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January 12, 2021

LEDUC RCMP HELD 2ND ANNUAL STUFF A CRUISER

Submitted by **Leduc RCMP**

On Dec. 19, 2020, Leduc RCMP held their 2nd Annual Stuff a Cruiser in Support of the Leduc District Food Bank.

Leduc RCMP partnered with Vintage Towing to set-up at three grocery stores in Leduc where donations

were collected to Stuff a Cruiser and Tow Truck.

“As a team, we collected 2596 lbs of food and raised over \$3100.00 to support the local food bank. The food collected and money raised will make a huge difference in the lives of many Albertans. It is great to see the community and community organizations

working together with police to support the Leduc & District Food Bank” says Constable Cheri-Lee Smith.

Leduc RCMP and Vintage Towing want to thank Craig’s No Frills, Leduc Coop and Leduc Safeway for their support of the Leduc & District Food Bank.

PARKLAND RCMP REQUEST PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO LOCATE STOLEN TRACK HOE EXCAVATOR

Submitted by **Parkland RCMP**

A Case CX470B yellow track hoe excavator with a Border Paving logo on it was reported as stolen from the Border Paving yard located at 54106 Range Road 15 near Onoway, AB. The complainant advised the theft occurred on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021 between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

The suspect(s) would have needed a semi truck with a low bed to tow the track hoe.

If you have seen the track hoe or have any information that can assist with this investigation, please contact

the Parkland RCMP at 825-220-7267 or your local police.



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TWO CHARGED AND IDENTIFIED IN RELATION TO SHOOTING, ONE AT LARGE

Submitted by Leduc RCMP

UPDATE #3
Leduc, Alta. – Leduc RCMP General Investigation Section have identified and charged two other males in relation to the shooting.

Jeremiah Leavesley (20) of Leduc, Alberta, was located in



B.C. and was arrested with the assistance of Kelowna RCMP.

Jeremiah Leavesley has been charged with 14 charges including the following:

- Robbery using a firearm
- Careless use of a firearm
- Possession of a firearm for a dangerous purpose
- Unauthorized possession of a firearm
- Pointing a firearm
- Disguise with intent

Leavesley was returned to Alberta where he was remanded into custody after a judicial hearing and is scheduled to appear in Leduc Provincial Court on Jan. 14, 2021.

Logan Hicks (19) of Leduc, Alberta, was charged with the following:

- Robbery using a firearm
- Assault with a weapon
- Disguise with intent

Hicks was released from custody following a judicial hear-

ing and is scheduled to appear in Leduc Provincial Court on February 4, 2021.

Leduc RCMP continue their efforts to locate Salah Ali Aden (20) of Edmonton, Alta. who remains at large.

Salah Ali Aden is described as:

- 6”3
- 166 lbs
- Black hair
- Brown eyes

Aden’s current whereabouts are unknown, however, he has been known to frequent Edmonton area. Police believe he may be in possession of a firearm and ask the public not to confront him.

Leduc RCMP are seeking the public’s assistance in locating Salah Ali Aden. If you have any information about his whereabouts, please contact Leduc RCMP at 780-980-7267 or your local police.

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JOKE of the week

An overweight time traveler goes to ancient Rome and realizes he wore historically incorrect clothes for the trip. Realizing his mistake he visits a toga shop to purchase new clothes. He looks around the shop and realizes they do not have togas big enough to fit him. He goes to the counter and asks the clerk:

Time traveler: Do you have XL togas?
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A MESSAGE FROM MLA MARK SMITH

Submitted by MLA Mark Smith | Drayton Valley – Devon Constituency

As we kick off 2021, Alberta's government remains focused on protecting the lives and livelihoods of Albertans. From administering vaccines to ensuring we have strong public health measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, we are working tirelessly to keep Albertans safe.

Alberta's government is leading all major provinces in COVID-19 immunizations. In fact, more than 65 per cent of the vaccines we have received have been administered to vulnerable Albertans and healthcare workers. In total, 33,864 doses of the vaccine have been administered in the province as of Jan. 6, working out to roughly 765 doses per 100,000 Albertans – the highest rate per capita in the country. Our province's phased approach to vaccination prioritizes healthcare workers and our most vulner-

able. Eligibility to receive the COVID-19 vaccine will continue to expand as more vaccines arrive in Alberta.

As was announced in December, rapid testing has been expanded to include vulnerable Albertans and has begun at long-term care and designated supportive living facilities in the Edmonton area. Remote and rural hospitals in Alberta are receiving rapid tests, and rapid testing has also been expanded to homeless shelters and centers in both Calgary and Edmonton.

Our government also remains focused on ensuring our children can learn in a safe and thoughtful way. As previously scheduled, schools opened to in-person learning on January 11th. This decision was based on the latest evidence which demonstrates that before the Christmas break, case rates in schools flattened and then dropped, once restrictions on social gatherings were implemented. In September, a clear

majority of parents chose in-person learning for their children during the pandemic, and Alberta's education system has done an excellent job of implementing and following provincial health measures. The return to school occurred with strong guidelines in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff and students, while also helping restore a sense of normalcy for our children.

Alberta's government is actively evaluating the latest public health data to assess if the current level of restrictions need to be adjusted. As of now, families, businesses, organizations and service providers must continue to follow existing public health measures until at least Jan. 21. We recognize that changing health guidelines can be difficult on businesses, in particular, which is why we continue to consult with affected industries and are committed to providing businesses with at least one week's notice before any changes.

The measures that were implemented in December have helped reduce the number of active cases, however, overall case numbers, hospitalizations and positive testing rates continue to remain high. The worst thing we could do right now is increase chances of another wave of cases that would, in turn, jeopardize our healthcare system. We all have a role to play as part of the solution, and we will continue to carefully assess the data to determine what options are available to provide Albertans with more flexibility in their lives. In the meantime, please continue to follow public health measures as we will all need to work together to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in Alberta.

Alberta's government is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by protecting lives and livelihoods with precise measures to bend the curve of COVID-19, sustain small businesses, and protect Alberta's healthcare system for all.

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RCMP GENERAL INVESTIGATION SECTION CHARGES MALE IN SERIES OF HISTORICAL ROBBERIES

Submitted by Alberta RCMP

A 12-month investigation into nine different robberies and break and enters that occurred between December 30, 2019 and Jan. 30, 2020 has led to charges against an adult male.

Mitchell Curtis Bitzer (35) is charged with 56 counts including one robbery with a firearm, three assaults

with a weapon, four robberies with a weapon, multiple counts of possession of firearms and other weapons as well as several break and enters, theft and breach charges. These charges stem from a spree of robberies and break and enters committed in the towns of Devon, Ashmont, Alberta Beach, Andrew, Thorhild, Blue Ridge and Fort Assiniboine. In several of these

robberies the victims were working alone at rural stores or hotels and were bear sprayed by the suspect during the robberies.

The local RCMP detachments utilized the RCMP General Investigation Section (GIS) to coordinate the complex investigation into all the occurrences, and as a result linked the suspect responsible. The investigation entailed search warrants,

production orders, forensics and statements from over a dozen victims and witnesses.

Bitzer was already custody on other matters when he was charged. He remains in custody and his matter has been set over to Dec. 17, 2020 in Fort Saskatchewan Provincial Court to speak to bail. No other suspects are being sought in relation to the above incidents.

CANADA SUMMER JOBS 2021 EMPLOYER APPLICATION PROCESS OPENING DECEMBER 21, 2020

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead is pleased to announce the employer application period for CSJ 2021 will open on Monday, December 21, 2020, and close on Friday,

January 29, 2021. Not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers, and private-sector employers with 50 or fewer full-time employees can start preparing their applications now to hire a young Canadian.

Similar temporary flexibilities introduced for CSJ

2020 will be applied this year to help small businesses operate. These include:

- a wage subsidy, so that private and public-sector employers can receive up to 75 percent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee (not-for-profit organizations will continue to receive 100 percent);
- an extension to the end date for employment to

February 26, 2022; and allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis.

Employers interested in applying for CSJ 2021 funding are encouraged to prepare their applications in advance of next week's launch. Applicants who do not have an account on the secure Government Grants and Contributions Online Services portal are encouraged to create one prior to the launch of the application process. Registration is a one-time process that allows employers to submit their applications for CSJ funding and other funding opportunities offered through Employment and Social Development Canada.

Canada Summer Jobs 2021

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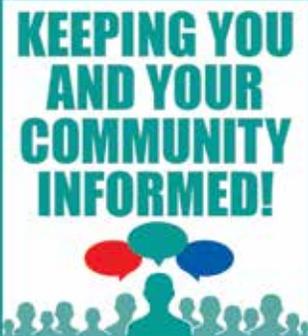
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Gerald Soroka, MP
Yellowhead

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CRA ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY FLAT RATE METHOD TO CLAIM HOME OFFICE EXPENSES FOR THOSE WORKING FROM HOME DUE TO COVID

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, would like to inform constituents that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has announced a new temporary flat rate method

to simplify claims for home office expenses.

Those that worked more than 50% of the time from home for a period of at least four consecutive weeks in 2020 due to COVID-19 can claim \$2 for each day worked from home during that period. The maximum

amount any individual can claim for the temporary flat rate method is \$400.

This method can only be used for the 2020 tax year.

Those that have larger claims can still choose to use the detailed method to calculate employment expenses. To do so, get a

completed and signed Form T2200S or Form T2200 from your employer and keep documents to support your claim.

For more information visit: Canada.ca/cra-home-workspace-expenses

JOINT SECONDER ON BILL C-205 TO AMEND THE HEALTH OF ANIMALS ACT

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead is pleased to advise that he is a joint seconder on Conservative MP John Barlow's Private Members' Bill, C-205, 'An Act to amend the Health of Animals Act (Bi-

osecurity on Farms).' This Bill will make it an offence under the Health of Animals Act to enter, without lawful authority or excuse, a place in which animals are kept if doing so could result in the exposure of the animals to a disease or toxic substance.

The Act currently provides for the control of diseases

and toxic substances that may affect animals or may be transmitted by animals to persons. However, the obligations and prohibitions apply in respect of the owner of the animals. Currently, there is nothing which addresses trespassers. This legislation aims to change that situation.

This Bill will not, in any way, limit an individual's right to peacefully protest on public property. However, it will increase the penalties for groups and organizations who encourage individuals to threaten the biosecurity of animals and workers.

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LEDUC COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES INTERIM 2021 BUDGET

Submitted by Leduc County

This morning, Leduc County council approved the 2021 interim municipal budget, which represents a zero per cent tax dollar budget increase over the 2020 final budget. The decision followed three days of public deliberations.

“The interim 2021 budget that council approved today strikes a balance between fiscal responsibility and providing the municipal services that our residents and businesses have come to expect. The last 10 months have been difficult for everyone, which is why it was important to us to maintain a zero per cent tax dollar budget increase.” - Mayor Tanni Doblanko

The interim operating and capital budgets are set at \$83.8 million and \$11.3 million, respectively. The interim operating budget includes \$25.7 million in provincial requisitions, collected on behalf of the Government of Alberta and the Leduc Regional Housing Foundation.

The approved interim budget allows important

projects to proceed or continue during the first few months of the new year, before council approves the final budget in the spring. Council will approve the final budget and set tax rates in the spring. Once tax rates are set, tax notices will be mailed out to all ratepayers. 2021 interim budget high-

- lights
- \$14.5 million for road projects and maintenance
- \$561,000 for bridge projects
- \$2.16 million in cost-share recreation support to six partner municipalities
- \$1.66 million for capital and operating support
- \$500,000 to the Beau-

- mont Sport and Recreation Centre expansion (\$2.4 million over five years)
- \$263,450 for support to not-for-profit facilities and community recreation and cultural grants
- \$148,000 for support to six libraries
- \$2 million for wastewater projects

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A MESSAGE FROM MLA MARK SMITH

Submitted by MLA Mark Smith | Drayton Valley – Devon Constituency

The fall sitting of the legislature has come to an end. For the past several months, your UCP caucus has been working tirelessly to honour the commitments we made to you during the election, while also protecting lives and livelihoods as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and implement Alberta's Recovery Plan. From introducing legislation and updating programs to developing a safe school re-entry plan to ensure your children continue to receive the world-class, high-quality education they deserve, Alberta's government has been working hard to make life better for everyday families and businesses.

In October, we acted to protect construction jobs in the province. We heard very loudly from contractors and subcontractors in the construction industry that they were struggling financially because they were not being paid on time. Through amendments made to the

Builders' Lien Act, we are ensuring that they receive timely payments for their work, allowing them to support their families.

In November, as part of an ongoing review of the Police Act, we acted to address the concerns raised around policing in Alberta and banned carding. We believe in improving policing, not defunding. However, we also recognize the concerns that exist in our communities, and that is why after years of inaction by the NDP, we announced this ban. By making this long-overdue change, Alberta's government is correcting a mistake from the past and ensuring the public knows that the police are there for them – to serve and to protect.

We have also been hard at work to protect lives and livelihoods as we continue to respond to the rapidly evolving pandemic. Fall 2020 saw our kids return to school after months of at-home learning and the summer break. To support a safe school year, Alberta's government provided school authorities with access to nearly three-quar-

ters of a billion dollars in taxpayer funding, including funding for masks and capital upgrades. This funding, coupled with health measures like cohorts, has helped keep our kids safe since the school year began.

We quickly recognized the impact that COVID-19 was having on faith-based and cultural organizations. These organizations play important roles in the lives of Albertans, and they swiftly adapted to continue bringing hope, support and connection to their communities from a distance. We realized that these organizations needed support to help them be there for their communities during this period of increased stress. That is why, as part of Alberta's Recovery Plan, we established the new Faith-based and Cultural Facility Relaunch Grant to help ensure that cultural and religious communities can safely meet.

We have also introduced strong new public health measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our health care system. In the wake of these new measures, we are provid-

ing affected businesses with historic support through the Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant. In short, we are tripling the second round of the benefit from \$5,000 to \$15,000, and reducing the revenue-loss threshold from 40 per cent to 30 per cent. This means many Alberta businesses will be eligible for \$20,000 of support between the first and second rounds of the benefit. We know the new measures won't be welcomed by all, but the number one duty of any government is to protect its people, and that's what we're doing.

This Christmas season, we want to encourage you to shop local and support local businesses. We are all facing this pandemic together, and by supporting each other, we will get through it together.

Your UCP MLAs are continuing to work hard representing you and keeping the promises we made to you in 2019. This will continue into the new year, and we will keep fighting to ensure Alberta's economy recovers while protecting your lives and livelihoods.

SUDOKU of the week

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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:

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

Valentine's Day

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RCMP POLICE DOG SERVICES HAD BUSY YEAR RESPONDING TO 2,800 CALLS



Submitted by Alberta RCMP

Alberta RCMP Police Dog Services (PDS) had a busy 2020. They responded to 2,800 calls for service and captured over 900 criminals. Of these 2,800 calls:

- Approximately 650 involved firearms or other weapons
- 570 involved violence-related offences
- 450 calls were for missing people
- Over 950 calls were for

property crime related offences

- PDS deployed in a tracking profile over 700 times which resulted in 400 captures

The majority of 2020 was spent with Albertans experiencing some stage of lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite these unique circumstances, there was no shortage of work for our Police Dog Service teams. Part of why they are so busy is their key role in rural property crime

initiatives. PDS teams are used in a primary role in locating and apprehending rural property crime suspects.

The Alberta RCMP PDS is comprised of 18 teams strategically placed throughout the province. These teams are trained to track, as well as search for, suspects/missing persons, crime scene evidence, firearms, as well as controlled substances or explosives.

All Alberta RCMP Police Service Dogs are purebred

German Shepherds. The RCMP has been breeding German Shepherds since 1999. They are able to produce enough puppies to satisfy their training needs and no dogs are purchased for training. Generally, one in three puppies will become an RCMP working dog or breeding female.

Our dog teams will continue to respond to calls over the holidays and we would like to thank them for working tirelessly to keep Albertans safe in 2020.



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CENTRAL ALBERTA DISTRICT CRU SEARCH WARRANT LEADS TO RECOVERY OF 460 STOLEN TIRES

Submitted by Central Alberta District CRU

Leduc County, Alta. – The RCMP Central Alberta District Crime Reduction Unit (CAD CRU) made several arrests, laid a multitude of charges and recovered stolen property valued at over \$150,000.

On Jan. 5, 2021 CAD CRU initiated an investigation after information was received that a well known, multi-jurisdictional, repeat offender was in possession of a substantial amount of stolen property at a rural location in Leduc County. The rural residence was also known to be occupied by several other known, violent offenders.

CAD CRU members obtained a search warrant for the property and solicited the assistance of RCMP Air Services, Emergency Response Team and PDS to assist with execution of the Search Warrant. Seven individuals were arrested at the property, all whom are known offenders from the Leduc Detachment area.

During the search of the property CAD CRU members located extensive stolen property including multiple cheque books from break and enters in Leduc and Grande Prairie Detachment areas, a GMC Sierra Denali 2500 truck (valued at approximately \$70,000.00), a Volvo Semi truck tractor, stolen from Parkland Detachment area (valued at \$60,000.00) attached to a stolen 53' foot semi-trailer. The trailer was loaded with 460 new passenger vehicle tires (valued at \$27,249.00), which were recently reported stolen with the trailer from a business in Edmonton. Also seized was a variety of ammunition along with 3 firearms suppressors, and a homemade Im-

provised Explosive Device (IED). After the discovery of the IED the Explosives Disposal Unit was deployed and they attended the residence to safely destroy the IED on scene.

Following execution of the search warrant, three in-

dividuals were released on Undertakings while Tyler Jeremy Smith (34), Warren Frederick Young (45), Roseanna Quintal (24) and Lindsay Dawn Gallie (31) had judicial interim release hearings. All are released and scheduled to appear

in court on Jan. 28, 2021 in Leduc.

This investigation led to 42 new criminal charges laid against the Accuseds, with the possibility of additional charges to follow.



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CONVENIENT: Can be sprayed into pet's mouth or on food.

For more information, Call (780) 907-8642

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE RCMP CRIME REDUCTION UNIT PROJECT ANNOUNCES SUCCESSES

Submitted by Rocky Mountain House RCMP

It has been a successful year for the Rocky Mountain House's Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) and the detachment looks forward to achieving continued positive outcomes. The Crime Reduction Unit was initially piloted for 6 months, and based on reported successes, was turned into permanent positions, made possible by the creation of 2 new provincially funded positions this past year. Two dedicated and highly motivated constables have now completed one year in these newly developed positions.

The CRU consists of a specialized team that target

crime through enhanced intelligence gathering and application. These officers, with the support of civilian analysts, focus on providing actionable intelligence to front line members with increased information sharing amongst enforcement partners. The CRU is a proactive unit focused on suppressing the activities and behaviours of prolific offenders through persistent and self-generated investigations.

Over the past year, the Rocky Mountain House CRU accomplished the following:

- 168 arrests in 187 days worked
- Over 15 ounces of drugs seized including methamphetamine, cocaine and fentanyl (with a street value of \$45,000)

- 18 firearms seized
- 13 search warrants executed
- 27 investigations actioned where stolen property was recovered

The intelligence tactics and expertise of the Rocky Mountain House CRU also allowed the team to achieve the following:

- Assist front line general duty with quick response and follow up on in-depth investigations as needed;
- Maintain and update Project Summit, which was created to strategically target high risk offenders in the jurisdiction and monitoring those offenders for compliance with their court imposed conditions
- Identifying high crime areas ("hotspots") by analyzing

crime statistics and targeting patrols and enforcement in those areas

• Support other sections of the detachment and units (MCU, GIS, ALERT, ITU) and develop relationships with important external partners including the Probation Office and Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN).

"Despite the challenging and uncertain circumstances of the pandemic in 2020, this unit has had an effective year by accomplishing key initiatives and investigations" says Staff Sergeant Carl Dinsdale of Rocky Mountain House RCMP. "I look forward to reporting on 2021 successes and our continuing efforts towards targeted crime suppression and reduction in our detachment area."

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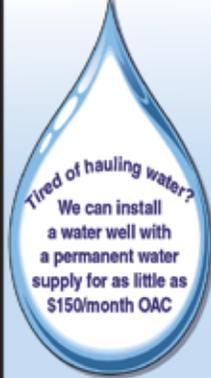
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