MARCH 20, 2024







Page 7



Ice take silver

Page 8



Men's bonspiel a success

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Look on Page 2 fo



County to appeal court decsion

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County has voted in favour to appeal the decision of the Court of King's Bench in the matter of Koester versus Wheatland County, 2024 ABKB 103.

On Feb. 22, the Court of King's Bench issued their decision in the matter, which was then filed on March 1.

Wheatland County voted to appeal the decision, 4-2 in favour, during their March 15 special council meeting.

Councilors Rick Laursen and Shannon Laprise were opposed, while Reeve Amber Link, Deputy Reeve Scott Klassen, Coun. Tom Ikert, and Coun. Donna Biggar were in favour.

Coun. Glenn Koester excused himself from the vote, having declared a conflict of interest, as the decision to appeal the court's ruling directly involved him.

In a public release, dated March 15, the county stated they believe an appeal is "the most appropriate step to bring this matter to a fair conclusion for all parties, including the residents of Wheatland County whom we serve."

Prior to the discussion and the vote, county council debated whether to accept their March 15 meeting agenda, with an amendment to have the discussion with their legal counsel moved out of in camera, and into the public record.

Laursen brought the motion to the floor, justifying it as the matter of Koester versus Wheatland County is entirely public record, as per the court's documents.

He added he believed appealing the court's decision to be a misuse of the public's tax dollars, requesting the county's prior legal expenses regarding the case to be discussed openly.

Laursen's motion was ultimately defeated 5-1, and the discussion with the county's legal counsel was held in camera.





Town of Strathmore Municipal Notices

Contact Us Today! 403.934.5589 info@strathmoretimes.com www.StrathmoreTimes.com Koester originally challenged the county, beginning December 2022 about sanctions imposed against him as a result following a code of conduct violation complaint investigation. Koester, through the sanctions, was removed from all municipal boards he participated on. *Continued on Page 4*

Cutting the net!

Reagan MacLeod cuts a piece of the net after her and the Strathmore Spartans girls basketball team captured the ASAA 3A Provincial Championship March 14-16 in Strathmore. The Lady Spartans, who defeated St. Peter the Apostle 70-68 in the final, became back-to-back champions. Meanwhile, the boys team earned a silver medal at the provincial championship. See Page 5 for more coverage. Joe Lepage Photo



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Upcoming Council Meetings

Regular Meeting of Council Regular Meeting of Council Committe of the Whole

Come Say Hi

March 20, 2024 | 6 P.M.

April 3, 2024 | 6 P.M. April 10, 2024 | 6 P.M.

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.

Hazard Reduction Burning

Block Priority

Block Na

Priority 1 was given to areas with the most fire risk to the community. Priority 2 and 3 areas are of lower risk and may be easier and safer to complete. There are a total of 33 Blocks.

	Priori	RED			
	Priori	ty 2	YELLOW		
Priority 3			GREEN		
me		Block	c Priority		

BIOCK NUTTIE	BIOCKFHOILY			
1.1 Hillcrest				
1.2 Wildflower Rd 1				
1.3 Wildflower Rd 2				
1.4 Wildflower Rd 3				
1.5 Westmount				
1.6 Wheatland Wheeler				
1.7 Kinsmen 1				
1.8 Kinsmen 2				
1.9 Parklane Drive				
1.10 Edgefield				
1.11 South Canal				
1.12 Canadian Tire				
1.13 Industrial Creek				
Block Name	Block Priority			

Block Name	Block Priority			
2.1 Main Canal	2			
2.2 Strathmore Lakes East	2			
2.3 Esso East	2			
2.4 No Frills	2			
2.5 Home Hardware	2			
2.6 Historic Barn	2			
2.7 Service Rd Ditch	2			
2.8 RR 251	2			
2.9 Lagoon 1	2			
2.10 Lagoon 2	2			
2.11 Lagoon 3	2			
2.12 Lagoon 4	2			
2.13 Lagood 5	2			
Block Name	Block Priority			
3.1 Rodeo Grounds	3			
3.2 Golf Course NE	3			
3.3 Hillcrest Feeder	3			
3.4 Dodge	3			
3.5 Canal Blvd N	3			
3.6 Dog Park	3			
3.7 RR 250	3			

Alberta weather conditions from spring to fall can often be very dry, contributing to prime fire conditions. With the province recently announcing an early start to wildfire season, it's important for communities to have effective wildfire prevention practices in place.

We've recently finalized Strathmore's Hazard Reduction Burn Plan. This plan aims to assess grassland fuels on the landscape within the community, identify locations of high fire risk based on predicted fire behaviour, and prioritize and prescribe these areas for hazard reduction burning. Through this process, selected regions within town will undergo hazard-reduction burning treatment in March. This process will reduce the risk of wildfire, reduce the number of nuisance fires, and better prepare the community in the event of an approaching wildfire on the landscape.

What is a hazard reduction burn?

A hazard reduction burn is a planned, controlled burn of high hazard vegetation by highly trained firefighters. Typically, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry wildland firefighters use hazard reduction burns in the spring, around communities located near high-hazard areas, such as open grassy areas. Burning will reduce the risk of spring wildfires starting in this area

What's the objective?

- To assess the grassland fuels that exist on the landscape within the Town of Strathmore.
- To identify locations of high fire risk based on predicted fire behaviour during periods of high hazard.
- To prescribe training recommendations for the Strathmore Fire Department when it comes to hand ignition practices.
- To prioritize and prescribe these areas for Hazard Reduction Burning.
- Strategically remove hazardous grass around the Town of Strathmore, reducing the risk of wildfire.

What's the benefit?

Location Map

- Enhance community protection by safely removing high risk areas of grass.
- Reinforce pre-planned wildfire containment lines
 around the town.
- Burning of the landscape is a natural process that eliminates old growth and allows new regeneration of grasses. By utilising burning, we allow nutrients to reenter the soils and grow new life.

What's the timeline?

The hazard reduction burn is scheduled for mid to late March. Ignition will only occur when weather conditions are conducive to burning and when it is safe to do so.

Where are the locations?

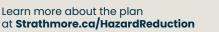
Each area identified was ground truthed and inspected for risk, practicality, and safety. The areas identified were selected to reduce the risk of wildfire, reduce the number of nuisance fires, and to better prepare the community in the event of an approaching wildfire on the landscape.

Areas are marked as "blocks" and were given priority based on the risk to the community, level of difficulty, and fuel loading. Priority 1 was given to areas with the most fire risk to the community. Priority 2 and 3 areas are of lower risk and may be easier and safer to complete.

The initial plan involves 33 blocks. Areas on private property will only be burned upon approval of property owners.

All blocks identified in this plan are to be burnt at the Fire Chief's discretion.

If you own land that poses a hazard or could benefit from being included in the hazard reduction burn plan, connect with the fire department at firehall@strathmore.ca or 403-934-3022.







Town of Strathmore requesting public apology from county

IOHN WATSON Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore council has voted to request a letter of apology from Wheatland County regarding a statement made during the March 12 Special Council meeting.

The statement was made by County Coun. Tom Ikert, and was in regards to the town of Strathmore's financial position, and ability to support the Wheatland Housing Management Body's (WHMB) proposed development of a 120-unit lodge.

"The board believes that they can requisition us \$1.6 million? Does the board understand that that number will cripple the Town of Strathmore? I mean it does not do us any good, but it will cripple the Town of Strathmore," said Tom Ikert during the Wheatland County council meeting.

The town, in their public meeting agenda for their own special council meeting during which the letter of apology was discussed and voted on, also referenced the time stamp on the county's YouTube recording, at which the comment was made at 25:40-26:00 mark.

In their letter requesting an apology, the town described Ikert's statement as "fallacious and damaging to both the Town of Strathmore's reputation and the potential development of the 120unit Wheatland Lodge."

"I feel that the statement made was blatantly

false and ... Coun. Ikert has made a comment on the town, and this type of comment could do some damage to the actual lodge project," said Town of Strathmore mayor Pat Fule. "If someone in the province saw this, it could cast a negative light on the project."

Fule added Wheatland County Reeve Amber Link has said Ikert may be making a statement of retraction on Tuesday, March 19, though he feels it would be best for the town if Ikert both retracted his statement and made a public apology.

Both Wheatland County and the Town of Strathmore have passed resolutions in support of the WHMB's proposed development of the 120-unit lodge, provided certain parameters are met.

Town of Strathmore Coun. Richard Wegener motioned for council to approve the letter requesting an apology from Ikert.

Town of Strathmore Coun. Jason Montgomery inquired during council's discussion about their letter to the county, what would be done should Ikert decline to make a public apology and/or retract his statement.

Fule clarified if that were to be the case, the Town of Strathmore council would have to discuss how to proceed in another meeting of council.

The town ultimately voted unanimously to approve sending the letter requesting an apology from Ikert to the county.

Strathmore requesting to join county in meeting Alberta Ministers

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore has voted to send a letter to Wheatland County requesting to attend a meeting with Alberta Ministers Jason Nixon and Rick McIver.

Nixon serves as the current minister of seniors, community and social services, and McIver serves as the current minister of municipal affairs.

A meeting with the two ministers is being requested by the county regarding requisitions and the proposed development of the 120-unit Wheatland Lodge in Strathmore.

Wheatland County passed a resolution during their March 12 special council meeting, reading that county administration is directed to facilitate the meeting, at which the reeve, deputy reeve, and chief administrative officer will be in attendance.

"My rationale for having a letter go to the Wheatland County council requesting that we be invited to any such meeting is that we are one of sented there."

Fule added, the last time a statement regarding the lodge was dealt with, there was a degree of misrepresentation surrounding the Town of Strathmore, and he would like to ensure such an incident does not happen again.

He explained he wants both the Town of Strathmore and Wheatland County to be on the same page, working together toward the project, having both agreed to support it.

Through the letter, the town is requesting Fule, and Strathmore's Chief Administrative Officer, Kevin Scoble attend the meeting.

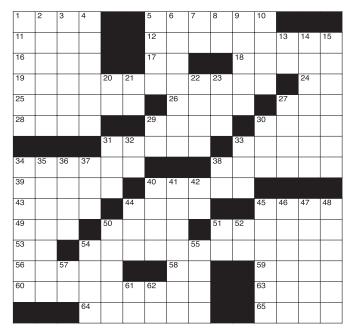
Coun. Denise Peterson suggested writing a letter to the province at a later date, talking about what actions have been taken regarding requisitions for the Wheatland Lodge.

This suggestion being instead of making edits to the proposed letter to the county, which would require it to return to Strathmore council at a later date prior to being approved and sent to the county. Coun. Richard Wegener motioned for council to approve and authorize the mayor to sign the letter to the county, requesting to attend any meeting regarding requisitions and the proposed development of the Wheatland Lodge. Strathmore council voted unanimously to approve the motion.



Raiders push

The Strathmore Raiders U11AA team hosted Medicine Hat in Game 1 of their consolation final on March 16 at the Strathmore Family Centre. Despite a furious third period comeback attempt, the team lost 3-2 before falling 5-4 on the road in Game 2 the next day. Joe Lepage Photo



CLUES ACROSS

11.

12. Defender

18. Quay

16. Exert oneself

17. Indicates position

- 1. Database management system 38. Confused situation
- 5. Medical procedures 39. Unworldly
 - Clapton, musician 40. Yemen capital
 - 43. Type of soil
 - 44. Beloved beverage __-Cola

56. Lordship's jurisdictions

60. Charge in a court of law

58. It cools your home

63. One less than one

33. Showed up extinct

35. Unpleasant smell

36. Innermost membranes

40. Small American rail

enveloping the brain

37. Esteemed college "league"

41. A salt or ester of acetic acid

65. Famed garden

34. Loosen grip

38. Partner to Pa

- 45. Lying down
- 49. Angeles

53. Commercial

59. Dismounted

64. Spoke

54. Taste property

- 50. Fail to amuse 19. Atrocities 24. A way to address an adult man 51. Collapsible shelter
- 25. Ends
- 26. Unable 27. Taxi
- 28. Gratuities
- 29. A famous train station
- 30. Japanese persimmon
- 33. Beneficiary
- 34. Baseball official

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Show a picture of
- 2. Small sultanate 3. Unfortunate incident
- 4. A way to ski
- 5. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 6. Observed
- 7. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 8. Belonging to me
- 9. Shoelace tube
- 10. Takes to civil court 13. Early multimedia
- 14. Produces anew
- 15. Horse races 20. Of I
- 44. Military figure (abbr.) 45. Lighted

42. Sodium

- 46. Paid to get out of jail
 - 47. All of something

- 31. Sours

the two major funders of the Wheatland Lodge, and this is a lodge project that both municipalities have voted to support," said Pat Fule, mayor of the Town of Strathmore. "Any kind of a meeting, I think, where requisitions are going to be discussed and the lodge is going to be discussed, it would be very beneficial, and I think very wise, very prudent to have both municipalities repre-

STRATHMORE

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The Times welcomes letters to the editor for publication. All submissions must be signed and a phone number included for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, legal considerations and taste. Please try and keep your letters under 400 words to ensure that it will appear as close to its original form as possible. We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Local Journalism Initiative. Canada

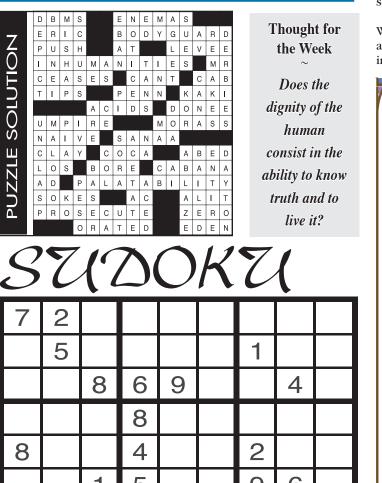
- 21. Equally 22. Changes color 23. A place to stay 27. Town in Galilee 29. Mathematical figure 30. Klingon character 31. They 32. Atomic #58
- 48. Ohio city 50. More abject 51. A radio band 52. Scientific development (abbr.) 54. Monetary unit 55. Scored perfectly 57. A punch to end a fight 61. The Golden State (abbr.) 62. The Beehive State (abbr.)













Helping hands

Strathmore Fire Department and Holy Cross Collegiate are celebrating a successful food drive for the benefit of the Wheatland County Food Bank. The Fire Department and local RCMP dropped off approximately 2,000 grocery bags throughout neighborhoods, Feb. 28, collecting them on March 7. The goal of the drive between the fire department and the school was to exceed last year's donation, being the single largest in the history of the food bank — totaling 4,667 pounds. This year, a total of 4,735 pounds of food was donated to the food bank through this drive.

Photos Courtesy of the Strathmore Fire Department

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Feeling support and appreciation at True North

To the Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to the March 13th article, "True North under fire for employee treatment, potential policy changes" written by John Watson of the Strathmore Times.

In my opinion, the Strathmore Times should not have printed this article on the condition of anonymity. And to those disgruntled employees (past and present), who contributed derogatory comments regarding True North – if you felt so strongly in your convictions, you should have had the courage to identify yourselves!

I have been a full-time employee with True North (formerly Wheatland Crisis Society), for 13 years. I am retiring this month, and leaving True North will be bittersweet. Although I am looking forward to a simpler and peaceful life in the mountains, say-

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Collects children's clothing and distributes Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.

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325 1 Ave • 403-934-3543 Corner of 1 Ave & Wheatland Trail *Lead Pastor: Mike Wiebe* BOW RIVER ALLIANCE CHURCH 105 Main St. Carseland • 403-991-6143 *Pastor: Kevin Enns* office@bowriveralliance.com www.bowriveralliance.com

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COVENANT CHURCH 245 Brent Blvd, Strathmore 403-934-2424 Pastor: Heidi Wiebe Sunday Worship 10 am

www.hope-community.ca

LORD OF ALL (NALC) LUTHERAN 112 Lakeside Blvd. • 403-934-2374

Pastor: Dawn Nelson Sunday Worship Services – 10:30 am Join us in Praising our Lord, Jesus Christ!

STRATHMORE UNITED

Wheatland Trail & 3rd Avenue 403-934-3025 Sunday Worship Services 10:30am Services posted on-line at: www.smoreuc.com Loop System for the Hearing Impaired W/C accessible

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC

ing goodbye to my "work family" will be difficult.

I believe that the management team is more than qualified in determining what is best practice for True North. Working within this organization, there is ample opportunity for professional development and training. I have always felt supported and appreciated by management. In return, I have been a loyal and dedicated employee of True North.

> Cheryl McCorrister Strathmore

Wheatland County to appeal Court of King's bench decision versus Coun. Glenn Koester

Continued from Page 1

The original code of conduct violation complaint was filed by Link, March 1, 2022. The reasons for the complaint, as well as the following investigation were withheld from the public until Koester challenged the county in court.

A full summary of the issues regarded in the complaint was published in the Feb. 8, 2023 edition of the Strathmore Times.

'It is the responsibility of council to protect the integrity of county governance in order to best serve our community and the public interest. We do so through a commitment to transparency and by upholding the principles of fairness and accountability," as was stated by the county in the release. "I fully respect Coun. Koester's right to appeal the decisions that council made and to the fact that he did that through judicial review at Court of King's Bench is the recognized appeal mechanism, and I fully respect and support that," said Link. "I also respect the position that county council also has a responsibility to protect the governance of both our council, but also the jurisdiction of municipalities in Alberta under our legislation ... balancing those is just as fair to acknowledge that Wheatland County has the right and that appeal mechanism is there for a reason."

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9	5		6		8	
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C3 STRATHMORE C3 CHURCH NORTH CALGARY

3812 Marbank Drive N.E, Calgary, AB 403-273-0494 Lead Pastor - Bill Olson Location Pastor - Shan Simpson Pastor - Eric Horstia www.c3connect.ca Sunday at 10:10 a.m. C3 Prayer - Tuesday at 7 p.m.















The host teams did not disappoint as the Strathmore Spartans boys and girls basketball teams each captured a silver and gold medal respectively at the ASAA 3A Provincial Championship March 14-16. Joe Lepage Photos



YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE Gord Morck Pharmacist Capsule Comments

As men age, the prostate becomes a concern. Because this troublesome gland is so near the urinary tract, these symptoms might signify a prostate problem: a) frequent or difficult urination; b) urgent urination during the day; c) getting up frequently at night to urinate; d) dribbling for several minutes after urinating. Concerned? Check with your doctor.

Walking is great exercise. The average walking speed for adults is between 2.5-4 miles per hour. At the low end of these speeds, it would take 24 minutes to walk a mile. If you are walking a brisk speed of 4 mph, it would take 15 minutes to walk one mile. No matter what your speed, get out there and walk. It's good for your body and your mind.

Speaking of walking, walking aids are often either too tall or too short for the user. Mobility limitations affect 2.7 million Canadians. Many using walking aids may be using them incorrectly. The walking-aid height should be measured by standing with hands at your side. The top of the cane or walker should reach the crease in the wrist. Plus a cane should be held in the hand <u>opposite</u> to the weak leg and advance in unison with it.

Can you take too much vitamin E? Those who are on anticoagulant drugs should not take too much. There is a danger of major bleeding events occurring. A safe amount is 400-800 IU daily. Vitamin E is often applied to the skin and this is quite safe.





Spartans achieve ultimate success

JOHN WATSON Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It was a banner year for the Strathmore Spartans high school basketball teams – literally.

The school played host to the ASAA 3A Provincial Championship March 14-16, where the girls captured their second provincial title in a row, while the boys earned silver medals in the process.

The Lady Spartans opened defence of their 2023 provincial title with a 66-41 win over R.F. Staples on March 14, earning them a shot at the semifinal versus George McDougall the following day. With a spot in the final on the line, the Spartans pulled out an 86-82 win.

The Strathmore High School gym was rocking for the final, as the host Spartans defeated St. Peter the Apostle 70-68 in the final to successfully defend their provincial title.

"Going in as the No. 1 seed and also winning last year, we had a lot of experience and confidence going into this year. Because it was also at our home gym, we also felt probably more confident that we would be able to pull out any close wins," said Dion Galandy, coach of the girls' team. "The girls came in with a great attitude, they were very composed, not excited about being up or down, they were quite calm and ended up with all the wins that we needed to do."

Meanwhile, the boys opened the provincial championship with a 90-81 win over St. Joseph on the opening day of the tournament.

In the semifinal, the Spartans beat Edmonton Christian 73-69, earning them a berth in the provincial championship.

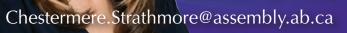
In the final, the Spartans played their hearts out, but ul-

silver medal.

"We are a little bit heartbroken; it is always tough to lose a one-point game in overtime, but I think most of the boys have, over the last couple days, have come to recognize the significance of their achievement," said Matt Laslo, coach of the boys' team. "It was pretty crushing to lose by such a close margin ... coaches and athletes, anytime you lose a close game like that, you just relive the memories in your brain for a couple of days thinking about ways that you could have pulled off or pulled ahead, but I am really proud of the boys and the way that they played and the way they supported each other and showed up for our community and represented our school."



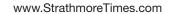
timately fell 85-84 in overtime. However, it captured one of their best seasons in the team's history, earning a provincial



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Strathmore RCMP present policing report

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore RCMP Staff Sgt. Mark Wielgosz presented before the town Committee of the Whole, the Ouarter 3 policing report, spanning Oct. 1, to Dec. 31, 2023, during the March 13 meeting.

"Our habitual offender management program is part of our first priority, which deals with our property crimes, that being the reduction of theft of vehicles, theft from motor vehicles, and break and enters," said Wielgosz. "Throughout Quarter 3, we were monitoring 13 habitual offenders so that is down from our high of about 18 or 19 at one point in time."

He added as previous offenders completed their monitored time periods, they have either left the local area, or continue to meet their release conditions without issue. Others have pled guilty to get off on conditions in order to be spared from monitoring periods.

Previous offenders who are moving off of the habitual offender management program are placed under a persons of interest program, in which case, communication is maintained to ensure the continuation of law-abiding lifestyles.

"At times, if necessary, we are also in a position to help engage them with some social services to help keep them on the right path," said Wielgosz.

The security screw program remains in effect locally. This program saw license plate security screws distributed to local automotive dealerships, as well as being available at the local RCMP office.

Wielgosz said one of the local dealerships had reported running out of the screws and had begun to purchase their own - a practice which is becoming a standard installation on vehicles coming off of dealership lots.

"We are seeing some decreasing patterns with theft of license plates, hopefully in part as a result (of the security screws), but that option is still free within Strathmore," he said.

Theft of motor vehicles was also reported to be down, approaching recorded historical lows for the local community.

A brief period where offenders passing through Strathmore made attempts at theft were indicated in Wielgosz's report, though those offenders have since left the local region.

Of the 13 motor vehicle thefts that occurred throughout Quarter 3, nine vehicles were recovered, four of which were recovered in Calgary.

Other instances of theft included crimes of opportunity where valuables were left in clear line of sight within the vehicle.

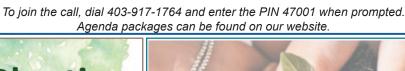
Wielgosz explained reducing these types of instances requires public education to not leave valuables where they can be seen within a vehicle.

More information, as well as the full report are available via the Town of Strathmore public meeting agenda, as well as their YouTube channel.

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 28: Committee of the Whole **April 2: Council Meeting April 3: Agricultural Service Board**





'HEATLAN

Safety Codes

The trees and shrubs that make up Shelterbelts and

COUNT

March 26th, 6:00pm Wheatland County Admin Bui

ree Care

Workshop

Presented by Toso Bozic Join us for this free workshop,



Grant Program

The Community Facilities Funding Grant Program offers financial aid to non-profit groups operating community facilities in Wheatland County's hamlets and residential areas.





staff from Wheatland County and The Inspections Group Inc. We'll be discussing the updated National Building Code – 2023 Alberta Edition, which will be in effect starting May 1, 2024.

Wheatland County Administration Building 242006 Range Road 243, ECC Room

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Date: Wednesday, April 10 Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

cobuffers can help to prevent you will learn about: soil erosion, reduce extreme temperatures and energy use, • Shelterbelt design capture snow for water Site selection & preparation retention or to prevent Tree & shrub species selection blowing snow on roadways, Tips for planting success sequester carbon, provide Maintenance habitat for pollinators and Minimizing environmental other wildlife, and so much damage more!

 Managing pests & diseases County funding programs

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https://wheatlandcounty.ca/communityfunding-opportunities/

For more information please email safetycodes@wheatlandcounty.ca or call 403-361-2010



Address: 242006 Range Rd 243, Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4 **Phone:** 403-934-3321 Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. www.wheatlandcounty.ca @wheatlandcounty



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Heavy Equipment Operator Closes March 29, 2024



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Shining silver

Strathmore U14C Ice brought home a silver medal from the Provincial Championship in Pembina, Alta. on March 15-17. The Ice went 4-0 in the round robin portion of the tournament and earned a berth in the semifinal, where they won 2-1. The Ice then played the host team in the final, losing 8-5 and earning a provincial silver medal. **Melissa Piche Photo**



Zone battle

BUDGET 2024

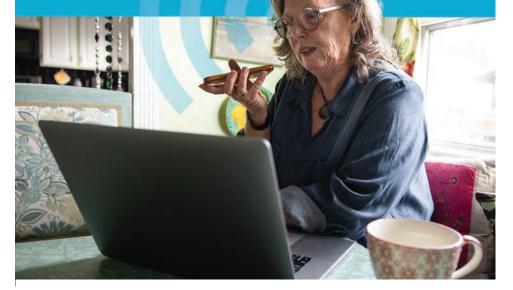
The Strathmore Ice U16C team hosted Game 2 of the zone championship versus Indus on March 16 at the Strathmore Family Centre. Despite valiant effort, the Ice lost both games to conclude an otherwise fun season. Joe Lepage Photos





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Bountiful bonspiel

Thirty-six teams from around the province took part in the annual Men's Bonspiel, hosted by the Strathmore and District Curling Club March 11-17. Close to \$20,000 in prizes were given to the Top 4 teams in the A, B, C and D Final. Joe Lepage Photos

Strathmore will be hosting the best youth communicators in our region

NATALIE WINTERS Calgary Regional 4-H

For over a hundred years the 4-H program has released some of the top orators in our province. These youth have gone on to influence the next generation, become CEO's of corporations and shape our government.

On March 23, competitors will converge at the Strathmore Civic Centre to establish the best communicators in the Calgary region. These 4-H members, ages 9-21, will be competing in either the speech or presentation category and hail from clubs across the region. Over 15 4-H clubs will be represented including Crowfoot Multi, Ropes and Reins, Prairie Winds, Legendary Flatlands, and Sundre Multi to name a few.

To get to the regional level members have competed and placed either first or second at their club, area and district level.

Creating a speech or presentation that grabs attention is part of the game, with titles like "The Storm Under My Skin," "The World's Greatest Mystery" and "The Elephant in the Room." This Saturday's event will be both entertaining and educating.

For both the junior and intermediate members, regionals is as far as they can advance. The seniors who place first or second will then move on to the provincial level which takes place at Olds College on April 6.

The Calgary Regional 4-H Communications event starts with speeches in the morning at 10 a.m. and presentations at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and support these young communicators March 23 at the Strathmore Civic Centre.



Visit our website for details on Lakewood of Strathmore and Devmore Developments Inc's \$5000 home buyer program, applicable to new home buyers who sign a purchase agreement with our preferred builders in Phase 2a between January 31 and April 30, 2024. Developer reserves the right to alter, change or remove the program at any time.

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The Wheatland Braves was victorious in Game 2 against Red Deer, March 16. at the Strathmore Family Centre Arena, taking their series to Game 3 in Red Deer. John Watson



Photo

Wheatland Braves defeated in Red Deer

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland Braves will not be advancing to provincials, losing 9-5 to the Red Deer Chiefs in Game 3 of their championship series, March 17 in Red Deer.

Jack Vergouwen, following the Braves win in Game 2 at the Strathmore Family Centre on March 16, said his team fought hard and commended them for their efforts.

"We knew it was going to be a tough test answering the bell against these guys. We had a tough Game 1, they had the advantage up there for sure," he said. "There is no doubt in this group. There is so much character through and through our lineup. We faced a lot of adversity. We are short a guy on defense, one of our top guys on the back end but we fought to the bitter end."

Going into Game 3, Vergouwen said the plan was to attempt to shut down Red Deer's forwards and contain them.

The idea being that the Braves have been facing tough games all season long and this series was no different.

"(It comes down to doing) all the little things right that is required to win a playoff game - just being hard on the pucks, getting them out

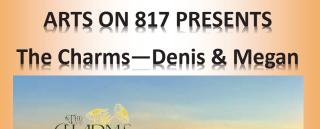
of our zone, getting them in theirs, and grinding them down," said Vergouwen. "Red Deer is a tremendously skilled team. They are a great team - I give all the kudos in the world to them. They are built very well, they have got a lot of good depth, good goaltenders, and obviously one incredibly skilled player up front there."

On Saturday night, Mason Mallet, one of the Braves goaltenders, kept his team in the game and allowed them the opportunity to take it to a Game 3. Of the roughly 30 shots on net taken in Game 2, only four got past Mallet en route to a 6-4 win.

Vergouwen added it has been a rollercoaster of a season for his team, having gone through a great deal of 'growing pains" along the way.

"That is all part of it, and I think that that whole learning process has brought us to this moment and we won one banner last weekend (March 8-10) - from everything we have grown and developed over the years and over the course of this year," he said.

The Wheatland Braves conclude their season as the SCAHL South Division champions and will have a banner hanging in the Strathmore Family Centre marking their success.



Nearly 275 members of the community took part in the fifth annual St. Patrick's Jelly Bean Dance on March 16 at the Strathmore Civic Centre. The event, hosted by the Strathmore Parents Association of Expressions, featured face painting, dancing, fun activities, prizes and the ever-popular cake walk. **Joe Lepage Photos**

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 30th 11:00 am **Kinsmen** Park **Egg Hunt** · Easter Bonnet Contest Prizes - 2 Bikes

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F/MAX KEY

Town discusses service and service levels policy

JOHN WATSON Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore discussed a proposed service and service level policy, No. 1218, during the March 13 Committee of the Whole meeting.

"The town's corporate business plan currently includes an item to develop a service and service level inventory, an 80 per cent beta version. This proposed policy provides a framework for the establishment of the service level inventory, while also outlining the review of the inventory by council on an annual basis as part of the budget process," said Kara Rusk, director of strategic, administrative, and financial services. "This policy also provides a process for council to consider regarding any reviews of programs or services that they may wish to see going forward."

Through the policy, she explained if council passes a resolution regarding a review of a particular program or service, administration would prepare a report and return to council outlining any resources that may be required to undertake the same, and ultimately report back to council with the outcomes.

Rusk added administration is currently working on the service level inventory, which aims to be brought before council in advance of the 2025 budget.

According to information provided via the town's public meeting agenda, the Service and Service Level Policy is purposed to establish a framework for review and evaluation, allowing the Town to adjust and adapt its programs and services as new challenges and needs arise.

The goal being to positively impact local social sustainability by promoting community engagement, equitable service delivery, improve quality of life, social cohesion, health and safety, resilience to social challenges, and leverage social capital.

A Service and Service Levels Inven-

tory, through the proposed policy would be reviewed by council on an annual basis.

The inventory is used as a basis for the development of the proposed budget, in order to maintain services and service levels approved by council, as well as to identify program and service reviews.

It serves to outline the current state of, and aid administration to evaluate, and improve services and service levels for local town-operated programs and facilities.

Council made no request for alterations to be made to the proposed policy presented to them during the Committee of the Whole meeting, and it was accepted as information. Further discussion will take place during a future regular council meeting.

More information regarding the policy is available via the Committee of the Whole meeting agenda, publicly available through the town's website.

Town plans controlled burns ahead of fire season

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore recently finalized its hazard reduction burn plan, which aims to reduce the risk of grass and wildfires in the local region.

According to the town, the plan aims to assess grassland fuels on the landscape within Strathmore, identify locations of high fire risk, prioritize and prescribe controlled burns.

"The plan is to reduce hazards around the community. Through that obviously, we have chosen the method of our grass fuel types 1A and 1B, which is basically standing or matted fuels," said David Sturgeon, fire chief for the Strathmore Fire Department. "We decided that burning was the best method to go, and it regenerates the soil ... so it grows back greener and (lusher). We thought it was a win-win."

Town administration has selected regions within the town to undergo hazard reduction burns, which will reduce the risk of wildfire, reduce nuisance fires, and better prepare the local community in the event of an approaching wildfire.

Hazard reduction burning is used to quickly, effectively, and safely remove dead and/or dying grassland fuels from around communities.

"The Hazard Reduction Plan is a great example of our town being proactive. Especially, when we consider that the province has declared an early start to wildfire season and the fact that we are facing drought conditions," said mayor Pat Fule.

Sturgeon added grasslands and older, matured crop leftover tend to become fire hazards during dry summer seasons and contribute to uncontrolled burns.

He explained by conducting controlled burn treatments of potential hazard areas, it reduces the risk of oncoming fires threatening the community.

"We have released a plan to the public ... we have sent out letters to all of

the property owners who were identified, so we are just gaining permissions on those properties – obviously, (owners) can opt in or opt out depending on what their tolerance level is," said Sturgeon. "Once we have those all submitted, we are shooting for April 5 to April 12 for the actual burning ... depending on how much we can get done, it is all weather dependent ... if we can get a big chunk of this done, obviously we are just making it better throughout the community."

According to the town, the controlled burns will not impact road access, traffic patterns, or the health and safety of residents.

Sturgeon explained the fire department will wait for favourable weather conditions, especially wind, before conducting burns so that smoke will not become negatively impactful in the locations of the burns.

More information regarding the controlled burns is available through the Town of Strathmore website.

www.StrathmoreTimes.com

<u>Obituary</u>

TIMES CLASS TO DS

WATT, Sheldon Lee 1958 - 2024

Sheldon James Watt, born to Jim and Cec Watt (nee Madsen) in Calgary in 1958, passed away peacefully with his 19 2004, of the act of 65

family on March 13, 2024, at the age of 65. Raised in Standard, Alberta, Sheldon was the (usually) cherished big brother of his four (usually) loving sisters: Dawn (Phil) Faubion of Standard, Traci (Mike) Rasmussen of Standard, Janelle (Rob) Pettifer of Strathmore, and Tara (Adrian) Law of Chestermere. While in high school he worked many hours in his Grandpa Charlie's general store. He always enjoyed gathering together with his family to play cards, swap stories, and share a good laugh. His love of sports as a kid continued into his adult life with the Rosebud Chickenhawks Hockey team and baseball with the family Watt-a-Team.

Sheldon graduated from Standard High School in 1976 and moved to Calgary. After surveying what the big city had to offer, he finally realized that the girl of his dreams had grown up just a block away from his childhood home. In 1983, he exchanged vows with Laurie Binning, also of Standard, daughter of Duane and Carolyn. This union added three more sisters to his family tree: Norma (David) Diesman, Joan Binning, and Debra (Warren) Kapaniuk. They settled first in Calgary, with regular trips out of the city to visit friends and family. In 1997, Sheldon and Laurie settled in the picturesque village of Carbon, where they fulfilled their dream of building a home in 1998.

Sheldon's greatest joy came from his family. Welcoming his son Tanner in 1989 and daughter Danika in 1992 filled his life with equal parts chaos and joy. Danika's union with Kyle Kalmbach in 2013 brought the arrival of Sheldon's first grandson, Lincoln, in 2018, followed by granddaughter Emilia in 2022. He was so proud to be 'Papa' to his grandkids and loved every moment spent snuggling and telling stories.

Throughout his professional career as a journeyman partsman, Sheldon lent his expertise to Toyota, Nissan, Allied, Chrysler, Bigfoot, and John Deere. His friendly personality and memory for parts numbers were exemplary, leaving an indelible mark on those he worked with. He may not have remembered what he had for breakfast, but he could tell you the part number of a 1974 Celica alternator in an instant.

A man of many talents, Sheldon found solace in the simple pleasures of life, from engaging in spirited games of crib to honing his woodworking skills. He built an excessive number of decks for his beloved Laurie, a testament to his love, devotion, and his dislike of mowing grass. Laurie and Sheldon continued to travel and explore, buying their first trailer in 1987 and enjoying many camping trips with family and friends every year. Their annual May long weekend Watt campout became a cherished tradition that marked the beginning of each summer.

As an adult he was a dedicated member of the Carbon and District Ag Society and Curling Club. He was an avid curler, volunteered with the Carbon youth curling program, and traveled with his kids throughout the province for curling events. He spent many years volunteering with Kidsport Kneehill. Sheldon and Laurie hosted an annual curling bonspiel that raised thousands of dollars towards this organization "so all kids can play."

Sheldon was passionate about reading and watching science fiction. After 40 years together, Laurie has unwillingly learned far more than she wanted to know about the Star Trek universe.

In July 2021, shortly after his retirement, Sheldon was diagnosed with ALS. Despite the challenges he faced, Sheldon's unwavering spirit and positivity inspired all who knew him. Support from the ALS Society of Alberta, Alberta Hospice - Fostering Hearts Forward, Drumheller Homecare, Drumheller Long Term Care,

Keeping Albertans safe

CHANTELLE DE JONGE *Chestermere-Strathmore MLA*

This past week, in the Alberta legislature, Public Safety and Emergency Services Minister Mike Ellis introduced Bill 11, the Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act, to help keep Albertans safe from the rising crime we are witnessing in rural and urban areas. Federal Bill C-75 also known as the "Catch and Release Act" gives courts permission to downgrade many serious offences, thereby allowing convicted criminals and repeat violent offenders to get out on bail with little-to-no consequences. As a result, far too often, Alberta's Police Services must issue bulletins about offenders that are being released into our communities, despite them being classified as a "high risk to re-offend." And far too often, we read tragic stories of Albertans being victimized by these offenders who should not have been released in the first place. Bill 11, if passed, would make changes to the Peace Officer Act that would enable the creation of a new, independent police agency that would be responsible for carrying out police-like functions that are already being performed by peace officers in the Alberta Sheriffs. This includes, but is not limited to, fugitive apprehension and police surveillance. It will also help make our communities safer by establishing 24-7 electronic ankle bracelet monitoring to keep track of

certain offenders who are out on bail and who may pose a threat to public safety.

This change will protect vulnerable Albertans by helping secure offender-restricted areas, such as victims' residences, places of employment, or any other area considered off-limits as a part of an offender's bail or community release conditions. The creation of a new independent police agency and 24-7 electronic ankle bracelet monitoring are key actions we are working towards to help combat rising crime and restore safety for families and communities. I would also like to share that Alberta's Government is updating electricity market rules to ensure an affordable, reliable, and sustainable grid for generations to come. High and volatile electricity prices are a top concern for our government. Based on recommendations from the Alberta Electric System Operator and the Alberta Market Surveillance Administrator, the government is making regulatory changes to improve the rules around economic withholding. These changes will encourage more competition, improve reliability, and make utility bills more affordable for Albertans. I will keep you posted on these changes in the coming weeks. If you have any concerns or feedback, please feel free to reach out to my office (Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly. ab.ca).

(Chantelle de Jonge is the MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore and the Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities) and countless friends and family provided comfort and strength throughout his ALS journey.

Sheldon was preceded in death by his father, Jim Watt, and in-laws, Duane and Carolyn Binning. He is survived by his wife Laurie, son Tanner, daughter Danika, son-in-law Kyle, grandchildren Lincoln and Emilia, mother Cec, sisters, and seventeen nieces and nephews.

Sheldon's legacy of love, resilience, and unwavering determination will forever remain etched in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered. His sense of humour and the twinkle in his eye (shared with his father and many of the livelier Watt relatives) endeared him to anyone lucky enough to be a part of his life. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made directly to the Carbon Agriculture Society or ALS Society of Alberta in Sheldon's memory. A funeral service will be held on Friday, March 22, 2024, at Standard Community Hall at 2:00 p.m. To send condolences, please visit Sheldon's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca.

Wheatland Funeral Home Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

TIMES CLASSICIEDS

<u>Obituary</u>



GOERTZ, Benjamin Isaac

Ben was born December 18, 1996, in Calgary, AB, to Rob and Meredith Goertz. Since graduating high school in 2015, Ben worked various jobs in Strathmore and Calgary. Family and friends will remember Ben for his honesty, loyalty, often-inappropriate sense of

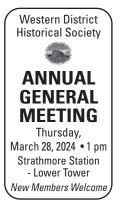
humour, and tenderness. He took great pride in having thousands of views on his YouTube or Snapchat videos, made probably hundreds of memes that he would share with family and friends, and was never afraid of saying something startlingly off-colour if he thought it would get a laugh. He loved Eminem, extra large Slurpies, and ordering the most expensive item at a restaurant (if someone else was paying). Ben was a staunch mama's boy and would never leave home without a round of hugs goodbye and saving "I love you" to each person.

Ben was a beloved grandchild, son, brother, cousin, nephew, and friend. He is survived by his parents, Rob and Meredith Goertz, and siblings, Max Goertz, Katie (Denver) Barg, and Corin Goertz. A loyal group of friends from junior high stayed close to him through thick and thin. He had too many aunts, uncles, and cousins to name here, but he loved and was loved by many others.

The celebration of life took place at Hope Community Covenant Church on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

> # Wheatland Funeral Home Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

NOTICE



COMING EVENT

Pints & Politics Friday, March 22nd 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Origin Brewing Strathmore

Chat with Chantelle de Jonge

Tickets \$25 for UCP members \$35 for non-members Food & drink for purchase

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Weekly Newspapers

JOHN 3:16

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to work in our Facilities/Maintenance Department. This position will commence approximately May 6th, 2024 or when a suitable candidate is found and end around August 23, 2024. Terms of employment can be negotiated. Please refer to our website www.ghsd75.ca under Employment-Non-Teaching Opportunities for further information.

www.StrathmoreTimes.com

5 for Life Early Childhood Committee **EVENTS & COMMUNICATION** COORDINATOR

To provide program development and implementation in Strathmore & Wheatland County with a focus on children ages 0-5 years and their parents/cargivers. Programming is through partnerships and/or stand alone activities. This position is 35 hours a week, May to August, 2024.

For more information on the posting, visit www.growingfamiliessociety.ca Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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- •Massey Ferguson 1105 2WD tractor, 6,506hrs(4-digit tach), 540/1000 PTO, (4) aux hyd, 23.1-34 rear tires
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•1997 Peterbilt 378 T/A truck tractor, 1,842,918kms, Cummins 460hp diesel eng, Eaton Fuller 18 spd trans, diff lock, air ride, headache rack, 11R24.5 tires •1994 Kenworth T-400 S/A truck tractor, 802,237kms, Cummins N11 310hp diesel eng, manual trans, spring ride, 5th wheel hitch, steel deck w/ side boxes, built-in slip tank, beacon lights, 11R22.5 tires

TRAILERS

•2006 49' Roughneck Tridem trailer, 9' upper deck, 40' lower deck. folding ramps

•1999 16' Real Ind T/A gooseneck stock trailer

•Kuhn SR110 10-wheel speed rake
•Hesston 12-wheel v-rake
•New Holland 1033 PT stackliner
•Massey Ferguson 124 square baler

VEHICLES/RV

1989 Dodge W250 4x4 pick-up truck, 23,603kms showing, 5.9L Cummins diesel eng, auto trans, 35x12.50R16LT tires
1980 GMC Sierra Classic 15 4x4 pick-up truck, 350 gas eng, 3 spd manual trans
1965 Mercury 100 Custom Cab HD 2WD pick-up truck, 300 straight six gas eng, 3 spd auto trans
Ford Econoline van
2008 Heartland 34' fifth wheel toy-hauler triple axle trailer

HORSE-DRAWN

2-seat democrat buggy
Doctor's buggy
Sickle mower
(2) Hay racks

18.4-34 rear tires

•Massey Ferguson 165 2W D tractor, 5,928hrs(4-digit tach), gas eng, 3pth, 540 PTO, 18.4-26 rear tires •Massey Ferguson 35 2WD tractor, 3pth, 540 PTO

•Farmall M 2WD Tractor w/ FEL

Fuller Road Ranger 13spd trans, diff lock, air ride, w/ 2013 Golden View Fab bale picker deck w/ LH arm, 46,000lb rears, moose guard, custom ext mirrors, HID lighting, beacon lights, additional flood lights, 11R24.5 tires

HAYING EQUIPMENT

•2021 13' Case DC133R center-pivot discbine, rubber-on-rubber roll conditioner, hyd tilt

•John Deere 567 round baler, with net wrap

LIVESTOCK HANDLING/SPREADER

•Hi-Hog cattle squeeze

•TMG cattle squeeze, w/ scale and monitor •Portable hyd hoof trimming chute •Custom built loading chute

•New Holland 790 T/A manure spreader

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