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WEEKLY NEWS

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Princess perfect

EXPRESS PHOTO BY MICHELE SIGFUSSON

A very popular Disney Princess came to Lundar for a visit last weekend during the Lundar Winter Carnival. Elsa, from the movie Frozen, was one of many highlights to the weekend and was swarmed by children looking to take a photo with her. The carnival is an annual celebration in Lundar that hosts a variety of activities including hockey of all levels and an Ice Show that is put on by the Lundar Skating Club.

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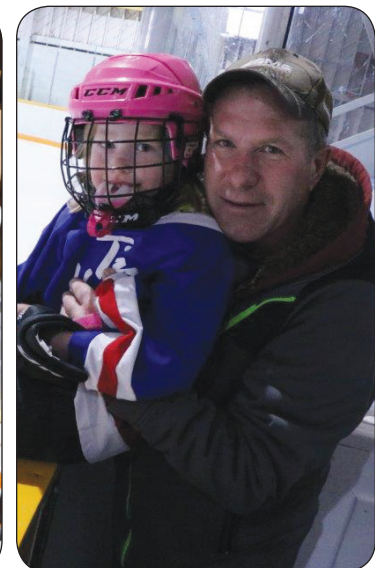
Lundar winter carnival keeps traditions alive

By Staff

The Lundar Carnival Weekend packed in a fun family friendly event or activity into nearly every hour of this past weekend and most of them were completely free.

There was something for everyone to enjoy during the 48th annual Lundar Carnival weekend. Family fun skates, a kid's paint party, Midget, Squirts and Novice hockey, a pancake breakfast, Fun Land, a costume parade, a balloon scramble, a pickerel fry dinner and an exceptional ice show were only some of the activities.

Pictured clockwise, from top left: Joey Johannson is excited to play some hockey; Sigga Vigfusson, Laila Mason, Iris Thorkelson, Samantha Thorgilsson and Hanna Johnson are all smiles before the ice show; Ashley Sigfusson, Emily Sigfusson, Brooklyn Wirgau, Kierra Bennett, Sydney Thorgilsson, Ally Weatherburn, Kianna Laughlin, Kaelynn Harris, Emily Hordal and Melissa Johnson link arms for their ice show routine; Harley Halldorson and Gary Sherbeth pose for a quick photo during the squirts vs. parents hockey game; The Lundar Skating Club presented Around the World; Kianna Laughlin Carnival Queen Sydney Thorgilsson; and Kalysta Ketler work on their paintings for the paint party.



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EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CARLA SWEETLAND AND MICHELE SIGFUSSON

Gimli's wellness centre generates great debate

By Patricia Barrett

The RM Gimli's proposal to turn its current recreation centre into a wellness centre gave rise to mixed reactions at an open house last Saturday at Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School.

Some were excited about the facility, which would serve the diverse exercise and recreation needs of Gimli and area residents of all ages; others questioned the inclusion of an outdoor aquatic centre over that of an indoor pool.

"At this time, there's seems to be a lot of concern about children's obesity, exercise, wellness..." said one woman who received a round of applause for speaking in favour of the facility during question period. "And I think, personally, that this is the time."

The proposal includes a gymnasium with retractable seating that can accommodate dozens of recreational activities as well as sporting, social or musical events, a second-storey, two-lane indoor walking/running track that is wheelchair accessible, revamped dressing rooms for males and females and an outdoor pool. The existing curling rink would remain as is.

The results of a survey [date uncertain] presented by Stantec, whom the RM hired to do the design, indicated swimming "as the activity residents would most like to participate in."

At present, there are two indoor pools in the region: one in Arnes and another in Selkirk.

The survey also showed that those opposed to the new facility "really focused on that indoor pool component," said business analyst Liam Mulhall from Stantec. "The tax implications were probably the biggest thing."

Past and present councils have concluded that the cost of building and operating an indoor pool is beyond the means of ratepayers, said Mayor Randy Woroniuk to about 350 people in the school gym.

"Council is looking at a different and affordable approach — being the outdoor aquatic facility," he said. "Many smaller communities have started ... with an outdoor pool and have moved on to an indoor facility when the community was ready and could afford it."

A representative from Western Recreation, a company that designs and constructs water parks and pools, was on hand to explain pool costs.

Construction manager Brett Dyregrov said the cost of building an indoor pool is between \$12 million and \$30 million.

In addition to the high construction cost, they run an annual operat-



Brett Dyregrov from Western Recreation said Gimli can't afford to build and operate an indoor pool. Its population size and tax base could not support it.

ing deficit of between \$500,000 and \$800,000 a year.

An indoor pool would require a population of 15,000 to 20,000 in order to get a necessary tax base of 5,000 dwellings to fund it every year.

"I think you have 900 on the tax roll here," said Dyregrov. "The long and short of it is you can't afford one in



Mayor Randy Woroniuk, Gimli's councillors and administration staff, Stantec consultants and Western Recreation representatives provided Gimli and area residents with an overview of a proposed new recreation facility and outdoor aquatic centre.

this community of 2,000 people."

He said the outdoor pool would be in operation from the May long weekend to the September long weekend and would likely draw 20,000 to 40,000 people.

"It will provide an operating surplus, not an operating deficit," said Dyregrov.

Demographic and financial analyses did not, however, deter people from speaking in favour of an indoor pool.

"I had ... hip replacement surgery," said one woman, who grew up in Gimli and has returned home after living on various air force bases with

Continued on page 7

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Riverton proposes building a splash park

By Patricia Barrett

A delegation from Riverton asked the RM Bifrost-Riverton to support its proposal to build a splash park in town.

Cara Enns met with councillors March 15 to provide them with information about the park, which may be located at Riverton's unused ball diamond on Park Avenue.

She said she has already had a meeting to gauge community interest in the project.

"Everybody seems to be excited and on board with this," said Enns.

She has undertaken some research into spray parks and obtained a quote from PlayQuest Recreation, a Steinbach company that provides playground equipment, spray parks and other outdoor recreational equipment.

A stainless steel flow-through system would be easy to maintain and comes with a 20-year warranty on parts, she said.

"There wouldn't be much in the way of maintenance for the town or the RM."

The company provided a quote of \$125,000.

"We don't need anything too big or grand," said Enns. "We can always add onto to that if we choose later."

She said PlayQuest is willing to come out and give a presentation. It's the first company she has spoken with, and she'll be obtaining quotes from other companies.

Enns said she also spoke with Bob Munroe, who helped organize Gimli's splash park, and said he's willing to help her with any questions.

Deputy Mayor Dave Shott asked if Gimli's splash park is well used.

Enns said it is.

The motion-activated splash pad would need a pool permit but does not have "many hurdles to jump through," said Enns.

A well would have to be dug for the splash park and a water treatment system installed to remove the iron.

A number of local organization are on board with the project, said Enns, referring to the Riverton Elks, the daycare, the Chamber of Commerce, the Recreation Commission and Noventis Credit Union.

She said she will speaking with the Riverton & District Friendship Centre.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Cara Enns from Riverton is proposing to build a splash park.

Coun. Colin Bjarnason said another community member may be looking at the same idea.

Enns said she will be in touch with that person, but as far as she knows, no one else is "officially" working on a splash pad project.

"I would like this to be a community project with everybody involved," she said. "If someone else is already going forward with something already, we're on board with that."

Enns said the ball diamond is an ideal location for the splash pad.

"There's a skate park there and ... a canteen, and we would like that area granted to us to put the splash pad in."

Shott asked Enns to find out about insurance costs.

"That would be with the pool per-

mit," said Enns. "It's nothing too complicated, they told me. I don't know cost of the actual pool permit, but that's the only [one] we'd need to have a splash park."

Shott said there may be liability issues that should be addressed through insurance.

Reeve Harold Foster asked about operational costs — start up, grounds maintenance and shut-down.

Enns said it would be minimal.

The splash park would be a great asset to Riverton, said Enns, and asked council for a letter of support.

Bjarnason said a letter would help Enns apply for grants.

Foster said council will make a decision and get in touch with her.

Travellers and students encouraged to register as absentee voters

Submitted

Manitobans who are travelling, working or studying away from home still have an opportunity to vote in the upcoming provincial election.

A voter who will be away during advance voting, April 9 to April 16, and on election day, April 19, can be an absentee voter as long as he or she:

- is a Canadian citizen;
- is at least 18 years of age on or before election day;
- has resided in Manitoba for at least six months immediately before election day; and
- intends to be away for no more than six months.

The six-month restriction does not apply to members of the Canadian Forces, students attending school outside Manitoba, individuals working

with the Manitoba or Canadian government or anyone living with people who meet these conditions.

Applications for absentee voting are available from the Elections Manitoba website at www.electionsmanitoba.ca or from the returning office in each electoral division.

All applications must include government-issued photo ID (such as a driver's licence) or two other documents with the applicant's name. The deadline to apply is 8 p.m. on April 16, but to ensure that the ballot kit is delivered with enough time to return it, all applicants should try to apply before April 9.

All absentee ballots must be received in the returning office by 8 p.m. on election day.

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Teulon Residential School students fight continues

By Natasha Tersigni

With the recent decision by the Manitoba Court of Appeal, Teulon Residential School students will have to continue their fight against the Government of Canada. The Teulon Residence is hoping to be given official residential school status adding them to the national Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA).

The lawyer representing former Teulon students, Charles Huband appeared in the court of appeal on March 8 to argue in front of three judges that instead of staying under the umbrella of the Association of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), former Teulon students should be granted intervener status and allowed to fight on their own and not alongside other Manitoba intuitions also appealing to be added to the IRS-SA.

The three judges decided unanimously to deny the group intervener status forcing the students to work with AMC in future appeals.

"This was an appeal by three indi-

vidual students asking for intervener status to be allowed to intervene in the case. Essentially they were told 'no' by the courts and we appealed that and the answer came back again from the appeal court today that 'No, you do not get intervener status,'" said Huband.

"This decision is not fatal to the case for the Teulon students. The AMC is still going forward, and I think the court has indicated some degree of sympathy for the position of the students. They said it is not really necessary that you get intervener status because in the next stage, the AMC can argue it."

With this recent decision, the Teulon students will now have to rely on the AMC to argue their case in appeal court. Before the AMC can begin arguing for that case, they first have to go to appeal court and fight to have the case reinstated as the court had deemed it abandoned.

"The AMC did not proceed with the appeal back in 2012 in a timely matter, so the case was deemed to be aban-

doned. It may have been that they got a recommendation from their lawyer at the time that an appeal won't work, it may have been it would cost too much money, there are a dozen different reasons why they didn't move forward," said Huband.

"The AMC now has to go to appeal court and clear out of the way the deemed abandonment of the case, they didn't move quickly enough. Now the AMC will have to appear in appeal court before these same judges to say set aside the deemed abandonment so we can get on with the merits of the appeal from the decision to not grant Teulon residential school status."

The students are now waiting for the Manitoba Court of Appeal to set a date for when the AMC can begin arguing the abandonment case. If successful, the AMC on behalf of the students, will appeal the decision not to give the Teulon Residence official residential school status.

The institution in Teulon was operated as a residence for Aboriginal youth

from 1958 to 1996. During that time, hundreds of Aboriginal teens were sent to Teulon to attend public school and were housed in the residences.

For institutions to be added to the settlement, they must meet both parts of the following criteria: the child must have been placed in a residence away from the family home by or under the authority of Canada for the purpose of education and Canada must have been jointly or solely responsible for the operation of the residence and care of the children there. In the court decision released April 2, 2012, the Teulon Residence was denied being added to the settlement agreement, citing it being operated by a religious organization, the United Church of Canada.

The students' argument before the court is that while the daily operations of the residence was by the church, the residence was set up and regulated by the federal government and students were sent to Teulon by the Indian Affairs Department, a branch of the federal government.

Lakeshore School Board approves budget deficit

By Jeff Ward

Lakeshore School Division will be running a deficit of \$150,000 for the 2016-17 school year after the board passed the final draft budget during the regular school board meeting on March 8.

The division was facing a shortfall of \$320,000 due to increasing staff salaries and the costs of maintaining the division's buildings. Chairperson of the board Jim Cooper said that the board was faced with a tough decision for the next school year and said there was much discussion as to how the board would proceed with the budget. Cooper said the choice was raise taxes, run a deficit or cover the shortfall with reserve funds. In the end, the board decided that it would be best to raise taxes and run a partial deficit of \$150,000.

Cooper said the increase would be marginal to ratepayers at only 2.3 per cent, which could have been nearly four per cent had the board tried to recover the entire shortfall through taxation. Cooper added that the increase on a tax bill for a home assessed at \$100,000 will be \$19.68 and will vary depending on the property assessment. There will be no reductions in staffing or educational programming with this deficit.

"What we set out to do with this budget is maintain the level we've set for ourselves, and we've accomplished that," said Cooper.

"The deficit sounds big, and it is, but we're fairly certain that we won't have any trouble with it at all. We feel pretty good about the decision and feel that with how much other school divisions are having to raise their taxes that ours was a fairly reasonable increase. It won't hit anyone too hard."

Cooper said there was some discussion about using the reserve funds to cover the shortfall, which would have easily eliminated it but that it wasn't the most financially responsible thing to do. If there were any emergencies or repairs that needed to be done, including bus repairs or leaking roofs, there would be no money to get

the job done immediately. Leaving the reserve alone was the responsible thing to do in this situation, according to Cooper.

The deficit can be made up in many ways, and Cooper explained that there might be plenty of savings this year. The price of gasoline has been and continues to be a big cost savings for the division, and the mild weather through the winter could translate into some savings on heating as well.

"If stuff like that continues into next school year, then there's no reason why making up the deficit can't be accomplished," said Cooper.

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Belly flops and jumping pickerel

Welcome back, good friends.

It just amazes me how in the dwindling days of winter fishing, hundreds of local, national and international anglers continue to pour onto our larger Manitoba lakes. I've watched as they've pulled their shacks ashore, now favouring sleds, quads or just plain sleighs to reach choice spots on the flat ice pack.

It was fairly cool back a couple of months ago, though, when I was visiting an angler on the Red by Breezy Point. I came across a not too tall, thin chap with a little white in his brown hair and a slight European accent by the name of Stan Posavec. Beside him, his longtime buddy Henry Dolenuck had a heavier build and spoke in short strong phrases. Stan, always smiling, his arms forever waving to stress his point, loved to tell fishing stories. He shared a time when fishing off a slippery rock by Seven Sisters Falls, he lost his footing and took a big splashing belly flop into the river.

He surfaced, and as he began clawing his way back up the rock, he realized all the guys around him were laughing. Wiping the water from his eyes, standing knee deep in water, he let everyone around him know he was not amused, whereupon some of them pointed to a nearby hollow in the rock, that now held a flopping pickerel.

Apparently, that great splash Stan made caused the pickerel to jump out of the water only to land on the rock, gaining him a catch in a most unusual way.

On a warm, still, hazy morning last week, I rambled along White Tail Trail and onto the ice of Netley Creek at the



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL
Bill Parisien at Balsam Bay with some of the fish he caught.

south end of Petersfield. I was pretty sure some of the hometown boys would be here for perch and pickerel, and sure enough, groups of guys were drilling ice holes, setting up chairs and getting fishing gear out for a day of fun. I strolled up to two chaps, Bill Lakota and Rick Zolinski. After casual "good mornings" and some weather talk, I asked the boys if they ever had an unusual fishing experience.

Bill, sitting on a folding stool, cast a smiling gaze up at me. With his eyes squinting against the sun's haze, he said, "We once built a wooden bridge across a break in the ice east of Chalet. It kind of worked." Last winter, Bill and Rick were stopped from going out to the middle of Lake Winnipeg after master pickerel by an open break in the ice. After a bit of thought, they got the bright idea of running back to

shore for some poplar trees to bridge the break. Soon they were back laying their trimmed trees in the gap. Then they pumped water over them to make a frozen road. It looked and worked great, but when they came back the next day, the powerful ice had shifted and their wooden bridge looked like a giant porcupine with trees sticking up all over the place.

Undeterred, they rebuilt it, pinning the trees with posts. It worked beautifully until the next ice shift, which tore the bridge to shreds again. Resigned, the guys admitted defeat and carted the wood back to shore for firewood.

Last Saturday found me on the ice at Balsam Bay, maybe for the last time this winter. Man, it was beautiful out on the sun-bathed carpet of snow covering the lake. Heat waves rippled off the snow in the distant horizon. Not a truck or shack was in sight; everybody was walking with sleighs or using quads. I saw a big fellow standing over his ice holes maybe a quarter of a mile out, so I made for him. The walk was pure pleasure. I thought to myself as I strode along, taking in the white expanse before me, "How could anyone not love this?"

Soon, I reached our tall angler who said he was Bill Parisien from Selkirk. He was nice enough to hold up some of the fish he had caught so I could snap a picture and then quietly said, "It sure is nice out here."

"Yes, Bill," I silently agreed, nodding my head. "It sure is."

Well, I hope you enjoyed these stories. Come by next week, won't you? Bye for now.

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Wasagamack walkers finish what they started

By Jeff Ward

After a long delay due to safety concerns, Gerald Fiddler was finally able to complete his walk of healing that he started in January. And this time, he wasn't alone.

Joined by six friends — Jamie Comber, Shelley McDougall, Joseph McDougall, Ellen Nicole, Solomon Harper and Louie Harper — Fiddler walked from Norway House, where he last ended his journey, back to Wasagamack. Fiddler said it took three days of walking, with the group covering 230 kilometres over the ice roads. The walk of healing began back in January as a way for Fiddler to put his past of drug and alcohol abuse behind him and move forward with his life in a positive way. The task proved to be much harder than Fiddler thought, and he said he endured painful blisters, muscle cramps and exhaustion. But by the time he reached Norway House on Jan. 6, his story had become an inspiration to many others as it was shared like wildfire online. And when he set out to complete his walk on Feb. 26, he had some friends to help him through it.

"It was much harder than walking on the highway. It was much colder at night and the ice roads aren't flat — they go up and down and zigzag all over the place," said Fiddler.

"On the last day, I had bad blisters on my feet that

made it very painful to walk. But I had other people with me this time and we all helped each other out."

Fiddler said that for safety, two councillors from Wasagamack, Jonas Harper and Elvin Knott, accompanied them on their journey in a school bus.

The bus doubled as a place to sleep at night and a warm place to rest during the walking hours. Fiddler said that the last leg of the trip was more symbolic and that he wasn't concerned with needing to walk every single kilometre himself. So the group took turns with two people walking five kilometres and then switching out with two more people.

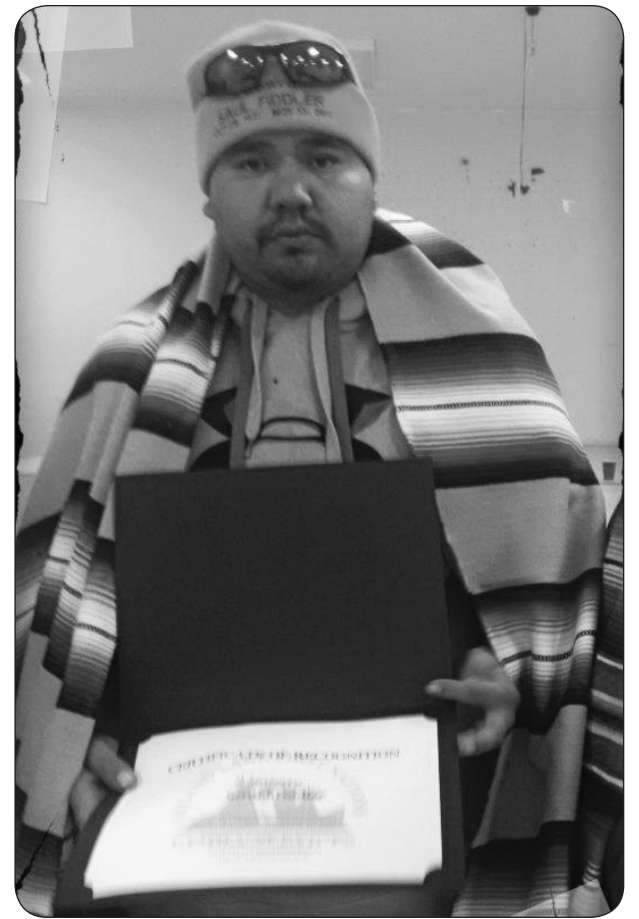
The group arrived safely in Wasagamack on Feb. 29 and was greeted by two dozen supporters. Fiddler said that while he originally planned to have this journey be personal, he's glad to see that so many others have taken to the idea and are trying to either get their lives back on track or supporting others who are doing so.

"It means a lot to me that there is still so much support. It's not easy to tell people about the worst parts of your life, but it feels good to leave it

all behind me, out on the highway," said Fiddler.

All of the walkers were given ceremonial blankets and certificates honouring their journey from Arlene Knott of Island Lakes First Nations Family Services.

"IT MEANS A LOT TO ME THAT THERE IS STILL SO MUCH SUPPORT. IT'S NOT EASY TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT THE WORST PARTS OF YOUR LIFE"



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ARLENE KNOTT.
Gerald Fiddler finished his walk of healing last month, completing the final 230 kilometres on ice roads from Norway House to Wasagamack.

> WELLNESS, FROM PG. 3

her husband.

She said an indoor pool would benefit those with knee and hip replacements.

Gimli High School student and entrepreneur Cameron Lozinski of Cameron's Toques questioned the outdoor pool proposal, making the point that it would be weather dependent.

"I want to be able to use something ... 12 months of the year," said Lozinski.

One man questioned the need to spend money on another gym. Gimli has at least four gyms (schools, military base, Recreation Centre) currently available, he said.

"Now we're going to get a fifth one. Why?"

"The gyms of schools today do not meet current standards," said Jeff Penner, designer from Stantec.

Mulhall added that they do not offer the community access to recreational programming.

The mayor said the need for a revamped and expanded facility boils down to a lack of space and a requirement for structural renewal.

"Currently, we do not have the space to offer programs during the day and evenings to accommodate senior and

parent-tot programs or to expand on the existing programs offered," said Woroniuk.

"Our current facility is in need of major repair and upgrades, which will contribute to a more efficient operation and cost savings."

A 2006 survey Stantec presented showed 83 per cent of respondents (permanent residents) in favour of a new facility.

"We should have built something years

ago and we didn't because nobody could get together and sit down and say, 'This is what we're going to do,'" said Woroniuk. "You have a council now that sat down and said, 'Let's

work together on something.'"

The facility is expected to provide a number of benefits: it could help attract professionals to Gimli, spur economic development, draw more tourists, contribute to the retention of young families and seniors and improve residents' quality of life through the promotion of exercise and recreation.

"Living in your own home longer requires good health," said Woroniuk. "We are an aging population in this community. We have to try [to] stop being a burden on the health system."

The facility would also cater to youth activities and provide services for those with physical and intellectual challenges.

"Promoting physical recreation and wellness contributes to a full and meaningful life," said Woroniuk.

The project is estimated to cost \$12 million and would be shared equally by the RM and the provincial and federal governments. The NDP government has already committed \$4 million.

The outdoor pool would be funded separately from a \$1.2 million RM pool fund.

Council has yet to hear from the fed-

eral government.

The facility will move to the next stage of development only if the federal government commits \$4 million. Council would then review the proposal and, if consensus is reached, invite the community to provide additional input.

"This is a community project," said Woroniuk. "We're trying to get something for Gimli. We're trying to do something for our seniors. We're trying to get something for our youth. We're trying to do something for our future."



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"THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT IS YOU CAN'T AFFORD ONE IN THIS COMMUNITY OF 2,000 PEOPLE."

Armstrong reeve remembers friend and colleague Don Rybachuk

By Jeff Ward

The untimely and tragic passing of former Armstrong CAO Don Rybachuk has brought with it a flood of memories for Armstrong Reeve Jack Cruise.

Rybachuk was his colleague and friend of nearly 30 years. Cruise said he remembers meeting Rybachuk for the first time in 1985 shortly after winning his second term as councillor. The pair worked together for 20 years on council. Cruise said that Rybachuk came from Teulon, where he worked as secretary-treasurer, and was very easy to work with. He knew the job well and could communicate so that everyone understood what was being discussed. Cruise said that he also had the perfect personality for the CAO position.

Rybachuk passed away on Feb. 14 after a brief illness at the age of 68.

"He wasn't overly aggressive but he was strong enough to deal with problems or issues when they came up," said Cruise.

"Whether it was dealing with other levels of government or the council or the public, Don knew how to handle it properly. It's not an easy job and it takes a special kind of person to be good at it, and Don was great at it."

"I THINK DON MADE EVERY COUNCILLOR AND REEVE HE WORKED WITH BETTER."

Personality wasn't the only positive Rybachuk brought to the position. Cruise said that his knowledge of the Municipal Act was a huge asset to the council as was his strong accounting skills when it came time to roll out the

budget.

Cruise recalls times when ideas around the council table would need to be tethered to the ground by Rybachuk. Cruise said that Rybachuk was

never afraid to let councillors or the reeve know that things needed to be done a certain way.

"Don had a very good working knowledge of the Municipal Act and it wasn't about shooting down ideas but more so keeping them realistic. There are rules and processes you have to follow. I think Don made every councillor and reeve he worked with better," said Cruise.

It wasn't all business for Rybachuk, and for every moment of office professionalism, Cruise remembers an equal amount of extra-curricular passion as well. Rybachuk enjoyed many sports including, baseball, hockey, golf and curling and was passionate about being active in community events, according to Cruise.

"Don was a good guy to be around, a fun guy," remembers Cruise.

In 2006, Cruise retired from council and admits that he lost touch with Rybachuk in the years following. He said they would bump into each other on the street, but the daily interactions were a thing of the past. When



Don Rybachuk

Cruise was elected reeve in 2014, Rybachuk had been retired for a number of years. The former CAO officially retired in 2010.

"It was a shock when I got the call that said he was gone. It's just one of those things that's hard to believe. Don was someone that had been a fairly important and steady part of my life for so long. It's quite a loss," said Cruise.

The Gimli High School Drama Production

Shuddersome: Tales of Poe

Performances at 1:00 & 7:00 PM

April 11 & 12 **GHS Gym**

Silver Collection

Correction

In the March 17 edition of the *Express Weekly News*, we published the article "West Interlake votes to move head office to Ashern" and incorrectly reported that Ward 1 Coun. Arne Lundale had voted against the resolution.

In actual fact, it was Coun. Keith Lundale who voted against the resolution.

The *Express* apologizes for any confusion this might have caused.

WICG survey shows Lundar residents in favour of possible amalgamation

By Jeff Ward

The results of a survey taken during the meeting of the West Interlake Citizens Group (WICG) hosted in Lundar last month showed that more than half of the attendees would be in favour of a possible amalgamation between Eriksdale and Coldwell.

The WICG collected 100 surveys during the meeting on Feb. 25 with 60 per cent of the Lundar/Coldwell residents indicating that they would support a partnership. The remaining 40 per cent were split, with 29 per cent not supporting a partnership and 11 per cent unsure and needing more information.

The WICG would like to see the RM of West Interlake dissolved, with the former RM of Eriksdale turning into a local government district (LGD). If Eriksdale was granted a dissolution by the Municipal Board, it would then need to find a suitable partner to amalgamate with before the next municipal election in 2018. The meeting was called to gauge the public's interest on a possible amalgamation between Eriksdale and Coldwell.

"You don't want it to be a shotgun marriage. You want it to be something you've thought about," said WICG spokesperson Andrea Sweetland.

"You want to have time to work through any insecurities because something like this can be scary for some people. And I don't blame anyone who's scared or worried about this because I was when it was forced on us last year."

Sweetland said that she was very encouraged by the data the survey collected and that even just a simple survey like this can make all the difference. She said that it gets people talking about what a partnership might look like, and with how many services are already shared between the communities, people start to see the positives of officially coming together.

One of the questions on the survey asked attendees if a citizens committee would be beneficial in developing any future agreements, and 76 per cent of the answers indicated that it would be. Approximately 20 attendees from each community said they would be interested in being involved in a citizen committee group if one is formed.

"It was great to see that so many people were willing to sit on a board like that because it shows that they want it to work if we do partner. I know that some of those people might be against the idea, and you want some naysayers in the discussion because without them, you're not going to have much of a discussion at all," said Sweetland.

Sweetland said that if you want to work through any potential problems, you have to know what those problems are.

The WICG plans to focus solely on their presentation to the Municipal Board on May 3 and won't be holding any other public meetings until a decision is made from the board on their future.

PC MLA candidate for Gimli visits Interlake councils

By Patricia Barrett

Jeff Wharton, PC MLA candidate for Gimli, took note of water pipes, doctors, buses and drains during the last of his council visits in the lead up to the provincial election.

The former councillor and deputy mayor of Winnipeg Beach visited Gimli council Feb 24 and Bifrost-Riverton council March 15 to take the municipal pulse and relay any concerns to his party.

In Gimli Wharton heard about insufficient water infrastructure funding, doctor retention and the need for improved transportation services.

CAO Joann King said the town needs a bit more funding from the provincial Water Services Board, which assists rural municipalities with their sewer and water infrastructure.

The town's circa 1957 water pipes are crumbling.

"We had \$2.5 million from the Manitoba Water Services Board to manage about \$15 million in repairs for our water distribution system," said CAO Joann King, "and probably \$4 to \$5 million for the water plant."

Despite that funding, King said the town can't keep up with repairs.

She said replacement is the only solution, something that was echoed by Coun. Danny Luprypa.

"We're in desperation," he said. "We get breaks continually. We do a repair and we don't dare cover it because when we turn the water on, it leaks a few feet down the line. It's in definite need of replacement."

King said she understands that the Water Services Board is "challenged," but can't help feel as though Gimli is the "ugly sister" of the province's southern towns.

"...they [WSB] certainly have spent some money on new water co-ops in the southwestern part of Manitoba. And a lot of money has gone in there."

While on the topic of infrastructure funding, Coun. Richard Petrowski said he favours the idea [the Liberal's] of having dedicated infrastructure funding for RMs.

"I'd really like to see that one per cent of the PST go to municipalities,"



Jeff Wharton, PC MLA candidate for Gimli, said Manitoba should adopt a transportation system similar to Saskatchewan's Crown corporation, STC.

he said. "We're challenged with infrastructure problems."

Wharton said the leaders of the three major parties have made it clear where they stand on infrastructure funding.

"We're [PC Party] going to be committing a billion dollars a year for core infrastructure" he said. "I know the NDP struggled to spend a billion in four years. What we look at is the bust and boom. They [NDP] do nothing for three years then they panic in year four in a re-election year. We want to make sure that ends and move forward with more strategic plans...so that municipalities and communities can plan accordingly...."

Deputy Mayor Peter Peiluck expressed his concern with healthcare.

"Or the lack of," he said, with reference to rural physicians. "And that's something that needs to get rectified very soon. It should be top priority for whoever's elected to make some changes because...this is really starting to affect our community in ways other than just not having a doctor in hospital."

Peiluck said people are moving to the city when they get to a certain age



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Drainage is one of the RM Bifrost-Riverton's biggest issues. The Icelandic River near Arborg is creeping up to the earthen dikes protecting the town's Heritage Museum.

so that they can access healthcare services that Gimli can't provide.

Wharton said the PCs are "committed – and we've also discussed it in the alternative throne speech – we need to move forward with an active recruitment and retention for our doctors, not only in Winnipeg, but in rural areas especially where we are losing them."

Transportation between communities in Manitoba was an issue Wharton broached, suggesting Manitoba should adopt a transportation similar to our neighbour's. The Saskatchewan Transportation Company is a Crown corporation mandated to serve small rural communities across that province.

"Handivan is a great service, and it has to expanded, for sure," said Wharton. "But looking outside the box at perhaps providing something similar to what they do in Saskatchewan. It... serves all rural and urban areas."

He said transportation services can be partnered with parcel delivery.

During his visit with Bifrost-Riverton council March 15, Wharton heard the RM's perennial problem of drainage, particularly third order drains for

which the RM says the province is responsible.

"...they [Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation] don't have a ditch in the country [the RM] that drains water," said Reeve Harold Foster. "And right now, probably the worst place to own farmland is along the highway because it's not going to drain."

Wharton said the problems may stem from a communication problem with the government.

"Why can we just communicate that and make it happen?"

Reeve Foster said the RM took the initiative a few years ago and cleaned four or five miles of highway ditches – for which the province reimbursed it.

But he said more has to be done.

Coun. Warren Ostertag said the Icelandic River needs to be dredged in order to improve drainage.

"It hasn't been dredged for over 20 years," he said. "And we're just trying to find how do we get that done?"

Coun. Colin Bjarnason said he's looking into getting use of an Amphibex that is used to break up ice near Selkirk. He wants to clear 30-40 feet of the channel to a depth of about 14 feet.



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EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS

Arborg skaters showcase their skills at Ice Show

Staff
The Arborg Skating Club held their annual Ice Show last Friday with a “Seasons in the Sun” theme that included bugs, snowmen, trick or treaters, flowers, farmers, surfers and fireflies, while star skaters performed their solos for friends and family.



CanSkate Coach Kayla Weik with CanSkater of the year recipients Hayden Plett and Brooke Ball.



Sydney Burak



Bailey Orbanski



Emma Barkman with coach Finnson



CanSkate Group — Walking on Sunshine



Eva Jensen



Olivia Orbanski



Gemma Orbanski



Olafs in Summer Kyra Borgfjord, Kristen Orbanski, Tessa Barkman.



CanSkater boys skated to Big Green Tractor and Truck Got Stuck.



StarSkaters Firefly group: Bailey Orbanski, Emma Barkman, Chloe Howell, Sarah Jensen, Kayla Weik, Eva Jensen, Olivia Orbanski, Sydney Burak and Gemma Orbanski.



Chloe Howell
EXPRESS PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Waterfowl awards



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

The Heavenly Honkers from Eriksdale/Lundar won second place at the second annual youth waterfowl event held last September in Woodlands. At the Woodlands & District Wildlife Association annual dinner and awards banquet on March 19, the team was presented medallions in display boxes to go with Cabelas gift cards they received at the event last fall. The shoot, hosted by the association, is for hunters 12 to 17 years old. The Harvesters from St. Laurent scored 150 points for a first-place win, while the Heavenly Honkers scored 139 points. Third place went to the Soggy Bottom Boys of Warren/Woodlands that scored 94 points. The 2016 shoot is scheduled for Sept. 10 and 11. Pictured from left to right: Michael Tataryn, Morgan Granberg, Austin Hanslip, Jaxon Pilon, Ed deLaroque, Jessie Lestrat and Scott Fisher.

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- ✓ Restoring Manitobans' right to vote on tax increases and mandating an automatic 20% salary cut for the premier and Cabinet ministers if they fail to abide by this law.
- ✓ Rolling back the PST increase to 7% during our first term.

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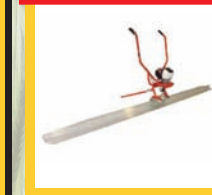
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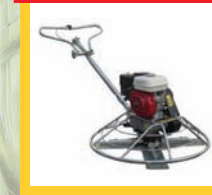
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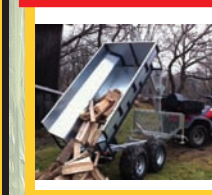
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Ashern Winter Carnival dazzles with incredible ice show

By Jeff Ward

A weekend full of family-friendly entertainment and an ice show that was a feast for the eyes all contributed to one of the most successful winter carnivals ever, according to Ashern Arena president Tyler Geisler.

The three-day event, held March 18-20, began last Friday with a free glow-in-the-dark skating party at the Ashern Arena. Geisler said that attendees were given glow sticks and the ice was painted with glow paint as lasers danced around the rink, illuminating the area with a fluorescent glow.

Saturday started off with pancake breakfast with all of the food donated by the members of the Ashern Hornets. The rest of the day was all about hockey with the 3rd annual North Interlake Ball Hockey Tournament taking the ice where seven teams battled it out all day for cash prizes. Teams were made up of players from Fairford, Ashern, Eriksdale, Lundar, Lake Manitoba First Nation and even Winnipeg. The Fairford Warriors won the tournament and received a \$500 cash prize for beating the Ashern Assassins, who took home a \$250 prize for second place.

Saturday evening featured a battle between the Ashern Hornets and the Fisher Branch Chiefs, two seniors' men's hockey teams, with the Chiefs winning the game.

"The ice show was unlike anything I've ever seen, and the team did a brilliant job converting the whole rink into a stage. They had huge curtains where the skaters came through and black board around the outside. The skaters performed a routine in



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JODY OVERSBY

Ashern Skating Club dancers take a group shot after their big show during the Ashern Winter Carnival last weekend.

the dark using the glow paint. It was amazing," said Geisler.

Following the ice show was the crowning of the carnival king and queen. Rylee Geisler was crowned this year's king and Riki Kerbrat was crowned queen. Tyler Geisler said

that the seven nominees — four for queen and three for king — collectively raised \$8,600 in funds for the arena through ticket sales.

"THE ICE SHOW WAS UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN, AND THE TEAM DID A BRILLIANT JOB CONVERTING THE WHOLE RINK INTO A STAGE."

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Triplets take Fisher Branch family by surprise

By Patricia Barrett

A Fisher Branch family was taken by surprise a few weeks ago with the birth of triplets.

Neal Basaraba and his parents Bernice and Ed did not expect more than one calf after a routine delivery on their cattle farm near town.

The first calf was born without assistance, but the second required a little bit of intervention from Neal.

The family thought that was the end of it.

"Then Ed said, 'Look, there's a third!'" said Bernice Basaraba.

It's the first triplet birth (two males and a female) the family has experienced in 46 years of farming.

"It's unusual to have triplets," she said. "Twins are common."

Basaraba said there were no bonding issues between the mother and her calves.

"She's a wonderful mom," said Basaraba. "We had her in the huddle and she was licking them all."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BERNICE BASARABA

The Basaraba family from Fisher Branch were surprised by the arrival of triplets a few weeks ago.

Eriksdale ice fishing derby this weekend

Youth encouraged to participate

By Jeff Ward

Hundreds of pre-drilled holes at Long Point Beach await dozens of fishers this weekend for the Eriksdale Game and Fish Ice Fishing Derby.

Free to anyone 17 years or younger and only \$5 for adults, the annual ice fishing derby is designed to promote youth to get out into nature and enjoy fishing, according to Jodie Thorgilsson, a member of the Eriksdale Game and Fish board. The contest is catch and release and the biggest fish wins.

All money taken in from the entrance fees go back into prizes and will be distributed to the top three fishers. First place receives 60 per cent of the pot while second receives 30 per cent and third receives 10 per cent. The derby takes place this Saturday, March 26 at Long Point Beach.

Thorgilsson said that all youth participating in the fishing derby are guaranteed a prize for showing up and competing. Approximately 80 people attended last year's event.



10 Reasons to shop at your local Pet Store - Quarry Pets

Editorial by Quarry Pets

1. Staff knowledge and availability - The Quarry Pets staff are knowledgeable about pets. They are ready to answer questions to their best ability, and if they are unsure they have the tools to find out. The staff is always available to assist you with your purchases.

2. Selections of natural and biologically appropriate foods. Also our Canadian made selections includes Champion Pet Foods (Acana and Orijen) and Horizon. Other selections available are from the USA, focusing on products from North America.

3. Many pet specialty foods are not farmed out to a co-packer and the integrity of the food is backed up by the quality assurance of the manufacturer themselves. These foods are found in the Pet Stores

4. RAW pet food is available in the Pet Stores. This will be coming soon to Quarry Pets!

5. Pet stores offer a large selection of products for one stop shopping to supply the needs of all your pets. Quarry Pets departments include Dog, Cat, Fish, Small Animals, Reptile, and Bird.

6. Pet stores tend to support the rescue shelters with donations of different sorts, and fundraisers. Quarry Pets tries to focus on the local rescue shelters such as Manitoba Underdogs, Before the Bridge, Cvet's Pets, Winnipeg Pet Rescue Shelter, to name a few.

7. The store has a wide selection of food with the different protein bases, including bison, duck, turkey, fish etc. to suite your pet's needs and sensitivities.

8. Quality products exclusive to pet stores are available such as J.W., Jakks, Rogz, Kurgo, Planet Dog, Beco, Sun Seed, Xtreme, Higgins, Hamilton, CareFresh, ZooMed, etc... The list goes on!!

9. Pet Specialty store offers manufacturer frequent feeder programs. Quarry Pets extends the frequent feeder programs for Acana, Orijen, Horizon, NutriSource, Blue Buffalo, and ProPlan.

10. Quarry Pets staff is there to greet you with a smile and welcome you to an enjoyable shopping experience!

We hope to see you soon!!

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> MEAL IDEAS



Homemade Peanut Butter Eggs

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup creamy peanut butter
 ¼ cup unsalted butter
 ¼ cup light brown sugar
 1¼ cups powdered sugar
 2 cups milk chocolate chips (or 12 ounces milk chocolate, chopped)
 2 tablespoons vegetable shortening

DIRECTIONS:

1. Line a baking sheet with wax paper or parchment paper; set aside.
 2. In a medium saucepan, combine the peanut butter, butter, and brown sugar over medium heat. Heat until completely melted and starting to bubble a little,

stirring constantly. Remove from the heat. Add the powdered sugar a ¼ cup at a time, stirring until completely combined with the peanut butter mixture after each addition. Set aside and let cool to room temperature.

3. Using a medium cookie scoop or a heaping tablespoon, scoop out peanut butter mixture and shape into eggs. I found it easiest to roll the scoop into a ball, and then roll it into a short cylinder. I placed it on the baking sheet, and then used my fingers to shape the ends into an egg-like oval. Refrigerate to allow the peanut butter eggs to set, about 30 minutes.

4. Once the peanut butter eggs are set, melt the chocolate chips and shortening together in the microwave on 50% power in 30-second increments, stirring after each, until completely melted. One at a time, dip a peanut butter egg into the chocolate and, using a fork, flip it over so it is completely covered. Remove it from the bowl, letting any excess chocolate drip off. Return it to the baking sheet, and repeat with all of the peanut butter eggs. Sprinkle with decorations, if desired. Return the chocolate-covered peanut butter eggs to the refrigerator to allow the chocolate to set, about 30 minutes. Store in the refrigerator in an airtight container until ready to serve.

A peanut butter worth waiting for



For more than a century, Canadian households have welcomed Planters Mr. Peanut into their homes, his distinctive cane, top hat and monocle gracing the packages of their favourite peanuts and assorted nuts.

It only makes sense that one of the world's most recognizable product icons — renowned for the quality of peanuts and nut products under the Planters brand — is now adorning the label of Planters new Peanut Butter. Planters built its solid reputation on nuts; in keeping with that, it is only natural that — what else? — peanuts are the top ingredient in Planters Peanut Butter.

"Quite simply, Planters Peanut Butter is the better tasting peanut butter," says Don Lock from Planters. "Our approach is simple. We put more peanuts in our Peanut Butter to create a premium spread that will take your sandwiches, snacks and baking to a new level. In fact, our peanut butter is so good, you'll be tempted to forego the bread or crackers and simply grab a spoon and eat it straight from the jar!"

Peanut butter has been a staple in the diet of many Canadians for generations. Available in smooth or crunchy, Planters is

the best tasting peanut butter on Canadian grocery store shelves.

Suave and dapper, it has been rumoured Mr. Peanut has turned to the popular dating app Tinder to find his perfect match. Do you prefer him smooth or crunchy? Check Mr. Peanut out and let him know! You can also follow along with his adventures on Instagram and Twitter @planterscanada and Like him on Facebook.

For more information about Planters Peanuts new peanut butter please visit www.planterspeanuts.ca.

Grab a spoon — or two if you want to share with a special someone! — and dig in!

About Planters Peanuts:

Planters began as a vision in the mind of a young Italian Immigrant named Amedeo Obici. Little did he know that the small business he began in 1906 would grow into the world's grandest nut company. For more than 100 years we have built our reputation and a powerful brand by offering superior quality and product innovation.

Five ways to Improve Your Well-Being

The key to happiness may be difficult to find, but taking advantage of a few simple strategies can do a great deal to improve your everyday feelings of well-being.

1. Connect with the people around you. Having a minimum of three people with whom you're close may be enough to protect you from a psychological disorder. The best social relationships in terms of well-being are ones that in which other people are supportive and encouraging, and that you find to be important to your own sense of meaning in life.

2. Be active. We know that there are many benefits to an active lifestyle, not the least of which includes fewer chronic health problems. In terms of mental health, additionally, high levels of physical activity has a wide range of positive effects. Researchers believe that physical activity can help fight feelings of depression and anxiety to individuals of any age.

3. Be curious. As a key to well-being, curiosity seems like a natural factor to include. The best type of curiosity to promote well-being goes beyond being interested and engaged in your environment. Mindfulness, in which you deliberately pay attention to what you're sensing, feeling, and thinking, pays off in a heightened sense of self-determination over your behavior. The more in control you feel about what you do, the better you'll feel about yourself and your experiences. Even when you can't completely control the forces that impact on your life, thinking about your reactions and gaining greater self-understanding can help offset their negative impact. The best thing about mindfulness as a key to well-being is that it takes no special skills. Mindfulness doesn't even take up any time. All it takes to be mindful is the willingness to reflect on your inner state and experiences.

4. Keep learning. We've already seen that your well-being can be enhanced by curiosity, or mindfulness, and physical activity. Men-

tal stimulation through continued education, formal or otherwise, adds several important components to the mix. First, by exposing yourself to new educational experiences, you might also become more socially active. Taking adult education courses, whether for work or leisure purposes, puts you in situations with others who you would not otherwise have met but who have similar interests. Learning new skills can also boost your sense of self-efficacy. If you've always felt that you lacked musical or artistic ability, but now find that you can sing or paint, you'll feel that much better about yourself in general. Through adult learning, people also start to engage in goal-setting which, in turn, can promote feelings of well-being. When you choose your own goals that you feel are consistent with your values, you'll be more likely to feel engaged in your life even outside the sphere of the particular skill you're learning.

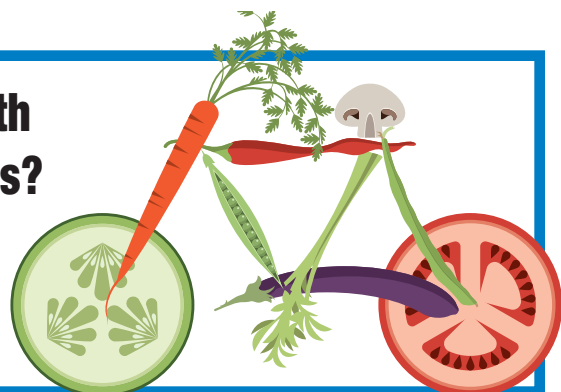
5. Give. Going beyond your own personal desires or self-interests is one of the best ways to enhance your feelings of well-being. It does feel good to obtain reinforcement in the form of personal rewards, but your overall well-being is more enhanced when you do something for someone else. Luckily, helping others is about one of the easiest behaviors to enact. You don't have to make a huge sacrifice to reap the benefits of a little altruism. Letting someone who seems frail or tired take your seat on a crowded bus or train is a pretty simple way to practice that small amount of kindness.

There are many keys to well-being that are outside of your control, but these five are well within your range of abilities, no matter what your situation is in life. The great news is also that you can ease your way into each of them through small steps. Once you do, those small steps will build on each other and your sense of fulfillment will continue to grow.

Information taken from an article written by Susan Krauss Whitbourne, Ph.D.

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Spring on the Road

Car maintenance: what to check in the spring

With winter almost over, it's time to check a few things on your car. The following five components will help you optimize its performance and avoid some expensive repair work.

1. OIL

Whether you use standard or synthetic oil, it should be changed at least twice a year, in spring and fall. For best results, use an oil quality and viscosity recommended by your vehicle's manufacturer. The oil filter should also be replaced at this time.

2. COOLANT

Coolant loses its effectiveness and oxidizes from one season to the next. Because it protects your engine during hot weather, make sure there's enough and that it's of good quality.

3. BELTS

Your engine's belts should be in good condition at the start of the summer. Why? Because if one gives way while you're driving, your car could break down. If that happens, several other parts, including the camshaft, crankshaft, valves and pistons, could be affected as well.

4. PARTS UNDER THE CAR

Winter driving can sometimes damage the parts underneath your car. During your spring maintenance check, have the underside of your vehicle inspected, including the suspension, brakes and muffler.

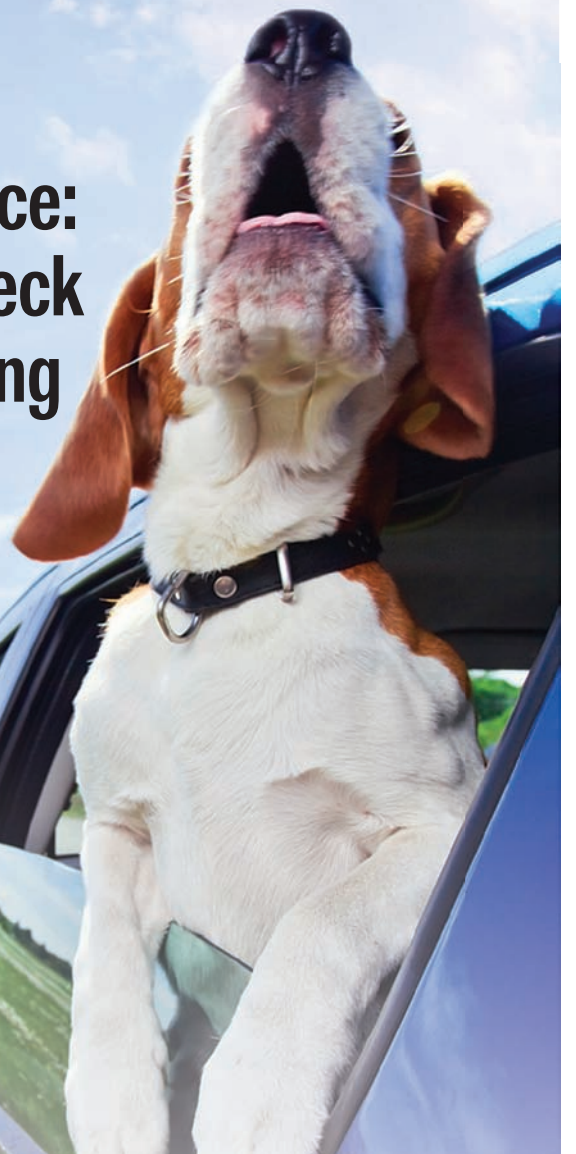
5. SPARK PLUGS

Even if your car is new, you should have your spark plugs checked every time you bring it

in for a routine tune-up. A bit of prevention could save you a lot of trouble.



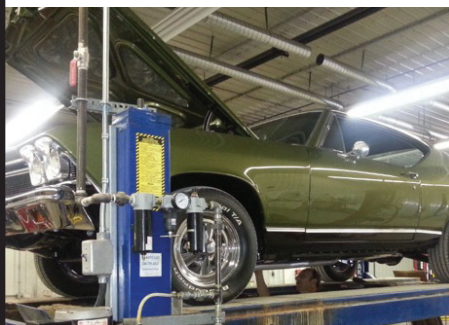
A spring maintenance check of your vehicle is a must, so make an appointment at your service garage as soon as you can.



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Read between the lines: Erosion Control Blanket doesn't need RM Bifrost-Riverton

By Patricia Barrett

In so many words, the founder of Erosion Control Blanket gave the RM Bifrost-Riverton a gentle ultimatum last week that he may leave if the RM doesn't work with him to find solutions to lowering his financial costs.

"If it's all about economics, it doesn't make economic sense for me to be in this RM," said Mark Myrowich, who spoke with council at its regular meeting March 15.

Myrowich asked for a meeting after he received an increase to his bill for tipping fees, which neither he nor council made available.

Erosion Control Blanket, headquartered near Riverton, manufactures erosion and sediment control products and hydraulic mulch material made from wheat straw, cotton and other proprietary material, according to its website.

Its byproduct is straw, which the company hauls to the RM's dump (BAR Waste) off Highway 68.

What keeps the businessman in the RM are familial roots.

"My grandparents settled in Ledwyn," said Myrowich. "They came from Ukraine and my great-great-grandparent on the other side settled in Hnausa, and they came from Iceland."

Between 2009 and 2012, Myrowich said he faced some tough economic times, including the need to mortgage his home to keep the company going.

"We've had a little bit of struggle along the way," said Myrowich. "As manufacturers, the Canadian dollar took a hit. We're exporters — we export about 70 per cent of what we make to the U.S."

But with the low Canadian dollar at present, he said the company is in a good position to take advantage of "opportunities."

"And I'm looking at what do I do with those opportunities? And where do I invest? Do I invest in the RM Bifrost [Riverton] or do I look elsewhere?"

The entrepreneur said he has purchased property in Blumenort (north of Steinbach) and is also considering moving to a site outside Winnipeg.

"I don't think I'll ever stop wanting to grow my business."

Myrowich said he struggles to find enough people to work in his plant and thinks the RM and the province need to attract immigrants to the area.

"I don't care what country they come from or what background they have," he said. "It's plain and simple: we need to have more immigrants."

Not having access to a sufficient workforce has given him pause for thought.

"That's a consideration I have to look at. If there's not enough people to fill the jobs, what do I do? Do I invest further money into growing our industry in our community?"



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT
Mark Myrowich asked the RM Bifrost-Riverton to work with him and consider lowering his cost of doing business.

Unlike Bifrost-Riverton, he said there are "zero issues" getting resumés in Blumenort.

Reeve Harold Foster said the reason Erosion Control can't get enough workers is that Winnipeg contains 70 per cent of the province's population and has a higher unemployment rate. The RM, by contrast, has low unemployment.

"It's part of the growing pains, I guess," said Foster. "Do we say it's bad when the unemployment rate is zero? I don't think so. [But] I recognize your problem with hiring people."

After crunching the numbers, Myrowich determined he would save money if he left Bifrost-Riverton and relocated his facility closer to Winnipeg.

"Every load I transport from Riverton to Bison Warehouse (in Winnipeg) costs me \$300. I'm going to do 700 loads this year. That math is \$210,000 of cost I have in my company from being in Riverton."

Deputy Mayor Dave Shott said even if he left the RM, he'd still have waste treatment costs to shoulder.

"I can take it to Brady [landfill site in Winnipeg]," said Myrowich, "and it would cost me \$50,000. ... I'm ... \$160,000 ahead."

The loss of Erosion Control would affect the RM's tax base and might entail job losses.

The company employs on average 35 people from several communities in the region, said Myrowich. Last year it employed 42 people. And as a secondary industry, the company has created 70 tertiary jobs.

In total, the entrepreneur said the company has put over \$13 million worth of wages into the RM.

"Last year, we put \$1.2 million worth of salaries into the local economy," said Myrowich. "Our taxes for just our location in the RM of Bifrost outside Riverton was \$20,000 per year since 2001. So we sent about \$260,000 in taxes to this RM since our inception."

Myrowich and council got into a debate about RM efficiencies, namely the cost it incurs to clean out ditches and why it wasn't utilizing his company's services.

"My question is, 'Why isn't the RM taking this as a resource and using it to prevent erosion?' " he said. "I hear about cleaning ditches out all the time. What's in the ditches? What are you guys cleaning out? Some dirt. What's my business doing? Stop[ping] dirt."

Myrowich said having to remove farmers' dirt, which he called "waste," comes at a cost to ratepayers.

"It's easier said than done," said Shott. "It's coming off the fields, Mark."

"So now you have farmers allowing their waste — dirt — to blow into the ditch and yet our tax dollars — my tax dollars that I pay — [are used] to clean that out. So I'll just put my garbage in the ditch and you guys clean it out using my tax. It's insane. You don't realize that the dirt should be kept on the farmer's field."

Foster said he did realize that.

If council reconsidered lowering Myrowich's waste fees, it did not do so during the meeting.

"As for the garbage issue," said Foster, "somebody's got to pay the bill — either you or the taxpayer — but somebody's got to pay the bill because we have major costs there, there's no question."

Foster suggested Myrowich separate the nylon string from his straw waste so that the RM could burn the straw.

"I agree there's some kind of solution to do it," said Myrowich. "And I want to work with the council to figure that out."

The RM declined a request to comment about its costs to process Erosion Control's waste.



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EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS

Tom Nevakshonoff's sacred cows include emergency rooms and drains



Interlake MLA Tom Nevakshonoff said the NDP is committed to keeping emergency rooms open in Arborg and Eriksdale.

By Patricia Barrett

With the legislature on hiatus until the new government is formed, Tom Nevakshonoff, Interlake MLA and Minister of Water Stewardship and Conservation, has hit the campaign trail, reiterating his and the NDP government's priorities for the Interlake riding.

He also launched a constituency office in Arborg last Sunday, his second in the Interlake.

Among Nevakshonoff's many sacred cows are health services, including emergency rooms, flood mitigation and infrastructure funding for the riding's several municipalities.

Nevakshonoff, who was elected MLA for four consecutive terms since 1999 and has served as minister since 2015, addressed the recent emergency room closure rumours in Arborg and Eriksdale, calling them "utter nonsense" and an attempt to cast the NDP in a negative light.

There have been "a lot of capital upgrades to that facility," said Nevakshonoff, referring to the government's provision of telehealth and ultrasound at Arborg's hospital.

"I will say that as long as we're the government, that hospital will remain a hospital and that emergency room will remain in operation in this town. As it will in Eriksdale."

Nevakshonoff said the rumours were likely down to "typical smear-campaigning. That's just what I suspect because it has been done before."

In order to address physician retention in rural areas — something that's not unique to Manitoba — Nevakshonoff said the NDP government



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Nevakshonoff got some office-launching help from constituents and his campaign team composed of Rozanne Imlah, chairperson of La Via Campesina International Peasant's Movement, Gord Wevursky, 30-year veteran of the Fisher Fire Department, Darryl Livingstone, campaign manager, and Murray Lowe, executive assistant. Former Minister of Agriculture Bill Uruski was among the celebrants.

had increased the numbers of physician training spaces in universities from 70 when they formed government to 103.

Despite those efforts, he said Manitoba can't compete [wages] with the U.S., and that foreign-trained doctors don't want to live in rural areas.

One of the solutions may lie in "training our rural and northern people as physicians," he said, "and they may go back to their home communities."

In addition to supporting Arborg's hospital, Nevakshonoff said the NDP has provided funding for its waterpark, daycare, natural gas pipeline and has committed funding for flood mitigation efforts along the Icelandic River. It has also provided flood funding to the RM Bifrost-Riverton.

He said the government recently gave \$1 million to BASIC, a farmers' organization in the RM that is looking at ways to improve drainage in flood-prone areas. With spring melt, those in the Interlake can't help but turn an eye towards ditches, the biggest of which is the Portage Diversion.

The NDP government experienced two major disasters [2011 and 2014] that were "a little unusual even for Manitoba," said Nevakshonoff.

"It did put a lot of pressure on us as a government, and I do want to acknowledge our premier," he said. "He did step up."

The government supported flood victims in various ways, including flood-proofing funding used to elevate cottages along Lake Manitoba, he said. Under the Harper Conservatives, the province did not receive enough federal funding during those two events.

"Manitobans were left on the hook to pay the majority of flood costs even

though these are not provincial issues," he said. "The Lake Winnipeg watershed spans four provinces [and] four U.S. states."

Nevakshonoff said because of climate change, floods are becoming more frequent; they are no longer the one in 300-year flood events that both the 2011 and 2014 events were classified as.

"Governments have to step up and start putting in place the infrastructure not just to combat floods, but to mitigate them...," he said. "We've got another billion in investments going forward to mitigate future floods."

The NDP has "unequivocally" committed millions to the outlet on Lake Manitoba, and the emergency outlet on Lake St. Martin will be enhanced to accommodate the flow.

"We're also going to shore up the Portage Diversion," he said, "... and [enhance] the dikes east of Portage la Prairie."

Nevakshonoff said the water level in the river east of Portage is "perched," meaning sediment buildup has made it higher than the land surface elevation, which during a flood can inundate the land for hundreds of square miles.

"You've got 57,000 cubic feet per second of flow coming down the Assiniboine River, which is an extraordinary amount of water," he said. "That's equivalent to one third the flow of Niagara Falls."

The minister said First Nations will be part of the NDP's flood mitigation plans and will be trained and employed in construction efforts.

"We want to engage the First Nations who suffered most profoundly throughout these flood events," he said.

He said he read the Liberals' platform on their website and discovered the party will not proceed with flood mitigation efforts "until such time that the budget is balanced, which could be who knows how long if [Rana Bokhari's] going to eliminate the health and education levy — the payroll tax — of \$471 million in revenue."

He said the NDP will finance the rebuilding in the usual way: through taxes it currently collects.

"That's where governments get their money," he said. "This was the reason our premier made a very difficult decision to raise the PST."

Putting Manitoba's deficit into context, Nevakshonoff said the global recession in 2009, still ongoing, hit Canada hard. It resulted in reductions of federal transfer payments to the provinces and territories.

"All governments are running deficits," said Nevakshonoff. "Alberta is running a \$6 billion deficit this year."

Manitoba's deficit has been pegged at \$773 million.

Prior to the recession, which Nevakshonoff said is almost equal to that of the 1929 Great Depression, Greg Selinger, as finance minister, delivered 10 consecutive balanced budgets.

"He believes in services for people. That's what governments have to provide."

In the weeks leading up to the election, Nevakshonoff will be door-knocking and attending events and debates.

The Arborg constituency office is located at 349 River Rd. at the corner of Ardal Street. To contact Nevakshonoff, call 1-866-385-2045 or email TomNevakshonoff@TodaysNdp.ca. He can also be reached at his Fisher Branch constituency office at 204-372-8932.

Inwood author discusses her latest novel *Romance by the Slice*



EXPRESS PHOTO BY NATASHA TERSIGNI

Inwood author Genevieve Montcombroux was a guest at the Teulon Library's book club last week where she discussed her 21st novel *Romance by the Slice*.

By Natasha Tersigni

It was an evening of firsts for the South Interlake Regional Library Teulon branch's book club. Not only was this month's selection, *Romance by the Slice* set in Winnipeg, but the local author of the novel, Genevieve Montcombroux of Inwood, came to the book club to discuss her 21st novel; one she describes as a story of hope and not your typical love story.

The novel revolves around the two main characters, Peirs and Nicole, when desperation on both their parts finds unlikely pairing together. While it is definitely not love at first sight, Nicole initially cannot stand being around Peirs, the plot unfolds to tell the story of how together the two can repair tragedies from their pasts and move forward.

Choosing to have two protagonists helped Montcombroux to develop her novel from being more than just a typical harlequin romance.

"This is not just your typical mainstream romance novel. I wanted to write more romantic fiction and appeal more to women, but thinking a sensitive man would also enjoy the book. Despite the title I didn't want it to be a pure romance like harlequin romance because in those types of books you cannot build the characters

and give them depth," said Montcombroux who added inspiration for the novel came from an unlikely source.

"Years ago I had witnessed a road accident where people were killed. That was in the back of my mind festering, then one day I said what if my hero had just had a car accident and killed some innocent people. I worked with that theme and that was my inspiration behind the novel; how does a person who kills other people by making a bad decision feel afterward and live with themselves."

Book club members enjoyed the novel and the opportunity to discuss the story in detail and ask Montcombroux specific questions surrounding her plot choices and character motivations.

"With this novel I wanted people to read something that has not wasted their time when they get to the end. I hope that when someone borrows or buys the book they will not stop after the second page or first chapter, they will want to read it to the end," said Montcombroux.

"I don't purposely put a lesson in the book I just want people to come away with a certain satisfaction and maybe learn something from it."

Romance by the Slice is available at the South Interlake Regional Library

branches and available for purchase on amazon.ca.

The book club has been running at the Teulon branch for over a year with 20 members participating each month. The book selections range in genre and all selections are available at the library to borrow. During the

meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., the group discusses the book in detail and often are accompanied with activities such as movie showings or even an author lead discussion. For the month's book selection contact June Makowski at 204-886-3648.

PC MLA candidate for Gimli files nomination papers



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF AND MARIELLE WHARTON

Jeff Wharton had his hand on the door of the registration office in St. Andrew's, ready to file his nomination papers.

By Patricia Barrett

Jeff Wharton, PC MLA candidate for the Gimli riding, said he was the first of the riding's three candidates to file the required nomination papers for the provincial election.

"It was an exciting moment," said Wharton, "a great kickoff to the official campaign."

The former councillor and deputy mayor of Winnipeg Beach, along with his wife and business partner, Marielle, showed up early at the registration office in St. Andrew's on Wednesday and waited for the an-

nouncement from the government that the election was officially underway.

Candidates have to file nomination papers with the returning officer in their electoral division before 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29. When nomination papers have been verified, candidates will become "official."

Wharton will take part in a candidates' debate the evening of April 4 at Clandeboy School.

The 41st Manitoba General Election is April 19.

Weighing in on the Interlake: Interview with Premier Selinger, Part 5

By Patricia Barrett

The *Express Weekly News* sat down with Premier Greg Selinger Jan. 28 to discuss major issues affecting some Interlake municipalities and what his government has been doing — and will be doing — to resolve the challenges people face in the central region of our province.

The premier addressed a number of issues: infrastructure support (drainage, sewer and water, highways) mobile communications, health care and transportation services.

In Part 5 of this multi-part series, the premier weighs in on public transportation in the Interlake.

In 2009, Greyhound Canada threatened to slash service in Ontario, the Prairies, B.C., Yukon and the Northwest Territories citing a decline in passengers. It asked provincial and territorial governments to start subsidizing its operation.

In 2012 and 2015, Greyhound eliminated a number of Manitoba routes in the north and reduced service on others.

In the Interlake, people rely on bus service provided by the West Interlake Handivan Association, serving the RMs of Coldwell, Eriksdale, Lundar and St. Laurent, and service provided by the East Interlake Handivan Association, serving the RMs of Gimli, Armstrong, St. Andrews, the Town of Winnipeg Beach and the Village of Dunnottar.

Both associations are funded by grants from municipalities, the province and other donor groups.

In 2015, East Interlake Handivan received about \$46,000 in grants from the province, about \$20,000 from municipal partners and about \$57,000 from user fees for the operation of three buses.

Two hundred and seventy people used the service last year. They made 10,420 one-way trips of which

6,095 were for work and 1,429 were for medical purposes, according to the Annual Operating Report.

Although they are valuable services, they are limited to specific coverage areas and the cost (depending on distance) for some people is prohibitive.

A one-way trip over 16 kilometres, for example, costs \$7.50 plus \$0.75 a kilometre. The service operates on an on-call basis Saturdays and Sundays.

The premier said the government has brought in legislation allowing for “more local providers, whether they’re public or non-profit.”

Waiting for private enterprise to step up and fill the gap created by Greyhound is only one solution.

Another is to find ways to utilize transportation services that already exist, such as buses operated by school divisions, said Selinger.

“If we ... work together at bringing all these needs and demands together, you can start to make a case for better local provision of bus transportation, especially if you can put the package-

ing part in there because that’s often the most lucrative part.”

Without a transportation Crown corporation — like the bus company (STC) Saskatchewan that has been operating since 1946 — the onus is on communities to demonstrate a need for service.

Selinger said communities could build a business case by showing where demand is for packages and other goods.

“Your community development corporations could take a look at this in the Interlake,” said the premier. “They could take a look at ... what the needs are for the whole region.”

He said building a business case for bus service would be no different from building a business case for railways, something he said the government did in Gimli with the Diageo distillery.

“We’ve done two or three short-line railways in Manitoba. And it’s the same idea. Everybody comes together and looks at the need. Will they use it?

Will it be cost-effective? And where that has happened, we’ve worked with local communities to keep short-line railways going. So it’d be the same notion on buses.”

The province also announced Jan. 19 that it will be conducting a study to examine the feasibility of hiring a carrier to provide service to government employees — a bid to reduce travel costs — and at the same time provide service to people living in rural and northern areas.

“We are committed to finding a solution to the lack of bus service in the province that will create government efficiencies and provide public transportation,” said Infrastructure and Transportation Minister Steve Ashton.

A consultant will look at “potential routes, schedules, drop-off and pick-up locations [and] parcel express service,” he said.

Next week, the premier weighs in on health care.

take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:

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

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

Sudoku Answer

S	E	T	V	A	T	E	S	O	I	L	D	O	
S	E	W	I	G	E	R	G	D	E	A	E	N	K
D	O	B	O	I	O	I	O	S	I	O			
V	I	S	E	T	I	S	E	I	N	E	W	V	
O	V	I	W	T	E	O	V	I	O	T	O	B	
H	C	N	V	R	H	V	P	C	O	T	I		
S	V	W											
D	H	O	H	O									
E	E	B	V	E	S								
D	O	O	J	O	W								
V	N	R	S	T	A	B	I	S	N	O	E	D	
R	E	P	E	T	N	V	O						
B	J												
V	E	N	I	R	E	P							
D	E												

Crossword Answer

X CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Listen again
7. Expressed sentiments
13. Membrane
14. Pelvic areas
16. Blood type
17. Vacated
19. Fullback
20. Nissan’s tiny car
22. Be able to
23. Outcast
25. Day laborer
26. Greek prophethess
28. Soluble ribonucleic acid
29. Sirius Satellite Radio
30. Actor Josh
31. A way to clean
33. Left
34. Compensated
36. Member of U.S. Navy
38. Reject
40. Group of notes sounded together
41. Christian holiday
43. European river
44. Female hip hop group
45. Score
47. Moved fast
48. Chronicles (abbr. Biblical)
51. Type of tie
53. Indicates silence
55. Asian people
56. Pearl Jam bassist Jeff
58. Western U.S. time zone
59. “Signs” rockers
60. Confidential informant
61. Lawyer
64. Overdose
65. Football equipment
67. Governments
69. Branch of physics
70. Makes happy

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Typographical space
3. Sportscaster Chick
4. Italian Island
5. Cooked in a specific style
6. Smelling or tasting unpleasant
7. Name
8. Adult male humans
9. Pitcher Hersher
10. Pat Conroy novel “The Prince of _”
11. _ route
12. Protects the goal
13. Furnishings
15. Scraped
18. Apply with quick strokes
21. Blood cell
24. Nose
26. Doleful
27. _ Angeles
30. Fruit tree
32. Smooth brown oval nut
35. Works produced by skill and

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38. Reversal
39. Tan-colored horse
42. Tell on
43. Pitcher Latos
46. Fast-flowing part of river
47. Hang ‘em up
49. Rings
50. Lead from one place to another
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62. Resinous secretion of insects
63. _ Aviv, Israel
66. European Parliament
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sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Peguis advances to KJHL final

By Brian Bowman

The Peguis Juniors will be making a return trip to the Keystone Junior Hockey League final.

Peguis punched its ticket to the league championships after defeating the OCN Storm 4-2 in the best-of-seven North Division final.

The Juniors clinched the series win with a wild 9-7 triumph last Friday in OCN. Both teams were tied at 1-1 after 20 minutes but then combined for 14 goals over the next two periods.

Montana Tanner (two), Jesse Flett, Matthew Cameron, Joseph Sutherland, Keevan Daniels-Webb, Waylon Neault, Harold Linklater and Theoren Spence scored for Peguis.

Aavory Wilkie (three), Lope Ipeelie (two), Nathan Gardner, and Sam McKay Jr. replied for OCN.

Ipeelie was part of an ugly scene at the end of the game, which resulted in him getting 47 penalty minutes (he had 51 PMs in the game). Camacho Lathlin was handed 32 penalty minutes while MacKay Jr. earned 24 PMs.

Peguis' Joseph Sutherland (19 PMs) and Theoren Spencer (12) were penalized at the end of the game.

The Storm had extended the series with a 7-5 road win on March 16.

OCN trailed 4-1 late in the second period but then shocked the Juniors



PHOTO CREDIT TREVOR WRIGHT/OPASQUIA TIMES

Tempers flared between Peguis and OCN at the end of Game 6 in their best-of-seven North Division final.

by scoring six of the game's final seven goals.

Matthew Cameron led Peguis with two goals and two assists while Montana Tanner, Shaquille Houle, and Tyler Woodhouse also scored.

Donovan Tanner had three assists. Justice Genialle, McKay Jr., Mitchell Tilley, Drew Morin, Tyrel Buechert, Darian Young and Ipeelie replied for OCN.

Ipeelie and Camacho Lathlin each

had four assists.

OCN was 3-for-4 on the power play while Peguis was 1-for-5.

The Juniors will now face the Selkirk

Fishermen in the KJHL final, which will be a rematch of last year's championship. The dates and times for the series had not been released at press time.

Banner performance



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Gimli "White" Atom team won the Interlake Minor Hockey Regional banner after defeating Riverton 9-3 and 10-1 in the best-of-three series. The Vikings had previously won the South Division banner, beating the Gimli Atom "Black" team 8-4 and 9-3. Gimli lost Game 2 by an 8-4 score. Pictured left to right: Leif Thorlakson, Luke Hjørleifson, Hughe Sveinson, David Johnson, Austin Johnson, Brady Michaluk, Matthew Huston, Geir Heapy, Jacob Senga, Noah De Meyer, Parker Johnson, Haden Magnusson, Owen De Meyer, Adam Vigfusson. Coaches: Paul Johnson, Erik Vigfusson, Corey Huston. Missing from the photo is Reid Martens.

St. Laurent out of Kraft Hockeyville race

Staff

The votes are in and St. Laurent didn't make the cut in Kraft Hockeyville 2016.

Saint-Isidore, Que., will represent the East and Lumby, B.C., the West in the final round of voting.

One of the two will claim the Hockeyville title, host an NHL pre-season game and get a \$100,000 upgrade to their arena. The other will get \$100,000.

Voting to pick a winner for the contest begins Sunday, March 20 on

the Kraft Hockeyville 2016 website.

St. Laurent made the Top 10 beating more than 3,100 other communities across Canada and receives \$25,000 for arena upgrades.

According to Carl Bruce, who was one of the first people to nominate St. Laurent, the arena will benefit greatly from the prize money. The priorities for renovations include the washrooms, showers, updating the three dressing rooms, and possibly adding a fourth dressing room if the budget allows.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Flyers stave off elimination in MSHL final

By Brian Bowman

The Stonewall Flyers have extended their best-of-seven Manitoba Senior Hockey League series with the Lac du Bonnet Blues.

Trailing 3-0 in the series, Stonewall staved off elimination with a 7-5 road win last Saturday evening.

The Flyers trailed 5-4 late in the second period before Matt Varnes put on a one-man show.

Varnes, an offensively-gifted forward, tied the score at 15:19 of the second period and then scored twice in

the third.

The Blues took a 2-0 first-period lead on goals from Cole Murdock and Mark Lahaie but the Flyers tied the score early in the second on goals by Damian Wallack and Ryan Elliot.

After Lac du Bonnet's Brad Bruchanski tallied, Stonewall took its first lead of the game as Kael Peterson and Eliot scored.

The Blues came right back, however, with goals from Lahaie and Jay Usackis.

Lac du Bonnet took a 3-0 series lead

after a 6-4 home win March 16.

Stonewall led 3-2 midway in the second period but Lac du Bonnet scored the game's next four goals before the Flyers' Adam Kirk tallied with just two seconds left in the third period.

Varnes scored for the Flyers in the first period and then Varnes and Cale McBride tallied in the second. Varnes also had an assist for a three-point game.

Corey Courchene led Lac du Bonnet with two goals and two assists while Steve Later, Tim Rollins, Ryan Kin-

dret, and Myles Stevens also tallied.

Game 5 of the series was played Tuesday in Stonewall but no score was available at press time. If necessary, Game 6 will be played Friday in Lac du Bonnet at 8 p.m.

A date for a series-deciding Game 7 was not posted on the league website at press time.

Lac du Bonnet reached the finals after sweeping the Gimli Wolves in their best-of-seven semifinal series.

Track and field champs



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Local athletes had several outstanding performances at the 2016 High School Series Indoor Track and Field Championship last Thursday at the University of Manitoba.

Fisher Branch's Richelande Plett finished second in both the long jump and triple jump while Ashton Leduchowski was fifth in shot put and Laine Vandersteen was seventh in shot put. Brooklynn Barteski was eighth in shot put, just one spot ahead of Kate LeTexier.

Arborg's Keelyn Knowles was tops in shot put, followed by Nathan Harding and Logan Sigvaldason.

Pictured here is Richelande Plett, middle, with Murdoch Mackay's Rebekah Eckert, left, and Selkirk's Amy Wiebe.

Lakers place fourth at varsity girls' provincials

By Brian Bowman

The Gimli Lakers finished fourth overall at the MHSAA "AA" varsity girls' basketball provincials in Souris last weekend.

Gimli lost 59-43 to the Warren Collegiate Wildcats in the bronze-medal game.

"It was close right to the end and we gave a push that gave them some breakaways," said Lakers' head coach Madi Biluk. "(Warren) is very solid as a team. They don't have any weak players or any superstars. They have a very solid team and they all have similar athletic ability."

Gimli, at times, struggled offensively in the loss, admitted Biluk. When that offence is clicking, though, the Lakers have the ability to hurt teams both inside and outside.

"We have two very tall low posts, so a lot of offence goes through our low posts," Biluk explained. "But our guard can also shoot threes, so we mix it up a little bit."

Gimli was relegated to the bronze-medal game after losing 61-55 to Neepawa in a semifinal matchup. The Lakers trailed by just two points with about "three or four minutes remaining" in the fourth quarter.

"We played a really good game," Biluk praised. "Our first two games at the provincials were amazing games."

Gimli opened provincial play with an impressive 64-57 victory over Carman. Biluk described the Lakers' play as the best she has ever seen since her tenure as coach.

"We lost to Carman by (28 or 30 points) the week before," she noted.

Gimli had just three seniors - Vanessa Acton, Sarah Bobrovich and Isabelle Ruzic - on this year's squad. That bodes well for next year's varsity girls' team.

"We'll have almost the same identical team next year," Biluk noted. "We lose the three and we actually gain two girls that were injured, that we didn't have this year, so it kind of evens out."

Gimli was awarded a game star after each contest. Mackenzy Groot was the game star against Carman while Carly Matkowski was named the Lakers' top player in the next two games.

"That was the best game that I've seen Mackenzy play and Carly is our captain. She's our leader and if she's playing well, then there's a good chance that everyone is playing well that day." This was the second consecutive season that Biluk has coached the Lakers. She said they have developed very well as both individuals and as a team.

"They have also grown as people," she noted. "They have grown so much over this year and the two years that I've coached them. I just can't wait until next year."

Classifieds

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AUCTION

Meysers Gun Auction. 10 a.m. March 26, Arden, MB. Rifles, shotguns, pistols, ammo, knives, & much more. Bradley Meyers Auctioneer. 204-476-6262. Bid online at icollector.com. www.meyersauctions.com.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

160 acres of farmland for sale located at 1520 Chas Pruden Road, R.M. of St. Andrews, legally described as SE15-153E. The land and buildings will be sold as is, where is. Clear title. Asking price is \$400,000.00 or best offer. Quick possession available. Offers should be submitted to Chapman Goddard Kagan, 1864 Portage Ave. Winnipeg, Mb. R3J 0H2. Attention Marcie Deadline for offers: March 31/2016.

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10 acres - residential building lots. Ph 1-204-376-5244.

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Wanted - used musical stringed instruments. Also: amps, etc. Phone 204-376-5244, Arborg.

MUSICAL INSTRUCTION

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Bernese Mountain Dog pups for sale. 2 males and 3 females, 15 wks. old, first shots and dewormed. Ph. 204-292-3752 or 204-635-2437.

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Lundar Community Resources Council Inc.
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By Thursday March 31/16



MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN under Section 194 of the Municipal Act that the 2013 Auditor's Financial Report, together with the related 2013 Financial Statements, for the former Rural Municipality of Bifrost and the former Village of Riverton, have been deposited in the Office of the Administrator of the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton at 329 River Road, Arborg, Manitoba and are available for inspection by any person or his agent, during regular office hours and that any person, or his agent, at his own expense, may make a copy thereof or extract therefrom.

Dated at Arborg, Manitoba this 16th day of March, 2016.

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Reeve

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENGAGEMENT



Moscall - Luczkanin

The families of Lori Moscall and Piotr Luczkanin are excited to announce their engagement. A June wedding is planned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM



Stanley Kostiuik

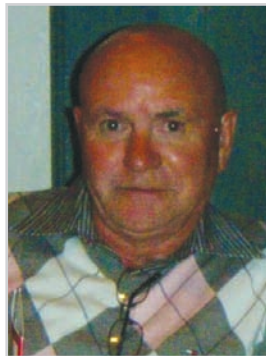
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-Your loving family
Pinky and Walter, Bev and Frank,
grandchildren and great-grandchildren

OBITUARY

Kelvin Murray Crawford



We are in shock and disbelief to announce the sudden passing, at his home in Gimli, on March 19, 2016 of Kelvin Crawford, our loving husband, father, grampa, great-grampa, brother, uncle and friend, after a short illness.

Those left behind in grief are his wife of 50 years, Lorraine and their children, Laurie (Debbie), Colleen (Lance) and Christy (Dale); his grandchildren Carly (Justin) and Josh, Cam and Daryn and great-grandchild Abby; as well as his special sister Beth (Neil), brothers and sisters and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dad had many lifelong friends he considered family, Pat, Clem and Maryann, Jake and Marylee, Ron and Carolyn and Wade and Laura. He also treasured the new friendships made at the New Horizons 55+ Centre.

As a young family, we enjoyed summers at the lake, ski trips and getting together with family and friends. After a long career in retail, dad retired but never let any grass grow under his feet, travelling any chance he got with his wife Lorraine and being active golfing, curling and taking his beloved Rockze on many walks and adventures.

A celebration of his life will be held in the summertime.

The family would like to thank the paramedics and staff at the Gimli Hospital who tried so hard to keep our dad with us.

Your presence we miss
Your memories we treasure
Loving you always
Forgetting you never

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.
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Excellent communication and organizational skills, and a demonstrated ability to work independently and/or in a team environment are required.

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(Part of June and July & August)

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Rec Centre General Labourer - Grass cutting and other miscellaneous maintenance duties. Work Shift Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM; wage based on collective agreement.

Municipal Office Assistant - Assisting with administrative duties through busy summer season. Work shift Monday to Friday, 9:00AM to 5:00PM; wage based on collective agreement

SEASONAL POSITIONS

(Approximately May to October, as required)

General Labourers - Duties include refuse crew, grass cutting, landscaping, etc., must be physically fit. Typical work shift 8:00AM to 4:30PM, Monday to Friday but may include some weekends. Valid class 5 driver's license required. Wage based on collective agreement

Operator C - Duties include operating medium equipment such as refuse trucks, roadside mowers, and dump trucks, as well as general duties. Valid class 3 with air endorsement driver's license required. Wage based on collective agreement

HOUSEKEEPING STAFF - CADET CAMP DORMITORY (For the months of June, July and August)

Gimli CDC is hiring Full and Part time housekeeping positions for the Cadet Camp Dormitory located in the Gimli Business Park. Typical working hours are Monday to Friday, 8:00AM to 4:00PM and occasional weekends. Please contact Dennis at (204) 641-0078 with inquiries on the housekeeping position.

Completed applications stating the position(s) applying for, with resume and references, should be submitted to the Municipal Office located at 62 2nd Avenue by 4:00 p.m. on April 8, 2016.

Joann King, CMMA, Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Gimli
PO Box 1246, 62 - 2nd Avenue, Gimli, MB R0C 1B0
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We thank all applicants; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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