



Thorhild Skaters take home a win

By **Brandie Majeau**

The Thorhild Figure Skating Club was honoured to participate in the "We Can be Stars" competition held on Saturday, January 31, and hosted by the Westlock Skating Club. This event assembled accomplished skaters from across the region, creating an air of collegial competition and connection. Thorhild was represented by Avelia Toronchuk, Charlee Dombowsky, Hazel Pasay, and Lillyanna Paly. Each of these devoted athletes and

skaters demonstrated exceptional skill, perseverance, and sportsmanship throughout the event.

Under the expert guidance of Coach Emily MacLellan and the invaluable support of program assistant Payton Moser, the skaters competed in a variety of challenging events, including "Element," Creative Improv, "Spin, Spiral, Jump," and the collaborative "Team Element" segment. These events tested the skaters' technical abilities, creativity, and teamwork, and all four Thorhild

competitors rose to the occasion, delivering well-rehearsed, memorable performances.

The hard work and preparation paid off as every Thorhild competitor earned a medal at the event. With gold, silver, and bronze medals awarded, their achievements are a cumulation of their commitment both to the sport and to each other. The club is extremely proud of their accomplishments and the positive spirit they brought to the competition. This experience highlights their success, strengthens

bonds among teammates, and exemplifies the values of figure skating, its dedication, resilience, and mutual support.

The Thorhild Figure Skating Club invites the community to its annual year-end performance on March 7 at 12:45 p.m. at the Thorhild Agriplex. This event will highlight the skaters' talents and celebrate their achievements from this past winter. Everyone is welcome to attend and support these young athletes as they conclude a successful season.



Photo courtesy of Thorhild Skating Club

How to adult...?



Photos courtesy of Newbrook Public Library

By **Brandie Majeau**

Community Futures North Central Alberta with the support of Prairies Economic Development Canada, is dedicated to supporting rural economic development and entrepreneurship. Serving communities

throughout North Central Alberta, the office and its staff helps small businesses and community initiatives grow and thrive by offering a range of services and programs. These include business loans and financing for entrepreneurs and small businesses, as

well as business planning, coaching, and advisory services. The organization also provides workshops and training programs, along with support for community economic development initiatives.

On January 22, the Newbrook Library

hosted an Adulting 101 class. The session centered on skill identification, guiding participants in recognizing both soft and hard skills and articulating them effectively on their résumés. Attendees also explored personal interests, practiced interview techniques, and

developed strategies for confidently communicating their strengths to prospective employers. The group demonstrated strong engagement, posed insightful questions, and contributed positively to the learning environment throughout the session.

"Newbrook is

fortunate to have such wonderful, gracious, and community minded youth, as well as a library that plays such an important role in its community. We can't wait to come back," said Meadow Kenney, Professional

Continued on **page 15**

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Smoky Lake RCMP Report – Week of January 26

By Haylee Winger



The Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment responded to a variety of calls during the week of January 26, ranging from fraud investigations and traffic incidents to public safety and wellness concerns.

Police received another report of the ongoing "grandparent fraud scam," where a suspect poses as a grandchild in distress and requests money from the victim. Residents are reminded to remain cautious and verify any urgent financial requests.

An alarm call within the Town of Smoky Lake resulted in members being stood down prior to arrival. RCMP also responded to a report of a bale of hay located in the middle of the highway. EMCON attended and removed the hazard to ensure roadway safety.

Several fraud-related complaints were reported throughout the week. One involved Facebook

Marketplace, where a victim placed a deposit on an item, but the seller failed to appear at the agreed time and has since avoided contact. In another incident, a resident of Waskatenau reported their email had been hacked, resulting in compromised banking information.

RCMP assisted Smoky Lake Health Centre staff with an aggressive patient and later attended a mental health crisis call. A female was apprehended under the Mental Health Act and transported to St. Paul Hospital for further care. The detachment also responded to reports of theft, including ATCO reporting stolen copper wire and a theft at the local liquor store. Both incidents remain under investigation.

Traffic-related calls included a report of a transport truck stopped at Highway 855 and Township Road 592. Members attended and found the truck safely secured with four-way

flashers and safety triangles while a mechanic conducted repairs. Officers also responded to numerous motor vehicle collisions on Saturday, January 31, due to freezing rain and poor road conditions from the night prior.

A suspicious person complaint at the Esso gas station was investigated, with officers determining the male was seeking a ride to Edmonton and that no criminal activity had occurred.

Police also attended a report of a tractor being operated on private property by an unknown male. Investigation confirmed the tractor was being operated by a contractor sent by Cera to clear a path for heavy equipment.

Another traffic complaint involved a Jeep reported for "stunting" in Smoky Lake. The vehicle and driver were located, and the driver explained that tire spinning was caused by poor road conditions. A warning was issued along with education on winter driving.

Additional calls included a domestic dispute involving text messages and assistance with the arrest of a female by Meadow Lake RCMP for an outstanding Smoky Lake warrant. The warrant was extended by Fort Saskatchewan Crown, and the female was transported back to be sentenced.

The Smoky Lake RCMP encourage the public to report suspicious activity and criminal behavior. The detachment can be reached at 780-656-3550, or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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Contact Bill:
780-235-4024.

Creativity, community and healing at the heart of Koko Blue Designs

By Shelley Winger



What began as a form of self-care has grown into a thriving creative business for Redwater entrepreneur Megan Shaw-Grandy, owner of Koko Blue Designs.

With a background in social services, Shaw-Grandy was looking for a way to recharge emotionally and mentally. She found that outlet through artistic expression. In 2019, she purchased her first laser engraver and started making personalized items for family and friends. What began as a hobby quickly gained momentum, and before long she opened an online store. By 2020, Koko Blue Designs had become her full-time business.

Today, her workshop is home to two CO₂ lasers and a four-by-four-foot CNC

machine, allowing her to work with a wide range of materials including wood, acrylic, leather, suede, glass and some metals. Her services include laser engraving, etching, cutting and detailed 3D wood carvings. Products range from picture frames and ornaments to custom signs, business logos, furniture and more.

Part of the appeal for customers is the chance to turn a simple idea into something tangible and lasting. Shaw-Grandy works closely with clients to personalize designs, whether it's incorporating a handwritten note, a meaningful date or a favourite quote. Each piece is created with careful attention to detail, ensuring it reflects the story behind it as much as the material it's made from.

While she enjoys the variety, it's the deeply

personal projects that mean the most.

"My favorite things to create are memorial pieces for those experiencing grief and loss of a loved one," Shaw-Grandy said. "Those memorial pieces mean the most to people, and I really enjoy providing that service to them for their healing journey ahead."

For those unfamiliar with the technology behind her work, Shaw-Grandy explains that a laser engraver uses a high-intensity beam of light to burn or vaporize the surface of a material. Guided by computer software, the laser moves with precision to create permanent, detailed markings. The same technology can also be used to cut materials. Her CNC machine, also computer-operated, uses a router bit to carve and cut intricate designs into wood.

Since moving to Redwater in 2021,

Shaw-Grandy has built strong ties within the community. Koko Blue Designs has created custom items for local sports teams, businesses and public schools, and regularly donates pieces to fundraisers. Supporting local events and causes is something she sees as an important part of running a small business.

"I think people really enjoy having a local business that can provide a wide range of custom displays, meaningful gifts and memorabilia," she said. "But also to have a small business here that supports and gives back to the community as well. Community is everything."

That connection to community is reflected in the steady stream of repeat customers and word-of-mouth referrals. Many clients return for milestone moments — weddings, anniversaries, graduations and retirements — trusting Shaw-Grandy to help mark life's important chapters with something personal and handcrafted.

Looking ahead, Shaw-Grandy is excited to expand the use of her newest piece of equipment — the large CNC machine. She's been exploring more 3D carving projects, allowing her to create larger and more detailed wooden pieces.

"It's still a learning



Koko Blue Designs photos

Custom floral detailing adds a unique touch to this light grey hat by Koko Blue Designs.



Intricate woodwork brings a peaceful cabin and forest wildlife to life, created by Koko Blue Designs.

curve," she said, "but it has been a wonderful addition to our workshop so far."

With a blend of craftsmanship, compassion and community spirit,

Koko Blue Designs continues to leave a lasting mark — both on the materials Shaw-Grandy works with and the people who receive her creations.



Personalized mementos honoring beloved pets who have passed, crafted by Koko Blue Designs.

Alberta RCMP encourages distraction-free driving

The Alberta RCMP is reminding drivers that it's essential to remain distraction free. Operating a vehicle requires a motorist's complete attention to be aware of other vehicles and pedestrians and reduce the risk of collision.

In 2025, the Alberta RCMP issued a total of 3,337 tickets for distracted driving. Help

stay distraction free on the roads with following tips:

- If it impairs your driving, it's a distraction. Distracted driving is not limited to texting or talking on a handheld device while operating a vehicle — it also includes personal grooming, reading, writing, adjusting GPS or audio

devices, attending to passengers or pets and any other activity that might impair your ability to operate a vehicle safely.

- Plan ahead. Before putting your vehicle into drive, prepare by pre-setting your hands-free device, GPS, radio or music.
- Pull over and put it in park. If you need to text, make a call

or engage in any distracting activity, pull over where it's safe and park your vehicle. Simply stopping at a red light and engaging in a distracted activity is not safe and is still distracted driving.

- Distracted driving isn't worth it. The penalty for distracted driving in Alberta is a \$300

fine and three demerit points. The bigger price you pay is risking your own safety and the safety of others.

"Distracted driving is a common bad habit among drivers," says Sgt. Darrin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic. "It may not seem like a big deal to check a text or change a song, but it only takes a second

where your attention is diverted for a collision to take place. Distractions behind the wheel are never worth putting yourself, or other motorists, at risk."

For more traffic safety information, please follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta, X @RCMPAlberta, and on YouTube @RCMP-GRC Alberta.



THORHILD & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY



2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

BULLARAMA



Ticket sales for our Bullarama event were sold out even with expanded capacity! Our volunteer shifts were also filled quickly, proving it is a community favourite!

SPLASH & CRASH



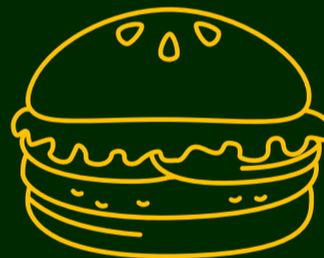
We doubled down on our Splash & Crash fundraiser by adding a combine, and got the nod of social media influencers LeroyXLeroy. There's always something to do!

FAMILY FAIR & DANCE

We partnered with the Feledichuk-Curran Memorial Ball Tournament to expand our annual tradeshow to include a Family Fair & Dance. We have secured a grant to make the 2026 event even bigger and better.



WEEKDAY CONCESSION



Early in 2025, we opened our concession to offer weekday breakfast & lunch and it has proven to fill a void in the community and provide employment opportunities to local residents.

NEW PROGRAMS



Thanks to inspired community members, we now have bi-weekly drop-in ladies and girls hockey times, as well as a new figure skating program calling the Agriplex home.

FACILITY UPGRADES



We continue to invest in the Agriplex with a new brine pump, rebuilt compressor, and a new Scoreclock generously donated by Thorhild Minor Hockey.

We are volunteer driven. If you are interested in being apart of our society, please let us know!

THORHILDAGSOCIETY.CA

KID'S CORNER



Chace - Thorhild Central School



This is Chace and he is in Grade 7. His favorite subject at school is Technology and his favorite things to do at home are listening to music and playing video games.

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Employment Opportunity – Public Works Working Foreman

The Town of Smoky Lake is seeking a hands-on and organized Public Works Working Foreman to lead daily operations of the Public Works Department. Reporting to the CAO, this role supervises staff, coordinates maintenance, and supports municipal services including roads, water and wastewater systems, gas systems, parks, fleet, and facilities. The ideal candidate will have strong leadership skills, experience operating heavy equipment, and a commitment to safety, teamwork, and service excellence. Municipal experience and utility certifications are considered assets.

This is a full-time position (40 hours/week) with some on-call and overtime requirements. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. For more information, please visit smokylake.ca/employment or call Molly Fyten, CAO at (780) 656-3674.

Closing Date: February 15, 2026 (or until a suitable candidate is found)

Submit resumes to:

Human Resources – Personnel & Confidential
P.O. Box 460, 56 Wheatland Ave, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0
Email: hr@smokylake.ca

In Memory of

Joseph Raymond Prodaniuk

August 5, 1939 – December 20, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Joseph Raymond Prodaniuk on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the age of 86 years.

Joseph is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Isabel Prodaniuk; three sons, two daughters and ten grandchildren: Kevin (Tina) Prodaniuk of Whitecourt and their children, Erin, James and Alex, Lori (Craig) Berard of Edmonton and their children, Kira and Riya, Gary (Andrea) Prodaniuk of Redwater and their children, Jacob and Dani, Sherri (Kurtis)



Wiselka of Athabasca and their children, Joshua, Madison and Gracie and Gordie Prodaniuk of Calgary.

He was predeceased by his parents, Oliver and Anne Prodaniuk; and brother, Walter Prodaniuk.

A Funeral Service was held Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at Sts. Borys & Hlib Ukrainian Catholic Church, Redwater, AB

The Prodaniuk family would like to thank the staff at Redwater Health Care Centre for the care and compassion they showed Joe during the time he was in the hospital.

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Crisis Text Line (Powered by Kids Help Phone) Canada Wide free, 24/7 texting service is accessible immediately to youth anywhere in

Canada by texting TALK to **686868** to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to **686868** to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/SMS enabled cell phone.
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Canadian Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line **1-866-925-4419**
Trans LifeLine – All Ages **1-877-330-6366**

Stand Up Against BULLYING



Dustin
Dakota
Birch
Age 22



If you or someone you know has been affected by bullying, your voice can make a difference. We are looking to hear your story and raise awareness about the impact of bullying in our community. By sharing your experience, you can help others understand they are not alone in their struggles, and together, we can take a stand against bullying.

How to Share Your Story:

- Reach out to us at redwaterreview@gmail.com
 - Your submission can remain 100% anonymous if you prefer.
 - Every story shared helps bring us one step closer to ending the cycle of bullying.
- We believe in the power of raising awareness. Your story could be the one that helps someone find hope and strength. Let's take a stand together.

I didn't think I was a bully

I'm 15 years old, and for most of my life, I didn't think bullying was something I was involved in.

When I pictured a bully, I imagined someone obvious. Loud, aggressive, pushing people around in hallways. That wasn't me. I had friends. Teachers didn't get complaints about me. I wasn't "mean" all the time. So when people talked about bullying at assemblies or in health class, I tuned out. I thought it didn't apply to me.

But bullying isn't always obvious, and that's what makes it dangerous.

For me, it looked like sarcasm. It looked like laughing when someone messed up. It looked like whispering about someone's clothes, their voice, or the way they acted, and then pretending it was just a joke. Sometimes it was leaving someone out of group chats or rolling my eyes when they talked. Sometimes it was saying nothing while my friends said worse. I told myself it didn't matter. I told myself people need-

ed thicker skin. I told myself that if I didn't say anything, I wasn't really part of it.

I was wrong. What I didn't see was how small moments add up. One comment doesn't seem like much until it happens every day. One laugh doesn't seem harmful until it follows someone everywhere. Being ignored doesn't seem cruel until you realize it is on purpose.

I never saw what happened after. I didn't see how some people went home and replayed those moments

over and over. I didn't see how they started doubting themselves, or how school became something they dreaded instead of enjoyed. I didn't see how being targeted, even quietly, can change how someone sees themselves.

Looking back, I think a lot of bullying comes from insecurity. I wanted to fit in. I wanted to be funny. I wanted people to like me. Sometimes putting someone else down felt like the easiest way to feel accepted. That doesn't make it okay, but it explains why bullying can

come from people you wouldn't expect.

What really changed me was realizing that bullying doesn't require intention. You don't have to mean to hurt someone for them to be hurt. Impact matters more than excuses.

I also learned that bystanders matter. The times I stayed quiet were still choices. Silence can feel safer than speaking up, but it can be just as painful for the person on the receiving end. Laughing along, even nervously, sends a message. Doing nothing sends one too.

I'm not writing this to ask for sympathy. I'm writing because awareness matters. If you're reading this and thinking this doesn't sound like bullying, I used to think that too. But it is.

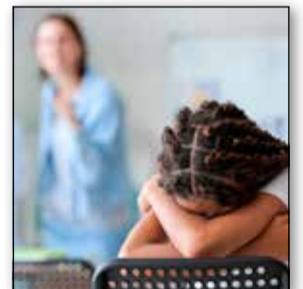
If you're being bullied, I want you to know this. It is not your fault.

You don't deserve to be treated that way, and you're not weak for being affected by it.

And if you recognize yourself in any part of my story, even a small part, it doesn't mean you're a bad person. It means you have a chance to do better. You can stop. You can apologize. You can choose kindness next time, even when it's uncomfortable.

I wish I had understood earlier how much words and actions matter. I can't change the past, but I can change how I act now.

So I am.



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INTERMUNICIPAL SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD HEARING

An Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board hearing has been scheduled for:

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Smoky Lake County Council Chambers, 4612 – McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, AB or online:

<https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/057504525>

The purpose of this hearing is to review an appeal received regarding the approval of Development Permit DP-015-2025 and DP-016-2025. The proposed development is two row housing (4 units each) located at Lot 13 & 14, Block 7, Plan 0721842. Any person who claims to be affected by the decision or the development may be present at the hearing. Written submissions will be received by the ISDAB Appeal Board Clerk, at Smoky Lake County, 4612 – McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, AB, T0A 3C0, prior to commencement of the hearing.



By submitting comments on this bylaw, either orally or in writing, the personal information you provide may be recorded in the minutes of the appeal hearing or otherwise made public. This information is collected under section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA). If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information, please contact the Town of Smoky Lake at 780-656-3674 or legislative@smokylake.ca.



Not just a river

By Brandie Majeau

Metis Crossing recently hosted a viewing of *A River Runs Through Us: The Story of the North Saskatchewan River*, a documentary that delves into the historical, cultural, and environmental significance of the North Saskatchewan River. Stretching across Alberta and Saskatchewan, it has played a vital role in shaping the landscapes, communities, and economies that surround it.

The documentary explores the historical significance of the North Saskatchewan River and traces its history,

highlighting its importance to Indigenous peoples long before European settlement. The river served as a vital transportation and trade route, particularly during the fur trade era, and later fueled the growth of settlements and cities such as Edmonton and Saskatoon. Through interviews with Indigenous elders, local historians, and community members, the documentary examines the river's role in the lives of those who have lived along its banks and illustrates how it is intertwined with cultural traditions, stories, and identities. *A River Runs*

Through Us also addresses environmental challenges facing the North Saskatchewan River and examines the impacts of industrialization, agriculture, urbanization, and climate change on water quality, wildlife, and ecosystems, and features perspectives from scientists, conservationists, and activists working to restore and protect the river. It emphasizes the need for sustainable management and the ongoing efforts by communities and organizations to balance economic development with environmental

Continued on **page 15**



We are Hiring

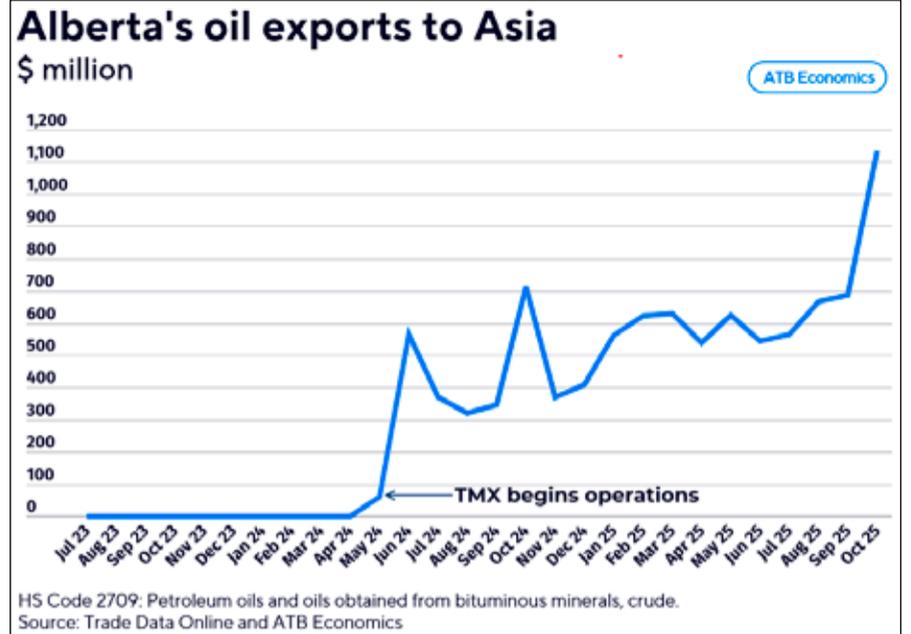
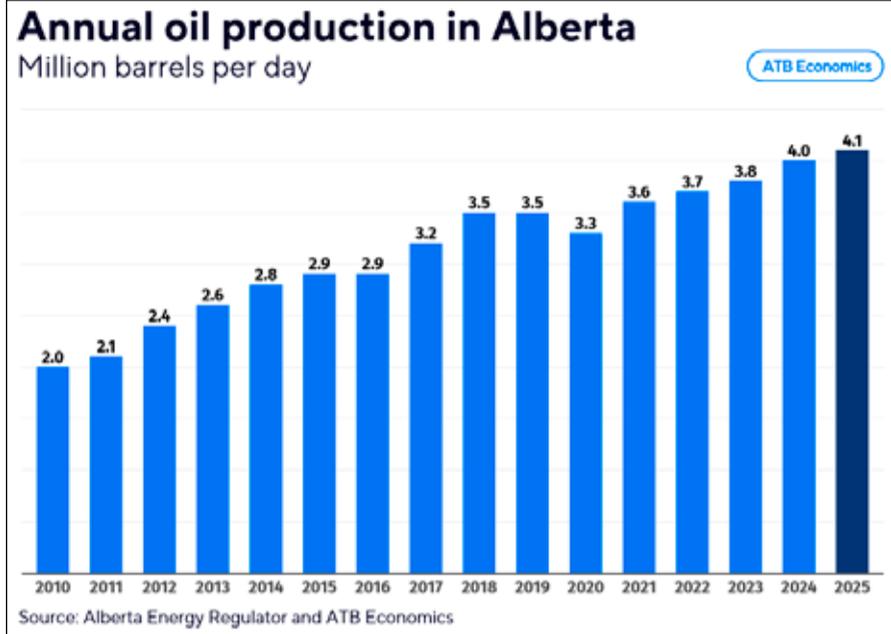
Smoky Lake Forest Nursery Ltd. is hiring 2 General Greenhouse Labourers to join our team for the 2026 growing season (April 13 to December 13, 2026). Job location is approximately 19 km east of Smoky Lake, Alberta.

Key Responsibilities May Include (but are not limited to): Seeding/Thinning/Transplanting/Weeding, Seeding Handling, Grading/Stacking/Wrapping Seedlings, Boxing seedlings, Washing/stacking/wrapping blocks for storage, Building boxes/labelling boxes/stacking boxes, Loading shipment trucks, General greenhouse work, cleaning, setup, and maintenance as required, Field work

Requirements: No experience is necessary, Fast-paced environment, Repetitive tasks, Handling heavy loads (physically demanding), Standing for extended periods, Bending, crouching, kneeling, Attention to detail, Hand-eye co-ordination, Requires own transportation to/from site

Starting wages at **\$18.34/hr.** Based on 40 hr/week, Monday to Friday (8-4:30). May require shift work and/or extended hours including weekends. Please forward your resume to slfn@c2ctrees.com.

1.5 billion barrels: Alberta oil production sets a new record in 2025



By Rob Roach,
ATB ECONOMICS

What would fill approximately 96,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools? Alberta's oil production last year.

The numbers from the Alberta Energy Regulator are in for the final month of last year and show that 2025 set a new record for oil

production in the province at 4.1 million barrels per day (bbl/d) for total output of over 1.5 billion barrels, 84% of which was from the oil sands. Average daily production in the province was up by 166,000 bbl/d or 4.2% compared to 2024.

A key enabler of the rise in production is the extra egress capacity

provided by the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion (TMX) that was completed in 2024. The pipeline, which has a nameplate capacity of 890,000 bbl/d (up from 300,000 before the expansion project), has also enabled more oil exports from Alberta to Asia. As the chart on top right shows, the value of Alberta's oil

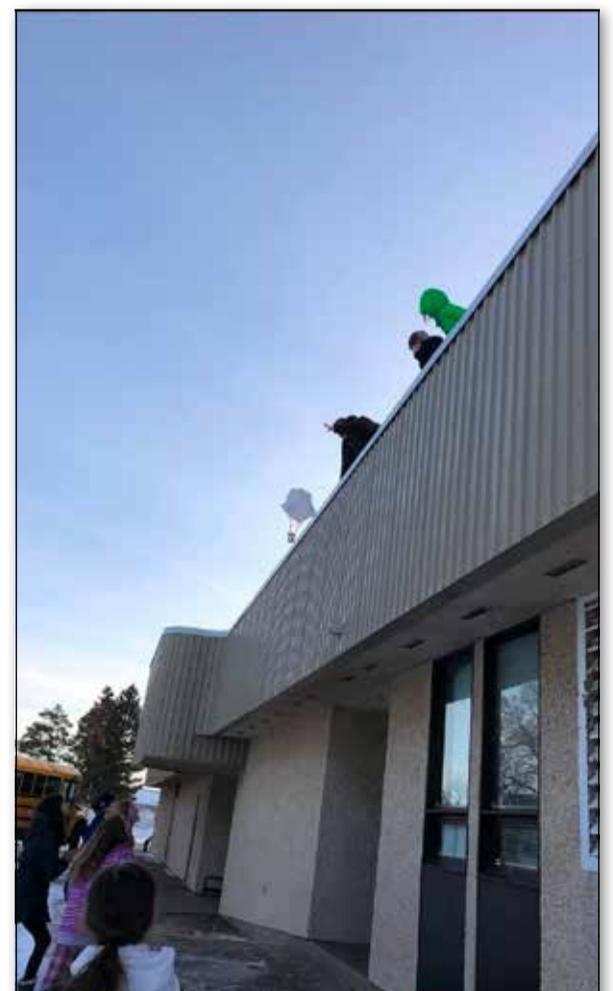
exports to Asia went from zero before the expanded pipeline began operations to over \$1.1 billion as of October of last year.

Enhancements to the existing pipeline system and filling TMX to capacity will facilitate additional production in 2026. We expect real oil and gas exports to grow at around 2%

both this year and in 2027. At some point, though, without a new pipeline in place, a lack of pipeline capacity will once again act as a constraint on output growth, possibly as soon as 2028.

While the rise in production provides a boost to economic growth in Alberta via ongoing extraction

activity and increased exports, we expect oil and gas capital spending to remain flat this year. Absent final decisions on a new pipeline, the focus will remain on incremental production growth, efficiency, shareholder returns and debt repayment rather than greenfield expansion and new mega-projects.



Grade 6 students at Redwater School put their understanding of forces to the test during last week's annual egg drop experiment, designing protective devices to keep their eggs intact upon impact. **Redwater School photos**



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

12:00-3:00 PM

PEMBINA PLACE

Free Free

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Family Day of Fun is organized to provide quality, affordable family programming for our community, and to strengthen community bonds.

FREE HOT DOGS
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



FACE PAINTING



SUNDAES
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



FAMILY SKATING
HELMETS MANDATORY FOR UNDER 18



PHOTO BOOTH



SCAVENGER HUNT



FREE POPCORN
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CRAFT TABLE



FIRE SAFETY STATION



FAMILY BINGO
12:30-1:00 PM
1:15-1:45 PM
2:00-2:30 PM



INFLATABLES, MINI GOLF & JUMBO GAMES



DRAW PRIZES & MORE!

CONCESSION WILL BE OPEN FOR PURCHASES

FOOD BANK DONATIONS APPRECIATED



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICE AT 780-942-4101 OR EMAIL CMELNICK@REDWATER.CA



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS



The Joe Show comes to Smoky Lake

By **Brandie Majeau**

Smoky Lake is pleased to announce a Family Day celebration on February 16 at the National Hall, taking place from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The afternoon will feature crafts, games, face painting, and food for all to enjoy. A complimentary public skate will also be available at the arena from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The community looks forward to welcoming the main event and entertainment: The Joe Show. Joe, of The Joe Show, is Edmonton's highest-rated family entertainer on Google and is proudly celebrating a decade of performing professionally. He will be bringing his acclaimed, high-energy family show to Smoky Lake for Family Day, with a performance scheduled from 2:30

PM to 3:30 PM. Each of his shows features captivating magic illusions, engaging comedy, and ventriloquism... something for all ages. Also, before and after the main show, several of Joe's children will be on-site offering balloon twisting from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Joe is such a passionate performer and explained, "Growing up, I had a speech impediment and struggled with a stutter. I went through speech therapy, and instead of avoiding public speaking, I decided to face that fear head-on. Performing became a way for me to build confidence and find my voice."

He went on to discuss how he ended up performing as the Joe Show, "I'm a father of 11 kids (one wife), and I genuinely love being around children. I was already doing birthday

parties inside my own home full time and I thought, why not take this outside the house and do it full time? That's how I found my way into family-friendly entertainment. I love creating lasting memories through laughter and engaging audiences of all ages, from kids to senior citizens. My family is the heart of my inspiration—my children are my built-in test audience and always let me know what works and what doesn't."

For more information about Joe's performances and related offerings, please visit JoeShowOnline.com, SoaperStarFoam.com, LaserChaser.ca, or TheWonderDome.ca. Everyone is welcome to join the Smoky Lake community in celebrating Family Day and building a day of laughter, joy, and togetherness.



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PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1697/25 Development Compliance Enforcement Update

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1697/25 - Development Compliance Enforcement Update to the Land Use Bylaw.

The proposed amendment proposes to replace the entire enforcement section to:

- Clearly define authority, offences, inspection powers, stop orders, fines, and penalties
- Introduce structured and progressive processes for warnings, tickets, and prosecutions
- Update the penalty schedule with progressive penalties

View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1697-25

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on:

Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 1 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) at Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St., Morinville)

Questions? Contact us!

Tyler McNab
Program Lead, Development & Safety Codes
tmcnab@sturgeoncounty.ca
780-939-8342

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 780-939-0620 to pre-register.

Speak via video conference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **February 23, 2026 at 1 p.m.** by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-0620. 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.

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 under section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA). If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information, please contact the Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Advisor at 780-939-1306 or accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca.



Borrowing Bylaw 1704/26

Pave Range Road 10 from Highway 37 to Pinesands

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 **1704/26** which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of said County to borrow monies from the Province of Alberta, or another authorized financial institution, to pay for the cost of the paving of Range Road 10 from Highway 37 to the Pinesands Subdivision.

The total cost of the aforesaid project amounts to **\$6,500,000**. A total of **\$2,916,133** 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 1704/26 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. and 4:30 p.m. in the office of the Legislative Services Officer, Sturgeon County, 9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta.

Questions?

Financial Services 780-939-4321
 TreasuryFinancialPlanning@sturgeoncounty.ca
 www.sturgeoncounty.ca



St. Albert Sturgeon Hospice Association presents

Light up the Night

A concert for compassion

Thursday, March 12

7:00 pm

Arden Theatre, St. Albert



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Employment Opportunity – Legislative Services Assistant

The Town of Smoky Lake is seeking a highly organized, professional, and detail-oriented Legislative Services Assistant to join its Administration team. This position plays a critical role in supporting the Chief Administrative Officer, Mayor, and Council through the coordination of Council and Committee meetings, legislative and governance functions, records management, and access to information and privacy administration.

The Legislative Services Assistant also provides key support in municipal communications, including preparation of correspondence, public notices, and governance-related information, helping to ensure transparency, accuracy, and effective communication between Council, administration, and the public. The successful candidate will bring strong communication skills, sound judgment, and the ability to manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced municipal environment while handling confidential and sensitive information with professionalism and discretion.

This is a full-time (35 hours/week) office-based position with regular interaction with Council, administration, and the public. Attendance at evening meetings and events outside of regular business hours is required. Periods of high workload may occur around Council meetings, elections, and statutory deadlines. May be required to adjust work hours to meet operational and legislative requirements. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

For more information, please visit smokylake.ca/employment or call Molly Fyten, CAO at (780) 656-3674.

Closing Date: February 28, 2026 (or until a suitable candidate is found)
Submit resumes to:
Human Resources – Personnel & Confidential
P.O. Box 460, 56 Wheatland Ave, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0
Email: hr@smokylake.ca



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February 17, 2026
7:00 p.m.

at the Food Bank, 2nd Floor,
Pembina Place, Redwater
780-942-2061
P.O. Box 582, Redwater, AB
T0A 2W0

**PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1682/25
JACKSON RENTALS LAND REDISTRICTING**

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1682/25.

The applicant has requested that a land parcel near the Villeneuve roundabout (at Highway 37 and Highway 44) be redistricted to bring the property into compliance.

The proposed bylaw would redistrict a portion of NE-31-54-26-4:

- Current zoning districts: Highway Commercial (C1) and Agriculture (AG)
- Proposed zoning districts: Rural Industry Support (I1) and Agriculture (AG)

Learn more: sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1682-25

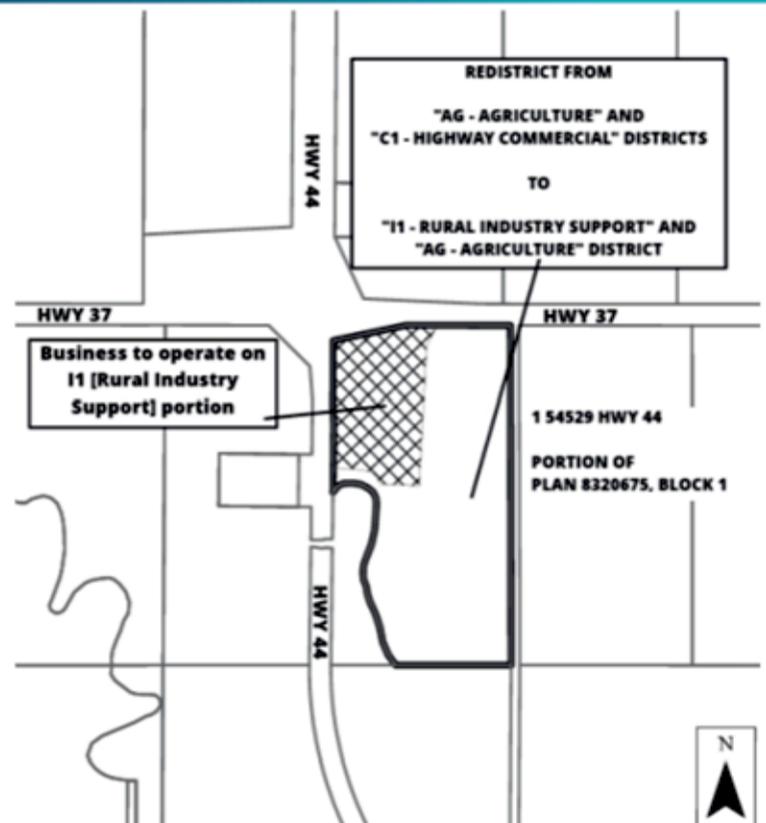
Questions? Contact us!

Rebecca Schapansky, RPP, MCIP
Planner, Current Planning
587-404-9866, rschapansky@sturgeoncounty.ca

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on:
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter)

Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)



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 **780-939-0620** to register.

Speak via video conference (phone or video call-in)

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **February 23, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.** by contacting Legislative Services at **780-939-0620**. 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.

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 under section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA). If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information, please contact the Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Advisor at 780-939-1306 or accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca.





Division 1
Neil Halun
Phone: 780-938-6345
neil.halun@thorhildcounty.com

Division 2
Deputy Reeve Angela Zilinski
Phone: 780-307-5846
angela.zilinski@thorhildcounty.com

Division 3
Scott Nedeljak
Phone: 780-819-0907
scott.nedeljak@thorhildcounty.com

Division 4
Janine Paly
Phone: 780-307-5978
janine.paly@thorhildcounty.com

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Amendment of Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015

On proposed Bylaw 01-2026 which would amend Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015 by changing 9.1 Land Use District Map described within Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 082 8507 within NW 14-58-20-W4M consisting of 5.96 acres within title number 232 247 843 from CR – Multi-lot Country Residential to AG – Agricultural District.



NOTICE THAT in accordance with section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of Thorhild County is giving consideration to a Land Use Bylaw Amendment.

The Public Hearing will be held both in-person and via Teams Meeting (audio only) on:
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Thorhild County Council Chambers, (801 – 1st Street, Thorhild)

Important Information

- 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.
- If you intend on participating in person, you are encouraged to pre-register.
- If you wish to speak at the Public Hearing electronically by Teams Meeting, you are asked to register by noon on Friday, February 20, 2026. This is to ensure that participants receive instructions to access the hearing.
- If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing, you may make a written submission. Your name, address, legal land location and the bylaw number must be included in your submission.
- To register, submit a written submission or have issues connecting to Teams Meeting, contact the Planning Clerk at 780-398-3741 Ext. 2823 or email: jeannette.cholach@thorhildcounty.com.
- The proposed Bylaw may be viewed at the County Office and is available on the Thorhild County Website: www.thorhildcounty.com/Government/Council/Council-Meetings.
- Persons wishing to attend the Public Hearing are invited to attend in person or Teams Meeting through the County website at: www.thorhildcounty.com/Government/Council/Council-Meetings.
- If you have any questions or inquiries pertaining to this Public Hearing, contact David Blades, Manager of Planning and Development at 780-398-3741 Ext. 2825 or e-mail David.Blades@thorhildcounty.com.

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 under the Protection of Privacy Act Section (4). If you have any questions, please contact the Protection of Privacy Coordinator at 780-398-3741.

2026 FIRELINE EQUIPMENT CONTRACT

Contractors are invited to register their equipment with Thorhild County Emergency Services for the 2026 Fire Season to assist Thorhild County Emergency Services with wildfires. A contract must be in place prior to any commencement of work.

For any further information, please contact: Diana Berry, County Services Clerk at 780-398-3741 ext. 2810 or diana.berry@thorhildcounty.com.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Amendment of Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015

On proposed Bylaw 03-2026 which would amend Land Use Bylaw 1194-2015 by adding the following wording to the AG – Agricultural district - Section 8.2 (6) of the Bylaw:

- (i) To include “Recreational Vehicle Campground” as a Discretionary Use on Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 082 8507 within NW14-58-20-W4M, consisting of 5.96 acres. (Amended as per Bylaw 03-2026)

NOTICE THAT in accordance with section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of Thorhild County is giving consideration to a Land Use Bylaw Amendment.

The Public Hearing will be held both in-person and via Teams Meeting (audio only) on:
Tuesday, February 24, 2026, following Bylaw 01-2026 Public Hearing that begins at 10:00 a.m.
Thorhild County Council Chambers, (801 – 1st Street, Thorhild)

Important Information

- 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.
- If you intend on participating in person, you are encouraged to pre-register.
- If you wish to speak at the Public Hearing via Teams Meeting, you are asked to register by Friday, February 20, 2026. This is to ensure that participants receive instructions to access the hearing.
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- To register, submit a written submission or have issues connecting to Teams Meeting, contact the Planning Clerk at 780-398-3741 Ext. 2823 or email: jeannette.cholach@thorhildcounty.com.
- The proposed Bylaw may be viewed at the County Office and is available on the Thorhild County website: www.thorhildcounty.com/Government/Council/Council-Meetings.
- Persons wishing to attend the Public Hearing are invited to attend in person or Teams Meeting through the County website at: www.thorhildcounty.com/Government/Council/Council-Meetings.
- If you have any questions or inquiries pertaining to this Public Hearing, contact David Blades, Manager of Planning and Development at 780-398-3741 Ext. 2825 or e-mail David.Blades@thorhildcounty.com.

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 under the Protection of Privacy Act Section (4). If you have any questions, please contact the Protection of Privacy Coordinator at 780-398-3741.



SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD

Thorhild County is seeking two (2) public members to join the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB). The SDAB is a quasi-judicial board established under the Municipal Government Act to make decisions on development or subdivision appeals. Successful completion of mandatory training is required.

For more information or to apply, please contact Carol Revega at Carol.Revega@thorhildcounty.com or 780-398-3741 ext. 2808.

Please submit your application in writing, expressing your interest and relevant experience, by 4:30 PM on February 25, 2026.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Pool Manager & Lifeguards/Instructors
- Summer Program Coordinator
- Agricultural Spray Operator
- Equipment Operators
- Labourers
- Roadside Mower Operator

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



Stay up-to-date on our latest news, community events, important announcements, and service updates by following our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ThorhildCountyAB/.

By following our Facebook page, you'll receive timely notifications about Council decisions, public meetings, emergency alerts, and local initiatives.



SCHOOL NEWS

Grade four students share kindness with handmade heart garlands



On February 4, Grade 4 students at H.A. Kostash School in Smoky Lake spent time creating heart garlands for their friends at the auxiliary. **H.A. Kostash School photo**

Leadership 9 students serve up success at volleyball practice



At Thorhild Central School, aspiring coaches from Leadership 9 hosted their first Grade 5/6 volleyball practice. The students planned warm-ups, worked on skills, and did an amazing job. The players were all looking forward to the next practice. **Thorhild Central School photos**

Playing, Learning & Growing ... Together!

Early Learning at H.A. Kostash School

2026-27 School Year Open House

Join us for our Great Beginnings & Kindergarten Open House!

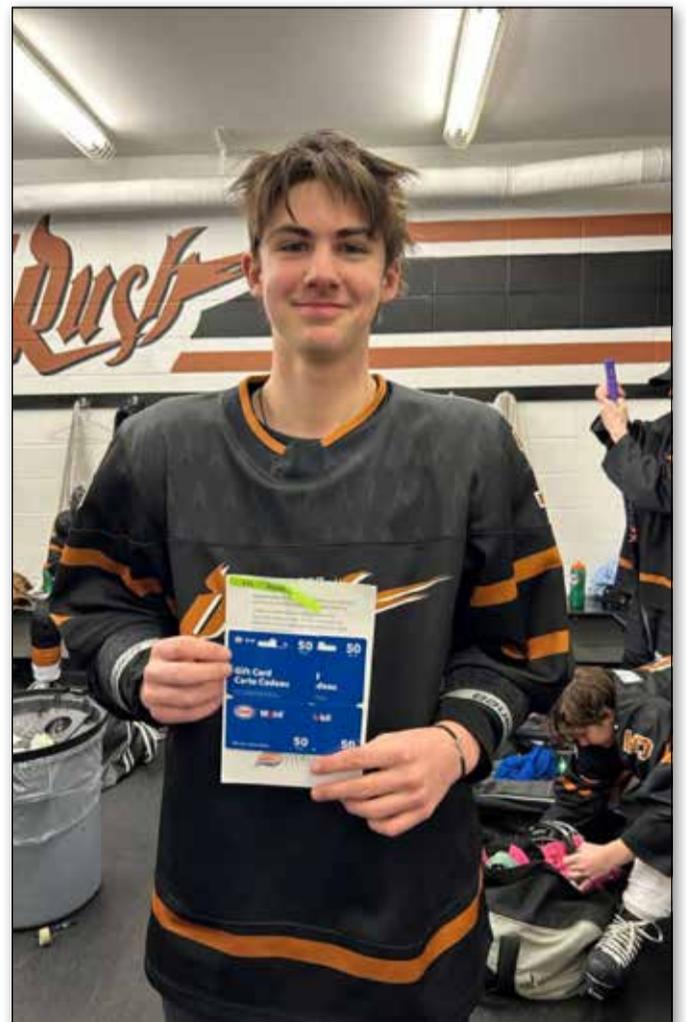
- Thursday, February 26, 2026
- 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- H.A. Kostash School
Smoky Lake, AB

— What to Expect —

- Meet the teachers
- Program information
- Early learning and kindergarten overview
- Registration details
- Class dates and schedules

We would love to meet you and answer your questions!

For more information:
Call: 780-656-3820
Visit: hak.aspenview.org



One of the lucky winners! A Redwater Rush player shows off his fuel gift card from NWR Sturgeon Refinery at the U15 Rush Tournament, January 31. **Redwater Minor Hockey photo**

SCHOOL NEWS

H.A. Kostash Grade five class explores states of matter with oobleck



Grade five students at H.A. Kostash School in Smoky Lake mixed science and fun while making oobleck during a hands-on science class exploring states of matter.

H.A. Kostash School photo

SMALL ADS BIG REACH Classified Word Ads require Payment with Order. Low cost - high circulation. Your ad will also run free in the Morinville Free Press. Up to 25 words: \$15.00 per week, GST included. Additional words: 50c/ each. Deadline: Thursday 2:00 p.m. Phone 780-222-2016 E-mail: redwaterreview@gmail.com

Announcements

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Employment Opportunity

THE LAKESIDE LEADER is hiring an editor, for a full-time position in Slave Lake. Salary \$55,000 per year. Email resume, cover letter and samples of writing and photography to spnproduction@hotmail.com.

For Sale

Small home for sale in Thorhild, large yard, carport,

quality renovation, main floor bedroom, quartz countertops, new doors, windows, shingles, ceiling insulation, large 20x14 deck, basement with half bath, laundry area, cold room and bedroom. Price \$132,400 Phone or text Lil: 780-283-2343

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Continued from page 7

stewardship.

Visually, the film combines amazing aerial and on-the-water cinematography with archival footage and personal stories. Its narrative is driven by a mix of expert commentary and first-person accounts, creating a vivid

and personal portrait of the river's past, present, and future. The film's impact goes beyond education, serving as a call to action that encourages viewers to reflect on their relationship with natural waterways and consider the responsibilities of stewardship for future generations. A River Runs Through

Us provides a comprehensive exploration of the North Saskatchewan River's legacy and ongoing significance, underscoring how rivers are more than just natural features, they are lifelines that connect people, history, and the environment. For more upcoming screenings visit nswa.ab.ca.

Continued from page 1

Development Coordinator Community Futures North Central Alberta offers Adulting 101 classes on a variety of additional topics, including money management, borrowing, credit, and credit cards in addition to the wide range of adult programming and entrepreneurial development workshops tailored to community and organizational needs.

Community Futures North Central Alberta delivers a range of youth-focused programs that foster

entrepreneurship and business acumen. These initiatives include workshops and seminars designed to build business skills, entrepreneurial thinking, and financial literacy for high school and post-secondary students. The organization also offers youth business loans—specialized financial products for young entrepreneurs, typically aged 18 to 39, who are seeking to launch or expand a business. The Community Futures North Central Alberta website states, "It is our mission to ensure that everyone

in our region has an equal chance to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become a small business owner. We achieve this by offering a variety of programs tailored for both adults and youth." The organization collaborates with a broad scope of partners to deliver entrepreneurship curriculum. For more information or to view upcoming events, visit: <https://communityfuturesnorthcentral.com/news-events/upcoming-events>. To book a class or learn more, contact meadow@albertacf.com.

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Borrowing Bylaw 1702/26 Power Resiliency Program

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 **1702/26** which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of said County to borrow monies from the Province of Alberta, or another authorized financial institution, to pay for the cost of the development of the Power Resiliency Program.

The total cost of the aforesaid project amounts to **\$2,600,000. A total of \$1,300,000** 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 1702/26 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. and 4:30 p.m. in the office of the Legislative Services Officer, Sturgeon County, 9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta.

Questions?
 Financial Services 780-939-4321
 TreasuryFinancialPlanning@sturgeoncounty.ca
 www.sturgeoncounty.ca



Borrowing Bylaw 1703/26 Pave Range Road 251 from Highway 37 to Carbondale Road

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 **1703/26** which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of said County to borrow monies from the Province of Alberta, or another authorized financial institution, to pay for the cost of the paving of Range Road 251 from Highway 37 to Carbondale Road.

The total cost of the aforesaid project amounts to **\$8,000,000. A total of \$7,200,000** 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 1703/26 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. and 4:30 p.m. in the office of the Legislative Services Officer, Sturgeon County, 9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta.

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