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World championship

Page 8



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Look on Page 12 for
**Town of Strathmore
Municipal Notices**

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Hospice progress

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland Housing Management Board (WHMB) and the Wheatland and Area Hospice Society (WAHS) are announcing the continued advancement of their plans to build a new hospice facility for local seniors.

The facility will serve as both a rural hospice and a congregate living space for seniors who are no longer able to live independently.

Letters of support from the Villages of Standard, Hussar, and Rockyford, as well as from Wheatland County and the Town of Strathmore were included in the WHMB and WAHS application to the Alberta Housing Partnership Program.

Ultimately, the goal of the collaboration is to move towards and establish provision of safe, affordable housing for seniors, as well as compassionate, competent palliative care within the local community, as is stated in a release distributed June 26.

The anticipated next steps for the project include the approval from the Alberta Housing Partnership Program funding request, as well the approval of an application to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), refinement of the project budget, and recurring support from local Councils and community partners.

“We had a board meeting Monday (June 26) ... which included a presentation by our lead consultant, Derek Weiss, and he is the one who is preparing our budget for the Alberta Housing Partnership Program,” said Glenn Koester, speaking on behalf of the WHMB. “Then, there is the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation that comes next. They take different levels of budgets.”

Currently being in the schematic design stage of the project, Koester added the designs are roughly 25 per cent completed at this stage.

“The purpose of the release is really an update for the community ... (and) to announce that there is progress with the councils and with the consultants,” said Joni McNeely, speaking on behalf of the WAHS.

Continued on Page 4



Hoppy Canada Day!

The potato sack races were one of the many activities to enjoy during the Canada Day celebrations at Kinsmen Park on July 1. Many people from near and far took part in the event, which was hosted by the Town of Strathmore and other amazing community sponsors. See Page 5 for more coverage.

John Watson Photo

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Thunder in action

The Strathmore Thunder U13 T1 team was in action on June 26 at the Strathmore Ag Diamonds

Joe Lepage Photos

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Sports Centre approved for Reach Each and Everyone Grant

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre (SMPC) was successful in acquiring a Reach Each and Everyone Grant through Canadian Parks and Recreation, which enabled them to host a free try-it event, for folks of all needs and abilities.

Hosted on June 24, the SMPC put on a variety of inclusive sports and events which were designed to be easily available to anyone who wished to come out, regardless of their physical abilities.

Some of these activities included cornhole, spike ball, badminton, and seated volleyball. For some of these sports, the try-it event was their debut appearance at the sports centre, with equipment purchased as a result of the successful grant application.

“What we are focusing on is trying to make sure that we are being more inclusive and offering a variety of options for everybody to attend, regard-

less of ability or sensory needs, as well as making sure that some of the events are free, so it reduces barriers for everybody in the community,” said Lisa Montgomery, Sports Centre manager. “It was the first one we have hosted like this, so it was quite quiet, and being the end of the school season, it takes a little bit for things to pick up, but we will be offering some more throughout the summer, and so we hope to see more people attend.”

The goal for use of the Reach Each and Everyone Grant is to continue offering try-it events, as well as other opportunities for inclusive and barrier-free sports.

Through the try-it events, Montgomery said the hope is the surrounding community will identify other sports they would like to see offered at a try-it event, and then on a regular basis at the Sports Center.

“What we proposed is through Canadian Parks and Recreation. It is a grant that is a community

sport goal so that we can offer accessible sports and increase participation through offering a variety of inclusive and accessible, barrier-free sports to the community,” said Montgomery. “We saw that grant applications were open, we wrote a proposal and then we were successful in obtaining it. So, it allowed us to purchase some more equipment for offering these opportunities.”

Montgomery added the goal is to host similar events once per month at least for the next few months with the goal being for the community to let the Sports Centre team know which of the try-it sports they want to see, so that opportunities to play can be scheduled once a week.

Though an exact date was unable to be given, it is likely that the Sports Centre’s next try-it event will take place close to the end of July, with a subsequent event sometime in August.

More information, when it becomes available, will be posted to the SMPC website.

County Code of Conduct violation report released

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Information regarding a Code of Conduct violation complaint made against Wheatland County Coun. Rick Laursen has officially been made public.

Via Resolution CM-2023-06-36, the investigation report was voted to be made public knowledge in alignment with the updated Code of Conduct bylaw.

The report, which was prepared by Mike Koziol, from Transitional Solutions Inc. was approved for release to the public during open discussion, following an in-camera meeting of Wheatland County council.

County Council received the Code of Conduct violation complaint from Coun. Tom Ikert, dated Oct. 27, 2022 against Laursen, alleging he attended a meeting of the Wheatland Regional Partnership (WRP), Oct. 18, 2022 after council had previously established it would be deferring attendance at such meetings.

Ikert’s complaint alleged Laursen had violated sections 4.1.a and 4.1.c of the Code of Conduct Bylaw, which states at all times, county councillors and members shall act honestly and in good faith, and will support the majority decision of council or the board.

Wheatland County council in July 2022 passed two motions in regards to their deferring of attendance at WRP meetings, including CM2022-07-08 and CM 2022-07-15.

These motions, respectively, refer to a defeated resolution (2-4) that council continue to attend scheduled WRP meetings, and a carried resolution (4-2) that council send a letter to the WRP clarifying its commitment to the partnership and outlining the county’s deference until outstanding legal matters have been addressed by the Village of Rockyford and the Village of Standard.

The complaint also alleged “some of the conversations that occurred at the WRP meeting were not positive of Wheatland County...”

Laursen has contested the complaint since its submission, by way of attending the meeting as a ratepayer, not as a representative of the county. This instance is reported to be acknowledged in the WRP meeting minutes for that date.

Additionally, following receipt of Ikert’s complaint, Laursen noted it was not made clear how or who brought information of his attendance at the WRP meeting to Ikert, and therefore the claim was hearsay until proven by evidence.

It is also noted in Laursen’s response to the com-

plaint, Reeve Amber Link had admitted in closed session to having spoken with Strathmore Mayor Pat Fule regarding Laursen’s attendance. Laursen, noting to have spoken with Fule both prior to and after the violation complaint, confirmed no such conversation had occurred which was untoward of the county.

As Ikert had noted Laursen did not inform the county of his attendance at the meeting, Laursen responded that he had no such duty to do so as he was in attendance as a private citizen as opposed to as a county representative.

Ikert also suggested, without evidence to support the claim, that Laursen could only have known about the scheduled WRP meeting via his position as a councillor. This was disputed by Laursen, who said he had received an invitation to attend via a personal connection.

Laursen supported his argument, reiterating his having stated on the recorded meeting minutes he would not be representing the county, as well as noting he did not take part in the meeting discussion or voting.

At the request of Chief Administrative Officer Brian Henderson, the investigation was put on hold throughout March and April 2023, resuming at the beginning of May.

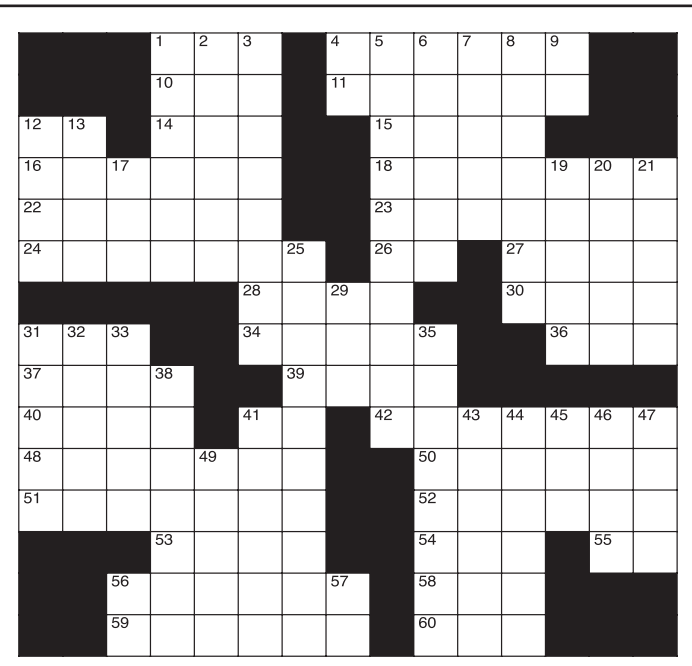
Prior to the ultimate release of the investigation report to the public, Laursen commented to council the investigator (Koziol) has on multiple occasions refused to provide his qualifications as an investigator. This objection, Laursen added, is both in writing and verbal recording.

In the analysis of the report, it is stated as the opinion of the investigator that Laursen should have personally suppressed his right to attend the meeting as a county ratepayer, and instead honouring a “higher obligation” to support the wishes of council.

In Koziol’s report, it is indicated Laursen had indeed violated the County’s Code of Conduct bylaw, by failing to act honestly and in good faith, and by failing to support the majority decision of council.

The report also states a belief that none of the sanctions included in the Code of Conduct bylaw would benefit Laursen. It was instead recommended that council hold a refresher on the bylaw which would include discussion regarding grey areas where “the high road should be taken.”

The vote from county council following the in-camera meeting to release the investigation report to the public was carried unanimously, 7-0 in favour.



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Small Eurasian deer | 34. Garments |
| 4. Irish county | 36. Soviet Socialist Republic |
| 10. A major division of geological time | 37. Retired NFL DC Dean |
| 11. Broadway actor Lane | 39. Hot meal |
| 12. Canadian province | 40. A type of gin |
| 14. It causes fainting (abbr.) | 41. Percussion instrument |
| 15. Two | 42. A \$10 bill |
| 16. A notable one is blue | 48. About ground |
| 18. Utter repeatedly | 50. Medicine man |
| 22. Rings | 51. Seedless raisin |
| 23. Sullies | 52. National capital of Albania |
| 24. Occurs | 53. Appendage |
| 26. Publicity | 54. OJ trial judge |
| 27. Near | 55. By the way |
| 28. Tools of a trade | 56. Bicycle parts |
| 30. Offer in good faith | 58. Barbie’s friend |
| 31. “American Idol” network | 59. In a way, stretched |
| | 60. Commercials |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Make up for | 29. Creative output |
| 2. American songbird | 31. Recesses |
| 3. Pay | 32. District in N. Germany |
| 4. International organization | 33. Rider of Rohan |
| 5. Engravers | 35. The official emblem of the German Third Reich |
| 6. Declared as fact | 38. One who puts down roots |
| 7. Criminal | 41. Scribe |
| 8. Jewelry | 43. Painted a bright color |
| 9. Hospital worker (abbr.) | 44. Tycoons |
| 12. Nonsense (slang) | 45. Actress Thurman |
| 13. Town in Galilee | 46. Walking accessory |
| 17. Value | 47. Crest of a hill |
| 19. Another name | 49. Member of a North American people |
| 20. Sheep in second year before shearing | 56. Type of computer |
| 21. Town in Surrey, England | 57. U.S. State (abbr.) |
| 25. Appropriate during a time of year | |

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Pass the Salt

IS YOUR ORDINARY TIME BORING, OR TRANSFORMATIVE?

The Christian calendar has several exceedingly important days, like Christmas, Good Friday, Resurrection Day, Ascension and Pentecost, surrounded by important seasons of either celebration or special observance, like Advent, Lent, Holy Week and Easter. But we spend most of the year outside of those special seasons, in a period known in some traditions as "Ordinary Time" – a period that has only recently begun and will stretch out into November. Technically, Ordinary Time gets its name from the fact that it is marked off by ordinal numbers – like first, second, third, seventeenth, twenty-fourth, etc. Beyond the numbers, there is little to distinguish one week from another, one Sunday from another. Of course, that describes much of our ordinary lives – one day is often much like any other, a reality made even more acute

for many during the period of Covid restrictions. It would be easy to think that the Christian life was mostly about the special times, the opportunities to escape the humdrum or recurring frustrations of ordinary life, not unlike the way we sometimes want to escape into the "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer." But really, it is in Ordinary Time that we are called to put into regular and repeated practice the eternal truths that we celebrate and give special reflection to in the special seasons, and to be transformed by the discipline. Ordinary Time is when we are called to practice what Eugene Peterson called "a long obedience in the same direction" – the practice of imitating Christ in the day to day, thereby becoming true citizens of God's coming kingdom and not merely tourists.

*Rev. Malcolm Kern, Priest
St. Michael & All Angels
Anglican Church*



This year will mark the 11th season for the Rosebud Chamber Music Festival featuring the Rosebud String Quartet (pictured).

Photo Courtesy of The Rosebud String Quartet

Artists allowed to shine

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

The Rosebud Chamber Music Festival, featuring six artists and three different locations, is set to hit the stage July 4-9.

The 11th annual festival is set to take place in Rosebud, Drumheller and Three Hills.

The event opened on July 4 with a fun event called the reading party.

Musicians were invited to participate in this fun night – from professionals to amateur to students.

The artists gathered at the Rosebud Mercantile and they read through a stack of chamber music.

"Nothing is rehearsed (for this event) it's just a fun night to explore different types of music," said artistic director Keith Hamm. "Everyone who comes to the Rosebud Chamber Music Festival, as a performer, is really keen on community building and getting to know the audience personally and chatting with them."

From there, the first performance is on July 6 in Rosebud at the Akokiniskway Gallery, then to Drumheller on July 7 at the Knox United Church.

The tour then travels to Three Hills Arts Academy on July 8 and back to Rosebud for the finale on Sunday, July 9 at the Rosebud church.

"It's going to be a really great year," said Hamm.

One of the special guests joining the Rosebud String Quartet will be pianist Phillip Chiu.

"One of Canada's most in-demand pianists right now," said Hamm.

Chiu won a Juno for solo artist of the year. Julie Hereish, who plays the cello, also comes with a long list of professional achievements.

"Some of our venues are a little smaller," said Hamm. "We like the small venues because it's really intimate and live feeling and you're right up close and we really like that for this kind of music."

COVID never shut the festival down completely, as they were able to play outdoors with physical distancing.

They played in some really beautiful outdoor venues, but nothing beats the acoustics of the indoor venues.

"We were able to keep the tradition going," he said. "We are happy to be back indoors now."

Hamm was born in Rosebud and grew up within a musical family as his father is the music director at Rosebud – and held the position for 30-plus years.

"I grew up playing in Rosebud. Playing dinner music, on the stage and really engaged with the Rosebud Theatre," he said of his childhood in the small village.

Hamm plays the violin and is one of the four musicians that make up the Rosebud String Quartet. The other musicians in the quartet are violinists Aaron Schwebel, Sheila Jaffé, and cellist Leana Rutt.

"We are now the house band for the festival," he said. "We have a really wonderful audience that comes with expectations and excitement."

Tickets start at \$30 and can be purchased online (www.rosebudchamber-music.com).

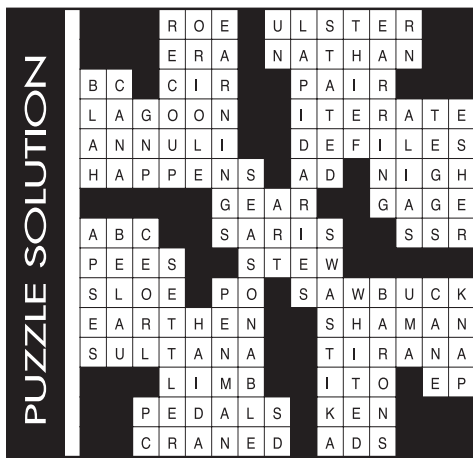
WAHS, WHMB provide update on future hospice facility

Continued from Page 1

"There was a bit of a delay with the Alberta Housing Management Project because of the election. The announcements will likely be delayed a bit, but we want the community to know that things are progressing with our application."

Koester added the announcement is coming now because deadlines with the province are fast approaching, and the team has had time to gather more support for the project in order to introduce their application. The current estimated budget is roughly between \$52 and \$53 million.

A recording of the presentation minutes to the WAHS and WHMB has been posted to the websites of both organizations for public viewing.



Thought for the Week

Watch out for temptation - the more you see of it the better it looks.

SUDOKU

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	9		1	4			3	
7	4		6		5			
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3			9	2	6		1	8
9	8		7		4		6	2

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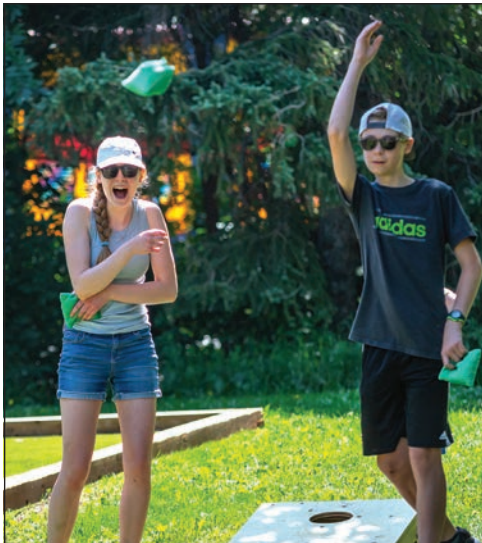
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Foot blisters are caused by friction. These can be prevented by wearing properly-sized shoes and wearing socks that reduce friction and wick moisture away from the foot. Another idea is to apply an antiperspirant to the feet. To much moisture can raise the skin temperature and add to the risk of blister formation.

Heat exhaustion occurs when your body can't sweat enough to cool you off. It can happen when you work or exercise in hot weather. Symptoms can include fatigue, weakness, dizziness or nausea. The skin becomes cool and clammy. This can sometimes lead to *heat stroke* when your body stops sweating altogether and your body temperature continues to rise. This requires emergency treatment. Get help right away.

If you forget to take a dose of your prescribed medication, do not double the next dose. It is best to skip it take the next dose at the regular time. If you are in doubt, call the pharmacist for advice.

No one is immune to skin cancer. Darker-skinned people should also protect themselves. The incidence of melanoma in dark-skin is about 10% that of light-skin but still does occur. Everyone taking precautions now can make a big difference in the future. Use sunscreens properly and avoid times of day when the temperature is highest.....from 11AM to 4PM.

Hours: M-F: 9-7 pm
Sat: 9-6 pm • Sun & Holidays: 11-5 pm



Kinsmen Park came alive with activity for Canada Day, offering a host of activities for folks to enjoy. Family friendly events and shops were open to peruse throughout the day, leading up to fireworks in the evening for the occasion.
John Watson Photos



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Oh Canada

Debbie Mitzner and her team handed out 300 Canadian flags on the afternoon of Friday, June 30 by the Strathmore Legion #10 in celebration of Canada Day. This is the 5th year that Mitzner and Remax Landon Real Estate, has generously donated flags to passing vehicles in support of the Veterans Food Bank.

Melissa Piche Photos



Strathmore High School hosted a grand opening for the geodesic greenhouse that has been under construction and development on campus, June 27. The local community was invited to observe what has been going on with the project, and how it will be used by community groups.

Photo Courtesy of Cole Hintz

Strathmore High School Greenhouse hosts official grand opening

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore High School hosted the official grand opening for its community greenhouse project on June 24, for donors and the community to see how the project has come together over the last year.

According to Cole Hintz, who oversaw the project from concept to completion, the grand opening event was a massive success, attracting folks from all over the community to come visit the site.

“We had a lot of help from students across the division. We had students from Strathmore High School, George Freeman, from Westmount, sharing some of the stuff that they have learned this year,” he said. “We had a lot of our donors, who were super essential for getting us to this point, they stopped by to check us out, and a lot of the community members who have been helpful on different projects throughout the year were there.”

He explained the school and the students are very excited to have gotten to this point in the process, and to be finishing many of the projects within the greenhouse so people can see exactly what the structure is capable of.

At about this time last year, Hintz added, construction of the overall structure was about completed. Prior to that, stu-

dents were working to install a climate battery underground beneath the greenhouse.

This past year, the focus of the project has been on establishing the interior of the structure and creating a space that is functional both for students, as well as community groups wanting to engage in horticulture.

“One of the coolest things about the space is, when you look at it, it looks like a really wonderful green space at a school, but then when you really think about the fact that every single thing here has been touched by a student at some point in its construction, it is pretty amazing,” said Hintz. “A lot of little projects by students led to the larger goal, which is this finished space, which will continue to develop over time.”

Now that the greenhouse is operational, Hintz explained efforts to connect with community groups will continue so that more and more people can be included in utilizing the space.

He suggested community courses will be offered through Flowing Springs, and several projects are lined up to get started with the George Freeman School Eco Club, among other initiatives revolving around the facility.

An ongoing goal regarding the greenhouse is to develop the exterior of the site into a sustainable, native pollinator-friendly space.

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.

July 11: Municipal Planning Commission

August 15: Council Meeting

August 22: Municipal Planning Commission

To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted.

Agenda packages can be found on our website.



Change of Mailing Address

It is important to ensure that your address is correct. Wheatland County sources property ownership and mailing address information from Alberta Land Titles Office and the Certificate of Title. It is the property owners' responsibility to ensure their Land Title record is accurate and up to date.

To update your address, please complete a Change of Address Form and mail the original signed copy to the Land Titles Office.

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Calgary, AB, T2P 2R4

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Phone: (403) 297-6511

Email: lto@gov.ab.ca

To obtain a Change of Address Form:

- Online: Visit our website <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/taxes/>. Please complete the form and email it to tax@wheatlandcounty.ca.
- Visit the Wheatland County Administration Office to fill out the form in person.

For more information, please visit our website <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/taxes/>



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- **Council Remuneration Committee**
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Closes July 10, 2023
- **Utility Operator**
Closes July 17, 2023



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wheatlandcounty.ca/careers/

Dust Control

Wheatland County is now accepting applications for Dust Control. Prices and deadlines are as follows.

Calcium Chloride	
Second application order deadline	June 9, 2023
Price	County Roads: \$5.33/meter plus GST
Oiling	
Application order deadline	July 7, 2023

- » Payment must be received with completed application(s).
- » Dust Control will only proceed if there is sufficient interest.
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- » Wheatland County applies a one-time double spray application of calcium chloride for all purchased calcium dust controls.
- » Applications are available at the County office or on the County website www.wheatlandcounty.ca



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Siksika Nation once again hosted their Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship for the first time since the onset of COVID-19 public health restrictions being implemented. Dancers were invited from all over the globe to dance and celebrate at the Siksika Arbour.

John Watson Photos



Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship returns to Siksika

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Siksika Nation was proud to host the return of their Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship, June 29 at the Siksika Arbour.

This year's event marked the first time it has been hosted since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions that were put into place to maintain public safety.

Shilo Clark, who spoke on behalf of Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, said the team behind the event had been planning it for several months in order to make it into an unforgettable competition.

"I think a lot of people were most anticipating and excited for was just that to be able to get back together as a community. The Prairie Chicken Dance is one of our oldest dances and to come together to celebrate our traditions and our ceremonies is something that is a day-to-day aspect of our lives," he said. "When COVID-19 hit, we were not able to do something that was so culturally significant. That takes a toll on folks, and so I think we were all just very excited to come together as a community and just embrace our culture."

The Prairie Chicken Dance originated in Blackfoot Country. Clark explained as a result of its cultural significance, Siksika Nation puts on an annual Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship.

Dancers of all ages, starting from young children, all the way to elders are invited to compete.

"This is a very unique dance that requires a lot of stamina and has lots of fast footwork. It is one of our most culturally significant dances and one of our oldest," said Clark. "We had competitors come from all over. We had competitors who are local here in Siksika, we had competitors who came from other Blackfoot Confederacy reservations ... and also across the nation. We had people come from across the globe, hence the World Championship."

Attendance numbers saw several hundred people come out to watch the competition. Each of the five categories of dancers was incentivized with a cash payout for the winning athlete, the highest of which being \$2,400.

The Prairie Chicken Dance World Championship is estimated to return as an annual competition going forward, now that public health restrictions have subsided.



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The Rockyford Lions Club hosted their annual Bull-a-rama on June 30 at the Rockyford Rodeo Arena. The event also featured mutton busting, mini wild ponies and Canada Day fireworks.

**Joe Lepage and
Laureen James
Photos**



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Bull-a-rama 2023 a complete success

LAUREEN JAMES
Times Contributor

The Rockyford Lions Club members' and volunteers' hard work and commitment put on a great bull riding event on June 30.

Although bull riding was the main event, the competitions of the evening included mutton busting, wild cow milking and wild pony races along with four young ladies and their sturdy steeds entertaining the crowd with awe at their trick riding skills.

The event highlighted how the Lions Club of Rockyford and the community worked together to put on a wonderful event that raises money for the community. In a speech of gratitude for the community's outpouring of support, Lions Club president Dan Munro thanked the community members for a great turnout of competitors and spectators.

Munro continued by saying, "This is the Rockyford Lions premier event."

The money raised goes straight back into the local community for development and the Family Medical Fund. In the past the Lions Club has donated to STARS, the repair of the Rockyford Are-

na chiller, campground upgrades and hall repairs.

"Planning starts in the first week of December," said Lions member and arena director for the event, Mike Phillips. "Just today, 50-75 volunteers from Rockyford and surrounding areas (helped) make this event a success".

The efforts of the community to put on events like this establishes a sense of belonging and contributing to the community and is a major factor in the success of any event. For the Rockyford rodeos, there is always a higher percentage of out-of-town spectators but the bull-a-rama event has a more local audience, according to Munro.

The list of volunteers would not be complete without mentioning the parents of the upcoming rodeo athletes who encourage their kids to participate in the historical sport of rodeo. Nick Phillips a parent of youngsters who competed in the wild pony riding event, looked completely at home holding two helmets for his kids.

"I encourage people to get out and volunteer - you get out of a community what you put in," said Munro. "Sponsors and volunteers allow us to put on a successful event."

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park welcomes public for the summer

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park has officially kicked off summer operations and is inviting anyone looking for a cultural and educational experience to make their way out.

A small event was hosted at the facility on June 26 to promote Blackfoot Crossing's summer operations, as well as for attendees to learn more about the site.

Shilo Clark, who spoke on behalf of Blackfoot Crossing Museum Communications, said it was an excellent opportunity to get the word out that the park is open all summer.

"It is really nice to actually have all of this happening right now, especially because it is right on the eve of our Siksika Faire. Come July 1, we kick off our Siksika Faire which is a weeklong pow wow," he said. "It is really great because

we are going to have folks from across the province, and across the globe potentially coming to visit us this week."

Clark explained during the onset of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the museum was not able to open its doors to the public, and felt like a desolate place to write and answer emails.

Now, the team is excited to welcome people back and once again begin to host events both at and around the facility.

"There's life, there's energy. The spirits are alive again. With all of these folks coming through and just appreciating us and being here. It's really nice to be busy again," said Clark. "The importance of coming here and learning the culture and the historical importance of it is paramount when it comes to talking about truth and reconciliation, and also just getting to know your fellow human a little bit better."

Clark hopes that with the museum

and Blackfoot Crossing site open once again, people will come out to learn, to understand, and clear many of the misconceptions some Canadians have about Indigenous people.

"Those come from not really spending time with the community and getting to know the people. Blackfoot Crossing gives folks an opportunity to learn the truth right from the horse's mouth, so to speak. It gives them the opportunity to hear the stories of our people, of our community. And to learn about that history that's not written about in the history books," said Clark. "When they learn that truth, they can come to a place of understanding and then from that understanding, they can branch off to having compassion. Once they have that compassion, we can start walking that path of reconciliation."

Clark added for those who are curious to learn what is available at the museum and the park for the summer,



Blackfoot Crossing Museum and Historical Park announced the opening of its doors and campground to the public for the summer. A brief talk and introduction was hosted at the museum, followed by a lunch for those invited to attend the announcement
John Watson
Photo

and to get more information about the facility, Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park's website and Facebook page are excellent resources to learn and to start planning a trip out.

Napi's Run passes through Siksika Nation

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Siksika Nation recently welcomed and honoured Johnny Bare Shin Bone at the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park as he continued to run across Canada, raising awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Men (MMIW).

The endeavor, being referred to as Napi's Run – translated means "Old Man's Run," began April 12 at the Mile 0 site in St. John's, N.L.

"Napi's Run was really started with my uncle John ... he is a marathon runner and he is always running races. A couple years ago, he came to see me and said he wanted to run across Canada for missing and murdered indigenous women and men, and for Mother Earth," said Ramona Big Head, who is coordinating Napi's Run. "At that time, it was during COVID-19, so I knew we were going to have to wait a bit for that to happen ... at the beginning of this year, he and I and my sister, we all went to St. John's, N.L. and then started planning."

Bighead added Bare Shin Bone was also inspired to begin the run by Terry Fox, who began his Marathon of Hope on April 12, 1980.

June 21 marked day 71 of the run, as the team passed through Siksika Nation. Their goal was to

reach Victoria, B.C. by July 5.

"This is a relay, unlike Terry Fox who ran every day himself. This is a group of runners who started back in April. Of the original runners who started with us, I think we have five of them still with the run," said Bighead. "Running a relay with eight to 10 runners a day, we are able to cover about 85 to 100 km a day, and that is kind of how we do it."

As Bare Shin Bone and the team were passing through Siksika Nation, they stopped at the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, as a ceremony had been set up to welcome their convoy and honour him with a headdress.

"He (Bare Shin Bone) was just overcome with emotion. He is one of our leaders in our own ceremonial way, he guides us and he grounds us at times," said Bighead. "On June 21, we made it to Blackfoot Crossing and there was at least 200 people out there who greeted us in traditional ways, singing honour songs as we ran in, and my uncle was honoured with a headdress, which is one of the highest honours he could get."

Bighead added many families have requested the relay team to dedicate legs of the journey to particular missing persons, groups, or families who have been impacted, for example, by fentanyl overdoses, and those who have lost their lives to suicide.

Though the run is not being advertised as a fundraiser, the team was accepting donations in order to support their journey. Additionally, anyone both Indigenous and not was invited to participate in the relay.

More information regarding Napi's Run, including daily updates is available via the team's Facebook page.



Siksika Nation recently welcomed and honoured Johnny Bare Shin Bone at the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park as he continued his run across Canada.

Photo Courtesy of Ramona Big Head

Trails to Little Corner Homecoming

LAUREN F. GUENTHER
Times Contributor

Trails to Little Corner is a local history book, compiled in 1983 by over 100 Wheatland County residents. People from the communities of Elwood, Crowfoot, Harwood, Hammer Hill, Orange Valley, Cairnhill, Namaka, Namaka Farm and Westend Siksika contributed their stories and their labour to the book's creation.

The book includes stories across 100 years of history, from 1883 to 1983. Marguerite Watson, the book's managing editor, believes it may be the only Canadian community history book that includes stories of local Indigenous people as well as stories of settlers. Little Trails was the Indigenous peoples' name for what is now commonly called Namaka.

Now, 40 years later, Watson invites everyone – especially those who were involved in creating *Trails to Little Corner* – to a Homecoming to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the book's publishing and all who were involved in its creation. The event will also celebrate commemorative signs that are to be erected at the one-room schoolhouses of the district.

On July 15, at Namaka Hall, the Homecoming will begin with an Open House at 1 p.m.

At 3 p.m., there'll be a program, celebrating the commemorative signs. The sign erected at Namaka Hall will be unveiled. Clarence Wolfleg and other local residents will speak. Cake will be served. Over the supper hour, from 4 to 6 p.m., the Hunger Paynes food truck will be onsite.

There'll be opportunities to watch homecoming

videos from 1983 and to share pictures and stories with friends, old and new. Children can enjoy the playground. Wheatland County will provide local touring maps, prepared by Wheatland County, to guide guests in exploring the local area. *Trails to Little Corner*, 668 pages crammed with local historical anecdotes, will be on sale for \$35 cash.

Over the past 40 years, significant revenue accumulated as many copies of *Trails to Little Corner* have been purchased. That revenue was used to purchase the commemorative signs, designed and being installed by John Sanden. The sign to be erected at Namaka Hall will be dedicated at the Homecoming.

Watson said the event will also give people a chance to reconnect with old friends, and perhaps to remember friends who have passed on. Newer residents, who arrived after the book was published, will be able to meet those who lived in the area before, and celebrate those who founded the communities they now enjoy.

Watson is grateful to Wheatland County staff, especially Community Services Coordinator Dave Rimes, for their support in coordinating this event and their permission to erect the commemorative signs on county land. She also expressed gratitude for help from Mandy and Don Todd at Namaka Hall and everyone else who has supported planning this event.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the Homecoming. This is a cash only event. There is no ATM onsite. *Trails to Little Corner* and food from Hunger Paynes food truck may be purchased only with cash.

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Reconnect with cherished old Friends and create unforgettable new memories!

Town of Strathmore launches business needs assessment

TOWN OF STRATHMORE RELEASE

The Town of Strathmore is taking a proactive approach to support local businesses, foster economic growth, and enhance community development through the launch of the Business Needs Assessment and Action Plan.

“Council has recognized economic development as a top priority in the Town’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan,” states Mayor Pat Fule. “We also recognize that the economy is tough right now, there are workforce challenges, supply chain issues, housing shortages, and all of these things affect our businesses. We need a clear picture of where we should start and a plan on how to support local businesses and intentionally position for sustainable growth.”

Angela Groeneveld, Economic Development Manager with the Town of Strathmore, emphasizes the importance of this initiative.

“The Town of Strathmore is committed to providing a business-friendly environment and opportunities for local businesses to thrive,” she said. “We need comprehensive information about our local businesses to make informed decisions and support their success. By creating an action plan that keeps existing businesses in the community, preserves jobs, and creates new

employment opportunities, we will work with the business community and regional partners to understand the economic situation and come up with a plan to allocate resources effectively.”

Partnering with InnoVisions & Associates, the Town of Strathmore will engage local businesses through Business Cafes, one-on-one interviews, and discussion groups. This comprehensive process builds upon the valuable insights gathered from previous surveys and interviews conducted with businesses over the past five years. Commencing in June and extending until September 2023, these information-gathering sessions will serve as crucial platforms for businesses to openly express their evolving needs, address challenges arising from the post-COVID landscape, and share innovative ideas for growth and development that could be reflected in the Economic Development Action Plan.

The first Business Café is July 6 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Strathmore Station. The Town of Strathmore encourages all local businesses to participate in this initiative. By sharing their concerns and insights, businesses can shape the action plan and contribute to the development of a vibrant and prosperous business community. To reserve your spot, RSVP Katherine at ecdev@strathmore.ca.

MEMORIAM

Luke Loftus ~ July 2, 2009

Lyrics & Music by Ed Sheeran

*I wish heaven had visiting hours
So I could just show up and bring the news
That she's getting' older and I wish that you'd met her
The things that she'll learn from me. I got them all from you.*

*Can I just stay a while and we'll put all the world to rights?
The little ones will grow and I'll still drink your favourite wine
And soon, they're going to close, but I'll see you another day
So much has changed since you've been away.*

*I wish heaven had visiting hours
So I could just swing by and ask your advice
What would you do in my situation?
I haven't a clue how I'd even raise them
What would you do? Cause you always do what's right.*

*Can we just talk a while until my worries disappear?
I'd tell you that I'm scared of turnin' out a failure
You'd say, "Remember that the answer's in the love that we create"
So much has changed since you've been away.*

*I wish heaven had visiting hours
And I would ask them if I could take you home
But I know what they'd say, that's for the best
So I will live life the way you taught me, and make it on my own.*

*And I will close the door, but will open up my heart
And everyone I love will know exactly who you are
Cause this is not goodbye, it is just til' we meet again
So much has changed since you've been away.*

Love you, Mom and Dad

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Claimants: you must include a full description of your claim and why you have a right to make such a claim.

Obituary



BROWN, Bertha Ruth (nee Metzker)

It is with deep sadness that the family announces the passing of Bertha Brown, 89, of Strathmore, Alberta on June 20, 2023 after a prolonged journey with dementia.

Bertha was born on July 15, 1933 in Blue Township, Rainy River District, Ontario to Ferdinand and Mabel Isabell Metzker (nee Selman).

On November 24, 1950, she married William G. (Bill) Brown and they were blessed with five wonderful children. She was predeceased by her parents, her husband, and son-in-law Ted Kinlock. She is survived by her children Eric (Cheryl), Glenn (Marla), Cheryl, Joyce (Ken), and Donna (John); her grandchildren Natasha, Amanda, Sheena, Meaghan, Caitlin, Patrick, and Bethany; seven great grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Bertha had a variety of work experiences in her life, including farming, bush camp and short order cooking, and volunteering with the Women's Institute, 4-H, and at the Emo Fair 4-H Booth and Barwick July 1st celebrations.

She and her husband, Bill, were well known on the Auction sale circuit. They picked up many treasures and enjoyed the social aspect of these outings.

Bertha spent much of her time gardening, baking, canning, sewing, knitting, quilting, doing crafts and enjoying board and card games. She especially enjoyed spending time with children and grandchildren and was the instigator of many water fights!!

She loved to be where the action was and enjoyed travelling to visit family wherever they were located, across Canada or in the Caribbean.

A Celebration of Bertha's Life and Interment will be held at Northridge Funeral Home at 1pm on Monday July 24th in Emo, Ontario.

If desired, in memoriam donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Canada or to a charity of your choice. c/o Northridge Funeral Home, P.O. Box 89, Emo, Ontario POW 1E0

Online condolences may be offered at www.northridgefuneralhome.com
A special thanks is extended to the staff at AgeCare Sagewood (Eagle Lake section), Strathmore, Alberta for taking such wonderful care of Bertha for these past 4 years of dementia.

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With gratitude, the Praeker family

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If your ancestors lived on the Mennonite settlement at Namaka or were non-Mennonites in the surrounding area in the 1930s and you are interested in knowing more, please contact *Liz Jansen*.
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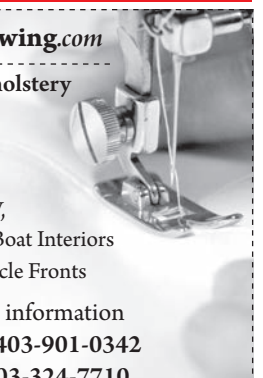
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Upcoming Council Meetings

- July 5, 2023 | 6 P.M. Regular Council Meeting
- July 12, 2023 | 6 P.M. Committee of the Whole Meeting
- July 19, 2023 | 6 P.M. Regular Council Meeting

Want to speak at a Council Meeting?

Members of the public are welcome to speak at Council or Committee of the Whole Meetings during the Public Comments or Public Hearing portion of the meeting. Learn how at Strathmore.ca/CouncilMeetings

Biz Café
Growing Business Together

**July 6, 2023
Noon-1:30 P.M.
Strathmore Station**

**Are you a local business? We want to hear from you.
Join the conversation at our first Biz Cafe session.**

To reserve your spot, RSVP Katherine at ecdev@strathmore.ca

Strathmore

