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TIMES

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 28

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Page 2



Lead By Example

Page 7



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STRATHMORE TIMES

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Data debate

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Proposed changes to the Goldfinch Industrial Area Structure Plan land use bylaws are progressing, though have yet to be finalized following Wheatland County council's July 7 meeting.

Three bylaws were brought before council over the course of the meeting, following presentations by the applicant, Diode Ventures, and members of the public.

These included an amendment to the Goldfinch Industrial ASP, which would provide the appropriate language within the bylaw to facilitate the development of a data processing facility as a legal and appropriate use case, land redesignation from Agricultural General to Industrial General for the subject lands, and the closure of a portion of Range Road 264 to public travel in order to consolidate the adjacent lands.

Though the former two both received up to their second readings, the road closure bylaw was defeated at the first reading stage.

"This is a privately-funded venture that is going to bring some employment and some tax base to Wheatland County, and I think that when someone has their own skin in the game, whether it's Diode or Diode's partner, those people are going to do more things to make sure the thing works than it would be, say, if it was a taxpayer-funded venture," said Coun. Berle Hebbes.

Coun. Glenn Koester weighed in prior to the vote, noting the emphasis from members of the public on water use and noise pollution from the facility being among their primary concerns.

To this point, he said he felt satisfied with the answers which had been provided by Diode Ventures and would be interested in observing changes made prior to third readings, or in the development permit stages of the project in order to further quell public dissent.

Continued on Page 4



Eye on the ball

Joey Stewart eyes a practice putt during the 9th annual Sacred Heart Church Golf Tournament on July 11 at the Strathmore Golf Club. The annual event raises funds for the Sacred Heart Church, which was opened in downtown Strathmore in June of 2024. See Page 4 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

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The fourth annual Lead By Example Powwow was held in Chestermere, July 8, continuing its mission to end racism and celebrate coming together as peoples. Singers, dancers, and musicians were in attendance from across Canada and the United States for the day of festivities.

John Watson Photos

Lead By Example Powwow returns for fourth year

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Lead By Example Powwow returned for its fourth year of operation, continuing its mission to end racism, and celebrate peoples coming together.

Being the fourth year of hosting the event, Melodie Ayoungman-Hunt, CEO of the Kakato'si Kristian Ayoungman Foundation, explained the original goal was to bring it home to Siksika Nation; however, facility issues at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park caused a near last minute location change.

"We were already working with the City of Chestermere to run their powwow and so when we got word only one month prior to our event, we did not have it in our budget to do it off the nation in Strathmore, and Chestermere already put a sponsorship in," said Ayoungman-Hunt. "It came together very easily, and it was even more successful for us because they supported a lot of areas for us."

She added attendance exceeded their expectations, particularly seeing as the Lead By Example Powwow was immediately following the Calgary Stampede Powwow.

The latter of which, taking place in the Saddledome, saw in the realm of 550 dancers and eight drum groups taking over the venue.

Singers, dancers, drummers, and participants from across North America made their way to Chestermere, July 8, to be a part of the celebra-

tions.

"We talked with the Town of Strathmore, and initially, we are supposed to be back there, and so we are looking at our work continuing. We have our board members ... who have already spoken to other organizations," added Ayoungman-Hunt. "Our work is continuing and growing. We also have done conferences, I have attended speaking engagements, we also do the Lead By Example Cultural Sharing Day, and that is in its fourth year also with Golden Hills School Division."

She added the Kakato'si Kristian Ayoungman Foundation has already been meeting with several other communities who are interested in having conferences come to them for educational purposes, or to aid them in hosting local Powwow events.

The Kakato'si Kristian Ayoungman Foundation and the Lead By Example Powwow were created to honour the late Kristian Ayoungman, who was fatally shot near Strathmore in March 2019 after a dispute over cigarettes.

"People need to see the beautiful and positive side of First Nations, not only what you hear in the news – the negatives and all of the (trauma). When people come to these powwows, they experience, they feel the vibrant energy and you feel the songs, and you enjoy watching the dancers," said Ayoungman-Hunt. "It grasps their attention and they love it. I see people enjoying and they are like, 'Wow, I didn't know that First Nations were so beautiful in this way and they could all come together in one place.'"

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Negotiations for local health care aides remains stagnant after years of bargaining

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After nearly three years of advocating for better compensation, negotiations between workers and Bayshore Health Care in Strathmore continue to be stagnant.

Scott Payne, director of communications for UFCW Local 401, and one of the lead negotiators for Bayshore Health Care members in Strathmore, explained he stepped in late last year to try and pick up the process, which represents just shy of 40 local health care aides.

“Different sets of negotiations take different amounts of time, but it is pretty rare for any one set of negotiations to take this long,” he said. “There are two challenges that we are facing in (this) regard: one is that according to reports and research that we did ... these are the lowest paid health care aides in the province, and we have no reasonable explanation for why that is the case.”

Payne added Strathmore’s local workers have expressed they are experiencing increasing challenges implemented by Bayshore Health Care to meet their clients’ needs and ensure quality care is administered.

On behalf of the workers, he explained compensation and benefits are regular issues addressed at the bargaining table; however, there are also avenues to try and enhance the contracts which members are working under.

“We are just having no luck being able to engage in a meaningful discussion with the employer about those issues, and we are very stuck at this point in time. These workers are feeling incredibly frustrated about how they are being treated,” said Payne. “They want to be able to do a good job and are finding it increasingly difficult to do so. These are workers who care very much for the clients that they are interacting with.”

According to Payne, workers have also expressed concerns about their ability to speak out publicly and raise their concerns, fearing for the security of their employment should they do so.

Bayshore employees in Thunder Bay walked off the job in December 2025 to voice similar concerns to what is being experienced in Strathmore. These included low wages, unrealistic work expectations, and poor confidence in communication with management.

The company had also previously been under fire in October 2025, when it was reported to have received \$18 million through the Province of Ontario’s Skills Development fund, despite being implicated in medical supply issues throughout Ontario’s home care system in 2024.

Between 2021 and 2025, Bayshore had also received approximately \$18.6 million from Ontario’s Ministry of Labour to reskill workers.

“The scheduler gives me four different clients who live out of town, but they don’t take away the clients I have in town. This makes it impossible to get all my work done. I’m always rushing between clients, and it’s not fair to them or me. They don’t even email us when there’s bad weather or if there’s a dangerous person in the area where our clients live,” said Erika Belanger, who is quoted through a UFCW Local 401 Take Action letter. “One time, there was a shooting outside Strathmore, and the police cordoned off an area to search for an armed and dangerous person. Even though our clients lived close by, no one said a

word to us.”
Belanger, as well as James Bos, who is also quoted via the letter, both voiced concerns regarding unreasonable travel between patients, stressful and rush situations in order to arrive for clients, and the lack of appropriate compensation for their driving expenses.

Reported salaries by Bayshore employees range from matching the national average for Licensed Practical Nurses, to being approximately 14 per cent below the national average for caregivers.

The majority of currently posted job listings by Bayshore did not list pay rates or salaries job seekers could expect, should they choose to apply for an open position. Currently, over a dozen openings are listed in the region including Calgary, Strathmore, and Wheatland County.

Payne explained when Bayshore’s workers first unionized and joined UFCW Local 401, negotiations were unsuccessful to the point of requiring a mediator to impose a first contract on the workers and the employer.

“That process took so long that essentially, by the time it wrapped up, we were on the doorstep of the end of the initial term and in a position where that first contract was expiring very shortly after the entire process for creating it had wrapped up,” he said. “We almost went straight into negotiations for improvements to that contract because ... any collective agreement will have a particular term and a different contract.”

He added despite the myriads of concerns, as well as proposals put forward, Bayshore has been difficult to have meaningful conversation with, and has expressed little interest in expanding the language that is codified in the collective agreement which defines the terms and conditions for the employment of their workers.

The most recent offer from the employer, which was not disclosed, dated back to June 2024, and was deemed “exceedingly insufficient.” As of April 2026, Payne said Bayshore had indicated they did not wish to revise their position.

“We have had to go to the Alberta Labour Relations Board to try and move the process for negotiating an essential services agreement along,” added Payne. “We have recently also had to go to the Alberta Labour Relations Board for assistance in terms of trying to move bargaining on the actual collective agreement along.”

In Alberta, an employer is not legally required to reimburse employees for their mileage; however, it is considered standard practice to do so at the tax-free rate prescribed by the Canada Revenue Agency.

Locally, this equates to \$0.73 per kilometer for the first 5,000 kilometers, and \$0.67 per kilometer for any additional mileage.

Compensation for Health Care Aides is governed by Alberta’s Employment Standards rules and are not classified as an exempt occupation to the regular minimum wage.

According to the 2023 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey, Health Care Aides average in their compensation between \$16 and \$22.70 per hour.

The Strathmore Times attempted to reach Bayshore Heath Care with a request for comment about the ongoing negotiations but did not receive a reply prior to our publication deadline.

With Files from Global News, TB News Watch



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Tire pressure measurement

4. Request

7. Clairvoyance

10. 007’s creator

11. Adult male

12. God of battle (Scandinavian)

13. Cloths spread over a coffin

15. Breeze through

16. Ladyfish genus

19. We all take them

21. Earl’s jurisdiction

23. Members of U.S. Navy

24. Rummy-like card game

25. Affected by injury

26. Member of a Semitic people

27. Withdrew from a union

30. Woman’s cloak

34. Spanish river
35. Prohibit

36. Something you can take

41. Dish soap brand

45. Ottoman military commanders

46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony

47. Makes somber

50. Discuss again

54. A tool to inject

55. Support

56. Informal term for money

57. Catch doing something wrong

59. Prehistoric people

60. Large African antelope

61. Vehicle

62. Georgia rockers

63. High resolution microscope

64. Pitching statistic

65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant

2. Marketable

3. Rather

4. Collected

5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal

6. Irish hip-hop trio

7. Ageless

8. Course requirements

9. Pokes at

13. TV channel

14. They ___

17. Cooking material

18. Investment account

20. Iron-containing compound

22. Swiss river

27. Small coin (French)

28. Electronic countermeasures

29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms

32. Unhappy

33. Midway between northeast and east

37. Glowing

38. Item to be addressed

39. An informal body of friends

40. Intrinsic nature of something

41. Neural structures

42. Brews

43. A place for ships

44. One who sings holiday songs

47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

48. Scottish town

49. The most worthless parts

51. Sticky

52. Put to work

53. Precursor to the EU

58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)

STRATHMORE



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STRATHMORE WHEATLAND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Faithful fundraiser

Golfers gathered at the Strathmore Golf Club for the 9th annual Sacred Heart Church Golf Tournament on July 11. The annual fundraiser brought parishioners and community members together for a day on the course, with proceeds supporting the Sacred Heart Church building fund.

Joe Lepage Photos

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Thought for the Week
~
Could it be that our character is formed by the challenges we face and overcome.

SUDOKU

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County moves forward with proposed data center discussions

Continued from Page 1

Because permission was not granted unanimously by council to hold third readings for the ASP amendment, nor the land redesignation during the same meeting, both bylaws will have to be brought forward during a future meeting.

“I am not in favour of this project. I won’t be voting for this ... the reason is there was so much opposition and that is on the industry,” said Biggar. “I feel bad that the industry – maybe they are doing everything they can to mitigate things that have happened in the past, but they are there, and they have to get out in front of the public and make sure this informa-

tion is out there that changes are being made, and they are good changes.”

Coun. Keith Clayton spoke to the merit in inviting the estimated 100 jobs into the community which would be provided upon the completion of the facility campus, making a comparison to the opportunities offered by Cameco since their development in Canada.

“We are not taking this decision lightly, but we must consider the needs of the whole county along with the needs of the local community,” added Coun. Shannon Laprise. “Even if we approve all of these (bylaws), no buildings will be built, no earth will be moved, nothing will be happening until all of the issues raised are resolved at the next stage.”

She reiterated the county will reserve the ability to quash the application at any stage prior to groundbreaking should council feel an application is inadequate or inappropriate.

Laprise added the advent of industrial taxpayers keeps prices low for municipal residents, and further that the county is not responsible for the preservation of farmland.

“We can’t direct an owner to use their land for farming. We protect (agricultural) land as much as we can by directing development to dedicated areas such as Goldfinch and limiting the amount of non-agriculture subdivisions on every other quarter section,” she said. “I appreciate the desire to protect (agricultural) land as much as we can, but the reality is that the tax revenue off of (agricultural) lands is not enough to sustain our county.”

Reeve Scott Klassen and councillors Laprise, Hebbes, Clayton, and Koester voted in favour of passing the motions for first and second readings, with Coun. Biggar and Coun. Rick Laursen opposed (5-2 in favour).

The Road Closure bylaw was defeated by council, 5-2 against, with only Klassen and Laprise in support. This was largely due to safety and fire response on a road which actively sees significant local traffic numbers.

Bylaws 2025-32 and 2025-34 will be returned before council, Aug. 11, for further discussion, debate, and potential approval of third readings.

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Strathmore local shares grim reminder for pet owners to be mindful of their animals, encourages community conversations

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A local Strathmore resident is advising the community to be mindful of their pets and their behaviours following the disappearance of a beloved family cat.

Christina Burroughs explained her cat, Lady, disappeared June 17. To date, Lady has yet to be found.

Two days following the disappearance, she was informed by local RCMP that her neighbour had been arrested and charged with animal cruelty under Section 445.1 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

This section describes offences as killing, maiming, and/or injuring lawfully kept animals, or placing poisons intended for consumption by lawfully kept animals.

Strathmore RCMP confirmed the arrest and charge; however, declined further request for comment, due to the investigation being ongoing.

The neighbour had confessed to trapping and transporting the cat approximately eight kilometers north of Strathmore.

"I had sort of a feeling that my neighbor had done it because he always said he was going to, but he kind of framed these sorts of threats as jokes," said Burroughs. "There was an interaction we had the day she went missing ... we can look down into his yard because we are higher up, and he ducked and ran away toward his garage as soon as he saw us."

Burroughs described a grievance her neighbour had about cats defecating in his garden, though she was never approached prior to her cat being trapped and taken.

Under the town's responsible animal control bylaw, instances of defecation on properties other than its owners which is not immediately cleaned up, constitute an offence.

The bylaw describes owners as guilty of an offence if their animal is at large, causes damage to public or private property, or constitutes a public nuisance.

"It is sad because if it was a municipal issue, we would have Lady back. He would have dropped her off; we would

Christina Burroughs' cat, Lady, disappeared June 17, later being confirmed to have been taken by her neighbour and abandoned outside of Strathmore. Despite his confessing the location he abandoned the cat, she has yet to be found as of the publication of this article.

Photo Courtesy of
Christina Burroughs



have paid a fine, and then we would have our cat back," said Burroughs.

In Alberta, it is legal to trap roaming domestic cats, provided live, humane traps are used. Once trapped, the animal is under the legal care of the person who trapped it.

The Alberta SPCA details it is illegal to abandon trapped domestic animals by transporting and releasing them. They may only be released as far as a given property line.

Alternative options include returning the animal to its owner or turning it into an appropriate municipal facility or veterinary clinic. In Strathmore, animal control is administered by Municipal Enforcement.

"Make sure your pets are accounted for. Talk to your neighbours, and if there is a problem, tell them," said Burroughs. "If you have a neighbour that has a cat that is pooping in your garden, maybe be respectful and have a conversation with them."



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

If you have laryngitis, it's natural to avoid talking. But you should also avoid *whispering* as well. Instead, give your voice a complete rest, keep hydrated and avoid clearing your throat. This will help heal the inflamed vocal cords.

In 1932, a new generation of wonder drugs began with the introduction of *prontosil*, the first of the sulpha drugs. These drugs were effective against specific bacteria and grandchildren of prontosil are still in use today.

Just another bit of pharmacy history: Back in the 1930s, a company introduced *benzedrine* inhalers as a nasal decongestant. It actually contained an amphetamine, a strong stimulant and was also being used to treat obesity and hyperactive children. And it was available without prescription. However, due to its growing evidence of misuse and addiction, its availability was changed the prescription-only in 1959.

To reduce the risk of dementia, the Alzheimer's Society recommends doing routine physical exercise, drinking less alcohol, don't smoke, and staying socially active. Also important is managing long-term health conditions like cholesterol, diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity.

**Hours: M-F: 9-7 pm
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Upcoming Meetings

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

August 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting
August 18, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | MPC | PPC | COW

For call-in details, access links, and agenda packages, please visit our website. <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/agendasandminutes/>

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB)

The Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) will hold a public hearing in the Wheatland County Council Chambers, located at 242006 Range Road 243 (east of Strathmore off Highway 1), on **Friday, July 24, 2026**, commencing at **9:00 a.m.**, regarding the following:

SDAB File: DPA 2026-057
Re: Conditions of Approval for Development Permit 2026-057, Residential General (HRG) District
Legal Description: SW-7-22-25W4M, Plan 4610AV, Block 6, Lot 13-16
Permit Approved – June 9, 2026 - Municipal Planning Commission

At the hearing, the SDAB will hear submissions from the appellant(s) and/or their agent, any person who may be affected by the proposal, and any other individual who wishes to make a representation and is permitted to do so by the Board. Comments may be presented verbally at the hearing. If you wish to provide a written submission, you must bring sufficient copies for distribution at the commencement of the hearing.

A time limit may be imposed on verbal submissions at the discretion of the Chairperson. Written submissions are encouraged in advance and may be provided by **end of day Thursday, July 16, 2026**, by email to sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca.

The complete file for this application may be reviewed at the County Office during regular office hours, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information regarding the appeal will also be posted on the Wheatland County website prior to the hearing date.

Any submissions you make are being collected under the authority of Alberta’s Protection of Privacy Act, Section 4(c), as the information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity of the public body, and is protected under the Act. For the purposes set out in Sections 678 and 686 of the Municipal Government Act, submissions will form part of a report available to the public and may be referenced in the Board’s public written decision. If you have any questions regarding the collection or retention of this information, please contact the ATIA Coordinator at the Wheatland County Administrative Office, 242006 Range Road 243, Wheatland County, Alberta, T1P 2C4, or by phone at 403-934-3321.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the SDAB Clerk at the Wheatland County Administration Office at (403) 361-2000 or by email at sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca

Public Hearings
Wheatland County Council Chambers August 11th, 2026, at 9 a.m.

Wheatland County Council will hold the following Public Hearing at its regular Council meeting on Tuesday, August 11th, 2026.

The following Public Hearing will begin at 9:00 a.m. and proceed until all applications have been heard:

File No: RC2026-001

Bylaw #: 2026-09

Location: The undeveloped road allowance of Range Road 265, immediately south of Highway 1 East and north of Durum Drive.

Proposal:To close a ± 0.36 hectare (± 0.90 acre) undeveloped portion of road allowance between Lot 1, Block 4, Plan 1011307 and Lot 20, Block 1, Plan 1711430 for the purpose of sale and disposition.



Comments may be forwarded in writing to Wheatland County or in person at the above meeting. The application files may be reviewed in the County Office during regular office hours – Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any comments provided will become part of the public record in accordance with Section 13(1) of Alberta’s Protection of Privacy Act. Any personal information on submissions made regarding applications is collected under the authority of the Protection of Privacy Act, Section 4(c) that information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity of the public body.

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





CGC raised \$64,000 this year through their annual Cowboy Corral fundraiser, in partnership with the Home Depot Foundation. This time around, the funds went to benefit Safe Haven, a Calgary-based organization which helps young women get off the street, develop life skills, and set themselves up for futures of success.

Photo Courtesy of CGC

CGC raises \$64,000 for Safe Haven Foundation through annual fundraiser

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

CGC has once again partnered with the Home Depot Foundation to raise charitable funds through their annual Cowboy Corral Calgary Stampede Fundraiser.

This time around, \$64,000 was raised to support the Safe Haven Foundation, which aims to give young women a safe place to be off the street and set themselves up for success.

“It is always an honour to come back and represent CGC and be part of the Stampede community, and we are very happy to help support a lot of local community members and organizations,” said Dwayne Van Duuren, plant manager for CGC Wheatland County.

In areas where CGC operates, each team respectively participates in their “Give Local” program, through which organizations are selected annually to benefit from large-scale fundraising efforts.

He added CGC reaches out annually to longstanding partners to get the word out, looking for new organizations to add to their roster.

In previous years, the Cowboy Corral fundraiser has typically raised in the realm of \$30,000 for its charity partner.

Van Duuren has been a part of the Wheatland plant project since 2024, and CGC officially opened their local facility in June.

Christina Lloyd, CEO of the Safe Haven Foundation, said it was an exciting

prospect to be able to connect with CGC and be a part of their annual fundraiser this year.

“The Safe Haven Foundation has been operating here in Calgary for 30 years, supporting girls and young women between the ages of 14 to 26 who are in the very early stages of experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness,” she explained. “We are very much a preventative program. We believe in showing up before homelessness takes root in that very small sliver of time where we have the greatest opportunity to change the trajectory of their lives.”

The foundation operates two programs which aim to support young women in identifying their goals, support them in healing, and exercise life skills in order to be better prepared for self-sufficiency.

“We have an annual operating budget of just under \$1 million typically, so (\$64,000) is a big deal to us, and that is going to go towards life changing coaching that could fund the education programs and bursaries that pay the tuition to get our youth on a path that is going to unlock so many different opportunities for them that will change their lives,” she said.

To date, Safe Haven has been able to support over 130 girls and young women. Beyond their programs, Lloyd added the goal is for these women to impact their relationships and workplaces, and break cycles of generational trauma.

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Cruising for a cause

A full day of family fun drew visitors to the annual Pure Country Meats and Zegil Automotive & Transmission Charity Car Show on July 11 at the Strathmore Ag Grounds. Along with dozens of classic and custom vehicles, attendees enjoyed a barbecue, Alberta Strongman demonstrations, the Battle of the Techs engine rebuilding competition, an Alpine Rescue adoption event, a cornhole tournament, face painting, vendors, shopping, raffles, awards and other family activities. All proceeds from the event supported the Wheatland Hospice Society.

Joe Lepage Photoss



NOTICE TO CITIZENS

Notice of Meeting

Otipemisiwak Métis Government Annual Citizens' Gathering

August 21 & 22, 2026

Slave Lake, Alberta

In accordance with the Constitution and Laws of the Otipemisiwak Metis Government,
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Métis Nation within Alberta will gather for the 98th time
at the annual Citizens' Gathering of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to be held
on August 21 & 22, 2026 at Slave Lake, Alberta.

In accordance with the Constitution and Self-Government Act, Citizens of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government
who attend the Citizens' Gathering shall have the opportunity to present and vote on Citizens' Proposals.

In accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and the Citizens' Gathering Rules of Procedure
all copies of proposed Special Resolutions must be provided by email to the Chair of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government
via Chair@metis.org no later than 3:00 PM on July 24, 2026.

Learn more about the Citizens' Proposal & Special Resolution processes here:
AlbertaMetis.com/Citizens-Gathering-2026

Dated this 8th day of July, 2026 at Edmonton, Alberta.

Garrett Tomlinson, Chair, Otipemisiwak Métis Government

Alberta Health number scam

BBB RELEASE

The Better Business Bureau issued an alert on July 8 after reports about fake texts being sent out about Alberta Health identification.

“This is another phishing scam that every Albertan should be aware of,” says Mary O’Sullivan-Andersen, President and CEO of BBB Serving Alberta and East Kootenay. “The scammers are sending out texts claiming Albertans have to update their personal information because health cards issued before January 2023 are invalid. This is a scam. There are often clear indicators of phony texts. In this case it says it’s official communication from the Government of Canada. Health is a provincial jurisdiction. Another indication is an email address attached to the text which is from a large private email provider. Delete this text – do not engage.”

Protecting yourself from fake text message scams:

- Don’t trust unsolicited messages. Scammers will try to get you to click a link or call a number in a text message claiming you’ve won a great prize, your subscription account is about to be deactivated, or there was a problem delivering a package to your home. They may even claim fraudulent activity has been detected on your account and tell you to “Act now!” Before you get too worked up and respond, ask yourself, “Did I give this company permission to text me? Did I enter a contest recently? Am I expecting a package? Is it normal for this business to send me messages?” If an out of the blue offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you receive an unsettling text message from a company you do business with, but they never texted you in the past, look up their contact information on their official website and get in touch to find out what the message is really about.

- Watch out for suspicious links. Most scam text messages contain a link for you to click on. Scammers hope their message will cause you to feel so scared or excited you’ll click the link without thinking. Some of these links could download malware onto your device. Others may lead you to lookalike websites where scammers hope to harvest your personal information, login ID, and passwords.

- Know that a personalized message doesn’t make the sender trustworthy. Thanks to data breaches and online directories, at least some of your personal information is probably online. Scammers may have access to your name, address, where you bank, your phone provider and other details about your life. They may include some of this information in their text to appear more legitimate. When in doubt, contact the businesses directly to find out if they really tried to contact you.

- Look for spelling and grammar errors. A large number of fake texts originate with offshore companies where they may be crafted by someone who isn’t completely fluent in the English language. Some scammers are highly skilled in English, and it may even be their first language, so not every fake text you receive will follow this rule. Still, legitimate companies usually hire professional writers and editors to craft their business communications, so if you notice strange phrasing along with spelling and grammar errors, you’re probably dealing with a scammer.

- If a website looks real, check again. If you do click on a link in a suspicious text message and it appears to take you to an official business website, don’t feel safe straightaway. Scammers can create a carbon copy of a legitimate website and if you login on the fake site they can steal your username and password. Check the URL carefully to make sure you are on the official website before you navigate within it.

- Look up phone numbers before you call. Scammers may prompt you to call a number, claiming you need to resolve some kind of issue or register to receive a prize. They may do so under the guise of a real business, so always double check any numbers they send you before you call. If the scammer gets you on the line, they’ll likely ask you to “confirm your identity” by telling them your PIN, password, social security or social insurance number, or other personal details. No legitimate company will ever ask you to reveal your security information over the phone. If you realize you’re talking to a scammer, hang up and block the number.

- If you spot a scam text, don’t reply. Some scammers ask you to text “STOP” or “NO” so you won’t receive future texts. In reality, your reply tells them they have a real, active phone number and could open you up to future attacks. If a text message seems suspicious, don’t reply. Block the number and erase the message.

- Keep your antivirus software up to date. Antivirus software can alert you to fake and unsafe websites if you happen to click on a link in an unsolicited text message. Keep the software installed and up to date to protect yourself against scammers.

Adding schools and growing our economy

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Alberta’s government is taking major steps to grow our economy and build the schools families need. Last week, our government celebrated a new west-east pipeline route and moved 41 school projects closer to completion. These are big wins for jobs, families, and the future of our province.

Alberta energy is one step closer to reaching more Canadian refineries and global customers. Alberta and Ontario have unveiled a proposed 3,300-kilometre pipeline route for the Northern Shield Energy Corridor, running from Hardisty, Alta. to Sarnia, Ont. This west-east pipeline will expand Alberta’s access to eastern refineries and open-water ports – helping Alberta and Canada get more value from the natural resources we already produce. The project will move an additional 500,000 barrels of oil per day, with the potential to expand to 800,000 barrels per day in the future. This builds on our government’s work with Ontario and Saskatchewan to strengthen trade across provincial borders, while also supporting our proposed west coast pipeline to strengthen our energy independence and reach new markets. Together, these projects will create well-paying jobs, grow our economy, and connect

our energy to Canadian consumers and the world.

Families need schools close to home, especially as Alberta continues to grow. That’s why we are speeding up 41 public school projects through the Schools Now program – creating or upgrading more than 39,000 student spaces across the province. Of these projects, 19 are moving to construction funding, while another 22 are moving into the design phase – including the new Grades 10-12 public high school in Chelsea, Chestermere. This will shorten many project timelines by more than nine months, meaning students and families will see new and modernized schools sooner.

A stronger Alberta is built by opening new markets, attracting private investment, and keeping up with the needs of growing communities. The Northern Shield pipeline route will help move Alberta energy to more customers, and faster school construction means more students can learn in modern spaces closer to home. Together, these projects demonstrate that our government is delivering results that will support jobs, strengthen communities, and keep Alberta leading the way.

As always, please free to reach out to my office with your feedback and questions (Chestermere. Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca).

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

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Pasta time!

Representatives from several local organizations gathered at the Strathmore Civic Centre on July 10 for Parent Pasta Night, an event designed to welcome new families to the community and introduce them to free support services. Although only a few members of the public attended, the evening became a valuable opportunity for representatives from Kickstart, Trellis, Circle Keeper, FCSS and True North to share updates on their programs and discuss ways they can continue collaborating to better serve local families.

Joe Lepage Photo



Lower your risk of West Nile virus

PRIMARY CARE ALBERTA

Mosquitoes are a common summer pest. It's important to remember that if you're bitten, you may be at risk for West Nile virus. With mosquitoes thriving this time of year, Primary Care Alberta asks Albertans to protect their health by preventing bites.

While the risk of West Nile virus remains low in Alberta, some mosquitoes can carry the virus, so it's best to avoid being bitten at all. West Nile virus is an infection that can give you flu-like symptoms. In rare cases, the infection can lead to brain and spinal cord inflammation, which can be hard to recover from. There is currently no specific treatment for West Nile virus infection.

Here are some ways you can help prevent mosquito bites:

- Cover as much of your body as possible when outdoors, especially in grassy or wooded areas.
- Wear long-sleeved, light-coloured shirts and pants, and a hat.
- Stay indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use a Health Canada-approved insect repellent (for example, products with DEET or Icaridin)

and follow the product label instructions.

If you're a parent or caregiver, do not use insect repellent with DEET on babies under six months of age. Instead, use mosquito netting and try not to be outside when insect activity is high, like at dawn and dusk.

If your child is old enough for you to use insect repellent with DEET, limit use where you can:

- If your child is six months of age to two years old, do not use insect repellent more than once a day. Use insect repellent only when there's a high risk of insect bites, like at dawn and dusk.
- If your child is over two years of age, you can use it up to three times a day.

Always make sure you use a registered product labelled as an insect repellent for use on people.

Care is a lifelong commitment for Primary Care Alberta. We plan, fund and support primary healthcare across the province, improving access to care providers and offering front-line services through Health Link 811 and public health teams. Throughout the health journey, we are by your side – managing, preventing and reducing illness. Along with our partners, we nurture the connections our communities need to thrive and strengthen the health of all Albertans.

Have fun while staying safe this summer

PRIMARY CARE ALBERTA

With a variety of fun events taking place over the coming weeks, including the Calgary Stampede, KDays, the Strathmore Stampede, and various powwows, rodeos, and festivals throughout the province, Primary Care Alberta encourages everyone to stay safe while enjoying all summer has to offer in Alberta.

Beat the heat

Simple precautions like staying hydrated and cool can protect you from the sun and heat this summer. Heat exhaustion can make you feel dizzy, nauseous, or faint. Children, older adults, and those with pre-existing medical conditions are particularly vulnerable to heat exhaustion and dehydration. Some medications can increase the risks related to heat exposure. Check with your care provider or pharmacist for more information.

To avoid heat-related illness and practice sun safety:

- Wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher, applying at least 30 minutes before going outside and reapplying every two hours.
- Drink lots of water and other non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated beverages.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses with a UVA/UVB CSA certified seal.
- Consider rescheduling outdoor activities to cooler hours of the day.
- Take frequent breaks from the heat in cooled indoor spaces where possible.

Heat stroke can result in high body temperature, lack of sweat, disorientation, fainting, or unconsciousness. If you're concerned someone may have heat stroke, move them to a shaded area, remove outer clothing and shoes, wrap them in a wet towel, and get medical attention.

Lower the risk

Consider using less alcohol or going alcohol free while enjoying summer activities. Alcohol alters how we think, act, and feel. The effects can change depending on your weight, sex, age, what you have eaten, and if you have taken any other substances (like prescription drugs, over-the-counter-medicine, cannabis, or other drugs). The size of a drink, the amount of alcohol in the drink, and how fast you drink also have an impact. Never leave your drink unattended, and do not accept drinks – even water – from someone you don't know and trust.

If you choose to use cannabis, opt for products with low THC. Start with a small amount and wait until you feel the full effects before taking more. This can take up to 30 minutes with inhaled cannabis and up to four hours with edible cannabis. Taking more can increase your risk of adverse effects. Cannabis effects can last up to 24 hours. If you choose to use cannabis, use only legally purchased cannabis. Cannabis purchased through non-legal sources is not tested for quality, may contain a different amount of THC than on the label and may contain harmful chemicals, pesticides, mold, fungus, or bacteria.

Alcohol and cannabis can affect your coordination, balance, reaction time, judgment, and ability to make safe and healthy decisions for you and others. Impacts can be serious, including injuries from falls, drowning, memory loss, or medication interactions. Avoid mixing substances like alcohol and cannabis, as the results can be unpredictable and dangerous.

Zero alcohol or cannabis is the limit when:

- Taking part in dangerous physical activities.
- Driving a vehicle, watercraft, or using machinery.
- If pregnant or planning to become pregnant.
- In situations where you're responsible for the safety of others.

If you choose to drink or consume cannabis, please do so responsibly and plan a safe way home ahead of time. When someone is choosing not to drink or use cannabis, be supportive of their decision to stay sober.

Care is a lifelong commitment for Primary Care Alberta. We plan, fund and support primary healthcare across the province, improving access to care providers and offering front-line services through Health Link 811 and public health teams. Throughout the health journey, we are by your side – managing, preventing and reducing illness. Along with our partners, we nurture the connections our communities need to thrive and strengthen the health of all Albertans.

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TIMES **CLASSIFIEDS**

Obituary

DEBNAM, Tynel Lee

We are saddened to share the news of Tynel's passing, July 4, 2026, after a short yet courageous battle with cancer.

Tynel was born July 6, 1982, in Calgary and grew up with his family on the farm in the Lyalta area.

As the youngest of two brothers, Tynel graduated from high school in Strathmore before continuing his education in Lethbridge, where he earned a certificate in Criminal Justice with hopes of pursuing a career in policing. In the meantime, he worked for High Time Industries as a Power System Electrician. During this time, Tynel also continued his passion of rodeo where he competed in the bareback event. It must be said here that what Tynel lacked in natural ability he made up for with heart and determination. Tynel also had a keen interest in his family's Belgian draft horses.

A motor vehicle accident that left Tynel with a traumatic brain injury caused a shift in his life's plans, however it did not change his passion for life. If nothing else, it enhanced the way Tynel looked at and saw things. Many who followed Tynel on Facebook will remember the photos he would post of sunsets, sunrises, and nature in general. He was given a gift that allowed him to take the time to appreciate things many take for granted.

Tynel's greatest gift was his laugh; it was pure and honest and contagious and will be missed by so many. Even as he struggled battling cancer, he was still able to get the trademark Tynel smile and laugh out, to the joy of visitors and medical staff.

Tynel will be forever remembered by his Mom, Bonny; Dad Jess; brother Judd; niece Payton; nephew Nolan; uncles Mark and Lance; aunties June and Linda; close friends Jim, Pat, and Alex; and many other relatives and friends.

Tynel's family would like to pass on our most sincere thanks and gratitude to the staff of unit 105 of the Arthur Child Cancer Center for the care and compassion they gave to Tynel during his journey.

In keeping with Tynel's personality and wishes we will be planning a get together that will be held later this summer. Details will be forthcoming.

Should you feel so inclined donations directly to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada or STARS would be appreciated.

To send condolences, please visit www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca.

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us!**

Email: david.bexte@parl.gc.ca
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Upcoming Council Meetings

July 15, 2026 | 6 p.m.
July 22, 2026 | 6 p.m.
Sept 2, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Committee of the Whole
Regular Meeting of Council
Regular Meeting of Council

Come Say Hi

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

June to early August road maintenance.

Summer Construction on Wheatland Trail.

Starting as early as today through approximately early August, you may see construction activity along Wheatland Trail (Highway 817) as the Government of Alberta through Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors begins road rehabilitation work in and around Strathmore.

Weather permitting, their contractor Aecon will be working on Highway 817 from approximately 1 km south of Highway 1 to 3 km north of Strathmore. Work anticipated to be completed between June 18 and June 30 includes:

- Concrete and sidewalk repairs at several locations within Strathmore, including near Esso, Fas Gas, and Strathmore Alliance Church
- Roadway repairs south of Brent Boulevard
- Crack sealing throughout the project area
- Installation of highway street lighting at the Highway 564 and Highway 817 intersection

To help reduce impacts on traffic, work south of Westmount Drive will generally take place overnight between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Work north of Westmount Drive will generally occur during daytime hours due to nearby residences.

You should expect to see reduced speeds, lane restrictions, and delays while work is underway. Paving operations are scheduled to begin after the July long weekend and run until early August, weather dependent.

Please note that Highway 817 and the above project is managed by the Government of Alberta and not the Town of Strathmore.

For more information on Government of Alberta road conditions and construction updates, call 5-1-1 toll-free or visit 511.alberta.ca

Information on Strathmore's roads can always be found at Strathmore.ca/RoadReports

New classes available.

Lifeguard academy.

Interested in the Lifeguard Academy? We've got some new classes for you to check out.

- Lifesaving Intermediate First Aid with CPR-C & AED
- Bronze Medallion
- Bronze Cross
- National Lifeguard
- Swim Instructor

Check out Strathmore.ca/Recreation for more information.

Strathmore Forward.

Municipal Development Plan Update.

The Town of Strathmore is updating its Municipal Development Plan (MDP) — a guiding document that provides direction on how our community will grow and develop over the long term. The Town's current MDP is being reviewed and updated to reflect where Strathmore is headed. This review, called Strathmore Forward, is happening in stages. The first stage, Module A, focuses on topics like growth management, economic development, and agricultural operations, and includes updated content to help residents better understand the plan.

Bylaw No. 26-07, pertaining to Module A, is posted and available for public review and comment. The commenting period will remain open up to and including the scheduling of a public hearing at Council. Questions and/or comments about Module A and Bylaw No. 26-07 can be sent to strathmoreforward@strathmore.ca or by regular mail to Town of Strathmore c/o Project Manager (MDP Review), PO Box 2280, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, Alberta, T1P 1K2.

More information about the Town's Municipal Development Plan can be found at Strathmore.ca/MDP

Join our team.

Career opportunities available.

Are you looking for a new opportunity? The Town of Strathmore is hiring! We have a variety of positions available across different departments.

- Casual Lifeguard/Instructor
- Contract Group Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer
- Lead Facility Operator (Arena)
- Manager, Financial Services
- Community Development Coordinator

Check out Strathmore.ca/Careers for more information about current opportunities and discover your bright future with the Town of Strathmore.

Bored? We can fix that.

Join a board.

Boards and committees have always played an important role in our community. If you're looking for a way to make an impact, this is your chance to get involved. The Town is currently accepting applications for Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board - 1 position open.

For questions about Volunteer Boards and Committees, please email LSAdmin@strathmore.ca or call 403-934-3133.



Hey dogs, keep your owner on their leash.

You don't want them getting lost, right?



We're sure you've noticed, but it's hot!

Keep your furry friends cool in the heat.



Register today! Summer Camps.

We've got some fun and safe alternatives to boredom for ages 4 to 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-filled summer!

For more information, visit our website Strathmore.ca/Recreation. For registration, you can register for camps through your PerfectMind account. Got questions? Give us a call at 403-361-2121.

Theme	Date
Splash and Play (Swim Lessons)	July 6 to 10, 2026
Sport and Explore	July 13 to 17, 2026
Multi-Sport Adventure	July 20 to 24, 2026
Splash and Dash (Swim Lessons)	July 27 to 31, 2026
Neon Days	Aug 4 to 7, 2026
Balls and More	Aug 10 to 14, 2026
Olympic Days	Aug 17 to 21, 2026
NEW* Fencing Camp (Ares Pentathlon & Fencing)	Aug 24 to 28, 2026
Let's Celebrate	Aug 24 to 27, 2026



You can make a difference.

Recruitment is now open for paid-on-call firefighters. These community members step up to protect their neighbours when it matters most. Whether you're a parent, student, tradesperson, or small business owner, you could be the next to answer the call. You don't need to be a superhero. You don't have to quit your day job.

All you need is an interest in making a difference.

Apply today:

- ☎ 403-934-3022
- ✉ firehall@strathmore.ca
- 🌐 Strathmore.ca/PaidOnCall