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Interlake girl heads to Thailand for stem cell treatment

By Jennifer McFee

Thanks to an outpouring of community support, a local mom-daughter duo is heading to Thailand for a progressive medical treatment.

Alycia Dawson and her nine-yearold girl Amaya will be leaving for Thailand on Nov. 23 and returning home to Stonewall on Dec. 7.

The purpose of the across-the-globe journey is for Amaya to undergo stem cell treatment at the Verita Neuro facility in Bangkok in the hopes that she'll regain some sensation. Nearly two years ago, Amaya's spinal cord was damaged in a car accident, leaving her paralyzed from the chest down.

Since then, community members have been tirelessly fundraising to help the family send Amaya to Thailand for the stem cell treatment, which isn't currently available in Canada.

"If it wasn't for everybody in the community and all the fundraisers they did, we'd never be going," Alycia said.

For this initial part of the procedure, doctors will intravenously inject stem cells into Amaya's blood stream. The second part of the treatment, which will occur later, involves putting a needle into her spinal cord at the point of her injury.

"There's no promise that anything

will come back. The stem cell research for spinal cords has come a long way but it's still not proven. Everybody's spinal cord injury is completely different, but the hope for this one is that the stem cells bring back the sensations," Alycia said.

"With this, we're hoping that she might regain a couple of inches from where she can feel currently. My goal is that she will be able to get some of her personal functions back and be able to regain some of her abdomen control because she has scoliosis now."

When Amaya sits up, she adjusts her body to try to find her centre of gravity, Alycia explained.

"Her top half goes one way and her bottom half goes a little bit the other way to try to keep her upright, so it's caused a curve in her spine," she said.

"If we don't do something about it, she'll potentially have to have surgery on her spine in the future, if it doesn't get better or it gets worse."

If the stem cell treatment works and Amaya regains some sensation, she can return to Thailand every six months to repeat the treatment.

Amaya might also return to Thailand next year for epidural stimulation, which involves having a two-inch by two-inch stimulator placed at the base of her spine.



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EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED Amaya Dawson will be leaving for Thailand for stem cell treatment on Nov. 23.

"This is a large surgery," Alycia said. "It connects the good working part of the spine to the bad part of the spine. This will help with motor function but doesn't help with sensory."

Amaya, a Grade 4 student at Ecole RW Bobby Bend School, feels both nervous and excited about her upcoming adventure, Alycia said.

"She's very excited and is hoping that it will work, but I've also talked to her very clearly and she knows that it may not work. She's knowledgeable about keeping a very open mind," she said.

"The one thing that she does hope is that she'll regain some of her hands back. She can use her hands to draw, brush her hair, brush her teeth, those types of things, but she can't extend her fingers all the way. It's just something that most people with spinal cord injuries have to deal with. So she's hoping that the procedure will improve the look of them."

For added support, Alycia's best friend Lisa Taplin will travel with them to Thailand to help along the way.

"I've never been to Thailand before and I've also never travelled with Amaya before, so I was very nervous about going to another country alone with my daughter. It's a huge benefit that my friend is also a registered nurse in emergency at the Stonewall Hospital, so she can help Amaya with all the things that I help her with," Alycia said.

"This time I will be going with Lisa so that we can figure out where we're going and get to know the people. Next time, it will just be me and Amaya."

They had initially included a weeklong quarantine period in their itinerary, but the quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated Canadian travellers to Thailand has since been lifted. As a result, Alycia, Amaya and Lisa will have the chance to enjoy some time as tourists before Amaya's treatment begins on Dec. 1.

"We're actually doing our first seven days of sightseeing around Thailand and taking advantage of that spare week that we thought we had to quarantine," Alycia said.

"If we do go back to Thailand in six months, then it's basically going to be going to the facility and coming back. So this is going to be our one time to actually see things and let Amaya actually experience a trip. She has never been on a trip before, and if the stem cell treatment doesn't work, we will have some great memories to look back on."

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Holiday crafts for sale in November



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LORETTE KIRBY Lorette Kirby is helping to organize a community craft sale in Eriksdale as the holidays approach.

By Nicole Brownlee

As the holiday season looms closer, communities gather to offer baking, crafts and knick-knacks at local sales. Eriksdale and Ashern are both hosting craft sales on Nov. 19 at the Eriks-

dale Community Centre from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and at the Ashern Legion from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Eriksdale craft sale has been a tradition for the community for 30 years, said Lorette Kirby.

This year, the Christmas craft sale will be a fraction of its usual size, but community members are glad the annual sale has returned. The 2020 sale was cancelled because of public health restrictions.

"A few of us that usually are at the craft sale booked the hall privately, and we're having this little mini one ourselves," said Kirby, one of the organizers.

In past years, the craft sale had up to 42 vendors filling the Eriksdale Recreation Centre, but this year the sale will be contained to five vendors at the community centre.

"We're just really trying to follow

the protocols and give people the opportunity to pick up their purchases that they've been buying at these craft sales for the past several years," said Kirby.

Kirby will be selling baking under the name Treats by Lorette at the sale, offering sweets like fudge, tarts and cake. Moseikno's Honey, Northwoods Farm soaps, Donna Brandt's homemade creations and Dale Lloyds crafts will also be at the craft sale.

The Ashern craft sale is also a tradition within the community, with several held each year. Kathie Tindall has helmed the Nov. 19 sale for around 10 years. Tindall took over organizing the sale for Carol Arnason after Arnason passed away.

"I was helping her, and then I just took it over from her. (This sale) has been going on for probably 15 years," said Tindall.

As of Nov. 9, the craft sale had six vendors signed up.

"I'm not pushing for a lot more. I'm happy with that," said Tindall. "This way we've got lots of room to spread out."

Tindall will have two tables to sell her baking and crafts. The other vendors are selling items like baked goods, jewelry and Christmas decorations.

In past years, the craft sale has attracted around 18 vendors, but the organizers chose to keep the Nov. 19 sale smaller out of caution for COVID-19.





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"YOU WERE THE CLASS

THAT BROUGHT THIS WAR

MEMORIAL TO THE TOWN. ...

YOU CAN BE PROUD OF IT."

Grade 2 students unveil Fisher Branch war memorial

By Nicole Brownlee

One year ago, the first-grade class from Fisher Branch Early Years sent a spirited letter to the RM of Fish-

er's council questioning why there was no cenotaph, plaque or place for community members to pay their respects on Remembrance Day.

On Nov. 10,

the now second-grade class unveiled fell. We will remember them." Fisher Branch's new memorial.

"This is an exciting day for our community and especially for our early years class," said Coun. Allan Lindal.

Flanked by their Grade 1 teacher Carla Desjardins and their current Grade 2 teacher Amber Semenek, the 15 students placed a wreath decorated with their poppies by the memorial they helped to secure.

Created from a large stone unearthed by the school, the memorial sits in the Rolling Memories Museum Park, protected by a fence, which was one of the students' requests.

"One day, Mrs. Desjardins called me up and said that they were doing a sidewalk by the school, and they had dug up a huge rock. She thought it would be perfect for the war memorial," said Lindal.

Initially, the council received quotes for a traditionally made memorial, but they were concerned about the cost. The giant rock was a welcomed alternative.

"Quite fitting that it came from beside the school and (the students)

were the ones that suggested the project in the first place," said Lindal.

Robert Bernier, a local farmer, helped lift and transport the rock

from the school to the park. Dan Malofie, a stonemason, finished off the display with a commemorative carved black stone that reads, "In honour of those who served. In memory of those who

Malofie also created a second plaque dedicating the stone as a place of re-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY NICOLE BROWNLEE Fisher Branch now has a war memorial at Rolling Memories Museum Park.



Fisher Branch Grade 2 students unveiled the new war memorial on Nov. 10.

membrance,"Inspired by the Grade 1 Class of 2020-2021."

"When you get older, you can come back to this spot and remember the people that served our country. ... But you can also remember the fact that you were the class that brought

this war memorial to the town," said Lindal to the Grade 2 students.

"You can be proud of it because we're proud of you for bringing it." LUD chairman Dave Plett placed a

second wreath by the memorial on behalf of the community.

"We'd like to thank the students and

their former teacher Mrs. Desjardins for coming to council with the idea for this memorial and a commitment to honour those courageous men and women who have sacrificed and served to ensure that our country can remain free," said Reeve Shannon Pyziak

Arborg RCMP investigates fatal single-vehicle collision

Staff

Arborg RCMP responded to a single-vehicle collision on Highway 8, approximately eight kilometers north

of Riverton in the RM of Bifrost on Nov. 7 at approximately 1:40 a.m.

A vehicle travelling south on Highway 8 left the roadway and collided with an embankment. The driver and sole occupant, a 56-year-old male from the Interlake, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Arborg RCMP, along with a forensic collision reconstructionist and the criminal collision investigation team, continue to investigate.



Riverton resident saves abused, abandoned dogs



Riverton resident Miya Comeau organized a rescue operation for two abused and abandoned dogs wandering around town. She and some other caring community residents started feeding the dogs when they realized they were starving.

By Patricia Barrett

A Riverton resident sprang into action to save the lives of two local dogs that had been abused and abandoned and were on their way to starving to death. One of the animals later had to have its leg and shoulder amputated.

Miya Comeau said she and some other residents noticed the dogs roaming around town. One dog was limping a lot and both of them looked "really skinny."

Comeau said she was horrified by their condition and by some people's lack of compassion to their plight. She was compelled to do something to help them.

"I couldn't stand seeing this anymore. It was awful. I was in tears when we finally caught them," said Comeau last week. "I knew I couldn't just leave the dogs to wander around because I knew the owner or anybody else wouldn't do anything for them."

She and some other caring community residents started leaving food out for the dogs over the space of a few months or so and also tried to catch them, she said, but the dogs were so timid that they couldn't get near them.

That's when she realized she needed some advice on how to move forward to get additional help for them. She was following K9 Advocates Manitoba on Instagram and reached out to them.

"I contacted [a staff member] at K9 Advocates and asked him what I could do to help these dogs, or is there anything he could do to help me try to catch them. I told him what condition they were in," she said. "A couple of days later, he came out to Riverton with another guy and a trap. We set up the trap but for two days the dogs wouldn't go near it. At my workplace, Kahleigh's Brew Barn [restaurant and lounge], the dogs were wandering around and some of the staff were feeding them. They were able to get pretty close to the dogs so I set up the trap there."

Comeau said some Riverton residents were aware the





EXPRESS RESCUE NL FACEBOOK

One of the abused and abandoned Riverton dogs, now called Annie, had to have her leg and shoulder amputated at a Newfoundland and Labrador veterinary hospital. Annie had bullets embedded in her head and neck.

dogs had an owner but he had "kicked them out." They approached him to discuss the dogs' situation.

"Some Riverton residents went to talk to him. He told them if they could catch [the dogs], they could keep them," said Comeau."He didn't care about them."

Comeau said one of the dogs was caught in the trap by the restaurant and they transferred it to a kennel. They left the kennel beside the trap to entice the second dog to enter the trap. Once they had both animals, Comeau called K9 Advocates.

"K9 staff took them to Winnipeg because Manitoba shelters have no room for any more dogs," said Comeau."[The



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staff member] said Manitoba is the worst for abused animals. The only way to get these animals help is to transfer them to a different province where they have room. A Newfoundland [and Labrador] rescue had room

Continued on page 7



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These are government rules - do not blame the theatre staff.





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Province offering third COVID vaccine doses to adults 18 and older

By Patricia Barrett

Manitoba will be offering adults 18 and older a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine as the province's fourth wave of infections climb and people continue to die.

The expanded third-dose eligibility (Indigenous people, health-care workers, the immunocompromised and adults 70 and older were already eligible for third doses) was announced Nov. 10.

The announcement came a few days after Health Canada approved Pfizer-BioNTech's request to have a third dose of its Comirnaty vaccine administered to adults 18 and older.

People are being asked to wait six months after their initial vaccine series before booking an appointment for a third shot.

"A minimum of six months is required between second and third doses, except in very limited circumstances," states the province's COV-ID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #138.

an mRNA vaccine — either Pfizer's Comirnaty or Moderna's Spikevax - be administered for third doses, according to its COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Criteria webpage, and that people receive the same mRNA vaccine that they had for their first two doses. If that vaccine is not available or people can't remember which vaccine they got"another MRNA vaccine will be offered."

People who request their third dose earlier than six months will need to have a prescription from a doctor.

Health Canada authorized third doses of Comirnaty for adults aged 18 and older on Nov. 8 in response to an application from Pfizer-BioNTech.

"After evaluation of the submitted data package, Health Canada authorized that a booster dose may be administered at least 6 months after completion of the primary series in individuals 18 years of age or older," states Health Canada's website.

In addition to expanding the eligibil-The province is recommending that ity for third doses, the Manitoba government said it's expecting an initial shipment of 2,250 doses of the oneshot Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID vaccine.

natricia@expressweeklynews ca

Johnson & Johnson is a viral vector vaccine and, like AstraZeneca's COVID vaccine, has been linked to a risk of developing rare blot clots. Last week the European Medicine Agency released a recommendation to add a warning about a rare spinal inflammation, called transverse myelitis, as a side effect of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The Manitoba government is recommending that people who had already received the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine should now receive a second dose of an mRNA vaccine"to provide the best protection possible," according to its news release.

To book a vaccine appointment, call toll free 1-844-626-8222 (1-844-MAN-VACC) or visit the Manitoba Govern-

Continued on page 7

letters to the EditorLetters to the Editor: Letters@expressweeklynews.ca

The people of Gimli make it a great community

On Sunday morning, my car slid into the ditch on Solvin Road. I tried to drive it out but it just sunk deeper into the snow. I called CAA and was told it would take an hour for anyone to tow me out due to the slippery roads.

As I prepared to wait it out, a young man came by on a snowmobile. He looked at the situation and then turned around and pulled up next to

me. He asked if I needed help and then offered to call his friend who had a truck and chains. During this conversation, another young man drove by in a landscaping company truck. He, too, stopped and said he had chains and would pull me out. By this time, the original young man's friend had showed up with his truck. They proceeded to dig me out, attach the chains and push my car whilst the driver of the truck towed. I was out on the road in no time.

This act of caring and kindness reminded me, once again, how great our Gimli community is and how willing we all are to help each other.

I didn't get any if the guys' names. I wish I had. I'm so very grateful to them all and want to thank them most sincerely. They made a very stressful experience so positive.

- Christine Smith.

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> THIRD, FROM PG. 6

ment's online Vaccine Shot Finder, which shows a list of facilities across the province offering COVID and/or

The world passed a grim milestone of five million deaths from COVID-19 at the beginning of this month. Health experts say that number is likely two or three times higher given varying or little to no record-keeping in some countries. The U.S. leads the world with the highest number of COVID

As of Nov. 10, there have been over doses of vaccine administered.

For the past few weeks, Manitoba has steadily seen triple-digit infection numbers. Last Friday saw 193 new infections. On that day the provincial government cancelled surgeries to create more intensive care capacity for people with COVID, adding to a backlog of surgical and diagnostic procedures that Doctors Manitoba had pegged at about 130,000 in mid October.

The government said last week new infections are spreading rapidly among younger people and that they will have to be either vaccinated or regularly tested for COVID if they want to play sports indoors.

CCC NEWS > VIEWS > GIMLI > ARBORG > HIGHWAY 6 > SURROUNDING AREAS flu shots.

> deaths followed by Brazil and India. 250 million cases of COVID reported, according to the World Health Organization, and more than seven billion

Some communities in the Interlake were blanketed with more than 35 centimetres of snow over the weekend. Okno was no exception. The heavy, wet snow weighed down branches and knocked out power in many areas for several hours. Help the Express record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or families enjoying the outdoors. Email: weather@expressweeklynews.ca.

> ABANDONED DOGS, FROM PG. 5

so K9 flew the dogs out there."

K9 Advocates Manitoba is a nonprofit organization founded in 2015 by Jasmine Colucci, who worked as a nurse in First Nation communities. She saw a need to help those communities manage an overpopulation of stray, starving dogs. K9 rescues dogs, treats them for broken bones and diseases and finds homes for them across the country.

The organization took the two Riverton dogs to Newfoundland and Labrador where Rescue NL, an animal adoption service, arranged for veterinary care.

One of the dogs, a Labrador mix which has been named Annie, was found to have several bullets embedded in her head and neck, a front leg that had been previously broken, a shattered shoulder and an infection. She was in pain, according to the Avalon Animal Hospital in St. John's, the Newfoundland and Labrador veterinarian clinic that operated on her.

A Nov. 3 photo posted on Rescue NL's public Facebook page showed Annie on the operating table after having her leg and shoulder amputated. She has been placed with a foster caregiver and is learning to walk on three legs.

Comeau said the other dog was pregnant and thinks she may have

had her puppies while in foster care. She said she would encourage more people to intervene when they come across abused, abandoned animals. It's as simple as calling a rescue organization for advice.

"I think there was a lot of 'it's not my problem' in the [Riverton] community, yet a lot of people wanted to help but didn't know how to take the first step," said Comeau.

Her dad, Jason Comeau, said he was really proud of his daughter for taking the dogs' welfare upon herself and making a concerted effort to get them help even though they didn't belong to her.

"It was a really good thing Miya did to help the dogs," he said by phone last week.

Comeau said she would not have considered adopting the stray dogs in order to keep them safe and to give them a new start in life.

"It wouldn't be a good idea to adopt them and keep them in Riverton. The dogs know the area and they'd probably take off again and try to go back home. I wouldn't want to put them in that situation. I feel it was best for them to get out of Riverton," she said.

"And I want people to understand that if you have pets, you need to be there 24-7 for them and not abandon them. And you don't need to torment them either. They just want to be loved."

EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED



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Pfizer's antiviral COVID-19 pill cuts risk of hospitalization by 89 per cent

By Patricia Barrett

Pfizer's antiviral COVID-19 pill was found to significantly reduce the risk of hospitalization and death in people considered at high risk of progressing to serious illness from a COVID infection, according to the results of a Pfizer-led study.

The antiviral drug, called Paxlovid, is a treatment option that can be used in patients with COVID but is not considered a replacement for the protection vaccines offer.

The drug was found to reduce the risk of COVID-related hospitalization or death by 89 per cent in people who were treated within three days of symptom onset.

"Today's news is a real game-chang-

er in the global efforts to halt the devastation of this pandemic. These data suggest that our oral antiviral candidate, if approved or authorized by regulatory authorities, has the potential to save patients' lives, reduce the severity of COVID-19 infections, and eliminate up to nine out of ten hospitalizations," said Pfizer chair and chief executive officer Albert Bourla in a Nov. 5 press release.

Developed in Pfizer's laboratories, Paxlovid interferes with the virus's reproduction, thereby slowing its ability to spread and infect human cells.

The findings were based on data from 1,219 adults enrolled in a Pfizer Phase 2 study called EPIC-HR (Evaluation of Protease Inhibition for COVID-19 in High-Risk Patients). Participants had to have at least one "characteristic or underlying medical condition" associated with an increased risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19. The study's subjects were randomized to receive either Paxlovid or a placebo pill orally every 12 hours for five days. Enrolment in the study was at 70 per

cent of the 3,000 planned participants by Sept. 29, and Pfizer decided to stop recruiting patients because of the "overwhelming efficacy demonstrated in these results."

Pfizer studies are already underway in participants who are considered to be at "standard risk" for COVID complications and in people who contracted COVID after vaccination.

Paxlovid was also potent against CO-VID variants, said Pfizer, and may be effective against other kinds of coronaviruses.

"It has demonstrated potent antiviral in vitro activity against circulating variants of concern, as well as other known coronaviruses, suggesting its potential as a therapeutic for multiple types of coronavirus infections," states the press release.

Subject to approval or authorization, Pfizer said its pill could be prescribed as an at-home treatment to help reduce illness severity, hospitalizations and deaths, and also reduce the probability of infection following exposure in adults.

Rising COVID-19 case numbers bring added restrictions

Submitted by Manitoba government Due to rising COVID-19 cases, increased community transmission and a growing strain on the health-care system, Manitoba is taking additional steps to help curb the spread of the virus in the fourth wave of the pandemic, Health and Seniors Care Minister Audrey Gordon and Dr. Brent Roussin, chief provincial public health officer, announced Friday.

"Once again, we must ask Manitobans to do more to reduce the current COVID-19 case numbers and community transmission which, in turn, will help reduce the strain on the healthcare system," said Gordon. "We need everyone to work together by following the public health orders, focusing on the fundamentals and getting vac-

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cinated. We know vaccination works, and I encourage all Manitobans to do your part and get immunized against COVID-19."

The additional restrictions include:

Religious gatherings are limited to 25 people unless the facility can physically divide the space into separate areas, in which case several cohorts of up to 25 can attend the same service. However, the total number of attendees at a service may not exceed 25 per cent of facility capacity, to a maximum of 250 people. Cohorts must not mingle, masks must be worn and physical distancing rules apply.

this applies to the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region only;

this new restriction goes into effect Saturday, Nov. 13 at 12:01 a.m.;

services restricted to fully immunized people and those under 12 who are not eligible for the vaccine may occur without capacity limits; and

the municipalities of Cartier, Headingley, Macdonald, Ritchot (Niverville-Ritchot), St. François Xavier and Taché that are geographically located in the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region, are exempt and considered to be part of the Winnipeg Capital Region.

Provincewide, proof of at least one dose of vaccination or a recent (within 72 hours) negative test result will be required for 12- to 17-year-olds for indoor recreational sports:

there will be a grace period until Dec. 5 to allow individuals who are not yet fully immunized to comply, with the order to be in effect at 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 6; and

negative tests need to come from a participating pharmacy as provincial testing sites should only be accessed by symptomatic individuals or those who are re-



on Oct. 25th and after a lengthy discussion, it was decided that this year's festival will be cancelled. With on-going restrictions and requirements for checking vaccine status and a large decline in the number of children participating in music lessons, it seemed the most prudent decision at this time. There is every intent to continue with the festival at a

Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a

Annette Holowka, Chair 1 204 641 1760 quired to take a PCR test by public health.

The orders continue to allow fully vaccinated Manitobans to enjoy as much freedom and as few restrictions as possible, while unvaccinated individuals continue to be restricted in their activities in order to reduce transmission and the most serious outcomes.

"We take several pieces of information into consideration when we are making recommendations for public health orders," said Roussin. "Current COVID-19 case numbers, test positivity rate, community spread, vaccination rates and modelling are all factors. We are seeing concerning numbers now and the projections indicate more is coming if we do not take steps to curb the situation."

"Thank you to all of those Manitobans who are following the public health orders, focusing on the fundamentals and have been vaccinated. It is frustrating to be here again but by working together, we can help bring an end to this pandemic," said Roussin.

The updated orders keep the Pandemic Response System at Restricted (Orange) with schools at Caution (Yellow).

All other public health orders remain unchanged.

For more information on COVID-19 in Manitoba, visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19.

The Veteran

It is the Veteran, not the preacher Who has given us freedom of religion. It is the Veteran, not the reporter Who has given us freedom of press. It is the Veteran, not the campus organizer Who has given us freedom to assemble. It is the Veteran, not the lawyers Who has given us the right to a fair trial. It is the Veteran, not the politicians Who has given us the right to vote. It is the Veteran, who salutes the flag. It is the Veteran, who serves under the flag.

Annual art show in St. Andrews open to all artists

By Ligia Braidotti

The St. Andrew's Heritage Centre is asking all local artists to get ready to get some exposure next year.

Because of the pandemic, the St. Andrew's Heritage Centre couldn't host their annual art contest this year but are now preparing to give local artists a venue to showcase their work in 2022.

They have recently opened submissions for the 2022 Community Art Showcase and are inviting all artists, from all skill levels and ages, to participate. The St. Andrew's Heritage Centre is asking participants to submit up to five projects for the exhibition. They will pick a few pieces of art to showcase during the exhibit. The centre doesn't have the ability to support digital or other media requiring sound systems, TVs, etc. Artwork such as paintings, drawings, photography, textiles, sculpture, ceramics and jewelry are welcomed.

Katrina Eeles, program co-ordinator with the St. Andrew's Heritage Centre, explained that at the beginning of this year they held a virtual exhibition to showcase some local artists that had submitted their work. Because of restrictions, the public could not enter the centre to look at the artwork, so they posted videos on their social media with the artists' work.

"We want to get the community involved and this is a way to have people from different areas come to the rectory, learn about the history that's here, but also to get to know people from the community," Eeles commented. "And this is certainly a good way to get local artists involved."

For next year's event, they are hopeful they will host an in-person exhibit with a grand opening celebration for the artists and their families.

But the main reason the centre hosts

events like these is to promote local artists and give them a venue to show-case their work.

"We want to raise awareness for the people that are doing different things around here," Eeles said. "This helps people sell their artwork through our venue."

Artists from all over the region and the Interlake are welcome to submit their work to the centre by filling out a submission form found at standrewsrectory.ca. The submission deadline is Jan. 1, 2022.

MB RCMP reminds drivers to prepare for winter driving

Submitted by Manitoba RCMP

As the first winter storm of the season is expected crossed many parts of Manitoba in last week the Manitoba RCMP wants to remind drivers of some winter driving tips.

Make sure you have your vehicle ready before you head out on the roads:

• Have proper tires on your vehicle. Tire pressure decreases in colder weather, so check your tire pressure often

• Ensure you have windshield washer fluid that is rated for winter use so you can keep your windshield clean and your line of vision clear • Clear all snow and frost from your vehicle before driving so that you can see and be seen

• Ensure wheel wells are cleared of slush or build-up that could impede your ability to steer

• Have extra winter wear in your vehicle, such as toques, mittens and winter boots

• Keep a road safety kit and shovel in your vehicle

Safe winter driving tips:

• Posted speed limits are for ideal travel conditions. On winter roads, be aware there could be ice. Driving at reduced speeds is a great precautionary measure against slippery condi-

• Do not use cruise control

• Increase your distance between other vehicles as stopping distance on an icy road is double the stopping distance on a dry one

• Observe road signs pointing out icy spots, such as bridges and overpasses

• If you start to skid, do not brake or accelerate. Look where you want the vehicle to go and steer in that direction

• As always, keep in mind the basic

safety rules: buckle up, slow down, drive with caution, be aware, be alert, be sober, give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination, and keep focused on the road

• Check weather and road conditions before heading out. If road conditions are unfavourable, the safest strategy is to avoid driving

Winter weather is on its way! Being prepared will help keep you and others safe on our roads.



COVID-19 cases on the rise over the weekend

Staff

Public health officials reported 399 new cases of COVID-19 in Manitoba at the start of the week, with 140 cases on Saturday, 102 on Sunday and 157 on Monday.

Of those, 145 were in the Winnipeg health region followed by 119 in Southern Health, 68 in the North, 36 in Prairie Mountain, and 31 in Interlake-Eastern.

The five-day test positivity rate was at 5.9 per cent provincially and 3.1 per cent in Winnipeg. At press time, testing data for the other regions had not been updated since Nov. 3. Southern Health at that time was at 14.5 per cent test positivity.

Of the 157 new cases on Monday alone, 81 were in people who were not

fully vaccinated. In Southern Health, 41 of the 72 cases reported that day were not fully vaccinated.

In total, Manitoba started the work week with 1,499 active cases of COV-ID-19, 146 hospitalization, 31 patients in ICU due to the virus, and a death toll that, with four new fatalities reported Monday, hass reached 1,273.

Locally, Springfield was reporting 52 cases; Northern Remote, 12; Stonewall/Teulon, 12; Eriksdale/Ashern, nine; Selkirk, seven; Unknown, five; Fisher/Peguis, five; Arborg/Riverton, three; Beausejour, five; Winnipeg Beach/St. Andrews, three; Gimli, one; Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet, two; St. Clements, two; St. Laurent, three; Whiteshell, one; and Powerview/Pine Falls, zero.

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EFFICIENCY

MANITOBA

The power that a new set of PJs can make

By Katelyn Boulanger

When people get away from a situation involving domestic or family violence, it can sometimes be an emergency where they are leaving with just the clothes on their backs.

Knowing this and the value that being given comfortable, warm pyjamas slippers, T-shirts or sweats means to these people, Nova House is once again marking Domestic Violence Awareness month with its Power of the PJs drive.

Nova House is a domestic/family violence shelter in Selkirk that serves our Interlake area and parts of Eastern Manitoba. They provide emergency accommodations for people leaving domestic and family violence situations with their women's shelter but also can direct anyone who comes to them in similar situations to resources and accommodations that would be right for them. They also provide counselling and additional resources in the community that are open to all residents even if they are not staying with them.

Melanie Thomas, Nova House's outreach co-ordinator, says people can assume this just means they help in situations of intimate partner violence but that domestic and family violence actually covers a lot of different situations, such as violence from an adult child to their elderly parent, and can affect anyone in our communities.

"Domestic violence doesn't discriminate. It can happen to anybody — any race, any gender, any economic status. It can happen to anyone," she said.

The Power of the PJs campaign runs during the month of November. Residents can bring pyjamas slippers, T-shirts or sweats to local businesses where they will be collected for Nova House and then can be distributed to families that come to use their services. This means donations of any size clothing are needed as they help not only women but their children as well.

"When somebody comes into shelter, it's a whole new experience and can be very intimidating, and to be able to offer them a warm pair of pyjamas and slippers for them to get comfortable in is the least that we can do," said Thomas.

This campaign also serves to give people a way of having discussions about domestic violence, what it is and how it happens in our communities. Thomas says that this is important as there can sometimes be guilt and shame associated with discussing domestic and family violence when there doesn't need to be.

She also says people that need help may not always need to go to a shelter. Nova House has a shelter but also has outside shelter programs and services that might be more appropriate for people in differing situations.

"There are supports out there, whether it's through us or through another shelter. It might mean just talking to somebody," she said.

"When we talk about it, we do education but we also normalize it and we take away the stigma."

Donations can be made to Packer's Fashions, Selkirk's No Frills, Twice Over and Harry's Foods. Monetary donations can also be made to Nova House itself.

Thomas encourages people to make a donation and help out people in our community.

"It's for a great cause to help families move towards getting back on their feet and to be more comfortable," she said.

For more information about Nova House, check out their website at https://www.novahouse.ca/ or give them a call at 204-482-7882.

Volunteers needed for Coldwell's emergency response

By Nicole Brownlee

The RM of Coldwell is hosting an



emergency response information session to garner community support and fill volunteer positions.

The session on Nov. 25 will be held at the Lundar Agricultural Society Building from 6 to 8 p.m. and will walk through the municipality's emergency response program.

"We are looking at educating the community on what has been done so far with our program and what residents can do to help ensure they are prepared in the case of an emergency," said Tyler Medeiros, the emergency measures co-ordinator.

Participants will learn how to respond to floods, fires, storms and dangerous goods spills.

The information session will also give community members the chance



to connect with Medeiros, who entered the co-ordinator position in July 2020, and other members of the council.

"We've looked at developing a full program instead of just a plan," said Medeiros. "Our plan has been completely overhauled, and it now complies with provincial standards."

Shelley Napier from Napier Emergency Consulting and Jim Stinson are attending the meeting as guest speakers to discuss emergency preparedness, response and volunteerism.

The municipality is looking for several volunteers to fill positions like emergency services manager, security co-ordinator and transportation co-ordinator.

"We're actively soliciting volunteers to build our emergency team," said Medeiros. "Individuals who are interested in volunteering will receive training to ensure they are competent and prepared."

The municipality held an information session in September and discussed roles and responsibilities in several emergency situations.

"We had Shelley Napier come out and do some training with us, as well as a former police officer," said Medeiros.

For more information about the emergency response information session, contact Tyler Medeiros at emerg. coldwell@mymts.net.

Interlake-Eastern RHA hosts first annual review of its 2021-2026 strategic plan

Submitted

Interlake-Eastern RHA's virtual strategic plan review took place on Thursday, Nov. 4.

A new process, introduced with the adoption of the region's new five-year strategic plan earlier this year, the annual review brings all regional health planning partners together to validate that efforts underway are aligned with achieving the goals of the plan.

Board chair Glen West kicked off the strategic planning review by talking about the importance of all planning partners evaluating work that has gone on since the last meeting for strategic planning in May and the release of the completed strategic plan in the summer.

"We felt it was important that we adhere to the strategy change cycle process we implemented with this plan. We will be conducting the annual review every November until plan conclusion in 2026,"West said.

Interlake-Eastern's CEO, Dr. David Matear, said the strategic plan is to be the region's guide for its priorities in the next five years. Planning partners made concerted efforts to ensure regional goals align with provincial health system transformation and the clinical and preventive services plan that is Manitoba's first provincial plan for health system service delivery.

"We have identified, collectively, how we can contribute to provincial planning and, at the same time, advance regional delivery of health services based on needs that have been identified and validated by our planning partners," Matear said.

Six strategic steering committees, comprised of community members and staff, have been established to identify and advance the work that needs to be done under each of the region's six strategic goals. Participants in the annual review learned more about the steps each steering committee is undertaking. Committee work streams are being designed to achieve the goals that are designed to propel the region towards better meeting the health needs of our residents.

Interlake-Eastern RHA

Strategic Goals

1. Integrated and co-ordinated health care

We will ensure our health system is integrated and co-ordinated between providers and patients.

2. Primary and community care transformation

We will provide a solid foundation of primary and community services and strive to make it easier for patients to move across the continuum of patient care.

3. Indigenous and vulnerable pop-

ulations

We will work to improve access, health outcomes and reduce health disparities.

4. Mental health and addictions

We will work to improve access to community mental health and addictions services for adults, children and families.

5. Health human resources

We will have a skilled and dedicated workforce of health professionals, support staff, volunteers and physicians.

6. Innovation and technology

We will endeavour to improve access, care quality and health outcomes through clinical best practices with a focus on innovation and technology.

In addition to the strategic steering committees, Interlake-Eastern RHA has also established a Regional Health Advisory Council. This council is a strategic partnership among representatives from Interlake-Eastern RHA, Manitoba government, Shared Health, locally elected leaders including Indigenous partners, community health partners, physician partners and members of the public. Council members meet quarterly and for updates and discussion around strategic steering committee progress on their workstreams.

Pinaymootang First Nation health director Gwen Traverse, who also cochair's Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's Indigenous Health Advisory Committee, participated in the annual review. She said it offered more than she had anticipated.

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HA working towards true partnership and that the Indigenous people are now part of a health-care system with a voice. I am proud to be part of an RHA that recognizes reconciliation," Traverse said.

Presentations of the day also included a regional and provincial look at clinical and preventive services plan implementation with the goal to provide more consistent and reliable health-care services closer to home for Manitobans.

Ian Shaw, transformation program lead from the transformation management office at Manitoba Health and Seniors Care, talked about efforts to modernize and standardize the delivery of home and community care; finding and fixing the clinical areas where quality of care and patient outcomes can be improved; and delivering more services locally - using existing clinical services better and investing in people, equipment and infrastructure. He talked about the province's commitment to invest \$812 million in health care such as the recently announced \$284-million new hospital in Portage la Prairie and \$70 million in enhancement to Brandon Regional Health Centre.

"These investments are in projects

that are required for successful implementation of the clinical and preventive services plan," Shaw said.

He also advised that more announcements on investments in health care will be coming.

Matear identified there is intent to keeping all of the region's planning partners central to evaluation and review of work being done within the strategic plan.

"Moving forward, consultation with stakeholders will continue to be an important and required part of strategic planning. The opportunities this process provides our community members, and the region, are significant as we look to make changes regionally to improve health care. This process maintains an open door for ongoing engagement. Opportunities exist at the regional health advisory council and strategic steering committees to engage with the critical work of strategy implementation," Matear said.

To learn more about the region's strategic planning process and how to get involved, visit www.ierha.ca and click on "About Us" then "2021-26 Strategic Plan."



Email photos to: igraphic@mymts.net

720011108



Official opposition asks health minister to address rural paramedic inequities

By Patricia Barrett

Being a paramedic in rural Manitoba means earning less pay than city paramedics and being unable to work to the full scope of their professional practice.

Over time, that has led to a shortage of rural paramedics in the Interlake (and other regions of the province), which is not only endangering remaining staff through excessive overtime but is also leaving rural patients in dangerous and desperate situations, according to the union representing rural paramedics, as well as critics and affected patients.

With rural paramedicine in a tailspin, Wab Kinew, the leader of Manitoba's Official Opposition NDP, has been calling on the province's health minister Audrey Gordon to address a lack of parity that's based on geography.

Kinew said he has been hearing from rural residents about their experiences with delayed emergency services and recently spoke with some of the Interlake's paramedics, who want the opportunity to work at a higher level.

"What I've heard from paramedics in the Interlake is that they want to keep working in their communities, but



MANITOBA GOVERNMENT WEBSITE

NDP leader Wab Kinew is calling for parity and pay rises for rural paramedics to address a staffing crisis that's affecting patient care.

they're not paid enough and they're frustrated that they can't use the full scope of their training," Kinew told the *Express* last week. "What that tells me is the solution here is simple: the province needs to offer these workers



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Rural paramedics have been working "dangerous" amounts of overtime to fill chronic staffing shortages, according to MAHCP, the union that represents them.

a competitive salary and allow them to use the full scope of their training so that small communities can retain these skilled paramedics."

Kinew said ambulances having to travel great distances in the Interlake and paramedics being diverted to other regions of the province to fill staffing gaps can directly affect patient care.

"It's the long distance these paramedics travel that makes the full scope issue so important. When our EMS [emergency medical services] system

Continued on page 13



Bezan joins senior Conservative leadership team



MP James Bezan

Submitted

James Bezan, Member of Parliament for Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman today issued the following statement on the announcement by Conservative leader Erin O'Toole on the naming of the Conservative House leadership team and shadow cabinet:

"I am honoured to be promoted to the House Leadership team as deputy Opposition whip, strategic advisor and co-chair of the question period planning.

"I have worked alongside Erin O'Toole since he was elected in 2012 and have always been impressed by his leadership skills and work ethic. I am humbled to have his confidence and trust to be part of his House leadership team.

"This is a new opportunity to work more closely with my Conservative colleagues, including Blake Richards as Opposition whip and Michael Barrett as my co-chair for question period planning. We are ready to get back into the House of Commons and hold the Liberal government to account.

"It has been an honour to serve on the Defence file for the last decade. I am always inspired by the service and sacrifices made by the members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families. They fight every day to keep Canada the true north, strong and free. I know they will be well served by my colleague the Hon. Kerry-Lynne Findlay, who will continue to fight for the best possible outcomes for our troops. I offer her my sincere congratulations on becoming the new shadow minister for National Defence."

> PARAMEDIC, FROM PG. 12

is understaffed, paramedics have to leave their regions to cover vacancies in other parts of the province. It means we have a patchwork of service across rural communities, and patients pay the price for it," said Kinew. "Longer ambulance rides mean more risk to patients and more demands on paramedic care. When paramedics get to patients, they need to be able to use their full skill set to keep them safe."

Patients across rural Manitoba unable to get timely emergency care are speaking out as paramedic staffing vacancies reach unsustainable levels. In August the Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP), which represents rural paramedics, said the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority is consistently operating shortstaffed by 20 to 30 per cent.

In September, a couple living near Stonewall experienced a series of mishaps during a cardiac crisis (see Oct. 14 edition of *Stonewall Teulon Tribune*), including the cancellation of a vital angiogram at the St. Boniface Hospital because there were no rural ambulances available to take the patient to Winnipeg.

Kinew wrote to Minister Gordon on Sept. 8, urging her to address long EMS wait times in rural regions after receiving "many reports" of lengthy delays. He wrote to her again on Nov. 3, requesting that she eliminate "any prohibition" on rural advanced care paramedics working to the full scope of their practice.

He said he hasn't received a response.

The paramedic staffing crisis is only part of the healthcare system crisis in rural regions. Hospitals in Interlake in communities such as Gimli, Arborg and Eriksdale, for instance, continue to experience ongoing periodic closures of their emergency rooms because there are not enough doctors (another recruitment and retention issue) to staff them. That puts even more pressure on paramedic delivery times.

"We need to focus on recruitment and retention in all areas of our health-care system right now. That means incentivizing young people to pursue careers in health care and making sure we have training programs in their home communities," said Kinew.

He added that it's "unacceptable" that the provincial government "won't let" graduates from Red River College's Advanced Care Paramedic program work to the full scope of their training.

"It shows a clear lack of leadership from the province and it's hurting families in rural communities," said Kinew.

He will be raising the issue in the House [next legislative sitting starts Nov. 23] as it affects patient safety and the future well-being of rural communities, he said. The NDP will address the problem should the party form the next government.

MAHCP said last month it was still waiting for a response from the health minister about the rural paramedic crisis. President Bob Moroz said in a Twitter post on Oct. 6 that Minister Gordon took the time to learn about the "urgent staffing crisis" affecting rural and northern paramedics and the communities they serve and that paramedics are "eagerly awaiting your response and support."

The *Express* asked for comment from Minister Gordon regarding the rural paramedic parity and pay issue Kinew urged her to address. Spokespersons acknowledged the request but no comment was forwarded by press time.

The *Express* also asked for ambulance response time data. A spokesperson for Shared Health, which oversees healthcare delivery across the province, said he wasn't able to obtain average response times in the Interlake half of the IERHA, only for the region as a whole.

"For the three-month quarter ending Sept. 30, EMS responded to 3,786 calls throughout the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority," said the spokesperson. "The median response time for the region was 17.15 minutes. That time improves slightly for higher acuity calls, to 16.48 minutes."

The 16-17-minute response times represent the median time for which 50 per cent of calls were responded to, he clarified.

"Individual response times may be considerably shorter in more densely populated areas of the region, particularly for patients with higher acuity needs," said the spokesperson. "Similarly, individual response times may be longer — some significantly so — for calls from more remote locations with sparse populations."

Those response times can be affected by staffing levels, he added, and efforts are ongoing to address historical staffing challenges in the IERHA.





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Crop contracts can be beneficial; some companies offer the Act of God clause

By Patricia Barrett

Some Prairie farmers are calling for an overhaul of crop contracts offered by grain companies after hundreds of them reportedly couldn't deliver the yields they promised because of severe drought and are on the hook for the balance of their contract.

But one Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton grain producer said crop contracts are typically beneficial as they more often than not offer farmers higher prices in the spring for the crops they expect to deliver in the fall.

"Farmers will make a contract in the springtime for a fall delivery for a decent price. Crop prices historically drop by fall time, so these guys are taking advantage of that higher price offered by a grain company," said Gordon Klym, who farms near Ledwyn, west of Riverton.

But this year's weather turned everything on its head. He said that many farmers who obtained low yields or no crops are expected to shell out money to honour their contracts. He personally wasn't negatively affected by contracts but is aware of a number of farmers who have to pay out a substantial amount of money to fulfil their legal obligation. That includes farmers in Alberta where he heard some owe around \$100,000 on their contract.

"I guess it depends on which side of the fence you're on. It never affected me. This year the price went up but there were no crops, so a lot of people are stuck with their contract and they've got no choice but to buy that contract out," said Klym. "Grain companies, on the other side of the fence, make their sales based on [the amount promised in] these contracts, so you can't really blame them."

Continued on page 17



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Grain farmers across Western Canada could not fulfill contracts for crops such as oats and canola (shown here growing near Fisher Branch) and have to pay out their contracts.



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Woodlands' Current Holsteins farm earns BMO Farm Family Award

By Patricia Barrett

A farm family from Woodlands was honoured last month with a 2020 BMO Farm Family Award for their dedication to agriculture.

Darren Hueging and Allison Pylypjuk and their three children, Jocelyn, 8, Myers, 7, and Madden Hueging, 6, operate a dairy and beef farm called Current Holsteins near Woodlands. They milk 72 purebred Holstein cows and have about 150 beef cattle.

Last March, the family was supposed to receive the award during the 2020 Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, but the event was canceled because of COVID-19. So instead, they were presented with the Bank of Montreal's award on Oct. 27 during the Manitoba Ag Ex event in Brandon.

"It was a surprise for us when we received a phone call saying we had won," said Pylypjuk, who in addition to farming is a veterinarian. "Somebody had nominated us for the award and a selection committee picked us based on criteria such as environmental sustainability and volunteer work in the community and in the ag industry."

Their children are actively involved in the farm operation, keeping it running smoothly and on schedule. They even own a few cattle.

"They're unbelievable. I can ask them to finish up in the calf barn and they know that means getting water, feeding them hay and washing bottles," said Pylypjuk. "They are a huge help. They're in the barn with us every day."

This year, Manitoba's severe drought was a challenge, she said, forcing them to buy hay for their animals. To save their pastures from over-grazing, they had to sell some of their beef cat-



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EXPRESS PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH HAMM PHOTOGRAPHY Darren Hueging, Allison Pylypjuk and their children Jocelyn, Myers and Madden Hueging earned a 2020 BMO Farm Family Award for their dedication to the agriculture industry.

tle about two months ahead of schedule. They also had a well dug and ran pipes to a few different pastures to get clean water to their cattle.

Darren Hueging said part of the award recognized their environmental sustainability efforts. The family practises rotational grazing so that they don't overtax their pastures and also plants forage crops such as a grass-alfalfa mix. Forage crops help prevent soil erosion and soil compaction, help improve the condition, and provide food for animals.

"We have forage crops every year. They didn't produce very well this year but we'll plant them again next year. With the dry conditions, we're rotating some of them a little bit sooner than we normally would," said Hueging. "We've had four drier years in a row now and this year was probably the driest, so some of those crops haven't yielded very well. We've taken some out of the rotation and are putting in spring cereals because they'll do better with less moisture."

His biggest concern going into next year is the grasshoppers, which this year were "really bad and ate a lot of our grass before we were able to get the cows to it," he said.

Spraying wasn't an option for many reasons, including not knowing its impact on beneficial insects, having lots of trees and bush around small pastures, making it difficult to spray, and the short-duration of the insecticide (up to two weeks) and cost.

The Huegings are very involved in the agriculture community, volunteering on numerous organizations to help improve and promote their industry.

Hueging has been the president of the Interlake Holstein Dairy Club for over 10 years. He also sits on an agriculture diploma panel for the University of Manitoba's faculty of agriculture and food science and on a Dairy Farmers of Manitoba advisory committee, representing the interests of dairy farmers and helping the board make policy decisions.

Pylypjuk has been active with the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association for several years and is currently its president. She also participates on or chairs several of its committees including the Food Animal Committee, the Code of Ethics Committee and the Veterinary Shortage Committee.

"We deal with policy-making for the profession as well as policies for protecting the public," she said. "A huge issue we're dealing with right now is a veterinary shortage in the rural area. We're working on identifying ways to recruit veterinarians."

The profession is seeing a lot of



> HUEGING FAMILY, FROM PG. 16

burnout because rural vets are expected to be available at all hours, she said. They also work for less pay than other medical professions.

"In rural communities, you may be the only vet around and it's hard to have a work-life balance when you're on call 24-7," said Pylypjuk. "It's especially hard for females with a family when they're on call all the time. We also see death at a higher rate than human physicians do because it often comes down to whether people can afford certain veterinary care."

Hueging and Pylypjuk said it was a "special moment" for them to be recognized for all the "early mornings and late nights" that go into improving their farm operation

> CROP CONTRACTS, FROM PG. 16

Grain yields fluctuate from year to year, said Klym. It depends on weather and other factors such as disease and insects. Grain companies aren't necessarily the bad guy for having offered farmers a contract in the spring of this year, the third year of Manitoba's drought.

"It was dry all right last year, but we did get a really decent crop. Guys that had contracts last year didn't have bin space. But this year, we didn't get the crops we hoped for and had lots of bin space," said Klym. "This year is a total reversal from last year."

To a certain extent, crop insurance will help those who have it, he said, but it's not the answer to paying off a contract.

What would help is grain companies forgiving a contract or rolling it over to next year.

But if grain companies were to start forgiving contracts, Klym said that might lead to instability in the system. The companies themselves have an obligation to deliver a set amount of grain to their buyers. If farmers can't fulfil their contract, the grain company has to solicit farmers without contracts to see if they can make up the shortfall. That could mean having to pay even more for a crop.

"Every farmer would be making a contract if they knew they could just jump out of it a couple of months down the road," said Klym. "A contract is a contract; you have to live up to it or you have to buy it out. Or you can look for a contract with a clause in it that says if [low or no yield] is the result of an Act of God, the farmer is forgiven."

Bunge, an international company that has an office in Altona, is one company that has an Act of God clause in its contract, said Klym. He's not sure whether other grain companies offer similar clauses to protect farmers when excessive heat, drought or other disasters affect yields and prevent them from delivering what their contract stipulates.

Grain companies likely suffer a financial penalty if they can't deliver to their buyers, he said. Or their reputation would surely take a hit.

"Who's going to come back and buy from that company again if they can't deliver what they said they would?" said Klym.

The *Express* reached out to Paterson Grain for comment about contracts and to Bunge for information about its Act of God clause. Neither company responded. and providing service to their industry. They also appreciated being invited to the in-person Farm Family Award presentation held in the stunning dome building (also known as the Dominion Display Building) on the Keystone Centre's grounds.

The award was a testament to their dedication to the ag industry.

"We feel very fortunate to be able to raise our children on a farm," said Pylypjuk."Darren and I are both from dairy and beef farms, and we sure appreciate the work ethic our parents instilled in us. We feel very fortunate to raise our kids with those same values."

> "IN RURAL COMMUNITIES, YOU MAY BE THE ONLY VET AROUND AND IT'S HARD TO HAVE A WORK-LIFE BALANCE WHEN YOU'RE ON CALL 24-7."





RCMP in process of determining pay rise impact on municipalities

By Patricia Barrett

Municipalities will be paying more for protective services after the RCMP verified that a salary increase for its constables means higher bills for municipal governments.

The RCMP and the federal government ratified a collective agreement earlier this year that will see constables' salaries increase from \$86,110 to \$106,576 next April. Constables will also receive retroactive pay to their last salary increase in 2016.

The agreement, between the Treasury Board of Canada and the National Police Federation, will bring RCMP members' wages more on par with other Canadian police services, said RCMP media relations officer Tara Seel last week.

"Member pay is an eligible cost under police service agreements, and any pay increases will be included in the cost charged for policing services. Municipalities policed by the RCMP under a Municipal Police Service Agreement (between the Municipality and Public Safety Canada) will be informed as to when the increases will go into effect," said Seel. "All contract partners, including the municipalities that already pay for policing services, will be required to pay for members' wages as termed in the Provincial Police Service Agreement or their respective Municipal Police Service Agreement.

Cost increases for municipalities are "presently being developed," she said, and municipalities will be informed once they're finalized.

Municipalities with a police service agreement had been told about the anticipated pay rise "as part of the RCMP's regular correspondence with those municipalities," along with information the service had to date, said Seel.

"Municipalities were made aware that they needed to prepare for member pay raises likely to occur in the future," she said. "What could not be forecasted was the percentage increase in wages negotiated by the bargaining agent and the Treasury Board of Canada."

She said the service will collaborate with municipalities going forward as it's aware that municipalities will be facing increased costs.

"The RCMP is aware that municipalities are impacted by the announced collective agreement and, as such, wish to continue to work with munici-



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Municipalities that pay for RCMP protective services will eventually see an increase in costs as the result of a pay rise for constables.

palities moving forward to best address their policing needs," said Seel.

The Municipality of Gimli said a few weeks ago it had not received any information from the service about whether it would in fact see a larger bill and what that would be.

Mayor Lynn Greenberg said the RM paid \$402,260.13 for RCMP services in 2020.

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) said it's advocating for funding assistance on behalf of the municipalities that pay for RCMP services.

The AMM prepared a letter for municipalities to forward to federal minister of public safety Marco Mendicino. The letter raises concerns about the 23.7 per cent retroactive pay in-

Continued on page 21









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Centenarian farmer reflects on a world at war

By Tyler Searle

Last weekend's blizzard forced organizers to cancel Teulon's Remembrance Day ceremony, but sleet and snow could not deter people from paying their respects.

Around 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, a few dozen locals gathered at the Teulon cenotaph.

The crowd — clad in winter gear garnished with red poppies — huddled around the historical monument and braced themselves against the wind.

Among them stood Warrant Officer Pete Boivin, RCMP Const. Joe Behse and Royal Military College Officer Cadet Alexander Knott, each wearing their respective uniforms.

Judith Dedrick-Williams, Lion's Club member and chair of Teulon's Remembrance Day committee, greeted them there.

Dedrick-Williams informed the crowd the ceremony was cancelled due to weather but thanked those present for showing out in defiance of the conditions.

She addressed Boivin, Behse and Knott directly, acknowledging their service and presenting the men with wreaths to lay on the cenotaph's base.

Before the crowd dispersed, Dedrick-Williams asked everyone to honour Canada's veterans and service people with the customary two minutes of silence.

Around the same time, only a few blocks down Beach Road, Bill Neely watched the snowfall from the window of his Gateway Manor suite.

Neely, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday, is among the oldest living veterans in Canada. As a trooper with the Canadian Army in the Second World War, he manned the guns of a Staghound armoured car.

He is a common fixture at Teulon's Remembrance Day ceremonies, so convincing him to stay home could not have been easy, Dedrick-Williams said.

"He'll be ticked that we let a little snow stop us," she joked.

Neely joined the service at 21 and deployed to Europe between 1942 and 1945, ultimately engaging in more than 11 months of active combat. During his years overseas, he trained and travelled Europe.

In those days, he was full of "piss and vinegar" and sported a head of shiny black hair, he said with a smile.

Neely's memory is not what it used to be, he said, but he recounts stories with a depth of detail that defies his age.

The picture he paints of his time in the war — now nearly 80 years past — is not flattering.



Bill Neely watches the snowfall from the window of his Gateway Manor suite. The centenarian is a veteran of the second World War.

"I've seen what flamethrowers can do," he said, describing a wave of flame climbing the concrete walls of a German machine gunnery outpost and cooking its inhabitants.

The challenge of war lies more in what soldiers see than what they do, Neely said.

He remembers moments of strength and solidarity, like sharing wine with a party of liberated Dutch civilians. And moments of shock and awe, like seeing the sky filled with planes, their engines roaring and wings aligned tip-to-tip across the horizon.

Neely's stories are both harrowing and heroic, although he denies the latter.

He carries himself with the resilience and humility that typifies men from what NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw dubbed "the greatest generation."

"(Somebody) asked me quite a few years ago, 'What was it like to be a hero?' I said, 'What the hell is a hero?' All I seen was a bunch of scared kids. But they did the job," Neely said.

In his 1998 book *The Greatest Generation,* Brokaw describes men of Neely's ilk as having strong personal responsibility, integrity, humility, work ethic, financial prudence and faithful commitment — qualities Neely has demonstrated over a century of life.

He fondly recalls a cross-country road trip from Toronto to Winnipeg to meet his newborn son. His wife, Helen May Neely, sent money for the train, which he promptly returned.

"I knew she needed it, so I sent it back," he said.

Now short on money, he and two fel-



RCMP Const. Joe Behse, Warrant Officer Pete Boivin and Royal Military College Officer Cadet Alexander Knott stand before the Teulon cenotaph.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY TYLER SEARLE

The winter storm cancelled Remembrance Day in Teulon, but a few dozen locals still came to show their respects.

low soldiers made the journey by hitchhiking and stowing away in the tender car of a train. The trio made seats on the steam pipes, sitting on material to insulate them from the heat. Neely laughs of-

ten while telling this story. It ends with him

reporting for duty two weeks past his

approved month of farm leave — narrowly avoiding a court-martial.

He stayed home to attend a wedding, he said.

After the war, Neely returned home to Eriksdale, taking his place as a father and farmer.

For 30 years, he did not attend a Remembrance Day ceremony.

"Why would I go one day a week to remember something that I remem-



ber every day?" he would tell his wife when she encouraged him to go.

It wasn't until his granddaughter Ashlea asked him to attend that he became convinced.

Now, he never misses a service — this year and the last pandemic year being the exceptions.

Neely's advice to people is this: hold loyalty to country and faith in your heart.

Lake Forest public reserve to be monitored for successful tree growth



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO

The property owner of 9 Mary's Cove in the Lake Forest subdivision cut down trees on a public reserve and was instructed by the RM of Gimli to replant what he destroyed. A photo submitted in January of this year shows the dwelling, the deforested public reserve and a steel stairway (to the right in the photo) that's set up by the municipality after winter to provide residents with access to the beach.

By Patricia Barrett

The RM of Gimli is monitoring the destruction of a piece of municipally owned public reserve in the Lake Forest subdivision, about 13 kilometres north of Gimli, after area residents demanded action be taken against a property owner responsible for cutting down trees and clearing brush.

The owner of 9 Mary's Cove had cut down trees and removed brush from his own property in the fall of 2020 as well as from the municipality's public reserve that fronts the lakeshore, according to area residents.

The RM had assessed the damage, saying the owner had cut down 12 trees.

Removing trees and other growth from public reserves along Lake Winnipeg hastens shoreline erosion and eventually threatens private property.

The RM had come to an agreement with the owner this year to have him replant the trees he destroyed on the public reserve. And at its regular meeting Nov. 10, a resolution was introduced to have the RM pay for and plant additional trees at the site.

"We had a resolution put forward to hire Minerva Tree Farms and Nursery to plant more trees but it was defeated," said Gimli Mayor Lynn Greenberg by phone a few days after the meeting.

Greenberg and Coun. Peter Holfeuer voted in favour of hiring Minerva while councillors Cody Magnusson, Thora Palson and Richard Petrowski voted against it.

Coun. Petrowski said he objected to the resolution in part because it was based on two price options from only one quote [Minerva]. The usual procedure is to obtain a maximum of three quotes, where possible, from different companies or contractors.

Furthermore, he said the RM is actively monitoring the trees the owner had replanted.

"We already have an agreement with Mr. Croy for replanting 12 trees," said Petrowski, who is the RM's deputy mayor. "We have to make sure the trees survive and grow satisfactorily. We'll be monitoring that and checking on the trees in August of 2022. If further action is needed then, we'll look at that. This is an ongoing situation and it's not yet resolved."

Gimli's municipal emergency co-ordinator Don Emes has investigated and reported on the destruction in Lake Forest. The RM attaches his monthly reports to its online agendas.

spite being a "paying contract partner."

"As a result, we ask that any retroactive pay increases which were negotiated by the federal government be absorbed fully by the federal government," states the letter.

Municipalities will also have a chance to debate an AMM resolution pertaining to the RCMP pay rise during its upcoming AMM fall convention in Winnipeg. Resolution #21-2021 (RCMP Unionization Costs) asks for funding assistance from both the provincial and federal governments as municipalities had no say in bargaining negotiations and already pay a significant amount of money out of their budget for policing services.

The destruction of public reserve along the lake is a common occurrence and goes unchecked unless someone takes a stand. In the neighbouring Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton, for instance, property owners in Valhalla Beach destroyed an extensive swathe of public reserve over a period of many years and regularly mowed the area to prevent regrowth. The reserve once had mature forest, fruitbearing trees and grasses. The property owners destroyed the reserve to obtain — from about 300 feet away from their dwellings — a view of Lake Winnipeg, according to area residents who mounted a vigorous defence against the destruction.

Gimli councillor Thora Palson said she voted against the resolution to plant additional trees on the public reserve in Lake Forest because the RM already has an agreement with the property owner and is following through on it.

"Arrangements have been made to replant trees at the expense of the person who cleared the area," said Palson. "I am in support of following this arrangement, not spending taxpayer money to replant trees when a plan of action has already been agreed upon."



> RCMP, FROM PG. 18

crease that municipal governments may have to shoulder.

"While our municipality supports the RCMP's right to collective bargaining, as upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada, we are not in a position to absorb any significant costs arising from this agreement. If the 23.7 per cent retroactive pay increase is downloaded to our municipality, the fiscal shock caused by this decision will further threaten the viability of our community, which is focused on recovering from the financial impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," states the letter the AMM shared with the *Express*.

The letter goes on to say that municipalities had "no say" in the collective bargaining process de-

22 The Express Weekly News Thursday, November 18, 2021 First case of CWD discovered in western Manitoba

By Nicole Brownlee

The province is beefing up surveillance of deer, elk, moose and caribou after discovering the first Manitoban case of chronic wasting disease (CWD).

The province discovered the first case of CWD on Oct. 14 in western Manitoba near Lake of the Prairies. Community members contacted the CWD surveillance program after noticing an unhealthy male mule deer.

After euthanizing the deer, biological samples from the deer were sent to the diagnostic centre at the University of Manitoba for preliminary testing, where researchers confirmed the deer had CWD.

"We know we have mule deer repopulating Manitoba because they are a native species. Whether this animal was born in Manitoba or if it's emigrated from across the border, we don't know at this time," said Brian Joynt, Manitoba's wildlife health unit lead. "We do know that Saskatchewan has chronic wasting disease, and we're aware that mule deer have a higher prevalence for the disease, so it's not surprising that we detected it in a mule deer in Manitoba. It's very disappointing."

CŴD is present in Saskatchewan, Alberta and 25 states.

CWD is similar to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also known as mad cow disease, said the Manitoba Wildlife Federation. Once infected, a cervid's brain degenerates until the animal dies within around five years.

The contagious disease is caused by a type of protein called a prion and travels between cervids through fluids like saliva, blood, urine or feces. CWD also contaminates soils for years and can be carried by scavengers and predators like crows, ravens and coyotes.

"While CWD is not known as a human health risk, meat from a CWD infected animal is not recommended for consumption," said the province in a news release on Nov. 1.

An infected cervid can look normal in the early stages of the disease but will eventually become less alert, fearful and appear unhealthy.

"As it progresses, infected animals become very thin and uncoordinated, with drooping ears and heads, are unaware of their surroundings and often have excessive drooling," said the province.

To discourage the spread of CWD through carcasses, the province banned hunting deer, moose, caribou and elk, also known as cervids, in the game hunting area where the positive case was found, GHA 22, on Nov. 1.

Hunters are required to submit the head and upper neck of cervids killed in GHA 22 and surrounding areas within 48 hours of harvesting to dropoff depots stationed throughout the province.

"We have a surveillance program that's been in place for a number of years where we've been collecting hunter submitted samples from all along the Saskatchewan border," said Joynt.

"Now that we've detected CWD, we're very keen to get more samples from the immediate area around a CWD finding to better understand what we're dealing with."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The first case of chronic wasting disease was discovered in Manitoba on Oct. 14. Since then, the province has increase surveillance to discourage the spread of CWD.

The CWD surveillance program started collecting samples in 1997. Since then, the program has collected over 90,000 samples. Around 500 to 700 samples are submitted to drop-off depots per year.

"We're just entering the prime time when people are going to start submitting more and more samples to our depots," said Joynt.

The general rifle hunting season started on Nov. 8 and will continue to Nov. 28, which Joynt said will cause a rise in sample submissions.

"We're expecting hundreds of samples over the next two, three, four weeks."

After submitting the head and upper neck of the cervid to the drop-off depot, a hunter will receive a receipt with an access number. The hunter needs an access number to find their test results through the province's online tool.

The CWD surveillance program picks up samples from depots around once a week. They extract a lymph node from the sample and submit the node to a federal lab in Ontario.

Within around two weeks after the sample is dropped off, hunters can find their negative test results online. If the sample is positive for CWD, the surveillance program will contact hunters as soon as possible.

"This is a disease we want to keep out of the province," said Joynt.

"It has far-reaching implications for wildlife populations, ecological impacts. ... There's a lot of spin-offs that come from this given the importance of hunting to Manitoba's economy."

For more information about chronic wasting disease, game hunting areas or drop-off depots, visit gov.mb.ca/ fish-wildlife/wildlife/cwd.html.

Information on protection against property-related crimes

Submitted by RCMP Gimli

Gimli area detachment would like to remind cottage and homeowners about ensuring their seasonal or permanent residence is protected against property crime.

The RCMP wants to remind home owners alike to report any suspicious activity surrounding property related crimes. First and for most responsibility as a homeowner is the protection of your property.

• Ensure it is secure all the time. This means locking doors and windows and making sure all outbuildings have locking devices installed. If you have valuables inside, keep them out of sight and out of mind, not to attract unwanted attention.

• Create a list for items of value and record serial numbers along with

descriptors such as model and serial numbers. Photographs or videos are a good way of keeping track. The RCMP does recover items to believed to be stolen, however, cannot return them to the rightful owners without proper identification of items.

• Ensure the use of outdoor lighting is continued throughout the year. Cost effective lighting is available at your local hardware store. It can be a major deterrent for thieves.

• Do not announce on social media that you will be away for any length of time.

• Do not place your newly purchased electronic packaging outside of your home to be recycled.

• Trail cameras and home security systems can be wireless and very cost effective. They can be connected

through your smart phone and can be monitored by you 24 hours a day.

• A friendly neighbour can prove to be invaluable when you're away. Have them check on your property periodically.

• Please do not leave unsecure firearms in or around your property which includes in outbuildings and vehicles. Unfortunately, these items are what thieves are looking for as they sell them for money only to be used in crimes against persons.

The Gimli area RCMP patrols both residential and cottage areas; however, with the help of property owners, we can prevent some property crimes from occurring.

Within surrounding RM's and towns there are a number of ongoing Citizens On Patrol programs. If you would like to volunteer your time for this worthwhile crime prevention tool, you are encouraged to contact the Gimli area RCMP COPP liaison Cpl. David Higgs at david.j.higgs@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or 204-642-5106 ext. 105 and he will direct you to the appropriate COPP group.

Anyone who has experienced property damage, property theft or a break-in to their property should contact the Gimli area RCMP at either Gimli at 204-642-5106 or Arborg at 204-376-5253 to report, no matter how small the loss or damage is.

If you are experiencing any of the above in progress, this is an emergency. Please call either 911 or 204-641-5104.





- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 Envy Åpples, diced into large cubes 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1/2 cup cold butter, diced small
- 1/2 cup caramel
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 orange, zest only



box stovetop stuffing
 tablespoons butter
 cups diced Envy Apples
 1/2 onion, diced small
 Gravy:
 tablespoons butter
 tablespoons flour
 cups beef broth
 teaspoons kosher salt
 turns fresh cracked pepper
 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

1 tablespoon finely chopped rosemary Preheat broiler.

Cook stuffing according to package directions; set aside and allow to cool slightly.

Apple Oat Crumble and Citrus Caramel Topping

1 tablespoon orange juice vanilla ice cream

Preheat oven to 350 F.

In bowl, stir together sugar and ground cinnamon.

Toss apples in lemon juice then in cinnamon sugar mixture. Spread in 9-inch pie dish.

In another bowl, stir together brown sugar, flour and oats. Using hands or fork, cut in butter until pea size crumbs form. Sprinkle evenly over apples.

Bake 40-45 minutes until mixture is bubbling and golden brown. Remove from oven and let cool 15 minutes.

In small pot, whisk caramel, salt, orange zest and orange juice until warm.

Spoon apple oat crumble over large scoop vanilla ice cream and top with salted citrus caramel.

Apple Stuffing Bites with Rosemary Gravy

In large saute pan, melt butter saute apples and onion until tender. Set aside to cool slightly.

Stir together stuffing and apple mixture. Spread stuffing on sheet tray and allow to cool in refrigerator.

After cooling, form stuffing into medium bites and place on sheet tray lined with parchment paper.

Broil bites until golden brown and slightly crispy.

To make gravy: In small pot, melt butter and whisk in flour. Cook flour 1 minute, whisking frequently.

Whisk in beef broth, salt, pepper and Worcestershire sauce; bring to boil, whisking frequently. Remove from heat and stir in rosemary. If desired, continue gently simmering gravy to thicken.

Arrange stuffing bites in serving dish and drizzle with gravy. Serve hot.

Sitting all day is bad! Get up with a 5 minute workout

By Julie Germaine

Even as a personal trainer, my job requires me to spend hours at a time on my computer. This goes for many careers – and unfortunately it's not healthy for humans to sit for long periods of time. This can contribute to heart disease, obesity, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. But thankfully, research shows that by jumping up and interrupt sitting for just 3 to 5 minutes every hours will positively impact your health.

Do it with me now! Here are some simple ways to move your body to feel great and take control:

1. Squats! Stand up and pretend to sit down into an invisible chair. If you have bad knees or feel silly doing this, this actually sit into a chair and stand back up. Now do this 20 times. By engaging the big muscles in your glutes (butt), quads (above the knee), and hamstrings (back of leg), you are burning calories, and kickstarting digestion.

2. Jumping Jacks! This won't be for everyone, but if you're a workings-from-home parent, your kids will find this hilarious and join ins. Do 20 jumping jacks, rest for 20 seconds, and repeat 5s times. If jumping is too intense for you, put on your favourite song and dance wildly. If your neighbours see you, no big deal! In fact, you'll likely be invited to their upcoming Christmas party because you're obviously loads of fun.

3. Stairs! Walk then, run them, take them 2 at a time – it doesn't matter, your body will warm up quickly to the challenge. Another great option is to walk around the block with your dog. If you've taken the time to



1 Envy Apple, diced 1 tablespoon butter 1 teaspoon pumpkin spice 2 ounces bourbon 4 ounces pumpkin spice ap

4 ounces pumpkin spice apple cider demerara sugar



Health and Wellness Fitness expert Julie Germaine

bundle up, you may as well make it a 10 to 15 minute walk every 2 hours.

4. Plank! This is a core exercise in which you hold a push-up position from your fore-arms. There are many variations to accommodate different fitness levels and to keep you from getting bored.

5. Get the Paper! Or walk to pick up your mail instead of stopping on your way to work. Find ways in your daily routine to be active so your exercise is built in and happens regularly.

Would you like to connect with me to discuss your personal fitness goals and struggles? Visit juliegermaine. com or schedule a free 15 minute diet consultation at www.calendly. com/juliegermaine

Coach Julie Germaine is a fit mom, 2x Pro Fitness Champion, Certified Nutrition & Fitness Expert - and local here in Manitoba. She has helped thousands of men and women improve their health since 2005.

Pumpkin Spice Apple Cider

Envy Apple slices, for garnish rosemary, for garnish

cinnamon stick, for garnish

In pan over medium heat, saute diced apples in butter and pumpkin spice 5-10 minutes.

In glass, combine bourbon and pumpkin spice apple cider; top with sauteed apples.

Add demerara sugar then garnish with apple slices, rosemary and cinnamon stick.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images (apple cider)



Bell-Issimo Brie Melt

- 1 round brie (6-8 ounces)
- 2 Envy Apples
- 1/4 cup walnuts
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries firm crackers

Unwrap brie and place on microwave-safe dish. Cut off top of brie round and microwave 60 seconds until

middle is soft. Slice apples into thick wedges.

Top brie with half the apples, crushed walnuts and dried cranberries.

Serve with firm crackers and remaining apple wedges.

Three CRJHL games cancelled last weekend

By Brian Bowman

Mother Nature wreaked havoc on Capital Region Junior Hockey League games last weekend.

Last Friday's game between Arborg and Selkirk, Saturday's clash between Lundar and St. Malo, and Sunday's matchup with the Ice Dawgs and Warriors were all cancelled due to weather/road conditions.

On Nov. 9, the Ice Dawgs pounded the North Winnipeg Satelites 6-2 at the Billy Mosienko Arena.

Arborg took a 1-0 first-period lead on a shorthanded goal from Jordan Sanderson. The Ice Dawgs then went up 3-0 after 40 minutes with power-play goals from Kalen Guimond and Logan Clarke.

Nikolas Bear put the Satelites on

the board early in the third before Guimond and North Winnipeg's Troy Gutowski traded goals.

Leading 4-2, Arborg sealed the win with goals from Austin Adair and Dyson Pelletier. Pelletier's goal came while the Ice Dawgs were shorthanded.

Guimond finished the game with four points while Jack Einarson added two assists.

Brandon Kowalchuk made 30 saves for the win.

Arborg will host the league-leading Fishermen on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Lundar, meanwhile, will host North Winnipeg on Friday (8 p.m.) and St. Malo Sunday (6 p.m.).

OPTES A RECEVENTION INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN CRJHL games



the Winnipeg Jets on Nov. 11. Winnipeg won the game 4-1.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER Morweena's James Reimer was in goal for the San Jose Sharks against

Peguis puts out Flames twice last weekend

Staff

The Peguis Juniors scored 22 goals in just two games against the NCN Flames last weekend.

That high-powered offence resulted in a pair of Keystone Junior Hockey League victories.

In Sunday's wild 12-7 win, Sundance

Paul led Peguis with four goals and an assist while Darian Murdock had a hat trick and two assists.

Keelin Levesrev (two), Jamie Maytwayashing, Gabriel Beaulieu and Dion Fontaine also scored for the Juniors.

Tyrese Bear stopped 25 NCN shots.

On Saturday evening, Peguis pounded NCN 10-2.

Beaulieau had a very strong game with two goals and two assists while Maytwayashing also tallied twice.

Paul, Keenan McPherson, Fontaine and Levesrev had a goal and an assist apiece. Lyle Murdock and Tyrell Sinclair scored the Juniors' other goals.

Bear made 18 saves for the win. Peguis, now 5-3 and just two points back of the first-place Flames, will visit NCN for games this Saturday (7:30 p.m.) and Sunday (1:30 p.m.).

U17 Lightning bounced by Bruins, Selects

Staff

The Interlake Lightning lost 4-3 to the Eastman Selects in U17 AAA action on Saturday in Ste. Anne.

Brandon Burak (shorthanded), Hayden Kaczorowski and Ian Buors scored for the Lightning.

No Selects' goal scorers were available at press time.

Last Wednesday, Interlake lost 7-2 to the Winnipeg Bruins.

Max Goulden scored a second-peri-

od power-play goal for the Lightning and then Buors tallied midway in the third.

Winnipeg, which held period leads of 3-0 and 5-1, received goals from Dylan Bauknecht, Vlad Stepic, Carter Willson, Dylan Jaquet, Jaxson Fillion, Carter Lee and Nick Giasson.

Alex Myers stopped 63 Bruins' shots. The Lightning were scheduled to play the Winnipeg Wild on Friday in Warren but the game was postponed. Interlake will host Eastman on Saturday (4:45 p.m.) in Stonewall and then will play the Winnipeg Thrashers on Sunday (1 p.m.) at the Seven Oaks Sportsplex.

În U15 AAA action, Interlake edged the Central Plains Capitals 6-5 on Sunday in Portage la Prairie.

The Lightning, which battled back from deficits of 2-0 and 5-3, had goals from Blake Farthing (two), Dainen Jacobson, Cole Swanson, Talon Hogg and Noah Oughton.

Farthing and Hogg each had three points in the game.

Braedan Cormack made 39 saves for the win.

The Lightning, winners in two of their past three games, will host the Winnipeg Bruins Gold on Wednesday (7 p.m.) in Stonewall.

Interlake will then play the Parkland Rangers on Saturday (11:15 a.m.) in Stonewall.

Thunder blasts Generals to win Murray Black Cup

By Brian Bowman

The Interlake got blasted with snow last week.

So, it was only fitting that the Interlake Thunder blasted the Moosomin Generals 55-0 to capture the Murray Black Cup last Saturday afternoon in Stonewall.

"They put it all together down the stretch and it showed," said Thunder head coach Mitch Obach. "We talked about trying to peak at the right time and peak in the playoffs."

Interlake, like it has all season, was extremely effective running the ball.

Lucas Kmet had 14 carries for 177 yards and a touchdown while Lee LaPierre rushed 13 times for 71 yards and a major.

Max Nichol picked up 82 yards on the ground on nine carries. He scored two touchdowns and also had a successful two-point conversion.

Thunder quarterback Tucker Knutson rushed 15 times for 96 yards and a TD. In the air, he was 3-7 for 56 yards and two touchdowns.

"All year, we leaned on our offensive line and we have the best offensive line in the league," Obach said. "We can run against anybody and when it's winter conditions it suits us even more."

Dwight Bell hauled in two catches for 55 yards and two TDs.

Defensively, Alex Luke had a monster game with 13 tackles, five assisted tackles, and an interception.

"He seemed to be everywhere and we leaned on him a lot on our defence and he will be missed, for sure," Obach said. "He had a great game to close out his high school football career."

Kaiden Kendal picked off two Moosomin passes.

The Thunder had a ton of fun playing in the wintry conditions.

"Playing in the winter conditions, both offence and defence, really fit into our style of play," Obach said.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER The Interlake Thunder are the 2021 Murray Black Cup champions after blasting the Moosomin Generals 55-0 last Saturday in Stonewall.



The Thunder's Keenan Karish holds up the trophy while surrounded by his teammates.

"That just suited us even more. It wasn't a cold day and that made a big difference. There was snow coming down but it was only minus 2 or 3 and it wasn't super windy so it really wasn't unpleasant out there and sometimes it can be."

Obach estimated about a third of the

Thunder's roster will age out of the Rural Manitoba Football



The Thunder's Max Nichol had to contend with ice and snow on his face mask after a play.



Interlake Thunder players celebrate their 55-0 win over the Moosomin Generals.

League next season. Interlake expects to be competitive with a talented group of players eligible to return.

Obach wanted to thank all of the volunteers who helped move snow from the field and made the conditions playable. He also wanted to really thank his coaching staff for doing a great job this season.

"I've been spoiled the last few years

as a head coach to have so many good assistant coaches that are so dedicated," he said. "We can divy up the workload and the last few years I haven't focused too much on the Xs and Os. I haven't had to do that because we have people and they do it effectively."



Interlake captains, from left to right: Bryant Case, Keenan Karish, Kaiden Kendal and Alex Luke.



Interlake quarterback Tucker Knutson had a rushing touchdown and threw for two others against Moosomin.

U18 male Lightning lose trio of games last week

By Brian Bowman

The trip up to Thompson is always a long one.

It seems even longer when a team is swept in a two-game series.

The Interlake Lightning came home with zero points in two games after a 7-4 loss to the Norman Northstars in Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League action on Sunday afternoon.

Andrew Thevenot (power play) and Hayden Wheddon scored to give Interlake a 2-0 lead midway in the first period.

Trailing 5-2 in the third, the Lightning pulled to within a goal as Kaydyn McMahon and Alexander Kaczorowski (power play) tallied.

Brady Krentz (three), Cheechoo Lathlin, Magnus Pearson, Ian Snooks

and Prime Paniyuk scored for Norman.

Ty Hogue stopped 35 shots in the losing cause.

On Saturday evening, the North Stars edged the Lightning 3-2.

Paniyuk scored the game winner on the power play at 13:28 of the third period.

Wheddon had tied the score at 2-2 with a penalty-shot goal at the fiveminute mark of the third.

Thevenot tallied the Lightning's other goal 54 seconds into the middle frame.

Snooks, on the power play, and Clark Scaddan scored Norman's other goals.

Interlake goaltender Zach Meadows stopped 39 Norman shots.

Last Wednesday, the Lightning lost AAA female action, Interlake was shut 6-2 to the Winnipeg Bruins in Teulon. Wheddon gave Interlake a 1-0 lead

just 57 seconds into the game. But Winnipeg's Aidan Hyra, Cole Cairns and Sam Zagari scored to give the visitors a 3-1 lead after 20 minutes.

The Bruins then made it 6-1 with goals from Rhett Marchant, Nolan Anderson and Luca Gillson.

Interlake's Joel Purdom then closed out the scoring at 15:39 of the second period.

Hogue made 28 saves in the game.

Interlake, now 4-12 and with an overtime loss, will host the Southwest Cougars on Friday (8 p.m.) in Teulon and on Saturday (1:30 p.m.) in Stonewall.

In Manitoba U18 Hockey League

out 2-0 by the Winnipeg Ice at the Bell MTS Iceplex on Sunday afternoon.

Annika Russell scored both Ice goals. On Saturday, the Lightning lost 7-1 to the Winnipeg Avros at the Seven Oaks Sportsplex.

Mackenzie Waddell scored the Lightning's goal in the third period.

Norah Collins (two), Raya Hrankowski (two), Mackenzie Lizotte, Dessya Mosienko and Kahlen Wisener tallied for the Avros.

The Lightning will host the Eastman Selects on Saturday (7:30 p.m.) and the Pembina Valley Hawks Sunday (2:30 p.m.) Both games will be played in Stonewall.

15

18

12



- 66. 365 days
- 67. Physique
- **68.** Icelandic poems
- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Bodily substance
- 2. Internal

- 21. Jacobs and Summers are two
- 23. Disfigure
- 25. Scientists' tool (abbr.)
- 26. III-mannered person
- 27. Overhang

- 30. Passover feast and ceremony 32. Equal to 10 meters
- 34. Central processing unit
- 35. Chinese native religion
- **37. Unfermented juices**
- 40. "To the ___ degree"
- 42. Frozen water
- 43. Medieval circuit courts
- 47. 1,000 cubic feet (abbr.)
- 49. Gossipy 50. Shopping is one type
- 52. Palmlike plant
- 53. Partner to "oohed"
- 55. Welsh name meaning "snow"
- 56. Popular Mexican dish
- 57. It helps power devices 58. Reddish-brown wildcat
- 59. Impertinence
- 61. Legal financial term (abbr.)
- 65. Atomic #52

- 29. Famed rat catcher

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





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Toway of Teulon

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES TOWN OF TEULON

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **10th** day of **December**, **2021**, at the hour of **2:00 PM**, at Town of Teulon , 44 - 4th Avenue SE, Teulon, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

| Roll Number | Description | Assessed Value | Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale |
|----------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 23200 | LOT 12 BLOCK 3 PLAN 1219 WLTO IN NW 1/4 21 AND S 1/2 28-16-2 EPM - 46 SECOND ST SW, TOWN OF TEULON | L -\$18,400 B -\$60,900 | \$7,567.47 |

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

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any property taxes not yet due. The Municipality **may** exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs. If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to
- the start of the auction The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties
- being sold. ccessful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in cash, certified cheque or
- bank draft to the Town of Teulon as follows
- ik draft to the Town of Teulon as tollows:
 i) The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
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- deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
 iii) A fee in the amount \$309.75 (\$295 plus GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
 The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
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- a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2021. Managed by:

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Andrew Glassco Chief Administrative Officer Town of Teulon Phone: (204) 886-2314 Fax: (204) 886-3918

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- Attend meetings of the Board of Trustees as required.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of 5 years' experience in a management/supervisory role in a transportation services setting; staff supervision and evaluation within a unionized environment and budget management.
- Strong administrative skills that demonstrates the ability to work in a high pressure, dynamic work environment.
- Strong analytical, problem-solving skills, interpersonal and communication skills; written and verbal.
- Strong skill sets in the usage of computers and computer aided technology/software, including Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, etc.
- Familiar with applicable legislation, policies, and procedures as they apply to pupil transportation
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- Provide a satisfactory driver's abstract
- Knowledge in the mechanical aspect and safety requirements of school buses is highly desirable.
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For more detailed information, please contact Rhonda Smith, Secretary-Treasurer at 204-745-2003.

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- Clear criminal record and abuse checks are required of all employees of the school division.
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MUNICIPAL NOTICE OF INTENT

TAKE NOTICE that on November 10, 2021 the council of the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale gave first reading to By-Law No. 1042-2021 to designate as a municipal heritage site under The Heritage Resources Act the site of St. Helen's Anglican Church in Fairford

The land is legally described as follows:

LOTS 1 TO 6 BLOCK 2 PLAN 17684 WLTO IN LOT 18, SETTLEMENT OF FAIRFORD

A copy of the proposed bylaw can be inspected at the Grahamdale Municipal Office at 23 Government Road in Moosehorn, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Monday through Friday.

A public hearing will be held at the Grahamdale Municipal Administration Room at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2021. At that time, any person may submit an objection or other representation on the proposal. If there is no objection, council may resolve to adopt the proposed bylaw, or not to proceed with it.

Dated at Moosehorn Manitoba on November 12, 2021.

Shelly Schwitek, CMMA Chief Administrative Officer



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CARD OF THANKS

STODGELL, Beatrice – We would like to thank all who brought flowers, food or a kind word. We would also like to thank the many people who came to her funeral. Your presence was a great comfort to us. Thank you Rev. Godfrey Mawejje for officiating at the funeral service. Thank you to all the staff of the Fisher Branch Home Care, Fisher Branch Clinic and Percy E. Moore Hospital for their care of Mom over the last few years, especially Dr. Sonya Bruin. Also thank you to the staff of Health Sciences Centre for your compassion in caring for Mom in her last few days.

A big thank you to Gordie and Tracy Wevursky, our funeral directors for their caring and professionalism. God bless you all.

-Clifford, Raymond, Carol and family

BIRTHDAY



Happy 4th Birthday Aubrey! -Love Mom, Dad and Jase

IN MEMORIAM

In Memory of Allan Blaine Webb March 20, 1953 – November 20, 2020 Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day; Unseen, unheard but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear. -Always remembered and forever loved, the Webb family



BIRTHDAY

Happy 95th Birthday to Florence Linde on November 18 Wishing you continued health and happiness -Love from your family

IN MEMORIAM



Frances Bochurka (nee Zelenitsky) September 21,1929 - November 18, 2020 There isn't a day that goes by That we don't think of you. You loved the small things in life And cherished the passing moments. You are set deeply in our prayers. Until we meet again -Love your family

established roots. He started

OBITUARY

Stanley David Bonkowski November 22,1929 – November 8,2021

We are deeply heartbroken to announce the passing of our dear Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather and Great-Great-Grandfather. On August. 1, he had a stroke and ended up in Gimli Hospital and from there he was transferred to Arborg Hospital where he spent his final days.

He is survived by his children Bridget Ross, Glynis Buchanan (Douglas), Bradley, Todd (Kimberly), Garvis (Jennifer); also his 17 grandchildren and 24 great and three great-great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Fjola Bonkowski and his son-inlaw Randy Ross.

During his lifetime he tried many different jobs, but his greatest passion was farming. In the 1950s he moved to the family homestead with his father Dominik Bonkowski where they off farming with a few ping and cours and later started raising

established roots. He started off farming with a few pigs and cows and later started raising turkeys. It was during this time he met the love of his life, Fjola, and together they fulfilled their dream. Life was not easy, but they never gave up.

Father was an avid gardener and was there right until he had his stroke. Everything he did was done to perfection. We all admired his bed making skills. He was an avid reader; he was also a man of few words but what he had to say was well thought out. Once he told us he was going to retire and that very winter him and Mom went to Texas for the winter. They continued to go every winter for 10 years where their home was known as the Canadian Embassy. Upon returning home they kept busy on the homestead.

The family would like to thank Dr. Donnelly and his wonderful staff at the Arborg and District Hospital for the excellent care our father received.

We are all going to miss coffee-time and family chats around the table, you have taught us many things and instilled your hard-working skills in us. It gives us comfort knowing Mom and Father are reunited again. We love you Father. RIP until we meet again.

His pallbearers are his grandsons - Cameron, Michael, Wyatt, Blayze, Jagger and Onyx. Honorary pallbearers are his granddaughters, great-grandchildren and his great-great-grandchildren.

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Announcements

OBITUARY Sybil Finnson



Svbil Finnson, age 81, of Selkirk, Manitoba left us peacefully on November 10, 2021 with family and friends by her side. Sybil Joyce was born May 4, 1940 in the RM of Morton, Manitoba to William and Mary Ann (Arthur) Smith. Sybil was predeceased by

her three older brothers - William (Bill), Charles and Norman. Sybil lived her life with strength, courage and independence, starting from the time she moved to Boissevain to work as a cashier in the Co-op and then to Winnipeg to further her education. Sybil

met her late husband Donald Finnson (1940 - 1968) and married in 1960. They had two children, Wayne Bradley and Daryl Wynne. Sybil could always be relied upon to get Wayne and Daryl and

their teammates to the various activities that they were involved in. She stayed up many a night finishing off sewing a competition outfit. It was surprising how many hockey players and gear she

could fit into her car! Her support of her children was never waning and she was always there for them, no matter what.

Sybil took on many challenges professionally and her achievements, while working at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, are testament to her courage to continue to reach higher. Sybil retired from her work life as a Manager in the Materiel Management department after over 30 years working at HSC.

As her children branched out, Sybil met her second love, Ray Peebles. Sybil then had a constant loving, companion to share her adventures. Although retired, Sybil never slowed down. Together with Ray, she travelled from one end of Canada to the other and made forays to the US as well. She kept active with a variety of dance clubs and volunteering commitments. Sybil seemed to pick up new hobbies and interests every year. Her many talents include playing the piano, painting, sewing, writing (fiction and meeting minutes). Some of her personal accomplishments in her retirement include participating in the Seniors' Games and becoming a published author. Sybil always took an active role in every organization she became involved in.

Sybil had a special skill for connecting and keeping up relationships with the people she has met over the years. Her vast Christmas card exchange includes people she had met on journeys many years ago. She always took the time to write a personal note to everyone.

In lieu of flowers. Sybil has requested that memorials be made to the Gordon Howard Centre or Palliative Care Unit at Selkirk Hospital c/o IERHA at Selkirk Regional Health Centre.

OBITUARY



January 7, 1957 - November 12, 2021 After a life long battle with diabetes, Brian passed away peacefully at the Health Science Center in Winnipeg. Predeceased

Brian Elmer Domino

by his parents, Elmer and Norma Domino. Left to cherish his memory is his family, Leslie (Kenny), Holly and Bryce, Azayleah, Ezekiel; Melissa; Joel (Kaly); Ronnie (Denise), Jessie and Sarah; Jennie and Kory, Tylie, James; Tracey (Stacy), Seth and Amanda, Oliver; Robyn; Mike, Odin and Chloe. Also, numerous cousins and long time friends, the Stutsky family.

Brian was the eldest of five children. For the first 10 years of his life he grew up in Winnipeg. Later the family moved to the Domino farm in the Winnipeg Beach area. Brian had a passion for agriculture which led him to work many years for Patterson Elevators. Brian aka (weasel), was known for his competitive spirit

and quick wit. He was an avid reader and had a keen mind for facts, details, statistics, names and places

Some of Brian's interests were hunting, playing crib and backgammon and special Monopoly games with his nephews which he was champion of most of the time. He enjoyed watching all sports especially his favourite team, the Chicago Black Hawks.

Brian's dream was to win the "million" on scratch tickets and take the whole family out for a Big Mac!

Thank you to the many doctors, nurses and care givers who provided care for Brian throughout the years: Dialysis Unit, Transplant Team and Home Care. Thank you to the Palliative Care Team for your compassion and love shown in Brian's final days. Special thanks to Ernest Stefanson and staff at Pharmasave for going above and beyond in helping Brian.

Cremation has taken place and a private family gathering will be held at a later date.

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OBITUARY

Joan Eleanor Chudd (nee IOANIDIS) February 24, 1935 - November 11, 2021



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our dear wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandma and friend to many. Mom passed away peacefully at home with family at her side on Thursday, November 11, 2021. She spent her last days surrounded by family and friends sharing many stories, songs, laughs and tears while enduring her poor health with amazing strength and dignity.

Left to cherish Mom's memory are her husband of 61 years Eddie; children Kim, Kevin (Kathryn), Mike (Corinne), Michelle; grandchildren Peter, Jaremy, and Dominique. She was predeceased by her parents George and Eva Ioanidis, sister Connie, and brother Jim.

Mom was born February 24, 1935 in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

She was extremely proud of her Greek heritage. Mom's early years were spent working at the iconic family business - the Olympia Café, playing sports, and fighting over the family tennis racket with Jim and Connie, all of whom were noted for their gifted playing ability. Mom later went on to obtain her Nursing Degree at Winnipeg General, graduating in 1956 - Class 56B. She then travelled the United States nursing, an accomplishment she was always proud of.

It was through one of mom's nursing classmates that she was introduced to Eddie. They dated for a couple years, then the progression of their romance becomes a little cloudy. There always was a discrepancy with how they became engaged. Dad says Mom proposed to him at Crabby Steve's. Mom professed that it was dad that was always nagging her to marry him, and that she finally relented because she felt sorry for him. Leave it to those two to have a disagreement!

After marrying dad in 1960, they settled in Gimli, where Mom's volunteerism became her trademark. She was part of the founders of the nursing program at Betel Home in Gimli, another accomplishment she took great pride in. Mom became the commander and chief of the house, made meals for everyone at the dealership (we will never be able to look at a mountain of sandwiches again!), she ran the customer shuttle, was the change-maker at Esso, and helped out in any way she could.

Mom was a strong advocate for volunteerism. She was always up for an opportunity to lend a hand in the community. She was proud to be part of the Gimli Hospital Board and was volunteer extraordinaire with her children's various sporting activities, track and field, school field trips, dances, and the like. Mom was a boisterous cheerleader for her children and grandchildren in all of their endeavors. Her love of sports and her children was evident by the thunderous (read - embarrassing) "cheering" she did at every game. But boy, did she ever know how to get us yound up!

Joan had a knack for getting information out of anybody and everybody. This earned her the affectionate nickname "Joan P.I.".

Words cannot express enough gratitude to Sheila for the top-notch care she provided Mom in the last 5 years while mom fought a tough fight with Alzheimer's. Many thanks to Dr. Matter, Dr. Turner, Dr. RC Patel, the Gimli hospital staff, the compassion of the homecare staff, our private care team, and to all of our staff and coworkers who were so supportive and willing to lend a helping hand for Mom.

According to mom's wishes, cremation has taken place, and there will be no service. Rather in typical mom fashion, a final hot lap was taken around town.

I see trees of green Red roses too I see them bloom For me and you And I think to myself What a wonderful world



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