the Lightning lost 4-3 in a shootout to the Thistles.

Dylan Winsor and Sam Brunton scored for Kenora

in the shootout.

After a scoreless first period, Kenora took a 1-0 lead as Sullivan Shortreed potted a power-play goal just 35 seconds into the second.

Interlake's Jagger Bonkowski tied the score at 1-1 at 16:46 of the middle frame, with the assists going to Dan Paseschnikoff and Evan Palmer.

But Kenora regained the lead just 37 seconds later as Shortreed scored his second goal of the game.

Interlake's Corey Soorsma and Winsor traded goals just 18 seconds apart early in the third and then the Lightning's Evan Palmer tied the score at 3-3 at 12:18.

On Feb. 14, Interlake was defeated 7-3 by the Cen-

tral Plains Capitals in Portage la Prairie.

Dylan Fontaine led the Lightning with two power-play goals while Jordan Wood also tallied.

Central Plains, which held period leads of 2-1 and 4-2, received a two-goal effort from Logan Calder. Jaxon Blight, Aiden Panko, Kian Calder, Cameron Trimble and Reilly Funk also scored for the Capitals. Interlake was 2-for-12 with the man advantage while Central Plains finished 2-for-7.

The Lightning will wrap up their regular season this weekend with a pair of games.

Interlake will play the Winnipeg Thrashers Saturday (3:30 p.m.) at Gateway Arena and then will host the Yellowhead Chiefs Sunday (2 p.m.) in Teulon.

Midget female Lightning lose to Hawks

By Brian Bowman

The goal-scoring woes continued for the Interlake Lightning against the Pembina Valley Hawks in Manitoba Midget Female Hockey League action last weekend.

Interlake was blanked in a pair of games, losing 5-0 to the Hawks Friday in Teulon and then 3-0 to Pembina Valley in Morden on Sunday.

In Sunday's loss, Pembina Valley scored twice in the first period and added another in the third.

Tessa Odell had two goals while Makenzie McCallum also tallied.

On Friday, the Hawks, which held period leads of 1-0 and 4-0, received goals from Hannah Petrie (two), Cora Fijala, Taylor Kristjanson and Sage McElroy-Scott.

Back on Feb. 13, Pembina Valley defeated Interlake 5-1 in Morden.

Katrina Tobin scored the Lightning's lone goal in the third period.

McElroy-Scott had a hat trick for the Hawks while McCallum and Karsty Nicolajsen also tallied.

This month hasn't been too good for the Lightning as they are 0-7 and have been outscored by a 28-6 margin.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Lightning goaltender Rachel Parson gets a toe on this shot from Hawks' Karsty Nicolajsen in Manitoba female Midget "AAA" action on Feb. 18. Interlake lost 3-0.

Lundar Falcons splits pair of weekend KJHL games

By Brian Bowman

The Lundar Falcons split a pair of games last weekend to conclude their Keystone Junior Hockey League regular season.

Lundar nipped the Arborg Ice Dawgs 4-3 on Saturday and then lost 8-3 to St. Malo Sunday.

In Sunday's loss, Dennon Sichevski, Ron Johnson and Josh Eardley scored for Lundar.

Dustin Wiebe (two), Michael Venne (two), Nolan Handregan, Robert Guimond, Gavin Pott and Alex Murray replied for St. Malo.

On Saturday, Sichevski scored the game-winning goal with just 15 seconds remaining in the third period while the Falcons were shorthanded to lift his team to the win.

Lundar led 2-0 after the first period on goals from Drake Zimmerman and Derek Benson. Falcons' forward Landon Gray added a second-period goal

while Gordie Longbottom and Josh Roche replied for the Ice Dawgs.

Arborg's Clint Torfason then tied the score at 3-3 with a goal at 18:10 of the third period. The final three goals of the game were scored while teams were shorthanded.

Lundar's Christopher Lesage made 30 saves for the win.

On Feb. 13, Lundar edged the North Winnipeg Satellites 5-4.

Benson scored the game-winning goal with 5:24 remaining in the third period. Benson had tied the score at 4-4 just 2:13 earlier on the power play.

Lundar stormed out to a 3-0 first-period lead on two goals by Gray and another by Drake Zimmerman. Zimmerman's goal was a shorthanded marker while Gray had a power-play goal.

But North Winnipeg fought back in the middle

frame, scoring three goals in a 9:38 span.

Payton Boguski, Conner Grunsten and Braden Zamrykut scored for North Winnipeg in the second period and then Kyle Pache gave the Satellites a 4-3 lead midway in the third.

Two of those North Winnipeg goals came with the man advantage.

Lundar finished its KJHL regular season with a 17-13-0-4 record and 38 points.

The No. 5 Falcons will now battle the No. 4 Arborg Ice Dawgs in a best-of-five quarter-final series.

The two teams will begin the series Friday (8:15 p.m.) in Arborg and then they will meet the next night (8 p.m.) in Warren.

The series returns to Arborg next Thursday (7:45 p.m.) while a Game 4, if necessary, will be played March 2 at 8 p.m. in Warren. A series-deciding fifth game is set for March 4 at 2:30 p.m. in Arborg.

Peguis places second after end of KJHL regular season

By Brian Bowman

The Peguis Juniors did their part in trying to catch the Selkirk Fishermen for top spot in the Keystone Junior Hockey League standings.

Peguis won both of its games last week — and are now on a seven-game winning streak — but still finished four points behind Selkirk.

On Saturday, Keeven Daniels-Webb paced Peguis with two goals while Romano Paul, Quinton Flett, Tyrome Spence-Bair and Coulson Nepinak added singles in a 6-2 win over Cross Lake.

C.J. Thompson and Tyler Monias scored second-period goals for the Islanders, beating Juniors' goalie Luke Penner.

Last Thursday, Peguis doubled the Ice Dawgs 6-3 in Arborg. Peguis outshot Arborg 72-28.

The Ice Dawgs led 3-2 in the third period but Peguis exploded for four unanswered goals. Three of those goals came in the final 2:24 of the game.

Darian Murdock (two), Ethan Daniels (two), Keeven Daniels-Webb and Dalen Schulz scored for Peguis.

Byron Gard, Gordie Longbottom, and Ethan Chwaliboga replied for Arborg.

Peguis will begin its best-of-five opening-round playoff series with North Winnipeg this weekend. The two teams will clash in Peguis on Saturday (7 p.m.) and in north Winnipeg Tuesday (8 p.m.).

Game 3 will be played March 2 in Peguis (8:30 p.m.) while a Game 4, if necessary, is slated for Billy Mosienko Arena on March 3 (8 p.m.).

A series-deciding Game 5 would go March 4 (2:30 p.m.) in Peguis.

The Fisher River Hawks, meanwhile, earned a rare regular-season win after outscoring Cross Lake 15-9 on Sunday.

Darryl Thaddeus (four), Evan Thickfoot (two), Johnny Beaulieu (two), Joel Wilson, Joshua Beaulieu, Darian Genialle, Tristan Shorting, Kyle Crate, Daron Monkman and Kieran Raknerud scored for Fisher River.

Tyler Monias (three), Justin Dorion (two), Keith Monias, Tie Braun, Dennis Scatch and Treymian Trout an-

swered for Cross Lake.

Adam Thompson made 25 saves for the win.

On Friday, Cross Lake doubled Fisher River 12-6.

Joshua Beaulieu (two), Johnny Beaulieu (two), Rookie Stevenson and Monkman had the Hawks' goals.

Tyler Monias (three), Kadin Ross, (three), Scatch, Vince Scott, Tyrell Armstrong, Tyrel Skulmoski, Payton Beardy and Dorion tallied for the Islanders.

Fisher River finished its regular season with a 4-28-0-2 record and 10 points. The Hawks were one of two teams that did not make the playoffs.

Ice Dawgs surrender late goal in loss to Lundar

By Brian Bowman

The Arborg Ice Dawgs had a tough ending to their regular season on Saturday night.

Lundar's Dennon Sichewski scored the game-winning goal with just 15 seconds remaining in the third period while the Falcons were shorthanded to lift his team to a 4-3 Keystone Junior Hockey League victory.

Lundar led 2-0 after the first period on goals from Drake Zimmerman and Derek Benson. Falcons' forward Landon Gray added a second-period goal while Gordie Longbottom and Josh Roche replied for the Ice Dawgs.

Arborg's Clint Torfason then tied the score at 3-3 with a goal at 18:10 of the third period. The final three goals of the game were scored while teams were shorthanded.

Lundar's Christopher Lesage made 30 saves for the win.

Last Thursday, Arborg was doubled 6-3 at home by the Peguis Juniors. Peguis outshot Arborg by a whopping 72-28 margin.

The Ice Dawgs led 3-2 in the third period but Peguis exploded for four unanswered goals. Three of those goals came in the final 2:24 of the game.

Darian Murdock (two), Ethan Daniels (two), Keeven Daniels-Webb and Dalen Schulz scored for Peguis.

Byron Gard, Gordie Longbottom, and Ethan Chwaliboga replied for Arborg.

On Feb. 13, Arborg was outscored 10-6 by the Warriors in St. Malo.

Torfason and Colton Davies each led Arborg with two goals and an assist. Longbottom and Roche also scored for Arborg. Jordan Kristjanson and

Chwaliboga had two assists apiece.

Dustin Wiebe (three), Elmer Tabler (two), Gavin Pott (two), Robert Guimond, Alex Murray and Tyrel Bueckert replied for St. Malo.

Gavin Love and Bret Huta split the goaltending duties for Arborg.

Arborg finished the KJHL regular season with a 19-11-0-4 record and 42 points.

Lightning 0-3-1 at Bantam female showcase

Staff

The Interlake Lightning finished with an 0-3-1 record at the Bantam "AAA" female showcase earlier this month in Minnedosa.

Interlake opened action with a hard-fought 3-2 loss to the Parkland Rangers last Friday.

Kenady Christensen and Brooke Wadge scored second-period goals for the Lightning. Sydney Byle had an assist in the game.

The Lightning then played a pair of games Saturday.

Interlake started the day by playing to a 3-3 draw with the Central Plains Capitals.

Christensen scored twice while

Emma Pool also tallied in the opening period for the Lightning as they led 3-0.

Keely Emma-Finnsson had two assists.

Later that day, Interlake was edged 4-3 by the Norman Wild.

Christensen and Pool each had a goal and an assist. Bobbi Bullivant scored Interlake's other goal while Kiorra Johannesson chipped with an assist.

Interlake wrapped up the showcase with a 5-2 loss to the Westman South Wildcats on Sunday.

Bullivant and Pool scored for the Lightning. Christensen picked up an assist.

Manitoba Hockey Standings

MANITOBA JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Steinbach Pistons	55	44	8	2	91	273	119
Virden Oil Capitals	56	37	17	2	76	239	168
Portage Terriers	55	35	15	2	75	236	155
OCN Blizzard	54	30	17	5	67	192	169
Winkler Flyers	56	32	24	0	64	186	159
Winnipeg Blues	53	26	21	4	58	191	196
Selkirk Steelers	54	27	23	3	58	176	190
Swan Valley Stampeders	53	25	22	5	56	173	179
Neepawa Natives	55	24	28	2	51	199	228
Dauphin Kings	54	13	39	1	28	131	254
Waywayseecappo Wolverines	55	7	44	3	18	120	299

KEYSTONE HOCKEY LEAGUE

Cross Lake Islanders vs Selkirk Fishermen
Game 1: Feb 23 8pm @ Sagkeeng Arena
"Game 2: Sat Feb 24 - 7:30PM Selkirk Rec Centre "
Game 3: Sat. Mar 3 8:00pm Cross Lake Arena
Game 4: Sun. Mar 4 4:00pm Cross Lake
Game 5: Tues. Mar 6 7:30 Selkirk
North Winnipeg Satellites vs Peguis Juniors
Game 1: Sat Feb 24 - 7:00PM - Peguis
Game 2: Tue Feb 27 - 8:00PM - Billy Mosienko
Game 3: Fri Mar 2 - 8:30PM - Peguis
Game 4: Sat Mar 3 - 8:00PM - Billy Mosienko
Game 5: Sun. Mar 4 -2:30 Peguis
St. Malo Warriors vs OCN Storm
Game 1: Sat Feb 24 - 8:00PM - OCN Arena
Game 2: Sun Feb 25 - 2:30PM - OCN Arena
Game 3: Fri. Mar 2 8:00pm St. Malo Arena
Game 4: Sat Mar 3 - 7:30PM St. Malo Arena
Game 5: Sun Mar 4 - TBA - OCN Arena
Lundar Falcons vs Arborg Ice Dawgs
Game 1 - Fri Feb 23 - 8:15PM - Arborg Arena

Game 2 - Sat Feb 24 - 8:00PM - Warren Arena
Game 3 - Thu Mar 1 - 7:45PM - Arborg Arena
Game 4 - Fri Mar 2 - 8:00PM - Warren Arena
Game 5 - Sun Mar 4 - 2:30PM - Arborg Arena

AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Wild	45	38	5	1	78	304	97
Brandon	46	38	6	0	78	250	117
Bruins	46	28	13	2	61	191	158
Eastman	46	26	15	2	57	183	150
Thrashers	46	26	19	1	53	180	177
Yellowhead	46	25	19	2	52	161	143
Pembina Valley	46	23	18	2	51	176	180
Southwest	46	24	21	1	49	154	148
Central Plains	45	21	18	2	48	193	182
Kenora	46	18	24	0	40	145	174
Parkland	46	16	25	2	37	150	200
Interlake	46	11	30	3	27	116	235
Norman	46	4	41	0	9	119	361

AAA CITY MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Monarchs	35	30	2	0	63	223	79
Selects	36	23	10	0	49	187	124
Hawks	34	22	9	0	47	175	107
Warriors	33	15	17	0	31	128	141
Sharks	35	11	21	1	25	93	148
Lightning	35	0	34	0	1	41	248

MANITOBA FEMALE MIDGET AAA HOCKEY LEAGUE

Quarter finals - Pembina Valley defeats Interlake in 3 games
Quarter finals - Eastman defeats Yellowhead in 3 games
Quarter finals - Westman defeats Central Plains in 3 games
Semi finals - Eastman vs Winnipeg
Game 1 Feb. 28 @ Seven Oaks 7pm
Semi finals - Westman vs Pembina Valley
STATS AS OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

MHSAA Zone 5 high school curling champions



The Gimli Lakers recently won the Zone 5 boys' curling banner last week in Arborg. The team consists of skip Josh Maisey, third Oliver De Meyer, second Sean Giesbrecht and lead Tyler Giesbrecht third. The Lakers now advance to the MHSAA curling provincials, which will start today and continue through Saturday in Winkler.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Ashern Central School Cobras recently won the Zone 5 girls' curling banner in Riverton. The team consists of skip Talyia Tober, third Tansy Tober, second Kira Tritthard and lead Alyssa Tritthard. The Cobras now advance to the MHSAA curling provincials, which will start today and continue through Saturday in Winkler.

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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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STEEL BUILDINGS

Steel Building Sale... "Really big sale is back - extra winter discount on now!" 20X23 \$5,798. 25x27 \$6,356. 30x31 \$8,494. 32X33 \$8,728. 35X35 \$11,670. One end wall included. Pioneer Steel 1-855-212-7036 www.pioneersteel.ca

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thank God it's Friday Morning! (TGIFM) You are welcome to come for a coffee/tea & a muffin at Arborg Christian Fellowship. Doors open Friday mornings to anyone in the community who wants to drop in. Doors open from 10 a.m. until noon. TGIFM runs from Feb. 2 - April 27/18. For more info. please contact Linda Gerritsen at 204-376-2484.

HEALTH

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewall Elk Products Ltd., 204-467-8428 or e-mail stonewoodelk@hotmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

CARD OF THANKS

I, along with my family, would like to express my sincere appreciation for all who attended and contributed in various ways, to my fundraiser held in Arborg in October 2017. A big thank you to Jerry Maryniuk, Veanne and Jeff Hudson, Sheila Kristjanson, The Arborg Ice Dawgs, the Arborg and surrounding communities, and so many others, for making the fundraiser a success. The incredible support by so many is something that will never be forgotten.
-Clint Torfason and family

Call 467-5836

Don't forget to send your special wishes to your friends and family.

Call 204-467-5836 classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca

take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

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

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

Sudoku Answer

S	L	E	S	E	R	D	N	E	E	T
S	V	W	G	I	N	E	E	V	T	N
E	N	E	E	E	L	E	K	O	V	E
R	E	N	V	S	L	N	O	S	H	L
V	H	O	S	L	E	O	V	L	S	I
N	V	I	d	V	S	L	S	S	E	d
L	V	O	W			W	N	I	W	S
S	d	V	O	S			I	T	O	V
N	E	L	N	T	O		O	H	E	O
E	H	I	V	O	V	O	O	O	S	d
S	E	W	V	E	O	O	E	S	I	N
S	d	I	K	S	N	V	L	E	O	E
E	W	E	O	L	V	O	I	T	V	E
T	E	A	V	E	N	N	d	I	O	H
L	E	d	d	V	T	E	V	E	W	N

Crossword Answer

CLUES ACROSS

- Shaded inner regions
- Overlapping part of a garment
- Type of smartphone
- Fall apart
- Football's big game (abbr.)
- Crocodilian reptile
- Of I
- Swamp plant
- Sun can help you get one
- Hops, __ and jumps
- Cuckoos
- Small cavities in rocks
- American traitor
- Tooth caregiver
- Popular fish
- Ottoman military leader
- Anger
- Fish of the mackerel family
- Some people can't eat it
- Amer. Revolutionary War battle
- Misleading ads
- Atomic number 76
- A type of castle security
- Sunscreen rating
- Very fast airplane
- Vigor
- 007's creator
- __ and that
- Indicating silence
- Brown and gray rail
- Nocturnal insects
- Make an incision
- Norwegian village
- Commercial
- Criminal
- Northeast
- Clouds of gas and dust in outer space
- Mysterious things
- One who won't be forgotten
- Starts over

CLUES DOWN

- Straighten
- Gives medical advice (abbr.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17					18					19	
20		21				22				23		24		
25					26				27		28			
29				30				31		32		33		
		34	35						36		37			
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44				45		46		47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62					63			64	
65		66								67			68	
	69									70				

- Touts
- One's job
- Afflict in mind or body
- Proofed
- Capital of Angola
- Social insect living in organized colonies
- Ones who are financially compensated
- Jacket
- Electron volt
- Tuned
- Syrian leader
- Reduces
- Congress' investigative arm
- Make uneasy
- A fake
- Any thick messy substance
- Goad
- Titan
- Continental Congress delegate

for NY

- Peyton's younger brother
- Fiddler crab
- Delivers the mail
- Liliaceous plant
- Mountain Time
- Where wrestlers work
- Secured
- Dog breed
- Where rockers perform
- Nostrils
- Express doubt
- Pointer
- Slang for sergeant
- Selling at specially reduced prices
- Six (Spanish)
- Holds nonperishables
- Between northeast and east
- Exist
- Meitnerium

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Deadline for resumes March 2, 2018

Please email resume, to hr@vidir.com. or mail to:
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ATTENTION: Casual Security Officer Position

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- Training towards the L.B.M. Manager position.

Requirements:

- Minimum 5 years experience at a Lumber and Building Material sales outlet in a sales role; or, minimum 10 years experience as a construction contractor with a strong preference for Journeyman/Red Seal certification; or, a minimum 3 years experience in a retail management role and must complete our comprehensive training program within the first 2 years of employment.
- Valid Class 5 Drivers License.
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Office software.
- Experience using Seljx estimation software not required, but would be an asset.
- Forklift operator ticket would be an asset.

The ideal candidate will be well organized, able to work independently, and have a desire for promotion to the L.B.M. Manager position within 3-5 years.

Competitive salary, benefits package, and employee discount program is available, and assistance with relocation to the Ashern area is available.

Please submit your resume at #28 Railway Ave., Ashern,
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Deadline for application: March 10, 2018.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF West Interlake

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES MUNICIPALITY OF WEST INTERLAKE

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of *The Municipal Act*, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **22nd** day of **March, 2018**, at the hour of **10:00 AM**, at Municipality of West Interlake, 10 Main Street, Eriksdale, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
58200	THE S 1/2 AND THE NW 1/4 OF LEGAL SUBDIVISION 2 OF SECTION 1-24-10 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AND SPECIAL RESERVATIONS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	L - \$1,900	\$1,397.63
329410	ALL THAT PORTION OF SLY 417 FEET PERP OF SW 1/4 27-21-5 WPM WHICH LIES BETWEEN 2 LINES DRAWN NLY AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF SAID 1/4 SECTION FROM POINTS IN THE SAME DISTANT ELY THEREON 2107.5 FEET AND 2316 FEET FROM THE WESTERN LIMIT OF SAID 1/4 SECTION SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	L - \$3,600 B - \$59,300	\$2,398.60
442500	LOTS 4 AND 5 BLOCK 3 PLAN 408 WLTO (P DIV) EXC OUT OF SAID LOT 5 ALL MINES AND MINERALS AND SPECIAL RESERVATIONS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN SW 1/4 SECTION 4-22-5 WPM - 5 MAIN ST	L - \$5,800 B - \$14,500	\$4,922.56
445500	LOTS 4, 5 AND 6 BLOCK 5 PLAN 492 WLTO (P DIV) SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN, IN SW 1/4 OF 4-22-5 WPM. - 16 MAIN ST	L - \$4,400 B - \$43,900	\$3,199.49

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality **may** exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the Municipality of West Interlake as follows:
 - i) The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
 - ii) If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.
- The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title in the land titles office, including the registration costs.

Dated this 7th day of February, 2018.

Managed by:



Larissa Love
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of West Interlake
Phone: (204) 768-2641
Fax: (204) 739-2073

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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI PUBLIC NOTICE SEWAGE ODOUR & RM OF GIMLI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REPAIRS

The RM of Gimli is expanding and upgrading the Wastewater Treatment Plant to provide increased capacity for future growth in our community. Odour control is a priority and over 1 million dollars will be spent on this component within this project.

Work on this upgrading project started this week. Prior to the award of the upgrading project, some mechanical aeration piping supports corroded and failed below the water level in one of the plant's two Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBRs). As a result, SBR 1 was taken out of service to complete the emergency repairs. This aeration failure has caused the recent odour issues. We expect SBR 1 to be operational by the later part of this month and the odour issue to be lessened. Since both of the SBRs are of the same age an inspection on SBR 2 will take place and any required repairs will be completed within the next 6 to 7 weeks.

The inspections on the below water level components of the two existing SBRs were originally planned once the new SBR 3 was in service and the replacement parts were on-site which would have reduced the odour we are experiencing at this time.

The Municipality is working in co-operation with the Province of Manitoba Sustainable Development, Manitoba Public Health and Workplace Health & Safety to address the odour. To manage the odour the Municipality is taking the following steps:

- Sewage from the town site is being diverted from the Treatment Plant to the lagoon and the Truck Hauls are being diverted to the neighbouring municipalities to decrease the input on the Waste Water Treatment plant until repairs are complete.
- The expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant is being expedited wherever possible.
- Ongoing air quality testing is being conducted and closely monitored.

Mayor & Council
Rural Municipality of Gimli

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To find out more about the role of a returning officer and how to apply, go to elections.ca and click on Employment or call 1-800-463-6868.

The online application will be available February 16 to March 9, 2018.

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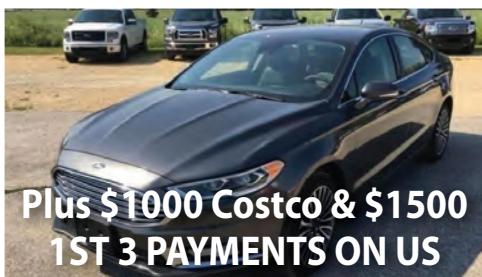
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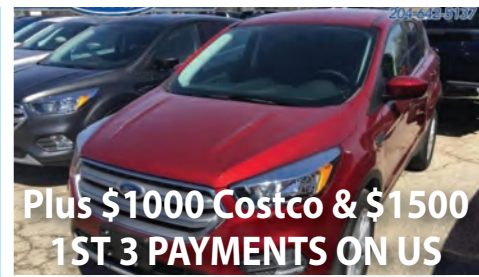


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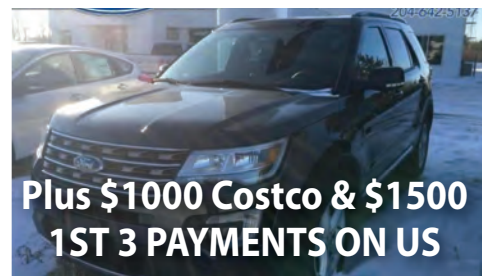


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