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# TIMES

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 37

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Page 5



Close battle

Page 9



Horseshoe success

## Lodge transparency

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council is seeking more information and clarity from the Wheatland Housing Management Board (WHMB) regarding the ongoing Wheatland Lodge project.

A motion was passed by council during the Sept. 2 meeting directing county administration to send a letter to the WHMB requesting an update on the status of the proposed new build.

Currently the new Wheatland Lodge project has been placed effectively on hold, following the failure of the most recent provincial grant funding request, indicated in July.

Coun. Tom Ikert expressed concerns with what will be the overall cost to see the project through to construction, and exactly what that number may be.

"The number one question was, as of July 8, what was the cost of the build for the 120-bed lodge unit, and there is no way that you can find that answer," he said. "The number I have heard on social media is \$90 million, which would be \$750,000 a door, which is not affordable housing – and since we are a willing participant in this build, I think we need to get the proper numbers out there that how this is all feasible."

He added a concern that following the announcement of a \$3.5 million grant being awarded to the True North Society, projects in Strathmore or Wheatland County are not likely to see consideration from the province for housing grant funding in the near future.

Coun. Glenn Koester, who chairs the WMHB, added the contributions to the project requested of partnering municipalities does not exceed \$700,000.

"At no time has any of the submissions for the new build been more than the \$700,000 contribution that was asked of the municipalities. That was never higher than that," said Koester. "The project can increase in price, but the financing increases, contributions increase, but never has that \$700,000 been brought higher."

Continued on Page 4



## 'Fore' a good cause

The sun was shining as the Strathmore Oilmen hosted their annual fall classic golf tournament on Sept. 11 at the Strathmore Golf Club. The tournament raised funds for the Strathmore & Wheatland County Christmas Hamper Society and the Wheatland County Food Bank. See Page 4 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

## STRATHMORE TIMES

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The Sammons family have been named the BMO Farm Family Award winners for Wheatland County.

Photo Courtesy of the Sammons Family

## Local farm family honoured

MELISSA PICHE  
Times Contributor

The Sammons family, who have farmed in the Gleichen area for more than a century, have been named one of this year's BMO Farm Family Award winners. For the family, the recognition reflects both their deep agricultural roots and their ongoing contributions to the community.

Together the Calgary Stampede and BMO Bank of Montreal award families across southern Alberta with this prestigious honour. The award is given to outstanding farm families in recognition of their farming practices and community connections – with emphasis on the value of the family farm to our modern society, created to promote urban-rural relationships.

"We have been farming in Gleichen since 1909," said Dave Sammons. "We have always been a mixed farm raising crops and beef cattle. In the past we have raised hogs and even had a few dairy cows. We have always had horses and try to utilize them to work cattle whenever possible."

Sammons admitted that the award came as a surprise.

"I was very surprised when I received the phone call that we won the award. It took a while to sink in," he said. "Being

given the Farm Family Award is an honour. It is more so since we are being recognized by our peers.

"I feel this award is partially recognition of our farming and grazing practices as well as our contribution to the community over many years."

Reflecting on the evolution of farming, Sammons noted the stark differences between his ancestors' time and today.

"In the early 1900's farming involved much more manual labour, but my ancestors were able to benefit from the nutrient-rich freshly broken prairie soils. Today we are more reliant on capital investment in equipment and crop inputs."

Like many farm families, the Sammons have faced challenges along the way. "Low commodity prices and periods of drought have always been a challenge for farmers and ranchers," said Sammons. "We have tried to mitigate these risks by having a mixed farm, adapting to better farming practices and improving our pasture with adaptive grazing practices. Also off-farm income helps to stabilize the income."

Beyond their farm, the Sammons have a long history of community involvement.

"We have been involved in most community associations over the years (such as the) Gleichen Lions Club, minor hockey, figure skating club, Ag Society and Gunners Bronc Riding. We have also been involved in the local 4-H steer and heifer clubs. I am currently serving on the board of the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association based out of High River," said Sammons.

He emphasized the importance of families like his to rural life.

"Farm families are the core to rural communities. We are vested in keeping them vibrant and stable," said Sammons. "However, there are fewer farm families left, so we are reliant on newer neighbours and town residents to put on events and keep clubs active."

Looking ahead Sammons hopes his family's story will stand as an example. "I hope our farming legacy is one of hard work, progressive management and integrity in how we conduct our business," he said.

He also sees an exciting future for agriculture, particularly in sustainable practices.

"We are learning how to graze our pasture in a way that improves our grass and allows us to improve our soils and grass stands," said Sammons. "Ultimately, this allows us to run more cattle on the same amount of land. In the process we are also sequestering carbon out of the atmosphere and putting it into the soil. Cows may be saving the environment, not destroying it."

The Sammons are currently involved in the Living Labs Project, which measures the carbon levels in soil. Their grazing systems also recycle nutrients naturally.

"The synergy of having cows and cattle have allowed us to graze our cows all winter on corn," said Sammons. "In the process all of the manure and urine that is deposited back in those fields has allowed us to grow crops with minimal use of chemical fertilizers. This is better for the environment and our bank account."

For new farmers Sammons offers simple but important advice: "Try new things and never stop learning."



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**Hidden treasure**

The Annual Parade of Garages Sales was held on Sept. 13 in the Town of Strathmore. The event, sponsored by Debbie Mitzner of RE/MAX Landon Real Estate, is held twice a year – once in the spring and once in September.

Joe Lepage Photos



# County solar array estimated to recover costs by 2043

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The return on Wheatland County's investment into a solar array atop the administration building will take slightly longer than originally anticipated to pay off.

A report was brought forward, Sept. 2, to council, providing an update on the status and efficacy of the array.

Jose Podio-Cuervo, manager of Technical Services, explained the 215 solar panels installed on the administration building in October 2016 have thus far produced a total of 607.8 megawatt hours of electricity, which averages approximately 66.3 megawatt hours annually.

"Based on the updated forecasted expenses and energy generation cost saving, the county's payback period is currently estimated at 27 years, with full payback anticipated by 2043," he said. "The total installation cost was \$118,790, of which \$86,002 was paid by Wheatland County after accounting for a \$32,788 Alberta Municipal Solar Program (AMSP) grant."

He added for the public's reference, it is important to bear in mind that municipalities typically benefit from lower energy costs compared to that of a residential system.

Additionally, the calculation being applied within the report and current return estimates does not account for "rate-switching," whereby customers take advantage of Alberta's Micro-Generation Regulation.

Under this approach, should the solar array be producing more electricity than the building is utilizing, the excess power is able to be sold back to the provincial power grid at a higher rate.

Conversely, during periods when consumption of electricity exceeds production, a consumer may still purchase electricity from the grid at a discounted rate.

Coun. Tom Ikert inquired as to whether the solar panels present on the county's administration building are as

efficient now as they were when they were installed.

Their effectiveness was described to be slightly less efficient to date than when they were installed; however, they are still within their performance warranty.

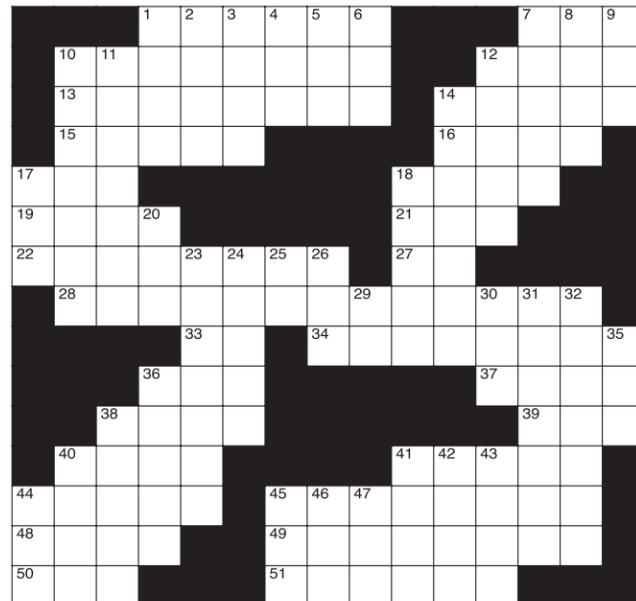
At the time of installation, the panels making up the array installed on the administration building were provided with a 25-year warranty. This is set to expire in 2041, two years before the projected expense recovery date.

The payback period was calculated based on the money that was contributed by the County to the project as opposed to what was spent in total.

The Alberta Municipal Solar Program grant was not considered, thus it was pointed out it will take even longer than the projected 27 years in the report for the total taxpayer expense from across the province to be recovered in full.

In 2016, the original estimate for a return of investment timeline on the solar array was approximately 20 years to make back the County's expense.

The report on the ongoing performance of the solar array was accepted by Council as information and no voting further voting took place on the topic.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Carved into
- 7. \_\_\_ Rogers, cowboy
- 10. Unruly locale
- 12. Edible mushroom
- 13. Influential noblemen
- 14. Rattling breaths
- 15. David \_\_\_ George, Brit. P.M.
- 16. Musician Clapton
- 17. Small Eurasian deer
- 18. Invests in little enterprises
- 19. Perimeter
- 21. Chicago ballplayer
- 22. Animal body part
- 27. It's everywhere these days
- 28. Fictional ad exec
- 33. Mr. T character Baracus
- 34. Against the current
- 36. Subway rodent
- 37. Armor plate
- 38. Hair on the head
- 39. Strong insect
- 40. Swollen lymph node
- 41. A way to lessen
- 44. Walter White poison
- 45. Sleeveless garment
- 48. Long accompanied song
- 49. Without features
- 50. Yankee great Mattingly
- 51. Removes from record

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Root of taro plant
- 2. Those ones
- 3. Appliances have one
- 4. A way to sing
- 5. Midway between east and southeast
- 6. Animal dwelling
- 7. An object that as survived from the past
- 8. Oil cartel
- 9. Affirmative
- 10. Foul smell
- 11. Brisk tempo
- 12. S. American indigenous person
- 14. Restored
- 17. Official
- 18. Skin lesions
- 20. Electroencephalograph
- 23. Middle Eastern country
- 24. Extremely angry
- 25. Title used before a woman's name
- 26. British thermal unit
- 29. By the way (abbr.)
- 30. Anger
- 31. Nullifies
- 32. Ones who acquire
- 35. Time zone
- 36. Arabic name
- 38. Protein in mucus
- 40. Ballpoint pen
- 41. Mimics
- 42. Humans have a lot of it
- 43. Expressions of good wishes
- 44. Cool!
- 45. One point east of due south
- 46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
- 47. A way to save for retirement

**STRATHMORE TIMES**

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Strathmore Times is published every Wednesday by Strathmore Times Inc. and our coverage area is Strathmore, Carseland, Cheadle, Cluny, Gleichen, Hussar, Lyalta, Namaka, Nightingale, Rockyford, Rosebud, Speargrass and Standard. We also have various pickup locations throughout our coverage area. We are printed by Star Press Inc., Wainwright, Alberta. The content in the Strathmore Times is copyright and reproduction without the proper written consent of the Strathmore Times is strictly prohibited.

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Local Journalism Initiative.

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## Putting for charity

The Strathmore Oilmen held their annual tournament on Sept. 11 at the Strathmore Golf Club. Prior to the noon shotgun, tournament organizers presented cheques to the Strathmore & Wheatland County Christmas Hamper Society and the Wheatland County Food Bank.

Joe Lepage Photos



## Bike show and shine

Royal Canadian Legion Strathmore – Branch #10 hosted the first annual Cavalier Riders Show 'n Shine. The bike show raised funds for the local legion.

Joe Lepage Photo

# ARTS ON 817 PRESENTS

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Online purchases must be picked up at the door the night of the concert.

# County calls for more transparency regarding ongoing Wheatland Lodge project

Continued from Page 1

This \$700,000 figure represents the mortgage payments for the facility once constructed, expected to be pooled by partner municipalities.

Two thirds of this are itemised to be paid for by resident rental fees. The last third is to be paid for by participating municipalities.

In April 2024, the total cost of the Wheatland Lodge project was estimated to be \$52,739,184. Wheatland County, at the time, was requested to provide \$3,985,914 of this budget.

Coun. Rick Laursen added his belief that the province will

continue to not support the Wheatland Lodge project while members of the county are also expressing opposition.

“The Alberta government has not put funding forth; from the people I have talked to, they said funding won't be put forth because there are five people on this council that insist on writing letters to the ministers and the ministers are not going to put any funding in here as long as stuff like that is going on,” he said. “You can say all you want with your lips that you support this lodge, but you don't in your actions, and I think that needs to be an election issue.”

During discussion, Ikert called for more transparency from the WHMB regarding the total project budget and how finances are to be allocated.

“Every dollar that is going into this operation is taxpayers' money. The taxpayers, in my opinion, have the right to know what that number is, and I believe every board has the obligation to be transparent and accountable for every dollar that they spend,” he said. “We should not be doing anything that is not above board and to say that there are five of us on this board who are against this lodge build, that is ridiculous. We have got county motions but have got guidelines – we are not going to allow people to just go spend everybody's money just because they have got some vanity project.”

The WHMB intends to apply for provincial grant funding again during the next application period. Until that time, no monies are being spent to further the project.

Reeve Amber Link added she agrees the subject of support for the Wheatland Lodge project should be an issue discussed during the upcoming municipal election.

She added there are ongoing and recurring concerns regarding transparency from the WHMB.

“What troubled me most about the letter that we received from the WHMB is that the Wheatland Housing Management Body has presented conflicting narratives regarding the future of the Wheatland Lodge new build and hospice project,” she said. “Recent communications which were sent to me from social media create what in my perspective is a false impression of momentum and viability, while official correspondence to Wheatland County paints a very different picture.”

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**Thought for the Week**

~

*Maybe success is largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go.*

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### High-scoring battle

The Strathmore Spartans high school football team was in a high scoring battle on their home turf against W.R. Myers of Taber on Sept. 13. The two teams combined for 95 points, with the Spartans losing by a touchdown, 51-44.

Joe Lepage Photos



### Badgers fall short

The Strathmore Badgers peewee football team came up just short in their home game on Sept. 13, falling 20-14 to the Red Deer Bucks at the Crowther Memorial Junior High School Field. The Badgers will close out the regular season with a trio of road games, the first of which will be played on Sept. 20 in Red Deer.

Joe Lepage Photos



**YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE**  
Gord Morck Pharmacist  
**Capsule Comments**

The human liver is an amazing organ. Close to a football in size, it sits just under your ribs against the right side of your stomach. It cleanses the body of toxins and breaks down substances that could be harmful to the body. It also clears away old red blood cells, makes substances that help your blood to clot and stores the vitamins and minerals we need to stay healthy.

The hype surrounding apple cider vinegar saying it's useful to control cholesterol, obesity, and blood glucose levels, could be just that...hype. There is not too much evidence that it has much effect on these. If you like the taste of apple cider vinegar, it's a great addition to salads, go for it.

Regular daily walking can be very helpful in losing weight. The magic number of minutes touted is 150 minutes per week. But that doesn't mean slow strolling. The amount of calories you burn is proportional to the weight lost. Treadmills set for brisk walking can work but doing the same thing outside is more interesting and just as effective.

The word *adherence* in pharmacy and medicine refers to a patient's ability to take their medication just like the doctor ordered. This is especially important with medications for reducing blood pressure. With this in mind, researchers have discovered a new drug to treat hypertension that involves one injection every six months for adults with mild to moderate hypertension. When available, it will be a big plus for treating high blood pressure.

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## County MPC divided over subdivision application

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland County Municipal Planning Commission has approved a subdivision application to divide agricultural lands proposed for further development.

The proposed application sparked debate amongst committee members following its presentation due to concerns from neighbouring landowners, as well as regarding the application's indicated development placement.

It was county administration's recommendation that the application be approved, being subject to several conditions, largely concerning payment of fees and taxes, as well as road construction and maintenance.

The land in question is located approximately 1.7 kilometres north of the Town of Strathmore, immediately southwest of the Range Road 51 and Township Road 250 intersection.

A wetland assessment and impact report, which was included in the application, identified three temporary, and one seasonal wetland present at the location proposed for development.

According to the results of the study, one sensitive bird species was noted within 100 meters of the subject area.

The proposal does suggest impacting the wetland in order to accommodate the subdivision. Impacts are proposed to be settled via in-lieu fee payment for compensation to the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas.

Coun. Scott Klassen suggested regarding access to the area in question, the county should discuss addressing the conditions of the local access roads, both regarding the current application, and for future developments in the area.

"I just think at budget time, whatever council is here ... that we look at upgrading this road to MRO, and the one to the east of it too, which is Township Road 250, because there is also, [the] Agricultural Society might be putting a building out there," said Klassen. "I have heard from residents over the years that it should be upgraded, so it would be a great budget discussion. For now, it is just something I think council

should look at."

Coun. Shannon Laprise objected to the approval of the application, echoing several concerns raised both by development authorities, as well as neighbouring landowners.

"This one to me seems just barely suitable for the subdivisions proposed. My first discomfort with it is having the wrap-around lot, as it was said in one of the letters," said Laprise.

She added concerns regarding both the placement of the septic systems, and the development over preexisting wetlands to place a driveway detailed in the application.

Laprise suggested requesting an environmental impact study once the application returns for a development permit.

Adjacent landowner objections to the proposed application ranged from complaints over increased traffic, to dissolution of their privacy on their property, to significant environmental impacts to local water systems.

The vote to approve the application was approved 4-3 in favour.

**Chantelle de Jonge**  
MLA, Chestermere-Strathmore

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Goaltender Rhett Harten made 24 saves as the Wheatland Kings defeated Red Deer 3-2 in their final pre-season home game on Sept. 13. The Kings will now open the regular season at home Sept. 19 (7 :45 p.m.) when they host Ponoka.

Joe Lepage Photo

# Kings coach optimistic for new season

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Agra Risk Wheatland Kings Head Coach, Doug Raycroft, says there is a lot to work on with the new team following the conclusion of the exhibition season.

Squaring off against Airdrie for a home and home, followed by two games against Red Deer, the Kings closed the exhibition rounds with a 3-1 record.

“Overall, there are a lot of things to work on. We have big turnover this year with players, so we definitely noticed areas of weakness and things to work on going forward,” he said. “Mostly, exhibition is for sorting out your team and trying to pick the right players so you can get ready for the season. I think we did a good job of that, so we are ready to go next weekend with our home opener.”

Raycroft added following a summer off the ice, as well as building a fresh team has left the Kings pretty rusty – but that bodes true for all the teams within the league.

Many of the mistakes being made on the ice that are uncharacteristic of the Kings, he explained, are happening because the team is still finding their footing and reshaping their skills.

“We noticed a lot of defensive zone mistakes and a lot of complacency in our own end especially. We are going to obviously work on that and be ready to go for next weekend,” said Ray-

croft. “I think mostly, we are excited for the year, but we realized we have a little bit of work coaching here to get back to the level we were last year for sure.”

During the exhibition games, the Kings featured several of their veteran players over the course of the two weekends.

Raycroft’s roster, as of the end of the exhibitions, was still incomplete and had yet to be fully set in stone.

His idea being to see how many of the guys meshed as a team for the first time before making his final cuts.

“We wanted to give lots of opportunities to our young guys to try to make the team ... we gave lots of games to the younger guys and tried to get a good look at them,” he said. “We have cut quite a few already. I think we are just down to two or three (cuts left), so we are right down to the last ones here. We are not quite sure yet how many rookies we will have because we have a couple more cuts to do, but we are going to have half a dozen at least I think.”

Among Raycroft’s promising upstarts are Cole Tweit from Langdon, Luke Nottveit from Chestermere, and Trey Kam, also from Chestermere.

The first game of the regular season for the Wheatland Kings will be against Ponoka, Sept. 19. The following day will see the Kings square off against High River. Both games will be played on home ice at the Strathmore Family Centre.

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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.

- October 7, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting**
- October 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | ASB Meeting**
- October 14, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | 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.



### Notice of Nomination Day

Wheatland County, Province of Alberta

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Day is Monday, September 22, 2025, and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the location of the local jurisdiction office set out below within the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending at 12:00 noon on Nomination Day.

Nomination forms are available at the Wheatland County office during operating hours, or on our website: <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/2025-municipal-election/>

Office(s)	Electoral Division	Number of Vacancies
County Councillor	1	1
County Councillor	2	1
County Councillor	3	1
County Councillor	4	1
County Councillor	5	1
County Councillor	6	1
County Councillor	7	1

**Location of Local Jurisdiction Office:**  
Wheatland County Administrative Building  
242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB  
(East of Strathmore on the north side of Highway 1)

**Returning Officer:**  
Shanna Pierson: 403-361-2030 or shanna.pierson@wheatlandcounty.ca

DATED at the County of Wheatland, in the Province of Alberta, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.



### Shape the Future of Your Community – Join the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB)

**Do you want to contribute to decisions that directly impact subdivisions and development appeals in our community?**

**Are you passionate about how Wheatland County grows and develops?**

Wheatland County is seeking engaged and thoughtful residents or landowners to serve on the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB).

- As a Board member, you will:
- Review and decide on subdivision and development appeals
  - Ensure applications align with the Municipal Government Act, County policies, and bylaws

This is a low-commitment role (typically 2-3 appeals per year) with a high community impact.

No prior experience is required, with training being provided to all successful applicants. If you live in, or own land in, Wheatland County and want to play a meaningful role in shaping its future, we encourage you to apply.

For more information or to submit your application, email [sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca) or call 403.361.2000. Apply by November 8, 2025.



### Wheatland County – Community Enhancement Regional Board

Wheatland County is inviting applications for membership on the Community Enhancement Regional Board (CERB). Appointments commence November 1, 2025, with one representative from each Electoral Division.

- Two members per division, appointed for two-year terms (alternating expiry dates).
- CERB meets three times each spring to evaluate applications and allocate Community Enhancement Funding to local community groups.

Application Deadline: September 30, 2025  
For details or to submit a letter of interest, email [cerb@wheatlandcounty.ca](mailto:cerb@wheatlandcounty.ca).

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



# Government steps up

CHANTELLE DE JONGE  
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Every Albertan knows that life has become more expensive. Families are watching grocery bills climb, parents are helping their kids with rising costs, and students are making tough choices as they prepare for their future. This is especially true as many Alberta students settle back into classes at their universities and trade schools.

Alberta's government is stepping up to make sure students can get the support they need. This year, we're investing almost \$1.2 billion in student loans, grants, scholarships, bursaries, and awards. That means thousands of young Albertans will have access to the help they need to pay for school and focus on getting the skills they need to start rewarding careers.

Already, more than 90,000 applications for loans and grants have come in for the 2025-26 school year, along with roughly 17,000 scholarship applications. Alberta Student Aid has worked diligently to improve processing times, so students and families get information faster and can plan with confidence.

We're also making changes to keep education affordable. Tuition increases are capped, student loan interest rates are lower, and they still get a grace period before paying interest. Students who need extra help can access the Repayment Assistance Plan, which makes repaying back loans easier.

These supports help not just students, but also parents and communities across Alberta. When students succeed, our whole province benefits.

Whether they become nurses, teachers, or tradespeople, today's students are tomorrow's workforce.

Our government believes an investment in students today is an investment in Alberta's future. By helping young people achieve their dreams, we're building a stronger economy and brighter tomorrow for all Albertans.

As we support students in building their futures, we're also equipping all Albertans with the tools they need to navigate a changing workforce.

Alberta's government has launched the new Labour Market Information portal, offering the latest data Albertans need to make informed career decisions and equip employers with key labour-related data, indicators and trends.

The user-friendly platform helps students, jobseekers, workers, employers and policymakers understand what jobs are in demand, how industries are changing and what skills are needed in today's workforce. With access to this important information, Albertans can make informed decisions about career planning, education and training. At the same time, employers and policymakers can use the data to support workforce strategies and planning. For more information, please visit <https://labour-market.alberta.ca/>.

As always, please feel free to reach out to my office with your feedback and questions (Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca).

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

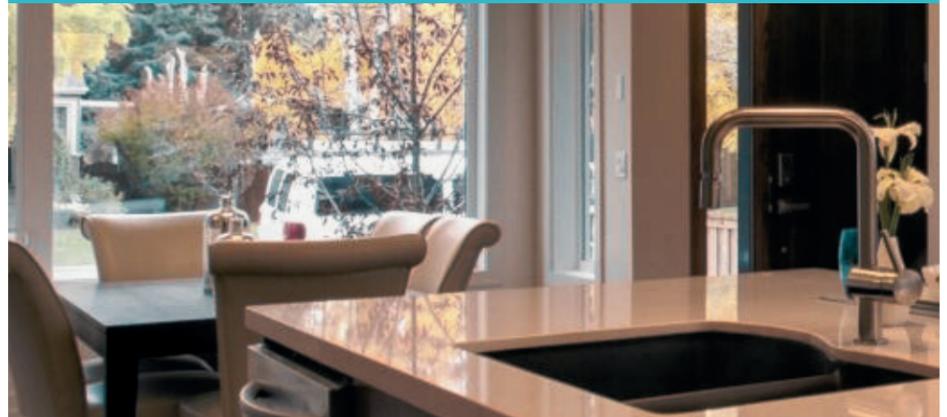


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### Early bird tourney

The Strathmore Spartans JV girls volleyball team hosted their annual early bird tournament Sept. 13. The Spartans, along with seven other teams, took part in the tourney.

**Joe Lepage Photos**

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## Pet extortion scams on the rise

### BBB RELEASE

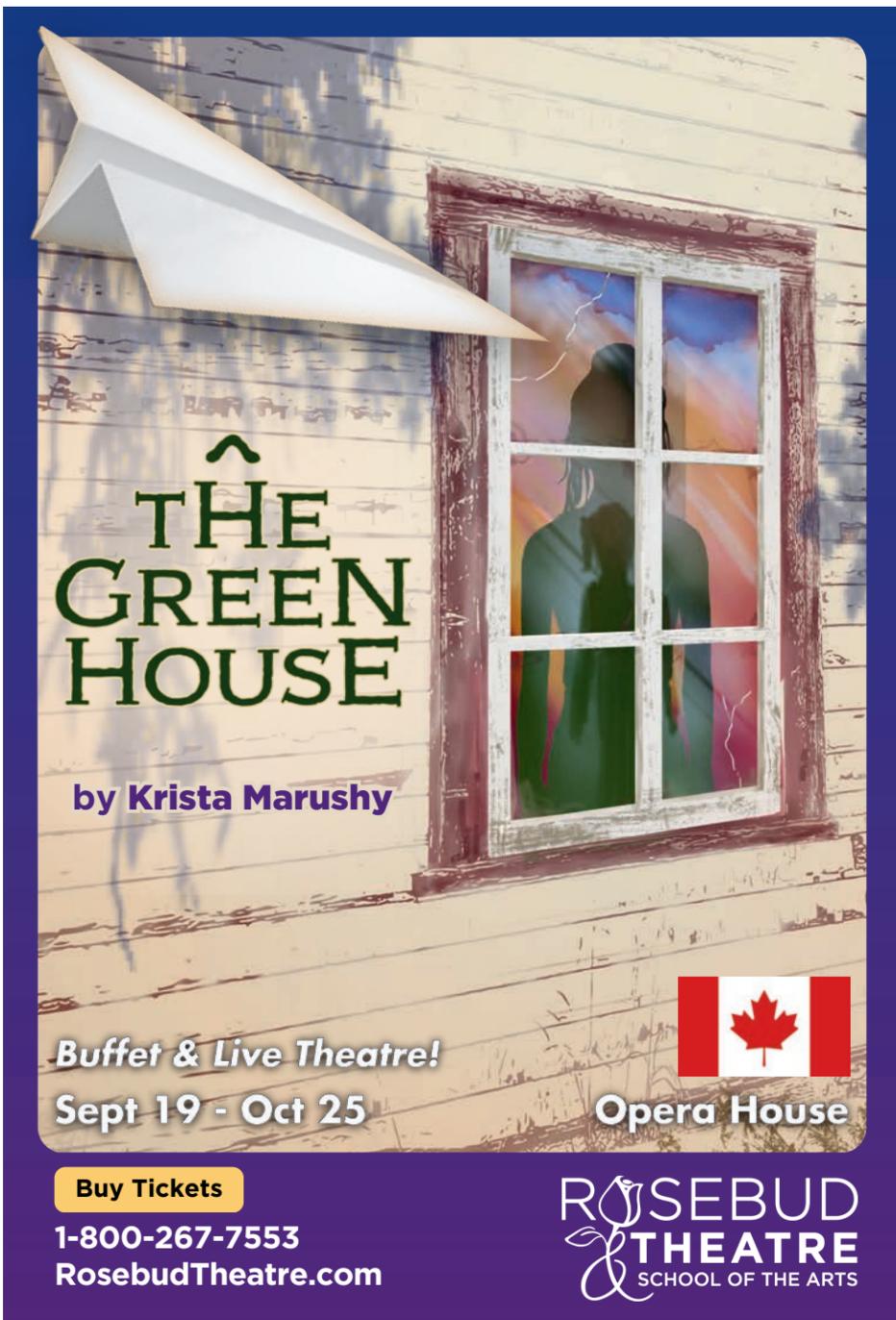
Owners of lost pets are being warned about a pet extortion scam.

“This scam highlights the lengths that scammers will take to get your hard-earned money,” says Mary O’Sullivan-Andersen, President/CEO of Better Business Bureau serving Alberta and East Kootenay. “Owners of lost pets often post information about their pet on social media. The scammer contacts them and agrees to return the pet for a fee. Already emotionally distressed about the lost pet, the fee is paid to the

scammer.”

To bolster their legitimacy, scammers are also using AI to create photos that appear to be the lost pet as proof they have found the animal.

“Despicable is the word for this,” says O’Sullivan-Andersen. “Use caution when posting any personal information on social media. (Most) people will not ask for a fee if they locate your lost pet and certainly not ask for it up front. This is a scam that is already taking place in other parts of the country, and we want everyone to be aware of it now, so they don’t get defrauded.”



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by Krista Marushy

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### NOTICE OF NOMINATION DAY

LOCAL AUTHORITIES' ELECTION ACT (SECTION 26)

**LOCAL JURISDICTION:** GOLDEN HILLS SCHOOL DIVISION PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Notice is hereby given that **Nomination Day** deadline is **Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**, and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the locations set out below within the period beginning **January 1, 2025, 10:00 A.M.** and ending **12:00 NOON September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**, on Nomination Day.

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies	Ward or Electoral Division
School Trustee	One	<b>Ward #1</b> Three Hills, Torrington, Huxley, Trochu and area
School Trustee	One	<b>Ward #2</b> Acme, Carbon, Linden and area
School Trustee	One	<b>Ward #3</b> Drumheller
School Trustees	Two	<b>Ward #4</b> Strathmore
School Trustee	One	<b>Ward #5</b> Carseland, Gleichen, Cluny, Hussar, Rockyford, Standard and area

Golden Hills School Division 435A Highway #1 Strathmore, AB (403) 934-5121	Village of Acme Office 203 Clarke Street Acme, AB (403) 546-3783	Town of Drumheller Municipal Office 224 Centre St. Drumheller, AB (403) 823-6300	Village of Standard Office 120 Elsinore Avenue Standard, AB (403) 644-3968	Town of Three Hills Municipal Office 232 Main St. Three Hills, AB (403) 443-5822	Town of Trochu Municipal Office 222 Northfield Rd Trochu, AB (403)442-3085
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DATED at the Town of Strathmore in the Province of Alberta, this 06 day of January 2025.

*Tahra Sabir*  
 Returning Officer  
 Tahra Sabir

For more information visit the Golden Hills School Division website  
 At <https://www.ghsd75.ca/board/2025-board-of-trustee-elections> or call Tahra Sabir, Returning Officer at 403-934-5121 ext. 2024.  
 You may pick up a **Candidate's Nomination Package** at Golden Hills School Division office, weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Enough is enough

To the Editor

As we await the bills and demands deadline set by Premier Smith directed toward Mark Carney and his liberal caucus, it finds me pondering what a proportionate response would be when Carney and the liberals ultimately refuse to reverse bills C69 and 48 as well as cede to the additional demands made by our province.

I have concluded, that if Carney and his liberal caucus refuse to meet our demands, then drastic measures – and I do mean drastic – should be unleashed in response to liberal adversarial inaction. Albertans have had enough; the fight must be taken to the doorstep of those who have wronged Alberta for decades. When Alberta's reasonable demands are once again kicked to the side of the road and ignored, Alberta needs a response commensurate with meeting the aims and objectives of Alberta.

It must be an action that will shatter the very foundations of our failed confederation; not shake the tree so to speak but shatter the foundation of this teetering democracy – only then will Alberta be given the respect and place in this world it is rightfully demanding – that place will likely be outside of this confederation.

A single action that will produce that required “shock-factor” would be to shut down the flow of oil and gas in the Line 5 and Line 9 pipelines. The US would be enraged and see this as an attack on their economy, but that would be a “kiss and make up effort for a later date.”

More importantly, the flow of energy to Sarnia and Montreal would be stopped, thereby shutting down their respective refinery capacities. Opting for this grave response will serve two purposes: the US would understand that their access to cheap oil is no longer a given, and Ontario and Quebec citizenry will finally realize the hypocrisies that fuel their disdain of the west while exposing the political bias that fuels the liberal agenda.

Yes, this is a drastic measure, but no worse than the liberal government's invocation of the emergencies act against defenceless truckers and sympathetic Canadians contributors. Of course, there will be backlash, but that is when we must show our greatest resolve. We in the west need to understand this is a fight for our very survival and the survival of our children and grandchildren and we need to use every tool in our toolbox. At this juncture, there is little point in using the pen, when we have the sword in hand.

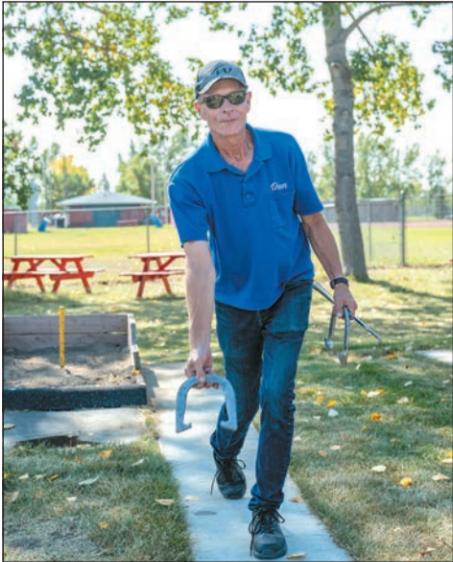
Wilf Kautz, Wheatland County



## Community concert

Justine Giles, a special guest performer at the Hope Bridges Community Concert, shared a mix of heartfelt originals and fan favorite covers during the 14th season opener concert on Sept. 9. The afternoon highlighted the Music Discovery Class, showcasing the spirit of music and community connection at Hope Bridges. The next event for Hope Bridges is their annual Artists Among Us gala on Oct. 26.

Melissa Piche Photos



## Horseshoe tourney

The Cottonwood Courts Horseshoe Pitching Club hosted their annual tournament Sept. 13-14 at their courts at the Strathmore Ag Society grounds. The club, which is part of the Alberta Horseshoe Pitching Association, was established in town in 2023.

Joe Lepage Photos

**REAL CANADIAN WRESTLING RETURNS**  
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**General Doors: 6:30pm**  
**Show 7:30pm**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### EXPANDER ENERGY INC.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Expander Energy Inc. has applied to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for an approval for construction, operation or reclamation of the proposed Carseland Syngas Plant where approximately 140,000 cubic metres of syngas per day will be produced using biomass (wood chips) as feedstock. The proposed syngas production processes include vibrating sieve of biomass to remove large particles and metals, biomass drying and gasification, and syngas condensation, compression and cleanup. The proposed plant will be located at legal subdivision 15 and 16-21-022-25 W4M, approximately 6 kilometres northeast of Carseland in Wheatland County, Alberta.

A directly affected person may provide input into certain regulatory decisions, as allowed by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (section 73). Specifically, any person who is directly affected by this application may submit a written statement of concern within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

Environment and Protected Areas  
 Regulatory Assurance Section  
 Approvals Unit  
 5th Floor, South Petroleum Plaza  
 9915 - 108 ST, EDMONTON, AB T5K 2G8  
 Fax: (780) 422-0154  
 E-mail: [epa.epeapplications@gov.ab.ca](mailto:epa.epeapplications@gov.ab.ca)

The written statement of concern should include the following:

- the application number 001-502112
- describe concerns that are relevant to matters regulated by the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
- explain how the filer of the concern will be directly affected by the activities proposed in the application
- provide the legal land location of the land owned or used by the filer where the concerns described are believed to be applicable
- state the distance between the land owned or used by the filer and the site in the application
- contact information including the full name and mailing address of the filer.

Please provide a telephone number and/or email address for ease of contact. Environment and Protected Areas will review each written statement of concern, seek more information if needed, and notify each filer by letter of the decision to accept or reject their written submission as a valid statement of concern. The Public Notice of this application will also be posted on the Department's website at <https://avw.alberta.ca/PublicNoticesViewer.aspx>.

Statements of concern submitted regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public and the applicant. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:  
 Expander Energy Inc.  
 Attention: Gord Crawford  
 Suite 1140 - 10201 Southport Road SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2W 4X9  
 Telephone: (780) 966 4673  
 Email: [g.crawford@expanderenergy.com](mailto:g.crawford@expanderenergy.com)

*Obituary*



**DIRKS, Eric**  
Feb 11, 1937 - Sept 8, 2025

It is with deep sorrow and profound gratitude for a life well lived that we announce the passing of our beloved father, Eric Dirks who departed this world on Sept 8, 2025, at the age of 88. Born into humble beginnings, Eric was from a family of 17, a devoted Christian, and a man whose life was rooted in faith, hard work, and the great outdoors. He spent his days tending to the garden, and to the land as a farmer, cultivating not only crops but a legacy of resilience, generosity, and love. His hands bore the marks of labor, but his heart was always open—especially to his children, whom he guided with wisdom, humor, and unwavering calm strength. When he wasn't working the fields, Eric found peace in the outdoors. An avid hunter and fisherman, he cherished the quiet thrill of the woods and the calm of the water. His passion that connected him to the land and to God's creation was something that he passed on to his kids and grandkids. He taught us how to call and animal, to track a deer, cast a line, and more importantly, how to be patient, present, and grateful.

His faith was the cornerstone of his life. Whether in church pews or under open skies, he lived by the Word and led by example. He was a man of prayer, of principle, and of deep compassion. His legacy is etched in the lives of his children, grandchildren, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

We will miss his stories, his laughter, and the steady presence that anchored our family. But we take comfort in knowing he now rests in the arms of the Lord, reunited with his wife, and with loved ones who went before him.

Eric leaves behind his 3 children Kip (Heather) Dirks, Lauryn (Kaden) Matt, Josh and Isaac, Janine (Lonnie) Lassu, Mitchell and Michelle (Jon) Rilling, Jonathan (Melanie) Asher, Jared and Eden. Eric was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Marilyn Dirks and his grandson Bennett Lawrence Lassu.

A celebration of Eric's life was held on Friday, September 12, 2025 at Strathmore Alliance Church at 10:00 a.m.

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

**MEMORIAM**



In Loving Memory

**Tammy Fladhameer**

March 17, 1980  
September 22, 2018

*...Until We Meet Again*

Those special memories of you Will always bring a smile If only I could have you back For just a little while Then we could sit and talk again Just like we used to do You always meant so very much And always will do too The fact that you're no longer here Will always cause me pain But you're forever in my heart Until we meet again. Always loved and never forgotten Mom, Dad and Family

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*SUDOKU*

7	4	8	1	3	9	2	5	6
1	5	3	6	4	2	9	8	7
6	2	9	7	5	8	4	1	3
5	8	1	3	9	4	7	6	2
4	9	7	5	2	6	1	3	8
2	3	6	8	7	1	5	4	9
9	1	2	4	8	3	6	7	5
8	6	5	9	1	7	3	2	4
3	7	4	2	6	5	8	9	1

**GOLD**  
Unused or unwanted Chains, Rings, Bangles, Coins

**SENIORS' SPECIAL**  
10% more September & October

**SILVER**  
Coins, Royal Canadian Mint sets  
Canadian 1968 and older 10, 25, 50 & silver dollars  
US 1964 and earlier 10, 25, 50 & silver dollars

We come to the privacy of your home, no fees!  
**Please call Joy or Ted 825-966-4373**

**Canadian Prairie Pickers**  
**Pays Cash!**

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**\$\$\$ \$\$\$**

**CASH FOR COINS**

**\$\$\$ \$\$\$**

**WANTED ROYAL CANADIAN MINT COINS, FRANKLIN MINT, US MINT, WORLD SETS ETC, COLLECTOR'S COINS, NUMISMATICS, OLYMPIC COINS, OLD COINS, OLD \$, GOLD COINS, SILVER COINS, BARS, INGOTS, JEWELRY, NUGGETS, STERLING SILVER & ENTIRE COIN COLLECTIONS!**

**Call or text Todd**  
Numismatist/Gold & Silver Dealer  
**780-504-7995**

**I MAKE FREE HOUSE CALLS ALL OVER ALBERTA+**

**I PAY CASH!!**

**FOR ALL GOLD & SILVER COINS, JEWELRY, BARS, INGOTS, NUGGETS, GOLD Dust, Dental Gold, Bullion, Sterling Silverware, plus anything made of gold or silver!**

**Covering ALL OF ALBERTA, and I can come to you!**  
I also purchase coin collections!

**CALL TODD**  
**780-504-7995**

**Seniors' Special**  
10% extra on all payouts.  
September & October only

**Gold**  
Unused or unwanted Jewellery chains, rings, coins, all gold items

**Silver**  
Royal Canadian Mint sets, US Mint, Franklin Mint. Silver coins 1968 and older U.S. Silver coins 1964 and older.

**Canadian Prairie Pickers**  
**All payments are in Cash!**  
We come to the privacy of your home, no fees, no obligations  
**Please call Joy or Ted 1-825-966-4373**  
Doing business in Alberta since 1986

**NOTICES**



**Strathmore Musical Arts Society**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
September 29 • 7 pm  
Strathmore Station

**Strathmore and District Curling Club**  
**ANNUAL FALL MEETING**  
Wednesday, October 1  
6:30pm Refreshments  
7:00pm Meeting  
Strathmore Curling Rink  
Everyone welcome!

**Notice of Nomination Day**  
Local Authorities Election Act (section 26)

**VILLAGE OF ROCKYFORD**

Notice is hereby given that nomination day is:  
**Monday September 22, 2025**

And that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the local jurisdiction office set out below before 12:00pm noon on Nomination Day.

**FIVE (5) COUNCILOR**  
Local Jurisdiction Office:  
Village of Rockyford Office  
110 Main Street  
Rockyford, Alberta

Dated at the Village of Rockyford in the Province of Alberta, this 3rd day of September, 2025

Lori Miller, Returning Officer

**Notice of Nomination Day**  
Local Authorities Election Act (section 26)

**VILLAGE OF STANDARD**

Notice is hereby given that nomination day is:  
**Monday September 22, 2025**

And that nominations for the election of candidate for Councilor will be received at the local jurisdiction office set out below before noon on Nomination Day.

**FIVE (5) COUNCILORS**  
Local Jurisdiction Office:  
Village of Standard Office  
120 Elsinore Ave  
Standard, Alberta

Dated at the Village of Rockyford in the Province of Alberta, this 31st day of August, 2025.

Yvette April, Returning Officer

**PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY**

**HELP WANTED**

Coldwell Agencies is a small, well-established brokerage in Strathmore, Alberta. We are currently seeking an experienced, licensed **LEVEL 2 INSURANCE BROKER** with a minimum of 2 year's experience. At Coldwell Agencies we are all about the people and are proud to offer a high standard of personalized service. We are looking for someone that is looking for long-term employment. Monday to Friday, 9-5.

**Day to Day Responsibilities:**

- Process a variety of personal and commercial/farm transactions
- Establish consistent accuracy with transactions
- Inspect transactions for required supporting documents
- Make all corrections on transfer forms and documents

**To be successful in this role you must:**

- Have a positive attitude
- Provide excellent customer service
- Multi-tasking abilities
- Be detail oriented
- Have excellent communication/documenting skills
- Have sound decision making skills
- Have openness to feedback and learning

**Essential Qualifications:**

- Minimum Level 2 insurance license
- Ability to use computers and other office equipment

**How to Apply**

If you are interested in applying for this position, please forward your resume including cover letter to colleenb@coldwellinsurance.ca or drop off in office at 133 2nd Ave, Strathmore, AB.

www.StrathmoreTimes.com

**HELP WANTED**

**STRATHMORE CRIBBING LTD.**

Requires a **Full-Time Labourer** plus a **Delivery Driver** License required.

Call Pascal **403-325-0105**

**PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY**

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OFFICE **403-983-7671**  
admin@brotech.ca

**Measles is  
very dangerous  
when pregnant.**

**Get immunized.**

If you're planning to become pregnant make sure you have received two doses of the vaccine at least one month before conception.

Visit [alberta.ca/measles](http://alberta.ca/measles)

Alberta



**Upcoming Council Meetings**

Sept 17, 2025 | 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.

September 18, 2025

**Grant funding workshop**

Looking for funding to bring your community project or idea to life? Grants can provide crucial support, but navigating the application process can be tricky.

Join FCSS and United Way for a free grant workshop and free lunch. You'll learn about funding opportunities, eligibility, the application process, and tips for writing strong proposals.

**Date:** September 18, 2025

**Time:** noon to 3 p.m.

**Location:** Wheatland FCSS (Wheatland County office, 242006 Range Road 243)

Open to community groups, non-profits, and individuals. Learn more at [Strathmore.ca/FCSS](http://Strathmore.ca/FCSS)

Swimming, it's a good skill to have.

**Fall swimming lessons.**

Save the date, swimmers! The 2025 fall swimming schedule will be available September 22, 2025 at noon. Registration opening times are;

- Registration opens for Strathmore & Wheatland County residents on September 30, 2025 at 8 a.m.
- Registration opens for all members on October 2, 2025 at 8 a.m.

For a smooth registration process, create or login to your recreation account at [strathmore.perfectmind.com](http://strathmore.perfectmind.com) and make sure your address, postal code, and email are up to date. If you need a hand, reach out to the Pool Crew by calling **403-934-3325**.

Apply today.

**Join the Municipal Policing Committee.**

The Municipal Policing Committee is looking to appoint volunteer members!

This new committee will act as a liaison between Council, the R.C.M.P. Detachment, and the residents of the Town of Strathmore to foster responsible community actions towards the creation of a safe secure community.

Learn more or apply today at [Strathmore.ca/PoliceCommittee](http://Strathmore.ca/PoliceCommittee)

Coming soon to an alleyway near you.

**Heavy Item Garbage (HIG) coming soon.**

HIG collection offers residents the opportunity to dispose of large residential waste. Occuring the 3rd week of April and September, HIG is a service provided alongside your curbside waste collection service. If you pay the residential garbage charge on your Town of Strathmore utility bill, the HIG service is available to you. There is no fee associated with the tags. Keep in mind that households are limited to 5 items per collection.

**Trash to Treasure:** September 11 to 14, 2025

**Heavy Item Garbage:** September 15 to 19, 2025

The last day to pick up HIG tags is September 12, 2025. All items must be placed out by 7 a.m. on September 15, 2025 to ensure your items are picked up. Tags can be picked up at Town Hall and the Strathmore Library.

For more information on HIG or Trash to Treasure, visit [Strathmore.ca/HIG](http://Strathmore.ca/HIG)

**Ready for the election?**

Voting made easier.

**Special Ballots.**

We know life can get busy, and sometimes it's not possible to vote in person at an advanced voting station or on Election Day. That's why special ballots are available to eligible voters.

If your name is on the permanent electors register (VoterLink) and you're unable to make it to the polls, you can apply for a special ballot. It's a simple way to make sure your voice is heard in the upcoming election.

To request an application or learn more, email [elections@strathmore.ca](mailto:elections@strathmore.ca).

Mark your calendars.

**Important election related dates.**

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

- **Nomination Day Deadline:** September 22, 2025 at noon.
- **Advanced Voting Station:** October 15 & 17, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Strathmore Civic Centre.
- **Election Day Voting Station:** October 20, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Strathmore Civic Centre.



**Notice of Nomination Day**

Local Authorities Election Act (Section 26)

**LOCAL JURISDICTION: TOWN OF STRATHMORE, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Day is September 22, 2025 and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the location of the local jurisdiction office set out below within the period beginning on January 1, 2025 and ending at 12:00 noon on Nomination Day.

Office (s)	Number of Vacancies
Mayor	1 (ONE)
Councillor	6 (SIX)

Location (Address) of Local Jurisdiction Office:

Box 2280
1 Parklane Drive
Strathmore, Alberta
Canada
T1P 1K2

DATED at the Town of Strathmore, in the Province of Alberta, this 1 day of September, 2025.



*Vanessa Cunningham*  
Vanessa Cunningham  
Returning Officer

**Planning Dashboard.**

Curious about what's being built down the street? Now you can find out with just a few clicks.

We've recently launched our new Planning Application Dashboard (PAD) that shows current development and permit applications throughout town. Whether it's a proposed new subdivision, commercial development, or secondary suite, you can now see where projects are happening, what stage they're at, and key details about applications received on January 1, 2025 or later.

View the Planning Application Dashboard at [Strathmore.ca/PAD](http://Strathmore.ca/PAD).



**Monday**

- ☀️ 8:30 a.m. | Spin & Strength ●
- 🌙 5:30 p.m. | Cardio & Strength ●
- 🌙 5:30 p.m. | Yoga for Hips & Hams ●

**Tuesday**

- 🕒 11:45 a.m. | Results ●

**Wednesday**

- ☀️ 8:30 a.m. | Spin & Strength ●
- 🌙 5:30 p.m. | Cardio & Strength ●
- 🌙 6:45 p.m. | Yoga Recovery ●

**Thursday**

- 🕒 11:45 a.m. | Results ●

**Saturday**

- ☀️ 9:30 a.m. | Lift/Core/Release ●
- 🕒 11 a.m. | Yoga for Back, Hips, & Shoulders ●

- Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre
- The Bank (137 2 Ave)

For more information call 403-361-2121 or register at [Strathmore.ca/UnlimitedFitness](http://Strathmore.ca/UnlimitedFitness).