Business opens just in time for COVID-19 crisis

Cobra Contracting Ltd. owner Justin Robertson is watching the economic impacts of COVID-19 day by day. Early this year he took the huge step of moving his business from his home to a storefront location on 50 Avenue in Redwater. He renovated the building and hired an administrator, Caitlin Rigney.

Robertson and his fiancée Brooke Warford planned a grand opening for March 15 right after the provincial government put social isolation measures into effect. Robertson said, “Every day we try and think of new ways to get through this. It’s definitely scary.”

He employs local people and is reluctant to lay anyone off. “We are doing as much as we can to stay,” Robertson said. “We like the people. My goal is to get everybody out here a better quality of life.”

His conference room, designed to allow clients to come in and virtually see renovation options (how a space will look with carpet, a new wall, or different paint) has space to host community organizations and maintain social distance while members plan resource sharing.

Robertson said that while the building has plenty of space, it’s important to Robertson. He and his eldest son, Micheal, moved from Montreal to the Redwater area in 2005. He is a former coach and president with Redwater Minor Soccer. He said, “We do enjoy the community.”

Robertson, “We like the people. My goal is to get everybody out here a better quality of life.”

He worked in construction for many years and as a safety officer. During the economic downturn about six years ago his work paid well, but was not consistent. With his construction background and Warford’s experience as a painter, they decided to open a business as painters.

They quickly learned that people needing painting done were often also looking for other services. “We realized people didn’t want to utilize seven different trades for a home renovation,” Robertson said. “They wanted one person to do it.” He did the non-tickering work and sub-contracted tradesmen for specialized work such as electrical. The problem was, he would work on site, then have no work while he submitted quotes for jobs.

“We had to eliminate the down time,” he said. “We had to figure out how to do the work and look for the next job at the same time.” He became more of a project manager, with staff for the smaller jobs while sub-contracting the other work to be done following his company’s policies. Doing that gave clients one point of contact to get their entire project done and provided consistently high-quality work.

“When you have a business like this, especially in a small area, you have to have consistency,” Robertson said. “I wanted to offer a service on par or better than what you can get from the city and employ our local people.”

Some of the benefits to clients are they do not have to pay for longer travel times and they are not relegated to the back burner behind city jobs. By using local materials Robertson helps local businesses grow and supports local workers.

He said it is good to see the support given by so many other people who are banding together and helping each other.

“I hope this very negative situation brings people together,” said Robertson, “I think if more people acted on a regular basis as they are during this COVID situation, the world would be pretty cool.”

Still, he worries about his business and his staff as the economy suffers under the COVID-19 pandemic. “I don’t know how long we can hang on for,” he said.
Local businesses were closing to protect both staff and clients before province ordered service businesses to close.

Jeanette Grumetza, owner of The Hairport salon in Redwater, had new practices in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and she was preparing to shut down.

As of March 27 the Redwater Barber Shop was closed until further notice. Sue’s Treasures in Redwater was closed last week. When asked if Redwater was considering doing as Edmonton did and shut down service businesses, mayor Mel Smith said, “Under the provincial guidelines they can’t be open. We are to be two meters apart. I honestly don’t know why people would want to put themselves in that position.”

Redwater town manager Larry Davidson said, other than bars, the province currently had not forced any business to close. “The reality, however, is that if a business cannot maintain the six foot social distancing requirements, they need to close,” Davidson said March 27. “I have spoken with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) this morning, and there was a suggestion further measures may be forthcoming.” He explained that Edmonton is physically closing businesses because the city declared a state of local emergency (SOLE). “Up to this point there has been no need for the Town to declare a SOLE,” Davidson said. “I am also in regular discussion with our regional partners through the Sturgeon Regional Emergency Management Partnership (SREMP). Should this become an issue, I will be looking at all options to ensure our residents’ safety is protected.”

Davidson’s foreshadowing of a change became reality by late afternoon of March 27. The rules changed again when the provincial government ordered service businesses such as hair salons closed as well as non-essential businesses such as retail stores for clothing, furniture and toys, and tattoo and piercing studios.
Community Events Calendar
April 2020

An active town with a big heart, alive with history and civic pride where beauty and community thrive. www.redwater.ca

REDWATER FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES FOOD BANK
- With spring on its way, consider growing an extra row of produce in your garden for the Food Bank.
- To donate or to volunteer, please call 780-942-2061.
- If you are in need of a hamper, call 780-942-2061 and leave a message. A volunteer will return your call to make arrangements.

TAX HELP
Due to COVID-19, the deadline for filing personal income tax and benefit returns that were due on April 30, 2020 has been extended to June 1, 2020. Trained volunteers with the Redwater Volunteer Income Tax Program can help eligible individuals file simple income tax and benefit returns for free. While appointments are presently cancelled with the closure of Pembina Place, please call the Community Services Office at 780-942-4101 in late April to check on the status of the program.

COVID-19 HELPS
- Be sure to check reliable sources for news updates: www.alberta.ca or www.albertahealthservices.ca or www.canada.ca. If the news becomes too distressing for you, limit your time watching news or browsing social media, and be sure to take care of yourself in other ways. You will find a host of positive activities and resources listed in the calendar blocks below.
- Social isolation can be detrimental to our mental health. If you are in distress, phone Alberta Health Services Mental Health helpline 24/7 at 1-877-387-7117. Further supports can be found under COVID-19 Information under the Latest News section on the home page at www.redwater.ca.
- Maintain physical distancing of 2 meters (6 feet) if you must go out. While physical distancing is a must, plan ways to intentionally maintain social connectedness by phone, video chat, email, and other creative ways.
- Beware of COVID-19 scams. You may receive phone calls or emails claiming you have tested positive for COVID-19 or that they have items such as hand sanitizer or masks for sale. NEVER give your personal information or credit card number to phone solicitors, and DO NOT click on any links in suspicious emails.

MONDAY
- Heart to Home Meals Nutritious, frozen meals for seniors are delivered to your doorstep the last Friday of the month. Call 780-666-2366 for menus and pricing.
- To receive a daily message of hope from Alberta Health Services in conjunction with other organizations, text COVID19HOPE to 393939 to subscribe.
- Town Council Meeting (6:30pm) Subject to Change
- Easter Town Office Closed
- Re-read a favorite book and recommend it to a friend or family member. Then connect by phone to share what you liked best about it.
- To maintain optimal health, eat well! Did you know that the Canada Food Guide was revamped in 2019? Check out the guide, recipes and food tips at: https://food-guide.canada.ca

TUESDAY
- Exercise! Exercise benefits us psychologically and physically! Adding 10-15 minutes of an activity that gets your heart rate up or strengthens your muscles will be a significant benefit to you.
- Keep your senses of humor! Watch funny videos, read funny books, tell jokes, engage in silly dancing, laugh at your pet or watch animal videos, make terrible Dad jokes!
- Update your resume and get guidance on your job search with the MCG Career Consultant. Phone 780-285-8181 to set up a phone appointment with a consultant.
- Seniors’ Centre Without Walls Free interactive telephone-based programs for those 55+. Socialize, learn new skills and stay connected from the comfort of your home. Visit www.edmontonseniorsdep.ca to view programs or call the Town of Redwater Community Services Office at 780-942-4101 for more information.
- Listen to a story read by a celebrity at www.storytimeonline.net

WEDNESDAY
- Neighborhood Window Walks Many communities are connecting through a shared experience by creating fun artwork or printing a picture to hang in the front window that can be seen from the sidewalk. Spread smiles, go for a walk to get some fresh air, and play “scavenger hunt” for the pictures posted around town. Remember when outside to employ physical distancing of a meter!
- Good Friday Town Office Closed
- Easter
- Phone or video chat with old friends
- Organize your music playlist and add some new songs

THURSDAY
- Make a cookbook of favorite recipes
- Listen to a live-stream service or a favorite inspirational speaker
- Bingo TED talks
- Cook an amazing breakfast
- Recall with gratitude past holidays, parties or other events
- Public Health Clinic for Children and Adults
- Redwater Health Centre 9:00 am-4:00 pm
- Thursdays: April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- Providing immunizations, communicable disease control, and healthy beginnings early childhood intervention. Call 780-942-6616 to make an appointment.

FRIDAY
- Take a moment to reflect on your goals for this year and how you plan to achieve them.
- To give thanks to a loved one, a family member, a friend, or a community leader. Create a personalized card and share with them.
- Send a supportive message to a front-line worker.
- Listen to the weather forecast and plan your day accordingly.

SATURDAY / SUNDAY
- List 5 things you are grateful for today.
- Reconsider your goals for 2020.
- Keep track of gratitude.
- Visit the Redwater HYPE (Helping Young People Excel) Facebook page for activities for children and teens, motivational content and for great tips for maintaining health while at home.
- Pitch-In Week - April 19-25, 2020
- Do your part in our town-wide clean up!
- Let’s do some outdoor spring cleaning and beautify our town! Since schools are closed and the students usually pick some garbage together, let’s all individually pitch in to spruce up our town after winter.

Need information or assistance?
One call can connect you to community groups, resources & information
Town of Redwater - Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) 780-942-4101

PITCH-IN WEEK - April 19-25, 2020
Do your part in our town-wide clean up!
Let’s do some outdoor spring cleaning and beautify our town! Since schools are closed and the students usually pick some garbage together, let’s all individually pitch in to spruce up our town after winter.
Six reported cases of COVID-19 in this region

Alberta Health has six cases of COVID-19 listed in The Review and The Free Press circulation areas. The west side of Sturgeon County has five reported cases of COVID-19; the east side has zero. One case was reported in a statistical area that includes most of Thorhild County, Westlock County and part of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave Lake. The statistical area made up of Smoky Lake County and the eastern strip of Thorhild County had zero cases reported.

These statistics are of COVID-19 cases that were reported to Alberta Health. They were dated March 26, according to the province posting on March 27.

Aiming for June

A construction crew works at Redwater Centre on the south side of Hwy 38 (48 Avenue) at 52 Street in Redwater March 26. Building the multi-use development with seven retail units and 11 residential executive suites was held up last summer because of the wet conditions, but it progressed well over the winter. Owner Patrick Au said the building will be completed at about mid June. The retail units will open first followed by the executive suites on the upper floor.

Chloe Boyko rounds out school work with reading, running

Finishing the school year at home is a reality for students since schools were closed March 15 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Redwater Grade 10 student Chloe Boyko shared some of her strategies.

During the first two weeks out of school she worked on Math and Language Arts through Google Classroom. She has a little desk set up where she can work without being disturbed, and she texts her friends or teachers if she has questions. The stressful part is when she sometimes has difficulty grasping a concept in Math.

“I worry a bit about my marks,” said Boyko. While some subjects deliver reasonably well online, Boyko was taking Construction at school and does not know what will happen with that class.

Apart from that, she misses being with her friends and in the classroom setting, “Sometimes I’m a little bored without school,” she said. “I haven’t really gone out much.”

She does go for a run along the back paths around town just about every day. She has also started reading a couple of books that she had not made time for earlier.

Aiming for June

NOTICE TO THORHILD COUNTY RATEPAYERS

Annual Assessor Property Inspections

Thorhild County Assessors will be conducting their annual inspections commencing March 15, 2020 to December 31, 2020 in the following areas:

- Division 1
  - Richard Filipchuk
  - richard.filipchuk@thorhildcounty.com
  - Division 2
  - Reeve Kevin Grumetza
  - kevin.grumetza@thorhildcounty.com
  - Division 3
  - Joyce Pierce
  - joyce.pierce@thorhildcounty.com
  - Division 4
  - Deputy Reeve Cheryl Pasay
  - cheryl.pasay@thorhildcounty.com
  - Division 5
  - Wayne Crosswell
  - wayne.crosswell@thorhildcounty.com

ROAD ORDER 04-2020
DEFINING MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE WEIGHTS PERMITTED ON CERTAIN MUNICIPAL ROADS

All of Sections: R63-18, 59-21, 58-23, 60-23
Railway sites located throughout Thorhild County and any other properties that may need to be inspected

All inspections will be conducted Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

NOTICE TO THORHILD COUNTY RATEPAYERS
Annual Assessor Property Inspections

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**All of Sections:** R63-18, 59-21, 58-23, 60-23

Railway sites located throughout Thorhild County and any other properties that may need to be inspected

The County Assessors will be in marked vehicles with the Municipal Assessment Services Group Inc. logo on doors. They will also be wearing photo ID under the same name. Please be aware that all assessors will be taking pictures and walking the properties involved.

The Municipal Government Act states under:

- Right to enter on and inspect property
- Section 294(1) After giving reasonable notice to the owner or occupier of any property, an assessor may at any reasonable time, for the purpose of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the assessor under Parts 9 to 12 and the regulations,
  - (a) Enter on and inspect the property,
  - (b) Request anything to be produced, and
  - (c) Make copies of anything necessary to the inspection.
- (2) When carrying out duties under subsection (1), an assessor must produce identification on request.
- (3) An assessor must, in accordance with the regulations, inform the owner or occupier of any property of the purpose for which information is being collected under this section and section 295.

All inspections will be conducted Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
THORHLID COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC WORKS BUILDINGS ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Services are continuing and staff are available to assist you through phone or email. County payments can be made by: Internet banking, telephone banking, mail in payments and a drop box (at Thorhild County administrative office) is available. Thorhild and Long Lake Transfer Stations are Open. The Give and Take at each site is closed until further notice. Please practice safe distancing while at the transfer stations. www.thorhildcounty.com

Thank you for your cooperation.

THORHLID COUNTY FAMILY MEDICAL CLINIC REMAINS OPEN TO SEE PATIENTS BY APPOINTMENT

It is asked that anyone needing to utilize the clinic at this time to call in to speak to the Nurse Practitioner and schedule an appointment. If you have symptoms such as fever, cough and difficulty breathing and have travelled outside Canada or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, stay home and call Health Link 811.

Call 911 if you are seriously ill and need immediate medical attention and inform them that you may have COVID-19.

Call the Nurse Practitioner for an appointment:

- Hours: Monday/Thursday/Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
- Tuesday 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
- Wednesday 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM
- Closed for lunch 12 PM to 1:00 PM

Call 780-398-4MED (4633)

THORHLID COUNTY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Thorhild County Playgrounds and Radway Fish Pond are closed.

Long Lake Ski Hill has been closed for the season.

Halfmoon Lake Campground and the Thorhild Swimming Pool will have delayed openings.

Playground equipment and other shared equipment present a risk with the touching of surfaces and people gathering.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

New deadline to file taxes is June 1, 2020

Federal benefits you are currently receiving will not be interrupted

All tax clinics have been cancelled.

To place your name on a list
to be contacted once regular office hours are resumed
please call Carolyn at 780-398-2810

THE MOST RELIABLE SOURCES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

Alberta Health Services https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/
- Health Link – 811
- Addiction Helpline – 1-866-332-2322
- Family Violence – Find Supports – 310-1818
- Income Supports – 1-866-644-5135
- Kids Help Phone – 1-800-668-6868
- Mental Health Helpline – 1-877-303-2642
- MyHealth Alberta.ca: List of Important Numbers
- Toll Free Crisis Line / Distress Centres
  • 780 area code: 1-800-482-4357


NOTICE OF DECISION OF THE MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The Municipal Planning Commission for Thorhild County has approved the following Development Application(s):

i) Legal Description: NE 16-63-19-W4
Land Use Designation: AG - Agricultural District Proposal: allow requested variance to existing garage, 18.73% and two existing sheds at 10.5% to the East property. 

- Division: 5
- Permit # DP2355

Date of Decision(s): March 24, 2020
Appeal by: 4:30 PM, April 14, 2020

THORHLID COUNTY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES...
Thorhild Ukrainian Dance Club participated in the Dance Festival in Westlock in March. The Club attended the festival as a great preparation for a busy dance season ahead. The Club was scheduled to perform in Calgary, Lloydminster, Vermilion, Fort Saskatchewan, and St. Albert. The Club’s groups plus various solo & duet were excited for a busy few weeks. On March 12 the province announced that events with more than 250 people in attendance would be cancelled. This was the first of many cancellations to occur. The Thorhild Ukrainian Dance Club’s families have had to cancel hotel room, practice and likely the year and concert. The Club was fortunate to have held its annual Winter Festival in mid February and most groups attended the festival in Westlock. Group 5 Dancers shown here include: Abigail Gray-Zachary, Victoria Dutschak, Jaelynn Melyntyk, Justanna Patty, Zoey Feledichuk. Kneeling: Emma Glover, Emily Sekersky, Danielle Ewanise, and Julia Misoczak. Grade 12 student Zoey Feledichuk was set to receive a special gift from the Club at the year and concert this year. Zoey started dancing with the club in kindergarten and continued for 13 years. Several other dancers in this group are set to receive gifts for their dedication of 10 years. This group of strong dedicated dancers is made up of dancers from Thorhild, Newbrook, Radway, Clyde and Redwater and are in grades 8-12.

Council meetings continue in Thorhild County

Thorhild County council will continue to hold its regular meetings while practising social distancing and safety measures help prevent the spread of COVID-19. “Everyone’s safety is front and center in this,” said reeve Kevin Grumetza during the March 24 council meeting. “Unless a higher authority shuts us down, we have an obligation to have meetings and do our work.” He noted there was one member of the media and no members of the public at that meeting and that the agenda packages and meeting audio recordings are available online.

CAO Paul Hanlan said he believes the council can continue to follow necessary processes for pandemic control and still hold public meetings. Unless a large number of people attend, there is room for social distancing in chambers. As well, the building has a retractable wall which when left in place isolates the working staff from the meeting area. While discussing the ability of the public to obtain information and pay bills (electronically, at banks, at the dropbox), without having direct access to the inside of the county administration building, council commented on having sufficient cleaning and disinfectant products.

Coun Richard Filchuk said a distillery in Fort Saskatchewan is now making hand sanitizer. “Also, Polish vodka is 92 percent alcohol, if it comes to that,” said Filchuk.

People could take two shots,” joked reeve Kevin Grumetza. “One externally and one internally.”

INCOME TAX PREPARATION
SMOKY LAKE SENIORS CENTRE

Every Wednesday
9 am - 3 pm
March 3 - April 29
Great Rates - Everyone Welcome
Breanna Hrycun
780-358-2597 or 780-446-5077

LAMONT DENTURE CLINIC
Mel Lucyshyn Denturist

Why Pay More For Your Denture Needs?

Upper & Lower Dentures To Fit
Repos Repairs Same day Service Social Assistance - No Charge For Appointments Call Dental Plans Accepted

Upper or Lower $1000

Seniors Who Qualify - No Charge
Some Conditions and Restricstions Apply - Call For Details.

Sturgeon County Tree Program

Sturgeon County residents have an opportunity to purchase a variety of shrubs and trees at a reduced rate through the County Tree Program. Order seedlings through the Sturgeon County Tree Program online at sturgeoncounty.ca. Click on the program registration button to select the tree species available for purchase.

Are you a new user? You will be required to set up a new login profile. If you require assistance please call 780-939-8349.

Order deadline: May 4, 2020
Order pick-up: May 8, 2020 from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sturgeon County Agriculture Services Shop 9613-100 Street, Morinville Payment required at time of order.

www.sturgeoncounty.ca

APSLUS COMMENTS

It’s important to include many servings of fruits and vegetables in our diet daily but what is the definition of a “serving”? For fruits, it’s one apple or orange, a half avocado, one banana, half a grapefruit, 16 grapes, one kiwi fruit, 4 strawberries, half cup of white rice or ⅛ cup of dried fruit. For vegetables: one whole medium carrot (or 6 baby carrots), half a cup of vegetables, ½ cup of fresh, frozen or canned vegetables or one cup of fresh leafy vegetables. Having these foods available daily will make reaching your daily servings goal much easier.

There are a lot of cancer “cures” out there promoted by people who want your money. None of these has been proven to cure slow cancer progression. Some of these include: alkaline diets, cannabis oil, cumin, herbal remedies, lavender (amethyst), essential oils, coffee enemas and ozone therapy. None of these have any effect on cancer. Get the advice of your doctor or oncologist.

Save your money.

At Thorhild Drug Store we price processed stockings and carry incontinence products, nail clippers, footsie socks, etc.

THORHILD DRUG STORE - 780-938-3585
COVID-19 Response Update

In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Sturgeon County is committed to the delivery of essential and core services while ensuring the health and safety of our residents and staff.

With the closure of all Sturgeon County public buildings, staff are working remotely where possible and following Alberta Health Services' safety and social distance protocol.

For those who require emergent service or time sensitive business, please call 780-939-4321 or Toll Free 1-866-939-9303 to book an appointment or be directed to any department.

Family & Community Support Services is available for those who are struggling, need food, medical supplies or transportation to special medical appointments or just someone to talk to. Please call 780 939-8332 or 780-722-1479 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and someone will get back to you as quickly as possible.

Development Support Services is receiving applications (development permits; all safety code permits; subdivisions; amendments, compliance certificate requests, etc.) via Email, Fax, mail or the Sturgeon County Centre drop-box. For any other inquiries contact us via email: pannd@sturgeoncounty.ca, phone: 780 939-8275 or fax: 780 939-2076.

Assessment Services staff is available by email assessment.services@sturgeoncounty.ca for any inquiries.

Sturgeon County’s dedicated COVID-19 webpage has many resources for residents and links to Alberta Health Services for the most current information.

Sturgeon Services Available Online

Many programs can now be accessed online for registration, ordering and payment at SturgeonServices.ca. The following services are available:

- Water & Bulk Water
- Fire Permits
- Dog Licences
- Agriculture Services Programs & Rentals
- Report a Road Concern (Pot Holes, etc.)
- Maps & Property Viewer
- Activity in the Heartland (Air Quality, etc.)
- Sign up for Email subscriptions: Email Alerts & News, News & Events, Utility Alerts and Road Reports and Utility E-billing

Tree Program, Rain Barrels & Composter orders and payment information, along with program details and pricing is available at sturgeoncounty.ca, and then click on the sturgeonervices.ca button on the home page to place your order.

New users will need to create a profile, click on the Support/Tutorials button for assistance signing in.

Sturgeon County offices will be closed Friday, April 10 & Monday, April 13 for Easter.

Essential Service - Ongoing Water Testing

Even in a pandemic, Sturgeon County technicians still need to access your property to collect water samples for testing - one of the essential services we provide.

Due to COVID-19, technicians will do their best to collect water samples outside per Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidelines.

As a precaution, technicians will be wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as a mask/respirator and gloves to enter a resident’s home or business.

These samples are collected to ensure the water we supply to our customers is of the highest quality and safe for consumption, meeting the standards set out by Alberta Environment. Please be kind and courteous to our technicians as they collect samples. Technicians will always be clearly identified by a Sturgeon County vehicle and an employee identification badge.

Important Reminders

Returning Snowbirds Must Self-Isolate

Snowbirds who are returning to Alberta from the U.S. must follow self-isolation rules. Alberta Health Services (AHS) requires all Albertans who have travelled outside the country to self-isolate for 14 days immediately upon return to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Residents can help returning neighbours and family members by picking up supplies and groceries for them before they arrive and avoid interaction. “This is something we can all pitch in with information as well as support so that people don’t have to be out to get their necessities,” AHS’ top doc Dr. Deena Hinshaw said.

For more information on COVID-19 self-isolation and self-assessment please visit MyHealth.Alberta.ca

Keep your Distance but Stay Connected

We are hard-wired to connect, and although it is necessary to maintain a physical distance, social connections are still critical. This can include phone calls, video calls, and even participating in organized online events. There are many live-streamed offerings to feel connected.

Residents are encouraged to remain in their home, except for essential excursions, such as grocery shopping. Going for a run or walk has not been banned, but at all times while outside, keep a distance of two metres (or minimum 2 arm lengths) to the best of your ability.

Those who are not feeling well should avoid leaving their homes. Ask neighbours, friends and family for support by delivering essentials, but be sure to ask them to leave it outside for pickup.
Redwater RCMP continue to provide services while implementing procedures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“We have to protect our employees and ensure our work force stays healthy to protect the community,” said Cpl. Mark Joy.

The doors to the detachment office are closed and lower priority calls are all handled by email or phone. Only urgent criminal record checks are being done, urgent being a situation such as a healthcare worker coming out of retirement to work during the pandemic.

“We’re limiting contact with the public,” said Joy. “It’s the complete opposite of our community policing policy.”

Joy said crime is down, partly because fewer people are out and about. Also, with so many people at home, they are watching their neighborhoods and can spot suspicious activity. The culprits from a recent break and enter at a local business were quickly caught because police received tips from people who were at home.

Many calls go to the provincial call center. Before COVID-19 area residents could drop in to the detachment office to report incidents such as a stolen license plate. That is now handled through the call center.

More immediate situations are handled by local officers, even if they do not attend the scene. Joy said some instances of family violence can be de-escalated by a phone call, having an officer talk to the people in the home.

At the detachment, members keep physical distance and conduct extra cleaning. On calls and when dealing directly with clients, staff ask questions and try to determine if the clients have COVID-19 symptoms. If required, they don personal protective equipment which can include respirator mask, gloves, eye protection and coveralls.

“Even the criminals are a little taken aback at this,” said Joy.

At this time officers have not issued fines for breach of the new regulations put in place to contain COVID-19. Joy said their priority right now is to educate people and make sure they understand the importance of everything. Fines will be issued to persons who become repeat offenders.

“So far everyone in the communities has been really good,” he said. “We’ve had no large parties. We’ve definitely had co-operation in all our areas. Hopefully, we’ll continue to see that happening.”

Redwater, Alberta, 780-942-2023, email: redwater@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Wednesday, April 1, 2020
Liquor store busy during pandemic

While schools and many businesses closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, as of March 24 local liquor stores were busier than ever.

Eddie Sing at Liquor Stop n Shop in Redwater said he is busier than usual, both with serving customers and taking all the precautions mandated and recommended for helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Many of his customers are doing some extra shopping because they think the provincial government will order liquor stores to close.

“They’re concerned that we might get shut down,” said Sing. “I don’t have any information on that.”

Because rules relating to the COVID-19 pandemic have been changing so rapidly, he wouldn’t be surprised if he finds out he has to close the store five minutes before the general public hears it.

Until then, he will continue keeping staff and customers as safe as possible.

“A lot of little things have changed,” he said. “Like wiping door handles multiple times a day, every day, and cleaning the debit machine and counter tops often.”

Dylan Goulet will graduate, but lost other opportunities due to closures from pandemic

Thorstlnd Grade 12 student Dylan Goulet will get enough courses completed online to graduate this spring, but feels the loss of other opportunities.

“I’d much rather be at school,” he said. “I talk on the phone and do school work and it’s different for sure,” he said. “I’d much rather be at school.”

The social part of school. Because this is his last year of high school, he wanted to make the most of it.

One of his most anticipated events was Dramafest, the provincial drama festival held at the end of April. Because of COVID-19 it was cancelled. Goulet was directed earlier to be the Thorhild Central School plays and acting in three plays.

“We’ve had a good drama group and went to provincials a couple of times,” he said. “We hoped to go again. I like being on stage. I enjoy making people laugh and being in the spotlight.”

While he does not know what will happen with his drama and physical education classes, he will complete Language Arts (LA) and Social Studies online. That will give him enough credits to graduate.

“By doing it online I can work a little faster than before because he has had no other classes for nearly two weeks.}

Despite that, he feels he is working through the modules a little faster than before because he has had no other classes for nearly two weeks.

While he does not know what will happen with his drama and physical education classes, he will complete Language Arts (LA) and Social Studies online. That will give him enough credits to graduate.

“By doing it online I can work a little faster than before because he has had no other classes for nearly two weeks.”

He also has fewer distractions. With no drama plays to practise for and hockey season at an early end, he is home on the farm. As the youngest in the family, he has no siblings at home. His pets, two dogs, two cats and a horse, all stay outside and keep each other company.

“Going from being active with sports and in the community to being isolated, it’s different for sure,” he said. “I talk on the phone and do school work and help my parents with chores.”

Events Guide

Has been suspended until the COVID-19 situation is resolved.
Council considers an end to waiving portion of fire bills

Thorhild County council is looking at eliminating the county covering a portion of fire fighting costs billed to residents.

The current Emergency Services Bylaw states the first $10,000 of the cost of fighting a fire is to be covered by the persons billed or their insurance company with the remaining costs covered by the county. Anyone who contravenes the bylaw is responsible for paying the entire fire fighting cost plus any fines issued for breach of the bylaw. The invoice is sent to the persons causing or contributing to the incident or the owner or occupant of the land on which the incident occurred.

Following a closed session discussion during the March 24 council meeting, councillors passed a resolution directing administration to bring back amendments to the Emergency Services Bylaw to charge for all costs and remove the amount waived section.

During the past decade the county’s handling of fire billing has swung from one extreme to the other. At one time all costs of fires, including those caused by lightning or by cigarette butts tossed from passing vehicles, were charged to the property owner where the fire occurred. During 2014 and 2015 council waived the charges for many fire fighting invoices (including one for $185,000) as it worked on amending its regulations. From 2015 to 2017 council assessed a null rate levy to collect $500,000 per year for the Emergency Services department.

In January 2016 council passed a bylaw stating the person responsible or the land owner or occupant of his insurance company was to pay $1,000 after which the remainder of the fire bill was waived. A person who contravened the bylaw was responsible for all Emergency Services charges, fines and costs incurred by the department. In 2018 council increased the amount to be paid by landowners from $1,000 to $10,000 because research showed the standard amount covered by insurance is $10,000.

Somewhere wonderful

Letter to the Editor;

I heard something wonderful on the radio last night (March 21). A talk show asked listeners about their social distancing. An elderly blind man in Toronto had nobody to help him get groceries and neither did a 93-year-old woman in Hamilton have help.

Thanks to the cross-Canada show, Bob and Mary were hooked up with people who could help them with that problem.

I love hearing good news like that. People should be asking their elderly neighbours and disabled friends if they need somebody to shop for them. I myself had two offers from those who know I can’t drive and there are no stores in my hamlet.

—Bruce Atkinson

Business as per abnormal continues

As mentioned in the last edition we have gone through a number of abnormal situations and continued to publish throughout — however, none quite as extreme as the present COVID-19 crisis.

We have slashed office hours, staff have been reduced and the cooperation of our printer we are trying a merged press run with our sister edition The Morinville Free Press. The situation may be evident to readers some readers — especially if the attempt is not a success.

Basically we are doing everything to maintain the full market reach for our advertisers while cutting our costs during what we expect to be an extended challenge as a result of many retail and service businesses closed or operating at a reduced level while community organizations also put events on hold.

Newspapers are on the list of essential services set by the province and it is our intent to continue to publish and distribute throughout the present crisis.

We appreciate your patience and welcome your submission of photos or notes during this time to help keep everyone connected and aware of what others are doing in this period of social distancing. redwater@shaw.ca is your best alternative to submit material or to reach our staff.

There’s always strength in knowing that you are not alone. At this time we want everyone to know you are an important and valued member of the community.

Sincerely, Ed Conley, publisher
Angus bulls. Develop well kept www.cowleynewspapers.com, Wednesday, April 1, 2020, Page R11

Classified Ads: Pay requirement with Order. Low cost - high circulation. 
Bookends - pay for one title and it will run in all three: Free Press, Review, Extra.

Up to 25 words: $15.00 per week, GST included. Additional words: 50¢ each.

Deadline for advertisement: Thursday 2 p.m.

Mail to: Review, Box 850, Redwater, AB T0A 2W0
Phone 780-942-2023 or redwater@shaw.ca

Top Yellert Fertilizers Ltd.

is now taking applications for the following seasonal position:

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Apply in person at:

TOP YELLERT FERTILIZERS
Box 501, Andrew, AB, T0B 0C0
Email to: toplfyeld1@gmail.com
Ph: 780-365-2290
Fax 780-365-2290

Richardson, a division of Richardson International, is Canada’s leading agricultural business. Richardson International supports Canadian farmers throughout the growing season – providing agronomic services and advice, selling crops, and buying their crops at harvest and selling them to markets around the world through the most efficient network of high throughput Ag Business Centres in Western Canada.

Working with Richardson opens the door to a world of possibilities. We currently have opportunities for Seasonal Truck Drivers at our Richardson Ag Business Centre located in Lamont, Alberta.

Seasonal Truck Drivers

This position is responsible for delivering of fertilizer, chemicals and seed to local customers.

Responsibilities:
- Truck inspection and maintenance; unloading and loading of crop inputs; yard maintenance.

Qualifications:
- Possess a valid class 3 driver's license with air endorsement; valid class 1 license is an asset;
- Strong organization and operational skills; ability to work flexible hours including evenings/weekends;
- Previous related experience is preferred.

Richardson International provides an excellent compensation package consisting of competitive salary and training and career development opportunities.

Interested candidates should click the Apply icon to apply online at www.richardson.ca by April 17, 2020.

Richardson International values diversity in the workplace. Women, Aboriginal People, Visible Minorities and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply and self-identify.

BULL SALES

PUREREARING YEARLING & 2 yr old registered yearlings for sale.

- Angus bulls.
- Top performers.

4/1/2020

BULLS FOR SALE - Excellent quality. 5-yr old registered yearly bulls. Moderate Birth weights, good performance. Bred to do well for your farm, now for sirening possession. Clang Angus #856 and St. Albret Angus #2754

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4/1/2020

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METAL ROOFING & SIDING 34+ colours available at over 55 Distributors. 40 year warranty. 24-48 hours Express Service available at Distributor. Call 1-888-383-2810 or sales@integralbuiltd.com 1-866-974-7768

4/1/2020

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FARMLAND WANTED

WANT TO SELL YOUR LAND? WE WILL BUY IT.

FARMLAND WANTED in Thorold County, Westlock & Wetaskiwin. Cultivated or hayland. $7800-8500 per acre.

2/13/2020

EMPLOYMENT

SEEKING A CAREER in the Community Newspaper Business? Post your resumes online, and watch our pullers are looking. Visit www.loveyourdancestudio.com for more information.

5/9/2020

FARM LAND WANTED in St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 1E4 and provide details of your claim.

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

Most user rental fees for Pembina Place in Redwater and for the Redwater swimming pool increase by five percent effective April 1, 2020. The exceptions are some area ice rental rates.

If hockey the prime time ice rate increased seven percent from $115.50 to $122.00. The non prime time and tournament rates increased $2.00 from $90 to $92 and $10 from $92 to $102 per hour respectively.

The new rates were increased to align with regional ice rates.

Mike Olson noted the adult and Junior B hockey rates were increased because they were relatively already high.

The prime time rate decreased from $177.50 to $175/hour while the non prime rate decreased from $172.50 to $166.25 per hour and the tournament rate decreased from $160.25 to $150/hour.

The rental ice rates were set.

A $2.25 per hour and $500 per bonspiel week rate were set for rental of the curling ice.

Junior curling now has an ace rental rate of $25 per game and $125 for a bonspiel. Regular level rental rates.

Classified Deadlines remain as Thursday. The Review & Free Press will continue to be published weekly.

CALIFORNIA


RENTALS

REDWATER BUNGALOW - walk home, hardwood flooring, 3 baths, 2 bedrooms, 2 washrooms, fenced yard, garage, $175/month plus utilities, dog. For details call for details 780-474-6197

5/23/2020

1. 2 3 BEDROOM BUNGALOWS- Rest of the year, both bungalows rented. Newer home. $700 each. 2. bdrm, nice clean home. $650/month includes all utilities & laundry. Good location. $650/month includes all utilities & laundry. "S" 20 mins to Redwater. For details call 780-474-6197

5/23/2020

UTONIA'S GUEST HOUSE - For rent. Private en-suite, sleeps 8, $250 per night. $550/month plus $280 utilities, DD, full kitchen, living rm,. 3 bedrms, 2 baths. Renters must be quiet or vacate. For details call 780-933-2343

5/23/2020

BORDER PRAIRIE HOUSE for rent. Perfect for group class or family get away. 2.5 bedroom, short term, long term $700,000.- 1000.-一句. Short term and Fitness - Large open space with mounted wall mirrors. Gun Range- Evening and Weekends Rentals. $1000.- Evening and Weekends Monthly. Email info@bordersprairiehouse.com for more information.

SPELS

CERTIFIED SEDD. - Wheat. Do even, Pin-

eland. Long, red, black, navy, fine, small, mustard, Hercules. COT, Mustard, Dery, SCI, Sup Oat Barley. COT. 1-800-461-1400

5/23/2020

EARLY VARIETIES - Want to be finished by Fri, April 18th, 2020 at the earliest? Firearrows. Mustang, Derby, SCI Mustard. US/Canada Variety trials. 1-800-461-1400

5/23/2020

SALTSEED FOR SALE - Organic & conventional. Sweet Clover, Alfalfa, Red Clover. Contact: K. M. Rahal, Merv, Cundelink, Crewe, 780-326-1030 or info@loveyourdancestudio.com

5/23/2020

SERVICES

THORHILD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

lands 104.8 acres, fully serviced, for sale, listed at $13,000 per acre,

3.5% per annum, 25 year amortization. Call the Benefits Program 1-800-211-9133

5/23/2020

RENTALS

RENTAL RATES.

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For details call for details 780-474-6197
In an effort to keep our team members and customers safe and healthy amid the current COVID-19 situation, we are temporarily suspending our Reusable Bag Program.

**WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE LEAVE YOUR REUSABLE BAGS AT HOME.**

The 5¢ fee for single-use plastic bags will be waived until further notice. Just one of the many steps we are taking to reduce the spread of this virus.