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Vol. 12 - Issue 25 | Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Volunteering with Whitecourt Challenger Baseball is like "happiness is getting paid to my heart"



Learning different games is part of the experience. See story page 2.

Emma, Corbin, Daxton, Dakota and Claire are BGC kids, and they sure do love their club

By Serena Lapointe

Each year at the beginning of June, the Boys and Girls Club of Canada (BGC) celebrates its existence. "It's an opportunity for us nationwide to celebrate what clubs do. Each club is going to be different from the next. Some places are

in charge of food banks and homeless shelters, and other smaller clubs like us only run out-of-school care programming and summer camps. It's an opportunity for us to unite from coast to coast to coast and celebrate what we do for our community," explained Kyria

Baranowski, Executive Director of BGC.

The club has a storied past. It formed in the early 1900s after a group of concerned citizens in Saint John, New Brunswick, created a "public playground movement," making a

continued on page 7



Celebrating BGC Day with a green-inspired snack to match the logo.



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Volunteering with Whitecourt Challenger Baseball is like "happiness is getting paid to my heart"



Ending the event with a tunnel full of cheers.



A parachute game for all to enjoy.

Helping youth living with disabilities learn the sport of baseball is the aim behind Challengers Baseball, a program under the Toronto Blue Jays foundation, Jays Care. The experience for both the athletes and the volunteers, called Buddies, is nothing short of beautiful.

By **Serena Lapointe**

On Tuesday last week, the Whitecourt Challenger Baseball group set up inside the back space at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre for a dry spot to play. With menacing skies outside and looming thunderstorms on the way, the move was a good choice, as everyone still wanted to get together and have fun.

Challenger Baseball is Jays Care Foundation's adaptive baseball program in partnership with Little League Canada and Baseball Canada. Jays Care provides groups with resources like t-shirts, hats, balls, equipment, and training. It runs locally for six weeks each spring, kickstarting in May and ending in mid-June. The program teaches core life skills linked to baseball, including courage, determination, communication, and teamwork.

"It's a program for kids with disabilities so they can play baseball. Most kids with disabilities don't have the opportunity to play organized sports," explained local program coordinator Tracy Hilts. "We start with a warmup which is games like red light/green light, and then we do a section called Skills and Drills where we bat off of the tee, throw the ball against hoola hoops and learn how to throw, catch,

and hit. It's different little activities that we focus on."

Through their Jays Care Foundation, the Toronto Blue Jays are highlighting play's transformative ability on children and youth. Local programs run nationwide, getting children living with disabilities into the action. "Bernie Gervais is the one who brought Challenger Baseball to Whitecourt," explained Hilts. "She saw a need in the community that we weren't reaching kids with special needs. She stepped forward and looked for a program and found this one. She started it from square one, spearheading it and making it the program it is today."

This year, Gervais stepped down from the board. Her impact in bringing the group to Whitecourt will touch children and their families for years to come. Hilts said she joined Challenger Baseball seven years ago. "Bernie needed help, so I stepped up to help her and have been involved ever since. With my job, I work with kids with disabilities, so it's a passion of mine. I want to give these children an opportunity to play sports because it's so much fun and so rewarding."

One of the most beautiful aspects of the program is that it links other youth and com-

munity members with the Challenger athletes. "We have a core group of volunteers, eleven of them, that are signed up to come every week, and then every week we also bring in different groups, usually baseball teams," said Hilts.

The first team that helped when the program started last month was the U18 AAs. "We had the U15 AA Whitecourt Royals today. Last week was the U15 A's, and then we had the St. Joseph School staff come one week too." Hilts said that she loves seeing what the program brings to the volunteers, called Buddies. "They get to play with children that maybe they normally wouldn't get to play with and realize how awesome these kids are and see how much fun it is. It brings our community together."

This year, seventeen children between the ages of five and fourteen were registered to play. "I love seeing the challengers getting to play a sport and do an activity that their siblings probably get to do. It's their own activity that they get to do," said Hilts. To the youth baseball players coming to volunteer, Hilts said it gives them leadership and allows them to give back to their community meaningfully. "They also get to bring their baseball



A moment of pure joy.

skills and help teach other kids. It's fun."

Her son, Elijah Hilts, 14, is one of the youths who volunteers as a Buddy, helping teach the Challengers how to play a game he loves. Hilts plays on the U15 Whitecourt Royals and has volunteered with Challenger Baseball for years. "I've come every year, and so far this year, I've come three times. I enjoy helping kids learn the game of baseball since they can't play house league. I like seeing them be happy playing

baseball because they haven't played many sports. They are energetic and love to play catch and bat." Elijah said watching the kids play was heartwarming and said volunteering makes him happy. "I'm not getting paid to do this, but it's like happiness is getting paid to my heart, being part of it and watching it."

Those interested in Whitecourt Challenger Baseball can email wctchallenger@gmail.com or message the Whitecourt Minor Ball Facebook page. This

year's sponsor, RD Contracting, was a big help. Hilts also said Stitch 'N Time helped with the trophies they give out on the final night. Community groups or businesses looking for a team-building opportunity for staff are encouraged to reach out at the email above to volunteer for one of next year's weeks. Any companies interested in sponsoring the use of the AJMC fieldhouse as a dry space to play when it's wet outside are also encouraged to reach out.



Elijah Hilts helping a youngster run the bases.



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

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Stop bullying!

Wednesday, June 21, 2023
www.whitecourtpress.com



The Press

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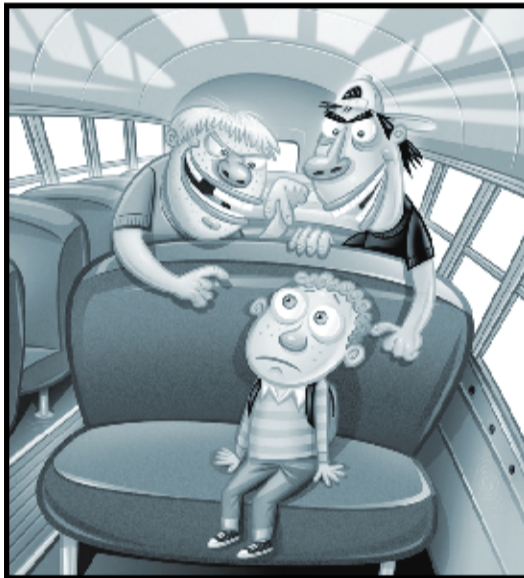


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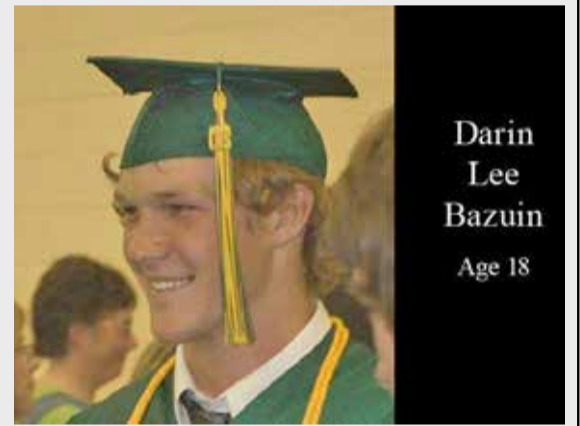


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Darin Lee Bazuin
Age 18

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Dakota loves doing crafts.



Corbin has been attending BGC for years.

Kids attending BGC Canada programs always look forward to June's annual celebration. Previously called Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and shortened to BGC in 2021, the club offers program opportunities for children, youth, and teens. During this year's celebration, several children shared what they love most about being at BGC.

continued from page 1

safe place for children to play, particularly disadvantaged boys who had no place to go after school. It was first called the Everyday Club and later named The East End Boys Club of Saint John, the first boys club in Canada. In 1947, to reflect the growing number of young girls joining the programs, they changed the name to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. Most recently, the name was shortened to BGC Canada.

Over the last year or two, the Whitecourt chapter of the BGC has successfully applied for teen mental health grants. Along with support from some local businesses, they've been able to hold free monthly teen events. "They are for youth 12-17, and all our teen events are free because we've received enough donations and grant money. We recognize that cost is often a barrier for many of these youth."

The after-school programming they offer can be subsidized, with

some receiving full coverage and others falling in the middle. "The BGC logo is Opportunity Changes Everything, and what we offer these kids when they come through our doors is different opportunities, including those they may not have otherwise and might not get a chance to experience based on location or financial status."

With a green logo, Baranowski said they had some fun green additions to the club day celebration. "We did green fruit, veggies, and a green smoothie. Something nice and healthy but also another way to recognize our logo and celebrate us as a club." Children did art activities throughout the day, including one where they could use anything in the space to make the BGC logo. "They can recreate it with anything they can find in the club or go outside and make some chalk art."

Ten-year-old Emma Teynor said her favourite part about being a BGC kid is hanging out with the leaders and

sitting on the comfy couch. "She's created talent shows and plays with her friends here at the club," said Baranowski. "We were practicing for the talent show at school and did one here," said Teynor.

Eleven-year-old Corbin Mason has been attending the BGC after-school program for several years. "I like iPad time, playing board games and playing with the toys here. I've made friends here, too," said Mason. Another favourite for him was the snacks. "I love the popcorn balls. It's where there's a couple of marshmallows and popcorn. It's sticky and hard to make because you have to make them into a round ball, but they are really sticky," he laughed. "They are super good. I love those."

Daxton and Dakota are two more BGC Canada kids who say they love being at the club. "I like playing and building roller coasters," said Daxton, as he collected toys around him on the floor to build a roller coaster

with the BGC theme. "I build lots of stuff here."

For Dakota, it's all about the crafts. "I like to do crafts and colour. My favourite is making paper snowflakes." The youngster said she enjoys the variety of crafts at the club. "I love all the crafts here. When I miss one, I get upset, and then I have to do it when I come back. I also miss my friends when I'm not here."

Claire, who decided to paint with chalk out on the sidewalk and created a beautiful BGC logo, said her favourite activity at the

club is to paint with watercolour. "I like doing those. I like making hearts too and owls." When asked about her favourite game, Claire immediately said Jenga. "It's fun," she said.

Baranowski said she was proud to see the children grow and was happy to see them having fun celebrating their club. She said they see an average of 20-25 children per day. Accounting for summer and youth/teen programs, she said they see about 110 children yearly. "We've got kids that have come

through the door that didn't know they were good at art, and we are now seeing blossoming artists. We've got kids doing their very first gymnastics class, and they are coming here and teaching gymnastics routines to kids that aren't in their class. We get to see these kids start from really young, trying to figure out who they are and what they want to be, to when they exit our younger program, we see them blossom into kids with their own personalities and ideas and can think for themselves."



Claire with her chalk BGC logo art.



The beautiful, bright red flowers in the hanging baskets outside of Beaver Creek General Store definitely make a statement, popping off the white backdrop of the building. Anyone looking to snag a flower basket for themselves might get lucky at this Saturday's Fresh Community Market event. Put on by the Whitecourt and District Chamber of Commerce, The Fresh Community Market will run every Saturday from 9 am until 1 pm in the Staples parking lot. Chamber president Louise Meier said the market is created with an 80/20 split in mind, with 80 percent of vendors being local with handmade wares and twenty percent being companies with local sellers but not locally made, Albertan products. "That keeps the focus on local products from local producers," she said. Vendors wanting to join can contact the Whitecourt Chamber to register. Meier said they hoped to attract as many area farmers, artisans, and creators as possible and encourage local musicians to reach out so they could perform on market days. Meier said they would also like a few non-profits to sign up to run barbeque fundraisers. "We invite everyone to the ribbon cutting this Saturday at 9 am." The vendor lineup includes Shining Moonlight Gardens, Twin Acres Greenhouse, Stayk Gardens, Dragonfly Cocoa, The Re-Treat, Mystic Journey, All In Bloom, Raven and Bee, Just a Rock, Tough Country, and Steve and Dan's Fresh BC Fruit.



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- Requisition of supplies and materials
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- May perform the same duties as workers supervised
- Perform the same duties as workers supervised
- Assist clients/guests with special needs
- Co-ordinate, assign and review work
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition materials and supplies
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports.

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Proposed Moraine Power Generation Project moves on to next stage in application process

Last month, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) announced it would be accepting comments on the Initial Project Description for the Moraine Power Generation Project from Moraine Initiatives Ltd. (Moraine), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the General Electric Company.

The proposed project, which would be developed in Woodlands County near Whitecourt, involves construction of an approximately 465 megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired power generation facility with integrated carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture. Moraine recently submitted an Initial Project Description (IPD) to the IAAC, the federal regulator reviewing the project.

The proposed project will produce near-zero emissions baseload electricity to meet the needs of Alberta electricity customers. The project is planned to be compliant with Canada's proposed Clean Electricity Regulations and is aligned with the federal government's objectives of achieving net-zero emissions from the electricity grid by 2035.

"Canada and Alberta are creating and enabling a policy, regulatory, and investment framework for integrated power generation and CO₂ capture projects, which will play an important role in decarbonizing the electricity sector," said Ankur Mathur, Vice President of Moraine Initiatives Ltd. "Moraine has the potential to be a market leading, near-zero CO₂ emissions power generation project that will deliver reliable, dispatchable, and efficient electricity for years to come."

The proposed project

will mark a new milestone in the energy sector by being the first of its kind in the region. The proposed project will boost the local economy by supporting new job creation, enhancing sustainability, and enabling the development of CO₂ capture and sequestration infrastructure to support future low-emissions investment and growth in the region.

This location was selected for the project not only due to the natural resources and available infrastructure, but also due to the vitality of our community. Quality of life opportunities, such as health care, recreational, and cultural facilities, are an essential component to attracting and retaining those that will construct and maintain this facility if approved.

"Our team has been working with Moraine Initiatives Limited over the last year in support of the proposed power generation project," said Whitecourt Mayor Tom Pickard. "This is great news for our community, and is an encouraging step towards the development of this emerging energy sector in our region and diversification of our economy."

Woodlands County Reeve John Burrows shared his enthusiasm with the proposed project selecting the area. "There are a variety of natural resource opportunities in Woodlands County, and it is both exciting and optimistic that industry and developers are taking notice of everything our region has to offer, from its geology to its people."

The IAAC is accepting comments on the project until July 7, 2023. For more information, please see the Agency's public notice.





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Responsibilities:

- Greet customers
- Receive and process payments by cash, cheque, credit card, or automatic debit
- Provide information to customers
- Calculate foreign currency exchange
- Calculate total payments received at end of work shift and reconcile with total sales
- Verify the age of customers when selling lottery tickets, alcohol or tobacco products
- Operate cash register
- Process money, cheques, and credit/debit card payments
- Scan Items
- Tabulate total payment for goods or services required
- Receive payment for goods or services
- Calculate daily/shift payments received and reconcile them with total sales
- Suggestive selling
- Provide excellent customer service
- Assist customers with self-service items
- Participate in promotional activities

Qualifications:

- Some secondary school education is usually required. High school graduation may be required by some employers.
- Eligibility for bonding may be required.
- A casino gaming license may be required for cashiers working in gambling casinos.
- Must be able to complete Smart training courses
- Must be able to complete AML

Experience: 2 – 3 years, or we will train.

Education: Some post-secondary, high school may require.

Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 40-hour work week.

Language: English

Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

Wage: \$15.00 per hour.

Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.

Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.

Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3

Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca

How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax

What makes this newspaper?

70%
off this papers costs are
Print, employees
and contributors.

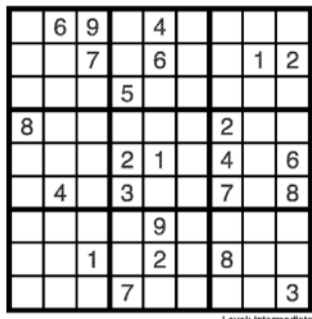
That means buying an ad in our paper is supporting local families who fill schools, shop local, and improve the community.

Thank you for your support!

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

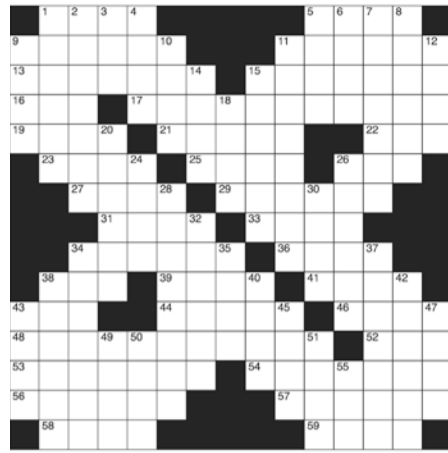
SUDOKU

CROSSWORDS



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Understand intuitively
- 5. Two of something
- 9. Not involving computer tech
- 11. Acclaimed
- 13. Undermine
- 15. The condition of being concealed or hidden
- 16. Irritate
- 17. The process of developing a theory
- 19. Ceramic jar
- 21. Not fresh
- 22. Dad's fashion accessory
- 23. Popular review site
- 25. New Mexico county
- 26. '___ death do us part
- 27. Fees
- 29. Takes with force
- 31. One-time Yankees rookie sensation
- 33. Gordon and Snider are two
- 34. Body parts
- 36. Arranges
- 38. Fiddler crabs

- 39. Mimics
- 41. Witnesses
- 43. They __
- 44. Lasso
- 46. Runs down
- 48. In response to
- 52. Bird-like dinosaur
- 53. Metamorphic stages
- 54. Conditions of incapacity
- 56. Sodas are sold in these units
- 57. Break away from
- 58. Ethereal
- 59. Boggy

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Mangled
- 2. Ruffled some feathers
- 3. Not young
- 4. Lakers legend
- 5. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 6. Direction (Scottish)
- 7. Intestinal inflammation
- 8. Spring back in fear
- 9. Owl genus
- 10. Girls
- 11. Unbeliefs
- 12. Force unit
- 14. Expired trade agreement
- 15. Went alone
- 18. Animal noises
- 20. Woman who graduated from a specific school
- 24. The very top
- 26. Organs in males
- 28. Earnings
- 30. Z Z Z
- 32. Reddish browns
- 34. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 35. A place to get off your feet
- 37. More disreputable
- 38. Kidney condition
- 40. Cease moving
- 42. Quick
- 43. Extra seed covering
- 45. "Survivor: Panama" winner
- 47. Six
- 49. One who inspects lamps
- 50. Small parrot
- 51. Primordial matter of the universe
- 55. __ fi (slang)

HURRICANE SEASON WORD SEARCH

N O S A E S U Y D I K Y O O D U L Y A A
D W S T O R M Y H O L O P O S I T I O N
P A R O M S D S I O R X W R L E S U N X
G A U R E Y I O C V G R E N T S A O C M
L P H V A I L A N T L T O M L D M H F S
O I A N G U T I D T D N I W E P V S U G A
P G S N Y I K Y L E T T G N G L G I P G
G G I I O M A U C U K I Y O E T M I T N
G F V N N I D W A O S G D L R X S T D I
W W G P D T T C X T V V T C E L U Y T K
T R V N I S E A X M Y U S Y H R G P E C
H U O S I R M N D V I P T C P Y R H L A
L R R O P N L Y S N P O C S S F A O L R
D S T P H D R L V I U C N T O T I O A T
I D E F O O W A A Y T N H R M G N N W H
L E X X S X N F W F W Y I E T E I D E Y
H L L I O S F X C H D P P L A M N H Y I
D U V A S D N I W V N N A A A X G Y E W
E D R D G L R M C D S M A H P T N H Y E
A D H S E N A C I R R U H L X H C T A W

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ADVISORY
- ALERTS
- ATMOSPHERE
- CENTER
- COAST
- CYCLONE
- EYE WALL
- GALE
- HURRICANE
- INTENSITY
- INUNDATION
- LANDFALL
- LOCATION
- POSITION
- PRECAUTION
- RAINING
- SEASON
- STORMY
- TRACKING
- TYPHOON
- VORTEX
- WARNING
- WATCH
- WINDS

Onsite Management

FOR 77 UNITS IN WHITECOURT, ALBERTA.

Property Management experience an asset.
Duties included but not limited to:

Collect rents (computer spreadsheet skills), receive rental applications, complete move in and out documentation, clean common spaces, clean units on move in/out, lawn and yard care, side walk snow shoveling, light maintenance duties for buildings and equipment, monitor security systems (cameras), report to head office, coordinate subcontractors (plumbers and electricians).

Resumes: Submit resume.

Job Types: Full-time, Permanent

Salary: From \$50,000.00 per year

Benefits:

- Casual dress • Flexible schedule • On-site parking
- Paid time off • Work from home

Send resumes, or inquire at: clkwest@telus.net

NEED HELP? CALL ANYTIME! (24-7)

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 Addiction Helpline 1-866-332-2322
 Health Link 811



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 28, 2023
10:00 AM

WOODLANDS COUNTY HQ
 1 WOODLANDS LANE
 WHITECOURT

RSVP TO MANAGER@GROWTHALBERTA.COM



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Alberta and NWT for \$269 (up to 25 words) \$8.00 each additional word. These ads are placed in over 100 community newspapers throughout Alberta. We can also place ads in other provinces throughout Canada.

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Announcements

GET YOUR MESSAGE SEEN ACROSS Alberta. The Blanket Classifieds or Value Ads reach over 600,000 Alberta readers weekly. Two options starting at \$269 or \$995 to get your message out! Business changes, hiring, items for sale, cancellations, tenders, etc. People are increasingly staying home and rely on their local newspapers for information. KEEP people in the loop with our 90 Weekly Community Newspapers. Call THIS NEWSPAPER now or email classifieds@awna.com for details. 1-800-282-6903, 780-434-8746 X225. www.awna.com.

Auctions

MEIER 4-DAY UNRESERVED Antique and Collectable Auction for Dennis Kjos of Wetaskiwin County. Sat., June 24 and Sun., June 25 10 AM. Sat., July 8 & Sun., July 9 10 AM. Selling three generations of over 6000 items. Visit www.meierauction.com for details.

Coming Events

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2023 AUCTION PROGRAM: Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques,

Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, Email Us @ sales@switzersauction.com or Visit Us @ www.switzersauction.com.

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WHITE SPRUCE TREES: 5' average \$50. Installation ONLY \$19. Includes: hole

augered, Wurzel Dip enzyme injection, bark mulch application, staking. Minimum order 25. One-time fuel charge: \$125-175. Crystal Springs. 403-820-0961. Quality guaranteed.

Health

HIP/KNEE REPLACEMENT. Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING? The Disability Tax Credit allows for \$3,000 yearly tax credit and \$30,000 lump sum refund. Take advantage of this offer. Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide: Expert help. 1-844-453-5372.

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Career ads, online at: www.whitecourtpress.com

RCMP ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Whitecourt RCMP investigate garage break ins

Whitecourt RCMP are investigating after receiving multiple calls of garages being broken into on June 15, 2023. Once inside, suspects removed items from the victims vehicles taking various items. An ATV was stolen however RCMP have since located it abandoned. While RCMP con-

tinue to investigate, we would like to alert residents that the suspects appear to be targeting garages that are unsecured. Make crime more difficult for would be thieves by locking doors and windows.

If you have an information about this crime or those responsible, please call the Whitecourt RCMP at 780-7785454. If you wish to remain any-

mous you can contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), by Internet at www.tipsubmit.com or by SMS (check your local Crime Stoppers www.crimestoppers.ab.ca for instructions). To report crime online, or for access to RCMP news and information, download the Alberta RCMP app through Apple or Google Play.

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

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 310

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 autismpeaks.org

AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

Generous Donation

Cenovus Energy of Edson generously donated 10,000.00 towards sponsoring 2 new "Adopt a Rooms" for our expansion. Picture from Left to Right: Tammy Ulrich, Becky Wells (Both from Wellspring) Clayton Ulrich, Logan Meropoulos (Both from Cenovus Energy EDSON)

The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY

Contact

Valerie Winger at 780-706-1858
Email: wctpress@telus.net

Find us on: & &

The Press is printed on high quality newsprint using vegetable based ink. We encourage you to share, save, reuse, rehash & recycle.

Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.75 US Dollar
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Dollar Values as of June 21, 2023

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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.

Not much to see here: Changes in self-employment since COVID

By ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team

Self-employment* is an important part of the economy, representing about 15% of total employment in Alberta last year.

Let's take a look at the trajectory of self-employment in Alberta over the last few years.

Overall, the annual** proportion of workers who are self-employed has been relatively stable.

The year before the pandemic in 2019, there were about 355,000 self-employed Albertans accounting for roughly 15.4% of total employment in the province.

While the average number of self-employed Albertans stayed essentially the same in 2020, its share of total employment rose to 16.6% as the number of employee positions fell in the

face of public health restrictions.

By 2022, there were 1.2% fewer self-employed Alberta (351,000) representing 14.8% of total employment. So, a little lower, but not much different than before COVID.

The differences are a bit more stark at the national level with self-employment down by 6.3% in 2022 compared to 2019 and its share of total employment in Canada going from 14.8% to 13.5%.

What can we take away from these statistics?

First, self-employment's share of total employment in Alberta increased during the height of the pandemic, but this was more about the drop in employee positions than a sea change in the level of self-employment.

Second, although the pre- and post-pandemic

numbers are not that different, there has been a long-term downward trend in the ratio of self-employed workers to employee positions. Self-employment's share of total employment in Alberta averaged 19.1% in the 1990s, 17.5% from 2000 to 2009 and 16.0% from 2010 to 2022.

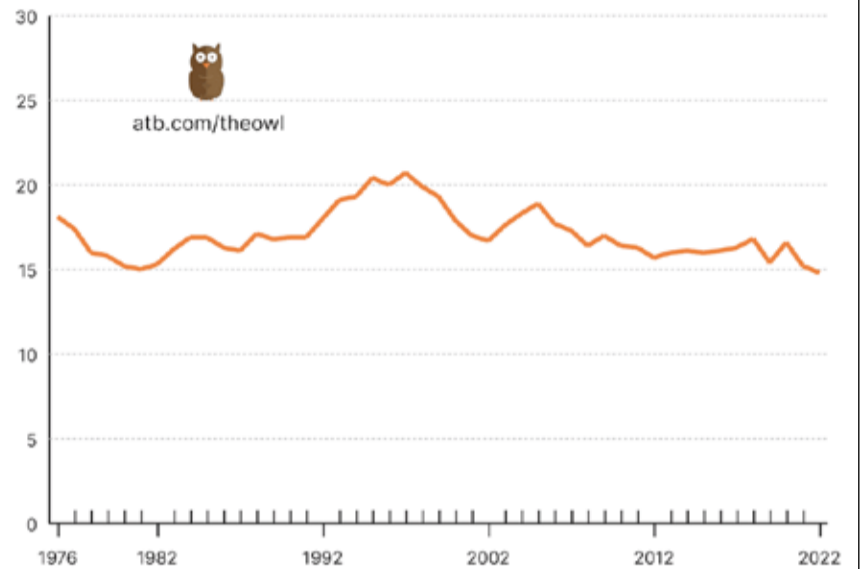
Nationally, self-employment's share was 15.8% in the 1990s, 15.5% in the 2000s and 14.9% from 2010 to 2022.

*Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey includes self-employed workers who report that their main job involves working for themselves rather than an employer.

**There is a lot of month-to-month noise in the estimates of self-employment and this continued during the pandemic.

Self-employment in Alberta

Self-employment as a % of total employment, annual average



Source: Statistics Canada Table: 14-10-0027-01 Graph by ATB Economics

PUBLIC NOTICE

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



NOTICE TO TOWN OF WHITECOURT RATEPAYERS

The 2023 Combined Assessment and Tax Notices for the Town of Whitecourt were mailed on May 5, 2023. Due to delays at the Alberta Land Titles Office the Town of Whitecourt's recent ownership and mailing address changes may not be reflected on the Combined Assessment and Tax Notice. Please see www.whitecourt.ca for further details. If you have not yet received your notice please contact the Tax Department at 780-778-2273, as you are still responsible for the timely payment of your taxes.

Important Dates to Remember:

June 30, 2023, with the exception of those ratepayers on the Tax Installment Plan, full payment of your taxes must be received at the Town Office, or postmarked prior to 4:30 p.m., to avoid penalties. Please make payment in person, by mail or through your banking institution.

July 11, 2023, is the deadline to submit your assessment complaint. Written complaints must be submitted on the prescribed form and accompanied with the appropriate fee to the Town Office. It is strongly advised that you speak with the Assessor to answer any questions you might have regarding your assessment prior to submitting a formal assessment complaint.

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 23-056: 9 Feero Drive – Discretionary Use – Home Occupation: Massage Therapy – Approved with conditions.

Date of Decision: June 8, 2023 **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** June 29, 2023

An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$300) to the Office of the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, Town of Whitecourt Administration Building, Box 509, Whitecourt, Alberta, T7S 1N6 prior to 4:00pm on the above noted date. Any person(s) affected by the said proposal(s), has the right to appeal prior to the above date.

TOWN OF WHITECOURT GARAGE SALE

The Town of Whitecourt will be holding a Garage Sale. Patrons will have the opportunity to bid on items posted for sale.

Date & Time: June 24 - 25, 2023 from 9:00am to 5:00pm **Location:** 3410 35-Ave

For further details on this opportunity, visit our website www.whitecourt.ca.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Pembina West

THIS IS YOUR CO-OP. Every Pembina West Co-op member is an owner, and as an owner, you can and should have a say in your business.

The Pembina West Co-op Board of Directors invites all members to attend our Annual General Meeting or Information Session.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

- Election of Directors
- Appointment of an auditor

MAYERTHORPE INFORMATION SESSION

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

6:30PM REGISTRATION

7:00PM CALL TO ORDER

MAYERTHORPE LEGION
5111 45 AVE
THIS SESSION IS INFORMATION ONLY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

6:30PM REGISTRATION

7:00PM CALL TO ORDER

BARRHEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD INN
CONFERENCE ROOM
6011 49 STREET

The Press Got a news tip?

Call Valerie Winger at 780.706.1858 or email wctpress@gmail.com

Page sponsored by



As we approach the spring and summer seasons and spend more time outdoors, let's not forget to follow our sun smart guidelines: protect your skin by covering up, avoid peak hours of sun exposure, and apply sunscreen.

For all open career opportunities, please check out our website at albertanewsprint.com → Careers.

Lots of great music heard, and fun had at Party in the Park Festival despite some rain



A hula hoop performer with a crowd in awe of her talents.



Keep rolling!



Econoline Crush absolutely crushed their set.



Adding in a touch of colour and a pinch of sparkle.



The best view in the park.



Bylaw on patrol.

After a great weekend of music and fun, another Party in the Park Festival is in the books. Though rain dampened things a bit, thousands enjoyed the hard work of volunteers and the generosity of the business community who made the event possible.

By Serena Lapointe

Since 2007, the Town of Whitecourt's Party in the Park Festival has drawn big crowds from the community and beyond. Visitors and residents have flocked to Rotary Park, now called Festival Park, to take in an ever-changing lineup of artists and performers from nearly every genre that exists, year in and year out. From blues to rock, country and pop, East Coast style and folk and everything in between, there's always someone performing on the stage to suit those in the crowd. This year's lineup included two well-known headliners, Fefe Dobson on Friday night and Jojo Mason on Saturday. Fefe's self-titled debut album dropped in 2003, spinning several hits and garnering her two Juno Award nominations. After a

pause in her career due to a record label switch, Dobson put out her album Joy in 2010, which pumped more hits out across the country. Her latest single, Hungover, debuted the same day as her park performance. By the time Fefe stepped onto the stage, a massive crowd had formed. Her show started and closed with Frank Sinatra's My Way, a unique touch. Fefe chatted up the crowd through her set, complimented those near the front, and got everyone clapping along in unison. She even performed one of her favourite tunes from childhood, Welcome to the Jungle by Guns N' Roses, receiving rousing applause. Jojo Mason, born and raised in Regina, performed on Saturday. His two singles last year, Broken Umbrella and Let Me Down

Easy, reached the fifth spot on Billboard Canada Country. In 2017 and 2019, Jojo was nominated for the Rising Star Award at the CCMA awards, and, thanks to Party in the Park, fans could see him perform up close and personal without needing to buy a ticket. Econoline Crush, Jake Vaadeland & The Sturgeon River Boys, The Prairie States, D.J Warkentin, and Edward Pimm performed, giving the crowd a great show. Local performers also hit the stage throughout the two-day festival, including Reid Dickson, Nicolas Melnychuk, The Mad Jacks, Analog Smokeshow,

Karen Shilka, Beauty and the Beats, Finley Melnychuk, Dionna Arcaud, and Blues At 11. Resident Lana



Fefe Dobson rocking out.

Miller said the best thing about the Party in the Park Festival was that it brought people together. "Families, adults, children, all can enjoy it at the same time. There's lots of variety in the bands and lots of local entertainment, which is wonderful, along with a couple of big headliners." She said the price tag for attending was one of the perks. "The takeaway here is that it's free. You can enjoy all these bands for free, no tickets needed. You can bring your kids down, and they can play in the bouncy castles or get face paint. It's lovely." In the crowd, Miller said she was waiting for Econoline Crush to hit the stage. "I met them at the casino, as they've been out there a few times, and I loved their performances, so I'm here to see them again."

Millar said a big part of the festival is the business support, putting dollars and in-kind donations towards the event. This year's list of sponsors was a big one. It included Hodge Pressure Services Ltd, Chevron, New Venture Safety Services Ltd, Millar Western Forest Products, West Fraser, Canfor, JT Enterprises, Iron Wing, Strike Group, Ironman Sand Blasting, Carlan Services Ltd, Alta Tech Environmental Services Inc, Servus Credit Union, Northwell Oilfield Hauling, Fluidpro Oilfield Services, High Arctic Energy Services, Apex Oilfield Services, Flowmax Waste Management Solutions, The Kanata Inns - Whitecourt, Pizza Hut, Stitch N Time Custom Embroidery Ltd, Carbonex Con-

continued on page 15

Compassionately serving families in Whitecourt, Mayerthorpe, and surrounding communities since 1941.

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DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

The Municipal Planning Commission will be making a decision on the following development permit application, as per the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw, at their regular meeting on **Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

Section 19 of the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw provides opportunity for any person who may have comments on the proposed development 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 this proposal you may provide a written statement via email to peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca prior to **4:30 p.m., June 15, 2023**, or you may attend the meeting.

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER	PROPOSAL
PT. NW 8-59-11-W5M Lot A Plan 782-1309	15-030-2023	Setback Variance: 30m to 20m
PT. NW 28-59-12-W5M Lot 1 Block 3 Plan 062-0123	15-033-2023	Transport Contractor Business (Minor)
PT. NW 24-59-10-W5M Lot 16 Block 4 Plan 5989KS	15-035-2023	Home Occupation (Minor) STAYK Gardens

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 pm, June 15, 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

FARMLAND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Subdivision and Development of Farmland

PLACE: Anselmo Hall; **DATE:** Thursday, June 29; **TIME:** 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Woodlands County would like to invite residents and owners of farmland to provide feedback on potential subdivision guidelines and regulations while in review of our Municipal Development Plan to help preserve our hearty agricultural lands.

Woodlands County
Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3
Attention: Peter McKay, Development Officer
Or email at peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca
For more information, please contact the above at 780-778-8400.

Information will be onsite at the public consultation session.

REMINDER TO ALL RATEPAYERS OF WOODLANDS COUNTY 2023 TAX NOTICES

Woodlands County mailed the 2023 tax notices on May 23, 2023. Payments are due **Friday, June 30, 2023**. Penalties will be applied on payments made after June 30th.

If you have not received your 2023 tax notice(s), please contact either Woodlands County office to request a copy.

County offices will be open from 8:15 am – 4:30 pm including the lunch hour from Monday, June 26 – Friday, June 30.

Woodlands County Municipal Office
#1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB
780-778-8400
1-888-870-6315

Woodlands County Regional Office
61053A Highway 33, Fort Assiniboine, AB
780-584-3866
1-866-584-3866

Gordon Frank, CLGM, Chief Administrative Officer

WOODLANDS COUNTY BENEFITS PROGRAM

A new Benefits program is available for Woodlands County residents beginning **July 1, 2023**. Under this program, County residents can apply for 3 benefits:

To qualify for the program, applicants must provide a copy of their Tax Notice of Assessment from Canada Revenue Agency for the current year and have an income below the following amounts:

Seniors 65 years of age or older and persons with disabilities are also eligible for the program's benefits regardless of income level.

- **Tax Rebate** - \$150 flat rebate if you own your own home.
- **Transportation grant** - Up to a maximum of \$300 per year per person to travel for health-related appointments.
- **Snow plow flags** - 3 free snow plow flags per season.

1 person	\$30,000
2 persons	\$40,000
3 persons	\$42,500
Per dependent after	\$2,500

Applications and full details of this new Benefits program and policy can be found on our website at woodlands.ab.ca.

If you have any questions, please contact Community Services at 780-778-8400.



DAVE KUSCH
Mayor
Councillor for Area 10
Division 1
dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-9337



JOHN BURROWS
Councillor for Whitecourt West
Division 2
john.burrows@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-706-4747



ALAN DEANE
Councillor for Whitecourt
Central Division 3
alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-0894



JEREMY WILHELM
Councillor for
Whitecourt East Division 4
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A look at the local weather

P.O.P.
High
Low
Wind
24-Hr Rain / Snow



Wed., June 21
Light rain
70%
15°C
7°C
NW 13 km/h
~5mm



Thu., June 22
A few showers
40%
18°C
8°C
S 14 km/h
2-4mm



Fri., June 23
Mainly sunny
10%
21°C
9°C
NW 14 km/h
-



Sat., June 24
Mix of sun and clouds
20%
22°C
10°C
E 6 km/h
-



Sun., June 25
Mainly sunny
20%
22°C
11°C
SW 9 km/h
-



Living their best life in the front row.

continued from page 13

tractors Ltd, XM 105 FM, boom 96.7, Vertex Resource Group, United Rentals, Ralcomm Ltd, and Profoxx Rentals Inc.

"I think it's important that these businesses see what this event actually does for everyone and how much people enjoy it. We all get to enjoy this as a community. I see it as money well spent and return on investment," said Miller. Without generous community supporters, the Party in the

Park Festival would not be the same event that people have grown to love and look forward to each year. "There are all kinds of people here, from those new to Whitecourt and those who've lived here all their lives and everyone in between. Everybody gets together and enjoys it all at once, and there's so much going on in the rest of the park too," said Miller, pointing to the craft area, laser tag, face painting, bubble balls, and line up of food trucks.

Volunteers are also a significant part of it. Numerous community groups, including the Youth Advisory Committee, donated their time to supervise games and bouncy castles or help direct traffic, and the Whitecourt & Woodlands Performing Arts Society is involved from start to finish making the event the success that it is. From the community members and visitors who enjoyed the weekend to the volunteers and businesses who made it come to life, thank you!

Continuous masking no longer required in AHS facilities

After careful review, Alberta Health Services (AHS) has rescinded continuous masking requirements. As of June 19, 2023, AHS will no longer require continuous masking at all AHS facilities, including Continuing Care and contracted sites.

This applies to all patients, families, and visitors at AHS facilities, as well as Alberta Precision Laboratories, Covenant Health, CapitalCare, and Carewest sites. It also applies to all AHS and contracted staff, including physicians, midwives, students, volunteers, and contractors.

The decision to rescind the current re-

quirement for continuous masking was made based on a number of factors, including declining COVID-19 cases, testing positivity rate, wastewater data and hospital admission rates for respiratory illnesses in Alberta, as well as consultation with stakeholders including patients, families, advisory councils, clinicians and frontline managers.

AHS continues to respect the choice to voluntarily wear a mask in all areas and encourages those who want to wear a mask to continue to wear one. In addition, patients are encouraged to have conversations with

their care providers regarding masking, hand hygiene, or other factors that patients feel are important to their care.

AHS continues to encourage visitors or designated family support persons who have had respiratory symptoms to wait to visit loved ones until 10 days after symptom onset, and all visitors and support persons are recommended to mask when visiting symptomatic patients or residents.

Staff are required to continue to use the Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment to make personal protective equipment (PPE) decisions and

AHS Routine Practices to prevent the spread of infections.

Appropriate types of masks and PPE will continue to be available in all settings for patients and healthcare workers. For more information please refer to the updated FAQ.

As always, all staff are encouraged to stay home when ill and, to continue to practice good hand hygiene as

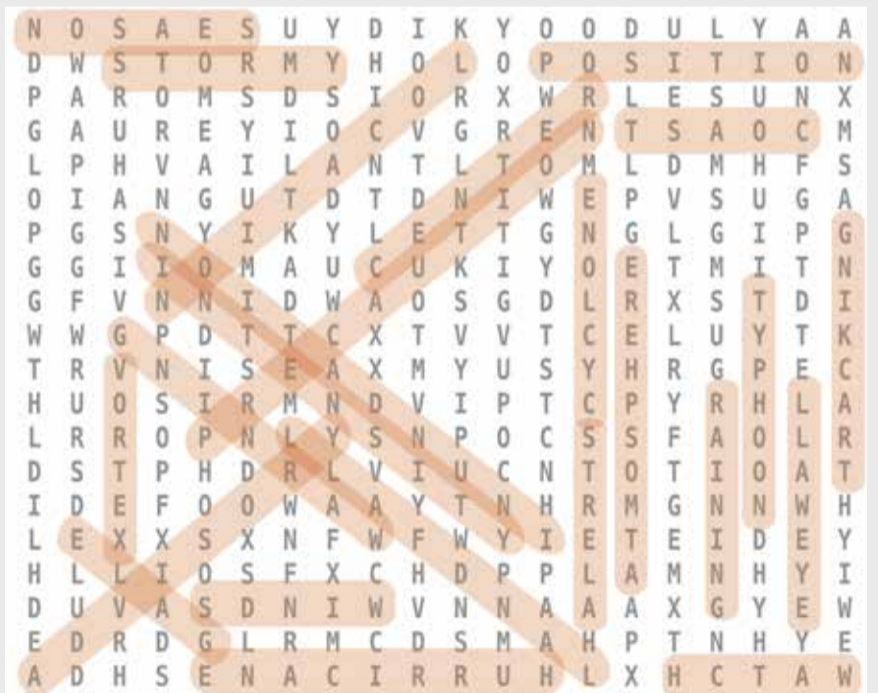
part of our ongoing efforts to keep patients, families and each other safe and healthy. AHS is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment and will continue to closely monitor the need for changes to masking requirements.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health

supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Our mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans. Our current focus is on reducing emergency department wait-times, improving EMS response times, increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

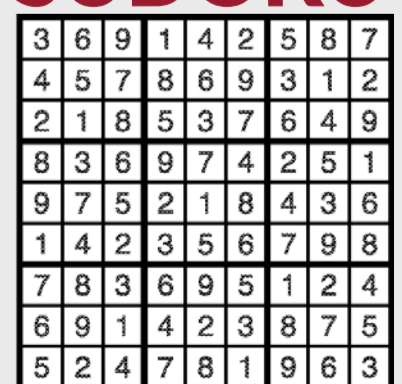
WORD SEARCH



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SUDOKU



The Festival Park "mascots" enjoy the park just like everyone else. Though geese are pretty to look at, and the babies are adorable, the feces around the park can become substantial if too many geese call the pond home. Geese poop is also giant compared to other birds, so it adds up quickly. Plus, dangerous bacteria can hang out in droppings, including E Coli and Salmonella. Residents should steer clear of areas with lots of geese droppings to avoid contamination. The Town of Whitecourt has used different goose-deterrents over the years, including strobe lighting, distress signals, decoys and canine patrols guided by a Wildlife Control Officer. The hope is that deterrents convince the geese to find a different place to nest, keeping the Festival Park population to a minimum.

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Amanda Lind, CPA, CA will be in the Fox Creek office (20 Commercial Court) every Wednesday. To set up an appointment please contact our Whitecourt office.

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