

Kam River's Dayton Clarke (centre) battles Thunder Bay's Zack Davis and goaltender Jordan Smith for positioning last Friday. Thunder Bay takes on Wisconsin in Round 1 of the playoffs.



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NEWS 3

Isotopes available

Cyclotron has been up and running since last November

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's long-awaited cyclotron is now producing medical isotopes for patients.

Hospital officials, in a release issued on Friday, say the \$3.5million machine, first installed in 2015 in a bunker at the Health Services Centre on Oliver Road adjacent to Thunder Bay Regional, had been awaiting government approval to start producing radioactive isotopes, used in imaging to scan cancer patients and for research purposes.

It became operational in 2018 and got Health Canada approval in late October 2021.

"During the startup phase of the cyclotron, isotopes were coming from a southern Ontario supplier for a month-long period to ensure everything was running smoothly. During this time, there were two events where the supply from southern Ontario did not arrive," said Peter Myllymaa, the hospital's executive vice-president of corporate services and operations.

"However, with our own supply, the hospital was able to provide the diagnostic service to the patients who needed them. Prior to producing isotopes locally, these patient procedures would have been cancelled and rescheduled."

Flew them in

The hospital had previously been supplied with isotopes from a facility in Hamilton.

Isotopes also have a short shelf life after being produced, and travel times also impacted their effectiveness.

Isotopes attach themselves to an injectable sugar substance and are used to detect the presence and location of cancer cells in the body. A positron emission tomog-



The cyclotron was installed in 2015, but approvals took nearly seven years.

raphy scan is used to help diagnose cancer in an effective and safe manner for the patient.

Sandra Willson, manager of diagnostic imaging at TBRHSC, said having a cyclotron in Thunder Bay also adds to TBRHSC's treatment capacity.

"One of the biggest benefits that we are seeing in producing our own isotopes is the number of patients we can treat," Willson said. "When we were outsourcing isotopes, we could see a maximum of five patients per day, and that is if they arrived here without any delays.

"That number has grown to nine – almost double. This means less cancellations, less rescheduled appointments, and a faster diagnostic time, which means treatment planning can begin sooner. This is especially important, not only for patients in Thunder Bay, but those travelling from across Northwestern Ontario for their appointments."

It's a unique opportunity, said Dr. Rhonda Crocker-Ellacott, the hospital's chief executive officer.

"It gives us the ability to be more responsive to the needs of our oncology program and support health research that puts the patient first. No longer will a patient arrive in Thunder Bay having travelled from a remote community in the region to learn that the plane carrying the isotopes did not make the trip and they should go home and reschedule the appointment," she said.

"They will be treated with locally produced isotopes that will guarantee the care when and where they need it. Bringing this technology to Thunder Bay would not have been possible without the support of our partners in government, and the generosity of donors who continue to make exceptional cancer care possible here at our hospital."

With all costs included, the final price tag was close to \$10 million, including \$1.5 million from the City of Thunder Bay.



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A NEWS Visit threwswatch.com Thursday, March 31, 2022

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Thunder Bay's city council has heard details of a planned \$3.5 million expansion to the city's archives, designed to buy another 40 years' worth of space as the Harry Kirk Archives and Records Centre approaches capacity by the end of 2023.

Several councillors probed for alternatives to the proposed addition to the Vickers Street facility on Monday, asking if the city could instead turn to digitization or existing buildings – specifically the current police station on Balmoral Street.

However, a decision is expected to rest in the hands of the next term of council, with the project set for inclusion in the proposed 2023 budget (costs would also spread into 2024, when construction would begin).

Staff have identified the project among the city's top 25 infrastructure priorities and on Monday called it a necessary expenditure.

A staff report found a 4,200 square foot addition would be the cheapest option to add space, costing \$4.3 million over 40 years, including operating costs.

Digitizing the estimated 17 million pages of records, which fill several large rooms, would be a painstaking process taking about five years and \$38.5 million, largely in staff time, the report estimated.

The documents include tax rolls, property records, agreements, and

documentation of city decisionmaking, dating as far back as the 19th century, and can be accessed by city staff, researchers, and the public.

Paying to store the records in a private facility was estimated to cost \$5.9 million over 40 years, and could pose challenges since the city needs to provide immediate access to many documents, said city clerk Krista Power.

Some councillors appeared to find those conclusions hard to swallow.

Mayor Bill Mauro said the report raised questions, but was content for those to be answered during the 2023 budget process.

"There are questions, I think, for the next group to ask," he said in an interview. "The report spoke about the costs associated with digitization. I saw the number in the report, I was surprised by it, and I didn't quite understand it. But tonight for me, it wasn't the night to go down the rabbit hole on the issue."

Coun. Mark Bentz told staff he hoped there would be a focus on reducing the need for physical space going forward.

"Digitization I think is probably a good move, and hopefully we look to do more of that rather than store boxes in archive space," he said.

Other councillors asked about specific alternatives.

"Is there an opportunity to possibly use buildings that [are already] in our possession, such as the police station?" asked Coun. Shelby Ch'ng. Retrofitting the police station had been considered, Power said, but was estimated to "cost at least the same or more in terms of initial capital spend."

"There could potentially be secondary benefit, if it [eliminated] the existing archive building from our inventory, and there could be some cost avoidance," she said. "The challenge we have is the [archives] will be full at 2023, and the earliest opportunity we'd have for the police facility... would be 2025."

Coun. Peng You pressed staff on whether so many paper records were really needed, calling digitization "inevitable," and asking if savings could be found working with the private sector.



Local man wins \$731K

Wade Durham the Thunder Bay 50/50 winner for March

By Leith Dunick -TB Source

Wade Durham got the phone call much of Thunder Bay was waiting for on Friday morning, learning he was the big winner in the hospital's monthly 50/50 draw.

Durham takes home the top prize of \$731,215, the fourth largest given out since the first draw took place in February 2021.

"Oh my God," Durham said, twice, after being told of his good fortune by Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation president and CEO Glenn Craig.

"That's crazy. I would say you're absolutely right in making my day."

"It's just shy of three-quarters of a million dollars. So that's a pretty nice Friday afternoon gift," Craig replied.

Durham, asked what he plans to do with the money, said the No. 1 priority is making sure his young children's education needs are taken care of first. Then he plans to pay off some bills.

"There's so much, so much you could do with that," Durham said.

He said on the final Friday of each month, since the draw began, he's joked with his wife that today's the day.

"And obviously it's come and it's come and gone and I can actually call her now and tell her it's actually the day."

In 14 draws, the hospital foundation's 50/50 has given out more than \$10.7 million in grand prizes. The foundation keeps the other half, less expenses, and uses it to buy equip-



Wade Durham is the latest winner of Thunder Bay Regoinal Health Sciences Foundation's 50/50 draw.

ment for Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

Tickets for April's draw are on sale at www.thunderbay5050.ca to anyone in Ontario at the time of purchase.

The draw will take place on April 29. Additionally there will be \$5,000 early-bird draws on April 1 and April 13, and \$2,000 early-bird draws on April 8 and April 22.





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NEWS 5



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6 EDITORIAL/LETTERS

EDITORIAL

Let's make a deal

It's rare to see Canada's parliamentary system actually functioning as it should – in a co-operative manner.

Say what you will about Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's deal with the NDP and his bid to remain in power through 2025.

It's not a bad thing.

For starters, some important iniatives, like pharmacare and dental care, should finally start to see some traction.

The Conservatives cry it's nothing more than a power grab. While there is some truth to that, it's also clear that as soon as they have a new leader in place, they had planned to do everything in their power to bring the government down — in an attempt to win the reins of power themselves.

The Liberals and NDP combined to win more than half the votes cast in last year's election. Both sides are aligned on many issues, which suggests a majority of Canadians are.

Voters in Alberta and Saskatchewan don't like the deal. Why would they? It effectively keeps the Conservatives from a shot at governing for at least three more years. It will advance initiatives that are important to the vast majority of Canadians. That's democracy



Little Wartime Library a mission of love

The Little Wartime Library by Kate Thompson is based on the true story of a London Underground station (Bethnal Green) that was converted into an air raid shelter during the Blitz on London in the Second World War.

This subway station was one of the deepest in London and provided refuge 78 feet underground for the people of the East End who were subjected to nightly bombing raids.

In addition to sleeping accommodation, with thousands of triple bunk beds, there were a number of other facilities including a nursery, a cafe, a theatre and a public library offering safety, solace and escape from the bombs that fell above. Clara Button is no ordinary librarian. Along with her glamorous best friend and library assistant, Ruby Munroe, Clara ensures the

library is the beating heart of life underground. She entertains the local children (the Tube Rats) with nightly story times and teaches some of them to read.

Above all Clara is on a mission to instil a love of reading among her library users. She forms a Bookworm Club reading

group of East End women who start to step into their power as they break free from the patriarchy that controls their lives.

Kate Thompson is an award winning author who is able to create strong female characters and bring them alive with

sparkling dialogue.

Thompson is also a public library lover and carried out some outstanding research within the librarian community in order to make her narrative both authentic and powerful. Each chapter has a

quote from a librarian that she interviewed. My quote appears at the start of chapter four: 'When you close a library, bad things start to happen in the neighbourhood where the library used to be. The library is the glue that holds a community together and you only miss it after it has gone.'

Clara has to fight tooth and nail for her little underground library in the face of the library board who want to limit its use to only the 'deserving' members of society. As Clara passionately points out, 'all society is allowed in here because guess what? They own this library.'

Clara believes passionately that all members of society should have access to free library books and she is given a real boost when she receives an influx of new books sent from public libraries in Canada. This was also a true story. The Bethnal Green librarian sent an appeal for books to Canada that was broadcast on the CBC and published in the *Globe & Mail*.

The response was overwhelming and boxes of books started to arrive from Toronto, Vancouver, Charlottetown and all across Canada, including from an 88-yearold farmer in Alberta.

As Ruby points out, Clara was a pioneer (like our own Chief Librarian Mary JL Black was in Thunder Bay back in the 1930s): 'It was a social revolution this little underground library. When people couldn't go to the books, you brought books to the people.'

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BOOK BANTER

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No time like the present

By JR Shermack

On July 1, 1908, Port Arthur, Ontario became the first municipality in the world to enact daylight saving time (DST), followed later by Fort William and other Canadian cities.

Canada has used DST nationally since the late 1960s, always closely synchronized with U.S. clocks to facilitate cross border economic and social interaction.

When daylight saving time was standardized across the U.S. in 1966 Canada soon followed suit and when they extended DST from April to November we did the same.

On March 15, 2022 the U.S. Senate passed the Sunshine Protection Act making daylight saving time the permanent time across that country, effective November 5, 2023.

This will be popular with Americans, especially those living in northern states where the midwinter sun sets early and the

nights are long, cold and dark.

Canadian clocks will also be affected by this decision when the switch to permanent DST occurs here, a much anticipated decision deferred for decades.

There is no time like the present to finally and permanently get it done.

Once the U.S. changes time Canada is expected to follow their lead again, eliminating the need to set our clocks in the spring and fall.

Here in Thunder Bay we live near the western edge of our time zone and everybody loves DST when the summer sun shines until almost 11 p.m.

One of the perks of our geography is long summer evenings and late sunsets - the only problem is that incessant spring ahead/fall behind ritual that disrupts our lives twice a year.

Everybody likes the switch to standard time in the fall when we get an extra hour of sleep - unfortunately that hour has to be

returned when we switch back in the spring.

But the American Senate unanimously passed the Sunshine Protection Act and when they proceed with the change Canada won't be far behind.

The structure of our economy requires that Toronto keep the same time as New York - by the end of next year Daylight Saving Time could be a permanent fixture for all Canadians.

This change has been talked about at least twice a year for as long as I can remember - 2023 may be the year Canadians can finally stop fiddling with their clocks.

Studies have shown that this back-and-forth time change disrupts the lives and biorhythms of many people, a time-change induced phenomenon referred to as "social jet-lag."

But time itself isn't the problem, it is the bi-annual switch forward and back that messes things up we need to pick one time and

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Clocks went ahead on March 13.

stick to it and leave our clocks alone.

Canadians can live with darker mornings and the brighter evenings at the end of the day will be as enjoyable as ever - daylight saving time is the people's choice.

PERSPECTIVE 7

As for me, DST suits me fine but I can do without the spring ahead/fall behind - that annoving reset has finally reached the end of its time.

Of course the same geography that gives us long summer evenings can sometimes deliver an unexpected surprise.

Just after we sprang forward a couple weeks ago I was all set to enjoy a sunny evening outside until a 40 cm dump of wet snow changed my plans.

Good thing we had plenty of daylight because there was a lot of shoveling to do.

If all goes according to plan we have one spring ahead to endure next year but we also get one more fall behind and an extra hour of sleep before DST becomes permanent in 2023.

But when March goes out like a lion daylight saving time can't do anything about that.

2.66%

vnat's Happening in and around. .

March 30-April 2

The Addams Family

Everyone's favourite kooky family is hitting the stage at the Paramount Theatre. Written by the award-winning team that brought Jersey Boys to Broadway, it's the tale of a grown-up Wednesday Addams, who is carrying a secret only Gomez knows.

Tickets are \$27.54 and available at Eventbrite.ca. Directed by Lawrence and Candy Badanai, the show runs from March 23 through March 26 and again from March 30 to April 2.

The curtain rises each night at 7:30 p.m.

April 1-2

Wilde Tales - The Selfish Giant The Eleanor Drury Children's Centre presents Wilde Tales - The Selfish Giant: Beyond First Impressions, based on Oscare Wilde's stories The Happy Prince and Other Tales.

The Selfish Giant has banished all other seasons but winter from his

garden, which keeps the children from playing there. One child, named Oscar, uses his imagination, which helps to slowly melt winter away.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at Magnus Theatre, where the show will be staged on April 1 at 7 p.m. and April 2 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

April 2

The Bay

Royal Canoe in concert

The Canadian indie-pop sextet formed in 2010 and have built an impressive following over the past decade or more, having toured in support of bands like Alt-J and Bombay Bicycle Club. playing shows around the world from Kyiv to California

The Juno nominees will be on stage on Saturday night at the Foundry, kicking off a tour that will land them in Vancouver by month's end.

Tickets are available at their site, www.royalcanoe.com/tickets and are \$26.40.

April 2

Curl for Care

St. Joseph's third annual Cure for Care event will feature four-person teams and two-end games this week at the Port Arthur Curling Club. Contact Angie Mantalya at 768-4440 for more information or visit website www.sjftb.net/curl. The cost is \$400 per team, which includes prizes and a buffet lunch.

April 2

Improv Comedy Show

If you're a fan of the show Whose Line is it Anyway, then you'll love the Improv Comedy Show, a series of one-act plays created on the spot without a script. The Cambrian Players Improv Group formed in 2009 and has grown over the years.

The show will take place on Saturday night at the Cambrian Players Theatre. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Masking required. Located at 818 Spring St.

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.

> Address them to: THUNDER BAY SOURCE 87 North Hill Street, Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5V6

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VOICE YOUR OPINION ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER MOST.



Visit tbnewswatch.com 8 LIFE Thursday, March 31, 2022 Spring is coming and so are steelheads

still snowing while you read this, spring will inevitably return, and these giant piles of snow will eventually melt. Along with the warm

weather, the season of renewal will bring the annual steelhead run to every north shore river and creek that flows into Lake Superior.

When I started steelhead fishing more than forty years ago, it was with a standard spinning rod and reel combo you would typi-

cally associate with walleye fishing. By the time I was twelve, I had graduated to a nine-foot fly rod and a Martin 72 fly reel loaded with monofilament line to more effectively drift fish for these migratory

HEALTHCARE

While there is a good chance it is trout. Then, one April morning in the late 1990s, I noticed something strange being used by an angler fishing across from me on the Wolf River. He had a rod that had to be at

least 14 feet long, paired with a very strange looking reel. I would not have paid much attention, except for the fact that he was outfishing me twoto-one. Turns out, that he was

floatfishing with a centerpin reel, which allowed him extended drifts and, paired with the

long rod, exceptional line control. While centerpin reels were not yet available in Thunder Bay, I was able to track one down at a tackle shop in Woodstock Ontario. In the 25 years since, almost every steelhead I have caught and released has been with a 'pin.

A centerpin reel looks like an oversized fly reel, but it has smooth bearings which allow it to spin freely on its axis (its center pin) to cover a ton of water with infinitely long, drag-free drifts. Centerpin reels do have a clicker, but it is used for transporting the reel, not for fishing. So, once a fish is hooked, you actually use your hand to palm the spool to create the necessary amount of drag. This direct connection to a big, hard-fighting fish makes every battle exciting. Of course, there are drawbacks to every type of fishing and with the centerpin, it is the complexity of casting.

Even expert anglers will know the frustrations of trying to cast without tangling the line as it flies off the

free-spooling reel. Alternatively, pulling the line off the side of the reel results in terrible line twist. Fortunately, the learning curve is quick and most people will acquire some variation of the Wallis cast, which involves simultaneously spinning the spool while casting the bait.

The big advantage of centerpin fishing is that it creates the most natural presentation possible in moving water by using a float to keep both the weight and bait off bottom. This allows a drag-free drift at the same speed as the river current.

Below the float is some split shot for weight, and then the bait. Using a float not only keeps the bait from hanging up on bottom, but it provides a visual strike indicator and a vertical presentation that results in

far fewer foul-hooked fish. Floats can be easily adjusted to cover different depths as the angler moves around and fishes different spots on the river. In the fastest water, it is necessary to hold back the float a bit because the surface current is usually moving quicker than the water below. Centerpin rods, typically between 11 and 13 feet in length in our area, also help with a natural presentation by keeping the line off the water during the entire drift.

A traditional spinning reel is necessary to effectively fish hardware like spoons. The rhythmic casting of a fly line is both therapeutic and beautiful. However, centerpin fishing is unbeatable for long, natural drifts in a river, and the reward for the angler willing to master it is going to be more fish hooked, caught and released this season.



Keith Ailey

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Caravin Bar Fridge



Alyssa Marie Designs is a complete home design centre that is locally owned and located at 377 Cumberland Street North Thunder Bay. Stainless steel, reversible door, shelves suitable for all sizes 750 ml bottles, wood with stainless steel fronts. Security lock, automatic defrost, 2 years parts and labor warranty, 5 years warranty compressor.

Alyssa Marie Designs Retail Price\$1,459 Opening bid\$730 10 AUCTION

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auction 11



12 AUCTION



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- If available, items can be previewed at participating sponsor locations and at tbnewswatch.com
 Bidding will begin online at 9am on Monday, April 4th until 4 pm Friday, April 8th
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- You will receive pick up instructions for gift certificates and actual items in the successful bidder email.
- Full rules and regulations are available on www.tbnewswatch.com

Cooking for a living fun, grinding

As the spring approaches, it's all a serious grind. students in later grades must begin making choices about postsecondary education. What they want to do with their lives to make a living.

This can be daunting, however, for me, I knew at a very young age I wanted to be in the food business, creating meals for people. I will admit that I was very naïve about the business side of the industry, as most young chefs are. There is a perception that you work for a few years and it's sexy as hell and then you get a TV show.

The truth is the trials of the business eliminate a lot of young chefs, the long hours, the mediocre pay, the late night shifts,

This year I will be "celebrating" (mourning? ... I'M JOKING) my 25th year as a profes-

sional in this industry. Granted, the first few years the "professional" part is a little bit in question.

My journey wasn't conventional, I am, admittedly a stubborn guy.

I have to learn everything the hard way, and

if I have to ask for help, I would rather skip it. In my 40th year on earth, I can freely admit this, 22 year old Derek wouldn't have been so introspective. I worked in fast food for a few years, then worked at a hotel where I failed to really break into the social structure. After that, I found my home,

another hotel with extremely gifted chefs and people admittedly far superior in skillset than myself. Even to this day, they still impress and inspire me.

Lifelong friendships (and some professional partnerships) were Here's Cooking at You Kid created in the early

2000's in that old kitchen that was bursting at the seams with productivity, and a healthy dose of attitude.

During this time while I was learning the cooking side of the business at my job, I was learning the inner workings of managing a hospitality operation at Confederation College's culinary management program.

The program had many elements of cooking and being a professional in the industry and mostly managing a kitchen. It was here that more lifelong friendships were created.

A class that began with 50+ students, two years later graduated 22 students, now, about 20 years later a half dozen are still in the business. Again, the trials of the industry are not easy.

Working in a kitchen during school has an immersive effect, which does slightly prepare you for the business, the bulk of your time is spent, thinking about and being part of cooking.

LIFE 13

Your brain doesn't have much room for anything else. When you're young, you don't necessarily need the extra time, you would probably use it to get into trouble. Oftentimes this was my issue.

I remember sitting in Ryan Hall, talking about exams coming up and hearing people discussing human resources, or finance, what was my exam on that day? ... Cheese.

Derek Lankinen is an award-winning chef. author. and restauranteur. 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.

Do you have an opinion to share? E-mail the editor at ldunick@dougallmedia.com





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14 LIFE

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Ol' Man Winter hangs on

Dear Ol' Man Winter,

OK, very funny. Just when the spring melt was proceeding nicely, you had to swing around to give us more, much more - 60 centimetres more. Why?

I asked for snow, lots of snow, but that was in early November. You delivered

and I was happy. I didn't even mind when you 'kept on giving' through January and even a bit into February. We've gotten used to that now. But the end of March? My wife, Laura, the Gardener, has started her

veggie seeds and has even been transplanting the burgeoning plantlets into larger containers. Laura

couldn't wait to get her hands in dirt. On Saturday, we shored up plastic walls of the greenhouse attached to Casa Jones for any leaks. Laura had decluttered and set up her shelves and the card table she uses for planting. Because there is so much snow still on the ground (thanks a lot, eh?), we can't get at the actual garden to repair the greenhouse situated therein. The winter winds have wreaked havoc on those plastic walls.

Clearing snow after the latest 'dump' was a challenge since Big Red, my ancient diesel tractor, decided that it

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needs a new clutch. Only the bottom two gears in low worked and even then I had to be careful not to overload the bucket since this snow fall brought very heavy, wet white stuff. As I scraped with the bucket, I could see the snow curling like an ocean wave and when I went to

empty the bucket, great curls of snow fell.

I had attempted to use the seven-foot snow blower attached to Red's rear but quickly learned that instead of the snow traveling in a graceful arc twenty feet in the air, the snow immediately fell in large clumps much to my dismay as I was trying to clear the spot where

we park the truck, right beside the car. The car got covered and I had to shovel and shovel to free the vehicle before backing it out so that Red and I could scrape the parking area clear. Whew!

Next on the list was to free the main barn door so that we could turf equines into their day-paddock. More shoveling and then scraping with Red. Got the job done though.

We thought/hoped that you had emptied your bag of goodies for this winter. We hoped that spring could move in, get melting, and reveal grass - And in the vegetable garden, dirt!

And because I had stated to Laura "Surely, Ol' Man Winter has had enough" and had also removed the snow blower from Red's rear to store in the tractor shelter, I felt it safe to ship Red to the tractor repair chap for the installation of a new clutch. Then Laura gave me the bad news Sunday morning: "Bad news, Fred. There's a possibility for lots more snow on the way later this week. Could get 15 cms on Wednesday and then another 15 cms on Thursday." What?! If you deliver Ol' Man Winter, what is Farmer Fred to do?

Again, La Laura to the rescue. "When the snow gets too heavy and there is too much for their quad to handle, our neighbours call on Jim Lankinen with his grader. Two passes and their driveway is done. Why don't you give him a call?" Which I did. He has kindly agreed to help.

So, March out like a lion, eh, Ol' Man Winter? Monday morning was bright and sunny and very cold. Back into the deep freeze at minus 28 here at the farm. Not supposed to last I'm told. Good! I eagerly await the return of Red and hope that the next task on his chore list does not involve snow clearing. Give us a break. Let Spring take over. You've earned your rest.

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Oscar's Ukraine dance

Russian invasion alluded to during Academy Awards telecast, but barely

The 94th Academy Awards came and went this past weekend with ironically less drama than the week leading up to them.

Hollywood loves to have their say in political matters and with the ongoing situation in Ukraine, this was a perfect time to make noise.

Amy Schumer, one third of the hosting team for this year's event, had suggested they invite Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to speak during the ceremonies.

Apparently, his aides had already approached the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for a show of support on Oscar night.

And why not? According to one Ukraine official, "Not only politicians shape the world." After all, the entertainment industry certainly shaped Zelensky's world. The actor-turnedpolitician actually played a president on TV before coming one. The series was re-released on Netflix the same day as Zelensky's virtual address to Congress.

Stars like Ukrainian-born Mila Kunis have worked to raise funds for Ukraine while Sean Penn is overseas working on a documentary about the Russian invasion.

He demanded that other celebrities boycott the Oscars if Zelensky was not invited - threatening to "smelt" his own statuette if Zelensky didn't speak.

Penn's passion is understandable. He's always run rather hot. And this is a huge

political situation with humanitarian atrocities attached. So of course those with the biggest public platform want to use it.

The Oscars has a history of political statements disrupting the ceremonies. In 1973, Marlon Brando boycotted the show and sent Native American activist Sacheen Littlefeather to refuse his award when he won. In

1993, Richard Gere condemned human rights atrocities in China and Tibet. AIDS, Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ, #MeToo - they've all been dragged up



Ukrainian-born Mila Kunis had a little to say about the crisis in her war-torn homeland. (Shutterstock)

on-stage with various stars over the years.

And many award-winning movies have focused on those same subjects because

they are, in fact, important. So politics can't be totally

removed from Hollywood. But can we remember that this is an awards show for movies, the land of make believe where even "true stories" are re-written for timing and dramatic purpose?

One has to wonder how much would be gained by repeating the same political statement we've heard for

weeks now in the midst of formal gowns and flashing lights.

Zelensky spoke to Congress and to Canada last week for real-world, tangible

support. He wants weapons, tanks, planes, a no-fly zone, and humanitarian aid.

Not popcorn and a beverage during intermission.

Furthermore, Zelensky endangers himself (and his people) every time he takes part in these calls, identifying himself and his location as a potential target for Putin's troops.

So it had better be worth the risk.

Of course, it couldn't be ignored completely. So the producers chose instead to honour the Ukrainian people and their sacrifices with hope and dignity in music and on-screen statements. There's no word as to whether Penn's Oscar will still end up being smelted.

Some may feel it wasn't enough. We could ask Zelensky how he feels. But, as Oscar co-host Wanda Sykes reminded audiences, "Isn't he busy right now?"



ON THE SCENE 15

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6 ON THE SCENE

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Giant expectations Eleanor Drury Children's theatre presents Oscar Wilde tale

By Linda Maehans – TB Source

This fairy tale begins: "In a garden far, far away..."

Except it's neither far away, nor a fairy tale. It's a colourful and very real creation born from the talented imaginations of kids here in this city. The Eleanor Drury Children's Theatre, playing under Magnus' umbrella, opens live-on-stage just in time for April showers (instead of snow).

The Selfish Giant: Beyond First Impressions was two years in the making.

Adapted from *The Happy Prince and Other Tales* by Oscar Wilde (1888), this unique 100 per cent local production has a cast-and-crew of over two dozen stepping into some pretty amazing roles. And while The Selfish Giant does demand a bit of a stretch, a little leap of faith from its audience, really nothing young-at-hearts can't handle. As mentioned, this isn't actually a fairy tale at all.

Costume designer Jackie Bygate is modest, taking almost no credit for the fantastic end result we'll see on stage. "It's all about the children's ideas.

They tell me what they like, what they're comfortable wearing; we start with a base-costume and build from there. It might begin with a dress, or a hoodie; most of the costumes involve only a couple of pieces because the kids create their character(s) with their acting. The costume is only a minor "prop."

So no wonder when I meet 14-year old Solena Faulconer and all I can think is Tree. Tall and sturdy, but with graceful branches. Much like a willow.

"This garden where I live used to have all the seasons, until the giant kicked the children out and they stopped coming. I mean the seasons. Now we're stuck in winter all the time. Not nice for me. It's cold. I get frozen for like a hundred years! Or, until more kids come and begin to tell more stories. OK, I suppose I'm friends with the giant, even if he is selfish."

Sounds like Tree doesn't have much choice. "Yeah, I'm kinda stuck here. But! Unlike the giant, I do like children. They're nice, and wonderful too," confides our wise-willow narrator.

Outside the garden is a town-of-sorts; doesn't look any more inviting than the withered garden if you ask me. Oh, but



Aspiring thespians rehearse for Eleanor Drury Children's Theatre's peformance of the Selfish Giant.

who's this then? Appears to be quite nimble; hard to tell from those coveralls. "Towns Cleaner," comes 13-year old Aleksis Kubinec's curt self-introduction. Not here by choice, either, it seems.

"My job is to clean, day-and-night, 24-7. With the same mop I've used for the past forty or fifty years. Started my cleaning career when I was, oh, seventeen or eighteen. My father was the previous Towns Cleaner." Big yawn.

Another thing, I hate it when people try covering up the dust I'm supposed to clean, or if they knock over my cleaning supplies...so aggravating!

Kids? Oh, I don't mind 'em; sure, I'd allow them into a garden. Why not?"

Why not, indeed. Venture into some wondrous Wilde Tales via the Eleanor Drury Children's Theatre troupe; and let The Selfish Giant take you Beyond First Impressions.



Multiple shows on at Magnus from March 31 to April 2.

For tickets: call the box office (807) 345-8033; online visit MagnusTheatre.com.



CODA was one of the surprise winners at last Sunday's contentious Academy Awards ceremony, winning the best picture Oscar.

Oscar winners and losers

Oscar Round-up: Winners and Nominees

With the onset of the Academy Awards, numerous titles suddenly turned up on various streaming services. Aside from nominees previously addressed in this corner, we are catching up with several titles for consideration, awards or not. This is Part One.

Underdog CODA (Child of Deaf Adults, Apple TV) is the unlikely winner for best picture and best adapted screenplay.

Emelia Jones is Ruby, the only hearing member of her coastal fishing family (mom Marlee Matlin, dad Troy Kotsur, making Oscar history winning for best supporting actor) with older brother

(Daniel Durant). Ruby must choose between supporting her family as their liaison with the hearing world and realizing her dreams of becoming a singer.

CODA provides a credible depiction of a deaf family not needing anyone's sympathy. Mr. Kotsur, Eugenio Derbez as Ruby's music teacher and the cast carry the film through a patchy script hampered by narrative holes and simple resolutions. "CODA" is a tear-jerking crowd-pleaser. Hollywood loves protagonists with health challenges.

Reaction to Will Smith's best actor win for King Richard (Shaw VOD) remains problematical in the wake of his bizarre slapping incident with Chris Rock.

Though Smith is convincing enough as the unyielding, domineering parental force

behind the early careers of super-star tennis daughters Venus and Serena, he's actually outshone by Aunjanue Ellis as the wise, determined mom.

The film credibly illustrates how the Williams family overcame long-shot odds from life in Compton to become queens of the international

tennis world on their own terms. Granted, Rock's joke at the expense of Jada Pinkett Smith was in poor

taste (she suffers from alopecia), but that didn't warrant an assault seen live worldwide on television. This ugliness crippled the show.

The Tragedy of Macbeth (Apple+TV) Joel Cohen takes a break from his enduring cinematic partnership with brother Ethan to helm this austere, stylized version of Shakespeare's celebrated play about the illfated pursuit of power no matter what the cost

Denzel Washington (Oscar nominated, best actor) is excellent as Macbeth with able help from Frances McDormand as Lady Macbeth and the supporting cast. Shot in black and white, with spare sets and few extras, the film's dark theme and stark aesthetic choices may not win many receptive souls.

However, Macbeth is worth seeing just for Washington's towering performance.

Flee (Prime Video) is an animated documentary about a gay man recounting his harrowing experiences fleeing Afghanistan during the country's civil war in 1978.

12

15

18

59

The film focuses on the adult Amin, now on the verge of marriage with his male partner, recalling to a TV interviewer his nightmarish experiences as a refugee flitting about in Europe, desperately trying to keep his family connected, forever fearful of arrest and deportation.

It's a terrifying tale, buttressed by newsreel footage. The film is especially chilling and relevant given the desperate refugee situation in the Ukraine.

The film was nominated for best international film and best documentary feature.

17

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

"V BTGGZY BAV PAQAN TVEA V BOUHHAE TVNUPAN."

CRYPTOGRAM

- APCHUBY LNGQANX

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2					6			
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38 Spiders' nests 39 Same (Lat.) ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE ACROSS Queen of the fairies TAUR ACLE TOM BABI 40 Horse E G A L N A R E Salt 42 Irish exclamation Semitic deity KARISTAN 44 Group of whales 12 Tumor (suf.) MASA CURIA 13 Father: Hebrew 46 Land of IRONEADAM 14 Discharge 15 Deter (2 words) C A S A B B L U E B I R D A B E L A B A N A A E Croesus 50 Luminary 17 Ointment 53 Aloeswood 56 Sample tape 18 Bay window LITTORALTSIN 19 Eur. Economic 57 Leaf division Community UPONMAINE (abbr.) 58 Oriental tea SPORE 59 Irish writing TANG 21 Band 24 Dancer/choreogr 60 Deserve AUBE ALICANTE apher 28 Chin. character 61 Crv NAME BRIE IOR ARAN UBER ABA (longevity) 31 Argyll island 33 Brief life story Assn. (abbr.) 20 And other: abbr DOWN 6 Television (2 words) (Lat.) 22 Unless, in law 1 Honey-eater 34 Amer. channel Automobile bird Body of water 23 Cheese 2 Assn. (abbr.) Cupid Pew 25 Sleeping 35 Average 36 Gelderland city E. Indies island Church vessel 26 Journey 4 Ancient stringed 10 State 27 Verse 37 Adjectiveinstrument 11 Limited (abbr.) 28 Ancient Egypt forming (suf.) 5 Amer. Bar 16 S.A. rodent city 29 Old-style verb 30 Us dam 32 Freshwater worm 35 Erase 39 Pastoral poem 41 Computer chip 43 Amer. patriot 45 Ravine 47 Physicians, for short 48 Ginkgo tree 49 Melville's captain 50 Carriage 51 Two-year-old sheep 52 Amer. Medical Assn. (abbr.) 54 Port. colony in India 55 Abridged (abbr.)



18 SPORTS/CLASSIFIEDS

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Centennial Cup on line

SIJHL champion will get direct entry into national junior A championship

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

There's a little more on the line as teams begin the chase for the Bill Salonen Cup.

Instead of gunning for a shot at a berth at the Dudley Hewitt Cup, joining the host Red Lake Miners and the winners of the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League and the Ontario Junior Hockey League, the Superior International Junior Hockey League's six teams will be fighting for a direct spot at an expanded Centennial Cup.

Ten teams will play for the national title this year, with regional championships cancelled because of extended schedules made necessary by COVID-19 restrictions.

The win-and-you're-in carrot that comes with winning the SIJHL championship makes the playoff run that much more intriguing, said Kam River Fighting Walleye forward Jeremy Dunmore, his team the top seed – and owning a first-round bye – as the playoffs begin.

"It's pretty exciting to get a chance to go to the national championship. I don't think the SIJHL has had a team there in a long time. So if we have the chance to win the league and go there, it would be a great opportunity for us," Dunmore said on Saturday night, his team closing out the regular season with a 4-2 win over the host Thunder Bay North Stars.

It does put pressure on the Fighting Walleye to win.

The Miners, who were scheduled to host the regional Dudley Hewitt Cup, had an automatic berth in the Ontario Junior A championship, which potentially opened up an opportunity for the other finalist, had the second-place team advanced to the SIJHL championship round.

It's one less step to have to take and adds plenty of excitement to the playoff run.



Kam River Fighting Walleye captain Zach Fortin moves in on Thunder Bay goaltender Jordan Smith last Friday. (Leith Dunick)

"That's everything for us. The national championship is huge and we're definitely holding ourselves to a higher standard than before, so we'll be ready to go."

The Minnesota Wilderness earned a Centennial Cup berth out of the SIJHL in 2013, and before that the only other Dudley Hewitt Cup champion to emerge from the league was the 2006 Fort William North Stars, led by current NHLers Carter Hutton and Robert Bortuzzo.

Current North Stars captain Hunter Foreshew said he and his teammates know what's at stake.

"One hundred per cent, this is the easiest opportunity any team will get to get a ticket to go to nationals. The SIJHL hasn't had a team in about 10 years go all the way to the nationals. Now all of a sudden we have one. There are only five (other) teams left, so it's anybody's game and we're well aware that any other team can take it home."

The Stars and Lumberjacks played the first two games of their best-of-five series on Tuesday and Wednesday, as did Dryden and Fort Frances. Kam River and Red Lake await the results and will take on the winners in Round 2.

HERE'S MY CARD

DIFFERENCE

RECYCLE



PUZZLES

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

MAB NACL BAAL	3 6 5 2 4 8 9 7 1
	2 1 4 9 7 6 5 3 8
ORIELEEC	9 7 8 5 1 3 4 2 6
GANG THARP SHOU IONA BIC	6 3 7 4 8 9 1 5 2
	8 4 1 3 2 5 7 6 9
	592167384
	4 8 9 7 3 2 6 1 5
STAR AGALLOCH	1 2 3 6 5 4 8 9 7
	7 5 6 8 9 1 2 4 3
	1 3 0 0 9 1 2 4 3

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "A smooth sea never made a skilled mariner." - English proverb





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