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Farm 'n' Friends

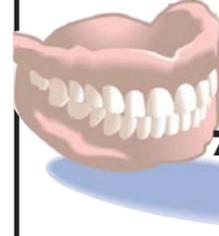
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LAMONT-REDWATER, ALBERTA

November 28, 2014

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Baking Morinville family volunteers time and money for charity

by Cynthia Wandler

Last Christmas, as Morinville sisters Gracie and Ava Arcand were writing out their Christmas lists, they decided they wanted to do something to help less fortunate families in Morinville. In discussion with their mom, they decided to bake cookies for donations. Mom Karri expected a few orders from family members but after she posted it on Facebook, she and the girls found themselves baking and delivering over 400 cookies. They raised \$700 for the Knights of Columbus Christmas hampers, a campaign supported by their school, Ecole Notre Dame Elementary. A year later, the nine and seven year old sisters have donned their Christmas aprons once again.

The Christmas carols playing in the background are interrupted by the sound of cracking eggs and guidance from Karri as her daughters work together to make the cookie dough. Karri explains she's the one who brought it up this year to see if the girls, aged nine and seven, wanted to repeat last year's fundraising efforts. "I wouldn't even say I encouraged them. I was hoping they would say no, to be honest," Karri laughs. "It's the time," she explains. "But I thought if they wanted to, how could I stop them from doing this,



Morinville residents Ava Arcand (age 7) and sister Gracie Arcand (age 9) are once again baking and delivering cookies this Christmas season in return for donations. With the help of their mom, the sisters thought up the project last year and 400+ cookies later, donated \$700 to the Knights of Columbus for Christmas hampers. This year's proceeds will be shared between the Knights of Columbus and the Alberta Porphyria Society; Ava and Gracie are accepting orders for delivery within Morinville until Dec. 7.

--photo by Cynthia Wandler

right?" And at 36 dozen cookies planned so far, ten minutes of baking time per dozen is indeed time consuming. Nonetheless, the family is committed, with the girls helping to package and label each dozen once they are baked.

Gracie explains the hardest part of the process is "trying not to eat the cookie dough" while Ava reports it's "trying to get my mom not to be so tidy, she always cleans up after us!" As for the best part, Ava likes the baking itself but Gracie loves the shopping for gifts to donate that comes afterward.

This year's proceeds will be shared between the Knights of Columbus and the Alberta Porphyria Society. The suggestion to split the proceeds this year was Karri's idea, since Ava suffers from a rare genetic disorder called erythropoietic protoporphyria, a reaction to the sun which causes severe pain and blistering. Ava feels "good" about being able to help the society out.

The family is accepting orders for chocolate chip cookies until Dec. 7, at karri-la@hotmail.com, and they will deliver within Morinville for whatever you are willing to pay.

As for the financial cost of the ingredients, Karri says, "You know what? I never even calculated."

ARC Resources will replace its Redwater gas plant

ARC Resources Ltd. is planning to replace its Redwater gas plant next year. The new plant will be built beside the existing one on the ARC site east of Redwater.

"Everything on the gas side is being replaced," said Redwater Field Operations manager Pete Dickson. "It'll be much more efficient." He estimated the cost of the upgrade at \$32 to \$35 million.

The plant has been at that location since the early 1950s. Its last major upgrade was in 1976 while it was owned by Imperial Oil. It has had ongoing small changes, but some equipment is reaching the end of its expected life time.

"You're better off to replace it before it fails," said Dickson.

Senior Surface Landman John Dmetruik said the new plant will contain more reliable and efficient equipment. It will slightly decrease both the noise and emissions levels while remaining within the site footprint and creating no greater visual impact. There will be a three day shut down to tie in the new facility.

ARC's Redwater plant processes oil and natural gas from the Redwater field. It separates the water out of the oil and sends the oil down the pipeline to Edmonton. From there it goes to refineries.

The sulphur is recovered from the gas. It is sweetened as the H₂S is removed. Liquids are also taken out of the gas, with the propane going to Pembina's facility south of Redwater and the natural gas to Atco.

After the new plant is operating ARC will arrange a schedule with Alberta Environment

for decommissioning the existing plant.

About one third of ARC's 30 Redwater field staff work at the plant. That will not change when it is upgraded.

"It'll preserve our existence here and in the Town of Redwater for a long time," said Dmetruik. "We're excited about that." He said ARC is involved in the community and donates to the schools, food bank and hospital.

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