

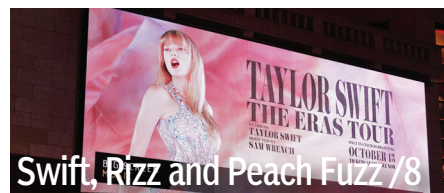
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YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION

THUNDER BAY SOURCE



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SEASON'S GREETINGS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our readers!



WISHING YOU A VERY
Merry Christmas
and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
THERE WILL BE NO PAPER
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023
PAPER DEADLINE FOR JANUARY 4TH, 2024
WILL BE DECEMBER 28TH, 2023



WEEKLY
SPECIAL SECTIONS

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YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION
THUNDER BAY SOURCE

Santa Claus will be paying his annual Christmas Eve visit to children around the globe. He's checking his list, and checking it twice to find out who is naughty and who is nice. (iStock)



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Tikinagan
Child & Family Services

What is the meaning of

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Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin?

“Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin is the Tikinagan service model. In Ojibway/Oji-Cree, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin means, **“Everyone working together to raise our children.”** It is a system of protecting and caring for children and supporting families that has been designed and is delivered by First Nations people in our 30 communities.”

For more information, go to

TIKINAGAN.ORG

TIKINAGAN.ORG
1-800-465-3624





Kody Furioso died of stab wounds incurred during a confrontation in June 2021 near the James Street Swing Bridge. (FILE)

Not guilty plea

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

One of the youth stabbed during an altercation near the James Street Swing Bridge in June 2021 that claimed the life of 16-year-old Kody Furioso expressed anger and disbelief that such a violent act seemed to be over accusations of stolen cigarettes.

"Who would shank someone over cigarettes? That's what pisses me off," the youth said in court. "That guy should go to jail for life. He stabbed a ... kid."

The youth was called to testify on day one of the trial for 32-year-old Dustin Moffatt, which opened in a Thunder Bay Courtroom on Monday before Justice Bruce Fitzpatrick.

Moffatt pleaded not guilty to one count of second-degree murder and one count of aggravated assault.

The charges relate to an incident that occurred just after midnight on June 29, 2021 near the James Street Swing Bridge.

Furioso and his friend were involved in an altercation with a man in the area resulting in Kody suffering a stab wound to the stomach and the youth a stab wound to the chest.

A passerby called 911 and emergency crews

responded to the scene. Kody was transported to the hospital but later died of his injuries. The youth, who was 17-years-old at the time, was also transported to hospital and released several days later after being treated for a collapsed lung.

In addition to the youth's testimony on Monday, the court also viewed video of statements he made to police at the scene and later while still in hospital and again at the Thunder Bay Police Service headquarters.

According to the youth, he and Kody were riding their bikes on trails in Fort William First Nation and when returning back to the city they encountered a man on the James Street Swing Bridge.

The youth testified that the man accused them of stealing his cigarettes and described him as 'a junkie.'

The first video shown to the court was body-camera footage worn by a responding officer to the scene under the overpass on James Street. In the video, the youth is seen holding up his shirt revealing what looked to be a stab wound to his upper chest.

No newspaper next week

Thunder Bay Source will not be published next week due to the Christmas holiday.

We'd like to wish you and yours a fantastic holiday season and the best of the

new year.

We'll return on Jan. 4 with our annual Year in Review edition, featuring a look back at the biggest news stories of 2023.

WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation: 40% HIGH 0 LOW -6	Precipitation: 30% HIGH 2 LOW -1	Precipitation: 30% HIGH 3 LOW 1	Precipitation: 30% HIGH 3 LOW -1

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Toys are unloaded off a Royal Canadian Airforce Hercules 130 aircraft on Monday afternoon. (Leith Dunick)

Toys head north

Gifts delivered to five northern communities

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Children in five northern fly-in communities are about to get a pre-Christmas visit from Santa Claus.

A Royal Canadian Air Force Hercules 130 aircraft, laden with pallets full of toys, landed on Monday morning at the Thunder Bay airport, the first leg of a journey that will see the gifts sorted and delivered later this week to Marten Falls, Kasabonika, Deer Lake, Poplar Hill and Fort Severyn.

"Today we're going to take the toys off in this cold, cold weather, and we're going to get them to the Gardewine transport and move them over to their facility this afternoon. Tomorrow we'll regroup again and get them all triaged and sorted, for our five recipient communities this year," said Karen Matson, who handles communications and media relations with North Star Air, one of the partner agencies in the Toys for the North campaign.

"Every year we all know how tough it is out there, especially at Christmas time. We want

to ensure the youth in the First Nations communities receive some wonderful gifts from our beautiful donors."

Cpl. Darryl Waruk of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the agency behind the program, said the Toys for the North campaign keeps getting better and better every year.

"We're always enthusiastic about it because of the generosity that the toy companies and other corporate sponsors show in helping out with this event," he said. "There's a lot of work that goes on behind it, with the RCMP in Cornwall, Ont. and with Karen here at Noth Star Air to make this all come to fruition.

"Every year this just keeps on getting better and it's a good way of spreading good will in the community."

Waruk said too many children living in First Nations communities don't have the same access to toy stores that those living in larger centres might. A program like Toys for the North helps level the playing field.

"We take that for granted. These companies, through their generosity, they're able to pool together a lot of toys, where it's difficult for anybody, to just go down the street and get toys for the kids," Waruk said. "It's really helpful and it's a wonderful thing."





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104 PAYMENTS REQUIRED

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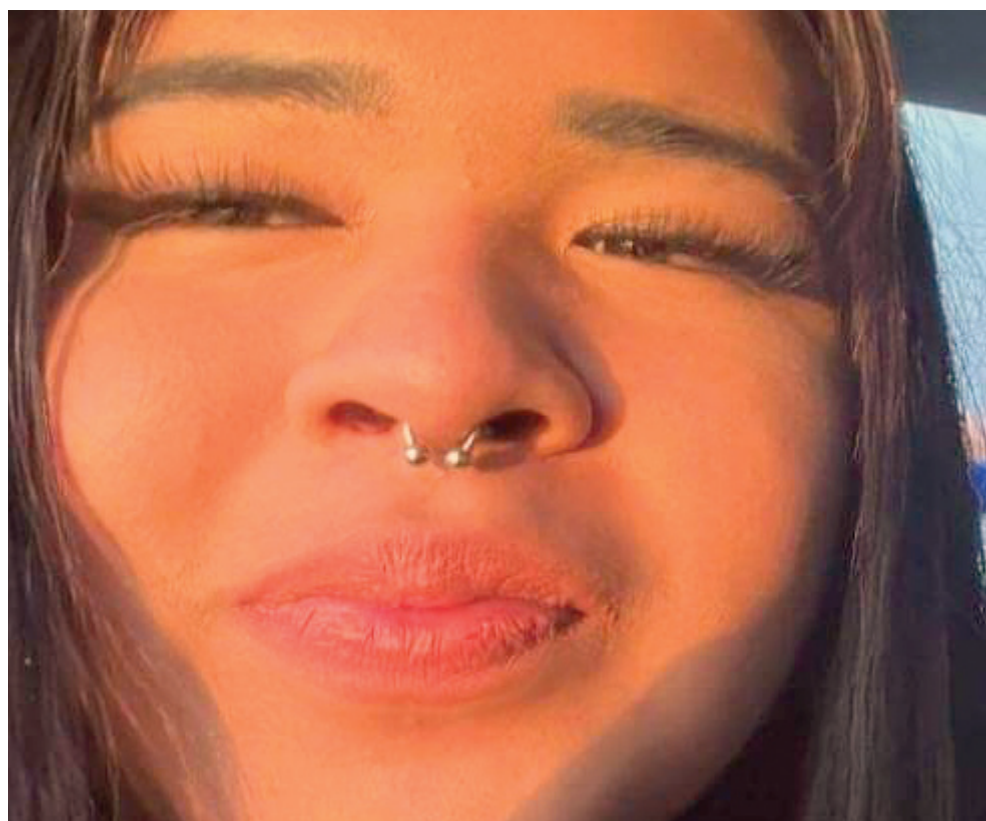
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VEHICLE ORDER MAY BE REQUIRED.



The body of Mackenzie Moonias was discovered on Monday morning in the water near Sleeping Giant Parkway.

Teen mourned

Mackenzie Moonias had been reported missing by police

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

A 14-year-old from Neskantaga First Nation who was the subject of a missing persons search in recent days has been found deceased on Thunder Bay's waterfront.

Neskantaga Chief Chris Moonias confirmed the death of Mackenzie (Nathan) Moonias in a statement issued by Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) on Monday afternoon.

The statement expressed condolences to Moonias's family and friends, while raising potential concerns on behalf of NAN and Neskantaga's leadership over the missing persons process and death investigation.

"Since her disappearance we have hoped and prayed that Mackenzie would be found safe and reunited with her family and friends. Tragically, our worst fears have been confirmed with the sad news of her tragic death today," said NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and the Neskantaga community who are grieving this terrible loss so close to the holidays. They are our focus right now, but this disappearance has raised serious questions about the protocols and procedures

around missing person investigations involving Indigenous youth."

Mackenzie Moonias was last seen on Dec. 13 around 9 a.m. on University Drive. Her body was discovered Monday morning in the water near the Sleeping Giant Parkway, in the area of Marina Park.

The TBPS had issued a missing persons alert for Moonias on Saturday, just after 12:30 a.m., along with subsequent updates.

Chief Chris Moonias thanked volunteers and agencies that helped search for Mackenzie, who had travelled to Thunder Bay to attend school.

Referencing numerous deaths of First Nations youth in Thunder Bay between 2000 and 2011 that were the subject of the Seven Youth Inquest, Moonias called further deaths "unacceptable."

"On behalf of Neskantaga I thank the family, community members, volunteers, and agencies who supported searches for nearly a week for our missing youth," he said. "Many of our youth are forced to leave home as young as 13 or 14 years old in order to pursue their education. They are often faced with challenges they are not prepared for, and it can be an overwhelming experience."

IN BRIEF

Crashes kill 3 people

A trio of deadly crashes sent a pall over the holiday season in Northwestern Ontario.

A 31-year-old North York, Ont. man was killed on Friday in an incident involving a passenger vehicle and a tractor-trailer on Highway 11/17 near Superior Shores Road.

The collision resulted in the highway being closed overnight in both directions.

On Saturday, a 23-year-old Manitoba man died in a collision west of Upsala involving a pair of tractor-trailer units.

Finally, on Sunday, a 64-year-old woman from Longlac succumbed to her injuries following a three-way collision in Shuniah.

Workplace fatality

Ontario's ministry of labour is investigating a workplace fatality in the Thunder Bay area.

The ministry revealed Monday that an individual died in an incident Friday at GFL Environmental's facility on Haniak Road in Rosslyn.

"Our sincere condolences go out to the worker's family, friends and coworkers," it said in a brief statement.

The ministry has assigned an inspector to

the investigation, and has issued one order and 15 other requirements to the company.

Further details are being withheld pending the outcome of the investigation.

A Go Fund Me campaign has been started for the family of 42-year-old Mike Sharpe, which includes his wife and two young children.

As of early Tuesday morning, close to \$40,000 of the \$50,000 goal had been raised.

Trailer park fire

Firefighters on Sunday responded to a structural fire at the Chippewa Trailer Park, where they encountered smoke and fire coming from the roof of a structure on the property.

According to a release issued by Thunder Bay Fire Rescue, arriving crews were able to apply water to the building before making entry to search for potential victims.

All occupants were confirmed to be outside the building and no injuries to civilians or firefighters were reported as a result of the incident, which began at approximately 3:24 p.m.

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“A building is just a building, it takes the people inside to make it a home. He thought of this as his home.”

Cheryl Family of Past Client

Cheryl Delorenzi became part of St. Joseph's Care Group when her parents moved into Sister Leila Greco Apartments. It didn't take long for her to appreciate the surroundings, and especially the staff.

“The apartments are really nice. When my parents moved in, we took their furniture and personal belongings and set it into their new home. It felt just like their home of many years.”

Cheryl's mom's Alzheimer's soon progressed and she was moved (next door) to Hogarth Riverview Manor.

“This worked out really good for my Dad because he was able to see her every day. They were together, just like they had always been. Whenever we couldn't be there, he was there. He would feed her breakfast or supper and just go lie down with her at night.”

“I think it's really special that you can have assisted living and long term care homes together. This helps couples stay together and receive the care that each needs as individuals. It's important.”

Cheryl's dad stayed in the apartment at the Sister Leila Greco until he passed, “and that was his extended family. They would just sit and visit with him and he loved it. They were really good to him. And he was good to them. They called him the Mayor. They miss him. I know they miss the mayor.”

Cheryl admires the camaraderie among staff. “They all seemed to work and respect each other's position on the floor. Whether it's a nurse, the one giving the meds or the personal support worker, it seemed like they could rely on whoever was around.”

Cheryl says that no matter a resident's situation or illness, “you don't really appreciate what they can do for you until you're there. Not everybody's meant to be a PSW or work in a long term care home or hospital. It takes special people.”

The more she saw of the efforts staff put in, the more she was impressed – so much so that she decided to become a volunteer to help wherever she could. Cheryl and her siblings also donate to support activities for the clients at Sister Leila Greco, and she is a part of the Family Council. When each parent passed away, the family directed memorial donations to St. Joseph's Foundation so that their legacy of support to the Care Group and specifically to Sister Leila Greco would continue.

When her mom passed away, Cheryl's family wanted to give something back in appreciation for all that had done for her. They settled on a pill crusher, an essential senior health-care tool.

“You don't really appreciate what they can do for you until you're there.”

The family also donated an angel figurine, which is proudly displayed in the home.

Cheryl has so many wonderful memories of the staff. “What I really appreciated was the PSWs that had the responsibility of caring for her each day. They would tell you stories: ‘last night your mom just needed a hug, and I was there to give her one.’”

Staff would often just sit with residents in the evening. “I'm not supposed to be here too much longer, but everybody else is okay tonight so I'm going to stay with you’ That's what I really appreciated. Those moments. If they're doing it for one, they're doing it for all.”

Cheryl urges people wondering how their parents will be cared for later in life to consider the long term care homes available at the Care Group.

“I just want to tell people, look into it. It's a great place to live. You will hear the stories of how well cared for your parents or loved ones will be.”

“We are always afraid and concerned when our parents have to move somewhere new at this stage in their life. Just let them try it, because like my parents, they had a wonderful life and loved living at Hogarth. We're giving them a good quality of life, activities to enjoy and amazing care by amazing people. Our family is grateful and think it's wonderful.”



St. Joseph's Foundation is honoured to share the “Caring Moments” stories from our clients and their families. Each story tells their personal experience with the care and compassion provided by the staff of St. Joseph's Care Group. Become a part of the Caring Moments program and share your gift of gratitude through your personal story or by making a donation in appreciation of the care your family received.

Donate today www.sjftb.net/caringmoments



ST. JOSEPH'S FOUNDATION
OF THUNDER BAY

Funded by the
Government of Canada's
Community Services Recovery Fund

Canada

EDITORIAL

Time to twin

Governments give away billions of taxpayer dollars for a whole pile of different causes and projects.

Some of them are for the public good, other times it's money spent to secure another election win.

It's time senior levels of government started spending some serious money on our area highways.

Last weekend, in three separate crashes, three people lost their lives.

Weather does not appear to be a serious factor in any of the collisions, but transports were involved in all three crashes.

That's not to say the transports and their drivers are to blame, but with thousands of big trucks on the highway each and every day, it's time to speed up any planned twinning of the highways between Kenora and Nipigon. It's also time to start seriously thinking about what it would take to four-lane the entire Trans-Canada, from Sault Ste. Marie to the Manitoba border.

Far too many lives are being needlessly lost, as drivers, passengers and transport alike, take too many risks trying to get to their destination a little bit faster. The dollar cost is high, but you can't put a price on life.

Turf path worrisome

To the editor:

In November, council ratified a decision to move forward with a \$38 million financing plan for a new indoor turf facility.

This latest iteration of the facility is modeled on a proposal brought forward by members of the soccer community that was to cost in the order of only \$20 million.

It is important to note that \$38 million financing plan recently approved by council does not include all costs needed for the creation of the indoor turf facility. The following costs will be in addition to the financing plan:

- Site development: \$3 million.
- The relocation of an existing baseball field at the Auditorium: \$0.4 million.
- The creation of required additional parking: \$0.4 million.
- Studies completed for the Auditorium site in the Fall of 2024: \$0.2 million.
- Other required building equipment: \$0.5 million.
- Interest costs on loaned money for the project: \$7 million.

The immediate additional costs of \$4.5 million could push the total price tag of the turf facility to \$42.5



million. When long term interest costs are included, the expenditure on the turf facility nears \$50 million.

My concern is that council may now be on a path that is very similar to the one taken four years

ago when a turf facility, to be located at Chapple's Park, failed to materialize due to a final cost that was too high to gain support in the community.

That initiative cost taxpayers approximately one million dollars

and countless hours of staff time.

Now, more money and resources will be spent designing a new concept for the Auditorium site that may also fail to achieve public support due to its high cost.

So how did we get here? I believe that some members of council supported the \$38 million financing plan in the hopes that the facility will cost far less than that when the bids are opened if the project is tendered.

These hopes are not supported by the advice received from administration who continue to advise that \$38 million facility design will more than likely cost that amount when the bids are opened.

Time will tell.

Transparency is important in a project of this size.

I felt it important that the community be aware of all costs needed for the current project so that informed input can be provided to council prior to the next decision point.

The next step in the process will be a decision to move forward with tendering the project; that decision is currently scheduled to be made in March 2024.

Coun. Mark Bentz,
Thunder Bay

Ghost story collection a Christmas delight

The Winter Spirits: Ghostly Tales for Frosty Nights is a collection of 12 new ghost stories written by popular authors of historical and Gothic fiction, all with a Christmas or Advent theme. It's a follow-up to *The Haunting Season*, which includes eight of the same authors. This is the perfect time of year for ghost stories, so I recommend that you sit by the fire, light a candle, pour out a generous glass of mulled wine and absorb yourself in these Gothic chillers

Most of the stories are set in the 19th or early 20th centuries, giving them a traditional feel.

More variety would have been nice – not just in the time periods, but also in the geographical settings, as the majority take place in

Britain, with one or two in America or elsewhere in Europe – but otherwise I really enjoyed this collection.

I've previously read full-length novels by most of the featured authors, but three of them were new to me: Andrew Michael Hurley, Catriona Ward and Susan Stokes-Chapman.

I felt that Hurley's *The Old Play* and Stokes-Chapman's *Widow's Walk* were two of the weaker stories.

Ward's contribution, *Jenkin*, was completely bizarre but added some diversity as it felt quite unlike any of the others.

The biggest surprise, for me, was Natasha Pulley's *The Salt Miracles*; I really didn't get on with her writing style in her novel *The Bedlam*

Stacks, so I wasn't expecting too much from this tale of disappearing pilgrims on a remote Scottish island (based on St Kilda). However, I ended up loving it – it's such an unusual and chilling story.

Inferno by Laura Shepherd-Robinson, one of my current favourite historical fiction authors, is another I particularly enjoyed – a wonderfully eerie story set in 18th century Italy, where a man is forced to confront his sins.

Even better than both of these is Stuart Turton's creepy and imaginative *The Master of the House*, in which a young boy who is being neglected by his father makes a deal with the devil. This one feels almost like a very dark fairytale and is one of the highlights of the book.

Of the 12 authors, Laura Purcell is probably the most well established as a writer of

horror fiction and she doesn't disappoint here with *Carol of the Bells and Chains*, in which a governess trying to deal with two unruly children tells them the story of the Krampus, with unintended consequences.

Imogen Hermes Gowar's *A Double Thread*, where a woman gets her comeuppance after badly treating her hardworking seamstress, is another I really enjoyed – it made me long for another novel by Gowar, as it's been a few years since *The Mermaid and Mrs Hancock*.

The remaining stories are by Elizabeth Macneal, Bridget Collins, Jess Kidd and Kiran Millwood Hargrave.

With a range of different styles and subjects, unless you just don't like ghost stories I think this collection should contain something to please almost every reader.



John Pateman
BOOK BANTER

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Taylor's got the Rizz in 2023

By JR Shermack - For TB Source

As each year draws to a close there is a rush to publicize the most notable happenings and major accomplishments of the past twelve months either to people, places or things.

This is the time of year when the ultimate accolade is bestowed on the rich and famous, and other noteworthy recipients when they receive a "Best of the Year" designation.

For example, it was hard to miss the fanfare and notoriety of *Time* magazine's Person of the Year for 2023 as Taylor Swift made her second appearance on the cover.

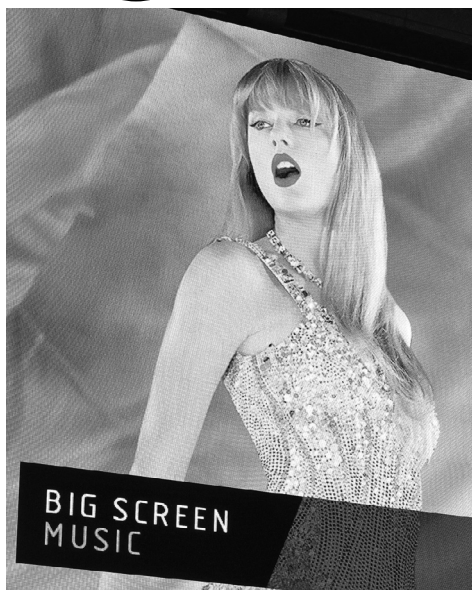
This media spin is entertaining to followers and it comes with a certain amount of political clout but Ms Swift's title is only one of many year-end besties for 2023.

Rizz over Swiftie

The Oxford word of the year is "Rizz" which is a GenZ slang term derived from the much lengthier term, charisma - it narrowly defeated 'Swiftie' and you know what that means.

Merriman-Webster chose the word "authentic" which reflects a global search for truth and is a quality attributed to select celebrities, notably Taylor Swift.

Movie of the year, book of the year, song of



Taylor Swift is Time magazine's person of the year.

the year, food of the year - from time to time we have all watched, read, sung and tasted the best of years gone by.

I try to avoid the hype and spin surrounding end of the year choices but there is one annual proclamation that I find more intriguing than the rest.

At the end of each year there is an announcement made that nobody has ever heard, seen or even dreamed of it before - Pantone's 'color of the year' is revealed at that time.

Unlike the person of the year who is retroactively recognized at year's end, the color of the year is announced in December in anticipation of a coming year of colorful achievements.

After a lengthy and thoughtful process of trend analysis, research and social considerations, the Colour of the Year for 2023 was actually revealed at the beginning of December, 2022.

That 2023 color was Viva Magenta which "vibrates with vim and vigor... a shade rooted in nature...brave and fearless...whose exuberance promotes a joyous and optimistic celebration."

That's quite a testimonial - when Pantone chooses a color of the year it does so after great anticipation, wild expectations and always with a hint of cultural commentary.

But who is Pantone and what gives them the authority to make such bold and colorful claims?

The Pantone Color Institute created a universally-used color-matching system in the 1960's and went on to invent the color of

the year concept in 1999.

That year the color was Cerulean Blue, released just in time for the fake Y2K disaster and poised to usher in and be the backdrop for a new millennium starting in the year 2000.

This pale blue hue is reminiscent of the sky and is intended to facilitate the search for inner peace and fulfilment in a time of uncertainty.

Peach perfect

Earlier this December 'The Colour of the Year' for 2024 was shared with the world - it is a 'warm and cozy hue' and its name is Peach Fuzz.

Peach Fuzz is a soft, pinkish-orange shade, a gentle and velvety peach that emulates stillness and a feeling of sanctuary.

As usual, Pantone is effusive in its description calling the color Peach Fuzz "subtly sensual" and "heartfelt" and sharing a message of caring and community collaboration.

As for me, I will be on the lookout for Peach Fuzz next year because there is only one way to capture that warm, fuzzy feeling in the year ahead.

May all my friends enjoy the bounty of a peach fuzzy world in 2024.

what's happening
in and around...

The Bay

To submit an event, email ldunick@dougallmedia.com.
 Please include details about the event, including any cost

December 22

The '80s Party

The Port Arthur Legion is the place to be on Friday night, when the Clubroom presents an '80s throwback dance from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Admission is free.

Come dance to the likes of a Flock of Seagulls, Cindy Lauper, Madonna, Michael Jackson and Kenny Loggins, in a night that will take you back in time to the era of big hair, Much Music and when everyone was encouraged to wear their sunglasses at night.

December 22

Comedy Night at Atmos

Join comedians Aaron Gee, Ken Horton, Sarah Remus, Lucas Augustyn and plenty of others for a night of laughter at Atmos.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, and are available at www.campfirecomedy.ca.

The show goes from 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday night.

December 22

Life of Kai at Atmos

Winnipeg producer duo Life of Kai will hit the stage for an unforgettable evening at Atmos.

They'll bring a unique blend of live drums and captivating vocals to the stage, a perfect way to hit the Christmas weekend and forget about the stress of the holidays.

The show starts at 10 p.m. and is for 19+ only. Tickets are \$15 to \$20. Atmos is located at 213 Red River Road.

December 24

Christmas Eve Morning Service

The Slate River Baptist Church invites the public out to their Christmas Eve service on Sunday at 11 a.m.

The church is located at 80 McCluskey Drive. All are welcome.

December 24

Open House

Thunder Bay Harley-Davidson's

annual Christmas Even open house is sure to be a hit, a chance to pick up that last-minute gift for the motorcyclist on your list or enjoy an afternoon of fun. Noon to 4 p.m., at 636 W. Arthur Street.

December 24

Christmas with Mrs. Claus

Need a last-second photo with Mrs. Claus?

Head down to Dagwood's Bakery and Deli on Christmas Eve, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and purchase a special holiday dessert while you're there.

December 29/30

Thunderwolves hockey

Lakehead will look to turn things around next Friday and Saturday night, inviting the University of Manitoba Bisons to Fort William Gardens for a pair of non-conference games to get the juices flowing ahead of the return next month to regular-season hockey. Game time is 7 p.m.



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Smoked salmon bites are always a holiday hit as an appetizer. There are plenty of alternatives too.

Appetizing bites

Last week, we meant to talk about other kinds of holiday appetizers, but like fat kids do; we talked about baked cheese for 500+ words. I make no apologies for who I am, and you, dear reader, knew what this was when you started reading this column. To make up for last weeks deep dive into baked brie we are going to rapid fire some fun ideas at you and basically just regurgitate a bunch of fun appys out of my brain that don't really need a recipe, just an idea and usually less than 5 ingredients.

BACON WRAPPED WATER CHESTNUTS. Water Chestnuts are slightly sweet and nutty with a texture reminiscent of apples. When wrapped in bacon the textures meld beautifully with a smokey sweet undertone. Try drizzling them with maple syrup, hot honey, or even a bbq sauce.

SMOKED SALMON APPETIZER BITES. Smoked Salmon is an elegant and easy to use ingredient. You can pick some up locally at East Coast Lobster and Seafood on Arthur St. It can be as easy as a melba toast or cracker bottom, whipped cream cheese (or a Philly chip dip), red onions, capers, lemon zest and micro greens are all an effective garnish for smoked salmon.



Derek Lankinen
Here's Cooking at You Kid

SWEET AND SOUR MEATBALLS. Is any holiday complete without a crockpot full of mealballs simmering on the counter? If you're ambitious you can make your own sauce, you can also just jazz up some bottled sauce with some citrus zest, and fresh squeezed oranges.

SPINACH AND ARTICHOKE DIP. Its not as hard as it sounds, cook some finely

diced onions and garlic in a little oil, add your spinach and let it cook down, add some white wine (or a little water) and let that cook down for a few minutes, fold into whipped cream cheese with a can of chopped artichokes, some shredded cheddar and mozza, add salt and pepper. Heat up in the oven till bubbly. Serve with crackers or chips. You can also just do a \$%& ton of onions and make it more of a French onion dip and add a little beef or chicken base to the onions.

CAPRESE SALAD SKEWERS. Cherry Tomatoes, Pearl Boccocini Cheese, Skewers, Balsamic Glaze. Done.

MINI QUICHE LORRAINE. Fill some mini unsweetened tart shells with cooked bacon and onion, make a mix of whipped egg with a little cream, fill the tart shells again.

Add cheese if you wanna and bake.
PUFF PASTRY TWISTS. Grab a sheet of puff pastry from the freezer aisle. They should be near the tart shells, thaw in the fridge, roll out slightly. Brush with pesto, or melted garlic butter, or just some butter and cheddar cheese. Cut into strips and twist them. Bake till golden brown, serve immediately or after they've cooled.

Did we make up for last week? I hope so haha. Happy Holidays everyone!

Derek Lankinen is an award-winning chef, author, and restaurateur. He is the Owner/Operator of Beefcake's Burger Factory with two locations in Westfort and Current River and Co-Owner of Elite Beef.

DON'T PLACE WASTE AND RECYCLING BAGS ON SNOWBANKS

Waste on snowbanks poses dangers to residents and waste collection crews. Crews are **not permitted** to climb on snowbanks to retrieve items.



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LANDFILL HOLIDAY HOURS

Saturday, December 23 - 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Sunday, December 24 - CLOSED

Monday, December 25 - CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26 - CLOSED

Wednesday, December 27 - 8:00 am - 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 28 - 8:00 am - 6:30 pm

Friday, December 29 - 8:00 am - 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 30 - 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Sunday, December 31 - CLOSED

Monday, January 1 - CLOSED

Tuesday, January 2 - 8:00 am - 6:30 pm

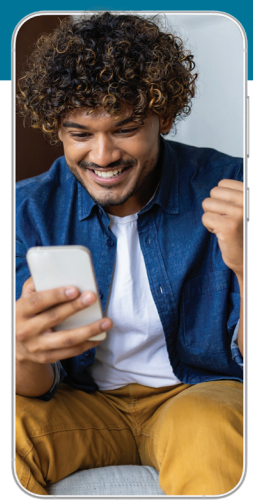
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THUNDER BAY
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: THUNDERBAY.CA/LANDFILL

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Lawsuit can continue

By TB Source staff

A Thunder Bay judge has ruled a defamation lawsuit against an administrator of a local Facebook page can move forward after denying a motion that anti-drag comments were public interest speech.

Rainbow Alliance Dryden and an individual drag performer in the community filed a civil case against Brian Webster, administrator of the Facebook page Real Thunder Bay Courthouse Inside Edition in December 2022.

The case alleges a post made by Webster on the Facebook page in September 2022 was defamatory. The post included screen shots of a CBC article about a scheduled drag show in Dryden that was disrupted by prank calls.

The original statement of claim argues that the post, which includes the term 'groomer' when referring to drag performers, was defamatory because of its false insinuations related to predatory behaviour toward children by the drag community and has resulted in damage to personal, professional, and organizational reputations.

The post generated numerous comments that also included anti-2SLGBTQI sentiments and accusations.

The complainants are each seeking \$75,000 in general damages and \$20,000 punitive

damages, as well as special damages in an amount to be determined prior to trial.

Webster filed a motion calling for the case to be dismissed based on province's anti-SLAPP law, with SLAPP referring to 'strategic litigation against public participation.'

The law was designed to strike a balance between free expression and reputational harm and prevent litigation from being used as a means of limiting expression on matters of public interest.

A judge may dismiss a defamation proceeding under the anti-SLAPP law in the early stages if they are satisfied that the case arises from expressions made by the defendant relating to matters of public interest.

In a ruling issued on Dec. 14, 2023, Justice Tracey Nieckarz dismissed Webster's motion, ruling that the defamation action can proceed.

Nieckarz said in her ruling that anti-SLAPP is not a 'carte blanche' to defame someone.

Webster argued the Facebook comment was expressing his opinion about the CBC article, the issues raised by it, and their approach to the story.

The complainants argued that the comment constituted hate speech and that Webster attempted to embed that speech into a legitimate public interest issue.



Steelhead and trout are returned to the water, but walleye and salmon make good eats.

Fishing for food

With a family that loves to eat fresh fish, there is little chance of any fillets making it to the freezer in my household. So, as I rummaged around the deep freeze for some dinner last weekend, I was surprised to find a slab of chinook salmon, harvested from Lake Superior in August, in amongst my stash of frozen pizzas.

Most of the time, I am fishing for trout and steelhead, so I am releasing everything I catch. However, when I am lucky enough to get out in a boat for some walleye or salmon fishing, I am looking to bring something home to feed the family.

With walleye, and their limit of just four fish and only one over 18 inches, the whole harvest will usually go towards a single dinner. But with pacific salmon having a limit of five and no size restriction, there is a good chance of bringing home enough fish for a few meals. Not wanting to eat salmon on more than two consecutive nights means that some is going to have to be frozen.

While it is generally accepted that properly packaged and promptly frozen fish remain safe to eat for extended periods of time, the best flavor and texture is found when these fish spend less than eight months frozen.

To prepare fish for freezing, there are a couple details to consider. The most important thing to do is remove as much air as

possible from the packaging. Exposure to cold air will dry the fish out and ruin both the taste and texture.

To eliminate air, some people freeze fish in water, but the ice crystals that form can pierce the flesh. Instead, try placing the fish in a dry freezer bag and then removing the air. Ideally you could use a vacuum sealer to do this, but even without this machine, I find that manually pressing all the air out of a Ziplock freezer bag is not a bad substitute. I also like to double bag the fish, especially if it will be in the freezer for more than a few weeks.

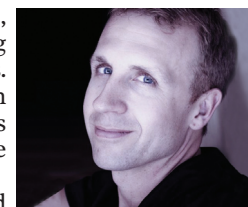
When it is time to defrost and cook frozen fish, it is tough to beat a traditional fish fry in a cast iron pan. I will start with a fish coating made from Brulee Creek flour, some cornmeal for crispiness and a few seasonings to heighten the taste.

With stronger-tasting species like salmon and whitefish, adding egg wash before the coating can help.

To cook the thawed fish, I like canola oil because it has a clean flavour and a relatively high smoke point. To know when the oil is the right temperature, drop a small amount of your fish breading into the oil. If it bubbles, you have just

the right amount of heat.

When the fish comes out of the pan, hit it with a squeeze of fresh lemon and a few twists from the salt grinder and you will never know the fish spent time in the freezer.



Keith Ailey
the GOOD LIFE



Hospital gets \$7.3M

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

The Thunder Bay regional hospital's charitable foundation has announced what it calls its largest-yet contribution to renewing hospital equipment and supporting other important projects.

The Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation announced it has awarded roughly \$7.3 million in grants to various hospital projects in 2023/24 on the strength of its fundraising.

The foundation cited the success of its monthly 50/50 draws as a major factor in the record-breaking total.

The funding is allocated via a grants system, with hospital departments submitting applications.

"Equipment that would have taken years to fundraise for is being funded now, allowing us to 'Do More, Faster' for the patients in Thunder Bay and the Northwest region," said foundation board chair Parker Jones.

Jones said the \$2-million replacement of the hospital's oldest Cardiac Catheterization Lab would normally have taken years to fund, but now will be open and fully operational in early January.

The foundation will provide over \$1 million in 2023-24 to complete the project, funding a C-arm, ultrasound machine, operating room lights, and more.

A \$3-million redevelopment of the emergency department will also be accelerated.

Other funded projects include:

- Replacing operating room equipment for cataract and orthopaedic surgeries and imaging

- A new CT scanner for diagnostic imaging and replacement of the PET/CT scanner

- New ventilators for the ICU and NICU



The Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation has made its largest 50/50 donation yet.

- A new infant crib and fun centre with a Nintendo Switch gaming system in the pediatric ward

- Automated medication dispensing equipment and software

- Production of a prostate cancer-specific drug by the Cyclotron & Radiopharmacy Facility

The investments will also benefit the wider region the hospital serves, supporting chemotherapy equipment and training in Marathon, chemotherapy equipment in Terrace Bay, and cancer detection in Sioux Lookout.

The foundation says it's contributed a total of over \$21 million to the hospital over the past four years.

In a release, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre president Rhonda Crocker Ellacott expressed deep gratitude.

"The use of these contributions will allow us to purchase state-of-the-art medical equipment that is vital to providing safe, quality care," she said. "The funds will also allow us to upgrade our care areas and provide a better care experience that is patient and family-centred."

ENIGMA™ CRYPTOGRAM

Enigma cryptograms are created from quotations and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. Hint: "N" = "H"

"KV KP VNL QTIDKZW HCZ QNT KP VNL NCBBJ HCZ. KV KP VNL KSXL HCZ QNT KP VNL HKPLICGXL HCZ."

— GLZRCHKZ AICZDXKZ

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			4	1	9				
8					1	3	5	7	
				9					
			5	7					

ACROSS

- 1 Tongue-clicking sound
- 4 Bachelor of Fine Arts (abbr.)
- 7 More!
- 10 Cloth make from bark
- 11 Comparative (suf.)
- 12 Stir up
- 14 Religious image
- 15 Aloud
- 17 Air (pref.)
- 18 Of the sun
- 19 Barely get by
- 20 Brother of Jacob
- 22 Nose (pref.)
- 24 Posy
- 27 Rom. province
- 31 Fr.-Ger. region
- 32 Biretta
- 34 Sheep shelter
- 35 Amer. Society of Composers, Authors, and

PUBLISHERS

- 37 King in India (abbr.)
- 39 Rom. first day of the month
- 41 N.Z. bird
- 42 Vegetable
- 45 Annoy
- 47 Compass direction
- 50 Sweet red wine
- 52 Esau
- 53 Herring barrel
- 54 John, Gaelic
- 55 It. actress
- 56 Have (Scot.)
- 57 Son of Ra
- 58 Uncle (Scot.)

DOWN

- 1 Subtract
- 2 Ascus (2 words)
- 3 Kansas (abbr.)
- 4 Camp
- 5 Yearn
- 6 Scot. island

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	O	F	A	M	A	A	B	A	A	L			
A	L	A	R	Y	A	P	O	R	D	O			
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R	A	M	A		P	A	N		H	O	U	R	
E	R	I	S	T		E	G	O		A	P	S	E

- 7 Underwear
- 8 Princess in Gr. myth
- 9 Fabric
- 10 Aunt (Sp.)
- 13 Alkali
- 16 Glazier's tack
- 18 Droop
- 21 Glacial ice
- 23 Islamic month
- 24 Nat'l Security Agency (abbr.)
- 25 Org. of Amer. States (abbr.)
- 26 Sweet potato
- 28 Emery
- 29 Bantu language
- 30 Adjacent (abbr.)
- 33 Upstart
- 36 Family member
- 38 Culor
- 40 Unspirated consonant
- 42 Lumberman's boot
- 43 King of Israel
- 44 Love of Radames
- 46 Greenland town
- 48 Plane part
- 49 Woman: obs.
- 51 Curved letter
- 52 Dutch commune

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													58	



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Care Bus back in action

By TB Source staff

An essential service for Thunder Bay's vulnerable population is about to re-launch for the winter season.

The Care Bus, operated by NorWest Community Health Centres, offers free transportation, shelter, and connections to health and social services to the homeless and others in need.

This is the fourth year that it's been running. Last winter, it served an average of 62 clients a day, for a total of 5,827 clients.

The initiative is a partnership with the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship centre supported by the Métis Nation of Ontario and the John Howard Society.

In an announcement Monday, NorWest Community Health Centres said the main reason people reported for riding the bus was having a warm or a safe place to stay (61 per cent) and having transportation to a necessary service (34 per cent).

But staff also made 618 referrals of clients to various community support services last year.

NorWest CEO Juanita Lawson said the Care Bus stands as a beacon of resilience and care.

"It serves as a lifeline, especially with the rising cost of living and heightened demand for housing," she stated. "Its operation is



The Care Bus serves dozens of clients every day.

crucial in promptly connecting individuals with necessary support."

Lawson expressed appreciation for collaboration and funding provided by the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration board and the Lakehead Social Planning Council, saying that without their support the Care Bus would not be able to operate.

Tree trekking

An annual tradition is heading out to find the right Christmas tree

Snow?

What snow?

Awoke last week to discover rain. The next morning it snowed, a mere 'dusting' on the ground but a wonderful sight nonetheless. It didn't stay. Back to green on the ground. Ratz!

Such a swing in temperatures too. I believe the thermometer read plus 12 midday when it rained.

Then Ol' Man Winter sent his assistant, Jack Frost, to scatter flurries and freeze the ground.

Walking to the barn on snow-covered turf I almost wiped out when I stepped onto a puddle now frozen. Because of the thin snow cover, I didn't see that we had a mini skating rink. I didn't fall but it felt like I'd wrenched muscle and sinew as I attempted to stay upright.

I looked at my Rural Roots column from last winter detailing the fetching of the candidate for a Christmas tree.

We had a lot of snow and I recalled that getting to the "back 40" to cut a tree and bring it back to Casa Jones was very touch-and-go due to the depth of snow.

Getting the quad and cart to the site was a challenge. Not this year.

This year on a gloomy Saturday, my wife, Laura, and I climbed onto the quad and trundled off to the field where we get most of our Christmas trees.

I had selected a possible candidate but when I showed it to Laura, she wanted to go and do some "shopping". So, we walked. "Wasn't there one along this path that we thought would be suitable?" she asked.

Well, it turned out to be on closer examination actually two, thin trees that had grown together and fooled us into believing them to be one. So, we walked.

Eventually we found one, a spruce that would do nicely.

One looks for a tree with tapered branches and if possible, a tad less 'bushy' on one side, the side that will go against the living room window.

This specimen fit the desired requirement.

Instead of a chainsaw, I had brought my

camp saw, the one I take on canoe trips into Quetico.

We tried to estimate the tree's height and then figure where to cut which I did. I took me a while with repeated pauses since I ain't twenty-five no more. But down it came.

Laura had packed a tarp to cover the bottom of the cart since we use it (the cart) for hauling manure from the horse stalls as well.

We didn't want our Christmas tree sticking of barn.

I had brought some bungee cords and while I was securing the tree, Laura took the saw and cut some red osier dogwood for decoration back at the house.

The trip back at a slow pace was uneventful.

We were accompanied by our black lab pooch, Sophie, who loves to be with us in the bush and who loves to tear around. We like that she does that because it means that when we return to the house, she will be tired.

And while I was busy sawing away at the tree, Laura took a wonderful photo of Sophie sitting facing the camera with yours truly in the background working up a sweat. Laura sent the photo to both daughter, Beth and son, Doug.

Once home then we set up the area where the tree would stand and after clearing any obstruction out of the path through which I would drag the tree, we set it up in the tree stand.

We had underestimated its length.

Our ceiling has a peak of 14 feet.

The top of the tree reached that height and bent at least a foot.

Down it came and I fetched the saw to remove about two feet worth of trunk. This time the top was two feet or so under the peak. Good!

The next morning we strung lights and our children helped decorate

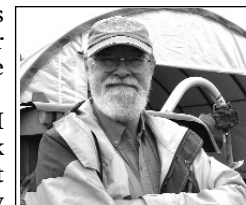
Alas, at time of writing, it appears that we will have a green Christmas. Boo and hiss! Ol' Man Winter keeps teasing us with some pretty intense flurries and then nothing.

It would be nice if Ol' Man Winter were to return on December 23rd (or earlier) to cover the ground again with the white stuff.

Then, indeed, I won't be singing about "dreaming of a white Christmas like the ones I used to know".

Anyway, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We deserve it.



Fred Jones
RURAL ROOTS

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Wonka is not a very tasty treat

Wonka (SilverCity) is among the first so-called tent pole films heralding the holiday cinematic season. The trailer dutifully features fanciful images and amazing set design with star Timothée Chalamet as the titular character, suggesting much fantasy, whimsy and charm.

However, as an origin story “*Wonka*” fulfils these modest goals only intermittently, wobbling from a flat first half before gaining a toehold in the second. Director Paul King (*Paddington*, *Paddington 2*) demonstrates that he’s game for a big scale production, with songs, dance sequences and plenty of CGL. One simply wishes that there was more substance in his script co-written with Simon Farnaby.

The *Wonka* character has roots in the 1964 book by Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* which inspired the 1971 film starring Gene Wilder and the 2005 flick with Johnny Depp (the latter running on CBC Christmas Day.) These versions were variously suffused with satire, cynicism, and creepiness (Depp) amidst the fantasy.

Origin story

Wonka pre-dates these stories, presenting the character as an illiterate, naive young adult orphan landing in an undefined prewar European city, the hub for world famous chocolate where he hopes to set up a chocolate shop. Willy is inspired by his deceased mum (Sally Hawkins) who produced the best, original confection.

He immediately runs afoul of the crooked “Chocolate Cartel” comprised of three corrupt moneygrubbers who dilute their product, hoarding the really good stuff in a deep reserve. They won’t be under-sold by superior competition. They control the cops and even the addled local cleric (Rowan “Mr. Bean” Atkinson.).

Wonka is also tricked into sweat shop servitude by his yellow-toothed innkeeper, Mrs. Scrubbitt (Olivia Colman) and her henchman, Bleacher (Tom Davis).

Among *Wonka*’s handful of fellow “inmates” is mature teen, Noodle (appealing Calah Lane), an orphan with an unknowing connection to one of the cartel baddies.

Hugh Grant provides comic relief as the diminutive Oompa-loopa, who’s at once



Timothée Chalamet stars in *Wonka*’s title role.

Wonka’s adversary and reluctant ally, doing a turn on his newly cultivated on-screen persona as an amusing dismissive, vain snob. A miniscule Grant doing the ‘oompah-loompah’ dance is hilarious.

Wonka produces chocolates out of a minizimo in his suitcase. He magically creates a chocolate shop and even a factory but oddly remains under Scrubbitt’s thumb.

A tad boring

Chalamet gets by in the singing department, but his character is bland and guileless, bearing little resemblance to the edgy, jaded adult *Wonka*. There’s no texture to Willy beyond lament for his mother. He has heart but he’s not very interesting. Willy can swipe giraffe’s milk sneaking into a zoo and lift beans from Oompa-land and emerge without betraying a scintilla of deviousness.

The forgettable songs, excepting “World of Imagination” from the Wilder film, bring most scenes to a dead halt. The supporting characters, with the exception of Paterson Joseph’s villainous Slugworth, are one-note, broadly played cartoons. On the plus side, the production design and cinematography are impressive.

Ultimately, *Wonka* is a superficially appealing confection with a hollow filling.



Marty Mascarín
MOVIE TALK

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Border Cats home opener May 31

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The Thunder Bay Border Cats will be back at Port Arthur Stadium on May 31, welcoming the Minnesota Mud Puppies to town for the start of a six-game homestand.

The Northwoods League team on Monday released its 2024 schedule, showing the team spending the first four days of its 19th season on the road, starting on May 27 for the first of two against the Rochester Honkers.

In order to accommodate the upcoming 2024 Women's World Baseball Cup, the Border Cats will play 14 games on the road, from July 18 to Aug. 4, returning to Thunder Bay on Aug. 5 to wrap up the regular season with four games against Eau Claire and two against the Waterloo Bucks.

The Cats will also be at home on Canada Day, taking on the Rochester Honkers.

There will also be a pair of school-day games, on June 10 against Duluth and June 19 against Waterloo.

The Border Cats will play a 70-game schedule, with 36 home games and 34 on the road.

Season tickets are on sale now and single-game tickets will be up for grabs on May 1.



Jack Pineau brought a little home-town flavour to the Thunder Bay Border Cats in 2023, and is expected to return to the Northwoods League team in 2024. (FILE)

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Wolves need consistency

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The Lakehead Thunderwolves were a bit of an enigma over the first half of the OUA men's hockey season.

On the one hand, they knocked off McGill, showing some of the form that brought them to within a win of a national championship berth last season.

On the other, they got blown out 8-2 by Chicoutimi and 7-0 by Toronto Metropolitan, dropping their final four games before the Christmas break to sit at 8-8-1.

T-Wolves coach Andrew Wilkins, whose team takes to the ice on Dec. 29 and Dec. 30 for non-conference games against the Manitoba Bisons, said the team has been good at times, and not so good at others.

“When you lose a couple in a row after a big win against McGill, it's obviously disappointing,” Wilkins said.

“I think you have to put yourself in a position to make the playoffs and try to peak at the right time, and I think we're still working through that. There's moments when we feel really good about our game. Those are the things we need to look at and how can we make those things more consistent.”

The top six teams in the OUA West will make the playoffs, though the sixth- and seventh-

place teams will compete for the final spot in a play-in game.

The T-Wolves are currently alone in fifth place, a point ahead of Guelph and Windsor.

They're 12th in the league in scoring, with 53 goals in 17 games and 14th in goal differential, having given up 14 more goals than they've scored.

The team also lost starting goaltender Christian Cicigoi to injury, relying on back-up Max Wright to take over between the pipes for the final six games before the break.

“We have confidence in everybody to get the job done, but there have been games where we've allowed too many goals and it definitely reflects in our goals against,” Wilkins said.

“I think that comes back to the inconsistency of our season. There's things we need to try to fix and things we need to take a look at, to try to find a way to make it better for the second half.

Wilkins said the break is a good time for a reset, to understand what it takes to be good, something he thinks the Thunderwolves have shown they can be.

“I think we come back in the second half and we're playing a lot of teams which are really tight in the standings. It's almost like desperation needs to go up a little bit, for sure. It's almost like playoff hockey starts a little early.”

Morissette steps in for Hackner

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Normally, when a two-time world champion skip has been missing in action, things don't always go well for the rest of the team.

Most other teams don't have a back-up skip like Frank Morissette.

The 72-year-old curler has been nothing short of spectacular filling in this season for Al Hackner, who's spent much of the fall south of the border, coaching the next generation of American curlers.

In all Morissette has led the Hackner-less foursome, that includes Jonah Dupuis, Rob Sinclair and Gary Champagne, to a 5-2-2-0 record, last Wednesday downing two-time Tbaytel Major League of Curling champion Dylan Johnston 6-3.

The triumph vaulted the squad into a tie for second place, with Krista McCarville's team, at 19 points, a single point back of Major League of Curling Leader Trevor Bonot.

"We've had a consistent season so far. We've played well, pretty much, in every game. We've lost two, but the rest of the games we've played really well and things are going well," Morissette said after Wednesday night's triumph at the Port Arthur Curling Club.

Hackner or not, Morissette said familiarity

with each other goes a long way.

"We've all played together a long time. This is the first year I've played with Jonah and he's playing really, really great," Morissette said.

"Everybody's playing well, so that's the key to the game."

The turning point against Johnston, off to an uncharacteristically slow start at 3-1-5-0, was a steal of three in the fifth, upping the Morissette team's lead to 6-1.

"I don't know if his rocks were a little bit different, one might have been quicker than the other," Morissette said.

"They were laying one and then they picked one out and all of a sudden we were lying two, buried. That was a big change, a big break for us with that shot there."

Asked if they needed Hackner, who could play on Thursday night when the Major League makes up for a postponed Week 1, Morissette, who played for Alberta at the 1976 Brier, cackled.

"So far, not yet," he said.

McCarville's match didn't take long to take shape.

The two-time Scotties Tournament of Hearts runner-up stole four in the first end and shook hands after the fourth, downing Robyn Despins 7-1 to up her record to 5-2-2.



Frank Morissette skipped his team into second place.

"She had a draw on her last one and it's tough when you have to take a little bit more ice in the first end. It could be quick out there, it

could be heavier out there. Fortunately for us it was heavier out there and she didn't throw it heavier. If she'd gotten inside the path a little bit, then it would have been a little bit quicker for her and she would have made the shot," McCarville said.

With six games left in the regular season, just nine points separates first from 12th. Every point matters at this stage, McCarville said.

"We've been crawling back. We started out pretty good, then we kind of went downhill for a few games. We've kind of made a little bit of a comeback the last four or five games, that we've won. But we've got to keep going," she said.

Nineteen-year-old Jackson Dubinsky is on the outside of the championship round at the moment, but helped his cause with a thrilling 7-5 win over Bryan Burgess, who led the Major League of Curling standings heading into Wednesday night.

Dubinsky scored three in the seventh to take a 6-5 lead, then stole one in the eighth to eke out a 7-5 win, Burgess missing a chance for a double and a win of his own.

"It was definitely down to the wire. Bryan made everything that game, so we got a little bit lucky at the end. But we'll take it. You need a little luck," Dubinsky said.

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Salming was a legend

I'm really looking forward to checking out the Borje Salming biopic that arrived this week on Crave.

The hall-of-famer, who died 13 months ago after being diagnosed with ALS, was one of the best defencemen of my childhood, but more importantly, he made the hockey world a heck of a lot smaller.

He paved the way for greats like Nicklas Lidstrom, Jari Kurri, Teemu Selanne and the Magic Man, Kent Nilsson, forever changing the demographics of the National Hockey League.

While it was probably inevitable that Europeans would eventually find a home in North America, someone had to go first. That took guts. Maybe not at the level of a Jackie Robinson, who broke baseball's colour barrier, but Europeans weren't exactly welcomed with open arms in the mid-'70s.

Salming may be the best defenceman never to win a Norris Trophy. He had the misfortune of arriving at the end of the Bobby Orr era, who, with Larry Robinson and Denis Potvin, combined to win the award the first seven years he was in the league.

Randy Carlyle finally broke their grasp in

1980-81, putting up 81 points for the Pittsburgh Penguins, but by then, age had started to catch up to Salming, and the Leafs began a steady decline under Harold Ballard's ownership antics. He'd finish in the top five seven times over his 17-year NHL career.

For the record, Brad Park and Scott Stevens are also in the conversation for best defenceman never to win the Norris.

Salming, who also never won a Stanley Cup, was a target when he landed with the Leafs in

1973, every team's tough guy looking to dish out as much punishment as possible to the newcomer.

He stood his ground, even fighting the baddest Broad Street Bully of them all, Dave (The Hammer) Schultz in just his second NHL game.

Salming finished his career in 1990, after one year in Detroit, scoring 150 goals and 787 points in

1,148 games, heading home to spend parts of three seasons at home in Sweden.

Borje - The Journey of Legend, stars Valter Skarsgard in the title role.

It debuted on Wednesday night, with two episodes airing. New episodes air on Wednesdays.



Leith Dunick
SPORTS SHORTS

Mikus nets OT winner for Stars

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Easton Mikus is one of the youngest players in the Superior International Junior Hockey League.

He's also one of the best.

The 16-year-old scored the power-play equalizer on Saturday night, with 1:31 to go in regulation, then needed all of 13 seconds in overtime to slam the game-winner home, as the Thunder Bay North Stars (16-9-3) rallied from a 3-0 deficit to stun the first-place Kam River Fighting Walleye 4-3 at Fort William Gardens.

Mikus, a graduate of the Thunder Bay Kings program, has 19 goals in his freshman Junior A season, tied for second in the league with Dryden's McLaren Paulsen, five behind Sioux Lookout's Owen Riffel, who leads all scorers with 24.

"It was a good team effort from all the boys and I just happened to get the opportunities and luckily enough, finished the opportunities," Mikus said.

He didn't really have time to think - just react - on the winning tally.

The Stars won the opening draw and raced into the Fighting Walleye zone, all eyes on Kam River goaltender Travis VannderZwaag.

"(Tyler) Jordan had a good forecheck and he put the puck out for me and I got the job done," said Mikus, who isn't really feeling the pressure to produce, an expectation that could start to weigh on a lot of rookies.

Not this one.

"Not so much the pressure. If anyone gets (the goal), it's the same as me getting it, as long as the team wins," he said, his interview interrupted by North Stars defenceman Drew Caddo, whose third-period goal, 51 seconds into the final frame, cut the Kam River lead to 3-2.

"Best 16-year-old in the SI right here," he howled into the television camera, hugging his teammate in celebration.

He does have a six-goal game to his credit this season, so a two-goal effort is almost par for the course.

Still, Matt Valley, who took the reins of the Stars for the night, with coach Rob DeGagne out of town, was impressed.

"For Easton to step up as a 16-year-old and score two big goals, at home, just before Christmas, in an OT game in front of a bunch of friends and family, that's a big game, so I'm proud of him too," Valley said.

Valley, who is coaching the Junior B Northern Hawks this season, had plenty of incentive to guide the Stars to the come-from-



Easton Mikus has 19 goals as a rookie for the Stars.

behind win, having been fired by the Fighting Walleye midway through last season, the team wanting a full-time commitment from their bench boss.

"It has nothing to do with last year," he said, diplomatically. "It's more about this year. The way we've played against these guys this year has been subpar. All we asked these guys was to have an effort tonight. At the end of the day, I know everyone wants me to say it felt good, I've been thinking about it for a long time," Valley said.

"But truth be told, whatever happened last year, happened. Things happen for a reason, and here we are."

The first period was all Kam River. Braeden Duchene got the Fighting Walleye (19-4-1) going early, beating Keenan Marks just 3:47 into the game. Liam Bell doubled the lead at 13:57 and Jett Mintenko made it 3-0 18 seconds into the second, the visitors looking like they were about to repeat Friday night's 6-1 win at the Norwest Arena.

But Jordan got the Stars on the board, beating VanderZwaag from a near impossible angle with 4:25 to go in the middle stanza.

Down 3-2, the Stars were awarded a power play with 2:25 to go in the third. Valley lifted Marks for an extra attacker and, standing in a crowd in front of the Kam River net, the puck landed at Mikus' feet. He pounced and fired it home, sending the game to overtime.

The two teams will take three weeks off for the Christmas break.

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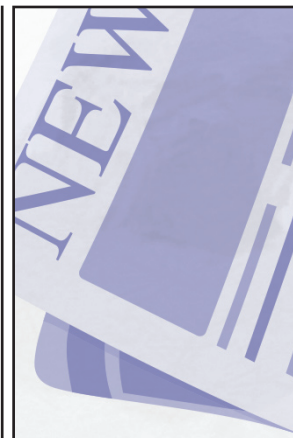
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