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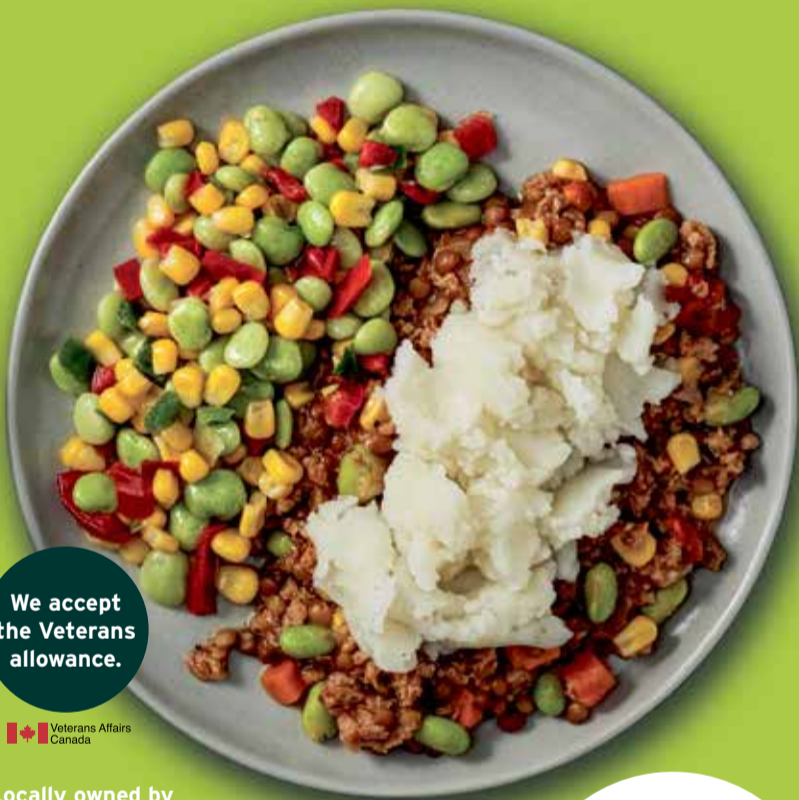
The Press

Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 14 - Issue 3 | Wednesday, January 22, 2025

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Growing Kyle's Superhero Night to help more people



Three non-profit organizations got support from the local community thanks to the Whitecourt Wolverines' annual Superhero Night, created to honour a special young man who lost his life following a brave battle against a countdown clock he couldn't stop. Pictured are Mike and Rebecca Bates, owners of Whitecourt's No Frills, who won the "Local Hero" fan contest.

By Serena Lapointe

Everyone has a hero. For Kyle Zieger, his heroes wore capes, darted from the tallest buildings and flew through the sky. His heroes did things and experienced things that he couldn't. "I saw from a young

age, with him being able to kind of run to needing a walker for assistance to being in a wheelchair full-time by age twelve," explained his brother, Wyatt, the broadcast voice for the Whitecourt Wolverines.

Kyle was born with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a degenerative muscle disease caused by a rare genetic disorder that affects 1 in 5,000 male births worldwide

continued on page 2



Patrick Carew

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Local news printed on local newsprint





Kyle's initials on the first Superhero Night jerseys in 2022.



Wyatt as Batman, with his brother Kyle as Elmo.

continued from page 1

and for which there is no cure. The disease strictly affects boys, and there are roughly 800 boys and young men living with DMD in Canada.

"It was a disease that wasn't highly understood when my brother was born, and I think there's more awareness now, but more needs to be done. From a young age, doctors said he was just lazy and would be a football player. Look at those calves, they would say," explained Wyatt.

Once diagnosed around age six, everything changed. "It's a slow breakdown of the body and is an inevitable disease that leads to death over time because the biggest muscles in your body are your heart and your lungs." Sadly, Kyle lost his battle with DMD in the fall of 2021 at the age of 23. Though the family knew it was coming and couldn't stop it, the loss was no less painful.

"He didn't get to live a normal life. He would talk about wanting to get married or go on a vacation, but those things weren't feasible for him and others like

him. I think it's important to shine a light on the disease and to advocate and help raise funds," said Wyatt.

Cue the Whitecourt Wolverines. The year following his brother's passing, Wyatt put on a fundraiser event at a home game to honour his brother. The night fundraised for Defeat Duchenne Canada, a non-profit that helps families facing a DMD diagnosis. They brought special jerseys that were auctioned off, and the public was asked to dress as superheroes, just like Kyle would have wanted. They raised \$8,000 that year.

Superhero Night is now in its third year, with \$20,000 raised for Defeat Duchenne Canada.

"Being wheelchair-bound, he never cared for sports, but he loved superheroes. Every conversation was about Batman or Spiderman, and asking if I'd seen the new Superman movie and when we were going to watch this movie or that movie. So, I wanted to create a night that, if he was still with us, he would love to at-

tend. That's the biggest reason behind the superheroes," explained Wyatt.

Dealing with DMD is costly, and Wyatt said helping put dollars forward for other families means so much. "A wheelchair is fifteen thousand dollars and if you want to get a van that supports it, then you're looking at another \$70,000 to \$100,000. And if you need to put an elevator in your home, that's a cost I couldn't even tell you. It's a difficult disease to live with."

This year, Wyatt decided to share the love. Not only will dollars go towards Defeat Duchenne Canada, but they will also go towards YouQuest and the Canadian Cancer Society. "YouQuest is in support of our Assistant Coach Bryson Traptow. His dad is currently dealing with early onset Alzheimer's, news that they received last year. He's been a part of YouQuest, a group that gets people together just like him and gives them a sense of normalcy," explained Wyatt.

The third charity is one in honour of a

player. "Stefan Sere diak lost his mom when he was just fifteen to breast cancer. Steph could tell you the story a lot better than I could but one day, his mom said her back hurt and then shortly thereafter she was diagnosed, and then she passed away. Steph is a resilient young kid. I love how he said it, though it also hurts. He said some people don't have a parent their entire life, and at least he got his mom until he was fifteen," explained Wyatt.

"To see that from such a young person and the strides that he has made. How easy it could've been to throw in the towel and say, maybe I don't want to play hockey anymore or not want to get out of bed, but Steph is a bright spot here on the Wolverines, and he's an amazing piece of our community too. That's why we chose to support the Canadian Cancer Society," explained Wyatt.

"I understand this is a night for my family and supporting other people like my brother, but it's more than just myself

continued on page 3

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Two Wolverines flaunting this year's jerseys, and a little superhero magic.



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A switch-a-roo at the Transfer Station



The previous blue bins.



Three big bins now for cardboard.

There's a new process for dropping off cardboard at the Transfer Station. Instead of flattening and depositing boxes into one of the big blue bins lined up along the fence, residents will now choose one of three bigger bins instead. The bins being used for cardboard now are just like the bins used for collecting recycling bags. The blue bins are tucked away on the far side of the lot, with a sign that reads, "Do not use."



Kyle meeting one of his heroes, Stan Lee.



The Zieger brothers.

continued from page 2

affected by life outside the rink. So, I wanted to open it up this year to others part of this team and let them tell their stories and help raise awareness for more things," said Wyatt, speaking like a true team player.

Wyatt, who is in his sixth year with the Wolverines and, on top of being the play-by-play voice, is also the Communications Broadcast Manager and Manager of Business Operations, said his brother was a positive person even though he faced a tough road. "I asked him one day if he could be any superhero, which one would he be. He said Spiderman because he could go up the walls in his wheelchair. I said, Kyle, if you were Spiderman, chances are you wouldn't need your wheelchair," laughed Wyatt, as he remembered the chuckle he shared with his brother that day.

Wyatt said seeing the team and community rally around him and his family, supporting the cause and honouring his brother's memory brings tears to his eyes. "It fills my cup. The first couple of years I would see people wearing capes with my brother's last name on them and his initials. It brings a tear to my eye even now. It means a lot how much the community does care.

The support I see from this team means the world to me because I don't know how many other organizations would let you take up a night of draws and ticket sales and put it towards something that has nothing to do with them." He thanked new owners Cory and Terriann Masse for allowing him to keep it going and hopes fans who attended Superhero Night on January 18 at JDA Place had fun supporting three great causes. (KMZ 1997-2021).

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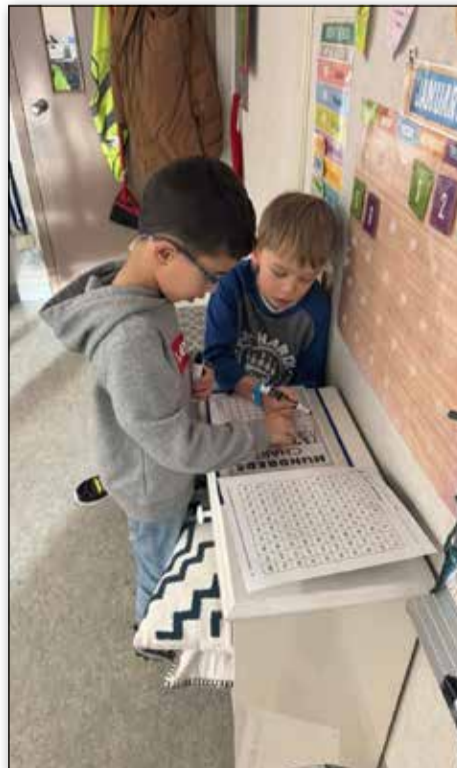


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SCHOOL NEWS



Grade 4 students in 4Sault/Wilde at Central School took on the challenge of creating detailed models of early Canadian settlements. While building, they considered various factors to ensure their designs reflected the historical realities of the time.



Students in 2Masco at Pat Hardy Elementary enjoyed building their math fluency skills through interactive centers and engaging games. The hands on activities made learning both effective and fun!

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING JANUARY 27, 2025 – 4:00PM, FOREST, INTERPRETIVE CENTRE - COUNCIL CHAMBERS



Pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, the Town of Whitecourt is proposing to remove the Municipal Reserve designation from title on Lot 15MR, Block 10, Plan 982 2153 per the map below, and amend the Land Use district for this parcel from U-S, Urban Services, to UD-F, Future Urban Development.

A **Public Information Session** will be held at **3:30 p.m.** in the foyer of the Forest Interpretive Centre (3002 - 33 Street) on **January 27, 2025** prior to the Public Hearing. This is an opportunity to learn more about the proposed changes and ask questions in an interactive setting prior to the formal Public Hearing.

The **Public Hearing** will be held at **4:00 p.m.** in the Town Council Chambers. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow presentations for, or against, the proposed changes. Any individuals or organizations may make presentations, speak at the hearing, or submit written comment for consideration. Written comments must be received at the Town Office before 12:00 noon on January 23, 2025.

Any individuals or organizations wishing to make a submission for the Public Hearing are encouraged to provide their comments in writing prior to noon on January 23, 2025. The Public Hearing will be available in person and through electronic means. **Individuals who wish to make a presentation by electronic means are asked to pre-register with the Legislative Manager by emailing a request to administration@whitecourt.ca prior to 12:00 noon on January 23, 2025.**

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

Starting on Tuesday, January 7, crews will be picking up trees from across the community on a weekly basis throughout the month of January as time permits. There will be no set schedule, and pick up may be delayed due to snow or other higher priority tasks.

Please place your tree where you would normally place your garbage. For those residents in cul-de-sacs who place their garbage further out into the street, please don't place your tree where it will obstruct traffic.

Trees must be free of all decorations and tinsel. Please do not place the tree in garbage or tree bags.

The Whitecourt Regional Landfill also has a drop-off area for you to dispose of your tree. The Whitecourt Regional Landfill is open Monday to Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 24-123: 5015 52 Avenue – Discretionary Use – Day Care Facility – Approved with conditions.

Date of Decision(s): January 9, 2025 **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** January 30, 2025

An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$310) 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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

January 27, 2025 – 4:00 PM Forest Interpretive Centre - Council Chambers

Pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, the Town of Whitecourt has received an application to delete the definition of "Professional, Financial, Office, Health and Business Support Service" and add definitions for "Professional Office Services" and "Health Services." The Land Use Districts for both definitions would continue where the current definition of "Professional, Financial, Office, Health and Business Support Service" is currently allowed:

Permitted	Discretionary
C-1 Core Commercial – Downtown C-5 Main Street – Downtown C-6 Mixed Use Residential – Downtown	C-2 Service Commercial

The new definition of "Health Services" is also proposed to be Discretionary in the following Land Use Districts:

- C-7 Hilltop Commercial; and
- U-S Urban Services.

Public Information Session - 3:30 p.m. January 27, 2025, in the Forest Interpretive Centre lobby. This is an opportunity to learn more about the proposed changes and ask questions in an interactive setting.

Public Hearing – 4:00 p.m. January 27, 2025, in the Town Council Chambers. The Public Hearing is a formal opportunity to make presentations for or against the

proposed application. These are comments directly to Council, and part of the public record.

Any individuals or organizations wishing to make a submission for the Public Hearing are encouraged to provide their comments in writing prior to noon on Thursday, January 23, 2025.

The Public Hearing will be available in person and through electronic means. **Individuals who wish to make a presentation by electronic means are asked to pre-register with the Legislative Manager by emailing a request to administration@whitecourt.ca prior to noon on Thursday, January 23, 2025.**

All written comments and pre-registration emails must clearly state your full name, municipal address, daytime phone number, and your support or opposition to the proposed amendment. It is also recommended to confirm receipt of all written submissions or email pre-registration requests.

The documents can be found on the Town of Whitecourt website at www.whitecourt.ca and are available for viewing at the Town Office 5004 - 52 Avenue, Planning Desk, during regular business hours prior to the Public Hearing.

Questions on the process or the Public Hearing should be directed to Stephanie Schaffner, Planner, at 780-778-2273, e-mailed to stephanieschaffner@whitecourt.ca, or mailed to Box 509, Whitecourt, AB, T7S 1N6.



PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15



SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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					
									48				
49					50				51	52	53	54	55
56					57				58				
59					60					61			
62					63						64		

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. This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
5. People of northern Vietnam
8. Employee stock ownership plan
12. Regions
14. The center of a city
15. Hindu serpentine deity
16. Roared
18. Sun up in New York
19. "Sir" in Malaysian
20. Shrimp dish
21. Muckraker Tarbell
22. Apex
23. Harmonic effects
26. One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
30. Groups in organic chemistry
31. More pleasant-tasting
32. Spring forward

33. Noted writer
34. Building occupied by monks
39. "The world's most famous arena"
42. Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
44. Long or fast speech
46. Things you can eat
47. Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
49. Actor Idris
50. I (German)
51. Taxes
56. Indonesian island
57. Nuisance (slang)
58. Shawl
59. Digits
60. Moved on foot quickly
61. "For goodness __"
62. Facial body part
63. Russian river

CLUES DOWN

1. Partner to "oohs"
2. Scaly water dweller
3. Pueblo people of New Mexico
4. Music producer Teo
5. Greek mythological goddess
6. Got together to discuss
7. Acquires
8. Involve
9. Some are tomato-based
10. Old Irish alphabets
11. A sheet of glass in a window or door
13. Blood poisoning
17. A moon of Saturn
24. Neither
25. Sums
26. They follow "A"
27. Satisfaction
28. People of southeastern Burma
29. Small amount
35. Guy (slang)
36. Sound unit
37. Midway between northeast and east
38. Affirmative
40. Almost at the top
41. Extremely slow
42. Pearl Jam's debut album
43. Influential mid-century playwright
44. Martens
45. Approval
47. Dallas-adjacent Texas city
48. African nation
49. Dark brown or black
52. A place to get caught
53. Large-headed, elongated fish
54. Type of sword
55. Scottish tax or levy

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries, charm is one of your strongest attributes. This week your magnetism is magnified and can work to your advantage. You might attract people who can help with a situation.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, it is never easy to reevaluate finances and cut back. However, this is the week when you likely have to keep your credit card in your wallet; otherwise, the bills add up.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Gemini, now is the time to turn great opportunities into big ideas. Make a plan of action and spell out the steps necessary to see an opportunity come to fruition. Ask for help, if needed.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Cancer, others are supportive of a new project you recently proposed. Maintain that support by staying focused on the tasks at hand. It's time to move things along.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



You are open to new activities and friendships, Leo. Luckily, you may not have to work too hard to make these things happen. Bring new members into existing friend groups.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Do whatever it takes to have some quality time to yourself, Virgo. This may include taking a trip or booking a relaxing day at a nearby spa.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Libra, allow some time to pass by before offering an assessment. Responding too quickly might produce a knee-jerk reaction that could prove regrettable down the road.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Take extra care dealing with a sticky situation at work, Scorpio. You may need to be very careful about checking for mistakes in detail.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



You might need to bargain to get something you want this week, Sagittarius. Figure out what you are willing to give up and then identify a person you can work with.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Clear communication is needed right now, Capricorn; otherwise, you may fall victim to hearsay or crossed signals. Get the facts before sharing your opinion.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Start contemplating big changes pertaining to your employment situation, Aquarius. An opportunity might come along that proves too good to pass up.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



The feelings you have for someone will help you overlook any imperfections you have noticed, Pisces. Keep your relationship strong by focusing on this person's good points.

AT THE RINK

WORD SEARCH



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

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

WORDS

AXEL
BLADE
BREAKAWAY

CHECK

COAST
COMPETITION
DISCIPLINE

EDGE

FLIP
HOCKEY
ICE

JUMP

LIFT
NOVICE
PROGRAM

RINK

ROLLER
SEASON
SINGLES

SKATING

SPEED
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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**



WHITECOURT
CANCER & WELLNESS SOCIETY

Providing timely and easily accessible financial support for Whitecourt patients and their families who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

This can include help with parking costs for hospital visits, living expenses and unforeseen medical expenses. Applications can be made through the Drs at both Whitecourt Medical Clinics or (office hours, can leave a message):

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

<https://wctcancerwellness.com/>

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



"Serving the community for over 30 years"
The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food in order to help families in need.

Open Mon, Wed & Fri 11:00am to 2:00 pm
Phone: 780-778-2341

Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre

The Whitecourt Food Bank is operated by the Town of Whitecourt Food Bank Coordinator and dependent on volunteers to operate. The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food from individuals and organizations. Local grocery stores drop off baked goods including bread and pastries weekly. Other corporations and schools schedule food drives throughout the year.

Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Phone: 780-778-2341

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is transitional housing for men.

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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:

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

Child Support Program:

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

Preventative Education:

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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

www.whitecourtsheelter.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**

CANADIAN Kids Corner



What's the Difference?

Find the four difference between the pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Garland on mantel 2. Missing candle 3. Dog bed under fireplace 4. Missing present under tree

CANADA



HISTORY

2007

The Canadian Government, along with American billionaire Bill Gates, announce the Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative.

Book



FACT:

This author penned a poem that is typically recited each year at Christmas.

Answer: Clement Clarke Moore

NEW WORD

YULE

an archaic word for "Christmas"

How they say that in...

English: The holidays

Spanish: Fiestas

Italian: Le festività

French: Fêtes de fin d'année

German: Feiertage

Did You Know?

Travelers usually travel 50 miles or more from home over the 10-day, year-end holiday season to spend time with family and friends.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

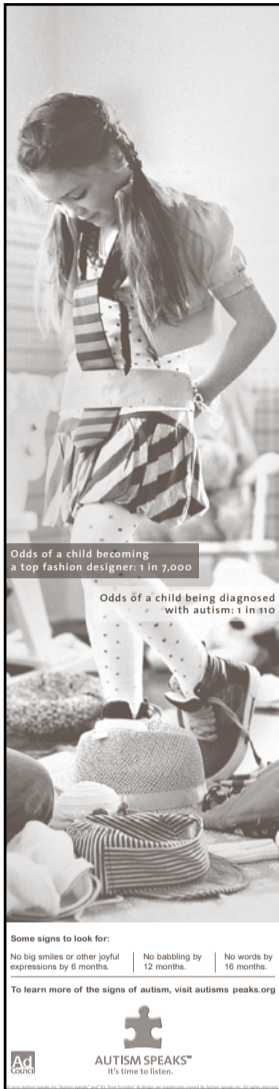
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A look at the local weather	Wed., Jan. 22	Thu., Jan. 23	Fri., Jan. 24	Sat., Jan. 25	Sun., Jan. 26
P.O.P.	Mix of sun and clouds	Flurries	Mainly sunny	Mix of sun and clouds	Mix of sun and clouds
High	30%	70%	10%	30%	30%
Low	-2°C	3°C	-4°C	-6°C	-4°C
Wind	-4°C	-5°C	-9°C	-9°C	-8°C
24-Hr Rain / Snow	W 16 km/h	W 13 km/h	NW 16 km/h	W 19 km/h	NW 28 km/h
	-	~1cm	-	-	-

Follow the barrels: Why a U.S. tariff on Canadian energy is self-defeating

By Mark Parsons, ATB ECONOMICS

On January 20, President-elect Donald Trump will take office and, among other things, speculation is swirling on what he plans to do with tariffs.

In November, Trump threatened a 25% tariff on Mexico and Canada across all products, citing border security concerns. This month, the Washington Post reported a lighter touch on tariffs, only to be refuted by Trump days later. And after her meeting with the Trump team over the weekend, Alberta Premier Danielle Smith warned that tariffs are likely coming.

Even if this is a negotiating tactic, the persistence of the Trump tariff threat suggests it should be taken seriously. We have prepared different scenarios for the Alberta economy to

account for the possibility of sweeping 25% tariffs, which in our estimation would lead to a recession. In the U.S., the Peterson Institute for International Economics estimates it will hurt economic growth and drive up inflation.

Amid the social media storm and political wrangling, it's worth taking a step back to look at what Canada actually trades with the U.S.

A trade surplus with Canada, excluding oil and gas

Trump has been clear he doesn't like running trade deficits with countries (that is, importing more than it sells), often calling it a 'subsidy'.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. trade deficit (including both goods and services) with Canada was \$US 40.6 billion in

2023.* There were nine other trading partners with which the U.S. had a larger trade deficit (see the chart below), and Canada accounted for only 5% of the total U.S. trade deficit of \$US 785 billion in 2023.

A closer look reveals a more nuanced picture.

- -The U.S. runs a trade surplus with Canada in services. As of 2023, the service surplus was \$US 31.7 billion.
- -Excluding oil and gas from the trade picture, the U.S. runs an overall trade surplus with Canada.**

A tariff on Canadian oil and gas will raise U.S. prices and undermine energy security

So will oil and gas be the target of U.S. protectionist policy? That's problematic from a number of angles.

First, the North American oil and gas market is highly integrated. Canada generates income from exporting oil and gas stateside, while the U.S. benefits from access to discounted barrels and secure supply. Far from being a subsidy to Canada, you could argue that the U.S. receives a subsidy from Canada's relatively inexpensive feedstock, freeing up other more lucrative U.S. barrels for export. In other words, the U.S. trade deficit with Canada in oil and gas enables the U.S. to run an oil and gas trade surplus with other countries. Early this month, the U.S. was importing more than 4.4 million barrels per day from Canada, a record. In 2023, about a quarter of all crude refined in the U.S. came from Canada.

What about U.S. refiners swapping out Canadian barrels? There are limits to how much refineries could exchange heavy oil for light oil. The other heavy options include Mexico (also a target of 25% tariffs, but having greater ability to move barrels to alternative markets given seaborne access) and Venezuela (a less reliable supplier).

Second, tariffs on Canadian crude oil and natural gas will raise energy prices in the U.S.—which is directly at odds with Trump's campaign pledges to slash prices. Refineries and natural gas importers have few options in the near term: The pipe-

line network sending these products is fixed and many U.S. refineries are equipped to process Canadian heavy barrels, particularly in the U.S. midwest.

U.S. industry groups have strongly cautioned against tariffs on imported crude. According to the President of the American Fuel and Petrochemicals Manufacturers (AFPM), "American refiners depend on crude oil from Canada and Mexico to produce the affordable, reliable fuels consumers count on every day. Therefore, we would hope any future tariffs would exclude these critical feedstocks and refined products."

To be sure, the reduction in demand for Canadian oil will also hit producers in Canada and government revenue via wider discounts on Canadian crude, including a wider light-heavy differential. It is a lose-lose for both countries.

Third, tariffs would come at a time of other energy affordability challenges for the Trump Administration. Oil prices have jumped in the last two weeks, closing at \$US 77.50 on January 14. This could be a double whammy—higher North American oil prices and higher import costs. Inflation expectations have risen, and the U.S. Federal Reserve is now leaning towards at most one rate cut this year, in part due to potential trade and fiscal policy.

Turning off the taps?

There has been some talk of the federal government considering export restrictions on Canadian energy as a retaliatory measure. There are at least three problems with that. First, many of the barrels flowing to the U.S. end up in refineries in central Canada via Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline. The result would mean higher energy prices for Canadians. Second, there would be an economic hit from less energy production. Third, the Alberta government has been clear it will challenge any measure, arguing this infringes on provincial jurisdiction over energy production. Far from presenting a united front, this measure is opposed by the major energy-producing provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Summary

The U.S. runs a trade deficit with Canada that is driven by energy trade. But the U.S. does not 'subsidize' Canada. Rather, it benefits from reliable flows of discounted crude and natural gas. In economics speak, each country specializes in what it does best (i.e. its comparative advantage) and gains from trade. A tariff, one way or another, will raise prices.

There is still hope the U.S. and Canada can preserve their mutually-beneficial trading relationship and avoid a tariff war (or at least keep it very temporary). We will know soon.

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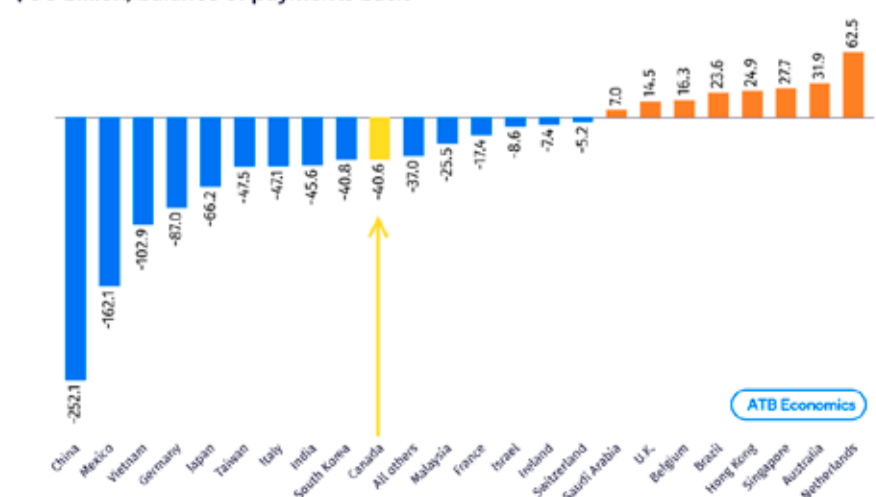
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U.S. goods and services trade balance in 2023
\$US billion, balance of payments basis



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and ATB Economics

Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.69 US Dollar at an exchange rate of 0.6905 (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of January 22, 2025

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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

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Enjoying the winter weather



And she's off!



Getting ready to slide.



Getting ready to slide.

This young trio was out on the Dahl Drive toboggan hill on Saturday afternoon, enjoying the crisp winter weather. Recent warm temperatures had left behind a slippery landscape now that the cold is back, making for a fast slide down and a careful, slow walk back to the top. The crew had a nice warm fire to enjoy when they finally made it back up, thanks to the town-provided fire pit and wood stack that is free for use. On a chilly day like Saturday, the fire was a welcomed addition to an afternoon sliding.

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

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

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Putting a face on suicide



Ashley Nicole Sagram

Age - 25

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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Incoming and outgoing Chamber presidents speak of community pride and hope for the future



Photo by Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce

By **Serena Lapointe**

The meeting gavel for the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce was officially passed from now-past-president Louise Meier to new president Terriann Masse earlier this month. Meier said the last two years flew by quickly. “It’s been an interesting ride. It’s nice to sit around the table with like-minded people and discuss and create things.” She said getting to know businesses and learning how to become a partner with them are highlights for her, as well as getting to know town and county officials.

During her two-year term as president, Meier had three “pet projects” that were very dear to her.

“One was the Fresh Community Market, the second was the President’s Gala, and the third was the networking events. Rather than just having meetings, those networking events are such a great opportunity for people who typically don’t

come to the meetings. They can come out and enjoy each other’s company in a relaxed environment,” she explained.

Meier said she is happy they are doing well. “I love the market. When you’re getting 600 people each Saturday coming out, I think the community loves the market as well. It’s a highlight of the season for us. The President’s Gala is about celebrating the Chamber and the community. And now, bringing the business awards into the evening is just fabulous. Seeing business owners feel part of what makes this community what it is, is special.”

She said that seeing all the players at the same table is one of the things that makes the Chamber a success story. “The not-for-profits, the big players and the little players all have a place in the circle, and it’s nice to see them all sit at those tables together and feel that what they do in this town has value. I think

that’s what I take away from this experience. We are all here for the same purpose.”

As she settles into her role as past president, Meier said she hopes to support Masse just as the previous president, Mark Dickin, did for her. “He was my wingman, and I want to be Terriann’s wingman. I want to help set her up for as much success and help her if she needs it. I think she’s going to do a great job.”

Masse said that Meier and Dickin were mentors to her for the last few years and credits how they handled the presidency and worked with businesses and the board as her inspiration for stepping into the role she now has. “I watched how they carried themselves. They inspired me to see what was possible,” said Masse.

As president, Masse said she is excited to get to work and is focused on growing awareness of what it means to be part of the Chamber. When she was first introduced to it, Masse

said she didn’t know anything about it. “A family member was part of the Chamber when we had just started Tri-Steel. He invited me to a meeting to see what it was all about, and I fell in love with it,” explained Masse. “I soon realized how supportive the community was with new businesses.”

As she started networking with more people and learning about the Chamber, she felt the pull to get involved. “Being with like-minded business owners, talking about the day-to-day decisions you have to make, the ups and downs of business, and having a place to network with people and promote your business, was what I fell in love with.”

Taking on the role also brings with it some nerves as Masse gets used to leading the board and becoming the voice for the Chamber. “There will be a lot of eyes on me, and I want to make everyone happy. I know

continued on page 14



Stacey Woyewoda Photography

Every two years, the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce welcomes a new president. Everyone who steps into the role has goals for their term and business experience. The Press recently spoke to this year’s outgoing and incoming presidents.

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Whitecourt

Whitecourt, Mayerthorpe and Evansburg RCMP respond to proactive traffic stop

On Jan. 15, 2025, at approximately 9:30 A.M., RCMP members from Whitecourt, initiated a traffic stop on a suspicious vehicle parked roadside. The driver of the vehicle fled, passing through Mayerthorpe RCMP and then through to Evansburg, Alta., where the vehicle was stopped after a successful spike belt deployment.

The driver fled on foot into the woods in

the area of Highway 16 and Range Road 91, in the Wildwood area.

RCMP utilized resources from surrounding detachments, which included members from Whitecourt, Mayerthorpe, Evansburg and Edson, Alta. RCMP. As well as Whitecourt General Investigation Services (GIS), Whitecourt Traffic Services, 2 Police Dog Services members (PDS), Western Alberta District's Crime Reduction Unit

(WAD CRU), Provincial Crime Reduction Team (CRT), the RCMP's Air Services, Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPASS aka Drones).

Due to the exceptional teamwork from all assisting units, support services and members involved, the driver was located in the woods and was arrested without further incident.

Whitecourt RCMP have laid charges on Bradley Gordon Duff

(39), a resident of Whitecourt, with:

- Possession of prohibited or restricted firearm with ammunition, without a license
- Unauthorized possession of firearm in a motor vehicle x 2
- Possession of firearm, cross-bow, prohibited weapon, restricted device, any ammunition, any prohibited ammunition, or an explosive substance

whilst prohibited x 4

- Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle
- Impaired operation of a motor vehicle
- Refusal to comply with demand (for impaired)
- Operate a motor vehicle while being pursued
- Operate a motor vehicle while prohibited from doing so x 2
- Possession of property obtained by crime, over \$5000
- Possession of proper-

ty obtained by crime, under \$5000

- Fraudulent concealment
 - Operate a motor vehicle while uninsured
- The truck and license plate were stolen from the Edmonton Alta. area.

Duff was brought before a Justice of the Peace, where he was remanded with a court date of Jan. 20, 2025 at the Alberta Court of Justice in St. Albert, Alta.



Resources to help quit smoking and vaping

National Non-Smoking Week runs Jan. 19-25, a time to raise awareness of the benefits of quitting smoking and vaping, and to help people get started on a quit journey that works for them.

Resources are available to help those living in Alberta to quit smoking and vaping for good. With the right support, you can dou-

ble or even triple your chance of staying vape or smoke-free, and improve your health. Within 20 minutes of putting out your last cigarette, your blood pressure and heart rate go down with less stress on your heart and blood vessels.

Alberta Health Services offers programs and services to help you stop smoking and

vaping. It may take more than one try to quit for good, so it's important to never give up. Keep trying and use the resources that work for you:

- Call the AlbertaQuits helpline at 1-866-710-QUIT (7848) for free, confidential advice and support from a quit counselor.
- Go to AlbertaQuits.ca for guidance and tools to build a quit plan.

ca for guidance and tools to build a quit plan.

- Text the word "ABQuits" to the number 123456 for free text messages to keep you motivated.
- Register for QuitCore, a group support program that teaches quit strategies and connects people who are trying to quit smoking and vaping.

Call the AlbertaQuits helpline at 1-866-710-QUIT (7848) to find a QuitCore group in your local area or online.

- Ask your doctor or healthcare provider about medications that can boost your chances of staying quit. Some costs may be covered.
- Share your quit tips, hacks, and stories

on social media with others using the hashtag #IamQuitting.

To learn more about support for quitting smoking or vaping, go to AlbertaQuits.ca. For more information on smoking, vaping, and your health, go to <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/HealthTopics/Tobacco-Smoking-Vaping>.

continued from page 13

that isn't really possible, but it's what I am striving to do. If there is something we can do to help, then I will lead that way."

Masse owns Tri-Steel Salvage, her husband owns GFI Solutions Ltd, and the pair also own the Whitecourt Wolverines. "I love Whitecourt for its strong focus on family, and it is an excellent place for business. I've never seen such a

supportive town, even on social media, where people share each other's posts, promote shopping locally, or rave about someone's business. And our business community is active. Whitecourt has a warmth about it," smiled Masse.

"When you give, you get back. That's how I've realized that Whitecourt is, so we keep giving and getting back," explained Masse. Being involved in the Chamber is just the next lev-

el of giving. "The role is volunteer. There are only two paid positions at the Chamber. The board of directors is volunteer run, including all the executive members," adding that people get involved with the Chamber because they desire to support others.

Masse said she hopes the membership will have confidence in her. "I want them to feel welcome and to talk to me about the woes of business too. It always

looks fun and exciting, but business isn't always fun and exciting. We want to be a safe space for businesses to talk to us about their struggles and how we can help because I also have that experience."

A couple of Masse's goals are to amplify the benefits of being a member and show businesses the value of joining and current members the value of staying. She also wants an LED sign added to the community to help

advertise the membership and upcoming events.

"It's already in the works, but it's going to be a big job and a long process that might not even happen while I'm in this role still, but if we can see the value in it and get enough people on board, then it can be something that benefits the membership and the community," said Masse.

She said revenue from a sign like that would enable the

Chamber to do "bigger and better things."

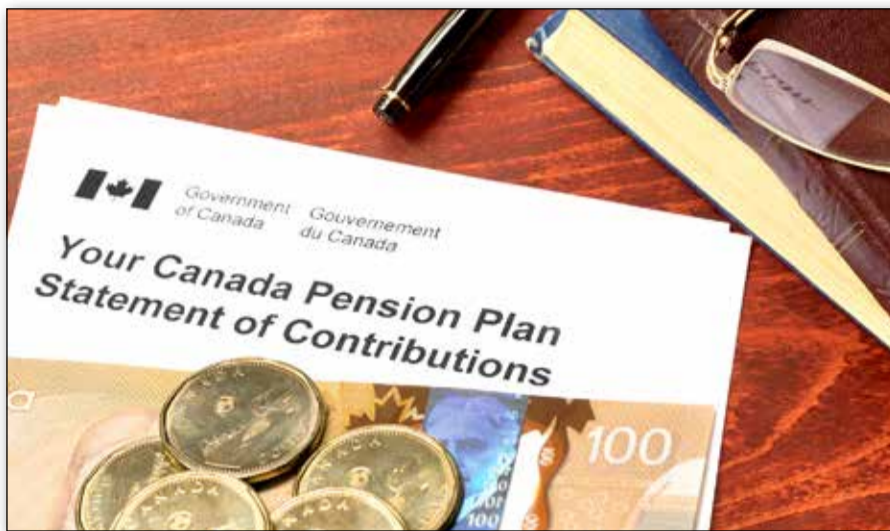
With the gavel firmly in her grasp, Masse said everyone wants to be proud to be part of a successful business or organization and that the Chamber is no different. "It's always evolving.

It's never going to stagnate. We are always evolving and having the best focus on business owners, and I'm looking forward to what the next two years bring."

The pros and cons of receiving your Canada Pension Plan benefits early or late

(NC) Financial planners used to ask their clients, “What if you die? How will you look after your family?” Nowadays, with people living longer, the question is, “What if you live?” One of the key decisions that many Canadians need to make in retirement planning is when to begin receiving your Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits. It’s an important decision that can have a significant impact on retirement income, but it’s a decision that is different for everyone based on personal circumstances.

Understanding the impact of early and late benefits: The standard age to receive CPP benefits is 65. You can start as early as 60,



but you’ll receive a smaller amount; or you can delay until 70 and receive higher benefits. (The maximum monthly amount is reached at 70, except for increases due to inflation.) Here’s how it works:

- If you choose to start

receiving benefits before age 65, payments will decrease by 0.6 per cent each month (or 7.2 per cent per year), up to a maximum reduction of 36 per cent if you start at age 60.

- If you start after age 65, payments

increase by 0.7 per cent each month (or 8.4 per cent per year) up to a maximum of 42 per cent if you wait until age 70.

Based on those figures, if you were eligible to receive \$10,000 a year in CPP benefits at 65, the amount

would be \$6,400 if you started taking payments at age 60 versus \$14,200 at 70.

Factors to consider before deciding:

It can be daunting to make the decision, but there are several questions you can ask yourself before you decide – and of course you can choose to begin receiving benefits any time between ages 60 and 70.

For example, you may consider taking CPP earlier if you are ill or have a family history of shorter lifespans. You may also want to pay off debts or invest the money. On the other hand, you may consider waiting longer if you are healthy, have a family history of living lon-

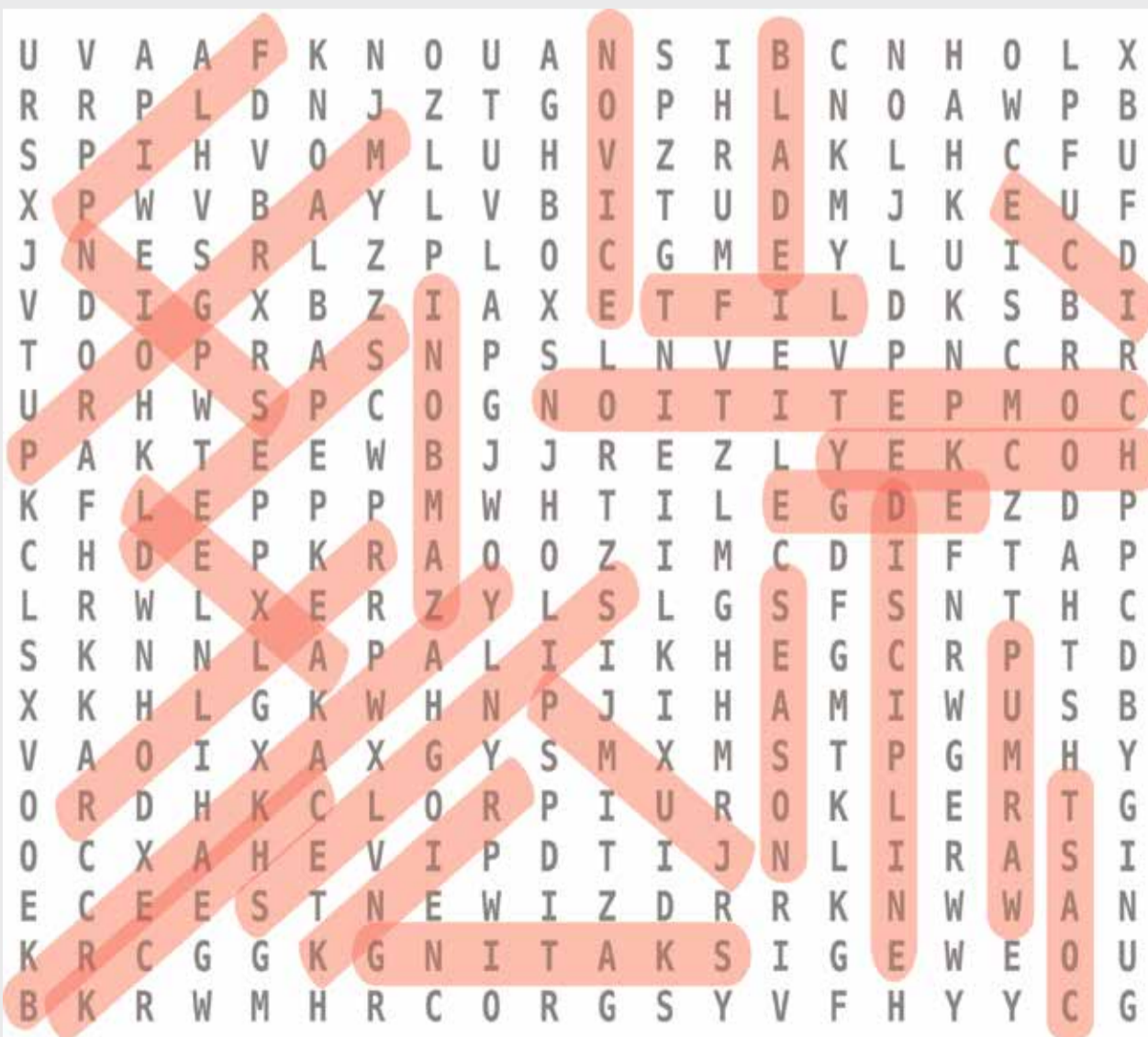
ger and don’t need the money for immediate needs.

Benefits assurance:

Whatever you decide, the benefits will be there for you – and you’ll keep receiving payments for as long as you live. As of September 30, 2024, the Fund stands at \$675 billion. It’s professionally managed by CPP Investments, the independent Crown Corporation that operates at arm’s length from the federal and provincial governments. The independent Office of the Chief Actuary, which monitors the long-term health of the Fund, says in its latest review that the CPP Fund is financially sustainable for at least the next 75 years.

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