

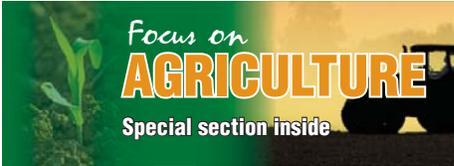
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Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

April 2017 • Volume 10, Number 4

Amazing season for Ochap's Ethan Bear

- Bear named WHL Western Conference defenseman of the year
- Sets new record for highest scoring defenseman in Thunderbirds history

BY KARA KINNA

It has been an amazing hockey season for Ochapowace's Ethan Bear.

Bear—who plays with the WHL's Seattle Thunderbirds—has been named the 2016-17 Western Conference Defenseman of the Year. Bear is eligible to win the Bill Hunter Memorial Trophy given to the top defenseman in the WHL at the 2017 WHL Awards in Calgary, Alberta, on Wednesday, May 3. Bear was also named a Western Conference First Team All-Star by the WHL for the second consecutive season.

In addition, the 19-year-old also set a new club record with the Thunderbirds, becoming the highest scoring defenseman in the team's history.

The 19-year-old surpassed Shea Theodore, who played for the T-Birds from 2010 to 2015, for the most goals scored by a defenseman in a single season, scoring 28 goals. In four years with Seattle, Bear has a total of 192 points with 66 goals and 126 assists. That puts him in fourth place in assists for a defenseman, and second behind Theodore for most points in the franchise's record books.

Bear also finished second in the WHL for most defenseman goals behind the Regina Pats' Conner Hobbs, who had 31 goals. He was third overall in points for a defenseman, sitting just one point behind Lethbridge Hurricanes Brennan Menell, who had 71 points from 12 goals and 59 assists.

Bear was selected by the Edmonton Oilers in the fifth round, 124th overall, of the 2015 NHL Draft, and was signed to a three-year, entry-level contract. With one year of eligibility left in the WHL, Bear is hoping to make a move to the American Hockey League's Bakersfield (Calif.) Condors, an affiliate team of the Oilers.

In an interview with Plain and Valley, Bear said it's exciting to be named the Western Conference Defenseman of the Year.

"It feels really good," he says. "I am happy and proud of myself, and my family is too. I can feel the excitement back home with how everybody who has been congratulating me and been there for me and supported me. It makes me happy and makes me want to keep on going."

Bear says it's equally as excited to be up



Matt O'Dette, Assistant Coach of the Seattle Thunderbirds, presents Ethan Bear with the Thunderbirds' Defenceman of the Year award. Bear set a new record with the team, scoring 28 goals as a defenceman.

for the award for the top defenseman in the WHL.

"It is exciting. I'm running against one of my best buddies from Saskatoon and that will be interesting," he says. "He is one of my best buddies. Whoever gets it, I will be happy for, but to be in this race is an honor and I have worked pretty hard for it and I am proud of myself."

Bear says it was surprising to break the Thunderbirds' record for the most goals scored by a defenseman.

"I wasn't focused on it and I didn't know what the record was. I didn't really think about it, and once I did it was pretty cool to think about it," he says. "I thought about it for a couple days. I just kept on playing didn't let it get to me too much."

Why is Bear having such a great season?

"There's no magic or anything. I just keep playing hockey. Maybe I am just having more fun, enjoying the game a little bit more," he says. "I'm not over thinking too much and just playing. That is probably why it has been a bit more enjoyable this year."

Bear says the accolades mean a lot for his career.

"It helps prove you are ready," he says. "You did well in another league. Usually if you get some recognition you get a little bit more opportunity in the next level, so I think it helps and I am happy I got it and think I worked very hard for it."

The thought of playing in the NHL one day is what has driven Bear to work hard at hockey from day one.

"I am competitive and I want to keep getting better and play in the elite leagues. That is what motivates me," says Bear. "I want to play with the best. To do something you love as a job would be amazing."

Bear grew up spending countless hours in the rink at Ochap, dreaming of being an NHLer one day.

"When you're that young you don't really think about it because you don't know much about it. It's a dream to get drafted and as a kid you always dream about being that best player. It is definitely something I have dreamed of, and now that I am here I want to help my team win in playoffs and keep playing and keep moving up," he says.

Continued on page 7

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Rocanville's Jess Moskaluke won her first Juno Award Sunday, April 2. See page 5 for details.

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Moskaluke wins Juno for Country Album of the Year

Southeast Saskatchewan's Jess Moskaluke received the biggest honor of her career so far at the Juno Awards in Ottawa Sunday Night. Moskaluke was raised in Langenburg and now lives in the Rocanville area.

She won Country Album of the Year for her EP Kiss Me Quiet, which includes the Top 10 Canadian Country hits "Kiss Me Quiet" and "Take Me Home."

"I can honestly say I'm feeling a lot of things right now, and overwhelmed is one of them," she said Monday in a Facebook post. "Overwhelmed with excitement, love, disbelief, and pride for my genre."

"To everyone who's called, texted, emailed, social mediaed in the past 24 hours, thank you so much for taking the time out of your day to help celebrate my first Juno Award win!

"I am part of one of the coolest industries in the world. The music industry may not be an easy one, but the people you surround yourself with make all the difference. One of the things I am most proud of in this industry is the lack of competitiveness I felt throughout the whole Juno process. The genuine happiness we all share for each others' successes is something other industries should aspire to."

"Thank you to my team. Every single one of you. While we may have had more success in the past couple of years than I could've ever imagined in my lifetime, that comes with some difficult decisions, and a lot of pressure. I can't imagine having anyone else by my side to help me through this crazy job of ours."

"Thank you so much to CARAS and the Junos for representing country music last



night. I hope you felt the power of country music fans as much as we do and will continue to support us as much as we support you!"

Jess Moskaluke is a rising Canadian country star. Her single "Cheap Wine and Cigarettes" from her debut album "Light up the Night" reached 11 on the country charts and was certified platinum.

She has won the Canadian Country Music Association's Female Artist of the Year three times running in 2014, 2015 and 2016. And she has twice been nominated for Junos in the past.

In her acceptance speech Sunday she said winning a Juno was one of the coolest things she has ever done.

Left: Jess Moskaluke with her award at the Junos.

Getting down to the delivery of health care

Nurse practitioner Cindy Burton offering home visits with her practice, 'My Whole Health'

BY MARCIE HARRISON
The less-than-ideal state of health care is big news these days.

The constant finger pointing and buck-passing by the federal government, the provinces and regional health authorities, have left many people wondering if patient wellbeing is even part of the equation anymore.

So when I heard about a woman who is doing her best to bypass the blame game and just get down to the delivery of health care in southeast Saskatchewan and western Manitoba, I was intrigued.

You might be, too. Cindy Burton of Langenburg currently works as a nurse practitioner (NP) for the local health authority, but outside of her office hours, Burton is breaking new ground.

In an attempt to fill the gaps, which she says show up all too often in rural and First Nations communities, Burton has started offering home visits through her business 'My Whole Health.'

Available to people in a 100 kilometer radius of Russell, Burton's brand of personalized care covers a wide range of services.

"I provide acute and chronic health care services based on patient needs," she explained. "This includes things like driver's and insurance medicals, chronic disease management and education (diabetes, osteoarthritis, mental health), physicals, routine appointments (strep throat, flu, colds), prescription refills, procedures like ear flushing, travel health visits, injections, etc."

As someone who watched an ailing father spend countless uncomfortable hours in Winnipeg emergency rooms to treat chronic conditions that flared up outside of clinic hours and were beyond the capabilities of the home care system, Burton's services sound like a godsend. So I asked her if the elderly were who she had in mind when she started 'My Whole Health' this past December.

"I am hoping to help anyone and everyone who needs this service," she said. "However, there are some groups who may utilize the service more than others. My services might be

used by people with busy work or family schedules who just cannot make it to a clinic. Also, our elderly patients who have difficulty with mobility and/or transportation might use this service. And I am really hoping to reach our underserved and First Nations communities, who may benefit the most with the contract services."

Having grown up in La Scie, Newfoundland—a fishing village of about 800 people—Burton said her genuine concern for others is a product of the environment she grew up in.

"I was raised in a very caring environment. My family is very caring, and being from Newfoundland, we are known culturally as helpful, friendly people. I think this helped shape me in this profession. I have always wanted to help people, right from childhood. I always knew I would be in some sort of caring profession."

When asked about the challenges of balancing her role with the local health authority and her private practice, the 36-year-old mother of two said she is no stranger to time management.

She began her nursing training in Ontario when she was six months pregnant with her son. Four years later, she was a Registered Nurse.

After that, Burton immediately began doing online courses to complete her Bachelor of Nursing through Memorial University of Newfoundland.

During this time, Burton worked in several different nursing disciplines, including surgery, emergency, acute medicine, research and home visiting services.

However, Burton said she learned early in her nursing training that what she really wanted to be was an NP. "The very first week of classes we had an NP come and discuss the role. It was one of those very real moments where you say, 'That is what I want to be!'" said Burton. "Everything I did as an RN after that point was to further my knowledge and gain needed experience to pursue the NP role."

So in 2009, Burton moved back to Newfoundland and over the next two years, she completed her NP program at Memorial University/Centre for Nursing Studies.



CINDY BURTON

Since then, she has worked in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba, mainly in primary care roles.

Exactly what is it that Burton loves about the job?

"My patients—I love taking care of them," said Burton. "I love hearing their health issues, being a part of their health care team, and educating them as best I can on what they need to do to be healthier. They make every moment of being an NP worthwhile."

What is the hardest part of the job?

"When you cannot determine the cause of a patient's symptoms," said Burton. "As health care providers, we all do everything we can to figure out the cause of the patients' health concern. There are times when we need to go further, and we refer to other members of the healthcare team as required. However, when a patient is suffering and we don't have an answer, that is what I find the most challenging."

As a private practice, Burton's fees are not covered by Manitoba Health. She says that there is a process through some insurance companies to apply for approval of service fees. "Otherwise, the fees can be claimed on tax returns," said Burton.

"Contract services are

available as well, at negotiable prices," said Burton, depending on the number of hours contracted for.

Burton believes that private health care will play a bigger role in the future, as the current public system is plagued by long wait times and a lack of resources.

"One of the biggest challenges is wait times currently. For routine appointments, diagnostics, for mental health, for specialists, for almost every piece of the system. Also, lack of resources in rural/isolated communities and First Nations communities is an issue that is ongoing."

"I see a public and private system in our future, which would allow for people to choose to use and pay for services if they can,

freeing up spaces for those who need to use a publicly funded system. This could save our public system from becoming completely overloaded. This would not have to be a two-tier system where better care is private care; in fact, it could mean freeing up resources to improve the public system."

When asked what her long-term goals are, Burton said she would really like to expand the service across the Prairies over the next few years.

"This will take time, however, there are communities in every province that could benefit from this type of service. Also, with the massive burden on government right now with health care spending, we need options," she said.

"We have to realize that the government cannot keep up with the increased costs of our current system. Private services may be needed to help with this burden, and to lessen the load on our provinces and territories."

The option that Burton wants to provide is care that captures the whole person in relation to their health, in a way that fits their life, when they need and where they need it.

"A person's health is not just their disease—it is their social, environmental, financial and spiritual health, to name a few of the realms. We need to consider every part of the person to give the best care. My Whole Health signifies the health of the person as a whole."

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Mazergroup announcement great news for the area

The announcement that Mazergroup is planning a major new building in Moosomin is one more announcement that adds to the economic growth in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba.

Mazergroup is planning to build a 25,000 square foot dealership in Moosomin. The company purchased land in Moosomin a couple of years back, and has done the site preparation work. Mazergroup plans to increase staff at the Moosomin dealership.

In an interview, Bob Mazer expressed confidence in the Moosomin market, noting that the same amount of equipment is sold out of Moosomin as is sold out of Brandon, and commenting that he believes Moosomin will be a major centre for farm implement sales well into the future.

"We feel that it's a long, long term investment so we're going to build properly and we think Moosomin is the correct place to be if you're in the implement business," Mazer said. "I don't think there will ever be a time when the big three won't be there... It is going to be one of our anchor stores, because it's on Number One Highway and it encompasses that big trade area."

The new, greatly expanded Mazergroup dealership will help solidify Moosomin as a major farm service centre, especially since Sharpe's Soil Services and P&H are also both in the midst of major expansions in Moosomin.

The fact that both companies have put massive investments into Moosomin shows their confidence in Moosomin as a centre. Moosomin no doubt has a strong future as a regional centre for the agriculture community.

Seen in the context of overall economic development in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba, this is one more announcement helping the area grow.

A new Chrysler dealership just opened in Virden and a new Chrysler dealership is coming to Moosomin, a new wind farm is under development for the Grenfell area and another could be in the works for the Kennedy



Kevin Weedmark

area, Hometown Co-op is planning a fertilizer blending plant for Broadview, which will be under construction this spring, an oil refinery is in the planning stages for the

Stoughton area, and we have a couple of business expansions under way in Moosomin right now. Borderland Co-op will open a brand new 25,500 square foot home centre within a few months, and a new furniture store will be opening soon.

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Bear credits his family for much of his success

Continued from front

Bear says his love of hockey was fostered by his family.

"My older brother played for the OCN Blizzard in the MJHL and by that time I was four or five years old and my family went to rinks every weekend and I basically lived at the rink," he says. "My dad was my coach so the majority of my childhood was at the rink, and so I loved the game ever since then."

"At Ochap they had minor hockey all the way up to Midget and I played there until Pee wee then I started playing for the town teams—they were a higher level. In minor hockey it was kids from around the reserve and neighboring reserves and we would make our team. We were actually pretty good. We had a lot of good players. It was a lot of fun. It is where a lot of my childhood memories are, and when I go home I see a lot of my old teammates. It is always a good time, it is my happy place."

Bear says he still gets a chance to play the odd game of rec hockey with his old teammates. "We get to play every now and then. They are still good hockey players, they just don't take it as serious," he says. "It is a lot of fun and everyone enjoys it."

Is there someone in particular who Bear credits with his success in moving to higher and higher levels of hockey?

"Yes, my family," says Bear. "Whenever I needed to go somewhere further or play far away from home, they were always there for me and they always wanted to push me to be a better player. My mom and my family were always there for me, making sure I was working out in the summer, making sure I was with skating coaches improving on and off the ice. My parents were my biggest influences. They were always there and pushing me to be better every time. They made sure I was always enjoying myself, and having fun was the main thing. They made it fun for me."

Bear's dad coached him through minor hockey until his second year in Pee wee.

Bear says there was never any point when he knew he wanted a career in hockey—it had always been in his mind, from day one.

"Ever since I was young I have dreamt about it and I wanted to do it," he says.

"I never had any career goals other than hockey."

When he looks back on himself as that young boy at the Ochap rink, Bear reflects on how far he has come.

"Going home you see the old rinks, and what I had and what I used to become the player I am is sometimes surprising," he says, "but at the same time it was a fun ride and I am not very surprised at where I got to. Without the rink being open all the time where I was from, and skating every day after school—I would spend five to six hours there every day after school—without that I don't think I would be where I am."

Bear says there is one thing that every young hockey player needs to remember if they are going to shoot for the big leagues.

"Enjoy it," he says. "Don't take it too seriously, don't over think things. Just keep playing for the love and the passion, because once you over think things and start stressing over it,

that's when you start to get negative thoughts about it and that's when you start to dislike it. So just play it and have fun. Don't let politics get to you."



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Kinnettes holding spring kegger as fundraiser

BY KARA KINNA

The Moosomin Kinette Club is holding a spring kegger on Saturday, April 22 in the hopes that the event will be a major fundraiser for their club.

The "I'd Tap That" spring kegger will take place at the MCC centre on April 22 and will feature local country band Shifty Morgan.

"We had kind of talked about doing an event in October but it ended up being too busy with our Monster Mash event," says Kaila Neufeld, vice president of the Kinettes.

"We all felt like we needed something to do on a Saturday night. There is not a lot for people our age to do. We wanted to just get everyone out and do something all together—something a bit different than what we normally do."

The result was the spring kegger idea.

"As far as I know we have never done an event like this," says Neufeld. "Those of us who have to been to keg parties, there is just a different atmosphere than a cabaret so we thought it would be something fun to try."

The Kinettes, who donate all of their money back to the community, are planning to use some of the money raised by the kegger to expand the existing Kinettes playground at Bradley Park.

"Some of the money is going towards our playground—we're going to hopefully be expanding that, and other than that we will be putting it back into the community," says Neufeld.

Neufeld says she hopes

this becomes an annual event.

"We are hoping that this takes off and it is something we can continue to do for a couple of years," she says.

"If we sell the minimum amount of tickets that we have already purchased I think that it will be pretty big for us. If we had 250 to 300 people, it would be amazing."

Neufeld says the event is first and foremost a fundraiser and the party is simply a bonus.

"The fundraiser is probably the first and foremost and the fun is the bonus part," she says. "The club hasn't done anything big this year so far so we were just really hoping to do well with this one first and foremost."

Neufeld says there has

already been a good response to the event, with tickets starting to sell.

Like all events run by community groups and volunteers, a lot of work will go into hosting it.

"The whole club is involved so far," says Neufeld. "We are going to need a little man power so we have asked a few of the Kinsmen to help us out, but they would all be there

anyway supporting our event."

Early bird tickets for the event are available at Witch's Brew in Moosomin, or by calling Kaila Neufeld at 306-434-6820 or Tracy Russell at 306-434-7700. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

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Elyse White, left, and Bruce Restau are members of Whitewood's community drama club, the Not So Famous People Players. Cast members are preparing for their annual dinner theatre presentations which will be held in Whitewood on April 22, 28 and 29.

Whitewood drama club to perform comedy in 17th annual dinner theatre

By DONNA BEUTLER

The community drama club in Whitewood, known as the Not So Famous People Players, is marking its 17th year of production this year with a comedy called 'Dead and Breakfast' which will be performed in about three weeks time. A total of three performances are held each year before a total crowd of over 500 people. Each performance starts with a sit-down meal served by actors in costume, followed by the theatrical part of the evening.

Practise this year began in January. The cast is set to move into the arena facility within the next week or so and cast members will assist the crew in setting up the stage. Stage and set designers and lighting and sound technicians will bring the entire set to life while meal co-ordinators and caterers organize all aspects of the dinner. Actors will be transformed by a hair and makeup artist, and along with costuming, often created by the actors themselves,

will take on the look of the characters they play.

Detective Nick Noir, played by Brett Tollefson, sets sail on a romantic honeymoon with his wife Selma, played by Elyse White, on the Lady Lovey Dove. Unfortunately Noir hasn't taken into account the hurricane warnings and the newlyweds end up on a near-deserted island but find shelter at the Jolly Roger Bed and Breakfast. Mistaken for ruthless tycoon J.J. Hay and his mother, the establishment's owner, the rather dour Violet Van Leer, played by Roxanne MacPherson, introduces the Noirs to the other guests staying at the bed and breakfast.

Great mystery writer Zona Zou, played by Lynn Bachtold, is comfortably settled into the bed and breakfast as is Senator Ozzie Hawkins (Dalton Dancsok) and his wife Dora (Andrea Marcoux).

Continued on page 15

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Fouillard helps Pandas claim championship

The University of Alberta Pandas celebrate winning the U Sports women's hockey national championship. Hannah Fouillard of St. Lazare was a rookie on the team this season.



BY ROBIN WARK
When the University of Alberta Pandas scored in double overtime to win the U Sports women's hockey national championship, rookie forward Hannah Fouillard had lots of emotions running through her body.

"I was feeling super anxious, excited and nervous, but I also had so much belief and confidence in my team that I didn't have a single doubt we could get the job done," the daughter of Karen and Charlie said.

Taylor Kezama, a fellow rookie, scored the game winner to give the Edmonton-based U of A the title tilt victory over the McGill University Martlets in Nanawee, Ont. on March 19.

The Pandas lost the Canada West conference final to the University of British Columbia and entered nationals as an underdog sixth seed. At nationals, the Pandas won three straight games to claim their eighth women's hockey championship and first since 2010. What made this team so successful?

"Our speed and work ethic were definitely major factors that contributed in our success," Fouillard said. "The bond our team has on and off the ice is extremely special and had a huge impact on our success. Our leadership didn't just come from the captains, the whole team contributed to make this happen. Every girl had a role and fulfilled it."

Fouillard was thrilled to be able to help the Pandas claim a Canadian championship in her rookie season.

"Not many first years have the privilege to go to nationals and win a gold medal. My favourite part was by far the atmosphere the rink had. The amount of support we had from back home and even at the rink, it was just great to see the fans get involved like they did," she said, noting that her family watched the game online and cheered her on.

The national championship capped a successful rookie season for Fouillard. She earned a spot in the lineup for all 28 regular season games.

Continued on page 13

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Fouillard helps Pandas claim championship



HANNAH FOUILLARD

Continued from page 11

The 5-foot-11 forward recorded eight assists and 18 penalty minutes. U of A head coach Howie Draper was impressed with what Fouillard brought to the team in her first year.

"Her above average hockey IQ allows us to put her in any situation on the ice," he says. "She is coachable and wants to learn, which adds to that higher level of understanding. She possesses a passion for playing the game and couples that with an outstanding work ethic, which exemplifies what we want of every Panda."

Even as a rookie, Fouillard set a good example for teammates with her approach.

"She always seems to be in a positive, upbeat frame of mind," the head coach says. "Her teammates enjoy that and, to a certain extent, want to follow that model. In this, she has become a leader despite her young age."

Draper said that Fouillard has had an impact with her physical strength and tenacity. Those traits have allowed her to create room for teammates and be successful defensively. As Fouillard adjusts to the faster speed of U Sports hockey and has time to grow, Draper can see her becoming an offensive force.

Throughout her hockey career, Fouillard has had the strong backing of her family.

"My parents are the type of parents that would never miss a game," she says. "My parents would sacrifice their social lives just

to come cheer me on during the weekends. Even though I'm 10 hours away, my parents are still my biggest supporters, and continue to come watch me play when they can. I wouldn't have been able to take my hockey career to the next level if it wasn't for them, they are my biggest fans."

Growing up in St. Lazare, Fouillard at-

tended French school and played boys hockey until bantam. She started playing at the AAA level at the age of 14, so her parents were driving her to practice three times a week and to games on the weekend. For her final two years of high school, she studied at Birtle Collegiate while playing with the Yellowhead Chiefs midget AAA program.

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Team Erickson is Team Saskatchewan for the second year in a row

Team Erickson captured the Saskatchewan U18 Provincial title for the second year in a row. The Ramada Hotel U18 provincial triple knock-out championship was held in Moose Jaw, March 24-26.

Rachel Erickson of Maryfield and her team of third, Sarah Hoag of Gravelbourg, second Rachel Ryan of Weyburn, lead Kelly Kay of Maryfield, and coach Shane Kitz of Oxbow won two straight to grab a provincial berth at regions held in Weyburn on Saturday, March 18.

At provincials, the team lost their first game in an extra end to K. Friesen of Wadena.

The girls made a clean swipe of the B Event, defeating Ackerman of Moose Jaw, Zankl of Regina, K. Friesen of Wadena and finally Jessica Thompson of Saskatoon, a native of Maryfield and former teammate of Erickson and

Kay, in the B Event final. The B Event win assured Erickson of a spot in the playoff on Sunday.

Dropping into the semi-final of the C Event, Erickson lost a hard fought battle to A. Thevenot, the A Event winner.

The C Event was won by S. Ackerman. To determine the provincial winner, the B and C event winners met, with Erickson scoring a 5-4 win over Ackerman. Erickson then met Thevenot and the battle was on. Scoring 1 in the eighth in a 4-4 tie, Erickson captured the provincial title. The team now advances to the U18 National Competition April 17-22, 2017 in Moncton, New Brunswick.

The U18 National Event, formerly the Optimist International U18, hosts 12 teams from all provinces across Canada in two six-team pools, followed by a playoff, mixed

double games, and a coaches' workshop.

A send-off with a pot-luck supper is being planned for 6 pm, April 12, 2017 at the Maryfield Rink lounge.



From left are Rachel Erickson, Sarah Hoag, Rachel Ryan, Kelly Kay, and coach Shane Kitz.

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Town of Moosomin:

Town offers tax incentive for commercial construction

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The town of Moosomin is offering tax incentives for new commercial construction for the next three years.

Effective with building permits filed on or after April 1, new commercial building construction, and additions to commercial buildings with a building permit value of \$150,000 or more, will have all property taxes cancelled for the first year the building is complete.

The idea was first brought up at council by economic development committee co-chairs Ron Fisk and Jason Miller in January, but the vote was tabled to a meeting when all councillors could be present.

At the March 22 council meeting there was a 40 minute discussion before the tax incentive came to a vote.

"I don't think it's the be all and end all," said Councillor Chris Davidson. "But it's one more tool in the chest of tools. Location is key, and a good community to live in, and education, and health care, and access to transportation, which we have. It would be one more tool in the chest."

"It is one more tool," agreed Councillor Jason Miller. "It's low risk. It's not a cost, we're just foregoing the revenue for one year. It's an exemption, it's not a subsidy. It's easy on cash flow because

there's no money changing hands."

He pointed out that the RM of Moosomin already has an incentive program. "Having a different playbook than the RM is a problem. We should be on a level playing field with them."

There were a lot of arguments made on both sides of the issue. "When you throw this net in the water to try to catch that one fish, you're catching a lot of fish that aren't asking for anything," said Councillor Murray Gray. "A lot of people who never came and said they want their taxes free for a year are going to get their taxes free for a year."

Councillor Ron Fisk said he believes the tax incentive will be a valuable tool for attracting businesses. He spoke about a tour he recently gave a business owner considering setting up a location in town. "When he was here, the first thing I did was show him everything we have to offer, which included our education, the hospital and showed him all the areas we do have for expansion, and the services we have," said Fisk.

"I couldn't offer a tax incentive because we didn't have one," he said.

But what if I called him and said we need you here and here's something that shows you how much we want you here.

In the past, the town has made deals

on infrastructure and land prices to attract development.

"We look back at the one-offs that we've done, and it's something different for everybody," said Councillor Jason Miller. "This would be fair to everybody. And it's easy on cash flow because there's no money changing hands. The only new money is when that thing is operating in year two. If we look at different options for helping them out, like infrastructure, that money has to come out of our pocket."

Councillor Ron Fisk said that if an investor comes in the town has the option of making deals on land or offering to provide some infrastructure, "or do you have a platform that's already approved and we can say to get you to town, this is what we're doing, and we'll do the same for the next

"It's definitely got to be consistent," said Councillor Chris Davidson. "If we do this it will definitely be consistent."

Murray Gray said he spoke to some business owners about the incentive and "In making a decision like this it's better to see what everyone thinks about it rather than read it in the paper on Monday. It's a big decision."

Councillor Teddi Taylor suggested that the tax abatement be introduced for

a limited time of three years. "One or two years wouldn't be long enough to be effective," she said.

Councillor Garry Towler read out an email from a business owner who said "Just reading the paper. Wanted to say I think the tax incentive is a good idea. I like the \$150,000 minimum. It's kind of saying if you invest in Moosomin, we'll invest in you. I know other businesses in Moosomin including myself asked if this was available when we bought, and it wasn't, but it's good to see the progressive thinking. Keep up the good work, guys. Ideas like this will bring more businesses, more employment, and hopefully higher paying jobs to Moosomin. If that happens the spinoff will be awesome."

The tax incentive for the next three years passed by a vote of 4-3, with Councillors Ron Fisk, Jason Miller, Teddi Taylor and Chris Davidson in favor, and Mayor Larry Tomlinson and Councillors Murray Gray and Garry Towler opposed.

Once the motion passed, Councillor Murray Gray, who had been the most vocal opponent, said he would try to make it work.

"I'm glad we had a good discussion," he said. "I was opposed to it, but if council is for it, then I will help make it work."

Whitewood drama club to perform comedy show in 17th annual dinner theatre

Continued from page 10

The guest list also includes famous hypnotist Madam Alma DeGroot (Linda Gessner) whose hypnotic powers appear to be second-to-none.

Homemaking guru, Emmie Bloom, (Cindy Boutin), also a guest at the bed and breakfast, is Zou's thorn-in-the-side with her improbable suggestions for making Zou's writing more palatable. The amazing and talented country singer, Patsy Robbins (Amanda Brule), can keep a great tune, though the lyrics of her songs are rather unique.

When the Noirs get shot at, then someone sends them poison candy as a gift, and then they are knocked out and hung up in the walk-in freezer, things get interesting and audience members will be wondering just who is responsible for trying to kill them and furthermore, who the dead people hanging in the freezer are.

Rounding out the cast are beachcomber Davey Jones (Bruce Restau), the employees at the bed and breakfast—Dexter Bagley (Braden Brule), Darlene Sudy (Pam Wolf), and Charlene Sudy (Kim Brule)—in a comedy-mystery that is sure to leave the audience in stitches.



Above: Brett Tollefson, left, and Elyse White practise their lines during drama practise in Whitewood on March 30 as they prepare for the end of April dinner theatre presentations of 'Dead and Breakfast' by Whitewood's Drama Club.

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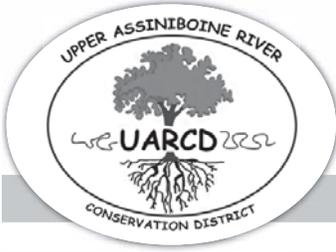
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Times necessitate austerity



John Gormley

The word "austerity" has become a political and social flashpoint of our times. After Saskatchewan's tough budget, even austerity's definition is debated.

Many of us know austerity as government restraint measures like cutting spending and wages, reducing budgets and increasing taxes, designed to align revenues with spending in the hope of stabilizing public finances.

Although a bitter pill to swallow, austerity measures try to tackle deficit spending, save future taxpayers from high debt and interest payments and make an economy more competitive.

But in the era of culture wars and activism, "austerity" has come to mean difficult socio-economic conditions and consequences deliberately imposed by governments to reduce spending for the purpose of pushing down wages, increasing prices, lowering standards of living, all to benefit the rich at the expense of the marginalized.

For anti-capitalists -- whether civil society advocates, members of Occupy, modern progressives, socialist intersectional feminists or old garden variety lefties -- this argument is like catnip.

Austerity, they claim, is actually a neo-liberal ploy (which they used to call neo-conservative) deliberately intended to cause class struggle.

In Saskatchewan, austerity is not some big, bad right-wing conspiracy as much as it is necessary to prevent economic pain later.

The government, to reverse a \$1.3 billion dollar deficit, is raising the PST to six points, broadening it, and reducing spending both in government and on civil service salaries.

For example, the "Big Three" of Health, Education and Social Services -- which consume 75% of all government spending or \$10 billion -- will see an overall spending increase of just 1%.

Broken down, it actually amounts to .7% growth in the massive Health budget, a cut of 1.2% in Education and a 9.1% increase in Social Services.

No one is happy -- not farmers or businesses paying more taxes, civil servants, university professors whose institutions take a 5.5% cut or school trustees, municipal councillors and the rest of us who are not only hit with higher PST but also tax on every insurance premium come summer.

The immediate attention is grabbed by the closing at the end of May of STC, the chronic multi-million dollar losing government bus company, and cities angry over a cancelled \$36 million Crown corporations grant to 109 municipalities.

In the mysterious and opaque alchemy that is municipal government financing, this year the province will still pay hundreds of millions of dollars to municipalities in revenue sharing, utility payments and infrastructure, transportation, road maintenance, transit, and policing grants.

But on the pending Crown payment changes, the government owed cities a clearer warning of what was coming.

That being said, sympathy is a challenge for Saskatoon and Regina which have both raised taxes while collecting 150% more in revenue sharing in recent years -- all while sporting growing reserve funds of over \$140 million in Saskatoon and over \$235 million in Regina.

On the STC closure, it is sad that a large government subsidized company - losing money since the 1970s - has been reduced to shedding routes, often transporting 3-4 passengers per bus and squeezing out competitors by moving into the rural courier market.

Where there is need it will be filled and within days expect competitive carriers to be in the rural courier business.

With concern about 300 cancer patients whose only transportation is STC, this seems more a business and policy case for medical shuttles that can be operated more efficiently than large empty buses running on established and under-used routes.

In coming weeks, many well intentioned people will complain and who can blame them? They are unhappy and no one likes less.

But if these tough measures work -- using a timed sequence of difficult choices over the next two years to rebalance the economy -- we will all get through this together with an improved investment climate, more jobs and better opportunities for the future.

For the anti-austerity movement none of that matters. And they will be on the streets.

John Gormley is a broadcaster, lawyer, author and former Progressive Conservative MP whose radio talk show is heard weekdays from 8:30am - 12:30pm on 650 CKOM Saskatoon and 980 CJME Regina.

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Tentative opening date - First Weekend in May!

Spring Hours
Open Wednesday-Sunday @ 4 p.m.

Kenosee Lake • 306-577-2226

BUDDY'S PUB IN THE HIGH HOUSE
201 MAIN ST - ARCOLA, SK
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One of the longest bars in Western Canada in an intriguing historic building

HIGH HOUSE PIZZA
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Cooking done right - the way mama used to do!

All food is freshly made:

- Pizza
- Burgers
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- Nachos

highhousepizza.wixsite.com/high-house-pizza

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Spring BlackJack TOURNAMENT

Tuesdays **April 4 to May 16**
5PM - 9PM

Entry \$20
Buy tickets through the Box Office

Win your way to the FINALS on May 23 at 7PM
Chance to win 1 of 3 BBQ Packages

SUNDAY AT THE TRACKS

Sundays 5PM - 8PM

Choose the Winning Horse & Win

NEXT PLAIN & VALLEY

May 12, 2017

Deadline: May 3
Call Barry or Kara
306-435-2445
world_spectator@sasktel.net



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STOCK# 1712A
Crew, 4X4,
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2014 JEEP CHEROKEE NORTH



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19,000 kms

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Now Only **\$24,995** OR Only **\$194** B/W

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