

When in doubt, isolate, public health says

Record Staff

Public Health's most recent recommendation is that anyone who currently has COVID-19 symptoms or has had symptoms in the last 10 days, should self-isolate while waiting for test results. The same goes for anyone living in the home with the person experiencing symptoms.

In the majority of cases, the health authority said the isolation will be brief, because test results, the majority of the time when the test is negative, come back quickly. But isolation can prevent the spread of COVID-19 if a person ends up with a positive test result.

The most recent data on the evolution of COVID-19 in Quebec shows 806 new cases, bringing the total number of people infected to 284,472. According to health authorities, 266,138 people have recovered.

There were 17 new deaths, bringing the total in the province since the beginning of the pandemic to 10,346.

Hospitalizations decreased by 25 to 655. There are currently 130 people in intensive care in Quebec, an increase of 10 since the day before.

Yesterday 8,807 doses of vaccine were administered, for a total of 376,910.

To date, 509,325 doses of vaccine have been received in the province.

In the Estrie region, 26 new cases were confirmed, bringing the local total to 11,431. Three new deaths were reported; two from Résidence Le Brunswick and one from Centre d'hébergement Villa-Bonheur, bringing the total deaths in the region to 300.

The cases of new variants again remained stable in the province at 23, but the presumptive cases continue to climb, currently at 602.

Local schools put on pink to stand up to bullying



COURTESY/FACEBOOK

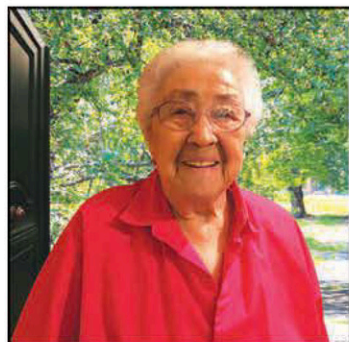
Every year on Feb. 24 students and staff in schools across the country participate in Pink Shirt Day, an event to raise awareness about bullying.

The campaign was started in 2007 when two students at a Nova Scotia high school organized a protest after a boy in Grade 9 was bullied by students

for wearing a pink shirt. David Shepherd, Travis Price and a group of classmates headed to a discount store and picked up 50 pink tank tops, encouraging all the boys in school to wear them.

Many of the schools in the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) participate in Pink Shirt Day, including

ADS Elementary School, seen here. Richmond Regional posted a video on Facebook talking about bullying, and Massey-Vanier encouraged students and staff to wear pink and then organized a pink shirt scavenger hunt, where students had to search for as many people wearing pink shirts as they could at the school.



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Weather



TODAY:
FLURRIES

HIGH -4
LOW -17



FRIDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH -4
LOW -12



SATURDAY:
PERIODS OF
SNOW OR RAIN

HIGH 3
LOW -2



SUNDAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH 6
LOW 0



MONDAY:
60 PER CENT
CHANCE OF
SHOWERS

HIGH 4
LOW -10

Border Story Story



ROSS MURRAY

For generations, the sleepy towns of Stanstead, Quebec, and Derby Line, Vermont, have slumbered together in the proverbial twin beds of neighboring border communities. Most of the time, the two towns have dreamed their separate dreams and not worried about hogging the political covers or drooling on each other's socio-economic pillow. On special occasions, such as anniversaries or after a couple of drinks, those beds have been pushed together and the relationship, like this metaphor, has become more intimate.

But in recent months, a presence has disrupted these napping neighbors like a cat slurping lustily at its loins at 2:00 a.m. Life in Stanstead and Derby Line has become a nightmare. A Nightmare on Canusa Street, for this border community has become overrun by a relentless yet mostly polite presence: journalists.

Journalists have descended on this border community—once drowsy, now sullen at the breakfast table—to write stories about the border. And increasingly, there are reporters writing stories about reporters writing stories about the border. This is one of those stories.

"We kind of take our close communities for granted," said Raven Jones, who lives in Derby Line but whose parents are professional cheese waxers in Stanstead (retired). "Just

neighbors who spend our days living side by side and our nights shining laser pointers at the border guards. But I guess it's interesting if you're not from here. And when you think about it, most people aren't."

And most reporters aren't. Actually, we can confirm that none are. Zero percent of reporters are from here. If we led you to believe there was a possibility of local-based reporters doing border stories, we apologize. We're sorry we brought it up at all.

"We've had lots of reporters visit over the years," said Ms. Jones. "Right after 9/11. A bit later after 9/11. A few years after that to see how 9/11 changed us. When Trump was running for president. When Trump was elected president. When Trump was amazingly still president. Stories about which was worse, 9/11 or Trump being president. And sometimes reporters came just because they saw a story about Stanstead and Derby Line and thought it would be neat to do an almost identical story of their own."

For years, reporters traveled to the border community, remarked upon the flower pots at the border and interviewed five people. The same five people.

"This is my 343rd interview!" said Ms. Jones.

Then COVID happened...

The twin beds, once so tenderly coexisting, have been pushed to opposite sides of the bedroom by governments that have banned bed jumping to prevent the spread of disease and painfully stretched metaphors.

Darren Pabsnik is a reporter for "Fondue You," a fromage-focused podcast based out of Washington, DC (his parents' attic). In January, he was sent to Derby Line to report on how the border closing was affecting the lives of border citizens and their love for Monterey Jack.

"I thought I would be here a day, maybe two, talk to the people everyone else had talked to, and I'd be on my way," said Mr. Pabsnik. "But I'm stuck on the U.S. side of the border. How am I supposed to finish my story if I can't interview the obligatory local Stanstead historian? And the library! Good Gruyere! The library!"

That library is the Haskell Free Library, which sits directly on the Canada-U.S. border and is a mandatory feature of every border story. When the border shut down in the spring, the library closed as well. Now it has become Ground Zero for reporters attempting to complete their border stories. A tent city has popped up on either side of the flower pots as reporters wait for a librarian to talk to. The tent city includes no twin beds.

"Some days we hear the librarian is coming soon, that he'll tell us how the locals don't really think about the border," said Mr. Pabsnik. "Or maybe he'll tell us COVID has been hard for the community. Its for the librarian to say. But we'll get the quote. We know he'll come. He has to come."

Before long, other reporters arrived to report on reporters at the border, inspired by other stories they had seen about reporters at the border. They interviewed five reporters. The same five reporters.

"This is my 68th interview," said Mr. Pabsnik.

In response to the influx of reporters, this groggy border community has rallied to provide the journalists with their basic needs: coffee, left-over press conference food and a change of clothes once a week. But their patience, like an ancient coverlet on a twin bed, is wearing thin.

"We just want to get back to normal life," said Ms. Jones, "and that's excitedly reading every single story about ourselves and sharing them all on Facebook."



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Ben by Daniel Shelton



Local News

The principal explained that once complete, the new 4,000 square metre school facility will include a number of features to make it a more dynamic and engaging learning and living environment for students and staff.

New Drummondville Elementary School to be completed by this time next year

By Gordon Lambie

A virtual groundbreaking ceremony was held on Wednesday morning for the project to build a new English elementary school in Drummondville. Excavation began on Feb. 8 and work on the \$16.6 million facility is expected to last until late January or early February of 2022.

"This is a thrilling moment for English education in Drummondville and the regions," said Michael Murray, Chair of the Eastern Townships School Board, noting that Drummondville Elementary has been in near constant expansion since the school was opened in the community in 1998. Prior to that, the city had been without an English elementary school since the end of the 1981-82 school year, when the older building was closed due to low enrolment.

"Parents assured us that if we opened a school, the students would come," he said, adding that the project has proven such a success that it has since been expanded three times and is still bursting at the seams.

"We really look forward to having bright and spacious classrooms,"

said Dany Grenon, Principal of Drummondville Elementary School. "We couldn't be more excited today."

The principal explained that once complete, the new 4,000 square metre school facility will include a number of features to make it a more dynamic and engaging learning and living environment for students and staff. Among these she listed three pre-school classes and 13 regular classes, an increase over the current number, as well as a double gymnasium, cafeteria space (the current school's cafeteria was converted into more classroom space), and open gathering areas for a range of activities related to school life. The building is expected to be able to accommodate 33 per cent more students than the current building, while offering greatly improved services and quality.

"It was a dream, it is now a reality," Grenon said, underlining the addition of the gymnasium as a particularly exciting addition.

Funding for the new school was provided through the Plan québécois des infrastructures, and the design for the building was created within the parameters outlined in the new "Guide de planification



ARCHITECTURAL SKETCHES/COURTESY

immobilière pour les établissements scolaires primaires," the education ministry's guide for the planning of elementary schools in the province. Among the details of this plan is a focus on using materials like wood, aluminum, and Quebec's distinctive blue in the construction and décor of the building, implementing unified signage for Quebec schools, designing with the idea in mind of sharing space with the community, and implementing sustainable development measures like natural sources for ventilation and light and energy efficient materials.

"Youth deserve safe, modern and stimulating learning environments to grow in and develop to their full potential," said Jean-François Roberge, Quebec's Minister of Education. "I am very proud of the start of work on Drummondville Elementary School and I am confident that this project also delights the families of the community".

While the focus of the day was on the creation of a new school building, Roberge highlighted the fact that, "older schools are also in a process that is a bit slower, of renovation and renewal."

Quebec's restaurant association continues push to reopen dining halls

By Michael Boriero - Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A petition created by the Association Restauration Québec (ARQ) last week is gaining momentum with more than 10,000 Quebecers signing the virtual document as of Wednesday afternoon.

"We believe it's a good first step to attain this level of signatures, you know, 10,000 people is a lot of people," said ARQ Spokesperson Martin Vezina in an interview with The Record.

The 'Sauvez les restos, M. Legault!' campaign, or Save the restaurants, Mr. Legault, is an attempt by the ARQ to mobilize restaurant owners, staff, suppliers and patrons to demand the Quebec government reopen dining halls across the province.

In a press release, the association noted that while restaurants are open in several regions, it's important to remember all of the establishments that have been closed for eight out of the last 12 months. The industry has lost roughly \$5 billion in sales, according to the ARQ.

"What we need is a date. It doesn't have to be tomorrow, but is it in two weeks, three weeks? Does the Eastern Townships go to orange in two weeks," Vezina asked. "We need to know in

advance."

The ARQ added that the industry is at a tipping point. It's more fragile than ever, the press release stated, and the long-term survival of many restaurants is threatened by a debt that continues to grow. People can learn more about the campaign at www.change.org.

Vezina believes restaurants can provide a safe environment for customers and staff. He also feels like the Quebec government is ignoring the restaurant industry, choosing instead to discuss swimming pools, movie theatres and concert venues.

There also needs to be a more comprehensive financial aid package, he explained, there are problems with the current provincial program aimed at helping businesses survive the pandemic. Vezina wants to establish a more open dialogue with the government.

"We need to have this discussion," he said. "When will we be reopening, how will we do it and something I can tell you is that the orange zones don't have an increase in cases and their dining halls are open."

Although restaurants have been able to take advantage of take-out and food delivery service applications, Vezina told The Record that it only

equates to roughly 30 per cent of a restaurant's sales. There is also uncertainty about whether former employees will return to work.

The spokesperson said that in the orange regions, restaurant owners are finding it difficult to find people keen on working in an industry that could be closed again next week. The customers are there, he continued, there aren't many hands on deck.

"In the future, will we have employees because some have been furloughed for seven or eight months, maybe they've gone elsewhere, maybe they don't want to work in this industry in these times," Vezina said.

Simon Proulx, the owner of Minton, a small restaurant in Ayer's Cliff, said he needed to completely eliminate his staff. Proulx is alone now, handling everything from cooking to deliveries. He used to have a full-time cook, server and several part-time positions.

He has suffered weekly losses since Quebec designated the Townships a red zone. According to Proulx, his restaurant is a popular tourist spot. However, there wasn't a tourist period this year. All events were cancelled, he said, there isn't a steady cash flow right now.

"I wouldn't say it's a catastrophe,

but we're not getting much revenue," said Proulx. "We're in survival mode, using a respirator and waiting for the moment everything returns to normal."

He called the government's financial aid program a catch-22. It's good for the short term, Proulx continued, but restaurant owners need to hope sales skyrocket when things return to normal, otherwise they are going to struggle to pay off debts accrued over the last year.

Proulx is also skeptical about the ARQ's petition. He is fairly confident their efforts won't change anything at the provincial level. They also don't represent all restaurant owners, he said, it's only a small percentage of Quebec's restaurants.

But he admitted the association has brought to light some major flaws in the provincial government's logic. Owners have been told that their establishments are dangerous, Proulx said, but there aren't any statistics to prove it.

"They consider restaurants a risk, but I have 16 spots in my restaurant, I'm not more of a risk than Costco or Dollarama where several hundred people circulate on any given day," he said.

Local crows blatantly ignore rules against public gatherings

By Gordon Lambie

Anyone outside in certain parts of Sherbrooke's north end over the last few days would have been hard pressed not to notice the crows.

Whereas it is not that unusual to see a small group of the black birds cawing together near the side of the road or in a tree, the gatherings witnessed near the corner of Argyll and Prospect Streets on Sunday and Monday of this week numbered at least 100 and could be heard at a significant distance.

In short, there are a lot of them.

While the visual might have inspired thoughts of Alfred Hitchcock or the Wicked Witch of the West, Vermont-based Naturalist Bridget Butler told The Record that the large-

scale roosting is very normal at this time of year.

"This is a winter-specific phenomenon that we see with crows and sometimes other species of birds like starlings," Butler said, explaining that although the reasons why the birds get together is still the subject of some study, it's seen as a measure that helps with warmth, protection from predators like owls, and an opportunity to socialize.

According to the naturalist, winter roosting follows a pretty distinctive pattern.

First, around 3:30 to 4 p.m. the birds start "streaming," or traveling in one direction together in the sky, gathering new birds as they go.

"It's kind of like there is a highway in the sky," Butler, noting that the activity becomes pretty noticeable as the number of birds increases.

The next step is "staging," where the crows gather together in a somewhat raucous collection for a time in trees or on the roofs of buildings. Just one of these groups is noteworthy, but Butler said that the final roost is often made up of a number of staging groups coming together.

Once the final roost does come together, the birds settle down for the night in whatever place they have decided is best for the evening. This, the naturalist explained, usually happens just as it starts to get dark, usually in a slightly different area each night.

Gary McCormick, a Bishop's



GORDON LAMBIE



GORDON LAMBIE

University librarian and member of the Saint Francis Valley Naturalists Club said that although he tends to do his birding in the morning he has noticed large gatherings of crows. He theorized that the birds spotted in the north of Sherbrooke are likely roosting in the Beckett Woods at night.

"They look for the bigger forest and the larger trees," he said, speculating that the older growth in the forest might be well suited to the crows' nighttime needs.

Butler said that because of the show the crows put on as they get ready for

bed each night, it can be fun to follow the staging groups to see where they end up.

"I used to pack my kids up and take them out looking," she said, explaining that she once counted as many as 2,000 crows in a roost that used to settle in for the night over several blocks in downtown St. Albans, Vermont.

Butler maintains a project called "Crows in Vermont" that allows citizens of that state to track crow sightings over time, which can be found at <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/crows-in-vermont>.

A March break full of activities in Sherbrooke

David Rossiter
Special to The Record

Last week Premier Legault announced the relaxing of certain provincial restrictions, with the intention of providing activities for parents and children to enjoy during March break. On Wednesday morning, mayor Steve Lussier and two municipal councillors held a press conference to discuss how these changes would look in Sherbrooke.

While movies theatres made headlines last week, it was city owned and operated facilities that were the focus of Wednesday's presser.

Lussier started by acknowledging how hard the pandemic has been for everyone, but specifically the school-aged demographic. "Concerned about the physical and mental health of students, Sherbrooke and its partner organizations have succeeded in developing a varied schedule of activities which will vigorously abide by all health and safety measures," he said.

Lussier then passed centre stage to Vincent Boutin, president of the city's sports and outdoors committee. Boutin announced that five indoor rinks;

Eugene-Lalonde, Ivan-Dugré, Philippe-Begeron, and the rinks in Julien-Ducharme centre and Rock Forest centre will open on Feb. 27 and stay open until at least March 8.

Indoor skating rinks will be for free skating only, no hockey games or practices will be taking place. The rinks will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. every single day. Fifty-minute slots will be available for sign up online or by phone, with a maximum of 20 people on the ice at a time.

Boutin made sure to emphasize the plethora of outdoor activities available for people to take part in, even though they were open before Legault's loosening of restrictions. The many outdoor skating rinks in the city will continue to be open for skating, with hockey sticks and pucks allowed at 14 specific ice surfaces.

The 110-acre outdoor park "base de plein-air André-Nadeau" was used by Boutin as an example of a great spot for March break recreation. The outdoor area, about 20 minutes southwest of downtown Sherbrooke, is planning on offering special family-oriented entertainment and activities during the break, in addition to their regular proceedings of snow tubing, cross

country skiing, skating and more.

Indoor pools were another big part of last week's Legault announcement. However, the Sherbrooke presser made no mention of pools. This is likely explained by the fact that the only municipality-run indoor pool is currently closed for renovations.

At least one indoor pool will be opening to the public during the break, at the Cégep de Sherbrooke athletic facility. The indoor pools at Bishop's University and Université de Sherbrooke "will not be reopening to the public, but rather just to members, staff and students," according to a facility manager at Bishop's.

Alongside the new opportunities for physical activity will be virtual activities put on by the city of Sherbrooke and partner organizations. Municipal Eva-Senecal library has put together a schedule of virtual activities to take place throughout the week, including story times and do-it-yourself workshops.

The third and final speaker at the press conference addressed the ever-present concern of public health. President of the Sherbrooke's public safety committee, Danielle Berthold spoke about respecting not only public



PHOTO BY DAVID ROSSITER

Sherbrooke Mayor Steve Lussier

health regulations, but also those who enforce them.

"They're not there to ruin your time or to punish you. They are there to help keep you safe and keep these activities operating safely," she said, about the city employees tasked with enforcing covid guidelines.

The Border Report

Blue Massawippi pointed out that North Hatley is the most vulnerable of the five municipalities around the lake, largely due to its small physical size, the special recreational facilities, and its critical location at the outlet of the lake.

Welcoming students back to Phelps

**PHELPS AIDE
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After Hooked on School Days last week, Phelps' weekly programs are gearing up for a strong finish to the year. In response to online learning fatigue, both elementary and high school programs will be opening our space back up to students with strict protocols to keep students and staff safe.

High school students are invited to book a study space between Tuesday and Thursday from 1 pm to 7 pm. Individual spaces are available for students to have a quiet place to study and change of scenery for either their online classes or to tackle assignments. Students will once again get to take advantage of the welcoming environment and healthy snacks! To book a space, students or parents must contact Clea Corman, on Facebook or at ccorman@phelpshelps.ca. Spaces must be reserved the day before to ensure that physical distancing restrictions are respected.

Starting after March Break, Elementary tutoring students will also

be moving from online to in-person sessions. Phelps will now be hosting the grade 5 and 6 students at our 272 rue Dufferin location. The program coordinator will walk students down to Phelps and tutoring will be held in the same classroom bubbles. Each class has a different day and time. To check what day your child's class will have after-school tutoring, contact Genevieve Lalande, on Facebook or at glalande@phelpshelps.ca.

We look forward to welcoming back students into our space and helping them end their school year with the goal of finishing strong.

Phelps Aide Phelps Helps was founded in 2012 and has grown organically from a single high school tutoring program to six unique programs, providing the Stanstead area with free educational and career support. For more information or to volunteer, please email us at info@phelpshelps.ca, visit our website www.phelpshelps.ca or call our offices at 819-704-0799.



Hatley cancels Canada Day festivities



ARCHIVES

On Monday organizers of the annual Canada Day parade in Hatley announced on its Facebook page that a few virtual activities will take place this summer to keep everyone connected, but the parade normally held will not take place this coming July 1.

"It's safe to say our committee did not expect to be in this position again for 2021," the Facebook note reads, adding that the decision to cancel the event again was made to ensure the safety of the community and volunteers.

"We look forward to 2022 and seeing you all in person," the message concludes.

Blue Massawippi says Lake Massawippi can no longer be taken for granted

Record Staff

Conservation group Blue Massawippi published a press release recently reacting to a draft of North Hatley's strategic plan which, according to the organization, makes no mention of the lake and its problems. There is no discussion about the environment in the planning document, Blue Massawippi states, designed to guide the actions of the municipality for the next ten years.

Patrick Fréchette, president of Blue Massawippi said the organization was looking forward to the strategic plan with great interest, especially since the group had stepped up actions in North Hatley last summer to support the municipality with a mobile washing station, and the urgent management of the various cyanobacteria outbreaks. "However, while we welcome the merits of the municipal exercise, we are disappointed that the environment and climate change are almost completely ignored in this first draft of the plan," Fréchette commented.

In its comments sent to the municipality earlier this week, Blue Massawippi pointed out that North Hatley is the most vulnerable of the five municipalities around the lake, largely due to its small physical size, the special recreational facilities, and its critical location at the outlet of the

lake.

Philippe Beaugard, a resident of North Hatley and a member of Blue Massawippi board of directors, explained that the lake can no longer be taken for granted. "If North Hatley is to carry out this ambitious and praiseworthy plan, it must integrate, in black and white, the health of the lake and the sustainable development of its watershed," Beaugard said.

Blue Massawippi proposed a dozen concrete changes to bring North Hatley's plan closer to environmental reality, while emphasizing the need to maintain sustained partnerships with the Massawippi Regional Park, the waterfront municipalities, the Massawippi Foundation and Blue Massawippi.

Blue Massawippi's general manager Michèle Gérin stated that for more than a decade, North Hatley has faced multiple controversies over the development of its territory. "This plan could mark the end of all the difficult debates in North Hatley. To do this, we must give ourselves the means to manage the recurrent risks clearly visible: floods, climate change, frequent blue-green algae outbreaks, explosion of weeds, threat of zebra mussels, difficulty in controlling boats ... among other things. In short, North Hatley's exceptional environment and magnificent built heritage must guide all of its future actions," Gérin said.

EDITORIAL

Another badly underestimated danger in this age of hand wipes and washing is that your normal cleaner is unlikely doing the job.

The pandemic is the least of my worries



TIM BELFORD

One of the things about the pandemic is the fact that I find myself watching more television than I would normally do. In the pre COVID days when we were allowed to mix freely with others, I would actually socialize a little bit most days. I would also read a good deal rather than sit in front of the tube. Social distancing has ended all that.

Like most Canadians, particularly here in the hinterland where there is no Gazette, Globe and Mail or National Post save for the Saturday edition, I began to rely more and more on the televised news. I found myself checking, on a regular basis, the progress of COVID-19, the attempts at stemming the tide and lately the effort to vaccinate us all.

I also sat mesmerized while CNN followed every detail of the latest American reality show, 'As the Stomach Churns,' starring Donald J. Trump and a cast of thousands. Like a modern version of a Cecil B. DeMille epic, the Trump-inspired uprising featured the besieged hero (Trump) rallying a hoard of spear and gun-waving followers as they besieged the Capitol and attempted to throw off the chains of tyranny - in this case the chains being the legally elected government of Joe Biden.

More worrisome, however, was what I was seeing in the endless hours of commercials that interrupted regular

programming. Up until this moment I hadn't realized how many things there are to fear in my daily existence that appear to be far more dangerous than a mere potentially fatal virus.

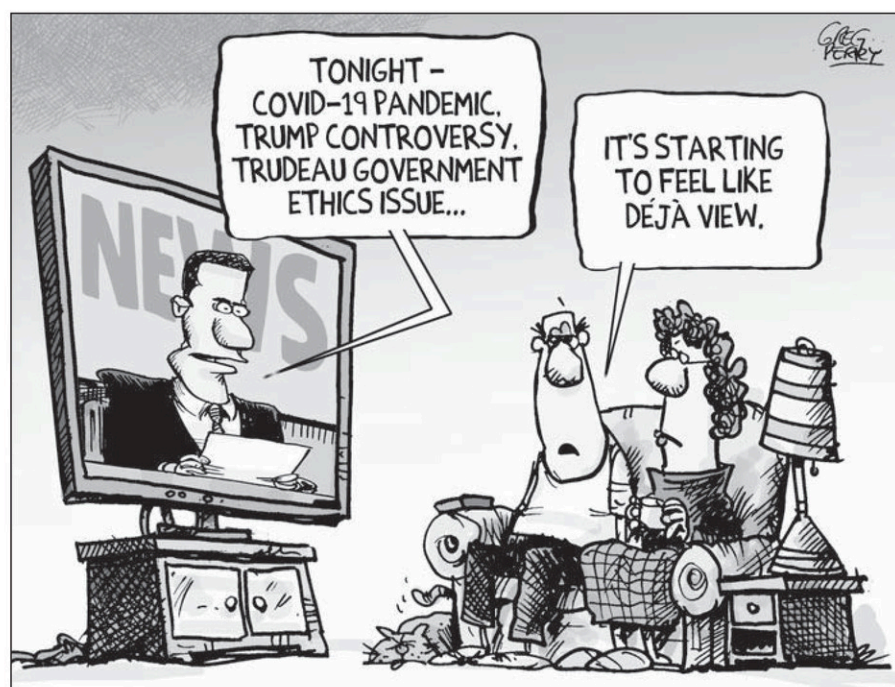
How many of us are really aware that just washing our clothes with soap and hot water like mother used to do won't do the trick? That's because of the "hidden sweat and body odours" that only infrared light can detect. Speaking of odours, I wasn't aware that even though I don't notice them, the smell of our dog, the aroma of last night's chicken, the scent of boots, shoes, laundry and of course my pipe, linger and will be picked up instantly by any visitor. Although, with the pandemic thing unlikely to end in the near future, I should have plenty of time to get the right spray to give the house the "scent of all outdoors."

Another badly underestimated danger in this age of hand wipes and washing is that your normal cleaner is unlikely doing the job. To be really safe you apparently need a spray that will kill 99.9 per cent of all germs on the counter and keep them away until 2023. If you don't believe me, just use that handy infrared light and you'll see.

On the bright side, I also quickly realized that I was paying way too much for my landline, WIFI, computer services, cell phone and television. By combining the thirty-six different options available with the discounts offered I realized I could get a package that would be virtually free with nothing to pay for the first three months. I could even throw in an app from Fitness Canada that would tell me how to exercise.

It's a frightening thing to suddenly realize that your mop is no good, your bath tub ring is so bad it looks like the grease pit in a garage, the dust in the house has formed a dune between the living room and the kitchen, and that without a dehumidifier your entire family is likely to suffocate.

COVID-19 could be the least of my worries.



Letters

DEAR EDITOR:

I read Mr. Standish's article with great interest. I do agree with him in most instances. I have always believed that one should try and learn the language used in their work place or neighbourhood. This, of course, would not necessarily be French, or in some cases not even English..

With respect to Bill 101 and subsequent developments which included the language police, it is my opinion that they are beating a dead horse. They are trying to enforce proper French language on the general population who actually speak, in varying degrees, a mixture of French, English and slang. This is the language they will continue to use unless they obtain a higher education which is not a large percentage of the population either in municipalities, provinces, or in federally controlled jurisdictions. In fairness I wish to add that the English language is similarly abused.

Since the 1950s and 1960s the Quebec government has continued to attempt to force it's ideals and aspirations on the rest of Canada with some success. The more power given to this government the more they want. Ideally, they want to be a country, a financially impossible dream. So they continue to demand further concessions from the Canadian government and the other provinces.

BARBARA MORGAN
WATERLOO

Hiking - and protecting our forests during the spring thaw

The spring thaw is imminent. Soon we will again see the regrowth of young, green vegetation. Wildlife will reappear as new food becomes more abundant, and we humans will also go out more to enjoy the milder weather.

Even though it may be muddy, spring calls us out to enjoy the open spaces and hike in the woods. But did you know that the soil is very fragile at this time of year, and that certain types of behaviour can be very harmful to the emerging vegetation? We therefore encourage you to use good sense when you are out and about, to protect the newly emerging ground.

During the spring thaw, the humidity in the soil crystallizes and expands. We can see this as the ground becomes swollen with ice crystals. When we walk on it, the soil becomes compacted, and loses its ability to drain properly. Footprints or other tracks fill up with water, and as they multiply, they can create ruts like those left by vehicles. This leads to erosion and may change the volume of water in the soil that is available to plants. In addition, future walkers will tend to avoid the areas that have been walked on where the ground is filled with water, and will walk elsewhere, enlarging the affected area. They may then walk on fragile plants that would normally be protected outside the walking area of the path or trail.

For this reason, some trails are closed during the spring thaw. It is important to avoid them so they can continue to be used at other times. The trails that remain open have less fragile soils, so they can be used during the thaw. They are protected by their topography, soil or by the design and landscaping of the trail. It is very important to stay on these trails, the mud notwithstanding. All you will have to do is give your boots a good cleaning to remove the mud after your hike!

MÉLANIE BERGERON, M.Sc. BIOL.
ASSOCIATION FORESTIÈRE DU SUD DU QUÉBEC

THE RECORD

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Canadiens fire coach Claude Julien amid losing stretch

The Associated Press

The struggling Montreal Canadiens fired head coach Claude Julien and associate coach Kirk Muller on Wednesday following a three-game skid.

Assistant coach Dominique Ducharme was appointed interim coach, and Alex Burrows was added to the Canadiens' coaching staff.

After a one-week break in their schedule, the Canadiens have lost three in a row. They've lost five of six and six of eight since a strong start.

A 5-4 shootout loss in Ottawa against the Senators on Tuesday night marked the end of the line for Julien, who returned for his second go-round as Montreal's coach midway through the 2016-17 season.

The Canadiens were battling the Toronto Maple Leafs for top spot in the North Division earlier in the season but have since dropped into fourth.

Julien had to leave the team during the first round of the playoffs last year in Toronto when he had a stent installed in a coronary artery. Muller took over the head coaching duties and the Habs extended the top-seeded Philadelphia Flyers to six games before

bowing out.

The Habs were the lowest-ranked team to qualify for the 24-team post-season last year and then upset the Pittsburgh Penguins in the qualifying round.

Ducharme joined the Canadiens' coaching staff in April 2018 after 10 seasons in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. He won the Memorial Cup with Halifax in 2012-13 and has twice been Canada's head coach at the world junior championship, winning silver in 2017 and gold in 2018.

Burrows has been a member of the coaching staff for the team's AHL affiliate in Laval, Quebec, the past two seasons.

"I would like to sincerely thank Claude and Kirk for their contributions to our team over the past five years during which we worked together. I have great respect for these two men whom I hold in high regard," Canadiens general manager Marc Bergevin said in a statement.

"In Dominique Ducharme, we see a very promising coach who will bring new life and new energy to our group. We feel that our team can achieve high standards and the time had come for a change."



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We all have questions about the vaccine

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- headaches, pain in muscles or joints

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Quebec.ca/COVIDvaccine

The vaccine. A safe way to protect ourselves.



Death

**Merna
TICEHURST
DUTIL
1933-2021**

Merna passed away peacefully at the Magog hospital, on February 19, 2021, at the age of 87 years, dear wife of the late Roger Dutil of Stanstead.



She leaves to mourn her sons Michel (Karla), Philippe (Renelle), Randy (Rose) and her daughters Lucille (Réjean), Valérie (Les) and Paula (Robert). She was predeceased by her daughter Lise (Paul). She will dearly be missed by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was the sister of Erwin (Pauline), the late Ronald (Sandra), Lorna (Chester) and the sister-in-law of Cécile Dutil Joyal. She also leaves many cousins, nephews, nieces, other relatives and dear friends. The family would like to express profound gratitude to nurse Lise Perron, her team of home care services as well as to the staff of Manoir Stanstead, especially for allowing Merna's cat Marley to stay with her. In lieu of flowers, donations to the CAB Rediker, 112, rue Principale, Stanstead, QC, J0B 3E5, would be appreciated. A funeral service will take place at a later date.

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Transient global amnesia is scary, usually not dangerous



ASK THE DOCTORS by Eve Glazier, M.D., and Elizabeth Ko, M.D.

Dear Doctor: My husband is 68 years old and recently had an episode of memory loss. He suddenly didn't know where he was. It lasted for about two hours and was very scary. Our son, who is a nurse, says maybe it was transient global amnesia. Can you please tell us something about that?

Dear Reader: Transient global amnesia refers to a sudden episode of temporary memory loss that is sometimes accompanied by confusion. It occurs separately from a condition that could commonly trigger it, such as a head injury, tumor or stroke. The causes aren't yet understood, but it's sometimes compared to the brief and specific bouts of amnesia that can arise after drinking too much, or from drug use.

Someone who is experiencing transient global amnesia, or TGA, is suddenly unable to recall recent events. They can, however, remember who they are, remember the names of familiar objects and recognize family members and people who have a regular part in their lives.

Although an episode of TGA can last up to 24 hours, it is usually much shorter. The average episode lasts about six hours. During the course of an episode of TGA, the individual is unable to either make or store new memories. They often repeatedly ask the same questions, because they are unable to retain the information in the answers that were given. These episodes typically occur in middle-aged and older adults.

While the onset of an episode of TGA is sudden, the recovery is usually gradual. As time passes, the individual will have increasing recall of places and events, until they feel completely oriented again. Once it's over, most people won't be able to recall anything that occurred during the episode. The causes of the condition are not known. A link between migraine and TGA is suspected, but it has not yet been proven. Possible triggers of the condition include physical or emotional stress, physical exertion, pain, sudden immersion in cold or hot water and medical procedures.

Because other serious conditions can share some of the symptoms of an episode of TGA, it's important to seek medical attention. Even though your

husband has recovered from his bout of memory loss, it would be wise for him to be evaluated by his health care provider. They will take a medical history and ask for a detailed description of the event. Since this isn't something your husband can provide, you or someone else who was present will be asked for the narrative. It is likely that a neurological exam will take place. This will check sensory function, reflexes, gait, balance and coordination. Tests to assess memory and recall also will be performed. Depending on the findings, additional scans, such as magnetic resonance imaging, electroencephalogram or computerized tomography – an MRI, EEG or CT scan – will be used to detect any abnormalities in the brain's blood flow or electrical function. Although alarming, an episode of TGA is not considered to be dangerous. For most people, it's a unique event and is not repeated.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health.

Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Kelly at ekelly@amuniversal.com.

Datebook

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Today is the 56th day of 2021 and the 67th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1836, Samuel Colt received the patent for his revolving-cylinder pistol.

In 1901, J.P. Morgan incorporated the United States Steel Corporation.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, which gives Congress the power to levy income taxes, went into effect.

In 1991, the Warsaw Pact, a mutual defense agreement between Central and Eastern European communist states, was declared disbanded.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919), artist;

Enrico Caruso (1873-1921), opera singer; John Foster Dulles (1888-1959), diplomat; Zeppo Marx (1901-1979), actor; Bobby Riggs (1918-1995), tennis player; Ralph Stanley (1927-2016), musician; George Harrison (1943-2001), singer-songwriter; Jack Handey (1949-), humorist; Tea Leoni (1966-), actress; Sean Astin (1971-), actor; Chelsea Handler (1975-), comedian; Rashida Jones (1976-), actress.

TODAY'S FACT: Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Claude Monet were friends and often painted together; several of their works were painted at the same time in the same locations, from different angles.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1964, Cassius Clay defeated Sonny Liston in a stunning upset to win the heavyweight

boxing crown. Clay changed his name to Muhammad Ali the following week.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Don't ever get your speedometer confused with your clock, like I did once, because the faster you go the later you think you are." – Jack Handey, "Deepest Thoughts"

TODAY'S NUMBER: 1,060 – pairs of shoes notoriously left behind by Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos when she and her husband, President Ferdinand Marcos, were forced to flee the country on this day in 1986.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Feb. 19) and full moon (Feb. 27).

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With photo: additional \$18.50. **DEADLINE:** 11 a.m., day before publication.

BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY & GET-WELL WISHES, ENGAGEMENT NOTICES:

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For Monday's paper, email production@sherbrookerecord.com or call 819-569-4856 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. For Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday's edition, email production@sherbrookerecord.com, call 819-569-4856 or fax 819-569-1187 (please call to confirm transmission) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the day prior to the day of publication. The Record cannot guarantee publication if another Record number is called. Rates: Please call for costs.

TOWNSHIPS' CRIER

TOWNSHIPS

If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, we can help. Call Alcoholics Anonymous 1-888-424-2975, www.aa.org

RICHMOND

Due to Covid-19, the Richmond Legion, Branch #15, has cancelled all events for the month of March, including the Green Sale.

LENNOXVILLE

Mental Health Estrie invites you to a free virtual workshop series in English: "Strategies to Overcome Anxiety and Stressful Events" presented by Melissa Hindley (M.A., c.o., licensed psychotherapist). Two more workshops left! You are welcome to attend one or both from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on March 3rd, and March 10th. To register email Jennifer: mentalhealthestrie@gmail.com or call 819-565-3777.

DUNHAM

Marché des Artisanats Dunham has finally re-opened with a wide selection of crafts, masks, cleansers and Oneka hand sanitizer. New hours are Thursday and Friday 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shop local and support your hard-working artisans! 3786 rue Principale, Dunham. For information: Facebook @marchedesartisanatsdunham or 450-295-2252.

ONLINE

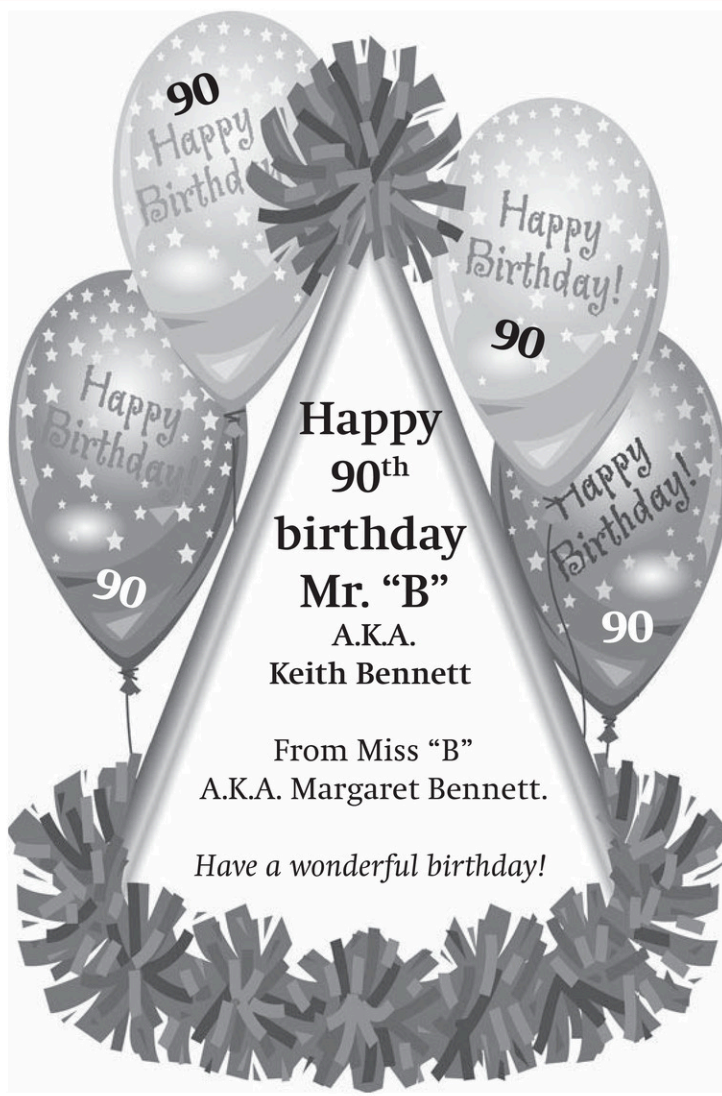
Online workshop: Friday, February 26, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Stronger Together! Stress-coping Mechanisms and Tools to Build a Stronger Relationship. Online conference through zoom; phone-in option available. To register, contact Vanessa: va@townshippers.org. Sponsored by Townshippers' Association.

LENNOXVILLE

On Wednesday, March 3 at 7p.m., the Bibliothèque Lennoxville Library will host the 16th annual "Canada Reads . . . and so does Lennoxville" as a free online event on Zoom. Held the week before the national Canada Reads debates, the Library's event brings together book lovers from Sherbrooke and surrounding communities to hear five local panelists make their case for the book they believe should be chosen as the "one book to transport us." The evening will culminate in a lively discussion followed by a vote to choose the winner and a draw for prizes. For more information and the link, go to the library's website or visit us on Facebook.

RICHMOND

Tea & Talks goes online! March 30, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Zoom, join us for an online "un-birthday" party, complete with a free gift when you sign-up. A social afternoon for seniors in the greater Richmond/Danville community to get together. And talk! Tell a friend to make it double the fun. If you have never attended a Zoom meeting before, we can help you get it set up. RSVP: Alice Weare at 819-826-5488 or by email to richmondclc@etsb.qc.ca



Four interesting health benefits of garlic

Garlic makes a delicious addition to various meals. Though some people may avoid garlic because of its potential to contribute to bad breath, doing so means people may miss out on some surprising health benefits produced by this powerful, if pungent, bulb.

1. Garlic bolsters the immune system. A 2015 review published in the Journal of Immunology Research found that garlic appears to enhance the functioning of the immune system by stimulating certain cell types. A strong immune system helps people fight germs that can lead to colds and other illnesses.

2. Garlic can have a positive effect on blood pressure. According to the Cleveland Clinic, researchers believe that red blood cells turn the sulfur in garlic into hydrogen sulfide gas that expands the blood vessels. That makes it easier to regulate blood pressure. That's no minor benefit, as the American Heart Association notes that high blood pressure can contribute to heart disease and stroke.

3. Garlic can benefit the skin. Allicin is a compound that is produced when garlic is crushed or chopped. According to the online health and wellness resource MedLife, allicin benefits the body in various ways, including killing the bacteria that causes acne.

4. Garlic may help reduce lead levels in the body. A 2012 study published in the journal Basic & Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology studied the potentially therapeutic effects of garlic on 117 workers in the car battery industry. The clinical signs and symptoms of lead poisoning were significantly higher among workers who were not treated with garlic compared to those who were. Authors of the study concluded that garlic can be recommended for the treatment of mild-to-moderate lead poisoning.

Garlic can make for a nutritious addition to any meal, and some of its many health benefits may surprise even the most ardent supporters of this unique bulb.

(Metro Creative)

Concern for enabling friend

Dear Annie

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Dear Annie: I have a longtime friend with a history of enabling, starting with her own kids. I tried to discourage her from doing that numerous times without success. History appears to be repeating itself. Her kids are long gone, but now her granddaughter has moved in. This young lady, barely out of high school, is perfectly comfortable hanging around the house playing on her cellphone. Two years have gone by, she has shown no interest in getting a job, nor does she have any discernible goals. She cooks family meals on occasion, but I'm not aware of her contributing much else.

My friend hasn't put in much effort encouraging job hunting. Nor has she felt it necessary to consider counseling, something I've suggested a few times, for one or both. The sad part is my friend knows she's enabling yet chooses to do nothing to help herself or the child. Grandma's motivation may be as simple as loving the company. She really isn't doing the granddaughter any favors. Any idea how I might make that a little clearer to her? - Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned: If it's concern that you want to express, go ahead. Do so once; then let it go.

If, on the other hand, what you really want to express is an opinion, then save your breath. We're all entitled to make our own mistakes, for better or worse. Besides, people rarely take advice when they ask for it, let alone when they don't.

Dear Annie: Thank you for telling "Bewildered" - whose toxic family had contacted her out of the blue, acting as though they'd never done anything wrong - to get therapy.

I would also encourage "Bewildered" to move, as soon as they are able to - even if it is just across town. A new place. A fresh start. A new phone number.

Family is those that are around you and care for you as much as you care for them. You don't owe blood family a single thing. Abusers will never admit fault. And the children will never see it; they are simply parroting the behavior of their elders.

I was happiest when I was 2,500 miles away from my family. I am back now but see no reason to get close. They haven't changed; I have. - Know Better Now

Dear Know Better: Wherever you go, there you are - but I can agree that sometimes a change of scenery can be a much-needed refresh. I'm glad you found boundaries that gave you peace, no matter your location.

Dear Annie: "Unappreciated Stepmom" gave her stepson and his fiance money for their wedding about a year ago, and life certainly has been a winding road since then. I agree with "Stepmom" that not being updated over their change of plans is insensitive, more so because she is one of the groom's parents. My interpretation was that her involvement in the wedding planning simply was the provision of funds for the couple to proceed with their plans as they wish. In my understanding, when you give a gift, it is no longer yours, regardless of what it is. There is some imbalance on both sides of the scale here. - Just the Way I See It

Dear JTWISI: I tend to subscribe to that line of thinking, as well. If it's got strings attached, then it's not a gift; it's a trap. That being said, I could sympathize with "Unappreciated Stepmom's" hurt feelings in this case, as no one likes feeling left out of the loop. "Imbalance on both sides of the scale," as you put it, is an eloquent description.

"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book - featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette - is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

" G J O O M I W E O I G O Z O G Y R Y O ' L R C Y
M R L G N G Z O C G I I N R R Z O H D R A O O Z O Y
N K O A R L N J V X Y N G Y U D K V I I O Y U O L ."
— P V H H V K P V C D O N N

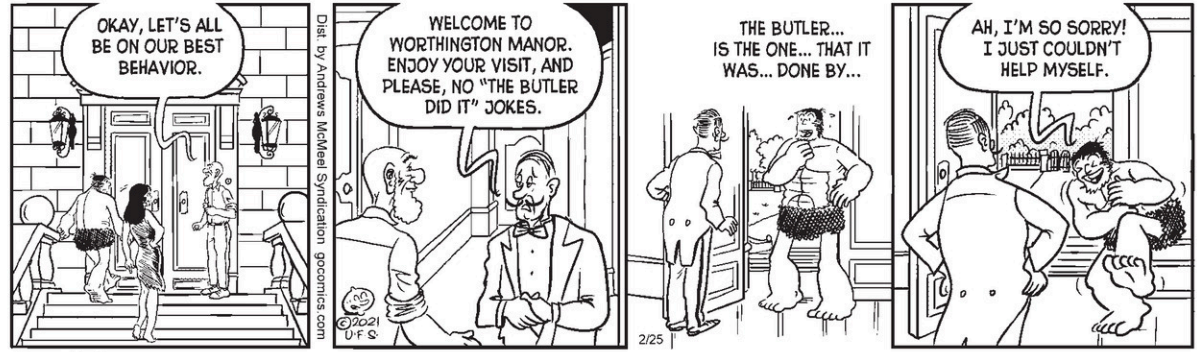
Previous Solution: "Elisha Cook was a darling, and full of the devil. A wired-up little fellow who was always busy, busy, busy." — Marie Windsor

TODAY'S CLUE: n s j e n b e x

REALITY CHECK



ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



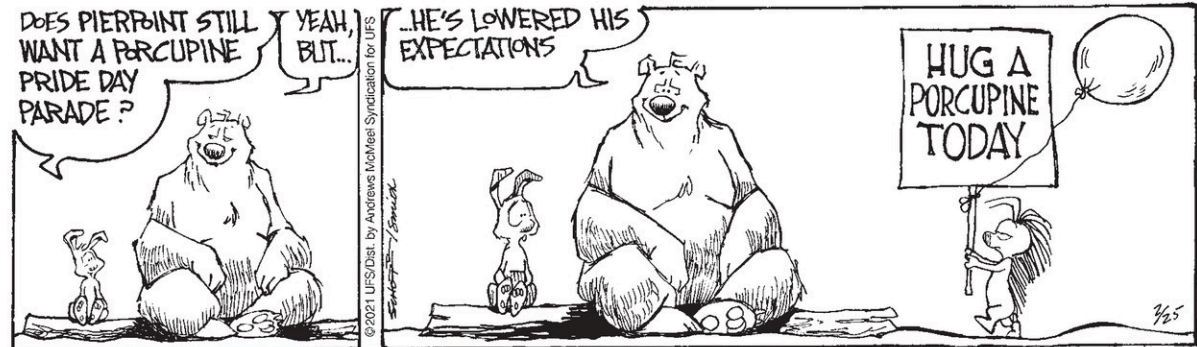
THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



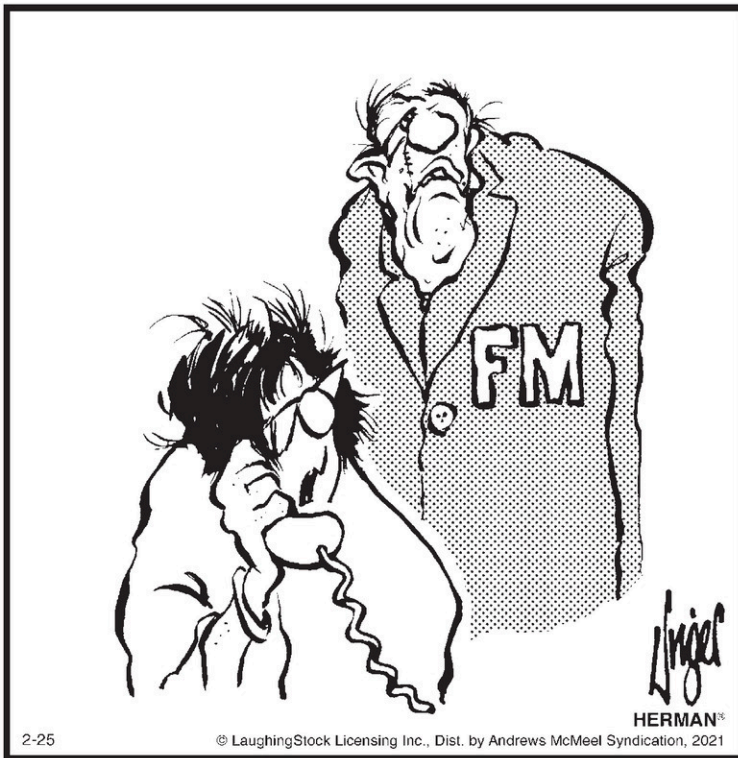
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On this date:

In 616 (traditional date): Ethelbert, first Christian English king and instigator of the first written code of British law, died.

In 1570, Pope Pius V excommunicated Queen Elizabeth I of England, declaring her a usurper because she embraced Protestantism.

In 1723, British astronomer and architect Sir Christopher Wren died. He's best known for designing St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

In 1752, John Graves Simcoe, the first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada, was born at Cotterstock, England.

In 1832, a charter was granted for the construction of Canada's first railway, the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railway.

In 1836, inventor Samuel Colt patented his revolver – the first revolving barrel multi-shot firearm.

In 1841, French artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir was born.

In 1873, Enrico Caruso, universally regarded as the world's greatest operatic tenor, was born in Naples, Italy.

In 1880, the New Brunswick legislature in Fredericton was destroyed by fire.

In 1884, a company that would later become Inco began mining operations at Sudbury, Ont. Today, Inco is part of Vale, a huge global

mining company with operations on five continents.

In 1908, St. Boniface, Man., was incorporated as a city.

In 1918, McGill University received a \$1-million grant from the Carnegie Foundation.

In 1924, Douglas Jung – the first Chinese-Canadian elected to Parliament – was born in Victoria. Jung represented Vancouver Centre for the Conservatives from 1957-62. He was also the first Chinese-Canadian lawyer accepted to the British Columbia bar, the first to appear before the B.C. Court of Appeal, and the first to represent Canada at the United Nations. Jung died in Vancouver on Jan. 4, 2002.

In 1928, W3XK Washington became North America's first licensed television station.

In 1940, the New York Rangers beat the Montreal Canadiens 6-2 at Madison Square Garden in the world's first televised hockey game. It was aired on Westinghouse station W2XBS.

In 1945, CBC's International Service was launched.

In 1948, Communists seized power in Czechoslovakia.

In 1964, Cassius Clay, who later changed his name to Muhammad Ali, became world heavyweight boxing champion by defeating Sonny Liston in Miami Beach.

In 1966, the 13-km, \$200-million east-west Toronto subway was opened by Prime Minister Lester Pearson.

In 1968, Quebec Premier Daniel Johnson accused Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau of displaying a dangerous ignorance of Quebec and the nature of federalism.

In 1972, Ontario Hydro's nuclear power generating plant was officially opened.

In 1982, Maclean Hunter Ltd. acquired 50 per cent ownership of the "Sun" newspapers in Toronto, Edmonton and Calgary.

In 1983, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tennessee Williams died at age 71.

In 1986, after 20 years of rule, Philippines president Ferdinand Marcos resigned. The 68-year-old Marcos and his family fled to Guam. Corazon Aquino, widow of the assassinated Benigno Aquino, succeeded Marcos.

In 1991, the Warsaw Pact, created by the Soviet Union and other eastern European countries as a counter-force to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, voted to dissolve on March 31.

In 1993, The Supreme Court of Canada ruled 4-3 that gay and lesbian couples aren't families under the Canadian Human Rights Act. The judges said Parliament never intended to include homosexual couples when it amended the human rights law in 1983 to prevent employers from discriminating against people based on family status. However, Justice Antonio Lamer wrote that he might have voted differently if the act had prohibited discrimination against homosexuals. Justice Minister Kim Campbell had introduced amendments to do just that in December.

In 1997, multimillionaire John du Pont was found guilty of murder in the fatal shooting of Olympic champion wrestler David Schultz, but a jury decided he was mentally ill.

In 1998, Canadian author and humorist W.O. Mitchell, died at age 83.

In 2000, telecommunications giant BCE bought broadcaster CTV for \$2.3 billion.

In 2003, Roh Moo-hyun, 57, was sworn in as President of South Korea.

In 2005, notorious Holocaust denier Ernst

Zundel gave up his fight to stay in Canada. The 65-year-old white supremacist was put on a plane in early March to return to Germany where he faced charges for spreading hate there. He would spend five years in a German prison before being freed in 2010.

In 2007, "The Departed" was named Best Picture at the 79th Annual Academy Awards. Martin Scorsese won his first Oscar for directing it. Forest Whitaker won Best Actor for "The Last King of Scotland" and the Best Actress award went to Helen Mirren for "The Queen."

In 2010, Ile-Dupas, Que.-native Joannie Rochette won the hearts of Canadians with an inspirational performance that earned her an Olympic bronze medal in ladies figure skating just days after her mother's sudden death.

In 2010, Canada claimed its third consecutive Olympic championship in women's hockey with a 2-0 victory over the United States at Vancouver's Winter Games. (Canada extended the streak to four at the 2014 Sochi Games.)

In 2018, the Pyeongchang Winter Games came to a close as short-track speed skater Kim Boutin, who won a silver and two bronze medals, carried the Canadian flag at the closing ceremony. Canada finished third overall with a record 29 medals (11 gold, 8 silver, 10 bronze), eclipsing its previous high of 26 from the 2010 Vancouver Games.

In 2019, The Saskatchewan's coroner's service report into the Humboldt Broncos bus crash called for tougher enforcement of trucking rules. It also recommended mandatory trucker training, mandatory seatbelt use on highway buses and a review of provincial policy on signs at intersections.

In 2019, R&B star R. Kelly's attorney entered a not guilty plea on his client's behalf to multiple charges of criminal sexual abuse.

In 2019, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh won his do-or-die bid to capture a B.C. seat in the House of Commons. The victory in the riding of Burnaby South tightened Singh's shaky grip on the reins of the federal New Democrats.

In 2020, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, ousted in the 2011 Arab Spring uprising, died at 91.

In 2020, Canadians and their family members flown home from Wuhan, China, were released from quarantine over the novel coronavirus. They spent that time at CFB Trenton, Ontario being monitored for any symptoms. Chief public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam said the evacuees did not pose a risk of transmitting the disease when they returned to their homes. Foreign Affairs Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne advised Canadians planning trips overseas to check his department's travel advisories before booking, calling the outbreak a very dynamic situation.

In 2020, Dr. Bruce Aylward said the world isn't ready for a new coronavirus outbreak. Aylward returned to Geneva after leading a team of experts to China to study the virus for the World Health Organization. He urged other countries to get ready for a potential outbreak within their own borders as soon as possible, warning the spread of the virus seemed inevitable.

In 2020, Canadian fashion mogul Peter Nygard announced he has stepped down as chairman of his company following a FBI raid on his New York headquarters on suspicion of sex trafficking. Nygard has denied the allegations.

(The Canadian Press)

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

5					2			
7		4			3			
2	9			7	8	5		
		8		1	9			
	4						1	
			5	4		2		
		3	7	9			5	6
			6			3		8
			3					4

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

3	8	9	4	6	1	2	7	5
6	5	2	8	7	3	1	4	9
7	1	4	2	9	5	6	3	8
1	2	6	3	8	9	4	5	7
4	7	8	1	5	6	9	2	3
5	9	3	7	4	2	8	1	6
9	3	1	5	2	8	7	6	4
2	6	7	9	3	4	5	8	1
8	4	5	6	1	7	3	9	2

HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

NEA Crossword Puzzle

Your Birthday

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Stand back and let situations play out naturally. Distance yourself from people trying to get you involved in a questionable joint venture.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – Stick to what you know and do best. Don't get involved in bureaucratic matters if you aren't prepared with facts to back your claims. Concentrate on personal changes that will bring you peace of mind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) – You are better off doing things on your own. Joint endeavors will lead to disappointment, arguments and loss. Use your intelligence and charm to outmaneuver someone trying to push you in an unwise direction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – Don't count on someone using emotional means to manipulate you. Avoid people who keep changing their minds or who are unpredictable. Build relationships with people who share your values.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – Put your money to proper use. Look at your options, and consider offers that can lead to a better professional position. Don't spend unnecessarily or expect others to pay your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – An unexpected offer will grab your attention. Before you take action, go over details diligently. Leave nothing to chance, and look for pitfalls that can lead to a disagreement or loss.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) – You'll be indecisive if you receive mixed messages. Question whatever you don't understand, and if you don't get a satisfactory explanation, be prepared to walk away.

You'll be looking for answers this year. Your energy is high, and your desire to bring about change will keep you moving full speed ahead. If you look at what's trending and at your skills, talents and knowledge, you'll find a unique way to use what you have to offer to succeed.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) – Don't stop until you reach your goal. Use your intuition to navigate your way through any challenges you face. Trust in your ability to make things happen.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) – Attending virtual meetings, connecting with people who have something to offer and exploring new possibilities regarding your professional goals are favored. Trust your intuition when dealing with pushy people.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) – Let others make the first moves. Don't put yourself at risk or do something that will make you look bad or taint your reputation. Look inward and make personal changes that will build confidence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) – Observation is your best friend. Make corrections, be articulate and show compassion. You will gain respect and ward off discord. Expand your interests. Listen and think.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) – Keep your plans secret until you have everything in place. Preparation will help you come out ahead. A personal or physical change will give you the boost you require to gain recognition.

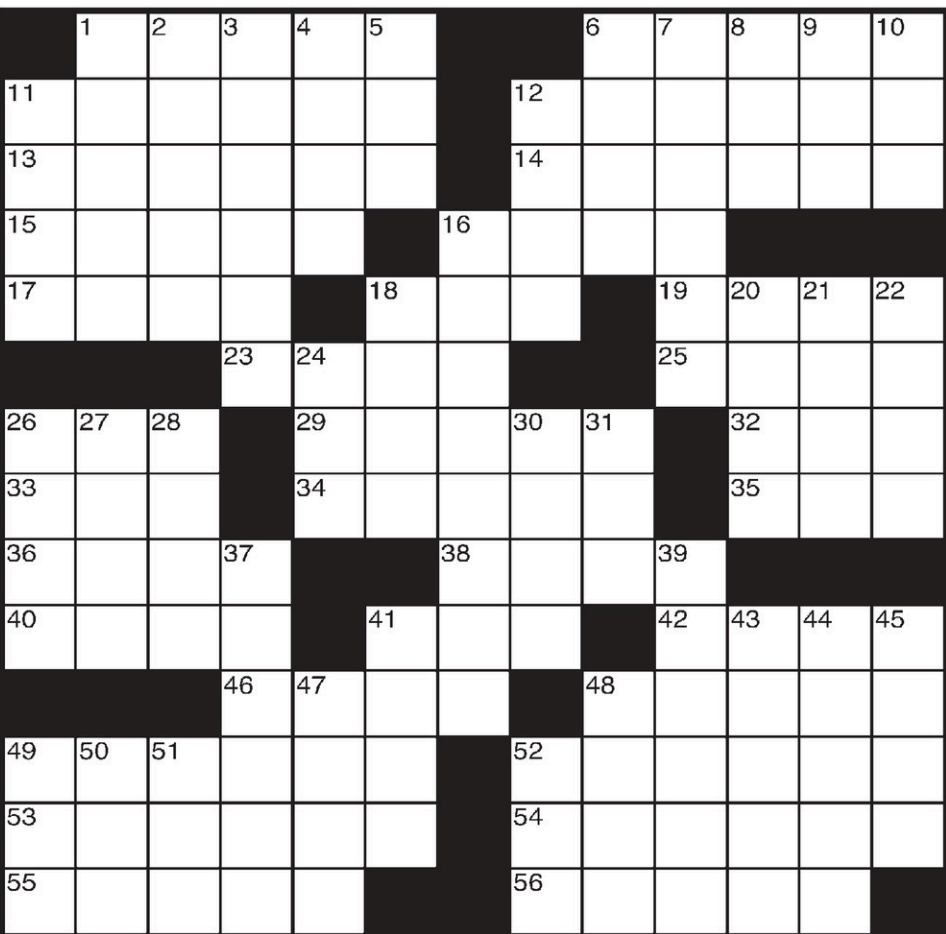
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – Don't jump to conclusions or make assumptions.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 1 One on two feet
 - 6 Founded
 - 11 Elaborate
 - 12 Light, porous rock
 - 13 Kind of network
 - 14 Eloquent speaker
 - 15 Insert mark
 - 16 Skater's jump
 - 17 Shangri-la
 - 18 Decay
 - 19 Glimpse from afar
 - 23 Like a bow string
 - 25 Urgent
 - 26 Pilot's problem
 - 29 "Bah!"
 - 32 Mauna —
 - 33 Turkish potentate
 - 34 Windy City airport
 - 35 Elec. measure
 - 36 Flood residues
 - 38 Done with reckless haste
- DOWN**
- 40 Obi
 - 41 Bro or sis
 - 42 Ruler marking
 - 46 Scandinavian city
 - 48 Sleep noisily
 - 49 Reddish antelope
 - 52 Sailboat
 - 53 Keep out of sight (2 wds.)
 - 54 Squinted at
 - 55 Rub out
 - 56 Wrote more

- 10 Van — Waals force
- 11 Story opener
- 12 Mope
- 16 Seducer
- 18 Send overnight
- 20 Kimono material
- 21 Figure-head's place
- 22 "You bet!"
- 24 Military addr.
- 26 Edible tubers
- 27 Water, to Pedro
- 28 Crumples
- 30 Saudi native
- 31 Unsel'd of the NBA
- 37 Sand bars
- 39 Implied
- 41 Popular side dish
- 43 — Dame
- 44 System of beliefs
- 45 Group of livestock
- 47 Blackthorn fruit
- 48 Took legal action
- 49 Seine vista
- 50 First space lab
- 51 Green veggie
- 52 Tax pro



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

A lot of thinking will feel good

by Phillip Alder

J. Churton Collins, who was an English literary critic, wrote, "Half our mistakes in life arise from feeling where we ought to think, and thinking where we ought to feel."

I can't help feeling – or thinking, if you prefer – that that sums up today's deal rather well. Many players would think that they were making the right play when they weren't. Others would make the wrong play, with that awful feeling that they were doing something wrong, but not being quite sure what it was.

Playing in three no-trump, South faced a low-diamond lead to East's ace and a diamond return through his king-jack. How should he have continued?

When South finessed the diamond jack, West won with the queen and returned the suit. Declarer ran dummy's club suit, discarding a heart from hand. West, under pressure but not revealing it, discarded one spade and two hearts. Now South had to guess how to continue. Eventually he played a spade to his queen, but West won with the king and cashed two diamond tricks to defeat the contract.

After looking at West's hand, South said, "Both finesses wrong. How unlucky. And how was I to know he had

North		02-25-21	
♠	J 6 3	♥	9 7
♦	9 6 2	♣	A K Q 10 9
West		East	
♠	K 5 2	♥	10 9 8 4
♦	K 6 5	♦	J 10 8 4 2
♣	Q 10 8 4 3	♣	A 7
♣	6 3	♣	5 4
South			
♠	A Q 7	♥	A Q 3
♦	K J 5	♣	J 8 7 2
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Opening lead: ♦ 4			

blanked the heart king?"

As usual, dummy was unsympathetic. "Assuming West has led from his long suit, why finesse the diamond jack at trick two? Go up with the king, cash two or three club tricks and exit with a diamond. West takes his winners in the suit, but what does he do then?"

"Oh, yes, of course," answered South. "He must lead into one of my ace-queen tenaces. How unthinking of me."