



COMMUNITY VOICE

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Serving: Carvel, Darwell, Drayton Valley, Duffield, Entwistle, Evansburg, Fallis, Gainford, Parkland County, Seba Beach, Tomahawk, Wabamun, Wildwood, Spruce Grove and Stony Plain.

August 21, 2024

PARKLAND RCMP DRUG UNIT'S 8-MONTH LONG DRUG INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN THE SEIZURE OF FIREARMS AND DRUGS

Submitted by Parkland RCMP

On August 2, 2024, the Parkland RCMP Drug Unit, with assistance from members of Parkland RCMP, St. Albert RCMP, Leduc RCMP, Red Deer RCMP and Air Services executed a total of 6 Search Warrants: two in Stony Plain, three in Edmonton and one in Red

Deer. This operation marks the successful completion of an 8-month long investigation targeting illegal drug activity within Parkland County.

As a result of the investigation, eight individuals have been arrested and are facing a variety of charges including possession for the purpose of trafficking and firearms offences.

Following the execution of the search warrants, police have seized the following items:

- 513.7 grams of Cocaine
- 109.8 grams of Hash
- 12.8 grams of Psilocybin mushrooms
- 1 gram of Methamphetamine / MDMA

Continued on Page 2



Missing Since Aug 3 From Lakewood Area in Spruce Grove

Tattooed, Microchipped, 2 White Rings on Tip of Tail Answers to Moose. Very Timid.

Please Call 780-907-8642

CYANOBACTERIA (BLUE-GREEN ALGAE) ADVISORY ISSUED FOR WABAMUN LAKE

Submitted by Alberta Health Services

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) has been identified in the waters of Wabamun Lake. Residents living near the shores of this lake, as well as visitors to this lake, are advised to take the following precautions:

• Avoid all contact with cyanobacterial blooms. If contact occurs,

wash with tap water as soon as possible.

• Do not swim or wade or allow your pets to swim or wade in any areas where cyanobacteria is visible.

• Do not feed whole fish or fish trimmings from this lake to your pets.

• Consider limiting human consumption of whole fish and fish trimmings from this lake, as it is known that fish may store

toxins in their liver. (People can safely consume fish filets from this lake).

Continued on Page 2

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(Zone 1 & 2) AND
BIWEEKLY (Zone 3)

Box 3595
Spruce Grove, AB
T7X 3A8

TELEPHONE:

Advertising 962-9228
Fax 962-1021

E-MAIL:
comvoice@telusplanet.net
news@com-voice.com

Parkland RCMP Drug Unit's 8-Month Long Drug Investigation Results In The Seizure Of Firearms And Drugs

Continued from Page 1

- 60 tabs of LSD
- 2.5 gallons of GHB
- 94 tablets of benzodiazepine
- \$6122 in Canadian currency
- 36 rounds of 12 Gauge ammunition

- Remington 870 12 Gauge shotgun
- Akkar Churchill 12 Gauge shotgun
- Stolen Commander 9mm pistol
- 2400 contraband cigarettes
- Body armour

As the charges has not yet been sworn before the courts, the suspect's names cannot be disclosed at this time.

Your Parkland RCMP are committed to keeping our community safe.

Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae) Advisory Issued For Wabamun Lake

Continued from Page 1

As always, visitors and residents are reminded to never drink or cook with untreated water directly from any recreational body of water, including Wabamun Lake, at any time. Boiling of this water will not remove the toxins pro-

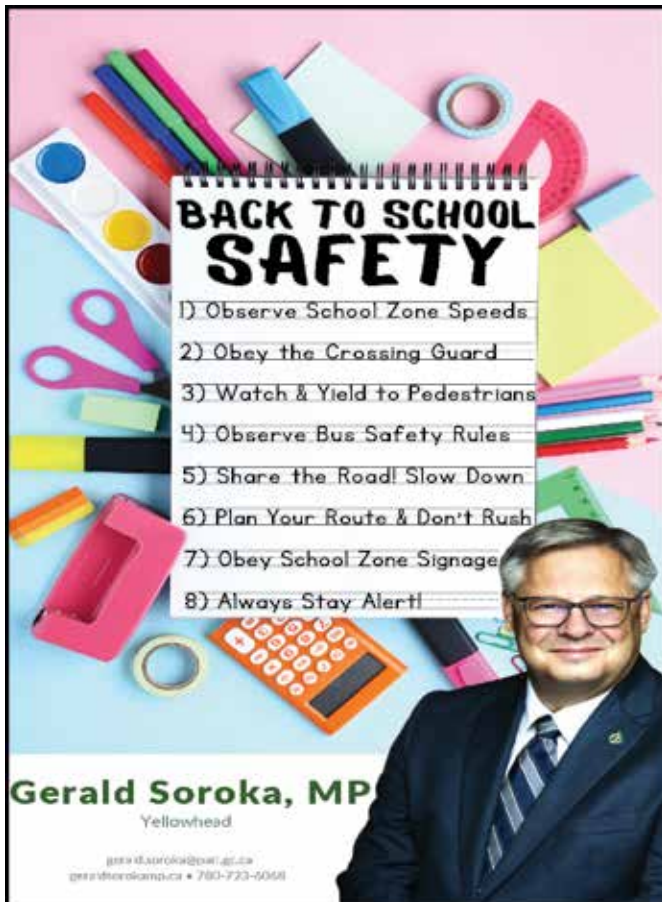
duced by cyanobacteria. An alternate source of drinking water should also be provided for pets and livestock, while this advisory is active.

Cyanobacteria is naturally occurring, and often becomes visible when weather conditions are calm. Appearing like scum, grass

clippings, fuzz, or globs on the surface of water, cyanobacteria can be blue-green, greenish-brown, brown, and/or pinkish-red, and often smell musty or grassy.

People who come in contact with visible cyanobacteria or who ingest

Continued on Page 3

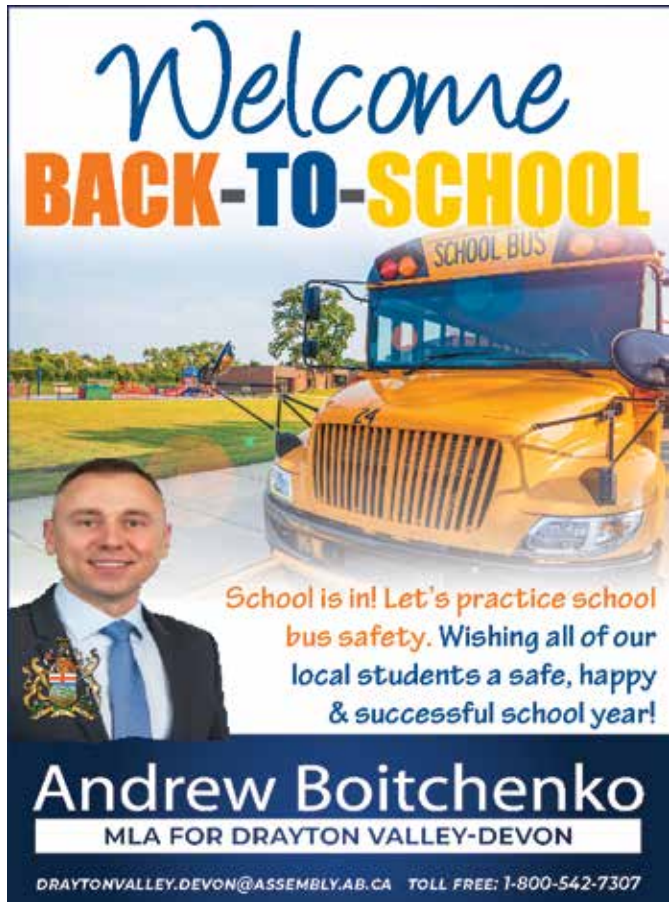


BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

- 1) Observe School Zone Speeds
- 2) Obey the Crossing Guard
- 3) Watch & Yield to Pedestrians
- 4) Observe Bus Safety Rules
- 5) Share the Road! Slow Down.
- 6) Plan Your Route & Don't Rush
- 7) Obey School Zone Signage
- 8) Always Stay Alert!

Gerald Soroka, MP
Yellowhead

gsorok@telusplanet.net
gsorok@assembly.ab.ca • 780-723-0068



Welcome BACK-TO-SCHOOL

SCHOOL BUS

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

Andrew Boitchenko
MLA FOR DRAYTON VALLEY-DEVON

DRAYTONVALLEY.DEVON@ASSEMBLY.AB.CA TOLL FREE: 1-800-542-7307

Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae) Advisory Issued For Wabamun Lake

Continued from Page 2

water containing cyanobacteria may experience skin irritation, rash, sore throat, sore red eyes, swollen lips, fever, nausea and vomiting and/or diarrhea. Symptoms usually appear within one to three hours and resolve in one to two days. Symptoms in children are often more pronounced; however, all humans are at risk of these symptoms. Exposure to the bacteria may be fatal to pets.

Weather and wind conditions can cause algae blooms to move from one location in the lake to another. As such, this advisory will remain in effect for Wabamun Lake, until further notice.

Please note that waters of Wabamun Lake in which

the cyanobacterial bloom is NOT visible can still be used for recreational purposes, even while this Health Advisory is in place.

If you suspect a problem related to cyanobacteria or if you require further information on health concerns and cyanobacteria, please call Health Link at 811. Additional information is also available online, at www.ahs.ca/bga.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Our mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans. Our

current focus is on reducing emergency department wait times, improving EMS response times, increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow.



JOKE of the week

Mike walked into a post office just before Valentine's day, he couldn't help noticing a middle-aged, balding man standing in a corner sticking "Love" stamps on bright pink envelopes with hearts all over them. Then the man got out a bottle of Channel perfume from his pocket and started spraying scent over the envelopes.

By now Mike's curiosity had got the better of him, and so I asked the man why he was sending all those cards. The man replied, "I'm sending out 500 Valentine cards signed, 'Guess who?'" "But why?" asked Mike.

"I'm a divorce lawyer," the man replied.

ANOTHER RAINBOW SALE

ONLINE - ANNUAL HARVEST SALE, RETIREMENT SALES, BOB & ROXANNE DOELL, NRG GROUP PLUS OTHER CONSIGNORS

Location
Rainbow Auctions Home Yard
52529 Rg RD #11
Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1X7

Online auction starts Monday, September 16, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.
Online auction will start soft closing on Friday, September 20 2024 at 12 noon
Pickup will be Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday, September 23-25, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday, September 22- 2024

Items in this sale include:
RVs, cars, trucks, lawn and garden equipment, hunting supplies. plus a large commercial. Dispersal for a heavy equipment company !!
watch the website for listings.

****Watch website daily for new additions to auction lists****

Terms and conditions: Cash, Visa, MasterCard, Debit, Interac. Nothing to be removed until paid for. Subject to additions and deletions. A 10% handling fee, plus GST will be charged where applicable. Please be courteous of the handling fees and factor them into your bidding. Owner Rainbow Auctions & Liquidators or it's employees shall not be responsible for accidents.

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SERENITY FAMILY SERVICE SOCIETY *YOUR NOT-FOR-PROFIT SOCIETY

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:



Bald Eagle Plumbing
621-2500



Bourke's Farm Equipment
339-3939



Tomahawk General Store
339-3930



A Tow Truck Company
POW TRUCK COMPANY
797-3869



Derby's Lakeview General Store
797-3838



Ray Agro & Petroleum Ltd.
727-2149



P&E Ventures (Skidsteer Services)
727-2721



Tri-Lakes Services Ltd.
1-877-727-3939



Metrix Group LLP -Chartered Professional Accountants
727-2017



Pembina Esso Centre
727-2974



Drax -Entwistle
drax
1-877-737-4344



Bang On Carpentry
241-2711



Pembina Concrete Products
727-2702



CAPITAL GAINS FALL LEGISLATION

Submitted by MP Gerald Soroka

At the end of the last Parliamentary session, Chrystia Freeland, Finance Minister, scrambled to bring in her latest tax hike to pay for her uncontrolled inflationary spending.

The Liberals claim this Capital Gains Tax only targets the ultra-rich. It does not. It is a tax on food, homebuilding, retirement, doctors, pharmacists, truckers, and small busi-

ness owners.

The Liberal-NDP coalition is deciding to hike taxes on homebuilders while we are facing a housing shortage and are raising taxes on doctors during a doctor shortage. They are raising taxes on farmers while food and production is already expensive and small businesses will pay more in taxes which harms their company, employees, and consumers.

Canadians will be worse off because of Justin Trudeau's

new tax. This job-killing tax will negatively impact every industry and all citizens by removing more money out of the pockets of individuals and businesses, as well as the Canadians they serve.

The Liberals forced a last-minute motion in Parliament to try and implement this new tax, but they will be forced to table legislation to enact the tax in the fall. There is still time to stop this tax.

Common Sense Conservatives will continue to

fight against these harmful tax hikes from this Liberal-NDP government. We will bring back powerful paycheques for individuals and businesses. We will not punish Canadians for their hard work but rather reward them for their success.

Do you agree with this job-killing tax? If not, email the Finance Minister at chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca and tell her you can't afford this tax.

ENOCH RCMP CHARGE MALE AFTER TAXI CAB ROBBERY

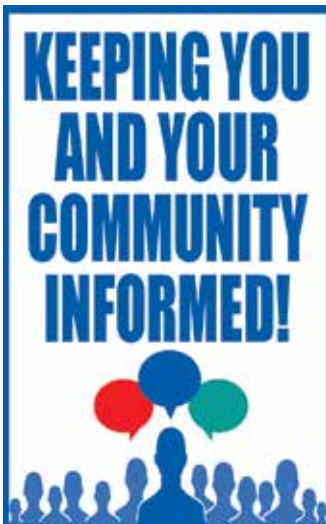
Submitted by Enoch RCMP

On June 6, 2024, approximately 4:00 a.m. Enoch Alberta RCMP responded to a robbery of a taxi cab driver at a residence in Enoch. During the course of the robbery the driver was stabbed causing minor injuries to his arm.

On Aug. 13, 2024, as a result of the investigation, Kelsey Crate, a 37-year-old male resident of Enoch was arrested and charged with:

- Robbery
- Assault with a weapon
- Uttering threats

Crate was taken before a justice of the peace and remanded into custody with his next court date set for Aug. 14, 2024, at the Alberta Court of Justice in Stony Plain.



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.

This Safety Message is sponsored by these caring local businesses

Wildwood School

325-3858

Yellowhead County

www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca

1-800-665-6030

Yellowhead County

Library Board

325-3888

Wildwood Bigway

325-3870

Wildwood 2 For 1

Pizza

325-2330

Wildwood Community

Association

325-2180

Wildwood Legion

Br #149

325-2015

 U.F.A.

-Wildwood

325-3866

D & L Rehn

Contracting Ltd.

723-0332

Wildwood Ladies

Aid

325-2180

Violet Gardens &

Greenhouse

621-4774

Vixon Contracting

Inc.

241-0366

Murd's Plumbing
& Heating Ltd.

712-3630

Tri-Lake Services
Ltd.

1-877-727-3939





WELCOME BACK SEPT. 3, 2024!



SCHOOL OFFICES OPEN AUGUST 19

- • • **Fulham School (JK-6), Fulham**
Principal: Janaya Marshall.....780.693.2186
- • • **Niton Central School (JK-9), Niton Junction**
Principal: Bailey Benson.....780.795.3782
- • • **Wildwood School (JK-6), Wildwood**
Principal: Alan Stoyles.....780.325.3858
- • • **Evansview School (JK-6), Evansburg**
Principal: James Randall780.727.3623
- • • **Grand Trunk High School & TLC (7-12), Evansburg**
English Programming/Virtual Options
Principal: Heidi Zadderey780.727.3925



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BACK-TO-SCHOOL

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY! 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 IS COURTESY OF THE FOLLOWING LOCAL BUSINESSES:



FALLIS 18TH ANNUAL SHOW & SHINE

Submitted by Fallis Community Association

On Saturday, September 7th from 10 am to 4 pm, Fallis will be celebrating its 18th Annual Show & Shine. This event has become bigger and more popular each year, and is one of the community's local major fundraising events that has assisted in sustaining the viability of the Fallis Community Hall.

The Show & Shine vehicle registration commences at 10:00 am, and the gates for public admission open at 11:00 am. The day's events are free of charge however, a donation box will be available for those who wish to support and contribute to the ongoing operations of the Fallis Community Hall. The concession runs from 11:00 am - 3:30 pm and barbecue favorites will be served.

Tickets for a 50/50 draw will be on sale throughout the day and the winner will be announced at 2:30 pm. Ballots will be provided to all of the Show & Shine vehicle registrants to vote on their peer's vehicles in 9 different vintage decade categories. There will also be prizes for the overall top chosen vehicle with the People's Choice award. In addition, there will be a prize for the furthest driven and prizes awarded by a judge for Corvette, female, and motorcycle categories. Voting will close at 2:00 pm and prizes will begin to be awarded at 3:00 pm.

The Fallis Community Association welcomes car enthusiasts and those with a vintage, custom, street-rod, hot-rod, rat-rod, classic vehicle, or motorcycle to come display their "pride and joy" along with other collectors

of antique tractors or buses.

Many painstaking hours of restoration and dollars are involved behind the scenes when viewing these magnificent vehicles. It is a hobby that appears to have become a common interest of the young and old, as there are participants and followers of the Show & Shine events that can take them nationwide. Many collectors belong to specific groups that tour together far across the countryside allowing them to become great friends and comrades that share a passion with other car buffs. They are a special breed of people that can understand and appreciate the time and effort it takes to restore a vehicle. Their pride is apparent in the final polished and gleaming product that admirers view with great envy.

Come and join us for a great family event and enjoy

the food, fun activities, and an opportunity to visit with others that have a common interest in viewing some very impressive vehicles.

Fallis is located on the north side of Wabamun Lake approximately 80 km west of Edmonton, between the Hamlet of Wabamun and Seba Beach Village. The Fallis Community Hall is situated on Highway 16 just north of Range Road 52. There are no gravel roads enroute to Fallis for those commuting with their classic vehicles.

Volunteer positions are available with parking, and the concession. For more information about the event or for interest in volunteering, please contact Rick at 780-695-8366 or Yvonne at 780-999-3088.

STORY TO TELL?

Know of a good event going on in the community? Ever wanted to write up a local event for the Community Voice?

If you have any good ideas for articles or would like to submit a story for the paper

Email it to news@com-voice.com or just fax it in at (780) 962-1021.

Please call us at (780) 962-9228 for more information.

Stories may be edited for length due to possible space restrictions.

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BUILDING A RECOVERY COMMUNITY WITH MÉTIS NATION

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta's government is partnering with the Métis Nation within Alberta to build a world-class addiction treatment centre, helping more people in their pursuit of recovery.

The Alberta Recovery Model is a system of care built by Alberta's government to support those suffering from addiction in their pursuit of recovery. The services made available through this model are providing a continuum of care including prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery. The model is based on the fact that recovery is possible, and that there is hope for those currently facing addiction. It is the Alberta government's belief that everyone deserves an opportunity to rebuild their life and reunite with their family, community and culture.

Continuing to build the Alberta Recovery Model, Alberta's government has partnered with the Métis Nation within Alberta to build a recovery community, implementing treatment based on its culture and practices. A \$35-million investment from Alberta's government is a significant step forward in addressing the addiction crisis, which has disproportionately impacted Indigenous

communities. This facility will be known as the Healing Waters Recovery Community and will have 75 long-term treatment beds, capable of supporting up to 300 people every year in their pursuit of recovery.

"This partnership with the Métis Nation will provide life-saving addiction treatment to those in need and will rebuild families and communities that have been affected by this disease. Lives are changed by recovery, and our government is proud to be helping people onto that path. Recovery is possible."

Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction

"This investment shows our government's commitment to working with Indigenous communities in providing culturally-safe addiction treatment. I am excited for this to move forward and hear about how lives are changed."

Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations

"Healing Waters will serve as a beacon of hope for Métis Citizens and Albertans who are recovering from substance use. We are proud to be working with the Government of Alberta to bring this state-of-the-art facility near Métis Crossing and to provide a blend of western and traditional health care, with a Métis focus, that will support people's recovery journeys."

Andrea Sandmaier, president, Métis Nation within Alberta

In total, Alberta's government is building 11 recovery communities, five of which are in partnership with Indigenous communities. The total investment into Indigenous recovery communities is about \$180 million. The Healing Waters Recovery Community in partnership with the Métis Nation will be built about 100 km northwest of Edmonton, near Métis Crossing. Clients will access services at no cost and will have the opportunity to stay there for up to one year.

"This partnership between Alberta's government and the Métis Nation will have an incredible, lasting impact on the families who call Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock home. The reality is that nearly every family is impacted by addiction in one way or another. A focus on treatment and recovery is going to change countless lives for decades to come."

Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock

At the recovery community, clients will participate in a program that includes individual and group therapy, skills development and relationship building. This ensures those leaving treatment can succeed in recovery with employment, housing and reconnection with family and friends.

"As a Métis-run recovery community, Healing Waters will provide recovery-oriented care to individuals grappling with substance use. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government is proud to play a role in helping reduce barriers and provide culturally appropriate treatment options for our Citizens and all Albertans who are pursuing recovery."

Kaila Mitchell, secretary of Mental Health and Addictions, Métis Nation within Alberta

The Métis Nation within Alberta has worked with Alberta's government to select a site and design a building that reflects and honours Métis culture. Construction is planned to be completed in 2026.

Alberta's government is also building Indigenous recovery communities in partnership with Siksika Nation, Blood Tribe, Enoch Cree Nation and Tsuut'ina Nation. Alberta's government is making record investments and removing barriers to recovery-oriented supports for all Albertans, regardless of where they live or their financial situation. In addition to the more than 10,000 new, publicly funded addiction treatment spaces, the government has expanded access to the Virtual Opioid Dependency Program, which provides same-day access to life-saving treatment medication.

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.

ANSWER:
Last Weeks

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

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

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.

Sponsored by the following local businesses

<p>D.V. Home Hardware & Bldg Centre 542-9663</p>	<p>Fountain Tire -Drayton Valley 542-4001</p>	<p>Value Drug Mart -D.V. 542-5366</p>	<p>COAST Coast Auto Drayton Valley CDJR 542-4488</p>
<p>Second Take Boutique 514-8450</p>	<p>40 Winks Sleep Shop  514-5037</p>	<p>Canadian Tire -Drayton Valley 514-7670</p>	<p>Rexall Drug Store -Drayton Valley 542-4485</p>
<p>Drayton's Shop Automotive 514-5795</p>	<p>Carol Lapointe Professional Services Ltd 542-1571</p>	<p>Drayton Valley Co-op Gas Bar 514-5042</p>	<p>Techmation Electric & Controls Ltd. 542-2723</p>
<p>Affinity Funeral Service  542-3338</p>	<p>Valley Concrete (2003) Inc. 542-5488</p>	<p>Stetson GM Ltd. 542-5391</p>	<p>Tri-Electric Ltd. 542-4212</p>

BABYSITTER'S SAFETY COURSE

This course is designed to provide graduated babysitter's with the necessary skills to ensure safe and effective babysitting.

Please bring a nut free lunch & a doll or stuffed animal.



August 27 Wildwood Complex
9am - 3pm \$10 Ages 11-15

To register visit yhcounty.ca/registration

Registration deadline is August 22



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

HR Generalist

Temporary, Term Position (6-12 months)

Location: EDSON, AB

COMPETITION NO. 24-037

Reporting to the General Manager of Corporate Services, the HR Generalist is involved in several aspects relating to hiring, training and general HR function support. Their duties include but are not limited to overseeing the onboarding process of new employees, providing support within the HR team, and assisting employees with training, career and performance development.

The salary range is currently \$61,656 to \$76,454 per year.

To apply please submit resumes at www.yhcounty.ca/jobs/

A detailed position description can be found in the job posting online.

The competition closes August 30, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

We thank all interested applicants in advance, however only those applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

Human Resources
 Yellowhead County
 Email: jobs@yhcounty.ca

The personal information obtained as a result of this advertisement will be utilized for these employment opportunities only and is subject to compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



COMMUNITY RIDDLE WALK



GRAB YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS TO FORM A TEAM AND EMBARK ON A JOURNEY, WHERE YOU'LL FIND TWISTS & TURNS OF A RIDDLE-FILLED PATH IN YOUR COMMUNITY.



EVANSBURG, PEERS & ROBB

PRIZES TO BE WON IN EACH COMMUNITY!

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS AUGUST 26

EMAIL EGULLACKSON@YHCOUNTY.CA TO REGISTER OR FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO GET STARTED!

Yellowhead County
COMMUNITY PAINT PARTY

Niton Junction
Niton Park
 September 12, 2024
 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Help make a Mural!
 Help create a mural that showcase our region's spirit & strength.
All ages welcome!
 Please wear painting clothes.
 Refreshments provided.

SCHOOL BUS

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

1. Take your seat right away and stay seated until you leave the bus. 2. Sit back in your seat, face forward and keep your feet to the front. 3. Talk quietly so not to distract the driver. Remember, it's the driver's responsibility to keep you safe! 4. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the doors to open before you leave your seat. 5. After leaving the bus, take five giant steps away from the bus so you are out of the Danger Zone and in a safe spot.

These safety reminders courtesy of the following sponsors:

Wabamun School 892-2271	Ray's Market / Bigway Foods 892-2230	Wabamun IDA Pharmacy 892-2278	Wabamun Hotel 892-2224
ATB Financial -Wabamun 892-7927	Angus Oliver Luxury Sheepskins www.angusolliverproducts.com 977-0197	Shoreside Inn & Suites 892-4773	Wabamun Home Hardware 892-4969
Fence Link 974-4958	Trades Automotive & Welding Ltd. 892-4500	Wabamun Marina & RV Park 892-3008	Rocko's Rentals & Services Ltd. 718-3850



It's time to fall in love with your home all over again!

fall HOME RENO GUIDE





PREPARING YOUR FIREPLACE OR STOVE FOR THE SEASON

Fireplaces and wood-burning stoves not only can be beautiful focal points within a home, but they also provide an additional source of heat and can be used to keep rooms or entire homes comfortable without the need for additional and potentially costly heating sources.

Just like more modern home heating systems, stoves and fireplaces need to be maintained, and that maintenance includes readying them before winter when they are used more heavily. Ensuring a fireplace or stove is in good working order helps to guarantee efficiency of use and safety during the winter months.

Open-flame heating sources carry with them certain risks. The National Fire Protection Association states that, between 2009-2013, American fire departments responded to 56,000 home structure fires that involved heating equipment. The NFPA notes that the leading factor contributing to home-heating fires is a failure to keep things clean, principally from solid-fueled heating equipment. The following are a handful of ways to stay safe as you get ready for another cozy season around the fire.

- Start with the chimney. Begin by having your chimney thoroughly cleaned and inspected. Creosote can build up inside of the chimney. Cre-

sote is highly flammable and becomes more difficult and expensive to clean the longer it builds up inside your flue lining. In addition, animals may have created nest inside

of the chimney since the last time the fireplace was used. A professional chimney sweep should be hired in this situation. He or she will be able to effectively clean the chim-

ney in a manner that is the least messy and disruptive to residents.

- Install or check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Continued on Page 16

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Preparing Your Fireplace Or Stove For The Season

Continued from Page 15

Operational alarms are essential to preventing injury or death resulting from smoke or carbon monoxide inhalation. Such detectors are inexpensive safeguards that should be installed on every floor of the house. Batteries should be replaced every six months, and the alarms themselves should be changed every five to 10 years.

- Inspect the chimney from outdoors as well. Inspect the mortar around any bricks in the chimney and surround-

ing areas for cracks. If left unaddressed, these can cause dangerous fires. If there are serious cracks, a professional may need to make repairs or the chimney may need to be replaced. You also can have the chimney capped with a screen to keep animals and debris from entering.

- Inspect the damper. A damper is a valve or plate that stops or regulates the flow of air inside a chimney. It should be checked prior to the first use of a stove or fireplace so homeowners can be certain it opens

and closes smoothly.

- Clear out flammable items. Move flammable items away from the front of a fireplace or stove. Be sure curtains or other home furnishings are far enough away that they will not catch fire from any errant sparks or flames.

- Order wood now. Be sure there is plenty

of wood for the season. Ask a wood supplier to estimate just how much will be needed, and double-check that the wood will arrive in time for the start of the season.

By preparing for fireplace and wood stove use now, homeowners can ensure their winters are comfortable and safe.

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Plenty of things heat up when the temperature drops, including the risk for fire hazards. Fireplaces, stoves, heating systems, candles, and even electric lights are used more often during the winter than any other time of year, so it makes sense that the risk of home fires increases when the mercury drops.

The U.S. Fire Administration says 905 people die in winter home fires each year. Cook-

ing is the leading cause of all home fires and contributes to around \$2 billion in property loss each year. Understanding potential risks and exercising caution can help homeowners protect themselves, their families and their homes from fire.

Cooking Home heating fires peak between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., when many people are home preparing dinner. The following

steps, courtesy of the American Red Cross, can improve safety in the kitchen and reduce the likelihood of a home fire.

- Never leave cooking food unattended, as it can take just seconds for fires to ignite.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stove or other appliances that generate heat.
- Clean regularly to prevent grease

buildup.

- Make sure appliances are turned off before leaving the room or going to bed.

Heating The National Fire Protection Association warns that heating is the second leading cause of home fires, deaths and injuries in the United States. The NFPA offers these safety guidelines.

- Install heating appliances

Continued on Page 18

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Reduce Cold-Weather Fire Risk

Continued from Page 17

according to manufacturers' instructions or have a professional do the installation.

- Fuel-burning equipment needs to vent to the outside.
- Never use an oven to heat a home.
- Keep anything that can burn away from heating equipment, including portable space heaters.
- Clean and inspect heating appliances regularly.

- Turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.

Electric The National Safety Council estimates that between 600 and 1,000 people die each year from electrocution. Electricity also can contribute to home fires. The Energy Education Council offers these safety suggestions.

- Never force plugs into outlets.
- Check that

cords are not frayed or cracked. Do not run cords under carpets or place them in high-traffic areas.

- Use extension cords only on a temporary basis.
- Make sure light bulbs are the proper wattage for fixtures.
- Install ground fault circuit interrupters in kitchens, baths, laundry rooms, and elsewhere, making sure to test them regularly.

Check periodically for loose wall receptacles and loose wires. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls.

Home fires are no joke and can be prevented with simple safety checks.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Below are tips to help your child start the school year well rested and back on their regular schedule.

1. Start early. Begin the transition to a regular sleep schedule a couple of weeks before school starts.
2. Shift times in small increments.
3. Be prepared for some resistance.
4. Limit the use of electronics before bedtime.
5. Use a different approach for adolescents.
6. Once the routine is established, don't backslide. Once your child or teen is in a good sleep routine, maintain this routine throughout the week.

These Safety Reminders courtesy of the following sponsors

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WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY?

Submitted by MLA Shane Getson

Janet Jackson had a hot song with this title, and I hate to say it when I read some of the accusatory quips or demands on social media, that song runs through my head. Never fails to amaze me how folks who would not say boo in person are fearless and many times downright rude, disrespectful keyboard warriors. I can repost a picture of a beautiful sunset from Wabamun, Isle Lake, Lac Ste. Anne or Sandy Beach wishing everyone a happy Sunday, and some person exhibiting troll like characteristics “Demands” a full account of what I have done as an MLA for them. Telling me I must drop everything else, take their abusive nature because “I work for them!” What that tells me is that these folks in all likelihood have never run a business, had people work for them in the first place, or if they did, could never keep them on the payroll for very long, because no one gets away with that kind of behavior for very long.

Over the last few weeks however, I’ve had some great conversations with folks that needed clarity or were looking for updates on what I’ve been up too, and how some of the projects we’ve had in the hopper are progressing. That I believe is worthwhile conversation, and I thought giving an update here in the little local paper where I’m uncensored may be of help for many, I’ll break it down by “Theme” so if something is not to your interest, you can skip to a heading that is, time is precious to us all.

Education / Careers / Skilled Trades

I was able to be part last term of the skills for Jobs Task force (Skills for Jobs Task Force | Alberta.ca), and led a task force myself on Career Education (Career Education Task Force | Alberta.ca). The findings of these two separate task force reports have helped form policy directly and indirectly. The mandate letters given to the current ministers of Education, and Advanced Education have items that are taken directly from the reports. Overall, between the two efforts it allows for a change in thinking when it comes to students being able to choose their career paths, provide support to them through our education system, as well as to tap into private industry, and better align post-secondary.

It puts the student back at the center again, and helps people get onto, and into their careers more expeditiously. In short, kids didn’t know what they wanted to be when they grew up, because they didn’t know what they could be when they grew up. There has been an inadvertent disconnect between the skills needed for industries, and addressing transferable skill sets within the industries.

Firearms / Property Rights / Personal Freedoms

As many know, I am all for freedom, accountability, and responsibility of individuals. So, when the federal government started messing further with what are some of the most restrictive firearms laws I asserted myself into the team that was going to make recommendations on policy, and re-patriate the responsibilities as delegated to the province. I was one of the three MLAs that were part of the firearms advisory committee (Alberta Firearms Advisory Committee | Alberta.ca. For what it’s worth, had also made several speeches, attended town halls, was special guest on several firearms related podcasts, and literally helped educate several of my fellow MLAs as members of parliament from other provinces.

The outcome was that we hired our own Chief Firearms Officer, rather than having one appointed by the federal government, and we re-patriated the department to be in Alberta rather than in Eastern Canada. The culture and mission of the department changed to act not only as the group that “enforced the law” but rather used good judgment of the law and became an advocate / educator / supporter of responsible firearm ownership. Alberta in many ways is leading the country on this file, and if the chips fall in the right direction we will probably help form policy with the new federal government.

Alberta’s moto is Strong and Free, and I believe for good reason. We take our freedoms, and the rights of others very seriously out here. We modernized the adverse possession laws so other folks who are squatting on your property can’t take it from you. We made sure folks have an enhanced and modernized trespass laws, so that protesters (as an example) can’t role up onto your farm, steal your turkeys, and disrupt your operations without consequence.

Speaking of turkeys, we passed a law called the Sovereignty within a United Canada Act to ensure that the charter of rights and freedoms, are upheld in our province, and that in the case where a federal government is not respecting those laws, we will stand up for them. It will basically put the onus back on the federal government to challenge us in court, rather than putting in policy, that clearly contradicts the foundational and defining laws of our country. We’ve already had to use it, believe it or not, when it came to the federal government straying into our jurisdiction on energy and electricity, which would have cost us billions upon billions of dollars as taxpayers.

Freedoms in choice of education, to allow parents to choose what method of delivery of education is right for their family. We believe strongly in family and parental rights, while still protecting minors. There was a point not so long ago where the freedoms of choice that our parents and kids have now were on the chopping block.

These freedoms that we have here in our province are not necessarily available in other parts of the country. I can’t tell you how many people I’ve met over the last few years that have picked up stakes, moved from other provinces to experience firsthand what it is to be an Albertan. Freedom sells, and Alberta is calling for likeminded Canadians, and those abroad that want to be part of what we are building out here.

Intergovernmental and Transboundary Relations

In my role as the Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Corridor Development, I report to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, better known as the Premier. I am the lead MLA when it comes to our representation in several transboundary organizations. The organizations that we are members of are, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (of which Alberta was a founding Member) The Council of State Governments, National Council of State Legislators, and The Energy Council. These organizations allow Alberta to help influence policy not only within our country, but in the USA as well. Simply put, if we want to change the tune that we have to dance too, you have to be able to help pick the playlist.

Some of these organizations also do work across the pond and

has allowed me to head over to Germany last year on the dime of the German Government and to see what they are doing over there on their energy policy. Due to that trip, we had a visit by German officials over here to Alberta as a follow up, another will be coming this fall, and I’ll be heading over there again in October. The world is very connected, and when policy is made across the pond, it directly affects us here. I also have learned firsthand that “Our Story” is not being told by the federal representatives, and when we tell it ourselves, people want to hear it. In fact, we are literally the solution to a number of real-world needs.

Mental health and Addictions

We literally have a new program in place that is opening conversations right across north America. The model loosely puts focus on recovery, and getting folks out of their addictive cycle so they can be productive members of our society again. We will not allow folks to languish any longer in that addictive quagmire. Closer to home, we will be opening the newest recovery center located in Gunn. I can tell you full well that I have received compliments and words of encourage from senators in Washington, and Oregon who told us full well they got the policy wrong, and are changing course, paying close attention to what we are doing here.

So, when folks ask me online, what have I done for them, and for Alberta, there are a number of areas that I’ve had the privilege to be part of, or lead initiatives that will have not only short-term results, but long-term gains. I want to thank all the folks that have taken the time to say hello when I’m out and about in the constituency, to give me a pat in the back when I need it, and a kick in the pants when I deserve it as well. As I’ve told you, I don’t know what I don’t know, so I’m all ears. You will also know that if we are engaging in conversation, I may challenge you as well, offering counterpoints and testing logic at times. It’s to ensure that if I’m going to take things forward that they are sound, and that it will have the best bang for the buck for as many people in our area as possible. So, lets keep having the conversations, and making sure I know full well, what matters to you.

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- Black Dirt
- Clearing

No Job too small. We do them all!

Harvey cell. 780-445-9010 ph. 780-892-3532
Box 145, Darwell, AB. T0E 0L0

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:

 PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION 963-4010	Parkland County  968-8888	The Flooring Store -Spruce Grove 960-9212	Sobeys -Spruce Grove 962-4121
Preshush Jewellers & Goldsmiths 960-4200	Royal LePage -Noralta 962-4950	TD Canada Trust -Spruce Grove 962-0404	Parkland Veterinary Clinic 962-6300
NAPA Auto Parts -Spruce Grove 962-4421	Rental Bus Lines Ltd. 948-9160	Sandy View Farms 962-0067	Grove Collision Repair Ltd. 962-3755
Family Footcare & Reflexology  984-9774	H&E Upholstery 962-3048	Serenity Funeral Services 962-2749	B.W. Eavestrouging 699-1880