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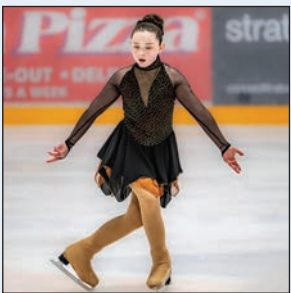
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Page 3



Fabulous festival

Page 5



Fire hits the ice

Discussing the lodge/hospice project

JOHN WATSON
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland and Area Hospice Society and Wheatland Housing Management Board (WHMB) are hosting a series of community presentations to discuss the details of the community hospice/lodge project.

Presentations were scheduled in Rockyford, Hussar, Strathmore, Gleichen, Standard, Cheadle, Carseland, and Lyalta, between April 9-24, taking place at community centers in each respective municipality.

“Not only is hospice a medical responsibility, it is also a community responsibility. The idea of developing our community, their awareness, their buy in, their knowledge of the breadth of hospice and palliative care takes some education,” said Joni McNeely, chair of the Wheatland and Area Hospice Society. “Our community presentations teach people what hospice is and how they can become involved and how they can support our project.”

The presentation in Strathmore, April 12, was the third presentation to have taken place in the series. McNeely said responses from respective communities to the hospice presentations have been positive.

Glenn Koester, director of the WHMB, said the public has been largely very understanding regarding the budget process for the project, and have been patient as the WHMB works to lock down its final cost estimates.

“I think generally the people realize that we are developing a proforma, trying to get to the final budget numbers, and we do not know until we know,” he said. “There is a path we have to follow, so to say, so we are on that path. When we started, it was an average. Three outfits built the lodge, they added it up, divided it by three and said it costs so much to build the lodge ... we said we wanted 120 beds, they said it should cost this number.”

Continued on Page 2



Looking for treasures

It was much easier getting around on a bike or scooter for the spring Parade of Garage Sales in Strathmore on April 13. Over 100 homes or businesses registered for the event, which coincides with the town's Trash to Treasure and Heavy Item Garbage schedule. The fall Parade of Garage Sales is slated for September 14.

Joe Lepage Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Look on Page 12 for **Town of Strathmore Municipal Notices**

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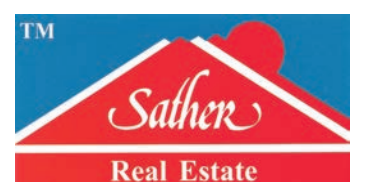
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The Wheatland and Area Hospice Society and Wheatland Housing Management Board presented to the public at the Strathmore Civic Centre, April 12, to discuss details of an increase in public clarity surrounding the ongoing hospice project. This endeavor aims to see a new lodge constructed in the east end of Kinsmen Park. **John Watson Photos**

Hospice Society, WHMB host community meetings to discuss ongoing project

Continued from Page 1

Koester explained the initial cost estimates received by the WHMB were utilized throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, through price spikes and notable inflation, though cuts have had to be made from the original plans to the final planned blueprints.

Currently, the WHMB is awaiting confirmation from the Province of Alberta as to whether their application for Affordable Housing Partnership Program (AHPP) grant funding is successful, as well as how much they would be receiving.

One of the ongoing dilemmas is in regards to the province highly favouring projects for grant funding that are considered to be "shovel ready."

Prior to approaching the province, Koester explained the aim is to bring the hospice project to a Class A budget in order to increase the likelihood of being awarded a provincial grant.

A Class A budget refers to that of a project for which development bids have been received, evaluated, and verified, and a contract has been awarded.

"I think we have to have a voice up in Edmonton, we have to appear confident that we have a good project and I am certainly impressed with our community being behind us," added McNeely.

"A little bit of the ask for people to write up to their ministers is about an agitate, but really what we are doing here is we're orchestrating, we are giving the government of Alberta an example, we are giving them a win, we are giving them a project that they can hold and replicate throughout the province."

As of print publication, community meetings of this series by the WHMB and Wheatland and Area Hospice Society have yet to be held in Carseland (scheduled Apr. 22) and Lyalta (scheduled Apr. 24).



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Alberta.ca/PreventWildfires



Library launching monthly adult programming

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Municipal Library is launching a monthly adult night, which will feature activities or informational sessions planned for the fourth week of any given month.

These sessions will be hosted on varying days with the goal of allowing anyone who is interested an opportunity to participate, rather than restricting the schedule to a designated day.

This month, taking place April 23, will feature an “express yourself” program, which is an opportunity to create a mixed media art piece.

“Traditionally, we are very heavy on the early literacy and family programs, children’s programs, that sort of thing, so we are really looking to boost our adult programs,” said Laura Henderson, public services manager for the library. “There have been a lot of things like tech tutoring and that sort of thing that are one-on-one, but we want to have full programs for adults, so we are going to do an adult night once a month.”

Henderson explained ideas which have been proposed as summer approaches, including a picnic or games of bocce.

Come the adult program night for May, the plan is to host a financial planning workshop, followed in June, the library is hoping to host Indigenous programming.

“It is going to be very different every month, dif-

ferent nights of the week so that we can cater to different adults with different schedules and that sort of thing, but we are hoping to run these consistently the fourth week of the month,” said Henderson. “We have just noticed that you can find a lot of children’s programs out there, (and) there is just not as much for adults. When there is something for adults, it is typically the same thing that has been going on for years. We are just trying to find different things to appeal to different adults.”

Though the mixed media art night is not the inaugural occasion for this particular program, Henderson explained it is the first to utilize the branding assigned to it.

A similar adult night was hosted in March, which was restricted to a maximum of 25 preregistered participants for a book folding session. For this, a waiting list of another 25 people had to be created.

“The goal is to have mostly drop-in type programs that anyone can come to, but it depends on the instructor, it depends on what the type of activity is. The book folding, we had to know how many books to have available, and also the instructor needed to be able to get to everyone to help out, so that one needed to be registered,” said Henderson.

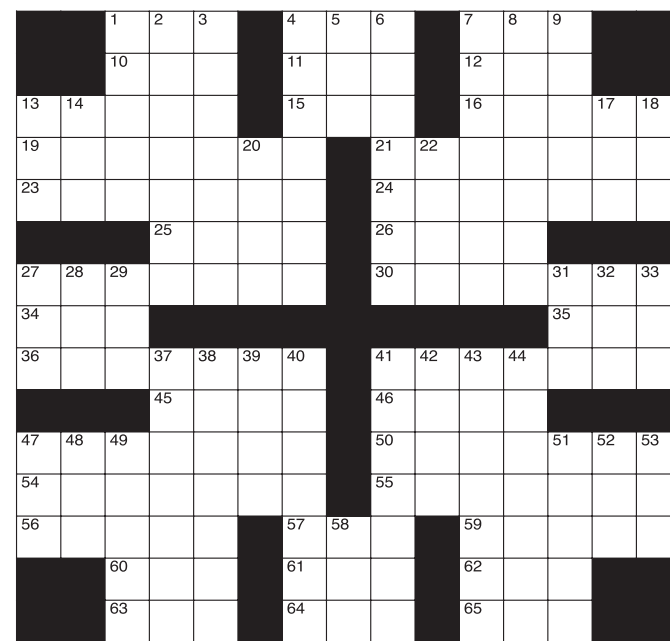
She added though the program currently operates once a month, the end goal is to increase the frequency to twice per month, should interest be maintained.



Super performance

The Strathmore Performing Arts Festival kicked off on April 10 at the Strathmore United Church. Performers are eager to showcase their talents over the week with classes ranging from strings, vocal solos, contemporary, group singing, musical theatre, choir, speech, band and finishing strong with piano.

Melissa Piche Photos



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Midway between south and southeast | 34. Alias |
| 4. For each | 35. Swiss river |
| 7. Airborne (abbr.) | 36. Greek mythological figure |
| 10. Photographs | 41. Type of whiskey |
| 11. They ___ | 45. Lay to rest |
| 12. It’s important in respiration (abbr.) | 46. “Rule, Britannia” composer |
| 13. Monetary unit | 47. Select jury |
| 15. Cool! | 50. Feeling |
| 16. A son of Jacob | 54. Action regarded as morally wrong |
| 19. Cut off | 55. Makes angry |
| 21. Devour | 56. Act incorrectly |
| 23. Agent of one’s downfall | 57. Defensive nuclear weapon |
| 24. Best | 59. Class of escort aircraft carrier |
| 25. Network of nerves | 60. To what degree |
| 26. Partner to “oohs” | 61. Buzzing insect |
| 27. Origins | 62. The human foot |
| 30. Sewing utensil | 63. “The Leftovers” actress Dowd |
| | 64. A place to stay |
| | 65. Sun up in New York |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. An involuntary muscular contraction | 29. Annoy constantly |
| 2. Earnest | 31. Founder of Babism |
| 3. Cuts out surgically | 32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia |
| 4. Can’t move | 33. Sea eagle |
| 5. Baseball stat | 37. Leave behind |
| 6. British soldier | 38. Time of day |
| 7. Traditional medicine plants | 39. Colorless crystalline compound |
| 8. Political party controlled by managers | 40. They lay out course requirements |
| 9. Hebrew prophet | 41. A diamond has three |
| 13. Supporter | 42. Algerian coastal city |
| 14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.) | 43. Remove cover |
| 17. Liberty Mutual mascot | 44. Rechristened |
| 18. Georgia rockers | 47. Distinctive practice |
| 20. A place where building is done | 48. Defunct phone company |
| 22. Large, deep-bodied fish | 49. Turkish officer of high rank |
| 27. Clothing retailer | 51. Eliminate from the body |
| 28. Supplement with difficulty | 52. Witness |
| | 53. Soviet Socialist Republic |
| | 58. Founding Father Franklin |

Third annual wedding expo returning to Strathmore

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore’s third annual wedding expo will be taking place at the Legacy Barn, April 28, expanding on the success of its previous two iterations.

Daniel Wiewel, owner of MaxSPL Music, and event coordinator for the expo, said the event will be free to enter and is family friendly, welcoming anybody who wants to explore the expo.

He added the event has been experiencing noticeable growth as it continues to host, particularly in the realm of attending vendors.

“We are getting quite a bit of interest from a larger variety of vendors as we have grown. For example, I have got four different DJ companies coming, where in previous years, I was the only one there,” he said. “We are getting the word out, and I have heard the majority of new vendors that I have coming this year all heard about it through word of mouth from vendors from last year how much they liked coming out, and they were recommending it to other vendors.”

Wiewel explained on his part, there has been a learning curve to hosting a trade show, such as the value of attending vendors’ time.

This led the expo to reducing from a two-day event, down to a singular day, which bartered more success in year two and a greater response from attending businesses.

“The big thing this year is the venue change. The Civic Centre is a great venue for a large variety of events, but the Legacy Farm Projects barn is definitively Strathmore,” said Wiewel. “It still has a lot of rustic charm, but it still has quite a bit of modern amenities and class to it that I think is really (well suited) to this type of event ... partnering with them on this has been very beneficial.”

Similarly topical, the Legacy Barn itself is no stranger to being utilized as a wedding venue.

Wiewel added the Legacy Barn was happy to welcome other wedding venues to the expo, rather than maintaining any sort of exclusivity.

“They were happy to open their doors to other local venues because we have a strong belief ... that Strathmore can be a hub for a lot of weddings that want that rural barn experience, but want to be close to amenities,” he said. “We are pretty blessed to have the amount of amazing venues nearby for a town of our size.”

Scott Silva, director of business development for the Legacy Farm Project, said their team is also working to increase the viability of the venue with the addition of heat to the barn, and on-site accessible washrooms.

The idea being to allow for the utilization of the venue year-round, as well as to increase accessibility for patrons.



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Thought for the Week
~
If we feel a desire for something that no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.
C.S. Lewis

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Pushing back to the federal government

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Last week, Alberta's government introduced the Provincial Priorities Act, a significant step in our efforts to push back against the federal government overreach into areas of provincial jurisdiction. In short, this much-needed legislation would require provincial entities to seek approval before engaging in agreements with the federal government, ensuring that federal funding we receive aligns with Alberta's priorities.

One of the key motivations behind this legislative push is to prevent federal funding from being allocated to projects or initiatives that run counter to Alberta's best interests. Take, for instance, the federal government's aggressive promotion of electric buses in Canadian cities, including Calgary. While the federal agenda may tout environmental benefits, Alberta contends that these buses are not practical during harsh winters, highlighting a disconnect between federal priorities and local realities. The Provincial Priorities Act seeks to redirect funding towards initiatives that directly benefit Albertans, such as bolstering economic corridors, improving transportation infrastructure, and advancing clean energy strategies like hydrogen.

If passed, the Provincial Priorities Act would also support Alberta's government in getting its fair share of funding when it comes to roads, infrastructure, housing, and other priorities. Nowhere is this more apparent than in housing. In summer 2023, Alberta received only 2.5 per cent of the total \$1.5 billion in federal housing funds, despite having 12 per cent of the country's population and, by far, the fastest growing population.

Moreover, the Provincial Priorities Act would streamline funding towards existing provincial programs rather than duplicating efforts with federal initiatives like pharmacare and dental care. By emphasizing envelope funding, Alberta can expand and enhance its health care and social programs in a manner that aligns with local requirements and preferences.

It is worth noting that Alberta is not alone in this pursuit

of greater autonomy. Quebec stands as a precedent with similar legislation, underlining the broader concern among provinces about federal encroachment on matters within provincial purview. The federal-provincial-territorial meeting in November 2023 further solidified this sentiment, with premiers from across Canada demanding a more collaborative approach from the federal government rather than unilateral actions that sideline provincial interests.

As always, please feel free to contact me with your feedback or concerns at Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca.

(Chantelle de Jonge is the MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore and the Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities)

Hit the brakes on speeding

ALBERTA RCMP

As the snow melts and the roads become clear, Alberta RCMP reminds motorists of the dangers of speeding. Posted limits indicate the maximum, legal speed permitted in ideal conditions, however, unsafe speeds increase the risk of collision and serious injury for all road users in any conditions.

According to Alberta Transportation, approximately one in four fatal collisions involve unsafe speeds, and more than half of these fatal collisions occur in rural areas. Last year, Alberta RCMP issued over 60,000 speeding tickets, of which 761 of them were for excessive speeding (50km/h or more over the speed limit). April often sees the highest number of speeding offences, and last year was no different, with 93 excessive speeding violations handed out.

Follow these tips to help ensure traffic safety for yourself and others:

- Leave early - don't rush. Unsafe speeds increase the risk of collision and serious injury. Allowing yourself extra time to get to your destination helps you to avoid feeling rushed.
- Respect posted speed limits, especially in school or playground and construction zones. These areas often have high pedestrian traffic - you must slow down.
- Speeding isn't just driving beyond posted legal speed limits, but also driving too fast for weather, road, and traffic conditions.
- If you are a passenger in a speeding vehicle, speak up. Take your life out of the driver's hands.

"April is the start of 'speeding season.' Excessive speed shows a pattern that has a relationship to clear roads, good weather, and typically occurring at peak travel times for families," says Sgt. Darrin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic. "Sadly, speeding is a common traffic violation among drivers, and one of the most threatening to traffic safety."

For more traffic safety tips and information, follow #HitTheBrakes on our Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and X @RCMPAlberta.

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Fire on Ice!

The Strathmore Skate Club hosted their annual Fire on Ice Figure Skating Gala on April 10 at the Strathmore Family Centre. It was a fantastic way to cap off another skating season. The club is now preparing for their online Annual General Meeting on May 6.

Joe Lepage Photos

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Women network

Wheatland Family and Community Support Services hosted a women's conference, April 12 at the Hope Community Covenant Church. This event occurs once every two years, and aims to encourage local women to come out, network, learn new skills, and listen to an array of presentations. This year's event featured a theme of "Nurturing our Roots," with Billi Miller as its keynote speaker.

John Watson Photo

YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist

Capsule Comments

British Columbia has a goal of eliminating cervical cancer. As of February 2024, patients could order an at-home HPV self-screening test kit. This test looks for the virus that could result in cervical cancer. The pap test is traditionally used to screen for abnormal changes in the body that could lead to cancer. The decision was made based on rigorous trials with over 20,000 women. Results showed that this home-HPV screening was more effective in identifying those with pre-cancerous lesions compared to conventional pap smears.

Of course, there is a vaccine that **prevents** cervical cancers (among others). It's the HPV vaccine and it's available free through school-based programs in all provinces and territories in Canada. Individuals under the age of 15 are given 2 doses. Those over 15 will get three doses.

Recently, there was a story about the governor of Florida wanting to import drugs from Canada to save the state money. It didn't happen but it did highlight the fact that generic drug prices in Canada are 45% lower than in the U.S. This is because in Canada there is a review board that negotiates generic drug prices to be as low as possible. The U.S. has no such board.

The discovery of *Prontosil* marked the beginning of modern antibiotic therapy. The drug received wide publicity in 1936 when it was used to treat President Roosevelt's son who had a severe streptococcal infection. This discovery was followed by penicillin which was used during WWII and saved many lives.

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The Need.

The Build.

The Cost.

2024 Community Presentations

to discuss details of our 6 bed community hospice (located east of Kinsmen Park) in partnership with Wheatland Housing Management Body.

April 9	Rockyford
April 10	Hussar
April 12	Strathmore
April 15	Gleichen
April 16	Standard
April 17	Cheadle
April 22	Carseland
April 24	Lyalta

All meetings at 7 pm at your local community center

WHEATLAND & AREA Hospice Society

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Upcoming Meetings

Council and committee meetings will now be open to the public and via teleconference.

For public hearings it is strongly encouraged that you attend in person.

May 7: Council Meeting

May 14: Municipal Planning Commission

May 14: Public Presentation Committee

May 14: Committee of the Whole

To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted.

Agenda packages can be found on our website.

2024 Dust Control Program Now Open

Wheatland County is now accepting orders for the 2024 Dust Control Program!

Dust control is offered by Wheatland County for landowners or residents within the County who wish to reduce the amount of dust created by vehicles traveling on the gravel roads near their homes, businesses, or farms.

Calcium Chloride:

- First Round: Application deadline is May 17, 2024 (Weather permitting, application will occur starting May 21)
- Second round: Application deadline is June 7, 2024 (Weather permitting, application will occur starting June 10)

Oiling:

- Application deadline is July 5, 2024 (Weather permitting, application will occur during July)

For more information and to complete an order form, visit our website at <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/dustcontrol/>

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INVEST IN WHEATLAND

Chariots of Fire runs for gold at Rosebud Theatre

LAUREEN F. GUENTHER
Times Contributor

Rosebud Theatre opened its 2024 season with *Chariots of Fire* on April 5. The play celebrates Eric Liddel's historic run at the 1924 Paris Olympics, 100 years ago.

Joe Perry plays Eric Liddel, the son of Scottish missionaries. Aaron Krogman plays Harold Abrahams, the son of a Jewish Lithuanian immigrant. The show is directed by Morris Ertman.

Eric and Harold are expected to run – and win – for Britain in the 1924 Paris Olympics. But Eric learns that the heat for the 100 m race – his specialty – is to be held on a Sunday. He refuses to run on a Sunday. He retrains for the 400m race – and wins. Abrahams wins the 100m.

To re-enact these famous races, Rosebud Theatre installed three treadmills on its Opera House stage and surrounded them by a circular track. Unexpectedly, they make a lovely set piece – built by scenic carpenter Wojtek Kozlinski – that works esthetically and logistically.

But Eric and Harold's story is about much more than two young men who love to run and want to win gold medals.

Joe Perry and Aaron Krogman portray Eric and Harold warmly and personally, as athletes, as university students, as friends of many, and as men who love life and dream about the future. They're surrounded by a large multi-talented cast.

Eric, a prospective missionary, defends his determination to run with the famous line, "I believe God made me for a purpose – but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure."

Liddel didn't say that line historically, but he lived it out. He asks Abrahams repeatedly, "Why do you run?"

Eric and Harold run for very different reasons and the question carries through the story. As they ask and answer each other, they're asking us the same questions. Why do we run? Why do we care, cook and build? Why do we learn, serve and teach?

As we walk out of the theatre, we're still asking ourselves these questions. We feel affirmed in the hope that what we do – running, creating, caring, studying, serving, teaching – is making an important difference. Like Liddel and Abrahams, we may run for the pure joy of it. At the same time, our running, creating and caring, studying, serving and teaching have a grander purpose than we can ever imagine.

Chariots of Fire runs until May 25 on the Opera House stage at Rosebud Theatre. Tickets include a meal, but may also be purchased without. Get tickets and more information at 1-800-267-7553 or online (rosebudtheatre.com).



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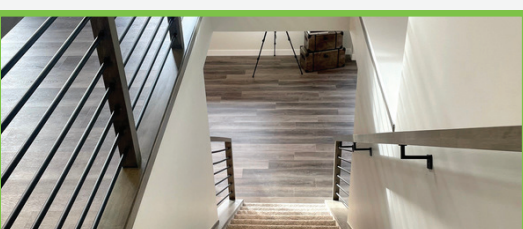
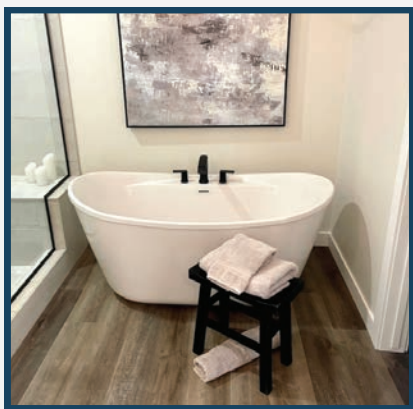
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The Wardens are coming

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

Mark your calendars as the Strathmore Musical Arts Society and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts present the Rocky Mountain-based band The Wardens, with local opening act Greg Rider, on April 20.

The Wardens is a band made up of, as the name implies, Canadian National parks wardens – the same people who have protected the land collectively for over 50 years.

Ray Schmidt founded the band in 2009 along with Scott Ward and Scott Duncan who joined the group in 2017.

“We are excited to be coming to play in Strathmore; we’ve never played there and it’s been on our radar and it’s just never really quite worked out,” said Schmidt. “We’ll be bringing our full performance, which is more than just music. We are music, storytelling and image projections that go along with the songs.

“Scott Duncan is a fiddler from Calgary; he’s been with us since 2017 and Scott Ward - he’s a retired park warden ... he worked for 35 years as a park warden in Banff National Park, so he’s spent most of his life on the trail traveling by horse back.”

Schmidt is still an active park warden working in conservation.

The band has had a lot of success across Canada, and even into Montana,

with Schmidt being nominated in 2021 for Traditional Singer of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards. The band was also nominated in 2021 for Folk Recording of the Year at the YYC Music Awards for their album Sold Out at the Ironwood.

“Our music is focused on being national parks wardens in the Canadian Rockies in Banff and Jasper National Parks,” he said. The band has been touring pretty heavily for the last 10 years.

Schmidt has been playing music most of his life, but never really got serious with it until his mid 20’s when he really got into playing blue grass music. Scott Ward has been playing guitar most of his life but never really performed until he and Schmidt formed the band and they’ve been playing together ever since.

“It’s been a great experience; we’re always learning and loving to share new stories and experiences with audiences,” said Schmidt. “We are true music from places where people will have visited. Everyone loves the Rocky Mountains and this gives people a real backstage pass into what it takes to work in a place like that and takes people to the back country. People will be able to connect from Strathmore because from Strathmore on a good day you can see the Rockies very clearly.”

Local show-opener Greg Rider is excited to be able to share his story with the audience.



The Wardens will be performing at the Strathmore Travelodge on April 20, hosted by the Strathmore Musical Arts Society and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Photo Courtesy of The Wardens

“My performance definitely is all about the story telling,” said Rider, who has played in the honky-tonks of Nashville for two years. “I did that life for a couple years and I realized that that wasn’t really the future that I wanted.”

Rider returned to Alberta and settled in the Strathmore area in 2018. He started his new journey with a motivational school tour where he was able to perform at 90 schools and reached 30,000 students with his inspirational stories and songs.

Rider will be performing a 20-minute set with familiar favourites and some

new songs from his upcoming album that will be launched hopefully next year. Audience members will also be delighted to hear his two new singles releasing this summer, Road Not Taken and Roam.

The show will take place at the Strathmore Travelodge on Saturday, April 20. Doors open at 6 p.m. for cocktails, dinner is at 7 p.m. and the music starts at 8 p.m.

More information and tickets can be found at the Strathmore Musical Arts Society webpage (www.strathmorearts.com).

Upcoming changes to regional emergency management bylaw discussed

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore Committee of the Whole discussed the Regional Emergency Management bylaw during the meeting held April 10.

David Sturgeon, fire chief for the Strathmore Fire department, presented before the committee a synopsis of the bylaw, as well as an associated update.

“During our annual review of the bylaw and emergency plans with staff from Alberta Emergency Management Agency, (there were) suggested changes to the regional emergency management bylaw ... the proposed changes outline the regional partnership procedures, the agency, the committee, and the roles and responsibilities tied to each,” he said. “(This ensures) greater clarity for all partners for their roles and responsibilities, should an incident occur.”

Some of the proposed changes include the removal of the planning and coordination group, which would be replaced by an already existing agency, as well as the addition of the City of Chestermere authority and responsibility of the Re-

gional Emergency Management Committee, and authority and responsibility of the Regional Emergency Management agency.

Adding another partner to the organization serves to improve overall capacity to respond to large-scale emergencies and disasters by making available additional resources, while simultaneously expanding the network of personnel trained to operate in emergency situations.

The proposed changes aim to better align with the local Authority Emergency Management regulations, and the provincial Emergency Management Act.

A draft of the proposed changes to the bylaw was provided to the committee via their meeting agenda.

It is noted in the report to the Committee of the Whole, staff from the Alberta Emergency Management Agency have reviewed and support the changes to the bylaw, which will allow for all participating partners to better collaborate on emergencies and provide assistance as requested, while also allowing the Town of Strathmore more singular autonomy when responding to local emergencies.

The Town of Strathmore is responsible for the

direction and control of its emergency response, as is dictated by the Emergency Management Act. Periodic updates are necessary in order to ensure compliance with contemporary regulations.

Regarding the City of Chestermere’s participation on the Regional Emergency Management Committee, Coun. Richard Wegener inquired as to whether the municipality has representation at the upcoming meeting, scheduled for April 25, particularly following the removal of several members from their council.

This was clarified that Chestermere’s CAO will be in attendance, however no members of their remaining council will be present.

Upon receiving support from the Regional Advisory Committee, the proposed bylaw changes will be brought back before Town of Strathmore council to receive final approval.

Town to advocate for provincial emergency response funding

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore is looking to advocate for provincial support for more small and rural municipalities to be allocated resources for the purposes of acquiring first response radio communications equipment.

“Alberta Municipalities conducts a resolution process that allows members to identify issues and potential solutions that eventually could perhaps allow their board of directors to advocate to the province and federal government,” said Johnathan Strathdee, manager of legislative services for the Town of Strathmore.

Presented before the committee of the whole was a proposed resolution for their consideration

to have Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide financial support for municipalities with populations of less than 3,000, and for regional groups to obtain the necessary equipment to participate in the Alberta First Responders Communication System.

“The desire is that if the province is able to provide financial support to smaller municipalities, more municipalities would be able to access the AFRRC system (Alberta First Responders Radio Communications) which would then allow for greater collaboration, and streamlined communication in the event of an emergency,” he added.

The expense to municipalities can range between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per radio unit.

Continued on Page 10

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MPC approves development permit for wallboard manufacturing plant

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland County Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) approved the development permit application regarding a wallboard manufacturing plant to be located 2.4 kilometres west of Carseland and 0.8 kilometres east of highway 24.

Proposed through the development permit application was a 220,000 square foot facility, including an associated raw product processing mill, and an enclosed storage facility for manufactured wallboard products.

According to the application, the proposed facility will encompass 214 acres of land across two parcels. Administration noted the applicant is in the process of consolidating the parcels through land titles.

Potential concerns which were raised regarding the facility included the repurposing of such a quantity of pristine farmland and marshlands.

Additionally, it was recommended that surrounding associated roads be paved in order to minimize dust emissions.

The application suggested advanced environmental control systems will be incorporated into the facility in order to minimize emissions, and development of a solar array is planned to begin to support the facility in 2025.

Several variances were requested by the applicant, including an address of the stormwater pond positioned in a location straddling a property line, a relaxation of the parking

and loading requirements found in Land Use Bylaw Section 7.14, and several variances for the rail spur line.

Operations of the facility are expected 24 hours a day, with employees and facility staff commuting personal vehicles. Truck traffic is expected as materials and product are moved in and out of the facility.

A Traffic Impact Assessment was submitted in support of the application, which evaluated the anticipated impact of traffic generated by development of the local transportation network. This included Highway 24 with Township Road 222, Range Road 262 with Township Road 222, and site access from Township Road 222.

Extensive tree planting and berming is noted in a landscaping plan for the site and was indicated to be in compliance with county landscaping and screening guidelines. This will be to aid in minimizing visual and noise disruption from the facility.

Administration had recommended the MPC approve the development permit application, subject to several conditions outlined in the public meeting agenda, accessible through the Wheatland County website.

These conditions largely include compliance with local municipal bylaws, a commitment to the sole development of facilities indicated in the approved plan, and the maintenance of associated sites during the construction period.

No specific date was indicated during the MPC meeting as to when development may officially begin for the wallboard manufacturing facility.

Legacy Farm Project signs MoU with Christ the Redeemer

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Legacy Farm Project and Christ the Redeemer School Division have signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding ongoing development of the Legacy Farm.

“It was part and part from our development team ... but also it is part of the segue and evolution of, where we began originally working with Olds College, Golden Hills, and now Christ the Redeemer,” said Scott Silva, director of business development for the Legacy Farm Project. “It is all part of the work and initiatives that we have been doing lately to further the education program and initiatives that we are projecting for Legacy Farm.”

With the basis on this MoU, as well as those with the Legacy Farm Project’s other educational partners, the project is fleshing out its educational steering committee, which will be tasked with creating beta programming for the project.

Silva explained the project is anticipating to have its first beta programs ready to roll out for September of this year, coinciding with the start of the regular 2024-25 educational year.

The idea going forward will be to “pass the torch,” to the

Legacy Farms educational partners to develop the programming, as neither Silva, nor the members of the development team are qualified educators.

“We want to start off with an educators’ exclusive open house, so all the educators and teachers and administration from all the school divisions can come down and really explore what the barn is and the farm – what it is today and what it is going to be in the future,” said Silva. “Based on what the barn currently has, we are able to look to find those critical pathways and fulfill and expand on existing programming and curriculum. Everything from ornithology to microbiology, to watershed irrigation, and different farming practices.”

The next steps for the Legacy Farm Project will include a focus on establishing the educational steering committee, including members from Olds College, Golden Hills School Division and Christ the Redeemer, with ambitions to bring on more school divisions to participate.

Silva did not specify an exact date that the open house for educators will be taking place, though a goal of the Legacy Farm Project is to assemble its educational committee to determine how best they can add to and expand upon existing curriculums as soon as possible.

Town advocates for more provincial support

Continued from Page 9

The Town of Strathmore recently budgeted \$250,000 for the purchase of adequate AFRRRC System equipment.

Ongoing concerns are that smaller municipalities may not be able to afford the upfront expense of purchasing the equipment and would be lesser able to respond to regional emergencies.

Resolutions to Alberta Municipalities must be seconded by another municipality. Between the mover and seconder, two of three categories of population must be represented, being less than 2,500, 2,501 to 10,000, and/ or greater than 10,000 people.

The town has extended an invitation to another municipality, which was not specified during the committee meeting, to see if they would be interested in seconding their

motion suggesting advocacy.

A response has not yet been received by the town by the invited municipality. Strathmore must submit their resolution prior to a May 31 deadline, though is aware the invited municipality is considering a similar motion.

Coun. Melissa Langmaid said she did not believe there would be any hostility from the currently invited municipality should the town extend their invitation to another village, should the invited municipality continue to be unresponsive as the motion deadline approaches.

“One of the benefits of where we are at in the timeline is that we do have some time now to wait and hear back from them and if they are presenting a similar motion, it just makes good sense to partner,” said Strathdee.

Further updates regarding the motion will be provided before council as more information becomes available.

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Upcoming Council Meetings

April 17, 2024 | 6 P.M.
 May 1, 2024 | 6 P.M.
 May 8, 2024 | 6 P.M.

Regular Meeting of Council
 Regular Meeting of Council
 Committee of the Whole

Come Say Hi

Hearing from the community is really important to us, so you're welcome at any Council or Committee of the Whole meeting. You do not need to call ahead or register to observe Strathmore Council in action. There is ample public seating and additional standing room if needed. You can also watch livestreamed meetings online as they happen, or catch up later on YouTube.

Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting

+ State of the Town Presentation
 with Mayor Pat Fule and
 Town Manager Kevin Scoble

Date: April 18, 2024
Time: 2 p.m.
Location: Strathmore Civic Centre



Land Use Ammendment

Upcoming Public Hearing

- 1. Purpose:** to permit the construction of two apartment buildings and a childcare facility.

Bylaw #24-03

Staff received an application for a land use re-designation (Bylaw No. 24-03) of 15 Bayside Place (Lot 1, Block 15, Plan 781 0935) by the Town on December 21, 2023. The proposed re-designation aims to permit the construction of two apartment buildings comprising 54 apartments and a Childcare Facility at 15 Bayside Place in Strathmore.



Lot 1, Block 15, Plan 781 0935
 (15 Bayside Place)

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed bylaw can be found on the Town's website at Strathmore.ca/PublicHearing or may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Strathmore Municipal Building (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB).

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers at the Strathmore Municipal Building on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024**, commencing at **6 p.m.** with procedures in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act, Section 199* and the *Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw #23-17* and amendments thereto.

Any person or group of persons, or person acting on someone's behalf, who claims to be affected by any or all of the proposed by-law, may present their concerns and/or suggestions by making a submission at the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services by email at lsadmin@strathmore.ca no later than **noon on Wednesday, April 24, 2024**, in order to register to speak at the public hearing.

Written submissions to the Public Hearing or the name of any person wishing to make an oral presentation at the Public Hearing must be received by the Planning and Development Department prior to **noon on Wednesday, April 24, 2024** as outlined in *Bylaw #23-17* and amendments thereto. If your written submission is not received by this time, please provide fifteen (15) copies for distribution at the Public Hearing. Each person wishing to address Council at the Public Hearing shall complete their verbal presentation within three minutes.

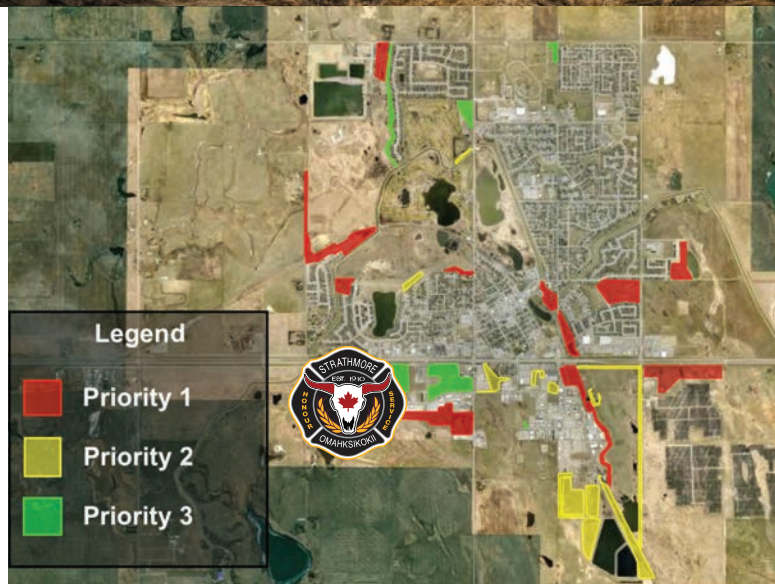
Please note that written submissions will become public documents once submitted to the Town, unless otherwise requested.

Please contact Legislative Services at 403-934-3133 prior to attending a Public Hearing to determine the order of Bylaw presentations in the Council Agenda to ensure efficient use of your time.

Hazard Reduction Burning

We've recently finalized Strathmore's Hazard Reduction Burn Plan. This plan aims to assess grassland fuels on the landscape within the community, identify locations of high fire risk based on predicted fire behaviour, and prioritize and prescribe these areas for hazard reduction burning. Through this process, selected regions within town will undergo hazard-reduction burning treatment in March. This process will reduce the risk of wildfire, reduce the number of nuisance fires, and better prepare the community in the event of an approaching wildfire on the landscape.

Learn more about the plan at Strathmore.ca/HazardReduction



2023/2024 **Property Assessments**

Important dates

Notices mailed: February 15, 2024
7-days for receipt: February 21, 2024
Appeal deadline: April 23, 2024 (60-days after receipt)

Contact
 Wildrose Assessment Services: 403-343-3357

For more information visit Strathmore.ca/Assessment

Customer Inquiry Period

The Customer Inquiry Period is an important time for property owners to check, compare, and review their assessment for accuracy, fairness, and equity. When you receive your notice:

- 1. Review** the details on your assessment notice.
- 2. Check** what makes up your property's assessment value and compare it with similar properties in your neighbourhood using Strathmore.ca/PropertySearch
- 3. Contact** the Town's assessor, Wildrose Assessment Services, for one-on-one support by calling 403-343-3357. Their property assessment experts can answer most assessment-related questions—with no formal complaint fees required. To help address concerns please have your latest assessment notice in front of you with the account number and valuation group information ready.
- 4. If you still disagree with your property's assessment**, you can file a formal complaint with the Assessment Review Board by the deadline stated on your latest property assessment notice. You can find information on this process by visiting Strathmore.ca/Assessment