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August 11, 2020

DEVON GENERAL HOSPITAL REOPENS EMERGENCY DEPT

Phase 1 reopening patient access from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily

Submitted by Alberta Health Services

Effective Aug. 18, the Devon General Hospital emergency department (ED) will begin a phased reopening,

accepting patients from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

The ED was temporarily closed on April 20 as part of Alberta Health Services' COVID-19 response. The closure was implement-

ed to help protect 14 long-term-care residents at the hospital, who are at heightened risk for severe illness if exposed to COVID-19.

Continued on Page 2

THORSBY RCMP ARREST YOUTH AFTER LATE NIGHT SHOOTING – CHARGES LAID

Submitted by Thorsby RCMP

On August 2, 2020 a male youth was arrested in connection with a shooting that occurred on August 1

at a residence in Warburg. The RCMP have now laid charges against the youth.

The 17-year-old Accused, who cannot be named, is facing six criminal charges as follows: aggravated as-

sault, unlawful discharge of a firearm, careless use of a firearm, unauthorized possession of a firearm and point a firearm (x2).

Continued on Page 3

THORSBY RCMP RESPOND TO POSSIBLE DROWNINGS AT PIGEON LAKE

Submitted by Thorsby RCMP

On Aug. 7, 2020 at approximately 1:10 p.m., Thorsby

RCMP responded to a report of a possible drowning at Pigeon Lake.

An adult female was located along the shoreline of

Silver Beach near Milhurst Bay and pronounced deceased at the scene.

Continued on Page 3

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E.J. Lewchuck & Associates Ltd.

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Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3A8

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Devon General Hospital Reopens Emergency Department

Continued from Page 1

To help protect these residents, a temporary barrier has been built to allow ED patients to access services separate from inpatient areas of the hospital. As well, staff will be designated to one area of the hospital and will not transition between the ED and inpatient units.

AHS will monitor patient volumes and acuity regularly to determine when the hospital's ED can resume 24-hour service. Until then, local residents seeking after-hours emergency care are advised to visit the Leduc Community Hospital or the Westview Health Centre in Stony Plain.

All patients requiring

immediate medical care should phone 911.

Individuals requiring non-emergency medical care continue to be encouraged to call their family physician. To speak to a nurse and receive telephone advice and health information, families can also contact Health Link 24/7 by dialing 811.

For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta, visit www.ahs.ca/covid or www.alberta.ca/covid19.

JOKE of the week

Man to florist: 'I'd like a bunch of flowers, please.'

Florist: 'Certainly, sir. What flowers would you like?'

Man: 'Er.. I'm not sure...Ummm..'


Florist: 'Let me help you, sir - what exactly have you done?'



See What's Brewing

Nothing goes better with your morning coffee than your local paper.

Welcome BACK-TO-SCHOOL



School is in! Let's practice school bus safety. Wishing all of our local students a safe, happy & successful school year!

MARK SMITH
MLA FOR DRAYTON VALLEY-DEVON

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CANADA REVENUE AGENCY UPDATE

Submitted by of Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, would like to inform constituents that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is extending the payment deadline and applying relief to interest on existing debt. The payment due date for current year individual, corporate, and trust income tax returns, including instalment payments, from September 1, 2020, to

September 30, 2020. Penalties and interest will not be charged if payments are made by the extended deadline of September 30, 2020. This includes the late-filing penalty if the return is filed by September 30, 2020.

Interest on existing tax debts related to individual, corporate, and trust income tax returns from April 1, 2020, to September 30, 2020 and from April 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020, for goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/

HST) returns will also be waived. While this measure for existing tax debts does not cancel penalties and interest already assessed on a taxpayer's account prior to this period, it ensures that a taxpayer's existing tax debt does not continue to grow through interest charges during this difficult time. This measure provides immediate relief to impacted taxpayers.

The previously extended filing due dates for individual, corporate, and trust

income tax returns remain unchanged. However, the CRA will not impose late-filing penalties where a current year individual, corporate, or trust return is filed late if it is filed by September 30, 2020.

Remember to file your individual, corporate and trust returns as soon as possible, even though payment deadlines are being extended. This is particularly important for individuals receiving credits and benefits, such as the Canada Child Benefit.

Thorsby RCMP Arrest Youth After Late Night Shooting – Charges Laid

Continued from Page 1

Following a judicial interim release hearing, the male has been released from custody on conditions. He is scheduled to appear in Youth Court on August 26, 2020 in Breton Provincial Court.

The RCMP are not looking for any other suspects, and will have no further updates.

BACKGROUND:

Warburg, Alta. – In the early morning of August 2, 2020 a male victim attended an area hospital with a gunshot wound. RCMP were advised and Thorsby RCMP became engaged.

Information indicates that on August 1 at approximately 11:00 p.m., a male was shot at a residence and suffered non life-threatening injuries. Thorsby RCMP have arrested one male youth without incident.

Canada Revenue Agency Update

- The CRA is extending the payment deadline and applying relief to interest on existing debt.
- The payment deadline has been pushed back from September 1, 2020, to September 30, 2020.
- The CRA will not impose late-filing penalties provided your return is filed by September 30, 2020.
- These measures provide immediate relief to impacted taxpayers.



Gerald Soroka, MP
Yellowhead

For additional questions please visit my website or contact my constituency office using the contact information below

GeraldSoroka.ca

Gerald.Soroka.c1@parl.gc.ca

780-723-6068

@GeraldSoroka
@geraldsoroka

Thorsby RCMP Respond To Possible Drownings at Pigeon Lake

Continued from Page 1

Wetaskiwin RCMP police boat along with assistance of Mulhurst Bay and South Pigeon Lake fire departments, EPS Air 1 and STARS helicopter began searching the area. Police located a

deceased adult male along the same shoreline and a kayak was found a short distance away.

The investigation into their deaths continue. There is no indication that this is a criminal incident. Further information from the RCMP will not be provided.

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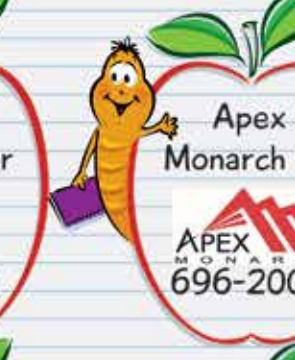





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BACK-TO-SCHOOL

That means extra care is needed when driving in school zones and when busses are loading and unloading their students. Slow down for pedestrian crossings and watch for kids dashing across the street.

This safety reminder courtesy of the following local businesses:











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 <p>Darren Scott Accounting 696-3800</p>	 <p>Village of Breton 696-3636</p>	 <p>Nature's Fuels Liquor Store 696-2015</p>	 <p>Apex Monarch Inc.  696-2000</p>
 <p>Alsike Corner Gas 696-2399</p>	 <p>Prairie Mines & Royalty ULC -Genesee 848-7786</p>	 <p>Wilf Brandt Trucking 542-0797</p>	 <p>Keyera Corp -Buck Lake 388-3740</p>

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

DID YOU KNOW?

- Red means STOP. The penalty for passing a school bus with its alternating flashing red lights activated is \$402 and six demerit points.
- School buses in Alberta transport nearly 250,000 youngsters twice a day.
- Transport Canada reports that school bus travel in Alberta is 16 times safer than commuting in the family vehicle.
- The biggest bus danger to children is when they are getting on and off the bus.
- More than 6,300 school buses are driven by conscientious, dedicated drivers every school day in Alberta.

This safety reminder is brought to you by these caring businesses:

 Village Supermarket 789-2132	 Royal Care Guardian Pharmacy 789-3686	 Arctic Spas – Blue Falls Mfg 789-2626	 ARRGO –Thorsby 789-3301	 G & N Contracting 789-2210
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 Town of Calmar 985-3604	 Calmar Pharmacy  985-3142	 Calmar Fas Gas 985-7224	  985-3418	

A MESSAGE FROM MLA MARK SMITH

Submitted by MLA Mark Smith | Drayton Valley – Devon Constituency

Life is full of challenges and therefore choices. Sometimes it is difficult to address the challenges in life. This is true for every individual on a personal level, it is true for the private business man or woman and it is also true for the Government of Alberta.

This past legislative session the government continued down the path to address some of these challenges. It has been a very busy spring at the Alberta Legislature. I am proud to share that this session, Alberta's government introduced and passed 34 bills through the Legislature. The COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented economic collapse faced this year disrupted the normal legislative session, but Alberta's government was still able to deliver on 93 more platform commitments while taking concrete measures to save lives and livelihoods. This means Alberta's government has already kept or is well underway on 68 per cent of platform commitments made. I am also pleased to say that our Legislature met more times than any other legislature in Canada, including the federal Parliament.

Between 2008 and 2020 the Alberta energy industry contributed \$359 billion in revenue to the Federal and provincial budgets. Creating a favourable tax environment for business, including the energy industry not only pays for the public services Albertans need but stimulates business across Alberta and Canada. In order to stimulate business and create jobs the Alberta Government once again dropped the corporate tax rate, this time going from 10% to 8%. This sends the message to business both inside and outside of Alberta that we are the most competitive

province in North America in which to do business. This will encourage growth, jobs and the investment of foreign capital into Alberta.

I am happy to share that the Invest Alberta Corporation (IAC) is ready to hit the ground running and attract job-creating investment back to Alberta. The IAC's mandate is to attract high-impact, job-creating investment to Alberta and

promote the province as a preferred investment destination to national and international investors. The IAC will coordinate the work of Alberta's 11 trade promotion offices, with a renewed focus of attracting foreign direct investment in Alberta. The board will hold its inaugural meeting in August, and their perspectives and expertise will help the agency bring in job-creating investment

from around the world.

Clearly Albertan's face daily challenges, as does the Government of Alberta. The Alberta Government is going to have to continue to address the economic problems of overspending, a drop in revenue and rising debt but it is also true that the Government is working hard to address these challenges and to grow the economy.

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”

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MASKS FOR SCHOOLS PROCUREMENT: MINISTER LAGRANGE

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange issued the following statement on the procurement of reusable masks for students and staff for the 2020-21 school year:

"Some have recently questioned the ability of Alberta's government to purchase the requisite 1.6 million reusable masks in time for the start of K-12 classes this fall. Orders totalling 1.7 million masks have been placed — one to IFR, an Alberta-based company, and the other to Old Navy. The total value of the mask contracts is \$4.2 million.

"When the school re-entry plan was announced on June 10 and a decision on

how students would return to school was announced on July 21, it was indicated that the decision on masks in schools was still pending, as Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Deena Hinshaw was still considering emerging scientific evidence from other jurisdictions. Despite this pending decision, Alberta Education, in conjunction with the Provincial Operations Centre (POC), began preparing for the contingency should Dr. Hinshaw decide to recommend masking in schools.

"Given the expediency required, the POC has directly approached experienced, established vendors to fulfil personal protective equipment (PPE) needs for school reopenings. Government of Alberta contracting

policies allow for this expedited process in urgent situations, as a standard request for proposal tendering process would not allow the government to fulfil our schools' needs in the timely manner required.

"Alberta has excelled at the urgent need to purchase PPE. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the POC has successfully procured more than six million masks, and the Pandemic Response Planning Team has also procured more than six million masks. This does not include the 185 million clinical masks purchased directly by Alberta Health Services. Forty million masks were also distributed directly to Albertans.

"Both Alberta Education

and the POC are confident that masks, sanitizer, thermometers and face shields will be distributed to school divisions prior to the resumption of classes. Students, schools and staff will receive their PPE for the beginning of the school year.

"We understand the eagerness of some local businesses to help with the effort. Often, these are businesses that manufactured non-PPE products prior to the pandemic and/or have more limited production capacity. We sincerely appreciate the enthusiasm of those wanting to help. That said, our primary objective is ensuring the large volume of reusable masks can be obtained and distributed in time for the start of the school year."

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL

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SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

1. Always listen to the school bus driver 2. Always stand in a group while waiting for the bus. No pushing or shoving. 3. Always stay out of the DANGER ZONE until the bus driver says its ok to get on. You are too close if you can touch the bus. 4. Always remember to wait until the bus stops before standing up and leaving your seat. You move away from the bus and out of the DANGER ZONE right away when you get off the bus.

**THIS SAFETY REMINDER
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WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Safety First!

Children who walk or ride bicycles to school should also obey the rules of the road. Be sure you see the kids off every morning, and consider checking in with the school or calling kids' cell phones to confirm they arrived safely.

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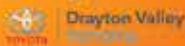
Welcome Back to School!!

Let's Keep the Kids Safe this School Year with These Easy Tips

- Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop and walk with your child beforehand.
- Ask your children to walk home in pairs or with friends.
- Teach your child never to talk to strangers.
- Make sure your child knows their phone number & address as well as how to call 911.

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542-4443

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621-1625



FOUR VEHICLE COLLISION ON HIGHWAY 625

Submitted by Leduc RCMP

On Aug. 4, 2020 at approximately 11:45 a.m., Leduc

RCMP with assistance of the Alberta Sheriffs responded to a four vehicle collision on Highway 625 westbound at the Highway 2 overpass.

Preliminary investigation revealed a commercial vehicle was driving westbound on Highway 625 when the vehicle's trailer

had detached from the towing unit causing a rear-end collision involving three other vehicles.

No injuries were reported.

RCMP LAY FRAUD CHARGES

Submitted by Drayton Valley RCMP

Drayton Valley, Alta. – The RCMP have laid charges following an almost two-

year investigation into fraudulent activity at a not-for-profit organization.

In September 2018, the RCMP launched an investigation following a complaint from a local organization that they alleged to have been defrauded of more than \$200,000 by their Treasurer over a four-year period. The ensuing investigation by the RCMP was thorough and complex.

Eric Paul Butz (35) of Drayton Valley has been arrested and charged with fraud over \$5,000, forgery

and uttering forged documents. He has been released to appear in Drayton Valley Provincial Court on September 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

At the time of this offence, Eric Butz worked as a Certified Chartered Accountant in the town. RCMP are asking members of the public to report any suspicious financial activity in any accounts handled by Mr. Butz. If you feel that you are the victim of an offence, please contact Drayton Valley RCMP at (780) 542-4456



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SUDOKU

of the week

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Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

ANSWER:

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

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

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SCHOOL HEALTH MEASURES NOW INCLUDE MANDATORY MASKS

Submitted by Government of Alberta

As part of a number of new school safety measures to combat COVID-19, mask use for Grade 4 to 12 students, and all school staff, will be mandatory when school returns for the 2020-21 year.

While mandatory mask use is for students in Grades 4 to 12 and all staff, all students and staff in public, separate, Francophone, charter and independent schools will receive two reusable masks from Alberta's government. More than 1.6 million masks will be distributed to 740,000 students and 90,000 staff. Additional single-use masks will be available at schools, if required.

Mask use will be mandatory for staff and teachers in all settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained. Students will be required to wear them in all shared and common areas such as hallways and on buses. Exemptions will be made for students and staff who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other needs.

Mask use for kindergarten to Grade 3 students will continue to be optional. Mask use for younger children is a challenge due to difficulties with proper fit and compliance. In addition, evidence shows that children under 10 may be less likely than older children or adults to transmit COVID-19.

"The safety of our staff and students continues to be my number 1 priority. Since cancelling in-person classes in March and developing our school re-entry plan, we have been clear that we would

continue to adapt our guidelines as necessary based on current medical advice. These new safety measures will help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools, and we will continue to work with our school authorities to ensure they are equipped for a successful start to the school year." - Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education

"After reviewing the emerging evidence, it is clear that masks can play an important role in limiting the spread of COVID-19. I am not making this updated recommendation lightly, but acting on the best current evidence available. While masks are important, I want to stress that they are only one of the many public health measures in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of students, staff and families." - Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta

"CASS' board of directors appreciates the government's commitment to adapting Alberta's health guidelines as new medical information becomes available and for ensuring school divisions are receiving the protective equipment they need for a successful transition back to school. This announcement clearly demonstrates Alberta Education's willingness to take the necessary steps to support the safety of staff and students. We appreciate their continued collaboration and support as we approach the beginning of a new school year." - Bevan Daverne, president, College of Alberta School Superintendents

Alberta's government re-

mains committed to adjusting the school re-entry guidelines based on current medical advice. The chief medical officer of health has been studying the evidence around masking in schools, and this decision is a direct result of evolving medical advice.

Face shields

School staff will receive one reusable face shield for their use in the schools. Shield use is at the discretion of the individual staff member. Plastic face shields can help reduce exposure but are not equivalent to masks. A mask must still be worn while wearing a face shield.

Hand sanitizer

About 466,000 litres of hand sanitizer will be distributed between all school authorities. The specific volume provided to an individual school authority will be based on student population.

Thermometers

Each school will receive two contactless thermometers to assist with managing student and staff health. Thermometer use will be at the discretion of the school authority.

Staff testing

Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services are working hard to expand testing capacity and reduce turnaround times for testing, including in-school staff, teachers and students, so that anyone with symptoms or close contacts of cases can be rapidly tested and receive test results promptly.

All supplies will be distributed to school authorities by the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. Authorities will then distribute to individu-

al schools, staff and/or students based on the needs of their own communities.

Provincial health guidance for a safe return to school will continue to evolve as necessary to reflect the latest evidence on the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Individual school authorities are developing return-to-school plans that meet the needs of their own communities. These plans are based on direction provided under the provincial school re-entry plan, and supporting health guidance documents.

Alberta's Recovery Plan is a bold, ambitious long-term strategy to build, diversify, and create tens of thousands of jobs now. By building schools, roads and other core infrastructure we are benefiting our communities. By diversifying our economy and attracting investment with Canada's most competitive tax environment, we are putting Alberta on a path for a generation of growth. Alberta came together to save lives by flattening the curve and now we must do the same to save livelihoods, grow and thrive.

Quick facts

- Alberta's government announced students and staff would return to school under scenario 1 - near-normal daily operations with health measures - on July 21.

- School authorities are required to be prepared to move between the three scenarios outlined in the provincial school re-entry plan. Changes to scenarios will be determined by Alberta Education.





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