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SAFE AND SOUND



Iconic Hoito scale rescued /3

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Finlandia Co-operative of Thunder Bay interim president Paula Haapanen says she's glad the Hoito scale has found a temporary home at The Finnish Book Store and the Kitchen Nook.

City distances itself from TBCA

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

The city-owned Thunder Bay Community Auditorium will operate as an "arms-length" organization beginning in 2023, though details of what that change will mean in practice remains unclear.

City council approved the transition to the new operating model Monday evening after a discussion held earlier that day in closed session. The change will take effect on Jan. 1, 2023.

There was no public discussion before councillors unanimously endorsed the decision on Monday.

Coun. Cody Fraser, one of two council representatives on the auditorium's 11-member board, said the city had committed to continue funding the facility.

The municipal government currently supports the performing

arts centre with about \$741,000 a year through its Community, Youth and Cultural Fund.

The facility will transition to "more independent operations" under the new model, Fraser said, but maintained it had always been overseen that way.

The Thunder Bay Community Auditorium "is and has always been an independent entity governed by its own board," he said, though the city owns the 1,500-seat performing arts centre, which it built in 1985.

The city had confirmed in October it was conducting a review of its relationship with the facility, but remained tight-lipped on the details.

At the time, the city was reportedly considering three options: operating it under a local board, as a section within a city department, or under an arms-length model, which was recommended.



Canadian singer Alesia Cara performs at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium in 2019. (FILE)

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Scale salvaged

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

A lot of people have put on the so-called COVID 20 during the pandemic, so maybe it's not a bad thing Brad McKinnon doesn't want people stepping on the iconic weigh scale rescued from the fire- and water-damaged Hoito Restaurant.

At least the public will still be able to look at the scale, which McKinnon is hoping to restore and return to prominence at the Hoito, if and when the Finnish Labour Temple is rebuilt, following a devastating Dec. 22 fire that destroyed much of the upper floors in the historic building in the heart of the Bay and Algoma District.

For now it will live at the Finnish Bookstore and the Kitchen Nook.

McKinnon said when he realized the scale, a little rustier than usual, was mostly intact after being submerged in more than four feet of water, he immediately decided to embark on a salvage mission to ensure it wasn't lost.

"It's something from the building, it's something from the restaurant that everybody can identify with," McKinnon said on Thursday, a day after news of the scale's survival erupted on social media.

"I think it's really important that it stays in Bay and Algoma and I think it's important that it stands here at the Finnish Bookstore as a symbol of resilience and the fact that we're not giving up and are going to push forward. We want to give everybody an opportunity to get a picture, look at it and just as a reminder for the community to not give up hope. We will rebuild."

Richard Koskiniemi, co-owner of the Finnish Book Store and the Kitchen Nook, said he leapt at the opportunity to temporarily house the iconic scale, which diners waiting in line often hopped on before a hearty meal of Finnish pancakes, then after eating to see just how much damage they'd done.

"It's awesome to have such a great piece of history in our store and I think it's going to become the focal point of our fundraising efforts," Koskiniemi said.

Those efforts will eventually include a virtual wall, which will allow members of the public to post photo or record testimonials about the Labour Temple or the restaurant, which will then be compiled into a book put together by Charles Wilkins, author of Breakfast at the Hoito.

The proceeds will be turned over to the Finlandia Co-operative of Thunder Bay, which initially had planned to reopen the Hoito on June 22, before the fire interrupted those plans.

Paula Haapanen, the interim president of the



The iconic Hoito Restaurant scale was recovered, standing in four feet of water, following a Dec. 22 fire at the Labour Temple.

Finnish Labour Co-operative, said she experienced pure happiness and joy when she learned the scale had been saved.

It's a sign of hope, she said.

"It's a small little beam of sunshine in all this sad news to have this scale. The scale is an icon. Everybody who has been through the doors of the Hoito has been on those scales. It's a symbol of resilience."

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
Mainly sunny	A mix of sun and clouds	A mix of sun and clouds	Flurries
Precipitation: 30% HIGH -11 LOW -25	Precipitation: 30% HIGH -17 LOW -22	Precipitation: 30% HIGH -11 LOW -12	Precipitation: 60% HIGH -4 LOW -14

"It's a small beam of sunshine in all this sad news..."

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At-large Coun. Aldo Ruberto believes more front-line police officers are necessary in Thunder Bay. (FILE)

Ruberto wants to add \$1M for police

By Ian Kaufman -TB Source

A Thunder Bay city councillor says he'll push to add another \$1 million in police spending to the city's 2022 budget as the document is debated by council in the coming weeks.

The draft 2022 budget already includes \$1.8 million in spending increases requested by the Thunder Bay Police Service and its oversight body, the Thunder Bay Police Services Board.

If approved, that would bring city spending on police to \$49.2 million this year, accounting for the bulk of the force's \$55.4 million budget.

Coun. Aldo Ruberto argues there's a clear need for more police officers in the city, largely to tackle what police and other agencies have described as growing problems with the illegal drug trade.

"They're overworked, they're overstretched, and they need more help," he said. "If we could get, for the next five years, \$1 million in the budget... directed only at frontline police officers, I'm hoping we can shrink the drug issue to some degree."

Ruberto made the comments at a virtual town hall meeting held by the

city's five at-large councillors Thursday evening. In an interview, he said he hoped the funding could be used to hire as many as seven new officers.

He expressed confidence a push for more police funding would find popular support.

"I believe the majority of people in Thunder Bay will support this - they'll say, you know what, I'm willing to pay extra on my taxes if we can reduce crime, reduce the issues that are making our city not as good as it could be."

He maintained city spending on the police service "hasn't gone up significantly" in recent years.

The figure has risen from \$40.7 million to \$47.2 million during the current term of city council, a 16 per cent increase over three years.

By comparison, city spending on other departments and agencies increased by 7.6 per cent over the same period, from 2018 to 2021.

Going back further, police spending increased by about 41 per cent from 2011 to 2021. Ruberto acknowledged the proposal to invest in policing rather than support services would likely draw blowback, but argued the two strategies must go hand-in-hand.

Dozens of hospital staff isolating

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Dozens of staff members at Thunder Bay's regional hospital are off work due to COVID-19, but CEO Rhonda Crocker Ellacott says that hasn't yet posed a threat to the hospital's ability to provide care.

However, the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in the community, and a growing number of infected patients in hospital, has forced the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre to postpone non-urgent surgeries, among numerous other measures.

There were 19 COVID-positive patients in hospital on Monday. The number of COVID patients in the intensive care unit held steady at two.

The TBRHSC has moved from

code orange to code red, reopening a dedicated COVID unit, pausing non-urgent surgeries, and limiting the number of volunteers and care partners allowed in hospital.

The COVID care unit in the 3B wing is currently operating with 12 available beds, but can expand if necessary, Crocker Ellacott said.

The hospital had closed its COVID unit in July of 2021.

Patients are now allowed only one essential care partner, with some exceptions for palliative and end-of-life patients.

The hospital has adopted what's known as directive two following guidance from Ontario's Ministry of Health. The measure ramps down non-urgent procedures to ensure capacity is available to respond to rising COVID-19 cases.



Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre has reopened a COVID-19 ward with cases spiking in the city and surrounding areas.

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EDITORIAL

Back to class

On Monday night it leaked, likely on purpose for political reasons, that schools would return to in-person learning on Jan. 17.

The news was welcomed by many parents, who have been struggling to balance work with the need to ensure their children are adequately learning at home.

But it also raised plenty of questions about the safety of the whole, with Omicron circulating so freely throughout the community, and indeed, all of Ontario.

The classroom is where our students belong. Public health experts have, in large part, deemed them relatively safe places.

It remains to be seen if they'll become super spreaders. But it's a chance we're going to have to take, for the long-term mental stability of our children. They need to be around their peers and learn to socialize in group settings.

They have enough alone time in front of a screen as it is. As long as the province commits to spending the money needed to ensure there are enough supports in the classroom so public health measures can be observed, kids should be able to safely return to in-person schooling.

Message control**To the editor:**

The Conservative government of Doug Ford is patting themselves on the back these days, having received and promoting the COVID-19 numbers, which they say are way down.

This same administration is not counting the numbers any more

We truly do not know how the spread of the virus is going down. No numbers, no concrete messaging, no trust.

The election in June has become the king of the mountain, top drawer in Ontario.

While all political parties are trying desperately to promote themselves and their platforms, the Conservative Party puts limits upon their members and their political competitor's electioneering.

The people of Ontario are sick of computers and the multiple messages found upon them.

Over half of the population are working online daily. The messaging is coming from the party in power, almost always re-elected in a time of crisis.

Will that happen here in Ontario? While the numbers of support for the Liberals and NDP increase, will this increase surely result in a Conservative minority government?

Steven Kaszab
Bradford, Ont.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welcome To

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Bradbury saw importance of local libraries

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury is a science fiction classic that is even more relevant today than when it was published in 1953.

Fahrenheit 451 is the temperature at which book paper burns. *Fahrenheit 451* is a novel set in the future when 'firemen' burn books forbidden by a totalitarian regime.

The hero, according to Bradbury, is 'a book burner who suddenly discovers that books are flesh and blood ideas and cry out silently when put to the torch.'

Today, when governments and moralists – on the political right and left – are still 'burning' certain books *Fahrenheit 451* remains a brilliantly readable and suspenseful work of

even greater impact and timeliness.

Bradbury was inspired to write *Fahrenheit 451* by his lifelong passion for libraries. 'There was nothing more wildly exciting than running to

the library every Monday night when I was eight, nine, 12, and 14. Once inside the old lady librarian weighed my books against my weight, and disapproving of the inequality (more books than boy) set me free to run home and lick the pages to turn them.'

In the summer months there was hardly a day when Bradbury wasn't at the Waukegan

public library, 'lurking about the stacks, smelling the books like imported spices, drunk on them even before I read them.'

Once out of high school, he could not afford college, sold newspapers on street corners and 'inhabited the downtown library three or four days a week, often writing short stories on dozens of small notepads strewn about libraries as a service to readers.'

Bradbury probably wrote more poems, essays, stories, plays and novels about libraries, librarians and

authors than any other writer. All the women in his life were teachers, librarians or book sellers. He met his wife in a bookshop.

Some of his early stories tell of librarians and book burners and people in small towns finding ways to memorize the books so they had some sort of immortality.

Bradbury wrote *Fahrenheit 451* in the basement of the UCLA library where he hired a typewriter for 10 cents per half hour. He pulled books from the shelves, searching for quotes that he could use in his novel.

Bradbury understood libraries. 'If we insure that by the end of its sixth year every child in every country can live in libraries to learn almost

by osmosis, then our drug, street-gang, rape and murder scores will suffer themselves near zero.'

Research has proven Bradbury's point, but in the negative: when public libraries are closed then crime, addiction, poor health outcomes, obesity, teenage pregnancy go up, and educational achievement goes down.

Public libraries are the glue that sticks communities together. We should protect them, cherish them, use them and invest in them. They are crime prevention centres, street corner universities, youth diversion centres, community hubs, health improvement centres and so much more.



John Pateman
BOOK BANTER

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Pandemic may be giving way

By John Shermack -
For TB Source

The rapid spread of the Omicron variant is alarming but it is also an indication that this virus is behaving just like other viruses have during other pandemics in history.

I like to keep up with trends in modern science and lately amid the debate about the prognosis for a mutating coronavirus I have been reading and hearing the "E" word quite often.

E is for "endemic" and one possible future scenario has the virus reaching the endemic stage where the general population has broad immunity and the virus mutates and weakens.

It eventually fizzles out but seldom disappears forever.

Right now hospitals are being overrun by a growing number of new infections but overall the severity of the disease has lessened.

The crowding is caused by the record numbers of new cases of

the highly contagious and rapidly spreading omicron variant.

Historically, viruses that cause pandemics often mutate over time to become less life threatening, spreading at lower levels and becoming more manageable.

When this happens the disease may evolve into one of the seasonal endemic illnesses we have learned to deal with such as the flu or the common cold.

Experience from previous pandemics has taught us that they typically last from 2 ½ to 3 ½ years before they let us get on with our lives.

Even as omicron infections rise to record levels there are indications that this pandemic is on track to become endemic, hopefully sooner than later.

The 1918 flu pandemic lasted about two years - as the virus spread worldwide the human population developed extensive immunity and the virus grew less deadly over time.

Life began returning to normal in the 1920's but the Spanish flu



The latest variant could be a sign the end is nearing on the COVID-19 pandemic.

virus didn't go away - it morphed and mutated into just one of many endemic seasonal ailments.

Periodic outbreaks of the 1918 HINI virus continued to occur in hot spots around the world until 1922.

Viral descendants of the Spanish flu are still with us - one of the endemic viruses we easily manage today with annual vaccination and medical intervention.

As for the COVID 19 pandemic in 2022, we are now in the grips of the most contagious, most transmissible variant yet

The omicron variant of COVID 19 is more infectious than ever but fortunately the symptoms have been less severe, especially among the vaccinated population.

However with a record high rate of infection the medical community is being overwhelmed by the numbers of new cases.

Some virologists are speculating that this scenario will continue although it is too early to know for certain how the pandemic will play out.

We have been lulled into a false sense of security before - our summer optimism was quickly

erased by the disappointment of a COVID resurgence in the fall and winter.

The hope is that this virus will mutate into less virulent strains that natural immunity, vaccine immunity and public health measures can easily control.

Our knowledge about COVID increases every day - how to detect it, how to test for it, how to prevent it, how to treat it and how to defeat it.

Advanced technology and medical innovation have given us a big advantage - the rapid development and deployment of an effective vaccine is one good example.

Is omicron the beginning of the end for the COVID 19 pandemic and will 2022 be the year of the "E" word?

Lately I've been taking inspiration from an old George Harrison song, All Things Must Pass.

It reminds me that even though we may still have some challenges ahead, all pandemics come to an end - this too shall pass.

Astronomy's year in review

Looking back to 2021, there were many great space stories in the news including two lunar eclipses back in May and November. By coincidence, two more total lunar eclipses will occur in May and November 2022. We were also entertained by three great meteor showers in January, August and December but the moon ran major interference. The Northern Lights were prominent last month particularly in western Canada painting the sky green.

The never-ending list of exoplanets continues to grow with a total of 4,884 confirmed worlds and 8,288 other candidates.

This search continues via ground and space-based telescopes.

It was this time last year the Japanese Hayabusa mission successfully returned soil samples from the asteroid Itokawa.

It has long been the thought of astronomers and scientists that building blocks of organic compounds needed to create life began in the solar system and

was delivered to the young earth via meteorites. Missions such as this have shed new light on this theory.

Comparable to the list of exoplanets, 70 more rogue planets have been detected floating through space. These are "outcasts" from their solar system by some event such as the star exploding thus launching it on a path to nowhere. Or some could have been overpowered by larger planets in their solar system and slingshot out of their system, from the light and warmth of their sun.

Until now, the sun has been studied by earth-bound telescopes and orbiting satellites. The amount of information learned is outstanding but the missing key was a physical examination. Never before has a spacecraft touched the sun until the Solar Parker Probe launched in 2018. Over the years the craft made multiple manoeuvres as it gets closer to the sun.

In December of this year, the probe has touched the upper atmosphere of the

sun's corona which is only seen from Earth during a total solar eclipse when the moon blocks the blinding light. Over the next few years it will skim closer to our star and by the year 2025 is will be racing at an unheard of speed of 690,000 kilometres per hour or 192 kilometres per second.

The newest addition to the Martian fleet came with the deployment of the SUV-sized rover Perseverance and Ingenuity helicopter anchored under it.

Private companies have proved they have the right stuff to launch into space, not just NASA. Jeff Bezos and Blue Origin allowed 90-year-old William Shatner and retired NFL Michael Strahan to touch space. But Elon Musk has taken space travel one step further by transporting astronauts and supplies to the International Space Station via the SpaceX Dragon cargo ship.

In September of 2022, the DART mission will arrive at the 800-metre wide asteroid Didymos to deflect a small 160-metre wide moonlet Dimorphos. This is a test to see if a potential asteroid coming toward earth can be slightly deflected.



Gary Boyle
BACKYARD ASTRONOMER

HOW TO WRITE TO US:

Letters to the editor are most welcome. Those kept to 350 words or less have priority.

The Thunder Bay Source reserves the right to edit submissions for content and clarity. All attempts will be made to preserve the core argument of the author.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

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<input type="radio"/> YES 77.33%	<input type="radio"/> NO 14.55%	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW 8.13%
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Nutrition not really tough

Last week we dived a bit into my personal history with health, nutrition, and wellness. This month can be the hardest to get going on a new lifestyle regime. It's cold, and now we have new restrictions to deal with. However, this time away from fitness facilities can be beneficial to plan and educate yourself on nutrition.

Part of starting a new healthy lifestyle is changing your thoughts about food. For most of us, food is about the experience and enjoyment. This was especially hard for me to change because I made a career out of covering things with cheese and watching people enjoy it. The cold reality is for a while when you start a new nutritional program you must get used to eating boring. It will be a shock to your system at the start but that's a little bit of the point. For me, the staples of my new diet were.

LEAN PROTEINS: Chicken breasts, egg whites, protein powders.

LEAFY GREENS: Spinach, romaine.

FIBRE RICH GRAINS: Quinoa, oatmeal, brown rice.

HEALTHY FATS: Avocado, olive oil, Egg Yolks, Greek Yogurt. Sometimes you can find foods that fulfil two of these requirements, whole boiled eggs, and quinoa for example.

At this time in my life, I was working a rotational job in a mining camp up north, two weeks in, two weeks out. I was cooking for between 300 and 1,000 workers each day. A sample menu for a typical workday would be yogurt and protein powder at 6 am, at which time I would do cardio training. Boiled Egg and Oatmeal right before my shift would start at 8 a.m. Lunch at 11:30 a.m. would be a chicken breast and spinach. A snack at 3 p.m. would usually consist of yogurt or something easy. Dinner at 6:30 to 7 p.m. would be Chicken and Rice and weight training at 8:30 to 9 p.m. Finishing with protein powder post workout.

This would be my daily meals with very little variation during my two weeks in camp. While I was home there was a bit more variety, but not a ton. With cheat meals sparsely dispersed during my home time.

Now as you can imagine portion



Chicken breasts are healthy. (www.wellplated.com)

control and timing on those fats and proteins were key to keeping calories in line. On days when I seemed to be hungrier than others and let me tell you at 400 pounds it really sucked feeling hungry, I was able to come up with a few hacks.

Leafy greens are low calorie and can be eaten at pretty much any time with little consequence to the bottom line.



Derek Lankinen

Here's Cooking at You Kid

High fibre foods like oatmeal stave off the hunger pains longer than easier digesting foods. For emergencies, the easiest option I found was Metamucil, I know, hear me out. Metamucil is basically flavoured psyllium husks emulsified in liquid. They swell and fill your stomach with very little caloric

content. The other benefit is they aid in digestion, especially beneficial when you're beginning a new diet which may wreak havoc on your gastro system while your body becomes accustomed to the new normal. (More on that next week)

Derek Lankinen is an award-winning chef, author, and restaurateur. He is the Owner/Operator of Beefcake's Burger Factory and Co-Owner of Elite Beef, Eat Loco Tacos and Brick and Mortar Food Co.

Murphy rings in the New Year

How is your New Year going so far? Mine got off to a great start but it wasn't to last. Murphy, of the famous law, decided to make a return visit to our farm. Murphy first stopped my quad from starting and then, as a bonus, the hydraulics on my ancient tractor, Big Red.

My quad is used 365 days of the year.

The tractor's hydraulics not only run any attachment but also the steering of the machine.

Last week, I tried to start the quad. The engine sputtered and then died. I tried and tried to start it. No go. I tried everything.

I then hollered for help from Donny, my mechanic. "Did you

check the spark plug?" Donny asked. "Er, no, I didn't because last time I tried to change one I put it in wrong and almost stripped the fitting. You had to rescue me."

He arrived after supper and sure enough, it was a gummed-up spark plug. Fortunately, I had a spare.

What a relief as I had resorted to mucking into wheelbarrows and then tried pushing them outside through the thick snow.

Murphy also shut down the hydraulics in Big Red.

I had just managed to snow blow from the tractor shelter to the barn.

My first clue something was wrong was when I attempted to

raise the seven-foot snow blower I have attached to Red's rear. Nothing.

My second clue was noticing that the power takeoff had ceased to spin. Oh, the engine was working just fine, but the tractor's steering is also dependent on the hydraulics.

I managed to back the tractor up to the shelter and got Red back inside the shelter. No fun.

I called Donny.

"There might be some ice in the system. Cover the tractor and try putting a heater underneath and see if that helps," he suggested.

I did. I left it overnight. Didn't work.

Perhaps if I removed the blower and then maneuvered the tractor into the barn, and left it overnight, whatever was preventing the

hydraulic fluid from flowing would melt.

Amazingly, it somehow worked.

Then Laura remembered that Ken, the wonderful gent who had just finished redoing the first floor of Casa Jones, was also skilled with large equipment. Ken grew up on a farm in Alberta and returns every summer to help out on his brother's farm in northern Alberta.

"Call him and see if he can help."

This was this past Saturday and we were experiencing another blizzard. If I couldn't get Red's hydraulics fixed then who is going to clear away the snow? I called and Voila! Ken said he could come out in the afternoon.

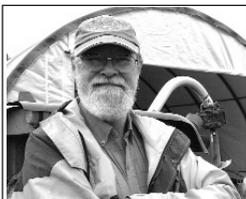
I had bought necessary filters and oils for changing the various oils that keep Red running. Ken arrived and

we started the tractor and tried to raise the bucket to see if leaving it overnight had done the trick. It hadn't. So Ken removed the hydraulic filter.

Once off, Ken took it apart and saw it was filthy. He installed the new filter and asked me to again start up Red and see if the hydraulics worked.

They did. Problem solved. I drove the tractor out of the barn, dumped the snow out of the bucket, and then headed over to re-attach the blower.

Real farmers are handy. They have to be. They can fix anything. They can build anything. Then there's me: not handy, not a real farmer. In fact, I have a tendency to make things worse. As Laura said: "when the going gets tough, call a real farmer." Which we did. Whew!



Fred Jones

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Brooke Ailey hoists a trout from Lake Superior, an activity she loves, though she's more of a skier now.

Get kids outside

My favourite childhood memories all involve the outdoors. Throughout the coldest of winter days, we would play hockey on the outdoor rink down the street and build snow forts in the yard. Regardless of the temperatures, the weekends were for skiing at Mount Baldy or, if I was really lucky, ice fishing. The thought of being trapped indoors for even a single day was unbearable.

However, in the twenty first century, getting a child outside on a crisp winter day is not always going to be a simple task. There are plenty of modern distractions that make staying indoors both enticing and too easy. Yet, being outside is as important as it ever was for insuring the mental, emotional and physical health of our youth.

A few tips and tricks can help ensure our children always enjoy winter and all the fantastic outdoor activities that come with it.

Pick your day wisely. Winter activities tend to go well when the temperatures are mild. Pay special attention to the wind too, as playing outside on a calm sunny day is always preferable to one where the wind is howling.

Invite a friend. Whatever your chosen activity, it is amazing how much more enjoyable it will be for everyone if there is a friend included in the adventure. You will probably never hear "I'm bored" when there are multiple kids involved, but the challenge might

actually be to convince them when it is time to head inside.

Dress for the occasion. Dressing in warm layers is key, but it is also wise to bring extra socks for when their boots get filled with snow, and extra mitts to replace the ones they lost in the car on the way to the ski hill.

Bring snacks. Carrying lots of treats is a great way to keep everyone happy.

Tasty and nourishing snacks are essential when the kids are "hangry" after playing all day without a lunch break, and a thermos of hot chocolate is a great way to keep moral up when there are no fish below the ice.

Take a deep breath. Yes, there will be lost hockey pucks, bent ski poles and ice fishing rods that go down the

hole to the bottom of the lake. It is not a big deal, but it is very important that the kids know these mistakes are not enough to ruin a great day outside.

Promoting winter activities and allowing children to experience the great outdoors is perhaps the greatest gift we can give to our young people. As parents, joining the kids for some skiing, ice fishing or skating is one of the best ways we can invest our time. So far, this winter has given us plenty of warm days between a couple of deep freezes. Now that we have plenty of snow to enjoy, let us hope the milder temperatures continue as we head into the second half of this wonderful winter season.



Keith Ailey
the GOOD LIFE

Ricardos get Sorkin treatment

Accomplished screenwriter Aaron Sorkin takes on both writing and directing duties for *Being the Ricardos* (Amazon Prime) a snapshot of one hyper-stressed week in the lives of Lucille Ball (Nicole Kidman) and Desi Arnaz (Javier Bardem), stars of *I Love Lucy* which in the 1950s was attracting 60 million viewers weekly.

The film gives a fitfully engaging look at the fractious relationship between Ball and Desi and the behind-the-scenes production tensions of their top-rated TV show where they star as Lucy and Ricky Ricardo.

The story begins in 1952 with Ball micro-managing the rehearsal of a second season episode. Ball is fixating on the blocking of a dinner table scene involving Lucy, Desi, William Frawley (J.K.

Simmons) and Vivian Vance (Nina Arianda).

The show's running behind schedule. Everybody's on edge. Will this be their last show?

There are many reasons behind Ball's behaviour, some new to us. Firstly, she's worried about allegations that she was a one-time member of the Communist party.

Secondly, she's fretting about Desi's behaviour outside their marriage. Thirdly, she's frustrated by her stalled movie career. Fourthly, she and Desi are at odds with the show's sponsor and CBS execs who oppose making Ball's real-life pregnancy part of the show's storylines because that leads to the touchy issue of how babies are made.

Sorkin falters in the opening act where he bounces back and forth in time from the stalled rehearsal

scene to Lucy envisioning what the final scenes should look like before returning to on-set sniping among the tense production staff. This technique loses the characters in a swirl of Sorkin's trademark rat-a-tat dialogue.

Sorkin does better with Ball's one-on-one interactions with co-workers. Simmons shines as Frawley, surprisingly offering her wise, witty advice in contrast to his grumpy, detached, booze-loving exterior. Best friend Vivian Vance challenges Ball about why Lucille is meddling with Vivian's dietary regimen.

Ball also has enlightening discussions with showrunner Jess Oppenheim (Tony Hale) and co-head writer Madelyn Pugh (Alia Shawkat) about Desi's producing know-how and what really makes the show work. These scenes provide character insights and speckles of Sorkin wit.

Both Kidman and Bardem have their moments. Kidman over-

comes her unfortunate make-up which looks like an overdone Botox treatment. She shows Ball as a creative force, a sharp, talented female battling to make her mark in cold-blooded male-dominated show-biz. Bardem illustrates Desi's business and political savvy as he exercises some clout with the meddling "suits."

We also learn about other lesser known aspects including the impetus behind her trademark dyed-red hair (an MGM screen test) and Desi's innovations in shooting sitcoms. Recovering from a shaky start, Sorkin builds towards the suspenseful moment where the show is supposed to go live on-air before a studio audience.

Ultimately, Sorkin has fashioned an informative, generally engaging though somewhat uneven look at a star couple making their celebrated TV show work even while their relationship is doomed.



Marty Mascarin
MOVIE TALK



Nicole Kidman stars as Lucille Ball.

Do you have an opinion to share?

E-mail the editor at

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Scotties organizers hope to host again

Rick Lang says no fans a letdown for this year's event

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Scotties Tournament of Hearts could return to Thunder Bay - with fans - as soon as 2024.

With all signs pointing toward Curling Canada enacting a bubble, similar to the 2021 event in Calgary, when the Scotties arrives in Thunder Bay later this month,

local organizers say they've been told they'll have first right of refusal for the 2024 event.

Curling Canada on Thursday announced it had awarded next year's Scotties Tournament of Hearts to Kamloops, B.C.

Rick Lang, vice-chair of the 2022 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, said the organizing committee was told it would be the front-runner for 2024 if Thunder Bay chose to seek to host in two year's time.

"They've given us every assurance that we've been given first right to the next Scotties, or the

one after that, if we choose, to have it back in Thunder Bay," Lang said, reached by phone on Thursday afternoon by CKPR Radio.

"They were really excited by what we had planned for Thunder Bay and the ticket sales and corporate sponsorship that we'd achieved. They want to come back here and our committee will have to assess our ability to pull that off again and get funding sources in place."

Curling Canada spokesman Al Cameron tempered those expecta-

tions for 2024, when reached by Thunder Bay Television, saying the bidding process has not yet happened.

Cameron added Curling Canada has yet to decide if a bubble can go forward in Thunder Bay, or if it's even necessary. Under Ontario's new COVID-19 restrictions, all ticketed events have been cancelled, though some elite amateur leagues are allowed to continue playing.

Thunder Bay was originally supposed to host the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, but

COVID-19 restrictions forced Curling Canada to move the event to Calgary. The Northwestern Ontario city was later awarded the 2022 event, but had to halt ticket sales late last year when capacity limits were cut to 50 per cent, then to 1,000, before Monday's latest announcement that essentially cut all fans from sports facilities.

"They've left the door open for future Scotties for us," Lang said, adding it will take a lot of consultations with stakeholders before a decision to move forward could be made.

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Elmo really rocks

No, Sesame Street's fuzzy little guy doesn't need to be cancelled for outburst

Last week was a busy time in the news world. It was the beginning of a new year. A time to start fresh.

Denialist and Senator Ted Cruz finally acknowledged 2021's insurrection as "a violent terrorist attack on the Capitol." And then changed his mind on Fox News. On Thursday, President Biden commemorated the anniversary of one of the ugliest days in the U.S.'s recent history with a powerful speech. That same day, one of cinema's greats, Sydney Poitier, passed away.

And on Friday, the three men who killed Ahmaud Arbery were sentenced the life in prison.

Yet, what was going viral on social media was a 2004 video of *Sesame Street*'s perpetual toddler, Elmo flipping out on a pet rock about a cookie.

Let me state this again. One of the biggest news stories during a historic week was a

nearly two-decade-old video of a TV muppet yelling at an inanimate object over baked goods.

Is life in the real world becoming so dark that even television's happiest and most inclusive neighbourhood is no longer safe from its ugliness?

Elmo's had an issue with his friend Zoe's pet rock "Rocco" for years. Zoe treats

Rocco like a living, breathing person. Elmo thinks it's silly and refuses to indulge her make-believe world. In fact, he gets downright exasperated by it. We can all relate.

However, some are offended that Elmo is being so cruel to Zoe (and Rocco). They question his often-lauded communication skills and his obvious lack of patience.

Others are wondering if he's still an appropriate role model for children.

Viewers seem to have forgotten that the residents of Sesame Street have never been perfect. They've been selfish – until they were taught to share. They've been ignorant – until they were shown better. They've been wrong – until they learned to apologize.

Elmo is a perfect example for the phrase

"Nobody's perfect." He's frustrated with the little world he lives in.

Aren't we all?

Perhaps that's why the public is reacting so strongly to his viral video outrage. Right now, there's a lot to be angry about in the world.

But it's pretty hard to have an old-fashioned "freak-out" wearing a mask and standing six feet apart. So we're letting the falsetto-voiced muppet be our surrogate.

Then there's the need to let it go.

We love to play "Gotcha" with public figures – to the point of making it a sport. And there's nothing better than to take down a present-day giant with something they said or did in the past.

But this is Elmo. Do we want to take him down?

Maybe remembering that even cute little Elmo has dark moments in his history is a good way of bringing perspective to others' past indiscretions.

Some mistakes are easily forgivable. Others require more active "mea culpa." And it's important to recognize the difference.

So maybe this wasn't the most important story to start the year. But it's good to know that *Sesame Street* is still capable of teaching the adults in the room a lesson too.



Fiona Gardiner
FI TV

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		2			7	8	4	1	
	4	8	5						
8	3								
1									5
		5		9					
					5	2			
9			3				1		
	2	3			4		8	7	

ACROSS

- Fairy queen
- This (Sp.)
- Crazy
- Presidential nickname
- Exigency
- Footless
- Amer. Standard Version (abbr.)
- Camera lens
- Old-fashioned oath
- Edge
- Electric unit
- Volcano crater
- Gamin
- Belgian (abbr.)
- Rhine tributary
- Newspaper
- Right-hand page
- "Blue Eagle"
- Laconian clan group
- Noun-forming (suf.)
- 92 (Rom. numeral)
- Feminine (suf.)
- Song of praise
- Fr. chalk
- College entrance exams
- Punk
- Tally
- Indian lady
- Freshwater worm
- Harem room
- Rosebud, e.g.
- Weekly (abbr.)
- Recommended daily allowance (abbr.)

DOWN

- Sheep's cry
- Away (pref.)
- Drink
- Toward center
- Sow
- To or from a distance (pref.)
- Soft drink
- Brother of Abraham
- Atop
- Carry
- Carriage
- Destroying (pref.)
- Prate
- Gambling card game
- Arabic (abbr.)
- Birthplace of Mohammed
- High (Lat.)
- Inclination
- Antecedent
- Melody
- Teem
- Keck
- Totem pole
- Sp. hero (2 words)
- Rice field
- Work hard
- Alb (arch.)
- Earth
- Television channel
- Compass direction
- Tree
- Append
- Sheep's cry

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Scotties excites Team McCarville

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Krista McCarville says the joke around her house is she's going to keep curling until daughter Bella is ready to join the team.

Unfortunately the 12-year-old likely won't be on hand to witness in person her mother's latest journey to the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, despite it being held in her hometown.

That's the downside of McCarville's foursome being named on Friday to represent Northern Ontario for a fifth time at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, marking her ninth appearance at the national women's curling championship.

All signs are pointing to the event being contested inside a bubble for the second straight year, crowds likely not allowed at

Fort William Gardens to witness Thunder Bay's first Scotties Tournament of Hearts since 1996.

But unlike last year, when McCarville, lead Sarah Potts, second Ashley Sippala and third Kendra Lilly, who calls Sudbury home, chose not to accept the Scotties berth, there was really not much discussion this time around.

"Obviously you're excited to play in any Scotties," the 39-year-old skip said. "Wearing the moose on your back and representing Northern Ontario is a really big thing and we're super excited that we get to do it, especially being at home - even though it's not going to be the full effect.

"We're still at home, we're still the home team and definitely really excited still."

McCarville said in part the decision was made after another year of living with the realities of COVID-19.

Perspectives change, she said. "We want to be safe and we want to make sure everyone is safe and have the bubble, but life is just different. I think most people are just living through it now. Life's different and we've got to live life. We didn't hesitate one second to play. We want to play and we want to be here."

Potts, who has young twins at home, said the hometown vibe helps make up for not being able to see their families over the course of the Scotties, scheduled to start in

three week's time.

"It's kind of a happy day and also a little bit sad," Potts said.

"We knew we were going to do it this year. Last year was so hard to not go. It was just one of those things that we talked about ahead of time that if it was a bubble, we were going to do it. It is hard. It's hard on our families to be gone that long. We love the idea of being at home and being able to see our families throughout it, so we're really lucky our families are supporting us to do it."

Curling Canada has yet to officially announce a return to a bubble format, which would see curlers and tournament officials and volunteers

sequestered, but Potts' father, Rick Lang, a vice-chair of the local organizing committee, has said the sports governing body is seeking the approval of the Ontario government and public health officials to operate one in Thunder Bay.

Lang also said he's been assured by Curling Canada that the city will be considered for a future Scotties with fans in the stands, perhaps as soon as 2024. The 2023 event on Thursday was awarded to Kamloops, B.C.

McCarville, who said she's got no plans to retire any time soon, said she'd gladly stick around to get the full Scotties experience in her hometown.

"I'd love to be playing in it," she said.



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Packers should take Super Bowl

For all that Aaron Rodgers put the Green Bay Packers through this season, the one thing that can't be denied is just how great he's been.

The presumptive favourite to win the NFL's most valuable player is also my pick to lead his team to a Super Bowl win. Rodgers has but one ring to date, and time is running out.

This is the year he gets it done again, using weapons like Devante Adams and the running back tandem of Aaron Jones and A.J. Dillon, along with an underrated Packers defence, to waltz through the NFC playoffs.

Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers might have a say, but with the Antonio Brown fiasco and the injury to Chris Godwin, they're missing a pair of pretty big weapons.

I actually think it could be the Los Angeles Rams that meet up with Rodgers and company in the NFC championship game. How good was Cooper Kupp this season?

If any team is going to knock off Green Bay, it'll be Sean McVay's crew.

In the AFC, while the Tennessee Titans have the bye, and Derrick Henry set to return, my money is on the Kansas City Chiefs to be back in the big game for a third straight year.

Don't bet against Patrick Mahomes, despite how much the team struggled at times. They're on a roll and should make easy work of the Pittsburgh Steelers, who barely scraped into the playoffs.

The only other team that might pose a threat is the Buffalo Bills. New England has regressed a bit in recent weeks.

At least my Vikings fired coach Mike Zimmer. Finally.

Leith Dunick
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DATED: January 6, 2022

Victoria Methot
CARREL+Partners LLP
Barristers & Solicitors
1100 Roland Street, Suite 1
THUNDER BAY, Ontario
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63. LEGAL SERVICES

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All Persons having claims against the Estate of **DONALD LOUISON GOSSELIN**, late of Geraldton, ON, deceased, who died on or about December 18, 2021, or the business known as BHOUT CONTRACTING INC. are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned on or before February 10, 2022, after which date the estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned will not then be liable to any person of whose claims they shall not then have notice.

Dated at Thunder Bay, Ontario on the 6th day of January, 2022.

JESSICA LYNN LEMIEUX, ESTATE TRUSTEE
c/o **ERICKSONS LLP**
ATTN: RYAN VENN
Barristers and Solicitors
291 South Court Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2Y1



63. LEGAL SERVICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
In the Estate of **JOHN DALE PENKO**

All Persons having claims against the Estate of **JOHN DALE PENKO**, late of Thunder Bay, ON, deceased, who died on or about October 21, 2021, are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned on or before January 27, 2022, after which date the estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned will not then be liable to any person of whose claims they shall not then have notice.

Dated at Thunder Bay, Ontario on the 21st day of December, 2021.

RICHARD JOHN PENKO, ESTATE TRUSTEE
c/o **ERICKSONS LLP**
ATTN: RYAN VENN
Barristers and Solicitors
291 South Court Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2Y1



63. LEGAL SERVICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
In the Estate of **BARBARA INGRID GARTON**

All Persons having claims against the Estate of **BARBARA INGRID GARTON**, late of Neebing, ON, deceased, who died on or about November 26, 2021, are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned on or before January 27, 2022, after which date the estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned will not then be liable to any person of whose claims they shall not then have notice.

Dated at Thunder Bay, Ontario on the 23rd day of December, 2021.

ROSEMARIE DEFOY, ESTATE TRUSTEE
c/o **ERICKSONS LLP**
ATTN: RYAN VENN
Barristers and Solicitors
291 South Court Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2Y1



THINK RECYCLE

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

M	A	B	E	S	T	A	N	U	T	S
A	B	E	N	E	E	A	P	O	D	
A	S	V	T	E	L	E	P	H	O	T
	E	G	A	D	H	O	N	E		
F	A	R	A	D	M	A	A	R		
A	R	A	B	B	E	L	G	A	A	R
R	A	G	R	E	C	T	O	N	R	A
O	B	E	N	C	E	X	C	I	I	
	E	T	T	A	P	A	E	A	N	
T	A	L	C	S	A	T	S			
T	O	U	C	H	W	O	D	T	A	B
B	I	B	I	N	A	I	D	O	D	A
S	L	E	D	W	K	L	Y	R	D	A

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Better a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without."
— Confucius

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