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Page 8



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## Local businesses honoured

**JOHN WATSON**  
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce (SWCC) was excited to host their annual Business Excellence Awards at the Strathmore Civic Centre on Jan. 27.

The event presented not only an opportunity to recognize businesses which go above and beyond in the Strathmore and Wheatland area, but also to be an excuse to dress up and enjoy a unique night out.

SWCC Executive Director, Scott Silva, said it was particularly exciting to once again be able to host the night in person, rather than via conference call.

“This was the brainchild of one of our members within the chamber, and it really was allowed to be expanded on with all of our directors and volunteers,” he said. “I don’t want to say the word ‘flawless,’ but we have been looking really good ... I would honestly say with any event there are always going to be hiccups, but because our team is so experienced in doing these types of events, it came together quite smoothly.”

According to Silva, tickets for the evening sold out a week prior to the scheduled event – something atypical of the Strathmore community which he joked is usually very last-minute.

This year, he added, the Business Excellence Awards received the greatest number of nominations since the establishment of the event.

“It probably doesn’t hurt that we have our highest level of membership within the chamber. Right now, we have just crested 120 and we are growing by the day,” said Silva. “Our nominations were through the roof. It took about three and a half weeks just to organize them, make sure everything was proper and then go through the judging process.”

The theme of Friday’s event was “A Night In Paris,” apparently inspired by a previous vacation taken by a Chamber board member.

Silva added one of the goals for the evening was to push for and encourage further new membership within the Chamber.

“We are able to do great things like this. This is really a night to exemplify our members and attract more. With more membership, we can do larger and more events like this,” he said. “Since the Wheatland Crisis society Gala back in October, this is a nice return of events, where everyone gets to get dressed up and do a night in Paris with all the different food vendors.”

The winners of each Business Excellence Award by category are as follows:

Ag Business of the Year – *More Than Just Feed*

*Continued on Page 2*



### Sharp award winner!

Veronica Narajiwsky made a video call after she accepted the Individual Customer Service Award on behalf of her husband Matt Narajiwsky during the annual Business Excellence Awards at the Strathmore Civic Centre on Jan. 27. Matt won the award for his terrific work at the Sharp Shop at the Strathmore Family Centre. The event, hosted by the Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce, recognized the nominees and winners of 13 different award categories. See Page 2 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

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# SWCC hosts annual Business Excellence Awards

Continued from Page 1

- Best New Business - *Baldwin BBQ*
- Customer Service Individual - *Matt, The Sharp Shop*
- Customer Service Business - *Value Drug Mart*
- Large Business - *Value Drug Mart*
- Medium Business - *Crystal Ridge Dental*
- Non-Profit - *Wheatland Crisis Society*
- Wheatland - *748 Kissling Farms*
- Youth - *Easton's Grub*
- Social Media - *Wheatland Kings Jr. B Hockey Club*
- Small Business - *748 Kissling Farms*
- Home Based Business - *Sarah's Cut Flowers*
- Downtown Business of the Year - *Connect First Credit Union*



The Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce hosted the 2022 Business Excellence Awards on Jan. 27 at the Strathmore Civic Centre.

Joe Lepage Photo

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# Romance on the Range

MELISSA PICHE  
Times Contributor

The Arts on 817 concert series resumes on Feb. 11 with Romance on the Range, featuring cowboy poet Doris Daley and singer/songwriter Doc Mehl.

Doris Daley describes herself as a “ranch girl born and raised in rural southern Alberta near Fort Macleod.”

She is a fourth-generation rancher who has fond memories of always enjoying language arts, reading and writing poetry. This is where her story begins.

“When I look back over my elementary school career ... language arts was always my thing,” said Daley.

She reminisces about writing short skits or poems for nearly any local event. From anniversaries to family reunions, she was eager to showcase her talent.

After school Daley travelled the world and ended up right back in Alberta where she found herself attending a poetry gathering in Pincher Creek around 1991. She had every intention to attend as a spectator, however her brother encouraged her to perform.

This sparked something inside her and she knew she needed to explore this cowboy poetry more. She explained that at this reading “anyone who recites a poem they get a dance ticket for free. I like to dance so I thought why not.”

“I didn’t know that there was a life waiting for

me in cowboy poetry,” said Daley. “I didn’t see myself as any wiz-bang on stage. I just said I needed to keep writing.”

She met a lot of good folk in Pincher Creek; her main reason for going to the poetry readings was the joy it sparked.

“My joy was going and listening to the ‘old timers’ tell their stories,” she said.

Cowboy poetry, for Daley, is writing about cowboy coffee, or the Chinook winds in southern Alberta.

As her repertoire grew, she found herself getting invited to more gigs, women’s gatherings, 4-H shows, and that sort of thing.

In 1999 her big break came when she was invited to Elko, Nev., the hub of Cowboy Poetry. Elko is a weeklong event that is held yearly to celebrate all things Cowboy Poetry including music, dancing, workshops and conversation with fellow performers.

After her first visit to Elko in ‘99 more opportunities came her way and she began receiving invitations to more prestigious events. A lot of her gigs were in the US where she met Doc Mehl and friendship grew into a relationship

“And now he’s a Canadian citizen performing in Strathmore, Alberta,” she said. “We liked working together so much we got married.”

Although the two are a real-life couple, they both stand on their own as performers. “Doc and I are complimentary on stage, but we both bring our own style and our own game,” she said.



# Strathmore Legion awards student art

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Legion is celebrating local youth and distributing this year’s Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) 10 Student Awards at the beginning of February.

Jennifer Franssen, public relations chair for the Strathmore Legion Branch 10, said the program begins annually in the fall and encourages as many students as possible to participate.

“In the fall, we visit the schools, we send out applications and we talk to them about the programming. It is a contest, we visit all the schools, we give them a theme ... and then we ask them to develop essays or poems or posters in colour and black and white,” she said. “They submit them to us, they are judged by the branch, and then the first-place winners go on to the provincial competition and the rest of them stay here and we give them their awards and encourage them to keep participating.”

The invitation to participate is distributed to each school within Wheatland County, including the Wintering Hills Colony.

Franssen added it is a program common to each RCL branch across Canada, which leads annual winners to receiving national recognition.

Winners at the local level, judged within municipalities have their submissions sent off for provincial judgement. Winners at that level are then moved to the national stage.

“We had 27 winners this year, which is pretty good, and we are giving away almost \$1,400 and we are excited to have (the students) come here because it is an opportunity too for the Legion and veterans to educate children and families

about why we do this and why it is important to remember,” added Franssen. “It is not just about the veterans who have passed, but it is also about the serving veterans. It is important to understand what they do for us and that their job is to protect us.”

Judgement guidelines for the annual competition, as well as the theme are distributed by Dominion Command in Ottawa to all legions. Submissions are then judged by legion members, consisting of veterans, non-veterans, wives, etc.

Students who submit entries are divided into Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories, amidst the type of submission they decide to put forward.

“The kids in Strathmore are amazing. The submissions were just out of this world. In 2010 I believe it was, we had a national winner and her artwork was displayed on the cover of the Legion magazine,” said Franssen.

The provincial and national levels of the competition are set up exactly the same as at the municipal level.

Families of the award winners are invited to the local ceremony. Each student invited is one of the award winners, though they are not told their placement until the ceremony

Franssen did not confirm the total number of submissions, though suggested she would like to see exponentially more in future years.

Previous winners are displayed on the Dominion website, as well as information regarding the submissions

The ceremony at which students will be awarded will take place at the Strathmore Legion on Feb. 4, 2023 beginning at 11 a.m.

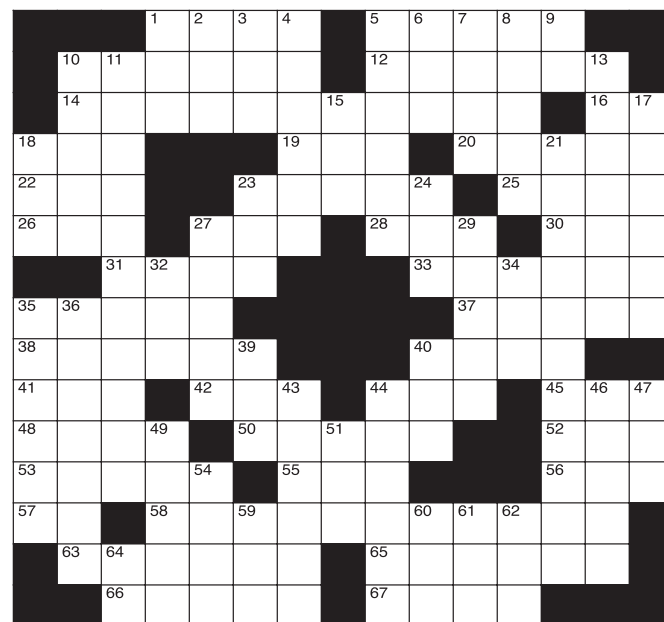
Both performers have been hitting 2023 hard right out of the gate as the world has opened and they are eager to be performing live again.

“We are two people who love, love, love the energy that people bring to a live show,” she said. “We feed off of that energy.”

Daley is an author of two books of poetry and has been named in the Top 5 Cowboy Poets three times. Mehl is also an author of a recent book of poetry, which includes 95 original poems, all with a western theme.

Tickets are available for purchase online ([www.smoreuc.com](http://www.smoreuc.com)), the Vault Cultural Collective ([thevaultonline.ca](http://thevaultonline.ca)) or call 403-901-1654.

The show is Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Strathmore United Church.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Shed tears
- 5. Luxury jewelry designer
- 10. Goddess of wisdom
- 12. Convert into a particular form
- 14. Working-class people
- 16. It borders Canada (abbr.)
- 18. A princess can detect its presence
- 19. Red-brown sea bream
- 20. Defunct retail empire
- 22. Vase
- 23. Demeter’s equivalent
- 25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 26. French and Belgian river
- 27. Small amount
- 28. High schoolers’ test
- 30. Animal’s foot
- 31. Some is red
- 33. Per \_\_\_: each
- 35. Swedish jazz pop duo
- 37. Plate for Eucharist
- 38. Train line
- 40. Russian pop duo
- 41. Stake
- 42. Plant by scattering
- 44. Female sibling
- 45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
- 48. Popular cookie brand
- 50. Group of Niger-Congo languages
- 52. A team’s best pitcher
- 53. Vomits
- 55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 56. Men’s fashion accessory
- 57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
- 58. Expensive cut of steak
- 63. Popular James Cameron film
- 65. A \_\_\_: relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
- 66. Kids’ snow toys
- 67. Flip side to yin

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Global public health agency
- 2. Snake-like fish
- 3. Midway between northeast and east
- 4. Dabbed
- 5. TV show
- 6. Folk singer DiFranco
- 7. Canadian flyers
- 8. Of the dowry
- 9. Commercial
- 10. The act of imitating
- 11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
- 13. Lands of an emir
- 15. Swiss river
- 17. Island
- 18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- 21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions
- 23. Garfield is one
- 24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 27. Small boats used in the Black Sea
- 29. Small savory Spanish dishes
- 32. Body part
- 34. Touch lightly
- 35. Popular grilled foods on a stick
- 36. \_\_\_ Hess: oil company
- 39. Antelope with a reddish coat
- 40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- 43. Pink Floyd’s Roger
- 44. Short and thick
- 46. Small, sac-like cavities
- 47. Performer \_\_\_-Lo
- 49. Entrails of animal used as food
- 51. \_\_\_ King Cole, musician
- 54. Where construction is done
- 59. Chap
- 60. Investment vehicle
- 61. Often mixed with tonic
- 62. Holiday beverage egg \_\_\_
- 64. Against

**STRATHMORE TIMES**

Mario Prusina Publisher  
 John Watson Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
 Kristina Bezic Financial Manager      Rose Hamrlik Advertising      Jody Schneider Production  
 Contributors: Lauren F. Guenther, Joe Lepage, Melissa Piche

**125 2nd Avenue, Strathmore, Alberta T1P 1K1 • 403.934.5589**

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## ARTS ON 817 PRESENTS Doris Daley & Doc Mehl Romance on the Range



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Thought for the Week

Do you look forward to a time when "the power of love" will replace the "love of power?"

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## Laurie Morton Ruppe Tournament takes over local arena

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore's annual Laurie Morton Ruppe tournament took place once again from Jan. 27-29, hosted primarily at the Family Centre Arena.

Teams from all supported ages within the local ringette association came out to participate in the event which honours the late Laurie Morton Ruppe, for whom it was named after.

Emma Moore, who plays for the Strathmore Ice U19B team, explained Ruppe was Vice President of the Strathmore

Minor Ringette Association (SMRA) for two years, and was "Instrumental" in the sport.

"Laurie had a true passion for the game and played on the women's team for 10 years. She was always very competitive and displayed good sportsmanship both on and off the ice," said Moore. "Her positive spirit and leadership found herself as the captain of that team for many seasons."

Ruppe also coached her daughter Kim's team that went on to win the gold medal at the Esso Golden Ring Tournament in Calgary.

The SMRA renamed their annual tournament in honour of Ruppe during the 2009-2010 season. 2023 marks the 13th year of the memorial tournament.

This year's event sported similar attendance to last year, with 39 teams competing, comprised of a total 550 athletes.

"Basically, it is pretty simple. Whoever wins the most games in the pool will move on to the final for gold and silver, and there are around four teams at every division," said Moore. "This tournament is in the second half of our season, so it is a little closer to the end but we won't be done our season, for most teams, until March."

Moore added it is an event to simply allow athletes to come out and compete in the sport of ringette and enjoy the challenge of competition.

For Moore, who has been prolifically active on and off the ice within the Strathmore community, this will be the last year of competition for her, as well as many of her teammates who will be aging out, leaving town to pursue post-secondary education, or both.

"It's always just something very exciting to look forward to, it's our home tournament, it is always fun to have all your friends and family coming to watch you," she said. "There is so much team building and getting to know the people who you are playing with even more than you already do. It is incredible to see how you work together and see the sportsmanship from all the other teams as well."

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U19A



U16A Rise



U10S3



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U12B



U12B



U10S1

Strathmore Minor Ringette hosted their annual Laurie Morton Ruppe Memorial Ringette tournament Jan. 27-29. Over 550 athletes on 39 teams attended the annual event with games being played in Strathmore and Rockyford.

**Melissa Piche, John Watson, Brandi Tower, Jodi Viste Koester and Rana MacLeod Photos**

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# Town officially announces Lead by Example Powwow

JOHN WATSON  
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The Town of Strathmore has officially announced its partnership with Siksika Nation to cohost what is being dubbed the Lead By Example Powwow.

The event is described by the Town as a cross-cultural community celebration and full contest powwow in honour of the late Kakato'si Kristian Ayoungman.

"From March 18-19, 2023, people from across Canada and the US will be travelling to experience world-class Indigenous singing and dancing, right here in Southern Alberta," said Mayor Pat Fule. "Siksika Nation and the Town of Strathmore are on a journey – today's (Jan. 24) announcement marks a monumental moment in our community's partnership."

Ayongman lost his life after being fatally shot in 2019 after a dispute over cigarettes. Memorial services have been ongoing in various fashions since Ayongman's death.

A memorial now stands in Kinsmen Park for Ayongman, bearing a plaque that reads "Lead by example," a quote which was significant to Ayongman.

A documentary honouring Ayongman, which shares his name, was released in 2021 directed by Holly Fortier and Larry Day.

Astokomii Smith, Indigenous liaison for the Town of Strathmore, said Ayongman's mother Melodie approached the Town with the idea for the

powwow in July 2022.

"Her idea, which was to honour Kristian for – this would be the fourth year memorial (and) in our traditional ways, we do things in fours ... and she wanted to do something really big," said Smith.

The event is scheduled to be hosted at the Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre, given the larger scale over previous powwow events hosted in Strathmore, as well as being an indoor venue.

Town of Strathmore staff have been working closely with Siksika Nation members, who are on board with the Town's powwow committee.

"The Lead by Example Powwow is an important next step for the Town of Strathmore and entire region's reconciliation efforts; a step we are proud to take with Siksika Nation," said Fule. "The Lead by Example Powwow will be a regional, high-energy event showcasing vibrant culture, song, dance, traditional craft vendors, authentic cuisine, storytelling, and demonstrations."

The event is expected to draw the attention of people who follow powwows from across Canada and the US and ultimately bring in an attendance of several hundred.

For those who are interested in volunteering to help with the event, or become one of the limited sponsors being allowed to participate, more information regarding the powwow is available online ([leadbyexamplepowwow.com](http://leadbyexamplepowwow.com)).

[www.StrathmoreTimes.com](http://www.StrathmoreTimes.com)



# 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.

- February 7: Council Meeting**
- February 14: Municipal Planning Commission**
- February 14: Public Presentation Committee**
- February 14: Committee of the Whole**

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

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Available opportunities include:

- Project Manager**  
Closes February 6, 2023
- Surfacing Crew Equipment Operator**  
Closes February 3, 2023

Visit our website for more information and APPLY TODAY!  
[wheatlandcounty.ca/careers/](http://wheatlandcounty.ca/careers/)

## 2023 Gravel Pit Sales

The new application form and updated sales information is available on our website



The 2023 Shelterbelt and Ecobuffer Seedling Program is open and accepting applications!

The Shelterbelt and Ecobuffer Seedling Program is available to support landowners planting trees and shrubs throughout the County and opens yearly on November 1st.

Applicants can qualify to receive up to \$2000 in funding!

For more information, visit our website at <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/fundingopportunities/> or contact the Administration Assistant to Transportation and Agriculture, at 403-361-2000.



Address: 242006 Range Rd 243, Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4  
Phone: 403-934-3321 [www.wheatlandcounty.ca](http://www.wheatlandcounty.ca) @wheatlandcounty  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





# Locals excited to play at home

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Okotoks Oilers U17AAA hockey team will be hosting a game in Strathmore for the first time in several years, squaring off against the Calgary Royals on Feb. 4.

Charla Flett, who coordinated to facilitate the regular season game, said it is an exciting opportunity for Strathmore's local players to return home to play in the final weeks of their season.

There are currently four players hailing from Strathmore on the Oilers, including goaltender Connor White, alternate captain Nash Wassing, and forwards Phoenix Flett and Trip Jensen. Defenceman Adam Lee is from Langdon.

"The Okotoks Oilers U17AAA program is our zone team for AAA hockey in the Alberta Elite Hockey League (AEHL)," she explained. "Our players out of Strathmore, Chestermere, in the local Wheatland County area who want to play AAA hockey go to Okotoks to play on those teams. The Okotoks association has allowed Strathmore to host one of the regular season games, which will be played on Saturday, Feb. 4."

The event will include participation from Strathmore Minor Hockey, the Wheatland Athletic Association, as well as the Wheatland Kings Junior B team.

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a AAA U18 game was hosted in Strathmore, according to Flett, though to date a similar game has not happened through the AEHL for at least five years.

"It is super exciting because for most of these players, they have not played a home game here since they were in pee-wee hockey," she said. "They would have played their pee-wee AA here in Strathmore for the Wheatland Braves and then since they have been playing in Okotoks, this will be the first time for some of them in up to four years that they have actually been able to play a game here in Strathmore."

Flett added it is an uncommon occurrence for as many as four players from Strathmore to be on the Okotoks Oilers team.

"The Okotoks Oilers Athletic Association, which runs the AAA program, was really receptive to us hosting a game here because of the number of local players who are on the team," she said. "It's also a really excellent opportunity for the association and the team to showcase what AAA hockey in the zone looks like because ultimately, players from Strathmore will aspire to potentially play on that team one day."

Puck drop will take place at 4:45 p.m. on Feb. 4, in the Strathmore Family Centre.



Phoenix Flett (l-r), Trip Jensen, Connor White and Nash Wassing of the Okotoks Oilers U17AAA hockey team will be playing a regular season game on Feb. 4 at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Photo Courtesy of Charla Flett



## Super songwriters

A Nashville Style songwriter's circle was hosted at the Strathmore Station, Jan. 27, inviting several artists to come out, play, and talk about music they had written.

John Watson Photo

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YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE

Gord Morck Pharmacist

Capsule Comments


February is Heart and Stroke Month in Canada. If quitting smoking was one of your New Year's resolutions and you are still a non-smoker, congratulations! If you are an ex-smoker or have never smoked, good for you too. Your heart and body thank you.

The term *alternative cancer cure* is a myth. If you google the words "cancer cure", you will find millions of pages of information on the topic. A person with cancer tends to want to try these first. But since they aren't proven to do anything positive, they are a waste of time and money. If these do work, they will soon become authorized treatments.

Reason #96 to quit smoking: Carbon monoxide, that poisonous gas found in our car exhausts, is also an ingredient in burning tobacco smoke. This gas reduces our blood's ability to bind to oxygen that feeds our vital organs.


There are interesting results of a study comparing children living in an Amish community with those raised in a Hutterite colony and the incidence of asthma and allergies in each group. The results showed that the incidence was much lower in the Amish children. The reason was the Amish use horses for field work and transportation while the Hutterites live and work in large industrialized farms often using machinery. Evidently, the greater contact with animals was the reason for the difference.

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## STRATHMORE AND AREA WEDDING EXPO

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# Community rallies to support stroke victim

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore community has rallied to support a family in need, raising money for a local stroke victim through a variety of fundraisers.

Russ McNeill, a well-known taxi driver, suffered a severe stroke Nov. 13, leaving him hospitalized. He has remained a patient since.

“He got a massive stroke in November... and normally when it is a massive stroke, people don’t ever come back,”

said Chelsea Byman, McNeill’s step-daughter.

“Seeing him in the hospital the way he was, it was horrifying, but I was more horrified for my mom because that’s her husband.”

Since McNeill’s stroke, Byman has hosted a bottle drive, which raised over \$1,000, as well as a fundraiser through Mike’s Bar and Grill, which raised over \$1,000 through ticket sales, a silent auction, and assorted other direct donations.

To date, an estimated \$3,000 has been raised to support McNeill and his family.

“Words can’t explain how I felt after the night ended on Saturday (Jan. 21). I felt so much love from the community that I don’t think I will ever be able to pay back what they did for my family and to help Russ,” said Byman. “I would like to host maybe a 50/50 draw or something in the next couple months, but ... I don’t want to keep doing fundraisers when I don’t have an update or I don’t know what is going on.”

According to Byman, McNeill was paralyzed on his right side, as the stroke was on the left hemisphere of his brain.



The Strathmore community has been coming together to support a family in need. After local taxi driver Russ McNeill suffered a stroke, fundraising efforts have brought together over \$3,000 thus far to aid the family and support his recovery.

Photo Courtesy of Chelsea Jan

The clot remains inside, as she was informed doctors could not remove it.

It is currently being debated as to whether Russ will be moved from Carewest to Ponoka, as according to Byman, she was told it is a location better suited to care for patients recovering from a stroke.

“He was kind of learning how to talk and he was getting up on a cane and a walker to try and at least get some mobility, and then last week he ended up back at Foothills Hospital,” said Byman. “They think he had a minor stroke because his lip started drooping down more, and he had things that he was able to do before that he can’t now.”

She added for those who may not have known McNeill, he was a long-time taxi driver in Strathmore who was dedicated to the community.

“He would help everybody. He is the type of person who, if it was -40, he would pick you up on the side of the road and wouldn’t even charge you,” said Byman.

For those who may be interested in supporting the family, Byman is able to be contacted via Facebook, or email (brenda.jan@gmail.com).

## Let’s Talk “Setting Boundaries”

Please join BTG and Guest Speaker Joanne Simpson, Outreach Worker, BA Psych, BCR from AHS Addiction & Mental Health

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**FREE EVENT** for those 55+

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### Improved play

The Holy Cross Collegiate Hawks JV girls' basketball team played one of their better games of the season when they hosted the Notre Dame Collegiate Timberwolves on Jan. 26. Despite the Hawks improved competitiveness, the team fell 43-36.

Joe Lepage Photos



### Hawks fly

The Holy Cross Collegiate Hawks JV boys basketball team hosted the Notre Dame Collegiate Timberwolves on Jan. 26 at the school. It was a back and forth game with the Timberwolves grabbing a 50-45 win.

Joe Lepage Photos

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### AHS system failure

To the Editor

When a system starts failing, it does not take long until it totally collapses. AHS long-term care for seniors has.

The 70 per cent of seniors who are not sick but need help with daily living are now living in an abusive situation. Here we are, three years later (after Covid began), seniors are still being kept alive by such stringent rules there is no chance of an uninterrupted happy life.

There are seniors who haven't seen their caregivers face, that cannot converse because the mask blocks lip reading. Seniors who sit alone at meals, who have a dry cough, sore stomach, any of the upsets that you and I have during the day, that are still taken as signs of Covid and the offending person is immediately isolated for seven days, with the staff coming into the room in hazmat suits to drop off their meals. Their daily care is suspended. The COVID test comes back negative, the stomachache disappeared six days ago but the seven days isolation remains.

Its senior abuse and its time it stopped.

Seniors from 65 to 85 have an average of three per cent dementia, 22 per cent after 85, and this only increases to 33 per cent in their 90's.

70 per cent of seniors are well. And yet society, led by AHS, treats them as if they all have dementia. AHS's only criteria is to prevent them from dying. It can't be done.

AHS is preventing seniors from living. This is not new, but Covid brought out the worst. It has allowed protocols that take away the niceties of life, like bedding and table settings, sharing homemade food and

daily recreation. There is in its place, silly, mind-numbing recreation that belongs in a kindergarten room.

Readers may have their shirts in a knot about me complaining.

Here is my answer.

There are no staff, in any of these facilities, that are not doing their job. The staff is trying to work in a system of rules and regulations, and if they do not enforce them, they will lose their jobs. Some did lose their jobs, when they did not want a vaccine. The AHS made it clear that rules are more important than people.

It is abusive to have masks in a home environment - this is not a hospital. It is abusive to lockdown every time two people have symptoms, lockdowns that remove all socializing and interaction and disrupt the floor's activities. Recreations are cancelled continually.

What can fix the problem: 1) Get rid of masks. 2) Hire full time staff. 3) Hire recreation staff who provide an itinerary that repeats daily, not once a week or month, giving residents an opportunity to be involved when and what time they may like, any day of the week.

Long term care is not like the hospital. It's their home.

Seniors die. So will you. People do not want to talk about death and dying. It is no wonder. Seeing what AHS has ahead for us makes MAID look attractive. Is this the new plan?

Cheryl Marshman  
Rockyford

### Let's keep the park and cabana clean

To the Editor

I would like to raise my concerns about what goes on at the cabana parking lot, east of the new town hall. Every night there are at least 10 to 15 cars and trucks coming and going continuously from about 6 p.m. till midnight. The people that park there rev their loud engines, honk their horns and squeal their tires.

The garbage that they leave there in the parking lot is disgusting. There are empty alcohol containers, fast food bags and drink containers, windshield washer jugs and numerous other things. There are three garbage containers there, but the people do not want to use them. It's easier just to throw the stuff out the window.

When the noisy cars and trucks leave there and turn onto Parklane Drive they floor their engines to make as much noise as they can.

Local law enforcement should be patrolling the area several times in the evenings to deter these problems and other questionable activities. The RCMP have been helpful in the past, but lately activities have increased again.

I have emailed the mayor about my concerns and talked to city council at an open meeting about this. So far nothing has been done. I think we need cameras and a gate at the entrance so no one can enter after 7 p.m.

John Trofimuk  
Strathmore



**NEXT HOME GAMES**

**Saturday, February 4 • 8 pm vs High River**  
**Saturday, Feb. 11 • 8 pm vs High River**  
**Sunday, Feb. 12 • 4:30 pm vs Medicine Hat**

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63% agree

Canadian Adults 18+

Source: Totum Research, December 2022. Canadian adults 18+ n=2755

**Do you think Alberta should exempt newspapers from EPR fees?**

Other provinces have regulations whereby producers of waste packaging, like fast food companies and consumer packaged goods, pay levies to encourage them to reduce waste packaging. The Alberta government is developing a Provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework with 100% industry funded programs for plastics, packaging, and hazardous household waste. Some provinces require newspapers, which are not packaging, to pay these fees. Recognizing the important role newspapers play in the community, Ontario exempted newspapers from these fees.

**Your community newspaper is at risk of being included.**

These fees will put your newspaper at risk. We estimate that the cost to Alberta newspapers to subsidize a province-wide recycling program could run as high as \$2 million per year. This could deal a crippling blow to local community papers that are already dealing with double digit increases in newsprint, ink, plates and postage costs.

**YOU CAN HELP us by speaking to your MLA about the importance of your community newspaper as a product, it's not packaging.**

**ARTS ON 817 PRESENTS**

**Doris Daley & Doc Mehl**

**Romance on the Range**

February 11, 2023— 7:30 pm

Adult - \$35.00  
Youth - \$10.00 - 17 and under

Upcoming Concerts

Dave Gunning & J.P. Cormier—March 17, 2023  
John Reischman and The Jaybirds—April 15, 2023  
Strathmore's Emerging Artists—May 6, 2023

Tickets can be purchased at the Vault Cultural Collective or online at [www.smoreuc.com](http://www.smoreuc.com). Online purchases must be picked up at the door the night of the concert.





### Supporting a great cause

Max SPL Music and Origin hosted a fundraiser aiming to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society of Calgary, Jan. 28 at the brewery. The event featured live music put on by Max SPL instructors and offered a variety of ways for patrons to support the cause.

John Watson Photos

# Filling the needs in the area

LEELA SHARON AHEER  
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Hello Chestermere-Strathmore readers! I had the pleasure of meeting with Morgan Matheson and Joanne Lemna to chat about the Chestermere Women's Crisis Society. According to the Sept. 2022 news release, this is a community-based non-profit society and is providing critical services to fill the gap between existing resources that "provide emergency shelter, counseling services, legal resources, clothing and food security to vulnerable women in the community who may be experiencing domestic abuse or require assistance with providing basic needs for themselves and their children.

"Morgan Matheson is the CWCS President and is a liaison to access immediate, safe places to stay for 24-48 hours Basic Needs Support: Assistance with accessing basic needs such as food, clothing, and transportation. Court Support: Volunteers may be available to support women meeting lawyers or attending court within the Rocky View Regional Municipality area. Housing Support: We can help you find furniture, move into a new home, and then help you transition out of your current residence. Community Navigation: Help find employment, resume writing, where to find financial assistance, and assistance with legal problems, health, and wellness, and more."

Congratulations to these fabulous ladies, their volunteers, and all those involved in preventing and ending violence against women!

Congratulations to the Strathmore-Wheatland Chamber of Commerce on their incredible event this past Friday. It is truly an honour to participate in events, especially after not being able to gather for so long! Congratulations to the organizers, volunteers, nominees, and winners!

Let's chat about our energy sector. Oil, natural gas, agriculture, forestry, and minerals fuel our province, country, and world. We have a proud history of some of the strongest resource stewardship in the world, and the world finally understands our value. This goes beyond rising commodity prices; it is about being valued for our work in these sectors and our contributions to the well-being of our society and other societies. These burgeoning middle classes deserve to have access to our natural resources. Many would like to see Alberta put out of business, but the truth is that we are replacing Russian oil. This helped us to balance our budget, and prices will remain this way for some time, as will inflation and other issues that we are facing until we export natural gas, which should be online in the next few years. As we see the need for fossil fuels grow and those industries divest into solar, wind, geothermal, and nuclear, Albertans should stand proud as we contribute to the well-being of the world. The world is finally seeing our value out of necessity.

As always, we love to hear from you.

(Leela Sharon Abeer is the MLA Elect for Chestermere-Strathmore)

## Obituary



### GOURLAY, Timothy Authur

Timothy Gourlay passed away December 5, 2022 at 64 years of age, with his children by his side.

He was a graduate of St. Francis High School, then aspired to SAIT for drafting and computers.

Timothy was born August 10, 1958 and was raised in Calgary, AB by his adopting parents Clarence and Margaret Gourlay.

In the early 80's, Tim moved his new family to Bassano, AB where he continued to reside for the next 30+ years. He had various jobs over the years, but spent the last two decades working in water treatment.

Tim spent many hours of his time volunteering throughout his community and neighbouring communities.

He loved coaching, being the local Santa and bugging people along the way. It's hard to describe his personality, he was not just one thing. Tim was Tim, one of a kind. You either loved him or you did not.

Tim is predeceased by his parents, Clarence and Margret Gourlay, and his long time spouse, Cecile Larmour.

He is survived by his three children, daughter Veronika; son Josh; daughter Katlyn and eight grandchildren: Sadie, Tyson, Samuel, Gabriela, Sophie, Grace, Annie and Kaylee; sister Tracie Gourlay and numerous relatives and friends.

At this time, we are not having a celebration of Tim's life, until the late spring/summer.

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, February 27, 2023 7:00 PM Community Centre, 204 3rd Avenue, Gleichen

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

February 15th at 10:00 am Western Irrigation District's Community Room A-1000 Pine Street, Strathmore, Alberta

To provide information on a proposed change to the expansion limit of the Western Irrigation District.

\*Same meeting will be held at Nightingale Community Hall March 9th @ 10:00am\*

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

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If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by March 8, 2023.

with NOEL JARVIS at Randal Jarvis Law Office #110, 304 3rd Avenue, Strathmore, Alberta T1P 1Z1

and provide details of your claim.

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

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1	7	2	5	4	3	6	9	8
9	4	3	6	8	1	7	5	2
8	5	6	2	9	7	1	3	4
7	3	4	9	6	5	8	2	1
2	6	1	4	3	8	9	7	5
5	8	9	7	1	2	4	6	3

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Strathmore Banking Centre  
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# LEAD BY EXAMPLE POWWOW

STRATHMORE MOTOR PRODUCTS SPORTS CENTRE  
STRATHMORE, ALBERTA  
MARCH 18-19, 2023



## Everyone welcome.

On March 18 & 19, 2023, join the dance and experience the heartbeat of the drum at the inaugural *Lead by Example Powwow*; a cross-cultural, community celebration and full contest Powwow in honour of Kakato'si Kristian Ayoungman.

The *Lead by Example Powwow* is a regional, high-energy event showcasing vibrant culture, song, dance, traditional craft vendors, authentic cuisine, storytelling, and demonstrations.

Learn more about Kristian and Melodie's story by watching the award-winning documentary, *Ayoungman* at [Strathmore.ca/Ayoungman](http://Strathmore.ca/Ayoungman)

## Grand Entries

Saturday, March 18

1 PM | 7 PM

Sunday, March 19

12 PM

## Head Staff

### Master of Ceremonies

Donald Speidal, *Whitecap First Nation*

Howie Thompson, *Carry the Kettle First Nation*

### Arena Directors

Bob Badger, *Kawacatoose First Nation*

Sheldon Scalplock Sr., *Siksika Nation*

### Host Drum

Blackfoot Confederacy, *Blackfoot Territory*

### Drum Judge

Kent Ayoungman, *Siksika Nation*

### Head Women's Dance Judge

Orrie Little Sky, *Nakota Nation*

### Head Men's Dance Judge

Tobias Provost, *Piikani Nation*

### Tabulation

C&T Tabulating

### Sound

Hokah Sound

## Specials

Women: Jingle (*Green Dress Special*)

Men: Traditional (*Green Dress-up Special*)

## Dance Contest

Tiny Tot (6 & under)

Junior (7-12)

Girls: Traditional | Jingle | Fancy

Boys: Chicken | Traditional | Grass | Fancy

Teen (13-17)

Girls: Traditional | Jingle | Fancy

Boys: Chicken | Traditional | Grass | Fancy

Men's Buckskin (18+)

Jr. Adult (18-39)

Women: Traditional | Jingle | Fancy

Men: Chicken | Traditional | Grass | Fancy

Sr. Adult (40-54)

Women: Traditional | Jingle | Fancy

Men: Chicken | Traditional | Grass | Fancy

Golden Age (55+)

Women: Traditional | Jingle | Fancy

Men: Chicken | Traditional | Grass | Fancy

## Drum Contest

### LEADBYEXAMPLEPOWWOW.CA

For contestant and indigenous inquiries:  
Steve Hunt or Melodie Ayoungman-Hunt at [steveandmelhunt@hotmail.com](mailto:steveandmelhunt@hotmail.com)

For vendor inquiries:  
Astokomii Smith at 403-934-9090  
[astokomii.smith@strathmore.ca](mailto:astokomii.smith@strathmore.ca)

For sponsorship inquiries:  
Angela Groeneveld at 403-499-8516  
[angela.groeneveld@strathmore.ca](mailto:angela.groeneveld@strathmore.ca)

For all other inquiries:  
[powwow@strathmore.ca](mailto:powwow@strathmore.ca)

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