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## Zero-emission coal power?

Researchers at Shenzhen University in China have demonstrated, on a small scale, that coal can generate electricity without being burned.

Operating like a fuel cell, the carbon released from the coal can produce a

current without combustion.

Carbon dioxide is still a byproduct but can be captured during the process.

So far the applications are limited but if developed, the technology could change how coal is mined.

via [earth.com](http://earth.com)



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## Trivia:

Which now-popular cocktail was invented by a Calgary bartender in 1969 for the opening of his restaurant? (Answer back page) →



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## Williston levels okay this year

BC Hydro says 2026 is a "very different year" for Williston Reservoir levels compared to recent drought years, with current lake levels sitting at 2,177 feet and no concerns this season for drawing below 2150 feet.

A handful of community members attended Hydro's Williston update last week at the Rec Centre, an informal evening which provided lots of info on the Peace River

See 'Williston Reservoir' →

## Conifex sawmill on pause 'til July

As of this week, Conifex sawmill workers are on a temporary leave as operations are suspended for an approximately seven-week period. A restart date is targeted for July.

In its news release, the company said the the curtailment is in response to challenging market conditions and is intended to manage inventory levels and preserve liquidity.

The Power Plant continues its operations as normal.

## Quotes:

“ Games are won by players who focus on the playing field, not by those whose eyes are glued to the scoreboard.

-- Warren Buffett

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# The Macktown Buzzette

May 21 - June 3, 2026

## Community saddened by Market Park closure

Mackenzie residents learned last week that Community Market Park, at the corner of Mackenzie Boulevard and Centennial Drive, is slated to be torn out by the end of this month.

Imperial Oil, which owns the lot and operated a gas station there until the 1980s, will be remediating the site starting in June.

Formerly an Esso station, the lot had sat empty for three decades after the above-ground structures were removed in 1986.

Chief Administrative Officer Diane Smith told Council that the tanks, how-

ever, had been left underground. A staff report in the May 11 Council Agenda noted that "contamination has spread to other properties."

On legal advice, the District turned down an offer from Imperial Oil last year to buy the lot. Council had consulted on the matter in a closed meeting.

A query to Diane Smith about the contamination had

See 'Market Park' over →

## News of the Odd:

A software engineer for fun used

Claude A.I. to hack his ROMO robot vacuum so he could operate it with his X-Box controller.

The A.I. delivered an authentication token from the manufacturer's servers, connecting his controller, but accidentally connecting it to 7,000 other vacuums around the world. Suddenly the man could see inside thousands of people's homes across 24 countries.

Fortunately, he reported the breach to the company, who later rewarded him \$30,000 for discovering the vulnerability.



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## 'Market Park closure'...

not received an answer by print time.

The news comes as a shock and disappointment to the community.

Long before a park was planned, the District had discussed improving the lot given its prominence in the downtown streetscape.

With the help of one-third grant funding in 2017, the

District embarked on building the park at an end cost of \$159,000 according to staff figures provided by the mayor.

Mayor Atkinson told Council that the park was built on top of the lot and that the agreement with Imperial had restricted the District from breaking the soil surface.

The park opened in 2018 and for a time hosted the summer community markets.

As of this week, the park is closed to the public.

Abandoned and contaminated commercial lots, known as "brownfield sites" are a problem in many communities, particularly as they become civic eyesores while providing very little tax revenue. Mackenzie has two of these lots in its downtown.

Mayor Atkinson told The Buzzette that communities have little recourse for seeking remedies as it is BC Assessment that determines what tax class such properties fall into.

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## Did You Know?

Being just a two-page printer flyer, The Buzzette regret-

ably does not have a community reporter. The bulk of news coverage in these pages is provided on a voluntary (and somewhat arbitrary) basis.

Readers who value community stories are invited whole-heartedly to share their own. Did you attend an event? Are you organizing one? Do you have an announcement? An opinion? A story? The Buzzette offers a free print platform for community members to share their news.

Get more details at:  
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or call 997-5038.

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble these anagrams to spell out three Mackenzie street names

□(with abbreviated street type, e.g.: Cres., Dr., St., Ave.)

racers skiff only \_\_\_\_\_

sincere coma \_\_\_\_\_

frisky calf snore \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> 1 - 2 pm,  
Morfee Elementary Gym.  
Interactive event for parents and children. New K students will get a bag of educational goodies. Register: 12:45 pm.

### Have a public notice?



**COMMUNITY FOREST MEETING** May 25<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm at the Purple Bicycle. Learn what MLMCF has been up to. Refreshments provided.

### CURL MACKENZIE

Annual General Meeting w/ election of two directors May 25<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm. Elks Lodge, 300B Osilinka Rd. All welcome!

### FIRESMART CURBSIDE PICKUP

May 26<sup>th</sup>: Town, May 27<sup>th</sup>: Gantahaz. Woody debris only (tree, bush trimmings). Grass and leaves will not be picked up.

### Did you know?

The longest tennis rally on record was achieved by two amateur Italian players in 2017. Simone Frediani and Daniele Pecci played from 6:23 a.m. to 7 p.m. in June of that year. The players exchanged 51,283 strokes over the 12+ hours.

## 'Williston Reservoir'...

Hydro system and some history.

Community Relations rep Bob Gammer gave the presentation, along with a colleague.

He said a mild winter in the Lower Mainland resulted in lower demand for power, and this winter's high snowpack in the north contributed to the higher inflows to the lake.

Gammer noted that the higher levels could mean a possibility of planned

spills this year. Communities will receive plenty of advance warning if spill operations are required.

Gammer was also cautiously optimistic that boat launches along the new Site C shoreline could open this summer, including at Halfway River, Lynx Creek and Hudson's Hope. He briefly mentioned that Deserters Canyon in the north end of Williston Lake could also see a boat launch by 2028.

## PLAY FOUR


### ACROSS

- Carnival, event, exhibition
- Folk singer Guthrie
- French bike
- Where the sun rises

### DOWN

- Preferred, beloved (abbrev)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 51
- Maladies, physical complaints
- Grows underground

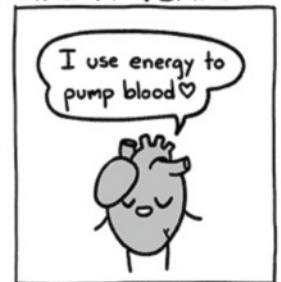
WORD MORPH from last issue: CLUB - FLUB - FLAB - SLAB - SCAB - SCAR - STAR

TRIVIA ANSWER: The Caesar, mixing vodka, clamato juice and hot sauce

No, Facebook, I don't want to add the girl I got cheated on with, thank you.



## THE ORGANS ARE A TEAM



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