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April 28, 2020

MEET THE ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES PROGRAM, HERE TO HELP!



Submitted by Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)

There are 158 million acres of land in Alberta and

approximately 52 million acres are privately owned farmland. Farmers are the caretakers of the crops and manage the land and livestock. Farmers are in the

best position possible to sustainably manage the land because this is what they have done for generations.

Continued on Page 2

RIVER ICE ADVISORY FOR THE ATHABASCA AND MCLEOD RIVERS

Submitted by Town of Whitecourt

Alberta Environment and Parks has issued a River Ice Advisory for the Athabasca and McLeod Rivers in Whitecourt and surrounding area. With well above-average snowpack and warmer temperatures,

ice covers have begun to break up on both rivers. Water levels are expected to rise as this occurs, and as snowmelt continues to occur. River levels are being monitored closely by the Alberta Environment River Forecast Branch and the Town of Whitecourt.

People are urged to use

extreme caution when near the rivers and to be aware of water levels in low-lying areas. The Town of Whitecourt encourages people to report river or flood level concerns to the Town of Whitecourt at 780-778-2273 so that the municipality can evaluate the risk involved.

Continued on Page 2

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WHITCOURT RCMP SEEKING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO LOCATE MAN WANTED FOR AGGRAVATED ASSAULT AND ADDITIONAL CHARGES

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

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#6 - 40 South Avenue
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Submitted by Whitecourt RCMP

Whitecourt, Alta. – On April 16, 2020, at approximately 12:45 a.m., Whitecourt RCMP were called to a hotel near Highway 43 as two occupants of a hotel room had been in need of emergency medical assistance for injuries of a suspicious nature. A 46-year-old female and a 39-year-old male from Medicine Hat, Alta., were taken to hospi-

tal separately with non-life threatening injuries.

Further investigation resulted in Whitecourt RCMP obtaining warrants for the arrest of Telford Randall Howe for the following charges:

- Aggravated assault
- Assault with a weapon
- Commit an indictable offence while disguised
- Possession of a weapon for a purpose dangerous to the public

Telford Randall Howe is also known as “Gremlin” or “G”. The current whereabouts of Telford Howe are unknown; however, he was last believed to be in the Grande Prairie area.

Whitecourt RCMP are asking anyone who may know the current whereabouts of Howe to contact the Whitecourt RCMP at 780-779-5900, or your local police. The public are cautioned not to approach Howe as he is considered to be armed and dangerous. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the “P3 Tips” app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

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JOKE OF THE WEEK

My mother taught for 11 years at a day-care center. One winter afternoon she was trying to show a young boy how to zip up his coat. “The secret,” Mom said, “is to get this piece of the zipper to fit in the other side before you try to zip it up.”

After struggling with the zipper for several minutes, the boy sighed and said, “Why does it have to be a secret?”

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Meet The Alternative Land Use Services Program, Here To Help!

Continued from Page 1

The Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) is a grant program that helps farmers establish environmental projects on private land. Projects can include fencing off wetlands and mature forest to keep livestock out,

shelterbelts and ecobuffers, watering systems, nesting structures, and pollinator habitat creation. In 2019 the ALUS program enrolled 250 acres with seven farmers within Lac Ste. Anne County. The total cost of these projects was over \$120,000 which was shared equally between the producers

and the ALUS program. A significant benefit of the ALUS program is farmers receive a per acre payment for any land they are no longer farming. They get paid to grow cleaner water, fresh air, and wildlife habitat. There is no transfer of title and the farmers retains all ownership to manage

their land as they see fit. The ALUS program strives to support farmers in doing what they do best, taking care of the land. If you have any ideas for your farm, contact your local ALUS Coordinator, Megan Casey 780-203-2966 and check out the County website for more information.

River Ice Advisory for the Athabasca and Mcleod Rivers

Continued from Page 1

Continued The Town of Whitecourt will continue to monitor water levels and river forecasts provided by the Government of Alberta, and will inform the community as updates become

available. Updates will be provided at www.whitecourt.ca and on Whitecourt's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Town-of-Whitecourt.

For Alberta River Basin Advisories and Warnings please visit <https://rivers.alberta.ca>.



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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT – GERALD SOROKA

Parliament was scheduled to return on April 20, but with the continued need for so-

cial distancing to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, a modified spring session is happen-

ing.

It is extremely important that Parliamentary oversight is maintained and imperative that we respect public health directives.

In order to allow for safe physical distancing, 32 of the 338 MPs will meet in person on a rotating basis every Wednesday in the House of Commons, with up to two weekly virtual sessions available for members to ask questions of government. MPs not slated to be in Ottawa will focus on helping constituents in their ridings.

Canada.ca

The best resource for information on federal government

programs, funding and current statistics on COVID-19 can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en.html>

This website has updated information, a COVID-19 self-assessment tool, a way to sign up for email updates, quarantine guidance, and descriptions of all the financial supports presently being offered by the Government of Canada.

I encourage you to get familiar with this solid resource. However, my office is there should you need help at: 780-723-6068 or Gerald.soroka.cla@parl.gc.ca

Take care, be safe and know we are here to help.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

SENIORS, BE SAFE. STAY HOME.

Please stay safe at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ask a loved one or neighbour to bring you groceries and prescriptions, and stay informed with current information from the Government of Alberta.

alberta.ca/covid19



HomeRENO

HOW TO DESIGN YOUR DREAM CUSTOM-BUILT HOME

(MS) - There are many advantages to designing your own home. Gone are the builder-basic styles, layouts that don't work for your family and exteriors you can't tell apart from your neighbors'. To help with your planning, check out these tips.

Find the right property. There are no limits to what you can create with a custom-built home, but the size and quality of your lot do impose restrictions. While you don't need to have everything

decided when you purchase the property, make sure you have a general idea of what you need - your architect can help with this. Also, double check zoning laws, so you don't wind up not being able to build your dream three-story home on a residential street that only allows bungalows.

Consider your lifestyle. What kind of lifestyle do you want to live? What's important to you?

Continued on Page 7

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LEARN ABOUT DIY HOME SECURITY

Homes are a safe haven and comfortable retreat for individuals and families. Home invasions can compromise that feeling of safety and security, making people feel uncomfortable and unsafe in their own homes.

Although the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics indicate property crime rates

have seen a significant decline in the last few years, there are still roughly 2.5 million burglaries a year, 66 percent of which involve home break-ins. Break-ins are 6 percent more likely to occur between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., when people are out at work or running errands than at other times of day. Homes

without a security system are 300 percent more likely to be burglarized, according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security.

Installing a security system may be the goal of homeowners looking to protect themselves and their belongings. Thanks to availability of new, user-friendly prod-

ucts, do-it-yourselfers can, in many instances, install their own home security systems.

Safety.com says smart home integration, mobile apps and wireless connectivity are hallmarks of modern DIY home security systems. Many have the same components as traditional home security systems, but do not require professional installation or monitoring, even though such options are available.

When shopping for home security systems, people can look for the following features to compare offerings.

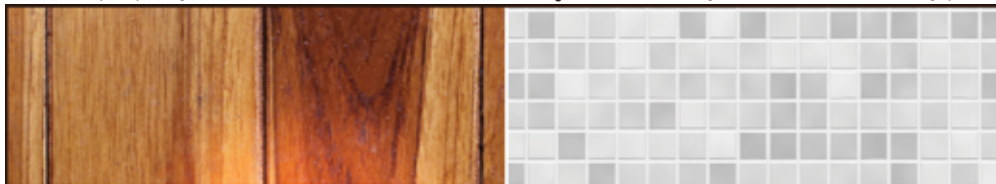
- **Sensors:** Sensors will detect motion and activity in the house. Sensors also may be attached to doors and windows to determine if either are open. Some systems are designed to send alerts to a phone when triggered.

- **Cameras:** Working in conjunction with sensors, cameras can provide an eye on activity in and outside of a home, adding another layer of protection.

- **Smart features:** With smart home connectivity, security systems can be engaged and turned off from remote locations.

Many DIY versions of home security systems work wirelessly and can be set up in a relatively short period of time. While wired systems use existing electric and telephone lines to connect security components, wireless systems connect components to a main panel via radio frequency. One of the benefits of wireless tech is that it enables DIYers to add components and replace them as needed without major hassle. In addition, wireless security systems do not require construction during the installation process.

More and more homeowners are embracing DIY home security systems to keep their homes safe.



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HomeRENO

How To Design Your Dream Custom-Built Home

Continued from Page 5

From bigger elements like smart home automation and sustainability to smaller considerations like storage and organization, think of these things when designing the layout and built-in elements. For example, if you hate shoveling, now is the opportunity to make sure you have the shortest driveway possible.

Build for the future. Your needs and wants right now are at the top of your mind, but a custom home is a significant in-

vestment in time, money and energy. It's also likely you want this to be your forever home, so it's a smart idea to build for tomorrow. Think about how your family will evolve and what your future needs will be. Consider building materials that are designed to stand the test of time, like insulated concrete forms (ICFs) from Nudura. This alternative to wood framing is a greener option and offers disaster resilience against high winds and fire.

Continued on Page 8



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How To Design Your Dream Custom-Built Home

Continued from Page 7

The superior insulation also means more com-

fortable, uniform indoor temperatures and less money spent on heating and cooling your home.

Avoid the fantasy trap. This is your dream home, so it's okay to indulge on that outdoor fireplace or luxury bathroom tiles that you've been envisioning. But to keep your budget in check, focus on the priorities and items that will give you the best value for your dollar. Invest in features that will improve your everyday living and boost your property value, like energy-efficient construction or a finished basement.

Find more information about designing your new home with insulated concrete forms at nudura.com.

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Obituaries



Louise Bernice Bruce (nee: Robinson) – known as “Bunny” of Stony Plain, Alberta, passed away suddenly, on April 14, 2020 at the age of 91, as she was called home. Our devoted mother leaves to mourn, her 5 children; Reg (Sheila), Allen, Dale (Linda), Ward (Lil), and daughter Tracey (Jim). Remembered as Grandma, or “Grammie”, and ‘Friend’ to her 12 grandchildren, she will be forever loved, and remembered by them, as one of the most positive influential forces in their lives. She also leaves numerous great-grandchildren, other family, and many loving friends, and neighbors – past & present, that will also mourn her loss in this realm. Bernice/Bunny is survived by her loving sister of Ontario, Gloria (Eric) Dundas, and was predeceased by both her brother, Scott Robinson (also of Ontario), and husband John Bruce (2016). Due to existing pandemic circumstances, a private interment for the immediate family will be held at this time; and plans made for a memorial to follow, in the coming year. In lieu of flowers, friends and family may make donations to

either the Entwistle Community Church, 5237-50 St. Entwistle, AB T0E 0S0, or to the Parkland Bible Church, 4704-79 Ave, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 3A1 if they so desire. (1) 28-04

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- Donna
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loose, Yeah! – Kayla M.
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County News Highlights

COUNTY CHANGES KEY MEETING FORMAT TO LIVE AUDIO STREAM

Council and MPC Meetings held remotely due to COVID-19

To ensure the safety of Council, staff and citizens during COVID-19, County Council and Municipal Planning Commission meetings will take place remotely until further notice.

Councillors and administrative staff will attend key meetings via a digital conferencing platform, and access to these meetings will be made available to the public via live streamed audio.

Links and instructions will be posted at [LSAC.ca/Council](https://www.lsac.ca/Council) prior to meetings.

Meeting agendas and minutes will be posted to the County website upon completion and approval per standard procedure.

BEAVER SEASON BEGINS Pet owners advised to keep animals on leash

Traps are being set starting Monday, April 20. As these traps are typically set in areas adjacent to County roadways, residents are strongly encouraged to keep their pets on leashes if they plan to venture into ditches. The County will provide additional notification if any traps are set in a location that may be more populated than a roadside.

Manual and mechanical breaching of dams will commence with the spring thaw. Please note that new federal regulation changes have affected the County's ability to blast dams. Visit [LSAC.ca/beavers](https://www.lsac.ca/beavers) for details.

LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES UTILITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF MEASURES

Recognizing that many are experiencing pressures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lac Ste. Anne County Council has authorized immediate relief measures for County residents and business owners. The measures outlined below are designed to ease the financial burden for ratepayers in the short term.

For those who have the means, payment of accounts prior to their due dates is advised.

Please note that these measures have not yet been officially approved; they are scheduled to be ratified at the April 23, 2020 Lac Ste. Anne County Council meeting.

Utility Accounts (Water, Sewer and Garbage)

Billings for water, sewer and curbside garbage pickup will continue as normal. Utility bills are due monthly; however, penalties of 3.5% and other means of collection will not be imposed until September 1, 2020. Any Water/Sewer/Garbage amounts that remain unpaid at December 31, 2020 will be applied to the property tax roll in 2021.

Property Taxes

Property Tax Notices will be mailed in May 2020 as usual, with a payment deadline of June 30, 2020. Penalties on current taxes (not including the Tax Prepayment Plan) will be applied at 6% on September 1, 2020. On November 1, 2020, penalties to current arrears will be applied at 9%, and on January 1, 2021, a 9% penalty will be applied to the entire outstanding balance.

Solid Waste Utility

The Solid Waste Utility billing will be mailed out in April 2020. The utility billing normally due on June 30, 2020, has been extended until August 31, 2020. Solid Waste utility bills outstanding on September 1, 2020 will be subject to a 3.5% penalty, and any billings that remain outstanding on December 31, 2020 will be applied to the property tax roll in 2021.

Lac Ste. Anne County remains committed to supporting the health and well-being of the community during this public health crisis. We understand that many residents and businesses are struggling with concerns related to finances, essential supplies and the health of their families, and we will continue to offer support wherever possible.

FIRE SEASON UNDERWAY Be on the alert for fire bans and OHV restrictions

Please be advised that fire season is underway, and with it comes intermittent fire bans and OHV restrictions. Lac Ste. Anne County Fire Services issued a Fire Advisory on April 21, with a suspension of Fire Permit approvals until further notice.

Additionally, Alberta Parks has instituted a Fire Ban for all provincial parks and Forest Protection Areas in anticipation of slowing the start of wildfire season amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Provincial Fire Ban covers all provincially-owned lands within the County (all areas marked in green on a County map). If you lease or occupy these lands, the provincial Fire Ban applies to you.

For up-to-date fire restrictions and related fire safety information, please visit [CountyFire.ca](https://www.CountyFire.ca).

SUDOKU

of the week

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

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

ANSWER:

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

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

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