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Serving the Lonsdale, Webster and Veseli areas

Free

Lonsdale liquor profits up, though pandemic's impact varies for local munis

By CARSON HUGHES
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In the face of tumultuous 2020 transformed by the COVID-19 pandemic, statewide profits for municipal liquor stores continued to grow.

On Oct. 28, the state auditor reported that municipal liquor net profits totaled \$36 million in 2020, a near 30% jump (\$8.2 million) in profits over 2019. The trend was linked to record off-sale profits, which soared by 65% over last year.

See LIQUOR on 2A



Lynette Moe, Lonsdale Liquor manager, arranges some of the red wine products in the store's back shelf. The store's sales have increased each year, but it saw a nearly 150% increase over 2019, largely due to the pandemic. File photo/southernminn.com)

Commissioners get a peek at plans for new jail, but supply shortages loom

By SUZANNE ROOK
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Matthew Verdick is well aware of the supply shortages that are impacting the construction industry.

That's why the Rice County parks and facilities director plans to ensure certain building materials that are currently hard to come and that will be used on the county's new law enforcement center are ordered ASAP. Verdick, who's helping oversee the project, set to break ground sometime next year, said Tuesday that steel and precast concrete panels, which will likely be used in the new facility, will get moved to the top of the list when it comes time to order supplies.

See JAIL on 2A



Commissioner Jim Purfeerst, left, discusses a preliminary rendering of the new Rice County law enforcement center with Rice County Sheriff Jesse Thomas. The center is set to be built on a portion of land the county purchased on the west side of the intersection of Hwy. 3 and 30th Street in Faribault. (Suzanne Rook/southernminn.com)



Santa and Frosty the Snowman take the stage with Elsa on Saturday, Nov. 27 at Something For All in Lonsdale. The photo opportunities are just one of many things for residents to participate in during the Lonsdale Chamber of Commerce's new event, Frosty Fest. The event begins at 4 p.m. and concludes at 6 p.m. with the tree lighting ceremony. (Photo courtesy of Something For All)

SEASONAL CELEBRATION

First-ever Frosty Fest rings in the holidays, Small Business Saturday

By MICHELLE VLASAK
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Lonsdale's Main Street will be transformed into the ultimate holiday oasis on Saturday, Nov. 27.

The new event from the Lonsdale Chamber of Commerce combines the first-ever Frosty Fest with the annual tree lighting and Small Business Saturday. Frosty Fest will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. and features events for the whole family, from horse-drawn wagon rides with lights and music to experience the store front holiday lights, uniquely created luminaries by Lonsdale Elementary students highlighting downtown Lonsdale, and food and refreshments available from local businesses.

Lonsdale Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Shanna Gutzke-Kupp says many of the businesses will have specials. There will be opportunities available to get photos with Santa, Frosty the Snowman and Elsa from "Frozen" at Something For All. The evening ends with the tree-lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. in Lions Park with Mayor Tim Rud sharing a few words.

JoAnn Erickson, owner of Something For All, looks forward to another holiday-filled day. Last year was their first year having Santa available for photos. Erickson said she felt badly because some kids weren't able to see Santa

CELEBRATE
Frosty Fest takes place from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27 on Main Street Lonsdale.
Visit local businesses for Small Business Saturday, and enjoy specials (including food) from local establishments. Enjoy music and lights on horse drawn wagon rides on north and south Main Street, pictures with Santa, Frosty and Elsa at Something For All and tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. at Lions Park.
Learn more about featured specials at local businesses at facebook.com/lonsdalechamber.

FEELIN' FROSTY
Businesses open for Frosty Fest include Aces Nutrition, Audre's Attic; Casey's General Store — Lonsdale; Five Star Embroidery, LLC; Lonsdale American Legion Post 586; Lonsdale Area Chamber of Commerce; Lonsdale Hardware & Rental; Lonsdale Liquor; Mackenthun's Fine Foods — Lonsdale; Massage Therapy by Lisa Klossner; Salon 146; Smoke; Somethin'Tasty; Something For All; Subway-Lonsdale; Coffee Fool-Lonsdale and The First National Bank of Le Center- Lonsdale Location.

last year since many events were canceled, and thought it would be a fun idea to put together. The event was held outside, and staff made sure everyone socially distanced.

"It's good to just get people out on Main Street and enjoy the day," said Erickson of the new Chamber event.

The event is in conjunction with Small Business Saturday, and Erickson adds shopping local is huge for small businesses.

"We depend on the community here to stay in business," said Erickson.

Along with the photo opportunities, Erickson says they are also an Adopt-a-Tree event, where nonprofit organizations adopt a tree for free and decorate it. From there, it's up to members of the community to vote on their favorite tree. Sweet treats and hot beverages, provided by Something Tasty, will also be available for

attendees.

Gutzke-Kupp said the Chamber is trying to add new events and ensure opportunities for residents and the community to see what's available, and also provide a fun during the holiday season when there isn't much else to do locally. Along with food specials, businesses will bring in other businesses to sell different products, like the Chamber, which will have make and take trees for \$5 from Hillside Gift and Garden Center.

The Lonsdale first! loyalty program that started Nov. 1, runs through Dec. 31. The program is designed to stimulate local spending, where the community can shop at local participating businesses and get special cards stamped.

See FROSTY on 2A

Supper Club converts to mental health, substance abuse treatment center

By CARSON HUGHES
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One of the few local options for mental health care is about to be bigger.

Inspire Services, of Montgomery, the only ARMHS (Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services) provider in Le Sueur County, is moving to a new location with a greater capacity to treat clients. In about a week, Inspire will finish construction on a new mental health and substance abuse treatment center with more space for clients and staff than their current clinic.

Once construction is complete, the Lakeside Supper Club, north of Montgomery and west of Lonsdale, once a spot for casual dining on the shore of

Lake Pepin, will become a center for psychological screenings and evaluations, individual and group therapy, substance abuse counseling and mental health services.

Owners and brothers Joshua and Jonathan Buelke drew up plans earlier this year to move the Inspire Services outpatient clinic at 100 Oak Ave. SW, Montgomery to the former supper club. The 7,600-square-foot property dwarfs the 1,200-square-foot available in the current clinic and will allow Inspire Services to boost staffing and dramatically increase the number of clients served.

"Right now, our current space is really limited; there's just not enough space," said Joshua Buelke. "Our goal is

to serve more individuals. We would like to make more dependency treatment available to people, but we're kind of limited right now with where we're at."

Jonathan Buelke said the current location didn't have enough space for a full group, but the new site has room for up to four therapy groups of different sizes if necessary. The site also offers more offices for staff, a staff lounge area and a training area. Inspire Services has a total of 61 staff, but around 10-12 would be in the building on a daily basis. The mental health care provider is also interested in adding more therapists and licensed alcohol and drug counselors.

See CLUB on 2A



Owners and brothers Joshua and Jonathan Buelke are opening a new location for the Inspire Services outpatient clinic. Currently located at 100 Oak Ave SW, Montgomery, the clinic is moving to a larger site at the former Lakeside Supper Club on Lake Pepin. (Carson Hughes/southernminn.com)