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Red Dress Day

Page 5



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Scooting in Strathmore

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore Town Council is considering the viability of introducing e-scooters around town, as discussions began during the May 3 regular meeting of council.

Shared electric vehicle company, Bird Canada, presented to council during the meeting to discuss what the introduction of such scooters could look like, and the benefits it would have for the community.

Michael Covato, Bird Canada's director of government partnerships, said cleaner air – due to lack of carbon emissions, and ease of transportation for community members are among the benefits offered by the scooters, in addition to their local economic benefits.

“We universally released a study two years ago that every single individual e-scooter contributes roughly \$2,200 USD over a six-month period of additional spending to local businesses,” he said. “The popularity of these systems means they can be profitable without any kind of subsidy.”

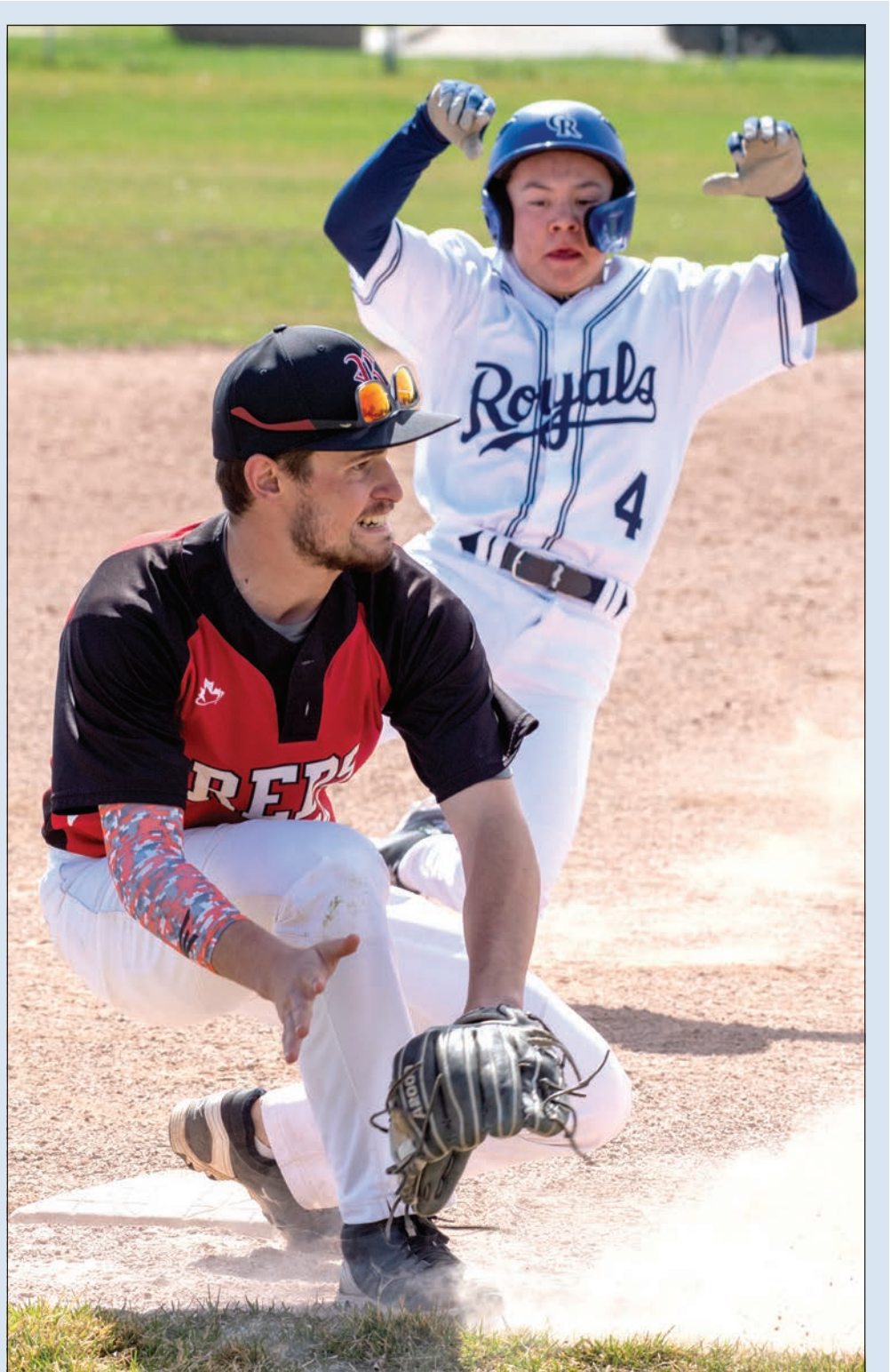
The introduction of e-scooters to Strathmore would require no immediate monetary commitment, though Town of Strathmore CAO Kevin Scoble explained costs would be incurred more indirectly.

Town staff and council would be required to pass traffic bylaw amendments and hold community engagement sessions, for example, in order to gauge community interest and work out logistics for introducing the scooters.

Covato added he expects response times to complaints about scooters to be handled generally within 15 to 30 minutes, as travel around Strathmore does not tend to take long. The fleet initially, if passed, could see roughly 65 scooters around town to start, with an eventual capacity of between 110 and 130.

“We have operational staff and partners locally based who are proactively checking on every single device that is within the community multiple times per day. That ensures if there is an issue, oftentimes we can correct it before it presents a nuisance to the community,” he said.

Continued on Page 4



Play ball!

The Strathmore Reds U18AA baseball team played a trio of games between May 6-7 at the Kinsmen Ball Diamonds, including a battle with Webber Academy on Saturday afternoon. The Reds earned a satisfying victory with the 7-6 walk off win.

Joe Lepage Photo

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Siksika Nation hosted a walk to remember missing and murdered indigenous women, girls and two spirit people on May 5 at the Deerfoot Sportsplex. The national day to remember MMIWG2S people is also commonly regarded as Red Dress Day. The Town of Strathmore also hosted a walk on May 4 in Kinsmen Park for the occasion.

John Watson and Melissa Piche Photos

Siksika hosts awareness walk for Red Dress Day

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

May 5 marked the day to recognize Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People (MMIWG2S), which was hosted at the Deerfoot Sportsplex with a walk for awareness.

Beginning at roughly 10:30 a.m., locals from the surrounding community came out to participate in a five-kilometre walk around the facility, carrying a banner to raise awareness for the cause.

The National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S, often referred to as "Red Dress Day," was first adopted in 2010 to bring awareness to and honour the thousands of First Nations people who have gone missing and/or have been murdered.

The red dresses, which are often hung from trees, represent young girls who were lost or stolen from their families and communities.

Flora Royal (Yellow Old Woman), whose brother, Fred, went missing over a decade ago, spoke to the event held in Siksika on Friday.

"My brother went missing, June 14, 2011 in Kamloops. I like attending these kinds of events to talk to people who are in the same situation as my family," she said. "Part of it (is) the healing. There is no closure for my family because we have never found my brother. It is still ongoing. His case is still open in Kamloops."

Royal added she returns to Kamloops every year, to the house where Fred went missing from,

and to the Thompson River. Her next trip will be the 12th occasion she has visited the site.

"I did a lot of searching just a few days after he went missing. Me and my older sister – my family, brothers, nephews. I did a thorough search myself of the last place he was at," she said. "It is very hard on the family. Non-closure can really hit you hard if you do not deal with it ... I know he is gone because he would not have just disappeared from the face of the earth."

Royal explained she had 12 siblings, of whom, four have been lost.

The walks on Red Dress Day, she said, are extremely important for helping the families and communities who remember those who have been lost to heal together and talk about their loved ones.

"Our community of Siksika has much work to do in addressing the violence committed upon our people, and to develop a plan that will include the awareness of our society values, strengthening our culture and community in healing from our past, changing our ways today, and moving forward to a healthy atmosphere, our goals that we all must take on," said Leanne Sleigh, Siksika traditional wellness program coordinator.

The awareness walk for Red Dress Day took place in tandem with the launch of the 36th annual Blackfoot Invitational basketball tournament.

In Strathmore, a similar walk to raise awareness for MMIWG2S took place May 4, in Kinsmen Park.



The Hussar 4-H Show & Sale Association will be holding their 60th annual

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Jeff Grimsdale to take over as GHSD Superintendent

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Jeff Grimsdale has been appointed the new superintendent for the Golden Hills School Division (GHSD) following the retirement of Bevan Daverne.

Grimsdale has more than two decades of service in the education industry under his belt, having worked as a teacher, principal, learning director, and as an Associate Superintendent for the GHSD.

"I am very excited to be stepping into this role of superintendent for Golden Hills ... this is my 27th year here, but I have held many positions for the last nine years," he said. "I do have some big shoes to fill up. Being able to work with Bevan for the last number of years has been fantastic. He is a great role model and leader."

Grimsdale emphasized he intends to continue to reinforce the GHSD desire for student success, continuous system improvement and culture of learning.

Student success, he said, is the number one priority for the division, and he has collaborated with Daverne to great extent regarding the future direction of the GHSD.

"We are always looking for innovative and creative ways to improve our achievements ... I fully believe in our motto - 'powering hope and pos-

sibilities,' and that is what we have done here," said Grimsdale. "(Daverne) has provided advice for sure on moving forward on the things that we are doing ... we have new curriculum implementation and so we have done a lot of work with career connections for our students to continue providing great programming and opportunities for our students."

Grimsdale said he discovered a passion for teaching during his post-secondary education, as he was given an opportunity to go into schools, instructing physical education classes.

"When I was in university, I was not exactly sure what I was going to do. One of my courses was physical education, and so when I did that, I had the opportunity to go into schools," he said. "As soon as I did that, I knew that was my calling. From there, I started teaching, then became an associate principal, principal, and then worked my way through the system, wanting to support and try to improve student learning."

Grimsdale will be making a personal visit to each school within the GHSD to introduce himself in his new position to staff and students.

The GHSD team will be preparing for the new school year over the course of the summer. Grimsdale's position as Superintendent of Schools will officially begin in September, as Daverne's role comes to a close at the end of August.

Andrea Holowka to be new CTR Superintendent of Schools

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Christ the Redeemer School Division (CTR) has appointed Andrea Holowka to replace Dr. Scott Morrison as Superintendent of Schools following his retirement.

Holowka is stepping into the role with 28 years of experience in education and is nearing the completion of her doctorate in education, with a focus on student mental health intervention.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to be coming into the role of Superintendent of Christ the Redeemer. It is a tremendous school division that does such great work for students, and I'm honored to be stepping into that lead role in the division," she said. "Christ the Redeemer is a school division that I have known for many years, just admiring from the side the very strong leadership both at the system level and within schools."

Sacred Heart Academy and Holy Cross Collegiate in Strathmore are part of the CTR division.

Holowka has previously served with both the Calgary Catholic, and public boards of education, and though new to the CTR board, has previously worked and acquainted herself with many of the staff.

She praised the academic results maintained by the division, as well as the support and care offered to students in attendance.

"It is second to none in the province, and further to that, (CTR) are a truly authentically cast board who care for each student by serving each one of their needs within a pastoral nature of their

faith," said Holowka. "Knowing that (CTR) has a very strong literacy focus in the division, I want to see that continue to serve students in very successful ways moving forward."

Holowka explained there are a great many similarities across the province within educational boards. Focussing specifically on CTR, she regarded the board in particular maintains an emphasis on strong leadership, academic results, and support for students.

Moving to a smaller school division than that of a larger city, Holowka said she believes she will be allowed more opportunities to build significant relationships with other leaders within the division, as well as within the schools.

Though she added she will be keeping much of what was previously established under Dr. Morrison, Holowka will be bringing several new qualities to the station.

"It is important to preserve and protect a lot of things that are working well. The pieces that I will be curious about is seeing what the changing needs are of the communities," she said. "We know that there is increased immigration in the province and that is affecting, I am sure, Christ the Redeemer just like all other districts, so I am wanting to make sure that any newcomers to the division are well supported with their English language learning and their other needs."

Holowka will officially take over for Dr. Morrison in June and will begin her first academic year as superintendent of schools in September.

Thinking about Ways to Recycle?
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The process in recycling takes a newspaper full circle, right back to newsprint ready to be printed again.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Midway between south and southeast
- Fathers
- Wine grape
- Al Bundy's wife
- Organic compound
- Venezuelan state
- Interest term
- Experts
- Central cores of stems
- Smooth and glossy
- One-time S. Korean city
- One from Damascus
- Short message at the end of an email
- It cools your home
- Oh, God!
- Intestinal pouches
- Men
- Popular English soccer team (abbr.)
- Former CIA
- Arrange in steps
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- The Great Lake State
- Dog-_: to mark a page
- Stop moving
- Ancient Dead Sea region
- Of I
- Clerical vestment
- Songs sung to a lover
- Charges
- Popular design program manufacturer
- Where to park a boat
- One who values reason
- Slang for cigarette
- Sailboats
- Actress Zellweger
- Screen material
- Country music legend Haggard
- Puts together in time
- When you hope to arrive

CLUES DOWN

- An involuntary and abnormal muscular contraction
- Philly's rail service
- Leaves a place
- No longer be a part in
- Guitar players use them
- Cease to exist
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Shaking of the earth
- Strong winds
- For each one
- A bog
- The creation of beautiful or significant things
- Affirmative
- Pie __ mode
- Nonclerical
- Inspirational football player Hamlin
- Learning environment
- Khoikhoi peoples
- Bring out or develop
- Shows up
- Theatrical device
- Loads
- Popular Hollywood alien
- Distinguishes
- College dorm worker
- Secondary or explanatory title
- Resembling wings
- One who delivers a speech
- In the middle
- Loop with a running knot
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Beloveds
- Ordain
- Breed of small cattle
- Very small period of time (abbr.)
- Revolutions per minute
- They __
- Longtime ESPN anchor Bob
- A place to stay

STRATHMORE TIMES

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School Fun Run

École Brentwood Elementary held their "Spring Fun Run" on May 1. Madame Kaitrin Beddie, a French immersion teacher at the school, organized the event for the school's run club members. The run club trains twice a week.

Melissa Piche Photos



Hidden treasures

The Annual Parade of Garages Sales was held in Strathmore on April 29. The event, sponsored by Debbie Mitzner of RE/MAX Landon Real Estate, featured over 100 garage sales and even a food truck at town hall.

Joe Lepage Photos

Strathmore RCMP investigate motorcycle double fatality

STRATHMORE RCMP

On May 7, at 2:54 a.m., Strathmore RCMP received a report of a motorcycle collision with a fire hydrant in a residential area of Strathmore. Upon arrival with EMS, it was determined that the 32-year-old male driver and 30-year-old female passenger, both residents of Strathmore, were deceased. An RCMP Collision Reconstructionist attended the scene and the investigation continues.

Town begins e-scooter discussions

Continued from Page 1

"We have 24/7 contact information on every device so if for whatever reason between one of those checks if someone says 'this scooter is knocked over, I don't like where it is,' they can report that to us and we will dispatch someone to go out there and correct that issue immediately."

Bird e-scooters have an age restriction which may be decided upon by the town. During the presentation, it was recommended that the minimum use age be between 16 and 18 years of age.

A typical ride may cost a user between \$5 and \$7, with discounts available for seniors, healthcare workers, veterans, and those who are under government assistance programs, among others.

More information regarding the e-scooter discussion is available through the town meeting minutes via their website, or through the recorded council meeting posted publicly to their YouTube Channel.

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Thought for the Week
~
Sometimes we need to walk over routes we've already traveled in order to help someone cross a path we've crossed before.

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Venom victorious

The Strathmore Venom Junior B Tier 2 team opened their regular season with a 10-3 victory over the Calgary Axemen on April 28 at the Strathmore Family Centre. Quaid Burkholder led the offence with six goals and one assist, while Riley Gallant added two goals and five assists. Zack Cull chipped in with a pair of goals for the Venom.

Joe Lepage Photo



Hike for Hospice

The Wheatland & Area Hospice Society hosted their sixth annual Hike for Hospice on May 7 at Kinsmen Park. This year, organizers also included a Fire Truck Pull, which added an extra element of excitement to the event.

Joe Lepage Photos

YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
 Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

The new guidelines on alcohol consumption published by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction recommends two drinks of standard alcoholic drinks per week is safe for Canadians. Interestingly, Australia's guidelines were revised in 2020. They recommended a maximum of 10 standard alcoholic drinks per week and no more than 4 in any one day to reduce the risk of alcohol-related diseases. However, if you decrease by even one drink per day or per week, you're decreasing your risk and thereby improving your health and wellbeing.

If you have a job or lifestyle that entails sitting for long periods of time, take a 5 minutes walk every 30 minutes or so. This break will improve your heart, metabolic and mental health. Evidence says that this activity will result in better blood sugar control and a reduction in systolic (upper number) blood pressure.

Here's another boost for regular exercising on health. It gave extra protection against COVID-19. It seems that the best outcomes were seen in those who consistently met the guidelines of 150 minutes of exercise per week. And this could mean only briskly walking.

It's better to inhale through your nose than through your mouth. Your nose acts as a filter and moisturizer and warms the air before it goes into the lungs. Use your mouth for exhaling, eating and talking.

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Homelessness increases in Strathmore

JOHN WATSON
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland Crisis Society (WCS) and Strathmore Overnight Shelter are reporting significantly increased numbers in the local homeless population and clients, respectively, from last year.

Per a document released by the WCS, three new clients were taken in by the Overnight Shelter during the January-March time frame. By October to December, this metric had increased to 24 new clients.

In total, the Strathmore Overnight Shelter recorded 4,664 client stays over the course of the year. The metric observed stays increased from 970 in the first quarter, to over 1,100 in each subsequent quarter.

"There definitely were increasing numbers. There is a lack of funding for people to even be able to live on their own. Everything is expensive. Rent is expensive," said Elizabeth Karp, executive director of the Strathmore Overnight Shelter. "All of a sudden, I saw the majority of people in the shelter being over 50 years old and who were in their senior years. It changes the dynamics of everything in that way."

Client stays at the Overnight Shelter were recorded to be highest between April and September, which the WCS

indicated may suggest a higher demand for services during the spring and summer.

Karp added historically speaking, autumn and the months leading into winter were the busiest times for the overnight shelter. As spring came along and the weather warms, more people were sleeping outside.

"The impact (of increased use) is financial. It costs us more money (to operate). The more people who are in, the more it costs," explained Karp. "We have a cap of up to 20 who are allowed in (the overnight shelter) as well, so we cannot take any more than that at any one time."

Additionally, Karp said the more people who are occupying the space, the more difficult it becomes to manage.

"We deal with addictions and mental illness and all of those things. It is difficult for people to function in their own little worlds when they are having to be around so many other people," said Karp.

Ultimately, the goal of the Overnight Shelter is to assist their clients in once again reaching stability and independence. Karp explained the goal is for clients to not require their services for longer than three months.

The Overnight Shelter is currently examining how best to approach operating fundraisers such as a 50/50 raffle, as well as engaging in Canada Day markets. Ultimately, Karp said the facility simply is in need of funding.

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Close to 125 students from Holy Cross Collegiate participated in a 25-hour famine on March 31-April 1. The famine was part of the school's Lenten Charity Campaign to raise donations that will go towards four charities of their choosing.

Melissa Piche Photos



Giving back to the community

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

To celebrate the season of Lent, the students at Holy Cross Collegiate (HCC) held their annual two Lenten charity campaigns. The activities began on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, and concluded on Holy Thursday, April 6.

Tomás Rochford is a teacher at HCC and he explained that the first of the two charity works the students participate in are Loonies for Lent, where students were encouraged to bring in a coin or cash donation. This year the school included debit or credit, which he said was very helpful.

"We boosted our technology so we could take tap," said Rochford. "It was helpful because a lot of students aren't bringing cash."

"The second major fundraiser in Lent was the 25-hour famine. (The students) can sign up for fasting for 25 hours with no food. They can have water and juice."

He said the event started on a Friday morning with regular school that day. They stay at the school after the regular day has ended and various activities were held to keep the students busy and their minds off of their hunger.

"There are sports, board games, video games, movies, the Strathmore Square Dancers came out and led them in a dance," he said. Participants stayed the night at the school and

the next morning they clean the school from the previous night's events. Finally, around 10 a.m. on the Saturday, "they get a big feast that the parents and teachers put on."

The famine usually brings in over \$2,000 alone, which goes towards various charities.

"More than a third of our population (HCC students) usually show up for the 25-hour famine," he said.

Rochford explains this high number of participants is the key to the success of the fundraiser. He estimated they had close to 125 students participating in the famine this year. This year marks the 12th time the school has hosted the famine.

Students from Grades 7-12 were eligible to participate in the famine with the senior high students taking on more leadership roles.

"One of the major roles is to make sure there is a constant supply of juice," he said, as the famine relies heavily on the sugar and the fluids.

"(The students) were very thankful for the generosity," said Rochford. "Our town has maintained a great degree of generosity that has been very wonderful."

The fundraiser allowed the school to donate \$750 to the Wheatland Crisis Society, \$1,000 to the Overnight Shelter, \$1,000 to the Wheatland County Food Bank and \$1,596.96 to the Chalice Canada's Ukraine Relief Fund.



Award winner

Becky Turner, who graduated from Strathmore High School in 2021, returned to receive a Governor General award for her academic excellence. Her receipt of the award was delayed until May 1, 2023 due to complications during the COVID-19 pandemic. Turner explained she was excited to receive a notification regarding the award and was glad to be recognized for her achievement. The Governor General medal is awarded to the student in a school with the highest overall grade point average following the grading of diploma exams, and is based on both Grade 11 and Grade 12 marks. Turner achieved averages of 94.6 per cent and 95.6 per cent in the two applicable grades, respectively. "Always ask more questions, people are always happy to help," Turner advised to students who may be aiming for a similar level of academic success. She is now studying English at the University of Victoria.

John Watson Photo



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.

May 16: Council Meeting

June 6: Council Meeting

June 13: Municipal Planning Commission

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

Change of Mailing Address

It is important to ensure that your address is correct. Wheatland County sources property ownership and mailing address information from Alberta Land Titles Office and the Certificate of Title. It is the property owners' responsibility to ensure their Land Title record is accurate and up to date.

To update your address, please complete a Change of Address Form and mail the original signed copy to the Land Titles Office.

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Calgary Alberta Land Titles Office
Box 7575
Calgary, AB, T2P 2R4

Street Address: 710 4th Ave. S.W., Calgary
Phone: (403) 297-6511
Email: lto@gov.ab.ca



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- Online: Visit our website <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/taxes/>. Please complete the form and email it to tax@wheatlandcounty.ca.
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For more information, please visit our website <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/taxes/>

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WHEATLAND COUNTY IT HARDWARE SILENT AUCTION

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

WHEATLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
242006 RANGE ROAD 243, WHEATLAND COUNTY, AB, T1P 2C4

Wheatland County is pleased to invite you to our upcoming IT Hardware Silent Auction on **Thursday, May 11, 2023**. The silent auction is open to all members of the public, and will be held in-person at the Wheatland County Administration office. We will be featuring a wide range of information technology items, including desktops, laptops, servers, switches, audio equipment, MFP printers, plotters, and more.

Please note: All equipment was in known working order, but we cannot guarantee or warrant their continued operation and items will be sold as is. Storage devices have been removed from all equipment for security purposes.

For a comprehensive list of items available at the silent auction, please visit our website <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/>



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





Thunderstruck

The Strathmore Thunder Girls Fast-pitch hosted their Spring into May Tournament on May 5-7 at the Strathmore Ag Diamonds. The local U13 and U15 teams each hosted seven other squads in their division, with the U15 team earning a gold medal after a 11-2 win over the St. Albert Angels. **Joe Lepage Photos**

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All female minor hockey coming to Strathmore

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Minor Hockey Associations in Strathmore, Chestermere, Indus and Siksika are announcing the inaugural season for the all-female Wheatland Wranglers for 2023/24.

Lisa Hempel-Wurz, director of the Wheatland Wranglers Hockey Association, said it is an exciting opportunity for athletes to have a chance to play at home instead of travelling.

"Previously, girls have travelled to Okotoks, Calgary, or Airdrie for the opportunity to play on all-female teams, or they would play on local teams alongside the boys," she said. "It has been in the works for a little while ... since October of 2022 and everything has really started to fall into place as of March of this year. I am glad that it is starting to come together."

Hempel-Wurz added the association has assembled a volunteer board that has been reaching out to similar associations in order to gauge the viability of organizing the team.

She explained there was previously an all-female program locally, though did not specify when or why it dissolved. Now that the new program has been announced, local interest has spiked.

"It just happened to work out perfectly that it was a perfect storm. Lots of peo-

ple wanted to come and join," she said. "Since the announcement, there has been a lot of interest and we have held a few free skates already. We are hoping to give our girls a place to play, which is the biggest thing."

The Minor Hockey Association is currently looking at the possibility for U9, U11, U13, U15, and U18 teams to begin seasonal operations in Strathmore, and/or Chestermere.

Interest in the program, according to Hempel-Wurz, is coming in from Strathmore, Wheatland County, and Rocky View County. The draw zone for players will also include communities such as Drumheller, Indus, Siksika, Standard, Bieseker, and Bassano, among others.

U7 athletes are also planned to be able to register for a Jr. Wranglers, all-female, local-only team as registration permits.

"It is definitely going to be competitive and we are hoping to get the best out of our female program to be competitive and give them the same edge that the boys and co-eds have," said Hempel-Wurz. "It would start at the same time that our co-eds and our male programs would be, which would be October, early November for when league play starts. Evaluations and everything should start taking place in early September."

Registration opens May 15 for the Wheatland Wranglers all-female teams. More information regarding registration is available online.



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Library hosts family event in advance of Mother's Day

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Municipal Library hosted a Mother's Day program for families to attend, consisting of planting seeds and decorating plant pots.

Taking place May 5 in the program room, the library requested those who were interested to preregister in order to ensure there were enough materials to go around.

"We have done other plantings; we have done marigolds and the like in the past, but this is the first one this year and it is the first one in a long time," said Ilke Schwartz, a library clerk who was overseeing the event. "We wanted some sort of Mother's Day event, so this kind of combined Mother's Day with the kids participating in the programming."

Preregistration was limited to 20 people, as the library had limited capacity and materials. Schwartz said the attendance numbers by early afternoon were already approaching that.

"It is something to do with the kids, and it is always good to get them involved in it," said Schwartz. "The whole planting idea is because it is now spring, and it is time to plant the gardens."

The Strathmore branch of Communities in Bloom assisted the library with getting the flower pots and dirt for the activities, while the sunflower seeds were already readily available in the library's stores. This way, the costs of the event were able to be kept to a minimum.

Schwartz added the library always, if possible, likes to hold an event for Mother's Day, though not always necessarily pot decorating and seed planting.

"We like to switch it up and not do the same things every year. If anybody has any ideas for next year, we may be able to incorporate those," she said. "This was something a little bit different, but it got the parents involved with the kids, and it was not necessarily just mothers. We had a couple of dads getting involved too."

Following the decorating and seed planting, the library does not have plans to host a specific event on Mother's Day, which is on May 14.

"Just seeing the good turnout, and getting the community out, that is what is important to the library," said Schwartz. "This is true of all the programs we offer, aside from just books."



The Strathmore Municipal Library hosted a free event for families to attend for Mother's Day, consisting of pot decorating and seed planting. Taking place May 5, the event invited folks to come out for a fun spring activity prior to the actual Mother's Day on May 14.

John Watson Photos

Wheatland Family & Community Support Services

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- Community Partnerships
- Compass for the Caregiver
- County Coats
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- Good Food Box
- Grant Funding
- Home Support
- Information and Referral Services
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New Programs

Community Fee Assistance Program

The Community Fee Assistance Program allows families to access programs that may be unachievable within their current budget. Eligible individuals will receive subsidy to school programs, or extra curricular activities. Travel costs may also be included in this program.

In-Home Cooking

Staff will come and prepare a meal plan, shop for needed grocery items and spend a day cooking either with you or for you using your own recipes. Please call the office to discuss costs or to set up an assessment. **Program is also available to residents of Strathmore.**

Subsidy Assistance

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Town, fire department host open house for Emergency Preparedness Week

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In recognition of Emergency Preparedness Week, the Town of Strathmore and Strathmore Fire Department hosted

Sixth annual HIS golf tournament scheduled this summer

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The HIS Building 6th annual charity golf tournament is returning this summer, continuing their efforts to raise money for the soon-to-be Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Tournament Coordinator Wendy Cey said the annual tournament has made a significant impact for the project and is aiming to continue the trend of contributions.

“(Through) our fundraiser tournament that we have done each year, we have raised over \$20,000, so we are well over \$100,000 that we have raised over five tournaments so far,” she said. “That has been really exciting, and the whole reason we do it is to try to build some community and go out there and have some fun. You do not have to be a good golfer, because we definitely are not.”

Each year of the tournament, Cey added, over 100 golfers had registered to come out and participate. The demographics ranged from those who had not golfed in years, to folks who are on the course regularly.

As usual, the tournament is a Texas scramble, which sees groups of participants each taking a swing, and then continuing from whoever landed closest to the hole.

The team behind the Sacred Heart Church purchased what was formerly the IGA grocery store in downtown Strathmore and intends to begin the process of converting it into the new church in the near future.

The money raised through the tournaments has gone towards the expense of needing to repair and modify the building, including replacing the roof, and developing extra structural supports.

Also featured in this year’s tournament is a hole-in-two competition with former Canadian Long Drive Champion, Michael Flaherty. The entry fee is \$50 to attempt a hole on a par five from off of Flaherty’s drive, the prize being an all-expense paid weekend of golfing.

A hole-in-one competition and 50/50 draw will also be taking place as part of the whole event.

“It is neat to see that all come together, and it is another great opportunity to raise money ... I try to make it fun for everyone so you do not have to be a good golfer to have fun,” said Cey.

For those who are interested in participating, there is a \$160 entry fee per golfer that returns a \$50 tax receipt. An extra \$10 charge is optional if a participant wishes to add a steak to the dinner included in their registration.

Registration is open for both participants as well as for sponsors. Anyone interested is able to do so either online at www.birdease.com/HISBUILDING-GOLF or by emailing Cey (hisbuilding-golf@gmail.com). The tournament is scheduled to take place at the Strathmore Golf Course on July 8 starting at 12:30 p.m.

an open house at the local fire hall on May 7.

The event was free to attend, and was hosted by local fire crews and town emergency management staff.

According to Sara Coutts, emergency management coordinator for the Town of Strathmore, the aim of the open house was to promote individual and community preparedness so as to lessen the impact of potential disasters in the region.

“Emergency preparedness week is a way for Alberta and Canada as a whole to get community members more prepared. This year, Emergency Preparedness Week is all about building preparedness habits,” she said. “It is critical for our community members to take steps needed to be prepared for an event in case it happens within our region as we have seen before.”

Some of the material which was promoted during the open house included escape planning, 72-hour kits and Voyent Alerts.

A Voyent Alert is similar to an Alberta Emergency Alert, but is used at a more local level to communicate with subscribers regarding situations such as emergencies, evacuations and advisories.

“Our hope is that our community members will help us by using Voyent Alert to keep up to date on need-to-know information and get involved with emergency preparedness,” said Coutts.

During the open house at the fire hall, Coutts added there were four stations for folks to interact with and learn about methods to be prepared for an emergency.

This year’s event is the first such open house which has been hosted by the town and fire department, though it is

not the inaugural practise of Emergency Preparedness Week.

“We were hoping for a good outcome. I think our last open house for fire prevention week, we had about 150 to 200 people show up. We would like to see as much of the community come as possible,” said Coutts. “We really want to widen and grow our capacity, and so emergency preparedness on an individual level is a huge part of that. We really want to just make sure that our community members are ready and know what to be ready for.”

May 7 marked the second day of emergency management week, according to Coutts. Throughout the remainder of the week, she added the town will be sharing a variety of resources with more information regarding emergency preparedness and how to be prepared.

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Emily (Bolinger) Corner and Kyle Corner, known as The Wandering Off, are former students from Strathmore.

Photo Courtesy of The Wandering Off

Wandering Off

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

The band The Wandering Off features two former Strathmore students, Emily (Bolinger) Corner and Kyle Corner, who released their self-titled debut album on March 31.

The couple has been together since 2005, but only writing and playing music together since 2021. During the pandemic, the two sat down and decided it was time to let the creative juices flow.

Looking back on their time in Strathmore, the two both remember the music scene as being on fire.

"It was the mid to late 90's and it was the music of that era that inspired this album," said Kyle. "The music scene in Strathmore during that time was just killer."

The Wandering Off sound is described as having influences from grungy artists of the 90's like the Smashing Pumpkins, Gin Blossoms, Goo Goo Dolls and Nirvana.

The high school had Battle of the Band shows and Kyle's siblings were in a rock band.

"I couldn't believe how cool the music scene was," he said.

Kyle recalls of when he was younger and having to hide behind the shuffleboard as bands would come to his house to jam.

"That class of '97, '98 and '99 - there's some cool musicians in that era," he said.

Trevor Corner, Kyle's brother who passed away in 1997, was an inspiration to Kyle and his memorial plaque hangs in their home studio

"I kinda think he has some part in this record," Emily says of Trevor's spirit.

"I came from such musical talent and as a kid it just never clicked," said Kyle. "It took many, many years for me to finally come back around to playing music."

Emily recalls how she was known to sing in front of the school with no hesitation.

"I think we had a little band going in high school," she said. "Music has always been a big part of my life."

Despite attending the same school, the pair met in college. They met randomly at the Gateway, of all places, in Calgary while they were both attending SAIT.

"It was a random love at first sight type of moment," said Emily of the chance encounter.

Throughout their time in Strathmore, the pair were often at the same punk band event or some sort of musical affair, but never crossed paths.

"That town just never leaves me," said Kyle. "Of course, I meet a girl from Strathmore."

Emily's family is from Gleichen whe-

re she grew up farming. She attended elementary school in Gleichen and junior high to high school in Strathmore - graduating in 2004.

Emily has recorded two previous albums in her early 20's. Emily was also featured on the MuchMusic TV show disBAND in 2010.

Since that time, the pair got married, had kids, and as life often does - it takes you in different directions.

However, in March of 2020, the pandemic hit and Kyle started playing guitar and other emotions came about.

"I got my creative chops back," said Kyle.

Emily recalls that time period when the two decided to create their home studio.

"It was like all this weird magic happened," said Emily. "These songs just started to happen. We just love music and this is fun and we aren't really doing it for any other reason except for that."

Rocket Grid Studio in Strathmore is another Strathmore connection for the pair. They connected with Tyler Hille who created their music videos, their website and their merchandise.

Emily explains that writing music in your 30's is a lot different from when she would write in her 20's. "I've just been through so much more now," she said. "It's a different perspective of everything now."

The pair both work full-time jobs and sometimes the inspiration for the songs comes from simple places like coworker's lives.

"There's also some good old-fashioned love songs, songs about loss, songs about standing up for yourself," she said. "I feel very grateful that I can write about these experiences. We have the first record out and we are just trying to get as many people to hear it as possible."

"We haven't done any live events yet, but we do plan to tour," said Kyle.

Being a pandemic band, they haven't had the opportunity to play live yet but it is something they look forward to.

"Most bands or artists are younger and have a little bit of flexibility," said Kyle. "But we have two kids at home and careers on the go, so we are just trying to navigate when the right time will be."

As for what the future holds for the pair, definitely a new album, possibly children's songs or writing for shows, or who knows. What they do know is that "music has just become a huge part of us now," said Emily.

If you would like more information on The Wandering Off you can visit their web site (<https://www.thewanderingoff.com>) where you can purchase their album and also their locally produced merch courtesy of Rocket Grid Studio. Their new video Hey There is also available on YouTube.

Obituary



CARDIFF, Robert Gordon

Uncle Bob, a quiet, gentle, soul, left us for his heavenly home April 16, 2023, just a few days short of his 78th birthday.

Bob was born April 28, 1945, in Saskatoon, SK. Not long after, he was adopted by Bill and Kay Cardiff and was raised in Lloydminster. In high school, he met the love of his life, Colleen Strickert. They were married on February 19, 1966. Bob and Colleen lived many places, including Sherwood Park, Bellview, ON., and Kelowna, B.C., finally settling in Strathmore, AB, in 2007. They raised two sons, Brent and Jason.

Bob became a Christian in 1976. He took his faith very seriously and was baptized shortly after. He became involved with the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship as a speaker and president of his chapter. Bob was quite athletic. He excelled in swimming and was an instructor in the Red Cross swimming program. He also played and coached hockey, being named Coach of the Year four times in minor hockey. Bob became a master electrician. He continued his education in the fields of business administration, business law, cost accounting, project management, marketing, stress-management, grief counselling, and tourism. He had jobs in Edmonton, Edson, Lloydminster, Kingston, Toronto, Kelowna, and Calgary. He worked as an electrician and became a project estimator responsible for preparing and submitting proposals for major plants and projects in the Oil Sands. He also looked after all electrical permitting and inspections. Project values were in the billions of dollars.

Some of Bob's volunteer work included funeral services director, palliative care helper, suicide help line worker, and radio auction host.

Bob was predeceased by his parents, Bill and Kay Cardiff; his wife Colleen; sons Brent and Jason; nephews Lester Bruck and Marvin Johnson; nieces Elaine Johnson and Sharon Brown; and all of his in-laws except for his sister-in-law Vivian Bruck.

He is survived by his nieces Barbara Gustafson, Brenda Schultz, Darlene Friedel, Gloria Svendsen, and Sylvia Ramquist; and nephews Doug Graham, Roy Johnson, and Bob Johnson; and many great nieces and nephews.

Bob started having health issues in 2020 that led to him losing his ability to manage on his own. A wonderful care home was found for him that allowed him to keep his beloved dog, Darla. We are very grateful for caregiver Sharon Sequillion who has provided amazing care for Bob these last three years, right up to the time of his death. We also appreciate the care and kindness of Dr. O'Brien and the staff at Strathmore Hospital.

Bob's family also gives immense thanks to Brenda Schultz and her family for the many ways they helped to facilitate Bob's comfort and well being up to the very end of his earthly life.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at Rosebud Church at 2:00 p.m. To send condolences, please visit Bob's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca

Until we meet again.
Rest in Peace Uncle Bob.

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Please apply with resume to the Rockyford Village Office at 110 Main Street, Rockyford, AB; fax it to (403) 533-3744; e-mail it to village@rockyford.ca or mail it to Box 294 Rockyford, AB T0J 2R0.
Deadline for applications is May 19, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
We thank all applicants, but will only be contacting those chosen for an interview.

Strathmore Wheatland Wellness Resource Project (SWWRP)
The Community Collaborative members of the Strathmore Wheatland Wellness Resource Project (SWWRP) are in search of a **RESOURCE NAVIGATOR** for a grant term position till November 2023. This position has a wellness focus with planning and performing outreach initiatives in Strathmore and Wheatland County. This position requires a flexible schedule based on 25 - 30 hours/week and may include a few evenings and occasional weekend hours to facilitate programming and events.
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Growing Families Society for East Rural Counties | Strathmore Wheatland Wellness Resource Project

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Upcoming Council Meetings
 May 3, 2023 | 6pm Regular Council Meeting
 May 10, 2023 | 6pm Committee of the Whole
 May 17, 2023 | 6pm Regular Council Meeting

Want to speak at a Council Meeting?
 Members of the public are welcome to speak at Council or Committee of the Whole Meetings during the Public Comments or Public Hearing portion of the meeting. Learn how at Strathmore.ca/CouncilMeetings



Holiday waste collection

Strathmore’s residential waste collection schedule is no longer impacted by holidays, except for Christmas and New Years Day.

This means that if your regular collection day falls on Victoria Day, (Monday May 22), you should put your carts out in their regular spot for collection!

Find your waste removal schedule at Strathmore.ca/Waste-Collection

Collection schedule updates

Weekly Green Cart collection resumes on May 1.

Reminder, extra compost bags can be placed curbside for regular pick up, just make sure to affix an extra bag tag (green tags) to the bags. Tags can be picked up for free at the Strathmore Municipal Building.

Summer camp registration is open!

The Recreation Team has made some exciting updates to the Summer Camp Program, including new themes, age groups, and an option for pre-care.

This year’s themes promote physical literacy and the importance of staying active. Kiddos can enjoy multi-sport, pool fun and swimming lessons!

Register today at Strathmore.ca/SummerCamps or call 403-361-2121.

Urban hen pilot project

If you haven’t heard the egg-citing news yet, residents can now participate in the Urban Hens pilot project.

You’ll need to do a few things to prepare for your new feathered friends. To get started, visit strathmore.ca/urbanhens. or call Municipal Enforcement at 403-361-2112. Happy Henning!

Career opportunities

The Town of Strathmore is hiring full-time, part-time and seasonal positions including:

- Summer Camp Counsellor
- Manager, Community and Social Development
- Sports Centre Lead Attendant
- Special Projects Coordinator
- Taxation Clerk
- Casual Lifeguard / Instructor
- Contract Group Fitness Instructor

Head to Strathmore.ca/Careers to join the team!

Be a part of Canada Day

Have you ever dreamed of taking the main stage? Here’s your opportunity!

We’re seeking various acts to entertain the crowds in Kinsmen Park on Canada Day. If you’re interested in promoting yourself and gaining exposure this is your chance.

Juggling, magic, balloons, comedy and music – if this sounds like you, get in touch with us at Strathmore.ca/BookaGig

Smile cookies are back!

May 1 – 7 you can purchase Smile Cookies to help support our local FCSS. 100% of your cookie supports emergency social services and other essential programs for our community. Helping our community never tasted so good!

Head to Strathmore.ca/Smile to pre-order your cookies!

Tour 546 Tradeshow

Registration for the tradeshow are live! Join the region’s largest tradeshow on May 28, and promote your business or industry.

Register now at swcc.ca

Council’s Priorities

What is a strategic plan?

At the beginning of each term in office, Town Council establishes a strategic plan which will guide their four-year term. This plan identifies key priorities that Council feels are the most important actions to effectively steward Strathmore towards a brighter future. These priorities also work to inform the Town’s annual budget and provides their CAO with direction as to where to invest staff time and resources.

Once created, staff develop Business Plans based on Council’s Strategic Priorities and provides periodic progress reports to Council. The Council Strategic Plan is reviewed and updated as needed over the term, based on emerging priorities and needs.

Strathmore’s Town Council has identified six areas which will receive focus during this Council’s term. These priorities are not listed in any particular order of importance or priority; however, were selected based on community feedback provided to Council as well as current service opportunities and challenges from Administration.



AFFORDABLE LIVING
 Strathmore is an affordable community for residents and businesses enabling access to housing, services, and supports.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
 Strathmore provides predictable and prudent tax rates and user fees that reduce overall Town debt, build financial reserves, maintain existing assets, and plan for sustainable growth.



INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
 Strathmore creates communities for its residents and with its neighbours (Siksika Nation, Wheatland County) and institutional partners, which promote sustainable and intra-dependent family friendly spaces.



CLIMATE RESILIENCY INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
 Strathmore protects, manages, and enhances its local environment while preparing for future challenges due to climate change.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 Strathmore is well-positioned to encourage commercial and industrial economic development with a focus on sustainable growth.



COMMUNITY WELLNESS
 Strathmore values Community Wellness focused on the maintenance, protection, and improvement of services that support optimum lifestyles.