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Page 3



Captivating concert

Page 11



Kings on the brink

RCMP to receive assistance

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore authorized Mayor Pat Fule to sign a letter of support regarding community peace officer command during the Feb. 19 regular meeting of council.

Mark Pretzlaff, director of community and protective services for the Town of Strathmore, presented before council, administration received a report from the office of the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, Mike Ellis, requesting urgent action to redeploy operational control of community peace officers to the local law enforcement jurisdiction. In Strathmore's case, this jurisdiction being the Strathmore RCMP detachment under Staff Sgt. Mark Wielgosz.

"As the letter indicates, this is to support both federal and provincial efforts to combat illegal fentanyl trafficking and consumption," said Pretzlaff. "They are trying to rally municipalities to cede operational command of community peace officers to the local law jurisdiction. The specific duties for these individuals has yet to be determined."

The letter from the office of the Minister was received by the town, Feb. 14, with a deadline to authorize a letter of support by or before Feb. 19 to show support for the initiative.

Fule explained the initiative was launched extremely quickly by the United Conservative Party with the concept of bylaw officers being used to supplement and support RCMP in communities where there is great concern from the province regarding fentanyl use, trafficking, and border security.

"This is planned to be a temporary initiative, and it is something that the mid-size cities' mayors caucus has also supported and a letter has been sent out," said Fule. "This is a very high priority, time sensitive one that the UCP feels is incredibly important."

Continued on Page 4



Terrific jump

Instructor Dallas Holloway shows off some moves during the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Game Day on Feb. 22 at the Ag Pavillion at the Strathmore Stampede Grounds. The free public skateboarding event taught the basics of sport with ample time to train with instructors.

Joe Lepage Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Kings invite students to playoff series for free

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Agra Risk Wheatland Kings have announced they are offering free admission to students over the course of their playoff run this season.

“It is just something that we wanted to do to give back; we do not need to be nickel and diming our students, and it costs the team nothing to give back, so we are proud to give students free admission throughout the entire playoff run,” said Cody Holdaway, general manager of the Agra Risk Wheatland Kings. “For those who do not know, my mom works in the school system, our head coach is the principal of the local high school, so we just sat down and we had a discussion like, ‘hey, why don’t we do this,’ and it was actually Doug (Raycroft’s) idea to get more of the high school kids out.”

Earlier in the season, the Kings hosted a Student Night where local students were given free admission on a specific night, and for any typical home game, students already get half price admission.

For this year’s playoff run, the goal is to get as many fans out as possible as often as possible to cheer on the team.

“It is the first time in franchise history that the team has received a first-round bye. As we go into the south semifinal, we are pretty excited to be able to face

off against the Cubs,” said Holdaway. “Nothing is not within reach, we know what we need to do, we know what job needs to be done and I think we can do it.”

This Kings roster has set the franchise record for the single most wins over the course of a season, with a final score of 27 wins, 10 losses, and one overtime loss, netting 55 league points.

Holdaway noted the previous record was 17 wins. This record was broken prior to Christmas, which marked just shy of the halfway point through the season.

“Just over a year ago when I took office, I promised a bold new era and a new face for hockey in the region and I think we have accomplished that – every-

thing from our fan experience to the presence we have online, we have reimagined everything from the ground up and we are not done yet,” he said. “Just from being out in the community and online, I think fan support for this club is at an all-time high. We have never seen support like this ... obviously the wins help with that, but I think this team does a lot of the work in the community as well and we give back so I think people are giving back to us as well.”

The first games of the playoff series against the Medicine Hat Cubs took place Feb. 22 and 23. Game 3 is scheduled for Feb. 26.



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Dolter shines

The Strathmore Travelodge was host to Travis Dolter's sold-out performance on Feb. 22 as part of the Strathmore Musical Arts Society concert series. Dolter and his band, featuring Strathmore local Lane Anderson on the keyboard, delighted the crowd with a robust set featuring cover tunes, as well as some of Dolter's original works. The concert goers were also blessed to hear the musical genius of Strathmore's very own, Melissa Matheson and The Locals, featuring Mike Smith (Guitar) and Erin Gregory (vocals).

Melissa Piche Photos

County MPC approves development permits

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County Municipal Planning Commission reviewed five development permit applications during the Feb. 11 meeting, approving each in turn over the course of the session.

Development Permit application DP 2024-134 is to address the non-compliant structures located on the subject lands within the Hamlet of Gleichen.

A compliance review indicated the covered deck on the front of the dwelling did not have a development permit and does not meet the required setbacks.

Additionally, an existing shed and fence on the property also do not meet the required setbacks. On Dec. 17, an encroachment agreement for these two structures was presented to council and was approved, providing support for the variance application.

In order to receive a compliant status, variances are required for the front deck, shed and fence. Alternatively, the option for the non-compliant structures to be removed from the parcel was presented, or the structures could be moved to be within the required setbacks.

Administration had recommended to the Municipal Planning Commission that the application be approved, subject to several conditions included in the presented recommendation. The application was approved unanimously.

Development Permit application DP 2024-136 was for a non-compliant metal shed located on subject lands within the Hamlet of Gleichen which required two variances to be granted in order to reach compliant status.

Alternatively, options were presented for the shed to be removed from the parcel, or a permit may be issued to move the structure into compliance.

No concerns regarding the shed have been raised from surrounding landowners or internal staff, including any concerns regarding fire, as the subject shed is made of metal.

Staff are also of the opinion that the land use bylaw variance criteria has been met and recommended such a variance be granted, subject to several conditions.

The Municipal Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the variance application, subject to conditions outlined by county staff.

Development Permit application DP 2024-143 proposed to address several non-compliant structures on the subject lands, west of the Town of Strathmore.

A compliance review identified eight existing farm buildings, an existing secondary dwelling, a shipping container, and a walkway from the accessory dwelling to the main dwelling to all be in non-compliance with applicable land use bylaws.

Four of the identified farm buildings do not meet setback requirements of the land use bylaw and would require variances. The accessory dwelling is a discretionary use in the land use bylaw and requires approval from the Municipal Planning Commission. The building in question is existing and meets land use bylaw requirements; however, was it constructed in 2003 without permits.

Administration recommended the Municipal Planning Com-

mission approve the application, and variances be granted to the three outlined wood shelter farm buildings. The structure identified as Farm Building (Shop A) must be relocated within the parcel or removed from the property entirely.

The application was approved by the Municipal Planning Commission matching the recommendation of administration. The applicant must have the Shop A structure relocated prior to Oct. 31.

Development Permit application DP 2024-333 requested a variance for an existing Quonset which did not meet setback requirements outlined in the land use bylaw.

The parcel in question is located approximately nine kilometers southwest of the Village of Rockyford and is surrounded by agricultural lands on all sides.

Administration recommended the application for variance be granted on the basis that no concerns have been raised from surrounding landowners or by an internal peer review regarding the Quonset. County staff are of the opinion that variance criteria has been met.

The application was passed by the MPC unanimously and without discussion following its presentation.

Development Permit application 2025-003 was for the construction of a new church to replace the structure that was lost to a fire in 2023.

The new building will be constructed in the same location as the previous one; however, the new church will not feature a basement and the base footprint will be larger at ground level.

The requested variance is in regards to the setback proposed regarding the west property boundary, adjacent to Range Road 242. The required setback via the bylaw is 22.86 meters, while the proposed setback for the new building is only 15.24 meters.

Subject lands are owned by the church and are zoned for community service. The parcel is surrounded by agricultural land, as well as acreages.

Administration recommended the MPC approve the development permit application. A motion to approve the application was approved unanimously.

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

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

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PLAYER OF THE GAME

Feb 22 **Evan Dean**
Feb 23 **Philip Raycroft**

Come Cheer on Your Agra Risk Wheatland Kings

YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

There are many reasons why quitting smoking has great benefits. Besides the obvious ones, like reducing the risk of lung cancer, ex-smokers cite these two: "I can breathe more easily" and "my complexion has improved".

But smokers are at a greater risk of eye problems including cataracts, age-related macular degeneration and glaucoma. It seems that those who smoke have a three to four times greater risk.

There are many risk factors that contribute to falls. Medication can be one of them. Some medications can cause drowsiness. Others can cause blood pressure and heart rate to drop causing dizziness. Some medications can lower blood sugar levels leading to weakness and even fainting. If you feel your medications may be causing problems, see your doctor.

When we think of sources of calcium, we think of dairy products. But other food sources include cooked broccoli, kale, almonds, collard greens, oranges, box choy, canned seafood (sardines, salmon) and hard cheeses like parmesan.

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Thought for the Week
~
Perhaps we are not rich by what we possess but rather by what we can do without and still be content.

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Keeping commercial properties safe

ALBERTA RCMP

Your Alberta RCMP would like to remind business owners across the province to be mindful of crime prevention practices in order to reduce theft and damages.

In 2024, there were 4,460 reports of business break and enters across Alberta RCMP jurisdictions.

The Alberta RCMP recommends the following for business owners:

- Install an alarm system and ensure it's armed at the end of each day.
- Invest in good quality cameras that provide full coverage of the space, or points of entry at minimum.
- Ensure there's appropriate interior lighting that can be left on to provide optimum visibility and install exterior motion lighting to deter thieves from the outside.
- Keep track of all keys or fobs that access your commercial property.
- Keep windows clear of posters or stickers and consider installing roll shutters or bars for added protection.
- Ensure valuables are secured and away from windows after hours.
- Consider investing in fences for extra protection and en-

sure they are well maintained.

Budgeting for security measures such as sturdy locks, quality cameras, and an alarm system can pay off in the long run. These investments can make a difference in preventing theft and identifying criminals.

For more tips and information, Business Security brochures are available for free at all RCMP Detachments across the province. To keep learning about business safety, follow our social media accounts on Facebook (@RCMPinAlberta) and X (@RCMPAlberta).

Alberta RCMP encourages the public and business owners to report any suspicious activity to police. If you see a crime in progress, dial 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

Town to support local RCMP

Continued from Page 1

Coun. Richard Wegener expressed concern about the program, asking whether community protection officers would be subject to increased risk taken on as a result of being assigned to RCMP duties.

Kevin Scoble, chief administrative officer for the Town of Strathmore, explained the intent of the program is to have community protection officers effectively addressing more regular duties RCMP officers would normally handle, which would free up police resources to be more focused on fentanyl-related crimes.

Community protection officers would not be expected to be involved in criminal investigations or activation activities or stake outs – rather report to the local officer in command to receive tasks such as civil and social disorder issues so that RCMP members can attack fentanyl issues.

"An example would be if there is a homeless person who needs attending to, quite often RCMP does that now, so instead, CPOs may be doing that so that the RCMP remain focused on the fentanyl issue," said Scoble.

A compensation model which is being developed by the federal government is currently underway, which would address additional funding required to support CPOs taking on additional duties and perhaps significant overtime hours.

Scoble explained it is possible CPOs may be required to extend their shift hours from regular eight-hour days to 12-hour days during this temporary assignment period.

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

Correction

In the Feb. 19 issue of the Strathmore Times, on Page 4, the story called "ASET opens career development opportunities for Strathmore tradespersons" was printed with the wrong story underneath. The correct headline and story appear on Page 12 in this issue. Then in the Feb. 19 issue, on Page 13, the headline "Town discusses provincially mandated municipal policing committee" was a duplicate story that appeared on that same page. We apologize for any inconvenience these errors may have caused.

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Affordable living - proudly growing Strathmore's future, together

MAYOR PAT FULE
Town of Strathmore

Across the country, Canadians are experiencing a renewed sense of pride – in our country and the places we call home. Whether it's our resilience through tough times, our commitment to one another or our shared belief that hard work creates opportunity, we are reminded of what makes Canada a special place. We protect what we've built, and we welcome those who share our values and want to contribute to our future.

Strathmore has always been a place to build a good life. Families raise their kids here, neighbours look out for each other, and we all take pride in our town's strong community spirit. That sense of belonging – along with our parks, schools, and local businesses – makes Strathmore a great place to call home.

More and more people are seeing what we've known for years. Our province is growing – fast. Over the past year alone, Alberta's population increased by more than 4.1 per cent, and looking ahead, the province is projected to grow to 7.3 million people by 2051 as families from across Canada and beyond seek a good quality of life.

Strathmore is part of that story. Our town is growing, and with that comes the need to make sure we're ready – for young people hoping to put down roots, new families, and seniors looking to stay in the community. Council is focused on ensuring we manage this growth carefully to keep Strathmore's character while creating new opportunities for residents.

We know that preparing for growth means more than just adding houses. It's about ensuring people can find the right kind of home at every stage of life – whether that's a young person looking for a rental,

a family buying their first house, or a senior downsizing. That's why we are focused on encouraging a range of housing options, including affordable housing, so that when people see all Strathmore has to offer, they know there's a place here for them.

We're already seeing this vision take shape. Recently approved projects introduce various housing types, including low-density, medium-density, and apartment-style living. More projects are in the works, including apartment buildings, seniors' living spaces, and assisted living units – ensuring we have homes that meet the needs of residents at every stage of their lives.

As we plan for the future, council and administration are committed to striking the right balance. We want to see the kind of growth that moves Strathmore forward, while staying true to the values and spirit that have made this town home for generations of Albertans. That means supporting development that respects the charm of our neighbourhoods and keeps quality of life at the heart of every decision we make.

Strathmore is optimistic about what's ahead. Our community is growing, but we're growing with intention – planning for the future while protecting what we love about this town. Whether you've lived here your whole life or you're just considering joining us, Strathmore is a place you can be proud to call home.

(At the beginning of each term, council sets the course for the future by adopting a Strategic Plan – a guiding blueprint that charts priorities and directs resources. This plan outlines six key strategic priorities that influence decision-making throughout the term. In the coming weeks, Mayor Pat Fule will provide insights into each of Strathmore's strategic priorities, reflecting on both achievements and challenges along the way.)

Town passes municipal policing committee bylaw

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore Council voted to pass the Municipal Policing Committee Bylaw, 25-05, during the Feb. 19 regular meeting immediately following its presentation.

The bylaw was originally brought before the Committee of the Whole during the Feb. 12 meeting, in order to introduce it and receive feedback from council members.

A correspondence from the office of Minister Mike Ellis indicated legislative requirements to the Police Act had changed. Alberta Municipalities are required to form a regional policing committee or a municipal policing committee or commission.

To facilitate this, a mandate was established that a corresponding municipal policing committee bylaw was to be passed by or before March 1. The Feb. 19 regular meeting of Strathmore's town council was the last opportunity to review such a bylaw, barring the scheduling of a special council meeting.

During his presentation of the bylaw to council, Mark Pretzlaff, director of community and protective services, explained based on feedback from council during the committee of the whole meeting, a Section 3.2 was added to the drafted bylaw which establishes that a Community Safety Plan will be approved by council on an annual basis.

"There is a change to 9.7 to talk about how there will be annual reports and quarterly minutes circulated to council," said Pretzlaff.

Coun. Jason Montgomery motioned for council to give first and second reading to Bylaw 25-05, which was approved unanimously.

"I think this is going to be a really good thing for

all communities, I am just really particularly pleased with it, it basically gives residents and council a chance to better liaise with the RCMP," added Coun. Brent Wiley.

The Police Amendment Act, enacted December 2022, takes effect as of March 1. The required establishment of a municipal policing committee or regional policing committee is based on a given municipality's population.

These committees are established to enhance transparency, accountability, and community engagement in policing services, as well as to ensure RCMP services align with community priorities.

Administration indicated in the town's public meeting agenda for Feb. 19, as this is a new committee to Strathmore, the overall implications are not known at this time.

Council participation on the board is required, and administrative support will be provided to ensure all requirements pertaining to establishment and ongoing operations are fulfilled.

Costs associated with establishing the committee and training appointed personnel is estimated to be approximately \$10,000.

Wiley motioned for council to give unanimous consent to hold third and final reading, which was immediately followed by Coun. Melissa Langmaid motioning to give third and final reading. These motions were both approved unanimously.

Administration will be commencing the recruitment of Strathmore residents to apply to become members of the committee now that the bylaw has been passed. In addition to council participation, some members will also be appointed to sit on the committee.



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Greek mythological figure
- 5. Small amount
- 8. Play a role
- 11. River in Georgia and Alabama
- 13. Water in the solid state
- 14. Ancient Greek sophist
- 15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- 16. Fleece
- 17. Writer/actress Dunham
- 18. Behave in a way that belittles
- 20. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 21. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 22. Conceits
- 25. Slowed down
- 30. Nourishment
- 31. Midway between east and southeast
- 32. Fights
- 33. Comedienne Tyler
- 38. Standing operating procedure
- 41. Locks
- 43. Old
- 45. Song sung to one's lover
- 47. Whale ship captain
- 49. Moved quickly on foot
- 50. Volcanic craters
- 55. Large musical instrument
- 56. Liquefied natural gas
- 57. Ethiopian town
- 59. Not closed
- 60. A team's best pitcher
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Disfigure
- 63. Prefix denoting "in a"
- 64. Sleep

CLUES DOWN

- 1. S. American plant
- 2. Soul and calypso song
- 3. Fruit of the service tree
- 4. Continent
- 5. Albania's capital
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Argues
- 8. Assists
- 9. Town in Galilee
- 10. Russian leader
- 12. Promotional materials
- 14. Wings
- 19. Not odd
- 23. Expression of creativity
- 24. Conceptualize
- 25. A digital tape recording of sound
- 26. Peyton's little brother
- 27. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- 28. Difference in potential
- 29. Owner
- 34. I (German)
- 35. Chinese conception of poetry
- 36. The world of the dead
- 37. Sign language
- 39. Coincide
- 40. Religious observance
- 41. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 42. Polite interruption sound
- 44. Texas ballplayer
- 45. Type of sword
- 46. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 47. Basic unit of a chemical element
- 48. Native American people in California
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Hebrew calendar month
- 53. Easily swindled person
- 54. One point south of southwest
- 58. Small island (British)

STRATHMORE TIMES

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

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STRATHMORE WHEATLAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Weekend split

The Wheatland Braves U13AA team closed out the regular season by splitting a pair of weekend home games Feb. 21-22. The Braves dropped a 7-3 loss to Lethbridge to open the weekend set at the Strathmore Family Centre, before hammering the Foothills Bisons 12-6 the following day in Hussar.

Joe Lepage Photos

Strathmore trick rider invited to perform at Calgary Skijor

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore trick rider, Gracie Piper performed at the Calgary Confluence Historic Site, Feb. 15-16 as part of the Skijor Canada festivities which were taking place.

Skijoring is a sport which involves a person on skis being pulled by a horse, dog(s), a motor vehicle such as a snowmobile, or other avenue of acceleration.

The idea of modern skijoring is to be the fastest team to successfully complete the obstacle course laid out for a given event.

Piper said she was asked by Skijor Canada to attend the event to perform as an exhibition adjacent to the ongoing competition.

“I was over the moon about that, so I got to go out there and do my thing and get to see everybody else do their thing and it was just everybody having fun,” she said. “I was so nervous going into it. The week going into it, I was stressed, I was scared, super nervous, and then I got out there, everyone made me feel welcome. I did my first lap and I was fine. That crowd was insane, they were loud, they were completely electric.”

Having started trick riding when she was six years old, Piper explained she has both trained and performed all over North America.

Now, currently at 20 years old, she largely performs at summer events and pro rodeos. She added, however, she would be excited to return to perform again at future skijor events.

“It is exactly what I want to be doing and my favourite thing in the entire world. I try to do a lot of pro rodeos and a lot of other events in the summertime, and it is really all I want to do,” she said. “When I go out there and they get loud and excited, that is the reason why I do it. Afterwards, we will walk through the crowd and seeing everybody of all ages, especially the little ones come up to you and talk to you, that is my favourite.”

She joked due to adverse weather conditions there were points at which she thought she might not have all her fingers and toes by the end of the ride, though during her performance the temperature became a non-issue.

Piper added trick riding is a sport that takes a lot of drive and practice to be able to do at all, let alone excel at.

The body must be conditioned properly in order to physically handle the demands of the sport, and trust with the horse is necessary for the animal to know what to do.

Next on the docket for Piper is the upcoming college rodeo season, which will be her last, followed by this summer’s pro rodeo circuit.

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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.

Farmer Pesticide Certificate Course

Wheatland County Administration Office

- When: March 6, 2025, 8:30am - 5:30pm
- Where: Wheatland County Administration Office: 242006 HWY #1 & RR 243
- Cost: \$100 + tax (lunch included)
- Instructors: Dr. Bill Hamman & Erin McIlwraith
- Register before February 28 at: <https://2025pest.eventbrite.com>
- For more information contact: Albert.Anderson@wheatlandcounty.ca

The 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.

Online home study of the course would be beneficial. The online training is located at the following link or simply search Farmer Pesticide Training on the Alberta Agriculture & Forestry website; www.alberta.ca/farmer-pesticide-certificate.aspx
The Certificate will be sent to you by Alberta Agriculture after successfully passing a closed book exam at end of day.

Note: Recertification is no longer an option, the course must be re-taken every 5 years.

Dr. Bill Hamman and Erin McIlwraith are certified trainers who has been teaching pesticide application legislation, applicator and environmental safety for many years.

2025 Municipal Election

Thinking About Running for Municipal Office?

Make a difference in Wheatland County by stepping up as a candidate in the 2025 municipal election!

- Why Run? To shape our future, advocate for your community, and bring fresh ideas to the table.
- Scan the QR code to learn about eligibility, key dates, and the nomination process.

Nomination Deadline: September 22, 2025, at 12:00 noon.

This is your chance to lead, inspire, and create change!



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



Careers with Wheatland County

Available opportunities include:

- Community Peace Officer Closes February 28, 2025
- Grader Operator (Rosebud) Closes March 10, 2025

Visit our website for more information and APPLY TODAY!
wheatlandcounty.ca/careers/



Eagle Heights Development permit revoked

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore announced Feb. 13 the Development Permit D24-114, being for the Eagle Heights development has been cancelled.

A statement was released to the public indicating a review of the file by the Development Authority, which identified an error in the permitting process.

“The proposed development application exceeded the maximum site area and density requirements set out in the Town’s Land Use Bylaw,” read the statement. “A variance would have been required to allow the proposed development, but a variance was not granted when Development Permit D24-114 was issued. As a result, Development Permit D24-114 was cancelled.”

The statement added the lands remain districted as High Density (R3) District and may still be developed in accordance with the Town’s Land Use Bylaw.

Any future development permit applications will have to be processed in accordance with the bylaw in order to be allowed to proceed.

The Eagle Heights development, brought forward by Seymour Pacific Developments in 2024, proposed the construction of 147 apartments across two buildings.

Prior to the cancellation announcement, the subject of the proposed development was brought to Town of Strathmore council’s attention by the Strathmore Bird Sanctuary Initiative during the Feb. 5 regular meeting.

Denis Manzer and Simon Metke, who spoke before council, expressed concerns regarding the proposed destruction of a local heritage forest, as well as the damage construction of a parking lot and apartment complex would have to the adjacent water body and wetland.

“Since there was a mistake in the development permit of the exceeding the maximum site area and density requirements it is really good that it got cancelled before the whole place got bulldozed and the whole parking lot was here and then they found out the mistake happened and potentially had to shut it down after all the damage was already done,” said Metke. “We are really happy that the town was able to look into the details ... it looked obvious that it was exceeding rational development in this area. We are really glad that it got noticed ... that it is being scrutinized properly.”

Manzer added the Bird Sanctuary Initiative team has been receiving a large outpouring of support since their presentation before council and to instead see the land protected as an official bird sanctuary.

The Strathmore Bird Sanctuary Initiative has expressed their intention to raise enough money to purchase the property from the original owner, as the title is still in their name and has not yet been legally passed to Seymour Pacific Developments.

“The property, what it is being asked for is around \$1.1 million, so it is not unreasonable and ultimately it would be a much greater asset in the long run if it is preserved,” said Metke.

Moving forward, added Metke, will be to appeal to the Subdivision Development and Appeal Board to attempt to see the land rezoned under the Land Use Bylaw.

“Our future conversations with the town are to be, how much is this ac-

tually worth for the Town of Strathmore to keep intact, what would a bird sanctuary do for the town economically – the tourism revenue would, I think, far outweigh what it would be worth to destroy that,” said Manzer. “Not just the tourism value, but the educational value. It is going to be such a cool place for kids to come to learn about birds and the natural history of Strathmore, as well as the cultural history of Strathmore.”

The team has not published an official fundraising plan as of the publication of this article regarding how to bring together the \$1.1 million, though funding sources such as Ducks Unlimited, Birds Canada, and the Alberta Wildlife Association, among others, are being actively considered to approach with the idea.

Seymour Pacific Developments has not released a public statement regarding the revocation of the development permit, nor have they yet responded to a request for comment.

More information regarding the Strathmore Bird Sanctuary Initiative is available via their Facebook page or via email (strathmorebirdsantuary@gmail.com).



Huge victory

The Strathmore Storm U18B hockey team upset the higher-ranked RMAA Crossfield Renegades in their first-round playoff series on Feb. 22. The Storm won Game 1 with a huge 7-1 win on Feb. 21, before icing the series with a 3-3 draw the following day at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Storm will battle Rockyford next weekend in Round 2.

Joe Lepage Photos

Phone: 403.934.5555
www.debbiemitzner.ca
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Upcoming Council Meetings

February 29, 2025 | 6 p.m.

March 5, 2025 | 6 p.m.

March 12, 2025 | 6 p.m.

Regular Meeting of Council

Regular Meeting of Council

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.

Land Use Bylaw No. 25-04.

Notice of Public Hearing.

March 19, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 25-04 Lakewood Phase 2B

Staff received an application for a land use redesignation (Bylaw No. 25-04) for Lakewood Phase 2B to facilitate the development of various residential and public service districts, including:

- RIN – Single Detached Residential (Narrow Lot) District, District Overlay
- R2 – Low-Density Residential District (Overlay), District Overlay
- R2X – Medium-Density Attached Housing District (Overlay), District Overlay
- R3 – High-Density Residential District (Overlay), District Overlay
- P1 (MR) – Public Service District (Municipal Reserve)
- P1 (PUL) – Public Service District (Public Utility Lot)
- Municipal Road

Currently, these properties are designated as RIS – Single Detached Residential (Small Lot) District and RIN – Single Detached Residential (Narrow Lot) District under the Land Use Bylaw (LUB).

The developer is requesting a reduction in side yard setbacks for all proposed housing types within Phase 2B, decreasing the requirement from 1.5m to 1.2m. To accommodate this request, staff propose a Direct Control District Overlay, which would permit a 1.2m side yard setback while maintaining all other regulations specified in the parent land use districts.

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed Bylaws may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website (<https://strathmore.ca/en/town-hall/public-hearings.aspx>). Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers, Strathmore Municipal Building, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore Alberta on **Wednesday, March 19, 2025**, commencing at 7 p.m. with procedures in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, Section 199 and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw #23-17 and amendments thereto. Any person or group of persons, or person acting on someone's behalf, who claims to be affected by any of the proposed bylaw may present suggestions or concerns by making a submission to the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services at lsadmin@strathmore.ca by noon on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025**, in order to register to present.

Written submissions to the Public Hearing or the name of any person wishing to make an oral presentation at the Public Hearing must be received by the Planning and Development Department prior to noon on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025** as outlined in Bylaw #23-17 and amendments thereto. If your written submission is not received by this time, please provide fifteen (15) copies for distribution at the Public Hearing. Each person wishing to address Council at the Public Hearing shall complete their verbal presentation within three minutes.

*Please note that written submissions will become public documents once submitted to the Town, unless otherwise requested.

Please contact Legislative Services at 403-934-3133 prior to attending a Public Hearing to determine the order of Bylaw presentations in the Council Agenda to ensure efficient use of time.



2025 is an election year. While October is just over seven months away, now is a great time to start learning more.

Municipal elections are where the decisions that impact your daily life are made—choices about the roads you drive on, the parks where your kids play, and the services that keep our community strong.

Ever wonder how those decisions come to life? They're made by people just like you—your neighbors, your friends, and maybe even you. Our town council is built on the voices of residents who care deeply about where we live, work, and grow.

Over the years, council chambers have welcomed grandfathers and their granddaughters, fathers and their sons, husbands and wives—all brought together by a shared commitment: helping Strathmore thrive.

There are four key ways you can be part of this election, and we'll be sharing more information as we get closer to election day:

- **Register to Vote** – Make sure you're ready to have your say when election day comes.
- **Nominate for Council** – If you're passionate about making a difference, consider running for office. You don't need to be a politician—just someone who wants to see our town flourish.
- **Work the election** – Elections don't run themselves. Join the team that helps make democracy happen by signing up for an election worker role.
- **Vote** – Every vote matters. Help choose the leaders who will represent your voice at the council table.

Here are a few dates you should keep on the calendar:

- **Nomination Day Deadline:** September 22, 2025 at noon
- **Election Day:** October 20, 2025

Stay informed and be part of the process. You can learn more by visiting [Strathmore.ca/Election](https://strathmore.ca/Election).

Speedy wifi? Yes please.

Fibre Optic Expansion.

The Town of Strathmore has partnered with Fibre Connect to expand the fibre optic main network in residential and business right-of-ways. Starting in spring 2025, Leducor Technical Services will subcontract the work to bring high-speed fibre optic access to areas of Strathmore previously without coverage. Connection to the fibre optic will be at the discretion of property and business owners.

Installing fibre optics enables fast internet speeds, ensuring smooth streaming, seamless video calls, and quick downloads. They offer a reliable connection, even during peak usage time or bad weather. For businesses, fibre optics improve efficiency through faster uploads and seamless video conferencing. They also increase property value and support remote work and learning, making them a valuable addition for modern living and working.

Any installation on private property requires authorization by property owners. With permission, Fibre Connect will install a fibre optic line from the main network along the right-of-way to the home or business. Representatives from Leducor and Fibre Connect will be visiting homes and business to seek permission. There is no obligation to connect.

For more information about this project or future availability of services such as high-speed internet, contact Fibre Connect directly at info@fibreconnect.com or **1-800-503-2731**. You can also visit our website, [Strathmore.ca/FibreOptics](https://strathmore.ca/FibreOptics)

2025 Food Drive for Wheatland County Food Bank.

The Strathmore Fire Department, in partnership with the RCMP and Strathmore Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), is gearing up for its annual food drive, starting February 27, 2025. This event, which benefits the Wheatland County Food Bank, is a great way to support those in need.

Starting on February 27, members of the fire department, RCMP, and FCSS will be delivering bags to select neighborhoods. They'll be picking them up on March 7. If you'd like to contribute, simply call the fire department at 403-934-3022, or drop off your donations at the Strathmore Fire Hall between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. any day.

In 2024, we achieved the largest single donation ever recorded for the Wheatland County Food Bank. Help make this year the most successful one yet.

Tender and major project updates. Municipal tenders.

The Municipal Tenders page has been updated with new opportunities for 2025. In accordance with Procurement Policy 1808, all tenders valued at \$75,000 or more are now available for public viewing. Visit [Strathmore.ca/tenders](https://strathmore.ca/tenders) to explore current opportunities, including:

- Maplewood water main and road realignment
- Line painting
- Road asset management program (RAMP)

Work on our major project, reservoir upgrades, is scheduled to begin this spring. Expect Maplewood Drive to be busy with construction, road closures, and underground infrastructure upgrades. You can stay informed on major project developments at [Strathmore.ca/reservoirupgrades](https://strathmore.ca/reservoirupgrades).

Strathmore FCSS Offers Tax Help for Seniors and Residents in Need

Tax season can be stressful, but Strathmore Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is here to help. Starting February 24, FCSS volunteers will offer free income tax preparation for individuals with modest incomes and simple tax situations.

This service is specifically designed for seniors and those who are unable to complete their taxes on their own. To ensure a smooth process, FCSS will also be available in advance to answer questions, help gather necessary documents, and make sure clients are fully prepared for their appointments.

Residents are reminded to bring all relevant documents to avoid delays. For more information or to book an appointment, contact Strathmore FCSS 403-934-9090 or come by and see them during business hours.

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

Information for Electors

Persuant to Section 1(o) of the Municipal Government Act an "elector" means:

A person who is eligible to vote in the election for a Councillor under the Local Authorities Election Act.

Persuant to section 47(1) of the Local Authorities Election Act a person is eligible to vote in an election if they are:

- at least 18 years old;
- a Canadian citizen and;
- has resided in Alberta for the 6 consecutive months immediately preceding election day and is resident in the area on election day.

A poll may be demanded in the Town of Strathmore by electors equal in number to at least:

- in the case of a municipality other than a summer village, by electors of the municipality equal in number to at least 10% of the population and
- in the case of a summer village, by 10% of the electors of the summer village

In accordance with the provisions of section 223 of the Municipal Government Act and in accordance with the provisions of section 251 of the Municipal Government Act.

The petition for a vote must be received by the Chief Administrative Officer within 15 days of the last publication of this notice and shall contain on each page "an accurate and identical statement of the purpose of the petition".

(Further requirements of the petition are provided in section 224 of the Municipal Government Act.)

Date of the last publication of this notice is 12th day of March 2025.

Land Use Bylaw No.24-23.

Notice of Public Hearing.

March 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No.24-23
416 and 417 80B Archie Klaiber Trail

Staff received an application for a land use redesignation (Bylaw No. 24-23) of 416 & 417 80B Archie Klaiber Trail (Block 31 Plan 7260 JK and Block 6 Plan 9411772) to facilitate the development of childcare services. These properties are currently designated as CHWY – Commercial Highway District in the Land Use Bylaw (LUB). At present, childcare services are not listed as a use in the district.

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed Bylaws may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website (<https://strathmore.ca/en/town-hall/public-hearings.aspx>). Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers, Strathmore Municipal Building, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore Alberta on **Wednesday, March 19, 2025**, commencing at 7:00pm with procedures in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act, Section 199* and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw #23-17 and amendments thereto. Any person or group of persons, or person acting on someone's behalf, who claims to be affected by any of the proposed bylaw may present suggestions or concerns by making a submission to the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services at **Isadmin@strathmore.ca** by 12:00 noon on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025**, in order to register to present.

Written submissions to the Public Hearing or the name of any person wishing to make an oral presentation at the Public Hearing must be received by the Planning and Development Department prior to 12:00 noon on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025** as outlined in Bylaw #23-17 and amendments thereto. If your written submission is not received by this time, please provide fifteen (15) copies for distribution at the Public Hearing. Each person wishing to address Council at the Public Hearing shall complete their verbal presentation within three minutes.

Please note that written submissions will become public documents once submitted to the Town, unless otherwise requested.

Please contact Legislative Services at (403) 934 3133 prior to attending a Public Hearing to determine the order of Bylaw presentations in the Council Agenda to ensure efficient use of your time.

Planning in Alberta
MGA, IDP, MDP, ASP... What's with all the acronyms and what do they mean?

Strathmore's land use planning follows a framework that's guided by a big provincial law called the Municipal Government Act (MGA). It sounds confusing at first but we'll try and break it down. Basically, the MGA lays out how towns like ours make decisions about things like planning, subdivisions, and new developments. It also gives municipalities the tools they need to shape their communities the way residents want.

Think of it like a planning ladder. At the top, we've got the big-picture plans that involve neighboring municipalities—this is called an Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP). The IDP outlines how municipalities will work together and manage future growth.

Next, we zoom in a little with a plan that covers the whole town, known as the Municipal Development Plan (MDP). The MDP looks at how major transportation and servicing networks are provided and outlines in general what goes where...greenspaces, homes and workplaces.

And finally, we get more detailed with plans that focus on specific neighborhoods or areas larger than 20 acres—those are called Area Structure Plans (ASP). These are a more recent requirement, and typically outline more specifically what types of homes or businesses are built in an area, as well as outlining the major road networks, schools and parks.

All of these plans are considered and adopted by Council after varying levels of engagement with the public. It is also important that all these plans are consistent with each other.



No more "Mom I'm boooooored."
PD Day/School Closure Camps.

Are you looking for ways to keep your kids busy while they have days off from school? We've got you covered, Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre offers day camps on PD/School Closure Days!

Course ID	Dates	Time	Cost
#33049	March 14, 2025	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	47.50
#33050	April 4, 2025	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	47.50
#33052	May 2, 2025	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	47.50
#33053	May 16, 2025	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	47.50
#33054	June 13, 2025	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	47.50

Summer boredom? Not on our watch.
Summer Camps.

We have a fun, safe alternative to boredom for ages 4-12 with our summer camps. Check out the themes of each week and register your child for their favourite theme, or register in all the weeks for a fun summer of activities, friendship, and learning. Please note time and pricing may vary depending on your child's age.

For more information, visit our website **Strathmore.ca/Recreation**. You can register for these camps through Perfectmind.

Theme	Dates	Days	Time	Cost
Water Fun	July 2 to 4, 2025	W, Th, F	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	111.00
Splash and Play	July 7 to 11, 2025	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	245.00
Sport and Explore	July 14 to 18, 2025	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	185.00
Multi-Sport Adventure	July 21 to 25, 2025	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	185.00
Splash and Dash	July 28 to Aug 1, 2025	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	245.00
Neon Days	Aug 5 to 8, 2025	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	148.00
Balls and More	Aug 11 to 15, 2025	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	185.00
Olympic Days	Aug 18 to 22, 2025	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	185.00



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JL DeCosta
for
Bow River

Pub Night **Meet & Greet**
with **JL DeCosta**
your **next** Conservative Candidate
for **Bow River**

Friday February 28, 2025

Smiley's Restaurant & Lounge
330 Ridge Rd, Strathmore AB

Doors open 5:00 PM
Light refreshments provided



The Strathmore Rusty Spurs went to the Confined Escape Rooms and Laser City in Calgary as part of their annual Funday on Feb. 1. Photo Courtesy of Lynn Wolfs

Spurs keeping busy

SARA WALDNER
Strathmore Rusty Spurs Club Reporter

The Strathmore Rusty Spurs have been up to quite a lot over the past two months. While the beginning of the month was slow, the club invited Calgary Stampede Princess and 4-H Alumni Breanna Correia to lead a workshop for the club about public speaking on Jan. 21.

The workshop aimed to introduce the younger members to the intricacies of public speaking and give worthwhile tips to the older members.

On Feb. 1, the club held their annual funday. At the January monthly meeting, members agreed to attempt escape rooms at Confined Escape Rooms in Calgary, followed by two rounds of laser tag at Laser City. Both teams that attempted the escape rooms got out before the given time limit. Most club members attended and everyone enjoyed it, even the parents who joined in had fun.

On Feb. 4, the club had its February monthly meeting. At the meeting, attending members made Valentine's Day cards for the seniors at Sagewood. The project, started by Oklahoma 4-H state ambassador Grace Hobbs, was called 4-H Has a Heart. President of the 4-H Rusty Spurs was able to spread

the movement across other local Alberta 4-H clubs such as the Foothills 4-H Beef Club and the Mackenzie Town Intro Club as well as multiple others. The Rusty Spurs aimed to make 60 cards, but nearly doubled that by making 115 cards. One extra card was made to send to Hobbs at her request.

That night, 4-H regional ambassadors Abby Waldner and Dawson Denby came to speak on 4-H dairies and record books. The ambassadors shared tips on how to fill out the diaries and record books and answered questions club members had.

On Feb. 8, multiple Rusty Spurs members attended a Bit Clinic put on by the Eastgate Saddle Club. The clinic was led by Lee McLean, published author and horse trainer, and she shared many tips that the attending 4-H members will be able to share with those who were unable to attend and put to use with their horses.

On Feb. 21, the 4-H club will be holding its public speaking at the Strathmore Library. In March, 4-H District and Regional public speaking will take place at the Strathmore Civic Center with more information on the way. Remember to follow the Rusty Spurs on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated with what the club is up to.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025

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6 - 9PM

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The Agra Risk Wheatland Kings have been pushed to the brink of elimination after a pair of losses, including a 5-2 loss on home ice Feb. 22 versus Medicine Hat. The local Junior B team must string together three wins in a row to keep their season alive.

Joe Lepage Photos

Kings on edge of elimination

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland Kings are on the verge of elimination following the first two games of their best-of-five playoff series against the Medicine Hat Cubs, Feb. 22 and 23.

Game 1 of the series saw the Kings playing at home after they claimed second place in the regular season by the skin of their teeth, closing 55 points, while Medicine Hat scored 54.

“Saturday, it was a pretty good game for most (part) – in the third period they got three power play goals at the beginning ... they got to pull ahead of us quite a bit,” said Doug Raycroft, head coach of the Wheatland Kings. “There was some penalty trouble and then we did fight back a couple but we lost 5-2. The one player they have got four goals. He is the top scorer in the league and that is the one guy we are trying to keep off the scoresheet.”

Sunday saw the Kings being the away team, playing in Medicine Hat. Despite outshooting the Cubs, the Kings were defeated once again with a final score of 3-2.

Raycroft said regardless of the losses, he is happy with how his team played.

Overall, the plan going into Game 3 is largely going to be the same as the first two games.

“Really what we need to do is to get some of our players who have been scoring this year, they need to find the net here a little bit,” he said. “Mostly, we have only had two players who have really scored, so we need some of the other guys to pick up the pace here with some goalscoring.”

Raycroft added during the first game of the series, the Kings took some undisciplined penalties, among other problems on both ends of the ice.

Into the second game, play had noticeably improved, however, a simple lack of goals scored lead to their defeat.

“We played really well and deserved a better fate, so going into Wednesday, you really have to go in with the same mindset and just trust if you play that way you will be successful,” said Raycroft.

“Now we are down to one more loss and we are out of the season, so we have to find a way one game at a time. Win Wednesday and then go back into their rink and play the same way we did on Sunday and then hopefully come out on the winning side of it.”



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March 4 from
4 pm to 6 pm

Registration is now open for Little Flower Pre-Kindergarten Fall 2025 !

Pre-School classes are available at Sacred Heart Academy in Strathmore.

The registration link and additional information are available on our school's website under 'Little Flower'.

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Space is limited!

ASET opens career development opportunities for Strathmore tradespersons

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET) has opened an opportunity for Alberta tradespersons to pursue new career avenues through their Certified Technician (CTech) designation.

The tradesperson to CTech pathway program is designed to enable a journeyman, tradesperson, and engineering technology professional, including those who are Red Seal certified, to apply for and earn a CTech designation.

This will serve as an avenue to attain a Certified Engineering Technologist (CET) designation, which ASET described as being the “gold standard” designation within a tradesperson’s respective profession.

Typical activities of a CTech may include testing, troubleshooting, inspection, calibration, design drafting, quality control, maintenance, modeling, data compilation, estimating, sales, surveying, field supervision, technical sales, and teaching.

A CTech may perform routine technical procedures with occasional direct supervision and may assume limited responsibility for decision making processes.

There are 33 ASET members who reside within Strathmore. Among them, Ken Oliphant, CET, has been a member since 2007, having joined following his arrival in Canada from the UK.

“Initially, it gave me the opportunity to attain industry recognized accreditation for my UK qualifications and knowledge. My membership allowed me to enhance my capabilities and widen my academic and industry networks,” he said. “In 2007, I spoke with ASET to have my UK qualifications recognized.

They agreed it was possible and had me complete an industry ethics exam, which I passed. I then had to complete a designated period of time in Alberta within a technologist role. Once all those steps were successfully completed, I was given the Certified Engineering Technologist (CET) designation.”

Oliphant recommended the acquisition of an ASET designation to any journeyman, tradesperson, and engineering technology professional, as he said it is widely recognized within Alberta.

“It shows an employer a willingness to constantly grow and evolve as a professional, which can only benefit the workplace and/or organization,” he said. “ASET insists upon the highest standards being upheld by its members. That can only benefit day-to-day activities in and around Strathmore, including in the area of public safety. Knowledge of what is going on in other areas of Alberta ensures that Strathmore remains aligned with other parts of the province.”

Throughout Alberta, there are more than 50 designated trades which span a host of various industries, including mechanical, electrical, manufacturing, service, and construction.

A list of journeyman programs which are eligible for the tradesperson to CTech pathway program has been made available through the ASET website.

“ASET introduced the tradesperson to CTech pathway program to reduce barriers to certification and employment opportunities for applicants who may have experience in applied science, information or engineering technology disciplines within their designated trade,” said Melanie Leaf, ASET registrar and director of practice.

FRIDAY MARCH 28, 2025

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Bringing maternal care closer to home

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Alberta's government is advancing a midwifery strategy to attract more midwives and improve access to maternal health services across Alberta. As of January 2025, 181 midwives were practicing across the province, reflecting a 26 per cent increase from 2020. Midwives play a crucial role in improving health outcomes for women, newborns, and families by bringing maternal care closer to home. They build strong relationships with families, provide emotional support, help manage pregnancy risks and make referrals when needed.

Our government is committed to ensuring Albertans can access high-quality maternal health care anywhere in the province. To help achieve this goal, \$10 million is being invested over three years to implement the comprehensive new Alberta Midwifery Strategy.

Additionally, Alberta is soaring to new heights as a global leader in the aviation industry, attracting world-class companies that recognize our province as the best place to

invest and create jobs. The latest example of this momentum is Lufthansa Technik Canada's \$120 million investment in a cutting-edge maintenance facility at the Calgary International Airport.

This state-of-the-art facility will provide mobile engine maintenance and test cell services for Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion (LEAP) engines, making Alberta one of just five certified global operators for these next-generation engines. This not only solidifies our reputation as a hub for aerospace innovation but also gives Canadian aviation operators a cost-effective, efficient alternative to overseas maintenance.

Lufthansa Technik Canada's investment is a catalyst for growth in our province, fueling a \$3 billion, 15-year service contract with WestJet. This partnership will further establish Alberta as a premier destination for aerospace innovation, create rewarding jobs for Albertans, and strengthen our economy.

More and more global companies are choosing Alberta as their destination for investment. Our province's low tax environment,

red tape reduction, and business-friendly policies make us the top investment destination in Canada. The aviation and aerospace sector alone has seen revenue growth of over 17 per cent from 2021 to 2023, proving that Alberta is not just open for business – we are leading the way in innovation and economic expansion.

This includes de Havilland Canada's substantial investment right here at home in Wheatland County. The de Havilland Field Aircraft Manufacturing and Operations Centre is expected to create 1,500 operational jobs upon completion, a truly transformational project for our constituency. You can learn more and read about updates online (dehavillandfield.com)

We are back at the Legislature this week, in preparation for Budget 2025, to be introduced on Feb. 27.

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)

TIMES **CLASSIFIEDS**

Obituary



FAINT,
Marlene Ruth
February 22, 1935
- February 16, 2025

Marlene Ruth Faint passed away peacefully on February 16, 2025. Her passing has reunited her with her beloved husband, Alan and daughter, Jackie.

She will be dearly missed by her children, Shirley (Rod), Michael (Judy) and Derek (Karen); seven grandchildren and their spouses; and ten great grandchildren.

Marlene was a gifted storyteller whose love for sports and unwavering strength enriched every life she touched. Her warm, captivating narratives—whether sharing fond memories of days gone by or celebrating life's challenges and triumphs—brought comfort and inspiration to all who had the pleasure of listening. Fondly known as Big Nana to her great grandchildren, Marlene cherished sharing highlights of their sports triumphs. Her witty, heartfelt stories celebrated each achievement and brought joy to all who listened.

Marlene was an extraordinary woman and her remarkable spirit, humor, and resilience will be forever remembered by those who knew her.

We would like to thank the wonderful staff at Agape Hospice as well as Wheatland Lodge for the compassion and care they provided, bringing comfort and peace to Marlene and her family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Marlene's memory to The Agape Hospice, by mail to: 1302 – 8 Avenue NW, Calgary, AB, T2N 1B8 or by telephone Monday – Friday at 403-282-6582.

A Celebration of Marlene's life will take place in May. Details will follow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump's plan – what no one is talking about

To the Editor

There is a key factor regarding Trump's plan to annex Canada / Mexico that no one is mentioning and may be the very point of it all.

Back in 1994 the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) came into force, and there was serious talk about amalgamating the three countries into one economic region, similar to the European Union we see today. The idea of a new North American currency was floated as well, called the Amero.

During Trump's first term a replacement for NAFTA emerged with the USMCA (United States, Mexico, Canada Agreement) and became a reality July 1, 2020. This is the same agreement that Trump now says is so egregious, which he initiated and signed, because he complained about how unfair NAFTA was.

The idea of a North American Union is decades old and is not something Trump simply made up. This union is most likely the underlying agenda at play here and is what the premiers and MPs need to factor in as they embark on a trade war with a 900-pound gorilla.

A possible twist we may see given Greenland's inclusion is that it would replace Mexico, and Mexico be moved into the South American Union (SAU) given its common language. While the SAU may still have an EU style bureaucracy, the NAU may not, given the U.S.'s super power status and only three nations involved. The effect would still be the same for us with another level of government above our national sovereignty.

When asked if he would use "military force to annex, or acquire Canada," Trump said, "No, "economic force". This declaration of war may not just be increasing tariffs. We may see the value of our dollar highly affected as well, among other things, to try and bring us to our knees.

Our political class must see this underlying desire for a North American Union, hard to imagine they don't, and need to explain to Canadians what could be afoot in order for our nation to develop a proper counter measure. Thing is, I doubt Canadians will be informed on this decades-old plan underpinning annexing Canada and we will only be left to digest the political theatre created around it.

Ron Vaillant,
Rocky View County

ARTS ON 817 PRESENTS

Steve Pineo with Horns



Photo by John Rutherford

March 15, 2025 — 7:30 pm

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TIMES **CLASSIFIEDS**



2025 Ladies Bonspiel

The Ladies Bonspiel was held last weekend, it began on Wednesday, ending Sunday. There were 22 teams entered the event, and everyone seemed to have a blast. The theme this year was "Under the Sea", and there were some really great costumes.

Baldwin put on a great chicken dinner, the drinks were flowing nicely with Kari and Ryan running the bar. John, Mike and Russ did an excellent job on the ice, and a big thanks to Mike McCutcheon for handling the draw as well.

Tyler Deer provided live musical entertainment and the dance floor was packed Saturday night.

Cindy Shack organized a large crew of volunteers this year. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this year a great success!

The generous donations by a large number of local businesses in town alongside all the volunteers made this event possible, and we thank you for all of your help.

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A Event Winners - **The Jolly Rink**
They really dominated this year.
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B Event Winners - **Team Jackson**
They bested Team Kelly.
Congratulations!



C Event Winners - **Team Ryland**
They edged out Team Shack Attack for the win
Congratulations!

Thanks again to all our generous sponsors, the volunteers, staff, and the out-of-town teams who travel to participate. It's very much appreciated.

Obituary



STENSRUD,
Clifford Cleveland
January 22, 1929
- February 15, 2025

Cliff Stensrud, beloved husband of Pedie Stensrud, of Strathmore, passed away at the Strathmore Regional Hospital on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at the age of 96 years. Cliff and Pedie retired to the Strathmore area in 1994 and lived out their retirement dream on an acreage south of Strathmore until 2020, when they moved into town. A memorial service will be held at a date yet to be determined. Details will be posted on the Mountain View Funeral Home website. To express condolences and share memories, please visit: www.mountain-viewmemorial.ca.



Obituary



STINN,
Benard August

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Benard August Stinn who passed away peacefully on February 21, 2025 at Strathmore, Alberta. Benard was born June 27, 1932 in Rockyford, Alberta. He is survived by his four children: Diane (Milton), Keith (Wendy), Leroy (Ellen), and Ivan (Tricia); twelve grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren; three sisters-in-law, Angela, Florence, and Patricia (Larry), and a brother-in-law Doug (Valerie) as well as numerous nieces and nephews and many friends.

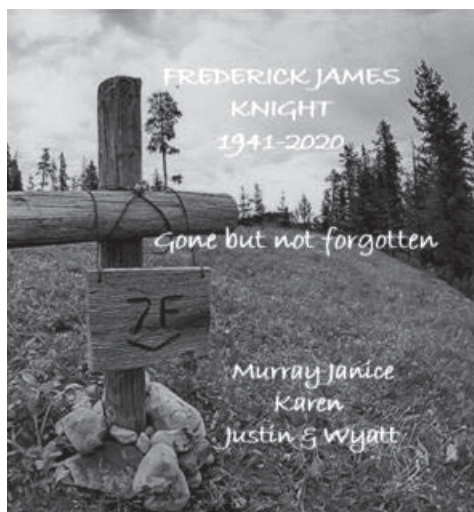
A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, March 7, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church (221-4 Ave, Strathmore) at 11:00 a.m. Following the luncheon, inurnment will take place at St. Rita's Cemetery, Rockyford.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations directly to the Canadian Diabetes Association (donation@diabetes.ca).

To send condolences to the family, please visit Benard's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca



MEMORIAM



AUCTIONS

TIMED AUCTION FOR MAIORANA STONE, Edmonton, March 4. Full line-up of Stone Equip and Granite slabs; 2 screw compressors; Toyota forklift. ProdanukAuction Live Auction World.

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Obituary



ZIEHR,
Norbert Georg

With deepest sadness we announce the passing of Norbert Georg Ziehr, who passed away at home on the farm on the afternoon of February 17, 2025.

Norbert was born in Bamberg Germany and moved with his brother and parents to Canada when he was 5. His dad was a carpenter by trade with dreams of being a farmer, so Alberta became their home and they established Ziehr Farms in 1958.

He met his love Margaret in Strathmore and they married in 1975 and started a family.

Norbert built the house his children grew up in, adding on to it as the number of children grew. He worked hard on the farm to provide for everyone, building barns, sheds, & shops for the farm, and somehow also found the time to build miniature houses for the kids to play in. He made ziplines and tire swings after milking cows all day. He built motorcycles and dune buggies with the boys, who all inherited his love of cars, engines, and tinkering. He spent hours working on Volkswagens, visiting auction sales, and working the land. Bert enjoyed the outdoors and nature, visiting the mountains or just walking outside on the farm with his animals.

In his later years Norbert loved the simple things in life. Watching the deer walk by his window, sitting in his chair by the fire and chatting with his family, and mowing his lawn in the sunshine (and the occasional bush that got in the way of the mower) were some of his favourite things to do. He always had time for a coffee and a chat and would make everyone he met feel welcome. He was involved with the Sacred Heart Parish most of his life and made many great friendships in the community.

Norbert was pre-deceased by his parents Hannelore and Johann, and his brothers Bernard & Clarke. He leaves behind his loving wife Margaret, his children Stephen (April), Michael (Charlotte), Christopher, Liza Marie (Ryan), Kristina (Jeff), Angelina, & Nicholas (Rebecca), and his grandchildren Madison, Charlie, Campbell, Draiden, Riot, Savannah, Caleb, Neo, Owen, and baby Johnathan.

We will always remember him as the farmer who showed what it meant to be strong, to be kind, to take pride in what you've built, and to welcome everyone into your home with love and respect.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at Sacred Heart Parish at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

To send condolences or to watch the funeral service video, please visit Norbert's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca.



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THANK YOU

Thank You

The Family of NORMAN HENDRICKS wish to thank all the extended family members, friends and neighbours for the beautiful flowers, meals, cards, calls, Masses and visits. Thank you for all the thoughtful condolences on the Wheatland Funeral Home website. Also a huge thank you to Francis, Glen, and the wonderful staff at Wheatland Funeral Home for all the compassion and sincerity.

Huge Family hugs to Dr. Young and all the LPN's, HCA's, Recreation Girls, Admin, Kitchen Staff, Housekeeping Staff and the Maintenance Guys...at Sagewood Age Care, all so kind and helpful!!!

Thank you and Blessings to Father Cristino and Deacon Paul for the beautiful heartfelt Mass and Father Cristino for the very personal Homily. Thank you to Kim at Kim's Catering (Sips and Slices Bakery and Café) and staff for the yummy lunch....

Thank you to all who donated to the Wheatland and Area Hospice Society... so appreciated!

We are sincerely ever grateful for Dad's wishes to be fulfilled. He was a very special guy!!!

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

HELP WANTED

The Golden Hills School Division invites applications for the following position:
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