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Doctor incentives

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore is considering changes to the way it offers incentives to physicians for bringing their services to the local community.

Recognizing the challenges currently being experienced through provincial jurisdiction, the Town of Strathmore has been aiming to attempt to reduce impacts to local residents.

The town has made efforts to lobby by the province for increased medical services and supports, as well as to establish new programs to attract primary care physicians to the local community.

"Over the past couple years, the town established two new grant programs to assist with physician attraction. They were the physician sponsorship grant policy, and the physician incentive program policy," said Johnathan Strathdee, manager of legislative services.

The physician sponsorship grant policy, adopted in May 2024, was the result of discussions with the local medical office, engagement with external stakeholders, and review with the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The grant was developed to reimburse a local medical office which sponsored an internationally-trained physician through the program. Since the policy was put into place, only one application was submitted. The application was successful.

"It brought in one new doctor to our community, which was great, but for this reason, we are going to be proposing that this policy be amended to change a sponsorship grant total from three awards totalling \$90,000 to one grant totalling \$30,000," said Strathdee.

Continued on Page 4



Four leaf frolic

Families from across the community gathered for an evening of music and celebration during the 7th Annual St. Patrick's Jelly Bean Dance, hosted by the Strathmore Parents Association of Expressions.

The "Four Leaf Frolic" took place on March 14 at the Strathmore Civic Centre, featured an evening of dancing along with a variety of activities for families. Attendees enjoyed a concession, face painting, temporary tattoos, games, and prizes throughout the night.

Joe Lepage Photo

Dixie Hartell



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KIC REALTY

Town receives Q3 2025 policing report

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Local crime numbers are noted to be down from last year, though still present as being above local historical averages, according to the most recent quarterly report.

Staff Sgt. Mark Wielgosz presented the Strathmore RCMP's Q3 2025 report before the Committee of the Whole during the March 11 meeting in council chambers.

The report presented before council summarized policing initiatives and results achieved by local RCMP between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025.

Among the regular programs operated by local police is the habitual offender management program, which in Q3 consisted of monitoring 12 habitual offenders, five of whom reside in Strathmore.

"The checks during that quarter did not identify any violations or breaches at that time, so we are obviously quite pleased that those individuals are again living a law-abiding lifestyle and not coming to our attention in a negative way," said Wielgosz.

The security screw program, which originated in Strathmore in 2022, continues to aid in reduction of license plate theft in the local region.

Wielgosz reported that not only are local dealerships adopting the fasteners as standard issue on their product vehicles, but police in Drumheller have expressed interest in also adopting the practice.

"We do find a large percentage of our theft from motor vehicles have historically

been theft of license plates. That includes our rural areas as well, so this has been a useful tool for residents," he said. "We are happy that (some dealerships) have purchased their own fasteners and had the uptake with that."

Though break and enters, thefts of and from motor vehicles throughout quarter three were reduced from last year during the same time period, they are still above local historical averages.

Wielgosz added that for several reports of break and enters, there have been some occasions of the report being unsubstantiated and no evidence of misconduct was discovered.

"Most of the occurrences that we are seeing in those areas are again, still committed by habitual offenders – people who do not live in our area. Most of the occurrences that we are seeing are stolen vehicles that are dumped in our area," he said. "With respect to those crimes, offenders were charged in seven out of the 11 thefts, whether in our area or as they were identified in vehicles in neighbouring jurisdictions, so we were able to ensure that the investigations were carried through and charges were laid."

Wielgosz explained he remains concerned that theft of or from vehicles is noted to take place as crimes of opportunity, noting occasions where keys were left in the ignition and the victim's vehicle was running while it was unattended.

He aims to continue educating the public to ensure they are properly safeguarding their property.



Hawks host zones

The Holy Cross Collegiate Hawks senior boys basketball team hosted the 2A Boys South Central Zone Championship tournament on March 13-14, drawing teams from across the region. The Hawks opened the tournament with a 91-55 loss to Didsbury on Friday. Holy Cross regrouped and came back strong in their second game, defeating the Acme Redmen 93-75. In the consolation round, the Hawks faced Prairie Christian Academy in a close contest. The home team battled hard, but Prairie Christian Academy pulled out an 81-73 victory.

Joe Lepage Photos

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County approves new fire equipment purchase

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council has approved the expenditure of \$112,530 for the purchase of new safety equipment for the Dalum Fire Protection Association.

The request made of the county was to facilitate the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA) and related equipment. The county's approval was made during the March 3 council meeting.

The county's contribution fulfills their obligation to contribute 60 per cent of expenses relating to the association's equipment needs.

"Twice a year, the fire capital committee meets. They met again in early February and as part of the discussion, there was a resolution that arose out of this to request the county to provide some funding for the SCBA," said Joel Chiasson, interim general manager of community and development services. "It is some safety equipment that they wear along with some air tanks and the new compressor. This ask includes eight new SCBA pieces. During the discussion point in the meeting, they emphasized ensuring that it is similar or the same equipment as the rest of the fire associations and the county fire halls just so that they can have consistency and share equipment in emergencies when needed."

The funding is to be taken from the county's Fire Capital Reserve and is to be noted in the 2026 operating budget once it comes to finality.

Approval of the request for funding to purchase new SCBA equipment was made, citing that current equipment is outdated and under an older, pre-2018 National Fire Protection Association safety standard.

Upon the acquisition of the new equipment, the Dalum Fire Protection Association will be brought up to date with the other seven departments present throughout the county and will be able to support collaboration at larger incidents.

"As part of this ... they also talked about, once they have consistent equipment, of inventorying the dates and starting a lifecycle replacement plan for all of the county and association SCBA equipment," said Chiasson. "This specific request from Dalum was just to ensure that their current equipment gets up to date, as well as their compressor, which is also very old."

It was indicated to council that the Dalum Rural Fire Association had gathered the necessary finances to pay for their 40 per cent share of the expense, as per their existing agreement with the county.

Coun. Rick Laursen motioned that council approve the request as outlined in their agenda package. This motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or questions by council.

Town approves repair of civic center doors, addition of north entrance

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore is aiming to have the sliding doors leading into the Civic Center repaired by summer, as well as taking the opportunity to increase accessibility to the facility.

The expenditure of \$50,000 to be allocated from the financial stabilization reserve was approved during the March 11 meeting.

"Due to extreme weather conditions, age of the doors, as well as extreme use, the exterior door (of the civic center) is starting to function intermittently, especially during cold weather events," said Mark Pretzlaff, director of community and protective services for the Town of Strathmore. "Staff have tried to do their best with preventative maintenance and regular callouts, but it appears that this door has now reached its end of life."

With the exterior door to the civic center malfunctioning, staff and residents are effectively required to enter the facility from the pool or high school entrances, as there is currently no effective alternative.

During his presentation to council, Pretzlaff indicated three possible options suggested by administration, ranging in cost from \$30,000 to \$70,000 respectively.

The first option indicated was to simply replace the malfunctioning sliding doors and motor and return the facility to a fully operational condition.

Administration recommended that council approve the replacement of the doors and motor, as well as to renovate the vestibule to create a secondary swing door entrance in the event of future malfunctions or damage.

The third option, and notably the most expensive, would be to have approved the replacement of the current sliding doors with two swing doors, including a door for accessibility.

Pretzlaff noted to council that the original swing doors on the facility were replaced with sliding doors following an incident of damage to the old doors resulting in the handles being ripped off.

"I like all three options, but I definitely think ... replacing the exterior sliding doors and adding this single swing door to the north vestibule wall, and while it certainly is going to add \$20,000 in cost, I think just for emergency purposes, this just seems like the absolute best plan moving forward," said Coun. Brent Wiley.

Following approval from council, administration is required to secure additional quotes for the repair and renovation as per the town's procurement policy.

It is anticipated that the repair of the malfunctioning doors will take between four and six weeks to complete.

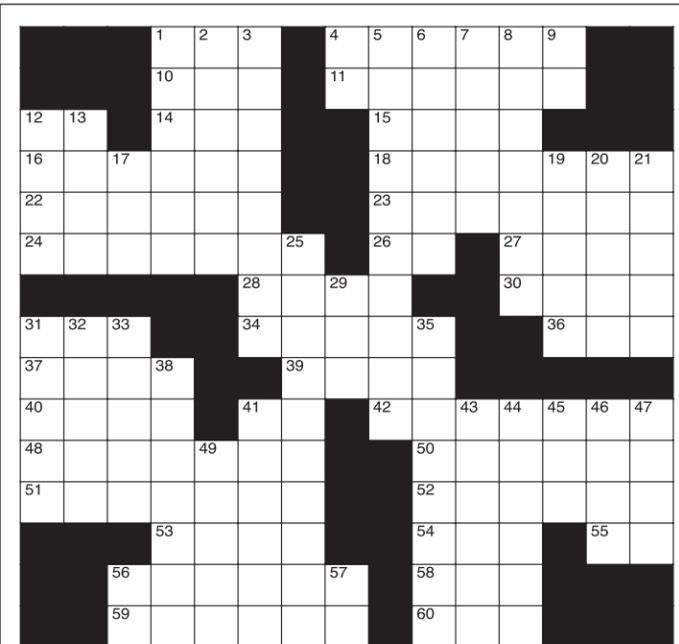
In the meantime, weather allowing, the doors can be opened so long as the building's heating system is not forced to be taxed for doing so.

Regarding a long-term approach, administration may return before council at a later date to discuss potentially more durable doors, or upgrades to the facility in order to protect the equipment and preserve it for longer periods before replacement becomes inevitably required.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Inclined to do
- 4. Sketches
- 10. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- 11. Atomic #58
- 12. Dorm official
- 14. Small Eurasian deer
- 15. Southern constellation
- 16. Workers' groups
- 18. Former
- 22. Excellent
- 23. Romance language related to Spanish
- 24. Reference
- 26. Equally
- 27. Dirty towels
- 28. A cargo (abbr.)
- 30. Ammunition
- 31. You get one in summer
- 34. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 36. Swiss river
- 37. Exchange rate
- 39. British School
- 40. College teacher
- 41. Foreign Service
- 42. Horse gear
- 48. Cost to fly
- 50. A salt or ester of boric acid
- 51. Mocking
- 52. One who bird-watches
- 53. Concluding passage
- 54. A major division of geological time
- 55. Sodium
- 56. A way to produce
- 58. Soak
- 59. Laughed loudly and harshly
- 60. Affirmative

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Moth species phalonia
- 2. Quantum of energy
- 3. Break the law
- 4. Location of White House
- 5. Official cancellation of a decision
- 6. Where rockers work
- 7. Cut of beef: __ mignon
- 8. Nocturnal burrowing reptile
- 9. Atomic #62
- 12. Genus of evergreen shrubs
- 13. Flowering plant of the legume family
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Tropical fruit
- 20. Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust
- 21. James __, painter
- 25. Popular dessert
- 29. Payment (abbr.)
- 31. Cuisine style
- 32. Genus of true flies
- 33. City in western France
- 35. Arrogance
- 38. One holding a position of command
- 41. Weekday
- 43. An evening party
- 44. Print errors
- 45. Not good
- 46. Egyptian Sun god
- 47. East German town
- 49. Olfactory property
- 56. Atomic #37
- 57. "Pollock" actor Harris

STRATHMORE TIMES

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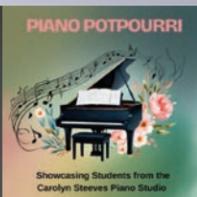
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Community support needed for advanced diagnostic services in Strathmore

STRATHMORE DISTRICT HEALTH FOUNDATION RELEASE

The Strathmore District Health Foundation invites municipalities, organizations, and members of the public to submit letters of support advocating for a CT scanner and/or an MRI for Strathmore.

These letters will play a vital role in demonstrating the community's need for improved diagnostic services and strengthening the case for investment with our MLA and Alberta Health Services.

Access to advanced imaging is essential for emergency physicians and frontline healthcare teams. A CT scanner or MRI in Strathmore would support timely diagnoses, enhance emergency care, improve chronic disease management, and reduce the burden on seniors and families who currently travel to Calgary for essential services.

The first step in this process is gathering public letters of support. These letters will help quantify demand, highlight

lived experiences, and demonstrate unified regional advocacy. The foundation will use this collective input to advance discussions with Alberta Health Services and provincial decision makers.

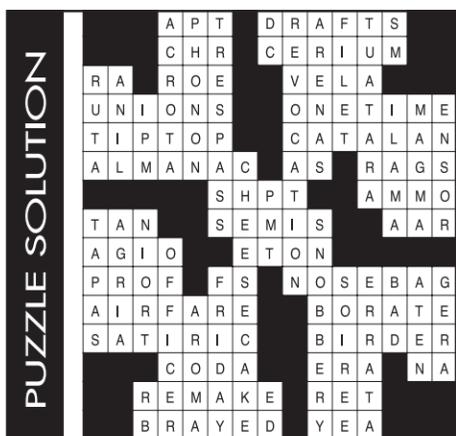
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	7							
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Town considers new approach for attracting physicians

Continued from Page 1

“When we talked to those medical offices, that was around how much the sponsorship grant fee or sponsorship fee was for those medical offices.”

Strathdee added there has been significantly more interest expressed in the physician incentive program policy, which has to date brought in two new medical offices into the local community, resulting in four more doctors.

Administration is recommending that the town's resources be allocated to the latter policy as opposed to continuing to offer resources that are not being used for the international sponsorship program.

“I would agree with reducing the international sponsorship policy so that we can bring more to bear on this aspect. I have already had, and I believe our CAO has had conversations with an existing longtime doctor who has some plans regarding a clinic and possibly bringing in a physician,” said Mayor Pat Fule. “This would give us some more flexibility, some more ability to help out in situations like that on a case-by-case basis, as a council would decide.”

It was outlined during the March 11 committee of the whole meeting, that council may wish to create a medical services committee in order to better oversee the management and allocation of resources for the purposes of attracting medical staff and assets.

Should council ultimately decide to establish a new medical services committee, through which a mandate, membership, and resources would be managed for attracting medical interests, a new bylaw will have to be passed at a future council meeting.

This, however, would require a significant amount of the town's resources by itself in order to commit to coordinating meetings, supporting procedures, and committee reports.

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Big win
The Strathmore ICE U14C team scored early and often en route to a 7-0 win over the Airdrie Sting on March 14 at the Strathmore Family Centre. Despite the large win, the ICE lost 4-3 on the road in Rockyford on March 15.

Joe Lepage Photos

YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

There is nothing like fresh produce in the peak season of summer. However, when not available, frozen produce is an excellent substitute. On a weight basis, frozen foods are less expensive. Also they are just as nutritious as fresh, being picked at their peak ripeness. Frozen foods are already prepped so they save you time in the kitchen.

Glaucoma is an eye disease caused by high pressure within the eye. The condition is effectively treated with prescription eye drops. *Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)* is a loss of vision in the central part of the eye but not the outer edge of the visual field. Those vitamin formulas (AREDS) may be helpful for AMD but will not help glaucoma.

Those skin patches, called transdermal patches, each contain a measured amount of medication to be released slowly over time. They should not be cut in half. This could result in the release of medication too quickly resulting in an overdose. If in doubt, check with your pharmacist. To dispose of a used patch, fold the sticky sides together and store away from children.

Are you a bathroom reader? Evidently, prolonged sitting on the toilet is a major cause of hemorrhoids. It puts extra pressure on the veins in your rectum causing them to swell. It is best to limit toilet time to 5 to 10 minutes, avoid straining, ensure enough fibre in your diet, drink plenty of water, and stay active. And don't take your smart phone into the bathroom.

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Strathmore to host U16C ringette provincials

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Minor Ringette Association (SMRA) is gearing up to host the U16C provincials for the first time in several years, come March 20-22.

Leanne Mohr, director of division coordinators for the SMRA, explained the tournament will host the top eight teams from across the province to compete in a round robin tourney, followed by bracketed playoffs.

"This is what teams work towards every year ... in order to qualify, you have to go through playoff games, and then they always have a certain number of teams from the south, and a certain number of teams from the north," she said. "Every team, basically you go through three sessions. Session one is your beginning of the season, then session two, those games matter in where you fall in your session three pool. Session three is playoffs."

She added that there are typically between two and four pools of teams that participate in those playoffs. From there, the top teams from each pool earn their place at the provincial tournament.

This time around, Strathmore Ice having earned their place as opposed to simply being the host municipality, they will be joined by two teams from Calgary; Airdrie, Red Deer, Edmonton, Spruce Grove, and Sherwood Park.

"It is a big deal for our association. There is a lot of behind the scenes planning and organizing. Our tournament coordinator has been in charge, but we all tried to help her out as best we can," said Mohr. "Because our tournament was so late, we did not get to focus on this until after our home tournament, which was at the end of January. It has been a busy February and March."

The majority of games will take place at the Strathmore

Family Center Arena, however due to scheduling necessity, the Standard arena will also be utilized.

The bid to host the event was required to be submitted through Ringette Alberta. Mohr explained that a successful bid largely boils down to ice availability, but a host municipality must also be able to comfortably receive the volume of traffic anticipated for the event.

"From the past, I don't think there are many people left who would have helped because it has been a while. It was definitely before COVID-19," added Mohr. "Definitely, we will have some learning lessons from this weekend for sure moving forward if we have the opportunity to host again."

March 20 will see the opening ceremonies take place, officially launching the tournament. The medal games and award ceremonies will take place on Sunday, March 22.

Chantelle de Jonge
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Province supports seniors housing

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With the population of Alberta inexorably moving towards breaching one million seniors, the Provincial Government is taking greater strides towards making supported housing more accessible.

An announcement was made March 12, committing an additional \$200 million for the construction and renovation of seniors' lodge facilities across the province.

Jason Nixon, minister of assisted living and social services, estimated the senior population within Alberta will cross the million-person threshold by 2035.

"Alberta's government works closely with our partners to support seniors' access to housing in our province and to keep up with the growing demand. This is especially true in rural communities that may not have the same access to senior housing," said Nixon. "We have heard from Albertans time and time again that they want to age in the communities that they call home and that they have helped build."

Over 25,000 provincially subsidized units specifically for housing seniors currently operate in Alberta. Another 30,000 subsidized long-term care and continuing care spaces are primarily utilized by senior populations.

The \$200 million earmarked for seniors' lodges is being made available through the Seniors Lodge Modernization Program, aiming to support over 1,000 seniors' living units.

The province anticipates the intake for Seniors Lodge Modernization Program applications to open this fall but

did not provide an exact implementation timeline.

Glenn Koester, chair of the Wheatland Housing Management Board, said prior to the announcement, the board had not heard any word from the province regarding the implementation of the program.

"Staff up in Edmonton, they reach out to our administrators at the office probably a week or two before if there is anything for us," he said. "If there is a new component to it, I haven't heard about it before, so I'm still not sure what the new component is exactly ... or what we will be applying for."

Koester suggested that the Wheatland Housing Management Board would be reaching out to the Alberta Seniors and Community Housing Association following their next board meeting for more information and clarification about the new program.

Conversations regarding the proposed new lodge in Strathmore have been ongoing since 2020, with support being gathered from several surrounding municipalities. Local senior populations are anticipated to nearly double scaling from 2019 census numbers estimated until 2029.

The Wheatland Housing Management Board has failed multiple times in their application to receive funding from the province to support the build – without which, it is unable to continue.

The last notification of an unsuccessful application was delivered to the WHMB in July 2025. Since then, the board has been awaiting the next funding application window and aiming to advance the classification of its project build.

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.

March 26, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Committee of the Whole

April 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting

April 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | ASB Meeting

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

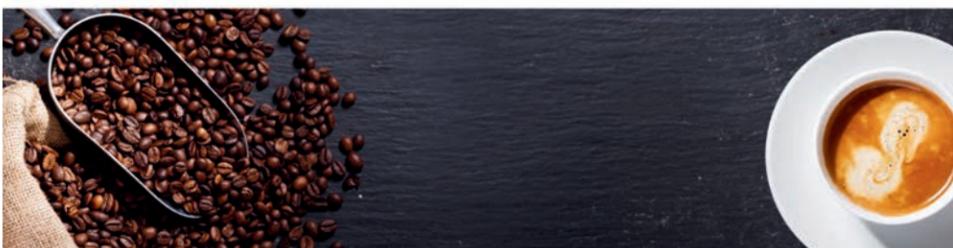


COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join Division 4 Councillor Keith Clayton for Coffee & Conversation – a relaxed, come-and-go event to enjoy a cup of coffee, connect with your Councillor, and chat about the issues that matter most in your community.

26 MARCH **6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
Cheadle Hall
10 Malone Ave, Cheadle

WHEATLAND COUNTY



WHEATLAND COUNTY

ROSEBUD COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Wheatland County is hosting an open house to share information about several projects planned in Rosebud this summer. Residents are invited to attend, learn more about the upcoming work, ask questions, and share their feedback.

Date: April 16
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Location: Rosebud Memorial Hall

Projects include:

- New pathway construction
- Watermain looping (Railway Ave. to Main St.)
- Paving of Severn Ave. and Comstock St.
- Sidewalk improvements
- Upgraded washroom facilities

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Phone: 403-934-3321 www.wheatlandcounty.ca
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





Going to provincials

The Strathmore High School Spartans senior boys basketball team is heading to provincials after a strong showing at the zone championships. The Spartans finished second at the 4A Zone basketball tournament, earning a berth at the upcoming provincial championships in Lethbridge March 19-21. The Spartans will open the tournament on March 19 (12:45 p.m.) when they square off versus Father Lacombe of Calgary.

Photo Courtesy of SHS



Blazing season for local ringette teams

MARIO PRUSINA
Times Editor

Local players on the Zone 2 AA Blazers ringette teams have had a success season, with a pair of squads winning a provincial championship.

Locklyn Hayes, Kaylee Lester, Hayden Paschal and Hayden Darago of Strathmore captured provincial gold with the U14AA Blazers and will represent Team Alberta at the Western Canadian Ringette Championships in Saskatoon from March 18-21.

Meanwhile Rina Greenslade, Addison Hazelwood, Kyla Koester, and Jenna Herriot, along with Brooklyn Munro of Rockyford, of the U19AA Blaze won provincials and will head to the Canadian Ringette Championships in Ottawa from March 31 to April 5.

The U16AA Blaze competed in one of the most impressive and talented divisions, battling hard in every game and demonstrating remarkable skill, teamwork, and resilience. Kendall Lester, Avery Clark and Kalie Croft of Strathmore, along with Jaden Nelson of Standard represented the area on the U16AA Blaze.

“(It was) a sense of relief and overwhelming pride,” said U14AA head coach Tim Smith. “We had 56 wins and only one loss the entire season; we had a team that excelled from the first game of the year to the last. The girls had a target on their back in every game and tournament we played this season. The fear I had was that others would improve at a greater rate than us and we would not be the same dominant team at the end of the season as we were at the start. I am very proud of the team that we were able to not only maintain our advantage but probably extend in some areas. To have that type of consistency for over six months at the highest level of play is a real feather in the cap of each player on the team.”

The U14AA started the season in the Rusty Ring tournament and won all six games, so by a wide margin. The team also went on to win the St. Albert Turkey Ring, Saskatoon BPM tournament, and the Calgary Golden Ring tournament. They knew right away they had a great team.

The turning point in the season came during a tournament a half dozen weeks into the season.

“The one loss that we had in the season, which was in November, really mo-

ved us forward. We outshot the team 68-24 and came up short,” said Smith. “This lesson was hard for the team due to it being a gold medal game in a tournament, but it also was a wakeup call to let our team know that nothing is a certainty in sport, and we must find a way to hopefully not let that happen again.”

Luckily, they didn’t, winning all the games afterwards.

“I am fortunate to have a great leadership team including the other coaches, that as simple as it sounds, just love the game,” said Smith. “We had amazing consistency in work ethic, game play and team dynamics throughout the year. It was a truly special season with so much success on and off the ice. Strathmore Ringette should be very proud of their hometown athletes that contributed so much to our success.”

Meanwhile, the U19AA achieved great success in the biggest games. Despite not being a top-ranked team heading into provincial, the Blaze elevated their game.

“I was just so excited and so proud of this team – we faced a lot of adversity this season and grew so much as individuals and as a group,” said coach Jenna Garner. “Coming into provincials we were the sixth-ranked team, so coming out first was an incredible achievement, and felt so deserved. The competition in Alberta is very strong, and our team truly earned every second of the success we claimed, not only in the final game, but all weekend long.”

Despite having a young team and a new coaching staff, Garner said it took some time to sort out the team dynamics and for the first year players to settle into the pace of U19AA. The big turning point was following a dominant performance at the Esso Golden Ring tournament in January, where the Blaze went 6-0 and won the gold.

According to Garner, the team started to believe they had what it took to win and started to eye a provincial championship.

“This team has so much heart and grit,” said Garner, who grew up in Rockyford. “I may be biased, but I truly believe that Zone 2, and our team in particular, is home to some of the most resilient, strong, and passionate players in all of Alberta. Despite all the challenges we faced this season, this team has developed such a strong bond – their chemistry is incredible and has been a

huge reason for our success.”

The Zone 2 AA program brings together athletes from Airdrie, Cochrane, Indus, Standard, Strathmore, Rockyford and Okotoks, combining top players from these associations to form a regional team that competes at Alberta’s highest level of ringette for their age group.

For athletes from smaller communities east, north and south of Calgary, the program provides an opportunity to develop and compete at an elite le-

vel while still representing the associations where their ringette journeys first began.

Several players on the Blaze roster first learned the sport in local arenas throughout Wheatland County and surrounding communities before earning their place on these highly competitive teams. Their success at the provincial level reflects the dedication of athletes, coaches and volunteers, as well as the strength of grassroots ringette programs across the region.



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Hurry hard

The annual Men's Bonspiel took over the Strathmore Curling Rink from March 8-15, drawing local curling enthusiasts for a week of high-level competition. The local team of skip Scott Garnett, third Jason Wilson, second Brennan Fule, and lead Ryan Dahl, competed in the A semifinals.

Joe Lepage Photos



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Hawks make history

The Holy Cross Collegiate Hawks senior girls basketball team is making school history after earning a berth at the provincial tournament for the first time ever. The Hawks secured their spot at provincials by finishing second at the Zone tournament held in Three Hills, where they earned a wildcard spot at provincials. The Hawks will now travel north to compete at the 2A Provincial Basketball Championships in Peace River from March 19-21.

Photo Courtesy of the Holy Cross Collegiate

RCMP warn public of spring scams

ALBERTA RCMP

The Alberta RCMP is advising that with the change of season comes an increase in certain scams. RCMP are already responding to reports of paving and distraction/gold scams.

Paving scams are very common. Contractors claim to have leftover materials from previous jobs and offer to pave driveways and parking lots at reduced pricing. Companies may use business names that suggest they are affiliated with a government road maintenance department and typically provide false addresses or contact information.

After contractors collect payment and disappear from the area, customers discover the materials used are poor quality and the work is unprofessional. Victims are sometimes left unable to contact the scammers and face expensive asphalt repairs or in other incidents, the contractors attempt to intimidate the customer into paying after the work is completed for poor product and services.

Keep the following tips in mind to avoid falling victim to a paving scam:

- Ask for names of previous customers and verify that they were satisfied with the work.
- Research the company through the Better Business Bureau in Alberta, the Consumer Investigations Unit, your local Rural Crime Watch, or on social media.
- Obtain a written quote that includes the full business name, address, phone number, GST number, as well as provincial and municipal license numbers, if applicable.
- Quotes should specify the quantity and quality of materials being offered. Be skeptical if contractors decline to provide this information.
- Seek estimates from reputable companies to compare costs.
- Do not agree to a contract if you

feel pressured or if the contractor refuses to take "no" for an answer.

- Be leery of unsolicited offers. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

- Do not pay for services upfront, before the work is done.

Distraction/Gold scams mostly occur in retail parking lots. Victim is approached by a seemingly stranded motorist. Scammer claim they need money for food, gas, or airfare to get home, and offer fake gold or jewellery for exchange. The scammer often cites hardship, such as the recent death of a family member, or referencing sad-looking children in their vehicles in order to solicit a sympathetic response from victims. The scammers will sell what turns out to be fake jewelry or use distraction techniques to remove real jewellery from a victim.

Keep the following tips in mind to avoid falling victim to distraction/gold scams:

- Always remain vigilant
- Secure your valuables.
- Be cautious of strangers in your personal space or attempting to hug or touch you.
- Trust your instincts and don't be afraid to say no or yell for help if you feel uncomfortable.
- Walk away from any suspicious person or behaviour.

If you have been the victim of or have information regarding a scam in your area, call your local police or to contact the RCMP non-emergency line while in any Alberta RCMP jurisdiction, call 310-RCMP(7267). If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store. To report crime online, or for access to RCMP news and information, download the Alberta RCMP app through Apple or Google Play.

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March 28

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Strengthening Alberta's economy

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Alberta's government continues to deliver practical solutions that strengthen Alberta's economy, support growing communities, and protect the services families rely on. Through Budget 2026 and new policy initiatives, we're focusing on what matters most to Albertans: strengthening our energy sector, building important infrastructure, and ensuring our province remains one of the best places in Canada to live, work, and raise a family.

Our government continues to take important steps to speed up major project approvals and unlock Alberta's economic potential. A newly inked agreement between Alberta and the federal government will streamline environmental and impact assessments, reduce duplication, and ensure provincial expertise leads reviews on projects within Alberta's jurisdiction. By cutting unnecessary red tape while maintain-

ing strong environmental standards, this agreement will help major projects move forward faster, giving investors certainty and helping get shovels in the ground sooner so more jobs and economic opportunities are created for Albertans.

Investing in infrastructure that keeps people and goods moving remains another key priority for our government. Budget 2026 invests more than \$8.3 billion over three years to expand highways, improve bridges, and reduce road congestion across the province. This includes \$2.8 billion for major road and bridge construction projects and \$3.3 billion in capital grants to municipalities, supporting vital projects in both the greater Calgary and Edmonton regions while strengthening key rural economic corridors.

Major transportation upgrades are moving ahead across our constituency, including work along Highway 1 between Strathmore and Calgary, such as engineering for the Conrich/

Garden Road interchange, as well as engineering for future interchanges at Chestermere High School (Highway 791), and near the future de Havilland Field site. In addition, \$16 million of funding is secured for the Glenmore Trail-Rainbow Road intersection, upgrading Glenmore Trail intersections at Range Roads 283 and 284 starting this year.

Additional investments include intersection upgrades at Highways 9 and 564 with an estimated \$8 million roundabout. The area is also benefiting from \$5 million for the Langdon-Glenmore Trail Stormwater Diversion project and more than \$10 million in municipal grants for local improvements.

Further transportation work includes design progress on Highway 817 between Highway 1 and Strathmore North and lighting upgrades at the Highway 817/564 intersection. In Wheatland County, over \$7.8 million is being invested in key road projects, in-

cluding Township Roads 2250 and 222 and Range Road 264.

These investments will improve safety, shorten commute times, and support the infrastructure that people in our growing constituency depend on every day.

These actions demonstrate how Alberta's government is delivering practical results for Albertans. By strengthening energy partnerships, investing in infrastructure, and building new schools, our government is ensuring Alberta continues to grow while protecting the services and opportunities families depend on for generations to come.

As always, please feel 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)

Locals head to regionals

SARA WALDNER
Strathmore Rusty Spurs

Intermediate and Senior members from the Calgary 4-H region are getting together at Olds College for the annual Regional Public Speaking event. Members from Wheatland, Rockyview, Kneehill, Foothills, and Mountainview districts will meet to compete with amazing, well researched speeches and presentations for a regional speaking title.

We welcome all to come to the event to support our future leaders at the Werklund Agriculture and Technology Centre in Olds College on March 21. Speeches will start at 10 a.m., and presentations will start at 1:30 p.m.

The communications event is a mandatory part of 4-H and encourages all

members to step out of their comfort zones and develop their public speaking capabilities. Many 4-H alumni find that the communications event has positively affected their lives in both personal and professional settings, along with this, members also tend to excel in school projects that require a public speaking portion.

Competitors had to advance through three different levels to get to regionals, winning a first or second place to advance. The multiple levels in 4-H are as follows: club, areas, districts, regionals and provincials. Club level is the only required level and the first three welcome all members. Only intermediate and senior members are allowed to move onto regionals and only seniors may advance to provincials.

Is video conferencing a Phishing date?

BBB RELEASE

As part of Fraud Prevention Month, Better Business Bureau serving Alberta and East Kootenay is issuing an alert about phony meeting invitations.

"It could be Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet or other video conferencing platforms," says Mary O'Sullivan-Andersen, President and CEO of BBB Alberta and East Kootenay. "Once at the fake meeting, scammers may even have a list of other employees

who appear to already be present. There will be a delay which the scammers use to install malicious tools on your computer.

"The whole scam is created so that criminals can install these tools and take control of your computer."

To avoid phishing scams, always double check the sender's information.

"If you're not entirely sure, verify the meeting with the sender or at a larger organization confirm it with the IT department," says O'Sullivan-Andersen.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enough is enough

To the Editor

Dear Premier Smith,
As a once staunch supporter I have been pondering the deceitful and political timebomb that you and your cabinet have unleashed against the APP referendum to subvert and sabotage the Alberta Prosperity Parties (APP) independence question to Albertans.

I, along with many likeminded individuals, have scrutinized your televised event of Feb. 19; the more I watch, the more disillusioned I become. Let me ponder a question, "how deeply planted inside the Carney government are you?"

After numerous conversations with respected television, radio and podcast hosts, I believe this question is a fair one to ask, since you have deliberately and negatively intervened in the APP referendum process by reintroducing already answered questions and muddying the waters to the point where mass confusion will prevail in October. Not only that, but your actions also have the appearance of a direct attack on the very fabric of our rights as Albertans. You as premier have the authority and legal standing to establish a date for the "independence referendum" separate from the nonsense you announced on television, yet you chose to corrupt the process and cheat Albertans from having a fair say.

Further, the supreme court has said that we must have a "clear question" and a "clear majority."

However, with your subversive actions you have made a "very clear" question irrelevant since there are

direct conflicting questions that will null the process. In other words, you have insidiously intertwined the singular "clear question" situation with a series of "already answered" constitutional and policy questions, thereby sowing the seeds of failure into the process.

It will be approximately one year from the time of your "spin the wheel" referendum fiasco until you must go to the polls in October 2027. The number of eligible voters in Alberta is approximately 2,966,000, of which only 60 per cent will turnout at any given time to vote; that is a total of 1,779,600 voters. This is a very important point since the APP may garner 1 million signatures, or dare I use the term, "votes."

Take a moment to think about that and let that potential outcome sink in. If we for some reason do not achieve our referendum objectives, then we must consider the alternative, and that would be a newly formed political party perhaps named the "Alberta Prosperity Party," a party who may hold the keys to a potential 1 million votes. This party would be the party of choice for us in the 2027 election. Does it split the vote? Yes. Are we risking an NDP win? Possibly. Are we willing to take the risk? Absolutely, and here is why. Premier Smith, you have finally put your cards on the table; you thought you had a winning hand with the "sovereignty within a united Canada" slogan and your eight, (already answered) referendum questions on a single ballot.

Well, that "not-so-well-thought-out plan" is the final nail for me, and I may add, many of my fellow Alber-

tans. Playing both ends against the middle is not a strategy, its political suicide – plain and simple. Playing "sleight of hand" federal tricks may work in eastern Canada where the sheep follow blindly, but not so in Alberta where right-wing voters are savvy to the bait-and-switch tactics of the Laurentian Elites. Ms. Smith, you have unfortunately overplayed your hand and are in an unenviable position with the APP supporters. You have interfered with our rights, and you have tried to pull the proverbial wool over the eyes of Albertans. You forgot, the sheep are in the east – we are the bulls of the west.

Enough is Enough. Let's go.

Ken Pirie
Medicine Hat

Polarization in Communities

To the Editor

Many people in Alberta are clearly unhappy. Working and professional families feel distant from their government and uncertain about the future. Costs are rising, stress is high, and trust is thin.

"Elections Alberta is urging better behaviour when people are interacting with citizen initiative and recall campaign canvassers around the province after it said it's seen a marked increase in reports of harassment. This problem isn't new, as the non-partisan office said it has observed and addressed harassment on these campaigns since the 'Forever Canadian' petition, organized by former deputy premier Thomas Lukaszuk, was approved last June" (CBC, March 13, 2026)

What concerns me most is not which solutions people support, but how divided we are becoming. Two hardened camps are forming. One believes Alberta has been treated unfairly by the federal government and sees separation as the answer. The other fears the provincial government is moving too quickly to sell public services and demands recall. Both groups are responding to real pressure. Both want stability, fairness, and security. As opinions harden, neighbours stop listening. Disagreement becomes personal.

History shows deeply polarized societies struggle to function. Compromise feels like betrayal, institutions lose legitimacy, and daily issues turn into battles. I am not arguing for separation or recall. I am asking whether deepening division will actually improve life for ordinary families. Alberta is strongest when disagreement does not destroy trust.

The Alberta government continuously blaming others for our problems is complicit in dividing communities. And our federal government needs to be taking more proactive steps to support working families with price controls.

Ken Riley,
Bassano

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Western District Historical Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:30 pm • Thursday, March 26, 2026
Lower Gallery at The Vault

New Members Welcome

COMING EVENT

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Western Irrigation District

Province of Alberta

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Additional information regarding the proposed change is available to the public at the offices of the district.

The plebiscite will take place on the 30th day of March, 2026, between the hours of 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

Voting stations will be located at:

Western Irrigation Office
A-1000 Pine Street
Strathmore, Alberta

DATED at the Western Irrigation District in the Province of Alberta, this 13th day of March, 2026.

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THE LAKESIDE LEADER is hiring a full-time reporter/photographer position in Slave Lake. Salary negotiable. Email resume, cover letter and samples of writing and photography to spnproduction@hotmail.com.

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Upcoming Council Meetings

March 18, 2026 | 6 p.m.

April 1, 2026 | 6 p.m.

April 8, 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.

Notices coming out in February.

Property assessment notices.

On February 18, 2026, more than 6,400 annual property assessment notices were mailed out, signaling the start of the 2025 Customer Inquiry Period, which wraps up in April.

The Customer Inquiry Period is an important time for property owners to check, compare, and review their assessment for accuracy, fairness, and equity.

When you receive your notice, there's a few things you should do.

- Review the details on your assessment notice.
- Check what makes up your property's assessment value and compare it with similar properties in your neighbourhood using our property search function, found at [Strathmore.ca/Assessment](https://strathmore.ca/Assessment)
- Contact the Town's assessor, Wildrose Assessment Services, for one-on-one support by calling 403-343-3357. Their property assessment experts can answer most assessment related questions with no formal complaint fees required. To help address concerns, please have your latest assessment notice in front of you with the account number and validation group information ready.
- If you disagree with your property's assessment, you can file a formal appeal with the Assessment Review Board by the deadline stated on your latest property assessment notice. You can find information on this process at [Strathmore.ca/Assessment](https://strathmore.ca/Assessment)

Notice of Public Hearing.

April 1, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Municipal Development Plan Amending Bylaw No. 25-25 (Amendment No. 2, 60-80)

Please be advised that the Town of Strathmore has received a Municipal Development Plan Amendment application on those lands described as 40 and 60 Wheatland Trail, also referred to as 60 and 80 Wheatland Trail. The legal addresses for the proposed applications are Block 2, Plan 9012129 for the parcel currently containing a residential home, and Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 1910233 for the parcel adjacent to the golf course.

The applications propose a mix of residential and commercial land uses, including R3 High Density Residential District, R2X Medium Density Attached Housing District, and C1 Neighbourhood Commercial District. The applications would allow for future subdivision and development permit applications to be accepted by administration for a variety of housing and non-residential options including apartments, townhomes, duplexes, multi-unit, retail stores, restaurants, professional services, health services, and more.

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed Bylaw may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website, [Strathmore.ca/PublicHearings](https://strathmore.ca/PublicHearings) Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers, Strathmore Municipal Building, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore Alberta on **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**, commencing at 7:00 p.m. with procedures in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*, Section 199 and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw No. 23-17 and amendments thereto. Any person or group of persons, or person acting on someone's behalf, who claims to be affected by any of the proposed bylaw may present suggestions or concerns by making a submission to the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services at LSAdmin@strathmore.ca by **12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 25, 2026**, in order to register to present.

Written submissions to the Public Hearing or the name of any person wishing to make an oral presentation at the Public Hearing must be received by the Planning and Development Department prior to 12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, as outlined in Bylaw No. 23-17 and amendments thereto. If your written submission is not received by this time, please provide fifteen (15) copies for distribution at the Public Hearing. Each person wishing to address Council at the Public Hearing shall complete their verbal presentation within five minutes.

Please note that written submissions will become public documents once submitted to the Town, unless otherwise requested.

Please contact Legislative Services at (403) 934 3133 prior to attending a Public Hearing to determine the order of Bylaw presentations in the Council Agenda to ensure efficient use of your time.

Notice of Public Hearing.

April 1, 2026 at 7:05 p.m.

Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 25-26 (60-80 Wheatland Trail)

Please be advised that the Town of Strathmore has received a Land Use Bylaw Amendment application on those lands described as 40 and 60 Wheatland Trail, also referred to as 60 and 80 Wheatland Trail. The legal addresses for the proposed applications are Block 2, Plan 9012129 for the parcel currently containing a residential home, and Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 1910233 for the parcel adjacent to the golf course.

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Please save water.

It really makes a difference.

Stage 4 Water Restrictions.

The City of Calgary has enacted Stage 4 Water Restrictions due to a water main break and have asked surrounding communities to do so as well. Effective March 9, 2026, the Town of Strathmore has also implemented Stage 4 Water Restrictions. These restrictions mean:

- No outdoor water use (e.g., flooding outdoor ice surfaces)
- Indoor facilities such as pools, rinks, and recreation facilities will remain open

Please consider taking the following steps to reduce water consumption:

- Limit showers to under 3 minutes
- Flush toilets only when necessary
- Run dishwashers and laundry only when full

As we navigate Stage 4 Water Restrictions, our water system operator, EPCOR, is proactively topping our reservoirs to ensure we have adequate water reserves to support essential services and maintain system stability. While EPCOR manages operations behind the scenes, our community's continued efforts to conserve water remain critical. Reduced demand helps keep reservoir levels strong and supports system reliability until Calgary's system is fully restored.

For more information on Stage 4 Water Restrictions, please visit: [Strathmore.ca/WaterRestrictions](https://strathmore.ca/WaterRestrictions)