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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



The Press



Locally Owned & Operated



Vol. 11 - Issue 51 | Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Celebrating a decade of spreading Christmas cheer with young and old



Playing Santa Claus is a special gig that comes with lots of responsibility. For local man Donald Myers, playing jolly old St. Nick means just as much to him as it does the countless children with whom he shares the joy of Christmas with each year. This year is Myers' tenth anniversary of playing Santa for the community.

By Serena Lapointe

For the last ten years, Donald Myers has upheld a unique tradition with his family. What started as a silly idea for a laugh with him and his daughters, Reena and Melanie, has become so much more. "We hooked up the wagon and went down to the highway on Lonira Road and waved at people," explained Myers. "I was dressed up as Santa Claus, and we had fun making people smile as they drove by, waving back at us."

Eventually, someone stopped. "They asked if they could have a ride, and we got the idea that maybe this could be something we did with people. So, the second year we started offering people rides." Posting on Facebook and growing by word of mouth, the Santa's Test Run event

quickly became popular. "People wanted to pay me but, Santa doesn't take money so, we decided that if people donated food, it would go to the food bank, and if people donated money, it would go to the Christmas Hamper."

Getting to do something they enjoyed doing while also collecting donations for two great organizations was a joy for Myers. As popularity grew, the Myers clan started making little gifts to give out, including ornaments. "My daughters and my wife, Bonnie, gave out 77 ornaments this year, so that's 77 kids who came to see Santa in Blue Ridge. That's not counting the parents who were with them."

This year was the first time Santa's Test Run happened in Blue Ridge instead of at Lonira Road,

and Myers said he liked how it worked out. "I think we will likely continue doing it this way. It gives the kids something to do while waiting for a ride. They can hang out inside and stay warm. The library had crafts going for them, the rink was open, and there was a bonfire. I liked how it was set up, and I think people liked it too. I think we would gain more people doing it this way because you've got something to do on top of the ride with Santa, and you're not just waiting on the road."

Looking back on how the event has grown, Myers said he couldn't believe it all started with a random thought to wave at people near the highway. "I started playing Santa for my friends and family because it was a

continued on page 5



Patrick Carew
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along with
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Many Blessings in 2023**

Martin Long
MLA West Yellowhead



WOODLANDS COUNTY

Happy Holidays
FROM WOODLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL & STAFF

Expressing our deepest gratitude for your support and engagement of our municipality. We look forward to assisting you in the future and send our best wishes to you and yours this holiday season.

**WHITECOURT MUNICIPAL OFFICE &
FORT ASSINIBOINE REGIONAL OFFICE
HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE
DECEMBER 24, 2022 THROUGH JANUARY 2, 2023**



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Christmas

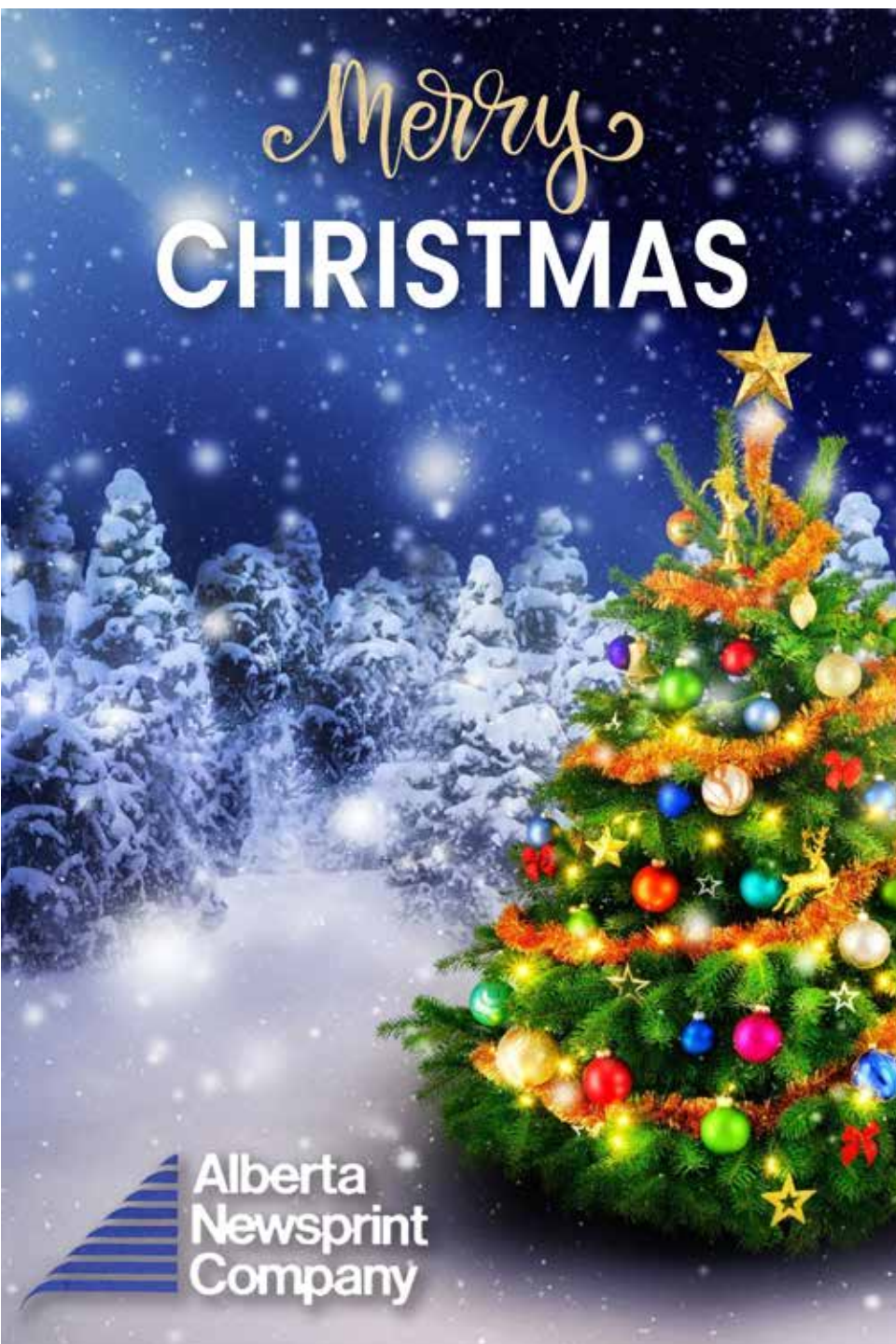
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CHRISTMAS Services

WHITECOURT UNITED CHURCH

December 4 @ 10:30 a.m., 2nd Advent

December 18 @ 10:30 a.m., 4th Advent

December 24 @ 7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve



Merry Christmas



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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.



"Serving the community for over 30 years"
The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food in order to help families in need.
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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

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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




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WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

- Mondays 7:30pm
- Wednesdays 7:30pm
- and Saturdays at Noon

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.
ZOOM ID: **818 413 483** PASSWORD: **gratitude**



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Child Support Program:
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, Community Organizations, Agencies and Businesses

Family Resource & Crisis Centre
www.whitecourtshester.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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Whitecourt

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

Starting on Monday, January 9, crews will be picking up trees from across the community on a weekly basis throughout the month of January as time permits. There will be no set schedule, and pick up may be delayed due to snow or other higher priority tasks.

Please place your tree where you would normally place your garbage. For those residents in cul-de-sacs who place their garbage further out into the street, please don't place your tree where it will obstruct traffic.

Trees must be free of all decorations and tinsel. Please do not place the tree in garbage or tree bags.

The Whitecourt Regional Landfill also has a drop-off area for you to dispose of your tree. The Whitecourt Regional Landfill is open Monday to Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

continued from page 1

fun thing to do. Christmas, to me, is a fun thing. Without grandchildren, I tell people that I gain a hundred of them through doing the ride. It means a lot to my family to do this."

Since the beginning, Myers said one horse has always been the wagon puller. "We've always used the same horse for these events, and her name is Angel. She knows it's coming every year and that it's her turn

to take the kids for a ride. I think she looks forward to it just like we do."

Myers' eyes watered when asked what his favourite part of playing Santa and giving wagon rides is. "The best part of doing this for me is seeing the kids come and seeing their smiles. I have a favourite picture on my phone. It's of a kid sitting up front with me, and his smile is from ear to ear. That's why I do this. That and the eighty-year-olds who come because they are just as happy to come

and see the horse and go for a ride. I love doing this."

Over the ten years, counting this year, with a rough estimate, Myers said they had raised about \$3,000 for the Christmas Hamper. As for the Whitecourt Food Bank, Myers said they'd likely received about a thousand pounds of food. "We just wanted to share a bit of Christmas cheer. I could never have imagined that ten years later, we would be doing it in a bigger way and that we would

have brought in the donations we have."

On December 13, Myers hosted a smaller group at his home up Lonira Road. Several families took part in a Santa wagon ride for the homeschool group, travelling along the beautiful landscape of Lonira Road. "I like doing this for small groups and big groups. I've done the ride for a hockey team before too. It doesn't matter. I just like doing it."

Myers said his love for Christmas was passed

down to him from his father and credited him hugely for Santa's Test Run. "Christmas was my dad, and the horse and buggy thing was my father-in-law's idea, and Angel was his horse. My father-in-law always wanted to have a horse and buggy. So, doing this kind of honours both of them, and they get to be part of it with us. They inspired it!"

Myers, who also plays the Easter Bunny, said he probably gets more enjoyment from the yearly event than the kids do.

"It's the truth if I'm being honest. That's how much I love doing it. Thank you to everyone for supporting us and the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper and Whitecourt Food Bank. I hope to see everybody back next year and bring your friends. And I hope to see the homeschool group come back out, with more of them joining us. I want people to enjoy themselves because the enjoyment the kids, parents, and grandparents get from coming to see us means everything to our family."



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Fans erupt with emotion in defence of their Wolverines during a heated game against the Crusaders



Why can't we be friends?



Threading between two Crusaders.



Piggy back hockey?

The Whitecourt Wolverines played a rough-and-tumble match against the Sherwood Park Crusaders last week. Full of hits and emotion, the game featured vocal fans passionately advocating for their team from the sidelines after what they deemed an "illegitimate goal."

By Serena Lapointe

One of the last home games of the year for the Whitecourt Wolverines took place on Friday against the Sherwood Park Crusaders and was wrought with controversy. In the first three minutes of the game, Wolverines' goalie Ben Charette was injured in a rush resulting in Wolverine affiliate goalie Vaughn Kaliel jumping into the crease

for nearly the entire game. Talk about going from the frying pan into the fire!

Nine minutes into the first, the Crusaders got on the board with a goal from Evan Arnold, assisted by Brock Souch and Luke Monroe. A little over two minutes later, the same lineup scored again, but this one brought the hometown fans to their feet. Loud as loud can be,

fans screamed offside. The timekeeper could be seen jumping in disapproval, and fans sitting near the blue line pointed feverishly, trying to get the ref's attention to the offside that had not been called. There was even a discussion between the linesmen and the ref, but they allowed the goal to stand in the end.

Throw in a few "missed" referee calls

against the Wolverines' and fans were just about as mad as the players on the ice, which raised the heat. Checks got bigger and harder, and little crosschecks started happening between the players. It was clear early on that the game was going to get crazy.

In the second period, the Whitecourt Wolverines fought back. At 3:55 of the period, Michael

Lovsin scored his sixth of the season, with assists from Jonah Bevington and Dylan Leslie. A little over ten minutes later, Tanner Komzak scored the tying goal, getting his team back into it. Caleb MacDonald got his 30th assist on the goal, with Colby Browne nabbing his twelfth. Shortly afterwards, the Sherwood Park Crusaders took back the lead, much to the cha-

grin of the hometown fans.

Until the third period, there had only been five penalties in the game, but that changed in the final frame as both teams got feisty. There were nine penalties in the third period, with the Sherwood Park Crusaders landing in the penalty box five times.

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The Wolverines scrambled to recover a bad turnover that ultimately led to a Crusaders goal.



A close call for Kalliel.

continued from page 6

Tanner Komzak was the recipient of the first two-minute sit. His charging penalty, one minute and seventeen seconds into the third, resulted in the Crusaders furthering their lead, scoring to make it 4-2. Seven minutes later, the Crusaders scored again, making it 5-2 and taking the wind out of the sails of Wolverines fans.

Things started getting extra spicy around the mid-way point of the period. Wolverine Matthew Sutter laid a massive hit on a Crusader that had the hometown fans cringing, expecting a major penalty. Though he only ended up with a two-minute roughing penalty, some fans could be heard saying they wouldn't be surprised if Sutter ended up with a suspension. Time will tell on that.

The Wolverines found themselves on the powerplay at the thirteen-minute mark and took full advantage. Michael Lovsin potted in his second of the game. Caleb MacDonald nabbed his 31st assist of the year on the play. Jonah Bevington also assisted.

At 19:05, with less than a minute to play, the Crusaders scored one final goal, raising their lead to 6-3. Even though they were staring down a huge deficit, the Whitecourt Wolverines didn't give up. Eleven seconds after the Crusader's goal, Wolverine Jarred Feist scored an unassisted powerplay marker. The final score at the Scott Safety Centre was 6-4 for the Crusaders.

The final home game of 2022 for the Whitecourt Wolverines will be on December 29 against the Drayton Valley Thunder at 7 pm.



Town of Whitecourt Holiday Schedule

2022/2023 Facility, Public Transit & Dial-A-Bus Hours

DATES	Town Office, Forest Interpretive Centre, Public Works and Utilities Departments	Allan & Jean Millar Centre	Whitecourt Regional Landfill	Whitecourt Transfer Station	Scott Safety Centre	Whitecourt Public Library	Public Transit	Dial-A-Bus	Whitecourt Food Bank
December 23	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Open 8:00am-4:00pm	Closed	Regular Service	No Service	Closed
December 24	Closed	Open 9:00am-4:00pm	Open	Open	Closed	Closed	Hourly Service 9:00am-3:44pm	No Service	Closed
December 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	No Service	No Service	Closed
December 26	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	No Service	No Service	Closed
December 27	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	Hourly Service 7:00am-8:44pm	Regular Service	Closed
December 28	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open 10:00am-8:00pm	Regular Service	Regular Service	Open
December 29	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open 10:00am-8:00pm	Regular Service	Regular Service	Closed
December 30	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open 10:00am-8:00pm	Regular Service	Regular Service	Open
December 31	Closed	Open 9:00am-4:00pm	Open	Open	Open 8:00am-4:00pm	Closed	Hourly Service 9:00am-3:44pm	No Service	Closed
January 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	No Service	No Service	Closed
January 2	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Closed	No Service	No Service	Closed
January 3	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open 10:00am-8:00pm	Regular Service	Regular Service	Closed

CURBSIDE CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Christmas Tree Pickup starts January 9, 2023. Crews will be picking up trees from across the community on a weekly basis as time permits.

- There will be no set schedule, and pickup may be delayed due to snow removal activities or other higher priority tasks.
- Please place your tree where you would normally place your garbage. For those residents in cul-de-sacs who place their garbage further out into the street, please don't place your tree where it will obstruct traffic.
- Trees must be free of all decorations and tinsel.
- Please do not place the tree in a garbage or tree bag.

The Whitecourt Regional Landfill also has a drop-off area for you to dispose of your tree.



RESIDENTIAL WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

There is only one change to the residential waste collection schedule over the holidays:

- **The Hilltop area will be collected on Saturday, December 24. Collection on Tuesday, December 27 is cancelled.**

Pickup in all other areas and days will remain per the regular collection schedule.

Residential recycling collection service will continue per its normal schedule on Fridays throughout the holiday season.

Please ensure your rolling waste cart and recycling items are at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on the designated collection day.


SNOW AND ICE CONTROL

Snow and ice control activities will be conducted throughout the holiday season, as required, for your safety. If you have an after hours emergency, please call 1-866-477-1221.

Happy **100th** BIRTHDAY **ELSE KNITTER**




Please join us
January 2, 2023
at the Whitecourt Senior Circle for a come and go tea to help us celebrate from 1pm-5pm



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DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

The Municipal Planning Commission will be making a decision on the following development permit applications as per the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw, at their regular meeting on **Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Whitecourt Municipal Office**, downstairs.

Section 19 of the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw provides opportunity for any person who may have comments on the proposed developments to deliver to the Development Officer, a written statement of their concerns indicating: their full name and address and the reasons for their comments to the proposed use.

If you have any comment or concern regarding these proposals you may provide a written statement via email to peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca prior to **4:30 p.m., January 3, 2023**.

Comments received will be taken into consideration by the Municipal Planning Commission.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER	PROPOSAL
PT. SE 19-58-11-W5M Lot 8 Block 1 Plan 102-5167	15-069-2022	Setback Variance: Accessory Building (personal use) and Variance: construct accessory building prior to primary residence
PT. SW 27-59-12-W5M Lot 3 Block 1 Plan 032-1169	15-070-2022	Variance: Accessory Building

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 pm, January 3, 2023**.

Attention: Peter McKay, Development Officer
peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca

Woodlands County
Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3
Telephone: 780-778-8400
Toll-Free: 1-888-870-6315

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE - TRANSFER STATIONS & WASTE COLLECTION

TRANSFER STATIONS

Anselmo, Doris Creek, Goose Lake

Open: Saturday, December 24, 2022
Thursday, December 29, 2022
Saturday, December 31, 2022

Closed: Sunday, December 25, 2022
Tuesday, December 27, 2022
Sunday, January 1, 2023

WASTE COLLECTION

Fort Assiniboine Holiday Pickup
Monday, December 19 & Thursday, December 29, 2022

Blue Ridge Holiday Pickup
Thursday, December 22 & Friday, December 30, 2022

Regular collection schedule resumes Monday, January 2, 2023



JOHN BURROWS
Councillor for Whitecourt West
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BRUCE PRESTIDGE
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Timew Division 7
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Phone: 780-778-0894



PETER KUELKEN
Councillor for Goose Lake/
Freeman River Division 6
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Phone: 780-264-2425





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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CAMPGROUND HOSTS NEEDED. Maintenance and office duties for the summer of 2023. Wages negotiable. Please send resume to castle-rivercampground@gmail.com. Deadline January 22, 2023.

Farm Machinery

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Services

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Odds of a child becoming a top fashion designer: 1 in 7,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 160





Some signs to look for: No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months. No babbling by 12 months. No words by 16 months.

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org



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 = 0.72 US Dollar at an exchange rate of **0.7276** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of December 19, 2022

NEED HELP? CALL ANYTIME! (24-7)

Mental Health Helpline
1-877-303-2642

Addiction Helpline 1-866-332-2322

Health Link 811

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

ESTATE OF HELEN DELORES GIESE (aka DELORES H. GIESE) who died on November 22, 2022 and the ESTATE OF GARY GEORGE GIESE who died on April 22, 2022.

If you have a claim against these estates, you must file your claim by January 24, 2023

with TIMOTHY A. VERHAEGHE at Verhaeghe Law Office Barristers & Solicitors #203, 10525 - 170 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5P 4W2

and provide details of your claim.

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.



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The Press



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A look at the local weather	Tue., Dec 20	Wed., Dec 21	Thu., Dec 22	Fri., Dec 23	Sat., Dec 24
	Mix of sun and clouds	Mix of sun and clouds	Scattered flurries	Scattered flurries	A few flurries
P.O.P.	20%	20%	60%	40%	40%
High	-29°C	-29°C	-21°C	-15°C	-9°C
Low	-35°C	-32°C	-23°C	-15°C	-9°C
Wind	W 9 km/h	W 10 km/h	E 17 km/h	W 7 km/h	SW 7 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	-	-	2-4cm	~1cm	~1cm

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Alberta Newsprint Company wishes you and yours a Merry Christmas and all the very best in 2023!

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Business licensing in Whitecourt? It's a possibility

By Serena Lapointe

The Town of Whitecourt is looking into the possibility of having business licenses in the community. At a recent Policies and Priorities Committee meeting, Economic Development Officer Rhonda Hough explained why the move could be beneficial and provided some data from other municipalities that have the practice implemented already.

Some research done through the Economic Development Committee (EDC) earlier in 2022 was brought forward in the meeting. "The committee has been looking through some vague research of what other municipalities are doing and the costs of business licensing. Once they dissected the information and looked at it,

the benefits were clear for us, as well as some of the challenges we would need to work through," explained Hough.

A business satisfaction survey, which included questions on business licensing, gave some insight though only a small number took part. "There were only 32 businesses that completed it, but 52 percent were interested in moving forward with business licensing, and thirteen percent wanted more information," said Hough. The remaining thirty-five percent didn't want to move forward with licensing.

Hough explained that those who wanted more information were aware of what the licenses were but wanted to understand more of the benefits. "I



The Whitecourt business community will get to voice their thoughts in 2023.

The Town of Whitecourt is looking into doing business licensing in the community. The idea is still in the beginner stages, with data being collected and conversations with the business community being had throughout the following year.

think we need to do more engagement. They (the EDC) want to explore synergies and partnerships with the Whitecourt Chamber if there are op-

portunities to partner on different ideas."

Staying engaged with the business community will be a big part of going forward. "We want

to educate on what the benefits are and where business licensing could benefit businesses too, not just a municipality with the data and infor-

mation collected."

Hough explained that the EDC recommended a phased approach. Phase one would take place through 2023 and involve engagement and education with the business community. Over the next year, the committee would research best practices, develop guidelines, and identify other resources needed. At the end of 2023, the committee would provide Council with an update and recommendations on how they think things should proceed. "That will give Council an opportunity to look at the implementation plan, costing, a complete outline, and a strategy to implement the program."

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Santa Claus isn't just for the little kids; he's for everybody! To prove it, RCMP officers Lajeunesse and Boule took advantage of the rare opportunity to sit on Santa's lap during two recent picture events that they happened to be near. Though I'm not sure what they asked Santa for Christmas because everyone knows that's a secret, safety for all was likely part of their wish list. Residents are reminded to plan ahead this holiday season and use driving services to get to and from events. Getting behind the wheel after a few drinks is a risk that isn't worth taking. If you aren't sure if you should drive, don't. Let's make this holiday season safe for everyone by making the right choice. Oh, and next time you see one of Whitecourt's men and women in blue, don't forget to wish them a Merry Christmas!

Holiday Publishing
The Press will not be publishing a paper December 27. We will resume again January 3, 2023.

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Phase two would be about developing the Business Licensing By-law and the implementation plan, should there be buy-in from the business community and if Council is in favour of moving forward. Phase three would see the licensing implementation, tentatively set for January 1, 2025. "It is long term to get it implemented. There's a lot of information we have to get out," said Hough.

The survey they did in 2022 showed Administration that they lack information from the business community and that without a way to get regular updates, it's challenging to have the best information. If a licensing program were in place, businesses would need to check in yearly and update their information, keeping both sides informed of changes, be it ownership, phone numbers or location.

One of the pieces to the puzzle is what to charge businesses. In the information gathering done by the EDC, they looked into eleven municipalities with licensing in place. The communities were Beaumont, Blackfalds, Brooks,

Camrose, Canmore, Cold Lake, High River, Lloydminster, Morinville, Olds, and Wetaskiwin. Most of the municipalities have had licensing in place for decades. Beaumont was the most recent to implement the change, doing so in 2019. Most had separate pricing for resident and non-resident businesses, bouncing from \$100 to \$150 for a resident business and \$150 to \$600 for a non-resident business. Notes provided by the municipalities advised keeping things as straightforward as possible.

Councillor Lapointe noted that since Beaumont was the most recent municipality on the list to implement the licensing, it would be interesting to hear more about their experience. Councillor Tara Baker asked if the licensing would be for home-based businesses too. Hough said that those details would be evaluated in their research through 2023.

"That's why we are doing the three-phase plan to develop a good plan. The idea from the EDC is to keep it at a minimal fee to cover the resources to implement the program and get our data updated

because the data we are missing is more than just for Economic Development." She explained that having detailed information from the local business community helps attract and retain businesses.

"When large businesses are coming in, or there's a project coming through town, we would then have that list of businesses to share when they ask for local businesses for procurement opportunities," said Hough. She said that not only is the data collection a benefit to the Economic Development department for building their programs but that it goes beyond that too.

"It's also about fire and emergency management because although we have some contacts, they are not all updated. There's some work we need to do there. Once we go through this in 2023, I think we will be able to bring some of that information back based on how we are going to strategically plan it and whether we go home-based or storefront or businesses from out of the region." More updates on the proposed business licensing will be presented to Council towards the end of 2023.



St. Josephs Catholic Church



A bright display on Atkinson Cres.



Holiday extravaganza on Poplar Drive.



A walk-thru for all on to enjoy on 55 Avenue.

If residents haven't had the chance to venture out and enjoy the many festive decorations in the community, this week is the perfect opportunity to do it. To help residents find some of the best spots in town, the Town of Whitecourt has provided a map. The map coincides with their Twinkle Tour event, which packed the transit buses with folks last weekend and took them for a tour of the community's most decorated homes. Making the map available (on the Town's Facebook page) allows anyone to follow along at their leisure, on any night they choose, and get the whole experience. Here are a few nicely decorated places that should definitely make the tour list. So, grab some hot cocoa, hop into the family vehicle and take a cruise through the community to enjoy the hard work of those who wrapped their homes with Christmas magic.

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