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STRATHMORE

TIMES

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 34

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Medieval weekend

Political debate

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A brief gathering outside the Strathmore town office on Aug. 19 has sparked questions about political expression, municipal property and the role of police as Alberta heads toward an October referendum on independence.

The incident involved members and supporters of Let's Talk Alberta, including founder Chris Scott, who had stopped in Strathmore to distribute free signs and speak with people about Alberta independence.

What was expected to be a short stop became a roughly two-hour encounter after a Town of Strathmore peace officer along with a Town of Strathmore representative approached the group and requested assistance from the RCMP.

The Town of Strathmore did not provide an in-person interview for this story, but issued a general statement regarding the incident.

"The Town of Strathmore is aware of concerns following a recent interaction at a town-owned facility," the statement reads. "The town respects individuals' right to peacefully express their views and participate in democratic processes. The group was able to continue gathering and expressing its views."

The town said its facilities are shared community spaces and that activities must comply with the rules and operating requirements associated with each facility. "These requirements are applied consistently, regardless of the cause or political viewpoint involved," the statement said.

The town added that its priority is to keep facilities "safe, welcoming and accessible for everyone," while ensuring they remain available for the programs, services and public meetings they are intended to support.

According to Staff Sgt. Mark Wielgosz, detachment commander with the Strathmore RCMP, police were contacted by a Town of Strathmore peace officer late in the afternoon.

"Our members received a request from a Town of Strathmore peace officer to lend some assistance with a matter that they were dealing with in the parking lot, or at least in the pavilion, at the Town of Strathmore office," Wielgosz said.

Continued on Page 4

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Rockin' time

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Look on Pages 8 & 9 for
**Town of Strathmore
Municipal Notices**

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Cultural celebration

The first annual Hispanic Community Event brought people together in Strathmore on Aug. 22, offering an afternoon of cultural food, music, singing, dancing and traditional clothing. More than 13 Latin American countries were represented as members of the Hispanic community gathered to celebrate their shared culture and heritage. The event was co-sponsored by the Calgary and Strathmore church communities of Presencia de Dios – Ministerio Casa de Fe. Pastors Hugo Gomez and Orlando Retama were both in attendance. The Strathmore church community meets Tuesdays and Saturdays from 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Lutheran Church.

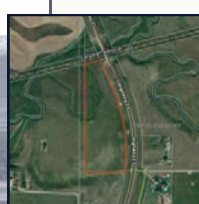
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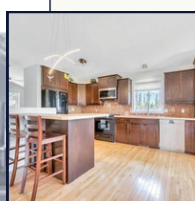
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Medieval gathering

Thousands stepped back in time Aug. 21-23 as the Strathmore Medieval Faire & Artisan Market returned to Strathmore Stampede Park for its fourth year. The themed fair has reportedly doubled in attendance each year since coming to Strathmore, featuring costumes, traditional foods, ancient melodies, sword demonstrations, an artisan market and Alberta's first annual International Jousting Tournament. Vendors offered everything from amulets and ancient weapons to mystical potions, war-lord hotdogs and turkey legs, while the weekend also featured a Saturday night concert by The Devil's Brigade and Fraid Knot. **Joe Lepage Photos**



Chantelle de Jonge
MLA, Chestermere-Strathmore

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One can at a time

The Strathmore Badgers minor football held a bottle drive Aug. 22. The players scoured the town for three hours raising funds to help with field improvements and essential equipment such as helmets.

Melissa Crispin-Piche
Photo

Alberta independence groups question municipal response

Continued from Page 1

Police attended and found a group of people engaged in a discussion with town officials.

“From their observation, there was nothing of a concern that required immediate intervention,” Wielgosz said. “And as it would turn out, the issue of contention between the parties was resolved peaceably.”

Wielgosz said there was a discussion about the group’s presence on town property, but police did not identify a criminal issue requiring their continued involvement.

“There was a discussion regarding the placement of the group on town property, but as I alluded to, that those issues were apparently resolved,” he said. “So, at that point in time there was no concern with respect to trespassing or any other requirement for our members to be further involved.”

No one was arrested and no one was removed from the property by police.

Scott said the group had not intended to hold a large rally or protest at the town office. He said people were gathering

outside in the park and that the purpose of the stop was to meet supporters, distribute signs and discuss the independence referendum.

Lawrence McGee, who was at the gathering and was covering the event for his live streams, described it as a short stop involving people picking up free signs.

“Let’s Talk Alberta with Christopher Scott was just holding an event where people can come and pick up signs and it was just like a quick stop,” McGee said. “It was supposed to be, just drive in, allow people to pick up signs, do a couple photos.”

Scott said he was told by a town representative that the group was not permitted to be on town property.

According to Scott, he questioned what rule prevented the group from gathering there.

“I pressed him, and I asked him, ‘What municipal bylaw is it that doesn’t allow me to be there?’ And then he said, ‘Well, it isn’t a municipal bylaw, it’s a provincial rule.’ And I said, ‘Well then, which one?’ And he couldn’t tell me.”

Scott maintains the group was exercising its Charter Rights and said he did not believe permission should have been required to gather.

olation.

Instead, he described the police response as routine assistance requested by a town peace officer.

“I can say that we received requests for assistance from the Town of Strathmore peace officer who was present,” he said. “It’s not uncommon to provide assistance between our services. There are times where we would request the assistance of our town peace officers, depending on the matters that we’re dealing with. So, it was quite routine to attend at their request.”

McGee said the group had been there for about 17 minutes before the town representative arrived. “We were there for about 17 minutes and all of a sudden a peace officer and representative of the town showed up,” McGee said.

Scott also questioned the timing.

“I mean, it takes the cops an hour and a half to respond to a break and enter in someone’s house – 17 minutes to come and kick me out of a park?” Scott questioned.

The incident has also raised questions from the group about whether municipalities should remain neutral as Alberta’s referendum campaign develops.

McGee pointed to the presence of the Forever Canadian campaign, which opposes Alberta separation, saying the group had also been present in Lambert Park following the Strathmore parade.

“I do also know that the Forever Canadian campaign, which is on the other side of the referendum, which is completely their right to do so, and this is the beautiful thing about democracies. We all get a voice,” McGee said.

He questioned whether different political groups were being treated consistently when using public spaces.

“So) I think that’s the biggest issue that people are having is, the Town of Strathmore looks like they’re targeting one side,” McGee said.

The town disputes that characterization in its statement, saying its requirements are applied consistently.

“These requirements are applied consistently, regardless of the cause or political viewpoint involved,” the Town said. The Town also said the group was ultimately able to continue gathering and expressing its views.

Wielgosz said police recognize that the referendum will likely result in more political gatherings and disagreements. He said the RCMP’s role is not to prevent people from holding political events.

“We’re not here to stop people from having their events,” Wielgosz said. “We want to make sure that they are held, and again, in a manner which people can freely assemble and associate as they please, but also in a manner that’s safe and lawful. And it doesn’t interfere with the rights of other people.”

Alberta’s referendum on the question of separation is scheduled for Oct. 19, meaning political activity surrounding the issue is expected to continue in communities across the province.

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Thought for the Week
~
What do you think is most needful:
To have all the right answers or just the right questions?

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Music artist looks for fresh start

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For Greg Rider Farrell, music has always been about more than playing a guitar or standing on a stage. These days, it is also a way to tell a story about where he has been, where he is now and the life he is building in Strathmore.

Farrell, who has lived in Strathmore since 2022, reflects deeply on his past music, such as the song titled Roam. The song is deeply personal, but it also represents the closing of a chapter.

He has also gotten recognition on his song 16 Sticks, which he wrote as a tribute of the Humboldt Broncos hockey team's tragic bus accident in 2018.

His musical journey started relatively late. After college, Farrell picked up a guitar while working in Northern Ontario and began playing around campfires. Eventually, he moved to Montreal, where he found the courage to perform at open mic nights.

"I know nobody in Montreal, so I can fail," Farrell laughed. "I started finding every single open mic in the city."

This feeling of anonymity gave Farrell the confidence to really put himself out there.

That confidence eventually led him to paid gigs, the Cayman Islands and, ultimately, Nashville, where he spent about two years as a full-time musician. At one point, he was performing close to 300 shows in a year and working as many as six nights a week.

At first, Nashville felt like a dream.

"People liked us. It just felt like it was a dream come true," he said.

But the demanding lifestyle eventually took its toll. Farrell said the constant performances, drinking and partying began affecting his mental health and his ability to take care of himself.

"I completely stopped working out, stopped really kind of doing any self-care," he said.

Farrell is now nearly five years sober, a change

that has reshaped both his life and his song writing. He explains that his music is much more honest about his experiences with addiction and the road to sobriety.

"I'm just a completely different person," he said.

Roam was written and recorded about two and a half years ago, before Farrell met his partner. He explained how he initially hesitated to release it because he felt the song represented an older version of himself – someone who was always moving, avoiding relationships and afraid to let people get too close.

Now he sees the song differently.

"I really feel Roam is just like – it's closing that chapter on who I used to be," Farrell said.

Four more songs are expected to follow before the end of 2026 including All of My Sins and Saved by the Guitar. The latter was written during one of the darkest periods of Farrell's life and reflects the role music played in helping him through it.

His experiences have also led him toward mentoring. Farrell recently became a certified recovery coach and has been helping men struggling with addiction, often acting as an accountability partner.

"I just want to be able to mentor people and coach people and just help them if they're struggling," he said.

For Farrell, the goal of returning to music is no longer simply about fame or playing as many shows as possible. He wants to tell honest stories and connect with people who may recognize something of themselves in his experiences.

"I just want to be able to (kind of) wake that person up to be like, there's a totally different life," he said. "It's not gonna be easy. It's gonna be a lot of hard work, but I promise you it's worth it."

With new music on the way, a life firmly rooted in Strathmore and a story he is no longer afraid to share, Farrell is ready to see where the next chapter takes him.

Giving Albertans control

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Our government is focused on giving Albertans more control over the choices they make, and stronger protection and support when they need it most. This week, Ottawa scrapped the federal electric vehicle mandate our government fought from the start. We're also investing \$5.5 million to combat human trafficking and expanding services that help families work through difficult challenges early.

Ottawa's electric vehicle mandate is gone, and Albertans will continue to be able to choose the vehicle that meets their needs and budgets. Alberta's government identified the EV mandate as one of the nine bad federal laws and policies hurting Albertans and warned that it would restrict consumer choice while placing added pressure on the electricity grid without the investments to support it. This is an enormous win for Albertans and follows progress on several other federal laws and policies our government has challenged and won, including the oil and gas emissions cap.

Our government is taking strong action to combat human trafficking and help Albertans affected by it. Alberta's government is investing \$5.5 million to help prevent human trafficking and help survivors rebuild their lives. Nearly \$2.7 million of that funding will support organizations already delivering critical services to survivors, including safe housing. Another \$2.8 million is allocated for projects that help Albertans escape trafficking and raise public awareness across the province. Since 2023-24, our government has provided \$11.3 million to organizations fighting human trafficking, helping ensure victims and survivors have access to safe housing and

immediate medical care. By supporting organizations on the frontlines, we're ensuring that survivors can escape safely and rebuild their lives.

Alberta families deserve access to parenting, child and youth development, and mental health supports before a challenge turns into a crisis. That's why our government is investing another \$3.2 million through Family Resource Networks programs, bringing annual funding across the province to \$66.7 million. These programs offer free services for parents, caregivers, and children to strengthen relationships, navigate difficult situations, and access help closer to home. Services include parenting programs, child and youth development activities, and short-term mental health assistance. In 2024-25 alone, about 52,400 caregivers and 76,500 children and youth used Family Resource Network services. By boosting early intervention supports, we're helping families build confidence and reconnect with each other.

From pushing back against federal overreach, to protecting vulnerable Albertans from human trafficking and investing in early family supports, these actions reflect a common goal: ensuring Albertans have the freedom to make their own choices and access the help they need when they need it. Together, they show that our government is focused on delivering results that put Albertans first.

As always, please free to reach out to my office with your feedback and questions (Chestermere. Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca).

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

STRATHMORE

TIMES

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CLUES ACROSS

1. A vast desert in Africa

7. Reciprocal of a sine

10. Type of phone

12. Biblical figure

13. One who renounces a religious belief

14. Warren and Monroe are two

15. Wild ox

16. Dismounted a horse

17. Cave dweller

18. Where infants sleep

19. Popular type of shoe

21. Clumsy large person

22. Evil-like

27. Integrated circuit
28. Austin-based athlete

33. Postscript

34. Follows 18

36. People of Gambia

37. Popular actor Nicolas

38. Platform for a lectern

39. Taxi

40. American songwriter Sammy

41. Iranian city

44. Heavy clubs

45. One who is expelled

48. In bed

49. Lifelessness

50. Former CIA

51. Most slick

CLUES DOWN

1. Slovenly person

2. In addition

3.hovels

4. Pie ___ mode

5. Subway rodent

6. They ___

7. Indigenous S. American people

8. Fine sand

9. Central nervous system

10. Nightclub entertainment

11. The perfect example of something

12. Supreme Islamic leader

14. Pain

17. Binary-coded decimal

18. Projecting corner of an angle

20. "Succession" actor Brian

23. Dinner table decor

24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey
25. You can call Paul Simon this

26. Opposite of a pro

29. Atomic #28

30. Type of drug (abbr.)

31. Arrives at

32. Nullifies

35. Bird's beak

36. Partner to "oohed"

38. Ray-finned fishes

40. Taxis

41. Sat on and controlled

42. Sea eagles

43. Remain as-is

44. Chinese revolutionary

45. Tooth caregiver

46. Snakelike fish

47. Compensate

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Building art

For local artist Emma Van Bussel, the mural she painted this summer on the south side of the Wheatland Funeral Home is more than just images of the prairies – the images have meanings. The three main images are a lone grain elevator on the prairies, a silhouette of a steam train and a horse in a dust cloud. She describes these as things that were formerly lifelines in Strathmore and the people of the prairies who lived here. “At the time no one thought these things would disappear, but nothing is permanent.” Van Bussel says. The title of the mural is ‘Ghosts of the Prairie’ and it is a reflection of the artist’s thoughts on the disappearing images.

Melissa Crispin-Piche Photos



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.

September 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting
September 15, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Municipal Planning Commission
September 22, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting

For call-in details, access links, and agenda packages, please visit our website.
<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/agendasandminutes/>

Public Hearings

Wheatland County Council Chambers September 22nd, 2026 at 9 a.m.

Wheatland County will consider the following applications for Public Hearing at the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026.

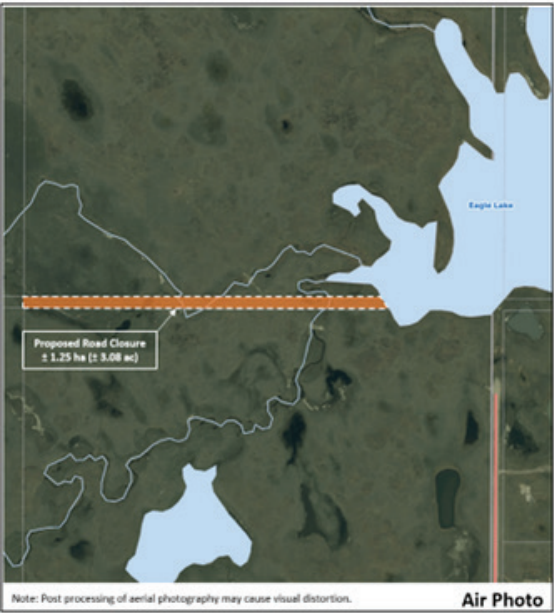
The following public hearings begin at 9 a.m. and proceed until all applications have been heard:

File No: RC2026-002

Bylaw #: 2026-13

Location: The undeveloped road allowance between SE-25-23-25-W4M and NE-24-23-25-W4M, immediately west of Eagle Lake.

Proposal: To close a ± 1.25 hectare (± 3.08 acre) portion of undeveloped road allowance to public travel between SE-25-23-25-W4M and NE-24-23-25-W4M, to facilitate the consolidation of the road allowance into the adjacent lands.



Comments may be forwarded in writing to Wheatland County or in person at the above meeting. The application files may be reviewed in the County Office during regular office hours – Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any comments provided will become part of the public record in accordance with Section 13(1) of Alberta’s Protection of Privacy Act. Any personal information on submissions made regarding applications is collected under the authority of the Protection of Privacy Act, Section 4(c) that information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity of the public body.



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- Provide a satisfactory drivers abstract
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Careers with Wheatland County

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- **Waste Transfer Site Operator**
 - Closes August 28, 2026
- **Manager of Agriculture and Environment**
 - Closes August 28, 2026

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



From sun to skates, local kids are getting ready to lace up for the upcoming ice season

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As summer starts to wind down, local ice sports are already looking ahead to another busy season, with hockey and ringette associations getting registration numbers in place and preparing to put players back on the ice.

For the Wheatland Wranglers girls hockey program, that growth has been especially noticeable over the past few years.

Cody Brown, president of the Wheatland Wranglers, said the organization is now heading into its fourth season after a group of volunteers decided the area needed a dedicated place for girls to continue playing hockey.

Brown said the idea started after seeing the number of girls playing hockey drop significantly as they got older.

"My kids are (born in) 2012 and when they first started playing hockey there was probably close to 15-20 girls enrolled," Brown said. "And then by the time he got to U13, there was a drop for like two or three (girls) and I kind of said, well, where'd all the girls go?"

The answer, he said, was that girls were often left with limited options.

"They (either) quit playing hockey because there wasn't an outlet or they went to ringette, and those were kind of their two options," Brown said.

The Wranglers were formed with the goal of providing another option for girls who wanted to stay in hockey, and the response has been significant.

The organization's registration numbers have climbed from 56 girls in its first season to about 120 in more recent years. Brown said the association is sitting at 125 registered players at the moment, putting it in a position where the numbers appear to be stabilizing.

The organization offers hockey from U7 through U18 and draws players from a wide area, including Drumheller, Indus, Beiseker, Chestermere, Duchess and Brooks.

For Brown, however, the numbers only tell part of the story. "When we first started (The Wranglers), you knew every single person. And now, when you walk into the rink, and you see Wranglers on the board and sometimes don't know maybe two or three of the kids, that's the coolest thing," he said. "And then seeing all the dads running their Wranglers swag; it's pretty awesome stuff."

While the Wranglers have seen sub-

stantial growth, the Strathmore Minor Ringette Association (SMRA) is also heading into the new season with more than 120 athletes registered.

Kevin Krall, vice president and director of coaching, said registration was sitting at just over 120 players as the Aug. 15 deadline approached.

"We're a little over 120; we're actually climbing today," Krall said. "Some people do wait till the last minute."

He added that they anticipate the official number to be a little higher.

The next step will be evaluations, which are expected to begin Sept. 1 and run for roughly two weeks, depending on available ice time.

The association is also using its annual Come Try Ringette event as a way to introduce new players to the sport. The free event was held Aug. 23 at the Strathmore Family Centre and included an equipment swap, giving families an opportunity to find equipment without taking on the full cost of starting a new sport.

"Any new athletes or families that are just kind of getting into it, they have the ability to pick up some free equipment," Krall said. "Kind of lessen the blow of the cost of getting into the sport."

Strathmore Minor Ringette is also entering its second season of collaboration with Indus, with the partnership covering the U12 to U19 age groups.

"Both run smaller associations and it can be hard to form reasonably sized teams with like skill levels," Krall said. "This way we've been able to properly place the athletes at the appropriate skill level so they have the best chance for development."

SMRA is hosting their annual season kick-off event on Sept. 20 at the Strathmore Family Centre with an exhibition game between the University of Calgary Dino's ringette and the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns at 1-3 p.m.

In Strathmore, the local minor hockey association is also preparing for another busy season with registration numbers currently sitting around 324 players.

Brett Thurston, president of Strathmore Minor Hockey Association (SMHA), said the association is expecting to finish the registration period with a healthy number of players.

"I think we're close to 300 player registrations; that's not including our goalies, which, I believe, are around 23 or 24 – so they have 324 kids right now," Thurston said.

The number is slightly higher than what the association saw last year, although some of the final numbers will depend on players trying out for AA hockey.

The association is preparing for evaluations with the process expected to begin around the weekend of Sept. 12-13.

Thurston said the timing is affected by AA tryouts, but once evaluations begin, the process moves quickly.

"We cram (approximately) 70 per cent of our evaluations within 10 days, so a lot of work for our eval group and a lot of those volunteers on the boards," he said.

The association is also introducing a new U16 team, something Thurston said is intended to help fill a gap for players before they reach U18.

While Strathmore is working with hundreds of players, Gleichen and District Minor Hockey Association, also known as Gleichen Pond Hockey, takes a different approach, focusing on keeping hockey accessible for local families.

Registration is currently open exclusively to returning players until Sept. 1. It will then open to everyone until Sept. 15.

Shelah Downey, president of Gleichen and District Minor Hockey Association, said the organization typically has about 85 players and expects to be

around that number again this season.

"Historically, we have always been around 85 so that is what we are thinking it will be," Downey said. "Currently, we have 20."

The season begins Oct. 13 and runs through March with players on the ice twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Registration is \$115 per child. Families must also purchase an arena membership, which allows them to use the arena during public skate times for an additional \$75 for an individual membership or \$150 for a family membership.

For the association, keeping the cost manageable is a major part of the program.

"There are many families who either cannot afford the financial burden that hockey tends to place on families or the time burden – our program enables people to be able to play without the huge cost of time and money," Downey said. "Our program is designed to contribute to the development of our youth through the game of hockey. We are committed to providing our young people the opportunity to have fun on the ice while learning the basic skills of ice skating and how to play hockey."

Gleichen Pond Hockey also has an equipment swap planned for Sept. 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Gleichen Arena.

One dead following serious collision

MARIO PRUSINA
Times Editor

One person is dead and two others were injured following a serious collision involving an SUV and a combine on Highway 842 south of Cluny on Aug. 20.

Gleichen RCMP responded to the collision at approximately 4:55 p.m., with EMS, fire crews and a Siksika Peace Officer also attending the scene.

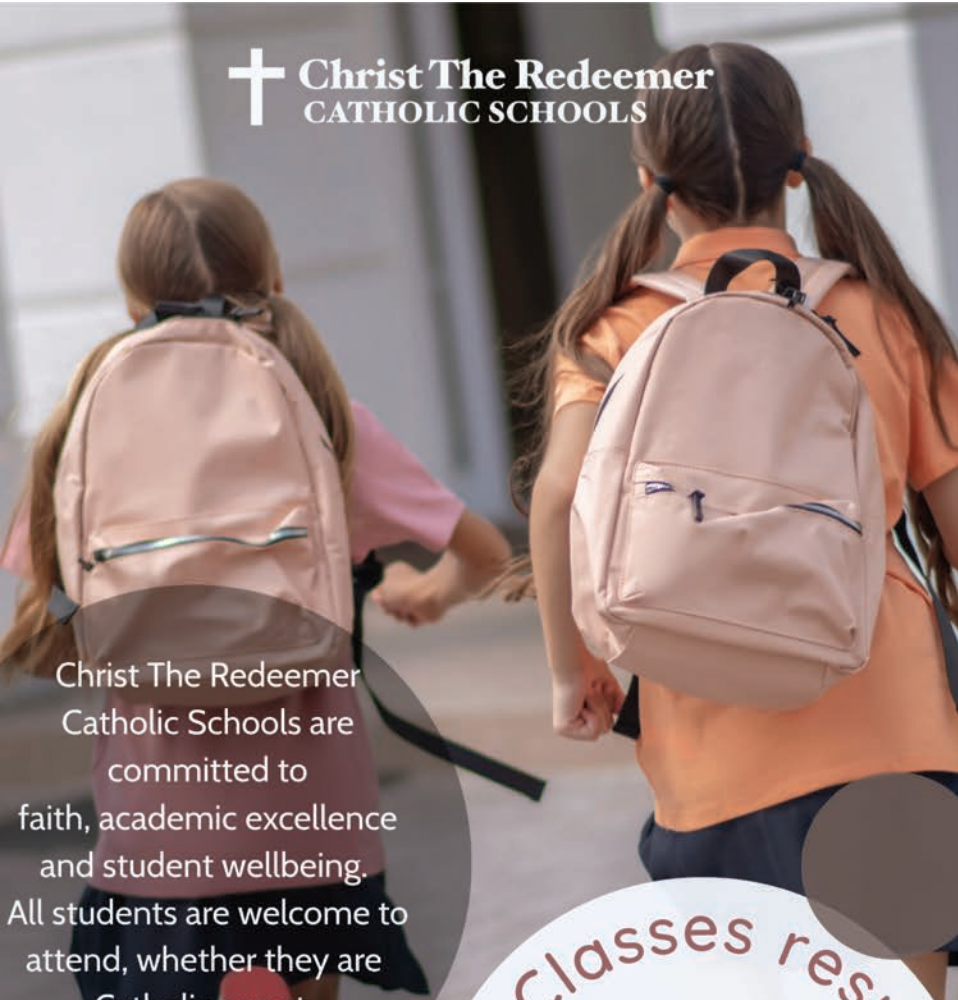
The SUV was carrying three people. The driver was transported to a Calga-

ry hospital with serious injuries, while the front passenger suffered minor injuries. The rear passenger, a 41-year-old Siksika First Nation resident, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the combine was not injured.

An RCMP collision reconstructionist attended the scene as police investigate the circumstances and cause of the collision.

RCMP extended its condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.



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www.redeemer.ab.ca

GET YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS IN! Call 403-934-5589



Upcoming Council Meetings

Sept 2, 2026 | 6 p.m.
Sept 9, 2026 | 6 p.m.
Sept 16, 2026 | 6 p.m.

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

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.

Community and Heritage.
Alberta Day Celebration. August 28.

Albertans are invited to come together and celebrate Alberta Day, a province-wide occasion that recognizes the people, cultures, history, and achievements that make Alberta a vibrant and welcoming place to live, work, and grow.

This year's Alberta Day celebration in Strathmore will feature a variety of family-friendly activities, local food vendors, and community organizations, creating opportunities for residents and visitors to connect, learn, and celebrate together. Opening ceremonies will be from 3:00 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. and attendees can enjoy live performances ranging from indigenous dancing to live music.

For more information about our annual Alberta Day celebration, visit: Strathmore.ca/AlbertaDay

Enjoy them safely.
Storm pond safety.

Storm ponds play an important role in protecting our homes and neighbourhoods. They help prevent flooding by managing heavy rainfall and slowly releasing water back into the environment. As water moves across streets and properties, it collects sediment, pollutants, and debris - storm ponds help filter this before it reaches our rivers and streams.

While Strathmore is home to many storm ponds, only Kinsmen Lake and Strathmore Lakes permit recreational use such as fishing. For your safety, please avoid any activity on or near other storm ponds. These ponds are deeper than they appear with water levels that rise and move quickly. They often contain contaminants like fertilizers, pesticides, and animal waste as well.

Visit our website, Strathmore.ca/StormPonds for more information.

Annual Sanitary Mainline Flushing.
EPCOR Annual Maintenance.

EPCOR has begun portions of its annual sanitary mainline flushing program in Downtown Strathmore, The Ranch, and the Orchard & Spruce Park Industrial Areas.

This routine maintenance helps keep the sanitary sewer system operating efficiently by removing buildup from sewer mains and supporting the long-term health of the community's infrastructure.

Residents and businesses in affected areas may notice maintenance crews, equipment, or temporary odours while work is underway. These conditions are normal and are expected to be temporary.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as this important maintenance is completed.

For more information, visit Strathmore.ca/WaterMovement

Join our team.
Career opportunities available.

Are you looking for a new opportunity? The Town of Strathmore is hiring! We have a variety of positions available across different departments.

- Contract Group Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer
- IT Analyst

Check out Strathmore.ca/Careers for more information about current opportunities and discover your bright future with the Town of Strathmore.

Fall Registration Open!
Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre Fall programming is now open!

Looking for ways to stay active, learn something new, or keep the kids engaged this fall? We've got something for everyone!

Registration opened on August 4 for our exciting lineup of fall programs, including:

- Cardio & Strength
- Seniorcise
- Stay & Play
- School Closure & PD Day Camps
- Mini Sport Adventure
- Mini Movers
- Yoga & Stretch

Whether you're looking to build strength, improve flexibility, stay connected with your community, or keep your little ones active and having fun, our fall programs are designed to help you make the most of the season.

For more information about programs and activities, visit: Strathmore.ca/SMPSportsCentre

Bored? We can fix that.
Join a board.

Boards and committees have always played an important role in our community. If you're looking for a way to make an impact, this is your chance to get involved. The Town is currently accepting applications for Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board - 1 position open.

For questions about Volunteer Boards and Committees, please email LSAdmin@strathmore.ca or call 403-934-3133.

Maintenance Notice.

Aquatic Centre closed for annual maintenance.

Every fall, the Strathmore Aquatic Centre closes for a few weeks to complete its annual maintenance shutdown. This important work helps keep the facility clean, safe, and operating efficiently for swimmers and visitors throughout the year.

This year's shutdown started on August 17, 2026, and includes a variety of maintenance projects such as replacing chemical lines, cleaning filters and replacing filter sand, repairing pool tiles, servicing valves, and completing maintenance on the waterslide and steam room.

Additional facility upgrades include replacing fire sprinkler heads in the pool area, performing boiler maintenance, and completing electrical system work.

There's a lot happening behind the scenes during this closure, all with the goal of keeping the Aquatic Centre in top condition. Watch for progress updates throughout the shutdown.

For more information, contact the Aquati Centre at 403-934-3325.

Community Connection Night.

Come for the fair, stay for the movie!

- Resource Fair (5:30 to 7 p.m.)
- BBQ (6 to 7 p.m.)
- Zootopia 2 (8 p.m.)

September 4, 2026
at Kinsmen Park



New Addition. Blue Recycle Carts Coming Soon.

Starting **October 1, 2026**, blue carts will be available to Strathmore residents for curbside recycling collection, with more accepted materials and single-stream collection. **(no sorting required!)**



Notice of Public Hearing. September 2, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Area Structure Plan Amending Bylaw No. 26-11 (The Prairies)

Please be advised that the Town of Strathmore has received an Area Structure Plan Amendment application to amend The Prairies Area Structure Plan Bylaw No. 11-08. omunity consisting of attached residential units centred around a central clubhouse amenity. The site is located at the north of the TransCanada Highway and east of George Freeman Trail. The proposed amendment would support the development of a residential community consisting of attached residential units centred around a central clubhouse amenity. The amendment proposes to facilitate neighbourhood commercial uses on a 3.74-acre (1.51 ha) parcel located in the southwest portion of the subject lands.

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed Bylaw may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website, [Strathmore.ca/PublicHearings](https://strathmore.ca/PublicHearings) Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM and in Council Chambers, Strathmore Municipal Building, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore Alberta on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, commencing at 6:00 pm with procedures in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, Section 199 and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw No. 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 of the proposed bylaw may present suggestions or concerns by making a submission to the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services at LSAdmin@strathmore.ca by 12:00 noon on **Wednesday, August 26, 2026**, in order to register to present.

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 12:00 noon on **Wednesday, August 26, 2026**, as outlined in Bylaw No. 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 five 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.

Notice of Appeal Hearing. August 20, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Notice of Appeal on Development Permit D26-083 for the property located at 52 Lakes Estates Circle, Strathmore, Alberta, Lot 14, Block 25, Plan 081 1227.

The Subdivison and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) received a Notice of Appeal on July 27, 2026. The SDBA will hear the appeal on:

Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026.

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Town of Strathmore Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, Alberta.

Adjacent landowners have the right to be heard by the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. Affected persons incide people who speak in favour or against the decisions being appealed.

Persons are asked to provide any written and/or visual presentationto the clerk no later than noon on **August 14, 2026**.

Please be aware that any submissions are collected for the purpose of a public hearing. By making a submission you are consenting that all information that it contains – including addresses, personal or other sensitive information – to be forwarded to the parties (e.g. municipality, appellant, applicant), the board/panel and any other person who requests to see the material.

The Development Permit Application, Notice of Decision and Notice of Appeal are available for review at the Strathmore Municipal Building, at 1 Parklane Drive during regular busines hours, being 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

For any further questions, please call 403-934-3133 or email veronica.anderson@strathmore.ca.

Notice of Public Hearing. September 2, 2026 at 6:05 p.m.

Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 26-14 (The Prairies)

Please be advised that The Town of Strathmore has received an application to amend the Land Use Bylaw No. 14-11 to redesignate the subject lands in support of the proposed area structure plan amendment of The Prairies Neighbourhood “D” (Prairies View). The Applicant is proposing to redesignate the lands to facilitate the development of an attached housing neighbourhood, complemented by neighbourhood commercial uses and associated public service areas.

The proposed land use districts include:

- R3 – High Density Residential District with a Direct Control District Overlay to accommodate the residential portion of the development. The proposed Direct Control District would include “Community Building and Facility” as a permitted use. Within the direct control district, the rear setbacks are proposed to be at the discretion of the Approving Authority
- C1 – Neighbourhood Commercial District to accommodate future neighbourhood commercial uses within the southwest portion of the site.
- P1 – Public Service District to accommodate public service uses, including the proposed Municipal Reserve lands and associated public infrastructure.

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed Bylaw may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website, [Strathmore.ca/PublicHearings](https://strathmore.ca/PublicHearings) Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM and in Council Chambers, Strathmore Municipal Building, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore Alberta on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, commencing at 6:05 pm with procedures in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, Section 199 and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw No. 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 of the proposed bylaw may present suggestions or concerns by making a submission to the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services at LSAdmin@strathmore.ca by 12:00 noon on **Wednesday, August 26, 2026**, in order to register to present.

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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.

Trash to Treasure and Heavy Item Garbage (HIG)



For more information
on HIG or
Trash to Treasure, visit:
[Strathmore.ca/HIG](https://strathmore.ca/HIG)



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SCAN TO BOOK APPOINTMENT





Rockin’ the Rez

The Siksika AgriPlex Rodeo Grounds came alive Aug. 20 as Doore Bucking Bulls brought Rockin’ the Rez to Siksika. The evening event ran from 7 to 9:30 p.m., with bull riding action continuing under the lights as the night came to a close.

Joe Lepage Photos

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We sell new and used lego sets, ranging in all different themes like Batman, Spider-Man, Ninjago, Chima, Minecraft, And Friends. And we can help find missing pieces to your own sets at home, which we price check on Bricklink. Along with a build your own minifigure area for \$5 per minifigure, with additional accessories for \$1 each.

Starting in June, we will be starting a deal for couples interested in a date night: the deal would be that for every year you have been together, you get 1% off for all sets and builds built within the shop.

I'M A BRICK

123 - 2nd Ave., Strathmore
403-483-3852

Blue-green algae advisories issued for local bodies of water

MARIO PRUSINA
Times Editor

Health advisories have been issued for two Wheatland County water bodies after cyanobacterial, commonly known as blue-green algae, blooms and/or toxins were identified in the waters of Eagle Lake and Severn Dam Reservoir.

The advisory for Eagle Lake applies to the lake southeast of Strathmore, while the Severn Dam Reservoir advisory affects the reservoir near Standard. Both advisories remain in effect until further notice.

Residents and visitors are advised not to swim or wade in areas where blooms are visible and to avoid contact with blooms in the water or along the shoreline. Anyone who comes into contact with a bloom should wash with clean tap water as soon as possible.

Neither water body should be used as a source of drinking

or cooking water. Boiling the water does not remove toxins produced by cyanobacteria. An alternate source of drinking water should also be provided for pets and livestock while the advisories are in place.

People are also advised not to eat whole fish or fish trimmings from either water body, as toxins can accumulate in the liver. Fish fillets contain fewer toxins and are considered safer to eat.

Pets should be kept away from areas where blooms are visible, including blooms washed up on shore. Whole fish and fish trimmings from the affected waters should not be fed to pets, as exposure to cyanobacteria can be fatal to animals.

Cyanobacteria occur naturally, with large blooms becoming more common during warm weather. Blooms can appear blue-green, greenish-brown, brown, pink or red and may resemble scum, streaks, grass clippings, fuzz balls, paint or pea soup. They can also produce a musty or grassy smell.

Contact with a bloom or ingesting contaminated water can cause skin irritation, rashes, sore throat, red or sore eyes, swollen lips, fever, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Symptoms can appear within one to three hours and generally resolve within one to two days. Children can experience more pronounced symptoms.

Weather and wind can cause blooms to shift from one area of a lake or reservoir to another. However, areas where a bloom is not visible can still be used for recreational purposes while the advisories remain in place.

Residents with concerns about cyanobacteria or related health issues can contact Health Link at 811. More information is available online through Alberta Health Services (www.ahs.ca/bga).

RCMP provides tips to curb mail theft

ALBERTA RCMP

The Alberta RCMP is providing tips to help prevent mail theft. Preventing mail theft is important as it can lead to further crimes, such as identity theft.

To help curb mail theft, consider the following tips:

- Install a locking mailbox. A locked mailbox can help deter thieves from taking your mail.
- Collect mail promptly. Don't let mail accumulate in your mailbox. Pick it up as soon as possible after delivery.
- Consider a package delivery box. These boxes provide a secure place for packages, reducing the risk of theft from your doorstep.
- Require a signature for deliveries. If expecting a package, choose a shipping option that requires a signature.
- Secure your mailbox. Ensure your mailbox is securely attached to your property and not easily accessible to thieves.
- Advise neighbours. Let your neighbours know when you are going away. Have a trusted neighbour collect your mail or have your mail delivery suspended for that period.
- Shred mail. Shred any mail that contains personal or financial details.
- Do not send cash in the mail. Cash may not be recoverable when stolen in the mail.
- Forward mail when changing addresses. If you change your address, use Canada Post's mail forwarding option to ensure you receive your mail and are aware of which businesses and organizations need your new address.

If you see something suspicious, report it to your local police service. If you see a crime in progress, call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store. To contact the RCMP non-emergency line within any Alberta RCMP jurisdiction call 310-RCMP (7267).

For more information on preventing mail theft, please follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta, X @RCMPAlberta, and on YouTube @RCMP-GRC Alberta.

FRIDAY AUGUST 28TH, 2026

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General Doors: 6:30pm - Show 7:30pm

Corporate - Group and Table Questions - 403-616-1870

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County looks at changes to bylaw following several significant dog attacks in 2025

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Justin Valley, manager of Protective Services, presented administration’s review of Animal Control Bylaw 2020-17 during a recent Wheatland County committee meeting.

Council directed administration to review the bylaw on July 8, 2025 specifically the section dealing with vicious dogs.

Valley said one of the biggest proposed changes would be replacing the existing dangerous dog hearing process with a remedial order system.

“One of the big hold ups in the original process was the dangerous dog hearing process. It was long, arduous. It was confusing, cumbersome,” Valley said.

Under the proposed process, a peace officer investigating a dog attack would determine whether the animal should be declared vicious and bring the matter forward to administration.

A remedial order could then be issued to the dog’s owner declaring the animal vicious and outlining conditions intended to protect the public.

The owner would have 14 days to appeal the order. The appeal would initially go to the chief administrative officer rather than directly to council, with a secondary review available. Valley said the proposed changes are intended to make the process more efficient while still giving owners an opportunity to challenge a declaration.

“The declaration of a dog being dangerous is the ability for the municipality to place conditions on the animal for safekeeping in your community to further protect your community,” he said.

It’s the municipality which is able to set conditions to keep a deemed vicious dog in the community. Those conditions could include mandatory micro chipping and vaccinations, spaying or neutering, warning signs, secure enclosures, liability insurance and requirements for the dog to be muzzled or kept on a harness or two leashes when outside the owner’s property.

Another proposed change would allow an owner to request a review one

year after a dog has been declared vicious. Valley said the option recognizes that a vicious dog declaration does not necessarily have to be permanent.

“A lot of the time, part of the hardship of having your dog declared vicious is this thought that it is a life sentence for your dog,” he said.

The review could consider whether the owner has followed the conditions, completed additional training or obtained a behavioural assessment.

The proposed bylaw would also give peace officers additional authority in urgent situations involving an actively aggressive animal.

Valley said the county’s peace officers have held shotgun certifications for about 16 years, but the current bylaw does not specifically allow officers to destroy an animal in circumstances involving active aggression or serious harm.

“It’s much akin to what the police would do in a situation if you have a dog that is literally, it’s uncapturable, it’s running around, it’s attacking people,” he said.

The committee also discussed adding a new category for nuisance animals. The proposed section would address animals that repeatedly bark or howl, trespass, run at large or cause waste accumulation; he stressed that it’s for animals that are repeat offenders.

Coun. Rick Lausen questioned how the provision could apply to agricultural animals, using a bull that escapes and breeds a neighbour’s cow as an example. Valley agreed the wording needs more work.

Other councillors supported the idea particularly for rural areas where animals can repeatedly cause problems.

The proposed nuisance animal provisions would not override protections available to livestock owners dealing with animals on their property. Valley said he encourages farmers to contact the county when possible but acknowledged there are situations where that may not be an option.

The review also proposes changes to enforcement terminology replacing “violation tag” with “municipal tag” to make the distinction between municipal penalties and provincial violation

tickets clearer. One example for change with the proposed municipal tag would be in lieu of prosecution they could pay a fine or a fee directly to the County. He emphasized that this is just another option available to the bylaw amendments.

Administration also reviewed fine structures in neighbouring municipalities, including Newell County, Vulcan County, Kneehill County and Mountain View County, and proposed considering increased penalties for serious animal related offences.

Valley said there is a significant difference between a minor bite and an incident resulting in serious injury requiring medical attention.

“There is a big difference between a dog that bites and it’s a small nip that doesn’t require a lot of medical attention and a dog that creates an injury that requires serious medical attention,” he said.

Committee members generally supported modernizing the bylaw, particularly the changes to the vicious dog process. Reeve Scott Klassen said the previous hearing process had been “very odd” and believed the proposed changes would provide a cleaner process while still allowing an appeal.

The proposed amendments will return to council for further consideration before any changes to the animal control bylaw are finalized.

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PUBLIC NOTICE CGC INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, CGC Inc., Drywall Wallboard Manufacturing Facility, Carseland, has applied to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) to amend the Facility EPEA approval by raising some emission source stacks and moving some minor emission sources indoors with appropriate pollution control technologies. The Facility is about 2.5 KM West of Carseland, Alberta.

The LLD for the site is LSD 9, 10, 15 and Portions of 7, 8 and 16-10-022-26 W4M, alongside Township road 222. The Facility will have a capacity of over 300,000 tonnes per year of drywall boards. Raw product (gypsum) will be shipped to the site by rail.

A directly affected person may provide input into certain regulatory decisions, as allowed by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (section 73). Specifically, any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

Environment and Protected Areas
Regulatory Assurance Section
Approvals Unit
5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza
9915 - 108 ST, EDMONTON, AB T5K 2G8
Email: epa.epeaapplications@gov.ab.ca

The written statement of concern should include the following information to be assured it can be considered:

- The application number 004-495207.
- Describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.
- Explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activities proposed in the application.
- Provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable
- State the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application.
- Contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer. Please provide a telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact.

Environment and Protected Areas will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and concerns that are relevant to the application and for which the Director has delegated authority to address in the decision on the application, will be considered in the technical review of the application. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department’s website at <https://avw.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx>.

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

CGC Inc.
Attention: Duane Van Duuren
PO BOX 552, CARSELAND, AB T0J 0M0
Telephone: 403-919-0893
Email: dvanduuren@usg.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Canada-USA trade conflict is really a battle of billionaires

To the Editor

It is time for Canadians to step back and take a closer look at what trade with the United States really means for ordinary people. We talk about tariffs, negotiations, and market access as if these are technical matters, but at its core this conflict is a struggle between billionaires over who controls the wealth produced on this continent. When NAFTA was signed decades ago, it was sold as a path to prosperity. In reality, it delivered its greatest benefits to investors and corporate owners – many of whom were American billionaires with deep stakes in Canadian business. Some jobs were created, but many were lost. Since NAFTA began, wages for average Canadians have fallen behind the cost of living. Social supports and healthcare have been underfunded. Public wealth has been steadily transferred into private hands through privatization. Governments

have handed out billions of dollars to shareholder companies while those same billionaires multiplied their fortunes almost exponentially.

This is the part of the story that rarely gets discussed. Regardless of what outcome emerges from the current trade negotiations, some Canadians will lose their jobs. Working families will continue to earn less in real dollars compared to the rising cost of living. The gains will once again flow upward. Trade policy has become a battleground where the wealthiest players fight for advantage, and ordinary Canadians are left to absorb the consequences. It is time to recognize that trade is not an abstract economic principle. It is a political choice about who benefits and who pays the price.

Ken Riley,
Bassano

Lyalta approved for new year-round recreational facility

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County’s Municipal Planning Commission has approved the expansion of an existing recreation facility at the Lyalta Community Centre, paving the way for new year-round recreational opportunities in the community.

The application proposes to redevelop and expand the outdoor recreation area located about 0.8 km northeast of Lyalta and near the entrance to the Lakes of Muirfield community.

The existing site includes the Lyalta Community Centre, a community hall constructed in the 1980s, two ball diamonds, a temporary camping area and an adjacent dog park.

The proposed expansion will add a building with flexible change room space, a storage garage and a wheelchair-accessible, gender-neutral washroom. The garage will provide space for maintenance equipment, including a Zamboni, a small tractor with a snow attachment and sporting equipment.

A four-season sport court is also planned. During the winter, the space is intended to function as an outdoor ice rink for skating and hockey, while warmer months will allow for activities such as pickleball and basketball.

The project also includes a new soccer field, additional parking and a new roadway entrance intended to improve traffic circulation and access to the site.

During the Municipal Planning Commission meeting Aug. 18, development officer Suzanne Hayes presented the proposal where questions were raised about whether the proposed water system would be able to handle larger events.

The development’s water and wastewater assessment was based on an anticipated maximum of 20 users per day for the indoor washroom facilities. The existing groundwater well has a recorded capacity of approximately 10 Imperial gallons per minute while the estimated demand is 8.93 Imperial gallons per minute.

Coun. Shannon Laprise questioned whether that would be enough if the facility hosted a large tournament.

“But if they have a ball tournament or they fill up that par-

king lot with 400 cars, that’s gonna be way more than that; do they have a contingency for water use?” Laprise asked.

Hayes said the county’s third-party engineers are still reviewing the information and have requested additional details.

“That’s what the third-party engineers will be hashing out with them in this review process,” Hayes said. “Our engineers have asked for more information regarding that and potentially an alternate method would be approved rather than what they’ve proposed.”

The application notes that the site has hosted ball tournaments on its existing diamonds for many years.

Coun. Keith Clayton was quick to interject.

“As far as ball tournaments up there, they hold them already on the two diamonds and have for probably 20 years,” he said.

It was noted that the water usage during higher attended ball tournaments has never been an issue to date, comparing the usage to what a newer facility might anticipate.

The proposed rink also brought up questions about water use. Officials raised concerns about where the water was going to be sourced from.

Reeve Scott Klassen explained that the site previously had an outdoor rink, and it was noted that they were able to manage the water with a previous rink approximately 20 years ago, implying there should be no need for concern regarding water.

Traffic and dust were also addressed as part of the development review. A traffic assessment prepared by McElhanney concluded Township Road 252 and Range Road 264 have sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional traffic. The proposed 351 parking spaces exceed anticipated demand, and no turn lanes, traffic signals or other intersection upgrades are currently required.

The county estimates Township Road 252 could see traffic volumes of about 260 vehicles per day on regular days and more than 400 vehicles per day during larger events.

Transportation staff also noted existing dust concerns along Township Road 252 have historically been addressed through measures including road oil. The county will continue to monitor traffic volumes and road conditions as the site develops.

The project also received a setback variance from the Western Irrigation District after the original proposal did not meet the required 30-metre setback from the irrigation canal.

Storm water and servicing plans remain subject to final review by the county’s third-party engineers before the new recreational amenities can be used.

The development permit includes 16 conditions, including requirements for a new gravel approach from Township Road 252, signage outlining rules and hours of operation, completion of engineering reviews and compliance with the approved plans.

Outdoor recreational activities will be permitted seven days a week throughout the year between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Parking associated with activities at the expanded facility will not be permitted on public roads.

The project is being funded through several sources including grants from the province, the county and countless other to get this project moving forward.

Council ultimately approved the proposal subject to the 16 conditions outlined by administration.



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Box 187 Carseland, AB T0J 0M0

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