

Serving: Carvel, Darwell, Drayton Valley, Duffield, Entwistle, Evansburg, Fallis, Gainford, Parkland County, Seba Beach, Tomahawk, Wabamun, Wildwood, Spruce Grove and Stony Plain.

## March 16, 2021

## **GRACELIFE CHURCH UPDATE**

## Submitted by Parkland RCMP

#### Update 6

Last week, on March 4, the legal counsel for GraceLife Church was served with a Summons to attend Stony Plain Provincial Court on May 5, 2021. GraceLife Church was charged as an entity for exceeding the 15% allowable capacity for the services held on Feb. 21 and Feb 28., 2021, contrary to section 73(1) of the Public Health Act.

The Parkland RCMP supported the AHS investigation at GraceLife Church this past Sunday. The Church was non compliant with the Public Health Order in that it was over the allowed capacity. The RCMP members were present for public safety and to support AHS, and did not go inside the church.

Investigation continues into the church by AHS and supported by the Parkland RCMP. These charges are now before the court and further comments will not be available.



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## FARMCASH OPENS SPRING ADVANCE APPLICATION WITH NEW FEATURES

#### Submitted by Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions

March 15, 2021 (Calgary, Alberta) – Starting today, for the first time in its history, FarmCash is accepting spring advance applications from all western Canadian producers. This announcement follows the multi-provincial expansion of the FarmCash program made public on February 17, 2021. While funds cannot be released until the official Advance Payments Program open date on April 1, producers can complete their online application today and explore new account features including a designated FarmCash account manager and an online account dashboard. These features provide a cash advance experience tailored to the unique needs of agriculture producers.

Western Canadian producers of over 50 agriculture commodities including crops, livestock and honey, can apply for up to \$1 million with the first \$100,000 interest-free and the remaining balance at a competitive interest rate of TD prime minus 0.75 per cent.

"The uptake of Farm-Cash as a business management tool continues to grow and we are excited to open up the enhanced program to producers in additional provinces," says Todd Hames, Alberta Wheat Commission chair.

**Continued on Page 4** 



March 16, 2021



## YELLOWHEAD COUNTY **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

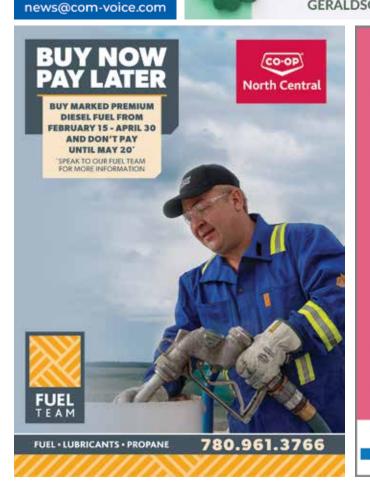
Submitted by Yellowhead County

Public Hearing Bylaw 05.21 - A public hearing was held for the Edson West Area Structure Plan (Bylaw 05.21). This is a joint plan between Yellowhead County and the Town of Edson that provides a framework for future redistricting, subdivisions, and land development in Edson and Yellowhead County.

**Continued on Page 7** 



Gerald ROKAMP YELLOWHEAD 780-723-6068 GERALD.SOROKA.C1@PARL.GC.CA **GERALDSOROKAMP.CA** 



A screening mammogram is the best way to find breast cancer early. And it can truly save your life.



The SCREEN TEST mobile mammography unit will be in

Evansburg March 30 to April 1, 2021

Appointments are required. Please call 1-800-667-0604 (toll free) screeningforlife.ca

Due to COVID-19, Screen Test is taking a number of precautions to ensure the safety of our clients and staff. Details will be shared when you call to book your appointment.







#### Screen Test

Community**VOICE** Page 3

## March 16, 2021 DRUG TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN AN ARREST

## Submitted by Parkland RCMP

Drayton Valley, Alta. -The Parkland RCMP Drug Unit initiated an investigation of a suspect believed to be trafficking prohibited substances. With assistance from the Drayton Valley RCMP GIS section, the Parkland RCMP Drug Unit gathered intelligence and obtained search warrants. On Feb. 18, 2021, the Parkland RCMP Drug Unit, with the assistance of the Parkland RCMP Crime Reduction Unit executed two search warrants in Dravton Valley after concluding their investigation. Drayton Valley RCMP assisted with the arrest and took custody of the suspect.

Tyson Niles (33) of Stony Plain, Alta. was arrested and charged with:

Possession for the purpose of trafficking fentanyl
Possession for the purpose

pose of trafficking methamphetamine

• Possession of property obtained by crime

As a result of the arrest and search warrants, the following was located:

• 23.3 grams of Fentanyl,

equivalent to approximately 233 doses sold at street level (unless uncut – pure Fentanyl at 23.3 grams would be 23,300 doses)

• 26.8 grams of Methamphetamine, equivalent to 268 doses sold at street level

• \$4870.00 in Canadian Currency

Stolen Honda generator

Tyson Niles was held for a bail hearing before being released. He is scheduled to appear on March 16, 2021 in Drayton Valley Provincial Court.

Our community's safety and well-being is Parkland RCMP's priority. We are attacking drug trafficking at the street level in an effort to stop the flow of drugs into our communities. The RCMP's role in relation to drugs isn't simply one of law enforcement. We also work with our partners and our communities to reduce demand for such substances through prevention and awareness.

By keeping drugs off our streets and out of our communities, we're helping prevent addiction and criminal behaviour.

JOKE of the week

A ventriloquist is telling Irish jokes in Davy Byrne's pub in Grafton Street, Dublin, when, O'Leary, an irate Irishman stands up shouting, 'You're making out we're all dumb and stupid. I oughtta punch you in the nose.'

> 'I'm sorry sir, I......' 'Not you,' says O'Leary, 'I'm talking to

that little fella on your knee.'

#### PUBLIC NOTICE JACQUELINE KNICKLE WATER ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is given that **Jacqueline Knickle** has filed an application under the provisions of the Water Act for an Approval for shoreline erosion protection activities. The construction will be to gently regrade the current bank using hand tools and a small skid steer and to install washed layered vegetated rip rap with biodegradable geotextile fabric along the bank adjacent to their property located at SW 14-053-05-W5, (Fallis) Wabamun Lake.

Any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within 7 days of the date of this notice to:

Environment and Parks Regulatory Approvals Centre 5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza 9915 108 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G8 Phone: 780-427-6311 Fax: 780-422-0154 Email: aep.waapplications@gov.ab.ca

The written statement of concern should include the following:

- Quote the OneStop application number: 5055659 (EMS Application 001-00472679)
- describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Water Act
- explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activity and/or diversion of water proposed in the application
- provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable
- state the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application
- contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer. Please provide the telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact.

Environment and Parks will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and notify each filer by letter of the decision to accept or reject their written submission as a valid statement of concern. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department's website at

https://avw.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx.

Please quote One Stop file number: 5055659

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

Aaron Beard Property Heroes 2249 Kaufman Way NW Edmonton AB T6L 7E1 Phone: 780-695-3625 Email: propheroes@gmail.com

### PUBLIC NOTICE CANADIAN CARMELITE CHARITABLE SOCIETY INC.

### WATER ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is given that **Canadian Carmelite Charitable Society Inc.** has filed an application under the provisions of the Water Act for a Licence for the diversion of up to 6,355 cubic metres per year for the purpose(s) of Municipal (institutional) from a well located at Lot A Plan 4059TR (NW 27-053-01-W5) with the production interval of 61.9 metres to 69.5 metres.

Any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

Environment and Parks Regulatory Approvals Centre 5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza 9915 108 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G8 Phone: 780-427-6311 Fax: 780-422-0154 Email: aep.waapplications@gov.ab.ca

The written statement of concern should include the following:

- the application number: 001-00469305
- describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Water Act
- explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activity and/or diversion of water proposed in the application
- provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable
- state the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application
- contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer. Please provide the telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact.

Environment and Parks will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and notify each filer by letter of the decision to accept or reject their written submission as a valid statement of concern. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department's website at

#### https://avw.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx.

Please quote One Stop file number: 00469305

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

Andrea McMillan Tetra Tech Canada Inc. Phone: 587-830-1121 Email: andrea.mcmillan@tetratech.com

## FarmCash Opens Spring Advance Application with New Features

#### **Continued from Page 1**

"Because of the knowledgeable customer service team and excitement for FarmCash within the industry, producers are becoming increasingly aware of its year-round uses including mitigating the risk of unexpected weather or operational bills during the growing season."

The new online account dashboard will provide producers with their current account information at-a-glance, and the designated account manager system will give customers an enhanced and personalized experience.

"FarmCash is committed to constantly improving the program experience for our customers," says Syeda Khurram, chief operating officer of FarmCash. "Producers have questions on how FarmCash can improve the long-term profitability of their operation and we continue to take a leadership role in educating producers on the Advance Payments Program offered by the federal government."

FarmCash features that producers have come to rely on will continue to be provided, such as the convenient online application and quick application turnaround times with access to funds in as little as three to five business days.

Producers can learn more about the benefits of Farm-Cash and apply online at FarmCashAdvance.com or call 1-855-376-2274 to speak with a FarmCash representative.

The Advance Payments Program is a federal loan program administered by the Alberta Wheat Commission. It offers Canadian farmers marketing flexibility through interest-free and low interest cash advances.

#### Become a Champion in your community!

Make a Difference while making Community Connections in support of your local library Be an Advocate and Celebrate the People and Organizations in your community



Champions of the Parkland County Libraries Society for information on how to register contact Kathy Gardiner, Library Director kgardiner@pclibraries.ca



parkland county libraries Parkland County Libraries Duffield, Entwistle, Keephills, Tomahawk, Wabamun Parkland County, Alberta T7Z 1X6 | 780-731-3725 www.pclibraries.ca

Community**VOICE** Page 5

## DEVON GENERAL HOSPITAL EXTENDS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT HOURS

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

#### Submitted by Alberta Health Services

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

to 10 p.m. daily. The DGH ED reopened with limited phase one hours on Aug 18, 2020. It had been temporary closed on April 20, 2020 as part of Alberta Health Services' COVID-19 response. The closure was implemented to help protect long-term-care residents at the hospital, who are at heightened risk for severe illness if exposed to COVID-19.

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

AHS will continue to monitor patient volumes and acuity regularly to determine when the hospital's ED can resume 24-hour service. Until then, local residents seeking after-hours emergency care are advised to visit the Leduc Community Hospital or the Westview Health Centre in Stony Plain.

All patients requiring immediate medical care should phone 911.

Individuals requiring non-emergency medical care continue to be encouraged to call their family physician. To speak to a nurse and receive telephone advice and health information, families can also contact Health Link 24/7 by dialing 811.

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

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

# With you every step of the way

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



Find COVID-19 support alberta.ca/LivesAndLivelihoods

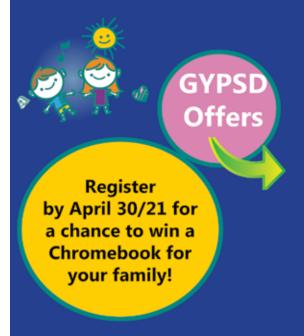
Albertan





## Let's Get Ready to Learn!

## It's Time to Register for Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten



- Certificated teacher specialized in reading and numeracy instruction
- Play-based, innovative learning
- Early literacy
- Creative and cultural expression
- Early intervention supports and resources

## Online Registration is now open - spaces for JK and Kinder programs for September 2021 are limited so don't wait to register!

Niton Central School English Programs Junior Kindergarten to Grade 9 nitoncentralschool.gypsd.ca 780-795-3782

### Wildwood School

English Programs Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 wildwoodschool.gypsd.ca 780-325-3858

#### Evansview Elementary English Programs Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 evansviewschool.gypsd.ca 780-727-3623

VISIT THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR A VIRTUAL TOUR Find out more at www.gypsd.ca

## March 16, 2021 Community VOICE Page 7 YELLOWHEAD COUNTY HIRES NEW CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

#### Submitted by Yellowhead County

Yellowhead County, AB (February 16, 2021) – After an extensive search, Yellowhead County will be hiring Luc Mercier as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Mercier will be replacing Jack Ramme, who is retiring after 18 years of service for Yellowhead County. "This was not an effortless process," said Mayor Jim Eglinski. "As a council, when we set out to recruit administrative leadership for this region, we look for the right mix of management experience and passion to guide our staff in serving residents and stakeholders. Luc Mercier, as our new CAO, is certainly part of our goal to build a better community for present and future generations."

Mercier comes with over 30 years of municipal experience, 19 of which have been as CAO. After spending the last two and half years as the CAO for the Municipal District of Bonnyville, Mercier says he's excited to be back in western Alberta, where he and his wife have lived for over 24 years. "I am thrilled at the opportunity to work with the dedicated council, staff, and residents of Yellowhead County and look forward to many years' service to the region," said Mercier.

Mercier will begin the position at the beginning of April.

## Yellowhead County Council Highlights

#### Continued from Page 2

The properties in this area are a mix of estate residential, natural areas, rural industrial, and business commercial/light industrial. No concerns were brought forward from members of the public during the hearing.

Appointment of New

County CAO - Council appointed Luc Mercier to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) position for Yellowhead County. Mercier, who will start on April 5, 2021, has over 30 years of municipal experience that includes 19 years as a CAO for several municipalities.

Regional Waste Authority

Budget – The 2021 operating and capital budget for the West Yellowhead Regional Waste Management Authority was adopted by Council. The regional landfill authority includes the municipalities of Hinton, Edson, Jasper, and Yellowhead County. The budget was reviewed and recommended by the regional landfill authority and is presented to all four councils for its formal adoption.

The next Council Meeting is March 23 at 9:30 AM.

The next scheduled Governance and Priorities meeting is March 18 at 9:30 AM.

## **GYPSD** is an Official HOME EDUCATION Provider

Home Education provides parents freedom and flexibility to design and implement their child's learning program.

Parent led curriculum, activities, resources, and assessment methods with access to specialized programs or option courses at local GYPSD schools as enrichment to their Home Education plan.

Up to \$1,000 in resources and materials may be available to support each annual Home Education program.

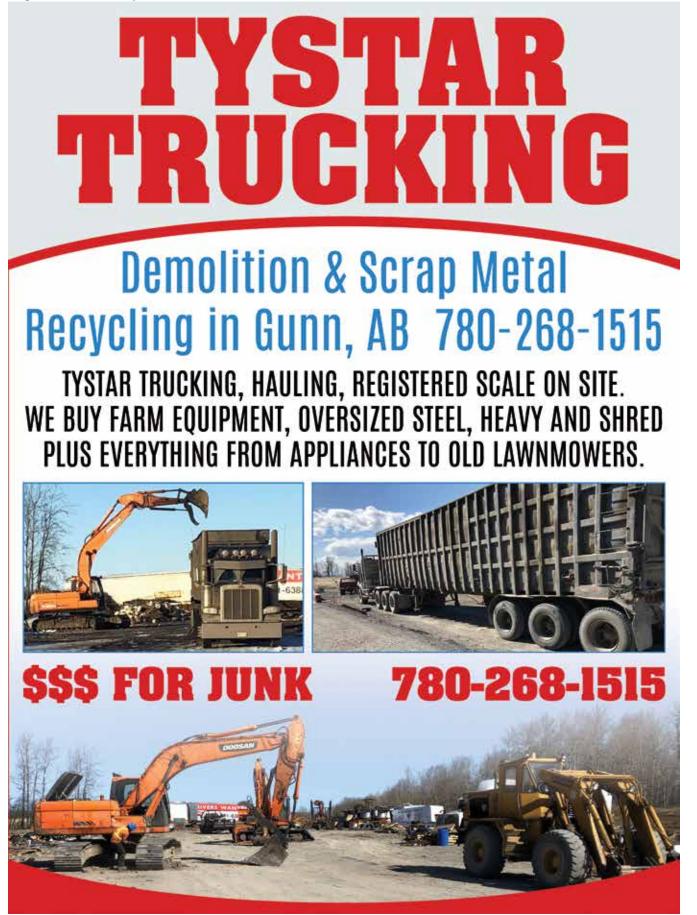
A certificated teacher to offer assistance and advice to parents all year.

#### Don't wait to learn more - we are ready for you!

For information and to Register: Carra Aschenmeier, Managing Director of Learning Services email: carrasch@gypsd.ca or call 780.723.4471

Hubir school Dysion www.gypsd.ca facebook.com/gypsd





## March 16, 2021 CommunityVOICE Page 9 PROPOSED GREEN AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY BUILDINGS PROGRAM

## Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, wishes to advise that Infrastructure Canada will be providing up to \$1.5 billion in federal funding for community buildings that will support retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public buildings and the construction of new public buildings that serve communities across Canada. This initiative will also support economic growth and job creation and building more inclusive communities where all Canadians have opportunities to thrive.

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

Provincial, territorial and local governments, not-for-

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

## WELLNESS FOCUSED WORKSHOPS EMPOWER AND SUPPORT STUDENTS

Submitted by GYPSD

Last month, while GYPSD teachers attended their annual conference on February 4th and 5th, students in Grades 3 to 8 across the Division had an opportunity to continue to learn and support their own personal wellness.

Lisa Beckstead, GYPSD's Success Coach with the BEST Program (Bringing Empowered Students Together), hosted a virtual Wellness Workshop. The two days were broken up into two parts sessions: day one for students in Grades 3-5 and day two for students in Grades 6-8. The workshop consisted of a variety of topics, activities and even a creative art component.

Students learned about respect for themselves, others and their own community, building and understanding empathy, learning how inclusivity works within social situations, and learning the value of not only being courageous but also being courageous to be themselves. Check out GYPSD's website for the many supports available for students and families.





## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WEST PARKLAND GAS CO-OP LTD. HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CO-OP OFFICE/SHOP COMPLEX. DOORS WILL OPEN AT 6:30PM 52521 GLORY HILLS ROAD, STONY PLAIN, AB. (1/2 Mile South of Highway 16A on Range Road 11)

Please accept this notice as your invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting of West Parkland Gas Co-op Ltd.

Considering the current COVID-19 situation, the AGM will be limited to mandatory business only (approval of financials, appointment of auditor, and election of directors only). Members will be required to depart immediately after the official business is concluded. A detailed written report will be available to members on request approximately a week prior to the AGM.

There are three director positions open for election this year. Incumbents are eligible for re-election. If you would like more information, please contact:

Mr. Dan Tomkins (780) 893-6010 or

Mrs. Cheryl Dawes (587) 989-0127

### COVID-19 NOTICE:

Attendance at the AGM may create a risk of contracting COVID-19. Members with underlying health conditions are strongly urged not to attend the AGM. Attendance at the AGM is not mandatory for members. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, with a history of international travel in the prior 14 days, or with close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the prior 14 days are prohibited from attendance and will not be admitted. 2 meters of distance must be maintained between members of different households, and masks and hand sanitization upon entry are mandatory. Attendees voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.

## RURAL MUNICIPALITIES CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE AS UNPAID TAX AMOUNTS OWED BY OIL AND GAS COMPANIES INCREASE

#### Submitted by Rural Municipalities of Alberta

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) has conducted a member survey identifying that approximately \$245 million in property taxes currently owed to rural municipalities by oil and gas companies have gone unpaid. This continues the now multi-year trend of this issue worsening, as a similar survey conducted in early 2020 showed unpaid amounts at an estimated \$173 million, and a 2019 survey estimated the amount at \$81 million. The latest survey shows a 42% increase in unpaid tax amounts compared to 2020, and a 203% increase from 2019. The \$245 million amount is based on a 100% response rate to the survey from all 69 RMA members.

Non-payment of property taxes by some oil and gas companies is an ongoing and increasingly urgent threat to the ability of rural municipalities to provide the core infrastructure and services that the oil and gas industry relies on to access natural resources. RMA members manage over 70% of Alberta's roads and 60% of Alberta's bridges, and the revenue needed to manage this critical transportation network is almost entirely derived from property taxes. If municipalities are unable to depend on taxes being paid, they may be unable to manage roads and bridges at a



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the requirements of Section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, as amended, the Council of Parkland County has scheduled a **Public Hearing** regarding the proposed adoption of **Bylaw 2021-04**:

Date: April 13, 2021	Time: <b>9:30 am</b>	The Public Hearing will be held via Zoom electronic meeting platform.					
		Virtually participate in the Public Hearing! For instructions, visit <u>www.parklandcounty.com/participate</u> .					

#### Proposed Bylaw 2021-04: Mini Storage

Parkland County has seen increased regional demand for enclosed storage opportunities, such as self-storage for personal and household goods or storage for recreational vehicles, boats and personal vehicles. Currently, the County's Land Use Bylaw 2017-18 does not specifically address this type of use. To address this gap, Bylaw 2021-04 will add "Mini Storage" as a new use class and definition to the Land Use Bylaw and will outline new specific use regulations and fundamental use provisions to ensure land use compatibility.

#### **Hearing Procedure**

This is a formal Public Hearing and Council is prepared to hear and receive formal submissions and presentations (verbal or written) from those who wish to speak to the proposed Bylaw. Written submissions or presentations may either be submitted in advance to Planning & Development by 4:00 p.m. on March 31, 2021, or submitted at the commencement of the Public Hearing on April 13, 2021.

Anyone wishing to make a verbal presentation to Council must notify Planning & Development Services in advance of the Public Hearing by 4:00 p.m., on March 31, 2021. Verbal presentations at the Public Hearing will be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes. Please register at <a href="http://www.parklandcounty.com/participate">www.parklandcounty.com/participate</a> to speak. Council advises that this is your last opportunity to comment on the proposed Bylaw as Council is unable to receive further submissions after the Public Hearing is closed.

#### **Copies of Proposed Bylaw**

Copies of the proposed Bylaw are available free of charge by email or by making an appointment to visit Parkland County Centre during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday). If you have any questions related to this Bylaw, please email <u>Rachelle.Trovato@parklandcounty.com</u>.

The personal information you provide will be used for the purpose of the items described above and is collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. If you have any questions about the collection, use, and disclosure of this information, please contact the FOIP Coordinator at Parkland County, 53109A HWY 779, Parkland County, Alberta T7Z 1R1 (780-968-3229) or email foip@parklandcounty.com

level required by the oil and gas and other industries.

"The fact that every rural municipality in the province took the time to complete this survey speaks to the anxiety and frustration that rural leaders are facing on this unpaid tax issue. In some municipalities, unpaid tax amounts are so high that service levels are being reduced, municipal staff are being laid off, and serious discussions are occurring about whether the municipalities can continue to function." – Paul McLauchlin, RMA President

While municipalities can take action to recover unpaid taxes on most residential and commercial properties, the oil and gas industry is subject to a legislative loophole that does not allow municipalities to place special liens or use other tax recovery tools on linear property. This puts rural municipalities in a powerless position to enforce the payment of property taxes on oil and gas companies and has made recovering unpaid taxes from both operational and non-operational companies extremely difficult. According to the member survey results, approximately 57% of unpaid taxes are the responsibilities of companies that continue to operate.

"As a homeowner, I am responsible for paying my property taxes or facing stiff penalties. Small business owners across the province are expected to pay property taxes regardless of the profitability of their business,' McLauchlin said. "There is no reason why oil and gas companies should have an option to pay property taxes and face no consequences if they choose not to. Not only does this non-payment impact municipalities providing the infrastructure that those companies use every day, but it is also disrespectful to everv other homeowner and small business in the municipality who will see their taxes increase or their service levels decrease due to the irresponsibility of some oil and gas companies."

Although this issue continues to become more serious, there are actions that could be taken by the Government of Alberta. The most straightforward provincial solution would be to amend the process through

#### Community**VOICE** March 16, 2021 Page 11 **Rural Municipalities Continue to Struggle as Unpaid Tax** Amounts Owed by Oil and Gas Companies Increase

which the Alberta Energy Regulator approves the acquisition and transfer of energy licences and approvals. The current approval process uses a variety of financial criteria to determine whether an energy company has the fiscal capacity to take on additional licences. However, the process does not consider whether the acquiring company has outstanding municipal property taxes, a condition that could easily be added. The province could also amend the Municipal Government Act to clearly state that municipalities may use tax recovery powers available for other property types to address non-payment oil and gas property taxes. The province could also choose to no longer require municipalities to provide education property tax funds to the province on properties for which taxes are uncollectible. Under the current model, not only are municipalities not able to recover unpaid oil and gas property taxes, they are actually on the hook for forwarding a portion to the province, even if they are unable to collect it from the property owner. Unfortunately, the province has yet to take any action, despite repeatedly indicating that they take the issue seriously over the past several years.

McLauchlin said, "We appreciate that this is a complex issue, and that the province needs to thoroughly evaluate the options available. However, action is needed now. RMA and its members are willing to work with the province and the oil and gas industry to develop tools and incentives to lessen the property tax burden on industry during these difficult economic times. However, constructive dialogue will not take place while the oil and gas industry continues to take advantage of municipalities through the non-payment of property taxes, and the province stands by and does nothing. Let's have a conversation about how municipalities, industry, and the province can work together to support one another, rather than continue to let some companies take advantage of legislative loopholes.'

It is important to note that while this is a province-wide issue, most oil and gas companies pay taxes on time, or work with the municipality to develop an agreement to defer taxes or pay

through installments. Many rural municipalities have recognized the issues facing the industry in recent years and have extended payment deadlines and reduced penalties for late payments. However, some companies still prefer to simply avoid paying property taxes, regardless of the impacts on the municipality and other property owners.

"Rural municipalities and the oil and gas industry have a long history of supporting one another to grow Alberta's econ-

omy and create vibrant rural communities," said McLauchlin. "Now that times are tough for the industry, that partnership is needed more than ever. We understand that those not paying taxes do not represent the entire industry, and most companies understand the important role municipal service and infrastructure play in the industry's success. We need to address this issue, ensure that oil and gas companies pay taxes the same as everyone else, and move forward on how to build strong rural industries and communities.'

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) is an independent association comprising Alberta's 69 counties and municipal districts. Since 1909, the RMA has helped rural municipalities achieve strong, effective local government. The RMA provides Advocacy and Business Services (including RMA Trade, RMA Fuel, RMA Insurance, and RMA Benefits).



www.ValentusTour.com/Ladybug

SPRING 2021

Map out the best way to navigate spring driving with our guide that is fully loaded with helpful features for today's drivers. It's your one-stop resource for information, advice and valuable local advertising geared toward all things automotive!



## **STOCK UP ON VEHICLE BREAKDOWN SUPPLIES**

Unforeseen situations can crop up at any time. Anyone who has had a roadside breakdown in their car understands this. A flat tire or an engine malfunction is something no driver wants to experience, but those with a well-stocked vehicle emergency kit and breakdown strategy can get through most situations rather easily. A 2017 survey from AAA found that 40 percent of drivers in the United States are not ready to handle a typical roadside emergency breakdown. The organization estimates it helps some seven million motorists get back on the road each summer. A well-equipped roadside emergency kit may help drivers get their vehicles back on the road on their own.

· First aid kit: The first aid kit

will celebrate its 133rd birthday in 2021. The Johnson & Johnson company began commercializing first aid kits in 1888. Having a first aid kit in the car to treat minor injuries can be helpful in the event of an accident or even after injuring oneself during a breakdown.

• Fire extinguisher: Cars are full of various mechanical parts and are susceptible to catching on fire. The National Fire Protection Association says vehicle fire extinguishers need to be rated for Class B and C fires.

· Jumper cables: A weak or dead battery is often the culprit in breakdowns. Jumper cables enable drivers to get a charge from another motorist, and may help get a person back on the road quickly. If possible, get a set of cables that also comes with safety gloves and heavy duty clamps, offers Defensive Driving Online, a defensive driving course.

• Mobile phone/charger: A mobile phone is essential for calling for assistance, but the phone is only useful if it's charged.

· Blanket: Keep a blanket in the trunk or another storage area. Should the vehicle die in cold weather, that blanket can help keep passengers warm until assistance arrives.

· Basic tools: Tools like a screwdriver, ratchet set and wrench may enable drivers to complete minor repairs. Tools also should include tire-changing gear, such as a jack and lug nut remover.

· Traction aid: Non-clumping kitty litter or sand can provide the traction needed to get off of a slippery area of roadway.

• Flashlight: A flashlight can help keep you visible and able to see your surroundings in dark conditions.

· Flares: Should a breakdown occur in the dark, flares can alert other drivers.

· Snacks and water: Water and food that stores well, such as emergency rations, granola bars or trail mix, can quell hunger pangs and provide an energy boost while waiting for help.

· Rope/bungee cords/tarp: These items can be used in various situations to secure a vehicle.

While drivers can gather these items separately, many companies offer all-in-one vehicle emergency kits. A safety kit is essential for all drivers.





## **GROVE COLLISION REPAIRS LTD. EARNS OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION**

#### Submitted by Assured Performance

Grove Collision Repairs Ltd. has been officially Certified by Certified Collision Care, a non-profit consumer advocacy organization for maintaining the right tools, equipment, training, and facilities necessary to repair the participating Automaker brand vehicles according to the manufacturer's specifications. In achieving their Certification, Grove Collision Repairs Ltd. is now an integral part of the most

advanced repair capable and efficient collision repair Network in the world. Adding to their credentials, Grove Collision Repairs Ltd. is officially Certified by Certified Collision Care, Fiat Chrysler, Kia, and Nissan.

To become Certified by the various Automakers, Grove Collision Repairs Ltd. passed the rigorous Certification process essential to help ensure a proper and safe repair of the new generation of advanced vehicles. Less than 5% of body shops across the nation are able to meet the stringent requirements to become officially Certified and recognized. The Certified Network is made up exclusively of best-in-class collision repair businesses that have met or exceeded the strict requirements of the Certification program.

According to Grove Collision Repairs Ltd. President, Keith Robin, "Our business has been built on a foundation of excellence and ethical business practices. We strive to provide the highest-quality repair for our customers. Our state-of-the-art facility and certified technicians give us the ability to achieve this Certified status."

The Certification criteria are based upon auto manufacturer requirements. These are critical to ensure the vehicle fit, finish, durability, value and safety following an accident. As new model vehicles are being introduced that use lightweight high strength materials and advanced technology, a proper repair according to manufacturer specification is even more im-





## Grove Collision Repairs Ltd. Earns Official Certification

portant to ensure the passenger safety and proper performance of the vehicle. Auto manufacturers want to ensure that consumers have the option of Certified Collision Repair wherever they live, work, or travel.

"Consumers need the confidence and peace of mind to know their vehicle is being repaired by a shop that has what it takes to ensure the vehicle's safety. Grove Collision Repairs Ltd. is officially a Collision Care Provider™," explained Scott Biggs, CEO of Assured Perfor-



mance Collision Care™. "They represent the standard by which all other body shops are measured."

About Certified Collision Care:

Certified Collision Care is the Canadian division of Assured Performance Network, the largest network of OEM Certified repair providers in the world. The Assured Performance Network has had over 3500 Collision Care Providers participating and administers the OEM Certification Programs for Ford, Fiat Chrysler, Kia, Nissan, INFINITI, Toyota, Lexus, Honda and Acura ProFirst. Visit www. certifiedcollisioncare.ca for more information or www.autobodylocator.ca to find a certified facility in your area.





## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CAR FROM SUN DAMAGE

People know to protect their skin and eyes from the sun. Sun exposure can be dangerous for the body, but the sun's rays also can damage automobiles.

Leaving a vehicle exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time increases the risk of damage to its interior and exterior. It's important that car and truck owners recognize this so they can mitigate the potential problems sun and heat may cause. Testing conducted at the State Farm® Vehicle Research Facility found interior vehicle air temperatures have been recorded well in excess of 145 F. Interior surfaces exposed to direct sunlight have been recorded at temperatures in excess of 195 F.

The automotive repair service Fix Auto says the sun's ultraviolet rays can cause the vehicle's paint to peel and fade over time. UV rays break down the molecules in the paint and make it appear dull. The company says red paint is particularly susceptible because red paint molecules deteriorate faster in the sun than other paint colors.

To prevent potential

sun-related damage, take these precautions.

Avoid direct sunlight. Park in the shade as much as possible.

Crack a window. If it is safe to do so, lower interior air temperature and equalize air pressure by opening up car windows a little.

Use a windshield protector. Reflect sunlight away and keep the vehicle cool with a windshield sun protector that unfolds and slides into place.

Use a protectant wax. A layer of wax can offer another layer of protection against the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Wash the car frequently. Washing and hand-drying the vehicle helps to remove dirt and other debris which can cause micro-scratches in the paint.

Install seat covers. Seat covers can protect leather and fabric upholstery. A leather conditioner can help prevent cracks and tears from sunlight and heat.

These easy steps are simple preventative measures that protect vehicles against sun damage.







Page 18 CommunityVOICE March 16, 2021 RELIEF FOR WORKING PARENTS

#### Submitted by Government of Alberta

Alberta parents who use child care will receive \$561 per child with the new Working Parents Benefit, a one-time payment to help parents with the cost of child care.

The Working Parents Benefit will see \$108 million go to families that used child care – including licensed or unlicensed daycare, day homes, out-of-school care, or preschool – from April to December of 2020.

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

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



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- Help Regulate Blood Sugar
- Improve Mood & Focus
- Boosts Circulation & Oxygen delivery



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

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

• Children in any form of child care, including licensed or unlicensed child care.

• A household annual income of \$100,000 or less.

• Paid for three months of child care between April 1 and Dec. 31, 2020 (must provide receipts).

A MyAlberta Digital ID is needed to apply for the benefit. Sign up for your MyAlberta Digital ID.

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

Quick facts

• Families can apply starting March 1 to March 5, and applications will be open by region to manage volume.

• This \$108 million of unspent funds from Children's Services will be redirected under the Working Parents Benefit to support the families of up to 192,000 children.

• As of Feb. 12:

- 96 per cent of daycares, preschools and out-ofschool care programs (2,739 programs) are open.

- Four per cent of programs (102 programs) are not open.

- The 2,739 open programs have 115,285 spaces available. On average 58,003 children attended during the week, representing a 50 per cent enrolment rate.

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

## CALL (780) 907-8642 FOR YOUR FREE SAMPLE!

## Classified Ads - Call 962-9228

#### **Classified Policy**

CLASSIFIED RATES INCLUDE GST. 1st 20 Words: First Insertion = \$6.00; Subsequent insertion = \$3.00 each. (Eg: 2 insertions = \$9.00; 3 insertions = \$12.00; 4 insertions = \$15.00; etc) Each additional word is 20 cents per word, per insertion. BOLD/CAPITAL text available for an additional \$1/ line. Lost & Found and To Give Away (up to a max. of 25 words) are free of charge. Ads must be paid in advance either by cheque, cash, Visa or Mastercard. No Refunds Allowed on Classified Ads. DEADLINE: is Thurs. 4:00 pm (Wed. 4:00 pm on long weekends). Classified ads may be called in to the COMMUNITY VOICE office at (780) 962-9228, emailed classifieds@com-voice.com, to: dropped off at Onoway Registries, or mailed with your ad and payment to: COMMUNITY VOICE, BAG 3595, SPRUCE GROVE, AB T7X 3A8. Ads may also be placed on the web at www.com-voice.com/classified.htm

#### Hall Rentals

Bright Bank Hall, 780-968-6813

Camp Encounter, Vincent Mireau Camp Director. director@ campencounter.com. C: 780-504-2012 W: 780-967-2548

Cherhill Community Assoc. Hall, Kevin 780-785-8153

Darwell Centennial Hall, 780-892-3099

Darwell Seniors, Phone Debra 780-785-2907

Duffield Hall, 892-2425

Entwistle Community League Hall Rentals, Call Cheryl at 780-515-1755

Entwistle Senior's Drop In Centre, Barb 727-2108 or Glennis 727-4367 Mon-Fri

Evansburg Senior's Heritage House, Dennis 727-4186

Evansburg Legion, upper hall 250 people, 727-3879

Fallis Community Hall, 892-3150

Gunn Hall (G.A.R.S.) 780-951-9452

Keephills Hall, 731-3761

Lake Isle Community Hall, PH: 780-892-3121 or Email: lakeislehall@mail. com

Lake Romeo PeaVine Hall, 785-2700

Magnolia Hall, 727-2015

Manley Goodwill Community Hall, 963-9165 or 916-0146

Mayerthorpe Diamond Centre, 786-4044

Moon Lake Community Hall, Diane 780-514-4694

Park Court Hall, call or text Karyn 780-712-3918

Parkland Village Community Centre, 780-298-9155 @PVCCentre

Ravine Community Hall, 325-2391

Rich Valley Community Hall, 967-3696 or 967-5710

Rosenthal Community Hall, 963-7984 Smithfield Community Hall, Wanita 780-718-8824.

Tomahawk & District Sports Agra, Bookings: Kathy 780-339-3773

Wabamun Jubilee Hall, 892-2699.

Wildwood Community Hall, 325-2180 or 780-514-6105

Wildwood Rec Complex 325-2077 or 514-8944

Wildwood Senior's Hall 325-3787 or 325-2391

#### Computers

FREE COMPUTER CHECK UP - Repairs NOT over \$50. Get today good clean laptop for ONLY \$150. FREE repairs for single parents and NO income. Upgrades, Screens, Batteries, Parts. Save photos, documents from old computers. WANTED: old.

used, broken computers Will clear ALL data. Call 780-892-2407 (21) 23-02

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#### Anti-Aging Uses For Pure Hemp

Promotes more youthful skin, provides hydration, enhances radiance, lessens a as well as the appearance of dark spots. age lines

#### **KEY BENEFITS**

PAIN RELIEF: Known to reduce vomiting & nausea; suppress muscle spasms; reduce seizures & convulsions.

PROMOTES HEALTH: Helps to promote relaxation and overall health.

WELL-BEING: Helps to relieve anxiety, aid in digestion, supports optimal immune function and the regeneration of healthy cells.

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For more information, Call (780) 907-8642

## Classified Ads - Call 962-9228

#### Vehicles

2008 BMW 335i For Sale. 157,000 kms, Black on black, auto, Brand new tires & rims, Brand new serpentine belt(have receipts), Brand new spark plugs & ignition Power steering & coils. coolant flushed, No rips on seats (MINT), Car sits on

coilovers, Downpipes, Tail Q blow off valve, K&N cone air filters, Dinan MHD stage 1+ tune installed, Also a set of winter tires ready to go, Only ever used premium fuel, Car is in amazing condition for the year! \$ 10,900. No trades, no lowballers, serious inquiries only, Not in a rush to sell the vehicle, can only be viewed on week days after

4pm & weekends anytime, if u have any questions text or call 780-908-6659 (S) OG

#### **Buy & Sell**

I Buy Gun Collections, World War 2 collectibles, Call Jay Love for a quote 780-686-1350 Stony Plain (28) 03-11-20

#### Wanted

Wanted: Female dog, around 1 year old, Rottweiler, Husky, Sheppard, Black Lab, or a cross, for the farm. Call 780-785-2193 (2) 09-03

#### For Sale

House for Sale: 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, over 3.5 acres of land, bordering wildlife reserve, paved road to hwy, 15 mins West of Stony Plain, for inquiries 780-968-9266 (3) 09-03

#### For Rent

Completely renovated Motel in Onoway, AB. offering daily, weekly or monthly rentals. All utilities included, 55 inch tv with Satellite. Double bedrooms, furnished bachelors with full kitchen and furnished 1 bedrooms with full kitchen available. Starting at \$950 + tax. Please call for viewing, 780-967-4420 or 780-945-1723. www. onowayinnandsuites.com (4) 23-02 OG

House for Rent \$1400/month + utilities, or 1 Bdrm for Rent \$850/month + utilities, on acreage 15 mins West of Stony Plain, call 780-968-9266 for more info. (3) 09-03

Available, 2 Bdrm (\$825) in Entwistle Bldg. at 4932-50A Avenue, DD \$300. Tenant pays power, Smoke Free Bldg. Please call Ivanka 780-807-1300 (4) 16-03 OG

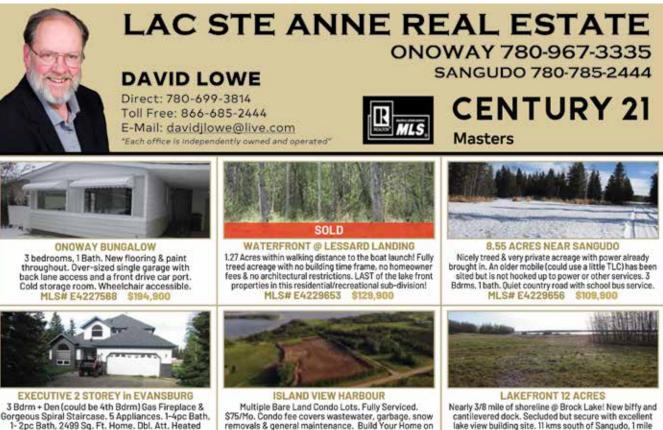
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March 16, 2021

#### Community**VOICE** Page 21



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 ANSWER:

to solve the puzzle!

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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hurch Directory 20 C 994 Seba Beach St. Augustine's Advent Roman St. Joseph's - Parkland Christian Catholic Lutheran Catholic Anglican Church Fellowship Church Church Church Sunday School 10:00a.m. Worship Service 11:00a.m Sunday Worship & Sunday School Sunday Service 10:00.... Eucharist with Sunday Sunday Mass trish, Mayer Sunday 9:00 AM 11:30am School & Nursery Weekdays Bible 11:00am 2. Elizabeth Parish, Evans Tuesday Mass All are Welcome Saturday 7:00pm Study & Praver 7:00p.m Office 780-962-5131 Evansburg (780) 305-3594 (780) 786-2032 Wabamun, AB 0: 727-3594 1. 1. -19 1 1 V 1 -5 W) St. Anthony's Parkland Word Church Stony Plain Immanuel **Baptist Church** Apocalyptic Era Ukrainian **United Church** Lutheran **Orthodox Church** Church of fer Pacing Athletic Cen Leintre Way, Somer C Sunday Service 10:30s.m Sunday Worship 5012-51 Ave. Stony Plain Rosenthal sure Way, Spruce 6 in the Wild Rose r Saturday: Service 10:30a.m. Mewassin Sunday Worship Ph: 780-962-7579 Vespers 5:00PM All Welcome United Church Sunday: Divine Service 9:30am Service starts at Sunday Service 9:00s. Rev. Heather Koots Liturgy 10:00AM 121 Brookwood Drive Sunday School 10:00 a.m. every 780.487.2167 (780) 962-4101 Hwy 627 - Rg Rd 30 Ph: 780-963-4745 Sunday morning www.parklandbaptist.co 780-963-4048 come all & be bless. ww.st-anthonys.ca 44 410 Calvary **Drayton Valley** All Saints' Church St. Anthony Emmaus Lutheran of God **Baptist Church** Alliance Anglican Catholic Church Pastoral Team: Church Church Church Worship Service Kenton Penner Pastor John Haazen Sunday Morning WEIKIND MASS Sunday Worship Sun. 11:00a.m. Join us for Sunday Worship 9 BCP SCHEDULE: Worship 10:30 Service 11:30am

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Sunday 12:00p.m.

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8-50 Ave. Drayton Valley

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March 16, 2021







"I had given up on losing weight but 11 days in I dropped enough lbs to fit into a favorite pair of jeans hanging in my closet for the last 5 years - and they are loose, Yeah!" - Kayla M.

5/4/2



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