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THURSDAY,
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VOLUME 12
EDITION 1

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Sliding into the New Year

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Haley Cvar, Emma Gisti, Mollie, Matthieu and Annaliese Meier were having fun tobogganing at Jimm's Hill on Boxing Day. The quarry in Stonewall was busy most days during the holidays, with cars lining up to get a parking space, while families took advantage of the pristine conditions skating and tobogganing.

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GoFundMe fundraiser supports Stony Mountain family

By Jennifer McFee

The Stony Mountain community is banding together to help bring a much-loved man home to spend his final days with his family.

Three years ago, Rob Broadfoot was diagnosed with a type of blood cancer called multiple myeloma. In the fall, he walked more than 12 kilometres from Stony Mountain to Stonewall to raise funds for the Myeloma March.

He had been in remission, but unfortunately his health recently took a turn for the worse.

Family friend Melanie Drescher is helping to organize a GoFundMe page, along with Megan Deprez, to help support the family during this difficult time. They've also helped to bring medical equipment to the family's home in the hopes that Rob can remain there for palliative care surrounded by his loved ones.

"The last few weeks, he's been in and out of emergency by ambulance three or four times. On Sunday at 2:30 in the morning, he got taken to HSC. They finally determined that it's terminal, so they transferred him to Riverview," Drescher said.

"The family was heartbroken because only one person is allowed to go

in and be with him. They chose their youngest son to be the one, so his wife Shelley and daughter Jessica are sitting out in the parking lot while their son is in there with him."

Shelley runs a home-based daycare, but she needs to pause the business to spend time with her husband.

"They're stressed and she can't work right now. She needs to be with her family," Drescher said.

"We don't want them to have any worry about money and how they're going to pay their mortgage and their bills."

The GoFundMe page, entitled Caring For The Ones We Truly Love, raised more than \$7,000 in the first 24 hours.

"He is so loved by everybody and it's just so unfair. He's only 51," Drescher said with emotion.

"He's still eating and he's still able to talk, but he could lose that any time. They can't operate because it's spread too much. There's nothing except the peace of him being home with his family without worries about how they're going to afford bills or groceries or the mortgage. Shelley shouldn't have to worry about working to make money."



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Family and friends walked in support of Rob Broadfoot who was diagnosed with multiple myeloma cancer. Left to right: Paris Virkutis, Jessica Broadfoot and Rob Broadfoot.

The community is already showing support through donations and words of encouragement.

"The outpouring of support amazes me. This is an amazing community that we have around us. We are so

lucky," Drescher said.

"Anything that we can do to help them take off stress so the four of them can focus on being together — that's all I care about right now."

Rockwood rings in 2021

By Jennifer McFee

In a year filled with uncertainties, the RM of Rockwood has continued to move forward with progressive projects.

Rockwood Reeve Wes Taplin said they haven't missed a beat due to the pandemic.

"We haven't had to stop doing what we had planned because of COVID, other than attending parades or other events," he said.

"It's been business as usual. We're still doing everything we were doing before while following all the guidelines."

Although 2020 had its share of challenges, there were also some positives for the municipality. For the first time, the RM received 100 per cent funding on a \$1.375-million climate resiliency grant to put generators at all of its lift stations and water treatment plants. Taplin expressed gratitude to Lakeside MLA Ralph Eichler and Municipal Relations Minister Rochelle



Rockwood Reeve Wes Taplin

Squires for their role in helping to secure the grant.

As well, internet connectivity is set to improve with fibre installation in the near future.

"With John Q Connect, getting con-

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Balmoral celebrates its 58th Christmas Bird Count

Submitted by Jim Duncan

On Dec. 19, 45 intrepid volunteers, also known as citizen scientists, woke up, drank coffee and got their binoculars on to count birds for the annual Christmas Bird Count. This North American tradition started 121 years ago with results being recorded at <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>.

This year there were more volunteers than in previous years, perhaps in part due to more people self-isolating at home during the pandemic lockdown. Watching birds is a great way to spend time with household family members and foster a deeper connection with the natural world that sustains us and our feathered friends. For more such opportunities throughout the year, please visit <https://www.birdscanada.org/>

The Balmoral count yielded an impressive 1,325 birds including 186 Black-capped Chickadees, 178 Common Ravens, 178 House Sparrows, 162 Snow Buntings, 100 Common Redpolls, 77 Blue Jays, 74 unidentified redpoll species, 65 Sharp-tailed Grouse, 55 White-breasted Nuthatches, 45 Bohemian Waxwings, 42 Pine Siskins, 37 Black-billed Magpies, 36 Pine Grosbeaks, 20 Cedar Waxwings, 19 Hairy Woodpeckers, 17 Downy Woodpeckers, 6 American Crows, 6 Bald Eagles, 5 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 4 Pileated Woodpeckers, 4 White-winged Crossbills, 3 Ruffed Grouse, 2 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 1 American Robin, and 1 Great Horned Owl.

This year's volunteers included Charlene Berkvens, Tim Beyers, Brenda Birks, Pauline Bloom, Diana Mae Boychuck, Bev Bryce, Susan Cosens, Jim and Patsy Duncan, Charlie Dunlop, Glen and Pat Jeffery, Kristine Kachur, Joan Knisley, Bob and Terry Makowski, Janet Meads, Kim and Meyers, Carol and John Morgan, Alma Neufeld and Neufeld, Doyle, Malachi, Quinn and Shawna Nugent, Andrew Robert, Gaylene Robertson, Jim and Johanna Rodger, Merlin Shoemsmith, Stuart Slattery, Helen Slavuta, Aiden, Melodie, and Versavel, Ashlee, Russell



Russell Watts, beside the bird feeder he built, took part in the 58th annual Balmoral Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 19.

and Tim Watts, Glen and Sherry Weaver, Allan Webb, and Earl and Pat Winn.

Please note that my wife Patsy and I welcome all winter sightings of Great Gray Owls, Barred Owls and Northern Hawk Owl, which we catch and band as part of our research on these owl species. Please share your observations with us at owlfamily@mts.net or text or call 204-404-7063.



Getting a bird's eye view.

TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED



This Redpoll was one of 1,325 birds observed.



Six bald eagles were seen during the bird count.

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Grief & Loss Support Group



This six week program provides support, education, and healing for those who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Facilitated by Stephanie Gillis Bodnar, RSW
Starting: Friday, February 5 through March 12, 2021
Time: 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Virtually via Zoom

Registration Deadline: January 29, 2021

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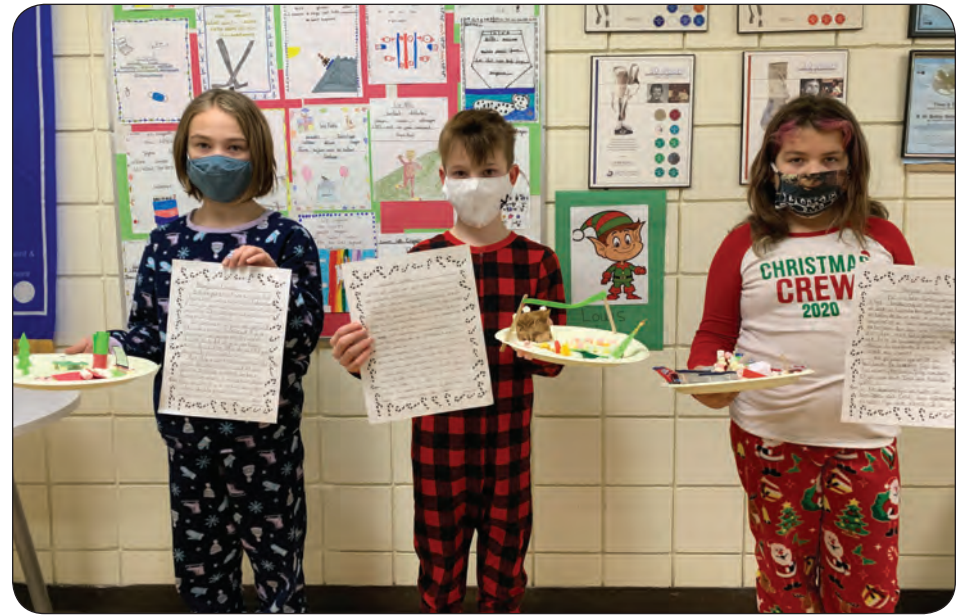
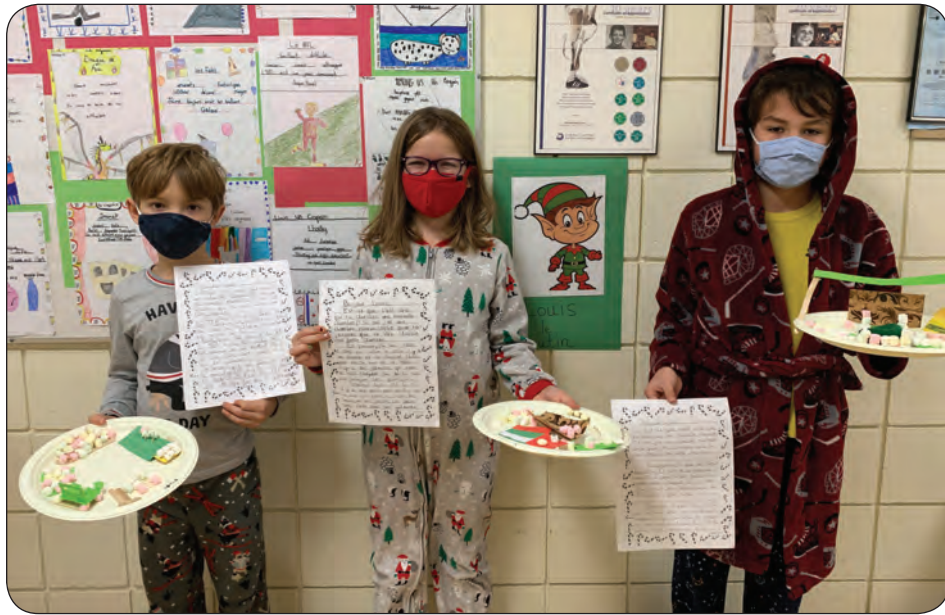
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RW Bobby Bend FI decorator's showdown



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CELINE DOLL

RW Bobby Bend Grade 4 French Immersion students had a decorator's showdown with each student creating a unique bedroom design for Louis le lutin (Louis the elf). The students had to write a detailed persuasive essay in French about why Louis should choose their room as the winning design. Left photo, left to right: Krisjan, Katherine, Alex; Right photo: Lacey, Blake, Brooklynn with their essay and design.

Despite pandemic, Viterra wraps generous STARS calendar campaign

Submitted by STARS

In a holiday season that is anything but normal, STARS is receiving an extraordinary \$42,000 gift of support from Viterra's customers.

The world-leading agriculture network just wrapped its annual program to sell STARS calendars — nearly 1,000 in total this year — from its grain handling and marketing facilities across the Prairies on behalf of the non-profit air ambulance organization.

Since 2015, Viterra has supported STARS' popular calendar program as its print sponsor, helping the charity share its mission stories of rescue and recovery through patients' eyes. With bases across Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta, funds raised through calendar sales help keep STARS in the sky.

"STARS provides such an important service, and our annual calendar campaign shows how communities will come together to support a worthy cause," said Nikki Deobald-Churchman, facility sales and admin at Viterra Rosetown.

"We continue to support STARS because they go above and beyond for those who need it most, and we see the difference that it makes in our communities," said Jeff Cockwill, VP of corporate affairs for Viterra North America. "Despite the unusual circumstances presented to us by the pandemic, our employees and customers demonstrated their giv-

ing spirit and made a significant and positive impact to this year's campaign."

Over the years, STARS has touched the lives of Viterra employees, customers and their families. This partnership helps ensure that STARS can continue to provide immediate medical attention in critical situations.

"Almost everyone on the Prairies knows someone whose life has been impacted by STARS," said Wanda Marchewka, facility sales and admin at Viterra North Battleford. "It's comforting to know that the service is available to all of us if we ever need it."

In addition to Viterra's very generous print sponsorship, its employees have contributed to an additional \$300,000 in calendar and merchandise sales and collected donations over the past six years.

"In a year of uncertainty, Viterra and its dedicated employees has never once wavered in their commitment to STARS, and in true grassroots spirit, they have found new and innovative ways to continue supporting our mission," said Andrea Robertson, STARS president and CEO.

"We are so grateful for the role that Viterra plays year in and year out, helping to keep us on the cutting edge of critical medical care and making sure that we can be there for the next patient who needs us," said Robertson.

The calendar campaign is in its 28th year, and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Viterra donated \$42,000 to STARS from the sales of the annual calendar campaign.

while it has always been a significant source of revenue for STARS, it is particularly important this year when so many fundraisers have had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A limited quantity of calendars are still available for purchase online at starscalendar.ca.

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IERHA death count at 34 after outbreak at Kin-Place

Staff

The current five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate is 10.7 per cent provincially and 11.8 per cent in Winnipeg. As of 9:30 a.m. Monday, 118 new cases of the virus had been identified, which brings the total number of lab-confirmed cases in Manitoba to 25,244.

Monday's COVID-19 data shows:

- seven cases in the Interlake-Eastern health region;
- five cases in the Northern health region;
- seven cases in the Prairie Mountain Health region;
- 19 cases in the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region; and
- 80 cases in the Winnipeg health region.

The data also shows:

- 4,423 active cases and 20,133 individuals who have recovered from COVID-19;
- there are 245 people in hospital with active COVID-19 as well as 95 people in hospital with COVID-19 who are no longer infectious but continue to require care, for a total of 340 hospitalizations;
- there are 35 people in intensive care units with active COVID-19 as well as six people with COVID-19 who are no longer infectious but continue to require critical care for a total of 41 ICU patients; and
- the total number of deaths due to COVID-19 is 688.

Laboratory testing numbers show 1,275 tests were completed yesterday bringing the total number of lab tests completed since early February to 427,476. Case investigations continue and if a public health risk is identified, the public will be notified.

The Interlake-Eastern total case breakdown by district as of Monday, is as follows: A total of 1,874 cases, up by 376 from Dec. 14: 412 active cases, 1,428 recovered, 19 currently in the hospital with four of those in ICU and 34 deaths.

Arborg/Riverton 3 active cases, 51 recovered; Beausejour 17 active cases, 105 recovered; Eriksdale/Ashern 42 active cases, 76 recovered and 8 deaths; Fisher/Peguis

39 active cases and 261 recovered, 3 deaths; Gimli 27 recovered; Northern Remote 90 active cases, 157 recovered and 2 deaths; Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet 4 active cases, 49 recovered; Powerview/Pine Falls 88 active case and 37 recovered and 1 death; Selkirk 10 active cases and 84 recovered and 2 deaths; Springfield 5 active cases and 149 recovered and 11 deaths; St. Clements 15 active cases and 68 recovered and 1 death; St. Laurent 14 recovered; Stonewall/Teulon 128 recovered and 4 deaths; Unknown District 78 active cases and 94 recovered and 1 death; Whiteshell 5 active cases, 17 recovered and Winnipeg Beach/St. Andrews 13 active cases and 111 recovered and 1 death.

The chief provincial public health officer reminds Manitobans to self-isolate immediately at the onset of possible COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild. This means staying home from work, school or other daily activities. Testing should be done as soon as possible once symptoms appear. For information on COVID-19 symptoms and guidance on when you should get tested, visit <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/fundamentals/symptoms.html>.

Manitobans should only leave their homes for essential purposes. When leaving the house to obtain essentials, be sure to physically distance, wear a mask in indoor public places and avoid crowded spaces. Do not leave the home if you are sick, or when any member of your family is sick. Further, do not socialize with anyone from outside your household.

Public health officials are also advising that if anyone is symptomatic, or has a household member who is symptomatic, the entire household needs to self-isolate pending COVID-19 test results. For health-care workers, exceptions may apply and staff may be able/required to report to work after contacting their workplace occupational health services or designate. For information on self-isolation, including excep-

tions, visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/fundamentals/self-isolation.html.

The online COVID-19 self-assessment tool can be found at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/> and COVID-19 symptoms can be found at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/fundamentals/symptoms.html>.

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Manitoba, visit www.manitoba.ca/COVID19.

For up-to-date information on the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System, visit:

<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/index.html>.

Manitoba government extends state of emergency

The Manitoba government is extending the provincewide state of emergency under the Emergency Measures Act to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect Manitobans, Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler, minister responsible for the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (EMO).

The extension goes into effect on Jan. 6 at 4 p.m. for a period of 30 days.

The Manitoba Emergency Co-ordination Centre was activated on day 1 of the pandemic, and has been operating ever since, the minister said, adding it has been a critical player in facilitating the province's overall response to personal protective equipment procurement and provision. It also developed the Pandemic Response System, ensuring alternative isolation accommodations were available, and advising on and enforcing co-ordination of public health orders under the state of emergency. It also facilitates the federal/provincial engagement to military support in First Nations communities.

The state of emergency was first declared on March 20, 2020, by the powers set out in section 10(1) and 10(2) of the Emergency Measures Act.

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Finding Light in Unexpected Places

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. (Matthew 2:11-12)

Even in our time, those who follow the stars and make big decisions be following them are treated with a measure of incredulity. We don't know much about the magi who travelled to find Jesus at the leading of a star, but we can only imagine they made a curious sight. Their stargazing led them to the manger, and they have become an unforgettable part of the story. They remind us to never be surprised by the people we meet at the stable.

This year, our arrival at the manger includes a travelling companion who didn't make the trip with us last year — COVID-19. I can't help observing that the world has gotten a little smaller since our last visit to the stable in Bethlehem. The challenge of a pandemic has meant that the wise ones of our time have had to work together to bring healing and hope to humanity. People and places not accustomed to sharing their knowledge have been working together.

They brought new wisdom and unexpected gifts to us this season — the gift of vaccines. To most of us, they are a mystery. But we don't have to fully understand them to receive them with thankfulness and awe. Unexpected and miraculous gifts have a wonder all of their own — they bring light into our lives.

Epiphany is all about finding light in unexpected places, light that we carry with us bringing brightness everywhere we go.

May this Epiphany season fill us with unexpected glimmers and signs of God's light. May it help to brighten the darkness of this time and become a part of the hope-filled gift of light we offer to our family, friends and neighbours.

Rev. Mona Denton
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<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, January 8th</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Pork Side Ribs & 1/4 chicken</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, January 9th</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">8 oz Sirloin Topped with creamed spinach and shrimp</p>
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Evaluating election priorities

By Evan Matthews

We've rung in the new year. We've said goodbye to 2020 and hello to 2021; so many were eager to turn the page.

An old saying suggests during the worst time in your life, you get to see the true colours of the people who say they care for you.

Such has been the mantra of the Manitoba government throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

We've heard things like, "We're in this together" or "We all need to do our part" and "We're all part of Team Manitoba."

Health-care workers are first in line for vaccines, with more and more being administered every day. While we aren't at a point in which every citizen has been immunized just yet, there is definite reason for optimism as we look forward to 2021 and a safer environment (as it relates to COVID-19).

But when it comes to politics, people have short memories. The next provincial election will not occur until 2023, likely, though the possibility of an early election exists.

But we don't need to listen to the campaign speeches to understand our individual political perspectives.

It's important to evaluate election priorities sooner rather than later because when 2022 rolls around, we'll

start to hear the same rhetoric we're used to hearing on the campaign trail: promised tax cuts (or freezes); emphasis on health care; emphasis on education; emphasis on social programming — the list will go on.

The reality is, we don't need to wait to listen to the campaign speeches to understand our individual political perspectives.

We can start asking these questions now because the proof is in the pudding; we've been navigating as tough a time as ever in recent memory.

How do you feel our provincial government handled the first wave of COVID-19, and then the second? Were the lockdowns and fines the right way to go, and timed appropriately?

Did the provincial government do a good job of prioritizing public health and citizen safety, as opposed to prioritizing economy and business?

Did the Province of Manitoba's previous cuts to education and health care better serve our communities during a pandemic hit? Did it help our wallets in the end?

These are personal questions, questions only you can answer for yourself.

However, it's becoming clearer that at least a portion of Manitobans are dissatisfied with this government's performance.

The Angus Reid Institute — a non-profit commissioning research and opinion polls in Canada — recently found Manitoba to be the most critical province in the country of its government's handling of the pandemic.

Only about 30 per cent of Manitobans feel the provincial government is "doing a good job" in its pandemic response, compared to the national average, of which 66 per cent of Canadians feel their provincial government has done a good job.

Since losing power in 2016, the NDP government had not exceeded the Tories in popular (poll) support, but another research organization called Probe Research found in December that the NDP has more popular support at the moment.

Couple those polls with the fact that during a year-in-review interview with the Canadian Press, Premier Brian Pallister said he would see Manitoba through the COVID-19 pandemic but did not commit to finishing his term in office, and we begin to see an unstable political landscape.

So, the conversation gets thrown back to you, the reader; the citizen: How do you feel about things right now? What has gone well? What could have been done better?

Letters to the Editor:

letters to the editor letters@stonewallteulontribune.ca

Might humidity cure COVID-19 epidemic?

Aerosol and Air Quality Research Journal (aaqr.org) has published a discussion of the role of relative humidity in the airborne transmission

of COVID-19. Aerosol scientists concluded that if the relative humidity is below 40 per cent, the virus-laden small droplets exhaled from infect-

ed adult lungs will endure as small aerosols suspended in air, infecting others wherever the air circulates.

But if the relative humidity is in-

Continued on page 7

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



> LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

creased above 40 per cent, the exhaled droplets will pick up more moisture from the wetter air, increase in size and fall from the air. This is similar to how dust particles in the atmosphere attract moisture from humid air to form clouds and then a cleansing rain.

Published in July 2020, this aerosol research seems to not yet have been communicated to our public health officers, as they do not yet suggest >40 per cent RH to prevent enduring contagious aerosols of COVID-19.

World epidemiology appears to validate this. All small islands and humid coasts have less epidemic contagion (are never <40 per cent RH), yet all regions where air within buildings is now heated now have epidemics (often <40 per cent RH) — due to warm air being able to hold more water vapor than can cold air, and thus air becomes relatively drier when heated.

Aerosol scientists also advise to wear masks to increase the humidity that virus-laden droplets first encounter, and to halt the velocity of exhaled air.

Suggest, during viral epidemics:

- Via licensing require all public places be >50 per cent RH, and advise the public to not enter any building having <40 per cent RH.
- Advise keeping water on simmer until condensation forms on windows, and if COVID symptoms then contain forced air heat within basements to prevent aerosol circulation in homes.
- Require hands protection, such as loose mitts, if touching public-owned surfaces.
- Require masks or niqabs if persons are close or air is dry.

The lesson from COVID-19: We first learned to survive in cold regions by wearing furs. Then we learned to heat air and retain it in buildings. Now we learn to always add water to heated air to prevent aerosol viral epidemics.

Challenge: Let's use humidity, masks and mitts to tame the epidemic ourselves, months before vaccines arrive.

I have supplied air humidifiers into my mother's seniors home.

- Grant Rigby, M.Sc.Food, farmer. www.grantrigby.ca

It is about time

For every nurse in every hospital in the entire world to learn some hymns. The English language is really clever, you know. "Hymns" are usually about Him (a slightly different spelling of a word)- — a source of comfort and compassionate spirituality for anyone with ears.

Please memorize some of your favourites, ye ladies and men in white — so that these gems of music are at your beck and call when needed. They will rest in a repository of your mind — you will be surprised — and pop into consciousness as required, once you have a small

bank of them.

Teach them to the physically sick under your care — that they may go over and over them as they wait patiently for the many procedures for which they must wait.

They will find that every day is better, that every hour is better, in enforced confinement.

Hint: Aim for the hymns that concentrate on joy. These are the ones that will be of most help to the spirit.

- Mrs. M. Rowbotham
Stonewall

**Inland Port Special Planning Area
Under The Authority of The Planning Act
Notice of Public Hearing**

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

**INLAND PORT SPECIAL PLANNING AREA BY-LAW 3-20
Being an AMENDMENT to the
INLAND PORT SPECIAL PLANNING AREA REGULATION 48/2016
to RE-ZONE
PART of SECTION 4-12-2 EPM and PART of SECTION 33-11-2 EPM
in the RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSSER
from INLAND PORT RURAL ZONE
to "I3" INDUSTRIAL HEAVY ZONE**

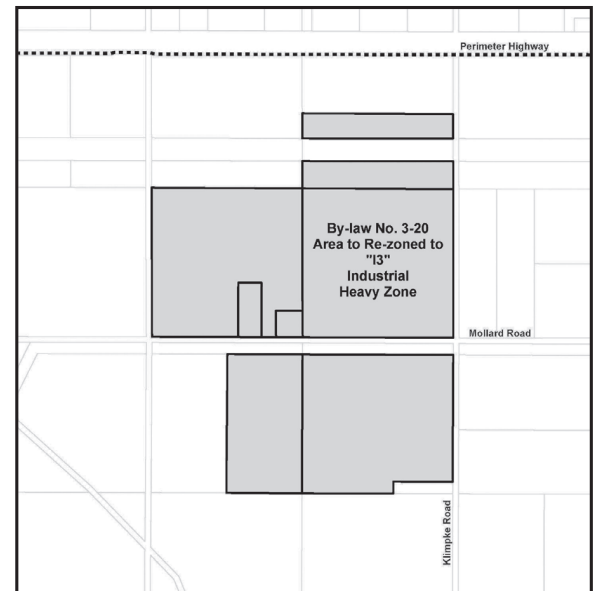
HEARING LOCATION: Virtual Public Hearing
Microsoft Teams

DATE and TIME: Thursday, January 28, 2021
at 6:30 p.m.

GENERAL INTENT and PURPOSE: To rezone part of Section 4-12-2 EPM and part of Section 33-11-2 EPM in the RM of Rosser CentrePort lands from Inland Port Rural Zone to "I3" Industrial Heavy Zone to establish an aggregate extraction operation.

AREA AFFECTED: This by-law shall apply to the area identified on the map appearing on the Public Hearing Notice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Kari Schulz, Planner
Manitoba Municipal Relations
Inland Port Special Planning Area
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4
Phone: 204-945-2146
Fax: 204-948-4042
Email: inlandportspa@gov.mb.ca



A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken therefrom, upon request. A description of the procedure to be followed at the hearing is also available at the location noted above.



**Happy and Healthy
New Year to Everyone**

THANK YOU to the entire community of people in and around Stonewall who have continued to support us by shopping on line, ordering takeout food and using curbside pickup.

THANK YOU to the Town of Stonewall, the Interlake Community Foundation and Stonewall businesses for your ongoing support of our goal to create a fully inclusive community.

THANK YOU to all of you who have supported us with donations and in memoriam donations. All tax deductible donations go directly to improve the lives of the people we support by providing them with equipment and opportunities that they might not otherwise be able to afford.

Since 1965 Community Living Interlake has been a part of Stonewall and the Interlake. We look forward to your ongoing support for many years to come.



**Support for Life in
the Community**

From all of us at the Association for Community Living Interlake and SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL Café and Gifts

A detailed year in review for RM of St. Laurent

By Evan Matthews

As is the case with every RM across the province, the RM of St. Laurent said 2020 started with great strides, before COVID-19 steered its ship off course.

The RM thanked its staff along with residents, businesses and front-line workers for doing an "amazing job of adapting and being resilient."

January - Jen Steinbeisser is appointed Deputy Fire Chief responsible for Emergency Medical Response (EMR). Mathew Riding is appointed deputy fire chief responsible for fire protection.

February - The RM acquired accounts receivable software to properly record and handle invoicing.

Council considered the old town hall a heritage site and committed funds to meet with a grant to help restore and preserve the historic building.

The St. Laurent Waste Transfer Site staffing hours were reduced to streamline operations to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Council approved a proposal to send to the province for a flood fighting equipment grant.

March - The RM council approved funding for training of non-profit organizations with volunteer boards to assist with proper governance and financial accountability.

April - Flood Preparedness proposal grant approved by the province bringing in roughly \$120,000 for spring/flood fighting equipment.

Financial Plan proposal reduced to accommodate the COVID-19 pandemic.

New Oak Point Community Club Hall proposed building plan approved by council.

May - Dog waste system funding applied for and council wishes to implement these systems strategically within

the RM to keep the municipality clean.

Annual scholarships and bursaries disbursed between the two schools in the municipality.

All safety equipment within the RM were evaluated and updated including the purchase of a defibrillator for the Welcome Centre.

June - Security cameras installed at the St. Laurent Public Works building and fire halls to bring much-needed security to the area. The heritage building can also be properly monitored.

Five (eventually six) youths were hired for St. Laurent Green Team with 100 per cent financial contribution from the province.

Repairs to Governor Road South.

The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) in partnership with the RM has successfully identified a community connector. The RM interviewed several applicants for the position and council has approved the hiring of Marlene Combout as per the recommendations of the hiring committee.

The RM of St. Laurent urged the federal and provincial governments to expedite the approval of "shovel-ready" infrastructure projects within Manitoba's bilingual municipalities submitted under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), in particular the St. Laurent Metis Heritage Centre Phase 2 and 3 Project.

July - The St. Laurent & District Recreation Commission, in partnership with the Laurentia Beach Association, has applied for and been successful at receiving a grant for the installation of playground equipment at Laurentia Beach Park.

Council has approved the quote from Lindell Electric to hook up the large power generator and transfer switch to our Assisted Living Centre as part of our emergency plan for major power outages to the community and the safety of our residents.

Council approved a quote to erect a sign at the St. Laurent Arena.

The RM reviewed different options for ratepayers to pay their taxes online. Council approved

a third-party service www.plastiq.com, which charges a 2.5 per cent service fee for credit cards and one per cent for debit to the user but no fees charged to the RM.

August - Five street were lights installed on Ludovic Rd.

September - Ron Colliou was hired as waste transfer site supervisor with a start date of Sept. 8

Welcome Centre parking lot repaired.

Council approved the hire of a casual office assistant.

Due to COVID-19, face masks became mandatory.

October - Repairs to the RM's grader approved by council.

Council approved the hiring of Darlene Close as casual office assistant.

Council approved the hiring of more casual cooks and housekeepers for the St. Laurent Assisted Living Centre

Council approved the recommendations of the RM's Heritage Building.

Committee to hire Alexander and Nadezda Tolmachev for the specialized work on windows and door repair and restoration for the St. Laurent Old Town Hall.

Council approved the purchase of an all-season visitor shelter for the St. Laurent Assisted Living Centre (ALC) with the help from a grant received of \$20,000.

November - Acknowledging the loss of Coun. Laurent Kerbrat, the RM said he will be deeply missed. Ratepayers elected Vern Coutu on Nov. 12 to take the vacant seat on council.

The RM recently received federal funding to deal with COVID-related matters and has authorized the purchase of laptops and a server to aid with virtual meetings.

December - Council and its economic development officer have been working diligently on a proposal to tap into the UBF (universal broadband fund) to address the lack of broadband service in the RM. The proposal is to be submitted early in the new year.



Prairie Rose School Division KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS

If your child was born in 2016, he/she is eligible to attend kindergarten beginning September, 2021.

Parents and/or guardians are asked to contact one of the following schools:

École Carman Elementary School
Cecile Affleck, Principal (204) 745-2623

Elm Creek School
Leslie Howard, Interim Principal (204) 436-2354

Miami School
David Langill, Principal (204) 435-2441

Roland School
Brandy Chevalier, Principal (204) 343-2023

St. François Xavier School
Marc Tellier, Principal (204) 864-2868

École St. Eustache
Lindsay Noël, Principal (204) 353-2869

St. Laurent School
Crystal Millar-Courchene, Principal (204) 646-2209

Your child's birth certificate or Manitoba Health Card **MUST** be presented at the time of registration.

Registrations will be accepted between January 11 to 15, 2021, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Manitoba government announces tax changes coming in 2021

Submitted by Manitoba government

A number of tax savings that will benefit Manitobans and help to protect their hard-earned income will come into effect Jan. 1 or early in the new year, Finance Minister Scott Fielding announced on Dec. 31.

"Our government is committed to reducing the tax burden on Manitobans while strengthening the services we all depend on," said Fielding. "We are also making changes that will benefit Manitoba businesses and put them on a stronger footing as we work to overcome the financial challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Manitoba personal income tax brackets and the Basic Personal Amount will increase by 2.2 per cent for the 2021 taxation year as they are indexed to the Manitoba Consumer Price In-

dex. As a result, an estimated 3,300 taxpayers are expected to be removed from the 2021 tax rolls, the minister noted.

Manitoba will also begin phasing out the Education Property Tax in 2021, as committed to in the most recent speech from the throne.

Other changes include:

- increasing the Health and Post-Secondary Education Tax Levy exemption threshold to \$1.5 million from \$1.25 million of annual remuneration. In addition, the threshold below which employers pay a reduced rate increases to \$3 million from \$2.5 million. The new thresholds will benefit approximately 1,000 Manitoba employers including exempting about 220 employ-

Federal government launches vaccine injury support program

By Patricia Barrett

The federal Liberal government is introducing a no-fault vaccine injury support program for all vaccines approved by Health Canada and will be working in collaboration with the provinces and territories to implement the program.

The launch of the national program comes as COVID-19 continues to decimate populations and shatter economies across the globe, and as vaccines to fight the deadly virus are just being distributed.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) made the announcement Dec. 10.

“This will be the first pan-Canadian vaccine injury support program (VISP) in Canada,” said Health Canada senior media relations advisor Tammy Jarbeau by email after Christmas. “The intent of the program is to provide financial support to people in the rare event that they experience a serious permanent injury after receiving any vaccine authorized by Health Canada, including COVID-19 vaccines.”

COVID has infected over 84.4 million people worldwide and killed more than 1.8 million. Almost 600,000 Canadian have been infected and over 15,000 have died (Data: Johns Hopkins University, Jan. 2).

Although Manitoba escaped the brunt of the virus over the summer, infections sprinted from the starting gate like a thoroughbred in the fall, prompting the Manitoba government to lockdown the entire province in early November. COVID has killed 678 Manitobans (Data: Manitoba government, Jan. 2).

Quebec created its own vaccine injury support program in 1988 and is the only jurisdiction in Canada that has such a program. The new federal program will be modelled, where possible, on the Quebec government’s program, said Jarbeau. The national program will be an ongoing program that will form part of Canada’s broader vaccination strategy. It will also put the country on par with nations that already have support programs.

“With a major rollout of vaccine in the works, it is important that Canadians have the same support as citizens of G7 and other nations,” said Jarbeau.

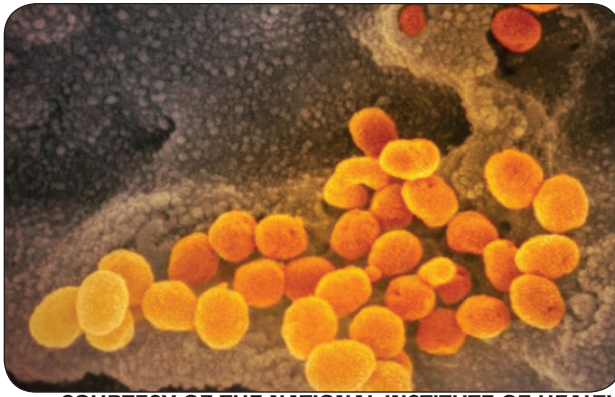
There have been growing calls over the years for Canada to create a support program, she added. In January 2020 a petition was initiated by Bob Martin of Victoria, B.C., gathering 792 signatures. British Columbia had the highest number of signatures at 277, followed by Ontario at 218. Manitoba had 19 signatures.

Whether the new federal program will lead to a greater willingness among Canadians to get a COVID-19 vaccine is unclear. Fewer than half of all adult Canadians get vaccinated for influenza each year, although the trend over the past five years shows those numbers increasing.

Statistics Canada’s Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Coverage Survey for the 2019-2020 influenza season found 42 per cent of adults (aged 18 and older) were inoculated, the same percentage as the 2018-2019 season. In the 2017-2018 season, 38 per cent of adults were inoculated, and in 2016-2017, 36 per cent got the flu jab.

But COVID may tell a different story. The Canadian Community Health Survey, released by Statistics Canada last September, found three out of four Canadians (aged 12 and older) saying they’d get the COVID vaccine when it became available.

Jarbeau said there’s not enough evidence to definitively link vaccine injury support programs to an



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH COVID-19.

increased willingness to get inoculated.

“There is limited data on the impact of providing no-fault vaccine injury support on vaccine uptake. That said, all immunization programs are based on the principle of reciprocity: Canadians are encouraged to get vaccinated for their own benefit and for the protection of others,” she said. “In return, there is a duty to ensure that Canadians who are immunized are financially supported should they experience serious permanent injury as a result.”

The worldwide COVID vaccine development and approval process had been fast-tracked with the first trials starting last March. Health Canada has already approved two COVID vaccines, one from Pfizer-BioNTech on Dec. 9 and another from Moderna on Dec. 23.

Pfizer’s clinical trials showed its vaccine to have 95 per cent efficacy. Two doses are required for maximum efficacy. Moderna’s clinical trials showed its vaccine to be 94 per cent effective in subjects with no prior COVID infection, and 87 per cent effec-

tive in people over 65 years of age. Two doses are required.

Each province/territory has set — or will set — out its own inoculation schedules based on priority populations. Those schedules follow overall recommendations from the federal National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

Health-care workers in Manitoba are first in line to receive the vaccine. But exactly when the general public can get inoculated is unknown. The province’s rollout plan entails making “adjustments” to provide COVID vaccines to a “broader range of health-care workers, residents of personal care homes and elderly Manitobans,” according to its COVID-19 website.

Ontario may begin inoculating the general public sometime in July while Alberta may start in the fall. PHAC said last month the country’s vaccination campaign is expected to wrap up in December 2021.

Health Canada is warning people who are allergic to the ingredients in the COVID vaccines not to take them (ingredient lists are available on the agency’s COVID-19 health product industry webpage).

Last month the Associated Press reported that two health-care workers in Alaska suffered allergic reactions after receiving Pfizer’s vaccine, with one person experiencing anaphylaxis (difficulty breathing) and having to be hospitalized. The United Kingdom had also reported two similar cases in early December. The Manitoba government reported on Dec. 24 that one person — presumably a health-care worker — had an “adverse reaction” to the vaccine.

In a summary of the Pfizer COVID vaccine, published Dec. 10 in the New England Journal of Medi-

Continued on page 10

In with the new and out with the old



Incredible Creatures: The surprising heroes behind chocolate production

By John Gavloski

It is well known that much of our food relies on insect pollinators. Without them, there would be much less food.

When you hear the word pollinator, what insects do you think of? If you said bees, that is a good answer, as for many food plants their role is critical. There are other plants, though that require insects other than bees, such as a moth or flies, for their pollination.

When you are enjoying a piece of chocolate, that experience would not be possible without an often unappreciated group of insects. In this month's Incredible Creatures, we will explore the role of insects in the production of chocolate.

Not your average flowers

Chocolate is produced in seeds that grow in pods on cacao trees, *Theobroma cacao*. Cacao trees are small tropical trees that grow in the shade of larger trees in Central America, South America, Africa and Asia. Flowers grow directly from the trunks and lower branches of these trees and, when pollinated, produce the prized seed pods.

Cacao flowers are a bit different than what most of us think of as flowers. These flowers play hard to get. They're small white flowers that dangle vertically from the trunk of the cacao tree, and require tiny pollinators. And they are nearly odourless. At first glance, it

may seem like they don't provide any nectar, but microscopic nectaries are found on the stems and base of the flowers. The pollen producing parts (anthers) are hidden by hoods and can only be accessed by tiny insects near the base of the flower. To reach that pollen, a honey bee would be useless. The flowers are not particularly attractive to pollinators, except some little flies.

No flies would mean no chocolate

The heroes of this story are a group of small flies collectively known as chocolate midges. Chocolate midges are very small flies (about one to three mm) that belong to a group (genus) of midges called *Forcipomyia*. These small flies seem to be the only creatures that work their way into the intricate flowers to pollinate. They most actively pollinate at dusk and dawn, in sync with the cacao flowers, which fully open right before sunrise. Individual cacao trees cannot pollinate themselves. Therefore the flies have to visit some other tree's flower bits, then make its way over to another tree to have a chance at pollinating it.

It's actually amazing that these tiny flies can pollinate the flowers at all. These flies are bad at flying, and they can barely carry enough pollen to pollinate one flower. And each flower only typically lasts between 24 and 48 hours. Only one out of every 400-500 flowers produce fruit.



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Cacao tree. Note the pods, and tiny flowers dangling from the trunk and branches.

Like other flies that are closely related to mosquitoes, the egg and larval stages of chocolate midges are tied closely to moist areas, and they primarily breed in the rainy season. Depending on the species, some of these midges lay their eggs in the rotting cocoa husks in plantations while others find animal dung the perfect

food for their babies. Regardless of the menu, the food has to be wet and rotting.

So next time you are sitting back and enjoying a cup of hot chocolate, raise a toast for chocolate midges. Without these flies, there would be no chocolate!

Happy New Year!

PIPE DREAMERS
PLUMBING & HVAC/R

Plumber:
Chase Borgstrom
204-990-1299

HVAC Tech:
Kyle Scrivens
204-482-3939

**Wising you nothing
but the best in 2021.**

> VACCINE, FROM PG. 9

cine, researchers noted reactions such as pain, swelling, fever, headache and myalgia, but most were "mild to moderate and resolved rapidly."

Jarbeau said serious and permanent adverse reactions are extremely rare, at fewer than one in a million.

"The Government of Canada is committed to protecting the health and safety of Canadians," she said. "Health Canada has a rigorous scientific review system in place to assess vaccines for safety and effectiveness in preventing the diseases they target. Health Canada will not authorize a vaccine unless evidence demonstrates that its benefits outweigh the risks."

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Health Canada has placed orders to reserve millions of doses of different COVID-19 vaccines, including those from Janssen Pharmaceutical, Novavax and Oxford-AstraZeneca, and all will be subject to the agency's approval process. If vaccines are found problematic while on the market, Health Canada can pull them.

PHAC is currently in discussions with provinces and territories to implement the vaccine injury support program, but details on eligibility criteria, compensation and whether the program can be applied retroactively to COVID vaccines are yet to be determined.

"As discussions with provinces and territories are ongoing, no further details can be disclosed at this time," said Jarbeau. "Further information on program funding, operations and how the program can be accessed by applicants will be available when the program is launched in 2021."

Medical researchers currently don't know how long COVID vaccines will provide a measure of immunity to the virus. Like influenza, COVID inoculations may be required each year.

Calendar flipping to 2021 especially exciting for Stony Mountain family

Submitted

On New Year's Day, many were happy to close the door on 2020 and celebrate the start of a new year filled with hope, as vaccines for the coronavirus pandemic have started to roll out.

Jonie and Kelvin Kleinsasser from Stony Mountain had an extra reason to celebrate because their son Hudson arrived into the world on Jan. 1, 2021, at 7:22 p.m. Hudson is the first baby born in the Interlake-Eastern health region.

Hudson was born eight pounds, nine ounces, and 20.5 inches long in Selkirk Regional Health Centre's family birthing unit, the region's only birth centre. Attending the birth was Dr. Andrea Fulmore and nurses from the unit.

"We are thankful we got to give birth in a smaller hospital during the coronavirus pandemic," said Jonie Kleinsasser. "The staff were welcoming and did an amazing job taking care of us. Thank you!"

Prior to the family's departure from hospital, they were gifted a playpen, sleepers and diapers from the Selkirk & District General Hospital Ladies Auxiliary. Every year, the auxiliary celebrates the hospital's first baby of the

year with gifts that provide comfort and help extend the care received at the hospital into the baby's home. The auxiliary, who operate the gift shop at Selkirk Regional Health Centre, has also provided several significant donations to the hospital over the years, to help improve the comfort, care and well-being of patients.

"We've been celebrating New Year's babies since the hospital was located on Eveline Street," said Betty Milkowski, president of the auxiliary. "We're honoured to help parents with their new additions in this way. Congratulations to the Kleinsasser family!"

According to Victoria Wilgosh, clinical team manager for the birthing unit, 330 babies were delivered at the birthing centre in 2020.

"Our family birthing unit opened in the summer of 2017, and we are happy to have a great facility with amazing staff serving moms across the Interlake-Eastern region," said Wilgosh.

"One thing we would like people to know is that we do offer epidurals at the centre. We encourage anyone who is expecting and has any questions to contact the hospital and ask for the family birthing unit. We're always



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kelvin and Jonie Kleinsasser welcomed baby Hudson into the world at 7:22 p.m. on Jan. 1, making their son the first baby of 2021 born in the Interlake-Eastern Health region.

happy to help and feel privileged families" to play a role in this special time for



Stonewall Christmas Tree Recycling Program

December 26th, 2020 - January 10th, 2021

Don't throw your Christmas tree away after the holiday season!

Recycle it by dropping it off at:
Town of Stonewall Public Yard
147 5th St. W.

Please remember to remove all decorations, tinsel, stands and plastic tree bags before arriving at the yard. Please do not leave these items on the tree or at the yard!

Brought to you by:



COVID-19 VACCINE

Manitoba's Immunization Team Needs You

Retired and future nurses and other health professionals – **apply today!**

The COVID-19 vaccine has arrived and will be available to every Manitoban who wants it.

Help protect your neighbour and be part of the biggest immunization campaign in Manitoba history.

We need retired nurses, students in health care professions and many others to join Team Manitoba.

You can be an immunizer if you are a:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| retired nurse or health care worker | pharmacist | veterinarian |
| student in a medical profession | midwife | technologist |
| | dentist | respiratory therapist |
| | physiotherapist | occupational therapist |
| | lab technologist | |
| | veterinarian | |

Training is available to help ensure everyone hired can give the vaccine safely. And, anyone administering the vaccine is also eligible to get the vaccine.

Learn more about becoming an immunizer and other jobs at manitoba.ca/vaccine

manitoba.ca/covid19



Ready, set, go ... fun on the toboggan hill



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Four-year-old Emmett Moskalyk eyes up his competition before heading down Jimm's hill on Dec. 26. Unfortunately for Emmett, mom Monica and dog Rita over took their competition midway down the hill to win the race.

> ROCKWOOD, FROM PG. 2

nectivity to our municipality has been ongoing and it's going to go forward," Taplin said.

"Once it starts, it will take off like wildfire. It's one of the positives that we've experienced."

As for the challenges, the main hurdle has been trying to ensure that everybody stays safe during the pandemic.

"We also need to make sure that we can operate safely and efficiently and not lose any ground with what's been going on," Taplin said.

"I can't say enough about our administration and our office. I also can't express enough thanks to our public works and utilities departments for the jobs that they've done in this. Everybody has worked together like a team and a family."

Looking ahead, Taplin is optimistic about growth opportunities in Stony Mountain.

"We want to put them on the map as the next huge opportunity for

housing and the industrial park. There is a hunger for industrial growth," Taplin said.

"To accent that, you've got to have places for people to live, so we've had interest in housing development in Stony Mountain."

The RM of Rockwood will also continue working with the Town of Stonewall on the annexation process.

"We are working together," Taplin said. "At the end of the day, we know it's going to come back to us in the spinoffs."

In these early days of 2021, Taplin shares his well wishes with the community.

"I just want everybody to be safe while we figure out how we're going to forge forward and carry on the pace that we're at," he said.

"I'm very fortunate to be the reeve of Rockwood and part of the team with the people I sit around the council table with. At the end of the day, we hope to make the best decisions for our constituents and municipality."

"I JUST WANT EVERYBODY TO BE SAFE WHILE WE FIGURE OUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO FORGE FORWARD."

Drive-by birthday



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Practising social distancing can be tough when you want to celebrate your birthday, but Zach McIvor's family figured out how to keep the party rolling (literally) amid the virus outbreak.

On the afternoon of New Year's Eve, Zach celebrated his 9th birthday with the help of his family and friends with a drive-by celebration. The Stonewall Fire Department and RCMP made this a birthday Zach will never forget! Top photo: Zach McIvor with members of the Stonewall Rockwood Fire Department. Bottom photo: the birthday boy with siblings, left to right, Blake, Zach, Carson and Colby.

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Comte family wins Stonewall Jets' contest

By Brian Bowman

To add some excitement to this winter, the Stonewall Jets hosted an Interlake Salvage and Recycling Jets Off/Outdoor Rink Challenge last month.

It attracted about 15 entries and the winner was Stony Mountain's Pat Comte, who submitted a video of one of his sons failing to stop and flipping over the end boards.

From those 15, the list was pared down to four finalists.

"It was an opportunity to get the community involved," said Jets' treasurer Shaun Dalglish. "We can't get our guys out into the community with everything going on obviously, so we just wanted to come up with a different opportunity."

Dalglish said the club will be holding this contest again next year and he expects more entries going forward.

"With everything going on, we were a little bit behind but next year we'll get it on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram," he said, noting they just used Twitter for this year's contest. "It will be a bit better poll."

With Comte's win, his family took home a good haul of prizes. The first-place winners received an Ice Bros Ice Resurfacer, Howies large hoodie, a Howies XL T-shirt, two ODHC pucks, a Jets' hat and T-shirt.

The other three finalists also received prizes.

Local businesses were very supportive, said Dalglish.

"This year (the Jets) are doing a lot more in recognizing our sponsorships," he said. "We're creating a lot more opportunities through our social media feeds and that type of thing. We're trying to thank them a lot more. We have a few big sponsors through our president. He's been able to acquire a number of big sponsors and we have had a number of other companies that have come on board."

"Ultimately, this year we were trending in a very good direction and, unfortunately, with everything that happened, we missed out on some opportunities to gain more."



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED
Stony Mountain's Pat Comte and his sons, Alex, left, and Davis were the first-prize winners of the Interlake Salvage and Recycling Stonewall Jets' Off Ice/Outdoor Rink Challenge.

Arborg's Loewen co-authors children's book

By Brian Bowman

Jermaine Loewen achieved his dream of playing professional hockey in 2020.

But he also did something else very impressive last year.

He co-authored a children's book.

"I'm very happy to have a book out there and it's an honour to be part of such a good cause," said Loewen from Kamloops, B.C. on Monday afternoon. "Having a story with such a deep meaning behind it. I'm just so grateful that I could share some of my experiences and put myself out there as being the bear in the story and the lion is the other character."

NHLPA agent Ray Petkau, the CEO of Alpha Hockey Inc., approached author/illustrator Thom van Dycke last spring with an idea for a series of hockey-themed children's books.

Ari The Lion Books is the result of the partnership.

Loewen, a former Interlake Lightning and Kamloops Blazers' captain whose agent is Petkau, became involved in the project this past summer.

The result was the book titled Ari's Awful Day/Mainer's Move, which consists of two stories that start on opposite sides of the book and meet in the middle.

"Thomas did a great job putting the book together and Ray, my agent, also helped make things happen with the book," Loewen said. "Without those two, it wouldn't have come together but I had a lot of great ideas and they had some good ideas and we were able to formulate a great book."

Mainer, one of the book's main characters, is based on Loewen. He's a black bear who has moved into a new area and joins a hockey team that includes Ari.

At first, Ari did not accept Mainer.

The book, written for students in kindergarten through Grade 2, has some incredible lessons.



EXPRESS PHOTO ARITHELION.COM

Jermaine Loewen, right, and Thom Van Dycke co-authored the children's book Ari's Awful Day/Mainer's Move.

"Without some of my experiences and the things that I went through, I was able to have a great say with the book," Loewen said. "It's not experiences from a victim's side. It's about how things are...and we wanted to shed light to it. There's been a lot of attention and a lot of separation with people in the last year. I think the book with Ari's Awful Day helps people understand that it doesn't matter if you disagree with everything someone says but just to live a life of inclusiveness and try to live like that all of the time. You won't always agree with people but have an open mind and welcome people in."

The book series website - arithelion.com - includes resources for parents and teachers, along with activities for kids, who can sign up for Ari's Kindness Club.

Club subscribers receive a membership card, a gift in the mail, and emails that will include kindness challenges and colouring pages. There is no cost to join.

Loewen is hopeful that a lot of people get an opportunity to read the book.

"It's starting to pick up a lot of steam," said Loewen, noting the book came out in late December. "We have this message and it's going to help young kids as they think about those topics. You just can't sit down and talk to a kid in Grade 1 and talk about racism. It's very mind-blowing stuff to process. Having them in the schools at a young age learning about that, as they get older they can remember the story and go on that (website) that we built."

As for hockey, Loewen is preparing for his second pro season. He will soon be attending the AHL's Henderson Silver Knights' training camp.

Last season, Loewen split time with the Chicago Wolves in the AHL and the Fort Wayne Komets in the ECHL.

He scored his lone AHL goal against the Manitoba Moose in Winnipeg in front of family, friends, and supporters.

Loewen, who was picked by the Dallas Stars in the seventh round of the 2018 NHL Draft, will see his pro contract expire following this season.

"It's a huge year for me but I'm putting in the time," Loewen said. "I want to try to get another deal after this year. I just want to continue to develop as a player. Last year was a learning year for me in my hockey and development. I know that I can progress and I can do it."

Teulon child looks to the stars

By Evan Matthews

When 10-year-old Kara Powroznik saw the rings around Saturn with her own eyes, the thoughts of new planets, galaxies, stars and extraterrestrial life began to swirl around in her head.

During the summer of 2020, Stan Runge, an amateur astronomer and member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's (RASC) Winnipeg Centre, decided to host a viewing party for Teulon children to view Comet Neowise. Powroznik was one of the attendees.

"It was such an exciting night. I saw all their different types of telescopes, and when I looked through them, it was really cool to see the planets for myself," said Powroznik, making note of Saturn's rings.

"I saw all kinds of interesting things ... and constellations that night."

She added an apology to Runge, while giggling, for making him stay

up so late that night.

But Runge will be able to sleep well in the future, since on Dec. 19, he dropped off a brand new Tasco Luminova Telescope to Powroznik for her to keep. Powroznik won the telescope after entering an RASC Winnipeg Centre "What I Would Do with a Telescope" contest.

Entrants wrote a one-page essay, with judges selecting two families based on the child's answer and interest in astronomy, according to Runge. Part of the RASC's mandate, according to Runge, is to recruit young people who have interest in astronomy.

"It's tough to get young people involved sometimes, and it's currently more of a hobby for people with white hair," said Runge.

He noted that if a child has an interest in astronomy, there should be a defined path for the child to explore that interest. Runge himself has been

exploring the topic for over 50 years.

"We also want to promote more female involvement in the club. This contest seemed like a good place to start," he said, crediting fellow member Gord Tulloch for the idea for the contest.

RASC is Canada's leading astronomy organization, bringing together over 5,000 amateurs, educators, and professionals in 29 centres across the country, according to its website.

When RASC named Powroznik a winner, she received the telescope, as well as a free year-long membership to the RASC Winnipeg Centre.

"I'm just really excited. ... I've even turned my whole bedroom into the galaxy," said Powroznik.

"I want to search for aliens, watch the stars, look for unexpected planets or maybe find a whole new system. On Christmas Eve, I even spent time looking for Santa."



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY STAN RUNGE
Kara Powroznik opens up her Tasco Luminova telescope.

Anyone with an interest in astronomy or in the RASC Winnipeg Centre, is encouraged to reach out to Runge at stanrunge@hotmail.com or to visit the RASC Winnipeg Centre Facebook page.

Happy New Year from the RM of Rosser

By Jennifer McFee

The RM of Rosser continued to flourish and grow in 2020, despite challenges presented by the pandemic.

Reeve Frances Smee paused to ponder the past year and look ahead to 2021.

"Although we have been fortunate in Rosser to have avoided some of the more severe impacts of COVID, we are still mindful that several residents have been personally affected by the virus and some of our businesses, including our hospitality-based businesses, have been negatively impacted financially," she said.

"Staff and council have taken all precautions to try and minimize the risk of contracting COVID. This has meant limiting access to the municipal office, rotating staff members to allow for working from home, following the social distancing and disinfection protocols, and utilizing remote meetings where possible. Even in this uncertain time, our team was able to accomplish many of our budgeted projects in 2020."

The value of new construction in the Rosser CentrePort lands continues to break records, Smee noted.

"We are looking forward to the completion of many, many exciting projects that are underway. We worked with Viterra to start constructing their new elevator, and Paterson is in the early stages of their new oat processing facilities," she said.

"Our council has been able to continue to work on our zoning bylaw review and we are very close to doing

our next public consultation virtually. Drainage continues to be a priority for us, and we again made headway this year with some major drainage projects. In addition, I am proud to say that fiscally, our municipal government has been very stable through the pandemic."

However, the pandemic has also led to many unanticipated challenges in the RM of Rosser.

"The pandemic itself has created an enormous additional workload for our office at a time when business is booming, and everyone is working flat out," Smee said.

"I have immense gratitude for all our staff members: our office staff, our public works staff and our volunteer fire department, who continue to meet and exceed our expectations."

In the summer, the RM of Rosser was involved in a Municipal Board hearing related to an aggregate application, and the Municipal Board overturned council's decision.

"We have since been working with the community and the quarry to find the best way forward. In addition, we had a few staff vacancies to fill this year and, for the first time, we used virtual interviewing," Smee said.

"Another challenge was performing many government functions remotely and virtually, while operating on a very unstable rural internet. It was a hindrance for effective meetings, but we persevered. Our most important challenge was to try and keep our residents informed in a timely manner on provincial government information as

the pandemic progressed. I believed we met that challenge as well."

As always, the Rosser community has rallied around those who have been affected by the pandemic, Smee added.

"Neighbours checked in with neighbours. Community centres and churches have reached out over the internet and by Zoom," she said.

"The people of Rosser have a strong sense of community that gets us through tough times."

Earlier in the year, the RM hosted an event called Raise the Roof Rosser that invited everyone to step outside and make as much noise as possible to show gratitude for frontline workers.

"We received many photos and videos from across the municipality of people showing their love and support," Smee said.

"Our fire department also travelled throughout the RM in specially decorated vehicles with sirens sounding. It was the one time we were all happy to hear sirens going."

Looking ahead to 2021, the RM of Rosser plans to engage a company to help create its first strategic plan. In addition, the RM will need to create and enact bylaws due to changing government regulations, such as one related to drainage.

"We are looking forward to the new regional land-use and servicing plan known as Plan 2050 and the economic, social and environmental benefits we will see from working cohesively as a region," Smee said.

"We are, however, very much concerned with Bill 37 and the removal of final planning decision from local councils. We are hoping to be able to work with the provincial government to find changes that will promote development and investment in our communities without removing autonomy and decision-making from elected officials."

In addition, Smee expressed excitement for hiring a public works manager in the new year to help manage the municipality's many projects and acquired assets.

"Drainage continues to be a top priority with our goal being to create a master drainage maintenance plan. We have some exciting ideas for the old quarry across from Little Mountain Park, and we continue to work with developers to create economic benefit for both Rosser and the province," Smee said.

"Planning is essential, even with some uncertainty surrounding COVID in early 2021. We will continue to do our best to plan appropriately."

On behalf of Rosser council and staff, Smee wishes everyone a safe and happy new year — with brighter, happier times to come in 2021.

"I want to thank everyone for doing their part during this pandemic. I know it has been harder for some and I know the restrictions have taken their toll," she said.

"I am hoping that we are able to dig deep and find the resolve to continue abiding by the health restrictions so that we can beat this virus and truly get back to living our lives."

Outdoor family rinks popping up in the area

By Brian Bowman

With COVID-19 shutting down organized sports, many locals have decided to get their skating fix by building outdoor rinks on their properties.

And some of the rinks are very, very impressive.

Albert Boonstra has built a rink on his property for about 13 years. He built a skate shack for the kids to put their stuff in when they're out on the ice. Boonstra also put netting around the nets to stop errant pucks.

"We've been making this rink since we moved to Stonewall for the kids," Boonstra said Sunday afternoon. "When we moved into town, we needed a yard big enough to put a rink in."

Boonstra and his girlfriend Dawn Hudon have seven kids and they get a lot of use out of the outdoor rink.

"They use it, like, every day," Boonstra said. "They drop off their backpacks from school and go out there and play a little shinny. That's the nice thing about having seven kids, they all go out there and rip around. It doesn't matter what the temperature is, even minus 30, having the rink close to the house makes it more presentable for them. "All you have to do is clean it off and put the lights on and it's pretty enticing. They'll go out there for five hours so it's worth the effort when they use it."

Boonstra has seen his kids improve

their hockey skills quite significantly over the years.

This year, an outdoor rink is almost a must have with everything being shut down. The kids have an outlet to go out and have fun while exercising.

"They're all into it and this year, it's been a big bonus, but the pressure was on to get it built early," Boonstra laughed. "You used to see a sprinkling (of family rinks) but this year a lot of people have been asking me how to build it. A lot of people now have rinks, which is nice, but it doesn't have to be that big. You just need an area where you can shoot the puck and put your skates on."

Brett Chatfield, meanwhile, has built a rink for the second consecutive year. His rink is also impressive, dressed with the Winnipeg Jets' logo at centre ice.

He said it took him about 15 hours to put it together but it's well worth the time, he said.

"I have two girls and they're out on the ice about 20 to 30 minutes a day," said Chatfield via text message. "I'm out there with them most times and sometimes by myself. Having your own rink is a must have when kids are learning to skate and play as it's easier to go out from your own house instead of packing them up and heading to a rink."



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Brett Chatfield, with the Winnipeg Jets' insignia at centre ice, and Albert Boonstra are two locals who have built impressive rinks in Stonewall. With organized sports shut down, many people have opted to build outdoor rinks on their properties.

> TAX CHANGES, FROM PG. 8

ers.

- making permanent the Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit that was to expire at the end of this year. It supports businesses that acquire qualified manufacturing and processing plant, machinery and equipment for use in Manitoba.

- extending the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for three years to Dec. 31, 2023, supporting Manitobans who invest in flow-through shares in qualifying mineral exploration companies engaged in Manitoba with a 30 per cent income tax credit.

- extending the Cultural Industries Printing Tax Credit one year, promoting the growth of Manitoba's print industry with a 35 per cent credit based on salaries and wages paid to Manitoba employees.

- extending the Community Enterprise Development Tax Credit one year, supporting investments in communities and community-based enterprises. Manitoba-resident investors are eligible for a 45 per cent refundable income tax credit on investments in eligible shares.

- reducing the interest rate on pro-

vincially administered tax debts, such as sales tax, health and post secondary education tax levy, fuel tax and tobacco tax, to prime plus four per cent from the current prime plus five per cent.

Eligible seniors who have not received their \$200 Seniors Economic Recovery Credit in 2020 are reminded that they are able to claim it when filing their 2020 personal income tax return in 2021.

"Our government values Manitoba seniors and know that they have made extraordinary sacrifices to build our province," said Fielding. "The Seniors Economic Recovery Credit is an important measure to protect our seniors and we encourage all those who are eligible to take advantage of this credit."

The minister also noted that as of Nov. 6, 2020, Manitoba became the first province in Western Canada to eliminate probate fees. Applications made to the Court of Queen's Bench for the probate of an estate of a deceased person no longer require the payment of probate fees.

Running with Christmas spirit



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Dean Schoeman hit the streets of Stonewall for a run on Dec. 24 while dressing up like Santa Claus. He said he received a lot of smiles and honks of joy from drivers.

Space Club students earn recognition

By Jennifer McFee

Space Club students ended 2020 with a celebration that is out of this world.

Manitoba's first cube satellite will go to space in November 2021, and local students had the chance to enter a contest to name the satellite and design a mission patch for it. Several winners were selected from submissions from across Manitoba.

The first-place mission patch winner is Grade 7 student Jayden Clyne from John Pritchard School in River East Transcona School Division.

The second-place mission patch winner is Grade 8 student Leah Porteous from Ecole Stonewall Centennial School in the Interlake School Division, and the third-place winner is Grade 7 student Hailey Foster from John Pritchard School. The first-place satellite name winner is Grade 8 student Aythen Gross from Ecole Stonewall Centennial School. The winning name for the satellite is "Iris."

University of Manitoba engineer

Phillip Ferguson and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Dave Williams spoke with the winners in a Zoom call on Dec. 9.

"It was a very nice event for the kids," said science teacher Maria Nickel, who also coaches and mentors the student satellite team.

"It's great to have an event to showcase that the kids are still working hard and still trying to dream big."

Williams announced the winners' names and Nickel presented the local students with their prizes, which included books and more.

"The next stage is that the space club student engineers are going to be testing their instruments with the rest of the satellite parts," Nickel said.

"Then we have to actually ship everything off at the end of March to Kennedy Space Center so they can start doing their prep for the actual launch. We're proud and excited that the kids get to participate in something that Canada is going to send to space."



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ecole Stonewall Centennial School Grade 8 student Aythen Gross, left, won first-place in naming the satellite, while Leah Porteous, also from Stonewall Centennial, placed second with her mission patch design.

Interlake well-represented at Good Roads Association

By Evan Matthews

For the second straight year, the Manitoba Good Roads Association (MGRA) named winners remotely due to COVID-19.

The organization stated provincial winners will be announced at a later date but did acknowledge two standout properties in the RM of Woodlands.

The MGRA gifts winners a plaque inscribed with the details of their victory.

The MGRA also acknowledged the RM of Coldwell as the winner of Class 2 – Most Improved Municipal Roads, as the RM took home the Brandt Tractor Shield for District 1.

The RM of Coldwell declined to comment by press time.

Claudia and Henry Hueging won the award for Class 8 – Best Farm Home Grounds, representing District 1, which receives the Lewis Instruments Shield.

Having built their house on the property in 1987, Claudia said it means a lot to be acknowledged for 30-plus years of work. Work that brings she and Henry great joy.

"It's not what you're looking for or why you do it, but it sure is nice when you think about the work you've done," said Claudia, noting two weddings happened on the property in 2020, which she and Henry used as motivation to keep things well-tended to.

The Hueging property is located five miles west and another half-mile north of the Woodlands community.

"We started small, and we were quite busy with kids and the farm, all of that. As the boys got bigger and I had more time, I'd add a little bit here and there," she said.

The property features an array of trees, which



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY BUORS FAMILY

A shot of the stone work around the Buors' Memorial Garden, which pays homage to the loved ones the family has lost over the years.

Claudia said started as wind breaks, and the family has since added rock work, shrubs, a pond and shelterbelts.

"It's all in good, joyful fun," said Claudia. "When you have a farm and want a nice yard, it can be a challenge to keep everything tidy. It's been about finding a balance."

Lori-Ann and Garth Buors won the award for Class 9 – Best Country Non-Farm Home Grounds, representing District 1, which receives the Brian and Janet Nedohin Shield.

Garth is a carpenter, and said everything on their property has been planned by the couple and constructed by hand. That investment, and acknowledgment, gives the Buors a sense of accomplishment, he said.

"We were very honoured to be nominated and to receive this award," said Lori-Ann, noting that between the two of them, they don't know who nominated their property. The couple added thanks to whoever it was.

"We're still very surprised. We do it for our own enjoyment. We hope others enjoy it, too, but we do it mainly for ourselves, and we certainly never expected acknowledgment," said Garth.

The property — which is located roughly 4.5 miles north of the Woodlands community — has been in the Buors family for multiple generations, a caveat which Garth said is very important to the family.

The property features, among many other things, a walk-through garden, a pond and a memorial garden in which the couple pays homage to loved ones lost through the years.

With Lori-Ann having experience as a taxidermist, Garth said the property features many animal mounts, which add to the ambience.

"It's not for everybody, but we enjoy it," said Garth.

"Lots of people come for wedding or for grad pictures. We don't advertise it. Often, it's just neighbours. Their kids grew up with ours or whatever the case is," he said, adding friends have stayed on the property in their campers, too.

The property even features an outhouse with taps and running water (in the summer months).

Funny enough, Lori-Ann calls her garden a "friendship garden," and she and fellow Good Roads' winner Claudia Hueging have exchanged many plants over the years.

The Manitoba Good Roads Association was formed in 1909 to promote the development of roads in Manitoba, according to the organization.

True to the founders' aim of promoting better roads in Manitoba, the organization said it presents awards to recognize achievement in road construction and maintenance, as well as awards for community and individual home grounds beautification.

Seven Sisters adorn the night skies in January

By Ted Bronson

Enjoying the warm summer nights of last July and August the last thing on my mind was the cold of winter.

I would be out stargazing late at night due to the long daylight hours experienced during the summer season. By the time August rolled around, I would be out with my telescope when about midnight I would notice a small but distinct cluster of stars rising above the northeastern horizon. The appearance of this little star cluster was an omen that summer is waning and the chill of autumn and the cold of winter was on its way.

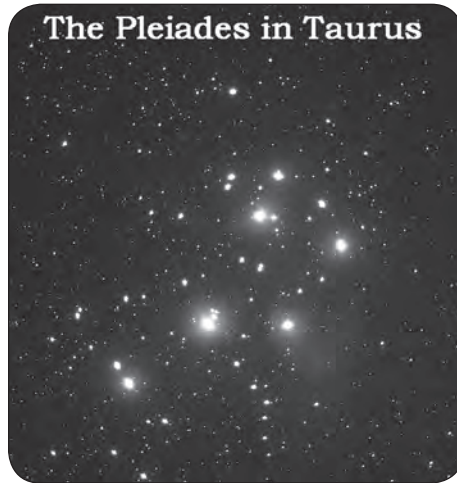
Even the chill of late nights in August can have you seeking a sweater or light jacket when you are busily observing the heavens with the telescope or even binoculars. I sometimes find myself lamenting the appearance of this star group in August. I generally get a lot of frowns when I casually mention these facts to my fellow observers. Of course, the star cluster I am referring to here is the famous Pleiades cluster or more well known as the Seven Sisters.

I may complain a bit about seeing the Pleiades in August but it is one of my favourite objects in the night sky. By the time winter comes around, it can be seen high in the night sky. Us-

ing a basic star map will help in finding your way around the night sky. A good site is www.skymaps.com.

The Pleiades star cluster is one of the most magnificent star clusters in the night sky. It is easily identified as it appears as a tiny dipper shape of seven stars. It can be seen in January well above the eastern horizon once the stars appear after darkness falls. Do not confuse the Pleiades star cluster with the Little Dipper containing the North Star. Usually five stars of this cluster are seen with the unaided eye in town but up to nine stars can be seen under a dark rural sky by those with good vision. Binoculars, with their wide field of view, offer the best way to observe this cluster. Binoculars of the size 10x50mm reveal the best images of the cluster but the Pleiades are spectacular through any binocular field. With binoculars the number of stars visible increase to over a hundred.

I find what makes the Pleiades fascinating is not just the crowded richness of 3rd and 4th magnitude stars but the icy blue colours of the stars due to their young age. Under exceptionally dark and clear skies you may even be able to make out the nebulosity around the brightest of these stars. This young cluster in astronomi-



The Pleiades in Taurus

PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Pleiades star cluster is one of the most magnificent star clusters and is easily identified as it appears as a tiny dipper shape of seven stars. It can be seen in January well above the eastern horizon.

cal time is a mere 70 million years of age. The Pleiades is an open (galactic) group of stars fairly close to us lying at a distance of 440 light years away in the constellation of Taurus.

Look for a slim waning crescent moon to the upper right of Venus before sunrise on Jan. 10. The first quarter moon can be seen below and to the right of Mars after sunset on Jan. 20. The next night the moon will move to

a point below and to the left of Mars. The planet Uranus will be visible in binoculars just below Mars over this period of a few days once the sky is dark. Uranus will appear as a greenish blue star-like object.

The Earth revolves around the sun in an elliptical orbit so we are farthest from the sun at one point and closest six months later at the opposite point. On Jan. 2, 2021, the Earth was at its closest to the sun (perihelion) at a distance of 147,093,162 km (91,399,453 miles). Since the northern hemisphere is tilted away from the sun, this time of year we receive fewer hours of sunlight each day (winter season). The southern hemisphere is tilted toward the sun, giving them the summer season now. It is the Earth's tilt towards and away from the sun that affects our seasons rather than the relatively small variation (3.3 percent) in the Earth to sun distances over the year. The Earth will be at its farthest point from the sun (aphelion) on July 5, 2021, six months from now.

"Learn from yesterday, Live for today, Hope for tomorrow" — Happy New Year 2021

Clear Skies

Ted Bronson is an avid local astronomer who has been observing the skies since 1964.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

MJHL planning update for a 2021 restart

Staff

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League continues to prepare for a restart and has developed a Restart Action Plan that will be initiated once it is deemed safe to do so and provincial restrictions allow for it.

In addition to the established and extensive MJHL Return to Play Guidelines already in place, a number of key elements have been identified in the MJHL Restart Action Plan to allow for a safe and responsible return to hockey.

"Our goal remains the same as in September, to provide a meaningful development season for the players through knowingly very challenging circumstances while continuing to exhaust all options in order to do so in a safe, structured and sensible manner," said MJHL commissioner Kevin

Saurette.

"The MJHL and all member teams will continue to meet each challenge head on in what has already been a monumental effort by all involved. The health and safety of our players, staff, stakeholders and communities remains our No. 1 priority as we carefully navigate a responsible and beneficial pathway to restart training and on-ice competition."

The MJHL remains optimistic that teams will have the opportunity to provide on-ice training activity for their players during the latter half of January with return to game play targeted for early to mid February.

Key Elements of a Restart Action Plan:

Players/staff to complete a 14-day self-isolation period before participating in team activities.

Players/staff to follow detailed travel procedures before reporting to the community/organization.

Teams to provide a 10- to 14-day modified training period for players/staff once the 14-day self-isolation phase has been completed in advance of resuming games.

All new players added to the roster would be required to complete a 14-day self-isolation period before participating in any team activities.

Each team will play a minimum of two games a week against the same team and will play the same team a minimum four times in a row over consecutive weekends.

Each team will only play teams from the same public health region, same division and/or of closest proximity based on regional restrictions at that time.

Each team will schedule games to be played during the weekend (Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday).

Regular season will be extended until the end of April to allow for further schedule and game play flexibility.

Playoff format will be reviewed over the coming weeks.

The MJHL successfully returned to conducting on-ice activity in July and has completed over 60 games since game play began in late September.

The MJHL will continue to consult with Public Health and Hockey Manitoba over the coming weeks to determine when it is appropriate to initiate the MJHL Restart Action Plan for a return to hockey.

The MJHL Board of Governors will meet this month to consider potential start dates and further restart activation planning.

Comets add another deLaroque to their football roster

By Brian Bowman

Brady deLaroque will be able to enjoy a rare experience this fall.

He will be playing college football with his older brother Austin.

The younger deLaroque recently committed to attend school and play football for the Mayville State University Comets, located in eastern North Dakota between Grand Forks and Fargo.

Mayville will be a good fit for Brady.

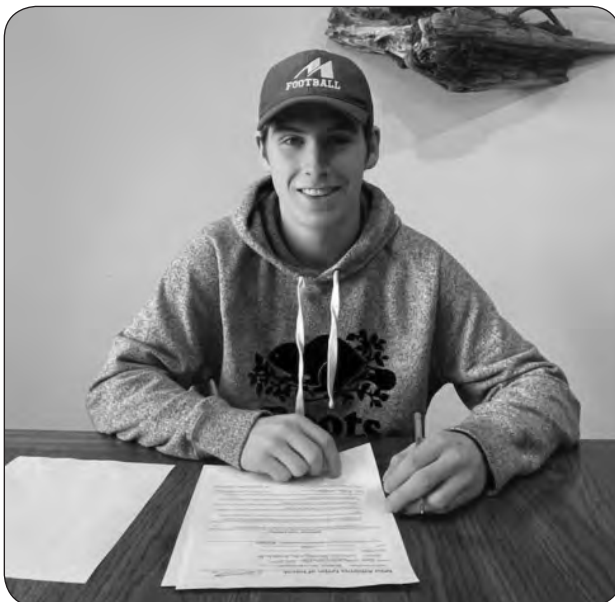
"I saw the experience my brother had and he's had a really good time there," said deLaroque last week. "It was something that interested me. The football there, they have really good coaches. The coach has really good energy which is nice to see. I really want to continue my football career there."

Going away for school, especially in a different country, can be challenging. But having an older brother there will definitely be helpful.

"He'll be able to show me around and break me in (which) will make it a lot easier for me," deLaroque said, noting he will be going into Education at the four-year school. "I won't have that homesick feeling, which is really nice."

DeLaroque used to play on the defensive side of the ball before making the switch to wide receiver with the Interlake Thunder. That will be the position that deLaroque will play in Mayville.

"The offensive side is a lot more exciting," deLaroque said. "There's blocking and you can run with the ball. There's a bit of everything and it keeps



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Brady deLaroque has committed to attend school and play football for the Mayville Comets in North Dakota.

things exciting. It's good to have a good team that keeps it exciting. The whole group that I played with offensively (with the Thunder) were a lot of fun."

The Comets' roster is loaded with American players from all over the United States and as far south as Florida. It's rare that Mayville recruits players from Canada.

"I'm quite excited about that," deLaroque said. "I'll make good connections from everybody and make new friends. It'll be really cool to meet guys from opposite sides of the (U.S.) and they can experience the cold with me."

Playing with Mayville will definitely be a step up from playing with the Thunder in the Rural Manitoba Football League.

The players will be a lot faster, stronger and older down in North Dakota.

"It will be a little nerve wracking going up against guys because I'm not the biggest," admitted deLaroque, who is 5-foot-10 and 160 pounds. "But it just takes work. You can be the biggest and you can be strong but the kid that works the most will get ahead. I'm just going to have to work hard and learn how to beat those guys and get used to the higher level of football."

DeLaroque was really appreciative of the coaching and support that he had while playing for the Interlake.

"I am really happy to have played for the Thunder for the past years because without them, I wouldn't be where I (am)," he said. "The coaches that I have had have been amazing in training me. My teammates, for sure, were a big help. It's not a player that makes the team. They were probably the biggest help to me. The O-line and the guys blocking for me, (helped a lot) or I wouldn't be where I am right now."

COVID-19 cancels Manitoba curling championships

Staff

Selkirk won't be the host of the Manitoba women's and men's curling provincials next month after all.

Curl Manitoba announced on Dec. 21 that those two events, scheduled to take place from Feb. 2 to 7 at the Selkirk Recreation Complex, along with the mixed doubles curling provincial championship, have been cancelled.

The mixed doubles provincials were slated to be held at the St. Vital Curling Club in mid-February.

Last season's winners will represent the province at the 2021 nationals which are set to take place in a bubble in Calgary in February and March.

Manitoba's mixed-doubles champions — Krysten Karwacki and Derek Samagalski — have accepted an invitation to participate in Calgary.

Jason Gunnlaugson, the 2020 Viterra champion, and his team from Morris will compete at the Brier for the second consecutive year.

St. Vital's Jennifer Jones will make her 16th appearance at the nationals as she was the runner-up to Camp Morton's Kerri Einarson in last year's provincial final.

Einarson won the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in February and will be Team Canada at this year's event.

But she has not played much since

that huge victory in February.

Back in March, Team Einarson had just arrived in Prince George, B.C., for the World Championships when the decision was made to cancel the event because of COVID-19 the day before the competition was scheduled to start.

More recently in mid-November, Team Einarson defeated Kelsey Rocque in the opening draw of the Okotoks Ladies Classic but that bonspiel was soon cancelled when the Province of Alberta announced tighter restrictions for battling the coronavirus.

Cockerill ties for 18th at South African Open

Staff

Stony Mountain's Aaron Cockerill finished in a tie for 18th overall at the European Tour's South African Open last month.

Cockerill fired rounds of 71, 68, 72, and 74 to finish at 3-under 285. That tied him with South Africa's Jbe Kruger.

Christiaan Bezuidenhout of South Africa won his second straight tournament on the European Tour when he finished with a final round 69 for an 18-under par 270 and a convincing five-shot victory over Jamie Donaldson.

Western Hockey League announces draft date change

Staff

The Western Hockey League announced on Dec. 22 that the 2021 WHL Draft, previously referred to as the WHL Bantam Draft, has been re-scheduled and will be conducted in December 2021.

The WHL Draft was originally scheduled to take place in May 2021.

"Moving the 2021 WHL Draft from May to December allows additional time for players in the 2006 age group to be evaluated following a challeng-

ing season due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said WHL commissioner Ron Robison in a statement. "We anticipate minor hockey leagues and tournaments will be fully operational in the fall, which will allow players to compete at a high level once again."

The WHL also announced that the 2021 WHL Cup is tentatively scheduled to be held in October 2021, featuring WHL Draft-eligible players. The event provides another opportunity for eligible players to showcase

their talents to WHL scouts in advance of the 2021 WHL Draft.

The 2021 WHL Cup will feature Under-16 teams from each of Canada's four Western branches — BC Hockey, Hockey Alberta, the Saskatchewan Hockey Association and Hockey Manitoba — competing for U-16 supremacy in Western Canada.

The 2020 WHL Cup, which was scheduled to be held in October, was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS

RED RIVER CO-OP FOOD STORE



Veggie Sammies with Peanut Butter Satay Sauce

1/2 cup white onion, sliced into thin strips

1/2 cup red bell pepper, sliced into thin strips

1/2 cup purple cabbage

1/2 cup fresh cilantro

In small bowl, combine peanut butter, lime juice, water, hoisin sauce, soy sauce and sriracha; mix well.

Spread sauce on both sides of each roll then layer with cucumber, onion and bell pepper. Top with cabbage and cilantro.

Prep time: 30 minutes
 Servings: 2
 4 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
 3 tablespoons lime juice
 2 tablespoons water
 4 teaspoons hoisin sauce
 2 teaspoons soy sauce
 2 teaspoons sriracha
 2 French baguette rolls (6 inches each)
 1/2 cup cucumber, sliced



Very Vegan Peanut Butter Jackfruit Chili

1 can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
 1 can green jackfruit, drained and chopped

1/4 cup peanut butter
 cornbread (optional)
 tortilla chips (optional)
 cinnamon rolls (optional)

Heat large, heavy-bottomed pot over medium heat. Add oil, onion and peppers; cook 3 minutes, stirring often. Add garlic, salt, cumin, chili powder and tomato paste, stirring to coat. Cook 1-2 minutes, stirring constantly, then stir in crushed tomatoes, whole tomatoes, water, kidney beans and jackfruit; bring to boil then reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer 25-30 minutes. Stir in peanut butter and simmer 5 minutes.

Serve with cornbread, tortilla chips or cinnamon rolls, if desired.

Recipe courtesy of the National Peanut Board

Prep time: 5 minutes
 Cook time: 35 minutes
 Servings: 8
 2 teaspoons oil
 1/2 large white onion, chopped
 1/2 green bell pepper, chopped
 1/2 red bell pepper, chopped
 2 garlic cloves, chopped
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon cumin
 1 teaspoon chili powder
 1 tablespoon tomato paste
 1 can crushed tomatoes
 1 can whole tomatoes
 2 cups water

Peanut Granola Bars

Prep time: 10 minutes
 Cook time: 6 minutes, plus 30-45 minutes cooling time
 Servings: 12-14
 1/2 cup honey
 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
 2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
 1/2 cup light brown sugar, firmly packed
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 2 cups rolled oats (quick or regular)
 1 cup bran flakes



1 cup sweetened coconut flakes
 1 cup dried fruit (raisins, blueberries or cranberries)

1 cup roasted peanuts, chopped

In large, shallow, microwavable dish, combine honey, butter, peanut butter, brown sugar, vanilla and salt. Microwave at 50% power 2 minutes then whisk to combine and microwave at 50% power 2 minutes.

Add oats, bran flakes, coconut flakes, dried fruit and peanuts; stir to combine. Microwave on high 1 minute. Stir and microwave 30 seconds.

Press mixture into 13-by-9-inch baking dish lined with parchment or wax paper with some extra hanging over edges to easily lift bars out. Use bottom of glass wrapped with plastic wrap to press granola mixture firmly into pan. Allow to cool completely 30-45 minutes. Cut into 12-14 bars.

See past the distractions and dream big

By Shawna Howard

Has the COVID-19 pandemic left you less than enthusiastic about your future? Are you feeling so uncertain that you don't know what to do next? Keep in mind this is merely a season and if you will see past the outward circumstances you can use this time to grow, build character, strength, endurance, to take steps towards Gods will for your life. You have an amazing destiny to fulfil, one with a purpose uniquely tailored to you. You have gifts and talents placed inside of you that will work together beautifully with your life experiences. Once you understand that those specific talents, gifts, strengths and passions are inside of you for a reason; you won't be satisfied with an idle life. You will yearn to fulfil your dreams and calling; seeking out what's been placed on your heart.

If we truly knew the awesome way in which we were created to fulfil a one of a kind purpose; we would run our race focused, driven and determined to block out the ever present distractions that get us side tracked and off course.

Distractions are hard to avoid, especially in today's world. We've all got things to do and obligations to fulfil, but I'm talking about the "unnecessary distractions". They give us a reason to idle, to procrastinate, to merely exist as we waste precious time. It's easy to just coast. The thing is; easy doesn't fulfil, ignite passion or have lasting rewards. Easy leaves us with regrets.

It's time to step out and take a chance on that dream that's been bubbling inside of you! You can try to push it down and ignore it, but it's like a beach ball under the water; you can sit on it, hold it down, pretend it's not under the surface but sooner or later it pops right back up! It will keep surfacing, just waiting for you to take that step of faith!

Your dream may feel out of reach or seem to be taking longer than you'd like, but if you recognize and reduce the distractions, stay faithful and do your part it will happen exactly when it is supposed to happen.

Sometimes we procrastinate. We put off making a move by finding excuses why it will never work out or look for other "distractions" to avoid taking that first step. This is most always because of doubt and fear. Fear of the unknown, fear it won't work out, fear of judgement, fear we haven't heard God right, fear we will lose our friends, fear of failure or rejection and possibly even a fear of success. Can I tell you; fear is merely a feeling. It only has the power you choose to give it. If we make decisions based on our feelings, they will run our life.

Other times we rush ahead trying to force our dream to happen. When we get ahead of ourselves; it rarely works out and we lose our joy along the way.

Every-thing is beautiful in its right timing.

To avoid heartache we must take one guided step at a time; growing in knowledge, truth and wisdom, building character through life experiences. Every single struggle, heartache, disappointment is stretching you, growing you, build-ing your character if you'll let it. You are being moulded for something amazing!

Sometimes we make excuses. Can I encourage you; you are not too old, or too young, you haven't made too many mistakes and that person that said you can't is not the decider. You already have exactly what you need to take the first step. You are smart enough, brave enough and you aren't dreaming too big. Stop doubting!

There may be times when we don't know exactly what to do next, that's where faith fills the gaps. I love this: "Do your part, let God do the rest."

Don't get discouraged when a family member or close friend doesn't support you. You know what God has placed on your heart. Surround yourself with positive people who inspire and encourage you. Ignore the naysayers, they are simply a distraction. It takes no courage at all to be a cynic.

You are desperately needed in ways you cannot even fathom. So you see, if you don't pursue your dream we all miss out.

I hope this message has inspired you to dig deep and step out in faith. Only you can start the process of making your dreams a reality. Don't wait until the end of your life and ask yourself why you never tried.

Some Coaching Questions for You:

1. Do you know what your dream is? Start by writing down your core values, your strengths, life experiences that have built character and what you see for your future.

2. What is it that keeps you up at night and wakes you up early in the morning?

3. Is there something holding you back? Identification is the first step to overcoming.

4. Still unclear? Message me for a coaching tool to help clear the cobwebs. Remember it's a process, not to be rushed. It's like brushing long hair after swimming in a chlorinated pool; a slow and careful process that detangles one knot at a time. The result? Clearly defined, beauty.

If you want help and support in the discovery process, or just don't know where to start, please reach out to me. Together we can uncover your deepest desires and what's holding you back from stepping out into your purpose.

Be bold and courageous,
 Shawna Howard Certified Life Coach
 Email: daretosoarlifecoaching@gmail.com

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 allana333@hotmail.com

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The Rural Municipality of Woodlands invites applications for the position of **Public Works Foreman**.

The Public Works Foreman is responsible for the direction, coordination, efficient operation, construction, maintenance and repair of municipal infrastructure. The foreman supervises and coordinates the work of a variety of equipment operators, labourers, tradespeople, and contractors. A more detailed job description is available on the RM's website www.rmwoodlands.info

This full-time union position will report to the Operations Manager. Hours of Operation are 40 hours a week, November 1 to April 30 and 50 hours a week, May 1 to October 31. Salary and benefits are as per the collective agreement.

Interested applicants are invited to forward a cover letter, resume and references by 12:00 P.M. Wednesday, January 20, 2021 to: RM of Woodlands
PO Box 10, 57 Railway Avenue, Woodlands, MB. R0C 3H0
admin@rmwoodlands.ca
Fax: 204-383-5169

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Land For Sale By Tender

Sealed bids for the purchase of the following parcels of land, located in the RM of Woodlands, Manitoba and currently owned by Darwin and Deborah Fleury, will be received up to 4:00 pm on February 5, 2021 at the offices of: **Grantham Law Offices, Box 1400, 1-278 Main Street, Stonewall MB., R0C 2Z0 Attn: Karen @ (204) 467-5527**

Part of the NE ¼ of Section 25-14-1 WPM excluding all mines and minerals (127.7 acres, approximately 85 acres cultivated)

The land will be sold free and clear of all liens and charges.

The following will apply to all tenders:

The vendor reserves the right to reject any or all bids and the highest bid or tender may not necessarily be the successful bid.

All tenders are to be submitted in sealed envelopes accompanied by a certified cheque or bank draft payable to "Grantham Law Offices in Trust" for 10% of the tendered amount. Cheques will be returned in respect to tenders that are not accepted.

All bidders will be advised within two working days of February 5, 2021 if their bid was successful. Successful bidders will be asked to enter into a formal Offer to Purchase with a possession date of March 15, 2021. The purchase and sale will be subject to normal tax adjustment.

Tenders will be held in confidence and not be released to the public. If any purchaser has any questions concerning the bidding process, please contact Grantham Law Offices.

Any questions regarding details or history of the land can be directed to Darwin Fleury at 204-467-8014.

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Young farmer looking for farmland to rent in the RM's of Rosser, Rockwood or Woodlands area. Call or text Nolan at 204-461-1784.

Small farm looking to buy farmland in the RM's of Rosser, Woodlands or Rockwood. Flexible on purchase terms. Ph 204-771-2169.

FARM PRODUCE

Local unpasteurized honey for sale. Sold in various sizes, 1 kg & up. Ph 204-461-1267.

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FARM EQUIPMENT

Farm King 960 dual auger, PTO driven snowblower in like new condition. \$5000. Ph Dave 204-513-1364.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF: The Estate of James Ritchie Heaps, late of the Postal District of Warren, in Manitoba, deceased.

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, P.O. Box 1400, Stonewall, Manitoba, R0C 2Z0 on or before the 3rd day of February, 2021. DATED at Stonewall, Manitoba this 22nd day of December, 2020.
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BIRTHDAY



Happy 10th Birthday, Adelynn!
10 years ago you came into our lives, late of course, and changed our worlds for the better. We are so proud of the girl you have become and we love you more and more everyday.
-Love Mom, Dad, and Harlow

IN MEMORIAM



Pearl Olson
July 17, 1928 - January 6, 2020
In loving memory of our "one of a kind"
Mom, Grandma, and Great Grandma Pearl.
Always in our hearts....
-Chris Olson and family,
Lorelee, Howard and family

IN MEMORIAM



Catherine McCullagh
We can't believe it has been two years since you left us, it seems like just yesterday you were tearing up the slopes. We missed you on our recent trip to the mountains but we certainly felt you in our hearts.
-Lovingly remembered by your boys
Kurt, Brennan and Kieran

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If interested, please send a resume to sherryh@aclinterlake.ca

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROCKWOOD
REMINDER GRANT DEADLINE

PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline for all 2021 budget and grant requests are due February 1st, 2021 as per the Recreation Policy. Please visit www.rockwood.ca for the grant applications. For organizations needing assistance with the application, please contact Laine Wilson at laine.wilson@rockwood.ca or by phone at 204-461-3163.

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IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory
Kevin Mandzuik
January 7, 1969 - January 7, 2020

We little knew that morning,
That god was going to call your name;
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone;
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide;
And although we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same;
But God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

-Love: Mom, Dad, Terri, Devon

IN MEMORIAM



Edward John Kowalchuk
August 13, 1945 - January 8, 2013

We hold onto our memories,
Of you that are so dear;
To try to keep you always close,
Now that you are not here.
Please watch over us, with Dad and Tom too,
And hug all who have gone on before;
And know that when you were with us,
We could not have asked for more.
Breathe Easy.

-With love from your whole family
that misses you every day

*Your memory will live forever
Engraved within our hearts*

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of
Our dear wee Abby

We are sending an owl to heaven,
With a parcel on its wings;
Be careful when you open it,
It's full of beautiful things.
Inside are a million kisses,
Wrapped up in a million hugs;
To say how much we miss you,
And send you all of our love.
We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you will remain;
To walk with us throughout our lives,
Until we meet again.

-Love,
Gramma and Poppa,
Aunty Sandy,
Uncle Derek and Aunt Jamie,
cousins Kaycie and Maiti
Margetts

IN MEMORIAM



Jean Lefley
January 2011

A year of many changes.
But what remains constant through all of time;
Is your memory and the warmth of your smile.
-Love, your family

IN MEMORIAM



John Chobotar
March 17, 1935 - December 28, 2018

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.
-Carole, Al (Anne), Ken (Teresa), Kevin,
and grandkids Alexa, Dani (Jared),
Mikal and Erik

OBITUARY

Anne Trach
September 12, 1933 - December 20, 2020



OBITUARY

Shirley May Bond
(nee Goudy)

It is with great sadness we announce the sudden passing of Shirley Bond aged 70 years of Teulon, Manitoba, on Thursday, December 31, 2020.
No formal service will be held.
Longer obituary will follow.



OBITUARY

FRASER, LaVerne Elaine

The family announces with sorrow the passing of LaVerne Elaine Fraser on December 24, 2020, at the age of 91 years.

LaVerne will be lovingly remembered by her children, Keith (Denise) Fraser of Elizabethtown, ON, and Heather (Ron) Young of Whitecourt, AB; four grandchildren, Scott, Brad, Graeme (Norah) and Tara; eight great-grandchildren, Korre, Grayden, Keiran, Tristan, Lloyd, Eloise, Linkin and Hannah; brother, Bruce; and many more dear relatives and friends.

Predeceased by husband, Donald; grandson, Matthew; sisters, Fay, Gwenne and Donna May; sister-in-law, Arlene; and niece, Lesley.

Thank you to Dr. Naicker and each of the staff of Extencicare Mayerthorpe for the tremendous care, love and attention shown to LaVerne and the family.



A private inurnment will be held at the Windsor Cemetery in Manitoba.
In lieu of floral tributes, donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Alberta and NWT, 10531 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5H 4K1 or to the Mayerthorpe Extencicare Resident Council, Box 569, Mayerthorpe AB, T0E 1N0.

Photos, memories, and condolences may be shared through www.parkmemorial.com.



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OBITUARY

Ralph Andrew Campbell
May 4, 1935 - December 31, 2020

It is with heavy hearts, we announce that Ralph passed peacefully at Stonewall Hospital with family by his side.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 65 years, Eileen (nee Eskilson); daughter Sharon (Sandy); sons: Doug (Karen), Rod (Shelley), Murray (Christine); grandchildren: Alana, Kristyn (Nathan), Lindsey, Karley (Jack), Breanne, Reid (Kayla), Melissa (Dillan), Ashley (Brent), Andrew (Kirsten); great-grandchildren: Brexley, Margot, Riot and Max. He is survived by sister Eileen Wonnick and brother Merv Campbell; brother-in law Allan (Sophie) Eskilson; sister-in-law Irene Javor; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by brother-in-law Leonard Eskilson, sister-in-law Lyle Campbell and brother-in-law Gordon Wonnick.

Raised on the family farm east of Teulon, he attended Stacpoole school but quit after Grade 8 to farm at home when his dad bought him a tractor. Ralph and Eileen were married on October 1, 1955 and moved to their farm in 1963. They retired to Teulon in 2015. In the early days, he worked in Winnipeg as a meat cutter and then became a certified welder. Even though busy on the farm, Ralph still found time to serve for many years as a Councillor and Reeve for the R.M. of Rockwood. Being the proficient welder he was, many a night was spent thinking about the next creation - we would tease Dad about what he had been "working on" last night. A farmer at heart, he still loved going for a drive to check the crops.

Time was made every summer for the family to get away for a weekend of fishing. Later this love of fishing evolved into camping trips to Hecla and fishing off the dock. Campsite neighbours were often gifted with one of his original "fire poker" tools or given a box of dry wood when struggling to get a fire going. The Campbell Fishing Weekend on Father's Day was a highlight of his summer. Being a family man, he truly enjoyed when everyone was together and considered it the greatest gift of all.

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

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Ralph's memory to Parkinson Canada in Manitoba, 7-414 Westmount Drive, Winnipeg, MB. R2J 1P2

The family extends a heartfelt thank you to Dr. K. Graham and the staff of the Stonewall Hospital for being so caring and compassionate.

*Gods garden must be beautiful, he always takes the best
He knew you were suffering, he knew you were in pain
He knew that you would never get well on Earth again
He put His arms around you and lifted you to rest.*



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OBITUARY



Crystal Brady (nee Martens)

April 24, 1973 – December 28, 2020

Crystal Brady went to her heavenly home on December 28, 2020 at the Riverview Palliative Care Centre in Winnipeg at the age of 47 years.

She was always a very personable friendly girl who loved to associate with others with a caring and loving attitude and was kind and thoughtful to others.

She will be deeply missed by her mom and dad, Henry and Susan Martens, brother Christopher and sister Corinna (Allen) Kachkowski.

Crystal grew up and attended Rosser School, Grosse Isle School and Warren Collegiate.

You always had a smile to share

Time to give and a time to care,

A loving nature, kind and true;

Is the way we'll remember you.

We cannot bring the old days back,

When we were all together,

But memories keep you close to us,

And we will remember you

And see you again one day

In Heaven with Jesus.

We love you Crystal

And will see you soon.

Missed and loved by mom and dad Henry and Susan Martens, husband Lonnie Brady, daughter Cayla and Odin Weiskie and their son Heinz, daughter Catie and Ben, twins Seamus and Lucas and little brother Calumn.

OBITUARY



Herman Kars

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our Dad and Grandpa Herman Kars on December 27, 2020.

Left to mourn are children Ernie, and Barb (Gerald Guilbeault); grandkids Andrew, Mathew, Amanda and Daniel.

He was predeceased by our mom Ethel in 2013.

Dad was born December 15, 1936 in the Netherlands and moved to Canada when he was 12 years old. Mom and Dad married October 16, 1965. Dad worked for the City of Winnipeg for 22 years and on weekends he worked for Don Lawrence. He also started a greenhouse as a hobby which soon turned into a family business for 25 years. He also enjoyed helping Ernie and Joyce Watts farming and later Ernie combining. Dad enjoyed camping and they went to Dauphin Country Fest for 10 years. Dad curled in Balmoral for many years. Dad loved spending time with his grandkids, he

was always proud of their accomplishments. He spent a lot of his spare time building Purple Martin houses. After Mom's passing Dad moved to Cedar Lodge, where he made many friends playing cards and Bingo. Just recently Dad moved to Gateway Manor where he could enjoy their delicious meals everyday. Every Saturday morning, he would go to Ernie's for coffee and every Sunday to Barb and Gerald's for pancakes and watch a movie - his favorite being Dennis the Menace.

Special thanks to the staff at Gateway and Seniors Resource - you always made him feel welcome. Thanks to Dr. Graham and Kim for Dad's care. Thank you to the EMS that responded Sunday, your care and compassion was truly appreciated. Thank you to Ken Loehmer for his guidance. Also thank you to Shirley Williams for her kind words at the cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Due to COVID 19, No service will be held.



OBITUARY



McKenna Riley

On December 15, 2020 I not only lost my sister, but my best friend. Some of you may know already about McKenna's many nicknames. The ones that I called her the most were Jeena and Jee. These nicknames have been around for a long time and were used so much by her family and friends that even her co-workers and bosses at The Kiln Drive-In caught on.

From the minute McKenna was born, I claimed her as "mine" and didn't want to hand her back over to my parents. This bond continued over the next 20 years. We did everything together. People often commented on the relationship the two of us had. If we weren't out and about with one another, people would ask where the other one was. Spending time with Jee was always my favourite thing to do. I couldn't wait to get home from work so I could see my sister or plan an activity/outing to do with her on the

weekends.

Now I want to share with you some of my sister's favourite things. Jee loved spending time with friends and family but also enjoyed her alone time, watching Netflix and/or listening to music. Jee enjoyed a variety of music but Harry Styles was her favourite. Specifically, the songs "Sign of The Times" and "Golden." I am going to miss hearing you and Josh sing "Sign of The Times" at the top of your lungs. She had such a unique taste in music, which I loved. I always counted on her to find new music.

She loved being outdoors, camping, cabins, our houseboat, hiking, kayaking and canoeing. Her boyfriend Dawson was always seen tagging along on her adventures.

Jeena loved her hot dogs. Specifically the Kiln Drive-In hot dogs, topped with ketchup, raw onions and banana peppers. Her second favourite thing to eat was spaghetti and meatballs. She sure loved talking about her favourite foods.

Her favourite colour was mint green, her favourite clothing store was Urban Outfitters, and her favourite holiday was Halloween. This might shock you all, but she dressed up as a hot dog this past Halloween.

Jee had a love for the game of hockey and enjoyed spending time with all of her amazing teammates she met over the years.

Jee took dance classes when she was younger and it sure prepared her for when she was old enough to hit the d-floor at the clubs. The "Bar Stars" are going to miss those moves.

We can't forget about the kittens, Biggie and Percy. Kenna absolutely adored them, as do I. I'll give them double the love for you Jee.

Jee also had a couple pet peeves that she made well known - loud eaters and other people's feet. But overall she was a pretty tolerant person.

Kenna could make friends with people from all over. She was never quick to judge. Instead she gave everyone a chance and ensured that she made others feel included. She was such a kind, caring and happy person. She loved life and was so excited for her future. I always said she was the smart one because she was pulling off 95% in University on her journey of becoming a Speech-Language Pathologist.

Jeena, I would do anything to have you in my arms again. You always acted like you hated it but everyone knew you secretly loved my hugs and kisses. I am so thankful I got such an amazing sister and I will cherish those memories forever. Your family and friends will also keep your memory alive. All I can do now is move forward and make you proud of me and I promise I will. I hope you're having a good time with Papa, Little Papa and Little Grandma up there. I love you and I can't wait to see you again some day my sweet angel.

-Love Brother Brock (Brooke-Lyn)

OBITUARY



McKenna Louise Riley

It is with profound sadness that the family announces the sudden passing of McKenna on the morning of Tuesday, December 15th, 2020 at the young age of 20 years old.

McKenna was known by many nicknames including Kenna, Kenna Lou, Jeena, Lou Lou, Jee, JeJa, Nanner, Nan all of which were given out of great love. McKenna was gifted with an amazing sense of humour and quick wit which she used to great effect with her family and friends alike. Her kindness and empathy towards all people was a quality that was admired by everyone who knew McKenna, and the very qualities that led people to gravitate towards her. She had a tremendous eye for style and was able to see the beauty of people and places wherever she went.

McKenna had a love for dancing and enjoyed her jazz ballet, tap and hip-hop classes. As she got older, McKenna found the love for the game of hockey. McKenna enjoyed the sport over the years, but mostly enjoyed the teammates she was able to meet and play with. McKenna enjoyed the simple things in life, like time with friends and family, camping and enjoying the outdoors, ripping on the Seadoo and eating a good hot dog with ketchup, onions and banana peppers. Since a little girl, McKenna always wanted to be a "pay lady" (cashier) and make ice cream cones at The Kiln. Funny enough, McKenna did reach her two young occupational goals by spending her teen years working at The Kiln in Stonewall, Sobey's in Gimli and working at Rexall in Stonewall. McKenna loved the people she met through her work and spoke highly of the many customers she served.

McKenna attended Brant - Argyle School, in the community of Argyle, MB until grade 8, Sturgeon Heights for grade 9, and then finished the remainder of her high school years at Kelvin High School. McKenna was excelling at the University of Winnipeg right up until the time of her passing with her sights firmly set on a career as a Speech-Language Pathologist. She was extremely proud when just recently she learned that she had earned her place on the Dean's Honour List as well as receiving an Academic Proficiency Scholarship for the 2019-20 school year. McKenna's marks so far in 2020-21, left no doubt that her academic success would continue.

McKenna is predeceased by her grandfather Lewis Riley, and her great-grandparents.

McKenna is survived by her parents Kevin and Lisa Riley, her older sister Brooke-Lyn Riley, and grandparents Donna Riley, Ted and Darlene Wittenberg. She is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins including Tony and Renee Wickler (Andrew and Sarah), David and Kim Riley (Brayden and Madisyn), Derek Riley and Tracy (Camryn, Ashlyn, Lauryn, Sophie), Drew and Janis Raeburn (Kaase), Tanis Sutherland and Lars (Nolan). McKenna is also survived by her boyfriend Dawson and his family as well as her precious kittens Percy and Biggie.

A celebration of McKenna's life will be held when COVID restrictions lift; an announcement will be made at that time.

The family will be creating legacy funds in McKenna's name with a focus on the Manitoba Women's Junior Hockey League (MWJHL) and the Community of Argyle, which will be handled by the Interlake Community Foundation (ICF). If anyone wishes to donate, they are encouraged to contact the ICF through their website: www.interlakefoundation.ca.

The family wishes to thank the health care teams from Stonewall Hospital, HSC, as well as the paramedic teams involved. Also, a special thank you to Transplant Manitoba - Gift of Life organization. Kevin, Lisa and Brooke-Lyn want to thank all the friends and family for the messages, letters, flowers and gifts. They are grateful for the beautiful memories that have been shared with them. They are so proud of their Baby Jee.



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