

TRIBUNE- PHONOGRAPH

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome letters to the editor for free publication but, as a result of the rancor arising from the 2020 U.S. presidential election, we will observe a moratorium on printing letters concerned with national partisan themes that would inflame community ill-will. Letters on local topics are fine. All letters should be signed and a telephone number included for verification. National and state campaign endorsements will be run as paid advertisements, not as free letters. No letters with campaign accusations without chance of rebuttal will be run the week prior to an election.

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This Edition of the Tribune-Phonograph (Vol. 61, No. 50 dated Wednesday, December 14, 2022) was mailed at the Post Office at Abbotsford, WI 54405 for all residents Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

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Perspectives

Superintendent search is chance for fresh start

The Colby School District will be replacing longtime Superintendent Dr. Steven Kolden this summer. Kolden will be leaving the district on June 30, 2023 after 13 years with the district and the school system will need to have a replacement in place to lead the school district in his stead.

The process of choosing a new superintendent is one that involves the community with public input sessions and surveys that can be used as information in the search.

Hazard Young Attea and Associates will be heading up the search and has said, "The search process will incorporate input from District stakeholders including parents, staff, administrators, students, business leaders and the community through a series of focus groups and a community-wide survey."

This presents a great opportunity for community members to voice their concerns about past regimes and what qualities would make a good Superintendent for the school in the future.

On December 7, eight parents showed up to a meeting with HYA representative Scott Winch who will be conducting the interviews and ultimately, making a recommendation for two candidates to be voted on by the school board. In the meeting, Winch asked what the strengths and weaknesses of the school district were and also asked attendees what they'd like to see in a future superintendent.

The exercise seemed helpful as the parents that attended were able to bring concerns to Winch which will ultimately shape the candidate profile the district will be looking for. However, with about 1,000 students enrolled in Colby schools, eight voices out of all the parents with vested interest in the district is not a sufficient ratio.

This is the chance for the parents who have had complaints about how things were handled in the past to have their input heard and acted upon. Just over a year ago, parents lined the Colby High School theater over a mask mandate that the administration had enforced.

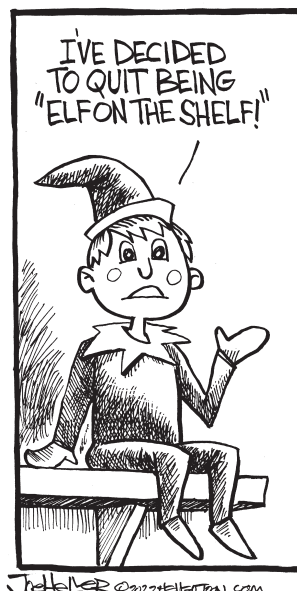
Since then, voters replaced a few members of the school board and things have quieted down. But at the meeting, parents complained about low staff morale, a lack of communication from administration to parents, and a litany of other items. Clearly, there are things the future superintendent will need to fix.

Parents, staff and other district members will have two more opportunities to have their voices heard before Winch begins interviewing and recommending candidates.

A virtual focus group will be held on December 18 at 7 p.m. More information about this option is yet to come from the district. A community-wide survey will also be held from December 19 to January 2 according to HYA.

These opportunities should be used by parents who wish to see the best for their children and want to see changes within the district.

The Tribune-Phonograph editorial board consists of publisher Kris O'Leary, editor Neal Hogden and reporter Nathaniel Underwood.



PAGING THROUGH HISTORY: A Treasury of Weekly Newspapers

ABBOTSFORD TRIBUNE
PUBLISHED IN ABBOTSFORD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1952

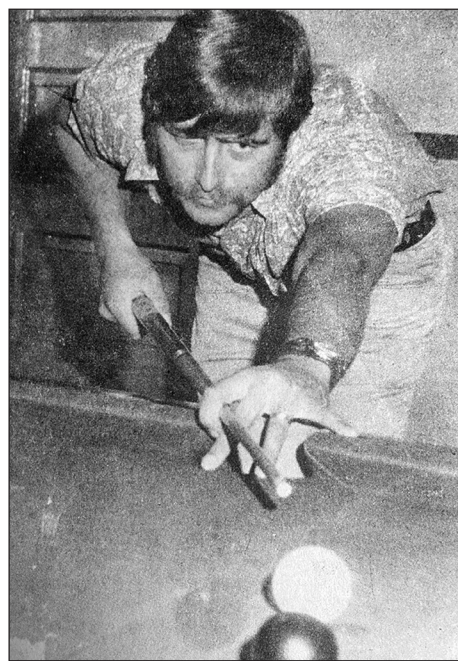
THE TRIBUNE-PHONOGRAPH
PUBLISHED IN COLBY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1972

Hunters get wolf

Clarence Kalepp, hunting with Sally Jensen, near Glidden, over the weekend, got a wolf and a fox.

Two dogs were on the trail of a wolf Friday afternoon, when Clarence heard them indicate, by their bark, that they had the animal cornered. He followed the trail into the woods for about two miles, just as it was getting dark, and found the wolf had taken refuge in an old camp shack.

The wolf was shot, as it was at bay in the corner of the room, but not before it had inflicted some damage to the dogs.



BIFF RUNGE OF UNITY LINES UP FOR A POOL SHOT IN A WINTER POOL LEAGUE. 1972

Nine hundred children enjoy Santa Claus party

Santa Claus put in a busy day in Abbotsford, Saturday, as he personally gave each child who came to see him a generous bag of Christmas treats. There were 850 children, from little ones in arms, to the children through grade school, who came to see him.

Bags were left at Wing's Drug Store for all those children whose names had been previously registered, as being ill or unable to get to see Santa Claus in person.

Tavern league favors closing Christmas Eve

Members of the Clark County Tavern League went on record unanimously as favoring closing on Christmas Eve at 5:30. This is a voluntary practice which has been observed by the Clark County league for the past six years.

New school is planned

Discussion of proposed plans for a new elementary school and classroom addition to the high school occupied the greater share of the Colby Board of Education meeting Monday night.

The board semi-formalized plans for an open concept elementary school of approximately 33,000 square feet to accommodate grades kindergarten through six in the city of Colby. The building would replace the two existing elementary schools in the city.

Previously, members of the board had toured several schools and formulated ideas from them which were conveyed to the Stubenrauch Associates architects for the project. Incorporated in the program is a feature that all lighting and heating fixtures will be placed so that any type of classroom arrangement can be used within the building, allowing for the flexibility that may be needed in the future.

Instead of the traditional interior walls being used in much of the building, movable equipment will be incorporated and it can be changed around as needed to include any size of class.

Kindergarten and special education rooms will be separate classrooms constructed in the traditional way. Much of the classroom area will be carpeted for acoustical purposes in the building. This is a prime factor in allowing classes to be conducted without a noise carryover as observed in the schools that have been visited by the board.

The TRIBUNE PHONOGRAPH

welcomes letters to the editor on a variety of local topics and issues.

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