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Remembering Evan

EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT
 Evan's friend Nick Olyarnyk hugs Leah Engbaek on the Gimli seawall during a memorial walk March 16 to honour the young man and celebrate what would have been his 19th birthday.

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Spring car care

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE See page 11.

Those left behind: Evan Engbaek's family and friends honour slain man

By Patricia Barrett

Tears mingled with fond memories as people gathered for a memorial walk March 16 in Gimli to honour 18-year-old Evan Engbaek, who was killed in 2017 in broad daylight on a street in the town's central district.

Just as the blazing sun began to make its descent, about 40 family members, friends and community supporters gathered at Dream Smoothies on Second Avenue — where Evan died July 25 after being fatally stabbed by a 16-year-old male — to remember the young man who was loved by many.

As Scotland the Brave skirled from St. Andrew's Pipe Band member Alex Peden's bagpipes (in homage to Evan's Scottish heritage), Evan's mom and dad, Leah and Peder Engbaek, led the procession east down Centre Street and along the Gimli seawall to the spot where Evan loved to sit and watch the lake.

Known around town for his love of motocross, daredevil stunts and a wee bit of mischief-making, Evan would have turned 19 last Friday, and the memorial included a celebration of his birthday.

"He had a lot of friends. He was loved by a lot of people," said Leah when the procession reached the end of the harbour wall. "All of us who knew Evan know he's looking down, and he's having a dance and has something to say. It's a horrible thing that happened to Evan and it affects us every day. We're just trying to move forward, and this is one way of us honouring Evan and being allowed to have another day about him."

Lenni Finnbogason, who attended Gimli High School with Evan, said her friend went out of his way to make people happy.



Leah Engbaek holds a single red rose for her son Evan, who would have turned 19 last Friday.

"I feel the memorial is important because Evan was such a good guy and he always cared about everybody else, and it's important for us to show that we cared about him no matter what. It's good for us to be here for him," said Finnbogason, who met Evan in Grade 7.

"I also worked with him for a few months. Every Saturday I was working with him and that made my work shift better," she added. "He was a happy-go-lucky type of guy. He was always in a good mood and always cared about making other people happy."

A few days before the memorial, Leah told the *Express* her son had participated in a rehabilitation program to overcome addiction issues and that some of those issues had started while he was in the city attending the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology. "He was a country kid in the city and he just got in over his head."



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT
Piper Alex Peden plays Scotland the Brave as Evan's mom, grandmother and dad lead family and friends along the Gimli seawall.

"Evan was the type of kid you could call at any time and he'd be there for you. Was he a saint? No. He was a teenager figuring out life," said Leah. "Everybody makes mistakes and that's how you learn."

Evan had just returned home to make a fresh start when he encountered the 16-year-old male on Second Avenue and was stabbed to death. RCMP charged the teen with second-degree murder but have released no details of the motive.

"I had just left him — and that's what kills me every day — I just left him at the cottage to cut the grass. And I see him in my dreams cutting the grass, putting the lawnmower away, and me going with his sister to feed the horses," said Leah. "We were gone less than an hour. We were shutting the gate and she got the call, 'What was Evan wearing?' And people were posting him being resuscitated on Snapchat, on Facebook. People were naming Evan ... before I even knew it was him."

One of the members of the Manitoba Organization for Victim Assistance (MOVA) attended the memorial walk to support the Engbaeks. MOVA provides services to those who've lost a loved one to homicide, increases public awareness about victims' rights and lobbies governments for support programs.

"Losing a loved one through murder is a devastating experience that is difficult for the average person to understand," says MOVA's website. "When a loved one is murdered, the grief is complicated and emotions such as anger and profound sadness are more intense and longer lasting than in other kinds of loss. If an arrest(s) is made, the family's grief is prolonged and worsened due to bail hearings, legal wrangling, trials, appeals, parole hearings and other proceedings."

According to sources close to the Engbaek family, the teenager charged with Evan's murder is currently in the Agassiz Youth Correctional Centre, a provincial facility for young male offenders in Portage la Prairie, and prior to stabbing Evan, he had been charged with assault but hadn't been detained.

A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for September and the family is hoping the teen will be tried as an adult, said the sources. And he invoked a right not to appear at earlier court hearings so that he didn't have to face the Engbaeks, who have been attending each hearing.

Gimli High School paid its respects to the Engbaek family a day before Evan's memorial walk.

"Evan was a friendly young man who had positive relationships with students and staff at Gimli High School," said a school spokesperson. "He had a warm heart and a kind soul. Students and staff are working on the design of a memorial plaque for Evan to be created at the school, but it is still in development."

Gimli Mayor Randy Woroniuk also expressed his condolences before the memorial walk.

"I want to extend my condolences to the Engbaek family," he said. "It was a tragic incident."

Before the piper played Flower of Scotland to see the procession back along the seawall to town, friends and family placed white roses and candles in the snow while crying and comforting one another.

Several of Evan's friends, including Keenan Kowalski who used to play hockey with Evan, hugged Leah.

"Happy Birthday, son. Miss you and I love you," whispered Leah through tears as she laid a single red rose on the snow.


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Lundar School students work to send balloon to space



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JEREMY CAMPBELL

Lundar students are working on a High Altitude Balloon (HAB) project that they hope will reach 30 kilometres above sea level. Pictured left to right, back row: Emily Sigfusson, Ethan Spalding, Connor Bindle, Adrien Lawrence and Drake Gleich; front row: Deryk Lynch, Melissa Johnson, Larissa Rempel and Jeremy Campbell. Missing from the photo are Caitlyn Marshall, Dawson Torgerson and Austin Hanslip.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The students are hoping their balloon will rise 30 kilometres or 100,000 feet to get a similar photo.

By Jeff Ward

Lundar School Grade 10 and 11 students are working on a High Altitude Balloon (HAB) project that they hope will reach as high as 30 kilometres above sea level later this spring.

The project tasks students with carefully constructing a small payload that will attach to a large balloon filled with helium that will travel into the upper stratosphere 30 kilometres above Earth. A dozen other schools across Manitoba will also be taking

part in the Manitoba Association of Physics Teachers HAB launch at the end of April or beginning of May. The flight depends on a good weather window.

The 10 students in the group act as mission control as they work together to carefully weigh each piece of their payload and triple check everything to make sure it will fly the way it's supposed to. The students work on their

Continued on page 7



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Nova House executive director, advocate to retire after 18 years

By Lindsey Enns

A strong voice and advocate for victims of domestic violence and women's rights in Manitoba is retiring after 18 years.

Nova House executive director Anna Pazdzierski says her last day at the Selkirk women's shelter will be on March 30.

Although the 67-year-old Teulon resident admits leaving the organization and her coworkers, who have become like family members over the years, will be difficult, she's showing no signs of slowing down.

"I'm going to be doing some work with the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters ... and attending lots of meetings as usual and trying really hard to push the idea of the changing face of domestic violence and how we need to be moving forward, making change," Pazdzierski said, adding the public needs to know that domestic violence is out there. "We cannot continue to ignore the fact that violence is happening.

"We know domestic violence is a crime so we need to treat it like a crime."

She admits she hasn't had an easy job but being able to help make a difference in someone's life is a feeling she'll never forget.

"If I can do that in my job ... have that direct impact, that's why I stayed," she said. "That's what's amazing is seeing the change, seeing the growth with just a little bit of support.

"So many of the clients we see don't have family support, often they don't have family they can count on. That's why we're all a family."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LINDSEY ENNS

Nova House executive director Anna Pazdzierski, pictured here inside the Selkirk women's shelter, has announced she will be retiring at the end of March.

Pazdzierski says the community's support over the years has been incredible.

"Without the community I don't know what we would do," she said. "People everywhere donate to us and we're able to hand that off to people who need it."

Nova House counsellor Joanne Mayo, who has worked alongside Pazdzierski for nearly 18 years, said she was the driving force behind the building of a new women's shelter in Selkirk.

"Within her first few months of being director of Nova House, she had that vision for a new building for us.

She wanted to see us have the adequate space to have counselling and do group sessions," Mayo said. "Now we're in this big, beautiful building."

The \$2.9-million building, which opened in May of last year, replaced an older facility in Selkirk that they outgrew years ago.

Pazdzierski says she still remembers the reaction she received while giving government officials a tour of their former facility.

"When you have men standing there crying and the tears are running down their face because of what they see, that's what got us our new facility," she said. "That and a lot of donations.

"Opening our facility to the public made a difference."

Mayo said Pazdzierski's advocacy efforts and positive outlook have inspired their entire staff.

"If you want anybody to be your advocate, it would be her," she said. "She has a heart for the clients. She's very client-oriented."

Over the years, Pazdzierski has also helped make Nova House feel like a home and not just an organization, Nova House outreach counsellor Tracy Curle said.

"She has an incredible capacity to see potential," Curle said. "Her vision is we're here to help them for however long they need."

When asked about her biggest accomplishments over the years, Pazdzierski said their new shelter as well as their outreach and second housing programs are high on her list.

"And the fact that we speak openly about violence and that people in our community know where we are," she said. "We were able to make change."

Nova House has already hired Viktoria Westgate, a registered social work practitioner and certified life coach that has been working in the non-profit sector for more than 15 years, as their new executive director. She also has significant experience in addictions, complex trauma, advocacy, leadership and program development.

Westgate said she's looking forward to taking on her new role.

"I'm very, very blessed to be here," the Winnipeg resident said. "I plan to keep it going the way it's been going."

Eriksdale Game and Fish to host fishing derby next weekend

By Jeff Ward

Eriksdale Game and Fish will welcome dozens of recreational fishers to Long Point Beach for a family-friendly event in an effort to foster a love of fishing and a love of the outdoors in

youth next weekend.

The derby is a low-cost event that features a 100 per cent payout. Kids 12 and under are free and anyone over 13 pays \$5 to be a part of the event.

Winners are determined by whoever

catches the heaviest fish with payouts at 60 per cent for first place and 30 and 10 per cent for second and third respectively.

Organizer Jodie Thorgilsson said the main purpose is to get people outdoors and having fun. There will be door prizes, which typically are awarded to kids to make sure they have a good time.

Registration begins at noon on Saturday at Long Point Beach and fishing takes place from 1 to 3 p.m.

"We want to promote youth outdoor activities and we get a very good turnout for this event every year," said Thorgilsson.

"Some families bring out a barbecue and make a day of it."

Thorgilsson said ice fishing is very accessible because you don't need a boat or anything other than a fishing rod and an auger. The event is catch and release, and participants are free to go anywhere on the lake to fish for their white whale.

Thorgilsson said memberships can also be purchased to Eriksdale Game and Fish for \$30 for the year. Membership privileges are private events and contests throughout the year.

For more information on the derby, you can contact Jodie Thorgilsson at 204-739-3356.

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Richardson Pioneer donates \$15,000 for Arborg Curling Rink upgrades

By Patricia Barrett

The interior of Arborg's curling rink is about to get some tender loving care thanks to a generous \$15,000 grant from agribusiness giant Richardson Pioneer, which helps support dozens of community initiatives with funding via the Richardson Foundation trust.

Richardson Pioneer representatives Reg Lemoine and Mike Gemmill delivered the hefty cheque to curling club president Rob Dudar and Arborg-Bifrost Parks and Recreation Commission vice-chair Joanne Johnson during a celebration March 13.

The Arborg-Bifrost Parks and Recreation Commission, which oversees facilities such as the rink, arena, outdoor pool and the community hall, applied for the funding last fall and heard from the company a few weeks ago.

"It's nice that a company like Richardson Pioneer is helping out the town of Arborg," said Rec Commission director Tom Chwaliboga. "It's not every day you're going to have that kind of help and it's greatly appreciated. And they also had provided funding for the [Arborg Collegiate] track."

Chwaliboga said the money will go towards interior renovations of the curling rink.

"We're looking at the cosmetics,"

he said. "There's been numerous upgrades to the curling rink over the past 20 years or so. But it's been a while since the interior portion has been done. It needs a little extra bit of TLC."

Doug McArthur, Richardson Pioneer's director of operations at the South Lakes and Business Centre near Stonewall, said the company is part of the Richardson Foundation, the charitable organization from which the grant money was bestowed, and the company itself feels it's important to support communities.

"We really like to support things like curling and hockey, things that youth are involved in," said McArthur. "The Richardson Foundation is set up in order to fund projects that are in communities where our customers live and work."

Richardson Pioneer has a network of Ag Business Centre across western Canada and supplies farmers with leading seed products, specialty blended fertilizer, crop input products and sound agronomic advice, according to its website.

The Richardson Foundation oversees the philanthropic giving of James Richardson & Sons and its affiliated companies across Canada, according to a foundation brochure. The foundation serves as the medium through which its companies make their charitable donations. The trust supports community initiatives and capital projects in a range of areas, includ-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BRANDEN MEIER

Pictured left to right: Reg Lemoine (Richardson Pioneer, grain merchant), Rob Dudar (president of Arborg Curling Club), Joanne Johnson (vice-chairperson for Arborg Bifrost Recreation Commission), and Mike Gemmill (Richardson Pioneer, area marketing representative).

ing visual and performing arts, youth initiatives, education and the environment in order to enhance the quality of life in communities.

Government introduces amendments to Child and Family Services Act

Submitted

The Manitoba government has introduced initial amendments to The Child and Family Services (CFS) Act that would allow Indigenous communities to create care plans for children that recognize and reflect their unique customs, Families Minister Scott Fielding announced Monday.

"Supporting customary care is a key aspect of Manitoba's overall plan to transform child welfare," said Fielding. "These ground-breaking amendments are a first step to allow for more community decision-making and greater support for families and children. This allows a shift to greater extended family and community involvement in the care of and upbringing of the children from that community in a way that preserves cultural identity and respects their heritage."

The customary care concept was first introduced as a bill in late 2015 but failed to pass into law. Over the past year, government met with Indigenous leadership, community

members and child and family services authorities and agencies to strengthen Manitoba's model for customary care, which is designed as another option to existing CFS prevention and protection supports and services.

Changes include a new title that incorporates Taking Care of our Children (a translation of a traditional Indigenous concept suggested as a title by Elder William Osborne of Pimicikamak), stronger recognition of the needs of Indigenous children to maintain their cultural identity and community ties, the expectation that all court-related decisions take the new principle into consideration and clear identification of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) as the

Indigenous community for children whose parents are members or who request their participation in customary care.

Continued on page 17

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RED RIVER > CHALET BEACH > LAKE WINNIPEG

> ARNIE WEIDL Local fishers looking forward to May 23

Hello good friends.

How quickly the almost daily ice fishing life on the Red River has begun to fade from memory. That fun is gone for another season and a feeling of loss overtakes you as you drive by that magical river.

Soon we will leave the ice on our lakes too. But we'll be back, yes, on May 13 with our boats and summer fishing gear ready. We'll be back.

While we wait to return to the refreshing, warm, sparkling summer waters, allow me to thank all our sisters and brothers for giving us enough stories to see us through to summer fishing.

For this week, though, let me take you to the Red at the CIL jump-off area where I met Randy Wengel from Winnipeg, who was ice fishing with his son-in-law Jason Juell of Beausjour.

The sun was high and blinding, reflecting off the pure white snow as I approached them sitting in chairs jigging lines in ice holes. Randy was a wirey average-sized fellow. His face seemed stately with defined features behind a grey beard. He had a way of speaking in an even, flowing, quiet voice and readily began a fishing story when I asked.

Jason, who looked remarkably like a young, dark bearded version of his father-in-law, laughed knowing which story Randy was about to tell.

There was a time last summer, it happened, when he and Jason were boat fishing on a small lake close to Caddy Lake and Jay got a strike. He was using 30-pound test spider wire line, and whatever took his hook began to literally pull their boat through the water, first one way and then the other. Jason reeled in when he could, and after a fair bit of time, with his arms aching, using one hand on the rod handle and the



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL
Joe Appelon of Winnipeg with a nice pickerel caught off the southwest side of Lake Winnipeg.

crook of his other arm halfway up the rod, he pulled up as hard as he could. The spider wire twanged like a guitar string under the tension, then snapped.

The boat slowed as Jay slumped over resting. Regaining strength, his head still lowered, he looked out over the water through squinting eyes and realized the broken spider wire was floating, which meant the fish had stopped swimming. He put his rod aside, grabbed an oar and paddled up to the wire. He picked it up and putting on a thick leather glove he had in the boat, wrapped the wire around his hand and hauled in hard. The catch replied with a snap that took Jay's upper body half over the side of the boat.

Again, the wire broke. Jay struggled back into the boat. Silence fell upon the men as Randy observed, "Sonny, I'm glad we won't have to lay eyes on that fish."

Off the southwest shoreline of Lake Winnipeg last week, I met Joe Appelon of Winnipeg tailgate fishing. He was

a fine elder gentleman who was nice enough to hold up a jack he had caught so I could take a picture for us. He also told of something interesting.

He was boat fishing on the Winnipeg River by Pinawa and saw a big truck pull up by the shore. Using a boat, a crew came along and caught giant sturgeon, loading them into a huge tub on the back of the truck. Later, he heard they released the fish on the high side of the Seven Sister Falls Dam. That sounds about right because information on the internet shows Manitoba Hydro is trying to assist sturgeon migration as much as possible on the Winnipeg River.

Barry Tomyk of Stonewall is a great family man and ice angler. All you have to do is look at his white shack, which is full of red painted hearts with his kids' names and notes of love all over it, to realize what kind of a man he is. When I called and congratulated him on winning the *Selkirk Record's* Week 3 coolest ice shack contest, he gave us this funny little story.

Seems he had the "love" shack spotted on Lake Winnipeg but had to leave his young granddaughters, Naudia and Jasmine, in charge of the rods to help a buddy move his shack close by. Returning to the girls, another angling friend was pulling away in his truck. Barry's girls ran up saying he had helped unhook a jack they had just caught. Barry waved in thanks at the departing guy but suddenly yelled at him to stop. Apparently after he had unhooked the jack, the hook snagged on his jacket and was leaving a trail of fish line from him and his closed truck door to the girls' rod, still in its holder by the ice hole.

See you next week. Bye for now.

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Manitoba rolls out stricter penalties for distracted, careless driving

Staff

Using a cellphone or any other hand-held device while driving could lead to a licence suspension under new legislation in Manitoba.

The Progressive Conservative government introduced proposed changes to provincial laws that would provide stricter penalties to confront the dangerous and deadly issue of distracted driving on Monday.

"Many drivers fail to understand the danger associated with distracted driving," Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler stated in a release on Monday. "In Manitoba, using a hand-operated electronic device, such as a cellphone, while driving is illegal. Despite this, there has been an unprecedented four-fold increase in the number of accidents involving distracted drivers between 2011 and 2016, with no decline in serious injuries or fatal collisions caused by distracted driving in Manitoba."

The Highway Traffic Act would be amended to create a tiered administrative licence suspension of three days for a first offence and seven days

for a second and subsequent offence for prohibited use of a hand-operated electronic device while driving. However, it won't be a roadside suspension as it is for impaired driving. Instead, drivers will be given 24 hours to get home, or even 48 hours for infractions in rural areas.

The Drivers and Vehicles Act would also change to make careless driving a reportable offence, requiring a peace officer who lays a careless driving charge to notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. The registrar would review the driver's record to determine if driver improvement and control measures are necessary.

"These stricter penalties for distracted driving are similar to those of impaired driving because the consequences are just as serious," Schuler said. "With a roadside licence suspension, we will address the immediate road safety risk and ensure the greatest deterrent impact on driver behaviour."

In 2016, distracted driving was the leading contributing factor in serious collisions at 29 per cent, and the third factor for fatalities at 27 per cent. Ac-



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO NEWSPAPER SERVICE

Manitobans will see their licence suspended for three days if caught using their cellphone or any other hand-held electronic device under new legislation.

cording to MPI, distracted driving accidents in the province went from 2,415 in 2011 to 11,086 in 2016.

In Manitoba, using a hand-operated electronic device such as a cellphone while driving is prohibited, and convicted drivers face a \$204 fine and a drop of five levels on the Driver Safety Rating scale.

Police may charge drivers with using a hand-operated electronic device while driving or careless driving under The Highway Traffic Act. Police use careless driving to address a variety of distractions such as personal grooming and handling pets where the distraction negatively affects driving behaviour.

> BALLOON TO SPACE, FROM PG. 3

optional project during lunch hour, which is overseen by teachers Jeremy Campbell and Larissa Rempel.

"I took a [personal development] day last year and travelled to a launch where a teacher friend of mine was launching his class's balloon," said Campbell. "I thought it would be a great project to do with the students here and, honestly, it's a very cool thing to say that you sent a balloon into space. Even I'm excited to be able to say that I'm a part of it."

The payload itself is everything the balloon carries up into the atmosphere, such as the radio that communicates the balloon's location with mission control, the three cameras that will record video of the ascent and de-

"WE'RE HIGH ENOUGH THAT YOU CAN SEE THE BLACK OF SPACE AND THE CURVATURE OF THE EARTH."

load to ensure it gets off the ground.

The balloon will continue to rise and expand as the helium gas inside stretches it to its breaking point. Somewhere between 27 and 35 kilometres, the balloon will pop and a parachute will safely guide the payload back to Earth so students can retrieve it and watch the video of their mission.

"We're high enough that you can see the black of space and the curvature of the Earth. It'll be a very cool moment," said Campbell.

For reference, the height of the peak of Mount Everest is 8,848 metres above sea level. The students' balloon will triple that height and fly higher than any plane.

And while this HAB is a package that any person can buy and put together, it requires extraordinary attention to detail and a keen understanding of things like telemetry, ascent rate,

wind speed, weather conditions and more. This is effectively rocket science, without the rocket.

"It really is a situation where one mistake means the balloon fails. Too much weight and we might lose it forever and the students are very aware of that. We all want to see it make its trip they way it's supposed to," said Campbell.

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Manitoba

Ashern skaters perform at ice show; king and queen crowned

Staff

Last weekend's Ashern Winter Carnival provided two big events in the form of the skating club's Ice Show and a live dinner theatre. The HUNKS Sketch Comedy Group raised \$7,500 at their Saturday event with proceeds being split between the Ashern Arena fund and Ashern Minor Hockey.



The carnival king and queen contestants, left to right: Cody Meisner, Kirt Garrioch, Cole Meisner, Tristan (Bob) Woodhouse, Carnival King Derrick (Blaze) Gould, Carnival Queen Emily Thorlacius, Mackenzie Gibson, Lincoln Larson.



Star 1 skater Julia Plohman performs an improv routine.



Star 2 skater Zoë Oversby gears up for a spin during her solo.



Star 3 skater Shanley Sigfusson does a catch-foot spiral during her solo performance.

The Ashern Skating Club's theme was the Funny Farm and had talented skaters dressed up in farm attire. The carnival king and queen were crowned during the show and Derrick (Blaze) Gould and Emily Thorlacius were crowned for their fundraising efforts. All of the contestants raised a combined \$7,000 for the Ashern Arena.



Ashern Skating Club members for the finale.



EXPRESS PHOTOS TAKEN BY ALEX VASYLIES
Starskaters pose for a group photo.

Lakeshore to raise taxes by two per cent and cut staff

By Jeff Ward

The Lakeshore School Division will cut five staff positions, raise taxes, spend surplus dollars and carry a deficit into next year to tackle their \$536,765 budget shortfall.

The board's 2018-2019 budget was passed last week and includes all of the details of how they plan to address a half-million-dollar shortfall.

Secretary treasurer Marlene Michno said the board had to make some tough choices, but they will not affect the classroom experience or quality of education the division provides.

These decisions mean Lakeshore schools will have fewer staff next year. The division will reduce positions by five, with two of those being positions that are currently vacant. The remaining three being will be through attrition.

The board will also use \$100,000 of its surplus, raise the special requirement by two per cent for the fiscal year from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, and will carry forward a deficit of \$108,165. Michno reiterated past comments from board president Jim Cooper, who said that Lakeshore is reducing staffing positions but in areas that will not affect programming for students.

"They didn't want to, and really felt they couldn't, make changes that affect programming," said Michno. "If we had used all our surplus, it wouldn't have been fiscally responsible, and we can't raise taxes too high. It makes sense to balance this out over different approaches."

Michno said that teachers' salaries account for

85 per cent of their budget and it's difficult to make reductions in other areas that are already quite lean. This year, the province increased their overall education funding by \$6.6 million, which is a half a per cent of the whole, but Lakeshore will see none of that money. Michno said that given their rising costs and no new funding coming in, it acts like a defacto cut.

If provincial funding keeps moving in this direction, Michno said that Lakeshore will have more difficult decisions.

"We do look ahead over the next couple of years of expenditures. We have a collective agreement with support staff, so I can look forward to that. I believe we run a pretty lean ship. We don't have too many areas that we can reduce," said Michno.

She added that she wished she knew the provincial education budget for next year so the board and the division could have more time to plan and react to those changes.

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Commercial fishers seek gas tax parity with agricultural producers

By Patricia Barrett

A Lake Winnipeg fisher and industry analyst says a gas tax exemption for commercial fishers transporting their catch by truck to processors such as the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is long overdue, and he's asked Sustainable Development to give fishers parity with other food producers in light of an impending gas tax hike.

Bill Buckels said there was nothing in the provincial government's recently released budget to help fishers with gas prices, and he bristled at city media reports — covering Sustainable Development's new climate plan — that implied fishers get the same tax break as other industries such as agriculture.

Under the provincial Fuel Tax Act, fishers currently receive a tax exemption for "marked" fuel (gas that's usually dyed purple), but they're restricted to using it only on the lake, not on the highway.

"We're allowed a limited exemption for the gas we burn on the lake," said Buckels, who has been fishing for 14 years and helps manage a large family-run fishery. "This isn't an ocean fishery or a Great Lakes fishery where we have fish processors right at dockside — we have to travel [on the highway] with our fish without an exemption. And we're spread out all over Manitoba."

Purple gas exemptions for fishers under the act pertain to the operation of a tractor, snowmobile or similar tracked vehicle that's used to transport fish over the surface of a frozen lake or stream, and to the operation of a boat for catching and transporting fish on open water during authorized commercial fishing seasons.

Under the same act, farmers are entitled to a tax break on purple gas for operating agricultural machinery, farm trucks, heating or cooling farm buildings, and drying crops with a

grain dryer.

"I'm restricted to running it only in my outboard motor, snowmobile and my bombardiers," said Buckels. "But farmers can run grain trucks down the highway or they can take cows to agricultural fairs running purple gas."

With the release of the provincial budget, and the introduction of the Climate and Green Plan Implementation Act (Bill 16) — which will amend the current Fuel Tax Act to include a carbon tax and increase pump prices by 5.32 cents per litre — fishers will feel the squeeze.

Buckels, who lives in Gimli but fishes near Hecla Island, said he currently spends about \$10,000 a year on gas to drive his fish to Gimli, where he dresses them (removes heads and entrails) and then drives to FFMC's shed in Selkirk to deliver his catch.

In a letter dated March 13 to Sustainable Development Minister Rochelle Squires, Buckels asked for a full tax exemption and suggested it be made "retroactive, since this inequity has existed for many years, preventing Manitoba's commercial fishers from similar opportunity as Manitoba's other primary food producers and thereby penalizing our industry."

A full exemption has the potential to provide about \$1 million more into the local economy over a five-year period, Buckels argued, as well as benefit the economies of other commercial fishing communities.

He re-wrote a section of the act for the minister's consideration, adding several clauses (mirroring those for farmers) that would extend their privileges.

They include operating a vehicle for the transportation of fish or fish products; operating a vehicle for the transportation of commodities or other property for use in a commercial fishing business; operating a vehicle for the transportation of fish or fish products of another commercial



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Lake Winnipeg fisher Bill Buckels (left), with Bruce Benson, thinks fishers ought to receive the same gas tax exemption that farmers do.

fisherman; and heating or cooling or generating electrical power for a fishing building or fishing machinery or equipment.

A lack of infrastructure for purple gas, such as Cardlock fuel stops, are another barrier facing fishers, forcing them to travel long distances to obtain it, said Buckels. There are no Cardlocks in communities such as Riverton, Gimli and Winnipeg Beach, which lie along the western shore of Lake Winnipeg.

"You have to bulk purchase it and not everybody wants to stick a big gas tank at the corner of their house and pollute the ground there. So the problem is not only the excise tax rebate but also the fact that it's not conveniently available," he said. "You see fishers lined up at the Gimli Co-op and Chudd's gassing their jerry cans for their outboards, paying full price for the gas. I can't quote my fisherman's number and they'll take off the excise tax. There has to be a simplified method of buying gas at a local gas station and declaring your purchase."

Buckels, who wrote a white paper titled "The Price of Gasoline versus The Price of Fish, 1996 to 2013," detailing the negative impact of gas prices on fishers' income, has been advocating for a tax break for several years and got nowhere. In 2014, he wrote to the then department of Conservation and Water Stewardship and was told that any tax changes would have to be considered in a provincial budget.

Sustainable Development did not respond to a request for comment on whether it will consider giving fishers a full gas tax exemption.

"There's nothing in this budget that gives us parity with the agricultural sector," said Buckels. "They simply don't care about us because our lobby is not big enough and it's not as well organized as the farmers'. We're more distributed demographically and, in general, we're in a poorer economic class, more vulnerable and less capable of organizing and lobbying for parity. And we're too busy trying to eke out a living. We don't have great wealth and political connections."

Manitoba Beef Producers to offer six bursaries in 2018

Submitted

Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) will again award six \$500 bursaries to deserving Manitoba students in 2018.

The bursaries are available to MBP members, or their children, who are attending a university, college or other post-secondary institution. Students pursuing trades training are also eligible. Preference will be given to students who are pursuing a field of study related to agriculture or those acquiring a skilled trade that would benefit the rural economy.

"Awarding these bursaries to our

members and the children of our members is always a highlight of the year," said Manitoba Beef Producers President Ben E. Fox. "Each year, these bursaries go to deserving recipients, many of whom have returned to their communities following graduation and made substantial contributions to rural Manitoba."

Those applying must be at least 17 years old as of Jan. 1, 2018, and be an active beef producer or the child of one. Applicants must use the bursary within two years of receiving it and the program they are attending must

be at least one year in duration.

Interested students are required to submit an essay no more than 600 words in length discussing what the beef industry means to them, their family, community and Manitoba at large. Students are also asked to include the reasons they enjoy being involved in agriculture.

Applicants must also submit either a high school or post-secondary transcript, proof of enrolment in a recognized institution, a list of their community involvement and three references.

The application can be found at www.mbbeef.ca/producers/mbp-bursary/. The winners are selected by a group of MBP directors. The names of applicants are redacted from the essays to ensure fairness in the selection process.

Completed applications must be submitted to MBP by June 1, 2018. All entries will be reviewed by the selection committee and the winners will be notified by July 31, 2018. The winning essays will also be reprinted in the September issue of *Cattle Country*.

Climate and Green Plan Implementation falls short of environmental protection

By Patricia Barrett

Sustainable Development's Climate and Green Plan Implementation Act (Bill 16), which received first reading March 15, has critics saying it will do little to protect Manitoba's waterways and reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

Bill 16 requires the government to "develop a plan with a comprehensive set of policies, programs and measures designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address the effects of climate change, promote sustainable development and protect Manitoba's water resources and natural areas."

A carbon tax will see the price of gas, diesel and other fuels rise, and the average driver will be paying about \$1.25 per litre at the gas pumps in September. The agricultural, mining and forestry industries are exempt from the tax. The Tories intend to use some of the revenue to reduce the PST in 2020, increase the basic personal income tax amount and create a \$102-million conservation trust.

The bill intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over a five-year period, and industries emitting more than 50,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases will have to pay a \$25-per-tonne levy on excess emissions. Those emitting fewer than 50,000 tonnes are exempt.

The bill won't be addressing measures to protect Lake Winnipeg from the millions of litres of raw sewage the City of Winnipeg annually dumps into the Red River, which flows north to the lake. The province gave the city 27 years to fix its sewers.

"Ultimately, the city is in control of their schedule for maintenance and moving away from the combined sewer overflows into a system where the raw sewage is going to the water pollution control centres," said Sustainable Development Minister Rochelle Squires during a conference call March 15 with media.

Calling it the "largest investment" in the province's conservation history, Squires said the \$102 million conservation trust will be invested by the Winnipeg Foundation with funds distributed by the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

The trust will be "giving back in perpetuity, so not just our children and grandchildren, but their children will be accessing funds from this trust," said Squires. "I believe there is no climate mitigation strategy in Manitoba that could be considered effective if it didn't include management of water resources."

Squires said her government will be working with the "Corporation and farmers to sort out the best invest-



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

During the Canada Summer Games Sailing competition on Lake Winnipeg in August 2017, an algae bloom carpeted Gimli Harbour.

ments" but did not provide details of what supports farmers might receive to help them reduce the amount of harmful nutrients flowing off their fields into waterways.

As to an earlier promise not to use the carbon tax to fund a PST cut, Squires said it will reduce the deficit, reduce the tax burden and reduce emissions all at the same time.

NDP environment critic Rob Altemeyer called Bill 16 the "most deceptive piece of legislation" he's ever seen as it sets a low carbon-reduction target, measures only reductions and lets the biggest greenhouse gas producers off the hook.

"Two of the largest emitters in Manitoba are landfills because of all the methane gas that escapes from them. Brady landfill is one and other is Summit, which is an old landfill that's not used anymore, but it's on the Top 10 list," he said. "I don't know how you can take a green plan seriously when it completely misses any direction on reducing the garbage we all send to landfills. And reducing solid waste is not even mentioned."

Although Bill 16 comes with a "framework" document available on the department's website, Altemeyer said the "glossy" is a public relations piece that lists a bunch of good ideas the government should do but which aren't reflected in the actual Bill. "They've committed to doing pretty much none of them."

"The worst thing about all of this is they're going to make up whatever emissions goal they want and there's no requirement for that goal to relate to federal emissions targets. And it certainly won't have any connection to climate science."

In addition to that, Altemeyer said

the Tories will be measuring emissions using a "bogus" measurement tool called the cumulative emissions approach.

"No one else in the country measures emissions that way. Everybody uses annual emissions. That's what the entire world uses and what the Paris agreements are negotiated on — annual emissions."

Manitoba's emissions could actually rise each year — even double or triple — and the Tories' target would still meet the requirements of the bill when it becomes legislation, he said.

"That's because they're only counting the reductions; they're not counting anything else in the economy that might actually increase our emissions. So never mind new heavy industry, never mind expansion of the agriculture sector or just simple population growth. Increasing herd size (pigs, cattle) is not necessarily a bad thing, but you can't do that in isolation," he said. "They'll only be counting one side of the ledger ... yet Pallister will still try to claim we reduced emissions."

Despite the nod to sustainability and protection of waterways, Squires' Bill axes advisory bodies such as the Manitoba Roundtable for Sustainable Development and the Manitoba Water Council.

"They're claiming they're going to listen to the advice from an expert council they'll set up," said Altemeyer. "They had a legislated requirement to meet with [the Roundtable] and they didn't do it. So why on earth would they give the time of day to this new entity? They've also wiped out the Water Council, which provided spe-

Continued on page 16



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Five good reasons to visit your mechanic this spring



Between salt, potholes, snowstorms and ice, winter isn't the best for our poor cars. If you haven't already made an appointment for an inspection this spring, here are a few reasons why it might be a good idea to do so:

1. To enhance comfort

Difficult road conditions in winter can affect your car in different ways. For example, your alignment might be off, causing your drive to be less than pleasant.

2. To improve safety

Winder driving conditions are conducive to rust formation, especially on and around your brakes. Take advantage of your tire change and have a detailed inspection done to ensure your vehicle is safe to drive.

3. To make your vehicle last

In addition to skewing your wheel alignment — something that can prematurely ruin your tires — driving on winter roads can damage parts of your engine and reduce the effectiveness of the additives in your motor oil. It's no secret that regularly scheduled maintenance is the best way to maximize your vehicle's lifespan.

4. To save money

A springtime inspection will help prevent your car from breaking down and can correct minor problems before they become serious. This will help you save money in the long run!

5. To protect the environment

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vironment or your wallet!

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Much more Munsch in March at Gimli Public Library

Storytime boosting literacy

By Patricia Barrett

A volunteer reader at the Gimli Public Library is on a mission to boost literacy and highlight the importance of reading books.

Caroline Woytowich has been volunteering as a reader since 2015, helping instill a love of reading at an early age.

"This free, volunteer-run monthly program is a wonderful outlet at which pre-readers and young readers — along with their caregivers — enjoy a time of animated reading in our lovely, welcoming library," said Woytowich a few days before the session. "The goal is to foster reading and the continued patronage of the public library. Even in a digital age, nothing replaces the bond that can be formed over books and reading."

Last Thursday, Woytowich read Robert Munsch books to about 10 youngsters and their caregivers in the library's cozy, sunlit nook overlooking Lake Winnipeg.

Over the course of this month, Woytowich is focusing on Munsch with an aptly titled tongue twister, "Much more Munsch in March," which the several of the kids were able to rattle off without a hitch.



Caroline Woytowich leads story time at the Gimli Public Library.

To get the youngsters engaged in reading, Woytowich told them pertinent facts about the author's life, explained some tough concepts such as what publishers and illustrators are, read some of Munsch's enduring stories and asked them questions.

"He never writes down his stories first," Woytowich told the youngsters. "He always tells them out loud first."



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Woytowich tells the kids who Robert Munsch is and what books he wrote before reading to them.

That's the way he starts to write his books."

Children of any age can attend the free readings. Thursday's group had toddlers to six-year-olds.

"I've been taking my daughter since she was one," said a parent snuggled with her child on a big comfy sofa. "The kids love it."

Head librarian Sandra Reykdal said

storytime does more than connect kids with books.

"It's a great opportunity to get them in the library to connect with books, as well as with each other and make friends," she said.

Storytime is held on every third Thursday of the month from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Gimli Public Library, located at 63 First Ave.

Alf Cuthbert wellness committee holds outdoor activities event

By Jeff Ward

Staff and students at Alf Cuthbert School in Moosehorn spent last Wednesday afternoon outdoors playing games and taking in some exceptional weather for their second wellness afternoon of the school year.

The afternoon was organized by the school's wellness committee which is comprised of teachers Carrie Granberg, Tracy Konzelman and Janeen Price.

The committee was established at the beginning of this school year and the staff have been working towards the goal of creating stronger staff/student relationships and finding activities that boost school morale.

Last week, the activities were helped along by Lakeshore Recreation Commission recreation and wellness coordinator, Charlene Bodnarchuk who brought along some life-sized board games and set up a mini sticks hockey tournament.

Granberg said the event was a lot of fun and goes a long way to giving students and staff a chance to have fun, get some fresh air and exercise.

"I think it's important for staff be

good role models and show students how important it is to take care of yourself," said Granberg.

"We have to lead by example and show them that taking care of yourself is really important. And it's just a good opportunity to have fun with the students."

Staff have also focused on their own wellness by participating in athletic challenges with teachers from Ashern Central School who beat them in a volleyball match and then challenged the Alf Cuthbert staff to a curling match which took place on Monday last week.

"And we blew them out of the water," joked Granberg, hoping to rile up the staff to the south.

Events that are just for staff give them a chance to unwind with other teachers who are experiencing the same challenges and successes as they are. Teachers and other staff are typically focused on students and how they can improve their lives or educational experience. Often, their own wellness takes a hit, so times like these allow them to recharge their batteries.

Granberg and the rest of the com-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JANEEN PRICE

Staff and students play a game during the mini sticks hockey tournament last week for Alf Cuthbert School's second wellness afternoon.

mittee hope to see other committees pop up in schools all over the division. They say the value of improving staff/student relations while also providing a way for them to plan activities for themselves is powerful.

"My advice would be to get togeth-

er with a group and start discussing what your goals would be and how you want to achieve those. It's how we started," Granberg said.

The school will do one more wellness afternoon before the end of the school year.

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Aroma touch massage therapy coming to Gimli Beach this summer

By Patricia Barrett

A new business venture set for Gimli's upcoming summer season will offer a number of alternative therapies on the beach.

Patricia Nedokis from Gimli sought permission from RM of Gimli council during its regular meeting March 14 to establish a beachside business called Tranquility.

"There's the aroma touch massage therapy that I do with different oils," said Nedokis, "and I also do reflexology — ear, hand and foot — reiki and chakra. Those would be the services I would have."

Aroma touch massage therapy uses eight specific essential oils to promote relaxation and stress relief, according to a Tranquility brochure outlining its benefits. Reiki is said to channel energy into a person to restore physical and emotional well-being, and chakra is said to help restore harmony.

CAO Joann Murphy asked Nedokis whether she intends to erect a permanent structure on site, saying beach businesses normally have to enter

into a lease agreement.

"What I want to do is get one of those big canopies that can come down every night and go up every day," said Nedokis. "I just need a massage bed and a chair. So I'll leave nothing on the beach."

In addition to having no permanent structure established, Nedokis will only operate, weather permitting, from Friday to Monday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. She plans to offer the service from June to September. Prices will vary depending on what technique is requested.

Nedokis will also take out liability coverage of \$2 million.

Council unanimously approved the request subject to Nedokis obtaining a business licence and operating under a trial period, which will then be reviewed.

Nedokis was asked to identify an area on the beach or the grass that will work best for her and let council know. For more information about Tranquility and its services, call Patricia Nedokis at 204-485-7913.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Patricia Nedokis will be offering a number of alternative therapies on Gimli Beach this summer.

Arborg's Creative Cocoon and local artist to offer art classes

By Patricia Barrett

Arborg's Creative Cocoon Arts and Wellness Centre will be offering a number of art classes this spring and fall in partnership with a local artist who's worked in several mediums, including acrylic painting on wood, clay sculpture, chalk pastels, cartooning and caricatures, barn mural painting and gourd art.

Multi-talented artist Jerry Maryniuk will be teaching students how to create stunning art pieces when classes start in May.

The Creative Cocoon offers a variety of wellness programs, including yoga and mental health seminars, and creative programs such as singing, guitar, drama, card making and floral arranging. It also hosts concerts.

"The Creative Cocoon lines up with a lot of things I believe in — helping the community and being part of the community," said Maryniuk, who lost his



Acrylic painting on Chalk pastel. wood slab (Elk).



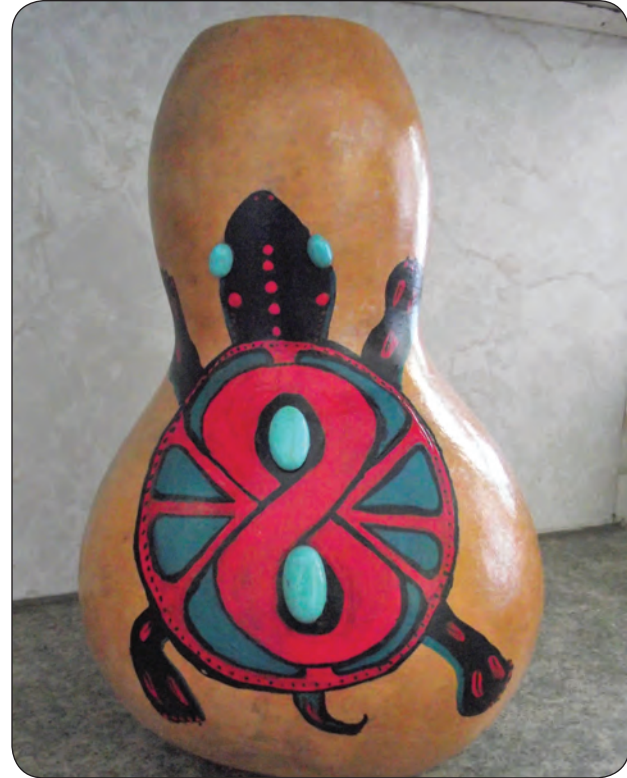
son to brain cancer a number of years ago and received a lot of support from the Interlake community. "Arts are a wonderful way — for me, anyway — to get through depression and turn something negative into something positive."

Maryniuk's first class will teach students how to create Thunder Gourd art.

"Many people are not familiar with what this is," said Maryniuk. "It's basically is a hard-shelled bottle gourd (about the size of a football) that is partially carved and crafted into a piece of art. When given a shake by hand or by the wind, it gives off a beautiful tone of faraway thunder, hence the name Thunder Gourd."

The class takes place May 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. and all materials will be supplied. Students are encouraged to sign up before April 25 as space is limited to 15 people. Cost is \$75 (or \$65 for Cocoon card holders).

In his second class, Maryniuk will teach students how paint on woods panels using acrylic paint. The panels can be used for decorative wall hangings or road signs.



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF JERRY MARYNIUK
Thunder Gourd art depicting a turtle.

The class will be held May 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. and all materials will be supplied. Cost is \$50 (or \$45 for Cocoon card holders).

Maryniuk plans to offer additional classes in cartooning, chalk pastels, clay sculpting and other mediums. The Cocoon is currently in the process of obtaining a kiln. The dates of the additional classes will be announced when the schedule is firmed up.

The art classes will run until June and resume again in September.

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Tuesday, April 10:	6:00pm-9:00pm
Wednesday, April 11:	9:00am-5:00pm & 6:00pm-9:00pm
Thursday, April 12:	9:00am-5:00pm & 6:00pm-9:00pm
Friday, April 13:	9:00am-5:00pm



Please Contact Recreation Office For More Information.

204-376-5576 or tom.abprc@mymts.net

Schedule will be posted on www.townofarb.org on March 26.

Celebrating winter at Lundar Carnival

Staff

Lundar residents packed into the St. Laurent Arena last Saturday to take in the beginning of their carnival festivities with the Lundar Skating Club's Ice Show that was the culmination of a season of hard work and many hours of practice. Skating coach Amy Tycoles provided the introductions for each performance that had an Irish theme this year. Skaters from multiple age groups took to the ice and performed solos, duets and group routines that had audience members clapping their hands.

Tycoles thanked the St. Laurent Arena for hosting their club this season and said she was excited to make new skating memories in the Lundar arena next season. Lundar Skating Club president Colleen Christensen presented a \$5,000 cheque to Lundar Grettir Co-op president Grant Sigfusson before the show to be used for the construction of the new arena.

The Lundar Legion hosted other fun activities both indoor and outdoor. Fantastic weather made the street hockey, snow hill and Olympic relay enjoyable for families who attended.

The crowning of the Carnival Queen ended the day's festivities with contestants Sidney Priemski, Jo-Lene Spray and Kianna Sweetland-Laughlin raising a combined \$11,875 for the Lundar Grettir Co-op. Each contestant was within \$700 of each other, but only one could win and that was Jo-Lene Spray.



Finn Bieri does a head-first slide down the snow hill.



Laila Mason shows off her skating skills at the ice carnival.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JEFF WARD

Alyn Miller performed a duet with her coach Amy Tycoles.



Kade Sweetland-Laughlin fights for possession during a street hockey game.



Kenady Christensen, Slater Farthing, Danielle Loewen and Shyanne Chartrand struggle to stay upright in the Olympic Relay.



Junior star skaters Kyleigh Henrotte and Iris Thorkelson skated to Shape of You.



Ruby Thorgilsson nearly knocks down a Jenga block tower that's taller than her.



Canskaters performed an Irish routine, left to right, Abigail Chen, Alyssa Christensen, Julianna Windross, Karah Lindell, Aubrey Dyck and Ruby Thorgilsson.



The Starskate group skated to the Mist Covered Mountain. Left to right: Brooklyn Wirgau, Mya Beaman, Kayla Mantie, Lexi Anderson, Ally Weatherburn, Loa Thorkelson and Abby Beaman.

Watoto Children's Choir to perform in Arborg

Signs & Wonders will be presented in Arborg on April 3

Submitted

Watoto Children's Choirs have travelled extensively since 1994, sharing a message of hope for Africa's orphans and widows.

In January 2018, the Watoto Children's Choir is thrilled to be returning to Canada with *Signs & Wonders*, a beautiful musical production that celebrates the joy of salvation. The choir will perform in venues across Canada from January to July 2018. This dynamic production boasts a choir comprised of orphans and other vulnerable children. It will present new worship music from Watoto Church in Uganda and invite audiences to experience an encounter with God.

Signs & Wonders will be presented in Arborg on April 3 at Freedom Worship Centre (129023 PR 326) at 7 p.m. The full tour schedule can be viewed online at www.watoto.com/app/choir/calendar.

Luke Atabua, 10, is one of the children who will be travelling with the choir. He was rescued by Baby Watoto in 2009. Like the story of thousands of other children cared for by Watoto, Luke was abandoned on the streets of Kampala. He was brought to Baby Watoto as a malnourished two-year-old. Fortunately, his story did not end there. Today, he is a very well-behaved young boy, with a passion for dance and hopes to accomplish much with his life.

"I am excited to be travelling to Canada in 2018. I cannot wait to share the love of Jesus with the people we sing to and meet. Through Watoto, God changed my life. I have a family, I go to school and I am happy," says 10-year-old Luke.

"Behold, I and the children whom the Lord has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion."
Isaiah 8: 18 NASB

Through the power of their testimonies the children share stories of how their lives have been changed and how they have been called into a life of purpose to transform their communities. Each story declares the miracle of transformation — from darkness to light, from despair to hope, from

loss to purpose, from fear to faith.

"This production challenges preconceived ideas about miracles. It demonstrates that each of our daily lives are signs and wonders of God's work in us. This is evidenced by the miraculous transformation that Jesus works in people who were once lost, but are now found. We see this through the innocence of the child telling of their transformation from their dark past to the light that God has shown upon them," says James Skinner, who pro-

**"I AM EXCITED
TO BE
TRAVELLING
TO CANADA
IN 2018."**



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Watoto Children's Choir to perform in Arborg on April 3.

duced and directed this production.

We thank God for everyone who has been supporting us since the beginning of this amazing journey.

In 1994, Watoto Child Care Ministries was birthed out of Watoto Church. It started with one simple house in Kampala. Here, eight orphans and a widow were given the opportunity to become a new family.

Watoto has grown to become a phenomenal beacon of hope and example of true transformation in Africa. To date, Watoto has provided holistic, residential care for over 4,000 orphaned and vulnerable children (about 3,000 in current care). This includes former child soldiers and those born to rebel leaders during the civil war. Some of these have already gone on to become lawyers, teachers, computer scientists, journalists, farmers, doctors and are impacting society positively as a result.

Watoto Children's Choirs have travelled extensively since 1994, sharing a message of hope for Africa's orphans and widows. To date, the choir has toured six continents and performed to enthralled audiences in schools, retirement homes, churches, parliaments, state houses and royal palaces.

Each child in the Watoto Children's Choir has suffered the loss of one or both parents and now lives in a Watoto village. The experience of travelling on a choir helps the children to develop confidence and boldness, as well as broadening their worldview.

Accompanied by a team of adults, the choir presents Watoto's vision and mission by sharing personal stories, music and dance. While on the road, the children act as advocates for the millions of other African children who have experienced the same heart-breaking pain and suffering as them.

> CLIMATE AND GREEN PLAN, FROM PG. 10

cific expertise and advice to government on water issues."

The bill also fails to address biodiversity, notably an urgent need to increase the size and numbers of protected areas in Manitoba, which sits at 11 per cent, below a United Nations agreement calling for 17 per cent of land mass to be protected by 2020, he said.

"This government has not, to my knowledge, announced a single protected area. We've in fact gone backwards because they removed reserve park status for an island protected in the Interlake [Pemmican Island in Lake Winnipegosis]."

The interest generated from the

\$102 million conservation trust — not the actual amount — will be used for environmental initiatives and will amount to about \$5 million a year (based on a five per cent rate of return) starting in 2019. That's a drop in the bucket as far as Altmeier is concerned.

"This \$102 million the government waved around in its budget speech is not actually going to be available. They were deliberately deceptive about that program," he said. "Does anyone believe we're going to make significant progress on climate emissions with \$5 million a year? It's laughable."

Ashern holding hockey tournament fundraiser this weekend

By Jeff Ward

The 3rd annual Louis Riel Classic Rec Hockey Tournament will take place this weekend in Ashern and will feature five teams vying for the Hawker Steel Championship Trophy.

The tournament kicks off Friday evening as the Ashern Hornets and the Dekes of Hazard get things started at 8:30 p.m. Before the game will be a Calcutta where teams can be bought for a chance to win cash. Saturday evening will feature an NHL-like

Skills Competition and the tournament will also award NHL-like trophies for MVP, top goalie and top defensive player. The event serves as a fundraiser for the Ashern Arena and last year profited \$4,500.

Tyler Geisler, arena president and the organizer of the event, said that there is still time to register a team to play in the tournament and that it costs \$750 per team. Anyone wanting to register a team can call Geisler at 204-314-0087.

Ashern knitting club donates robotic pets to personal care home

By Jeff Ward

Residents at the Ashern Personal Care Home got a surprise gift last week in the form of two robotic pets, a dog and a cat, that immediately brought smiles to their faces.

Ashern based knitting club, Wool N Needles donated the items from Hasbro's line of Joy For All Companion Pets. The animals look and feel like their real-life counterparts and act accordingly.

Wool N Needles member June Price said that she saw a commercial for the pets on TV and thought they would be a great addition to the home. The knitting group sells their wares annually at craft sales and donates all the money they earn to local causes in town. This year the benefactors were the personal care home and a new yoga group that started late last year. Price said they donated \$320 to the yoga group to purchase bean bag weights, and the companion pets cost \$420.

"I can't even explain what it was like to watch their eyes light up when we took out these pets and turned them on — it was magical," said Price.

"It was just so great. Some of the residents even asked me, 'Whose pets are these?' and I told them 'They're yours' and they said 'Oh my goodness!' It was just such a joy to see how

much they appreciate them."

The companion pets are battery operated and react to stimulus just like a normal cat and dog would. They like to be petted and will bark and meow at their owners. The cat will even flip over onto its back to have a belly rub.

Ashern PCH recreation co-ordinator Darlene Hargot said the donation was very appreciated by her and that she is ecstatic.

"That moment that they came out of the box and turned on it was like a whole different world opened up," said Hargot.

"There was so much laughter and so many smiles. I saw residents that are very quiet open up and were smiling and laughing. We all laughed so much we started crying."

Hargot said that when she got home that evening, she herself cried because of

how generous the donation was but also for how powerful an experience these pets were for the residents she spends every day with.

Price said her group of knitters, which includes Allison Nordenbos, Marie Ebberts, Mavis Keisman and Bernice Ruchotzke, love to give back to the community and they're not interested in keeping the money they make from selling their items.

"THERE WAS SO MUCH LAUGHTER AND SO MANY SMILES. I SAW RESIDENTS THAT ARE VERY QUIET OPEN UP AND WERE SMILING AND LAUGHING."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JUNE PRICE

Helen Yanke and Irene Weidner are beaming as they interact with their new companion cat donated by Wool N Needles last week.

"We begin the year with no money and we end the year with no money. We don't want it and we will give every dollar away. And when we saw the people talking to the pets and playing with them it was incredible — I can't really explain it better than that," said Price.

Hargot said that given her limited budget a purchase like this simply

isn't in the cards for the residents at the home. So to have a community group offer was a great boon and one that will be felt within the walls for years.

"Personally, I can't say enough about that group. When we use these pets it's like the sun came out and was shining down on us," said Hargot.

> CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT, FROM PG. 5

"Stakeholder input has been clear that customary care must be community-driven and the bill must reflect the needs of Indigenous children to be cared for in a way that maintains cultural connections and community ties," said Fielding. "Government listened and we made important changes. This new bill strengthens the legislative role of Indigenous communities in leading the development of their own unique models of care that will lead to better outcomes for children."

Once passed and proclaimed, the bill will see these needs entrenched in all care decisions related to First Nations, Metis and Inuit children. Indigenous families would be able to request customary care services and supports from their CFS agency. Communities would be able to work

with agencies to identify customary caregivers, assist with the design of care plans for children and share in the responsibility for keeping children safe. The bill would enable CFS support for children who live with customary caregivers and allow sharing information for the purpose of customary care.

"Today marks a new era for CFS where our children will be supported in the achievement of their hopes and dreams for the future," said Grand Chief Jerry Daniels, Southern Chiefs' Organization. "Customary care is about a community-driven approach and a reflection of best practices. The time has come for the Anishinaabe and Dakota nations to assume full control and jurisdiction over our children and families."

"The Province of Manitoba is embarking on a legislative reform process for The Child and Family Services Act that acknowledges and is premised on the fact that the current system has failed Indigenous families and children and the current reform process must be Indigenous led," said Grand Chief Sheila North, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO). "It is important there is enabling legislation that supports First Nation community customs, codes, languages and best practices. MKO leadership supports in principle the concept of customary care and is ready to move forward in full partnership with both levels of governments in achieving First Nations' jurisdiction over child and family matters affecting MKO First Nation territories."

"We commend the work of Minister Fielding in attempting to address

a serious matter that has divided our families and children from their nation," said David Chartrand, president of the Manitoba Metis Federation. "As Metis people, family is everything. From birth to death, we embrace our family, and if the past teaches us anything, it's that the policies and administration of children by government has caused our families great harm. This is a good start and further recognition of our Metis government is ongoing."

An overall review continues of the two acts that guide the CFS system, The Child and Family Services Act and The Child and Family Services Authorities Act. A legislative review committee appointed in December is expected to make recommendations to the minister in the coming months.

Local drummer ready to head to the Junos

By Jennifer McFee

The Junos are approaching quickly, and one former Stonewall resident is paying particularly close attention since his band is in the running for two awards.

For the past decade, Joey Dandeneau has been the drummer for Theory of a Deadman. This year, the band has been nominated for Rock Album of the Year Award as well as for the Juno Fan Choice Award.

"It's a little surreal," Dandeneau said by phone from his Las Vegas home. "You don't think this is going to happen 10 years into me joining the band and 16 years of the band's history."

Although he's never taken a lesson, Dandeneau has been drumming since he was a wee three-year-old tot.

"Drumming is kind of all I know. Seeing that I've been doing it literally my whole life, I don't really have a whole lot of other skills because I've spent every waking moment basically doing that," he said.

"So the love for it is kind of on a different level than most, I'm assuming. It's all I know and it's all I've done, which is fortunate and unfortunate at the same time. It's unfortunate that that's all I know, but because I've spent my whole life drumming, it has allowed me to be in a successful band

that travels the world."

The band recently wrapped up a tour, and next month they'll be back at it with international stops in Germany, France, England, Scotland and Russia. They'll continue touring until the end of August throughout Canada and the United States.

"The downside of travelling to all these places for work is that I don't get to see as much as people would think. I see a lot of airports and I see a lot of cities from the sky, but a lot of times I don't get to see a lot of the cities that I'm in. It's a lot of getting to the hotel and getting on a tour bus to wherever we're playing that day," he said.

"We see whatever's close to the venue, but it's hard to get away. When we're touring through Europe and England, we have a lot of press because we're not from there. They want to interview us so that takes up a lot of our day."

Usually for their jam-packed tour schedule, they arrive the morning of the show and do interviews throughout the day, followed by sound check and a quick meal. Then they play their concert and head out after the show.

They continue to gain popularity on the international music scene, particularly with their new single "Rx."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Stonewall's Joey Dandeneau, left, and his band Theory of a Deadman have been nominated for Rock Album of the Year Award as well as for the Juno Fan Choice Award.

"Our new single has been doing fantastic over in Germany and France. We also do very well in Russia. We've been there twice and both times have been exciting. The fans meet us at the train station and they meet us in the hotel lobby when we get there. It's like being a rock star for the first time," Dandeneau said.

"But I don't consider myself a rock star by any means. I'm from Stonewall. I just happen to play drums for a living in a successful band that travels the world. That's all it comes down to. I'm nobody special. I've just been blessed with a skill and a talent, and I'm trying to take advantage of that and use it to my benefit in life. That's really all it is."

As for their new album *Wake Up Call*, Dandeneau says it's unlike anything they've ever done before.

"For 15 years, the band has been a rock band that plays rock music. This time, we wanted to go in a completely different direction and write music that we've never written before," he said.

"Of course, there are a couple of songs on the record that could be put into the category of our other records. But for the most part, our new record is really a different direction. It's more of an alternative direction this time. It's a lot lighter, very little guitar work, drum loops."

They recorded the album in London, England, with pop producer Martin Terefe, who has worked with the likes of Jason Mraz and James Blunt.

"It was terrifying. I had a lot of sleepless nights looking out my window in London going, 'Holy moly, is this the

right move? Is this what we're supposed to be doing?' But now that the record is done and we put it out and we're seeing the response we're getting, it clearly was the right move," Dandeneau said.

"Because of the politics involved in awards shows, it's going to be tough for us to win. But the nomination is there, and the fact that people have noticed our record and noticed our work that we've put into it this time, that is enough for me. It makes me feel really good that we did the right thing. I guess those sleepless nights paid off."

Other contenders in the category of Rock Album of the Year are Big Wreck for *Grace Street*, Death from Above for *Outrage! Is Now*, Nickelback for *Feed the Machine*, and The Glorious Sons for *Young Beauties and Fools*. In the fans' choice category, Theory of a Deadman is up against Alessia Cara, Arkells, Jessie Reyez, Justin Bieber, Shawn Hook, Shawn Mendes, The Weeknd and Walk Off the Earth. Visit <https://junoawards.ca/juno-fan-choice/> to cast a vote until March 25.

Although he left Stonewall many years ago, Dandeneau continues to have fond feelings for his hometown.

"Stonewall is a good town. It's growing fast and I don't really know anybody there anymore, but I'm definitely proud to be from there," he said.

"For me, it was a great place to hone my craft and spend my time making friends and making good memories, especially being a lot smaller of a town when I was growing up.

"I'm absolutely super proud to be from Stonewall."

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get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Smoked Bacon Pork Alfredo

slices then into 1/4-inch wide strips. In large skillet over medium-high heat, heat 1 tablespoon oil. Stir-fry half the pork loin 7-8 minutes until well browned. Set aside on separate plate and repeat with 1 tablespoon oil and remaining pork.

Cook pasta according to package directions.

In skillet over medium-high heat, heat remaining oil; add mushrooms and sprinkle with salt, to taste. Cook 3 minutes, or until tender, stirring occasionally.

Drain pasta and return to pot; stir in pork, mushrooms and Alfredo sauce. Stir over medium heat about 4 minutes until heated through. Season with salt and pepper.

Sprinkle with green onions and Parmesan cheese, if desired.

Prep time: 8 minutes
Cook time: 22 minutes
Servings: 6-8
1 Smithfield Applewood Smoked Bacon Marinated Fresh Pork Loin Filet
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
1 pound penne pasta
1 package (8 ounces) sliced mushrooms
salt, to taste
2 jars (15 ounces each) Alfredo sauce
pepper, to taste
1/4 cup finely chopped green onion (optional)
grated Parmesan cheese (optional)
Cut pork loin into 1/2-inch thick

Grilled Pork Loin Fajitas



1-gallon re-sealable plastic bag. Pour 1 cup water, soy sauce and pineapple juice over pork; seal bag and lay flat in refrigerator 30 minutes, turning occasionally.

In blender, pulse garlic, white wine and salt until thoroughly blended. Whisk butter and slowly incorporate garlic and wine mixture. Reserve at room temperature.

In large skillet over high heat, saute onions in corn oil 2 minutes until they turn deep brown. Add remaining water to skillet and lower heat to medium-low. Cook and stir, scraping bits from bottom of pan, 15 minutes until water has evaporated and onions are caramelized. Season with salt and pepper.

Heat grill to 300 F for indirect cooking. Lightly grease grates.

Remove pork from marinade and place on grill over indirect heat 4-6 minutes per side, until internal temperature reaches 145 F. Remove pork and brush garlic butter on both sides. Let stand 5 minutes; slice into 3-inch long, thin strips.

While grill is hot, grill tortillas individually. Wrap four tortillas at a time in aluminum foil with a little garlic butter.

In skillet, reheat caramelized onions and serve with fajitas. Top with guacamole, sour cream, pico de gallo and shredded cheese, if desired.

Prep time: 20 minutes, plus 30 minutes marinade time
Cook time: 30 minutes
Servings: 4-6
1 Smithfield Prime Boneless Fresh Pork Loin, cut into 1-inch thick steaks
1 1/2 cups water, divided
1 cup soy sauce
1 can (6 ounces) pineapple juice
6 cloves garlic
1/4 cup white wine
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
2 large onions, cut into 1/2-inch wide strips
1 tablespoon corn oil
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
12 tortillas
guacamole (optional)
sour cream (optional)
pico de gallo (optional)
shredded cheese (optional)
Using meat mallet, pound pork steaks until 1/2-inch thick; place in



Slow-Cooked Maple Ham

Pepper

Pour pineapple into large slow cooker. Place ham on top of pineapple, flat-side down.

In small bowl, combine syrup, brown sugar, cinnamon, Dijon mustard and pepper. Pour over ham.

Set slow cooker to low. Cook 4-5 hours.

Remove ham; keep warm. Skim fat off top of remaining liquid in slow cooker.

Pour liquid into small saucepan and bring to boil. Reduce heat to simmer; cook until reduced to desired consistency.

Serve sauce on side or heat oven to broil and glaze ham. Broil 3-4 minutes for caramelized crust.

Recipe courtesy of Chef Alyssa, ALDI Test Kitchen
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 5 hours, 15 minutes
Servings: 10
20 ounces Sweet Harvest Pineapple Chunks
8 pounds Appleton Farms Smoked Ham Butt
1 cup Specially Selected 100% Pure Maple Syrup
1 cup Baker's Corner Brown Sugar
1/2 teaspoon Stonemill Cinnamon
1 tablespoon Burman's Dijon Mustard
1 teaspoon Stonemill Ground Black



Holiday Ham Sliders

1/4 cup sliced green apple
4 tablespoons Countryside Creamery butter, melted
1/2 teaspoon Stonemill Garlic Powder
1/4 teaspoon ground Stonemill Sea Salt
1/2 teaspoon Stonemill Parsley Flakes

Heat oven to 350 F.

Line 9-by-13-inch baking pan with aluminum foil and coat with cooking spray.

In small bowl, combine cranberry white cheddar and havarti cheeses. Reserve.

Remove entire package of rolls and, keeping rolls connected, slice in half horizontally.

Place bottom half of rolls in baking pan. Spread with spicy mustard.

Top with red onion, ham, apple, cheese mixture and bun tops.

In small bowl, combine butter, garlic powder, salt and parsley flakes. Pour over sandwiches.

Cover with foil and bake 15 minutes.

Remove foil. Bake 10 minutes more.

Recipe courtesy of Chef Linsey, ALDI Test Kitchen
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Servings: 6
Carlini Canola Cooking Spray
3 ounces Happy Farms Preferred Cranberry White Cheddar, shredded
3 ounces Happy Farms Preferred Plain Havarti Cheese, shredded
12 ounces L'oven Fresh Hawaiian Sweet Rolls
2 tablespoons Burman's Spicy Mustard
1/4 cup sliced red onion
12 ounces Appleton Farms Spiral Sliced Half Ham

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Local players lead Bisons to national title

Staff

The University of Manitoba Bison women's hockey team earned their first national championship in the program's 21-year history.

Manitoba goalie Lauren Taraschuk made 20 saves as the Bisons beat the Western Mustangs 2-0 Sunday in the tournament's final.

"This team had laser focus and I thought their approach all year was on point and it paid off," said Bison head coach Jon Rempel on the U of M website.

"We had outstanding control throughout the gold-medal game and I thought our second was one of the best periods we played all season.

"I thought the game was on our stick throughout and we played like we had played throughout the season."

Manitoba's roster includes Winnipeg Beach's Rachel Dyck, Warren's Mekaela Fisher and Stonewall's Allison Sexton and Devon Johnson.

Laurn Keen scored at 18:16 of the second period while Manitoba was on the power play and then Venla Hovi tallied early in the third.



Winnipeg Beach's Rachel Dyck posted a 12-3-1-0 record in 17 games during the season.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MANITOBA BISON

The University of Manitoba Bisons women's hockey team beat the Western Mustangs 2-0 Sunday to become the U Sports women's hockey champs.

Peguis sweeps Lundar in KJHL semifinal series

By Brian Bowman

The Peguis Juniors made it look real easy against the Lundar Falcons in their Keystone Junior Hockey League semifinal series.

Peguis made quick work of Lundar, sweeping the series in four games after defeating the Falcons 8-4 on Friday evening.

The Juniors outscored the Falcons 27-10 in the four games.

In Friday's win, Romano Paul stood out, scoring three goals and adding two assists while Storm Swan chipped in with a goal and two assists.

Peguis, which held period leads of 2-1 and 5-2, also received goals from Ethan Daniels, Shaydon Mousseau, Wyatt Bear and Michael Markus.

Tristan Slater added three assists.

Landon Gray had a strong game for Lundar, scoring twice to go along with an assist. Brett Jocelyn tallied once

and added two assists while Shayne Desjarlais had the Falcons' other goal.

Allan Kohli made 49 saves for the win.

Last Thursday, Peguis took a 3-0 series lead after a dominating 7-2 home win.

Peguis snapped a 1-1 second-period tie with three goals in that period and then added three more in the third.

Tyrome Spence-Bair (two), Paul, Ethan Daniels, Coulson Nepinak, Bear and Markus scored for Peguis.

Jocelyn and Mason Medeiros replied for Lundar as Luke Penner made 26 stops for the win.

With the series victory, Peguis now advances to the KJHL final against the winner between the Selkirk Fishermen and St. Malo Warriors.

St. Malo leads that best-of-seven series 3-1 heading into tonight's Game 5 in Selkirk.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Peguis goaltender Allan Kohli made 49 saves for the 8-4 win last Friday.

Fisher Flyers win Interlake Atom 'C' banner

EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LARISSA NAHULIAK

The Fisher Flyers of Fisher Branch recently won the Atom "C" division banner on March 6 after dominating the Peguis female team in a best-of-three series. The Flyers previously defeated Fairford in the first round of playoffs, winning two of three games. The team is playing against St. Laurent for the Regional banner. Their first game was March 17. Pictured back row, left to right: Coach Larissa Nahuliak, Curtis Benoit, Chase Nahuliak, Brandt Cochrane, Patrick Yuzwa, Lendyn Larocque, Jaden Sutherland, Coach Cody Vandersteen; front row: Taylor Vandersteen, Nathan Stodgell, Aaron Baril, Nathan Meisner, Aiden Baril, Hunter Hawkins and Brody Webb. Missing from the photo is coach Clint Webb.



Lakers reach bronze-medal game at provincials

By Brian Bowman

The Gimli Lakers weren't even expected to make the MHSAA "AA" varsity girls' basketball provincials.

But they did – and they played some pretty good basketball last weekend.

Gimli reached the bronze-medal game where they were defeated 72-44 by the Goose Lake High Angels.

"It took us a little while to figure out how to shut down their post (Daylynn Bahniuk)," said Lakers' head coach Maddi Biluk. "It took us a while to find the right matchup for her."

Biluk said the Lakers struggled executing their defence. Those struggles allowed Bahniuk to score inside.

"You have to deny her getting the ball in the first place," Biluk explained. "That's the only way to stop her because once she gets the ball down low, there's not a lot that you can do except hope she misses."

Jay-Lee Strempler was named Gimli's game star.

The Lakers were relegated to the bronze-medal game after losing 54-42 to Flin Flon's Hapnot Kopper Kweens. The Lakers got off to a real slow start in the game – trailing by as much as 25 – but battled back to make the score relatively close.

"We could have won that game but their defence was very, very good," Biluk observed. "It was the best defence that I have seen a team play."

Jayda Campbell was selected as

Gimli's game MVP.

Gimli started the provincials with a solid 55-42 win over the Roseau Valley School Raiders.

"They played a near perfect game," Biluk said. "They did exactly what we needed to do against a team with that kind of speed and press."

Gimli's Jill Henry was phenomenal in the win, scoring a game-high 35 points. She was named the Lakers' game MVP and was later selected as a tournament all star.

"(Jill) just stands out because she is so fast," Biluk said. "She never stops going – she just goes and goes and goes. She never comes off the court."

Looking back at the season, the Lakers' coaching staff was very proud of the girls and how they were resilient in elimination-type situations.

Gimli had to earn a spot into provincials by competing at regionals. The No. 7-ranked Lakers ended up beating the second-seeded team, Souris, at regionals despite having only four players for the final four minutes of the game.

"They had to pull off wins as the lower-ranked team and that's something that they should be very proud of," Biluk said. "They made a lot of improvement as players and people over the year which is what made it possible for us to win those games at the end."

"It was amazing to watch them develop and improve over the course of the season."

Lea twins commit to U of M



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Boston Shamrocks are proud to announce senior forwards Keyara Lea, left, and Keyanna Lea (Riverton) have both committed to the #1 ranked University of Manitoba Bisons women's hockey program for the 2018-19 season. In 22 games this season, Keyanna scored 11 goals and had four assists for 15 points while Keyara recorded four goals and 15 assists for 19 points.

The Lea twins played with Balmoral Hall for the 2016-17 season before moving to the States last year to play in the Junior Women's Hockey League.

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SCRAP METAL

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.

Thank God it's Friday Morning! (TGIFM)

You are welcome for coffee/tea and a muffin at Arborg Christian Fellowship. We are opening our doors on Friday mornings to anyone in the community who wants to drop in. There are no strings attached. Doors will be open from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

For more information please contact Linda Gerritsen at 204-376-2484.

STEEL BUILDINGS

Steel Building Sale... "Big Blow Out Sale - all buildings priced to clear!" 20x21 \$5,560. 23x23 \$5,523. 25x25 \$6,896. 32x33 \$9,629. 33x33 \$9,332. One end wall included. Pioneer Steel 1-855-212-7036.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Developer sellout. 12 lakefront, 4 lakeview lots, street & hydro. Sand beach. Valued at \$632,000 - selling package for \$395,000. Must be sold! Sheldon 204-371-5131 sheldon@canadianfarmrealty.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Single adjustable bed, \$300; old style green loveseat & chair, \$100; metal Futon, \$50. Call Bert 204-378-2944.

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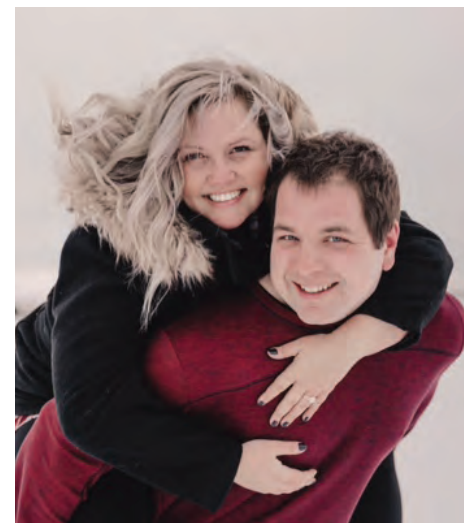
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HEALTH

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ANNOUNCEMENT



Daniel and Jean Gudbjartson Together with Michael and Rena Zinkowski Are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Caitlin and Travis
A bridal shower will be held April 7th, 2018 at 1 p.m. at the Riverton Community Hall
A social will be held that evening at 8 p.m. The couple is registered at The Bay, Arborg Home Hardware, The Bay Home (Home Outfitters)



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI PUBLIC NOTICE

SEWAGE ODOUR & RM OF GIMLI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REPAIRS UPDATE

The emergency repairs on SBR 1 are complete and SBR 1 was put back into service over a week ago. SBR 1 is currently treating the incoming wastewater to within the plant's effluent license limits. With the repairs to SBR 1, there has been a decrease in odours generated from the plant.

The emergency repair work within SBR 2 commenced last week. The contents of SBR 2 have been pumped to SBR 1 to the greatest extent possible and the remaining solids are currently being vacuumed out with septic trucks. The solids are being trucked to the landfill in septic trucks for final disposal. Temporary approval was granted by Manitoba Sustainable Development for the disposal of SBR 2 solids at the landfill.

Over the next week while SBR 2 is being cleaned, there may be some odours generated from the plant site. SBR 2 does not have the same level of solids accumulation within it as SBR 1 did and the cleaning process will be quicker.

Following the cleaning of SBR 2, the failed components will be replaced / repaired as required. All material for the work is currently on-site. It is anticipated that the emergency repairs will be complete in approximately 3 weeks.

The Municipality is continuing to work in co-operation with the Province of Manitoba Sustainable Development, Public Health, Workplace Health & Safety, and neighboring municipalities to address the odour. Until SBR 2 is back in service, the following steps will continue:

- Diversion of sewage from the town site to the lagoon.
- Diversion of truck haul waste to lagoons in neighboring municipalities.
- Expediting the expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant project wherever possible.
- Ongoing air quality testing to ensure the safety of residents.

Mayor & Council
Rural Municipality of Gimli



PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF ARBORG

CHANGE IN MEETING DATE

The April 11th, 2018, Meeting of Council has been changed to April 9th, 2018.

Meeting will commence at 9 AM

Lorraine Bardarson, CAO
Town of Arborg

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Sawmill Workers required immediately.

Must be reliable and follow directions well.
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Spruce Wood Loggers is looking for an energetic person who is physically able, punctual, promotable, trainable and can work with others. Must be at least 18 years of age have a class 5 drivers license and dependable transportation.

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Email resume to: swl@lakenet.ca or call 204-378-2997 References required.



T M J Charolais Bull Sale Saturday, March 24

1 p.m. at the Ashern Auction Mart
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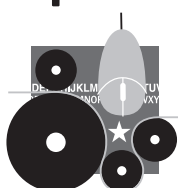
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