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Drayton Valley, Leduc, Sunnybrook, Thorsby and Warburg.

March 23, 2021

CHARGES LAID IN HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION AT LOCAL SCHOOL

Submitted by Leduc
RCMP

Following the homicide in Leduc on March 15, 2021, the RCMP have laid a first degree murder charge against 19-year-old Dylan

Thomas Pountney. He remains in custody and he is scheduled to appear in court in Edmonton today.

On March 15, 2021 the RCMP were on scene at Christ the King School in Leduc following a 911 call

made at 9:58am about a violent assault incident at the school. One student was transported via STARS air ambulance to the hospital where she dies as a result of her injuries.

Continued on Page 2

JOINT SECONDER ON MOTION M-61, A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR

Submitted by Gerald So-
roka, MP for Yellowhead

Gerald Soroka, Member of

Parliament for Yellowhead is pleased to advise that he is a joint seconder on Conservative MP Ziad Aboul-

taif's Motion M-61, 'Motion to Support the Oil and Gas Sector'.

Continued on Page 2

RELIEF FOR WORKING PARENTS

Submitted by Govern-
ment of Alberta

Alberta parents who use child care will receive \$561 per child with the new Working Parents Benefit, a

one-time payment to help parents with the cost of child care.

The Working Parents Benefit will see \$108 million go to families that used child care - including licensed

or unlicensed daycare, day homes, out-of-school care, or preschool - from April to December of 2020.

Continued on Page 3

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Charges Laid in Homicide Investigation at Local School

Continued from Page 1

The male suspect believed to be responsible left the school. The school was in

a lockdown situation, but the lockdown has since been lifted. At 12:20 p.m., the RCMP arrested the male suspect.

The charge is now before the courts and further information will not be provided.

Given the tragic nature

of this situation, the RCMP hopes that privacy will be afforded the students at the school.

Joint Seconder on Motion M-61, a Motion to Support the Oil and Gas Sector

Continued from Page 1

The Motion reads “ (a) in the opinion of the House, the government should recognize that,

(i) replacing oil and gas with more environmentally sustainable options is not technologically or economically feasible,

(ii) Canada’s energy needs require the use of oil and gas to heat Canadian homes, schools and hospitals, to propel vehicles, to bring food to Canadian

tables, and to produce electricity,

(iii) Canadian oil and natural gas are produced with the highest environmental standards in the world, and domestic producers are global environmental leaders and responsible corporate citizens,

(iv) using Canadian resources creates Canadian jobs,

(v) First Nations involved in Canada’s oil and gas industry experience significant and profound positive

economic effects, including higher rates of employment, higher incomes, and improved health and educational attainments,


(vi) tax revenue from the fossil fuel industry is an important contributor to the national treasury, facilitating transfer payments benefitting all Canadians and allowing Canada to afford the social programs all Canadians depend on; and

(b) the House recognize that,

(i) Canada’s oil and gas industry from Western to Atlantic Canada is essential to the well-being of the nation and should be celebrated,

(ii) tax and regulatory barriers limiting the responsible growth of Canada’s oil and gas industry should be removed.”

MP Soroka stated “The passing of this motion will mean that the House officially recognizes the truths of Canada’s Oil and Gas sector, and that is something I am proud to support”.



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—YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER—

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

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JOKE of the week

A parishioner was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed the parishioner by the hand and pulled him aside. The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" The parishioner replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

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Relief For Working Parents

Continued from Page 1

“Alberta’s government is focused on protecting lives and livelihoods and that means being there for working parents. Families are facing additional stress due to the pandemic and the uncertainty in the economy. We want to directly support these parents by alleviating the financial pressures they have faced this past year.” - Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Children’s Services

“It’s great to see the government recognize the pressures that working parents are facing. As a single mother who has felt the stresses of work and child care this past year, this money is greatly appreciated.” - Tiffany-Joy Robertson, working parent

The Working Parents Benefit adds to the recently announced Critical Worker Benefit, a \$1,200 payment to 330,000 front-line and essential workers, and the Enhanced COVID Business Benefit, a \$10,000 support for businesses hit hardest by the pandemic.

Families will be eligible to apply for the Working Parents Benefit if they have:

- Children in any form of child care, including licensed or unlicensed child care.
- A household annual income of \$100,000 or less.
- Paid for three months of child care between April 1 and Dec. 31, 2020 (must provide receipts).

A MyAlberta Digital ID is needed to apply for the ben-

efit. Sign up for your MyAlberta Digital ID.

Apply for the Working Parents Benefit online at alberta.ca/WorkingParentsBenefit starting March 1. Applications close March 31.

Quick facts

- Families can apply starting March 1 to March 5, and applications will be open by region to manage volume.
- This \$108 million of un-

spent funds from Children’s Services will be redirected under the Working Parents Benefit to support the families of up to 192,000 children.

• As of Feb. 12:

- 96 per cent of daycares, preschools and out-of-school care programs (2,739 programs) are open.
- Four per cent of programs (102 programs) are not open.
- The 2,739 open programs

have 115,285 spaces available. On average 58,003 children attended during the week, representing a 50 per cent enrolment rate.

- Child care operators have received more than \$100 million in COVID relief payments over the past year to address cost pressures and adhere to health, cleaning and safety guidelines.



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DEVON GENERAL HOSPITAL EXTENDS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT HOURS

Phase 2 reopening expands patient access, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily

Submitted by Alberta Health Services

Effective Mar. 15, the Devon General Hospital (DGH) emergency department (ED) will further extend service as part of its phased reopening, accepting patients from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

The DGH ED reopened with limited phase one hours on Aug 18, 2020. It had been temporarily closed on April 20, 2020 as part of Alberta Health Services' COVID-19 response. The closure was implemented to help protect

long-term-care residents at the hospital, who are at heightened risk for severe illness if exposed to COVID-19.

To help protect these residents, a temporary barrier remains in place to allow ED patients to access services separate from inpatient areas of the hospital. As well, staff are designated to one area of the hospital and do not transition between the ED and inpatient units.

AHS will continue to monitor patient volumes and acuity regularly to determine when the hospital's ED can

resume 24-hour service. Until then, local residents seeking after-hours emergency care are advised to visit the Leduc Community Hospital or the Westview Health Centre in Stony Plain.

All patients requiring immediate medical care should phone 911.

Individuals requiring non-emergency medical care continue to be encouraged to call their family physician. To speak to a nurse and receive telephone advice and health information, families can also contact Health Link

24/7 by dialing 811.

For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta, visit www.ahs.ca/covid or www.alberta.ca/covid19.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

CANADA AND ALBERTA INVEST IN PROJECTS SUPPORTING AND IMPROVING QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, wishes to advise that the Department of Infrastructure and Communities along with Alberta's

Ministry of Transportation and Municipal Affairs announced funding for the damaged sections of the Drayton Valley Hospital and Care Centre's roof through

the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada plan.

The stream of funding dedicated to the Drayton Valley Hospital and Care

Centre is part of a 5.9-million-dollar package to be split between three projects, the other two being in Edmonton and Lethbridge.

MP GERALD SOROKA PRESENTS PETITION ON OIL & GAS AND ANOTHER ON THERMAL COAL

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, was pleased to present two petitions to the House. The first petition was on oil and gas and the second on thermal coal.

He said:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to present two petitions today.

The first is regarding the fact Canada is still many years away from eliminating the use of oil and gas. Oil and gas produced in western Canada is produced with the highest labour and environmental standards in the world. Using Canadian oil nationwide first before importing any oil from

any other country would greatly benefit the economy.

Petitioners call on the government to eliminate all importation of foreign oil and gas into Canada within the next five years, thus creating more jobs and building back a better economy.

Mr. Speaker, my second pe-

tion is on thermal coal.

Petitioners call on the government to keep mining thermal coal in Alberta because it has the highest environmental and labour standards, with very low sulphur content, thus giving China access to better coal to lower its environmental footprint.

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CITY OF LEDUC SEEKS PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON SERVICES, QUALITY OF LIFE

Submitted by City of Leduc

The City of Leduc is seeking feedback from residents on COVID-19 response and planning, as well as city programs, services, facilities and overall value for tax dollars via their 2021 Citizen Satisfaction Survey. Feedback from the survey will be used to guide planning and service delivery to the community for the next two years.

“As a municipality, it’s important that we remain accountable to the community we serve, so gathering

feedback from residents on how we’re doing is vital to our success,” says Leduc Mayor Bob Young. “The Citizen Satisfaction Survey is our way of checking in with residents on a regular basis to identify those areas that are working well, where we can improve, and whether there are any gaps that we need to address.”

The city hosts the Citizen Satisfaction Survey every two years to solicit public opinion on a variety of topics including residents’ satisfaction with city services, efficacy of city communications, and overall qual-

ity of life. The data collected is subsequently shared throughout all city departments and used for the planning and administration of municipal services.

“The results of the 2021 Citizen Satisfaction Survey will guide decisions and planning in our city for the next two years, so this is a great opportunity for residents to have their say on how we operate,” says Young. “Especially during a time when we’re not as able to connect in-person to hear from our residents, engaging with our community in this way is essential,

so we hope to garner input from as many people as possible.”

The survey is conducted by an Edmonton-area research firm who will contact approximately 400 Leduc residents by phone. The survey will also be available online for interested residents to complete between March 4 and 29, 2021. Results of the survey will be presented at a meeting of Leduc City Council in the spring, and subsequently posted online.

For more information, please visit www.leduc.ca/survey or call 780-980-7177.

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The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge all Albertans, and Alberta’s government is with you every step of the way. From grants for small businesses and cash benefits for frontline workers and working parents, to income support and free hotel rooms for people needing to self-isolate. Because protecting lives and livelihoods goes hand in hand.



Find COVID-19 support
alberta.ca/LivesAndLivelihoods



NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT ENGAGEMENT PAPER

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, wishes to advise that the Department of Infrastructure and Communities has launched an Engagement Paper on Canada's first National Infrastructure Assessment. This will set out the purpose and benefits of

undertaking a National Infrastructure Assessment and seeks input from the public, Indigenous Peoples, provinces, territories, municipalities, and stakeholders on three main priorities of the assessment:

- Assessing Canada's infrastructure needs and estab-

lishing a long-term vision;

- Improving coordination among infrastructure owners and funders; and

- Determining the best ways to fund and finance infrastructure.

The National Infrastructure Assessment, once in place, will help identify Canada's

evolving needs and priorities in the built environment and undertake evidence-based long-term planning toward a net-zero emissions future.

Deadline for receiving feedback is June 30, 2021.

More information can be found at: nia-eni-doc-eng.pdf (infrastructure.gc.ca)

PROPOSED GREEN AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY BUILDINGS PROGRAM

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, wishes to advise that Infrastructure Canada will be providing up to \$1.5 billion in federal funding for community buildings that will support retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public

buildings and the construction of new public buildings that serve communities across Canada. This initiative will also support economic growth and job creation and building more inclusive communities where all Canadians have

opportunities to thrive.

Please note that this proposed program is still in development and is not accepting funding applications at this time.

Provincial, territorial and local governments, not-for-profit and Indigenous

organizations are invited to provide ideas on potential priorities to Infrastructure Canada through the online program development questionnaire at: <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/gicb-bcvi/questionnaire/index-eng.html>

FIRESMART FUEL MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM APPROVED FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF JASPER

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, wishes to inform constituents that Parks Canada has approved the Jasper FireSmart Fuel

Maintenance Partnership Program for \$350,000.00 for fiscal years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 to the Municipality of Jasper.

The FireSmart Program is

designed to protect people and property from wildfire and is an important tool at the wildland urban interface which is part of the larger Parks Canada fire and veg-

etation fuel management program. The offer is conditional on the successful negotiation of the project details and the signature of a contribution agreement.

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!

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

ANSWER:

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

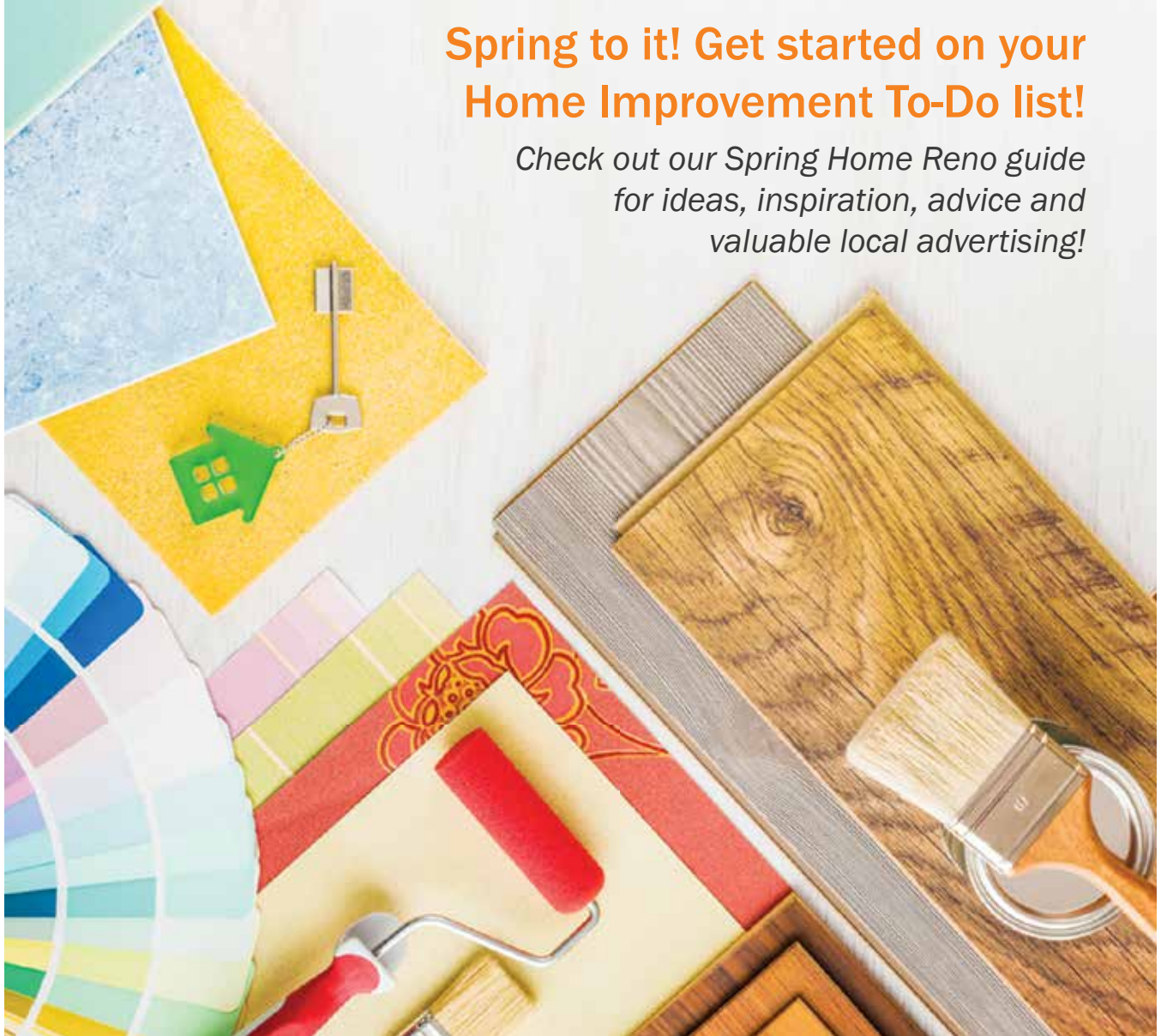


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MARCH 2021

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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT LIGHTING INSIDE YOUR HOME

Lighting in a home serves both practical and aesthetic purposes. It's easy to maneuver around a well-lit home, reducing the risk of slips and falls, and the right lighting can help homeowners create their desired ambiance, which typically changes depending on which room you're in.

When choosing lighting for their homes, homeowners must walk a fine line between appearance and functionality. A fixture in the foyer that instantly impresses visitors likely won't prove as awe-inspiring if it's installed in the living room. When choosing lighting for a home, some general

rules about what works in each room can help homeowners make the most informed decision.

Kitchen
Kitchens are often the busiest room in a home, so lighting here can be especially important. A kitchen often benefits, both practically and aesthetically, from different types of lighting. For example, pendant lighting above kitchen islands can make meal preparation easier and safer, but such lighting likely won't work in breakfast nooks and informal dining areas in the kitchen. Recessed lighting works best in such areas. In kitchens with no island,

under-cabinet lighting can be used to illuminate countertops and simplify meal preparation.

Formal dining room
Many people enjoy the look of chandeliers in formal dining rooms, and such fixtures can be installed directly above the dinner table. The interior design experts at Better Homes & Gardens advise hanging chandeliers roughly 33 inches above the table in dining rooms with eight-foot ceilings, adding three inches for each additional foot above eight feet. Darkened dining areas may be ideal in restaurants, but homeowners may want to

split the difference at home and choose dimmable chandeliers for their dining rooms. This allows homeowners to dim the lights for romantic dinners but turn them up for family gatherings with lots of people around the table.

Living room
Adaptability also is important in the living room, where homeowners may host anything from movie nights to book clubs to parties for the big game. It can be a tall order to accommodate such a wide range of activities, and many homeowners come down to deciding between recessed lighting and track lighting.



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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

How To Choose The Right Lighting Inside Your Home

If the living room currently has neither style, homeowners should recognize that it will cost considerably less to install track lighting than recessed lighting. Better Homes & Gardens notes that flexible track lighting provides ambient, task or accent lighting, and track lights can even be moved to change lighting schemes at any time, making them a budget-friendly option for homeowners whose living rooms are multi-purpose spaces. Recessed lighting also works well in living rooms, especially ones with low ceilings. That's because recessed lighting is installed into the ceiling, meaning it does not take up any visual space in the

room. That can help living rooms feel bigger.

Bedroom
The home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that bedroom lighting should provide enough light when getting dressed, but also be able to be toned down as residents prepare for their bedtime routines. Both portable and installed lighting can be used in bedrooms to serve these various functions. Recessed fixtures that dim can ensure there's ample light to get dressed in the morning, but they also can be dimmed at night as residents try to get ready to sleep. Portable nightstand lights can make it easier for couples sharing a bedroom,

allowing one person to stay up and read while the other goes to sleep.

Homeowners have many options and many needs when choosing lighting for their homes. A professional

consultation with a lighting expert or interior decorator can help homeowners find lights that provide both practical and aesthetic appeal.



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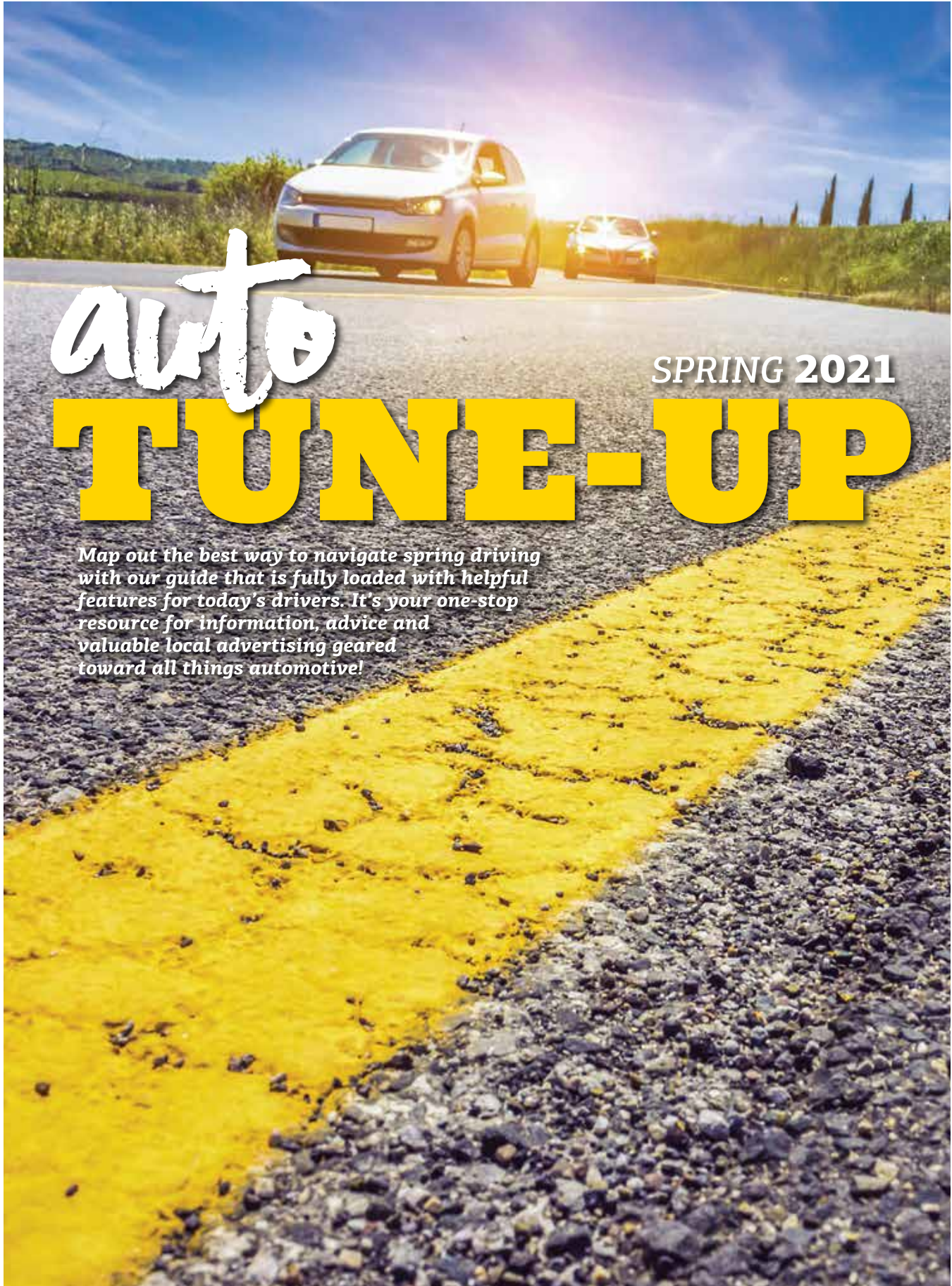
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SPRING 2021

TUNE-UP

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auto TUNE-UP

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE TASKS DRIVERS DON'T WANT TO OVERLOOK

Savvy drivers recognize that maintenance is essential to keeping their vehicles running strong for years on end. Such maintenance ensures vehicles are safe to take out on the road, and basic up-keep also protects drivers' financial investments in their cars and trucks.

Drivers who are not mechanically inclined tend to put their vehicles in the hands of a trusted mechanic to perform routine maintenance like oil changes. But there's a host of simpler vehicle maintenance tasks that drivers don't want to overlook, some of which can be performed without visiting the auto body shop.

· Brake inspections: Brake

inspections are best left to the professionals, who can check the thickness of brake pads and look for other indicators of excessive wear. The automotive resource Cars.com recommends having brakes inspected during routine tire rotations, which many automotive professionals suggest should be done every six months.

· Car wash: Car washes might not be the first task drivers associate with vehicle maintenance, but they can prevent long-term damage to cars and trucks. Damage from bird droppings and road salt and ice melt products in the winter can damage a vehicle's paint job and its undercarriage. Wash the

car on your own at home or visit a professional car wash to perform this simple yet vital maintenance at regular intervals and whenever you notice significant buildup of dirt and grime on the car's exterior.

· Air filter: The air filter on a car or truck prevents debris, dirt and other contaminants from getting into the engine. The auto insurance experts at Allstate® advise drivers to inspect their vehicle air filters once a year. Air filters in need of replacement may appear dirty, and reduced fuel economy, unusual engine sounds and reduced horsepower are some other potential indicators that an air filter needs to be replaced.

· Windshield wipers: Windshield wiper blades are easily overlooked, but various automotive experts recommend replacing wiper blades every six to 12 months. Old wiper blades won't perform at peak capacity, dramatically reducing visibility during heavy rain and snowstorms. Anyone can replace their own windshield wiper blades in a matter of minutes, and new blades won't break the bank.

Vehicle maintenance is not exclusive to tending to what's under the hood. Keeping a car running smoothly for years involves routine tasks that many drivers can perform without professional assistance.

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A MESSAGE FROM MLA MARK SMITH

Submitted by MLA Mark Smith | Drayton Valley – Devon Constituency

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everything about our lives. From whom we see to how we work, shop and learn, every single one of us has been impacted in one way, shape or form. That is why Alberta's government has taken action to protect the lives and livelihoods of Albertans as they continue to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Early in the pandemic, we recognized that social distancing guidelines and financial stress could have adverse effects on the mental health and wellbeing of Albertans. That is why we made a \$53 million investment in mental health and addiction supports to make sure Albertans who were in crisis would get the help they need.

We also took action to protect Alberta's most vulnerable, including those living in congregate living facilities. In May 2020, Alberta taxpayers invested more than \$170 million in funding to help keep residents and staff in long-term care, designated supportive living facilities and seniors' lodges safe. Knowing that seniors are at high risk from COVID-19, this funding helped us continue to protect our most vulnerable and allowed for facilities to enhance staffing and purchase additional PPE and cleaning supplies.

As part of Step 1 of Alberta's four-step framework to ease restrictions, we are taking a cautious approach as we look to ease restrictions impacting the day-to-day lives of Albertans. All the activities still have associated guidelines to ensure the safety and well being of Albertans, and we continue to monitor data to ensure that any steps we take to reduce restrictions on Albertans continue to protect their lives. While vaccines

offer some hope of a return to normal, ongoing delivery delays from the federal government mean reasonable public health restrictions must remain in place. That is why Alberta's government has continued to take steps to protect the livelihoods of Albertans.

We recently announced the Enhanced COVID Business Benefit, a new program that provides financial relief to those businesses whose bottom lines have been most affected by public health measures. Providing additional support to our small businesses means Alberta's job creators can continue to pay their employees, so they in turn can continue to support their families. We have also

provided income support for people unable to work while they self-isolate, and provided support for daycares and day homes so childcare is not a barrier for those who are still able to work.

Applications for the Critical Worker Benefit also recently opened on Feb. 17. This benefit was launched to recognize hundreds of thousands of critical workers who continue to support and provide services to Albertans during this pandemic, and workers in health care, social services, education and in some parts of the private sector are eligible to receive this one-time payment.

We have also made significant investments in infrastructure projects. Accelerated schools, roads and other construction projects have helped us get more Albertans back to work while also moving ahead on important projects for communities across the province.

While life has changed significantly over the past year, Alberta's government continues to work hard to support you every single day. As the pandemic continues and we move forward on vaccinations, we will continue to do everything we can to protect both your lives and your livelihoods.

For more information on how Alberta's government is protecting the lives and livelihoods of Albertans, we encourage you to visit livesandlivelihoods.alberta.ca.

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GENERAL HEALTH: Helps to manage mood, anxiety and general joint pain. For healthy, happy pets.
CONVENIENT: Can be sprayed into pet's mouth or on food.

For more information, Call (780) 907-8642

MP SOROKA QUESTIONS THE GOVERNMENT ON BILL C-21

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, today questioned the government on Bill C-21 "An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)."

He asked|:

Mr. Speaker, the government's new gun confiscation bill is over-reaching. Not only will the legislation confiscate real firearms from

law-abiding citizens, but it will also prohibit the sale of airsoft guns. One of my constituents owns a small sport-shooting store that sells airsoft rifles. His livelihood depends on business from the local airsoft club.

Why is the government going after airsoft guns instead of criminals with illegal guns?

In Response: Hon. Bill Blair (Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Lib.): Mr. Speak-

er, as I have said, we have promised Canadians that we will strengthen gun control and we know that the Conservatives have promised the gun lobby they will weaken it.

We are also listening, not just to those who profit from the sale of these firearms, but also to law enforcement who are tasked with the responsibility of keeping Canadians safe. For over 20 years, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

have urged the government to take effective action on replica firearms, including the airsoft devices that the member referenced. When we publish these new regulations, the CACP came out strongly endorsing those measures as necessary and important to keeping Canadians safe. We will keep our promise of taking action to keep Canadians safe.

The video of the exchange can be found at: <https://fb.watch/3PRtsGIMyB/>

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