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Bill 96 in Park Extension

Parents and teachers say the new language bill will have a chilling effect on Park Ex schools



MATIAS BRUNET-KIRK
matias@newsfirst.ca

Park Extension has long been known as a landing ground for immigrants. Successive waves of newcomers have brought with them their culture, their cuisine and their language, including English, French, Greek, Hindi, Punjabi and many other languages.

neighbourhood, we are shocked by the short time provided in Bill 96 to master French for newcomers to Quebec," read the letter.

"We who know so well the multilingual realities of education in Park Extension are apprehensive about the effects of Bill 96 on school life in our neighbourhood," it continued.

The letter specifically demands the government repeal articles 6, 7 and 15 of the bill which specifically regulates language use in education and the administration of organizations.



In Park Ex, it comes as no surprise to hear people speaking English, French, Greek, Hindi, Punjabi or many other languages. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk - NEWSFIRST

But with the recent approval of the CAQ government's updated language law Bill 96, many residents in Park Ex are worried about the negative effects it will have on education, especially among the anglophone and allophone communities.

On May 18, a group of Park Extension parents and teachers published an open letter to Justice and French Language Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette and the François Legault government to voice their opposition to the bill and their concern about how it will affect the neighbourhood.

'Shocked' by Bill 96

Co-signed by several school staff and Park Extension parents, the letter says the bill will create increased obstacles to children in the neighbourhood and will prevent the economic and cultural integration of their parents.

"As mothers, caregivers, school personnel and residents of Montreal's Park Extension

A common third language

Rachel Shugart is a Park Ex resident, an English as a second language teacher and a co-signatory of the letter. She immigrated to Québec from Pakistan when she was 12 and took French language training to better integrate.

She loves the French language and feels it should be protected, but feels the new bill will do more harm than good in Park Extension and will create a chilling effect in local schools.

"Right now the school sends out a lot of translated communication so that parents can read important information about the school," said Shugart. "If it's only in French, a lot of parents just don't have the language skills to get the information," she explained.

Although not officially used in franco-phone schools, English is often used to make communication with parents of various backgrounds easier. "It happens to be the most common third language and so is a really useful tool if the teacher happens to speak English as



École Barthélemy-Vimont is one of several Park Extension schools that will be subject to the new law. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk - NEWSFIRST

well," she added.

Punishing those who are already vulnerable

But with Bill 96's recent adoption, the use of English by school staff will no longer be permitted and will only be able to communicate in French, regardless of the parent's linguistic ability.

"At parent-teacher meetings, there would be no legal way for a teacher to explain to a mother that a student is finally doing well in reading or that a student needs to practice their multiplication," wrote Laura Wills, a parent and member of the École Barthélemy-Vimont governing board.

"Bill 96 will make all such multilingual interactions suspect while school personnel who assist parents in crisis could be prosecuted," continued Wills.

"The purpose of Bill 96 seems mainly to punish and discourage people who are already in a vulnerable position," Wills added in the letter, explaining this would decrease academic achievement among youth and make it more difficult to access higher education.

The only French state in North America

As the only majority French-speaking jurisdiction in North America, the CAQ government has defended its bill as a necessary measure to protect the French language in Québec.

"It's our duty to protect our common language, and I invite all Quebecers to speak it, to love it and to protect it," said Premier François Legault

at a press conference last week.

"If Quebec becomes a bilingual state, it's a matter of time before we lose the presence of French in Quebec," added the Premier.

Since the bill was passed into law on May 24 with the support of Québec Solidaire, the English Montreal School Board indicated it would institute legal proceedings to challenge Bill 96. The Federal government has also hinted that it would contest it.

Promoting the French language

For Shugart, the bill falls short of accomplishing its intended objective. "I love French, I really do, I fell in love with it when I was doing my own program," remarked Shugart adding that she would like to see the French language promoted rather than see other languages discouraged or banned.

"Improving access to language training and giving people more time and acknowledging how long it can take for people to clearly understand a second language and to function in different situations is really important," remarked Shugart.

The 6 month period that the CAQ government is offering for newly arrived Quebecers to learn French is not enough added Shugart. "You need years and years to build on that vocabulary and that complexity of a language to fully function as a full citizen," she explained.

"We need to acknowledge that and we need to make it easier for people to spend the time taking French classes," explained Shugart, adding that for many newly arrived and vulnerable residents in Park Ex, Bill 96 will only discourage that.

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Publishers:

George Bakoyannis
George S. Guzman

General Director:

George Bakoyannis

VP Sales & Marketing:

George S. Guzman
sales@newsfirst.ca

Graphic Design:

Lareine Zakhour
Elena Molter
Thomas Bakoyannis

Advertising Consultants:

Peter Stavropoulos
peter@newsfirst.ca

Jean Paul Chamberland

Editorial Staff:

Matias Brunet-Kirk
Martin C. Barry
Maria Diamantis
Renata Isopo
Robert Vairo

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OPINION & Editorial



Quebec's Bill 96 reeks of Premier François Legault's flawed populism

Say what you will about the Coalition Avenir Québec government's Bill 96: If you are among the nearly 6.25 million people in this province who are French-speaking, then you probably like it.

But if you are one of the 20 per cent of Quebec residents who speak English or some other language, chances are you see Bill 96 as an ominous threat.

So, if Bill 96 and the bureaucratic red tape it almost inevitably will generate, has become the best excuse yet some people have found to leave Quebec for English-speaking Canada or the freedom-loving United States, consider the following.

Would you rather be living in the U.S.A., where gun violence has reached a level so severe that children are no longer safe attending school?

Or would you prefer to take your chances with Quebec's reinvigorated language police, who may soon be knocking at your business's door to seize computers or their contents – as mandated by Bill 96 – because they are not in compliance with the updated language legislation?

Some useful statistics: As of 2011, English was the mother tongue of nearly 650,000 Quebecers (8 per cent of the population), constituting the second largest linguistic group in the province.

Although most of the remainder of the

non-French minority is made up of allophones speaking a range of international languages, their growing presence in Quebec – combined with the declining number of historically-rooted Québécois francophones – is in itself the most important reason the CAQ government has enacted Bill 96 – as a desperate measure to artificially shore up the majority's defences against an outside invader.

But allow us for a moment to give the leader of the CAQ government, Premier François Legault, credit where credit is due to him. Where governments in this province in the past have frequently fallen when trying to deal judiciously with the issue of language, Legault has squared the circle.

He has managed to pass a massive bill dealing with something as sensitive in Quebec as language, while reconciling – through the clever and dexterous application of populism – enough support to please what appears to be the vast majority of Quebec's French-speaking citizens.

And he did this without having to invoke, as the Parti Québécois did so often when it was in power, the threat of Quebec sovereignty or separatism. For the CAQ is, after all, a party that Premier Legault custom-built from the beginning to his own specifications, while making him essentially the embodiment of power in

this province.

But in all of this, and in keeping with Legault's flawed populist approach to politics, the anglo and allophone minorities have been completely left out. As such, it remains to be seen if the Premier's magic formula can be sustained by the CAQ when Legault inevitably has to step down as leader.

In the meantime, radicals on both sides of the linguistic divide are complaining Bill 96 has either not gone far enough, or it won't stand Supreme Court of Canada scrutiny because it violates the Canadian constitution.

By the time Bill 96 reaches Canada's Supreme Court, where key sections most likely will be struck down, Legault may be changing his tune, and confirming to those who have long suspected, that he has indeed been a sovereignist all along, and was simply waiting for the opportune moment to reveal the truth – when it most suits him for political purposes.

It's worth noting that during the final adoption of Bill 96 in the Quebec National Assembly on May 24, Chomedey Independent MNA Guy Ouellette was among the 29 elected members in the 125-seat chamber who voted against the law.

Martin Barry

Conservative leadership race comes down to Poilievre or Charest

There was no mistaking that the crowd was rooting for Jean Charest last week during the Conservative Party of Canada's French-language leadership race debate, which took place in Laval.

But on the other hand, there was also no hiding the fact that his main rival, Pierre Poilievre, had the wind in his sails competing against Charest, even though the former Quebec Premier had the advantage of playing on "home ice" as a native Quebecer.

Since the smart money seems to be favoring Poilievre and Charest as the likeliest front-runners in the leadership race, we are concentrating here mostly on what each is offering.

Poilievre's grasp of the far more radical spirit that currently animates forward-looking conservatives – including a threat to fire

Bank of Canada governor Tiff Macklem, and Poilievre's embrace of cryptocurrencies, even as they deep-six – goes up against the far staid approach being taken by Charest.

And considering that Poilievre enthusiastically embraced the truckers' "Freedom Convoy" that occupied the nation's capital in January and February, it's clear he wants to be identified more with conservatives impatient for a hard-right turn, than with those, like Charest, who would rather take a more business-as-usual approach.

However, as of last week, Poilievre was still the front-runner in the race, underscoring the fact that Conservative Party of Canada support is strongest outside Quebec, especially in western Canada.

At the same time, in spite of his popularity

among CPC members in Quebec, Charest trails in support from conservatives elsewhere in the country, according to pollsters.

So, between now and September when the CPC membership finally votes, the front-runners have the summer ahead to solidify support from their backers.

What those voters will have to remember until then is that the next Conservative leader will be going head-to-head against Justin Trudeau, who has frustrated the ambitions of every CPC leader since Stephen Harper.

By late 2025, when the next general election is scheduled to take place, it should be about time Canadians were offered a real and fair choice for their next Prime Minister.

Martin Barry

Montreal lawyer Julius Grey to head legal team challenging Bill 96

Constitutional expert sees key areas he believes will not stand up to legal scrutiny



MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

Almost as soon as the Coalition Avenir Québec government's Bill 96 was passed into law on Tuesday last week, Montreal constitutional rights lawyer Julius Grey was announcing the creation of a legal team to contest the legislation updating the province's 45-year-old Bill 101 language law.

Wide ranging measures

The sweeping measures contained in Bill 96 stand to affect everything under provincial jurisdiction, including immigration, education, health care, business, municipalities and the legal system.

Perhaps most controversially, the legislation grants the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF) search and seizure powers without the need for a warrant to ensure compliance.

Long fight ahead

In several interviews with media since last week, Grey has said he expects a long and drawn-out fight over the constitutionality of Bill 96, possibly going beyond the Supreme Court of Canada to international courts.

Two days after the bill was passed in the National Assembly, the English Montreal School Board announced it would be launching a legal fight of its own, while the Quebec Community Groups Network, which represents dozens of English-language groups across Quebec, is also joining the fray.

QCGN's position

"We will also be supporting upcoming legal challenges to the law, while ensuring that its nefarious impacts on Quebecers are brought to the public's attention and are debated in the upcoming election campaign," the organization led by Marlene Jennings said in a statement.

Although the exact nature of legal challenges to Bill 96 hasn't yet been revealed, last week Julius Grey highlighted several important areas of Bill 96 that his legal team will probably be focusing on. Here are two of them:

Bill 96 would make citizens pay for French translations

According to Grey, the basic right to justice in Canada can't be overruled by the notwithstanding clause, which the Legault government is relying on to pre-emptively defend Bill 96 against constitutional challenges. As such, he believes forcing people to pay to translate certain documents submitted to courts in Quebec won't withstand a challenge.



The OQLF could search lawyers' and notaries' offices

The OQLF monitors the use of French in Quebec at workplaces and in public settings, such as on signage. Although its powers are made greater in Bill 96, including searching

business computers for materials that violate the language law, Grey believes some things in the work of lawyers and notaries must remain untouchable – including notaries' or lawyers' files – and abrogating this will not withstand a legal challenge.



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Nous tenons finalement à remercier Andrés Fontecilla, député de Laurier-Dorion, qui s'est présenté malgré son agenda chargé.



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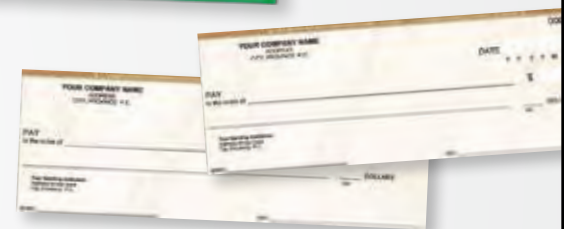
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Continued gov't deficits threaten economic recovery, Fraser Institute claims

Think-tank warns of 'significant long-term consequences' from deficit spending



MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

As the Covid pandemic appears to be passing and public relief programs are winding down, questions are starting to be asked as to when governments across Canada will be moving towards balancing their budgets and paying down their massive debts.

In that vein, a new essay released by the B.C.-based Fraser Institute notes that the federal government recorded a \$327.7 billion deficit in 2020-21 and a deficit of \$113.8 billion in 2021-22.

Deficit larger than 2008

This, the conservative-leaning public policy think-tank notes, is 27.8 per cent larger than the deficit incurred in the aftermath of the 2008 subprime mortgage financial crisis despite a strong recovery.

The Fraser Institute feels that while there was some justification for emergency spending and deficits during 2020 and 2021, "there is little or no justification for a \$52.8 billion deficit in 2022," states the report's author.

"Some people may think that deficits don't matter since governments across Canada racked up so many before and during the COVID-19 pandemic," says Matthew Lau, an adjunct scholar with the Fraser Institute and author of 'When is it Appropriate to Run Budget Deficits?'

Deficit consequences

He and the institute maintain that there are significant long-term consequences to deficit financing – even if they're not immediately visible.

The essay acknowledges that there are times when deficits are unavoidable for governments, such as during recessions and other economic shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic.

During such times, unemployment rises, which increases government spending at the same time that government revenues fall, resulting in deficits.

Crowding private sector

However, once the economy starts to recover, such as it is starting to now, government spending normally should decline while revenues increase, allowing for balanced budgets and even surpluses.



The Fraser Institute and its contributing analysts claim that continuing to run deficits during periods of recovery and growth can crowd out and compete with the private sector, which they believe actually can harm recovery and economic growth.

A second essay published recently by the institute, authored by Professor Donald J. Boudreaux of George Mason University in Virginia U.S.A., regarding James M. Buchanan and the Political Economy of Debt Financing, emphasizes theories of public spending first set out by Buchanan, a Nobel-laureate economist.

Burden on the future

The essay attempts to explain how the burden of repaying government deficits of today may fall on future generations of taxpayers, who will either have to pay higher taxes or forego other government programs in order to repay

public debt.

Boudreaux also sets about to explain how Buchanan warned against deficits because of their corrosive effects on democracy, in that the bills of today's spending are passed onto the next generation who have no current political voice or decision-making authority.

Spending others' money

"Buchanan's warning on government deficits and debt was crystal clear: we spend other people's money less wisely than we do our own, and that lesson still holds true today," says Boudreaux.

"It is almost always politically advantageous to spend now and pay later. But doing so unfairly punishes future generations. And so, governments should be restrained in how they spend other peoples' money."

Public Health warns of carbon monoxide hazards from generators

Advisory also issued about consuming food after six hours without refrigeration



MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

Following the numerous electric power blackouts that swept the region after major rain and wind storms, public health directors have issued a reminder of the various risks attached to operating gasoline-fuelled electric generators.

Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas which is invisible and odourless. Carbon monoxide poisoning can leave permanent damage or can even cause death. Only a carbon monoxide detector can alert you to the presence of this dangerous gas.

Never indoors

The public health office is warning that appliances which operate on fuels such as natural gas, gasoline, propane etc., and which include hotplates, heaters or barbecues, should never be used inside a dwelling.

As well, electric power generators should never be installed and operated inside a dwelling or even from inside a garage, and they should be run at a considerable distance from the nearest doors or windows because exhaust fumes containing carbon monoxide can accumulate

and enter a residence without your being aware of it.

Carbon monoxide detector

In these times, when gas operated generators are being used frequently by many people, the best way to protect against this type of hazard is to be equipped with a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector and alarm which will remain activated even during power blackouts.

In addition, it should be noted that smoke detectors are not equipped to detect carbon monoxide and cannot protect you should carbon monoxide build up in significant concentrations in your dwelling.

Beware food spoilage

The public health office is warning at the same time that the freshness and safety of foods requiring refrigeration or which need to be kept frozen can become compromised during electric power outages lasting more than six hours.

It is recommended that you take no risks and that you not consume food products which may have been spoiled, in order to avoid coming down with poisoning from food-borne bacterial pathogens.

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Federal Court will decide on unvaccinated question



Maxime Bernier, Brian Peckford and five others filed a lawsuit against the Government of Canada for travel bans on the unvaccinated

People's Party of Canada leader Maxime Bernier, a former Premier of Newfoundland/Labrador and five other people have filed a legal action against the Government of Canada over travel bans on unvaccinated people.

ANTONIS BOTSIKAS
antonis@newsfirst.ca

As we gradually leave the pandemic behind, the provincial governments of Canada have removed almost all health measures for Covid-19. Remaining in place as one of the last mandatory measures is the wearing of face masks on public transportation as well as in hospitals and nursing homes.

On the other hand, however, the federal government believes it should continue enforcing a tougher line towards those who have not yet decided to receive the preventive treatment of vaccination, and so it has excluded them from some basic activities, such as travel.

This response to the situation, which some believe to be extreme, is being opposed by People's Party of Canada leader Maxime Bernier, former Premier of Newfoundland & Labrador Brian Peckford, and five other Canadian citizens, who have taken legal action against the federal government.

The Federal Court of Canada has agreed to hear the case, which was brought forth by the Canadian Center of Justice, and a hearing is set for next Sept. 19. Of four separate instances cited in the case, two have been brought by former Premier Peckford. The case is being heard on a speedy basis, given the claim of a serious violation of mobility rights guaranteed by the Canadian Constitution and the Charter of Human Rights, as the plaintiffs allege.

"The honourable Maxime Bernier, leader of the People's Party of Canada, is prevented from participating fully in his political role by orders issued by Transport Canada, under the prime minister's direction," Mr. Bernier's office stated. Mr. Bernier is being represented by Quebec lawyer Samuel Bahad, an external adviser to the Center for Justice.

"By implementing these mandates, Mr. Bernier is limited from participating in democratic debates and the electoral process," a press release

further said. "As the leader of Canada's fifth-largest political party in 2021, Mr. Bernier flew more than 79,000 kilometers for labor purposes. As party leader, Mr. Bernier is invited to reach thousands of people every year and participate in various political, intellectual and philanthropic activities in all regions of the country. Travel, other than by air, is reasonably possible only within a relatively limited radius of his residence in Quebec."

It should be recalled that on Oct. 30, 2021, the federal government announced that anyone travelling by air, train or boat must have received two doses of vaccine for Covid-19.

"The travel vaccination order prevented about six million unvaccinated Canadians (15% of Canada's population) from traveling in or out of Canada," said Bernier. "Canadians cannot travel to help sick loved ones, go to work, attend university, visit their family and friends, take an international holiday and live an ordinary life like other citizens."

The federal government filed evidence in April on behalf of 16 witnesses, including five experts, in defense of the travel ban. However, the plaintiffs also submitted new evidence they claimed to be scientific, which suggested that the slowed spread of Covid-19 had nothing to do with the vaccination program, as they alleged at the same time that the vaccines could be linked to possible health damages, including myocarditis and effects on fertility.

Justice Centre lawyers are currently involved in cross-examination of government witnesses ahead of a full trial in September. The process is ongoing and will continue until the end of June.

The program of education is as follows:

- 30 May 2022 | Completion of the cross-examination of the applicants' affidavits
- 30 June 2022 | Completion of the cross-examination of the affidavits of the respondents
- 20 July 2022 | Delivery and filing of the applicants' files
- 2 September 2022 | Service and filing of the respondent's file
- 19-23 September 2022 | Hearing

Newsfirst Multimedia submitted an invitation for an interview to Mr. Bernier, which the leader of the PPC graciously accepted.

Here's the interview:

Newsfirst: Mr. Bernier, what did you base your reasoning on to take legal action against the government regarding travel restrictions for citizens who chose not to be vaccinated?

M. Bernier: "My legal challenge is based on my particular role as a federal party leader who needs to travel to do his job properly. If the court accepts my arguments as well as that of former Premier Brian Peckford and others who have initiated similar cases (all cases will be heard on the same day), then all the unvaccinated will benefit from the decision. My reasoning is explained in the attached affidavit."

Newsfirst: The government's decision to ban travel is certainly contrary to the Constitution of Canada and the Charter of Human Rights. However, the Government considers this to be a temporary measure, and that it is being done due to the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic, to protect public health. What is your opinion on this?

M. Bernier: This argument is unfounded and makes no sense. Everyone, vaccinated or not, can catch and transmit the virus. Preventing unvaccinated people from travelling has no effect whatsoever on public health."

Newsfirst: In recent weeks, the following phenomenon has been observed in Canada: On the one hand, the provincial governments have cancelled all the measures related to the pandemic and allowed all activities for all citizens, without discrimination in terms of vaccination, and on the other hand, the federal government insists that travel by the unvaccinated should be banned. Why do you think there are so many decisions to the contrary?

M. Bernier: "Because the Prime Minister is playing political games with this issue instead of governing for the good of all Canadians. During last fall's election, he used vaccine orders and widespread fear of the coronavirus among Canadians as a "tool" to increase his support. This was evident when he attacked the unvaccinated, whom he described as racists and misogynists. I think he is still using this issue to pretend to be a public safety advocate, even if he has no basis in science. It divides Canadians and marginalizes about 15% of those who are unvaccinated because they believe it continues to benefit him politically."

Newsfirst: Citizens see two completely opposite decisions and do not know which science to believe in. Why do you think this is the case? Is there a specific reason?

M. Bernier: "It should have remained a medical issue, but unfortunately it has been highly politicised, as was mentioned in the previous answer. When you use a pandemic as a pretext to restrict freedom of speech and create all sorts of new programs that would not be acceptable in normal times, and when billions of dollars are spent to support the economy as a consequence of unnecessary restrictions, then it is inevitable that somehow all these measures have to be politically justified."

It's worth noting that towards the end of our question-and-answer session, Mr. Bernier said the federal government, after being apprised of the lawsuit, had not responded to the allegations.



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Dismantling of a major amphetamine production and distribution network

In what promises to be a seizure on an unprecedented scale, officers from the Organized Crime Division of the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) have been dismantling a major network of trafficking and production of amphetamines in Greater Montreal and several regions of Quebec. Over 6.5 million tablets worth approximately \$32.5 million have been seized so far.

Highlights

The dismantling operation, which began in the early hours of the morning, stems from an investigation initiated in September 2021 by the Anti-gang team of the SPVM's Organized Crime Division. A total of 28 searches took place today in Montreal, Laval, the Laurentians, Montérégie, Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie. We are talking in particular about major searches in the borough of Saint-Léonard, Boucherville, Chambly, Val-David, Yamachiche, Lanoraie, Saint-Anne-des-Plaines, Saint-Hubert, Sainte-Thérèse and in Beloeil.

Among the places searched, there are several warehouses. The targeted facilities served either as an amphetamine production facility, as a storage facility, or both. The searches have so far resulted in the arrest of eight suspects and the seizure of:

- 6.5 million tablets of amphetamines;
- 21 guns;
- 500 kg of methamphetamine powder;
- 6 presses for the manufacture of tablets;
- Over \$300,000 in cash.

The police investigation revealed that this major network managed to sell about \$5 million in amphetamines per week across the prov-

ince. It is therefore approximately one million tablets per week which are thus withdrawn from circulation thanks to the police strikes carried out today.

"To make money, organized crime uses criminal activities including drug trafficking, fraud, human trafficking and pimping. By attacking the income of organized crime as we have succeeded in doing today, we are attacking the purchasing power of criminals, in particular to acquire firearms", explained the commander of the Organized Crime Division of the SPVM, Francis Renaud.

A total of 280 police officers participated in the dismantling operation, to which the Sûreté du Québec and various municipal bodies lent their support.

Amphetamines are synthetic drugs that are particularly popular with young people. They are found in the form of capsules, powder or tablets in different colors and shapes. They can cause serious health risks.

Continuation of the investigation and additional arrests to come

This major police operation is being carried out in two phases. The first is the interruption of criminal activities and the multiple searches carried out today. The second phase will aim to make other arrests within the dismantled network, based in particular on the evidence gathered today.

Anyone with information that may be useful to investigators can contact 911 or their neighbor-



hood station. It is also possible to communicate anonymously and confidentially with Info-Crime Montréal at 514 393-1133 or via the reporting form available on the infocrimemont-

real.ca website .

The SPVM thanks the population for its cooperation.

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Stabbing in Park Ex leaves man injured

A series of violent incidents have some Montrealers concerned over public safety



MATIAS BRUNET-KIRK
matias@newsfirst.ca

A 41-year-old man was violently stabbed in a local café on Jean-Talon last Tuesday afternoon, amid a series of three unrelated stabbings and a shooting which happened across the city that day.

The incident occurred at around 4:45 PM on May 24 when reports were made to police of a man in the street with a machete.

"We received reports of a man walking in the street with a knife in hand," said Véronique Comtois, a spokesperson for the SPVM.

Police stated that the suspect then walked into the café on Jean-Talon Boulevard West on the corner of Wiseman and stabbed a man to his upper body inside. The man was sent to hospital but his injuries were not considered life-threatening.

29-year-old arrested

The incident caused the street between Stuart and Outremont to be cordoned off to vehicle and pedestrian traffic for several hours as police conducted an investigation.

"The investigators went on-site and conducted an analysis of the scene, but so far we have no updates on the situation," added Comtois.

Later that evening at around 8 PM, police were called to a separate incident downtown at the corner of Saint-Marc Street and Maisonneuve Boulevard West.

This time, a 42-year-old man was stabbed after a fight broke out between multiple people, said police. The man was rushed to the hospital in critical condition. The police said at the time that no arrests had been made and the investigation remained ongoing.

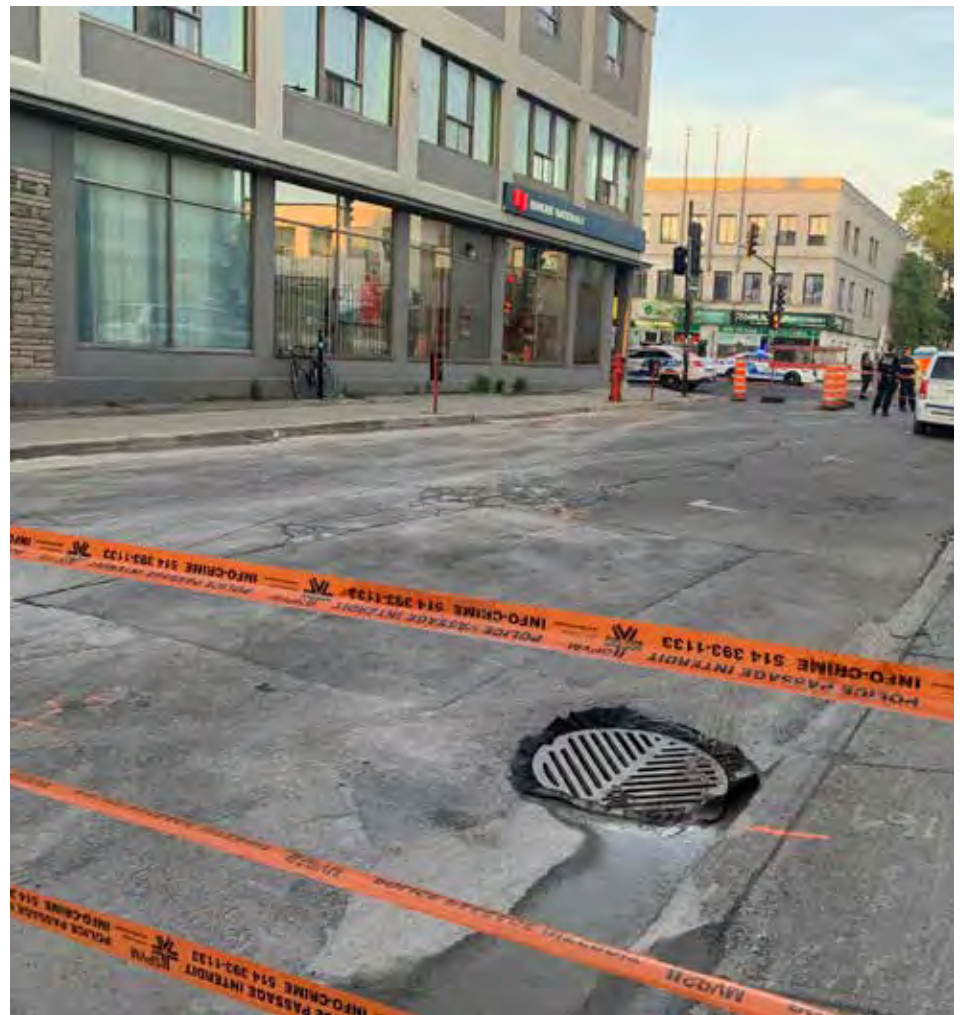
Shooting at a daycare

One of the most alarming events to happen that day was a shooting that occurred in front of a daycare in Riviere-des-Prairies. At around 5:30 PM, two people in a black vehicle opened fire on a strip mall at the corner Charles-Renard et André-Ampère.

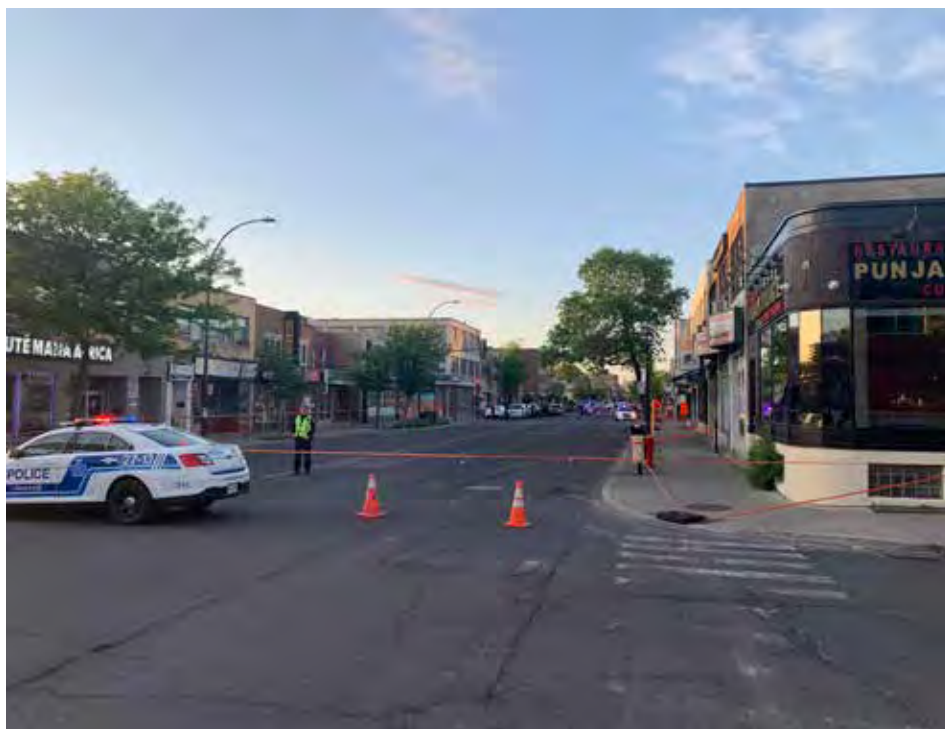
According to police, approximately 20 shots were fired toward the building, hitting a restaurant and a daycare. The daycare was closed at the time and no children were present.

At least a dozen bullet holes were found throughout the building, including three in the window of the daycare center.

The SPVM stated that there was no indication that anyone on the scene was targeted, with one investigator telling *Le Journal de Montréal* that it may have been just for the sake of discharging a firearm.



Police stated that the suspect then walked into the café on Jean-Talon Boulevard West on the corner of Wiseman and stabbed a man to his upper body inside. Photo: George Papafilys



The incident occurred between Wiseman and Outremont and caused the street to be cordoned off to vehicle and pedestrian traffic for several hours. Photo: George Papafilys

The police arrested a 29-year-old male shortly after the incident who later met with case investigators. According to police, there is still no confirmation of whether or not he has appeared in court.

Series of violent incidents

The SPVM responded to two other stabbings and one shooting in four hours, in what amounted to a particularly violent Tuesday for Montreal. Police nonetheless specified all incidents were unrelated.

The first incident occurred at 4:30 PM in the Anjou borough, where a 14-year-old boy was stabbed in the upper body after an altercation between several people. The boy was sent to hospital but was not in a life-threatening situation.

Mayor calls for more gun-control

In the wake of the shooting in Riviere-des-Prairies, Montreal Mayor Valérie called upon the federal government to do more to control handguns and their illegal trade throughout the country.

"I don't know how long we will have to wait and when there will be enough political courage, but I call on the federal government to something because handguns are circulating," said Mayor Valérie Plante the following Wednesday.

"The SPVM and the SQ say it: every time they succeed in removing weapons, others come in and it isn't the municipalities that can find a solution to that," she added.

Federal bill proposes tighter restrictions

Since the Mayor's speech last Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government published the details of a new bill they say will address the proliferation of firearms in Canada and mentioned last week's shooting in Riviere-des-Prairies.

At a press conference on Monday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, as well as cabinet ministers announced they would be putting

a freeze on the sale, transfer and import of handguns and would be increasing minimum sentencing for firearm offences.

"In other words, we're capping the market for handguns," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told a press conference Monday. "As we see gun violence continue to rise, it is our duty to keep taking action," he added.

The legislation nonetheless fell short of a comprehensive ban on handguns, which the Trudeau government defended as a way of respecting responsible gun owners.

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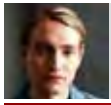
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'Our neighbours are artists'

New community art project shines a light on local artists with multimedia projections



MATIAS BRUNET-KIRK
matias@newsfirst.ca

Whether it's ornately painted murals covering the sides of buildings or small, delicately crafted drawings on defunct satellite dishes, Park Extension is no stranger to public art projects.

This June, a new community art project is coming to the neighbourhood in the form of free multimedia projections by local artists on the sides of buildings throughout the borough.

The *Nos voisins sont des artistes* art project was put together over the past year by À Portée de Main, a social, cultural, artistic and professional intervention organization based in Saint-Michel.

They assembled a roster of multidisciplinary artists from across the borough and assisted them in creating multimedia pieces that use mapping technology to project them onto the sides of buildings. The first projection in Park Ex will take place at the William-Hingston Centre on Friday, Jun. 3 at 9 PM.

Participative art

The project was first started during the pandemic, with the objective of showcasing multimedia art installations by artists from the area made in collaboration with the local population.

"Its participative art, so people can meet the artists in their area, be it Saint-Michel or Park Ex," said Francis Brisebois, Co-Director of À Portée de Main, explaining that several cohorts worked with the artists to co-create the multimedia projections.

"The idea was to offer this in the neighbourhood," said Brisebois, adding "it often happens downtown or in more *hype* areas, but we wanted to make it available in Park Ex and Saint-Michel, where it happens less."

The organization has worked closely with local multidisciplinary artists including Joel Janice and Patricia Perez of Park Ex, Omar Gammaoui and Yamoussa Bangoura of Saint-Michel and Ligia Borges and Kattam Laraki-Côté of Villeray.

Mapping projections

The project is the first of its kind in the



This June, a new community art project is coming to the neighbourhood in the form of free multimedia projections by local artists on the sides of buildings throughout the borough. Photo: À Portée de Main

borough, harkening to the projections on buildings often seen in Montreal's more touristic Old Port and downtown areas. The project differs from conventional 2D projection as it uses mapping technology.

Mapping consists of scanning the surface of a building to identify deviations in its surface and to create a digital template to use for the projections.

This allows the artist to create multimedia specifically tailored to the building it is projected on, for example omitting windows or doors from the projection to not disturb people inside.

People are invited to come to projections at nightfall, where artists will be in attendance to present their projects. "It's a good opportunity for exchange between the artist and the general public," added Brisebois.

Artists from across the borough

The roster of participants is composed of multidisciplinary artists from across the borough, including musicians, dancers, actors and visual artists. "We wanted it to be more representative," explained Brisebois.

"Our organization's proposition is for the project to be as multi-artistic as possible," he added, explaining that they did not want to only choose visual or multimedia artists to lead the initiative.

Joel Janice, who goes by the stage name Jjanice+, is a Park Ex-based musician who participated in creating some of the multimedia pieces. Patricia Perez, also based in Park Ex is a dancer, percussionist and multi-instrumentalist who also worked on the project.

"The idea is to say our neighbours are artists, so these are people who are either implicated in

the community, have businesses in the area or live in the neighbourhood," explained Brisebois.

Digital divides in disadvantaged neighbourhoods

À Portée de Main has been operating since 2015 in Saint-Michel, working in the field of social development through art and culture. With their newest project, the organization hopes to make in-roads in Park Ex.

"The organization's mission is to foster the development of individuals and communities in a perspective of diversified creativity by using the arts and culture as a means of social development," reads the organization's mission statement.

"There really is a digital divide," explained Brisebois of areas like Park Ex and Saint-Michel. "People have less access to technology and new technological approaches and there are fewer cultural hubs," he added.

Through projects like *Nos voisins sont des artistes*, the organization hopes to foster a dynamic artistic scene in historically disadvantaged areas.

More events to come in Park Ex

The project is funded in part through the *Entente de développement culturel*, a partnership between the City of Montreal and the Ministry of Culture and Communications of Quebec.

There will be additional projections in Park Ex at Marché Macca on Jun. 16 and at Parc Metro on Jun. 24 at 9 PM. All events are free of charge and open to the public.

A full list of projections as well as more information is available on À Portée de Main's website.



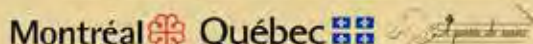
Du 28 MAI au 09 JUILLET - 21H

VENEZ DÉCOUVRIR SIX ARTISTES LOCAUX PAR LE BIAIS DE TABLEAUX MULTIMÉDIAS CO-CRÉÉS AVEC LES CITOYENS ET PROJETÉS EN STYLE «MAPPING» SUR DES BÂTIMENTS DE L'ARRONDISSEMENT VILLERAY-SAINT-MICHEL-PARC-EXTENSION

1	SAMEDI 28 MAI Maison du citoyen 1501 Rue François-Parrot
2	VENDREDI 03 JUIN Centre William Hingston 419 Rue Saint-Roch
3	SAMEDI 04 JUIN CECRG 4105 4 ^e Rue
4	JEUDI 09 JUIN HLM Gabriel Sagard 3001, rue Duhamel
5	SAMEDI 11 JUIN HSMR / Mon resto 8558 Allée Léo Bruchet
6	JEUDI 16 JUIN Marché Macca 8435 Avenue / de laque
7	VENDREDI 17 JUIN Patro Villeray 1350 Av Christophe Colomb
8	JEUDI 23 JUIN Métro Jarry / Jean Coutu 127 Jarry Est
9	VENDREDI 24 JUIN Métro Parc 1242 Rue Hochelaga
10	JEUDI 30 JUIN Parc Champ-d'or 2400 Rue Champlain
11	VENDREDI 1er JUILLET Café Laras & Fils 214 Rue de la Colombe
12	SAMEDI 09 JUILLET Parc George-Vernet 8475, 12 ^e Avenue

Projet réalisé par Guillaume Sorey et À Portée de Main, financé dans le cadre de l'entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal conclue entre la Ville de Montréal et le gouvernement du Québec.

CONTACT : aporteedemain@gmail.com - SITE WEB : www.aporteedemain.com/serveurcontenu/artistes



There will be additional projections in Park Ex at Marché Macca on Jun. 16 and at Parc Metro on Jun. 24 at 9 PM. All events are free of charge and open to the public. Photo: À Portée de Main





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5 business email etiquette tips



As remote work becomes increasingly popular, employees are sending out more digital messages than ever. Here are five tips to help you craft a perfectly polished business email.

1. Include a subject line.

Don't leave the subject line blank. Include a clear and concise header that accurately reflects the content of your email.

2. Use a professional greeting.

Avoid using laid-back salutations such as "Hi folks" or "Hey guys." Instead, start your email with phrases such as "Good morning," "Good afternoon," "Good evening" or simply "Hello."

3. Keep the message brief.

Use short paragraphs and formatting such as bullet points to make

your emails easy to skim. In addition, instead of sending a long email, consider arranging a phone or video call to get your message across.

4. Proofread the message.

Take the time to re-read and spell check your emails to ensure they make sense and have the right tone before you press send.

5. Reply to all emails promptly.

Try to reply to all emails within 24 hours, even if it's just to acknowledge that you received the message.

Lastly, emails can easily be misinterpreted without context. Consequently, be careful about making jokes or using sarcasm as you don't want to confuse or offend the recipient.



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Losing a loved one can be an overwhelming ordeal. Nevertheless, the deceased's family typically must oversee a variety of administrative tasks and make numerous decisions to organize the funeral service. To ensure your loved ones don't have to deal with these burdens while grieving your passing, make the necessary after-life arrangements without delay.

There are two contracts you'll need to sign off on: one for the funeral arrangements and one for the burial.

The former specifies the services that will be afforded upon your death, which may include cremation, embalming and a ceremony. This document also outlines the purchase of associated items such as the coffin, urn, monument and/or flowers.

The burial contract, on the other hand, has to do with the purchase and maintenance of your final res-

ting place. This may pertain to a cemetery plot, a mausoleum or a space in a columbarium.

Advantages

When you pre-arrange your funeral, you ensure that your after-life services will unfold according to your personal preferences and beliefs. Additionally, you'll be doing your loved ones a kindness by preventing them from undertaking on such a trying task at a time when they're already grieving.

Making pre-arrangements for your funeral also has many financial benefits. For example, given that you'll pay for all goods and services at their current price, and that no additional amounts can be charged after your death (even if your coffin costs twice as much by then), you'll avoid the costs associated with inflation.

For all of the above reasons, making pre-arrangements for your funeral is the wise and compassionate thing to do.



ROSSI, Guido
1936 – 2022

It is with deep sadness that the family announces the passing of Guido Rossi on Sunday, May 29, 2022 at the age of 86.

He will be sadly missed by his beloved wife Antonietta Di Sabato Rossi, his loving children Giuseppe, Enzo and Walter (Maria), his cherished grandson Dante, his brother Michele, his sister Giovanna and other relatives and friends.



MAROLLY, Maureen (née Rodrigues)
1944 – 2022

On May 31st, 2022, Jesus called Maureen Marolly home peacefully in her sleep. She will be deeply missed by her beloved husband Clayton, children Arnold (Lynn), Adrian (Kathy), Alicia (Adamo) and Andrea, grandchildren Brittany, Fiona, Mika, Angelina, Matthew, Maya, Noah, Jessica and Anthony, late sister Jeanette (Anthony), late brother Diego, sister Charmaine, nephews and nieces Cedric, Darrell, Marina, Nigel, Benita and Bento, brothers-in-law Julius (late Carol), Alan (Yolande), Robert, late David, and sisters-in-law Maroussa (Raphael), Ramona (Richard), Margaret (Arnold) and Eileen (Arthur).



LÉONARD, Linda
1965 – 2022

In Montreal, on Monday, May 30, 2022, passed away at the age of 57 Mrs. Linda Léonard, daughter of the late Maurice Léonard and the late Jacqueline Archambault.

In addition to her husband André Wolfe, she is survived by her daughter Catherine Wolfe (Antoine Cyr-Desmeules), her son Jean-Sébastien Wolfe (Inès Bariz), her sister Manon Léonard, her father-in-law André Wolfe (Ginette Ferland), her uncles, aunts, cousins, and many friends.



BOISVERT, Francine
1944 – 2022

In Montreal, on May 29, 2022, at the age of 78, Mrs. Francine Boisvert passed away.

She is survived by her daughters Martine and Isabelle (Guy), her grandchildren Marianne (Kurt) and Frédérik, her brothers and sisters Ginette, Daniel (Ginette) and Suzel (Claude), as well as other relatives and friends.



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HOROSCOPE

Week of JUNE 5 TO 11, 2022

The luckiest signs this week:
SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN

ARIES
You have a lot of work ahead of you. The small details may take a long time to sort out. You may also be promoted at work, which will materialize gradually over the next few weeks.

TAURUS
You'll be highly charismatic. People will love, support and follow you wherever you go. You'll suggest interesting projects to your boss and significant other, and they'll both agree with you.

GEMINI
Your children will be demanding, and you'll become involved in their various activities. You'll also get the green light from the bank to finance a property or significant home renovation.

CANCER
You'll express yourself clearly when it comes to money and finance. You'll make big plans with your significant other, such as buying a house, to ensure that you have a promising future together.

LEO
Now is an excellent time to ask for a loan, perhaps to consolidate your debts. Don't hesitate to ask your boss for a raise; they won't be able to refuse you this week.

VIRGO
A new and exciting challenge awaits. There may be a new beginning on the horizon. You may take steps to go back to school or deepen your spirituality.

LIBRA
Your health may get in your way. Find a good doctor or research treatment to improve your quality of life. You'll see results, which will put you on top of your game.

SCORPIO
You'll expand your network of professional contacts, grow your circle of friends and increase your following on social media. You'll be able to combine business with pleasure at work, at home and in your free time.

SAGITTARIUS
Whether at work or home, you'll be involved in a demanding project that will be profitable over time. You must be patient; abundance is slow in coming. However, it'll be yours soon enough.

CAPRICORN
Training over the next few months will enable you to obtain a new qualification in your field. You may go on an adventure that broadens your horizons and boost your self-esteem.

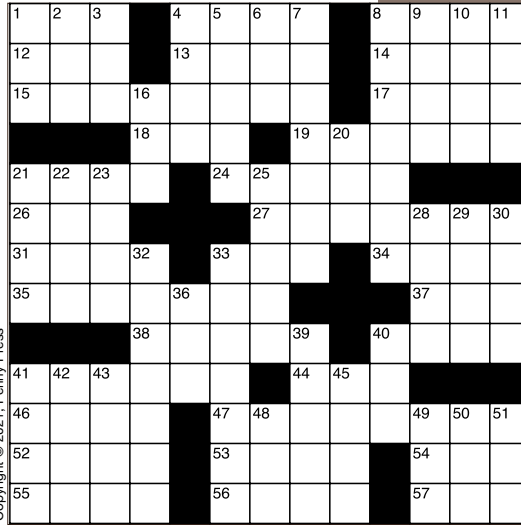
AQUARIUS
If there's tension in your relationship, you'll take serious measures to find a solution. Planning quality time with your partner is essential. However, avoid topics about external problems.

PISCES
If you're single, someone you don't know will offer to take you on an adventure. A business trip will turn out to be profitable if you have mastery of the subject matter. Weigh the pros and cons before making a decision.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 126



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ACROSS

- Derby, e.g.
- "___ a Wonderful World"
- Long narrative
- Spud bud
- Long-eared animal
- Heroic poem
- Harbors
- Egg holder
- Acorn bearer
- Browns bread
- Roger Moore role
- Fast
- Iron or Stone
- Surrounds
- Santa's vehicle
- Relay portion
- Gather a crop
- Won over
- Time division
- Harsh sound
- Mine products
- Straightens

DOWN

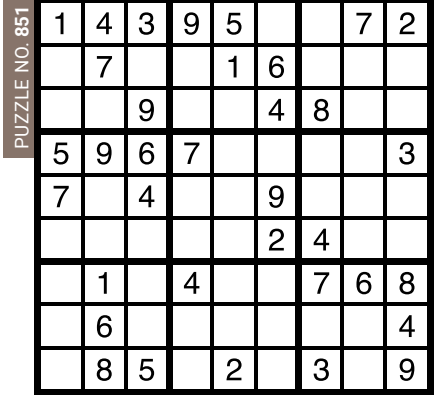
- Males
- Pirate's yes
- Afternoon gathering
- Halt!
- Listens
- Painting or photography
- Sampling
- Member of Congress
- Copycats
- Meaning
- Behaves
- Legume holder
- ___-the-wall
- Deep tone
- Rude look
- Require
- Undesirable plants
- Rude glance
- Chance
- Some resorts
- Underground prison
- Free time
- Not pro
- Restaurant customer
- Young's opposite
- "The Sun ___ Rises"
- Coil
- Loafing
- Laze around
- Green veggie
- As well
- Squirt gun, e.g.
- Shepherd's charge

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.**

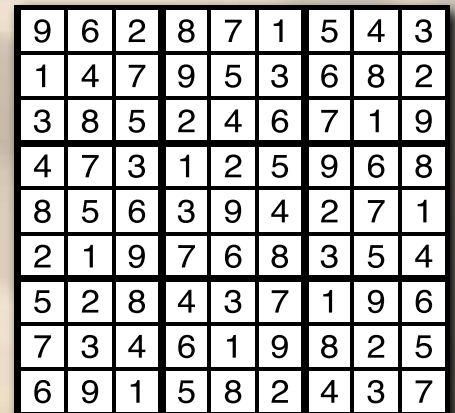


Last Issues' Answers

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