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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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April 15, 2026

LEDUC RCMP SEEK ASSISTANCE TO IDENTIFY A SUSPECT INVOLVED IN A BREAK AND ENTER TO A CIGAR BUSINESS

Submitted by Leduc RCMP
On March 23, 2026, at approximately 2:25 a.m. an unknown individual gained entry to a business near 51st street and 50th avenue in Leduc. The suspect gained entry to the property by accessing the ceiling through

a vacant business next door. The security camera lines were cut upon entry before stealing merchandise and cash from the store. The suspect exited through the rear door into the back alley.

The suspect is described as wearing:

- yellow jacket
- yellow gloves
- red spiderman mask

Anyone with further information on this crime is asked to contact Leduc RCMP at 310-RCMP (7267).

CANADA BEGINS NEW "30 DAYS OR FREE" GUARANTEE FOR PASSPORT PROCESSING

Submitted by Government of Canada

The Government of Canada is strengthening accountability for passport processing by introducing a new guarantee for passport services.

Today, the Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced that, effective April 1, 2026, applicants will receive a full refund of their passport or travel document fee if it

takes more than 30 business days to process their application. If processing exceeds 30 business days, refunds will be issued automatically. Processing time starts when a complete application is received and ends when the passport or travel document is printed and verified. It does not include mailing time. A complete application includes a filled-out form, all required documents, such as a passport photo that meets requirements, and the full payment of fees.

The "30 days or free" guarantee provides a clear and consistent standard for applicants, no matter how they apply. Most passport applications are processed within service standards, but applicants should be compensated when the government does not meet them.

This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to improve passport and travel document services, and provide a more consistent and predictable experience for applicants.

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SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AGAINST DROUGHT AND FLOODS

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta's government will invest more than \$28 million to help protect families, communities and our economy from future floods and drought.

Many communities face challenges keeping up with water demand, drought-proofing their infrastructure or preventing floodwaters from damaging homes and critical infrastructure. That's why Alberta's government is investing \$25 million for 12 projects through the Drought and Flood Protection Program and \$3.5 million for projects through

the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program.

With this funding, communities and other partner organizations will build projects designed to keep homes and businesses dry, roads accessible, and critical infrastructure operating safely during an emergency. Water supply and storage infrastructure will be expanded and watershed health will be improved so growing communities have the water they need, even during periods of drought.

"Investing in drought and flood protection keeps communities safe, while allowing them to continue to grow and thrive. This

helps ensure safe and reliable access to water while making Alberta more resilient to extreme weather events."

Grant Hunter, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

Alberta's government is investing \$125 million over five years into the Drought and Flood Protection Program. Last year, the government delivered millions to counties, towns, cities and Indigenous partners for infrastructure projects, which are now underway. In total, \$75 million has now been invested in 40 projects through the program.

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JOKE of the week

One rainy evening, my husband, John, and I emerged from a restaurant only to find that he had locked the keys in the car. He insisted he could open the door with a wire coat hanger, so we went back to the restaurant to get one. There were none to be found.

John then ran to a department store a quarter-mile away and returned with a hanger. After a few attempts, he got the door open and we climbed in. As we sat there, soaked and cold, he stuck the hanger under his seat.

With a smug grin, he said, "Now if this ever happens again, I'll have one handy."

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THIS IS ALBERTA WHISKY

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Distilled in Alberta, sipped around the world, proposed legislation would give Alberta whisky the brand power it rightfully deserves.

Alberta's government is introducing Bill 24: the Alberta Whisky Act to define and protect what can be labeled as "Alberta Whisky." If passed, the Alberta Whisky Act would give Alberta whisky a clear identity, just as Kentucky is known for bourbon and Scotland is known for scotch.

By defining what can be called Alberta Whisky, the legislation would build pride in a product made by Alberta businesses using ingredients grown in the province, all while strengthening its credibility across the globe. Alberta's distillers are crafting something truly special, and the Alberta Whisky Act helps tell that story by elevating the brand power of our whisky into something people around the world recognize, trust and seek out.

"The world wants more of everything Alberta has to offer. Our distillers craft some of the finest whisky in the world, using the highest quality ingredients that only Alberta can offer. This legislation would ensure Alberta distillers have the recognition they need to flourish on the world stage."

Danielle Smith, Premier
"Across Alberta, distillers are turning local ingredients into something very special that we can all be proud of. This legislation is about supporting their work and making sure Alberta Whisky is recognized for the world-class quality and craftsmanship behind every bottle."

Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

The proposed legislation would require Alberta Whisky to be made using 100 per cent Alberta water and a defined proportion of grains sourced from local farms, anchoring production in Alberta's agriculture sector. This would support farmers across the province

while showcasing Alberta Whisky as a true reflection of the province's agricultural strength and craftsmanship. From prairie grain to poured glass, the Alberta Whisky Act would tell the story of the people and places behind it.

"The Alberta Whisky Act is a landmark step to showcase Alberta's whiskies globally. Spirits Canada is proud to have helped shape this initiative and looks forward to supporting its successful rollout."

Cal Bricker, president and CEO, Spirits Canada

"Today, the Alberta Whisky Act affirms our world-class whisky industry, rooted in Alberta's blessed agricultural lands. We are thrilled to drive economic growth through the Whisky Trail while continuing to craft internationally award-winning whiskies."

Bryce Parsons, president and chair, Alberta Craft Distillers Association

When Alberta's distillers succeed, it means more visitors touring tasting rooms, more bottles on shelves and

more economic activity flowing into Alberta communities. The Alberta Whisky Act would create new opportunities to showcase the province through local distilleries and visitor experiences, including the potential for an industry-led Alberta Whisky Trail, helping us meet our ambitious goal of \$25 billion in annual visitor spending.

"The Alberta Whisky Act gives our spirits the global identity they deserve. By protecting our local craft and ingredients, we ensure Alberta Whisky is recognized alongside the world's finest regions."

Jordan Ramey, chief operations officer, Burwood Distillery

If the proposed legislation passes, Alberta's government will work with industry to implement the Alberta Whisky Act framework, while Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) would oversee compliance and enforcement of the new legislation.

INVESTING IN LOCAL FIRE SERVICES

Submitted by Government of Alberta

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

Alberta's government is supporting critical work with \$500,000 in Fire Services Training Program grants, distributed to 90 recipients across the province including municipalities, First Nations and Metis Settlements. The Fire Services Training Program helps local firefighters and fire services personnel access

training that reflects industry standards and meets the needs of the communities they serve.

"When Albertans need them most, firefighters are always there for them. They put their lives on the line to protect ours, and we're making sure they have the training needed to do their jobs safely and effectively. These investments will help local teams respond with the skill and confidence to protect Albertans."

Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Training supported through the program in-

cludes ice water rescues, hazardous material responses and a wide variety of courses that ensure firefighters have the resources and preparation needed to protect Albertans, their families and their communities.

"This investment is a meaningful step in strengthening fire services across Alberta, ensuring firefighters have access to the training they need to safely and effectively protect their communities. The Alberta Fire Chiefs Association values this continued support and looks forward

to working with the government to further enhance capacity and preparedness across the province."

Drayton Bussiere, president, Alberta Fire Chiefs Association

Alberta's government continues to support public safety and strengthen its partnership with municipalities, First Nations and Metis Settlements by helping test and certify the skills of dedicated fire service professionals, ensuring their credentials are recognized and standardized across the province.



CANADA
4-H Alberta

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ONSCREEN ALBERTA GROWS TOURISM INTEREST

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta's stunning landscapes gain global attention as Netflix features 28 locations across the province.

From the dramatic mountain vistas seen on *Can This Love Be Translated?* to the rolling foothills featured in *My Life with the Walter Boys*, Alberta's natural beauty is being discovered by millions of viewers worldwide. On the streaming platform's website, Canadian filming locations are recognized, placing a spotlight on the province's growing portfolio of globally recognized productions.

"Every film and series filmed in our province is an invitation to international viewers to explore all that our province has to offer. Showcasing the province on the screen helps drive tourism spending, support local businesses, and create jobs across Alberta, while

inspiring more visitors to experience the province's magic for themselves."

Andrew Boitchenko, Minister of Tourism and Sport

New research from Netflix highlights ties between screen content and tourism interest, with viewers exposed to Canadian content on the platform twice as likely to say Canada is their number one travel destination. This content-driven tourism phenomenon puts Alberta on the map, representing a significant opportunity for Alberta. To support this growing tourism trend, Travel Alberta highlights multi-day itineraries and details on filming locations in the province where key productions have been shot for visitors to see firsthand. Details can be found on the Travel Alberta website.

"By promoting Alberta's advantages to production companies, we are putting a spotlight on our amaz-

ing landscapes while driving tourism, attracting investment and creating good-paying jobs. We are proud to continue strengthening our dynamic film and television sector to develop local talent, strengthen businesses and create opportunities for Albertans across the province."

Tanya Fir, Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women

Major film and television productions generate immediate economic benefits through local spending during filming, while also sparking long-term tourism interest. The province is well-positioned to build on this trend as part of its ambitious goal to reach \$25 billion in annual visitor spending by 2035. In 2023 alone, Alberta's cultural film and television sector contributed \$1.25 billion to the economy and supported more than 9,000 jobs, with productions increasing-

ly choosing communities of all sizes across Alberta – spreading these benefits throughout the province

"Alberta offers a fantastic combination of world-class crews and stunning backdrops, with everything from urban settings to epic mountains and open prairie. Audiences from around the world have loved the shows we film there and we look forward to continuing to work with the province."

Danielle Woodrow, director, Content, Canada, Netflix

With more than 60 per cent of all Alberta-made projects filmed or planned to film in small cities, towns, and rural locations across the province, screen production is revitalizing communities throughout Alberta, with every dollar of government support generating four dollars of investment back into the province.

ALBERTA RCMP REMINDS DRIVERS TO STOP SPEEDING

Submitted by Alberta RCMP

As the weather warms up and road conditions improve, the Alberta RCMP is reminding motorists of the dangers of speeding. Even during ideal conditions, it's essential not to exceed posted speed limits. Unsafe speeds increase the risk of collision and serious injury.

Unfortunately, speeding a common habit among drivers. Last year, the Alberta RCMP issued 47,989 speeding tickets. In April

alone, 4,949 speeding violations were given out.

According to Alberta Transportation, approximately one in four fatal collisions involve unsafe speed, with most of these collisions occurring in rural areas.

Help stay safe, and avoid a ticket, by following the below tips:

- Leave early. Give yourself extra time to reach your destination. Avoid using unsafe speeds—they increase the risk of collision and serious injury.

- Follow posted speed limits, especially in school, playground, and construction zones. These areas often have high pedestrian traffic—slow down to keep everyone safe.

- Remember, speeding isn't just surpassing legal speed limits, but also driving too fast for weather, road, and traffic conditions. Driving a safe speed allows you to stop quickly in the event of an unexpected traffic hazard.

- If you are a pas-

senger in a speeding vehicle, speak up. Don't let speeding be the norm.

"Speeding is incredibly normalized, but it's important to prioritize your safety over saving a few minutes," says Sgt. Darrin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic. "Speeding remains one of the biggest threats to traffic safety and can have devastating consequences."

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2026 Rimbey Spring Machinery Consignment Auction

Main Location: 3940 - 50th Ave - Rimbey, Alberta ~ Sale Starts on April 17th, 2026

Machinery & Miscellaneous Ring #2 Closes - April 21st, 2026 ~ Cattle Handling & Miscellaneous Ring #1 - April 20th, 2026

Buildings & Car Ring- April 22nd, 2026

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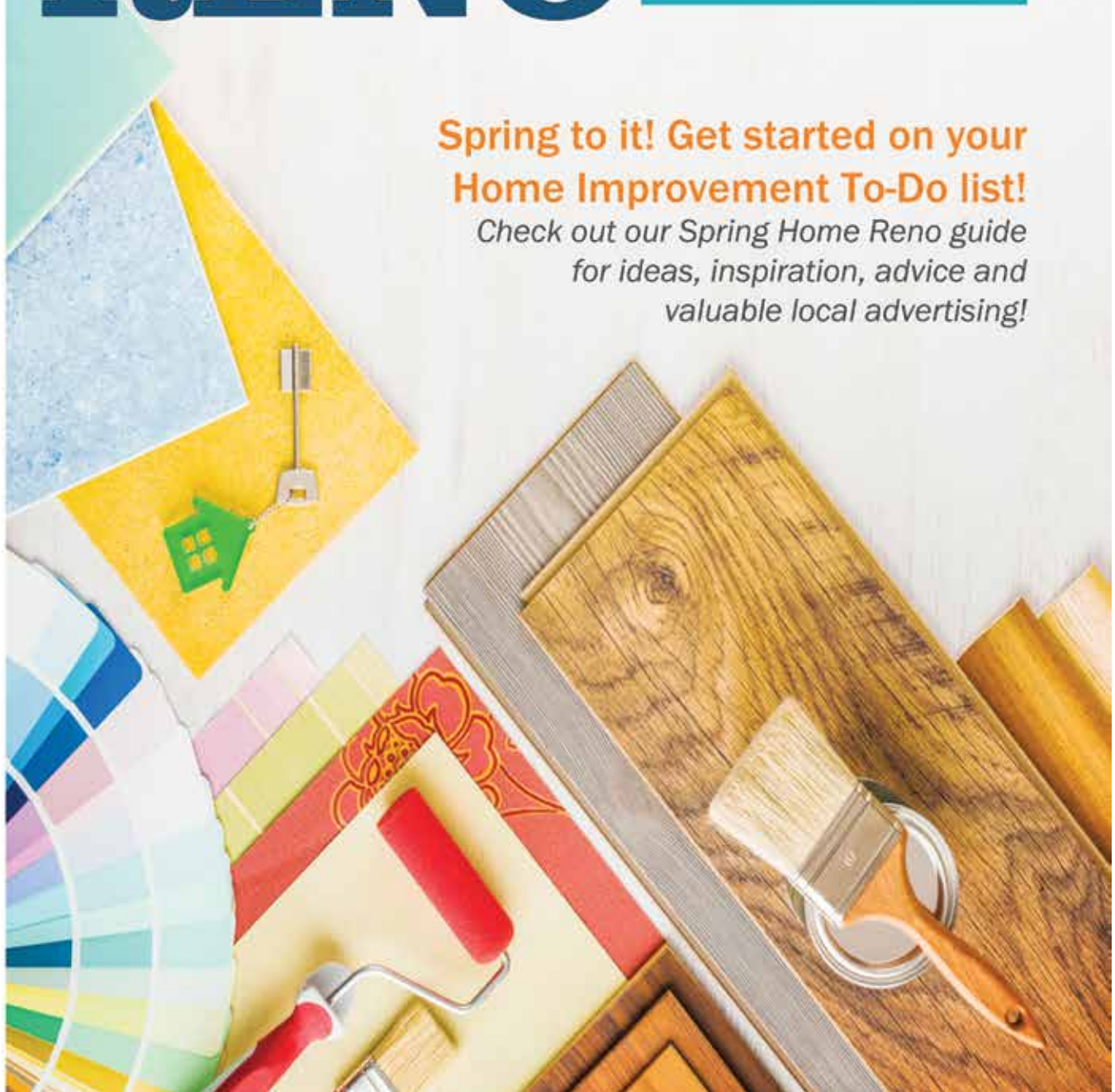
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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE



REDUCE ENERGY COSTS WHILE ENSURING HOMES STAY COOL

When attempting to cool their homes, many homeowners' first instinct may be to adjust the air conditioning thermostat. But there are other, more energy-efficient methods to cooling a home.

According to the International Association of Certified Home Inspectors, as much as half of the energy used in homes goes toward heating and cooling. The following are a handful of ways to make

heating and cooling a home more eco-friendly.

Insulate
Insulation often is associated with warmth, and rightfully so, as it is used to protect a home from cold weather. However, insulation also is effective at cooling homes. Many insulation materials work by slowing down the way heat moves through materials and into spaces. Proper insulation can provide effective resis-

tance to the flow of heat, meaning it can help block hot air from flowing into the interior of a home. Insulation will help reduce the amount of work a cooling system will have to do to cool a home thanks to the flow of heat.

Replace air filters
Air filters trap dust, debris and other microscopic particles so they are not circulating in the air or clogging up vents. Over time, air filters can

become so bogged down with dirt that air cannot move through a home very easily, forcing cooling systems to work harder. Simply replacing the filters can help cooling systems work more efficiently.

Adjust the thermostat
Programmable thermostats allow homeowners to adjust their cooling systems for when they are home and when

Continued on Page 12



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Reduce Energy Costs While Ensuring Homes Stay Cool

Continued from Page 11

they are out. Air conditioners can be set at higher temperatures when residents are at work or school, and then lowered before residents arrive home.

Try evaporative coolers. Sometimes called “swamp coolers,” these devices can be effective in regions with low humidity. The U.S. Department of Energy notes that these coolers evaporate water

into the air to provide a natural and energy-efficient means of cooling a home. When operating an evaporative cooler, windows are opened part way to allow warm indoor air to escape as it is replaced by cooled air. Unlike central air conditioning systems that recirculate the same air, evaporative coolers provide a steady stream of fresh air into the house. Plus, they consume only

about one-quarter of the energy consumed by more traditional air conditioners.

Ceiling fans
Fans help to circulate air throughout a home and create an effective draft. Ceiling fans are usually most effective at circulating air throughout a room. The larger the blades, the more air that can be offset by the fan. Many fans operate quietly and effectively. In some

locations, fans may be all that’s needed to cool a space. In others, fans may work in conjunction with air conditioners to enable homeowners to raise the thermostat by about 4 F. Keeping a home cool and saving money in the process is possible by making a few tweaks to the cooling system.

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TYPES OF FIREPITS FOR YOUR BACKYARD OASIS

Outdoor entertaining areas are popular among homeowners, and firepits are one of the most sought-after additions to such spaces. In fact, a 2016 survey from the American Society of Landscape Architects found that fireplaces and firepits were the most popular outdoor design element in 2016. Various styles are available to homeowners who want to add firepits to their backyards, and choosing the right type may come down to budget, the amount of yard space available or even personal preference.

• **Wood firepit:** As their name suggests, wood firepits burn wood, which may appeal to homeowners who already

have wood-burning fireplaces inside their homes. Because they don't require homeowners to tap into gas lines, wood firepits are generally easy to set up and install, and many homeowners prefer the aesthetic appeal of crackling wood and flames that's synonymous with wood firepits.

• **Gas firepit:** Gas firepits are touted for their convenience, as they don't require homeowners to carry wood and build fires. Upon being connected to a gas source, gas firepits provide fire at the click of a switch. Gas firepits are also appreciated for their safety, as there is little or no risk that flames from gas firepits will

grow too large and become difficult to control.

• **Gas fire tables:** Gas fire tables might be ideal for those homeowners whose sense of decor favors more modern looks. Gas fire tables come in a variety of shapes and sizes and, like gas firepits, there's no need to struggle with lighting a fire or carrying firewood.

• **Tabletop firepits:** Homeowners, condominium or apartment dwellers with limited backyard space may want to consider the convenience of tabletop firepits. Restaurants may use tabletop firepits in their outdoor seating areas because they provide warmth

and ambiance without taking up much space. Tabletop firepits fueled by gas will not need to be connected to a gas source, which may appeal to consumers who want something that's simple as well as small.

• **Fire urns:** While they might not technically qualify as firepits, fire urns provide a similar effect as firepits. Fire urns are typically gas-powered and may be an ideal choice for homeowners who are looking for a unique, awe-inspiring feature for their outdoor entertaining areas.

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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 words or less (including spaces). DEADLINE: 12 noon Friday prior to publication (Thursdays on long weekends).

FARMERS MARKETS

DRAYTON VALLEY: Farmers' Market, Wednesdays starting May -October4 from 3:00pm-6:00pm at 5015 Industrial Rd.

at 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, monthly sunday market Community Centre 12-4pm. New Vendors Welcome. More info: 780-652-3304 www.artsdevon.org

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)

DEVON MUSIC JAM & DANCE: 4th Friday of ea. Month @ 1:30 pmPioneers 73 Club, 29 St.

Lawrence Ave. Admission \$10.00 - Musicians \$5.00 More info - 780-991-2425

INDOOR PLAYGROUND: Mondays, 10AM-12PM, Alder Flats Community Centre. Info (780) 388-3333 No fee. Pleas 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.

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 Monday of the month, 7-9 pm. Info at artsdevon.org or phone 780-652-3304.

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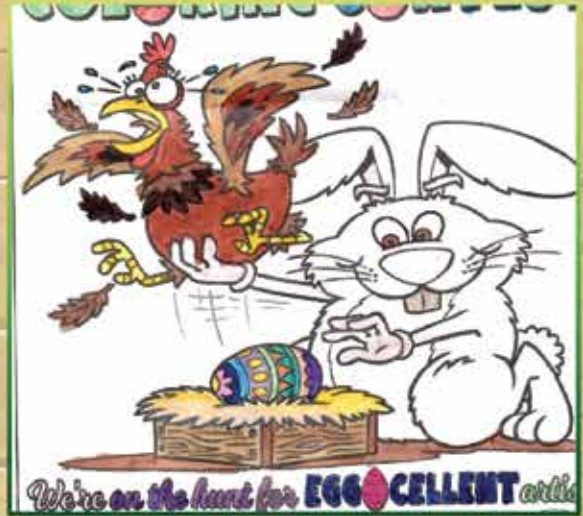
Liam A. Age 5



Saphira Age 6



Silas Age 8



Paisley Age 12

The Easter Bunny is proud to announce the winners of the Easter Colouring Contest!

Our contest was a huge success! There were so many great entries that it was difficult to choose the winners, but after careful deliberation, we made our decision.

Each winner received a gift bag.

