



## Sometimes selflessness looks like a seniors' bus



By Brandie Majeau

On November 24, the Smoky Lake Lions Club hosted an appreciation dinner and expressed its profound gratitude to one local family. With the existing community bus, operated by the Smoky Lake Lions Club and designated for senior transportation, recently failing to pass inspection, there was an urgent need to secure

funding and identify a suitable replacement bus to meet this essential need. "Senior's transportation is critical," FCSS Director Rachelle Amyotte stated, "especially within this community, especially with the idea of aging at home."

In a time of uncertainty, Trenchuk Cattle Co. stepped up to fulfill a need, answering a calling that had not

been asked. The generous funding provided by the Trenchuk Family purchased a new bus and ensured that there was minimal disruption to transportation services in the community. Guests in attendance even joked that the new bus hadn't even had its plates on yet, yet clients were already calling for bookings.

Continued on **page 2**

## A deeper look into Bill 13

By Brandie Majeau

On November 24, Alberta Minister of Justice Mickey Amery hosted a rural roundtable meeting to address the recently tabled Bill-13. Bill 13, known as the Regulated Professions Neutrality Act, was brought about to promote fairness and neutrality within regulated professions in Alberta. The legislation was created to ensure that individuals in these professions can practice without being subject to biased or discriminatory conventions based on factors unrelated to their professional qualifications or conduct.

The goal of Bill 13 is to create an equitable and inclusive environment within Alberta's regulated professions. Often referred to as the "Peterson Law" after the Jordan Peterson case in Ontario, this legislation proposes



the limit of power of professional regulatory bodies and if passed, would protect off-duty expression by preventing professional regulators from disciplining members for conduct that conveys meaning and occurs outside of professional duties, with narrow exceptions for threats of physical violence, professional boundary misconduct, or criminal convictions. It would restrict mandatory training, prohibiting regulators from requiring education or training unless it is directly related to professional competence and ethics.

The bill also ensures regulator neutrality by prohibiting regulatory bodies from offering preferential or adverse treatment to individuals to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion goals based on race, sex, political belief, sexual orientation, or other protected grounds. Applied broadly, the bill would affect over 100 regulated professions, including health professionals, lawyers, engineers, and teachers. Bill 13 acts as an "umbrella" by setting overarching principles for all professional

Continued on **page 2**



The Redwater Rebels hockey team spent the afternoon last Saturday supporting their community by helping unload and organize donations for the Redwater Food Bank. **Redwater Rebels photo**

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### Senior's bus

Continued from **page 1**

Lions member Del Huchulak captured the sentiment of many when he remarked, "It's an unbelievable gift for the community."

Jered Serben beautifully articulated the importance of this act of kindness, stating, "Your kindness came at the exact moment it was needed most, and that was immediately after learning that the existing bus was permanently out of service. You stepped forward without hesitation to ensure that our seniors would not lose the ability to stay connected, active, and engaged. Your

gift will have a lasting impact, helping residents attend medical appointments, community events, social outings, and programs that support their well-being and increase their quality of life."

It was simply put, "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you." This profound gratitude reflects the deep impact the Trenchuk Family's generosity will have on many lives, reminding all of the power of community support and compassion.

The evening event also served as an occasion to acknowledge the dedication and service of longtime Smoky Lake Lion,

Gerald Babichuk. Lion Gerald has been a member since 1975, marking 50 years of distinguished service as a Lion. Since 1994, he has undertaken over 3,000 trips for clients utilizing the community senior's bus. His meticulous records contain numerous appointment bookings, including monthly excursions to the River Cree Casino, Dollar Store, and Walmart, as well as additional trips to Lamont and Fort Saskatchewan. And always, there are numerous local journeys within the County of Smoky Lake. The bus travels approximately 1,000 kilometers per month.

The evening was characterized by an atmosphere of appreciation and gratitude, symbolizing a community committed to selfless service in support of its neighbours, friends, and family. This dedication helps uphold the dignity and freedom of individuals of all ages. Several attendees shared personal anecdotes regarding their own family members' utilization of the community bus services. The event was graciously hosted at the Blackbeary Eatery, culminating in a splendid celebration, with the owner and staff providing an exceptional buffet for the guests.

## Sturgeon Public Schools becomes first division in Western Canada to partner with Unplugged Canada

### Sturgeon Public Schools release

Sturgeon Public Schools is proud to be the first school division in Western Canada to partner with Unplugged Canada, a parent-driven movement encouraging families to delay giving children personal smartphones until at least age 14.

This partnership supports the Division's ongoing commitment to student well-being and balanced technology use. While digital learning tools play an important role in classrooms, research shows that early smartphone and social media access can negatively affect children's mental health and relationships.

"By connecting our families to the Unplugged Canada Pledge, we are helping parents start important conversations about when and how their children engage with smartphones," said Shawna Warren, Superintendent of Sturgeon Public Schools. "The four foundational harms of social media, including social deprivation, sleep deprivation, attention fragmentation

and addiction are real and growing. Our goal is to support our families in setting healthy limits and safeguarding the well-being of our students."

Participation in the initiative is entirely voluntary. When five or more families in the same school and grade sign the pledge, it "activates," creating a small network of parents who can connect and support one another. Children's names are never shared—only parent names are used for community building.

### About Unplugged Canada

Unplugged Canada is a grassroots nonprofit founded by Jenny Perez that encourages families to delay smartphones until at least age 14. The movement draws on research, including work by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt (*The Anxious Generation*, 2024), linking early smartphone use with increased rates of anxiety, depression, and loneliness among youth.

### Learn More and Join the Movement

Families can explore resources and sign the pledge at <https://www.sturgeon.ab.ca/division/unplugged>.



### Bill 13

Continued from **page 1**

regulators in Alberta, superseding their specific legislation when conflicts arise regarding the regulation of off-duty expression and mandatory training. The primary objective is to ensure that all professional regulatory bodies within the province prioritize professional competence and ethical standards, rather than monitoring

members' personal beliefs or enforcing governmental ideology.

The media roundtable discussed the questions of limits on free expression and the broader reflections of whether one person's character could be used to paint an entire profession. There was further debate that a professional's free expression outside their workplace could be weaponized and

used against them. Minister Amery gave examples of reports from doctors who refrained from weighing in on public debates for fear of backlash. Essentially, what is happening in many instances is that the fear of consequences far outweighs the freedom of expression. This is problematic because many professionals that should be speaking and sharing their opinions on serious

discussions, simply will not.

It is important for all Albertans (and Canadians) to actively explore the legislative process and develop a complete understanding of political concepts on their own. By conducting thorough research on relevant legislation, such as Bill 13, and using credible sources, individuals need to gain knowledge and shape their own opinions.

# It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a teddy bear!

By Brandie Majeau

The teddy bear toss has become a cherished hockey tradition that harmonizes the thrill of the sport with the warmth of fans and their generosity. As spectators fill the arena, anticipation fills the air. The magic of the event begins with the home team scoring their first goal, triggering a magnificent cascade of stuffed animals from the stands, transforming the ice into a colourful blanket of teddy bears and plush toys. This moment

encapsulates pure joy, where the excitement of hockey meets the essence of giving. For Thorhild Minor Hockey, this moment was celebrated with a flood of Ty Beanie Babies.

Families and fans come together to cheer, their laughter blending with the sounds of the game. The first two games barely made it to the 5-minute mark before the home team scored its initial goals. The sight of teddy bears soaring through the air is both magical and touching, every bear

collected serves a meaningful purpose, destined to bring comfort to children and families during the holiday season.

Beyond the game itself, the teddy bear toss links a sense of unity and altruism, reminding everyone that sports can inspire kindness and generosity. It emphasizes the importance of sharing joy with others, turning the event into a celebration of love, hope, and connection.

This year, Thorhild Minor Hockey has seen the generosity of its community shine brightly. So far (at the time of writing), they had collected an impressive 343 pounds of donated food items, approximately \$1,000 in monetary donations, as well as \$125 in gift cards and several large bags filled with toys, puzzles, board games, and hygiene items for the Thorhild County Christmas Hamper



Program. The Teddy Bear Toss was celebrated during U7, U9, and U11 games using a trade-in model... bring a donation of any kind and grab a Beanie Baby to toss on the ice.

Kendra Toronchuk, who organized the event, emphasized the importance of community support for sports initiatives. "When a sports program asks for support from their community, they should provide support when they can in return," she stated, acknowledging the support received from ATB

Thorhild, which sponsored the bears for this event.

Toronchuk also highlighted how the event created volunteering opportunities for players at other teams' games, promoting a spirit of giving back. "We focused on not setting donation minimum requirements to toss a bear, but just allowing families/friends/visitors and neighbors to offer whatever worked for their household as the donation. We had some young children bring a quarter to the table,

which we graciously accepted," she explained, indicating the atmosphere the event aimed to create.

Looking ahead, Thorhild Minor Hockey is already discussing next year's teddy bear toss, eager to build on the success of this first-time event and to incorporate other user groups from the Thorhild Agriplex Facility. The teddy bear toss has proven to be more than just a hockey game; it symbolizes community, compassion, and the joy of giving back.

## "Field of Dreams" receives first sponsorship donation

By Brandie Majeau

Thorhild Minor Ball, in partnership with the Thorhild & District Agricultural Society and the Feledichuk Curran Memorial Tournament, is pleased to announce the launch of their sponsorship campaign following the approval from Thorhild County to construct a third baseball diamond in Thorhild. This new facility will be located on the site of the former elementary school and will incorporate the existing chain-link backstop, which remains intact.

The three organizations have been actively seeking quotes for groundwork and applying for various grants to support project funding. The project, aptly named the "Field of Dreams," was particularly enthusiastic to apply for the Blue Jays grant, coincidentally also titled the Field of Dreams. The Jays Care's granting program is designed to provide funding for the design, refurbishment, and construction of baseball diamonds within local

communities across Canada. This grant represents one of several applications submitted by the collaborative entities, and they await the outcomes with anticipation. In the meantime, they are launching their Sponsorship Campaign.

Baseball in Thorhild is growing but facing significant challenges due to a lack of a regulation-sized diamond, which limits competition to the U9 level under Baseball Alberta rules. This issue is particularly concerning as players transition to U11, where they separate into baseball and softball. To address this, the U11 team had to merge with Clyde this past season, resulting in increased travel for families and some players opting for teams in nearby Waskatenau, ultimately impacting local participation. The annual Feledichuk Curran Memorial Ball Tournament, a key summer event in Thorhild that has grown from 6 to 16 teams, highlights the urgent need for more facilities as scheduling

becomes increasingly complex; in 2025, 13 teams were turned away due to limited diamonds. The collaboration between the Thorhild Agricultural Society's Tradeshow & Family Fair and the tournament has created a vibrant community weekend, enhancing fundraising efforts for local organizations. To meet the growing demand, align with regulations, and support all age groups, adding a third ball diamond is essential. This addition would help keep youth active in the community, improve scheduling flexibility, strengthen regional partnerships, and bolster the local economy by attracting more tournaments and visitors.

Potential sponsors are encouraged to reach out to any member of the partnering organizations for a partnership opportunities package or to speak directly to individuals working on this project. On November 21, Kerrie Stanko, Thorhild Minor Ball President, graciously accepted the first sponsorship donation

from Scott Wosnack, Connect Energy Services. Wosnack reflected Connect Energy's dedication to sponsoring this new endeavour, "Connect Energy Services believes the strength of a community is measured by the opportunities it creates for its youth and supporting initiatives like this is not just a donation, it's an investment in our future. For that reason, we are proud to contribute \$2500 towards the Field of Dreams project and are honoured to play a small part in bringing this to life. We can't wait to see kids step onto that diamond for the first time,

and for every year that follows."

The sponsorship program for the Thorhild Minor Ball offers a range of opportunities, each providing distinct benefits to supporters. The highest level includes naming rights for the ball diamond, along with significant recognition at events, social media promotions, and lasting branding on the organization's website. Additional sponsorship levels feature signage at the ball field, varying degrees of social media visibility, and acknowledgment on dedication plaques. There are options available for different

budgets, including opportunities for individuals and small businesses. Sponsorships help improve and maintain the ball field, while future projects may also offer chances for hands-on volunteer involvement.

Thorhild Minor Ball president, Kerrie Stanko, expressed, "This is a huge step for the future of our baseball program and our upcoming young players. It's so wonderful to give a new life to this unused space, restoring it as a place where kids can once again laugh and play." The ball diamond is projected for completion in 2026.



Thorhild Minor Ball president, Kerrie Stanko, graciously receives the first "Field of Dreams" sponsorship donation of \$2500 from Scott Woznack, Connect Energy.

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*Popil, Mildred* (Née Wolansky)

We are heartbroken to announce the passing of Mildred Popil of Thorhild on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at the age of 94 years.



husband, Walter Popil; daughter, Joan Manchuk; and granddaughter, Jeunine Popil. A big thank-you to all of the lovely ladies from Healing Hearts.

Mildred is lovingly remembered by her children, Donna (Glen), Robert, Beverly, Janice (Rudie) and Dennise (Bryan), her five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one brother and two sisters.

Mom loved each and every one of you. We also appreciate the attentive care provided by the doctors and staff at Westlock Hospital.

In lieu of other tributes, donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

Photos, memories, and condolences may be shared through [www.parkmemorial.com](http://www.parkmemorial.com)

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**Hot Chocolate, and SMORES!!**  
**This is a free family event**  
**Please bring a donation for the food bank.**  
**Christmas Craft & Bake Sale**  
**10:00- 4:00 pm**  
**To book a table, please call Donna @ 780 777-7575**

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**December Meetings and Important Dates**

Meeting schedule is subject to change. Members of the public are welcome to observe or listen in. For teleconference details and links to the livestream, click on the meetings notice in the following locations:

**Council Meetings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/CouncilMeetings  
**Board and Committee Meetings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/Boards  
**Public Hearings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/Notices

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	Dec 2	2:00 PM
Youth Advisory Meeting	Dec 3	6:00 PM
Regular Council/Committee of the Whole	Dec 9	9:00 AM
Sand and Gravel Advisory Committee	Dec 15	9:00 AM
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Hearing	Dec 16	2:00 PM
<i>Holiday Closure</i>	<i>Dec 24</i>	<i>Closed</i>
<i>Holiday Closure</i>	<i>Dec 25</i>	<i>Closed</i>
<i>Holiday Closure</i>	<i>Dec 26</i>	<i>Closed</i>
<i>New Years Day Closure</i>	<i>Jan 1</i>	<i>Closed</i>

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
Reminder that County offices will be closed December 24 - 26.

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# KRIS KRINGLE HOLIDAY MINGLE

**FREE**

The Festival of Trees supports the Redwater Fellowship of Churches Food Bank – please bring a food or cash donation Friday evening if you're able!

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

### 5:00-8:00 PM AT PEMBINA PLACE

- Festival of Trees
- Visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus
- Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides
- Fire Pits & S'mores
- Selfie Zone
- Cookie Decorating
- Crafts
- Face Painting
- Balloon Artists
- Coloring Contest Display
- Public Skating with the Grinch (4:00-8:00 PM); Helmets mandatory for skaters under 18
- Turkey Curling
- Jeannie & Friends Carolers
- Free Hot Dogs & Hot Chocolate (while supplies last)
- Free Popcorn (while supplies last)
- Food Bank Donations Appreciated
- Concession Open



## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

### 10:00 AM-3:00 PM AT PEMBINA PLACE

- Redwater & District Ag Society's Christmas Craft & Bake Sale
- Festival of Trees
- Concession Open
- Food Bank Donations Appreciated

### 5:00-8:00 PM FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

#### TAKE PART IN THE SCAVENGER HUNT!

Grab a map and join the Scavenger Hunt! Cruise around town to admire the beautiful Christmas lights while taking part in the festive fun. You can pick up your map (with the scavenger hunt) from Tim Hortons or Pembina Place, or download it from our website to participate!



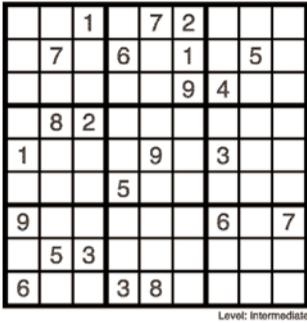
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KRIS KRINGLE HOLIDAY MINGLE IS ORGANIZED TO PROVIDE QUALITY, AFFORDABLE FAMILY PROGRAMMING FOR OUR COMMUNITY, AND TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY BONDS.



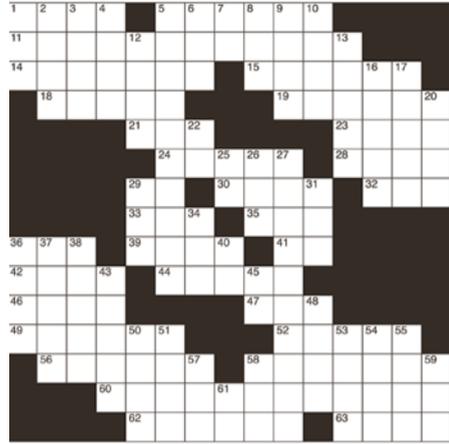
SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 11

# SUDOKU CROSSWORDS



Fun By The Numbers

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!



**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!

## Crossword Clues

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Popular wine \_\_ 1.
- Dough made from corn flour
- 5. Rise
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. A low wall
- 15. Kidnap
- 18. A cup golfers want to win
- 19. Outgoing
- 21. "Partner" to flow
- 23. Former Michigan coach Brady
- 24. Proverb
- 28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 29. Helps a body recover
- 30. Baseball Cy Young winner
- 32. Very fast airplane
- 33. Offensive baseball stat
- 35. Body of water
- 36. Record of one's heartbeat
- 39. Signs a contract
- 41. Atomic #24
- 42. Bind securely
- 44. French Jesuit theologian

- 46. Fragrant brown balsam
- 47. Post office box
- 49. Sells tickets at inflated prices
- 52. Places to hang coats
- 56. Jewish salutation
- 58. Yellow fruits
- 60. Poorly educated
- 62. Microorganism
- 63. Talk show host Barrymore

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. A way to plan
- 2. Three-banded armadillo
- 3. Mobile
- 4. Romanian city
- 5. Making sour
- 6. Take a seat
- 7. "The Golden State"
- 8. When you hope to arrive
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. Extinct flightless bird
- 12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- 13. Nape of neck
- 16. Problems (Spanish slang)
- 17. Narrow carpet
- 20. To avoid the risk of
- 22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
- 25. Equally
- 26. Traditional cars still need it
- 27. Eligible voters
- 29. Greek alphabet letter
- 31. Body part
- 34. Referee-declared outcome
- 36. Means to moving money
- 37. Popular footwear brand
- 38. Cockatoo
- 40. NFL's big game
- 43. Botswana currencies
- 45. News-reporting organization
- 48. Batman villain
- 50. Urgent request
- 51. Not all
- 53. Hallmark's specialty
- 54. Knot in a tree
- 55. Satisfy
- 57. Notable space station
- 58. Baby's dining accessory
- 59. Stitch clothing
- 61. \_\_ and behold

# Student creativity and indigenous teachings shine at Ochre Park School



By Haylee Winger

At Ochre Park School, Educational Assistant Deb ("Miss Deb") Vanstone is helping students connect with traditional artistry through a student-led Beading Club. The club introduces learners to foundational beading techniques — from strengthening thread with wax to designing bead patterns — and even incorporates porcupine quills into ear-ring structures. Miss Deb prepares the quills herself, taking time to wash, clean, and carefully clip the barbed ends before they are used in student projects.

students master the beading techniques, they step into a teaching role, guiding fellow Ochre Park learners through the process. It creates a warm, collaborative environment where Indigenous art, practical skill-building, and student leadership come together. Another meaningful initiative at the school comes from Grade 2 student Ezra, who created hand-drawn artwork during Truth and Reconciliation Week. Inspired by Cree artist Hawlii Pichette, Ezra produced his own rendition featuring a turtle — a symbol of "Truth" in the Seven Sacred Teachings. Encircling Ezra's artwork are orange flowers, each created by a different

Ochre Park student. Together, these flowers symbolize the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action. Although the project began during Truth and Reconciliation Week, the display remains in the hallway as a lasting reminder of the school's commitment to learning about Truth and Reconciliation all year long. From Miss Deb's Beading Club to student-created art rooted in cultural teachings, these projects highlight just some of the ways Ochre Park School is helping students engage with Indigenous knowledge through creativity, storytelling, and collaboration.

## BUSINESS WORD SEARCH

D Q S M W H T M U V O Y W O P E P F P T  
 A S G L D O M O A S T N F U I N L H R I S  
 W O S E C G L E S C T I C P I R V M O S  
 I U N I C W Y F R E Q N R N Q U A Y F B  
 S T Y I S O S R H A I U E P I T L G I H  
 E S E R A Y M C E S H T I M A E U A T Y  
 Q O T R A H L M A D A S I S T R E M M T  
 D U Y Y S T C A U L L C T L I S U T Y I  
 E R W F V T M Y N N A O P E I T E B O U  
 M C L N B L E I L A I B H L K B I V N Q  
 I I N A W M M S N P S T I E A R A O N E  
 W N T A B M K F S N P A Y L K E A I N I  
 L G B M M O M A H A O U D B I A L M L D  
 R C K O S R L Y U C T V S N L T T Y L C  
 R U D I E H O G D N I T A P A N Y S A G  
 W E G E O E S F M E H F N T Y R E F C C  
 F W E N T R E P R E N E U R I S B N O G  
 W T Q T E I R F Q E V W D W F O N V L U  
 E U N E V E R H R Y P R M L N H N D A B  
 E G G W P G E M E R G E R L D E T T F D

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- |                |               |              |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>WORDS</b>   | HEALTH        | PROSTATE     |
| ALCOHOL        | HYPERTENSION  | SCREENING    |
| ANDROPAUSE     | INFERTILITY   | SLEEP APNEA  |
| ANTIGEN        | LIBIDO        | SMOKING      |
| BALDNESS       | MENTAL HEALTH | TESTICULAR   |
| CARDIOVASCULAR | MUSCLE        | CANCER       |
| CHOLESTEROL    | OBESITY       | TESTOSTERONE |
| DIABETES       | PHYSICAL      | WORKOUT      |



Grade 2 student Ezra proudly stands in front of his art, inspired by Cree artist Hawlii Pichette.



# Redwater RCMP respond to 57 calls in one week

By Haylee Winger

During the week of November 19–26, 2025, the Redwater RCMP responded to a total of 57 calls for service, ranging from wildlife collisions to property crimes.

Of the 10 reported collisions, six involved vehicles striking deer or moose. Officers remind drivers to remain vigilant during sunrise and dusk, when wildlife is most active.

In Thorhild, three rural property

break-and-enters were reported, all involving theft of fuel and tools. Officers also received a report of a stolen Bobcat and an oil field break-and-enter where copper wire was taken.

Sturgeon County

saw a similar incident, with an oil field break-and-enter resulting in the theft of copper wire. An additional related report occurred just outside RCMP jurisdiction.

In Redwater, the Library reported

multiple acts of vandalism to the outdoor book return. Vandals have removed parts and caused enough damage that the unit is no longer usable. Residents are urged to report any suspicious activity to 310-RCMP,

particularly during weekend evenings.

The RCMP encourages community members to stay aware of their surroundings, secure their property, and drive cautiously during peak wildlife activity periods.

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of BRIAN DOUGLAS COSMAN, who died on October 11, 2025.

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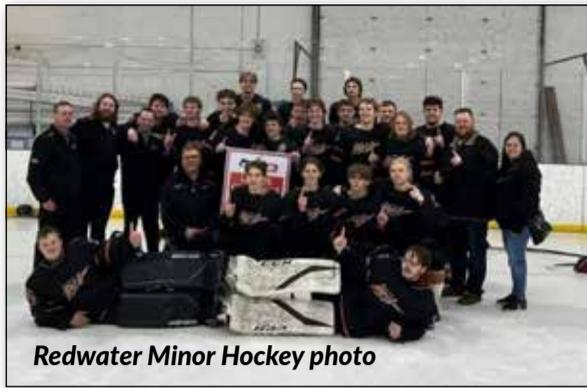
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**Patrick Carew** 780-778-0053 • [pdcarew@telus.net](mailto:pdcarew@telus.net)

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MLS REALTOR



Redwater Minor Hockey photo

## Redwater minor hockey seeks community support for Kruger Big Assist Grant

By Shelley Winger

Redwater Minor Hockey is reaching out to the community for support as it seeks to be nominated for the Kruger Big Assist Grant, a program designed to make hockey more

accessible and affordable for children across Canada. The grant provides crucial funding to help keep registration fees lower, support families who may face financial challenges, and offer additional development opportunities

for players without added costs. Since 2021, the Kruger Big Assist program has awarded more than \$1 million to over 55 hockey communities across the country. This year, the program is committing \$200,000 in funding, with five hockey associations receiving \$25,000 each and one grand prize winner receiving an additional \$75,000. These funds are intended to offset the cost of enrollment fees and to remove other barriers that may prevent children from participating in hockey, ensuring that every child who wants to play has the opportunity to do so. Nominations can be submitted by anyone in the community, including players, parents, coaches, volunteers, or other supporters who recognize the value of youth sports.

Nominations are evaluated based on how well the association reaches families in need, inspires young players, supports the development of life skills, and promotes diversity and inclusion within the community.

Redwater Minor Hockey hopes that community members will take a few moments to submit a nomination, helping the association continue its efforts to make hockey accessible to all children. The funding could provide financial assistance to families, allow the association to offer more development programs, and support initiatives that encourage participation from a wider range of children.

Beyond financial support, the grant can help strengthen the community by ensuring that more children have the chance to experience hockey's physical, social, and personal benefits. Participation in sports helps youth develop teamwork, leadership, and resilience, and creates opportunities for children to connect with their peers in a positive environment.

By nominating Redwater Minor Hockey for the Kruger Big Assist Grant, community members can play a direct role in supporting local families and ensuring that children in Redwater can continue to enjoy Canada's game. Nominations are accepted online through the Kruger Big Assist website, and each submission brings the association one step closer to receiving funding that could make a significant difference for young players and their families. Supporting Redwater Minor Hockey through this nomination is more than a chance to win a grant—it is a way to invest in the next generation of players and in the future of the community's youth sports programs.

### Smoky Lake County NOTICE – PUBLIC HEARING on Proposed Bylaw #1489-25



**TAKE NOTICE THAT** in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*, the Council of Smoky Lake County is giving consideration of Bylaw #1489-25: A Bylaw to close and dispose of portions of Government Road Allowance.

**A Statutory Public Hearing will be held in relation to Bylaw 1489-25, both in-person *and* via videoconference on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) at:** Smoky Lake County Council Chambers, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0 or online:  
<https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/168288331> Meeting ID: 168288331 or via phone: 1-844-511-2074

#### In-person Speakers:

If you intend on participating in person, you are encouraged to pre-register for the Public Hearing by contacting Chyenne Shaw at 780-656-3730.

#### Speakers participating through Telus Business Connect videoconference:

If you wish to speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you are asked to register **24 hours prior** to the opening of the Public Hearing by contacting Chyenne Shaw at 780-656-3730. This is to ensure that virtual participants receive instructions to access the videoconference.

#### Requirements for all Speakers:

All speakers will be given a 10-minute time limit and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission in advance of the Public Hearing.

#### Written Submissions:

All interested parties are encouraged to express their views by providing a written submission to Legislative Services by email at [cshaw@smokylakecounty.ab.ca](mailto:cshaw@smokylakecounty.ab.ca).

Persons wishing to view the Bylaw and/or the Public Hearing are invited to attend in person or view the Meeting at the County website at <http://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca> or view the Bylaw <https://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/notices>

#### Questions? Contact:

Jordan Ruegg Director of Planning and Community Services,  
Smoky Lake County at 780-650-5207 /  
[jruegg@smokylakecounty.ab.ca](mailto:jruegg@smokylakecounty.ab.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. If you have any questions, please contact the Smoky Lake County Access and Privacy Officer at 4612 McDougall Drive Box 310, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0, 780-656-3730, or [county@smokylakecounty.ab.ca](mailto:county@smokylakecounty.ab.ca).





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# GRAPEVINE

DECEMBER 2025

## SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Visit our 'Agendas & Minutes' web page for Council meeting information and the 'Calendar' web page for the complete list of other scheduled meeting dates and community events.

### Budget Meeting

December 1, 2025 @ 10:30 AM

### Committee of the Whole Meeting

December 2, 2025 @ 1:00 PM

### 2026 Budget Virtual Open House

December 11, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

### Regular County Council Meeting

December 18, 2025 @ 9:00 AM

January 8, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

January 22, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

**A Public Q & A Period is held during each Council Meeting 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

Smoky Lake County Main Office and Public Works Shop will be **CLOSED**

December 25, 2025 through January 1, 2026

Reopening to regular hours on January 2, 2026



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council Highlights provide a snapshot of Council decision making and the progress made on Smoky Lake County programs and initiatives. For more details visit [www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/highlights](http://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/highlights)

- Council appointed Reeve, Craig Lukinuk, and Deputy Reeve, Lorne Halisky as Council members to serve on the Municipal Coordinating Committee (MCC) for the Smoky Lake Development Corporation for the 2025-2026 term.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading given to Bylaw No. 1491-25: Designation of Municipal Assessor Bylaw.
- First Reading to Bylaw 1489-25: A Bylaw to close all those portions of the Government road allowance lying west of W1/2-7- 61-18-W4M to consolidate said closed portions with said lands, with a Public Hearing scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 1:00 PM.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading given to Bylaw No. 1487-25: Fire Protection Services, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining fire protective services for the County.

### Donations

- Promotional items to the U15 HIWAY 28 Raiders Hockey Team for their home tournament raffle table.

## Transfer Station HOLIDAY HOURS

### BELLIS TRANSFER STATION

December 24	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
December 27	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
December 31	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
January 2, 2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

### SMOKY LAKE LANDFILL

December 23	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
December 27	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
December 30	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
January 2, 2026	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

### SPEDDEN TRANSFER STATION

December 24	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
December 28	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
December 31	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

### VILNA TRANSFER STATION

December 23	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
December 27	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
December 30	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
January 2, 2026	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

### WASKATENAU STATION

December 27	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
January 2, 2026	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

*Merry Christmas!*

Smoky Lake County Council and Staff would like to wish everyone peace and joy this holiday season and a New Year full of health, happiness and prosperity.

## BUDGET 2026 VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

December 11, 2025  
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Please join using this link:

<https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/564873073>

Or dial: 1 (844) 511-2074 Toll Free Canada

Access Code / Meeting ID: 564873073

## TAX SALE

Under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Smoky Lake County will offer several properties in arrears for sale, by public auction on **Friday, December 12, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.**

Full details can be found on our website:

[www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/taxsale](http://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/taxsale)

Main Office  
Box 310  
4612 McDougall Drive  
Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

Public Works Shop  
Box 310  
5004-50 Street  
Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

Toll Free 888-656-3730  
Main Office 780-656-3730  
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**Agricultural**

**Do you have land rental expiring?** Are you looking for a new renter in 2025? We are a mixed hay and grain family farm looking to expand our hay and grain production in the thornhill/egermonton areas. Call/text 780-689-6755.

**Announcements**

**"THINKING OF YOUR DREAM VACATION?"** How about the Knights of Columbus Airdrie Dream Vacation Raffle. BUY YOUR TICKET TODAY! at airdrie-dreamvacation.ca"

**Coming Events**

**FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2025 AUCTION PROGRAM:** Firearms, Ammunition, Accessories, or Militaria. Collections, Estates or single items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Contact us: 1-800-694-2609, Email: sales@switzersauktion.com or Visit us @ www.switzer-sauktion.com for Auction Dates & Details.

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**For Rent**

**Fort Saskatchewan 1 bedroom 2nd floor condo available.** 45 plus building. Fully furnished and outfitted. Laundry in the unit. Underground parking. No smoking, no pets. Perfect for an out of town worker looking for a home away from home when on shift. Easy access to Dow Chemical Rent \$1550/month includes utilities, wifi and cable. Damage deposit \$1550. Available January 1, 2026. Contact Ashleigh 780-271-1985.

**FOR SALE**

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# 3 White Earth Street, Smoky Lake AB



**By Brandie Majeau**

Based on various historical documents, the following is a brief history of the Holy Ascension Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Smoky Lake, AB.

In the early 1920s, the Smoky Lake area in Alberta, Canada, witnessed a significant transformation within its Ukrainian community, driven by a growing national awareness and pride. Following Ukraine's brief independence from 1918 to 1920, local residents reported increased prosperity among farmers and a heightened interest in Ukrainian affairs, largely facilitated by the efforts of the Narodnyi Dim (National Home).

In the middle of these developments was Rev. Ivan Chrustawka, who served as pastor of the Holy Trinity Russo-Orthodox Church from 1921 to 1926. Though he was noted for his sincere work with the community, his association with the Russian

Orthodox Church left him unacceptable to many local leaders, who sought to establish a congregation that followed the new Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada.

In 1924, Rev. Ivan Kusey celebrated the first Orthodox liturgy in Ukrainian at Joseph Danylyevych's home, an event that prompted the formation of a new congregation in Smoky Lake in June of that year. By the spring of 1925, Kusey returned to commemorate Palm Sunday, revitalizing the community's mission to secure their own church.

Shortly after, Rev. Dmytro Seneta arrived in Smoky Lake, providing regular services that were initially held at members' homes. As the congregation grew, they used the T. Shevchenko Narodnyi Dim for services while working to build their own church. Father Seneta's contributions went beyond religious duties as he played a

pivotal role in establishing a Ukrainian school, a children's orchestra, and an adult secular choir.

Archbishop Ioan Theodorovich visited Smoky Lake on 18 October 1925, inspiring parishioners to formalize their congregation the following year, which recorded 32 members by then. N. Woycenko was elected as the first head of the executive, with N. Gavinchuk as secretary and I. Kinasevich as treasurer. However, in the fall of 1927, challenges emerged when Bolshevik sympathizers were elected as trustees of the Smoky Lake School, resulting in a ban on the use of the school for worship. This prohibition halted liturgies during the winter of 1927-1928.

Undeterred, the congregation resolved in 1928 to construct their own church, appointing William Czumer to lead the construction committee. The church

Continued on **page 11**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**CLH GROUP INC.  
HREHORETS PIT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND ENHANCEMENT ACT**

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION  
INFORMATION ONLY**

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) Registration No. 00420522-00-00 was issued on December 13, 2019, to CLH Group Inc. for the construction, operation, and reclamation of a pit in the E½ 10-058-17-W4M.

Reclamation certificate No. 00506305-00-00 has been issued by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas on November 12, 2025. The EPEA Registration No. 00420522-00-00 is no longer required for the above mentioned pit.

In accordance with the EPEA and the regulations, the Director has canceled EPEA Registration No. 00420522-00-00.

**NEWBROOK  
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## MOUNTIE MINUTE

### Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment



- Reports that 2 vehicles were spotlighting in a field. Unknown markers on both vehicles. Members patrolled area but were unable to locate any vehicles.
- Reports of a possible impaired driver, located vehicle Mandatory Alcohol Screening Demand read-FAILL issued an Impaired Sanction
- Disturbance at a rural property, members attended, Warrant issued for suspect
- RCMP received a call to complete a wellbeing check at a rural residence, members attended, all was fine
- Abandoned vehicle parked in the middle of road at RR 122
- Wellbeing Check on a mentality unstable male arguing with girlfriend. RPACT referral completed
- Caller heard multiple gun shots, possible hunters, F&W contacted
- Received a call from a 3rd party about on-going separation issues between a couple
- Wellbeing check no issues
- Members called by Fish & Wildlife, requesting assistance with a suspected intox driver. Members attended, breath sample collected from driver. Result = 0. No further RCMP assistance needed.
- Smoky Lake members assisted Two Hills Detachment with a call
- Noise Complaint in the Village of Vilna, blowing snow in the middle of the night (bylaw issue)
- 911 hang up no issues
- Received a call of a Break and Enter in Progress at a rural property on HWY 652, members attended and arrested 1 male.
- Reports of a male skulking in yards near the hospital, members attended and located individual
- RCMP responded to an issue at the hotel, civil matter
- Received a call of trespassers on a property near Bellis, members attended could not locate anyone, only see tire marks in snow
- RCMP attended a unknown situation further information gathered non-criminal matter
- Received a call about a speeding bus in the Village of Vilna
- RCMP attended a residence where a person was ringing a doorbell but nobody was at door. Member spoke about safety plan with the homeowner
- Received a call of male walking on the highway, located male spoke about wearing reflective gear, ride given to ESSO
- Suspicious vehicle in the Village of Waskatenau, no further calls, patrols made
- Received a call of a male who had issues at the Smoky Health Center non-criminal
- Received a call of a male walking on Highway 831 members attended no concerns

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Continued from page 10

was built swiftly over the summer, with Woycenko overseeing the project and a dedicated group of volunteers, including carpenters S. Tkach and M. Romaniuk. By fall 1928, the church, one of the largest Ukrainian Orthodox churches in Western Canada, was completed. The first liturgy was celebrated by Rev. T. Horbay on 25 November, and he relocated his family to Smoky Lake in the following spring, further solidifying the community's religious foundation.

Throughout this period, N. Gavinchuk continued to seek ways to enhance the church, even writing to the Consistory in 1936 to inquire about large paper icons for the

congregation. Meanwhile, Fr. Lorne Kubin enriched the church's interior with his artistic talent, creating decorative elements and stained-glass windows.

The Smoky Lake area's settlers primarily originated from villages near Cernăuți (Chernivtsi) in the Chernivtsi province of Ukraine, historically known as northern Bucovina. This region was known by a diverse linguistic group of Romanian, Russian, and Ukrainian speakers who had all been profoundly affected by political upheavals, including the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact prior to World War II. Their journey to Canada shaped a deep and enduring Ukrainian community in Smoky Lake, marked by cultural and religious growth.



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

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