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TIMES

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 43



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Terrific art display

Page 5



Great gala

Town updates Senior Tax Rebate

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore council adopted an amendment to the Senior Property Tax Rebate Program policy, number 5103, during the Oct. 18 regular meeting.

The discussion was introduced to council during the Committee of the Whole meeting, Oct. 11. The rebate program is designed to ensure certain levels of affordability for residents of Strathmore by offering a subsidy to support low-income senior property owners.

As discussed during the Committee of the Whole meeting, and presented in council's agenda, the proposed amendment to the policy was to remove the income thresholds and instead, utilize the income threshold as listed on the Government of Alberta Special Needs Assistance for Seniors webpage.

Prior to the adoption of the amendment during the council meeting, administration had noted that the town's policy included income thresholds which were noted to be outdated.

Coun. Brent Wiley opposed the amendment, and motioned to rescind the policy entirely, following up to comments he made during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

"Property taxes are a burden for everyone. Everyone I know is making significant sacrifices in their lives in order to pay for the rising cost of living ... I am talking about people making decisions on what groceries to buy, their children are not in the programs that they were in," he said. "I am talking about extreme situations ... I am talking about significant burdens on all taxpayers. Anywhere that I see an opportunity to cut taxes, to cut that burden from our taxpayers, I am going to seriously look at, and this is one that the small amount of property tax rebate that these seniors are going to receive is enough that we would all be sharing the very heavy tax burden."

In discussion regarding Wiley's motion, Coun. Denise Peterson described her awareness that people are suffering and struggling, however, seniors who have no capacity to earn additional income outside of their pensions, are living within extremely narrow financial boundaries.

"The benefits that (seniors) do receive are taxable, and rebates can offset that tax burden, as well as make a huge difference," she said.

Continued on Page 4



Badgers fight

The Strathmore Badgers peewee football team fought to the bitter end, falling 12-0 to the Red Deer Servus Bucks on Oct. 21 at the Crowther Memorial Junior High School field. After beating the Bucks the week before to close out the regular season, the Badgers fell in the post season.

Joe Lepage Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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A grand opening for Strathmore's newest playground, Brave Park, was hosted Oct. 21, at the site in the community of Lakewood. Local dignitaries, first responders, and members of the public were invited to celebrate the park, and the heroes for which it was named. Though more sporting areas are soon to be created, the park is now free and open to the public to use.

John Watson Photos



Brave Park officially opens in Lakewood community

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lakewood of Strathmore officially hosted the grand opening of Brave Park, a privately funded public playground which is free to use for the community.

The ribbon cutting took place Oct. 21, at the park, which has recently finished installation on site. The ceremony was originally scheduled to take place Oct. 14, but was delayed due to adverse weather conditions.

Scott Silva, director of sales and marketing for the community of Lakewood, said the project began last year, though construction did not begin until 2023, and it is an exciting development to have in Strathmore.

"It has been a lot of hard work, a lot of passion put into it from the entire development team, as we are very proud of it because it was entirely privately funded through our development group," he said.

According to Silva, ideas and concepts began bouncing around for Brave Park shortly before the passing of Sgt. Andrew Harnett, a Calgary police officer who was killed during a routine traffic stop, Dec. 31, 2020.

Though the plan was ongoing prior to the incident which

claimed Harnett's life, Silva said that event served as a sort of inspiration and catalyst to kick the project into gear.

The park features a playground, several areas for various recreational sports, free wifi, and will soon be completely sodded for an open grass area.

Silva added the park is named for and dedicated to the brave men and women who have given their lives, and work in service for Canada, both locally and abroad.

"With Brave Park, we are hoping that their sacrifices will be remembered daily, so that the next generation can understand what it means to be brave in the face of adversity. To not sit down or give up when things get tough, but to stand tall with their neighbours and community members," he said. "The park is commemorated to all of our veterans, active-duty military personnel, police services, RCMP, fire departments, EMS, first and emergency responders, and of course, those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for us."

Soon to be opened in Brave Park will be a pickleball court, and an outdoor rink will see future development. Additionally, landscaping the area still requires completion for the adjacent roads, sidewalks and pathways.

Silva said response from the surrounding community has been positive to the park, and many have been anticipating its opening.

Brave Park is also completely accessible via local pathways connected to Hillview, and pedestrians are able to walk both all the way to and around the park along several kilometers of pavement.



Chantelle de Jonge, MLA
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Learning experience

It was a tough weekend for the Wheatland Wranglers U18 female hockey team, as they were shutout in a pair of weekend games Oct. 21-22, including the first one on home ice at the Strathmore Family Centre. With the tiering round behind them, the Wranglers can now focus on the regular season.

Joe Lepage Photos



Thunderstruck

The Wheatland Kings suffered just their second regulation loss of the season when they fell 4-2 to the Airdrie Thunder on Oct. 21 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Kings will now travel to Cochrane on Oct. 27 before hosting Coaldale on Oct. 29 (4:30 p.m.) at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Joe Lepage Photos



Making the cut

Strathmore Mayor Pat Fule (l-r) and Tamara Litun cut the ribbon on the town's newest business, Willow Tree Laser & Esthetics on Oct. 14. Litun and her staff offer a variety of ways to relax and unwind at 102, 331-3rd Avenue.

Photo Courtesy of Emma Jaelyn Photography

George Freeman School showcases whimsical new TRES art display

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Another art exhibition through TRES has been put up for display at the Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre for patrons of the running track to engage with.

Titled "Pretend Foraging in Sleeved Blankets," the gallery is by Grace Wirzba, hailing from Lethbridge and consists of 13 drawings, and eight mini quilts.

Jill McDonald, associate principal for George Freeman School, explained the exhibition is based on a large-scale game of Telestrations which took place at the Galt Museum and Archives between friends and strangers to the artist.

According to a release, Wirzba had asked participants to create artistic responses to archival objects at the museum, which she in turn translated to new drawings and textiles of her own making.

"Telestrations is kind of like a game of Pictionary. You are given a word or an image, and then you have to do the opposite. So, if I was given a word, I would have to draw the picture, and

then I would pass my pad of paper to the next person, and they would have to draw a picture based on my word," said McDonald. "Think about it like being a kid and playing a game of Telephone where you whispered in each kid's ear and it changed as you went down the line – Telestrations is kind of like playing Telephone but with written words and pictures, and the meaning or the story changes as it goes down the line."

McDonald described as a result of the unique context for which the pieces were created, much of the gallery she found to be very whimsical and silly.

"Art has lots of different purposes," she said. "Sometimes art is there to tell a story, and sometimes art is there to evoke emotion and sometimes art shares history with us and so some of the different purposes of art is one of the things we hope that students learn and that idea of appreciating all the different forms and styles and ways of doing it."

As of Oct. 17, students at George Freeman had not yet seen the artworks hung at the walking track, but were shortly thereafter given opportunities

to explore the gallery.

McDonald added one of the things she hopes students will learn is the idea of appreciating all the different forms and styles and ways of doing it.

TRES has approximately 16 travelling art exhibitions at a given time, which rotate throughout the province of Alberta.

George Freeman is able to showcase two of such exhibitions every school year. The second exhibit will be showcased, come the end of December and throughout January.

The last day to check out Pretend Foraging in Sleeved Blankets is scheduled for Nov. 5. The display will be taken down the following day.

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Notice of Application Confined Feeding Operation

Midwest Hutterian Brethren has filed Application LA23041 with the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) to obtain an approval to expand an existing confined feeding operation (CFO) on the SE 16 and SW 15-26-21 W4M in Wheatland County, Alberta. The application is to increase broiler poultry numbers from 53,000 to 96,000 and construct a broiler barn. This will bring total animal numbers at this CFO to 96,000 broilers, 13,000 layers (plus associated pullets), 4 milking cows (plus dries and replacements), 1,000 ducks, 250 geese, and 100 turkey broilers.

Filing a Response

Any person who is directly affected by the application may submit a written response to the NRCB. The response must be received by the NRCB on or before **4:30 pm on November 23, 2023**. Submissions should be made to the NRCB address provided below. A copy of the responses will be sent to the applicant for comment. Responses regarding the application may be posted on the NRCB's public website, as they are public records and are non-confidential.

Your written response must include your name, the legal land description of your residence or landholdings, mailing address, phone number, and email. You must also explain how you are directly affected. For further information please refer to the fact sheet "The Permitting Process for Confined Feeding Operations in Alberta" at www.nrcb.ca.

Failure to submit a written response affects your right to apply for an NRCB Board review.

Viewing the Application

A complete copy of the application and supporting documents submitted by the applicant under the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* may be viewed on the NRCB website at www.nrcb.ca (under Confined Feeding Operations / Notice of Approval and Registration Applications). The application will also be available for in-person viewing at the Lethbridge office by appointment. If you require further information, please contact the approval officer listed below.

Carina Weisbach, Approval Officer
 100, 5401 1st Ave S
 Lethbridge AB T1J 4V6
carina.weisbach@nrcb.ca
 T 403-381-5422

The closing date for submissions:
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Dated at Lethbridge AB, on October 25, 2023

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Playoff bound

The Strathmore Badgers bantam football team capped off the regular season with a 86-54 win over the Springbank Junior Phoenix on Oct. 21 at the Crowther Memorial Junior High School field. The Badgers are now looking forward to the post season.

Joe Lepage Photos



Hawks fly

The Holy Cross Collegiate boys and girls senior volleyball teams hosted their annual tournament Oct. 20-21 at the school. It was a competitive tournament for all teams involved.

Joe Lepage Photos

Terrific tourney

The George Freeman Falcons hosted their fifth annual girls A (Grades 8/9) volleyball tournament on Oct. 21 at the Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre. The Falcons finished in second at their own tournament. Meanwhile, Strathmore's Holy Cross Collegiate also took part in the cross-town tourney.

Joe Lepage Photos



Tune-up tourney

Holy Cross Collegiate hosted their Jr. A boys and girls volleyball tournament Oct. 13-14. The home teams had some hard-fought games with the boys ultimately finishing third overall and the girls coming in fourth.

Brad Everett Photos

NEXT HOME GAMES

Saturday, October 28 • 8 pm vs Coaldale
Saturday, November 4 • 8 pm vs Medicine Hat

Strathmore Family Centre - Gold Arena

WHEATLAND KINGS Strathmore Times

PLAYER OF THE GAME

Oct 20 **Cole Tweit** Oct 21 **Kaiden Healy**

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Thought for the Week

~

Maybe it is not our circumstances that cause our stress, but rather our habits?

SUDOKU

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Town adopts amendment of Senior Property Tax Rebate

Continued from Page 1

“While it may seem like a small amount in the context of the budgets that we deal with, or the costs that people are facing in their living, to seniors, they have articulated repeatedly that these are extremely important and very helpful benefits.”

Budd Brazier, community and social development manager with Strathmore Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), reiterated at the request of Mayor Pat Fule, in 2019, the policy cost the town approximately \$19,400 and serviced 132 homeowners. In 2020, it cost the town \$14,150 and serviced 92 clients. In 2021, 117 clients were serviced, with \$18,400 being distributed. In 2022, 66 clients were serviced, costing the town approximately \$10,700 through the program.

Wiley's motion was defeated 5-1 against following discussion.

Coun. Jason Montgomery motioned to adopt the amended policy as presented, but also to direct administration to explore a cap on the value of somebody's property who would be able to qualify for the rebate. Montgomery's motion was defeated following discussion.

Coun. Melissa Langmaid motioned to adopt the amended policy as presented in the agenda. The motion was carried 4-2 without further discussion.

Richard Wegener concludes second annual charity challenge

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore Coun. Richard Wegener has concluded his second annual charity challenge, encouraging locals to donate to a good cause.

This year, Wegener decided to challenge Strathmore to raise donations for the Wheatland County Food Bank, both monetary and of non-perishable food items.

"I think it went quite well. At this point, it is a little hard to determine how much was actually raised for it. Speaking with Lynnette (Aschenbrenner), they were getting quite a few donations, but there was also a couple of other initiatives going on for the food bank at the same time, so it is going to be a little bit hard to tell exactly what my challenge brought in," he said.

Wegener himself, similar to last year's challenge which raised money for the Overnight Shelter, donated \$1,000 in addition to anything that the community was able to raise.

The challenge ran for approximately six weeks, from the beginning of September until mid-October this year.

"I heard from a couple of people that they thought it was a good challenge and they were supporting it, and then there was somebody who, their daughter is a big proponent of it and always looks after a lot of the hygiene stuff, so they were happy," said Wegener. "When you look at what

we have in town with people who are paycheck to paycheck, people who are one paycheck away from not being able to stay in their house, food insecurity, I am pretty excited with anything that I can do to draw awareness to the food bank and hopefully help them out."

He added in a written statement, a thank you to all the members of the Strathmore community who generously donated food and money to support the food bank.

Due to other initiatives which raised donations for the food bank which were occurring concurrently with Wegener's challenge, the exact amount raised through his influence remains unknown.

"A couple of the learnings are getting yourself with the paper and the getting the radio involved. I promote it on my council Facebook page, as well as my personal one. I get the word out there to the other councillors that I am doing this," added Wegener. "As far as growing, I am not sure if it has or has not ... there was a lot of donations, but not a lot that were specifically marked for the challenge to keep track. We may not know exactly how successful this one was, but I think it is growing."

Wegener wished to continue encouraging the community to donate to the food bank, beyond the charity challenge, as they are always in need of more supplies.

Information regarding exactly what they need or items which are good to donate can be found on the Wheatland County Food Bank website.



Fall Gala

The Hope Bridges Society hosted their 16th annual Artists Among Us Fall Gala on Oct. 22 at the Hope Community Covenant Church. After a wonderful concert, performers and guests shared a wonderful supper.

Joe Lepage Photos

County to increase water and wastewater rates for 2024, 2025

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council has voted in favour of increasing utility rates for water use within the county by seven per cent in each of 2024 and 2025.

County administration presented to council, looking to obtain direction from council on their desire for any utility rate changes for the 2024 year during the Oct. 17 regular meeting of council.

Prior rate changes to water use within the county were made effective Nov. 1, 2022, which included a general increase to most rates of 15 per cent, as well as adjustment to the Muirfield rates to be consistent with other communities.

At the time, the overall philosophy of council during the prior process was for movement towards consistent and similar rates across the county, to address inflationary pressures, and to set the groundwork for reduced subsidization by non-profit revenue sources.

Administration presented council with three recommendations regarding scenarios for utility rates in 2024. In all cases, the assumptions are that all rates other than those related to debenture repayment would increase by the same percentage, similar to the 2022 rates.

The first scenario was for council to leave rates unchanged in 2024. The implications of this option would be that the net costs of water and wastewater function are increasingly subsidized by other funding sources, such as municipal property taxes.

The second scenario suggested to increase rates according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2011 to 2023, which would have yielded a three per cent increase. Administration suggested that option could be used as a reference metric to provide an increase in 2024. This option would also result in a higher subsidy rate than what was observed in previous years.

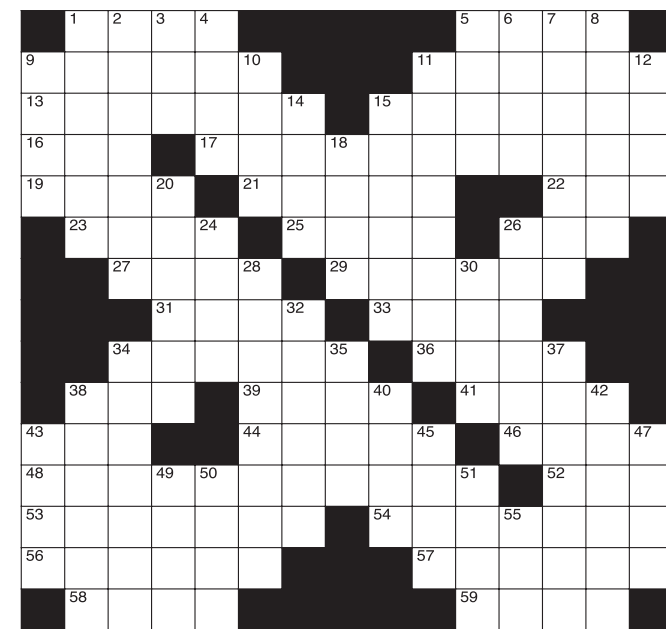
Lastly, administration proposed a 15 per cent increase in order to keep the subsidization from other revenue sources.

For council's reference, it was noted by administration that a one per cent increase in water and wastewater rates would provide a net change of approximately \$10,000 for the county.

Coun. Donna Biggar motioned that council direct administration to bring back a report with more information on the debenture for Carseland/Speargrass and cost sharing for wastewater infrastructure utilization with Muirfield. The motion was passed unanimously by council following a discussion period.

Coun. Scott Klassen motioned that council direct administration to utilize the seven per cent increases for 2024 and 2025, as well as to update the master schedule of fees bylaw. Following discussion, this motion was also passed unanimously by council.

More information regarding specific numbers and rates is available via the county's Oct. 17 regular meeting agenda, as well as online through the publicly available meeting recording on YouTube.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Male children
- 5. Robert Wagner series "Hart to ___"
- 9. Unfolded
- 11. Digestive disease
- 13. Wednesday
- 15. Malignant tumor
- 16. Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
- 17. Slowed
- 19. Letter of the Semitic abjads
- 21. Weights of cars without fuel
- 22. Former CIA
- 23. Asian country
- 25. Instead
- 26. Ancient Egyptian King
- 27. Privies
- 29. Shopping trips
- 31. Paradoxical anecdote
- 33. It's on the table
- 34. Ancient Persia ruler
- 36. Small American rail
- 38. File extension
- 39. Days (Spanish)
- 41. Everyone has one
- 43. South American plant
- 44. About ilium
- 46. Vanished American hoopster Bison
- 48. A type of breakfast
- 52. Uncooked
- 53. Examined
- 54. Christian recluse
- 56. Strong posts
- 57. Some are for pasta
- 58. Skinny
- 59. School-based organizations

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Ringlet
- 2. Type of complex
- 3. Midway between north and northwest
- 4. It becomes something bigger
- 5. German courtesy title
- 6. Genus of birds
- 7. Marked by public disorder
- 8. Least aggressive
- 9. Russian city
- 10. Insect repellent
- 11. Interruptions
- 12. Scoundrels
- 14. 1,000 calories
- 15. What one does overnight
- 18. Dwarf planet
- 20. Pipe
- 24. Black powdery substance
- 26. Set of four
- 28. Canned fishes
- 30. North Carolina college
- 32. Secured
- 34. A disgraceful event
- 35. Physical suffering
- 37. The home of the free
- 38. Some are boys
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Makes very happy
- 43. South American plants
- 45. Modes of transportation
- 47. Female sheep
- 49. Type of torch
- 50. Piece of merchandise
- 51. Jump over
- 55. Wife of Amun



Mario Prusina Publisher
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Upcoming Council Meetings

October 25, 2023 | 6 P.M. Organizational Meeting of Council
October 25, 2023 | 6:30 P.M. Community Delegation Night
November 1, 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.



Halloween swim

October 31, 2023 | 6:30 to 9 P.M.

Join the pool-tergeist party and enjoy some paranormal aquatic activity at the Strathmore Aquatic Centre. Bring a non-perishable food donation for admission in support of the Wheatland Food Bank.



SPECIAL BUDGET CAFE EDITION



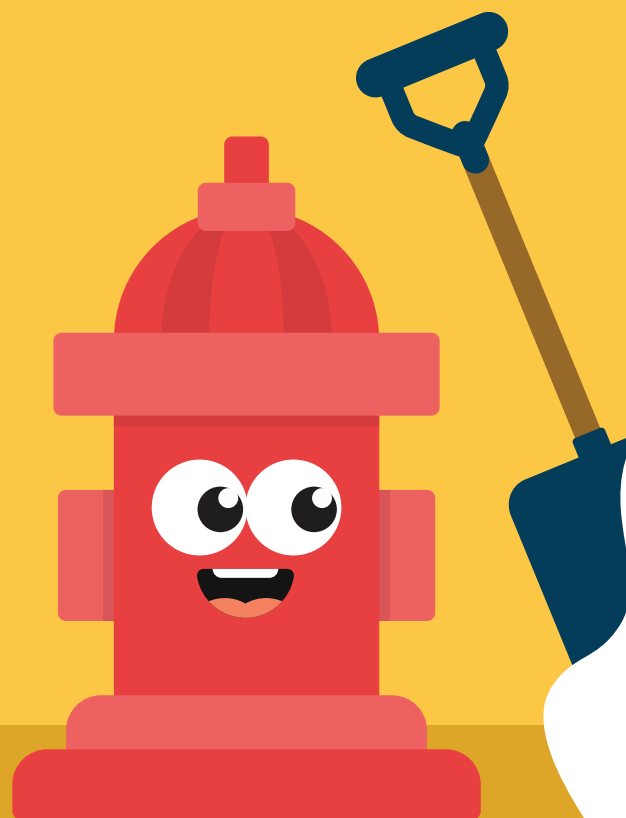
We're talking all things 2024 Capital and Operating Budget.

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

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Strathmore's Lil Hoots named best boutique in Alberta

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore's Lil Hoots Children's Boutique has been awarded "Best in Alberta" from the Little List Preloved Directory, through nomination and votes by the local community.

According to Denise Geremia, who owns and operates Lil Hoots, her business was nominated for seven categories of awards through the Little List, including most notable, gives back to the community, best brick and mortar, community-minded, customer service, maternity, and best in province.

"Every single business and preloved shop is able to be part of it. I think there are 27 or 28 categories, and some of them are best website, best social media, there are all these things," said Geremia. "It is huge for my store and I am extremely honoured and I got a message saying it was such a landslide. There are so many preloved stores in Alberta, especially because it is such a huge thing. I was going up against the big-name stores and I am pretty honoured to have won."

The Little List Preloved Directory looks at boutiques, thrift shops, and preloved item stores across Canada, with awards available in every province and territory.

Geremia posted that nominations were open, Aug. 31, on her social media pages, and was informed her store had been nominated for seven categories Sept. 15. She found out she had been awarded best in Alberta on Oct. 5.

Geremia attributes much of her win, as well as the favourability of her store within the local community to the activities and causes she supports outside of her business.

"The customers and I, we all have this similar opinion, this drive to make Strathmore better and if there are certain things you can do to offer your time and money and commitment to the town instead of complaining about things, I find that people are really (receptive) to that," she said. "We all work together to make the town better and I will always do whatever we can. I think that is why I won, is because we are always doing things like our bike program and starting up a free soccer program and helping to organize downtown night markets, and donating all of the unsellable clothes to Siksika."

Geremia took over Lil Hoots in Sept. 2019, just prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and was able to keep the store alive.

She described it as a passion project,

as well as to be the first place locals can turn to for preloved items rather than looking online or having to go to Calgary.

"My whole goal was to take a business that was one thing and turn it into everyone's, Strathmore's, the whole local community's first stop before they go to Calgary or shop online and I feel like I have accomplished that," she said.

Until Christmas, she added Lil Hoots is conducting a fundraiser in order to purchase new winter apparel to fill backpacks and give to local children at the women's shelter, emergency shelter, and homeless shelter, as well as to organizations in Calgary.



Lil Hoots was recently awarded Best Boutique in Alberta, according to The Little List, which evaluated similar preloved and thrift shops across the province, as well as across the country. Voting to determine award winners was open to the public following nominations.

John Watson Photo

Purple donation

Purple Thursday, held on Oct. 19, is the day Royal Purple across Canada recognizes brain injuries. Some injuries are caused by interpersonal violence, which is why they chose to support shelters. Bassano Royal Purple members Barb Larsen and Lyne Sage presented purple bags filled with toiletries to Strathmore's True North on Oct. 20.

Photo Courtesy of Lyne Sage



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YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

Vaping, the inhalation of nicotine and other products by sucking contents into the lungs is resulting in more lung problems over recent years. One lung doctor in the U.S. calls the harm from vaping like "an oil spill in the lungs". That description alone should convince those who vape to reconsider their habit. Lungs are important to the survival of the human body. Why mess them up?

The U.S. Surgeon General says that 13 years old is too young to begin using social media. Most platforms require users to be at least 13. But at this age, teens are thinking about their own self-worth and relationships and social media often doesn't help youths through this tough period of life. Things like cyberbullying via social media can be very detrimental to their feelings of self-worth. Wait until the age of at least 15.

Remember how mothers and grandmothers used to say "eat prunes, they will keep you regular". Well, it's true. Prunes are dried plums and contain both soluble and insoluble fibre as well as sorbitol, a natural sugar that works by drawing water into the bowel to mix with soluble fibre to stimulate movement of the bowels. Bothered by constipation? Try adding a few prunes or some prune juice to your daily diet.

About 73% of Canadians brush their teeth twice a day which is the minimum amount. Unfortunately only 28% floss their teeth at least 5 times per week. Good oral hygiene prevents teeth and gum problems as well as prevents high dental bills. Don't floss yet? Start today.

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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.

November 14: Municipal Planning Commission

November 14: Public Presentation Committee

November 14: Committee of the Whole

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

Careers with Wheatland County

Available opportunities include:

- **Waste Transfer Site Operator**
Closes November 6, 2023
- **Heavy Equipment Technician**
Closes November 3, 2023



Visit our website for more information and APPLY TODAY!
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County Land Available for Lease

Wheatland County is offering two separate land parcels for lease. Sealed tenders, marked as either "Lease within NE-8-22-21-W4M" or "Lease within NW-6-22-25-W4M," must be submitted by registered mail, courier, or in-person delivery by **4:00 PM on October 31, 2023**, to:

Wheatland County
242006 Range Rd 243
Wheatland County, AB, T1P 2C4
Attn: George Bloom, Manager of Agriculture and Environment

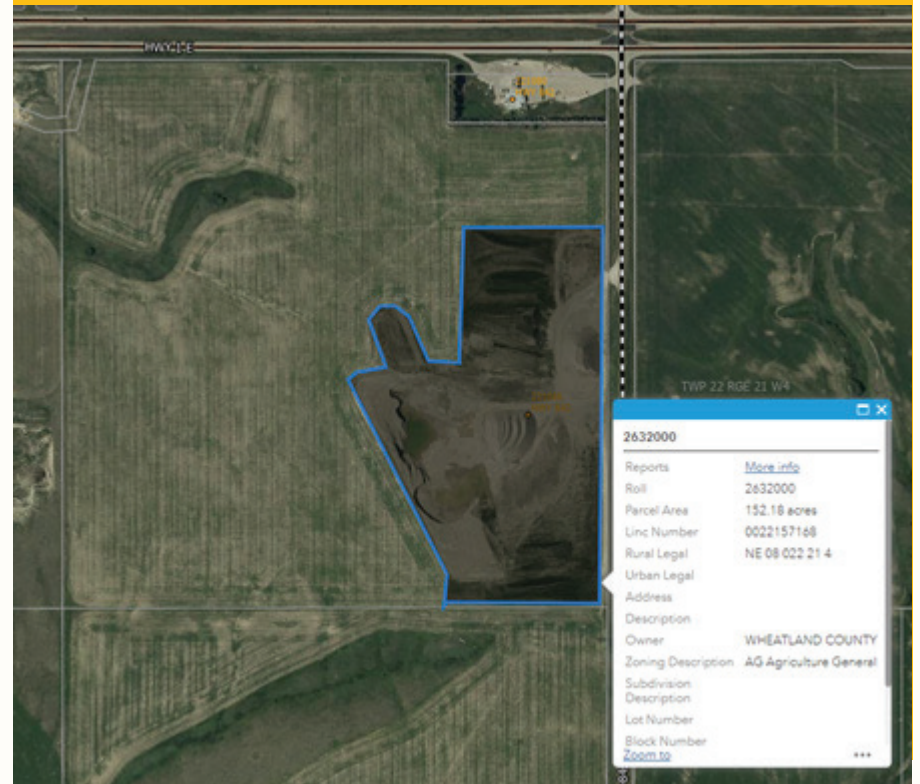
Faxed and emailed tenders will not be accepted.

Tenders will be publicly opened **Wednesday November 1, 2023, at 8:30 AM**. Proponents will be contacted after internal review.

Inquiries may be directed to George Bloom at 403-361-2006 or george.bloom@wheatlandcounty.ca.

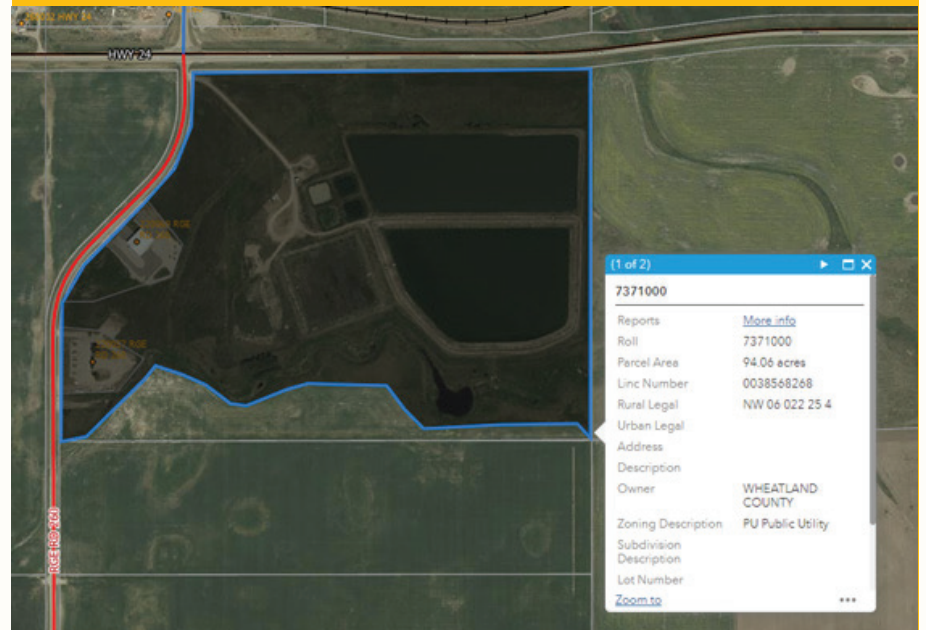
Land Location: NE-8-22-21-W4M

Description: Wheatland County has approximately 100 acres within NE-8-22-21-W4M available for a 5-year term cropping lease, starting in 2025.



Land Location: NW-6-22-25-W4M

Description: Wheatland County has approximately 10 acres within NW-6-22-25-W4M available for a 3-year term cropping lease, starting in 2024.



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Are you wanting to give back or become more involved in your community? Wheatland County Fire Services is recruiting volunteer firefighters!

Minimum requirements:

- 18 years of age • Valid class 5 drivers licence • No criminal record • Good physical health



If you're interested or have questions, please call or email Mark Romaniuk, Deputy Regional Fire Chief at 403-361-2165 or mark.romaniuk@wheatlandcounty.ca



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- NOVEMBER 8, 2023 - HIGHWOOD CENTRE, HIGH RIVER
- NOVEMBER 21, 2023 - HERITAGE CENTRE, CREMONA
- JANUARY 10, 2024 - ACME COMMUNITY CENTRE, ACME
- JANUARY 30, 2024 - PATRICIA COMMUNITY HALL, PATRICIA

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





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Ottawa's proposed regulations will make electricity unaffordable and unreliable. The estimated costs of achieving a net zero grid by 2035 are as high as \$1.7 trillion and 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 could also double, triple or even quadruple.

Tell the Feds affordable and reliable electricity matters. And ask them why they are rushing to do something by 2035 when experts agree that it can't feasibly be done before 2050.

Speak up at **Tell the Feds.ca**

Town amends property tax penalty and monthly tax installment payment plan bylaw

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore Town Council passed all three readings for Bylaw 23-30, being the property tax penalty and monthly tax installment payment plan bylaw, during the Oct. 18 regular meeting of council.

Tom Maier, manager of financial planning, budgeting, and analysis, presented the bylaw before council, explaining the previous iteration had been in place since 2011, and was both confusing for administration, as well as being difficult to implement properly, and outdated.

The new bylaw changes the tax penalty component of the document, and largely leaves the tax installment plan the same.

Some of the key changes to the bylaw include the simplification of the process to administer and levy property tax penalties for those who make late payments.

“Going to the new bylaw presents consistency to the bylaw where we are going to a monthly penalty process and a consistent tax penalty rate of two per cent,” said Maier. “That is similar to what you would see in our utility penalty and what you see in business credit cards ... so we just want to bring it up to current standards.”

A goal of the bylaw is to bring fairness and equity to the rate structure. Within the old structure, the percentages expected to be paid of late fines changed depending on the month, and

months were variable throughout the year.

As per the new bylaw, a consistent two per cent rate is implemented, which if not paid for an entire year, will add up to 24 per cent for the annum. Maier noted this is comparable to what somebody might pay in fees on their credit card.

Additionally, the new bylaw aims to make the system fairer for the taxpayer, as previously, if someone was unable to catch up on payments over the first nine months, the penalty would work up to 36 per cent interest. This made it extremely difficult for taxpayers to catch up if they became egregiously behind.

“Providing a more fair and equitable tax penalty rate throughout the year will just help taxpayers and residents hopefully stay on top and be able to pay their taxes on time or more quickly,” said Maier.

The change to the bylaw will also help to alleviate stress on residents or businesses who miss a tax due date, as they will no longer be immediately hit with a 10 per cent interest penalty.

Coun. Jason Montgomery motioned for council to pass first and second readings of the bylaw: motion was carried unanimously without further discussion.

Coun. Brent Wiley motioned for council to give unanimous consent to have third reading of the bylaw, as well as to pass third reading of Bylaw 23-30. Both motions were passed unanimously.

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Defending our family farms!

It's ironic that a certain feedlot complains about acreage push back when they've created many acreages. Are they truly speaking on behalf of all feedlots in Wheatland County? All Alberta feedlots? Amazing that this business thinks they should decide the tax rate. Please re-read that. A special class would be

appropriate and affordable? They've bought millions of dollars worth of land in last two years, and they want subsidized taxes? More acreages forthcoming? They've received millions (at least \$5,600,000) in government grant money - does anyone see an ethanol plant? Taxpayers = Grant Money!!!

We need a slaughterhouse or our long term viability is at stake? Recent land acquisition status belie that? How many local multi-generational farm families oppose this project that spews wastewater by roads & homes? Wheatland County MPC approves ~ 95% of applications, for them to deny is very tell-

ing!
How many neighbors supported JPM? BTW, who is selling that building? What business operates there currently?
Is this letter - sent to Wheatland County for the public hearing - designed to foster collaboration and acceptance with the neighbours?

Ardenode/Nightingale Concerned Citizens

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

We were unable to attend the Public Hearing but would like to make the following suggestion:

- The land around a feedlot could be specifically designated as a special grouping – 'agriculture industrial-1'
- A special tax rate could be assigned to a special tax class. From our experience, we would have difficulty paying a full industrial rate but feel a special class would be appropriate and affordable

As you are aware, we are attempting to do some further development in our area and are receiving a great deal of push back from the local acreage owners while at the same time receiving a great deal of support from the local ranchers. Even though the project fits many of your agricultural objectives as well as the Provincial Governments mandates, the complainants simply want no development in our area. There must be a way to level the playing field such as their taxes would have to be increased accordingly if indeed no development is approved by the County. An example would be, if our plant was to be built and property taxes were \$65,000 approximately, this lost opportunity has to be paid for by the locals.

There are other feedlots in the County that will undergo the same push back from the local acreage owners but if this zoning is established perhaps there would be less issues in the future.

The decision for no development, would indeed, strand our long-standing business (assuming we meet all the criteria) and ultimately our long term viability.

Thank you for your time.

Health care is for everyone

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Everyone has access to the health care they need when and where they need it. Seems like a simple concept and one that everyone can agree on, right? However, this has been an ongoing problem in Alberta, and across the country for far too long. That is why our United Conservative Government is taking immediate, ongoing action to improve Alberta's primary health care system.

Primary health care is the first point of contact Albertans have with our health care system and it should be available to all Albertans. Primary care includes visits with your family doctor, a nurse practitioner or a pharmacist.

We must prioritize change in primary care to

make meaningful progress on access issues. To do so, we must reposition primary care as the foundation of our entire health care system.

Since they began their work last fall, the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System initiative (MAPS) has played a pivotal role in formulating our path forward. This initiative was led by advisory panels that consisted of primary healthcare leaders, Indigenous representatives, and national and global experts.

They were tasked with identifying improvements to strengthen Alberta's primary healthcare system and they delivered.

Last week, Minister of Health Adriana LaGrange announced a series of immediate actions that will work to stabilize and strengthen Alberta's primary healthcare system.

These actions include the establishment of a task force, which will include the Alberta Medical Association and College of Family Physicians, and will have multiple objectives, notably the development of an improved compensation model for family medicine. In addition, the task force will explore ways to increase the amount of time primary care providers can spend with their patients and reduce the time they spend on paperwork.

Our commitment to this work is unwavering, and the task force has a short window to deliver results.

They are mandated to provide interim reports by January and a final report by March. If there are recommendations that can be implemented even sooner, we will not hesitate to act on them.

Today marks the beginning of a promising new start for our health care system, and we are excited about the positive changes that lie ahead.

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

Local bull rider eyes world title

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

Local junior bull rider Kaelym Bissett-Luyendyk has his sights set for the YETI Junior World Finals, Dec. 7-16 in Las Vegas.

The Grade 9 student from Crowther Memorial Junior High School, who began riding just this past March, is on a rare trajectory in the sport.

He earned his way to the finals by placing first or se-

cond within his association (Crooked Horn Canadian Junior Rodeo Association).

Bissett-Luyendyk's journey to bull riding success began when finally, his mom let him ride.

"I got into it from seeing other people do it, thinking to myself 'hey I want to try doing that - that looks fun.' That's how it all started," said the 14-year-old. "I tried it and I found out I was pretty good at it and I liked it a lot."

Bissett-Luyendyk said there are so many great aspects of the sport, but the things he loves the

most are, "the people, the places. Those are my two favourite things about it."

As with any high-level sport, Bissett-Luyendyk said he's had support from knowledgeable pro bull riders such as Osman Alvarez and Scott Schiffner. Both have played an integral role in helping Bissett-Luyendyk develop his bull riding skills.

He said his first buckle win at the Irricana rodeo this past year was a memory he won't soon forget.

"It's kinda unreal how I've been riding for so little amount

of time and I've made it pretty far," he said. "It's pretty exciting."



He attended Schiffner's bull riding clinic in the past and is looking forward to it this fall and again this spring.

Bissett-Luyendyk isn't new to the rodeo world; he started riding sheep when he was little and of course, the wild pony races. His grandfather David Luyendyk was a bareback rider in the 90s and early 2000s, so rodeo was always something that was a part of his life growing up.

Continued on Page 14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alberta Pension Plan, eggs in one basket?

To the Editor

There is an assumption by our government that Alberta will get \$334 billion of the current CPP \$546 billion for their APP. That is 61 per cent of the fund; Alberta is 16 per cent of Canada's population.

Current reported statements from Canada, which we're still a part of, states it would be approximately 25 per cent of that figure. Question is, what can Alberta "guarantee" it will be before a referendum on this topic?

There is also an assumption that Alberta will continue on its path of financial growth which we all know is heavily weighted on the oil sector. With the pressure to decarbonize and slowing investments what "guarantee" can there be that the cash cow will continue to exist at its current rate of government income? Well, we all know the past history of that.

Currently, the CPP is reported to be sustainable for the next 75 years without any increases - what can the APP state today they are able to guarantee? The CPP's ability to participate inside the larger pool of resources and larger management of those resources is part of its advantage. Can one province do the same? CPP is well-diversified and well-managed investments spread over top of global investments. Do you think a province has more influence than Canada when it comes to investing your pension money on the world stage? The CPP is indexed to inflation, and what about OAS and GIS? Visit the Alberta Pension Plan website and you'll find there is no mention of that at all, while those two programs account for about half of a pension that low-income earners rely on.

Here's the question: do you risk staying with something you know that works historically or something you don't know with any certainty when the terms "could be" not "will be" are used in the APP proposal? This already appears to

be setting up for an easy out in political terms politically, in playing politics with your retirement security.

What is stated in the Alberta Pension Plan website is that developments similar to the QPP and Canada will need to happen. I would suggest there's a lot of unknowns and public trust in that statement. Let's review our government track record on managing our trusted investments. The Heritage Fund that should have been in the billions by now - we're not even close to what could have been due to reported government hand dipping into that fund.

The management of the orphan well problem legally is not a taxpayer's problem but is becoming one as our UCP has campaigned on giving our millions in tax credits to the oil sector that's making historic profits to address that. Here's another great investment: the UCP giving households that make up to \$180,000 a year a \$100 a month tax free - your tax contributions in supporting the well-off. Makes sense right?

Alberta MLA's at \$120,936 per year are at the top of compensation in Canada, and after six years of service their yearly pension from your tax dollars is reported to be about 70 per cent of their salary. So, the question is; do you think they're concerned about where a pension plan like the CPP comes from?

Talk to your MLA about this; it's your future, your money, your pension at risk. Here's a question to ask your MLA; would all politicians that vote for this be willing to forfeit their government pension plan if this APP proposal fails or doesn't work out at any point in the future, because it would appear they are asking us to do that. Your vote, your choice, your voice matters if you care about being Canadian.

Dennis Bigras,
Wheatland County

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The Langdon Library Society received a grant of nearly \$1,000 from the Canada Post Foundation to fund the start of a try-it hobby type program through the library. **Photo Courtesy of Jeff Burgess**

Langdon Library Society receives grant to offer new hobby program

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Langdon Library Society has been awarded a Community Foundation grant from Canada Post, in the amount of \$954 to put towards a try-it hobby program.

Cori Nicholls, president of the Langdon Library Society, explained the grant is a community grant available to any non-profit organization to apply for.

This particular grant is also the first that the Langdon Library has applied for with the intent to enhance their local programming.

"It has been rather exciting to suddenly get a grant as a brand-new library. (We) decided to use the opportunity to ask for funds so that we could develop hobby kits similar to what Chestermere Library's 'Test Drive a Hobby' program is," said Nicholls. "Whether it be crochet, or knitting, or bird watching, or astronomy, or rock tumbling – learning to play the ukulele, those kinds of kits that will come with like a book or a video and all the supplies you'd need."

For example, a ukelele kit would come with the instrument, a tuner, and resources for beginning to play for the month that the user is in possession of the kit.

Langdon Library, upon the launch of its "Hobby Explorer" program will have kits for folks to be introduced to knitting, crochet, bird watching, rock tumbling, ukelele, watercolour painting, and anime drawing.

"The way that we figured in the budgeting for the grant application was that this would allow us to not only set up, do the initial setup of the kits, but it would allow us to provide any of the supplies that might be used up for an entire year," said Nicholls. "As I have mentioned it to people, they did not even realize the program was available in Chestermere, for the most part. To hear that we are going to be offering it here, there has been some general excitement at the thought of being able to (engage with it)."

Hobby Explorer kits will be free and available for folks to check out and borrow who have a membership with the library.

According to Nicholls, the Langdon Library Society is aiming to have all of the kits ready and available for folks to start checking out as early as mid-November. If not by then, they will be available by Dec. 1 at the latest.

"Picking up hobbies is expensive ... this sort of takes that fear factor out of trying a new hobby because you do not have to invest in it or dispose of the materials if you hate it," said Nicholls.

The cheque presentation for the grant took place Oct. 18 at a Canada Post office in Chestermere. A total of approximately \$1.2 million in grants has been awarded this year by the Canada Post Foundation to 84 organizations across Canada.

Local rider looks to impress

Continued from Page 13

Attending an event like the World Juniors in Las Vegas is not something to be taken lightly. Bissett-Luyendyk is hoping that with some community support, and perhaps a sponsor or two, his dreams of winning will become a reality.

"I'd like to inspire other kids that want to ride and help them out and do anything I can," he said. "I've had people help me out that have been real good at riding."

The Junior World Finals takes place December 7-16 in Las Vegas and a full schedule of events can be found online (www.nfrexperience.com/juniorworldfinals).

If you would like to connect with Bissett-Luyendyk on a sponsorship level or just to say good luck, he can be reached via email (kbissett@icloud.com).

Obituary



DENNY, Peter Lyle

June 17, 1956 to
October 19, 2023

Peter Lyle Denny was born on June 17, 1956 in Montreal, Quebec to Sydney and Rita Denny. Peter grew up in Montreal before moving to Alberta, along with his parents and his older brother, Steve. In 1990 Peter's pride and joy was born, his son, Matthew.

Peter was a man who cared about everyone, loved animals, sports, and was never short a joke.

In his younger years, Peter loved to ride his horse Tameco and proudly rode in several Calgary Stampede parades. Along with Tameco, his cat Boots and his son's dog Dallas held a special place in Peter's animal-loving-heart.

While raising his son, Peter found much joy in coaching soccer teams – from early age teams up to a men's league. He enjoyed sharing his love of sports and building friendships throughout his coaching career. Peter also avidly cheered for the Calgary Flames and the Dallas Cowboys and loved to recap games with his son.

Peter lived a care-free life, living each day as he saw fit. He loved raising and watching his son grow, watching his son get married in 2021, and have his first and only grandchild in September 2023. Peter was the proudest Papa around and found so much joy in showing off his granddaughter Hailey to everyone he came across.

Peter was predeceased by his parents Sydney and Rita Denny and brother Steve Denny. Peter is survived by his son Matthew (Adelle) Denny, granddaughter Hailey Denny, and sister-in-law Carole Denny.

A celebration of life will be held on Nov. 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Wheatland Funeral Home.

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

THANK YOU

Thank You

The family of Florence Morton wish to thank the Management and Caregivers at Sagewood Care Home, the Wheatland Funeral Home, Reverend Scott, Anna Tucker Soloist, the United Church ladies for the lunch provided at the funeral service, neighbors and friends who provided us with meals, cookies, and flowers. Your generosity in this difficult time was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Noreen & Lorne Rankine
Jesse & Rhiannon Rankine & boys
Nick & Tamara Rankine, Justin & Cara Ruppe & girls

MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of my Son

Mark Darren Bill

July 10, 1965 – November 3, 2002

Something will remind me
I never know when,
It might be something someone says
And it all comes back again.

The times we spent together
The happiness, the fun,
Once again I feel the pain
Of life without my Son.

It's said that time's a healer
I'm sure that is true,
There's not a day goes by Son
That I don't cry for you.

Forever loved, never forgotten
Missed always, Love Mom

I stood on tiptoe gazing into the distance,
Interminably gazing at the
Road that had taken you...
(I miss you)

Love always and forever
Sister Wan

Obituary



SCOTT, Loretta Anne

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Loretta Anne Scott, on October 18, 2023 at the Strathmore Hospital at the age of 61 years.

Loretta is survived by her loving husband Cliff and her three sons Kevin (Karen), Trevor and Jody. She will be deeply missed by her sisters Caroline Beren (Barry), Joanne Balding (Robert), Tracy Taylor (George) and her brothers Jerry, and Henri (Elizabeth). As well as her brother-in-law Keith Scott (Shirley). She will also forever be in the hearts of her grandchildren, Cameron, Kiana, Kalea, Elizabeth, and Beau. Loretta also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

Loretta is predeceased by her parents Gaston and Rachel Janssens, her in laws Doug, Beth and Mabel Scott as well as her sister-in-law Louise Scott.

Throughout high school, Loretta was always involved in team sports such as Basketball and Track in field. Loretta took her love for helping people to a level where she knew she was making a difference, she joined the Ambulance Service and became a first responder in the communities of Virden, Manitoba, Killarney, Manitoba and Boissevain, Manitoba. She also became involved in Scouts Canada and became a Beaver Leader. But her passion didn't stop there as she began a career becoming a Health Care Aid with the Strathmore Acute Care and Extended Care while living in Strathmore, Alberta and her final years were spent living outside of Hussar, Alberta.

Though helping people was also her main focus, Loretta loved to be with her friends and family. She enjoyed camping, which always meant that she was on a quad. She loved to travel to new and exciting places.

Loretta will be missed by everyone who knew her, the people that she helped and the love that she gave to everyone who surrounded her.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the Spring or Summer.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society, the Diabetes Association or to a charity of your choice.

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

HELP WANTED

Casual Library Clerk

The Strathmore Municipal Library is hiring for the position of Casual Library Clerk to work occasional evening and weekend shifts.

Duties for the position include:

- Welcoming visitors to the library
- Responding to reference and general enquiries
- Orienting new members to the library
- Assisting patrons with public-use computers, library equipment, and mobile devices
- Promoting library materials and programs while providing excellent service

Qualifications:

- Willingness to learn new technologies and resources
- Love of helping everyone find a great book
- Fantastic customer service skills

The successful candidate will be required to provide a Criminal Record Check.

Cover letters and resumes may be sent by mail or email to:

Rachel Dick Hughes
Director of Library Services
Strathmore Municipal Library
85 Lakeside Blvd, Strathmore, AB T1P 1A1
director@strathmorelibrary.ca

We wish to express our appreciation to all applicants for applying for this position. Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. Please submit your cover letter and resume no later than October 30th, 2023.



JAN TOWNSEND IS THE 2023 DIRECT ENERGY VOLUNTEER CITIZEN OF THE YEAR.

Jan's chosen charity organization, Hearts & Hands Foundation, will receive a \$5,000 donation from Direct Energy.

Read more about Jan, The Hearts & Hands Foundation & the seven finalists for 2023.

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**FRANCHISE FEE INCREASE
NOTICE**

Please be advised that the Village of Rockyford is proposing to increase the local access fee, which is charged to FortisAlberta Inc. (FortisAlberta) for use of municipal lands for its power lines effective January 1, 2024*.

The fee is recovered by FortisAlberta from its customers as the local municipal access fee on electric billings of all customers that receive electric service in the Village. This local access fee will be increased from \$3.56 (5%) to \$5.31 (7%)** of the delivery charge of FortisAlberta, excluding energy related riders. This calculation is based on 640 kWh consumption in 30 days.

Questions or concerns should be directed to Lori Miller, Chief Administrative Officer at 403-533-3950.

Thank you.

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