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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



The Press

Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 13 - Issue 41 | Wednesday, October 9, 2024

A loving, handmade gift from the Knitting Club at Spruce View Lodge



A group of fantastic seniors at Spruce View Lodge recently completed a sizable project and chose to give it away in hopes of spreading some love to community members going through a rough time. Pictured are the completed blankets. See story page 4.



Patrick Carew

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Pat Hardy students recognized Orange Shirt Day during their first Recognition Assembly on September 27.

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of the most significant financial decisions of their lives, ensuring they feel confident every step of the way.

I also collaborate closely with experienced industry professionals, including my mentor Mike LaRue, to continually refine and expand my expertise. Together, we are building a team dedicated to delivering exceptional mortgage services.

Having completed my education through the Real Estate School of Alberta, I am licensed with both AMBA and RECA. I bring a client-first approach, combining industry knowledge with personalized service. My mission is to guide individuals and families through one

At the heart of my work is a passion for helping people secure the home of their dreams while building lasting relationships based on trust and integrity. As I grow in this field, I'm committed to providing an exceptional client experience that is as rewarding as it is reliable.

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Woodlands County and Whitecourt finalize Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement



Woodlands County and the Town of Whitecourt marked a significant milestone, and have finalized the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) Agreement. On October 1, representatives from both Councils jointly signed the agreement which outlines the municipalities' commitment to enhancing

intermunicipal collaboration, and providing efficient and effective services to residents. The Government of Alberta requires all municipalities to prepare Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICF). The frameworks formalize how municipalities that share borders will manage growth,

coordinate service delivery, and optimize resources for citizens. The ICF Agreement builds on agreements already formalized between Whitecourt and Woodlands County, and provides continuous, seamless and enhanced services to the residents of both communities. "Finalizing the ICF Agreement has been a

priority for Whitecourt Town Council, and we are pleased to be marking this milestone with our partners," stated Whitecourt Mayor Tom Pickard. "While our relationship and history of collaboration precedes this agreement, this ICF Agreement will help shape our collective efforts for the future. We look forward to working

with Woodlands County for the enhancement of our region on existing and new services and projects." Woodlands County Reeve Dave Kusch echoed the importance of this collaborative step. "The completion of the ICF Agreement is a testament to our dedication to the region and its people. By working

together, we not only deliver essential programs and services but also cultivate a sense of community and encourage sustainable growth. This partnership positions Woodlands County and Whitecourt to move forward together, ensuring the shared prosperity of our municipalities for years to come."



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A loving, handmade gift from the Knitting Club at Spruce View Lodge

By Serena Lapointe

Over the last few months, a group of seniors at Spruce View Lodge, lovingly called The Knitting Club created two beautiful blankets featuring colours from across the rainbow. Working as a team, the group devised 45 squares for each blanket and put everything together. The shared project is heartwarming enough, but their decision to gift the blankets will absolutely melt your heart.

They decided to donate both blankets to the Wellspring Family Resource and Crisis Centre so that clients staying in the center could feel their love as they wrapped a one-of-a-kind, feels-like home blanket around themselves on what could be the worst day of their lives. “It means such a great deal. So much love goes into doing something like this, and the clients appreciate it. They know how much love gets put into it. They get comforted by something like this because they know there are people in our community, our seniors, that care so much to make these homemade items that they can take with them or leave behind for other clients,” said Renee Laventure, Wellspring Administrator.

On Wednesday, October 2, Laventure was presented with the blankets by the members of the Knitting Club. “When you cuddle yourself in one of these blankets, it’s like a home away from home, even though they aren’t in their home yet. It’s comfy and comforting, and they can hug it and know they are safe and loved,” she said emotionally.

Laventure explained

that over the last two weeks, the Wellspring shelter had been full, showing how important the facility is for women and children who need a temporary home and support to deal with whatever had them running. She said the blankets would provide a necessary hug.

“You don’t realize what’s going on in our community that makes them need to go there or how much our services and building are needed for them. It’s eye-opening to know that. I think they would take it more to heart and to comfort knowing that it’s handmade. You can buy a blanket in a store at any time, but the ones who made these spent hours and days doing it, and you can feel the love that went into it.”

One of the residents and Knitting Club member, Joyce Hahnekamp, used to work at the Whitecourt shelter years ago and said the need for the support was evident then and has only grown. She recalled her experience. “It was a tiny space then. It was only the front area of where the Beaver Creek store is, and all we had was the door for a window, and it was bulletproof glass. The need was there, and it was traumatic, but it was wonderful that it was there. Wellspring is a good thing,” she said.

Resident Gay Sebo said the blanket idea came from Shirley Olson. “She had seen in the city, at one of the hospitals, they kept a table there with knitting and wool and things, that people could take, and I thought we could do that here. So, we

continued on page 5



Having fun together.



Laventure with the blankets packed up.



One very happy group!

Page sponsored by



As the colours of autumn paint our forests, we remind you to take necessary precautions to make this a safe season. From the last days of camping and hiking to the start of hunting season and the inevitable snow that follows, take a moment to make sure you and yours are best prepared. For all open career opportunities, please check out our website at albertanewsprint.com → Careers.

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CARETAKERS NEEDED

Goose Lake Rec.is seeking caretakers for the 2025 season. For more information contact: curtisgolden19@gmail.com. or Goose Lake Rec., Box 47, Lone Pine, AB, T0G-1M0



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continued from page 4

started. We are having a very enjoyable time doing it."

Olson quickly pointed to another member of the club, Heidi Linde. "I would like to particularly thank Heidi. She did all the work putting them (the 45 squares) together while sick, and that's not easy, and she's 93 years old." Linde said she was glad to know the blankets would be enjoyed. "I'm happy that I know where they go to comfort people. I was sick for a couple of days, and I was sitting there crocheting them together. So, that makes me happy now."

Sebo was the encourager and said she was grateful that the ladies joined. She said the experience of working on a unified project has become something they all look forward to and that they look forward to making more things to donate. "This group has been good for us."

Before, we were more individuals, but now we have something that draws us individually together as a

group, and we love it."

Clarissa Canda Titong, Activity Coordinator at Spruceview Lodge Whitecourt, said the smiles on the residents' faces show how much the project has benefited the seniors. "When we started doing it, and I could see the smiles of just being together without really doing anything except having coffee and tea and talking together while doing their crochet, that brought a smile to me."

We were only going to do it for a couple of months, but now, because they are enjoying it, it's on our monthly calendar. It brings them joy."

Laventure said she was beyond grateful to the seniors for their kindness and generosity. "I'm on the verge of tears because this is so heartwarming that you have done this for us. I want to pass on a big thank you from all of us at Wellspring and our clients, who will appreciate this. We can't thank you enough. Your generosity in taking time out of your days and life is very

gracious. We don't take that for granted at all."

Titong said giving back feels good for everyone. "This is how we give back to the community because we get a lot from our fundraisers, and this is the best tool to give back. And, as you can see, they are all smiling," as she pointed to the ladies before her with big smiles on their faces. "I am very happy because another wish of theirs just came true, to give back to the community and express that seniors can still do something to make this world a better place."

Resident Kay added that it felt good. "We get a lot of help from the community and the town, and it's so good to be able to give back a little bit. It makes you feel good," to which several ladies responded with an Amen. "It's true," responded Hahnekamp. "When you are not on the receiving end, but on the giving end, it feels good."

Hahnekamp added that it's up to the younger seniors entering the lodge to keep it going.

"We who have started this now are old. The ones who will come in are young. They need to know that there's a future and that there's love. A lot of times out there in the world, every generation looks after themselves and the one that's coming along, they don't even know anything about how to do it. Well, the more you give them what you've got and what you've had, the better off they will be."

Anyone wanting to donate to The Knitting Club or the activities at Spruce View Lodge is encouraged to do so. "We used to get a lot of yarn donations from the community, but because of the pandemic, it's kind of stopped," explained Titong. Their wish list for donations also includes different materials for crafts. "We are always in need of pieces of fabric, or yarn or anything that has to do with making crafts," she added.

Thank you to Spruce View Lodge for inviting the Whitecourt Press to be part of such a special moment. Great job, ladies!

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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.
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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**

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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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@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:
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Child Support Program:
Child Care & After School Programs - Age Appropriate Programs & Support for Children Who Have Been Affected By Family Violence

Preventative Education:
Provides Workshops, Information and Awareness to Schools, Community Organizations, Agencies and Businesses

Wellspring
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**



STOP Bullying

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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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PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15



SUDOKU

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

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		

- 1. Works of body art
- 2. Israeli politician Abba
- 3. Renowned desert
- 4. Eat greedily
- 5. She didn't make it through the Fr. Revolution
- 6. Beat
- 7. Bloodsucker
- 8. From a place already noted
- 9. Counted on
- 10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
- 11. Something one can make
- 13. One who abstains
- 17. Wild ox
- 24. Type of student
- 25. Bacterial infection of the skin
- 26. Expresses surprise
- 27. What engaged couples ultimately say
- 28. Crony
- 29. Where one begins (abbr.)
- 35. Architectural designation
- 36. "Matt Houston" actor
- 37. More (Spanish)
- 38. Autonomic nervous system
- 40. Indigenous peoples
- 41. Deflections
- 42. Circulating life force
- 43. Executes with a rope
- 44. Natives of an island nation
- 45. Girls
- 47. Logician and philosopher
- 48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
- 49. Relaxing spaces
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Form of Persian language
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Mathematical designation

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. Unsheared sheep
- 5. Rock TV channel
- 8. Streetcar
- 12. Concerning
- 14. Exclamation
- 15. Greek goddess of youth
- 16. Popular type of device
- 18. Alcoholic beverage
- 19. Ancient Olympic Site
- 20. Sharpshoots
- 21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
- 22. Pointed ends of pens
- 23. Measuring instruments
- 26. Midsection body part
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. Adjusted
- 32. "Partridge" actress Susan
- 33. Yell
- 34. Civil rights city in Alabama

- 39. Young boy
- 42. Type of sea bass
- 44. To call (archaic)
- 46. Unfortunate
- 47. Separate oneself from others
- 49. Hero sandwiches
- 50. Spy group
- 51. Florida is famous for them
- 56. Irritating individuals
- 57. Luck
- 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. WWII diarist Frank
- 60. Peyton's younger brother
- 61. Type of wrap
- 62. Type of overseas tax or levy
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Wake up

CLUES DOWN

DOG RESCUE WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- ADOPTION
- AGREEMENT
- APPLICATION
- AVAILABLE
- BACKGROUND
- BEHAVIOR
- BOARDING
- CAGE
- CHECK
- EVENT
- FACILITY
- GREET
- LEASH
- LICENSE
- MEET
- ORGANIZATION
- REHOMING
- RESCUE
- SHELTER
- TRAINER
- TRAINING
- VETTING

WORDS

- ADOPTION
- AGREEMENT
- APPLICATION
- AVAILABLE
- BACKGROUND
- BEHAVIOR
- BOARDING
- CAGE
- CHECK
- EVENT
- FACILITY
- GREET
- LEASH
- LICENSE
- MEET
- ORGANIZATION
- REHOMING
- RESCUE
- SHELTER
- TRAINER
- TRAINING
- VETTING

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries, you might have been thinking about making changes for a very long time. One of the biggest changes could be moving home base. Look at real estate.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, even if you're not sure what to do this week, you may have to make a decision quickly. Take an innovative approach when mulling your options if need be.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Nothing but pleasant energy will surround you this week, Gemini. Use it to your advantage to get a lot of things done at your own pace. Then you can enjoy a night or two out this week.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Don't let a cranky beginning to the week ruin the rest of it. There are plenty of days to recover and have a good time with friends and family.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Leo, typically you enjoy being the center of attention and being gregarious with others. This week you might want to step back and enjoy some quiet time at home.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Just when you thought you wouldn't hear back from someone you thought was out of your life, he or she turns up again, Virgo. You are not sure how to feel about this.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



This week could prove to be all about the unexpected, Libra. Some things may not go according to plan, but it can be fun to be on a little bit of an adventure.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, you are in a home-driven mood, with plans for renovation on your mind. While you are full of inspiration, the only thing holding you back is the budget.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Sagittarius, if someone had predicted last year where you'd be right now, you might not have believed it. But just look at how far you have come in such a short amount of time.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



You might be walking on shaky ground, Capricorn. Certain variables are shifting, and you need to plan for a way to navigate the new situation. Trust your gut.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



You are always there for other people when they need you no matter how inconvenient that can be for you, Aquarius. This week someone else steps up and take the weight off you.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Pisces, you are in a dreamy mood and everything seems like you are looking through rose-colored glasses. Have fun while it lasts, but don't venture too far away from reality.

TAKE PART! GIVE BACK! Opportunity for Public Participation

Every fall, the Town of Whitecourt recruits citizens to fill volunteer positions on various boards and committees that provide Town Council with perspective and recommendations regarding important civic issues. Whitecourt is a diverse, growing town, and citizens are in the best position to provide input on our changing community needs. Get involved! It's your town. Share your knowledge and meet new colleagues.

Community Services Advisory Board

"To create a healthy, strong community by meeting the leisure and social needs of the community."

(2) Members – terms to expire in October 2027

Applications will be accepted from residents of Whitecourt or the Woodlands County agreement area.

Economic Development Committee

"To set up and establish an economic development program to further the interests of the Town of Whitecourt in the areas of economic development and tourism."

(2) Members – terms to expire in October 2027

Municipal Planning Commission

"To deal with land use planning matters with particular emphasis on the Land Use Bylaw."

(1) Member – Alternate Position – term to expire in October 2027

Protective Services Committee

"To ensure that police needs of the community are met."

(1) Member – term to expire October 2027

Applications will be accepted from both Town of Whitecourt and Woodlands County residents. Please note that members will be required to submit a criminal record check with their application. This document will be used to consider the suitability of the candidate.

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

"To make decisions on appeals of subdivision or development decisions made by the Development Officer or Municipal Planning Commission."

(2) Members – terms to expire in October 2027

Town of Whitecourt Library Board

"To work towards maintaining the vibrancy of our library and meeting the social needs of community members through the creation of policies and planning."

(2) Members – term to expire in October 2027

Applications will be accepted from Town of Whitecourt residents.

If being on a Council Committee interests you, please complete an application form which can be found on the Whitecourt website at <https://www.whitecourt.ca/your-town/mayor-council/public-participation> or picked up at the Town Office. Applications must be received before 12:00 noon, Monday, October 21, 2024 to:

Whitecourt Town Administration Office
Attention: Executive Assistant
5004 - 52 Avenue, Box 509, WHITECOURT, AB, T7S 1N6
email: administration@whitecourt.ca



You can also scan the QR code for a direct link to the application form:

Applications are also being accepted for the:

Youth Advisory Committee

"To work collectively to ensure the needs of Whitecourt's youth are met."

(10) Members – term to expire September 2025

Youth between the ages of 13 and 18 years old (as of December 31, 2024) from Percy Baxter Middle School, Hilltop High School, École St. Joseph School, and the community at large are eligible to apply. New applicants are required to complete a Youth Advisory Committee Application Form and submit two signed reference forms. Students currently on the committee only need to complete the application form. Applications for the Youth Advisory Committee must be submitted to administration@whitecourt.ca before noon on Tuesday, October 15.

Applications for all committees will be presented to Town Council at the October 28, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Questions?

Contact our Administration Department at 780.778.2273 or email administration@whitecourt.ca.

If you want to find out more about our Council Committees, attend our Council Committee Information Session at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre, on October 9 from 7:00 – 8:00pm.

FRANCHISE FEE INCREASE NOTICE

Please be advised that the Town of Whitecourt is proposing to increase the local access fee, which is charged to FortisAlberta Inc. (FortisAlberta) for use of municipal lands for its power lines effective **January 1, 2025**.

The fee is recovered by FortisAlberta from its customers as the local municipal access fee on electric billings of all customers that receive electric service in the Town of Whitecourt. This local access fee will be increased from \$3.62 (4.47%) to \$4.46 (5.34%) of the delivery charge of FortisAlberta, excluding energy related riders. This calculation is based on 640 kWh consumption in 30 days.

Questions or concerns should be directed to Judy Barney, Director of Corporate Services at (780) 778-2273.

Thank you.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

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

- 2024-09-26: **Allan & Jean Millar Centre Stereo Sound System**. Closes: October 25, 2024
- 2024-10-01: **Allan & Jean Millar Centre Commercial Pedestrian Swing Doors**. Closes: October 18, 2024

For further details on any of these opportunities visit www.whitecourt.ca and search the project title.

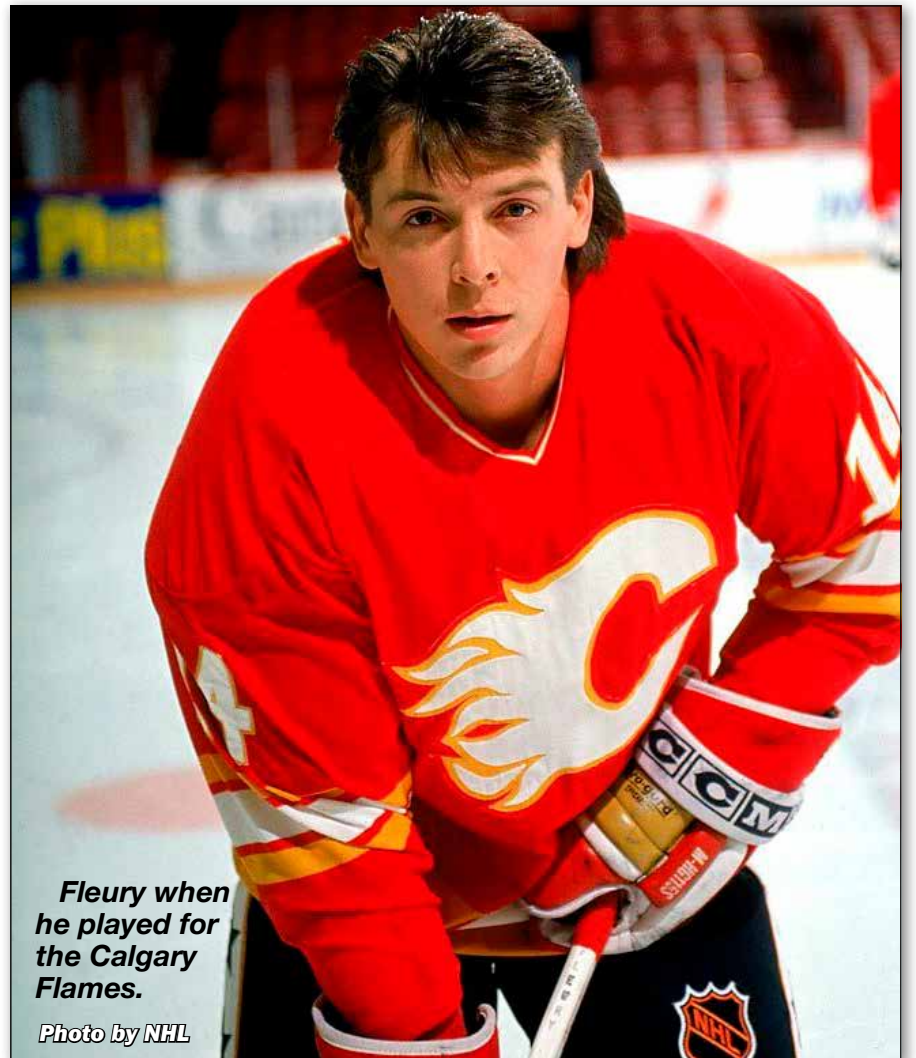
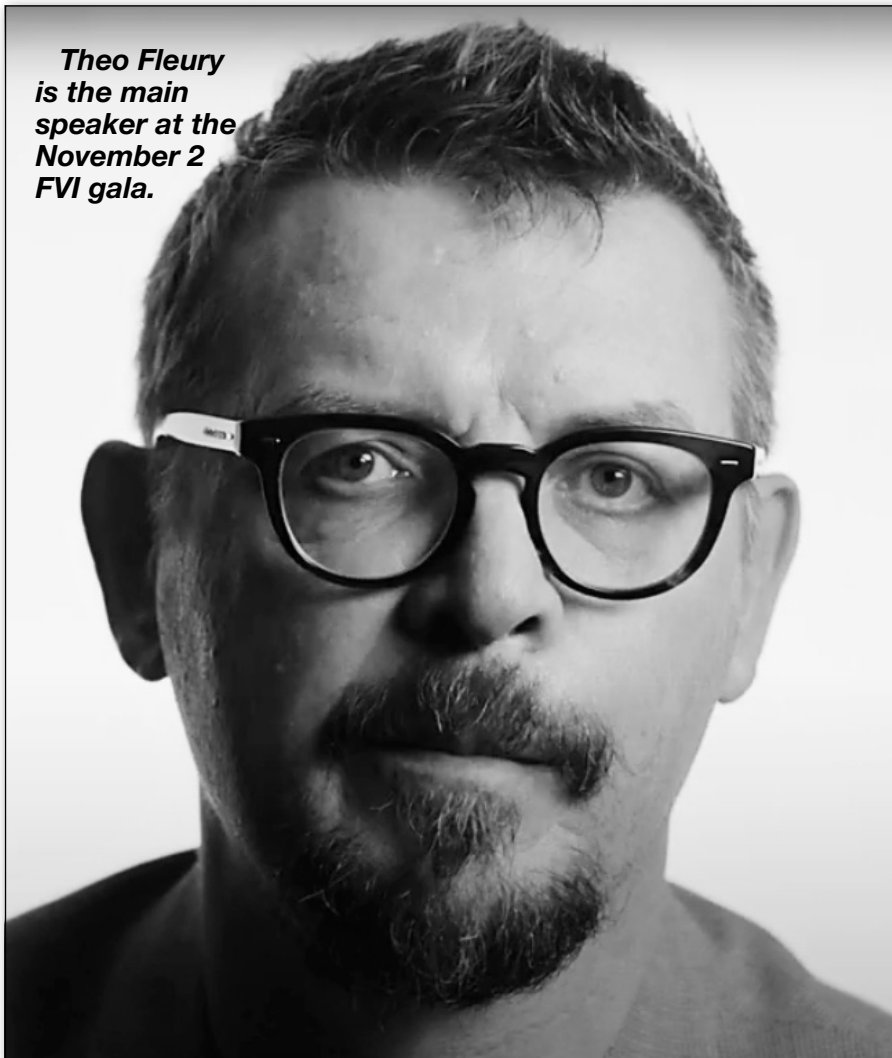


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Would you know what to do if you witnessed family violence or someone confided in you about it?

Theo Fleury is the main speaker at the November 2 FVI gala.



Fleury when he played for the Calgary Flames.

Photo by NHL

November is Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta. Numerous events are happening throughout the month, with a couple in October due to scheduling constraints. The topic isn't just for those living through it because knowing how to support someone dealing with family violence can be the difference maker in a bad situation, so education is key.

By Serena Lapointe

No matter where you live in Canada, violence within families is a problem. StatsCan numbers from 2022 showed that family violence across the provinces and territories was most often increasing when compared to previous years, with some areas seeing massive jumps. The rates given below are all based on per 100,000 population. Nunavut, which sees significantly high family violence rates year over year, jumped from 3,289 to 4,449 between 2014 and 2019. Between 2019 and 2020, just one year apart, their numbers continued to climb, from 4,449 to 4,937. In 2022, the numbers rose to over

5,100. Of all places in Canada, Nunavut is by far the highest for family violence rates.

Although rates are much lower compared to other provinces, Alberta included, that doesn't mean the problem isn't severe. The numbers are high no matter how you slice the pie. In 2014, Alberta recorded 358 and again, this is per 100,000 people. Pulling up the population data from that year, Alberta had roughly 4.1 million residents, which means that nearly 15,000 victims of family violence were reported that year.

Alberta's rates of family violence have hovered between 350-380 from 2014 to 2022. If rates from this year stayed within that mar-

gin, using the same per-100,000 people calculation and choosing the middle ground of 365, there could be nearly 18,000 people in Alberta reporting family violence this year. And what if that margin is passed? Then, the numbers will be even higher.

The story is similar for intimate partner violence. StatsCan reported that most provinces and every territory saw either an increase or a very slight decrease, showing that the rates of violence between intimate partners were not moving much. The three territories had the highest rates in Canada for reported victims, with Nunavut taking the title no one wants to have as highest.

Amongst the provinces, Saskatchewan was the highest, followed by Manitoba. Saskatchewan saw well over 700 per 100,000, which, based on 2022's population data, equates to over 8,700 victims. In Alberta, in 2022, intimate partner violence was reported as 388 per 100,000, totalling just over fourteen thousand reported victims.

One thing to keep in mind from these numbers is that according to StatsCan's General Social Survey on Victimization, a vast majority of spousal victims said they experienced violence but didn't report it to police. What about family violence? How much is reported? Sadly, only God knows be-

cause if it isn't reported, it isn't in the data.

In Alberta, November is Family Violence Prevention Month. In communities throughout the province, there will be awareness events and social media conversations (using #WhereToTurn) to turn up the dialogue and get the message out there that family violence is preventable. Educating people on what supports exist close to home and what family violence looks like are top priorities.

Family violence doesn't come in one size or shape. The Government of Alberta lists some types of family violence, which include child abuse or neglect, domestic abuse or spousal/part-

ner abuse, pet cruelty, sexual violence, and sibling abuse.

Alberta.ca also provides information on signs of abuse to watch out for, including signs of depression, withdrawal from family and friends, changes in personality, unexplained bruises or injuries, uptick or beginning use of alcohol or drugs, or not wanting to make decisions without their partner. For children, possible signs include knowing more about sex than what is normal for their age, running from home, unexplained injuries, being very fearful of parents' reactions, aggressive behaviours, and often being alone, hungry,

continued on page 11

continued from page 10

dirty or not dressed for the weather. The site also includes signs for older youth and seniors.

In Whitecourt, several events are hosted by The Whitecourt Family Violence Initiative (FVI), including a couple this month due to scheduling conflicts. Two events happening in October include Pub Foods with the Dudes on October 18. Held at the Sagitawah Brewing Company, the event is open to men and boys 13+ and aims at breaking the cycle of gender-based violence.

On the same day, the Director of Programs with Next Gen Men, Jonathon Reed, will be visiting students at Hilltop High School, providing a similar presentation as he will give at the Pub Foods with the Dudes event that evening. Ecole St. Joseph School students have also been invited to attend.

Kicking off November, residents are asked to keep their outside porch lights on or pick

up a free purple light-up bracelet at the AJMC to help "shine a light" on family violence and help recognize November as Family Violence Prevention Month.

The Family Violence Stakeholders Group will erect two large banners on the CN stair bridge to share the message. The FVI will also hand out purple ribbons and light-up bracelets at the Whitecourt Wolverines home game on November 15 against the Olds Grizlys at JDA Place.

Residents out for a bite to eat should also watch for family violence-related beverage coasters at local establishments, and information kits will be at local businesses to display to the public and their employees.

On Saturday, November 2, the FVI Gala will take place at St. Joseph's Parish Hall. The event is 18+ and features former NHL player and Stanley Cup winner, Theo Fleury, speaking about his experience with abuse at the hands of a junior coach.

Family violence isn't

just a problem for those experiencing it. It's for everyone. Knowing the warning signs and acting upon a concern could be the difference maker in someone's life. The Government of Alberta's website provides tons of information for those dealing with family violence and those who witness it or know about it and what to do. There are also numerous hotlines, both provincially and nationally. The Family Violence Info

Line is 310-1818. The Abuse Helpline is 1-855-4HELPAB (443-5722). The Child Abuse Hotline is 1-800-387-KIDS (5437). The Sexual Violence One Line is 1-866-403-8000 for call or text. The Men's Helpline is 1-833-327-MENS (6367). The Emergency Income Support Contact Centre is 1-866-644-5135. The Mental Health Helpline's number is 1-877-303-2642, and Health Link is 811. Locally, the Wellspring Family Resource and Crisis Centre's 24/7 crisis line is 780-778-6209 or 1-800-467-4049.



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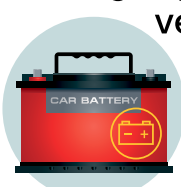
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“How they say that in...”

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Spanish: Petr6leo
Italian: Petrolio
French: P6trole
German: 6l

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Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Tire tread



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This bouquet of sunflowers was happily sunbathing on Saturday in the beautiful afternoon sun, dancing high above a fence line in the back alley along the field at Percy Baxter, waving in the breeze and saying, hello!

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.

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)

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

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.

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



DAVE KUSCH
Mayor
 Councilor for Assiniboine
 Division 1
 dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-778-3037



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



ALAN DEANE
Councilor for Whitecourt
 Central Division 3
 alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-778-0954



JEREMY WILHELM
Councilor for
 Whitecourt East Division 4
 jeremy.wilhelm@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-775-6564



BRUCE PRESTIDGE
Councilor for Blue Ridge
 Division 5
 bruce.prestidge@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-779-3917



PETER KUELKEN
Councilor for Goose Lake/
 Freeman River Division 6
 peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-264-2425



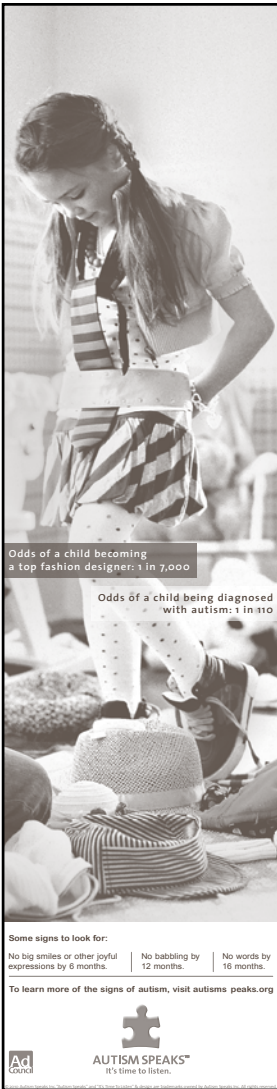
DEVIN WILLIAMS
Councilor for Fort Assiniboine/
 Tintina Division 7
 devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-305-1825





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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

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- Job#: 24-051**, Infrastructure Services Engineer, Permanent, Full-time Position.
- Job#: 24-053**, Parks and Open Spaces Operator (Sports Field), Temporary, Full-time Position.
- Job#: 24-056**, Fire Chief, Permanent, Full-time Position.

Please visit www.whitecourt.ca for all employment opportunities and details on how to apply.



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A look at the local weather

	Wed., Oct. 9	Thu., Oct. 10	Fri., Oct. 11	Sat., Oct. 12	Sun., Oct. 13
P.O.P.	Mix of sun and clouds	Chance of a shower	Mix of sun and clouds	Mainly sunny	Sunny
High	30%	40%	30%	10%	10%
Low	12°C	12°C	10°C	12°C	14°C
Wind	-2°C	1°C	2°C	4°C	5°C
24-Hr Rain / Snow	N 7 km/h 1-3mm	SW 8 km/h ~1mm	SE 7 km/h	W 9 km/h	SE 19 km/h

Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = **0.74 US Dollar** at an exchange rate of **0.7364** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of October 9, 2024

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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.

Matthew Good and his Band



A big crowd in front of the stage, singing along.



Letting the crowd take over.



Matthew Good.

On Friday night at the AJMC, several hundred folks attended a concert from the Whitecourt & Woodlands Performing Arts Society. The main event was the Matthew Good Band, now called Matthew Good and his Band, as the original band broke up. MGB was one of the most successful alternative rock bands in the country through the 90s/early 2000s. The singer-songwriter talked and joked with attendees in between his biggest hits, like *Apparitions* and *Hello Time Bomb*, and even got the crowd to sing along, taking over the chorus at one point. A recent life-altering change for Good has been his inability to play guitar, something he is known for doing. Last year, in mid-October, Good was diagnosed with a nerve compression syndrome (Ulnar Neuropathy), which makes his pinky and third finger numb and results in his hand seizing. In a personal update on Reddit, Good said, "As you can imagine, playing guitar with such a problem is basically untenable." His current tour features an added member who plays guitar in his place. "I have never fronted a band as just the singer, so there's bound to be some strangeness involved. Nevertheless, I think it's only going to add to the show, and I'm looking forward to it," he said. Based on the crowd's reaction on Friday, and the loud cheering that brought Good back to the stage for an encore, he was right.



The staff and students of Whitecourt Central School began their day on October 1 with a special presentation by the Yubetsu Cultural Exchange Group. A traditional drumming performance captivated the students, followed by an opportunity for Grade one and two students to learn some Japanese hand games.

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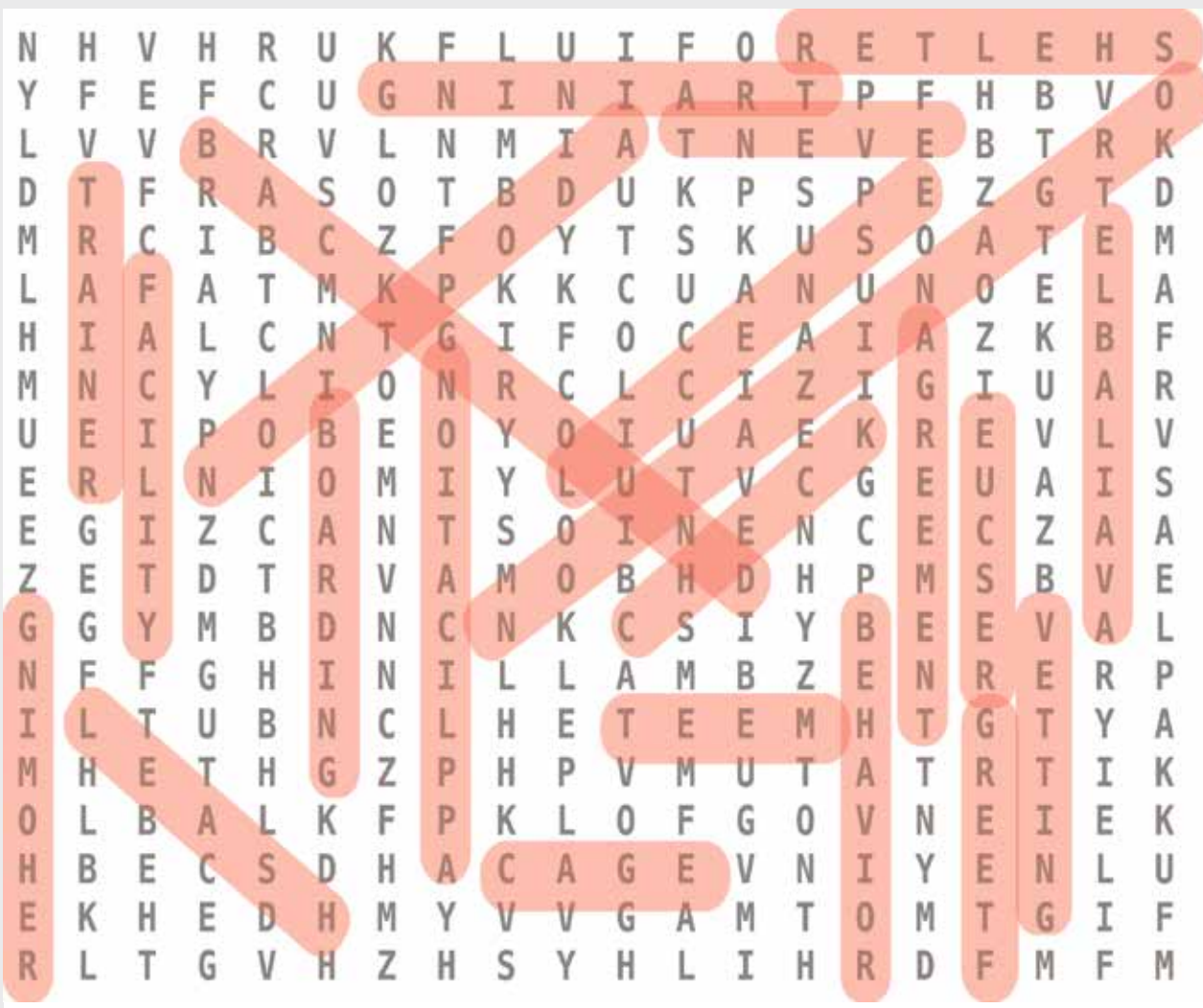
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8	5	4	7	9	3	1	6	2
1	6	7	4	5	2	3	9	8
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