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VOLUME 17 ISSUE 38

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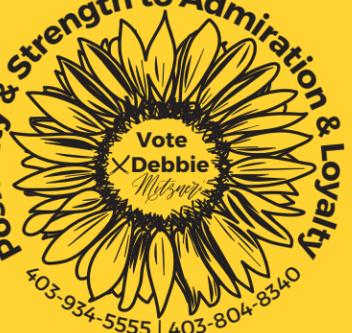
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Page 2



'Old School' school

Page 8



New ringette season

## County appeal denied

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Alberta Court of Appeal has dismissed Wheatland County's appeal and is upholding the Court of King's Bench decision to quash sanctions made against Coun. Glenn Koester.

Coun. Koester's challenge against the county was ruled in his favour in the Court of King's Bench, as of Mar. 1, 2024. The decision made by the Court of Appeal was dated Sept. 16.

"I anticipated – you know, you always think you are going to win, not that I'm experienced at courts or trials or anything. You anticipate it, but when you hear it and see it in print, it is a feeling that is hard to explain," said Coun. Koester.

The battle in court between Coun. Koester and the county has been ongoing since 2022 regarding sanctions placed against him over an alleged code of conduct violation.

The original complaint was filed against Coun. Koester by Reeve Amber Link in March 2022. The complaint referred to two distinct events. One, being Koesters' conduct as chair of the Board of Wheatland and Adjacent Districts Emergency Medical Services, and his conduct as chair of the Wheatland Housing Management Board.

A full summary of both issues was published in the Feb. 8, 2023 edition of the Strathmore Times.

Throughout the process, details from Link's original complaints, as well as from the investigation report which had led to Coun. Koester's sanctioning had been kept sealed and confidential by the county. Additionally, a publication ban had been placed on the documents.

The Court of Appeal has ruled, in addition to defeating the county's appeal, to unseal the investigation report and lift the publication ban.

In the document outlining the reasons for the decision of Justice D.J. Reed, he describes the investigation report to not contain any "summary of evidence from witnesses" that is intelligible in any sense, nor does it disclose who was interviewed, nor who said what about whom.

Continued on Page 4



## Tree planting

Strathmore Communities in Bloom added to their Birth Forest along Centennial Drive and Thomas Drive on Sept. 20. See Page 9 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

### STRATHMORE TIMES

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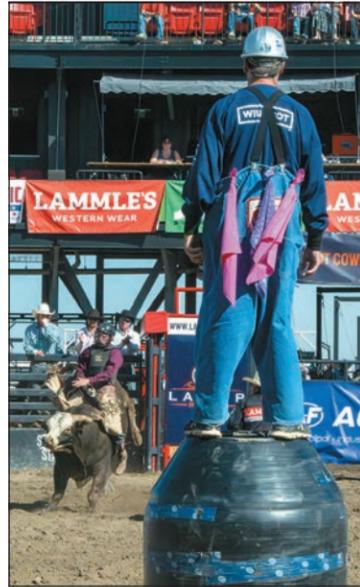
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### Squaring off in the squared circle

Real Canadian Wrestling made its return to Strathmore on Sept. 19 when they hosted a show at the Strathmore Ag Pavilion. The show featured former WWE Superstar Paul London and the top wrestlers in the RCW promotion, including Strathmore's own Steve Hurley, who wrestles under the ring name Steve Wilde. After the show, the wrestling ring stayed up as Hurley hosted his Old School Wrestling Academy Sept. 20-21. **Joe Lepage Photos**



### Last Cowboy Standing

The Lazy P Rodeo, in partnership with the Strathmore and District Agricultural Society, hosted the annual Last Cowboy Standing bull riding event on Sept. 20. Sanctioned by Bull Riders Canada, the competition brought together some of the top bull riders in the country for an afternoon of high-intensity action. **Joe Lepage Photos**

# Returning to his roots

MELISSA PICHE  
Times Contributor

What does it mean to be a Native man today? That question lies at the heart of *Siksikakowan* (The Blackfoot Man), the latest film from director Sinakson Trevor Solway, who returns to his home community on Siksika Nation to explore Indigenous masculinity in a new and authentic light. "The title reflects what we call ourselves wit-

hin the Blackfoot language," Solway explained. "I think it's also the tone and style of the film – it's a kind of art documentary, something I really wanted to create in that way."

For Solway, representation is central to the project.

"Indigenous people have been deprived of authentic representation," he said. "By that I mean actual people from their communities telling their stories. Most were really excited about making

a film together. I always give people the option to watch the film and provide feedback. That way they have peace of mind, they have a say in how they're being portrayed."

The director spoke candidly about how Indigenous men have historically been depicted in narrow and often harmful ways.

"In the past, how we've been portrayed in cinema, TV, and the media is a very narrow scope of what it means to be a Native man," he noted. "We've been stuck with that image of the Native mascot – the Chicago Blackhawks, the Washington Redskins, the Cleveland Indians. On one hand you have this warrior-savage stereotype. On the other, you have this noble Indian up on a mountain with feathers and spirit animals. Neither of those allow us to be seen as human beings."

Instead, *Siksikakowan* emphasizes humanity and complexity.

"I wanted this film to show Native men as human beings having a human experience," said Solway. "For me, being a Native man today means being authentic to who you are and your emotions. You're allowed to be happy, you're allowed to be sad, you're allowed to be angry. Coming home to be your authentic self is how I see this film."

Solway believes the timing is right for Indigenous voices in film.

Some of the most memorable moments of *Siksikakowan* came unexpectedly. Solway recalled filming children by the river who began catching frogs.

"It just opened up a world through the eyes of children on the prairie," he said. "That small moment captured the feeling of summers out here, making your own fun. It really grounded the film."

When asked what he hopes audiences take away, Solway was clear: "When you witness someone's humanity and see them as a human being, you're less likely to be racist or to hold narrow views of who they are. I want Native people to see themselves reflected, and I want others to see us as fully human."

He added a message directly for Indigenous men: "I hope they feel seen and validated. I hope they understand that it's okay to be your authentic self, to express your emotions, to say how you're feeling. There's room to be happy, to be sad, to have joy, and yes, to be angry too. I hope they get that message – that it's okay to be who you are."

*Siksikakowan* has won numerous awards including Audience Choice Feature Award at the Imaginative Film Festival, APTN Indigenous Spirit Award at the Gimli International Film Festival and Official Selection at the Calgary International Film Festival just to name a few.

*Siksikakowan* screens Sept. 24, which is sold out, and Sept 28 at the Chinook Theatre in Calgary, with Solway in attendance for the Sept. 24 screening to share the story that is both deeply personal and profoundly universal.

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# Thrift Sales gives back to local causes

MELISSA PICHE  
Times Contributor

For nearly five decades, the Strathmore United Church thrift sale has been a mainstay in the community, offering affordable goods, recycling opportunities and vital fundraising support for local causes.

The first sale took place in the fall of 1976, then known as "Next to New." Since then, it has grown steadily, expanding from the church basement to the main level, a dedicated book shed and fenced outdoor areas.

"It had very humble beginnings," said organizer Lynne Fair, whose mother, Mary Mercer, was part of the original team. "Back then it was just in the church, but over the years it kept expanding until we had no more space to grow into."

Fellow long-time volunteer Linda Freeman has been involved from the start. "I was with the very first one, which is 49 years this year," she said. "It's worthwhile because a lot of people are in need. Even other places in town are way more expensive than what we sell everything for."

Both Fair and Freeman emphasized that proceeds from the sale are directed back into the community.

"A lot of it goes right back into the community," Freeman said. "We support the food bank, the pregnancy program, the Christmas Hampers and even a mission in Guatemala."

Fair added that the giving spirit has remained consistent since the beginning.

"When we have our annual meeting, we put a lot back into the community the Handi Bus, the Crisis Shelter, the Pregnancy Care Centre and so much more. Over the years, some groups have come and gone, but the support always stays local," she said.

The thrift sale also offers affordable clothing, toys, furniture and household items. Organizers have seen firsthand the impact on families.

"We've had moms cry when they're paying because it's only 20 bucks for a huge bag full of kids' stuff," Freeman recalled. "It makes you feel really worthwhile, even if you're tired by the end of the day."

The event has grown so large that volunteers now run two separate sales: the spring "Treasure and Collectibles Sale," which features individually priced unique items, and the fall thrift sale, where group pricing helps families stretch their budgets.

Behind the scenes, an army of about 75 volunteers makes it all possible. "Each person has their own department and their own job, whether it's books, fabric or outdoor items," Fair said. "We're a team, and there's a job for anybody and everybody."

Both Fair and Freeman acknowledge the support of the Strathmore Spartans high school football team as they specifically come out to do the "heavy lifting," which they've humbly done for a number of years.

The congregation, however, is aging and both Fair and Freeman stress the need for younger volunteers. Local students, including members of the Strathmore High School's Leo Spartan Council, have begun to step in.

"They have way more energy than we do and we appreciate them so much," Freeman said with a laugh.

Fair agreed.

"Getting younger people involved is important. Volunteering teaches responsibility and giving back to the community," she said. "We're grateful the high school encourages students to come help. Every little bit makes a difference."

The sale takes place Sept. 25-27 at the Strathmore United Church, located at 410 4th Street. For the organizers, the motto says it all: Recycle, Share and Save.

Those interested in volunteering can contact organizers Arlene Whal at 403-680-3086 or Linda Freeman (fieldstn@shaw.ca).

# Town debates ongoing projects post-election

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore was in hot debate during its final public meeting regarding the assignment of public resources this close to the operation of a municipal election.

Claude Brown, an outspoken member of the public, was granted time to address council during the meeting and express his concerns.

Among those, was the potential to see a walkway through a local wetland established, though this was ultimately referenced as an example.

"I am not 100 per cent certain that people want a walkway put through the wetlands, and seeing that council's term is coming to an end in ... 33 days, it seems a little (like an) overreach to be tasking administration with work that is going to take them into January," he said. "What we are doing here is we are actually putting workload on the administration that the next council will have to bear the burden of, and so I do not believe that work should be put past the term of this administration."

Brown suggested the particular reso-

lution be limited to a feasibility study and a cost estimation, as progress regarding the project would likely be an overreach by the current council.

The thought process effectively described aversion to the idea of assigning work on a project to administration, which would then be downloaded onto the next council to see completed when a potential new councillor would not have had an opportunity to vote on the subject.

Mayor Pat Fule pointed out some items which had been discussed prior to Brown's commentary before council were regarding projects which would be required to see completion by the next council.

"We do not have any more public meetings for the next 33 days, but we still are councillors for the Town of Strathmore. I still have duties and things to do," said Fule.

Provisions within the Municipal Government Act are in place to address new council members being allowed the opportunity to review the full text of ongoing proposed bylaws before voting on them. This same philosophy is generally applied to ongoing projects.

Under the Election Act, projects, policies, budgets, and other significant actions are largely to be refrained from seeing new activity that a previous council would not have time to resolve prior to an election.

This generally refers however to restraint from initiating new council business as opposed to rushing through resolutions of ongoing activities.

No voting took place by council as a result of or in response to Brown's presentation, nor was his suggestion accepted as information.

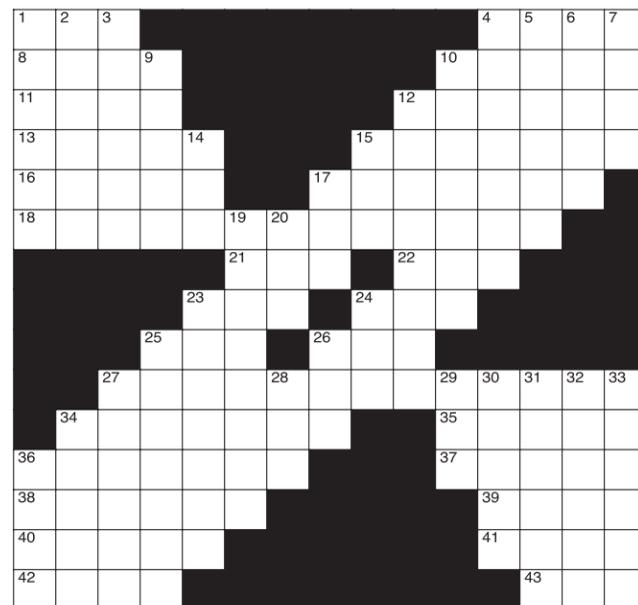


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## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Gas usage measurement
- 4. Muslim mystic
- 8. Towards the mouth or oral region
- 10. Monday (Spanish)
- 11. Frame for a coffin
- 12. Rub out
- 13. John \_\_, English educator 1467-1519
- 15. Small round particle
- 16. Chilean seaport
- 17. News service
- 18. Pay for dinner
- 21. Glamorous city
- 22. Subway rodent
- 23. "The Raven" author
- 24. Buddhist festival
- 25. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- 26. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. Series-ending episodes
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Aquatic mammal
- 37. Unit of measurement
- 38. Eye membranes
- 39. Indian god of dissolution
- 40. People of Scotland
- 41. Leak slowly through
- 42. Rock icon Turner
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. Large hat covering
- 2. "From what is earlier" (Latin)
- 3. Celtic
- 4. Retirement region
- 5. A way to change posture
- 6. Touches
- 7. A small island
- 9. Rubbish
- 10. A citizen of Laos
- 12. A place to dance
- 14. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 15. Mild expression of surprise
- 17. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
- 19. Descriptions
- 20. Men's fashion accessory
- 23. Thieves of the sea
- 24. Prohibit
- 25. Card game
- 26. French and Belgian river
- 27. Underling
- 28. Downwind
- 29. Type of medication
- 30. German city
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away from
- 34. Stuffed (French)
- 36. Type of precipitation

**STRATHMORE TIMES**

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**STRATHMORE WHEATLAND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Wheatland County defeated in Court of Appeal, Koester sanctions deemed unreasonable

Continued from Page 1

The summary of evidence is described to be completely unattributed and is impossible for a reader to determine the source of the content.

Additionally, the report described more than a dozen people having been interviewed throughout the investigation. These

supposedly included CAO's, members of Wheatland County council, and a selection of members from the four municipalities which also comprise the WADEMSEA and WHMB boards.

Reed raised a concern as to whom the interviewed individuals were, and why they were selected, which cannot be resolved based on the contents of the report.

"Gaps and leaps of logic make it impossible to understand why or how the investigator reached his conclusions" is quoted in the memorandum of judgement by Reed. "The report's reasoning 'makes no sense.'"

Coun. Koester maintains his stance that the whole debacle should not have been kept confidential and in-camera in the first place.

"I think if they were open and honest, and not do everything in camera – there's too much in camera, the public is not allowed to know what is really going on, and that is not good," he said. "That's not good. They used that in-camera as a weapon against me. I can't even (talk about) all the stuff that is in-camera. They spend almost a third of their meetings in-camera. To me, that is abusive."

Link released a public statement regarding the judicial review detailing the county's stance on the ruling.

She first notes that the county respects the ruling of the Alberta Court of Appeal and the legal democratic process.

"I must clarify several points as the recent decision is being publicly framed as a sweeping victory for Councillor Koester. It is not," wrote Link. "The Court did not find that Councillor Koester was innocent or that he did not breach Wheatland County's Code of Conduct. In fact, the Chambers Judge explicitly upheld council's decision regarding the Wheatland EMS portion of the complaint and confirmed that our findings on that matter were reasonable. No judge has ever ruled that he did not violate the Code of Conduct."

Link describes that the Court took issue with the process by which Coun. Koester was sanctioned. She also acknowledges that the investigation report was found to be flawed in its reasoning, specifically on the housing board matter.

Regarding the WADEMSEA issue, Link describes in her statement that Koester publicly raised an unfounded suggestion

of pecuniary interest, reported a refusal from Link to meet with him, and threatened her husband's employment with WADEMSEA.

"That behaviour was unprofessional and unacceptable, and it was only one incident in a long, ongoing pattern of concerning behaviour that had created tension, disruption, and mistrust within council. Council agreed and sanctioned him, as was within their authority at the time," she wrote. "Council's decision was overturned on procedural grounds, not because he was exonerated. You are not 'innocent' simply because a decision is quashed for process flaws."

"The report does not contain a rational chain of analysis from the facts found to the conclusion that the respondent breached the Code of Conduct," wrote Reed in the memorandum of judgement. This statement, present in paragraph 50 of the memorandum of judgement, specifically references the complaint as it relates to the WMHB.

In relation to the EMS complaint, no such dismissal of the code of conduct violation complaint is present in the memorandum of judgement. Link acknowledges this in her public statement.

Link also calls on Coun. Koester for supporting the censure of Brenda Knight, former county councillor, in 2015, and yet now calling for procedural information to be made public throughout his own censure.

"[Koester] publicly decries this same process as unfair and secretive, despite Koester having raised no concerns when this longstanding procedure was used for other councillors or when he reviewed and approved our Code of Conduct Bylaw and the included processes with council annually at organizational meetings," wrote Link.

Regarding legal fees, the county is insured against matters of this nature and has not expended taxpayer dollars throughout the legal process.

No information or ruling has yet been made regarding whether Coun. Koester will be reimbursed whatsoever for his personal legal fees. The lost income from not having served on county boards and committees during his sanctioning has also not been detailed for reimbursement.

Bill 50, which was introduced by the Alberta government earlier this year, repeals municipalities from maintaining their own individual codes of conduct bylaws.

The bill aims to prevent situations from arising more in the future where it may be that such codes of conduct are being weaponized against certain elected officials and preventing them from fulfilling their duties as council members.

Regarding the upcoming municipal election, Coun. Koester intends to run again to continue serving as a county councillor.

Link has previously announced she will not be seeking re-election.

-With files from the *Strathmore Times*

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**Thought for the Week**  
~  
*Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.*

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### Try-A-Trade

The Strathmore Ag Pavilion was packed on Sept. 18 hosting the Try-A-Trade Day, offering a variety of trade schools and local businesses the opportunity to showcase their work in the trade industry. There were representatives from Olds College, SAIT and the University of Calgary to name just a few, along with local business owners. The trade day was an incentive in advancing workforce development and highlighting the importance of a multitude of trades offered locally. The event was hosted by Community Futures Wild Rose.

Melissa Piche Photo



### Road warriors

The Strathmore Badgers bantam football team rolled past Olds with a decisive road 41-6 victory on Sept. 20. The Badgers will now travel to Hanna on Sept. 27, before their next home game on Oct. 4 versus Carstairs.

Melissa Piche Photo

# County increases water service fees

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County has approved a seven per cent general increase to their Master Schedule of Fees.

The increase was approved alongside consumer price index (CPI) and municipal price index (MPI) adjustments of 2.9 per cent, and 2.32 per cent respectively.

Potential rate increases were previously discussed by the Committee of the Whole during the Aug. 16 meeting.

From a monthly billing perspective, a seven per cent increase on an account average of 12 cubic meters of water used would approximate to a \$10 monthly increase to users.

As Cluny does not receive water services, the municipality will only experience an increase to the wastewater fixed fee and capital levy approved, equating to a \$4 monthly increase.

Coun. Glenn Koester, following administration's presentation on the Master Schedule of Fees, referenced conversations during the previous Committee of the Whole meeting, which had suggested the potential for individual rates per hamlet within the county as opposed to a more standardized fee structure.

"There were some comments made that maybe we should be charging individual rates for individual hamlets because some are more expensive (to service) than others," he said. "I have been thinking on that – everything is not the same in the county. Take Gleichen and Rosebud; the county buys water straight from the WRC and they have their own works that they maintain, so those two communities do not have a water treatment plant or reservoirs or pumps or anything."

He added, communities such as Speargrass, Carseland, and Muirfield each have treatment plants, reservoirs, and water

maintenance facilities that other municipalities do not, yet all are charged the same for infrastructure.

Koester said he would like to see, potentially at a future Committee of the Whole meeting, discussion regarding a shift away from standardized fees and instead charging municipalities based on the direct costs associated with their individual services.

Coun. Scott Klassen noted despite some municipalities, such as Rosebud and Gleichen, where the supplier of water services differs, water servicing infrastructure which remains in operation is the responsibility of the county to maintain.

In response to Koester's comments, administration provided a policy is soon to be drafted to potentially address the idea of adjusting how small municipalities are charged for their water services provided by the county.

An exact date for when a new draft will be presented before council, or the Committee of the Whole was not indicated.

Updated water servicing fees will begin to be reflected as of the start of the next financial year in 2026.

**NEXT HOME GAMES**

**Friday, September 26**  
• 7:45 pm vs Red Deer

**Saturday, October 11**  
• 7:45 pm vs Sylvan Lake



Strathmore Family Centre - Gold Arena

**Strathmore Times** **PLAYER OF THE GAME**

Sept 19 **William Lapohn**      Sept 20 **Luke Nottveit**

*Come Cheer on Your Agra Risk Wheatland Kings*

**YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE**  
Gord Morck Pharmacist

**Capsule Comments**

The human papilloma virus vaccine (HPV) has had astounding success in preventing cervical cancer. It is truly a cancer-preventative vaccine. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about this vaccine for your children.

"You are what you eat". This aphorism goes back to 1826 but it's true today. An assessment of over 195 countries has shown that poor diet is linked to 22% of all deaths. That's more than the combined deaths from cancer, heart disease and hypertension. Much of the cause of poor diets is the consumption of ultra-processed foods.

Here's an easy way of determining if a food is ultra-processed.....

Look at the list of ingredients on the label. If you see a number of items not found in your kitchen, like colouring agents, sweeteners like malto-dextrose, high fructose corn syrup, palm oil (and the list goes on and on), choose another product.

On the other side of the ledger, coffee has been in and out of favour for many years. But the latest research tells us that about four cups per day is good for your health. Large European studies of over a half million participants found that those who drank coffee regularly (up to 4 cups daily) had a 12% reduction in overall mortality and a 22% drop in cardiac mortality. Well, that's at least what coffee's reputation is today.

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

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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 14, 2025, 9:00 a.m. | Municipal Planning Commission**  
**October 14, 2025, Following MPC | ASB Meeting**

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



## 2025 Election Official List of Candidates



Division	Candidate
1	Shannon Laprise (Acclaimed)
2	Berle Hebbes
	Jason Wilson
3	Darlene Davis
	Donna Biggar
4	Thomas Ikert
	Keith Clayton
5	Scott Klassen
	Rodger Brndjar
6	Tony Watfa
	Glenn Koester
	Rex Harwood
7	Rick Laursen
	Cade Treacy

## Notice of Election



Wheatland County, Province of Alberta

Notice is hereby given:

That an election will be held for the filling of the following offices:

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

Voting will take place on the 20th day of October, 2025, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Voting stations will be located at:

- Wheatland County Administrative Building - Division 2
- Nightingale Community Hall - Division 2
- Carseland Community Hall - Division 3
- Cheadle Community Hall - Division 4
- Lyalta Community Club - Division 5
- Rockyford Community Centre - Division 6
- Level Land Hall - Division 6
- Nightingale Community Club - Division 6
- Rosebud Memorial Hall - Division 6
- Hussar Community Hall - Division 7
- Dalum Community Hall - Division 7
- Rosebud Memorial Hall - Division 7

In order to vote, you must produce identification for inspection. The identification must be one or more of the Acceptable Forms of Identification found at <https://www.elections.ab.ca/voters/id-required-to-vote/> as required by section 53 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

DATED at the County of Wheatland, in the Province of Alberta, this 22nd day of September, 2025.

Returning Officer

**Updated Division Boundaries**

New electoral division boundaries will be in effect for the upcoming 2025 Municipal Election.

Residents are encouraged to review the updated map and confirm their division before heading to the polls.

To view the new boundaries and learn more, visit:  
[wheatlandcounty.ca/2025-municipal-election](https://wheatlandcounty.ca/2025-municipal-election)





## Collision sends two to hospital

Two people were taken to hospital, including one airlifted by STARS in life-threatening condition, after a collision at the intersection of Highway 1 and Wheatland Trail on Sept. 17. It is the same location where a fatal crash occurred last month.

Mario Prusina Photo



The Agra Risk Wheatland Kings opened the season with a pair of road wins Sept. 19-20 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The local Junior B team took care of Ponoka 6-2 before earning a 5-3 win over the High River Flyers. The Kings will now host Red Deer on Sept. 26 (7:45 p.m.) before traveling to Cochrane the following day.

Photo Courtesy of Carter Lawrence

# Kings head coach optimistic about start to competitive season

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Agra Risk Wheatland Kings took the new season by storm, securing pair of wins on home ice to open the new Heritage Junior Hockey League season.

Squaring off against Ponoka for their debut on home ice, Sept. 19, the Kings ended the game with a score of 6-2. The Kings followed that up with a 5-3 win over the High River Flyers.

“Anytime you can start off with a couple wins is great. Our first game was Ponoka, typically they are at the bottom of the league standings, but it was a pretty good game for the most part,” said head coach Doug Raycroft. “It wasn’t a runaway like sometimes has happened with that team in the past. It was a good weekend for us to start. We have got a lot of things to work on ... it’s hard to work on everything at once when you can only get a few practices a week.”

Raycroft explained he felt his team was fairly disciplined on the ice, particularly being the start of the new season.

Maintaining the style of play common to the Kings, Raycroft said his boys were able to score goals when the team needed them.

“There has been a lot of improvement, even though we (still) have a long way to go and we have got some issues we have to work on. We are just pretty happy to be going again and get a couple wins under the belt,” he said. “It also looks like there is a little bit more parity in the league. Okotoks lost both games this weekend, so it might be a little bit more of a competitive league this year.”

The Kings are among three teams who won both of their opening games over the course of the opening weekend.

Currently tied for the top spot in the league alongside the Kings are Coaldale, and Sylvan Lake.

“The foundation of any successful team is playing really good defensively. We are going to keep working on our defensive zone. In the exhibition games, we were really aggressive, which is great, but we don’t want to get caught up ice and give them odd man rushes against us,” added Raycroft. “We are going to work on a lot of little things, and work on our team systems. That is going to be our real focus over the next couple weeks.”

Week 2 of the season will see the Kings squaring off against Red Deer on home ice, Sept. 26, followed by a trip to Cochrane, Sept. 27.

## Cottonwood Courts - Strathmore

Second sanctioned (Alberta Horseshoe Pitching Association- AHPA) horseshoe tournament hosted by the Strathmore Cottonwood Courts Horseshoe Pitching Club was held this past weekend (September 13 & 14). There were 18 participants from Central and Southern Alberta. Thanks to our generous sponsors, the weekend was a big success.



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The Strathmore Club is looking for new members, of all ages to come and enjoy this sport from April to October. For more information please contact club President - Wes Walker at 403-324-6250

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## ARTS ON 817 PRESENTS



### The Wardens

Opening Act  
at 7 PM

Strathmore's own  
*Julie Jacobs*

**October 25th - 7:30 pm**

Season Tickets - \$140.00 for all 4 shows  
Adult - \$40.00  
Youth - \$10.00 - 17 and under

Upcoming Concert

**November 28th - Christmas with the Traveling Mabels - 7:30 pm**  
**March 7th, 2026 - ONCUE - Youth Singers of Calgary - 7:30 pm**  
**April 25th, 2026 - Diana Cohen & Roman Rabinovich - 7:30 pm**

Tickets can be purchased at the Vault Cultural Collective or online at [www.smoreuc.com](http://www.smoreuc.com) with PayPal or etransfer [smoretreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:smoretreasurer@gmail.com)  
Online purchases must be picked up at the door the night of the concert.



### Marathon of Hope

Students and staff at Crowther Memorial School took part in the annual Terry Fox Run on Sept. 18. Since the school began hosting the Terry Fox Run the students and faculty have raised over \$188,000. One of the event organizers and school teacher, Glenda Sorenson, said the long-standing event is a "well-oiled machine" and a meaningful way to honour Terry's resilience while bringing the school community together.

Melissa Piche Photo



### Ringette Kick Off

The Strathmore Minor Ringette Association celebrated the start of their season with the Annual Kick Off Event on Sept. 21. After meeting their teams and creating posters, participants enjoyed a special presentation from local university athletes and a Team Canada player, who shared their experiences and inspired the young athletes. Everyone then converged to the Strathmore Family Centre to see the Calgary Dinos host the Lethbridge Pronghorns.

Joe Lepage Photos



# Giving Back Gala

**ABOUT THE CAUSE**

Proceeds from the **Strathmore Elks 491 Golf Tournament** support the **Giving Back Gala: An Evening for Mental Health**. This powerful event will shine a light on the mental health struggles in our community and explore how we can come together to heal, support one another, and build a stronger future—together.

TICKET COST

## \$25

\*TICKETS ON SALE UNTIL NOVEMBER 7TH.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Powerful talks on mental health & local support
- Live music performances
- Catered dinner by the Cheadle Lions
- Silent auction with local items and experiences

**NOVEMBER 21**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM**

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PRESENT



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All ticket sales are final

# 'Night, Mother hits the stage

MELISSA PICHE  
Times Contributor

For her graduation project at the Rosebud School of the Arts, fourth-year student Hayley Rosenau is producing and starring in *'Night, Mother* by Marsha Norman, a Pulitzer Prize-winning play that confronts difficult topics of suicide and mental health.

"I kind of found it by accident on a trip to New York," Rosenau recalled. "I was in a drama bookstore, and it literally fell in my hand. I read the back of it and I was like, 'oh my gosh, it's amazing.' And then I read it on the plane. It has a lot of parallels to my own life."

Rosenau says she connects deeply with her character, Jessie, who faces similar struggles.

"The kind of theatre I'm interested the most in making is stories that have a harder story to tell – that aren't always the prettiest or the funnest – but have an important message to them," she said. "That's what I found with *'Night, Mother*. It's an important story to tell. And I want to start a conversation going about mental health and how it looks different for everyone."

While some advised her to choose something lighter, Rosenau was determined.

"A lot of people tried to advise me, do a comedy or something a bit less depressing," she said with a smile. "And I was like, no, I think this is my story. Part of it was my stubbornness for sure. I didn't want to do a comedy –I wanted to make people cry."

The decision was carefully reviewed by faculty.

"They were mostly concerned about how my mental health could be afterward," Rosenau explained. "They wanted to make sure I had all my things in order – like a trigger warning in the program and in my marketing – to make sure my audience was taken care of and that I would be taken care of. Once they said that, one of the instructors who had advised me against it was actually my biggest supporter."

As both producer and actor, Rosenau has been balancing a dual role since March.

"It's a lot of time management," she said. "I had to carve out my schedule and be like, when do I have my producer hat on and when do I have my actor hat on? Once rehearsals started, I could be 80 per cent in my actor role all the time and just have a little bit of producer stuff to do."

The production has also been a learning experience she's embraced.

"I enjoy a challenge, and I like to be busy," she said. "This has been stressful at times for sure, but I've really enjoyed it. It's kind of a perfect storm for me."

Rosenau hopes the play will spark empathy and deeper understanding in the community.

"I grew up kind of hearing suicide is a coward's way out," she said. "It wasn't until I got most of the things taken from me – the pressure – that I saw the other side of it. I saw the humanity in it and how painful of a decision it is for everybody involved. I hope people see it's not black and white. Take the time to show empathy and love to somebody going through one of the worst things in their life. We don't know other people's stories."

For those attending, Rosenau emphasized honesty and preparation.

"I want them to know what they're walking into," she said. "It is a very frank discussion about suicide and mental health. Four pages into the play – boom, we're in there. But there are also some really beautiful things, even a bit of humour, because you need a bit of humour with the darkness."

To support audience members, Rosenau's stage manager – who holds a degree in social work – will ensure resources are available if anyone has a strong emotional reaction.

Looking ahead, Rosenau said she hopes to make Rosebud her home base while pursuing opportunities across Canada.

"I would love to just kind of go where the work is," she said. "Rosebud will be home, but I'll be a bit of a nomad. That's the life of an artist."

*'Night, Mother* runs Oct. 8–10 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 11 at 4:30 p.m. at the Rosebud Studio Stage. Tickets can be reserved by email ([hayleyr@rosebud-schoolofhearts.com](mailto:hayleyr@rosebud-schoolofhearts.com)).



### Birth Forest grows

Strathmore Communities in Bloom added more trees to the Birth Forest while paying tribute to one of its longtime supporters on Sept. 20 along Centennial Drive and Thomas Drive. As part of the gathering, organizers planted new trees for the birth forest while unveiling a new sign in honour of the late Tony Heuver, who was a dedicated supporter of the Birth Forest and its mission.

Joe Lepage Photos

# Government announces Alberta Youth Employment Incentive

CHANTELLE DE JONGE  
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Getting started in today's job market isn't easy, especially for young people. Many teenagers and young adults are genuinely eager to get their first real job and start making money, but employers don't always have the resources to take a chance on someone new. That's why our government is introducing the Alberta Youth Employment Incentive.

This \$8 million program will help 1,000 businesses hire 2,500 young Albertans between the ages of 15 and 24. Employers that hire these young Albertans will receive direct support to cover training and wages, making it easier for businesses to open their doors to the next generation of Alberta's workers.

Starting next month, businesses can apply through CAREERS: The Next Generation, a non-profit dedicated to connecting young people with job opportunities. Employers who participate can receive \$4,000 if they hire one to two young workers, or \$7,500 if they hire three to five. On top of that, Alberta's government will help cover \$10 for every hour worked by a young employee. More info can be found at [www.ay-eincentive.ca](http://www.ay-eincentive.ca).

This incentive is about giving young Albertans a chance to prove themselves, gain real skills, and build the confidence that comes with a meaningful job. To make these opportunities even more rewarding, young Albertans who complete at least 200 hours on the job and pass a skills check from their employer will earn a special digital badge. This badge can be added to resumes and job applications, showing future employers they have what it takes to succeed at work.

Whether it's in a small-town business, a farm, a local shop, or at a growing company in one of our cities, these opportunities will help young Albertans

start building their careers right here at home. At the same time, employers get the energy and ideas that young workers bring to the table.

Alberta's government is committed to making sure Albertans of all ages have the tools, training, and support they need to thrive. By investing in young Albertans today, we're building a stronger workforce for tomorrow.

As we support young Albertans in building their futures, we're also taking steps to strengthen the systems that serve all Albertans - starting with how we prove identity and citizenship.

Alberta is the first province to add a Canadian citizenship marker to driver's licences and ID cards, giving residents a single, secure card to access programs and services.

This fall, legislation will be introduced to implement the addition of Canadian citizenship status to Albertans' driver's licences or ID cards. This change is part of a broader initiative to give Albertans a single, secure document that confirms both identity and Canadian citizenship. By combining identity and citizenship on one document, Albertans will no longer need to carry multiple pieces of ID to access services.

Adding a Canadian citizenship marker to Alberta's driver's licences will also strengthen Alberta's election system by helping ensure that only eligible citizens cast ballots, protecting the integrity of our democratic process. It also positions Alberta to respond quickly to future legislative changes and aligns with international standards.

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

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

## Strathmore & Area Market Update



The real estate market in Strathmore has officially shifted into a buyer's market, offering more choices and negotiating power for homebuyers than we've seen in recent years. With interest rates softening and inventory on the rise, now is an ideal time to start your search. If you're hoping to spend Christmas in a new home, this is the perfect time to make that happen. Your dream home might just be waiting under the tree this year. Give our team at REMAX Key a call to help guide you through this market and the process!

*August 2025 CREB statistics	Sales	Inventory	Benchmark Price	Average Days on Market
Wheatland County	29	151	\$458,300	66
Strathmore	17	90	\$440,300	46
Langdon	11	35	\$696,900	38
Chestermere	38	269	\$703,300	48

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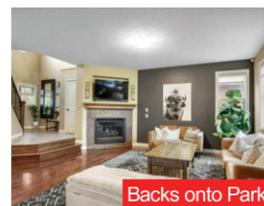
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## Obituary



**BARTMAN, Hazel Mary**  
July 11, 1943 – September 17, 2025

Hazel Mary Bartman, affectionately known as Mary to her friends and loved ones, left this world on September 17, 2025, at the age of 82 with her family by her side.

She was the first baby born in the Beaverlodge hospital on July 11, 1943. Mary's life was a tapestry of dedication, love and spirited endeavor, which came to a peaceful close in Calgary, Alberta.

Mary's parents settled in Pollockville, Alberta. As a teenager Mary was hired to help in the household of Karl Bartman where he ranched with his brother Don. Mary and Don began dating, and married on December 7, 1959. As the family grew with the arrival of their son Marty in 1960 and daughter Shelly in 1963, life on the family ranch kept Mary busy with trail riding, gymkhana and supporting the local 4-H. Her love for the community was evident in everything she did, and her work ethic was unparalleled.

In 1974 the family ranch was sold and Don and Mary moved to Bassano where they continued to ranch. Mary's entrepreneurial spirit led her to work as a Palliative Care Coordinator in Brooks providing support and care to those in need. She then became the proud owner of a fabric and craft store and later worked at the Cake Board Factory in Bassano. In the early eighties Mary discovered a new calling as a Para Professional at Clearview Hutterite Colony where she continued to teach for over 30 years until her well-earned retirement, leaving a legacy of compassion and service. Mary's zest for life was not limited to her professional endeavors. She was an exceptional seamstress, had a talent for decorating wedding cakes, and teaching the craft to others. An avid reader, Mary found solace and adventure within the pages of countless books, always keen to learn and explore new worlds through literature. In 2011 Don and Mary moved to Strathmore to be closer to family.

Mary's family was the cornerstone of her life. She is survived by son Marty (Darlene) and daughter Shelly (Dave), granddaughter Shalyn (Brad), great grandchildren; Chance and Carley Bartman and Jessie and James Logan, sister Verona Sturrock, five step grandchildren, three step great grandchildren and one step great great granddaughter.

She was predeceased by husband Don Bartman, parents Clarence and Hazel Christopherson, three sisters Arlene, Louise, and Phyllis, daughter in law Faye Bartman, grandson Chase Bartman, and numerous brother and sister in laws.

Mary's departure leaves a void in the lives of those who knew her, but her spirit will forever resonate in the memories shared, the lessons taught and the love she gave so freely. Her legacy of kindness, resilience and creativity will continue to inspire all who were privileged to know her. Her life was a beautiful reflection of the love she had for her family and her community. As we say goodbye to Mary, we celebrate a life well lived, a journey well-travelled, and a soul that has truly left an indelible mark on this world.

As per her wishes, no service will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

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

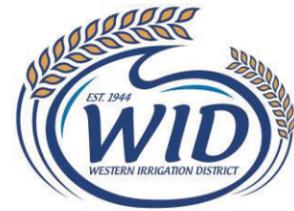
## MEMORIAM

In Memory  
of my loving husband  
**Ross Sherman Bill**  
April 22, 1944 – September 20, 2014

*You gave me many things in life  
Gifts both great and small.  
But most of all you gave me love  
The greatest gift of all.*

Greatly missed and forever loved  
Lottie...

## NOTICES



**The WID will shut water service off to all canals and pipelines on September 30, 2025**



The WID encourages you to have your water reservoirs full by these dates. For fall water needs please call your local Water District Supervisor.

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#### 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.

## SUDOKU

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

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**Upcoming Council Meetings**

**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.

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**.

New area structure plan just dropped.

**Strathmore West ASP.**

The Town of Strathmore has received an application for a new Area Structure Plan (ASP) for the lands west of town, between Wheatland County, Wildflower Road, and Range Road 254. This proposed plan would guide the long-term development of a new neighbourhood with homes for over 10,000 people and new local job opportunities. It also outlines plans for parks, schools, transportation, and other services. A full copy of the Strathmore West ASP draft version is available to the public Monday to Friday during regular office hours.

Affected parties can make a written submission to the Town's Development Services Office throughout the ASP planning process. For more info, or to view the draft plan and maps, visit our website, [Strathmore.ca](http://Strathmore.ca)

**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:

- **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.



**Whenever you can, shop local. It might sound cliché, but it really matters.**



**National day for Truth & Reconciliation**

**Honouring the Survivors, Community Dinner**

- September 27, 2025
- 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Strathmore Civic Centre

Learn more at [Strathmore.ca/FCSS](http://Strathmore.ca/FCSS)

**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).



**Unlimited fitness classes. One fee.**  
\$78.75 / month – 10 classes every week – no limits

**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).**