Affinity 780.778.3330 Funeral Service ^{Unit #1, 4105 41 Avenue} www.affinityfuneralservice.ca





Sharing the love throughout the community this Christmas is as easy as purchasing a gift or a gift card for the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper. The program has been a constant here for fifty years and helps make Christmas memorable for countless families. See page 8 for article.





WERHAEGHE LAW OFFICE 780-778-6644 Real Estate, Wills & Estates, Family Law, Corporate & Commercial Law 5011-51 Ave, Whitecourt, AB. T7S 1P7



A young cowboy with big dreams sets his sights high

By Serena Lapointe

Ryker Woodcock is a typical 10-year-old kid in many ways, even posing with Santa Claus for an annual picture just a few weeks back. But, there is one way that Woodcock stands out from his peers, and it has to do with a hobby he hopes to turn into something more one day. Woodcock is a rodeo kid. Though he didn't grow up in a rodeo family, the lure of the excitement that can only be found in a rodeo ring stuck to him like glue at a young age.

"I liked watching rodeos on tv, and I remember wanting to try it. So, I did, and I really liked it. I just wanted to keep on doing it and getting better," explained Woodcock. His mom, Jessica Woodcock, said she had horses growing up and that they live on a small hobby farm but are nothing near a rodeo family. "He was basically born with it ever since he was little. He started off by riding in the mutton-busting competitions when he was about four years old," she said.

After a couple of years riding sheep and getting his bearings in the riding arena, Woodcock decided to move up to the ponies. Since then, Woodcock competed around has the area. "He's been to quite a few rodeos since he started. He's been to the big ones in Stoney Plain. There was a big one at Northlands in

Edmonton that he went to, and he also competed at the Peers Gold Rush Days when they had mini broncs. He got third explained his there," mom.

Earlier this year, Woodcock competed in Stony Plain for the Canadian Junior Roughstock Association (CJRA). The youngster came in first in his division, winning the CJRA Chute-Out Series Peewee Bareback Championship and snagging himself a big belt buckle (shown). The win qualified him for the World Finals in Wickenburg, Arizona, where in his first time qualifying for such an event, Woodcock came in fifth. "We are very proud of him," said his mom, Jessica.

The drive to Arizona for the competition was an experience the family will never forget. "It was a cool experience. You had to watch out for rattlesnakes and scorpions, but it was fun, though," he said. Woodcock said that he hopes to qualify in a higher age group next year as he ages out of the Peewee level. "His age group, the peewees, competed in Wickenburg, but the rest of the rodeo kids got to compete at NFR. Next year, if he qualifies, he will get to do that too, "explained his mom.

The National Finals Rodeo (NFR) is a massive event in Las Vegas. Woodcock said he hopes to get there. "It would be really cool to qualify for that and get to go," he said with a big grin. To do it, Woodcock needs to move up to the bigger ponies. "I'm

excited for that. They are kind of still the s a m e (as the smaller ponies), just fatter. It's going to be easier, I think."

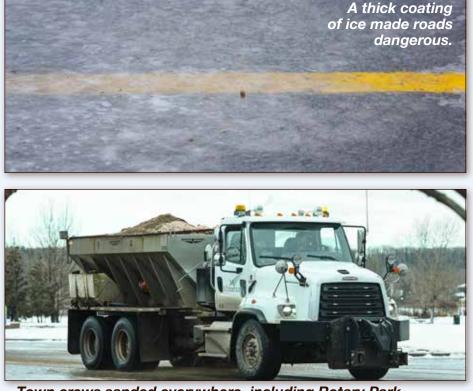
For his mom, Jessica, watching her young son tackle sheep, then ponies was hard at first. "It's better now. The first few times watching him was very hard on me. We are pretty used to it now because he's been doing it for four years."

Woodcock said he hopes to get into bull riding when asked what

he sees in his immediate future. His mom chuckled. "I don't feel as good about the bulls because they will try and kill you. Horses, generally, once you fall off, go the other direction and get away from you, but bulls, not so much," she laughed.

When asked how soon Ryker could test out his interest in bull riding, his mom said it was sooner

than she liked. "Unfortunately, I think he can start riding steers anytime," she laughed as her son gave her a big grin and a giggle. No matter what path Woodcock takes, it's pretty evident that he has the determination to learn, the willingness to work hard, and the spirit of a rodeo champ. Good Luck, Ryker!



Town crews sanded everywhere, including Rotary Park.



Ryker is sporting a big, shiny belt buckle following a significant career win in the summer. The victory let him travel outside the country to compete at a level he hadn't competed at before, encouraging him to try harder and learn as much as possible to further his career.



Bring a shovel and a bucket to grab sand.

A rainy Friday morning last week made for an interesting walk or drive for those who were out and about when things froze. Buses were cancelled for safety reasons, and residents who didn't have to go out stayed home. Town crews immediately sprang into action, sanding roadways to make them safer for those behind the wheel. Residents who do not have salt or sand at home are invited to head down to the town-owned parking lot behind the Whitecourt Legion to grab sand from the big green bin. Free to take, the sand gives residents a cheap option to sprinkle onto their walkways, sidewalks and driveways to make movement safer. Residents only need to bring a bucket and a shovel.

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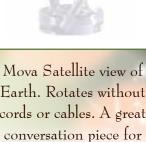
Christmas Gifts to Cherish Draw Your Own up to 50% OFF* With qualifying purchase DISCOUNT over \$99* until December 24 14K Yellow & Rose Gold Sterling silver and Mova Satellite view of Shelly Purdy Maple Leaf bronze Keith Jack Earth. Rotates without Diamond Wild Rose Garden "Wild Souls" Stag cords or cables. A great

The Press

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Pharmasave 5112 50 St. Whitecourt, AB

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4

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GRIEF

Weekly grief support group starting September 13 through November 29., Tuesdays, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm., at Crossroads Community Church, 4419 44 Avenue, Mayerthorpe. \$25 for 12 sessions includes your personal GriefShare Workbook. Pre-registration is required by calling Reverend Ruth Lotholz at 780-786-2695.

LORNE'S BLANKET

vis transitional housing for men.

We exist to help homeless men get back on their feet.

If you know of any male requiring assistance, please Call Lorne's Blanket at 780-778-0952

Just in time for "Christmas" on-line auction

Mark your calendar..... for this 1 Day event! St . Patrick' s Anglican Church will be holding an online JUST IN TIME FOR "CHRISTMAS" on-line auction thru our Facebook page on **Thurs**day, December 1, 2022.

The interest from our community and your faithful support of this fun-filled event has always been appreciated. Recently, this has been

our main form of fundraiser for the church and our proceeds have always stayed local!

That will not change! We do hope to provide some fun bidding in our online auction thru our Facebook page.

Go to Facebook & like our page: St. Patrick' s Anglican Church. Bidding instructions will be posted there. Any monetary donations

can bee-transferred at: stpatrick.wct@outlook. com

View & bid on items Thursday, December 1, 2022 at our St Patrick's Church Facebook page. Like our page & join this 1-day event.

Need any info-contact Brenda at 780-778-0425.

We look forward to your continued support & hope you have some fun. Blessings to all.



"Serving the community for over 30 years" The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food in order to help families in need. Open Mon, Wed & Fri 11:00am to 2:00 pm Phone: 780-778-2341

Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre

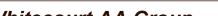
The Whitecourt Food Bank is operated by the Town of Whitecourt Food Bank Coordinator and dependent on volunteers to operate. The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food from individuals and organizations . Local grocery stores drop off baked goods including bread and pastries weekly. Other corporations and schools schedule food drives throughout the year. Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Phone: 780-778-2341

Soaring Eagle Support Society

Offering support services for marginalized individuals Outreach worker, laundry and shower facilities by appt • Tax program & Bag Lunch Program

5027 - 51 Avenue, Open: Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm **780-396-8777**

Shelter: C**) 24/7 CRISIS LINE Wellspring Provides a Safe, Short Term, Supportive Residential Environment for Women With or Without Children, Fleeing 780.778.6209 1.800.467.4049 Family Violence & Experiencing Crisis. WELLSPRING **Outreach Support Program:** f Ongoing Support, Advocacy, Follow-Up & Support Groups for Women, Men and Youth in Whitecourt and Surrounding FAMILY RESOURCE & CRISIS CENTRE Communities. @whitecourt_shelter **Child Support Program:** O Child Care & After School Programs - Age Appropriate Programs & Support for Children Who Have Been Affected By Family Violence **Preventative Education:** Provides Workshops, Information and Awareness to Schools, Nellspring Community Organizations, Agencies and Businesses Family Resource & Crisis Centre www.whitecourtshelter.ca







WHITECOURT CANCER & **WELLNESS** SOCIETY

Providing timely and easily accessible financial support for Whitecourt patients and their families who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

This can include help with parking costs for hospital visits, living expenses and unforeseen medical expenses. Applications can be made through the Drs at both Whitecourt Medical Clinics or (office hours, can leave a message): Willow McIntyre (Community Cancer Navigation Nurse, McLeod River PCN) 780-779-0079, Kim Nendsa (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) 780-778-0932 wctcancerwellness@gmail.com

**Monthly meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19

Whitecourt AA Group

Of Alcoholics Anonymous



Meetings three times each week

- 8:00 p.m..... (12 Step Meeting) Monday
- Wednesday 8:00 p.m...(Open Topic Meeting)
- 8:00 p.m.....(Big Book Meeting) Friday

Located at the United Church Basement on Legion St. (formerly 5201 – 50 Street) More info Contact: (780) 396-8777. Please Leave A Message For Our AA member or Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322



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Influenza immunization available now.



COVID-19 immunization also available.

For appointment booking, visit ahs.ca/vaccine, call 811 or text 'flu' to 88111







2023 Summer Student Opportunities

Alberta Newsprint Company has student employment opportunities available for Summer 2023. Roles may be in the following areas:

- Paper Machine Operations Accounting (Shift Work) Sales
- Engineering Environmental

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

www.whitecourt.ca | facebook.com/TownofWhitecourt | 780-778-2273



5

If you enjoy a fast-paced, progressive work environment and you have a passion for serving the local community- then this may be the opportunity for you! We believe that our values of diversity, collaboration, innovation and mutual respect bring out the best in our team, and we are currently looking to fill the following positions:

- Job#: 22-057, Whitecourt Transit Drivers, Casual Positions.
- Job#: 22-059, Family Support Diversion Worker, Temporary, Full-time Position.

Please visit <u>www.whitecourt.ca</u> for all employment opportunities and details on how to apply.

WANTED PART

Heavy duty mechanic and/or Welder

 Must be Journeyman • Work evenings or weekends Help maintain truck and trailers
 Mechanic to have knowledge in doing CVIPS • Welder should be Journeyman or be able to weld with mechanical Journeyman ticket

Apply by email to truckinghrdept@gmail.com

We thank you for your application, however only the most qualified will be contacted.

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Tim Hortons in Whitecourt is looking to fill the following positions:

QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates must be currently enrolled in post-secondary education; proof of enrollment is required. Candidates must be available for the entire contract term. Good physical condition is required. Candidates may undergo a medical assessment for employment in certain roles due to the physical demands required.

<u>TERM</u>

May 1 to September 1, 2023

RATE OF PAY

\$22.67 to \$27.17; depending on position, tenure, and experience.

CLOSING DATE:

Please submit your resume on albertanewsprint.com → "Careers at ANC" by December 3, 2022.

NOTE:

Interviews for these roles will be held on Thursday, December 22, 2022 ONLY.

We thank all students that apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Food Service Attendant Full Time / Shift Work

Food Service Supervisor Full Time / Shift Work

SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS

Please apply in person at the restaurant.





he Press

Enjoying the Whitecourt Golf & Country Club grounds through the spring, summer, and fall is one thing, but have you ever explored them in the winter? Though there isn't as much snow yet, there is already a groomed trail for cross-country skiers. Accessible through an open gate on the river's side of the property at the very end of 47th Street, the trails are a highlight for area enthusiasts. From the little and big critters that roam the grounds to the many birds you will spot in the trees, the area is perfect for enjoying even in the off-season.

Woodlands County Council meeting

Woodlands County Council discussed the following items at their recent meeting of Council:

Fort Assiniboine Bicentennial Committee Chair, Dale Kluin and Voyageur Canoe Brigade representatives, Quentin and Teresa Olson provided information to Council regarding the planning efforts for the Hamlet's 2023 bicentennial celebration. The events are tentatively scheduled for July 2023 and the Committee is requesting funding from Woodlands County for venues, entertainment, and equipment while they await responses on grant applications. Olson explained the intent is to bring people together and teach youth history of the past and to celebrate the founding of Fort Assiniboine as a Hudson's Bay post in 1823. County Council will further discuss funding opportunities at their December meetings.

Council endorsed Woodlands County's Asset Management Roadmap which provides long-term plans to assess and prioritize asset management initiatives throughout the organization. The roadmap sets milestones to ensure accountability and performance measurements. Asset Management documents the current and projected infrastructure management processes to deliver a targeted level of service and provides details on the municipality's assets, their condition, current-day replacement cost, and impact should they fail. The revised Policy 6201 – Post Secondary Bursary was adopted that includes funding opportunities for students with disabilities that may require specialized equipment or services during their studies. Applications are available on the Woodlands County website.

Council adopted Policy 6211 – Low Income Benefits Program. Effective July 1, 2023, low-income Woodlands County homeowners will have access to:

- a low-income tax rebate of \$150 flat rate per year,
- a transportation grant of a maximum of \$300 per person per year,
- and three free snow plow flags per year, a \$150 value.

An information campaign to explain the program will come in 2023, prior to its launch.

Continuing to support students and families in Fort Assiniboine, Woodlands County is set to renew a three-year funding agreement with the Pembina Hills School Division for a Family School Liaison Program worker at the Fort Assiniboine School. The \$19,892.97 annual funding supports the Family School Liaison, also known as a Success Coach, who focuses on decreasing negative emotions and challenging behaviours in students, to help them build emotional coping skills. The next scheduled meeting Council is Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 9:30 am and 2023 budget discussions continue at meetings on Tuesday, December 6, 6 pm and Thursday, December 8, 9 am. The meetings are held in-person at the Municipal Office in Whitecourt and streamed on the Woodlands County YouTube channel. Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County CivicWeb Portal.



Application Location

Whitecourt United Church 5201 50 Street, Whitecourt

United Church is independent of the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper and cannot facilitate applications or answer questions.

Financial Donations

eTransfer: mrsgundy@telus.net

Application Dates

Wednesday, November 30... 7pm to 9pm Thursday, December 1...... 7pm to 9pm Saturday, December 3...... 11am to 3pm Wednesday, December 7..... 7pm to 9pm Thursday, December 8...... 7pm to 9pm Saturday, December 10......11am to 3pm

* no date or time exceptions

Include name and mailing address for tax receipt **Drop Off:** RE/MAX Advantage, Main Street **Mail:** c/o Whitecourt Christmas Hamper Fund 47 Ravine Drive, Whitecourt, T7S 1H5 *Tax receipts available.*

Gift Donations

We accept new, unwrapped toys, stuffies, arts and craft kits, family games, pre-teen books, toques, and mittens. *Please no food donations or toiletries.* * no phone applications

Application Requirements

- Only one individual per family to attend interviews, with knowledge of all information required
- **Proof of residency required** (lease, gov't issued ID with address, utility bill)
- Eligible to residents of Whitecourt, Blue Ridge, and Woodlands County east, central, and west.

Donation bins are available at select participating businesses beginning mid-November.

This program is for families with dependant children age 17 and under, made possible by the generosity of our community.

whitecourthamper@gmail.com

SOCIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Press

Woodlands County is conducting a social needs assessment to better understand the needs and challenges of County residents. Information gathered through the sessions and survey will contribute to the development of future Community Services projects and initiatives.

Senior Focus Groups

Blue Ridge Community Hall Wednesday, November 30, 9 to 11:30 am Fort Assiniboine Legion Thursday, December 1, 9 to 11:30 am

Indigenous Focus Group

Whitecourt Forest Interpretive Centre Wednesday, November 30, 5:30 to 8 pm

Online Survey

Everyone can participate through the online survey on the Woodlands County website or scanning the QR code.

PAGE



YOUTH! We really want to hear from you! All youth who complete the survey will be entered to win a \$20 Visa gift card.

*A light meal is available at all focus group sessions for participants who register.





If you have a disability, need assistance in participating or to register for the focus group session meal, contact Woodlands County Community Services 1-888-870-6315



Making Christmas memorable for local families in need, one toy at a time

The Press

By Serena Lapointe

For fifty years, the Christmas Whitecourt Hamper has played a significant role in the holiday experience of local families. By helping facilitate the donation collection process, the delivery process, and every bit in between, volunteers get to play Santa, thanks to the generosity of the residents and businesses in Whitecourt.

The last few years have been especially hard for families, and the need will likely continue to grow. "We never quite know until the interviews start how that year will play out. With the last two years with COVID and the substantial changes in people's finances, we felt that each year would increase. I think this year will be even higher, especially with the price of inflation increasing. I think that's going to be a crunch of families' finances," explained Whitecourt Christmas Hamper Chair Kim Tschigerl.

As a member of the hamper volunteer squad for years, Tschigerl said looking back at how the program started to where it is today is heartwarming. "The hamper started with six ladies in 1972. It was just a program that came together with some government funding to

help families that couldn't make it through the Christmas season. Initially, donations around town were collected with food and toys for the kids."

When the government funding didn't return in year two, volunteers worked hard to keep going without it; the rest truly is history. "Our motto is that Christmas is for kids and families. To stay true to that motto, over the fifty years, we've always been adaptable to what the families needed. We collect toys from community residents and provide gift cards for groceries, which we use cash donations for. We give kids pieces of clothing, toques, and mitts to stay warm, and all these little extras that we can give to these families to help them get through December, one of the hardest months for families when they feel that pressure and don't have the extra funds."

Tschigerl said that when it comes to sorting all the donations at the end of the collection period, words can't express their gratefulness, seeing mounds of gifts before them. "We get so emotional. Whitecourt has such a generous, giving heart, and that is what we facilitate. We are just the people who bring it all together. It is amazing to see. I don't know if I can

put the proper words together to explain what it's like to stand there and see all the gifts. It's so generous."

Collection bins are located at Scotiabank, the Allan & Jean Millar Centre, the Woodlands County Office, Amazing Gifts, White Wall Wood, and RE/MAX Advantage. Financial donations can be sent via etransfer (mrsgundy@telus.net) or dropped off at the RE/ MAX office.

For the realtors and admin staff at RE/MAX, donations for the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper have turned into a fun game, and they have a massive mound of donations to show for it. The 2022 Business Challenge started with two nominations to two local businesses, New Venture Safety Services and Whitecourt IGA. Those two, in turn, nominated two more each, and the game was officially underway.

What started last year to help boost the number of stuffed animals donated is now so much more. "One of the goals is that every child should have a stuffed animal. We don't know the trauma and hardships these children face, so it's important to give them a stuffed animal to feel loved. That's the heart that comes out of these

stuffie challenge started it all. These ladies (Lexi Ames and Kait Moffat) have pulled this together, which is phenomenal. Them partnering with us is crucial."

Since the business challenge began on November 7, countless businesses have participated, helping to build the mountain of donations in the RE/MAX office waiting area. Realtor Lexi Ames said it's incredible to see how excited people and businesses are to be nominated. "There has not been one person that has not taken on the challenge when nominated. Everybody is typically here within twenty-four hours of being nominated with arms full of gifts."

She said that what the Christmas Hamper does in Whitecourt brings tears to her eyes. Kait Moffat from New Venture Safety Services, who helped create the business challenge event with Ames, agreed. "Knowing that every kid is going to wake up with a smile on their face Christmas morning with something under the tree, there is nothing better than that."

Having lived in Whitecourt her whole life, Ames said she doesn't know anything different than a massively generous com-

business challenges. That munity, adding that it must be quite something for someone to enter the community who has not experienced the same elsewhere. Moffat said Whitecourt is special. "That's the crazy thing about this community, and I've never seen anything like it before. People are so generous here. Everyone is so eager to help out and support a good cause. This community is unique."

> Donations will be collected until December 14 ahead of a significant sorting day on the 15, packing day on the 16 and delivery day on the 17. The Family Worship Centre donates the use of their space for two days to allow volunteers to organize, sort and pack every gift. "We are very grateful to them."

> The Rotary Club of Whitecourt will hold a toy drive in the Canadian Tire parking lot on Saturday, December 3, where flyers will also be handed out, giving suggestions for what to donate. Caine's Jewellers has its annual ornament sale happening too. The personalized ornaments are \$15; ten dollars from each ornament sold will be donated between Tennille's Hope Kommunity Soup Kitchen and the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper.

Gift cards are gratefully accepted in \$25 denominations, and receipts are requested to be kept with the gift cards so that volunteers can verify the amount. "Gift cards are great for teens, 12-17. We strive to give a gift to those teens along with a gift card," explained Tschigerl. From makeup kits, science and craft kits, books, and family games, there are endless ideas to help make Christmas bright for families. "If you have kids, bring them shopping. They know what to pick and are the best shoppers for this. Usually, some of the teachers from nearby schools will walk their classes over to Walmart, and they pick out toys for children in need in our community. It's beautiful. We rely on the schools and those teachers and their donations. They are the ones out there seeing those kids in need."

Founding hamper member Phyllis Tomlinson helped start the program fifty years ago and still volunteers each year. "That's something for us to celebrate. She is one dedicated volunteer. We are very grateful for her," said Tschigerl. Applications to receive a Christmas hamper start on November 30 at the Whitecourt United Church.



Congratulations to the winners of the Name Our Plows contest!

- * Clearapathra ~ Crystal Szybunka
- *** Snow Problemo** ~ Jessica Sharkey
- ★ No More Mr. Ice Guy ~ Riley Weatherby, Pauline Francis, **Rochelle Bartier**



We Have our Final Six Plow names!

For more information and contest details check out www.woodlands.ab.ca/p/contest

- * Catch My Drift ~ Rochelle Bartier, Pauline Francis, Michelle Mosher
- * Snow Worries ~ Rita Thomas
- * Weird Plow Yankovic ~ Michelle Mosher, Crystal Szybunka

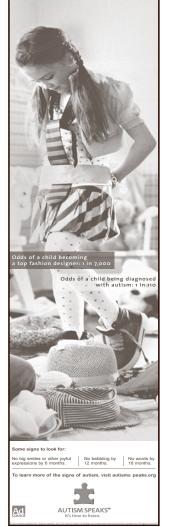
For more information on **Contest 2**: Create a Face or Design go to: www.woodlands.ab.ca/p/contest

Contests are open to residents and visitors, of all ages.



Tuesday, November 29, 2022





Auctions

MEIER UNRESERVED GUN & SPORTSMAN AUCTION. Saturday, Dec 17 - 10AM, 4740 57 St. Wetaskiwin, AB. Consign Now. Free Pickup. Phone 780-440-1860. Visit www.meierauction.com for more details.

PINE LAKE ACREAGE DIS-PERSAL ONLINE TIMED AUCTION, Blackfalds, Alberta. December 1-6, 2022. Selling General International Woodworking Tools, Enclosed Trailers, Acreage Equip., Boat, Ind. Sewing Equip., Amazon Returns & more. See www. montgomeryauctions.com; 1-800-371-6963.

Buildings For Sale

INTEGRITY POST FRAME 2008 BUILDINGS since BUILT WITH CONCRETE POSTS. Barns, Shops, Riding Arenas, Machine Sheds and more, sales@integritybuilt. com 1-866-974-7678 www. integritybuilt.com.

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LOOKING FOR A REWARD-ING CAREER? Massage Therapy offers many options. Study full time or in a distance format. Contact the

Letter to the Editor policy

The Press welcomes readers to write letters to the Editor. A maximum of 300 words is preferred but not necessary. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. Please email letters to wctpress@telus.net.



Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.74 US Dollar at an exchange rate of 0.7462 (using nominal rate).



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community newspapers throughout Alberta. We can also place ads in other provinces throughout Canada

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FARMLAND AND PASTURE LAND BY SASKATCHE-WAN RIVER. 160 acres. Best hunting in Saskatchewan.

Excellent fishing. Thick pine & poplar bluffs, by water coulee. Old yard site with power and water. Revenue Potential. East of Prince Albert, SK. \$248,000. Call Doug 306-716-2671.

3 QUARTERS OF CROP-LAND South of Weyburn, SK. Distressed sale. Priced below market at 1.27 x assessment, with a 4% return with lease. \$594,800.00. Call Doug at 306-716-2671.

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Services

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GET BACK ON TRACK! Bad credit? Bills? Unemployed?

NEED HELP? CALL ANYTIME! (24-7)

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by PETER MARINACCI

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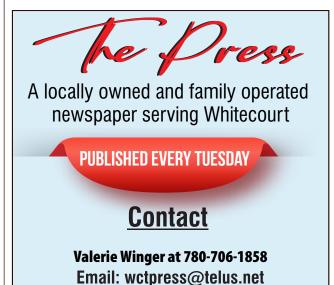
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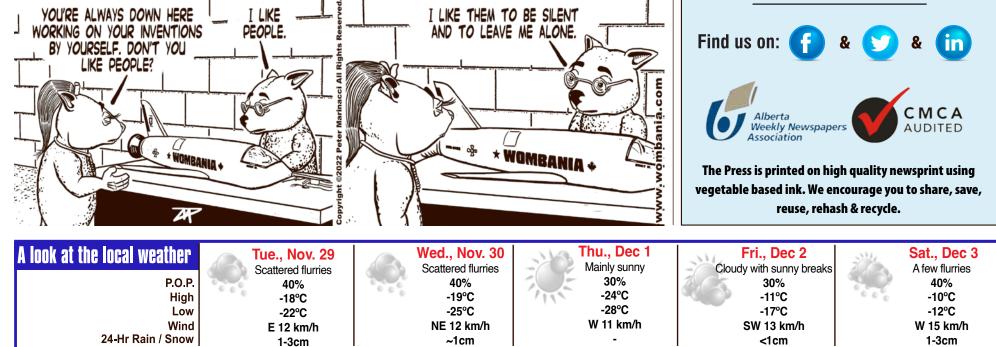








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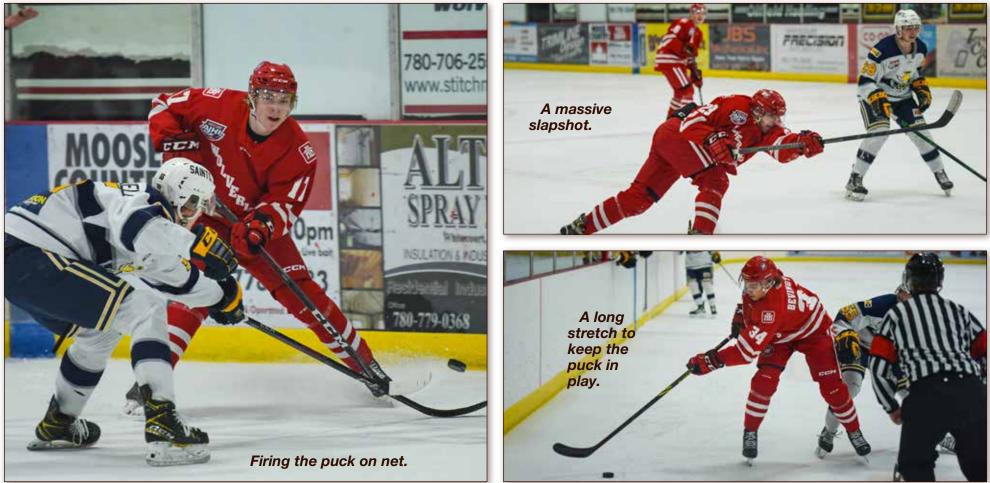
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Standing up against family violence and cheering on the Wolverines

he Press



Family Violence Prevention Month is coming to a close. Staff from the Whitecourt Family Violence Initiative were on hand during Friday's Whitecourt Wolverines game, handing out purple glow sticks, raising awareness and providing resources to help those suffering from family violence.

By Serena Lapointe

November is Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta.

25, the FVI attended the Whitecourt Wolverines home game against the Spruce Grove Saints. Throughout the month, Staff handed out purple the Whitecourt Fami- glow sticks and Lynden Schwindt, the Family Violence Liaison for the FVI, helped drop the puck at the start of the game. "It's very important to be here. It's integral to our community to be visible so everybody can do their part," Schwindt said. She added that collaboration and getting the message about support is how family violence can be extinguished. "The scary thing about family violence is that it happens behind closed doors. When we bring it to the forefront, this is how we can all make a change in the community." She said

that the FVI appreciates the support they receive from the community.

Following the puck drop, the Whitecourt Wolverines and the Spruce Grove Saints got to work. The first period was fastpaced as the teams raced from end to end. Though there wasn't any scoring, the period was far from boring as fans felt the highs and lows of great shot attempts and big saves. In the final minute, the Saints were called for holding, giving the Wolverines their first powerplay of the game. The home team did not capitalize on it before the horn sounded to end the period. The Wolverines opened



Violence Initiative ly (FVI) has held events and brought awareness of the impact of violence within the home. They kicked off the month with their Shine a Light campaign, encouraging residents to leave their porch lights on or hang a purple glow stick in their windows. Other events included Pub Foods with the Dudes, which happened on November 3, and family violence business kits were handed out to area businesses to make resources readily accessible to staff.

On Friday, November

continued on page 11

Ceremonial puck drop for Family Violence Prevention Month with Lynden Schwindt (middle left) the Family Violence Liaison with the Whitecourt Family Violence Initiative.



Fast as lightning.





continued from page 10

he Dress

the second period with a minute and eighteen seconds on the power play. Try as they might, they could not get a puck in the net. Just after the 17-minute mark of the frame, Wolverine Matthew Sutter was called for holding and was sent to the penalty box to sit for two minutes. The Spruce Grove Saints didn't need the full two minutes on the man advantage, scoring a beautiful tic-tac-toe goal at 18:35 of the period, much to the dismay of the hometown crowd.

In the final period, the Wolverines knew they had to tie things up. The fast-paced nature of the first two periods continued, which was great for the 432 fans in the stands.

Both teams worked hard, the Wolverines looking for the tying goal and the Saints doing all they could to hold onto their lead.

Five penalties took place in the first half of the period. Saint Caden Cabana was anything but when he was penalized for a major blow to the head and given a ten-minute misconduct. Wolverine Kaiden Wiltsie sat for boarding and dropped both teams to 4 on 4. Forty seconds later, the Wolverines were given a glorious opportunity to tie things up when they went on the man-advantage following a tripping penalty called against the Unfortunately, Saints. the Wolverines could not capitalize on the chance. The entertaining matchup ended as a 1-0 win for the Spruce Grove Saints.

The next home game for the Wolverines is on Wednesday, November 30, against the Grande Prairie Storm. Fans will have to wait nine days after that to catch their team in action at the Scott Safety Centre when the Olds Grizzlys come to town on Friday, December 9.

Those seeking information on family violence supports on behalf of a friend, family member, or themselves are encouraged to visit www.whitecourtfvi.ca. The website features resources for domestic abuse victims, including numbers to call, programs and training opportunities available, and more. The Family Violence info line is 310-1818. #wheretoturn #GO-PURPLEAB.



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