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STRATHMORE

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Thrill seekers

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Fabulous rodeo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Look on Page 12 for Town of Strathmore Municipal Notices

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Ag Society CEO reports another successful year for Strathmore Stampede

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Praising his team for their hard work and dedication to the event, Strathmore and District Agricultural Society CEO, Doug Raycroft, explained he is excited to see this year's event as another smash hit.

"Everything came together; luckily we have had great weather, the stands have been full all Saturday and Sunday – we completely sold out; we are having really great performances on the rodeo and chuckwagons, so everything is going great," he said.

To a similar extent, the Running With the Bulls sold out of spots for participants for both days of its operation and attracted thousands to the grandstand to watch.

Around the grounds, Raycroft added they decided to make no small use of the curling arena for its air conditioning and wine cellar, which turned into a popular asset. This was also utilized to host the Premier's brunch while Danielle Smith and her team were in town.

Between the rodeos and chuckwagon races, he emphasized the presence of activities, games and the food trucks around the heritage village to keep attendees occupied and fed.

"I felt like things were going pretty smoothly; our rodeo committee works really hard; last year they had a lot of weather that delayed them in a lot of their preparation ... at least this year, they did a great job again, but they were a bit ahead of schedule," said Raycroft. "It is a big event; there are obviously lots of things to learn, but we are doing great. We have a great team. Strathmore is an amazing place; we have over 300 volunteers that basically make this place run."

Raycroft added the over 75 sponsors also play a tremendous role in being able to host an event of this scale, which, by and large, is not an inexpensive endeavor.

He joked however, that unlike in several previous years, the team was not required to do any emergency beer runs and felt better prepared to handle demand.



What a ride!

The mechanic bull was extremely busy during the 2026 Strathmore Stampede July 31 to Aug. 3 at the rodeo grounds. Thousands of visitors packed the grounds each of the four days as Mother Nature blessed the weekend with wonderful weather. See more coverage on Page 3. Be sure to check out the extra online coverage available only on strathmore-times.com in the extended and exclusive full PDF version of the paper.

Joe Lepage Photo

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Chantelle de Jonge
MLA, Chestermere-Strathmore

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Parade

The streets of downtown Strathmore were filled with excitement and anticipation during the annual Strathmore Stampede Parade on Aug. 1. Featuring colourful floats, marching bands, equestrian entries, community organizations, local businesses and vintage vehicles, the parade officially kicked off another day of Stampede festivities during the August long weekend.

Joe Lepage Photos

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Stampede success

Here is a small sample of photos taken during the Strathmore Stampede July 31 to Aug. 3. Don't miss the extra coverage available exclusively at strathmoretimes.com where readers can explore additional photo pages in an extended full PDF version of this week's newspaper online.

John Watson, Melissa Piche and Joe Lepage Photos

Family calling for youth violence awareness following recent assault in Strathmore

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The family of Sawyer Jensen (15) is seeking information, as well as to spread awareness about youth violence in Strathmore following a recent assault.

The attack took place in the early hours of July 18, following a night spent with friends. Sawyer explained he had been peer pressured into drinking, then lured to the birth forest area of Parkwood Park.

Following the attack, he walked approximately two kilometers to the home of a family friend before receiving aid.

Sawyer was treated in hospital for a fractured distal radius in his forearm, a frontal sinus fracture, broken nose, loose teeth, and facial trauma among his other injuries.

"I was having vivid nightmares where I was shaking on the ground, I was fighting in my sleep, at the lightest click of a glass I would jolt awake crying. Even though I know I don't need to fear ... in my head I'm just still scared," he said.

Brian Jensen, Sawyer's father, added the two 17-year-olds involved in the attack have since turned themselves in to local RCMP and the incident is currently under investigation.

The identities of the suspects have not been released. As the investigation is ongoing, police will not offer public comment.

Sawyer explained he hopes that by sharing what happened to him, he is able to prevent similar incidents from happening to other kids.

"If I was a kid half my size, I wouldn't have survived. I wouldn't have been able to walk away from it. Strathmore does have a problem with sweeping

things under the rug. I know a couple people who this happened to. I don't want to see somebody get hurt worse than me, or these guys get slapped on the wrist," he said. "I know a couple people who have had similar things happen to them by similar people and there was no awareness spread. There were like three Facebook posts made and that is all they got. One of them almost died and one of them was hospitalized for a month. There was no awareness spread."

The Jensen family is asking anyone with information which may be of use to the ongoing investigation to come forward. Additionally, they are hoping to start a conversation throughout the local community about youth violence.

Mayor Pat Fule, emphasizing the terrible nature of this incident, hopes to maintain an overall sense of safety and security throughout the town.

"I don't want to lighten the impact of this kind of an event, but it is a rare occurrence. I'm sure the RCMP are working through their system to deal with what happened; they are doing a full investigation," he said. "We did have some enhanced peace officer strategies that we have put in place this summer, so they are working later into the evening, which we think is a good way to help, but obviously you can't be everywhere."

Jensen and their family have temporarily relocated to Alberta from their home in BC in order to remain available for the ongoing investigation, as well as for Sawyer to recover from his injuries.

He added, however, his shock and disappointment regarding a severe lack of victim services and supports able to be accessed within the province.

"The absence of actual services for victims is as-

tounding. We have been offered the food bank, and the women's shelter so far for supports since this happened. There are literally no supports from the victim end of things," said Jensen. "I have talked to local police, I have talked to the MLA, I have talked to victim services, I've talked to the deputy premier, and they all point back to 211 Alberta and how I basically need to scour for supports that we need."

He added a grievance that their situation does not meet Alberta victim services criteria for coverage or support of expenses such as travel, hospital parking, dental, or other associated expenses.

Via the Province of Alberta, an application may be submitted for financial restitution following court proceedings.

Specific eligibility criteria for the province's victims of crime assistance program are not publicly listed. Queries are instructed to be emailed to the program directly for information.

Via the province, there are no listed child and youth advocacy centres listed within Southern Alberta. Victim Services units are scattered throughout the province, with one listed as operating in Strathmore – the local detachment of the Southern Alberta Regional Victim Serving Society.

The Ministry of Justice Victim Services is able to be contacted via the Alberta 211 website. These include: Victim Services: 780-427-3460; Victims of Crime Assistance Program: 780-427-7217; www.alberta.ca/victims-of-crime and www.alberta.ca/help-for-victims-of-crime.

A court hearing has been scheduled for Sept. 1, where Jensen explained the accused have been charged with attempted murder under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Town to cease EMS contract with WADEMSEA

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Following suit to their decision in May to transition away from WADEMSEA for fire dispatch services, the Town of Strathmore has now also voted not to renew their contract for emergency medical services.

The decision was finalized by council, July 28, to formally provide the organization with notice of the town's withdrawal.

Additionally, Strathmore will be actively engaging with the Province of Alberta in order to determine the future of local emergency medical service delivery.

"Over the past year, there have been some questions raised about the governance, operational capacity, and fi-

nancial oversight of the society. The town has taken steps to seek additional information to better understand WADEMSEA's current operational and financial position," said Coun. Melissa Langmaid. "Unfortunately, to date, the town has not received the information required to fully assess the long-term viability of the existing service delivery model."

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is responsible for ensuring that ground ambulance services are provided to communities, whether that be through direct delivery, or via a contracted provider.

In addition to the current concerns raised by council, WADEMSEA was similarly non-cooperative with AHS in 2024 when the latter had requested information about, and the return of more than

\$4 million in surplus accumulated since 2013.

Mayor Pat Fule, similarly iterated his concerns with the difficulty experienced in attempting to communicate with WADEMSEA.

"We feel that (WADEMSEA) does not have the level of transparency, governance, or operational information that we consider necessary to support informed decision making," he said. "We are basically customers of the service, and we are not getting any answers, so it became a situation where we felt that the best thing for town of Strathmore residents was to leave the association."

The contract currently in place between the town and WADEMSEA will expire at the end of the current calendar year. Prior to the contract's conclusion, the town will seek an alternative ser-

vice delivery model in order for the transition to be as seamless as possible.

Fule emphasized Strathmore residents will be protected and able to access ambulance services without disruption.

"Council's priority is ensuring that Strathmore residents will continue to receive reliable emergency medical care when they need it, and we have been assured that there will be no disruption to service during this process," he said.

During the same meeting, council also voted to authorize administration to enter into a service agreement with Calgary 911, continuing the process initiated in May. This shift alone is estimated to save the town over \$100,000 annually.

- With files from the Strathmore Times

STRATHMORE

TIMES

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Local Journalism Initiative.

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Quacking good time

Hundreds of bright yellow rubber ducks took to the Western Irrigation District canal during the Great WID Rubber Duck Race, where families enjoyed an afternoon of races, games and a Loonie for Lunch barbecue on July 31. Proceeds from the community fundraiser went to the Strathmore Legion and its programs for local veterans and community initiatives.

Joe Lepage Photos



True North to break ground on long-term transitional housing facility

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

True North is set to officially break ground on their affordable housing and wellness hub.

The project was first announced to the public in June 2023, when the organization rebranded from the Wheatland Crisis Society.

Since then, the team has been seeking to raise the funds and acquire the necessary permissions associated with construction.

“Second-stage and longer-term supports were identified as a need for the community, and prioritized as a strategic next step, and so this has been a lot of hard work over many years to finally get to this point,” said Courtney Helfrich, executive director of True North.

“Construction is just one phase and then, it really allows us to put up the physical walls, but it is the strategy and all that is going to be able to happen within this community space that is also incredibly important.”

Once completed, the facility will consist of 36 affordable housing spaces, being a mix of studio, one, two, and three-bedroom units. It will also feature five commercial spaces on the main level, community, and office spaces.

Helfrich added the building will be equipped with a com-

munity kitchen, sensory, and counselling spaces available to its residents.

Aiming to deliver long-term, on-site care and support, it will be effectively the only facility of its kind within the local region.

The units are set to be defined as second-stage housing, which aims to provide safe, affordable spaces for those escaping domestic violence to find their footing and regain stability for themselves.

These will largely be occupied by women and children, however men are also noted to require support, should they be the ones fleeing from abusive situations.

True North was awarded \$3.5 million from the Province of Alberta in July 2025 to support construction of the facility.

They also approached the Town of Strathmore in April, requesting permit fees for construction to be waived.

“What is challenging is emergency beds and emergency shelters save lives ... and there is still a

need for those longer term supports to really help break cycles of violence,” said Helfrich.

“What we are really looking forward to is this sort of continuum of care model where ... we are able to offer more wraparound care in an effort to really give people an opportunity and provide those supports.”

The existing emergency shelter will continue to operate on its 30 to 60-day residence model, as it is meant to operate as a temporary space. Second-stage housing is more so intended to support those who require it for up to years at a time.

Though the location of the building will be more public than the emergency shelter, it will still be equipped with levels of security at its entrance and between floors.

The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled to take place Aug. 26, beginning at 11 a.m. Construction is anticipated to take between 18 months and two years before the facility is completed and able to accept its first residents.

- With Files from the Strathmore Times

Keeping Alberta prosperous

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Our government is focused on strengthening the foundations that keep Alberta prosperous. Last week, our government secured more than half a billion dollars in federal infrastructure funding to help build new housing, partnered to renew Calgary’s Olympic Oval, and expanded access to preventative testing so more Albertans can detect cancer sooner.

Growing communities need more than housing plans. They need the water and wastewater systems that make the construction of new homes possible. That is why Alberta’s government, and the Government of Canada signed a major agreement that will give Alberta access to more than \$510 million in federal funding over eight years for qualifying municipal projects. This funding comes with up to \$428 million in provincial support for municipal projects to help communities build and upgrade the water, wastewater, stormwater, and other basic infrastructure needed to build more housing. Alberta also ensured projects are chosen based on local needs, with funding focused on the fastest-growing communities. With more than 600,000 people moving to Alberta over the past five years, these investments will help municipalities, rural communities, and Indigenous communities build the infrastructure Albertans need.

Alberta’s government is also helping preserve one of Canada’s most iconic sport facilities. Our government and the Government of Canada are each investing \$26 million to modernize Calgary’s Olympic Oval, known around the world as “The Fastest Ice in the World.” The upgrades will replace the original refrigerated concrete slab, install a new ice plant, and update key safety, electrical, mechanical, and structural systems. Since opening for the 1988 Winter Olympics, the oval has helped train 26 Olympic medalists who have won 40 medals for Canada. It also welcomes more than 40,000 public skaters every year. This investment will keep the oval serving athletes, families,

and recreational skaters for decades to come.

Cancer impacts many Alberta families, and early detection can save lives. That is why our government announced that starting July 31, Albertans can purchase preventative diagnostic tests at participating private providers without a doctor’s referral, including MRIs, CT scans, x-rays, and ultrasounds. This does not replace the public services. Health care will remain publicly funded and prioritized under Alberta’s Public Health Care Guarantee. If preventative screening finds a new cancer diagnosis, Albertans will be eligible for reimbursement at publicly funded rates. This gives people more choice, more information, and a better chance to catch cancer earlier, when treatment can be more effective.

Finally, I am pleased to share that a major infrastructure improvement is coming to Wheatland County with the replacement of the 58-year-old bridge which carries Range Road 265 over the WID Canal A, about 10 km northeast of Dalemead. To support this important project, \$1,508,250 in funding through Alberta’s Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) has been approved. Construction of the new bridge is anticipated to begin in the fall, helping ensure a safer and more dependable route for years to come.

Our government is making sure the services and infrastructure Albertans rely on are growing for generations to come. Better water and wastewater systems will help communities build more homes. A renewed Olympic Oval will support athletes in reaching their dreams. More preventative testing will help Albertans take action on their health sooner. Together, these steps show our government is focused on delivering results that strengthen our communities and improve the lives of Albertans.

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)

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8 QUESTIONS

WHEATLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
SHOULD HAVE ANSWERED BEFORE VOTING.

RE: DIODE VENTURES DATA CENTRE APPLICATION
Bylaws 2025-32, 2025-33 & 2025-34



HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS HAVE WRITTEN COUNCIL, SPOKEN AT THE PUBLIC HEARING, AND SIGNED PETITIONS IN OPPOSITION. OUR PETITION HAS SURPASSED 1,500 SIGNATURES, REPRESENTING RESIDENTS PREDOMINATELY FROM ACROSS WHEATLAND COUNTY, AS WELL AS SOME FROM ROCKY VIEW COUNTY AND SIKSIKA NATION. RESIDENTS ARE NOT ASKING COUNCIL TO OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT. THEY ARE ASKING COUNCIL TO ENSURE IT HAS THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THIRD READING.

1 WHERE IS THE 950 MW POWER PLANT?



At the July 7 public hearing, Diode stated its primary power generation would be located off-site. Section 633 of the Municipal Government Act requires an Area Structure Plan to address public utilities. Goldfinch ASP Policy 7.1.7 requires utility locations before Area Concept Plan approval, yet Diode's own conformity table defers this information to the Development Permit stage. **How can Council conclude the proposal complies with both the Municipal Government Act and the Goldfinch ASP when the project's essential electrical infrastructure has not been identified or located?**

2 HAS COUNCIL BEEN GIVEN THE FULL PICTURE ON WATER?



Council stated it is satisfied with Diode's closed-loop cooling system for the data centre's water consumption. However, what about its off-site power generation- essential to the project and yet no information has been provided about its water requirements, or source? Has Council requested this? For comparison, the 860 MW Shepard Energy Centre east of Calgary uses 14 million litres of reclaimed wastewater each day from the Bonnybrook Water Treatment Plant. **How can Council assess the project's overall impact on water resources when no information whatsoever has been provided for the facility that Diode needs to power it?**

3 ARE THE PLANNING DOCUMENTS STILL ACCURATE?



Council defeated Bylaw 2025-25, leaving Township Road 264 open. This fundamentally changes site access and circulation. Has Diode updated the Area Concept Plan, transportation network, servicing assumptions and supporting technical studies to accurately reflect the significant portion of the plan that has changed and will require two separate access points? Does this result in other road upgrades for the southern part of RR 264? **If they have made these updates, has both council & public been given time to review those transportation changes in the planning documents before Council votes on Bylaws 2025-32, 2025-33 and 2025-34?**

4 WHY CHANGE THE LAND USE BYLAW FOR OFF-SITE POWER?



Wheatland County already has a Public Utility District for major utility infrastructure, including power generation. **Why is Council introducing "associated power generation/energy conversion systems" into the Industrial General (IG) district—a district that the Goldfinch ASP describes as a transitional area—rather than relying on the districts already established for heavy industry and major utility infrastructure?**

5 IS ANYBODY LISTENING?



Many members of Council have publicly stated that listening to residents is one of their most important responsibilities. Yet despite this proposal receiving unprecedented public opposition through written submissions, public presentations and a petition from across Wheatland County, most of this council speaks in contrast to their opposition. **What specific planning, technical, or legal evidence convinced you that the concerns of the people you represent should be set aside in this case?**

7 WHY USE RAIL-SERVED INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR A DATA CENTRE?



The Goldfinch Area was identified for industrial development in part because of its direct access to CP Rail—a valuable and difficult-to-replace economic asset. Rail-served industries reduce truck traffic, use existing transportation infrastructure and have far fewer location options than data centres. **Why is Council not preserving this strategic industrial land for industries that depend on rail access?**

8 DOES COUNCIL HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO ASSESS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS?



The proposed site lies within Nutrien's three-mile emergency planning zone. Wheatland County Fire Services has acknowledged that a major data centre fire could exceed local firefighting capacity and may require the facility to be allowed to burn while protecting surrounding properties. **Has Council received a comprehensive fire protection strategy? Fire water supply analysis? Hazardous runoff containment plan? Coordinated emergency response plan with neighbouring industrial operators? Has it consulted Rail Operators? If not, on what basis can Council conclude public safety has been adequately addressed before voting?**

9 HAS WHEATLAND COUNTY'S OWN MARKETING UNDERMINED THE GOLDFINCH ASP?



The County's investwc.ca marketing material— accessible from the main website— promotes the entire 2,850 hectares of Goldfinch Industrial Area as a "Heavy Industrial Hub", while failing to acknowledge the Light Industrial buffer intended to protect nearby residents? Is this why projects better suited for Heavy Industrial keep being proposed on transitional lands? **Why is Council abandoning its own planning framework?**



SIGN THE PETITION
change.org/day_no_to_diode

FOLLOW FACEBOOK
Wheatland County Residents Against
Data Center Development

MAKE SURE COUNCIL HAS THE ANSWERS BEFORE THIRD READING.

Hundreds of residents across Wheatland County, are asking Council to ensure it has the information needed to make an informed decision. And if they don't, will Council defer third reading until they do have answers

Paid for by concerned Wheatland County resident ratepayers.

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Pancake
Breakfast

The Strathmore Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10 and Magnum Services were two of many free breakfasts around town during the Strathmore Stampede weekend.

Joe Lepage Photos



WHEATLAND
COUNTY

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 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting
August 18, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | MPC | PPC | COW

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

GRAVEL SALES

Wheatland County's 2026 Gravel Sale Schedule is now available, with three scheduled sale dates:

• June 10-11

• July 8-9

• August 12-13

Crushed gravel and pit run will be available for purchase at designated County pits.

Tickets must be purchased in advance through the Wheatland County Administration Office, and materials are for personal use only.

View sale dates, locations, materials, and purchase details by scanning the QR code.





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• Be 18 years of age or older

• Valid Class 5 drivers license

• Provide a satisfactory criminal record check including a vulnerable sector check

• Provide a satisfactory drivers abstract

• Be willing to learn how to become a firefighter through training courses provided

• Eligible to work in Canada

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Available opportunities include:

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◦ Closes August 6, 2026

WE'RE
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Phone: 403-934-3321 www.wheatlandcounty.ca
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





Thrill-seekers tested their courage during the Running With the Bulls event at the Strathmore Stampede, Aug. 1-2. The popular attraction brought plenty of excitement and cheers as participants attempted to win the \$1,000 prize each of two performances.

Joe Lepage, John Watson and Melissa Piche Photos

Running with the Bulls crowns two new champions

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Stampede's Running With the Bulls crowned two new champions over the course of the event weekend, each walking away with a shiny new belt buckle and the \$1,000 bounty.

Aiden Barrett, an 18-year-old hailing from Airdrie claimed the Saturday title, coming out to make his debut appearance at the event.

"My friend Darcy (Pochapsky) lives on a farm and he is more associated with cattle than I am. I was just here for the heck of it, but I am so glad I came out. I would do it again," he said. "It was Darcy and the beer that convinced me. Everyone was like, 'Oh, don't be a (expletive) and stuff,' but my heart was pounding. It was even better than I thought it would be."

Barrett added despite his anxiety prior to the start of the event, he began to relax as the bulls came charging out of the gates.

For those who may be considering their participation, he suggested to simply go for it without hesitation or regrets.

"You've got to believe in yourself –

you are never going to accomplish anything if you are not confident in yourself. Confidence is the way to go about it," said Barrett. "This is not my kind of crowd, but when I'm with (my friends), I'll do anything."

Jack Dahl, coming in from Athabasca, laid claim to the prize of Sunday night's competition, also making his debut appearance at Running With the Bulls.

Taking a more nonchalant approach to the event, Dahl explained he signed up on a whim with some free time to kill before the start of the chuckwagon races.

"I found out about this by word of mouth from all the other guys around the barns. I'll probably be around next year; it's great, you can't lose. I'm more excited about the belt buckle though," he said. "(If you're going to do it), keep your head up, always be looking around. I got hit from the back because I was not paying attention."

He said that even if you don't win anything, it is a worthwhile experience to take part in, adding however, he did feel for those who got hit hard by the bulls and walked away with nothing.

This year's Running With the Bulls sold out completely for participation both nights of the event.

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Extreme entertainment was on display at the Strathmore Stampede as the Extreme Dogs wowed crowds with their high-energy performances, impressive jumps and incredible skills July 31 to Aug. 3.

John Watson and Melissa Piche Photos

Making a splash at Strathmore Stampede

LAUREEN JAMES
Times Contributor

The Extreme Dogs joined the 2026 Strathmore Stampede with a group of talented canines.

According to Emilie Menard, the main dog handler, the dogs are all rescues and they are pets first.

“We are staying at the Travelodge here in Strathmore and the dogs just (settled) right in,” said Menard.

There were two other handlers – Carla Antal and Strathmore’s own Shonna Sales, who hosted the event. They all showed off their dogs’ special talents: weaving poles, dashing through tunnels and diving long distances to catch a toy in a 37-foot pool.

Menard said they have one dog in the show that jumps so far they had to buy a 48-foot pool to accommodate him.

“These dogs have so much drive that sometimes they don’t make good pets for the average dog owner, but we need

that kind of passion for this sport,” she said.

These are special dogs that just beam personality and seemed to thrive on the trainers’ and audiences’ approval. The organization promotes responsible breeding, and all trainers use their personal pets in the show.

According to Menard, all of their dogs sleep on the bed – Menard has 12 dogs, so she said the bed is pretty crowded, but she sleeps well knowing her dogs are with her.

Running with the Rams was another great event that allowed kids to test their athleticism and skill with a group of sheep.

The kids competed in three groups of four to see how many sheep they could leave a colorful handprint on. The kids were competing for fun and a buckle.

The Heritage Towne experiences at this year’s Strathmore Stampede will leave lasting memories of family fun.



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Sonnier steals show with electric performance aboard Stevie Knicks

LAURENCE HEINEN
Times Contributor

The third time was a charm for Kade Sonnier at the 2026 Strathmore Stampede Rodeo.

"Either that or I was hoping it wasn't three strikes and you're out," said Sonnier after saving his best for last in the bareback competition on Aug. 3 with a 91.25-point performance atop OLS Tubs Stevie Knicks. "When you hear Stevie Knicks, that's the one you dream about. That's the third time I got to get on her, second time I got to get on her within about 10 days."

After finishing second on the Macza Pro Rodeo superstar equine athlete with an 89-point ride at the Utah Days of '47 Rodeo in Salt Lake City on July 25, Sonnier one-upped himself with his amazing accomplishment in Strathmore to earn \$6,294.24.

"I knew today that we were in for a dog fight and it worked out," said Sonnier, of Carenco, La., who also had a second-place showing on Stevie Knicks during his rookie year in 2023. "Every time you nod your head and every jump, it's something different and it's super electric. She bucks and she's strong."

It's the second year in a row a cowboy has won the bareback event on Stevie Knicks as Texan Cole Franks scored 90.75 points on her to prevail in 2025.

Heading into the final day, Ethan Mazurenko was sitting in top spot thanks to posting Sunday's top score of 88.5 points atop Duffy Pro Rodeo's Banjo.

"That's a great horse of Duffy's," Mazurenko said. "He's been around quite a long time. They've won rounds on him at the (Canadian Finals Rodeo) and to have a horse like that at a rodeo of this calibre is just second to none and you've got to make that opportunity count when it comes."

The bareback rider from Thorhild, Alta., appeared to be on his way to capturing his first Strathmore Stampede title with just two competitors left to strut their stuff on Monday.

After Jacob Lees, of Caldwell, Idaho, posted a score of 89.25 points atop Wayne Vold Rodeo's True Grit, Sonnier bumped Mazurenko down to third spot with his thrilling ride.

"This is a rodeo that I've always wanted to win

growing up," said Mazurenko, who will have to wait at least one more year for that to happen after earning \$4,196.16 for his third-place showing. "It's a very cool rodeo, lots of history and it's just one of the top on my bucket list to win."

Later on Monday, Ben Andersen won the saddle-bronc competition by virtue of an 89.25-point ride aboard Falkland Playboy, also from Macza Pro Rodeo.

"I've been second here a couple times and I've always wanted to win this one, so it's an absolute blessing," said Andersen, of Eckville, Alta., who pocketed \$6,328.08 for his efforts. "It feels great and I'm so excited to be here."

Andersen edged out his cousin Logan Hay, of Wildwood, Alta., for the title. Hay finished second following his 89-point trip atop Wayne Vold Rodeo's Enigma.

"I didn't know he was going to be right in there, too," said Anderson of Hay, who cashed a cheque for \$5,009.73. "They just put him a quarter point under me, which that's hard to tell the difference, but he made a great ride and that was awesome."

In tie-down roping, Haven Meged stopped the clock in 7.7 seconds on Monday to earn his second-straight Strathmore Stampede title.

"This is one I try not to ever miss," said Meged, of Miles City, Mont., who earned a payday of \$7,230.95. "My horse (Smoke) is amazing for this setup. It can really run and it allows me to catch up and just not have to beat myself – just go out and take care of business."

OTHER WINNERS

Bull riding: Jordan Hansen, 87.5 points, \$6,068.64 + \$1,643.59 ground money

Steer wrestling: Joseph King, 3.5 seconds, \$7,230.95

Team roping: Riley Wilson/Randon Ross, 4.9 seconds, \$6,392.00 each

Barrel racing: Kylie Whiteside, 17.33 seconds, \$7,379.00

Breakaway roping: Traci Aipperspach, 2.9 seconds, \$4,280.76

Novice bareback: Quaide Skjonsberg, 81.5 points, \$1,288.16 + \$107.35 ground money

Novice saddle bronc: Sawyer Hutchinson, 76.5 points, \$1,113.95

Junior steer riding: Brady Bignell, 77.5 points, \$1,314.54



The Strathmore Stampede Rodeo brought together some of the top cowboys and cowgirls in the world from July 31 to Aug. 3. Fans were treated to high-energy action in events including bull riding, saddle bronc, bareback riding, barrel racing, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, breakaway roping and more during the annual event.

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

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World Profession Chuckwagon Association (WPCA) driver Jason Glass claimed his second in a row and fourth overall Strathmore Stampede Championship on Aug. 3. The Top 36 riders in the WPCA provided four days of intense action from July 31 to Aug. 3.

Joe Lepage and John Watson Photos

Glass outraces Bensmiller to win fourth Strathmore Stampede title

LAURENCE HEINEN
Times Contributor

Make it four chuckwagon championships and counting for Jason Glass in Strathmore.

By winning Monday's \$30,000 Championship Final Heat aboard his Birchcliff Energy Ltd. wagon, Glass added a second straight Strathmore Stampede title to his collection of four (he also won in back-to-back years in 2014-15).

"It's amazing whenever you can win anything," said the 55-year-old reinsman from High River. "There's so many beautiful horses here and great drivers and outriders and all the barn crew, so it always feels good when it comes together and you happen to win something."

Off the third barrel in the ninth heat, Glass raced around the Strathmore Stampede Grounds track in a quick time of 1:13.04 to beat Cruise Bensmiller and his Rob Knight Truck Lines Ltd. outfit by 69/100ths of a second.

"Cruise must have had a nice turn," said Glass in regards to Bensmiller being able to hold his position along the rail for the entire race. "My horses are just flying. They're trying so hard. They're just so happy and healthy and they seem to just get stronger every single night. They're just absolutely loving what they're doing right now and I'm, for the most part, a passenger, just trying to steer them, so it makes it fun when you have that much power."

For his efforts, Glass won \$15,000, while Bensmiller pocketed \$7,500. Obrey Motowylo (The Co-operators) took home \$4,500 for finishing third in the final, while Preston Faithful (De Havilland Aircraft Canada - Waterbomber) earned \$3,000 after crossing the finish line in fourth spot.

After the race, Glass dedicated his victory to his legendary father Tom Glass, who passed away at the age of 77 on June 26.

"This is for you Dad," Glass told the fans sitting in Brandt Stadium.

Tom Glass also won a pair of Strathmore Stampede chuckwagon titles in 1988 and 1993.

"Strathmore has always been good to our family," said Glass, who's sitting second in the World Professional Chuckwagon Association driver standings with 865.5 points, which is just 28 points behind Motowylo with two shows remain-

ing on the schedule. "The crowd always has so much energy and they've always supported the checkerboard wagon, so that makes it fun. My horses and my Dad's horses just have always loved this track, for some reason, so I'm excited to come here every year."

Having support from his wife Brienne and his twins Bodie and Steele made his fourth victory in Strathmore even better.

"This year is so much more special than most, because my kids are old enough to be totally involved," said Glass, while noting that his son was one of his outriders during two of the four performances, while his daughter rode with him in the wagon before and after the races. "Bodie's doing a great job outriding, Steele's helping me drive the horses, Brienne does everything and I just have so much help and support. It's amazing."

With Trey MacGillivray and Tyler DeSutter riding for Glass in the championship final, Bodie served as one of Faithful's outriders in the 'Dash For Cash.'

"Obviously, I wanted Dad to win, but I also wanted Preston to win, too - I had two chances, I guess, to get it," Bodie said. "Just being with the family and even just getting to ride at this age (15) and getting into the Dash, it's great having two rides here for Preston and Dad."

"Preston treats me so good. Obviously, no driver wants to hire a new kid that's coming up, but Preston he took an opportunity on me."

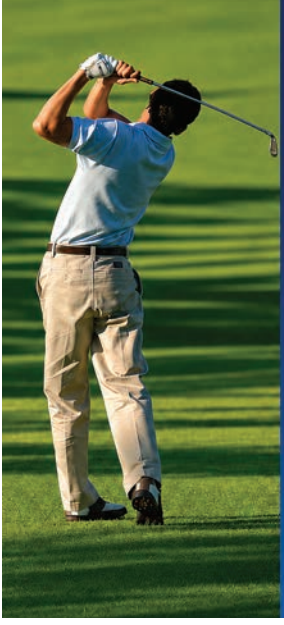
After the dust settled in Strathmore, the contingent of WPCA Pro Tour drivers quickly packed up to make the long trek to Dawson Creek, B.C., for the Battle of the North, which runs from Wednesday to Sunday.

NOTES: Each of the first eight heats on Sunday were also its own separate 'Dash For Cash.' Other winners (with respective prize amounts) were Jordie Fike (\$1,088.63), Darcy Flad (\$1,578.51), Layne MacGillivray (\$2,068.39), Chance Bensmiller (\$2,558.27), Evan Magee (\$3,048.15), Dustin Gorst (\$3,374.74), Mitch Sutherland (\$3,701.33) and Dayton Sutherland (\$4,354.50). ... In an exciting sixth heat, Gorst guided his Century Downs Racetrack and Casino outfit to victory by just 1/100ths of a second over Kris Molle and his X-Treme Packaging Services Inc. rig.

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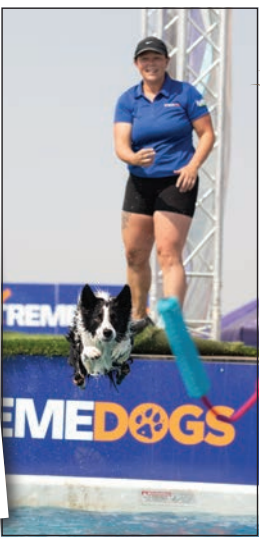
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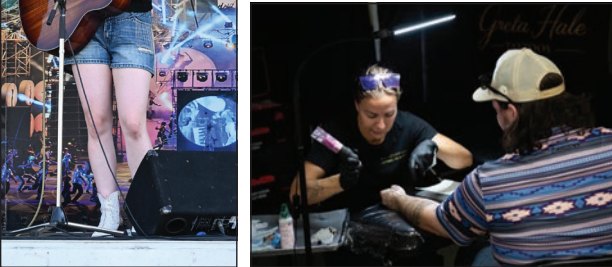


Saddle Up for Riding, Roping & Rocking Good Times



There was plenty to see and do alongside the rodeo and chuckwagon races during the annual Strathmore Stampede, hosted by the Strathmore & District Agricultural Society from July 31 to Aug. 3. Visitors enjoyed the rodeo grounds filled with family-friendly activities, live entertainment, agricultural displays, a variety of food vendors and local exhibitors.

Joe Lepage, John Watson, Melissa Piche and Nela Busic Photos



Parade & Pancakes

The streets of downtown Strathmore were filled with excitement and anticipation during the annual Strathmore Stampede Parade on Aug. 1. Featuring colourful floats, marching bands, equestrian entries, community organizations, local businesses and vintage vehicles, the parade officially kicked off another day of Stampede festivities during the August long weekend. The Strathmore Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10 and Magnum Services were two of many free breakfasts around town during the Strathmore Stampede weekend. **Joe Lepage Photos**



GET OUT THE WAY!

Thrill-seekers tested their courage during the Running With the Bulls event at the Strathmore Stampede, Aug. 1-2. The popular attraction brought plenty of excitement and cheers as participants attempted to win the \$1,000 prize each of two performances.

Joe Lepage, John Watson and Melissa Piche Photos



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Obituary

**CHRISTENSEN,
Edmund Roy**



Edmund Roy Christensen, 63, of Standard, AB, passed away suddenly on July 23rd, 2026, at Foothills General Hospital with his family by his side.

Ed was born on August 24, 1962, at the Calgary General Hospital to Harold and Sylvia Christensen (nee Busch). Ed spent a good portion of his summer holidays each year in Standard, making lifelong friends and staying with his grandparents or his favourite Aunt Betty and Uncle Dale. In 2008, Ed purchased their house and lived there until his passing. Standard was truly HOME to Ed, surrounded by many relatives in the area.

Ed was a reliable, hard worker his entire life. Before he was even a teenager, he managed a large newspaper route, delivering over 300 Calgary Herald papers for about three years. As an adult, Ed worked in the family businesses; Didsbury Transport, and Alberta Starline Trucking Ltd. (1990-2008), with brief periods working for Consolidated Fastfrate and Tiger Courier in Calgary. In February 2009, Ed and his wife Cathy started their own business, Christensen Carriers Ltd., which continues to operate today. From 2019 to 2024, Ed and Cathy were also the proud proprietors of the general grocery and alcohol store in Standard, Christensen's Clover Farm.

Growing up, Ed played hockey and baseball and was an avid Blue Jays fan throughout his life. In his early hockey years, Ed started out as a goalie. One year he played as a forward, and he never looked back! Ed remained a top scoring forward throughout his youth. His nickname, 'Fast Eddie', was given to him due to his natural skating ability and style. That nickname stuck with him his entire life, even inspiring the store's weekend pizza business, Fast Eddie's.

Ed and Catherine (Cathy) Wallace, married in 1994 and together they raised two sons, Kyle and Jarrett. They were recently blessed with two grandchildren, Crue (5) and Cooper (3), who brought immense new joy to Ed's life. Ed was fiercely dedicated to his family and deeply committed to his community. He willingly gave his time to anyone who needed it, always putting others ahead of himself. Ed was a proud member of the Standard Lions Club and the local Hall Board, truly loving his time spent serving others.

He is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Catherine; his sons, Kyle (Kady) of Calgary and Jarrett (Gillian) of Calgary; and his beloved grandchildren, Crue and Cooper. He is also survived by his two sisters and their families, Janette (Murray) and Sherry (Paul), as well as three sisters-in-law, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, Harold and Sylvia, and his brothers, Stanley and Mark.

A funeral service was held on Friday, July 31st, 2026, at Standard Community Centre at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Kate Zaiser officiating. Interment will follow at the Standard Cemetery. A light luncheon back at the hall is provided by the Standard Lionettes Club.

Donations may be directed directly to the Cardiology Unit (CICU) of the Foothills Hospital in Calgary, specifically for the much-needed update to the Family Room on the tenth floor.

Honourary Pallbearers: Kyle Christensen, Jarrett Christensen, Andrew Van Cise, Ronald Elder, Brent Gregory, and Darren Firkus.

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Upcoming Council Meetings

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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.

June to early August road maintenance.
Summer Construction on Wheatland Trail.

Starting as early as today through approximately early August, you may see construction activity along Wheatland Trail (Highway 817) as the Government of Alberta through Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors begins road rehabilitation work in and around Strathmore.

Weather permitting, their contractor Aecon will be working on Highway 817 from approximately 1 km south of Highway 1 to 3 km north of Strathmore. Work anticipated to be completed between June 18 and June 30 includes:

- Concrete and sidewalk repairs at several locations within Strathmore, including near Esso, Fas Gas, and Strathmore Alliance Church
- Roadway repairs south of Brent Boulevard
- Crack sealing throughout the project area
- Installation of highway street lighting at the Highway 564 and Highway 817 intersection

To help reduce impacts on traffic, work south of Westmount Drive will generally take place overnight between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Work north of Westmount Drive will generally occur during daytime hours due to nearby residences.

You should expect to see reduced speeds, lane restrictions, and delays while work is underway. Paving operations are scheduled to begin after the July long weekend and run until early August, weather dependent.

Please note that Highway 817 and the above project is managed by the Government of Alberta and not the Town of Strathmore.

For more information on Government of Alberta road conditions and construction updates, call 5-1-1 toll-free or visit 511.alberta.ca

Information on Strathmore's roads can always be found at Strathmore.ca/RoadReports

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.

Run. Walk. Gallop.
Stomping Down Barriers Mental Health Run.

The Stomping Down Barriers for Mental Health Run aims to foster meaningful conversations around mental health while encouraging inclusivity, wellness, and community engagement.

Participants of all ages and abilities are welcome to get involved by running, walking, or cheering along the route. The event offers a variety of options, including a 1K Kids Fun Run, 5K, 10K, Half Marathon, and virtual participation opportunities, ensuring there is something for everyone in the community.

Residents and visitors are invited to take part in the Stomping Down Barriers for Mental Health Run on August 9, 2026, a high-energy community event dedicated to raising awareness and support for mental health.

For more information, visit: Strathmore.ca/Stompingrace



We've got some fun and safe alternatives to boredom for ages 4 to 12 with our summer camps! Check out the themes of each week and register your child for their favourite theme, or register in all the weeks for a fun-filled summer!

For more information, visit our website Strathmore.ca/Recreation. For registration, you can register for camps through your PerfectMind account. Got questions? Give us a call at 403-361-2121.

Theme	Date
Neon Days	Aug 4 to 7, 2026
Balls and More	Aug 10 to 14, 2026
Olympic Days	Aug 17 to 21, 2026
NEW* Fencing Camp (Ares Pentathlon & Fencing)	Aug 24 to 28, 2026
Let's Celebrate	Aug 24 to 27, 2026

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. Community 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. 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 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. 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.

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