



UPSIDE DOWN UNDER Marvin Baker

The picture is becoming clear

After searching statistics regarding various coffee brands, obscure entries on websites helped connect the dots about why Tim Horton's locations in North Dakota may have closed their doors.

At one time, there were four Tim Horton's franchises operating in North Dakota; Grand Forks (2), Fargo and Minot. The first to open was a coffee and bake shop across the street from the Alerus Center and Canad Inns in Grand Forks. That shouldn't be a surprise to

anyone since Candian visitors are the ones who frequent that hotel and shop in Grand Forks.

Shortly thereafter, a satellite opened in the Ralph Englestad Arena on the University of North Dakota campus and then a third shared a convenience store on 13th Avenue South in Fargo.

Finally a fourth Tim Horton's opened on North Hill in Minot and shared a building with Qdoba.

By the end of 2022, all of those locations had closed their doors

despite a 2015 corporate initiative to open 15 locations in both Fargo and Minot.

The official statement of closure from Tim Horton's was vague, saying the North Dakota locations closed so the company could concentrate on its Canadian franchises.

If anyone believes that, there's a bridge for sale in Arizona. There are hundreds of locations in several states with most of them being in Ohio and New York. The coffee franchise is a corporate sponsor of the Buffalo Bills football team. Minnesota also has five locations.

In reality, there were a variety of reasons for the North Dakota closures with one of the most obvious being competition from Starbucks, Caribou and McDonald's, as well as numerous local coffee shops.

Although Tim Horton's is the third most popular coffee in the

U.S. and Canada, Starbucks is No. 1 just about everywhere. It's difficult to compete against that regardless if you are Tim Horton's, Dunkin Donuts or Seattle's Best.

But what it allegedly boiled down to is lack of customer service and poor management.

Unofficial comments from customers about the Grand Forks location didn't paint a rosy picture. I suppose if you wanted coffee, no problem, but customer reviews complained of cold food, wrong orders and employees not knowing what they were doing, or else providing lackadaisical customer service.

There were also some unofficial employee reviews across the board that didn't look good. One of them stated employees had to work without breaks and were constantly being yelled at. The comments aren't verified, but are comments

posted from said employees on social media.

It is also known that to get a Tim Horton's franchise, you have to fork out a lot of money up front, not to mention, having a building, or at least be able to share one with someone else, as was the case in Fargo and Minot.

It's only a guess, but the Fargo Tim Horton's was most likely in the poorest financial shape. Seldom were people there even though it was on one of the busiest streets in Fargo near West Acres shopping mall.

Minot and Grand Forks did much better with customer traffic, at least initially. Apparently, the brand was the draw until that alleged poor customer service trumped the quality of the coffee and donuts.

Tim Horton's remains a popular choice in North Dakota. Its coffee

is available at North Dakota Target and some Walmart locations and in some other specialty shops. People living near the border often travel to Canadian locations to get their Tim Horton's fix.

A new location may have opened on 19th Ave. S., in Fargo, but the Fargo Convention and Visitors Bureau isn't aware of it and a Popeye's Chicken is operating in that space in a Petro Serve plaza.

Hopefully lessons were learned, but still the results were unfortunate for customers. Right now, the closest location to Grand Forks is Morris, Manitoba, and Minot's closest location is Estevan, Saskatchewan.

Grand Forks and Minot continue to grow, but at a slower pace than Fargo, so let's hope we see the franchise re-emerge in Minot and Grand Forks so we can get our Timbits and coffee.



USEFUL THINKING Bill Patrie

In the beginning

The book of Genesis starts with "In the beginning". Creation stories are abundant and interesting. I read R. Crumb's "The Book of Genesis Illustrated."

Crumb draws Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The pages of illustrations carefully drawn, are impressive to the reader for the sheer discipline it took to complete that work. Crumb starts with the creation story and ends with the

death of Joseph in chapter 50 verse 26 "So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt."

His illustrations draw you in to the stories of sex, shady dealings, and tragedies. Having grown up in Wells County on a farm, the disputes in Genesis over land seemed eerily familiar. Raising sheep seemed like something I

could understand, but I was not prepared for the multiple deceptions in those fifty chapters.

What struck me was how those deceptions were not punished but rewarded. You know those stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Issac, Jacob, Essau, Joesph, and the hundreds of descendants carefully recorded. How often a lovely looking woman was raped but it was made ok by a transaction to purchase her as a wife. How women deceived men since being married and having children was the only way to achieve financial security.

I read the book in about 5 hours and I felt slightly nauseated. Crumb's illustrations are for adult audiences about other adult humans. I was used to reading the Sunday School illustrated versions that ended in smiles and

happiness.

I had flashbacks to people I had worked with in businesses associated with the Planning Council in Devils Lake, the North Dakota Economic Development Commission, and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric. I was reminded of the deceptions, the jail sentences, the illicit sex, the bankruptcies, and the suicides. I suppose those behaviors were present when I was growing up, but I didn't see them because I was shielded from them.

Now I can't unsee them but I don't want to be crippled by cynicism those flashbacks invoke. As the economy in the year 2025 unfolds before us, I want an honest exchange of value in every business transaction. I want a moral ethic that transcends politics and religion and is deeply held in

society.

Hard work and telling the truth should be rewarded, not marketing scams and deceptions. I believe the deceptions that occurred in the book of Genesis and are occurring in today's business practices, were and are evil.

Another name for Satan is "the great deceiver." I believe with James Russell Lowell "Truth forever on the scaffold. Wrong forever on the throne. Yet that scaffold sways the future." Martin Luther King said "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

Elements of the economy affecting rural people raise troubling moral questions. How is bitcoin and data mining benefiting human beings and the environment? How will deportations affect the economy and the lives of millions of

people living in the United States? How does denying Medicaid to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), affect their lives and the financial health of rural hospitals who have been treating them?

Old Testament business practices and belief in an angry and jealous God are still deeply held by some. But 2025 is a time for honest business practices and a loving God. 2025 is an opportunity for a new beginning of honest wealth and kindness. Wishing you a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Bill Patrie is a retired planner and economic developer having worked in regional and statewide positions. He is the author of "Creating Co-op Fever" printed by USDA as a service bulletin, and "100 Stories of Hope" a book about his interviews with 100 people in poverty.



By Jill Kruse, DO

Let's get moving

As we start the New Year, many people are making resolutions and setting goals for the next 12 months. One of the most common resolutions is to be more active. At Prairie Doc, we want all of our viewers to be both healthy and happy.

This week, On Call with the Prairie Doc will be showcasing different ways people can incorporate movement into their lives. There is truly something for everyone.

Personally, I've explored a variety of activities with varying levels of success and competence.

Regardless of the activity, what has made many of these experiences memorable and enjoyable are the people I have met along the way. Some of my most cherished friendships have formed through shared activities, proving to be just as beneficial to my mental health as any physical benefits of the activity itself.

Let me share some of the more unusual ways that I've stayed active throughout my life. In fourth grade, I joined the wrestling team. I became the first girl in my school to do so. I was not particularly good, ending the season with a 1-11 record. However, I was proud of myself for trying. By sixth grade, two other girls joined the team

with me.

In junior high I tried volleyball, and while I loved, but was not very skilled. The place I did excel in was taekwondo. I started when I was ten and earned my 3rd degree black belt while in college. When I was in medical school, I still found time for activities and needed to try things that were the complete opposite of my school work. I tried rock climbing, belly dancing, and fencing. All activities that were outside my comfort zone, but quickly became welcome breaks from studying.

In Brookings, we are blessed with a multitude of activities in the area to try. I have participated in an adult kickball league.

I have also started curling with the Brookings Curling Club. This game involves not only skill and strategy but a little bit of luck.

On Prairie Doc, viewers will get to see me doing my favorite exercise activity, aerial silks. My medical residency training was in Baraboo, Wisconsin, the home town of the Ringling Brothers. I always loved the circus and aerial silks allows me to feel like I have joined the circus, if only for a few moments.

Finding the right activity may take some trial and error, but once you find something you love it will be worth it. So, as you set your goals for the coming year, consider trying something completely dif-

ferent. You may just discover an activity that brings you joy and a new community of friends along the way. Until next time, Stay healthy and active out there!

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook, Instagram, and Threads featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show on SDPB, 2 podcasts, and a Radio program, providing health information based on science, built on trust, streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central and wherever podcast can be found.

Down Memory Lane

TEN YEARS AGO January 14, 2015

4-laning U.S. Highway 52 was being discussed and would enhance safety for U.S. and Canadian traffic, but remains a long shot. The highway is a main Canadian connection between Canada and the U.S. The estimated cost was \$80 million.

The Canadian rig count dropped to nearly half as the benchmark price for oil dropped nearly in

half. The active drilling rig count had dropped from 804 to 466 in western Canada.

Spear fishing Northern Pike on Lake Darling was becoming a popular sport. A fish house and using fish decoys seemed to get the best results.

TWENTY YEARS AGO December 14, 2004

The weather has set a statement in 2004. Precipitation recorded at the Des Lacs National

Wildlife Refuge totaled 28.12 inches, making 2004 the wettest year in Kenmare since record keeping began in 1894. The average moisture total is 16.10 inches. January was the wettest January on record as well, with 27.25 inches of snow yielding 5.8 inches of precipitation.

The Kenmare City Council will be asking the residents what they think before they commit to a street rebuilding project with an estimated cost of more than \$1 million.

Brock Zietz poured in 19 points and Seth Gravesen and Eric Jacobson added 14 each as the Kenmare Honkers routed the Trinity Christian Titans, 75-45.

THIRTY YEARS AGO January 11, 1995

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine was scheduled to announce the opening of a rural site in Kenmare for its Department of Family Medicine. Under the new agreement, UND would provide physician residents to work in Kenmare, under the Minot Center for Family Medicine.

Kenmare Laundry and Cleaners closed their business during the first week of January. Two Minot laundry cleaning companies immediately solicited local business.

Births: Girl, Dec. 28, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Homiston, Coon Rapids, Minn. (great-great-granddaughter of Della Westlake, Kenmare).

Deaths: Ann Allen, 80, Kenmare; Viola Pellett, 86, Minot, formerly Kenmare; James Eckert, 55, rural Stanley; Myrtle Fleming, 94, Clovis, Minn., formerly Donnybrook; Elsie Wilkes, 85, Bowbells; Dorothy Hofer, 67, Larimore (mother of Jacquelyn Schoemer, Kenmare); Robert Haugen, 84, Berthold.

FORTY YEARS AGO January 9, 1985

Russell Nelson has leased the Amoco Service station in downtown Kenmare from the Behm Family Corp. of Minot, announced Leo Merck, manager of Behm's Propane in Kenmare. The change of management took effect on Jan. 1, 1985. The business would now be called R. C.'s Muffler Service and would offer muffler and tailpipe services as their specialty. Also offered would be tune ups, oil changes, tire service, grease and wash jobs, as well as the gas pumps.

Deaths: Robert Mahnke, 90, longtime resident of Kenmare; Ida Hinds, 82, Bowbells; Engvald

Locken, 66, Berthold. FIFTY YEARS AGO January 8, 1975

Mike Gast, Kenmare, received a \$25 savings bond and Shelley Ingerson, Kenmare, a \$10 cash award in the VFW and Auxiliary sponsored Voice of Democracy Contest.

The Parshall Braves edged the Kenmare Honkers 68-60 to claim the championship of the 10th annual Stanley Holiday Tournament, their fifth consecutive title.

Holger Lehman, Coulee, announced the sale of his water service to Arvid Charnetzki, Donnybrook. Mr. Lehman had operated the water service about 20 years.

Deaths: Laverne E. Christensen, 57, former Kenmare railroad employee, Thief River Falls, Minn.

SIXTY YEARS AGO January 6, 1965

The northwest had experienced additional blustery weather during the week with many roads either heavy or blocked. Temperatures ranged from a high of 22 to a low of a minus 25.

Despite unfavorable weather, 23 species totaling 5,441 birds were noted in the annual Christmas Bird Count made here. Homer L. Bradley was president of the Kenmare Club.

Births: Girl, Jan. 1, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Laumb, Tolley; boy, Jan. 1, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Casteel, Columbus.

Deaths: Fred Feldner Jr., 82, Donnybrook; Bruce Dollahon, 55, Los Angeles.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO January 5, 1955

John E. Gaffney, mortician at M. Ringen Funeral Home for two years, announced he had accepted a position with Williamson Funeral Home at New Town. Robert Henne of New Salem was to succeed Mr. Gaffney.

In the second annual holiday bowling tournament at the Maple Lanes Alleys, 33 couples were registered. First prize of \$25 was awarded to Birdie Jensen and Jake Smith. They rolled a total of 1416 pins in the two-day event.

Martin Vaaler, Kenmare, recently appointed to the North Dakota Public Service commission, was named president of the three-member board. Vaaler succeeded Elmer Cart of Kenmare, whose term expired the end of the year.

Mrs. Walter Nelson made plans to entrain from Minot Jan. 12 for New York City and on Jan. 14.

would fly to England to spend a month with her mother, Mrs. Wm. Lee, sisters and brothers at Croydon, England.

Births: Girl, Dec. 31, Mr. and Mrs. James Bartuska, Kenmare; boy, Jan. 1, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Fisher, Mohall.

Deaths: Mrs. Rasmus Westby, 84, Stanley.

EIGHTY YEARS AGO January 4, 1945

Leonard Brown assumed management of the Simmons Variety Store, which he had purchased in November.

Moisture for 1944 totaled 20.14 inches. June, with 10.67 inches, was the greatest amount for a single month ever recorded in this area.

Oscar Nordstrom was rehired as manager of the Kenmare Farmers Union Shipping Association. Mr. Nordstrom had resigned but consented to continue until the annual meeting March 31st.

Otto Neubauer, formerly of Minot, had opened a barber shop in Vee's Beauty Salon on the west side of the square. Mr. Neubauer had formerly lived in Kenmare and prior to going to Minot in 1929 was employed as a barber with Frank Shook.

Miss Lorraine Olson returned

to Ashley to resume her duties at the school there. She had spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Olson.

Deaths: Martin P. Flaherty, 75, Donnybrook.

Births: Boy, Dec. 31, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Monson, Flaxton; boy, Dec. 27, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Egeberg, Donnybrook; girl, Dec. 28, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Pumarlo, Kenmare; boy, Jan. 2, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Boughton, Kenmare; girl, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Remington, Bowbells.

NINETY YEARS AGO January 3, 1935

The Townsend Club held their organizational meeting dealing with old age pension. A bill was to be introduced at the next session of Congress, asking the passage of the Townsend Revolving Old Age Pension Plan.

More than 30 percent of North Dakota's population was on relief at the end of October 1934. At the time, the state was reported as having a population of 668,245. Hardest hit section of the state was the northwest, where one county had 77 percent on relief. Only one county, Traill, did not receive federal aid. They had had excellent crops.

Movie Preview

Wicked

Part one of the two part series, Elphaba, a misunderstood young woman because of her green skin, and Galinda, a popular girl, become friends at Shiz University in the Land of Oz. After an encounter with the Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads.

Elphaba, a young woman with green skin, as she navigates life at Shiz University and forms an unlikely friendship with the popular Galinda. Their bond deepens as they encounter the Wizard of Oz, leading to a series of events that ultimately shape their destinies and transform them into the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good.

This Fantasy, Musical and Romance film is rated PG for some scary action, thematic material and brief suggestive material. The film is 2 hours and

40 minutes. **Wicked** is playing at the Kenmare Theatre on **January 10-12**. Showtimes are **Friday and Saturday have only ONE show at 7 pm and Sunday at 3 pm and 7 pm.**

KENMARE THEATRE
Phone 701-385-4433
Friday, Saturday at 7 pm ONLY & Sunday at 3 pm & 7 pm

January 10-12

Wicked

PG

Area Weather Forecast

	Conditions	Low/High	Precip.
Wed., Jan. 8	cloudy	13/29	0%
Thurs., Jan. 9	windy	19/32	0%
Fri., Jan. 10	cloudy	16/26	0%
Sat., Jan. 11	cloudy	19/29	0%
Sun., Jan. 12	cloudy	-4/19	0%
Mon., Jan. 13	sunny	-7/2	0%
Tues., Jan. 14	cloudy	-4/10	0%
Wed., Jan. 15	partly cloudy	-5/10	0%

Jan. 6-- Market Close

No. 1 Durum.....	\$6.60
Low-end Durum.....	\$5.60
Spring Wheat.....	\$5.62
Winter Wheat.....	\$4.33
Corn.....	\$3.98
Barley.....	\$4.00
Feed Barley.....	\$2.50
Soybeans.....	\$8.72

Peas.....\$7.00
Canola.....\$16.94
Flax.....\$12.00

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