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Seven-year-old Hailey Gardham and three-year-old Caitlyn Campbell dress as sunflowers for the Hamiota parade yesterday morning. For more photos from the celebration, see Page A2.

Rural fear: Mounties sought as crime rises

BY IAN HITCHEN

Frustrated with break-ins, vandalism and other crimes, rural residents have picked up their pens in an effort to secure more RCMP members for their communities. Residents like Carberry's William Dempsey say they don't feel safe any more. He lives in town but owns a nearby farm that has had buildings broken into five times in the last six years.

Feldman is among those who started a petition signed by about 53 of the town's 80 residents.

Last week, Feldman mailed the petition to Day and provincial Justice Minister Dave Chomiak, Portage-Lisgar MP Brian Pallister, Turtle Mountain MLA Cliff Cullen, federal Justice Minister Robert Douglas Nicholson and RM of North Norfolk Reeve Ed Giesbrecht.

"I thought it was the safest place in the world but it isn't," Dempsey said.

He noted there hadn't been any break-ins at the farm his family has owned since the 1920s until about seven years ago, but there have been two there within the last year.

"We need more police," said Dempsey who has sent a letter to express that opinion to federal Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day. "I think that somebody has to tell the minister and that's what I've done."

Dempsey isn't the only rural resident whose sent a written request to politicians for more Mounties.

It details the residents' unhappiness with the small number of police officers left to cover immense areas.

Sidney is covered by the Portage la Prairie detachment, 68 kilometres away, Feldman said, and said she's been told by officers that there are only two Portage members assigned to rural patrol at any given time.

She said the amount of thefts and burglaries has climbed in her town but she typically sees a police car on patrol once per week at the most.

She said government, whether it's federal or provincial, has to increase the number of officers and shrink the coverage areas.

Sidney resident Rose

SEE 'RURAL AREAS' — PAGE A4

Hamiota celebrates 100 years with massive homecoming celebration

BY MATT GOERZEN

HAMIOTA — The town of Hamiota kicked off a four-day centennial and homecoming celebration yesterday with a huge morning procession of horses, majorettes, farm equipment and bags and bags of candy.

"That was one of the largest parades we've seen in years," RM of Hamiota Reeve Randy Lints said during opening ceremonies for the Agricultural Fair portion of the weekend. "There were 90 entries in the parade."

While the community is celebrating its

100th year of incorporation, the townscape has been occupied by settlers for more like 125 years. The fair itself celebrates its 115th year of existence in its current incarnation.

Yesterday's fair, replete with cattle and equestrian competitions, a reptile garden, museum tours and beach volleyball play, was just the tip of the iceberg in what promises to be a celebration whirlwind.

"There's people here from all over Canada," event co-chair Vicki Smith said yesterday. "People are coming home, and some of the floats in the parade reflected that."

"We have no idea how many are coming, but they'll just keep coming for the next two days."

Today's festivities begin with breakfast at the community sports complex, followed by class reunions, a Red Coats of the North West event, agricultural tours, and the playing of a docudrama that looks at the history of the community.

The Saturday evening concert starts at 8 p.m. and the mud bog event on Sunday afternoon begins at 1 p.m.

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Judge acquits bouncers in man's death outside bar

BY DAVID KUXHAUS

WINNIPEG — Three bouncers have been cleared of manslaughter charges in the death of a patron outside a Winnipeg nightclub in February 2004.

Associate Chief Justice Jeffrey Oliphant, in a written decision released Thursday, said the actions of the three bouncers during a scuffle outside The Beach nightclub were justified.

James Ronald Hanson, 28, died of asphyxiation following the skirmish with security staff.

"I conclude that in the circumstances of this case, despite the tragic consequences that flowed from them, the actions of (the bouncers) were not only necessary, they were also appropriate, reasonable and measured," Oliphant wrote.

Gregory James Everett, 26, Adam David Bidzinski, 23, and Christopher Enrique Gonzales, 22, have been on bail since the incident.

Hymie Weinstein, who represented Gonzales, said the case should never have gone to trial.

"I think there was a premature rush to charge," Weinstein said.

He said he spoke with his client shortly after the decision was released.

"(Gonzales) said it's the best day of his life," said Weinstein.

The family of Hanson, however, said they were shocked by



James Hanson

killing somebody."

During the trial, court was told Hanson became involved in an altercation with security staff and seemed reluctant to cooperate.

The bouncers, court was told, took Hanson down with a series of punches to his torso before they moved on top of him.

"The evidence satisfies me that once the security officers had Mr. Hanson on the ground they attempted to calm him down. They told Mr. Hanson repeatedly to stay down; to calm down; to stop fighting and to relax. All of this was to no avail as Mr. Hanson continued to struggle with the security officers," Oliphant wrote.

There were at least a dozen eyewitnesses for the Crown who gave statements to police at the time of the incident.

However, Oliphant said the

statements were unreliable because of questionable tactics and "shoddy" treatment by police.

The judge noted that witnesses were locked in a small room without sleep, food or water for up to 14 hours before providing a statement to police.

"... many of the witnesses called by the Crown would have been awake for a period of time well in excess of 24 hours, in one case 32 hours, before trying to recount for the police what transpired earlier..." Oliphant wrote.

"Sleep deprivation is a well-known technique used by interrogators to break down the will of a subject to be interviewed but is not a technique I would expect to be employed with eyewitnesses."

The Crown relied heavily on the statements because many of their witnesses during the trial

couldn't recall details of the incident which happened over three years ago.

The judge added that the Crown never called any members of the police to explain why the witnesses were handled that way.

"... I am unable to say why the witnesses were treated in what I can only describe as a shoddy manner by the Winnipeg Police Service," Oliphant wrote.

A police spokesman said they wouldn't be commenting on the case until they have an opportunity to read over the entire decision.

A pathologist who conducted the autopsy on Hanson testified in the trial that the death was "almost an accident" and there didn't appear to be any intent to kill him.

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It's JUST LIFE

Oops: firefighters cut holes in roof of wrong house in training drill

BRAINTREE, Mass. — It looked like a textbook training exercise for the local fire department. But there was something amiss.

Firefighters drove to a vacant house on Tuesday, cut holes in the roof and walls, and broke windows to test their tools and their proficiency.

The problem? It was the wrong house.

They were supposed to be two blocks away at a house slated for demolition.

The owners of the damaged home now want the town pay for the mistake, but they're trying to keep a sense of humour about it.

"Accidents happen," said Jeffrey Luu, who owns the house with his brother, Clayton.

"Luckily, nobody got hurt," added Clayton Luu.

The house has been vacant since an electrical fire last year left a scorch mark up one side. The knee-high grass had not been cut in several weeks.

The owners were planning to renovate the house, but without fire department help.

The fire department was conducting an internal investigation, deputy Chief John Donahue said in a statement.

But officials otherwise remained tightlipped as well as red-faced about the incident.

Meanwhile, the house where the firefighters were supposed to train was demolished later Tuesday as scheduled.



Members of the Hamiota Legion Ladies Auxiliary took part in yesterday morning's parade, including Eileen Edwards waving a Canadian flag, and her friend Marianne Sheardown. **LEFT:** A sleepy rider takes a quick nap while her steed seems to be just one of the crowd at the Agricultural Fair yesterday.

Hamiota hits 100



- CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE**
- Debbie Maxwell walks with her young charges, Brady Ewasuki, left, and carriage-bound Dylan Ewasuki as part of the Red Coats of the North West group during yesterday's parade in Hamiota.
 - Members of the Hamiota School Band march along Main Street with riding Red Coats of the North West close behind.
 - One of two harness horses whinnies during the Hamiota parade.
 - Penny Dixon of Hamiota pretends to take a swig of the hard stuff.
 - Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette MP Inky Mark pins a Commemorative Medal on former Hamiota resident Merrill Brown during the opening ceremonies of Hamiota's Centennial and Homecoming. Brown, who now lives in Brandon, was a member of the Royal Canadian Airforce from 1954 to 1992.

LUCKY TICKET?

PAYDAY 4, 20, 41, 70
PICK 3 2, 0, 5
EXTRA 4, 4, 3, 7, 1, 8, 4

These are unofficial results. Please check with lottery retailers before discarding tickets or attempting to claim a prize.

PASSINGS

AL-MOLKY, Margaret, July 24, 1932 - July 17, 2007.
MAYO, Allan George, of Brandon.
MURRAY, Charlotte Elizabeth, (Bessie), 99.

Westman Weather

Western Manitoba Forecast

TODAY	TONIGHT	TOMORROW
Sunny. High 28.	Mainly clear with cloudy periods. Low 20.	Mainly sunny. High 31. Low 20.
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Sunny. High 33. Low 22.	Sunny. High 33. Low 21.	Showers. High 32. Low 21.

www.theweathernetwork.com

Regional Temperatures

Dauphin 30/23	Winnipeg 28/19
Shoal Lake 30/21	Carberry 26/20
Brandon 28/20	Portage la Prairie 29/19
Melita 29/21	Killarney 29/19

Canada Today

Calgary	p.cloudy	26/15	Prince Rupert	rain	17/14
Charlottetown	tshowers	24/18	Quebec City	rain	17/14
Edmonton	p.cloudy	26/17	Regina	p.cloudy	32/23
Estevan	m.sunny	33/23	Saskatoon	tshowers	18/13
Dauphin	sunny	30/23	St. John's	showers	31/19
Dryden	sunny	28/14	Sudbury	sunny	21/15
Fredericton	tshowers	24/15	Swift Current	sunny	21/8
Halifax	showers	21/16	Thompson	sunny	33/19
Kapuskasing	p.cloudy	22/10	Thunder Bay	sunny	31/23
Lethbridge	p.cloudy	28/19	Toronto	p.cloudy	22/12
Moncton	tshowers	22/16	Vancouver	p.cloudy	23/13
Montreal	showers	22/13	Victoria	rain	19/14
North Bay	p.cloudy	21/7	Whitehorse	rain	17/13
Ottawa	p.cloudy	23/13	Windsor	m.sunny	20/10
Prince Albert	m.sunny	30/19	Winnipeg	sunny	28/19
Prince George	showers	20/12	Yellowknife	p.cloudy	22/15

Almanac

Temperature	High	Low
Normal	26.0°	12.3°
Yesterday	27°	11.2°

Precipitation

Today's Normals	3.1mm
Yesterday	0 mm

Summer Index's

Humidex
For the afternoon: 33
For the evening: 34

The Daily Skies

Sunrise: 5:53 a.m. Moonrise: 12:58 p.m.
Sunset: 9:38 p.m. Moonset: 11:55 p.m.

The World

Acapulco	p.sunny	33/27	rain	28/24
Boston	showers	27/17	p.cloudy	23/18
Caracas	tshowers	31/27	tshowers	32/26
Chicago	sunny	23/14	sunny	25/15
Dallas	tstorms	32/24	tstorms	32/24
Denver	tshowers	30/18	p.cloudy	33/18
Los Angeles	p.cloudy	25/17	p.cloudy	25/18
Miami	tshowers	32/25	tshowers	32/26
Montego B	tshowers	33/25	tstorms	33/25
New York	showers	25/18	p.cloudy	26/20
Phoenix	tshowers	40/31	tshowers	38/30
Washington	showers	28/18	sunny	27/19