



Enterprise Dispatch

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Staying afloat

REBECCA ROUSH
Correspondent

Sometimes you need more than a life jacket to stay afloat. This was the case for Biz Robbins.

Biz grew up in Cloquet, with her brother, Joe Harmala, formerly of Cokato.

She later attended St. Olaf University for two years, then transferred to the University of Minnesota, where she studied teaching.

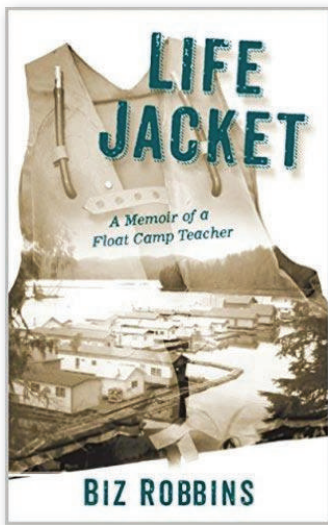
After graduating with a degree in teaching, she moved to Colorado Springs, CO, to teach fifth grade.

This is also where she met her husband, Don, who was a high school teacher at the time.

Three years after getting married, Don proposed that they pack up and move to Alaska.

He gave Biz two years to "get used to the idea."

In 1978, the couple made the move to southeast Alaska, where they both pursued teaching in logging camps, which



Biz Robbins wrote a book about her experiences in Alaska and surviving the death of her husband.

Biz described as "little camps that were dispersed all throughout southeast Alaska, that had logging families in need of schools."

After getting settled into

their new lifestyle, they got the news that Don had cancer. Don lost his battle, and Biz was left to carry on.

After just one month, she returned to the float camps to pick up where she left off as a teacher.

She was offered a job at a small school on the Polk Inlet float camp. There, she taught grades one through 12 for five years.

Biz decided that she wanted to memorialize the float camp lifestyle, so she began to write a book about her experiences.

"I would wish for other people to be able to experience that kind of life," she explained.

The book is titled, "Life Jacket: A Memoir of a Float Camp Teacher."

She originally named it after the life jackets that the children would have to wear while walking through the floating camps, however the book's title soon took on a new meaning.

While dealing with the death of her husband, the community that Biz was a member of took on the role of an "emotional life jacket" in her life, continuing to support her and keep her "afloat."

As the book started to take shape, Biz wanted to add an inspirational element for people who are also dealing with grief.

Her mother-in-law had returned letters to her that Biz and Don had written throughout the years. These letters brought back many memories that would have otherwise been left out or forgotten while writing the book. They were so important, Robbins decided to include items from the letters in the book. She described these letters as being a "special gift."

The book quickly turned into not only a memoir of the float camp lifestyle, but a memoir of Biz's own life experiences.

see ALASKA, 6A

DARWIN

Darwin Night at Dassel Ball Park celebrates 1940 doghouse home run

JENNIFER KOTILA
Staff Writer

Several descendents of those who played in the 1940 ball game in which the infamous Darwin doghouse home run was hit were on hand Wednesday at Darwin Night at Dassel Ball Park to help celebrate its 75th anniversary.

Two of Litchfield pitcher Johnny Anderson's grandsons, Scot and Curt Anderson, who followed in their grandfather's footsteps and also pitched town ball, came out for the evening.

see DARWIN NIGHT, 14A



Darwin's Henry Peterson races a twine ball down the baseline between first and home. He beat Brooks Opsahl, who was racing on the third baseline, due to a defective twine ball.

JENNIFER KOTILA



The Shopko Hometown project, being constructed near the intersection of US Highway 12 and Wright County State Aid Highway 3 in Cokato, is well underway.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER KOTILA

COKATO

Shopko Hometown project 65 percent complete

JENNIFER KOTILA
Staff Writer

Construction on the Shopko Hometown project, near the intersection of US Highway 12 and Wright County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 3 in Cokato, is expected to be complete by Labor Day, according to Bauer Design Build project manager Kyle Anderson.

Bauer Design Build has used as many local contractors as possible to complete the project, including Cokato businesses AR Engh, Ultra Concrete, and JSH Construction.

After Labor Day, the building will be merchandised by Shopko, and the training of employees will begin, Anderson noted.

Currently, the building shell is complete, and the interior of the building is being constructed.

Utility work at the site, including the force

main relocation, is also complete, and the parking lot is being prepared for paving, according to Anderson.

Shopko parking lot entrance

Shopko Hometown will have three entrances – one off Hwy. 12, and two off CSAH 3.

The entrance from Hwy. 12 will be a right-in, right-out entrance.

Traffic coming from the west on Hwy. 12 will be able to turn into the parking lot, and traffic leaving the parking lot will only be able to turn west on Hwy. 12.

The main entrance for Shopko Hometown will be located at the southwest corner of the lot, and traffic will be able to turn either into or out of the lot at this entrance.

An entrance at the northwest corner of the lot will be primarily for truck traffic.

New business in Dassel is all about helping

JULIA JAGODZINSKI
Correspondent

Charity Heating and Cooling Services is a new business in Dassel that is run by Brian Zeglen.

"I've been in the heating and cooling business for over 20 years, always as an employee," Zeglen said, explaining that he is excited to begin his own venture.

Zeglen and his wife, Michele, are originally from Fridley and have been living in Dassel the past 10 years.

They have nine children who are home-schooled – four boys and five girls, ages 2 to 16.

Zeglen's oldest son, Garrett, plans to help his father with

the family business. Zeglen's 13-year-old twin sons, Luke and Eddie, are also interested in the HVAC industry and hope to become involved.

Zeglen's interest in heating and cooling systems began after high school, when he and a friend were looking at some options at the local technical college.

The instructor of the classes for heating and cooling told Zeglen, "If you learn how to do heating and cooling, you'll always have a job."

Zeglen noted that the statement is true, especially in Minnesota.

Before he started Charity Heating and Cooling Services, Zeglen worked at UHL Com-

pany Inc. in Maple Grove, as well as other companies in the Twin Cities area.

The idea to name his business "Charity" came from the Bible, Zeglen said.

"In the Bible, the words charity and love are interchangeable," he stated, adding that he doesn't want to be a salesman, and wants to solve people's problems with a caring attitude.

Zeglen said his favorite things about owning a business are that he can decide how time is spent, and that he gets to help people and educate them on how their heating and cooling systems work.

see CHARITY, 6A



Brian Zeglen is the owner of Charity, a new heating and cooling business in Dassel.

PHOTO BY JULIA JAGODZINSKI

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HAPPENINGS

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CFahs to meet Tuesday

The Cokato Finnish-American Historical Society will have a business meeting Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Temperance Hall, north of Cokato.

Ice cream social at St. John's Friday

St. John's Education Center, US Hwy 12 SW, Cokato will host an ice cream social Friday, July 17 from 4 to 7 p.m. Menu includes barbecues, potato salad, chips, pie, ice cream, lemonade, or coffee. Free will offerings welcome. This event is sponsored by St. John's and St. Gertrude's Ccw.

Pork chop dinner Friday

Grace Lutheran Church, Cokato, will host a pork chop dinner Friday, July 17 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Kingston Community Center. Tickets at the door \$10; children 6 and under can choose a hot dog and chips, \$4. Dinner includes a pork chop, homemade potato salad, beans, brownie and homemade ice cream, and beverage; extra chop \$4.

Homemade ice cream at Ostmark Sunday

Ostmark Lutheran Church, 32721 680th Avenue in Watkins, will host its homemade ice cream social Sunday, July 19 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the church. In addition to the ice cream, there will be pie, hot dogs, BBQs, lemonade, milk, and coffee. All are welcome.