



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.

April 9, 2025

DRAYTON VALLEY RCMP MAKE ARRESTS IN DRUG TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION

Submitted by Drayton Valley RCMP

On March 28, 2025, as a result of a month-long investigation, the Drayton Valley RCMP General Investigation Section (GIS) executed a drug search warrant at a

local motel. As a result of the search, two people, one man and one woman, were arrested and the following items were seized:

- Methamphetamine, cocaine and fentanyl, most pre-packaged;
- A rifle that had been sto-

len in Mayerthorpe, Alta., in 2008;

- Several weapons including knives and a baton; and
- Over \$1500 in Canadian currency.

As a result of the

Continued on Page 2

THE CONSUMER CARBON TAX IS GONE: MINISTER NALLY

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction Dale Nally issued the following statement on the

elimination of federal carbon taxes on fuel:

“The time has come. After years of relentless pressure from our government, the federal conservatives and other provincial govern-

ments across Canada, the federal government has finally scrapped its punishing consumer carbon tax that has wreaked havoc on Canadians’ personal

Continued on Page 3

NEW PARENT AND NEWBORN LINE LAUNCHES IN RURAL ALBERTA

Submitted by Primary Care Alberta

Today Primary Care Alberta (PCA) launched the New Parent and Newborn Line – a service that refers Health Link 811 callers in

North, South and Central zones to registered nurses specializing in postpartum care.

“Parents often have questions related to care for their newborn. The New Parent and Newborn Line provides

expert postpartum information free of charge, to all parents in North, South and Central zones who have a baby under two months of age,” says Patricia Chambers, Executive Lead of

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Drayton Valley RCMP Make Arrests In Drug Trafficking Investigation

Continued from Page 1

investigation, the following were arrested:

- Charley Thompson (51), a resident of Drayton Valley, was charged with:

- oPossession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking (X3);
- oCarrying a concealed weapon;

- oPossession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose

(X3);

- oPossession of a prohibited weapon;

- oFirearm related offences (x18); and

- oPossession of Proceeds of Crime under \$5000.

- Courtney Haubi (26), a resident of Drayton Valley, was charged with:

- oPossession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking (X3);

- oFirearm related offences (x3);

- oPossession of a prohibited weapon; and

- oPossession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose (X2).

Thompson and Haubi were brought before a justice of the peace. Thompson was remanded into custody while Haubi was released on conditions. Both are to

appear at the Alberta Court of Justice in Drayton Valley on April 15, 2025.

“The Drayton Valley RCMP understands that drug trafficking has been identified as a high priority within the community of Drayton Valley” said Cpl. Cam Turner, NCO/ic of the Drayton Valley RCMP GIS. “Drug traffickers exploit individuals with addictions leading to an increase in property crime and drug overdoses within our community. The Drayton Valley RCMP is committed to continuing to investigate and pursue drug traffickers that profit off and prey on vulnerable people with addictions within the community.”

COMMUNITYVOICE
YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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The Consumer Carbon Tax Is Gone: Minister Nally

Continued from Page 1

finances. "With the removal of this costly tax, Alberta drivers will save an average of \$215 per year at the pumps. Our

government expects that retailers will pass these tax savings on to Albertans in full. "We do not want the removal of the federal government's consumer carbon

tax to be a phony tax, so we will continue to use every tool at our disposal to ensure Alberta drivers are not being gouged at the pumps. "We will be monitoring and reviewing pump pric-

es for any wrongdoing, and take action if needed. Businesses found guilty of price gouging can be fined by the courts up to \$300,000 or receive up to two years of jail time."

New Parent And Newborn Line Launches In Rural Alberta

Continued from Page 1

Patient Navigation and System Integration with PCA. Nurses are available 24/7 to offer support, information and referrals to new parents and caregivers for the first two months after their baby's birth. Albertans can reach the New Parent and Newborn line by calling 1-833-805-BABY (2229). The new line complements the Healthy Beginnings and

Early Start Parent Information lines already offered in the Calgary and Edmonton zones, completing universal provincial access for new parents with babies under two months of age. All three lines answer questions including caring for baby, breastfeeding, mother's health, and baby's health. "This is the newest line to be added to the vast suite of virtual health services offered by Primary Care Al-

berta through Health Link 811," says PCA CEO Kimberley Simmonds. "Offering virtual health services empowers Albertans to seek out their own appropriate care options without having to go to the emergency department or their primary care provider, ensuring Albertans continue to receive the right care at the right place at the right time." Primary Care Alberta is a made-in-Alberta solution to improve access to the

primary care services Albertans rely on. By delivering coordinated services, Primary Care Alberta allows for valued healthcare professionals to do what they do best - care for you. Together, we are creating a future where compassionate, timely and effective healthcare is available to every Albertan at every stage of life.

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JOKE of the week

A small plane pilot running out of gas found himself in the middle of the forest. Spotting a group of hikers, he quickly made a sign saying "Where am I?"

The pilot put the sign to the window so they could see it. Conversing for a few minutes, the hikers soon made their own sign and flashed it at the helicopter pilot. Their sign said, "You're in a helicopter."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the requirements of Section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, as amended, the Council of Parkland County has scheduled a Public Hearing regarding the proposed adoption of the following bylaw:

Bylaw: 2025-12 Parkland County Land Use Bylaw

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Parkland County Council Chambers, 53109A Hwy 779, Parkland County, Alberta.

The Land Use Bylaw (LUB) regulates development within Parkland County with a goal of ensuring that neighbouring land uses are compatible. The LUB is an important tool that the municipality has to ensure that local development aligns with the County's vision. Land use regulations can help preserve prime agricultural lands, protect environmentally sensitive areas, support diverse economic growth, and help families age in place within their community.

Hearing Procedure

This is a formal Public Hearing and Council is prepared to hear and receive formal submissions and presentations (verbal or written) from those who wish to speak to the proposed Bylaw. Written submissions or presentations may either be submitted in advance to Planning & Development Services by 4:00 P.M. on April 18, 2025, or submitted at the commencement of the Public Hearing.

Anyone wishing to make a verbal presentation to Council must notify governanceagendas@parklandcounty.com in advance of the Public Hearing by 4:00 P.M. on April 18, 2025. Verbal presentations at the Public Hearing will be limited to 10 minutes. Anyone wishing to make a verbal presentation who has not made prior arrangements may be allocated a time at the commencement of the Public Hearing. Council advises that this is your last chance to comment on the proposed Bylaw, as Council cannot receive more submissions after the Public Hearing is closed.

Copies of Proposed Bylaw 2025-12

Copies of the proposed Bylaw 2025-12 are available free of charge during regular business hours (8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday to Friday) from Planning & Development Services at Parkland County Centre. A copy of the proposed bylaw can also be found at www.parklandcounty.com/2025-12 or yourparkland.ca/LUB

If you have any questions, please contact the LUB ReDesign Project Team at buildingparkland@parklandcounty.com

The personal information you provide will be used for the purpose of the items described above and is collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. If you have any questions about the collection, use, and disclosure of this information, please contact the FOIP Coordinator at Parkland County, 53109A HWY 779, Parkland County, Alberta T7Z 1R1 (780-968-3229) or email foip@parklandcounty.com.

POWERING LIFE IN RURAL ALBERTA

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Budget 2025 is helping rural Albertans access essential services like gas, electricity and water to grow their local economies.

Rural and remote Albertans play a crucial role in the province's prosperity, from feeding the world to producing raw materials and adding to Alberta's vibrant cultural landscape. They also face unique challenges when it comes to accessing affordable utilities and heating costs. By ensuring rural Albertans have affordable access to the utilities they need, Alberta's government is helping keep lights on, homes warm and businesses in operation, powering both livelihoods

and success.

Budget 2025 provides \$8.5 million for the Rural Utilities Program – which consists of the Rural Electric Program, Rural Gas Program and Rural Water Program – and the Remote Area Heating Allowance. This will help communities access critical services like gas, power and water, as well as deliver direct financial relief to thousands of rural Albertans facing high utility bills so that they can continue their vital work.

“Farmers, ranchers and rural communities are the backbone of Alberta, working hard to support us all. In return, we must ensure they can keep doing what they do best, and these grants do just that by ensuring

Continued on Page 9



COMMUNITY NOTICE

ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Each year, CN is required to manage vegetation on its right-of-way. Managing this vegetation contributes to mitigating fire risks and enhances the efficiency of inspection of track infrastructure.

To ensure safe railway operations, the annual vegetation management program will be carried out on CN rail lines in the province of Alberta. A certified applicator (Davey Tree Expert Company of Canada, Ltd., 1-800-465-6367) will apply herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 24-foot graveled area/ballast). Product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

CN only uses herbicides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the province within which they are applied.

The program is expected to take place from May to October 2025.

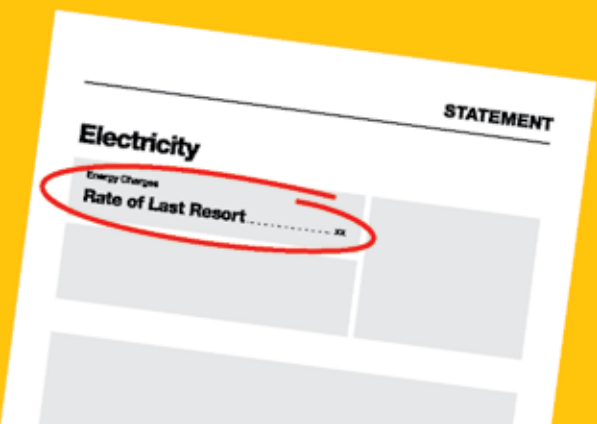
Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation for more information or to make an inquiry, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.

CN.CA

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If it says the Rate of Last Resort, you could save hundreds per year by switching plans.

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2025 Rimbey Spring Machinery Consignment Auction

Main Location: 3940 - 50th Ave - Rimbey, Alberta

Sale Starts on April 18th, 2025 - Machinery Ring Closes - April 22nd, 2025

Grazing Lease, Cattle Handling & Miscellaneous Ring #1 - April 21st, 2025

Buildings & Car Ring, Miscellaneous Ring #2 - April 22nd, 2025

Listing Include an Equipment Realignment for Dale Norton & Guest Consignors of the Castor Area & Offsite Dispersals for Oran Cabelka of Bentley, Paul & Rosemary Fetaz of Leslieville



- TRACTORS**
- NH T3325 4wd Tractor
 - JD 9320 4wd Tractor
 - Case IH 500 Quad Trac
 - Big Bud HN250 4wd Tractor
 - JD 7810 FWA Tractor
 - JD 7800 FWA Tractor
 - JD 7720 FWA Tractor
 - JD 7520 FWA Tractor
 - JD 7420 FWA Tractor
 - JD 4955 FWA Tractor
 - JD 4630 2wd Tractor
 - MF 8650 FWA Tractor
 - MF 1105 2wd Tractor
 - NH TM130 FWA Tractor
 - 2015 Kubota M5640SUD FWA Tractor
 - Bobcat CT2035 FWA Tractor
 - N/U 2023 Case IH 60A Farmall FWA Tractor
 - Case IH 5240 FWA Tractor
 - Case 530 2wd Tractor
 - MM G900 2wd Tractor
 - 1947 JD D 2wd Tractor
 - MF 50 2wd Tractor

- SKID STEERS & ATTACH**
- NH L185 Super Boom Skid Steer
 - Bobcat S300 Skid Steer
 - Thomas 1355 Skid Steer
 - N/U Skid Steer Attachments Including: Hyd. Angle Blades, Rock Skeleton, Grapple & Snow Buckets, Trenchers, Skid Steer Augers w/ Bits, Rototillers, Box Graders, Brush Cutters, Fork Extensions, Hyd. & Manual Pallet Forks, 3 pth Adaptors & Trailer Movers, Bale Spears, Tree Scoops, Post Pounders & Bale Accumulators

- CONSTRUCTION**
- 2013 Cat 349E1, Excavator
 - JCB 8045 Backhoe
 - Hitachi UH7-3 Trackhoe
 - AC HD 16 Crawler Dozer
 - N/U Mini Compact Excavator
 - N/U SB05 Mini Excavator Jack Hammer
 - Hyster Forklift
 - N/U Stantforge 8' 3 pth 8' Swing Backhoe Attachment
 - Volvo Penta 6 Cyl Turbo Diesel Skid Mtd. Generator
 - Wacker Neuson G60 Generator
 - Wojax 7000 38" Picker



- SEEDING & TILLAGE**
- Rogator 854 High Clearance 4wd Hydrostatic Sp Sprayer
 - Flexicoil 67 100' PT Sprayer
 - Lemken 20' High Speed Disc
 - Frigstad 40' DT Cult Frigstad A3-26 32' DT Cult
 - Morris 225 25' DT Cult
 - MF 24' DT Cult
 - JD 9350 20' Hoe Drills
 - Monosem NG-4 16 Row 20' Corn Planter
 - JD 3100 5 & 6 Bottom Plows

- HAYING**
- JD 560M Rd Baler
 - JD 569 Rd Baler
 - JD 568 Rd Baler
 - 2 - JD 535 Rd Balers
 - NH BR780A Rd Baler
 - NH BR780 Rd Baler
 - Vermeer 605H Rd Baler
 - Hesston 1345 12' Discbine
 - JD 946 13' Discbine
 - Gehl 2175 Haybine
 - NH 166 Swath Inverter

- HARVEST**
- Westward 9300 21' SP Swather
 - Westfield MKX 13"x74' Swing Auger
 - Spray Air 4261 Swing Auger
 - Brandt 1545 15"x45' Belt Tube Conveyor
 - Bateo 16"x45' Grain Conveyor

- GRAIN BINS**
FB - Flat & IIB - Hopper Bottom
- 3 - GSI 10,000 Bu FB
 - 2 - Caradon 10,000 Bu FB
 - 4 - Caradon 8,000 Bu FB
 - Chief Westland 27' 6 Ring FB
 - 2 - Westeel Magnum F 5000 Bu IIB Fertilizer Bin
 - 2 - 5000 Bu IIB & 3 - 4000 Bu IIB 3000 Bu HB
 - 2 - 3000 Bu Overhead HB
 - 4 Compartment Overhead Steel Bin
 - 9 Spout Grain Leg

- OTHER EQUIPMENT**
- Norwood HD 38 Hand Saw
 - N/U 27' 30" Saw Mills
 - N/U 4" Wood Chipper
 - N/U 1A 14' 4 Way Blade
 - JD 640 FEL w/ Grapple
 - NH 195 Manure Spreader
 - Wilmar 5 Ton Fert Spreader
 - NT Stantforge 68" 3ph Fluid Mower
 - Allied 8' 3 pth Blade

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 4 - N/U Hummators
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TRUCKS

2002 IHC 9900 T/A Truck
 2000 Freightliner Conventional Truck
 2000 Mack 600 T/A C&C Truck
 1989 Peterbilt 377 T/A Vac Truck
 2008 Hino S/A Reefer Truck
 1980 IHC 1824 Bucket Truck
 2003 Dodge Ram 3500 4dr 4x4 FD Truck
 2000 Ford F450 SD Picker Truck
 1976 Dodge 3500 Reg Cab FD Truck

TRAILERS

2005 Loading Super B Grain Trailer
 1998 Mamac 48' T/A Hi-Boy Trailer
 1995 Trail King 48' Tridem FD Trailer
 Fruehauf B Train FD Trailer
 2012 Heil Quad Water Tanker
 2007 Heil 7400 Gal Quad Water Tanker
 Trailmobile 53 T/A Reefer Van
 2014 Great Dane 53' T/A FD Trailer
 2008 Tranel 38' Tridem GN FD Trailer
 2007 Loadmax 25' Tridem GN Trailer
 2013 Load Trail GN FD Trailer
 2006 PJ 29' Tridem GN FD Trailer
 2 - N/U 2025 Variant S/A Tilt Deck Trailer
 2022 Trailtech 24' T/A Tilt Deck Equipment Trailer
 2012 Load Trail 14' T/A High Side Dump Trailer
 2014 Load Trail GN Tridem Dump Trailer
 Oasis 20' T/A BP FD Trailer
 2022 Southland 18' T/A BP FD Trailer
 2008 Felling 18' T/A HD Pintle Hitch Trailer
 2009 Royal 15' T/A Enclosed Trailer
 2005 Bison Stratus 833MMGN Tridem GN
 Alum Horse Trailer
 1995 Norberts 16' T/A Stock Trailer
 1984 Keen 18' T/A GN Stock Trailer

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 3/8", 2 7/8" & 4 1/2" Jts of Pipe Plus Tubing (Various
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 2013 Chevy 1500 4x4 CC SB Truck
 2013 GMC 2500 4x4 CC SB Truck
 2011 GMC 1 Ton Truck
 2008 GMC 1 Ton Dually Truck
 1994 GMC 2500 2wd EC SB Truck
 2016 Ford F350 4x4 CC SB Truck
 2009 Ford F350 4x4 CC SB Truck
 2006 Ford F250 4x4 EC LB Truck
 2015 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4 LB Truck
 2014 Dodge 1500 4x4 CC SB Truck
 2007 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4 QC Truck
 2005 Dodge Dakota 4x4 CC Truck
 2007 Toyota Tundra 4x4 SB Truck
 2015 Toyota Corolla 4dr Car
 2010 Toyota Corolla Matrix AWD 4dr Hatchback Car
 2014 Smart Fortwo 2dr Car
 2014 Ford Mustang
 2021 Chev Equinox SUV
 2010 Chev Traverse 4wd SUV
 2009 Pontiac Torrent SUV
 1985 Ford Bronco
 1980 Pontiac Firebird 2dr Car
 1974 Volkswagen Beetle
 1946 GMC 1/2 Ton Truck

RECREATIONAL, LAWN & GARDEN

2014 Kawasaki Vulcan Classic LT Motorcycle
 2006 Mirada 30' S/A Class A Motorhome
 1997 Ford Fleetwood Storm 34' Motorhome
 2008 Jayco Eagle 35' T/A 5th Wheel Holiday Trailer
 2007 Jayco 32' Tridem 5th Wheel Toy Hauler
 2007 Pilgrim Lite 27' T/A BP Holiday Trailer
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Powering Life In Rural Alberta

Continued from Page 5

they can access the utilities they need – at a reasonable cost.”

Nathan Neudorf, Minister of Affordability and Utilities

“These grants are making a difference for Albertans across the province, ensuring that everyone, no matter where they live, has access to essential utilities. I’m proud of how this government continues to support and stand by the hard-working rural communities that help drive our province forward.”

Chantelle de Jonge, parliamentary secretary for Affordability and Utilities

A total of \$700,000 is allocated to the Rural Electric Program, recognizing the increasing role electricity plays in modern farming and ranching. Under this program, grants are administered by the Alberta Federation of Electrification Associations and support

the construction of electrical services for farms and ranches.

“Alberta’s Rural Electric Grant Program is helping rural Albertans access the power they need to continue putting food on tables around the world. We’re grateful for the government’s ongoing support and commitment to rural electrification.”

Steven Young, CEO, Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations

When it comes to home heating, Budget 2025 commits \$5.7 million to the Natural Gas Program, to be administered by the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops, to expand and update natural gas infrastructure. This funding will help provide more rural Albertans with reliable and affordable home heating options as well as help communities attract new businesses, create jobs and diversify the local economy.

For those who are unable to access the natural gas system, Budget 2025 also commits \$1.6 million for the Remote Area Heating Allowance program. Direct financial relief is provided to more than 2,000 households, the majority from Indigenous communities, to help with the high cost of alternative heating fuels, such as heating oil and propane.

“With this funding, gas co-operatives can continue the ongoing expansion of our natural gas distribution system so that we can connect even more rural communities to affordable gas heating.”

Tom Kee, executive director, Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops

Equally as important as electricity and heat is access to safe, abundant water for residential, livestock and irrigation needs. Budget 2025 commits \$500,000 for the Rural Water Pro-

gram, first introduced in 2024, to ensure rural water co-ops across the province have access to modern water treatment and distribution systems. Grants are administered by the Alberta Federation of Rural Water Co-operatives.

“Access to clean water is non-negotiable for any home or farming operation. The Rural Water Program is providing support as we work to ensure rural Albertans have the modern water distribution systems they need.”

Gary Houston, chair, Alberta Federation of Rural Water Co-operatives

Budget 2025 is meeting the challenge faced by Alberta with continued investments in education and health, lower taxes for families and a focus on the economy.

PROTECTING ALBERTA’S COMMUNITIES

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Local fire services across the province will benefit from firefighter training grants to help keep Albertans safe.

When Albertans need them the most, firefighters are always there for them. Whether it’s battling fires, clearing accident scenes or providing emergency care, firefighters protect and preserve the safety of Alberta’s communities.

To bolster support for protecting and preserving the safety of the province’s communities, Alberta’s gov-

ernment is investing more than \$1 million through the Fire Services Training Program Grant to support local fire services. This funding is being distributed to more than 65 municipalities, Metis Settlements and First Nations across the province.

“Firefighters put their lives on the line to protect us, and we’re making sure they have the training they need to do their jobs safely and effectively. Well-trained fire services are essential to keeping our communities safe, and these grant investments will help firefighters respond with skill and

confidence when Albertans need them most.”

Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs

The first to respond in an emergency is often a community’s local fire service, which makes it critical that local firefighters receive training that is reflective of industry best standards and fits the needs of the communities they serve. The funding provided to municipalities, First Nations and Metis Settlements across the province through the Fire Services Training Program Grant will support them in delivering a wide range of training for their

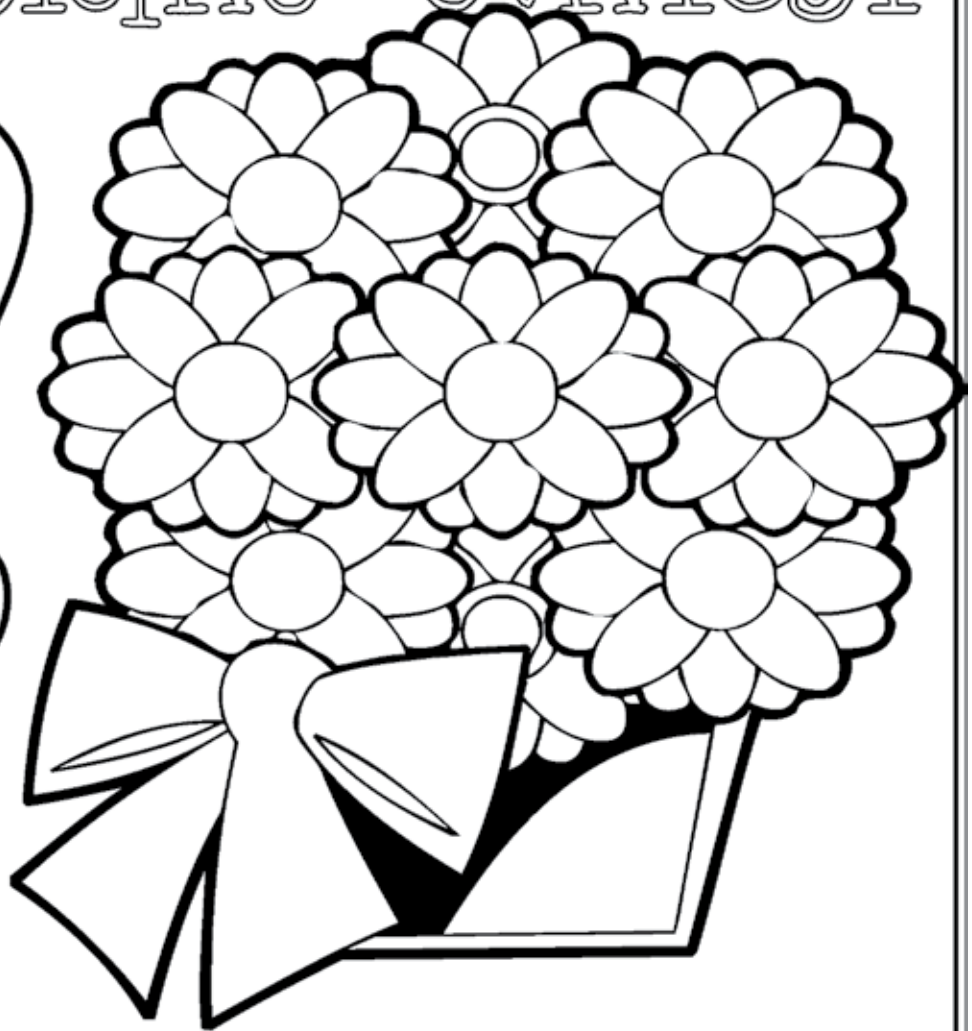
firefighters including ice water rescues, toxic material responses and so much more.

“This investment in firefighter training is not only welcome – it’s essential. The Alberta Fire Chiefs Association is pleased to see the government’s commitment to ensuring our firefighters are prepared to meet the growing demands of emergency response. These grants will directly support the safety and readiness of fire services across Alberta’s communities.”

Chief Randy Schroeder, president, Alberta Fire Chiefs Association

Mother's Day

COLOURING CONTEST



AGE GROUPS: 4-5 YRS | 6-7 YRS | 8-9 YRS | 10-12 YRS

NAME: _____ **AGE:** _____

PHONE: _____ **TOWN:** _____

Entries must be recieved by May 8, 2025.

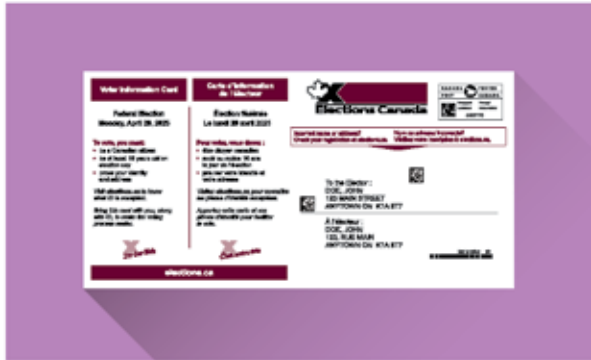
**Mail to: Community Voice
Box 3595 Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3A8**



FEDERAL ELECTION / MONDAY, APRIL 28



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2025 Rimbey Spring Machinery Consignment Auction

Edson Area - Grazing Lease

Sale Starts on April 18th, 2025

Grazing Lease (Located in the Cattle Handling Ring) - April 21st, 2025

Selling a 1244.43 Acre M/L Grazing Lease Just West of Edson Area - Grazing Lease #38603

Consisting of Approx. 8 Quarters of Land in 1 Block, On 10 Titles with a Carrying Capacity of 366 AUMs (Animal Unit Month). There are four separate pastures; three with dugouts. There are three springs, one is fenced off. The fourth pasture has water holes in a wet year but cattle can access the pasture # 3 dugout.

Legal Descriptions:

1. NW 11-53-19 W5M - 114.5 Acres M/L
2. SW 11-53-19 W5M - 19.5 Acres M/L
3. SE 10-53-19 W5M - 8.24 Acres M/L
4. NE 11-53-19 W5M - 160 Acres M/L
5. SE 14-53-19 W5M - 23.5 Acres M/L
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Powered by Local Stewardship Experts

HOSTED BY: Athabasca Watershed Council & Yellowhead County

DATE: April 30, 2025

TIME: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LOCATION: Edson Lion's Club Hall, 4139 3 Ave, Edson

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To apply please submit resumes online at <https://yhcounty.ca/jobs/>

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

The competition closes on **Friday, April 18 at 4:30 PM.**

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

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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE



HOME SAFETY CHECKS TO COMPLETE TODAY

A new kitchen or a bathroom remodeling job might be dream projects for many homeowners, but the right home improvement project at a given moment is not necessarily the most glamorous project. Sometimes safety upgrades around the house must take precedence over more popular projects.

Accidents or injuries can occur in any part of the home, but homeowners who take certain preventative measures can greatly reduce their injury

risk. The security resource A Secure Life points out that more than 18,000 Americans die every year from injuries that take place in the home. Unintentional injuries account for millions of medical visits each year. Home injuries also are prevalent elsewhere in the world. In the United Kingdom, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents reports that there are approximately 6,000 deaths every year that result from accidents at home.

Periodic inspections for

potential hazards can keep everyone safe. The following are a handful of ways for homeowners to ensure their homes are as safe as possible.

• Check for sturdy handrails and prevent tripping hazards. Falls are one of the leading causes of home injuries. Falls can be a particular threat for youngsters and the elderly. To help prevent falls, make sure that staircases feature sturdy railings and that there is ample lighting in walkways. Remove obstructions from

frequently used paths inside and outside the home. In addition, insert nonslip padding beneath runners or throw rugs.

• Check for frayed wires or faulty outlets. Address any electrical problems around the house, including frayed wiring and faulty outlets. Sparks can lead to fires, and poor wiring may cause unforeseen problems behind walls. Repair or replace any loose or frayed wires on all electrical devices. Be sure that cords do

Continued on Page 16

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Home Safety Checks To Complete Today

Continued from Page 15

not run under doorways or rugs. Replace outlets that are in disrepair and install ones with ground-fault current interruptors

as an added precaution. If small children live in the home, use plastic safety covers over unused outlets.

- Practice window

safety. Young children are curious and do not always recognize the inherent dangers around them. Children excited to see the great outdoors

may climb up to peer out windows, and open windows are falling hazards. Screens do not offer an adequate barrier against falls. Consider locking windows or use safety bars to guard against falls. Test to see how easily screens can be pushed out, replacing any that do not provide adequate resistance to curious youngsters' hands.

- Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Replace the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors at least twice per year, and test them to make sure they're in good working order at least once per month. The National Fire Protection Association recommends replacing hard-wired smoke alarms every 10 years. Battery-operated alarms may need to be replaced even sooner. Many carbon monoxide detectors work for five to seven years. Check the back of alarms for a date stamp that indicates how old the product is and when it expires.

Safety checklists are an important part of home maintenance. A proactive approach can prevent both injuries and damage to the home.

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HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT WINDOW TREATMENTS FOR YOUR HOME

Plantation shutters? Mini-blinds? Cafe curtains? Formal draperies? Homeowners' options in regard to window treatments for their homes are extensive, which can make outfitting home interiors challenging for novice decorators.

Some people do not pay a lot of attention to window treatments, failing to realize just how great an impact the right window treatments can have on a space. According to the design experts at Hunter Douglas, window

treatments are often an afterthought because residents may not consider them necessities. As a result, homeowners may install whatever is on hand or accept window treatments that came with a house or apartment. But ignoring window treatments, especially when they can fulfill certain needs, is a missed design opportunity.

One of the first steps to choosing window treatments is determining your end goal. Is privacy

your main goal? Are you seeking more natural light in a room? Is there too much light and you need to darken the room? Window treatments can serve multiple functions, and some treatments may make better fits depending on homeowners' ultimate goals.

Semi-sheer window treatments

Semi-sheer window treatments are often fabric and can help brighten rooms with natural light but offer little privacy. They're usually appropri-

ate for spaces where people gather, such as living rooms, dens or dining rooms. Semi-sheer curtains may be paired with another complementary window treatment so privacy can be customized as needed. For example, sheer curtains let light into a bedroom, but shades can be drawn at night.

Maximum privacy Bedrooms, work spaces or bathrooms can benefit from extra privacy. While some people may

Continued on Page 18

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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE



How To Choose The Right Window Treatments For Your Home

Continued from Page 17

think that privacy comes at the cost of light, that's not always the case.

Functional curtain panels can be drawn closed when privacy is desired and then opened to let in light. The thickness of the fabric will also dictate the amount of privacy the panels create.

Tiers are hung on a short rod-pocket panel and usually cover the lower one-third of a window. They're popular choices to let light in from the top, but obscure views

from the bottom portion of the window.

Cellular shades are another option that provide privacy but still let light in. Cellular shades come in hard and fabric varieties and their use depends on the room. Many cellular shades are constructed with a honeycomb design, offers the design resource Houzz, so they can insulate as well as decorate windows.

Blackout shades/shutters

Perfect for rooms where babies nap, shift work-

ers rest during daylight hours or external lights, such as that from a street lamp, need to be blocked out, blackout shades do just what their name implies. A dense fabric lining helps keep light out entirely.

Shutters also can block out light but add to the character of the room. They can be painted a bright color to make a statement or match wall colors to blend in seamlessly.

When selecting window treatments, shoppers

can choose retail options or custom treatments. Many designers recommend custom window treatments because they are measured, manufactured and installed specifically for homeowners' windows. However, there are many DIY options available at budget-friendly retailers.



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

3			7			1	4	
		4	9			5		
	8							
			2	4	6			
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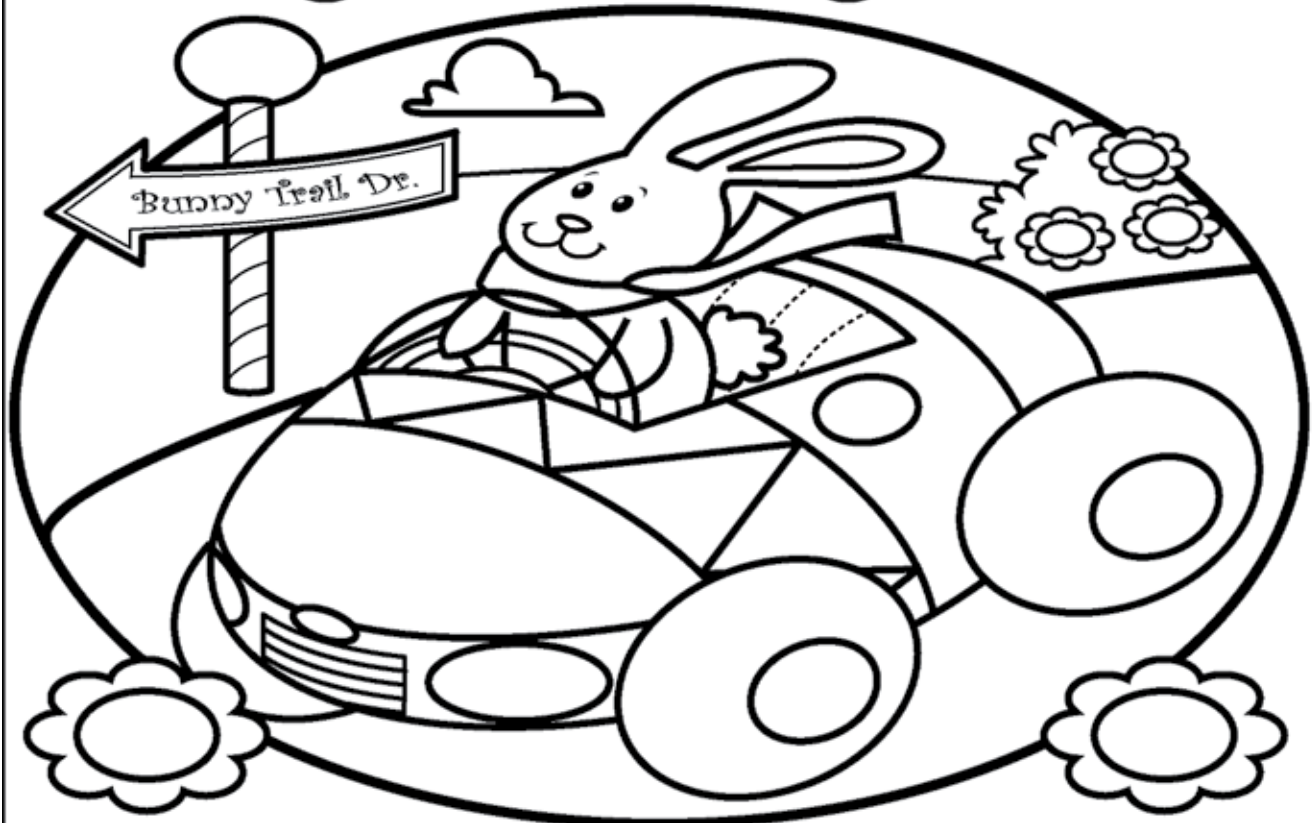
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