



Border barriers ease/2



Indoor soccer update/ 17



Branagh's Belfast/ 16



Kettle campaign launches/3

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Thursday, November 25, 2021

OUTBREAK AT ST. MARTIN

Twenty cases at south-side school leads to return to virtual learning/ 5

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A spike in cases in the District of Thunder Bay has been fueled in large part by an outbreak at St. Martin School, which will remain closed to in-person classes until at least next week.

Tests not needed for short trips

Canada scrapping PCR requirement if out-of-country trip less than 72 hours

By TB Source staff

Fully vaccinated Canadians and permanent residents will no longer be required to show proof of a molecular COVID-19 test when re-entering the country after trips of three days or less.

The federal government made the announcement Friday, with health authorities saying short cross-border trips don't generally pose major COVID-19 risks.

The PCR test requirement will be dropped for eligible travellers as of Nov. 30.

The requirement will still apply to those who aren't fully vaccinated, with the exception of people with medical exemptions and minors under the age of 12 who are accompanied by a fully vaccinated guardian.

All travellers must still enter their travel information in the ArriveCAN app, and show proof of their 72-hour travel window.

Thunder Bay's medical officer of health, Dr. Janet DeMille, said the step makes sense for short trips. Still, she cautioned residents that spending time indoors south of the border carries risks, thanks to higher case counts and

much lower vaccination rates.

"I have to say, I'm not particularly concerned if people are having a short trip just south of the border in our area and then coming back," she said.

"I realize how much of an added and costly step the PCR test is, so I appreciate that may have been a bit too much for people going to Ryden's, for example."

"I will say, though, it's important that we realize Minnesota has some high rates of COVID-19. So people who travel [there] are at risk of being exposed to COVID-19. So if they're... in an indoor gathering, maybe a restaurant, they need to realize they're at risk of being exposed."



The Pigeon River border crossing is likely to be a busy one come Tuesday morning. (FILE)

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Members of the Lakehead Thunderwolves hockey team volunteered last week at the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign launch.

Kettles return

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

The Salvation Army's largest fundraiser of the year kicked off on Nov. 18 with an unveiling of some new technology that makes donating to the campaign much easier.

The Kettle Campaign aims to help the lives of families and their children in Thunder Bay as poverty affects the ability for everyone in the community to survive and thrive, especially during the pandemic and the impact of inflation.

Demand for Salvation Army services such as their food bank and soup van nightly meal program remain high due to low wages, homelessness, mental health and addictions and increased cost for food and utilities.

The Kettle Campaign's goal for this year is \$235,000 to fund community programs in Thunder Bay providing practical assistance to people over Christmas and through the coming year.

"The funds that we raise we're going to be putting toward the supper van, toward the food bank, toward shelter, toward breakfast programs," said Gary Ferguson, executive director.

"All the funds raised will stay within the community, and, there has been some inflation in relation to costs of items as we all know, groceries have gone up a bit, transportation has gone up, fuel costs have gone up, so we have to compensate for that as well."

This year the Salvation Army's Kettles have gotten an upgrade in technology, through a partnership with the company tiptap, all kettle locations will have contactless payment as an option as opposed to the traditional cash donations.

People who wish to donate will be able to pay \$5, \$10, and \$20, with debit, credit or through their smartphones and wireless accessories that feature tap payments.

To help with the launch of the campaign, a number of community leaders were out staffing kettles including Peng You, Brian McKinnon, Ken Boshcoff, Norm Gale, Kathleen Lynch, Neebing Mayor Erwin Butikofer, Thunder Bay North Stars, Tom Warden and the LU Thunderwolves.

"As a varsity athlete, a lot of people have sacrificed a lot to get us to where we are today, so, it's obviously a big part of our team and our school to give back to the community, especially the city of Thunder Bay, they do a lot for us," said LU Thunderwolves player Cole Edwards.

"It's the least we can do to be out here today helping give back."

Kettles are located at Intercity Shopping Centre, Real Canadian Superstore, Grandview Mall, Walmart - Memorial Avenue, Walmart - County Fair Mall, Walmart - Arthur Street Marketplace from Nov. 18 - 24 and the LCBOs at Arthur Street, Dawson Road., and Thunder Centre from Dec. 1- 24.

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Few Flurries	A mix of Sun and Clouds	A mix of Sun and Clouds	Cloudy with Sunny Breaks
Precipitation: 40%	Precipitation: 30%	Precipitation: 30%	Precipitation: 30%
HIGH -6 LOW -14	HIGH -5 LOW -8	HIGH -1 LOW -3	HIGH -1 LOW -3

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Vaccination available for kids

By TB Source staff

Bookings for COVID-19 vaccinations for Ontario children aged five to 11 opened on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Health says parents can schedule appointments as of 8 a.m. Nov. 23.

Bookings may be made through the provincial COVID-19 vaccination portal and contact centre, directly through local public health units using their own booking system, participating pharmacies or select primary care providers.

To schedule an appointment online, children must be turning five years old by the end of 2021.

Shots are expected to be administered as early as Thursday.

The way was cleared for



Children who turn five by the end of 2021 are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination, according to new Ministry of Health regulations. (FILE)

children's vaccinations after Health Canada approved the paediatric Pfizer COVID-19

vaccine, which is a slightly modified, lower dose.

It will be given in a two-dose

series at a recommended interval of eight weeks between doses.

Approximately one million

Ontario children are eligible.

Vaccinations for children begin as the province continues to record an increasing number of new cases daily, with 627 reported on Monday compared with 552 last Monday and 480 the Monday previous to that.

Among the new cases, 286 involve fully-vaccinated individuals.

However, health officials say the vaccine is effective at preventing severe disease and hospitalization among adults.

According to the Ontario Immunization Advisory Council, clinical trial data suggests the same effectiveness appears to be true for young school-aged children.

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

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St. Martin in outbreak

BY TB Source staff

The closure of St. Martin School has been extended by a week, after a COVID-19 outbreak there more than doubled in size Monday.

There are now 20 cases of the virus associated with the Westfort-area elementary school of about 550 students.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit said Monday evening it had been notified of 11 new COVID-19 cases since Friday, when it first announced the school would close to in-person learning.

All of the new involved people are considered close contacts of the previously reported cases, the health unit said.

This included students and staff associated with six different classroom cohorts (including childcare) and six buses.

In a letter to the school community from medical officer of health Dr.



Twenty cases have been found at St. Martin.

Janet DeMille, the health unit said the school would now remain closed until at least Monday, Nov. 29.

"This is a complex school outbreak as indicated by the number and

timing of cases, exposures and impacted cohorts," DeMille wrote. "This was deemed to be the best option to effectively manage and contain the outbreak while ensuring the safety of staff and students."

More than 180 people associated with the school outside of the impacted cohorts, who were deemed to be at lower risk of exposure, participated in voluntary drive-through testing offered over the weekend.

"Overall, this is good news as it shows that there wasn't broader exposure in the school setting outside of the cohorts currently identified," DeMille stated.

All of those results are so far negative for COVID-19, with a small number of results still pending, the health unit said.

The first case of COVID-19 was reported on Nov. 15, while an outbreak was officially declared on Nov. 18.



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EDITORIAL

COVID on rise

COVID-19 cases are starting to spike, thanks in part to an outbreak that's closed St. Martin School.

With local vaccination rates over 90 per cent, much of the danger associated with the virus has been dissipated. But the unvaccinated are still far more likely to contract COVID-19 and face much harsher symptoms if and when they do.

It's a reminder that it's not time for any of us – the vaccinated and especially the unvaccinated – to let down our guards.

With the Delta variant proving to be a crafty version of the virus, the risk to everyone still remains high.

As the holiday season approaches, and with the border opening up even further on Tuesday with the elimination of PCR test requirements for those out of the country less than 72 hours, travel could well be a major factor in how well, or how poorly, the District of Thunder Bay fares.

Maintaining due diligence, washing hands, wearing masks and avoiding indoor gatherings where possible, should remain at the top of all of our lists of things to do. A year ago we were on our way to triple digit case counts. Hopefully we fall short in 2021.

Thunder Bay burns

In July of 64 A.D. a great fire ravaged Rome for six days, destroying 70 percent of the city and leaving half its population homeless.

According to a well-known expression, Rome's emperor at the time, the decadent and unpopular Nero, fiddled while Rome burned.

And so it may be in Thunder Bay that efforts being made to deal with homelessness and the opioid crisis by a mayor and council who spent several years strongly advocating and willing to commit millions of municipal dollars for an indoor sports facility during a time when Covid-19 was ravaging our seniors in nursing homes and shutting down the local economy has damaged the trust citizens once gave this mayor and his council.

The tone-deaf attitude continues as citizens will not be allowed to hear the eight alternative options to the original indoor sports facility that the CEDC estimates will cost \$50 million.

TBNewsWatch reports, "A long-awaited report shows the City of Thunder Bay has reviewed eight outside proposals to build a multi-use indoor turf facility, but the details will stay under wraps, as the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



city awaits an answer on its application for over \$20 million in federal funds".

On October 18 the mayor spoke at city council and said that as a city we cannot be "too shy" to have certain conversations. He was referring to the Indigenous communities who under Band Council Resolutions ban residents from their communities and who perhaps then come to Thunder Bay and other municipalities increasing

the homeless population in Ontario. The mayor boldly placed blame on the Indigenous for their plight and not one councillor challenged this narrative.

Mayor and council aren't "too shy" to blame others for their inability to deal with the city's systemic racism, their unsuccessful bids from other levels of government for funding to help Thunder Bay with gangs and gun crime, and the opioid and homeless crisis.

However, they are "too shy" to share with the public details of the eight proposals to their Cadillac version of an indoor sports facility, and the strategy to keep the public uninformed continues.

It's obvious mayor and council knew the original \$21 million in ICIP funding for the indoor sports facility had been declined long before the public knew. The poker-faced charade by council trying to cover this fact played out on television screens at home, and we knew we had been deceived yet again.

Covid weary citizens do not have the stomach for back-room deals.

An indoor sports facility would be a welcome addition to Thunder Bay, but not at a price tag citizens cannot afford, and not without the transparency needed.

Thunder Bay is burning. Mayor and council need to put down their fiddles and deal with our children and grandchildren who are dying from accidental overdoses, systemic racism, guns and gangs, deal with homelessness, and the lack of transparency concerning the mayor's \$48-million legacy project. We no longer trust you.

Lori Paras,
Thunder Bay

Second Place, Bewilderment tell stunning tales

Second Place by Rachel Cusk (author of the Outline trilogy) was shortlisted for the 2021 Governor General Award for adult fiction. The front cover is *Girl Wading* by Elmer Bischoff (1959).

This is a short, intense, stunning and haunting fable of art, family, and fate. It takes place on a marsh, one of those natural wonders where the landscape is continually changing. As such it is a perfect metaphor for the characters in this deep and insightful examination of human nature and frailty.

A woman ('M') invites a famous author ('L') to use her guesthouse in the remote coastal landscape where she lives with her family – Tony (her

second husband), Justine (her daughter by her first husband) and Kurt (Justine's boyfriend).

M is powerfully drawn to L's paintings which she sees by chance at an exhibition in Paris. She believes his vision might penetrate the mystery at the centre of her life. But as a long, dry summer sets in, his provocative presence (and that of his mysterious young female companion, Brett) itself becomes an enigma – and disrupts the calm of her secluded household.

Cusk creates a powerful sense of foreboding and claustrophobia as

the characters live at close quarters and are cut off from the rest of the world.

This electrifying novel is a study of female fate and male privilege, the geometries of human relationships, and the moral questions that animate our lives. It reminds us of art's capacity to uplift and to destroy.

Bewilderment by Richard Powers was shortlisted for the 2021 Booker Prize. I'm not a big science fiction fan (life on earth is weird and whacky enough for me), but the beauty of

the writing and the very human story that this novel tells pulled me and held me to the final page.

Powers, a Pulitzer Prize winning author, asks a simple, but essential question: what are we doing to our children? Or, as I would reframe it, what is capitalism doing to us and our children?

The protagonist, Theo, is a promising young scientist who is working on a project to find life on other planets. He also has a very gifted son who is concerned about the loss of life on this planet. Robin is amusing, affectionate and full of good ideas. He has an old head on his young shoulders and has inherited his mother's love of animals, which he

loves to draw. He is also in trouble at school.

Theo does not want to label his son with a medical condition or pump him full of drugs. But he struggles to answer the deep questions that Robin continually poses – why are we destroying the planet? Using his knowledge of other planets Theo takes Robin to them on voyages of imagination.

Robin also connects with his mother through an experimental program that can enable people to tune into the thought patterns of those they love. As Robin understands more about his mother and the causes she championed he moves towards her light.



John Pateman
BOOK BANTER

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Pandemic's collateral damage

By JR Shermack -
For TB Source

The health and well-being of Canadians has been seriously affected by the pandemic, including some serious social, emotional and mental health issues.

The entire planet has been traumatized by the events of the past two years and none are exempt from the devastating effects, even those not infected with COVID.

In military jargon the term collateral damage is a euphemism often used to describe unanticipated civilian casualties during an attack.

These days that same term could be used to describe the unforeseen social casualties that are accumulating as we continue our on-going battle against a very persistent virus.

Some lucky Canadians had the support of family and friends during the pandemic but for many months there was a sad loneliness hanging in the air over the country.

Among the vaccinated there are glimmers of hope as families are

cautiously and joyously reuniting - everyone perceives risk differently and some are more risk tolerant than others.

You may be comfortably (or uncomfortably) hopping aboard a plane while others are wondering if they should open up a couple spots at the Christmas table.

But we have all been forced to deal with the harsh reality of widespread illness, growing anxiety and the prospect of losing loved ones - the anguish and heartbreak can be long lasting.

The long-term health effects of COVID-19 infection are now recognized and in some cases there are lingering medical ailments and long term damage.

There was also collateral damage among non-COVID patients who were forced to wait for life-saving medical care - some are still waiting but for others the wait was too long.

For example, the overcrowding of hospitals and disruptions in cancer screening procedures is expected to cause an increase in deaths.

The health impacts are troubling and are compounded by social and economic concerns, especially mental health issues - Canadians suffer from post-traumatic stress.

And for many the burden will be easier to bear if we go forward with care, patience and compassion from family, friends and community.

Within families and among close friends the effects of the pandemic put a strain on relationships and long standing traditions.

After extended periods of lockdown and with restrictions in place many adults reported adverse effects on their mental health and showed signs of psychological distress.

Among Canadians who could not work from home there was widespread concern about taking COVID-19 home from the workplace.

High anxiety was and still is very prevalent and the number of adults with self-reported depression has more than doubled during the pandemic.

Parents with young children



Christmas dinner is a tasty tradition.

face the additional challenges of home schooling and disrupted family life, not to mention the safety and security of toddlers and school age kids.

Some children don't have the context to really understand

what is happening but kids are smart and perceptive enough to know something is going on and it sounds scary.

Kids from two to 18 may feel more lonely, overwhelmed, sleepless, worried, sad, irritable, anxious or stressed but it sounds scary to adults too who feel the exact, same way.

That's why the love and support of family, friends and community is so important to everyone going forward.

How sad and tragic it would be for Canadian families to suffer this collateral damage with long standing relationships and cherished traditions among the lost and forgotten casualties.

Neil Young described it as, "Just a memory without anywhere to stay."

As for me, I am one of the hopeful, vaccinated majority and I would love to throw a few more chairs around the table for Christmas dinner.

Nobody wants to lose the turkey to collateral damage.

what's happening
in and around...

The Bay

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Please include details about the event, including any cost

November 25-27

Heather the Musical

The darkly delicious story of Veronica Sawyer, a brainy, beautiful teenage misfit who hustles her way into the most powerful clique at Westerberg High - the Heather. Veronica then falls in love with the new kid in town, J.D. And she's then kicked out of the group by the almighty Heather Chandler. Directed by Candi Badanai and Tegin Menei, the show runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Paramount Theatre at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at www.eventbrite.ca for \$22.23 A QR code proof of full vaccination is required to enter the theatre.

November 26, 27

Thunderwolves Basketball

Both the men's and women's teams are coming off wins on the road against Laurier, and will look to carry that momentum over to this weekend when the Western Mustangs invade the CJ Sanders Fieldhouse. NCAA transfer

Michael Okafor has lived up to the hype so far on the men's side, and the women have a definite Spanish flavour in 2021-2022, with all-star guard Soria Lluch and rookie Paula Lopez and Eva Guillera looking to start the season. Game times are 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. each night. Tickets are available online or at the Fieldhouse. Proof of full vaccination is required.

November 27, 28

Aboriginal Fine Arts and Crafts

The 19th annual Christmas Aboriginal Fine Arts and Crafts Show takes place at the CLE Heritage Building. Find that perfect gift or something to spruce up your home over the holiday season. The show runs for two days, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.. Proof of full vaccination is required.

November 27

Phiso

Canadian producer and DJ will take to the Atmos Stage on Saturday night. He

makes loud noises that people listen to, according to the who bio. Local support Villain, Zumos, Perspective and Kerkz will also take part in the show. Tickets are \$20 and the show begins at 9 p.m.

November 27

Glow in the Dark Party

DeeJay_Abby, featuring DJ Tokyo will spin the hottest music in town, starting at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and \$15 at the door.

November 28

Holiday Craft Revival

The Holiday Craft Revival was created to bring together local artists, enhance community bonds and revive the arts of crafting. The online shopping began on Nov. 21, but there will be an in-person event, held at 25 or more locations, on Sunday. Boreal Body, for example, will be selling goods at Sweet North Bakery, For more information, visit www.craftrevival.ca.

HOW TO WRITE TO US:

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

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

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WEEKLY POLL QUESTION.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Will you travel to the United States for a short trip now that testing is no longer required for journeys 72 hours and under?

TOTAL VOTES: 3,048

YES 39.80% NO 52.36% DON'T KNOW 7.84

Mikinakoos Children's Fund seeks \$25K for coats

Organization has already raised a quarter of the money through The Sweet North's Coffee for Coats fundraiser

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

In the North, education takes on a much more land-based approach.

Hunting and fishing become part of the curriculum, teaching Indigenous students how to live off the land and be at one with Mother Nature.

Winter weather oftentimes gets in the way.

It's why the Mikinakoos Children's Fund has paired with Keewaytinook Internet High School to help raise \$25,000 to outfit hundreds of students attending online classes with proper winter clothing, kicked off earlier this year with the Coats for Coffee fundraising event, put on by the Sweet North Bakery.

They've already raised a quarter of their goal, and hope to collect the rest by Giving Tuesday on Nov. 30.



STAYING WARM: The Sweet North Bakery's Errin DiLorenzia (left) is joined by Keewaytinook Internet High School teacher Cathy Rodger, principal Angela Batsford-Mermans, graduate and classroom assistant Jenna Williamson and Mikinakoos Children's Fund executive director Emily Shandruk. (Leith Dunick/TB Source)

Emily Shandruk, executive director of the Mikinakoos Children's Fund, said last year they outfitted about 200 youth in North

Spirit Lake and were looking to do something similar in 2021.

They connected with Angela Batsford-Mermans, principal at

KIHS, who told them about the outdoor aspect of the school's curriculum and the need for proper outdoor coats, boots, mitts and hats.

"It was kind of a no-brainer connection. The Coffee for Coats fundraisers has helped us meet a quarter of our goal, so now, for Giving Tuesday, which is the Tuesday that follows Black Friday and Cyber Monday, our goal is to reach \$25,000 so we can fully outfit the students at KIHS," Shandruk said.

Jenna Williamson, a graduate of the program who now works as a KIHS classroom assistant, said seeing the Thunder Bay community coming together to ensure students in northern communities stay warm in

winter while learning their traditional practices, is amazing.

"I feel like it's definitely needed for the community to be interactive, with not only one organization that's helping Indigenous people, but multiple organizations," Williamson said. "It's really good to see. For myself, I just remember thinking, who do I really go to here. I'm from Treaty 3, I'm from Shoal Lake 39. So where do I go, where do I fit here?"

"I didn't really fit anywhere, so it's really good to see that other organizations and businesses are helping schools."

Erinn DeLorenzi, said she's challenging other businesses to step up and recognize the challenges students in remote communities might face.



7th Annual Winter Pet Supply Drive

Fundraising has been so limited lately! Narvi's Truck & Auto Service and Mister Transmission are looking for your help. **Local Pet Rescues** need help with caring for Rescues and Foster animals.

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GIVING TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 30, 2021



Fort William Medical Clinic is located on Victoria Avenue. (Justin Hardy)

New southside clinic now open

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

The city's south side is seeing a new addition that will bring some much-needed services to the area.

Fort W. Medical Clinic located at 421 Victoria Avenue East, a new three-in-one health clinic, dental office, and pharmacy is nearing completion of construction and is looking forward to serving the residents of the area.

"It's kind of a collaborate effort, so, we've always had a vision of having a one-stop shop for health care, so we're going to be working in a collaborative way where everyone works together to take care of patients' needs, whether it's from their medication perspective, we'll also be having different social services for counselling and things like that," said pharmacist Jessy Sahota.

"And in the future, not only will we stick with the services here, we'll also try to partner with other services in the community to make sure that we're taking care of patients in a kind of holistic approach and making sure that all their needs are being taken care of."

Both the pharmacy and the health clinic will be divided into two separate portions to be able to streamline patients for both the methadone clinic and the family healthcare services so that it will be easier for patients of both services to receive the care that they require at the clinic.

"This is an underserved area, according to the research that we did, there was a great need for services to be brought to this area," said Sahota.

"We thought we would, kind of, go against the grain and bring high-end medical services to this area which was highly underserved, so that was the motivation for coming to this particular area here."

While many businesses are moving out of the area, the fact that new practices and businesses are moving in could be a sign of a revitalization of the city's south core.

The pharmacy portion of the clinic is now open, the medical portion of the clinic hopes to open in December with the dental portion following up in the first quarter of 2022.

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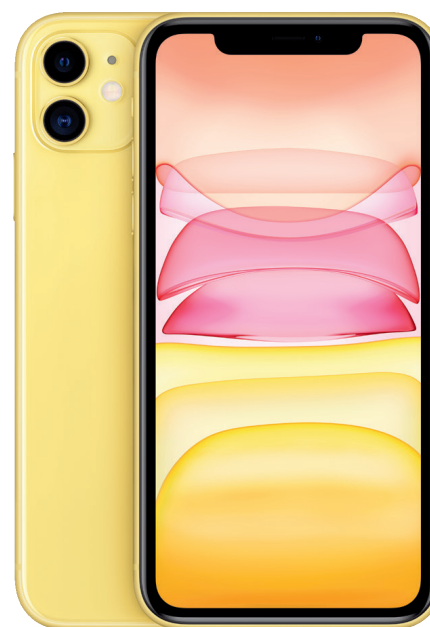
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Winter's a-coming in fast

Saturday night. Full moon, bright, twinkling stars no wind. Blinking light high above - west-bound jet.

I had just exited the barn after having brought the horses inside for the night. As I leave the barn I am stunned by how bright it is outside.

I stand for a couple of minutes in the yard and watch the blinking light pass overhead so far up. The sky is bright enough that I can see the exhaust trail behind the jet, but the plane is well past me before I hear the muted roar of its engines still to the east. Otherwise a very peaceful night.

Didn't last though. Sunday morning was overcast with a roaring wind. Soon snow began to fall blowing horizontally in gusts.

Sometimes no snow or only a few flakes and then more horizontal blizzard. One of our elderly horses is prone to the chills so I fastened a blanket on her for the day.

The paddock into which I sent the horses is just west of the barn with two shelters.

We call it 'Winter Paddock.

Saturday afternoon was sunny and fairly warm. My wife, Laura, has

mentioned that we should go get a tree. "What? So soon? We're still in November!" I expostulated.

"No, I don't mean a Christmas tree. You told me about the poplar the storm brought down on Mt. Crumpet. Let's retrieve that," she said. Oh, that kind of tree.

So, we bucked and brought back the downed tree, fired up the gasoline splitter, and split all of the pieces we had brought that day and while I was splitting, Laura returned to the bush with the quad to pick up all of the sawn pieces I'd made during the summer but had failed to gather.

I split, Laura stacked, and then we covered just in time too.

I had been thinking about Christmas since my son, Doug, and his girlfriend had requested that I bring in the 'fake' Christmas tree we were storing in the shed.

Laura had bought it to erect and allow young riding students to decorate back when we ran the riding business. Ivy, Doug's lady friend, is very keen on Christmas, I was told, and wanted to set it up now.

They live in town in an apartment that

for fire protection reasons, perhaps doesn't permit real trees. Sure enough, Saturday night we did a 'zoom' phone call with Doug and Ivy and saw the decorated tree. Very pretty.

On our walks Laura and I timber cruise. We mentally make a note of standing-dead balsam, jackpine, and spruce.

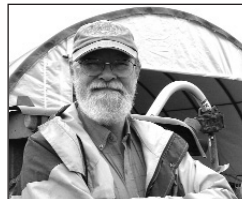
I trundle off with chainsaw, quad, and cart to retrieve. But lately in addition to tree spotting for the fireplace, we have been Christmas tree spotting.

The 'back 40' as I like to call it, once a field where grain was grown, is now festooned with trees some of which would make good yuletide specimens.

In years past we have cut down suitable ones to be hauled back to Casa Jones. We will be doing that ritual again this year but not for a while yet.

By Sunday afternoon the wind hadn't let up but the snow had and a sun-filled blue sky appeared, at least for a while. Sunday night the sky cleared and the bright, full moon slowly rose over the horizon.

Once again, I observed its rise. The snow was a warning shot across my bow. Definitely time to get the winter tires on the car. By the time you read this scribbling, the car should be ready for serious winter that is 'a-comin in'.



Fred Jones

RURAL ROOTS

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HONDA

Transition season has returned once again

Snow, dried leaves and frozen soil crunched loudly under our feet as we approached the lake.

Knowing that winter is closing in fast, I met up with my friend Chris Jones last Friday for one last after-work fishing expedition before hanging up the long rods until spring. It was only 4:30 p.m., but the temperature was dropping as quickly as the sun as we rushed to get a few casts in before dark.

I pitched my favourite spinner in to the dark water and watched a large trout follow the lure right up to

my feet before turning away at the last moment. On my next cast, I paused mid-retrieve and gave the bait a few twitches. The erratic action was exactly what the big brookie wanted to see and she smashed the spinner like it was her last meal. I had to use my boot to break the ice that had formed around the edge of the lake in order to land, unhook and release the fish.

Of course, wild brook trout are closed right now but we were fishing one of the many stocked lakes in our region where trout are

planted to provide a year-round angling opportunity for anglers. Fishing from shore, Chris and I enjoyed non-stop action until the sun dipped behind the tree tops and darkness signaled the end of feeding time for these thick and colourful trout. In thirty minutes of fishing we had several double-headers as these brookies aggressively attacked our hardware and jigs on nearly every cast. It was a bittersweet final chapter to the open-water fishing season that started with the spring steelhead run over eight months ago.

While ice quickly forms on all our inland lakes, outdoors lovers in our region eagerly await the upcoming winter season and the great assort-

ment of exciting activities it will bring. Here in Northwestern Ontario we are blessed with so many options that a typical weekend can easily be filled up with three or four or more different adventures. In fact, after the Friday fishing trip I still found plenty of time to sandwich some close-to-home winter fun in between my weekend school work, writing and the bathroom renovation I am working on. My youngest child and I made a couple trips out to Lappe to ski and I took my dog out with me on the fatbike to enjoy the fresh snow that fell on Sunday morning. Having easy access to public greenspace right out the front door and destina-

tions like Lappe just a short drive away is a big part of the reason we enjoy such a high quality of life in Thunder Bay.

While skiing with the family promises to be my activity of choice again this winter, we are also looking forward to some ice fishing, fat biking, snowshoeing, and spending weekends at camp where we will sauna, skate on our lake and maybe set aside some time to just relax in front of the fire. Perhaps your preference is hockey, or snowboarding, ice climbing or curling. The key to loving our northern winter is simply finding something to enjoy when ice covers our lakes and snow blankets the ground.



Keith Ailey
the GOOD LIFE

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Kitchen gifts for Christmas

Last week at HCAYK we talked a little bit about buying Christmas gifts for the foodie in your life. This can sometimes be a daunting task. If you're not in the know, it can be a fruitless effort. We have a few more ideas for the foodie / home cook / aspiring chef in your life.

Dry aging steak box: Steakager and a few other manufacturers make boxes that sit right in your fridge and drive moisture right out of a hunk of meat to give you steakhouse quality cuts of steak. The Steakager Pro15 will accommodate up to a 15 lb piece of meat (shocking, right?) and can be mounted horizontally or vertically. The small dehumidifier



Derek Lankinen
Here's Cooking at You Kid

in the box creates a micro climate in the box, managing humidity and creating a perfect environment for dry aging. The Pro15 is the smaller of the boxes available, going up to the Pro40 which can handle, you guessed it, a 40 lb cut of meat. Steakager is the standard of quality but you can also explore other similarly dressed units.

WIFI/Digital thermometer: When you're taking your time with roasting / smoking or grilling a large cut of meat, it isn't always feasible to stand by and watch your meat and probe it constantly while you're trying to prepare a meal. Enter the MEATER PLUS, a

long-range (up to 50 metres) smart thermometer that has Bluetooth and Wifi digital connectivity. The app has a guided cook system to allow you perfect results every time with all the information from the unit and timing displayed right on your phone or tablet. It can also estimate how long your food will take to achieve the programmed doneness so you can adjust the heat to speed up or slow down your meal.

Grill tools set: Gone are the days of the tongs, spatula, and grill fork BBQ tools set. Morole has a forty-five-piece set. This monster set includes stainless steel skewers, grill gloves, silicone and traditional

brushes, meat claws, grill mats and flavour infusers. Basically, anything the barbecue enthusiast could want in a single compact case. Many other producers also make similar kits, so you can tailor your kit to the type of cooking your foodie does most.

Portable steak grill - The Otto Wilde Original Steak Grill is a 1500 degrees Fahrenheit, propane over-grill which gives you the taste of the extreme maillard reaction that high end steak restaurants give you with their super high temperature grills. Maillard refers to the crusted outer seared proteins on meat



The Steakager can rest in one's fridge and drive the moisture out of meat, giving one steakhouse quality cuts of beef.

products that give you that distinctive flavour.

This reaction can only be achieved via super high heat. The grill weighs about 40 lbs so is 100 percent portable and can be used

for steaks or pizza or anything where a high amount of heat is needed in a smaller area.

<http://www.steakager.com/>
<http://meater.com/>
<http://ottowilde.com/>

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



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(Intercity Shopping Centre)

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SEE YOU THERE!

Who is the world's sexiest man?

Recently, *People* magazine named its annual Sexiest Man Alive. It's not John Legend, Matthew McConaughey, Chris Hemsworth, or even Ryan Reynolds. No, this year's Sexiest Man is Paul Rudd.

Yep, the guy who was Phoebe's boyfriend, Cher's ex-step-brother, a pint-sized superhero, and whose name rhymes with "Fudd" is this year's Sexiest Man Alive. Apparently, the choice was a shock even to the man himself. And not in the "Gosh, really?" self-deprecating way. Nope, Paul was honestly baffled.



Fiona Gardiner

FI TV

And so was social media. In fact, the public reaction was swift, loud and in some cases, even a bit ... angry.

People Magazine's annual honour generally goes to a sex symbol of some sort. (Think: Magic Mike's Channing Tatum.) Someone with chiselled abs and a granite jaw - maybe even the occasional accent - that literally make grown women (and men) swoon.

And Rudd isn't exactly swoon-worthy. At least, not at first glance.

But let's give the little dude (he's five foot eight) a second glance.

Rudd is 52 years old, making him the third oldest that *People* has ever chosen - Sean Connery was 59 and Harrison Ford was 56. But that doesn't really matter because Rudd doesn't seem to age. He's been in the business since the early nineties and he looks basically the same. (It's possible he's an ancestor of Dorion Gray or has a deal with the devil, himself, but we're waiting for confirmation on that.)

And he's cute in an "every guy" kind of way. If you ran into him on the street, you might not remember him. You might even spill your coffee on him. However, that almost-but-not-quite average appearance makes him totally relatable to audiences.

He's your best friend's brother and your brother's best friend.

But then there are those eyes. Those soulful green eyes draw you in with their kindness, intelligence, and long lashes. (No wonder Cher fell in love with him.) So it's no surprise that he's a family man who's been married for nearly 20 years. And there's nothing more sexy than a terminally faithful man.

Rudd's also charitable. But quietly so. He helped to raise \$13 million for the Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. (Bet you didn't see that splashed all over Twitter.)

And with a bevy of comedic roles under his belt, Rudd makes us laugh on both the big screen

and the small. (Don't most women claim a sense of humour is top of their list in what they're looking for in a guy? How else do you explain *People* choosing Blake Shelton in 2017?)

At a time in our history when we need kindness, comfort, stability, humour and intelligent discussion, Paul Rudd checks all the boxes. Plus, he manages to make a miniature red Ant-Man suit look surprisingly, subtly sexy.

He's the anti-Hollywood. And he's here to stay.

Of course, if he's not your cup of tea, the good news is he'll be replaced in twelve short months. I'm sure Hollywood can find at least one more man for the job between now and then.

Competition seeking out nation's strongest woman

By TB Source staff

Contestants from across the country will travel to Thunder Bay next month to compete for the title of Canada's Strongest Woman.

The city's Maximum Strength Performance fitness studio will host the event.

Organizers were not immediately available Wednesday morning for comment, but the Ontario Public Service Employees Union announced that it is a platinum sponsor.

It said Canada has many strong, hardworking female athletes who don't get the recognition their male counterparts do.

OPSEU Local 720 President Colleen Arvelin, who's a client of the gym, will volunteer at the event.

She said the competition represents women empowerment in more ways than one.

"The small business owners hosting this event put their heart and soul into our community. I'm proud to be part of a union that recognizes the



On Dec. 4 and Dec. 5 Maxium Strength Fitness Studio will host the event.

importance of supporting local and supporting women," Arvelin said.

OPSEU Region 7 representative Gail Kelly added that she's pleased to see the union continuing to work to push women's issues forward.

"Women have so many skills

and talents that aren't celebrated enough. I'm proud that our union celebrates the accomplishments of women and can play a role in elevating the platform of these amazing athletes," Kelly said.

The event is scheduled for Dec. 4 and 5, 2021.



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"JZ JQ YFZZFP ZS NFFB GSOP LSOZA
DRSQFM TXM RFZ BFSBRF ZAJXN GSO
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Pork (Fr.)
 - 5 Larva
 - 9 Antiballistic Missile (abbr.)
 - 12 Scientific name (suf.)
 - 13 Harangue
 - 14 Mine (Sp.)
 - 15 Boat
 - 16 Border
 - 17 Haw, garland
 - 18 Tattle
 - 20 Gila
 - 22 Pac. island
 - 25 "Fables in Stang" author
 - 26 Soul or spirit (Fr.)
 - 27 Sayings (suf.)
 - 29 Auricular
 - 33 Antenna
 - 35 Give (Scot.)
 - 37 Latite
 - 38 Indian tea
 - 40 No middle initial (abbr.)
 - 42 Shipshaped
- DOWN**
- 1 Aunt (Sp.)
 - 2 Mother of Hezekia
 - 3 Top
 - 4 Irish exclamation
 - 5 Presa (2 words)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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- 6 P.I. volcano
- 7 Emerge
- 8 Yearly church payment
- 9 Pressure
- 10 And
- 11 Birth a lamb
- 19 Stinging insect
- 21 Indiana (abbr.)
- 22 Trolley
- 23 Daughter of Zeus
- 24 Insert (2 words)
- 26 Rom. box
- 30 Colza
- 32 Berne's river
- 33 Roast
- 36 Noun-forming (suf.)
- 39 Guido's note (2 words)
- 43 Almost
- 46 Grape disease
- 47 Christmas (abbr.)
- 48 Gaming cubes
- 50 Ship of the Argonauts
- 53 Fluidity unit
- 55 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 56 Ultimate degree
- 57 To (Scot.)

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Branagh's heartfelt homage

Belfast is director/screenwriter Kenneth Branagh's semi-autobiographical homage to his days as a wee laddie in Northern Ireland. The realization of Branagh being Irish-born comes as a surprise for those who identify the director as distinctly English given his cinematic bona fides ("Henry V," "Hamlet" etc.)

It's Belfast, 1969. A young family is facing debt, employment challenges and the onset of the Troubles in their neighbourhood. The film is told through the eyes of 9-year-old Buddy (Jude Hill), the younger of two brothers.

Buddy's Protestant family recoils at the nasty riots that mean to root out their Catholic neighbours. Hounding notes routinely come from the tax man. Buddy's dad is menaced by the Ulster Volunteer Force. The British soldiers are imperious. Such concerns lead Buddy's parents (Jamie Dornan, Catriona Balfe) to consider their future. Buddy doesn't want to leave.

We also follow Buddy through his first crush, his love of movies and the theatre. There's also leg-pulling counsel from his dotting grandparents (Judi Dench and Ciarán Hinds.)

Belfast's authenticity is conveyed through impressive production design, embellished by handheld camera and glorious cinematography by Haris Zambarloukos. (The skies are always threatening, obvious foreshadowing.) Branagh creates a credible neighbourhood teeming with life, with flats and folks crowded together. There's attention to little details: costumes, grocery items, Christmas toys (Buddy's International Rescue outfit from "The Thunderbirds" TV series). Belfast-born Van Morrison dominates the soundtrack.

The plot is anecdotal, reflecting Buddy's recalled experience. He senses his parent's angst, overhearing their hushed conversations through an opened door or window. Despite jousting over money worries, Buddy's parents are quiet stalwarts. Mom sorts the tax man's mail, protects her two



Jude Hill stars as Buddy, a nine-year-old living in Belfast in 1969.

sons out in the streets. Dad works construction in England, looking forward to bi-weekly visits home, acknowledging mom's stewardship of the family.

One grants the director some latitude in his narrative choice here. We see the world through an impressionistic youngster. Thus, some narrative elements appear simplistic, insubstantial and sentimental. This is a nostalgic tribute to those impacted by the Troubles, not an examination of the situation itself.

What elevates the slight narrative are the performances, authenticity and the theme of family togetherness.

Branagh can't help being obvious however.

He uses the theme to "High Noon" to overlay a showdown between dad and the Ulster villain. Bad guys are named Clanton and McLaury, an in-joke reference to Wyatt Earp's infamous adversaries. (American Westerns dominate the telly.) There's an in-joke with Buddy reading a Thor comic book. (The director helmed the first Thor movie.)

We forgive Branagh's indulgences thanks to his stellar cast. Young Jude Hill as Buddy is precocious and properly wide-eyed without being too precious. Dornan and Balfe are convincing as loving parents facing challenging times. Dench and Hinds overcome clichéd dialogue to merit Oscar nominations.

An Audience Choice Award winner at TIFF 2021, "Belfast" is Branagh's unabashedly crowd-pleasing remembrance of a troubled time.



Marty Mascarín
MOVIE TALK



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City mulling five soccer proposals

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Thunder Bay's city council has five outside proposals for construction of an indoor turf facility to consider, but it's in no rush to get started.

Instead, the city will pause its Expression of Interest (EOI) process while it awaits an answer on a \$22 million funding ask to the federal government - with the timing of that answer uncertain.

If approved, that funding would cover just over half of the long-debated project's cost, potentially negating the need for the city to work with the private sector through the EOI process at all.

Senior staff presented the barest details on the responses to the EOI process at Monday's council meeting.

The city received eight responses, said city manager Norm Gale, with five meeting minimum technical qualifications. Gale did not present any information on who had submitted the proposals, cost estimates, or design details.

At least two councillors suggested Monday they hadn't seen the proposals and knew little more than the public, if anything. The city clerk's office had informed council was to receive a closed session report on the responses.

The EOI process invited companies to submit their own designs for an indoor turf facility, with wide leeway to offer shorter-term solutions like soccer bubbles, build at locations other than Chapples Park, and operate the facility through a public-private partnership.

The call to the private sector was launched after council narrowly voted not to proceed with a \$39 million tender for a design it had previously approved, thanks to mounting costs and concerns about the financial impact of the COVID-



The Tournament Centre currently hosts indoor soccer on a former ice sheet. (FILE)

19 pandemic.

The city received eight responses to its EOI process: four offering long-term solutions, and four offering short-term solutions. The responses were reviewed and evaluated by a staff committee.

Of those, two short-term proposals and three long-term proposals achieved the minimum 70 per cent score on

technical evaluation criteria, making them eligible for further consideration, said city manager Norm Gale.

Gale told councillors administration opted not to make any recommendations to move forward with the proposals until an answer is received on its application to the federal Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) program.

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Saturday, November 27th

WOMENS @ 6:00pm
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TICKETS: \$6 Student/Seniors / \$10 Adults

THUNDERWOLVES.CA The Chronicle-Journal tbaytel ENERGY

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For further details visit:
dilico.com/christmaswish

Soccer captivating the nation

I joked last week on Twitter that I was watching a soccer game that wasn't the Thunder Bay Chill.

It doesn't happen often. The sport may be the most popular in the world, but back in the day when Jamie Smith and Scott Paradis would talk about Liverpool this, or Chelsea that, it was all Greek to me.

I know Pele, and Ronaldo and Maradona and all the names I guess I'm supposed to know.

But before Alphonso Davies came along, I'd have been hard pressed to name a single national level soccer

player in this country, outside of Christine Sinclair, on Canada's Olympic gold-medal winning women's team.

Don't get me wrong. I love watching the Chill. I've been fortunate enough to travel with the team to Detroit, Austin, Texas and Charlotte, N.C.

But pretty much once their season was over, it was fantasy football prep time and the dog days of summer in baseball.

Part of it's that I've never taken the time to try to understand the intricacies of all the league and the different tournaments that take place each

year. I think Jamie tried to explain Champions League to me once.

This run by Canada's national team, including last Tuesday's thrilling 2-1 win over Mexico that put them atop the table, as the announcers kept saying, has piqued my interest.

It'll probably be must-see TV when they return in the new year.

By no means has Canada clinched anything.

In fact, the pessimist in me is convinced they'll find a way to miss out again on a World Cup berth, a spot they haven't earned since 1986 in Mexico.

Canada went 0-3 that year and didn't score a goal.

The experts, following last week's win, said to a person that Canada hasn't locked anything up yet.

Mexico, the United States and Puerto Rico are with two points of each other, with six games to go.

The top three advance, with the fourth-place team earning a second shot at a spot.

Canada returns against Honduras on Jan. 27, but three days later plays the United States, a team ranked 25th in the world, 44 spots ahead of Canada.

They'll then take on El Salvador and later Costa Rica, a team that will be in must-win territory by March - or looking to play spoiler. They'll wrap things up against

Jamaica and Panama.

It's certainly doable. They've yet to lose in eight qualifying matches and the sport has taken off.

Davies is one of the world's brightest young stars. Cyle Larin scored both goals for Canada and keeper Milan Borjan shut the door on a Mexican team pressing for the equalizer last Tuesday.

The good news is going forward the World Cup is shedding its 32-team format in favour of allowing 48 teams to participate.

Given the hype surrounding the sport these days, it's a good bet Canada won't go 35 years (or more) between World Cup appearances. Fingers crossed.



Leith Dunick
SPORTS SHORTS

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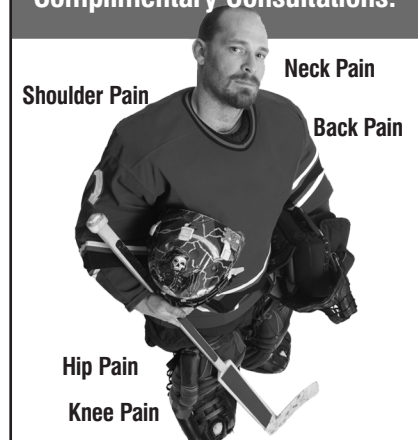
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 01. City
 02. Rural Homes
 03. Mobile Homes
 04. Lots / Acreage
 05. Condos
 06. Cottages
 07. Commercial
 08. Investment Property
 09. Out of Town
 10. Real Estate Wanted

FOR RENT
 11. Houses
 12. Apartments
 13. Rooms
 14. Room & Board
 15. Shared Accommodations
 16. Cottages
 17. Commercial
 18. Storage/Space
 19. Wanted
 20. Condos
 21. Miscellaneous

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE
 22. Bargain corner
 23. Misc.
 24. Antiques
 25. Music
 26. Office Equip.
 27. Machinery
 28. Pets & Livestock
 29. Food
 30. Misc. Wanted

VEHICLES FOR SALE
 31. Cars | 32. Trucks
 33. Vans
 34. Motorcycles/ATV's
 35. Campers/Trailers
 36. Motor Homes

37. Marine Equip.
 38. Snowmobiles
 39. Parts & Repairs

YARD SALES
 40. Current River
 41. Northward
 42. South
 43. Westfort
 44. Rural

MISC.,NOTICES, TENDERS
 45. Auctions
 46. Health
 47. Travel
 48. Financial
 49. Lost & Found
 50. Personal
 51. Notices
 52. Tenders

BUSINESS & SERVICES
 53. General Services
 54. Home Improvements
 55. Bus. Opportunities
 56. Training Courses

EMPLOYMENT
 57. Help Wanted
 58. Careers
 59. Child
 60. Health Care
 61. Employment Wanted
 62. Students For Hire

ANNOUNCEMENTS
 63. Coming Events
 64. Craft & Flea Markets
 65. Happy Ads
 66. Cards of Thanks
 67. In Memoriam
 68. Death/Funerals

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All claims of errors in advertisements must be received by the Publisher within 3 days after the first publication. No refund if ad is cancelled before expiry date.

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30. MISC. WANTED

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53. GENERAL SERVICES
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53. GENERAL SERVICES

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54. HOME IMPROVEMENTS

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61. EMPLOYMENT WANTED

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68. DEATH/FUNERALS



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P	O	R	C	G	R	U	B	A	B	M
A	C	E	A	R	A	V	E	M	I	A
S	H	I	P	A	B	U	T	L	E	T
		R	A	T	L	I	Z	A	R	D
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A	M	E	A	N	A	E	A	R	E	D
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9	2	7	4	5	1	6	8	3
3	1	6	8	7	9	2	5	4
8	4	5	6	3	2	7	9	1
7	8	1	3	6	4	9	2	5
5	3	2	9	1	7	4	6	8
4	6	9	2	8	5	3	1	7
2	9	8	5	4	3	1	7	6
1	5	3	7	2	6	8	4	9
6	7	4	1	9	8	5	3	2

PREVIOUS SOLUTION:
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THINK RECYCLE



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