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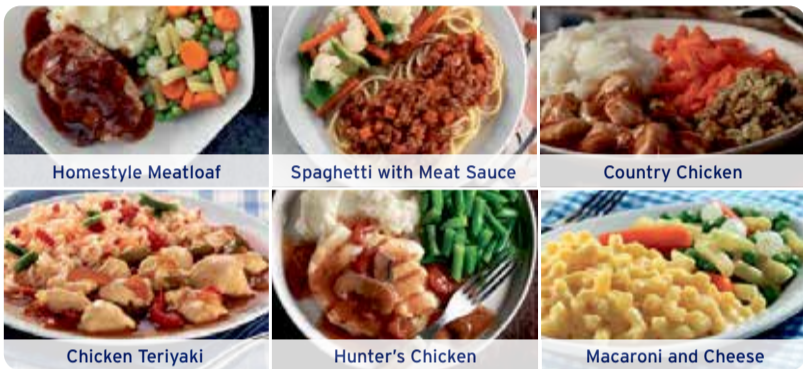
# The Press

Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 13 - Issue 10 | Wednesday, March 20, 2024

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## Bright & Beautiful' quilts wowed the crowd at recent area guild show



The Bright & Beautiful Quilt Show was held earlier this month and featured over 200 quilts from the Pins & Pine Needles Quilt Guild membership. Every piece showed dedication and passion and represented hours of work by its creator. Pictured are Guild president Corey Ralph, left, with some guild members.

By Serena Lapointe

The hall at St. Joseph's Catholic Church was recently decorated with over 200 beautiful quilts, lovingly made by members of the Whitecourt Pins & Pine Needles Quilt Guild. The Bright & Beautiful Quilt Show was a sight to behold, with rows of hung quilts in every colour imaginable. The quilts came in all sizes, from lap quilts to king size and even bigger, all hanging up for full viewing.

Displays showed various styles amongst

guild members, from traditional quilting to newer age styles that break away from the norm. "There's a lot of different stuff. When I first joined the guild, everything was very traditional. If they didn't have a pattern then it didn't get made. We've done classes in improv where you take your rotary cutter and your fabric, chop it and see what comes out. We are putting people outside of their comfort zone. That's a big part of the growth that I've seen in the time

that I've been here, that diversity," said Corey Ralph, guild president.

From a vibrantly colourful staircase quilt to a blue jean creation complete with pockets to festive projects and ones that told stories or recounted weather patterns, the show featured something for everyone. "Since I've started, my skills have gone from rank beginner to decent intermediate. I'm no expert, but I absolutely love the hobby," said Tracy

continued on page 4



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# Playoff action has arrived for the AJHL, and Whitecourt's Wolverines are on a roll



A young Wolverine fan jumping after the go-ahead goal.



Travis Verbeek refused to let the puck go.

Whitecourt's Wolverines proved hard to beat during the regular season, and it hasn't changed so far in the playoffs, much to the delight of their fanbase.

By Serena Lapointe

The Whitecourt Wolverines kicked off the first round of the AJHL Playoffs over the weekend, taking on the Camrose Kodiaks. The Wolverines finished the regular season atop the league with 73 points, seven points ahead of the second-place Lloydminster Bobcats. The Camrose Kodiaks finished the regular season in eighth place with 51 points.

With home-ice advantage in hand, the Wolverines had their home fans behind them for the first two games at JDA Place on Friday and Saturday night. The fun began early on Friday with a Tailgate Party hosted by the billet families. Brothers Diner, the Crown & Anchor, Whitecourt IGA, Candy's Cabs,

Mike & Rebecca's No Frills, Alexander Safety and Kobra Welding sponsored the pregame event.

Fans were asked to dress in black and were given free glow sticks upon entry to the arena. Throughout the game, staff tossed t-shirts into the crowd, gave away tickets, and whipped the home and visitor fans, totalling nearly 700 people, into a frenzy, making things loud inside JDA Place.

From the first few seconds of the first, it was evident that the playoffs had begun as both teams carried extra oomph in their steps and extra power behind their hits. Kaiden Wiltsie began pushing into the Kodiaks early, landing several big hits. Just over halfway in, Wolverine Shayne

Tibbles received a pass from Dylan Leslie, fed by Jarred Feist, which he smashed past the Camrose goalie, giving the Wolverines an early lead.

With two minutes and five seconds left in the period, an awkward shot from the right side of the Wolverines net somehow landed inside, shocking everyone, including the Kodiaks player and Wolverines goalie Lukas Renaud. There was a delayed response across the ice as fans and players alike reacted to the game being tied.

The second period began with a powerplay for the Wolverines after a late penalty call to the Kodiaks at the end of the first. Though they

continued on page 14

## BUDGET 2024

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# IF ALBERTA IS THE RICHEST PROVINCE IN CANADA, THEN WHY ARE WE SPENDING THE LEAST ON EDUCATION?\*

\*We bet you thought the asterisk would lead to some sort of stat that softens this embarrassing statement. Unfortunately, the truth only gets worse. The latest report on "Education Spending in Public Schools in Canada", conducted by the Fraser Institute in 2023, puts into perspective how poorly Alberta stands against the rest of our country. As much as we hate to reference the Fraser Institute, their study shows Alberta spent the least on a per-student basis for public education in all of Canada in 2020/21. To make matters worse, data shows that from 2012 to 2021 provinces like Quebec and BC have rightfully increased spending by 33% and 13%, respectively. Whereas Alberta has had a shameful decrease of 12% in spending over that same time period. When public education does not receive the proper funding, students' needs are not met. Classrooms are overfilled, diverse programs are being cut, and there is less teaching support for students with complex issues. The compounding effects of these issues have seen distraught teachers in our province leave their chosen profession altogether. It's time to right the wrongs. It's time for solutions. Tell your MLA, "Stop the excuses."

[StopTheExcuses.ca](https://www.stoptheexcuses.ca)



The Alberta  
Teachers' Association



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albertanewsprint.com → Careers.

continued from page 1

Van Os, a guild member since 2005. “This guild has allowed me to meet different people and learn. We share our ideas and inspirations and are encouraged to do things we maybe wouldn’t normally do on our own.”

The March 9 showcase featured a vendor mall and refreshment area alongside the vast display of quilts in the main hall. One hundred and eighty-five member quilts were registered. One neat aspect of the guild is that its membership base isn’t just from the Whitecourt area. With technological advancements since the pandemic allowing for Zoom meetings, the guild has grown, welcoming members from as far as Cochrane. “About 25 percent of our members are from the Whitecourt/Mayerthorpe area, and the rest are provincial,” explained Ralph.

There are members from Cochrane, Leduc, Edmonton, Onoway, Sangudo, Westlock, Mayerthorpe, Grande Prairie, and St. Albert, to name a few. “We are all drawn to this guild for the same reasons. It’s a small guild, and we are pretty active in our monthly meetings. It’s very different than being in the big cities where you have 300 people in your guild, and you don’t know everybody,” said Ralph, who lives in Edmonton and has been president for three years after joining in 2016.

Though male quilters are still the minority, the craft has jumped in popularity. In the Whitecourt guild, just over ten percent are men. For Ralph, a chance opportunity to

learn quilting while visiting his mother back home in Newfoundland in 2014, turned into an ever-growing hobby. “We had four elders in our village who were quilters, and they quilted for everyone in our little town of 300 people. One of them was concerned that the art of quilting would be lost. So, they pulled together all of the ladies my mom’s age, twelve of them, and they were divided into groups of four and partnered with one of these elderly women,” explained Ralph.

“So, fast forward, my mom’s doing this project, and I’m home visiting her. She tells me what she’s doing and shows me some of her work. She said, “I’m learning this, but I have no one to teach it to. So, I said, show me. I came home with a pattern in hand and some of the knowledge she shared with me and got addicted to it,” he said. “What’s really neat about our guild is that we have everyone from novice to complete expert. We like to get together and share our ideas, skills and experiences. The mandate of the guild is to create an environment where we support each other, provide educational opportunities, and build camaraderie,” said Ralph.

Another significant aspect of their mandate is charity. Alongside the 185 quilts registered at the show, there were also 70 charity quilts, soon to be lovingly cuddled at one of several charity organizations in the province, including three local ones, Wellspring, Lorne’s Blanket, and the ECHO Society. “The 70 charity quilts speak volumes to the generosity of the



A striking blue design.



An Indigenous quilt with a story to tell.



The vendor mall.

guild,” said Ralph.

They also had quilts on display donated to Quilts of Valour, an organization that gifts quilts to veterans. On March 27, guild members will be gifting quilts to veterans from the Mayerthorpe Legion. In addition, five quilts from the Mayerthorpe 4H group youth were in the show. Ralph said doing outreach with children is a fun way of sharing their love for quilting. Guild members work with the 4H group monthly, holding classes. He added that they would be open to working with other groups.

One of the neatest parts of the show is the community amongst the guild, shown through the member-spon-

sored ribbons pinned to quilts throughout the hall. “Unlike the bigger shows where you have an adjudicator that comes and evaluates the quilts and identifies who the winners are, we like to do the sponsored ribbons. Any member can create a category of whatever they choose, make or donate a ribbon and a small prize, and then they get to pick who gets it.”

There were forty ribbons out amongst the displays. “Those are people supporting each other without it being about missing points, colours being off, or any of that sort of thing. You get that small-town feel with that part of the show,” said Ralph. “It’s pretty spectacular to



This beautiful butterfly quilt was the first place door prize.

see all the quilts up. It’s humbling at the same time because everybody goes into a show with their own experiences, so when we look at someone else’s work, we can get inspired by that. It can give us the energy to go back into the studio and try something different or new.”

Ralph said the guild can have 40 members

at a time, and a couple of open spots remain. He encouraged anyone interested to join their public Facebook group, Whitecourt Pins & Pine Needles Quilt Guild. Van Os said no one should feel intimidated about joining. “We were all beginners once, learning to sew a straight line. We really are a community.”





Coltyn, 4, was a big help.



The Cybulski clan.



Breya, 8, with a large handful of trash.

On Saturday afternoon, Bart Cybulski and his two young children, Breya, 8, and Coltyn, 4, were enjoying the beautiful weather at Festival Park. After playing for a bit, Breya noticed garbage scattered on the grassy area around the playground and bouncy pillow. Winds through the winter had whipped garbage around the park, which got stuck in the snow. With the snow now melting, the trash had become visible. Breya decided she wanted to do something about it and asked her dad if they could pick up the trash. With a bag in hand, the three began collecting garbage, quickly filling it up. "I really wanted to help the environment," said Breya when asked why she wanted to pick up the trash. Bart said they often visit the area. "We love this park and always come here." Big thank you to Bart, Breya and Coltyn for being so awesome!

## PUBLIC HEARING RECESSED UNTIL MARCH 27, 2024

**BYLAW 611/24 – ADOPTING DRAFT WOODLANDS COUNTY MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

PLACE	DATE	TIME
<b>WOODLANDS COUNTY MUNICIPAL OFFICE</b> <b>Council Chambers</b> <b>#1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 692 of the Municipal Government Act the Council of Woodlands County is considering the adoption of Draft Woodlands County Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 611/24 and repealing Bylaw 406/13 Municipal Development Plan. The purpose of Draft Bylaw 611/24 is to update the current MDP document in key areas, a snapshot of the changes are as noted below:

- Streamlined overall layout and organization of topic areas for ease of readability, and updated mapping;
- New categorization of "Agricultural Land" and Future Subdivision potential using Farmland Assessment Values vs Soil Classification;
- Added Objectives and Policies on Reconciliation;
- Added more context around the Environment responding to events, such as wildfire, flooding and development in more hazardous areas;
- Added context around emerging industries and more robust commentary in the Economic Development Section;
- New add – An Implementation Task Summary – outlines identified objectives that require follow up, who is responsible and time frame.

Pursuant to Bylaw 557 Public Hearing Procedures (copy of the bylaw can be found on the County Website) any person wishing to file a written submission shall file that submission a minimum of 6 days prior to the date of the public hearing and will be included in the Council agenda package.

Written submissions shall be received no later than:  
**4:30 p.m. on March 20, 2024.**

Submissions may be mailed or emailed to:  
Woodlands County  
Box 60, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3  
Attention: Planning & Development/MDP Review  
Email: [planning@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:planning@woodlands.ab.ca)

Or interested individuals may attend the public hearing to voice comments or concerns. Comments shall be kept to 5 minutes unless additional time is authorized by the Chair.

If interested parties have questions regarding the draft document those should be addressed prior to the public hearing. Please contact the Planning & Development Department by Telephone: 780-778-8400 or the above Email.

A copy of Bylaw 611/24 Draft Municipal Development Plan may be viewed during regular business hours at the Woodlands County Municipal Offices in Whitecourt at #1 Woodlands Lane or Woodlands County Regional Office in Fort Assiniboine, on Hwy 33 or is available for review on Woodlands County website [www.woodlands.ab.ca](http://www.woodlands.ab.ca) under Home > Services > Planning & Development > MDP Review.

## ADVERTISEMENT PUBLIC SALE OF LAND WOODLANDS COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Woodlands County will offer for sale, by public auction, at the Administration Building, Whitecourt, Alberta, on **Thursday, March 28, 2024**, at 2:00 p.m., the following lands:

Roll #	LINC	Title	Legal Desc
35638	0029654704	172244146	5-12-059-23-SW

Each parcel will be offered for sale, subject to a reserve bid and to the reservations and conditions contained in the existing certificate of title.

The land is being offered for sale on an "as is, where is" basis, and Woodlands County makes no representation and gives no warranty whatsoever as to the adequacy of services, soil conditions, land use districting, building and development conditions, absence or presence of environmental contamination, or the developability of subject land for any intended use by the Purchaser. The Purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.

No bid will be accepted where the bidder attempts to attach conditions precedent to the sale of any parcel. No terms and conditions of sale will be considered other than those specified by Woodlands County.

Woodlands County may, after the public auction, become owner of any parcel of land not sold at the public auction.

Terms: 10% paid by cash or certified cheque due at the time of the auction and that balance of sale proceeds are required to be paid within 10 days after the auction. GST will apply to all properties sold at the public auction. The Purchaser will be responsible for the transfer registration fee.

Redemption may be affected by payment of all arrears of taxes and costs at any time prior to the sale.

Dated at Woodlands County, Alberta, January 31st, 2024.

Andre Bachand, *Acting Chief Administrative Officer*



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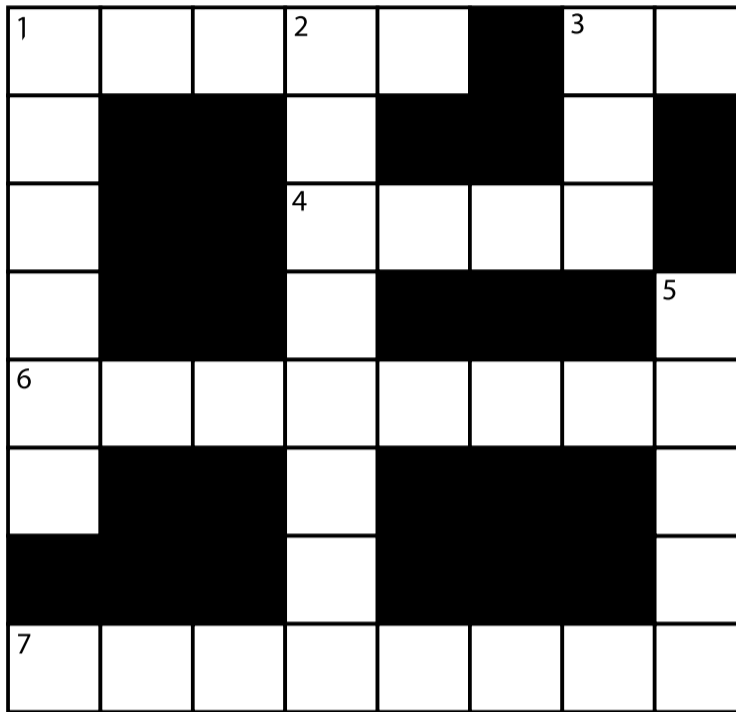




# CANADIAN Kids Corner



## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

- 1. New; not old
- 3. Internet technology (abbr.)
- 4. To seep out
- 6. The first time
- 7. They keep items frozen

### DOWN

- 1. Having turned into ice
- 2. Waste produced by rotten item
- 3. Frozen water
- 5. Units or articles

Answers:  
 Across  
 1. Fresh 3. IT 4. Ooze 6. Earliest 7. Freezers  
 Down  
 1. Frozen 2. Spoilage 3. Ice 5. Items

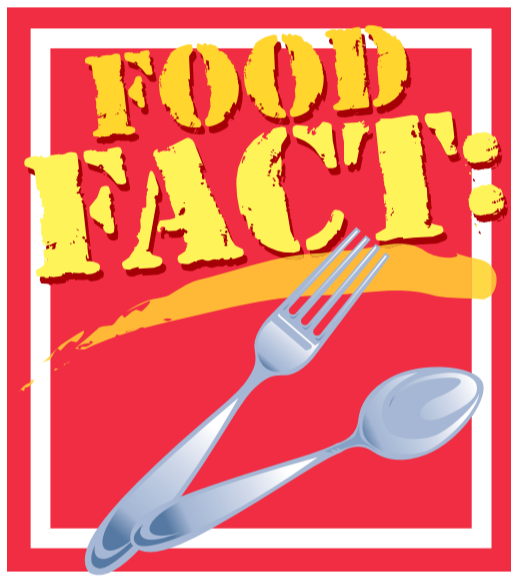
## CANADA



## HISTORY

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THIS PROCESS OF PRESERVING FOOD AT AN EXTREMELY LOW TEMPERATURE WITH COLD, CIRCULATING AIR CAN KEEP IT FRESH LONGER.

ANSWER: FLASH-FREEZING



## PRESERVE

to maintain something in its original state

## How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Cold
- SPANISH:** Frío
- ITALIAN:** Freddo
- FRENCH:** Froid
- GERMAN:** Kalt



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ANSWER: FROZEN TV DINNER



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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**

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- Wednesdays 7:30pm

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.

ZOOM ID: **818 413 483** PASSWORD: **gratitude**

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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

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**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  
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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

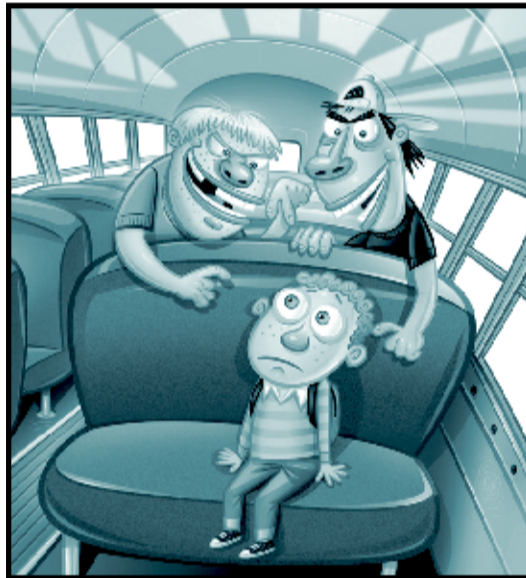


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.  
Let that sink in.



**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**



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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# Woodlands County Council recap

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

Mike Braun, Vice-President of the Whitecourt Mountain Bike Association, provided an update on their current programming and future plans. The Association formed in 2015 and began trail development within the Town of Whitecourt the following year. Since then, the association has developed trails and facilities according to their development plans. The Association is applying for a

Community Facility Enhancement Program grant to fund the completion of their developments. Woodlands County will provide a letter of support for their grant application.

Troy Birtles, Kris Meadows, and Sean Barrett with Accurate Assessment Group (AAG) presented to Council a summary of the residential and non-residential assessment in Woodlands County. AAG compared the 2023 assessment with the prior year which showed an increase of 5% overall in assessment value.

As per the Intermunicipal Collaboration Agreement, industry partners in Woodlands County may enter into a separate third-party mutual aid agreement with the Town of Whitecourt for the usage of Whitecourt Fire Aerial Pumper (Tower 1). Woodlands County is requesting a Joint Liaison meeting with the Town of Whitecourt to discuss industrial fire-fighting and equipment used. A discussion on County fire service levels and mutual aid will be brought to a future Governance and Priorities meeting.

At the 2024 Budget Open House, residents that live along cold mix roads were asked how much they would pay annually for a 7-year period for cold mix maintenance along their property. Woodlands County received 15 responses with seven respondents indicating \$5 - \$200 was reasonable, four indicated

\$200-\$400, three indicated \$0 - \$5, and one indicated \$1,200. A majority of respondents indicated each road should be examined individually to determine the fairest method of implementing a Lo-

cal Improvement Tax. Further information on cold mix roads and the local improvement tax will be presented at an upcoming Governance and Priorities meeting.

Access Bridgeworks Inc. was awarded the 2024 Bridge Maintenance project for a value of \$320,048. The bridge is located at Doris Creek, approx. 3km south of Timeu, and work includes partial deck repair, crack repairs, milling, pavement, abutment modifications, concrete surface finish and sealing.

The regular Council meeting on May 22,

2024, is cancelled as Council is attending a Council & Management Refresher Workshop.

## Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Governance and Priorities – Wednesday, March 20, 5:00 pm
- Regular Council – Wednesday, March 27, 9:30 am

Meetings are held in-person at the Municipal Office in Whitecourt and streamed on the Woodlands County YouTube channel. Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County CivicWeb Portal.

## 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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by PETER MARINACCI

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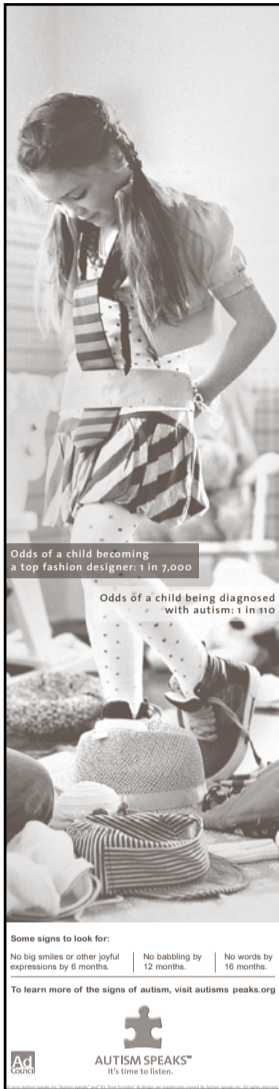




# Blanket Classified Ads

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.

Visit [www.whitecourtpress.com](http://www.whitecourtpress.com)



**For Sale**

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

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BLANKET THE PROVINCE with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach almost 80 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903 Ext 225; www.awna.com.

**Coming Events**

**FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2024 AUCTION PROGRAM:** Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, Email Us at sales@

switzersauction.com or Visit Us @ www.switzer-sauction.com.

**Employment Opportunities**

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 \$799 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.

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commercial printing/community publications. Selling due to retirement. No building; equipment, inventory, printing/advertising accounts involving large/medium businesses/organizations. Seriously interested? Inquiries: classifieds@awna.com.

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**A look at the local weather**

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



**Wed., March 20**  
Light snow  
70%  
-6°C  
-10°C  
E 20 km/h  
~5cm



**Thu., March 21**  
Light snow  
70%  
-6°C  
-11°C  
E 13 km/h  
1-3cm



**Fri., March 22**  
Scattered flurries  
40%  
-6°C  
-12°C  
E 12 km/h  
~1cm



**Sat., March 23**  
Scattered flurries  
60%  
-6°C  
-12°C  
E 16 km/h  
1-3cm



**Sun., March 24**  
Mainly cloudy  
40%  
-3°C  
-12°C  
E 10 km/h  
-



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\*\*OAC \*\*Some conditions apply

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



All girls' team.



The team's first practice against Coach Anderson's U9 team.



Pink power on the bench.

Photos Submitted

*The first-ever all-female Edson U9 Rouge Tournament is on March 23-24. Eight female players (U9/U11) from Whitecourt Minor Hockey (WMH) and three from Fox Creek make up Whitecourt's team. The team's head coach is Teagen Halbert, a Whitecourt U18 student coach who plays for the Morinville Phillies. It's Halbert's first time with coaching duties. Jennifer Brown, who brought together the players for the team, said the girls recently practiced (pictured) and did a great job. "The girls were all pumped. Most met for the first time. We are so happy to have the Fox Creek girls join the squad to fill a team and make this happen." Brown said Jason Harper from Flint hooked the girls up with new jerseys and socks. "It made them all feel like they were a part of something special." One of the players, Quinn Wardley (U11), is playing in net for the first time, and Brown said she did a fantastic job. The girls played against WMH Coach Brandon Anderson's U9 team for their first practice as a newly formed team. "He is wonderful for helping put the scrimmage together to help the girls prepare," said Brown. Best of luck with the upcoming tournament, girls!*



## Whitecourt Town Council updates

National Volunteer Week begins April 14, and Whitecourt has a variety of initiatives planned to recognize local volunteers.

- Nominations will be accepted until April 8 for Whitecourt's Volunteer Awards Program that includes five different award categories. For full details on how you can nominate a local volunteer, visit the Whitecourt website.

- As a way of saying thank you to community volunteers, the You've "Bean" Great event is returning April 16 from 7-10am at both Whitecourt Tim Hortons locations. Volunteers can stop in to either Tim Hortons location to be rewarded with a free, large hot beverage.

- A Lunch and Learn event focused on volunteer recruitment and retention

will be held on April 18. Details on how to register can be found on the Whitecourt website.

Follow the Whitecourt Facebook page for further updates on National Volunteer Week event details.

Whitecourt has allocated \$3,500 in funding through the Sports Hosting Program to Whitecourt Minor Hockey to host the U18AA Provincial Championship event from March 29 to April 2, 2024. The Program provides support to community organizations hosting sporting

events in the community, which in turn has a positive impact on the local economy.

Whitecourt has proclaimed June 15, 2024 as Lemonade Day. Community Futures Yellowhead East is hosting the 2024 Lemonade Day event that teaches youth how to start own and operate their own business – a lemonade stand. Registration to the program is open until May 15, and further information can be found online at <https://lemonadeday.org/north-ern-alberta>.

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

Mental Health Helpline  
1-877-303-2642

- Addiction Helpline  
1-866-332-2322

- Health Link 811

## HELP WANTED

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

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Full Time / Shift Work

**Food Service Supervisor**  
Full Time / Shift Work

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**Got a news tip?**

Call Valerie Winger at 780.706.1858  
or email [wctpress@gmail.com](mailto:wctpress@gmail.com)

The Press



## 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](http://www.eaglerivercasino.ca)

### How to Apply:

Send resume to [HR@eaglerivercasino.ca](mailto: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 = 0.74 US Dollar**  
at an exchange rate of **0.7414** (using nominal rate).



**Dollar Values as of March 20, 2024**

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

[www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) | [facebook.com/TownofWhitecourt](https://facebook.com/TownofWhitecourt) | 780-778-2273

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#: 24-019** – Recreation Coordinator – Permanent, Full-Time Position.

**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

*The Press*

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

**PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**Contact**

**Valerie Winger at 780-706-1858**

**Email: [wctpress@telus.net](mailto:wctpress@telus.net)**



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**Loud cheers and celebrations from happy fans.**

continued from page 2

tried hard, and the shot clock showed it, the Wolverines couldn't get one in the net. At the halfway mark, Kyle Venneman scored an unassisted beauty to give his team back the lead, 2-1.

Aside from a pair of penalties, one to each team, following a scuffle after a whistle, there were no other goals or penalties in the period. Nearing the end of the second, the Wolverines had nearly doubled the Kodiak's shots on goal count, 29-16. The Wolverines were a hungry bunch. Big hits, hot potato passes, strong back-checks and a fierce defense had the home fans buzzing for their team.

In the third period, things got stressful. The Wolverines had chance after chance for the first eight and a half minutes but couldn't get one in. Fans wanted a cushion on the scoreboard. Being only one goal away from another tie had people on edge. Renaud was stellar in the net, making massive saves to keep his team in the lead.

At 8:42, workhorse

Colby Browne scored, thanks to an awesome set-up from his teammates Kaiden Wiltsie and Kyle Venneman. But the two-goal cushion the Wolverines had created did not last long, as just three minutes later, the Kodiaks clawed back, making it a one-goal game again. Fans were fully invested at this point, cheering their team on and encouraging them to play harder than ever.

With two minutes left, the Kodiaks pulled their goalie, and the collective temperature in the arena increased as fans from both teams desperately wanted the win. The Wolverines fought to get the puck into the empty net while the Kodiaks pushed forward, wanting to tie things up again. As the final whistle blew, the Wolverines fans had gotten their wish. The sound in the arena was deafening as the Wolverines players raised their sticks high, thanking fans for their dedication. Whitecourt's team had put on quite a show. The final score was 3-2. The Wolverines had taken game one.



**Colby Browne lining up a shot.**



**Sticks up after a great win.**



**A scramble behind the net and Dylan Leslie's got the puck!**

Game two came the following night, still at home, this time in front of 580 fans. After being handed a loss the night before, the Camrose Kodiaks came out firing, scoring less than five minutes in. The first period had no penalties to speak of and just the lone goal. In the second period, the Wolverines responded early, with Braden Keeble scoring three and a half minutes in, tying things up.

With less than five minutes left, Camrose scored again, regaining their one-goal lead. Just as the period before, the second ended with the visitors sitting in the driver's seat. In the third period, Travis Verbeek got things squared away, tying the game with a powerplay marker. But it would take overtime to crown a champ. Jarred Feist, with assists from Dylan Leslie and Nathaniel Bannister, solidified the win for the Wolverines, giving them a two-game series lead. The following two games will be in Camrose on March 19 and 20. Games five and six, if needed, will

be in Whitecourt on Friday, March 22, and in Camrose on Sunday, March 24.

In other news, Joey Melo recently won Rookie of the Year for leading the league in rookie goals (22) and being second in the standings for points (43). He also set the Whitecourt Wolverines' rookie goal record this season. Head Coach Shawn Martin won his second straight AJHL Coach of the Year title. He is the Wolverines' all-time winningest coach after a great season and the Wolverines' first-ever first-place finish.

Ben Charette also received an AJHL award. He was crowned the 2023/2024 Top Goaltender, leading the league in goals against average (2.40) and save percentage (.925). His record to end the regular season was 20-9-5, including four shut-outs. Last but not least, Travis Verbeek netted seventeen points in only seven games last month, landing him the Canadian Junior Hockey League's 1st Star of the Month title. That's a Canada-wide award!



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MARCH IS  
POISON PREVENTION  
AWARENESS MONTH

It's Poison Prevention Week (March 17-23), and Alberta Health Services (AHS) is reminding Albertans to keep kids safe and prevent medication poisonings.

Children are curious about the world around them. If medications are within their reach, children may play with the bottle or try to taste colourful or flavoured medications. Their curiosity, smaller size and lower body weight can put them at higher risk for poisoning.

Last year, more than one in three calls to Alberta's Poison Centre were regarding children zero to five years of age. Many of these calls involved acetaminophen and ibuprofen. While these medicines are safe when used as recommended for treating common aches, pains and fevers, they can be harmful if taken incorrectly.

There are things you can do as a parent or caregiver to help keep children safe:

**When giving medication:**

- Give only the amount indicated on the prescription label, or for non-prescription medication, on the

medicine's outer label.

- Follow the schedule for your children's medication to give them the right amount of medication at the right time.
  - Do not use more than one medicine containing acetaminophen or ibuprofen at the same time.
  - Talk to your child's healthcare provider for additional questions about medication dosing.
- When storing medication:**
- Keep all medications locked up tight, out of sight and reach of children.
  - Always put the medicine away after using it.
  - Visitors may carry medications with them. Keep their coats and bags out of reach of children.
  - Keep medications in their original child-resistant containers.

Other household items — such as laundry detergent pods, essential oils, hand sanitizers and toothpaste — can also be poisonous if ingested or used incorrectly. Store can-

nabis products, e-cigarettes, tobacco products and vitamins with the same precautions as medications.

**If you are concerned that someone has been poisoned:**

- Call 911 or PADIS at 1-800-332-1414.
- Visit Poison and Drug Information for more information.

Parachute's Poison Prevention Week is an annual initiative recognized by the University of Alberta's Injury Prevention Centre, Poison and Drug Information Centre (PADIS), and various community partners.

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 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response times, increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow.



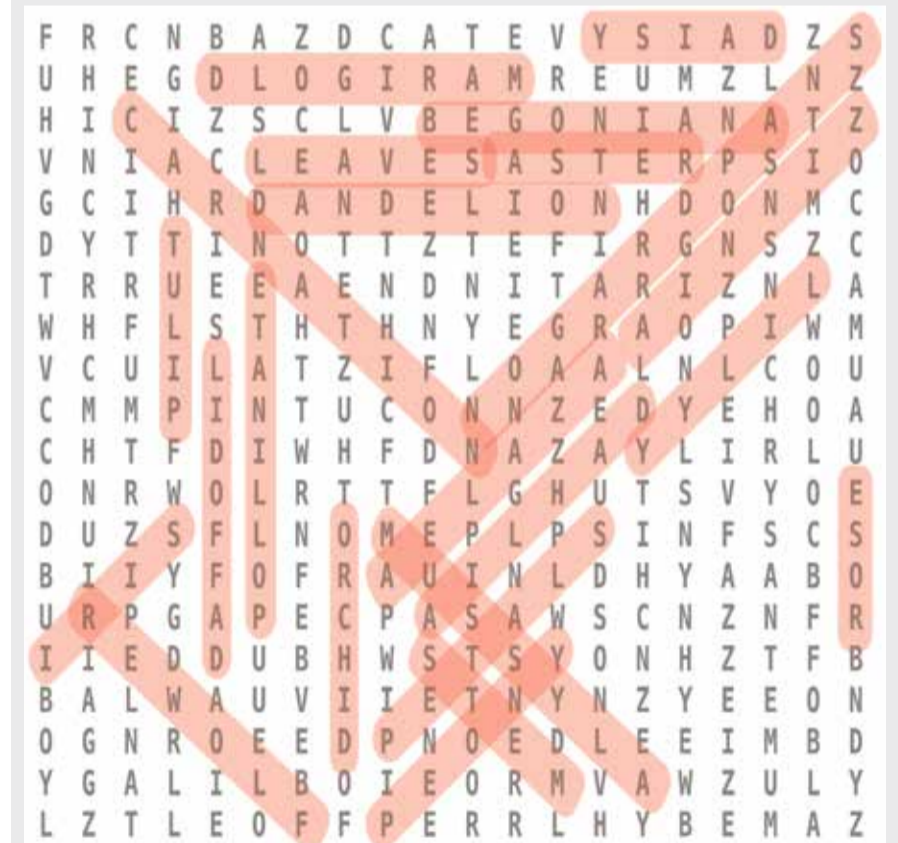
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8	7	9	4	6	1	2	5	3
2	4	1	5	3	7	9	6	8
4	9	5	2	7	6	3	8	1
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6	8	7	3	1	5	4	9	2



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*The Press*

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