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EXPRESS PHOTO BY CORRINE EINARSSON

A mud bog competitor kicks up dirt and smiles for the crowd during the high-octane action at the 2025 Arborg Ag Society Fair & Rodeo. This year's event featured nearly 80 entries in the ATV mud bog and antique tractor pull competitions, drawing big crowds and plenty of community spirit.

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Janis Johnson honoured with Coronation Medal for decades of service

By Lana Meier

A distinguished Gimli resident has been recognized for decades of community service and leadership with the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Janis Gudrun Johnson was presented with the commemorative medal by Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson at the Gimli International Film Festival opening reception on July 24. The ceremony was part of a broader initiative to honour Manitobans who have made significant contributions to their communities and the province.

The King Charles III Coronation Medal was created to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding civic dedication, volunteerism and public service.

Johnson, who grew up in Gimli, was praised by Johnson for an “exceptional career in public service and years as a dedicated volunteer in our communities.”

Appointed to the Senate in 1990, she served for 26 years and became the longest-serving Conservative member of the Upper Chamber. During

her tenure, she chaired and served on numerous Senate committees, including Foreign Affairs, Indigenous Peoples, Fisheries and Oceans, Transport and Communications, and Human Rights.

She was also one of the first women appointed to the board of directors of CN, where she led the creation of the first on-site childcare centre in a Canadian Crown corporation.

As the founder and current board chair of the Gimli Film Festival, Johnson helped grow the annual event into a world-renowned celebration of cinema that has welcomed thousands of visitors to Manitoba since 2001.

Beyond politics and film, she has supported numerous arts, culture and advocacy organizations. Johnson joined the board of Manitoba Special Olympics in 1981, later becoming a director with Special Olympics Canada. She has also served with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Prairie Theatre Exchange and the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and was honorary chair for Women for Nature.

In recognition of her accomplishments, she received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the Uni-




EXPRESS PHOTO BY RAYME THOMSON

Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson presents the King Charles III Coronation Medal to former senator Janis Gudrun Johnson in recognition of her lifelong dedication to public service, arts and community leadership in Gimli and beyond.


versity of Manitoba in 2018 and was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2020.

“Please join me in recognizing and thanking the Honourable Janis Johnson for her passion and commitment to the Interlake region, the province of Manitoba and to Canada,” said Johnson.

The Coronation Medal honours Canadians who have given their time, talent and spirit to building stronger communities. Johnson was recognized not only for her impressive résumé but also for the deep and lasting impact she has made on the Interlake region.



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Amazing Race Challenge returns to Winnipeg Beach Aug. 10

By E. Antonio

From blindfolded spaghetti feeding to no-hands fry eating, the Lakeside Lions' Amazing Race Challenge is set to return Aug. 10 with another wild ride across the Interlake.

The one-day event will have teams racing to complete up to 30 unique and secretive challenges spread across Winnipeg Beach, Sandy Hook, Matlock, Whytewold, Ponemah and

Gimli. Cash and item prizes donated by local businesses and supporters will be awarded to top-performing teams and best costumes.

Lisa Boyer with the Lakeside Lions said this is an action-packed day the whole family will enjoy.

"We love giving back to the com-

munity, so hosting this activity day is something for everyone to look forward to. There are so many hidden gems to discover in this area and this is the perfect opportunity to explore just some of the beautiful things we have to offer."

While challenges remain top-secret

until race day, Boyer expects this to be another thrilling event just like their previous two races.

Teams of two to seven players—or however many legally fit inside your vehicle—can register in advanced at

Continued on page 4



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED
Winnipeg Beach and Dunnottar Lakeside Lions will host their third Amazing Race Challenge on Aug. 10 — a team-based competition filled with quirky, family-friendly activities across the region. Photos from last year's event, left: Blindfolded and laughing, teammates feed each other spaghetti during a challenge at the 2024 race. Right: Team members work together to cross the field on shared planks at last year's event.

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New wildfire-fighting equipment boosts response capacity in Riverton-Bifrost

By Lana Meier

The Riverton-Bifrost Fire Department has received a critical piece of wildfire-fighting equipment thanks to GlobalMedic, a Canadian aid organization working to strengthen the country's frontline response.

The donation includes a woodland fire skid unit equipped with a 250-gallon water tank, fire pump, hose, suction line and aluminum mounting platform — turning a standard utility vehicle into a nimble, high-impact firefighting machine.

"This fire skid will enhance our ability to have a faster response to grass fires, allowing us to get into places larger trucks can't go," said River-

ton-Bifrost Fire Chief Jason Comeau. "Water is our biggest factor in any fire situation. In 2022, we added a 4,200-gallon tanker truck to our fleet. This skid will be able to be refilled from our tanker, making our capabilities on the fire scene much quicker."

The donation is part of GlobalMedic's Canada Wildfire Response program, which has delivered 308 fire skid units to rural and volunteer fire departments across the country, including 16 in Manitoba. The organization aims to address the rising strain on small departments dealing with increasingly intense and frequent wildfires.

"These skids are already making a difference," GlobalMedic stated. "They're giving communities the tools they need to mount an effective initial response, protect homes and save lives."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of the Riverton-Bifrost Fire Department stand with their newly donated woodland fire skid unit, which will boost their ability to quickly respond to grass and wildfires in hard-to-reach areas.

The Riverton-Bifrost unit is now in service and ready to deploy when

wildfires threaten the region.

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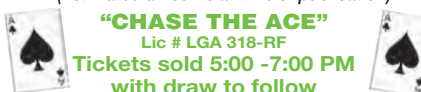
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> RACE, FROM PG. 3

a reduced rate of \$10 per team. Children under 16 years old are required to play with someone older than 21, but these are the only team requirements as players young and old are allowed to take part in the challenge. Day-of registrations will also be accepted at a full rate of \$20 per team, and amusing team names along with costumes are strongly encouraged.

Last year, 33 teams competed in a variety of memory, trivia, and skillful challenges like eating fries and ketchup with no hands, Zumba, and

a water balloon toss.

"The (Winnipeg Beach) Fire Department always puts on a fun challenge for everyone," Boyer added. She hinted a fire department activity is slated to make a return and competitors should know they will be in for a good time.

As teams complete challenges, they are awarded points by collecting unique and official stamps from challenge hosts in their race book which they are given during orientation.

Orientation starts at 10:30 a.m. sharp at the Winnipeg Beach Recreation Centre before

the competition takes off at 11 a.m.. Teams will be able to compete challenges in whatever order they wish and however many they like— they just have to have their booklet back to challenge organizers by 3 p.m. to not be deducted any points off

their final score.

"There are so many different types of challenges there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Hosts try to make accessible challenges for everyone as we believe everyone should have the chance to have fun," said Boyer.

Those who rally up the most points during the day will go home with a prize and those who come with the best team costume will also be awarded. The closing and award ceremony takes place at 4 p.m. near the Winnipeg Beach Bandstand to celebrate the end to a fun-filled day.

Boyer noted she will send out an email in advanced suggesting items teams should carry with them such as water, sunscreen, bug spray and a potential change of clothes.

Anyone wanting to register for the Amazing Race can email wblakesidelions@gmail.com or visit the Lakeside Lions Amazing Race Challenge Facebook page for more information.

"It is a great day for everyone to come out, enjoy themselves and enjoy the area," Boyer added. "So, bring your smiles and a great attitude and see if you can be crowned champion of the Lakeside Lions Amazing Race."

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Wayside Park officially opens in Moosehorn with family fun and community pride

By E. Antonio

The community of Moosehorn came together on July 26 to celebrate the grand opening of Wayside Park — a new outdoor space in the RM of Grahamdale.

The event featured town-wide garage sales, vendor tables, live entertainment, children's activities, a free lunch and displays by the Moosehorn Fire Department.

Located off Highway 6 near 1 Street North and Main Street, the park includes a walking path, a picnic shelter, six electrical camping sites and a rentable canteen with full services.

"We are so excited the community has come together to celebrate this park that has been in the making for many years," said Devan McCoubrey, assistant chief administrative officer for the RM of Grahamdale. "We can't wait to see what adventure the park brings in the future."

The celebration reflected the collaborative spirit behind the park's development, which has been a longstanding goal for the community. Local organizations, volunteers and municipal staff played a key role in bringing the project to life.

As families toured the new amenities, children explored the inflatable fire safety house and checked out a fire truck on display courtesy of the Moosehorn Fire Department. Visi-



Ryker and Jason Price of the Moosehorn Fire Department with the fire truck they had on display.



Moosehorn Fire Department's inflatable fire safety house.

tors also browsed through a book and media sale hosted by the Moosehorn Heritage Museum.

Officials say the park is designed to offer both residents and visitors a welcoming place to relax, gather and enjoy the outdoors.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY E. ANTONIO

Moosehorn Heritage Museum member at their book and media sale.



Wayside Park's new picnic shelter.

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A history of the Winnipeg Beach Synagogue, 1950–2025

Community invited to honour synagogue's legacy at Aug. 2 anniversary service

Submitted By Bernie Bellan

The Winnipeg Beach Synagogue has a rich and storied history — one that spans 75 years of faith, fellowship and community. Over the decades, it has served as both a sacred space and a social hub for generations of Jewish families vacationing along the shores of Lake Winnipeg.

In June 2010, I wrote an article for *The Jewish Post & News* marking the synagogue's 60th anniversary. At the time, I began with these words:

"Sixty years ago, a group of Winnipeg Beach vacationers decided that what their vacation area lacked was a synagogue. As it happened, a one-room log cabin schoolhouse in the Beausejour area was available. In due course, the log cabin was relocated to the corner of Hazel and Grove in Winnipeg Beach, where it stayed for 48 years."

The building's early years were not without hardship. In December 1994, my late brother, Matt Bellan, wrote about antisemitic graffiti that had been spray-painted on the synagogue, still located at Hazel and Grove. Two 16-year-olds had vandalized the structure with hate-filled slogans including "Die Jews" and "I'll kill you Jews."

That incident wasn't the first time the synagogue was targeted. According to journalist Jim Mosher of the *Interlake Spectator*, the building had previously been defaced with swastikas in the late 1980s. Longtime member Jack Markson also recalled finding similar graffiti in the 1970s.

By 1998, a new challenge emerged. The Town of Winnipeg Beach informed the congregation that the building would need to be hooked up to the municipal sewer and water



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Beach Synagogue members gathered outside in 2010 just before the major renovation of the building



Winnipeg Beach group shot (August 1950). Front row: Mr. Grubert, Mr. Freund, Mr. Dirnfield, Rabbi Chiel, Louis Garfinkel, , _unknown_, L. Kirshner. Second row: N. Garfinkel, M. Garfinkel, G. Stern, Wm. Pitch, Wm. Grushko, Mr. Glesby, Mr. Kirshner. Centre back row: (children) Jody Leven, Sam Kirshner. Photo JM3173 courtesy of Jewish Heritage Centre

system — a cost estimated between \$3,000 and \$4,000. Rather than incur that expense, congregants explored alternative options.

As Laurie Mainster, a longtime attendee, explained, the synagogue's board approached Camp Massad about relocating the building to the camp's grounds. In exchange, the synagogue would be made available for camp use outside of its regular Friday evening and Saturday morning services.

By that point, the "beach shul" had



Interior of the synagogue, looking from the bimah toward the back

become a summer staple for Jewish families from Winnipeg Beach and nearby Gimli. Minyans were once held twice daily, and a kosher butcher shop served the community. Though

Continued on page 7



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Commercial fishers call for fair compensation for work vehicles involved in wildlife collisions

By Patricia Barrett

Lake Winnipeg commercial fishers are calling on Manitoba Public Insurance to reconsider how they're compensated after vehicle collisions with wildlife that can disrupt their business.

The loss of a fish-transport vehicle — typically a modified heavy-duty pick-up truck that can handle hundreds of kilograms of fish — can sideline fishers and result in business losses.

Commercial fisher Robert T. Kristjanson, who's 91 and has been fishing most of his life, said it takes about an hour to travel north from his residence in Gimli to his family's fishing grounds in the Hecla-Grindstone region, and an hour back. Other fishers make daily journeys to and from Riverton or to or from Selkirk.

And those trips typically occur before sunrise and at dusk. Since fish is a highly perishable product and consumers demand high quality fish, fishers can't just throw ice on their catch and store it for a few days; fish must be delivered daily to a processing plant.

"The fishers that are travelling back and forth every day are doing it in dark in the morning and at night because it's so critical for us to be on the lake at daylight and deliver our fish the same day," said Kristjanson. "And what's happening is that deer are continuously on the road and the fishers and the big trucks and the people going to work are smashing into them just steady."

Highway 8 is the main route between Gimli and Hecla, and anyone who drives the road is likely familiar with the sight of deer herds feeding in fields or grass along the highway.

"I've counted as high as 33 deer in one place in a field and that's just between Gimli and Arnes.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

A newspaper delivery vehicle was damaged earlier this month after striking a deer on Highway 7 north of Stony Mountain.

This isn't some poor lone deer walking across the road and 'Bang.' These are herds that are all over the place. I love deer and I love to see them but not on the roads," said Kristjanson. "We're just killing deer. You see one in the morning and it's dead in the afternoon. That's not my way. I like every animal. But it doesn't matter if you do 30 or 100 kilometres an hour; they're in front of you."

The provincial government is responsible for cutting grass along major highways, he said, and years back it used to keep the grass trimmed regularly. Now it's like a tall grassy meadow growing beside the highway and other roads. And that poses a danger to motorists who may not be able to stop in time when a deer bounds across the highway or may cause them to swerve and hit an oncoming vehicle

or the ditch.

Kristjanson said they sometimes have to drive in the middle of road though the [provincial] park to Grindstone and be ready to "slam on the brakes" at 70 km/h or less because of the danger posed by wildlife.

"A deer can hide in the grass on the side of the highway up to its neck and you won't see it. If it's feeding in there, you won't see it," said Kristjanson. "When we go to Grindstone along that road, a man can stand in the grass and you wouldn't see him. This is nonsense; grass must be cut along the roads. At one time the province cut it all the time. On the back roads, you just can't believe it; the grass is so high. The province might be saving \$50,000 or whatever it costs to cut grass. The grass seems to be more important than the life of a person."

When fishers' trucks get banged up and they take them in for repair (where possible), Kristjanson said it takes a long time to get them assessed/and or fixed, and they can't get a temporary replacement truck capable of hauling fish.

"MPI will write them off. Or they'll say 'Oh yes, we'll fix it.' But the thing is we have to get them fixed as fast as possible. Nowadays, that's a pretty hard thing to do," he said. "And in the meantime, who's going to lend you a truck that you can put fish into?"

Kristjanson said he's hit about three deer in the past, and he put a big bumper on the front of his fish truck to "push them off." But on a highway at 100 km/h, "you haven't got much of a chance."

He said he'd like to see MPI speed up the claims process for commercial fishers and consider their

Continued on page 9

> SYNAGOGUE, FROM PG. 6

only 18 by 24 feet, the building remained a spiritual anchor — even as it struggled with space.

The move to Camp Massad brought change, including a shift to egalitarian services in 2007. As Mainster noted, the transition was both a nod to gender equality and a practical decision — "the only Kohen present at the time was a woman!"

Comforts also improved. A window air conditioner was installed, though only those seated nearby benefited. A fridge allowed for regular Kiddush meals after Saturday services. The congregation welcomed both seasonal cottagers and Winnipeg-based visitors who drove in each weekend.

Without a resident rabbi — Rabbi

Weizman led services for many years while he had a cottage in the area — attendees now take turns leading prayers. Services remain open to all, with no dues required, though donations are welcomed through the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.

In 2010, a long-awaited expansion finally took place. A new 16-by-18-foot addition provided much-needed space for post-service gatherings and overflow seating. That renovation was spearheaded by Joel Margolese, who served as project manager, with construction supported by dedicated volunteers including Gordon Steindel, Sheldon Koslovsky, Viktor Lewin, Harvey Zabenskie, Nestor and Kevin Wowryk, Victor Spigelman, Jerry Pritchard and David Bloomfield.

The building's official opening for

the summer of 2010 took place on July 3 and drew an overflow crowd of more than 70 people. A mezuzah, donated by Sid Bercovich and Clarice Silver, was affixed to the entrance by Gordon Steindel during a special ceremony on June 25.

Support for the project came from across the community. A new sound system, donated by Arch and Brenda Honigman in memory of their father Sam Honigman, was installed by Margolese and Stevan Sucharov. Fifty chumashim were donated by Gwen, Sheldon and Mark Koslovsky. An air conditioner for the new space was donated by Joel and Linda Margolese.

Throughout that summer, refreshments for the weekly Kiddush were prepared by Phyllis Spigelman — affectionately known as "our catering

manager" — alongside Lenore Kagan and other friends.

Since then, improvements have continued. A wheelchair ramp was added (though the exact date is unclear), and the synagogue now has its own outdoor privy, replacing the need to use facilities in Camp Massad.

As I noted in a more recent article, the synagogue will celebrate its 75th anniversary on Aug. 2. To honour the occasion, all descendants and relatives of members of the synagogue's first executive committee are invited to attend that morning's service.

If you are a relative and would like to take part in the celebration, please contact Abe Borzykowski at wpg-beachshule@shaw.ca or aborzykowski@shaw.ca.

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PC caucus urges NDP to take immediate action to support drought-stricken Interlake producers

By Haley Cvar

With drought conditions worsening across Manitoba, the Progressive Conservative caucus is calling on the NDP government to take swift action to support agricultural producers, particularly in the hard-hit Interlake region.

PC deputy leader and agriculture critic Jeff Bereza is urging the NDP to work with the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) to deliver targeted drought support programs to cattle and forage producers facing rising feed costs and dwindling local supply.

"Producers in the Interlake are sounding the alarm. There simply won't be enough feed to get through winter," said Bereza. "The Kinew government needs to act now. Work with MASC, deliver feed assistance and freight support and help our producers offset the skyrocketing costs of sourcing feed from other regions. These are tools the NDP already have — they just need to use them. Right now, producers are seeing inaction."

Bereza, MLA for Portage la Prairie, also noted that local governments are increasingly raising red flags as the crisis deepens.

"We've already seen the RMs of Armstrong, Coldwell, St. Laurent and Woodlands declare agricultural states of emergency, and others may need to do the same," said Bereza. "That should be a wake-up call to the NDP that the situation is deteriorating rapidly."

Manitoba's Interlake region continues to face some of the worst drought impacts, with historically low forage yields and deteriorating pasture conditions.

Lakeside MLA Trevor King stressed the unpredictable nature of the drought.

"Some areas of the Interlake have received as little as 25 per cent of their normal rainfall," said King. "The weather here is incredibly variable — a few kilometres can mean the difference between a salvageable pasture and a complete crop failure. That's

why region-specific supports are critical."

Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson, who previously served as minister of agriculture, said the path forward is already well established.

"During the 2021 drought, our PC government moved quickly to support producers through MASC, with feed and transportation supports and AgriRecovery programs," said Johnson. "We're hoping the NDP act just as urgently. Delays could force producers to sell herds they've spent generations building."

Bereza added that this is a solvable problem.

"The NDP just need to listen to producers and take action because rising production costs on the farm don't stop at the farm gate. They show up in the grocery stores too," he said.

"Families across Manitoba are already paying more at the checkout. Supporting producers now means protecting food affordability down the road."

July marks Vehicle Theft Prevention Month as thefts cost Manitobans millions

By Haley Cvar

Manitoba Public Insurance is urging drivers to take extra precautions during Vehicle Theft Prevention Month, as stolen vehicles continue to cost Manitobans tens of millions of dollars each year.

Each year, an average of 4,000 vehicles are reported stolen across the province, costing MPI approximately \$40 million annually in damages and total replacement claims. That number is only expected to rise as vehicle values and repair costs continue to climb.

"A stolen vehicle means more than just the loss of transportation — it can lead to fraud, contribute to criminal activity and affect every policyholder," said John Bowering, vice-presi-

dent and chief claims officer at MPI. "We can all help mitigate those costs by practising prevention, whether something as simple as ensuring your doors are locked to watching out for other vehicles parked on the street and reporting anything suspicious."

MPI insures more than 950,000 vehicles in Manitoba. While not every theft can be prevented, Bowering said proactive safety steps can make a significant difference.

To help reduce the risk, MPI is reminding drivers to follow these basic precautions:

- Never leave a vehicle running unattended
- Always close windows and lock doors when parking
- Avoid leaving keys or fobs unat-

tended; keep them in a secure location where signals can't easily be intercepted

- Park in well-lit or secure areas whenever possible
- Store valuables and packages out of sight, preferably in the trunk

Vehicle theft is not a victimless crime, MPI says. The ripple effects of stolen vehicles — from increased insurance premiums to compromised public safety — mean it's in everyone's interest to reduce the risk.

"Vehicle theft costs everyone," Bowering said. "We all need to take simple but effective steps to protect our vehicles — and our communities."

For more information and additional tips, visit mpi.mb.ca.

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> WILDLIFE, FROM PG. 7

specialized vehicle needs. And he'd love to see the provincial government build wildlife corridors as other Canadian provinces and countries around the world have done in order to protect both animals and humans.

Wildlife corridors or animal overpasses or underpasses help keep wildlife off roads. The crossings are usually accompanied by fences to help guide animals such as deer, elk, moose, bears, wolves, coyotes, cougars to the crossing areas.

According to Yellowstone to Yukon, a collaboration between a U.S. non-profit organization and a Canadian public charity that support land conservation and habitat protection, a series of overpasses and underpasses along 82 kilometres of the Trans-Canada Highway in Banff National Park have reduced wildlife-vehicle collisions by more than 80 per cent for all species, and by 96 per cent for deer and elk alone. Wildlife cameras set up at the crossings help provide data about the effectiveness of crossings.

Lake Winnipeg commercial fisher and analyst Bill Buckels researched and wrote white papers on the state of Manitoba's roads and a white paper detailing the impacts of wildlife-vehicle collisions on fishers titled *The Unseen Aftershock: Wildlife Vehicle Collisions and Their Devastating Impact on Manitoba's Commercial Fishing Industry*.

He shared them with the provincial department of natural resources and Indigenous futures, which oversees the fishery, and ministers and deputy ministers, asking for action on "serious environment and financial issues" affecting the fishing industry.

"Manitoba experiences over 14,000 wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVC) annually, with a significant portion going unreported, leading to substantial human injury and property damage costs borne by Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI)," wrote Buckels to the department. "However, for commercial fishers, a WVC is not merely an unfortunate incident, it is a direct and often insurmountable threat to our livelihood, capable of erasing an entire season's income and triggering a cascade of financial and social distress for families and the remote communities that depend on us."

Of those approximate 14,000 annual wildlife-vehicle collisions (data derived from MPI), the Interlake sees about 1,700 collisions a year. The Eastman region sees 2,170; Westman, 2,150; Central Plains, 910; and Parkland about 900 a year.

Buckels said fishers rely on custom-modified trucks that typically have reinforced cargo beds, heavy-duty suspensions and other specialized equipment necessary to haul loads of perishable fish across challenging and often unpaved roads to distant processing plants.

When their vehicles are assessed by MPI using standard valuation policies or get written off, their "work assets" are severely undervalued, he wrote. Protracted negotiations and the difficulty securing a replacement vehicle during a harvest season forces fishers into "desperate situations" in which they may be compelled to accept insufficient settlements from MPI in order to resume their fishing operation.

"The settlements offered are frequently inadequate to cover the true cost of replacement, let alone the extensive and costly modifications required to make a new truck functional for fishing operations," Buckels wrote. "This leaves fishers in an impossible position, facing the prospect of losing an entire season as acquiring and re-modifying a suitable replacement truck is a lengthy and complex process."

In addition to encouraging the fisheries department to ask MPI on their behalf to consider re-evaluating its policies, accurately value and compensate fishers, and expedite their claims, Buckels said he thinks the provincial government should consider installing deer fences and wildlife crossings along highways.

"We shouldn't depend on cutting roadside grass to keep deer off the highway. We should put up wildlife fences and have crossings under the highway just like they do in other provinces. Why should Manitoba be different from other provinces that are handling this issue?" said Buckels by phone a week after he sent his white papers to the government. "I've driven B.C. extensively and they have fences everywhere so that deer can't leap onto the roads. Put up an eight-foot fence so it's not easy for an animal to jump it and cross the road. This stops most animals. You can put a great big culvert under the road; most animals can get into an eight-foot culvert. B.C. has these on their roads. This is how you keep wildlife off your roads."

As to how Manitoba would pay for these safety features, Buckels said Premier Wab Kinew is always saying "how rich our province is" in mineral and other resources, and there's no reason why the public shouldn't expect "better standards when it comes to our transportation infrastructure."

It would be less expensive in the long-run for the province to put up fences and/or wildlife crossings than to keep paying out damage claims, he added.

"Manitoba spends more money on MPI claims — which I've demonstrated through my research — than it would spend to fix roads properly and put up deer fences," he said. "Then we wouldn't have a bunch of adjusters holding us hostage. They are adversarial with people. They score points and save the corporation money while my vehicle sits in a repair shop for six months and I can't work. I have to fix the truck out of my own pocket or go out and buy a new one. These are the real issues for commercial fishers. If MPI wants to be an effective corporation, they should have replacement vehicles. That should be part of the service."

The *Express* reached out to MPI asking whether the Crown corporation would consider modifying its policies to accommodate the specialized needs of commercial fishers and their vehicles.

Media and public relations lead Tara Seel said MPI is open to looking at expedited claims in cases where vehicles are part of a business.

"Expedited claims could be explored where the vehicle is the source of revenue for the business, but that would be case specific," she said.

The corporation cannot comment on specific cases for privacy reasons, but it can speak in general terms about claims on modified vehicles.

"If a vehicle has been modified, our total-loss adjuster reviews each vehicle on a case-by-case basis by first obtaining the valuation of the vehicle and then looking closely at the modifications. MPI would cover damaged pieces that are permanently attached to the vehicle. The adjuster would ask for invoices, obtain quotes and do research that is specific to the modification. They would also look into market comparables where applicable and work directly

with the customer as to the unique nature of each modification," said Seel. "We can only consider the materials used for modification, not the labour, as it is the equipment that adds the value to the vehicle."

MPI's physical-damage coverage is intended to return a vehicle to the condition it was prior to a collision, she said, regardless of what the driver collided with that caused the damage.

"Any customer who has concerns about their claim or about what is covered is encouraged to share them with us so we can assist with the claim and consider what is covered in future product reviews," said Seel.

The *Express* contacted the departments of natural resources and Indigenous futures, and transportation and infrastructure, asking, respectively, whether it will reach out to MPI to advocate for commercial fishers, cut roadside grass on Highway 8 to Hecla and consider installing wildlife crossings and fences. Neither department responded by deadline.

Community Support Service

A.A Meeting in Ashern

Location: #11 2nd Ave North
- Pioneer Manor
(beside the main door entrance
of Pioneer Manor)
Contact Jackiem.lwrc@gmail.com

AA Arborg

Thursdays - 7:30 pm
Arborg Support Centre
327 Main Street
Contact 204-376-5861

AA Eriksdale

Eriksdale United Church building
#7 Main Street, Eriksdale (side door)
Meetings are Mondays
at 6:30 p.m.

AA Winnipeg Beach

Lady of the Lake RC Church
Corner of Hwy. 9 and Lake Ave.,
Winnipeg Beach
Meetings are Saturdays
between 7 and 8 p.m.
Contact Ann J 204-389-3417

Gimli Group AA

Bldg 18 Municipal Rd
Industrial Park
Fri & Sun Mtgs at 7:30 pm

Al-Anon

Gimli and Winnipeg Beach

Join us at 17B Loni Beach Road, next
to New Horizon building... Gimli at
7:00 pm Wednesday evenings for an
hour of support, strength, guidance
and Hope. Contact 204-389-4777.
All ages welcome.

AA Riverton Group

12 Main St. at the
Riverton Senior Centre
Mondays 7:30 p.m.

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– **Our Lady of the Lake, Winnipeg Beach**

Every Sunday – 9:00 AM
– **St. Benedict's, Camp Morton**

Every Sunday – 11:00 AM
– **St. Michael's, Gimli**

All are welcome!
Call 204-642-5040 for more information.

Couple 'Tri'ing to End ALS' makes stop in Arborg on cross-country journey

By Lana Meier

Two Canadians on a mission to end ALS made their way through Manitoba this past weekend, stopping in Arborg and competing in the Hecla Triathlon as part of a four-month cross-country campaign.

Donna Bartel and her husband, Mike Pearson, are undertaking an extraordinary challenge: to complete 18 triathlons across all 10 provinces and three territories to raise awareness and funds for those affected by Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Their campaign, Tri'ing to End ALS, will cover more than 24,000 kilometres by the time they reach the finish line in September.

Bartel, who lost her mother to ALS in 2001, said the idea behind the journey was to give hope, raise awareness and push for better treatment options.

"There are around 4,000 Canadians living with ALS at any given time," she said. "It can strike anyone, at any time, and it's always fatal. We're doing this for them — to give hope and to push for a cure."

The couple set a goal of raising \$600,000, with half the funds going toward patient support services through provincial ALS societies and the other half supporting ALS research through Project Hope. As of late July, they had reached only four per cent of their goal — a figure Bartel said highlights the need for greater awareness.

"We're not celebrities, and this isn't a huge corporate campaign," she said. "But we believe in this cause deeply, and we hope that as more people hear about our journey, they'll be inspired to help."

Bartel and Pearson, who met through



Tri'ing to End ALS campaigners Donna Bartel and Mike Pearson with Arborg Mayor Peter Dyck.

a triathlon club and have been competing for more than 35 years, came up with the idea years ago. Bartel had completed Ironman Canada races in 2010 and 2012 as ALS fundraisers. But it wasn't until recently that the pair realized they could take the idea national.

"A couple of years ago, Mike started looking at whether it was even possible to race across the country — and once we saw it could be done, the planning got serious," Bartel said.

Their Manitoba stop included the Hecla Triathlon on July 26 and a stay at the Arborg Heritage Village Campground. Bartel said they received warm support from both the campground and the triathlon organizers.

"Arborg felt like such a welcoming community," she said. "We've been so grateful for the help from Pat at the campground and Paula with the



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CORRINE EINARSSON

Donna Bartel and Mike Pearson with their bikes at the start of the Hecla Triathlon on July 26 — one of 18 triathlons they're completing across Canada to raise funds and awareness for ALS.

Hecla Triathlon Detour. The course was beautiful and it's been wonderful seeing these small-town parts of Canada."

The campaign has taken a physical and emotional toll.

"We're both getting tired. We're racing every weekend now until September and driving a lot in between. Add in social media and planning where we're staying — it's a lot. But we meet people every day who have a connection to ALS, and those conversations are what keep us going," Bartel said.

"People living with ALS have to dig deep every day. So when it gets tough, we remind ourselves to dig deep for a day or two. That's nothing compared to what they face."

The couple has self-funded nearly the entire journey — covering race fees, travel, accommodations and

time off work — with support from a few sponsors. Planning their route has been a logistical feat.

"Mike mapped out our race schedule and coordinated with race directors," Bartel said. "Then we figure out how far we can travel each day and try to find free places to stay."

Highlights from their cross-country tour so far include a touching moment in Iqaluit.

"We went to NuBrew, a local brewery that was hosting trivia night," Bartel said. "When the organizer, Big Jon, heard what we were doing, he collected donations on the spot — \$520. Mike and I were both in tears from their generosity."

Bartel said including the territories in their campaign was non-negotia-

Continued on page 26

Applications open for Ag Days Gives Back program

By Haley Cvar

Manitoba Ag Days is once again inviting applications for its annual Ag Days Gives Back program, which supports agriculture education and rural community development.

Applications are now being accepted for community grants, AED cost-share funding and post-secondary scholarships. Successful applicants will be announced during the 2026 Manitoba Ag Days show, set for Jan. 20 to 22 at the Keystone Centre in Brandon.

The program awarded \$55,000 at the 2025 show through 16 community grants, three student scholarships and funding support for Ag in the Classroom—Manitoba. Since 2013, Ag

Days Gives Back has invested more than \$536,000 in agriculture-related initiatives across Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

"Our 50/50 fundraiser allows us to pool community support and make a lasting difference — both in our rural communities and in the lives of students pursuing careers in agriculture," said Sharon Finlay, chair of the Ag Days Gives Back committee. "There really is a ripple effect through this program."

Community fire departments are eligible to apply for \$2,000 grants, which may be used for any aspect of a project — including infrastructure, equipment, training, volunteer support or supplies. Projects must have a

total budget under \$50,000, and priority will be given to communities that have not received funding in the past three years.

Ten cost-share grants are also available to community organizations interested in installing an automated external defibrillator (AED). The program will cover two-thirds of the cost of each life-saving device.

Three \$2,000 scholarships are available to students in their final year of high school or currently enrolled in post-secondary education. Eligible fields include any ag-related diploma, degree, certificate or trade program.

Applicants must complete a form and submit a short written or video biography outlining their volunteer

experience, career goals and how they see themselves contributing to the agriculture industry.

All funds distributed through Ag Days Gives Back come from proceeds of the annual Manitoba Ag Days 50/50 draw, which supports kindergarten to post-secondary ag education, as well as community organizations throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

To apply, visit agdays.com/community-giving-program. The application deadline is Nov. 1, 2025.

For event updates or to purchase admission tickets for the 2026 show, visit agdays.com or follow @mbagdays on Facebook, X, TikTok and Instagram.

Matlock's Samantha Babcock living the Disney dream

By E. Antonio

Samantha Babcock grew up surrounded by Disney movies, characters and music — so it's only fitting that the Matlock native is now living out her dream at sea as a Disney Cruise Line cast member.

"I've always been around Disney and loved the characters, the movies and the people," she said. "It's just always been something that I've looked up to and wanted to be a part of."

Getting hired by the Walt Disney Company can be tricky for Canadians due to visa requirements, but when Babcock learned Disney Cruise Line (DCL) offered a smoother path, she dove right in.

"I found out I could work for Disney Cruise Line with an easier process to be hired — I knew it would be the perfect fit," she said.

After applying through the DCL careers website, she landed her first four-month contract aboard the Disney Wish in 2023. That first voyage launched a whirlwind adventure — she's since signed four more contracts and has no plans to stop yet.

One of her first goals on board? Earning the coveted one-year pin, a milestone badge worn proudly on every cast member's name tag.

"When I first got the job, it felt like something I could do somewhat long-term," she said. "I've had other goals like working in different roles or going to a new ship. I wanted to be able to do everything, so I continued to come back to Disney Cruise Line so I could have the chance to do all these things."

Each new contract brings a chance for new responsibilities or a new ship. While she only had to complete Disney Traditions — the onboarding course on company values and culture — once, she reviews safety procedures every time she signs on.

Babcock has worked in several on-board roles, but her home base is the Oceaneer Club, a high-energy kids' space filled with themed games, crafts and Disney magic. She's been part of the three- and four-year-old team, worked in the Vibe lounge for teens aged 14 to 17, and even stepped into the It's a Small World nursery for a week.

"I truly have enjoyed all the spaces I've worked in for different reasons, but they all come with their own challenges," she said. "Working with the teens was fun because we could do more advanced games and have real conversations. But it was hard when you had 30 teens with you and had to make sure everyone was behaving appropriately," she said.



Babcock poses in front of the Disney Wish, a 1,119-foot ship that carries more than 4,000 guests and 1,500 crew members. She began her Disney Cruise Line journey aboard the Wish in 2023.

"The nursery was great because I love the younger age group — they say the funniest things. But with them comes diapers and crying and snack times."

When she's not leading scavenger hunts or storytime, Babcock makes the most of life at sea. Her cruise routes have included stops in Nassau — where she knows exactly where the Starbucks is — as well as Disney's private islands, Castaway Cay and Lookout Cay. Most recently, while aboard the Disney Dream, she checked Cozumel, Mexico, off her travel list.

"Working on a cruise ship is a hard job, so when I get a chance to rest, I'm all for it," she said. "It's just nice to do things that make us feel human again."

Off-duty time is precious, and Babcock often spends it exploring ports, lounging by the pool or catching up on sleep.

Between her two main ships, the Wish and the Dream, she prefers the Wish for its modern crew areas and lack of bunk beds. The crew mess is similar across ships, with food served throughout the day — and there's even a small store stocked with snacks and essentials like seasickness tablets.

"I've never gotten seasick," she said, "but I know a lot of people who have."

The job comes with perks — free entry to Disney parks, discounts on food, merchandise, hotel stays and even cruises — but for Babcock, the real reward has been the friendships and unforgettable moments along the way.

"All of the friends I've made have been the best part, truly," she said. "I've also been lucky enough to meet



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Samantha Babcock of Matlock has been working for Disney Cruise Line as a youth counsellor.

some celebs who've sailed with DCL. My favourite was meeting Jodi Benson, a.k.a. the voice of Ariel — it was the greatest moment of my life."

Her current contract ended July 19, and while she doesn't have a set number of voyages in mind, she knows there's still more magic to chase.

"It's starting to get hard being away from home all the time — missing big events, family and just the ability to do nothing," she said.

One dream still on her horizon? Joining Walt Disney World's Cultural Representative Program, a one-year role working in the Canada Pavilion at EPCOT.

"I've always wanted to work for the parks because they were what started my love for Disney," she said. "So hopefully one day I'll be able to call

it home."

LIFE ABOARD THE DISNEY CRUISE LINE

- Contract length: Most Disney Cruise Line cast members sign on for 4 to 6 months at a time, depending on the role.

- Voyages per contract: Each contract typically includes 6 to 12 cruises, with itineraries ranging from 3 to 7 nights in the Caribbean or Bahamas.

- Crew size: Ships like the Disney Wish and Disney Dream carry about 1,500 crew and 4,000 guests per sailing.

- Time off: Between contracts, cast members usually take 4 to 8 weeks off before returning.

One dead in two-vehicle crash

By Haley Cvar

A Winnipeg woman is dead following a two-vehicle collision Monday afternoon in the RM of Bifrost-Riverton.

Gimli RCMP responded to the scene around 4:58 p.m. on July 21 at the intersection of highways 326 and 329, where officers found both vehicles in the ditch southwest of the junction.

Police say a pickup truck was travelling southbound on Highway 326 when it collided with a westbound sedan that crossed through

the intersection.

The driver and sole occupant of the sedan, a 34-year-old woman from Winnipeg, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the pickup, a 58-year-old man from Arborg, was treated on scene and released. A 53-year-old female passenger, also from Arborg, was taken to hospital with minor, non-life-threatening injuries.

A forensic collision reconstructionist is assisting Gimli RCMP with the ongoing investigation.

Congrats to award winners for work with Indigenous youth

By Jennifer McFee

Two Indigenous elders are in the spotlight for sharing knowledge with the next generation.

Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School's Indigenous student centre (Manidoo Mai'ingaan Skaabewaag) and the Promoting Aboriginal Student Success committee (P.A.S.S.) recognize elders and knowledge keepers who impact youth in a positive way within the school division and community.

This year, elder Cara Widrick and ally elder Ron Bell were named as recipients of the 2025 P.A.S.S. Lifetime Elder/Knowledge Keeper Award at a gala luncheon on June 14 at the Selkirk Rec Complex.

In her role as the Indigenous elder for Selkirk Regional Health Centre, Widrick provides cultural guidance, personal consultation, active listening, support and mentorship to patients and their families on an as-needed basis. She also takes the time to connect with Indigenous youth in the community. Similarly, Bell is an elder who has worked with Grade 9 Indigenous Studies students at Ecole Selkirk Junior High over the past few years.

P.A.S.S. is a charitable organization that launched in 2000 through the efforts of a few students and community members. Currently, the community committee is made of 13 members who are all Indigenous. The majority of board members are former award recipients who understand the positive impact that P.A.S.S. has on Indigenous youth.

It's the only charitable organization of its kind in the Interlake that serves Indigenous youth in Selkirk, St. Andrews, St. Clements and Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, empowering them to finish school and continue towards post-secondary or their chosen career. The organization connects with Indigenous youth mainly at the local high school, as well as at Ecole Selkirk Junior High. Teacher-facilitators work with P.A.S.S. on projects and workshops throughout the school year.

Meanwhile, Manidoo Mai'ingaan Shkaabewaag, the Indigenous student centre at Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School, has been in place since 2008. It has grown from a schoolwork help centre to an academic program that provides Indigenous students with classes and supports in an alternative setting. It also offers cultural connections, activities and workshops to Indigenous students throughout the school year.

P.A.S.S. chair Jacqueline Bercier noted that they started handing out the award in 2021 during a time of CO-



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Cara Widrick, left photo, and Jacquiline Anderson with Ron Bell, right photo, were honoured with the 2025 P.A.S.S. Lifetime Elder/Knowledge Keeper Award for their contributions to Indigenous youth and community connection.

VID restrictions. Winners receive a red enameled P.A.S.S. Lifetime Elder medallion.

"We weren't able to have our usual grad gathering and gala, but we still wanted to celebrate the people around us, especially our elders and knowledge keepers that have been working with Indigenous youth in our communities and schools," she said.

"We created the award to reflect the gold medallion that we give to the Indigenous youth award winners. We chose red for that medallion to respect all the heart work and hard work that the elders and knowledge keepers have done in keeping connections alive for the young people."

She acknowledged Widrick's nurturing yet no-nonsense personality, as well as her wisdom while working with youth — particularly at The Huddle in Selkirk, which offers a safe space for youth aged 12 to 29.

"Cara has been doing good work around the community for ages, and this was an opportunity to acknowledge her dedication to culture, tradition and uplifting youth. It is so important to share Indigenous culture with Indigenous youth because it teaches them about themselves and it connects them to the larger sense of kinship and community — two concepts that are often lost in society today," Bercier said.

"Having a strong sense of self, identity and belonging has a profound impact on Indigenous youth. It positively impacts their mental well-being so that they can become confident and successful. This carries them forward to becoming leaders in our communities in the future."

Allison Savoie, P.A.S.S. teacher-fa-

cilitator, nominated Widrick for the prestigious award based on her positive interactions with students during a visit to Selkirk's high school earlier this year.

"She did presentations for some of our students on the possibility of going into careers in the health-care field one day. She also talked a little bit about her story and how proud she was to be Indigenous. The kids just really liked her, and we had lots of good conversations after that. It was so great that she was open to coming out to the school," Savoie said.

"In addition, Elder Cara has offered a number of teachings at The Huddle. I was able to take a small group of students to The Huddle and she was so generous in sharing her teachings in such an amazing way that I really wanted to nominate her for the award."

For Widrick, she feels both humbled and honoured to receive the recognition.

"It is a beautiful experience to be able to share about our Indigenous culture, teachings and to know your identity as an Indigenous person. Working towards reconciliation for our Indigenous people, to share knowledge that has been passed down and learn, is an honour and a big part of my life," she said.

"I am very humbled to be honoured in my home community by the P.A.S.S. committee. Miigwetch."

At the same time, Métis educator Melissa Muir explained why she nominated Ron Bell for the award as an ally elder. Although he's not Indigenous, Bell has followed ceremony to receive his teachings and he doesn't claim those teachings as his own.

"He has worked with us for the

past few years elder when we travel to Whiteshell Park, specifically to Bannock Point. Ron is known for his stories relating to the petroforms, the formations made with stones, at the site," Muir said.

"Now, close to 80 years old, Ron is slowing down with the tours and teachings. He will still do a tour with our students if he is up to it physically, as a favour to us. Touring the Bannock Point site can be a workout, as it is quite a large area to cover. He is always full of stories of the petroforms, the plants in the area, the star stories and the teachings of the spirits that dwell at that sacred site, Bannock Point."

She said Bell encourages students to look past what is right in front of them and to believe that energy and spirit have things to teach us.

"While walking around, he will speak with the students and he will sometimes tell me about particular students to keep a special eye on, as he has recognized something in the student's spirit that needs some nurturing. When he tells his stories, he always asks if anyone is interested in learning about the petroforms and star stories, looking for the next young person to carry that knowledge," Muir said.

"Ron is a very kind, quick-witted, jovial person who loves the land that he teaches on. It is evident in how he conducts himself and how he teaches others. He is a wealth of knowledge and I am glad that we have connected over the years to build that relationship. He definitely deserves the P.A.S.S. Elder Award for all his knowledge, teachings and relationship building that he has provided us over the years."

Arborg fair and rodeo weekend reins in community spirit

By Lana Meier

This year's Arborg Ag Society Fair & Rodeo was a resounding success, bringing together friends, families and community members for a weekend of high-energy events and hometown pride.

The 2025 edition featured three rodeo performances, drawing crowds to the arena throughout the weekend. Approximately 80 competitors took part in the popular ATV mud bog and antique tractor pull events, thrilling spectators with horsepower and grit.

The kids' zone proved to be a major attraction once again, offering young rodeo fans a chance to play and explore while parents took in the action.

"We were thrilled with the turnout and support," organizers said. "It's a huge effort to bring it all together, and we're proud of how well it went."

Special recognition goes to all the sponsors and volunteers who helped make the event possible.

"The success of the Fair & Rodeo depends



on our volunteers and sponsors — we truly couldn't do it without them," the board noted. "With so many moving parts, our team executed it exceptionally well."

Planning is already underway for next year's event. Anyone interested in helping out can contact the Arborg & District Agricultural Society by emailing admin@agsociety.net or texting 204-641-2624.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CORRINE EINARSSON





Friday, August 8th &
Saturday, August 9th

Arborg Street Festival returns with jam-packed weekend of fun

By Annaliese Meier

Arborg's biggest summer event is back and ready to bring the community together for two days of high-energy entertainment and family fun. The Arborg Street Festival will take over Main Street on Friday, August 8 and Saturday, August 9, with activities scheduled from morning to night.

The weekend kicks off Friday with a street closure at 6:30 p.m. and the always-popular parade at 7 p.m., followed by the Pluck-a-Duck draw at the Library Stage, and live entertainment from Lanny & the Pipes starting at 8 p.m.. Fireworks will light up the sky once it gets dark, and beer gardens will be open following the parade.

Saturday's festivities begin bright and early with a pancake breakfast at the Legion from 9 to 11 a.m., a community-wide yard sale, and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Throughout the day, visitors can enjoy a wide variety of attractions, including:

- Human hamster ball and human soccer balls
- Laser tag and an R/C car demo

track

- Jaws of Life demonstration by the Arborg Fire Department

- Axe throwing, petting zoo, and kids fun zone

- Henna tattoos, dunk tank, and kids tractor pull

- CWE wrestling at 3 p.m.

- Trade market, food vendors, and beer gardens

- Video gaming event (contact Cameron at 204-494-0607)

Live entertainment will run all day on the Library Stage from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., featuring performances by Hailley, a magician, Morgan Grace, Filipino dancers, Tina Brill, Chet Wyka, William Bird, and Big Joe at 5 p.m. The festival wraps up with the evening feature act Leddwyn / Flame Syndicate beginning at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Festival chair Susan Bauernhuber said the organizing committee is excited about this year's lineup, which includes several new activities.

"We have a couple new events. We have a hamster ball, soccer balls and laser tag along with a R/C track demo

and a jaws demo by our fire department," she said.

Bauernhuber added that the Street Festival plays an important role in showcasing the town's spirit and welcoming visitors.

"We believe the Street Festival is important to the town because it brings so many people in—people who may have never been here before—and they can see what a great town we have," she said. "We have a wonderful turnout every year and it just seems to be growing, so we know that the town enjoys the festival and the events that we bring in—and the fact that it is all free."

The community-wide yard sale is once again

part of the celebration. Maps will be handed out at various venues around town, and volunteers in bright yellow shirts will also be distributing them on Friday.

Art lovers can check out the Creative Cocoon Art Show, open Friday from 3–9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.–6 p.m., while a variety of food vendors will be available throughout the festival.

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COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE - 9AM START

3 ON 3 BASKETBAL TOURNAMENT - 9AM START

TRADE MARKET - 10AM

BEER GARDENS - 10AM

RC CARS - 10AM

AXE THROWING - 11AM

KIDS FUN ZONE - 11AM

PETTING ZOO - 11AM

DUNK TANK - 11AM

HENNA BY KIM BRENNAN - 12PM

KIDS TRACTOR PULL - 1:00 PM

CWE WRESTLING - 3PM

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BINGO - 2PM AT THE LEGION

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Friday, August 8th &
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EVENT SCHEDULE 2025

• Friday, August 1 • Saturday, August 2 • Sunday, August 3 • Monday, August 4

FRIDAY AUGUST 1, 2025

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12:30–5:00 PM	Viking Village	Harbour Park
2:30–3:00 PM	Viking Kiddie Shield.....	Harbour Park
3:00–11:00 PM	Food Vendors.....	First Avenue
3:30–4:00 PM	Viking Battle	Harbour Park
4:00–Midnight	Vingólf Beverage Gardens.....	Gimli Harbour
5:00–11:00 PM	Wonder Shows Midway and Rides	Gimli Park
7:00–8:00 PM	Volunteer Meeting–Get Involved!	Vingólf Beverage Gardens
7:00 PM–10:30 PM	Friday Night at the Harbour–Live Music.....	Gimli Harbour

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EVENT SCHEDULE 2025

• Friday, August 1 • Saturday, August 2 • Sunday, August 3 • Monday, August 4

SATURDAY AUGUST 2, 2025

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:30 AM	Beach Volleyball Tournament Registration.....	Gimli Beach North
9:00 AM	Beach Volleyball Tournament.....	Gimli Beach North
9:30 AM	Sandcastle Contest Registration	Gimli Beach North
10:00 AM	Sandcastle Contest	Gimli Beach North
10:00 AM-6:00 PM	Craft, Commercial, Not-Profit Vendors	Gimli Harbour
10:00 AM-11:00 PM	Food Vendors.....	Gimli Harbour
10:00 AM-4:00 PM	Art Show	Lakeview Resort-Darren Hall
11:00 AM-4:00 PM	Luckystone Acres Petting Zoo and Tours.....	Loni Beach Rd
11:00 AM-5:30 PM	Viking Village	Harbour Park
12:00-4:00 PM	Magnús Classic Gimli Strongman	Viking Statue
12:00-6:00 PM	Children's Entertainment - BIG GAMES.....	Gimli Harbour
12:00-11:00 PM	Wonder Shows Midway and Rides.....	Gimli Park
1:00-12:00 AM	Vingólf Beverage Gardens	Gimli Harbour
1:00-4:00 PM	Islendinga-Derby	Gimli Harbour
1:30 PM	Icelandic Fashion Show	Gimli Theatre
2:30-3:00 PM	Viking Kiddie Shield	Harbour Park
3:00 PM	Get Dinged! Become an Honourary Viking!.....	Vingólf Beverage Gardens
3:30-4:00 PM	Viking Battle	Harbour Park
7:30 PM	Tunglskinsnætur Cocktail Reception.....	Waterfront Centre, Johnson Hall
8:00 PM-Midnight	Saturday Night at the Harbour-Live Music.....	Gimli Harbour Stage
10:30 PM	Harbour Fireworks.....	Gimli Harbour





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EVENTSCHEDULE 2025

• Friday, August 1 • Saturday, August 2 • Sunday, August 3 • Monday, August 4

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:00 AM	10 Mile Road Race	Winnipeg Beach Park
8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Pancake Breakfast	New Horizons Centre
8:05 AM	5 Kilometre Road Race	Gimli Park
8:30 AM	Jan's One Mile Fun Run	Gimli Park Pavilion
10:00 AM-4:00 PM	Icelandic Culture and Heritage Pavilion	Gimli Park Pavilion
12:00 PM-4:00 PM	Amma's Kitchen	Gimli Park Pavilion
10:00 AM-4:00 PM	Art Show	Lakeview Resort-Darren Hall
10:00 AM-6:00 PM	Craft, Commercial, Not-Profit Vendors.....	Gimli Harbour
10:00 AM-9:00 PM	Food Vendors.....	Gimli Harbour
11:00 AM-4:00 PM	Luckystone Acres Petting Zoo and Tours.....	Loni Beach Rd
11:00 AM-5:30 PM	Viking Village	Harbour Park
12:00-11:00 PM	Wonder Shows Midway and Rides	Gimli Park
12:00-6:00 PM	Children's Entertainment - Big Games	Gimli Harbour
1:00-4:00 PM	Saga Presentation & Genealogy Workshop.....	New Iceland Heritage Museum
1:00-9:00 PM	Vingólf Beverage Gardens	Gimli Harbour
12:00-1:00 PM	Fris-Nok Registration	Gimli Park
1:00 PM	Fris-Nok Tournament	Gimli Park
3:00 PM	Music and Poetry in the Park.....	Gimli Park, Main Stage
2:30-3:00 PM	Viking Kiddie Shield	Harbour Park
3:30-4:00 PM	Viking Battle	Harbour Park
3:30 PM	Islendingadunk Registration	Gimli Harbour
4:00 PM	Islendingadunk	Gimli Harbour
4:00 PM	Icelandic Men's Choirs	Gimli Park, Main Stage
7:00 PM-Midnight	Alternative Folk Festival-Live Music	Gimli Park, Main Stage

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EVENT SCHEDULE 2025

- Friday, August 1 • Saturday, August 2
- Sunday, August 3 • Monday, August 4

MONDAY AUGUST 4, 2025

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00 AM	Parade Registration.....	Gimli Rec Center
10:00 AM	Parade.....	Gimli Rec Center
10:00 AM–4:00 PM	Craft, Commercial, Not–Profit Vendors.....	Move to Gimli Park
10:00 AM–5:00 PM	Food Vendors.....	Gimli Harbour
11:00 AM–3:00 PM	Art Show	Lakeview Resort–Darren Hall
12:00–4:00 PM	Viking Village	Harbour Park
12:00–4:00 PM	Amma’s Kitchen	Gimli Park Pavilion
12:00–4:00 PM	Icelandic Culture and Heritage Pavilion.....	Gimli Park Pavilion
12:00–5:00 PM	Wonder Shows Midway and Rides	Gimli Park
12:20–2:00 PM	Family Sports	Gimli Park
1:30–2:00 PM	Viking Kiddie Shield	Harbour Park
1:40 PM	Scholarship Award	Gimli Park, Main Stage
2:00 PM	Traditional Program	Gimli Park, Main Stage

Events are subject to change. Visit our website and social media for the most up-to-date event information

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Happy Íslendingadagurinn from the RM of Gimli!

This year, as we mark 150 years since the first Icelandic footsteps touched Canadian soil, we reflect on a journey woven with courage, resilience, and deep-rooted pride.

The 2025 festival theme — "Woven Together: 150 Years, Iceland and Canada" — speaks to the enduring bond between two lands and the generations who've kept that connection alive.

From the heart of New Iceland, we warmly welcome visitors from near and far. Come experience the stories, traditions, and community spirit that make Gimli more than just a destination — it's a place that feels like home.

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Dry weather impacts agriculture in the Interlake

By Jennifer McFee

As dry weather continues to affect Manitoba, the provincial government has announced new emergency measures to support agricultural producers struggling through drought conditions, particularly in the Interlake region.

On July 29, Manitoba Agriculture confirmed it will work with the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) to deliver enhanced drought programming, including feed assistance, freight support and expanded access to crop insurance tools.

"Producers are facing serious challenges and we are listening," said Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn. "We're committed to providing targeted, flexible support so producers can make the best decisions for their operations."

The announcement comes after a growing number of municipalities — including the RMs of Woodlands, St. Laurent, Armstrong and Coldwell — declared states of agricultural emergency and called on the province and federal government for aid.

Local producers say the situation on the ground is growing dire.



An orange mineral and protein lick tub sits in the pasture, providing essential nutrients to grazing livestock.

Recorded precipitation levels are less than 40 per cent of the normal level since March. These dry conditions have impacted local ag operations, including grain, hay, straw and cattle production.

Many local producers are facing economic hardship due to reduced crop yields, diminished forage supplies



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY DARREN MACMILLAN

These bred heifers are slated for sale this fall, but ranchers warn that ongoing feed shortages could drive prices down and reduce buyer interest.



A dugout shows signs of drought stress as water levels drop, raising concerns for livestock and crop operations.

and increased costs to sustain livestock.

Darren MacMillan is keeping a close eye on his 1,100 cattle and pastures throughout the RM of Woodlands. He said the east two-thirds of the municipality is really dry, but the west portion is a little better.

"In some of the pastures in the east, I don't know if they've had an inch of rain since the snow melted. I have pasture way up by Erinview and it's hardly rained at all. The grass is brown," he said.

"We're going to have to start feeding cattle before long if something doesn't change. They're already eating in the sloughs and trying to get out of the fences. In most of my pastures, I have good water supply, but there might be one where the dugout could go dry so then the cattle will either have to be moved or else haul water."

However, since much of the Interlake is experiencing similar dry conditions, MacMillan said it could be

difficult to find resources for feed.

"Even the grain farmers, their crops are wilting up. The dairy producers that count on corn for silage, they've got to get rain," he said.

"Part of the damage is done, but rain would help. Some of the crops could still take rain, but some are already near maturity so there isn't going to be a lot of change."

The RM of Woodlands has declared a state of agricultural emergency due to extreme drought conditions. The municipality is urging the provincial and federal governments to provide assistance to affected producers. In addition, the RM has forwarded its resolution to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and other agencies.

"By putting the state of emergency, maybe that will allow us to access more government programs. Sometimes they pay for the cost of hay

Continued on page 27

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Lundar local turns 105, establishes scholarship

By Emma McGill

Helga Sigurdson has spent more than a century rooted in community, creativity and care. Now, on her 105th birthday, her legacy is being honoured through a scholarship that will support future generations in the town she's always called home.

The Johann (Joe) and Helga Sigurdson Scholarship, named for Helga and her late husband, will be awarded annually to a graduating student from Lundar High School. It was established through the Coldwell Lundar Community Foundation, with support from family friend and philanthropist Donald K. Johnson.

Sigurdson celebrated her milestone birthday on July 7 in the Centennial Room at the Lundar Personal Care Home, surrounded by family, long-time friends and local well-wishers. The room was filled with decorations and memories — and two cakes: one shaped like a Viking ship and another topped with fresh strawberries. Her brother's great-granddaughter led a heartfelt rendition of Happy Birthday.

Birthday greetings also arrived from the king and queen, the Governor General of Canada, Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson and Coldwell Reeve Virgil Johnson.

Born and raised in Lundar with six siblings, Sigurdson has lived in the community for all but two years of her life. She excelled in school, played sports, explored artistic pursuits and raised a family of four with her husband Joe — who once served as reeve.

"Community initiates activity, especially as the children grow into their own independent selves," she said.

"Joe and I were blessed with four children — all successful in their families — and I am now a great-great-grandmother. They live across the world, but they still consider Lundar their centre and return home."

Sigurdson's commitment to her community spans generations. She helped create *Wagons to Wings*, the area's local history book, selecting both its name and cover design. When her husband was reeve, she suggested the giant Canada goose as the symbol for Lundar — now proudly featured as a statue and weathervane in town.

"Leaving our future generations a way to understand from whence they came fills me with pride," she said.

Sigurdson was also named Fjallkona at the 1988 Íslendingadagurinn (Icelandic Festival of Manitoba) and is a longtime member of the IODE Jon Sigurdson Chapter in Winnipeg. She helped her father carve a wooden dragon's head for a parade float during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and has created ceramic geese now displayed in homes around the world — including the residence of the president of Iceland.

Today, Sigurdson continues to follow community news, reading local papers, novels and *Lögberg-Heimskringla* from her room at the care home.

Through her artistic talents, historical work and enduring love for her family and neighbours, she has left a lasting mark on Lundar — one that will now live on through the scholarship bearing her name.

To donate to the Johann (Joe) and



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Johann (Joe) and Helga Sigurdson Scholarship will support graduating Lundar High School students for years to come, thanks to the enduring generosity of the Sigurdson family and the wider community.

Helga Sigurdson Scholarship Fund: Visit www.clcf.ca to donate by credit card.

Mail a cheque to: CLCF, Box 154, Lundar, MB, R0C 1Y0.

Drop off donations at the Pauline Johnson Library on Main Street in

Lundar.

Please mark your donation "Johann (Joe) and Helga Sigurdson Scholarship Fund." Tax receipts will be issued for all contributions.



Helga Sigurdson cuts into her strawberry shortcake during her 105th birthday celebration July 7 at the Lundar Personal Care Home, where family, friends and community members gathered to honour her life and legacy.

Happy retirement!



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Friends gathered to celebrate and wish Phyllis Blue a happy and well-deserved retirement on Friday, July 4 at the Eriksdale Personal Care Home. She retired following 43 years of dedicated work as a health-care aide in the facility.

Armstrong council marks one-year milestone

By Jennifer McFee

The RM of Armstrong's current council is marking a noteworthy milestone, celebrating one year since they were elected.

At the July 22 council meeting, Reeve Garry Wasykowski congratulated all members on a great year, noting that they have come a long way with much work ahead of them.

Last April, four of six council members resigned, which prompted the province to dissolve the remaining council due to a loss of quorum. Manitoba's Municipal and Northern Affairs appointed an administrator to ensure the municipality's day-to-day operations continued. There were no council meetings from April 23 to July 23, 2024.

In August 2024, Wasykowski and five councillors were sworn in following a byelection and they hit the ground running. One of their first tasks was to hire a new CAO, so they brought Colleen Mayer on board in October.

The current council will serve until October 2026 when the next general election will take place.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The RM of Armstrong's council is marking a one-year milestone since they were elected. Left to right: Councillors Paul Humeny, Glenn Barkman, Allen Evanchyshin, Sonny Rohne, Dave Tyndale and Reeve Garry Wasykowski.

IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

- The RM of Armstrong declared a state of agricultural emergency at their July 22 council meeting.
- Council conditionally approved the Bring Your Love Festival at the Ledwich family farm, which will take place from Aug. 14 to 18. One of the conditions is that they must manage restricted decibel levels after the headliner performs and use a state-of-the-art sound management system. The levels must comply with instructions from the by-law officer. According to the Bring Your Love website, the event will feature more than 100 DJs and 30-plus performers.
- Council conditionally approved a request to allow a mobile home as a permanent residence at a Fraserwood property.
- Council conditionally approved a request to use a mobile home as a temporary residence as an additional dwelling at a Meleb property. The mobile home will be used for the homeowners' parents.
- Council approved the 2025 budget for annual road repairs at \$141,744.
- Council approved the placement of a street light by Manitoba Hydro at the corner of Highway 17 and 121N in Chatfield.

- Groundwater sampling and monitoring will begin at the Meleb waste disposal grounds.
- Council approved a \$1,400 quote from Loewen Drafting for drafting and design work for renovations in the public works shop.
- Council approved a landowner right-of-way agreement between the RM of Armstrong and the Interlake Off Road Club as well as its affiliate the All Terrain Association of Manitoba Inc.
- The RM of Armstrong will donate \$250 to the Interlake Thunder Football Club to help offset the rental cost of lighting for evening practices.
- Council unanimously passed Bylaw 5-2025 to regulate activities at the Inwood waste transfer station, the Chatfield waste transfer station and the Meleb waste disposal ground.
- Council conditionally approved a subdivision request from a property owner looking to separate a farmstead from the rest of the property.
- Council approved an annual beaver control policy in an effort to control problem beavers in the municipality, effective June 24 for one year. The policy includes the opening of beaver dams in municipal drains, provincial drains and private property. Council will pay a bounty of \$75 plus mileage at a rate of 56 cents per kilometre for each beaver caught in the municipality where authorized by council. Only licensed trappers, registered at the municipal-

ity, will be paid per beaver tail submitted. Trappers must have a completed trapper authorization form signed by both the trapper and the CAO prior to trapping; otherwise, no payment will be made.

- Council approved a new 4x6 sign for Madeline's Closet at the corner of Railway Avenue and Highway 17, pending consultations with the provincial highways department and the Inwood Memory Garden committee. The organization will be responsible for installing and maintaining the sign.

- The RM contributed \$100 in gift cards for the Inwood Memorial Community Hall's Canada Day celebration.

- Council approved a \$750 donation to the Fallen Heroes Foundation in memory of Second World War veterans Harry Chartrand of Inwood and Pete Trakalo of Meleb for displays in their communities.

- The Fisher Armstrong Planning District is updating its development plan. A community visioning workshop took place on July 24 to allow members of the public to share their vision for the future of the planning district. For those who were unable to attend, information and an online survey are posted on the RM of Armstrong's website at rmofarmstrong.com

> END ALS, FROM PG. 10

ble.

"ALS can affect anyone, anywhere," she said. "Several people in Iqaluit thanked us for including Nunavut. That meant a lot."

In Manitoba, the couple connected with the ALS Society, which shared their story. Bartel said many people don't realize how donations stay local.

"Fifty per cent of funds raised in Manitoba support people living with ALS right here — through equipment, advocacy and support," she

said. "The other 50 per cent goes to research and clinical trials through UBC, so people in Western Canada have access to new treatments."

They hope their efforts spark national attention.

"We need more media support," Bartel said. "This is a Canada-wide fundraiser that directly benefits people in every province and territory."

For those looking to help, she offered a few suggestions.

"Our website has a donation link. People can also volunteer with the ALS Society of Manitoba or just come out and cheer at races," she said.

"Even sharing our story helps."

When asked what keeps them motivated, Bartel reflected on the personal impact their journey is having.

"There was a young woman in Stettler, Alberta — her face just lit up when she heard what we were doing," she said. "Her uncle had ALS, and it meant so much to her that someone was doing something to help."

Looking ahead, the couple hopes to see real change in how ALS is treated and supported.

"We want to raise enough to make a real difference. This disease has been around too long. Too many people are

dying," Bartel said.

"In the next five to 10 years, we hope there's a treatment to slow ALS — and ultimately a cure. And we want to make sure anyone living with ALS in Canada has the support they need to live fully."

Their message remains simple: they're "tri'ing" to make a difference — but they need help to get to the finish line.

To learn more or donate, visit www.triingtoendals.ca.

Potter of 55 years shares timeless craft at Arnes Market

Local Interlake artist demonstrates his skills and sells handmade pottery

By Emma McGill

For more than five decades, Kirk Creed has shaped a life around clay, water and fire.

The Interlake artist has spent the last 15 years sharing that passion with visitors to the Arnes Farmers Market, where he demonstrates pottery techniques and sells one-of-a-kind pieces each weekend.

"In 1970, I think I was attracted to the elements that are involved," Creed said. "I was also attracted to the fact that when you work, you get a finished product. So it's really good for self-esteem. Every object that you make comes to completion."

Now 55 years into his practice, Creed said no two days are ever the same.

"You're never making the same stuff three days in a row," he said.

Creed trained as a young apprentice before opening studios in Winnipeg, abroad and eventually close to home in the Interlake. He uses a traditional potter's wheel and fires his work in a wood-fired kiln — methods that have remained largely unchanged for centuries.

"I could be transported to a workshop 500 years ago and I could get to work right away," he said. "Pottery is used in archaeology to track the movement of various civilizations because the fibre arts, wooden things and even iron don't last, but pottery does. Sometimes it's only in fragments but it's still there. In some ways, my work is joining the long-lived work of others."

Creed said travel always renews his inspiration, especially when he can see how other cultures approach the craft.

"There are always things to dis-



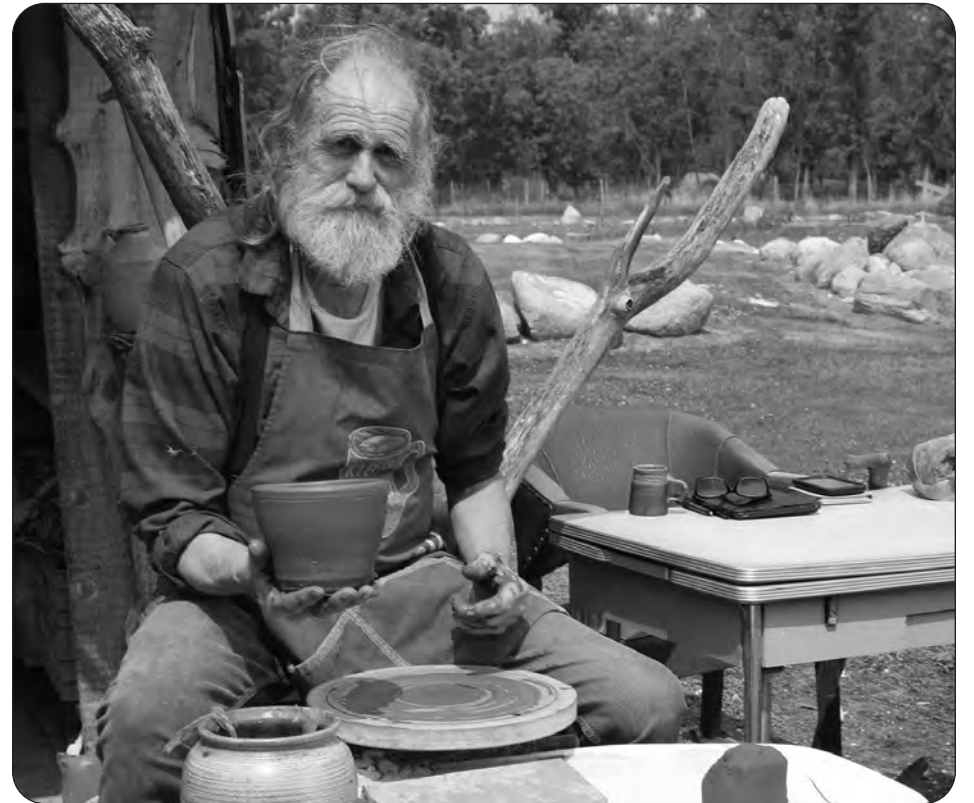
Handmade mugs by Kirk Creed hang from a rustic tree branch, blending natural elements with his timeless pottery craft.

cover. I like working with my hands and making something that a machine can't make. Machines can make something kind of like it, but they can't make a handmade thing."

At Arnes Farmers Market, Creed's booth is just a few miles from his home — something he appreciates as an artist and business owner.

"People know that I'm there so they come and see me," he said. "I can market my stuff locally and I don't have to use the internet to find customers or take my stuff into the city. It's all direct between me and the people."

Looking ahead, Creed hopes more people make the trip to Arnes, not just to see his pottery but to support the



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY KATIE WALLMUTH

Interlake potter Kirk Creed has been creating unique ceramic works for 55 years and continues to share his craft at the Arnes Farmers Market.



Creed has a wide array of handcrafted pottery for sale.

many artists and crafters who set up there each weekend.

Located 16.09 kilometres north of Gimli on Highway 222, the Arnes Farmers Market is open Saturdays

from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with vendors offering everything from fresh produce to handmade jewelry.

> DRY WEATHER, FROM PG. 2

transportation from other areas or help you pay for feed," MacMillan said. "That's part of why they give you a state of emergency — so you can find ways out."

Dianne Riding, who runs a cow/calf operation in Lake Francis at the north end of the RM of Woodlands, is also noticing the impacts of the dry weather. She grew up on a dairy farm and now runs a beef herd. She owns the family farm and is the fourth

generation on some of the land.

"Conditions are not great right now in the livestock industry feed-wise. I know dugouts are drying up. Hay crops are very poor. Some folks I know are starting to feed hay to their cattle and this is July, not late August or September. Pastures are not producing like normal," she said.

"Grazing will be cut short and supplement feeding will be happening way earlier than normal. The hay

that's fed now means they need to find more hay for winter. Grain crops that are very short and go through a combine will not leave any straw behind to be used for cattle. I know grain farmers are also taking a hit because of lack of moisture."

She extends gratitude to grain producers who are allowing cattle producers to access straw or green feed in the coming months.

"Our best solution is to have the ag minister and his staff allow crop

insurance to write off these crops that are short, heading out already with very few grain kernels, to turn the crop into green feed, which livestock producers can buy as cattle feed," Riding said.

"We are more than willing to meet with the minister of Agriculture to discuss and provide information to those affected," said St. Laurent Reeve Richard Chartrand.

Arborg Lemonade Stand for Hope brings in \$2,460 for CancerCare Manitoba

By E. Antonio

A pair of young sisters turned a summer afternoon into a heartfelt fundraiser, raising \$2,460 for CancerCare Manitoba Foundation through their first-ever Lemonade Stand for Hope.

Hailey, 12, and Raya, 9, hosted the stand on July 18 with encouragement from their grandmother, Susan Bauernhuber, who offered to match any funds raised in honour of her late husband.

"It was important to us to have a lemonade stand and raise money for CancerCare Manitoba because our grandpa had cancer," said Hailey. "It feels good to do this and we are proud of ourselves."

The sisters exceeded their \$1,000 goal by selling 120 cups of lemonade, each served with a freshly baked chocolate chip cookie for the first 66 customers. Their grandmother, who supplied the cookies, said she couldn't be prouder.

"It meant a lot to me that they agreed to do this," said Bauernhuber. "I am

so proud of how they handled everything."

Bauernhuber's husband, Phillip, passed away in October 2021 after being diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, just four months earlier. He received care at Winnipeg's CancerCare facility.

"He was a very friendly, very community-minded person," she said. "He loved his family, his grandkids, and he was always there whenever anyone needed help. The health-care workers at CancerCare were just super through it all — they made a hard experience better."

With \$1,230 raised and her grandmother's match doubling the amount, Hailey and Raya plan to make the Lemonade Stand for Hope an annual event.

"It makes me so happy to hear they want to continue to do this," Bauernhuber said. "However, I am not going to make a promise to match however much they raise."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Arborg's Raya (left), 9, and Hailey, 12, with their grandma, Susan Bauernhuber, at their Lemonade Stand for Hope. They hosted the stand in honour of their grandpa and Bauernhuber's husband who passed away from cancer in 2021. They raised \$1,230 and Bauernhuber matched their donation bringing their total to \$2,460.

Manitoba Hydro boosts tree trimming, vegetation management

By Haley Cvar

Manitoba Hydro is increasing its tree trimming and vegetation management activities across the province in an effort to improve power reliability and enhance public and worker safety.

The utility says the intensified efforts will help prevent power outages and protect critical infrastructure from hazards such as wildfires.

"Maintaining a power system that is reliable, and safe for our employees and customers, is always our goal," said Manitoba Hydro president and CEO Allan Danroth. "Our enhanced vegetation management work this year is part of those efforts."

Tree contact remains one of the leading causes of power outages in Manitoba. In 2023, there were 2,612 outages related to trees — more than in any of the past 14 years.

Falling trees or branches can bring down live electrical lines and spark fires, creating safety risks for the public and Manitoba Hydro crews. Dense vegetation can also slow down restoration efforts following storms.

To mitigate these risks, Manitoba Hydro crews and contractors will be trimming or removing trees too close to power lines and clearing brush around infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. Herbicides will also be used in targeted locations to control regrowth and reduce fire risk.

In urban centres, trees are typically trimmed to maintain clearance from power lines. However, the utility says removal may be necessary in some cases depending on the tree species, its proximity to electrical infrastructure, and the potential danger it poses.

While Manitoba Hydro aims to notify property owners ahead of time, the utility notes that urgent situations such as storm damage or emergency repairs may require immediate action without notice.

Residents who see crews working nearby are reminded to keep a safe distance as falling debris may pose a hazard.

More information about Manitoba Hydro's vegetation management practices is available at hydro.mb.ca/vegetation.



PHOTO BY MANITOBA HYDRO

A Manitoba Hydro crew trims trees near power lines as part of the utility's enhanced vegetation management efforts to reduce outages and improve safety across the province.

Reggie Leach Classic hosts final farewell round

By Jo-Anne Procter

Reggie Leach's final swing at the tournament that bears his name was more than just a round of golf — it was a heartfelt farewell to a beloved Interlake tradition.

The Reggie Leach Classic, held July 18 at the Teulon Golf and Country Club, marked the last time the Riverton-born hockey legend, affectionately known as the "Riverton Rifle," would host the annual fundraiser. For more than two decades, the event has brought together sports fans, NHL alumni and community members in support of local causes.

Leach was joined by special guest Morris Lukowich, a former Winnipeg Jets star and longtime friend, for one last memorable day on the course.

The Reggie Leach Classic has raised thousands of dollars over the years, fuelling community programs and youth initiatives throughout the Interlake. It has also served as a celebration of Leach's enduring connection to his roots — and to the people who helped shape his remarkable career.

This tournament has always been about giving back.

"Reggie truly loves helping his hometown," said Dawn Madahbee Leach, expressing pride in her husband's dedication.

Leach made a significant mark on hockey during the 1970s, becoming one of the NHL's top goal-scorers. He won the Stanley Cup with the Philadelphia Flyers in 1975 and over his decade-long career showcased his

talent with the Boston Bruins and Detroit Red Wings.

He played 934 NHL games, netting 381 goals and adding 285 assists for a total of 666 points. Leach also represented Team Canada at the 1976 Canada Cup and emerged victorious. His excellence was recognized further when he became an NHL All-Star in 1976 and 1980.

He was inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame and has received numerous honours, including the Order of Manitoba and the Order of Canada.

Before the golfers took to the greens, attendees had the chance to mingle with Leach and Lukowich. Nostalgia filled the room as the two NHL legends swapped stories from their playing days. They had faced off against each other for years, but also joined forces during the 1980 NHL All-Star Game in Detroit.

Lukowich expressed deep admiration for his former rival and teammate. He referred to Leach as "the Rifle" for good reason — his slapshot and wrist shot were legendary.

Rod Palson, a tournament volunteer and longtime friend originally from Riverton, praised the Leaches for their generosity.

"The last couple of years, Reg and Dawn have made a concerted effort to spread the wealth, donating the proceeds from this tournament to several worthy organizations," he said. "It's fantastic how many people benefit



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Reggie Leach and his wife Dawn Madahbee Leach have raised thousands of dollars through the Reggie Leach Classic Golf Tournament.

from what they do."

With heartfelt gratitude, both Reggie and Dawn acknowledged the dedication of the volunteers and sponsors who have supported the event over the years. They also extended thanks to the owners and staff of the Teulon Golf and Country Club.

"My heart has been in it for the past 20-some years for my hometown of Riverton and all the things that we have done, and now we are spreading

out into the Interlake," an emotional Reggie said. "I believe in always giving back to our youth and the people that are struggling."

His commitment to Riverton shone through every word he spoke that day, and his passion has created something meaningful that will resonate long after the final swing.

The amount raised at the tournament was unavailable at press time.



Photos left to right: Garry Dola, Morris Lukowich and Perry Dola; Dawn Madahbee Leach, Rod Palson and Reggie Leach; live auctioneer Einar Palson.



sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Storm FC approaching must-win territory in MMSL Div. 4 playoff chase

By Kieran Reimer

The battle for a playoff berth in Manitoba Major Soccer League Division 4 is heating up — and Arborg's Storm FC is feeling the pressure.

Storm FC dropped a 5-2 decision to Moose FC last Thursday at Ralph Cantafio Soccer Complex, leaving them at the bottom of the six-team table with a 2-6 record. Goals from Mark Wieler and Joseph Barkman gave the visitors a glimmer of hope, but the Moose proved too strong in the end.

The club had hoped to rebound Sunday against Real Sociedad at Buhler Recreation Park, but persistent rain

forced the match to be cancelled — a frustrating but familiar storyline for Storm FC this season. Since the campaign kicked off two months ago, the team has managed just eight games, with weather repeatedly disrupting their schedule.

Storm FC will get another shot to stay in the playoff hunt on Tuesday when they face Crescentwood Saturday, currently sitting fourth in the standings. A win would move Arborg within a point of a playoff spot, keeping their post-season hopes alive.

Kickoff is set for 7:15 p.m. at Buhler Recreation Park.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Storm FC's Zachary Kornelson controls the ball under pressure during Manitoba Major Soccer League Division 4 action. Kornelson has suited up for five matches with Storm FC this season.



Storm FC currently sit 10th in the Manitoba Major Soccer League Division 4 after losing to Moose FC last Thursday.

RCMP arrest Winnipeg man after series of rural thefts

By Haley Cvar

A Winnipeg man is facing several charges after RCMP responded to a string of thefts in the Interlake last week.

On July 17 at 11:25 a.m., Stonewall RCMP received a report of a stolen off-road vehicle (ORV) in the RM of Rockwood.

Officers say the suspect used the ORV to travel to a property in the RM of Armstrong, where several valuable items were stolen. He then allegedly drove the vehicle to a business on Road 231 in Fraserwood and stole groceries.

Thanks to tips from the public, police located the stolen vehicle and arrested the suspect without incident at another business on Road 231.

Russel Mitchell, 47, of Winnipeg, has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime, break and enter, theft and two counts of failing to comply with a release order. He remains in custody.

RCMP thanked the public for their quick response in providing information that helped officers make the arrest.

Stonewall and Gimli RCMP continue to investigate.

Man found dead after boat discovered abandoned near Gimli

By Lana Meier

RCMP say a man has died after his boat was found abandoned in open water south of Gimli.

At about 8:30 a.m. on July 27, Gimli RCMP responded to a report of an unoccupied vessel near Willow Island on Lake Winnipeg.

Several units were deployed to the area, including the Manitoba RCMP Marine Unit and Underwater Recovery Team.

Officers were advised by the Cana-

dian Coast Guard that a wallet and cellphone were found onboard the boat, but there was no sign of the occupant.

A few hours later, searchers located the body of a 62-year-old man in the water. Police say he was the sole occupant of the vessel.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

Gimli RCMP continue to investigate.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Full-Time Mental Health Counsellor, FYRST Gimli

F.Y.R.S.T. supports youth and adults in Gimli, Arborg, Riverton and Winnipeg Beach through a consent-based, culturally inclusive, and client-centred community mobilization model.

We are seeking a dynamic and flexible, culturally competent individual to join our team as our Mental Health Counsellor (with an Indigenous lens). This position will work individually to support existing clients who require mental health supports in collaboration with F.Y.R.S.T. Coordinators. This is a full-time (37.5 hrs/wk) daytime position paying \$33.85/hr.

We are seeking candidates with:

- Comprehensive knowledge of and experience in clinical assessment and treatment modalities and working with youth & adults, crisis intervention, and trauma-informed care
- Knowledge of mental health problems and illnesses, including signs, symptoms, treatment and prognosis of mental illness and emotional distress
- Knowledge of and experience with cognitive behavioural therapy, dialectal behaviour therapy and motivational interviewing
- Experience providing supportive counselling, conducting interviews, performing assessments and creating treatment plans
- Knowledge of co-occurring disorders
- Knowledge of psychopharmacology
- Knowledge of relevant Acts and legislation pertaining to mental health, familiarity with the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
- Knowledge of Indigenous historical and current experience and cultures
- Experience working with diverse populations
- Experience facilitating cultural connections and groups.

Qualifications:

- B.Sc. M.H., B.Sc. P.N., RPN, BN, RN, BSW or MOT; combination of Indigenous Studies education and (lived) experience
- Registered/licensed with applicable professional designation (including liability insurance)
- ASIST Certificate (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training)
- Minimum of two (2) years experience in a relevant mental health area required
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications
- Valid driver's license and a vehicle are required
- Ability to attain a satisfactory criminal record check, child and adult abuse registry check, and enhanced law enforcement security clearance (successful completion is necessary for employment).

Assets:

- Training in direct action and experiential therapeutic technique (such as action therapy)
- Experience with land-based or ceremonial healing practices, connections to Indigenous communities, resources, and events.

Please submit your resume to: Rob Gray, S/Sgt Gimli RCMP
Robert.gray@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

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TOWN OF ARBORG PUBLIC NOTICE - BOARD OF REVISION

Public Notice is hereby given that the **2026 Assessment Roll** for the Town of Arborg has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 337 River Road, Arborg, Manitoba and is open for public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with Sections 42 & 43 of *The Assessment Act*.

APPLICATION FOR REVISION 42(1)

A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under section 114(1) of *The Real Property Act*, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:

- a) liability to taxation;
- b) amount of an assessed value;
- c) classification of property; or
- d) a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under Subsection 13(2).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS 43(1)

An application for revision must:

- a) be made in writing;
- b) set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- c) set out which of the matters referred to in Subsection 42(1) are at issue, and the grounds for each of those matters; and
- d) be filed by
 - i) delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under Subsection 41(2), or
 - ii) serving it upon the Secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board as indicated in the public notice.

The Board of Revision will sit to hear applications on **Wednesday, September 10th, 2025 at 10:00 AM** in the Town of Arborg Council Chamber, 337 River Road.

The final date on which applications must be received by the Secretary of the Board is **Monday, August 25th, 2025**.

Dated at Arborg, in Manitoba, this 25th day of July, 2025

Cindy Stansell, Secretary
Board of Revision
Town of Arborg
Box 159 - 337 River Road
Arborg, MB ROC 0A0

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VILLAGE OF DUNNOTTAR
PUBLIC NOTICE
BOARD OF
REVISION FOR 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the 2026 Assessment Roll for the Village of Dunnottar has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 44 Whytewold Road, Dunnottar, Manitoba and is open for public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with Sections 42 and 43 of *The Municipal Assessment Act*:

Application for revision

42(1) A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under section 114(1) of *The Real Property Act*, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:

- a) liability to taxation;
- b) amount of an assessed value;
- c) classification of property; or
- d) a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2).

Application requirements

43(1) An application for revision must

- a) be made in writing;
- b) set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- c) state the grounds on which the application is based; and
- d) be filed by
 - (i) delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office at the address below, or
 - (ii) serving it upon the secretary, at 44 Whytewold Road at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the board as indicated in the public notice.

The Board of Revision will sit on **September 3, 2025**, at **10:00 a.m.** in the council chamber of the Village of Dunnottar at 44 Whytewold Road to hear applications. The final date on which applications must be received by the Secretary of the Board is August 18, 2025.

Dated at Dunnottar, Manitoba this 21st day of July 2025.

Sarah Palson
Secretary to the Board of Revision
Village of Dunnottar
Box 321
Matlock, Manitoba R0C 2B0

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JOHN (also known as JACK) COOPER HINCHEY, late of the R.M of Gimli, in Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 72A Centre Street, P.O. Box 6500, Gimli, Manitoba, R0C 1B0, on or before the 28th day of July, 2025.

DATED at Gimli, Manitoba, this 31st day of July, 2025.

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Attention: Grant D. Bake



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ANNIVERSARY



**Congratulations to
Eddie and Louise Sigurdson
of Oak Point, MB, on their
70th Wedding Anniversary!**

Derek Johnson, MLA for Interlake-Gimli, is seen here presenting Eddie and Louise with a commemorative plaque and certificate at the Lake Manitoba Resort on Saturday, July 12. A heartfelt thank you to all our family and friends who joined us to celebrate our 70th Anniversary. Special thanks to our children and their spouses - Wade (Lynn), Darrin (Darlene), Cheryl (Joe), and Karen (Harry) - for hosting such a wonderful celebration in our honour.

BIRTHDAY



**Greg Woytowich
August 1st, 1965
"60"**

**How did you get to 60?
Happy Birthday you ol' fart!**
Enjoy this new chapter, as you turn the page.
**Now get a move-on, 'cuz the cows are
waiting - ha!
Cheers to you!
-Love all your crew and fur babies
XOXOXO**

IN MEMORIAM

**Stewart
Richard (Dick)
passed away July 18, 2023
husband, dad and grandpa
Holly Joy
passed away August 5, 1981
daughter and sister**

How constantly we think of you,
With hearts and eyes that fill;
The love in life we had for you
In death grows stronger still.
Let the winds of love blow softly,
And whisper for you to hear;
We love and miss you sadly,
As it draws another year.

-In loving memory,
wife and mother Shirley,
and sisters and daughters
Bonnie and Shawna and families

OBITUARY



**Margaret Dickinson (nee McAlister)
January 31, 1936 - July 9, 2025**

Margaret Dickinson passed away peacefully on July 9, 2025 at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre in Selkirk, Manitoba.

Margaret was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland on January 31, 1936 to Edward and Sarah McAlister, of Carrickfergus, N. Ireland. She was the youngest of seven sisters. Tragically, Margaret's mother passed away shortly after her birth. As a result, she was raised by her aunt and uncle, Henrietta and William Hannah, of

Belfast. Growing up, Margaret formed a strong bond with her cousin Ella. Since Ella lived next door with their grandmother, it was common for Margaret to go back and forth between houses.

Margaret loved spending time at the ocean. She and her friends would travel up the coast, going from Belfast to Carrickfergus. They would collect periwinkles along the rocky coastline. After cooking them, they would use a pin to pull the tasty morsel out of the shell.

Despite being uncommonly shy, Margaret loved to tell stories of her adventures as a child; racing gliders down city streets, blowing up a tube of toothpaste in the fireplace, and running away from the milk delivery draft horse.

Margaret attended grade school in Belfast. As a teenager, she became a Christian and dedicated her life to following Jesus. She took her faith in God very seriously. After finishing school, she started working as a weaver at Ewart's Linen Mill in Belfast where she met Albert, who was a jacquard loom setter.

Margaret and Albert enjoyed walking and would go on many long strolls together through Belfast. After dating for a few years, Albert made a decision that would change their lives forever. He responded to an advertisement for work in Canada. In 1956, he made the trip by boat, across the Atlantic Ocean, and landed in Montreal, Quebec. He started work at Caldwell Linen Mills in Iroquois, Ontario. In the spring of 1957, Margaret, who was still in Belfast, was invited by Albert to join him in Canada. She accepted the invitation and made the trip across the Atlantic Ocean to be with him, telling herself that "she would try it for a year to see if she liked it". They were married in Morrisburg, Ontario in April 1958.

Margaret worked at Caldwell Linen Mills for a few years until the children came along, starting in 1962. In 1967, the family moved to Granby, Quebec where Albert worked for Dominion Textiles and Margaret stayed at home to raise the children.

In 1977, the family relocated to Arborg, Manitoba. In 1978, Margaret and Albert, along with three other couples, were instrumental in establishing the Arborg Christian Fellowship interdenominational church. Through the years, wherever she lived, Margaret was very involved in church activities. She taught Sunday School and led Bible studies.

Margaret worked for Johnson's Hardware Store in Arborg for approximately 20 years as a bookkeeper. She also cared for a number of foster children. She treated them as though they were her own, and kept in touch with many of them long after they had left her care. All of them referred to her as 'Mom', even as adults.

Margaret had a lot of hobbies which included reading, knitting, cross stitch, crossword puzzles, selling Avon and decorating soap with decoupage. She also tried her hand at millinery, upholstery and drapery. She was never afraid to learn something new. She enjoyed the outdoors and camping. Getting away from the daily routine of everyday life and taking the time to relax was something that she looked forward to every year. Over the years the family ended up going camping from coast to coast.

Christmas was a special time of year for Margaret. She always prepared a nice dinner and was dedicated to having elderly friends over so that they wouldn't spend Christmas by themselves. Since she had left Northern Ireland to begin a new life with Albert in Canada, and due to homesickness for the "old country", Margaret had a soft spot in her heart for those who had no family to spend the holidays with. Not wanting anyone to be alone, she was very generous in her invitations to have people over. Her spirit of hospitality was evident in the countless number of guests who shared a meal or a cup of tea in her home. If you came in as a stranger, you definitely left as a friend.

Over the last 10 years, Margaret's health slowly declined, due to dementia, and after a short battle with pneumonia, she passed into eternal life on July 9, 2025.

Margaret is survived by her children Mark (Debbie), Carol (Brad) Hogg, and Andrew (Nicole). She will be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren Jennica, Ashleigh, Kayley, Caitlyn (Jared), Nikolas, and Sarah (Jonah).

She was predeceased by her husband Albert on December 31, 2021. She was also predeceased by all of her sisters.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will take place at a later date.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Selkirk Regional Hospital Emergency department who provided exceptional care for her in her last hours, and the Betel Personal Care Home in Selkirk, Manitoba for their excellent care and compassion through the years.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba at www.alzheimer.mb.ca

Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



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OBITUARY



**Mildred Jessie Byquist (nee Erickson)
August 26, 1919 - July 21, 2025**

Peacefully, on Monday, July 21, 2025 in Winnipeg, MB, Mildred Byquist, aged 105 years, passed away.

A graveside service will take place at 11:00 am on Monday, July 28, 2025 at the Gimli Community Cemetery.

Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home,
Gimli in care of arrangements.



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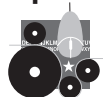
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> MEAL IDEAS



Shrimp Spaghetti

1 teaspoon onion powder
1 cup frozen or fresh spinach
bread, for serving
Cook spaghetti noodles according to package instructions.

In skillet over medium heat, add butter, avocado oil and shrimp. Mix in 1 tablespoon garlic powder and paprika. Remove shrimp after they begin to turn pink; set aside.

Add chicken broth, Parmesan, heavy cream, remaining garlic powder, onion powder and spinach to skillet and mix well. Add shrimp back to skillet to finish cooking. Mix in noodles and serve with bread.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"
Servings: 4-6

1 pound spaghetti noodles
2 tablespoons butter
1/4 cup avocado oil
1 package (12 ounces) raw shrimp
2 tablespoons garlic powder, divided
1 teaspoon smoked paprika
1 cup chicken broth
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/4 cup heavy cream



Potato Pizza Puffs

Wash and scrub potato thoroughly. Pat dry and thinly slice into 1/8-inch rounds.

Place sliced potatoes in saucepan and cover with cold water. Add crushed garlic cloves to the water, if desired.

Parboil potatoes 5 minutes until slightly tender.

Thaw puff pastry and roll out slightly with rolling pin. Cut into 12 equal strips.

On foil-lined tray generously sprayed with nonstick cooking spray, sprinkle with Parmesan and Italian seasoning then shingle 3-4 par-cooked potato slices with 3-4 pepperoni slices. Top slices with mozzarella followed by puff pastry strip. Push edges of pastry down onto foil to slightly "seal" puffs, keeping contents within pastry.

In air fryer set at 400 F, bake 7-8 minutes.

Wait for cheese to cool before removing puffs from tray. Gently peel potato pizza puffs off foil. Serve with marinara sauce.

Recipe courtesy of Potatoes USA
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 8 minutes
Servings: 12
1 medium (5.3 ounces) Wisconsin russet potato
2 cups cold water
3 whole garlic cloves, crushed (optional)
1 sheet frozen puff pastry dough
nonstick cooking spray
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
1 1/2 cups mozzarella cheese
1/2 cup pepperoni
1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
1 cup marinara sauce



Celery and Whipped Ricotta with Drizzled Honey and Dried Apricots

Ask the Money Lady

Dear Money Lady Readers:

If you read my columns regularly, you know I am a big advocate for planning. I have always believed that without a life plan and directional purpose it's hard to personally grow and prosper. The catch phrase used by many financial advisors is: "If you don't plan to succeed, you plan to fail." Now, I am not saying I still don't believe this – yes, planning helps you push yourself out of your comfort zone to accomplish more, forcing you to try harder and believe that you are worth success. We all know this to be true, but today I want to suggest we lower our expectations on life, just a little. You see, your happiness in life is irrevocably tied to your expectations.

Let's look at your current income. Income is a key predictor of life satisfaction and mental health, regardless of the actually amount you earn, and success is expected of you. If you were to get a raise today, but it was less than you expected or believed you were worth, you most likely would be less happy with this income increase. On the other hand, if you had more modest expectations, you would likely be happy with the raise. Now before you get all tied up in the fact that I am telling you to lower your outlook on life, I most certainly am not. Instead, I want you to avoid a "false-hope syndrome" where you stick to crazy expectations way past the point at which you should. False-hope is not the same as optimism. Optimism gives us the ability to expect the best and have a contingency plan for the worst. False-hope on the other hand, means we always need to expect the very best and generally ignore the worst when it occurs. Put another way, when facing an uncertain future, the rose-colored glasses of optimism serve us just fine, as long as we can take them off from time to time for a dose of reality. I believe self-improvement is always important, but it needs to be conducive to your happiness.



Having modest expectations in our relationships is also something that could reduce your stress and overall unhappiness. Believing that a coworker, partner, or child should provide you with a higher standard of care, interest, love or support only guarantees your disappointment. People will never live up to your expectations. When we let our expectations define our experience, we're far more likely to be disappointed, unhappy, and resentful. Usually, the actual situation is not as bad as we think it is, it's just different than our expectations.

Those positive or negative expectations will always be harmful to your future happiness. When your planned expectations are too high, you most likely will always experience disappointment, since things didn't work out the way you expected. But if you could bring your expectations down a bit, into a more modest viewpoint, you will be more likely to experience exactly what you expect and be content and happier with the outcome.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,
Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer and Syndicated Money Coach on BNN Bloomberg. Christine is also part of the everyday lineup on CTV Your Morning in every province. No AI. If you have a money question you want answered FREE – send it to: info@askthemoneylady.ca

Prep time: 5 minutes
Servings: 1
Dandy Celery sticks (4-5 inches)
2 tablespoons whipped ricotta cheese
6-7 dried apricot slices
1 tablespoon honey
Using piping bag or freezer bag with one corner removed, fill celery sticks with ricotta cheese.

Place dried apricot slices evenly across top of spread. Drizzle honey on top.

Chill until ready to serve.

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