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Shining on stage

Page 6



Hitting the pitch

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> Look on Page 12 for Town of Strathmore Municipal Notices

Concerns addressed over coffee

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore hosted another Coffee with the Mayor session, at which some of the community's questions and concerns were addressed.

Hosting this type of session gives the Strathmore community an opportunity to engage with their council in a more casual setting as opposed to appearing before them during a regular meeting.

Mayor Pat Fule said among several topics which were brought up and discussed, affordable housing was one of the biggest, and he spoke about what the town was doing to both address rising rent costs, and create more affordable housing.

"Our planning department has become quite well-known for its red tape reduction and being very efficient in getting permits and things the developers need to them in a timely manner so they can get on with their work," he said. "We are hoping that we can attract more developers and builders for multi-unit housing (and) for rentals."

Fule added the most obvious way to address the housing issue is to create more housing, and the town has been working on its policies in order to make Strathmore more attractive for development.

Policy changes include rezoning in the downtown area, which allows for more multi-unit housing in downtown Strathmore. In addition to the creation of affordable housing, having centrally available lodgings can also benefit the



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"That will also help support the downtown businesses. One of the ways you rejuvenate or support a downtown area for a small town is that you have more people living in the downtown area, and that is going to support the retail that is there," he said. *Continued on Page 4*

Hometown rodeo!

Strathmore's own Rhys Desmet competed in the barrels during the annual Alberta High School Rodeo on May 20-21 at the Strathmore Ag Grounds. The rodeo brought in competitors from all over Alberta, including many from the local area. See Page 5 for more coverage. Joe Lepage Photo

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Chestermere-Strathmore

Grease on stage

MELISSA PICHE

Times Contrubutor

Students in Strathmore High School's Drama 20/30 class are getting ready for their final performance of the 2022/2023 season when they host Grease the Musical from June 2-7.

What makes this production so unique is the fact that there are multiple casts. That means there are roughly 70 actors and 10-15 tech crew members.

"We actually have five casts this time because there are so many kids in the class, I wanted to give them all an opportunity," said drama teacher Deanne Bertsch. "It's so big because it's such a popular play. Everyone knows the show, so they are pretty excited about the music. It's a great remembrance of the 50's. Such wonderful songs, uplifting, fun, hilarious songs and a lot of humour in the script, which is entertaining for the students to participate in."

Another unique feature with this particular production is one of the main props, a suped up 50's hot rod replica. Not only is it an amazing prop but it has a history.

"One of my students had a car that was used for a dance performance," said Bertsch.

The car they are using has a colourful background, as this is not its first Grease performance. It was used in a current Drama 30 student's dance performance in Okotoks some years back, and before that in Jubilations Dinner Theatre.

"We have a live band this time, again featuring Loralee Laycock on piano, several students, and Mike Smith, who is a Grade 6 teacher, is going to be playing guitar," she said. "We rehearse every day in class and then we do an after-school rehearsal once a week or so."

As opening night approaches, they more rehearsals will be added.

"(Grease is) a little bit off-colour, a little tongue-in-cheek, so be prepared for that," said Bertsch. "We encourage everyone to come because it's going to be a good time and the kids are just really excited about it."





Drama students at Strathmore High School rehearse in full costume for the upcoming performance of Grease June 2-7.

> Melissa Piche Photos

ting to pick up a little here," said Smith. "That pace is going to start picking up here."

This will be Smith's first time performing with the drama students; he has been asked in the past, but the stars just never aligned until now.

"This is my rookie time." Smith said. "I am absolutely stoked. These kids have really stepped up."

Smith said on top of the songs for the production, the band might throw together some preshow and post-show songs as people are getting seated and leaving. He thinks this "might spruce it up a little bit."

Smith's daughter Avery is also in the show, playing one of the Rizzo characters, making this a bit of a family event.

When he isn't teaching Grade 6 at Wheatland Elementary School, Smith can be found jamming with his band The Locals who have been playing together for a few years now.

The performance runs June 2-7, nightly at 7 p.m. and there are matinees at 2 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Tickets can be reserved in advance by calling 403-821-3203 or purchased at the door. Tickets are \$10 each.

"We've had a couple of rehearsals and it's star-

Hope Bridges Society finalist for \$25,000 contest

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Hope Bridges Society has been selected among five organizations to be a finalist for the Growing Home with BASF contest.

Having been selected as a finalist, the Hope Bridges Society is now seeking community votes for their chance to receive a \$25,000 prize.

"The contest was open to community organizations in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, and all nominations were during April. Now we have gotten to the Top 5 in Alberta," explained Janice Littlefair, Hope Bridges Society coordinator. "Hope Bridges was nominated by community members and we were not actually aware of this until we found out that we were in the top five."

Nominations for the contest were judged based on criteria including alignment to Canadian agriculture and alignment to BASF's values of building safe and healthy communities, diversity, all with diverse needs. The class is with a music therapist and the program encourages social interactions and connection while making music. Participants work on their music knowledge and develop skills through singing, or movement or instruments of play," she said. "The other big one we have going right now is our moving and grooving class, which is through a dance movement therapist. That class is all about accessible dance and movement, and feeling good in your own body. It is not about getting certain steps down or looking correct, just about how you are feeling and your overall wellness."

Littlefair added generally, there are between 15 and 20 participants per class, with two to three classes running every week.

Per their own description, the Hope Bridges Society is a non-profit organization based in Strathmore and Wheatland County that facilitates the connection of community members through inclusive music, movement and art programs with a



equity, inclusion, and/or developing future leaders in agriculture.

Littlefair explained should the Hope Bridges Society be successful in receiving the \$25,000 prize, the money will go towards maintaining their local music and arts programming at little or no cost to participants in Strathmore and Wheatland County.

"Our music discovery class is open to all adults,

focus on adults who experience isolation.

Voting for the finalists is live and can be accessed through the BASF website. Voting officially launched May 15 and is running until May 31. The winners will be announced June 12.

The Hope Bridges Society is joined as a finalist by the Irvine School Agriculture Discovery Centre, Marwayne Fire and Rescue, Tofield Agricultural Society, and Rosalind Recreation Association.



4-H BEEF CLUB SHOW & SALE

on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at the Hussar Arena, Hussar

The show will begin at 3:00 p.m. with the sale to follow at 6:00 p.m.

CONCESSION WILL BE OPEN. EVERYONE WELCOME!



Raising funds 'fore' a good cause

MELISSA PICHE Times Contributor

The second annual fundraising golf tournament for the Wheatland County Food Bank (WCFB) and the Strathmore and Wheatland County Christmas Hamper Society (SWCCHS) will be held at the Strathmore Golf Club on June 22.

Fundraising Coordinator with the SWCCHS, Lynn Thurston, says that the event will be a wonderful way for people to help raise funds for some very important nonprofit organizations right here in Strathmore.

"We never turn sponsorship down, believe me," said Thurston. "We're just trying to get the word out there."

Thurston says that on top of team registrations, they are always looking for sponsors. Last year's event raised \$6,000 each for the WCFB and the SWCCHS.

Last year the event had 32 registered teams and they are hoping for the same.

Mayor Pat Fule will also be attending the event and participating in a friendly local competition, while Boston Pizza will be sponsoring a food hole. She also said there will be a dinner after the tournament for registrants along with prizes and a silent auction.

Lynette Aschenbrenner, executive director of the Wheatland County Food Bank, said "It's a great way to raise some money for both of our organizations.'

Aschenbrenner explains that food insecurity happens all year long and raising money is an integral part to keeping the organization running.

"I'd like to continue to raise awareness of food insecurity in our community. It's something that exists all year round," she said. "All of our funds go into our operating account. We have to buy food, keep the lights on, to be able to have a building to provide stuff for the community."

Aschenbrenner said that having events like the golf tournament is a fun way to reach members of the community.

On top of the importance of the message, there is also a fun aspect.

Is this smoke our future?

"It's nice to be able to have some fun with our

donors and supporters," she said. "We don't always get to see people face to face so it's nice to have a good, fun afternoon."

Mayor Pat Fule will be participating in the golf tournament where he will be set up at the 14th hole

"I'll be there with Natalie Johnstone of 104.5 More Country. It's a pretty cool set up. I think it's going to be a lot of fun for the golfers," said Fule. "Natalie is going to have some little prizes and stuff to try to get people to take her shot, so that should be fun. Maybe I'll have to have a couple prizes too. This is the first time I'll be involved in this and I think it's a good event to raise money for the Wheatland County Foodbank as well as the Christmas Hamper Society."

Fule is aware of how important it is to raise money for nonprofit right here in Strathmore.

"I think it's a great way to raise money for these two worthy groups," he said. "I know the Wheatland County Food Bank is always in need of food and they do so much to service the people who are in vulnerable situations and help them to have food that can be used to help them stay healthy and safe and take care of their families.'

Fule has seen the food insecurity issues himself. "I've seen firsthand the demand for food at the Wheatland County Food Bank because for the last year I've been volunteering once a week. I help bag the WAM bags."

WAM is an acronym for Weekends and More, which is a take home bag of food for identified school-aged children, elementary to senior high, to take home over the weekends.

"I've seen the number of WAM bags increase strongly," Fule emphasizes. "There are a lot of people making use of the food bank so I think this is a really worthy cause. And we all know that the Christmas Hamper Society does so much to help people who are in struggling situations have a nice Christmas and their families can be looked after."

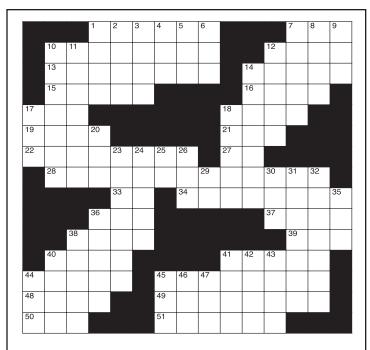
People are reminded to sign up as a team of four, no individual registrants. Deadline for registration is June1. If you would like more information, you can send an email (info@wheatlandfoodbank.com).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May 24, 2023 • Strathmore TIMES • Page 3



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Wear away by friction
- 7. Insecticide
- 10. Elicited a secret vote
- 12. Beef
- 13. Disagreement
- 14. Crawford, supermodel
- 15. Jeweled headdress
- 16.. Digits
- 17. Trillion hertz
- 18. Snap up 19. Classical portico
- 21. Residue after burning
- 22. Large integers
- 27. Free agent
- 28. Where ballplayers work

33. Blood type

34. Scottish city

36. Google certification (abbr.)

38. Make a sudden surprise attack on

45. Member of ancient Jewish sect

37. Serbian monetary unit

39. Wood or metal bolt

41. Famed neurologist

48. Griffith, Rooney

49. Lawmakers

44. Dullish brown fabrics

50. Government lawyers

51. The arch of the foot

40. Relaxing attire

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 2. Britpop rockers
- 3. National capital
- 4. Consumed
- 5. The habitat of wild animals 6. Sun up in New York
- 7. Cygnus star 8. Male parents
- 9. Talk to you (abbr.)

25. State lawyer

- 10. A place to clean oneself
- 11. Southwestern US state
 - 42. Any customary observance or

your camping? Now they're saying you may want to reconsider because of the smoke.

We have seen this type of smoke only a few years ago in the summer; however, this is spring, and summer looks like it's going to be another smoke out sea-

had to prepare for a snow event to possibly cancel The June 2021 heatwave saw dozens of record highs set throughout the province, including new record all-

son given what the current firefighters are saying.

This also could be the future, in using the latest phrase "the new norm."

12. South Korean idol singer Really? Is that what you want for your family's 14. Pirate ture? Just something to think about when you cast 17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.) your vote, who represents short-term thinking and 18. Mistake who's looking long-term for your future of living on 20. Promotions the planet.. 23. Prepares Dennis Bigras 24. Partner to flowed

- 26. Patti Hearst's captors
- 29. Pound
 - 30. Electronic data processing
 - 31. Sports player
 - 32. Treats with contempt
 - 35. Apprehend
 - 36. Excessively talkative
- 38. Highways
- 40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid 41. College organization for males

heat events – more frequent high-heat days, drier summers, and multi-year droughts - will be more frequent in the future as a result of a changing climate."

time highs in areas like Banff, Cochrane, Grande Prai-

Last week, Calgary's Emergency Management Com-

"Climate models expect that these types of extreme

mittee indicated the heatwave resulted in an estimat-

This above was the reported by CTV news over a year ago on Feb. 23, 2022, which seems to indicate why we're experiencing the huge wildfires now, due to previous drier weather which just adds to the tree deadfall fuel being created.

Remember when for the May long weekend, you

STRATHMORE

Mario Prusina Publisher

To the Editor

rie and Jasper.

John Watson Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Kristina Bezic Financial Manager

ed 66 deaths across the province.

Rose Hamrlik Advertising

Jody Schneider Production

Contributors: Laureen F. Guenther, Joe Lepage, Melissa Piche

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Wheatland County

- 43. Employee stock ownership plan
- 44. Male parent
- 45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 46. Female bird
- 47. Autonomic nervous system









Strathmore eScooter discussion continues

JOHN WATSON Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore Town Council is continuing discussions regarding the potential introduction of eScooters around town for public use and local transportation.

During the May 17 regular meeting of council, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kevin Scoble presented a request to council that resolution 104.05.23 be rescinded, and that administration be directed to prepare a report on private sector provision of eScooters and eBikes in Strathmore for council by Sept. 20, 2023.

"We have had some preliminary discussions with communities that do have eScooters, and a couple of the things they indicated is that the vendors are now bringing eBikes to the market as well, so it would seem most efficient to look at that and be current or perhaps a little ahead of the game if there is a new offering of that mode of transportation," he said. "As well, we have heard some lessons learned from other communities that may give us ways to, with this motion as written, allow us to take some learnings from other com-



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC Holy Cross Collegiate School Gym munities that maybe were not original options when eScooters started coming into use."

Resolution 104.05.23 was a resolution carried at the May 3 regular meeting of council, which stated administration was to prepare a report on the Bird eScooter system for council and that an appropriate timeline within the next quarter to bring the report back to council be determined.

The new direction, brought forward by Scoble, was suggested so that administration could provide additional clarity regarding when the report will be brought back to council.

Bird Canada attended the May 3 regular meeting of council as a delegation to present their eScooter service. In order to provide the service, Bird Canada requested Strathmore sign an agreement giving them permission to use the roads and pathways in town.

Scoble added though the idea appears plausible for Strathmore, it is early in the process of introducing an eScooter service to commit to a specific vendor.

"We do want to make sure that we are following public procurement requirements, so we do not want to infer directly or indirectly any particular affiliation with any particular vendor at this time to make sure that we are respecting those procurement requirements," he said.

Coun. Denise Peterson moved to accept the report from administration and provide the requested direction to prepare a report for review in September.

"I am very much in favour of this," she said. "I think that the timing really has not changed and I understand that it will be a work in progress, that when administration brings this back, it might not be all the information that we would eventually get, but it will be a beginning to address the process."

The motion was carried without further debate or discussion and without objection.

Coffee with the Mayor discusses local housing

Continued from Page 1

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5	4					1	

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LORD OF ALL (NALC) LUTHERAN 112 Lakeside Blvd. • 403-934-2374 *Pastor: Dawn Nelson* Sunday Worship Services – 10:30 am *Join us in Praising our Lord, Jesus Christ!*

STRATHMORE UNITED

Wheatland Trail & 3rd Avenue 403-934-3025 **Rev. Pamela Scott** Sunday Worship Services 10:30am Services posted on-line at: www.smoreuc.com Loop System for the Hearing Impaired W/C accessible Also referenced was a potential new residential complex on Centennial Ave. This project was initially defeated in council when it was discussed in March, but the developers are returning to council in July for another meeting.

Fule said he is optimistic that council and the developers can come to an agreement, however, large builds such as an apartment or townhouse complex can occupy lengthy construction times before units are able to be lived in.

For the time being, Fule is hoping to introduce garden and garage suites as a quicker way of introducing affordable lodgings to Strathmore. He explained garden suites are useful both for offering living options, but also serve financial benefits for those who rent them out.

The next planned Coffee with the Mayor is scheduled to take place Nov. 7.

FUTURE RODEO STARS





YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE Gord Morck Pharmacist Capsule Comments

Hip and knee replacements continue to be one of the most common procedures done in Canada. Did you know that for each kilogram (2.2 lb) of weigh-loss results in 4kg (almost 9 lb) less weight bearing down on the knee. Keeping one's weight down can result in healthier knees and hips and hopefully less possibility for the joints to be replaced.

The summer months are soon upon us and mosquitoes will be looking for your blood for nutrition. It's only the females who bite. Products containing DEET are still the most effective to discourage bites. Look for products containing 10 to 50% DEET. There is not much increase in effect above 50%. An alternative is products containing *icardin*. If you are looking for a natural product, oil of lemon eucalyptus might be a good choice against mosquitoes but not ticks.

Just another thought.....If you are going to apply both a sunscreen and an insect repellant, apply the sunscreen first then the repellant. Also, if you are attracted to "non-chemical" repellants like garlic, B vitamins, repellant bracelets or ultrasonic devices, save your money because they are not effective.

Marinating meat for 20 minutes or more prior to barbecuing can reduce the risk of carcinogenic chemicals forming when meat is cooked over an open flame. Although the risk of eating charred grilled meat and cancer has been seen in animal studies, it hasn't been scientifically proven in humans. But marinating and eating less well-done steaks can reduce any possible risk.

Hours: M-F: 9-7 pm Sat: 9-6 pm • Sun & Holidays: 11-5 pm







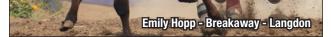




Strathmore hosted the Alberta High School Rodeo Association's District 1 rodeo on May 20-21 at the Strathmore Ag Grounds. The Alberta High School Finals are slated for June 1-4 in Stettler, Alta.

> Joe Lepage Photos







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Sharpening their skills

The Strathmore Spurs U7 soccer team was honing their skills during a practice on May 15 at the Ranch Market Soccer Fields. There are 39 players registered in the U7 program.



Joe Lepage Photos

Local businesses repairing, giving away bicycles

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lil Hoots Consignment Boutique and Joker Bike Repair are teaming up for the fourth year to refurbish and give away bicycles to the community.

The idea was initially started by Dustin and Sarah Richards, who operate Drivers Collision 2014, as a way to help out folks in Strathmore and area who may not be able to afford new bikes.

"Dustin and Sarah just had this desire to give back to the community, so they fixed up bikes and gave them away for free, and so we did it with them for the first few years," said Denise

Geremia, owner of Lil Hoots. "I think we gave away 10 bikes a week throughout the months of April, May, and a little bit of June. Then they would stop so that they could enjoy their summers."

This year, the original goal was to launch the initiative again at the start of May, but the Richards were unable to participate. Instead, Geremia reached out to Joker Bike Repair in Carseland.

She explained what the project would look like and what kind of an opportunity it would be to both do some good for the community, as well as to raise some awareness for the business.

"I said to them this is a huge ask because it was going to be their money and time, but it could be great advertising ... they took a little bit to think about it and then ultimately agreed and started posting that they were willing to go and pick up bikes," said Geremia.

"They quickly regretted that decision because they were driving around all over the place picking up bikes from Chestermere to Arrowwood. I told them no more of that and people could drop off their bikes here at my store."

Bikes are being collected in any size, from young child to adult, though because they are being refurbished and distributed for free, nothing will be measured or held for individuals.

Geremia said she is operating off a sort of trust system, that somebody who needs one will simply be able to drop in and pick up a bike.

"What we are also finding, is that people are passing it on and paying it forward, so we are

> finding that a lot of people are donating funds or buying lunch for the person behind them in a drive through because of the free bike," she added. "It has been amazing, and people this year are bringing back some of the bikes that we fixed up the last couple of years, swapping them for bigger bikes. They have kept them in really good condition so they can give away the smaller bike to somebody else."

> Both bicycle and monetary donations are being accepted at Lil Hoots in Strathmore. All of the money is going straight to Joker Bike Repair for volunteering their time and effort to get all the donated bikes repaired and ready to give away.

> The program will operate at least until the end of May, and Geremia hopes to have it going into June. Following that, it will begin again next spring.



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 6: Council Meeting **June 13: Municipal Planning Commission** June 20: 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.

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.

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



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- Visit the Wheatland County Administration Office to fill out the form in person.

For more information, please visit our website https://wheatlandcounty.ca/taxes/



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.

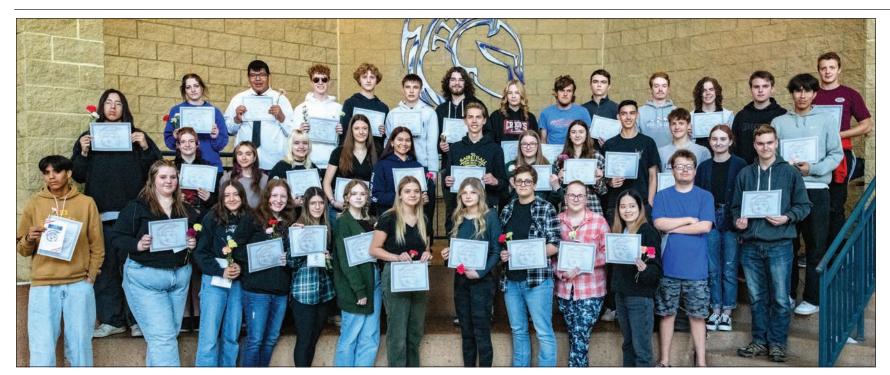




Wheatland County is now accepting applications for Dust Control. Prices and deadlines are as follows.

Calcium Chloride	lcium Chloride					
Second application order deadline	June 9, 2023					
Price	County Roads: \$5.33/meter plus GST					
Diling						
Application order deadline	July 7, 2023					

- Payment must be received with completed application(s).
- Dust Control will only proceed if there is sufficient interest.
- Minimum order 122 meters (400 ft.).
- Wheatland County applies a one-time double spray application of calcium chloride for all purchased calcium dust controls.
- Applications are available at the County office or on the County website www.wheatlandcounty.ca



Celebrating champions

Strathmore High School held its semiannual Breakfast of Champions on May 18 where selected students were honoured by their teachers and the whole school. Each staff member chose a student Champion to be recognized during the breakfast. Students are chosen based on contribution to school life, marked improvement, volunteerism and/or work ethic.

Joe Lepage Photo

Lakewood of Strathmore to unveil new public park

JOHN WATSON Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lakewood of Strathmore is hosting a public open house and ground breaking ceremony, June 1, for Lakewood's newest public park.

Local dignitaries, potential property buyers and the surrounding community have been invited to participate in the unveiling of Brave Park, which will be accompanied by activities, food, and refreshments.

"We are also going to be showcasing some of the new Lakewood, as we are calling it, so we have some of our new architectural controls that really help to define the rest of Lakewood and what is to come in the future," said Scott Silva, who spoke on behalf of Lakewood of Strathmore. "We go into detail about our upcoming landscaping plan, which includes all of our new trees and landscaping pathways also tied to Brave Park."

The Brave Park development was initially brought to Strathmore Town Council's attention roughly a year and a half ago. Since its introduction, the design of the park has gone through several designs and iterations based on the incoming playground equipment which will occupy a segment of the three-acre space.

Other features of the park which are intended to see development include a

pickleball court and outdoor ice rink.

"During COVID-19, there was a lot of supply chain issues and then cost overruns and rebudgeting; not to mention, just getting all of our ducks in a row to get the initiative going," said Silva. "One thing we would love to point out, is that this is a fully-funded private development. We have no federal, provincial or municipal money in this program or in this park development. It is all done privately through the development group."

He added the design of the field will include a large, open space for future programming, as well as for sports and recreational activities.

The pickleball court will be a double court, and the playground will occupy a total area of approximately 4,000 square feet.

"It has got three or four different types of playground setups within it, and then the last part of the park is a monument being designed here in town ... to honour our first responders, veterans and active-duty service members," said Silva.

Construction of the park is expected to be completed by the end of the "construction season," translating to roughly the end of autumn.

If not prior to the end of 2023, the park will see completion in early 2024, should final landscaping be required, and assuming favourable weather conditions during the construction process.

As a public park, it will be open to all residents throughout the community and the town.

Anduation Congratulations Class of 2023!



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Vault showcase

MELISSA PICHE

Times Contributor

The Vault is getting ready for a new feature artist as Brent Laycock prepares to showcase his *Symphonic Landscapes* collection.

"I started painting formally with lessons when I was 8 years old," said Laycock of his lengthy career in the arts.

He graduated university with a BFA and MFA in painting. Fresh out of university, he got his first job in the arts working for the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) in the production department of media services.

"Our job was to make things you couldn't buy elsewhere," he said of his time with the CBE.

In 1981 he started being a self-supporting freelance artist; this is where he flourished into the freelance landscape artist he is most known for.

"This is more of a retrospective show," said Laycock. "I was thinking we barely have enough to hang on our walls at home, but it turns out we had more than I thought. This represents mostly the work of my career. My primary interest is Alberta landscape."

Having grown up in Southern Alberta, he loves the variety in the landscape we are fortunate to have available. "Every direction you go you have something just a little bit different," he said. "I always felt like my big motivation was to do things that brought joy to other people. I'm always thinking of new approaches and new things. And as I get older, those changes become more subtle than dramatic."

Laycock's other collections can be found across Alberta - from Edmonton to Calgary, Waterton, Banff and Jasper.

"I love painting outside," he says, and with the warmer weather he is looking forward to getting outside to explore Alberta more. "Watercolour is a bit more portable and easy to manage outside."

This show is called *Symphonic Landscapes*.

"I loved listening to music," said Laycock. "I found out that listening to music taught me a lot about abstraction. I see every painting as an ab-



Brent Laycock set up his art exhibit *Symphonic Landscapes* at The Vault on May 13. His collection can be viewed daily for free until May 27 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Melissa Piche Photo

stract composition. There's a relationship between colours, shapes and lines and textures. And if you put those together the right way, even if it does not represent anything – if it's connected the right way – it generates a response."

Laycock is very in tune with the correlation between music and his painting. He says music is the same, having a certain number of bars, repeating chorus, using certain cyclic patterns – if put together in the right way – forms a song.

"My hope is that the viewers that come can see beyond the representation of the physical things like mountains and trees and look to see how does this colour relate to that and how does this texture work?" said Laycock. "What things are contrasting? If you can start to think about these things it can be a little more interesting."

His parting words for future artists: "Figure out what you want to do and work at it. Put the work in. If it's enjoyable it doesn't seem so much like work."

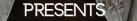
Laycock's *Symphonic Landscapes* art collection can be viewed until May 27 in The Vault's upper gallery. The Vault is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Town allocates more funding to aquatic centre roof replacement

JOHN WATSON Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore Town Council has passed an amendment to its 2023 capital budget, voting to allocate additional funds towards the aquatic centre roof replacement.

A request was brought before council during the May 17 regular meeting, which suggested approving \$105,000 of Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funding for the project.

Director of Community and Protective Services, Mark Pretzlaff, said cost estimations have gone up since project discussions began and the extra funding would be utilized to cover the extra expenses.

"Unfortunately, as (presented) in my

report, (the project) brings some cost increases, mostly due to inflationary costs from the initial budget that have driven up the costs for the aquatic centre roof replacement," he said. "This is a part of our capital project plan; it was identified in 2019 based on the age of the roof, as well as the conditions of it. The roof now is at approximately 20 years old ... it has a lifespan a little bit beyond 22 or 23 years because of the wear and tear on it."

The request would cover the additional funds necessary to complete the project, as well as some of the consulting fees associated with the engineering company which has provided their expertise on the matter.

In the report presented to council, it was documented that failure to replace

the roof may result in increased costs in labour and materials even further above current estimations.

Town administration contracted Williams Engineering to complete a building assessment on each municipal building in 2019. In these reports, the aquatic centre roof was identified as needing replacement due to its age, and visible cracks in its membrane.

Original estimations for the project suggested its completion in 2021 with an overall expense of \$400,000. The project was postponed due to financial constraints at the time.

Mayor Pat Fule said on a related note, having a surplus of finances in the town's reserves made being able to front the extra expense a tolerable ask. "This is a good example of why we have worked with and listened to the finance department as far as increasing our reserves, because this is an example where costs have gone up and because we have added to our reserves, we are able to do something like this and deal with the extra cost to a project that is absolutely essential," he explained. "There is basically no getting around fixing that roof, so kudos to the finance department, our Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and staff for putting us in a situation where we can deal with this."

Councillor Jason Montgomery moved that council approve the use of \$105,000 of MSI funds to complete the aquatic centre roof replacement. The motion was carried without further discussion.

Trellis hosting Kairos Blanket Exercise

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Trellis Commons Family Resource Network Team is hosting another Kairos Blanket Exercise at the Strathmore Civic Centre, June 2, exploring Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations throughout Canada's history.

A Kairos Blanket Exercise is a visual representation of what happened to Indigenous peoples as the British settled Turtle Island, told by locals from the Treaty 7 area.

"Trellis has made a commitment to reconciliation and doing our part in what reconciliation is. A lot of it is, I think people do not understand what the history is with Indigenous people, and where they are coming from," said Verona Woods, Trellis family and youth network specialist. "We need to understand and we need to learn ... and every-

Wildfire Smoke 101

HEALTH CANADA

As summer begins, it's important for us all to prepare for wildfire smoke. Wildfires produce thick smoke that can be a big source of poisonous air pollutants. This pollution contains gases and fine specks (not visible to the human eye) that enter our lungs and bloodstream, sometimes leading to serious health issues.

Smoke can carry hundreds or thousands of kilometres from the fire zone. There is no safe level of exposure for most of these pollutants. This means that smoke can damage your health even at very low levels. Air quality may go down even if you can't see or smell smoke.

Everyone is at risk from wildfire smoke but especially small children, pregnant people, elderly people, people with existing lung or heart conditions and people involved in outdoor work or sports.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Visit Canada.ca for resources such as our fact sheet Wildfire smoke 101: How to prepare for wildfire smoke, and our video Wildfire smoke and your health.

2. Speak with a health care provider about making a plan

body has a responsibility to themselves and to their families to learn their country's history."

Trellis has set a minimum age of 12 years to attend the blanket exercise, according to Woods, for families to attend with children mature enough to learn, engage, and take away from the event.

With limited space available, even during a blizzard, Trellis' previous blanket exercise hosted in Strathmore boasted a wait list for people to participate. Woods said the team is anticipating the June event to be similarly well attended.

The exercise also serves as an interactive experience for those who participate, which actively engages attendees in the learning and the stories emphasized during the program.

Woods explained Trellis had originally intended to host the exercise during Indigenous Awareness Week, though due to scheduling complications, opted to create a work-around.

"June is Indigenous People's Month, and usual-

ly we would host something during Indigenous Awareness Week, but with the way our schedules aligned, we were not able to do that," she said. "This is our event for the Indigenous peoples ... and is one of our bigger events that we are going to be hosting."

Kairos blanket exercises are among several events Trellis has hosted and participated in, intending to show their continued support for Indigenous Awareness.

The organization was present for the Lead By Example Powwow, with dignitaries joining the grand entry, and Trellis hosted their own powwow at the Strathmore curling arena last summer.

Trellis' June 2 Kairos Blanket Exercise will take place at the Strathmore Civic Centre, beginning at 6 p.m. and running until roughly 9 p.m. A traditional meal will be served during the event.

More information regarding the exercise, as well as how to register, is available online via Trellis' website.



for wildfire smoke events if you or your family are in at-risk groups.

3. Learn how to use recirculation settings on your HVAC system to prevent smoke from entering your home.

4. Buy a clean, good quality air filter (for example, HEPA filter) for your ventilation system or portable air purifier.

5. Make sure you have at least one working carbon monoxide alarm in your home.

6. If you can't keep the air clean inside your home during a wildfire smoke event, look for places in your community where you can find clean air. Libraries, shopping malls and community centres often have filters and air conditioning that make them safe places to take a break from the smoke.7. Download the WeatherCAN app, available on iOS and Android devices, to get free notifications about weather events, extreme heat and special air quality statements.8. Learn how to use the air quality health index (AQHI) to check air quality conditions in your community.

9. If you are responsible for creating or managing community-based cleaner air spaces for wildfire smoke events, find advice and a checklist within the Cleaner Air Spaces Guidance online (www.canada.ca). Whether they're thumbing through pages or swiping to the next article, 4 in 5 people in Canada read the news each week — by print, online or digitally.

Learn more at championthetruth.ca















Lego fun

The Strathmore Municipal Library hosted a free event for kids and families to attend, May 19. Bins of Lego bricks were laid out in the program room for attendees to freely use and build with over the course of the event, inviting youngsters to explore their creativity.

John Watson Photos

County discusses future development of wallboard manufacturing plant

areas.

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County Council has approved first reading on Bylaw 2023-08, being a bylaw for the purpose of amending the Goldfinch Industrial Area Structure Plan.

A report was brought forward to council by administration, May 16, for the regular meeting. County administration had also recommended scheduling a public hearing for the bylaw for public input.

commodate the wallboard manufacturing facility as proposed."

Confirmation of the applicant's findings will be provided by the county's third-party engineers and will be detailed in the public hearing report. According to Felds, county staff do not have any technical concerns regarding the servicing or access to the land.

Regarding site access, the proposed development will be accessible via a two-way entrance off Township Road 222 and is proposed to feature internal parking, shipping and loading

TIMES CLASSINICDS

<u>Obituary</u>



TOWNSEND, Royston (Roy) John It is with heartfelt sadness that the family of Royston (Roy) John Townsend of Strathmore, Alberta announces his sudden passing on Monday, April 3rd, 2023, at the age of 85. Roy is survived by his sons Brett, David, and Simon, niece Debi, grandchildren, and great-

grandchildren. He was predeceased by his loving wife, Rosemary, in 2019, and by his parents and brothers in England.

A keen and active sportsman, Roy enjoyed playing and watching soccer, playing pool, shooting, and riding his motorcycle throughout North America. His gentle presence and London accent will be missed by many, including his lifelong friends. Roy wished to be cremated with a private family service. A celebration of Roy's life will be held for those who knew him, with details to be confirmed. To send condolences and for updates on the celebration, please visit Roy's obituary at www. wheatlandfuneralhome.ca.

If friends so desire, donations in Roy's name may be made to The Happy Cat Sanctuary in Strathmore.

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

NEW ARRIVAL

Bryce and Abby Fowler are excited to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl

Mara James born on May 9, 2023, 6lbs 7oz, 21 in.

Proud Grandparents are Glenn & Sue Fowler and Harry & Gorete Salm

GARAGE SALES

Multi-Family GARAGE SALE **Ranch Estates • Centre Street** All welcome Friday, June 2, 2023 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm Saturday, June 3, 2023 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Traffic directed



PETS

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The purpose of the application, as presented to council, is to amend the structure plan by

revising the development concept and transportation network, and appending the CGC Wallboard Manufacturing Area Concept Plan in order to facilitate the development of a wallboard manufacturing facility.

Consideration of the Bylaw 2023-08 was advised to be taken concurrently with Bylaw 2023-10, which proposes to redesignate land indicated as desirable for development from Agricultural General to Intensive Industrial District.

"The applicant is proposing a 200,000 square foot wallboard manufacturing facility, a raw product processing mill, and an enclosed raw product storage facility on the site," said Taylor Felds, who presented on behalf of the county planning and development services team. "The applicant provided a summary of their engagement process, mitigation plan and technical studies in support of their application that all demonstrate that the site is suitable and can ac-

A traffic impact assessment was submitted in support of the application, which indicated a maximum of 119 two-way trips during weekdays at peak hours and 71 two-way trips during weekends at peak hours.

Affected intersections will still operate acceptably in existing and future conditions with or without development-generated traffic.

"The manufacturing plant aligns with the county's economic goals and policies, (by) which it aims to create 100 permanent, fulltime jobs and will benefit from the access via highway 24 and the CP Rail to move their goods and services," added Felds.

Council also approved first reading of the amendment to Bylaw 2023-10 as requested by administration.

A public hearing for Bylaw 2023-08 has been scheduled to take place in County Council chambers June 20 to allow for input from county ratepayers.



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TIMES CLASSIFICDS

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Upcoming Council Meetings

June 7, 2023 | 6pm June 14, 2023 | 6pm June 21, 2023 | 6pm

Strathmore.ca/CouncilMeetings

Regular Council Meeting Committee of the Whole 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



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

Summer fire safety

Strathmore is under a Fire Advisory. This means you can still have a BBQ or use your fire pit, but please remember to follow the regulations in place for doing so safely.

Don't engage in any activities that are always off limits, like discarding cigarettes out your window or setting off fireworks without a permit.

Visit Strathmore.ca/FirePits to learn how burn safely.

Free compose

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Get your hands on some free compost made from your organic waste – here's how:

1. Pick-up a compost tag from the Strathmore Municipal Building

2. Bring your tag to the Strathmore Recycling Facility and give it to the attendant

3. Self-load roughly 10 gallons of compost for your own personal use (BYOB, bring your own bucket)

Tax payment deadline

Property tax notices were mailed on May 24, 2023. The deadline to pay property taxes without a 10% penalty is June 30, 2022.

Contact the Town of Strathmore Property Tax Clerk for more information or to sign up for the Tax Installment Payment Plan.

Seasonal watering restrictions

Strathmore follows seasonal watering restrictions to conserve water. From May 1 through October 31, residents should only water their lawns after 5pm, or before 10am.

Watering restrictions do not apply to garden beds and flowerpots when you're hand watering, however these types of plants will also benefit from watering in the evening or early morning.

These restrictions also don't apply to sprinklers attachments and water toys when children are using them – so don't call the fun police!

Learn more about conserving water at **Strathmore.ca/WaterSmart**

Be a part of Canada Day

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

Seniors week is June 5 to June 11

Senior's week is coming up!

The Strathmore Municipal Library has a full week of free events lined up – including free walking and Aquasize events at our recreation facilities.

Head to **Strathmorelibrary.ca/SeniorsWeek** to get all the details!



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