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(Cheap!)

The Galactic Gazette

Volume 20 Issue 2
February 2020

"Be my Valentine."

Weather: "Far Out" man. "All of the news you really need. Probably more" "Noli credere omnia legis"

Cosmos Lions Host District Governor

By Mark Minnick

The Cosmos Lions hosted their Governors Night on January 13th, at the Bonfire Bar & Grill, Litchfield, Minnesota. *(I call it Greenleaf, but what do I know.)* The Cedar Mills Lions were also invited to hear the Guv speak and join us in the meeting and meal.

Governor Bob Kulbeik showed up a few minutes late, which bothered no one, especially coming all the way from Elbow Lake, MN. He apologized for that lateness, saying the roads were bad and getting worse.

The Lions felt kind of bad that he struggled to come and see us in such crappy conditions. He still wanted to give us his message of service to those in need, before he headed back early, and that he did.

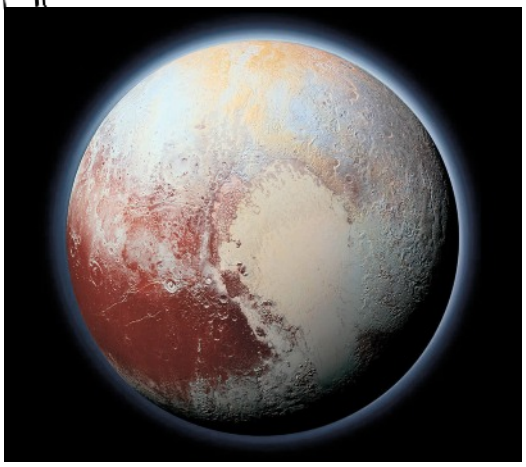
He told of personal experiences he's had helping others and what he has seen other Lions clubs do to help people in their areas that are in need. After taking a few pictures and awarding a few pins, Bob headed back home, hopefully to beat the worst of the evening snow and drizzle.

As the weather was just getting worse, the Lions decided to eat quick, forgo the monthly meeting and scurry on out of the place and back home safely instead of sliding in the ditch or worse. Better weather luck next year, eh?



Lion's District Governor Bob Kulbeik & Cosmos Lions President, Joyce Karrigan

Happy Valentines Day from Pluto & The Galactic Gazette



By Mark Minnick

Pluto got kicked out of the planets club a few years back, much to the dismay of many a concerned school child and outer space nerd. Now it is defined as a 'dwarf' planet. After all, it is smaller than Earth's moon. Kicked out of the 'planet' club or not, it still displays a "Valentine" all the time to the whole solar system.

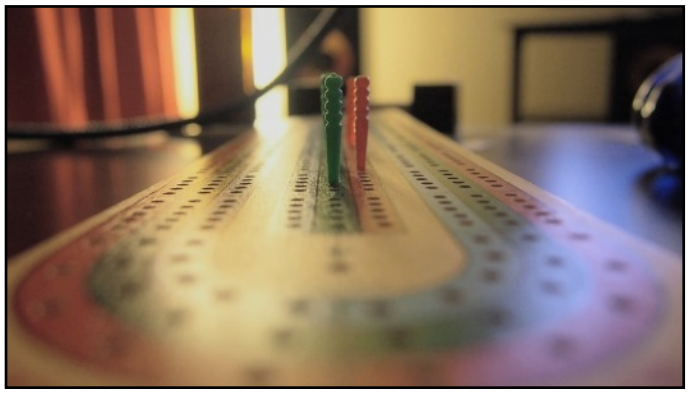
This heart shaped region on it's cold, cold surface is called the Tombaugh Regio. This light colored region is about 1000 miles across. Nitrogen snow (That's cold!) was originally thought to fill the smoother western lobe, called Sputnik Planitia.

But, after further study and more data was analyzed, scientists now think that this area is rich in nitrogen, carbon monoxide, and methane ices. Still cold! The bright spots in the region are mountains made of water ice, 11,000 feet high! The *average* surface temps are a -378 degrees F. At these cold, cold temps, that water ice would be as hard as granite.

Kind of makes for a chilly Valentine, eh? But hey, it's the thought that counts.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." *Elizabeth Andrew*

The Cribbage Board Is Smokin' on Thursday Nites



By Joyce Karrigan

The Cozmic Cribbers Thursday nights have been a success. We have had tons of fun playing the awesome game of cribbage. We are looking forward to many more joining us.

We play Thursday night at 7pm at the Mugshots in Cosmos. We have having a tournament that is open to everyone, you don't have to have played Thursday nights to enter the tournament.

The tournament will be Saturday February 22nd at 1:00 pm at the Mugshots bar and grill in Cosmos. Everyone who plays cribbage is invited to come and maybe win some money and prestige. Look us up on Facebook. Any questions you have please contact Gator at 320-905-6223.

What smart groundhogs really do on Feb. 2nd....

Groundhog Day



What? I'm supposed to go up in the crappy weather and see my shadow? Does it look like I just fell off of the turnip truck? Man, I was just getting ready to binge watch the third season of 'Stranger Things' on Netflix. The popcorn is popped and everything! Ixnay on going outside, dude. Why don't you go find a dumb chicken to do it….

(See the real groundhog story later in this issue.)

New Executive Director for United Community Action Partnership

Press release and photo from the United Community Action Partnership (UCAP)

UCAP serves much of Southwest and South-Central Minnesota, hosting a variety of programs that help people meet their basic needs and move from poverty to self-sufficiency.

After a several month search, UCAP announced the hiring of Debi Brandt as their new executive director.

Brandt was the Community Services Director for UCAP and then moved on to fill the interim executive director position in October

Taking the position permanently seemed like the next logical step because, for Brant, her work is an extension of how she lives. The Board of Directors felt that her experience within the agency made her the right choice. "Debi has done an outstanding job while working for Heartland, and now United Community Action Partnership, for the last 35 years," said Board President Brian Schultz.

Brandt has served in various roles throughout her tenure with Community Action. Her commitment to advancing the mission of the agency—helping people, changing lives—has never wavered. In 2018, she was honored with the Steve Chadwick award from the Minnesota Community Action Partnership in recognition of this commitment. "I love to lead efforts to increase awareness and education about poverty," Brandt said. So, she takes every opportunity afforded to her.

As one of UCAP's poverty simulation facilitators, she has helped many people, including groups from the Federal Reserve Bank and local Human Services, understand what it's like to live in poverty. She also shares her knowledge through an annual training about the impact of poverty on health with nursing and early childhood students at Ridgewater College.

"Through my community involvement as an EMT, school board member, and CPR instructor, I always wear my community action hat to share information and resources, and advocate for decisions that have a positive impact on the families we serve," she said. "I have never met anyone who loves her job and has as much passion for the people in the community as Debi does," Schultz said. "I look forward to working with Debi and the entire staff to move this organization into the future."



Debi Brandt

"I know of no great men except those who have rendered great service to the human race." *Voltaire*

Valentine's Breakfast & Brunch

at **Mug Shots** in Cosmos

Sunday, February 9th

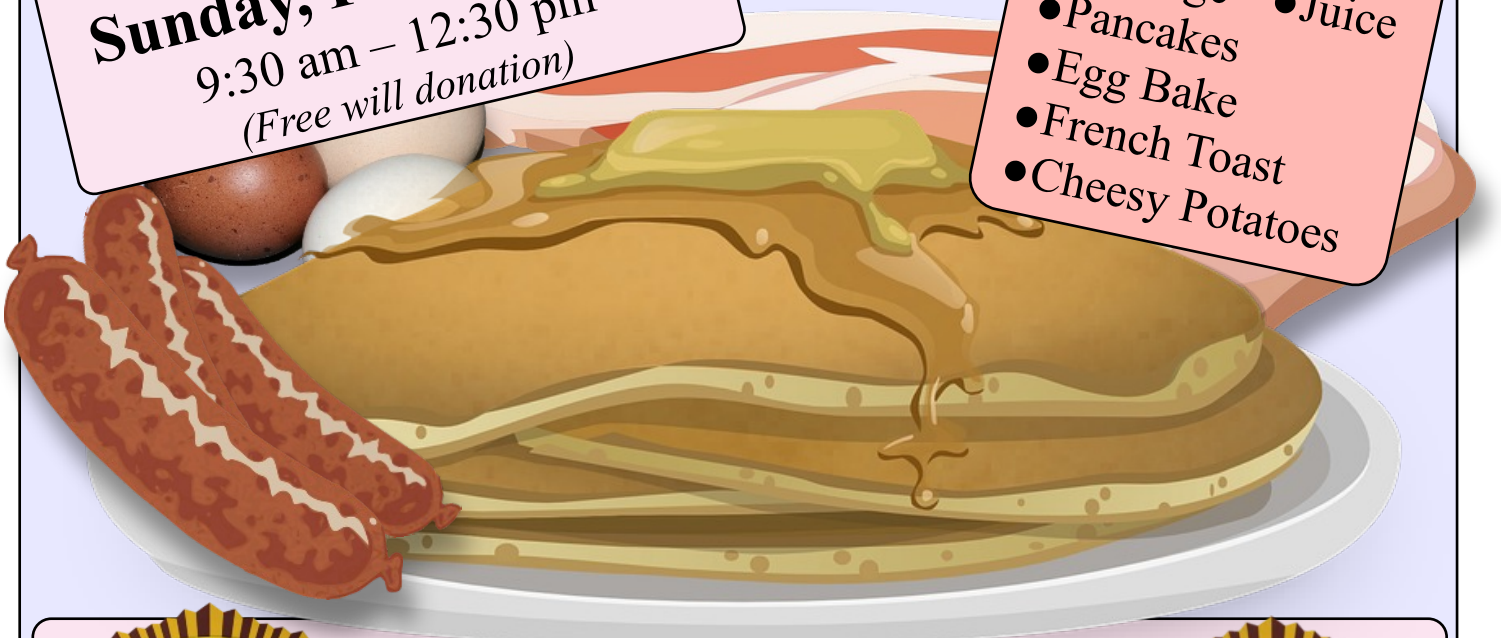
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

(Free will donation)

Everyone Welcome!

-Menu-

- Ham
- Fruit
- Sausage
- Pancakes
- Egg Bake
- French Toast
- Cheesy Potatoes
- Coffee
- Milk
- Juice



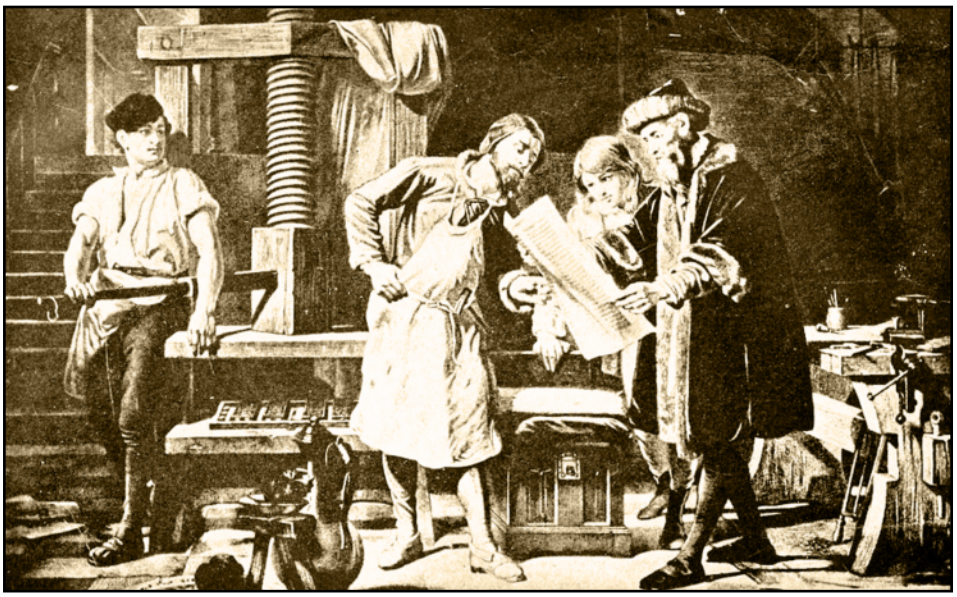
Brought to you by the

Cosmos Legion Family

Beack-Thompson Post 126

Proceeds will benefit our Veterans, their families and our communities.

And I Thought Gutenberg Had it Tough



1904 illustration depicting Johannes Gutenberg operating his press.

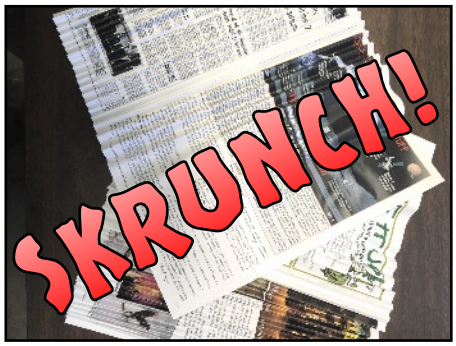


By Mark Minnick

In case you didn't notice, last month's Gazette was a little late getting to your post office box. Was it fate, laziness or aliens? None of these excuses could be used other than one maybe related to an alien - a gremlin - or so it seemed. It was quite the tale.

The initial printing began on Sunday December 29th. I ran a few test copies as usual, checked things over and went ahead with a short run. All went well, so I went home to grab some lunch and watch the Vikes get beat by Chicago. Hoo boy, at least lunch was good. I stayed away from the printer for the rest of the day, watching some *real* NFL games on the tube. I'll just print the rest on Monday I thought.

Monday morning the 30th rolls in and I am ready to continue printing and finish off the issue. Get 'em up to the Post Office before noon and away they go. So, I fire up press, load the info and let 'er rip. Printed sheet after printed sheet rolled out of the big machine, with nary a whimper. I'm 100 issues into the 490 needed when I hear this icky, nasty, wrinkly SKRUNCH - then a DING-DING-DING alarm. 'Paper jam' the view screen said. No big deal, bad sheet of paper or something, it's happened occasionally before. I removed the correct access panel as directed by the view screen diagram and removed the offending sheet. Put everything back together and fire her back up. Jams again. Clean it out. Fire it up. Jams again. Well, three strikes and yer out, I guess it isn't the paper.



It's time to get on the horn and get a professional in here. I got a hold of the service rep and he dispatched a technician to take a look at the wounded printer on Monday afternoon. It was the same guy that was here for a similar problem in October, Terry.

He found the offending roller assembly had a small and seemingly insignificant roller that moved off to one side causing the jams. Not having a replacement, he slid it back into to position and said "Let's hope this works till new shows up". We printed out about 15 issues with nary a problem, so he hit the road.

I was happily printing away when a half hour later I heard SKRUNCH! I cleaned everything out and texted Terry about the new jamb. He wasn't happy either, but that he'd see me tomorrow. He was back on Tuesday, New Years Eve and tore it down again, this time removing the offending roller, hoping that would get us by. Again, we printed out about 15 issues, no problem. He also mentioned that he was getting away on a little tropical vacation, leaving right after New Years. I wished him well but hoped the printer would stay working, fingers crossed.



So away he went, reminding me that the new part would be in Thursday January 2nd if I needed it. Sure as heck, a half hour later SKRUNCH! So I texted him again, printing out J-A-M-B-! He apologized and said that he would fill his replacement tech in on the situation and scheduled him to come out on Thursday the 2nd to replace the whole roller assembly with new.

This new technician, Steve showed up promptly on Thursday and went right to work, replacing the bad roller assembly with new. Again, we printed out about 15 issues with no problems, so we said our good by's and he was off. I was leery as the machine kept working and working and working. No jambs. Cool, I thought, I'll get this newsletter printed yet. And by the grace of Gutenberg, I guess I did.



Technician Terry removing the offending roller assembly again, so he can disassemble it and remove the little slipping roller, left. Sharpie is for size reference.

"Opportunity is missed by most because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." *Thomas Alva Edison*

MUG SHOTS
Bar & Grill
320-877-7525
Cosmos

February Daily Lunch Specials

M 3 Frisk-O-Burger w/ff
T 4 Pork dinner or commercial
W 5 Roast beef dinner or commercial
T 6 BBQ Chicken dinner
F 7 Pizza hotdish w/garlic toast

M 10 Grilled cheese w/chili
T 11 Ham dinner
W 12 Sauerkraut hotdish w/toast
T 13 Broasted chicken dinner
F 14 Lasagna w/garlic toast

M 17 Sloppy Joe's w/potato chips
T 18 Pork chop dinner
W 19 Baked chicken dinner
T 20 French dip w/ff
F 21 Chicken spaghetti w/garlic toast

M 24 Sausage & kraut dinner w/toast
T 25 Scalloped potatoes & ham
W 26 Tater Tot hotdish w/toast
T 27 Broasted chicken dinner
F 28 Spaghetti w/garlic toast

Stop In and Say Hi!

Cribbage Tournament
Sat. Feb. 22nd 1:00 pm
Everyone Welcome!

Friday February 14th
5-8pm
Valentine Supper

-Specials-
*Prime Rib
*Broiled or Breaded Jumbo Shrimp
*Prime Rib with Jumbo Shrimp
Served with Garlic Cheese Biscuits & Mashed Potatoes

Don't Miss It!

Reservations required: 320-877-7525

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The Galactic Gazette
"Always Action Packed & Fun Filled!"

"Nine out of ten people surveyed think everyone deserves to get a Valentine in the mail.
*Except dirty old Jabba the Hutt.
Any dude that chains up Princess Leia and makes her wear a metal bikini doesn't deserve a Valentine, not in our book anyway.



Don't miss an issue- you'll regret it!

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- Demolition
- Septic Systems
- Lot Preparation

STEVE 320-894-6269 · GREG 320-212-7852

MINUTES
CITY OF COSMOS
REGULAR MEETING
January 9, 2020

A regular meeting of the Cosmos City Council was called to order by Mayor Gary Martin at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2020.
COUNCIL PRESENT: Council Members Tom McCarthy, Emily Van Hatten, Angelica Hopp and Jody Fruetel
ALSO PRESENT: John Douville, David Medina, Josh Halvorson and Jason Danielson, Deputy Sheriff
Adopt Agenda – A motion by Fruetel, seconded by McCarthy, to adopt the Agenda. Motion carried
Adopt Consent Agenda – A motion by Van Hatten, seconded by Hopp, to adopt the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

a. December 12, 2019 City Council Minutes

VISITORS PRESENTATIONS

ACGC – Nels Onstad, Superintendent for ACGC, was present to discuss school operations and current building projects. The fund balance is showing a positive $450,000 surplus, bringing the school back to its preferred operating fund balance.

Baily Rettman, Regional Director of the learning center, was also present to discuss the construction at the Cosmos Learning Center. It is expected the Cosmos Learning Center construction will be completed by July 1, 2020.

Bolton-Menk – Josh Halvorson was present to discuss the future street and utility projects.
Meeker County Sheriff's Dept. – Jason Danielson, Meeker County Deputy, was present to discuss the 29 December incidents.
January 9, 2020 Bills List - A motion by Van Hatten, seconded by Fruetel, to approve the January 9, 2020 Bills list with check numbers from 14100-14142 for $29,509.42. Motion carried**.**

Employee Evaluation Forms – A motion by Van Hatten, seconded by Fruetel, to approve a new employee evaluation form. Employees and City Council will complete the form for all city personnel. Motion carried.
Resolution 20_01 2020 Fees & Reimbursements - A motion by Van Hatten, seconded by Hopp, to approve Res. 20-01 Fees & Reimbursements. Motion carried.
February Council Meeting –A motion by Hopp, seconded by Fruetel, to move the February City Council meeting to Thursday February 6th at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.
Motion to Adjourn - A motion by Hopp, seconded by Van Hatten, to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried.

_____- DRAFT-_____
John A. Douville, Administrator/Clerk



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Direct: 320.214.3922 Cell: 320.583.4494
tkruse@pioneer-heritage.com

City of Cosmos

-Contact Information-

Office Hours: Mon-Tue-Thu 9 AM-4 PM

-Staff can meet before or after Office Hours by Appointment if needed-

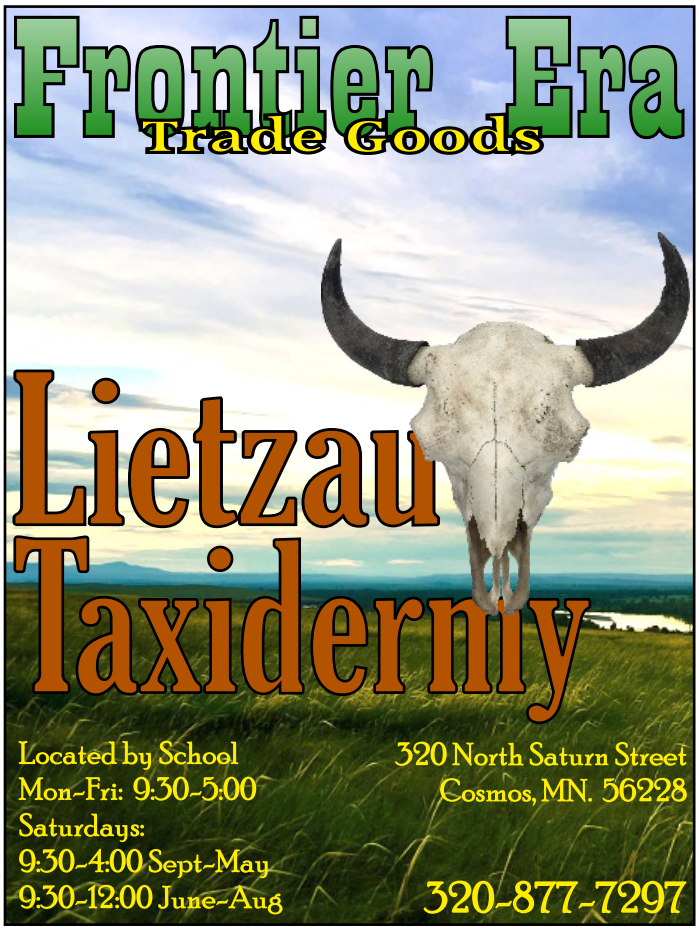
Phone: 320-877-7345

City Website: cosmos-mn.com

Email: cosmoscity@mchsi.com

Sheriff Non-Emergency Number: 320-693-5400

Sheriff Office Hours in Cosmos:
Tue 2:30-4:30 PM





Rate Per Month	B & W	Color
• 1/8 Page	$12.50	$20.00
• 1/4 Page	$25.00	$35.00
• 1/2 Page	$50.00	$70.00
• Full Page	$80.00	$100.00

Can it be? A Valentines....

POT LUCK Lunch?

*(*Not to worry, no romance is required.)*
"Didn't have time to make anything?
C'mon over anyway, there's always plenty of grub."

-Cosmos City Center-

Thursday, February 13th

11:30 AM till ?



For more information contact:
Sandy Meyer *320.877.7734 Leave Msg.*
Gloria Anderson *320.877.7460 Leave Msg.*

Brought to you by the brain trust at. . . .

The Galactic Gazette

It truly is, "All of the news you really need. Probably more."

Woman's Work

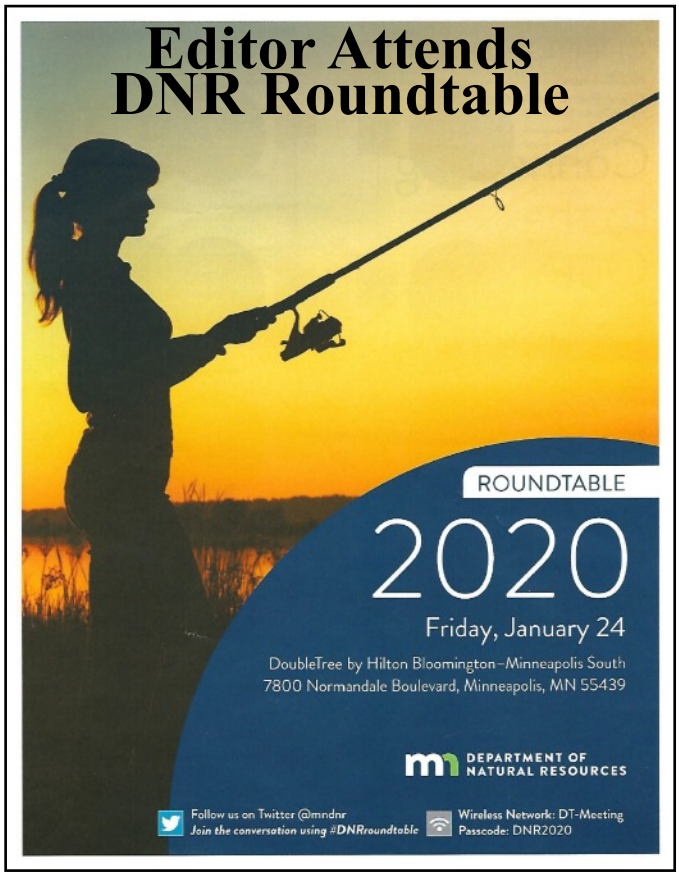
By Grace Kamrath

A while back I came down with the flu and wanted my husband, Duane, to do some of the household chores.

I wasn't sure how to tell him so I tried reverse psychology. "Honey, I'm sorry I'm leaving you with such a mess," I said as I coughed again. "The laundry needs to be done and the dishes washed oh, the vacuuming needs to be done".

"Don't you worry," he said sympathetically. "It can all wait until you feel up to it."





By Mark Minnick

The Minnesota DNR Roundtable has been held every year for the last 27 years. State officials, industry leaders and everyday hunters & anglers get together, usually in mid winter, to discuss outdoor hunting & fishing issues, subjects and concerns.

This year, I was honored and privileged to be invited to participate at this year's Roundtable on Friday, Jan. 24th.. I had a great time and plan on writing a complete article about the experience in a future issue.

If you like the outdoors, stay tuned.

Local Chicken Goes on a Cruise



The Old Hen and me on the beach.

Photos and commentary by Local Chicken

After spending time at a winter resort last month, snowboarding, skiing and partying, I decided it was time for a little change. Go somewhere warm and sunny, *without* Fried.

The old hen has spent a bunch of her gambling winnings from Neptune on one of those complete body make overs. *(Now she's svelte, like me.)* She says she feels so good now that she wants to hang out in the sun and dip her toes in the sand.

So, her suggestion was that we go on a cruise, something we haven't done before. I thought hey, that sounds like fun, as long as it's somewhere with some privacy and Lil Weasel won't be seeing our every move.

So she proceeded to get on the internets, ended up on chickenship.com and found a nice cruise for chicken couples like us. We packed our bags and flew down to Florida, *(What, you didn't think chickens could fly?)* hopped on the ship and proceeded to embark on our first experience of cruisin' in the ocean.

It was sure a lot of fun. We had a great time partying, swimming, eating good food, laying on the beach and just plain hangin' out. The ship stopped at some interesting ports of call. From bustling tropical cities to sleepy little island jewels of sand, the flock experienced a variety of locales. Chicken heaven…yep.

We got to meet a lot of decent folks with interests and tastes similar to ours. It was nice to know that there were others in this world that are concerned about things such as the price of corn, the lack of anyone crowing in the morning anymore and vicious, little uncontrolled weasels. We all shook our heads and wondered what this world was coming to.



I let the Old Hen bury me in the warm tropical sand. But then I asked her how come there wasn't a lime wedge in my beer. I got the stink eye and then she covered me completely. No lime wedge either. Sigh…

I was a little surprised that they weren't aware of chicken poop for cash deal with the aliens and the gambling on Neptune though. These folks gotta get out a little more I guess.

As the old hen and I flew back home, we both agreed that we should try this cruise ship thing again. Who says you can't teach old chickens new tricks. It's better off than ending up in soup.

Fitness Program Slated for Cosmos Area

By Deb Minnick

Ecumen RSVP of Litchfield would like the SAIL program to start at the Cosmos Community Center as early as March 2020. Grace Kamrath and I will have attended leader training by the time this is published. We need more leader volunteers from the community to help this program be successful. It is our hope that with enough leaders, the classes can be co-led.

Fitness classes could be held 2 -3 times per week, dates and times to be determined. As mentioned in the press release below, anyone of any age may attend these classes!

The success of this Program depends on a couple of things;

1. We need residents to volunteer for leadership training.
   Must be aged 55 or older.
2. We need class participation from community members, men and women of any age.

*The next leader training class is scheduled for;
Thursday, March 5, 2020 from 9 am-4:30 pm in Litchfield
*Class location to be determined.
*Training is free.

Please call **Donna** at **Ecumen RSVP** for more info;
1-800-669-6714

Press Release;

Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL)



Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) is a strength, balance and fitness program. Performing exercises that improve strength, balance and fitness are the single most important activity that adults can do to stay active and reduce their chance of falling. The entire curriculum of activities in the SAIL Program can help improve strength and balance, if done regularly. SAIL is usually offered 2-3 times a week in a one hour class. SAIL exercises can be done standing or sitting. SAIL was developed in Washington State with support from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program includes a combination of aerobic conditioning, progressive strength training, and balance exercises shown to impact risk of falling.

It works*... you will be stronger, have better balance, feel better, and this will help you stay active and independent.*

It's safe*... the instructors are experienced and skilled, and exercises have been tested with seniors.*

It's fun*...you'll meet other seniors and make new friends.*

SAIL classes can be attended by anyone, any age. For information on joining a class, or becoming a leader call Donna at Ecumen RSVP 1-800-669-6714. Upcoming leader training class being held March 5, 2020 in Litchfield from 9 – 4:30. The training is free to anyone interested in becoming a class leader. Class location to be determined.

Nature and the Great Outdoors

Hey, it's nice outside!



The Cosmos Space Festival

Ice Fishing Tournament

The contest we've all been Waiting for!

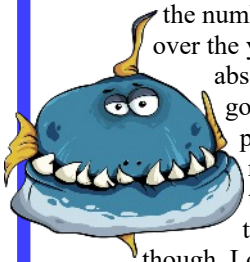
Will there be enough ice?	Don't know.
Will the fish bite?	Don't know.
Will the locals still have fun anyway?	**Yep, you becha!**

1 day after Valentines Day
And more important!

By Mark Minnick

The much anticipated Space Festival Ice Fishing Tournament on scenic Thompson Lake is quickly approaching. The buzz around town is that everyone is anxiously awaiting the winter classic, knowing that it is always a good time. Everyone from youngsters to oldsters show up for the yearly celebration, minnow pails, tackle boxes and fish houses in tow.

There has been quite a difference in the number of fish caught over the years, from absolutely nothing to good numbers of perch, pike and walleyes. It really doesn't seem to bother anybody if the fish aren't biting though. Lots of friendly locals, hotdogs and nice door prizes make for a great day on the ice, fish or not.



Last year, the lack of ice and excessive snow depths forced the contest indoors to Mug Shots Bar & Grill in Cosmos. I really don't think anyone cared, as they had a great time 'pretend' fishing, visiting, eating and drinking, all inside the ballroom, warm and cozy. Plus, if you bought a ticket to 'fish' you had the chance of catching a paper 'trophy fish' and the real trophy to go with it. The door prizes were still awarded to the folks that bought contest tickets. It was a great day on the 'pretend' lake, thanks to quick thinking by the tournament crew. It sure is nice to have the Mug Shots ballroom to use for situations like this. A hearty thank you goes out to all involved.

Hopefully this year we can get out on the ice and catch some of those fingerling walleyes that grew up out there this last summer. Or maybe a few of the freeze out survivors that will be pretty good size by now. I guess you'll just have to buy a ticket, drop a line and see what happens.



It's all happening on February 15th starting at 10:00 am on Thompson Lake. Contest tickets are $5.00 for adults and $2.00 for kids 15 and under. Even if you don't fish, you can still come out and have some fun. There is also a Big Raffle with a BUNCH of great prizes, like a fish house and an electric auger, plus many, many more. Tickets are only $2.00 each. Buy some. Also, look at the big ad in this issue for more info. Anyway, See you on the lake….or at the bar…where ever the contest ends up.

"It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming." *John Steinbeck*

CHEF IT UP!



"Food and spices….together. What a concept!"

Remember; Take the time to teach a kid how to cook!

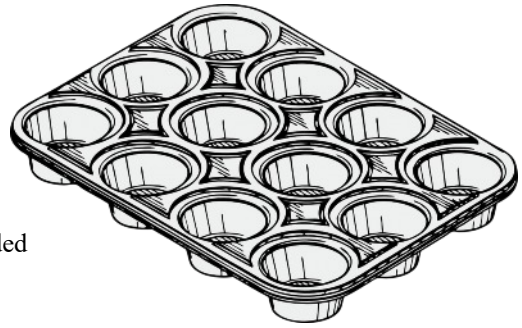
Morning Glory Muffins

By Grace Kamrath

With a storm brewing outdoors and winter not even one third over, it would seem like a good time to make some Morning Glory muffins. They are packed with on hand ingredients and loaded with nutrition. I found a recipe with coconut. I don't usually put coconut in, but if you really like coconut, go for it. Also, I think raisins spoil food for some people, so I guess if you must, you could leave them out. It looks like a lot of ingredients but they come together quickly.

MORNING GLORY MUFFINS

- 2 c. flour
- 1 1/4 c. sugar
- 2 t. baking soda
- 2 t. cinnamon
- 1/4 t. salt
- 2 c. shredded carrots
- 1/2 c. raisins
- 1/2 c. chopped walnuts
- 1/2 c. flaked coconut
- 1 apple peeled and shredded
- 3 eggs
- 1 c. vegetable oil
- 2 t. vanilla



- Preheat over to 350 degrees.
- Grease 18 muffin cups.
- Mix together flour, sugar, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt.
- Stir in the carrots, raisins, nuts, coconut, and apple.
- In a separate bowl, beat the eggs, oil, and vanilla.
- Stir egg mixture into the dry ingredients, just until moistened.
- Scoop into muffins cups.
- Bake for approximately 20 minutes.

"Man, That's Salty"

By Mark Minnick

That's what I usually end up saying when I mix up a batch of taco meat with any of the commercially available mixes. Even though they are handy as heck and relatively cheap, on my palate, they just seem too salty. I've tried using less, or a half of a pack, in the pound of hamburger, but it just isn't as tasty…go figure; less spices, less tasty.

I decided to go looking around on the internets for an alternative and boy did I find alternatives! I looked through probably twenty different recipes that were highly rated by readers and came to the same conclusion that I always come to when looking up recipes; there is no 'best' or 'right' way. Similar to the ever-popular opinion analogy; everybody has one.

I proceeded to pick out what I thought were the best ingredients along with the amounts and came up with my own version. I tried it out and was very pleased. No more salty 'burn' and tastier to boot. The best thing is that you can adjust the spice amounts to suit your own taste.

This spice version does not have any salt in it, but you are still going to need to add some to the cooking meat. You can either add some to the mix or do as I did, salted the meat and spice mixture to taste as I was cooking it up. It's your call. *(I used soy sauce to replace the salt in one batch and it was a nice unexpected flavor addition. Tex/Mex/Asian? Hmm…)*

Make use of some common spices in your cupboard and make tacos with your own personal touch on them. By the way, if you have spices sitting in that rack you got for a wedding gift, they *might* be a little stale by now….you probably should toss 'em. The grocery store has fresh and you shouldn't be scared of going down the spice aisle for more than salt. Tasty is good, like a properly sharpened knife. And that's another thing….



Homemade Taco Seasoning

For 1 lb. Ground Beef

- 2 tsp Chili Powder
- 2 tsp Ground Cumin
- ½ tsp Paprika
- ½ tsp Cayenne Pepper
- ½ tsp Onion Powder
- ¼ tsp Garlic Powder
- ¼ tsp Dried Oregano
- ¼ tsp Black Pepper

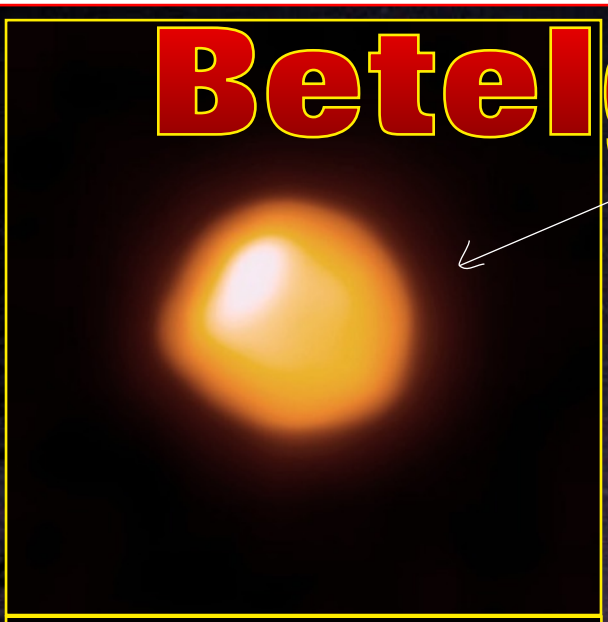
*Add ½ tsp of corn starch or flour, ¼ to ½ cup of water & salt to taste to the meat/spice mixture, stirring frequently till mixed and thickened, at least 5 minutes.

*You may not want to use all of above amount of seasoning in 1 lb. of meat. Taste as you go.

*Feel free to adjust the spices to reflect your personal tastes. *(Sub some Smoked Paprika maybe, or more Cayenne!)*

"Ask not what you can do for your country. Ask what's for lunch." *Orson Welles*

Betelgeuse…



This orange blob shows the star Betelgeuse, as seen by the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) on June 26th 2017. This is the first time that ALMA has ever observed the surface of a star and this first attempt has resulted in the highest-resolution image of Betelgeuse available.
Image courtesy; ALMA, CC BY 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=60432670

Constellation Orion

Image of the Constellation Orion in the night sky, courtesy kronerda [CC BY 2.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0)]

By Mark Minnick

There's some funny stuff going on in the night sky this winter in the constellation Orion and it's not Jim Gaffigan in a hot air balloon. One of the constellation's main stars Betelgeuse, (pronounced beet-l-jooz) has been shrinking and losing brilliance of late. Normally nothing new for a variable rate star, but this time is a little different. So what's going on….

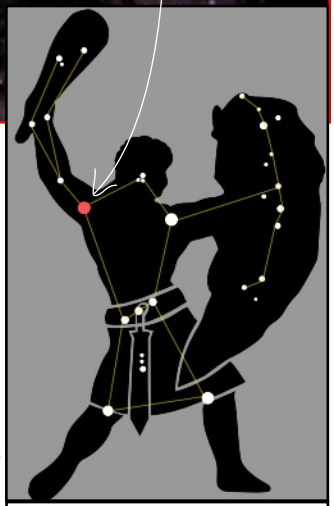
First, a little background; Betelgeuse is ***normally*** the eleventh brightest star in the sky. It's classified astronomically as a variable red supergiant. In the constellation we know as Orion, it is the 'shoulder' on the arm that holds up his club.

(If you wish to look up more fun facts, I put together an article and accompanying diagram. explaining all of the major stars in ***The "Winter" Constellation, Orion*** *in the Jan. '18 issue. That's why this news of Betelgeuse caught my eye.)*

The easy to spot reddish/yellow star has been known about since antiquity. The ancient Chinese, Australian Aborigines, Ptolemy and eventually Sir John Herschel in the 'modern' 1800's knew of Betelgeuse, fully aware of the star's red coloration and variability in brightness.

Astronomers noticed the latest dimming in October '19, but by mid December, it had faded more than normal. This raised a few eyebrows in the astronomical community, as this was outside the norm seen on this pulsing red supergiant.

Why was it staying dim longer? No one really knows, but speculation started to run a little wild. Maybe it was precursor to becoming a Supernova? Ahhh, the 's' word. You must remember, this is a profession where observing things happening is on a time scale where it takes *billions* of years for something to move, change or happen. So, a quick Whiz! Bang! Boom! supernova is welcome relief to the tedium. Plus, it's a show of power and energy that is difficult for our human minds to fathom and comprehend. A "Once in 100,000 years" happening. Pretty rare indeed, not to be missed.



Artistic representation of "Orion the Hunter".
Image courtesy; Sanu N-Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=74939598

If this star were to go the supernova route, it would be quite the show here on Earth. The exploding star would be brighter than the full moon and create shadows at night. It would also be visible during the day, probably for two to three months. We wouldn't have to worry about deadly radiation either, as it's over 600 light years form Earth.

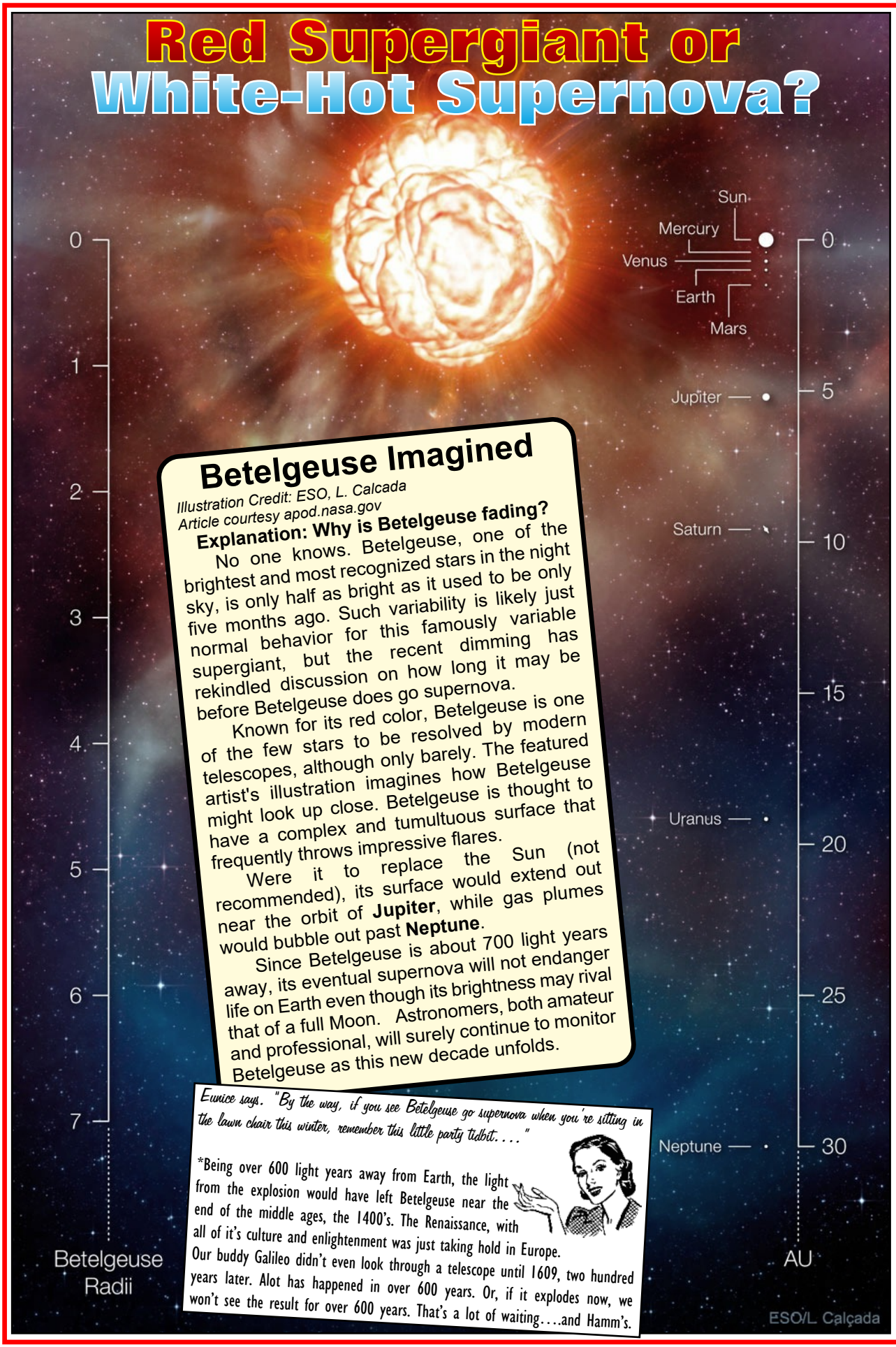
Most scientists are a little miffed that the media has made such a big deal out of this latest dimming of the star. Darned fake news and it's perpetrators. The general scientific consensus is that this star isn't going supernova in the near future; 100,000 to 1,000,000 years from now *maybe*, but not right now. *Probably, heh heh…means we really can't say for sure, probably….*

If Betelgeuse is still dimming by the time you read this in the first part of February, well then we may have to watch a little closer. Who knows, it may be the star's time. I just don't think I'll lay in the back yard in my lawn chair, 20 below zero, covered in blankets, lookin' at Orion and sippin' a Hamm's waiting for the star to "Light up". People might think I'm nuts….oh, wait.

"God does not play dice with the universe." *Albert Einstein*

Red Supergiant or White-Hot Supernova?

SCIENCE, TECH AND JUST PLAIN COOL STUFF



Betelgeuse Imagined

Illustration Credit: ESO, L. Calcada
Article courtesy apod.nasa.gov

Explanation: Why is Betelgeuse fading?

No one knows. Betelgeuse, one of the brightest and most recognized stars in the night sky, is only half as bright as it used to be only five months ago. Such variability is likely just normal behavior for this famously variable supergiant, but the recent dimming has rekindled discussion on how long it may be before Betelgeuse does go supernova.

Known for its red color, Betelgeuse is one of the few stars to be resolved by modern telescopes, although only barely. The featured artist's illustration imagines how Betelgeuse might look up close. Betelgeuse is thought to have a complex and tumultuous surface that frequently throws impressive flares.

Were it to replace the Sun (not recommended), its surface would extend out near the orbit of **Jupiter**, while gas plumes would bubble out past **Neptune**.

Since Betelgeuse is about 700 light years away, its eventual supernova will not endanger life on Earth even though its brightness may rival that of a full Moon. Astronomers, both amateur and professional, will surely continue to monitor Betelgeuse as this new decade unfolds.

Eunice says. "By the way, if you see Betelgeuse go supernova when you're sitting in the lawn chair this winter, remember this little party tidbit. . . ."

*Being over 600 light years away from Earth, the light from the explosion would have left Betelgeuse near the end of the middle ages, the 1400's. The Renaissance, with all of it's culture and enlightenment was just taking hold in Europe. Our buddy Galileo didn't even look through a telescope until 1609, two hundred years later. Alot has happened in over 600 years. Or, if it explodes now, we won't see the result for over 600 years. That's a lot of waiting....and Hamm's.

"Not only does God play dice, but... he sometimes throws them where they cannot be seen." *Stephen Hawking*

The ACGC
Falcon Flyover
Events, Activities & Happenings in the Atwater/Cosmos/Grove City School District

DANCE



Photo and commentary by Kristi Lilleberg-Barber, ACGC Head Dance Coach

The ACGC Dance Team has been bringing some hardware home. They placed 2nd at the Henry Sibley Invitational and the Holy Family Catholic Invitational, both in mid January. Congratulations Dance Team!

Front Row: Hailey Burroughs, Mikiya Kemerling, Ellie Grimsgard, Jillien Lilleberg, Lily Hansen, Abby Thomas

2nd Row: Tallulah Kremin, Keona Barnhill, Jayden Olson, Ciana Molinaro, Claire Slinden, Ally Giese, Nicole Whitcomb, Macy Elton, Hannah Lilleberg

Back Row: Coaches: Sloan Saba, Tori Hayunga, Kristi Lilleberg-Barber, Nicole Ammerman

Winners at MACCRAY



Photo and commentary by Kristi Lilleberg-Barber, ACGC Head Dance Coach

Congratulations to the Falcon Dance Team for placing 1st in Kick at MACCRAY Monday night, January 20th, followed by Canby-Minneota, Worthington, Lakeview, MACCRAY, and Wabasso.

The Jazz team tied with MACCRAY for the 3rd place spot.

Front Row: Mikiya Kemerling, Ellie Grimsgard, Jillien Lilleberg, Lily Hansen

Middle: Macy Elton, Ally Giese, Claire Slinden, Hannah Lilleberg, Nicole Whitcomb

Back: Coaches: Sloan Saba, Nicole Ammerman, Kristi Lilleberg-Barber, Tori Hayunga

DANCE



Falcons 3rd in West-Central Meet

ACGC Falcon Flyover

Photo and commentary by Kristi Lilleberg-Barber, ACGC Head Dance Coach

Congratulations to the Falcon Dance Team who placed 3rd at the West Central Conference meet last night, Jan. 23rd, only one rank point behind 2nd place.

1-Monte, 2-BOLD, 3-ACGC, 4-Melrose, 5-Minnewaska, 6-Sauk Centre. The Falcons were ranked first in the "Difficulty of Kicks" and "Execution" categories!

Row 1: Nicole Whitcomb
Row 2: Macy Elton, Jillien Lilleberg, Hannah Lilleberg, Ellie Grimsgard, Claire Slinden
Row 3: Lily Hansen, Ally Giese, Mikiya Kemerling.

All-State Dance Team Nominees



Photo and commentary by Kristi Lilleberg-Barber, ACGC Head Dance Coach

Congratulations to the ACGC Falcon Dancers, l -r, Ellie Grimsgard, Jillien Lilleberg and Mikiya Kemerling, who have been nominated by their coach and selected by MADT to represent the top dancers on the 2020 MADT All-State Dance Team! The All-State team will be featured in a dance show on Saturday, March 7, at Eastview High School.

ACGC Hoopsters at Target Center





Commentary and photos by LeAnn Melberg

The ACGC Boys and Girls Basketball teams had a great experience getting to play on the Timberwolves floor at Target Center on Saturday, January 4th. The boys pulled off a close win over Lakeview and the girls struggled against Lakeview and couldn't come out with a win.

The ACGC
Falcon Flyover
Events, Activities & Happenings in the Atwater/Cosmos/Grove City School District

Winter Sports

By LeAnn Melberg

Time flys when you are having fun right? Well, the ACGC Winter Sports teams are already into their second half of their seasons.

The wrestling team is having an awesome season and are currently ranked 2nd in their class. Their current record is 20-1 with a tough loss against #1 ranked LPGE-Browerville. If all goes well the team should be wrestling at the State Tournament again this year.

The Booster Club will be helping to sponsor a coach bus for the state tournament again. If you are interested in riding the bus look for information in the school announcements later in February and the ACGC Booster Facebook page.

The ACGC Boy's Basketball Team is currently 6-8. They are working on getting their groove back and their shooting confidence up. The boys have had some great wins and tough losses.

The ACGC Girls Basketball team has been struggling to get wins but have been showing great improvement. The girls lost their top player Jeana Denton early in the season to a knee injury. The girls have been working hard for their 1st year head coach Trevor Heining. With all their hard work and positive attitude a new culture is being formed and the wins will start to happen.

Good luck ACGC athletes as tournament time approaches.

"Triple A" Awards



Photo & commentary LeAnn Melberg

Congratulations to Dawson Miller and Jeana Denton on being ACGC's "Triple A" award winners. The Triple A stands for student excellence in: **A**rts, **A**cademics & **A**thletics. Dawson won the district title as well. He will compete on Jan 29 for the region title.

A Pin....



Go Falcons!

Commentary by LeAnn Melberg - Photo by Lynda Behm
Jake Mortenson a sophomore from Cosmos with a pin at the Wabasso Tourney on January 11th, 2020.

& A Few Dunks



Commentary by LeAnn Melberg - Photo by Jason Denton
Dawson Miller dunks one in Granite Falls. He slammed two more that evening.

Valentine's Day

More than just Cards, Chocolates, Candy Hearts, Roses & Love?

By Mark Minnick

The holiday for those in love, or so they say. In grade school, I don't think any of us kids were in love yet. But, it was another holiday for us to celebrate and goof off. It was great, 'cause you got out of the normal classroom routine for at least a half a day.

A party with cake and candy. Maybe a can of pop you brought from home. Fun and games and more candy. I didn't like the little candy hearts with the messages on them though, I thought they tasted icky. The messages were kind of dopey too. I still don't like 'em. The night before the school party was spent writing on all of the Valentines you had to give to every kid in the class. No sense doing them up early, right? For sure, your mom wouldn't let you get by with not giving every classmate one.

As we all get older, we dabble in the romantic arts on February 14th. Suppers, parties, roses, chocolates and getaways all in the attempt to find the ultimate Valentine's experience. I'll leave the definition of that 'perfect' experience to the reader's own tastes. I could spend pages and pages trying to define that ultimate experience. So I'm not even going to try. Although a weekend of ice fishing would be pretty darned romantic. A pail of minnows, a tub of waxies, a sack of groceries (including some smoked meats) and a case of Hamm's ~ you're all set. Oh, and maybe a couple new tungsten jigs, too~in hot red and chartreuse, couple of each. Dang, I almost forgot jigging spoons.

Anyway, below is an brief overview of the origins of Valentine's Day, courtesy of wikipedia.org. Enjoy.

Courtesy wikipedia.org

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. Originating as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus, Valentine's Day is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world.

There are numerous martyrdom stories associated with various Valentines connected to February 14, including a written account of Saint Valentine of Rome's imprisonment for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire. According to legend, Saint Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his judge, and he wrote her a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution. The Feast of Saint Valentine was established by Pope Gelasius I in AD 496 to be celebrated on February 14 in honour of the Christian martyr, Saint Valentine of Rome, who died on that date in AD 269.



An English Victorian era Valentine card located in the Museum of London Created approximately 1860-1880

The day first became associated with romantic love within the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it grew into an occasion in which couples expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines").

Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards. In Europe, Saint Valentine's Keys are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart", as well as to children to ward off epilepsy (called Saint Valentine's Malady).



Antique Valentine Card from 1909

Although not a public holiday in any country, Saint Valentine's Day is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran Church. Many parts of the Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrate Saint Valentine's Day on July 6 and July 30, the former date in honor of Roman presbyter Saint Valentine, and the latter date in honor of Hieromartyr Valentine, the Bishop of Interamna (modern Terni).

"I told my wife our kids were spoiled. She said 'All kids smell that way'." *Rodney Dangerfield*

The Galactic Gazette

January 1964

TIME WARP



It's still January 1964 and we are going to take a closer look at the big plastics factory fire that burnt down the old school building and ended that business venture in Cosmos. One has to wonder if the town would be any different today if that factory had survived and maybe expanded? Who Knows?

A DREAM GOES UP IN SMOKE!

This is all that was left of the Poly-Lite Products factory, Sunday morning, after a disastrous midnight fire leveled the plant. At the left, firemen are seen still watching so the flames don't flare up and threaten the fuel tank behind them.



The Cosmos News

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Poly-Lite plant burned to the ground, on Sunday

COSMOS—The dreams of a lot of local people went up in smoke early Sunday morning when flames destroyed the plant and equipment of Poly-Lite Products, Inc.

The plant, which had just begun production in Cosmos early in December, burned to the ground in a raging fire that began shortly after midnight.

At 12:30 a.m. Glen Dahlquist, who lives across the alley from the plant, turned in the alarm. Fire departments from Cosmos, Lake Lillian and Hector were called, but they were unable to save the building.

They were, however, able to keep the flames from spreading to other buildings and to the fuel oil storage tank just west of the building, which contained about 2500 gallons of fuel oil.

It is believed that the fire was started by a defective furnace. The blaze seemed to have started in the furnace room.

Destroyed by the fire was the building, the former Cosmos school building, all the equipment of the company, and several thousand dollars worth of finished products, and raw materials.

Morning's light found only the tall chimney, the south entrance, and the fuel oil storage tank left standing.

On page three of this issue is a resume of the operation of the plant, complete with several pictures. This feature was printed on Saturday, before the fire.

The firm, which got into production about Dec. 9, had completed shipping only one job thus far. A second job, packing materials for Revere cameras, had been completed, and was to be shipped out Monday morning.

AS THIS is written, Monday morning, future of the firm is yet largely undecided.

Members of the company are busy contacting customers and associates, to notify them of the turn of events. Insurance adjusters are expected to make their estimate of the dam very soon.

According to Vern Haagenson, who has been the laison man between Poly-Lite Products Co. and the Cosmos Commercial Club, members of the company are still determined to continue their operation in Cosmos if at all possible.

If enough money can be realized out of the insurance on the building and machinery, they will make every attempt to get back into production.

This will, of course, very likely necessitate the construction of a new building for the plant. At best, it will be a difficult process, but if it is at all possible, they intend to do it.

About a dozen local people are stockholders in the firm, which came here from Minneapolis in November.

THE OLD Cosmos school building was originally built in about 1924. It was enlarged two times. In 1955 it was abandoned when students moved into the new school building. For a time it was used for living quarters temporarily by teachers' families, until they could find more suitable places to live.

In the past few years, however, it had been used only for

FIRE
(Continued on Page 12)

Four families switch homes

COSMOS—Four families have moved in the last few weeks and are moving this week in the village of Cosmos.

Water bills may be paid at the bank

COSMOS — Arrangements have been made so that water bills may again be paid at the First State Bank of Cosmos, beginning on Jan. 2.

Cosmos Firemen announce annual fishing contest

COSMOS—Members of the Cosmos Fire Department have announced the date of their 1964 annual fishing contest.

The affair will take place on the southwest corner of Lake Minnebelle on Sunday, Jan. 19.

Grand prize for the contest will be a quarter of beef, with second and third prizes each a hog.

There will be many other prizes, as well—one every five minutes. They will be for the biggest fish, most fish, oldest fisherman, oldest fisherwoman, youngest fisherman, etc.

Tickets for the contest will soon be on sale.

FIRE
(Continued from Page 1)

storage of some school equipment.

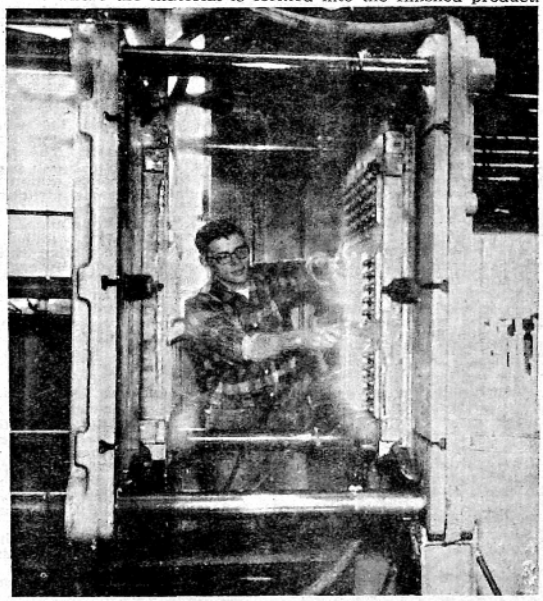
All the equipment of the school hadn't been taken out yet. There still remained the hurdles for the track team and some other minor items of equipment, left in one of the rooms.

W. Petersen, Cosmos, has be-

New plastics factory is in production in Cosmos



Expander First process in the making of polethelyne plastic items is the expanding. The raw material comes in barrels, such as seen in the foreground of this picture. In its original state it very closely resembles sugar. It is put into the machine at the rear of this picture, seen being operated by Quintin Schultz. This machine expands the material with steam, expanding one barrel of raw material so that it will fill one of the large bags seen above. The northwest room of the old school contains two of these bags of expanded material. A pipe from each leads through the floor, into the basement where the material is formed into the finished product.—



Big press Gary Lietzau is seen above operating the big press. By his hand you will notice several white areas. These are finished products which are sticking to the press, and have to be loosened with a hose. Notice the jets of water shooting out from the little nozzles at the right. These are to dislodge the finished product.—Cosmos



Small presses Larry Housman is seen above operating two of the small presses. He is removing one of the finished products from the press on the left while the press on the right is still in production. Notice the hose leading to the barrel at the front of the machine. This sucks the raw material into the machine.

COSMOS—A new and fascinating industry has moved into Cosmos and now is in operation.

Known as Poly-Lite Products, Inc., the firm manufactures polyethelyne plastic packing materials for instruments, glass and other delicate objects, as well as picnic coolers, etc.

About 95 percent of the company's business is custom work—the production of light, plastic packing materials.

Operation of the plant is in charge of Quintin Schultz, assisted by Leroy Isdahl. At the present time, two local men have been hired to assist in production. They are Larry Housman and Gary Lietzau.

Warner Kachel divides his time between Cosmos and the Twin Cities, where he transacts much of the business for the firm.

The firm got into production about Dec. 9, after spending a few days getting some of the "bugs" out of the machinery. The company moved from Minneapolis the last week in October, moving its equipment into the basement of the old school building, which had been secured and partially prepared for them by The Cosmos Commercial Club.

The old school building had stood idle since 1956, and was in an advance state of disrepair. Hundreds of window panes in the building had been broken, floors were warped and heaved in many places, the foundation was even crumbled in one corner, dust and dirt had settled over the entire building, shrubs had grown up almost out of control around the building, and many other things were in a bad condition.

Volunteer work by members of the commercial club and others of the general public helped in reclaiming the building. Some work was hired, and the firm itself did considerable work.

Most of the machinery of the company is located in the basement of the old school. For this purpose a large hole had to be chiseled out of the concrete of the west basement wall, and a garage-size door installed, as well as the construction of a driveway leading to the ground level.

Through this hole, the machinery was brought into the building.

The floor of the basement had to be chopped up in many places for the installation of pipes and gutters. Considerable electric power wiring was installed throughout the basement. Part of the wall between what had been the auditorium and the kitchen was chopped out, in order that the boiler could be installed in the former kitchen.

Today, the basement auditorium of the old school contains five small presses, a large press, the autoclave and other small equipment.
quipment. A tool room is on the stage of the auditorium. A closet off the stage contains the air compressors.

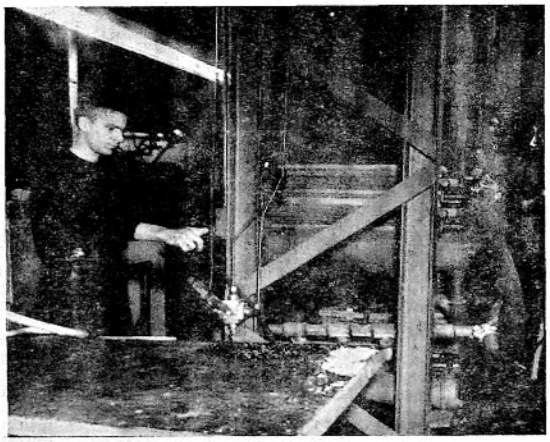
Upstairs, the former library is the general office of the firm. The northeast classroom is utilized for storage of finished products, while the north-

POLY-LITE
.Continued on Page 14)

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PAGE 3

POLY-LITE'S TRADEMARK

Poly-Lite Products



Autoclave Leroy Isdahl is seen above operating the autoclave. This machine provides a more or less manual operation for turning out small numbers of products. Between the two upright posts, just above the top of the table you will notice two C-clamps holding a form together. Inside this form a product is being molded. Leroy is just opening the autoclave and will remove the form, open the C-clamps, take out the product, reseal it, and force material back into it, replace it in the autoclave.—Cosmos News staff photo.



Finished product Warner Kachel is seen above examining one of the finished products turned out by one of the small presses. This particular product will be cut into three pieces and become packing for Revere cameras.—Cosmos News staff photo.



Unloading the machinery for Cosmos' new factory, Poly-Lite Products Inc. was in progress when this picture was taken the last part of October. The big press was sliding down the newly-dug basement entrance to the old school building where the new factory is located. —Cosmos News staff photo.

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PAGE 14

What my trip to the National 4-H Club Congress meant to me

BY KEN CHRISTENSON, JR.

I WAS certainly surprised and pleased at our County 4-H Round-Up when I learned that I had won an expense-paid trip to the forty-second National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. If I had know exactly what was in store for me, I am sure that I would have been more than twice as surprised and pleased.

It all started eight years ago when I enrolled in 4-H. However, the thing I did to be selected as a delegate to the Congress was to fill out a standard report. Each county selects a certain number of its top 4-H'ers to fill out a standard report. When completed, these reports are sent to the district to be judged. The top reports from the district go to the state, and it is here the delegates to National 4-H Club Congress are selected. Many of the standard reports go on to be judged for sectional and national awards and scholarships.

The Minnesota delegation to Club Congress met at the Student Center on the St. Paul Ag Campus Friday evening, Nov. 29 for a get acquainted banquet and orientation meeting. Our sponsors, county agents, and parents were invited to this banquet. We also met Alaska's delegation here, and they traveled with us to Chicago. We spent the night at North Hall. At that time we were not aware of it, but this was the last full night's sleep we were going to have until the end of Congress. We were up bright and early Saturday morning and boarded a bus which took us to the train depot. Since most of the day was spent traveling, we had to think of a few things to do to pass the time. I spent my time visiting with the delegates from both Minnesota and Alaska, learning how to use an Eskimo Yo-Yo, and we all sang songs and had a good time. When we arrived in Chicago, a bus took us to the Conrad Hilton Hotel. Finally we were there, at the Headquarters of Club Congress which was to be our home for the coming week.

I will give you a general idea of what took place and what struck me as interesting at Club Congress. Most of our meals were sponsored by large companies who were interested in 4-H. I won my trip in the poultry project and my sponsor was Heisdorf and Nelson of Kirkland, Washington. Mr. Arthur Heisdorf sponsored a special luncheon for just the poultry winners on Tuesday. It was at this luncheon that the six national poultry winners received their five hundred dollar scholarships. Other events of the week included a get-acquainted party; non-denominational Church Service; pop concert; tours to the International Harvestor plant, Museum of Natural History and Museum of Natural Science; a friendship party; the national 4-H dress review; a visit to the International Livestock Exposition and Horse Show; and a farewell banquet and party. While I was at 4-H Club Congress I had the pleasure of being interviewed by Jim Hill over WCCO Radio. So far it may sound like we were at Congress just to have a lot of fun, but this is not so. We had three educational assemblies where we discussed our theme, "Citizenship in Action." Our first assembly was one of the most touching events of the Congress to me because it was a memorial service to our late President, John F. Kennedy. There was a fan set up behind our national flag. Near the end of the service the lights were shut off and a spotlight was focused on the flag as it fluttered in the breeze from the fan. Then we sang "The Star Spangled Banner." If there was anyone in that room who did not have a strong feeling of patriotism during this ceremony, then there must have been something lacking in that individual because there was certainly nothing lacking in the way the ceremony was presented. It made me feel especially proud that I am an American.

There was also a time when I felt especially proud to be a 4-H member. This was at the Horse Show when many of the 4-H'ers and all national winners paraded into the arena carrying flags and banners of their states. Then two large, round 4-H emblems were unrolled and rotated in opposite directions with the rest of the 4-H'ers marching in a figure eight pattern around them. At the end of the ceremony, all of the 4-H'ers arose and held our small flashlights high above our heads and sang "God Bless America." This was the largest and most beautiful 4-H display I have ever seen.

After returning from 4-H Club Congress, I feel greatly indebted to my sponsors, Heisdorf and Nelson, for paying my way to Chicago. I also wish to thank my state, county and local leaders for all the help and encouragement they have given me and most of all I wish to thank my parents for getting me started in 4-H and keeping me going.

In closing I would like to tell you of an incident that happened to me at 4-H Club Congress. Just before the banquet the last night of the Congress, I was standing with some Minnesota delegates and leaders and I was taking the last ticket from the booklet. Bill Milbrath looked over and said, "Last ticket in the book, eh Ken?" "Yes, I wish there were another book full so we could start all over," I replied. Then Leonard Harkness stated, "Probably we will have to leave this banquet hungry." At first I thought, how could we go away hungry with the big meals we were getting. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized that we were leaving that banquet hungry, but not for food. Most of us left that Congress with a hunger to report to our fellow 4-H'ers and friends about our trip to National 4-H Club Congress. We left with a hunger for more 4-H achievement and most of all, I am sure that most of us left with an appetite to go home and be good American citizens.

My Neighbors



"Let me know if Junior annoys you..."

Here's what the kids will eat in school

Jan. 6. Spaghetti and meat balls, green beans, rice pudding, apple sauce.

Jan. 7. Mashed potatoes, creamed turkey, lettuce salad, cookies, corn bread.

Jan. 8. Chili and crackers, carrot sticks, potato puffs, peach sauce.

Jan. 9. Scalloped potatoes and ham, buttered corn, lemon jello.

Jan. 10. Grilled cheese sandwiches, baked beans, glorified rice, pear sauce.

Henry J. Koch was in Swedish Hospital

COSMOS—Henry J. Koch was a patient at Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis for several days. He returned home on Christmas Day.

Girl Scout troop went caroling

COSMOS—The newly-formed Girl Scout troop went caroling on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

They sang at the Nursing home, at the home of Renae Anderson and several other homes in the village.

Peace Corps tests set for January 11

THE NEXT Peace Corps Placement Test is scheduled to be given nation-wide on Saturday, January 11 at 8:30 a.m. The non-competitive aptitude tests will be administered at 825 post offices and other federal buildings in major cities throughout the United States.

In this area, residents may take their tests at: the main postoffice building in Mankato; room 450, main post office building in Minneapolis; or main post office building in St. Cloud.

All applicants for Peace Corps service are required to take the Placement Test as well as submit a Peace Corps Questionaire. Those who have not completed a Questionaire will be asked to do so immediately after the testing. No applicant may take the test more than once without special permission from the Peace Corps.

Applicants should allow themselves about one and a half hours for the Placement Test. If they claim proficiency in Spanish or French they should plan an additional hour for the language achievement test—designed to test mastery of grammar, vocabulary and reading comprehension.

The Placement Test itself is composed of a 30-minute general aptitude test (made up of verbal, mathematical and spatial problems) and a 30-minute modern language aptitude test. The latter is designed to provide an indication of one's probable degree of success in learning to speak and to understand a foreign language. Knowledge of a foreign language is not needed to score well on this aptitude test, nor required for entrance into the Peace Corps.

There are no passing or failing marks on the Placement Test. The scores are used, along with other criteria, to aid in the selection process. They help the Peace Corps to place prospective Volunteers in the most appropriate overseas assignments.

Training will begin this summer to help fill requests for more than 6,000 Volunteers to serve in 46 countries around the globe—in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Hundreds of different skills are needed in the major fields of education, agriculture, health, construction, engineering and community development. For example: Ivory Coast wants science and math teachers; Nyasaland has asked for English and vocational teachers; Afghanistan needs carpenters and bricklayers, while Pakistan needs nurses. Chile wants agricultural extension workers and Honduras wants Volunteers for community development.

To take the Placement Test applicants must be American citizens at least 18 years of age. There is no upper age limit. Married couples may apply if they have no dependents under 18. A college education is not a requirement if an applicant can offer a certain skill or experience. Liberal arts college graduates with no special "skills" are often used as teachers and community development workers.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl O. Johnson in hospital

COSMOS—Carl Oscar Johnson was taken to Meeker County Memorial Hospital, Wednesday night, where he was found to be suffering from double pneumonia.

Mrs. Johnson is also in the hospital, having gone there on Dec. 18. Her condition is said to be slightly improved.

Cosmos Comets 4- HClub met

BY DIANE ESPING

COSMOS—The meeting of the Cosmos Comets 4-H Club was called to order on Dec. 9 by Mary Ann Wilner at the Allen Frederiksen home. Pledges to the flags were led by Diane. We sang two songs. Roll call was answered by "What I Want for Christmas." No dues were collected. Secretary and treasurer's reports were given and accepted. We accepted six new members and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Bemis as new leaders.

There wasn't any new business.

The meeting was adjourned.

The main feature of our meeting [illegible] our Christmas party, w[illegible] games, exchangi[illegible]nch served by Fre[illegible]

Poly-Lite

POLY-LITE
(Continued from Page 3)

west classroom contains the expander, the raw material and the expanded material in its huge sacks. The southwest classroom is to be remodeled for living quarters. The southeast classroom at present is largely unused.

POLY-LITE Products, Inc., was forced to leave its quarters on Hennepin avenue because of lack of space. It found it could barely operate on a small scale where it was, and it needed to expand. In order to expand it needed considerably more room. Already they were paying quite high rent for the small space they were using.

When Stanley Koch, a former Cosmos resident, learned of the situation, he alerted the Cosmos Commercial Club and acted as go-between in negotiations between the commercial club and the firm.

Excellent cooperation has been obtained from the school board, and the general public in making this venture possible for Cosmos.



COSMOS REXALL DRUG



MAKING TRACKS
TO WISH EVERYONE
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
GUNDERSON
Body Shop
HECTOR, MINN.



MILLER'S
CAFE

Get quick results with
CLASSIFIED ADS



Open Bowling
Until Jan. 6
VIC'S
Bowling & Cafe

TIME WARP Whozit?



Engagement Picture

It's February 1964. This young lady from Hutchinson has decided to get hitched to a farm boy from rural Cosmos. She has a great job at 3M in Hutch and is planning on a June wedding.

Whozit?



Groundhog "*Retro Rocket*" A Feb. 2 No-Show



Retro Rocket Says, "To #@!! with seeing my shadow in Minnesota! I'll look for it in Florida, where I can get some good help."

By Mark Minnick

Our local spring weather prognosticator, Retro Rocket Rasputin, won't be around on Feb. 2nd to look for his shadow in Minnesota. I know, it's sad but true, our local groundhog left us.

To begin the story, I had gone over to his place near Thorp and banged on his burrow door, wanting to see if he was ready for Feb. 2nd. Then I saw the note taped up with a phone number on it and the message, "Call this number only in an emergency."

Well I thought, this is certainly an emergency as we don't have a groundhog that's going to look for his shadow on the big day. So I called him. He answered and thought his burrow was on fire or something. When I told him his burrow was OK, he started giving me the riot act 'cause I called. I explained the situation, so he finally settled down and filled me in.

Retro really doesn't like coming outdoors in Minnesota during February, so he decided to take a trip south. Like Miami, south. He said it's way warmer there and the scenery is…well…pretty nice. He's been spending his days hangin' out at the beach, sipping a few cocktails and making new friends. He sent me this pic of him and a nice gal enjoying the sun and surf. He said she was helping him practice to look for his shadow. I could hear him snicker after telling me that.

He also reminded me that Groundhog Day is the same day as the big football game, right here in Miami. He said his new friend has tickets for the event and wants him to go with her. She told him, "Retro, we could look for your shadow during the game." He snickered at me again and I could tell he was grinning ear to ear, even over the phone. "Seeing J-Lo & Shakira on stage at halftime wouldn't be too bad either," he added, along with more snickering.

He finished with a final thought on the length of our Minnesota winter. "I'll probably see my shadow down here in Miami, but you'll still have six more weeks of winter in Cosmos. And I don't care - and I got the girl."

I never thought of it that way but he's probably right - Go Retro.

"How much ground could a groundhog grind, if a groundhog could grind ground?" *Anonymous*

Email The Galactic Gazette: wordnut66@outlook.com

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*We encourage our readers to exercise their writing muscles and showcase said talents. Contact us with your ideas, we can use help with reporting and writing articles. Letters to the editor are welcome.
*We will, to the best of our ability, work with you to design an advertisement or announcement to your satisfaction. Drop us an E-mail, a letter or talk to any of us personally with your ideas or questions.
*We reserve the right to accept or refuse to publish any and all submissions. All submissions must include the writer's name and phone number/E-mail address.

Submission deadline is the 15th of the month

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We will do announcements, thank you's, open houses, bridal showers, etc. Use above pricing and decide how big you want your announcement to be. Feel free to contact us for more info;

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Please remember the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces and our veterans, both alive and deceased. America owes them an immense debt of gratitude along with an every day simple "Thank you".



Hey! Hey! Hey!
We've got a couple of KewPies to award. Here are two readers that knew the winning answer;



Hi Mark
Doug says the Big Fire was when the old Cosmos Elementary School burned to the ground. It was located on the west side of Cosmos, where the Trailer Court is now. **Karen Adams**

This month's Whozit is the old Cosmos school building that burned down. It was where the trailer court is now. **Brad Minnick**

There you go folks! Two more readers collect the coveted KewPies *and* bragging get smart guy rights for another month. Congrats!
Remember, email your answers to;

wordnut66@outlook.com



The Galactic Gazette

Department of Corrections

Oh no! We made a couple of mistakes. Thank goodness the nun isn't around this month, so we're breathing a little easier.
Here's our confessions;

Grace; It has been brought to my attention that last month I failed to include the amount of sauerkraut to add to the soup recipe. My answer to that is add as much as you like. However, I would start with a 14 oz. can. That should be perfect.

Mark; Spaghjetti is NOT a word and I'm not sure what a chil burger is, probably a CHILI burger. Ooofh.

COSMOS SPACE FESTIVAL

"The tournament everyone waits for!"



Ice Fishing Tournament

On beautiful & scenic... **Thompson Lake**

1 mile west of Cosmos

Saturday February 15th 2020

***Registration begins at 10:00 AM**



Big Raffle!
only $2 a ticket

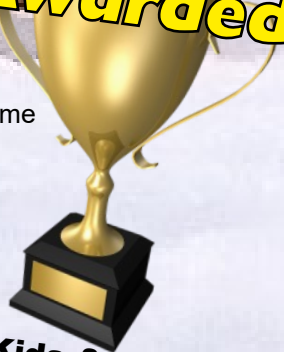
Prizes Include:

- Otter XTH Thermal Pro Lodge
- Ion 8" Electric Auger
- Rapala Cordless Fillet Knife
- Pit Boss Portable Gas Grill
- Angler Cleaning Table
- Engel Live Bait Cooler

and many, many more prizes!

Drawing is at 4 PM
at Mug Shots Bar & Grill

Trophy's Awarded



General Info:

*Use public landing or county park for access
*Hole drilling will be available, inquire at registration time
*Food and Beverages available for purchase
*BYOB (Bring your own bait)
*Please no 10-inch augers

For more info call Nate: (612) 412-7794

Don't miss it folks!

to Kids & Adults in three fish categories

$5 Adults $2 kids 15 and under

-Entry fee includes ticket for door prize-

*Participate at your own risk
*All State of Minnesota DNR angling regulations apply
*All participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
*Vehicles, snowmobiles & ATV's must remain outside designated area

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