

DON'T MISS THESE LOCAL ACTORS FEBRUARY 27, 28 & MARCH 1!

Miss Joannes School presents "A Fiddler on the Roof" at the Eleanor Pickup Centre (5144 - 51 Street) in Drayton Valley. Performances will be on Thursday, February 27 at 6:30pm, Friday, February 28 at 6:30pm and Saturday, March 1 at 1:30pm & 6:30pm.

Tickets are \$30 each and you can pick up your tickets at Heads Up Family Hair Care (Breton), Miss Joannes Dance Studio (Drayton Valley), Value Drug Mart (Drayton Valley) or call 780-621-2430.



right - Lydia Holtby (originally from Breton), centre - Anna Bend (Breton), left - Layna Kozak (Brazeau County)



Noah Bend (Breton) & Andrew Farrow (Breton)



Sarah-Jane Bend (Breton) & Carolyn Meyer (Warburg)



Classifieds

FOR SALE

2003 CHEVY ASTRO VAN, 174,000 km, 4.3 automatic, rear wheel drive, good tires, new battery, recent tune up, reliable, \$3800 obo. Contact Ron at 780-360-4369

WANTED

LEAD BATTERIES & SCRAP VEHICLES Will buy your old lead batteries for recycling. Also FREE removal of scrap vehicles. We pay cash for both! 403-396-8629

LOOKING FOR PASTURE for cow/calf pairs. Also looking for hay land and grain land. Contact Levi at 780-312-9891

OLD FARM TRACTORS OR CATERPILLARS Will buy Complete or Incomplete. 403-396-8629

WESKAY CATTLE CO. IS CURRENTLY SEEKING PASTURE, HAY OR CROP LAND to lease for the 2025 season and on, competitive prices, on time lease payments. Call Wesley 780-982-1093

SERVICES

BOOK WEDDINGS & SENIOR PHOTOS with CLEAH PHOTOGRAPHY! DM @cleah_photography or contact 647-614-4463 / <u>cleahisabella@gmail.com</u> Serving Drayton Valley and beyond!

Looking for **REAL ESTATE** help? ISAIAH RYE, RE/MAX River City, based in Drayton Valley, is here to serve you! Contact 780-621-7865, <u>isaiahrye@rivercityrealestate.ca</u> or DM @ryerealestate_. Ready to assist!

LOCAL MEDIATION FOR SEPARATION & DIVORCE -Are you considering a separation or divorce? Get a personalized agreement for 80% less than court processes. Mike 780-515-0922.

familymediationcentreofcanada.ca

JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER/GASFITTER & CERTIFIED SEWER INSTALLER Repairs, replacement & new installs. Hot water tanks, furnaces, boilers, gas lines, sewer tanks/fields/pumps. Ryan 780-514-9246

COMMUNITY / BUSINESS EVENTS

BRETON FAITH COVENANT CHURCH Sunday Morning Worship Services at 11am. All are welcome. 4712-53 Ave

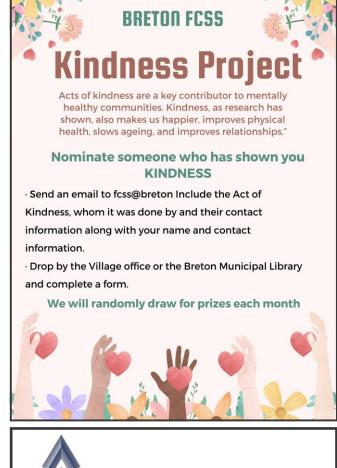
Classified Ads are \$5 for 2 weeks

(max. 4 lines or approx. 30 words) GST included

You can email your ads to <u>media@community39.com</u> or call 780-434-7446

DROP OFF your Payments & Ads at the BRETON IDA PHARMACY

*Please note: Ads will be picked up every Tuesday afternoon from Breton IDA so if your ad is time sensitive, please call in or email your ad by 10am Monday morning for the Wednesday Booster.



Banman Westerlund LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

- Derek W. Banman CPA, CA Partner
- Kyle Westerlund CPA, CA Partner

Box 367, 5012 - 50 Avenue Breton, AB TOC 0P0 E: dbanman@banwest.ca #401, 9426 - 51 Avenue NW Edmonton, Alberta T6E 5A6 T: 780.696-2511 F: 780.696.2017

T: 780.426.3943 F: 780.424.1875

"little papers...BIG RESULTS"

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

Sudoku Answers from February 19 Issue

The object of the puzzle is to fill the remaining squares, using all the numbers 1–9 exactly once in each row, column, and the nine 3 × 3 subgrids.

PRE-K OPEN HOUSE AT BRETON ELEMENTARY

On Wednesday, March 12, 2025 from 4:00to 6:30pm, we welcome parents/caregivers and children to come and check out the Pre-K program at BES!

See the classroom spaces, meet the classroom teacher, and talk with our Inclusive Learning Support teacher about all that our program offers.

Our program is intended for students who will be 4 yrs of age by Dec 31, 2025.

780-696-3555



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS (Breton, Thorsby, Warburg & Surrounding Areas)

February 27, 28, March 1 - Fiddler on the Roof performed at Eleanor Pickup Centre in Drayton Valley at 6:30pm and Matinee at 1:30pm Saturday only. Tickets on sale \$30 each

February 28 - Paint Night with MaryAnn at the Warburg Legion. Call 780-848-2923 for more info.

<u>March 2</u> - Dance to No Hitchiker Band at Winfield Community Centre from 1-4pm. Admission by donation. Lunch contribution appreciated. Everyone Welcome.

March 4 - Pancake Supper at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church from 5-7pm. Everyone welcome and free will offering.

<u>March 15</u> - Ice Golf Tournament at Mulhurst Bay from 10:30am - 4pm with dinner and dance to follow. Go to <u>www.icegolf.ca</u> for more information. Registration Required.

<u>March 15</u> - Tree of Life Suncatcher at Warburg Pioneer Rec Centre from 11am-3pm. Visit the Warburg town office, fcss@warburg.ca to register Deadline to register is March 5. Adult \$70, Kids age 10+ \$40, Kids under 7 \$20

<u>March 15</u> - Thorsby's own wrestling sensation! Darren "Bacon" Letilly coming to Thorsby. Advance tickets available at Ruhr Valley Lumber Ltd. or call Marlene @ 780-217-9394 for tickets

March 19 - Community Crockpot Class at the Breton Community Center from 7pm - 8:30pm. \$5/person you are cooking for/session. Pre-registration required email manager@brighterfutures.ca

<u>March 21</u> - Spring Fling Dance at the Breton Community, doors open at 7pm, pulled pork midnight lunch. Tickets are \$40 each. Ticket info coming soon.

<u>March 30</u> - Reckless Ranch Rendering - at Warburg Pioneer Ag Society from 1-3pm. Turn fat into tallow. Purchase tickets in advance at <u>www.recklessranch.ca</u>

<u>April 12</u> - Women's Wellness Day hosted by Breton & Warburg FCSS. \$30 tickets, available for purchase online or through Breton & Warburg FCSS starting March 3.

May 2- Volunteer Appreciation at the Warburg Pioneer Rec Centre Doors Open at 5pm and Dinner 6pm

Community Events & Information are <u>FREE</u> to advertise

Custom Built Homes

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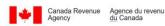
TABS FOR TOTS PULL.COLLECT.DONATE



Tabs for tots collects the <u>"tab off beverage cans as well as</u> <u>other recyclable metals</u>. The collection is sold for scrap and the funds collected are allocated for helping local hospitals.



To donate your tabs or other recyclable metals please contact the Breton Elks at 780.696.3800



Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)



Need a hand with a basic tax return?

Drop off information Monday - Thursday - 8:30 - 4:00 4916 50 Avenue Breton

FREE Service for those that qualify. Provided by Breton FCSS staff

Eligibility

- Seniors
- Students
- Low income individuals, and families



Approximate Income Levels:Taxpayer StatusIncome• Single personUp to \$35,000• CoupleUp to \$45,000• FamilyUp to \$52,500

Interest income less than
 \$1,000

Starting March 3 until April 30, 2025 For more information contact Breton and Area 780-696-3636

Come Pance the Night Away with Live Band Featuring "My Dog Sam" Ages 16+ Tickets \$40 each Hosted by: Breton -----Agricultural <u> Cociet</u>i Pulled Pork Midnight Lunch Friday March 21st. 2025 at the Breton Community Centre boons Open at 1.00 pm Watch for Ticket Info



PROGRAMS & REGULAR EVENTS (Breton & Surrounding Areas)

**Please note - all events are subject to change - Please email us at <u>media@community39.com</u> or call 780-434-7446 if we have incorrect information.

MONDAYS

BUS TO DRAYTON VALLEY (Aquasize or Walmart) Must pre-register. Contact Warburg FCSS 780-848-2828 or Breton FCSS 780-696-3636 for more info.

<u>CARDS & FLOOR CURLING</u> at the Breton Golden Age Club at 1pm (\$3)

DRAMA CLUB at the Breton Youth Center. Grades 6-12. Email bretonyouthcenter@gmail.com

TUESDAYS

STAY, PLAY & GROW - FREE Drop in for 0-6 years old from 10am -11:30am at the Breton Faith Covenant Church. Hosted by Brighter Futures. For more info 780-514-5070.

FLOOR CURLING at the Breton Golden Age Club at 12:30pm

YOGA WITH JUNE - Every Tuesday 10 to 11 am until March 11 at the Breton Community Centre. \$2 drop in fee.

FOOT WELLNESS services the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in Breton. Contact Christa at 780-514-5640 or online www.yourintrinsicelement.com/copy-of-services

WEDNESDAYS

<u>AA MEETING</u> - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at the Warburg Cultural Centre, 5120 51 Ave in Warburg

BRETON BOOK CLUB meets at the Breton Library the second Wednesday of the month at 1pm from September until June. All readers are welcome to join the conversation!

KNIT & KACKLE - knit and crochet items for non profits. No experience necessary. 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Breton Faith Covenant Church at 1pm. Gaylene 780-696-3597

TAI CHI at the Warburg Community Hall, Wednesdays 10am to 11am, \$2.780-848-2841 or office@warburg.ca

THURSDAYS

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME at the Breton Municipal Library on Thursdays from 11:15am - 11:45am

ADULT EXERCISE PROGRAM - Thursday mornings at the Breton Community Centre from 9-10am, Drop In \$2.

LOW IMPACT EXERCISE CLASS at the Buck Lake Seniors Centre from 11am - 12pm. Drop in \$2. Call Erin at 780-352-3321 for more info.

TACO THURSDAYS at the Breton Youth Center. Grades 6-12. from 3-6pm.

FRIDAYS

JAM DANCE & CARDS NIGHT at the Buck Creek Community Hall the first Friday of every month.

MUSIC, BIBLE & PIZZA on alternating Fridays at the Breton Youth Center. Grades 6-12 from 4:15-6:15pm. NOTE TIME CHANGE

SATURDAYS

<u>CRIB</u> at the Breton Golden Age Club on Saturdays at 12:30pm. Contact Larry at 780-975-8755

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

<u>WELCOME TO BRETON</u> - We want to help newcomers feel welcome by giving you a package of promotional and informational items from local businesses and community organizations. We look forward to meeting you! Call or text: Diane - 780-514-4273

MEMORIAL PLAQUE - Anyone wanting to put their loved ones name on the memorial plaque at the Breton Cemetery can contact Diane with the Breton Royal Purple Elks at 780-514-4273 for more information.

TABS FOR TOTS - The Breton Elks collect the tabs off beverage cans and other recyclable metals. This is sold for scrap and the funds help local hospitals. To donate your tabs or other recyclable metals please call 780-696-3800

BRETON YOUTH CENTRE is volunteer run located at the Carolyn Strand Civic Centre downstairs from the Breton Library. All activities are FREE! All kids grade 6-12 are welcome. Contact them at <u>bretonyouthcenter@gmail.com</u>

<u>COMMUNITY CALENDARS</u> - FREE! Pick up at the Village of Breton Office or the Breton Municipal Library located in the Carolyn Strand Civic Centre at 4916 - 50 Avenue.

BRETON FOOD BANK - provides food hampers to community families who are struggling to place food on their tables due to tough economic times and/or circumstances beyond their control. Not a permanent food source but they provide hampers as a hand up during difficult times. Call 780-696-3669 and leave a voice mail in box #3 if you need help or to donate. Located at the Breton Faith Covenant Church.

COMMUNITYGROUPS&MEETINGS (Breton&Surrounding Areas)

MONDAYS

BRETON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Monthly meetings the 4th Monday at 7pm at the Breton Museum. Jan-June & Sept-Nov. 780-898-1155 or bretonmuse@yahoo.com

BRETON GOLDEN AGE CLUB - Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 11am (except July & August). Contact Pat at 780-696-6557 for more info.

BRETON ROYAL PURPLE ELKS NO. 285 - the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm at the Community Hall (except July & August) 780-514-4273 or bretonrp285@gmail.com

WEDNESDAYS

BRETON MUNICIPAL LIBRARY BOARD - Meetings are typically the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm (except July & August) 780-696-3740 or <u>bretonlibrary@yrl.ab.ca</u>

BUCK CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Meetings at the hall the first Wednesday of every month at 8pm. 780-542-6604 or <u>buckcreekhall@gmail.com</u>

THURSDAYS

BRETON AG SOCIETY - Meets the second Thursday of every month (except July & August) at 7pm at the Community Centre. 780-202-0140 or bretonagsociety@gmail.com

BRETON ELKS 402 - at 7:30pm every 3rd Thursday of the month (except July & August) at the Community Centre. 780-898-3557 or bretonelks402@gmail.com

We want your local stories & pictures! Email <u>media@community39.com</u>

The Breton Booster can be viewed online & in color at <u>www.community39.com</u>





Wow what a wonderful weekend of good weather. How can you not feel good with the change in temperatures. Let's hope it continues through March. We have programs still continuing and also will have our Women's Wellness Tickets available starting next week. Gather the girls and join us for an exciting day of learning, shopping, great food and laughter.

<u>"Yoga with June"</u> Every Tuesday 10-11am until March 11. Instructed by June Knobel, Certified Yoga Teacher with Yoga Association of Alberta. \$2 drop-in fee. Come join us at the Breton Community Centre for rejuvenation, relaxation and fun!

The Adult Exercise Program from 9-10am on Thursday mornings. Equipment is provided. Participants will be able to either do the exercise standing or sitting, which ever their ability will allow. Facilitated by Cassie Kreil a certified instructor. Participants will be asked to pay a small fee of \$2/class. Join today and start to get fit with friends. This is a drop-in group so you are welcome to start attending at any time throughout the year.

Busing to Aquacise or Walmart in Drayton Valley -**Monday Mornings**- Together with Warburg FCSS the bus will arrive in Breton at 9:15 to head to the Drayton Valley Gentle Aquacise class. Returning at 11:30. Purchase a 5 ride Bus pass for (\$36) or 10(\$72) bus pass from the Village of Breton office. Register with Warburg FCSS the Thursday prior to the Monday class to save your seat on the bus. If you register with the Active 55 program (at the pool) and live in Brazeau County (including the Village of Breton) there is no cost for the Aqua Size class. If you do not qualify for Active 55 the cost for the aquacise class is \$7.50 or a 10 card pass for \$67.50. We must have at least 8 riders to make a trip. The bus will also make a stop at Walmart for those that would like to shop for 1 hr.

Brighter Futures Stay, Play & Grow – **Tuesday mornings from 10-11:30am**. Hosted by Brighter Future's, held at Faith Covenant Church, 4712 – 53 Ave. Children 0–6 can burn off all that extra energy with physical activity. Drop in. Free. 780-514-5070 for info.

Breton Youth Centre – A fun and safe place for youth Grades 6-12 to hang out, try new activities. Located in the Breton Civic Centre. Activities are advertised on social media. Volunteer run. Some activities have included Movie nights, Crafts, Taco Thursdays, Games, Music, Bible & Pizza Time, Drama Club. Everyone welcome.

<u>Just In Case</u> – Is a resource that you put together for those that may need when a loved one is unable to

communicate with you or passes on. We have put together a binder for you to fill out, use and share with important people in your life. If you would like one of the binders, please contact us or come into the Breton FCSS Office at 4916 50th Avenue. We can also email you an electronic version for you to fill in and print.

Community Crock Pot Cooking - Classes are Back! **Final class March 19** – We had a great turn out for the first two sessions! Thank you to the staff at Brighter Futures for partnering on these sessions. We have a few spots left for the last class. Take home 3 delicious, healthy meals that you can freeze and then pop into your crockpot to have a meal when you return home. Each class will feature different meals. Older youth are encouraged to attend with an adult (learn those life skills!) If you are in need of a crockpot, we will gift you a new crock pot. Cost is \$5/family member you are cooking for/per class. If you have 4 people in your family you would pay \$20 for the class and take home 3 delicious meals. For more info please call 780-696-3636. You can also register online at

www.//forms.gle/LbkUgKD8zVKRe5in7 and etransfer your fees to admin@breton.ca with the date and name of participants.

Kindness Project 2025 -

We received some really great nominations in January and will announce our February winner next week, please continue to submit your nominations as we go forward. A reminder that the nominations must be for a "Act of Kindness". Thank you to those that have made nominations and those that are showing such kindness.

"Did you know that acts of kindness are a key contributor to mentally healthy communities? Kindness, as research has shown, also makes us happier, improves physical health, slows ageing, and improves relationships."

An act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. You can show kindness in everyday life; from picking up the phone to say hello, to dropping round a baked loaf, to offering to pick something up for someone, to raking their yard. It could even be as simple as saying hi to someone in the street or taking the time to stop with someone who might need to see a friendly face.

Throughout 2025 we are asking you to let us know who has shown you Acts of Kindness. There are a couple of ways you can share with us:

- Send an email to fcss@breton.ca. Include the Act of Kindness, whom it was done by and their contact information along with your name and contact information.
- Drop by the Village office or the Breton Municipal Library and complete a form

Once a month we will select random entries to be awarded gift certificates to local businesses for their gestures.

Breton FCSS & Area continued on next page...

Breton FCSS & Area Continued...

<u>Breton & Warburg Women's Wellness Day</u> – Saturday April 12, 2025. Join us in Breton for a day filled with learning, laughter, great food, shopping and time for yourself. Gather your girlfriends, sisters, mom and older daughters and join us for a day to welcome Spring and give yourself some self-care.

Tickets will be available at the Village of Breton or the Village of Warburg starting on March 3. Or you can fill out our online application at

www.forms.gle/kMdYv8wUC3ZqrEjy6. Applications can't be filled out until March 3 online. Payment can be made by e transfer to <u>admin@breton.ca</u>. If applying online your tickets will be at the door on the day of the event. Your \$30 ticket includes:

- Keynote Jodie Baulkham Moving through adversity and building self-awareness to enhance resilience.
- Group Session Self Defense Impact Martial Arts
- Lunch by Starkist Catering
- Your choice of 2 select A sessions.
- Select A Session I
 - A. Bra Necessities
 - B. Herbal Medicine Back Yard Herbal Anita Berger
 - C. Financial Foundations: Strengthening Women's Financial Health
- Select A Session II
 - A. Menopause Myths
 - B. The Art of Tallow
 - C. Vacations on a Budget
- Boutique on your Street Fashion Show

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program – FREE **INCOME TAX PREPARATION** - For Low Income Persons, Families, seniors and students. Although this is something that most of us would like to avoid thinking about and doing, I am afraid that this is unavoidable. You need to file your income tax each year, even if you have no income to report. By doing this you may receive benefits that you did not know you were eligible for. Also, in the event of the death of your spouse, benefits can easily be transferred to you, if you have filled a return for the last calendar year. If you did not file a tax return in 2024 you may not be receiving benefits from the government that you are eligible for. The focus of the Community Volunteer Tax Program is to assist those individuals who have limited income. This includes seniors, families, and students. If your income was approximately in one of the following categories, you may gualify for assistance.

*1 person - \$35,000/*Couple \$45,000/*Family - \$52,500 We are not able to complete returns with income from the following sources: Capital Gains or Losses, Farming Income, Rental Income, Self-Employment, Interest exceeding \$1,000, Bankruptcies, Deceased Persons

This service is FREE to those who qualify. If you require this service, please gather your information, and bring it to the Village of Breton office Monday to Thursday between 8:30am-4pm.

Clients will be notified when your return is completed.

The program will run from March 3-April 30, 2025.

We require the following information to complete your return:

- Personal Information (Social Insurance Number, Birth date, Marital Status, Address)
- Dependent's information spouse/ children's names, birthdates.
- All "T" Slips (T4's, T4A, OAS etc.)
- All Forms, Schedules, and Labels you have received from Revenue Canada.
- Receipts for any expenses such as medical, moving, tuition, sporting activities. Printouts from your pharmacist are available for those with numerous prescriptions.





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www.hearttohomemeals.ca

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"KEYSTONE IS" Film Screening Plays to Large Audience

Submitted by Allan Goddard

The Breton Museum along with the Faith Covenant Church welcomed more than 180 people to view the premier screening of the historical documentary film "Keystone Is", to celebrate Black History Month. Following the screening a Q & A took place where the audience were able to ask questions to Cheryl Foggo, Masani St. Rose and Lisa La Touche about the making of the film and what it meant to them as individuals.

The documentary film centers on a group of Black Alberta artists and interested individuals as they visit the community once known as Keystone, now Breton, founded by Black farmers in 1909-1911, in search of a connection to the land and their history. The Collective discovers the Breton Museum and the story of the founding of the community of Keystone, leading them to create artistic dance and written explorations of their experience.

The forty-minute film is the creation of Cheryl Foggo and her Collective, capturing the group's travel to the Breton Museum in the summer of 2023. Beautifully filmed by cinematographer Joel Varjassy, the film highlights the Breton Museum along with several local sites with strong connection to the history of Keystone. Sites visited included: the Charles and Mathilda King (Sr.) property, known as White House Corner, the Ellis Hooks home, Keystone Cemetery and the Funnel Community Center. A number of short interview clips with descendants, which have family connections to Keystone are included in the film, capturing their feelings on returning to the roots of their family.

The Breton Museum would like to thank everyone attending the film screening, the Breton Faith Covenant Church and the volunteers of the Breton Food Bank who provided the wonderful refreshments following the event. Also, a big shout out to your generous food donations to the Breton Food Bank.

Final word, the Breton Museum has had several inquiries if the film was going to be shown at other venues in the future. Cheryl and her group are working on this possibility to have wider distribution of the film. So stay tuned for updates.



\$5.4 MILLION IN PRIZING!





INCLUDING THE EARLY BIRD PRIZE:

REACH FOR THE STARS. \$500,000 CASH

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE MARCH 6

starslottery.ca 1-855-STARS-68

Draw: March 31, 2025. Licence 712760. Tickets must be purchased in Alberta. Must be 18+ to purchase. Please play responsibly.

Gerald Soroka, MP Yellowhead gerald.soroka@parl.gc.ca



geraldsorokamp.ca • 780-723-6068

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

As the next federal election approaches, I want to take a moment to share some personal news with you. Following the Conservative nomination process this past summer, I was not selected to represent the Yellowhead riding once again. As a result, I will not be running in the upcoming federal election for Yellowhead. While this means my time as your Member of Parliament will soon come to an end, I remain deeply grateful for the incredible privilege of serving you over the past five-plus years.

Since 2019, my goal has always been to ensure the voices of Yellowhead were heard loud and clear in Ottawa. Whether advocating for our farmers, protecting the energy sector that powers our economy, pushing for a low-tax, high-growth economy, or standing up for rural communities, I have taken on this role knowing how vital it is to represent the values and concerns of the people who call this incredible region home.

Public service has been a defining part of my life for decades, first as a Councillor, then as Mayor, and most recently as your Member of Parliament. Every step of the way, I have been inspired by your resilience, kindness, and determination. Together, we have faced challenges and celebrated successes, and I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished. To each of you who shared your stories, voiced your concerns, or simply offered a kind word along the way-thank you. You have not only guided my work but have reminded me why this community is so special. Representing you in Parliament and fighting for what matters most to our families, businesses, and future generations has been the greatest honour of my life.

I also want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my partner, Susan, and my family for their unwavering support and sacrifices. They have stood by me, offered advice, attended events, and have been my greatest supporters. Their encouragement has meant the world to me, and I cannot thank them enough.

A special thank you as well to my office teams, both in the Riding and Ottawa, for their incredible dedication. Jeannette and Annette, who have been with me from the very beginning, and Bonnie and Aidan, who have continued to support me in my work-your efforts in assisting constituents, managing schedules, and ensuring effective communication have been invaluable. I am truly grateful to have worked with such an outstanding team.

Although I will not be your MP after the next election, it has been an incredible experience for me. Representing the riding, has been an extraordinary honour and privilege. Along the way, I have built lasting friendships and formed meaningful relationships that I will always treasure.

With sincere gratitude, Gerald Soroka

> "History never really says goodbye. History says, 'See you later." Eduardo Galeano

Pick up your FREE <u>"Community</u> **Connections**" booklet

at the Breton Village Office, Brazeau County Office, CE Media Thorsby, Leduc County Office, Thorsby Town Office, Thorsby Arctic Spas Rec Complex and the Warburg Village Office Or go online to www.community39.com

You will find information on our local communities including maps, contacts, rental facilities, community groups and supports and more....



your Street Register online starting March 3rd (link will be provided when tickets go on sale) or tickets are available at

Warburg FCSS or

Breton FCSS If you would like to be a vendor, please complete this form

https://forms.gle/fqFP37FNJUqqdP



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> > Black oil sunflower seeds

Flax

Various sizes of tarps, straps & accessories in stock or we can order what you need. We can also order greenhouse plastic.

Lawn seed & lawn & garden fertilizer

Nitrogen & PowerRich fertilizer & bagged forage seed

Various varieties of Pedigreed seed available

Retailer for Proven Seed, Inland Plastics, Union Forage (swath grazing) & PowerRich Fertilizer

BRAZEAU COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

February 18, Regular Council Meeting

PD-5 Development and Subdivision of Land with No Road Access Policy

Council approved a proposed PD-5 Development and Subdivision of Land with No Road Access Policy, which prohibits the subdivision of lands which are not accessible by municipal or provincial roads and/ or statutory road rights-of-way.

Also established within the policy is the provision for landowners to obtain subdivision or development approval following their construction of the necessary road(s) to County standards should they choose to construct them where statutory road allowances do not exist.

ALUS-1 Guiding Framework Policy changes

Council approved updates to the ALUS-1 Guiding Framework Policy to increase the cap on fencing materials and labour from \$8/metre to \$15/metre, and to clarify that the drilling of a well is not eligible for ALUS funding. However, solar or pump/pressure systems on an existing well are eligible expenses at 50%.

FIN-7 Community Organization Funding Policy changes

Council approved updates to the FIN-7 Community Organization Funding Policy to set a separate limit amount for staff to approve new and repeat requests for in-kind support for community events. New funding requests would be limited to the \$1,000 maximum with repeat in-kind requests set at \$2,500. Previously, both financial and inkind requests were subject to the same \$1,000 staff approval limit.

Support for Charter School

Council approved a letter of support for a proposed Indigenous focused Roots of Resilience Charter School to serve students in the Drayton Valley area. Charter schools are public schools, and must be approved by the Minister of Education

For detailed information on Council meetings, including current minutes, please visit <u>www.brazeau.ab.ca</u>. Please direct inquiries to the office of the CAO at <u>cscharfl@brazeau.ab.ca</u> or 780-542-7777.



Below Picture: Trish Wiersma from Drayton Valley & District Community Learning Association presented Council with a Certificate of Appreciation for recording a video and donating seven hoodies to the SOS (Sweater or Socks) campaign earlier in the winter.









Greetings from Breton Elks Lodge #402



Well, hello everybody, it has been awhile since I last chatted with you so I truly hope all is well. It appears that old man winter is in the process of saying goodbye for another season. On that note, it will soon be time to start talking about tomatoes and potatoes. Then the flowers and grass cutting. What a grand time of year it will be.

Now getting back to Elk business. First the skating rink did present its usual challenges, but we did manage to make a showing. Thanks to the Brother Elks and community members, the ice is still available at time of writing. We do expect the end is very near. It appeared that the traffic was reasonably busy this year.

Then came the Family Day Breakfast, unfortunately the weather man was a little unhappy so most activities appeared to be the indoor type. The Elk members did their part to provide some entertainment with their Bingo skills.

Moving forward the RV Park is on the move with registration. At present 6 sites still remain open for the May long weekend. Also our seasonal campers have increased to 8 for the coming season.

In the month of April, Breton Lodge members will be travelling to Camrose to take part in doing their Casino duties. This will provide our lodge with additional funds to redistribute into our community. On this note, I want to remind everyone that we are open for new members especially those who are younger than 70 years. In order for our lodge to continue supporting or community, replacement of 80 plus members with 70 and younger is most necessary.

Since we are approaching the spring season for lodge activities we will be moving forward with nominations and elections of next year's executive. This will be dealt with in May. On the subject of spring activities the Alberta Elks Association Conference will be held in Olds June 12 to 14th, 2025. We do have several members planning to attend.

The Covenant Bay Bible Camp is also putting together their upcoming summer activities and Gayle from the camp was present at our February lodge meeting. As a result of her visit the Brother and Sister Elks agreed to donate \$2,000.00 to help with upcoming expenses.

The Stitches and Dreams Quilt Guild of Drayton Valley also made a request for funding. This group of ladies spend their free time producing quilts which are donated back to citizens who are in need. This group of ladies will receive \$800.00 to go toward supplies.

Brother Don Gillis reported that the Rimbey Hospital Legacy Committee has been putting together their plans

for the upcoming VIP Breakfast to be held March 27 at the Peter Lougheed Community Centre in Rimbey. The focus this year is the raise funds for an Ultra Sound Machine.

To round out the evening Brother and Sister Elks were treated to a fine feast of chicken wings, vegetables and delicious cookies and cake compliments of Brother Neil. Thank you Brother Neil.

In closing I want to wish everyone Happy Spring thoughts and may each and everyone enjoy good health and wealth.

AI





BOLSTERING EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Alberta News, February 21, 2025

Alberta's government is awarding \$5.5 million in grant funding to 19 organizations working to stop human trafficking and empower survivors.

February 22 was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and Alberta's government is reaffirming its commitment to combatting this unthinkable crime. Human trafficking is a violation of fundamental human rights that takes advantage of vulnerable people, subjecting victims to forced labour, sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse. It perpetuates cycles of poverty and trauma, affecting individuals and communities across the province.

Alberta's government recognizes the urgent need to address human trafficking and provide comprehensive supports for survivors. Introduced in December 2024, the Combatting Trafficking in Persons grant helps organizations prevent human trafficking, protect at-risk people and empower survivors. Since being introduced, organizations that play a critical role in ending human trafficking and supporting survivors have applied for the grant and 19 will receive funding to support their critical work.

"Human trafficking leaves lasting scars on victims, survivors and communities. We are taking a strong stance against traffickers and bolstering support networks for survivors. This funding will empower community-based organizations to provide specialized services that protect vulnerable individuals and disrupt the cycle of exploitation. With these community grants, we are ensuring traffickers are held accountable and survivors have the support they need from organizations such as The Alberta Centre to rebuild their lives." Mike Ellis, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Collaboration and community partnerships are vital to combatting human trafficking. These grants strengthen the capacity of organizations to work with law enforcement, non-profits and Indigenous communities to deliver critical supports where they are needed most. These grants provide resources to empower survivors with the tools and services they need to recover and thrive. By investing in prevention, we are addressing the root causes of trafficking and reducing exploitation in our communities.

The Combatting Trafficking in Persons grants focus on three areas: prevention, protection and empowerment. Funded projects aim to prevent human trafficking by increasing public awareness of its signs and risk factors, supporting community engagement and fostering collaboration. Protection efforts will provide emergency support and help victims navigate legal and health care systems, while empowerment initiatives will assist survivors through peer support networks, skill-building programs and advocacy efforts.

"With the funding from the Government of Alberta, RESET Society of Calgary will increase the capacity within our program and decrease our waitlist to support survivors as they transition from situations of sex trafficking to healing, empowerment and sustaining stable lives for themselves and their children. Proactive initiatives like this from the Alberta government will bring agencies and partners together to provide critical trauma-informed programs and supports." Theresa Jenkins, executive director, RESET Society of Calgary

Priority consideration was given to initiatives that meaningfully include persons with lived experience of human trafficking, as well as Indigenous-led programs. This approach ensures that funding supports culturally relevant, survivor-centered services with the greatest impact on vulnerable populations.

Quick facts

- The 19 organizations receiving provincial funding include:
 - Alberta Native Friendship Centres
 - ALERT
 - Buckspring Foundation
 - Catholic Social Services
 - CEASE
 - Central Alberta Child Advocacy Centre
 - Chiniki First Nation
 - Goodstoney First Nation
 - HER Victory
 - Hull Services
 - Kainai Transition Centre Society
 - Métis Nation of Alberta
 - Narrow Road Society
 - REACH
 - RESET Society
 - Salvation Army
 - The Alberta Centre for Human Trafficking
 - Tsuut'ina Nation
 - Waypoints
- Recipients of the Combatting Trafficking in Persons Grant must be located in Alberta. To be eligible to apply, applicants must be one of the following:
 - A registered not-for-profit/charitable organization in Alberta.
 - A community-based coalition or network (with a designated fiscal agent).
 - An Indigenous community, including Tribal Councils, First Nations and Metis Settlements.



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FALSE ONLINE ALLEGATIONS IN WETASKIWIN

Alberta RCMP News, February 19, 2025

Wetaskiwin, Alta. – Recently, Wetaskiwin RCMP were made aware of online accusations claiming that officers picked up a male from a homeless shelter in Wetaskiwin and dropped him off in a remote rural location in the extreme cold. This report was very concerning and RCMP took immediate action to review this allegation.

On Feb. 16, 2025, at 8:44 p.m., Wetaskiwin RCMP received a report of male causing a disturbance at the homeless shelter in Wetaskiwin. In order to prevent the continuation of any offences and for the male's safety, RCMP officers provided the male a courtesy ride to a fellow family members home. After confirming with the homeowner that the male was welcome police departed. Police had no further dealings with this male.

RCMP are advising that citizens should take what is circulating on social media with some skepticism as often times such reports are false. Reports such as these degrade public confidence and cause unnecessary fear and anxiety. It is recommended for the public to rely on verified information from trusted sources.

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Respect. Honour. Remember.



Laurie's **b** Laughs

There should be a weather app for people with social anxiety, like,

"Today, Walmart will be partly crowdy with a 70% chance of people you know".



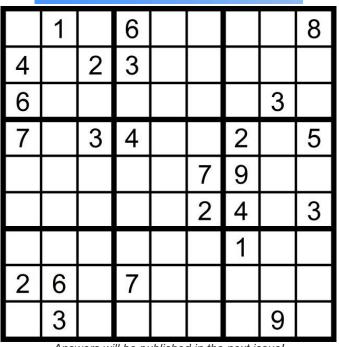
KIND OF SCARY WHEN THE WEATHER MAN IS THE CLOSEST ONE TO TELLING THE TRUTH ON THE NEWS THESE DAYS... NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR PILLS



Don't believe everything you read in public toilets. Sharon is not up for a good time.

DRAGONS IN THE KITCHEN?

What an awkward phone call that was...



Answers will be published in the next issue!



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