YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Wrecking ball

Former Oddfellows Hall torn down, months after fire swept through the abandoned building /8





INSIDE

FIRE BURNS HOME



No one hurt in early morning incident /4

LOCKDOWN PROTESTS



Business fight closures /3

FINAL ROLE REVIEW



Chadwick Boseman stars in Ma Rainey's Black Bottom /12

MOVING UP THE LISTS



A look at local NHLers and some upcoming statistical milestones / 14

CRUMBLING DOWN: Crews last Saturday begin the teardown of the Oddfellows Hall, a South May Street landmark that had fallen into disrepair and later ordered evacuated.



When children and youth come into foster care, they might be experiencing change for the first time. At Tikinagan Child and Family Services, nurturing Live-In Foster Parents play a crucial role in helping them adapt, making them feel safe and supported during transitions.

Betty Maud, who spent four years as a Live-In Foster Parent for Tikinagan, knows how important it was to make a difference for children and youth. She said her goal was to always provide a safe environment, where children and youth could become themselves.

"As time went on, I really, really enjoyed seeing them relax," recalls Maud. "They would have that humour. They would start laughing, they would start doing little silly things. Just to see that showed me that they were being more comfortable, more trusting."

As a caregiver, Maud engaged the children in aspects of family life from choosing what groceries to shop for meal planning to taking them to appointments and community events.

"It made them feel important, that their input was important, too."

Live-In Foster Parents work with Tikinagan to ensure Ministry standards are met and carried out in the home, providing a sustainable and encouraging environment for children while Tikinagan covers all living expenses.

Tikinagan provides ongoing support for Live-In Foster Parents,

including debriefing and weekly meetings with staff. For Maud, the training at Tikinagan was "a real bonus," educating herself on first aid and suicide prevention. Live-In Foster parents also receive respite once a month.

Though used for the short-term, Live-In Foster Parents are an important part of the community and the Tikinagan service model Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, which means "everyone working together to raise our children." Maud took her part in the community seriously.

"As a live-in foster parent, you are the community and you are helping. Every child matters."

An Anishinawbe Ojibway originally from Manitoba with 10 grandchildren of her own, Maud says she used her own life experiences as a Live-In Foster Parent, including her childhood when she remembers who paid attention and encouraged her.

"I always think with each foster child that I've have had: it's about riding the tides with them, through the ups and downs – the 'lumps and bumps' I always say – and we get through it. I walk with them through it. Every child needs that encouragement, they need validation. As a Live-In Foster Parent, you're definitely making a difference."

For more information on being a Live-In Foster Parent with Tikinagan, visit tikinagan.org or call 1-800-465-3624.

Learn more at tikinagan.org or call 1-800-465-3624





LL° トヘローマス・イム・コ | Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin | Everyone working together to raise our children.

LOCALNEWS

Business owners protest lockdown

THUNDER BAY By Gary Rinne - TB Source

amie Gauvreau feels small businesses in Thunder Bay amie Gauvreau feels small businesses in I nunuer Day are being treated unjustly by the provincial government's COVID-19 lockdown that went into effect on December 26.

"We did everything we were asked to do for the six months. We put our PPE in place. We kept things clean. We slowed down our flow of traffic...but I guess it wasn't enough," Gauvreau said Monday at the scene of a protest on Memorial Ave. at Central Ave.

About half a dozen people participated.

Gauvreau, who owns Do or Dye hair salon said, "Now, the real slap in the face is that Walmart is open, the schools are open, and yet it's just our small businesses suffering."

He said that although some government programs have been set up to help business owners, they are not enough.

"We're suffering. We're going to see a big economy drop here in Thunder Bay real soon."

Gauvreau said the incidence of COVID-19 in the district is nothing close to what it is in southern Ontario, so "we should open until the numbers say otherwise. Right now the numbers deem us in orange, which is the standard the government and the health unit set. It's just not sticking

To be fair, he said, the government should either lock everything down, including travel, or let small businesses in the city and district reopen.

Gauvreau questioned why "if there can be 25 kids in a classroom" small business owners can't have a couple of people inside their premises..

"We follow all the protocol," he said. "We're not oblivious to the situation. We understand the problem. But we also have a problem. We may not be essential to the government but we're essential to our families for

Gauvreau's plea echoes concerns in an online petition to the Thunder Bay District Health Unit that's been signed by over 3,300 people.

It calls on local leaders and health officials to 'take ownership of the situation in our region and back us in returning to the colour-coded framework laid out by the province to recognize regional differences."

Frustrated

One of the people promoting the petition in a video posted to Facebook is business owner Gavin Barrett.

Barrett operates Afloat Wellness Centre.

In the video, he also identified himself as a paramedic, but in an interview Monday he stressed that his opinions are are not those of his employer.

Barrett said he spoke out after hearing a lot of frustration in the business community for the move away from the regional COVID-19 colour-coded system.

"Throughout this year, we've been taking a regional approach that took case numbers into account. The extension of this lockdown just seemed to go against the framework set out by the province."

Barrett said he never intended for his message to take an adversarial approach against the health unit's medical officer of health, and offered an apology to Dr. Janet



CLOSED: Gavin Barrett operates Afloat Wellness Centre.

"We follow

all the

protocol.

We're not

oblivious to

the

situation."

JAMIE GAUVREAU

He noted that he knows some business owners who have already been forced to close, and others who are talking about doing so.

"It would really help in managing if local businesses knew there was going to be consistency....Certainly our intention is not to be irresponsible in any way. We're going to respect public health guidelines regardless of what they are."

Clarification

In a statement issued late Monday afternoon, the TBDHU clarified what they said were inaccuracies circulating and said medical officer of health Dr. Janet DeMille's support of the lockdown was based on careful consideration of many different factors, which include:

 Analysis of rising case numbers in many areas in the province and other areas of the country.

■ Evidence of increased COVID-19 activity in other Northern Health Units which have the most similarity with TBDHU in the province.

 Vulnerability of the post-holiday period with indications in many other jurisdictions of holiday activities and gatherings directly contributing to spread;

 Recognition that measures are most effective when implemented early and are less effective when rates and numbers are already elevated.

In addition, at no time did Dr. DeMille refuse any funding to support the response to COVID-19.

As of Monday, there were 74 active COVID-19 cases across the District of Thunder Bay, with three patients receiving treatment in hospital.

Weather Forecast

WEDNESDAY

A mix of sun and clouds

Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 0 LOW -4

THURSDAY

Snow

Probability of Precipitation: 90% HIGH 1 LOW 0



Snow

Probability of Precipitation: 90% HIGH 0 LOW -6

SATURDAY

Scattered flurries

Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -6 LOW -14



A mix of sun and clouds

Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH -8 LOW -13



Cloudy with **Sunny breaks**

Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH -10 LOW -16



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LOCALNEWS



Home destroyed

By TB Source staf

City fire crews responded to a structural fire on the city's south side early Monday morning.

According to a Thunder Bay Fire Rescue release, fire crews responded to a structural fire Monday around 3:30 a.m. on Ruskin

While en route crews noticed dark smoke in the area and the response was upgraded to a second alarm.

Fire crews arrived on scene to find smoke and flame coming from the structure. According to fire crews, flames could be

seen 10 feet over the roof top of the struc-An offensive attack was initiated on the

exterior of the structure to battle the fire and

The fire was quickly brought under control limiting damage.

Fire damage was extensive to the structure. The fire is under investigation to determine the cause of the incident.

Pipe loans approved

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

he City of Thunder Bay will offer over \$1.3 million in interest-free loans to homeowners, in hopes of speeding the removal of lead water pipes from an estimated 8,700 local homes.

City council voted unanimously Monday

to approve a program offering loans of up to \$3,000 each to help homeowners cover the costs of replacing lead service connections on private property.

"We hope people with lead services do take advantage of this," said Coun. Mark Bentz. "It's a golden opportunity to improve your home at no interest cost, which is a good deal."

The initiative comes as the city MARK BENTZ faces a \$350-million class-action

lawsuit filed by residents over a previous effort to address the lead contamination problem by adding sodium hydroxide to its water supply.

Lead levels were expected to increase in thousands of local homes that still have lead pipes, after the city ended that program in January of 2020 following an alarming rise in pinhole leaks across

Exposure to lead in drinking water is particularly dangerous for children, and can affect brain and nervous system devel-

The new loan program will leverage \$100,000 in funding to offer up to \$1.35 million in loans, amounting to up to 450 loans of \$3,000 each.

> The loans will be repaid monthly over five-year terms, with a ten-year option for lowincome individuals.

> Communities including Ottawa, Guelph, Hamilton, and Brantford offer some form of lead water pipe loan or grant program, said director of environment Michelle Warywoda.

The \$100,000 cost of the program reflects estimated lost interest revenue over the

lifetime of the loans, and costs to administer the program.

City council had voted over the summer to allocate that amount from the city's stabilization reserve fund for a grant program. However, council accepted administration's recommendation to offer a loan program instead, in order to increase its impact.

Golf-course ownership questioned

City councillors talk about viablity of Chapples, Strathcona

CITY HALL By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Some city councillors continued to question the wisdom of maintaining Thunder Bay's two municipallyrun golf courses, despite reported improvements in their financial performance.

City staff touted progress in reducing operating deficits at its Strathcona and Chapples courses Monday, as city council received a report on golf operations in 2020.

Deficits dropping

The city's annual operating loss on its golf courses had been trimmed from over \$500,000 in 2017 to around \$35,000 in 2020 (the latter number is still being finalized), staff reported – though some councillors said that number did not properly reflect the true costs.

Parks and open spaces manager



HOT SPORT: Golf enjoyed a surge of popularity in 2020, thanks in part to the pandemic.

Cory Halvorsen credited increased utilization and hikes to user fees for the fiscal progress.

"I've been a member of council for a few years," said Coun. Andrew

Foulds. "I don't think I have seen a golf report that is so positive."

Some councillors questioned that framing, however, pointing out the \$35,000 operating loss highlighted in

the report did not factor in major costs to operate the courses, including the capital budget, grounds maintenance, and "indirect costs" billed internally to golf operations by the city for administrative support.

Accounting for those items, the true cost to the city of operating the golf courses was closer to \$370,000.

"We have to be clear in what the costs are," said Coun. Mark Bentz. "I'd like to see those numbers [reflected] clearly in future reports.

"If a tax payer were to access this report and they see, 'Actual Cost to Operate: \$34,800' that's a far cry from \$370,000."

Halvorsen said the "actual cost" wording had been an error, and that the number was meant to reflect operating costs only.

The city would need to increase fees by approximately \$7 per round to cover that larger shortfall of \$370,000, Halvorsen calculated roughly when asked by Coun. Rebecca Johnson.

A review of city services had recommended closing municipal golf courses, estimating the city could save around \$100,000 a year. However, councillors voted almost unanimously

to take no action on that recommendation in December.

In addition to lowering costs and increasing revenue across Chapples and Strathcona since 2017, city staff emphasized ongoing efforts to expand access to the sport.

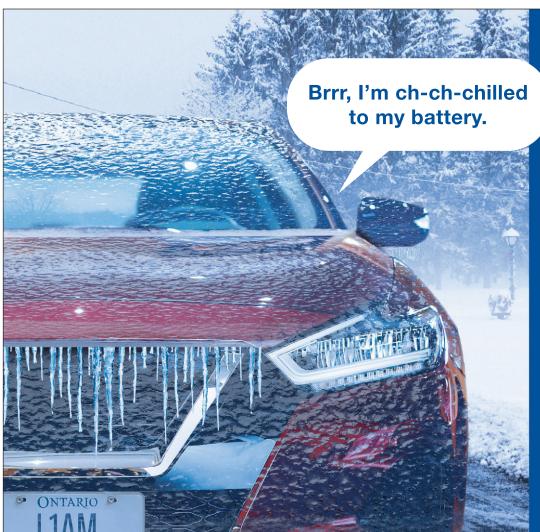
Options offered

Several councillors praised efforts to offer more flexible pricing at the courses.

"Municipal golf is about growing the game, it's about providing different user groups the access to golf that possibly private courses may not be offering," said supervisor of golf services Pat Berezowski.

Coun. Shelby Ch'ng saw value in the city supporting that approach, telling her colleagues that families in Northwood attended city-run courses largely because they find them more welcoming.

She questioned concerns from Bentz that the city might be unfairly subsidizing competition against two other privately-run 18-hole courses in the area, saying the city's courses were more likely to expand access and help grow the game.



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Editorial

EDITORIAL

Lockdown on notice

The problems of Toronto are not necessarily the problems of Thunder Bay. It's especially true when it comes to COVID-19.

We can mostly agree that a lockdown was a good idea following Christmas, and its extension is probably necessary with any cases associated with the holidays likely to spike during this twoweek time period.

But after that, it's really time to get back to business- with the caveat, of course, that we don't see an explosion in case numbers.

As of Tuesday, there were 67 active cases, with a single case being announced that morning.

The city and surrounding areas did see a brief uptick in numbers late last week.

While Ontario numbers continue to surge, Thunder Bay District is doing relatively well. We're incrementally below our per capita share of provincial case numbers each day.

The outbreak at Southbridge Roseview appears to be over and the biggest issue we've had have resulted from people

Perhaps the smartest move would be to put checkpoints at the entrances to the region and only allow those who live here or have essential business to enter.

Add to that a mandatory 14-day quarantine, like they have in Atlantic Canada and things can return to close to normal.

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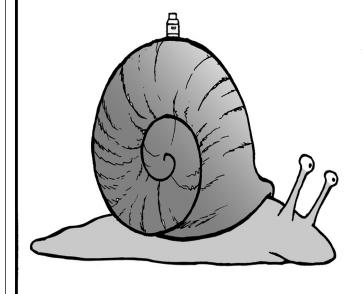
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Are there new COVID subsidies?



was wondering if you knew of any new government subsidies for this new wave of COVID-19.

Thanks, Jason

Hello Jason:

n November 30, 2020, the Federal Government released an economic statement entitled "Supporting Canadians and Fighting COVID-19." The release updated the fiscal costs of the ongoing pandemic and estimated this year's deficit to come in at \$381.6 billion. For 2021, we can expect some pandemic relief programs to be extended and enhanced, here are the high-

■ 1. There will be an increase to the maximum Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy rate to 75 per cent for the

period beginning December 20, 2020 to March 13, 2021.

- 2. The Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy will also be extended to March 13, 2021.
- 3. There are to be new rules for the taxation of employee stock options, to be effective for stock options granted after June 30, 2021.
- 4. The Canada Child Benefit for eligible families with children under the age of 6 will be enhanced (to come out in early 2021).
- 5. A new simplified "home office expense deduction" for 2020 of up to \$400. This flat rate method will allow eligible employees to claim a deduction of \$2 for each day they worked at home due to COVID-19 up to a maximum of \$400 without a Form T2200 completed and signed by their employer.

Quebec also announced that it will parallel these Federal changes for Quebec provincial 2020 income tax. more information: http://www.revenuequebec.ca/fr/sallede-presse/communiques-de-presse/deta ils/168070/2020-12-16/)

 6. Extending the deadline to apply for the Canada Emergency Business Account loan for small business owners to March 31, 2021.

We expect to see more relief coming in the beginning of 2021 due to the resurgence of COVID-19 as well as the introduction of several new tax proposals.

According to the Economic Statement, the Federal government also plans to come down on those people trying to evade taxes; allocating additional resources to allow the CRA to fund new initiatives and extend existing programs targeting tax evasion and tax avoidance.

A new modernized General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) is also expected to be launched in 2021 to maintain the integrity of our tax

As well, the Canadian government is expected to target the unproductive use of domestic housing – that is, those Canadian homes owned by non-residents. This is expected to be an aggressive tax-based measure that will be seen nationally.

All in all, our government seems to be trying to support Canadians and of course we expect to have a few more challenges ahead, but we all must do our part.

Whenever you can, shop locally with your neighborhood coffee shop, bakery, grocery store and bookstore. Remember to chat with the owners and the staff to give them your encouragement and moral support. Kindness and patience are something we all should be giving out these days, after all, it is free, and needed now more than ever.

> Good luck andbBest wishes, Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author of the best-selling book "How to Retire Debt Free & Wealthy" and a new book Don't Panic – How to **Manage your Finances and Financial Anxieties During and After the** Coronavirus" available at all bookstores across Canada. If you have a money question, please email on website: www.askthemoneylady.ca

Perspective

Going for groceries has changed

Canadian shoppers have started buying fresh foods in greater numbers, cooking at home more

By J.R. Shermack **Special to TB Source**

As normal daily routines are restricted or curtailed Canadians are looking for sanctuary, clinging to the leftover remains of normal family life.

Many are taking advantage of the relatively mild winter with simple outdoor activities like walking, snowshoeing and sledding.

Trails and pathways around town are being well-used for fitness and recreation and for added fun and excitement some are re-visiting the joys of sliding in the snow.

From hills and snowbanks around town you can hear the shouts and laughter of kids and adults as they pilot their crazy carpets on daredevil runs down slippery slopes.

Fortunately we have plenty of wide open spaces for safe-distancing outdoor activities with enough sticky snow for making snowballs and creating snow

This is welcome relief and solace for those who embrace the season but not everybody is enthusiastic about the cold winter weather.

Outdoor fun

As for me, I have always liked playing outside in the snow and I have some young friends in my household who help me keep it alive.

But for those who prefer a warmer environment there is another activity that can be done safely, at a distance, and which also gives a glimpse of normal life

A look back in history



MEAL PREP: Pre-packaged foods are giving way to healthler options as consumers find they have more time to prepare meals at home.

This is something we all do and it also provides us with some of the other necessities of life that you just can't find outside in the snow.

I'm talking about going for groceries - whether you order online for curbside pickup, have your groceries delivered to the door or shop in person, we all need provisions.

Personal grocery shopping is a very low risk activity and there is no evidence of COVID infection from the handling of food, food packaging or shopping bags.

I am a very cautious consumer and I am satisfied that staff in the grocery stores where I shop are conscientious about following recommended safe practices.

I follow them too because the combination of masking, distancing, sanitizing and the due diligence of everybody involved keeps us all safe and allows this one small indulgence.

That's good news for many consumers and home cooks who value the opportunity to browse through the aisles and select their own sustenance.

That experience is still possible but there is no doubt that shopping patterns and buying trends have changed during the pandemic.

These changes are described in the

2021 edition of Canada's Food Price Report and several observations were made about their effects on consumer behaviour

Early in the pandemic some consumers were panic buying and hoarding goods like tuna, pasta, and frozen fruits and vegetables but this behavior was short-lived.

When the pandemic first began Canadians bought a lot of peanut butter and Kraft dinner but according to the report from Dalhousie University our tastes are changing.

Eating at home

We have shifted from canned goods and non-perishables to fresh produce and other staples as we re-discover the joys and comforts of home cooking.

Now that Canadians are staying home, 70 per cent are cooking more, 60 per cent prepare more food from scratch, 55 per cent eat more meals with their kids and 50 per cent involve their kids with meal prep.

Food prices are going up (about four per cent in 2020) but many households are saving money by cooking at home with fresh ingredients and avoiding

These are challenging times, but we can still enjoy a play day outdoors in the snow and then go inside to prepare and share a home-cooked meal with loved ones.

This will sustain us and give us hope for better times ahead.

I am grateful for these remaining snippets of pre-COVID family life - it isn't much but it will do until the pandemic is over.

HOW TO WRITE US:

etters to the editor are most welcome. Those kept to 350 words or less

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. Address them to: **Thunder Bay Source** 87 North Hill Street, Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5V6

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WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you agree with the decision not to end the lockdown in Northern Ontario?

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TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND VIEWS ABOUT OUR WEEKLY POLL QUESTION.

TOTAL VOTES: 898

OYES



LOCALNEWS

LA RGS RGS

COMING DOWN: Workers watch the start of the demolition of the former Oddfellows Hall.

Oddfellows Hall demoed

THUNDER BAY
By Ian Kaufman -TB Source

A vacant south end property that sat badly fire-damaged for nearly a year as its owner failed to comply with demolition orders finally came down on Saturday, clearing the way for potential redevelopment.

The City of Thunder Bay stepped in last year to arrange for the demolition of the former Oddfellows Hall on May Street, after a fire tore through the building in March. The city had ordered the hall closed in 2019.

This past Saturday, crews began knocking down the structure using heavy equipment, a process the city's licensing and enforcement manager, Doug Vincent, expected could take around 12 hours.

"I think a lot of people in town

[were] wanting this down," he said shortly before demolition began. "It's been an eyesore in this south core for a long time, since the fire."

"It's going to make the place a lot more attractive, I think. The site will be graded and levelled, they'll put in some control barriers for traffic. Who knows what the future will bring for that property?"

Saturday's relatively mild weather made conditions ideal, Vincent said, but the job was complicated by the presence of asbestos and cramped working quarters – the contractor had taken several steps to shield neighbouring buildings from damage.

A section of May Street South between Donald and George streets is likely to stay closed for most of the coming week as workers remove debris from the site and backfill it. The owner of the property, a numbered company based in Markham, Ontario, failed to comply last year with demolition orders issued under the city's property standards bylaw and the provincial Fire Protection and Prevention Act.

Charges were laid against the company earlier this year under the Provincial Offences Act for noncompliance, and for allegedly failing to keep the building secure from trespassers who started more fires.

The city will bill the owner for the cost of the demolition, although there is no guarantee it will be able to recoup all its expenses.

If necessary, a charge can be added to the property tax bill as a lien. In the event an owner defaults on taxes, a property may be seized and put up for sale to the highest qualified bidder.



people | health | home | food | leisure

Making the most of the lockdown

There are plenty of safe ways to enjoy your usual winter activities, if you take proper precautions

With the provincial lockdown extended an additional two weeks, many people are finding it more essential than ever to get out in the fresh air and stay active to avoid boredom and depression as we are now ten months into our battle with COVID-19.

For many of us, outdoor sports have always been the key to elevating the heart rate enough to

keep us strong and healthy. However, in the current climate, many more people are heading outside to get their daily dose of Local

rinks, Nordic centers, conservation areas, parks, and trails are all seeing a remarkable increase in usage this winter. Sporting goods stores are having trouble keeping stock of Nordic skis and snowshoes just like they struggled to keep up with the demand for bicycles last summer.

Getting out

This is a good problem to have as it means more people are spending time being active outdoors.

Luckily for us in Northwestern Ontario, our sparse population density and abundance of recreational land makes it relatively easy for us to find some space and properly physical distance. Nevertheless, popular recreational areas can see some heavy usage as many of us are choosing to use outdoor activities as a safer way to socialize in place of indoor gatherings.

Yet, simply being outside does not guarantee our safety. In situations where we are not solo or with our

immediate family members, it is still very important to make smart choices and respect health guidelines.

Choose your days wisely. There are certain times when popular outdoor areas are very busy, but there are also opportunities to use our vast number of outdoor recreational areas in relative solitude. Saturdays are always the busiest days with Sundays also seeing

heavy usage.

If you have some flexibility, choosing times very early or later in the day on the weekends certainly mean more space.

If you are lucky enough to be retired, consider heading out on weekdays while most of us are at work or school and you can avoid congested recreational areas in peak times.

THE GOOD LIFE

Smaller is better

Tighten up your circle of friends and keep them consistent. Of course, the safest option is to spend all our time in the company of those in our own house-

However, for people who live alone and others who are in need of some social interaction beyond their own households, meeting up with one or two friends outside in the fresh air, while still observing health protocols, is a far safer option than attending an indoor social gathering.

Maintain distance and cover up. Preserving the standard two meters of space from others remains the best way to stay safe, especially when we continue to cover our mouths and noses.

Luckily, our cold climate means we



OUT AND ABOUT: A group of fat bikers stagger themselves and keep a gap of 2 meters while riding on a frozen river in Thunder Bay.

are probably already wearing a neck gaiter or Buff around our neck when we are outside in the winter and we can easily pull it up if we stop to talk to

While there is evidence suggesting that the risk of coronavirus transmission is diminished in outdoor settings compared to indoor spaces, simply being outside does not in itself ensure safety.

For this reason, we need to continue following the advice of health experts whenever we head outside for some exercise and respite during the current

Compiled with information from the Government of

Canada's risk mitigation tool for outdoor recreation spaces and activities operating during the COVID-19 pandemic

(https://www.canada.ca/en/public-

health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-i nfection/guidance-documents/risk-mitigation-tooloutdoor-recreation-spaces-activities-operating-cov id-19.html)



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Mild temps a pleasant January surprise

Sunday we awoke to a hoarfrost morning.

After getting coffee going, I looked out our living room main window that sports a southern view, to see everything white and crystalline.

The sun was just beginning to pop its head above the horizon and as it did

all of those crystals covering the bushes, the trees, and what sprigs of stubble that was not covered in snow, sparkled as if covered in d i a m o n d s . Stunning.



Frosty morning

I checked the thermometer to see that it read about -10 C. After the warmth of Saturday, the hoarfrost would make sense.

When I exited Casa Jones to head across the yard to feed the equines in their stalls, I noted that the wind-

shields on the two vehicles were covered as well.

But before actually going to the barn, I have a ritual: feed the birds. They were all sitting in the crab apple trees and in the large tag alder bushes in behind, waiting for the bird seedpine grosbeaks, pine siskins, chick-

adees, a nuthatch, a hairy woodpecker, and this morning, a snow bunting. And the perennial blue jays, of course.

Well, I didn't disappoint, distrib-

uting seed on the picnic table, on the ground under the bird feeder, and refilling said feeder. I walked away en route to the barn but I paused to watch the feathered throng suddenly leave their perches and descend on the seed. Very gratifying.

We had waited until Saturday to take down the tree. My wife, Laura, thought that the one we put up this year was the best yet and wanted to linger in its lights before daylight and at night.

We usually, like most people who bring into 'hoosie' and decorate for the festive season, keep the tree up until New Year's Day.

But we noticed that this specimen did not begin to shed its needles until just a few days before we took it down. Why? Laura wondered that when we harvest the tree from our field that I call the 'back 40', it was warm. Just a theory, mind.

It was cold last year and though we didn't "get the tree" until a week-and-a-half before Christmas day, the needles began their journey to the floor almost immediately.

So, because the needles stayed on their branches much longer this year, we elected to enjoy the tree all decorated and sparkling with lights for an added week.

After packing away the decorations and the lights, I hauled the tree outside

LOOKING

and planted it in the snow beside the picnic table. In previous seasons, I've observed that the small flitty feathered things like to take shelter in the tree until all the needles have dropped off.

The lockdown due to COVID 19 has affected us too.

Our son, Doug, lives and works in town. He and his girlfriend come out on the weekend to visit.

We set up folding chairs around the campfire in a socially-distancing arrangement.

Laura takes their hot chocolate mugs and mixings out to the lounge in the barn where they can duly brew it. But, no hugs, no allowing them inside the house.

There is an outhouse they can use if needed that we built when we ran the horse-riding business. I miss hugging my son; he tells me he misses hugging both me and his mum.

This inconvenience, too, will pass and eventually we will have real meals together inside rather than cookouts as if we were winter camping.

After almost a week of snowshoeing, we had to take a break partly due to the sudden warm temperatures that would alter the structure of the snow on the trail and partly because I overdid it a tad and strained some back muscles.

Ran ahead

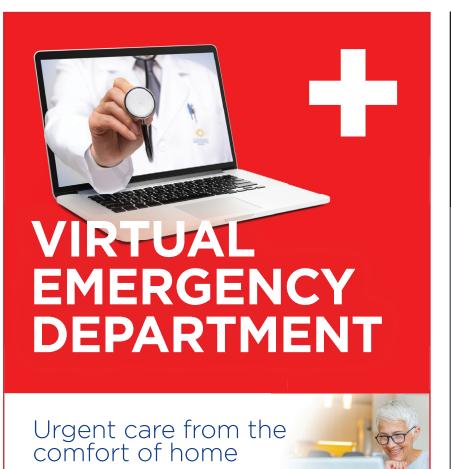
I would go charging into the snow to break trail, pushing and pushing until I was out of breath. Then Laura would take over.

That way we covered a fair amount of ground.

But when the temperature rose, the snow on the trails got sticky. I'm sure that Jack Frost will be back and traversing the trails will be easier. Just as I'm sure that Ol' Man Winter isn't through with us yet.

We are blessed. We know it. We count our blessings.

We have our health and we live in a paradise.



The Virtual Emergency Department (ED) offers same-day virtual appointments with emergency department physicians to patients living in Thunder Bay and the surrounding area who are older

www.tbrhsc.net/VirtualED

than 17 years of age with non-life-threatening medical issues.

Thunder Bay Regional

Health Sciences Centre





\$52.00

DRAWS START APRIL 1, 2021

Hospital launches monthly 50/50 draw

Jackpot guaranteed to be at least \$5,000

THUNDER BAY
By Leith Dunick -TB Source

Though it likely won't hit \$15 million, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation is hoping to cash in on the 50-50 fever that hit the recent World Junior Hockey Championship.

Glenn Craig, the foundation's president and CEO, this week launched the hospital's latest fundraising venture, a 50-50 draw with a guaranteed jackpot of at least \$5,000 – but one that could climb much higher, he said.

New idea

"Especially with COVID and the pandemic, we wanted to bring an event to Thunder Bay that people could do from the comfort of their own homes and their own couches," Craig said.

It's been a struggle to raise money during COVID-19, he added. This is just another way to capture the public's attention.

Not being able to hold inperson events makes it that much tougher, combined with the fact there are also economic challenges that have prevented usual donors from giving enough or giving at all over the course of the past year.

"We've definitely taken a hit this year and this is one way of trying to make up for that," Craig said.

Tickets, which are available at www.thunderbay5050.ca, are five numbers for \$10, 30 numbers for \$20 and 150 numbers for \$50, with all proceeds being used to cover the

cost of the highest priority medical equipment needs at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

Multiple prizes

The first draw is Friday, Feb. 26, though there will also be a pair of early-bird draws for \$500, starting on Jan. 29.

"The one great thing about this format, with our last 50/50 there were a limited number of tickets. Now, there is no limit on the number of tickets, which means there's no limit on the jackpot. Any of you who were recently watching the World Juniors saw some of those huge numbers," Craig said.

"I don't think we're going to get to \$15 million, but I'm sure we're going to get to a very nice number and we're going to make somebody really happy."

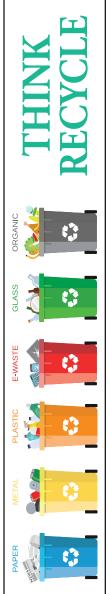
Ticket buyers must be in Ontario at the time of purchase.



NEW FUNDRAISER: Glenn Craig, president and CEO of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation.

tbaytoysfortots.ca FIREFIGHTERS TOYS FOR TOTS Thunder Bay! \$1,44,019 raised to support 5,950 children in need.

FIRE DEPT



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- Shop at Neighbourhood
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tbnewswatch.com

arts entertainment culture



SWAN SONG: Chadwice Boseman (left), in his final role before his death, and Viola Davis (right) star in Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, a movie based on a play by August Wilson and co-produced by Denzel Washington.

Ma Rainey a fitting final role for Boseman



MARTY
MASCARIN
MOVIE TALK

The late Chadwick Boseman (Black Panther) makes his final noteworthy bow starring with accomplished veteran Viola Davis in the racial drama, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (Netflix).

Set in 1927 Chicago, the film is based on a stage play by deceased playwright, August Wilson, coproduced by Denzel Washington.

Having passed away in 2005, *Ma Rainey* is part of Wilson's legacy, a 10-play collection entitled, *The Pittsburgh Cycle* which delves into the black

experience in America in 20th century.

Here, real-life blues singer Ma Rainey (Viola Davis) is immersed in a tension-filled recording session where she has grudgingly conceded to record a couple of her popular tunes for her beleaguered manager/producer, Irvin (Jeremy Stamos) in turn to please slithery music publisher Sturdyvant (Jonny Coyne.)

Musical role

Boseman plays brash Levee, a talented trumpeter and aspiring bandleader who earns Ma's wrath as his trumpet keeps meddling with her signature tune, the *Black Bottom* in question.

The cocky Levee also runs afoul of other band members when he mocks what he views as their collective complacency, not realizing that despite his supposed street smarts, his lack of worldly experience leaves him equally vulnerable to exploitation.

Levee tempts fate even further as he brazenly dallies with Ma's protégé and love interest, Dussie Mae (Taylor Paige) who's just as happy to tease for male attention.

Ma is a lightning rod for tension herself, bristling at low-ball treatment she's getting in northern cities like Chicago where she feels her music is being expropriated, compared to the south where she's a revered living legend.

Her indignation reaches a boiling point when a recording is botched. Then she's reduced to negotiating for a Coca-Cola.

Davis is a growling, touchy tinderbox, all blotchy eye-shadow and over-done rouge, but singing with

compelling raw emotion.

Boseman's artistry comes to the fore in a key scene where Levee recalls a painful boyhood memory involving a white assault upon his family.

Sadness

He touchingly conveys Levee's sorrow as an eight-year-old boy witnessing a horror he doesn't quite understand, subsequently bearing the attendant emotional scars as a black adult male in a white dominated world.

Playwright Wilson (with script adaptation by Reuben Santiago-Hudson) has the story crackling with conflicts at every turn, as his characters spar and spat with tension and occasionally humour arising between and within races, generations, and genders, building towards a tragic climax.

Director George C. Wolfe masks the

story's theatrical roots through varied camera placement and judicious framing, achieving intimacy with the characters.

The story has only two real sets, a dusty rehearsal room and, a stuffy, small recording studio which Wolfe augments by inserting authentic-looking exteriors to enhance period flavour and context. Set design and costumes are first-rate.

Boseman and Davis are backed by a fine supporting cast including Colman Domingo (Cutler), Glynn Turman (Toledo), Michael Potts (Slow Drag) and Dusan Brown (Sylvester).

Chadwick Boseman succumbed to colon cancer this summer at age 43. With *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, fans will savour his accomplished, final screen performance, a great talent having departed far too soon.

Fox wasn't where truth-seekers turned

his year began with a lot of hope, and hype.

Most people desperately wanted Jan. 1 to be proof that we were turning a symbolic corner. Things had to get

While Jan. 4 ushered in a new reality in Georgia with two Democrats winning the run-off elections and thereby securing power of the Senate, just two days later, the Capitol was under siege. But not by parachuting Soviet forces a là Red Dawn 1984 or by parachuting North Korean forces a là Red Dawn 2012.

No, this attack was much more domestic in nature. And it made for some must-see TV. On a day when TV ratings should have been low as most networks had scheduled repeat episodes before launching their new winter TV season, news networks recorded some record numbers.

According to the ratings, most



viewers chose CNN over Fox News for the play-by-plays at the Capitol. Even hours later during the primetime hours between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., CNN enjoyed almost double the viewers that tuned into Fox. MSNBC also soundly "trumped" the president's favourite network.

And in the hours and days that followed, despite Fox News covering the details of the riots and their fall-out,

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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OPINIONIST: Fox News' Tucker Carlson.

the network has remained steadily behind. So it's not so surprising that Rupert Murdoch's TV empire is scrambling to win back viewers when even their most ardent Trump-tastic anchors can't support what happened last week.

Of course, Fox News has never been able to keep viewers by reporting the facts. Last fall during a slander suit against popular Fox host Tucker Carlson, a federal judge said that Carlson does not state actual facts. Instead he engages in "exaggeration" and "non-literal commentary."

Given their falling ratings, it's no surprise that Fox News is now stepping further back from the facts. Last fall, they cut their research department. And this week, the network moved one of their last primetime newscasts to mid-afternoon.

In its place, Fox News Primetime will be hosted by a rotating group of opinion hosts for more "exaggeration" and "non-literal commentary."

Of course, other networks also air opinion shows. They're necessary to fill a full day of programming and to avoid a repeat of CNN's past questionable "Breaking News" headlines such as the 2005 introduction of a new Coke product. In fact, opinions should be welcomed and discussed.

But they should also be based on the facts. Not opinions of the facts or "alternate" facts. And with a show that has news in its title, I question the finding made by that federal judge in the Tucker Carlson case that "any reasonable viewer arrive[s] with an appropriate amount of skepticism."

If that were the case, loval viewers wouldn't have claimed that Fox News was "the only network that tells the truth."

Post-riot, some politicians have claimed that honesty is necessary to avoid more civil unrest like that of Jan. 6. Fox News should take note. They have no business calling themselves news if what they're reporting is just an opinion.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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ACROSS

- Performer 6 Sheep's cry 9 Army Post Office (abbr.) Sheep's cry 12 Musical instrument (brass)
- 13 Recede 14 Babism founder 15 Indian wild sheep
- 16 Divest 17 Mate of Adam 18 Sugar-cane
- liguor 20 Hidden 22 Way out
- 24 Rhine tributary 27 Federal Aviation Admin.
- (abbr.) 32 Jutland cape
- 36 Kemo 37 Muslim court

44 Jinx 47 Treeless plain 52 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.) 53 Exclamation 55 Analyze grammatically 56 Exclamations of

39 Depressed

41 Neckwear 42 Of lines

- deliaht 57 Thus (Lat.) 58 Stage 59 Gamble 60 Bird's beak

61 Excuse

HABU Sea (Fr.) 23 Breed **DOWN** Over 24 Hardwood Head nun 25 Also known as 9 Brother of Seth (abbr.) Priest (Sp.) Thank God it's 10 Jewelry setting 26 King in India Abner" 11 Son of Ruth 29 Witless chatter Friday (abbr.) 30 Kwa language 19 Bedouin Norwegian king headband cord 31 Pasture 21 Mother of Horus 33 Crazy 35 Eucalyptus secretion 38 Vitamin B 40 Cloth dealer 43 Night (pref.) 44 Mayan year 45 Us dam 46 Baking chamber 48 Animal hair 49 Carriage 50 Spore sacs 51 Paving stone 54 Habakkuk (abbr.)

WORD SEARCH

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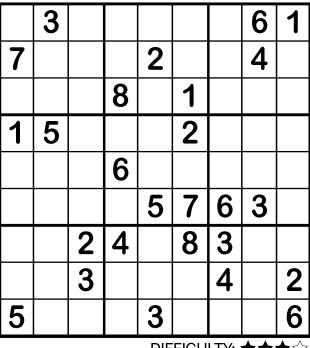
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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.



DIFFICULTY: ★★★

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

"CXH DZFFHNC NXEKCIFH ET IQQ ZN CXH NXEKCIFH ET PEGGEV NHVNH."

— IWCXEK WVAVELV

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "I can't do it' never yet accomplished anything: 'I will try' has accomplished wonders." - George P. Burnham

Thursday, January 14, 2021



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Sports news information | coverage

Staal in rarified company



ric Staal finds himself in some pretty impressive company as he gets set to open his 17th National Hockey League season.

As his 2020-21 season kicks off, the 36-year-old Buffalo Sabres forward sits tied for 84th on the NHL's alltime points list with 1,021 points, sandwiched between hall-of-famer Rod Gilbert and future hall-of-famer Patrick Kane.

There's plenty of other hall-offamers within his reach this year, despite a shortened schedule of just

Staal, who was traded to the Sabres in the offseason, had 47 points in 66 games in 2019-20, which would prorate to about 40 in 56 games, assuming he can maintain that kind of

It's not out of the question that he could jump into the top 70 all-time if he does, passing the likes of Alexander Mogilny, Martin St. Louis, Daniel Sedie, Henri Richard and Denis Potvin along the way.

Moving on up

He'll almost certainly climb much higher on the all-time goal chart.

Staal, who finished last season with 19 goals, will tie Rick Nash and Pavel Bure at 437 with his first goal of the campaign. A 15-goal effort would see him vault past Rick Middleton, Doug Gilmour and Peter Stastny by season's end, and within striking distance of Alex Delvecchio, the highest-scoring player hailing from the Lakehead in NHL history, who finished his 24year career with 458.

milestones in 2020-21.

Younger brother Jordan will join him in the 1,000-game club if he manages to suit up for 39 games. Given that he's never played fewer than 42 in a season, it's a good bet he'll get there again in his ninth year with the Carolina Hurricanes.

Middle brother Marc, dealt to the Detroit Red Wings over the summer after 13 seasons on Broadway, needs just eight appearances to hit the 900game mark, and a dozen points to cross the 200-point threshold. He had



Staal isn't the only one chasing NEW HOME: Eric Staal joins his fourth NHL team, now with the Buffalo Sabres.

11 points in 52 games last season, so it's certainly doable for the dependable stay-at-home defenceman.

In St. Louis, blue-liner Robert Bortuzzo needs 23 games to get to 400 for his career, which used to be the benchmark to qualify for an NHL pension - though that's changed.

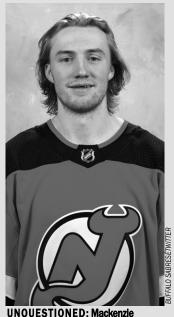
Though he's likely to be the back-up in Buffalo behind Linus Ullmark, goaltender Carter Hutton has a chance to hit 100 wins in 2020-21, needing just seven to hit the mark. He's got 13

in his career, the same number as Georges Vezina, the man they named the trophy after.

In the nation's capital, new father Matt Murray will be looking to put his worst season statistically behind him as he attempts to re-establish himself with the rebuilding Ottawa Senators. He needs one game to reach the 200-mark for his career, which already includes a pair of Stanley Cups with Pittsburgh.

Fans should get to see plenty of

ACTIVE PLAYER STATS



Blackwood is the starter in New Jersev.

Player	GP	G	Α	PTS
Eric Staal	1240	436	585	1240
Jordan Staal	961	225	312	537
Marc Staal	892	43	145	188
Rob.Bortuzzo	377	16	42	58
Goaltender		GP	S0	GAA
Carter Hutton		219	13	2.67
Matt Murray		199	11	2.67
Mack. Blackwood		70	5	2.72

Murray on TV this season, with the Senators playing in the league's temporary Canadian division.

Milestone reachable

He's also gunning for a fifth-straight 20-win season, which won't be easy given the 56-game schedule, but not impossible, by any means.

Finally, in New Jersey, Mackenzie Blackwood enters his third season with the Devils, needing 18 wins to get to 50 for his career. Five shutouts would get him to double digits, but that might need to wait until 2021-22.

Here are some predictions to close out this week's column:

- Most goals: Auston Matthews, Toronto Maple Leafs
- Most points: Connor McDavid, **Edmonton Oilers**
- Hart Trophy: Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado Avalanche
- Norris Trophy: Cale Makar, Colorado Avalanche
- Stanley Cup: Colorado Avalanche

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JOHN PRICE, CHRISTOPHER PRICE & MICHAEL PRICE, **ESTATE TRUSTEES** c/o ERICKSONS LLP ATTN: RYAN VENN

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73. PUZZLE ANSWERS

73. PUZZLE ANSWERS

ANSWERS TO THIS **WEEK'S PUZZLES**



PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "The biggest shortage of all is the shortage of common sense" -Author Unknown

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