



A sister publication to **The Free Press**, Morinville, Alberta

Yobukan Karate: Building warriors and community in Redwater

By Shelley Winger

For more than a decade, the Yobukan Karate Club has been helping to shape strong, kind-hearted individuals in Redwater. What started as a small class of just six students in 2012 has now grown into a thriving dojo, with over fifty students training twice a week. This journey has been fueled by the passion of martial artists who sought to bring the countless benefits of karate to their local community.

"Karate has always been a big part of our lives since we were children, and we wanted to have that same impact on the

people in our community," explains Sensei Justin Rybie, one of the co-founders of Yobukan. In 2008,

after he and his fellow martial artists relocated to Redwater, they noticed a lack of local martial arts

training options and decided to fill that gap by establishing their own dojo.

The name Yobukan,

meaning "A place where warriors are developed" in Japanese, was given to them by the Chito-Ryu

Soke, their head instructor at the time. This name perfectly embodies the club's mission, which has always extended beyond teaching karate techniques to nurturing perseverance, confidence, and respect in its students.

"Our goal is to develop strong, kind-hearted people who can grow up to be pillars in their community," says Sensei Justin. "We emphasize perseverance and the ability to never give up. We want our students to develop the strength to stand up for themselves and for those around them."

This approach has



Photo by: Jenny Penny

Continued on **page 15**

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Who is Sarah Nova?

By Brandie Majeau

Sarah Nova is a dedicated mother to a teenage boy and two super sweet fluffy cats who bring boundless joy to her life. During the chilly winter months, she immerses herself in painting and various artistic projects, often experimenting with different mediums to express her creativity. Additionally, she relishes the tranquility of nature, frequently embarking on ice-fishing trips and hunting expeditions to connect with the serene wilderness around her.

As the warm summer months arrive, Sarah's life revolves around her love for the outdoors. Whether tending to her vegetable garden, exploring the numerous hiking trails,

camping under the stars, or relaxing by the lake, she makes the most of every moment outside. Originally born and raised in Edmonton, Sarah felt a deep yearning for a quieter and more peaceful lifestyle. This longing led her and her partner to move to Smoky Lake in October 2023,

where they found the perfect setting to cultivate their new life.

Drawing from her nine years of tattooing experience, Sarah has recently established her own tattoo shop, where she designs and creates meaningful pieces for her clients. This new venture empowers her to follow her artistic passion while embracing the liberating spirit of entrepreneurship. For most artists, the unyielding pursuit of creative freedom is unparalleled, allowing for boundless exploration and expression of their unique visions and emotions. With the opening of Kitty Monster Tattoo, Sarah is able to share that journey and vision with



Photo courtesy of Sarah Nova

Continued on **page 8**

Northstar Kennels under new ownership



The team at Northstar Kennels (from left to right) Sasha, Chantille, Susan and Alex.



While still snowcovered, the outdoor play area at Northstar Kennels is a dog's dream playground.

By Brandie Majeau

Northstar Kennels, located in Thorhild, is under new ownership. The new owners, Alex and Susan are both pipeliners who have had dogs throughout their careers.

Understanding that a reliable kennel/boarding service was necessary with their jobs, they both admitted how hard it is to find good boarding. When an injury put Alex off work, he acquired four more dogs and began to rethink his career choices. Reflecting on the negative experiences he has personally faced with boarding, Alex dove into a new path that led him to Thorhild. After looking at four different facilities for sale, Northstar Kennels was chosen not only for its facilities but also for the current program it was running. November 22, 2024, Alex and Susan got the keys to what has now

become a prominent passion project.

The goal now is to make it a doggy destination. With kennels that are immaculately sanitized between each boarder, canine guests are given personal kennels that have both indoor and outdoor access and private time in the play yard with a selection of equipment and toys for their delight. Activities can involve trampolines and ball pits and one-on-one attention. And, of course, a centralized fire hydrant for canine convenience.

In addition, since purchasing Northstar Kennels, Alex and Susan got to work installing kennel cam systems that work on a subscription basis to keep doggy parents well-connected with their loved ones. The camera allows 24-hour viewing, highlights reels of the day,

Continued on **page 4**



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Continued from **page 2**

and the ability to speak to their fur babies, and even interact by tossing them a treat. The property also has security protection, keeping its boarders safe from 2-legged or 4-legged intruders. Northstar Kennels has cultivated a great relationship with their boarding guests but wants pet owners to personally see their passion, commitment, and cleanliness to the dogs while they enjoy their stay. It also offers in-floor heating and cooling instead of relying on typical HVAC systems that may spread respiratory issues.

Throughout the transition of ownership, Alex and Susan repeatedly remarked on the big local and loyal community of clients that have stayed with them. They are also grateful for Chantille, who remained on as staff and

made for a seamless transition and Sasha, for coming on with her training and expertise from Ukraine. Northstar Kennels has bookings already into 2026 and is finding itself with a full house on weekends and into the summer. As the boarding kennels continue to fill up, Northstar continues with its unique on-site store with toys and treats, its grooming and training services, and looks ahead to diversify. Currently, they are facilitating their “;Doggy Day School” and Canine CPR and Emergency First Aid Courses. Still, they are also in discussions to expand the current boarding building, add 30 new runs, and perhaps an agility course, in addition to getting involved in animal rescue. Northstar Kennels also offers daycare services and pick-up/drop-off assistance in the

affectionately referred to “Mutt Mobile.”

With services and qualities too numerous to name, potential clients are encouraged to visit their Facebook page, email them, or simply call. Pricing is readily available, and each guest will have personalized and customized care. Their dedication to sanitation is foremost in addition to the safety and well-being of each boarder. “Dogs have always been a major part of my life,” remarked Alex as he continued to explain that they were working to build an establishment that people can trust and is affordable and accessible. Ask Bronco, who will be staying at Northstar Kennels for the next few months while his human is deployed. Bronco misses him, but the wagging tail and enthusiastic jumps say all is well; this is a great place to wait for his return.



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Go to Redwater.ca and click on Job Opportunities to apply!

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Borrowing Bylaw 1677/25 Broadband Infrastructure (Phase 2)

Section 251 – The Municipal Government Act

Take notice that the Council of Sturgeon County, in the Province of Alberta, has given first reading to **Borrowing Bylaw 1677/25** which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of the said County to borrow monies from Province of Alberta, or another authorized Financial Institution, to pay for the cost of the phase 2 construction of broadband infrastructure.

The total cost of the aforesaid project amounts to **\$15,736,689**. A total of **\$6,810,744** is to be borrowed on the credit and security of the municipality at large by a fixed term debenture. The debenture is to be repayable to the Province of Alberta, or another authorized financial institution, in installment payments with an annual interest not to exceed ten per cent (10%), or the interest rate as fixed from time to time by the Province of Alberta or other authorized financial institution.

NOW THEREFORE NOTICE is hereby given by the Council of Sturgeon County that, unless a petition of the electors for a vote on **Bylaw 1677/25** is demanded, as provided for by the terms of Section 231 of the Municipal Government Act, the said Council may pass the said borrowing bylaw.

The proposed bylaw may be examined between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the office of the Legislative Services Officer, Sturgeon County, 9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta.

Questions?
Financial Services
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www.sturgeoncounty.ca



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Moving/Farm Auction for Clayton Rettie, Tiger Lily, AB • Live Auction & On-Line April 20-26th

- Large amount of tillage and machinery • Augers and livestock supplies • Featuring large selection of shop and oilfield tools • Case 2290 Tractor & Freightliner Tandem grain truck • Removal April 26 & 27






Re-Alignment Auction for Ed Ens, Cherhill, AB • Live Auction - May 3 @ 11am (timed portion starts May 1-3)

- Selling 3pt equipment • Cat dozer & Loader • Large cabin • Tools and more • Pick up May 3-4 only






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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BYLAW NO. 08-2025

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of Town of Smoky Lake is proposing to pass a bylaw pursuant to Section 692 of the *Municipal Government Act* and a public hearing will be held to obtain public input on proposed Bylaw 08-2025.

The purpose of Bylaw No. 08-2025 is to amend Town of Smoky Lake's Land Use Bylaw 007-018 by rezoning approximately 0.08 ha (0.21 ac) of Lot 8, Block 1, Plan 1885CL (4706 50 Street) and 0.08 ha (0.21 ac) Lot 9, Block 1, Plan 1885CL (4704 50 Street) from R2 Residential Medium Density District to R3 Residential High Density District.

Date: Monday, March 31, 2025
 Time: 2:15 pm
 Location: Town of Smoky Lake Council Chambers, 56 Wheatland Ave, Smoky Lake, AB or online:
<https://zoom.us/j/3287551220?omn=94039622430>

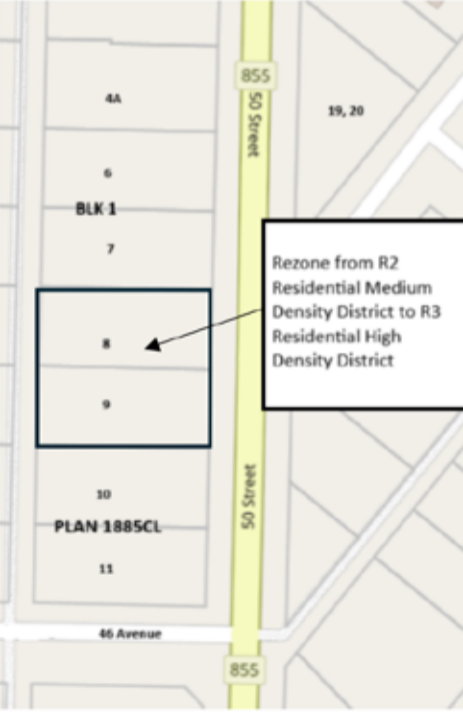
The Public Hearing will commence at 2:15 pm, or as soon as practical thereafter.

TO SPEAK OR PRESENT AT THE MEETING:
 Email legislative@smokylake.ca for participation information.


QUESTIONS CONTACT:
 Pam Routhier, Development Officer
 Email: development@smokylake.ca | Phone: 780-656-3674

TO VIEW BYLAW: visit smokylake.ca

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: By submitting comments on this bylaw, either orally or in writing, the personal information you provide may be recorded in the minutes of the Public Hearing or otherwise made public. This information is collected in line with section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



Ochre Park School News



Ochre Park's registration for the 2025-26 school year is now open!



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Holy Family Catholic School

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- Preschool
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Extra-Curricular Activities:

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- Cross Country Running
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- A range of lunch clubs

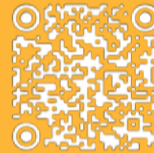
A caring, faith-filled learning environment for Preschool to Grade 12 students in Smoky Lake and Thorhild counties.



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Exciting news!

Opening in 2026: A brand-new Holy Family Catholic School!



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Sturgeon County Dust Suppression



Sturgeon County offers three options for dust suppression to help reduce dust created by vehicle traffic on gravel roads. See our website for details on select placement of recycled asphalt millings this year.



Early bird deadline is April 16, 2025

TYPES OF DUST SUPPRESSION	OIL	MINERAL OIL *UPDATE*	CALCIUM
First 100m	\$4,165	\$1,097	\$405
Each Additional 10m	\$494	\$187.20	\$118

A late fee of \$100 is applied to orders received after April 16, 2025. No orders will be accepted after May 17, 2025.

Download application forms:
sturgeoncounty.ca/dust-suppression

Questions?
Call: 780-939-8252 | Toll Free: 1-866-939-9303
Email: DustSuppression@sturgeoncounty.ca



ROAD WORK AHEAD

JOIN STURGEON COUNTY AT AN INFORMATION SESSION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECTS HAPPENING IN YOUR DIVISION IN 2025.

All information sessions 6 - 8 p.m.
Presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 20 **DIVISIONS 5 & 6:**
Gibbons Community Cultural Centre
5115 - 51 Street, Gibbons

Wednesday, March 26 **DIVISIONS 1 & 2:**
Namao Community Hall
8 - 24400 Highway 37, Sturgeon County

Thursday, April 3 **DIVISIONS 3 & 4:**
Calahoo Community Hall
#9, 54500 Rge Rd 275, Calahoo



For a full list of projects view SturgeonCounty.ca/Roads

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5144 53 ST REDWATER



\$199,900

Charming 2-bedroom bungalow on a massive lot with nearly everything updated! Recent improvements include all new windows, new front and rear decks, upgraded vinyl siding with added insulation, a new 100A electrical panel, updated plumbing, and new exterior doors. The main floor features two bedrooms, a 4-piece bathroom, a cozy living room, and a kitchen with access to the back deck. The basement includes a laundry area, storage space, a small rec room with a wet bar, and a 3-piece bathroom. The spacious backyard offers plenty of room to build a garage or enjoy as is, complete with three powered storage sheds—one with a 50-amp hookup, perfect for your RV. Move-in ready and full of potential!

57425 RR 222 STURGEON COUNTY



\$799,900

Discover this 1600 sq. ft. bungalow on 80 acres in Sturgeon County, just minutes from Redwater. Approx. 50 acres are cultivated, 20 acres are pasture, and 10 acres make up the yard site. The home has had many updates over the years, including a kitchen reno, some new flooring, main floor windows, shingles, and a newer boiler, just to name a few. The main floor features a 2-piece bath, laundry room, and a kitchen with a functional layout perfect for entertaining, opening to a dining area and cozy living room. There are also 3 bedrooms and a 4-piece bath on the main floor. The basement includes 2 more bedrooms, a family room with a wood-burning stove, a work-out area, and lots of storage. Outside, you'll find a large deck with a pergola and an oversized double heated detached garage. The property also includes a 55' x 95' metal agro building, 20' x 90' pole shed, and 12' x 20' cattle shelter with some fencing and corrals in place for livestock. A must-see!

SW-36-64-19-4 ATHABASCA COUNTY



\$224,900

Fantastic opportunity to own your own quarter section of land! This property features a recently added dugout and is fenced on two sides, with the other two fence lines already cleared and ready for poles and barbed wire—making it easy to complete for pasture use. Alternatively, use it as a weekend getaway, as it's conveniently located near several lakes, including Skeleton Lake, just five minutes away. Whether you're looking for recreational land, a peaceful retreat, or the perfect spot to build your dream home, this property offers endless possibilities!

5807 53 AVE REDWATER



SOLD

\$324,900

Beautiful bungalow in a prime location, situated across from the Redwater Golf Course! This well-maintained home features an open-concept main floor, perfect for entertaining. The main level offers three bedrooms, including a primary suite with a 2-piece ensuite, plus a 4-piece main bathroom. Downstairs, you'll find a spacious family room, laundry area, two additional bedrooms, ample storage, and a partially finished bathroom ready for your personal touch. The basement also features a brand-new drop ceiling. Recent upgrades include newer windows, doors, flooring, some appliances, and updates to the upstairs bathrooms, as well as new carpet in the basement. The only finishing touches needed are interior basement doors and the basement bathroom. Outside, enjoy a fully fenced yard, a double detached heated garage with recently updated shingles, and a side driveway perfect for RV parking. A fantastic opportunity in a sought-after neighborhood!

23222 TWP 560 GIBBONS



\$525,900

Experience country living within the town limits of Gibbons! This bungalow is situated on 5.66 acres of picturesque land, featuring a large garden, a private pond with a firepit area, a stamped concrete patio at the rear, and a south-facing front deck. The property includes numerous outbuildings with ample space to build a shop. In recent years, the home has seen many upgrades, including new flooring, a kitchen renovation, updated appliances, new doors, and most windows. The well-designed layout includes three bedrooms, a 4-piece bathroom, a living room with a view, a beautiful kitchen, and laundry facilities, all on one floor.

4816 50 AVE REDWATER



\$64,900

Commercial building in Redwater with prime Main Street exposure! Featuring three office spaces, this property is ideal for an insurance agency, law firm, accounting office, or other professional services. A great opportunity to establish your business in a high-traffic location!

H.A. Kostash School News



H.A. Kostash School recently expressed gratitude to the Student Union for hosting a successful and enjoyable fundraiser.



March 29, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Morinville Community Cultural Centre

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Continued from **page 1**
her clients.

Kitty Monster Tattoo has opened its doors in Smoky Lake, located within the Black Heron Boutique at 19 Wheatland Ave. The talented tattoo artist, Sarah, brings a wealth of passion and expertise to her craft, specializing in realism with a particular focus on nature and animal themes. She also has a fascination for skulls and all things eerie, but her artistic range allows her to encompass a wide variety of subject matter.

With proficiency in

vibrant color and intricate black and grey techniques, Sarah is dedicated to transforming her client's ideas into stunning pieces of body art. She places a strong emphasis on client comfort and satisfaction throughout the tattooing process.

The shop is designed to create a welcoming atmosphere, featuring bright lighting and a meticulously clean setup. Clients can enjoy a selection of refreshments and snacks while being provided with multiple plush pillows that enhance the comfort

of their experience.

Sarah operates on a by-appointment-only basis. Interested clients are encouraged to reach out through her Kitty Monster Tattoo Facebook page for consultations and to schedule their sessions. Regardless of the style of ink or the distinctive concept conceived within one's imagination, Sarah extends an invitation for individuals to engage with her in a collaborative tattoo experience, the possibilities of transforming individual ideas into personalized works of art are endless.

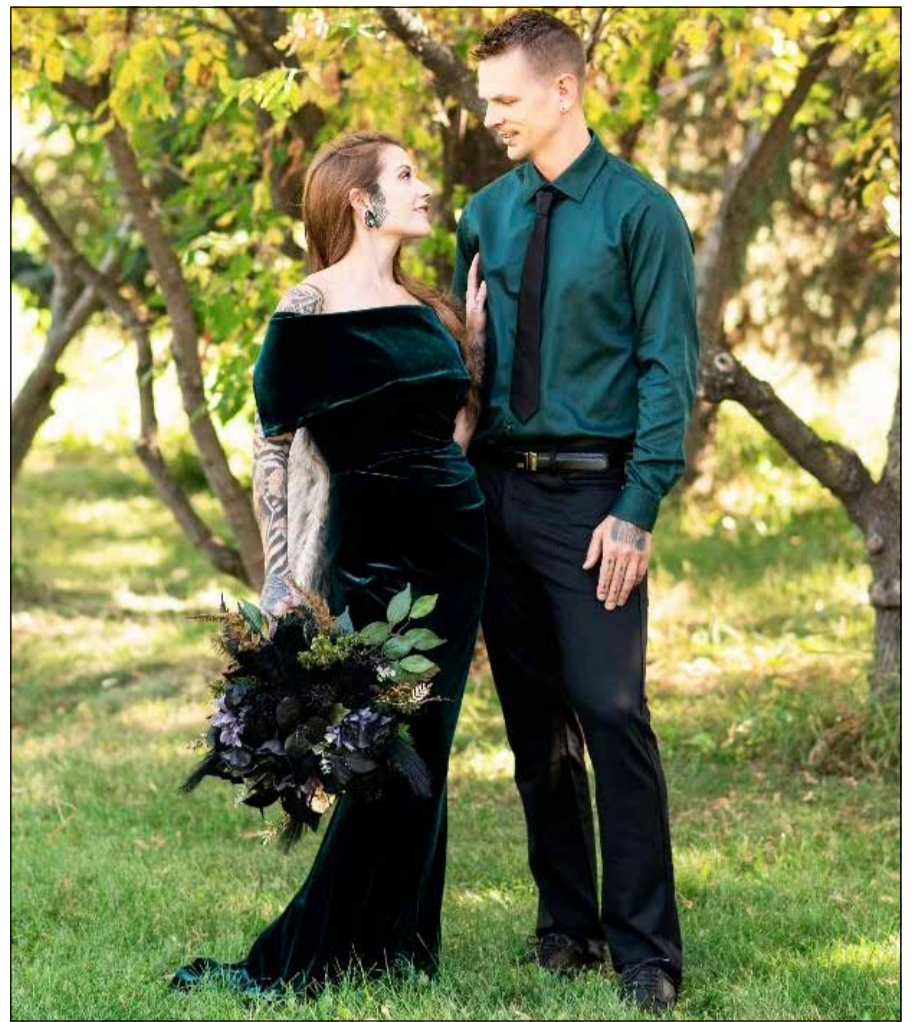


Photo courtesy of Sarah Nova



Notice of Intention

to sell land for less than market value (as per MGA)

Take notice that:

In accordance with Sections 70, 231 (9) and 606 of the *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, Ch. M-26* (the "MGA"), the Town of Smoky Lake proposes to sell surplus lands, being specifically:

- Lot 14, Block 8, Plan 1821HW to Igor Kozogloduyk, for less than market value
- Lot R-2, Block 12, Plan 4117TR to Joshua Jarema, for less than market value

The land sale proposal may be viewed at the Town of Smoky Lake's office located at 56 Wheatland Ave, Smoky Lake, AB.

Petitions

Petitions against the Town's proposal to sell land may be filed with the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Smoky Lake, no later than **May 26, 2025**. Petitions must comply with the requirements of Part 7 of the *Municipal Government Act*, and specifically section 224, which provides that petitions must:

- contain on each page an identical statement of purpose for the petition
- be signed by petitioners who are electors of the Town of Smoky Lake, equal in number to at least 10% of the population
- contain for each petitioner:
 - printed surname and given names or initials of the petitioner
 - petitioner's signature
 - street address or legal description of the land where the petitioner lives
 - the petitioner's telephone number or email address, if any; and
 - the date on which the petitioner signed the petition
- every petitioner's signature must be witnessed by an adult person who

- signs opposite the petitioner's signature
- swears an affidavit confirming that to the best of the witness's knowledge the signatures are those of the petitioners entitled to sign the petition, and such affidavits must be attached to the petition
- a signed statement of an individual who is the representative of the petitioners to whom the municipality may direct inquiries about the petition.

If a sufficient petition is not filed by May 26, 2025, the Town may move forward with selling the land as provided for in this Notice for less than market value without further notice.



Lot 14, Block 8, Plan 1821HW



Lot R-2, Block 12, Plan 4117TR

Redwater School News



Redwater School band students had an incredible experience at Camp Nakamun Band Camp.



OILFIELD HAULING

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Thorhild residents receive King Charles III Medal



Photos courtesy of Angela Zilinski

By Brandie Majeau

In a recent ceremony held in St. Paul, Alberta, three outstanding residents of Thorhild County were awarded the prestigious King Charles III Medal in recognition of their significant contributions to the community. This honor celebrates individuals who demonstrate exemplary service and commitment to improving the lives of those around them. The recipients, Larry Hryciw, Troy Vetsch, and Irene Rettman, have each made a remarkable impact through their dedicated efforts in various community initiatives, embodying the spirit of cooperation and leadership that the medal represents. The King

Charles III Medal serves as a symbol of appreciation for those who create positive change and inspire others through their actions.

These individuals were awarded the distinguished medal in recognition of their significant contributions to the community of Thorhild County. Their commitment spans a diverse array of volunteer activities, encompassing work within local churches, participation in community outreach initiatives, and active involvement in the local agricultural society.

Their ongoing dedication has been instrumental in ensuring that various not-for-profit organizations not only

persevered through difficult circumstances but also achieved noteworthy growth and success. The willingness to share their knowledge and skills within the community have brought more volunteers into various volunteer roles and town projects. Furthermore, the exceptional diligence with which they engage in their efforts is commendable, as they consistently invest their time and energy into the overall improvement of Thorhild County. Larry, Troy, and Irene have played pivotal roles in channeling significant funds into the community, thanks to their tireless efforts in fundraising initiatives and their successful navigation of grant

opportunities. Their dedication and ingenuity have not only secured substantial financial resources but have also encouraged a spirit of collaboration among community members. These individuals have helped paved the way for future generations to embrace volunteerism, establishing a strong foundation for others to aspire to. Their efforts serve as a guiding light, inspiring younger individuals to step into roles of service and leadership.

Their profound impact has cultivated a better environment for residents, significantly improving opportunities for living and recreational activities within the county. This acknowledgment

not only honours their steadfast dedication but also celebrates their substantial contributions that have

shaped the community. Congratulations on receiving this esteemed recognition.



Larry, Troy and Irene receive their King Charles III Coronation Medal

Redwater's Town-wide Easter Egg Hunt set for April 12

Families in Redwater are in for a fun-filled and exciting afternoon as the town prepares for its much-anticipated annual Town-Wide Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12. The event will take place at the Redwater School Playground, and the festivities will kick off at 1:00 p.m. with an airhorn start, signaling the beginning of an exciting experience for children

of all ages. This event is a wonderful way for the entire community to come together and celebrate Easter in a lively, family-friendly atmosphere.

Organized with community spirit at its heart, the Easter egg hunt offers much more than just a traditional hunt for chocolate eggs. Families will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities that make this event

truly special. Free hot dogs and juice boxes will be available while supplies last, ensuring that everyone can enjoy a snack during the fun. Children will also have the chance to meet the Easter Bunny, who will be on hand for photos and to greet young participants.

In addition to the regular Easter eggs, 12 special golden eggs will be hidden throughout the

playground, each containing exciting surprises for those lucky enough to find them. The hunt is designed to be enjoyable for all age groups, and there's a designated toddler area for children ages 0 to 3, ensuring that even the youngest egg hunters can join in the festivities in a safe and friendly environment.

Parents are kindly reminded that all

children must be accompanied by an adult to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment throughout the event.

This much-loved event wouldn't be possible without the generous support of local sponsors, including M. Rusinko & Sons, Sil Industrial Minerals, the Town of Redwater and Sturgeon County. Their contributions help make this annual tradition a

memorable occasion for the whole town.

For families looking to celebrate Easter with their community, the Town-Wide Easter Egg Hunt is sure to be one of the highlights of the season. So, grab your baskets, bring your loved ones, and get ready for an afternoon filled with fun, food, and festive surprises that will make this Easter one to remember.

Bracing for turbulence: Alberta exports jump ahead of tariffs

By Siddhartha Bhattacharya,
ATB ECONOMICS

Bracing for turbulence: Alberta exports jump ahead of tariffs

Last week, the Bank of Canada reduced the policy rate again by 0.25 percentage points as Canada is in the midst of a tariff war with its largest trading partner.

Today's Twenty-Four takes a quick look at Alberta's export performance in January.

New Statistics Canada data released last week show that international merchandise exports out of Alberta rose 14% year-over-year (y/y) in January to reach the highest level since August 2022. Part of the increase is likely attributable to U.S. importers increasing purchases ahead of tariff announcements in order to avoid additional costs. U.S. imports surged in January, widening the country's trade deficit.

Energy products (+14% y/y), the largest sub-sector, was responsible for the majority (76%) of the aggregate increase. This is not surprising given that Alberta's oil production in January averaged 4.2 million barrels per day (up 10% y/y), bolstered by the extra pipeline transportation capacity provided by the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) in service since May last year. Higher export prices for crude oil and natural gas also played a role.

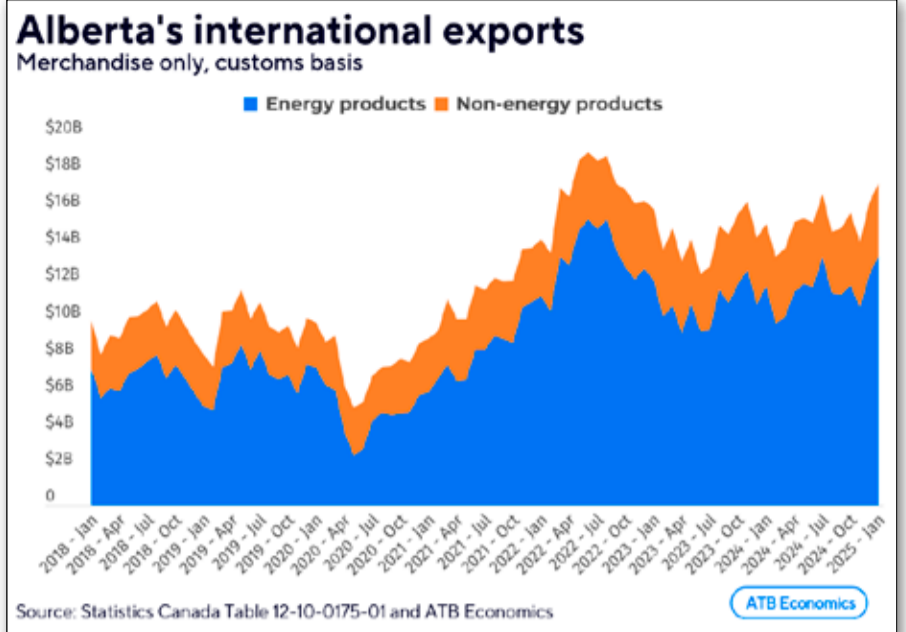
Although the U.S. remains the top driver of energy exports, we continue to find evidence that more of Alberta's energy products are making their way to Asian markets. Energy exports to China rose over 500% y/y in January. Last year, Alberta's energy shipments to Asia jumped nearly fourfold as TMX came on line.

Led by agri-food and wood products, exports of non-energy goods (+15% y/y) also started the year strong with gains in almost all major sub-categories.

It is important to remember this is the export performance prior to the various U.S. tariffs announced in February, and the January results appear to be propped up by temporary stockpiling effects.

In addition, China recently announced new tariffs on Canadian canola (oil and cake), peas, pork and seafood which could very well alter the course of agri-food export revenues in the coming months.

With trade headwinds, we expect a marked slowdown in export volumes this year. Commodity prices have started to weaken and export demand could take a hit from slowing global economic conditions and the ongoing trade war. Having said that, energy export volumes are expected to increase amid rising oil production and the start-up of LNG Canada phase 1 this year. Longer term, companies like Trans Mountain are exploring options to boost pipeline capacity.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Take notice that the following Development Permits have been approved on March 13, 2025 in accordance with **Land Use Bylaw No. 1272-14** of Smoky Lake County:

Permit Number: DP 004-25

Legal Land Description: PLAN 0627587, BLOCK 1, LOT 1

Area: WEST OF HAMLET OF WARSPITE

Division: 5

Land Use District: AGRICULTURE (AG) DISTRICT

Use Type: DISCRETIONARY USE

Proposed Development: RECREATIONAL USE (OUTDOOR ARCHERY RANGE)

Permit Number: DP 005-25

Legal Land Description: NW 11-61-18-W4M

Area: SOUTHWEST OF HANMORE LAKE

Division: 5

Land Use District: AGRICULTURE (AG) DISTRICT

Use Type: DISCRETIONARY USE

Proposed Development: NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION/PROCESSING FACILITY (SAND & GRAVEL)

Permit Number: DP 006-25

Legal Land Description: S^{1/2} 15-61-18-W4M

Area: SOUTHWEST OF HANMORE LAKE

Division: 5

Land Use District: AGRICULTURE (AG) DISTRICT

Use Type: DISCRETIONARY USE

Proposed Development: NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION/PROCESSING FACILITY (SAND & GRAVEL)

For information or to view these Development Permits, please contact Jordan Ruegg, Development Authority & Planning and Development Manager at 780-656-3730 to arrange an appointment.

Persons wishing to appeal any of the above decisions must do so by filing a written "NOTICE OF APPEAL" along with the \$250.00 appeal fee, to the Clerk of the Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (ISDAB) 4612 McDougall Drive, Box 310, Smoky Lake, Alberta T0A 3C0, no later than **Friday, April 4, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.** The appeal letter should indicate the Development Permit number, contact name, phone number, mailing address, and reason(s) for appeal.

Jordan Ruegg
Development Authority Officer/
Planning and Development Manager

CONTACT US

The Review

Valerie at
780-942-2023
redwaterreview@gmail.com
www.theredwaterreview.com

Smoky Lake launches e-permitting program

By Brandie Majeau

The Town of Smoky Lake has announced the launch of its new E-Permitting Program, designed to streamline the process of obtaining Development Permits and facilitate Code Enforcement. This innovative program aims to simplify the application process for all stakeholders involved—residents, developers, and contractors alike—ensuring a more efficient and user-friendly experience.

The E-Permitting Program is structured to enhance accessibility and clarity. To begin, interested applicants can visit the town's official website at www.smokylake.ca. After navigating to the development permits section, users will select

the e-permitting option. They can then choose to apply for various permits or file a complaint regarding code enforcement.

The application process is straightforward and consists of just three easy steps. Once applicants fill out the required information, they can seamlessly submit their permit requests or report issues directly through the online platform. This streamlined approach is intended to reduce wait times, improve communication with town officials, and ultimately support the successful completion of development projects in Smoky Lake. The goal is to make the development process and reporting issues easier and more efficient for everyone in the community.

Bring more shoppers to your door with locally focused advertising!

Call Valerie at 780-942-2023 OR EMAIL REDWATERREVIEW@GMAIL.COM

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PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1662/24 Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1662/24, Site Grading Amendments 2025.

Sturgeon County is proposing the following amendments to the Land Use Bylaw:

- Enhance regulations for commercial and industrial site grading and make commercial and industrial site grading a permitted use.
- Clarify regulations regarding drainage, wetlands, road use and stockpiling of materials.
- Regulate import and types of fill material for site grading.
- Add flexibility to residential lot grading if a development won't affect drainage.

A bylaw is needed to amend existing bylaws, and a public hearing must be held.

[View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/hearing-1662](http://sturgeoncounty.ca/hearing-1662)

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on: Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 1 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville) sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings



Questions? Contact us!

Tyler McNab
Planning and Development
780-939-8342
tmcnab@sturgeoncounty.ca

Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377 to pre-register.

Speaking via videoconference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you **must** register by March 24 at 1:00 p.m. 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Watching the Public Hearing

You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings. To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.



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Taranko, Ronnie Michael

August 15, 1953 – March 7, 2025

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Ronnie Michael Taranko on Friday, March 7, 2025, at the age of 71 years.

Ronnie is survived by his brothers, Marshall (Linda), Jim (Carol) and Barry; sisters, Patricia Palahniuk, Sylvia Presiznuik, Donna Presiznuik, Linda Latham and Maxine Filewich (Terry); sister-in-law, Bonnie; along with many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Katie and Mike; brother, Leonard; niece, Carling Filewich; and brothers-in-law, Russell Presiznuik and Terry Latham.

Although he had a tragic farm accident at an early age that left him handi-capped, Ronnie still lived a full life. He loved to farm, fish, hunt and garden. He will be sadly missed.

As per his wishes, there will be no funeral service.



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



ELECTIONS TO BE HELD FOR 2 POSITIONS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Nominations for directors is open as of March 10, 2025 and will be closing March 26, 2025.

MEETING TO BE HELD AT CORONADO GIBBONS UNITED CHURCH

At 23108 TWP 570 Sturgeon County
ON THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025
STARTING AT 7:00 P.M.

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Seeking to purchase a good-sized herd of cows. Also looking for long-term pasture rental and well-maintained used farming equipment. Please contact 780-919-5040.

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angela.zilinski@thorhildcounty.com

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Cell: 780-271-8458
joyce.pierce@thorhildcounty.com

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Reeve Janine Paly
Cell: 780-307-5978
janine.paly@thorhildcounty.com

Division 5
Deputy Reeve Trevor Dafoe
Office: 780-656-8165
trevor.dafoe@thorhildcounty.com

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS March 11, 2025

Below is a brief summary of decisions made at the March 11, 2025, Regular Council meeting:

Draft Tax Penalty Bylaw 05-2025

Council moved to give all three readings to Tax Penalty Bylaw 05-2025.

Draft Bylaw 06-2025 Bylaw to Rescind Bylaw 1002-99

Council moved all three readings to adopt Bylaw 06-2025, which rescinds Bylaw 1002-99, a bylaw that was established in 1999 for rates for providing information.

Unauthorized Use of Road Right-of-Ways

Council directed Administration to provide information to residents and landowners that the County does not condone or accept farming of road right-of-way and to provide notice to this effect that is published in local newspaper, on the County website, and an insert for the next Utility billing.

Council also moved that in addition to advertising for locations, wherein this practice is occurring, the residents/landowners will be contacted by phone, or in person or by email to advise on the unauthorized practice and the County's intent to restore drainage and maintain the right-of-way, a registry of all residents/landowners contacted will be maintained and contact shall be completed by no later than April 15th by Administration.

Deputy Reeve Allowance - Policy 203

Council directed Administration to suspend payment of the Deputy Reeve allowance as of March 2, 2025, at the request of the Deputy Reeve.

Proposed Amendment to Policy 332 - Letters of Support

Council approved the proposed amended Policy 332 - Letters of Support.

County Bus Policy 1304

Council amended County Bus Policy 1304 with the removal of "Sports affiliated organizations will not be allowed to schedule a County Bus trip."

Correspondence for Action - Town of Redwater

Council directed Administration to register Reeve Janine Paly and Councillor Richard Filipchuk to attend the Redwater Mayors Breakfast on April 4, 2025.

Correspondence for Action - Sturgeon County

Council directed Administration to respond to Sturgeon County that Range Road 224 will remain known as Opal Road through the entirety of Thorhild County.

Municipal Development Plan

Council approved the release of the proposed draft Municipal Development Plan and Raw Data Collection beginning March 12, 2025.

DRAFT MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OPEN HOUSE SESSIONS COMING SOON

Join an Open House Session to Review the County's Draft Municipal Development Plan

Explore the draft Municipal Development Plan that outlines our vision for land use and community development.

Why Attend?

Review the Draft Plan: Visit the County website at bit.ly/MDP-Review to preview the draft, or obtain a hard copy at the County office.

Ask Questions: Ask questions and learn more about the draft plan and the overall project.

Express Your Views: Your feedback is crucial to ensure the plan meets community needs.

We value your input and look forward to your participation!

Join us anytime between 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM at any of the following locations:

MONDAY, MARCH 31ST	ABEE COMMUNITY HALL 5005 - 50TH AVENUE
TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST	EGREMONT COMMUNITY HALL 4904 - 50TH STREET
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND	NEWBROOK COMMUNITY HALL 4801 - 50TH STREET
THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD	RADWAY NEW HORIZONS SENIORS CENTRE 5108 - 49TH AVENUE
FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH	THORHILD COMMUNITY HALL 11 - 7TH AVENUE

For questions about the open house sessions or the project, please contact: Baily Lapp, RPP, MCIP
Manager of Planning Services Bealrsto & Associates Engineering Ltd.
780-512-5818
baily@baseng.ca



ARE YOU A SMALL BUSINESS IN THORHILD COUNTY?

Then you may qualify for the Non-Residential Small Business Property Sub-Class

The Owner of the Non-Residential Property must apply by the April 30, 2025 deadline to receive the Small Business Property Sub-Class Tax Rate for your 2025 property taxes.

Obtain your application online at www.thorhildcounty.com or in person at the County office (801-1st Street, Thorhild, AB).

For further details call Courtney at 780-398-3741 ext. 2822; courtney.gray@thorhildcounty.com or visit www.thorhildcounty.com, then click on the Services tab > Corporate Services > Assessment & Property Taxes, then click on Tax Rates.

NOTIFICATION ON THE CULTIVATION/ FARMING OF COUNTY ROADS

The County wishes to advise residents and agricultural producers that cultivating within the road right-of-way is not permitted. In the past the practice was adopted as a policy however the "Municipal Roadside Cultivation Policy" was rescinded on February 14th, 2017. Therefore, any continuation of cultivating or farming activities within the road right-of-way is an unauthorized use of County land.

The reasons for not permitting this practice of farming within the road right is largely related to safety and drainage. In some instances, the cultivation extended from the edge of the right-of-way to the shoulder of the road. This has the potential to impact drainage with the right-of-way and by the roadside. This practice constitutes an encroachment of farming activities creating unsafe conditions for the road user.

Residents or agricultural producers are asked to cease with this cultivation. This notification serves to advise that the County will be restoring or mowing road right and shall make no allowances for agricultural producers who persist in cultivating the road right-of-way and could be subject to fines in accordance with Bylaw 01-2019, title "Unauthorized Use of the Municipal Right-of-Way."

In conjunction with this advertisement residents or agricultural producers who are known to be engaging in this practice will be contacted directly by email or phone by Infrastructure Services staff on or before April 15th, 2025. Your cooperation in this regard is very much appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Agriculture Department at 780-398-3977 ext. 3974.

INVITATION TO BID - ROADSIDE MOWING & OTHER WORK

Project No. THC2025RSM-100

Scope: The work consists of mowing circa 388 miles of roadway within the County of Thorhild, specifically in the north and west portions of the County.

The work includes a shoulder cut followed by a full cut or mowing of the road right-of-way. Tender packages can be downloaded from Alberta Purchasing Connection (APC), by selecting Opportunity AB-2025-01978. The closing date for tender submissions is Thursday, April 3rd, 2025 at 2:00 pm MST. Completion date for the work is September 30th, 2025.

For any inquiries on this opportunity please call the Director of Infrastructure, Gary Mayhew at 780-349-3741 or by email to gary.mayhew@thorhildcounty.com or to capital.projects@thorhildcounty.com.



FREE TAX CLINICS Get your benefits and credits

If you have a modest income and a simple tax situation, volunteers can do your tax return for you!



For Thorhild County residents that have modest income and very basic tax returns.

Income limits for the 2024 tax year are as follows:

- Singles up to \$35,000
- Couples combined income up to \$45,000
- Families with a combined income up to \$52,500

Taxes will be completed during March and April by appointments on the following dates:

March 25, 2025 10:00 am-3:00 pm	April 10, 2025 10:00 am-3:00 pm
March 26, 2025 10:00 am-2:00 pm	April 22, 2025 10:00 am-3:00 pm
April 8, 2025 10:00 am-3:00 pm	April 23, 2025 10:00 am-3:00 pm
April 9, 2025 10:00 am-3:00 pm	April 24, 2025 10:00 am-3:00 pm

To book an appointment or for information please call Kelly at 780-398-3741 ext. 2820.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Thorhild County is accepting applications from candidates to fill the following summer/seasonal positions:

- Lifeguards/Instructors
- Equipment Operators
- Summer Program Coordinator & Leaders
- Labourers
- Spray Operator
- Roadside Mower Operators

For details, please visit our Careers page at www.thorhildcounty.com.

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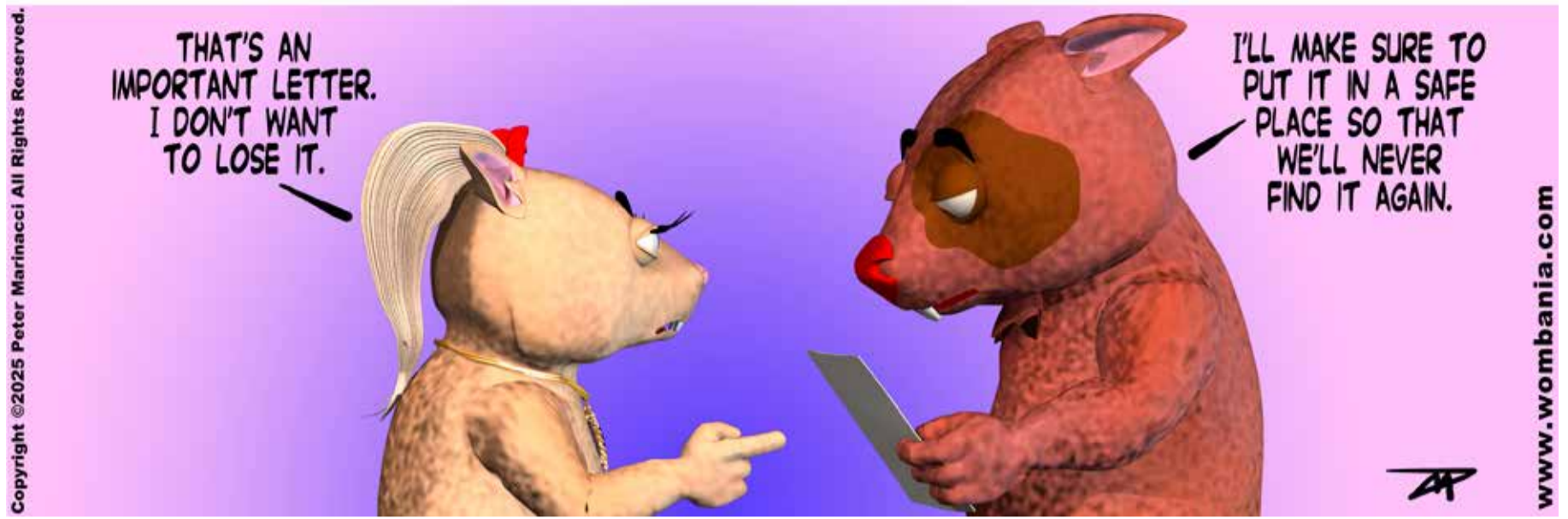
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WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI



Dolly Parton comes to Thorhild (kind of)

Continued from page 1



Thorhild Library invited patrons to celebrate the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program, now offered in Thorhild County. Photo courtesy of Thorhild Library.

By Brandie Majeau

The Thorhild Library is thrilled to announce its participation in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a fantastic program dedicated

to promoting early literacy. The move to bring this program to Thorhild took shape approximately 10 months ago, sparked by a patron's mention of the program's availability in

Gibbons. From that initial suggestion, the library embarked on a comprehensive journey involving emails, referrals, Zoom meetings, and phone calls, ultimately leading to a successful connection

with the regional director of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. In order to launch this program, the Thorhild County Library Board diligently worked on securing the necessary funding, and they are proud to share that the program is now fully operational.

So, what exactly is the Dolly Parton Imagination Library? It is designed to support children from birth to age five by providing them with free, high-quality books. Any child residing in Thorhild County who is under the age of five can register for this program at any of our three local libraries: Thorhild, Newbrook, or Radway. Once enrolled, children will receive a book each month, right up until their fifth birthday. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library supports a love of reading in young children and ensure they have access to valuable educational

resources at an early age. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library website states, "I created the Imagination Library as a tribute to my Daddy. He was the smartest man I have ever known but I know in my heart his inability to read probably kept him from fulfilling all of his dreams. Inspiring kids to love to read became my mission. In the beginning, my hope was simply to inspire the children in my home county but here we are today with a worldwide program that gives a book a month to well over 3 million children."

The first year of the program has been approved by the Thorhild Library Board with Council allocating funds to cover its initial launch. Members of the community interested in sustaining this literacy campaign can add further support with online donations to the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

resonated deeply with students and parents, who describe Yobukan as more than just a martial arts school – it's a "karate family." It's a place where students of all ages feel supported, encouraged, and connected to something larger than themselves. The club's involvement in the community is extensive, with regular events such as tournaments, bottle drives, and the highly anticipated Annual Supper With Sensei Santa Fundraiser Dinner, which has become a cherished tradition for families in Redwater.

Classes are held from September through June on Tuesday and Friday evenings at Ochre Park School. New students are welcome to join at any time, with the first class offered obligation-free, allowing individuals to experience the environment and see if it's a good fit for them.

Whether you're looking to improve your physical fitness, gain self-confidence, or become part of a supportive and dedicated community, Yobukan Karate Club offers something for everyone.

For more information about the club or to register, visit the Yobukan Karate Club on Facebook, or contact Sensei Justin Rybie directly at 780-668-7160 or via email at yobukan09@gmail.com.



Redwater Rush U9 players take to the ice at Pembina Place in Redwater during their final game of the season.



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