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VOLUME 15 ISSUE 41

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Kings sweep

Page 5

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Declaring agricultural disasters

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Agriculture Service Board has directed county administration to draft a revision to Bylaw 2019-19, adding a clause to delegate authority to the board to declare agricultural disasters within Wheatland County.

The draft of the revised bylaw is to be brought back to the board for consideration to submit the recommended bylaw revision to council.

Administration described to the board during the Oct. 4 meeting, an Agriculture Service Board meeting is typically held in early July every year. By this time, crop conditions may be observed to determine whether they are favourable.

"Using information provided by board members, crop reports, staff, and moisture situation updates, the Agriculture Service Board would have the information needed to make the determination to potentially declare an agricultural disaster within Wheatland County," said George Bloom, agricultural fieldman for Wheatland County. "While the authority rests with council to declare a disaster within the county, council may delegate this authority to the Agricultural Service Board."

Bloom described in recent years council has requested by resolution that the Agricultural Service Board deliberate and make the final recommendation or decision about declaring an agricultural disaster within the county.

He added the decision to delegate the authority to the board is being made under the premise of streamlining the associated administrative process and removing red tape.

The delegation of authority does not preclude the ability of county council to make the decision to declare an agricultural disaster should council wish to do so.

Continued on Page 4

Excellent exchange

Young Lucy, with the help of her mother, tries on a princess outfit during the Halloween Costume Exchange hosted by the Strathmore Municipal Library on Oct. 7. The library began accepting costumes in late September and folks had a chance to exchange a costume or buy a costume with a donation. Over 120 children and adults stopped in to pick their next Halloween costume.

Joe Lepage Photo

Local couple auctions off memorabilia

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

Dan and Donna Specht hosted an online auction in late September, selling off their impressive lifelong collection of John Deere models and collectibles.

The longtime residents of Strathmore said that their John Deere collectible online auction had over 110,000 hits on the auction website and the couple featured was even featured on Global News.

Their goal was to sell everything and have nothing left over.

"It was one and done," said Donna.

Don worked for John Deere for 61 years between Saskatchewan and Alberta.

When asked what did he did for John Deere?

"Everything," said Dan. He's been everything from a mechanic to a business owner, sales and even customer service. "I knew the business inside and out so I could do any of it."

To this day Dan still gets calls from people looking to his expertise in the John Deere brand. The square baler is the piece of machinery he is most recognized for. He said the newer mechanics aren't well versed on the older models, and this is where Dan steps in.

"In fact, there was a fella who phoned and asked if I had a square baler in the auction," said Dan.

He remembers this person years back had a square baler that they never thought would get running again. Dan took a look at it, used his skills and years of experience and got it working.

Their collection is just one aspect of this community-driven couple. Both Dan and Donna have been members of the Lions Club, totaling 37 years. In Strathmore they tallied in an impressive 26 years with the club.

"I was president and I did all their catering for a while," said Dan of the numerous roles he played in the Strathmore Lions Club over the years.

"We worked everything together," said Donna of her supportive role that she played helping out whenever possible.

The couple is also heavily involved with the Strathmore Handi-Bus.

"We are both still on the board. I drove the handi-bus for 25 years," said Donna "I loved it. I loved my clients. They were absolutely awesome and that is one thing I am passionate about.

"It's a service that this town does need. And anytime they needed me, I was there. We're getting up there (in age) where it's time to let somebody else have the jobs."

The pair met in Trochu where Dan was working at the John Deere dealership. Donna was a regular in the small town and "the rest is history," said Donna.

Their love of all things John Deere started right from the beginning of their relationship. Instead of more traditional gifts over the years, Donna was gifted John Deere memorabilia, such as a John Deere watering can.

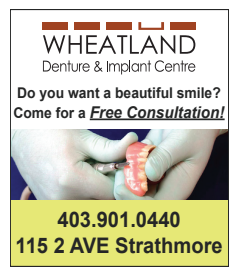
They've even been known to gift John Deere models as wedding gifts in the past.

"They wanted a tractor, so we give 'em a tractor," laughed Donna.

There were many tears shed on letting their lifelong collection go, but Donna hopes that "anybody that bought it, I hope they treasure our treasures like we did and enjoy it."

The couple wanted to extend their heartfelt thank you and appreciation to the Frank McInenly Auction Company.

"We are very thankful," said Donna. "They made the sale what it was."



Siksika to see construction of 3D printed transitional housing

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As of Oct. 16, work will begin to start 3D printing a set of fourplexes on Siksika Nation, which will mark the largest project of this type in Canada to date.

The project will consist of the construction of four structures, ultimately housing 16 families upon completion. These homes will be built in collaboration with Nidus3D, the University of Calgary School of Architecture and Planning, and Siksika Housing.

Ultimately, the aim of the project is to both address housing challenges within Siksika Nation, as well as to celebrate Indigenous culture and heritage.

"I have been thinking about using the technology to build housing out here. It sort of went from there, and to putting together a proposal and getting funding and then ultimately starting to build the project," said Ryan Hall, Siksika Housing Manager. "This project is going to make it so that there will be more housing available to people than ever before. It will allow us to customize the design to reflect the uniqueness of our community and its people."

The 3D concrete printing technology creates an object – in this case a building, layer by layer until the desired structure is achieved. The process is very similar to 3D printing commonly used with resin or plastics, but on a much larger scale.

Hall added he began discussions with Nidus3D, a company based out of Kingston, Ont., which provides 3D construction as a service, over the summer.

Titled "Kakatoosoyiists," or "Star Lodges," the idea is that in First Nations stories, the stars provide a sense of direction, protection, guidance, and life lessons.

An added benefit to this style of construction, is to minimize waste, reduce carbon emissions, align with environmental and community values, and to utilize locally sourced materials.

The print time to do the exterior walls is reported to take approximately a week per building. Consideration was taken as to whether the interiors would also be 3D printed, but they will instead be more conventional, so as to save print time, and reduce the total financial cost of the project.

Building utilities such as plumbing, windows, electrical, and finishing will follow the completion of the project exteriors.

Each of the four buildings will consist of four one-bedroom, one-bathroom units which will serve as homes for single or double occupation. The units will be approximately 600 square feet in area.

As transitional homes, they are designed to be occupied for six months, or for up to two years, depending on the needs of the tenants.

The units are intended for use by Nation members who are experiencing a housing crisis, moving back to the nation from elsewhere, or who are fleeing domestic violence.

Hall added there is a larger plan to see three or four-bedroom homes constructed on the Nation to be occupied as permanent residences. There is no agreement yet in place as to whether those homes might be 3D printed as well.

"I would consider this a pilot project, and one of the ideas is, if it makes sense to us after we are done, and I have done an analysis on this, maybe the Nation would buy a machine and actually design and build our own housing," he said.

A total budget of $2.6 million has been allocated to Kakatoosoyiists from Indigenous Services Canada. The contract set in place for the project requires the buildings be completed by March 31, 2024.

Agriculture Service Board awards nearly $6,000 to Wheatland County students

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Agriculture Service Board has accepted the recommendations of the Bursary Committee to award $850 to each of the seven Bursary Applicants for 2023.

County wide, the Agriculture Service Board is committed to providing up to $6,000 in bursaries annually with a minimum award of $500, and a maximum award of $1,500 to students residing within the boundaries of Wheatland County.

Bursaries provided by the Agriculture Service Board are designed to help further students' post-secondary education in agriculture or environmental science related fields of study.

A consensus by the Bursary and Award Committee determined each of the applicants this year were equally qualified for the awards.

Applicants were required to submit short essays outlining their career goals, and describe any contributions they have made to their respective communities and/or schools.

High school academic reports and preceding post-secondary semester grades were also required for submission if applicable, as well as their letters of acceptance stating their courses of study from the post-secondary institution they will be attending.

Additionally, applicants are to complete and submit the Agriculture and Food Production Skill Testing Examination, with a passing grade requirement of 75 per cent.

Agriculture Service Board administration noted this year saw the highest number of applications submitted for the bursaries. The previous record number of applications submitted was six, which were received in 2018.

"I was excited to see the number of recommendations for awards from the bursary, and I think the uptick is exciting and it is exciting for the future of agriculture in Wheatland County," said Agriculture Service Board Member Amber Link.

According to information made available by the Agriculture Service Board regarding the bursaries, the funds awarded are made payable to the students' post-secondary institution with the conditions that the funds be used for tuition, learning resources or room and board.

Should the student leave the institution prior to the funds being expended, the balance will be returned to Wheatland County.

For students who may be interested in potentially benefitting from the bursaries in the future, Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board Bursary application packages are available from the Wheatland County Administration office or website.

Complete information regarding the bursary application, as well as the skill testing application are detailed in the Agriculture Service Board meeting agenda from Oct. 4.

Prospective students are also able to contact Michelle Van Haarlem, administrative assistant to transportation and agriculture at 403-361-2000, or via email (agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca).

Beginning next year, bursaries made available through the Agriculture Service Board will see a maximum of $10,000 available to delegate to students.

STRATHMORE TIMES

Mario Prusina **Publisher**
John Watson **Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**
Kristina Bezic **Financial Manager** *Rose Hamrlik* **Advertising** *Jody Schneider* **Production**
Contributors: *Laureen F. Guenther, Joe Lepage, Melissa Piche*

125 2nd Avenue, Strathmore, Alberta T1P 1K1 • 403.934.5589

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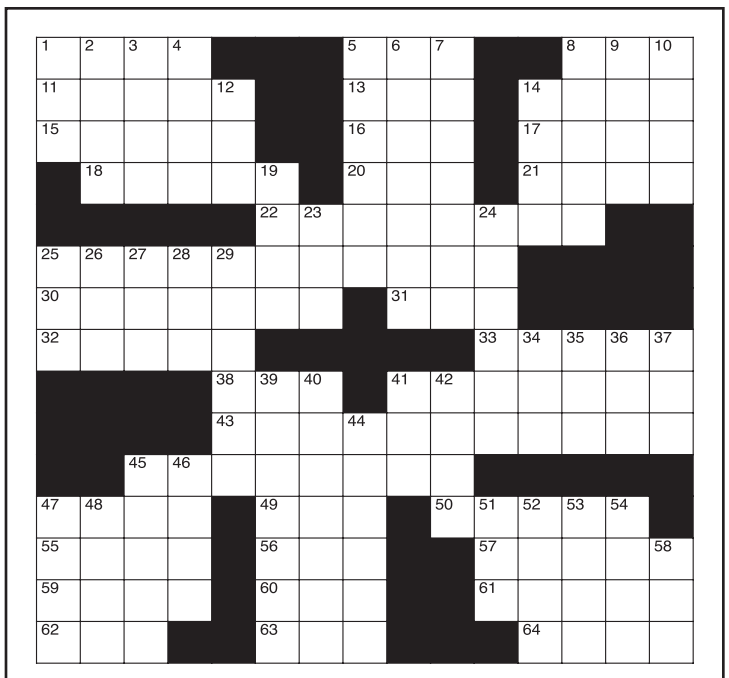

CLUES ACROSS

1. Information
5. Seaport (abbr.)
8. Agricultural disease (abbr.)
11. Riding horses
13. Boxing's GOAT
14. Hurt or discomfort
15. A small sharp knife to trim vegetables
16. A beaver builds one
17. Horizontal passage into a mine
18. Self-immolation by fire rituals
20. Chain bar with lots of games (abbr.)
21. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
22. Agreeable
25. In an early way
30. In a way, struck
31. It's there in the morning
32. County in the S. Pacific
33. Central Florida city
38. Numbers cruncher
41. Mexican beers
43. Lawyers say you can indict one
45. Capital of South Australia
47. Wings
49. Drug used to treat HIV/AIDS
50. Fencing sword
55. Capital of Qatar
56. Portable bed
57. Afflicted
59. Lying down
60. Midway between northeast and east
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Inflamed
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to fish
2. Greek mythological figure
3. Scarlett's home
4. Assist
5. More doleful
6. Premeditated
7. Dish featuring minced food
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Eight
10. Unwelcome picnic guests
12. Human gene
14. Bucket
19. Make full
23. Dirt
24. Person cited as ideal example
25. A part of (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Very long period of time
28. Gas usage measurement
29. North American native people
34. It says "moo"
35. Folk singer Di Franco
36. Resinlike substance of certain insects
37. Residue
39. Grand homes
40. Popinjays
41. Man who behaves dishonorably
42. Figures
44. One who watches over children
45. Expressed pleasure
46. No longer living
47. Hebrew calendar month
48. Part of the ear
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Italian Island
54. Resist authority (slang)
58. Criticize

Winning the close ones

The Wheatland Kings played solid defensively en route to a pair of home wins at the Strathmore Family Centre. The local Junior B team defeated the Three Hills Thrashers 3-2 in overtime on Oct. 7, before posting a 2-0 shutout victory over the Red Deer Vipers the following day. The Kings, who improved to 5-1 on the season, will now host the Rocky Rams (Oct. 14, 8 p.m.) and the Cochrane Generals (Oct. 15, 4:30 p.m.) before hitting the road Oct. 20 in High River.

Joe Lepage Photos

Painting fun

The Wheatland Society of the Arts hosted a Family Paint Day on Oct. 7 at their studio. With funding from the Town of Strathmore, guests only had to pay a small $5 fee to take part in one of the two sessions offered during the day.

Joe Lepage Photos

Town passes bylaw to update user fees ahead of upcoming budget discussions

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore Council has passed third reading to Bylaw 23-29, being the 2024 Fees Bylaw, which addresses rates, fees, and fines for a range of services and bylaws.

The bylaw received all three readings by council during the Oct. 4, regular meeting following lengthy discussion.

By having a rate bylaw, administration described via the council agenda, it gives council a framework to ensure fair and equitable charges to residents.

Reviewing these fees, rates and fines on an annual basis also ensures financial sustainability for the town and its services such as public athletic centers and other amenities.

Town administration had recommended the town review and set the rates for 2024 fees in advance of budget deliberations, which will directly influence projected revenue to take into account for the upcoming 2024 budget discussions.

Going into 2024, the majority of rates reflected by the Bylaw 23-29 will have an inflationary increase of four per cent.

"Looking at our Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 2022, actually was 7.2 per cent, and we had inflationary increases (in) 2022 of two per cent," said Leana Ashbacher, senior manager of financial services. "2023 for the first eight months of the year, we are already sitting at four per cent … our finance team has worked diligently with every budget owner and reviewed in great detail all of their changes."

Approximately 30 per cent of the town's revenues are derived from fees and charges authorized in the annual rate bylaw.

These are reviewed and adjusted annually to reflect changes in levels of services, increased contributions to reserves, recovering the costs of program delivery, as well as accounting for contemporary inflation rates.

Passes for families for sports facilities are an outlier among rate increases, as many of them, as indicated during the bylaw discussion by Coun. Jason Montgomery, are noted to be increasing between 25 and 30 per cent.

Ashbacher clarified there was an effort put in to standardize fees across all of the town's sports facilities instead of having fees "haphazardly" set between services.

"We tried to standardize them and ensure that we had a pass rate (so) if you were buying a six-month pass, you were actually getting a break instead of buying six individual passes," she said.

As third reading was granted to the bylaw, administration will implement the updates for Jan. 1, 2024. Rates that will be coming into effect are noted for public viewing via the town's Oct. 4 regular meeting agenda.

ASB may be delegated authority to declare agricultural disasters

Continued from Page 1

An agricultural disaster was declared over Wheatland County, July 5, as the area was among the driest regions in the province at the time.

Agricultural disasters are declared by municipalities as a way to signal to provincial and federal governments that the growing conditions farmers are experiencing in their respective regions have become dire.

The declarations do not have any direct impacts experienced by residents and ratepayers. The purpose is more so to serve as an effective signal to other government bodies that additional support is required.

Board member Shannon Laprise said she had inquired to Bloom for information about whether other Agriculture Service Boards and councils have taken a similar approach regarding disaster declarations.

"He had indicated that there are a number that have been delegated this authority … the timing of it is conducive to an Agriculture Service Board declaration," said Laprise. "Sometimes it gets delayed because of having to go to council if council had not pre-authorized it as we had this year."

It was not indicated during the meeting when the revised bylaw would be brought before county council

NEXT HOME GAMES

Saturday, October 14 • 8 pm vs Rocky

Sunday, October 15 • 4:30 pm vs Cochrane

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Thought for the Week

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Is a "conclusion" the place where you get tired of thinking?

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Locals make worlds

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

Strathmore's own Karley Clark and Tessa Galandy have been selected to represent Canada at the 2023 World Ringette Championship (WRC) at the junior level in Calgary on Oct. 26-Nov. 4.

The players were selected from a group of Top 40 players in Canada for a spot in the U18 age division. The weeklong tryout took place at Calgary WinSport in August. The eager players were hoping for one of 34 spots that would make up two teams, one for Western Canada and one for Eastern Canada.

Grade 12 students Clark and Galandy were chosen to be a part of the Western Canada team (Team White), which includes players from B.C, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Both players are members of the U19AA Zone 2 team, which is comprised of athletes from Calgary, Strathmore, Standard, Langdon, Chestermere, Cochrane, Airdrie and Red Deer.

Two years ago, Clark and Galandy made it onto the Alberta Elite U16 Ringette team, where they played in Finland and won The Lions Cup.

"We beat the other Alberta team in the final," said Galandy.

The WRC is held every two years and gives players a chance to compete at an international level. Other countries that will be represented at the WRC are Finland, Sweden, Slovakia, USA and the Czech Republic.

"The scouts came to provincials and Nationals and RAB cup a little bit too," said Galandy.

She also stated that players have to identify prior to the tryouts that they are trying out for the WRC team, which is all a part of this elite level of team selection.

"There are four girls from our (U19AA) team on (the WRC U18 team)," said Galandy, adding that having some familiar faces, and having played together previously, will help with team development.

"We have action plans on how to improve individually," said Galandy.

The practicality of flying everyone to practices together before the event is an unrealistic expectation, so this independent work before the event is imperative to a successful team.

The girls explained that the WRC at the junior level is looked at as a developmental festival; they play to win of course, but the goal is to improve player development.

"We still want to win all of our games," said Clark.

The junior level is a new program that has just been implemented this year.

"We're really lucky to have this first opportunity," emphasized Galandy. "To play for Calgary RATH, which is one of the best NRL teams in the country, you have to finish out your third year of U19AA."

Both Clark and Galandy have their eyes set on playing ringette long-term. The next WRC event will be in 2025 and they would be at the senior level by then – meaning more scouting, more selection camps and more work that they are both eager to tackle.

Clark is hopeful to perhaps play for the Calgary RATH in University. However, that is a decision for another day.

"I'm not going to base my entire decision on that (RATH team) because I do want to think about my career," she said. "I'm willing to go anywhere, but I'd definitely still try to keep ringette in mind when thinking of where I want to go."

The girls' first game of the WRC is Saturday, Oct. 28, when Canada West (Team White) face Canada East (Team Black). The rest of the schedule can be found online (worldringettechampionship.com).

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Capsule Comments

When the universal Canadian healthcare system is compared to the American for-profit system, Canada wins hands down. Because healthcare coverage in the U.S. is tied to one's job, lose your job….lose your healthcare. Unexpected medical expenses can bankrupt a family. There are over 85 million Americans without health insurance and many families have to resort to GoFundMe medical campaigns to pay their medical bills.

Flu season is upon us. Time to burst some myths about the immune system and flu vaccines: 1) loading up on vitamins will keep flu away. NO!

2. Getting a flu shot compromises the immune system and gives one the flu. NO! 3. Flu shots have severe side effects. NO! (1 in a million may get Guillain-Barre Syndrome). 4. Pregnant ladies should not get the flu shot. NO! The flu shot is safe in any stage of pregnancy. 5. Getting the flu is not serious. NO! (Flu kills thousands of people every year). Be safe; get your flu shot.

Should you get a flu shot each year? Yes. The contents of the shot vary each year due to "antigenic drift", changes in the virus and scientists will develop the new vaccine contents depending on these changes. Every year, thousands of Canadians are hospitalized due to flu. So get your flu shot this year and prevent flu from affecting your life.

October 24 is World Polio Day to commemorate the global efforts toward a polio-free future. Through the work of the Gates Foundation, Rotary International and the World Health Organization, polio exists in only two countries today….Pakistan and Afghanistan.

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WHEATLAND COUNTY

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.

October 17: Organizational Meeting
October 17: Council Meeting
November 14: Municipal Planning Commission

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

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- **Records and Information Management Specialist**
  Closes October 16, 2023
- **GIS Technician**
  Closes October 13, 2023

Visit our website for more information and APPLY TODAY!
wheatlandcounty.ca/careers/

Environmental Stewardship AWARDS

Do you know someone who cares about their environmental footprint, or goes above and beyond to benefit our Wheatland County landscape in some way?

Nominate them for an Award!

Community Stewardship Award

This award recognizes a Wheatland County community member or group that has made an outstanding contribution to environmental sustainability in the municipality. All Wheatland County residents or community groups are eligible for this award.

Youth Stewardship Award

This award will be given to an individual or group of individuals under the age of eighteen who have shown leadership or strong interest in environmental stewardship. Wheatland County residents, community groups, and school groups are eligible for this award.

J. Laslo Legacy Award

This award will be given to an agricultural producer in Wheatland County who has shown leadership in the implementation of beneficial management practices. The winner is dedicated to reducing the environmental impacts of their operation, and has an interest in promoting positive efforts to others in the industry.

Award recipients will be recognized by Council at Wheatland County's Annual General Meeting, their name will be added to a plaque displayed at the County office, and they will receive a $250 cash prize!

Nomination Information

Contact the Agriculture and Environment Department:

Ph: 403-361-2000

Email: AgandEnv@wheatlandcounty.ca

Submit nominations by **January 1st, 2024**

For more information, visit:
wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/environmentalstewardshipawards

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.

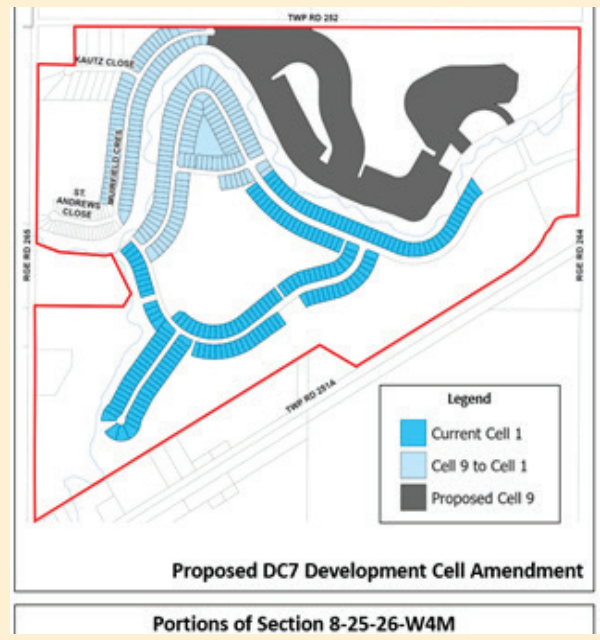
Public Hearings

Wheatland County Council Chambers October 17, 2023 at 11 a.m.

Wheatland County will consider the following applications for Public Hearing at the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, October 17th, 2023.

The following public hearings begin at 11 a.m. and proceed until all applications have been heard:

Bylaw #: 2023-22
Legal Description: Portions of Section 8-25-26-W4M
Proposal: To amend Appendix A of Direct Control District 7, Development Cells Map, to redesignate a portion of the lands from Cell 9 to Cell 1 in order to allow for residential development to continue in accordance with the Lakes of Muirfield Area Structure Plan.



Proposed DC7 Development Cell Amendment

Portions of Section 8-25-26-W4M

Bylaw #: 2023-11
Legal Description: Area K, Plan 9810989, within SE-33-23-25-W4M
Proposal: To redesignate the subject lands from Agricultural General District to Rural Business District, in order to facilitate the development of a wedding venue that includes a bed and breakfast, entertainment venue, and short-term overnight camping for patrons of the venue.

Note: Post processing of aerial photography may cause visual distortion. Air Photo

Area K, Plan 9810989 within SE-33-23-25-W4M

Comments may be forwarded in writing to Wheatland County or in person at the above meeting. The application files may be reviewed in the County Office during regular office hours – Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any comments provided will become part of the public record in accordance with Section 40 (1) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act. Any personal information on submissions made regarding applications is collected under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 33 (c) and subsequent versions of the Act.

Wilder Institute update

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Calgary Zoo / Wilder Institute sent a delegation to speak with the Wheatland County Agriculture Service Board (ASB), Oct. 4, to provide a summary and update regarding the Archibald Biodiversity Centre.

Provided to the ASB was largely information regarding the breeding and wildlife sustainability programs currently being operated from the new facility.

The Archibald Biodiversity Centre opened its doors to staff June 28, 2022, following roughly a year of construction on the facility.

"The Wildlife Conservation Centre, we established this in 1984, and we originally had this space for ungulates, so as the zoo was breeding hoof stock such as elk, bison, reindeer, caribou, all of this was happening at the Dewinton space … and that is pretty much what we are using that space for," said Colleen Baird, acting director of animal care with the Wilder Institute. "We were always needing that space off site because ungulates need a lot of space to breed … since the 2000's though, it has been used mostly for conservation and as the world has changed, and we know that conservation is important and that is primarily a big part of our world that we decided to relocate."

She added the decision to relocate was in part due to urban sprawl encroaching on the land which was being utilized for breeding and conservation efforts, which was beginning see the public invading upon breeding spaces.

The Archibald Biodiversity Centre mirrors the Wildlife Conservation Centre, occupying 333 acres, but is now neighboured by fewer landowners, Siksika Nation, and government land.

Currently, the new facility houses conservation breeding programs for burrowing owls, northern leopard frogs, Vancouver Island marmots, and whooping cranes. Greater sage grouse programs remain for the time being at the Wildlife Conservation Centre.

Permanent housing for Asian wild horses, as well as Hartmann's Mountain zebras are also at the Archibald Biodiversity Centre. The facility additionally serves as temporary housing for animals which require quarantine.

The Archibald Biodiversity Centre serves to temporarily house non-dangerous animals for the Calgary Zoo while exhibits are undergoing construction.

Largely, the public is not permitted on the grounds of the facility, though a tour for elected officials was scheduled to take place on Oct. 10.

Burrowing owls, as an example, are not receptive to their breeding and rearing space being disturbed by human activity.

"Human encroachment and human activity (are) not conducive to good burrowing owl habitat. Obviously, they are wanting undisturbed land where they can hunt and are not coming in contact with (activity such as) vehicle traffic or buildings and windows," said Baird.

ASB member Amber Link commended the Wilder Institute team regarding the Archibald Biodiversity Centre, as none of their neighbours have expressed any concerns or complaints regarding their operations in the area.

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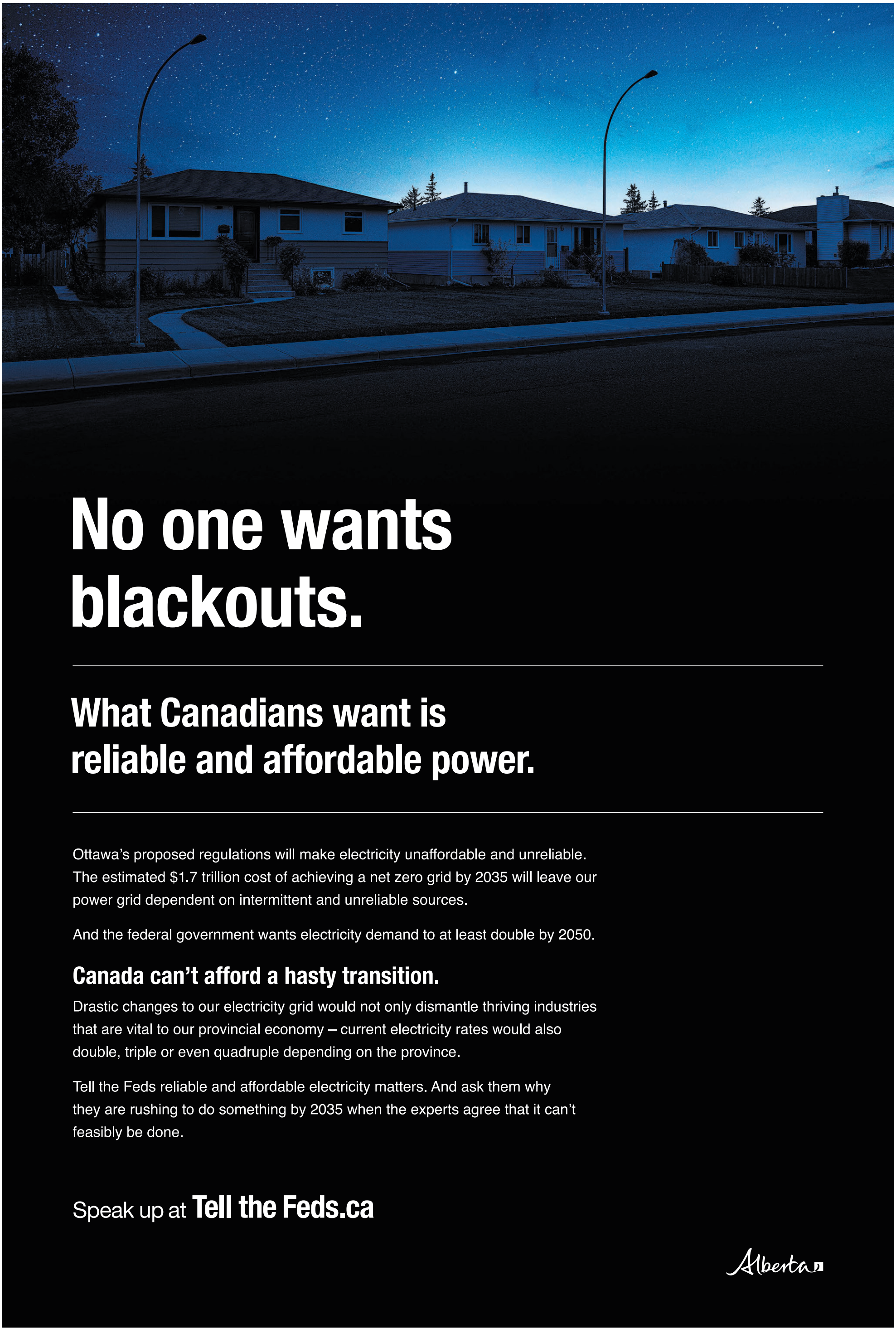

No one wants blackouts.
What Canadians want is reliable and affordable power.
Ottawa's proposed regulations will make electricity unaffordable and unreliable. The estimated $1.7 trillion cost of achieving a net zero grid by 2035 will leave our power grid dependent on intermittent and unreliable sources.
And the federal government wants electricity demand to at least double by 2050.
Canada can't afford a hasty transition.
Drastic changes to our electricity grid would not only dismantle thriving industries that are vital to our provincial economy – current electricity rates would also double, triple or even quadruple depending on the province.
Tell the Feds reliable and affordable electricity matters. And ask them why they are rushing to do something by 2035 when the experts agree that it can't feasibly be done.
Speak up at Tell the Feds.ca
Alberta

Town votes to amend council procedural bylaw

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore council voted to pass third reading of Bylaw 23-28, being an amendment to its procedural bylaw, 23-17 during the Oct. 3, regular meeting.

During the Sept. 6, regular meeting of council, a motion was passed to direct administration to prepare the amending bylaw. During the Sept. 20 regular meeting, council gave first and second reading to the amending bylaw.

The amendment to Bylaw 23-28 specifically regards Sections 28 and 29 to include the following as 28.12, and 29.2 within the bylaw:

28.12. A motion to rescind a motion which has been passed, or review a defeated motion may be offered subsequent to the meeting at which the motion was passed or defeated if the rescind motion is:

• Brought more than six months after the date of the original motion;

• A member who voted with the prevailing side may move to reconsider a motion; or

• Brought after a general municipal election which has taken place since the date of the original motion.

29.2. All votes taken by Council will be a recorded vote.

Coun. Jason Montgomery, prior to the vote, motioned by Coun. Richard Wegener, read a prepared statement expressing concerns about the amendment.

"At first I was not sure about this amendment … essentially, it is changing the rights of a minority group and giving them less rights than the majority," he said. "I… sit (before you) to extol the virtues of suppressing minority opinions, because after all, what better way to foster progress than by silencing the voices that dare to challenge the status quo."

Montgomery continued his statement, describing a suggestion that the amendment would effectively turn the council chamber into an echo chamber where "diversity of thought is a relic of the past."

His full statement is available for public viewing, along with the rest of the recorded council meeting via the Town of Strathmore YouTube channel.

Mayor Pat Fule and Wegener clarified people who may foster beliefs in a minority are still allowed to make themselves heard in council chambers following the passing of the amendment and their voices, pointedly, are not stifled.

"Their voices are not silenced, there is just a waiting period so that we can have some efficiency in our council meetings. Nobody is stifled," said Fule.

Wegener emphasized the intent of the amendment is to expedite council processes instead of re-debating issues repeatedly and suggesting council to be indecisive or dysfunctional.

He added a reminder that it is within council's mandate following a vote, regardless of which side a councillor is on, the decision will be supported.

Recent examples of council debates which had arisen in multiple meetings despite the successful passing of related motions, include discussions surrounding the pride crosswalk, and the delivery of mail featuring explicit content.

The amendment to the procedural bylaw was put into effect immediately following the vote resulting in its passing by council.

Davis has performed in the past here in Strathmore for the Musical Arts Society and he is excited to be back.

"I've got a lot of history in Canada – in fact all over the doggone place, particularly Alberta," he said. "When I come to Strathmore this time, I've got songs that go to the edge of the blues; that go outside of the blues."

Davis said people who come to his show on Oct. 14 are in for a treat.

"I ask that everybody be prepared to have a good time and also to sing along with some of these songs," he said.

Ticket and more information can be found on their webpage (www.strathmorearts.com).

Town halts e-scooters until traffic safety act amended

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore has chosen to delay any further discussions regarding the potential introduction of e-scooters and e-bikes around town.

It was recommended to council by administration that the town refrain from amending the local Traffic Bylaw until the Province of Alberta makes changes to the Alberta Traffic Safety Act.

It was also recommended that council direct town staff to use a Request for Proposals process to consider private providers of an e-scooter rental service in town, which would allow for the increased administrative and enforcement costs to be covered by the successful provider.

"A resolution was passed at the Alberta Municipalities Conference requesting that the province amend the Traffic Safety Act to deal with e-scooters," said Jamie Dougdale, director of infrastructure, operations and development services.

Dougdale described the potential impacts introducing e-scooters may have for the town, both positively and negatively.

Some of the positives include reduced vehicular congestion, reduced emissions, improved pedestrian mobility and potentially increased tourism.

Potential challenges include reducing safety for pedestrians and other road users, infrastructure readiness, legal and liability issues, as well as negative public opinion.

"In terms of organizational implications, if we did bring that forward, there would be, of course, a legal review of that service provision. A big component would be enforcement and education of public and riders," said Dougdale. "If council wanted to move forward, we do so on a pilot basis to look at the impacts, gather data (and) refine regulations moving forward."

He explained council would have to develop and implement comprehensive regulations to govern e-scooter operations, including around safety, areas for use, and parking.

Coun. Brent Wiley, who said he was initially optimistic about the idea of e-scooters in Strathmore, was wavering in his support for the prospect.

"Part of what is on for every councilor is coming up with a cost/benefit analysis. Administration did a good job of outlining some of the benefits, but the costs we are trying to keep in mind (are) for perhaps 35 scooters," he said. "CAO Scoble says we could create the bylaws to bring speeds down to 10 km/h in the downtown core, but (Dougdale) is talking about needing to essentially map the entire town and figure out speeds and all that administration time, just to bring in perhaps 35 scooters."

Council voted to refrain from amending the local traffic bylaw until such time as the province makes changes to the traffic safety act, as well as to accept Dougdale's report as information, as opposed to continue pursing the introduction of e-scooter providers into Strathmore.

SWCC offers bursary for student liaison

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A university bursary of $1,000 is being made available for a student liaison through the Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce (SWCC).

Applicant students for the liaison position can be in Grades 11 or 12. SWCC Board Chair Whitnee Sidloski said the student they are looking for ideally should have a skill set in social media and website development, who is looking to expand their repertoire.

"We have people on our board (who) can really help them learn more about those things," she said. "It is really working with the team within the board and it is a really unique opportunity for an individual and looks really good on a resume."

This year is not the first that the SWCC has sought a student liaison, and according to Sidloski, the organization is extremely excited to be able to offer the $1,000 university bursary.

The duties of the liaison will largely revolve around social media, and regarding the SWCC website. If something requires updating, or details surrounding an event need to be published, the student will be responsible. The successful applicant will also be expected to attend board meetings.

"We are looking for a specific type of person (who) has a couple of hours a week, (who) can put into it and work alongside some other people on the board of the SWCC," said Sidloski. "The plan is to have the student liaison work with the communications team and maybe meet once a week. We try to work really hard on working around the schedule that the student liaison has at school, extracurriculars, or if they have a job."

Previously, the position has been exclusively available to Grade 12 applicants, who are on the cusp of high school graduation, though Grade 11 students had expressed interest in the opportunity.

Sidloski added it would be advantageous for a Grade 11 student to obtain the position, as they would be able to serve a two-year term before graduating out and would benefit from the additional experience.

Additionally, the SWCC has previously offered $500 for the university bursary, but has now upped the offer to $1,000 in an effort to make the position more enticing for students to apply.

Any students who are interested in applying to be the liaison for the SWCC are encouraged to send an email (board@theswcc.ca).

Included in the email should be a resume and a write up describing oneself, as well as activities the applicant is involved in, and why they should be considered for the position.

The SWCC will be accepting student applications until Oct. 24. No formal date has been scheduled as to when the successful candidate will be announced.

Winning weekend

Edward Zuev, Nolan Ilsley, Grady Hanson, Braeden Taylor and Tyson Chambers each scored once as the Wheatland Warriors defeated the Olds Grizzlys 5-2 on Oct. 6 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The local U15AA team then earned a 2-1 road win in Airdrie on Oct. 8, improving to 4-0-1 on the season. The Warriors will travel to Kimberly, B.C. to take on the East Kootenay Avalanche on Oct. 14, before hosting the West Central Tigers on Oct. 15 (1:15 p.m.) at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Joe Lepage Photos

Chiefs split

The Wheatland Chiefs opened the weekend with a 3-0 home loss on Oct. 6 at the Strathmore Family Centre. However, the local U18AA team responded the following day with the 4-3 road win in Cochrane over the Bow Valley Timberwolves.

Joe Lepage Photos

Federal government needs to rethink net-zero

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

On Aug. 10, the federal government released a draft of its proposed Clean Electricity Regulations, which aim to create a net-zero power grid across Canada by 2035.

With the wellbeing of Albertans continuing to be our United Conservative government's top priority, our position on this plan remains the same: the proposed regulations are unconstitutional, irresponsible, and unaffordable.

If the federal government has its way, Albertans will be at risk for soaring costs and blackouts during hot summer days, and cold winter nights. That's why we have put Ottawa on notice.

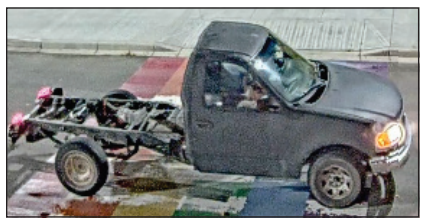
We have a better path forward, one that doesn't threaten families with absurd costs and blackouts – a plan that allows Alberta to chart its own path, as is our Constitutional right, to ensuring we have additional reliable and affordable electricity brought onto our grid that is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We will simply will not allow the federal government to drive up the cost of power for Albertans or put the integrity of our grid at risk.

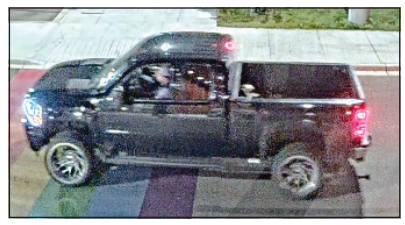
We have heard from numerous businesses and policy experts expressing serious concerns about Ottawa's plans. Just this past week, Business Council of Alberta president Adam Legge joined 48 of Alberta's top CEOs and entrepreneurs who felt the need to trek to Ottawa to urge the Trudeau Liberals to take a regional approach. Legge summarized the federal government's irresponsible plans best, saying that, "the notion of having a one-size-fits-all electricity regulation for a country this big, this vast, this different, is not realistic … let's create a regionalized approach to what is a very regional-specific challenge."

Canadians across the country need to know that Ottawa's proposed regulations would make electricity unaffordable and unreliable – and people need to act now and push the federal government to make changes and find a more affordable path forward.

Join us in the fight to keep Alberta and Canada's electricity affordable and reliable by visiting TelltheFeds.ca. Make your voice heard, because no one wants to get left in the dark!

(Chantelle de Jonge is the MLA Elect for Chestermere-Strathmore and the Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities)





RCMP investigate vandalism of Pride Crosswalk

STRATHMORE RCMP

The Strathmore Detachment has been investigating numerous acts of vandalism on the Pride Crosswalk located in the parking lot of Strathmore Town Hall.

The first incident occurred on Sept. 23 in the evening hours where a single pickup truck on two separate occasions spun its tires through the crosswalk, leaving rubber tracks on the surface and damaging the paint. The owner of the truck was identified and issued over $1,200 in fines for the incident.

The following weekend three other pickup trucks in a total of six incidents spun their tires in similar fashion through the crosswalk, leaving rubber marks and further damaging the paint. During some of these incidents, passengers could be seen leaning out the windows filming the mischief. The first three incidents were perpetrated by a 2012-2015 model black Chevrolet lifted diesel crew cab pickup truck with low profile tires and distinctive chrome rims. The incidents occurred on Sept. 29 at 10:51 p.m., again on Oct. 1 at midnight, and again four minutes later.

The fourth incident was perpetrated by a white 2010-2020 model Ford Super Duty extended cab diesel pickup truck on Oct. 1 at 12:05 a.m.

The fifth and sixth incident was perpetrated by a late 90's to early 2000's grey or matte black Ford F150 single cab with no box on Oct. 1 at 10:38 p.m.

Strathmore RCMP would like to seek the public's assistance in identifying those involved in the vandalism. Anyone with information, dashcam footage, or video footage is encouraged to contact Strathmore RCMP or submit their information anonymously though Crime Stoppers.

"Senseless acts of vandalism such as this (are) an insult to those who contributed to painting the crosswalk while interfering with the public's ability to enjoy damage-free public property," said Staff Sergeant Mark Wielgosz – Detachment Commander of the Strathmore RCMP. "Moreover, regardless what the motivation of those involved were, acts such as this are offensive and harmful to the LGBTQ2S+ community whom this crosswalk was intended to show support and solidarity with. I am hopeful public support to help identify those involved will help to bring this repeated and senseless damage to an end."

Obituary

BARTELEN, Ethel

Ethel passed away in Strathmore Alberta with family at her side in Sagewood Agecare, where she has resided for the past 6 years.
She is survived by her seven children, Tony (Judy), Harold (Maxine), Viola (Garnet) Rodgers, Melvin (Debbie), Brian (Twila), Bob, and Darryl (Sara) as well as her brother Tom. 14 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren (plus one on the way). Ethel was predeceased by her husband Anton Bartelen, and her parents Harold and Viola Ackles, as well as 2 brothers Melvin and Ralph Ackles, and her daughter in law Kelly Keith.
Ethel was born in Suffield Alberta, where she lived until 1939, when her parents moved to Richmond B.C. She remained in that area until she met and married Anton in 1955. She moved to the farm with Anton to raise their 7 children, starting first in a small 3 room house with no electricity and a wood stove for heat. Electricity arrived soon after and in 1960, Anton and Ethel built a new house, where they raised the family until retiring and moving to town in 1985.
Ethel enjoyed gardening, square dancing, playing cards, and singing in the Church choir. Her favourite thing was having her family around her.
The family would like to extend a special thanks to the wonderful neighbors they had over the years, as well as the caregivers in Sagewood, who cared for mom.
A funeral mass will be held on Saturday October 21, 2023 at Hope Community Covenant Church, at 10:30 a.m. The interment for Ethel will take place following the service at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Strathmore. Following the interment, lunch will be served at the Strathmore Travelodge.
In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a charity of your choice.
To send condolences, please visit Ethel's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca.

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

Obituary

MORTON, Florence Thelma (nee Thurston)

Born September 30th,1929
Passed September 30th, 2023.

Florence passed away on the same day she came into this world, September 30th, at the age of 94.
Florence was predeceased by Norman Morton; her daughter Laurie Morton-Ruppe; son Wade Morton; brothers Perry and Vic; sister Marion; and grandson Kyle Ruppe. She is survived by her sister Louise Karr; daughter Noreen (Lorne) Rankine; grandchildren Justin (Cara) Ruppe, Kim (Trent) Richardson, Jesse (Rhiannon) Rankine, and Nick (Tamara) Rankine; and 6 great grandchildren.
Florence grew up in Benton Alberta and got her teaching degree at the University of Alberta. Florence moved to Strathmore in 1954, where she very much enjoyed her teaching career. During those years she married and raised her family. She was very active in the community and was loved by all who knew her. Florence enjoyed being recognized by her former students after her retirement! Florence was incredibly selfless, kind, compassionate and always had loving smile followed with a warm embrace. She will forever be remembered and greatly missed.
Special thanks to the Strathmore United Church that Florence was a member of and to all of her friends and family that have visited her in the recent years. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the MS society of Canada or the ALS society of Alberta.
A funeral service was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at Hope Community Covenant Church at 11:00 a.m. To send condolences, please visit Florence's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca.

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

MEMORIAMS

The Families of
LORNE AND MILLIE FULLER
invite all to come and hang for a bit to swap memories of their lives. No sad speeches, just smiles and hugs.
SUNDAY, OCT. 22nd, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, EAST LONGVIEW HALL, Coal Trail West
Please email your funny stories or memories of them, for our keepsake book, to Pat at pjorawsky@gmail.com or bring a note with you.

GET YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS IN THE TIMES!
Call 403-934-5589

THANK YOU

Thank You

The Strathmore United Church Women thank the many donors, purchasers and especially volunteers who contributed to another successful Thrift Sale.

We are grateful for every one. You all make a difference in our community and are appreciated.

COMING EVENTS

Calling all veterans of Canadian Forces or RCMP serving, retired or allied …

Please join us for
Annual Veterans Dinner
Saturday, November 4, 2023
hosted by Br. 10 Royal Canadian Legion, Strathmore
1800 hours Social Hour
1900 hours Dinner in the Main Hall

Legion Branch 10 Strathmore

Dress Code - Semi Formal
RSVP Required
403-394-5119

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICES

Rosebud Seed Cleaning Plant

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, October 23, 2023

1:30 p.m. in the Board Room

Everyone welcome

REAL ESTATE

GET YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS IN THE TIMES!

Call 403-934-5589

HELP WANTED

SEASONAL LABOURERS REQUIRED FOR 2024 GREENHOUSE OPERATION

Responsibilities include transplanting, watering, handling & maintenance of plant material and preparation of orders. Labourers are required to work a minimum of 40 hours per week and must be available to work different shifts, 7 days a week. Positions are available starting mid February and last until late June.
No previous work experience or qualifications required. Starting wage is $16.52 per hour.
Hiring for both Standard and Rockyford locations.

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Fax (403) 814-0711
email avbgreenhouses@gmail.com
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AUCTIONS

HOUSE TO BE MOVED: Updated bungalow in Lougheed AB. Must be moved by 2025. Includes triple car garage. Ritchie Bros Auction Oct 25-27. https://rb.gy/7u7au.

HELP WANTED

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www.StrathmoreTimes.com

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MISC

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HIRING! HIRING! HIRING!

Do you like to work in a public setting?
We are in search of a Bar Manager for our Lounge
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Interested parties can contact Ken @
prez@strathmorecurling.ca for more details

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Strathmore

Upcoming Council Meetings

October 4, 2023 | 6 P.M. Regular Meeting of Council
October 11, 2023 | 6 P.M. Committee of the Whole
October 18, 2023 | 6 P.M. Regular Meeting of Council

Come Say Hi

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

Thank you

Wheatland Regional Emergency Management Partnership (WREMP)

On September 28, over 200 people from 35 agencies across the region participated in a live emergency management exercise. Thank you to all those from the Town of Strathmore, City of Chestermere, Wheatland County, the Village of Standard, the Village of Hussar, and the Village of Rockyford who helped ensure our region is prepared in the event of an emergency.

SPECIAL BUDGET CAFE EDITION

COUNCIL IN CHAMBERS GETTING COFFEE

"The Town needs one of these!"
"The Town spends too much on _____!"
"The Town needs to spend more on (insert your favourite service here)!"

We're talking all things 2024 Capital and Operating Budget.
Hearing from the community is important to us. We encourage you to take this opportunity to ask your budget related questions and share your feedback. This is a great time to gain a deeper understanding of how the municipal budget process works and how you can be a part of it.

NOVEMBER 7 | 9 AM

Community Group Delegation Night

October 26, 2023 | 6 p.m.

Town Council has dedicated an annual meeting to hear from community organizations who wish to request funding support.

At the Community Group Delegation Night on October 26, Council will review community group funding requests to help ensure the success of local service clubs, non-profits, and sports organizations. Considering all requests at once allows Council to budget accurately while preventing unexpected mid-year requests that could cause strain on the planned budget.

Your organization is invited to participate! Here's how:

- Determine what funds your organization requires and how they will be used to help deliver programs, services or supports in Strathmore
- Complete the Application for Funding Form by **October 13, 2023**
- Gather additional accompanying documents. These can be letters of support, statistics or community impact reports.
- Complete the online Delegation Form to present at a Council Meeting.
- Send your Application for Funding Form and accompanying documents to LSAdmin@Strathmore.ca by **October 13, 202**

Learn more at Strathmore.ca/DelegationNight