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TIMES

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 27

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Page 5



O Canada!

Fight back rally

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dissenting voices in Strathmore are making themselves heard regarding ongoing changes being made by the province to income for the severely handicapped.

A rally was hosted in Kinsmen Park, July 3, to protest Alberta's transition from the AISH program (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped), to ADAP (Alberta Disability Assistance Program).

"It is time to let the city people know that rural Alberta is not a monolith of conservatism, that there (are) actually a lot of progressive and liberal thinkers in rural Alberta," said Allison Turnbull, organizer of Friday's rally. "A lot of people are really upset about what is happening in AISH with the switch to ADAP, and which was the focus of our rally. We have a lot of disabled members in our community in Strathmore who are very scared, very worried that they are going to lose housing, that they are going to lose their doctors, they are going to lose a lot with the switch."

Beginning July 1 under the new ADAP system, many individuals relying on disability supports are now receiving \$200 less per month than on the previous system, which had provided \$1,940 monthly.

Last month, 57-year-old local was reported to have died by suicide after sending a message to government officials criticizing the transition, and that the impending changes had intensified his anxiety, stress, and depression symptoms.

Continued on Page 6

Page 10



Venom in action



Celebrating Canada!

Canada Day was celebrated a day early as the Rockyford Lions Club hosted their annual Bull-A-Rama on June 30. Despite the muddy condition inside the infield, it was a successful event, capped off with a Canada Day fireworks. See Page 7 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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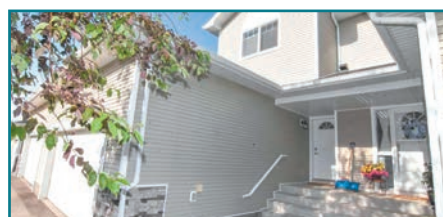
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Car & Bike show drives community support

Premier Auctions hosted its inaugural Car & Bike Show Fundraiser on July 4 in Strathmore, bringing together vehicle enthusiasts and community members to raise funds for two local organizations. Part of the funds raised went to the Strathmore Overnight Shelter, while the other portion went to provide essential items for families with young children to be dispersed through Lil Hoots Family Boutique.

Joe Lepage Photos

YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

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

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

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

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

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Lakewood of Strathmore brings back community event and food drive

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lakewood's 50K Big Roll returned, July 5, to offer a new Strathmore homeowner a chance at \$50,000 for their new home, as well as to raise donations for the Wheatland County Food Bank.

Scott Silva, director of sales and marketing for Lakewood of Strathmore, explained the event, aiming to be family friendly, also featured activities such as face painting, a car show with the Strathmore Fun Runners, pickleball, and cornhole, among several others.

"It has been a great chance to work with the local vendors ... of course, we are doing it all in good support of our local Wheatland Food Bank," he said. "At least once a year, we like

to do a food drive. The last one we did was at Christmas last year; I think we delivered just over 550 kilograms, so we were very happy about that; and this year, we are doing it this summer to see if we can get some donations brought out from all of our lovely residents."

The 50K Big Roll was initiated three years ago, which presented an opportunity for new homeowners to win upgrades for their newly constructed homes. During the inaugural year, a contestant successfully claimed a \$50,000 prize.

Last year, none were successful. This time around, Silva added, several new homeowners who will be moving into Lakewood in the coming weeks, expressed eagerness for the opportunity.

"The event is centered around the giveaway, but with everything that we do in Lakewood, we want to have it for a community-based non-profit, and so that is why we are working with the food bank again and getting this food drive together," he said. "We are going to be planning this one every year, and next year we are going to look at getting it up to \$100,000. This year will probably be our last year at \$50,000, and next year we are going to push it."

As the team grows the event on an annual basis, Silva explained the goal is to keep making it bigger and bolder, and maintain an expanding community excitement.

Local vendors participating in the event include Baldwin BBQ, Origin, and Miss Max Face Painting.

The Wheatland County Food Bank keeps an active list of their urgently needed items on their website. These currently include canned meat, soup and fish, juice, granola bars, snacks, and personal hygiene products, among others.

For those who were unable to attend the 50K Big Roll but still wish to donate, Wheatland County Food Bank's drop off location operates Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or by appointment.

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Celebrating a successful season

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

As Expressions the Dance Gallery prepares for a summer break, the studio is celebrating not only a successful year on stage, but also the accomplishments of several dancers whose hard work and dedication continue to pay off.

The Strathmore-based studio took part in the Excel Dance Challenge in Red Deer, where dancers competed over three days and earned numerous awards May 8-10.

One of the highlights was receiving the Studio Spirit Award, a recognition that reflects the character of the dancers as much as their talent.

Among the dancers earning special recognition is Bella Damen, who is graduating from high school this year. While Damen has been dancing for several years, this was her first season competing on the competitive team and her first time performing a solo at competition.

Damen was chosen to perform in the high score dance off Sunday afternoon at Excel Dance Challenge and placed second in the overall competition for her division.

"It was so exciting," she said. "I never get in a situation like that before. We were watching all the other performers, and they were just all so good. I kept looking at my teacher and saying, 'I'm not going to compete against them.' But when it was my time to go, I just had to gather myself and go. Honestly, I don't think I remember what happened, but I did it, and I'm really proud of myself because I was really nervous."

Competing solo was a personal challenge that Damen intentionally set for herself during her final year of high school.

"We wanted to be able to show my progress with my ballet," she said. "Being able to prove to myself that I could do it all on my own and find myself on stage was important. It being my last year, I really wanted to push myself."

She credits much of her confidence to the support she received from her coach and choreographer, Jasmine Goulet.

"Jasmine made sure everything in my dance was tailored perfectly to me, so all my strengths were shown, and I just felt confident going in," she said.

That support extended far beyond the coaching staff. Damen says one of her favourite parts of dancing at Expressions is the sense of community among the dancers.

"The girls are so talented and driven, and just getting to be part of that environment is so special," she said. "They all knew that I was nervous and that it was my first time, and they would stand in the wings and cheer me on. It's a really great community."

When the awards were announced and her number was called for second overall in her division, she was stunned.

"I was so shocked," she said. "I gave it my best shot, but whatever happened, happened. Then they called my number and started playing my music. I got to collaborate with Jasmine on a lot of the music and the choreography and the costume. That made it super special and personal to me."

Expressions owner and director Heather Thomas said Bella's success is a perfect example of the opportunities available to dancers who choose to challenge themselves.

"We are not just competitive," said Thomas. "We train recreational students, so they get an oppor-



It was a breakout dance season for Bella Damen, who took part in the Excel Dance Challenge in Red Deer.

Photo Courtesy of Expressions the Dance Gallery

tunity to showcase at the end of the season, but we do have the opportunity for kids to be able to compete if that's what they choose."

Thomas noted that many of the studio's successful competitors began in recreational classes before advancing into the competitive program.

Recognition is also being given to Mia Srubowich of Chestermere and Hayley Butland of Strathmore, who earned opportunities to compete in the final dance-off alongside Damen.

All three dancers began as recreational dancers at Expressions before moving into competitive dance, demonstrating what dedication and quality training can accomplish.

The studio itself has a long history of helping young dancers develop those skills. Thomas said Expressions has been in business for 43 years and has spent more than two decades serving the Strathmore community. "We have students that I've had since babies all the way up through graduation," she said.

As Damen looks toward graduation and a future career in healthcare, dance will continue to play an important role in her life.

"Dance is always going to be part of my life," she said. "I'm hoping to continue to do classes, and I'd love to teach someday."

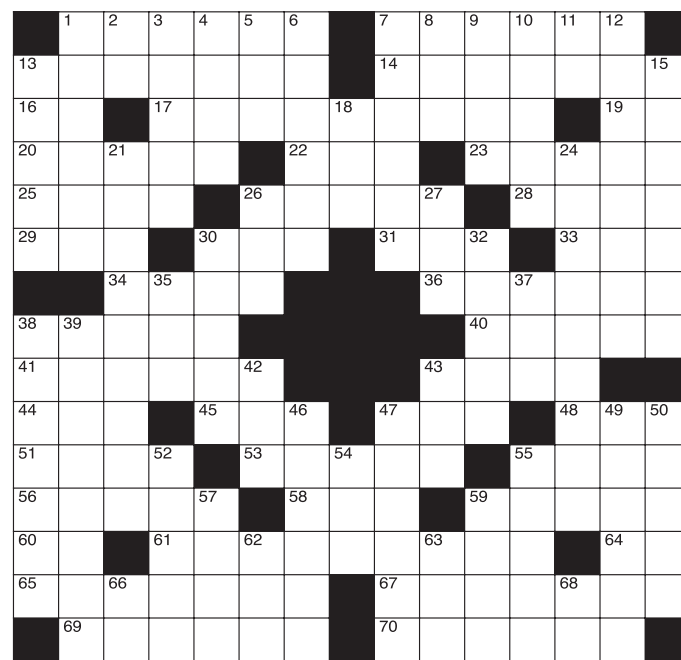
For Expressions the Dance Gallery, it is another reminder that success is measured not only by scores and awards, but by the confidence, sportsmanship and growth their dancers carry with them long after the music ends.



Musical fundraiser

Strathmore High School's drama alumni gathered for a cabaret style performance on July 5 at the SHS drama room. The concert featured musical talent from graduated students from SHS who are perusing the arts in post-secondary. A group number started the evening off with a mirage of various musical numbers sprinkled in and finished off with a final group ensemble. The concert was held to raise funds for the SHS drama program to help purchase new lights.

Photo Courtesy of Kyla Ferrier



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mended
- 7. Hymns
- 13. Commercial transport of goods
- 14. Poked holes in the ground
- 16. They precede C
- 17. Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth
- 19. Larry and Curly's pal
- 20. Injured
- 22. Popular type of dance
- 23. Moon crater
- 25. American state
- 26. Places to lock valuables
- 28. Stalk that supports the capsule
- 29. Keyboard key
- 30. '___ death do us part
- 31. A type of cage
- 33. A place to sleep
- 34. Annual music awards show
- 36. Made over
- 38. Hard, stony substance
- 40. Incantations
- 41. Long-legged, wading bird
- 43. Breathe noisily
- 44. Congressman
- 45. Rip off
- 47. Golf score
- 48. Popular pickup truck
- 51. Where infants sleep
- 53. Music term
- 55. Small opening in a surface
- 56. Musical term meaning "very"
- 58. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 59. Treats with powder
- 60. Email subject line feature
- 61. A British lawyer
- 64. Expression of laughter
- 65. Farmer's calendar
- 67. Seeds used as food
- 69. Eurasian shrubs
- 70. Periods of inactivity

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Hard things to kick
- 2. Collective of countries
- 3. Letter of Hebrew alphabet
- 4. One-time Alabama running back Eddie
- 5. One's sense of self-esteem
- 6. Of the teeth
- 7. Treat with care
- 8. Type of whale
- 9. Curved structure
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. One of the Gospels (abbr.)
- 12. Smallest interval in western music
- 13. Netherlands seat of government
- 15. Gives to charitably
- 18. Lout
- 21. Pastas
- 24. Release from restrictions
- 26. Female sibling
- 27. Title of respect
- 30. Silver coins
- 32. Region in India
- 35. Partner to cheese
- 37. Dark or dusky
- 38. Pacific Northwest tree
- 39. Exaggerate
- 42. Toddler
- 43. Touch lightly
- 46. Fundamentals
- 47. Jeopardies
- 49. Curved structures
- 50. Isolated, flat-topped hills
- 52. Forming the bottom layer
- 54. Reciprocal of sine
- 55. Genus of Old World birds
- 57. New York college
- 59. Cloak
- 62. Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)
- 63. Vietnamese offensive
- 66. "The Great Lakes State"
- 68. "___ myself and I"

STRATHMORE TIMES

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

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LOCAL

STRATHMORE WHEATLAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

County exploring land redesignation to allow for data centre construction

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County is exploring the potential to see a nearly 600-acre data centre constructed within the local region.

The July 7 meeting of council offered council an opportunity to hear from the applicant, Diode Ventures, regarding the current state of their proposal, as well as from the local constituents who may be affected by the development.

Members of the public were granted an opportunity to make their voices heard by council, both in sending letters ahead of the meeting, and via presentation in person.

Over 100 letters were received by the county, of which, the vast majority decried the data centre proposal. In person, one constituent presented in favour, followed by 24 speaking in opposition.

“At this point in time, I do not think that the applicant has demonstrated enough technical expertise on a number of factors – so groundwater impact, environmental impact, noise impact, impact to livestock – for this application to proceed, because I think the onus is on the applicant to prove that there will not be an impact to those residents, not on the residents to prove there has been an impact,” said Heidi Pratt, co-owner of Infinity Equine.

“I believe this stuff needs to be established ahead of time, not after the fact. In their proposal, they state that the facility will be primarily air cooled, which comes with its own implications and risks to horses and livestock that are sensitive to noise, but regulating the water, they say that while they are not going to use it, they might.”

Diode Ventures, in the current iteration of their application, proposes the use of a closed loop cooling system so as to lessen the impact of their facility on local water supplies and quality.

Wheatland County council chambers were overflowing with members of the public who came out to make their voices heard regarding a proposed data centre construction in the Goldfinch ASP. Of the presenters, 24 spoke in person in opposition, with one standing in support following the presentation made by the applicant, Diode Ventures.

John Watson Photo



Pratt explained systems such as these must still be initially primed for use. The water for this purpose was not indicated as to where it would come from, nor how much of it would be required.

The land is proposed at this time to be changed from Agriculture General district to Industrial General district and falls within the Goldfinch Industrial Area Structure Plan (ASP).

Specifically, the area outlined falls immediately south of Township Road 222, and west of Highway 24.

The ASP was adopted in 2018 with intent for the region to see occupation by industrial use; however, at the time, data centre construction and their operations were not considered as an applicable use case.

As it is proposed, the project aims to proceed with the construction of a total 3.5 million square feet across multiple individual structures.

In addition to the land use, a four-acre section of Range Road 264 has been suggested for closure in order to consolidate the land ownership and use for the facilities.

Heather Gagne, who resides less than three kilometers from the proposed subject lands, expressed concern over the livelihood, livestock, and ability to retire of herself and her neighbours due to their proximity.

“If you have these kinds of data centres that are impacting our livestock, that can impact how we can go use our horses in (events such as the Calgary Stampede),” she said. “Some of our commercial people who are there, Infinity Equine,

Equine Connection, these are their livelihoods. If you start impacting their horses, if you start impacting how those horses behave with little kids or with clients, you lose your business.”

She added Range Road 264 is currently a primary access point for her which allows the towing of horses on the highway.

With the amount of anticipated increased and redirected traffic over the construction period, she worries for her own safety, as well as that of neighbours and incoming drivers.

Due to publication deadlines, the printed iteration of this article was distributed prior to the county making any vote on the July 7 discussion.

Coverage of this story will continue online and in print as more space and time is able to be allocated.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Thought for the Week

Perhaps by looking for truth we will find our purpose

SUDOKU

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<p>HOPE COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH 245 Brent Blvd, Strathmore 403-934-2424 Pastor: Brandon Trotter Sunday Worship 10 am www.hope-community.ca</p>	

Impersonators targeting Alberta businesses

BBB RELEASE

The Better Business Bureau issued an alert on June 6 in relation to a scheme targeting businesses in the province.

“This is a sophisticated enterprise that spoofs email addresses of employees of well-known corporations,” says Mary O’Sullivan-Andersen, President and CEO of BBB Serving Alberta and East Kootenay. “The scammers create fake email and even fake websites impersonating employees from legitimate corporations. They then order large quantities of products that are delivered to third-party warehouses from where the material is shipped to locations often located out of the country. One Edmonton business is known to be out more than \$50,000 worth of products.”

“These are criminals targeting unsuspecting employees. Train your staff to recognize the signs of impersonation fraud.”

Protecting Your Business from impersonation fraud:

- Verify customer information using contact information that is validated.
- With new customers, carry out detailed background checks, including banking information.
- Use extra caution when an urgent or rush order is requested.
- Confirm shipping addresses and deal with known contacts at the vendor.
- Train staff to recognize the signs of impersonation fraud including how to spot fake email addresses and websites.
- Report suspicious activity to the police using the non-emergency line and to the BBB at BBB.org.

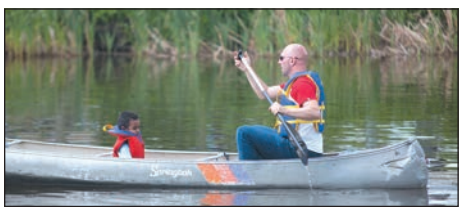


Celebrating CANADA DAY

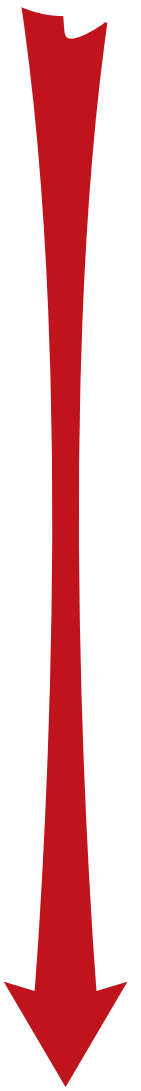


Strathmore celebrated Canada Day, July 1, largely throughout Kinsmen Park with activities being made family-friendly and available for all ages. At the end of the day, fireworks were launched from the adjacent baseball diamond.

John Watson and Joe Lepage Photos



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Attendees gathered at Kinsmen Park in Strathmore on July 3 for a family-friendly rally organized by Fight Back Now. The event primarily focused on opposition to UCP policies on disability benefits, among other issues.

Joe Lepage Photo

Rally held in Strathmore voicing concerns over disability benefit program changes

Continued from Page 1

The Alberta government has said the new system is intended to create a system that can better distinguish who may be able to participate in the local workforce with supports, and those who cannot work at all.

Turnbull added she is concerned that there are too many different answers being told to those in the disabled community, should anyone be able to receive an answer at all.

“A lot of progressive seniors are very unhappy with the direction the province is going. They spent a lifetime building a province and don’t want to see it being sold off to foreign invest-

ment and people who do not care if our water is clean, if our air is clean, if our disabled people have any quality of life,” she said. “We are hoping to do another in August. There are a lot of different issues to focus on: health-care, education, just general survival.”

She added yet another rally aims to be hosted in Strathmore come Oct. 17, shortly prior to the Alberta separation referendum.

For those wishing to take an interest or take part in the rallies and making their voices heard, information is being made available through Fight Back Now’s website and social media channels, as well as on local events pages.

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 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Municipal Planning Commission | ASB**
- August 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting**
- August 18, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | MPC | PPC | COW**

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Careers with Wheatland County

Available opportunities include:

- **Road Repair Foreman**
 - Closes July, 13, 2026
- **Heavy Truck Operator (Hamlet Crew)**
 - Closes July 10, 2026

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Canada Day Bull-A-Rama

The Rockyford Lions Club celebrated the 10th anniversary of its annual Bull-A-Rama on June 30 at the Rockyford Rodeo Grounds, where bull riders took on powerful bucking bulls in front of an enthusiastic crowd. The evening also featured mut-ton bustin', mini wild pony events and concluded with a Canada Day fireworks display.

Joe Lepage Photos



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11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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Branch #10 Present

2nd Annual Motorcycle Show & Shine

July 17th, 2026

Registration fee \$20

A guided Cavaliers Cruise through Strathmore at end of show

Free Memorial Cavaliers Legion Riders Poker Chip

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Includes awards for:
 Best in Show
 Best Custom
 Best Classic
 Best Rat Bike

Location: gravel lot West of the Legion
 Time: 1000 to 1400

BBQ 1130 to 1330 \$12

Contact Don Callan Cavaliers President for more information at 403-701-9274



Jayden Wilson



Edgar Durazo

Locals compete at Calgary Stampede

Local rodeo athletes competed during Pool A of the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth, the Calgary Stampede, from July 3-5. Audrey Butler of Wheatland County and Langdon native Shelby Boisjoli-Meged took part in breakaway roping, while Jayden Wilson of Gleichen and Edgar Durazo of Speargrass took part in barrel racing and bull riding respectively. Meanwhile team Big Tobacco of Siksika Nation took part in Indigenous Relay Racing.

Photos Courtesy of the Calgary Stampede



Big Tobacco



Audrey Butler



Shelby Boisjoli-Meged

Supporting families in need

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Alberta is proving that it can grow the economy and support families at the same time. Last week, our government advanced one of the most significant opportunities in a generation – a new west coast pipeline that will connect Alberta energy to the world. We also launched applications for the Alberta Energy Rebate and added more support for complex classrooms.

Alberta's energy future took a major step forward with the submission of the west coast oil pipeline proposal to the federal Major Projects Office for designation as a project of national interest. This bold, nation-building project would move more than one million barrels of oil per day to the west coast, opening the door to Asian markets and helping Canada become an energy superpower. Working with Trans Mountain Corporation, Pembina Pipeline, and Indigenous partners, this project will create thousands of jobs, generate revenue that supports public services, strengthen Canada's energy security, and support economic growth across the country – all while helping Alberta produce some of the lowest-emissions heavy oil in the world through the Pathways CCUS initiative.

Everyday costs are still putting pressure on many Alberta families, and a little extra help can go a long way. That's why our government has opened applications for the one-time Alberta Energy Rebate, which provides \$100 to eligible Albertans. The rebate can be used however families need it most – whether that's groceries, gas, utility bills, or other expenses. Eligible Albertans can apply online from July 1 to Sept. 30 by visiting energyrebate.alberta.ca, while those receiving the Alberta Seniors Benefit, AISH, ADAP,

or Income Support will be automatically enrolled. By putting money directly into Albertans' pockets, our government is delivering practical support where families need it most. If you have questions about the Alberta Energy Rebate, please email AlbertaEnergyRebate@gov.ab.ca or call 780-401-4014 or toll free 1-844-401-4014. The call centre is open Monday to Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Students learn best when classrooms are safe, supportive, and focused on learning. That is why Alberta's government is investing \$100 million to help schools manage increasingly complex classroom needs from kindergarten to Grade 12. This funding will help hire more teachers, educational assistants, and specialized support staff, including 221 new complexity teams across the province. These teams work directly with schools facing behavioural and safety challenges, with new help for students in Grades 7 to 12 and additional support for kindergarten to Grade 6 classrooms. The funding also includes training for teachers and school staff, along with better access to specialized services in rural and remote communities, giving teachers the tools and support they need to help every student succeed.

Building a stronger Alberta means looking ahead while continuing to support families today. The decisions government makes should lead to real improvements in people's lives. Whether it's creating jobs through major infrastructure projects, helping families with rising costs, or supporting teachers and students, our government is focused on delivering results that strengthen Alberta today and create opportunities for the future.

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



The Rockyford 4-H Club capped off another successful season with the West Wheatland Show and Sale on June 3. Kaylee Nielsen was named the Grand Champion.

Photos Courtesy of Belinda Nielsen and Megan Koester

Another great 4-H year wraps up

AVA KOESTER
Rockyford 4-H Beef Club

West Wheatland 4-H Show and Sale had a great turnout. The Standard 4-H Sheep Club and the Rockyford 4-H Beef Club held their annual show and sale on June 3 in the Rockyford Arena. They held it inside because of the weather for the first time since 2019 (prior to Covid). They worked very hard to move the show inside, setting up mats, panels, and shavings, and there was a very good turnout.

The Rockyford club held a mini show a few weeks prior, where Anna Newell gave tips on the members' showmanship and ran them through what a judge would normally do. She

also gave a grooming demonstration and showed them how to clip, blow, and properly groom their steers. This helped a lot of the members when show day came.

Grand Champion Market Animal for Rockyford was Kaylee Nielsen, and Reserve was Rhett Desmet. The beef on a bun lunch provided by the Lions Club was delicious and had a very long line of people there. The sale afterwards had many bidders, and many of them made a significant contribution to the 4-H community.

We would like to thank everyone who supported the club with donations, the silent auction, and most of all, the buyers. The club has had another great year, and next year is sure to be just as successful.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The betrayal Albertans should pay attention to

To the Editor

There is a pattern repeating itself on both sides of the border, and Albertans should pay attention to it. In the United States, President Donald Trump promised working families cheaper healthcare, better coverage, lower premiums, and full protection for people with pre-existing conditions.

He said no one would lose coverage and that the middle class would finally get the help they had been waiting for. Those promises were central to why millions of middle-class and poor Americans voted for him.

None of it happened. No replacement plan was ever introduced. Premiums and deductibles continued to rise. The administration supported lawsuits that would have eliminated protections for pre-existing conditions. The people who believed they were voting for relief did not receive the healthcare improvements they were told to expect.

Now, after failing to deliver the help he promised, Trump has declared that socialism is "America's greatest evil." Certain Christian political factions in Canada have adopted the same message, even though it works against the very people they claim to defend. They repeat the idea that government support is dangerous, that public healthcare is a threat, and that social programs somehow replace religion. This is not theology. It is political messaging designed to keep people fearful of any policy that shifts even a small amount of power or resources away from the wealthy.

Albertans should recognize the trajectory. Our own government has been steadily moving healthcare toward an American model. Clinics and labs are being shifted out of hospitals. Private operators are being invited deeper into the system. Public services are being fragmented. Costs are being pushed

onto families. Seniors, low-income workers, and people with disabilities are being told to make do with less while private interests expand their role. This is not modernization. It is Americanization.

As a Christian, I cannot accept the argument that government assistance is evil. Nothing in the Gospels suggests Jesus would support a system dominated by a small elite while ordinary people live in tents, struggle to afford medication, or work full-time for wages that do not cover basic needs. Christ stood with the vulnerable. He confronted the powerful when their wealth came at the expense of others. He taught that the measure of a community is how it treats the least among them.

The fear of "socialism" being pushed by political actors is not about faith. It is about protecting an economic structure where the wealthy set the rules and everyone else is expected to endure whatever follows. We have already seen what happens when societies leave everything to charity. The poor houses of the past were not accidents. They were the direct result of refusing to build public systems that protect people from destitution.

Albertans deserve a healthcare system that serves the public, not one that drifts toward the American model of high costs, private profit, and broken promises. We should not repeat the mistakes of a country where millions were told help was coming, only to be left with rising bills and shrinking coverage. We should build a system rooted in compassion, fairness, and responsibility to one another. That is not evil. That is basic decency. This is humane leadership.

Ken Riley
Bassano, Alta

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104.5 MORE COUNTRY

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Tabletop wargaming tournament runs second iteration in Strathmore

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wargamers are returning to the tables in Strathmore this weekend with a new tournament set to kick off at Hob's Gaming Café.

For Mitchell Ton, it's the second time he has organized such an event for the local community, and he's hoping to build on the success of his previous go, creating an even better experience for local players.

"A new edition was (recently) released, a set of new rules, so this tournament is a way for people to learn the rules together, and try a bunch of different armies," he said. "It is a way for everyone to come together in one place all at once, share in the hobby, play this tactical war game together, and show off their armies as well because we've got some people who are very creative with their paint jobs and constructions."

The game is Warhammer 40,000 – a tabletop skirmish war game set in the far reaches of a grimdark future. Players choose their army from a wide host of different factions, assemble and paint their game pieces themselves, and bring them to field against their opponents.

The size of the game is variable and predetermined by a point system, with each model being worth a certain amount.

Ton's previous tournament encouraged teams of two to pair up for their matches and com-

mand their armies together. This time around, participants will be playing alone throughout the course of the day.

"Rather than just three matches that takes the entire day, we are going to be doing four rapid-fire matches," he explained.

Hosting the event at Hob's Gaming Café, it has been limited to 12 players who will compete for prizes and bragging rights, but the eventual aim is to grow enough to migrate the event to the Strathmore Civic Centre.

Ton added competitions such as these present opportunities for veteran players to get even more ingrained in the hobby, to encourage new players to sink deeper than just getting their feet wet, and to maintain a sense of community.

"We do have multiple awards for the event, of course. We have the best overall player, so the one who would take first place points and wins wise; we have the best painted ... then we also have some secondary prizes that are still very important to promote certain things like sportsmanship," he said. "Then the last award is the one that has been dubbed, 'The Wooden Spoon,' which is a staple for all tournaments and that is the player who comes dead last but stuck it out every single round ... for the love of the game."

Ton aims to be hosting tournaments seasonally or once a quarter. Information about scheduling and participation can be found in person at Hob's Gaming Café, or online via their Facebook page and Discord server.



Venom stung

The Strathmore Venom Jr. B lacrosse team jumped out to an early 4-1 first period lead when they hosted the Badlands Sun Devils on July 5 at the Strathmore Family Centre. Unfortunately, the offence dried up in the final two periods en route to an 8-5 loss. The Venom will play their final regular season home game on July 10 at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Joe Lepage Photo

Strathmore Stampede crowns newest rodeo queen

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Stampede is soon to crown their next rodeo queen, having selected Kesten Savage to be their ambassador for the next year.

Currently the "lady in waiting," Savage will officially be handed down the title from Aiera Chernoff during this year's Strathmore Stampede operations.

"I am just very excited. I have wanted this for a really long time, and I have tried at two other rodeos to be a rodeo queen," said Savage. "I worked hard throughout the year to prepare for this, and I'm very honoured and very excited to have this position and be trusted with this role and to represent the Strathmore Stampede."

She explained a previous roadblock she had encountered when attempting to achieve a rodeo queen title was in regard to her public speaking ability.

To remedy this, she joined a Toastmasters group near the tail end of 2025. Exercises through joining the group had Savage refining both her delivery of prepared speeches, as well as for impromptu instances.

"They molded me into a way better public speaker. That definitely prepared me, my confidence level – having all the right tools and things in your belt to just be able to go in with confidence gives you that leg up to be the best person you can be through the competition process," said Savage. "I was very fortunate to be able to bring in all the right tools and have all the right things and just go in with all that confidence, and it really helped at the end of the day ... I just felt way better prepared."

The competition process consisted of a radio interview, a written exam testing knowledge of Strathmore, and the Canadian Pro Rodeo Association, among other topics, sponsor visits, parade participation, public speaking, and a horsemanship exam.

For the equestrian component, candidates were given a prepared pattern which they were allowed to practice ahead of time, as well as an impromptu pattern expected to be completed on site.

Savage, originally hailing from Calgary, explained her interest in rodeo pageantry started at a young age, having seen the Calgary Stampede royalty on numerous occasions and being inspired by them.

"I wrote my speech about how I admired rodeo queens growing up because it has been such a big thing for me for a very long time and something that I have always dreamed of doing since I was a little girl," she said. "It meant a lot to me to be able to put my name into the ring and eventually become a rodeo queen myself, which was super exciting."

Savage has participated as a Calgary Stampede Showrider and has competed for rodeo crowns in Cochrane and Okotoks prior to finding her queenship in Strathmore.



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TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary



THOMPSON, Ronald "Ron" Stewart

Thompson - Ronald "Ron" Stewart Thompson, beloved partner, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, cowboy, and friend, passed away on Saturday, July 4th, 2026 in Medicine Hat, at the age of 72 years. Ron was the only child of Shorty and Elaine Thompson. He was born on October 4th, 1953, in Bassano, Alberta, where his lifelong love of ranching and rodeo began. Although he spent much of his life living and working in the Bassano and Strathmore areas, he returned to his hometown five years ago to be closer to family. Ron attended Bassano School and graduated in 1973. While he never pursued post-secondary education, some of his most valuable lessons were learned long before graduation—often while checking cattle on the lease under the watchful eye of Jack Peake, even on days he was supposed to be in school. As a teenager, Ron embraced the rodeo lifestyle, trying nearly every event. He even rode the occasional buffalo at convention rodeos when they were short of riders. In 1974, Ron married Darlene Stewart, and they welcomed two sons, Cody and Tyler. In 1995, he met Shirley Boucher, and they began their 31-year partnership. Throughout his career, Ron worked for several well-known operations, including LK Ranches, Snake Lake Ranches, Western Feedlots, and the Calgary Stockyards. A cowboy through and through, he found great satisfaction working with cattle and horses. He was a patient teacher who generously shared his knowledge of rodeo, livestock, and agriculture with anyone eager to learn, especially young people. Ron was equally generous with his time and dedicated many years to supporting the rodeo community. He served on numerous rodeo committees, was an Event Director with the Foothills Cowboys Association, a respected rodeo judge and clinician, an active member of the Canadian Classic Rodeo Association where he competed in team roping, and a valued member of the Bassano Rodeo Committee. Known for his kind heart, friendly smile, and willingness to strike up a conversation, Ron never met a stranger. He loved to visit, tell stories, and share his remarkable knowledge of the history of the Bassano area. Ron was predeceased by his parents, Shorty and Elaine Thompson. He is lovingly remembered by his partner, Shirley Boucher; his sons, Cody (Traci) and Tyler (Riley); his grandsons, Riley (Caitlyn), Scott (Taylor), and Lachlan and his great-granddaughter, Michaela. A Celebration of Ron's Life will be held on Saturday, July 11th, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Bassano Community Hall in Bassano, Alberta. Refreshments will follow the program. Cremation is entrusted to and conducted at Smith Funeral Home Ltd., Brooks. Funeral arrangements entrusted to: SMITH FUNERAL HOME LTD., BROOKS, ALBERTA. Condolences may be forwarded through www.sfh.ca. Telephone 403-362-4636 or Toll Free 866-362-4652. "Our Families Serving Your Family with Complete Burial or Cremation Services"

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PROUDLY SERVING ALBERTA SINCE 1986



Upcoming Council Meetings

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

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

Come Say Hi

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

June to early August road maintenance.

Summer Construction on Wheatland Trail.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New classes available.

Lifeguard academy.

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

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

Check out Strathmore.ca/Recreation for more information.

Strathmore Forward.

Municipal Development Plan Update.

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

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

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

Enjoy them safely.

Storm pond safety.

Storm ponds play an important role in protecting our homes and neighbourhoods. They help prevent flooding by managing heavy rainfall and slowly releasing water back into the environment. As water moves across streets and properties, it collects sediment, pollutants, and debris - storm ponds help filter this before it reaches our rivers and streams.

While Strathmore is home to many storm ponds, only Kinsmen Lake and Strathmore Lakes permit recreational use such as fishing. For your safety, please avoid any activity on or near other storm ponds. These ponds are deeper than they appear with water levels that rise and move quickly. They often contain contaminants like fertilizers, pesticides, and animal waste as well.

Visit our website, Strathmore.ca/StormPonds for more information.

Bored? We can fix that.

Join a board.

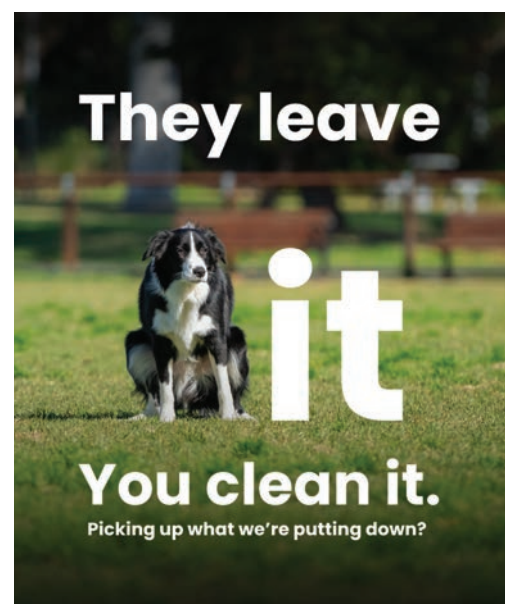
Boards and committees have always played an important role in our community. If you're looking for a way to make an impact, this is your chance to get involved. The Town is currently accepting applications for Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board - 1 position open.

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



Hey dogs, keep your owner on their leash.

You don't want them getting lost, right?



They leave

it

You clean it.

Picking up what we're putting down?



Register today! Summer Camps.

We've got some fun and safe alternatives to boredom for ages 4 to 12 with our summer camps! Check out the themes of each week and register your child for their favourite theme, or register in all the weeks for a fun-filled summer!

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

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



You can make a difference.

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

All you need is an interest in making a difference.

Apply today:

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