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May 19, 2020

FIRE RESTRICTION ISSUED FOR LEDUC COUNTY

Submitted by Leduc County

Leduc County is now under a fire restriction in order to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for our firefighters.

All outdoor fires currently burning must be extinguished immediately and all fire permits are suspended; no fire permits will be issued for the duration of the restriction, as per the Forest and Prairie Protection Act.

Citizens are encouraged to postpone burning in approved burn barrels or fire pits; individuals must use extreme caution if they choose to burn in this manner.

Leduc County's fire officials will update the public when the restriction is downgraded or lifted. For further updates, visit leduc-county.com or albertafirebans.ca.



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RCMP STOP DANGEROUS DRIVING ON QEII HIGHWAY

Submitted by Leduc RCMP

The Leduc RCMP took a male driver into custody after his BMW X5 was cap-

tured travelling in excess of 200 kms/hour on the QEII Highway.

At 4:00 a.m. on May 12, Leduc RCMP responded to a complaint of a BMW X5 that was travelling in excess of 200 kms/hr, passing other motorists on the shoulder, and driving southbound in the northbound lane.

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BEAUMONT RCMP INVESTIGATING SHOTS FIRED

Submitted by Beaumont RCMP

The Beaumont RCMP are currently investigating complaints of gunshots in the Forest Heights area. No one has suffered any injuries however minor damage has been done to homes in the area.

RCMP responded to the first 911complaint at 8:20am on May 13, 2020. Infor-

mation was received that at 7:30 a.m. a homeowner heard a noise and observed a bullet hole in an upstairs room of the house.

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RCMP Stop Dangerous Driving On QEII Highway

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comvoice@telusplanet.net news@com-voice.com The suspect driver refused to stop for police and continued attempts to evade arrest. Edmonton Police Service's helicopter and both Wetaskiwin and Maskwacis RCMP Detachments provided support to stop the car. Near Highways 814 and 13 in Wetaskiwin area, the driver made efforts to avoid a tire deflation device by driving onto train tracks. The vehicle tire disintegrated and the vehicle stopped shortly after, where the driver surrendered to the RCMP.

Jean Sebastien Cadieux (22) of Edmonton has been charged with several offences:

Dangerous DrivingFlight from Police

All the Best

• Operating a motor vehicle while prohibited

to All of Our Graduates

• Failing to comply with a release order

Cadieux was remanded in custody pending his first court appearance in Leduc Provincial court on May 25, 2020.

The Leduc RCMP reminds the motoring public that traffic safety is an RCMP priority. This week is Canada's Road Safety Week.

Graduation ceremonies may look a little different this year, but that doesn't mean they aren't still cause to celebrate. It's your day, and we hope you enjoy every moment as you celebrate the culmination of your hard work. May your graduation be the beginning of a bright and beautiful future. We look forward to celebrating your continued success!

GERALD SOROKA, MP Yellowhead GERALD.SOROKA@PARL.GC.CA GERALDSOROKAMP.CA 780-723-6068

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CONSERVATIVES CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO MAKE NATIONAL PARKS ACCESSIBLE

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, would like to inform constituents that Conservatives are calling on the government to implement common-sense measures with the proper planning, safeguards, and advice from public health officials to make national parks accessible again.

MP Soroka stated, "This is the right time to start opening up our national parks safely and responsibly. Canadians should be trusted to follow physical distancing guidelines while still enjoying our national parks."

"In my riding, we have Jasper National Park. It is one of the most beautiful places in the world, with lots of open space, allowing people to maintain physical distancing."

"The tourism sector has been among the hardest

hit by this pandemic. They need to be informed of the government's plan at the earliest opportunity to help give park businesses peace of mind and the ability to plan for the future".

We look forward to an update from the government on their plan to restore access to our National Parks.

Beaumont RCMP Investigating Shots Fired

Continued from Page 1

The Beaumont RCMP enlisted the assistance of the Forensic Identification Section to conduct scene examinations.

In total, six complainants have contacted RCMP. The

residences affected are on 48 and 49 Avenue.

Investigation quickly led the Beaumont RCMP to identify a location in Leduc County which is believed to be the origin of where the shots were fired. Currently, members are on scene executing a search warrant at the property. Preliminary information indicates that these residences were not targeted and there is no present danger to the public.

If anyone has information about these incidents, has

suffered property damage as described above, or has suffered an injury, please contact the Beaumont RCMP at 780-929-7410.

An update will be provided when available.



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MP SOROKA CALLS FOR MORE SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE AND THE TOWN OF JASPER

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, and Deputy Shadow Minister for Natural Resources (Forestry and Mining) was in Ottawa to take part in the sitting of Parliament on April 29. While in the House he questioned the government on its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jasper National Park and the Town of Jasper are both heavily reliant on tourism, which has been shut down

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due to COVID-19. Each year they pay land rent for municipal purposes such as roads, parks and cemeteries, however this year they cannot afford to do so due to lost revenues.

MP Soroka asked if the Deputy Prime Minister will "help the towns of Jasper and Banff, the only two municipalities in Canada that pay land rent to the federal government? Will the government eliminate the land rent for this year?" Ms. Freeland failed to indicate whether the government would be offering this relief or not.

Soroka went on to question the Minister of Agriculture asking, "Is the government going to announce a program geared specifically to agriculture?" Canadian farmers are playing a vital role during this crisis, but they need help now.

"...We are working right now to see where the gaps are for the agriculture sector. We will come back with further measures as soon as we can," said Minister Bibeau.

Soroka also questioned the Minister regarding the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's agri-food emergency preparedness plan, concerns surrounding meat processing capacity, and the Minister's failure to implement industry proposed measures such as the set-aside program which has been on her desk for months.

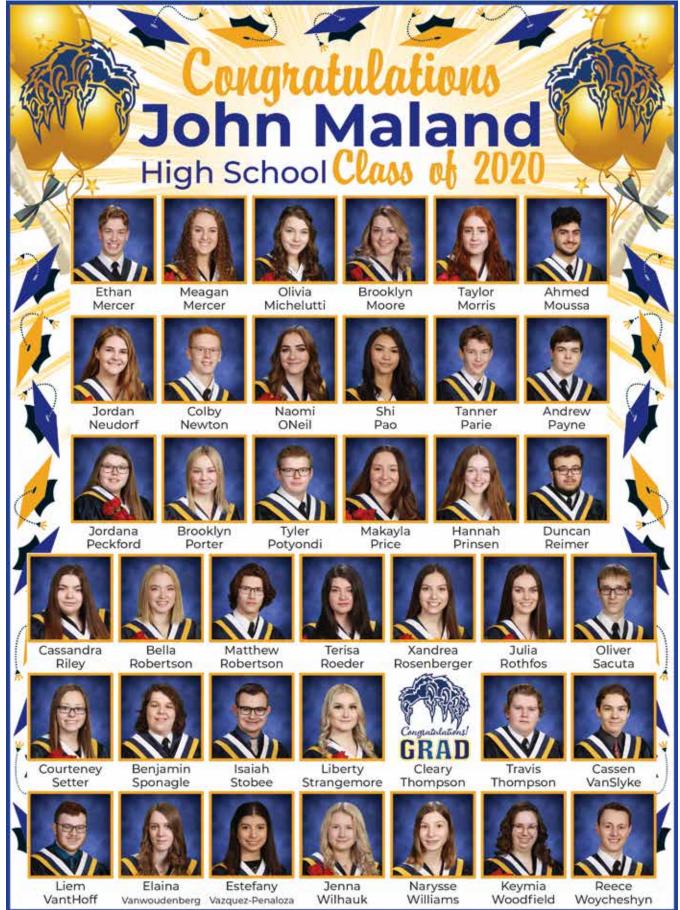
These questions and the Ministers' responses can be viewed at https://bit.ly/SO-ROKA



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Page 8 Community**VOICE**



May 19, 2020 Community VOICE Page 9 A MESSAGE FROM MLA MARK SMITH

Submitted by MLA Mark Smith | Drayton Valley – Devon Constituency

This week we will hopefully begin the first phase of reopening as we endeavour to get our province back on track. Alberta's Relaunch Strategy puts safety first while gradually reopening businesses, resuming activities and getting people back to work.

While we face a long road to recovery, there are signs our collective efforts are helping slow the spread of COVID-19, however we must ensure the sacrifices we have already made are not wasted. To be successful, we must stay vigilant to slow the spread: follow public health measures, practice physical distancing and good hygiene, and continue acting responsibly. If things go well, we will begin the first of our three phase reopening process as early as May 14th. As always, head to https:// www.alberta.ca/covid-19 for current Covid-19 information in Alberta.

The legislature returned to debate important relief measures for Albertans during this difficult time. Our government introduced Bill 14, the Utility Payment Deferral Program Act, to support the provincial utility bill payment deferrals that were announced by our government on March 18. The utility payment deferral program was introduced for Albertan residences, farms, and small businesses who are experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19. Bill 14 also lays out repayment criteria for individuals who defer payments through the program, with all deferred payments to be paid back by June 18, 2021. The program will ensure that no Albertan has their electricity or natural gas turned off between March 18 and June 18 of this year. To arrange a deferral, I encourage you to call your provider directly.

I am pleased to share that our government is taking steps to provide relief to the forestry industry. An increased annual allowable cut of 13 percent and new options for wood fibre access are providing security for forest companies. With our province's fibre supply facing significant pressures, including the mountain pine beetle and annual wildfires, our government is taking steps to ensure access to fibre and continued support for a strong and competitive forest industry.

I have heard from many with questions about how and when schools will begin reopening.

As it stands, students will continue to receive teacher-directed, at-home learning. Schools and teachers are using multiple approaches to deliver curriculum to their students; 91% of school authorities are offering online learning to their students and 53% are emailing homework to their students. This entire process has been challenging and we recognize that not every student has access to technology, we have countered this by providing roughly 60,000 devices to students as they learn from home

Families and parents may find it challenging to know what to do and where to find support during at-home learning. This is especially true for parents of students with disabilities. We have created a helpline for parents and families to call if they have any questions or require resources. The help line can be reached at 780-422-6548 (toll free by first dialing 310-0000), or by email at studentsupport@gov.ab.ca



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Interclub Chair - Ken Rogers (780) 621-8445

The Drayton Valley 4-H Beef Interclub would like to thank you for considering to purchase one of these fine steers.

May 19, 2020

Community**VOICE** Page 11





RENT RELIEF FOR ALBERTA'S SMALL BUSINESSES

Submitted by Government of Alberta

Many Alberta businesses have been required to close or limit their operations in order to protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has resulted in revenues being drastically reduced and in difficulties for many job creators.

The new Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program will give certainty to small businesses by providing 50 per cent of monthly commercial rental costs. Eligible landlords and tenants would each be responsible for 25 per cent of the remaining costs.

"We know a number of Alberta's businesses are struggling during the pandemic. Our partnership with the federal government will provide much-needed relief to small businesses on their rental payments. Small businesses create jobs – and are extremely important for our communities and our economy." - Tanya Fir, Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism

"Many of Alberta's businesses have been taking measures that affect their bottom line in order to protect public health and we recognize this contribution. In addition to small businesses, rent relief is on its way to charities and non-profits – which provide critical services in our communities, especially during these difficult times." - Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance About the CECRA:

• CECRA will provide a loan retroactive to April 1 to qualified commercial property owners supporting 50 per cent of rent for April, May, and June of this year.

• The loan will be forgivable if the property owner and tenant come to a rent forgiveness agreement that lowers the eligible small business's rent by 75 per cent for the three months and includes a moratorium on eviction.

• The program is anticipated to be running by mid-May and will be administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

 Qualifying small businesses will be required to: o pay less than \$50,000 in rent o have been asked to close, or near-close their operations due to COVID-19

o be experiencing at least a 70 per cent decrease in revenues

• CECRA will also be available to non-profit and charitable organizations.

• The province expects to commit up to \$67 million, with the remaining

and majority of costs being covered by the federal government.

Further details on CECRA will be shared by CMHC in the coming weeks when final terms and conditions are available. Until that time, property owners are encouraged to provide flexibility to tenants facing hardship in this uncertain time.



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Obituaries



Helen Jackie Rozgo

Born September 7, 1934 in Calmar, Alberta. Passed away May 1, 2020 in Wabamun, Alberta. Age 85 years. Helen will always be remembered by her loving family. She is survived by three daughters and two sons. Katherine (Alan) Hrynyk of Vegreville, Patricia Wildeboer (Gary Lewchuck) of Sangudo, Alberta, Kandise Cull of Westlock, Alberta, Brian Rozgo of Wabamun, Alberta, Terry (Lisa) Rozgo of Calgary, Alberta. She leaves behind four grandchildren. ..Jackie, Cory, Andrea, Adam and four great grandchildren.. Jessica, Weston, Alexander, Xavier. Also survived by 3 sisters...

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Mary, Olga, Sophie (Wendel), brother Fred (Phyllis) and numerous nieces and nephews. Helen was predeceased by her husband Edward (2009) and her son grandchildren.. Roger. .Michael and Amanda. parents...Michael and Maria Jakowicki and siblings Annie and George . Helen was born and raised in the Calmar/ Thorsby area until she met and married Edward Rozgo of Mundare. In 1953 they made their home in Gainford, Alberta where they raised their family. Helen loved her fishing gardening, and crocheting. She also had a passion for cooking, outstanding especially Ukrainian meals during the holidays and family gatherings. Her warm and kind disposition will linger in our memories of her forever. She had a heart of gold and will be deeply missed by her family and friends. A celebration of Helen's life will be announced at a future date. Special Thank You To Cheryl White (Neighbor), Paramedics of Parkland Ambulance (1) 19-05

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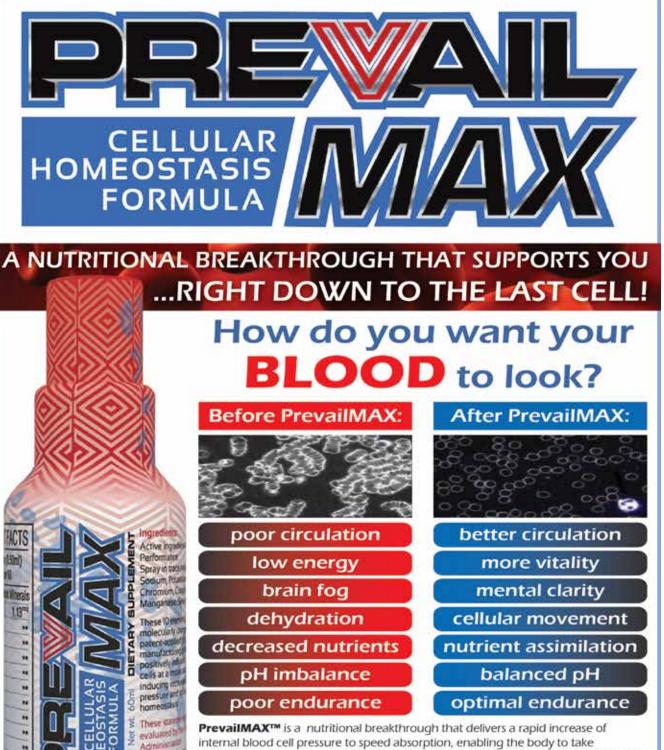
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May 19, 2020

CommunityVOICE Page 15





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