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VOLUME 17 ISSUE 8

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Great jamboree

Pages 7-10



Salute to Minor Hockey

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Tariff talk

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Martin Shields, MP for the Bow River Riding, spoke regarding the ongoing threats of significant tariffs across the Canadian and United States borders.

On Feb. 1, United States President, Donald Trump implemented a 25 per cent tariff on imports from Canada, and a 10 per cent tariff on Canadian energy resources.

Since then, tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum are set to be levied, taking effect March 12, and automotive tariffs are planned to be imposed as of April 2.

Additionally, sweeping reciprocal tariffs are being threatened to see imposition over the coming weeks in response to Canada's retaliatory tariffs.

"There is two parts to addressing (the situation). One is, you hear a lot about the trade barriers within Canada, and we have significant (barriers) ... anywhere from 15 to 20-some per cent of a trade barrier that we all have inside of our own country, which you've heard one minister say we can get rid of all those within a month. That is not going to happen," said Shields. "Western Canada, these four provinces have done a lot to reduce tariffs, basically because of regulations between provinces - still there are barriers between them and it has a lot to do with the regulations in different provinces on different types of things."

Shields cited within Canada, it takes a significant amount of time for a doctor, as an example, to move from New Brunswick to Alberta and get through each of the respective regulatory steps to do so. Truck drivers, he cited, must also follow different respective regulations in each province based on local driving and transport laws.

Regarding the American side of the situation, Shields explained the approach to it is quite different than what would be required to reduce barriers between provinces.

Continued on Page 4



Great finish

Jared Rilling of the Strathmore Spartans varsity boys basketball team drives past a defender during the high school's home tournament from Feb. 14-15. The Spartans finished second in the tournament after falling to Brooks in a hard-fought final. See Page 2 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

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Home cooking

The Strathmore Spartans boys and girls high school basketball teams hosted their annual tournament Feb. 14-15.

Joe Lepage Photos

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Jamboree tourney

Four U7 teams and six U9 teams played host to the annual SMHA U7 & U9 Jamboree from Feb. 15-17 at the Strathmore Family Centre and Standard Arena. Three of the host teams included the two U9 and one U7 squads part of the Wheatland Wranglers female hockey program.

Joe Lepage Photos



PLAYOFF HOME GAMES

Game 1
Saturday, February 22
• 8 pm VS Medicine Hat

Game 3
Wednesday, February 26
• 8 pm VS Medicine Hat

Game 5 (if needed)
Sunday, March 2
• 3 pm VS Medicine Hat



Strathmore Family Centre - Gold Arena

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YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

Can consuming olive oil reduce your risk of dying from dementia? Although the Mediterranean Diet has been touted as the healthiest diet and consists of much olive oil, no one has looked at the consumption of oil by itself. The data from this American National Institutes of Health study seemed to prove that consuming olive oil in amounts of 4.5 grams to 7 grams (1/2-1 TBS) daily reduced the risk of dying from dementia.

Nearly 8 out of 10 women experience pain during the insertion of an intrauterine device (IUD). A new IUD has recently been approved by Health Canada which promises a much less painful insertion. It's called *Yanae* and comes with a novel method of insertion which makes it easier for the medical professional doing the inserting and the patient recipient.

Many people use humidifiers when their children have colds. The reviews are mixed as to whether these machines really help but increasing the humidity in the room the child sleeps in may help. Choose the cool mist ones and use distilled water in them rather than tap water which reduces the chance of microbes entering the lungs.

Creatine is a lab test often requested by your doctor. It is a measure of how well your kidneys are working. Creatine is a waste product of muscle metabolism. Your kidneys filter this waste product through the urine. If the levels are high, there may be a problem with the kidneys.

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Shields talks border situation

Continued from Page 1

“You need to understand what the Americans want, what Trump wants, and be able to respond appropriately by two ways. One, you need to be able to use the diplomatic connections you have had, and the Conservatives have had for many years, many diplomatic relationships with people elected in the US, Alberta has an office in Washington, those people have been working continuously and building relationships,” he said. “Secondly, you need to talk about if they do go this way, what is our opposite reactions that we do? Do we want to be in a trade war? What does a trade war mean? If you are getting into a tariff war, what are the repercussions for industries? I have met with several industry people in this riding, and if those trade barriers go up from the US, those industries are gone.”

Metal manufacturing in Strathmore, he added would be one such industry which would directly become under threat.

Cattle and beef products, and assorted other packaged meats are also among products which frequently pass back and forth across the border which would see significant impending local impacts.

“The oil and gas sector when they talked it to 10 per cent, it is not as severe. When you are talking 25 per cent though on the rest of them, this is problematic. I have talked to businessmen who said they will be closing their doors. They just can't survive a US tariff of 25 per cent on the things they use to make products with,” said Shields. “Also (those) in the (agriculture) industry growing specific types of crops that they send across the border, seed potatoes, seeds from other kinds of crops that are exported, they are just not competitive if they had to face a 25 per cent tariff going across the border to the US.”

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Thought for the Week

~

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					4		1	7

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Great speakers

AUBREY SHERSTABETOFF
Crowfoot 4H Multi Club

The Crowfoot 4H Multi Club held their annual Communications Event at the Nightingale Hall on Feb. 2. It was a fun day of speeches and presentations, as well as a potluck lunch. The club wishes to thank all the judges and volunteers who make this event possible. The winners from the club will be attending the 4-H District Communications Event held in Strathmore on March 8 at the Strathmore Civic Centre. Congratulations to the following winners – *Junior Speeches*: First – Aubrey, *Intermediate Speeches*: First – Paisley B., Second



The Crowfoot 4H Multi Club hosted their Communications Event and potluck lunch on Feb. 2 at the Nightingale Hall.

Photo Courtesy of Justina Sherstabetoff

– Hayes, Third – Paisley K., *Senior Speech*: First – Emersyn, *Junior Presentations*: First – Ellie-Jo, Second – Gage, Third – Monroe, *Intermediate Presentations*: First – Mackenzie, Second – Naomi, Third – Paxton, *Senior Presentations*: First – Katie, Second – Erik.

Successful season for local minor hockey clubs

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

The Strathmore Minor Hockey Association (SMHA) has experienced a season of mixed outcomes with several squads performing admirably, while others faced challenges due to early-season tier placements.

Accurately assigning teams to appropriate tiers at the season's outset remains a complex task, but overall, most teams have remained competitive in their matchups.

Player registration numbers have remained steady compared to previous years, rebounding from a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Obviously we had a dip there with COVID and (we're) starting to come back," said SMHA President Brett Thurston.

Throughout the season several teams have achieved success in external tournaments, bringing home gold medals and showcasing the organization's competitive spirit. Parental involvement has been commendable with most parents eager to contribute through various volunteer roles, though some teams occasionally face challenges in securing sufficient support.

The associations coaching development committee offers resources and mentorship to new coaches alleviating the intimidation often associated with coaching responsibilities.

The Wheatland Wranglers female hockey program, a joint venture between SMHA and other nearby associations, is now in its second year and has seen participation double to 188 girls, reflecting a growing interest in female hockey development.

March is looking to be a busy month for both the SMHA and the Wrangler programs as the U18 Wranglers are hosting provincials March 20-23, and the U11 AA are hosting provincials March 27-30.

"Again, a couple events that take a lot of manpower and sponsorships," said Thurston. "It's a good opportunity for our organization to showcase some players and volunteers and all that good stuff."

Meanwhile, the Gleichen and District Minor Hockey Association, also known as Gleichen Pond Hockey (GPH) are celebrating successful seasons marked by increased youth participation and community engagement.

This year GPH registered 110 players ranging from ages 5-17 across various divisions, including the Learn to Play program for the youngest enthusiasts. The association boasts a dedicated team of 25 coaches.

"Last year we had an exceptionally high registration of 122 players, but typically we see between 80 to 90 participants," said GPH president Shelah Downey. "Post-COVID, there's been a noticeable uptick, which we attribute to the affordability and inclusivity of our program."

Emphasizing commitment, self-discipline, and sportsmanship, GPH aims to instill values that benefit participants throughout their lives. The association prioritizes effort, recreation, and fair play focusing on building players' physical and emotional self-confidence within a cooperative team environment.

Meanwhile, the East Wheatland Athletic Association (EWAA), which consists of players from the surrounding areas of Gleichen, Hussar, Rockyford and Standard, has been a beacon of community spirit and youth development since its inception in 2014.

Established to provide local competitive athletic opportunities for children and youth, the EWAA partners with local Agricultural Societies to offer sports programs to surrounding small-town communities.

"It was in conjunction around the same time they were closing all our local schools and then they built Wheatland Crossing," said coaching coordinator Jason Gauthier.

He explained that they wanted to go the same route and have all the kids who go to school together play together instead of being spread all over.

In 2024 the association officially adopted the name East Wheatland Athletic Association, reflecting its commitment to uniting various communities under one banner. This collaborative effort has not only fostered a sense of unity, but also ensured that local arenas remain vibrant hubs of activity, with residents actively participating in and supporting youth hockey.

This season saw 80 young athletes registered, ranging from U7 to U15 divisions, with plans to expand to the U18 division next year.

The EWAA's success is deeply rooted in the dedication of its 11-member board comprised of individuals from diverse communities and backgrounds. Their collective efforts, along with the unwavering support of coaches, managers, parents, and volunteers have been instrumental in the association achievements.

The association is excited to be hosting their first awards and banquet night on April 4 at the Standard Community Hall.

"This will be our first ever awards night and banquet as kind of a wind up thing," said Gauthier. "Also, a thank you to all of our coaches and managers and parents and all of our volunteers."

As the season progresses into playoffs, the EWAA remains optimistic. While winning banners is a cherished goal, the association places a higher value on the holistic development of its young athletes. By emphasizing effort, recreation, and fair play, the EWAA ensures that participants not only hone their hockey skills, but also develop life skills that will benefit them and society in the long run.

Times CORRECTION

In the Feb. 5 issue of the *Strathmore Times*, we listed the girls graduating from the Wheatland Wranglers U18 female hockey team.

We accidentally left off Addison Terry's name.

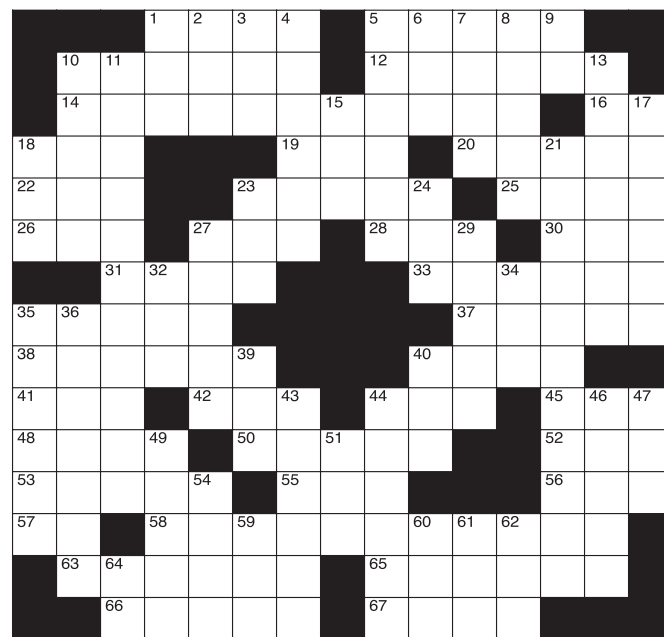
We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



Floral honour

The Wheatland Wranglers U18 female hockey team honoured the graduating players who finished their minor hockey career on Feb. 8. The graduating players are Emma Breaker (l-r), Dina Abdallah, Tameka Brough, Grayson Backfat, Rylee Potiuk, Kamryn Shorhen, Addison Terry and Ali Edwards.

Joe Lepage Photo



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tropical Asian plant
- 5. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 10. Helps to preserve food
- 12. Plant disease
- 14. One who predicts
- 16. Equally
- 18. Burundian franc
- 19. Pouch
- 20. Arizona city
- 22. Surround
- 23. Hard, heavy timber
- 25. Witnessed
- 26. They ___
- 27. French river
- 28. A way to drink
- 30. Small constellation
- 31. Peruse a written work
- 33. Type of hound
- 35. Plant of the goosefoot family
- 37. Evade or escape
- 38. A way to confine
- 40. Volcanic crater
- 41. Weekday
- 42. Women's service organization (abbr.)
- 44. Local area network
- 45. Sensory receptor
- 48. Posted
- 50. Tibetan pastry
- 52. Licensed for Wall Street
- 53. Very willing
- 55. Golf score
- 56. Consume
- 57. Touchdown
- 58. Tends to remind
- 63. In a way, smoothed
- 65. Poke holes in the ground
- 66. Herbaceous plants
- 67. Taiwanese river

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body art
- 2. Boxing's GOAT
- 3. Film for posterity (abbr.)
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Calculating machine
- 6. Keyboard key
- 7. Outburst
- 8. Man-eating giants
- 9. New Hampshire
- 10. Type of sword
- 11. Counting
- 13. Pants style
- 15. Political action committee
- 17. U.S. government legislative branch
- 18. Civil Rights Act component
- 21. Contractors take one
- 23. Spanish soldier
- 24. A person's brother or sister
- 27. Expressed pleasurer
- 29. Song of praise
- 32. Shock treatment
- 34. Patti Hearst's captors
- 35. Counteract
- 36. Goes over again
- 39. Popular Dodge truck
- 40. Male adult
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Rope used to lasso
- 46. Become less intense
- 47. Subway rodent
- 49. Lead alloy
- 51. Japanese honorific title
- 54. Advise someone
- 59. Famous NYC museum
- 60. Ocean
- 61. Cathode-ray tube
- 62. Cologne
- 64. It starts with these two

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Funded by the Government of Canada | Canada

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Strathmore Times is published every Wednesday by Strathmore Times Inc. and our coverage area is Strathmore, Carseland, Cheadle, Cluny, Gleichen, Hussar, Lyalta, Namaka, Nightingale, Rosebud, Speargrass and Standard. We also have various pickup locations throughout our coverage area. We are printed by Star Press Inc., Wainwright, Alberta. The content in the Strathmore Times is copyright and reproduction without the proper written consent of the Strathmore Times is strictly prohibited.

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WHEATLAND COUNTY

Upcoming Meetings

- March 4, 2025 | 9 a.m. Council Meeting
- March 11, 2025 | 9 a.m. Municipal Planning Commission
- March 27, 2025 | 9 a.m. Committee of the Whole

Council and committee meetings are open to the public in person and via teleconference. To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted. You can also watch the meetings later on YouTube. Agenda packages are available on our website. For public hearings, it is best to attend in person.

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OPEN HOUSE MEETING

TUESDAY
February 25, 2025

STARTS AT
7:00 PM

LOCATION
Carseland Community Hall
330 Railway Avenue W,
Carseland Alberta

2025 Municipal Election

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24/25 LTP POND HOCKEY GLEICHEN GUNNERS TUESDAYS



24/25 LTP POND HOCKEY GLEICHEN GUNNERS THURSDAYS



24/25 U13 POND HOCKEY GLEICHEN GUNNERS TUESDAYS



24/25 U13 POND HOCKEY GLEICHEN GUNNERS THURSDAYS



24/25 U17 POND HOCKEY GLEICHEN GUNNERS TUESDAYS



24/25 U17 POND HOCKEY GLEICHEN GUNNERS THURSDAYS



24/25 STRATHMORE INTRO TO HOCKEY
 STRATHMORE INTRO TO HOCKEY 2024/25

Top Row Left: Coach - Michael Lane, Cole, Colton, Ethan, Brian, Matt, Brooke, 2nd Row Left: Oliver Hall, Jon Wurz, Shyla Doiron, Brandon McAleer, Hardy Leboldus, Corbin McKenzie, Tessa Cameron, Jasper Tuff, Kane McDonald, Heidi MacDonald, Kyllyn Collins, Harrod, Dorethy Grant, Wade Leboldus, Sawyer Dolon, Front Row Left: Dawson Wilson, Nash Russell, Charlie Janes, Aubree Dyon, Rowan Wilson, Colin Schwieger, William Butler, Douglas Dilts, Everett Young, Chloe Head, Greyson Kuzosky, Quinn Leboldus, Avery Little.
 Imageworks Photography

24/25 U7 EWAA

F - Braxton Koustrup, Augustus Stokes, Easton Kirkpatrick, Tex Johnson, Jack Gordon, Rylan Geeraert, Crue Dundas. M - Nathan Gregory, Oakie Dundas, Tilley Gordon, Ezra Bryant, Livy Christensen, Lennie Blasken. B - Beth Dundas (M), Wes Kirkpatrick (AC), Garett Stokes (AC), Brad Dundas (AC).
 A - Jett Munchrath, Brendan Christensen (HC)
 Kelly Jennings Photography

24/25 U7 JR BRUINS

Top Row Left: AC-Tyson Goebel, AC-Rance Coulter, HC-Kennan Desmet, AC-Kyle Geerart, 2nd Row Left: Kade Huntley, Harvey Goebel, Tucker Coulter, Waylon Head, Isla Baldwin, Benjamin Elliott, Front Row Left: Owen Geerart, Doc Desmet, Oliver Hall, Branson Peoples.
 Imageworks Photography

24/25 U7 JR RANGERS

Top Row Left: AC-Hayden Warrack, HC-Nick Graff, AC-Chad Bryan, 2nd Row Left: Parker Bryan, Ryerson Montgrand, Nash Belton, Luc Sveistrup, Cooper Warrack, Jamison Phibbs, Front Row Left: Lincoln Maier, Greyson Leboldus, Roman Graff, Bennett Gregory, Missing: AC-Michael Leboldus.
 Imageworks Photography

24/25 U7 SR ANGRY PICKLES

Top Row Left: AC-Bryan McAleer, AC-Evan Barlow, HC-Kees St. Godard, AC-Mike Periard, 2nd Row Left: Jake Soch, Zach Barlow, Ladd Periard, Dylan Toovey, Calder St. Godard, Front Row Left: Grayson Stoodley, Nixon Woodson, Cameron McAleer, Dax Mezi.
 Imageworks Photography

24/25 U7 WHEATLAND WRANGLERS
 U7 WRANGLERS

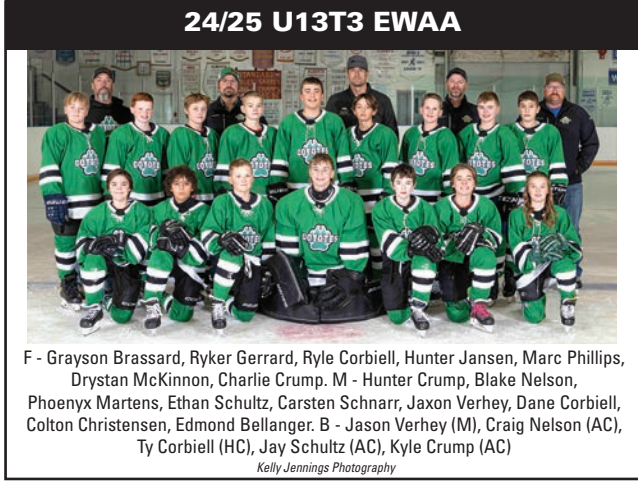
KYLE GRAY, KIRBY GRAY, JASON GRAY, BRAD GRAY, JACOB GRAY, JACOB GRAY
 DUNCAN GRAY, TALE GRAY, ALI GRAY, NIA GRAY, JOEY LINDEN, LINDA STEWART, TAYLOR STODOLY, WINN GRAY
 One Shot Sports Photography

24/25 U9 GREEN EWAA

F - Logan Eicher, Weston Crozier, Denver Hardy, Chase Wheatley, Lucas Blasken, Graham Jensen. M - Grayson Nielsen, Max Olineck, Jonathan Schultz, Josephine Bellanger, Ty Gregory. B - Brittany Eicher (M), Dooz Wheatley (AC), Belinda Nielson (AC). A - Drew Gregory (HC)
 Kelly Jennings Photography

24/25 U9 WHITE EWAA

F - Troy Deisman, Nolan Leskiw, Isaac Koester, Reid Rasmussen, Atticus Stokes
 M - Kaleb Klemmensen, Daxton Hazel, Clark Dundas, Brody Gordon, Barron Corbiell. B - Katie Hazel (M), Joe Elliot (AC), Darcy Koester (HC), Joel Rasmussen (AC). A - Garrett Stokes (On Ice Helper)
 Kelly Jennings Photography



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STETTLER



FORWARD #55

Hayden
BAKER
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Good Luck in the Playoffs!

Rising star coming to Strathmore

MELISSA PICHE
Times Reporter

The Strathmore Musical Arts Society is bringing rising country music star Travis Dolter to the Strathmore Travelodge on Feb. 22.

Dolter's passion for music ignited at the tender age of five when he began performing with his Ukrainian family



Travis Dolter will perform at the Strathmore Travelodge on Feb. 22, hosted by the Strathmore Musical Arts Society.

Photo Courtesy of Carla Lehman

band. Over the years he has evolved into a dynamic entertainer, captivating audiences with his engaging stage presence and diverse musical repertoire.

"I grew up singing in the Ukrainian family band from when I was about five years old. I just really got this itch for performing because I had this opportunity to do it," said Dolter. "My piano player, Lane Anderson, was actually born and raised in Strathmore and he's probably my best friend so I go to Strathmore quite a bit."

Attendees can anticipate a blend of original songs and classic covers all delivered with Dolter's signature enthusiasm. He emphasized the importance of storytelling in his performances.

"Every song that I write has a story behind it," he said. "I like to look at the positives in life and just kind of make people laugh and make people smile."

His music reflects his small-town roots, blending country influences with elements of old rock and roll. Known for his positive and lively attitude, Dolter's storytelling through song resonates with a wide range of audiences.

One of Dolter's notable tracks, Hell of a Saturday Night, was inspired by nostalgic reflections on barn dances and has garnered significant attention, even being featured during Hockey Day in Canada.

Chantelle de Jonge, MLA
Chestermere-Strathmore
403-962-0126
129 2nd Avenue
Strathmore, AB T1P1K1
Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca

"We started just talking about, kind of our past and how we just missed those days of barn dances," he said. "It was always a hell of a Saturday night when you went to one."

For more information about Travis Dolter and his music, visit his official website (travisdolter.com).

The doors open for the concert at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. and the show commencing at 8 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$60 and are available for purchase online (strathmorearts.com).

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Local curlers earn spot at Rockfest West

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore's Evan Clark, Ava Dumont, and Nash McCutcheon have each qualified to attend Rockfest West, a U15 curling competition which aims to help youth develop their skills.

"Rockfest West is a singles curling competition for kids aged 11 to 14 – the Top 20 male and female juniors from the province of Alberta will be going to Kelowna at the end of February to compete against other kids from BC, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories," said Michael McCutcheon, program coordinator for the Strathmore Curling Club.

McCutcheon explained Clark and Dumont both qualified to attend during a regional qualifier event which took place in Okotoks in November 2024. They each achieved the highest individual scores in their respective categories at the time.

Nash McCutcheon was able to qualify, being among the Top 5 curlers in his category noted on Curling Canada's Singles Curling App within Alberta.

The 120 participating youth will throw 12 stones each and will be scored based on those shots. As an event, Rockfest West will provide the youths with a space to make new friends, meet potential future teammates, and provide training sessions both on and off the ice.

"The three kids here were in the Top 40 in the province, which is pretty exceptional," said McCutcheon. "The whole event is, Curling Canada will put these kids into separate groups, some with different kids from different provinces, and then they will form teams of four just like a normal team. They will throw their rock, they will have sweepers, and they will have a skipper at the end calling line."

Each participant in the event will ultimately

be scored individually based on how they throw their own rocks.

The competition period will largely consist of a qualifying stage, narrowing the pool to the Top 15 males and Top 15 females who will compete in the finals. The conclusion of the competition will see the top three crowned at the event.

"For the younger kids, it is more about the experience getting to meet the top-level curlers at the Brier, getting the experience, meeting new friends, (and) potential new teammates in the future," said McCutcheon. "For example, Nash, who is 11, he has got a long way to go but it is going to be a great experience for all three kids."

Rockfest West will be taking place from Feb. 27 to March 1 at the Kelowna Curling Club. Youth curlers may find more information, as well as how to qualify for future events through Curling Canada online resources.



Nash McCutcheon (l-r), Ava Dumont and Evan Clark will attend Rockfest West in Kelowna, B.C. later this month.

Photo Courtesy of Michael McCutcheon

Making childcare affordable

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Alberta is taking significant steps to support families by making childcare more affordable and accessible. As part of the \$3.8-billion Canada-Alberta Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, the province is introducing a flat monthly parent fee of \$326.25 for full-time licensed childcare, which works out to roughly \$15 a day. Starting April 1, parents with children from zero to kindergarten age attending full-time licensed daycare facilities and family day home programs will be eligible for this reduced rate. For part-time care, parents will pay \$230 per month.

To support these changes and high-quality childcare, about 85 per

cent of licensed daycare providers will receive a funding increase once the new fee structure is in place on April 1. This initiative is aimed at supporting families in accessing high-quality childcare while also offering them the flexibility to choose their preferred provider.

Every day, parents and families across Alberta rely on licensed childcare providers to support their children's growth and development while going to work or school. Licensed childcare providers and early childhood educators play a crucial role in helping children build the skills they need to support their growth and overall health. As Alberta's population grows, the need for high-quality, affordable and accessible licensed and regulated childcare is increasing.

In addition to supporting families

with childcare, Alberta is investing in the province's irrigation infrastructure through the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program to help boost agricultural productivity.

Irrigation helps farmers increase yields, grow more diverse crops, and improve crop quality, to put more food on tables in Alberta and around the world. The irrigation district network is essential to farmers, ranchers, food processors and communities, providing much-needed water for agriculture, processing and other industries, domestic use, recreation, and wildlife habitat.

Last year, Alberta's government increased funding for the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program to \$19 million, up from \$13.5 million the year before. This cost-shared program helps irrigation districts modernize infrastructure to deliver water efficiently and reliably to producers, processors and communities. Since the funding was announced, 14 projects have begun or progressed in Alberta's 11 irrigation districts.

Finally, Alberta's government will re-

lease Budget 2025 on Thursday, Feb. 27 at the start of the new spring legislative session.

Last year, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance Nate Horner released Budget 2024: A responsible plan for a growing province, which focused on strengthening health care and education, building safe communities, and managing resources wisely.

Over 2023 and 2024, Alberta's population grew at an unprecedented rate, and it has put intense strain on many of the province's public services. Budget 2025 will meet the challenge of this strain while helping plan for the future. Stay tuned for updates on the breakdown of Budget 2025 in the coming weeks.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with your feedback and concerns (chestermere.strathmore@assembly.ab.ca).

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hopes for Alberta's future

To the Editor

To those among us who seek a political position or re-election, I wish to express my concerns/opinions. I have had discussions with many individuals from a number of constituencies within our province and have taken note of their concerns, expectations and hopes for Alberta's future. This feedback is condensed and redirected to our federal members of parliament (MP's) and the conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, but also to the members of our legislative assembly (MLA's) and Premier Danielle Smith. My many discussions and feedback yielded the following immediate action items and concerns.

1 Kill the proposed increases to the capital gains tax.

2 Albertans are demanding an end to untenable equalization payments that have burdened Alberta while enriching Quebec and other eastern provinces. The constitution needs to be reopened and rebuilt to address fairness for all provinces. Alberta has been the lifeblood of Canada for many years and yet we are simultaneously bled by Liberals (Laurentian Elites) and NDP socialists whose only wish is to crush our oil and gas industry, the liquid gold that supports equalization. That said, many are asking, "Why is this topic not on Mr. Poilievre's agenda?"

3 With respect to new Oil & Gas infrastructure (pipelines), immediate action is

required to expand the transportation of energy assets to both the east & west. Projects such as Northern Gateway and the Trans-Canada East Pipeline need to be on the table and approved post haste while Bill C-69 is squashed.

4 Most Canadians believe our federal leadership has failed us and placed Canada in a vulnerable position with all our trading partners, not just the USA. This situation must be addressed and can only happen when energy infrastructure is built.

5 Agriculture in our province plays a significant role in our economy, yet it is forced to deal with setback after setback. It is time for interprovincial trade reform.

6 Finally, all carbon taxes must be eliminated as they currently choke our capacity to expand our economy.

Collectively we are amazed at how politicians have become lethargic, boring and repetitive in their platforms and sermons; yet all you need to do is go to the gas pump, the grocery store, restaurants, etc. to experience our rising cost of living. The days of lip service to the masses need to end. Most Albertans that understand common sense and business are expecting our elected officials to make serious progress on the aforementioned items, especially given the dire warnings of tariffs and taxes from south of the border. Trump does not take prisoners!

Continued on Page 13

ARTS ON 817 PRESENTS

Steve Pineo with Horns



Photo by John Rutherford

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Library celebrates anniversary of poetry café program

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Municipal Library hosted a celebration, Feb. 14, for the first anniversary of its Poetry Café, which creates an open mic environment for its attendees.

“We are seeing over 30 young adults and teens come, although anyone is welcome to attend, to perform any sort of thing that they would like to do,” said Laura Henderson, public services manager for the library. “Sometimes they do poems or songs that they have written themselves, sometimes they perform others, but this month, because it is our one-year anniversary celebration, we had a few extra treats and we invited everyone to dress up a bit fancier.”

Henderson explained she was approached several years ago with the idea to launch a poetry café by Michael Ajirireloja, a local youth who expressed a passion for mental health in youth and young adults, and a desire to see a program established for people to express themselves.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Albertans need answers and actions

Continued from Page 12

Sadly, we may become one of his prisoners because our federal government has and continues to misrepresent us. At the same time our provincial governments hardly talk to each other, which does not predict well for interprovincial trade.

Federal and provincial failure at this point in time will result in Albertans demanding a referendum on our future. Separation from this failed confederation may be the outcome! In our collective opinion there are no other options.

A statement voiced by most of the people I speak to indicate they are at a point of exhaustion with our situation and their war cry is “Alberta first!”

Make no mistake, they mean it as the political climate is changing rapidly! Albertans need answers and action and the best way to do that is by getting it done. Our constitution continues to prove it is terribly flawed and failing! Finally, more so than ever, our citizens have removed their blinders. They understand the current governmental structure totally favours the east, while the west continues to be pillaged!

In closing, many citizens are frustrated/disappointed with their elected officials, since personal communication channels fade once MPs and MLAs have their positions solidified.

It appears their ability to communicate via email or phone calls diminishes over time. On this note, it may be wise to always remember there is always another election on the horizon. It is frustrating dealing with voicemails or an auto-response from a machine which quite often just relays “thank you for your email” or simply “it was just received.”

Our elected officials need to keep in mind and rethink how and why they arrived at where they are and further realize phone lines do work in both directions. To put it bluntly, please remember “who works for whom?”

With all that is said, all party supporters and party members are asked to disclose their personal contact info (phone numbers/email addresses, etc.) which of course enables them to send updates, yet most simply solicit for more financial funding or donations. This is acceptable as financial funding is vital in maintaining integrity and longevity of our party of choice, but one becomes tired of it particularly when multiple donations have already been made.

I hope that any and all of this feedback and these opinions are received with respect and for consideration by the intended recipients.

Respectfully and regards
Wilf Kautz
Wheatland County

The library has taken to hosting the program on the second Friday of every month, with the doors opening at 6:30 p.m. to the public, and the program starting at 7:00 p.m.

“It is a larger undertaking than a lot of our programs. We really do turn a portion of the library into a little café with tables, twinkly lights, and a mini stage that we have,” said Henderson. “We approached it originally as a poetry slam type of event. We went in with a format of you had to register and we scheduled times, (Ajirireloja) would announce the next people coming up, and that sort of thing.”

She explained the team behind the café realized quickly, registration for the program created a barrier to entry, with many who were curious being reluctant to commit to an expectation of them to perform.

Instead, the poetry café was restructured as the open mic space it has settled into being today. Given a lack of rigid formatting, performances have even included improv showings and skits that attendees have performed.

“Our first couple of sessions of the program really did look a lot different from this one. We had about 16 to 20 for the first couple, but we very quickly were seeing well over 30 people attending,” said Henderson. “We originally held this around the fireplace area in the front foyer of the library, but we grew out of that very quickly so now we have moved into the main library and we transform the children’s area into the café in order to accommodate. We have had up to 45 in that space and that is close to the capacity without making some big changes to the way we are running the program.”

Among the ideas for the future of the program is to potentially run a “Young Poets Café” which would run during school hours instead of outside of library operation hours and would see classes invited to come in and perform while their poetry units are being explored in school.

If there are any businesses or restaurants that are interested in hosting a poetry night, the library is open to exploring the idea as well, though no steps in that direction have yet been taken.

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The dangers of distracted driving

ALBERTA RCMP

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In 2024, the Alberta RCMP charged a total of 3,942 motorists with distracted driving. Remembering the following points can ensure your commute is free of distractions:

- If it impairs your driving – it's a distraction. Distracted driving is not limited to texting or talking on a handheld device while operating a vehicle — it also includes personal grooming, reading, writing, adjusting GPS or audio devices, attending to passengers or pets, and any other activity that might impair your ability to operate a vehicle safely.

- Plan ahead. Before putting your

vehicle in drive, prepare by pre-setting your hands-free device, GPS, radio or music.

- Pull over and put it in park. If you need to text, make a call, or engage in any distracting activity, pull over where it is safe and park your vehicle. Simply stopping at a red light is not safe and is still considered distracted driving.

- Distracted driving isn't worth it. The penalty for distracted driving in Alberta is a \$300 fine and three demerit points. The bigger price you pay is risking your own safety and the safety of others.

"It may seem harmless to check a text or switch a song while driving, but that second where your attention is diverted could have devastating consequences," says Sgt. Darrin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic. "Distractions behind the wheel are never worth putting yourself, or other motorists, at risk."

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Upcoming Council Meetings

February 29, 2025 | 6 p.m. Regular Meeting of Council
 March 5, 2025 | 6 p.m. Regular Meeting of Council
 March 12, 2025 | 6 p.m. Committee of the Whole

Come Say Hi

Hearing from the community is really important to us, so you're welcome at any Council or Committee of the Whole meeting. You do not need to call ahead or register to observe Strathmore Council in action. There is ample public seating and additional standing room if needed. You can also watch livestreamed meetings online as they happen, or catch up later on YouTube.

Public notice to electors.

Borrowing Bylaw.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Strathmore, in the Province of Alberta, has given first reading to borrowing By-law No. 25-03 which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of the said Town to borrow monies from a Canadian Chartered Bank or the Government of Alberta on the general credit and security of the municipality, to pay for upgrades to the Wildflower Reservoir located in Strathmore, Alberta.

The total borrowing required for the aforementioned project is \$5,450,000. The borrowing is to be repayable in monthly, semi-annual, or annual equal payments of combined principal and interest installments not to exceed a repayment period of twenty-five (25) years, at an interest rate as fixed from time to time by the Canadian Chartered Bank or other financial institution. The annual rate of interest is not to exceed five and a half percent per annum (5.5%).

NOW THEREFORE NOTICE is hereby given by the Council of the Town of Strathmore that, unless a petition of the electors for a vote on By-law No. 25-03 is demanded, as provided for by the terms of Section 231 of the Municipal Government Act, the said Council may pass the said borrowing by-law.

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

DATED at the Town of Strathmore, in the Province of Alberta this 22nd day of January 2025.

Per: Riley Brolly, CPA
 Manager, Financial Planning, Budgeting & Reporting

Ready to vote?

2025 Municipal Election.

Every Canadian citizen has the right to vote. It is how Canadians choose which leaders represent them. Your community is shaped by the outcome of an election. When you take part in an election and express your view, you make democracy work.

Every four years Strathmore holds a Municipal Election where residents elect a Mayor and six Councillors. In Strathmore, Council members are elected at-large, which means the Mayor and Councillors represent the entire population. Strathmore does not have wards, voters in the town may choose up to six candidates for Council, and one candidate for Mayor.

The next general election will be Monday, October 20, 2025.

- Nomination Period: January 1, 2025 – September 22, 2025
- Nomination Day Deadline: September 22, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.
- Election Day: October 20, 2025, polls open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

For more information about the upcoming election, please visit our website, Strathmore.ca/Election.

Development Permit D25-006 Appeal.

Notice of Hearing.

Notice of Appeal on Development Permit D25-006 for the Property Located at 408 Strathford Boulevard, Strathmore AB Lot 6, Block 11, Plan 991 0219

Development Permit Regarding: Residential Addition with 2.67m variance to the rear yard setback

The Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) received a Notice of Appeal on January 27, 2025. The SDAB will hear the appeal on:

Date(s): Thursday, February 20, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Town of Strathmore Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB

Adjacent landowners have the right to be heard by the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. Affected persons include people who speak in favour or against the decision being appealed.

Persons are asked to provide any written and/or visual presentations to the clerk no later than noon on February 14, 2025.

Please be aware that any submissions are collected for the purpose of a public hearing. By making a submission you are consenting that all information that it contains – including addresses, personal or other sensitive information – to be forwarded to the parties (e.g. municipality, appellant, applicant), the board/panel and any other person who requests to see the material.

The Development Permit Application, Notice of Decision and Notice of Appeal are available for review at the Strathmore Municipal Building, at 1 Parklane Drive during regular business hours, being 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at **403-934-3133** or veronica.anderson@strathmore.ca.

Lifeguard academy.
 Academy dates now available. Visit Strathmore.ca/recreation for more info.

Income tax program.
 Get help preparing your basic income taxes. Learn more at Strathmore.ca/FCSS

Happy heart, happy life.

February is Heart Month.

In North America, February is marked as "Heart Month" – a time to bring attention to the importance of cardiovascular health, and what we can do to reduce our risk of cardiovascular disease.

We have a challenge for you.

Join us for the third annual Heart Month Challenge and make moving a priority this February. Here's what to do:

- Walk or swim as much as you can throughout the month.
- Track your distance with us.
- Beat last year's distance of 3,262.31 km.

There will be prizes for the top participant and you can try your luck for a prize draw with bonus entries. Visit Strathmore.ca/recreation for more information.

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