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# The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 13 - Issue 10 | Wednesday, March 27, 2024

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## Local artists meet & greet brought creators together to share their passions

By Serena Lapointe

The community and surrounding region are home to an array of artists, ranging from woodworkers to quilters, painters, sculptors, jewelry makers, digital designers, bakers, photographers, authors and everyone else that falls somewhere in between. To say there is talent among us would be an understatement.

Sandy Lovelace, owner of Just Peachy Arts and Crafts, is an artist through and through. Her store gives creators a podium to share their artistic abilities and connect



Amy Taggart, Petite Threadlines with one of her hanging creations.

continued on page 3

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TANDOORI CHICKEN WINGS



BUTTER CHICKEN POUTINE

## PIZZA 73

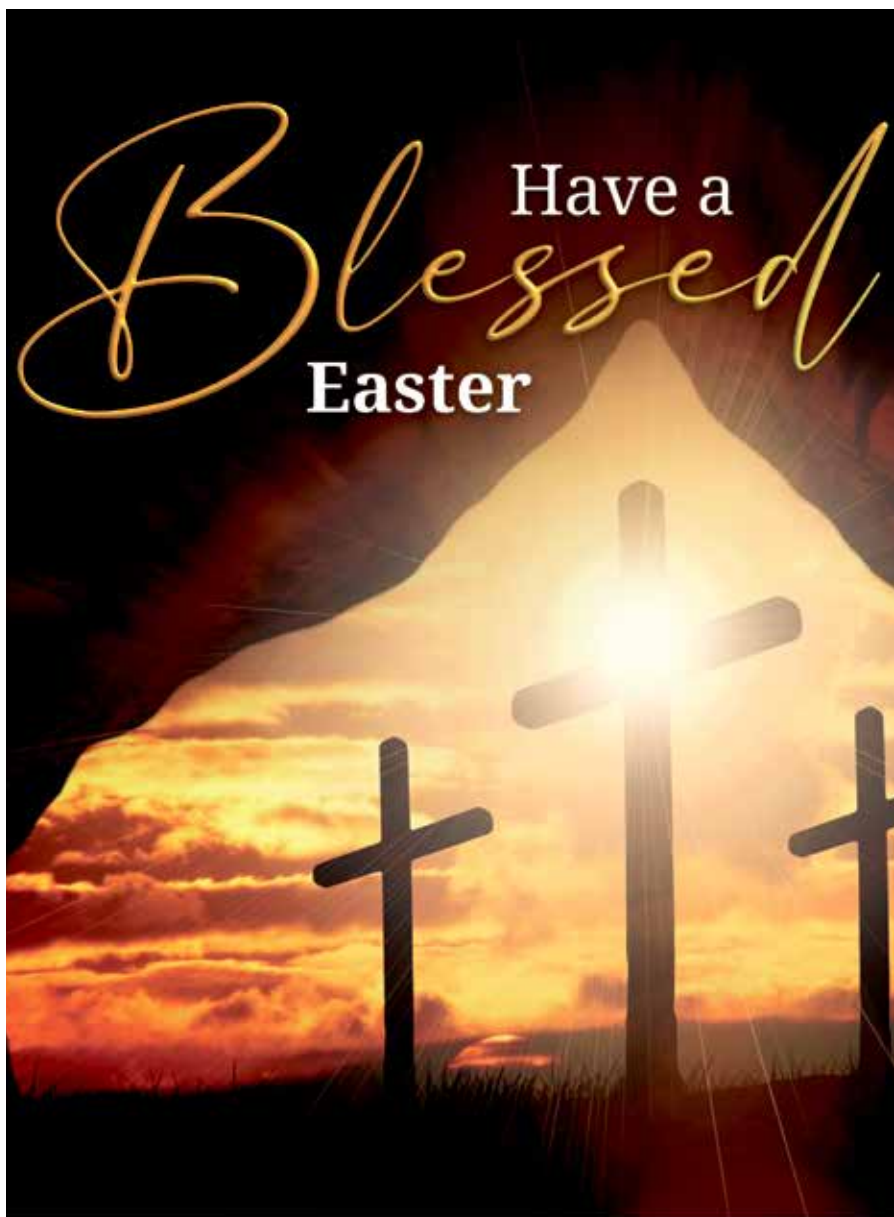
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# A neat idea to use a currently unused lot in Blue Ridge has people excited



A Blue Ridge resident has proposed a project for the lot where the Briar Patch School once sat. Amanda James, owner-operator of StayK Gardens and More, recently presented her idea to the Economic Development Committee. Pictured is Legion market booth for Stayk.



**ARNOLD VIERSEN MP**  
PEACE RIVER—WESTLOCK

By Serena Lapointe

Amanda James, owner-operator of StayK Gardens and More and the organizer of the Northern Crossroads Artisan & Farmers Market, which runs monthly at the Blue Ridge Hall, recently presented to Woodlands County's Economic Development Committee an idea she had for the old Briar

Patch School site.

Since last year, James has been running her Stayk Gardens business, selling vegetable plants and other homemade/homegrown products. She kickstarted the monthly market at Blue Ridge Hall, which has proved popular. James' idea for the property where Briar Patch School once stood was

to create a community garden.

James said it could be called the Briar Patch Community Garden to preserve the school's history. "The reason I want to keep it under the Briar Patch name is because it's been that name for more years than I can google. I would like to

continued on page 15



A young helper at the Stayk Gardens & More booth at the Chamber's Fresh Community Market last summer.





**A few stores in the community bring together different artisans under one roof. Just Peachy Arts and Crafts is one of them, featuring over 80 creators from Whitecourt and the region. A maker event was recently held, which allowed artisans to introduce themselves to shoppers and each other. Pictured is soapstone carving from Lloyd Giebelhaus.**

continued from page 1

with shoppers interested in what they've made. "Art is important because it helps people express themselves, and it's therapeutic," said Lovelace.

Earlier this month, she held a "Meet the Maker" event, which brought about ten percent of the artists showcased in the store out for a meet-and-greet with shoppers. This allowed them to showcase their work in person, answer questions, and speak to other artists, building comradery within the local artist community.

Eight vendors participated in the event, including Whitecourt resident Amy Taggart of Petite Threadlines. Taggart creates macrame plant hangers and coasters, along with other handmade creations. This summer, she will launch macrame purses and handbags and possibly some crochet, too. "I love the creativity in this one space, in this store alone. It's mindboggling," said Taggart, referring to Just Peachy

Arts and Crafts.

Taking part in the event was notable for her. "It's a sense of shared community. I like getting to share my passion with like-minded individuals and see what all the other artisans have to offer." She said being an entrepreneur is a rewarding experience. "It is never-ending, but it is so rewarding because you can do whatever your heart desires. Whatever your brain can come up with, and you can figure out a way to execute it, then you can do it. I love that."

Taggart's space within the store is continually updated with new material, and she gets to make it look however she wants, which she really likes. Working with other local businesses is another plus for Taggart, who recently booked two sold-out classes at Thyme to Grow to teach people how to make mini macrame plant hangers. "I have DIY macrame kits coming out this spring. I'm hoping to do keychains and wall hangings." She will be do-

ing more classes, too.

For Catherine 'Cat' White of Creative Adventures Studio Art, who moved to the area from BC, art is her therapy from day to day life. "I have a full-time job, Monday to Friday, and I spend a lot of time on the road, travelling and managing people, so this is my escape. If I have an activity that takes my mind completely off of work or chores, something that I can dive into and lose myself in, then that's my ultimate therapy and getaway."

White creates various things but is currently focused on abstract fluid art and resins. "I love wearable art or making something you can hang up in your home and display. My art is so experimental that not everything turns out. With the trivets, if I don't like their composition, then that's what the jewelry is made out of. Nothing goes to waste. All of my stuff is one of a kind. I could not recreate this to save my life," she chuckled.

She said she is drawn to ocean colours but has pushed herself outside of her comfort zone a bit, bringing in different, bolder colours. "We are a landlocked province, so hence, the ocean colours," she laughed. White has created earrings of all sizes, bracelets, wall art, cutting boards and jars, all with a fluid abstract look. The paint looks like it's dancing right off each piece.

White said taking part in the event gave her the opportunity to learn about how others create and share tips with each other. "I've



**Amy Taggart, Petite Threadlines.**



**Catherine 'Cat' White of Creative Adventures Studio Art.**



**Just Peachy Arts and Crafts owner, Sandy Lovelace.**



**Neat aprons from Karen Roberts.**

been able to show a little bit about how my jewelry is created and also talk to some of the other artists that have been here and make that connection. We shared tips and even where we source materials and ingredients from. It's been super valuable."

White said she's only been selling her art for about two years and loves having the chance to reach customers through a storefront shared with some of the area's talented creators. "You walk around the store, and it's just mind-blowing how much talent there is in this community and the surrounding area. I never thought I would sell my stuff, but thanks to encouragement from friends and family, I started to sell and haven't looked

back."

Lloyd Giebelhaus was another artist who attended the event. He had several of his beautiful soapstone carvings on display, including a large inukshuk and several different bears. After he retired from agriculture, he decided to take up a hobby, something he could do with his hands and imagination. After taking a soapstone class at the Devonian Botanic Garden, Giebelhaus was hooked, and his talent for carving realism into his pieces quickly grew.

"I know how art feels for me, and I want to extend it to everyone. It's calming," said Lovelace. We have around 85 vendors right now, and Oko Shop and Refillery is joining us soon." She said the space is inclu-

sive, allowing anyone, from youth to seniors, to rent a spot and join the Just Peachy family. "I'm always moving things around and making more space, so the more, the merrier!"

Vendors can also use the space at the rear of the store to hold classes. "It's fun seeing people who want to learn a new medium or art. We have a lady doing watercolour classes, and she said the next thing they will do is make pottery. She keeps doing new things, which is really fun." A bulletin board outside the store displays when local classes are offered, and Lovelace has a calendar coming soon, too. Details on future maker events can be found by following Just Peachy Arts and Crafts on Facebook.



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For all open career opportunities, please check out our website at [albertanewsprint.com](http://albertanewsprint.com) → Careers.

# Does the new Underused Housing Tax apply to you?

(NC) Taxes are a fact of life, but it's understandable to have questions about any new tax you hear about. The Underused Housing Tax (UHT) is an annual federal one per cent tax which took effect in January 2022. The key question on most minds when you hear of a new tax is – will I have to pay it?

Well, it depends.



Unlike some municipal or provincial vacancy taxes, the UHT usually applies to foreign nationals, meaning non-Canadian citizens

or non-permanent residents, who own vacant or underused residential property in Canada. The majority of Canadians who own resi-

dential property are excluded owners, which means they do not have to file a UHT return or pay the tax.

But overall, it's usually a good idea to double check.

While Canadian owners are typically excluded, there are situations in which you could still be an affected owner, such as if you own residential

property as a partner of a partnership or trustee of a trust.

It's up to an individual to confirm if they are an affected or excluded owner. If you are excluded, you do not have to file a return.

If you are an affected owner, you may not have to actually pay the tax if you are eligible for an exemption, but you still have to file a UHT

return by April 30, 2024 to avoid penalties and interest. Ultimately, it's a good idea to check.

Note, even though the familiar annual income tax and benefit return is due on April 30th for most people, the UHT return is a separate return.

Find more information about this new tax and whether you're affected at [canada.ca/cra-uh](http://canada.ca/cra-uh).

# March 28-31 2024

## WHITECOURT, AB Arena: JDA Place



### U18AA

**Rural NAHL**

Strathcona Warriors

**Metro NAHL**

KC Colts

**Host**

Whitecourt TRAC Wolverines

**SCAHL**

Okotoks Oilers

**Hockey Calgary**

Calgary Royals Gold

## Preparing for the threat of wildfire is a shared responsibility

FireSmart™ is a framework designed to mitigate the risk of and educate residents and stakeholders regarding the potential for large uncontrollable wildfires near communities and critical infrastructure.

Community members, community leaders, industry and all levels of government have a responsibility to lessen the effects of wildfire. FireSmart is the implementation of both prevention and mitigation measures to reduce wildfire threat to Albertans and their communities while balancing the benefits of wildfire on the landscape.

In Alberta, we bundle FireSmart into 3 planning scales: landscape, community, and the wildland-urban interface. Industry is another critical component of the provincial FireSmart program and is an important consideration at all 3 FireSmart planning scales.

The Government of Alberta has a tiered fire ban system restricting activities that may

cause wildfires in the Forest Protection Area (FPA) of Alberta. Fire advisories, restriction or bans, forest closures and off-highway vehicle restrictions can effectively reduce the number of human-caused wildfires. These are temporary measures brought in according to conditions. As fire danger levels rise or fall, these restrictions can be adjusted to reduce the likelihood of preventable wildfires.

Fire permits are required for all burning activities, except campfires, in the Forest Protection Area of Alberta during wildfire season, from March 1 to October 31.

For more information, visit <https://www.alberta.ca/safe-burning>.





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The Press

## Three things to know about investment properties in Canada

(NC) Buying a property in Canada has long been seen as a savvy investment. If you're thinking of buying a property to make some money, whether from renovating and reselling it or renting it out, there are a lot of things to consider. Here are three tax implications you should know about before you plan to profit.

### Capital gains tax

You may have a capital gain when you sell your property and generally, you'll have to pay tax on 50 per cent of the capital gain unless your property qualifies as your principal residence. In that case, an exemption may be available to reduce or eliminate any capital gain.

Or, you may have a capital loss when you sell your property. However, your ability to use 50 per cent of this loss to reduce current year or other years' taxable capital gains will depend on the type of property you sold. Depending on your situation, the gains you make when you sell your property might be business income.

If you're planning to move away from Canada but intend to keep your property, there may be other income tax implications that need to be considered.

### Property tax

Owning any land or building comes with carrying costs, from regular maintenance, to utilities like heating and cooling, to insurance. Property taxes are another inevitable expense for owners in Canada, whether you live at the property or not. They vary by municipality but are typically based on the property's market value – which is not necessarily what you paid for the property. You should check with your municipality to better understand how taxes work in your area.

Local governments use these taxes to pay for services like schools and roads. You may be able to add your property taxes onto monthly mort-

gage payments or pay your municipality directly. If you're buying a property, have your real estate agent or lawyer confirm that the sellers are properly paid up on property taxes. If they've prepaid, you may have to reimburse them.

### Underused housing tax

In addition to these typical costs, the Government of Canada introduced the Underused Housing Tax (UHT) in January 2022. It's an annual one per cent federal tax on the ownership of vacant or underused housing in Canada. This is different than vacancy taxes that some provinces and municipalities have implemented in recent years. So, even if you are exempt from those you might still have to file a return for the UHT.

This tax usually applies to owners of residential property in Canada who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents and foreign corporations, but in some situations, it can also apply to Canadian individuals and corporations. If you're one of these affected owners, you still have to file a UHT tax return for your property, even though you may be exempt from paying the tax.

If you're required to file a return, make sure the Canada Revenue Agency receives your return(s) and payment(s) by April 30th, 2024 to avoid penalties and interest. It's also important to note that these returns are separate from the regular personal income tax and benefit return due the same day.

Find information to help understand if you're affected by this tax at [canada.ca/cra-uht](http://canada.ca/cra-uht).



## SCHEDULE

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

	Home		Away
Thursday 28	W	11:00am-1:30pm	KC
	OILERS	1:45pm-4:15pm	ROYALS
	WOLFRINGS	7:00pm-9:30pm	W
Opening Ceremonies 4:45 pm			
Friday 29	ROYALS	9:00am-11:30am	KC
	OILERS	11:45am-2:15pm	WOLFRINGS
	ROYALS	2:30pm-5:00pm	W
Saturday 30	KC	9:00am-11:30am	WOLFRINGS
	W	11:45am-2:15pm	OILERS
	WOLFRINGS	2:30pm-5:00pm	ROYALS
	KC	5:15pm-7:45pm	OILERS
Sunday 31	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bronze Medal 10:00am-12:30pm	4 <sup>th</sup>
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Championship Final 1:00pm-4:00pm	2 <sup>nd</sup>





# PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15



## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

### 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!

## CROSSWORDS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10					
11						12						13	14	15	
16						17				18					
19				20	21			22	23				24		
25							26					27			
28						29						30			
				31	32						33				
34	35	36	37							38					
39						40	41	42							
43					44							45	46	47	48
49					50					51	52				
53					54					55					
56		57					58					59			
60						61	62						63		
						64								65	

### 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

- Database management system
- Medical procedures
- Clapton, musician
- Defender
- Exert oneself
- Indicates position
- Quay
- Atrocities
- A way to address an adult man
- Ends
- Unable
- Taxi
- Gratuities
- A famous train station
- Japanese persimmon
- Sours
- Beneficiary
- Baseball official
- Confused situation
- Unworldly

- Yemen capital
- Type of soil
- Beloved beverage
- Cola
- Lying down
- Angeles
- Fail to amuse
- Collapsible shelter
- Commercial
- Taste property
- Lordship's jurisdictions
- It cools your home
- Dismounted
- Charge in a court of law
- One less than one
- Spoke
- Famed garden

### CLUES DOWN

- Show a picture of
- Small sultanate
- Unfortunate incident
- A way to ski

- Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- Observed
- "Westworld" actor Harris
- Belonging to me
- Shoelace tube
- Takes to civil court
- Early multimedia
- Produces anew
- Horse races
- Of I
- Equally
- Changes color
- A place to stay
- Town in Galilee
- Mathematical figure
- Klingon character
- They \_\_
- Atomic #58
- Showed up extinct
- Loosen grip
- Unpleasant smell
- Innermost membranes enveloping the brain
- Esteemed college
- league
- Partner to Pa
- Small American rail
- A salt or ester of acetic acid
- Sodium
- Military figure (abbr.)
- Lighted
- Paid to get out of jail
- All of something
- Ohio city
- More abject
- A radio band
- Scientific development (abbr.)
- Monetary unit
- Scored perfectly
- A punch to end a fight
- The Golden State (abbr.)
- The Beehive State (abbr.)

## HOROSCOPE

### ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries, communication with a spouse or a loved one is vital this week; otherwise, you risk arguments for no reason at all. Sit down and have some frank conversations about your needs.

### TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, when you face adversity you should rest assured that you can handle anything that is thrown at you. Although, you may need a little help from some close friends or family.

### GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Gemini, others may not understand who you are and could make assumptions that are inaccurate. They may just need some more information to get a clearer picture.

### CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Cancer, many elements of your life are starting to level out this week. That can be a comfort to you because you seemingly have been running around for some time and could use a break.

### LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Leo, others have nothing but good things to say to you this week. Bask in their kind words and adoration, and use this as motivation for future endeavors.

### VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



With no big events on the horizon, you may want to manufacture one to have a reason to party, Virgo. Start planning your guest list and come up with a fun theme to get behind.

### LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Libra, while you should be mindful of your goals, you also can support those around you as they pursue their own. Serve as inspiration to people in your life right now.

### SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, this is a good time to start tackling some projects around the house that have been put off for some time. Redecorating and remodeling can be an inspiration right now.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Take a step back and reevaluate your approach to a situation because the way you have been doing it just hasn't yielded the results you expected, Sagittarius. Take suggestions and tips.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Capricorn, high energy may have you swinging at the fences every time you try to tackle something. You may want to dial things back and take a more measured approach.

### AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Various transitions in your life could temporarily disrupt your daily activities, Aquarius. You'll find a new groove soon enough that will feel comfortable and provide you with what you need.

### PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Don't take stock of what all the naysayers have been dishing out, Pisces. You know yourself better than others and recognize what you are able to accomplish. Get started on plans.

## ON THE FARM WORD SEARCH

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

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

### WORDS

ACRE  
 AERIAL  
 AEROPONICS

AGRICULTURAL  
 AGROECOLOGY  
 BALE  
 BIODYNAMIC  
 BORDER

BROADCAST  
 BUCKING  
 BUSHEL  
 CALVES

CARRYOVER  
 COMPOST  
 CULTIVATION  
 CYCLE

FARMING  
 FIELDS  
 GRAINS  
 IRRIGATION

LAND  
 ORGANIC  
 PESTICIDE  
 SEEDING



# CANADIAN Kids Corner



## What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

**A**



**B**



Answers: 1. Missing tea kettle 2. Extra vase 3. Cat on counter 4. Left cabinet is wood

ANSWER: SPRING

## CANADA



## HISTORY

1979

THE MISSISSAUGA TRAIN DERAILMENT CAUSES THE EVACUATION OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.



THIS SEASON IS A NOTABLE PERIOD FOR ANIMAL BIRTHS.



## EQUINOX

a date when day and night are almost of equal length

## How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Bud

**SPANISH:** Capullo

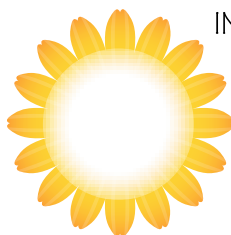
**ITALIAN:** Boccio

**FRENCH:** Bourgeon

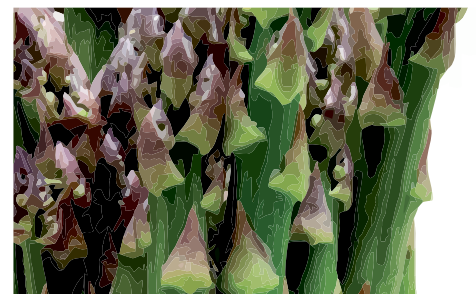
**GERMAN:** Knospe

## Did You Know?

MANY EARLY SPRINGTIME FLOWERS ARE BULBS, INCLUDING CROCUSES, HYACINTHS AND SNOWDROPS.



## GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: ASPARAGUS



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**"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



**WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

- Mondays 7:00pm
- Wednesdays 7:30pm

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

**LORNE'S BLANKET**  
*is 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**



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):  
**Kim Nendsa** (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) **780-778-0932**  
**Aimee Grierson** **780-262-0222**

<https://wctcancerwellness.com/>  
\*\*Monthly meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19

**24/7 CRISIS LINE**  
780 .778.6209  
1.800.467.4049

**WELLSPRING FAMILY RESOURCE & CRISIS CENTRE**  
@whitecourt\_shelter

**Shelter:**  
Wellspring Provides a Safe, Short Term, Supportive Residential Environment for Women With or Without Children, Fleeing Family Violence & Experiencing Crisis.

**Outreach Support Program:**  
Ongoing Support, Advocacy, Follow-Up & Support Groups for Women, Men and Youth in Whitecourt and Surrounding Communities.

**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

*Wellspring*  
Family Resource & Crisis Centre  
[www.whitecourtshester.ca](http://www.whitecourtshester.ca)

**GRIEF SHARE**



Support group on Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:30 pm, starting February 20, 2024 at Crossroads Community Church, 4419 44 Ave, Mayerthorpe.  
\$35 includes 12 weekly sessions.  
**Pre-register by calling 780-786-2533.**

**Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous Group**



Meetings are three times each week

- Monday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Wednesday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Friday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**New Women's AA Group on Saturdays @11 am**

Located at the United Church Basement 5201 - 50 St  
Please Leave a Message for AA member (780)424-5900  
or **Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322**





## If your life is in danger or you know someone's life is in danger DIAL EMERGENCY NOW 911!

If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, you need to know that you're not alone. You can also call if you are not in crisis, seeking additional information. The new Canada Suicide Prevention Service (CSPS), by Crisis Services Canada, enables callers anywhere in

Canada to access crisis support by phone, in French or English: toll-free **1-833-456-4566** Available 24/7  
Crisis Text Line (Powered by Kids Help Phone) Canada Wide free, 24/7 texting service is accessible immediately to youth anywhere

in Canada by texting TALK to **686868** to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to **686868** to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/SMS enabled cell phone.  
KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under

in Canada **1-800-668-6868** (Online or on the Phone). First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness 24/7 Help Line **1-855-242-3310**  
Canadian Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line **1-866-925-4419**  
Trans LifeLine – All Ages **1-877-330-6366**

## Have you been bullied, and want to share your story?

Email [wctpress@telus.net](mailto:wctpress@telus.net) All submissions remain confidential

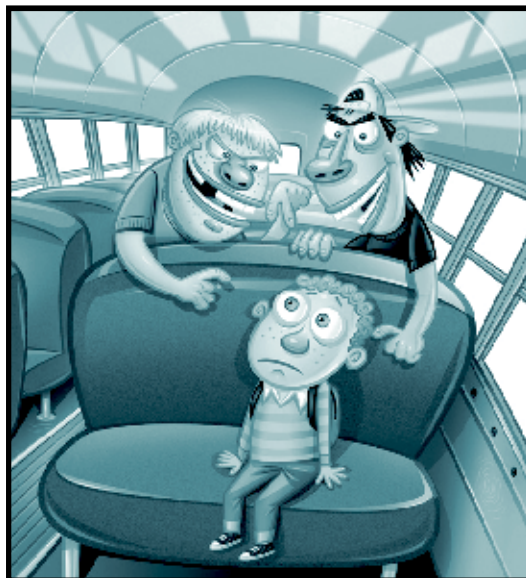


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.  
Let that sink in.



### Are you or someone you know being bullied?

Call the Bullying Helpline (Confidential)



Toll Free, open 24 hours per day, seven days per week

**1-888-456-2323**

Stand up! Don't be afraid of bullies!!

## Putting a face on suicide



Taylor Thomas Luck

Age 16

Every 40 seconds somewhere around the world someone dies by suicide, that's 99 people every 66 minutes. Every day, that's almost 100 people in the United States alone, and over 2160 worldwide. Putting a Face on Suicide (PAFOS) is a suicide awareness project that creates posters and videos to pay tribute to those we have lost to suicide with dignity and respect. PAFOS humanizes the daunting statistics; lovingly replacing numbers with faces.

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The leprechauns began their shenanigans early at Whitecourt Central School. Staff and students enjoyed looking for the signs and clues that the leprechauns left last Friday.

## What older Canadians should know about RSV

(NC) Many of us think of respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, as a contagious illness that affects young children this time of year. But RSV can seriously impact the health of seniors.

For older adults, the virus can lead to severe infection, resulting in hospitalization and even death. RSV can also worsen existing

lung or heart conditions, such as asthma, COPD or congestive heart failure.

“Unlike flu or COVID, there are no treatment options for older adults who become infected with RSV,” says pharmacist Frédéric Cousa. “And, sadly, most deaths attributed to the virus occur in this age group, so prevention

is key. Although RSV circulates more in the fall and winter months, infection can happen at any time of the year and it’s not too late to consider vaccination.”

Getting vaccinated now may offer protection through next season too. If you’re 60 or older, talk to your doctor or pharmacist about ways to protect yourself from RSV.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

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



### COMMUNITY CLEAN UP PROGRAM FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Whitecourt is seeking non-profit organizations to perform refuse pickup duties within the community, including highway ditches and boulevards. The refuse pickup schedule will run throughout April to the end of October (weather permitting). At least one group is needed for July and one group for August.

To qualify for the program, groups must provide a written request to the Town, outlining how the funds would be used, confirming dates that the group would be available to perform the work, and providing an address and phone number for two group representatives.

**Please note: All those participating in clean-up activities must be 9 years of age or older. All groups awarded projects under the Community Clean-Up Program will be required to abide by all current public health guidelines. Information on protocols will be provided to groups prior to performing scheduled refuse pick up duties.**

Groups must provide a minimum of 12 volunteers, with at least one adult for every two youth (aged 9 to 17 years); and must contribute a minimum of 100 person hours of clean-up work to receive payment of \$1,200.00 per group.

For further details, please contact the Infrastructure Services Department at 780-778-2705.

Written letters of application must be received at the following address by **12:00 noon on Friday, April 5:**

TOWN OF WHITECOURT  
Re: Community Clean Up Program Application  
Box 509, 5004 - 52 Avenue  
WHITECOURT, AB T7S 1N6  
Email: cathysudderdean@whitecourt.ca

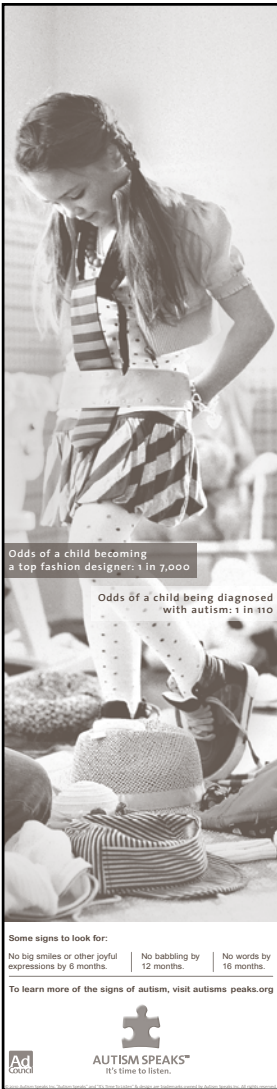




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com for details. 1-800-282-6903, 780-434-8746 X225. www.awna.com.

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SQUARE HAY AND STRAW BALES. 3 X 4 X 8. \$40 each straw,

\$100 each for hay. Call 780-942-3170.

### Health

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### Services

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Centre  
#202, 10127 121 Ave  
Grande Prairie, AB

**Airdrie**  
Apple Wellness Center  
229 1 St. SW  
Airdrie, AB

**Evolution Foot and Ankle Clinic**  
[www.bensefcikdpm.com](http://www.bensefcikdpm.com)

### A look at the local weather

	Wed., March 27	Thu., March 28	Fri., March 29	Sat., March 30	Sun., March 31
P.O.P.	30%	60%	30%	20%	20%
High	2°C	1°C	2°C	6°C	7°C
Low	-6°C	-5°C	-6°C	-6°C	-4°C
Wind	E 8 km/h	E 16 km/h	E 13 km/h	S 4 km/h	SW 23 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	-	-	-	-	-



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Career ads, online at:  
[www.whitecourtpress.com](http://www.whitecourtpress.com)



## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

### Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

**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

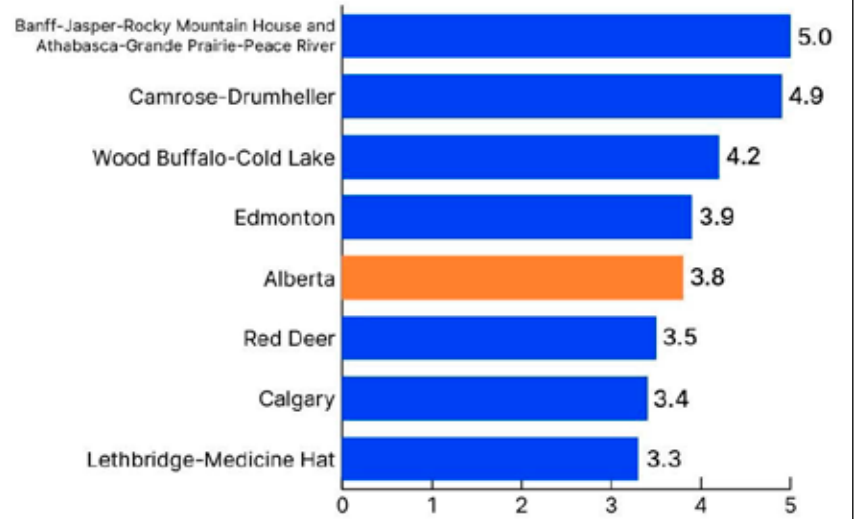
**Qualifications:**

- 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](http://www.eaglerivercasino.ca)
- How to Apply:** Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax

### Job vacancy rate in Alberta, Q4 2023

%, seasonally adjusted



Source: Statistics Canada Table 14-10-0396-01

## Help wanted: Job vacancy rates vary across regions and industries in Alberta

By Rob Roach, ATB ECONOMICS

As discussed in our new Alberta Economic Outlook released yesterday, the job vacancy rate\* in Alberta has been coming down from the highs seen in 2022. A new trend has, however, emerged: Alberta's vacancy rate has moved above the national average since August—that hasn't happened since March 2016.

New quarterly estimates from Statistics Canada add to this picture by showing where these hiring challenges may be arising.

Of the six economic regions reported on by Statistics Canada, the Lethbridge-Medicine Hat area had the lowest job vacancy rate in the fourth quarter of 2023 at 3.3% compared to 3.8% for Alberta as

a whole (see the first chart below).

The area running along the length of Alberta's western border\*\* had the highest job vacancy rate at 5.0%.

Variation is also evident across industries, pointing to pockets where hiring challenges remain more acute.

At 6.5%, accommodation and food services had the highest job vacancy rate in the fourth quarter (see the second chart below), but it was down from 8.3% two years earlier.

The provincial construction sector, which is trying to keep up with strong demand for new housing, is second on the list at 5.6%—higher than the same quarter in 2021 when it was 5.2%.

Lowest on the list is the utilities sector with

a vacancy rate of just 1.1%.

The easing of the job vacancy rate suggests employers in Alberta are having a relatively easier time finding workers overall, but with some sectors finding this more difficult than others.

At the same time, the aging of the population will continue to put upward pressure on the rate as experienced workers age out of the labour force.

\*The job vacancy rate is the number of job vacancies expressed as a percentage of labour demand; that is, all occupied and vacant jobs.

\*\*This area is known as the Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River region.

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# Sense of Humour



Here's a little humour for you. When spring stepped into the spotlight on Tuesday, March 19, it brought with it a blanketing of snow. After a week or so of beautiful spring-like weather prior, melting much of the area's snow, the fluffy white stuff seemed to be a reminder that it is Alberta after all, and the weather here does what it wants when it wants: spring or not. The maker of this display obviously thought it would be funny to celebrate the spring equinox, using the freshly fallen snow as writing material.

## NEED HELP? CALL ANYTIME! (24-7)

- Mental Health Helpline  
**1-877-303-2642**
- Addiction Helpline  
**1-866-332-2322**
- Health Link **811**

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

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Full Time / Shift Work

**Food Service Supervisor**  
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#### SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS

Please apply in person at the restaurant.



4331-52 Ave Unit 1 | 4216 Elko Drive  
Whitecourt, AB | Whitecourt, AB



## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Human Resources Manager

Reports To: General Manager

### PURPOSE

A structured Human Resources Manager role is critical to the success of the Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza. The primary purpose of the Human Resources Manager is to provide guidance and coaching on all Human Resources matters to our property.

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Support departments in developing and delivering strategic HR plans that fit with the overall business direction
- Plan, monitor, and appraise HR activities by scheduling management conferences, resolving employee grievances, training managers in how to coach and discipline, and counseling employees and supervisors
- Champion the onboarding process by ensuring that it's high-quality and up to date, and provide clarity and connection for employees so their roles serve the overall business vision
- Maintain management guidelines by preparing, updating, and recommending humanresources policies and procedures
- Build strong relationships with external suppliers, fostering trust and promoting collaboration
- Handle confidential matters with discretion
- Lead the recruiting function at the property

### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- A minimum of 8 years of progress human resources experience in a medium to large organization with experience leading teams and assessing human resources services
- A minimum of 2 years in a senior role in and HR department
- An affinity for the service sector is essential
- Demonstrated success in HR systems and HR Policy/Practice
- Experience of negotiation and influencing at senior management levels
- A leadership style that will incite enthusiasm, provide vision, create a positive morale, role model standards of professionalism
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills are necessary to support diverse associate population
- Strong facilitation and interpersonal skills are essential
- Ability and willingness to develop presentation as required
- A track record effective human resources decision-making and an "urgency to execute" attitude is essential for the fast-paced environment



## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Casino Shift Manager NOC 62022

### Responsibilities:

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

### Qualifications:

- Completion of secondary school is usually required.
- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is usually required.
- AGLC casino gaming license will be required.
- Must be able complete Smart training courses
- AML certificate

### Experience:

3 – 5 years.

### Education:

Completion of secondary school is required, casino gaming license.

### Terms of Employment:

Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.

### Language:

English

### Employment Conditions:

Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

### Wage:

\$23.08 per hour.

### Benefits Package:

Vision, Dental, and Health after a 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.



**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@gmail.com](mailto:wctpress@gmail.com).



**Money Matters**

**One Canadian Dollar = 0.73 US Dollar**  
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**Dollar Values as of March 27, 2024**

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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#: 24-020** – Lifeguard and/or Instructor I – Casual Position.

Please visit [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) for all employment opportunities and details on how to apply.



*The Press*

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

**PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**Contact**

**Valerie Winger at 780-706-1858**  
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**Chaos in net after the whistle.**



**Puck in flight.**



**An amazing save by Avakyan.**



**Tibbles took a big hit.**



**A battle in front of the net.**

We're off to the second round, baby! Whitecourt's team, **THE WOLVERINES**, won a massive game on Friday night in game five of their best-of-seven playoff series against the Camrose Kodiaks. After winning the first three games back-to-back-to-back, Camrose managed to win one at home, forcing game five in Whitecourt. Motley opened the scoring in the first, with Blanchet and Venneman adding goals in the second. In the third, goals by Rheaume, Browne and Verbeek exploded the atmosphere in JDA Place as the Wolverines took a 6-0 lead. The Kodiaks did manage to get one goal in, robbing Avakyan of the shutout, but the ultimate prize was punching their ticket to the second round. Go, Wolverines, Go!





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continued from page 2

keep it.” She said Priar Patch also sounds like a garden, which fits perfectly.

“StayK Gardens would have no problem being on board getting it going. I have grow boxes that I build myself, which work extremely well.” James also said she had made some connections in the area to help create the space but needed “solidified ground” before those conversations could move forward. “I talk with the seniors committee quite a bit and am also part of the Blue Ridge League. I’m well versed in who’s available in the community and who wants to help.”

James explained that she had been working with Community Futures Yellowhead East

to create a business plan for the project. Her request to Woodlands County was to gain approval to use the land. She noted that the gardens would be above ground, meaning things could be moved if plans changed. “None of my equipment would be permanent. Everything could be lifted off and gone.”

James said she would build twenty boxes, roughly eight feet by four feet and two and a half feet up. “For the average person, your reach, without causing your back any problems, is two feet,” she explained. James added that she had a trailer and several water totes for using the water station across the road that went to the school previously no longer be available.

The twenty boxes

would be rented out for the growing season for \$40 each, and the funds raised would be reinvested into the garden to help purchase extra fencing, trellises, and fertilizer. Most fencing remains on site from the school, requiring only a connection to each side. James said she would volunteer her time with the project, from fundraising for lumber and supplies to organizing work parties to prep the space and assemble beds.

Committee member Woodlands County Councillor Jeremy Wilhelm said the idea was neat and felt there would be community buy-in. “I think the idea is fantastic. I don’t believe we have any other current projects going into that open space at the moment, and the great thing is that it’s

low impact on that lot regardless,” he said.

“I’m looking to hopefully get some help from Woodlands County,” said James. I would love to partner with you guys to see this through to fruition.” Committee Chair Patricia MacNeill commended James for her involvement in the project and desire to bring new life to the Blue Ridge community. “I’m really interested in the project. That’s where my grandchildren live, so I certainly want to see (the community) thrive.”

Woodlands County Economic Development Officer Bert Roach said the committee would discuss the project further as more information emerged. “I think what’s exciting is that the success of our hamlets is that they exceed

far above their reach for the number of people there because when they have a well-organized event, it’s amazing how many connections and how many people come out. I see this as being the same kind of impetus, and it’s very exciting to have a resident like Amanda come forward and present an idea like this because it is the glue that’s going to hold and build the community together.”

Woodlands County owns the land where the Priar Batch School was located. When asked if there were any other spots in the community that James knew of for a potential project like this, James said no. She added that if the project gets the green light, she will steer it and bring on help from others who want to be involved. “I

really want to do this for the community,” said James. Her vision for the space includes a future greenhouse and a dog park.

In her proposal, James said the project’s objectives included creating a “central gathering point for residents to come together, fostering a stronger sense of community,” and “encouraging social interaction.” She listed that youth could volunteer or participate in educational opportunities, learning essential skills and that seniors could enjoy a therapeutic, recreational space promoting physical activity and mental well-being.

Once more details are discussed at the committee level, the decision to send a recommendation to Woodlands County Council will be made. Stay tuned.

# PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

## WORD SEARCH

A 15x15 word search grid with various words highlighted in orange. The words include: BOARD, GARDEN, STAYK, GARDENS, BLUE RIDGE LEAGUE, COMMUNITY FUTURES, YELLOWHEAD EAST, WOODLANDS COUNTY, JAMES, PATRICIA MACNEILL, JEREMY WILHELM, BERT ROACH, AMANDA, GREENHOUSE, DOG PARK, and others.

## CROSSWORDS

A crossword puzzle grid with some words filled in. The words include: ENEMAS, BODY GUARD, LEVEE, HUMANITIES, CANT, CAB, PENN, KAKI, ACIDS, DONEE, MORASS, SANAA, COCA, ABED, BORE, CABANA, PALATABILITY, AC, ALIT, ZERO, ORATED, EDEN.

## SUDOKU

A 9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9. The grid is as follows:

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



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