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PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT Flanked by local organizers and dignitaries, Bree Pearce dropped the puck Sunday at the Pembina Valley Hawks' first game of the Esso Cup. The home team downed the Prince Albert Bears 2-1. For more Esso Cup coverage, see Pg. 2 and Pgs. 18-19.

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Esso Cup starts off with a bang





The Esso Cup championship kicked off with a bang last weekend. The community came out on Saturday to welcome teams from across the country with a fireworks show. Clockwise from left: Local cadets, who led the teams over from the rink to the ball diamonds for the show, stand at attention during the festivities; Pembina Valley Hawks players were all smiles heading into the stiff week of competition; flag poles were fittingly replaced with hockey sticks; the Hawks celebrate their first win of the tournament Sunday night; a young fan cheers for the home team.

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT





Winkler chamber honours best in business

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce honoured four businesses and one not-for-profit organization with the 2017 P.W. Enns Business Awards last Thursday night.

Chamber president Kori da Costa stressed the importance of singling out the best in business each year.

"We as a team feel that one of the best and most important aspects to encourage positive growth and the desire to perform is to recognize strong success," she said, explaining that the award winners serve as inspiration for the entire business community.

Serving as an example in treating their customers right is Country Cycle & Ski, who took home the 2017 Customer Service Award.

Owner Peter Loewen noted he was initially hesitant when learning they had been nominated for an award.

His store was destroyed by arsonists last summer, and while they've managed to rebuild in a new location, Loewen said he feared at first that this was a "pity award because of what Country Cycle has gone



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler chamber honoured the best in business at the P.W. Enns Business Awards gala last week. From left: Award winners Jake and Barb Penner of Penner Waste, Amanda and Peter Loewen of Country Cycle & Ski, Bentley Dueck and Tomm and Kerri Penner of Dominion Outdoors, Kevin Hildebrand of The Bunker, and George Klassen and Milt Olfert of Winkler Co-op.

through in the past year."

Upon learning it was the Customer Service Award, though, his fears were quelled.

"I thought that's something I'm very

passionate about ... something I've I don't like or what really made my paid very close attention to over the years when visiting other retailers," he said. "I always make note of what

experience really good.

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Morden's Ron and Lvnn Braun have received the Manitoba Good Roads Association's Burgess Shield for the best urban home grounds for communities with populations of over 7,501. Presenting the award was AMM chair Chris Goertzen. Left: The Braun's yard in full bloom.



Morden couple wins provincial yard award

By Lorne Stelmach

For the third time in the past four years, a Morden yard has taken home a provincial gardening award.

Ron and Lynne Braun recently received the Burgess Shield for the best urban home grounds for communities with a population of 7,501+ from the Manitoba Good Roads Association.

Their win follows fellow Mordenites Sara and Dennis Stoesz receiving the honour last year and John and Ingrid Friesen winning it in 2014.

The Brauns says this track record says a lot about Morden.

"And it is a way to help promote the town ... if you are willing to put yourself out there," says Lynne, noting their yard has also been on the local garden tour.

"There is a lot involved in having

people come to your yard," she says, admitting they were somewhat reluctant to let their home at 19 Falcon Dr. be up for the award. "It was a big decision because we do enjoy our privacy ... but we're quite honoured We didn't expect to receive anything like this. That's not why we do this."

The Brauns had previously lived on a farm south of Morden until moving to town about eight years ago and building their new home.

It has very much been a labour of love, creating a beautiful home and yard not only from scratch but on a challenging sloped landscape as well. "You have to do it together ... it's a big job for one person," says Lynne. "The great thing is seeing a place transform ... it was basically a pasture at one time ... to make it into something that we think is beautiful and that we enjoy."

Ron notes it involved a lot of work with heavier machinery because the landscaping offered some significant challenges.

"Especially with the bigger stones, we had someone come in ... a lot of the stones that were here we tried to use, and we had them placed where we thought it would be natural," adds Lynne.

"A lot of the reasons we did some of the things is because of runoff or the terrain. Because it slopes, we decided to do things like a waterfall and a pond ... we used the terrain," she says. "You have to work with what you have. And we like the idea of the walkout basement ... the privacy and the natural landscaping of the area.

"And we just enjoy seeing things grow and come to life."

It continues to be an ongoing adventure year after year.

"We're always trying to see what is going to grow well in the area ... you have to plant things that are going to be good for our climate or that might be deer resistant," Lynne says. "I would also like to try to add more colour to the shade areas. I'm trying to think of ways I can do that."

A large part of the pleasure, she concludes, is never being entirely sure where things are going to go next with the yard.

"It just kind of evolves. You do one thing at a time and then you suddenly have done a fair bit ... one little step at a time," she says.

"Every year, you think of something you could change or add to it. If you like gardening, it is something you are always looking to see how you can improve it and how you can change things."



Canada 150 fund supports local projects

By Lorne Stelmach

Two community projects in Winkler received a financial boost thanks to Canada's 150th birthday in 2017.

The Winkler Community Foundation presented \$21,000 that will be channelled through the City of Winkler for a new community ice rink and a 50th anniversary project at the Winkler golf course.

Half of the funds came from the Canada 150 Fund, with the other half coming from the community foundation. Each recipient will then at least match their portion of the funding, with \$15,000 earmarked for the new community rink project and \$6,000 for the golf course.

"We saw them as great projects

The Winkler Community Foundation presented the **City of Winkler** and the Winkler Centennial Golf Course with grants towards a new ice rink and the golf course's anniversary cel-

ebrations.



to support in our community," says foundation executive director Myra Peters. "We think an additional outdoor rink will be a great asset to the community ... and this is celebratory funding ... so it's fitting with the golf course is tying in their 50th anniversary with Canada 150."

The new rink will serve as a multifunctional recreational area and is to be built on the south side of Winkler in Emerado Park.

"It's a great project for the community," says Mayor Martin Harder, who notes that area of the city was lacking such a facility.

A celebration will be held on the new rink in December to recognize Canada's 150th.

Meanwhile, the Winkler Centennial Golf Course is hosting an anniversary tournament July 22 and in conjunc-

tion with that will be officially opening a new commemorative bridge at hole nine.

"It's a permanent structure for us ... and the bridge is now in a much better position," says CPGA head pro Greg Hesom. "It's fantastic for us to be able to celebrate the 50th year of our course at the same time as Canada's 150th."

"Dream now and live your dream"

From Pg. 3

"I am absolutely pleased and very honoured to have received this," Loewen said, thanking those that nominated Country Cycle, his wife Amanda, and his staff for their dedication and support.

Next up, Kevin Hildebrand came up to receive the Not for Profit Award on behalf of The Bunker Youth Ministry.

Hildebrand noted that while the ministry is honoured to be recognized, accolades have never been one of their goals in the more than three decades they've been serving Winkler youth.

"While receiving this award is humbling and honouring, it is not and never can be used as a measure of our success," he said.

Helping kids deal with the challenges of their lives, overcome addictions, and find their place in the world, that is the true measure of The Bunker's impact in this community, Hildebrand said.

"Our ultimate success comes in having an intentional relationship with anyone who walks through our doors," he said. "In the end, if we have loved unconditionally, we have succeeded."

Hildebrand said that the award serves as recognition of the value of young people in our community.

'In honouring us with this award, you are publicly showing that youth in this community are worthy of being invested in."

Proof of the ministry's impact on local youth was embodied by the next award winner.

"I wouldn't be who I am and where I am today without The Bunker. And I can name 10 businesses off the top of my head, friends that I have, who would say the same thing ... what they do really does work," noted Tomm Penner of Dominion Outdoors as he came up to receive the Business Builder Award for companies with under 10 employees.

In accepting the award, Penner likened business to creative expression.

"You see something in your mind that doesn't exist. It's just up here," he said, tapping his forehead. "You create and you plan and you work very hard to develop this image properly, and you begin to see something in reality that resembles your imagination."

The award will have a place of honour in his store, Penner said, going on to thank his customers and staff for their support and his wife Kerri for encouraging him to follow his dreams.

"Seven years ago when I said, 'I should open a gun shop,' she said, 'Then do,'" he said, closing by encouraging fellow entrepreneurs to, "Dream now and live your dream."

Receiving the evening's second Business Builder Award, this time for companies with over 10 employees, was Jake and Barb Penner of Penner Waste Inc.

Jake Penner explained he was inspired to start the company while working at a landfill and seeing just how much reusable material was going to waste.

"I had to get to the other side of the fence," he said.

Today, Penner Waste is responsible for diverting thousands of tonnes of recyclable material each year through its residential and commercial recycling programs, wood and shingle recycling services, and compost pick-up.

It has helped set industry standards and its Winkler facility has become an example to other waste management companies across the nation.

"I think what we have done here in this very short time, we've done quite

a bit and we're very pleased of what we have accomplished," Penner said, adding they are extremely grateful for the support the community has shown their green initiatives.

Rounding out this year's awards gala was the presentation of the Business Excellence Award, which went to Winkler Co-op.

"This award goes to you, the people who live right here in our community," said general manager George Klassen."Everything we do at Co-op is for one purpose: to give back to our community."

Klassen explained that the Co-op is unique in that it is not only supported by the community that it serves but is also truly owned by that community.

"I accept this award on behalf of our staff, our management, and our board of directors," he said, "and the 15,000 members who own our business."

Klassen, who is retiring later this month after nearly 50 years with regional Co-op stores, expressed his gratitude to "everyone who has contributed to making Co-op such a success.

"I believe that when a community sets its sights on a goal it can move mountains," he said.







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Chilton reflects on lessons learned

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Wealthy Barber author and former Dragon's Den star David Chilton was so moved by what he heard about the work of The Bunker youth centre that he made an impromptu donation while in Winkler last week.

"I'd like give you \$5,000," he told the ministry's executive director Kevin Hildebrand from the podium at the P.W. Enns Business Awards Gala. "I think what you're doing is absolutely fantastic."

The donation came at the tail end of Chilton's hour-long keynote address at the April 20 awards banquet hosted by the Winkler chamber.

Earlier that evening, The Bunker received the Not for Profit Award and Hildebrand outlined the impact the ministry has had on countless teens and young adults in Winkler over the past three decades.

Chilton's presentation came after The Bunker and four other businesses were honoured with awards (see Pg. 3 for that story), and he focused much of it on sharing stories of his life as an author, entrepreneur, and investor, including a few colourful behind-thescenes recollections from his three seasons on CBC's Dragon's Den.

Prior to his time on the hit television show, Chilton said he was most commonly approached by fans of his book for investment advice.

In the last few years, though, he gets one question more than any other: is fellow Dragon's Den star Kevin O'Leary really as much of a jerk as he's portraved on the show?

"And, yeah, he pretty much is," Chilton said to laughter from the audience.

He went on to explain, though, that despite their sometimes antagonistic interactions on camera, all the show's stars get along pretty well when the cameras stop rolling.

"We're very different people, but I enjoy his company and he's got a good sense of humour," he said of O'Leary. "The Dragons, for the most part, are all really nice people."

Chilton shared how it took some convincing to get him on the show, but he ultimately signed-up because he thought it would be a fun challenge.

It certainly gave him access to a eclectic mix of investment opportunities, including a greeting card company inspired by a paper-shredding Lovebird, a business that started selling tea at home parties and has since grown to over \$20 million in sales annually, and an ergonomic shovel

Author and investor David Chilton reflected on his time on CBC's Dragon's Den during his keynote address at the Winkler chamber's business awards gala last Thursdav.

> PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH **VIVEIROS**/ VOICE

first but has since become a word-ofmouth sensation, to name just a few.

"I learned so much. I found the whole thing very humbling," Chilton said of his time on the show. "You're exposed to so many different businesses ... and you realize how hard business is ... there's a lot of ups and downs, constant challenges. You have to have a tremendous amount of grit to fight through all of that. Competition is fierce.

"A common theme you see in business is it's not so much about the idea, it's about the execution," he said,



attachment that was a hard sell at noting he has seen many seemingly unlikely businesses succeed in large part owing to the enthusiasm and passion of its creators and their attention to the details."Inventors are very good at taking something 90 per cent of the way, but that last 10 per cent is tough."

> In the end, what it really all comes down to is people, Chilton said.

> "You do business with people you like and people you trust, we all know that," he said. By extension, one of the greatest pieces of business advice, then, is "be likeable and be trustworthy."



Chilton gifted everyone in attendance copies of the sequel to The Wealthy Barber, The Wealthy Barber Returns, and stuck around after the gala for a book signing.



Navigating life's curveballs

"WE NEED TO

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at us."

DEAL WITH THE

RHA conference focuses on personal resiliency

By Lorne Stelmach

The idea of being resilient in our increasingly complex world and amidst the challenges of life is important to our health care system.

So much so that it was the focus of

the Healthy Communities Conference put on by Southern Health last week.

"It's trying to find ways to prevent problems down the road," says Sherry Campbell, who was the keynote speaker at the 19th annual conference held in Winkler April 19. "We can't control other people and other events, but we can always control how we react to them

... that's the crux, taking responsibility for your reactions."

The theme for the day-long series of speakers and breakout sessions was strategies to navigate life's transitions, stages, and curveballs.

A psychotherapist and professional speaker, Campbell spoke on personal

resilience, which she suggests is becoming more and more important in many ways.

"We need to find ways to deal with the adversities that seem to be coming our way," suggests Campbell."There's a lot of stress ... and I think it's important to be going back to some simple tools."

There is much that needs to come into play, she says, from being aware of our thoughts to knowing how we can find calm, but the key is to equip ourselves to cope better.

"It's kind of emotional regulation," says Campbell. "We all do get these curveballs that come our way, and so if we have the skills to be pro-active as opposed to reactive then we are better off for it.

"We need to be teaching kids this as well," she adds. "It's another popular topic ... raising resilient kids to deal with disappointment, to deal with not winning everything all the time and all the stuff that life throws

Campbell said it basically comes down to just taking care of ourselves in mind, body and soul.

"A lot of times, the more stressed we are or the busier we are, we tend to stop doing the things that we need to do.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE A full house was on hand for the day-long series of speakers and breakout sessions at the Healthy Communities conference.

Psychotherapist Sherry Campbell addressed the Healthy Communities conference held in Winkler last Wednesday on the idea of personal resiliency as a vital factor that impacts all aspects of one's wellbeing.

> PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/ VOICE

"There isn't just one big solution that we would have found to deal with stress. There's lifestyle and a combination of small things.

"Keep aware of our mental health and keep aware of the signs that we're not doing well," adds Campbell. "I think we're all learning that we really do need to slow down. We've been hearing that from each other ... now we're finally starting to believe it," she concludes. "If we're able to kind of take better care of ourselves, we're better able to deal with the kinds of things that come our way and not get as stressed."

The conference also included a number of other speakers and sessions.

Dr. Michael Routledge, medical officer of health for Southern Health, spoke on population health across the lifespan, while Julie Walsh, a child and family therapist, spoke on attach-



ment as the building blocks of relationship, and Norma Kirkby, program director of the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba, addressed being resilient in times of personal change.

There were also exhibits with information and resources for each life stage, providing the opportunity to connect with supports available locally, regionally, and provincially.

Campbell says she very much appreciated the approach of the conference.

"This is a wonderful event. It brings it all together at all levels ... mind, body and soul. Communities are coming together to help each other," she says.

"These are my favorite types of events because you're dealing with people who are dealing with our health ... our mental and physical health ... and working towards that common goal as a community."

Auxiliary bake sale May 5

The BTHC Winkler Auxiliary holds its annual spring bake sale next week. Auxiliary members will be setting up shop at the Southland Mall on Friday, May 5 starting at 9 a.m.

Coffee and dessert will be served all day. Homemade baking will also be up for grabs.

The day's proceeds go to the aux-

iliary's 2017 projects, says president Nettie Friesen, which include raising funds to purchase two handheld dopplers (used to check for fetal heart rates), two specialized wheelchairs, and a tonometer hearing device for Boundary Trails Health Centre.

The total cost of all this equipment is \$18,361.

CFIB director weighs in on provincial budget

By Lorne Stelmach

Business leaders are holding the provincial government to their promises to fix Manitoba's financial picture.

A luncheon in Morden heard representatives of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business speak

on holding the government to account on such vows as cutting the deficit.

"Even though they have made good progress, there still is a long way to go," says Jonathan Alward, director of provincial affairs. "Because they were elected with that mandate, they should take a stronger stance."

The luncheon sponsored by the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce last Tuesday offered the CFIB's assessment of the province's financial plan released the week before.

Alward says they are stressing three primary areas of concern, including fixing the province's fiscal fundamentals, curbing spending growth, and getting back to balanced budgets. They want to see the government "improving the province's tax environment, improving our competitive-ness.

"Certainly, the government has outlined a lot of ways to do that ... we want to see action now," says Alward. Part of improving the business environment is also working on reducing

> the red tape for small business. "They've made bold

steps on red tape reduction," Alward says. "We certainly want them to take those same kind of bold actions to fix the province's fiscal fundamentals and start improving our tax competitiveness."

He stresses a primary concern is to see stron-

ger action on reducing the deficit. "Our small business owners have echoed that ... getting back to balanced budgets ... they want to see it done much sooner," he says. "We think proceeding with moderate deficit reduction strategies isn't good enough. We need to take bolder action now.

"Quite frankly, I don't know how they're going to get back to balanced



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Jonathan Alward of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business was in Morden last week to share his thoughts on the budget recently unveiled by the provincial government.

budgets unless they have a clear plan to do so," says Alward. "They should start curbing their spending growth and limit their spending. This year we've asked them to do it to one per cent ... limit it to one per cent until they get back to balanced budgets and then start spending sustainably thereafter."

Alward points to a number of areas to address in controlling spending.

"If you look at labour costs in the province, they account for about 70 per cent of the provincial government spending," he says, acknowledging the Conservative government has introduced some positive steps, including wage freeze legislation. "That's only part of the problem. They need to start looking at addressing the size of the civil service."

Meanwhile, another key concern, especially for small business, is the prospect of a carbon tax being introduced by the federal government. Alward suggests small business owners don't support those plans.

"They're very concerned about what it's going to mean for them in terms of their input costs ... what it means for them in terms of their overall business competitiveness," he says.

"We're very concerned about the impact on agricultural sectors ... trucking sectors ... many others across the province," says Alward, suggesting it would be better for business to be able to "focus on ways that they can reduce their own emissions without having to put a price on carbon."

Morden marking Mental Health Week

Events planned for all next week

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is helping organize and promote a series of events for Mental Health Week.

Four workshops and speakers are scheduled May 1-7 in conjunction with the initiative of the Canadian Mental Health Association, which started Mental Health Week in 1951.

"I'm hoping we'll help make a strong statement for mental health," says Stephanie Dueck, Morden's recreation programmer.

The ultimate aim is "to encourage people to get help when they need it and to end discrimination against mental health," Dueck says.

"I think by having these kinds of events that we could help do that," she adds, noting an area like suicide awareness is especially important.

"There's a few campaigns out there like this ... I think it's good being part of these larger national events and weeks and hoping we can help promote mental health ... and to encourage more conversations about it."

The week begins Monday at Harmony Tree Studio with instructor Sheena Kilpatrick combining the walking, yoga, and meditation to create a Mindful Triathlon. It goes from 7:30-9 p.m. at a cost of \$10.

Following that will be the Handle With Care workshop on Wednesday aimed at promoting mental health in children.

The free session running from 7-8:30

p.m. at the Access Event Centre led by Anita Hiebert and Marlow Miller offers a simple interactive program to help those raising and working with young children.

Then, on Thursday, May 4, the safe-Talk suicide alertness training runs from 6-9 p.m. at the Access Event Centre with leader Barrett Plett.

SafeTALK is a half-day alertness training that prepares anyone over the age of 15, regardless of prior experience or training, to become alert to the risk of suicide. The cost of \$10 includes take home materials.

The events conclude Sunday, May 7 with the Service of Healing and Hope at 7 p.m. at the Morden Mennonite Church. It will offer a candlelight service of scripture, song and prayer for mental health.

To find out more or to register for any of these events, go online to www. mordenmb.com/mental-health-week or call 204-822-5431.



"EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS, THERE STILL IS A LONG WAY TO GO."



BALC receives Power Smart designation

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Buhler Active Living Centre got a big thumbs up from Manitoba Hydro last week.

The eight storey housing complex in downtown Winkler has officially received Hydro's Power Smart designation, recognizing the steps taken by builders to make the facility as energy efficient as possible.

"Hydro looks to reward buildings for going above and beyond the minimum standard for construction," explains Sean Madden, Power Smart program coordinator. "This building in particular anticipated the incoming Manitoba Energy Code for buildings and designed to a standard that meets that today."

Among the features in place are high levels of roof and wall insulation, triple-pane PVC windows, heat recovery ventilators in the suites, low-flow water fixtures, LED lighting systems with occupancy sensors, and Energy Star in-suite appliances.

It's estimated these features will save the building \$15,000 a year in energy costs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 261 tonnes—the equivalent of taking 55 cars of the road.

"We love to see the building sector exceed the standards for energy efficiency and these guys were certainly willing to work with us on that," says Madden.

"They should expect to see better occupant comfort, better operation of the building, just a more quality building overall, and, of course, savings in greenhouse gas emissions," he adds. "Those savings are valuable to Manitobans, valuable to Manitoba Hydro.

"Ultimately it's to the benefit of all Manitobans that we have energy efficient buildings and buildings that are



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE Manitoba Hydro's Sean Madden (second from left) presented the Buhler Active Living Centre's (from left) Mike Chute, George Klassen, and Ken Wiebe with a plaque and a cheque in recognition of the building's energy efficiencies.

designed to last."

The designation also came with an incentive cheque for the project to the tune of \$95,900, or about \$1 per square foot.

BALC executive director Mike Chute says building green just made sense when it came to creating a facility that intends to serve the community for many years to come.

"I think that's the most responsible thing to do," he says. "It also gives us a building that's better than code and is going to have a cost saving for years and years and years in energy prices, and so it made sense all the way around."

Winkler Co-op reflects on successful year

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Consumers Co-operative reported on the successes and challenges of 2016 at its annual general meeting last week.

Though sales were down about \$4 million from 2015 (owing in large part to lower fuel prices), board chair Milt Olfert hailed the store's 75th year of operations a success overall.

"With the economy the way it is and the new competition coming into town, we are very happy with the sales," he said. "Would we like it to be higher? Absolutely. We're pleased, but we've also got to work harder.

"We have to be careful that we don't get caught up in success and get complacent," Olfert added."If we can continue to provide the best service to our customers, we'll be okay."

Co-op had sales in excess of \$92 million in 2016, which translates into a patronage allocation to its 14,590 active members of over \$3.2 million.

The store also returned over \$170,000 to the community by way of donations to non-profit organizations and community events last year.

Olfert said giving back like that remains a key factor to Co-op's many years of success.

"It's about making a conscious effort to be part of the community. Giving back to the community," he said. "When you give back to the community they give back to you. It's a twoway street."

In addition to celebrating 75 years of business with special events and contests, Olfert noted that 2016 was also a year of new beginnings.

"Two highlights would be seeing the new gas bar and the ag site open in Morden," he said. "Those were two things that we've been planning for years and to see them come to fruition is exciting.

"It goes to show that we're not just

about Winkler—we're about the bigger area, the Pembina Valley, and we want to try to give as many services to as many members as we can."

Last week's AGM was the final one for long-time general manager George Klassen, who thanked Co-op's customers, staff, and board members past and present for the role they've played in Co-op's growth during his time with the company.

"When I started my work here almost 29 years ago our short term goal was to survive and become relevant," he said. "That mission and effort, which many of us shared, has proven that when a community sets its sights on a goal, it can move mountains."

Olfert said the store is starting the hunt for the new general manager immediately and they hope to have someone in place within the next few months.

"Who we hire as a GM will set the culture for our Co-op. And that can

be a positive or a negative," he noted. "I truly believe the GM we will hire, they need to know what the culture of our community is and what our Coop is. If they have an understanding of that, they will do well ... they will be handed a management team that is very strong right now and is doing well."

Last week's meeting also saw the board of directors bid farewell to retiring members Alex Fedorchuk, Harv Dyck, and Morris Olafson.

Acclaimed to fill their positions were Dinah Elias, Connie Bailey, and Darren Heide.

Also at the AGM, the board of directors announced the allocation rates for 2016: five per cent on petroleum products, 3.5 per cent on consumer products, three per cent on Co-op@ Home purchases, two per cent on farm chemicals and fertilizer, and nine per cent on oil purchases.

Bird watchers flock to Raptor Festival

By Angela Lovell

What could be more appropriate for Earth Day than to release a rehabilitated bald eagle back into the wild?

Around 250 people attended the early morning release at La Riviere on Saturday morning as the kick-off to the community's sixth annual Raptor Festival.

"It was an amazing sight," said organizer Evelyn Janzen."You could tell that he was getting anxious—the cage was rocking—so when the blanket came off and the lid was put back he flew right out of the cage and landed on the ground, where he waited for all the photos to be taken before he gracefully flew away."

Janzen estimated upwards of 700 visitors attended the festival to experience the beauty of the Pembina Valley, through which thousands of migrating waterfowl, songbirds, hawks, and eagles pass each spring on their return to Canada from their wintering grounds in Mexico and South and Central America.

The festival included walking tours led by naturalists, with stops at posting stations to spot and count birds such as bald eagles, sharp-shinned and red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures and peregrine falcons.

The goal of the Raptor Festival is to make everybody aware of the importance of nature and keeping the ecosystem in balance, Janzen said.

"Wildlife, including birds, snakes and lizards, is an indicator of how well our air and soil are being treated, and that affects humans as well, so nature is our indicator for the health of our Earth," she said.

This year's activities included displays from conservation organizations such as A Rocha, Delta Marsh Observatory and Pembina Valley Conservation District.

Staff from the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre and Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre also brought





PHOTOS BY ANGELA LOVELL/VOICE

Ten-year-old Max, a great horned owl, shown here with his handler from the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre, was one of many ambassador birds at La Riviere's sixth annual Raptor Festival on April 22.

along ambassador birds and snakes that had been found injured and are unable to fend for themselves in the wild. They included 10-year-old Max, a great horned owl that fell out of the nest, suffering a broken wing and parasites in his ears that have left him deaf.

Attendees also checked out the photography competition, enjoyed educational presentations by author, photographer and owl expert Dr. Christian Artuso, and signed pledges for Earth Day on a special wall poster.

Right: Staff from the Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre try to help this bull snake out of the knotty situation he got himself into. Left: Festival-goers signed Earth Day pledges.



Discover Morden's downtown this weekend

Part of Stephen St. closed to vehicle traffic Friday through Saturday

By Lorne Stelmach

The action may be at the Access Event Centre all this week, but Morden hopes to extend the celebrations around the Esso Cup downtown as well.

The city is creating a pedestrian corridor on Stephen St. Friday and Saturday.

"We were hoping to make it a festive atmosphere," says Dave Haines, director of planning and engineering. "Because there's a lot of people here, we thought we would capitalize on that ... to showcase the downtown."

To encourage people to check the city's shopping district out, Stephen St. between 7th St. and Nelson St. will be closed to vehicles from Friday at 9 a.m. until Saturday at 6 p.m.

Haines says they hope it will encourage people to visit the boutique shops, restaurants, and services of the area in an outdoor market atmosphere.

They are hoping businesses will get involved with patio service, food trucks, buskers, street vendors, and more, though it will be dependent in large part on the weather.

"We think it's one of the most unique downtowns in the province and definitely our area," says Haines. "There's some great shops down there it's a beautiful space ... so we're really excited to make the most of this and show it off."

Watoto Children's Choir coming to Winkler, Morden

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A choir from Uganda will be bringing a message of hope to our area next month.

The Watoto Children's Choir is set to perform several concerts in the region, including May 9 at the Victory Family Church in Altona, May 10 at the Christian Faith Church in Winkler, and May 11 at the Christian Life Centre in Morden.

Watoto choirs have travelled extensively since first forming as an outreach of Watoto Child Care Ministries in 1994, explains choir leader Solomon Mugabi.

The ministry cares for thousands of orphaned and vulnerable children in Africa, and these tours give the kids a chance to see the world, develop confidence, and share their stories, he says.

"It's an inspiring show telling people about what God has done in the lives of these kids," says Mugabi, adding the choir coming to our area includes 18 children ranging in age from six to 13 years old.

"There's lots of dancing, lots of colours, songs," he says of the production, dubbed *Signs and Wonders*, which has been touring Eastern Canada in



recent months.

This is the children's first trip to Canada, and it's proven to be a lifechanging adventure.

"All our children basically get one opportunity to travel," Mugabi says, pointing out that it broadens their worldview and gives them valuable experiences to draw on when they return home. "It's about raising leaders ... and exposing them to the good things that are happening in Canada." Frank Banman of the Christian Faith Church says the congregation was eager to be a stop on the choir's cross-Canada tour.

"It's a really good opportunity for people to come and see the kind of work that God's doing through these children," he says. "The show really celebrates the joy of salvation ... it's going to be a pretty wonderful thing." Admission to the concerts is free, though donations will be accepted toward the Watato program. All shows begin at 7 p.m.

For more information, head to watoto.com.



Police investigating theft

A few items of note from the most recent Morden Police Service weekly report:

• April 19: Police are investigating the theft of money and a cheque book from an unlocked vehicle on Conner Hill. The owner reported that the theft occurred sometime after 10 p.m. the previous evening while it was parked on their driveway. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Morden Police at 204-822-4900 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

• April 20: Police received a call from a resident reporting that a female had shown up at their place crying and told them she had been in a fight with

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Keep calm and... hand over the keys: how technology is helping bring peace of mind to parents

your teenager behind the wheel is understandably cause for more than a little anxiety. Fortunately, the latest technologies and apps can help reduce worry among the parents of new drivers.

"As a parent myself, I sympathize with the feeling of apprehension as your kids begin driving," explains Marc Saltzman, tech expert and columnist. "But while concerns over distractions from tech devices are legitimate, there are many ways technology is actually making driving safer."

While handing the keys over the kids may never

The thought of having become completely stressfree, technology is helping give teens the freedom they crave while allowing parents the peace of mind they deserve. Here are three tips for using tech wisely in the vehicle.

1. Go hands free: Apple CarPlay and Android Auto help young drivers stay hands-free by mimicking their cellphone's screen on the car's builtin display. With their device plugged in and out of the way, teens are able to get directions, make calls, send and receive messages, and listen to music all while staying focused on the road.

2. Get a report card: Car

manufacturers are responding to parental anxiety directly. For example, the new Chevrolet Malibu comes with a built-in technology called Teen Driver. It supports safe driving habits by muting radio or paired device audio when front seat occupants aren't wearing safety belts and gives sound and visual warnings when the vehicle exceeds preset speeds. Teen Driver also provides parents with an in-vehicle report

card of the teen driver's performance that parents can use as a teaching tool.

3. Apps are your best friend: Texi is an app that entertains friends who text your kid while they're on the road, auto-responding with a funny meme that says they'll respond soon. The app provides a fun way to help new drivers focus while keeping in touch with their besties.

Paint versus car wrap options

Over time a car's exterior can fade or suffer some dings and dents. Before owners sell or trade in their rides for something new, investing in a new color may be all that's necessary to revitalize the look of the vehicle.

Changing the color of a car is not something every driver should try on their own. Such a task can be time-consuming, and it requires a good deal of skill to turn out looking good. Furthermore, painting a car involves a variety of different tools and equipment, from a spray gun, sander and buffer to specific types of enamel or acrylic paints.

After considering the work involved and the expense of investing in the equipment to get the job done right, many vehicle owners opt to hire a professional to change the color of their vehicles. Many service centers offer two options to change the look of a car or truck: painting and car wraps.

Paint job

A professional paint job will yield an impressive result. A skilled auto painter can recommend the right type of automotive paint for your make and model and guide you in color selections. While there are hundreds of different color choices available, professionals also may be able to mix colors to create the custom look you desire.

Paint work may be done to match the existing color of the vehicle after accident repairs have been made. Or you may be tired with the color of your car and simply desire a change. Experienced service shops can offer these services and more. Other shops may specialize in custom paint jobs that may entail graphics, detail work or the blending of multiple colors to give the vehicle an airbrushed effect. Custom painters are artists, and their work may be very detailed.

Continued on next page



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Paint versus car wrap

Continued from previous page

Painting may demand your vehicle be off the road for a week or more, so it's best to have an alternative travel plan. Also, be sure to investigate how painting will affect the value of the vehicle. A paint job may end up depreciating the value of a resale because it's changing the original vehicle permanently.

Car wrap

Car wraps are typically made of high-quality vinyls that come in a bevy of different colors and styles. Wraps also can be used for custom graphics or to advertise businesses.

The vinyl wrap completely covers the paint of the vehicle. But because car wraps can be removed, they do not permanently change the vehicle and are therefore unlikely to affect its resale value.

Car wrapping can take less time than a labor-intensive paint job. Some jobs can be completed in only two or three days. Car wraps also may be the less expensive option if you're not selecting a complicated, custom design. Many car wraps will last between five to seven years, which is on par with the life span of a professional paint job, which lasts five to 10 years.

Changing the look of a vehicle may be as simple as choosing a new exterior color. Professional paint services and vinyl car wraps make it easy to switch up the style of a car or truck.







In the **Pembina Valley**

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FTC tackles **Mission Possible**

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Your mission, should you choose to accept it: go see *Mission Possible* at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall next week.

Flatlands Theatre Company presents this epic spoof of your favourite silver screen spies May 4-7 at the Winkler concert hall.

"If you like Bond movies, Get Smart, Mission Impossible, Man from U.N.C.L.E., any of those, this is the play to see," says actor Eric Buhr, who has taken on the mantle of Silverthumb, the play's arch villain.

The action gets going when Silverthumb, leader of D.O.O.M., kidnaps scientist Dr. Schlock to extract the secret of telephonetics, a mind-controlling device used over the telephone.

The girl from A.U.N.T., Maxwell Sharpe, Agent 98.6, James Blond and more sleuths gather to try to prevent Silverthumb's devious plot from unfolding.

Crystal Reimer, who plays Agent 98.6, says the show really runs the co-

Company's performance of Mission Possible next week at the Winkler

at the

concert hall. The spy spoof has daily shows May 4-7.

> MITTED PHOTO

medic gamut.

"There's so many elements of humour. There's slapstick but there's also witty banter," she says. "It's been so hard to keep a straight face during rehearsals."

Fans of all the old spy movies and TV shows will get a kick out of seeing the many nods to the source material, adds Darlene Derksen, who plays Silverthumb's guard, Gargoyle.

"If you love laughing, if you love mystery, if you love spoofs, if you love intrigue, it's just an awesome show," she says.

"It's been so much fun, recognizing all these little catchphrases that are sprinkled into the plot," agrees Reimer.

Shows run nightly at 7:30 p.m. May 4-6. There's also a 3 p.m. matinee on May 7.

Ticket information is available online at winklerconcerthall.ca or by stopping by the box office at City Hall.

> POLICE, FROM PG. 11

her boyfriend and had been assaulted by a female. Officers attended to the residence and discovered that



the accused had been at a local bar where she had been in an altercation with another female that was known to her.

After this assault, the accused confronted her boyfriend, struck him several times in the face, and at one point bit him. The accused was arrested for the domestic assault.

While police were investigating this matter, the second female victim arrived on scene and was placed under arrest by officers for assault and

under the Intoxicated Persons Detention Act.

As a result of this incident, a 19-year-old female resident of Morden has been charged with domestic assault. She was released the following morning on a Promise to Appear in Morden court in May.

The second female was released when sober without charges. Alcohol was a factor in these incidents.

• April 20: Police received a report from a citi-



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zen advising that around 11 a.m., while walking on Thornhill Street near Nelson Street, he was struck in the leg with a pellet.

The victim received minor injuries as a result of the incident but did not require medical attention.

Police have had similar incidents in the past near this same location. They are continuing to investigate this matter and ask anyone with information to contact them.



Trouble in Fairy Tale Land

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A crime wave has hit Fairy Tale Land and hard-boiled detective Rumpelstiltskin is on the case.

The Parkland Elementary School junior high classes bring *Rumpelstiltskin, Private Eye* to the stage this week.

Twenty-nine Gr. 7-8 students have been rehearsing daily since January to bring to life the story of Rumpelstiltskin and his wisecracking partner Ugly Ducking as they investigate such crimes as the break-in at the Three Bears' cottage, the kidnapping of Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother, and others.

"All the kids have been put lots of effort in ... they've given up a lot of time," says teacher Melissa Grenier, who's heading up the show alongside fellow teacher Rhonda Friesen.

Grenier notes they have students involved both on stage and behind the scenes building sets and helping out with props and makeup.

It's been a lot of work, but the kids have also been having a blast, says Hayden Wiebe, who plays the title character.

"It's been a lot of fun," he says. "It's a funny play."

"It's really funny," agrees co-star Jacinda Young, who plays Rumpelstiltskin's sidekick."There's a lot of corny jokes and it's like a Sherlock Holmes or Clue spoof.

"In the end it all comes down to one person, and it may be who you expect or it may not be," she adds.

Young says that while giving up countless lunch hours to



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Parkland School's junior high students bring Rumpelstiltskin, Private Eye to the stage this week. Above: Britney Penner, Lucy Hildebrand, Emma Sorich, Hannah Matuszewski, Maddie Sundquist, Ariel Dyck, Mike Heppner, Jacinda Young, Lea Ediger, Hayden Wiebe Nolan Kuhl, and Trent Crane make up part of the cast.

rehearsals these past few months has been a sacrifice, it's one that's well worth it.

"It's not as hard as it would be if I didn't enjoy it," she says."I really enjoy acting."

As does Lea Ediger, who plays Snow White. "I love the hair and the makeup and the directors having a lovely imagination of what they want to happen," she says, reflecting on the experience. "It's just amazing to have the opportunity to be in a play."

Shows run Thursday, April 27 at 7 p.m. and Friday, April 28 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the school.

Tickets are available at the school for \$8 for adults, \$3 for students, and free for kids five and under.

Celebrating the arts

The Winkler Festival of the Arts vocal/choral sessions took over the concert hall last week, wrapping up with a concert Thursday afternoon that included performances from vocalists Gerda Paul, Lauren Ginter, and Nathanael Hiebert (below, far right), Lindsay Rae & J (right), Jamie Giesbrecht, and the Winkler Elementary School choir. The show capped off with awards presentations. Taking home the Leatherdale Insurance Trophy for outstanding vocal performer age 12 and under was Gerda Paul (below, left). Mykayla Klassen (below, right, with adjudicator Sonya Williams) won both the Southland Honda trophy for best performance and the Justina Wiebe Award for best performer. Schoalrships also went to Sasha Dyck, the Parkland School Gr. 2 choir, Lauren Ginter, and Kiana Ens.











Hawks start Esso Cup with a win

By Lorne Stelmach

It didn't take too long for the Pembina Valley Hawks to get over their nerves as they started their title quest at the Esso Cup national female midget hockey championship last weekend.

Toni Conrad scored the game winner early in the second period, and Halle Oswald made it stand up with a 35 save performance to lead the Hawks past the Prince Albert Bears 2-1 on day one Sunday.

"We all went in there a little nervous ... playing in front of a packed home crowd building," says coach Dana Bell."We were nervous right at the start ... they shook it off, and we got a quick goal ... they put one in then, and we answered back quickly.

"The girls went out there and worked hard," he says. "They moved the puck well and our forecheck was good. We had great goaltending.

"Everyone worked hard out there ... kept calm and kept focused ... there was a lot of determination going into the third period, so that was good to see."

The Hawks struck first in the opening period about eight minutes in when Brooklyn Platt spotted a wideopen Hannah Petrie in the slot, and she put it in high to the blocker side.

From there, the teams went back and forth in an eight-minute stretch with no whistles. The end-to-end action ended in a breakaway attempt for Prince Albert forward Miranda Heidt, but Oswald just got a shoulder on the glove-side shot.

Prince Albert carried that momentum into the second period and then tied it 2:49 in on a tap-in from around behind the net.

Less than two minutes later, Sage McElroy-Scott hit the neutral zone for the Hawks and banked it off the boards and hit a streaking Conrad, who wristed a shot high for the lead.

The Bears peppered Oswald with shots after the Conrad goal, but be it



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT Hawks netminder Halle Oswald making one of her many saves in Sunday's 2-1 victory over the Bears to open the team's Esso Cup run. Right: Pembina Valley's Kelly-Rae Zdan wins a faceoff over Prince Albert's Kassidy Kicia.

cross crease or one timers, Prince Albert could not beat the Hawks' goaltender again. The West region champs held a 36-22 advantage in shots on goal, including 28-14 over the last 40 minutes.

"It feels amazing to get the first win in front of our own crowd," says Oswald. "The first win is always huge and it gives us confidence.

"We wanted to prove that we belonged and win our way in, and we proved tonight that we earned our spot at the tournament."

The other Sunday games saw Quebec champs Harfangs du Triolet beat Ontario's Durham West Lightning 4-1, while the Pacific's St. Albert Slash

Continued on page 22



High praise for Morden as host

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden is earning praise this week from people enjoying and involved in the Esso Cup national female midget hockey championship.

All the months of organization and preparation was paying off in spades as the top young female players in the nation came out to vie for the title.

"The people in Morden have been absolutely fantastic ... we got a warm welcome," said Pierre Dubuc, who was here with the Harfangs Du Triolet representing Quebec."The organization has been so superb. We have nothing but good things to say about everyone here."

"It looks like a pretty nice place ... and they've done everything really well ... I'm really enjoying it all so far," agreed Kaylee Vader, a member of the Pacific region champion St. Albert Slash.

Host committee chairperson Clare Agnew felt everything was falling into place well as the action got underway over the weekend.

She suggested the kickoff evening Saturday was a good welcome for the players and was very well received.

"People seemed excited about it ... there was lots of cheering," said Agnew. "We played some interactive

games ... they got to meet some players from the other teams ... have some fun competition.

"I think everyone felt welcome to the community ... and everyone was excited to see the puck drop then and get on with the games," she added of the opening games on Sunday. "It's exciting to have a building full of people to watch some great hockey ... I'm hoping we're going to have people here to cheer on the players."

"It was great to meet some of the other players," agreed Vader of the kickoff festivities, while teammate Taylor Anker said she felt Morden was certainly living up to its reputation as a welcoming community.

"I've heard lots of great things about Morden," Anker said.

"I think the setup here is great ... and everything seems so well organized. It's been a lot of fun so far," she added, noting the challenge was to stay focused while also enjoying themselves.

"We know when to have fun and when to focus ... from experience, we know when we need to step up," Anker said.

"We're really close ... we've just bonded really well ... we have a good connection with each other, so it's our strong bond has gotten us here."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Harfangs Du Triolet had a strong cheering section in the stands for their opening game Sunday, making some noise here as their team scored the first goal of the tournament in their victory over Ontario's Durham West Lightning.

Dubuc agreed that it was important to find that balance on and off the ice this week.

"We need to also participate in the events ... because the people here have gone all out to set up these events and make us feel welcome," he said.

Morden's Jim Hunt was among the many local fans on hand to enjoy the high-level hockey, starting right from the opening game Sunday between the Ontario and Quebec teams.

"I think this is huge for Morden and the area ... it's pretty awesome for Morden to be able to host this event," he said. "I think this could do lots for the community. It helps promote women's hockey ... and also when it's a national event like this ... it's not very often it's hosted in your home town."

"I think it's a great opportunity for Morden," agreed Trudy Curry, who was among the volunteers working the merchandise table for the tournament.

"I had a cousin who participated in this a couple years ago, so that's kind of what piqued my interest ... and I just thought it would be a great opportunity to see all these wonderful women play hockey," she said.

Continued on page 22

Players eager to prove they have what it takes

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Hawks were focused on the task at hand as they competed this week for the Esso Cup.

Goaltender Halle Oswald, who has provided solid netminding for the Hawks all season, says they are proud of the fact they got to the national tournament by winning the league and not needing their automatic berth as the host team.

"We showed that we have what it takes. We don't want anyone to take us lightly. We want to be the team to beat," she says. "We worked hard for this and we wanted to show that we've got it."

This week will be a bit of a balancing act for the ladies, Oswald reflected, as they try and focus on the task at hand while also soaking in the overall experience. "It's definitely an enjoyable experience all around," she said, adding staying focused is a lot about the mental preparation. "We just try to stay focused on our game and not worry about everything else ... just do what we can and do our best.

"We worked hard all season for this, and we never gave up. We work as a team well, and we've been focussing ... to get to the level we need to be to win a national championship."

Alternate team captain Alyssa Alderson agreed it was especially gratifying that they earned their spot here. "It's a great opportunity for our entire team, and it was really nice to be able to win our way in there. That was probably the best feeling ever," she said. "Throughout the year, a lot of teams may have doubted us ... think-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Volunteers Trudy Curry and Rish Law were working the Esso Cup merchandise table on the opening day of play Sunday.

Outstanding sports volunteers honoured

By Lorne Stelmach

A wall of fame honouring Mordenites for going above and beyond in the sport community has five new additions.

The 2017 Outstanding Sports Volunteers were honoured at a reception last Tuesday at the Access Event Centre.

Receiving the award was Troy Ehnes, Steve Sager, Joe Wiwchar, and Dorothy Andrews for herself and in memoriam of her husband Lloyd.

"It was fun, and you were helping somebody else, so what else could you do?" says Andrews, who was cited for involvement as a player, coach, organizer and leader, while Lloyd was described as passionate about community development and especially as a builder in the sport community.

Andrews appreciates the recognition but also doesn't see getting involved as work.

"I really think when you grow up in a community, you do your share," she suggests. "It was fun ... that was the main thing ... it was always fun working with the kids in this town."

The award was the latest in a long record of honours bestowed on Wiwchar, who is considered by many people as being instrumental in the development and growth of baseball in Morden.

"It's not a job for me, it's a passion ... something that I like to do ... and Clare Agnew (far left) and Morden Mayor Ken Wiebe (second from right) presented sport volunteer awards to Steve Sager, Joe Wiwchar, Troy Ehnes, and Dorothy Andrews last week.

PHOTO BY LORNE STEL-MACH/VOICE

keep doing it as long as I can," says Wiwchar, who is stepping in as coach of the Pembina Valley Orioles junior baseball team this year.

Sager, meanwhile, was cited for his continued active role in coaching minor sports and always going further to even help with ball diamond and grounds maintenance when necessary.

"It's something that, as a coach, I never really expected, but I appreciate the recognition," he says. "I've had a lot of fun experience and rewarding experiences coaching ... a wide range of different players and ages ... it's been a very rewarding experience. "I've just always enjoyed it," says Sager, citing the reward of seeing players build and gain confidence and "when you give players a chance to succeed.

"Growing up, sports has always been a big thing in my life ... I was fortunate to have a number of great coaches. They played a big role in my life, and I've always wanted to kind of provide that role model to other kids."

Ehnes took pride in now sharing space on the wall with his father, whom he started coaching alongside years ago in Morden.

"It's very much an honour. It's nice to go up and be on there with my dad ... people I've played for ... and people I've played with," says Ehnes, who was cited as a natural leader able to get the best from his players.

He says he has a lot of respect for all the people up on the wall.

"We maybe start out coaching our kids and then we get more involved," says Ehnes, who stressed the important role that coaches can play in people's lives.

"I think people nowadays need to know that you may not always like the coach that you're playing for, but you're going to learn something from him."

Wiwchar coming on board as Orioles coach

By Lorne Stelmach

There is much reason for optimism as the Pembina Valley Orioles prepare for their 2017 Manitoba Junior Baseball League season.

Aside from a strong group of returning players, there is also a new bench boss at the helm who is synonymous with baseball in Morden.

"We're glad he's coming on board," president Sheldon Bergman says of landing Joe Wiwchar as coach this year.

"He's got so much experience ... more than anybody I know," he says. "So the boys already have been talking about it and about coming back, and they're excited about it, so I think it's going to be a really good year for the Orioles this year."

"I think it could be a pretty good team," agrees Wiwchar, who deflected the focus away from himself. "It's not so much the coaching ... it's the players you have ... and it looks like there's a pretty good roster."

The Orioles finished fifth in the league last year in a season where a number of their games ended up cancelled because of rain.

Pembina Valley then bowed out of the playoffs in three games to Winnipeg South after having won the opener.

Wiwchar had offered last winter to step in if the team found themselves in need of a coach, and what made a difference for him now is also having a pair of good assistant coaches in Josh Ginter and Jadynn Wolf.

Both he and Bergman are optimistic given the level of experience they expect to have on the roster.

"We lost only two players from last year. We've got a really strong roster ... we've got a really good pitching core this year," suggests Bergman, who has high hopes for the potential to "win and go to the Westerns ... I think this could be the year."

The team will hold open tryouts this Sunday from noon to 2 p.m.

"There's not a lot of spots to fill out in the field ... of course we're going to look at players coming to camp, but there's a lot of spots I think are taken," suggests Bergman.

"I've had some of those guys back in midget, so I know a little bit about them," adds Wiwchar.

"There's a good core there. Pitching is the main thing ... always ... if you have some good pitching, you can go quite a ways."

Aside from looking for the skills, Wiwchar will also have an eye on some of the intangibles and will expect a strong level of discipline with the emphasis on team.

"I would expect them to be proud of the Orioles and wear their uniform proudly," he says.

"It's always been my belief or my way of thinking ... I like the talent, but I like the attitude a lot better. I'll pick a guy with a good attitude over a guy with talent."

Next up for the Orioles after tryouts will be a steak, sud and spud night May 6 at Rock's Bar & Grill as a fundraiser for their new jerseys.

They will then hold their annual baseball clinic May 6-7. Ages 8 to 12 will take the field each day from 1-2:30 p.m. and ages 13 and over from 2:30-4 p.m.

Former Oriole and college player Brent Unrau will again run this clinic.



Alderson gives back

By Lorne Stelmach

A member of the Pembina Valley Hawks practiced paying it forward to the benefit of Special Olympics.

Alyssa Alderson recently turned \$150 provided through an RBC program into \$1,200 for Special O.

"It was just really good to give back to the sport community just because it's given me such a good opportunity," says the alternate captain for the Hawks.

"It means a lot to give back to the athletic community ... I believe that sports are about much more than just winning ... they have the power to bring a community together."

Alderson took part in the Make 150 Count initiative of RBC to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary.

The program provides youth \$150 with no strings attached other than to do good in their communities in their own way. Participating youth were chosen either through their local RBC branches or social media.

In December, the Hawks were invited to play a basketball game in Winkler against local Special Olympic athletes.

"I came away from the event really inspired because I believe playing sports is so beneficial and everyone should have the chance to participate," says Alderson.

Alderson decided to use her RBC Make 150 Count money to help raise funds for the local Special O program.

She purchased a Hockey Canada jersey and hat and a Toronto Blue Jays t-shirt to donate to a Special Olympics Manitoba charity auction. The prizes ended up selling for \$1,200.

"I thought it was a great example of how young people are not only embracing the \$150 opportunity in really personal ways but, in Alyssa's case, how \$150 can be used to raise even more money and awareness," says Brian Findlay of Stellick Marketing Communications, who was involved



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Pembina Valley Hawks' Alyssa Alderson with Special Olympics athlete Chrissy Peters. Alderson spent \$150 given to her by RBC on a Hockey Canada jersey and hat and a Blue Jays t-shirt, which were auctioned off for \$1,200 in support of Special Olympics.

with the program.

"The best part of the Make 150 Count program is the care and creativity young people like Alyssa are putting into their projects," he con-

cludes. "They are truly turning \$150 into something much more valuable than \$150."

Halle Oswald chosen for national U18 camp

By Lorne Stelmach

What's already been a banner year for one of the Pembina Valley Hawks has now gotten even better.

Even as she was playing for the Esso Cup national championship this week, goaltender Halle Oswald was looking forward to a chance to get her name in the conversation about playing for Canada.

The Sanford native has been selected by Hockey Canada to attend the U18 national team's strength and conditioning camp May 3-7 in Hamilton.

"It's a huge opportunity for me. I can't wait," says Oswald, who is among 83 players invited to the camp.

Her performance this season did not go unnoticed, as Oswald backstopped the Hawks to the provincial title.

She led the team to the Manitoba championship with four shutouts in nine playoff games as the Hawks swept their three series with Central Plains, Winnipeg and Westman.

Oswald was excited to be able to take a step towards possibly being able to play for the nation.

"It means the world to me," she says. "It's always been a dream to play for Team Canada, so getting this invitation is a great starting point for me.

"Team Canada is everyone's dream ... but I've always done my best to train hard and be the best that I can be."

The camp will be entirely off-ice but still very grueling for those involved.

The focus will be entirely on sessions that include dryland training, fitnesstesting and physical and mental preparation, but Oswald says bring it on.

"It's going to be long days of working hard, but I've been working out and training the whole year ... and along with playing a lot of games this season.

"It's all good for me, and I'm going to be ready for it," she says, adding she gives credit to her teammates for helping get her to a place where she can get this opportunity.

"I've played with a great team this year," she says, adding, "I have no problem playing under pressure ... and that's what it takes to play at the national level."

Oswald was among the players selected through a process that had Melody Davidson, general manager of Hockey Canada's national women's team programs, along with her staff of regional scouts following the progress of the players with their club teams as well as tournaments and championships.

This camp is the first of the season

Our mistake

of the Voice incorrectly identified the bull rider in the photo on Pg. 18.

In fact, it was Mordenite Ryan Neufeld taking part in the MRCA-

and is the initial step in preparing for the 2017-18 season.

The goal is to review the commitment expected on a daily basis for a high performance athlete and to start a personalized, four-year plan for each athlete.

"Our strength and conditioning camp is an opportunity for us to further assess players we've targeted for the national team program ... as we look to build the athlete pipeline to 2022 and beyond," says Davidson.

"The camp also plays an important role for the players who are given a much clearer picture of the expectations of a national team athlete and a personalized pathway to give them the best opportunity to continue to be part of the national team program."

> ORIOLES, FROM PG. 20

Anyone interested can contact him at 204-750-3003 for registration information.

"He's worked with the Orioles the last couple years ... helped out with the camp ... it was really good for the team to put that on," says Bergman. "We would like to grow this camp each year."

Pembina Valley will then open their season at home Wednesday, May 10 against the Altona Bisons followed by weekend games against St. Boniface and the Brandon Marlins.

A cutline in the April 20 edition sanctioned rodeo in Pierson the weekend before.

We sincerely apologize for the error and any confusion it may have caused.



Vying for a spot at the Games

About two dozen players were on hand Monday at the Morden Activity Centre for the local cribbage playoffs to help form the Pembina Valley team that will compete at the 2017 Manitoba 55-Plus Games in Killarney June 13-15. "I'm looking forward to going," says Paul Link of Morden. "I play most of the winter at the Morden Legion," he notes, suggesting there is a good community of players in the area. The 55+ Games are a multi-sport event now in its 35th year and featuring such events as a walk/run, five-pin bowling, golf, floor curling, shuffleboard, scrabble, slo-pitch, snooker, swimming, track, pickle ball, and

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Team Zacharias falls short at U18 nationals

By Lorne Stelmach

A local curler was part of the foursome representing Manitoba at the U18 national curling championships in Moncton, New Brunswick this past week.

The Altona-based team that included Morgan Reimer as third along with skip Mackenzie Zacharias, second Emily Zacharias, and lead Paige Beaudry came up just short of the

playoff round.

"We did our best and tried our hardest," Reimer said back home Monday. "We fell a little short in the end, but we tried our best."

The foursome finished third out of six teams in their pool through the round-robin play with a record of three wins and two losses.

They opened with wins over Newfoundland and Ontario before bow-

ing to Northern Ontario and Alberta, but they then rebounded to beat Saskatchewan.

They missed the championship round by going with a win and two losses the rest of the way- beating Nova Scotia but losing to New Brunswick and Quebec.

It has been a banner year for the young foursome, which has competed at the Optimist U18 International

Curling Championship as well as being the youngest team to compete at the Manitoba Scotties Tournament of Hearts provincial championship.

Reimer says she has enjoyed every minute of it all.

"It's been quite a roll with the girls," she said. "It still ended on a pretty good note in Moncton ... I'm happy with how we curled. And it was an amazing experience overall."

Slash down Hawks 2-1 in tight game two

From Pg. 18

blanked the Atlantic's Mid-Isle Wildcats 6-0.

The Hawks faltered in game two Monday night, which they lost to the Slash 2-1.

Pembina Valley took an early first period lead with a goal from Mackenzie Hutchinson just six minutes in.

The Slash's Stephanie Markowski evened things up before the first intermission, and then Makenna Schuttler scored what proved to be the game winner midway through the second period.

Oswald stood tall in net, making 49 saves as the Slash outshot the Hawks 51-29.

Other Monday games saw Quebec trounce the Atlantic team 4-1 and Ontario best the West 5-1.

The preliminary round of games wrap up Thursday, April 27, as Ontario takes on Pacific, Quebec faces West, and the host Hawks play the Atlantic.

The playoffs will get underway with

semi-finals on Friday, followed by the bronze medal match Saturday afternoon and the gold game Saturday

evening.

The community is invited to help celebrate the conclusion of the week's festivities with a tailgate party Saturday from 4-6 p.m., just before the final game.

> HIGH PRAISE, FROM PG. 19

"I was hoping to watch a few games after I am done my volunteer duties here," she added. "It's a great opportunity to showcase Morden, not only to Manitoba but to the rest of Canada ... and to see how wonderful volunteers are here and to show off our beautiful city."

"I love to volunteer ... and I love to see all the people coming into our community," added fellow volunteer Rish Law.

"It's going to be good for the city. I think it's going to showcase Morden ... hopefully they will see that our community has a lot to offer, and way." maybe more tourists will come our

> ESSO CUP, FROM PG. 19

ing it doesn't matter where we get, we're still going to play in a national championship."

Alderson noted the break since the league playoffs has given the team a chance to really prepare for the competition ..

"We were off since March ... but we had a lot of intense practices ... we were working out a lot, and we also had a few exhibition games. We had

the opportunity to build on things and focus on things we needed to work on as well."

She agrees as well with the importance of the mental preparation.

"When we're not playing, we can kind of just take it all in ... but then as soon as we walk into the rink for each game, that's our focus ... this is what we want to do ... this is what we worked for all year."

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca

Agriculture Introducing the next gen of spinner spreaders

By Harry Siemens

The last time anyone looked, fertilizer spinner spreaders appeared to be a thing of the past.

Not so, says Kelly Manikel of Portage la Prairie, who is in charge of the dealer and product support and development for AgriSpread.

Founded in 2006, AgriSpread is a family owned agricultural machinery manufacturer based in Ireland.

"We have built spreaders in Ireland for the past 10 years [and] recently started distributing across North America as the spinner spreader market revives heartedly in Western Canada," Manikel said.

Spinner fertilizer spreaders were a common implement back in the '60s and early '70s, but have since all but disappeared.

"Certain areas, there are very few new style spinner spreaders, but we, along with our competitors in the market, have really brought spinner spreaders to the next level," Manikel said. "We're covering a lot more ground, a lot greater capacity for bin space.

"The biggest thing is the improvement in technology for rate accuracy and spread accuracy," he said. "We're able to communicate with any mainline display and variable rate any fertilizer application. Basically, we're just a lot more accurate than we used to be."

So far, the response to AgriSpread in western Canada has been good since the company made inroads here over the past year.

"A big part of our market are Bio-Sul applicators who spread the Bio-Sul product, which is compost mixed with elemental sulfur," Manikel said. "It's a by-product, sulfur, from the oil fields, combined with compost material from grocery store waste. They're fairly low cost materials. When properly blended and screened, they can provide, in one single pass, five to six years' worth of the crop's sulfur requirements."

Bio-Cycle of Calgary produces this product, and Saskatchewan's Aberhart Ag Solutions is setting up dealers, retailers, and applicators across Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

So, how do spinner spreaders com-

pare to liquid fertilizer applicators?

"The mindset in so many people on so many farms is that broadcasting will produce more gassing and nitrification, but that's not necessarily true, and so it can be certainly incorporated into strong agronomic practices," he said. "A lot of studies have shown that broadcasting and shallow incorporation produces fewer nutrient losses than shallow banding."

More and more farmers are seeing the benefits of adding a spinning spreader to their toolkit, Manikel said.

"I look at this past fall and this upcoming spring as a prime example of why a lot of farms are going use spinner spreaders: not a whole lot of fertilizer was placed last fall compared to normal, and if we do have a short weather window this spring, there's no better way to essentially increase your seeding capacity than to have a spinner spreader broadcast your entire blend, if possible, in fall, or in spring before the drill.

"It effectively saves you a lot of handling time, and you can focus on the seeding time when that weather window allows."

He said capacity is upwards of a 17 tonne box at the moment, but will extend to 19 tonne working with Michel's Industries out of Saskatchewan to add capacity to their bins.

"Basically, close to 20 tons when you heap it on. And of course with the more dense products like Bio-Sul, we're talking 20, 22 ton in our largest pull type," said Manikel.

He said the units all use hydraulic drive and almost every tractor will have the required 30 gallons per minute pump.

For the biggest spreaders, a farmer will need to have at least a 300 horsepower tractor, ideally, but in flat areas you can go ahead with a 250 horse, front-wheel assist would be just fine.

Farmer hopes invention will speed up unloading

By Harry Siemens

Manitou area cattle producer Tim Penner has recently started a new company, Soaring Eagle Grain Equipment Inc., with partner Henry Elias of Morden to build the all-new swinging drive over conveyor that bolts to your auger and helps unload grain faster. Penner, 24, manages, sells, researches and develops the product from the company's recently opened shop at 540 Commander St. in Winkler.

"I worked at Elias Reliabelt in Morden a couple years back, and one of the owners or the person that started that company, Henry Elias, saw my work," said the young inventor. "He came up to me last fall and said he wanted to start a business, so I went into business with him. Henry owns some of the shares but has other stuff going on, so he's letting me run the shop."

The duo hope the new conveyor will help producers increase their efficiency at harvest time.

Continued on page 24



By Harry Siemens

In 1967, my father Henry C. Siemens, my brother Jack who farms with his son Jonathan, and myself, then a fledgling farmer, bought our neighbour's quarter section for \$300 an acre—an exorbitant price, gushed our neighbours at the time.

It was a high price as we soon learned, especially when then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau told us to sell our own wheat because the Canadian Wheat Board price was a measly \$1.35 a bushel or thereabouts and the total quota for a few years about three bushels an acre.

Yep, \$4 an acre gross receipts, and by 1970, the poorest of those poor years, we couldn't pay the interest on that \$300 an acre land or \$48,000 for the quarter section. That despite good crops.

My father offered to give the land back to our neighbour, but no, said Mr. Dyck, hang in there, things will improve. And improved they did in 1972 when the price of grain shot up and, if I recollect correctly, we paid that land off the following year.

Fast forward to 2016 and the price of land has kept climbing, but there seems to be a little stall right now.

Farm Credit Canada reports average farmland values in Canada continued to climb in 2016 but lost steam in most provinces.

FCC's latest *Farmland Values Report* shows farmland values increased by an average of 7.9 percent in 2016, compared to 10.1 percent in 2015 and 14.3 per cent in 2014.

Should farmers and landowners be concerned? Over the years when I've asked people why they pay these high prices that keep the land rentals up and the ownership tight, often it is because they can. Or land doesn't come up for sale more than once in a lifetime, so if a piece that you want comes up for sale, people who can buy it. The other common answer is they don't make more land—we have what we have and there isn't any more being produced.

I've seen farms grow from small family farms to large corporate

New swinging drive over conveyor making waves

From Pg. 23

"We're definitely trying as hard as we can to make something for the farmers to unload in a hurry during the busy season, in this case, most often at harvest time," said Penner. "So this swinging drive-over is really low. It's under three inches high, making it much easier to drive over with the front end of your truck.

"As you pull up with the truck, you pull up so you're halfway between your hoppers, and then you just get out and get your auger going. This swinging drive over bolts to your auger and you can swing it from hopper to hopper on a straight trailer and/or a super-B. I guess you'd have to move once."

As soon as the operator engages the belt, the sides come up and it's ready to unload the grain. When one hopper on the trailer is unloaded, he moves it to the next one.

The unit has a safety feature that lets the operator stop it instantly

"WE'RE DEFINITELY TRYING ... TO MAKE SOMETHING FOR THE FARMERS TO UNLOAD IN A HURRY DURING THE BUSY SEASON." should someone accidentally place a hand or foot on the conveyor.

When asked about the amount of grain it moves and how fast, Penner said they haven't done a lot of the actual testing and measuring of the volume of grain it moves and how fast.

"For now, we use it with a 13-inch Brandt auger and we did have to cut a bigger hole at the end of the auger because we were putting up that much grain we were actually plugging the end of the auger,"he said."The capacity is way more than the auger can handle right now because we're actually forcing the grain into the flighting with the belt. We did about 10,200 bushels an hour on a ten-inch auger right at the beginning of our first finished unit."

So far, the company has one unit with a farmer in Saskatchewan and one with a farmer at Letellier. Right now the selling price is around \$15,000 plus a setup fee.

"We're in the shop. We're definitely working on a product that we can sell and get to farmers continuing to improve upon the initially built units," Penner said. "We definitely are looking to make some other stand-alone conveyors, like a 55-footer or something like a truck loader or something like that, definitely.

"We want to perfect this so that we can get this rolling and then we can definitely do some other equipment for grain handling."

If you'd like to learn more about Soaring Eagle Grain Equipment Inc., contact Penner at timpennerbuilt64@ hotmail.com or 204-242-4679.

Prices slowing down across nation

From Pg. 23

family farms, often to the chagrin of younger farmers who can't compete with the rental or the cost of ownership.

It sometimes means heartbreak or at least a realization that if I want to farm and I can make it on the smaller land base I will, or pulling the plug, selling or renting out what he has and getting a day job or even working for the larger farm that offered to buy him out.

FCC chief agricultural economist J.P. Gervais said what stands out from this most recent survey of prices is that, for the third consecutive year, growth has slowed down.

"That's true at the national level when you average out all the different provinces, but also for most provinces," he said. "In the prairies, if you think of Saskatchewan for example, that's the third consecutive year where we have the rate of growth in farmland values that's coming down, so really I think farmland values are cooling off. I'm calling this a slowdown because we've had 10 amazing years of growth when it comes to farm income."

Gervais said in less than 10 years farmers have actually more than doubled crop receipts and that's especially true in the prairies. In 2016, while the final figures are still not in, Gervais said crop receipts have likely slowed down.

"In Saskatchewan, for example, you're likely to get crop receipts down in 2016 relative to 2015. Part of this is because of some of the production challenges we had, quality issues as well and softer pricing," he said. "We did face lower prices on average in 2016 than in 2015.

"So overall I think we've had slower growth when it comes to farm revenues and that slows down farmland value increases that we've seen over the last few years."

Gervais said other factors, such as interest rates, also play a role, but lower income is the main factor.

When you hear of land exchanging hands for \$6,000 to sometimes \$10,000 an acre for small much-desired farmland, the \$300 an acre we paid in 1967 is quite a bargain, but we also farmed with 14-seeder discers and 14-deeptillage cultivators. The first and only grain bin I bought was a total of 1,300 bushels—that wouldn't even hold a truck load today.

Partying in PJs

Over 50 children and their families were out jamming in their pajamas April 20 at the annual dance hosted by the Morden Parent and Child Resource Centre. In addition to raising about \$300 for the centre's programs, the dance also serves to raise awareness about those programs, say organizers.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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senting Purple Martin Conservation Association, Central Manitoba Tourist Association To Steve Loney, Allen Enns, Jamie Fox, and Tim Poole who donated photo contest, rainbow auction and door prizes, to those who donated food, and to Pembina Valley Conservation District & Cliff Greenfeld for equipment To the many great volunteers who set up and took down all the hall materials, To Lois, Kathy and crew who manned the canteer and prepared and served lunch, To Deb, Neil, Amy and Suzanne for sanitary assistance, to Cindy, Coral and Jasmine at the front door and raffle table, to Jamie who organized the kids' activities, to Paul for the prizes for the kids' draws and the 150th Canada celebration, to Penny & Paul for the coloring contest prizes, to Paul and Val and his spotters and tour guides Luc Blanchette and Frank Foidart who aided newcomers to birding, to traffic patrols Norm, John, Warren, Larry, Glen, Darlene and Josh who kept everyone safe, to the photo contest organizer Gloria Wiklund and judge Wayne Benedet, and contest participants, to our junior crew Tyra and Thomas Gerbrandt, Megan Dow, Daylyn and Kadrey Thompson for auction and kitchen management, to George Henderson who greeted our special guests, to the many willing volunteers who did so many jobs on and behind the scenes to help the festival run smoothly and to the many hands who made light work contributing to another successful festival. Special thanks to Wayne Benedet who donated the photo canvas for the raffle and to Westoba Credit Union La Riviere Branch who assisted with display and ticket sales. A special thank you to Judy Robertson of Wildlife Haven who arranged for the release of the Bald Eagle and who was so capably assisted by Kim Blackbird and Doug Irving, and to Dr. Christian Artuso who so willingly shared his knowledge of birds and enthusiasm for birding during his presentations. Our list of thanks would not be complete without our thanks for the continued support by our local newspapers: The Winkler-Morden Voice, Sentinel Courier of Pilot Mound and Western Canadian in Manitou. We could not have done it without you!

Finally, thanks to those who came out to enjoy the day with us - we appreciate your attendance and your

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Crossword Answei



27. Hands (Span.)

CLUES DOWN

Manitoba 9



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