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Rosemère Council Wraps Up 2024 with Budget Approval and Holiday Cheer



DYLAN ADAMS LEMAÇON
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On December 9, 2024, the Rosemère Town Hall hosted the city council's final meeting of the year, marking the culmination of a year filled with achievements and challenges. The evening featured both an extraordinary session, during which the 2025 budget and capital expenditures program were adopted, and a regular council meeting. Together, these sessions underscored the council's commitment to fiscal responsibility and community development.

A Forward-Looking Budget

The extraordinary session, held before the regular meeting, was dedicated to adopting the city's 2025 budget and the 2025–2029 capital expenditures program. Both were approved unanimously. The budget outlines the city's financial plans for the coming year, including funding for key infrastructure projects, environmental initiatives, and community services. The five-year capital expenditures program reflects Rosemère's long-term priorities, ensuring sustainable growth and continued investment in quality-of-life improvements for residents. The approved budget signals the council's readiness to maintain its momentum heading into the new year.

Celebrating a Year of Accomplishments

Mayor Eric Westram opened the regular session by reflecting on the city's accomplishments over the past year. He highlighted the immense success of the annual Guignolée (food drive), a community-led initiative that raised nearly \$37,000 to support those in need during the holiday season. "I'm proud," said Mayor Westram. "With a small population like ours, this isn't nothing. My wholehearted thanks to you all."

Another source of pride for the city is the Rosemère Library, which continues to earn high rankings and recognition for its services. "We owe all those awards to you—the wonderful residents, businesses, institutions, and staff who make Rosemère what it is," the mayor added, attributing the city's successes to its engaged and supportive community.

From community-driven initiatives to institutional achievements, Rosemère has much to celebrate as it wraps up the year.

A Smooth Agenda Approval

The regular meeting's agenda proceeded efficiently, with all items receiving unanimous approval from the council. Key highlights included:

- **Urban Planning**
The council approved minor exemptions

and architectural integration plans for several projects, ensuring that new developments align with Rosemère's urban planning guidelines. These decisions reflect the city's commitment to preserving its character while accommodating thoughtful growth.

- **Regulations and Financing**
Among the items approved were amendments to municipal regulations related to infrastructure projects and financing. Notably, the council adopted amendments increasing funding for library renovations and improvements to storm drainage systems in the Cerisiers sector. These projects demonstrate the city's focus on both cultural enrichment and environmental sustainability.

- **Community Services and Contracts**
The council also approved several contracts and initiatives aimed at enhancing municipal services. These included renewals for social media management, urban forestry programs, and maintenance contracts for public spaces. A particularly notable decision was the authorization of a contract to acquire the artwork *La sagesse des livres*, a piece that will add cultural value to the community.

- **Minimal Public Engagement**
While the council worked through the comprehensive agenda, public participation remained low, with only one resident in attendance. As a result, both public question periods passed without any comments or inquiries.

The quiet atmosphere allowed for a swift and focused session, with council members efficiently addressing each agenda item.

A Holiday Message from the Mayor

As the meeting drew to a close, Mayor Westram took the opportunity to share a heartfelt message with the community. "Please don't stay alone during this time of the year," he urged, encouraging residents to connect with others and support one another during the holiday season.

The mayor's remarks reflected the spirit of togetherness that has defined much of Rosemère's accomplishments this year. From the success of the Guignolée to the achievements of local institutions like the library, the community has shown its strength and resilience time and again.

Looking Ahead to 2025

The December 9 meeting marked the final session of 2024, but the council is already looking ahead to a busy and ambitious year in 2025. With the newly approved budget and capital expenditures program, the city is poised to continue its work on key infrastructure projects, environmental initiatives, and community services.

Among the priorities for the coming year are:

- **Library Renovations:** Funding has been allocated to enhance the library's facilities, ensuring it remains a hub of learning and culture for residents.
- **Storm Drainage Improvements:** The Cerisiers sector will benefit from upgrades to its drainage systems, addressing long standing infrastructure concerns.
- **Road Repairs and Maintenance:** Projects like the refurbishment of Northcote and Wood streets will continue to improve the city's transportation network.

These initiatives reflect the council's commitment to addressing immediate needs while planning for long-term growth and sustainability.

Closing Reflections

As the council members adjourned for the year, the atmosphere was one of quiet satisfaction and optimism. The council's ability to efficiently address the evening's agenda while celebrating the community's achievements underscored its dedication to Rosemère's residents.

For those in attendance—or following along from home—the December 9 meeting was a reminder of what makes Rosemère unique: a community that combines small-town charm with a forward-thinking vision.

With the holidays around the corner and a new year on the horizon, the council's final session of 2024 leaves a clear message: Rosemère is ready to embrace the future while cherishing the bonds that hold it together.






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Pascal Tribout guilty of 3D weapons manufacturing

(NEWSFIRST) - An anti-Semitic Internet user from Deux-Montagnes, who had transformed his condo into a gun manufacturing plant, is the first Canadian convicted of possessing and sharing computer files to create a gun with a 3D printer, a new provision of the Criminal Code.

What you need to know

- A new provision in the Criminal Code prohibits Canadians from possessing or distributing computer files that can be used to make a firearm with a 3D printer;
- Pascal Tribout, a Nazi sympathizer from Deux-Montagnes, was the first Canadian to plead guilty to such charges;
- He told an undercover RCMP officer that these weapons are easy to disappear to commit a “perfect crime.”

Pascal Tribout, who saw in his creations tools to commit a “perfect crime” against Jews, voluntarily pleaded guilty Friday to a series of gun-related charges that could land him up to five years in prison.

When patrol officers from the Deux-Montagnes Regional Police Service entered the 37-year-old man’s home in February 2024 for a burglary alarm, the floors were littered with tools, debris and parts of all kinds. The windows were blocked by sheets, and a 3D printer was working in his bedroom.

A few days later, Tribout, unaware that he was under investigation, began talking to an undercover RCMP officer about an anti-Semitic forum he frequented. He sent him a photo of a gun that he said he had entirely 3D printed, thanks to plans gleaned from the Internet of a model called FGC-9, which stands for Fuck Gun Control 9 mm. He later gave him digital

blueprints and an instruction guide for making similar weapons with a 3D printer.

“You shoot someone with this, and then melt them down, you make the evidence disappear, it becomes a perfect crime,” he wrote to the undercover officer.

During the search that followed, the police found this weapon as well as about thirty weapon frames machined with a 3D printer, with different degrees of finish, FGC-9, Glock pistols and semi-automatic rifles of the AR-15 and TEC-22 types. They also seized a prohibited magazine, daggers and other edged weapons made with 3D printers, as well as Nazi propaganda.

After testing, ballistics experts at the Laboratory of Forensic Science and Forensic Medicine, however, found that the FGC-9, although apparently functional, was not quite perfect. “The barrel chamber was too narrow to fit a 9 mm cartridge,” federal Crown lawyer Gabriel Lapierre explained to Judge Sylvian Lépine.

The frames of the seized weapons then broke during laboratory tests.

The Crown and defence therefore agreed that the accused would plead guilty to a reduced count of “attempting” to manufacture a prohibited firearm.

“The state intervened in a timely manner,” Lapierre insisted, since the accused was only one manipulation away from creating a functional weapon.

Pascal Tribout pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing and distributing “computer data relating to firearms or prohibited devices that can be used with a 3D printer”. This is a new Criminal Code offence, which came into force in December 2023, as part of a bill to address



Photos: Courtesy of the RCMP

A 3D printer and various equipment used to make a firearm seized from Pascal Tribout. Inset photo: FGC-9 firearm seized from Pascal Tribout.

the proliferation of so-called “ghost” firearms.

According to the RCMP, Mr. Tribout is the first Canadian to be convicted under this new provision.

Fomented hatred

The accused also pleaded guilty to one count of wilfully promoting hatred against the Jewish community.

On the Telegram network, he relayed conspiracy theories about the Jew jab, according to which the COVID-19 pandemic is a Jewish hoax aimed at making vaccination mandatory to poison the population.

“Mistakenly believing that he was protected by freedom of expression,” he said he favored “Mad Max-style” surprise executions for Jews and claimed that the government is a “slave system,” according to the agreed statement of facts filed

with the judge.

Pascal Tribout claims to have made these comments while he was impaired by alcohol and drugs.

His sentence will not be decided until next April, but the Crown has already announced its intention to ask for five years in prison. Earlier this year, a Gatineau man, Tobie Laurin-Lépine, was sentenced to six years in prison on similar charges of making an FGC-9 weapon with a 3D printer. However, there was no ideological motivation behind his action.

“We believe that the sentence imposed must be strictly exemplary and send a clear message to both the accused and his potential accomplices that these types of actions and behaviors will not be tolerated in our country,” the Jewish organization B’nai Brith said in a statement that was read to the court.

Tax relief in Deux-Montagnes

City slashes rates amid property value surge

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Deux-Montagnes made headlines this week with the adoption of its groundbreaking 2025 budget, which aims to protect residents from skyrocketing property values. In an extraordinary session on December 12, the municipal council approved a dramatic reduction in the residential property tax rate, dropping it from \$0.76 to \$0.56 per \$100 of valuation. This bold move is designed to cushion homeowners against the financial strain caused by a sharp increase in property assessments.

For over half of the city’s residents, the new tax rate means either a decrease in their property tax bill or a modest increase capped at 1.8%. The impact is particularly significant for aver-

age homeowners, with single-family homes now assessed at \$454,000, up from \$316,800. Without the tax rate adjustment, the typical homeowner would have faced a \$970 spike in annual taxes. Instead, the increase has been limited to just \$59. This modest rise is further offset by an 11% reduction in waste collection fees, alongside the freezing of charges for essential services such as water supply and snow removal.

Mayor Denis Martin hailed the budget as a triumph for the city’s residents, praising the council’s commitment to balancing fiscal responsibility with affordability. “Faced with a remarkable increase in property values, we acted decisively to keep the tax rate significantly below inflation,” he said. “Deux-Montagnes is financially sound, and we are proud to reduce the tax burden on our citizens while continuing to enhance the services they rely on. This responsible budget is the

result of tireless efforts by our management team, despite the challenges of rising consumer prices.”

The city also addressed the reasons behind the soaring property assessments, reminding residents that these valuations are mandated every three years under Quebec’s Municipal Taxation Act. The evaluations are conducted by independent firms accredited by the Ordre des évaluateurs agréés du Québec, following rigorous professional standards. Residents seeking clarity on the process are encouraged to consult a detailed document published by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The 2025 budget is more than just a tax strategy—it is a roadmap for transformational investments across the city. A multi-million-dollar upgrade to water and sewer systems is set to modernize essential infrastructure, while a massive resurfacing project will rejuvenate local

streets. The completion of Centennial Park promises not only public access to water but also eco-friendly facilities that position the area as a hub for recreational tourism. Meanwhile, the long-awaited second phase of the city’s noise barrier project is on track for completion, addressing a key concern for residents. In a move to promote green transportation, Deux-Montagnes will also introduce a bike-sharing network under the popular BIXI program.

With this budget, Deux-Montagnes has set itself apart as a city unafraid to take bold action in the face of economic challenges. By slashing tax rates, investing in critical projects, and prioritizing sustainability, the city is charting a future that balances progress with affordability. This historic budget signals not just relief for residents but a vision for a thriving and resilient Deux-Montagnes.

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OPINION & Editorial



Joy to the world in search of peace and goodwill to all

It's Christmas season. The spiritual and secular traditions are in full swing, as songs and greeting cards ring out heartwarming messages of Peace, Joy, Love, and Goodwill towards all. Sorry to say – very sad, indeed – but surely, I'm not alone thinking that these are pretty empty words this year.

What peace? What joy? Within families, one can hope. Within communities, definitely possible. But the world-at-large isn't promoting peace and joy. The Earth's most powerful leaders don't seem to care for these sentiments. Meanwhile, we wallow in our version of chaos. A world-order based on cooperation, compassion, and compromise seems to be unraveling.

So, what can be done to restore credibility to messages of peace, love, joy, and goodwill-to-all? Start by nurturing ourselves? Concentrate on positives instead of despairing? Spread supportive thoughts and deeds in our community? Our world is broken - increasing numbers turn from God; suicides, immorality, depression, addiction levels rise exponentially, and attacks explode, especially the corrosive hostility towards Jesus Christ and Christmas.

Our world is shattered? Nothing new. 2700-years-ago the prophet Isaiah warned that humanity would turn this way: Going against the Word-of-God will bring darkness but inturning to God, there will be great hope and light.

Now, I wouldn't mind if non-believers opened The New Testament to read and think about the alternatives therein, honestly evaluated them and concluded "now I have made my careful decision, based on integrity." And then ask themselves truthfully - "Am I going against Christianity?" If this is their thinking, I would consider that a responsible decision – not a good decision but a responsible decision, with evidence weighed.

It's a very risky business. Isaiah of the Old

Testament, ignored and despised by most of his people, notched prediction-after-prediction. But I cringe at the most disappointing of all his optimistic prognostications - there will be a great peace – no more need for soldiers' uniforms.

Where is this peace? Battles everywhere! Wars, grievances, conflict, immeasurable human-generated death-and-destruction. Christianity has had 2000 years to produce peace, so where is it? You-and-I will only be saved from darkness, disillusion, cynicism, skepticism and pessimism by listening to THE WISE ONE.

When we listen, Jesus Christ is not silent, not dumb, not dull. Again and again, the wisdom and beauty in the replies of the Son-of-God-Made-Man, completely confounded and continues to confound His critics while thrilling those who heeded and heed His invitation to Love God and Love Others.

The identity and truth of Jesus is crucial. Somebody who gets it all has come into our world. We would be crazy to turn our backs on Him, change subject and talk about anything else. No! we need His help urgently, now. The day of coming face-to-face with our Maker will come; our only hope is arriving forgiven. It will be lunacy to arrive unforgiven and have God ask "why are you here unforgiven?" You say 'I didn't think it mattered' and He says "I sent my Son so that you might face me safely." This is very big, isn't it? Isaiah promises: "the kingdom is going to get bigger and bigger because millions are responding every day." We can hope.

His kingdom will be a rule-of-love; of justice-and-Godliness, things that we long and look for, underwritten by the Promises of His Word and the Reach of His Eternal Power.

Let's ponder why do we do what we do, turning up at our family's feast (that's great), then leaving. It's easier today to miss Christmas since there are other things the season comes

wrapped with. What a shame! But in deep humility, we gladly wish all Laval residents the very best gifts of all. Hope, goodwill and peace.

Hope in the Christmas Promise, fulfilled over centuries even when life seemed hopeless; hope living in local homes where families accept that events in our lives do occur for the best-of-reasons.

Hope that opens doors, shares goodwill, and celebrates, regardless of circumstances. That is as true today as it was during the wretched 1840s when Charles Dickens spoke these thoughts in 'A Christmas Carol': 'What place is this?' asked Scrooge. 'A place where miners live, who labor in the bowels of the earth,' returned the Spirit. 'But they know me. A light shone from the window of a hut ... Passing through the wall of mud and stone, they found a cheerful company assembled round a glowing fire.'

This symbolic moment-in-fiction, frozen in Christian timelessness, captures the meaning of goodwill and God Will. We are the cheerful company, gathered around the warmth-of-glowing-fire gifted by the Christ Child to humanity for all time.

And because we can agree on hope and goodwill, let's have peace with one another on Christmas Day 2024. It's not the dream of universal, permanent peace, but the type that each of us helps share because it was first shared with us. The effects of the Gift-of-Peace we can actually see, provided we don't let the wrappings get in the way. With these thoughts, on behalf of THE LAVAL NEWS, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. My desire is that by this time next year – somehow, some way – the seasonal wishes of Peace, Joy, Love, and Goodwill-to-All will not seem as hollow as they do at this moment. May our hope be restored.

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Luc Larocque confirmed as Director of the Thérèse-De Blainville Police Board

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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On November 14, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Thérèse-De Blainville Police Board officially confirmed Mr. Luc Larocque as its Director for the years to come. Mr. Larocque had been serving as Interim Director following the recent departure of Director Lanouette. His appointment by resolution marks a significant moment for the organization as it looks toward a future defined by stability and excellence.

"I feel privileged and deeply honored by the decision of the Board of Directors," Mr. Larocque shared. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their trust and confidence. Being the director of a police organization like ours comes with significant responsibilities. The challenges facing police officers today drive us to consistently deliver high-level standards of service to our citizens, ensuring a police force that reflects and serves the community. I am fortunate to be surrounded by an exceptional team, and together, we look forward to accomplishing

great things in the years ahead."

With a long history of dedicated service to the organization, Mr. Larocque's leadership is highly regarded by his colleagues and community. His ability to navigate complex challenges and maintain a citizen-focused approach to policing has been widely recognized, making him an ideal choice for the role.

"We are thrilled to appoint Mr. Luc Larocque as the Director of the Thérèse-De Blainville Intermunicipal Police Board," said Christian Charron, Chair of the Board of Directors. "With his extensive experience and outstanding leadership qualities, Mr. Larocque is the ideal choice to guide the development and growth of our organization in the years to come. His vision and dedication will be instrumental in ensuring our police services continue to meet the evolving needs of our community."

Mr. Larocque's confirmation represents a commitment to fostering trust and collaboration between the police force and the citizens they serve. His leadership promises to inspire positive change and uphold the organization's high standards.



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Blainville invests \$36.4 million in a bold vision for growth and renewal

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On December 10, Blainville's municipal council adopted a capital investment program totaling \$36.4 million. Over half of this budget, amounting to \$19.6 million, will be dedicated to maintaining the city's existing assets.

"Blainville experienced significant growth in the late 1990s and early 2000s, a period when much of our infrastructure was constructed. As the city enters the final phase of its development, we are focusing on future growth levers and managing our existing assets," explained Mayor Liza Poulin.

Blainville will also benefit from government grants that will reduce its borrowing needs to \$25.5 million for 2025.

Enhancing Parks and Green Spaces

Several projects under the 2025 work program will enhance Blainville's parks and green spaces. Six parks, including Blainville, des Hirondelles, des Chanterelles, d'Alençon, Plateau Saint-Louis, and Marc-Aurèle-Fortin, will undergo redevelopment, with further details to be announced during the spring 2025 annual project launch.

To meet the growing demand for pickleball, eight permanent outdoor courts will be

constructed at Maurice-Tessier Park, designed to host events and tournaments. Additionally, the city will develop a conceptual plan for a covered refrigerated skating rink, enhance the Chambéry ecological corridor, and establish new community gardens to serve residents in the southern areas of Blainville.

Another initiative includes designing Place de la Savoie (Chambéry) following a public consultation. "We also plan to acquire natural environments within the Grande Tourbière between 2026 and 2027. Investments nearing \$5 million are planned over the next three years, with financial support from the Montreal Metropolitan Community," noted Councillor Jean-François Pinard. In 2025, the city will appoint a specialized organization to facilitate these acquisitions.

Street and Bicycle Path Improvements

To encourage active transportation, Blainville will construct a new bike path along Omer-DeSerres Street and Industriel Boulevard, while also refurbishing existing bike paths and pedestrian crossings. Speed moderation measures will be introduced as part of the Traffic Policy adopted in 2024. Key road improvements include repaving Boulevard de la Seigneurie Ouest and widening Boulevard Michèle-Bohec, which will feature traffic lights and a multifunctional pathway between Gilles-Vigneault Street and Gohier Stream.

Blainville will also implement the first phase of a safety improvement plan for school zones. This initiative, based on an audit by a municipal expert committee in collaboration with local schools and the police, identifies priority projects to enhance safety. Schools targeted for 2025 improvements will be announced by spring, according to Councillor Stéphane Dufour, who oversees security. The city has also secured a \$350,000 grant from the Quebec Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility for this project.

Additionally, the city will engage a consultant to develop a concept for the urban planning project on Curé-Labelle Boulevard, adopted in 2024.

Infrastructure and Municipal Building Upgrades

Blainville will undertake various water infrastructure maintenance projects, including connecting the water network between de la Falaise and Paul-Albert streets, upgrading the 43rd Avenue East sanitary pumping station, and contributing to the upkeep of the Côte-Sud pressure station in partnership with Boisbriand.

Municipal buildings will also see significant investments. These include the redesign of the Urban Planning, Mobility, and Ecological Transition Service, the third phase of municipal workshops with the construction of a machinery warehouse, and commissioning a consultant to plan the Citizen Hub, encompassing the equestrian park, library, arena, community center, and city hall.

Through these strategic investments, Blainville aims to ensure its continued growth and enhance the quality of life for its residents, while managing its existing assets responsibly.





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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

4 gestures of love and sharing to brighten the Christmas of the less privileged

Are you aware of your privileges, such as good health and a good-paying job? Do you want to express your gratitude by bringing comfort to people less fortunate than you this holiday season? Use these four ideas as inspiration.

1. Volunteer. Plenty of organizations need “helping hands” in the run-up to the festive season. You can wrap toys for underprivileged children, cook meals in a community kitchen for financially vulnerable families or collect food for Christmas hampers. You’re spoiled for choice when it comes to getting involved in your area!



2. Visit someone in the hospital. Spending Christmas in the hospital is tough. You could bring a little joy to someone in the hospital by visiting them on December 24 or 25. Bring them a greeting card, a few sweets or a gift. Take advantage of your visit to do an activity with them like walking down the corridor and chatting, playing cards or watching a Christmas movie.

3. Lend a hand. Do you have a few hours to spare in your busy schedule? Use your free time to spread happiness and gratitude around you. For example, you could show your generosity by clearing snow from an older person’s driveway, helping someone with limited mobility put up their outdoor decorations or buying groceries for an exhausted caregiver – the possibilities are endless!

4. Invite someone over for Christmas Eve. For various reasons or circumstances, such as divorce, moving, illness and work, someone in your circle may be spending Christmas alone. Whether it’s a family member, neighbour, colleague or friend, open your

arms and home to them. Invite them to celebrate Christmas Eve or Day with you. Your hospitality is sure to warm their hearts!

all the difference in making Christmas a happy time for those less fortunate. What kind gestures will you make this year?

No matter how big, acts of mutual aid and solidarity can make

Giving out warm clothing to people without homes, sponsoring a newcomer family, sending greeting cards to nursing home residents, donating to a worthy cause and more. Whatever your way of giving, don’t hesitate to encourage your loved ones to get in on the action!



The Town of Rosemère wishes you *peace, health, love and prosperity.*

May the magic of the holiday season shine in your hearts and bring you a very happy 2025.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

and a joyful New Year!

Wishing you love, health, prosperity and unforgettable moments with family and friends!

ON BEHALF OF
THE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



New play module at Gabrielle-Roy Park

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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In a move that underscores its dedication to family-friendly recreational spaces, the City of Boisbriand has announced the addition of a brand-new modular play structure at Gabrielle-Roy Park. The equipment, specifically designed for children aged 2 to 5, replaces an older module that was dismantled earlier this year.

The new installation has already garnered praise from local families and city officials. During a press announcement, Mayor Christine Beaudette emphasized the importance of maintaining safe and engaging spaces for children in the community. "It is important for us to be proactive in maintaining our inventory of recreational facilities in excellent condition across all the parks in the city. This new installation provides children with a safe and fun space where they can play and nurture their creativity. We are confident that it will bring joy to the little ones for many years to come!" she remarked.

This initiative is part of a larger effort by the city to ensure that its parks remain vibrant, safe, and accessible to all residents. The decision to upgrade the play module came after thorough evaluations of the park's existing facilities, as well as feedback from local families who frequent Gabrielle-Roy Park.

The newly installed equipment features bright, colorful designs and innovative structures tailored to inspire creativity and active play. With safety as a top priority, the module



has been designed with high-quality materials and meets all necessary safety standards, ensuring peace of mind for parents and caregivers.

However, the City also issued a reminder that the play modules are accessible only until the ground freezes. As part of standard safety measures, the equipment will be closed during the winter months when

protective surfaces harden, and traction is reduced due to snow and ice. Boots and mittens can also compromise grip, adding to potential safety risks.

Local residents have expressed their appreciation for the upgrade. "This is a wonderful addition to the park," said a parent visiting Gabrielle-Roy Park. "It's great to see the city investing in spaces where our children can

play safely and creatively."

The Gabrielle-Roy Park improvement is a shining example of Boisbriand's commitment to fostering a family-oriented community. As the new module becomes a gathering spot for young children and their families, it reaffirms the city's dedication to enhancing quality of life through thoughtful recreational projects.



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DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

COMMUNICATING A LIE

Q My girlfriend and I were madly in love when I packed up and moved to Las Vegas. She followed soon after. I knew when I left I didn't have anything to worry about. She came to Vegas, and we started our lives. Two years later we got married and bought a house. Two years after that her sister and husband came to Vegas on their vacation.

Before they arrived, out of the big blue sky my wife said, "Honey, I have something to tell you. On my last night before I moved here, I had a get-together with friends at my sister's house. We had a few drinks and after a few hours everyone left." So I say, "After four years you tell me this. Why?" She said, "I just wanted to be honest." I was thinking, Yeah, right.

So I said, "Who was there?" She mentioned some names. I said, "Is that all?" She said, "Yes, honey, I swear on my parents' graves." So I let it go and didn't think anything of it. Two years later she comes out and says, "Oh yeah, my ex-boyfriend was there, but nothing happened and I didn't sleep with him." I about dropped my drawers.

Here I felt I had the perfect lady, and now this. I asked her to explain to me the night's events step-by-step. She became defensive, angry, and told me it's in the past. Don't worry, she said. Well, why tell me six years after she hid it from me, when her story isn't consistent enough to believe?

I still haven't found out what I want to know. It always turns around on me. Why can't she come clean? What is she afraid of? She preaches to

me about communication but doesn't follow her own standards.

Karl

A Karl, your letter reminds us of the story about a monastery where monks take a vow of silence. Only once each year is a monk permitted to speak. One year a monk said rather harshly, "Pass the salt." The following year his brother monk replied, "I don't care for your tone of voice." The year after that their abbot scolded, "All this bickering has to stop!"

Your wife tried to protect herself in case her sister spilled the beans. That didn't happen. Now your wife regrets mentioning the subject. In spite of herself, however, the truth keeps trying to pop out of her mouth.

Communication skills are sometimes said to be the key to good relationships. But rather than teach women to drink beer, poke each other in the ribs, and watch football on television--as men do--men are told to express themselves verbally as women do.

The evidence this strategy works is weak. In reality, people have different aims, and these different aims are the root of the problem. Your wife has a guilty secret. Perhaps she or her sister will tell you, or perhaps you will learn that good communication is what people want only when it serves their own interest.

Wayne & Tamara

GETAWAY

Q I have a friend, actually an ex-girlfriend. We went out for three years and broke up a year ago. She goes to college, doesn't have a job, and her family doesn't help her out as much as I believe they should. So whatever her family doesn't do for her, I do. I pay for stuff like she's family.

Sometimes I feel she doesn't appreciate everything I do. She limits when she can hang out with me because of her boyfriend, and I get upset. Am

I pursuing something I shouldn't be?

Austin

A Austin, when you feel the wind whipping past your ears, when you see the scenery rushing by, when you feel the road bouncing beneath you, you are being taken for a ride. It's time to jump in the driver's seat and leave her in the rearview mirror.

Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF (www.yourotherhalf.com)

Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964

or email: GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com

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- Mushrooms (Porteenie)
- Beets (2lbs)
- Tomatoes (3)
- Romaine hearts (3)
- Minis Cucumbers
- Onions (2lbs)
- Garlic (Espagne)
- Zucchini (2-3)
- Cranberries
- Lemons (2)
- Limes (2)
- Pomegranate
- Clementines (6-7)
- Kiwis (3)
- Pineapple
- Blueberries (Pint)

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HOROSCOPE

Week of DECEMBER 22 TO 28, 2024

The luckiest signs this week:
SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN AND AQUARIUS

ARIES
In romantic matters, you may receive a marriage proposal, either from someone you don't know or during a trip with your partner. This week holds surprises that will be good for you.

TAURUS
You'll have a lot to do at work to finalize files before the holidays. However, everything will go according to plan. You'll finish off the year with a sense of accomplishment and leave with peace of mind.

GEMINI
You'll put the finishing touches on your holiday decorations after finding out last minute that you'll be hosting an important gathering. Your desire to outdo yourself will push you to do everything in your power to stand out.

CANCER
You'll find time to manage the household, take care of the children and serve as host for the get-togethers. You'll be involved in a community activity that will make you feel an extra burst of gratitude.

LEO
You won't mince your words this week! You'll openly express what others are thinking. You may also need to dispel some nasty gossip to prevent it from complicating your relationships.

VIRGO
You'll need to make more purchases, which will cause you to spend beyond your budget. However, the presents will be greatly appreciated, earning you warm thanks.

LIBRA
You'll need to make last-minute arrangements at work or at home. At the office, you'll be the first to arrive and the last to leave. For this, you'll earn the trust of management for an upcoming promotion.

SCORPIO
Be careful not to wear yourself out before the start of the holiday season. You'll have to take time to rest to get over a cold that's causing fatigue. There's nothing like an inspiring read at a time like this.

SAGITTARIUS
Stress at work may make you feel like you're in turmoil. Fortunately, you'll regain your self-confidence just in time for Christmas. You won't leave your good friends alone for the holidays.

CAPRICORN
You'll excel at work and in preparing for the holidays. You'll complete all your tasks on time. This will give you peace of mind during your time off.

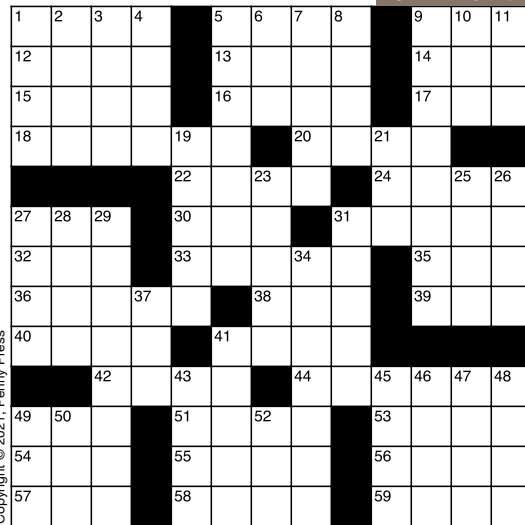
AQUARIUS
Your friends may invite you to travel with them. You'll accept the offer without hesitation. If not, you may take part in a multicultural celebration with your loved ones during the holidays.

PISCES
You may feel a mix of emotions as the holidays approach. This year's celebrations will be different, evoking a sense of nostalgia that may bring out your sensitive side.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 187



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ACROSS

- Like
- "Little ____ of Horrors"
- Night flier
- Art ____
- Carry
- Back in time
- Not closed
- "The ____ of Night"
- Not old
- Walk leisurely
- Peddle
- Got down
- Notable periods of time
- Existed
- Unsatisfactory
- Hurricane or tornado
- Sternward
- Atlantic or Pacific
- Astrology sign
- Fewer
- High card
- Trail behind

DOWN

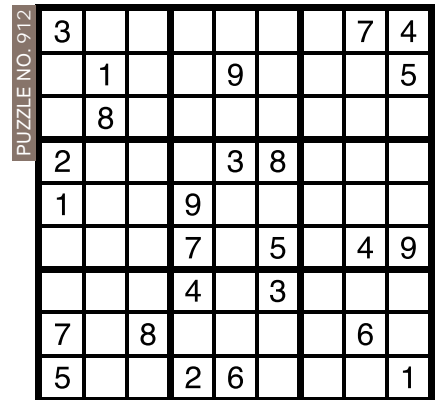
- Speak to God
- Sky color
- Within close range
- Small earthquake
- Tree-trunk section
- Devotion
- Italian money, once
- Dumbfound
- Work long and hard
- Thick piece of concrete
- For every
- All right!
- Pipe types
- Capitalize
- ____ before beauty
- Pull
- Work
- Quite moist
- Perfect example
- Field of study
- Air pollution
- Distort
- Off yonder
- Outsider
- Smirk
- Intensely
- Organ of vision
- Creek
- Voice range
- When all ____ fails . . .
- Factory
- ____ surgeon
- Confederate soldiers
- One trip around a track
- Be in hock
- By way of

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.

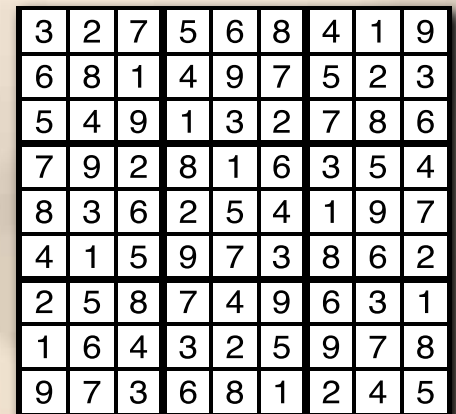


Last Issue's Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



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Time for a new generation at IGA extra Famille Daigle

It is with great excitement that Supermarchés IGA extra Famille Daigle are taking a new turn with the transfer of the business to a new generation.

The family business, under the IGA banner since 1994, is pleased to announce that Luc and Robert Daigle have decided to begin a gradual retirement and make way for a new trio of owners who will be committed to continuing to grow the business and, above all, to continuing the family tradition that began more than 40 years ago.

“We embarked on the agri-food adventure with our father more than 40 years ago. Over the years, our father has been able to pass on his passion for food to us, and it is with great pride that we completed the transfer of our business to the third generation last June. An important step in the evolution of a business, it was essential for its sustainability to have an experienced, dedicated successor, reflecting the distinctive family culture of IGA Daigle,” emphasize Luc and Robert Daigle.

It is in respect of traditions that Jonathan Bouchard, Julien Daigle and Charles Gingras have agreed to continue this beautiful family story with the passion and energy that have always distinguished the Daigle family.

“What a privilege to take up the torch of the business and continue the family tradition! We have long been at the forefront of the family’s activities. Our entire team shares the same values as our predecessors and it is in a spirit of continuity that we will be at the post to serve customers and ensure excellence in service and products,” affirm Charles Gingras, Julien Daigle and Jonathan Bouchard, merchant owners.

An innovative spirit as sharp as ever

An innovative and visionary spirit, these are two qualities that have always distinguished the Daigle family. It is this vision transmitted by Jacques Daigle, founder, that has laid the foundations for the success of the IGA extra Famille Daigle located in Sainte-Thérèse and Boisbriand.

Now that the second generation has passed the torch, the third will maintain the commitment to serving their valued customers well and will ensure the continued growth of the family business that employs more than 500 people.



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