

Student leader upset by U de S religion decision

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THE RECORD

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2014 —
was that it?

Tim Belford - Page 6

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2014

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Christmas gathering at Hope church brings neighbours together

By Matthew McCully
Special to The Record
LENNOXVILLE

Not many neighbours would be willing to open up their home to close to 200 people on Christmas day.

The Hope Community Church in Lennoxville, however, opened its doors for a fourth year to offer a Christmas feast to the community as a whole.

"The idea is this is one big house," said Paul McLean, who was involved in organizing the lunch.

"This is a real community event," he said, "it is growing."

Last year the Hope Church Christmas lunch was a saviour for many people in the area without power, desperate for a warm meal.

This year, even without an ice storm, the church basement was near capacity.

"We set for 160, but we needed to add some additional tables and chairs," McLean said. He estimated that a total of 175 people came for the lunch.

In total, 13 turkeys were prepared, as were 100 pounds of potatoes and all the trimmings for a traditional turkey dinner, McLean said.

The kitchen was organized by congregation member Elaine Lebourveau.

CONT'D ON PAGE 7

A landslide brings it down

Warm temps cause slide at Mont Sutton



A landslide hit the Mont Sutton ski area on Christmas Day, causing some commotion but little real damage.

Record Staff

In addition to forcing the closure of several Mont Sutton ski trails, the spring-like weather caused a landslide at the foot of the ski area's No. 3 chairlift on Christmas Day, causing a 200-metre-wide chunk of land to collapse and fall some 60 metres.

A large quantity of mud spilled out over the road at the bottom of the slope and amid fears that a weakening

of the land could cause damage to its installations, the resort closed all the trails underneath the lift.

According Chloe Payen, communications coordinator for Mont Sutton, these trails were already closed due to the weather, adding that the spill was not that serious, and that some mud had invaded a deserted parking lot.

"These are things that rarely happen, and when you have snow, it's even rarer," Payen said.

"For sure the temperature played a part. It really is more cosmetic than anything else. Everything is under control."

A team from the operating company has been charged with ensuring that there was no danger connected to this landslide, she added.

The nearby chairlift has been closed for several days now and the area is quite a distance from the No. 2 chair lift, the only one currently open.

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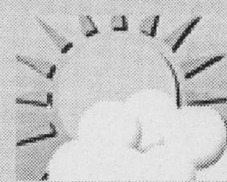
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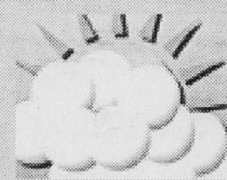


TODAY:
MAINLY
CLOUDY
HIGH -7
SUNRISE: 7:27
SUNSET: 4:12



TUESDAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUD

HIGH -13
LOW -15



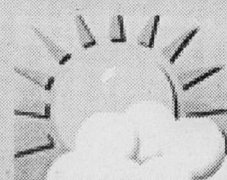
WEDNESDAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUD

HIGH -11
LOW -18



THURSDAY:
60% CHANCE
OF FLURRIES

HIGH -4
LOW -11



FRIDAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUD

HIGH -9
LOW -18

Christmas memories of yesteryear

By Claudia Villemaire
Record Correspondent
RICHMOND

The first hint that the long-awaited day was breaking, even though stars still twinkled through the frost patterns on the window, was the snap and crackle of cedar kindling, the pungent aroma of a cedar wood fire in the kitchen stove.

The grating sound of the stove rimmer as larger and harder wood was added meant that soon, there would be salted pork strips sizzling, the familiar sound of oatmeal being stirred into boiling water, plates and cutlery rattling from pantry to kitchen.

Now, even though this routine was familiar, we knew there would soon be onions frying, giblets (the heart, liver and gizzard, cleaned and chopped) laced with sage and poultry seasoning steaming and shortly, the welcome aroma gradually wafting into the far corners of the house — the chicken was in the oven and yes, it was Christmas Day.

Those were the days before electricity had arrived in the country. Kerosene lamps and lanterns were the only light during those long nights during the winter solstice.

The night before, Mom had carried the lamp to the parlor, usually closed to ordinary days.

But each year, the door was opened and the Christmas season would find family and friends often gathered around the old, pump organ or piano to sing carols along with a sprinkling of old favorites such as *My Old Kentucky Home* or *Home on the Range*. The thump of a jute sack on the kitchen floor would be a sure sign there would be popcorn later, the rattle of hard candy poured into one of the best glass bowls meant this night was special — and the best was yet to come.

Oh yes, there was a tree, set into a hollowed out slice of a large tree trunk. But decorations wouldn't be seen until the afternoon of Christmas Day.

In the morning, the parlor door was

once again closed until Ma (Grandma) gave the word and everyone trooped into a transformed parlor where crepe-paper streamers looped from wall to wall, strands of popcorn and wild cranberries clung to the tree branches, coloured-paper chains and a few ornaments, a bit of tinsel and gifts carefully hidden in the branches made children gasp in wonder and adults say "ahh!"

This was the early '40s. T

he world was changing, electricity changing the countryside as hydro-powered machines such as milkers and washing machines gradually turned daily chores upside down.

No longer would the wavering light of a lantern being swung at the side of someone walking over snowdrifts from house to barn cast a shimmering light in a wavering circle.

No longer would the sound of the bell announcing the crank on the cream separator was being turned fast enough and skim milk would pour from a lower spout and cream from a smaller, higher spout.

Soon, there would not be a cream can carefully placed in a barrel sunken into a bubbling spring and the horse and sleigh, standard transportation at the time, would give way to motor cars and trucks.

Country roads would no longer be the responsibility of folks living along those roads whose task was to flatten, with huge wooden rollers, the drifts where horses drawing either a cutter sleigh or doublesleds could manoeuvre.

The mid-'40s would see the black Bombardier snowmobile replace the double sled with a cabin built on board and a tiny pot-bellied stove barely keeping the cold, young passengers warm.

The careful management of resources, which meant there were chickens, hatched and raised during the warm months, cleaned and wrapped, frozen in the grain bin, carrots and parsnips covered with straw still in the garden where gathering a few was a relatively easy task and beef and pork, raised and fed on the farm was slaughtered, cut into the desired pieces,

wrapped and stored in many layers of brown paper in a barrel in the shed where the meat would stay frozen well into the spring thaw period.

How many modern youngsters have had the chance to jump up and down on a bag of frozen popcorn cobs, knocking the kernels off, strain the dust and debris out and pop this homegrown delicacy in a long-handled basket over hot coals in the kitchen stove? Or perhaps, squeeze a cow's teat, aiming a stream of warm milk at a barn cat?

We slept on goose-feather ticks, mounds of softness covered with homespun fine wool blankets in rooms where a glass of water would freeze solid by morning.

Snug and warm, those first sounds of the morning fire crackling meant throwing back the homemade quilt wouldn't be too bad as the air warmed and coffee perked.

Christmas at the farm focused on the rewards of successful harvest and hard work.

Enjoying a sense of satisfaction of tasks well done, welcoming family and friends to share and sometimes, if roads were passable, hitching the horse to the family sleigh and gliding over drifts with sleigh bells jingling, a Christmas moon turning snow-covered fields into a twinkling shimmer of sparkling snow and, three miles or so down the road, finding lamplights lit, the box stove tended since before daybreak, warming the country church with its high peaked ceiling and priceless stained glass windows.

Horses would be tied and blanketed in the nearby shed, folks dressed in long fur coats scrunched through the snow and an hour of Christmas song and prayer underlined the importance of this special birthday.

Personally this is still a special time for me — a time to send best wishes to family and friends — to say thanks for their interest and support during another year and the right time to encourage thoughts of Christmas past and just maybe, re-discover, in those memories the real meaning of Christmas.



Fig. 16

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Ben by Daniel Shelton



LOCAL NEWS

"Losing our dean means a loss of voice within the structure of the university," Domingue said.

Student leader 'very angry' over University of Sherbrooke's move to close Faculty of Theology

By Gordon Lambie
SHERBROOKE

Etienne Domingue, president of the University of Sherbrooke faculty of theology and religious studies student association, is very concerned about the future of the faculty's programs and discourse on religion in the region after it was revealed in an article published by the Tribune last Monday that the faculty intends to dissolve the school as of May 1, 2015.

The decision, reportedly being made in the name of cutting costs, would see an interdisciplinary research centre established as a replacement for the faculty, allowing those already registered to complete their degrees.

"I think that this new centre is a step toward the end of the theological and religious studies vocation," Domingue said.

"I see it as taking away from the discipline's autonomy. It's now going to be even easier in the future, when there are further cuts, to do away with the discipline altogether."

The student leader said that little more than a month after being elected in October, he and the other members of the association's executive committee were called in to meet with the dean and the vice-principal. Curious as to the nature of the meeting, they asked around and quickly discovered what Domingue described as a behind-the-scenes plan.

"We have a few concerns and a number of problems with the way the decision was made. It's being presented as though we are being consulted, but the fact of the matter is that the decision was made by the directors' committee already," he explained.

"The only body that still has to approve the decision is the administrative committee, but they don't really have any mandate to debate issues. They're really only supposed to enact whatever change has already

been decided."

According to Domingue, the student association was never consulted prior to the presentation of what was essentially a done deal, and that consultation only took place at the end of the semester. As a result, the student association's executive needs to wait until school reconvenes after the holidays in order to even decide how to react.

"It seems to me there was more concern over damage control and not worrying the students than actually being straightforward and transparent, and that made me very angry," the president said. "We're all adults. No one is going to completely freak out and start setting fires."

Domingue argued that a decision of this magnitude should not have been made without extensive consultation with the student association and teaching staff.

The former Bishop's University student expressed that he didn't understand why the meetings were taking place behind closed doors, pointing out that there is student representation on practically every decision-making level at the English university.

"The current dean has worked a lot on saving the discipline in the university. I think this is necessary work that needed to be done, but I feel as though it was done while neglecting programs which were likely to increase the exposure of the faculty within the general population," he said.

"I don't see why he felt compelled to deal with this on his own, and I wonder if, in doing so, he didn't cripple us further by neglecting other duties that, in a sense, might have been more important (...) I feel as though the Dean's first job shouldn't be to struggle with numbers all on his own. I fully believe that he is doing the best job he can to save the discipline. I have no reason whatsoever to believe that he, being a theolo-

gian, feels that the faculty of theology is unimportant."

Domingue clarified that while he believes that the current plan disregards a whole range of potential alternatives that could have been created through more open discussion, he is not totally opposed to the idea of the interdisciplinary centre.

"We (the executive) think a multidisciplinary centre is a great idea, but myself, personally, I think they should have done that 15 years ago," he specified, expressing that the centre would have been an excellent complement to the faculty in more prosperous times, helping it to remain more relevant in the long term and revitalize its pursuits.

"We need more interdisciplinarity, and our students need to be able to exchange with people from outside of the faculty."

Using the centre as a replacement for the faculty, he said, undermines the autonomy of those studying religions and theology at the University of Sherbrooke.

"Losing our dean means a loss of voice within the structure of the university," Domingue said, adding that the transfer of teaching staff to new departments will bring a kind of academic uncertainty to the study of religion at the school, and that will just be another metaphorical nail in the coffin.

"It's unclear how losing the faculty status makes us a competitive centre for this kind of work," he continued.

"Right now it looks as though a lot of people, while not losing their jobs outright, will be working in a very different context as of next fall."

The student association president expressed gratitude that the school has consistently guaranteed the opportunity for those currently engaged in study to complete their degrees, but lamented what he said would be an overall loss for discourse on religion in the Eastern Townships.

"It's also the humanities taking a hit, and it's probably just the first of many disciplines to fall victim to the economic reductionism of the Couillard government," Domingue said, sharing a view that the current Liberal government, by not supporting post-secondary education with more funding, is making university administrators do the dirty work of cutbacks.

While the full, public decision on the fate of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies is not yet clear, the student association president said that he was very concerned about rumours he was hearing from reliable sources that the undergraduate program might be eliminated outright.

"When we talked about this to the dean and the vice-principal, first of all they responded with this reaction of shock, then they demanded to know our sources, and then they denied everything except that it was true," Domingue recalled. "They said there was no reason we should mistrust them so much as to go looking for other information, but of course this is being considered and yes the program could very well end up being cancelled."

That possibility, above all potential positives of the new multidisciplinary centre, has the student association president concerned. Ultimately, however, he restated that any decision on action would have to wait until the students get back from the holidays.

"It's possible that some will respond very positively to some of these changes, but I think that a lot of people will respond negatively because if the rumours about the undergraduate program being eliminated are true, then this is sad news for

religious studies in the Townships," Domingue said. "It's never fun to be a part of something that is in decline."

Asked for his reaction to Monday's report, Dr. Harvey White, chairman of the religious studies department at Bishop's University, said that it is really too early to say how the closure of the city's only other such program might affect the situation in Lennoxville.

"It's a little bit difficult to anticipate. Assuming that it's true that such a change will be made at U de S, I'm not sure about the specifics of that change. There are lots of different possibilities that could occur," White said.

The BU professor shared that the two schools have had some interaction, mostly in the form of recent meetings together to discuss opportunities for academic collaboration.

"We talked about cooperation and the possibility of one or more of our faculty members doing a course at the University of Sherbrooke and vice-versa," White explained. "They were all sort-of preliminary explorations, but I personally found the faculty there to be extremely receptive and very nice people who are very, very well qualified."

Recognizing that the plan regarding the school has yet to be publically announced, Domingue indicated that he is leaving himself open to a limited amount of speculation on the matter.

"I would love to be proven wrong," Domingue said. "I would be absolutely thrilled if the centre brought in new students and meant that people from different faculties would become more interested in the theological and religious issues, but it just seems doubtful."

90 hires for Magog health centre in 2014

Record Staff

The Memphremagog Health and Social Services Centre hired a total of 90 new employees in 2014, a figure consistent with the hiring goals established by the institution.

Among the new employees, 27

are permanent nurses or nursing assistants. Other newcomers have filled temporary long-term needs in various departments, including laboratory, pharmacy, social services, among others.

The centre relies on various strategies to recruit the staff it needs every year, including par-

ticipation in various job fairs.

The Magog institution also appears to be able to retain its staff. According to statistics compiled since 2008, 81 percent of new employees will stay in their jobs after six months.

The rate increases to 75 percent after a full year.

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Ex NHLer, child abuse advocate Sheldon Kennedy joins Order of Canada

By Mike Blanchfield
The Canadian Press
OTTAWA

Sheldon Kennedy says being the recipient of one of the country's top honours can serve as a beacon to lead countless other children out of the darkness of child abuse.

The 45-year-old former NHLer, one of Canada's most vocal advocates on the issue of child abuse, is one of 95 admissions and promotions to the Order of Canada announced Friday.

"For me, I'm not doing this work to win awards for Sheldon Kennedy. I'm doing this work because I understand the damage that this crime has on our kids," he said.

"And it's killing our kids."

The list of those being honoured include Richard Pound, the Montreal lawyer who has served twice as a vice-president of the International Olympic Committee and is also the former president of the World Anti-Doping Agency. Pound was elevated to the highest level of the order, a companion.

"I've never thought it is right that you should get cheated out of a result because somebody is deliberately breaking the rules and taking doping substances," said Pound.

"It's not right, and it destroys a lot of the value of sports for everybody who plays fair and gets beaten for having done what everyone promised to do, which is to play fair."

Among those appointed officers, the second highest rank, were Mark Carney, the former Bank of Canada governor who took the same post at the Bank of England in 2013, and Peter Milliken, the longest serving Speaker of the House of Commons from 2001 to 2011.

The husband and wife musician team of Chantal Kreviazuk and Raine Maida, were among 79 new additions to the members category. Kreviazuk and Maida have been involved in various humanitarian causes throughout their careers, taking up issues including climate change, mental health and international child poverty.

Some of the other new members include:

— Tim Cook, the military his-

torian and award-winning author who formerly served as the director of research at the Canadian War Museum.

— Brenda Clark, the illustrator behind the popular children's book series Franklin the Turtle.

— Bill Graham, the former Liberal minister of foreign affairs and national defence who also served as interim leader of the Liberal Party in 2006.

— Lawyer Michael Meighen, the grandson of former Canadian prime minister Arthur Meighen, who was appointed to the Senate in 1990 by his longtime friend and former prime minister Brian Mulroney and retired from the upper chamber in 2012.

— Author and journalist Charles Foran and science reporter Peter Calamai, who has worked for years to foster literacy.

Kennedy, who has opened an advocacy centre in Calgary to help abused children, said he still can't believe he has joined such a vaunted club as the Order of Canada. But he said he hopes it inspires other victims to come forward and seek help.

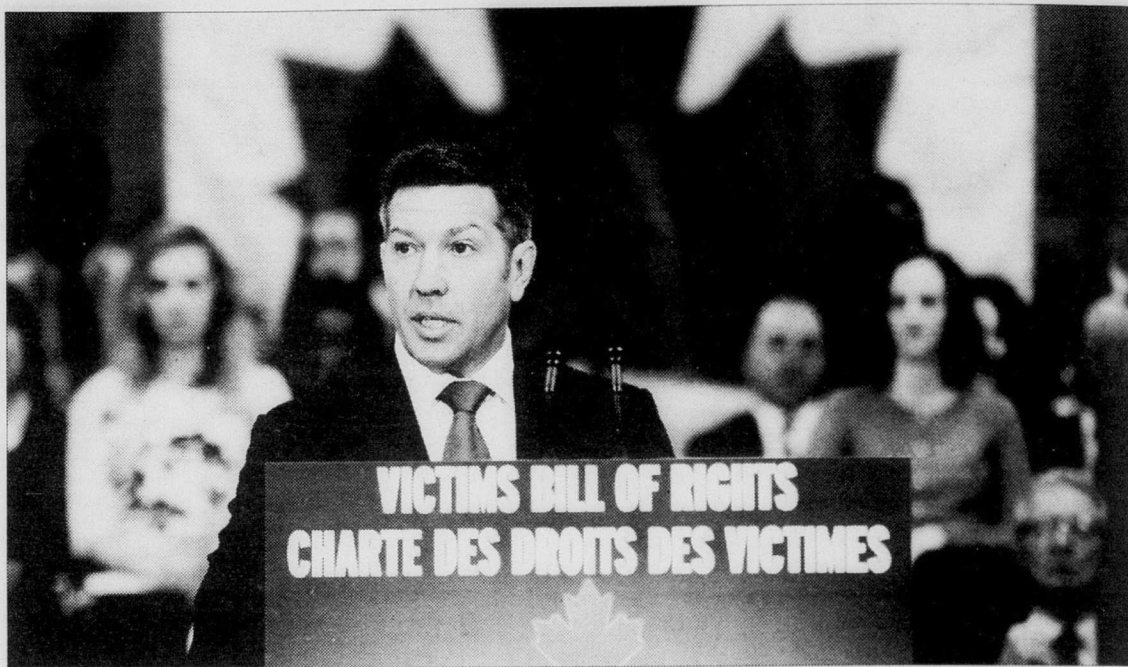
"For these issues to be represented and understood and to be recognized at this level, to me, is absolutely huge," said Kennedy, a 10-year-NHL veteran.

Kennedy went on to become a leading voice for sexual abuse victims following his own experience being abused by his coach, Graham James, for five years during his time as a junior hockey player.

"My message is really about hope, and that you're not alone. Our country is a lot more understanding of these issues today than we were even 10 years ago, and to me that should give people confidence to come forward," he said.

In the past year, Kennedy said his centre has done 2,000 investigations into abuse allegations from children seeking help. One-third of those under age 12 were showing signs of suicidal ideation, sexualized behaviour, addiction issues, violence, mental health issues.

"And when they get up over 15, over half are presenting all of the above. To me, these issues, we need to understand the damage this crime has."



THE CANADIAN PRESS/NATHAN DENETTE / FILE

Former NHL player and victim to sexual abuse Sheldon Kennedy speaks after Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the induction of legislation to create a Canadian Victims Bill of Rights in Toronto on April 3. Kennedy says being the recipient of one of the country's top honours can serve as a beacon to lead countless other children out of the darkness of child abuse.

The Order of Canada was established in 1967, the country's centennial year, to recognize "outstanding achievement, ded-

ication to community and service to the nation." More than 6,000 Canadians from all walks of life have been invested with

the Order since then.

The new recipients will be given their insignia in a ceremony at a later date.

Full list of additions and promotions to Order of Canada

The Canadian Press

Here is a list of the latest additions and promotions in the Order of Canada:

Companions:

James Douglas Fleck, Toronto.*
Donald Malcolm McRae, Ottawa.
Richard W. Pound, Montreal.*

Officers:

Albert Bandar, Stanford, Calif./Mundare, Alta.
Jean-Louis Boudouin, Montreal.
Mark Carney, London and Ottawa.
Catherine Frazee, Canning, N.S.
Shaf Keshavjee, Toronto.
Mark Lautens, Toronto.
Wendy Levinson, Toronto.
Norman Emilio Marcon, Toronto.
James Rodger Miller, Saskatoon.
Peter Milliken, Elginburg, Ont.
Julio Montaner, Vancouver.
Nancy Margaret Reid, Toronto.
Eleanor Wachtel, Toronto.*

Members:

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Jean-Pierre Andrieux, St. John's, N.L.
Jacob Austin, Vancouver.
Baidar Bakht, Scarborough, Ont.
Denis Brott, Saint-Sauveur, Que.
Lisa Brown, Toronto.
Wally Buono, Surrey, B.C.
Peter Calamai, Ottawa.
Christina Stuart Cameron, Ottawa.
Wendy Marion Cecil, Toronto.

Brenda Clark, Port Hope, Ont.
Robert Cecil Cole, St. John's, N.L.
Tim Cook, Ottawa.
George Cope, Toronto.
Robert W. Cox, Toronto/Waterloo, Ont.
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Joan F. Ivory, Westmount, Que.
Patrick Johnston, Roslin, Ont.
John G. Kelton, Dundas, Ont.
Sheldon Kennedy, Calgary.

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Michael A. Meighen, Toronto.
Robert Mellin, St. John's, N.L.
Diane Morin, Charlemagne, Que.
Russell J. Morrison, Toronto.
Peter Ernest Murdoch, Roxboro, Que.
Dan Needles, Ottawa.
Cal Nichols, Edmonton.
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Bishop's biologist beating bugs

By Matthew McCully
Special to The Record
LENNOXVILLE

Jade Savage of the Bishop's University's department of biology, is currently conducting research that would allow producers of onions and cruciferous crops to use pest-control products more efficiently.

Supported by Agriculture and AgriFood Canada's AgriInnovation Program, Savage is working in partnership with a non-profit organization, *Productions en régie intégrée du sud de Montréal* (PRISME) to develop new identification tools for various root-maggot flies species that threaten local crops in the Eastern Townships.

"I'm responsible for the lab part," Savage, who holds a Ph.D. in entomology from McGill, said.

The goal of the research project, according to Savage, is to offer food growers alternative ways to manage pest problems.

Savage and PRISME estimate that rapid and accurate identification of these pests will result in direct benefits for approxi-

mately 3,640 hectares (9,000 acres) of yellow and green onions, radishes, spinach, Chinese cabbage, lettuce, broccoli and cauliflower, for an on-farm value of over \$90 million.

"You have to know your enemy," Savage said.

"Pesticides could be used more efficiently, wisely and in lower amounts," she went on to say. "Right now, pesticides are going on [fields] for no reason."

Savage explained that there are several different species of root-maggot flies, and that some are immune to certain pesticides.

"They look pretty much all the same. Even with good training, you can't tell the females apart. They are the problem. They are the ones laying the eggs," Savage said.

"You need to know who's eating your broccoli."

"Once we find out what we have and when they are there, that will make it easier to educate growers."

PRISME's role in the partnership is to gather the field data, according to Savage.

"They have a well-established network of growers collaborating, providing data. They gather Hundreds of thousands of flies."

The research, which began in April, is scheduled to continue for three years. By the end of 2015, Savage hopes to provide the morphological keys identifying the different species of root-maggot affecting crops.

She is currently experimenting with a technique called Near-Infrared Spectroscopy, in order to come up with a molecular fingerprint to decipher the differences between the flies.

"When you flash light on any organic matter, some will be absorbed, some will be reflected," Savage said, adding that a complicated calculation follows to identify markers.

Savage said that beyond the local application, her research will likely benefit farmers across Canada who grow cruciferous crops.

"If you treat at the right time for the right thing, it will cost less," Savage said.

"Even organic growers need to know what these insects are."

Road repair hits South Stukely taxpayers

Record Staff

Homeowners in the municipality of South Stukely will feel the imposition of a special \$100 per household tax for five years for the improvement of the municipal road network.

Through this tax, the municipal council intends to invest \$250,000 per year, not including government subsidies, to im-

prove roads damaged during spring thaws.

According to Mayor Gérald Alaire, road rehabilitation is the municipality's main project for 2015, along with the development of the municipal garage in the former Ponceaux de 'Estrie building located at 2180 Route 112.

Furthermore, the tax rate will increase in 2015 by one cent per \$100 valuation to fund a

\$175,000 loan.

This represents an increase of about \$20 for the average household. Services, such as selective waste collection, fire protection, and the SQ will increase by an average \$27 for a house valued at \$200,000, an increase offset by a \$20 remittance per street address.

The total tax bill for a home worth \$200,000 will increase by an average of \$127.

Frelighsburg company fined for environmental mishap

Record Staff

The Maison de la Pomme in Frelighsburg has been fined for contravening environmental regulations by the Quebec environment ministry.

The Frelighsburg business was convicted of discharging waste-

water into the environment earlier this month and fined a total of \$7,107 for discharging wastewater into the environment in November, contravening Section 20 of the Law on Environmental Quality, which states that "no person shall emit, deposit, release or discharge, or allow the

emission, deposit, release or discharge into the environment of a contaminant in a greater quantity or concentration than that prescribed by the government."

The ministry fined the company \$6,000, plus costs of \$1,107.

Two charged in delivery assault, robbery

Record Staff

A Victoriaville duo has been charged with robbery, conspiracy, and assault after attacking a delivery person Sunday evening in the Bois-Francs city.

Josua Paquette and Yoann Cantin have been accused of attacking the woman in her 40s who was about to make a home delivery in the area of St. Louis Street. An individual called to her to attract her attention. When she turned to face the first

suspect, a second, who was behind her, assaulted her, inflicting injuries.

"The entire incident took place outdoors," said SQ spokesperson Mélanie Dumaresq. "The suspects fled with money and food. The woman suffered serious, but non-life threatening facial injuries."

An investigator and a crime scene technician visited the scene to begin the investigation.

Information from the public helped to move the investigation

forward quickly and on Wednesday, investigators raided an apartment in St-Jean-Baptiste, where they arrested the two.

Items found at the scene led to Paquette and Caron, both 20, who were then interrogated and formally arrested.

The Crown objected to the release of Paquette who was already out on parole, and he will have to face a release hearing.

Cantin, on the other hand was released under a series of conditions.

2014 Babies!



Proud parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, show off your pride and joy in our "Babies of 2014" edition of The Record to be published on January 9, 2015.

Mail a photograph of the baby with: baby's name, birthday, parents' name, hometown and 10 words describing the little tyke, along with \$20. (taxes included), daytime phone number and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to

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EDITORIAL

Anyway, it was quite a year, as always, and totting up the highlights and low-lights serves to put things into perspective as we begin the struggle with 2015.

The year past



TIM BELFORD

Well, the clock is ticking down and another year is about to get dumped into the trash can of history, which means it's probably a good time to take a quick look back.

Maybe it's an age thing but watching any cinematic version of *A Christmas Carol*, from the 1950s classic with Alastair Sim to the Muppets with Michael Caine, I now find myself far more taken with the Ghost of Christmas Past than any of the other spirits. Perhaps it's knowing I have a lot more Christmas pasts than Christmas futures to deal with.

Anyway, it was quite a year, as always, and totting up the highlights and low-lights serves to put things into perspective as we begin the struggle with 2015. So here goes.

No one can doubt, at least sports junkies, that watching the Canadian Women's Olympic hockey team tie the U.S. with only 55 seconds left in regulation time and then go on to win 3-2 in overtime was sweet. Sort of fitting pay-back for the highway robbery the women's soccer team was subjected to at the summer games. The men's hockey final was good, too, but beating Sweden just isn't the same as sticking it to our southern neighbours.

I also enjoyed seeing archeologists finally locate the remains of Richard III. It just didn't seem right that the original "Tricky Dicky" should have spent 527 years under a parking lot while the Tudors basked in regal splendour in a variety of celebrated grave sites. Sure, Richard was physically deformed and he likely had his nephews killed and cemented into the staircase at the Tower of London, but those were tough times.

On the political front, probably the only good thing at the federal level was

that we didn't have to go through another election. Provincially, the jury is still out. Saying goodbye to Madame Marois, her cabinet and their strange fetish with minority apparel, was definitely an improvement for everyone except the St. Jean Baptiste Society. On the other hand, it remains to be seen if Philippe Couillard's troupe can fix the province's finances with a scalpel or a broad axe.

You also have to like the price of gas. Falling costs at the pump was a rare Christmas present for consumers and it made everything from travelling home for the holidays to heating the house a lot easier. If it weren't for the fact that the House of Saud was still a collection of misogynistic, medieval tyrants, I'd send them a thank you note.

Speaking of tyrants, on the down side we had to deal with Tsar Vladimir Putin throughout 2014. Able to lie out of both sides of his mouth at the same time, Putin put this unusual skill to use as he attempted to return Russia to its former glory by a series of military actions in Crimea and Ukraine, all the while denying any involvement in either place.

The tumbling petroleum prices, however, once again thanks to the Saudis, made life increasingly difficult for Putin and his Iranian friends to continue causing worldwide mayhem. It also cut revenue to ISIS, Hezbollah, Hamas, Assad, Venezuela, Libyan radicals, Nigerian terrorists and a whole slew of other nasty creatures.

The downside here, is that it will also, in due time, play havoc with Canada's energy industry which, along with overpriced houses, has been driving what little economic growth we've had.

So there you have it, the short list of memorable things about 2014. I could add numerous other examples but I don't get paid by the word so what's the point. Anyway, I'm sure you all have your own memories of the passing year and you still have a couple of days to savour them before 2015 arrives with a bang and we're off again.



Letters

DEAR EDITOR:

Many things touch our hearts this time of year. One is when we are able to help the less fortunate.

My seven-year-old great grandson, Caleb Elston, a Grade 2 student at Knowlton Academy, has a very soft heart when he sees and hears of animals being abused and starting.

This Christmas he, with the help of his mother, made up baskets of food and gifts for dogs and cats and took them to a shelter where Caleb could present his gifts.

Caleb has certainly made me one very proud great grandma.

JUDY SALISBURY
WATERLOO

DEAR EDITOR:

On behalf of the Alexander Galt Christmas Basket Campaign committee, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all the organizations and individuals who generously donated money and items to the success of the campaign this year.

The outpour of donations was overwhelming. It is displays of such thoughtfulness that provide much needed emotional support to others during these special times of the year.

The campaign continues to be a great success each year due to the kind response that is received by many and from the help of community organizations and businesses that assist us with the project.

Again this year, we would like to extend our thanks to the support of the Bishop's University men's basketball team, Tri Us Gift Shop, the St. Francis Care Home, Jean Coutu Lennoxville, local churches and The RECORD for all of their community minded and generous support in making this project a success.

To those of you who contributed this year and to those of you who plan to do so in years to come, a heartfelt thank you to all.

BARBARA BEECH
LENNOXVILLE

The writer is a spiritual life animator at Alexander Galt Regional High School.

THE RECORD

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Hope church

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

"And you leave with some home cooking," McLean said, explaining that a container of home-made sweets prepared by church members and volunteers were given out as gifts after the meal.

A large cake was also donated by Lorraine's Bakery in Lennoxville.

"There were all sorts of new faces," McLean said, adding that in addition to members of the church, people had come from other churches, and from as far away as Stanstead and Richmond.

Doors opened at 10:30 a.m. guests

played table games and mingled, and lunch was served at around 11.

In previous years, leftovers were delivered to community members who are unable to travel. McLean said they hoped to do the same this year, but because of the large turnout, he was not sure how much turkey would be left.

As word spreads about the Hope Community Church Christmas lunch, McLean hopes to see more new faces every year.

Even though the basement of the church was full this year, more are welcome, McLean said.

"We have a whole other floor," he said.



MATTHEW MCCULLY

Nearly 200 people gathered at the Hope Church for a Christmas lunch this year.

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Homegrown terror attack on Parliament Hill named CP news story of year

By Bruce Cheadle
The Canadian Press
OTTAWA

October 22 dawned as just another busy Wednesday morning on and around Parliament Hill.

Tourists wandered in the fall sunshine past the towering granite and bronze War Memorial, where two unarmed sentries stood ceremonial guard at the tomb of the unknown soldier.

A few hundred metres north in parliament's gothic Centre Block, the prime minister, his cabinet and hundreds of MPs gathered for their weekly national caucus meetings, in turn attracting the usual throng of news media and eager young staff members — all mingling in the marble-floored halls with

passing tour groups and good-humoured Hill security.

In a matter of a few moments just after 10 a.m., a lone gunman brandishing an antiquated lever-action hunting rifle shattered the peace, order and good government of that bright autumn morning and riveted national and global attention on Canada's capital.

Coming just two days after another suicidal attack by a man with known jihadist sympathies who ran down a Quebec soldier, the brazen Ottawa assault rattled the country.

The attack on Parliament Hill and killing of soldiers Nathan Cirillo and Patrice Vincent ignited a debate on homegrown terrorism and are the overwhelming choice as Canada's 2014 News Story of the Year in the annual survey of the

country's newsrooms by The Canadian Press.

Almost 70 per cent of respondents — 59 of 85 newsrooms — picked the events surrounding Oct. 22 as the year's seminal news.

"Home-grown terrorism exposed our vulnerability and shook a nation's faith in its safety and security," wrote Frank De Palma, newsroom director of The Chronicle Herald newspaper in Halifax.

Kevin Usselman, news director at 660News CFFR in Calgary, said the story brought home "the realization that Canada is no longer immune to events taking place outside of our borders ... a coming of age kind of story."

Two other deeply troubling events tied for second in the annual newsroom survey: The

murder of three RCMP officers by a gunman in Moncton, N.B.; and the national debate over sexual harassment sparked by allegations against radio host Jian Ghomeshi and the suspension of two Liberal MPs by Justin Trudeau.

Both those stories garnered 10 votes each.

Julie Carl, the deputy editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, elected to choose the sexual harassment story for reasons also cited by several others.

"I was torn between this and the shooting at Parliament and the Mounties' deaths," Carl wrote.

"But the conversation about sexual harassment and why women don't report seems to indicate a tipping point in that conversation. I believe we will be talking about it for a long, long time."

Others wrestled with the choice between two very different but disturbing acts of violence.

"It really was a toss-up between the Ottawa terrorism and the Moncton RCMP shootings," said Darryl Mills of the Prince Albert Daily Herald in Saskatchewan.

"Both so massively un-Canadian and attacks on who we are."

The issue of homegrown terrorist attacks appears destined to continue dominating news into 2015.

Self-styled Canadian jihadists continue making public threats, while the motivations of Ottawa gunman Michael Zehaf Bibeau remain a matter of some debate.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson has described Zehaf Bibeau's "distorted

world view" and said he was "driven by ideological and political motives."

A video made by Zehaf Bibeau before the attack has yet to be made public and may never be, despite initial RCMP assurances it would be put in the public domain.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in a year-end interview with CBC, was adamant the attacks are not a result of his government's decision to join air strikes against ISIL in Iran.

"Look, let's be very clear on this," said Harper.

"We're not at risk from ISIL because we're fighting them. We're fighting them because we are at risk from them."

"This is an organization, along with the entire global jihadist movement they represent, that has repeatedly made threats on this country."

That cause-and-effect argument appears to be still a matter of live debate in the newsrooms of the country, judging by some comments to The Canadian Press survey.

"The slayings of two Canadian soldiers and 'Canada joins combat mission in Iraq' are inextricably linked, in my opinion," wrote Margo Goodhand, editor of the Edmonton Journal.

"We cannot make a decision to go to war without accepting there may be consequences, both short and long-term."

Added Brad Works, the managing editor of the Journal Pioneer in Summerside, P.E.I.:

"It's fair to say that Micheal Zehaf Bibeau's actions forced Canadians to reconsider our security at home and question our place and actions in world affairs."

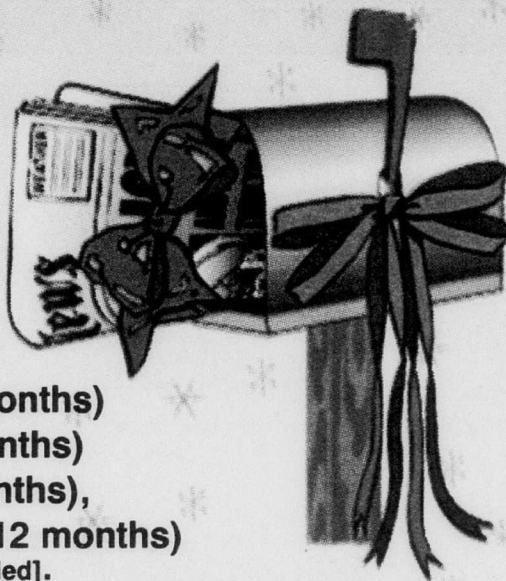
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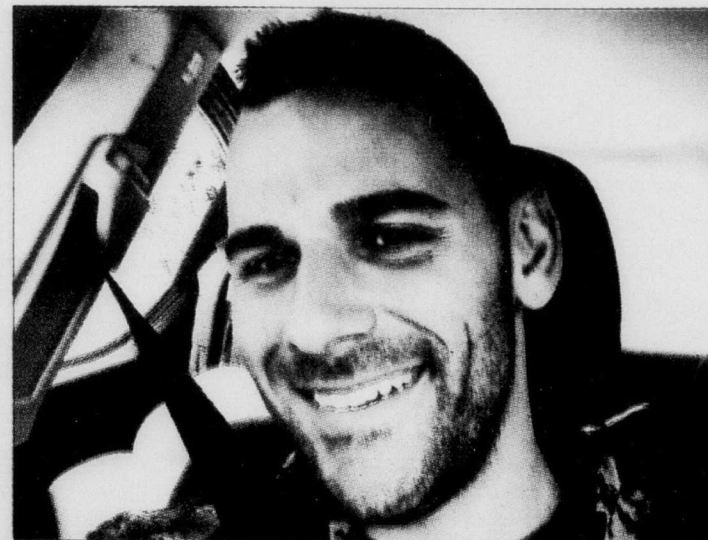
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THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO-FACEBOOK/FILE PHOTO

Canadian reservist Cpl. Nathan Cirillo is shown in an undated photo taken from his Facebook page. October 22 dawned as just another busy Wednesday morning on and around Parliament Hill. In a matter of a few moments just after 10 a.m., a lone gunman brandishing an antiquated lever-action hunting rifle shattered the peace, order and good government of that bright autumn morning and riveted national and global attention on Canada's capital.

Local Sports

Jeremy Roy played the role of hero, as he scored the game-winner with 29 seconds left.

Three-goal third gives Phoenix win over Armada

Record Staff
SHERBROOKE

A three-goal comeback gave the Sherbrooke Phoenix a 4-3 win over the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada on Sunday afternoon in Boisbriand. The Phoenix trailed 3-1 after 40 minutes, but got a trio of unanswered goals to defeat the division leaders in both teams' return to action after

the week-long Christmas Break.

The Armada took a 2-0 lead within the first six minutes of the game, on goals by Tyler Hyl-land and Samuel Tremblay. Cameron Darcy cut the lead to one as he got the Phoenix on the board at 12:31 of the first period with a power-play goal.

Blainville extended their lead to 3-1 late in the second on Fabrizio Ricci's 10th goal of the

season, setting the stage for the Phoenix's remarkable comeback.

The Phoenix fightback came from an unlikely source, as Nicolas Poulin scored his first career goal. The 17-year-old left winger, playing in his home-town, found the net at 2:38 to cut the lead to 3-2. Carl Neill tied the game with a power-play goal, the Phoenix's second of

the day, at 13:55.

Jeremy Roy played the role of hero, as he scored the game-winner with 29 seconds left, giving Sherbrooke two vital road points, and perhaps more importantly, denying a point to the Armada.

Alex Bureau picked up the win for Sherbrooke, as he stopped 24 of 27 shots. Samuel Montembeault took the loss,

making 20 saves.

The Phoenix were 2-for-6 on the power play, while keeping the Armada off the board in their two chances.

With the win, Sherbrooke (19-13-3) moves to 41 points on the year, two points back of the Armada (19-11-5). Sherbrooke is home tonight as they host Gatineau at the Sports Palace. Faceoff is set for 7 p.m.

COMMENTARY

By Mike Hickey
Special to the Record

The World Junior Hockey Championships has become a holiday tradition and, this year, the over-hyped event is receiving even more coverage and attention as it is being held in Montreal and Toronto. The competition is great and will certainly draw capacity crowds to the Bell Centre and Air Canada Centre while countless fans across the country will be glued to their TVs.

Pressure on Team Canada

What is disturbing at times is the pressure applied to the teenagers who make up Team Canada. They are talented, dedicated and well-coached, but anything can happen in single elimination tournaments and that anything has included a string of five years without a gold medal. When it comes to the World Juniors, anything less than a first place finish produces national anguish and a call to revamp the Canadian amateur hockey model.

Canada won five consecutive

championships from 2005-09, giving credence to the belief that Canada is the best hockey-playing country in the world. Like a Stanley Cup parade down Ste. Catherine Street, Canadian fans expect a gold medal.

The reality is that Canada's superiority is not always evident at the Olympics or World Championships where one bad game or a hot goalie can eliminate a superior team.

We are a country of seven-game series, which offer a truer test of a team's strength.

That being said, the 2014 junior team has looked very good in exhibition games and in their first two wins. Just as important, they seem to handle well the pressure of playing in front of their family and fans and the high expectations that is expected of them. Hockey Canada and the coaching staff have done an excellent job of controlling access to the players, not only from the media but family and friends as well.

At a press conference last week, Anthony Duclair, one of

two NHL players on the Canadian roster and a Quebec native, talked about the thrill of playing in a big stage in front of familiar faces, "I am very excited about playing for my country and also playing in Montreal in front of my family and fans." Certainly the reception he received at the Bell Centre was different from the one received in November when he was wearing a New York Rangers uniform. For the next week, he is one of the good guys.

Bills finish first winning season in 10 years, beating uninterested Pats 17-9

By Howard Ulman
The Associated Press
FOXBOROUGH, MASS.

Safe on the sideline, Tom Brady watched the Buffalo Bills finish with their first winning record in 10 seasons.

Then he predicted the New England Patriots would be just fine once their top players are back on the field in the playoffs.

"I'm not worried about us lacking confidence," Brady said after playing just the first half in Buffalo's 17-9 win Sunday. "We've got a lot of good players."

Kyle Orton threw for a touchdown, Anthony Dixon ran for another and the Bills beat the going-through-the motions Patriots (12-4), who already had clinched the AFC's No. 1 seed

and a first-round bye and wanted to avoid injuries.

The Bills (9-7) ended their string of losing seasons, matching their record in 2004. But they had little else to play for after a loss to Oakland one week earlier eliminated them from playoff contention for the 15th straight season, the longest current NFL streak.

"We had a winning season but we didn't go as far as we wanted to," linebacker Nickell Robey said.

The Patriots held out their top receivers, Julian Edelman and Rob Gronkowski, but the plan to protect players wasn't entirely successful. Starting left tackle Nate Solder didn't return after hurting his knee late in the first half.

And after the game, coach Bill Belichick met with trainers

about his own health. "I had to spend a few minutes in the training room after the game, nothing serious, just a couple things to look at with the trainers and the doctor," Belichick said in a conference call after skipping his usual postgame news conference. "It was no big deal. I don't want to get into it."

The loss snapped several streaks: Buffalo's 0-12 record at Gillette Stadium, and New England's 35 home wins against AFC teams and 16 at home against any opponent.

"We always hate losing," Brady said. "We didn't make enough plays to win, but, hopefully, we'll make them in a couple of weeks."

Buffalo safety Aaron Williams was proud of the victory against a team that didn't try its best. "I don't want to

hear no excuses about who didn't play, who played," he said. "They showed up. We showed up. We just were the better team today."

With starting offensive linemen Dan Connolly and Sebastian Vollmer also inactive, New England failed to score a touchdown for the first time since the fifth game last season, a 13-6 loss at Cincinnati. Stephen Gostkowski kicked three field goals.

The sellout crowd lacked its usual energy but cheered when backup quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo took off on several runs.

Brady played all five offensive series in the first half and failed to throw a touchdown pass for the first time this season. He was 8 of 16 for 80 yards and was sacked once.

On his next-to-last possession, he was tackled by Stefan Charles for a 7-yard loss. On his final series, he kept the ball for a 2-yard keeper for a first down then ran for 7 yards before sliding to avoid being hit.

Orton was 16 of 23 for 176 yards and went over the 3,000-yard passing mark for the third time in his career.

"Any time you step on the field is important," Orton said. "It's great whenever you get a winning season and win the last game against your rival."

The Bills rushed for 104 yards one week after picking up just 13, fourth fewest in team history, in a 26-24 loss to the Raiders.

"We'll have a bad taste in our mouth until we get a chance to play again," Patriots right guard Ryan Wendell said.

Canada earns first win at Spengler Cup with win over Medvescak Zagreb

The Canadian Press
DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

Canada earned its first win at the Spengler Cup on Saturday with a 3-1 victory over Medvescak Zagreb at the Vaillant Arena.

Bud Holloway and Stefano Giliati scored first-period goals for Canada (1-1-0-0) and Alexandre Giroux made it a three-goal game early in the second pe-

riod. Pascal Pelletier scored midway through the third period for Medvescak Zagreb, a Croatian team from Russia's Kontinental Hockey League.

Medvescak Zagreb (0-1-0-0) pulled its goalie late in the game but couldn't get another puck past Canadian netminder Drew MacIntyre.

"I thought the last 10 minutes we didn't give them anything," said Canada coach Guy

Boucher. "That was pretty impressive and showed the dedication of our players. They were paying the price defensively and our goaltending was solid also."

"So I think it was a really good team effort and we'll continue to grow."

Calvin Heeter made 16 saves for Medvescak Zagreb while MacIntyre stopped 24 shots for Canada.

In Saturday's early game, Ufa defeated Jokerit Helsinki 4-3.

Canada, which opened the tournament Friday with a 2-1 loss to host HC Davos, had a day off Sunday.

Davos defeated Zagreb 1-0, putting Canada second in the three-team Cattini Group. They will play Jokerit of Helsinki on Monday. Jokerit lost 3-1 to Switzerland's Geneve-Servette on Sunday.

The Croatian side has 15 Canadian-born players in its lineup and is guided by head coach Doug Shedden, who served as Canada's coach at the last two Spengler Cup tournaments.

The quarter-finals begin Monday. Canada has appeared in 10 of the last 13 Spengler Cup finals and last won the tournament in 2012. Geneve-Servette is the defending champion.

Tennis stars net second straight sweep of CP awards

Eugenie Bouchard wins Bobbie Rosenfeld Award

By Frederic Daigle
The Canadian Press
MONTREAL

If 2013 was the year that put Eugenie Bouchard in the spotlight, 2014 was the one that showed the tennis star is no flash in the pan.

The Westmount, Que., native had a phenomenal year on the WTA tour, rising from 32nd in the rankings to No. 5 at one point before ending it at an impressive No. 7.

Along the way, she won her first career title, reached the Wimbledon final — becoming the first Canadian to play in a Grand Slam final — and made it to the semifinals of the Australian and French Opens.

Bouchard, 20, also helped Canada reach the World Group stage at the Fed Cup for the first time, won her first WTA title and in November was named the most improved player on the women's tour.

Those exploits have earned Bouchard the Bobbie Rosenfeld Award for the second year in a row.

The honour is awarded to the Canadian Press female athlete of the year and is named after the Olympic champion and all-round sportswoman who was voted Canada's top female athlete for the first half of the 20th century.

Bouchard won in a landslide.

She finished with 74 votes from sports editors and broadcasters across Canada, outstripping freestyle skier Justine Dufour-Lapointe, bobsledder Kaillie Humphries and Canadian hockey goaltender Shannon Szabados, who all received two votes.

Bouchard is the first woman to win the award in consecutive years since speedskater Cindy Klassen (2005-'06).

"We are very, very proud of Genie," Kelly Murumets, president and CEO of Tennis Canada, told The Canadian Press. "She is a fierce competitor and an amazing Canadian ambassador."

"How exciting. She's still only 20 years old. I'm sure she feels incredibly honoured. Certainly, on behalf of her, we are very honoured that you have recognized her two years in a row. And the best is yet to come."

"She is on the trajectory to be a No. 1 competitor in the world."

The year began with Bouchard reaching the semifinals of the Australian Open, where she fell to Li Na. She won the WTA event in Nuremberg in May and then made it to the last four at Roland-Garros where she was beaten by eventual winner Maria Sharapova.

The best was yet to come as she went on a thrilling run at Wimbledon before being taken apart 6-3, 6-0 in the final by Petra Kvitová.

She made the WTA finals in Singapore, where she was eliminated in the round-robin stage, and ended the year with US\$3.22 million in prize money.

"Eugenie Bouchard became a world superstar in 2014 with her extraordi-

nary performances in the Grand Slam tournaments," said Jean-Pascal Beaupre, managing editor at Journal Metro.

"Few Canadian athletes can boast of achieving celebrity all over the world so quickly."

Jean Dion of Montreal Le Devoir called Bouchard's rise "breathtaking."

"A three-time Grand Slam semifinalist is quite the achievement with all the competition out there in women's tennis," said Dion. "And to think she's only 20 years old."

Medicine Hat News sports editor Sean Rooney said voting for Bouchard was a no-brainer.

"No Canadian woman has ever had a year like Bouchard's and the scary thing is she hasn't even peaked yet," he said. "She's replaced Christine Sinclair as our country's most looked-up-to female athlete."

Canada's team of the year will be revealed Monday.

Milos Raonic picks up Lionel Conacher Award

By Gregory Strong
The Canadian Press
TORONTO

Canadian tennis star Milos Raonic set three main goals at the start of the 2014 season.

He wanted to reach the top six in the world rankings, go deeper in Grand Slam events and qualify for the ATP Finals. Raonic hit all those targets over a campaign highlighted by a semifinal appearance at Wimbledon and his first World Tour 500-level event victory.

He capped his season Friday by winning the Lionel Conacher Award for the second year in a row. The honour is

awarded annually to the Canadian Press male athlete of the year.

Raonic became the first Canadian to reach a Grand Slam men's singles semifinal in the Open era. He fell to Roger Federer in straight sets at the All England Club but later gained revenge with his first career victory over the Swiss star at the Paris Masters.

That win helped Raonic qualify for the season-ending tournament in London for the first time. He finished the season ranked eighth in the world and posted a 49-20 record on the year.

"I did achieve the goals that I specified but I always have this yearning for more, more, more," Raonic said in a

phone interview after a training session in Monte Carlo. "It doesn't matter how much I do, I always want more — especially when it comes to my tennis."

Before Raonic, the last Canadian to reach a men's singles semifinal at a major was Robert Powell at Wimbledon in 1908, according to Tennis Canada. Montreal native Greg Rusedski reached the U.S. Open final in 1997 but he was representing Britain at the time.

Raonic said he has been getting stronger mentally and it helped him get results throughout 2014. He made progress at the Grand Slam and Masters Series events and also improved his game on clay and grass surfaces.

"It's hard as an athlete to really be playing your best throughout the whole year and I was able to consistently play well in the big tournaments," he said.

Raonic finished with 29 of the 82 votes in balloting of sports editors and broadcasters across the country. Los Angeles Kings defenceman Drew Doughty was second with 19 votes. Freestyle skier Alex Bilodeau, who successfully defended his Olympic title in men's moguls, was third with 14 votes.

Raonic is the first athlete to win back-to-back Conacher titles since hockey superstar Sidney Crosby (2009-'10). Other recent repeat winners include basketball player Steve Nash (2005-'06) and golfer Mike Weir (2000-'01). Wayne Gretzky holds the record for consecutive Conacher wins with four (1980-'83).

"To be in that group of back-to-back winners of the Conacher Award is really something special," Raonic said. "It's guys I looked up to and guys, if you ask me, that I feel are the biggest Canadian sporting icons — at least the generations that I know."

The award is named after the multi-sport athlete who was chosen Canada's athlete of the half-century in 1950.

Raonic, from Thornhill, Ont., is the only tennis player to win the award, which dates back to 1932.

He ended an 11-month title drought last August with a victory over fellow Canadian Vasek Pospisil in Washington. The win came shortly after he reached a career-high No. 6 in the world rankings.

Raonic also made the quarter-finals at the French Open, the semifinals in Rome and Cincinnati and the finals in Tokyo and Paris.

"Top Canadian male tennis performance of all-time," said Postmedia national sports editor Jack Romanelli.

Raonic also achieved a breakthrough by defeating a member of the so-called Big Three (Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic) for the first time in 15 matches. He beat Federer in the Paris quarter-finals in October, a win that also helped him qualify for the year-end London tournament.

"I wanted to try to put (the Wimbledon loss) behind me and play a much better match, which I was able to do," Raonic said. "So I would say it's probably the single-most important victory for me in 2014."

The Canadian, who will celebrate his 24th birthday Saturday, has worked with coach Ivan Ljubicic for over a year now. The former world No. 3 has helped polish several facets of Raonic's game.

"I will not set the limit for Milos," Ljubicic said via email. "He can still improve in every aspect, including his serve which could be the biggest shot in the game at the moment. His will to be better every day is unparalleled and will drive him to more success in the future."

The six-foot-five Raonic has always relied on his booming serve. However, his backhand, net play and return game have all improved in recent months.

Raonic earned almost US\$3.5 million in prize money over the season, which ended on a down note as he had to pull out of the World Tour Finals with a thigh injury. He took about two weeks off and is now back to 100 per cent.

Raonic hasn't set specific goals for the 2015 season but plans to aim higher than he did a year ago.

"That leaves some room for imagination," he said. "But I feel that I can do a lot of big things this upcoming year and I hope that I can more seriously contend for my first Grand Slam and really give myself a go at that."

"That would be the most important thing for me."

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Datebook

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2014

Today is the 363rd day of 2014 and the ninth day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1170, Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered.

In 1890, U.S. Army troops massacred an estimated 300 Lakota Indian men, women and children near Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota.

In 1940, Germany dropped hundreds of incendiary bombs on London.

In 1970, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was created.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Charles Goodyear (1800-1860), inventor; Andrew Johnson (1808-1875), 17th U.S. president; William Gladstone (1809-1898), British prime minister; Mary Tyler Moore (1936-), actress; Jon Voight (1938-), actor; Ted Danson (1947-), actor; Patricia Clarkson (1959-), actress; Sean Payton (1963-), football coach; Jude Law (1972-), actor; Theo Epstein (1973-), baseball executive; Mekhi Phifer (1974-), actor; Danny McBride (1976-), actor/comedian; Alison Brie (1982-), actress.

TODAY'S FACT: OSHA imposed the largest fine in agency history on Oct. 30, 2009, assessing \$87 million in penalties against oil company BP. A 2005 explosion at the company's refinery in Texas killed 15 workers.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1978, Ohio State football coach Woody Hayes punched a Clemson player who had just intercepted a pass during the Gator Bowl. Ohio State went on to lose 17-15, and Hayes was fired the next day.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "Tyranny and despotism can be exercised by many, more rigorously, more vigorously, and more severely, than by one." — Andrew Johnson

TODAY'S NUMBER: 6 — years that Thomas Becket spent in exile (1164-1170) for refusing to acquiesce to new laws set by Henry II.

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter moon (Dec. 28) and full moon (Jan. 4).

Death

Wilena (Polly) STONE DAVIS

Wilena (Polly) Stone Davis passed away in Minnesota on December 22, 2014.

She was predeceased by her husband Sewell.

She leaves to mourn her sons Terry (Sarah), Barrie (Jeannie), Jeff (Renee) and Bill; 11 grandchildren; and sister Gladys.



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Death

Deryl John BROCK (1950-2014)



Passed away at the CHUS Fleurimont, Sherbrooke, on Wednesday, December 24, 2014, Deryl Brock at the age of 64. Dear husband of Lise Leblanc, and loving father of Sonya (Jeremy McCutcheon), Claudia (Iain Graham) and Danny. Dear grandfather of Matthew and Olivia Da Silva, Ryan and Rachael Graham and Lily Brock, and step-grandfather of Ethan and Emma McCutcheon. Deryl also leaves to mourn his mother Catherine (the late Spencer Brock), his brother Glenn (Eleanor), his stepchildren François Léveillé (Annie Dubuc) and Eline Léveillé (Franklin Sanchez), the mother of his children Diane Bouchard, his brother-in-law, sisters-in-law, many nieces, nephews and dear friends.

A funeral service will be held in St-Anne's Anglican Church, Richmond, on Monday, December 29 at 10 a.m. Please note: the family will be at the Church to receive condolences 1 hour prior to the service.

Donations to the CHUS Foundation would be greatly appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to the Cass Funeral Home, Richmond, 819-564-1750.

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E-mail: cass@casshomes.ca

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www.casshomes.ca

Card of Thanks

KERR - I would like to thank my family for the surprise 90th birthday party they organized for me at the Richmond Legion on December 7. Thanks to everyone who came, from near and far, to help me celebrate; for the gifts, cards, flowers, lunch and beautiful cake. Also thanks to the Legion who organized a social gathering on December 11 with music, food, cake and fellowship. God bless.

Love from,
ELSIE KERR

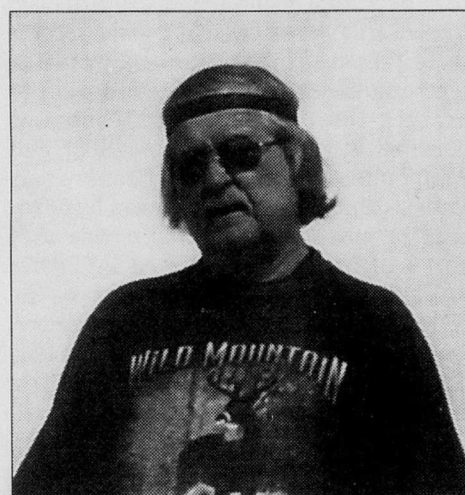
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The friendships you forged
And the life that you lived.

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Text only: 40¢ per word. Minimum charge \$10.00 (\$11.50 taxes included)
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With photo: \$26.00 (\$29.90 taxes included) **DEADLINE:** 3 days before publication.
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For Monday's paper, call 819-569-4856 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday.
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But now, in his mid-50s, he's turning into my 80-year-old father

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2014

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for 20 years, and we have three children under 15. He has always been a bit of a night owl, but now, in his mid-50s, he's turning into my 80-year-old father.

My husband works from 8 a.m. until 5, comes home and eats dinner and then sits on the couch. He falls asleep watching TV and then isn't tired again until midnight. He goes to bed and wakes up at 4 a.m. and can't fall asleep again, so he turns on the TV, falls asleep and is up at 7 a.m. for the day.

I don't resent him for not helping in the evenings with chores and children, but, Annie, he sleeps when the kids are awake and home from school, and they rarely get a chance to have quality time together. The biggest problem is when we go on vacation. He'll skip the naps for a day or two and then turn into a big, bad bear. He is crabby with everyone. Of course, he can't see that this is because of his sleep patterns and blames us for making him angry.

I believe if he went to bed at 11 p.m. and woke up at 7 a.m., he would get the full eight hours he needs and would be awake when the rest of us are. He won't entertain any of my suggestions, and it makes him

angry even to talk about it. It's almost as if he is cheating on me with the TV. I am raising the kids alone and feel like I am married to my father. — Help

Dear Help: It sounds as though your husband has a sleep disorder. He is tired when he gets home because he doesn't sleep sufficiently at night. So he naps. The nap tides him over until midnight, but because he's already slept a couple of hours, he isn't tired enough to sleep the rest of the night. It has become a vicious cycle that he doesn't know how to change. He may even have sleep apnea that interferes with his rest at night. Please approach this like the medical issue it is. Suggest he speak to his doctor and get a referral to a sleep clinic.

Dear Annie: For Christmas, one of my sisters sent out a wish list for her 7-year-old son from an online retailer. Annie, the least expensive item was \$35.

I barely know any of my nephews and nieces, since they live on the other side of the country, and I was planning to send gift cards. But I felt intimidated and picked something from the wish list.

I have five other nephews and nieces, not to mention my own child, my husband and my parents. I

can't afford to spend that much on one child. I don't want to be stuck in this position next year. What do I do? — Cheap Aunt

Dear Aunt: A wish list is not a command. It is a suggestion. You do not have to pick anything from the list, nor do you need to spend the same amount elsewhere. Next Christmas, send your nieces and nephews what you can afford and what you wish to give them. You might even consider a gift card to their preferred online retailer so they can use it toward the purchase of one of their wish list items.

Dear Annie: My heart went out to "Grieving," the grandmother whose toddler grandson died in an accidental drowning.

I am a lifeguard. We teach a program for kids ages 9 months to 3 years called "Float for Life." This program helps children develop the reflex of keeping their heads above water. In some cases, they are even able to learn the elementary backstroke. Please tell your readers to check at their local pools for options like this. It could save many young lives. — Omaha

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

Rock-Island

A card party was held on Dec. 8 at the Rock-Island Bowling Alley, benefit Matthew and Dylan's end of the year class trips. Cards were played at 5 tables. Scores were tallied up with Marion Cox (5500) winning ladies high. Ladies 2nd went to Frances Leith (4720). Gents High was claimed by George Peasley (4960) and Alan Bullock and John Kent tied for gents 2nd (4520). Skunk Prize was won by Gerry Lepitre, having 2. For taking a trick with the 4 of hearts was claimed by Esther Rolleston. Door prizes were won by the following - Len Swallow, Gerry Lepitre, Debbie Smith, Louise Peasley, Brenda Phaneuf, Beryl Joyce, Vicky White, Barbara Kerr, Joan Sheil, Helena McComb, Merrill Grenier, Leslie Bliss, Clarence Rolleston, Peter Sheil, Gail Grenier, Esther Rolleston, John Kent, Frances Leith, Marion Cox, Alan Bullock, and George Peasley. The Half and Half was won by Frances Leith. Special prizes were won by Leslie Bliss, Marion Cox, Louise Peasley, Debbie Smith, Len Swallow, Esther Rolleston, Charlene Johann, Alan Bullock, George Peasley, Gail Grenier, and Merrill Grenier. The 2nd set of special prizes went to Alan Bullock, Frances Leith, Charlene Johann, Gerry Lepitre, Angela Leith, Esther Rolleston and Hannah Knapp. On behalf of the boys, we would like to thank the following for donating food, prizes, for helping out with the card parties, Charlene Johann, Brenda Phaneuf, Marion Cox, Leslie/Ethel Bliss, Louise Peasley, Gail Grenier, and Edna Chamberlain. Couldn't have made these parties a success without all of you. A special thank you to all who came out to play cards. A big hand to Angela Leith for the use of the Bowling Alley.

Debbie Smith



SHERBROOKE
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Members of the Sherbrooke Snow Shoe Club met for their final meeting before the Christmas break on Wednesday, December 10th. They were accompanied by their wives and various guests. The weather was far from optimal, as freezing rain and variations thereof had fallen all day and continued to do so well into the evening. Many snow-walkers were undecided whether to venture out or not, as conditions seemed to vary from moment to moment. Despite the uncertainty, some members did opt for a little exercise before the meeting.

Notwithstanding the weather, a sizeable crowd gathered in the old clubhouse in advance of the meeting. Many entered the main hall sporting canned goods and other items for the club's Christmas basket. In previous years, a brunch & church service had been held every season at which funds were collected for a local charity. With this activity no longer part of the seasonal schedule, it was suggested that a collection be undertaken in the form of a Christmas basket. Thus in the spirit of resurrecting the club's efforts of 'good works' the proposal was embraced enthusiastically by the membership. This

Music & A Good Cause

year's collection has been earmarked for Ste. Elizabeth's Church in North Hatley which addresses the needs of local families within its congregational territory. In the future, items will go to a different organization or church group each year.

At the appropriate time, members and guests began to take their seats in the rear dining hall. At 6:30, President Dave Moore called the meeting to order and asked everyone to stand for the national anthem. Rev. Dr. Deane Moffat offered the blessing.

The White Knights then proceeded to serve the evening meal, starting off with bowls of vegetable soup. Entrees of meat balls, potatoes and mixed vegetables followed, before dishes of cake and strawberry sauce completed the servings.

Past President Don Loughheed advised the group of the complimentary dinner that was scheduled for Christmas Day at the Hope Community Church in Lennoxville. He asked members to inform the public about the opportunity of the Christmas meal and related activities for those without family or who would be spending the holiday alone.

On a lighter note, Alan Cox related a couple of anecdotes, one with respect to an inmate on death row, the other about a last song. A drawing for the floral arrangement resulted in a surprised and delighted guest, Vicky Taylor, receiving the honors. Subsequent drawings for the evening's door prizes similarly enlightened a pair of past presidents, Steve

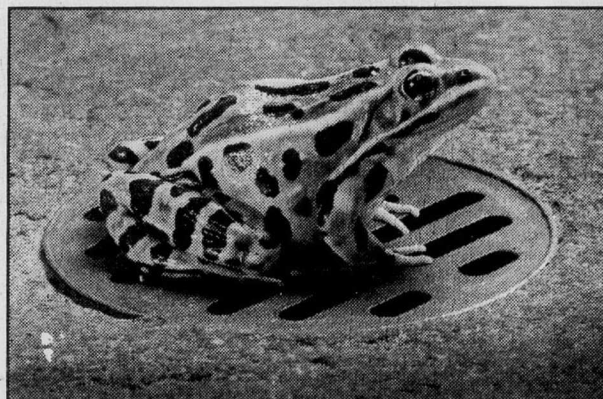
Moore and Don Watson, respectively.

Following the usual rounds of appreciation by President Dave, Honorary Chorister Lenny Beland led a sing-along which included some seasonal tunes. These were sung a cappella in the absence of our regular musician, Janis Graham.

After a brief interlude, the balance of the evening was handed over to the Memphremagog Party, a new sub-group within the membership. Party spokesman Deane Moffat then introduced a musical group which was appearing for the benefit of 'The Learning Center' at Alexander Galt High School. The group, composed of musicians and singers from the Porter & Taylor families, entertained members and guests with a selection of tunes including country & western, seasonal and period compositions to the delight of everyone. Following the performance, Deane on behalf of the Party and those in attendance, thanked the group and presented Learning Center representative Carol Porter with a donation from the club membership. Ms. Porter informed everyone about the activities associated with the Center and not without emotion, thanked Deane and the members for their generosity.

The evening's activities thus concluded everyone departed for home.

Steve Moore
SSSC Secretary



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by Luis Campos

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TODAY'S CLUE: n s i e n a b e s

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HERMAN



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ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



THE BORN LOSER



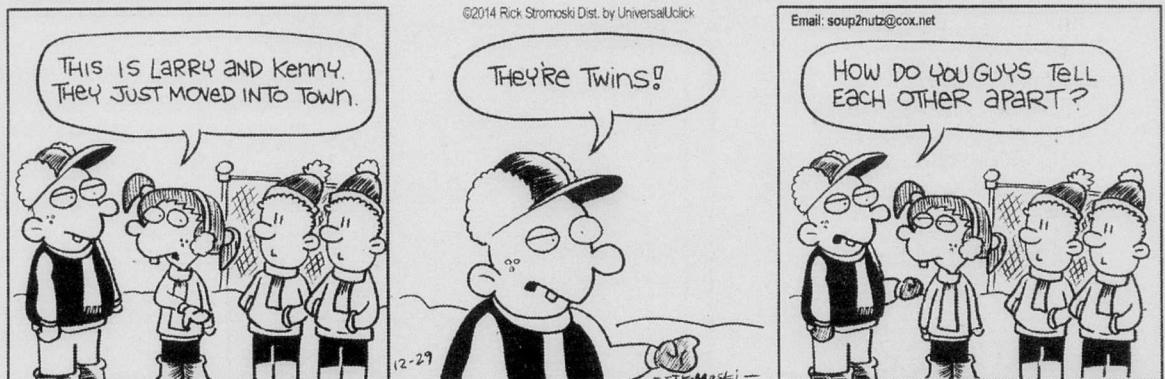
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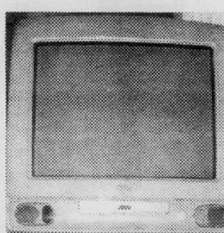
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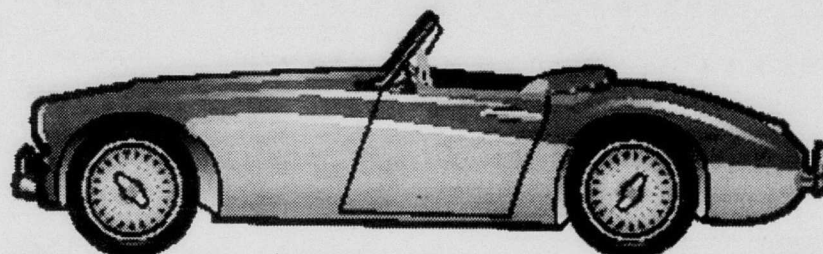
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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

HOW TO PLAY:

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

URGENT

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Randboro,
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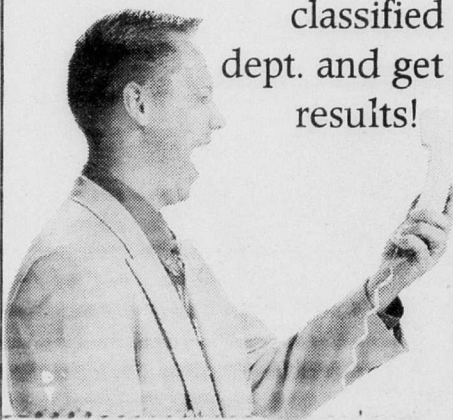
THE RECORD

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Your Birthday

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2014

Persistence and endurance will help you reach your goals and set a standard for the second half of the decade. Resist the temptation to try to rush your plans. Slow, steady progress will bring the results you are seeking. Be patient and carefully plan each and every move you make.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Take the word "failure" out of your vocabulary. Focus on what you want, take charge, reach your destination and ring in the new year on a high note.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Include loved ones in your plans. Someone will use emotional blackmail to get you to do something. Say what's on your mind and don't let anyone impede your progress.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Difficulties while traveling will prove stressful. Confiding in a close friend will help you find a solution to a relationship problem. Remain calm and don't fight the inevitable.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You are on the right path, so don't let criticism or disparaging comments upset you. Your success will be enough to silence your critics and give you the edge you need.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Personal and business associates will be impressed with your knowledge and charisma. Beneficial changes lie ahead. A new partnership looks promising. End your day with a little relaxation or romance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You will receive helpful advice from an elderly

friend or relative. A partnership needs adjustment if you want to strengthen your bond before the end of the year.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — A lot of issues can be resolved. Let your thoughts be known, and don't hesitate to make a move. People will gravitate to you once your intentions are clear.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You are dynamic and fun-loving, and you will attract favorable attention if you attend an event. Someone you meet will play an important role in your plans for the coming year.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Family members will be hard to deal with. This is a great time to get together with friends or colleagues. Socialize and have some fun, and mix business with pleasure to get ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Stimulate your senses. Try something you have been dreaming about or visit someplace that intrigues you. The new perspective you get from doing something different will be enlightening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Let everyone know what you have to offer. Your co-workers will be impressed with your suggestions to improve the workplace. Socializing with your peers will bring great results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It's a good time to make travel arrangements. The destination is not as important as who you will be spending time with. Strengthen a central relationship by nurturing it and making positive plans for the future.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2014

Only seven trumps, but 10 tricks are there

By Phillip Alder

Sebastian Bach, a Canadian heavy metal singer, said, "So, it ended up being what you have there, seven songs brand new and 10 live songs, which is a good mix."

It is not often a good mix at the bridge table when 10 tricks are required and only seven trumps are held, especially when those trumps are divided 4-3. But if you try to find 10 winners, maybe a successful line will be apparent.

In this deal, South is in four spades. West leads the heart ace and continues with the heart king. What should declarer do?

West would normally have held an eight-card suit for his four-heart opening, but he hoped to silence his opponents. North had too many points to pass and nothing better to do than double. If South had passed, the penalty would have been 500 for down two. But hoping that his partner had four-card spade support, he advanced with four spades.

South ruffed the second heart, cashed his spade ace, and led a spade to dummy's queen. West's discard caused declarer to deliberate for a few moments.

		North		12-29-14	
		♠ K Q 8			
		♥ 9 8 4			
		♦ A K 6 3			
		♣ K Q 5			
West				East	
♠ 3				♠ J 9 5 4 2	
♥ A K Q J 10 7 6				♥ 5 2	
♦ 10 5 2				♦ Q J 8	
♣ 9 4				♣ J 10 6	
		South			
		♠ A 10 7 6			
		♥ 3			
		♦ 9 7 4			
		♣ A 8 7 3 2			
Dealer: West					
Vulnerable: Both					
South	West	North	East		
	4♥	Dbl.	Pass		
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass		
Opening lead: ♥ A					

South eventually realized that he needed to take these 10 tricks: three clubs, two diamonds and five trumps.

Declarer cashed dummy's diamond ace-king and club king-queen, then played a club to his ace. When East had to follow suit, South ruffed a club with dummy's spade king and called for the heart nine.

If East had ruffed high with his spade jack, declarer would have discarded; and when East threw his last diamond South ruffed for his 10th trick via a coup en passant.

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 "Big" fast-food sandwich
- 4 Ump's call with outstretched arms
- 8 Halloween sheet wearers
- 14 Prez on a penny
- 15 Cuba, por ejemplo
- 16 Abdul and Zahn
- 17 Philandering fellow
- 18 Large-group legal proceeding
- 20 King toppers
- 22 Pulitzer winner James
- 23 Colo. neighbor
- 24 Lens for a panorama
- 26 Omelet need
- 27 Clock-setting std.
- 28 Bomb trials, briefly
- 31 Iranian religion
- 34 Wooing period
- 37 Waterfront org.
- 38 Gems that come mostly from Aus-

tralia

- 39 Lab eggs
- 40 Secure method of payment
- 43 Conductor's wand
- 45 "Certainly!"
- 46 Elbow poke
- 47 Baseball's Cobb and football's Law
- 48 Craft with an outboard
- 54 Tip-top
- 55 Earnest request
- 56 Wheel shaft
- 57 The third "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie (and where you might find the first part of 18-, 24-, 34-, 40- and 48-Across)
- 60 Supermarket franchise initials
- 61 Attractive
- 62 Writer Ferber
- 63 ___ Moines
- 64 "Honor Thy Father" author Gay

21 Maker of the Genesis game system

- 25 French pal
- 28 Day's 24: Abbr.
- 29 DVR brand
- 30 Stretch across
- 31 Netanyahu of Israel, familiarly
- 32 Actor Alda
- 33 Part of a hotel bathroom set
- 34 Tax whiz, briefly
- 35 Clumsy type
- 36 Final: Abbr.
- 38 Old California fort
- 41 Major speech, as at a convention
- 42 Arid expanses

43 Place for a cocktail

- 44 "Mamma Mia!" group
- 46 ___ d'Arc
- 48 Opposite of COD
- 49 Jimmy of the Daily Planet
- 50 Like a neglected lawn
- 51 Zinc ___: sunblock ingredient
- 52 Rags-to-riches author Horatio
- 53 Kid around with
- 54 Gillette razor
- 57 Fitting
- 58 Caustic chemical
- 59 "Can't Help Lovin' ___ Man"

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

Down

- 1 Rain forest parrot
- 2 Ancient calculators
- 3 Handed over, as land
- 4 Attack, to Fido
- 5 Like italics
- 6 "Fried Green Tomatoes" co-screenwriter Fannie
- 7 Tripod for a canvas
- 8 Transcript no.
- 9 Comic Buddy who played Costello in "Bud and Lou"
- 10 Power failures
- 11 Weapon in the David and Goliath story
- 12 New Mexico art hub
- 13 Tax form ID
- 19 Catch sight of

