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Provincial funding cut eliminates Partners for Careers counsellor Pam Friset's position at the Riverton District Friendship Centre. See full story on pg. 2.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY TERESA CAREY

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RDFC loses funding for Partners for Careers program

By Teresa Carey

A long-standing program that has helped clients of the Riverton and District Friendship Centre (RDFC) find employment and training has been discontinued by the Manitoba government, with only two weeks' notice given.

The program, called Partners for Careers, had been in existence for over two decades. It had offered clients at RDFC guidance in finding jobs as well as support with a myriad of needs including resumé building, interview skills, assistance with accessing student loans, bursaries and training courses including first aid, CPR and food handling, which were all offered for free to registered clients.

The cancellation will affect a wide cross-section of Riverton area clients, from high school students wanting help finding summer jobs to seniors whose monthly OAS payments are not enough to live on and who need

part-time work to supplement their incomes.

"The program has been cancelled as of March 31 for every friendship centre across Manitoba," said Tanis Grimolfson, executive director of the Riverton and District Friendship Centre (RDFC).

"They decided not to renew the funding agreement with the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres to renew the Partners for Careers program. They only gave two weeks' notice," Grimolfson said.

"We figured cuts were coming, but we didn't know where or when. They are the only government that has ever cut friendship centres, and we're the best bang for their buck (in terms of offering programming for the community)."

Under the former program that was funded through Manitoba Economic Development and Training, friendship centres received \$53,089, which

covered wages, office supplies, rent, training and administration to run the program. In the March 11 letter Grimolfson received from the province, she was directed to seek future funding by working with the local Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development Centre and submitting an independent funding proposal.

"That doesn't mean that all the Friendship Centres will get the funding now. Probably only the bigger ones will," Grimolfson said.

The funding cut means that RDFC is forced to lay off long-time employee Pam Friset, who has been working at RDFC since 2006 in various capacities. Friset had been the Partners for Careers counsellor there for the last 10 years.

"It's really hit me now — I'm going to cry. I'll get laid off for now, and if there's another opening here, I'll apply for it," Friset said.

"I'm going to really miss the people.

Some of them have told me that they wouldn't have a job if it weren't for me being there. Some of them don't have access to a computer. They're grateful to be able to come here and have somebody to help them with a resumé and to give them access to a computer, to show them the different websites they can go to to find a job."

Friset said she has had 50 clients in the 2019-20 fiscal year and has supported at least 500 people in the 10 years she has worked at the position.

"They depend on us to help them with resumes and in finding jobs, and they are going to do that on their own. They will have no place to go, and Service Canada doesn't do resumes."

Clients will now have to make their way to the Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development Centre, the nearest of which is in Gimli. However, some clients do not have transportation to get there, Friset pointed out.

letter to the editor Letters to the Editor: letters@expressweeklynews.ca

A salute from the Kiwanis Club of Gimli & District

The Kiwanis Club of Gimli & District would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge everyone in our Interlake communities during

this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

People, young and old, are all feeling the pressure of remaining iso-

lated in their homes, unable to meet friends, to attend social events, to get to school or their workplace, or to just stop and chat with a neighbour. Thank you to all of you who are taking seriously the pleas from our government and from health experts to respect physical distancing and stay at home where possible. This crisis has given us an opportunity to pause, to become reacquainted with ourselves and to find creative ways to keep connected with others.

Thank you to those who are leaving the safety of their homes to provide necessary services so that the rest of us are cared for. You are the great risk-takers — our many health-care

providers, those who are operating the tills or stocking the shelves in stores, journalists and other media people who continue to keep us reliably informed, the people who keep our communities clean and functioning, those working in shelters trying to care for vulnerable people, truckers, police, and so many others on the front line working for us. Thank you to those who are volunteering to get food and medication to people who need it. Thank you to artists and others who are finding innovative ways to share their talents and skills, to lighten our hearts and make us feel connected. Thank you to the experts and to our leaders who daily demon-

strate leadership, courage and compassion.

In this time of crisis, people are rising to the task and revealing their best selves. Whatever it takes, however long it takes, we will get through this together.

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IERHA, province optimizing bed capacity, seeking more PPE for health-care workers

By Patricia Barrett

The Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority is working with the province to divide up responsibilities for patient care and optimize hospital bed capacity in preparation for a surge of COVID-19 infections.

Community transmission — infections that can't be traced to a definitive source — is a certainty, said the province's chief public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin last weekend. He announced 57 new cases of the highly infectious virus that recently killed one patient and put another in intensive care.

Manitoba had 96 cases, with three confirmed positive in the Interlake-Eastern region (Manitoba government data) as of Monday evening, and Johns Hopkins University's coronavirus tracker showed worldwide infections at over 720,000 with 33,925 deaths.

Interlake-Eastern hospitals won't be treating COVID patients requiring intensive care but will be caring for COVID patients (primarily in Selkirk) needing less intensive hospital supports.

"Winnipeg is planning for a significant increased number of intensive care beds and medical beds based on the probability of what is coming down the pipe," said IERHA chief executive officer Ron Van Denakker during a conference call with media March 27.

"We're [IERHA] working on plans to increase our medicine bed capacity so that when people get sick with COVID-19 in our region and don't require an intensive care bed, we'll have the ability to look after them here. If they require intensive care, they will

go to one of the Winnipeg facilities or Brandon."

For seriously ill COVID patients, their lives will depend on health-care workers, and those workers in turn will depend on having high-quality personal protective equipment (PPE).

There's a worldwide shortage of PPE. Frontline nurses in overwhelmed London, England, were forced to wear bin bags to protect themselves, according to media reports.

Manitoba doesn't have enough equipment, and the provincial government is working with the federal government to bring in "as much PPE as we can," said Van Denakker. "And there's a number of things the [federal government] is doing to ramp up production."

The Manitoba government is calling on industries that use PPE to donate it and is also prompting manufacturers to start making it. The government has a submission form on its website along with details of what equipment is required.

"We have a pretty good supply of PPE for today's needs, but tomorrow is unknown," said Van Denakker. "Am I personally 100 per cent confident we have enough? I'm never confident that we have enough. I think we need to continue to plan for the worst-case scenario and that's what we're doing."

The IERHA, along with Winnipeg hospitals, is currently reviewing with staff what level of PPE they require for particular interventions to ensure "we don't overuse it and ration it," he said.

The IERHA won't be getting any of the 27 new ventilators ordered by the province because it won't be providing intensive care for COVID patients.

"When we built the new [Selkirk]



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARBORG HEALTH AUXILIARY
COVID-19 patients needing intensive care will be treated in Winnipeg and Brandon. The IERHA will reserve its beds for COVID-19 patients requiring general care.

hospital, we bought two ventilators to be able to provide [a future special care service], but we've actually given Winnipeg the two ventilators," said Van Denakker. The IERHA will be getting them back.

One of the positive things that's come out of the COVID crisis, Van Denakker noted, is system-wide co-operation.

"There will be so many amazing

things that will come out of this that we probably won't stop doing because we have really learned how to work together in a much more intentional way as a provincial system right now," he said. "It takes something like this to really bring out the creativity in all of us and it's working well."

Other IERHA updates:

- A new drive-thru COVID testing site in Eriksdale (people can't just show up; they need to be referred by Health Links).

- Expanded testing to include health-care workers showing signs of respiratory illness, remote communities, shelters, long-term care homes and corrections facilities.

- Four First Nations, including Pinaymootang, Fisher River and Peguis, joining the IERHA's incident command unit.

- IERHA approaching Manitoba Housing, which operates seniors' residences, to put up signage.

People showing COVID symptoms, which include coughing, fever, difficulty breathing, runny nose and sore throat, are asked to call Health Links at 204-788-8200, or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257, to see if they're eligible for testing.

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Licensed Financial Advisor Christine Ibbotson (AsktheMoneyLady.ca) provides a timely and necessary response to Canadians' most urgent financial concerns in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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82ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

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RESCHEDULED

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Government of Manitoba's prohibition on gatherings of more than 50 people, Red River Co-op will be rescheduling their Annual General Meeting, originally scheduled for April 23, 2020. No rescheduled date has been set, but notices will be posted when a new date is set.

The postponement does not affect the election results for the board of directors. The results of this election will be communicated to members and candidates at the postponed AGM. The current members of the board of directors will continue to serve in their roles until the completion of the AGM on its rescheduled date.

All members can still vote for their board either online or by-mail by 4:00 PM April 13, 2020. Instructions are included in their mailed member packages.

Efforts to save an injured owl; supporting great grey owl populations

By Jennifer McFee

Animal experts banded together in an attempt to save an owl with a broken wing, but despite their efforts the feathered friend didn't survive the ordeal.

Recently, Woodlands Veterinary Clinic received a call to pick up a great grey owl south of St. Laurent. Veterinarian Carl Reesink and his wife Jennifer, a veterinary technician, picked up the injured bird and brought it back to their facility.

"We started feeding it. We X-rayed it and evaluated that it had a fractured wing and attempted external fixation. We don't know if it will be successful, but we have our fingers crossed," he said last week.

"She is identified as female and hopefully she will live a happy life with the potential of being rehabilitated to another location where she might be used for breeding purposes."

The owl was moved temporarily to Balmoral to stay with Jim Duncan, who created the social enterprise Dis-

cover Owls to promote conservation research and education about owls.

Through Discover Owls, Duncan served as a stepping stone to deliver the injured owl to Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre. He determined that she was less than a year old and in good shape besides the broken wing.

Now retired from working with the government, Duncan was instrumental in the development of provincial policies and procedures for dealing with injured and orphaned wildlife.

"The reason we came up with the policy and procedures was to avoid what was happening in Manitoba and around the world with a lot of backyard rehabilitation going on. Animals were suffering because the people who did so had good intentions but they lacked the expertise," he said.

"Veterinarians and people with a particular expertise with a certain species have a role to play in the current era when only licensed rehabilitation facilities can oversee the rehabilitation of wildlife to prevent that type of thing from happening. The goal is to make sure



PHOTO BY MARIE GOWANS

Jim Duncan, left, showing Evan Gowans, middle, and his father Ian how to hold and release a recently captured and banded male great grey owl north of Teulon.

that they have a another chance at life after being injured and to prevent animals from being orphaned when they're not truly orphaned."

Sadly, the great grey owl's injury ended up being too severe for rehabilitation or even captivity afterwards so it was euthanized.

"The experts at the Wildlife Haven made the decision based on their de-

cades of knowledge," Duncan said.

"The bird would not be releasable and furthermore its injury, even once healed, would not give it a stress- or pain-free life in captivity."

On the upside, Duncan and his wife Patsy recently caught, banded and released a two-year-old male owl near Stonewall. He said the population has done well overall this winter.

"What's fascinating is that my wife Patsy and I have banded over 52 great grey owls this winter. The populations go up and down with prey population cycles, and this year we're seeing a lot of great grey owls because they've had a couple of great years of breeding," he said.

"We've banded about 25 northern hawk owls as well. That's another species that's had an influx or an eruption this winter because of good years. Now they're probably looking for places with lots of food. They're showing up in the winter in areas where we don't normally see them, like down near Argyle, in Stonewall and near Libau. It's been a really interesting winter."

The Duncans have set up a volunteer nocturnal owl survey to count sightings, and they invite community members to participate.

"Families who are already self-isolating can go out and volunteer to survey for owls for one night in the spring," he said.

"Those are a few opportunities for people to get their mind off of all of the stressful news that we're hearing."

If anyone sees a great grey owl or other owls, Duncan encourages them to share the location with him. His cell phone number is 204-404-7063.

For more information about the nocturnal owl survey, visit <https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/nocturnal-owl-survey/>.

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The Forgotten Fifteen

As Manitobans, we have one of the crown jewels of the curling world, the Winnipeg Bonspiel, which preceded the Brier by 38 years. The New York Life trophy (winner) had been played for 16 years before Alberta and Saskatchewan became provinces in 1905. Prior to 1909 the Manitoba Curling Association was the Manitoba branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club of Scotland. The 1903 annual (yearbook) shows 171 entries with affiliated clubs from Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Edmonton and Fort William (now Thunder Bay).

The Winnipeg bonspiel has come full circle. It started in 1889 with a

single event (New York Life Trophy) declaring the winner until 1905. The trophy was lost in 1905. The bonspiel changed to a Grand Aggregate format with the rink earning the most wins in multiple events being the winner. The Charles N. Harris trophy was awarded to the bonspiel winners from 1906-1985. The Grand Aggregate format continued with the Labatt Grand Aggregate from 1986-2008. In 2009 the bonspiel reverted back to a single event format. Today the team winning the Asham Curling Supplies trophy is declared winner. The bonspiel is well documented in annuals from 1889 to 2013. The Curl Manitoba website shows the Charles N. Harris trophy winners from 1906-

1985 under "Retired Trophies." If you search, you can find the forgotten 15 disguised under the Canada Life trophy with no recognition of the New York Life trophy or the fact that these 15 teams (two repeat winners) represent 17 years of Winnipeg Bonspiel winners. These winners came from Lindsay, Ont., Fort William, Ont., Neepawa, Carberry, Holland as well as Winnipeg rinks from Assiniboine, Granite and Thistle clubs. The Labatt Grand Aggregate winners and trophy are not mentioned at all. I am not sure why Curl Manitoba will not recognize 132 years of bonspiel winners.

If you want to show your pride for Manitoba's rich curling history and preserving our past before it is lost

forever, please email Hall of Fame committee members Resby Coutts at resby@mymts.net, Bill Biehl at bill_biehl@hotmail.com, Peter Nichol at cassbrett@mymts.net, Sharon Thiessen Woods at sthiessenwoods@mymts.net, Carlene Strand at carlenestrand@gmail.ca, Debbie Schween at dschween@shaw.ca, Jamie Snydal at jds320@mymts.net, Heather Helston at jbh284@mymts.net and Bev Harris at bevandal@mymts.net, along with Curl Manitoba executive director Craig Baker at cbaker@curlmanitoba.org.

- Les Ferris, Holland

Province launches program to help Manitobans cope with anxiety related to COVID-19

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Manitoba government is investing in the mental health of Manitobans by introducing a program to help address anxiety caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Premier Brian Pallister announced Friday.

"Pandemics bring about a high level of stress and anxiety, and the health and well-being of Manitobans continues to be our priority during this uncertain time," said Pallister. "Many of us are feeling concerns over whether we will get sick, the health of our families, the security of our jobs, being isolated from our loved ones and many other variables. As part of our emergency response to COVID-19, we are introducing an easily accessible virtual option to help support Manitobans."

To help Manitobans experiencing mild to moderate anxiety due to COVID-19, the province is partnering with Morneau Shepell, Canada's leading provider of technology-enabled HR services, to launch an internet-based cognitive behavioural therapy (iCBT) program free of charge to all Manitobans 16 years old and over. The province will spend \$4.5 million to provide these services to Manitobans for up to

a year.

Morneau Shepell launched this digital therapy program last week in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new program is guided by professional therapists and addresses anxiety symptoms related to the uniquely challenging aspects of pandemics: uncertainty, physical isolation, caring for family and community members, information overload and stress management.

"We know many Canadians are struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their mental health," said Nigel Branker, president of health and productivity solutions at Morneau Shepell. "With the requirements to self-isolate and practise physical distancing, we are offering a convenient, digital program that can be accessed with any smartphone or tablet. Our goal is to facilitate access and provide support to as many people as possible across the country."

Morneau Shepell's national network includes thousands of therapists experienced in dealing with the psychological impact of various traumatic events. Program participants also have access to live crisis counsellors who are available 24-7 if any risk of

harm or crisis is identified.

The program will be available in English and French in the coming weeks at www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

Pallister noted this is an additional resource to supplement a number of mental health organizations funded by the Manitoba government. Existing organizations that provide crisis support via phone, text and video conference will continue to provide support through the pandemic.

Lists of organizations are available at www.gov.mb.ca/health/mh/crisis.html and www.gov.mb.ca/health/mh/addictions/index.html.

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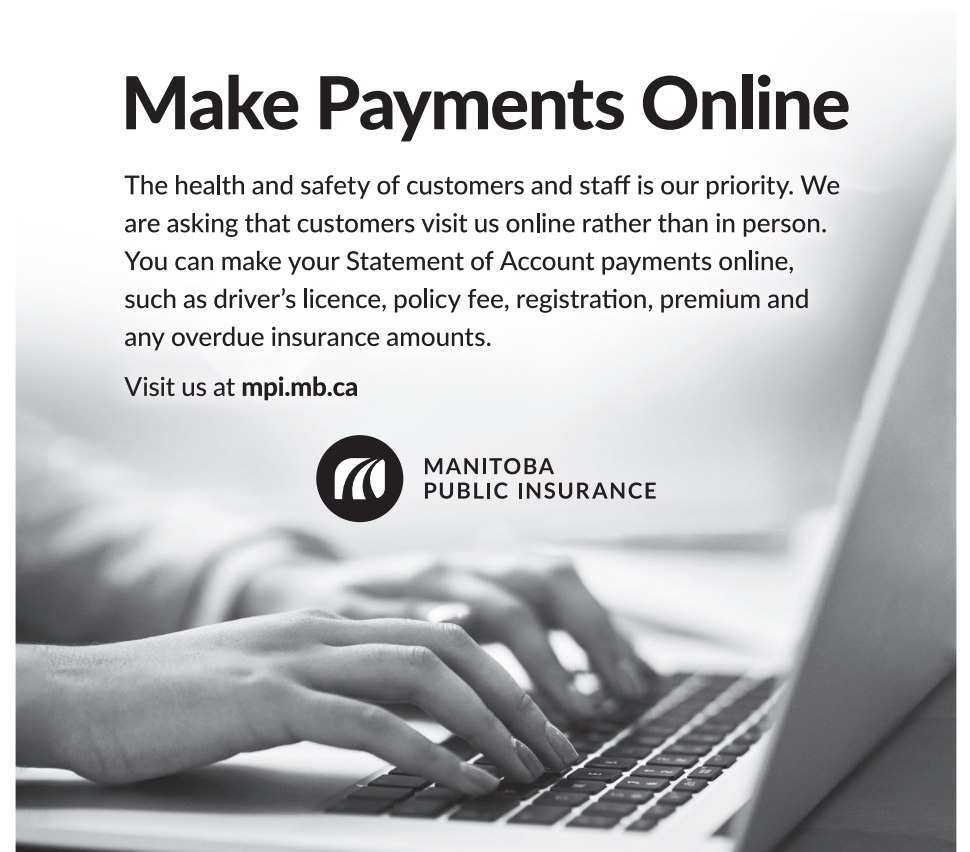
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Pandemic positivity and profundity

By Evan Matthews

There is no doubt, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a time full of fear, anxiety, uncertainty and, ultimately, negativity.

It hasn't been fun to turn on the news or read the latest article.

But if there is one positive to come from the pandemic, one silver lining, could it be a shift in global perspective?

The last time the world saw a pandemic such as this was the 1918 Spanish flu. Records were not as accurate as they are today, but it is estimated the Spanish flu killed between 17- and 50-million people, infecting a quarter of the world's population (500-million people) at the time.

Therefore, the global sense of panic makes sense. With the rapidly spreading coronavirus, this pandemic is something the world's current generation has never experienced even when compared to MERS, SARS or H1N1 (the swine flu).

Let us hope the most recent coronavirus death toll does not rise nearly as high as that of the Spanish flu.

Given this situation is one our generation has not experienced, could this bring us together in a way our population has also yet to experience?

So often, people get hung up about arguing the political right or the political left.

So often, people dedicate their lives to having their point of view accepted by the masses as the "correct" point of view.

So often, whether consciously or unconsciously, people waste their lives.

Yet, a virus can humble us all, as it does not care about anyone's political ideals or point of view.

As infectious disease epidemiologist

Nadia Abuelelam told the CBC, "Viruses do not respect borders. Viruses do not discriminate. Viruses just want to find another body where they can replicate."

As a result, we see the world band together: celebrities donating money; countries working in unison to come up with effective strategies; local grocery stores and pharmacies offering to deliver; neighbours offering to pick up groceries for vulnerable populations around them; coming up with creative ways to cultivate community while respecting social distancing measures; and many more initiatives.

So, when the coronavirus is a distant memory, what will it have taught us? What will we have learned about what it means to be human beings?

Based on what we're seeing worldwide with so many struggling in isolation, lonely, a hope would be that we'll have learned that our lives centre on the connections we cultivate: family and friends.

Our lives centre on living a fulfilled existence, doing things that give us purpose and keep us healthy. Life is about the daily struggle — simply surviving — and enjoying the ride, each and every day.

While our society has become socially introverted and pessimistic in so many ways, largely to do with technology, we have now been forced into isolation by a virus. We have, collectively, been forced to realize what we've been taking for granted.

This pandemic has offered us an opportunity to renew our appreciation for life, for connection, for people.

It hasn't been all bad. During times of adversity is when people show what they are truly made of.

Human interaction and connection are aspects of life our society may have taken for granted in the past, but if there is one thing to take away from this global scare, it's that we shouldn't take human connection for granted in the future.



PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Despite lingering banks of snow and a scarcity of worms and insects, robins have started arriving from their winter hiatus. They begin their northward movement in late February and start arriving in Manitoba in March once the temperature begins to rise. The temperature rise in spring is a key factor in their migration, for the birds need thawing ground so that they can dig up earthworms. Robins return to the same breeding area they had frequented the previous year.

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A good solitary day of fishing

Welcome, my friends.

Wade's headlights danced wildly, piercing the early morning darkness as he manoeuvred his truck-trailer rig over the potholed trail down to the ice of the lake. He stopped at a flat, snow-covered patch and turned the truck off. Sitting in silence for a moment, he looked out at the faint light on the horizon that signalled the rising sun. He pulled his cap down tight on his head, covered it with his hood and slipped his mitts on as he left the truck.

Wade walked back along his trailer. Moving with care in the dark, he climbed up beside his strapped-down quad and sleigh. Freeing the straps went quickly and he soon sat on the idling quad, the smell of exhaust filling the air. He raced the motor a bit as he backed his rig off the trailer. Free now, Wade felt a surge of expectant joy for the coming days fishing and made for the middle of Lake Winnipeg's south basin. Wobbling and bouncing over the snowpack, the quad's bright lights became dim in the early morning dawn.

Far ahead he could see other anglers' trucks roaming slowly on the ice looking for a lucky spot. In time he passed them. He liked to be alone. Soon the big ice break loomed ahead. Off to his right he saw a thin, grey stick someone had stuck in the snow marking a narrow rough passage over the break. He slowly guided his rig careening over the break to the vast ice and snow field that seemed to stretch forever. He loved it out here. With nothing but his thoughts and the anticipation of catching something special, he pressed on. The constant undulating growl of the motor as it worked over ice or snow was his only companion.

In time, the thin black shoreline told him he was in the middle of the lake. Wade stopped on a patch of ice with little snow, dismounted his quad and began taking his fishing gear from the sleigh. In the bright daybreak, with a brisk wind in his face Wade set the drill of his auger on the ice and pulled the starter rope. The motor crackled then screamed as it made the wobbling drill bite into the ice. His drilling went quickly and soon trimmed the slush away from two ice holes. Wade was a man who thought ahead. Before leaving home, he had hooked thawed minnows on the lines of his short rods. Now, as he took them out, they were frozen but would soon soften as he dropped them into the water. He sat silent on the quad looking out over the endless, silent, now sun-bathed ice pack.

The routine of many ice fishing days brought the urge for coffee to him and he opened his lunch box, taking out a huge Thermos. He unscrewed the top and poured the steaming aromatic coffee into the cup. He sipped it, burning his mouth. Wade grimaced, bending over the side of the quad. He grabbed a handful of snow, dumping it the coffee to cool it and then continued sipping. The rod closest to him jerked downward! He set the coffee cup down, jumped from the quad and grabbed it. He felt a frantic rapid jerking on the line and began reeling in. Suddenly the jerking became a steady hard pull. Wade flipped off the drag and let the fish run. The fish stopped and he began reeling in again a little slower. Standing over the ice hole, Wade saw a flash of green as the body of a fish darted past below the holes water. He let it run again. Three times it swam away and each time Wade patiently brought it back.



PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL

Wade Jones with a great walleye he caught out of Lake Winnipeg.

The last time the fish came to the hole without fight. Wade knelt and, seeing the head of his walleye, he plunged his hand into the icy water, grabbed it by the gill and tossed it onto the snow.

It was getting warmer now. Standing up, he raised his head to the sky. Though the sun and white snow fields made his eyes hurt, Wade saw billowy, light grey clouds gathering. Sitting on the quad, he dug into his cooler, his fingers finding soft egg salad sandwiches. He brought them up, munching contentedly, washing them down with warm coffee as he watched his rods. As the sun sank lower, in satisfying intervals Wade would see one of his rods dip with the reward of another fish, though none were as big as the first that he had measured and released. Even with the overcast afternoon, the warmth remained. Wade perked up feeling a rain-drop hit his face.

It was time to go home. He packed up and regained the trail that had brought him here. As Wade headed for shore, he found himself laughing as he wiped the intensifying sleet and rain from his face and eyes. It had been a good solitary day of fishing. Later at home, he fell asleep content, having lived the kind of day he knew suited him.

Till next time. Bye for now.

Checkpoints established to inform travellers about COVID-19

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Manitoba government will establish five highway checkpoints and provide information in airports to help inform travellers about the public health measures in place to slow the spread of COVID-19, Justice Minister Cliff Cullen and Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler announced last Friday.

"We must do everything we can to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and on our health-care system," said Cullen. "This approach will help ensure travellers know they must self-isolate, what the province's state of emergency means to them and other important public health information. By being informed, we can reduce the risk to Manitobans and help keep our communities healthy and safe."

Travellers will receive information

about Manitoba's current state of emergency, public health orders issued under The Public Health Act, and the need to immediately self-isolate for 14 days after travel in Canada or internationally. If Manitobans need assistance with groceries, prescription pickup and other services, they are encouraged to go to www.HelpNextDoorMB.ca.

Cullen noted this kind of proactive measure to inform travellers and help slow the spread of COVID-19 is critical.

Checkpoints will be located at the:

- Ontario border:
 - Trans-Canada Highway East (West Hawk Lake/Falcon Lake);
- Saskatchewan border:
 - Trans-Canada Highway West (west of Kirkella/Elkhorn/Virden);
 - PTH 16 (west of Russell);
 - PTH 5W (west of Roblin); and

- PTH 2 (west of Sinclair/Reston/Souris).

"We expect these checkpoints to be operational this week, staffed by provincial employees," said Schuler. "Drivers can expect to see roadside signage to help direct them to the checkpoints and support traffic safety."

These checkpoints are established under the authority of The Public Health Act. No one will be denied entry into Manitoba at these locations.

Signage will also be placed at the Winnipeg Richardson International Airport and the Brandon Municipal Airport to ensure people arriving on domestic flights have similar information.

The province continues to rely on the recommendations of the chief provincial public health officer and encourages all Manitobans to engage

in good social distancing protocols including practising following the 3P's — protect yourself, protect your loved ones and protect your community. For more information, visit www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

Effective March 23, public health officials recommended anyone who returns from international or domestic travel should self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following their return. This recommendation does not include:

- the commercial transportation of goods;
- workers who live in a neighbouring jurisdiction and travel to Manitoba for work;
- health-care workers who travel to work from outside the province; and
- normal personal travel in border communities including visits to a cottage.

A win-win for the watershed and students

By Jennifer McFee

A group of local students is earning recognition for their efforts to save the watershed.

A trio of Grade 11 students from Warren Collegiate Institute — Abby Procter, Sarah Crockatt and Emily Fehr — ranked in the Top 10 for this year's Caring for Our Watersheds Manitoba contest.

In total, more than 575 students from 20 schools submitted 336 proposals to the initiative, which invites Grade 7 to 12 students to answer the question "What can you do to improve your watershed?"

The students then research their local watershed and identify an environmental concern. Next, they write a proposal to outline one realistic solution.

For Procter and her team, it came as quite a surprise to be named in the Top 10 for their clothing swap proposal, which aims to reduce the negative effects on the watershed created by laundry soap as well as the fast fashion industry.

"It was quite a shock," said the 16-year-old student. "We were pretty proud of our project. We just didn't know it would go that far."

The teens hosted two local clothing swaps to encourage people to find new purposes for their used clothing rather than throwing the items away. At the same time, they also raised awareness about phosphate-free laundry detergents that are more eco-friendly and they handed out samples

of a homemade version with easy-to-follow instructions to make your own.

"When the clothes end up in our landfills, the dyes and parabens seep into the watershed and that affects our water quality. Also, when we wash the clothes, the phosphates from the detergent creates putrefaction in our lakes, which causes an abundance of algae — and that takes up oxygen and can kill our fish and contaminate our waters," Procter explained.

"So we created our own laundry detergent that's phosphate-free and we were giving out samples at our clothing swap. It reached our whole community and even neighbouring communities like Stonewall."

Their homemade detergent contains borax, washing soda, baking soda, Epsom salts, Himalayan salt and essential oils, she added.

"With the extra clothes, we've up-cycled them into dog toys and little grocery bags for produce and rags for our school's bike repair shop," Procter said.

"The rest we're donating to a local church and Siloam Mission."

Here in Manitoba, Oak Hammock Marsh is working with Nutrien Ltd., which launched the Caring for Our Watersheds program.

Amanda Benson, interpretive specialist at Oak Hammock Marsh, said the team proved to the judges that their idea was realistic by hosting a successful test swap that effectively removed 14 loads of clothing out of landfills.



PHOTO BY LEE STEWART

Abby Procter, left, Sarah Crockatt, middle, and Emily Fehr.

"This was only the beginning of their plan. They hope to educate other students at other schools and get them excited about possibly hosting their own clothing swaps in the future," Benson said.

"They've even obtained some extra funding through a youth climate change conference that they attended to make their project reach even further."

Usually, there is a final contest for the Top 10 teams to present their projects to another panel of local judges. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's final contest is cancelled. Instead, all Top 10 projects will split the finalist prize equally, so Nutrien Ltd. will provide \$600 for the students and a matching prize of \$600 for the school or club.

The other Top 10 teams came from

Virden Collegiate Institute, Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School, Westwood Collegiate, Elmwood High School, The King's School, Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, Miles Macdonell Collegiate and Munroe Junior High.

Looking ahead, the students will be implementing their project with guidance from Benson as the program coordinator.

"Our action plan was to buy lots of ingredients to make soaps and travel to nearby schools and communities to educate them on how to make it themselves," Procter said.

"It's very cheap to do and it works just as well as regular stuff that you buy in stores but it's more eco-friendly. We also hope to keep doing clothing swaps after this whole coronavirus goes away."

Manitoba suspends classroom learning indefinitely amid COVID-19 pandemic

Remote and Online Learning, Assessment to Continue Through Innovation and Work of Teachers

Submitted by Manitoba government

At the advice of the chief provincial public health officer, Manitoba is suspending classroom learning for kindergarten to Grade 12 students indefinitely for this school year to help 'flatten the curve' and reduce the impact of COVID-19 throughout the province, Premier Brian Pallister and Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced Tuesday.

"We must do everything we can to flatten the COVID curve and protect the health and well-being of all Manitobans," said Pallister. "The decision to suspend classroom learning in school indefinitely for this school year is the

easiest decision to make because it protects our children and their education — it is the right thing to do."

The suspension of in-school classes follows the province's announcement on March 13 that they would be suspended at all kindergarten to Grade 12 schools through April 10. This new step to extend the suspension is being taken with the interests of students, educators and all Manitobans in mind, the premier noted.

No student will be held back due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but students must actively engage in learning. All students on track to graduate will do so. Teachers will teach remote-

ly, assign work, conduct assessments and prepare final report cards. For students in Grade 12, provincial exams will be cancelled, but teacher assessments will be implemented. For students in early and middle years, provincial assessments are complete for the current school year, but other assessments will continue.

"The efforts and success Manitoba teachers and educators have displayed during this public health pandemic have been inspiring," said Goertzen. "I join all Manitobans in asking educators to continue doing all they can to use remote and innovative methods to teach students through the remainder of this school year. Our government is asking for an all-hands-on-deck approach, with their assistance and with that of parents, caregivers, principals, trustees and superintendents for the benefit of all students."

Child-care centres located in schools will continue to operate under the current conditions set out by the chief provincial public health officer. The overall plan is oriented toward the future and we will learn how to modernize education through our response to this situation, Goertzen said. The combined efforts are geared toward the reopening of classrooms, as well as toward multifaceted ways to teach and to learn after COVID-19, he added.

The province continues to rely on the recommendations of the chief provincial public health officer and encourages all Manitobans to engage in good social distancing protocols, including practising the 3Ps — protect yourself, protect your loved ones and protect your community. For more information visit www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

Bifrost-Riverton, Arborg, bound together by COVID-19



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LYNETTE OLIVER

Interlake Co-op has installed plexiglass barriers at their tills to protect customers like Kelsey Cockerill, left, and staff Ann Sutyla from contracting the coronavirus.

By Evan Matthews

Pride is not always found amidst chaos, but with COVID-19 scares worldwide, RM of Bifrost-Riverton leaders are proud of their communities for stepping up.

Bifrost-Riverton Reeve Brian Johnson and Arborg Mayor Peter Dueck are seeing the community, businesses and individuals, adapt.

"These are scary times. No one knows how long this is going to last for, but we're doing things the right way," said Johnson.

"I'm noticing everyone has become extra vigilant, and every person and organization has implemented and is following strict protocol to protect the public, staff, volunteers, etc.," he said, emphasizing the response has been extremely positive.

Johnson said the community, collectively, has been ensuring seniors are well looked after and protected, with some folks dropping off groceries to them, as an example.

With municipalities and neighbouring communities coming together as a team, Johnson said the region should be proud of how the situation has been handled so far.

"The provincial government and health-care professionals both deserve a lot of credit in that regard, as they've kept us informed, and people are adjusting. The government has done an excellent job in being firm with our population and the recommended guidelines and advisories," said Johnson, adding Manitoba has the

benefit of being geographically central and with a lower population than some of its neighbouring provinces.

"That allowed us to be proactive in our approach. People are changing the way they're living, whether it be their buying habits or their social practices.

"But we're doing it together, staying respectful and accountable, and that's a huge positive," he said, adding he has witnessed people self-enforcing social distancing strategies.

Though the number continues to grow and currently sits at 72 cases (by press time), Manitoba's COVID-19 cases are quite low compared to the rest of country (excluding the territories and including the Maritimes).

Johnson added he's thankful the Interlake doesn't have to deal with overcrowding, an aspect exacerbating the coronavirus issue in places like New York.

Positives in Arborg

Mayor Dueck echoed Johnson's sentiments, suggesting businesses have had to change.

Some businesses are doing deliveries — Co-op and Home Hardware come to mind as examples, according to Dueck — with Co-op also installing plexiglass to create safe space between tellers and public. It's received many positive reviews, he said.

"You see it, though. People are sombre and anxious. Chitchat on the aisles in stores have

been cut to a minimum. Nobody has gone for a handshake in over 10 days. It's impossible for people not to be mindful," said Dueck, noting the communities' connectedness can be a silver lining throughout this experience.

"The positive is that people are being respectful of social distancing and people are quickly rising to the occasion. They're being accountable. We must do this together. This has reminded us we are inextricably connected. We are all one organism."

Other examples of positivity, as shared by Little Elksa via social media, include Wallflower Botanicals "hooking people up" with hand sanitizer; the Watering Whole offering delivery; Arborg Bakery offering curbside orders and bringing those orders out to people's vehicles; Chicken Chef offering delivery; floral delivery from Arborg Nic Nacs and Flowers; Arborg Pharmacy offering curbside delivery; and plexiglass installations for businesses done by Interlake Glass.

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Lundar RCMP lay charges in homicide

Submitted

On March 26 at approximately 6:40 p.m., Lundar RCMP responded to a report of a stabbing at a residence located on the Lake Manitoba First Nation.

Officers attended and located an unresponsive 35-year-old female who was pronounced dead on scene.

RCMP have charged 20-year-old Phoenix Austin Maytwayashing from Lake Manitoba First Nation with second-degree murder in relation to this homicide.

He has been remanded into custody and scheduled to appear in Winnipeg Provincial Court on March 30.

COVID-19 IS HERE, MANITOBA

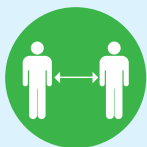
It only takes one person to infect many. **DON'T BE THAT ONE PERSON.**

PROTECT yourself, **PROTECT** your loved ones, **PROTECT** your community

SOCIAL DISTANCING

(also called "Physical Distancing") is the best way to reduce the spread of viruses like COVID-19 during an outbreak. It means changes to our day-to-day lives to minimize close contact with others, whether we know them or not. With patience and cooperation, we can do this, and we need to do it NOW.

DO THIS:



Keep at least 2 arms lengths away

We still need to go out in public for things like essential appointments and shopping. Where possible, spending time outside and utilizing green spaces is also important. In all situations, **keep at least 2 meters or 6 feet from others as much as possible**. This only applies if you don't feel sick. If you feel sick, you must stay home.



Stay home as much as possible

Things you can do at home like reading, watching TV, playing games, sitting on your deck, spring cleaning, yard work, and cooking are all good! Staying home whenever possible makes us all safer right now.



Shop wisely

There are things we need like groceries, fuel and the like. **Where possible, use online shopping and home delivery.** Please remember that panic buying is not needed. Finally, remember that if you feel sick, do not go out – you must stay home.



Use technology to keep in touch

We all need to keep in touch with our friends and loved ones, especially when keeping physical distance. **Phone calls, texting, and video chats** are all great options.

DON'T DO THIS:



Non-essential gatherings

We all need to avoid things like parties, weddings, birthdays, play-dates, sleepovers for kids and other non-essential visitors to our homes. Also, avoid all non-essential travel.



Physical greetings

Handshakes and hugs are out. We need to get good at non-physical greetings like waving or nodding. Limiting unnecessary touching makes us all safer right now.



Touching surfaces people touch often

Walking or exercising outside is good, but keep your distance from others and avoid things like hand rails, public play structures and public phones whenever possible.



Contact with people at higher risk of COVID-19

We all have a responsibility to protect those in our community who are most at risk from COVID-19, which includes the elderly and those with other health conditions. We can use non-physical ways to stay in touch, and where possible we can help these people with getting groceries and other essential errands.



YOU MUST:

SELF-ISOLATE for 14 days if you return from travel anywhere outside Manitoba.

STAY HOME if you feel sick, regardless if you've travelled or not.



ALSO REMEMBER:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching your face
- Cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm
- Disinfect frequently-used surfaces often

STAY SAFE, STAY STRONG.

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, MANITOBA.

Manitoba 

Share this with everyone: covid19manitoba.ca

For health emergencies, always call 911. En cas d'urgence, composez toujours le 911.

READY TO VOLUNTEER TO GIVE SOMEONE A HELPING HAND?

Visit helpnextdoormb.ca to get connected.

RCMP moving forward with town hall ideas

By Patricia Barrett

The RCMP Gimli detachment will be using ideas it gathered from a recent town hall to move forward on enhancing community safety.

The detachment organized a town hall Feb. 6 that had residents, community organizations, schools and municipal and provincial politicians come together to offer ideas on how they and the RCMP could work together to reduce and prevent crime in the rural area.

Staff Sgt. Rob Gray put together a summary of the results and will be sharing them with town hall participants. He said he will also be meeting with municipal councils to determine areas of focus.

"From this town hall, we'll try to find a common theme that we'll weave into our annual performance plan," he said.

He develops a performance plan — something every detachment in the country does — each year with input from municipal leaders, he said, and will be asking them what they think the RCMP should be looking at this year.

One of the major themes that cropped up at the town hall was communication between residents and RCMP.

Resident complacency can sometimes pose a barrier to reporting crimes. Often times, people might

assume someone else has called the RCMP to report a crime or suspicious activity, while others may not want to call the police for various reasons, including fear of getting involved.

"We have had in the past someone who wanted to remain anonymous, but we can't follow up on the information because they're not telling us who they are. They don't want to get involved," said Gray. "We want to solve crime, but they need to help us."

As far as communication from the RCMP to Interlakers, Gray said that's something he'll be trying to enhance. One of the ideas raised at the town hall was to have an electronic means of accessing what's going on in the community.

The RCMP communications department — which also oversees social media — employs a number of staff on a full-time basis. An individual detachment would be hard pressed to maintain a Twitter feed on an ongoing basis.

"Our full-time media people look after the Twitter feed. We don't have the manpower here to do that because we're answering calls," said Gray. "But I might suggest to our communications [department] that instead of a provincial Twitter feed we have an area or district feed so people can find out what's going on locally."

Town Hall Recap

At the town hall, the service had asked participants to answer three questions: (1) As a community how do we move towards making our communities safer? (2) What activities should the police focus on to make our communities safer? and (3) Collaboratively, how do we accomplish these activities?

Question 1. Ideas included a neighbourhood watch, regular RCMP visits to schools to engage with youth, mental health programs, residents reporting suspicious activity, knowing who belongs in a neighbourhood, educating seasonal residents about property protection and RCMP foot patrols in communities.

Participants also suggested better street lighting, more cameras and timed lighting for dwellings, but those measures fall beyond the scope of RCMP.

Question 2. Ideas included more police presence, stopping the closure of detachments, increased rural subdivision patrols, public education sessions, engagement with schools, saying hello to and getting to know individuals on the street, allowing

RCMP to do more policing in the community rather than having to attend court or guard suspects at hospitals, and providing regular RCMP community updates, alerts and warnings via radio, newspapers and social media platforms.

Question 3. Ideas included forming a liaison group to advise the service and vice versa, stepping up two-way

(between the service and residents) communication, creating an electronic anonymous tips system whereby residents can inform RCMP, holding more community consultations between the service and residents (both adults and youth), being proactive rather than reactive when suspicious

"FROM THIS TOWN HALL, WE'LL TRY TO FIND A COMMON THEME THAT WE'LL WEAVE INTO OUR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN."

activity or problematic issues arise, assess whether crime-prevention initiatives have been effective and holding educational workshops on various topics such as setting up cameras and alarms.

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Snowbirds shopping in Gimli rather than self-isolating

By Patricia Barrett

Crossing the U.S.-Canada border and heading home may be a relief to many Canadian snowbirds who spend the winter in America or Mexico, but their return is proving to be a source of anxiety for some rural communities as the numbers of COVID-19 infections in Manitoba suddenly jumped last week.

A Gimli senior said he and other seniors are concerned there's a potential for snowbirds to transmit the highly infectious virus throughout the community as they've been seen in local stores stocking up on supplies.

"We've had snowbirds coming into the liquor store in Gimli," said Bill Buckels, who falls into the category of people most susceptible to developing serious health complications from the virus. "They're coming in to buy booze when they should be self-isolating."

Because everyone pretty much knows everyone in Gimli, it's easy to identify people who've just arrived back in town after wintering outside the province.

Buckels said he contacted Gimli councillors and asked them to consider passing a local state of emergency to increase measures to prevent the spread of the virus and to require "anyone travelling into the municipality from another province or country to register" with the RM.

"I forwarded that to all council mem-

bers and I don't know if it got through to them," said Buckels. "I also posted it all over social media and got chastised. People were saying, 'How dare you scold me.'"

He said he also contacted Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson but couldn't get through to him on the phone.

Manitoba experienced a COVID spike last weekend with 33 additional cases. As of early Sunday afternoon, the province had 72 cases.

The province and health authorities have made clear there's no option for snowbirds and those crossing inter-provincial borders to stock up on groceries and alcohol before entering self-isolation. Travellers must go straight home and stay home for a mandatory 14-day isolation period.

Local grocery stores and restaurants in Gimli are offering delivery services snowbirds can use.

So far the province has not closed its borders with Ontario and Saskatchewan, but last Friday it established checkpoints at five of the busiest crossings. Government staff are now handing out pamphlets and telling travellers they must comply with the isolation period.

Buckels said snowbirds aren't among those who are "selectively" being tested by the province, and that may not tell the whole story of who's infected. Some infected people may be asymptomatic or have symptoms

so mild they may brush it off as a cold or allergies.

"There hasn't been any community transmission, according to the province, but the province hasn't been testing people coming from outside, including snowbirds," said Buckels. "They've developed a very selective algorithm that really only mitigates part of the risk."

Because the U.S. failed, said many critics, to prepare in February when worldwide cases of COVID-19 began to take off, the country has now surpassed all other countries in terms of infections.

As of early Sunday afternoon, America had over 125,000 infections. The worldwide epicentre of the virus is now centred in New York City (32,308 infected; 678 dead). About 705,000 people across the globe have been infected, with over 32,000 deaths. (Source: Johns Hopkins University).

The mayors of three Ontario municipalities — the City of Cornwall, the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, and the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry — jointly declared a state of emergency last week to help slow the rate of infection, according to local media.

Increased powers will let them leverage staff and equipment to help their hospitals deal with an anticipated surge of infected patients and to deal more strongly with what one county warden called "covidots" —

people disobeying social distancing and jeopardizing others' health, not to mention their own.

The Ontario counties are also concerned about COVID-infected snowbirds returning from southern hotspots and spreading it to others in the community.

Buckels said he received no response from the RM of Gimli regarding his request to call a state of emergency.

The RM's acting chief administrative officer Kelly Cosgrove told the *Express* that council is not considering such a move at this time but will "continue to monitor" the situation.

As for returning snowbirds, Cosgrove said they are to adhere to provincial and federal orders.

"We direct all public to the measures that have been put in place by the Province of Manitoba and the federal government," said Cosgrove, referring to the mandatory 14-day self-isolation period.

Buckels said we've "long known this threat existed and watched it come across from points east," and there should be more stringent measures put in place right now before the virus goes on the rampage through rural areas. "This is not working at so many levels," said Buckels. "To me, you've got to isolate your community to protect us, as well as to protect them [travellers]. Being a retirement community, council has a responsibility to protect us seniors."

Highway 6 municipalities still COVID-19 free

By Evan Matthews

RECYCLING NOTICE

Riverdale Workshop WILL NOT be picking up Recycling

- Tuesday, March 31, 2020 in Arborg
- Thursday, April 2 in Riverton
- Tuesday, April 14 in Arborg
- Thursday, April 16 in Riverton
- Tuesday, April 28 in Arborg
- Thursday, April 30 in Riverton

This includes all the business places on the above mentioned dates on the Monday and Wednesdays due to the small group of workers available.

All business places please place the recycling outside on pickup day.

Please keep your recycling at home on the dates mentioned above.

The workshop will update if something changes.

*Thank you for
your cooperation.*

A new COVID-19 testing site has opened in Eriksdale, and community leaders are thankful there have been no confirmed cases of the virus locally to date.

RM of West Interlake Reeve Arnthor Jonasson said the RM hasn't had any outbreaks to date, and RM of Coldwell Reeve Brian Sigfusson seconded the notion.

"We're taking the right precautions, but there isn't a lot of real fear yet because we haven't had any cases," said Jonasson.

People are respecting the provincial advisories, which advise self-isolating as much as possible in addition to social distancing strategies.

"It's kind of eerie, in a way. There are no cars down Main Street in Ashern, just at the grocery store. Everybody is keeping to themselves," he said.

Similar to other communities, grocers in the RMs are delivering to people in their homes, Jonasson said, and

the Ashern Co-op has installed plexiglass to create a safe space between employees and public.

"Everyone seems to understand the importance of social distancing," said Jonasson. "Everyone is doing their part to stay informed and respectful."

The new COVID-19 drive-thru Interlake testing site is located at the Eriksdale Wellness Centre (35 Railway Ave.) and is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Prospective patients wanting to be tested need a referral from Health Links, according to the province, and community screening locations will not accept walk-in patients.

RM of Coldwell

Reeve Sigfusson said the RM has done a lot to minimize contact by closing the RM building to the public, as well as other public amenities. Much of the RM's interaction is now done by phone and email, he said.

"We've asked people not to host or

attend public gatherings," said Sigfusson, referring to council voting in favour of a community event ban, and people have been adhering.

"If you look around town, there is no movement around town. People are being respectful of social distancing and health-care advisories. The message is being conveyed well, and we want people to follow those advisories."

Both reeves suggested they are hopeful for a vaccine, so society can return to "normal" sooner rather than later.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY EVAN MATTHEWS
Though the newest provincial drive-thru COVID-19 testing site is located in Eriksdale, the RMs of West Interlake and Coldwell have been fortunate enough to avoid the virus so far.

Manitoba restricts operations of non-critical businesses in new public health order

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Manitoba government is issuing a new public health order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of all Manitobans, Premier Brian Pallister announced Monday.

"These decisions are not easy ones, but they must be made during this global pandemic to protect the health and safety of all Manitobans," said Pallister. "These new orders will ensure critical services are available while taking steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities."

The chief provincial public health officer is issuing orders under The Public Health Act as approved by the minister of health, seniors and active living. The following measures will be in place as of 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1:

- Public gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people at any indoor or outdoor place or premises. This includes places of worship, gatherings and family events such as weddings and funerals. This does not apply to a facility where health care or social services are provided including child-care centres and homeless shelters. This remains in effect at this time under the previous health order issued on March 27, and will continue when this order comes into effect on April 1.
- All restaurants and other commercial facilities that serve food are prohibited from serving food to customers in their premises. This prevents eat-in dining at all facilities. However, restaurants and other commercial facilities can prepare and serve food for delivery or takeout. If this takes place, the operator of the restaurant must ensure that all people maintain the appropriate social distancing from other customers when picking up food.
- All businesses that are not listed in the schedule of critical services that accompanies the order must close between April 1 and April 14.
- This closure order does not prevent these businesses from operating on a remote basis.
- A business may accept orders on the Internet or over the phone for delivery or pickup, as long as the employees are not working at the place of business.

- The order does not prevent employees or others from coming into the business to perform repairs, to provide security services or to take out items from the business premises if the business is going to operate on a remote basis.

- Nothing in the order restricts the operations of delivery of services by the federal or provincial governments or a municipality.

- Nothing in the order restricts any activities of a publicly funded agency, organization or authority that delivers or supports government operations or services including health-care services. This means the order does not affect institutions, agencies and other service providers who provide health-care services such as hospitals, regional health authorities and private agencies who provide a range of health services.

- All businesses listed in the schedule of critical services that accompanies the order may continue to operate. If these business allow members of the public to attend the place of business, the operator of the business must put in place measures to ensure that appropriate social distancing rules are followed.
 - The order does not affect how members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba, the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba or the College of Midwives of Manitoba provide health-care services under the order. Any other health professionals may continue to practice if they are providing services for a publicly funded agency, such as a government or a regional health authority or a business listed under the schedule. In addition, health-care providers can continue to provide emergent or urgent care such as dental surgery.
 - Municipal transit services, taxis and other private vehicles for hire can continue to operate. The operator of the vehicle must take measures to ensure there is a reasonable separation of people in a vehicle. This order does not contain specific distance restrictions because it is hard to impose a limit in small vehicles. The goal is to ensure a reasonable level of spacing between people.
- The order also repeals previous orders as of 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1 so there is only one public health order in effect at a time.

"We are seeing what is happening in other jurisdictions, and the time to act is now. We must continue to adapt to the situation and change our day-to-day lives to prevent unnecessary illness and further tragedies in Manitoba," said Dr. Brent Roussin, chief provincial public health officer. "These measures will help us reduce the risk and protect all Manitobans during the ongoing pandemic."

The premier noted that a state of emergency declared by the powers set out in Section 10(1) and 10(2) of The Emergency Measures Act to enable the province to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic remains in effect.

"Manitobans have always pulled together in a time of crisis and this is no different," said Pallister. "We must continue to do whatever we can to support each other."

The list of public health orders and the schedule of critical services can be found online at www.manitoba.ca/covid19/soe.html. Businesses with questions about how the order and schedule of critical services apply to their operations can visit <http://engagemb.ca/covid19-csp> for up-to-date information, and to ask questions that will be answered by government officials.

Dear Teulon Residents,



On behalf of the Council and employees of the Town of Teulon, I would like to take a moment to say THANK YOU and to extend the following message to our community.

The unique nature of this biological event leaves many of us with an unsettled feeling. We are all concerned about the health and well-being of our families and friends. I am so proud of our community and how the majority have supported the measures called for by the federal and provincial governments.

We are overwhelmed with information, but it is important for everyone to stay up to date. As the situation changes almost daily, we would direct you to the main sources:

Manitoba Government

(www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus)

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health factsheet

- also includes information on self-monitoring.

(<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/coronavirus.pdf>)

Novel-Coronavirus (COVID-19): Self Isolation public health fact sheet

(https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/coronavirus_selfisolation.pdf)

For those without internet access, CBC radio and our local news stations are doing a great job of keeping information up to date.

Follow the suggestions from Manitoba Health and Health Canada to use proper hand washing techniques, maintain physical distancing (6 feet/2 meters), don't gather unless absolutely necessary and only in groups of less than 10, and self-isolate if you are returning from travel or are feeling unwell.

Please take precautions and be safe – the life you save by doing so may be your own.

Support our local businesses. Recent days have been and will continue to be a challenge for the business community. We ask that people patronize local businesses, but particularly now, we encourage you to think about and support our local commercial establishments as often as you are able. Several businesses have established delivery services that are useful for those residents that are self-isolating or have difficulty getting out.

Reach out to someone who is self-isolated or unable to do things for themselves during this trying time. Call, text, facetime, and make sure those most vulnerable in our community are healthy and safe. They will appreciate it.

This has been a challenging time for your new Council, but we are developing new ways of maintaining essential services, while ensuring the safety of staff and residents. We appreciate all the support that individuals and groups are providing, the Seniors Resource Council, the Teulon & District Food Bank, emergency services and delivery services for food and prescriptions.

Working together, thinking about each other, and doing what is right for the "we" rather than the "me" will ensure we triumph over this crisis and we will.

Stay healthy, stay safe and God bless.

Mayor Anna Pazdzierski

Venus at its brightest

By Ted Bronson

Once the sun sets and twilight fades to darkness the bright stars of the winter night sky are seen descending in the west during the month of April. This signals the winding down of winter and welcomes the incoming signs of the spring season.

Any sky observer's attention has easily been drawn to brilliant white Venus as seen after sunset above the western horizon. The rapid movement of the planet can easily be seen by watching Venus as it passes against the background stars once the sun has gone down. This is due to the fact that the orbit of Venus around the sun is closer than that of Earth.

Observe Venus as it skims by the Pleiades star cluster on the nights of April 1-5. This occurs

every eight years in April due to the geometry of the orbits of Venus and Earth. Binoculars will give the best view against the night sky as Venus is so much brighter than the stars of the cluster.

A small telescope will reveal the "quarter moon" phase of Venus. Over the next several weeks this shape will change dramatically as its phase slims and apparent diameter swells. This is caused by a combination of its orbit around the sun inside that of Earth and its decreasing distance from us. Venus will shine at its greatest brilliancy on April 27 with a magnitude of -4.7. The more negative the magnitude value the brighter the object. The full moon is about -12, the faintest stars under rural night skies is around +6 magnitude to the unaided eye.

The coming of the spring season brings forth a new set of constellations dominating the night sky. Once the sun has gone down and darkness

Continued on page 14

Myskiw continues his journey in Bangkok amid COVID-19

By Bryan Myskiw

Warren's Bryan Myskiw ventured out on a backpacking journey to South East Asia on March 8. He is sharing his photos and weekly adventures with our readers.

In less than a week, the country of Vietnam can be declared as shut down. Hoi An, a destination that I've been told has a population of 60,000, has dwindled to a couple thousand in the last week. Many Europeans and Americans have been called home or blocked at country borders, returning home to a situation described as chaos and panic.

In contrast, on the night of the last night market in Hoi An, visitors and locals gathered in a quiet setting of its former crowds to take in the street food offers, floating candles and rows of lanterns lighting the streets.

Face masks have been required from the Vietnamese government in all public places and temperature check points have increased. For me, the frequency of checks is comforting. A fear that a combination of the 100 per cent humidity and restrictions of the masks will inaccurately increase by body temperature.

On Wednesday, I flew to Ho Chi Minh City, formally known as Saigon.

I could not recommend Ho Chi Minh City for those who have a tendency to let their guard down. In two days, I witnessed two women have their purses stolen by motorists passing by. Before one could realize what was happening, the motor bikes had disappeared within the stream of thousands.

One highlight while in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) was a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels, a series of connecting tunnels running 121 kilometres used during the Vietnam war by Viet Cong. As a 6'3" tall tourist navigating through parts of the original tunnels posed a little difficulty not only how to get out but how to get in. To understand the true size of these tunnels, I had to crawl on my hands and knees to get through the tourist-modified tunnels that had been widened. This would serve as base for the Viet Cong where they would hide in by day and scavenge by night. The site now features examples of their ingeniousness from their booby traps to methods they developed to disguise living underground.

I have continued to take precautions in my travels by avoiding going out to bars and clubs, even though Hoi An has not seen a case for over a few weeks. Countries have begun to shutdown complete entries. Thankfully Canadian citizens are still accepted as long as they have not visited restricted countries in the last 14 days and arrive with a clean bill of health.

I have had to modify my trip and will now not be travelling through Malaysia or Singapore.

Singapore has required all arrivals to quarantine for two weeks.



The Cu Chi tunnels.

For those at home criticizing travellers for not returning home. I caution the criticism. How quickly travel plans change: On March 20, after Air Canada — which until that point continued to reassure me that my return home via Singapore on April 17 remained as scheduled — had now changed course, limiting international flights to six entry and exit points. I decided it would be in my best interest to take advantage of the rescheduling and fly out through Bangkok by the end of the month. This was further pushed as insurance companies began to pull the plug on travel insurances. The sole purpose I purchase travel insurance is for situations like this.

Less than 24 hours after my flight itinerary was revised, I received a notification that Air Canada had canceled my flight home on March 31. In order to rebook, I would now have to pay a premium price — three times the original return price.

As of 7 a.m. on March 21, I was scheduled to continue my journey to Bangkok by way of Cambodia to arrive for my new flight (and second rebooking) home.

All carriers except for one had been cancelled and would remain cancelled until further notice. I decided to forgo all the flights that had been booked (and rebooked) and fly directly to Bangkok with a ticket costing \$750 (normally purchased for under \$50).

While the Canadian government calls for travellers to return home, they have offered no means, guides or caps on Canadian flight carriers for passengers wanting to return home, leaving these airlines free to extort and gouge citizens and leaving them in limbo. My losses for this trip have easily doubled the overall cost. Fellow Canadians have been left to pay \$4,000 (well over four times as much as a standard ticket) to



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY BRYAN MYSKIW
Ayutthaya near Bangkok.

return home.

The Canadian government has stated that travellers must self-quarantine for two weeks after returning home, some provinces enforcing it with hefty fines starting at \$2,000 and working their way into tens of thousands (as if the lack of guidance and inflated flight tickets weren't enough). Yet, they remain unable to contact in cases where self-isolation is not an option for those who have elderly parents or grandparents or live with others. The phone lines for call centres remain cut off. Calls answered with surpassing call volume messages has become the only voice to be heard on the other line.

The government's offer of a \$5,000 loan for travellers to return is as helpful as a rock in a shoe. Many travellers I have met have echoed the same response that some at home have asked: how do you pay off a loan when you've been laid off from your job?

For some travellers, they are now required to absorb flight and hotel cancellations, new flights and daily modifications in their travels nearly \$8,000.

As of today, I now currently have six airline flights to contact to inquire about possible or partial reimbursement.

When I boarded the flight, I found that more than a handful of economy seats remained empty. Although they were available, Thai Airlines would not sell them, insisting only the business class seat remained available.

I arrived in Thailand on the last day the Thai government was allowing tourists in without a 14-day quarantine. It is between Bangkok and Chiang Mai that I pay to split my time while I wait for my flight back home, which was tentatively scheduled in 10 days' time.

> VENUS, FROM PG. 13

has descended upon us there is one constellation that stands out in April. This constellation, a collection of stars, is Leo (the Lion). It can be seen high above the southern horizon. I find that Leo is one of the few of the 88 constellations that actually looks like its namesake — a lion with its mighty head facing west as it moves across the sky all night long this time of year. Most of the other constellation patterns require more (sometimes much more) imagination to picture their forms in the night sky. Leo is one of the 12 zodiac constellations meaning that from time to time all of the planets pass in front of this constellation. The bright star Regulus marks

the heart of the Lion.

The full moon is at its closest to us in 2020 on April 7 at a distance of 356,907 km (221,772 miles). Expect the phrase "supermoon" to be tossed around by the media. About an hour before sunrise low to the southeast the last quarter moon can be found to the right of Jupiter on April 14. On the 15th the moon will have moved to a point just below Saturn. By the 16th the moon will be positioned to the lower left of Mars. By the 26th the crescent moon will be located to the left of Venus above the western horizon after sunset. A comet that may reach naked eye visibility in May this year is Comet C/2019 Y4 (ATLAS). At present, being cautiously optimistic, this comet may

attain a magnitude range between 5th and 4th magnitude. For comets there could be large discrepancies between the observed and predicted brightness because of their highly dynamic behavior. This means that comet brightness is very finicky, flare up or fizzle out. Memories of Comet Kohoutek's disappointing display in 1974 comes to mind when I talk about comet behaviour! I will be watching this one and will give an update in next month's article.

Clear Skies

Ted Bronson is an avid local astronomer who has been observing the sky since 1964. This column "Guide to the Galaxy" appears monthly.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

CRJHL still strong after second season

By Brian Bowman

The Capital Region Junior Hockey League's second season was just as successful as its inaugural one.

All five teams were competitive throughout the season with many of the games close on the scoreboard.

Scores were even tighter in the playoffs before Hockey Canada made the announcement of cancelling all games last month due to the coronavirus.

"Pretty much on any given night, any team could beat another," said CRJHL vice-president Cliff Malzensky last Thursday.

It was an extremely unusual way to end a season.

"Before the Hockey Canada decision came down, St. Malo and Selkirk were going to start the finals, (but) they decided to take a two-week break and see how this works out," Malzensky said. "Then the next day, Hockey Canada's decision came down. We already made the decision to sit out a couple of weeks."

It was a very tough way to end the season for the players, especially those in their final season of junior



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The Capital Region Junior Hockey League enjoyed another successful season in its second year of operation.

hockey.

"It's tough but it was the right decision," Malzensky said. "The players, especially the 21-year-olds (on Selkirk and St. Malo), they may never get another chance to win a championship."

The league was set to play its best-of-seven final series between the Selkirk Fishermen and St. Malo Warriors.

Both of those talented teams finished first and second, respectively, during the regular season (with just

two points separating them).

The final series would have been a doozy.

"They're the two premier teams in this league, for sure, this year," Malzensky said. "They both play clean and they both play hard. It would have been a good series."

Meanwhile, the league is looking to expand the number of teams for next season. The deadline to apply to enter the league was this past Tuesday.

All franchise applications and presentations will be reviewed during the annual AGM meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for the middle of this month.

"There were some Junior 'C' teams looking, inquiring about joining us and another team from another league was thinking," Malzensky noted. "But none of them have stepped up yet and with all of this coronavirus stuff it has put a hold on everything."

"We would like to eventually get to 10 (teams) but you need baby steps. You need to get the sixth before you get the seventh."

2020 Softball Manitoba Hall of Fame induction dinner postponed

Submitted by Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame

The Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame and Museum Inc Board of Directors has made the decision to postpone the annual Softball Hall of Fame Induction dinner originally scheduled for May 9 at the Victoria Inn in Brandon.

It will now be held on Sept. 19.

"We feel it was a necessary and responsible decision given the current public health concerns in our country," read a media release. "Our board was unanimous in support of the decision to postpone. We also appreciate the support of Softball Manitoba and the Victoria Inn in making this difficult decision."

"Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame and

Museum Inc. express their sincere appreciation to Victoria Inn Brandon for their assistance and co-operation in rescheduling the banquet. Victoria Inns is a valued partner with the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame, and we look forward to continuing our relationship with them when life returns to normal."

The 19th-annual induction banquet

will honour six individuals and two teams into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame.

Tickets, at a cost of \$75, are available from Les Newman at 204-235-1674 or email lnewman@live.ca. Previously purchased tickets will be honoured on the new date or, if you require, tickets can be returned for a full refund.

Bisons to hand out year-end awards online from March 30 to April 10

Submitted by Bison sports

The 2019-20 season is in the rear-view mirror for the University of Manitoba Bisons varsity teams.

It was another athletic year full of success, with five of the eight teams in fall and winter sports qualifying for conference playoffs.

On top of team success, there were numerous individual medals, international recognition and major U SPORTS and Canada West award winners during the season.

In a regular year, now would be the time to honour the best of the Bisons

at our Brown and Gold banquet. With the sports world on pause due to COVID-19, though, Bison Sports asserts the importance of physical distancing and will be taking a different approach to handing out year-end hardware to our coaches, team staff and student-athletes.

Over the next two weeks, Bison Sports will be announcing 2019-20 team MVPs and major award winners through our website (gobisons.ca) and on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (@umbisons).

From March 30 to April 3, we will be

announcing each Bison team's Most Valuable Player from the 2019-20 season.

From April 6 to 10, major awards will be announced:

April 6: Teammate of the Year (new for 2019-20); Male and Female Rookies of the Year

April 7: Pat Gill Legacy Award

April 8: Coach of the Year; Assistant Coach of the Year

April 9: Male and Female Leadership and Community Development Awards

April 10: Male and Female Athletes

of the Year

The announcements will include video, statistical achievements, and words from coaches and athletes closest to the award winners. For Rookie of the Year and Athlete of the Year, finalists will be revealed in the morning with the winners in the afternoon.

For more information on the Brown and Gold rollout, contact John Gaudes, sports information and digital media co-ordinator for Bison Sports at john.gaudes@umanitoba.ca or 204-297-6259.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

MHSAA cancels all provincial championships and sports activities

By Brian Bowman

The Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association has cancelled all provincial championships and sports activities for the remainder of the school year.

The announcement was made on its website earlier this week.

"Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the provincial championships for badminton, baseball, fast-pitch, soccer and track and field have been cancelled," read a statement. "In addition, all school sport activities involv-

ing lacrosse, rugby and ultimate are also cancelled."

The MHSAA also postponed its annual Hall of Fame Induction and Luncheon which was originally scheduled for May 9 in Winnipeg.

"The MHSAA is committed to protecting the health and safety of our student-athletes, staff, coaches, member-schools and the health of all of our fellow Manitobans."

Basketball and hockey provincials were forced to be cancelled last month. That was a tough - but a very

necessary - decision.

"It was heart-breaking and my heart goes out to all of them in hockey and basketball that we had to cancel so abruptly," said MHSAA executive director Chad Falk last Friday afternoon. "Especially the Grade 12s who were making a run and this was their year."

The MHSAA plays a vital role in providing outstanding athletic opportunities to high school students in the province. Many lifelong memories are made in high school sports.

"We have 11 official sports and four or five demonstration sports so there's a wide range of activities from September to June," Falk noted. "A lot of them participate in multiple sports throughout the year. It's a huge piece of the sports pie in this province and, at times, it can certainly be taken for granted. This decision we had to make and the disappointment that was out there, you can't take (the MHSAA) for granted any longer, that's for sure."

Skate Canada Manitoba announces award winners

Submitted by Skate Canada Manitoba

Skate Canada Manitoba announced their 2019-20 annual award recipients last Wednesday.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the social distancing strategies to keep all Manitobans safe we unfortunately have cancelled our annual awards gala evening. We will be sharing information about the award recipients on our social media platforms in the coming weeks.

The first set of recipients were selected from nominations submitted by our members throughout the province in skater, coach and volunteer

categories:

Skate Canada Manitoba CanSkate Athlete Award – Jagger Hepp from Skate Thompson

Skate Canada Manitoba STARSkate Athlete Award – Lauren Ginter from the Morden Figure Skating Club

Skate Canada Manitoba CompetitiveSkate Athlete Award – David Howes from Skate Winnipeg

Skate Canada Manitoba Program Assistant Award – Caitlin Muir from Skate Stony Mountain

Skate Canada Manitoba Volunteer Award – Lorraine Dewar from the

East St. Paul Figure Skating Club

Skate Canada Manitoba Volunteer Coach Award – Cindy Mahoney from Skate Virden

Skate Canada Manitoba Officials Award – Megan Maxwell from the Hazelridge Skating Club

Several other award/bursary recipients were also announced.

Skate Canada Manitoba Honour Society Induction – Miranda Edwards from Brandon Manitoba

Ian Carmichael Memorial Award winner is Kaitlin Smith from the Roblin Figure Skating Club

Manitoba Open Junior Artistic

Award winner is Lily Hammond from Skate Stony Mountain

Manitoba Open Senior Artistic Award winner is Paige Dryden from Skate Virden

Skate Canada Manitoba Sectional Merit Award Recipient – David Howes from Skate Winnipeg

Skate Canada Manitoba Synchrony Athlete Award – Jayde Jonasson from the Morden Figure Skating Club

Manitoba Open Bursaries awarded to Megan Dryden from Skate Virden; Jayla Butcher from Skate Stony Mountain and Alison Convery from the Morden Figure Skating Club.

Volleyball Manitoba spikes provincials

Submitted by Volleyball Manitoba

In further response to the on-going uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, Volleyball Manitoba has made the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 Provincial Championships.

Our Provincial Championships were scheduled over the weekends of April 18-19 through May 9-10 with events in Winnipeg, Brandon and Niverville.

Earlier, Volleyball Canada made the decision to cancel their 2020 National Championships that were scheduled

for May.

Although our office is currently closed, our staff continues to work remotely and we will be in communication with all teams regarding provincial championship refunds within the next week.

"We are all extremely disappointed that the club season has been prematurely cut short, but this decision was made in consideration of the ongoing health and safety of our members and of the community at large," read

a media release. "All indications related to this pandemic show that public health restrictions will continue for a while to come."

We sincerely commend and applaud the efforts made by all athletes and coaches during this shortened club season, and we all look forward to when we can take to the court again with our friends and teammates. But until then, and as we remain hopeful that the situation starts to resolve as quickly as possible, let's all continue to

do our part to reduce the spread and chances of exposure to COVID-19.

As we move forward we will continue to monitor all appropriate medical and public safety advice and will resume our next programs, including beach leagues and tournaments and provincial team camps and training, as soon as it is appropriate and prudent.

We thank everyone again for your patience, commitment and support during this time.

Classifieds

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METAL RECYCLING

Autos, farm scrap, brass, copper & batteries wanted. 47 Patterson Dr. Stonewall Industrial Park. Interlake Salvage & Recycling Inc. 204-467-9344.

SCRAP METAL

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

Buyer for all farmyard scrap, any autos, appliances. NO ITEM TOO LARGE! Best prices paid, cash in hand. Phone Alf at 204-461-1649.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Tollak Place has 1 & 2 bedroom suites, located at 40 Eveline Street. Spacious suites, with F/S, A/C, storage areas and large balconies; utilities are included, parking is extra. Tollak 2 is a 55 plus bldg., river view apts. with central air, F/S, DW & microwave; large storage area off the kitchen and a balcony; utilities and parking extra. Call the onsite office 204-482-2751 for AVAILABILITY.

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Age 55+ Apartments -INWOOD SENIORS LODGE bachelor & 1bdm suites. RGI & capped rent. Meal program & activities on site. Call Tina for more info 204-278-3534 email: inwoodm@highspeedcrow.ca

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Approx. 90 acres of hayland for rent to harvest hay. Open to reasonable offers. This land is flat and wasn't hayed last year. Between Arborg and Riverton. Ph 204-805-0891.

FIREWOOD

Firewood for sale - cut & split, 14" - 16" in length. White poplar. Taking orders for now & fall deliveries. Ph Lonnie at 204-886-3407 or cell. 204-861-2031.

HELP WANTED

Like working with wood and working close to home? 204 Pallet & Packaging in Stony Mountain is looking for full time production workers. Please call 204-344-5404 for details.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Covid-19. Do you need to tell the public something right now? Guarantee that your information is seen. The blanket classifieds reach over 400,000 Manitoba readers weekly. For as little as \$189 + GST, get your important messaging out! Business changes, the need for staff (class 1 drivers?), items for sale in a hurry, cancellations. As people are increasingly staying home, they will rely on this information even more to stay informed in your area and across the province. Keep people in the loop. The 48 weekly community newspapers can help. Call this newspaper now or email classified@mcna.com for details. MCNA 204-947-1691. www.mcna.com

LAWNMOWER

New Holland LS35 riding lawnmower with deck & rototiller, blue, 2015, \$2200. Ph 204-792-0470.

LIVESTOCK

KLCC Charolais has purebred registered yearling bulls for sale. For more information call Ken at (204) 376-2418.

For sale - purebred yearling Charolais bulls & purebred yearling Black Angus bulls. Also - one 24' Sokoal 5th wheel cattle trailer for sale. Ph 1-204-280-0122.

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Feed corn & barley for sale. Delivery available. Ph 204-461-0706, Nick Matheson.

Forage seed for sale: organic & conventional: Sweet Clover, Alfalfa, Red Clover, Smooth Brome, Meadow Brome, Crested Wheatgrass, Timothy, etc. Free delivery! Birch Rose Acres Ltd. 306-921-9942.

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TOWN OF STONEWALL 2020 FINANCIAL PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act the Town of Stonewall shall hold a PUBLIC HEARING to present the 2020 Financial Plan for the Town on:

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 6:30 PM
Sunova Room, Quarry Park Heritage Arts Centre
166 Main St, Stonewall, MB

PLEASE NOTE ADHERANCE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE REQUIRED

The Town of Stonewall 2020 Financial Plan consists of:

1. The 2020 Operating Budget
2. The 2020 Capital Budget
3. An estimate of the Operating Revenue and Expenditures for the following fiscal year (2021), and
4. A five (5) year Capital Expenditure Program (2021-2025)

The purpose of the PUBLIC HEARING is to allow any interested person to make representation ask questions or register an objection in respect of the Town of Stonewall 2020 Financial Plan.

Copies of the financial plan will be available for review and may be examined by any person on the Town of Stonewall website at www.stonewall.ca on April 3, 2020.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2020

Wally R. Melnyk, CMMMA, CPA, CGA
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Stonewall



THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. LAURENT PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the council of the Rural Municipality of St. Laurent shall hold a PUBLIC HEARING to present its 2020 Financial Plan on:

Thursday, April 16, 2020
7:00 p.m.

St. Laurent Recreation Centre

At this time Council will present the proposed 2020 Financial Plan for the municipality. The presentation will provide an overview of the proposed financial plan followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a presentation, ask questions or register an objection.

Draft copies of the Financial Plan are now available upon request by calling 204-646-2259 or emailing rmstlaur@mymts.net at the Rural Municipality of St. Laurent Office, 16 St. Laurent Veterans' Memorial Road, in St. Laurent, Manitoba.

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 crisis, we will be ensuring that recommended and required rules for social distancing that evolve can be achieved at all times. If you wish to attend this public hearing **you are required to register** before 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2020, or you may mail, email, or fax your questions, concerns, and/or comments regarding the proposed financial plan to us by the same deadline.

Call: 204-646-2259 Email: rmstlaur@mymts.net
Fax: 204-646-2705 Website: www.rmstlaurent.com

Dated this 30th day of March, 2020.

HILDA ZOTTER
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of St. Laurent



VILLAGE OF DUNNOTTAR PUBLIC NOTICE Meeting Change

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, April 15, 2020**, has been changed to **Thursday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m.**

By Resolution No.2020 026

J. M. Thevenot C.M.M.A.
Chief Administrative Officer
Village of Dunnottar



Ashern Home Hardware IS HIRING!

2 - Full Time Seasonal Summer Positions

Ideal candidate is a Post-Secondary student, but open to all interested applicants. May 1 - August 31, some flexibility in start and end dates. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. unassisted. Class 5 driver's license would be a strong asset.

Drop your resume at

#28 Railway Avenue, Ashern, or e-mail to: jason.carpenter@homehardware.ca
Deadline for applications is April 18.



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Please email your resume and cover letter:
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teulonacc@mymts.net

We thank all that apply, however only those candidates selected for a interview will be contacted.

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55+ Games**
June 16-18, 2020
in Selkirk, Manitoba

CANCELLED

due to COVID-19 risk
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and updates visit
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**www.
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**Large Farm Equipment
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Enterprises, Morden, MB**



**WED., APRIL 15 AT 10 AM
ONLINE WEBCAST ONLY**

Please register
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click on calendar, then click on Petkau
Enterprises, online bidding on
right side and request to bid,
Need help call us prior to auction day.

Morris Olafson 204 325 2141
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204 325 4433 or cell 204 325 6230

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**The 52nd Annual Lundar Bull
Sale has been CANCELLED
due to the Covid-19 Pandemic**

The catalogue's have been mailed out
and the Bulls and Heifers in it are still
for sale. Please contact one of the
consignor's if you want to make a deal
privately. With the mandatory guidelines
that have been put in place there was
no other option. **Good luck Bull buying
and see you at next years Sale.**



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Our Teulon, and Grosse Isle MB locations are currently
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Class 1 or 3 considered an asset. Interested applicants
should send their resume in confidence directly to:



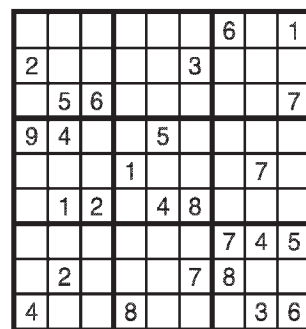
Nutrien Ag Solutions
Attention:
James Hardy, Branch Manager
Phone: 204.886.3100
Email: James.Hardy@nutrien.com

Classified booking deadline is Monday at 4 p.m. prior to Thursday's publication.
Please Call 204-467-5836

take a break

> GAMES

SUDOKU



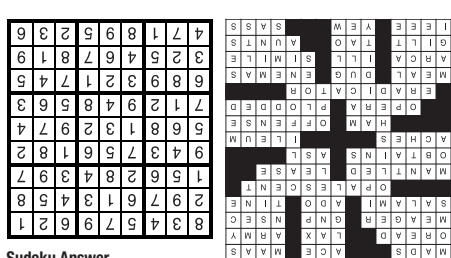
**Fun By The
Numbers**

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!



Sudoku Answer

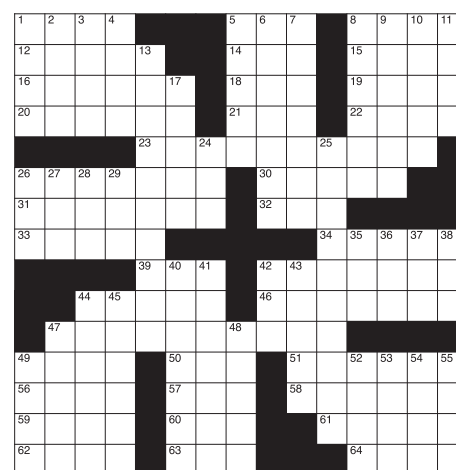
Crossword Answer

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Bond villain Mikkelsen
5. A team's best pitcher
8. French river
12. Mountain nymph (Greek)
14. City of Angels airport
15. Military force
16. Scrawny
18. Value
19. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
20. Highly seasoned sausage
21. Trouble
22. Prong
23. Showing varying colors
26. Cloaked
30. Renters sign one
31. Acquires
32. Type of language (abbr.)
33. Partner to pains
34. Third portion of the small intestine
39. Excessively theatrical actor
42. Infraction
44. Classical music for the stage
46. Slogged
47. One who terminates
49. Breakfast is an important one
50. Moved earth
51. Medical procedures
56. Genus of clams
57. Not well
58. Comparative figure of speech
59. Covered thinly with gold
60. Principle underlying the universe
61. A parent's sisters
62. Professional engineering group
63. Coniferous tree
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN
1. Female parents



2. Region
3. Transaction
4. Heroic tale
5. Of algae
6. Luminous intensity unit
7. Uncovers
8. French commune name
9. Poisonous gas
10. Pearl Jam's bassist
11. Horse groom in India
13. Destroyed
17. A way to alter
24. Promotional materials
25. American state
26. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
27. "Modern Family" network
28. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
29. Exercise system --bo
35. Type of bulb
36. Opposite of beginning
37. Utilize
38. Type of student
40. Deficiency of moisture
41. Areas of the eye
42. Select
43. Sheets of floating ice
44. Priests who act as mediums
53. "Dracula" heroine Harker
54. Substitutes (abbr.)
55. Tax



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSSER
PUBLIC HEARING
2020 FINANCIAL PLAN

In accordance with Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act the Council of the Rural Municipality of Rosser will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** to present the 2020 Financial Plan for the Municipality at:

7:30 P.M.

Tuesday, APRIL 21, 2020
ROSSER MUNICIPAL OFFICE

The Rural Municipality of Rosser 2020 Financial Plan consists of:

- 1) the 2020 Operating Budget,
- 2) the 2020 Capital Budget,
- 3) an estimate of the operating revenue and expenditure for the 2021 fiscal year, and
- 4) a five year Capital Expenditure Program (2021-2025).

At this time the Council will present the proposed 2020 financial plan for the Municipality. The presentation will provide an overview of the proposed financial plan followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Copies of the proposed financial plan are available upon request at the Municipal Office, 77 E PR 221 in Rosser, Manitoba during regular office hours Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Larry Wandowich
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Rosser

OBITUARY



Sheldon Leslie Bardarson
Our family circle has been broken,
A link gone from our chain...

It is with heavy hearts we announce the sudden passing of our dear son, brother, uncle and friend Sheldon on Thursday, March 19th, 2020.

Left to mourn Sheldon's passing are his parents Leonard and Lorraine; brother Corey (Tiffany Olson) nephews Mason and Conley, brother Darryl, girlfriend Sandy Jonson and Chaos his cat. Sheldon was predeceased by his grandparents Siggie and Alice Bardarson and Finnur and Gudrun Markusson.

We will remember Sheldon as being patient, gentle and kind. He had the ability to bond with people, whether young or young at heart, and he made many friends throughout his short life. He liked to tease and joke around, inevitably followed by a very hearty

laugh. And, although he struggled with numerous adversities over the past 11 years, he managed to maintain his sense of humour.

After completing high school, Sheldon attended Red River College obtaining a Diploma in Computer Accounting. He then gained employment with the Arborg Credit Union Ltd. where he worked until his disability prevented him from doing so. Sheldon was so very proud to have served his community as a member of the Arborg-Bifrost Fire & Emergency Services.

Sheldon enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. Gardening became a past time, and we all looked forward to enjoying his homemade borscht and dill pickles. From a very young age, Sheldon enjoyed playing cards, and he would never pass up the opportunity to play, and the games would usually go on for hours. However, he was happiest when he could spend his spare time lending a hand on one of the local dairy farms. His huge collection of various toy farm implements is evidence of his keen farming interests.

Plans for a private family gathering are pending. Please share your memories and photos with us on Sheldon's tribute wall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Clinic Community Health for counselling services specific to PTSD; the Movement Disorder Clinic-Deer Lodge Centre, c/o The Deer Lodge Centre Foundation, for research in Functional Movement Disorders and the Motor Retraining Program; or the Manitoba Firefighters Burn Fund.

Rest In Peace Dearest Sheldon - Goda Nott Elskan

Peacefully sleeping, resting at last

His weary trials and troubles are past,

In silence he suffered, in patience he bore

Till God called him home to suffer no more.



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OBITUARY

John Doerksen Kehler
February 15, 1944 - March 8, 2020



Dad passed away in El Molino, Mexico on March 8, 2020 at the age of 76 years. He was aware that we were coming to bring him home but sadly passed away just prior to our arrival.

He leaves to cherish his memories his children Brenda (Les), Josie (Derek), Clara (Gerald), Jeff (Jenn); his grandchildren Cory, Crystal (Richie), Cynthia (Courtney), Nick (Shannon), James (Alisha), Tyler, Tim, Thomas (Cornelia), Trevor; his great-grandchildren Dallas, Anna, Isabella, Katalina, Cassidy, Jay, Zidane, Ashton, Tristan, Elijah, Ellie, Adalyne, Dean, Liam.

Dad was born in Santa Clara, Mexico on February 15, 1944. He started working at a young age most memorably from his stories was as a shepherd, working with his Dad keeping the forge hot and also picking up and delivering milk to the creamery. As a young man he moved to Canada with his parents and some of his siblings. He met our mom through his sister Mary and her future husband Peter Barkman. Mom and Dad were married on April 19, 1968 and lived in Mennville on a farm just north of Riverton. Dad worked numerous jobs including working on the floodway, as a mechanic at Pete's Garage in Riverton, and later as a self-employed septic truck and backhoe operator until his retirement. After his retirement he spent his winters in Mexico.

A special thank you to Sylvia for her help in translating for us when we were so lost with the language barrier. Thank you to all the wonderful people that prepared food for the funeral although it had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. Thank you to Uncle Jake (Dad's brother) and Kelly for driving through a snow storm from Alberta to come and share our grief and memories.

OBITUARY

Bernice Ruth Finnsson
September 4, 1944 - March 27, 2020
Bernice was born on September 4, 1944
and entered Heaven's Gates on March 27, 2020.
"You will be forever missed."



A loving mother that was always there when you needed her. Bernice was a private person but always helped anyone that needed it. She would never give you the answer; but rather guide you to make the correct choice. Mom worked hard to raise her three children to make sure they were never without. She was employed at the Arborg Vet Clinic, the Arborg Co-op Farm Supply, and at the Arborg Credit Union, where she retired.

Mom was smart and witty, she loved to read and was a dedicated sports fan especially when it came to hockey, football, and curling. I would purposely call, just to see if she would answer the phone.

It is amazing she didn't have a permanent bruise on her leg from slapping it when the game wasn't going right for her team LOL.

Bernice loved when family would get together. We would always roll out the door after the "feeding frenzy," starting with breakfast, followed by snacks and lunch, and to be followed by the best cinnamon buns and ice box cookies for coffee, and then supper. If you were trying to lose weight ... her house was not the place to be.

We could go on about her death-defying feats like skydiving, car racing, or roller blading...but anyone who knew mom would know I was lying. She lived a simple life and her greatest feat was taking care of her family and she did a darn good job!! We Love you, MOM!

Bernice is survived by her three children and three grandchildren, Lyle, Lance (Danielle and Tyler) Lori and Don (Kyra). Also mourning her loss are her siblings Lorraine, Leonard (Christine), Linda (Kris), Colin (Karen), Sherri (Terry), Glenda, and sister-in law Gudrun as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Bernice was predeceased by her parents Asgeir and Ruth; her brother Ronald, brother-in-law Roger, nephew Raymond, nieces Michelle and Jena Lee.

The family would like to thank the amazing staff of doctors, nurses and support staff at Ward 5 at the Tyndall Building in Selkirk for the most compassionate care given to Bernice during her stay there, and also to the Arborg & District Hospital doctors and nurses while Bernice was there.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba or to the Arborg and District Ladies Health Auxiliary c/o Box 301 Arborg, MB, R0C 0A0.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Bernice's life will be held at a later date.

Rest in Peace, Bernice, we love you and will always have you in our hearts!

MACKENZIE FUNERAL HOME ARBORG
(204) 467-0024 • info@mackenziefh.com



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
AIRPORT CHAIN LINK FENCE
INSTALLATION AND REPAIR



The Rural Municipality of Gimli, Airport Operations, requests bids to be submitted to complete the following work at the Gimli Industrial Park Airport.

The work required:

1. Installation of a 24 foot wide by 4 feet high chain link vehicle access gate. To be installed where an existing chain link fence currently exists. Gate to be a 2 part gate, hinged to swing open. Each gate to have wheels or roller system on bottom to allow for ease of gate movement. Location at the North end of Anson Road. Removal and disposal of existing fence required.
2. Installation of a 24 foot wide by 7 foot high chain link vehicle access gates. 2 gates required. To be installed where existing chain link gates currently exist. Gates are 2 part, hinged to swing open. Existing posts to be replaced as required. Each gate to have wheels or roller system on bottom to allow for ease of gate movement. Associated fencing and posts to be repaired for up to 12 feet on each side of gates. Located at hangars 2 and 3 on Anson Road. Removal and disposal of existing gates required.

Contact The Airport Manager during normal business hours for further information or to complete a site inspection prior to bid submission. 1-431-641-3050.

Work to be completed no later than May 30, 2020.

Bids for proposal to be submitted to RM of Gimli, Assistant CAO no later than close of business day Friday April 17, 2020. Selected bid will be awarded no later than April 30, 2020.

Kelly Cosgrove, Assistant CAO
Rural Municipality of Gimli
62 - 2nd Avenue, PO Box 1246, Gimli, MB. R0C 1B0
Email: gimli@rmgimli.com Fax: 204-642-6660

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VR-series wheel rakes from Vermeer deliver the strength, wide-stance balance and reliability needed to handle a heavy diet of haying – starting with the first cut. Handle different crops and conditions and reset windrow widths with the drop of a pin. Plus, you can turn hay in the center of the swath with optional center splitter wheels. It's a wheel rake that's decidedly different.



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