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MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

Sherbrooke, Magog adopt 2023 operating budgets

By Gordon Lambie

The City of Sherbrooke presented its 2023 operating budget last week, outlining a plan totalling \$400.1 million, \$27.8 million more than the previous year.

Speaking with media about the budget on Tuesday afternoon, Sherbrooke Mayor Évelyne Beaudin called it a budget with "no surprises" based on the fact that the majority of the planning process was held in public council sessions.

Sherbrooke homeowners will see their property taxes increase by three per cent in the coming year, a change which represents \$88 more for the owner of a single-family home of average value in the city (\$259,697.) The increase is slightly lower in the case of sixplexes, at 2.88 per cent, and very slightly higher, at 3.1 per cent for a vacant lot.

In order to meet the commitment of keeping the tax increase at three per cent, the council has opted to increase a number of fees as well as implement some others. Notably, the city will be implementing a new tax bracket for offices and commercial properties with a value in excess of \$750,000. Whereas businesses with a commercial or office space of a value less than \$750,000 will be taxed at a rate of \$2,2378 per \$100 of evaluation, those that surpass will have the part of their evaluation that exceeds

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Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) Partage/Share program distributes annual Christmas baskets



PHOTOS COURTESY OF: VALERIE THERRIEN-MUNICIPALITY OF POTTON

Potton Mayor and member of the Fire Department, Bruno Cote joins the Fire Department and First Responders in make deliveries

BY MABLE HASTINGS

On Tuesday, Dec. 13 the Partage/Share food bank of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) distributed its annual Christmas baskets to families and individuals in need this holiday season.

Volunteers gathered the week prior and on the 12th and 13th to finalize the boxes for distribution. This is no small feat as each family and individual receives several boxes filled with canned goods, a turkey, vegetables, dairy products and more... All items must be coordinated in boxes

that are numbered to assure that all requests are met. Food donations come in from the community at large as well as from supporters like: TANDO (Jean-Phillippe and Jacob Gosselin), Lassonde (Mr. Turner), Owl's Head Homeowners Association organized by

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LOW OF -5



TUESDAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH OF -3
LOW OF -9



WEDNESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -1
LOW OF -12



THURSDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -3
LOW OF -2



FRIDAY:
RAIN

HIGH OF 7
LOW OF -6

“Le Rucher Boltonnois” bistro donates tips to CABMN food bank



THE SCOOP
MABLE HASTINGS

On Dec. 14 Alain Déry President of the Rucher Boltonnois-Bolton Hive, a social economy non-profit organization created in February 2018 in Bolton-Est contacted the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) with some great news.

“During the East Bolton Public Markets of 2022,” explained Dery, “we collected tips from the customers of the Bistro to donate to the CABMN to help finance its food bank. It is with great pleasure that we are presenting the sum of \$3,000 to the CABMN.”

The Rucher (hive) is the continuation of the “adopt a hive” project that was created in 2017 in Bolton-Est with the financial support of the municipality. It is the organizer of the Bolton-Est public market which takes place in a large tent in Park Terrio during the summer. The Rucher also operates the Bistro at the Market every Saturday.

During the Pandemic the Apiary enthusiasts got creative and started an online version of the Public Market. This was done to support local merchants gathering local products and making them available in one common place.

In 2020 the Rucher acquired

the building located at 2616 route Nicholas Austin through 100% citizen financing. This building now houses the Winter Bistro as well as the craft beer brewery, Brasse Serre.

“The generosity of the Bistro visitors is considerable,” said Dery in reference to the phenomenal amount being donated in support of the Food Bank. “The Rucher is inspired by the collective strength of bees to carry out great projects, one small drop of nectar at a time,” he added.

Alain Dery and his Rucher volunteers are well known for their community efforts, support and hard work. The Bolton-Est public market and bistro are abuzz with joyous activity and inspiring people, not to mention the talent!

Want to contact the Rucher Boltonnois?
Address: 2616 Rte Nicholas Austin,
Bolton-Est, QC J0E 1G0
Phone: (438) 837-0560

North Volunteer Centre

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Marie-Elaine Hvizdak, Familiprix Mansonville, Epicerie Jacques Ducharme, Bonisoir Depanneur des 13, Memphremagog Food Bank (BAM) and the Mansonville Baptist Church. Monetary donations come in from a variety of supportive and giving individuals and groups as well as support received from the CIUSSSE-CHUS Health Board. A variety of businesses made boxes available for donations of items to support the Annual baskets including schools like Massey Vanier High School.

It takes many hands to make light work and the numerous volunteers who gather, sort, distribute and help out during the lengthy process are greatly appreciated by the CABMN organization. The Potton Firefighters and First Responders are an amazing sight to behold as they prepare the deliveries and go from home to home assuring that all boxes (and there are many) get to the right places. Each year as this group gets more and more seasoned, the deliveries go a little faster and the process seems effortless with the help of these devoted people.

“I’ve been doing this for quite

some time now,” said June Peacock the Chairperson of the Partage/Share committee of the CABMN who, along with CABMN Administrator Jennifer Mcgeean coordinate the Annual Food Baskets each year. “It never ceases to amaze me as I watch this all come together. When the last boxes are loaded there is a feeling of accomplishment, joy and pride in all who make this happen on behalf of the CABMN.”

The boxes also included gifts for the children: stuffed animals, handmade toys, toothpaste and brushes as well as books donated through the Yamaska Literacy Council coordinated by Amanda Patch. The Yamaska Literacy Council supports many activities and Amanda contacts the CABMN each year to offer their support in supplying books for the youngsters.

For anyone in need who missed the Annual Christmas Basket distribution, the CABMN has and continues to stock its shelves preparing for needs that may arise prior and after the holidays. Contributions of food items are always needed and as things continue to come in, the CABMN can assure that it is able



Potton Fire Chief, James Bouthillier loads the truck to make Christmas basket deliveries to those in need

to help anyone who needs support that may be suffering from food insecurity.

To contact the CABMN call 450-292-3114. The offices are located at 314B Principale in Mansonville above the CIUSSSE/CHUS Medical Clinic. If you want to know more about the CAB visit www.cabmn.org

The CABMN wishes all a joyous holiday and ask that you take note that the office and programs will be closed from December 23, 2022 to January 3, 2023. For emergencies you can leave a message.

Ben by Daniel Shelton



Local News

Deann Louise C. Nardo, one of the exhibit contributors, had two photos and a poem on display.

Poetry and art from Filipino migrant workers featured at Sherbrooke Cathedral

By Lawrence Belanger
Local Journalism Initiative

Migrante Quebec, a migrants' rights organization made up of Filipino migrant workers and their advocates, held an exhibition of poetry and photography by Filipino migrant workers at La Basilique-Cathédrale Saint-Michel de Sherbrooke last Friday, to celebrate International Migrant Worker's Day.

Created in 2000 by the United Nations General Assembly to recognize migrant workers and draw attention to the issues faced by immigrants around the world, the day is observed on Dec. 18.

Joey Calugay, one of Migrante Quebec's organizers, said that for the exhibit, "we asked them to...provide us with a slice of their life, work, rest, play," with the goal to be showcasing "what their lives are in Canada."

Deann Louise C. Nardo, one of the exhibit contributors, had two photos and a poem on display. Speaking about her poem, entitled "Holy Eye Rolls", Nardo said "I wrote that a while ago when I was working, like as a teenager working at malls and like, Christmas time and being really tedious." Her poem captured her perspective on the experience of working as a teenage immigrant, juxtaposing her shiny, warm, work environment with their poor living conditions.

The event included a short program where invited guests

(including local unions, community organizations and politicians) gave short solidarity messages celebrating the contributions of migrant workers and highlighting some issues that need to be addressed with regard to the development of migrant justice in Quebec.

Calugay stressed the importance of treating migrants like anyone else, stating that "legal status" was a civil matter, rather than criminal. He criticized how coverage of immigration in the news often refers to "illegal" immigration.

Many arrive in Canada with travel documents and some form of residency permit, but then lose their status due to their employer, partner, or fear to return home due to authoritarian oppression.

"Many abused migrants will escape from abusive employers, and because their immigration status is tied to them, they lose their status." Calugay, and Migrante Quebec in general, questioned why that's viewed as a criminal act on the part of the migrant. Given the labour shortages plaguing many industries, Calugay also noted that many undocumented workers have been here for years, contributing to the Canadian economy.

"There are shortages in labour, and they're trying to fill that up... [migrants] want to contribute to society. Why don't we just, let's just regularize, and be done with it?"

During the exhibit, allied



LAWRENCE BELANGER

organizations presented their campaign for an "inclusive and complete" regularization program for undocumented migrants in Quebec. Explaining what that entails, Calugay said any regularisation program "shouldn't have a cap", and because people who've been here for years often lose access to legal identifications like passports, "they should allow community organizations to vouch for people who don't have those official documents".

According to Calugay, the Federal government is going to be coming out with such a program, but hasn't

yet. He said that Migrante Quebec was concerned that the CAQ in Quebec City would resist the program.

"For it to work, specifically in Quebec, is for the Quebec government to agree, because Quebec is the only province that can opt-out" of federal immigration programs. And that's assuming the Federal government doesn't severely restrict the program.

Without regular status, it is impossible, to be able to work, access social and government services, or even pay taxes. "Those are basic, basic human rights," said Calugay.

Sherbrooke, Magog

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

\$750,000 taxed at \$2,4101 per \$100. Through this new tax bracket, the city expects to accumulate an additional \$3 million.

Other measures aimed at increasing municipal funds without raising taxes include higher cost for parking, increasing from \$1.25 per hour to \$1.50 as of March, and an increase in fees and fines levied as penalties for various infractions.

Magog, meanwhile, adopted an operating budget of \$100.3 million for 2023 on Monday night. In that city the average single-family dwelling is \$316,800, resulting in a 3.9 per cent increase in property taxes, or about \$82 for next year.

The mayors of both cities tied the increased fees and taxes to the rising costs municipalities are facing due to inflation.

"The increase in prices, for example those of gasoline and materials, directly affects us as well as our suppliers," said Magog

Mayor Nathalie Pelletier in a written statement accompanying the news of the budget. "We have made choices to limit new projects. We also asked our teams to review their expenses. The 3.9% increase in the property tax bill will allow us to continue to offer the same level of services to citizens, to pursue our development and to ensure the maintenance of our assets. Today, we are tabling a responsible budget and we will closely monitor our investments throughout the year."

Sherbrooke also published its capital investment plan for 2023-25, outlining \$276 million in spending over the next three years, \$93 million of which will be for the coming year. Of that \$93 million, \$77 million is being spent on maintenance of existing infrastructure and materials.

Full details of both cities investment plans and budgets are available on their respective websites.

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Men's pool group makes donation is support of volunteer centre youth program



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

On Thursday, Dec. 14, the drop-in men's pool group that meets weekly in the basement of the Mansonville Catholic Church stopped by the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre to leave a donation in support of the CABMN youth program. The group members contribute a small amount each week to a pot and each year, the amount accumulated is donated in support of the youth. This year a whopping \$512 dollars was donated!

pool enthusiasts gives the men an opportunity to come together to partake in an activity that they all enjoy and to get a bit of visiting time in as well. The fact that the group generates a few dollars each week may seem insignificant but to the youth, this is a huge donation in support of its programs and activities held weekly for the youth at no cost to the families.

The pool tables were donated by the Club des Retraites retiree group of the Mansonville Catholic Church. Two tables are available for the men to use and the space now provided by the Municipality of Potton is perfect to meet the needs of the group. The clatter as the balls connect mixed with the exchange of conversation and laughter brings a warm ambiance to those who come and go.

After hearing about the donation, CABMN Youth Coordinator, Ethan Ball had this to say regarding the kindness show by the group.

"The group used to meet at the Youth Centre where there was a lot happening each week. When the basement space became available providing a little less chaos, they started meeting there," explained Ball. "It is a real gesture on the part of



COURTESY OF MARIE-CLAUDE JOLY

Members of the Men's Pool Group: Barkley Woodard, Yves Hamelin, Guy Déry, Royal Lamothe, Viateur Rodrigue, Roméo Thomas, Thomas Colgan, Pierre Théorêt

these men to continue to donate their collective weekly contributions to our youth programs," he concluded.

For the pool group, it is all good fun and if this donation helps the kids, all

the better! The group certainly chose a wonderful time of year to present such a gift warming the hearts of the children and staff in the kind and caring gesture made.

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Bubble tea in Richmond

By Nick Fonda

A visitor strolling along the two-block stretch of Main Street that makes up Richmond's downtown core might be hard pressed to spot the new health bar that serves bubble tea.

"No, I don't have signage up yet," says Émilie Duchesne, the owner of Le Royalté, which opened its doors at the beginning of November.

"I will have a sign up soon," she continues, "but I have a more pressing problem that has to be fixed first—my refrigerator unit, which I bought second hand, needs repair as it's not working properly."

Le Royalté—the name is a cute pun in French—is still very much a work in progress.

"I have over 2,000 square feet of floor space divided into three rooms," Émilie says of her shop located at 151 rue Principale. "The smallest is being used for storage for the time being, although I may sublet it. The largest makes up the health bar itself, and the third one will serve as a playroom for toddlers and children. Parents who come in with their children will have a chance to sit quietly for a few minutes with their tea while their kids can play safely a few feet away."

Émilie herself is the mother of an 18-month-old toddler who often accompanies her mother to work.

For the time being the health bar is a large open space with a cluster of children's toys in one corner, a couple of small tables and chairs, and a serving bar installed in front of the currently out-of-order refrigerator unit.

Pointing to a white plaster wall,

Émilie says, "I'll be covering it with wooden planks recuperated from pallets as soon as I have a few more pallets. I did construction work for a short while and I'll be able to do the job myself. I like the idea of recuperating and reusing old wood, and I especially like the warm, comfy feeling that wood gives to a room."

Despite the absence of signage and sparse furnishing, Le Royalté has had customers since its opening on Nov. 5.

"I've been using social media, like Instagram and Facebook, to let people know about the health bar," says Émilie. "Most of my customers so far have been younger people, but I did have a gentleman of a certain age who came in the other day because his granddaughter had been telling him about bubble tea."

Bubble tea is a relatively new drink that was created in Taiwan in the 1980s and migrated first to California and then to the rest of North America. It's a drink that has caught on; there are now at least two bubble tea franchises that expanding across the United States. Originally it was served hot and consisted of tea (with or without milk) garnished with tapioca balls also known as pearls, so that bubble tea was also called pearl milk tea.

On this side of the Pacific, the drink changed considerably. It is now generally served cold and there are numerous recipes.

"My clients are invited to create their own recipes," Émilie says. "There are four basic ingredients: tea, juice, aloe, and the bubbles. Each of these can come in a variety of flavours. There are several teas, including a lemon tea and a raspberry tea. There are more

than half a dozen juices, among them cherry, kiwi, and pomegranate. The aloe comes in a few different flavours including mandarin and mango. The bubbles, which are little balls of intense flavour, similarly come in several different varieties."

The final product, served in a 16-ounce plastic cup, is a brightly coloured, cold, very sweet, zesty drink.

Le Royalté also serves hot and cold teas, energy teas, and protein shakes.

"Early in the new year," Émilie says, "I'm hoping to start serving food as well, with the emphasis being on healthy food. It won't be an extensive menu, but I'll have sandwiches, wraps, and muffins. I'm not aiming to become a restaurant, but I do want to be able offer something to the client who might be feeling a little peckish as he's savouring his bubble tea."

"One of the things I want to offer my clients," she continues, "is a place where they can come with their laptop and work for an hour or two."

A native of Richmond, Émilie Duchesne has some experience as a waitress but otherwise has no experience or formal training that might have prepared her to open her own small business. She's even relatively new to bubble tea, having first tasted it not long ago in Sherbrooke where she currently lives.

"I decided last summer that I wanted to open a health bar and sell bubble tea," she says. "I did take a few on-line courses, and I've also had a bit of accounting and bookkeeping advice from friends, but I feel confident about this project. I knew I wanted to open it up in Richmond because this is home, but also because it's something new



NICK FONDA

Émilie Duchesne, owner of Le Royalté

and different for Richmond. Bubble tea has become very popular, and I think it'll be popular here as well. As a business, I'm hoping to grow it mostly by word of mouth—although I will soon have a sign out front and a decorated storefront window."

For the time being, visitors, or even locals, will have to look for the address, 151 rue Principale, to find Le Royalté. (If you know Richmond, it's at the north end of the old Dyson & Armstrong garage across the street from the Bank of Commerce.)

Émilie Duchesne's health bar is open Monday to Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a bubble tea will set you back \$7.

Governments move closer to deal at biodiversity conference

By Michael Casey
The Associated Press

There were signs Sunday that negotiators were closing in on a deal at a U.N. conference that would protect nature and provide financing to set up protected areas and restore degraded ecosystems.

China, which holds the presidency at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, or COP15, released a draft deal that calls for protecting 30% of the most important global land and marine areas by 2030. Currently, 17% of terrestrial and 10% of marine areas are protected.

The draft also calls for raising \$200 billion by 2030 for biodiversity and working to phase out or reform subsidies that could provide another \$500 billion for nature. As part of that, it calls to increase to at least \$20 billion annually or by some estimates triple the amount that goes to poor countries by 2025. That number would increase to \$30 billion each year by 2030.

The draft now goes to a meeting of

all governments this evening and could be adopted soon after.

"Today the world's countries rose to the occasion and produced a historic draft that agrees to protect at least 30% of our planet," Enric Sala, National Geographic Explorer in Residence and Pristine Seas Founder, said in a statement. "This recognizes years of work by negotiators, researchers, conservationists, and Indigenous Peoples. Now we just need to maintain the political will to get this ambition across the finish line without diminishing its scope. World leaders must remain committed to bold action in Montreal."

The ministers and government officials from about 190 countries mostly agree that protecting biodiversity has to be a priority, with many comparing those efforts to climate talks that wrapped up last month in Egypt.

Climate change coupled with habitat loss, pollution and development have hammered the world's biodiversity, with one estimate in 2019 warning that

a million plant and animal species face extinction within decades — a rate of loss 1,000 times greater than expected. Humans use about 50,000 wild species routinely, and 1 out of 5 people of the world's 8 billion population depend on those species for food and income, the report said.

But they have struggled for nearly two weeks to agree on what that protection looks like and who will pay for it.

The financing has been among the most contentious issues, with delegates from 70 African, South American and Asian countries walking out of negotiations Wednesday. They returned several hours later.

Brazil, speaking for developing countries during the week, said in a statement that a new funding mechanism dedicated to biodiversity should be established and that developed countries provide \$100 billion annually in financial grants to emerging economies until 2030.

"All the elements are in there for a balance of unhappiness which is the

secret to achieving agreement in U.N. bodies," Pierre du Plessis, a negotiator from Namibia who is helping coordinate the African group, told The Associated Press. "Everyone got a bit of what they wanted, not necessarily everything they wanted. Let's see if there is there is a spirit of unity."

Others praised the fact the document recognizes the rights of Indigenous communities.

"By including strong language safeguarding the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities and recognizing Indigenous and traditional territories, the text provides an opportunity for a new era of partnership, respect and rights-based conservation," Brian O'Donnell, the director of the Campaign for Nature, said in a statement. "This could be the paradigm shift that scientists and Indigenous leaders have been calling for."

But others were concerned that the draft puts off until 2050 a goal of preventing the extinction of species and preserving the integrity of ecosystems.

EDITORIAL

The second largest group, at 34 per cent, is the godless alliance - atheist, agnostic or indifferent.

Some gift suggestions for the naughty and nice in Quebec politics



PETER BLACK

According to a recentish survey, 87 per cent of Canadians celebrate Christmas in some form or another. Considering the fact a bare majority of Canadians - 53.3 per cent, according to StatsCan - call themselves Christians of some form or another, that would suggest there are a lot of folks oblivious to the manger saga riding the tinsel and holly bandwagon.

The second largest group, at 34 per cent, is the godless alliance - atheist, agnostic or indifferent. Obviously, many if not most of them are believers in some aspect of the Santa/Christ festival and collectively have created a cult out of Christmas consumerism.

All this to say Christmas has become largely about giving or getting presents, even some that are derivative of the original nativity offerings of frankincense and myrrh (perfumes and toiletries) and gold (jewelry).

Let's face it, most folks love to give and receive presents. So, in the spirit of this twisted spiritual celebration, your scribe suggests the following gifts for some of Santa's naughtiest and nicest in the political world.

For Economy, Industry and Energy Minister Pierre Fitzgibbon, how about a book of fine pheasant recipes to bring to the chef at his annual rich mans' hunt on that private island?

It would be best if it had a section on side dishes, because it seems no matter how many times his political carrots are in hot water with the ethics commissioner (answer: six) they are never cuite.

For Tom Mulcair, former NDP leader, former provincial Liberal cabinet minister and current political commentator, notably as lonely anglo voice in the Journal de Quebec/Montreal sovereigntist columnist chorus, a less foggy crystal ball. In a meandering end-of-year missive, Mulcair warns Canadians: "Brace yourselves because the new year, 2023, will likely be an election year."

He never actually says why he thinks there may be a "a knock down, drag out donnybrook between Liberals and Conservatives" next year. So, OK, we'll see.

In that regard, we're sure Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who got a sweet pre-Christmas sugarplum with the Toronto byelection romp last week, would love to wake up on his birthday Yule morn to find a stocking full of Pierre Poilievre electoral coal hanging by the hearth to keep his political fortunes all aglow. Poilievre's grinchy antics may be the gift that keeps on giving and whenever the next election does occur, give Trudeau the ultimate prize of a coveted fourth straight term.

For former Quebec Liberal leader Dominique Anglade, Santa might want to put under the tree a copy of the 1978 biography Claude Ryan: Homme de devoir. Ryan, like Anglade, was the only elected QLP chief in more than 80 years to not become premier of Quebec. Unlike Ryan, however, Anglade chose to blow the parliamentary popsicle stand once she quit as leader. Therefore, we also hope Santa brings her lots and lots of offers of jobs where her impressive skills will be better appreciated.

Coincidentally, thanks to the "gift"



to English CEGEPs from Anglade's former caucus, Santa will want to bring administrators and teachers at same a stockpile of extra-strength headache relievers and a supply of Rubic's Cubes as they try to figure out how to meet the demands of Bill 96 for extra French courses for anglophone students.

Speaking of which, constitutional lawyers in the land will be due for fat bonuses over the coming months and years as challenges move forward on Bills 96, 21 (religious symbols) and 40 (school boards). How this perfect storm of constitutional turmoil

unfolds may have consequences way beyond 2023. As René Levesque advised in a famous Aislin cartoon, "everybody take a Valium."

And then there's Premier François Legault, the author of the above turmoil. Now what does Père Noel give to the man who would seem to have everything: A huge caucus, a sweeping mandate, generous lead in the polls, an insignificant opposition?

How about, as Legault looks down upon the people from the summit of this mountain of hubris, the gift of wisdom and humility?

Letters

Error in The Record

TO: GORDON LAMBIE,

Shame on you Mr. Associate Editor! In the first sentence of the front page article on Mrs. Hedges of last Wednesday's Record you wrote: "a very unique presentation". I think every English language writer should know that something is either unique or not. There cannot be any degree of uniqueness.

REGARDS,
CHRIS SHEARWOOD,
SUTTON, QC

THE RECORD

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Local Sports | *It won't just be Stanstead student-athletes representing Quebec in February.*

Hockey Quebec releases under-18 women's squad for Canada Winter Games

By Michael Boriero

It took over a year to finalize the squad, but Hockey Quebec has announced its roster for the women's team representing the province at the upcoming Prince Edward Island 2023 Canada Winter Games in Charlottetown, and it features several athletes from the Eastern Townships.

Nearly two weeks ago, Arianne Leblanc, a grade 12 student at Stanstead College and a goaltender for the Spartans hockey team, received news that she was selected as one of the two goaltenders heading to P.E.I from Feb. 18 to March 5. And she won't be going there alone.

Leblanc will be joined by three of her teammates at Stanstead. Béatrice Perron-Roy, Alexia Aubin, and Maxim Tremblay will also be out east representing Quebec in the female under-18 division. Another teammate, Jamie Arsenaault, has been selected to represent New Brunswick.

"Obviously, I really wanted to make the team, but I didn't know if I would make it. But also, the fact that I made it with a lot of my teammates, I think it's going to be really nice to play on the same team as them again [...] we're all really excited to go," Leblanc said in a phone interview.

She told The Record that tryouts for the squad started in the summer of 2021. There were three more evaluation camps in December, this past summer, and again in October. But while she was surprised to make the team in the moment, Leblanc has a lot of confidence in her abilities.

"I think I have visibly a lot of confidence in my net when I play, so I think I can influence the players to be more confident in me in that I can be there for them in important moments and I think I can make good saves in important moments and I have a good technique," she shared.

The third-year Stanstead ice hockey player has played for Quebec in the past. She made Quebec's under-18 squad last year. She was meant to play in a national championship, but it was cancelled due to COVID-19. Leblanc ended up taking part in a mini series against Ontario.

"I'm really proud to represent Quebec. It's also really fun to get to play with a lot of girls that, usually, you don't play with, and most of the them you actually play against them in the season, sometimes, so that's going to be a really good experience," Leblanc explained to The Record.

She added Stanstead is the perfect breeding ground for ice hockey players. The program often attracts the best players from around the province, Leblanc continued, sharing that the boarding school and the proximity of the campus to the arena

makes it an ideal situation.

When The Record reached out to Leblanc, she was already at the arena, waiting to practice with her team. Hockey has become a comfort for Leblanc, a place to decompress and forget about the stress of school. And being at Stanstead, she feels like she can follow her passion.

Leblanc said she always had an affinity for stopping pucks. When she started playing hockey at nine years old, Leblanc knew her place was in the crease. Now, at 17 years old, Leblanc finds herself holding the weight of the province on her shoulders. And she loves the pressure.

"I guess I'm just someone who likes challenges and to work under pressure. Obviously, as a goalie, you kind of have the game on your shoulders sometimes when you have to make an important save and I just like that feeling," Leblanc said, noting she doesn't often get nervous.

Cougars in P.E.I.

It won't just be Stanstead student-athletes representing Quebec in February. Angélie Jobin and Frédérique Verpaelst of the Champlain College Cougars will also be hitting the ice with Leblanc in P.E.I. Jobin told The Record the two of them were together when they saw the final roster.

"For sure, it's fun because we're coming from the same team, so we get to go through this together. When we received the email if we made the team we were together in the locker room. We looked at each other and we were just so happy," said Jobin in a phone interview.

She said her speed, vision, and defensive zone coverage likely gave her the edge over the other defenseman trying out for the team. Jobin added Champlain has been instrumental to her development. She said the program focuses not only on skills, but mental toughness, too.

Jobin added while it will be a great experience for everyone involved in the tournament, Quebec won't succeed unless they are able to build chemistry both on and off the ice. She said once they are able to find that chemistry, they will be able to perform magic on the ice. Verpaelst is on the same page as her teammate. She told The Record her first reaction to the news was pure excitement. But once she settled down, Verpaelst started thinking about how Quebec can leave its mark at the hockey tournament. They will all need to be in sync to win.

According to Verpaelst, this will be a difficult test for the province, but she believes Quebec has the right tools to go far in the tournament. There have been many camps already, so she feels like she knows most of the team. However, it will be different

when the puck drops in February.

"It's really important because it's a really short tournament. Obviously, we want to win the gold, so it's important to have chemistry.

If we don't have that off the ice, obviously, we won't have chemistry on the ice," said Verpaelst, sharing the team is bonding through weekend activities.



COURTESY

Frédérique Verpaelst and Angélie Jobin together on the ice

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THE
RECORD

Birth Announcement



CLAIRE LYNN HAMMOND

Born November 30, weighing 8 lbs. 1 oz. Proud parents Emily Mastine and Kevin Hammond. Little sister to our angel Nathan Benjamin Hammond who will never be forgotten (2021). Grandparents Kathy and Benjamin Hammond, Michelle Skakum and Larry Mastine, Pamela Brock. Great-grandparents Doris Robinson, Glenn and Eleanor Brock, and Blanche Mastine.

Birthday

Happy Birthday Open House

Monday, Dec. 26
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

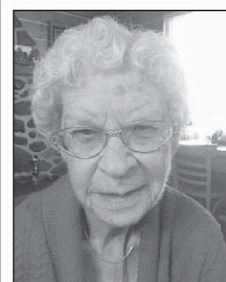


Come and help Keith Baldwin celebrate his 100th birthday at

Lennoxville Curling Club, 6 Speid St Lennoxville.

Best Wishes Only.

Death



Leona Heegsma Warburton 1931-2022

Leona passed away on Dec. 7, 2022 at home in her 92nd year.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband Roland Warburton (1994).

Leona leaves to mourn her sons Kevin (Georgina) and Kerry, and her daughter Myrna. She will be missed greatly by her grandchildren Jonathan (Melissa), Melissa (Chris), Kristina, Pam (Jason), and the late Tim; also by her great-grandchildren Caleb, Tiahana, Brynne, Annakah, Caiden, Lochlann, Mason, Alisha, and Jordan. Also left to mourn are her sisters Bonnie (Lorne) and Sylvia (the late Herman) the late Lorraine and her brother John (Claire). Arrangements have been entrusted to Cass Funeral Home and there will be a spring interment at Island Brook Cemetery.

CASS FUNERAL HOMES
3006 College St., Sherbrooke QC
PHONE: 819-564-1750
FAX: 819-564-4423
www.casshomes.ca

Do just one thing

by Danny Seo

If you're shopping for gifts in stores during the holiday season, one thing you can do to reduce waste is bring your own reusable bags. In the past, retailers often discouraged customers from bringing in their own bags due to the potential for theft. But times have changed, and almost every retailer now accepts and even encourages the use of reusable bags. Not only are they a convenient way for you to consolidate items and carry them throughout the store with ease, but you'll also help cut back on waste.

Date Book

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

Today is the 353rd day of 2022 and the 89th day of autumn.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1777, the Continental Army under George Washington set up winter quarters in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

In 1932, the first BBC World Service radio broadcast aired, as "Empire Service."

In 1998, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to impeach President Bill Clinton.

In 2011, North Korea announced that dictator Kim Jong Il had died two days earlier.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), historian; Leonid Brezhnev (1906-1982), Soviet leader; Jean Genet (1910-1986), author; Edith Piaf (1915-

1963), singer/actress; Cicely Tyson (1924-2021), actress; Al Kaline (1934-2020), baseball player; Richard Leakey (1944-2022), paleoanthropologist; Robert Urich (1946-2002), actor; Reggie White (1961-2004), football player; Criss Angel (1967-), magician; Tyson Beckford (1970-), model; Alyssa Milano (1972-), actress; Warren Sapp (1972-), football player; Jake Gyllenhaal (1980-), actor.

TODAY'S FACT: Cecily Tyson, born on this day in 1924, was the first African American woman to receive an honorary Oscar, awarded in November 2018.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1980, Brigham Young University's football team, down 20 points with three minutes to play, staged an improbable comeback to defeat

Southern Methodist University in the Holiday Bowl, 46-45.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Knowing your generational story firms the ground upon which you stand. It makes your life, your struggles and triumphs, bigger than your lone existence. It connects you to a grand plotline." - Cicely Tyson, "Just as I Am"

TODAY'S NUMBER: 12 - astronauts in the Apollo program who set foot on the moon's surface. The last manned lunar flight, Apollo 17, returned to Earth on this day in 1972.

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter moon (Dec. 16) and new moon (Dec. 23).

RATES and DEADLINES: ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

BIRTH NOTICES, CARDS OF THANKS, IN MEMORIAMS, BRIEFLETS:

Text only: 40¢ per word. Minimum charge \$10.00 (\$11.50 taxes included)

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

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

Text only: \$16.00 (includes taxes)

With photo: \$26.00 (\$29.90 taxes included) **DEADLINE:** 3 days before publication.

WEDDING WRITE-UPS:

\$26.00 (\$29.90 taxes included) **WITH PHOTO:** \$36.00 (\$41.40 taxes included)

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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.

NEA Crossword Puzzle

Your Birthday

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	A	D		A	R	A	B		G	O	Y	A		
A	R	I		L	A	N	E		A	P	E	X		
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P	O	O	L		I	N	S		A	S	E	A		
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A	J	A	R		K	O	N	G		A	T	V		
B	O	N	N		S	A	G	E		R	Y	E		

ACROSS

- 1 Sitcom waitress
- 4 Contractor's fig.
- 7 Topaz or opal
- 10 Give the boot
- 12 Cabbage cousin
- 14 Fish-to-be
- 15 Wilcox or Raines
- 16 Ancient empire
- 17 Not 'neath
- 18 Motto
- 20 Cheap-sounding
- 22 Band's booking
- 23 Cap
- 24 Paid for
- 27 Big exams
- 30 Waterless
- 31 Bean for sprouting
- 32 Gasp of delight
- 34 Tried for office
- 35 Frosty coating
- 36 Heap
- 37 Early release
- 39 Humped beast

DOWN

- 40 Denials
- 41 Tyler or Ullmann
- 42 Romantic appointment
- 45 Nuclear
- 49 Pro vote
- 50 Looks at
- 53 Hammer or saw
- 54 Kitchen utensil
- 55 Part in a drama
- 56 Mlle., in Barcelona
- 57 Unit of energy
- 58 First space lab
- 59 Forty winks
- 1 Opposing sides
- 2 Break in the action
- 3 Ibsen's home
- 4 Scraping (by)
- 5 Japanese honorific
- 6 Affection, in brief
- 7 Continue (2 wds.)

- 8 Flush with
- 9 Tudor queen
- 11 Gave a ticket to
- 13 Wolfing down
- 19 Relief
- 21 Boise's st.
- 23 "Walk the —"
- 24 Dinghy's need
- 25 Decorate gifts
- 26 Tijuana tot
- 27 Get steamed up
- 28 Daily Planet reporter
- 29 Without help
- 31 Inch fractions
- 33 Fox's prey
- 35 Noisy fan
- 36 Swings around
- 38 ER staffers
- 39 Speck
- 41 Sci-fi weapon
- 42 Variety
- 43 Nurture
- 44 Yin complement
- 46 Poet's new day
- 47 Greek letter
- 48 Show appreciation
- 51 — Kippur
- 52 OT judge

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
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49				50	51	52		53		
54				55				56		
57					58			59		

Putting everything in order will rid you of stress and boost your energy. Take deep breaths and relax with loved ones. Focus on balance, equality and integrity; you'll feel good about your life, contributions and future. A minimalist attitude will help you put things in perspective and keep overindulgence at bay. Distance yourself from imprudent individuals and wasteful projects.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) - Be careful whom you trust. Broken promises will leave you in a difficult position. Focus on what you can achieve, and protect your reputation and assets. Self-improvement is featured.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Dig in and make progress. The more intent you are to crack a challenge, the less interference you'll encounter. Do what's best for you and leave nothing to chance. It's time to make a change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) - A sensitive issue will surface. Listen, but don't share your opinion. Engage in activities that require physical, not mental, energy. Don't let what others do disrupt your day.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) - You can't put a price on love. Choose to dazzle others with charm, kindness and hands-on help. Spend less, do more and build strong relationships with the people you care about most.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Tidy up loose ends, take better care of yourself and don't believe everything you hear. Having personal papers in place before the year ends will put your mind at ease.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - You'll thrive with change. Embrace what life has to offer and continue full steam ahead until you are happy with the results you achieve. Use your experience and connections to conquer your goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - Focus on what you are trying to achieve, and you'll make headway. Demonstrate your skills, knowledge and talent, and you'll raise awareness and whatever else you need to reach your goal.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Share your thoughts and feelings. Express your interest in what others do or think, and you'll gain input and support to turn your dream into a reality. Pay attention to meaningful relationships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Think before you say something you'll regret. Do your homework and refrain from initiating change prematurely. Get the facts, find the best solution and work with anyone your plans might influence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Personal growth is in the stars, and the path to discovery and a positive change will give you hope for a brighter future. Educational pursuits, travel and communication are featured.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) - Choose your words wisely when dealing with sensitive issues. Shared expenses or space will try your patience. Put guidelines in place to avoid a run-in with someone. Keep busy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) - Look at every angle before you make a statement or start something new. Approach others with charm and finesse, and you'll have better luck getting your way. Set the standard.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

When the lights were extinguished

By Phillip Alder

Strange things happen from time to time at bridge tournaments. Once, during a power cut, we were forced to play by candlelight.

David Bird, who writes amusing stories about bridge-playing monks, was declaring today's deal in Eastbourne, on the south coast of England, when the hotel fire alarms went off. Everyone vacated the playing room and moved into the cold, dark parking lot. Bird was worried that when play recommenced, the defense would be perfect. Not a characteristic thought of an Englishman. Chatting with one's partner in such a circumstance wouldn't be cricket.

North's double was for takeout, showing length in the unbid suits.

Bird need not have worried. After leading the diamond ace, West switched to a heart. East won with the ace and returned - a heart! Bird ruffed, drew trumps and ran his diamonds, discarding all four of dummy's club losers.

At another table in the event, East correctly worked out that West wouldn't lead declarer's primary suit unless he had a singleton ace. So, after winning with the heart ace, he gave

North 12-19-22			
♠ A K J 6			
♥ 9 2			
♦ 6 4 3			
♣ K J 10 7			
West		East	
♠ 9 7 4		♠ 5 2	
♥ K J 5 3		♥ A Q 10 8 6 4	
♦ A		♦ 8 2	
♣ 9 8 6 4 2		♣ A 5 3	
South			
♠ Q 10 8 3			
♥ 7			
♦ K Q J 10 9 7 5			
♣ Q			
Dealer: East			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
			1♥
2♦	3♥	Dbl.	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: ♦ A			

West a diamond ruff. However, now West tried to cash the heart king, with fatal consequences for the defense.

Bill Hodgkiss was alone in finding the best defense. Knowing that he could give his partner only one diamond ruff, at trick three he cashed the club ace. Only then did he administer the diamond ruff for down one.

If your partner leads declarer's longest suit at trick one, either he is short or he thinks you are - or you need a new partner.

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.

" C M O X A V X O A A O E X V K E O , T E
M T K N F F T M C O T D M O E , L E K V C C V
D N A E O C M O J T A F K O E E Y N C C V R L P M C
T D T K J R O . " — L A H L K P P A O O K Y O A P

Previous Solution: "I started my own martial arts school at 16. And by the time I was 21, I had three different schools." — Actress Katheryn Winnick

TODAY'S CLUE: 7 equals 8

REALITY CHECK

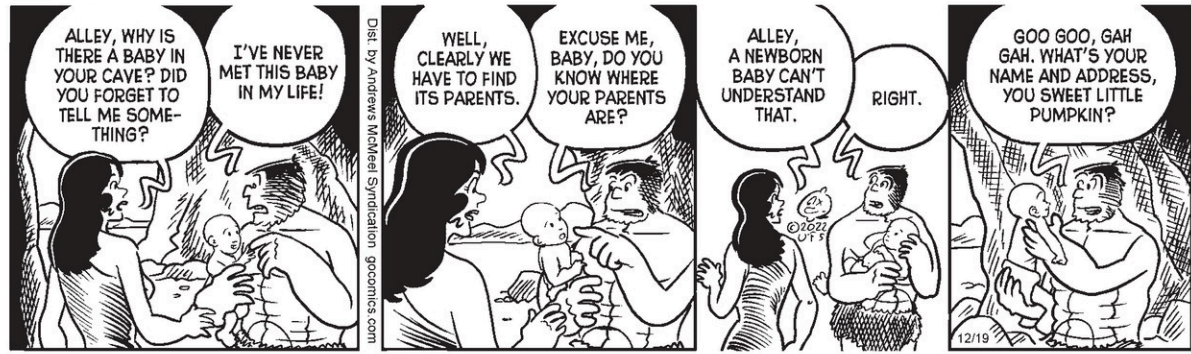


HERMAN

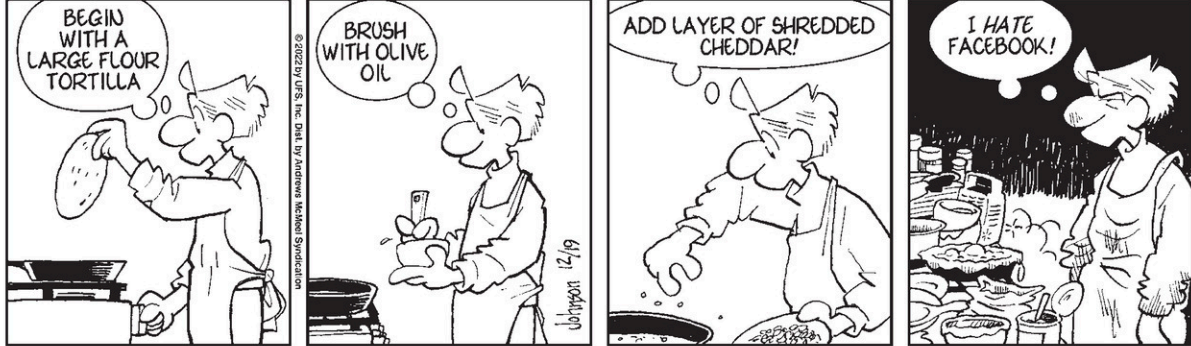


"You the guy who ordered the 'Grand Slam' pizza?"

ALLEY OOP



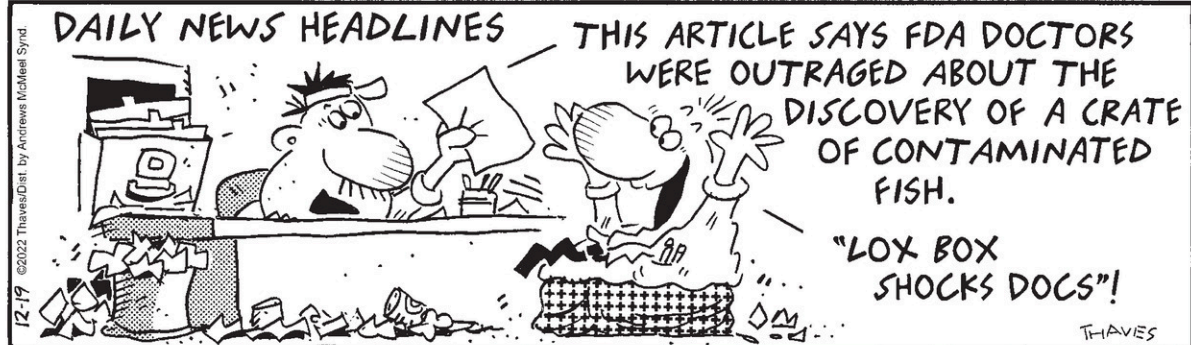
ARLO & JANIS



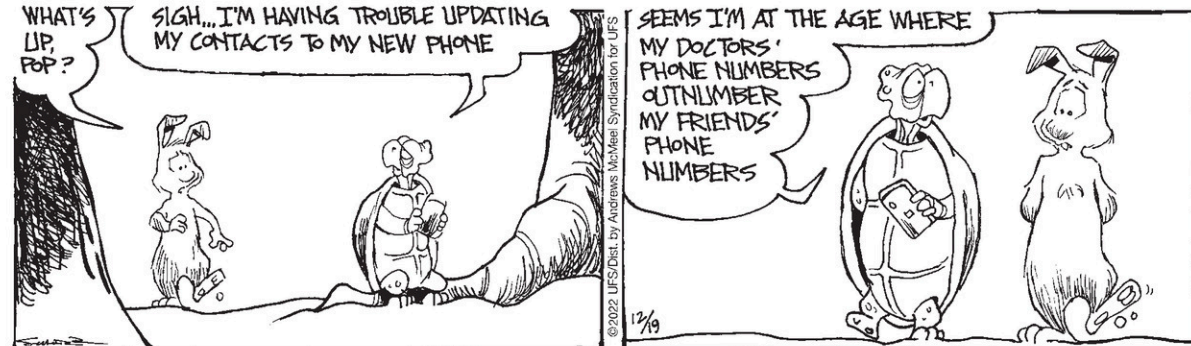
THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS



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 E-mail: classad@sherbrookerecord.com
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

6		9	7	2	8	1	5	
	8	1	3	6		4		
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		6		5	7	3	1	
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12/19

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

Unsure how to help alcoholic brother

Dear Annie

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022

Dear Annie: I always read the stories sent to you by your readers, and I have always wanted to write you. Now is the time.

It breaks my heart to see my older brother living in the streets due to his drinking problem. He is 36 and was married for 14 years and has four kids. He lost his family because he is an alcoholic. He does not want to work, and when he has to work out of necessity, he always quits the job after a few weeks.

We've all helped him in many ways, but he refuses to help himself. He won't get help and says he is able to stop drinking on his own, but he never does. It breaks my heart to see my mom suffer like she is by looking at how my brother is losing his life. I wish I could help him more, but he never appreciates what we do for

him. Are we doing a bad thing by not bringing him to our house while he is not working and always drunk? I just need advice, please. - Feeling Helpless Sister

Dear Sister: No, you are not doing a bad thing at all. In fact, you are being loving. The worst thing you could do is to enable his disease. But keep on loving him. Tell him that once he gets clean and sober, he will be welcomed with open arms into your house.

You are not alone. There is a group created to help family and friends live with the fact that someone they love is either an addict or alcoholic. It's called Al-Anon. You can see the letter that follows is from a fan. It has helped countless people better understand the disease. I hope that the meetings bring comfort and answers to you and your mom.

Dear Annie: How come you never suggest Al-Anon for friends and families of those with drinking problems? - It Works for Me

Dear Works for Me: I recommend Al-Anon all the time - and have for years. Thank you for bringing it to the attention of all "Dear Annie" readers.

Dear Annie: Just wanted to let you know that I thoroughly enjoyed your Thanksgiving Day column of poems. They were very uplifting and helped me to remember the real reason of Thanksgiving. I'm grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to read your column. Thank you! - In Gratitude

Dear Gratitude: Thank you so much for your kind words.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology - featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation - 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.

Running a fever?

Stay home.



Take the right steps to protect yourself against respiratory viruses.



**Have a cough,
sore throat
or runny nose?**

Wear a mask.

