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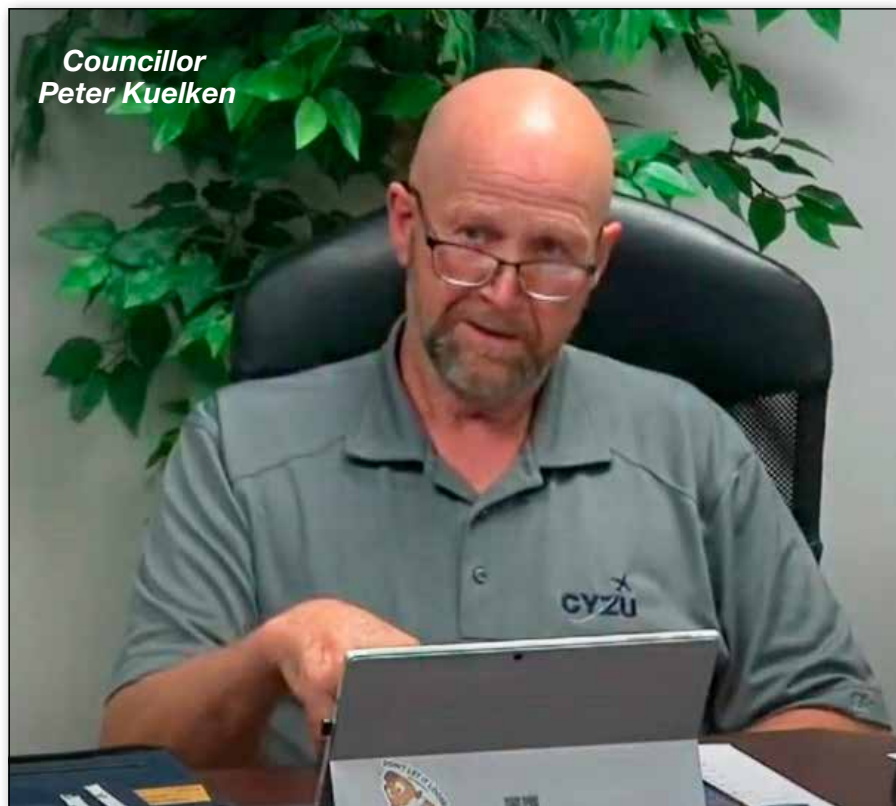
The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 13 - Issue 38 | Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Concerns with the Police Funding Model created chatter at Woodlands County Council desks



Councillor Peter Kuelken



Councillor John Burrows

A survey from Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) on the Police Funding Model stirred up conversation at a recent Woodlands County Council meeting. The elected officials discussed how best to respond to it. See story page 5.



Councillor Alan Deane



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LAND USE BYLAW

HIGHLIGHTS

Woodlands County is exploring updates to its Land Use Bylaw. Woodlands County residents and business owners are encouraged to attend public information sessions. These meetings provide an opportunity for County residents to review and provide feedback on the proposed new/revised sections of the bylaw. For those who were unable to attend the sessions in June, the information is available on the County website <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/lub-update>

Feedback Survey:

An online survey will be available the week of September 23 for residents to provide feedback on the proposed land use bylaw. A link to the survey will be available on the Woodlands County website <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/lub-update> The survey closes October 18.

Scan the QR code for more information about the land use bylaw update



INFORMATION SESSIONS

Tuesday, October 8, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Fort Legion (Memorial) Hall
32 State Ave, Fort Assiniboine

Wednesday, October 9, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Woodlands County Council Chambers
1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt

Thursday, October 10, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Anselmo Hall
AB-647, Woodlands County

Why Attend an Information Session?

- The session will provide residents with an opportunity to review and give feedback on proposed new/revised bylaw sections.
- Residents have an opportunity to discuss any concerns with staff.
- Access the online survey to submit your feedback on the available sections.



Details and additional information will be provided at the Land Use Bylaw Public Information Session and on the website noted below for those unable to attend.

More online: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/lub-update>

Email: planning@woodlands.ab.ca

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MEMBERS AT LARGE REQUIRED

BECOME INVOLVED IN THE DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY!

Woodlands County is seeking applications and letters of interest from residents to serve as members on the municipality's Council Committees.

Learn more about each committee and apply online at woodlands.civicweb.net or submit letters of interest and/or resume and experience to either of our municipal offices.

- Agriculture Services Board - 2 vacancies
Economic Development Committee - 2 vacancies
Municipal Planning Commission - 1 vacancy
Community Services Committee - 2 vacancies
Community Services Committee - 1 adult and 1 youth vacancy (1-year term)
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board - 3 vacancies
Pride Valley Aggregate Oversight Steering Committee - 1 vacancy (3-year term)
Woodlands County Library Board - 1 vacancy (3-year term)

Application Deadline: Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 4:30pm

Submit Applications to:

Email: communications@woodlands.ab.ca

In-Person: Woodlands County Municipal Office, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB Regional Municipal Office, 61053A Highway 33, Fort Assiniboine, AB

Positions are held for a two-year period from November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2026, (unless otherwise stated).



DAVE KUSCH
Councillor for Area 1a



JOHN BURROWS
Councillor for Whitecourt West



ALAN DEANE
Councillor for Whitecourt Central



JEREMY WILHELM
Councillor for Whitecourt East



BRUCE PRESTIDGE
Councillor for Blue Ridge



PETER KUELKEN
Councillor for Goose Lake



DEVIN WILLIAMS
Councillor for Fort Assiniboine



World Teachers' Day, October 5th

You could win a cash prize, and your teacher could win a grand prize!



Which teacher had the greatest impact on you?

The Alberta Teachers' Association wants to know, which teacher had the greatest impact on you? In celebration of World Teachers' Day on October 5th, let's acknowledge those amazing educators. Share your story and you could win a cash prize, and your teacher could walk away with a grand prize!



The Alberta Teachers' Association

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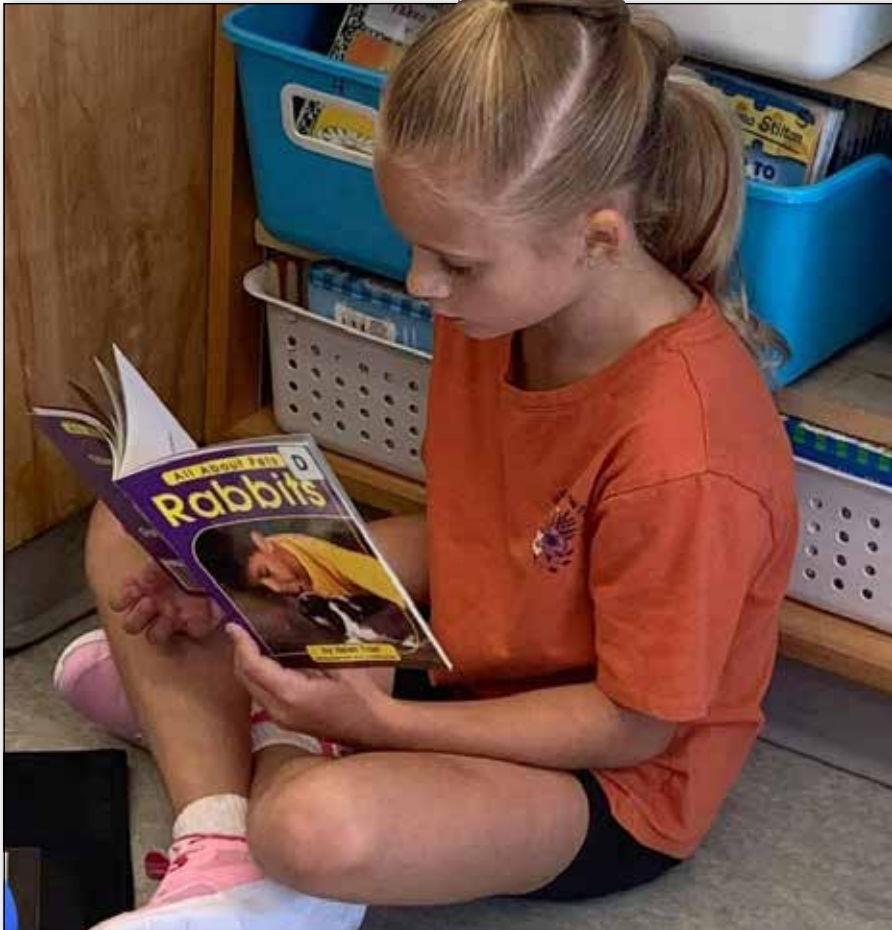
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Grade two students at Pat Hardy Primary School picked out "good fit books" and learned that not every book was right for them. They also explored reading in different spots around the classroom to discover where they preferred to read.

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Whitecourt Town Council updates

Whitecourt will be applying to the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) for funding to update Whitecourt's Wildfire Mitigation Strategy.

The Fire Training Grounds, located at the Whitecourt Public Works Shop, will be officially renamed the Bruce Parrent Fire Training Grounds at a ceremony on October 1. Bruce Parrent served as Fire Chief of the Whitecourt Fire Department from 1992 to 2010.

Whitecourt Town Council will be meeting with the RCMP Commanding Officer of "K" Division to discuss partnership op-

portunities later this month.

A delegation of ten students and two adults from Whitecourt's Twin Town of Yubetsu, Japan will be visiting Whitecourt from September 24 to October 3. Residents from our community will be hosting all of the guests in their homes, and there are a variety of activities and events planned as part of their visit.

Whitecourt, in partnership with a variety of local stakeholders, will be hosting the 10th annual Career & Education Expo on September 26, 2024. Details on the event can be found on our website at www.whitecourt.ca/

business/expo2024. 2024 Small Business Week, October 20-26, pays tribute to the contributions that small and medium-sized business make to the Canadian economy. Whitecourt, in partnership with community stakeholders, will be hosting a variety of events to celebrate the week. Watch the @WhitecourtEcDev Facebook page for details.

Street closures in the downtown core have been approved on October 26, 2024 for the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce's Trunk or Treat event. Reminders of the road closures will be posted closer to the event date; and information on the event can be found on the Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page.

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Concerns with the Police Funding Model created chatter at Woodlands County Council desks

By Serena Lapointe

During a recent Woodlands County meeting, the Council discussed a survey request from Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) on the rural impact of the Police Funding Model (PFM). The goal is to collect feedback from rural municipalities before the five-year Police Funding Model expires next year.

The Alberta Government instated the Police Funding Regulation on April 1, 2020, and two initiatives came from it, one of them being the Police Funding Model. The PFM takes the cost of frontline officers and redistributes some of the cost to municipalities serviced by the Provincial Police Service, the RCMP.

The total share by municipalities started at ten percent in 2020 and slowly rose to 30 percent this year. The current model expires next year. RMA intends to advocate for its municipalities before the province signs a new one. The survey focused on four main areas: rural municipal experiences with the PFM, perceptions of community safety, service levels at local detachments and the effect on local budgets.

Paul Benedetto, Interim CAO for Woodlands County, explained that it was a significant issue, given what it would impact. "When the province introduced the police funding model, our costs for RCMP were around \$165,000, and this year, we just got the bill, and it's \$478,000. There's been some offset because there is less contribution to the policing under the Town of Whitecourt, but obviously, this is a significant expenditure."

Councillor John Burrows, who is on the RMA board, said that one of the "weaknesses" under the current system was a funding anomaly where municipalities pay for something they may not get. He said that if a detachment's allotment of members is 21, they would pay for that even if they were understaffed. "If they are temporarily down (by) two, permanently down (by) three and looking for one, (you are) still paying the exact same amount, and there is no accounting for any of those positions that are either temporarily not filled or permanently not filled or anything."

He said there was no way to report on vacancies and only pay

for active members. "We get a bill whether the positions are filled or not. It doesn't seem like it's a good system that way. I don't have a problem paying for services that you get, but services that you don't, I don't know why you would have to pay for them," continued Burrows.

Questions on the survey included the municipal perspective on the intent of the PFM, the top municipality's reaction to the model. Councillor Deane said he thought some questions were missing. "I want good service at a reasonable price, and nowhere in this survey is that question being addressed. That's probably the biggest one because we've been told consistently that our detachments haven't been at capacity. It wasn't until two years ago that I realized we were paying for it." Councillor Kuelken said it was happening across the County. "We have police representation on the east side and the west side with different divisions, and both of those divisions haven't been staffed." He said a recent incident highlighted the issue. "It was called in as an attempted theft and

vehicular assault, and they couldn't respond because they didn't have anybody in the office.

So, what are we paying for?" He did not clarify where in Woodlands County the call occurred.

Councillor Deane then pointed to question ten, which asked municipalities how they had responded to increased costs. "We knew these costs were increasing, but we've only got one mechanism, and that's to increase property tax. So, our residents need to hear that." Councillor Kuelken added that another option was to reduce the services provided. "I don't think that's what they want to hear. Those are the only things."

Another question that drummed up chatter focused on communication regarding increased costs to residents. "How do we get the information out around cost increases on the police funding model or the police service level? We get quarterly updates from the Staff Sergeants with their reports and where they are at, but as far as information regarding the cost of it to residents, we don't even get to see the conversa-

tion on how those costs come out. It's based on an assessment from the province and just delivered to us. It's another requisition," said Reeve Kusch. Councillor Deane agreed. "It's very similar to the Alberta School Requisition. We are given a bill, and we have to pay it. I don't think most residents are aware of that."

Councillor Kuelken brought the conversation back to the issue concerning paying for a service that isn't provided. "The difficulty is how do you tell your residents that, ya, we're paying for policing, and you don't even have the ability to say what the service level is. I don't know how you put that into the survey."

Councillor Deane

agreed. He asked if RMA had worked with the province or the RCMP to understand why the system worked that way. Councillor Burrows said RMA had been asking the same questions.

Burrows pointed out that the issue is not at the feet of the RCMP. "I don't want the RCMP thinking this is on them. For the most part, we've had really good relationships with the RCMP."

We've had great service from the RCMP, and they've been a fantastic police force. I want to put that out there so people understand." Woodlands County staff will carve a response based on the discussion and allow the Council to see it before sending it to RMA.

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

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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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre
www.whitecourtshester.ca



GRIEF SHARE

Support group on Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:30 pm, starting September 17, 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

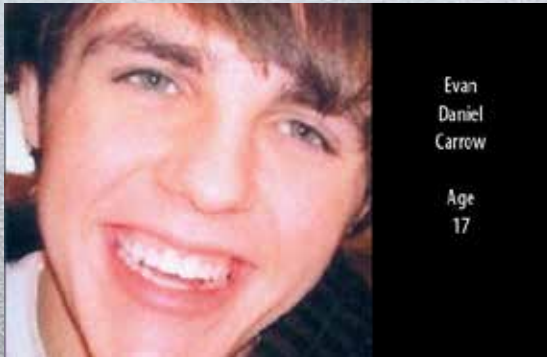
New Women's AA Group on Saturdays @11 am

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**



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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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Alberta Health Services – Public Service Announcement

Know warning signs of potential suicidal thoughts, plans

September 10 was World Suicide Prevention Day, and Alberta Health Services (AHS) reminds Albertans that recognizing the risk factors and potential signs of suicidal thoughts is important and can be helpful in preventing death by suicide.

In adults, warning signs of potential suicidal thoughts or plans include:

- Talking or writing about wanting to die or to hurt or kill themselves or someone else.
- Saying they feel hopeless, trapped, without purpose, in pain, or like they're a burden to others.
- Looking for ways to

harm themselves. For example, they might buy a gun or stockpile medicines.

- Increasing their use of alcohol or drugs.
- Withdrawing from family, friends and activities.
- Seeming angry, grumpy, anxious or depressed.
- Eating or sleeping less or more than usual.
- Doing risky things, such as driving too fast.
- Giving away their belongings.

People can also be more at risk of suicide when they experience barriers accessing social and health services, mental illness, traumatic life events, family violence, discrimination or have a diagnosis of a serious physical illness.

Talking about suicide is one of the most effective means of reducing stigma and supporting those in need.

Albertans are encouraged to use the REACH Pathway to help remember what you can do to support someone who is struggling:

- Recognize when someone is struggling.
- Engage in conversation and listen with empathy.
- Ask directly about suicidal thoughts and feelings.
- Connect to support and resources.
- Heal yourself by taking care of your own mental health.

Together, we can help prevent suicide by showing understanding and compassion and by encouraging people

experiencing mental health challenges to reach out for support.

If you or somebody you know is struggling, there are resources to help:

- Mental Health Helpline: 1-877-303-2642
- 9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Helpline
- Kids Help Phone: Visit: kidshelpphone.ca or call 1-800-668-6868
- Indigenous Hope for Wellness Hotline Call: 1-855-242-3310
- Canada Suicide Prevention Service: call 1-833-456-4566, visit crisisservicescanada.ca, or text 45645
- National Trans Lifeline: Visit translifeline.org or call 1-877-330-6366
- Learn more at MyHealth.Alberta.ca

- Health Link 811

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Our mission is to provide a

patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans. Our current focus is on reducing emergency department wait times, improving EMS response times, increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow.

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PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15



SUDOKU

5			9	2				
6								4
				3				
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			8		5			9
9				4		7		
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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			
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Here's How It Works:

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

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

1. Engine additive
4. A type of test
8. Curtail
10. Irish surname
11. The opposite of good
12. Got rid of
13. Central parts of a church building
15. Stylistically
16. Intestinal
17. Negative potential outcomes
18. Lived up to a standard
21. Snag
22. Time units (abbr.)
23. Ad _

CLUES DOWN

1. Idyllic
2. South Pacific island nations
3. Shrub of the olive family
4. Boundaries
5. Encircle
6. Weights
7. Samberg is one
9. Sheep sound
10. European country
12. Respected group of people
14. Trigraph
15. Prosecutors
17. Assign a nickname
19. Huge size
20. Partner to cheese
24. "Partridge" actress Susan
25. For each
26. _ Paulo, city
27. League titles
34. More intensely black
35. Slang for lovely
36. Petrarch is known for them
37. Old Eurasian wheat
38. Body part
39. Swedish rock group
40. They're worth avoiding
41. Rising and falling of the voice

23. Fastballs
24. Principle underlying the universe
25. Distinct units of sound
26. Title of respect
27. Against
28. Foot (Latin)
29. One point east of due south
30. Concerning the blood
31. Type of pentameter
32. North American peoples
33. Layers of rock
34. Georges _, French philosopher
36. Lengthy tale

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries, you are quick to spend money lately, and that can prove problematic in the long run. It may be a good idea to sit down with a financial planner and sort out spending habits.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, this week you have free rein to follow your intuition and express your emotions to those around you. It's beneficial to get in touch with how you are feeling and explore things further.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



There is some unfinished business you need to clear up before you can fully focus on the week or even month ahead, Gemini. It may be scary, but you need to put it behind you.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Cancer, it is time to rally the troops, as many hands will make much faster work of something you need to get done. Ask your friends or family to pitch in as much as possible.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Leo, you're finally ready to take a sizeable step toward completing a goal that has been on your list for what seems like an eternity. It will feel so great when it is far behind you.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Do you have an appetite for adventure this week, Virgo? You may not have to travel too far for all of the thrills and chills you desire. Look around for options close to home.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



You may not be feeling like yourself, Libra. There's something rumbling beneath the surface that you don't want to share with others just yet. There's time to be patient.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, as you move through the week, a certain relationship could begin weighing heavily on you. You're not sure if you should commit further or move on.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Sagittarius, you're not just ready to hit the ground running, you have the stamina to sail through at a rocket's pace. This renewed sense of urgency can help.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Capricorn, the week may start off on a good note with plenty of entertaining distractions. Keep the fun going throughout the week.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Your attention span is limited this week, Aquarius. You may need to work from home or block out as many distractions as possible if you hope to get a single thing finished.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Make a point of delegating if your to-do list gets a little long over the next few days, Pisces. Your phone will be pinging constantly with alerts, so a little help can go a long way.

ENJOY YOGA WORD SEARCH



B I I O E O H M D N G E C E R Y A B G T
 K D P E M M R N G N K N B D D M G M Y H
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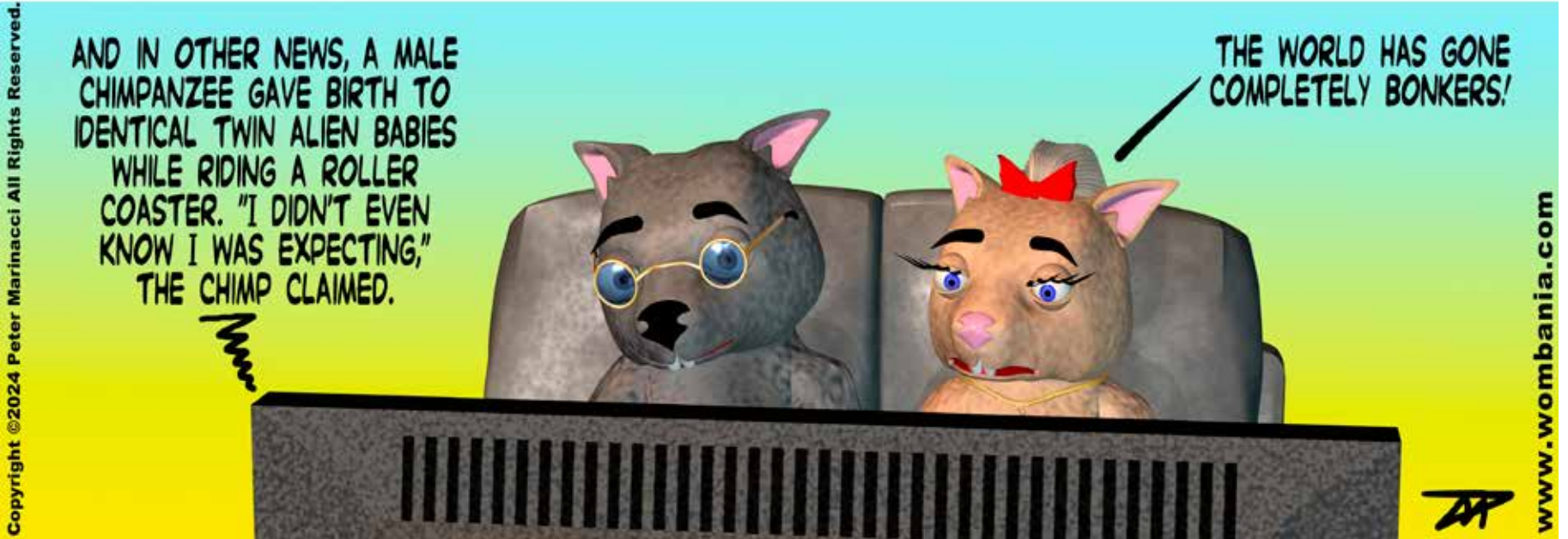
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- | | | | | | |
|--------|------------|--------------|---------|---------|----------|
| ASANA | BREATH | CORE | MANTRA | POSE | STRENGTH |
| BANDHA | CENTER | ENERGY | MIND | POSTURE | STRETCH |
| BODY | CHAKRA | FUNDAMENTALS | MUDRA | PRANA | STYLE |
| | CHATURANGA | HATHA | NAMASTE | SACRUM | UJJAYI |
| | | | | | YOGA |

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WHITECOURT LAUNCHES 2025 BUDGET CONSULTATION

Let us know where you would like to see your tax dollars invested for the 2025 budget.

Town Council encourages you to share your thoughts on projects and plans at the 2025 Budget Public Input Session. The session is scheduled during the Regular Meeting of Council at 4:00 p.m.

Monday, September 23 at 4:00 p.m.
 Forest Interpretive Centre – Council Chambers
 3002 – 33 Street, Whitecourt

Community members that are unable to attend the Public Input session are encouraged

to submit comments. Complete the online form on our website, call the Office, or submit an email to the following address by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, September 18:

Town of Whitecourt
 Box 509, 5004 52 Avenue
 Whitecourt AB T7S 1N6
 780-778-2273 ext. 227
administration@whitecourt.ca

All comments received regarding the 2025 Budget will be considered by Council during budget deliberations.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Current opportunities are posted on the Town's website and when required, opportunities are posted on purchasingconnection.ca. Currently, Whitecourt has the following opportunity:

- 2024-09-04: **Transportation Master Plan.** Closes: September 30, 2024 at 4:00PM MST.
- 2024-09-05: **Allan & Jean Millar Centre Vending Machine Provision and Operation.** Closes: October 4, 2024 at 12:00PM MST.

For further details on this opportunity, visit www.whitecourt.ca and search the project title.

NATIONAL COACHES APPRECIATION WEEK

SEPTEMBER 16 – 22, 2024

Whitecourt Town Council encourages the citizens of Whitecourt to recognize September 16 – 22, 2024 as National Coaches Appreciation Week. Coaches provide a positive impact to athletes throughout our community and residents are encouraged to thank the coach that has helped them in life or to perform at their best. Sport is the biggest volunteer segment in Canada and those volunteers are a crucial part of building a healthy, active, community.

#thankcoachWCT

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Subdivision W14-317: NW ¼ 36-59-12W5 – Request for 2 Year Extension – 25 Lots at Wellwood Drive – Approved with Conditions.

Date of Decision: September 12, 2024 **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** September 27, 2024

Application 24-077: Corner of 42 Street and 42 Avenue – Discretionary Use – Bulk Fuel Service – Approved with Conditions.

Application 24-080: 3801 35 Street – Discretionary Use – Equipment, Sales, Rental and Repair, Heavy – Approved with Conditions.

Application 24-081: 129 Mink Creek Road – Discretionary Use – Home Occupation, Day Care – Approved with Conditions.

Date of Decisions: September 12, 2024 **Appeals Close at 4:00pm:** October 3, 2024

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



CANADIAN Kids Corner



Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



CANADA

MONTH



HISTORY

1839

The Albion Mines Railway opens in Nova Scotia. It is an early Canadian steam-driven mining railway.

Pet FACT:



This device is placed around a dog's body instead of just the neck, which can make walking more comfortable.

Answer: Harness

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

EWONR

Grid for unscrambling EWONR: 5 empty boxes

1

TEP

Grid for unscrambling TEP: 3 empty boxes

DPTOA

Grid for unscrambling DPTOA: 5 empty boxes

3 4

CAER

Grid for unscrambling CAER: 4 empty boxes

2

Word puzzle grid: I L V MY G

1

2

3 4

Answer: I Love My Dog

NEW WORD

HEEL

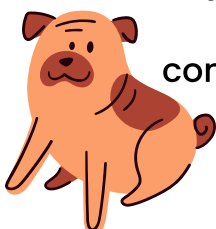
a command for a dog to have him walk close behind you

How they say that in...

- English:** Bark
- Spanish:** Ladrar
- Italian:** Abbaiare
- French:** Aboyer
- German:** Bellen

Did You Know?

A dog's sense of smell is amazing. A dog has as many as 300 million scent receptors. By comparison, a human nose has about 5 million receptors.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Dog collar

Career & Education Expo/Job Fair coming up this month and celebrating ten years of providing a space for opportunities

By Serena Lapointe

For the last decade, the Town of Whitecourt has held a Career and Education Expo for students and the general public, shining a light on jobs and career opportunities in and around the close-knit region. The one-day event gathers post-secondary institutions, industry leaders, and a vast array of business and career choices with plenty of advice on how to reach the next step.

Representatives from Living Waters Separate School Division, Northern Gateway Public Schools, the Alberta Government, Woodlands County, Town of Mayerthorpe, Community Futures Yellowhead East, the Educational Liaison Association of Alberta (ELAA), Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce, and CAREERS met with the Town's administration to plan the event.

This year's Expo will be held Thursday, September 26, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Allan and Jean Millar Centre. "This is our tenth year, and we have quite a partnership. It's grown quite a bit

since our first event," explained Rhonda Woods, Economic Development Officer for the Town, at the Town Council's September 9 regular meeting.

Over the years, the event has grown to include more job opportunities, career paths, and connections for students seeking information on where they want to go for post-secondary and for what focus. It has also grown in popularity for area job seekers wanting a new career path to extend their learning as adults and see what's close to home rather than moving away.

"In previous years, we've had close to 1,200 students and over 500 from the general public.

We've even seen up to 1,000 from the general public in the past," explained Woods. Students from area school divisions bus in for the event, allowing students to take full advantage of having face-to-face conversations with potential bosses or potential post-secondaries.

Those wanting to have an exhibit can do so at no charge. The event is also free

for everyone, whether a student or a member of the public. This year's event will feature something new thanks to a grant received through a partnership with the Chamber. "We're happy to have the Whitecourt and District Chamber of Commerce on board. They were instrumental in applying for a grant through the Alberta Chamber of Commerce (ACC Job Fair Grant Program) that helped us expand this to a Test Drive A Career event," explained Woods.

The "Test Drive a Career" feature will happen in the Carbonex Contractors Centre (Curling Rink). Attendees will get to try various career opportunities on-site. "It used to be called Try a Trade, but that is now a registered trademark, so we can't use it. We're doing the same thing but are calling it Test Drive a Career," she noted.

She said people won't want to miss it. "There will be opportunities that students and the general public can do, like hands-on demonstrations and seeing what employment is in our backyard, and what kinds of things they can



Keynote Speaker Kristen Cummings. (Speakers Bureau of Canada)

A popular event held in the fall each year is coming around again. Whitecourt's Career and Education Expo, which also includes a job fair, brings together loads of resources for area youth and members of the community at large.

look at experiencing." The rest of the event's activities will be inside the fieldhouse at the AJMC.

"We also have ELAA (Educational Liaison Association of Alberta) coming, which is

different college and university representatives. We are just confirming attendance from those," added Woods. ELAA consists of Alberta post-secondary opportunities from colleges, universities,

technical institutes, the RCMP and the Canadian Forces. ELAA members coordinate and attend various events throughout the province, providing in-

continued on page 12

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Vol. 12 - Issue 15 | Wednesday, April 10, 2024

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continued from page 11

formation on post-secondary opportunities all in one place. Their website, www.elaa.ab.ca, states there are over 1,800 certificates, diplomas, degrees and trades available in the province.

The ELAA board, which Woods said they are still confirming who will be at the Expo, consists of student recruiters and enrollment advisors for various colleges and universities in Alberta, including Concordia, Medicine Hat, St. Mary's, Lakeland, MacEwan, Mount Royal, and Burman.

There will also be an exhibitor keynote presentation from Kristen Cummings focused on increasing productivity through various strategies, including employee attraction and retention.

Cummings, a member of the Speakers Bureau of Canada, has 25 years of experience as a speaker, consultant and facilitator and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and a Master in Workplace and Adult Learning.

"We were also successful with a \$15,000 grant through the LMP (Labour Market Partnership Program) through the Alberta Government. We were able to really enhance the event this year. We are happy with our partnerships. We've got a good team going, and we're excited to bring this to the community again," explained Woods.

Councillor Tara Baker spoke highly of the event. "This is a really good opportunity for kids, and now an adult learner like myself, it's also great for people

from all over the region. They can come and connect with the post secondaries that are coming." She said in previous years, the attendance has been great. "It's elbow to elbow in there. It is jam-packed in there, and there's tons of engagement."

Woods added that information will be gathered from the event to help support any changes in future years. "The Alberta Chamber's offering to have somebody come out to do some stats.

So, checking in with students and businesses and asking some of those questions that maybe we want to hear and know about for the program in the future." The 2024 Career & Education Expo/Job Fair will be from 9:30 am until 4 pm on Thursday, September 26, at the AJMC.

Don't forget the school zones

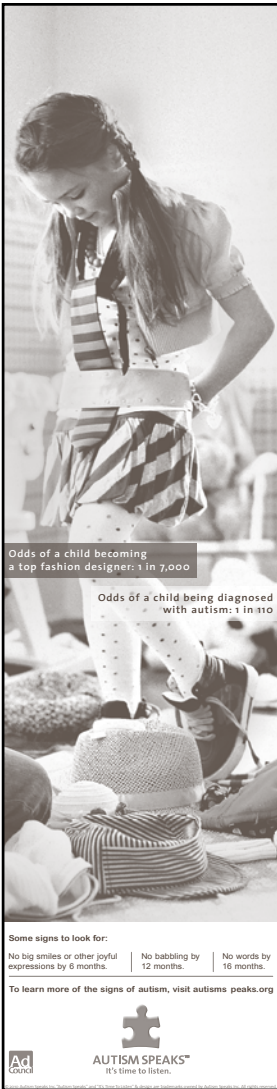


It should go without saying, but not everyone gets the message. School is back in session, which means school zones are back to being slow and steady for the safety of all pedestrians. Getting somewhere quicker doesn't trump the safety of students in the crosswalk or anywhere else within the school zone because, let's be honest, sometimes kids don't make the right choices, crossing where they shouldn't or not looking. However, when we drive slowly, we can react faster. In a report from DriveSmartBC two years ago, they found that perpetrators of speeding in school zones were often well-meaning parents running late. "These are the people that are in a hurry to drop the kids off before work, stop where they are not supposed to because they will "just be a minute" and drop their cargo off where they have to cross the busy street to get to the school because the parking lot is full," states the site. It goes further, explaining the "cost" of slowing down, which should give everyone a pause. "Let's consider a school zone about 400 meters in length. This distance might even be a bit long for most zones, but it takes about 29 seconds to drive this distance at 50 km/h. Slow down to 30 km/h, and it takes about 48 seconds, or only 19 seconds longer. Nineteen seconds is trivial, and I'll dare to say that all drivers can spare 19 seconds out of their day to contribute to school zone safety." So, let's all do our part, Whitecourt, to keep kids safe. Slow down, be alert, and remember, nineteen seconds could be the difference between a good day and a really bad one. Between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, school zones are a maximum of 30km/h.



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A look at the local weather

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



Wed., Sep. 18
Chance of showers
40%
18°C
7°C
NW 20 km/h
-



Thu., Sep. 19
Chance of a shower
40%
18°C
6°C
W 9 km/h
<1mm



Fri., Sep. 20
Chance of a shower
30%
16°C
7°C
W 9 km/h
<1mm



Sat., Sep. 21
Chance of a shower
40%
17°C
7°C
NW 17 km/h
1-3mm



Sun., Sep. 22
Cloudy with light rain
80%
17°C
78°C
NW 15 km/h
1-3mm

Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = **0.73** US Dollar at an exchange rate of **0.7355** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of September 18, 2024

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Food Service Supervisor
Full Time / Shift Work

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Letter to the Editor policy

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



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



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

Colourful fun at Festival Park



Vibrant colours.



Anyone up for a game of hopscotch?

There was a little extra colour down at Festival Park last week. These vibrant designs filled with positive messaging were located just beyond the pavilion and enticed young and young at heart to hop and skip along through some timeless classics like hopscotch.



A special visitor, Constable Brown, stopped by the classrooms at Whitecourt Central School to welcome the students to the new school year.

Gaining energy: Oil and gas capital spending in Canada

By Rob Roach
ATB ECONOMICS

We pay a lot of attention to the price of crude oil and natural gas. You can, for example, watch the price of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate Crude get updated every few minutes throughout the day.

Prices, of course, are important, but so is a less well-known barometer of what is happening in the oil and gas sector: capital spending (a.k.a. capex).

Capex in the oil and gas sector includes things like seismic exploration, constructing facilities and camps,

and purchasing equipment. As such, it also means employment for engineers, project managers, rig workers, technicians, and many others.

What may surprise you is just how much this adds up to.

Data released last week by Statistics Canada show that the industry spent \$11.9 billion in the second quarter on capex—the highest it has been since 2015.

Adding up the last four quarters, the amount comes to \$42.1 billion. That works out to over \$1,000 per Canadian.

Looking at the trend, capex in Canada has been mostly on the rise since the low point reached early in the pandemic (when the price of crude oil collapsed) with increases posted in 13 of the last 16 quarters.

Increased oil and gas transportation capacity, relatively strong crude prices, and development of liquefied natural gas (LNG) export projects have helped spur large capex increases in Q1 (+8.5%) and Q2 (+14.8%).

**The data in today's Twenty-Four have been seasonally adjusted.*

Oil and gas extraction capital expenditures, Canada \$ billion, seasonally adjusted



Source: Statistics Canada Table 25-10-0054-01 and ATB Economics

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

WORD SEARCH

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

CROSSWORDS

S	T	P						B	E	T	A
C	U	R	B					H	O	N	A
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C	U	T	T	H	E	M	U	S	T	A	R
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SUDOKU

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

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