Arrivals, late March

BIRDS IN PARTICULAR

I am so happy for the month of March to begin, even though predictions are snowy and cold and rain with rain. February froze lakes, so, “ice out” may be delayed as well as waterfowl return. They depend upon open water, as they fly North, one at a time.

We will have some big hits this month anyway. I’ll stop by Lilydale for the wood ducks and the robins who live there year-round, Camp Fire Nature Center for Eastern bluebirds, Fort Snelling State Park for swallows, the 140th Street marsh in Hopkins for kilders and red-winged blackbirds, and Lake Phalen for mergansers and swans. Great blue herons will fly over my house from Pig’s Eye Heron Rockery and clipping sparrows will hop along on my front boulevard. I might find a crockbird or two in the spruce tree.

One of my favorite spring arrivals is that of the double-crested cormorants that show up on the Mississippi River. They like to hang out on stumps, buoys, pilings and old fences. They remind me of dinosaurs with shiny black wings. If you look close enough, you will see amazing orange and yellowish that draw you toward their head. When they sunbathing you may find their bright aqua-marine blue eyes in your binoculars. Most alluring though is the blue lining of their mouths that brighten during the mating season.

March 1 is the Waning Gibbous Moon, in the astrological sign of Libra, and my birthday. This Snow Moon, which rose at 6:31 pm on February 27, 2021, is called the Hunger Moon. The Dakota call it the Popping Tree Moon and the Ojibwe call it the Sucker Fish Moon. It was a time when people were getting very hungry as the days were thin, and hunters had to travel far for food.

This is also the time black bears are waking up from hibernation. Bears, also called “torpor.” Black bears are not true hibernators. Maen wake up when it is warm and forage for food. Females are giving birth to blind, deaf, and toothless cubs scuttling in a dark, warm shelter. The cubs have a fine fur covering over their bodies. By May or June, the fuzzy cubs will be tumbling out of the den revealing their blue eyes and robust desire to play. Tamarack swamps are favored because the saplings are sturdy, strong and amendable.

So, there is a moon joke from my “relatable source.” Why wasn’t the moon hungry? Because it was FULLY filled with the Full Moon.

And here is the perfect activity for the month. Get outside! Look up and listen for birds. They are really vocal in spring during mating. Make them some nice, healthy bird treats. Check out the International Owl Festival, an annual celebration of the nocturnal predator that will be held March 5-7, 2021. They have very few things planned for the event which is hosted in the Southeastern Minnesota town of Houston with the Covid-19 Pandemic. Still, they have many things planned virtually. And you can check out their children’s art exhibition and their Facebook page, (Facebook.com/FestivalOfOwls/).

This year’s submissions were from near 50 different countries. Tune into programming and different countries. Tune into programming internationalowlcenter.org.

Jerry Rothstein, longtime Community Reporter editor, steps into new roles

“The value of gestalt ideas in community work starts with being present with other people,” Rothstein said. “I think the solution to everything that’s going on right now also has to do with that.”

Local artist Stuart Loughbridge, whose studio is on the third floor of 365 W. 7th St., sketched Jerry Rothstein in 2020, part of a series of portraits of neighbors active in the community.

Moving the Goalposts on the Riverview Corridor

By DiANE GERTH

For years, whatever we may think about the rail-based Riverview Corridor, we have been working under some basic understandings. We knew that the ultimate objectives for the project have included a plan to provide a high-quality service for local trips and to provide additional transportation capacity to meet current and future travel demand.

These core goals are now on the chopping block. In a proposed change to the “Statement of Purpose and Need” — the basic justification for the line — these two objectives are gone.

The objective of providing “high-quality service for local trips” has been changed to “high-amenity service for transit trips.” And the objective to “Provide additional transportation capacity to meet current and future travel demand” has been eliminated entirely.

This is a move away from protecting the quality local service. It’s a revelation that the project, with fewer West 7th stops and slower transit times, will degrade our service even more. (Jim Schottler and Beneath this wonky wordsmithing, I can only conclude that their aim is to conceal the fact that the justification for the line is easily exposed as a sham.

Kent Peterson summarized many of the problems with the project in February’s Community Reporter.) Given that the need to meet higher and denser transit-using populations has been one of the stated reasons for the project since the beginning, these are existential changes for the project. Because a close-examination of ridership projections doesn’t show much of an increase in bus versus train use, this seems to the closest that the Riverview Corridor Policy Advisory Committee will come to admitting that their plan won’t bring an increase in ridership. Beneath this wonky wordsmithing, I can only conclude that their aim is to conceal the fact that the justification for the line is easily exposed as a sham. With the goalposts successfully moved, it is easy to imagine proponents of the project in the future saying that “never actually meant to provide quality service or additional capacity, as it was not part of the objectives”!

The Purpose and Need Statement is the high-level roadmap. Choosing to lower the expectations is an admission that the goals have to be adjusted to reflect reality. Since it will prove difficult to justify to savvy federal funders that this $2 billion and counting project will meet the goals of quality service and increased ridership, the new plan seems to be designed to widen the goalposts so much that you could drive a bus — or perhaps a light-rail vehicle — through them.

Given the questions long raised about the need for the project, we must be wary of allowing it to be justified simply by lowering objectives. Changes that do just that are scheduled for discussion by the Policy Advisory Committee on April 1.
At every Ramsey County Board meeting since this global pandemic upended our lives one year ago, we have noticed a moment of silence to remember and honor those taken by COVID-19 here in this county community. The vaccines being distributed now are well tested, and I will get mine as soon as I am eligible. Ramsey County is not the primary provider of the vaccine. Much of the vaccine that has been distributed, purchased through the federal government, has gone to the public health sector. We can start with reconsidering our use of race, as patients, we can challenge our healthcare providers to recognize that race is impacting our health, not race itself. How should medicine change its use of race?

The current use of race in medicine is dangerous because it perpetuates racist beliefs that people of one ethnicity are generally inferior; and it distracts us from facing the real issue of structural racism. During this COVID-19 pandemic, we have witnessed racial disparities in infection and death rates. Recent research from the American Cancer Society showed that the age-adjusted death rate for Black people is more than three times that of white people, and for racial and ethnic minorities, the death rate in the “1A” category, which encompasses health-care workers and first responders, is disproportionately high across all racial and ethnic groups. This disparity is a result of the systemic racism that exists in the medical system. It is important to ask ourselves how our medical system has perpetuated these disparities. How should medicine change its use of race?

As determined by the state, the group race is a social construct that categorizes individuals into an “African American” category, which encompasses people of African descent, regardless of their country of origin. The population is not homogeneous, and there are significant differences in genetic diversity within and among different racial groups. These differences are not out of the woods yet. Despite the positive news we have read in the media, we need to keep getting tested. It is free and easy to keep getting tested. The guidance of public health professionals has helped us get to this place, but we are not out of the woods yet. Despite the positive news, we need to keep getting tested. The guidance of public health professionals has helped us get to this place, but we are not out of the woods yet. As determined by the state, the group race is a social construct that categorizes individuals into an “African American” category, which encompasses people of African descent, regardless of their country of origin. The population is not homogeneous, and there are significant differences in genetic diversity within and among different racial groups. These differences are not out of the woods yet. Despite the positive news we have read in the media, we need to keep getting tested. It is free and easy to keep getting tested. The guidance of public health professionals has helped us get to this place, but we are not out of the woods yet. As determined by the state, the group race is a social construct that categorizes individuals into an “African American” category, which encompasses people of African descent, regardless of their country of origin. The population is not homogeneous, and there are significant differences in genetic diversity within and among different racial groups. These differences are not out of the woods yet. As determined by the state, the group race is a social construct that categorizes individuals into an “African American” category, which encompasses people of African descent, regardless of their country of origin. The population is not homogeneous, and there are significant differences in genetic diversity within and among different racial groups. These differences are not out of the woods yet. Despite the positive news we have read in the media, we need to keep getting tested. It is free and easy to keep getting tested. The guidance of public health professionals has helped us get to this place, but we are not out of the woods yet. Despite the positive news we have read in the media, we need to keep getting tested. It is free and easy to keep getting tested. The guidance of public health professionals has helped us get to this place, but we are not out of the woods yet. As determined by the state, the group race is a social construct that categorizes individuals into an “African American” category, which encompasses people of African descent, regardless of their country of origin. The population is not homogeneous, and there are significant differences in genetic diversity within and among different racial groups. These differences are not out of the woods yet. Despite the positive news we have read in the media, we need to keep getting tested. It is free and easy to keep getting tested. The guidance of public health professionals has helped us get to this place, but we are not out of the woods yet. Despite the positive news we have read in the media, we need to keep getting tested. It is free and easy to keep getting tested. The guidance of public health professionals has helped us get to this place, but we are not out of the woods yet. As determined by the state, the group race is a social construct that categorizes individuals into an “African American” category, which encompasses people of African descent, regardless of their country of origin. The population is not homogeneous, and there are significant differences in genetic diversity within and among different racial groups. These differences are not out of the woods yet. Despite the positive news we have read in the media, we need to keep getting tested. It is free and easy to keep getting tested. The guidance of public health professionals has helped us get to this place, but we are not out of the woods yet.

Our federal and state partners are making sure that the vaccines are distributed equitably — especially among those communities that are historically at the highest health risk. People of color have been disproportionately affected by this virus everywhere. They have been sick and died at higher rates. I very much appreciate what we have heard from community members of all backgrounds who cared about this.

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African songs. COVID-19 protocols practiced. To register, email info@womensdrumcenter.net. The nonprofit, volunteer-based organization at 2242 University Ave. will offer a class in hand drums

Community News & Events

Beginner class at Women's Drum Center

The nonprofit, volunteer-based organization at 2242 University Ave. will offer a class in hand drums

Hannah C. Heyer at Framework Gallery
Through March 27, Wandering: a series of oil paintings portraying her rural Minnesota surroundings, is available for viewing, purchase at the gallery, 2961 University Ave. NW. View online at www.frameworks-gallery.com/shop.

New Josiah's Coast, donation rules. The nonprofit that provides clothes and other essentials to those in particular neighborhoods were largely ignored. "There, it was the Oakland, CA, where Rothstein spent time - a series of multimedia project, which brings together works by over 375,000 donors including moms, mayors, survivors, students, and everyday Americans who are fighting for common-sense gun safety measures that can help save lives. For more info at everywhere.org and follow us @everytown."

Two annual Bierstählen festival.
Through March 27, the galleries, WAM Shop and museum parking garage will be open limited to 25% or more with reduced hours and recommended protocols to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus. Virtual tours and workshops are available on request wamumn.edu. Find information on WAM's health and safety precautions at menusaumn.edu/usr.

Shooting at Buffalo health clinic textbook case for extreme-risk law
A gun owner opened fire in a health care clinic in the Wright County city of Buffalo, killing one and wounding four others. Investigators reported, the shooter had a history of threats in the years leading up to the shooting - including repeated threats to carry out a mass shooting at the health care clinic - that were well-known to local law enforcement. The shooter had already violated a restraining order reportedly filed by the clinic and had dozens of other interactions with local law enforcement documented in police and court records.

This shooting appears to be a textbook case in which an extreme risk law in Minnesota could have saved lives," said Luke Entelis, Counsel for Everytown for Gun Safety. "If Minnesota had enacted an extreme risk law for the one that was passed by the state House in 2019 and 2020, law enforcement could have petitioned a court to temporarily remove the shooter's guns from his possession, based on his well-documented threats of violence."

"This is exactly why we continue to push for an extreme risk law in Minnesota," said Molly Lautz, a volunteer with the Minnesota chapter of Moms Demand Action. "The House has done its part - two years in a row. They need to do their job again this session and the Senate needs to follow suit." What to know about extreme-risk laws: extreme-risk laws - also known as red-flag laws - are a powerful tool to prevent gun violence, including school shootings, mass shootings, and suicide. Already, extreme risk laws have been implemented in 19 other states and Washington, DC. Enacting an extreme risk law would allow family members and law enforcement officers to intervene before tragedy strikes by seeking a court order to temporarily remove those guns and other weapons that people warning signs that they pose a danger to themselves or others.

Extreme-risk laws can prevent someone in crisis from accessing guns. In Minnesota, 77 percent of all gun deaths are from guns saved through extreme-risk laws - equating an average of 36 hours between gun suicide deaths. This is aside from the many gun suicides that occur in the most rural counties of the state is more than two times higher than the most urban areas. Statistics about gun violence in Minnesota, where gun violence rates are available online at maps.everytown.org/navigation.

If you have questions, or want to request an interview with a policy expert at Everytown or a volunteer from Minnesota Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action please don’t hesitate to reach out.

About Everytown for Gun Safety - Everytown for Gun Safety is the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country with nearly six million supporters and more than 375,000 donors including moms, mayors, survivors, students, and everyday Americans who are fighting for common-sense gun safety measures that can help save lives. For more info at everywhere.org and follow us @everytown.

Over the years that he edited the paper, Rothstein continued to build its engagement with readers and secure its financial footing. He continued the work that he had done for decades as a therapist and community organizer in Minneapolis. "Gestalt has been at the foreground of everything I’ve done, his disparate pursuits. “Gestalt has been the solution to everything that’s going on right now, how to deal with that."

Soon after he started as editor, Rothstein made changes aimed at elevating the paper’s business side. Soliciting competing bids from printers, he managed to add a column on local restaurants shut down due to the pandemic. As he had observed in the West End neighborhood that those in particular neighborhoods were largely ignored. "There, it was the Oakland, CA, where Rothstein spent time - a series of multimedia project, which brings together works by over 375,000 donors including moms, mayors, survivors, students, and everyday Americans who are fighting for common-sense gun safety measures that can help save lives. For more info at everywhere.org and follow us @everytown.

"There’s a never-ending supply of bureaucratic work to do,” Rothstein said. “And we’re only getting started.”

He has also turned his attention to a multimedia project, which brings together the disparate pursuits. "Gestalt has been at the forefront of everything I’ve done, from hospice and grief counseling to working to bring community organizing to the paper,” he said. "The question is, does it push you to ask yourself about how you can be present where you are and about how you fit into what is going on around you. With this project, I want to guide people through that journey.”

NEW ROLES, PG 1
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Oberlin vegan Cooking Beans. 3/25. Budget Cooking: Millet Porridge with Moroccan Spiced Carrots

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Ten-year-old girl killed in shooting.
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In the Community

Lunch with a Friend

BY TIM RUMSEY

In October, 2019, I was reading a handbill after enjoying my lunch at Day by Day Café.

Lost Family Member: Lorenzo Rossi

52 years old

7 weeks missing

Last seen in Downtown, St. Paul

Please call his mother, Gloria …

Or St. Paul Police Officer, Sharon Waters …

We love you, please come home.

I didn’t know the poor fellow. Perhaps he was a patient. I’d check.

Then, suddenly this from café owner, Jena:

“Doctor, come now! Guy down outside.”

I slid out of my booth and followed Jena to the sidewalk. She pointed to St. Vinnie’s next door. It was Harold Le Voux. Fetal position, back to brick wall.

I bent down and put a hand on his shoulder and jostled him.

“Harold—Harold!” I said.

The front of his faded orange hoodie was barely moving with each slow breath. Jena and I bent our heads forward.

I put a finger on his neck: Carotid pulse.

“Harold, it’s Rumsey!”

He straightened up. There was a wet, red maple leaf that had fallen on the sidewalk. He shivered and took a slow motion swing at me. I blocked it with an arm.

“Never seen him. I could take him, though.”

“Do you know this guy?”

“Which one?”

Harold suggested.

Jena and I helped Harold into my truck, and we shoved off down West Seventh.

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In the Community

West Seventh branch of BankCherokee set to close

BY DAVID LAMB
After forty-two years in the neighborhood serving the clients who came and went from its location at 675 Randolph Ave. and building partnerships with local organizations, the branch is set to close May 14. In a letter mailed to customers, the bank’s CEO, Heidi R. Gsell, encouraged West End clients to visit nearby locations at 985 Grand Ave. or 607 S. Smith Ave. for their banking needs. “The letter notes that all staff working at the Randolph Ave. location will be offered new positions at the bank. Many West Enders expressed disappointment at the news but continued support for BankCherokee, the oldest family-owned bank in the Twin Cities. “I’m not even a customer and it is still a huge bummer for the neighborhood,” Sara Diedrich wrote, responding to a report of the branch’s impending closure in the “Okayest West 7th” Facebook group. “They were great neighbors,” Mark Fangmeier added. “I always appreciated the group of employees who spent a day volunteering every summer doing [neighborhood] clean-up.”

The bank’s philanthropic efforts stretching back decades won it admirers across St. Paul. Each winter in recent years, BankCherokee has held a drive for clothes and other items, which it donates to Joseph’s Coat (1107 W. 7th St.), a nonprofit that helps distract people in need. It has also supported the Salvation Army (401 W. 7th St.), Every Meal (2723 Patton Rd., Roseville), and Adams Spanish Immersion Elementary School (615 S. Chatsworth St.). Like its annual tradition of helping to clean up the Little Bohemia bike trail, all BankCherokee employees take a break after closing up Douglas Park to make the bank is the official donation pickup site of these partnerships are set to continue, according to the bank.

“The community service is a cornerstone of BankCherokee,” said Landen Hedrick, Senior Vice President of Digital Banking & Marketing, who sits on the board of directors for the West 7th Business Association. “[A]nd we will continue that tradition in the West 7th neighborhood.”

For some observers, the branch’s closure served an inevitable casualty of changing times in which global institutions with sleek banking apps and billion-dollar marketing budgets have encroached on territory once dominated community banks. “Not a surprise,” Dan Galles wrote, adding that “[r]etail banking is all but dead.”

“I told you this was going to happen,” Brianne Kuney lamented.

GARDEN VIEWS
We’re almost there

Hey, vegetable gardening enthusiasts, it’s almost time to start planting! It may not look like it today, but in a couple weeks you might be able to spread some seeds in your garden. The biggest miscalculation made in the Minnesota vegetable garden is to wait too long to start planting. If you think you are supposed to feel warm on a sunny spring day late in May before you plant seed, you have missed 6-8 weeks of prime growing weather in our Zone 4 climate. I generally target mid-March for planting. The key is soil condition, not how warm it is outside. Several plant favorites are cold, even for a sunny spring day. In about a six-inch square area, spread some seeds in your garden. In about 3-4 weeks you will have oodles of seedlings ready for transplant. This works well in a couple weeks, as long as the soil can be worked, “that might be about March 15th. Each year is different, but when the soil is crumbly and not soggy, get planting!”

Here is one fun trick: Set aside a small sunny area where the soil is ready for transplant. For the price of a seed packet, you can get enough plants for your needs and every one on you block. In about a six-inch square area, spread an entire packet of seed (approx 100 seeds). In about 3-4 weeks you will have oodles of seedlings ready for transplant. This works especially well for annual flowers such as marigolds and for all of those cole crop plants.

Market growers use this technique to save on space and cost, that makes it easier to get an early start. Get it early and plant your vegetable garden over several weeks not in one day. Spread the work out, it takes less time, and you will have fun purchase plants from them if you prefer. That is especially useful with those that cannot be planted early. Don’t plant beans and squashes, for example, before the soil is warm. Other warm season plants won’t grow and might be set back if planted before May 15.

Always check for timing related to germination. Read the seed packet. Most have great information. It says to plant “as soon as the soil can be worked.” That might be about March 15th. Each year is different, but when the soil is crumbly and not soggy, get planting! Here is one fun trick: Set aside a small sunny area where the soil is ready for transplant. For the price of a seed packet, you can get enough plants for your needs and every one on you block. In about a six-inch square area, spread an entire packet of seed (approx 100 seeds). In about 3-4 weeks you will have oodles of seedlings ready for transplant. This works especially well for annual flowers such as marigolds and for all of those cole crop plants. Market growers use this technique to save on space and cost, that makes it easier to get an early start. Get it early and plant your vegetable garden over several weeks not in one day. Spread the work out, it takes less time, and you will have fun
Thoughts often try to trick us into believing them, but a lot of them are just noise, like static on a radio.

I could see anxiety on the face of my friend and the pastor. It was a difficult thing for them to hold me accountable. It was hard for me to hear their description of my own behavior. Yet by holding me to account and treating me as someone who had the capacity to change, they made it possible for me to grow.

Concerns about the nature of policing are about accountability. Expecting corporations to be accountable for past ground-water pollution is about accountability. The former U.S. President and various right-wing groups have faced a level of accountability for January 6. Facebook, Twitter, and other social media are being asked to be accountable for posts on their platforms from which they derive substantial advertising revenue. The Church and the organization formerly known as the Boy Scouts are being held accountable for their inception on sexual exploitation. The list is long and ultimately includes all of us week by week.

Accountability is a mirror that enables us to look more honestly at who we are and then make clear-eyed choices about who we wish to be. Yet accountability can and must be distinguished from the pitfalls of cancel culture, where the goal can be becoming silent and eliminating rather than growth and restoration. Some comparable beliefs in cancel culture is a liberal problem. Colin Kaepernick, who the NFL allegedly kept out of its league for taking a knee during the national anthem, would beg to differ. With its insistence on removing the “offender” as well as the offense, cancel culture leaves little room for transformation and healing. It often seeks to eliminate the symptom, like the maker of a racist comment, rather than address the culture in which the racist comment thrives. It fails to confront deeper issues, cancel culture can reinforce the very things it seeks to address. Ironically, claiming the belief that cancel culture is also used now by some to avoid accountability.

My journey out of homophobia didn’t happen in one interaction, because my friend and the pastor laid claim to something good in me and approached me with charity and grace, they gave me the opportunity to become the type of person I also hoped to be. It would never have happened had they lacked the courage to speak up and hold me accountable for my words, or had I lacked the capacity to listen. It is in that interchange between truth spoken with love and hearts open that speaks open that transformation happens.

Tim Johnson is a retired pastor of the United Church of Christ.

BRAINBRAND

YOU ARE WHAT YOU THINK

Your thoughts are lying to you (And so are mine!)

LEAVE A FEEDBACK

Building Community
Accountability and Cancel Culture

It was 1970, the year after the Stonewall uprising in New York City, which transformed the gay liberation movement from groups of activists into a full-fledged phenomenon. I was a sophomore in college, and a new friend asked if I might go with him to the Lutheran campus ministry, which we both frequented. The campus ministry pastor would have been no surprise. He made no indication what the meeting was about, but I readily agreed. I’m not sure why. I wasn’t chatted informally. Then the conversation turned to its apparent intended purpose. They wished to get to know two of the frequency with which I had been using language that was perceived by some as offensive. They expressed the belief that they saw these slurs as inconsistent with how they heard me and with my identity. I was both surprised and embarrassed. I had no recollection of using the language they said I had used. I had no reason to question them. My friend shared in confidence that he was gay. They together shared how they were hurtful. I apologized and committed to more mindful use of words and seeking to deepen my own awareness of the concerns they had. At the meeting, I learned my friend was the first gay person I had ever met. I learned later how wrong I was. I was asked to be my gay cousin, with whom I had grown up and who was dying of AIDS. There were, of course, others, like my high school teachers whose closeted lives I only learned about after they were dead.

Accountability is seldom easy, especially if it involves you. It feels much simpler to brush the concerns or issues that are present rather than to address them. I could see anxiety on the face of my friend and the pastor. It was a difficult thing for them to hold me accountable. Yet by holding me to account and treating me as someone who had the capacity to change, they made it possible for me to grow.

We are living in an era in which there is a pressing need for accountability— and growth. Recent conversations about reparations are about accountability.
New programs at Split Rock Lighthouse

The National Historic Landmark on Lake Superior, located 10 miles north of Two Harbors, has added a photography exhibit that rotates monthly called “Photography at the Rock.” The first featured photographer is Christian Dalbec who specializes in wave and water photography as well as drone work. He will be on site on March 12 and 31. Beginning March 12 visitors can go on a new Keeper’s tour, which is a guided tour of the lighthouse and keeper’s house. The $25 tour is 45 minutes long and will be limited to 10 people to ensure social distancing and other COVID-19 safety protocols can be maintained. Visitors may alternately buy an $8 “Grounds Pass” for a self-guided visit of the outside areas. Find out more at mnhs.org/photography.

FISH FRY

The Church of St. Matthew drive-up fish fry Fridays

The Church of St. Matthew (510 Hall Ave.) will host a drive-up fish fry every Friday through April 30 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. Alaskan Pollock (baked, fried or combo), potato, vegetable, coleslaw, roll, dessert. Grilled chicken is an optional informal happy hour. No fee to attend. 30 minutes of discussions with key legislators and other Members of the Minnesota Legislature, including your State Representative, Erik Simonson (DFL-2A) and Senator John Krog (DFL-31) and other Minnesota Legislators. Group size is limited to 10 people to ensure social distancing and other COVID-19 safety protocols can be maintained. The fee to attend is $10 per meal. Credit cards and cash accepted. Drive-up to-go lanes are available. Alaskan Pollock (baked, fried or combo), potato, vegetable, coleslaw, roll, dessert. Grilled chicken is an optional informal happy hour. No fee to attend. 30 minutes of discussions with key legislators and other Members of the Minnesota Legislature, including your State Representative, Erik Simonson (DFL-2A) and Senator John Krog (DFL-31) and other Minnesota Legislators. Group size is limited to 10 people to ensure social distancing and other COVID-19 safety protocols can be maintained. The fee to attend is $10 per meal. Credit cards and cash accepted. Drive-up to-go lanes are available. The state’s department of health announced in January that five cases of the new variant have been detected in four different counties in the Twin Cities metro. “While it is thought to be more easily spread from one person to another, it has not been found to cause more serious disease,” said State Epidemiologist Ruth Lynfield, MD. “With RNA viruses, like SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, it is not unexpected to see new, more successful strains emerge.” First detected in the United Kingdom in September 2020, the viral strain has since been discovered around the world.
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