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STRATHMORE

TIMES

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 24

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Page 4

Fore a good cause

Strathmore's Field of Dreams

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore and District Agricultural Society has been awarded more than \$100,000 from the Toronto Blue Jays' Field of Dreams grant program to be used for upgrading their baseball diamonds.

Via a release, it was indicated the grant was awarded in recognition of the Ag Society's commitment to the provision, operation, and maintenance of quality recreational fields to serve athletes, families and visitors.

"Just over \$100,000 to upgrade our ball diamonds is amazing and is something that will have a huge impact on improving our facilities. We are extremely grateful," said Ag Society CEO Doug Raycroft. "This is something that we applied for and I don't know how many places in Canada did apply, but there were a bunch of grants given out – 20 or something, to different communities around the country so we were lucky enough to be one of them."

Through the Field of Dreams program, the Jays Care Foundation is distributing more than \$2.6 million across Canada throughout the remainder of 2026.

A total of 22 projects in seven provinces are receiving funding to build, enhance, or refurbish baseball diamonds in their respective communities.

The investment into Strathmore's facilities is described as being earmarked to help "enhance and improve" the Ag Grounds ball diamonds.

Among the improvements is improved drainage to Diamond 4 in order to improve its overall playability. Grays Ltd. will be completing this portion of the work, returning to the grounds after having renovated Diamond 1 two years ago.

Additional upgrades are described as including the installation of safety netting, updates to irrigation sprinkler heads, and the potential addition of new bleachers for spectators.

Continued on Page 4

Page 5

CGC opens



High-five for grads

High school graduate Claude Alinea receives high-fives from the students of Holy Cross Collegiate during the grad march down the school's hallway on June 12. The grads then went through the attached Sacred Heart Academy to do the same for elementary students. It was the start of a busy weekend for the HCC Class of 2026, who celebrated their grad weekend. See Page 2 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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 *Meet the* **CLASS of 2026**



Holy Cross Collegiate celebrated the Class of 2026 with a busy weekend for the graduates. The students attended a grad mass and awards on June 12, before going through the hall of the school and the adjacent Sacred Heart Academy for the grad parade. The grad ceremony was then held the next day at the Hope Community Covenant Church when students officially crossed the stage and accepted their diploma.

Joe Lepage Photos



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The pharmacy half of Country Plaza Medical Centre was officially opened, June 9, with a ribbon cutting. The facility aims to offer on-demand access to both prescription and over the counter medications for the community.

John Watson Photos

Country Plaza Medical Centre opens pharmacy

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The pharmacy half of the Country Plaza Medical Centre is officially open and serving the local Strathmore community.

A ribbon cutting was held June 9, to commemorate the beginning of operations in earnest, with members of the community and local dignitaries having been invited to participate.

“It has been a dream for me to open a new pharmacy, so it comes true. It is very overwhelming, a tedious process to open a pharmacy. Finally, we are ready, happy,” said Nagaraju Thumu, prescribing pharmacist. “I can do all the possible services a pharmacist can do. Now, I feel like I am able to provide all of the services to the community at my full potential.”

Thumu described the process of receiving approval by the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSA) as being extremely thorough and challenging to complete.

Now that the pharmacy has been cleared to operate, Thumu is able to maintain a comprehensive inventory to get patients what they need on demand as per their prescriptions.

Thumu returns to Strathmore, having previously resided in the community in 2015, then vacating due to a lack of full-time opportunities in the area.

“I heard from a Shoppers Drug Mart associa-

te ... they had been asking me to come back to Strathmore. I bought a home, I worked here at Shoppers running the clinic very successfully, and so I said to myself, this is the time to start another chapter as a pharmacy manager and owner,” he said. “Right now, we are still settling. It is just me and I have not hired anyone yet because I just want to see how it runs so that I slowly hire people.”

The Country Plaza Medical Centre opened its doors as a walk-in clinic on March 4. Part of the convenience of the clinic has been to provide service even if the team is not a patient’s regular physician and have prescription information on site for immediate distribution.

“Patients need immediate care. It’s not like they can wait, so we are able to fulfill that. Even medication-wise, sometimes some pharmacies, if you go, it will take one or two days to get those ready, but we will be able to get it ready right away,” said Thumu. “If (patients) have any questions, unlike other pharmacies, it has to be faxed to the clinic, which may take days or weeks. Here, I can quickly go talk to the doctor and get that settled right away.”

He added his next steps will be to begin issuing prescriptions himself, provide point of care testing, and travel consultations, among others, though these services aim to become available on a yet to be determined timeline.

Library hosts summer fest to kick off seasonal programming

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Municipal Library hosted its second annual Summer Fest, June 13, launching registrations for the summer reading program.

Laura Henderson, assistant director of the library, explained high attendance and registrations were anticipated, as members of the community have been inquiring about the program for the last several months.

“We thought we might as well turn it into an opportunity to advertise some of the other things going on and just have a big party to celebrate summer and the programming going on through the library and within the community,” she said. “It went from just an event to launch registration into an opportunity to advertise our early literacy programs like Mother Goose in the Park and Ice Cream in the Park, (and) our SAIL programs that run all year.”

Also present at the event, the Wheatland Youth Network, Trellis, and CCIS highlighted the programs they have operating over the course of the summer.

Henderson joked that last year, the team had to make a run for more food due to attendance being much higher than anticipated. This year, they had prepared to host approximately 250 people.

“(We had) more games, we had a face painter come, and someone doing caricatures, so we ad-

ded a few little fun pieces,” she said. “We were really excited to see how many people came out for registration, but also because we were out in the green space next to the library.”

In contrast to previous years, the library’s summer reading program has brought on four coordinators this time around, being the most it has ever supported.

The program is designed to be an affordable way for kids and youth to be able to have access to a community throughout the summer between school years, as well as to continue exercising their literature skills.

“It’s a good way to start getting to connect with people your own age within the summer reading program, and then if you could come on the Fridays, we have different events that are not associated fully with the summer reading program,” said Ben Parkins, summer reading program coordinator. “Our theme this year is ‘Dive In,’ so it is ocean themed and ... each week is going to be a different country, and we are going to go over some of the sea creatures in those countries.”

The library is asking \$5 per participant for the entirety of the summer reading program. If that is unattainable for some, youth are still invited to participate in free Friday programs.

Further information regarding the summer reading program is available through the library whether in person or on their website.

STRATHMORE TIMES

Mario Prusina Publisher

John Watson Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

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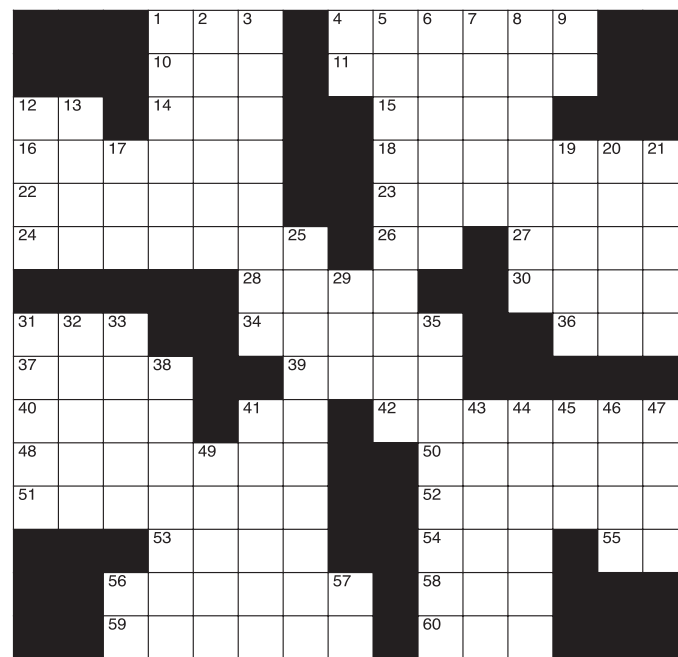
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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Local Journalism Initiative. **Canada**

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Similar
- 4. Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
- 10. No (Scottish)
- 11. __ Aires, city
- 12. Morning
- 14. Senior’s son (abbr.)
- 15. A notable achievement
- 16. European nation
- 18. Endings
- 22. Puts into place
- 23. Former
- 24. Grenadier
- 26. Sea patrol
- 27. Algerian port
- 28. Norwegian river
- 30. Precipitation
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. New York is one
- 36. Patti Hearst’s captors
- 37. Soft mineral with greasy feel
- 39. Retired Brazilian footballer
- 40. An Indian nursemaid
- 41. Atomic #24
- 42. Immobile
- 48. Insignia of royalty
- 50. Seeds from which chocolate is made
- 51. Begin again
- 52. Round root
- 53. Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
- 54. What newlyweds just said
- 55. Empire State
- 56. Give back
- 58. College hoops tournament
- 59. Unstable situations
- 60. Young women’s association

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Administer a drug
- 2. Holy places
- 3. Contrary opinions
- 4. Blood type
- 5. Gags
- 6. Micturating
- 7. Silly
- 8. A type of “cuff”
- 9. Spanish be
- 12. Austrian river
- 13. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 17. Consume food
- 19. California supermarket
- 20. Electronic communication
- 21. Cassia tree
- 25. Written works
- 29. Cool!
- 31. Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
- 32. One who was compensated
- 33. National symbols
- 35. Raising
- 38. A type of talk
- 41. Cloud
- 43. Middle Eastern peoples
- 44. Pouches
- 45. 007’s creator
- 46. A cut of meat
- 47. Sports entertainment award
- 49. Christine __, actress
- 56. Relief organization (abbr.)
- 57. Canadian province (abbr.)

STRATHMORE WHEATLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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Saturday, June 20
9:00-3:00

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Farewell to a familiar face

The entire Holy Cross Collegiate community gathered in the HCC gym on June 9 to bid farewell to vice-principal Art Hanson as he prepares to become principal of Sacred Heart Academy. Staff added some humour to the emotional assembly by arriving dressed in black and wearing veils to “mourn” his departure. Hanson and principal Mr. Evans have worked together as an administrative team for 17 years, prompting Evans to present Hanson with a “Breaking” T-shirt while wearing a matching “Up” shirt himself. Students also presented dozens of letters expressing their appreciation for Hanson, who will be greatly missed at HCC – although, fortunately, he will only be moving down the hallway to SHA.

Joe Lepage Photo



Celebrating music

The Hope Bridges Music Discovery Class joined singer-songwriter Elle McAndrews on stage during the Hope Bridges Community Concert at the Hope Community Covenant Church on June 9. The event once again drew in a full house as community members came together to celebrate music, creativity and connection.

Melissa Piche Photo

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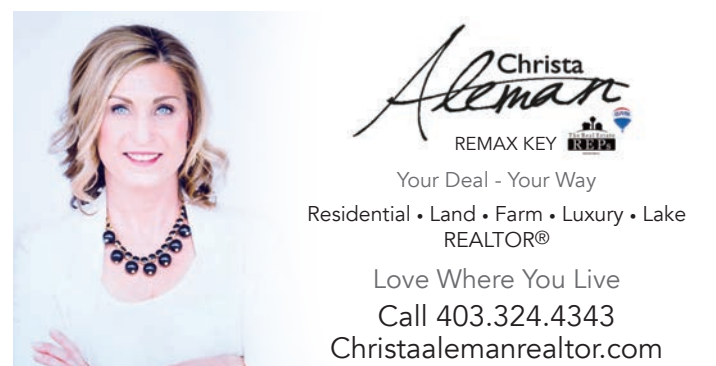
Thought for the Week

~
Could it be that we risk inundating our hearts with lies if we fail to fill our natural spiritual voids with truth?

SUDOKU

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Rain and shine

It was a tale of two seasons with sun and rain during the 20th annual Strathmore Oilmen's spring classic golf tournament on June 11 at the Strathmore Golf Club.

Joe Lepage Photos



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Ag Society receives Field of Dreams grant from Toronto Blue Jays for baseball diamond upgrades

Continued from Page 1

“We are incredibly honoured to have been selected as a recipient of the 2026 Field of Dreams Grant,” said Danielle Paddock, projects and events manager for the Ag Society, via the release. “This investment will allow us to continue improving our facilities and ensure our ball diamonds remain a premier destination for local athletes, tournament organizers, and community events. We are excited to make improvements that will benefit players, spectators, and user groups for years to come.”

This program marks the largest investment in community infrastructure the Jays Care Foundation has ever made through the Field of Dreams grant program.

“These upgraded diamonds will give kids a safe place where they can build character, resilience, and a sense of belonging through the game,” said Peter King, executive director of the Jays Care Foundation.

The program was initiated in 2000, with more than \$24 million having been invested to date across 262 Field of Dreams projects.

Communities were selected through a two-stage application and grading process which began in September last year.

CGC officially opens Wheatland wallboard facility

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

CGC's operations in Wheatland County have begun in earnest, as their new wallboard manufacturing facility is officially complete and operational.

Stakeholders, dignitaries, and invited guests were offered an opportunity, June 10, to tour the facility and be present for its ribbon cutting.

"It gives us the ability to serve builders and our customers across Alberta and Western Canada with a more localized and reliable source of Sheetrock brand wallboard," said Steve Youngblut, president of CGC. "This matters at a time when demand remains to be strong for housing, for infrastructure, and for commercial construction. Builders need consistency. They need reliable access to quality material, and they need supply they can depend on to keep their projects moving forward."

The facility represents a \$210 million investment and is geared to create 100 full-time positions to work within the local region.

Youngblut added the facility has put a particular emphasis on efficiency and sustainability, built with features designed to reduce water consumption, maintain low carbon emissions, and support a goal of zero waste.

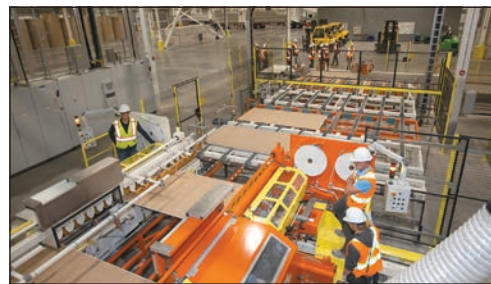
"Wheatland is the result of decades of thinking, planning, and commitment. For a long time, we have understood the importance of having wallboard capacity in Western Canada," said Chris Macey, president and CEO of the USG corporation. "During my time at CGC and USG, I just saw how important this market is to our customers and how valuable it would be to have local production close to the market, enabling us to support our customers' growth."

The Wheatland facility was credited as being among the most advanced plants in the corporation's network, aiming to significantly broaden their ability to serve markets across Western Canada.

Joseph Schow, minister of jobs, economy, trade, and innovation, iterated that diversification of Alberta's economic footprint is key to ensuring jobs are available for people both currently residing and who are coming to the province.



CGC hosted the official opening and ribbon cutting for their new Wheatland County facility on June 10.
John Watson Photos



YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

"Through a more than \$3.7 from the Investment Growth Fund, Alberta has helped secure this over-\$200-million-dollar investment that strengthens our manufacturing sector, supports economic diversification, and delivers benefits that will extend well beyond today," said Schow. "As Alberta continues to grow, we are proud to have CGC as part of our story. This facility stands as a vote of confidence in Alberta as the best place to do business."

Macey added one of the primary reasons for the facility is to insulate CGC to a certain extent from American gypsum tariffs. The general idea being to be a reliable source for CGC customers to be able to depend on a source of material at more affordable rates.

Lithium carbonate is a mood-stabilizing drug discovered in 1929. One of the lesser known facts about this drug is that was added to 7Up soft drink. At that time it was marketed for "hangover relief". It was removed from the product in 1948 when the Food and Drug Administration in the U.S. banned its used in soft drinks.

So 7UP remains a good choice for a non-caffeinated soft drink.

Nicotine addiction is real. Some people say "it's just nicotine. It's not cocaine". But nicotine is incredibly addictive and this addiction occurs rapidly. This addiction is often paired with withdrawal symptoms which can include irritability, restlessness, difficulty concentrating, anxiety, and trouble sleeping. The nicotine habit also costs money, too.

If you are diabetic, ensure your vaccinations are up to date. These include protection against flu (yearly), COVID-19 (twice yearly), tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (every 10 years), pneumonia (usually once is enough),

shingles (2 doses-once). Other vaccines not specific to diabetics include the human papilloma virus, meningococcal and measles.

Treatment for cancers is improving all the time. For example older chemotherapy treatments had many side effects because the drugs didn't differentiate between the cancer cells and healthy cells. New treatments, including *monoclonal antibody* therapy actually targets the cancer cells and leaves the healthy cells alone. This is a great step forward in cancer treatment.

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Upcoming Meetings

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

- July 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting
- July 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Municipal Planning Commission | ASB
- August 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting

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

Public Hearings

Wheatland County Council Chambers July 7th, 2026, at 9 a.m.

Wheatland County Council will hold the following Public Hearings at its regular Council meeting on **Tuesday, July 7th, 2026**. The following Public Hearings will begin at **9:00 a.m.** and proceed until all applications have been heard:

File No: RC2025-001
Bylaw #: 2025-25
Legal Description: The intervening road allowance between NE-8-22-26-W4M and NW-9-22-26-W4M, immediately south of the intersection of Township Road 222 and Range Road 264
Proposal: To close a ± 1.60 hectare (± 4.00 acre) portion of Range Road 264 to public travel between NE-8-22-26-W4M and NW-9-22-26-W4M, to facilitate the consolidation of the road allowance into the adjacent lands.



File No: PL2025-005
Bylaw #: 2025-32: Amendments to the Goldfinch Industrial Area Structure Plan (GIASP)
 2025-33: Diode Ventures Data Centre Area Concept Plan (ACP)
 2025-34: Land Use Redesignation from Agricultural General (AG) District to Industrial General (IG) District
Legal Description: Lot 3, Block 4, Plan 2312026 within NE-7-22-26-W4M; Lot 2, Block 4, Plan 0412931 within NW-8-22-26-W4M; Blocks 2 & 3, Plan 0012457 within NE-8-22-26-W4M; and N-9-22-26-W4M
Proposal: To amend the Goldfinch Industrial ASP, adopt a new ACP, and redesignate the subject lands from AG District to IG District in order to facilitate the future development of a data processing facility.

Further details are available on the County's website at the following address:

<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/projects-under-review/>



Proposed Diode Ventures ACP



Existing Goldfinch Industrial ASP

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

OPEN HOUSE

Nightingale Community Hall
 254040 RR245, Wheatland County
JULY 7, 2026 | 7:00 P.M.



Wheatland County residents are invited to attend an upcoming community open house in Nightingale.

The evening will include project updates, opportunities to ask questions, and time to connect directly with County representatives. While the open house is taking place in Nightingale, all Wheatland County residents are encouraged to attend and take part in the conversation.

We look forward to seeing you there and hearing from our community.



Evening Agenda

- 7:00 P.M. Presentations and Community Updates Begin
- 8:00 P.M. Formal Question & Answer Period
- Following Q&A Informal Discussion and One-on-One Conversations with Council and Administration

GRAVEL SALES

Wheatland County's 2026 Gravel Sale Schedule is now available, with three scheduled sale dates:

- June 10-11
- July 8-9
- August 12-13

Crushed gravel and pit run will be available for purchase at designated County pits.

Tickets must be purchased in advance through the Wheatland County Administration Office, and materials are for personal use only.

View sale dates, locations, materials, and purchase details:



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Sam Evans is a Class Act

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Sam Evans is the recipient of the 2026 *Strathmore Times* Class Act award at Strathmore High School.

He was among several students who were invited to a June 4 ceremony to be recognized for their academic, athletic, and extracurricular achievements.

“I was very excited. I had applied for it, and I know a lot of other people did as well, so I am very grateful that I got chosen. It feels good to be rewarded for all the hard work that I have done throughout by high school career,” said Evans.

In addition to maintaining a high-grade average, Evans is known to be working two jobs, contributed his voice to the morning announcements, was active with the senior jazz and concert bands, and has performed with ensembles at Mount Royal University, as well as with the Alberta Wind Ensemble.

He attributes a neatly arranged schedule to be a significant factor in being able to participate in and maintain so many regular activities.

“I have time in the morning before school to focus on my academic stuff, and I can fully prioritize my evenings for work and along with the weekends as well,” he said. “I thrive off of the challenge. I just can’t sit still, and I feel if I really push myself, that it can be inspirational to others as well to do the same.”

Post graduation, Evans said he is set to attend an eight-week barbering academy course in November to achieve his apprenticeship, with ambitions to eventually become a journeyman.

He credits the opportunities made available to him through the course of junior and senior high with his discovered passion for aesthetics.

“The outcome is worth it in the end,



Sam Evans (l-r) accepts the *Strathmore Times* Class Act Award from *Times* photographer Joe Lepage during the Strathmore High School Awards Night on June 4.

Photo Courtesy of SHS

and you learn to deal with the stress and the challenges. Once you deal with those for the first time, everything comes easier in the future,” said Evans. “It is such a rewarding feeling, and I don’t think anyone should be afraid to pursue and take on those challenges.”

So far, he joked that despite not being able to fit much practice into his schedule outside of class, he has been allowed to cut his friends’ hair, as well as his grandmother’s.

Intent to play the long game, Evans added a significant portion of his motivation stems from the idea of seeing his hard work pay off later.

His family and friends as his support system push him through the stress and encourage him to give his all.

To the *Dads* of Lakewood
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Spurs battle

The Strathmore Spurs U11 team hosted the North Calgary Fury on June 10 at the Ranch Market Soccer Field. The Spurs next home game is slated for June 24 at 11 a.m. against the LSCA Newcastle.

Joe Lepage Photos



Staying in form

The Strathmore Red 1 U15AA team played host to the Calgary Bucks (Orange) on June 8 at the Kinsmen Park Ball Diamonds. The Reds will travel to Olds for a trio of road games June 20-21.

Joe Lepage Photos



Venom victorious

The Strathmore Venom Jr. B lacrosse team got the best of the Foothills Spurs 9-6 on June 13 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Venom are currently tied with the Bandits and Rage T2 for fourth place in the division with just four games left in the regular season.

Joe Lepage Photos

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SHS adds two more pillars to commemorative collection

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore High School hosted their annual Pillars ceremony, June 17, recognizing two alumni this year for their achievements, and work in the community.

“Whether it is in athletics or medicine, or we have a couple of Indigenous alumni who are recognized. We have an Olympic athlete this time,” said Doug Raycroft, SHS principal.

“We have these plaques made up and then we hang them on the pillars of our school so that they are always there for people to read about the exceptional work of some of our alumni.”

He added the practice has created a strong culture of heritage from past Strathmore High School alumni to the students who are currently enrolled.

Raycroft explained the school maintains a committee comprised of current and retired teachers, and school administrative staff who meet to discuss possible pillars and nominate people for the recognition.

“We try to have a few ready for the next year kind of thing so that we can always be recognizing some of the great work that our alumni have done,” he said.

“We do not really try to recognize current students or recent alumni necessarily. We try to wait for a while

before (recognizing) them but there is not a timeline or rules necessarily.”

The number of alumni recognized on a year-to-year basis is fluid. This year there are only two, while last year there were four.

This year’s pillars are Olympic athlete Jessica Sevick and Laren Bill, who specialized in environmental stewardship and collaborative governance with First Nations.

“We try to get it so that the pillars are able to come to our ceremony but that is not always possible because some of our alumni do not live here and it is hard to get them to be able to come at a certain point,” said Raycroft.

“Sometimes it is easier than you think (to contact them) and then other times it is really hard. Some of these alumni, their family and contacts and their connection to Strathmore is still really strong ... and then other ones, they are moved on or their families have moved on as well.”

Those who have been recognized as pillars have ranged in careers from actors to coaches and athletes, to professions in medicine and health care, just to name a few.

The practice began roughly in 2009 with a donation from the Rodehuskers family, which was utili-



Strathmore High School recognized two of their alumni, June 17, for their contributions to the community as well as their achievements throughout their careers. Jessica Sevick and Laren Bill joined the SHS Pillars with plaques bearing their stories mounted in the school.

John Watson Photo

zed to launch the program, as well as to finance the purchase of an electronic score table for the school gymnasium.

Steve Rodehusker became the first Pillar of SHS in 2010. He was noted for having gone from SHS to play for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers among his achievements.

Made-in-Alberta solutions

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Alberta does not have to choose between producing energy, environmental stewardship, attracting investment, and planning for the future. This past week showed what happens when a province can do it all at once. From proving the strength of made-in-Alberta methane technology, to bringing global energy leaders to Calgary, to laying the groundwork for passenger rail, our government is focused on building a strong economy for generations to come.

Methane reduction is one area where Alberta is showing that results matter more than words. That is why our government announced more than \$8 million from the industry-funded Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction program for 16 new methane reduction projects, including a new online tool to help industry adopt technology faster. These projects will support everything from artificial intelligence used to detect leaks to upgrading equipment to reduce emissions in real-world operations. Since 2014, Alberta’s energy sector has cut methane emissions by more than half while increasing production – proving that innovation, partnership, and smart policy can lower emissions without weakening our energy sector. That matters to Albertans – because it means protecting good jobs, keeping our energy sector competitive, and ensuring responsible development for the long term.

The Global Energy Show brought the world to our own backyard. Calga-

ry played host to delegates from more than 100 countries, where Alberta showcased our energy, minerals, technology, and investment opportunities to global leaders. At a time of global uncertainty and energy supply challenges, Alberta used this platform to reinforce a simple message: we are a secure, reliable, and responsible energy partner. By promoting Alberta’s resources, technologies, and expertise directly to international decision-makers, our government helped make the case for more investment, better market access, and long-term partnerships that support jobs and economic growth here at home.

Looking ahead also means thinking about how Albertans move across a growing province. Alberta’s Passenger Rail Master Plan is now complete, and our government is investing \$15 million to advance the next phase of planning. The plan looks at a phased passenger rail network over 30 years, including potential high-speed regional service between Edmonton and Calgary, higher-speed service between Calgary and Banff, and airport-express and commuter rail connections in major urban regions. Initial work is already underway to explore connections between Calgary and Edmonton’s LRT systems and their international airports. This is long-term planning with real economic potential – connecting communities, supporting tourism, improving airport access, and preparing Alberta for future growth.

Alberta’s manufacturing sector continues to grow as well, creating jobs and strengthening our economy. Last week,

I joined the Honourable Joseph Schow, Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration, in Wheatland County to celebrate the opening of CGC’s new \$210-million wallboard manufacturing plant. Supported by \$3.7 million through Alberta’s Investment and Growth Fund, the project created approximately 200 construction jobs and will support nearly 100 permanent positions. The new facility will strengthen the supply of building materials across Western Canada while helping diversify Alberta’s economy and create new opportunities in rural communities.

This is what responsible develop-

ment looks like in Alberta: responsible energy without punishing industry, international outreach that turns attention into opportunity, forward-looking transportation planning, and manufacturing. Alberta’s government is focused on building a province that continues to produce, prosper, connect, and lead.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where Alberta’s wealth goes

To the Editor

As billions of dollars leave Canada each month and flow straight into the pockets of ultra rich foreign stockholders of oil and gas companies, our provincial government soaks what meager royalties it receives into the Heritage Fund. At the same time, governments continue to pour billions of public dollars into new pipelines so those same stockholders can make even more money from Canada’s oil and gas, resources they pay only a pittance for.

Meanwhile, the same government continuously chisels back social supports and healthcare. It is death by a thousand cuts. Budgets are frozen, programs shrink, staff disappear, and people are told to accept

longer waits and fewer services while the wealth generated from public resources is siphoned outward at an astonishing pace. Thousands are homeless.

Municipalities are left to deal with the fallout. They face crumbling infrastructure, rising service demands, and shrinking provincial support. To keep basic services functioning, they must levy tax surcharges and raise property taxes. Residents end up paying more while receiving less, even as the profits from their own resources are steadily leaving Canada and enriching foreign stockholders.

Ken Riley
Bassano, Alta.

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Miss Strathmore Stampede

Kesten Savage was crowned Miss Strathmore Stampede on June 14 at the Strathmore and District Agricultural Society grounds. Contestants participated in a horsemanship demonstration in the morning before the crowning ceremony at 3 p.m. Savage will officially begin her duties as Miss Strathmore Stampede during the Strathmore Stampede over the August long weekend.

Joe Lepage Photo



The Strathmore Chaos Black 15UG team and the Strathmore Volleyball Club U18 boys' team were just two of the handful of Strathmore teams to play at the National Volleyball Championship in Calgary last month.

Photos Courtesy of Nicole Screpnic and Strathmore Chaos Volleyball

Competing against the best

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

Thousands of athletes, coaches, and fans filled the BMO Centre in Calgary for the National Volleyball Championship in May.

The event featured teams from across Canada and highlighted the growing strength of volleyball programs from smaller Alberta communities, like the Strathmore Chaos

Among the teams representing Strathmore was the U15 Chaos Black girls squad, coached by Matt Byrna. While the team was not competing for a national title, Byrna said the season-long goal was never solely about medals.

"Our goal all year long was just to continue to get better," said Byrna. "Each tournament that we went in, in the AVAs and provincials and nationals, we succeeded in our goal of getting better."

The team played seven matches at nationals and continued a season-long trend of improvement. Byrna said the club climbed the rankings at every major tournament throughout the year and ultimately finished in the top half of Tier 3 competition.

"We finished in the top half of Tier 3, which is one of the highest finishes any Chaos team has ever had," he said.

Competing against larger clubs from major centres presented unique challenges. Byrna noted that many top-tier programs draw from hundreds of athletes during tryouts, while smaller communities like Strathmore have a much smaller player pool to work with.

"Sometimes our goals aren't measured with, 'Did we get a gold medal?'" said Byrna. "It's more like, 'Did we get better? Did we improve a little? Was there personal growth in the athletes?'"

One of the highlights of the tournament came during a second-day matchup against a higher-ranked opponent. Byrna described it as nearly a perfect performance by his players.

"In that one game, it was just sort of that perfect example of what they could achieve if they continued down the road," he said. "They came out of it, and everyone was just super ecstatic. It was neat to see not only our team, but lots of the other Chaos teams be able to be there. It's a really good experience for Strathmore in general for volleyball."

The success of Strathmore teams extended beyond the Chaos program. The Strathmore Volleyball Club U18 boys' team also delivered an impressive per-

formance at nationals, finishing with an 8-1 record and earning silver in the Tier 5 final.

"They had a great time," said head coach Mark Screpnek. "We won all three games on the first day, all three games on the second day, and then won our first two games on the final day to reach the Tier 5 final."

In his first season as head coach, Screpnek credited his assistant coaches, Jonathan Rilling and Nathan Wilchow, as well as club founder Cole Hintz, for helping guide the team throughout the season.

"I had really great assistant coaches," he said. "They grew up in the SVC and were giving back to the club that helped grow them as volleyball players."

One of the most memorable moments came during a semifinal matchup against a defensive-minded team from Ontario. After losing a close first set and falling behind by five points in the second, the Strathmore squad mounted a comeback to force a third set and eventually secured the victory.

"We were down 17-12 in the second set, and in 18U boys' volleyball, that's pretty much game over," said Screpnek. "But we battled back, won the set 32-30, and then handled them nicely in the third. To overcome that kind of adversity was really special."

Screpnek said the team's chemistry played a major role in its success, with many of the athletes having played together for five years.

"They've been a really close-knit group of young men," he said. "They won provincials together in 2024, finished second at provincials this year, and a lot of them are now moving on to play college volleyball."

Coaches and families praised the athletes not only for their results, but for the dedication and sportsmanship they displayed throughout the event. Many players had spent months training and travelling for provincial tournaments leading up to nationals, making the opportunity to compete on a national stage especially meaningful.

Acadia Tucker (15) who plays for Strathmore Chaos U15 purple club team, who also participated in the tournament, said one particular game stood out for her,

"My entire team (did well), we had really good ups one game. No ball really touched the ground," said Tucker.

She praises the brilliant coaching team this year, "Houston Burrell and Levi Kirk ... best coaches I've ever had."

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

NEW ARRIVAL

Bryce, Abby and Mara Fowler are excited to announce the birth of a beautiful baby boy

'Wells Glenn'

born on June 5, 2026, 8lbs 3oz, 21 in.
Proud Grandparents are Glenn & Sue Fowler and Harry & Gorete Salm

THANK YOU

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Robert's family wishes to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who joined us in celebrating his life. Your presence and kind words reminded us how deeply he touched your lives, just as you touched his. To the communities of Rockyford and Strathmore, the citizens who sent flowers, shared stories and offered comfort in our time of grief. Thank you. Your kindness has been a tremendous source of strength.

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COMING EVENTS

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Graveside service will commence at 3:30 pm at the Strathmore Cemetery where we will lay Albert and his loving wife Elaine to rest on their wedding anniversary, side by side for eternity.

This is a time to reflect and celebrate our time with him. To share memories, stories and possibly a joke or two. Dad loved people to laugh, so to honour him we will continue to smile whenever we think of him.

A light buffet lunch will be served.

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June 27, 2026
at

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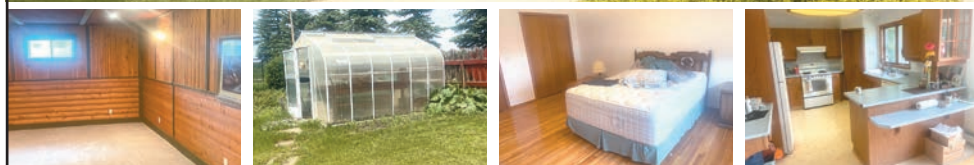
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Upcoming Council Meetings

June 24, 2026 | 6 p.m.

July 8, 2026 | 6 p.m.

July 15, 2026 | 6 p.m.

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

Come Say Hi

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



Aaand we're back!

Annual backlane gravel maintenance.

Every year, the Town of Strathmore invests in maintaining gravel lanes to improve mobility and conditions for the public. The Town inspects the gravel lane network and schedules repairs in a priority order. Typical repairs include:

- Lane grading to improve drainage and surface condition
- Compaction of lane (as necessary)
- Vegetation management (strip back overgrowth and widen driving lanes to, ideally, 5 meters and a height clearance of 5 meters)
- Alley re-graveling on a 10-year cycle (contingent on year-to-year budget approval)

You can help us complete this work more efficiently by making sure your back lane is clear. This means removing the following objects that might block the lane.

- Black or green garbage carts + blue recycling carts
- Construction bins
- Stored materials
- Dirt or debris piles
- Low-hanging branches/overgrown growth

Please remember, Bylaw 22-06 prohibits any kind of obstruction in or above an alley. Keeping alleys clear of parked vehicles, trailers, equipment, garbage carts, and overgrowth doesn't just make things look better - it also keeps the space safe and useable for everyone. As well, under Bylaw 21-04, garbage carts must be returned to your property once collection is done. This helps prevent them from being used by others or going missing in weather events.

The maintenance program goes a long ways towards improving vehicle and pedestrian travel, storm drainage, garbage collection, and even access for emergency services. For more information, visit Strathmore.ca/SeasonalPriorities. If you have questions or concerns, give us a call, **403-361-2126**, or shoot us an email, operations@strathmore.ca.

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.

Join our team.

Career opportunities available.

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

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

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

Good food, great food. Get the Good Food Box.

The Good Food Box is a non-profit organization offering access to quality produce while ensuring variety, freshness and affordability. It is brought to you by your community, packed by volunteers and delivered to Strathmore through FCSS. This program is accessible for everyone regardless of income level. For more information, visit Strathmore.ca/GoodFoodBox

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?

Upcoming events with FCSS.

Visit Strathmore.ca/FCSSEvents for more information.

| Event | Date |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Seniors Emergency Preparedness Day | June 17, 2026 |
| National Indigenous Peoples Day | June 21, 2026 |
| FCSS Park Pop-Up | June 24, 2026 |
| Canada Day Face Painting | July 1, 2026 |



Back with a bang.

July 1, 2025
Kinsmen Park, Strathmore



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 |
|--|---------------------------|
| Water Fun | June 29 to 3, 2026 |
| 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 |