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TIMES

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PLAYER OF THE GAME

Dec 13 **Derrick Ford**
 Dec 20 **Cole Tweit**

Page 2



Westmount fundraiser

Page 3



Christmas festival

Mayor looks forward to 2025

JOHN WATSON
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With 2025 on the horizon, Strathmore Mayor Pat Fule looks back on the successes achieved through the year and what is soon to come for the town.

"I think we are pretty happy – there has been a (large) increase in development permits. We have had 186 residential permits issued, we have got some major development projects that are close to being ready, or else they have started construction," said Fule. "We have the Shasta seniors care community complex development on Park Lane Way, we have got construction started at the old seed cleaning plant ... it is a multiplex of apartment buildings, and we have had some really good construction and infrastructure starts."

He explained the town is looking forward to issuing development and construction permits for more residential-type applications in 2025 and expanding Strathmore's capacity to house members of the community.

Between the 37 industrial, commercial, and institutional permits issued, \$27 million in building value was added to Strathmore.

Prior to releasing council until the start of the new year, the Town of Strathmore passed their new IDP framework bylaw which had been developed in partnership with Wheatland County, and was mandated by the province to be completed before the end of 2024.

"Another exciting thing for 2024, we were able to host for the second year in a row, Premier Danielle Smith during our Strathmore Stampede, and that kind of thing creates a buzz around the parade and the Strathmore Stampede," said Fule. "I think we are starting to be recognized as a destination for great events and for community things going on."

In May, the Town of Strathmore approved the Physician Sponsorship Grant pilot program, which aims to attract more physicians into town, making access to medical services easier and more reliable.

The program was initiated after hearing from local residents that doctor availability is tough in Strathmore. By offering grants to support local medical offices in town, Fule said the town hopes to help relieve some of the pressure on the local medical systems, as well as make community life a little bit easier.

Additionally, Frontier Diagnostics has expressed interest in and has put forward a proposal to bring a CT scanner into the Strathmore hospital.

Continued on Page 4

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Look on Page 8 for
**Town of Strathmore
 Municipal Notices**

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Musical magic

Holy Cross Collegiate hosted their annual Christmas Fine Arts Night on Dec. 18 at the school. Guests enjoyed a tremendous art gallery prior to a beautiful music concert.

Joe Lepage Photo

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Market fundraiser

Westmount Elementary School hosted their annual Christmas Market, Dec. 19. Students and their families were allotted time to explore the market and purchase trinkets from their peers, with all proceeds set to be donated to the Happy Cat Sanctuary

John Watson Photos

County passes first reading for multimillion dollar borrowing bylaw

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council passed first reading for the Goldfinch Raw Water Debenture borrowing bylaw, 2024-07, during the Dec. 17 regular meeting of council.

The Goldfinch raw water line project received budget approval and successful tendering for \$9,750,000 during the Dec. 3 regular council meeting.

Once completed, the new infrastructure will service the Goldfinch Industrial Area, providing water services in order to facilitate both future industrial and commercial development in the area.

The borrowing bylaw, should it pass

third reading, will provide a substantial portion of the funding to construct the water line in 2025.

“Following approval, the advertising period will commence as required by the municipal government act. This borrowing bylaw and value falls well within the capacity of the county,” said Joel Chiasson, manager of financial services with Wheatland County during the council meeting. “We reviewed during our budget process, the current debt limit calculated in the 2023 audit year was around \$52 million.”

Repayment methods for the loan are specified to include revenue generation through levies and fees from users in order to help recover principle and interest costs.

Chief Administrative Officer Brian Henderson explained general taxation and debt repayments are a requirement of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) to be included in the county’s budget on an annual basis.

He added the county will have to update their fee schedule after third reading of the bylaw is passed.

Following third reading of the bylaw, county administration will seek loan terms and conditions with the Government of Alberta, or another authorized financial body most advantageous for Wheatland County to negotiate with.

During the meeting, Coun. Glenn Koester inquired whether their intention was to hold a public hearing regarding the bylaw, given the amount of money intended to be borrowed for the construction of the water line.

“Administration was not intending to hold a public hearing on it, just as it is not required for this type of bylaw. The requirements for a borrowing bylaw would be to have first reading, then advertise for two consecutive weeks, which is why we are getting it done in December, so we can advertise over the closure in the break,” said Henderson. “There is a 30-day window for a petition as well, so if administration does receive a petition on this borrowing bylaw, we would have to notify council regardless, so we are just going to follow the procedure that is outlined in the MGA.”

Koester said the last time Wheatland County did a borrowing bylaw, it was in his division. The county at that time also did not hold a public hearing, and subsequently hosted a meeting in Rosbud in order to explain themselves.

“I said I would never, ever be party to another borrowing bylaw without a public hearing,” he said.

In addition to first reading of the borrowing bylaw being passed, county administration was directed to schedule a public hearing prior to discussion on second and third readings.

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MP Martin Shields closes out 2024

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As 2024 comes to a close, Bow River Riding MP Martin Shields reflects on the past year and looks to what 2025 may begin to look like.

Among his immediate concerns was the federal budget, seen by the House of Commons, Dec. 16 forecasting dramatic increases to federal debt.

“It was a little bit of a different year. Obviously, some legislation would be better than others, budget as the fall update, which we finally got ... at \$60 billion over and they had said \$40 billion is their guideline, which, \$40 billion is too much but it went over by 50 per cent,” said Shields. “That is a lot of spending and so that is problematic. It took much longer to get that fall financial update out, but at least we got it ... that is problematic, that amount of deficit spending.”

The federal government’s deficit for the 2023-24 fiscal year, which concluded in March, was announced at \$61.9 billion as opposed to the \$40.1 which had originally been promised.

Currently projected is a deficit of \$48.3 billion in 2024-25, followed by a deficit of \$42.2 billion in 2025-26. These represent 1.6 per cent, and 1.3 per cent of GDP respectively.

“It is one thing to spend money on things that are good, that you can see the results of, but when we see that there is a lot of the money that is spent that just is not accounted for, or it is gone – disappeared under corrupt circumstances, that is problematic,” said Shields. “Under the Indigenous set-aside fund at five per cent for Indigenous contracts, (I sit on) an Indigenous

committee where it is obvious that people have used shell companies to get government grants that were meant for Indigenous businesses, that are not Indigenous businesses ... and then there is no accountability for that money, or if it can’t be tracked, no accountability for those who may be committing fraud.”

Shields added the Conservative party is calling for an election, to which they are referring to as “a carbon tax election.”

The premise being that carbon taxes would be reduced on Canadians, being different than the industrial carbon tax.

“We need to remove the carbon tax. Our largest trading partner, the US, does not have a carbon tax, so we are calling for that election,” he said.

Regarding the Bow River Riding, Shields added he was pleased to see that the irrigation districts were able to access enough water for the season and not experience a shortage.

“Cattle prices continue to be very good, and so cattle producers are staying in the business mostly because the market has been very good in the sense of beef production,” he said.

“There is some movement on a sense of more drilling is happening, but the price of natural gas is still pretty low. There is continued work in some parts of the (oil and gas) industry we are seeing, for example, (in) helium. We have helium being developed in this particular riding.”

Going into the new year, he added he would like to see the continued diversification of the agricultural industry in the region, suggesting more activity with growing sugar and potatoes, among others.



The Colours of Christmas

Carseland School hosted their annual Christmas concert, the Colours of Christmas, on Dec. 18 at the school. All of the actors, stage, sound and lighting crew were Grade 6 students.

Photos Courtesy of Carseland School



Festive time

Wheatland Crossing School hosted their Christmas Festival on Dec. 11 in the school gymnasium.

Photos Courtesy of Wheatland Crossing School



WHEATLAND COUNTY INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR 2025 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUNDING

Wheatland County recognizes that its residents utilize various recreational, cultural and other community enhancement facilities and resources and has established the Community Enhancement Fund to provide financial support for such venues and activities.

The Community Enhancement Fund provides grant funding from Wheatland County to enhance, promote, and support groups and organizations that bring a broad range of enjoyment, benefit, beautification, recreation, entertainment, participation, and enhancement projects to Wheatland County. The program is intended to invest tax payer dollars annually to support recreational, cultural and other community activities, facilities, and resources that are utilized by Wheatland County residents.

- **How to Apply:** Applications and Guidelines for the Community Enhancement Fund are available at the Wheatland County Office and on the County website: www.wheatlandcounty.ca/ceb
- **Deadline:** Applications must be post marked on or before **January 31, 2025**.

Please note that eligibility for 2025 funding is dependent on filing all previous funding reports with Wheatland County by January 31, 2025.

For more information please contact Jessica Salmon at 403-361-2021 or at ceb@wheatlandcounty.ca



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Upcoming Meetings

Council and committee meetings are open to the public in person and via teleconference. For public hearings it is strongly encouraged that you attend in person.

January 14: Municipal Planning Commission

January 14: Council Meeting

January 15: ASB Meeting

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

Agenda packages can be found on our website.

Christmas Closure Dates

The Wheatland County Administration Office, Agricultural Service Board, and Public Works Shop will be closed

December 25, 2024, to January 1, 2025

Normal operating hours will resume January 2, 2025.

Waste transfer sites will also be closed on December 25 and 26, and January 1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bylaw 2024-07: Goldfinch Raw Water Line Borrowing Bylaw SECTION 258 - THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of Wheatland County, in the Province of Alberta, has given first reading to Borrowing Bylaw 2024-07 which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of Wheatland County to borrow \$7.75 million for a period not to exceed twenty (20) years, from the Province of Alberta or another authorized financial institution, by issuance of debentures and on the terms and conditions referred to in this bylaw, to construct a raw water line from wells diverting water from the Bow River to the Goldfinch Area Structure Plan (ASP). This project will improve water infrastructure and support future development in the Goldfinch area. Wheatland County shall repay the indebtedness according to the repayment structure in effect, namely semi-annual or annual payments of combined principal and interest installments not to exceed TWENTY (20) years calculated at a rate not exceeding the interest rate of 6.0%. There shall be levied and raised in each year of the debenture, hereby authorized, levies or fees towards users of the Goldfinch Raw Water Line to pay the principal and interest falling due each year. In the event of any deficiency, the Municipality shall levy and raise municipal taxes sufficient to pay the indebtedness.

NOW THEREFORE NOTICE is hereby given by Wheatland County Council that, unless a petition of the electors for a vote on Bylaw No 2024-07 known as the Goldfinch Raw Water Line Borrowing Bylaw is demanded as set out in the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA, 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, Council may pass the said Borrowing Bylaw. All persons interested are hereby notified and are required to govern themselves accordingly. Petitions for or against this bylaw can be submitted in writing or via email to admin@wheatlandcounty.ca, including your name, address, and comment with reference to Bylaw 2024-07. A public hearing for this bylaw is scheduled for February 4, 2025. Petitions submitted or comments related to the public hearing will be included in the public hearing package.

Dated at Wheatland County, in the Province of Alberta, December 25, 2024.
Wheatland County, per: Brian Henderson, Chief Administrative Officer.

The full bylaw can be found on <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/publicnotices/> or in the December 17, 2024, Council agenda package <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/agendasandminutes/>

Mayor Fule looks back on 2024

Continued from Page 1

“Not only will the CT scanner at the Strathmore hospital help with residents in our region who need medical scanning treatment in a quick and efficient manner, but we think that having this kind of a scanner in our town may, as another

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benefit, attract young doctors who want to be able to have access to this type of scanning technology that is cutting edge,” said Fule. “They can also be working in the emergency department – it gives them a well-rounded bevy of things that they can do in their professional practice rather than just being the old-style family doctor. They can actually be really accessing and having readouts on scans from the top-level professionals to help them in treating their patients.”

Fule said he hopes going into the new year, the Town of Strathmore and Wheatland County will be able to better collaborate on regional partnerships such as what was able to take place with the development of the IDP framework.

As the town approaches a population of 15,000 people, Fule is bracing for the inevitable funding model shift that will take place regarding the local RCMP once that threshold is breached.

For towns below 15,000 people, the federal government pays 70 per cent of RCMP costs and the Town is responsible for the remaining 30 per cent.

Beyond 15,000 people, the funding formula changes to 10 per cent being covered by the federal government, and 90 per cent being covered by the town.

The tax increase which will be experienced in Strathmore in 2025 is among the lowest in Alberta, having been restricted to approximately 3.6 per cent.

“It is very problematic for a town to have a zero per cent tax

increase. When you do that, the town does not keep up with inflation and you are basically kicking problems down the road,” said Fule. “The town has to pay for inflationary raises in things like gas, diesel fuel, automotive and mechanical parts, deliveries – everything goes up with inflation. It is really difficult and problematic for a town to go for a zero per cent.”

With approximately eight months remaining of this council’s term and the next election waiting in the wings, Fule commended council’s efforts and achievements throughout their time serving together.

“This council has done some really good things. We have worked hard, we have worked well together,” he said. “When we focus on the big-ticket items and when we focus on our strategic plan that we lay out ... we have done some really good things and we have managed to control and keep a good tax increase for next year.

“We have got some big projects done; we are looking to the future; we are going to be working hard to manage the growth in the early part of 2025. I am still excited by the job – I still feel a great deal of satisfaction when we accomplish good things as a group.”

Fule specifically noted that on behalf of the town, administration and staff, he wished the local community a Merry Christmas, as well as a safe and happy New Year.

“I am looking forward to 2025,” he said. “I am ready, I am energized, and I am ready to go.”



Strathmore Elks Donate \$5,000 to Strathmore Food Banks

The Strathmore Elks Lodge #491 were pleased to present a \$2,500 cheque to Marilyn Galvin with the Strathmore Christmas Hamper and \$2,500 to Lynette Aschenbrener with the Strathmore Food Bank just in time for the Christmas rush. The Strathmore Elks support the communities of Strathmore, Chestermere, and surrounding Wheatland County communities by working casino’s and providing catering and bartending services for weddings, clubs and special occasions.



Josh Johnson, Marilyn Galvin and Gus Cammer



Gus Cammer, Lynette Aschenbrener and Skip Wolstenholme

YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

During this holiday season, abstinence often is mentioned when it comes to alcohol. If you find that difficult, alternate alcoholic drinks with a soft drink or water. As far as food is concerned, save that second or third helping for another day. And if cannabis is part of your lifestyle, use caution when mixing it with alcohol. Good advice for starting the New Year out right.

For those who feel they are always saying “Pardon?” when speaking to others, make 2025 the year you get your hearing checked. Some studies have shown that people with hearing loss had a 21% higher risk of developing dementia over the next 25 years. So a hearing check is a good resolution for 2025.

And speaking of hearing loss, many people use those wireless earbuds or earphones to help them enjoy music in private. Users should remember to keep the volume lower when pumping sound into the ear canal. Anything above 85 dB can damage the delicate structures in the ear and cause hearing loss.

Life can be stressful at times. It’s important to book some “self-time” into your week. Meditation is a very helpful way of de-stressing. But if that’s something you’re not “into,” try a solo walk in Nature (no earbuds!). The benefits include a reduction in stress and anxiety. It’s also good for the heart and blood pressure. Make walking in Nature your resolution for 2025.

<p>STRATHMORE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH Meeting in the Lutheran Church 112 Lakeside Blvd. 1-888-506-1066 ext. 101 Pastor: Donald Wright Services held every Saturday Sabbath School: 10 AM Worship Service: 11 AM www.strathmoreadventist.ca donald816@hotmail.com</p> <p>God's Closet Collects children's clothing and distributes Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.</p>	<p>STRATHMORE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH 50 Maplewood Drive • 403-934-2225 Lead Pastor: Rev Murray Wright Associate Pastor: Kyle Lomenda Services Sundays 10:30 am www.strathmorefullgospel.com</p> <p>BOW RIVER ALLIANCE CHURCH 105 Main St. Carseland • 403-991-6143 Pastor: Kevin Enns office@bowriveralliance.com www.bowriveralliance.com</p> <p>HOPE COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH 245 Brent Blvd, Strathmore 403-934-2424 Pastor: Heidi Wiebe Sunday Worship 10 am www.hope-community.ca</p> <p>LORD OF ALL (NALC) LUTHERAN 112 Lakeside Blvd. • 403-934-2374 Pastor: Dawn Nelson Sunday Worship Services – 10:30 am Join us in Praising our Lord, Jesus Christ!</p> <p>SACRED HEART CATHOLIC 221 4th Ave, Strathmore 403-934-2641 www.sacredhc.ca Pastor: Fr. Cristino Bouvette Masses: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 10 am</p> <p>RCCG PECULIAR PEOPLE ASSEMBLY (1 PET. 2:9) 322 A 2nd Avenue, Strathmore 403-714-2283 www.rccgstrathmore.com Pastor: Sunday Adeola Sunday Worship: 10:30 am Wednesdays Bible Study: 7 pm Youth Fridays: 7:30 pm Last Friday of every Month - Hour of Dominion: 10 pm</p>
<p>STRATHMORE ALLIANCE 325 1 Ave • 403-934-3543 Corner of 1 Ave & Wheatland Trail Lead Pastor: Mike Wiebe Associate Pastor: John Duerksen Youth Pastor: Ian Scantland Sundays 10 am Join in person or online www.strathmorealliance.com</p> <p>ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS ANGLICAN Meeting in the Lutheran Church 112 Lakeside Blvd. • 587-727-0649 Rev. Malcolm Kern Sunday Worship 2:30 pm strathmoreanglican@gmail.com tinyurl.com/StrathmoreAnglican</p> <p>STRATHMORE UNITED Wheatland Trail & 3rd Avenue 403-934-3025 Rev. Maria Szabone Berces Sunday Worship Services 10:30am Services posted on-line at: www.smoreuc.com Loop System for the Hearing Impaired W/C accessible</p> <p>HARVEST HEALING CENTRE CHURCH 102 Canal Gardens 403-901-0893 / 403-880-3171 Pastor: Elizabeth Karp Worship Sundays 10:30 am Youth Tuesdays 7 pm Come join us for a spirit-filled time of worship</p>	<p>C3 STRATHMORE C3 CHURCH NORTH CALGARY 3812 Marbank Drive N.E., Calgary, AB 403-273-0494 www.c3connect.ca Lead Pastor - Bill Olson Location Pastor - Shan Simpson Pastor - Eric Horstia Sunday at 10:10 a.m. C3 Prayer - Tuesday at 7 p.m.</p>

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Looking forward to 2025

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

As 2024 comes to an end, and we look forward to the opportunities of 2025, it's a time to reflect on the accomplishments and milestones of this last year.

Our government wrapped up a successful fall session – strengthening your rights, freedoms, and personal protections, making life more affordable, education more accessible, and empowering our healthcare sector.

To remain the province of the strong and free, we introduced and passed 13 crucial pieces of legislation, beginning with the Alberta Bill of Rights Amendment Act 2024. These amendments ensured that Albertans' rights and freedoms surrounding medical choices, property rights, and legal firearms use are protected in our fast-changing world.

The Bill of Rights is further strengthened by The Health Statutes Amendment Act 2024, which protects the rights of Albertans during a public health emergency while adding further protections to preserve the rights of children and youth to grow and develop into mature adults so they can make informed decisions about their health and lives. The Fairness and Safety in Sports Act protects women's and girls' sports, ensuring meaningful participation in the athlete's choice of biological female-only and co-ed divisions.

We've heard from parents across the province that they want to be more involved in their children's education and we are happy to strengthen their involvement through the Education Amendment Act 2024, which focuses on promoting student success and well-being, and will ensure children, parents and teachers have the right supports to navigate complex conversations in Alberta's classrooms. We also passed the Early Learning and Child Care Amendment Act to increase oversight and provide more information to parents, while allowing for greater intervention and administration of penalties when providers fail to meet vital safety standards.

To conclude a strong session, we continued to stand up against the federal government's unconstitutional

overreach, passing an Alberta Sovereignty Within a United Canada Act motion to safeguard Alberta's economy from the job-killing federal emissions cap.

Keeping life affordable is a main priority for our government. This is why we are cutting up to 70 per cent of photo radar and lowering auto insurance rates. Effective April 1, 2025, automated traffic enforcement on numbered highways will end as photo radar will be restricted to schools, playgrounds, and construction zones. Our government is killing the photo radar cash cow, ensuring that radar is used for promoting safety and not revenue generation. Furthermore, we are working to significantly lower auto insurance rates while providing better benefits that Albertans can rely on if injured in a collision. Due to the time needed to create and develop the new system, these changes will come into effect in January 2027 and are expected to save Albertans \$400 a year once implemented.

To keep up with the incredible growth our province is experiencing, this year we committed \$8.6 billion to complete and open 200,000 new student spaces across Alberta over the next seven years through the School Construction Accelerator program. This program will build new schools in our fastest-growing communities, modernize aging school infrastructure in rural Alberta, and expand school choice by building new public charter schools. These new and modernized spaces will ensure that students have the resources to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

We have made significant healthcare improvements over the past year to improve doctor, nurse, and healthcare worker recruitment. These improvements include an incoming new primary care compensation model for family medicine and rural generalist physicians and a new model for nurse practitioners to strengthen our primary care network. We are leaving no stone unturned to make sure Alberta's primary care system is the best in Canada.

It's an honour to serve as your MLA and connect with our community. If you, your community group, or business, have any questions, feedback, or would like to schedule a meeting, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

Merry Christmas

Wishing you and your family a joyous Christmas season filled with warmth and blessings



CHANTELLE DE JONGE
MLA Chestermere-Strathmore

403-962-0126
chestermere.strathmore@assembly.ab.ca

Christmas Season Services

Strathmore United Church:
Dec. 8, 10:30 a.m. – Advent Music
Dec. 24, 7 p.m. – Candlelight Service

Strathmore Alliance Church:
Dec. 24, 6 p.m. – Christmas Service

Hope Community Covenant Church:
Dec. 24, 5 p.m./7 p.m. – Christmas

St. Michael and All Angels Anglican:
Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m.
– Christmas Eve Celebration

Lord of All Lutheran:
Dec. 24, 3 p.m. – Family Service
Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m. – Candles and Carols
Dec. 25, 10:30 p.m. – Christmas Service

RCCG Peculiar People Assembly:
Dec. 22, 11 a.m. – Christmas Brunch

Harvest Healing:
Dec. 24, 4 p.m.
– Christmas Eve celebration

C3 Strathmore (Calgary Location):
Dec. 22, 10:10 a.m. – Christmas Service
3812 Marbank Dr. NE, Calgary

Sacred Heart Parish (New Church):
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. – Penitential Service
Dec. 24, 5 p.m./8 p.m. Christmas Eve
Dec. 25, 12 a.m. (Midnight Mass)/10 a.m. – Christmas Day
Jan. 1, 10 a.m. – New Year's Day

Bow River Alliance Church Carseland:
Dec. 8, 15, 22, 10:30 a.m. – Advent Services
Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m. – Christmas Carol Singing

Nazareth Lutheran, Standard:
Dec. 22, 7 p.m.
– Blue Christmas
Dec. 24, 4 p.m.
– Christmas Service



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STRATHMORE TIMES

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Who's Who in Alberta

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Calgary's top entertainment bingo hall since 1983

2604 35th Ave. N.E., Calgary

403-291-0973

In a world filled with fast-paced technology and ever-changing trends, bingo remains a timeless classic game that continues to captivate and delight players of all ages.

Bingo Palace offers an exhilarating gaming experience that combines the excitement of bingo with the camaraderie of community gatherings. Boasting modern facilities, friendly staff, helpful volunteers and a vibrant atmosphere **Bingo Palace** has become a beloved destination for locals and visitors alike. They provide the perfect setting for an unforgettable bingo adventure.

Bingo Palace has been home to the Calgary Community and Sport Bingo Association since 1983. General Manager, **Karen Baker** invites everyone to come out to enjoy a fun time in a relaxed, casual atmosphere.

The local charity groups in Southern Alberta associated with **Bingo Palace's** non-profit organization are grateful that you have chosen to play with them. Dedicated volunteer daily efforts contribute to making their facility an exciting destination for fun and entertainment year-round.

If you want more of a social entertainment experience try a session of bingo on their state-of-the-art electronic tabletop touch screen system or play traditionally with paper cards and a dabber in hand.

Bingo Palace hosts Bingo Events 7 days a week. Doors are open to the public at 10:15 AM, Afternoon Events tills open at 10:45 AM, Bingo starts at 12:00 PM (noon), Evening Events, tills open at 4:45 PM, Bingo starts at 6:00 PM, Bonanza pre-calls are at 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Bingo Palace sells scratch tickets, Keno, lottery tickets, 6/49, Western 6/49, Lotto Max, and Western Max. Their fully licensed concession provides a great food menu and thirst-quenching beverages.

Drop by today or visit their website at www.thebingopalace.ca to view daily pot updates, events and specials. You can even use your smartphone to view upcoming events with the Bingo Plus App, available at the App Store or Google Play. Like **Bingo Palace** on Facebook. www.facebook.com/TheBingoPalace

Visit the **Bingo Palace** over the holidays and have an exciting, rewarding time!



Here's How.

14 Spruce Park Drive, Strathmore

403-934-3802

Strathmore Home Hardware is part of **Home Hardware Stores Limited** an award-winning company, and Canada's largest Dealer-owned and operated home improvement retailer. **Home Hardware** is a 100% Canadian-owned and operated company founded in 1964 in St. Jacobs, Ontario, where the head office resides.

Home Hardware stores are independently owned and operated, fostering strong connections with the communities they serve. **Strathmore Home Hardware** dealer/owner **Kurtis Laurion**, who is assisted by a long-term professional staff offers an enjoyable shopping experience.

Strathmore Home Hardware Paint Department features quality 100% acrylic **BeautiTone** Paint -Rethink Colour. Their Loyalty program allows you to earn free paint. Pick up your Paint Rewards Card and have it stamped each time you buy a gallon of **BeautiTone** paint.

Home Hardware has 100,000 different items available. From power tools to hand tools, **Home Hardware** is a go-to source for quality equipment by Benchmark, DeWalt, Radley, Milwaukee and Stanley for both professionals and hobbyists. Other items include lawn and garden products, STIHL gas and battery-powered equipment, plumbing and electrical materials, Yeti products, housewares, cookware, small kitchen appliances, heaters and humidifiers, kitchen design, kitchen cabinets, countertops, lighting, automotive products, farm items, giftware and seasonal items, garden centre, skate sharpening, key cutting, propane tanks and much more.

Whether you're embarking on a major renovation or a small DIY project, **Strathmore Home Hardware** is there to help every step of the way. Knowledgeable staff and in-store design services ensure customers can confidently tackle projects.

Visit the store in person or shop anytime online at www.homehardware.ca. Simply place your order electronically, and then pick it up at **Strathmore Home Hardware**.

Sign up for emails and become a **Home Hardware** Insider! eGift Cards are also available. Swipe your Scene+™ card to earn reward points and save. 1,000 Scene+™ points = \$10 off.

With an extensive product range and expert guidance, **Strathmore Home Hardware** is a one-stop shop for home improvement needs.

Like them on Facebook www.facebook.com/strathmorehomehardware/



"Life is too good to go without a Smile!"

115 2nd Ave. Strathmore

403-901-0440

Wheatland Denture & Implant Centre has become synonymous with providing consistent denture care in a warm inviting environment. Their patients tell them their confidence has been restored due to their professional approach, caring attitude, and attention to detail. The staff at **Wheatland Denture & Implant Centre** looks forward to meeting you, and beginning your journey toward a new smile.

Dentures created by **Soo Kim** Owner / Denture Specialist are a truly bespoke, well-fitting appliance that blends in harmony with your mouth and facial features to give you a natural-looking smile where no one can tell that your teeth are missing. **Soo** is a member of the College of Alberta Denturist and has a great reputation in the region.

Wheatland Denture & Implant Centre offers several styles of state-of-the-art dentures, each with special features and advantages. Services include complete dentures, partial dentures, surgical/immediate dentures, rebase, temporary liners, soft liner, denture engraving, and same-day emergency denture repairs. Implant-retained dentures can replace both upper and lower teeth, giving you a secure, natural-looking option that is not only more comfortable but also more convenient than traditional dentures.

Wheatland Denture & Implant Centre has an on-site dental lab to custom design precision dentures, and provide relines in a day, repairs and adjustments.

An annual check-up at **Wheatland Denture & Implant Centre** is the most effective way for you and your dentures to get the care and attention you both deserve.

They provide direct billing to your insurance company and will gladly visit your Seniors complex. Inquire about the (CDCP) Canadian Dental Care Plan program for seniors 65 and older. **Soo** provides denture services for this program funded by the federal government.

Contact **Wheatland Denture & Implant Centre** to schedule a FREE consultation (as many as you like) as referrals are not required.

Visit their website www.wheatlanddenture.com for additional information on this exceptional denture business. Like them on Facebook. www.facebook.com/wheatlanddenturecentre/

Soo would like to wish her customers the best over the holiday season.

Minute Muffler & Automotive

Calgary's Under Car Specialists

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www.autorepairsocalgary.ca

Minute Muffler & Automotive has been a leading provider of automotive services for decades. With a strong commitment to quality, efficiency, and customer satisfaction, they have built a reputation as a reliable and affordable option for all your vehicle repair needs. Today there are over 90 **Minute Muffler & Brake** franchises across Canada.

Guided by brothers **Murray Westling** and **Greg Westling**, **Minute Muffler & Automotive's** technicians have the knowledge and experience to diagnose and repair any exhaust issue.

A well-maintained muffler is essential for a quiet and efficient vehicle. Whether you need a muffler repair, replacement, or performance upgrade, **Minute Muffler & Automotive** is the place to go. Worn-out mufflers or exhaust pipes can cause excessive noise affecting your vehicle's fuel efficiency. A faulty muffler can hinder your vehicle's performance. **Minute Muffler & Automotive** can repair or replace your muffler to restore optimal performance.

Serving the region since 1987, **Minute Muffler & Automotive** are under car specialists providing custom pipe bending, mufflers, tailpipes, dual exhaust, diesel exhaust systems and performance exhausts, ABS brakes, wheel alignments, and shocks/struts, and steering/suspension service and more. They use high-quality parts to ensure long-lasting performance and reliability.

Minute Muffler & Automotive provides FREE exhaust system inspections year-round. This is important during winter months when vehicle windows are closed tight, and (tasteless / odourless) carbon monoxide gas from a leaking exhaust could represent serious danger to your life.

Catalytic converter theft is a big concern with these devices being expensive to replace. **Minute Muffler & Automotive** can fabricate an anti-theft solution for your vehicle to resolve the problem.

Minute Muffler & Automotive are proficient at what they do. Their customers gladly drive miles to receive top-notch, superior service. They also prioritize quick turnaround times to minimize inconvenience.

Contact **Minute Muffler & Automotive** to schedule an appointment today. Hours are: Monday to Friday 8:00 AM-5:30 PM. Closed weekends.



A Better Way to Buy and Sell Real Estate

122 2nd Ave. Strathmore

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Whether you are new to the region searching for your dream home, an empty nester wanting to downsize, or perhaps a rancher/farmer needing to expand your operation, having a **RE/MAX** agent on your side to negotiate your transaction can make all the difference in the world.

You can view the familiar signs of **RE/MAX Realty Horizon** on numerous properties throughout the region. There are good reasons for this firm's popularity. When listing with **RE/MAX** you can expect a swift sale, minimum inconvenience and maximum financial return.

RE/MAX Canada is a top-performing real estate franchise, part of the global **RE/MAX** network that has been serving clients since 1973. They have 100,000 sales associates in more than 6,900 offices worldwide.

With decades of industry leadership **RE/MAX**, Canada's #1 Real Estate Brand continues to connect clients to their dream homes, backed by reliable agents and cutting-edge tools.

RE/MAX Realty Horizon has developed proven marketing methods designed to help you retain more of your property's equity.

When you list your property with **RE/MAX** you get the benefit of marketing on the Internet at the national website www.remax.ca, as well as **RE/MAX Realty Horizon's** premium website www.RemaxRealtyHorizon.com complete with MLS® listings.

RE/MAX Realty Horizon is an independently owned and operated member of the **RE/MAX** Franchise Brands Network. Broker/Owner **Diana Zaytsoff** and her associates are dedicated to making the process of selling or buying a home, farm, ranch or acreage a positive experience.

RE/MAX is committed to charitable work, including partnerships with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. The Miracle Home Program allows **RE/MAX** agents to directly donate a portion of their home sales toward quality healthcare for children.

RE/MAX Realty Horizon can cover all your real estate needs, selling Strathmore, Calgary, Chestermere and Area. Contact them today to request a free evaluation of your property.

Diana and the **RE/MAX** team wish everyone the best over the holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Alberta Hearing Center

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Hearing plays a major role in our emotional well-being, physical health, and overall quality of life. Hearing loss can affect individuals of all ages and can range from mild to profound. It can impact one's ability to communicate effectively, leading to social isolation, decreased cognitive function, and reduced quality of life.

Hearing aids have revolutionized the way people with hearing loss experience the world around them. With advancements in technology and a wide range of options available, individuals with hearing impairment can now enjoy clearer, more natural sound and improved communication abilities.

The goal at **Alberta Hearing Center** Chestermere's only locally owned and operated hearing clinic is to improve your life through better hearing by finding solutions for every patient, lifestyle and budget.

Owner **Mark Ganden** B.Sc., BC-HIS, RHAP is a licensed member of CHAPA (College of Hearing Aid Practitioners of Alberta) who has 33 years of experience in the hearing profession. **Alberta Hearing Center** is a member of the Better Business Bureau in good standing, with a great reputation for customer satisfaction.

Just as every person is unique, every person's hearing needs are unique. That's why it's important that if you do get hearing aids, they are fit, programmed and customized to your specific hearing and lifestyle needs — and that you have access to proper follow-up and aftercare treatment.

Alberta Hearing Center provides hearing tests for ages 4 to adult. They can provide quality hearing aids, tinnitus evaluations, tympanometry (Middle Ear Evaluations), workplace evaluations and employment, annual screening, along with earplugs.

Alberta Hearing Center is an authorized vendor for WCB, AADL, DVA Health Identification Cards, and private insurance.

Hearing aids are life-changing devices for those experiencing hearing loss. With advancements in technology, they are becoming increasingly effective, versatile, and user-friendly.

If you or a loved one is facing hearing challenges, consulting **Alberta Hearing Center** is the first step toward better hearing and improved quality of life.

Contact **Alberta Hearing Center** to book a hearing assessment, or visit them online at www.albertahearingcenter.ca and learn more about this exceptional hearing business.

Mark wishes his clients the best over the holidays and a Happy New Year.



Leadership fundraiser

The Grade 9 Leadership Students at Crowther Memorial raised \$483.40 by hosting a cookie and hot chocolate fundraiser in December. The money will be donated to True North. Shown here are Grade 9 Leadership members – Luba Piche (l-r), Kalie Croft and Tylee McArthur.

Melissa Piche Photo

Spurs remain busy

SARA WALDNER
Strathmore Rusty Spurs Club Reporter

The Strathmore Rusty Spurs 4-H Club held its Scrapbooking Meeting on Nov. 26. Members brought pictures of their horses to create a page for the club history book. Club members also completed their declaration of mount pictures, which is a requirement of 4-H Alberta. The documents contain pictures and information on the horse each member is riding. Declaration of mount papers will go to the 4-H show board to ensure members will be riding the same horse throughout the 4-H season.

On Dec. 3 the club held their yearly Christmas party. The club started at Walmart where they did Adopt-A-Family and got Christmas gifts for a less fortunate family in our community. They then went to Phoenix Signs to continue the rest of the Christmas party. The club played several games such as spoons and flip cup tic-tac-toe. They also had a Secret Santa gift exchange after the names had been selected at the Scrapbooking Meeting. The Strathmore Rusty Spurs also had a raffle fundraiser where two winners were drawn for prize baskets. Congratulations to the winners Colby Pederson and Lillian Laycock.



The Strathmore Rusty Spurs 4-H Club volunteered at Celebration of Light opening, Light up the Night, serving hot chocolate, welcoming guests to Santa's cottage and keeping fires lit.

Photo Courtesy of Lynn Wolfs

On Dec. 13, the club volunteered at Strathmore Light up the Night, serving hot chocolate, welcoming guests to Santa's cottage, and keeping fires lit. It was a great way to connect with the community and help at one of the town's most popular winter attractions.

The club's January monthly meeting will discuss upcoming events, fundraisers, and more. Follow the club's social media on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated.

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary



BARNA, Steven Roy

Steven Roy Barna, born on May 27, 1961, in Tisdale, Saskatchewan, passed away peacefully on December 14, 2024, in Strathmore, Alberta. He leaves behind a legacy of love and kindness that will forever resonate within the hearts of his family and friends.

Steven was a devoted husband to Leslie and a proud father to Dustin, Jason, and Chantel (Skylar). His role as a grandfather brought him immense joy; he cherished every moment spent with Tristan, Eliza, Natayah, Harrison, and Landon. Steven's unwavering love for his family was evident in everything he did—whether it was sharing stories around the dinner table or embarking on adventures with his beloved dogs by his side.

Known for his stubbornness—a trait that often made him stand firm in his beliefs—Steven balanced this quality with an innate kindness that endeared him to all who knew him. He had an extraordinary ability to connect with people; whether as a true friend or mentor to many throughout his life. His wisdom and guidance were gifts he shared generously.

As we remember Steven's vibrant spirit and infectious laughter during this difficult time of loss, we also celebrate the profound impact he had on those fortunate enough to know him. A celebration of Steven's life will be held at a later date in 2025—a gathering where stories can be shared among loved ones who carry forward the warmth of his memory. In lieu of flowers or donations at this time please consider spending time with your own families or reaching out to someone you care about—an act that would honor Steven's loving nature more than anything else could.

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@LAKEWOODOFSTRATHMORE



Strathmore

Upcoming Council Meetings

January 15, 2025 | 6 p.m.

January 22, 2025 | 6 p.m.

February 5, 2025 | 6 p.m.

Committee of the Whole
Regular Meeting of Council
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.



Don't worry, we'll be back soon.

Facility hours during the holidays.

Date	Municipal Building	Aquatic Centre	Family Centre	Sports Centre
12/24/24	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	CLOSED	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
12/25/24	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
12/26/24	CLOSED	11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED
12/27/24	CLOSED	6 a.m. - 9 p.m.	6 a.m. - 11 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
12/28/24	CLOSED	12 - 5 p.m.	6 a.m. - 11 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
12/29/24	CLOSED	12 - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
12/30/24	CLOSED	6 a.m. - 8 p.m.	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
12/31/24	CLOSED	6 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
01/01/25	CLOSED	11:30 - 4 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED

You can still contact us.

- Sewer and water 403-834-9440
- Power outages 310-WIRE(9473)
- Natural gas 800-511-3447
- Police, fire, ambulance dial: 911
- Town operations 403-899-1428

For more information about available contacts, visit our website: Strathmore.ca/Contact