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#### Page 5



Reds swing

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Breakfast of Champions

# STRATHMORE TIMES

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# Strathmore gets new bus service

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Flixbus has introduced a new stop in Strathmore, which opened for operations as of May 15, including the town amongst several other stops across southern Alberta.

Similar connections through the transit service include Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Okotoks, Claresholm, Fort Macleod, Lethbridge, Bassano, Banff and Medicine Hat.

Karina Frayter, head of communications at Flix North America, explained the company is aiming to make intercity travel more accessible, particularly in regions which have previously been overlooked by other transportation networks.

"Strathmore made a lot of sense. It is right on the route between Calgary and our recent addition in Medicine Hat, and it is a vibrant, growing community that has not had a reliable long-distance travel option," she said. "This stop helps fill that gap and connects Strathmore residents to more of Alberta and beyond. Now felt like the right time to bring it into our network."

Getting to this point, she added the team was required to evaluate factors such as route patterns, community needs, demand forecasting, and infrastructure suitability.

Following the launch of Flixbus services in and out of Medicine Hat, Frayter explained it created a beneficial and convenient opportunity to add the Strathmore stop to their services as well.

Continued on Page 4



#### **Future rodeo stars shine**

Emily Hopp of Strathmore participated in the Strathmore High School Rodeo at the Strathmore Ag Grounds on May 17-18. The event is held annually during the May long weekend and is the last event before the Alberta High School Rodeo Finals next month. See Page 7 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo





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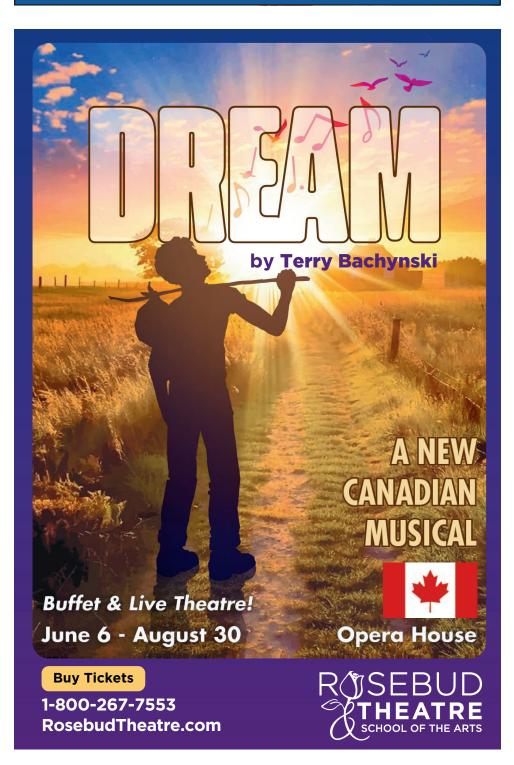
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Jake Gelderblom is the Q1 recipient of the Hearts of Our Community Business Award, which recognizes local entrepreneurs who serve their communities.

Photo Courtesy of Jo Huzan

# Showing heart for the community

**MELISSA PICHE** *Times Contributor* 

Jake Gelderblom, owner of Joker Bicycle Co. in Carseland, has been named the Q1 recipient of the Hearts of Our Community Business Award, an honour celebrating local entrepreneurs who go above and beyond to serve their com-

Gelderblom was clearly moved by the award, which is presented by Community Futures Wild Rose.

"I was very surprised ... I was nominated since December, then I was called out of the blue." he said with a laugh when he received the phone call informing him of his accomplishment.

Founded just three years ago, Joker Bicycle Co. has quickly become a staple in the local community, offering more than just bikes and repairs. The shop has become known for its commitment to environmental sustainability and helping those in need.

Gelderblom credited the collective efforts of many people, including Denise Geremia who previously owned Lil Hoots Family Consignment, who were inspirational in the initiative of the free bikes for the community.

"We're partially about helping the community," Gelderblom explained, "and also keeping bikes out of landfill – just repurposing rather than buying new all the time.

"I think I'm old school. I like the older ways of doing things, like people standing together and helping each other. A lot of people don't do that any-

more.

His actions reflect that philosophy. He's known for quietly donating bikes to those in need.

"If someone comes to me, like a kid who doesn't have a bicycle, I'll gladly give him a bike," he said. "There's a freedom that comes with bicycles, that needs to be enjoyed. I think something like this brings people together again, and also families sticking together."

Despite the demands of running a business, Gelderblom said he finds the community work rewarding especially when it brings smiles to children's faces.

"Sometimes it's a push for time ... but seeing a 12-year-old smile makes it rewarding in itself."

Gelderblom has also volunteered his time to the Kiwanis Bicycle Rodeo teaching bike safety and on-site repairs. Gelderbom donates 80 per cent of his earnings reinvesting back into his passion for bike donations.

Looking ahead, Gelderblom hopes to launch programs that teach youth about bicycle repair and maintenance and more generally how to ride bikes.

"I'd like to teach a thing ... maybe get a space to run it," he said, though he noted the challenges of finding both time and equipment to get the idea off the ground.

The award, Gelderblom emphasized, isn't just about him.

"It's not just me – this award reflects a group effort," he said. "There's always someone helping out. The community is really behind us."



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# **Town Committee of the Whole** discusses debt management policy

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore Committee of the Whole discussed a debt management policy during the May 14 meeting, which aims to help develop guidelines for future budgets and taxation.

A need for the town to establish a debt management policy was identified within the strategic plan, thus administration undertook a review of the policy and compared it with recommendations by the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA), as well as best practices used by other municipalities.

As recommended by the GFOA and requested by town council, the policy helps ensure local debt is issued and managed prudently in order to maintain a sound fiscal position and maintain the town's credit.

It was clarified during the meeting the policy does not represent a change in current practices but rather adds a formal policy to ensure these practices are followed and provides future councils and administrations with guidelines to

"One of the things that I have found with this council is we have been really diligent on paying down our debt to ensure that we are well beneath our debt limits," said Leana Ashbacher, senior manager of financial services. "Our total debt servicing in this policy ... states that the debt servicing should not be above 18 per cent. We are a total of 6.6 per cent. Our tax supported debt servicing is only 4.3 per cent."

Coun. Denise Peterson added during her tenure as a councillor she has never seen the town's debt serving at such low numbers.

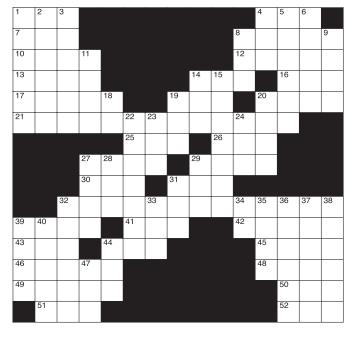
Generational equity, which is referenced throughout the document, suggests ensuring the "right taxpayer pays for the right project." For example, financing a project with a 10-year service life over 25 years may see taxpayers who did not benefit from that given project would still be paying for it beyond the expiry of such a project.

Inversely, financing a project with, for example, a 75-year service life over 25 years would be more appropriate, as taxpayers who would actively benefit from the project throughout its service will be the ones contributing to it.

"If we build a road, it is great to be able to pay for stuff up front with cash, obviously, but the road is going to get used for the next 25 years, so in theory, the people who could be paying for it, could be paying for it over the next 25 years as well," said Coun. Jason Montgomery. "If the cost of borrowing does not exceed the cost of inflation by too much, or even if it is less, then you are actually coming out ahead."

In regard to new councils, it was also clarified during the meeting, financial management training is included in new council orientation packages, and in-depth, targeted training sessions on specific topics are provided to councillors during their terms.





#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 4. British thermal unit 7. Afflict
- 8. Refrain from harming
- 10. Galls
- 12. Leg bone
- 13. Rhine distributary
- 14. Recipe measurement 16. Chap
- 17. Useful book
- 19. Mountain Time
- 20. Snakelike fishes 21. Places where people live
- 25. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
- 26. Periodical
- 27. A type of sense

- 29. A way to get possession of
- 30. Everyone has one 31. Body art
- 32. Mr. October
- 39. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- 41. Head movement
- 42. Jeweled headdress
- 43. VCR button
- 44. A way to change color
- 45. Basketball move
- 46. Upright stone slab
- 48. Forest-dwelling monkey
- 49. Pulsate steadily 50. Negative
- 51. Sino-Soviet bloc (abbr.)
- 52. Unit of work

# County discusses local hamlet designations

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County Committee of the Whole discussed local hamlet designations during the May 13 meeting, with the goal of eventually adding additional clarification to the formal designation.

In the fall of 2021, Wheatland County council passed a resolution directing administration to conduct a review of all county communities for the purpose of determining which qualify for the hamlet designation according to the Municipal Government Act.

Administration was to provide council with a recommended list of individual communities to be formally designated as hamlets by council resolu-

At the time, council's interest in hamlet designations was linked to provincial, as well as other grants available to small communities for municipal servicing infrastructure.

The requested report was presented before council during the Nov. 22, 2022 regular meeting. At the time, council accepted the hamlet designations report as it had been presented and directed administration to bring forward information to a future Committee of the Whole meeting with possible actions regarding the previous report.

Under the Municipal Government Act, an unincorporated community may be designated as a hamlet if the community consists of five or more buildings used as dwellings, a majority of which are on land parcels smaller than 1,850 square meters, the community has a generally accepted boundary and name, and contains parcels of land used for non-residential purposes.

The Municipal Government Act does not specify how a municipality must designate a hamlet. Previously, Wheatland County communities have been designated as hamlets by bylaw, however this has not been a consistent practice.

An example of this includes Cheadle, which does not have a specific bylaw designating it as a hamlet but does have an adopted Area Structure Plan - adopted bylaw - which refers to it as the "Hamlet of Cheadle."

County administration presented the committee with two options for consideration, being either to maintain the current status quo and keep the existing inconsistent, somewhat unclear designations, or to create a new bylaw which would be singularly definitive listing the hamlets within the county's borders.

Passing such a bylaw could repeal previous specific bylaws and would provide consistency and clarity for council, administration, local businesses and residents of such communities.

Following the report, administration was further directed to bring forward a Request for Decision regarding hamlet consideration with a community engagement plan for future council consideration.

Additionally, administration was directed to investigate current Government of Alberta infrastructure funding programs, application requirements, and any contemplated changes, or additional programs in regard to designated hamlet communities.

It was not indicated during the Committee of the Whole meeting when precisely the Request for Decision would be brought before council.

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Island
- 2. Pittsburgh ballplayer
- 3. Chemical compound
- 4. Indicates density of data (abbr.) 29. Mahal
- 5. Mesas
- 6. Wild, long-legged sheep
- 8. Engine additive
- 9. "CSI" actor George 11. Stony waste matter
- 14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone 36. Type of solution
- 15. Pores in a leaf's epidermis
- 18. Digraph
- 19. Married woman
- 20. Peripheral
- 22. Northern Italy city
- 23. Klutz

- 24. Type of tree
- 27. Witnessed
- 28. Popular breakfast food
- 31. BoSox legend Williams 32. Professional drivers
- 33. Atom or molecule type
- 34. The Constitution State
- 35. Chest to store clothes (Scottish)
- 37. Speaker
- 38. Specifying
- 39. Formerly (archaic)
- 40. Wiseman and Krom are two
- 44. The bill in a restaurant 47. Tennis shot

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## Thought for the Week

It can take
great courage
to faithfully
follow
what we know
to be true.
S. Anderson

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#### SMP gives back

Strathmore Motor Products donated \$500 to the Strathmore District Health Foundation (SDHF) for new equipment required by the hospital. Some of the funds were from SMP's Ride & Drive event where the company donated \$20 for every test drive. Maria Kooistra (I-r) from Strathmore Motor Products presented the cheque to Joyce Bazant (SDHF President), Florence Vander Velde (SDHF VP) and Linda Freeman (SDHF Fundraising Chair).

**Photo Courtesy of the SDHF** 

# RCMP provides tips to reduce auto-related theft

ALBERTA RCMP

This spring, your Alberta RCMP is providing tips to help prevent theft of, and from, vehicles.

In 2024, there were 8,272 auto thefts in Alberta RCMP jurisdiction, and 5,998 thefts from vehicles. In May alone there were 643 auto thefts, and 502 thefts from vehicles. Trucks are the most commonly stolen vehicle.

Simple habits and routines, such as the following, can greatly reduce your chance of being a victim of vehicle-related thefts:

- Always lock your vehicle, even if you are just stepping out for a moment.
- Never leave keys, garage door openers, or important documents with personal identifying information in your vehicle. Garage door openers or keys can be stolen, along with personal identifying documents, to enter your home.
- When leaving your vehicle, always close the windows, even when it's hot outside.
- Park your vehicle in a locked garage. If unable to do so, try parking within sight and in a well-lit area. This may mean leaving outdoor lights on.
- Ensure personal belongings, loose change, and valuables are not stored in your vehicle. These items can entice opportunistic thieves.

No one is immune to auto-related thefts, but by practicing

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Wednesdays Bible Study: 7 pm
Youth Fridays: 7:30 pm
Last Friday of every Month Hour of Dominion: 10 pm

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# Flixbus establishes stop in Strathmore

Continued from Page 1

"This is really about giving people more freedom to travel, whether that's to visit family, access services, go to school, or explore job opportunities. Strathmore hasn't had a lot of affordable intercity travel options, and our goal is to change that. We want to make it easier for residents to connect to larger cities like Calgary and Edmonton without needing a car," she said. "To our knowledge, there's nothing quite like what we offer currently serving Strathmore. There may be regional shuttle options, but nothing with the affordability and reach of a national network. We're definitely bringing something new to the table."

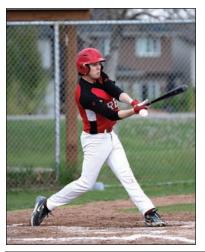
Similar to services such as airlines, tickets will become more expensive the closer to a given departure date that they are booked.

Frayter clarified however, even tickets booked late are often more affordable than other means of transportation for covering long distances.

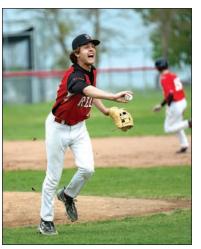
Strathmore will be a part of a much larger intercity route, however passengers are able to use the service to travel directly to their destination in either direction.

Flixbus will be stopping in Strathmore once a day, five days a week to begin their services. It is being considered a demand stop, which means the bus will only stop in town when there is a booking.

More information about the service is available through the Flixbus website. Routes, ticket bookings and prices may also be accessed this way, or through the Flixbus mobile app.









#### Close battle

The Strathmore Reds fell to 2-3 on the season after suffering a 6-5 loss to CN4 on May 16 at the Kinsmen Park Ball Diamonds. The Reds, who hosted CN3 on May 20 (result not available as of press time), will hit the road for a for game on May 25, before hosting the CN1 on May 30 (6:30 p.m.).

Joe Lepage Photos



#### **Zone champions**

The Strathmore Spartans girls' rugby team successfully defended their South Central Zone Rugby 7s Championship when they defeated Hanna's JC Charyk on May 16. After beating Banff 34-10 in the semifinal, the Spartans cruised in the final en route to their fourth straight zone championship. The Spartans will now travel to St. Albert for the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA) Provincial Finals May 23-24. However, because of the SHS grad the same

weekend, the Grade 12's will not head north for provincials, while some of the younger siblings on the team will head home after Friday's action. Despite the challenge, the Spartans aim to bring home a medal around their necks.

Photo Courtesy of Jerry Flaws



Looking for some pearls of wisdom for a more healthy body? Here are a few: Stretch before getting out of bed; floss daily; Keep hydrated by drinking a glass of water to start the day and with each meal; Use sunscreen; Add nuts to your daily diet; Move! don't sit too long without getting up and moving: Be social.

The trend toward consuming less alcohol has been given a boost recently by craft breweries producing non-alcoholic beers that taste really good but without all the negative effects of alcohol. Alcohol is classed as a carcinogen in the same category as tobacco and asbestos. If you enjoy the taste of beer but want to reduce your alcohol consumption, try a craft, non-alcoholic beer.

Good dental habits can help keep your teeth and gums healthy. Brush with fluoride toothpaste twice a day for at least 2 minutes. Floss at least once per day to clean between your teeth and under your gums. Rinsing with an antiseptic or fluoride mouthwash will also help prevent tooth decay.

With summer approaching, the subject of photosensitivity reactions comes up. Photosensitivity reactions are due to a reaction of UV light with medication in the skin. The reaction may appear as an extreme sunburn. Many drugs like sulpha drugs, antibiotics and others can cause this. Pharmacists will alert you if your medication may cause this problem.

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# County discusses parks and open space areas bylaw

JOHN WATSON Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council discussed a drafted Parks and Open Space Areas bylaw during the May 6 regular meeting.

The drafted bylaw was introduced to the Committee of the Whole, Nov. 19, for review and feedback. At the time, county administration was directed to revise the bylaw, obtain a legal review, and bring the draft to a future meeting of council.

Primarily, the bylaw aims to create a positive recreation experience for patrons, as well as to ensure safe, well-managed open spaces. Changes to the drafted bylaw were to improve clarity of language and purpose, and the scope of its jurisdiction.

The Parks and Open Space Areas bylaw draft was written from directions provided to county administration by the Severn Creek Dam Recreation Area Camping report, which had been presented before the Committee of the Whole on Aug. 20.

Leasing options for Crown land with a focus on minimal management approaches were also discussed by the committee.

Implementation of the Parks and Open Space Areas bylaw was deemed necessary should the county decide to pursue leasing arrangements for the Crown lands at Severn Creek Dam in the future.

Reeve Amber Link inquired councils' thoughts towards the prohibition of drone use outlined in the bylaw, acknowledging the activity as a hobby for which it is often challenging to be able to find places where operation is allowed.

Link suggested she was open to permitting drone use with limitations such as size and including provisions within the bylaw for the consideration of people's privacy.

"I like the way it is written because 12.1 says 'unless prior written approval has been attained by the CAO,' so if some-

body is taking a drone camping, they are doing it with the express willingness to operate it, they should get permission first," said Coun. Glenn Koester. "If the CAO does not condone it or maybe there is a space where he can go, he can explain himself, the CAO can approve it and it is a done deal, otherwise you are not allowed to fly a drone over top of my house, why would we allow it to fly over somebody else's campsite? That is disrespectful."

As addressed in the bylaw, camping will only be allowed in a designated area after a patron pays the applicable fees. For campsites that have historically been free to use, such as in Gleichen, the idea is for them to continue to be so.

First reading of the bylaw was approved by council, and administration was directed to bring a follow up report to council at a future meeting.



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# Lakewood of Strathmore continues expanding local pathway system

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore's walking pathway system is soon to be expanded, with another kilometer being set for construction throughout the Lakewood of Strathmore neighborhood.

Scott Silva, director of sales and marketing for Lakewood of Strathmore, explained as the community expands into its new phases, the team aims to continuously add new features and ameni-

"One of the great features right now is a pathway that we have around Brave Park and also around our small pond. Now, we are building our next pathway which is going to be close to a full kilometer, if not over, when we are done," said Silva.

"Our nine-acre storm pond, which is going to be part of Phase 2B, is going to have a pathway all the way around it just like how it is in our small pond in Phase 1."

Among the ongoing amenities developments throughout Lakewood of Strathmore, Silva added the pathway system will be expanded further during each respective development phase.

All of the new homes to see construction in the upcoming phase will have direct access to the pathway system which they will be backed onto.

"(Residents) will be able to go right out their backyard and jump on that path system and go around and enjoy the community. Ultimately, when we are done, Lakewood is going to have close to five kms or more of pathways in and around our community," he said. "It gives not only a chance for everybody to get out and walk around and get some exercise, you will see all kinds of activities from everybody rollerblading, walking, all kinds of kids out there having fun ... it is a great time out there."

Building onto the existing pathway systems is being considered both an investment from the developers into the community, as well as simply an integral part of creating a new community.

Silva added the presence of an extensive local pathway network serves to exemplify the community, allows people to navigate through it, and be able to more easily interact with their neighbours.

"Not only is it a recreational and physical activity component, but it really helps increase that level of awareness of your community ... and that knowledge of your neighbours and build lifelong friendships whether children (become) friends, or even all the way up to adults," said Silva. "The pathway is already underway right now, so we should have it completed here in the next couple of weeks. We have got some footage that will be shown on social media of the pathways and what is happening, but it will be available to use this summer."



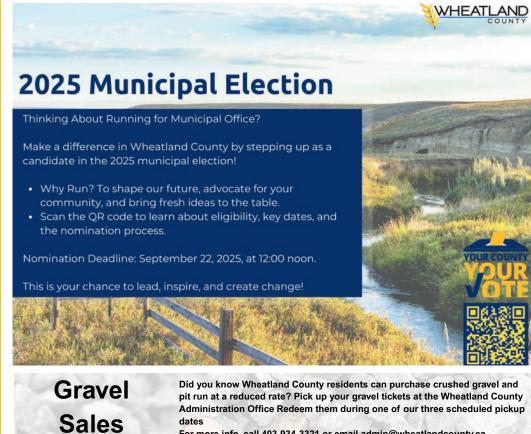
#### **Upcoming Meetings**

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.

June 3, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting June 10, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | Municipal Planning Commission June 17, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting July 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting

To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted.

Agenda packages can be found on our website.



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# High school rodeo takes over Strathmore Ag Society grounds



Strathmore hosted the Alberta High School Rodeo Association's District 1 rodeo at the Strathmore Ag Grounds on May 17-18. The Alberta High School Rodeo Finals are in Stettler, Alta. from June 3-8.

Joe Lepage Photos

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The annual Strathmore High School Rodeo took place on the Strathmore and District Agricultural Society grounds, May 17 and 18, with students coming from across southern Alberta to participate.

Don Johansen, who spoke on behalf of the Strathmore Rodeo Committee, explained the event serves as an opportunity for young athletes to get a jumpstart into the rodeo scene and potentially set themselves up to launch careers in their respective sports.

"This is good training for them to get going to become a professional athlete. It is a high school circuit, there are circuits in southern, central, and northern Alberta, and they compete at this, and then they will go on to the Alberta finals, and then the Canadian finals, and then to the finals down in the US," said Johansen. "It is quite an achievement for these young kids to make it all the way to the US finals for all of North America. This is the last one of the year – the season starts quite early –

and it will end with this one. Now they are going to start having all their finals and qualifying for (nationals)."

Throughout the course of the high school rodeo, featured sports included bareback riding, saddle bronc, bull riding, barrel racing, tie down roping, breakaway roping, steer wrestling, goat tying, team roping, and pole bending.

In addition to the students from southern Alberta in attendance, Johansen explained there were some who had come from Saskatchewan to also participate.

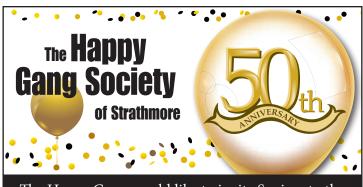
"You always want to win; you set your goals to make the Alberta finals, the Canadian finals, and then go on into the US for the big finals. There are prizes here but it is really about going forward to the next rodeo," said Johansen. "This is where they all learn. Even myself, I started in high school, went on to the Canadian finals and NFR, and the world finals. This is where you start."

Strathmore's high school rodeo has been an annual event for the last 54 years. During that time, it has grown to now feature hundreds of students competing to advance their early rodeo careers.

Among those students included is Rhys Desmet, 17, hailing from Strathmore, who competed in breakaway roping.

"My sister and I, we have high school rodeoed since we were just in junior high. We have always done it. It is like one big family, we love it and this is what we live for," she said. "Breakaway is always growing. I think it is the fastest growing sport and rodeo ... I look up to a lot of these girls, they inspire me, and after a miss you go get the next one."

Despite the competition, she added the students who attend are all rooting for each other and cheering for their peer's success rather than being there simply to win for themselves.



The Happy Gang would like to invite Seniors to the **50th Anniversary & Open House** 

Please join us for Coffee and cake on

#### Monday, June 2nd • 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm 85 Lakeside Boulvard

There will be VIP guests at 1:00 pm followed by Coffee and Cake, a chance to meet our activity leaders, learn about all the Games, Fitness Classes, Line Dancing and BBQ's, themed Potlucks, Christmas Dinner, Dinner Show Trips and other activities.

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#### New bakery on the block

The Latin Canadian Bakery opened on Third Avenue in downtown Strathmore as of May 16. Vanessa Giacalone, who owns the business, migrated her operations from Calgary to Strathmore following a residential move to the local area. Giacalone explained her grand opening saw long-time customers travelling from Calgary as well as coming in from the local community to show their support, all the while keeping her on her feet throughout the entire opening day.

John Watson Photo



#### Celebrating champions

Strathmore High School held its semi-annual Breakfast of Champions on May 15, where teachers honoured selected students. Each staff member chose a student champion based on their contribution to school, improvement, volunteerism, or work ethic.

Joe Lepage Photo

# Committee of the Whole discusses 2024 Recreation and Cultural Needs assessment

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore Committee of the Whole discussed the 2024 Recreation and Cultural Needs assessment during the May 14 meeting.

This review follows a direction made by council, March 6, approving a capital budget request to fund a Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment. The report had first been brought to council during the March 19 regular meeting.

At the time, council had directed town administration to bring the report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting for further review prior to being formally voted on.

The report contains detailed findings from research and community engagement conducted by the town, and provides recommendations for short-, medium-, and long-term priorities and direction in regard to recreation and cultural facilities and amenities.

"The information that put together those priorities was gathered through household surveys, interviews with community groups such as hockey, such as ringette, soccer, etc, then more of a focus group with those various groups," said Mark Pretzlaff, director of community and protective services with the Town of Strathmore. "The utilization of the arena for example speaks about how much it is being used. Obviously the one thing that we should note in that is that, that uti-

lization rate is specifically for our facility; it does not take into consideration any of the local arenas such as in Hussar or Rockyford and things like that."

A classification system was established for the town's priorities in regard to its facilities and amenities.

These are detailed by whether facilities are considered to be in high demand with low supply, which would be prioritized for investment and improvement, high demand and high supply which would require active effort to maintain and safeguard existing infrastructure, and low demand facilities which would require strategies to boost demand or to limit further investments.

High, medium and low priority actions have been listed in the recreation and cultural needs assessment. Addressing the town's ice arena facilities, which are currently evaluated to be at approximately 93 per cent utilization, appears on the indicated high priority actions list.

Data stemming from the assessment is able to be utilized to help shape the town's budget matrix and potentially increase or rank existing capital projects higher if they align with the highlighted priorities.

Conclusions drawn from the assessment suggest the town lacks adequate facilities and amenities which have not kept pace to adequately service its rapidly growing population.

The full document has been made publicly available through the town's public meeting agenda for the May 14 meeting.

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to find out if you're up to date and what to do if you're not.

Albertan

# Mean Girls enters centre stage

**MELISSA PICHE** Times Contributor

Strathmore High School's drama students are stepping into the spotlight this spring with a production of Mean Girls: The Musical, a bold and energetic show rooted in pop culture and packed with a message that resonates deeply with teens today.

Directed by long-time drama teacher Deanne Bertsch, the choice to stage Mean Girls was a deliberate one, meant to connect with students through familiarity and relevance.

"I just thought it would probably be a very popular show that the kids would enjoy because it's so iconic, and they all know it," said Bertsch. "And it's about teenagers too."

Despite its edgy themes and famous one-liners, Bertsch said the transition to the stage has been smooth with just a few adaptations.

"There are a few edgy parts that we've tried to

soften and make a little more family-friendly," she explained. "That's maybe a bit challenging because they want to do the edgy stuff."

This year's production is one of the biggest yet. With four separate casts and multiple students playing the same characters, including seven different students tackling the role of Gretchen, Bertsch has made it a point to involve as many students as

"I really tried to spread it out so all of them can have a chance at it, and that they would enjoy," she

Much of the choreography has come directly from the students themselves, a move Bertsch said has been both rewarding and demanding.

"I think I have 10 or 12 different choreographers this round," she noted. "It's been really awesome but so challenging, just because it takes up so much time. It's hard to learn the singing and choreography and everything they need to know."

What makes this production particularly powerful, according to Bertsch, is its message - one of authenticity and self-accep-

"I think the biggest message is it's important to be authentic and not get what you think you need to be for others," she said. "Teenagers are always trying to find a place to belong ... sometimes they find their place in not so healthy ways."

The opening number 'Where Do I Belong?' sets the tone.

"I just love the message of Mean Girls, that you don't have to be what everyone else is," she said. "You can just be yourself and that's the most glorious thing to be."

While there are no aerial acrobatics this year, Bertsch said the standout element is the student-led choreography.

"I'm really impressed with what these kids have done," she said. "They're being brave enough to stand up and say, 'Hey, I think I can choreograph dances for this song,' and they're doing an amazing job."

Performances will run nightly at 7 p.m. from May 30 to June 4, with 2 p.m. matinees on May 31 and June 1. Tickets are available through The Vault and can be purchased online or in

# **Buy local**

CHANTELLE DE JONGE Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Spring in Alberta marks a busy and important time for our province's agriculture sector. As the weather gradually warms, Alberta's farmers and food producers are preparing for the growing season ahead.

While spring brings opportunity, it also comes with uncertainty. As global trade tensions continue to rise, Alberta's farmers and food processors are working hard to adapt and stay resilient.

Fortunately, while American tariffs are not currently impacting Alberta's agriculture sector, Alberta's government remains vigilant. We continue to advocate for our farmers, ranchers, and food processors to ensure that our agricultural products remain protected.

At the same time, we're taking action to strengthen support for Alberta's producers here at home. Alberta's government has launched a new "Buy Local" advertising campaign to raise awareness about the incredible range of locally made foods and products, leverage Alberta pride, and inspire more consumers to choose local whenever they shop or dine out.

Supporting local is about more than pride – it's about sustaining Alberta jobs, Alberta families, and Alberta communities. Choosing Alberta-made products - from farm-fresh vegetables and potatoes to honey, craft beer, frozen foods, and our world-renowned beef - keeps Albertans' hard-earned dollars right here in our province. It's never been more important to show support in any way we

To help consumers easily identify Alberta- and Canadian-made products, Albergovernment ta's has launched a new website featuring tools to make buying local easier than ever. The site also offers links to farmers' markets, events, and activities where Albertans can connect directly with the folks who make, bake, and grow our food.

While we're working hard to support local producers here at home, we're also standing up for them abroad. China has imposed new tariffs on Canadian agricultural and food products - a disappointing move that poses a real threat to Alberta's farmers, ranchers, and food processors. Alberta's government is actively working with international partners to defend our agriculture sector, protect market access, and expand opportunities around the world. Our producers are known globally for consistent, high-quality products, and we'll continue doing everything we can to support them through this challenging time.

This summer, there will be more than 150 farmers' markets open across Alberta. It's a perfect opportunity to support local vendors, discover homegrown products, and meet the hardworking people who are feeding Alberta, Canada, and the world.

When you shop local, you're not just buying food - you're investing in Alberta's future. So, the next time you're picking up groceries, grabbing a meal with family, or getting together with friends, show your Alberta side. Buy local.

As always, please feel free to reach out to my office with your feedback and questions (Chester-

mere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca). (Chantelle de Jonge is the MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore and the Parlia-

mentary Secretary for Affordability and *Utilities*)

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# <u>Obituary</u>



#### BISHOP. Helen Elizabeth "Betty"

On the 13th of May 2025 Betty passed away peacefully with her family holding her hands.

Betty was born in Carmen, Manitoba on December 9, 1944, to Ben and Myrtle Dueck. She lived in Manitoba until the age of 20, then moved to Banff, Alberta in

Betty met and married Bruce, who was in the RCMP and stationed in Banff, in 1967. They moved to Brooks, Alberta, where their children, Belinda and Farley, were born. From Brooks, they moved to Elk Point, Red Deer, and then Strathmore in 1984 until

Betty sold Avon and had a mail rural route in Strathmore. She has been across Canada and the U.S. with Bruce in Lions. Betty was very supportive of Bruce in his Lions journey. She was very bubbly and outgoing and loved meeting people, where she could strike up a conversation with anyone.

Betty has five grandchildren: Brendan, Eric, Logan, Madison, and Haven. She lived a good life.

Betty has donated her organs and, at her request, will be cremated. There will be no funeral service. To send condolences, please visit Betty's obituary at

> Wheatland Funeral Home 403-934-4404



## <u>Obituary</u>



A Celebration of Life for Clayton Eigner of Rockyview, Alberta. 1. Sunday, May 25, 2025 Strathmore Station Restaurant

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www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca.

#### 2. Sunday, June 1, 2025

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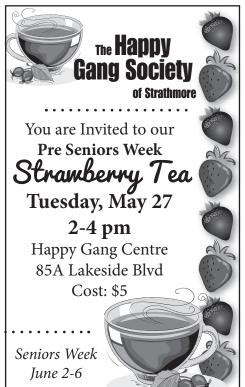
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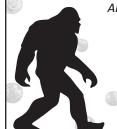
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**Upcoming Council Meetings** 

May 21, 2025 | 6 p.m. June 4, 2025 | 6 p.m. June 11, 2025 | 6 p.m. Regular Meeting of Council Regular Meeting of Council Committee of the Whole

Come Say Hi

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



#### **OCTOBER 20, 2025**

## 2025 is an election year. While it's not October, now is a great time to start learning more.

Municipal elections are where the decisions that impact your daily life are made—choices about the roads you drive on, the parks where your kids play, and the services that keep our community strong.

Ever wonder how those decisions come to life? They're made by people just like you—your neighbors, your friends, and maybe even you. Our town council is built on the voices of residents who care deeply about where we live, work, and grow.

There are four key ways you can be part of this election, and we'll be sharing more information as we get closer to election day:

- Register to Vote Make sure you're ready to have your say when election day comes.
- Nominate for Council If you're passionate about making a difference, consider running for office. You don't need to be a politician—just someone who wants to see our town flourish.
- Work the election Elections don't run themselves. Join the team that helps make democracy happen by signing up for an election worker role.
- Vote Every vote matters. Help choose the leaders who will represent your voice at the council table.

Here are a few dates you should keep on the calendar:

- Nomination Day Deadline: September 22, 2025 at noon
- Election Day: October 20, 2025

Stay informed and be part of the process. You can learn more by visiting **Strathmore.ca/Election**.

#### Mailed out and heading your way.

#### **Property Tax Notices.**

Property tax notices for the 2025 taxation year have been mailed. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye on their mailbox and contact the Town's Finance Department if their mailing address has changed or if they have not received their notice within the next two weeks. The deadline to pay 2025 property taxes is **Monday, June 30, 2025**.

The Municipal Building is open Monday to Friday (excluding holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Staff are available to answer questions, update mailing addresses, or assist with payment inquiries.

The Town of Strathmore also offers a Tax Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP), allowing residents to pay their property taxes in monthly instalments. To learn more about the program, or for general tax inquiries, contact the Tax Department at 403-361-2114 or email Tax@Strathmore.ca. For more information, visit our website: Strathmore.ca/Taxes

#### Speedy wifi? Yes please.

#### Fibre Optic Expansion.

The Town of Strathmore has partnered with Fibre Connect to expand the fibre optic main network in residential and business right-of-ways. Starting in spring 2025, Ledcor Technical Services will subcontract the work to bring high-speed fibre optic access to areas of Strathmore previously without coverage. Connection to the fibre optic will be at the discretion of property and business owners. Representatives from Ledcor and Fibre Connect will be visiting homes and business to seek permission. There is no obligation to connect.

For more information about this project or future availability of services such as high-speed internet, contact Fibre Connect directly at **info@ fibreconnect.com** or call **1-800-503-2731.** View the construction schedule & ongoing updates on our webpage, **Strathmore.ca/FibreOptics** 



#### Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 25-09.

#### Notice of Public Hearing.

#### June 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Garden & Garage Suites Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 25-09

Land Use Bylaw No. 14-11 is proposed to be amended to remove all references, regulations, and parking requirements related to Garden and Garage Suites, along with their associated definitions. All mentions of garden and garage suites are proposed to be deleted from the general provisions, parking standards, and definitions sections of the Land Use Bylaw No. 14-11. Additionally, "Garage Suite" and "Garden Suite" are proposed to be removed as discretionary uses from all land use districts.

#### **Public Hearing Process**

A copy of the proposed Bylaws may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website (https://strathmore.ca/en/town-hall/public-hearings.aspx). 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**, **June 4**, **2025**, commencing at **7:00pm** with procedures in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*, Section 199 and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw #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 Isadmin@strathmore. ca by **12:00 noon** on **Wednesday**, **May 28, 2025**, 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, May 28, 2025, as outlined in Bylaw #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 time.



