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**May 15, 2024**

## ALBERTA RCMP MAJOR CRIMES UNIT INVESTIGATE HOMICIDE IN LEDUC

Submitted by Alberta  
RCMP

On May 7, 2024, Leduc  
RCMP received a report of a

well-being check on a male  
at an apartment building on  
50 street in Leduc. Upon en-  
tering the apartment, RCMP  
located a deceased male.

The male was transported  
to the office of the Chief  
Medical Examiner and the

*Continued on Page 2*

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR CANADA'S VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Submitted by MP Gerald  
Soroka

Gerald Soroka, Member of  
Parliament for Yellowhead,  
wishes to advise the launch

of the 2024 Canada's Vol-  
unteer Awards. From April  
15th to June 12, individuals,  
non-profit organizations,  
social enterprises, or so-  
cially responsible business-

es who made a significant  
contribution in improving  
the lives of others in their  
community through volun-  
teering can be nominated.

*Continued on Page 2*

## A PROVINCIAL EXAMPLE, A FEDERAL NECESSITY

Submitted by MP Gerald  
Soroka

The 2021 tragedy in  
Hinton, where we lost  
16-month-old Noah Mc-

Connell and his mother,  
Mchale Busch, has left a  
deep scar on our commu-  
nity. This horrific event not  
only brought grief but also  
a pressing call for tangible

measures to prevent such  
occurrences in the future.  
It was in this context that I  
came across an OP-ED by  
the MLA for Camrose,

*Continued on Page 3*

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## Alberta RCMP Major Crimes Unit Investigate Homicide In Leduc

*Continued from Page 1*

Alberta RCMP Major Crimes Unit was deployed and took carriage of the investigation. The deceased has been identified as 74-year-old Leduc resident Leonard Harry Belcourt.

As a result of the investigation, on May 8, 2024, the Alberta RCMP Major Crimes Unit with assistance from the Leduc RCMP General Investigations Section charged Leduc resident, Scott Thomas Serson (45), with Second-Degree-Mur-

der.

Serson was taken before a Justice of the Peace and remanded into custody with his next court date set for May 10, 2024 at the Alberta Court of Justice in Edmonton.

## Call for Nominations for Canada's Volunteer Awards

*Continued from Page 1*

In addition, recipients can choose a registered not-for-profit organization in Canada to receive a \$5,000 grant for the regional awards and \$10,000 for the national award.

The Canada's Volunteer Awards (CVA) consists of twenty-one awards, includ-

ing one national award, the Thérèse Casgrain Lifelong Achievement award, and twenty regional awards. The regional awards are distributed across five regions in the following four categories: Community Leader, Emerging Leader, Business Leader, and Social Innovator.

Nominations are being ac-

cepted in the following categories:

- \*One national award – Thérèse Casgrain Lifelong Achievement Award for an individual who has volunteered for at least 20 years;
- \*Five regional awards – Emerging Leader for young volunteers

*Continued on Page 3*

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# Call for Nominations for Canada's Volunteer Awards

*Continued from Page 2*

between the ages of 18 and 30;

\*Five regional awards – Community Leader for in-

dividuals or groups of volunteers;

\*Five regional awards – Business Leader for businesses and social enterprises; and\*

\*Five regional awards – Social Innovator for not-for-profit organizations and social enterprises.

More information can be found at: <https://www.can->

[ada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/volunteer-awards/nominate.html#h2.2](https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/volunteer-awards/nominate.html#h2.2)

## A Provincial Example, A Federal Necessity

*Continued from Page 1*

Jackie Lovely, detailing Alberta's legislative response to cases like Noah and Mchale's.

In response to the loss suffered in Hinton and similar cases, Alberta's government has introduced significant legislative changes, aimed at tightening the reins on violent and sexual offenders. The new measures include a provincial ankle bracelet monitoring program, targeting repeat

violent and sexual offenders, as well as individuals on bail who pose a clear risk to public safety. These steps are a decisive move towards enhancing the security and wellbeing of our communities.

While Alberta has taken commendable steps, it highlights a glaring gap at the federal level. My Private Member's Bill, C-336, known as Noah's Law, seeks to address this gap by intensifying the monitoring of highly-likely-to-repeat

sex offenders. Noah's Law would extend reporting obligations to 30 years for highly-likely-to-repeat sex offenders and mandate completion of a rehabilitation program before any easing of reporting requirements can be considered. Additionally, it proposes stricter requirements for offenders to report any change of address and makes failing to report a criminal offense.

The actions taken by Alberta in response to these

types of tragedies serves as both a blueprint and a call to action. It is imperative now more than ever for the federal Liberal government to follow suit. We have the responsibility and the means to ensure that the lessons learned from past tragedies translate into stronger protective measures nationwide. Let us honour the memories of those we've lost by ensuring a safer future for all Canadians.

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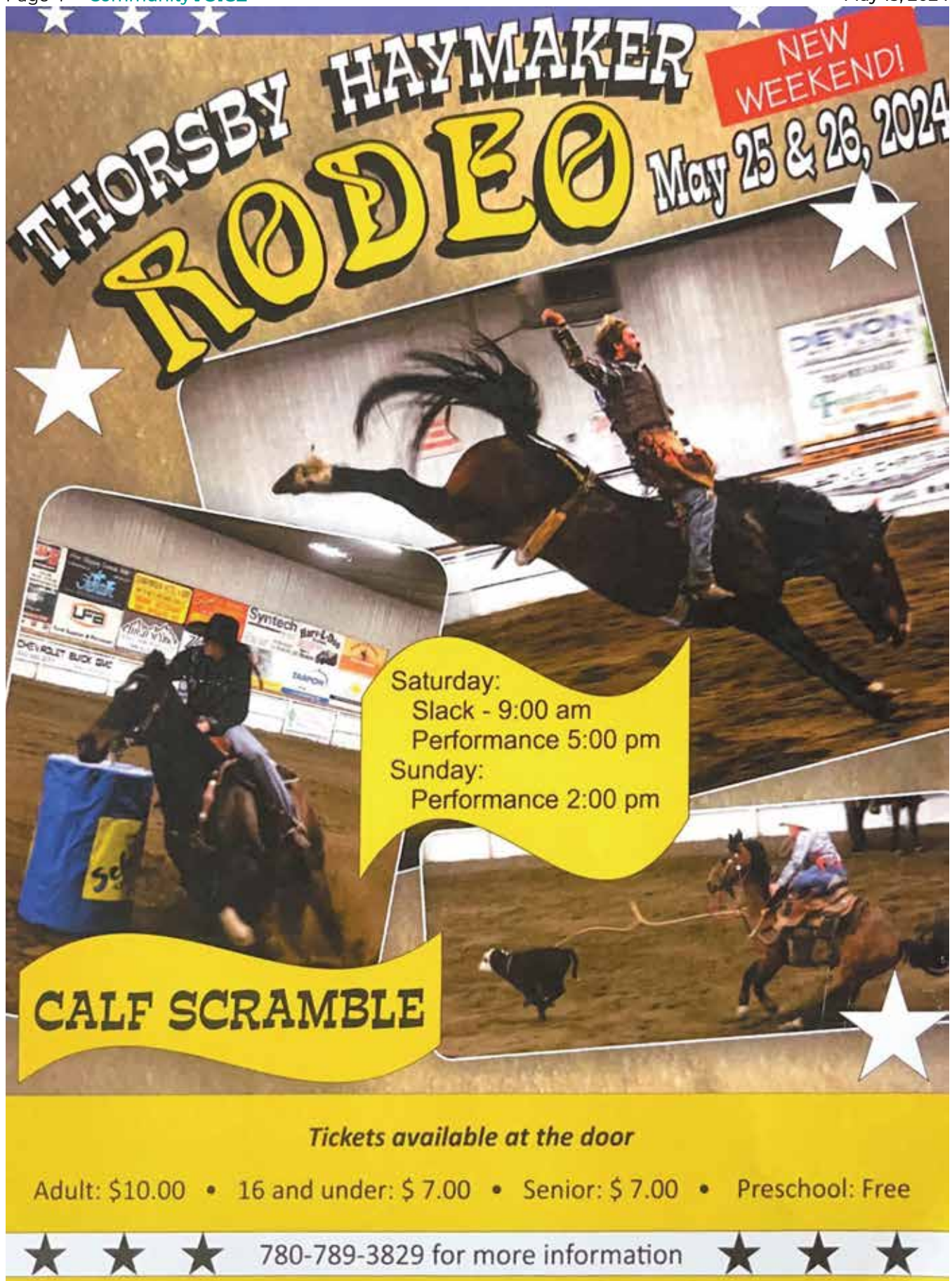
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# DRAYTON VALLEY RCMP ARRESTS TWO IN DRUG TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION

Submitted by Drayton Valley RCMP

In Feb. 2024, members of the Drayton Valley RCMP General Investigation Section (GIS) entered into a drug trafficking investigation involving a local residence. On April 18, 2024, the Drayton Valley RCMP, with the assistance of the Alberta RCMP Western Alberta District (WAD) Crime Reduction Unit (CRU), executed a search warrant on the home in the town of Drayton Valley.

As a result of the search, police located and seized what is believed to be methamphetamine, cocaine and fentanyl,

along with weapons and over 9000\$ in Canadian currency. A stolen motorcycle was also located and seized from the property.

As a result of the investigation, the following individuals were arrested:

- Tyler James McKerry (35), a resident of Drayton Valley, has been charged with:
  - o Possession for the purpose of trafficking (x3);
  - o Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000;
  - o Possession of a prohibited weapon (x2);
  - o Possession of a weapon for a dangerous pur-

pose;

- o Possession of a weapon contrary to order (x2); and

- o Fail to comply with a release condition (x4).

• Allyn Nicholas Elkow (41), a resident of Drayton Valley, has been charged with:
 

- o Possession for the purpose of trafficking (x3); and
- o Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000.

McKerry and Elkow were brought before a justice of the peace and remanded into custody. They are to appear at the Alberta Court of Justice in Breton on April 24, 2024.

“Drug trafficking investigations and enforcement have been identified as high priority issues by the community of Drayton Valley. Drug traffickers use and exploit individuals with addictions leading to an overall increase in property crime and drug overdoses within our community. This, in turn, leads to further victimization of other members of the community. The Drayton Valley RCMP remains committed to the enforcement of those who choose to profit off these addictions” said Cpl. Cam Turner, NCO/IC of Drayton Valley GIS.

## ALBERTA RCMP MAJOR CRIMES UNIT INVESTIGATE HOMICIDE IN O'CHIESE FIRST NATION

Submitted by Alberta RCMP

On April 30, 2024, Rocky Mountain House RCMP responded to a report of a deceased male at a residence on O'Chiese First Nation. Upon arrival, officers located a deceased person. Based on the initial investigation, police believe the cause of death is suspicious.

The Alberta RCMP Major

Crimes Unit was deployed and has taken carriage of the investigation. The deceased has been taken to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner where an autopsy is scheduled for May 2, 2024.



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# RCMP REPORT HIGHLIGHTS CRIME REDUCTION IN LEDUC

Submitted by City of Leduc

Crime in Leduc is decreasing, according to the Leduc RCMP's presentation to City Council on Monday, April 29.

The RCMP report shows a 10 per cent decrease in total Criminal Code offences from January to March 2024 when compared to the same time in 2023. This includes:

- 12 per cent decrease in break and enters
- 33 per cent decrease in motor vehicle theft
- 40 per cent decrease in theft under \$5,000

"We're all quite pleased to see crime statistics declining in Leduc," says City of Leduc Mayor Bob Young. "Trends presented by the RCMP indicate we are headed in the right direction and pinpoint areas where we will continue to focus our efforts to enhance community safety for all."

In recent months, improving safety downtown has been of special interest for the City and RCMP and has resulted in the following actions:

- Downtown was added to the Crim Reduction Unit's priorities.
- RCMP and community Peace Officers work various shifts

downtown to patrol, including overtime shifts, and take a zero-tolerance approach

• RCMP have returned to mandatory patrols for at least 30 minutes. All business units at the detachment are working together to support clients in need while reducing crime and supporting safety downtown.

"This decrease in crime is due to our targeted approach to crime reduction along with joint forces operations and our strong relationships in the community," says Staff Sergeant Brent Meyer, Central Alberta District Advisory NCO.

"We will continue to evaluate our priorities in order to further reduce crime and ensure community safety and well-being."

The City of Leduc and the Leduc RCMP want to help create a safe environment for our whole community that will deter unwanted criminal activity. Everyone has a role to play, and residents are encouraged to report suspicious and criminal activity to the RCMP.

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# PROPERTY TAXES IN LEDUC WILL BE LOWER THAN FORECAST IN 2024

Submitted by City of Leduc

Leduc City Council passed the 2024 Property Tax Bylaw during their Apr. 29 meeting which means an average 4.5% increase for residents – a reduction from the original 5.1% that was estimated when the proposed budget was approved in December 2023. This decrease is due to the difference between the estimated new assessment growth (2.3%), and the actual assessment growth, 3%.

“Our residents have told us time and again that they want us to keep taxes low without cutting

back on services, and responsible, conservative budgeting is one way we get this done,” says City of Leduc Mayor Bob Young. “Council and administration are proud to have developed a sustainable budget that carefully balances the needs of our growing community with our financial requirements, providing Leduc residents with the second lowest increase in the Edmonton Metro region as a result.”

Individual tax increases will vary based on the assessed value of the property. For example, if a house valued at \$350,000 in 2023 has a 4.7% increase in assessed

value and is now assessed at \$366,450, their increase in property taxes will be equivalent to about \$9.50 a month. To calculate the actual cost of their 2024 property taxes, residents can use the City's property tax calculator.

Tax notices will be in the mail on May 9, and 2024 property tax payments are due by June 28. Payments can be made through:

- Monthly Tax Installment Payments (TIPP)
- Online or telephone banking via your banking institution
- In-person at the Leduc Civic Centre

• Drop box at the Leduc Civic Centre

• Canada Post

Property owners with questions about their property tax notice can contact the City's Finance department by calling 780-980-7105 or emailing [propertytaxes@leduc.ca](mailto:propertytaxes@leduc.ca).



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# WILLOW PARK INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND SECURES \$150,000 IN GRANT FUNDING

Submitted by City of Leduc

The City of Leduc has secured \$150,000 in grant funding for the future inclusive playground in Willow Park, which will allow three additional components to be installed during construction: accessible seating, a coreboard communication panel for non-verbal users, and a wheelchair accessible

swing.

The funding was secured through a partnership with the Kinsmen Club of Leduc and is being provided by the Government of Alberta (\$125,000) and the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Capital Program (\$25,000). It will top up the original project budget of \$500,000, which will be used for the playground equipment, rubber surfacing and

to address site drainage.

Findings from Leduc's inclusive playground public engagement conducted in March 2024 showed residents were most in favour of including accessible picnic tables, circle tree well benches, naturalization plantings, and basketball courts.

In total, 586 people provided input into what would be included in the playground:

- Most respondents would like to see a circle tree well bench (39%) and wheelchair accessible picnic tables (21%) installed next to the play space.

- Most respondents would like to see a basketball court (25%) and a ball hockey court (23%) installed in the play space.

- Most respondents would like to see smooth play (27%) and textured play (25%) installed as sensory play inclusions. Smooth play refers to smooth surface materials with no dips, ridges, or projections. Examples include mirrors, poles, and slides. Textured play refers to materials that have projections and irregularities. Examples include rocks, rope, textured plastics, and plastic cutouts.

- Most respondents would like to see gliding/swinging play (40%) and climbing play (34%) installed as physical play components.

- Most respondents would like to see cooperative play (36%) and parallel play (24%) included in social play construction. Cooperative play equipment allows children to play together on the same equipment, taking turns, negotiating and continuing to change rules throughout their play time. Examples include ladders, multi-person gliders, rockers, and spinners. Parallel play equipment allows for side-by-side independent play and promotes associative and cooperative play opportunities. Examples include elevated play structures with components close to each other.

Construction on the new inclusive playground is expected to begin in early summer 2024 and be completed this fall.

## EarthShine: Metaphysical & Arts Center

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Art Workshops  
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Individual and Group Workshops



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Wednesday - Store Closed (Online bookings)  
Thursday - 12pm - 8pm  
Friday - 12pm - 8pm  
Saturday - 12pm - 8pm  
Sunday - 12pm - 5pm

### Phone Number / Text

780-993-4096

### Website: (online bookings)

earth-shine.ca

### Facebook

EarthShine: Metaphysical and Arts Center

### Email:

earthshinemetaartcenter@gmail.com

### Who Are We?

We are a small business in Alberta Beach.

We are in the alley behind Tri-Village Pizza.

We offer metaphysical and fine arts items for sale, both new and used. This includes Crystals, Spell Candles, Incense, Pigment Liner Pens, Professional Drawing Pencils, DELETER Papers, and Reference/Research Books.



# LEDUC RCMP INVESTIGATE THREATS UTTERED AT PARK

Submitted by Leduc RCMP

On April 10, 2024 at approximately 5:15 p.m., an unknown male allegedly approached two occupants in a vehicle at Fred Johns park in an aggressive manner, attempted to break the vehicle drivers side window

and made threats to harm one of the occupants of the vehicle.

The occupants left the area safely in their vehicle and reported the incident to police. No weapon was seen.

The male suspect is described as:

- Approximately 6' tall
- Slim build
- Short dark hair
- Dark eyes

The male had a goatee and was wearing a tan shirt and dark blue jeans.

The suspect was driving a grey Chevrolet or GMC style

extended cab pickup truck. It's believed the male may have interacted with another female at the park who was in a white Mercedes SUV. RCMP would like to speak with the female about the incident.

## Classified Ads - Call 962-9228

### Obituaries



HABADA, Paul January 30, 1936 – April 28, 2024

With a smile on his face and a whistle on his lips, Paul graced our world for 88 years. He was a kind and gentle man who loved his family and friends, the farm, old-time country music and the Oilers. On Sunday, Dad passed away on the farm where he was born with family by his side. He will be forever loved by his four children: Brian (Jodie), Lynn (Ren), Barry (Karla) and Colleen; five grandchildren: Stephanie (Alex), Taylor (Mike), Brock (Katt), Blake (Emily) and Gabriel; two great-grandsons: Jack and Henry; his devoted partner and companion, Florence Strembitsky; along with numerous nieces and nephews. He was loved by many and will be dearly missed by life-long neighbours, friends and fellow musicians, especially those at the Onoway Golden Club. Paul was predeceased by his loving wife of 53 years, Vera; brother Walter; sisters Anne and Helen; as well as his beloved parents Peter and Eugenia. A funeral service was held Monday, May

6, 2024 at Parkland Funeral Services, followed by interment at St. Peter and St. Paul Orthodox Cemetery. Memorial Donations may be made in Paul's name to STARS Air Ambulance. A special thank you to the acute care staff and Dr. Tawfik at the Barrhead Healthcare Centre for their care and compassion the past six months. Gratitude also to Honeybee health care workers who took such good care of Paul, making it possible for him to spend his final weeks at home, on the farm he loved, with family and friends.

### Hall Rentals

Lodgepole Community Hall - (780) 894-2277

Manley Goodwill Community Hall, 780-920-3217

### For Rent

Onoway 1 & 2 bedroom renovated suites, reasonable rent. Call 780-920-3652 or 825-785-5087.

### Cleaning

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

If you are a LICENSED, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, you are welcome to submit your announcement FREE of charge, space permitting. You are required to submit your non-profit number. Call (780) 962-9228. Please note that all submitted event listings must be limited to 25 characters or less (including spaces). DEADLINE: 12 noon Friday prior to publication (Thursdays on long weekends).

Join us to celebrate 10 years of ownership on Vistor Days May 25 & 26. [www.coyotelakelodge.ca](http://www.coyotelakelodge.ca)

## FARMERS MARKETS

**DRAYTON VALLEY: Farmers' Market,** Wednesdays starting May 3rd-October 4 from 3:00pm-6:00pm at 5015 Industrial Rd. Special Christmas Market Friday December 8 from 4:00pm-9:00pm at the Mackenzie Centre 4737 45 Ave. [dvagsocietyinfo@gmail.com](mailto:dvagsocietyinfo@gmail.com) for information. We have facebook, instagram and a website.

**EVANSBURG FARMERS MARKET:** Every Saturday 10am - 2pm located right beside Evansburg Tipple Museum 780-505-0905

**May-Sept Leduc Public Market:** Every Thursday 10-2 @ City Center Mall. 5201 50 st. Leduc

**Devon Handmade Arts & Crafts Sale,** 2nd Sunday each month, Community Centre 12-4pm. New Vendors Welcome. More info: 780-652-3304

**Mulhurst Bay Farmer's Market.** Saturday 11-3 @ Community Hall.

## BINGO

**CALMAR:** Every Wednesday night, 7:00PM at the Calmar Legion.

## JAMBOREE

**Edmonton Northwest Senior's Center:** 12963 - 120st NW, Every Wed From 1-3:30pm Aug & Sept Admin: \$5 non members \$2 members Yearly membership \$30

## TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

**DEVON:** Wed. at 9:30AM at Riverside Baptist Church, 2 Saskatchewan Dr., Devon. Contact Brenda at 987-9113 for info.

**EDMONTON:** Thurs 8:30-10AM at Annex of Grace United Church (6215-104 Ave). \$7/month

**LEDUC:** Tuesday Nights at Peace Lutheran Church, 4606 - 48 St. Leduc. Weigh-ins: 5:45-6:30PM, Meeting 7:00-7:30PM. Call Marie at 780-986-6477.

**THORSBY:** meeting every Monday morning 9:00AM at Thorsby Fire Hall. Call 780-621-3461.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**50+ YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON** for Parkland County Seniors. 12PM at Stony Plain United Church Basement, \$7 per plate. 3rd Wed of Each Month, Sept - June. For reservations call Audrey 780-963-1782.

**CALMAR SENIORS:** Meetings - every 2nd Wed of every month. 1:00PM. (587) 988-3636.

**DEVON RECREATION:** Volleyball, Mondays 8-10PM, \$2, John Maland High School. Badminton, Fridays 7-9PM, Robina Baker School, \$2. Hockey (Arena), Tues & Thurs, noon (children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult).

**INDOOR PLAYGROUND:** Mondays, 10AM-12PM, Alder Flats Community Centre. Info (780) 388-3333 No fee. Please bring a snack for your child.

**JAM DANCE & CARDS:** 1st Fri, 7PM, Buck Creek. (780) 514-3781  
**"KIDS OWN WORSHIP"** an hour after-school, 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month. Songs, Crafts, Snacks and FUN! No charge. Call All Saints' Anglican Church. (780) 542-5048

**MUSICAL JAM SESSIONS:** 4th Tues, 1:00PM at Calmar Seniors Centre. Bring your own instruments and have fun.

**MUSIC JAMBOREE:** Last Sunday of each month. Upstairs @ the "55 Rec. Center" Doors open at 12PM, Starts at 1PM. 780-542-3768

**MUSICAL PROGRAM:** every 4th Saturday at the Cloverleaf Manor, 2:30PM. Everyone welcome.

**ST. DAVIDS JR. CHOIR** is seeking singers ages 7-13. Boys and girls are welcomed. Rehearsals in Leduc Tuesdays 3:45- 5PM. Contact 780-432-7805.

**WARBURG ARENA HOSTS FREE SHINNY HOCKEY,** Sun 2:30 - 3:45PM & Mon /Wed 4-5:45PM, arena closures & cancellations can be heard on

recorded messages, call Arena 780-848-7581

**WARBURG ARENA HOSTS FREE PUBLIC SKATING,** Sundays 1-2:30PM & Fridays 4-5:45PM, call arena for closure dates

## MEETINGS

**AHS:** Addiction Services provides assessment and counseling for alcohol, other drugs, tobacco and gambling in Breton on court day Wednesdays. To make an appointment, please call 780-542-3140.

Do you have a problem with alcohol & are you looking for an AA MEETING or someone to talk to? Call Toll Free 1-877-404-8100.

**Drinking a Problem?** There is a Solution, call AA 780-491-1043

**ALDER FLATS AG SOCIETY:** 3rd Wed, 7PM, Community Centre. Call (780) 388-3318 for more info.

**BRETON COUNCIL MEETINGS:** 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7PM at the Council Chambers, Carolyn Strand Civic Centre. 780-696-3636.

**BRETON & DISTRICT AG SOCIETY** Regular Meeting 2nd Thurs. at 7:30PM at Hall.

**CITIZENS ON PATROL:** 2nd Thurs of each mo, 7:30PM in Entwistle Seniors Bldg

**DEVON TOASTMASTERS,** Thurs. 7PM at St. Georges Anglican Church (2 St. Clair, Devon). Learn and practice the skills required to effectively speak in public - we help conquer your fear. More info: Marc 780-729-4932

**DEVON:** Paint night, 4th Wednesday of the month, 7-9 pm. Info at [artsdevon.org](http://artsdevon.org) or phone 780-652-3304.

**DRAYTON VALLEY BRANCH OF ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY:** meets 7PM at Drayton Valley Municipal Library every 3rd Wed of the month. For more information call (780) 542-2787

**LEDUC MS SOCIETY COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP** Are you diagnosed with MS and have questions? This group is for you! Meetings TBD. Contact the Edmonton Chapter, 780-471-3034

**MS SOCIETY DRAYTON VALLEY COMMUNITY GROUP** meets every 1st Tuesday of the month, Sept-June from 6-8PM at Norquest College, dates TBA.

Info, Terra Leslie at 1-403-346-0290.

**Winfield Legion Branch 236:** Meetings every 2nd Tues. Contact Secretary Treasurer Shelly Oulton 696-3600 or Alfred Farmer 696-2006

## YOUR COMMUNITY

**Dental Health:** Visit the dental hygienist with your toddler. Children 15-24 mos of age are encouraged to have this Free Toddler Mouth Check. For info, contact the Thorsby Health Centre at 789-4800.

**Derrick Toastmasters:** Serving Drayton Valley and area since 1990 Build Communication, Leadership & Public Speaking Skills Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 7-9pm, Zoom Contact [derricktm6538.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:derricktm6538.secretary@gmail.com) for information.

**Come join GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA,** 1st Pipestone Sparks/Brownies/Guides Rainbow Unit. For more info call Jenny 387-3544 (anytime) or Teresa 901-3817 (evenings)

**LEDUC AND DISTRICT SENIOR CENTRE :** Provides programs and activities to enhance seniors' lives. Drop by for a tour, meet new friends, and see what we have to offer! 780-986-6160 [www.leducseniors.ca](http://www.leducseniors.ca)

**Meals on Wheels:** Call Deanne Young, Director FCSS 696-3636

**Thorsby Well Child & Immunization Clinic,** every 1st & 3rd Thurs. of the month. Contact Thorsby Public Health Center for appointment. 789-4800.

**Warburg Well Baby & Immunization Clinic,** by appointment only, 2nd Wed of month, Cloverleaf Manor. Thorsby Health Unit 789-4800.



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# celebrate on Mother's Day



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Age 5



Ottillie  
Age 6



Lucy S.  
Age 8



Abby B.  
Age 12

We loved every entry but these are  
the 2024 Mother's Day winners

