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VOLUME 16 ISSUE 31

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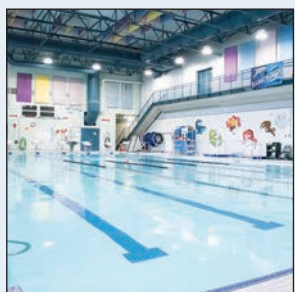
KIC REALTY

Page 5



SAIL graduation

Page 7



Pool back to business

Chamber eyes best parade ever

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce (SWCC) is gearing up in preparation for the upcoming Strathmore Stampede parade, with hopes that the event will be the largest to date.

“We are doing lots of preparations in the back end; right now, we are sitting at around 80 floats, more registrants are coming in day by day, and the chamber is actually on track to have the largest Stampede Parade in recent Strathmore history,” said Cody Holdaway, who spoke on behalf of the SWCC Board of Directors. “We have really been trying to promote the Strathmore Stampede parade and promote the Strathmore business community as a whole, and we are just trying to make this one of the biggest parades that the town has ever seen.”

Holdaway said the estimated record for the greatest number of floats participating in the parade was 89, though did not specify which year that occurred. The tally had reached 80 registrants as of July 24.

A large majority of the floats and represented businesses in the parade are local to Strathmore and Wheatland County. The aim, Holdaway said, is to draw as much attention as possible.

“The chamber’s focus has always been and will always be the local business community, and 90 per cent of these floats are local businesses,” he said. “The bigger we can make this parade, the more people who are going to come out and watch the parade, and the more eyes are going to be on our local business community.”

Joining the parade requires only a \$25 investment to register and is done through the SWCC website.

Holdaway added there are no specific expectations, as some businesses will feature only a banner, where others will participate with an elaborate float or display.

Continued on Page 4



Candy parade

There were plenty of pieces of candy thrown around during the parade, which celebrated the 65th annual Rockyford Rodeo on the morning of July 27. It was a jam-packed weekend with plenty of things to see and do. See Page 2 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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RODEO

The Village of Rockyford hosted their annual rodeo July 26-27. Along with the rodeo, the weekend was packed with a free pancake breakfast, a parade, lively music, an adventure park, disc golf, farmers/craft market, beer gardens, lawn games and much more. If you missed any of the action, you can get your rodeo fix at the Strathmore Stampede Aug. 2-5.

Joe Lepage Photos

Agra Risk Wheatland Kings unveil new logo

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Agra Risk Wheatland Kings have unveiled a new logo for the team, which will be emblazoned on the team’s new uniforms.

“After we signed the deal with Agra Risk about two months ago now, we really sat down and evaluated the Kings brand. Obviously, we have had the maple leaf and the wheat logo for just over 15 years now, so it was vastly aging,” said Cody Holdaway, general manager for the Agra Risk Wheatland Kings. “When we did decide that it was time for a switch up, we called our friend Matthew McElroy, who designed our 15th anniversary crest ... and who works with the Los Angeles Kings. We hopped on a zoom call and explained our vision and he brought it to life on the first try.”

It has been roughly a month since the new logo has been officially unveiled on social media. The production time elapsed was approximately two months between initial discussions and the approval of the final design.

The new logo, Holdaway explained, aims to pay homage to the old, which he said had a great deal of brand recognition within the local community. The hope is that the new iconography will continue to have the same effect throughout the community.

“We got multiple different crests made, shoulder patches, word marks, signage for the outside of the arena – we completely reinvented the wheel on what our brand looks like,” said Holdaway. “I believe we now have a brand that is going to easily take this team into the next 15 years and possibly even longer.”

Following the signing of the name sponsorship deal, Holdaway explained it became immediately necessary to include Agra Risk in the team’s iconography to show their appreciation for such a large cash investment in the team.



Similarly, he said the time felt right to make significant changes to the team, and what better way to begin a new era than to build from the ground up.

“As far as the new logo rollout ... we have just finished working with our partners at Pro Hockey Life, I just got the shipments, we have new pieces of the uniforms slowly starting to roll in, fans can expect to see

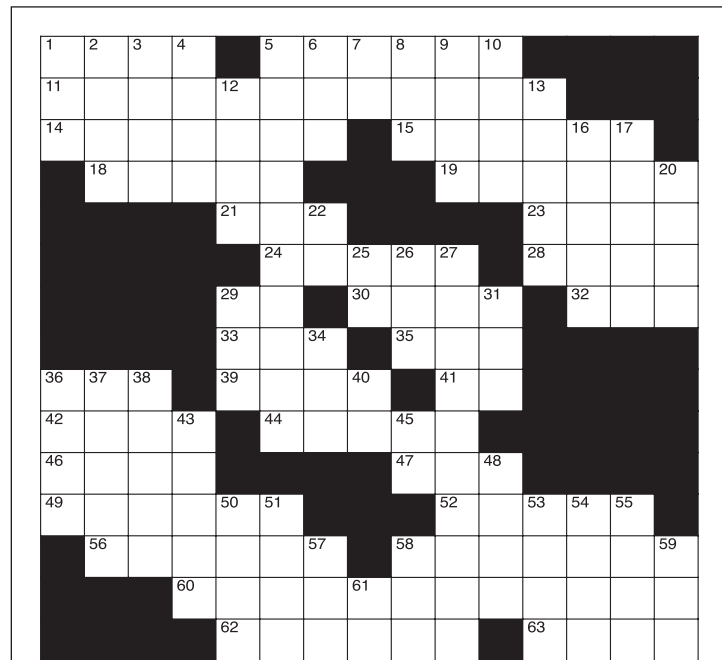
some exciting reveals coming in the next week or two,” said Holdaway. “We are rebranding everything. Everything from the tracksuits to the jackets, to the jerseys, to the helmet stickers. The old logo is officially retired.”

The start of the official regular season will be Sept. 20 in Didsbury against the Mountainview Colts. The Agra Risk Wheatland Kings are scheduled to officially debut their new uniforms at home the following day, squaring off against the High River Flyers.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Nasal mucus
- 5. Hairs on the back of a dog
- 11. Ones who build anew
- 14. Consume too much food
- 15. Praised
- 18. Provides weapons
- 19. Become less lively
- 21. Engine additive
- 23. Thought or suggestion
- 24. South Korean city
- 28. Midday rests
- 29. Expression of acidity or alkalinity
- 30. Group of rockers
- 32. Very fast airplane
- 33. One who is paid to do something
- 35. Buzzing insect
- 36. Monotheistic religion founder
- 39. Strong dark beer
- 41. Blood type
- 42. Square measures
- 44. Honorific titles in NW Semitic languages
- 46. Present
- 47. Afflict in mind or body
- 49. Duty
- 52. Municipality in Stockholm
- 56. In a normal way
- 58. Rode a bicycle
- 60. Charitable
- 62. Verandas
- 63. Uncredited

CLUES DOWN

- 1. No seats available
- 2. Russian river
- 3. A European river
- 4. Phrase
- 5. Idol
- 6. Keyboard key
- 7. Prefix indicating mutual
- 8. Kilometers per hour
- 9. Set an example
- 10. It’s among the “Great” ones
- 12. VVV
- 13. Murdered
- 16. Icelandic poems
- 17. Seas
- 20. Famed cartoonist
- 22. Partner to “Ma”
- 25. Equal to one quintillion bytes
- 26. Speak incessantly
- 27. Disquiet
- 29. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 31. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
- 34. S. American plant
- 36. Monetary unit of Thailand
- 37. Regions
- 38. Baseball legend Yogi
- 40. Ancient Egyptian notion of spiritual part of humans
- 43. Fishing net
- 45. Tinseltown
- 48. MacBeth’s wife was one
- 50. Took a spill
- 51. Adversary to pets
- 53. Town in Galilee
- 54. Secret racist society (slang)
- 55. About aviation
- 57. Longing or yearning
- 58. Hawaiian dish
- 59. Field force unit
- 61. Partner to “Pa”

BBB advises caution and support

ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) expresses deep concern for the businesses, consumers, and residents affected by the wildfires in Jasper and environs in Alberta. Our hearts are with all those impacted, and we are committed to providing support and resources during this difficult time.

As many Albertans seek to help those in need, BBB offers the following advice and resources;

1. Verify Charities and Crowdfunding Campaigns:

- Before donating, ensure the organization is reputable. Use BBB’s Charity Review to check for legitimate and trustworthy charities.

- BBB tip: what to know before donating to a crowdfunding cause: <https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/21745-bbb-tip-what-to-know-before-donating-to-a-crowdfunding-cause>

2. Beware of Scams:

- Avoid unsolicited donation appeals, especially via email or social media. Scammers often exploit disasters to take advantage of compassionate individuals.

dividuals.

- BBB Tip: How to Spot a Scam: <https://www.bbb.org/all/spot-a-scam>

3. Donate Directly:

- Whenever possible, donate directly to established charities rather than through intermediaries to ensure your donation reaches those in need.

- Charity and Donor Resources: <https://www.bbb.org/all/charities-donors>

4. Seek Alternate Travel Plans:

- If your travel plans are affected by the wildfires, contact your airline or travel provider immediately. Many companies offer waivers or flexible rebooking policies.

- BBB’s Travel HQ: <https://www.bbb.org/all/travel>

BBB is dedicated to fostering an ethical marketplace where buyers and sellers trust each other. During this crisis, we encourage the community to unite to support those affected while remaining vigilant against potential scams.

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Thought for the Week

Nothing is so strong as gentleness. Nothing is so gentle as real strength.

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AHS requesting return of financial surplus from WADEMESA

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is currently requesting the return of over \$4 million of funding surplus from the Wheatland and Adjacent Districts Emergency Medical Services Association (WADEMESA).

In a letter dated May 27 from Matthew Striepe, manager of contract strategy and performance with AHS Emergency Medical Services addressed to Rob Witty, CAO of WADEMESA, it is indicated discussions had taken place between the two organizations for the return of \$4,050,830.92 accumulated from 2013 to 2024, to AHS EMS by WADEMESA.

Striepe stated in his letter the funding in question is required by AHS to help address provincial system pressures.

Witty is indicated to have reported some of WADEMESA's funding surplus as being tied up in investing activities, however, exactly what those are was not presented in Striepe's letter.

Striepe requested Witty to provide to AHS a statement outlining WADEMESA's remaining surplus value, an explanation outlining the rationale for any variance in the reported surplus to the actual remaining value, as well as how much of the surplus is committed to investing activities, and what the liquidity of those investments are.

Witty, in a response to Striepe dated June 4, said \$1,291,534.80 had been invested in five separate investments with an array of mature dates. The earliest of which, having been June 26. The furthest was stated to be March 16, 2026.

He also stated WADEMESA's Ground Ambulance Service Agreement and Striepe's funding return request letter had been forwarded to WADEMESA's legal team for advisement.

A letter dated June 7, from Striepe to Darcy Burke, vice chair of WADEMESA, and the WADEMESA Board of Directors, stated AHS did not receive the clarity regarding WADEMESA's spending they were hoping for, as well as WADEMESA's willingness to return their surplus to AHS.

Striepe's June 7 letter stated AHS to have requested a meet-

ing with the WADEMESA board to continue dialogue, as well as that WADEMESA cease any spending of their surplus, noted in the letter to be \$2,145,333, and for WADEMESA to provide AHS with financial statements and accompanying notes for the 2009 through 2017 fiscal years.

The \$2,145,333 surplus was noted by Witty in his letter to Striepe as being the actual surplus based on WADEMESA's audited financial statements, as opposed to the \$4,050,830.92 which would have been concluded from respective Q4 reports each year.

"AHS EMS has a comprehensive contract management program to support service delivery partners, ensuring that funding levels are appropriate and that funds are used according to the terms of their agreements," offered AHS in a statement regarding the letters. "AHS is actively addressing this matter with the contract partner."

Striepe declined to comment regarding the contents of the letters as well as regarding the financials under investigation.

Chamber seeking to make stampede parade the biggest ever

Continued from Page 1

"We just want to see you showcase your business, (and showcase) the vibrant cultures that Strathmore has. This town has a lot of history; we have floats coming to showcase that," he said.

Small businesses explicitly local to Strathmore, as well as large corporations such as the CGC and de Havilland throw in their lot to participate in the festivities.

Following the parade, patrons and attendees are encouraged to head straight down to the Agricultural Society grounds to participate in the Strathmore Stampede.

The parade is scheduled to take off beginning at 9 a.m., Aug. 3, taking a route through downtown Strathmore. More information regarding the parade route is available online.

<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.strathmorefulgospel.com</p>
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<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>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>STRATHMORE UNITED Wheatland Trail & 3rd Avenue 403-934-3025 Rev. Maria Szabone Berces Sunday Worship Services 10:30am Services posted on-line at: www.smoreuc.com Loop System for the Hearing Impaired W/C accessible</p>	<p>SACRED HEART CATHOLIC 221 4th Ave, Strathmore 403-934-2641 Pastor: Fr. Cristino Bouvette Masses: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 10 am www.sacredhc.ca</p>
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	<p>C3 STRATHMORE C3 CHURCH NORTH CALGARY 3812 Marbank Drive N.E., Calgary, AB 403-273-0494 Lead Pastor - Bill Olson Location Pastor - Shan Simpson Pastor - Eric Horstia www.c3connect.ca Sunday at 10:10 a.m. C3 Prayer - Tuesday at 7 p.m.</p>

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SAIL hosts first graduation ceremony

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Adult Inclusive Learning Program (SAIL) celebrated their graduating students for the 2023-24 educational year with a ceremony, July 26, hosted at the Strathmore Municipal Library.

“We have programs that support adult learners, so these are learners who are outside of high school, maybe they have passed the age 20 limit to try and go back to normal high school to get their diploma,” said Diana Rose, special projects coordinator with SAIL. “We support them with foundational skills such as math, English, digital skills. We do English as a second language; we do all of those things and we support them in getting the foundational pieces in place so they can take the exams for what used to be called the GED (General Education Development) but now the name of it is CAEC (Canadian Adult Education Credential).”

Rose explained there are five CAEC exams a student takes, which SAIL helps them to prepare for. Upon passing, the student is awarded a diploma equivalent to that of a high school graduate.

Programs such as those which SAIL offers are to give another opportunity to those who for whichever reason were not able to previously complete their high school education.

“We really come alongside our students and help discover what their goals are and then coach and support and encourage them,” said Rose. “We really are very student-led, so it really depends on what the goal of the student is, and how we navigate what kinds of studies they might need in order to achieve those goals.”

The ceremony hosted July 26 is the first such event SAIL has hosted for their students in Strathmore, with three gra-



duates being recognized for their achievements in person.

Ultimately, the goal will be to continue hosting the program and making graduation ceremonies an annual event for SAIL students.

“Some of the students maybe did not get to experience a graduation in high school with all of their peers for whatever reason. I feel it is even more profound of a celebration because they had to come back, revisit that, and work so hard to juggle all of their life things that are going on now, as well as attain this higher credential,” said Rose. “It is intensive work and they are diligent, they come faithfully, and it is a pretty good celebration.”

Student education through SAIL is largely self-directed, with tutors able to be assigned in areas where a student may be struggling. The programs are designed around the students in order to best fit their needs and fill gaps where they may need specific help.

More information about SAIL is available online, as well as in person at the Strathmore Municipal Library for anyone who is potentially interested in continuing their education.



Strathmore Municipal Library and SAIL program hosted a small graduation ceremony for three adult students who achieved their GED through the program this year. The ceremony took place outside the library, inviting friends and family to celebrate the students' achievements on July 26.

John Watson Photos

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YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist

Capsule Comments

Everyone knows that daily exercise is important to better health. One comedian opined that the only exercise some people get is jumping to conclusions, running up bills, stretching the truth, bending over backward, lying down on the job, sidestepping responsibility and pushing their luck.

Exercising is good for you. You can get daily exercise by taking the stairs instead of the elevator; parking farther away in the parking lot; taking a walk at lunch; getting off the bus one block earlier and walking home; and taking any opportunity to walk whenever you can. Make daily walking part of your life.

If you are traveling to a country where the water is suspect, follow this rule:

“Boil it, cook it, peel it or forget it”. When brushing your teeth, use bottled water. Wash your hands frequently while traveling. (carry your own small bottle of alcohol for cleansing). Don't swallow any swimming pool or ocean water while swimming and drink only bottled beverages in their original container.

The phrase “meta-analysis” means the pooling of many research studies to come up with a common conclusion. The more people that are included in these studies, the more reliable the results are. A real-life example of a meta-analysis is where the subjects of eight studies were pooled and analyzed to determine the effect of the relationship between wearing sunscreen and melanoma. The results showed a 50% reduction in melanoma diagnoses among sunscreen wearers.

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Library hosts hot dog fundraiser

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Municipal Library hosted a hot dog fundraiser in front of the Peavy Mart, July 27, in support of library programming.

“As the board, we are in charge of raising \$10,000 to support some of the local programs that go within the library. We have great funding from the town and from the province, but it is not enough to keep our programs going,” said Ann Horn, chair of the Strathmore Library Board. “We are trying to raise that additional funds so that we can keep all the programs going within the library. There is the SAIL program ... that supports people's learning, and then there is the library that has all various sorts of programs that engage all ages.”

The idea for a hot dog fundraiser was a relatively simple idea and endeavor, which had aimed to see people coming out to enjoy the warm, sunny weather. Despite the presence of rain over the event, locals periodically stopped in for a bite and to support the library.

Similarly, the Strathmore Municipal Library will be running another hot dog fundraiser, Aug. 3, in partnership with Martin Shields in Kinsmen Park following the conclusion of the Strathmore Stampede parade.

“We believe that the library is a really safe place to come for people, especially newcomers, either to Canada or the community, and being able to help people achieve their goals, like getting their GED, or whether it is just to bring your child in to read a book, and we have a mom-and-tots ... it is just support for the neighbourhood,” said Horn. “We have a very dedicated staff that runs all these programs, and I couldn't begin to name all the programs that we have at the library, but if you look at our website, you'll be able to see some of these programs.”

Some of these include book clubs for teenagers and adults, poetry slams, equipment rentals for fledgling hobbyists, and



The Strathmore Municipal Library hosted a hot dog fundraiser outside the Peavy Mart, July 27, aiming to raise funds to support the facility. The fundraiser was hosted from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

John Watson Photo

summer reading programs, among many others.

Horn added she felt the library has done well to establish itself as a facility for more than just reading books and that it is a safe space for anyone who wishes to engage with what it has to offer.

“It is a safe space for people, whether they just want to get away and their kids can go read for a while, and they can go read, that is what we want,” said Horn. “We want it to feel like a safe, welcoming space.”

Other current and upcoming activities and fundraisers from the library include a silent auction, as well as lemonade and cookie sales at the Four Sisters.

The library is also always looking for more volunteers to help at the facility or with programs and events. Information about how to get involved is available online, as well as in person.

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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 13: Council Meeting**
- August 20: Municipal Planning Commission**
- August 20: Committee of the Whole**

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

Public Hearings

Wheatland County Council Chambers August 13, 2024 at 9 a.m.

Wheatland County will consider the following applications for Public Hearing at the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. The following public hearings begin at 9 a.m. and proceed until all applications have been heard:

Bylaw #: 2023-25

Legal Description: Portions of NE-21-26-22-W4M and NW-22-26-22-W4M.

Proposal: To redesignate the subject lands from Agriculture General District (AG) to Direct Control District (DC) to facilitate the future development and expansion of the Hutterian Brethren Church of Wheatland.



Bylaw #: 2024-20

Legal Description: A portion of SE-16-24-24-W4M

Proposal: To redesignate ± 29.12 hectares (± 72.10 acre) of SE-16-24-24-W4M from AG District to CS District in order to facilitate the future expansion of Wheatland County's Public Works facility.



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 40 (1) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act. Any personal information on submissions made regarding applications is collected under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 33 (c) and subsequent versions of the Act.

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PRAIRIE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Prairie Environmental Services Ltd. has applied to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for a Special Use Approval for the control of prohibited invasive species, including Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Plumeless Thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Perennial Sow Thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*), Scentless Chamomile (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), Black Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Common Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), and Lesser Burdock (*Arctium minus*), at the location described as Policeman's Flats (12-3-22-29 W4M) and the location described as McKinnon Flats (SW-28-21-27 W4M, SE 28-021-27 W4M, NE 20-021-27 W4M, and SE 29-021-27 W4M) using Nufarm 2,4-D Ester 700 Liquid Herbicide (2,4-D), Milestone Herbicide (Aminopyralid), and Clearview Herbicide (Metsulfuron-methyl).

A directly affected person may provide input into certain regulatory decisions, as allowed by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (section 73). Specifically, any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

Regulatory Approvals Center
5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza
9915 - 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G8
Fax: 780-422-0154
E-mail: aep.epeapplications@gov.ab.ca

The written statement of concern should include the following:

- the application number 001-500986
- describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
- explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activities proposed in the application
- provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable
- state the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application
- contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer. Please provide a telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact.

Environment and Parks will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and notify each filer by letter of the decision to accept or reject their written submission as a valid statement of concern. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department's website at <https://avw.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx>.

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

Prairie Environmental Services Ltd.
Attention: Danielle Grant
86 OKOTOKS DRIVE
OKOTOKS, AB T1S 1E6
Phone No.: 403-510-1608
Email: info@prairieenvironmental.com



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.





The staff at the Strathmore Aquatic Centre were eager to welcome back patrons after the Stage 4 water restrictions were lifted.

Photo Courtesy of Marcie Mansbridge

Strathmore Aquatic Centre enjoys a month of full recovery

FERNANDO DAVID MORENO-PRADO
Times Contributor

After closing on June 6 due to the regional water restrictions, the Strathmore Aquatic Centre has enjoyed a month of returning to business as usual since reopening on July 2.

The credit for the transition during and after the water restriction goes to aquatic manager Natasha Barron. She and her team were able to “pivot and tackle” the duties during the closure while moving towards the eventual reopening, according to Strathmore Recreation and Culture manager Marcie Mansbridge.

This was a difficult situation for the local community to deal with as the pool is “a very popular spot that time of the year,” says Mansbridge. She points out that the aquatic facility has always been a popular place for young people to meet and an employer of high school and university-age students as well.

“It’s a great place in the community to go and beat the heat,” she said. “So, unfortunate timing for sure.”

The facility was unable to cater to free swim, public lane swimming, lessons and had to issue refunds for the month of June. It happened around the time that the school year was coming

to an end.

The Strathmore Aquatic Centre is no stranger to closing on short notice thanks to the staff’s prior experience with COVID-19 closures, cites Mansbridge.

“Our team is really able to pull together and do everything necessary,” says Mansbridge.

For the foreseeable future the pool is now open to the public for lane swimming, public and private lessons and certification courses. There are also water fitness classes, and the pool can be booked for rent by groups in the community.

The centre hopes to have a busy summer moving forward and provide a safe and fun environment for resident of all ages in the community.

This past week, the staff has been busy with National Drowning Prevention Week with programs aimed to spread awareness. These programs have included proper life jacket education, lifeguard demonstrations and pool safety games.

The Aquatic Centre has been busy with traffic and attendance comparable to pre-closure time but with the influx of school being out since the restrictions were lifted, explains Mansbridge.

“The overall attitude for residents has been very happy,” she adds.

The aquatic centre can be contacted at 403-934-3325 or online (strathmore.ca).

Strathmore RCMP investigate fatal motor vehicle collision

ALBERTA RCMP

On July 26, at 10 a.m., Strathmore RCMP received a report of a serious motor vehicle collision at the intersection of Highway 9 and Highway 564 in Rocky View County. Upon arrival, emergency crews observed that a semi-truck hauling a grain trailer and a small SUV had collided at the intersection.

Initial reports indicated that the semi-truck, travelling south on Hwy 9 collided with the SUV after it rolled from the stop sign executing a north bound turn. Both vehicles came to rest in the southeast ditch of the intersection. The 68-year-old male driver of the truck was able to escape before the fire.

All four occupants of the SUV, a 62-year-old female of Calgary, a 38-year-old male of Calgary, and an adult male and female in their early 60’s from the Philippines were deceased at the scene. The driver of the semi-truck hauling a grain trailer, sustained minor injuries and was assessed by EMS on scene. RCMP continued to remain on scene for several hours conducting the investigation with the support of the Collision Reconstructionist.

Although early in the investigation police believe that the semi-truck struck the SUV as it rolled through the stop sign.

Traffic flow is returning in the area though motorists are advised to drive

with caution as police continue to investigate.

RCMP express our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.

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129 2nd Avenue
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Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca

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Emergency situation

Multiple emergency services attended a serious motor vehicle collision at Highway 1 and Highway 817 in Strathmore after 1 p.m. on July 30. Traffic was diverted for hours while police investigated.

Mario Prusina Photos



Strathmore Huskers seeking new junior players

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Huskers Cornhole Club is seeking new players, particularly juniors, to come out to join in and potentially compete.

“Since we have started, we are still averaging ... close to 30 people a week, and we have had regional tournaments where we have had 50 players from seven different clubs,” said Lance Smith, president of the Strathmore Huskers Cornhole Club. “We have had a lot of players go around and play in different tournaments in other places, so we have a pretty good core group of people and we are always looking for new members.”

Smith explained to his knowledge, cornhole is the fastest growing sport in North America, second only to pickleball.

The inspiration to seek more junior players stemmed from the Tier 5 Provincial champion being a 15-year-old from Sturgeon County.

“I feel like if we can get junior players out, get them into it, then you can see how quickly they can improve,” said Smith. “It is easy to get into, the startup costs are very low, and you can show up to our club without buying any equipment. We have all the bags and equipment that is needed. We think it is a good, cheap way for kids to get out and get involved in something.”

Currently, the demographic who participates in the club includes a few junior players, then a range of people from those in their 20s, to those in their 70s.

Smith regarded the sport as being something for everyone, regardless of age, skill, or athletic ability.

“If you have got a bad leg or anything like that (which) would hinder you from playing other sports, you can probably come out and still play cornhole,” he said. “There is no real age advantage, it is very much a level playing field



The Strathmore Huskers cornhole club meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the pavilion in Kinsmen Park until Aug. 15. The club hopes to introduce the sport to more players ahead of the new season in September.

Fernando David Moreno-Prado Photo

for everyone.”

For the standard 27-foot distance measured for the boards, Smith suggested being at least 14 years of age to compete with the majority of demographics. However, he invited those younger to come out and potentially play with a shorter throw distance.

The majority of cornhole clubs across Alberta host tournaments and competitive events. Additionally, there are provincial tournaments which take place with regular frequency for those who wish to be more competitive with the sport.

Smith added the Strathmore Huskers Cornhole Club is still seeking a venue to host them weekly, every Tuesday for the start of their season at the beginning of October. The goal is for the club to pick up starting approximately on Oct. 8.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

County committed to proposed lodge

To the Editor

I am writing to you regarding the article published in the Strathmore Times on July 24, 2024, concerning statements made during the June 5 Town of Strathmore council meeting about the Wheatland Lodge project.

Firstly, it is crucial to reiterate that despite Wheatland County council's ongoing concerns with Wheatland Housing Management Body Board governance, we remain committed to the proposed lodge project and to a strategic response to affordable housing for vulnerable Wheatland County residents, including the seniors who built our county.

Contrary to recent statements by Coun. Melissa Langmaid and Mayor Pat Fule, Wheatland County has not withdrawn its support or refused future financial contributions to the project. Our commitment has been consistently demonstrated through numerous council resolutions passed in support of Wheatland Lodge, highlighting our ongoing dedication to this initiative. A full historical context can be found online (<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/whmb/>).

Regarding the specific comments made during the June 5 meeting:

1 - Coun. Melissa Langmaid initially made an incorrect statement regarding Wheatland County's support. However, she has since retracted her statement and acknowledged her misunderstanding. It is encouraging to see an elected official take responsibility and correct misinformation promptly. This kind of accountability is essential for maintaining public trust and

ensuring that discussions are grounded in fact.

2 - Mayor Pat Fule made a statement claiming that "Wheatland County has voted against a letter of support." This is factually incorrect. Despite having the inaccuracies pointed out to him directly, Mayor Fule has refused to retract his statement or address the error publicly. This refusal is deeply disappointing and unacceptable from an elected official. Accountability and factual accuracy are fundamental responsibilities of public office, and failing to acknowledge and correct mistakes undermines public confidence and damages inter-municipal relationships.

In his email dated June 20, Mayor Fule expressed a degree of comfort with his position despite the inaccuracies. This approach is not only concerning but also indicative of a disregard for the truth and the importance of transparent communication. Mayor Fule's refusal to acknowledge and correct his false statements is a disservice to the public and reflects poorly on his commitment to honest governance.

Wheatland County still requests a retraction of Mayor Fule's statement to prevent further dissemination of misinformation. We did not request an apology, but we feel strongly that ensuring the public record accurately reflects the positions and actions of our councils is essential for the integrity of our collaborative efforts and the success of the region.

Honoured to serve Wheatland County,
Amber Link,
 Wheatland County Reeve and Division
 2 Councillor

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CHANTELLE DE JONGE
 Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

The tragic situation in Jasper has highlighted the perils of the wildfire season and demonstrated how Albertans always unite in times of crisis to support one another.

Since the Jasper townsite and Jasper National Park were greatly impacted, our government has been clear that we will support the Jasper evacuees, and residents from other areas affected by wildfire, every step of the way.

On July 26, Alberta's Government announced that residents of Jasper and Jasper National Park who had to leave their homes as part of the wildfire evacuation are now able to apply for emergency evacuation payments. This financial aid aims to provide immediate relief to those who have been forced to abandon their homes and belongings. The payments are also extended to temporary foreign workers and seasonal workers who were employed and residing in Jasper National Park or the Town of Jasper, ensuring that all members of the community receive support during this challenging time.

Evacuees from Jasper are being directed to major urban centers such as Edmonton, Calgary, and Grande Prairie. To facilitate this transition, staff at Alberta Supports Centres are on hand to provide necessary assistance. These centres offer a range of services, from financial aid to guidance on accessing further support. I want to thank these municipalities and support workers for being there for their fellow Albertans through this difficult time.

Finally, I have been contacted by many constituents who, in true Albertan spirit, also want to help. In support of relief efforts, the Canadian Red Cross has launched the 2024 Alberta

Wildfires Appeal. The government will match individual contributions to this fund, which will be used to help people impacted in Jasper and other affected areas in Alberta with immediate and ongoing relief. Albertans and Canadians can donate now at give.redcross.ca/page/24AWA. Albertans are always some of the most generous people in the country when it comes to giving to charities and non-profits. Let's show that same giving spirit here, and ensure the evacuees have everything they need to get through this challenging situation.

Following last year's wildfire season, our government invested significantly to prepare our province for another challenging wildfire season. The budget for 2023-24 was \$100.4 million, which was increased to \$155.4 million for 2024-25. This represents an increase of more than 50 per cent and is the highest level the budget has ever been in provincial history. Additionally, \$2 billion has been budgeted in contingency for emergencies like this.

I am so grateful the residents of the Jasper townsite and Jasper National Park were evacuated safely, and I want to extend a tremendous thank you to all the firefighters and emergency workers who are working around the clock to protect our people and communities.

Several local firefighters from Strathmore and Chestermere are on the front lines in Jasper, bravely working to control the fire that has severely impacted the townsite. I have spoken with each of them personally since their deployment and am profoundly grateful for their courage and heroic efforts to protect a place cherished by all Albertans.

We will pull through this together.
(Chantelle de Jonge is the MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore and the Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities)



Upcoming Council Meetings

September 4, 2024 | 6 p.m. Regular Meeting of Council
 September 11, 2024 | 6 p.m. Committee of the Whole
 September 18, 2024 | 6 p.m. 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.

Land Use Ammendment

Upcoming Public Hearing

1. Purpose: to permit the construction of a multifunctional light industrial building with a health services facility.

Bylaw #24-16

Staff received an application for a land use redesignation (*Bylaw No. 24-16*) 137 Orchard Way (Lot 23 Block 01 Plan 981 3631). The proposed redesignation aims to permit the construction of a multifunctional light industrial building with a health services facility at 137 Orchard Way in Strathmore.



Lot 23, Block 01, Plan 981 3631 (137 Orchard Way)

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed bylaw can be found on the Town's website at Strathmore.ca/PublicHearing or may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Strathmore Municipal Building (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB). 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 at the Strathmore Municipal Building on **Wednesday, September 18, 2024**, commencing at **6 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 or all of the proposed bylaw, may present their concerns and/or suggestions by making a submission at the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services by email at lsadmin@strathmore.ca no later than **noon on Wednesday, September 11, 2024**, in order to register to speak at the public hearing.

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, September 11, 2024** 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.



Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce 2024 Stampede Parade

Kickin' the Dust Up in Strathmore
 Saturday, August 3 at 9 a.m.

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Upcoming Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) events.



Learn more about all of FCSS' events at Strathmore.ca/FCSS or call 403-934-9090

Event	Date	Time	Location
Family and Youth Culture Night Reggae Fitness	Jul 18, 2024	1 to 3 p.m.	Trellis, 419B 2 St
Youth Cooking Class Iranian Culture	July 23, 2024	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Hope Church, 245 Brent Blvd
Youth Cooking Class German Culture	July 30, 2024	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Hope Church, 245 Brent Blvd
Stomping Down Barriers Stampede Run	Aug 4, 2024	7 a.m. start	Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre, 1150 Edgefield Rd.
International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Aug 9, 2024	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Strathmore Municipal Library, 85 Lakeside Blvd.
Jamaican Legacy Day	Aug 17, 2024	5 to 8 p.m.	Strathmore Municipal Library, 85 Lakeside Blvd.
Hockey and Canadian Culture Event	Aug 23, 2024	5:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Strathmore Family Centre Arena, 160 Brent Blvd.
Introduction to the Sport of Cricket	Aug 24, 2024	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre, 1150 Edgefield Rd.