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VOLUME 18 ISSUE 12



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Local arts shine

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Provincial hosts

Off-Reserve affordable housing boost

JOHN WATSON
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Siksika Off-Reserve Affordable Housing (SORAH) is among several First Nations organizations set to benefit from the City of Calgary's Indigenous Housing Program.

The city has awarded \$33 million to 16 Indigenous nations and Indigenous-led non-profit organizations, which, overall will create up to 379 new non-market homes.

"SORAH, through a process called the non-market land sale, will be developing a parcel in the southeast area of Calgary right beside the Erin Woods twin arena. That will see the development of 30 stacked townhomes," said Max Lloyd, general manager of SORAH. "It will be 60 total, so 30 upper, and 30 lower (units) and a small welcome centre on the property as well."

The total \$33 million dedicated to the program is being divided amongst three funding streams, each tackling a different aspect of housing development.

SORAH's funding falls under Stream Two, being for housing development and is one of five projects which fall into this stream.

"The city announced a non-market land sale in early 2024. SORAH, along with other Indigenous housing providers, put in an application, and SORAH was one of the successful applicants," said Lloyd.

Continued on Page 4



A taste of France

Avelyn Henderson, along with her parents Brant and Laura Henderson, were able to sample deserts from "Patisserie du Soleil" bakery during A Little Taste of Francophonie on March 21 at the Strathmore Municipal Library. The family-friendly event was designed for folks to experience the French language and culture, and featured a jellybean dance, tasty food, and story time with author Melanie Lausen.

Joe Lepage Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Festival starts

The first few days of the 2026 Strathmore Performing Arts Festival (SPAF) brought music, speech, and theatre to life across multiple venues in the community, showcasing the talents of local performers of all ages. There were a wide range of classes and disciplines, including choir, choral speech, band, woodwinds, Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM), voice, speech, and musical theatre during the opening days of March 18-21. Events were held at several locations throughout the community, including Holy Cross Collegiate, Strathmore High School, École Brentwood Elementary School, Strathmore United Church, and the Vault Cultural Collective. The second week of the SPAF featured junior piano (March 23-25), guitar and strings (March 24) and senior piano (March 26-28). The Final Concert will be held on April 1 at the Hope Community Covenant Church at 7 p.m.

Photos Courtesy of the Strathmore Performing Arts Festival

RCMP ask drivers to slow down in construction zones

ALBERTA RCMP

RCMP are reminding motorists to slow down and stay alert while traveling through construction zones, as speed and distracted driving in these areas endanger workers and other motorists' lives, but also carry significant penalties.

Construction zones are indicated by roadway signage or flashing amber lights, or a combination of both.

Speeding fines double in construction zones where workers are present and fine amounts range from \$211 to \$1,200. If a driver is caught traveling 50 km/h or more over the speed limit, it requires a mandatory court appearance, and fines and licence suspensions are at the court's discretion. Driver's license demerits range from two to six.

With the warmer weather approaching, additional construction zones are anticipated. Police encourage all drivers to do their part by slowing down to make sure all workers get home safely every day.

RCMP offer these tips to ensure safe travel through construction zones:

- Obey all posted traffic signage.
- Plan your route in advance and give yourself plenty of time to get where you need to go.
- Use extra caution and watch out for road hazards while transitioning through construction zones.
- Maintain awareness of your surroundings and be prepared for sudden stops.
- Be patient with construction speed limits and signage.
- Avoid passing other motorists until you are out of the construction zone.

For more safety tips follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and on X @RCMPAlberta.

STRATHMORE PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL *"Encouraging the Arts in Strathmore"* 2025-2026

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SHOWCASE CONCERT & AWARDS NIGHT

Hope Community Covenant Church
 April 1, 2026, 7:00 pm
 Admission at the door
 \$5 per person
 \$10 per family

Legion hosts annual cribbage tournament

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dozens of legionnaires arrived in Strathmore in order to participate in the AB NWT Legion Pairs Cribbage tournament March 20-21.

The weekend event ran with 17 pairs of competitors coming out from across the designated region for the Dominion level competition.

“Every year, we have play downs; you have your district, and then you go to command. The Top 2 teams come from all over the province,” said David Beattie, sports officer for the Strathmore Legion Branch 10. “Cribbage has been played in the legion for as long as the legion has been around, I believe. I have been playing it for 10, 15 years.”

The event largely featured cribbage as its primary competition, however, Beattie added legionnaires also competed in darts and euchre.

Most people in attendance tended to play one game or another, though there were those who had qualified in multiple and crossed over during the tournament.

“(Qualifiers) usually happen in September and January. Usually, we have a playoff with as many as 10 teams competing for two spots for our district,” said Beattie. “It can be pretty intense. When I play in the darts, I do it to travel and to see people I have not seen since last year. It is a camaraderie and it can be competitive. There are competitive teams, but overall, I think it should just be a fun day of playing cribbage and meeting new people.”

According to the tournament release distributed by the legion, the annual Dominion Cribbage Championships were introduced to the Legion in 1989 with three categories, being singles, doubles, and team competition.

Prizing for victorious competitors used to offer



The Strathmore Legion Branch 10 hosted 17 teams of competitors for the annual Legion Cribbage tournament, March 20-21. The top teams from across Alberta and the Northwest Territories competed for bragging rights, and the opportunity to advance to the Dominion level of competition, which attracts teams from across the nation.

John Watson Photos



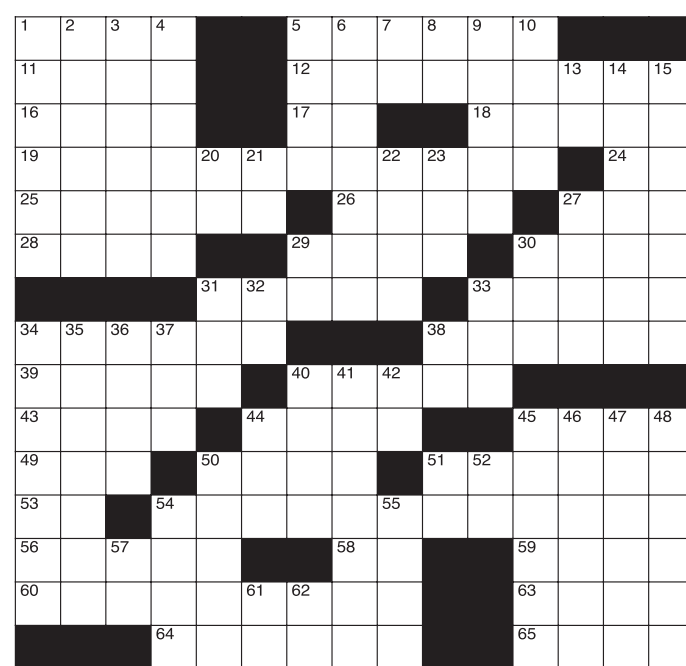
plaques or patches, however, nowadays it is more-so about friendly competition and bragging rights.

The Command level cribbage tournament tends to move around the province year over year, taking place anywhere from Strathmore to Pincher Creek to Yellowknife, and anywhere in between.

For those who qualify at Command, the next stage of annual competition is at Dominion, which can occur throughout Canada from Victoria to St. Johns. This year, Dominion will take place in Cochrane.

“In certain sports like singles cribbage, you go on to Dominion; pairs and team cribbage you do not go on. It depends on what you are playing,” said Beattie.

At the conclusion of the games, the legion hosted a banquet and award ceremony for the participants and to recognize the winning teams.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. “Bird of Paradise” constellation
- 5. Red Sox WS winner Bronson
- 11. Whirl
- 12. The State Dept. has a notable one
- 16. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 17. Part of the mind
- 18. Mountainous country
- 19. Type of beverage
- 24. Atomic #109
- 25. Opposite of falsities
- 26. Female sheep
- 27. Rocky peak
- 28. Sensitive information sharing environment
- 29. Ethnic group of Thailand
- 30. Patron saint of Rome Philip
- 31. Psychedelics
- 33. Japanese pine
- 34. Have an impact on
- 38. Violent disorder
- 39. A French river
- 40. Early Mesoamerican civilization
- 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 44. Musician Clapton
- 45. Ancient Greek sophist
- 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 50. Valley
- 51. A way to unwind
- 53. Atomic #93
- 54. Recommending
- 56. Indigo bush
- 58. Larry and Curly’s pal
- 59. Off-Broadway theater award
- 60. Fencers
- 63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- 64. Relating to songbirds
- 65. A way to assign

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Some are “secret”
- 2. Intestinal openings
- 3. Distant planet
- 4. Assembly possessing high legislative powers
- 5. Genus of typical owls
- 6. One with distinctively colored hair
- 7. Red cross
- 8. An alternative
- 9. Abominable snowmen
- 10. About ear
- 13. The opening letters
- 14. Feeling of regret
- 15. Atomic #39
- 20. Luteinizing hormone
- 21. Atomic #55
- 22. Carries a debt
- 23. Albanian monetary unit
- 27. Semitic abjad letter
- 29. Yes
- 30. Negative
- 31. Earn a perfect score
- 33. Partner to cheese
- 34. Snack nuts
- 35. Quadruped’s body part
- 36. Locate
- 37. Pitching statistic
- 38. “___, myself and I”
- 40. Utah city northwest of Provo
- 41. Football players in the trenches
- 42. One who runs the show
- 44. Wood
- 45. Performing artists
- 46. Slang for a cut
- 47. More breathable
- 48. Most crafty
- 50. Provokes into action
- 51. University of Dayton
- 52. Sodium
- 54. Large fish of the mackerel family
- 55. Not one
- 57. ___ and behold
- 61. Sports highlight show
- 62. “The Great Lakes State”

Lakewood creates docuseries to curb neighbourhood rumours

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lakewood of Strathmore is aiming to make some clarifications and eliminate misconceptions about developments within the community through the publication of a new short docuseries.

“Since our new group has taken over Lakewood, roughly the last five years, we have been able to work from the project ground up, but we did have to deal with existing circumstances of Lakewood,” said Scott Silva, director of sales and marketing for the community. “We redesigned the community, brought in new builders, new architectural controls, and really brought the community to the level where it is now ... but some of those existing circumstances were the old rumours, or wives’ tales or urban legends.”

The new series will be titled *Lakewood Mythbusters* and is shot in a documentary-style format. The idea being to interview the engineers, builders, and homeowners, among others – people who have worked on and reside in the neighbourhood in order to set the record straight.

Silva explained he hopes that the project will help to eliminate the rumours that the community of Lakewood was built over a swamp, being cause for foundations to be unstable, and basements to flood, requiring sump pumps to keep dry.

“Both of those are not only myths, but we are going to provide the facts that further show that

that is the complete opposite of Lakewood,” he said. “This project was first addressed back in 2020 when myself and part of the new group that was forming were addressing some of the issues with Lakewood. This was one of them.”

To date, none of the builders which were present during the initial construction of the community, and which lead to the deterioration of the community’s reputation and quality, remain participating in its development.

The docuseries will be posted in short form on each of the social media platforms which Lakewood of Strathmore participates on, as well as in long form on YouTube.

Silva did not specify exactly how long each episode in their long forms would be.

“Most of the filming has been done, and now we are in the post film and editing process. Every two weeks, we will be launching a new video on Sunday evenings. It is going to be a five-part series, potentially six,” he said. “Episode 1 is going to be focusing on the history of the land and the engineering around it, looking at the history from 1950 onward, in 1979 to 1981, the start of what is officially known as the above ground reservoir for the Town of Strathmore.”

Episodes of *Lakewood Mythbusters* will also be permanently available through the organization’s website.

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Funded by the Government of Canada | **Canada**

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Strathmore Times is published every Wednesday by Strathmore Times Inc. and our coverage area is Strathmore, Carseland, Cheadle, Cluny, Gleichen, Hussar, Lyalta, Namaka, Nightingale, Rockyford, Rosebud, Speargrass and Standard. We also have various pickup locations throughout our coverage area. We are printed by Star Press Inc., Wainwright, Alberta. The content in the Strathmore Times is copyright and reproduction without the proper written consent of the Strathmore Times is strictly prohibited.

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

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Tara Hodgson promotes new book in Strathmore

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tara Hodgson, a teacher turned author residing in Alberta, visited Strathmore as the first stop on her tour promoting her new self-published novel.

At Least I'm Trying is penned as a young adult fiction thriller about sex trafficking in Vancouver, and is her second work on the subject of tumultuous coming-of-age experiences.

"It's my second book, and I call it 'Snapchat gone wrong,' and it is basically a contemporary thriller. It's got those vibes, basically warning about if you meet strangers on the internet, what the effects of that could be," said Hodgson. "I have been a teacher for 18 years, so that inspired my writing journey because I noticed so many things were changing with teens and wanted to talk about it."

She explained she still teaches full-time, and writing is currently a passion on the side which she works into her schedule whenever she is able.

"I had a lot to say, and I did not know how else to say it. I felt really helpless on what I was witnessing and this story came to me and I just couldn't bottle it in," she said.

Hodgson said much of her writing spotlights the influence and effects of technology and social media on young peoples' mental health. This being from cyber bullying, the spreading of intimate photos, influence on how they should look, and everything in between.

At Least I'm Trying centres more along how easy it is to be preyed upon through social media and communication apps.

"I think my favourite thing is that I have heard from parents who it really resonated with and just that it has opened up some conversations which is what was my main goal," said Hodgson. "I want to spark those difficult conversations that not everybody is having. I think there is a lot of non-fiction books out there that deal with this content, but there is not a lot of fiction. I thought it was a really great tool."

Following her signing in Strathmore, Hodgson went to bookstores throughout Calgary, March 22-23 to round out her tour.

Edmonton-based author, Tara Hodgson, came to Strathmore, March 21, to host a book signing at Music Box Books for her new title, *At Least I'm Trying*. Hodgson also toured around Calgary over the course of the weekend to promote the book.

John Watson Photo



This is the first time she has spread to do signings outside of her home city of Edmonton.

From start to finish, *At Least I'm Trying* took just over a year to write and self-publish. Hodgson added this was marginally slower than her first book, as she did not have the entire story mapped prior to beginning the writing process.

She joked that one of the challenges with creating contemporary young adult fiction was how to seamlessly incorporate the modern slang into her writing without it coming across as forced or cringy to her beta readers.

Going forward, Hodgson has plans in the tank for at least two more books which are currently filed as completed manuscripts.

At Least I'm Trying and *Chasing Through Time* are available both online, as well as wherever books are sold.

YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

There is much hype on social media about using apple cider vinegar to lose weight or lower cholesterol. Studies done on these claims with doses ranging from two teaspoonsful to 800ml daily showed no conclusive proof of any of these claims. However, vinegar is an acid so be aware of possible corrosion of tooth enamel. The dose should be diluted with water and taken through a straw.

We shed 500 million skin cells a day much of which ends up in our bed sheets which also are also a haven for bacteria, fungi, mites and viruses. We usually don't change our pillows but changing them every couple of years is recommended. For persons with compromised immune systems, every six months is better. Bed sheets? Weekly washing is ideal and to really get rid of bugs. Ironing the sheets is also helpful.

Psychotic episodes have long been known to be a risk from routine cannabis use. People who regularly use high doses of cannabis, particularly THC may experience psychotic symptoms like suspiciousness, delirium, altered perceptions, and lack of motivation. /3/29

Grip strength is associated with a range of health outcomes from type 2 diabetes to depression. A hand dynamometer is a device that measures grip strength. They are available online for \$30-\$60. You can test your grip strength by squeezing a tennis or stress ball. Maintaining a maximum squeeze for 15-30 seconds is a good standard to strive for.

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The Zone 2 U14AA Blazers ringette team, featuring Locklyn Hayes, Kaylee Lester, Hayden Paschal and Hayden Darago of Strathmore, captured the Western Canadian Ringette Championships in Saskatoon from March 18-21. Photo Courtesy of Tim Smith

Local players capture ringette gold

MARIO PRUSINA
Times Editor

Four players from Strathmore on the Zone 2 U14AA Blazers ringette team have claimed the Western Canadian Ringette Championship.

Locklyn Hayes, Kaylee Lester, Hayden Paschal and Hayden Darago of Strathmore earned a gold medal when they represented Team Alberta at the Western Canadian Ringette Championships in Saskatoon from March 18-21.

According to Blaze head coach Tim Smith, it was a huge accomplishment for the team.

“They had a historic season with wins and now to be the best U14 Ringette team in Western Canada, I couldn’t have been happier for the girls,” said Smith. “Every team is desperate, every team has a lot of skill, so we were proud to be able to handle five different opponents from four provinces and come out on top.”

“The girls handled it well. We had a bit of a slow start in our first game but built it and improved as the games intensified. This team had already won many tournaments and league championship, so they were prepared for the intensity of the games.”

The Blazers opened the tournament with a 6-0 win over the Saskatoon Saints on March 19, before winning a pair of games the following day, 13-0 over Team B.C. and a 6-5 win over the BVRA An-

gels.

After a dominating round robin, outscoring their opposition 25-5, the Blazers earned a 4-2 win over the Calgary Red in the semifinals on March 21.

“They were the only team who beat us this year back in November. We were down 2-1 and had to really dig deep to find a way back,” said Smith of the semifinal versus the Red. “Locklyn Hayes had a standout game with a hat trick in the second half. The game finished 4-2 but caused some nervous moments.”

After giving up the first goal in the gold medal game, the Blazers scored three straight goals to close out the first period, including a shorthanded goal by Darago with 32 seconds left in the frame.

The Blazers dominated the second period, outscoring the Blue 4-1 en route to 7-2 win to capture gold.

As the game was winding down, the girls stayed focused.

“It was stressful, but we stayed calm throughout,” said Smith. “We just worked shift to shift, minute to minute and never stopped until the buzzer.”

“This team was special from Day 1. They had the record, the tournament wins, the league wins, but there are also the intangibles and character. A group of excellent athletes and great people. I am forever thankful that they let me be part of their story. They truly are the best in the west.”



RISE host provincials

The U16C RISE played host to some of the province’s top talent over the weekend, welcoming teams and fans for the Provincial Ringette Championships, held March 20-22. Despite only winning one game, it was a great experience for the team to host such a prestigious tournament, as each team battled through round-robin play and playoff matchups in pursuit of a provincial title.

Joe Lepage Photos



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



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 21
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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The Trellis Society officially opened their Kickstand space, which offers a variety of supports to youth and young adults within the community, as well as First Nations individuals living in the area, or coming from Siksika. The ribbon cutting celebration took place on 2 St. in front of the building on March 18.

John Watson Photos

Trellis hosts grand opening of new Kickstand supports for local youth, young adults

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In partnership with the provincial government, the Trellis Society is helping to provide a new space for mental health and wellness support to local youth.

A grand opening was hosted, March 18, for the new space, located immediately above the Trellis offices on 2 Ave in Strathmore.

“Kickstand is a partnership between the provincial government, local philanthropists, and Trellis Society, and we have come together to make sure that young people have a place to go if they are in need of any support,” said Jeff Dyer, Trellis Society CEO. “We put a bunch of funding in place, we put a leader in place, and we just ask young people, ‘what do you need? What should this place look like?’ So, the Youth Advisory Council has guided which members of this mental health community would be on site.”

Dyer explained Kickstand is a project which is unable to take place unless there is significant involvement from local youth – asking the target demographic directly how best to support them.

Those now involved in Kickstand are not Trellis employees. Trellis’ involvement is largely to create the space to allow for youth in the community to flourish.

The facility, now that it is open to youth and young adults in the community, directly supports those who are between the ages of 11 and 25.

“These have been rolling out across the province for a few years. This particular project came about almost a year ago, gathering funding, making sure the space was available, making sure that the community wanted it, and what

Kickstand could provide,” said Dyer. “I think these first six months are going to be really important – are we giving the young people what they really need and are they happy with it? And if not, how do we adjust it? Then longer term, what other communities are in need of this, and can we play a role in bringing them across the province?”

Dyer is anticipating recurring, permanent funding from the province either on an annual basis, or for multi-year agreements.

Youth and young adults are targeted for Kickstand services specifically, as there are numerous other avenues for older demographics to receive mental health services.

“There are functional needs that we anticipate, and so we want to make sure we have got experts that are in those areas. As the community suggests we need different things, they won’t talk like that, they are going to show up needing different things and then we can adapt,” added Dyer.

Supports include those for addictions, employment, community and education on site. Dyer emphasized that the service is not treatment, which must be accessed at the appropriate facilities, however, Kickstand can help people get connected with where they need to go, as well as provide community and a place to feel safe.

For young people who are a part of the Siksika community living off reserve, Kickstand is also geared to be culturally appropriate in its support systems and reflective of their specific needs.

“This in some ways is like grassroots truth and reconciliation,” said Dyer. “It is an acknowledgement that not everybody is doing okay so let’s move forward in a way that is really good, both on and off reserve.”



Crash course

A planned mock crash at Strathmore High School drew attention from passersby on March 19, as emergency vehicles and flashing lights created the appearance of a serious accident at the school. The staged event was part of Impaired Driving Month and served as an educational demonstration to highlight the dangers of driving under the influence. Students witnessed a realistic emergency response scenario, complete with first responders and a simulated crash scene.

Photos Courtesy of Ashlyn McCormick, Town of Strathmore

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Wargamers take to the tables for local tournament

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tabletop wargaming enthusiasts gathered at Hob's Gaming Café, March 21, ready to sling dice and decide which among them were the greatest of generals.

Mitchell Ton, who organized the Warhammer 40,000 tournament, explained the tournament was his way of giving back to a community which was so welcoming for him to come be a part of, and to encourage some friendly competition.

"We have teams of two playing against each other ... it is a little bit more of a casual tournament but there is still a bit of competition going down and a couple of grudge matches as well," he said. "Each team of two has to form together an army and they strategize how they are going to build that army based off of the points (allowed) and the units that they bring. They try to coordinate together so that way they can supplement each other's weaknesses or enhance each other's strengths."

Games were limited to three hours each in order to fit three in for each team throughout the course of the day.

At the end, the greatest prize was to be awarded to the team who has the most wins throughout each of the rounds. Other prizes were awarded for categories such as most interesting team theme, best painted, or best sportsmanship.

"It is a very diverse group and everyone has their own goal, but the main goal is just for friendly competition and to show off your models ... some people like to show off the hobby aspect, others like to show off their strategic skills as well," said Ton. "Others just want to get together

with friends and people they know and just have a good go at each other on the board."

Warhammer 40,000 is a strategic tabletop miniatures war game which requires players to build and paint an army to field in a skirmish scenario against an opponent. A pre-determined game size dictates how many models any player is allowed to field.

A wide host of factions exist throughout the game, allowing anyone to pick their favourite flavour of grimdark horrors to play with – anything from the stoic and zealous defenders of humanity to enigmatic aliens, to cosmic and near-eldritch nightmares.

"Warhammer has a very strong community base where people help each other out, even in tournaments. They don't try to get one over on each other," said Ton. "Seeing a group of people just enjoying themselves, I think that is the biggest thing I aim for. Just coming together, having fun, and meeting new people in the community."

Ton added he took over organizing the event due to previous members of the community no longer finding themselves with enough time to be involved in coordinating people.

He aims to try and host a tournament for the community in one format or another once per quarter and encourage folks to come out several times throughout the course of a given year.

With 16 people having taken part in Saturday's tournament, Ton said he would like to see those numbers double or more for future events and expand beyond the capacity of gathering players in the Hob's play space.



Hob's Gaming Cafe hosted several teams of tabletop wargamers for a doubles tournament on March 21. Participants were expected to collaborate in teams of two to defeat their opponents with several prizes, as well as bragging rights, on the line.

John Watson Photos



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grocery costs need to come down

To the Editor

Open Letter to the Prime Minister

Dear Prime Minister,
I am writing to you today to address a crisis that can no longer be managed with modest tax credits or incremental rebates. The “middle majority” of Canadians are witnessing the systematic erosion of their financial stability, driven by a retail food environment that has become untethered from the reality of production costs.

I am formally calling on the Government of Canada to implement a mandated 15 per cent price rollback on basic, whole foods that provide essential protein, carbohydrates, and foundational nutrition.

This is not a request for a subsidy, but a demand for a correction. It is now statistically undeniable that the 27 per cent cumulative food inflation seen since 2020 is not merely the result of global supply chain issues. It is categorically the result of a monopolistic food supply system in Canada. When three corporations control over 60 per cent of our grocery market and report record-breaking annual profits, the “inflation” we see at the checkout is, in reality, a transfer of wealth from the middle class to corporate shareholders.

Protect your portfolio, outsmart the pretenders

ALBERTA RCMP

This March, the Alberta RCMP will be sharing a variety of tips and resources in support of the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association’s (ACCPA) Fraud Prevention Month campaign. The campaign seeks to educate Albertans on the many ways that fraudulent activity negatively impacts their communities.

Today’s theme is investment scams, which may include any of the following: investment fraud via social media, Ponzi or pyramid schemes, cryptocurrency schemes, real estate scams and offshore investing schemes.

“Smart investing starts with skepticism. Any unsolicited advice – no matter how friendly, authoritative, or urgent it may sound – deserves a hard pause and a second

ers.

To restore stability, the government must enforce a 15 per cent reduction in the retail price of:

1. Proteins: Unprocessed meats, eggs, and legumes.
2. Carbohydrates: Grains, flour, and basic breads.
3. Whole Nutrition: Fresh and frozen vegetables and fruits.

The current approach, offering an \$840 annual tax cut while families (of four) face a \$17,571.79 annual grocery bill – is mathematically insufficient. Your government must recognize that social and economic stability is a capital asset. Businesses that profit from a stable Canadian society must contribute to that stability through fair pricing and higher corporate accountability. We can no longer accept “adjusted” consumer index data that masks the 27 per cent surge in our cost of living. We require a government that has the courage to confront monopolies and protect the basic right to affordable nutrition.

I look forward to your response and a clear plan for a price intervention.

Sincerely,

Ken Riley
Bassano

More questions than answers

To the Editor

I am writing as a concerned Wheatland County resident regarding the Wheatland (WHMB) Lodge and Hospice project. Since 2019 Wheatland & Area Hospice Society (WAHS) has raised over \$7 million through our community to complete their six-bed hospice. This is a wonderful achievement, but their website and literature create expectations that the hospice will be open upon completion.

Recent reporting has referenced a new total estimated project cost of \$70 million and a new ask for \$10M to continue the application process. Public information on the total budget and financial plan started at \$54M. Updates have appeared only in reporter articles, with no mention of these costs in WHMB or WAHS websites. WAHS, in the Strathmore Times, said they would step back and open a storefront until the WHMB project was completed, giving the impression that once the building was completed, they would reengage and move in.

To date, no public confirmation exists that operational funding for

hospice staffing has been secured through Alberta Health Services (AHS). In 2024, WAHS provided draft letters to surrounding municipalities requesting support letters for operational funding, but I have not seen public confirmation that these letters were sent.

Alberta best practice suggests operational commitments be secured and documented before capital construction proceeds to avoid the risk of a partially staffed facility and levy pressures. This is what Shasta has done, along with several new projects in Alberta. I feel the public has the perceived notion that the hospice is funded and do not realize the impact of paying for staffing. I feel the building will be built and then the county will be vilified for not providing funding to staff, as I can see no indication that WAHS is pursuing staff funding. In their 2019 brochure they mentioned an \$800,000 levy need.

The new building is on a much larger scale, Wheatland Lodge (\$70M for 120 units), which at \$583,000/unit is 38 per cent above the recent average (\$420,000) for independent/supportive lodge

rooms. The hospice has added costs that I expect are more than the \$7M committed in 2019. There is no contingency agreement publicly available to show that WAHS committed to increased costs from \$54M to \$70M or cost overruns.

I do not believe the project presented to the public is close to the project on the table. The last public update was June 2023. WHMB and WAHS seem to prefer not to discuss financials publicly and are asking municipalities to meet with no minutes, no records, no public. I believe WHMB and WAHS are trying to continue their application process without public scrutiny.

The public deserves a complete update on the plan, the anticipated \$70M cost, what the \$10M is for, and the WAHS staffing situation. Year 1 and Year 2 hits families with \$1,445: \$300K+\$700K+\$800K+\$2M startup, then \$684 +/-year ongoing for 50 years. That’s what ‘this building tax and hospice levy’ means in real dollars.

Cheryl Marshman
Rockyford

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Storm champions

The Strathmore Storm U9A hockey team capped off a successful season with a great showing at the Kalix Legacy Jamboree U7/U9 tournament in Airdrie, March 20-22. The Storm went undefeated during the U9 tournament, claiming the championship.

Photo Courtesy of Claudette Thorhaug

Making a difference in people's lives

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Alberta's government is delivering results that make a difference in people's lives across our province. From securing major international events that drive jobs and economic growth, to strengthening protections for vulnerable Albertans, to making record investments in supports for people with disabilities, we're focused on meaningful steps that build stronger communities and a more resilient province for the future.

Our government has secured a major win for Alberta by bringing the World Cup of Hockey 2028 to Calgary and Edmonton. Through a partnership between the province, host cities, and tourism and sports organizations, Alberta beat out major North American destinations to host one of international hockey's biggest events. This tournament is expected to generate \$375 million in economic activity, support more than 43,000 jobs, and fill nearly 172,000 hotel room nights across the province. This event will showcase Alberta on the world stage while creating real benefits for local businesses, workers, and communities.

We are also taking action to protect vulnerable Albertans by introducing safeguards around medical assistance in dying, also known as MAID. Through new legislation, we're making clear that MAID cannot be offered when mental illness is the only reason someone qualifies. We are also strengthening the rules, so MAID is not used when other care and treatment options exist. Under these changes, MAID will only be available to people whose natural death is reasonably foreseeable. It will not be allowed for minors, and doctors and health care facilities will be able to choose not to provide MAID. This ensures hope remains easier to access than death.

Supporting Albertans with disabilities remains another major priority for our government. Through Budget 2026, we are investing a historic \$3.7 billion to support Albertans with disabilities. This includes record funding to help Albertans with disabilities live with dignity and independence – supporting adults with daily living needs, helping families care for children with disabilities at home, and ensuring people with severe disabilities have stable, predictable income they can count on. Starting in July, we are making further improvements to strengthen financial

supports for the Albertans who need them most.

Together, these initiatives reflect a broader commitment to strengthening Alberta's communities, economy, and social supports. By focusing on measures that put people first, our government is helping build a stronger, more compassionate, and more prosperous Alberta for generations to come.

While these initiatives speak to our government's long-term goals, recent community events remind me of the everyday local leadership that strengthens our constituency. Last weekend, I was honoured to celebrate International Women's Day with many incredible women from Chestermere-Strathmore. Across our constituency, women are leading in countless ways – at home, in businesses, in classrooms, in community organizations, and on the front lines of service. I am grateful for their dedication, creativity, and compassion, that make our communities stronger every day.

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)

2ND ANNUAL ELKS MENTAL HEALTH GOLF TOURNAMENT AUGUST 13, 2026 - 2:00 PM



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wfcss.org/elks-mental-health-project

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HELP WANTED

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.

COMING EVENT

EDMONTON COIN SHOW - April 11 & 12, 2026. Saturday 10 am - 4:30 pm; Sunday 10 am - 3 pm. Lions Centre 11113 - 113 Street, Edmonton. Family friendly! Displays * Auctions * Free market evaluations. * Dealers from across Canada. * See www.edmontoncoinclub.com/shows.

HEALTH

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TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to Creditors and Claimants

Estate of JOHN MARK KETTENBACH who died on the January 17, 2025.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by April 25, 2026.

with ALLISON C. RODVANG OF BEAUMONT CHURCH LLP at 300, 2912 Memorial Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2A 6R1

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

Notice to Creditors and Claimants

Estate of RONALD IVAN MURRAY who died on the October 8, 2025.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by May 2, 2026.

with STRATHMORE LAW, ATTN: Daman K. Gill at 101, 318-3rd Ave., Strathmore, AB T1P 1V9

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

Creditors: you must include a full description and value of the debt you allege the deceased owes you and a full description and value of any of the deceased's property that you hold as security for the debt.

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

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Coldwell Agencies is a small, well-established brokerage in Strathmore, Alberta. We are currently seeking an experienced, licensed **LEVEL 2 INSURANCE BROKER**

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- Ability to use computers and other office equipment

How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for this position, please forward your resume including cover letter to colleenb@coldwellinsurance.ca or drop off in office at 133 2nd Ave, Strathmore, AB.

NOTICE

Western District Historical Society



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7:30 pm • Thursday, March 26, 2026
Lower Gallery at The Vault
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1	9	5	7	3	4	6	8	2
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Upcoming Council Meetings

April 1, 2026 | 6 p.m.
April 8, 2026 | 6 p.m.
April 15, 2026 | 6 p.m.

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

Come Say Hi

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

Knock on wood, but the snow is melting! Clear those catch basins.

When the weather warms up, the melting snow needs somewhere to go. That's where catch basins, also known as storm drains, come in. These drains help direct storm water into Strathmore's drainage system. A clogged or damaged catch basin can lead to flooding and property damage.

The Town of Strathmore's Operations Department and our partners at EPCOR regularly check and clear catch basins as part of our regular winter and spring maintenance program. That said, residents can help make a world of a difference.

There are a couple of ways you can help protect your community from flooding.

- **Catch it:** Check if the grate is clear to allow snow, ice, and rain runoff to drain properly.
- **Clear it:** Safely remove any ice or debris blocking the basin.
- **Call or click it:** Report frozen or damaged catch basins by calling the Town at **403-934-3133** or filling out the Citizen Communication Form at Strathmore.ca/CCF

For more information about our storm water and drainage system, visit Strathmore.ca/StormWater

Bored? We can fix that.

Join a board.

Boards and committees have always played an important role in our community. If you're looking for a way to make an impact, this is your chance to get involved. The Town is currently accepting applications for the following boards or committees.

- Assessment Review Board – 1 position open.
- Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board – 2 positions open.

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

Good food, great food.

Get the Good Food Box.

The Good Food Box is a non-profit organization offering access to quality produce and brought to you by your community. It is accessible for everyone regardless of income level. For more information, visit Strathmore.ca/GoodFoodBox

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
- 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

Join our team.

Career opportunities available.

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

- Contract Group Fitness Instructor
- Lead Facility Operator (Arena)
- Public Works Operator
- RCMP Detachment Municipal Employee Supervisor

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

Notice of Public Hearing.

April 15, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 25-27 Lakewood Phase 2

Please be advised that the Town of Strathmore has received a Land Use Bylaw Amendment application impacting Phase 2 of the Lakewood Community. The Developer has indicated to the Planning Department that there is demand for secondary suites, garage suites, and 1.2 m side yard setbacks in Lakewood.

The three proposed amendments include:

- **Adding "Secondary Suite" as a permitted use** for 42 serviced, but undeveloped lots, located in Phase 2B. The 42 lots are currently designed R2X - Medium Density Attached Residential District (R2X). (Applicable to the lands legally known as: Lots 49-92 inclusive, Block 4, Plan 251 1341.)
- **Adding "Garage Suite" as a permitted use** for 34 laned lots located in Phase 2B and 6 laned lots located in Phase 2A (totaling 40 lots). The lots are currently designated R2 - Low Density Residential District (R2) and RIN - Single Detached Residential (Narrow Lot) District (RIN). (Applicable to the lands legally known as: Lots 1-17 inclusive, Block 8, Plan 251 1341, Lots 19- 35 inclusive, Block 8, Plan 251 1341, and Lots 24-29 inclusive, Block 2, Plan 231 1718.)
- **Reducing the side yard setback requirement from 1.5m to 1.2m** for 33 future RIN lots in Phase 2C. (The legal addresses impacted are: Portion of NW 22-25-25 W4M.)

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 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.

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