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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Quebec is back over 1,000 daily cases of COVID-19

Record Staff

After a brief dip in new cases of COVID-19 in the province on Sunday, Quebec, for a second day is back over 1,000, with 1,053 new cases of the virus reported in the province yesterday. A total of 265,579 have been infected since the beginning of the pandemic in Quebec. According to public health, 242,692 are considered recovered.

Recent data also reports 37 new deaths, for a total of 9,899 in Quebec. The number of hospitalizations decreased by four compared to the previous day, for a cumulative total of 1,106. Among those, the number of people in intensive care decreased by one, for a total of 177.

Yesterday 590 doses of vaccine were administered in the province, for a total of 241,546. To date, 256,625 doses have been delivered to Quebec.

In the Estrie region 42 new cases were confirmed, bringing the local total to 10,693.

Among the 42 new cases, 16 are in Sherbrooke, nine are in the Granit regional health sector and seven are from the Haut-Yamaska (including Bromont).

La Pommeraiie and Memphrémagog reported four new cases each and one was reported in Coaticook. DEs Sources and Val Saint-Francois sectors reported no new cases of COVID-19 yesterday.

No new deaths were reported yesterday in the region. The total deaths so far in the territory served by the CIUSSS de l'Estrie-CHUS is 279.

Hair salons & barbershops prepare for reopening after a difficult shutdown



DAVID ROSSITER

David Rossiter
Special to The Record

When Francois Legault announced on Tuesday that despite maintaining the curfew, certain businesses would be allowed to reopen as of Feb. 8, hairdressers and clients alike rejoiced.

However, for some business owners in the industry, the news felt like too little, too late.

Hair salons and barbershops in the Estrie region have been closed since Christmas day. Initially "non-essential" businesses were to remain closed until Jan. 11 as part of an extended holiday break lockdown to slow the spread of

COVID-19. Later, simultaneous with the implementation of the provincial curfew, the shutdowns were extended until Feb. 8.

Some non-essential businesses have stayed open for take-out and delivery of food or products. Most hair cutting businesses have been left with no real way to make money during this

CONT'D ON PAGE 3

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Weather



TODAY:
PERIODS OF
LIGHT SNOW

HIGH -3
LOW -11



FRIDAY:
FLURRIES

HIGH 1
LOW -4



SATURDAY:
PERIODS OF
SNOW

HIGH -5
LOW -9



SUNDAY:
60 PER CENT
CHANCE OF
FLURRIES

HIGH -5
LOW -16



MONDAY:
A MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUD

HIGH -11
LOW -18

Your Average Poet Writes a Poem for Super Bowl



ROSS MURRAY

"Youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman to recite poem before Super Bowl LV" - CNN, January 27

When Sunday comes we ask ourselves

Where can we find the football among these infinite channels?

Will we eat of wings (chicken) festooned in our flannels?

Now we've braved the telly of the beast.

We've learned that one team's called The Chiefs.

Another be called The Buccaneers. We hear there'll be beers. Cheers.

And so we will gaze this Sunday upon the Bowl that is Super

And calculate downs and yardage earned in athletic pursuit.

Perhaps someone else do it; math's not our strong suit.

We would much rather speak of a down that is touched

Like the lily caressed by the hushed

Morning dew that falls on the lea. Or in this case, AstroTurf, apparently.

See the men now stride forth on that parallelogram of sport

And line up in formation, two sides, fighting ranks,

Like a military conflict, but with jocks, not tanks.

O pigskin connoisseurs! Proudly pumped up in pads!

Girding your gridirons, protecting your gonads!

Go forth! Foot the ball! Earn your millions! Make bones crunch!

Whereas I, like most poets, can ill afford lunch.

On quarterback! Kicker! On defenyd guys, smooshers!

Relent not in your quest for football-ian supremacy!

Score extra point thingies. Show the foe zero clemency.

Even refs throw their hankies in unbridled elation!

Oh, I see, that's a foul; now they give explanations.

"Penalty declined." You can do that in pro sports?

I'm sorry, remind me, which team are we rooting for?

But while the Super Bowl can be periodically delayed,

It can never be defeated. The concept, not this game, I mean;

Someone has to win, either the red guys or the other team.

But the essence of Super Bowl? It

prevails beyond Sunday, This peak day of mega-sized, televised "running plays,"

A term that I picked up while Googling "football"

As I prepped for this poem and stress-sipped hard alcohol.

It's to poetry we pass the intercepted sack

With an offside of awe for this Hail Mary-est of Bowls.

In a blitzing of words this fumbling spectacle we robe.

Lo, brawn and sweet lyric here meet at this junction;

We hope we don't suffer a word-robe malfunction.

For millions of fans tune their ear to this ode;

Though more likely dash quickly to the commode.

But there may be some who will drink in such verse

Then after sit quietly without pestering their fiancés

And wonder what time is the part with Beyoncé.

We know that light verse at the Bowl's controversial

When what the fans crave are the pricey commercials.

But when Sunday comes, one small poem will feel slight,

For the game goes on long, Though there is always Bud Lite.

If only we're brave enough to buy it.

If only we're desperate enough to drink it.

Help us.

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Association for children with cancer

Ben by Daniel Shelton

"IT MUST'VE GOTTEN ON MIA WHEN SHE WAS PLAYING EARLIER WITH MAX..."

"AND THEN ONTO MY SHIRT WHEN I CARRIED HER TO THE ROOM TO TAKE A NAP."

"FROM THERE IT MUST'VE FALLEN ON THE COUNTER WHILE I WAS MAKING LUNCH."

"I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S HOW A DOG HAIR GOT INTO YOUR SANDWICH ..."

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Local News

With so many of our community's aging population living alone, how do we help break isolation and provide the services needed for their quality of life?

Friday File: Lennoxville and District Community Aid

In an effort to capture the stories of Townshippers in new and dynamic ways, The Record has enlisted the help of Kathryn Owen, who creates weekly videos interviewing locals and touring interesting places in the area. The videos are posted every Friday on our website and social media.

This week, we sat down with Lennoxville Community Aide director Sylvie Fowles to talk about how this year has affected their programming and support for seniors living at home. With so many of our community's aging population living alone, how do we help break isolation and provide the services needed for their quality of life? It's required some creativity - but the team of staff and volunteers at Community Aide rose to the challenge.

Check out the Friday Files on our website at www.sherbrooke.com or our Facebook page.

The Friday File series always tries to showcase local recording artists. If you would like to offer the use of original music to be featured in an upcoming video, email newsroom@sherbrooke.com.



KATHRYNE OWEN

Local health authority unveils youth and family action plan

Record Staff

The CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS revealed its latest version of the Plan d'action pour les jeunes et leur famille, which aims to create stronger social protection services for the Eastern Townships' youth population.

During a virtual press conference, Dr. Stéphane Tremblay, CIUSSS president and CEO, Robin Marie Coleman, deputy chief executive officer, and Donald Haineault, assistant executive director, social and rehabilitation programs, outlined the organization's four pillars.

"It is much more than an action plan, it is a real mobilization of actors in the field to support young people and their families. We are all formally

committed to the development and well-being of children and to the protection of the most vulnerable," Coleman said.

The plan is to start a deeper, more comprehensive conversation with children and their families in order to promote development. They also want to strengthen youth protection services for children in vulnerable situations.

The final two pillars focus on facilitating better response times for children in compromised situations, and making a commitment to supporting youth protection professionals. Tremblay's team acquired hundreds of testimonies and recommendations before submitting its plan.

According to a press release, nearly 300 people attended virtual

workshops to share their experiences with vulnerable youth. Workshop attendees highlighted the need to act quickly and reinforce established youth organizations in the Townships.

This process also helped Tremblay and company to identify 44 specific actions across each pillar. These actions will be carried out in three stages, which started in January 2021. They will monitor the first six months, the first year and then subsequent years.

The CIUSSS kicked off with 14 actions to start the new year. They created a youth governance structure bringing organizations together, established an information transfer relay between organizations and fixed the Programme qualification des jeunes (PQJ) to offer better services.

The action plan is also available to

Quebecers at <https://www.santeestrie.qc.ca/ciuss/projets-majeurs/tous-concernes/>, where the CIUSSS will provide regular updates on the progress of its 44 actions.

The strengthened and expanded services for vulnerable youth also extend to the region's English-speaking community. According to Coleman, they are actively working to increase the population's confidence in their services.

"We're working really closely with our advisory committee and Anglo population and in most of our actions that we've put forth that involve communication, accessibility to services there is a specific action demanded so that our communication will be bilingual," said Coleman.

Hair salons and barbershops

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

prolonged period.

Karina Martin is the owner of Salon K'Hair Coiffure in Sherbrooke. She was very excited to hear the reopening rumours confirmed. "We were so happy to hear we'll be able to get back on the floor and get our jobs back," she said.

Martin said her clients are chomping at the bit to be able to schedule appointments. "It's nuts, all morning long there's been an outrageous amount of people calling. People are anxious to get appointments and some people are tired of having to do their

hair at home."

Martin explained that although she is ecstatic to return to work and to serve her customers, there will be many challenges to face while trying to make up for lost time.

"An inconvenience is that we lose working hours with the curfew, and we already can't have more than one client at a time. We're anxious [to get back to work] but at the same time we're losing a lot financially and it's really hurting the business."

Salon Len's is a small barbershop in Lennoxville. Owner Sonia Cormier said

that her shop will open on Feb. 9 since she is closed Mondays. Cormier said she spent the day after the announcement scheduling appointments, but she didn't receive as many calls as she had hoped.

"I think that it might be different for the hairdressers because it's difficult for women to cut their own hair but for men they can just take a pair of clippers and shave it all off," she said, theorizing why barber shops might not be as instantly flooded as hair salons.

Cormier said that she's excited to

go back to work since it's been rough being closed and, "the government help is not that great".

Expanding on this, she said "I haven't received the government help for rent, I didn't make the cut, let's just say. All I've been getting is the \$450 a week which is not very much when you have to rent the place."

Like Karina Martin, Sonia Cormier is ultimately very happy that she will be able to reopen her business. "Right now it's one day at a time. I have lots of bills to pay but I'll try and make a go of it and do the best I can," she said.

Teaching empathy through pandemic-modified art

By Marianne Lassonde
Special to The Record

When she started her teaching practicum at Richmond Regional High School, Aislinn Fisher felt sick to the stomach with dread. Through the support of her students and associate teacher, however, she quickly built a social circle in a classroom filled with empathy and love.

"My mind is so far from hitting targets and learning objectives and mastery," said Fisher. "It is so much more on what it means to express yourself, what does it mean to connect to someone."

Fisher started her Bachelor of Education degree at Bishop's University in 2015 and has since fallen in love with the Townships' teaching scene. In 2019, she started teaching theatre at Richmond Regional High School for her six-weeks internship and was sent back this year to complete her 13-weeks practicum.

This time, however, Fisher had to take on the roles of both an educator and as well as "mask police". As the tasks piled on at the beginning of January, from new sanitary measures to the expectation of daily grading, Fisher admitted to feeling a little overwhelmed.

"There's a bit of a disconnect between the expectations of the education department and what they expect teachers to be coming out with versus what students actually need," admitted Fisher, who understands that the department is doing their best to accommodate students.

Fisher said the pandemic caused her a lot of anxiety about going into schools because of the growing cases of COVID-19. She admitted there was even a time in the past month where

the 25-year-old considered dropping out of her program.

At the end of January, 1,112 schools across the province reported an active COVID-19 outbreak with almost 2,000 students and 466 staff members testing positive for COVID-19. Last year, there was an average of 331.5 daily cases in schools, making it the second highest infectious environment after workplaces and offices.

Regardless, she took the leap of faith and by Jan.11, Fisher was back at school and teaching the importance of empathy through her ethics and theatre classes. For her, classes stopped being about the academics and more about a time for the students to decompress.

"The arts, right now, really need to be used as a space to express yourself [and] socialize with friends," said Fisher.

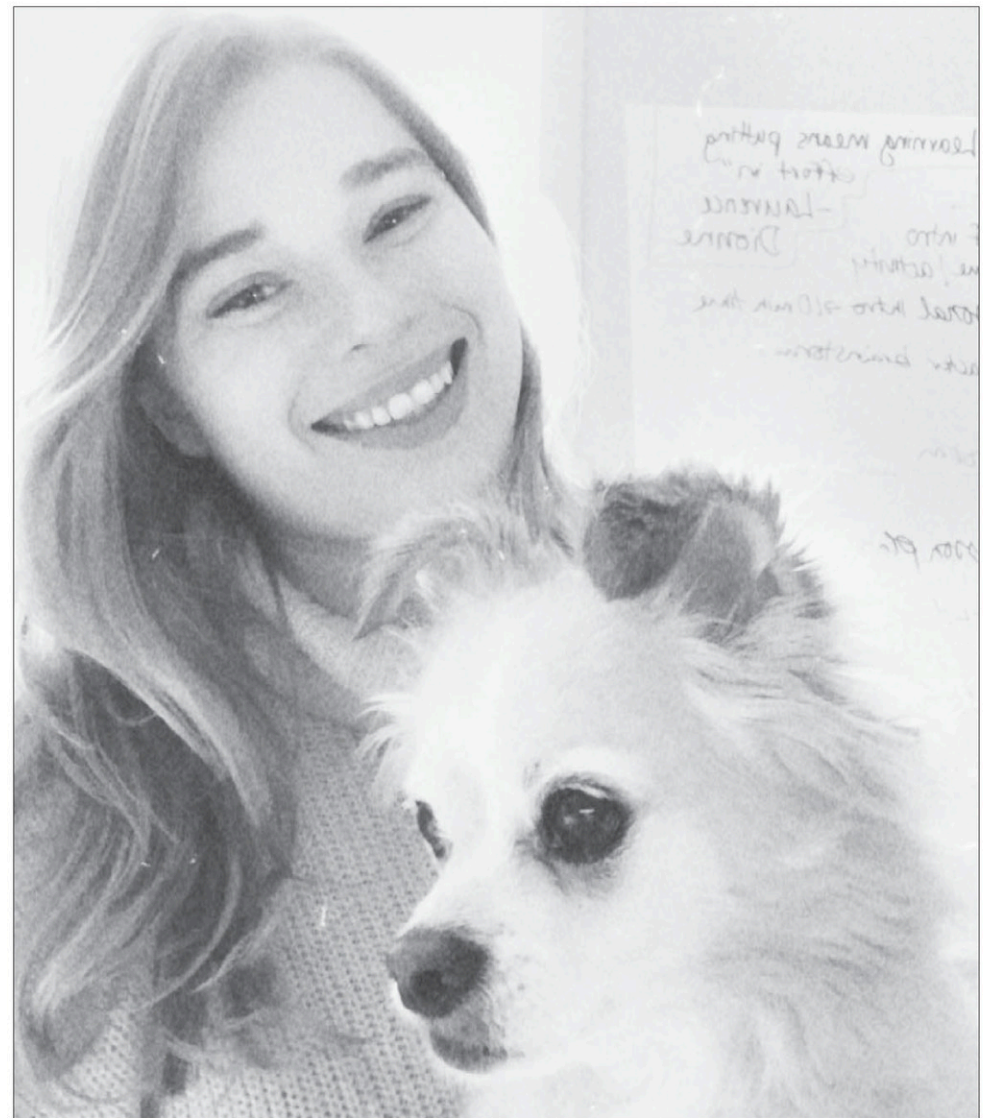
In turn, creating a safe and empathetic space helped Fisher center herself and her emotions. According to her, her students and colleagues became Fisher's support network, reminding her that everyone was living this reality and that stress was normal.

"Right now, we kind of need people to double as our friends and to be kind to us," said Fisher.

A trademark of the Fisher theatre experience has been a game of "pass the emotion." Derived from the much beloved game of telephone, Fisher's version asks her students to read emotions through body language and eyes and to imitate what they understood.

"These are little humans and we need to make sure that they are emotionally okay," said Fisher.

Teaching theatre during a pandemic, however, is no easy task. According to Fisher, a lot of the students in her classroom do not



COURTESY

express the same enthusiasm and, sometimes, it is difficult to rope them in when she is limited in space and how they can interact.

But teaching is all about adapting. To keep class eagerness, Fisher decided to expand her idea of theatre from the stage to backstage, introducing the concepts of designs for the visual artists in her class.

For plays, Fisher has her class read *Unity* (1918) by Kevin Kerr, which

deals with the trauma of living through the Spanish Flu

"For me it's a lot less about understanding drama and stage work and more about bringing it back to what it means to be human."

Fisher has taken comfort in turning her class into a time where students can socialize and feel normal again and admits she now looks forward to going to school.

City increasing winter maintenance on local trails

By Gordon Lambie

Although people in the area have been making their own way out along the trail for decades, the City of Sherbrooke has launched a pilot project this winter to formally groom cross-country ski trails along the bike path between Massawippi Street in Lennoxville and the Capelton Mine.

Lennoxville Borough President Claude Charron said that the idea came up after Hatley Township made the decision to groom the trail between North Hatley and Capelton.

"We're using the same person," he said, noting that although people are accustomed to skiing on the trail, the hope is that groomed tracks will improve the overall quality of the experience.

In order to maintain the trail's role as multi-function path, a ski lane is being made on either side of the trail with a walking path down the middle.

In a separate part of the same pilot project, Charron said that the city will also be experimenting with packing down the snow on the trails through Atto Beaver Park to help encourage their use during the winter months.

Private retirement homes in orange regions to reopen dining halls

Record Staff

With several Quebec regions returning to an orange alert level starting Feb. 8, Seniors Minister Marguerite Blais announced that the new designation will also allow private retirement residences (RPA) to reopen their dining rooms.

The one caveat, however, is employees and residents must follow strict virus prevention and control measures. Masks, hand washing and keeping a two-metre distance is mandatory at all times. And there is a limited capacity

allowed inside a dining room at any given time.

According to a press release, buffet-style meals and salad bars are also prohibited. Residents showing any symptoms of COVID-19 are asked to stay in their rooms. In the event of a dining room outbreak, all future meals will be postponed.

"Now, as the number of cases is declining, we are pleased to be able to allow some RPAs to reopen these sites safely, depending on the situation in each region," said Blais, adding that RPAs in red alert level regions will keep their dining rooms closed.

The Border Report | *With so many changes this school year, between at-home learning and in-class formats, it would be an understatement to say that this year has been challenging.*

Thank you, teachers!



seven local elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools. With the help of teacher's referrals and support over the past eight years, we are able to provide Stanstead students with the educational support they deserve.

"Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teacher is the heart of the educational system." - Sidney Hook.

With so many changes this school year, between at-home learning and in-class formats, it would be an understatement to say that this year has been challenging. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to thank a teacher that has made a difference in your life or your child's.

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.

Feb. 1 to 7 is Teacher Appreciation Week in Quebec, and Phelps Helps would like to thank all the local teachers for their dedication to Stanstead student success and well-being.

As a rural non-profit organization, we rely on the collaboration of teachers and schools. Phelps offers programs to students from more than

Fireworks to light the sky in Ayer's Cliff this weekend

Record Staff

Ayer's Cliff residents will be treated to a fireworks show on Saturday starting at 6 p.m., but they will have to soak in the bright lights from the comfort of their own home.

While the event will take place on the Fairgrounds in the town centre, the town's municipal council has prohibited any residents from entering the grounds. This, unfortunately, is the reality of following the COVID-19 guidelines.

Town officials hope to "bring some warmth" to the Ayer's Cliff community. They're also praying for clear skies to ensure a successful fireworks display. Town councillor Patrick Proulx took to Facebook to generate interest in the upcoming event.

"With no winter carnival due to Covid, we felt important to do something," he wrote. "For those who fear they will not have a good view from home, we ask if do come closer to town that you respect social distancing and guidelines."

Stanstead encourages school perseverance

Record Staff

Every year, the municipality of Stanstead participates actively in Hooked on School Days. This year the school perseverance initiative will be held this year from Feb. 15-19.

will be chosen among the nominations received and will be highlighted on the Town's Facebook page from Feb. 15 through 19, 2021.

"The fight against school drop-out is a cause that I hold dear," commented Stanstead Mayor Philippe Dutil in a press release. "It really is a problem here in Stanstead, especially for young men. We need to do something to improve that and I am touched to see how organizations like Phelps Helps are succeeding in helping our youth."

as Phelps Helps, the Haskell Library and Stanstead's CAB Rediker, strive to fight back against the school drop-out rate and the Town would like to support the efforts of these organizations and actions that contribute to the cause.

This year, Stanstead is inviting the population to nominate people who are great examples of perseverance in the educational setting. Five people

The school drop-out rate in the Eastern Townships has been declining over the past few years, thanks to numerous efforts and various programs that have been put in place. The trend has shifted from 30 per cent to 18 per cent between 2007 and 2016.

Many local organizations such

More information, as well as admissibility requirements, are available on the Town of Stanstead Facebook page and website.

FRONTIER ANIMAL SOCIETY

Featured pet: Stumpy

Can you be the one to offer this handsome boy a calm and quiet home?

Stumpy is a gentle and sensitive but timid young cat. He doesn't have a mean bone in his body but it takes time for him to trust and feel secure. In fairness, although we work hard to create an environment in which our cats feel safe and loved, the shelter can be stressful for some cats, especially the shy ones.



Stumpy is a gentle and sensitive but timid young cat. He doesn't have a mean bone in his body but it takes time for him to trust and feel secure. In fairness, although we work hard to create an environment in which our cats feel safe and loved, the shelter can be stressful for some cats, especially the shy ones.

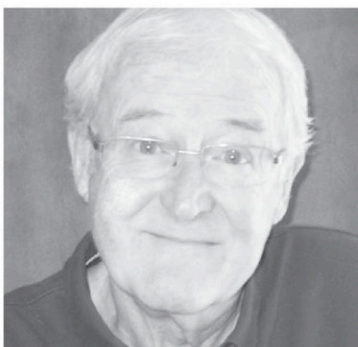
Stumpy is approximately 2-3 years of age. If you are interested in adopting Stumpy, please give our cat adoption coordinator Linda a call at 819-868-2684. Currently all adoption visits are by appointment only.

Coming from a barn situation where he had limited contact with people, Stumpy will do best in a

EDITORIAL

They don't deserve to be stroked, petted or oohed and aahed over. In their role as furry meteorologists they are nothing more than a collection of frauds.

So you're going to believe a groundhog?



TIM BELFORD

Let's make this clear right from the start. I hate groundhogs. My antipathy to the Momarta Monax - an obese member of the Sciuridae family that includes squirrels - is simple: they're useless.

My feelings can be traced to my childhood growing up in the Niagara fruit belt where groundhogs, or what we called woodchucks, were a major source of damage. Any farmer who replanted an orchard of peach trees or apples or pears without the proper precautions would find the young trees stripped of their tender bark from the ground to as far up as the varmint could reach.

The solution in those days was to paint the trunk of the tree with a mild solution of water and lime, if memory serves. This left the trees with strange white stems giving the illusion that they were all wearing matching trousers, but it seemed to work. Today, farmers use plastic tubing.

The damage woodchucks cause to commercial crops aside, they will also, given half a chance, devastate the average domestic garden eating vegetables and flowers alike. They are particularly fond of green and yellow beans and, as my bride found out, black-eyed Susans.

I relate all this to you because earlier this week the news media was in its usual tizzy over Groundhog Day. As far as I'm concerned the hoopla

over this unlikeable beast's supposed ability to predict the arrival of spring is nothing more than a feeble attempt to rehabilitate a deservedly bad reputation. They are not cute, cuddly, giant versions of a pet hamster. They don't deserve to be stroked, petted or oohed and aahed over. In their role as furry meteorologists they are nothing more than a collection of frauds.

Canada's trio of would-be prognosticators include the famous Wiarton Willie, a rare albino groundhog. This year, whether he was following pandemic protocols or just too lazy, Willie couldn't even bother to make an appearance. Instead, he apparently passed on his prediction to one of his human co-conspirators who assured the gathered members of the press that there would be an early spring.

Shubenacadie Sam, the Maritime's weather rodent, was reluctant to show his face as well, as was Fred la Marmotte from the Gaspé region. At least the three of them were in agreement about expecting an early end to winter.

South of the border there was no consensus. Punxsutawney Phil, from Gobbler's Knob - no kidding - followed the new Biden administration's strict gathering protocols and took part in a 'virtual' prediction ceremony. According to Phil, spring may come early to eastern Canada but not to the place where all this nonsense got its start with its early Pennsylvania Dutch settlers. In Phil's bailiwick winter will continue for six more weeks.

But the U.S., divided as it is about everything nowadays, showed another split when Staten Island Chuck followed the Canadian lead and predicted an early spring.

When it comes right down to it, what does it really matter? For all we know Willie, Sam and Fred may get all their data from Environment Canada like the rest of us. And we know how well that works out.



Letters

Are deaths still being considered?

All is well Mme la Marquise, cases are decreasing, hospitalizations are decreasing, intensive care is closely monitored... But deaths are no longer treated as they used to be, both by the government and the media. Oh, there are special reports, which inform us about outbreaks, deaths mostly in CHSLDs and RPAs, which total from 32 to 88 deaths per "day" (an average of about 54 in the last two weeks). These are elderly people... No, it's going well in the end.

Their second dose is late, but only scientists deplore this... We are proud to have vaccinated all the vulnerable people in the CHSLDs. But what's the value of this vaccine, which will have exceeded its time of effectiveness, "tested" by the producer, in a few days time? An interview on the behind-the-scenes interview with Dr. Mona Nemer, Canada's chief scientific advisor, testifies to her misgivings about RNA vaccines that do not comply with the protocol regarding their effectiveness, especially for older people whose immune systems are less efficient.

Empathy is gone! We're looking for the good numbers, to open up economic life more, with some specialists even, in a sad way, measuring older people against younger people.

What reaction can we expect from elderly or handicapped people living in a CHSLD? Will science prevail over politics in Quebec? There are more variants in Quebec than we think. But all is well, case numbers are decreasing... How many will not get tested? Why doesn't the government force caregivers to get tested? Instead, we tell people not to go and visit the elderly! It is not the seniors in long-term care centres who bring the virus into institutions. We all have a role to play in saving the lives of as many people as possible, especially the most vulnerable.

FRANCE CROTEAU, NICOLE COUTURE, ÉLISE L PIGEON
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Local Sports

Rights groups call for boycott of Beijing 2022 Winter Games

By Stephen Wade
The Associated Press

A coalition of 180 rights groups on Wednesday called for a boycott of next year's Beijing Winter Olympics tied to reported human rights abuses against ethnic minorities in China.

The games are to open in one year, on Feb. 4, 2022, and are set to go forward despite the pandemic.

The coalition is composed of groups representing Tibetans, Uighurs, Inner Mongolians, residents of Hong Kong and others.

The group has issued an open letter to governments calling for a boycott of the Olympics "to ensure they are not used to embolden the Chinese government's appalling rights abuses and crackdowns on dissent."

Rights groups have previously asked the Switzerland-based International Olympic Committee to move the games from China. The IOC has largely ignored the demands and says it's only a sporting body that does not get involved with politics.

The groups said because of the IOC's inaction "it now falls on governments to take a stand and demonstrate that they have the political will to push back against China's reprehensible human rights abuses."

Beijing hosted the 2008 Olympics, which it promised would improve human rights in the country. Instead, the groups say the prestige of the Olympics has led to "a gross increase on the assault on communities living under its rule."

The situation of the Uighurs in northwestern China has received

most of the attention. Last week, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken reiterated on his first day in office that he believed genocide was being committed against Xinjiang's ethnic minorities.

China has brushed off the criticisms as interference in its internal affairs and politicization of sports. It has reacted strongly to charges of genocide. One Chinese official called it the "lie of the century."

Since 2016, China has swept a million or more Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities into prisons and indoctrination camps that the state calls training centres, according to estimates by researchers and rights groups.

People have been subjected to torture, sterilization and political indoctrination in addition to forced labour as part of an assimilation campaign, according to former residents and detainees, as well as experts and leaked government documents.

China at first denied the existence of the internment areas. It later acknowledged them but denied any abuses and says the steps it has taken are necessary to combat terrorism and a separatist movement.

"The IOC refused to listen in 2008, defending its decision with claims that they would prove to be a catalyst for improved human rights," the letter says. "As human rights experts predicted, this decision proved to be hugely misplaced; not only did China's human rights record not improve but violations increased substantially without rebuke."

Canadian Felix Auger Aliassime prevails in opener at Australian Open tune up event

The Canadian Press

Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime opened his 2021 season with a 6-3 6-1 win over Japan's Yuichi Sugita in the second round of the Murray River Open on Wednesday.

The third-seeded Auger-Aliassime, who got a first-round bye at the Australian Open tune-up event, won 87 per cent of his points when he

got his first serve in and saved all three break points he faced.

The 21st-ranked Auger-Aliassime, from Montreal, finished off the world No. 104 in just over 65 minutes.

Auger-Aliassime will face world No. 78 Egor Gerasimov of Belarus in the third round. The 20-year-old Canadian has a 2-0 lifetime record against Gerasimov.



Now more than ever, simple gestures are our best protection to fight the virus.

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Datebook

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Today is the 35th day of 2021 and the 46th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1789, George Washington was unanimously elected the first president of the United States by the Electoral College.

In 1938, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," the first feature-length Walt Disney animated film, was released in the United States.

In 1974, the Symbionese Liberation Army, an American revolutionary group, kidnapped newspaper heiress Patty Hearst in Berkeley, California.

In 2004, Harvard sophomore Mark Zuckerberg launched thefacebook.com, the site that would eventually become Facebook.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Fernand Leger (1881-1955), artist; Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974), aviator; Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), theologian/Holocaust victim; Rosa Parks (1913-2005), activist; Betty Friedan (1921-2006), writer/activist; George Romero (1940-2017),

filmmaker; Lawrence Taylor (1959-), football player; Clint Black (1962-), singer-songwriter; Rob Corrdry (1971-), actor/comedian; Oscar de la Hoya (1973-), boxer; Gavin DeGraw (1977-), singer-songwriter.

TODAY'S FACT: Snow White has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1987, skipper Dennis Conner sailed to victory in the America's Cup yacht race, redeeming his loss in 1983, which was the first time an American had failed to win the 132-year-old event.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear." - Rosa Parks

TODAY'S NUMBER: 2.7 billion - monthly active users of Facebook, as reported by the company in November 2020.

TODAY'S MOON: Last quarter moon (Feb. 4).

TEA TIME WORD SEARCH

N S H P E E T S E C O N N D A S B S H V
 K C R C O D E I A T H A M B N W C P P E
 A M A T C H A K R W G V F T X R O R O N
 M A W D C W N X T U E A V P F I K E D R
 S E P E W G P I H M P Y W W L D S B G I
 R E T T I B N I Y G G M N I O F M R P H
 B D L S I S N E N I S A I L L E M A C I
 H L N V H O U K V M H F H T N Y T V G G
 N P E D H U D Y M E O A O E D C A W O Y
 U E E N Y A C Y R Y R R W A A O S R B G
 H H F X D G X B I V R H T F M R T M R O
 P W H N C F A C E R I O F W E W E E W T
 S O O O G L K S N T G E R S K U E E G F
 V O P I P V T B E P I O O O O N H L N A
 H L L T U B W S Y N R O E S V F H V I E
 C O U A V C A H E G L E A O S A C F R L
 S N C D V B A E A M O R A V K P L W I A
 Y G K I X K F N N W F T V E M E B F F N
 F G R X T O I G I O N B L A C K P F T O
 C R X O X C A W K P D Y E B I W H X F P

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

TEA TIME WORD SEARCH	CAFFEINE CAMELLIA SINENSIS	HARVEST HERBAL LEAF LOOSE MATCHA OOLONG ORGANIC	OXIDATION PEKOE PLUCK STEEP TASTE TEA WHITE
AROMA BITTER BLACK BLEND	EARTHY FIRING FLAVOR GREEN		

Bronchiectasis usually the result of damage to airways



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

Dear Doctor: I am 72 years old and have bronchiectasis, which I understand is a form of COPD. Can you give me some more information about it? I've never been in a smoking environment, but I was raised in a home that used coal and wood for heat.

Dear Reader: Although bronchiectasis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, are related, they are actually two separate conditions. COPD is an umbrella term for a number of airway diseases, such

as chronic bronchitis and emphysema, which obstruct air flow in the lungs and leave the person short of breath. Bronchiectasis causes similar problems, but it is considered a distinct diagnosis of its own.

As the name suggests, bronchiectasis is a disease of the bronchial tubes, or bronchi. These are the main airways into the lungs. When you inhale, the breath moves through the larynx and descends through the trachea, or windpipe. At that point, the airway divides into a pair of bronchi, which are sturdy but flexible mucus-lined tubes made up of cartilage and smooth muscle. These bronchial tubes direct the inhaled breath to the left and right lungs. Each bronchial tube continues to divide and subdivide into ever-smaller structures, the whole of which is referred to as the bronchial tree. As the bronchi become smaller, the proportion of smooth muscle increases and cartilage decreases. This makes them more flexible but less sturdy. The bronchial tree culminates in a variety of tiny tubes, or tubules, and saclike structures, which handle the exchange

of oxygen and carbon dioxide.

In someone living with bronchiectasis, chronic inflammation has caused the bronchial tubes to become scarred, thickened and widened. The damage leaves them slack and loose, which interferes with the proper movement of mucus. This leads to the buildup of mucus, as well as buildup of the inhaled particles, dust and bacteria that the mucus is meant to capture and clear away. The result is repeated lung infections, which further damage the structures of the lung and make it more difficult to breathe.

The most common cause of bronchiectasis is damage to the airways. This can be from severe pneumonia, whooping cough, tuberculosis or fungal infections. Cystic fibrosis, a genetic disease that causes a buildup of mucus in the lungs, is related to half the cases of bronchiectasis in the U.S. Allergic reactions to certain fungi and diseases of the connective tissue, including rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease, are also known to play a role. You mentioned extended exposure to smoke from wood and coal;

studies have linked both wood smoke and coal dust to the condition.

Although there is no cure for bronchiectasis at this time, it can be managed. Treatment includes the use of bronchodilators to expand the airways, medications to thin mucus and expectorants to make it easier to cough up. For lung infections, antibiotics are the primary course of treatment. Chest physical therapy, a specific technique that uses percussive force on the chest and back, helps to loosen accumulated mucus. The goals of the combined therapies are to loosen and remove mucus and prevent or cure resulting infections.

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. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

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2021 Jeep Gladiator Mojave



Photo: V. Aubé

With a softer suspension and great looks, it is able to impress fans of off-roading, while keeping them reasonably comfortable



By Vincent Aubé

These are incredible times and I'm not sure what's a manufacturer to do if it wants a bigger part of what has become a very, very profitable pie in recent years? Why, it's simple: have more forks to dig in with! I recently drove one of those new forks produced by GM. Meet the 2021 Jeep Gladiator Mojave, a new variant of the long-awaited pickup truck finally unleashed two years ago by Jeep, a model that's already made its mark in the off-roading community alongside the brand's iconic Jeep Wrangler.

Jeep understands this reality of the automotive industry in 2021: Yes, many motorists do want to be adventurous, but more importantly, they want to be seen behind the wheel of a vehicle that could go anywhere and withstand any kind of abuse. That would be the Gladiator. Even a basic Sport S trim is a serious candidate to take on the world. But from Jeep's point of view, why stop there? If the demand is there, Jeep would be crazy to ignore it. The Porsche 911 Carrera is an incredible sports car at its core, but that doesn't stop its designers from developing all the other liveries of the model, including the amazing Turbo S.

The Gladiator Mojave, in spite of its hellish looks, is therefore aimed at a slightly different clientele than the typical Rubicon buyer. As its name suggests, the Mojave was designed for high-speed desert cruising, unlike the Rubicon, which seems to be just right to take on... the Rubicon, or other such super-rough trails or obstacle courses.

The Mojave was inspired by the F-150 Raptor and, by the same token, by the Ram 1500 TRX - another FCA product of course. Time will tell if the Mojave proves as successful as the Rubicon in North America, and specifically in Canada. My goal in testing it was to see the new 2021 Gladiator model is worth it or if, on the contrary, its existence adds up to little more than just another marketing operation.

Rubicon vs Mojave

It's worth taking a moment to note the differences between the model that's been the standard for purists over the years and this new, more specialized alternative. Looked at from the bottom, the Mojave's

Command-Trac transfer case has a ratio of 2.72:1, while the Rubicon's Rock-Trac has a ratio of 4.0:1. In other words, the Mojave can drive at a higher rate when the 4L mode is engaged.

To withstand the slightly harsher treatments of high-speed desert driving, the steering knuckles are made of cast iron, unlike the Rubicon's aluminum knuckles. What's more, the Fox shocks with external reservoirs are actually designed to provide improved dampening during high-speed action. In fact, the Mojave's springs are specific to this model, which have been adjusted to the exclusive shock absorbers. Front hydraulic jounce bumpers are also present - there's also a one-inch increase in suspension height - while those on the second axle have been upgraded in comparison with other Gladiator versions, again to help withstand rougher desert driving.

Where the Mojave loses points in off-road driving is in the absence of a front limited-slip differential; it gets an open-type unit. In back there's a Tru-Lock limited-slip differential. Finally, we should also mention that the Mojave's chassis has been stiffened in several places for this type of use.

Less uncomfortable on a daily basis

If there's one thing that describes the Rubicon badge, it's that very firm suspension that makes the pickup jump out of any pothole. The Mojave Gladiator does a much better job in that department. In fact, I will even go as far as to say that this variant is THE most comfortable model in the range, precisely because of those Fox shocks with external reservoirs. Let's be clear, the Gladiator Mojave is not in the league of the Chrysler 300 for delivering a smooth ride, but for those wanting that adventure-ready look from their vehicle, but also want comfort levels acceptable enough to do grocery runs in, the Mojave is the Gladiator to go with!

Both hands on the wheel!

That said, I found the same kind of behaviour in this version of the Gladiator that I've experienced from others, and so it behooves drivers to be vigilant and continually make corrections to the steering, even on a highway in good condition. However, the Mojave's exclusive tires give it the edge over the Rubicon, which I think is the worst of the lot. Once again, Jeep habitues know what to expect!

Inside

After climbing into the cabin - fortunately there's a handle attached to the A-pillar - you'll not a driving position that's somewhat particular. Indeed, like in the Wrangler, the driver sits very close to the dashboard and the driving position is more vertical than in a compact SUV for example. In this case, the Gladiator was equipped with a 6-speed manual transmission and, like I noted in a Wrangler I tested

not too long ago, the transmission lever no longer vibrates as it did in the past. Owners of the JK generation Wrangler know what I'm talking about! At the same time, this cylindrical shift knob isn't the most comfortable to hold. Thankfully the sport steering wheel is...

As is still the case with the Wrangler, a second lever is used to select the desired type of drivetrain (2H, 4H, N, 4L), just like in the good old days of 4x4s. There are more options beyond that to adjust the truck's off-road capabilities, located not far from the two levers, but they are fewer than in the Rubicon version, which allows you to lock the front axle. The Mojave only lets you lock the one in the rear.

What's more, another button, normally found beneath the OffRoad+ command, is conspicuous by its absence. That would be the Sway Bar button, and without it you can't disconnect the Gladiator Mojave's sway bars when crossing complicated obstacles. After all, the Mojave is designed for higher speeds in the desert, and in the desert there tends to be sand, not necessarily impassable rocks!

For a truer comparison, you would actually have to compare the two off-road versions of the Gladiator one after the other in the same conditions to discover the real advantages and disadvantages of each. On a rough and snowy road like the one I drove, it's difficult to pinpoint the differences with the Rubicon. However, note that the Mojave made quick and easy work of the few water-filled pits that I encountered. In 4L mode, the Gladiator Mojave remains a great choice for rough roads.

About the manual transmission and the Pentastar V6

I would be derelict in my duties if I neglected to comment on powertrain performance. The Pentastar V6 needs no introduction, of course; the 6-cylinder is in its tenth year of service and can be found in just about every model produced by Jeep. In a nutshell, the base engine of both the Gladiator and Wrangler models is very well adapted - no surprise here - for road trips, including those that veer far off the road. As for the manual gearbox, let's just say that it adds to the folklore of the model. Its precision is certainly not its greatest quality, but on board a truck, that's nothing to be alarmed about.

The verdict

In offering this new alternative to the Rubicon, Jeep made a no-brainer of a decision. The Gladiator Mojave orders the same starting price as the Rubicon. For fans of hard-core off-roading, the Rubicon is still the logical option, but since the vast majority of kilometres driven by owners of even a model like the Gladiator are on asphalt, the Mojave variant is the winner thanks to its softer suspension - even if deserts are kind of rare in Canada.

Still grieving my Mom

Dear Annie

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Dear Annie: My mom passed away three years ago, and it's still hard on me. I am 42 years old. Am I too old to cry? And should I be over her by now? - Missing Mom

Dear Missing Mom: Two resounding no's. You are never too old to cry, and there's no getting "over" a huge loss like the loss of your mother. There's just learning to live with the grief. I came across this quote recently that I have to share:

"As for grief, you'll find it comes in waves. When the ship is first wrecked, you're drowning, with wreckage all around you. Everything floating around you reminds you of the beauty and the magnificence of the ship that was. ... You find some piece of the wreckage and you hang on. ... Maybe it's a happy memory or a photograph. Maybe it's a person who is also floating. For a while, all you can do is float.

"In the beginning, the waves are 100 feet tall and crash over you without mercy. They come 10 seconds apart and don't even give you time to catch your breath. ... After a while ... you'll find the waves are still 100 feet tall, but they come further apart. ... In between, you can breathe; you can function. You never know what's going to trigger the grief. It might be a song, a picture, a street intersection, the smell of a cup of coffee. It can be just about anything. ... But in between waves, there is life.

"Somewhere down the line, and it's different for everybody, you find that the waves are only 80 feet tall. Or 50 feet tall. ... and you can see them coming. An anniversary, a birthday, or Christmas, or landing at O'Hare. ... When it washes over you, you know that somehow you will, again, come out the other side. Soaking wet, sputtering, still hanging on to some tiny piece of the wreckage, but you'll come out. Take it from an old guy. The waves never stop coming, and somehow you don't really want them to. But you learn that you'll survive them. And other waves will come. And you'll survive them too. If you're lucky, you'll have lots of scars from lots of loves. And lots of shipwrecks." - G. Snow

Dear Annie: I'm a 72-year-old man, my lady friend is 71. My problem is that she has two adult sons who are still being treated like 10-year-old boys by their mother and two aunts. They're both in their 50s. Neither one of these guys will keep a job but a few months. Both are convicted felons. I love their mother, but she lets them use her. We have talked about it, and she agrees with me that she should stop. But she just can't seem to let them make it for themselves. I bought her a car, and now she's taking them back and forth to work. I say let them get a ride on their own. I could go on and on, but what I want to know is, should I leave? Her health is not that good, and I don't want to hurt her. But I'm fed up with these boys using her. - Can't Watch

Dear Can't Watch: She and her sisters have been babying these overgrown boys for 50 years. It's unlikely to stop now. So it's really a question of if you can make peace with that. Try relinquishing any idea of control over the situation and focusing on yourself and not what your girlfriend or her sons "should be doing." But at the end of the day, if you find the situation too irritating, it might be time to remove yourself from it.

"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

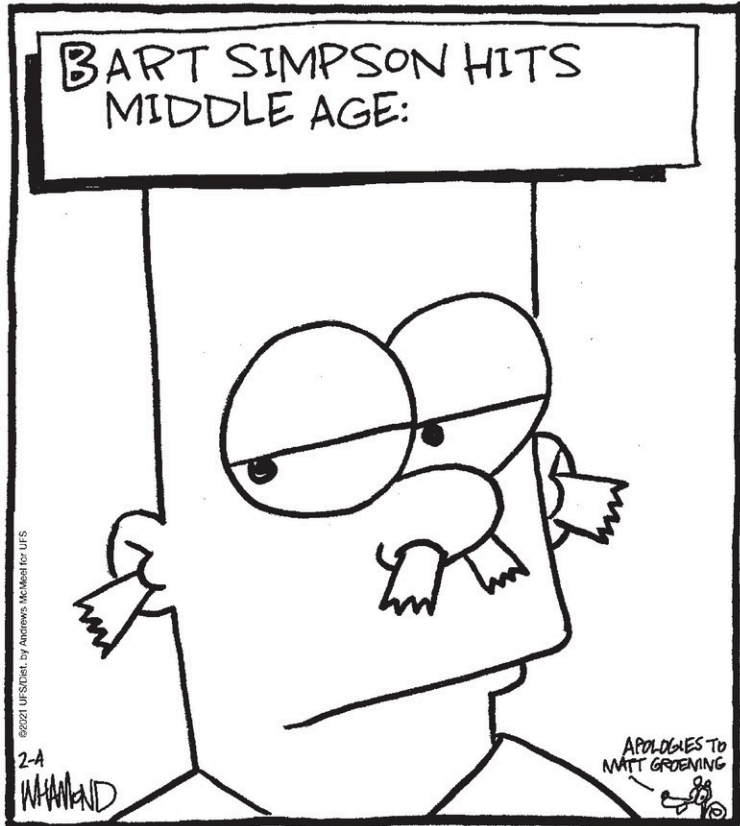
Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

" R G V B S R O N D C Z L S Z B S F N D T S
 C N O O A H A D I A O G H G Z L A H J B S F A J Z L A
 X N T T A J Z C N O O A H A D I A N D R G V ."
 — X H N S D P N W W N S B J

Previous Solution: "I wrote to the local news guy when I was 12 years old. I said, 'What do I need to do to be you one day?'" — David Muir

TODAY'S CLUE: C equals 1

REALITY CHECK

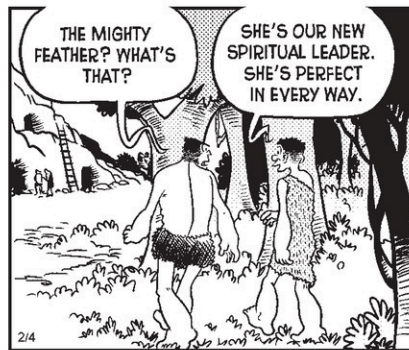
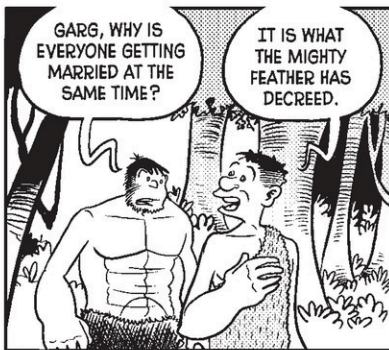


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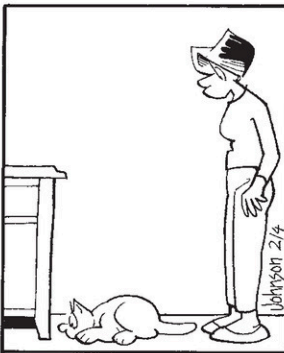


"See if you can get a saber-toothed tiger for the weekend. And make sure it's not all fat."

ALLEY OOP



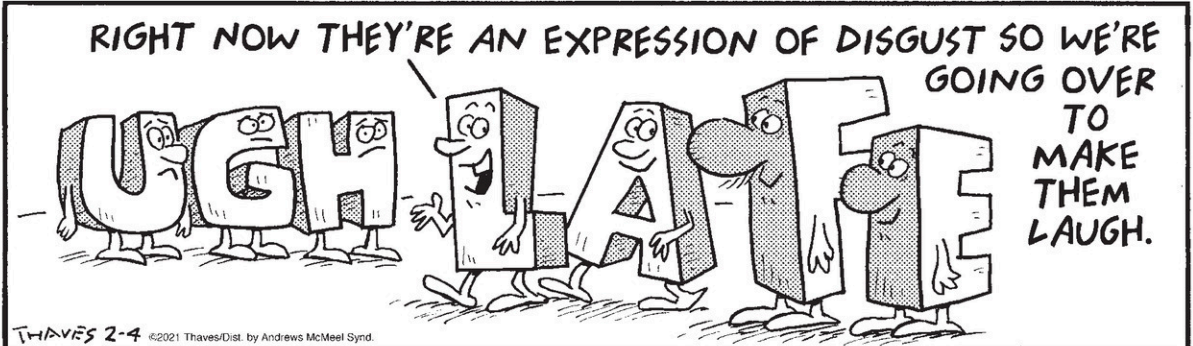
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Today in history

In 1783, Britain declared a formal cessation of hostilities with its former colony, the United States.

In 1789, George Washington was elected the first president of the United States.

In 1846, Mormon settlers left Nauvoo, Mo., to begin the settlement of the American West.

In 1858, gold was discovered along British Columbia's Fraser River, attracting thousands to Canada's West Coast. Hundreds of ships, jammed with gold-seekers, worked their way across the Strait of Georgia to the Fraser, then made the dangerous trip up the swift-running river.

In 1866, Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science, is alleged to have cured her injuries by opening a Bible. In 1873, Winnipeg was incorporated as a city.

In 1876, Manitoba abolished its legislative council.

In 1880, a party of armed men brutally murdered James Donnelly, his wife Johannah, his sons Thomas and John, and his niece Bridget Donnelly in their farmhouse near the southwestern Ontario village of Lucan. Two eyewitnesses, one of them another Donnelly son, claimed to have identified six of the murderers, who were subsequently brought to trial and found not guilty. The case aroused international interest and controversy. Various factual and fictional accounts of the cause of the massacre have been published, with the most credible being the theory that the killings were the result of a factional feud originating in

County Tipperary, Ireland.

In 1905, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian and Lutheran pastor who joined a plot to kill Adolf Hitler and was later arrested and hanged by the Nazis, was born in the former German city of Breslau, now Wroclaw, Poland.

In 1915, the first Canadian contingent landed in Europe during the First World War and proceeded to the Flanders region of Belgium.

In 1938, German dictator Adolf Hitler assumed personal command of his country's army.

In 1945, the Allied leaders met at Yalta, in the Crimea, to plan the final defeat of Nazi Germany. The conference included Britain's Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt of the U.S. and the Soviet Union's Josef Stalin. Their plan called for Allied occupation of Germany, the collection of war reparations and the founding of the United Nations.

In 1947, the lowest recorded temperature in Canadian history occurred at Snag, Yukon -62.8 C.

In 1948, the island nation of Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, became an independent dominion within the British Commonwealth.

In 1970, a Liberian-registered oil tanker ran aground and split in two in Chedabucto Bay, N.S., spilling more than 15,000 tonnes of bunker oil. An inquiry blamed improper navigation by the "Arrow."

In 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was kidnapped in Berkeley, Calif., by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1975, the federal, Ontario and Alberta governments announced they were putting \$600 million into the Syncrude oil-sands project in northeastern Alberta. Ottawa took a 15 per cent interest in return for its \$300 million investment, while Alberta took 10 per cent with \$200 million and Ontario five per cent with \$100 million. A consortium of oil companies led by Imperial Oil held the rest of the shares.

In 1976, an earthquake struck Guatemala and Honduras, killing more than 22,000 people.

In 1977, Keith Spicer, official languages commissioner, recommended the use of French as the language of work for employees of Air Canada and Canadian National Railways in Quebec.

In 1985, UN members signed a declaration against "torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment." Torture Abolition Day is marked on Feb. 4.

In 1992, Gulf Canada announced it was pulling out of the Hibernia oil project off Newfoundland. Almost one year later, the 25 per cent stake was purchased by the federal government, the remaining Hibernia partners and Murphy Oil.

In 1997, a Los Angeles-area civil jury found O.J. Simpson criminally responsible for the 1994 murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman. The jury later ordered the former football star to pay the victims' families US\$32.5 million in compensatory and punitive damages.

In 1998, British Columbia became the first jurisdiction in North America to give gay and lesbian couples the same privileges as heterosexuals for child support, custody and access.

In 1999, Prime Minister Jean Chretien and nine premiers agreed on a social union deal that promised more than \$5 billion more to provinces in federal health-care funds.

In 2000, the Toronto Stock Exchange's 300 composite index topped 9,000 for the first time.

In 2005, Atlanta Thrashers star Dany Heatley was sentenced to three years probation and ordered to give 150 speeches about the dangers of speeding after pleading guilty in the death of teammate Dan Snyder in a car accident. Heatley

pleaded guilty to four of the six charges he faced. In exchange for the plea, the only felony charge - first-degree vehicular homicide - was dropped, along with a charge of reckless driving.

In 2011, the Roman Catholic Diocese of London, Ont., reached settlements with 10 more sexual abuse victims in southwestern Ontario. The settlement involved two disgraced priests and totalled more than \$1.5 million.

In 2012, Florence Green, last known surviving veteran of the First World War, died at age 110. She served with the Women's Royal Air Force as a waitress at an air base in eastern England.

In 2013, the Royal Canadian Mint officially ceased distribution of the penny to Canada's financial institutions.

In 2013, using DNA from a direct descendent of his eldest sister, scientists confirmed that remains unearthed under a parking lot in the city of Leicester in 2012 were those of England's King Richard III, who was killed in 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth Field. The DNA came from Canadian Michael Ibsen.

In 2014, RCMP charged former senator Mac Harb and suspended senator Patrick Brazeau with fraud and breach of trust in relation to their travel and living expense claims, the first criminal charges to emanate from the year-long Senate expense scandal. (In 2016, the Crown withdrew the charges against both and Brazeau was able to return to the Senate.)

In 2017, at 32 years, 36 days old, Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James surpassed Kobe Bryant as the youngest player in NBA history to score 28,000 career points.

In 2018, the Philadelphia Eagles captured their first Super Bowl title in a thrilling 41-33 victory over the New England Patriots in Minneapolis where both offences combined for a post-season record 1,151 yards. Patriots quarterback Tom Brady threw for a post-season record 505 yards but was outdueled by Eagles backup quarterback and game MVP Nick Foles who threw for 373 yards and three TDs and even caught a TD pass.

In 2018, actor John Mahoney, who as the cranky, blue-collar dad in "Frasier" played counterpoint to pompous sons Frasier and Niles, died after a brief hospitalization. He was 77.

In 2019, three crew members of a Canadian Pacific freight train were killed in a derailment near Field, B.C., just west of the Alberta boundary. Investigators said the train began to move on its own before the crew was ready and it gained speed well in excess of the 32 km/h maximum for the tight turns in the mountain pass.

In 2020, the European Union rejected U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East peace proposal, stating it breaks with internationally agreed parameters. The Palestinians and Arab Gulf states also rejected Trump's plan.

In 2020, four B.C. First Nations lost their court challenge of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. The Federal Court of Appeal dismissed their challenge of the federal government's second approval of the project.

In 2020, Dr. Francis Plummer, the former scientific director of Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory, died after a battle with alcoholism. Plummer, 67, was cited in particular for his research into HIV.

In 2020, in his third State of the Union address, U.S. President Donald Trump took credit for the new United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, insisting his use of tariffs against trade partners had worked. But the president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce said the negotiations saw the U.S. treat partners as enemies, resulting in Canada and other countries focusing on diversifying away from the U.S.

(The Canadian Press)

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

2/4

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

9	6	7	5	1	8	2	4	3
4	1	8	2	3	9	5	6	7
2	5	3	6	4	7	1	8	9
7	2	4	3	8	5	9	1	6
5	3	9	4	6	1	7	2	8
1	8	6	9	7	2	3	5	4
6	9	1	7	2	4	8	3	5
3	7	2	8	5	6	4	9	1
8	4	5	1	9	3	6	7	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 4, 2021

- ACROSS**
- 1 Orange veggies
 - 5 Chi follower
 - 8 Cab driver
 - 12 Portent
 - 13 Rapper Tone —
 - 14 Siberian river
 - 15 Additional
 - 16 Pithy saying
 - 18 Complain
 - 20 Verbal abuse
 - 21 Alphabet ender
 - 22 Did lunch
 - 23 Carried on
 - 26 Formerly (2 wds.)
 - 29 Northern Iraqi
 - 30 Comparable
 - 31 Kiel conjunction
 - 33 Mexican Mrs.
 - 34 Porter and stout
 - 35 Dull colour
 - 36 Passes a bill
 - 38 Fidgety
- DOWN**
- 1 — Kippur
 - 2 Out of control
 - 3 Name in game shows
 - 4 Reacted to pepper
 - 5 "The Good —"
 - 6 Second-year student
 - 7 Fritz, to himself

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	R	O	P	W	A	I	T	A	S	P
O	A	H	U	H	I	D	E	U	K	E
O	R	A	L	O	M	A	R	D	I	T
P	E	R	S	I	A	R	H	I	N	E
R	E	E	L	D	A	Y				
	S	K	A	T	E	P	A	S	T	
S	O	D	S	L	O	G	O	P	A	L
G	R	U	B	T	E	A	K	E	S	C
T	O	O	L	A	S	S	A	Y		
	O	U	R	L	A	N	E			
E	V	I	C	T	C	E	M	E	N	T
K	E	N	I	N	C	A	A	P	S	O
E	E	K	C	O	U	P	H	A	U	L
S	P	Y	A	M	E	S	A	L	E	E

- 8 Tossed
- 9 Soprano's rendition
- 10 Hogshead
- 11 SAS competitor
- 17 Regularly
- 19 Mr. Danson
- 22 Defects and all (2 wds.)
- 23 Yr. parts
- 24 Subtle glow
- 25 Mortar-board wearer
- 26 Luau strings
- 27 Swing around
- 28 Singles
- 30 Low voice
- 32 Salon application
- 34 Mimicking
- 35 An earth science
- 37 By word of mouth
- 38 — kwon do
- 40 Panorama
- 41 Livestock show
- 42 Annoy
- 43 Elevator guy
- 44 Clarinet kin
- 45 "Private Dancer" singer
- 46 Recipe amt.
- 47 Impress deeply
- 49 Poet's always

them. Don't waste time on those who procrastinate or downplay what you are trying to do. Stay focused and intent on making the most of what you have.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – Sit tight. Don't make complicated or risky changes. Know what and who you are up against. Don't let your restlessness lead to a mistake. The right opportunity will come along.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – Look over your options, gather information and put your plans in place. An unusual partnership will interest you, but before you sign up for something unfamiliar, do a little research.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) – Take care of unfinished business, put the past behind you and consider what your options are. Handle an unexpected loss carefully. Don't jump to conclusions or lose out on what's rightfully yours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – Control your emotions. An unexpected turn of events will leave you in a quandary. Look over your options, take charge and get things done. If you remain calm, you will come through with flying colors.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – Refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans. Keep your money and possessions in a safe place. Reveal nothing, and you'll have nothing to fear. Being a good listener will pay off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – Put more time and effort into the important relationships in your life. Clear up matters that have been lingering on for too long. Focus on building a peaceful environment.

Pick your battles carefully. You can be disruptive, or you can become part of the solution. How you address personal and professional matters will affect how others view you. Use your intellect to convince others to see things your way. Be wary of using force and of those who use it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) – Listen and observe, but don't get involved in disruptive situations. Uncertainty will prevail if you are evasive or stretch the truth. Live up to your promises. Strive to maintain good relationships.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) – You'll gain support. Be sure to give accurate information. Crunch the numbers and proceed with caution. It's easier to do things right the first time than to pay the price later.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) – Check out what's available and affordable. How you manage your money will be important. Don't give in to temptation. Treat a meaningful relationship with respect.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) – Cut your losses and move along. Recognize when you've run out of gas, and you'll figure out the best way to salvage what you can and proceed. What's best for you is most important at present.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) – Play by the rules. Don't mess around when dealing with institutions or bureaucratic organizations. You have plenty to gain if you are honest and do your very best.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) – Lay out your plans and see who responds to

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

The experts know what others do not

By Phillip Alder

Niels Bohr, the Dane who won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922, said, "An expert is a person who has found out by his own painful experience all the mistakes that one can make in a very narrow field."

An expert bridge player learned from each of his errors when less skilled at the game. Now he uses this database to make winning plays and to interpret partner's cards correctly.

In today's deal, how should the defense go against four spades after West leads the diamond jack and declarer covers with dummy's queen?

In Standard American, South's two-spade rebid indicates a minimum opening; hence North's jump to game only. If using two-over-one, two spades would be unlimited, so North would raise to three spades. However, South would sign off in four spades.

An inexperienced defender sitting East would win with the diamond king and cash the diamond ace. Then he would guess whether to shift to a heart or a club. If he guessed correctly, he would defeat the contract, assuming West took the trick with his heart ace and cashed the diamond 10. If East led a club, South would win with the ace,

North		02-04-21	
♠	K 9 6	♠	7 5 2
♥	K Q J	♥	9 8 7 3 2
♦	Q 7 5	♦	A K
♣	K Q 8 4	♣	10 9 7
West		East	
♠	8	♠	7 5 2
♥	A 4	♥	9 8 7 3 2
♦	J 10 8 4 3	♦	A K
♣	J 6 5 3 2	♣	10 9 7
South			
♠	A Q J 10 4 3		
♥	10 6 5		
♦	9 6 2		
♣	A		
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
Opening lead: ♦ J			

draw trumps ending on the board and discard one diamond and one heart on the two top clubs.

An expert partnership would not need to guess. East would win the first trick with his diamond ace, then cash the king, indicating that he had started with only two diamonds. West would drop the diamond 10 at trick two, a suit-preference signal for hearts. East would shift to the heart nine; West would win with the ace and give his partner a diamond ruff.