Black Gold Insulation Ltd. of Thorhild did the exterior cladding and insulation on the giant processing vessel which will be part of Inter Pipeline Ltd’s propane dehydrogenation (PDH) and Polypropylene (PP) facility north of Fort Saskatchewan.

They tackled a project like this was a huge undertaking,” said Michelle. “This is the largest piece of equipment we’ve ever worked on; every single employee had a hand in getting this done. We’re pretty proud of working on this. It’s one of a kind.”

Their staff surrounded the horizontal vessel with scaffolding, then, one square foot at a time, covered it with 30,000 square feet of cryogenic insulation and cladded the exterior with aluminum. These layers are needed to reduce frost build-up (propane under pressure is cold) on the exterior of the vessel and prevent the risk of having ice chunks falling off the top of the tower.

“There were probably close to 40 of us working on it, between site and at the shop here (in Thorhild),” said Rob.

Including scaffold erection and tear-down, the job took five weeks. That was less time than they had planned on having, but it was dictated by the completion date of the vessel and the date it was scheduled to be moved. This was during a time of challenging weather—cold and heavy snows that had to be removed from the work site.

To meet the deadline, Rob created a new installation plan to do the build-out of insulation so multiple crews could work on different sections of the vessel at the same time. He also came up with a new method of installation.

“He’s an inventor,” Michelle said. “Rob’s always been an innovator at this. It was pretty big step outside our comfort zone, but it was exciting.”

Rob said the project faced “almost daily hiccups,” and he woke up at 2:00 a.m. many nights thinking about what needed doing and how to get it done.

“It was a big project to push all our employees to excel at something unique,” he said. “The nice thing about doing an oddball project like this is you get to set new standards. We need better and better ways of doing things to do these big jobs.”

He told his crews the process was their Stanley Cup, from winning the bid (getting into the playoffs) to completing the job and seeing the vessel begin its trek down the road (winning the championship).

Estimating the huge job was, for him, a new challenge. He is now preparing a bid to work on a slightly larger vessel.

Black Gold is presently finishing the insulation and cladding on an 18’ diameter and 200’ long vessel. It seems small in comparison to the giant one they did, but a decade ago a 20’ by 120’ vessel was considered big.

Black Gold won a Small Business Award of Excellence from GROWTH Alberta in 2011. Inter Pipeline’s new plant, scheduled to be completed at the end of 2021, will turn Alberta propane into recyclable plastics.

Hoffman celebrates doubling of Redwater Public Health hours

Minister of Health Sarah Hoffman visited the Redwater Public Health clinic Jan. 10 in recognition of its increased hours of service. In November 2018 the clinic went from being open every second Thursday to every Thursday.

Hoffman said she enjoys visiting the front line service providers and seeing how the investments made by the government work in communities. Doubling the clinic hours gives increased access to the growing number of families in the area. It makes receiving services easier for people who do not have transportation and allows families to get to the clinic without having to spend time on highways. This helps people stay up to date with their immunizations.

“I want everyone to know about this clinic,” she said. “And personally, it’s fun to come to these communities.” Her mother has family in the Redwater area.

“I grew up in rural Alberta and understand the challenges involved in accessing health-care facilities,” added Hoffman. “By adding new hours at the Redwater public health clinic, we're helping more families get the services they need more quickly, including immunizations, post-partum supports and early childhood programs. This is a clear example of our work to make sure healthcare services are easier for people who do not have transportation and allows families to get to the clinic will continue to get busier. Dunphy has worked with unvaccinated children who were very ill with preventable diseases and enjoys working in the Public Health program. “It speaks a lot to me,” she said.

Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council chair Pat Palechuk said, “Thank you, Minister, for coming. We appreciate your interest in our small communities. Mayor Mel Smith pushed for this public health service. He was really an advocate on our health advisory board.”

Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater MLA Colin Piquette said the increased service hours are good news because they increase access, especially for people who have difficulty travelling.

“In response to the needs of our patients and community members, we are excited to be able to offer our public health clinics weekly,” said Alberta Health Services (AHS) Public Health manager Jennifer Beaulieu. “AHS is committed to enhancing care in the community and this expansion of public health services reflects this commitment. Public Health clinics provide immunizations for all ages, influenza and school immunizations, communicable disease control, post-partum nursing care and support through the Healthy Beginnings program, and early childhood intervention visits.”

Appointments can be made by calling 780-942-6615. Clients who call the Public Health clinic when it is not open are forwarded to the Athabasca clinic.
Monthly Information Bulletin
January 2019

Truck Fill Station Changes
The old coin system for the Town of Redwater’s Truck Fill Station was removed and upgraded with a new online account system. If you would like to set up your online account please visit www.sturgeon-services.ca and click on bulk water or call 780-939-8254. You have to set up a new account, input all required information and pay through your credit card. Through this system, you will have an account number and PIN which you can use for any Sturgeon County Truck Fill Station.

2019 Business Licenses
Thank you to those businesses who have purchased a 2019 Business License. If you are starting a new business or have not received your 2019 renewal please contact our Economic Development Officer at 780-942-3519 ext 330.

Community Sand Box
If you need some sand to help make your sidewalks accessible and safe, help yourself to some sand from the community sand box located at Pembina Place.

Pink Shirt Day
February 27
The dawn of social media brought with it a whole new way to interact, communicate, and even bully. But in this digital world where filtered photos and crafted messages can be posted in an instant, it often takes more time and effort to say something mean than it does to say something nice. Kindness requires no manipulation, no focusing on the negatives, and no filtering of yourself. For social media users, we want them to THINK before the post. Ask yourself if it is True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and KIND. Let’s show a Town wide commitment to this cause and stand up to bullying! Visit pinkshirtday.ca for more information on how you can support this worthy cause or to order your shirts!

Part of Walking Trail Temporarily Closed
To make snow clearing more effective, the walking trail on the South side of 49 Avenue (North side of Devonian Park) from 49 Street to 48 Avenue will be closed temporarily during the winter season. Pedestrians are asked to use the sidewalk on the North side of 49 Avenue which allows for easy access to all businesses.

Thank You
Thank you to all the residents and businesses for the beautiful Christmas decorating. Your efforts in making the community look festive for the holiday season are greatly appreciated!

Sidewalk Safety and You
Snow and ice on sidewalks are dangerous for everyone, especially seniors and the disabled. That is why Community Standards Bylaw # 792 requires you clear the public walks adjacent to your property.

A few points to remember:
• Remove the snow within 48 hours
• Snow and ice must be cleared right down to the cement
• Sidewalks adjacent to vacant lots or empty lots must also be cleared
• If away for an extended period of time, make arrangements for someone else to clear the sidewalks
• Do not place snow from sidewalks onto the roadway

When you remove snow promptly after a snowfall, you play an important role in keeping our Town moving safely in difficult weather.
Development of a solar power generation facility in Smoky Lake County near Vilna is in its early stages. In October, the 25 Megawatt (MW) solar farm will offset near-ly 29,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

Soventix Canada Inc. and Algonquin Power are co-developing the project. Soventix is handling most of the front-end development and Algonquin Power will be the owner/operator of the facility. It is proposed to be built on 130 hectares about 1.5 km west of Vilna on the north side of Hwy 28.

Soventix Project Development manager Ahmad Antar said this project is still in the early phases. Environmental studies for the site have been completed, and the intercon-nec-tion planning process is well underway. There are still several outstanding approvals required which are being worked on. At this time there is no start date for construction.

A notice regarding this proposed project was sent to all landowners within two kilo-metres in addition to nearby indigenous communities. An open house will be scheduled later this year.

Antar said this is a good site partly because the municipalities of Vilna and Smoky Lake County are supportive of the project.

“The land is favorable from an environ-mental constraints perspective, and the inter-connection is straightforward and relatively inexpensive,” added Antar.

He advised that no funding has been requested from the local municipality or by grants. Smoky Lake County provided Soventix with a letter of support for this project. Reeve Craig Lukinuk said this project has been planned for a few years. It will use adjustable solar panels that can be angled to directly face the sun regardless of the seasons and can also use light reflected from the snow.

Vilna Solar is a utility-scale solar photo-voltaic (electricity producing cells) project. The power generated by it will be sold into the Alberta Power Pool, energizing more than 6,700 households. More than 150 workers will be employed during the peak of con-stuction.

The layout of the project has not yet been finalized, but Antar said it will be designed in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts and comply with regulations set by Alberta Environment and Parks and by the county Land Use Bylaw. Other regulating bodies impacting this project are the Alberta Utilities Commission, Alberta Transportation and the Alberta Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Soventix Canada is the Canadian sub-sidiary of Soventix GmbH, an international solar energy developer headquartered in Ger-many. It has developed over 42 MW of of solar energy in Ontario since 2010.

Algonquin Power is an Oakville, Ontario, company. It develops, acquires and operates green and clean energy assets including solar, hydro-electric, wind and thermal power facil-ities as well as sustainable utility distribution businesses.

Solar power project planned near Vilna
Weekly FYI is digital at sturgeoncounty.ca

Check out your Weekly FYI online every Tuesday at sturgeoncounty.ca. Starting this year, the "printed edition" will only be available bi-weekly right here in the Morinville Free Press and Redwater Review. Next print edition: January 29, 2019.

Excellence in Agriculture Award

Application/Nomination Deadline: January 31

Sturgeon County’s Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes innovation and/or environmental leadership by those involved in a grain, cattle or mixed farming operation, or in businesses and community groups that serve the agricultural sector in Sturgeon County.

This award is open to individuals, producers, businesses, or community groups who demonstrate either Innovation or Environmental Leadership in their operations. You don’t need to be nominated. Tell us about your unique approach and apply today!

The deadline for applications or nominations is January 31, 2019. Full details and applications are available at sturgeoncounty.ca or from Agriculture Services, call 780-939-8349 or email jbeazer@sturgeoncounty.ca

Kampjes Farms, Lakeside Dairy, Ment:28 Agribusiness Ltd. and Reden Farms were recognized in 2018 for their Excellence in Agriculture.

Presentations will be made at the Sturgeon Proud Awards Night on April 10, 2019.
FAMILY COMMUNITY KITCHENS  THURSDAY/SATURDAY

This two-day program focuses on meal planning, budgeting, and meal substitution. Learn how to make staple ingredients and make family-friendly, delicious meals that are not only easy on the wallet, but healthy too! You take home all the meals we prepare.

Call Rebecca at 780-398-2804 for more information or to register.

Location: Thorhild Library Free: Minimum: 5
Instructor: Rebecca Hansen Time: 2:00 PM
Dates: January 23 and February 6
*Final cost to be determined by groceries

COFFEE TALK: ‘REST, PLAY, GROW—MAKING SENSE OF PRESCHOOLERS (OR ANYONE WHO ACTS LIKE ONE)’

Deborah MacNamara is one of the world’s foremost child development experts. Her book, ‘Rest, Play, Grow’ offers a road map to making sense of young children, and is what every toddler, preschooler, and kindergartner wished we understood about them. Call Rebecca at 780-398-2804 for more information or to register.

Location: Thorhild Library Fee: Free Maximum: 5
Instructor: Rebecca Hansen Time: Noon to 2 PM
Dates: January 17 & 19

2019 GRAVEL HAULERS & RESIDENT RATEPAYERS WITH EQUIPMENT

Thorhild County resident ratepayers that wish to haul gravel for the 2019 season must register their gravel truck(s) by Friday, February 8, 2019 (cut-off date) in order to be contacted. The County requires a minimum of eight (8) local gravel trucks.

OUT OF COUNTY GRAVEL HAULERS (NEW)

Out of County gravel truckers may register their trucks starting at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 and have until 4:00 PM on Friday, February 22, 2019 to register. Registration prior to and after these dates will not be accepted.

Thorhild County will be hauling approx. 35,000 tonnes of gravel in March 2019.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

All meetings begin at 9:30 a.m.
January 22, 2019 cancelled
January 29, 2019 council meeting
February 12, 2019
February 26, 2019

RELIEF WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATOR

(Term to be determined)

Complete details are at http://www.thorhildcounty.com/Careers

Thorhild County Utilities Department is seeking a suitable individual to carry out the following but not limited to duties:
- Responsible for the daily operation, repair and maintenance of the County’s municipal water distribution and waste water collection systems;
- Qualifications required:
  - Water/Wastewater Level 1 Certificate.
  - Standard First Aid and WHIMS certification, Confined spaces certified;
  - Trench safety.
  - Possess a valid Class 5 driver’s license.

Position will remain open until suitable candidate is hired.

Please forward resumes to:
Laurie Andruchushyn
Payroll & Personnel Manager
County of Thorhild
Box 10
Thorhild, Alberta T0A 3J0
or
e-mail laurie@thorhildcounty.com

We thank all applicants, however, only those individuals selected for interviews will be contacted.

THORHILDS COUNTY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL # BF001-2019 NAMEKI CREEK DESIGN-BUILD (4 SITES) – BRIDGES

Thorhild County is requesting proposals from teams for a design-build and lump sum basis to design and construct four (4) single span concrete girder bridges located near Thorhild and Radway, as identified in this Request for Proposal (RFP). The aim of this RFP is to identify a design-build team that can design, build, manage the construction and ensure the quality of these projects. The successful Contractor is to manage the overall project. The design component is to be undertaken by a registered Professional Engineer.

This RFP is on the Alberta Purchasing Connection website
http://www.purchasingconnection.ca/

www.thorhildcounty.com

THORHILDS COUNTY
FAMILY MEDICAL CLINIC

Located at the North entrance of the Thorhild County Administration Building.

Contact Us!

Public Works & Agriculture Services
801-1 Street
780-398-3977
Box 10, Thorhild, AB, T0A 3J0
801-2 Jr Street
807-398-3941

Emergency After Hours
Utilities 780-398-3939

COUNCIL MEETING DATES
All meetings begin at 9:30 a.m.
January 22, 2019 cancelled
January 29, 2019 council meeting
February 12, 2019
February 26, 2019

RELOCATION

8:00 AM on Thursday, January 18

Walk in and appointments available

Call 780-398-4MED (4633)

AFTER SUNSET

MONDAY – FRIDAY EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

8:00 am – ONE HOUR
AFTER SUNSET
EVERYDAY
INCLUDING HOLIDAYS

SCHOOL ZONE TIMES:

8:00 am – 9:30 am
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

MONDAY – FRIDAY EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS

PLAYGROUND ZONE TIMES:

8:00 am – 1:00 Hour
AFTER SUNSET
EVERYDAY
INCLUDING HOLIDAYS

FAMILY COMMUNITY KITCHENS

THURSDAY/SATURDAY

This two-day program focuses on meal planning, budgeting, and meal substitution. Learn how to make staple ingredients and make family-friendly, delicious meals that are not only easy on the wallet, but healthy too! You take home all the meals we prepare.

Call Rebecca at 780-398-2804 for more information or to register.

Location: Thorhild Library Fee: Free
Instructor: Rebecca Hansen Time: Noon to 2 PM
Dates: January 23 and February 6

For further information on any of our programs, or to register, please contact Rebecca at 780-598-2804.

Thorhild County
Utilities
801-1 Street
Box 10
Thorhild, AB, T0A 3J0
780-398-3741
807-398-3941

For inquiries, please contact
Rick Nieuwop, Public Works Manager, at (780) 398-3977.

Instructor: Kevin Grumetza
Division 1
807-398-3741
807-398-3941

Division 2
807-398-3741
807-398-3941

Division 3
807-398-3741
807-398-3941

Division 4
807-398-3741
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Division 7
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Division 8
807-398-3741
807-398-3941

Division 9
807-398-3741
807-398-3941

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Payroll & Personnel Manager
County of Thorhild
Box 10
Thorhild, Alberta T0A 3J0
or
e-mail laurie@thorhildcounty.com

We thank all applicants, however, only those individuals selected for interviews will be contacted.
Police begin School Zone Safety project

Last week local law enforcement officials teamed up to make school zones and school buses safer for students.

RCMP remind motorists that unless otherwise posted, school zones are in effect on school days between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Also, it is never permitted to pass a school bus with its stop signs out with lights flashing on an undivided road.

Redwater RCMP Cst. Alyssa Greco and Cst. Taylor Smaha are the School Zone Safety Project co-ordinators. They advised that due to a number of complaints received via social media the Redwater RCMP teamed up with Sturgeon County schools, School Bus Services, Thorhild County Peace Officers, Sturgeon County Protective Services and Redwater Bylaw in order to ensure the safety of students in school zones.

"Redwater RCMP became aware of a significant number of concerned citizens in and around the Redwater area," advised Greco and Smaha in a written statement. “Repeated instances of speeding, distracted driving and reckless drivers have raised concern in the community.”

The first step in the School Zone Safety project is an increased police presence in school zones during school hours in order to make personal contact with drivers who are committing these offences and to have a conversation and raise driver awareness. The RCMP hope these conversations can lead to a decrease in offences in order to ensure the safety of youths within our communities.

Further steps will be taken in the awareness initiative. They include ticketing and other traffic enforcement as mandated by the Traffic Safety Act and the Use of Highway Rules and Regulations Act. The final step of the project will be a comparative analysis of offences from before and after the initiative to determine its success.
Embracing Your Child’s Early Learning Experience.

At Sturgeon Public School Division, we work hand-in-hand with parents/guardians to bring out the individual strengths and unique personalities of each little learner, while starting them on the path to a bright and promising future.

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSES

Join us at one of our Open Houses – learn more about our “Preschool Programs, and check out what our Kindergarten Programs have to offer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT STURGEON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION AT 780-939-4341.

STURGEON HEIGHTS SCHOOL - January 16
6:00pm - Preschool Programs
6:45pm - Kindergarten
Childcare available - email Stefanie at stefanie.boenmanns@sturgeon.ab.ca

MORINVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL - January 24
6:00pm - Preschool Programs
6:45pm - Kindergarten - English and French Immersion
Childcare available - email Judy at judy.santerre@sturgeon.ab.ca

NAMAO SCHOOL - February 5
6:00pm - Preschool Programs
6:45pm Kindergarten
Childcare available - email Natasha at natasha.paquette@sturgeon.ab.ca

GUTHRIE SCHOOL - January 16
6:00pm - Kindergarten

OCHE PARK SCHOOL - February 5
6:30pm - Kindergarten

LANDING TRAIL SCHOOL - February 11
5:30pm - Kindergarten

CAMILLA SCHOOL - February 28
6:30pm - Kindergarten

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS include HEADSTART for children who require support for speech-language and/or fine motor skills and/or social skills. ENRICHMENT for children who are assessed as being “cognitively advanced”. Children must be screened and qualify for these programs under Alberta Education guidelines.

MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS
Children must meet the minimum age requirements by September 1, 2019 to be eligible for the 2019/2020 school year.

- PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS minimum age: 2 years, 8 months – those with significant needs;
  3 years, 8 months – those with mild to moderate needs
- KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM minimum age: 4 years, 6 months

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
Interested in our Preschool or Kindergarten Enrichment Program? Please ensure that you complete and bring with you to the Open House, the Initial In-Take Form that can be found on our website at www.sturgeon.ab.ca, simply click the Open House ad on the homepage.
FARM LAND NE OF WESTLOCK

158 acres of good land for your farm! Right on Highway 44 to Township Road 620. Then go east to RR 121. Then go north to 156 Street. There is a beautiful stone faced wood burning fireplace in LR. It offers lots of large windows & has an open concept LR/kitchen with lots of cabinets & large island. 24’x24’ garage is heated & back door leads into the property. It appears to have been installed in 70s. Upgrades within past few years including furnace, HWT, shingles, windows, doors, interior doors with glass door knobs & textured walls & freshly painted in modern colors & brand new carpeting. Basement has 2 BR, bathroom & 2 pce bath along with lots of storage. There is room to make an additional bedroom if needed. Along with double att garage is a 30’x40’ heated shop with a 12’x12’ office. The property is fenced & large enough for a few animals. Garden spot, greenhouse, deck with hot tub & more. This property is a must see! 759,900. Call Glenn for more information.

FARM LAND NE OF ALCOMDALE

6.74 acres nicely set up as a hobby farm with pastures, purchased sheds for animals. 1340 sq ft 2 bed, 2 bath, home well maintained. The property includes a 60’x100’ 2 bay shop with 20’x14’ overhead doors & a 25’x24’ detached garage. The shop is heated & insulated, 110 volt & 240 volt power. New 300 amp service and electrical panel. Attention animal lovers! Pride of ownership shows throughout the entire property in Long Lake Estates (just over 1 hour north of Edmonton). Over a half acre with only 100’ of road reserve land between you and the lake. minutes from town lead to the shores of the sandy beach and dock. The home features vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, open concept living room/kitchen, 2 baths, 2 brms, den, family room, and 3 pressure treated decks (2 have railings for b/o). Full garage has an extra room in it that is drywalled and prepped for additional space or man cave. Concrete driveway, storage sheds (match house & garage), stone pathway and patio around firepit area complete this gorgeous property. There is a cistern for water as well. This property was enlarged in 2013 Long Lake has a ski hill, golf course, filleing trails, snowmobiling and excellent fishing and boating on the 15 km freshwater lake. Complete with dock, boat lift, deck, dish, satellite & even boat lift. Summer getaway or year round living. This gorgeous property. There is a cistern for water as well. Unistone walkway and patio around firepit area complete this gorgeous property. There is a cistern for water as well. 119,900. Call Heather for more information.

EDMONTON LAND

140 acres of excellent farm land very near the edge of Edmonton. Great holding property with potential for future development. Right on pavement, not far from major industrial and industrial parks. Farm or rent out the land now or develop for your own business. 1,995,000. Call Glenn for more information.

EMPIRE TIRE

10,000 SQ FT COMMERCIAL LOT

Prime 100’x100’ commercial lot in great area right on major thoroughfare. 220 volt service. Great legal opportunity here to build and develop land. 6.3 ACRES. For more information, please contact Todd. 799,000 plus GST Call Heather for details.

EDMONTON BUNGALOW

3.8 ACRES WITH HOMELAND SHOP NEAR MORINVILLE

This is a gardener’s paradise! Rare find of 3.8 acres is immediately west of Morinville within walking distance of town. Almost 1400 sq ft bungalow with a finished concept garage & fully finished basement. It features vaulted ceilings, wood stove in the living room, huge LR with fresh painted in modern colors & brand new carpeting. Basement has 2 BR, bedroom & 3 pce bath along with lots of storage. There is room to make an additional bedroom if needed. Along with double att garage is a 30’x40’ heated shop with a 12’x12’ office. The property is fenced & large enough for a few animals. Garden spot, greenhouse, deck with hot tub & more. This property is a must see! 599,900. Call Glenn to view.

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Wildfires caused 15 times more high risk air quality days in 2018 than 2017

The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) in and around Alberta’s Industrial Heartland had significantly higher times of poor air quality in 2018 than in 2017. In 2017, there were only 157 hours of high or very high risk readings. In 2018, the number was 849 (nearly 1,400 percent).

Fort Air Partnership (FAP), the organization that monitors the air local residents breathe, reported the 2018 annual total was largely influenced by poor air quality conditions in August caused by wildfire smoke, predominately coming from British Columbia. FAP released its 2018 regional air quality monitoring results Jan. 7.

In Redwater, the 138 high risk and eight very high risk hours all occurred in August. Mayor Mel Smith said he finds it reassuring that the times of poor air quality were not caused by industry, “If it had been due to industry, we wouldn’t be getting any more plants,” he said. Gibbons had 134 high risk and 14 very high risk hours, with 110 of the high risk hours and all of the very high risk hours occurring in August. Gibbons had 11 high risk hours attributed to winter inversions with the remaining four high risk hours caused by summertime smog and smoke from unknown sources.

“I find it incredibly reassuring that poor air quality is not caused by industry,” said mayor Dan Deck. “I think this is a testament to how conscientious and forward thinking our industry is in the Heartland. Not only do they want to be successful, they are also responsible stewards of our environment.”

The portable air monitoring station began operating in Bon Accord in April 2018. The 72 high risk and 12 very high risk hours reported in Bon Accord all occurred during the August wildfires.

Despite the significant impact of wildfire smoke on air quality readings in August, FAP still recorded low risk readings the majority of the time in 2018. The Lamont County station had the most low risk readings at 91 percent of the time, while Fort Saskatchewan had the least amount of low risk readings, at 83 percent of the time.

Gibbons had low risk readings 86 percent of the time, Redwater 89 percent and Bon Accord 90 percent of the time. High and very high risk readings were recorded 1.7 percent of the time in Gibbons and Redwater and 1.4 percent of the time in Bon Accord.

FAP Communications Director Godfrey Huybregts advised the total number of hours exceeding ambient Air Quality Objectives in Fort Saskatchewan was 25 percent higher. Fort Saskatchewan had the most low risk readings at 91 percent of the time, while Fort Saskatchewan had the most low risk readings of 89 percent of the time, Redwater 89 percent and Bon Accord 771 percent of the time.

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High and very high risk readings were recorded 1.7 percent of the time in Gibbons and Redwater and 1.4 percent of the time in Bon Accord.
A night skiing event will not be held this season at the Long Lake ski area in Thorhild County. Staff will not even hold a trial to confirm how many lights would be needed for night-time skiing on the hill.

In a split vote during their Jan. 8 council meeting, coun-

ty councillors passed a motion declining approval for administration to hold a lighting trial. Councillors Richard Filpichuk, Joyce Pierce and Wayne Crosswell voted to not hold the trial. Councillor Cheryl Payau and Reeve Kevin Grumet-
za didn’t agree with shelving the project.

In his background information, CAO Wayne
Franklin said staff looked into the possibility of night skiing because it had been discussed dur-

ing 2019 budget deliberations. He reported the two main issues with such an event are lighting and staffing.

Enough lights would be needed to illuminate the entire hill and show any obstacles, bushes and lift areas. To determine sufficiency, staff would need to conduct a trial involving getting light plants, setting them up and skiing the hill to
determine if it is illuminated enough. That needs to be done well in advance of a night event, as there is not enough time to hold a trial and then have a night ski on Family Day (Feb. 18) as has been suggested.

Normal ski hours this time of year are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Holding a night event
means staff would stay at work for an additional three or four hours. That creates concern about having tired staff working at night.

Franklin advised the cost estimate to hold a night trial, including staff overtime wages plus rent of lights and gen-
erators, is about $17,000. He suggested doing more plan-
ning and holding a night trial next season.

Filpichuk said that with the low activity presently in the oil industry there should be a large supply of generators and light stands available for rent at reduced cost.

On December 23rd, 2018 Edgar Foster of Newbrook, AB passed away at the age of 84 years. He is survived by his family members. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 26th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Newbrook Community Hall with Pastor Marjorie Steelee officiating. Westlock Funeral Home & Crematorium Ltd. 780-349-3474.

FOSTER,
Edgar Welldell

Community
supports growing
need at food bank

Redwater and area residents generously support-
ed the Redwater Fellowship of Churches Food Bank during the past six weeks, allowing food bank volunteers to put some stock on the shelves as well as prepare Christmas hampers. In addition to Christmas campaign events such as the Festival of Trees and food bank collections at schools, about $2,900 worth of pre-packaged $5 and $10 food packs were purchased at Redwater IGA and donated to the food bank. These packages continue to be available as a convenient way to support the local food bank.

“A small community and area community by purchasing these food packs has been amazing and quite humble, considering the current state of our economy,” said food bank president Mechthild Brennen. “These packs have increased our food supplies for distribution to those in need significantly, and we are very thankful to Ken and Karen Evans, owners of the Redwater IGA, and their staff and to our generous local residents for this wonderful support.”

“It’s just amazing for a small community to be so supportive,” said Evans. “It’s all about the community. We didn’t do anything but bring them (food packs) in.”

His store purchased the pre-made food packs, and staff promoted their sales. More than 500 of the packs were sold since the campaign began on Nov. 25. He plans to participate in this program again.

The $5 packs contain a can each of chicken, beans in tomato sauce, soup, mixed peas and car-
rots, and tomato sauce. The $10 packs held two cans of soup, a jar of peanut butter, a large bag of pasta noodles and one can each of vegetables, cheese, freeze-dried chicken, and tomato sauce.

“We had to stock our shelves, and this food will go to those in need,” Brennen said. “It’s just amaz-
ing how much the need has increased.”

In 2018 the food bank gave out 565 regular ham-
ers and 42 Christmas hampers, up 15 percent from 492 regular hampers and 37 Christmas hampers in 2017.

“So many families are having a hard time mak-
ing ends meet, and with our current economy the way it is, we expect these numbers to increase fur-
ther,” Brennen said. “Many families are stretched to the limit, and unless things change provincially and nationally, food bank use will continue to rise.

Living in a small community like Redwater that
provides Christmas hampers for the Redwater area
and Thorhild County holds a separate Christmas
hampers campaign for its residents. In 2017 Thorhild gave out 57 Christmas hampers. That increased to 65 in 2018.
Fitness Centre plans to introduce fitness to youth and seniors

With three months of successful operations behind it, the Redwater Fitness Centre (RFC) is geared up to serve area residents throughout the winter and the remainder of this year.

"On behalf of all committee members of the Redwater Fitness Centre, we wish you a Fit and Healthy New Year," said director Gary Prodaniuk. "Our goal for 2019 is to introduce fitness to those who may be unfamiliar or new to the fitness scene. Our youth and senior generations will benefit greatly from exposure to fitness through training programs, rehabilitation, group events and by gaining more familiarity with the variety of equipment we offer and how it can benefit them."

The RFC will host its annual fundraiser on Feb. 16 at Pembina Place. It will be a Valentines Supper catered by V&Z Catering and with exciting door prizes.

In his start-of-the-year update Prodaniuk said October 2018 was a true milestone for the Town of Redwater with the opening of a new, modern fitness facility in Pembina Place. "Through all of the support we have received by the volunteers, businesses and members we have gotten off to a great start and are growing more and more every day. As a non-profit organization, we are excited and pleased with the positive support and enthusiasm such a facility has gained, the centre will benefit so many people at any stage of life.

The Fitness Centre committee held its Annual General Meeting Jan. 6. The new committee executive and directors for 2019 are: president Cyrena Kapach, vice president Dana Deoutsch, secretary Andrea Prodaniuk, treasurer Rachael Watt and directors Myron Prodaniuk, Teri Zdebik, Cory Stephen son, Pam Rock and Gary Prodaniuk.

The fitness centre manager is Sherrie Kapach. "A few short years ago we set our sights on bringing a modern fitness centre to Redwater and region. It has been an exercise of patience and perseverance which has ultimately has paid off," Prodaniuk said. "The RFC will make our community stronger and better by benefiting our schools and youth, sports programs, adults and seniors for years to come." He commended the Town of Redwater and council for ongoing support and commitment towards the positive growth and enhancement of the community.

"On a personal note and as founder of the RFC, I wish to extend my gratitude on behalf of my family and self to all of our resilient and hard working commit tee members whose efforts are a testament to those having the vision and positive attitude to achieve our objective. My role was to help create and set up the centre, which we have now achieved. Due to other commitments, I have chosen to step down from the executive and remain as a director to help support our new committee in this next exciting chapter of the Redwater Fitness Centre moving forward," states Prodaniuk.

The Redwater Quilters Guild enjoyed an industrious and enjoyable Fall 2018. They met regularly to complete personal projects as well as many charitable ones. The recipients of those works included: Kids Cottage, who accepted 3 quilts and 18 pairs of mittens and 6 toques; The Royal Alex Neonatal Intensive Care Unit was given 6 Bunny Shirts for a total of 18 for 2018; an additional 50 Premmie quilts were donated making a total of 100 quilts for 2018. The group sent a quilt to The Redwater Lions Club for their Silent Auction in support of STARS. Two quilts also went to the Redwater Health Centre.

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MLA Piquette plans to file nomination papers to carry ND colors in revised constituency

Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater MLA Colin Piquette intends to run in the next provincial election.

“I will contest for the NDP nomination in the Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock constituency,” he confirmed during the Jan. 8 Thorhild County council meeting.

Piquette later said he is in the process of formally registering as a New Democratic Party candidate.

With the re-drawing of provincial electoral boundaries, Piquette and Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock conservative MLA Glenn Van Dijken will be in the same constituency. Van Dijken was confirmed as the United Conservative Party candidate for the new ruling.

Piquette and Van Dijken were both first elected in May 2015.

The Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock constituency includes both Thorhild and Smoky Lake counties. Sturgeon County is split with its area east of Hwy 2 in the Morinville-St. Albert riding and its western section in the Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland riding.

Edmonton Institution Guard of Honour staff, both officers and non-officers, chose the Redwater Fellowship of Churches Food Bank as the recipient for the Guard of Honour’s annual food bank drive. They collected and donated about 310 lbs of food, the single largest donation of food the food bank received during the Christmas season.

Students from Thorhild Central School’s Kindergarten class enjoy an afternoon session of skating.

Redwater Arboretum Society president Isadore Koscielnyk (L-R) and treasurer Fred Moody accept a $500 donation from Royal Canadian Legion Redwater Branch #251 president Bill Moon Jan. 8. The funds were raised through the Legion’s bi-weekly bingos. Arboretum Society members have not completed planning for 2019 but anticipate planting more trees and working on one of the two major projects they have left to complete the site. The walking paths through the arboretum will cost about $15,000; the cost for two fountains may be almost that much, depending on their design.

Students were back at work at H.A. Kostash School in Smoky Lake Jan. 7 after the Christmas Break. Here grade 8 students Micah Rottacker and Kalan Tychkowski practice stick handling backwards through pylons.

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Sturgeon County remains split on handling of council pay issue

In a close vote, Sturgeon County defeated a resolution that would have had a citizen task force review council pay and make recommendations.

Mayor Alanna Hnatiw received the support of councillors Susan Evans and Karen Shaw to her motion that Council directed CAO Shaw to her motion that Council direct the CAO to establish a citizen task force to review the elected officials' remuneration and to bring back to Council a comprehensive list of recommendations that will ensure future compensation is fiscally responsible, fair minded and equitable.

Patrick Tighe, Wayne Bokenfohr, Dan Derouin, and Neal Comeau defeated the resolution at the Jan. 8 meeting.

Hnatiw presented the resolution, noting that during budget debate “it was clear we couldn’t come to agreement” on a benchmark level. She noted that a third party study had been done on council pay and that could be part of the information considered by the task force.

Comeau disagreed, noting the third party report brought recommendations forward and he didn’t feel a task force should repeat what has already been done. Bokenfohr agreed with this view, citing the cost of doing studies along with the time involved versus the benefit that would be produced.

Derouin suggested that council is the citizen group that was elected to make the decisions and it should do so. However, he did not respond to media questions later regarding whether he would be making a resolution on the 2019 council pay or what that level of pay would be. He also chastised the former council saying it was on the current council’s agenda because the previous council did not address the topic, noting that during budget deliberations later regarding whether he would be making a resolution on the 2019 council pay or what that level of pay would be. Hnatiw denied the comments.

Shaw denied the comments stating as a member of the former council they did address council pay and it wasn’t changed because that council felt they were being adequately paid. He cited multi-million dollar decisions being made by senior governments in a matter of hours, suggesting the council pay issue was minor in comparison but council pay had been discussed for days. He felt the time spent on the topic didn’t correlate with the impact that it merited.

After the defeat of the resolution council moved on without any further action.

Corrections

Responding to media later, Hnatiw confirmed that council is now being paid at the 2018 rate but the actual take-home pay will be lower due to the end of the one-third tax free allowance previously allowed municipal elected officials by the federal income tax.

“The 2018 pay scale remains the same until such time as a motion to request otherwise is brought forward, so currently 2019 take-home pay is lower due to the federal tax change. We can now claim certain expenses on our income tax that we were not able to before. This will add some burden to the time that needs to be taken to account for our travel and activities in order to document those expenses,” she explained.

As to whether a consensus resolution or motion from an individual councillor is expected to address the pay level in the near future, she responded “I am not aware of any motions being brought forward regarding council pay structure.”

The Mayor noted, however, “I do believe that Council needs to update its policies around remuneration as some reach back as far as 1999. The scope of the work on this council has changed substantially since that time, and even since the last increase outside of COLA (cost of living increase) was 12 years ago.

We are accountable for the value we bring to the municipality when we, in effect, reapply for our job on council every four years. Not many organizations have their employees re-apply for their positions every four years. If we utilized those same outdated HR (human resources) practices with the staff of the municipality, we would not be functionable.”

Hnatiw sees the council pay issue as just one element of a broader picture. “It is necessary to modernize this organization, which is the point of the Organizational Review underway and the changes in leadership we have had. We need to acknowledge where our strengths are and hold on to that, and objectively review where we need to improve and act on that. We are the level of government that is held most closely accountable to provide day-to-day services with the least amount of tax dollars available to us, so we need to be high functioning and efficient. A progressive and positive work environment for staff and elected officials is integral to Sturgeon County’s success.”

Redwater County

The Review, Redwater, Alberta, 780-942-2023, email: redwater@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Tuesday, January 15, 2019, Page A15

Thorstead School “Great Beginnings” preschool program enjoys exploring different areas of the school outside of their classroom. A visit to the school library was highly entertaining. The preschool program is now licensed and continues to welcome new students on an ongoing basis.

CONTACT US

COMMUNITY PHOTO coverage. Check the digital newspaper The Heartland extra for additional coverage each week. www.cowleynewspapers.com as well as current editions of The Free Press and The Review.


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