







Page 10



Bensmiller wins chucks

Page 11



Bulls shine

COVID-19 Update

in Strathmore & Wheatland County (as of July 25, 2022)

2845 Cases since COVID started 6 New Cases in last seven days 32 Deaths



Look on Page 16 for Town of Strathmore Municipal Notices

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Strathmore Stampede a Success

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Though it didn't quite go off without a hitch, CEO and GM of the Strathmore and District Agricultural Society Ryan Schmidt said this year's Strathmore Stampede is certainly one to remember.

He was excited to report that attendees generally seemed to be greatly enjoying themselves, and the support from both the sponsors and the small army of volunteers was "tremendous."

"I don't think I've ever seen a Friday crowd like we had this year. We set a record for Friday rodeo and chuckwagon attendance and I think the chuckwagon race on Friday night was the best I've ever seen," said Schmidt. "There were several photo-finishes and the crowd was just going wild. I think it was the finest chuckwagon racing night I've seen in my life."

With an event of this scale, Schmidt said there are always little things that need attending to in order to keep everything running smoothly, and this year was no ex-

Friday is always our day when we put out all the fires. I don't know if I could think of one in particular to highlight but it seems like just 200 little things, all the things that you forgot about or you set up wrong, or you find out when everybody shows up," he explained. "Between the staff and the volunteers, we had most of them out by the end of the Friday, a couple on Saturday morning and then a smooth sailing from there."

 $Continued\ on\ Page\ 2$



Roping good time!

The annual Strathmore Stampede, held over the Heritage Days long weekend, was a stompin' success according to event organizers. For the most part, Mother Nature provided fantastic sunny and hot conditions for the four days of action-packed rodeo and chuckwagons action, along with the many other events at the Strathmore & District Agricultural Society grounds.

Joe Lepage Photo





Schmidt reflects on Stampede success

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

echoed by many attendees.

Schmidt said of all the new additions to the Strathmore Stampede this year, he was particularly intrigued by the reptile exhibit brought in by Calgary Reptile Parties – a sentiment that seemed to be

"To see all these little creatures crawling around, there's all the craziness outside but to take a moment to go and

see those neat little creatures was pretty cool and I hope that they come back next year too," he said.

Among other concerns included inclement weather which threatened to halt concert and chuckwagon activities on Friday and Saturday. Though for Sunday, it was clear skies and smooth sailing, which Schmidt noted was a relief to see for the duration of the third day.

Going forward, if next year should see similar heat and weather during the

Strathmore Stampede, Schmidt advises people to dress for the hot sun and to come prepared with lots of water.

Schmidt closed his comments regarding this year's Stampede with a note of gratitude to all the volunteers who came out to make it all happen and help the event come together.

"Thank you to the generosity of everybody in town and the county who came out and gave their time," he said. "It's greatly appreciated."



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RE/MAX







Residents were treated to the annual Strathmore Stampede parade in downtown Strathmore on July 30. Floats from multiple businesses and organizations showcased their creativity as folks, particularly the kids, enjoyed the annual event.

John Watson & Rose Hamrlik Photos

















Leadership race

Minister of Finance Travis Toews, presented to a crowd of Wheatland County residents on July 27, talking about his platform to change the United Conservative Party, should he succeed in taking over party leadership.

John Watson Photo

Residential Acreage Award Winning





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BBB Scam Alert: Need a new driveway? Look out for asphalt paving scams

If your driveway needs paving or repairs, don't trust just anyone to do the job. BBB Scam Tracker has numerous reports of unscrupulous contractors who trick homeowners with supposedly good deals. Homeowners end up with shoddy pavement -- or nothing at all -- to show for what they paid and, in some cases, have lost over \$8,000 in the process.

How the scam works

How the scam works

A contractor leaves a pamphlet or shows up at the door. They claim they've been doing work in the area and just happened to notice the condition of your driveway or sidewalk. Since they're already working nearby, they can give you a discount. If the price is agreeable, they will then ask for a large percentage of the fee upfront. There is some hesitancy if there is a question on the price or details about the business and its location.

Once the transaction is complete, the scam contractor may disappear altogether. The contact number or email may not work, quickly helping you realize that the contact information was a sham. If you protest, the contractor may use intimidation tactics, such as threatening a lawsuit, to convince you to pay up.

In other cases, once complete, the contractor's work is shoddy and unprofessional, but the full payment has been made. Reaching the company the contractor allegedly represented is impossible, or another company was impostored in the process. In any of these scenarios, the chances of getting a refund or the work fixed are slim.



- Be wary of unsolicited offers. Most scams involving contractors begin when a random contractor
- makes an effort to go out of their way to offer an estimate that was never requested. Research companies and contractors before you hire. Start with BBB.org. If the contractor has multiple negative reviews and complaints, don't hire them. Often, a simple internet search will reveal companies or individuals that have been involved in fraudulent activities or provided unsatisfactory work to previous clients.
- Get everything in writing. Ask for an estimate in writing before payment is even discussed. Don't let a contractor start working on a project until a written, signed contract outlining start and complete dates, a detailed description of the work to be provided, material costs, payment
- complete dates, a detailed execution in the work to be provided, inaterial costs, payment arrangements, and warranty information is provided.

 Stagger payments. Most contractors will require a percentage of the total price upfront, but it should never be the full price before the work has begun. Instead, agree to stagger payments so that work can be inspected at various stages of the project.

 Use safe payment methods. Paying with a credit card provides some peace of mind since the
- credit card company will help you if the company is fraudulent. If you use a check, write it to a ompany, not an individual. Paying cash or using an electronic wallet app is risky since there is o way to stop the payment or get some money back if anything goes wrong.



Aliera Chernoff is set to travel to Brazil to compete in the Youth World Reigning Cup on Aug. 26. She is currently raising money and community support for her journey to compete on the world stage with 29 other athletes from across the globe.

Photos Courtesy of Aliera Chernoff

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Thought for the Week Failure isn't falling down.

It's staying

down.

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50 Maplewood Drive • 403-934-2225 Senior Pastor: Rev. Les Fischer Youth Pastor: Rev. Kyle Lomenda Services Sundays 10:30 am www.strathmorefullgospel.com

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Services posted on-line at: www.smoreuc.com

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Local athlete headed to **Brazil for World Cup**

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore's Aliera Chernoff is set to attend the World Youth Reigning Cup in Brazil later this summer and is seeking community support to help get her there and back.

Chernoff is one of 30 young athletes who have been selected from 30 different countries to compete at the cup. As opposed to attempting to transport their own animals to the competition, riders will be riding on sponsored horses at the competition.

Chernoff explained her selection to compete was decided through a competition by Reigning Canada and Reigning Alberta, which was won largely based on her pervious wins, experience and accomplishments within the sport.

"I was the NRHA Western Canada affiliate 1418, champion in 2021 ... and I was the AQHA Canadian National Champion in reigning and ranch riding and 2019. And then I showed all last year, too," said Chernoff. "I'm pretty happy with what I've accomplished and I'm super excited to go and represent Canada and Strathmore down there to Brazil."

This won't be Chernoff's first goround on the international stage. In 2018 she travelled with the Calgary Stampede Showriders to Pasadena, and in 2021 she travelled to Oklahoma to display her mare.

Beginning to ride at the age of eight, Chernoff said she started off simply doing it for fun. After meeting her 4-H coach, who she attributes getting her into reigning, she developed a passion for the sport.

Similarly, Chernoff added she does not come from a family engrossed in equestrian sport or rodeo.

"I was just hooked on it ... I hope to be doing it for the rest of my life," said Chernoff who was introduced to riding through a friend who kept a horse.

Regarding what it takes to get into the sport, Chernoff said it takes practice and dedication in order to excel.

"I usually try to ride as much as I can during the week and having good coaches and a lot of support makes a huge difference," said Chernoff, who is looking to raise \$5,000 in order to help fund her travel to Brazil to compete.

"We're just looking for some sponsorship and donations just to cover like the fights and expenses to go down there. We are also thinking about, for donations, we could get some small gifts to give to the owners of the horses because it's so awesome that they are sponsoring horses for the youth to ride," said Chernoff who is set to compete at the World Youth Reigning Cup on Aug. 26.



The host Strathmore Thunder U17B girls softball team went undefeated en route to claiming the 2022 Provincial Championship Joe Lepage Photo

Strathmore Thunder takes Provincial gold

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Thunder U17B fastpitch team took home gold at their provincial tournament that took place over the weekend of July 22.

Coach Tom Clooney said the season was hardwon and taking home the provincial title was certainly a well-earned accomplishment.

"I'm very proud of them. They worked hard this season and they came together at the right time. It was quite a whirlwind week — on Monday they won the city championship in their league, and then they closed off the week by winning the provincial championship," said Clooney. "We were hoping to make the medal round last year at provincial, in Irma, and came up short ... we had some unfinished business after last year."

Clooney added that as the hosting location and organization, the team did not want to be cleaning up the diamonds at the end of the weekend, having not played to the conclusion of the tourna-

Despite several injuries throughout the season and being down a player at provincials, the girls didn't hesitate to bring the thunder to the pitch.

Over the course of the season, Clooney added, he believes the girls really came together as a team and displayed growth across the board. This, however, wasn't the only factor which he believes lead to their success.

'We are the only team that doesn't play in a travel league that is set up in Alberta, and I think we were an unknown to some of the teams that were there," said Clooney. "Whether they took us lightly or whatever it may be, (the other teams) found out pretty quick that these girls are a really good team and deserved to be favourites and deserved to win gold this weekend."

Clooney also commended the girls for their commitment to the team despite their various other occupations and obligations throughout the season.

ASET offering employment certification for incoming refugees

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET) has announced the organization is now waiving fees for refugees to become members and attain their designations.

These fees include application, prior learning assessment and recognition, professional practice exam and certification exam. Via a release, ASET specified the collection of fees could have previously costed a refugee roughly \$1,000 over time.

Barry Cavanaugh, CEO of ASET, said the decision was made to ensure their applicant assessment program was as objective as possible.

"A few years ago, we decided that we needed to make sure that our ways of assessing applicants for our designations were absolutely objective, and that it was a level playing field for everybody," said Cavanaugh.

"It did occur to us at that time ... that was, to some extent, to the advantage of internationally trained professionals."

ASET launched a program in 2016 designed to offer foreign-trained professionals and other engineering technology professionals a route to establishing careers in Canada without being required to return to school.

The idea behind ASET's program is that for foreign-trained professionals who have passed an English language proficiency test and are seeking designation to work in their field in Canada, they

like what an average Canadian would submit to an employer when applying for a job, and will then require the applicant to complete a practice exam testing knowledge on Alberta-specific legislation and professional ethics, as well as technical

ASET currently has 35 members residing in Strathmore, and is encouraging refugees with an engineering background coming from Ukraine to consider their certification.

thought we should be doing something to assist with that, to expedite the process," said Cavanaugh. "We realized that there was a considerable weight to application fees and examination fees, and if we could avoid imposing them on people, it would help a lot."

For any refugees settling in Strathmore, Cavanaugh wants to make anyone eligible for certification to be aware that the option through ASET is available, and that becoming eligible for employment in Alberta does not have to be a complicated

More information about the program is avail-

may undergo a competency assessment. This assessment looks at relevant credentials,

competency.

"As refugees, once you have refugee status, we

able through the ASET website.

Mario Prusina Publisher Kristina Bezic Financial Manager John Watson Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

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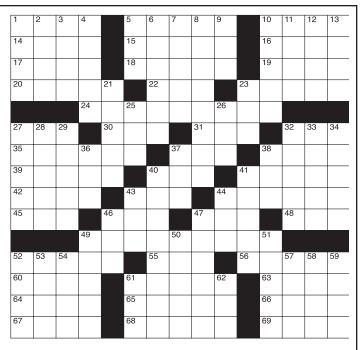
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STRATHMORE

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Leela Aheer, MLA Chestermere-Strathmore 403 962-0126 129 2nd Avenue Strathmore, AB T1P 1K1 chestermere.strathmore@assembly.ab.ca



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Female parent 5. NY city
- 10. Israeli diplomat Abba

- 16. Simple aquatic plant
- 17. Tough skin of fruit
- 18. Finnish lake 19. Composition
- 20. Very willing
- 22. One and only
- 23. Cluster cups
- 24. Famed Hollywood director
- 27. Score perfectly
- 30. Important lawyers 31. Undivided
- 32. Part of the foot
- 35. Spun by spiders
- 37. Married woman
- 38. Reagan's Secretary of State
- 40. The A-Team drove one

- 41. Short-tailed marten 42. Oil organization 43. Predecessor to the EU
- 44. "Hotel California" rockers
- 45. Color at the end of the spectrum
- 46. Actress Ryan
- 47. Digital audiotape
- 48. Expression of creative skill
- 49. Scientific instrument
- 52. Dog-__: marked for later 55. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 56. Fencing sword
- 60. Turkish title 61. Wise individuals
- 63. Cold wind
- 64. Popular type of shoe
- 65. The territory occupied by a nation 66. Tattle
- 67. Chop up
- 68. Actress Zellweger
- 69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Female of a horse 2. Bowfin
- 3. Chinese dynasty
- 4. Small venomous snake
- 5. Global news agency
- 6. Common fractions
- 7. American state 8. Tired
- 9. Boxing's GOAT
- 10. Made less severe
- 11. A group of countries in special alliance
- 12. God of fire (Hindu) 13. Northeast Indian ethnic group
- 21. Anchor ropes
- 23. They
- 25. Apprehend
- 26. Autonomic nervous system 27. A theatrical performer
- 28. 2-door car
- 29. Partner to flowed
- 32. Pair of small hand drums
- 33 Former Houston footballer

- 34. Discharge 36. Former women's branch of the
- military 37. Partner to cheese
- 38. Witch 40. Live in a dull way
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Snakelike fish 44. Consume
- 46. Type of student
- 47. Erase
- 49 Instruct 50. Girl's given name
- 51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 52. Every one of two or more things
- 53. Indian city
- 54. Greek letters
- 57. Weapon 58. Geological times
- 59. Cycle in physics 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 62. Witness

Learn more at:









































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.

August 16: Council Meeting August 23: Municipal Planning Commission September 6: Council Meeting

To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted. Agenda packages can be found on our website.





Agriculture Bursary Program

Wheatland County - Agricultural Service Board

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) recognizes the importance of youth to the agricultural industry and rural communities in Wheatland County.

The Wheatland County ASB invites students furthering their education at a postsecondary institution in an agriculture or environmental science related field to apply.

ASB will provide up to \$6000 in Bursaries annually with a minimum award of \$500 and a maximum award of \$1500 depending upon the number of applicants that meet the criteria. Bursaries are available to high school graduates (within 3 years) residing within the boundaries of Wheatland County. Funding is not available to persons qualifying for or participating in job training assistance grants or previous bursary recipients.

Careers with Wheatland County Available opportunities include:

- **Financial Analyst** Closes August 5, 2022
- **Agricultural Services Officer** Closes August 12, 2022
- **Tire Service Technician**



Visit our website for more information and APPLY TODAY! wheatlandcounty.ca/careers/

2022 Gravel Pit Sales

The August 9th and 10th, 2022, gravel pit sale is open. The new application form and sales information is available on our website.

August 9th and 10th Pit Location:

Fish Lake Pit (Dalum) located at NE-28-26-18W4M (7/8" Crush & Pit Run)

Address: 242006 Range Rd 243, Wheatland County, ABT1P 2C4 Phone: 403-934-3321 www.wheatlandcounty.ca @wheatlandcounty Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.











Application packages are available online at wheatlandcounty.ca

For additional information contact Michelle Van Haarlem at 403-361-2000 or agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca

















There was plenty to see and do, and of course eat and drink, at the rodeo grounds during the 2022 Strathmore Stampede July 29 to Aug. 1.

Joe Lepage & John Watson Photos























Did You Know?

Only UCP members can vote for the UCP Leadership The winner will be Premier Of Alberta Less than 3% of eligible Albertans are UCP members If YOU want a say:

You MUST join the UCP before August 12 Please join MLA Leela Sharon Aheer at a MEMBERSHIP TOWN HALL

Monday, Aug. 8 7-9 PM: Royal Canadian Legion, 2 Ave, Strathmore Tuesday, Aug. 9 7-9 PM: MPP Room, Chestermere Recreation Centre Thursday, Aug. 11 7-9 PM: LCA Fieldhouse, 344 Centre St, Langdon

Alberta residents 14+ for 6 months of the past year may join the UCP for only \$10 Volunteers will be on hand to help process your membership A credit card from you or a family member is required

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Presented by the Chestermere-Strathmore UCP Constituency Association Questions? email csucpca@gmail.com or call Pete at 587-429-6465

CRIME STOPPERS



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TYPE



Strathmore RCMP are reminding residents to Lock-It or Lost-It following several thefts from vehicles.

- Locking your vehicle doors is a quick and simple way to help prevent this crime.
- Hide loose change inside the vehicle where it can't easily be seen and take all items of any value with you when leaving your car.
 - Never leave your vehicle running unattended.

Strathmore RCMP ask residents to help do their part by ensuring their property is properly locked.

1-800-222-TIPS (1-800-222-8477)



403-934-5552 120 - 2nd Avenue, Strathmore

YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE Gord Morck Pharmacist Capsule Comments

ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) is a rare disease involving the breakdown and eventual death of the nerves that control voluntary muscles. There is no cure for this disease but researchers have found there is an *association* between smoking and the risk of acquiring ALS. They are not saying that smoking *causes* ALS but early reports that the incidence of the disease was less in non-smokers. If you don't smoke, don't start. If you do smoke, quit.

Doctors in the early 19th century didn't have a large number of treatment tools available to treat illness. If you visited a doctor back then, you might be bled with a lancet, blistered and given medications to make you vomit or purge the bowels. Things started to change for the better in the last half of the 19th century.

A 95 year old lady who had been healthy all her life was asked to share her secrets. Her answer was simple......exercising regular, eating correctly and nutritiously and always having a positive attitude. Rules to live by.

There are many conditions that can cause blurred vision. One of these is *astigmatism*. It is an imperfection in the curvature of the eye. A normal eye is shaped like a basketball. In *astigmatism*, it is more like a football. If your vision is blurry, see an optometrist to diagnose the problem and get your vision back to normal.

Hours: M-W: 9-6 pm • Th-F: 9-8 pm Sat: 9-6 pm • Sun & Holidays: 11-5 pm









The Strathmore Stampede brought in the best cowboys and cowgirls from around the world during their annual rodeo from July 29 to Aug. 1. Mother Nature provided perfect summer conditions for the third largest rodeo in Canada.

John Watson.

Joe Lepage, John Watson, Nela Busic & Veronica Heinen Photos































Bull rider Hansen saves best for last at Strathmore Stampede rodeo

LAURENCE HEINEN Times Contributor

The third time was a charm for Jordan Hansen who had to get on not one ... not two ... but three bulls on Monday before being crowned champion of the bull-riding competition at the 2022 Strathmore Stampede rodeo.

"I'm sure I have done it," said Hansen in regards to the last time he rode three bulls in a span of 20 minutes. "I'm trying to think when the last time (was) and it's definitely been a while, especially on a hot day like this. It takes a little bit out of a guy."

As the last competitor out of the chutes on the final day of the rodeo, Hansen was awarded a re-ride after getting thrown off Macza Pro Rodeo's The Motto. Following a quick break, he scored 77 points atop Legend Rodeo's Magic Guy and was given the option of another re-ride.

"A big rodeo like this, you're not going to keep a 70-point ride, that's for sure," said the 28-year-old cowboy from Amisk, Alta., who needed a bit more time to catch his breath before getting on Bar Star, another bull from Legend

"A good bull like that for another reride, I had to take it," said Hansen. "The third time I had to take an extra couple minute breather. I thought they were going to start yelling at me, but I figured they'd understand."

The short bit of rest proved invaluable as Hansen impressed the judges enough to earn a score of 88.75, which vaulted him into the top spot just ahead of defending Strathmore Stampede bull-riding champion Edgar Durazo, who had an 88.5-point ride on Blue Bombshell a bit earlier.

"Me and Edgar, we've had a few battles for sure," said Hansen of his Mexican bull riding counterpart, who now resides in the community of Speargrass, just 15 minutes south of Strathmore. planet. It's hard not to cheer for him. I might have to buy him a beer because he had to sit there and wait for a little longer than he wanted."

While Hansen had a payday of \$5,820.48 for winning his first-ever Strathmore Stampede title, Durazo didn't fare that badly either as he took home \$4,607.88 for his eight seconds

Like Hansen, Layton Green of Meeting Creek, Alta., had never won in Strathmore ... that is, until Monday when he posted a score of 88.25 points on Night Attack to win the saddle-bronc competition and the first-place prize of \$6,136.32.

"It's pretty cool to get the win here," said Green, while recalling that he finished second on a couple occasions previously. "It's just the boost a guy needs here going into the last stretch (of the season)."

Meanwhile, Caleb Bennett of Corvallis, Mont., won his second bareback title in Strathmore thanks to his impressive 91.25-point performance on Monday atop OLS Tubs Stevie Knicks to earn himself a payday of \$5,640.

"This rodeo's always been pretty good to me," said Bennett who knew he had a chance to post a high score when he saw the bucking horse he was matched up against. "She made me look dumb once. That's probably one of the greatest animal athletes in bareback riding. Today, out of all the trips I've had on her, was probably the strongest and buckiest she's ever been."

Also on Monday, steer wrestler Mike McGinn of Haines, Ore., stopped the clock in 3.5 seconds to finish first atop the standings.

"The judges did a good job drawing me a good steer," said the humble bulldogger, who earned \$6,133.50 for his efforts. "I just let it all hang out and tried to win something."

While many of the winners were crowned during the final day of the rodeo on Monday, several earned their titles earlier in the four-day show.

Michael Otero of Millsap, Texas, stopped the clock in 8.0 seconds on Sunday during the tie-down roping event and his quick time stood up to earn him the top prize of \$6,218.10.

"Winning Strathmore with this amount of money added, it would really boost my (place in the) standings and my confidence and get me going in the right direction," said Otero before packing up and heading south of the border to attend more rodeos in his quest to qualify for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in November. "That was just a really great calf. I've been drawing really terrible for the most part in the States and we come up here to Canada and the calves are outstanding."

Alberta-based team ropers Lance Gordon of Crossfield and Kelly Buhler 'That's one of the nicest guys on the of Big Valley set the time to beat of 4.9 seconds on Sunday and it held up to earn them a payday of \$4,272.30 each.

> Ponoka's Shelby Spielman posted the fastest time of 17.59 seconds in the ladies' barrel racing event to win \$6,805.60, while Mikenna Schauer of Halkirk, Alta., stopped the clock in 2.22 seconds to finish as the top ladies breakaway roping competitor to take home \$2,994.37.

> Nash Loewen of Winfield, Alta., posted a score of 79.5 points to win the boys steer-riding competition and a payday of \$1,552.

> Meanwhile, Blake Link of Maple Creek, Sask., had the lone qualified ride of 73.75 points in novice bareback to win \$877.66 and James Perrin, also of Maple Creek, posted the top score of 71.5 points in novice saddle bronc to give him an extra \$990.18 in his bank

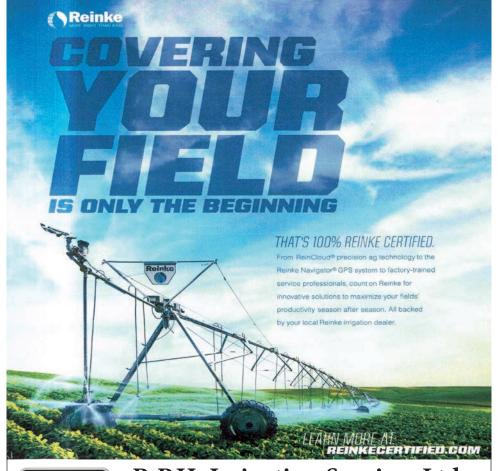














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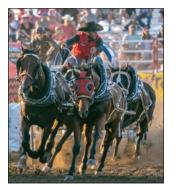
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The top drivers in the World Professional Chuckwagon Association converged in town for the annual Strathmore Stampede July 29 to Aug. 1. Kurt Bensmiller claimed his fourth Strathmore Stampede Championship with an aggregate time of 5:04:41.

John Watson & Joe Lepage Photos



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Stellar racing leads Bensmiller to Strathmore Stampede show title

LAURENCE HEINEN
Times Contributor

Kurt Bensmiller knows what it takes to win, but up until the Strathmore Stampede, the 39-year-old reinsman from Dewberry, Alta., had yet to experience victory on the World Professional Chuckwagon Association circuit this season.

"It's been a long summer for me, for sure," said Bensmiller, who guided his Versatile Energy Services Ltd. outfit to first-place showings in his heat four days in a row from Friday to Monday. "It's nice to be on top for at least one show."

Thanks to his stellar showings in Strathmore, Bensmiller was crowned the Strathmore Stampede champion for the fourth time, to go with the titles he previously won in 2012, 2018 and 2019.

"I love coming to Strathmore," said Bensmiller, whose dad Buddy won the show in 1992, while his younger brother Chance prevailed one year ago in 2021. "This is a great event, it's always been good. I remember coming here as a young kid and the way the crowd responded to dad all the time and now it's to us, too ... It just makes you feel pretty good coming out here, so it's always exciting put on a good show. It's always a really involved and engaged crowd. It makes life for us as drivers a lot more fun."

By virtue of his quick trips around the Strathmore rodeo grounds track, Bensmiller posted the best four-day aggregate time of 5:04.41 to give him an impressive 3.01-second margin of victory over current WPCA points leader Layne MacGillivray (League Projects).

"It's nice, especially after four days, to be able to win by that much," said Bensmiller, who made some changes to the way he managed his barn after finishing third at the Calgary Stampede's Cowboys Rangeland Derby behind Kris Molle and MacGillivray. "The horses ran good. Coming out of Calgary we changed some stuff up for High River and then they started clicking now ... Get-

ting back to four wagons (per heat) – how wagon racing's supposed to be – it makes it a lot easier and we can actually have a little bit of strategy. This is what we grew up doing, so we know how to do it with four wagons."

Bensmiller also commended his outriders Rory Gervais and Hayden Motowylo for helping him achieve victory in Strathmore.

"They've been just amazing," said Bensmiller of the talented pair of riders. "I've been a bit lucky to have them guys all the way through. I never have to look back. The odds of them screwing up are pretty slim, so it's nice to know that you've got those two guys riding in your corner."

Chanse Vigen ended up in the third spot after the four-day show, Bensmiller's brother-in-law Vern Nolin was fourth, while Codey McCurrach rounded out the top-five finishers.

Off barrel No. 4 in the fourth heat aboard his Tomco Group of Companies wagon, McCurrach posted Monday afternoon's fastest time of 1:15.39 and won day money by 52/100ths of a second over Wade Salmond (Burnra Welding Ltd.).

After a one-week break, the WPCA tour will resume with the Battle of the North in Dawson Creek, B.C., from Aug. 10-14.

Following the Battle of the Rockies in Rocky Mountain House, Alta., from Aug. 18-21, the top 12 drivers in the WPCA standings will have a chance to vie for bragging rights at the Century Downs World Finals from Aug. 24-28 at Century Downs Racetrack and Casino just north of Calgary.

"When we left Calgary, the plan (was) to try and be running (in the top 12) when we hit Century Downs, because that's the one that matters the most, said Bensmiller. "Every one of these shows is great to win, but that's the one that's got the big money left. So hopefully, we have a good showing in Dawson Creek and we continue with the success that we had here and it carries over right into the Century Downs finals."



JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Stampede has awarded two more adrenaline junkies with belt buckles and the \$1,000 bounty for winning the annual Running With the Bulls.

Saturday's winner, 19-year-old Kurtis Seeley, who hails from Wheatland County, said since he was talked into competing, he was

in it to win it. "I'd seen the belt buckle and the thousand (dollars) and all my friends were doing it and well maybe a lucky lady would come to me tonight," he said. "It was kind of scary. I just went in with pure confidence and wanted to win so, I just went at them and (figured I'd) see what happened."

He added he had some familiarity with bulls, but was largely going in blind and was simply ready to see what happened.

For Seeley, the risk was worth the idea of winning some money. As the run drew to a close, he certainly earned his keep after getting knocked around by an unexpected hit.

"At the end there, I thought they were all gone and then I heard screaming and yelling and there was another one here," he said. "I turned around and there he was right in my face and all of a sudden, he was right on top of me."

Sunday's event saw 26-year-old Tyler Eveson from Cochrane take

home prize after a close call on the track that nearly had him gored.

"I wasn't worried at all. I know I'm in good hands here and I wasn't too worried about anything," he said after the run.

Eveson said he jumped into the ring for the fun and to let loose a little, even having invited several of his peers to join in on the event.

"I invited all my friends from work and I tried to get them all to do it and all my employees but they've seen the videos on You-Tube and they were not interested after that," said Eveson.

He added he has ideas to split the money amongst friends and coworkers, or to potentially vacation in Mexico to enjoy his earnings.

Eveson was selected by the crowd from three competitors who had ultimately stood out for their boldness and antics during the event.

County's Kurtis Seeley and Cochrane's Tyler Eveson were named the winners during the July 30-31 performances respectively.

> Adelle Ellis, John Watson, Joe Lepage & Jody Schneider Photos









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Martin Shields and Chestermere-Strathmore MLA Leela Aheer hosted their seventh annual hot dog fundraiser for the Strathmore Municipal Library on July 30, immediately following the Strathmore Stampede Parade. According to Shields, the goal was to raise between \$500 and \$1,000 for the library, as well as to simply get folks in the community together.

John Watson Photos

Shields, Aheer host seventh annual hot dog fundraiser

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Immediately following the Strathmore Stampede parade, Bow River MP Martin Shields on July 30, and Chestermere-Strathmore MLA Leela Aheer once again hosted their annual hot dog fundraiser.

This year's event marks the seventh year the fundraiser has been hosted in support of the Strathmore Municipal Library. Shields said following the parade is a perfect opportunity to get people to come together.

"On rodeo weekend in Strathmore, a lot of people ple come to the parade, so to contribute," said Aheer. (Aheer) and I, years ago, we decided, why don't we do a hot dog barbeque after," said Shields. "All the money is donated, and people make a donation of whatever they feel like donating. Between the MLA's and the MP's offices, we work to support the library."

He added that as he and Aheer believe reading is critically important, it felt only natural to continue doing something to support the library.

"They are a service centre, they're open more hours than any other service centre in the community, and people not only want to go there for books, but they also answer a lot of questions for people in the community," said Shields. "They are an information centre, as well as what you might think of for books. They provide a lot of services for the community, so we're really supportive of

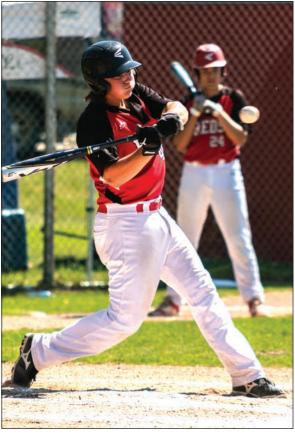
Aheer said she believes it is always a positive to be able to give back to the community in a way that is outside the normal scope of

"(Shields and I), we're both involved in politics, and it's toxic. It can be very negative and frustrating ... so when we are able to do something like this and bring people toare here and a lot of peogether ... it's nice to be able

> Though they did not give exact numbers, Shields added the rough goal was to raise between \$500 and \$1,000 for the library.

> Similarly, the overall impact of the fundraiser for the library was not specified. Both Shields and Aheer said simply that they continue to enjoy the opportunity they have created to do something positive for the local community.

> "You promote literacy, you promote the library, and you promote people going to the library, and we hope that has a positive effect," said Shields. "The library tells us that it does, and that's the best part of doing this."





Reds host provincials

The Strathmore Reds U15 AA team hosted the provincial championships in Strathmore from July 29-31. Though the Reds claimed a dominating win in their first game on Friday, they were bested in the remaining games of their round robin and did not advance to the semi finals. Elsewhere, the U11 team advanced to their semi finals where they were ultimately defeated, and the U13 team took home the provincial title in Chestermere, going undefeated in their championship run.

John Watson Photos

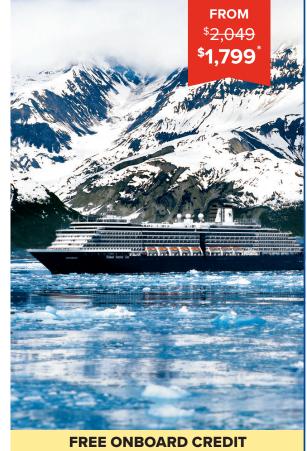
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Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Hello Chestermere-Strathmore. This weekend we will be attending the Chestermere MADE Outdoor Festival, where foodies and artisans come together to feed both your tummy and soul. The Outdoor Festival is on Aug. 6 at the Chestermere Recreation Centre.

The following weekend on Aug. 13, come and enjoy the sounds of summer with a free music festival. The lineup is incredible, and you can enjoy this free festival by the shores of Chestermere Lake.

On Aug. 2, the Moderna vaccine is available for those six-months-old and over. First-dose appointments must be booked through the Alberta Vaccine Booking System or by calling Health Link at 811.

Eligibility for second booster doses expanded on July 20. Albertans 18 years of age and over can receive a second booster dose at least five months after their first booster dose.

As of April 12, Novavax's protein-based COVID-19 vaccine is available for those 18-years-old and over at select AHS clinics - book your appointment through Health Link by calling 811. The Moderna vaccine is available to children 6-11 years of age to

start or complete a primary COVID-19 vaccine series. Book your appointment by calling Health Link at 811 or contacting a participating pharmacy.

On March 14, first booster appointments became available for individuals aged 12-17 years of age. Booster dose mRNA vaccine appointments are available for individuals aged 12-17 years of age, five months after receiving their second dose.

Finally, thank you to everyone at the Strathmore Stampede. We were at our booth selling memberships for the leadership race and were overwhelmed by the support and love of all we spoke to. We were also proud to participate and watch what I think is the best rodeo in Alberta. Thank you to Ryan (Schmidt) and your incredible team, staff and volunteers for an incredible weekend of fun and entertainment, music, food and atmosphere. The Strathmore Stampede celebrated its 56th year and saw over 40,000 folks go through the grounds. The smiles, ice cream and little dirt-filled faces were a highlight for me, and I am honoured to have been in attendance.

As always, we love to hear from you.

(Leela Sharon Aheer is the MLA Elect for Chester*mere-Strathmore*)

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Estate of SHARLEY CLAIRE HILL who died on the July 15, 2022.

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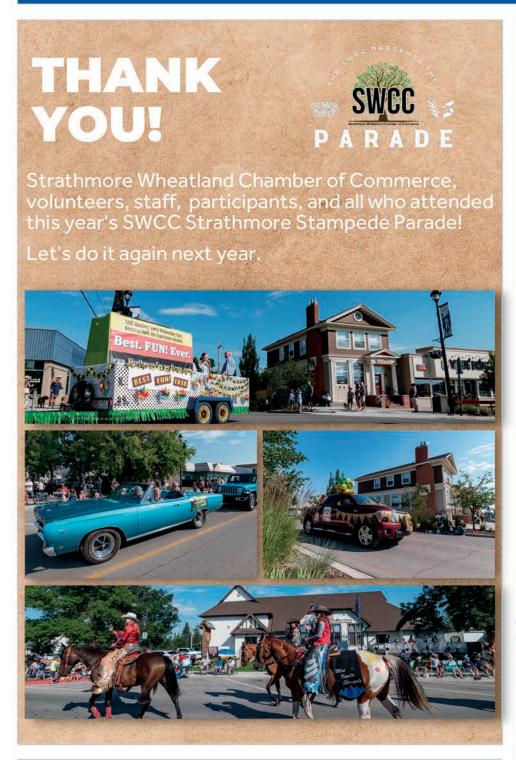


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Section 191 - Municipal Government Act

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Strathmore, in the Province of Alberta, has given first reading to repealing the loan By-law No. 20-16 which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of the said Town to repeal the loan by-law which was for the purpose of lending monies in the amount of \$23,000 to the Strathmore Overnight Shelter.

The total outlay for the aforesaid loan amounts to \$23,000.00. The loan, including principal and interest, was repayable in 90 days and the loan has been repaid in full.

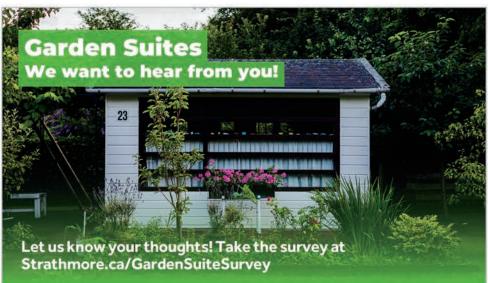
NOW THEREFORE NOTICE is hereby given by the Council of the Town of Strathmore that, unless a petition of the electors for a vote on By-law No. 22-22 is demanded, as provided for by the terms of Section 231 of the Municipal Government Act, the said Council may pass the said repeal of the loan by-law.

All persons interested are hereby notified and they are required to govern themselves accordingly.

DATED at the Town of Strathmore, in the Province of Alberta this 21st day of July 2022.

Per: Kara Rusk

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Seniorcise at Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre

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Cost:

\$52/session (Members) \$65/session (Non-Members) \$6/drop-in (only if space is available) Instructor: Robyn Boucher

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