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VOLUME 14 ISSUE 7



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More Stuff at library

Page 11



Mini meet

**COVID-19 Update**  
in Strathmore & Wheatland County  
(as of February 15, 2022)

2562 Cases since COVID started  
122 Active | 2412 Recovered  
28 Deaths



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Look on Page 16 for  
**Town of Strathmore Municipal Notices**

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## Meadowlark closing its doors

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

After 22 years of serving the community, Meadowlark Senior Care Home has closed its doors for good, as owner and operator, Debbie Wakelam, retires.

Coming into her retirement, Wakelam said she decided not to sell the business and to simply close it down, as another operator would not continue the practices she maintained.

“I do not want my name associated with it if it’s not going to continue the way I’ve run it. If (somebody) wanted to buy my business but changed it all, then my model would no longer exist, so it just needed to be closed by myself,” she said.

Wakelam explained that Meadowlark was a business born out of necessity after her grandmother was diagnosed with dementia.

Following the diagnosis along with having a background in caring for seniors, Wakelam created Meadowlark and decided to take care, not just for her grandmother but for other local seniors, into her own hands.

“Over 20 years ago, how it got started was, my grandma had dementia and I had been working at the Strathmore Hospital (in) long-term care and I really wasn’t happy with the work,” said Wakelam.

“I loved the seniors, but I didn’t like that environment, so when my grandma was diagnosed with dementia, my family said, ‘what are we going to do?’”

Deciding she was not a particular fan of other senior care options in the area, Wakelam wanted to take a different approach that was, as she said, geared more towards focusing on individuals in a small group environment.

“When I first started, it was a new idea for many, many people. It was something that they do in England and they have care homes all throughout Europe, but it was new for this area,” she said.

“Some people immediately liked the idea and (for) others, it was a bit challenging for them. Once I got started taking care of some seniors, then word spread rapidly that there was a different option.”

*Continued on Page 4*



### Treat, please!

Strathmore’s third annual Furfest was finally able to return to town on Feb. 12. The open market invited folks to come by and bring their furry best friends to play and see what vendors had to offer. Though admittance was free, it was asked that attendees make a donation to help local animal rescue shelters. See Page 2 for more coverage.

**John Watson Photo**

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Furfest invited pet owners to drop in to the civic centre on Feb. 12 with their furry friends to browse local vendors and potentially speak with rescue agencies.

John Watson Photos



# Furfest returns to Strathmore

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism initiative Reporter

After a hiatus due to COVID-19 concerns, Furfest returned to Strathmore on Feb. 12 for its third iteration and according to Kyla Janes, it's here to stay.

Janes, who owns Alpine View Pet Spa, organized the market for vendors catering to both bipedal and quadrupedal audiences.

"Furfest basically is just something fun to get out with your dogs and be social. We've got a play yard set up so that if your dog is social, they can come in and play. It's just a fun outing for in the middle of winter," said Janes.

"I just thought it would be really fun to have a local shopping market. I went to a playfest in the city and you could bring your dog and there were dog vendors and I thought that was great. There was nothing (like that) out here, so I just jumped on it."

Janes explained the market had been busy since it opened on the day of its operation. Previous iterations of the

market saw over 200 dogs and more than 1,800 people through the doors and the hope was to once again hit those numbers.

In the operational years since its launch, Strathmore's Furfest has nearly doubled in size from 15 vendors at its inaugural year to 27 in 2022.

"For the table fees, it all just goes to basically cover the (building) rental and then any money that we raise for the charities we have, (being) Parachutes for Pets and Happy Cat Sanctuary and Rescued Paws, gets donated at the end," added Janes.

Further, there was no formal admittance fee to get into the market, but patrons were asked to make donations for the food bank, for Happy Cat Sanctuary, or of cash to support the cause prior to entry.

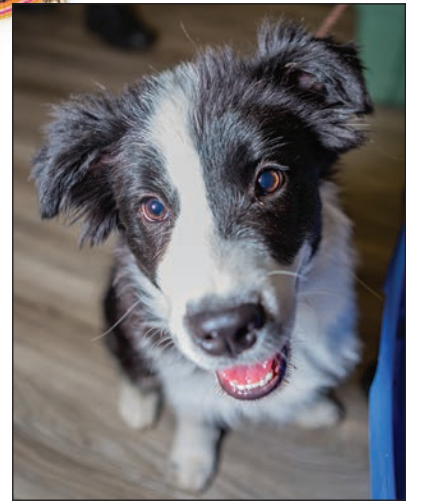
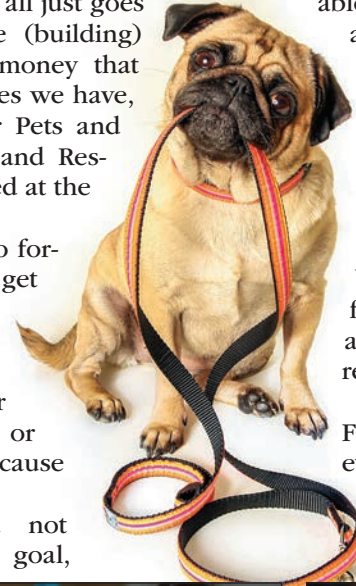
Though Janes did not specify a fundraising goal,

she explained it made for a much better experience for people to be out and about shopping with their pets and being in person to talk about rescuing animals.

"Just being able to advertise and see everybody in person and not all this virtual stuff is much more personable when you can come and actually have a conversation face-to-face, especially when you're working with rescue stuff," said Janes.

"It can be really tough when you're just doing things (over) email and not being able to talk to somebody about what they want for a dog, what they need for a dog or if they need to surrender it."

Locals can look forward to Furfest becoming an annual event, with different charity and rescue organizations being supported by each future iteration.



## 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 15: Council Meeting**

**March 1: Council Meeting**

**March 8: Municipal Planning Commission**

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

# WHEATLAND COUNTY

## 2022 Gravel Pit Sales

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



### BUILDING A ROAD APPROACH OR UPGRADING YOUR DRIVEWAY?

Did you know, Wheatland County residents are able to purchase crushed gravel and pitrun at a reduced cost? Please purchase gravel sales tickets at the main administration office prior to hauling.

Starting in 2022, residents will be able to redeem their gravel tickets between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the set days and locations as outlined below:

- June 15th and 16th, 2022 – Goldsmith Pit (Cluny) located at NE-8-22-21W4 (7/8" Crush & Pit Run)
- July 5th and 6th, 2022 – Christensen Pit (Carseland) located at NE-03-22-25W4m (3/4" Crush & Pit Run)
- August 9th and 10th, 2022 – Fish Lake Pit (Dalum) located at NE-28-26-18W4M (7/8" Crush & Pit Run)

To collect gravel on the dates and at the locations noted above, please park at the gravel sales sign and stay in your vehicle until the loader operator notifies you to proceed.

Not sure how much you need?

Crush: 1 tonne = 0.79 cubic yards or 1 cubic yard = 1.27 tonnes  
 Pitrun: 1 tonne = 0.67 cubic yards or 1 cubic yard = 1.49 tonnes  
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 Tandem axle – 12 & 13 tonnes

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Application Form: <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/2021-gravel-sale-schedule/>



## Alberta Farmer Pesticide Applicator Certificate Course & Recertification

**March 9, 2022 — 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

The Alberta Farmer Pesticide Certification Course is a tool intended to help farmers to reduce risks associated with pesticide use. This course is recommended under the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan but is also mandatory for farmers who wish to use restricted pesticides that require certification such as Aluminum Phosphide.

The **Certificate Course** is a 1-day course. Study manuals are provided in addition to instruction with lectures and Power Point presentation on the seven modules plus the grain storage module. A proctored 2-hour 70 question exam is provided at 2:30 pm. We will also provide training and exam for the Grain Bin Storage with Phostoxin in the late afternoon of this day. If you already have your certificate and it is about to **expire after 5 years** (all certificates issued before 2017 have now expired) then this course will provide you recertification credentials (no EXAM) for another 5 years.



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Registration is limited to 25 participants  
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**Phone:** 403-934-3321 [www.wheatlandcounty.ca](http://www.wheatlandcounty.ca) @wheatlandcounty  
**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.







**Mask mandates reversed**

As of Feb. 14, students attending schools in Alberta are no longer required to wear masks while in school, as the provincial government begins to lift ongoing mandates. Additionally, in a statement released on Feb. 8 from Education Minister Adriana LaGrange, individual school divisions are forbidden from introducing localized masking mandates for schools within their jurisdictions. More information on the lifting of mandates to come in the Feb. 25 edition of the *Strathmore Times*. Locally, many students at George Freeman School enjoyed their mask-less freedom on Feb. 15.

John Watson Photos



The Strathmore Municipal Library offers a wide variety of tools, crafts, projects and activities to rent from their More Stuff collections. Displays, such as the one pictured, can often be found in the library showing off just a handful of the diverse collections available.

John Watson Photo

# Library More Stuff collections at capacity

**JOHN WATSON**  
*Local Journalism initiative Reporter*

The Strathmore Municipal Library has utilized a grant they received from United Way to bolster their “More Stuff” collection.

According to the Assistant Director of Library Services, Carmen Erison, the additions have been about a year in the making and has allowed the library to offer pretty much everything that somebody might need.

“We’ve been building these collections for roughly about three years and in (time), we’ve seen it heavily used and we really wanted to bring more items into the collection, especially with us going (to) free memberships,” said Erison.

“The types of items that we have added to the collection are focused on helping patrons around the house, as well as for family members to get outside, enjoy the outdoors and just try something new.”

The collections include things from metal detectors to ghost hunting kits to karaoke machines.

Erison said there’s something for everyone within the collections, both for hobbyists and for folks who may need a specific tool for a unique project.

“For those people who are at home and those hobbyists as well, we’re helping people out at home as well by adding things like an automotive scan-

ner to track all of the codes on your vehicle,” said Erison.

“(We have) items that you may not want to invest the money to purchase on a one-off basis to use them, you can now come to the library and borrow them for free.”

She added the availability of tools, projects and even instruments has made a positive impact for the local community.

“I think it’s had a great impact. I think when it comes to investing in that, sometimes families just don’t have that spare money to purchase additional items,” said Erison.

“Being able to have those kinds of items readily available from your local library is quite valuable and it definitely is time saving and money saving.”

There are currently no further plans to expand the collection, as there is currently no additional grant funding to do so and the library storage is at capacity.

For the time being, the collections will simply be available for public use, to residents of Strathmore, Wheatland County, Siksika Nation and Rockyview County.

Anything that is borrowed from the Strathmore Municipal Library must be returned to the facility after its use.

As it stands, Erison said there are over 150 items within the library’s collections that patrons may borrow and make use of at their leisure.

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**BBB Scam Alert: Bored? Think twice before taking that Facebook quiz**



Social media is used as a fun distraction for some people, and taking a Facebook quiz may seem like a harmless way to pass the time. But are you giving away more information than you think?

**How the Scam Works:**

A fun quiz pops up on your Facebook feed or another social media platform. A few questions are answered to prove how well you know a friend. Or a short personality test is offered to match with a character from a favorite TV show.

These quizzes appear to be meaningless, but the intent behind them is to collect information. For example, questions like: "What was the first car you owned?" "What is your mother's maiden name?" or "What is the name of the street you grew up on?" These are common security questions for insurance, banking and credit card accounts. Sharing this information can lead to accounts being hacked, and personal and financial information being stolen.

Not all social media quizzes are data collection scams; however, BBB cautions users to be careful about what they share online and to check the privacy settings on the account. Social media data and quiz answers can be used to steal identity or enable a scammer to impersonate you to your friends and family.

**Tips to avoid social media scams:**

- Be skeptical: Before answering a quiz, figure out who created it. Is it a brand you trust? Just because something appears to be fun and innocent, doesn't mean there isn't an inherent risk.
- Adjust privacy settings: Review the social media account's privacy settings and be strict about any information that is shared - and be mindful of who you are sharing it with.
- Remove personal details from your profile: Don't share information like phone number or home address on social media accounts.
- Don't give answers to common security questions: Be cautious if the questions in a quiz ask for things like your mother's maiden name, street you grew up on, previously owned vehicles, favorite foods, or the name of your high school.
- Monitor friend requests: Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know. Also be wary of a second friend request from someone you are already connected with; the second profile may be an imposter trying to access your data and your Friends list.
- For more information, visit BBB.org.

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# CTR schools celebrating work of NCCS staff

**JOHN WATSON**  
*Local Journalism initiative Reporter*

Christ the Redeemer (CTR) Catholic schools are celebrating the Non-Certified Classroom Supervisors (NCCS) who have become a valuable asset to keeping schools open and students learning in person.

The NCCS were highlighted during the CTR board meeting near the end of January, as having helped to fill a significant need for substitute teachers due to staff shortages.

According to Vincent Behm, deputy superintendent of schools, NCCS have been utilized by the school board for nearly five years, though prior to the pandemic, the extent was not nearly as prolific.

"They're not teachers, so they're not able to teach, instruct, or assess, but they're able to make sure that it's a safe, positive learning environment and hand out materials that the teacher has left for the class," said Behm.

"The teachers leave really self-directed learning plans for the students, so the NCCS will hand out those materials. Because they work in our schools often, they understand the rules, the routines, the positive classroom and school culture."

A NCCS is brought in to oversee a classroom environment when no substitute teacher is available to direct the class while the regular teacher is away.

Generally, when an NCCS is called in to supervise a class, the students will be reviewing content or completing independent learning.

"We always prefer to have a substitute teacher when they're available, because they're able to fulfil all the roles of a teacher, but from time to time, and especially in some of our communities where there's not a lot of substitute teachers who live there, we rely on (NCCS) more often," said Behm.

"Using our NCCS's is a way that we've been able to keep our schools open and operational, because we've not faced the staffing shortages that we were perhaps concerned that we would."

He added NCCS have been utilized more often over the

last several months due to many regular staff being out of the building for varying purposes. Behm did not specify the reasons for regular staff absences.

CTR utilizes both internal and external NCCS's. Internal NCCS's are often staff and educational assistants who work within the facility but usually in other capacities and an external NCCS are generally people who have experience and education working with youth in other capacities.

"It's really a celebration that we've been able to keep our schools open without asking our teachers or administrators to cover too many classes and keep our schools operational," said Behm.

"All of our schools have NCCS's available to them. Before the pandemic, only some of them would rely on them occasionally, but especially since the last wave of the pandemic, most, if not all have relied on NCCS's."

Though he specified there is no replacement for a substitute teacher, having the NCCS available as a resource allows schools to remain open in person along with filling staffing gaps when necessary.

## Meadowlark Senior Care Home closing after 22 years of operation

*Continued from Page 1*

Wakelam added that the current state of the provincial health care system also influenced her decision to retire but clarified that she greatly enjoyed working with seniors and operating her facility for the last 22 years.

"I decided that the current situation with the world and especially with the direction that our health (system) is going in, that this isn't a good fit for what I do and I no longer want to be a part of it."

"I have enjoyed life fully for 22 years because I'm very passionate about what I do, my care and my care home ... so going forward, I will just have time to pursue some of my hobbies and interests."

Residents were given written notice of the change prior to Meadowlark's closure, for them to find other accommodations, prior to the care home's closure on Feb. 14.

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Thought for the Week  
~  
Do you view a bad situation as a setback or a starting point?

# SUDOKU

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<p><b>STRATHMORE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</b> Meeting in the Lutheran Church 112 Lakeside Blvd. 1-888-506-1066 ext. 101 <b>Pastor: Donald Wright</b> Services held every Saturday Sabbath School: 10 AM Worship Service: 11 AM www.strathmoreadventist.ca donald816@hotmail.com <b>God's Closet</b> Collects children's clothing and distributes Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.</p>	<p><b>HOPE COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH</b> 245 Brent Blvd, Strathmore 403-934-2424 <b>Pastor: Heidi Wiebe</b> Sunday Worship 10 am www.hope-community.ca</p>
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# Town introduces non-residential tax incentive bylaw

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

During the regular Town of Strathmore council meeting on Feb. 9, council passed Bylaw 22-03, the non-residential municipal tax incentive bylaw that is designed to attract business investment to the town.

In late 2021, administration prepared a business case to develop initiatives, support economic growth and encourage non-residential investment in and around the town.

On Dec. 15, 2021, council gave first reading to Bylaw 21-31, the non-residential municipal tax incentive bylaw. Following the first reading, though subsequent changes were made that did not alter the purpose nor intent of the bylaw, they were substantial enough to warrant drafting a new bylaw that incorporated the changes.

Bylaw 22-03, as now passed by council, requires that a development or expansion must increase the total assessment of a venture by at least \$10 million, create employment for a minimum of 25 individuals and comprise at least 2,800 square meters of area in order to be eligible for the benefit.

The then applicable tax redemption is calculated by first determining the total increase to a business or enterprise's tax assessment created by the new development, then taking a percentage of

the corresponding tax increase.

The rebate, as outlined by Town administration, is set at 100 per cent for the first year that the new development is complete and operational, then is reduced by 20 per cent each year for the following four years.

Taxes will be expected to be paid normally and in full with no rebates or redemptions following the five-year period allotted by the bylaw.

In shifting from the previous bylaw draft of 21-31 to 22-03, none of the eligibility thresholds: investment amount, total of people employed or square footage requirements, were changed.

According to the bylaw, all non-residential properties located within the Town of Strathmore are eligible for the program. However, properties licensed under the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act are not eligible for the tax incentive.

"We wanted to be pretty focused in terms of the types of businesses that we attract here," said Jamie Dugdale, a member of the Town administration.

"This was structured to attract large, mostly industrial development. So we wanted to try to exclude a lot of those things that weren't."

Town administration recommended that council pass all three readings of the drafted bylaw as presented, and council followed the recommendation.

**Leela Aheer, MLA**  
Chestermere-Strathmore



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

# Standard prepares to celebrate 100th anniversary

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Village of Standard is preparing to celebrate the centennial anniversary of its incorporation as a municipality.

Standard's Deputy Mayor, Carol Allard said though planning for the event is behind schedule, residents are already beginning to get excited.

"Basically, our next meeting is going to be an organizational meeting to set up committees to take care of all the different activities that day," he said, prior to the discussion held on Feb. 15.

The meeting was open to the public, and according to Allard, invited residents to come out and help plan for what the event will look like.

"This meeting is to organize what we're going to do and who's going to take charge of what they're going to be doing that weekend," explained Allard.

"The celebration is Aug. 13, the (village) was incorporated back in February, 1922 ... We should have started (planning) about a year and a half ago, but because of COVID-19, we've been delayed."

Allard cited that the delays in planning are due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, which had until

only recently forced meeting delays and cancellations.

He added initial ideas had regarded examining what Standard looked like 100 years ago, referencing any records that persist.

"Basically, we have to make plans now to be able to book venues in town here, book all kinds of arrangements that have to be done, booking bands and booking artists out here. We're kind of late," said Allard.

"That's what's going to be discussed is, what did we look like 100 years ago. There are books here the people can go through ... to do this operation, we need to educate people."

He is expecting a sizable turnout for the event, as residents have already begun reaching out for more information. His current estimates peg around 1,000 people coming out to the event, but Allard added it is likely that figure is likely to only grow.

"We've already seen big numbers of people calling in for it ... we were predicting 1,000 but there will probably be more."

Standard's centennial celebration is scheduled to take place this summer in the village, on Aug. 13.

**STRATHMORE TIMES**

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### CLUES ACROSS

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Remain as is                   | 38. Detonations                     |
| 5. Functional                     | 39. Intestinal                      |
| 11. News magazine                 | 40. EU cofounder Paul-Henri ___     |
| 12. Popular treat                 | 43. Balmy                           |
| 16. Area units                    | 44. New Mexico mountain town        |
| 17. Artificial intelligence       | 45. Gobblers                        |
| 18. Marten valued for its fur     | 49. Insecticide                     |
| 19. Forms of matter               | 50. Golf scores                     |
| 24. Home of the Dodgers           | 51. Has its own altar               |
| 25. Bordering                     | 53. "Pollock" actor Harris          |
| 26. Part of the eye               | 54. Being livable                   |
| 27. It might be nervous           | 56. NHL play-by-play man            |
| 28. Visualizes                    | 58. "The Great Lakes State" (abbr.) |
| 29. Crest of a hill               | 59. Unpainted                       |
| 30. Measures engine speed (abbr.) | 60. Swam underwater                 |
| 31. Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.) | 63. Native American people          |
| 33. Not easily explained          | 64. Containing salt                 |
| 34. Song in short stanzas         | 65. Exam                            |

### CLUES DOWN

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Small bone in middle ear                         | 32. It followed the cassette       |
| 2. Long, angry speech                               | 33. Large northern deer            |
| 3. Move out of                                      | 34. Ones who offer formally        |
| 4. Male organ                                       | 35. Famed genie                    |
| 5. Two-toed sloth                                   | 36. Bequeathed                     |
| 6. Making dirty                                     | 37. Skeletal muscle                |
| 7. Article  | 38. Atomic #56                     |
| 8. Oil company                                      | 40. Silk garment                   |
| 9. Emits coherent radiation                         | 41. They deliver the mail          |
| 10. Amounts of time                                 | 42. Equally                        |
| 13. Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)     | 44. Check                          |
| 14. Forbidden by law                                | 45. Light-colored breed of hound   |
| 15. Drains away                                     | 46. Drug that soothes              |
| 20. Not out   | 47. Railroads                      |
| 21. Sea patrol (abbr.)                              | 48. Most slick                     |
| 22. Bird genus                                      | 50. Jacket                         |
| 23. Gratuity  | 51. A radio band                   |
| 27. ___ and feathers                                | 52. Hello                          |
| 29. Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt) | 54. His and ___                    |
| 30. Hot beverage                                    | 55. Supporter                      |
| 31. Pouch   | 57. Popular software suite (abbr.) |
|   | 61. Railway                        |
|   | 62. NY coastal region (abbr.)      |

## 2021 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS WINNERS!

<b>Non-Profit Business of the Year:</b> Strathmore Overnight Shelter	<b>Wheatland County Business of the Year:</b> EH Farms	<b>Social Media Pioneer:</b> 104.5 More Country & StrathmoreNow
<b>Medium Business of the Year:</b> Getz, Collins & Associates	<b>Downtown Business of the Year:</b> Rock On 5rd	<b>Ag Business of the Year:</b> Strathmore Stampede
<b>New Business of the Year:</b> Four Sisters Kitchen & Table	<b>Home Based Business of the Year:</b> Rainbow Falls Flute Studio	<b>Small Business of the Year:</b> Hunger, Payne's & Rock On 5rd
<b>Youth Entrepreneur of the Year:</b> Em's Donation Projects	<b>Customer Service Award (Business):</b> Strathmore Remedy's Rx Pharmacy	<b>Large Business of the Year:</b> Value Drug Mart
<b>People's Choice Award:</b> Global Training Centre		<b>Customer Service Award (Individual):</b> Natalie Johnstone (104.5 More Country & StrathmoreNow)



# CRIME STOPPERS

**TALK** 1-800-222-8477  
**TYPE** tttTIPS.com  
**TEXT** tttTIPS to 274637  
 anonymous - cash rewards

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

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

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

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



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**YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE**  
 Gord Morck Pharmacist  
**Capsule Comments**

People who are considering changing to a plant-based diet should do it gradually. Start with one meat-free day per week and increase gradually. At the same time, slowly add more legumes to your diet...chickpeas, kidney beans and black beans. Lentils are nutritious and versatile and can be added to soups and salads. Tofu can be added to stir-fries and take up whatever flavour you want. And it's a great source of protein, fibre and minerals.

Sometimes, visualizing a health problem can help instil good habits. If you don't take care of your teeth and gums, periodontal disease can develop. When your gums aren't healthy, pockets form when the gums pull away from the teeth. These pockets make it easier for bacteria to get into the blood stream and can increase the risk of inflammation and heart disease. Practice good oral hygiene.

About one in six adults will experience depression at some time in their lives. Depression research has produced a range of medications that have helped many people. One thought about antidepressant medication that is worth heeding is that those who have been on it for quite a while should not stop the drug cold turkey. Talk to your doctor. It is best to slowly reduce the dose over a number of weeks.

After meals? Before meals? With water or milk? Will it make me drowsy? Can I have a glass of wine with this medication? These are just a few of the questions in people's minds when they receive a new prescription. Pharmacists will make sure you know the answers.

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



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Pictured are children from El Salvador receiving shoeboxes donated through the Operation Christmas Child project. A total of 682 shoeboxes were raised within Strathmore alone, during the most recent collection period between November and December 2021. Canadians in total put together over 414,000 shoeboxes over the course of the project last year.

Photos Courtesy of Frank King

## Strathmore raises 682 shoeboxes for children in need through Operation Christmas Child

JOHN WATSON  
 Local Journalism initiative Reporter

Of the nearly 414,000 shoeboxes donated by Canadians through Operation Christmas Child at the end of 2021, Strathmore put together 682 boxes – an increase of 130 per cent over the previous year.

News Media Relations Manager, Frank King, with Samaritan's Purse International Relief, said it's an exciting development to see that despite concerns regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Strathmore didn't let that stop them from showing their support.

"We are ecstatic and grateful to the folks in Strathmore who said, 'we don't care about a pandemic, there are children in need and we're going to help them,' and that's what they did," said King.

Operation Christmas Child has been operating in Canada since 1993 and gathers shoe boxes full of school sup-

plies, hygiene items and toys to send off to partner organizations in Central America and French-speaking West Africa.

Boxes are distributed amongst local children in recipient countries. According to a release, since 2009, more than 23 million children have received boxes.

"I hear about these children in El Salvador and Nicaragua and Costa Rica and Senegal and places like that (where) this may be the only gift (a child has) ever received and it really shows the impact and the value of this program," said King.

"The other neat thing too, is that oftentimes, the shoeboxes open up the doors for us to work with community leaders with some of their other needs like getting safe water, or literacy programs, or hygiene, or agricultural tools and training."

Boxes packed by Canadians will be distributed throughout the partner

countries throughout the year. Distribution of the boxes gathered this past Christmas season has been ongoing since the beginning of 2022.

Worldwide, a total of 10.5 million boxes were collected in participating nations to support Operation Christmas Child.

"In a year filled with uncertainty, we praise God for the opportunity to continue reaching children around the world with gift-filled shoeboxes that bring so much joy," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse.

"These gifts provide a tangible expression of love and open doors for sharing the life-changing hope of Jesus Christ."

The typical collection period of boxes is from early November until mid-December. Online options now allow donations of shoeboxes to be made year-round. Anyone who is interested in the program is able to find more information at packabox.ca

## Provincial CFEP grant sees \$383,100 allocated for local food bank

JOHN WATSON  
 Local Journalism initiative Reporter

The government of Alberta has invested over \$383,000 to support the Wheatland County Food Bank through the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP).

The program itself is intended to help foster healthy communities across Alberta by working in partnership with non-profit organizations.

CFEP provides matching funding to aid non-profits in leveraging their other sources of funding to acquire, build, update and maintain public use facilities. In this particular use case, the funding was intended to help the food bank purchase a new facility.

By the time the funding was approved and distributed, the food bank had already relocated into its new, current warehouse, and so the funding will be used to support the use of the facility instead.

Chestermere-Strathmore MLA Leela Aheer said she was proud that the government was signaling their support for the organization, as it is a critical part of the local community.

"This project will help many individuals within our communities and help to foster a stronger sense of community and togetherness," said Aheer.

"When we're talking about our facilities that are around our area, it's one thing to build them, it's a whole other ball

game to maintain those things."

CFEP supports two classifications of funding streams. Small Stream funding is matched up to \$125,000 and an applicant organization may be considered for up to \$10,000 in non-matching funding.

A Large Stream fund supports a successful applicant between \$125,000 and \$1 million. An organization may only apply for one grant stream per year.

"Municipalities and for-profit organizations cannot apply for these funds. These are dedicated to nonprofits and First Nations and Metis settlement organizations," said Aheer.

"As we come out of this now, we're going to be seeing a lot of need in the communities for these services to keep people's heads above water until they can get back into the workforce."

She added, regarding the food bank in particular, it is important to break down any potential stigma associated with making use of the facility, particularly if anyone needs help, as well as highlighted the importance of supporting the organization.

"Everybody is going to need help at some point, it's just the way that it is, so this expansion is going to help them be able to really broaden their ability to hold food, to be able to maintain the services that they've been providing, to potentially put more staff into place," said Aheer.

The exact amount allocated to the Wheatland County Food Bank from the CFEP grant was \$383,100.



# MINOR HOCKEY WEEK



## 21/22 U7 GLEICHEN POND HOCKEY



## 21/22 U18 GLEICHEN POND HOCKEY



## 21/22 U10 GLEICHEN POND HOCKEY



## 21/22 U7 EWAA STANDARD COYOTES



Back: HC Joel Rasmussen, AC Jacci Rasmussen Middle: Emmett Henke, Jorgia Gordon, Jonathan Schultz, Piper Larsen, Emma Barnett, Hunter Christensen, Harlyn Crump Front: Barron Corbiell, Grayson Nielsen, Reid Rasmussen, Graham Jensen, Kaleb Crouse, Kaleb Klemmensen, Luke Geeraert Missing: AC Kent Christensen

## 21/22 U7 JR GREEN STRATHMORE STORM



Coaches: Rance Coulter, Jonathan Heer, Dan Tennis, Andrew Cammaert  
Back: Ty Beekman, Jace Lose, Boston Heer, Oliver Tennis, Myles Matheson, Liam Sacher, Emmett Coulter Front: Bennett Montgrand, Madnus De Cocq, Luke Cammaert, Kessler Bills, Rylan Langejans, Decker Leboldus  
Imageworks Photography

## 21/22 U7 JRYELLOW STRATHMORE STORM



Coaches: AC Craig Thorhaug, AC Landon Pitts, HC Evan Barlow, AC Kirk Deeg  
Back: Parker Smith, Emma Shantz, Lukas Cameron, Kamryn Thorhaug, Shepard Kusal, Marek Miller Front: Max Deeg, Hudson Barlow, Bobby Reid, Luke Graff, Celeste Wells, Carson Pitts  
Missing: Casey Witteman Imageworks Photography

## 21/22 U7 SR GREY STRATHMORE STORM



Coaches: AC Adam Vetter, AC Ryan Schmidt, HC Braden Desmet, AC Mike Jones, AC Brett Thurston Back: Soren Thompson, Bennett Robinson, Sutter Schwager, Zach Vetter, Jacob Jones, Rhett Desmet Front: James Sansome, Kate Thurston, Shelby Desmet, Weston Schmidt, Sam Spiller, Kason Kartz, Max Beddie Missing: AC Taggart Desmet Imageworks Photography

## 21/22 U9 EWAA STANDARD COYOTES



Back: MGR Cindy Collins, AC Kyle Crump, AC Ty Corbiell, HC Brendan Christensen, AC Shaun Collins Middle: Sarah Collins, Ryle Corbiell, Colton Christensen, Parker Henke, Hunter Murphy Front: Kohen Koester, Owen Jensen, Charlie Crump, Max Caplette, Calum Crump

## 21/22 U9 SILVER STRATHMORE STORM



Coaches: AC Cody Brown, AC Lance Gordon, HC Tom Morse, AC Devin Olson  
Back: Logan Brown, Mason Hatt, Cole Guimont, Josh Lausen, Liam Pickett, Logan Oleskyn, Bryer Paschal Front: Luke Mordy, Brady Reid, Nolan Gordan, Everly Olson, Sadie Morse, Maisie Grant  
Imageworks Photography

## 21/22 U9 BLACK STRATHMORE STORM



Coaches: AC David Bryan, AC Dallas Anderson, AC Andrew Cammaert, HC Jody Barron Back: Matthew Anderson, Avery Sanders, Corbin Bryan, Braxton Duhn, Liam Breaker, Kaden Cammaert, Brody Haslam, Viggo De Cocq Front: Colton Sheppard, William Shantz, Tristan Waldner, Kaden Penner, Jack Barron Imageworks Photography



**21/22 U9B STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* AC Daniel McAfee, HC Russ Koester, AC Ryan Geremia, Mike Janes *Back:* Jack Koester, Anderson Janes, Greyson Pekrul, Lucas Geremia, Talon Langen, Quaid Schwager, Corbyn Boucher *Front:* JP Hyrcuk, Javen Sansome, Ryan Spiller, Dawson McAfee, Jaxon Meakin *Missing:* Brooks Plett  
*Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U9A STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* Ryder Chung and Taggart Desmet *Back:* Koen Kinsey, Lincoln Wagler, Landon Dalziel, Graysen Grant, Brayden Toovey, Nixon Halsall, Cayson Wurz *Front:* Kessel Medicine Shield-White Quills, Weston Desmet, Lucas Ouellette, Hanju Chung, Kroy Periard *Missing:* Tristan Johansen *Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U11 EWAA STANDARD COYOTES**



*Coaches:* MGR Nick Phillips, AC Cole McCallum, AC Jay Schultz, HC Cameron Culp *Middle:* Ryker Gerrard, Camden Hager, Blake Graham Nelson, Ryder Ings-Harder, Reid Semeniuk, Bryar Larsen, Carsten Schnarr, Dane Corbiell, Ethan Schultz, Henry Alexander McArthur, Grayson Brassard *Front:* Bodey Barnett, Jack Theran Praeker, Samuel Geeraert, Hunter Crump, Charlie Christensen, Eddie Christensen, Marc Phillips, Trace Drydale

**21/22 U11D STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* AC Danny Strasky, HC David Wells, AC Landon Pitts *Back:* Rowan Strasky, Brody Syrowy, Jody Wells, Lukas Aleksic, Gabe Reynolds, Breyden Pickett, Tanner Pitts *Front:* Carter Belton, Gurleen Hundal, Hunter Jansen, Ben Klatzel, Wyatt Pitts *Missing:* AC Julian Klatzel *Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U11C STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* AC Rob Spiller, AC Dustin Reid, AC Trent Bodeux, AC Ardi Solway, AC Andy Greenslade *Back:* Matthew Spiller, Andrew McNair, Nixon Reid, Marquet Solway, Blake Jakubiszyn, Jaxon Quinney, Charlie Ray Stewart, Drystan McKinnon *Front:* Diamond Calf Robe, Anabelle Morse, Landyn Johnston, Ryker Bodeux, Damien Fitzsimmons, Zane Greenslade *Missing:* HC Graham Fitzsimmons *Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U11B STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* HC Brian Butland, AC Mike Jones, AC Jason Dudley, AC Cody Brown *Back:* Molli Radford, Justin Homan, Titan Dudley, Caelan Pinel, Hailey Butland, Asher Paetz, Chayse Halsall, TJ Wurz, Jackson Jones *Front:* Madison Baron, Jace Kinsey, Cade Lausen, Miles Brown, Trey Baron, Jaxson Smith *Missing:* AC Ryan Kinsey, MGR Lisa Hempel-Wurz *Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U11A STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* HC Ryan Kautz, AC Paul Kautz, AC Kyle Kautz, MGR Kyle Wade, TR Matt Priolo *Back:* Gavin Thorhaug, Kaelyn Kautz, Andrew Bourgon, Trent Brown, Emmett Kautz, Walker Kautz, Jaxon Dalziel, Rhett Parker, Colton Bischoff *Front:* Finn Sewall, Cael Priolo, Oliver Wade, Grayden Shave, Lucas Van Den Bussche, AJ Aldridge *Missing:* AC Chad Sewall, AC Ryan Dalziel *Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U13 EWAA STANDARD COYOTES**



*Coaches:* AC Brad McArthur, MGR Sarah Schultz, HC Craig Christensen, AC Travis Gauthier, AC Dallas Dundas *Middle:* Lance Mckinnon, Lucas Reagan, Cale Christensen, Corbin Dundas, Tate Filkohazy, Jaxon Brindle, Ryan Reagan, Morgan Jensen *Front:* Hardy McArthur, Cale Hager, Tyson Gauthier, Travis Selgensen, Braden Schultz, Liam Barnett, Kash Koole, Seth Smith

**21/22 U13C STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* AC Clint Jansen, AC Kelly Mullins, HC Chris Legault, AC Mike Armstrong *Missing:* AC Trevor McKinnon *Back:* Holden Armstrong, Austin Jansen, Hunter Hart, William Betke, Paisley Walker, Kyler Van Oosterhout, Jackson Mullins, Max Muller, Phoenix Romkey *Front:* Cashus Tessier, Reeve Barnett, Nixon Narain, Timothy Calf-Robe, Layla Bissonnette, Tavia McKinnon, Evan Clark *Goalies:* Haedyn Coombs, Kalan Legault *Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U13B STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* AC Dan Rayton, HC Joe Van Bavel, AC Jason Schneider, AC Kevin Kent, AC Ryan Zolmer *Back:* Chaz Rayton, Warner Bell, Parker Podloski, Bose Hermanson, Jazz Waldner, Carter Kent, Jayden Schneider, Luke Van Bavel, Kale Van Bavel *Front:* Kaelym Bissett-Luyendyk, Troy Hilton, Jacob Wilson, Nolan Rayton, Jazz Waldner, Sylus Zolmer, Grady Peterson *Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U13A STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* GT Ryan Crook, AC Curtis Jensen, HC Chad Moskal, AC Joey Koester, AC Rob Spiller, AC Richard Kubin *Back:* Colton Campbell, Devin Berry, Easton Moskal, Indi Mertz, Riley Bakker, Austin Sanders, Danna Kubin, Devyn Beekman, Brock Voelk, Kale Running Rabbit *Front:* Kaylen Crook, Taggart Koester, Gray Jensen, Elway Temple, Dasan Periard, Ty Spiller *Missing:* AC Mike Periard *Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U13AA WHEATLAND BRAVES**



*Top:* Carter Radford, Cash Colpoys, HC Randy Hanas, Rhett Straub, Tyson Chambers, *Middle:* AC Jack Vergouwen, Weston Kautz, Josh Van Den Bussche, Jett Evans, Preston Ward, Grady Hanson, Eric Schrock, J.J Garner, AC Ryan Skytt, *Bottom:* Cooper Ditto, Kade Jensen, Maddux Pears, Lukas Needham, Donovan Kautz, Nixin Brown *Imageworks Photography*



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**21/22 U15 ROCKYFORD ROUGHNECKS**



**Rockyford Roughnecks U15 2021-2022**

*Back:* AC Chris Jensen, HC Jason Gauthier, Kaden Gauthier, Jace Munchrath, Cole Adamson, Daniel Dionne, Dawson Gregory, Aiden Ellis, Daniel Jensen, AC Ward Drydale, MGR Jacquelyn Brassard, AC Dave Ellis *Front:* Carson Kalbhen, Mitchell Brassard, Luke Nelson, Jonah Beingessner, Ryder Drydale, Quinton Maver, Riley Ellis  
*Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U15 FEMALE STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* AC Sam Miller, AC Jason Schneider, HC Dean Rohatynsky, AC Alyssa Lavallee *Back:* Sara Miller, Emma Labelle, Andee Winnipeg, Grayson Backfat, Alison Edwards, Emma Breaker, Hope Markel, Breanna Thiessen *Front:* Kamryn Shorhen, Addison Terry, Shea Westgard, Haidyn Rohatynsky, Jessi Schneider  
*Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U15B STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* AC Gary Ness, HC Dallas Anderson, AC Justin Markel *Back:* Nate Duggan, Brody Barber, Hunter Johnson, Tristan Mackenzie, Nathan Markel, Paiden Doore, Joe Anderson, Tanner Ness, Cash Befus *Front:* Nixon Rapuano, Gage Husband, Alex Duggan, Kyson Laroche, Nolan McKinnon, Ashton Wilson, Ryker Dielwart  
*Missing:* AC Trevor McKinnoni  
*Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U15A STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* AC Jeff Bodie, AC Steve Stovka, AC Kyle Kautz, HC Andy Stender *Back:* Connor Kautz, Riley Sherman, Ryan Homan, Noah Robinson, Sam Michta, Declan Wurz, Karson Maguire, Kolt Calf Robe, Aubrey Stender, Chase Ward *Front:* Ryan Legault, Brody Tashlikowich, Jakob Van Bulow, Lochlan Frese, Brody Stovka, Tyson Bodie, Tripp McArthur, Evan McNair  
*Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U15AA WHEATLAND WARRIORS**



**U15AA WHEATLAND WARRIORS**  
2021-2022

*Top:* Jordan Hendricks, Koen Wainwright, Kelton Stender, Kade Pierson, Cameron Johnson, Nolan Van Den Bussche, David Barclay, *Middle:* AC Mitch McAllister, Emery Medicine Shield, Mason Miller, Marcus Lehmann, Jaden Clarke, Brady Hainstock, Alex Halat, HC Derek Puttick, AC Keith Van Bavel *Front:* Steven Wawryk, Dreyton Aleman, Tate Hanson, Cody Mountjoy, Grady Watkins, Joaquin Gutierrez.  
*Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U16AA WHEATLAND RAIDERS**



**U16AA WHEATLAND RAIDERS**  
2021-2022

*Top:* AC Carter Seminuk, Sam Rieger, Zackary Wortman, Dexter Hannigan, Keric Chambers, Scott Anderson, AC Robbie Heckle *Middle:* HC Thomas Reinhardt, Nash Pierson, Corson Burns, Dawson Ward, Brock Keer, Colton Gabe, Finley Plett, Deacon Frayn, AC Devin Olson *Front:* Cooper Daines, Tanner Phillips, Devon Barody, Luke Eitzen, Scott Avery, Leland Westgard  
*Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U18 HUSSAR/BASSANO OUTLAWS**



*Back:* AC Floyd Barron, AC Rick Martin, Carson Severtson, AC Wes Kirkpatrick, Nolan Sawatsky, Jayce Rasmuson, Josh Housenga, Liam Williams, Garnet Miller, Quinn Bertschy, Riley Lunn, HC Rob Miller, Chase Fraser, AC Brian Sawatsky, MGR Amanda Barron *Middle:* Alonzo Barron, Tristen Fraser, Riley Hodgson, Jason Slemko, Eric Fladhmer, Olie Burne, Dayne Collett, Brody Hale *Front:* Cadin Hiebert

**21/22 U18 ROCKYFORD ROUGHNECKS**



**Rockyford Roughnecks U18 2021-2022**

*Back:* AC Grant Gregory, AC Ian Koester, Brody deGroot, Colton Best, Steven Newall, Landon Brindle, Braden Best, Griffin Koester, Troy Semekiuk, James Reagan, Rhett Gregory, HC Mike Phillips, MGR Sandra Best *Front:* Mitchell Nienaber, Emerson Gregory, Max Phillips, Layne Desroche, Matthew Adamson, Wyatt Koester  
*Goalies:* Levi Munchrath and Hudson Gregory  
*Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U18 FEMALE A STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* AC Sterling Hilton, HC Clay Armstrong, AC Doug Keer, AC Yulisa Solda, AC Abby Hilton *Back:* Rylee Appleyard, Tara Quinney, Jewel Hilton, Lauryn Riley, Lidia Wilks, Eliana Breaker, Jenna Bishop, Sydney White, Jasmine Thiessen, Shelby Duggan, Jaime Smith *Front:* Chelsea Stewart, Charly WardLexi Kathol, Keira Kawula, Kennedy Keer, Hannah Brown, Shayla Young  
*Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U18B STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* AC Joe Van Bavel, AC Jesse Parker *Back:* Nolan Parker, Cayden Adams, Brayden Doore, Davis Marleau, Kyle Ryan, Dantin Winnipeg, Andrew Breaker *Front:* Jake Van Bavel, Lane Mordy, Luke Van Egmond, Will Haynes, Armagan Pehlivan, Luke Aldridge, AJ Maitre  
*Goalies:* Houston Langen, Spencer Nagy *Missing:* HC Rick Adams, AC Kevin Boucher  
*Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U18A STRATHMORE STORM**



*Coaches:* AC Jason Hunter, AC Brent Trevors, HC Chad Gosling, AC Jason Clouston *Back:* Jack Morrison, Grayson Stender, Garrin Gosling, Jake Trevors, Kolten Kuryk, Mitch Gosling, Chase Lord, Leeim McDonough, Cole Tweit, Ayden Preston, Nathan Lapointe *Front:* Houston Langen, Joel Big Snake, Hunter Langen, Brett Zanidean, Carter Severin, Adam Moore, Graden Sorensen  
*Imageworks Photography*

**21/22 U18AA WHEATLAND CHIEFS**



**U18AA WHEATLAND CHIEFS**  
2021-2022

*Top:* Charles Goll, Nolan Mahussier, Sawyer Jensen, Cole Dermott, Noah Van Steenis, Caden Lomenda, *Middle:* HC Colton Grant, Eric Castro, Nate Gillis, Austin Drinkwalter, Adam Hakim, Dustin Holm, Jace Kole, Carter Gosling, AC Matt Gregory, *Front:* Rhett Harten, Chase Berg, Kyle Provencher, Domenic Ficaccio, Brandon McGillivray, Matthew Dovichak  
*Imageworks Photography*

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DRUMHELLER



DEFENSE #4  
**Chase  
CLAYTON**  
STRATHMORE



DEFENSE #6  
**Levitt  
AYOUNGMAN**  
SIKSIKA



DEFENSE #7  
**Cole  
WALKER**  
STRATHMORE



FORWARD #8  
**Emmitt  
FILKHAZY**  
STRATHMORE



FORWARD #9  
**Kyan  
WESELOWSKI**  
LANGDON



DEFENSE #10  
**Lachlan  
STEWART**  
STRATHMORE



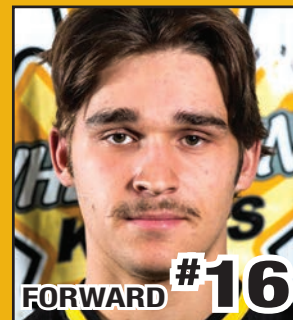
FORWARD #12  
**Josh  
ALBERDA**  
LANGDON



FORWARD #13  
**Spencer  
TOWER**  
STRATHMORE



FORWARD #15  
**Ethan  
VAN EGMOND**  
STRATHMORE



FORWARD #16  
**Jaycob  
MASCIANGELO**  
STRATHMORE



FORWARD #17  
**Braden  
TANNER**  
LANGDON



FORWARD #18  
**Kage  
YELLOWFLY**  
SIKSIKA



FORWARD #19  
**Joel  
ROMANO**  
CHESTERMERE



FORWARD #20  
**Cam  
BLACK HORSE**  
SIKSIKA



FORWARD #21  
**Walker  
VANEATON**  
STRATHMORE



FORWARD #22  
**O'Shea  
RED CROW**  
SIKSIKA



FORWARD #23  
**Nathon  
FEICK**  
STRATHMORE



FORWARD #25  
**Jayden  
HENDRICKS**  
STRATHMORE



FORWARD #26  
**Garret  
VANDER PLOEG**  
CALGARY



DEFENSE #27  
**Grady  
STOVKA**  
STRATHMORE



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**Gavin  
SMITH**  
STRATHMORE



GOALTENDER #31  
**Brett  
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**Silversharks mini meet**

Swimmers from the Strathmore Silvershark swim club met on Feb. 14 at the Strathmore Aquatic Centre to participate in a mini meet to brush up on their skills, review swim meet procedures and perhaps establish personal best times. The energy at the pool was palpable as swimmers were excited to gather as a team to support each other in friendly competition. The three hour meet ended with a friendly challenge between student and coach with the winner being ... too close to call!

Joe Lepage Photos



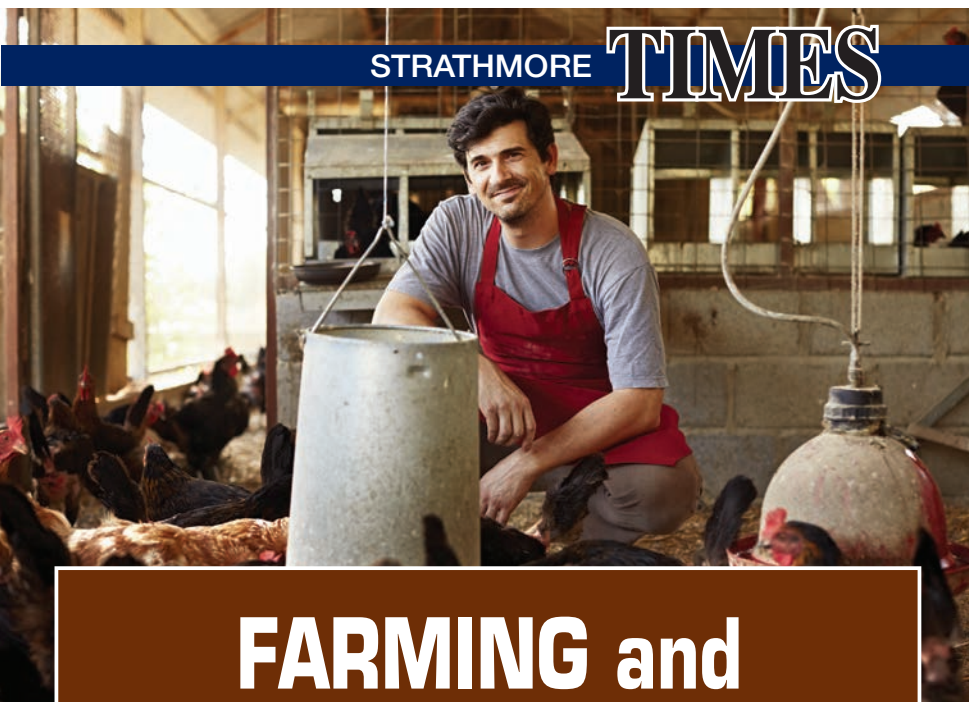
**New streak started**

The Wheatland Warriors improved to 20-6-2 on the season after a pair of wins this past weekend, including a 5-0 victory over the Medicine Hat SEAC Tigers on Feb. 11 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The local U15AA team will now host Okotoks on Feb. 19 at the Family Centre before heading to Taber the following day.

Joe Lepage Photos

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# Wheatland Kings advance to Round 2 of playoffs

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism initiative Reporter

The Wheatland Kings officially grounded the High River Flyers during their second game of the best-of-three series on Feb. 11, knocking them out of the playoffs and advancing to the second round.

Ron West, head coach for the Kings, said he was excited to see his team finally bring home a win from High River's arena and keep themselves in the season.

"It was excellent. It was a good feeling, it was something that the boys deserved and it was nice to actually be able to push forward and accomplish the goal, which was getting through the first round of the playoffs," said West.

"We scored a couple of quick goals and then basically after that, we just kept pushing the momentum. We kept the forecheck going the whole time."

The Kings ended the best-of-three series with the Flyers 2-0, after defeating them in Game 1 of the series at the Strathmore Arena 5-1, then winning again 6-2 in High River.

West said he went into the second game with a plan for his team and was ready to play the same hand

they used to clip the Flyer's wings on home ice.

"We had the two-man forecheck going and we kept pushing the momentum and made it tough for them to get out of their zone," West explained.

"They continued to cough up the puck and they gave us opportunities to score. They only had a couple of times where they had stretch passes where they had shots on net, or we made a small error, maybe in the (defensive zone)."

Despite the score suggesting what looks like an overwhelming victory for the Kings, West said it does not reflect in any sense how the game actually went.

"6-2 doesn't really show what the score was. It was 3-2 in the third with about 10 minutes left. We had a time out, they were starting to push and I just told the boys to settle down, keep pushing on the forecheck and keep creating opportunities," he said.

West commended the Flyer's goaltender before noting that once the Kings scored their fourth goal, pulling ahead by two points with less than half of the third remaining, it was plain to see the wind had been stripped from the Flyer's sails.

"Their goaltender was really good. (When) we got the one to make it 4-2, it just kind of deflated that

team (and) they kind of knew where they were at and we just put the hammer down on them."

This season marks the second playoff that West has led his team to compete in. The first year he coached the Kings, the boys made it to the first round, but were knocked out by Medicine Hat.

Following that season, were the interruptions to their seasons caused by COVID-19. Now, West said he's playing for keeps. During the upcoming round, however, the Kings will be put through the ringer.

"This is the first time in, I don't know how long it's been, since we've gotten through the first round and get to go to the second round," said West.

"We're up against Okotoks and they are top 10 in the nation. Not in Alberta, in the nation. So basically, it's David versus Goliath is where we're at."

His plan going in is to keep the boys out of the penalty box and on the ice, cautious of having to potentially suffer the Bisons in a 4v5.

Round two of the playoffs will be a best-of-seven series, with game one played on Feb. 15 in Okotoks and game two scheduled for Feb. 18 again at the Murray & Piper Arena. Games three and four will be played on Feb. 19 and Feb. 22 in Strathmore.

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## 5 tax prep tips

Tax season isn't something most people look forward to, particularly if they suspect they owe money. However, a few tax prep tips can make the process of filing a return and, if necessary, paying back taxes as pain-free as possible.

1. Call your tax preparer early. If you use an accountant or another tax preparer, be sure to book the appointment as soon as possible because slots fill up quickly. You don't want to wait until the last minute and find there are no remaining appointments.

2. Establish a tax preparation folder. Beginning in January, certain documents will arrive in the mail that will be needed to file your taxes. Documents include earnings statements, banking interest statements and documents indicating investment profits. When items arrive, stash them in your tax folder so you'll have all necessary paperwork at the ready.

3. Avoid tax scams. As tax season draws near, tax scammers target unsuspecting individuals. Another scam is individuals advertis-

ing a bigger refund when you use their services. This is not how tax laws work nor is it possible to get a return larger than what is owed. Avoid anyone promising a bigger return.

4. Consider increasing health spending account contributions. Lisa Greene-Lewis, a blog editor at TurboTax, says HSAs are triple tax-advantaged, meaning you get an "above-the-line" deduction for contributing, and the growth in these accounts as well as withdrawals are tax-free if used for qualified health expenses. If you need to lower your tax burden, HSAs may be a safe and legal way to do so.

5. Utilize tax software. If you're not using an accountant and have a relatively cut-and-dry financial situation, modern tax software can be an easy and inexpensive way to do your taxes. These sophisticated programs ask a series of detailed questions and the entire process can be completed in relatively little time.

It's almost time to get income taxes in order. Certain tips can make the process go more smoothly.



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# RCMP warn public of online gift card scam

ALBERTA RCMP

RCMP are warning the public about an online scam involving hiring people to purchase gift cards.

RCMP recently investigated an incident wherein a person was offered an online job which required them to pur-

chase gift cards in exchange for payment. The person was told to purchase gift cards for clients, which would then be reimbursed via cheque. However, when the individual deposited the cheques, the bank determined them to be fraudulent. To avoid detection, the scammers used real business informa-

tion from a business in B.C., including a logo from their website.

RCMP are offering the following tips to assist identifying fraudulent online job opportunities:

- First and foremost, if it sounds too good to be true, it typically is.
- Try to confirm that the job truly exists from a real company. Search for the company's website and find the job posting. Call the company directly to confirm the job opportunity.

- Be wary of jobs in which you are asked to transfer money to a 'client' through Bitcoin or another crypto currency, gift card, e-transfer or direct deposit into a third-party bank account provided to you.

- Other red flags for fraudulent jobs include emails that are sent from free, insecure accounts such as Gmail, Yahoo or Hotmail; you are required to supply credit card or bank information; or you are required to pay money to get the job.

The best protection from scammers is to learn how to resist being pushed into a decision regardless of how persuasive or aggressive the scammer may be. Arm yourself and the vulnerable people in your life by learning how to recognize and protect yourself from fraud. Visit Canada's Anti-Fraud Centre at [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca) for more tips.

If you have any information about these types of fraudulent activities, please contact Strathmore RCMP at 403-934-3968. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at [www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com) or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

## TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

### Obituary



**MANTHA, Jennifer Ann**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Jennifer Ann Mantha, a loving daughter, mother, wife, grandmother, friend, and colleague. Jennifer's last moments were spent in the comfort of her home surrounded by her husband Mark; daughters Samantha and Stephanie where she passed away peacefully on the evening of February 5, 2022.

Jennifer was born on October 31, 1954, in North Bay, Ontario. Jennifer, growing up surrounded by water, could be found occupying her time swimming, canoeing with friends and generally up to No Good. She later joined the Young Communist Association, a bit of a rebel I'm assuming, with the objective of pursuing the attention of a young man. As time went on, Jennifer pursued travel, music, the outdoors and cooking with her husband Mark and daughters. Jennifer also enjoyed board games as well as cards, being competitive, she often was a sore loser and usually offered a comment about cheating in good humor.

As a young adult and a single parent, Jennifer raised two daughters while pursuing an education at the University of Calgary, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education degrees in 1990 and completed her academic aspirations with a Master of Education in 2010. An accomplished science teacher with over 20 years of experience teaching First Nations adult learners eventually led into a rewarding career where she applied her experience, skills, and passion as a Health Promotion Facilitator at Alberta Health Services.

A beautiful, vibrant, empowered, and highly intelligent woman, Jennifer brought inspiration and joy to those she touched.

Jennifer is survived by her husband Mark; and two daughters Samantha and Stephanie (Dave); Stepdaughter Rebecca (Clint); and grandchildren. Jennifer is predeceased by her parents June Violet Courchesne and Joseph Paul Mantha.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alberta Cancer Foundation, c/o Tom Baker Cancer Centre. [www.albertacancer.ca/memorial](http://www.albertacancer.ca/memorial)

Jennifer's wish was to have no service. Condolences and memories may be shared on Jennifer's obituary at [www.wheatlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.wheatlandfuneralhome.com).

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Strathmore Family Centre - Gold Arena

**Strathmore Times**  
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Feb 11 Jayden Hendricks  
Feb 15 Brett Willan

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**Wednesday, March 23**  
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 Community Centre  
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**NOTICES**

  
**AGM**  
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 March 11 • 7pm  
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7	2	3	1	9	4	6	5	8
9	6	8	5	2	7	3	1	4
5	4	1	8	3	6	7	9	2
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# Strathmore

RURAL REIMAGINED

Closing Date: February 17, 2022

## Tender Opportunity

### Willow Drive Infrastructure Upgrades

Learn more at [Strathmore.ca/WillowDriveTender](http://Strathmore.ca/WillowDriveTender)

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

### Need a hand with your tax return?

Starting March 1, if you have a modest income and a simple tax situation, Strathmore FCSS and volunteers can help prepare your basic 2021 income taxes.

We accept drop ins and appointments. Visit or call FCSS at 403-934-9090, 1 Parklane Drive (new municipal building).

Learn more about the program by visiting [Strathmore.ca/TaxPrep](http://Strathmore.ca/TaxPrep)

## Upcoming Council Meetings

March 02, 2022 | 6 p.m. Regular Council Meeting  
 March 09, 2022 | 6 p.m. Committee of the Whole

In-person attendance isn't available at this time. All meetings are streamed live at [Strathmore.ca/youtube](http://Strathmore.ca/youtube)

### Want to speak at a Council Meeting?

Public are welcome to speak at Council or Committee of the Whole Meetings during the Public Comments or Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

Learn how at [Strathmore.ca/youtube](http://Strathmore.ca/youtube)

## Come work with us!

Learn more at [Strathmore.ca/Careers](http://Strathmore.ca/Careers)

## STRATHMORE WEDDING EXPO

Strathmore Civic Centre  
 February 26 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
 February 27 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information call (403) 464-4966  
 email [events@MaxSPL.com](mailto:events@MaxSPL.com)

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