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March 9, 2021

ARRESTS MADE FOR FOUR WANTED MEN

Submitted by Rocky Mountain House RCMP

Clearwater County, Alta – The Rocky Mountain House RCMP have effected the arrest of the four wanted men listed below. All four are currently in custody.

The public is thanked for the tips provided.

A robbery on Dec. 12, 2020 which involved shots be-

ing fired at a victim, has led to charges and arrest warrants against four adult males, believed to be in the Rocky Mountain House area. Public assistance is being sought in identifying the location of the wanted men, as well as a warning to avoid confronting the men.

At 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 12 an employee was working on an oilfield lease site when he saw two males driving away in his truck. He tried to stop them, when he was struck by a different truck occupied by two other males. He ran for safety at the compressor station, and while there, one of the men pointed a firearm and fired multiple rounds at him. The rounds missed him.

Continued on Page 4

SUPPORT FOR HOG PRODUCERS

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, wishes to advise that the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food, along with the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, announced the launch of an initiative under the AgriRecovery Framework to provide up to \$3 million to assist hog producers impacted by processing shut downs due to the pandemic. Funding for the initiative is cost shared on a 60/40 basis between Canada and Alberta.

Pork processing plants in Alberta have been impacted by COVID-19 outbreaks and disease control measures, resulting in plant closures and reduced slaughter capacity. The initiative will provide assistance for up to 90 per cent of the cost to feed market-ready hogs held back from processing due to plant closures and reduced capacity.

The province of Alberta will administer applications and payments to producers.



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LEDUC COUNTY CONDUCTING FIRST-EVER CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

Submitted by Leduc County

Leduc County is conducting its first-ever Citizen Satisfaction Survey next month.

The survey is an opportunity for residential citizens – including property owners and renters – to provide input on the services and programs they receive, as well as share what they think the county should prioritize.

We are here to provide valuable programs and services to our citizens at a good value for their tax dollars. This survey is an opportunity for us to check in with our citizens and



identify where we are succeeding and where there are gaps we need to address.

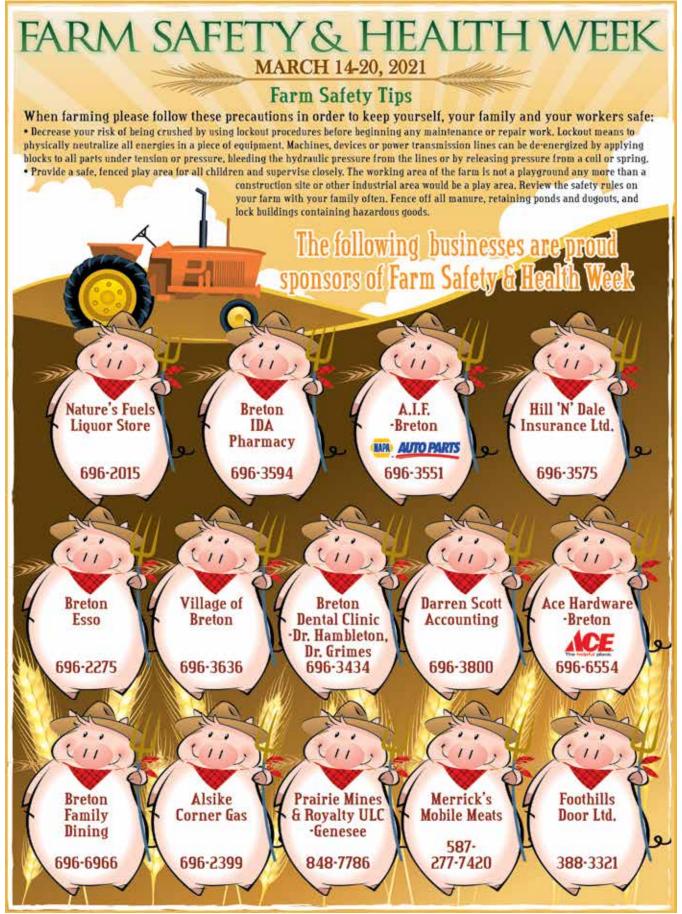
Duane Coleman, County Manager

The anonymous online survey, conducted in partnership with market-research firm Leger, will take citizens 10-to-15 minutes to complete and will remain open until March 31, 2021.

By March 5, each residential property owner should receive a letter from Leduc County with a unique survey code and instructions for taking the Citizen Satisfaction Survey. Renters can visit leduc-county.com/citizen-survey and fill out a survey code request form or call 780-979-2391 to request a code to take the survey.

Results from the survey will be shared on May 11 at leduc-county.com/citizen-survey.





WORKING PARENTS BENEFIT

Submitted by MLA Mark Smith | Drayton Valley – Devon Constituency

Alberta's government is focused on protecting lives and livelihoods and that means being there for hard-working parents. Between now and March 31, eligible families can apply for the Working Parents Benefit, which will return \$108 million back into the pockets of Alberta families who use childcare or preschool.

The pandemic and the economic downturn have created significant stress for working parents, many of whom have continued to fuel Alberta's economy and provide essential services through extremely challenging circumstances. As a result, fewer families have used childcare this year. As a result, Children's Services is returning unused funds directly into the pockets of families who need it most through this new program.

The Working Parents Benefit is a one-time benefit of \$561 per child. Families who have a household income of up to \$100,000 and who have paid for three months of childcare between April 1, 2020 and Dec 31, 2020, including licensed or unlicensed daycares, day homes, out of school care or preschool, are eligible to apply. This new benefit adds to supports that Alberta's government is providing to protect the lives and livelihoods of Albertans. It builds upon the recently announced Critical Worker Benefit, which is a \$1,200 payment for eligible front-line and essential workers, and the Enhanced COVID Business Benefit, which provides support for businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To apply for the Working Parents Benefit, you must have a MyAlberta Digital ID. If you do not already have one, you can easily sign up for an account at account.alberta.ca. After you submit your application for the benefit, you will receive a confirmation e-mail within 24 hours. After your application is processed, you will also receive an e-mail informing you if you have been approved, or if more information is required to determine your eligibility.

Alberta's government is working to directly support parents and families who are facing additional stresses due to the pandemic and economic uncertainty. The Working Parents Benefit returns money directly into the pockets of Albertans to help assist them with financial pressures they may have faced throughout the past year.

Alberta's government is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by protecting lives and livelihoods with precise measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, sustain small businesses and protect Alberta's healthcare system.

Arrests Made for Four Wanted Men

Continued from Page 1

The four men then fled in the two trucks, and the victim sought help.

The victim's truck was recovered in the early morning of Dec. 13, 2020. The other truck was determined to be previously stolen.

Rocky Mountain House RC-MP's General Investigation Section (GIS) took carriage of this investigation. Supporting units, including the Forensic Identification Section, were engaged in the extensive investigation which involved multiple witness statements and evidence gathering.

On Feb. 11, charges were laid against the four males identified as being responsible.

Darwin James Anderson (24), Cruz Bigchild (24), Evan William Thomas (24) and Dawson Whitford (18) are all facing robbery and firearms charges amongst others. The four accused have not been located by the RCMP and consequently, arrest warrants have been issued.



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Canadian Agriculture Safety Week March 14 to 20, 2021

Leduc County's roots are enriched by agriculture. We salute the timeless effort, dedication and commitment of our farm families and agricultural communities.





Leduc Co-op

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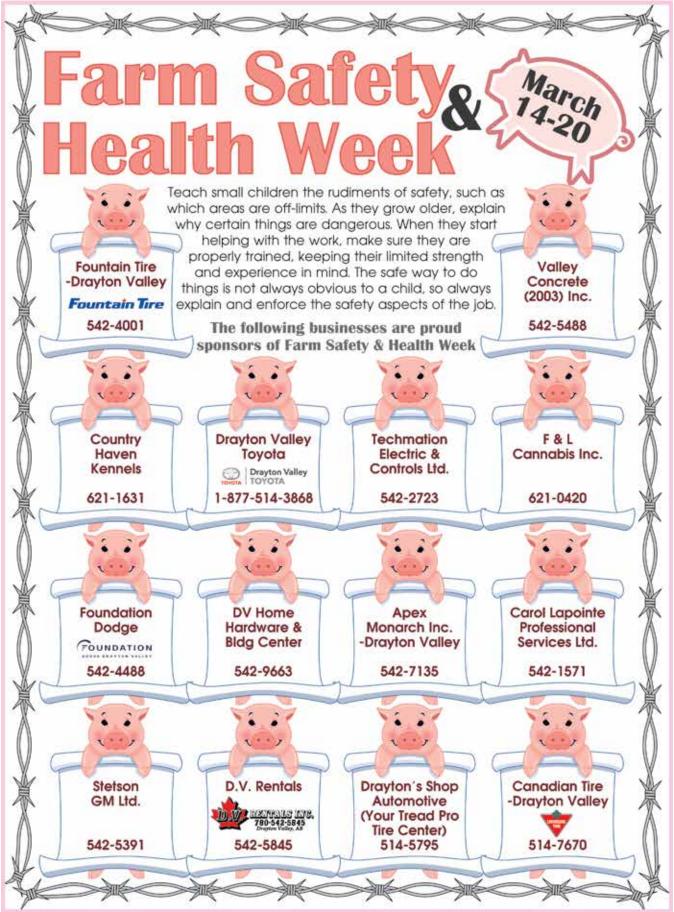
986-3000

KEEP AN EYE FOR SAFETY

SAFETY The type of safety eye protection you should wear depends on the hazards in your workplace. If you are working in an area that has particles, flying objects, or dust, you must at least wear safety glasses with side protection (side shields). If you are working with chemicals, you should wear goggles. If you are working near hazardous radiation (welding, lasers, or fibre optics) you must use special-purpose safety glasses, goggles, face shields, or helmets designed for that task.









WHY IS TIRE ROTATION SO IMPORTANT?

Vehicle owners need to keep maintenance on the mind to ensure their cars and trucks are operating at peak capacity. Various components should be checked and serviced at key intervals. Oil changes and fluid top-offs are part of routine maintenance, but it can be easy to forget about other important parts of the vehicle, including tires.

Rotating tires is vital to their upkeep. Bridgestone Tires advises that tire rotation involves routinely repositioning a vehicle's tires in specific patterns from front to back and side to side. According to Big O Tires, the front tires tend to wear on the outside edges because the tire leans over when a driver turns a corner. The rear tires just follow the front ones, so they usually wear more evenly. By leaving tires in place, the outside edges on the front tires will wear down much faster than the rest and those tires will need to be replaced sooner. Rotation may be required by tire warranties. Rotation also keeps the tires working properly.

Experts generally advise tire rotation every 6,000 to 8,000 miles, even if they do not show any signs of wear. It is challenging to determine if weather treads are uneven or how much wear has been sustained just by looking at them. Rotating tires can prolong the life of tires and decrease how frequently they need to be

replaced.

Rotating tires keeps the tread depth uniform and helps maintain traction and consistent handling across all four tires. Bridgestone says the tire rotation pattern that is best for a particular vehicle depends on the type of tire being used. Patterns are recommended by the standardizing body of the tire industry, called The Tire and Rim Association, Inc. Individuals can consult with professional mechanics about the proper way to rotate tires. Many tire manufacturers or automotive stores that have sold customers tires also will do tire rotations - some free of charge.

In addition to proper traction, minimizing uneven tire treads causes the vehicle to be more balanced, advises Wrench, a mobile auto repair and maintenance company. This enables the driver to have more control even when roads are slippery. Many auto service centers will then align and balance tires after they have been rotated. At this time the mechanic will likely check brakes as well, since it is easy to see and reach them when the tires are off.

Tire rotation is an important component of vehicle maintenance. Check with a qualified automotive professional to see if it's time to have your vehicle's tires rotated.





Pacific Truck

TILS

March 9, 2021

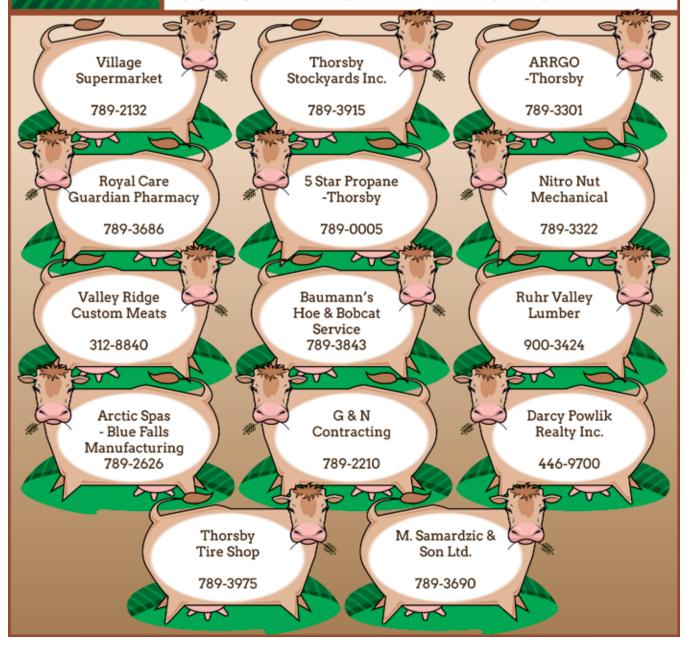
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Be SAFE – Plan Ahead Assess Risk Risk concerns the expected value of results of a situation or event. The value of those results may be positive or negative. In the farming industry, the measure of risk can be rated as high, medium or low. Once the risk has been assessed, through your regular safety checks, employers can determine whether to take immediate action of a hazard or identify those that can be monitored and fixed at a later time. Regular assessment can help with budgeting time and resources for immediate or future repairs. The following businesses of are proud sponsors of Farm Safety & Health Week Town of Calmar Calmar Calmar Food Town Calmar Fas Gas Pharmacy Ltd. 985-3604 985-2726 985-7224 985-3142 Buchak's Nitro Nut Centerpoint The Automotive Performance Co-operator's Mechanical -Thorsby Ltd. & Truck Ltd. Repair 985-2747 985-3030 789-4001 789-3322 Nuline Lone Wolf Thorsby's Twisted Waste Mechanical Puppy Lovin Lime Solutions Grooming Liquor Co. 587-780-643-9653 518-3943 789-4142 789-0100

FARM SAFETY WEEF Preventing Crushes

• From rolling machinery to falling front-end loaders there are countless crush hazards on a farm. While farm operaters and workers can't prevent every hazard on a farm, they should prevent every hazard they can by taking simple preventative measures while working.

• Failure to block-up equipment safely can result in a fatal crushing injury. A jack may slip, a hose or overhead support may break, or the equipment may roll. Always take the precaution of placing support blocks under the equipment prior to working with raised machinery for any reason.



GEARING UP FOR 2021 WILDFIRE SEASON

Submitted by Government of Alberta

From updated digital tools to automated weather stations to drone technology, innovation is at the forefront of Alberta Wildfire's detection and management practices.

Wildfire season runs from March 1 to Oct. 31 in Alberta, which means permits are now required for activities such as residential, industrial or agricultural debris burning.

The wildfire hazard is highest in the spring months when fuels like trees and grass have extremely low moisture content after the snow has melted and evaporated.

Thanks to the diligence of Albertans, effective department preparations and substantial precipitation in many areas of the province, last season proved to be one of the slowest years Alberta has seen in decades in terms of both number of wildfires and area burned.

Alberta Wildfire adapted to the demands of fighting wildfires during the pandemic, adopting strict health and safety protocols at its camps to ensure the safety of staff. To date, there have been no COVID-19 cases at wildfire camps.

Technology and innovation

Wildfire management best practices are always evolving, which highlights the importance of research into and the adoption of new technology and innovative practices. This season, Alberta Wildfire is:

• Exploring remote camera, drone and satellite technologies to help modernize wildfire detection and data collection.

• Implementing modern remote automated weather stations that provide real-time or



hourly data rather than once or twice per day.

• Continuing to evaluate the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of new firefighting tools and practices (e.g., gels, drones, cameras and water delivery systems such as large and mobile pumps and sprinklers).

• Researching the best tree and vegetation management practices to help Albertans effectively FireSmart their communities and build resilience to wildfires.

2019 Spring Wildfire Review recommendations

Alberta Wildfire continues to make progress on the Spring 2019 Wildfire Review recommendations. Some initiatives have been completed in advance of this wildfire season, while others are multi-year projects.

Key accomplishments to date include:

• Establishing FireSmart Alberta to inform strategic and collaborative actions to improve FireSmart programming.

• Developing a new wildfire app and web-based status map that include more detailed information about fires nearest to app users, fire bans, mountain pine beetle, fire danger ratings, and more.

• Coordinating the fire weather and fire behaviour teams more closely to ensure all tools and information are used in decision-making.

Quick facts

• Up-to-date information on fire restrictions, fire bans, OHV restrictions and general wildfire information is available at albertafirebans.ca or by calling 1-866-FYI-FIRE (1-866-394-3473).

• To report a wildfire, call 310-FIRE (310-3473) toll-free, from anywhere in Alberta.

• In the 2020 wildfire season, Alberta saw 704 wildfires burn just over 3,269 hectares (8,068 acres). That's less than one per cent of total area burned when compared to the five-year average.

• Eighty-eight per cent of last season's wildfires were human-caused.

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March 9, 2021 Community VOICE Page 13 **A MESSAGE FROM MLA MARK SMITH**

Submitted by MLA Mark Smith | Drayton Valley – Devon Constituency

Recently, Finance Minister Travis Toews introduced Budget 2021: Protecting Lives and Livelihoods. Budget 2021 builds on the ongoing efforts of Alberta's government to protect both lives and livelihoods during the COVID-19 pandemic. It invests in healthcare and it positions the province for economic recovery with a continued focus on the efficient delivery of government services.

Although we are one year into Alberta's COVID-19 response, Albertans still face a long road ahead until life returns to normal. While vaccines offer some hope, ongoing delays from the federal government mean widespread immunization will not be achieved for several months yet. This means that Alberta's health care system will continue to remain under pressure for some time.

Budget 2021 makes a historic investment in healthcare to make sure the health system is properly resourced to keep fighting this pandemic. On top of the \$21.4 billion in non-COVID health care spending nearly \$1 billion more than last year - the government has set aside another \$1.25 billion in contingency funds specifically to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. This represents the most ever spent on health care by any government in the province's history.

This year's budget also paves the way for growth in Alberta's post-pandemic economy. Over \$20 billion in capital infrastructure projects will create 90,000 new jobs now, when they are needed the most. Budget 2021 also includes \$1.5 billion to support core sectors like agriculture, technology, energy and tourism, and \$500 million in contingency funds to take advantage of further economic diversification opportunities that come our way later this year.

Alberta's government is also taking a careful approach to

spending that will help get the province's finances back on track. Moving forward, government spending will be anchored to sound fiscal principles that will put us back on a path to a balanced budget. We will also keep our debt-to-GDP ratio below 30 per cent, which will allow us to bring our spending in-line with other provinces such as B.C., Saskatchewan and Ontario. Alberta's hard-working public servants will also be asked to help find labour efficiencies so we can invest more in health care and economic recovery. While we've had to delay our timeline to eliminate the deficit in order to fight COVID-19, these solid fiscal principles will get us back on the path to balance as soon as possible.

Alberta, like the rest of the country, remains in the middle of the COVID-19 storm. But Albertans can rest assured that through Budget 2021, their government is preparing for brighter days. Alberta's government will remain nimble to respond to the needs of Albertans as they emerge. We will continue to follow through on our commitments so that every Albertan can feel confident as we continue to navigate through these challenging times together. And most importantly, we will stick with Albertans every step of the way – protecting both their lives and their livelihoods.



FIRE PERMITS NEEDED FOR OPEN BURNING

Submitted by Leduc ar County

Individuals who plan to conduct open burning in Leduc County must have a fire permit.

Fire permits are free and are available from a local fire guardian. A permit is needed for each open burn conducted between March 1

and Oct. 31.

Open burns can get out of control quickly. Fire permits help us monitor open burning across the county, and also give us the opportunity to discuss fire safety and safe burning practices with applicants so we can work together to practice safe burning.

Brad Gurmin, fire marshal

Open burning is not allowed in hamlets, localities or subdivisions. Contained fires – in approved fire pits or burn barrels – do not require a fire permit.

Business representatives who wish to have an open fire in the Nisku Business Park can apply for a fire permit online.

Individuals conducting

open and/or contained burning must abide by all fire restrictions and bans issued for Leduc County, which are posted to albertafirebans.ca.

A list of fire guardians is posted at leduc-county. com/fire-permits.

Classified Ads - Call 962-9228

Classified Policy

CLASSIFIED RATES INCLUDE GST. 1st 20 Words: First Insertion \$6.00; Subsequent insertion = \$3.00 each. Each additional word is 20 cents per word, per insertion. Ads must be paid in advance either by cheque, cash, Visa or Mastercard. No Refunds Allowed on Classified Ads. DEADLINE: is Thurs. 4:00 pm (Wed. 4:00 pm on long weekends). Classified ads may be called in to the COMMUNITY VOICE office at (780) 962-9228, emailed to: classifieds@ com-voice.com, dropped off at Onoway Registries, or mailed with your ad and payment to: COMMUNITY VOICE, BAG 3595, SPRUCE GROVE, AB T7X 3A8. Ads may also be placed on the web at www.com-voice.com/ classified.htm

Wanted

Wanted: Female dog, around 1 year old, Rottweiler, Husky, Sheppard, Black Lab, or a cross, for the farm. Call 780-785-2193 (2) 09-03

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