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Au-Someness In Motion



By *Chloe Kneer* – Amazing things can happen when you provide the right atmosphere for children. Imagine seeing a child who is normally withdrawn, shy or fearful leading a group of others through a dance routine. Imagine experiencing the overwhelming sense of joy at watching your child smile from ear-to-ear for the first time while interacting with others. Or imagine witnessing your child displaying affection towards a sibling, or you, his or her parent, freely and without coaxing. For most parents these occurrences are part of everyday life. But for families who deal with autism or special needs on a daily basis, these often taken-for-granted gestures and behaviours are huge milestones to be treasured.

Last fall, Theresa Laurenti, along with Dennis Lendrum organized the debut of the Edge of the Box Theatre and Movement for Autism/Special Needs program in

Continued on page four...

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All The World's A Circus

William Thomas

williamjthomas@gmail.com

President Obama's Legacy: Humanity And Humour

Not since John F. Kennedy have I admired a president of the United States more than Barack Obama. Sadly, in the end, both suffered unfulfilled presidencies – one taken down by a bullet, the other by bullies.

From the moment of his ascendancy to power, vengeful Republicans began marching to the war cry of their biggest mouth piece, Rush Limbaugh: "I hope Obama fails."

By handcuffing and shackling their new president, right wing lawmakers made sure nothing of any significance got done during the eight years of Obama's administration. Sacrificing country for political revenge, as treasonous as that may sound, they were very successful. Slowly and painfully Obama's image shrunk on the stage of a world that harbored the highest hopes for the future of America and the world.

Now on his way out of the White House door, President Barack Obama is trying desperately to imprint on history, a modest legacy that does not befit the smart, compassionate and moral leader that he was.

To his credit, Obama had bin Laden assassinated and ended the embargo of Cuba. With no choice but to accept the bankruptcy notice handed him by outgoing President George W. Bush and Wall Street, his 'hail Mary' \$787 billion stimulus package saved the planet from a complete economic depression. The bailouts to corporations "too big to fail" actually worked and even the Canadian government got its money back with interest.

In the end, his legacy comes down to Obamacare which the newly emboldened Republicans will immediately dump into

the bin out back like so many other soiled medical supplies. When you get elected on the slogan: "Make America White Again," you can't afford to have fond memories of a black president floating around out there. This blood thirsty bunch of obstructionists led by Senate leader Mitch McConnell, will replace Obama's Affordable Care Act with ... what? Free first aid kits for all Americans and access to Dr. Phil's hot line?

I can still see President Barack Obama crying, begging Americans and particularly Republicans to support his new gun law proposals after 20 children were among 26 people murdered by a lunatic at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. Looking straight into the eyes of America he pleaded – your guns or your children.

Tyrannized by the National Rifle Association, America did indeed make a decision and the mass murder at the Fort Lauderdale Airport last week became the 998th of Obama's presidency. Defined as public killings of four or more people there have been 1,256 mass shootings in America since Sandy Hook with 1,388 innocent Americans dead, 4,970 wounded and countless lives of loved ones shattered. Republicans plan to solve the gun problem with ... more guns.

So what's left of the Barack Obama legacy? Humanity – he was the most decent of men, the co-creator of an American family that should serve as a model for the ages. And humour. From material to delivery, Barack Obama was hands-down the funniest stand-up comedian since Ronald Reagan. To the greatest "do nothing" Congress in American history, Obama said at a

Continued on page three...

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Continued from page two...

President Obama's Legacy: Humanity And Humour

2012 media dinner: "I want to especially thank all the members who took a break from their exhausting schedule of not passing any laws to be here tonight."

When Hollywood's Matt Damon stated in an interview that although a supporter of the president, he was disappointed with his performance. Responded Obama: Well Matt, I just saw The Adjustment Bureau so right back atcha buddy!" Ouch!

During his last State of the Union Address, Obama happened to mention he had "no more campaigns to run." The Republicans burst to their feet in sarcastic applause to which Obama shot back: "I know, because I won both of them." Awkwardly, members of the Grand Old Party sat down.

Self-deprecation was never lost on the Commander-In-Chief. "People say I'm arrogant and aloof. Some people are so dumb."

While visiting British royalty and meeting two-year-old Prince George who was still in

his pajamas, Obama feigned great offense: "That was a slap in the face. A clear breach of protocol."

Speaking during a White House soiree, Obama the protective father announced: "The Jonas Brothers are here tonight. Sasha and Malia are huge fans. But, boys, don't get any ideas. I have two words for you – predator drones. You will never see it coming."

I can't remember a U.S. president and his vice-president who became such devoted best friends. Taking a shot at the anti-gay Memories Pizza outlet in the Midwest, Obama said: "Joe has been at my side for seven years. I love that man. We've gotten so close in some places in Indiana, they won't serve us pizza anymore."

Welcoming his president to the microphone after the health care act was finally passed and forgetting about the microphone, Joe Biden hugged Obama and said: "Mr. President – this is a big f%*\$ng deal!" At the next

Espanola Hosts Regional High School Curling Tournament

The Espanola Curling Club will be hosting the North Shore Secondary School Association Regional Tournament on January 17 and 18.

"We have three high school teams representing Espanola," said curling club coach Jack Tait. The six schools involved in the tournament include Espanola High, Manitoulin, Jeunesse Nord, Franco Ouest, WC Eacket and Central Algoma.

"It's an exciting time," said Tait who describes it as a serious competition between the schools.

Tait said the two-day tournament is good for the community too as it attracts parents of the students who make use of the local hotels and restaurants. Members of the curling club volunteer to officiate and clean the ice while the high school culinary class run the canteen for the tournament.

"It's not just a curling club activity, it's good for everybody," said Tait.

Winners of the tournament will go to the Northern Ontario Secondary School Association championship.

White House media dinner, President Obama turned the gaffe into pure comic gold. "I wasn't sure I should actually come here tonight. Biden talked me into it. He said Mr. President – this is a big f%*\$ng meal."

Sadly, even the President's lasting gift of humour may be short lived since the words "President Trump" have already become the biggest

joke in American history.

At the very least, the man maintained his sense of humour. So long Barack Obama – you deserve a long and prosperous life out of office. America knew not what it had.

For comments, ideas and copies of The Legend of Zippy Chippy, go to www.williamthomas.ca



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Espanola Town Council Report

By Chloe Kneer – I took advantage of the terrible winter weather last Tuesday evening to stay home and try out the first online live stream of Espanola's Town Council meeting. I followed the link through www.espanola.ca, but found I had greater success obtaining the live feed through the YouTube app on my iPhone. The sound clarity and volume were good, so all in all, I was pleased not to have to venture out in a snowstorm to attend the regular meeting. The best part is that the videos are archived so if you miss them on council nights (the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month), or join the feed late, you can access them in their entirety at your convenience afterwards. There were two others watching along with me, I noticed, as YouTube informs you if others are also streaming live.

At this meeting, taxes and federal funding took up a lot of discussion. Council passed a by-law for an interim levy in advance of setting the town's final budget for 2017. The move allows for first tax bills to be prepared and mailed to residents (expected by the end of January).

As they did with the provincial government not long ago, council is following suit with other Ontario municipalities

in appealing to the federal government for long-term, predictable and formula-based funding to deal with asset management. Council feels that projects could be funded more readily and plans more concretely made if funding were dealt with in a more consistent manner.

By-laws were also passed to execute agreements with the Minister of Transportation (for dedicated funds for public transportation), OCWA (Ontario Clean Water Agency), H. Dodge Haulage (waste) and Neptune Technology for the installation of water meters on commercial properties.

During councillors' comments, Councillor Ron Duplessis again brought up the issue of a new fire hall, citing that a new truck should be purchased for the fire department in the next few years and a new building is probably the only option to house it. Deciding whether or not to table the construction of a new fire hall has been a back-burner issue for this council since taking office a little over two years ago.

The next regular meeting of council will be Tuesday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the municipal office or online at www.espanola.ca, then click Town Hall, then Mayor and Council to access the live stream link.

Continued from front page...

Au-Someness In Motion



Espanola. Donations for the eight week series came from Autism Ontario and from local organizations, businesses and individuals. "Without the generosity of our community, we never could have run a program as successful as the one we have," said Lendrum at the December 7 finale performance, during which the children, ages 6 – 16, presented to families and friends the routines they had been rehearsing for several weeks. Parents were amazed to see their children leading during drumming and dance routines, showing off art work that they had been carefully creating, and, more importantly, cooperatively interacting with other children, wide grins on their faces.

The Edge of the Box program focuses on boosting self-confidence, team-building collaboration, leadership skills, problem solving and friendship building. Each child is encouraged to take a turn during exercises to contribute their unique perspective. As many who deal with autism and special needs on a daily basis know, one of the keys to success for these children is routine and predictability. Surprises are threatening to them; however, in November when it was Lendrum's birthday they all conspired to have a surprise birthday party for him. When their finale performance had to be delayed and then relocated within Espanola High School due to damage to the gym floor, Laurenti sensitively gave them the opportunity beforehand to explore the new area in which

they'd be performing before inviting guests in to watch. Not a single child refused to perform or "melted down" as a result. Both of these are a testament to the progress the children had made. During the eight week series, parents had been sitting in the hallway, banned from entering the space where the children were rehearsing, so they had no idea what to expect. Everyone agreed afterward that they were blown away by the children.

Lendrum says that Autism Ontario has been closely watching what he and Laurenti have been achieving. He says, "It is evidence-based funding." In other words, when there is participation, support and the programs are working, more funding filters in. That is why Lendrum, in his quest for Autism Acceptance, organizes all of his events to include everyone. Events such as sensitive bowling nights at Venture Lanes. "The more likes we get on our Facebook pages, the more registrants we get at our events, the more funding we can secure to help children and families," he says.

The next Edge of the Box program began January 12 for those aged 12 -18. The session is nine weeks this time. The hope is to have the ability to run Edge of the Box regularly for both younger and older age groups, and in many locations. For information, like the Edge of the Box Theatre and Movement for Autism/Special Needs Facebook page or call Theresa Laurenti at 705-869-2737.

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If your child is starting school or headed to secondary school this fall, Rainbow Schools are hosting information nights for kindergarten registrations and high school transitions. All parents/guardians and children are invited to attend.

Information nights will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17 for A.B. Ellis Public School in Espanola and S. Geiger in Massey. Visit rainbowschools.ca for a list of schools and programs offered or call your area Rainbow School.

For enrolment in kindergarten, your child must be four years of age by the end of 2017. When registering your child, please bring his or her identification documents including birth certificate, birth registry/baptismal certificate, proof of residency, Ontario Health Card

and immunization record.

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to the information nights at Espanola High School on Thursday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. All students are welcome, regardless of which elementary school students currently attend.

To help in the process, Rainbow District School Board has produced a Guide for Students and Parents called "Making the Transition – Finding your way from Grade 8 to Grade 9." The guide contains information about course codes, levels of study, timetables and tips. The guide can be accessed online at rainbowschools.ca. Copies are also available by emailing info@rainbowschools.ca or visiting area Rainbow secondary schools.



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CLASSES

LITTLE ART GARAGE - Sculpting Art Classes new registration dates: January 21, 22 February 4, 5 March 11, 12, 25, 26 at SasseyPhotoz in Espanola. Why not host an art party in your home? Call 705-869-7743 or visit www.littleartgarage.com to register. Gift certificates available. 2/28

OBITUARY



CALDWELL, Marianne

Marianne Caldwell of Lee Valley passed away January 8, 2017 in Espanola Hospital at age 66. She was a lover of nature and yard sales and had an eclectic spirit. With her kind and gentle soul she touched many lives. As a retired teacher she loved her kids. She will be remembered and loved by family and friends. We will all miss her dearly! A celebration of her life will be held in the spring. An announcement will be made at that time. Arrangements by Bourcier Funeral Home Ltd.

THANK YOU

A HUGE thank you to the people of Espanola for their involvement in the Annual Community Christmas Dinner. With over 130 in attendance, we couldn't have done it without the volunteers and generous donations. A very special thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion for graciously allowing us to use their facilities. See you next year.... December 25, 2017. 1/17

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory



Melba Tracanelli Gervais

January 17, 2012

*There's a corner in our hearts,
mom you visit everyday,
it gives us their warm feeling,
that you are never far away*

**Miss You
Omer & Your Children**

IN MEMORIAM

In Memory of our Brother

Ken MacDonald

1 Year ago, Jan 23



*You never complained,
You never gave in,
You fought a battle,
You could not win,
You were so brave.*

*Love: Charlene, Allen,
Donna, Stephanie, Brad*

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Recipe

I woke up this morning and made the following cookies. I wanted to be sure they were good before I shared the recipe with you. Needless to say I had cookies for breakfast. These are a simple, yet delicious and flavoured sugar cookie very similar to a famous premade cookie dough that you buy from the grocery store. The dough is firm yet pliable and is easily rolled into little balls. I found using my stand up mixer was the easiest way to make the dough. They will come out of the oven puffed up but flatten as they cool. The edges of this cookie are crispy but the centers remain soft and chewy.

Cracked Sugar Cookies

- 1 1/4 cups white sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Cream together sugar and butter. Beat in egg yolks and vanilla. Add flour, baking soda, and cream of tartar. Stir. Form dough into walnut size balls and place 2 inches apart on cookie sheet. Don't flatten. Bake 10 to 11 minutes, until tops are cracked and just turning colour.



Moose Corner

THAT'S A LOT OF STITCHES: CAN YOU DO THIS?: THE 1 YEAR OF STITCHES 2017 is a year-long project with an on-line group that commits to stitching daily and taking a photo each day/week to log their progress. Every Sunday, everyone in the group, which now has over 1,000 participants, is asked to post a single photo of the progress made during the week in a collective album on the 1 Year of Stitches: 2017 Facebook page. THE MOOSE IS PROUD TO SUPPORT SUCH AN AWESOME COMMUNITY EFFORT ... this being Canada's 150th birthday, there are plenty of themes available ... JOIN THE GROUP AND HAVE FUN!!!

COMMUNITY NOTES

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Children's Clothes Closet - Calvary Baptist Church, Espanola, Wednesday, January 18 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Newborn to sizes 6x. Everyone welcome.

Big Buck Night - The Espanola Game and Fish Protective Association will hold their Big Buck Night at the Elk's Hall, Wednesday, January 18 at 7:00 p.m. Please come in for 6:30 p.m. to have the antlers measured.

Massey Legion Spaghetti Supper - Friday January 20, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Voices of Spring Community Choir - Enjoy singing? Join us on Saturday mornings at 10:30 am in the basement of St. Andrew's United Church, Massey beginning Jan. 21st. Call 705-863-0781 for more info.

Adult Grief Support Group - Starting February 8, every second Wednesday of the week from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., 799 Queensway Espanola. Please register ahead of time by calling 705-862-7991 ext. 237

13th Annual Camp Quality Fundspiel - February 17 & 18. Looking for 16 teams. Dinner & Entertainment.

Espanola Elks "Join on the Spot" Membership Drive 2017 - Espanola Mall outside of Freshco and Dollarama. February 25, 26, 27 & March 3, 4, 5 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Good Food Box - Supported by United Way, the Good Food Box makes it easy to access affordable fresh produce. Serving Espanola, Nairn Centre and Massey. Visit goodfoodboxsudbury.ca for info.

Toastmasters - Develop communication and leadership skills. Learn to think quickly and clearly on your feet Mondays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Espanola Hospital board room. For details visit our website <http://602922.toastmastersclubs.org>.

Al-Anon Meetings For Families And Friends of Alcoholics - Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., St. George's Anglican Church, Espanola. Call 705-869-6595 or 705-869-2505 for more info.

Drug Problem? - We've been there. We can help. Narcotics Anonymous, meetings are Tuesdays and Saturdays 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. United Church Espanola 137 Sheppard St.

Do you have a NOTE for the Community?

We invite not-for-profit organizations to submit information on their upcoming events in writing no later than

Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. 25 Word Limit.

E-mail: around@aroundandabout.ca

CUPE

CUPE represents over 30,000 social services workers in the Province of Ontario. We work hard to provide care to people with developmental disabilities, providing child care, working with families in crisis and delivering programs such as Ontario Works. Government cuts force cuts to the people we serve. Social service workers are leading campaigns to defend our work.



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