Don’t avoid going to local hospital emergency or lab due to COVID-19 fear, says AHS

One new case of COVID-19 was reported in the Sturgeon region last week. As of May 15, the Sturgeon County region had 13 reported cases of COVID-19, with one active case and 12 recoveries.

Sturgeon County is the only one in The Review and The Free Press circulation areas with reported cases of COVID-19. Both the Thorhild and Smoky Lake county regions continue to have zero reported cases. Asked if there have been increased numbers of respiratory illnesses, even though there have not been confirmed cases of COVID-19, Diana Rinne with Alberta Health Services (AHS) North Zone Communications advised that for tracking like this, influenza is the only respiratory illness for which they can provide data.

In the North Zone there were 170 hospitalizations and three deaths due to influenza from Aug. 25, 2019, to May 2, 2020. There were 194 hospitalizations and two deaths due to influenza from Aug. 26, 2018, to March 23, 2019.

Public Health nurses do most of the COVID-19 testing for community and some in congregate living. In Smoky Lake testing is done either in the patient’s home or in a drive through at the hospital parking lot. The process is similar in Redwater.

Rinne said no one should hesitate to go to the hospital for emergencies or lab work because they fear they might spread COVID-19 to others.

“In these extraordinary times, AHS has had to make significant changes to the way we deliver health care,” said Rinne. “But one thing has remained the same: if anyone is in need, emergency health care, they will receive it. If you think you have a serious or life-threatening injury or illness, go straight to an emergency department or call 911 immediately. We do not want anyone to stay away from an emergency department if they need help. We are always here for you when you need us.

For anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms and is having a medical emergency, they should call 911. When going to an emergency department they are to wear a mask and ensure staff are made aware of those symptoms.

“We assured, our hospitals and emergency departments are safe,” declared Rinne.

Screening measures are in place at all AHS facilities. Anyone entering an AHS facility will be asked a series of screening questions and may have their temperature checked prior to entering the building. The screening is in place for patients, visitors, staff, physicians and everyone else. These precautions have been put in place to help keep patients and staff safe and limit the spread of COVID-19.

When questioned about the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) in rural hospitals, Rinne said AHS currently has a sufficient inventory of PPE equipment for staff including gowns, masks, isolation gowns, N95 respirators, goggles, and face shields.

For COVID-19 reporting purposes, each county includes the urban communities within it. The statistics were taken from the Government of Alberta website May 15.

Thorstall County council will not make a decision on purchasing new emergency services radios until after a report on the existing county communication towers and radios is done. During its May 12 meeting council held a lengthy discussion about whether or not the county Emergency Services and Enforcement Services members should all have the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) radios now used by many other fire departments and by the ambulance service and the RCMP in Alberta.

Administration presented council with a request to fund a portion of purchasing the new radios from reserves established for them. Last year $25,000 was put into reserves for the future purchase of AFRRCS radios for both Emergency and Enforcement Services.

In June 2019 the county used a portion of those funds to purchase four AFRRCS radios. They are used by the two county Community Peace Officers (CPOs), the fire chief and the Emergency and Enforcement Services manager. Administration proposed to now use the remaining reserve of $15,500 plus $33,500 in donations from area industries to purchase AFRRCS radios for all county emergency responders. There are 32 active fire department volunteers. Each radio with batteries and charger costs about $1,500.

Emergency Services and Enforcement Services manager Chynette Shaw said the new radios would enable communications in the Opal and Long Lake areas where the current VHF radios do not work and cell phone coverage can be inconsistent.

Don’t avoid going to local hospital emergency or lab due to COVID-19 fear, says AHS
Highway 28 collision claims one, inflicts five

A 46-year-old man from Fort McMurray died as a result of a collision near the Redwater oil derrick and gazebo as he plays the Redwater HYPER (Helping Young People Excel) activity. Big thanks to Eric Hunt for the story.

The collision occurred on May 13, with STARS air ambulance taking two to hospital and ground ambulances taking the remaining four occupants of the vehicles.

The collision occurred on Highway 28 just west of Redwater, at Township Road 574, with the highway being closed into the early afternoon hours.

Redwater RCMP along with an RCMP Col- lision Analyst continue to investigate. All con- tributing factors are being considered in rela- tion to this collision, state police.

YOUR OWN PRIVATE ACRES WITH UTILITIES

Camposg-security closed? Buy your own private acres, gorgeous, peaceful, tree- covered property with power and water. Less than 1 mi off the highway and on a farm track. Over 1 mi lake on the west side of property. Beautiful view of the surrounding countryside while blocking the noise and offers a place of privacy. Weekend water, 4km from your tiny home or build your dream home. Only $99,900. Call Heather for more information.

HOUSE AND SHOP IN THORHILD

Main maintenance garage, 3 1/2 bedroom, 1024 sq ft bungalow and shop on 130/320 1/2 in Thorhild. There has just been reno’d and has a second bedroom in the large basement. Family room, kitchen, laundry, bathroom, office with nurse practitioner & even outdoor swimming pool. Thorhild is about 45 min N of Edmonton & only 20 min to Redwater where there is a hospital. Just about everything you need is here including dentist, grocery store, hardware store, gas stations, medical clinics with nurse practitioners & even outdoor swimming pool. Your home is in move in condition! Call Heather to view.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN THORHILD

Triplex with two 2 bedroom suites & one 1 bedroom suite. 4 units on 1/2 lot 3 1/2 garages. Only 20 min to Redwater which has MVA & many other industries at the half mile mark. Great property that could be built into 4 units. Current rent is $2590 a month. $156,800 Call Heather to view.

HALF MILE OF CASALETTE ON HALF MOON LAKE

A rare opportunity for a one of a kind property. A 5 Acre lot of beautiful lakeshore on south side of Half Moon Lake, only a half hour north of Edmonton. Swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, horseback riding right on your doorstep. 78.63 ac is bounded on north side by lake & on south side by crown land. Property is mostly wooded with lots of clearing done. Three children remain in serious condition in hospital and ground ambulances taking the remaining four occupants of the vehicles.

The collision occurred on Highway 28 just west of Redwater, at Township Road 574, with the highway being closed into the early afternoon hours.

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Information Bulletin

May 2020

Parking Reminder

Just a reminder to residents that parking or stopping long 48 Ave. both Eastbound and Westbound is prohibited under the Traffic Safety Bylaw 763 Section 6.2 and 6.3. Please use designated business parking or off-street parking.

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Taxes

The 2020 Combined Assessment and Tax Notice will be mailed prior to May 31, 2020. If you do not receive your Tax Notice please contact the Town Office. The extended tax payment deadline for 2020 is August 31.

The average residential assessment of $205,700 will see a total overall annual decrease of $73 to their taxes.

This contribution allows for the provision of many municipal services including water, sewer, natural gas, street maintenance, snow removal, bylaw, recreation facilities, community programs, fire and disaster recovery protection.

Changes to Tax Penalties for 2020

Council approved a change the Tax Penalty Bylaw for 2020; instead of 10% penalty effective July 1, the penalty for 2020 will be split to a 5% penalty September 1 and a 5% penalty November 1. This penalty is applied to current taxes unpaid.

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Community News

National Public Works Week
May 17-23, 2020
Visit www.apwa.net for more information.

Community Planting Bee
Thursday, May 28 at 11:00 am
Pembina Place Parking Lot
Bring your trowel and come out to help us plant flowers around Redwater. If you would like to help out or would like more information, contact the Community Services Office at 780-942-4101.

Volunteer Income Tax Program
The revised deadline for filing your Income Tax this year is June 1. Volunteers may file your return for free if you meet eligibility requirements (lower income, simple return — no business, farming, rental, or self-employment). Call the Community Services office at 780-942-4101 for more information.

COVID Response

As part of our ongoing management of the COVID-19 pandemic, Redwater has taken steps to assist our residents during these difficult times. Council has approved budget reductions of $138,652 from the current operating budget. These cuts are a result of not filling vacant positions and the decision not to hire additional summer staff. The result will be a 0% budget increase for 2020. We have made a conscious effort to keep staff employed, thereby contributing to our economy as well as ensuring we continue to provide effective service delivery to our residents.

Council has also implemented a utility payment deferral for those affected by the pandemic. The Province originally provided a deferral from March 18 to June 18, Council has approved the deferral period from March 18 to June 30. We will continue to provide utility arrears notices; however, no disconnections will be done during this period. Payment may also now be made by credit card to assist utility account holders with cash flow.

In addition, Council has approved a change for the property tax due date from June 30 to August 31 and changed the tax penalty to be split instead of 10% effective July 1 to a 5% penalty-imposed September 1 and a 5% penalty November 1. A new payment system will be in place to allow for tax and utility payments by credit card. Council and administration are mindful of the impact this pandemic has created, and believe they will help those who need the help most.

As you are aware, all Town facilities are currently closed and all programs and events in which people gather have been cancelled until further notice. This includes the Senior’s Block Party and Summer Programs. The Premier has suggested that some relaxation of restrictions may be forthcoming. Considering this, we will be making a decision regarding the pool operation by May 20 – assuming any restrictions can be addressed. Our PCSS department is also available should you require information related to mental health or other social supports. Our goal is to maintain services in an as normal practice as possible.

Contact us

We want to hear from you when it comes to complaints, concerns or questions about the Town of Redwater and the programs or services we run. Here is an easy guide to help you connect with us.

Visit www.redwater.ca or our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/TownofRedwater/ for updates.

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Our local pharmacies are offering delivery service for prescriptions and medications if needed. Check with other local businesses as well for ordering and delivery services available. A full business directory is available at www.redwater.ca under the business tab.

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Contact Us

Phone: (780) 942-3519
Town Office
4924 - 47 Street
P.O. Box 397
For general questions email: redwater@redwater.ca
For more pressing concerns contact the Town Manager: cao@redwater.ca
For general questions phone: 780-942-3519
For more pressing concerns contact the Town Manager: Extension 230

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www.redwater.ca
Nore Lapointe of Egremont takes a break in his favorite chair in 2006.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic throwing a wrinkle into plans to celebrate the popular Egremont resident’s 90th birthday there will be horns sounding and vehicles parading by to pay tribute to Nore Lapointe on May 30.

Story page A7.
Rezoning started for 80 acre Roseridge organics processing facility, transfer station

Sturgeon County Council unanimously supported taking the initial step to allow expansion of the Roseridge Waste Management Facility by approving the first reading of a bylaw to rezone approximately 80 acres immediately south of the current facility from AG-2 Agriculture to D3C-Direct Control District 3 at their regular Council meeting May 12.

The proposed expansion “does not require the creation or expansion of landfill cells. A landfill cell is the area of a landfill that is constructed and approved for disposal of waste,” noted Senior Planning & Development Officer Martyn Bell.

The Request for Decision advised Council “the applicant has informed the County that the current facility, structure and layout are not capable of supporting current and future expectations of solid waste management within the region. The applicant is requesting the proposed area be rezoned to allow for the construction of a new transfer station and organics processing facility, the construction of which is critical to the long-term planning of this much needed public service.”

Bell pointed out “fundamental infrastructure and asset investment support the future growth of Sturgeon County and regional businesses. This application could provide for opportunities in leading waste management practices.”

Roseridge Regional Landfill has been in operation since 1981 and receives about 70,000 tonnes of solid waste annually. The properties are owned and operated by the Roseridge Waste Management Services Commission. The facility is a partnership between the town of Bon Accord, Gibbons, Legal, Morinville, Redwater and Sturgeon County.

Be prepared for an emergency, says reader

Letter to the editor; Infrastructure minister Kaycee Madu made a good point about being ready for emergencies. What might have helped us if he gave us a few tips for readers to apply. Since he didn’t, I will.

Every person should have a suitcase packed with all they’d need during an evacuation. Being ready for one won’t cause panic and necessary items won’t be left behind.

In the case where people have to stay indoors, it’s wise to keep extra canned goods on hand. We saw how shoppers panicked during March. Avoid the rush by buying extra canned goods on hand. We could provide for our dinner if the water supply is off or contaminated. It also can be boiled in the event of a boil water advisory.

I highly recommend people buy a combination radio and flashlight with a built-in dynamo and solar power. I have several. Better still, buy a radio with a Weather Canada Tone Alarm feature. When left in standby mode, the radio will beep when a tornado warning is issued.

Though many folks own smart phones, the cell towers can become overloaded during a crisis. But radios with dynamos to charge an internal battery can alert people to possible tornadoes. I also checked on Amazon.com and found several solar-powered smart phone chargers. Not only would these be handy if the power is out for an extended period but such devices would be useful on camping trips. And it always seems the phone battery goes dead just when you need it most.

— Bruce Ashton

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Annual Vegetation Management Program

Every year, CN is required to clear its right-of-way from any vegetation that may pose a safety hazard. Vegetation on railway right-of-way, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to trackside fires and impair proper inspection of track infrastructure.

As such, for safe railway operations, the annual vegetation control program will be carried out on CN rail lines in the province of Alberta. A certified applicator will be applying herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 16-foot travelled area). All product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be fulfilled.

At this time, we expect that the program will take place from May to October 2020.

Visit cn.ca/vegetation to consult the list of cities as well as the updated schedule.

Safety is a core value at CN and in the actual context of the COVID-19 pandemic, our employees and contractors are taking all measures to stay healthy and to protect the communities in which we operate. For more information, please visit cn.ca/covid-19-update.

For more information, please contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.
continued from front

“If we have no communications we have to stand our Emergency Services down,” said Reeve Kevin Grumetza. “How can we send anyone to a scene if we have no communications?”

Fire chief Dave Fiddler said, “In areas of the county we have no radio communica-
tion. It’s always been that way.” He said the lack of communications at Opal and Long Lake were no secret, and the department has been preparing to purchase the new radios for some time.

To date the department has spent $21,200 on repairing the VHF radios and towers. The current radios are outdated and are scheduled for replacement. The current tower in Radway would need to be replaced if the department continues to use the VHF system. It is estimated that the tower replacement would cost between $150,000 and $350,000. The county Public Works department also uses VHF radios. If the tower is not upgraded, they would need an alternative such as cell phones or AFRRCS radios.

Supporting the AFRRCS radio purchase are contributions from Enbridge Pipeline $15,000, Wolfe Pipelines $1,000, Nutrien $10,000, Waste Management of Canada $2,500, and Shell Canada $5,000.

Tower replacement costs of $150,000 to $350,000 needed for existing radio system

The Redwater HYPE (Helping Young People Excel) activity bingo grand prize winners were Makenna (L-R), Janesa and Laranya Gordey.

Karen Romanchuck poses for a photo by the Ochre Park Owl at Ochre Park School in Redwater as she participates in the Redwater HYPE activity bingo.

The Vilna School is now accepting Kindergarten and Great Beginnings registrations for the 2020-21 school year! Registration forms are available online at vilna.aspenview.org OR contact us at 780-636-3651 or vilna@aspenview.org and we will mail a registration form to you.

Pick-up or drop-off of registration forms at the school is available. Please call 780-636-3651 to make arrangements.

Great Beginnings is a pre-school program for children who are at least 3 years of age, but have not yet turned 5, by December 31 of the school year. To register for Kindergarten, children must be at least 5 years old as of Dec. 31, 2020.

Questions or more information? Call Vilna School @ 780-636-3651 or email: vilna@aspenview.org

Resource Extraction in Sturgeon County

Regulatory Review Public Engagement

Sturgeon County is launching a review of its sand and gravel (aggregate) extraction bylaws and regulations, and we want to hear from you.

The Resource Extraction Regulatory Review project aims to find better ways to balance economic, social, health and environmental outcomes for the municipality, residents, and industry alike. This review includes:

- Review of existing bylaws;
- Public engagement with residents and stakeholders within Sturgeon County;
- Interviews with industry representatives; and
- A report and recommendation to Council through a public hearing process.

Public engagement is taking place between May 19 to June 12.

Due to restrictions caused by COVID-19, in-person events will be replaced with alternative engagement options.

Visit the project website www.sturgeoncounty.ca/ResourceExtraction for the following public engagement opportunities:

- Learn about the project, complete a survey.
- Connect with the project team and provide input.
- If you are unable to access the internet, or prefer an alternate method, contact us to receive materials by mail.
- Book a 30-minute telephone/video meeting with the project team to discuss your questions and ideas.

For further questions about this project, contact: Resource Extraction Regulatory Review Team Email: pandi@sturgeoncounty.ca Phone: 780-939-8275 OR Toll Free 1-866-939-8303 Ext. 8275

sturgeoncounty.ca/ResourceExtraction
Celebrate Nore Lapointe’s 90th birthday on May 30

Nore Lapointe of Egremont will celebrate his 90th birthday on May 30. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic his family, neighbors and friends can’t hold a party for him, so they are planning a hon-honking drive-by between 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m.

“He’s the star of Egremont,” said Dee O’Neill. “He’s just pure love.” She explained that he is always around town cleaning vacant lots, mowing, shovelling, picking up garbage.

Nore (Honore) and his wife, Kathleen, have lived in Egremont for the past 25 years. “He’s a guy that likes to work,” Kathleen said. “He’s going to be 90 at the end of May, and he works outside every day. He likes to putz, and he likes things clean. He used to go around town to fix signs and things. Nore has a boat now with outside work because of arthritis. He had to stop gardening a couple of years ago, but he still does the laundry because Kathleen can not go down the stairs.

“He’s a good man,” she said. “He’s a good worker, a very, very good husband.”

They were married 62 years ago on May 28, 1958.

“Life’s been good,” Kathleen said. “We can’t complain.”

Nore was raised on a farm near Bonnyville. He walked 2.5 miles to attend a French and English parish school. The fourth in a family of 16 children, he went up to grade nine in French and grade five in English. Nore had shot eight of his half brother’s gits. He missed some school and for a time was too sick to attend. That was the end of learning indoor skills such as cooking.

Kathleen grew up in rural Saskatchewan north of Saskatoon. She walked to school when the distance was 1.5 miles. When it was very cold they took the 6-mile pull by two horses. “I remember going to school at minus 66,” she said. “Our clothes were all white. The teacher would take us outside and rub snow on them to take the frost off.”

Kathleen remembers that when she was young, and even when her children were small, an infectious disease outbreak meant staying home from school and catching up as best you could afterwards. In large families, sometimes there would be six or seven sick children in the same household. If suffering from measles, they were kept in a dark room.

At parents, Nore and Kathleen’s worst experience was 60 days of the COVID-19 pandemic when four year old Hector had Scarlet Fever.

“I had to pour liquids down him because he couldn’t swallow,” recalled Kathleen. “I couldn’t take him to the hospital. He was contagious, so they didn’t want him at the hospital. I took care of him. He had a fever for three weeks, then his skin pealed. He was a little red guy.” She disinfected his clothes and bedding by boiling them.

Despite him being eight years older than she was, they maintained their correspondence. Kathleen went to work for a pig farmer when she was 15. She was still there nearly five years later, and when her boss moved more help, she wrote to Nore about the potential job.

“We met March first, 1958,” recalled Kathleen. “We got married May 28 and had a little girl at the end of December, 1958 was a great year for us. I’d do it all over again.

They lived on a farm near Bonnyville, a quarter of land that supported them with grain, milk cows and 500 chickens. They raised seven children. Willie, Ernest and Lucien are now deceased. Colette, David, Hecrtor, and Roger live across Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Kathleen remembers that when she was a young girl, the cutter pulled by two horses. “I remember the horses. When it was very cold they took them 1.5 miles. When it was very cold they took the cutter pulled by two horses. “I remember the horses. When it was very cold they took them 1.5 miles.

Nore moved to Egremont with his wife, Kathleen, and family in the mid 1990s because they had children and grandchildren living there. Now they live with Roger because they would not be able to remain in their home without help.

Kathleen is on oxygen and has not left the house since March 6. She does puzzles and knits just about anything. Her hands are getting stiff, but she can still make doll outfits, golf club covers, scarfs and mitts. One year she donated 100 pairs of mittens to the food bank.

“It’s the kids,” said Kathleen.

The Thorhild County is Open for Business!

May 2020

To the Residents and Ratepayers of Thorhild County

First please accept the County’s apologies for the delay in this year’s first quarterly update regarding the activities of Thorhild County. Certainly, times have been unusual, and business has not been typical, through the entire 60 days of the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of these difficult times Council and I wish to thank the residents, businesses, and County staff as we have persevered through the first and second quarters of 2020.

Thorhild County Council is pleased to provide our residents and ratepayers with this overview of activities since the previous update.

Thorhild County Family Medical Clinic has been open for two years. The clinic has had great success over this time, with 3908 patient visits. Colleen Cartier our Nurse Practitioner provides care to patients from Thorhild County and the surrounding area as well as weekly visits to Thorhild Seniors Lodge. The Clinic participates in the Nurse Practitioner Practicum Program and three nurse practitioners have accessed their work placement practicum here in Thorhild County. The Nurse Practitioner is always available to answer questions and take appointments. Please feel free to reach out to the Clinic at 780-398-4633.

We are pleased to announce that Thorhild County has been successful in their application to the Family Resource Network as a spoke service provider. This means we will be able to support children, youth and their families in a collaborative way with partnering agencies that stretch from Barrhead to Vlina to form the Rural Connections Family Resource Network. Supports and services will specifically focus on strengthening parenting and care-giving knowledge, social support, coping and problem-solving skills, access to other community supports and resources, improving child and youth development, building resiliency and fostering well-being. The Thorhild Family Centre will be located in the Thorhild Lodge where the former Parent Link Centre was. The opening of the Thorhild Family Centre is delayed due to COVID-19. Should you have any questions specific to this program you can reach the Family Centre at 780-656-6016.

Snow and weather conditions contributed to a fantastic season at Long Lake Ski Area, with 1741 ski passes sold. Many enjoyed the relax on the couch back in 1986.

Snow and weather conditions contributed to a fantastic season at Long Lake Ski Area, with 1741 visitors to the area.

Council provided the Newbrook Recreational and Agricultural Society with funds of $11,000 to assist with the Newbrook Skating Arena operations for their 2019-2020 operating season.

Bylaw 29-201- Lending Funds to Seeds to Sprouts Childcare Society Bylaw was passed to provide up to $60,000 to the Childcare Society for the operation of Day Care located within Thorhild Central School. Council looks forward to the re-opening of this community service.

This year a dedicated phone line was established for residents to call in for plugged culverts, road washouts, and flooding, which resulted in over 300 calls to the number. Council will be discussing options to move forward on mitigating flooding in the future.

Thorhild County has completed Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework Agreements with the neighboring municipalities of Athabasca, Lamont, Sturgeon, and Westlock Counties. These Frameworks are intended to provide for integrated and strategic planning, delivery, and funding of intermunicipal services.

The boat launch at Halfmoon Lake is open and plans are underway to reopen Halfmoon Lake Campground. For more information please call the Caretaker at 780-961-3308.

Radway Fishpond is open for the fishing enthusiasts, over 1000 rainbow trout were delivered this year.

Happily, the weather allows our agricultural community to get into the fields for spring work.

Please be safe and continue caring for one another through the coming months.

On Behalf of Council,

Reeve Kevin Gnutseta
Div. 2 Councillor
(780) 288-5308
kevin.gnutseta@thorhildcounty.com

Div. 1 Councillor Richard Filipchuk
(780) 665-0522
richard.filipchuk@thorhildcounty.com

Div. 3 Councillor Joyce Pierce
(780) 271-8458
joyce.pierce@thorhildcounty.com

Div. 4 Deputy Reeve Cheryl Pasay
(780) 717-2679
cheryl.pasay@thorhildcounty.com

Div. 5 Councillor Wayne Crosswell
(780) 977-2643
wayne.crosswell@thorhildcounty.com

No photo provided.

Kathleen Lapointe holds up a dress she knelt for a little girl.

A Note from the Mayor

Ph: 780-398-3741

www.thorhildcounty.com


Nueller ready to keep teaching her children at home

Angie Nueller of Redwater is ready to help her children with online schooling as long as it lasts. “If it goes on for a period of time, I’m ready for it,” she said. “I’m willing to teach my children.” Since schools were closed March 15 because of COVID-19, she has learned a few things about her kids. Nueller is a single parent who has three school age children: Eden Huppie in grade four at Ochre Park School, Dustin Huppie in grade five at Redwater School and Grace Nueller in grade eight at Redwater School. She also lives with her 25 year old daughter, Kacey Hupeppee, and Kacey’s boyfriend.

“I found out my son in grade five has been struggling with his work,” said Nueller. “Now I can help him more. This is very positive for him. He needs the one-on-one. At school he’s not getting that.” She explained that Dustin has a syndrome disorder and is challenged with words and reading. She feels his math marks are getting better because she or Kacey sit and help him do the work.

Grace in grade eight also has FASSD, but she is good at doing her work on her own. “She’s a pretty brilliant child and asks questions when she needs to,” said Nueller. While Grace and Dustin work on math and language arts, younger Eden has those two subjects plus social studies. “She loves her online school,” Nueller said. “I think grade four has the most work, which to me makes no sense.

For creative outlets she has lots of art and craft supplies. They paint and do all kinds of art projects together.

Overall, school at home is going quite smoothly at their place. They have a five bedroom house, giving everyone their own space when they need it. They also have a backyard trampoline and bikes, so they can go riding together.

“The only thing they miss, really, is their friends,” said Nueller. The kids each have a weekly Google Meet with their classes, but it’s not the same as being with their friends.

Weed, pest inspectors appointed by Sturgeon

Sturgeon County’s 2020 municipal inspectors under the Alberta Agricultural Pest Act and the Alberta Weed Control Act include Cathryn Thompson, Justin Stevens and Kysanne Carlson.

Council approved the appointments at their regular Council meeting on May 12. Thompson and Stevens were also appointed municipal inspectors in 2019.

“The inspectors are responsible for monitoring compliance and enforcing the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pests Act and the Sturgeon County Grass Cutting Bylaw,” noted Acting Manager Agricultural Services, Tara McGinn. The City associated with employing weed and pest inspectors are covered under Agricultural Service Board programs grant funds from the Government of Alberta.
Hydrogen task force to set stage to grow the industry in region

Alberta’s Industrial Heartland Hydrogen Task Force, an independent working group created to develop a framework to position a hydrogen economy in the region, was officially launched May 14. Organized by The Transition Accelerator in tandem with Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hratchi, Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson, Fort Saskatchewan Mayor Gale Katchur, Strathcona County Mayor Rod Frew, and Lamont County Reeve David Diduck, the Task Force will produce a public report detailing the approach and steps needed to advance a zero-emission fuel economy in Alberta’s Industrial Heartland. The Task Force also includes an additional roster of government, business, energy, academic and sustainability leaders.

The demand for hydrogen in the global energy system is dramatically increasing, with projections indicating at least a tenfold increase in demand in the coming decades. The unique strengths of Alberta’s Industrial Heartland make it among the world’s lowest cost producers of hydrogen - at approximately half the wholesale cost of diesel. Alberta blue hydrogen is made with ultra-low emissions by upgrading natural gas. The carbon byproduct generated from this process can then be captured and permanently sequestered underground or used for another purpose.

Currently, hydrogen is used in industrial and manufacturing processes in the region instead of as a fuel, since distribution and fueling infrastructure are not currently in place. Using hydrogen as a zero-emission fuel, and as a feedstock for other products, provides a major long-term economic opportunity for domestic use and export to international markets. Hydrogen fuel has the potential to be used in a myriad of ways, including to decarbonize natural gas distribution systems, industrial processes, thermal power generation, heavy and long-distance transportation and more.

The Task Force’s important analysis is the first step to identifying the broader economic opportunities that growing large-scale clean hydrogen production and use can bring to Alberta. These efforts also complement work that the Government of Canada has been leading, with private sector stakeholders, and governments, to develop a hydrogen strategy for Canada. Alberta’s Industrial Heartland Hydrogen Task Force is the result of government, industry and academia coming together to champion real change so Alberta can win economically and environmentally in a changing world,” said Dan Wicklum, CEO, The Transition Accelerator.

“Picture Alberta using and supplying the world with zero-emission hydrogen fuel made by upgrading natural gas. This could be a part of a very strong future for Alberta and Canada.”

“Alberta’s abundant, low-cost feedstock, skilled labour, and extensive infrastructure can make us a leader in the production, use and export of zero-emission hydrogen,” said Hratchi, Sturgeon County Mayor and Chair, Alberta’s Industrial Hydrogen Association. “The Mayors of the five municipalities of Alberta’s Industrial Heartland are playing a key role in developing a framework that will power our economy and build our national and global reputation as innovators.

“Alberta’s Industrial Heartland has a long, proud energy history, but we need to stay current and not only accept, but drive change,” said Iveson. “Creating new markets for zero-emission hydrogen fuel, made by upgrading natural gas, is a way to capitalize on our strengths and prepare for tomorrow.”

We know that demand for hydrogen continues to grow, both here at home and around the world,” said Dale Nally Morinville-St. Albert MLA and Agriculture, Mine and Irrigation Minister. "It’s time to capitalize on this growth opportunity to strengthen and extend our natural gas value chain through the development of blue hydrogen. By building on the existing knowledge and skillset of Albertans, we can attract new investment to our natural gas sector, create jobs, achieve environmental objectives, and grow Alberta’s economy. I look forward to seeing this Task Force help our province to become a competitive supplier of low-emission and affordable hydrogen for Canada and the world.”

Over 10 weeks, Alberta’s Industrial Heartland Hydrogen Task Force will set the stage for a long-term build out of a hydrogen economy in the region. The Task Force’s final report will be released in July 2020.
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Thorhild County

Thorhild County Public Works Department is diligently working on repairs and maintenance to a number of roads that recently flooded. You may have noticed soft spots and “boils” on the gravel roads. This is due to the frost coming out of the ground. Exercise caution when travelling in these areas.

Please note the following road closures:
- Range Rd 220 South of Township Road 582 to Deadend
- Range Road 202 between Township 584 and 590 (Myrtle Creek Bridge)

To report road issues, call 1-825-845-2020.
Here are a couple pictures for kids to color!!
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