

KNOT NOTES

Digital wellness, kids and sleep

Cloquet Public Library will host another parent workshop, “Digital wellness for teens and tweens: What does sleep have to do with it?” Professor Ryan Hjelle of UMD will tackle this subject at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9 in the large meeting room at the library. All Carlton County schools are welcome to this free event, including caregivers, teachers and youth workers as well as teens. Daycare and a light meal will be provided.

Band requests roads feedback

The Fond du Lac Planning Department invites the public to provide input about roads and trails on the Fond du Lac Reservation through a public survey. The survey can be accessed by visiting www.ardcplanning.org/fonddulac and will be open until Nov. 30. This survey is part of a larger project to update the transportation plan for the Fond du Lac Reservation to access funding for maintaining and constructing roads and trails on the Reservation. ARDC Planning will hold a virtual public open house to provide further public input opportunities on Monday, Nov. 15. Visit www.ardcplanning.org/fonddulac for more, or direct questions to ARDC’s Russell Habermann at 218-529-7552 or rhhabermann@ardc.org.

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Throw your card into the contest

Arrowhead Library System (ALS) is holding an art contest for a new library card! Adults ages 18 and older who live in Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis counties may enter until Nov. 24. The winner will be selected by ALS staff and notified by December 5, 2021. To participate, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/2021ALSlibCard-DesignContest>. Completed forms may be turned into any ALS member public library or sent via mail to Arrowhead Library System, Attn. M. Stanford, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mountain Iron MN 55768. Only one submission per person

THEY’RE NOT BOOING — THEY’RE MOOING



Barnum fans dance in a costumed conga line, with an abundance of cows, during Friday’s volleyball playoff game between Barnum and Cromwell-Wright. For more that game, see Page 27. Dan Saletel / Pine Knot News

Dealership ...

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The Birmans — who had been very involved community members at one time — sold their home at 1 Park Place in Cloquet for \$527,000 in November 2020 and told friends they were moving to Texas with their young son.

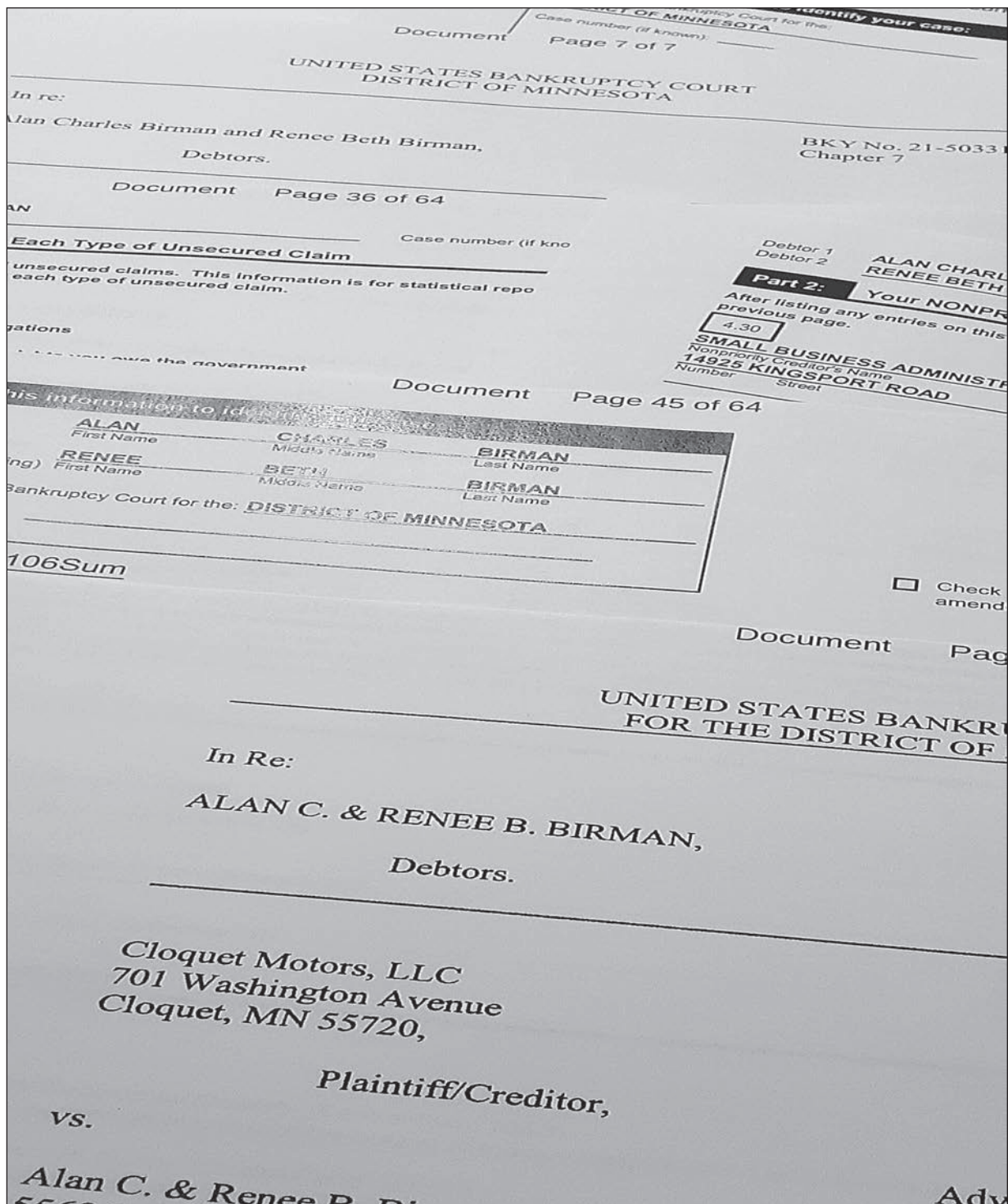
Then a bankruptcy filing on July 9 of this year — reported in the Pine Knot News on July 30 — showed the Birmans with an address on Howard Gnesen Road in Duluth.

The Chapter 7 filing claims the Birmans have assets of \$47,445 and unsecured debts in the amount of \$3,648,019 plus \$60,000 in unpaid taxes.

According to the bankruptcy filing, the vast majority of the Birman’s debts are business loans: \$1.2 million owed to Westlake Financial in Los Angeles, California, \$740,000 to AFC in Osseo, Minnesota, \$500,000 to the Small Business Administration, \$393,078 to American Guardian Funding, \$90,000 to Ford Credit in Colorado as well as Chrysler in Michigan and more. Many of the creditors are in the business of providing loans, some of them specifically for car dealerships, or a revolving line of credit. More local business debts include \$267,395 to North Shore Federal Credit Union and \$200,000 to Frandsen Bank and Trust. A total of 33 creditors was listed on the original bankruptcy filing.

In late August, bankruptcy judge William Fischer ordered that the bankruptcy trustee could examine two years of the Birman’s Woodlands National Bank account, which the trustee requested “in connection with the large transfers from the debtors’ business checking account to the debtors’ personal account,” according to court documents.

On Oct. 5, attorneys for Cloquet Motors LLC and Mike Larson filed an adversary complaint alleging that the Birmans had wrongly stated they owed nothing to Cloquet Motors.



“The debt owed to CMLCC is unknown and is based on an illegal diversion of company funds for the personal benefit of the debtors,” the complaint alleges.

Neither the Birmans nor Larson returned phone calls from the Pine Knot News.

The bankruptcy case is ongoing. The most recent action was the fraud complaint filed by Cloquet Motors LLC.

The former owners of Cloquet Ford Chrysler — Alan and Renee Birman — owe more than \$3.6 million, according to numerous bankruptcy court filings and claims.