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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



# The Press

Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 14 - Issue 5 | Wednesday, February 5, 2025

## Snowy Ladies' Night delivers trivia, hidden flags, fan fun, and sweet goals



In-game host Tony Lightning-Vanderhammen with another happy winner.



Working so hard the net popped up.

It was Ladies' Night at JDA Place last week, and come out they did! Fans packed the barn for a showdown between the Wolverines and a rarely seen southern team, and the local fans were not disappointed.

By Serena Lapointe

With a snowstorm roaring outside and several fresh inches of snow layering the land, it was anyone's guess how many fans would be in JDA Place to watch the Whitecourt Wolverines take on the

Camrose Kodiaks on Friday, January 31. The teams were ready, but would the fans be there? Well, friends, there was a lot of shovelling happening in driveways across the community because 628 fans filled the stands for Ladies'

Night, the sixth-highest attendance at a home game this season. Girls, no matter their age, were free for the evening, which proved well worth venturing out in the snow. After

continued on page 6

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Photo by Whitecourt Legion

# A tasty win

Hank Wassing was an especially happy camper on January 25 after taking home not his first, not his second, but his third mega meat draw win at Whitecourt's Royal Canadian Legion Branch #44. The draw takes place every Saturday afternoon at the legion and can be attended by anyone. Tickets are sold over a brief period before a winner is announced. Congratulations on your third win, Hank! Pictured is Hank Wassing holding his prize




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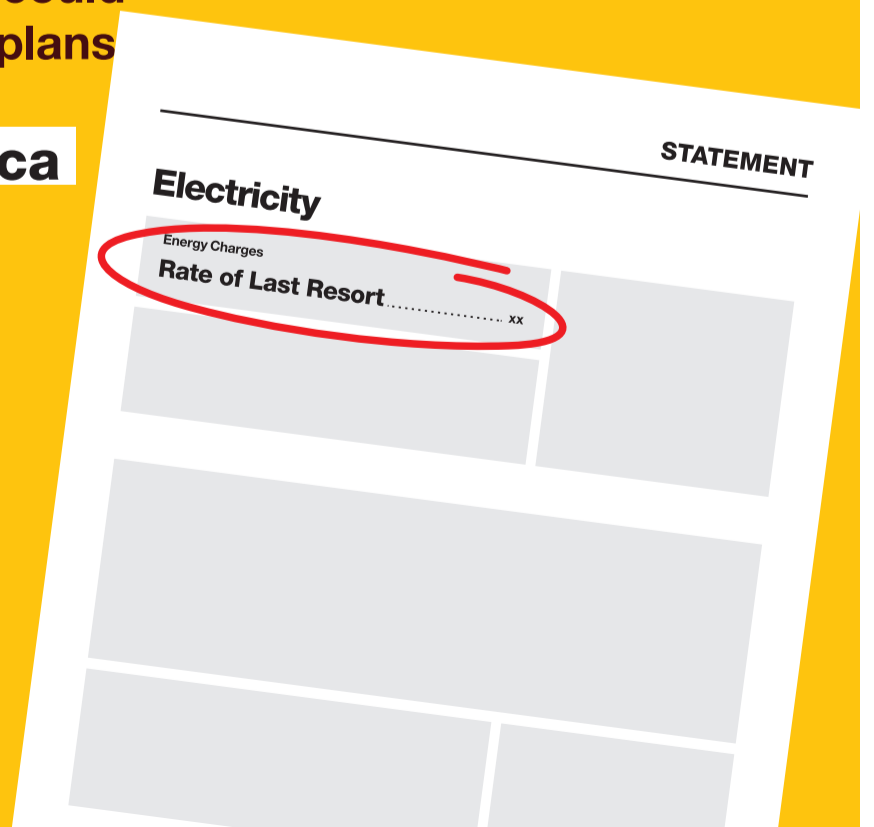
Valid Feb. 10 – 14, 2025

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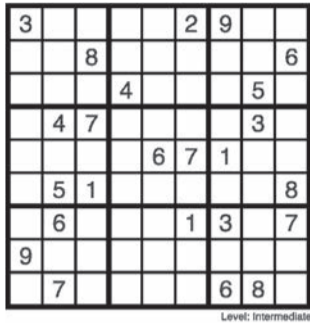
Explore your options at [UCAhelps.ca](http://UCAhelps.ca)

Alberta 

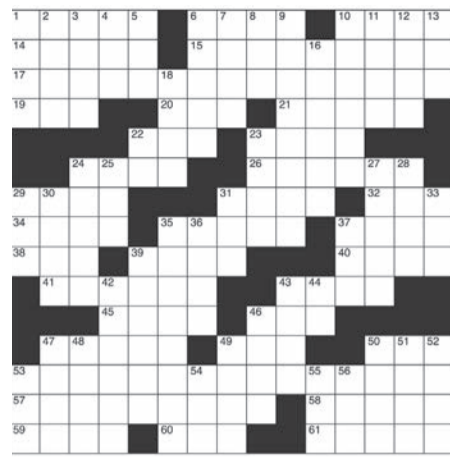


SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

# SUDOKU CROSSWORDS



**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!



**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. "The Las Vegas of the East"
- 6. Cook
- 10. Manning and Wallach are two
- 14. Chameleon
- 15. A way to fill up
- 17. What MLBers hope to play in
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Indefinite period of time
- 21. Excites
- 22. Males
- 23. Mongol leader
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Soda comes in them
- 29. Not nice
- 31. Professional organization
- 32. Part of a play
- 34. Sea eagle
- 35. Emily Blunt's character in "Sicario"
- 37. Beige
- 38. Mental sharpness
- 39. Valley
- 40. Alcyone's husband
- 41. A place to gamble
- 43. Flightless Australian birds
- 45. Call out somebody's

name over a P.A. system

- 46. US spy group
- 47. Pancakes from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Disfigure
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Early English council
- 59. Square measures
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and \_\_, critics

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Mouths
- 2. Buffalo
- 3. You plug it in
- 4. Each
- 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. King of Thebes
- 7. English name meaning "mythical hunter"
- 8. Indicates near
- 9. More herbaceous
- 10. Gas-powered cars need one
- 11. Dishonest individual
- 12. Systems, doctrines, theories
- 13. The woman
- 16. The whole of one's holdings
- 18. Witnesses
- 22. Doctor

- 23. Paul \_\_, Swiss painter
- 24. Kids look for him on December 24
- 25. Single
- 27. Competitions
- 28. Predict the future
- 29. Cage for trained hawks
- 30. Musician Clapton
- 31. Frozen water
- 33. Semiformal men's evening attire
- 35. Most worn
- 36. Common soap ingredient
- 37. Former EU monetary unit
- 39. Provisions
- 42. Book parts
- 43. Republic of Ireland
- 44. Partner to "Pa"
- 46. Sammy \_\_, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth \_\_, American writer
- 49. Solar disk in Egyptian mythology
- 50. Minute arachnid
- 51. From a distance
- 52. Monthly apartment cost
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Tourist destination
- 55. "Woman" in Ojibwe language
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

## REMOTE WORK WORD SEARCH

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

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

**WORDS**

- ANNUALIZED
- ASYNCHRONOUS
- CLOUD
- COMMUNICATION
- COWORKING
- DIGITAL
- FLEX TIME
- FREELANCE
- FULLY
- GIG ECONOMY
- GLOBAL
- HOURS
- HYBRID
- LOCATION
- MESSAGE
- OFFSHORING
- REMOTE
- SOFTWARE
- SOLOPRENEUR
- TEAM
- TELECOMMUTE
- VPN
- WORKLOAD
- WORKPLACE



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# Olive Irene Bougie

November 29, 1937 – January 1, 2025

Olive Irene Bougie, a cherished, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away quietly at home at the age of 87 years on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, in Whitecourt, Alberta. Olive's gentle nature touched everyone she met throughout her life.



grandma she was considered to be "cool", she fed them, played crib and other card games and she was truly interested in what was going on in their lives, she was very proud of her family. Olive had views of what was right and wrong, she was a positive guide in her family's life.

Olive found joy in painting and jigsaw puzzles, she loved to put her hands in the dirt to plant flowers and grow a garden. One of her greatest pleasures was watching the Edmonton Oilers play hockey! Olive deeply loved her family, Olive was very invested in her children and her grandchildren's lives, she would not miss a chance to watch Christmas concerts, attend graduations or a hockey game. As a

Olive is lovingly remembered by her children, Norma Bougie, Brenda Lessard (John), Wade Bougie, and Robert Bougie (Karin); 3 grandsons and 2 granddaughters plus 6 great grandchildren; and sister Darlene Harden (Duane).

Olive was predeceased by her husband, Fernand Bougie and grandson Gene Lessard.

As was Olive's wish no formal service will be held.

Condolences may be sent to [www.affinityfuneralservice.ca](http://www.affinityfuneralservice.ca).

Funeral Arrangements in the care of Terri Shimenosky at:

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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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### 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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

[www.whitecourtshester.ca](http://www.whitecourtshester.ca)

## GRIEF SHARE®

Support group on Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:30 pm.

Our next series starts Tuesday, February 4 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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Two fans making some noise.



Instead of the puck, it's the goalie in the net.

continued from page 1

all, they are Canadians, aren't they?

The first 50 ladies in the building received special gift bags, adding to the excitement and leaving fans wanting only one thing; a win. Exactly twelve minutes into the first period, Kodiak Dylan Bidyk scored his third goal of the season on the powerplay, giving travelling Kodiak fans something to celebrate but leaving Wolverines fans pouting.

In the second, Wolverine Mason Russell scored his first goal since early October, and second on the season, a beauty assisted by Travis Verbeek (his twelfth) and Ty Rayan (his third) just over three minutes in, tying it up. Not to be outdone, Jalen Bianchet added to the scoreboard less than a minute later, potting in his sixteenth goal of the season after being kept off the scoresheet the previous three games.

Still in the first half of the second period,

the Camrose Kodiaks managed to sneak one in past Wolverines net-minder Elliott Pratt, tying things up and making for an interesting third period. During the intermissions and pauses in play, ladies in the audience answered questions and won various prizes, like gift cards and game tickets.

During the first intermission, one lucky lady got to play a game on the ice where she had to locate a youngster holding a flag on a pole. Easy enough, except she was blindfolded and had to rely on the fans in the stands to tell her which way to go. Screams of "hot" and "cold" could be heard throughout JDA Place as fans tried their best to lead her to the flag. With a little help from in-game host Tony Lightning-Vanderhammen, she located the flag and won a prize, and the fans loved it.

In the third period, both teams were ready to scrap it out. With every whistle blast,

continued on page 7



A big jump for Bianchet.



Puck fight.



Two pretty ladies enjoying Ladies Night.

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The Press



A happy fan!



The flag girl was having fun watching the fan try and find her.

continued from page 6

tensions seemed to rise higher and higher, leaving fans to wonder how messy things would get. Oddly, with the amount of pushing, shoving and smack-talking, there were only two penalties in the whole game, one to each team.

Just shy of the halfway mark, Xavier La-

coste scored his third goal of the season, unassisted. The Sainte-Julie, Quebec native, is in his second season with the Whitecourt Wolverines. In 35 games last season, Lacoste put up six assists. So far this year, in 40 games (as of Friday, January 31), Lacoste has three goals and 22 assists, showing incredible growth from one season to the next.

With a 3-2 lead, the Wolverines knew it was not the time to take their collective foot off the pedal. The teams battled back and forth, with end-to-end action and a few wicked saves from both goalies. Nearing the end, Camrose pulled their goalie, hoping to snag the goal they needed to tie things up.

However, Spencer Claerhout had other

plans. Once the puck was on his stick, and with only eighteen seconds left to go, the Wolverine knew what to do, and he did not miss. Claerhout scored his fourth goal of the season, unassisted, to solidify the Wolverines' victory against the Kodiaks. The Wolverines won, 4-2.

Local fans will not see the Camrose Ko-

diaks until mid-March when they take on the Wolverines in the final regular season game. There are twelve games to get to before that happens, and fans can see the Wolverines back in action on home ice on Saturday, February 15, against the Grande Prairie Storm.

As of Friday, January 31, the Wolverines sit atop the AJHL

North Division, with seven points on the second-place team, the Storm. Broadly, the Wolverines are second in the league, sitting just below the Canmore Eagles and just above the Calgary Canucks. Both southern teams split their games against the Wolverines this season, eluding to the makings of an interesting playoff season.

## Whitecourt Town Council updates

The 2024 Municipal Enforcement Annual Report has been accepted as information by Whitecourt Town Council. The report is prepared annually for the Alberta Solicitor General, and outlines activities conducted by Municipal Enforcement Services. Over the course of the year, 2,163 activities were logged by Whitecourt Peace Officers.

Whitecourt awarded \$18,604 in funding to community organizations as part of the 2025

Family & Community Support Services Grant Program. The program provides assistance to community groups that plan to provide social programs that are preventative in nature to the community. 2025 recipients include:

- McLeod River Primary Care Network - \$2,544 to provide workshops with a focus on mental health, physical wellness, and social engagement.
- Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis

Centre - \$2,200 to update/reprint the Whitecourt Community Resource Guide.

- Community Lunch Box - \$14,500 for volunteer coordination and support.

The Town of Whitecourt has been awarded grant funding for a 29-month term from the United Way, through Health Aging Alberta, to provide non-medical home support for seniors in Whitecourt and area. As many seniors in Whitecourt are choosing to live independently in their current homes, this will help to increase seniors' capacity to age safely in place and

improve the wellbeing of older adults in our community. Services include in-home non-medical supports, including housekeeping, meal preparation, grocery shopping and yard maintenance. This program will complement Whitecourt's Social Prescribing Program that is already in place that helps to bridge the gap between medical and social care services to seniors in Whitecourt. To access both programs, clients will need a referral from a health care provider. For more information on the programs please contact the FCSS Program Coordinator at

780-778-3637 ext. 417.

The Economic Development Committee presented a semi-annual report to Council on current initiatives and updates on projects undertaken in 2024. The report is available to view on [www.whitecourt.ca/business](http://www.whitecourt.ca/business).

Whitecourt will be hosting a checkpoint as part of the 2025 Snowmobile Rally hosted by the Whitecourt Trailblazers Snowmobile Club. The Rally is scheduled for Saturday, February 15 and welcomes riders from across the region and province, and highlights Whitecourt as a tourism destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

For more information on the event visit [www.whitecourtrailblazers.ca](http://www.whitecourtrailblazers.ca).

Whitecourt is applying for funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative for Phase 1 of the Town's Highway 43 Vitalization Planting Project. Phase 1 involves plantings on both sides of Highway 43 between 53 Avenue and Riverboat Park Road in west Whitecourt.

Councillor Serena Lapointe has been appointed to serve as Deputy Mayor from March 1 to June 30, 2025.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Current opportunities are posted on the Town's website and when required, opportunities are posted on [purchasingconnection.ca](http://purchasingconnection.ca). Currently, Whitecourt has the following opportunities:

- 2025-22-01: JDA Place – McLeod Arena Dasher Board Replacement, Closes: February 14, 2025
- 2025-23-01: Whitecourt Regional Landfill – 2025-2027 Leachate Hauling, Closes: February 13, 2025

For further details on any of these opportunities visit [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) and search the project title.

# CANADIAN Kids Corner



## Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

14			23
1		5	15
	12	2	22
23	24	13	

2	12	8
5	6	1
6	3	14

Solution

## CANADA



## HISTORY

1764

Fort Erie is constructed. It is the first British fort to be constructed in the Canadian territories that were newly annexed from the French.

## Animal FACT:



This activity is a popular hobby that enables people to interact with and observe wildlife.

Answer: Bird feeding

## Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

**B N S E L I B N O D S E E S**

Answer: Nibbles on seeds

## NEW WORD

## FLEDGLING

a young bird that is learning to fly

## How they say that in...

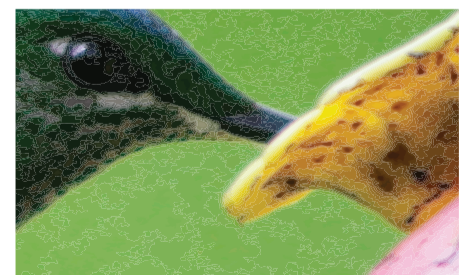
- English:** Seed
- Spanish:** Semilla
- Italian:** Seme
- French:** Graine
- German:** Samen

## Did You Know?

Bird feeders can be placed at different levels, including on the ground, on a table top or higher. This allows various birds to enjoy a meal.



## Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Hummingbird

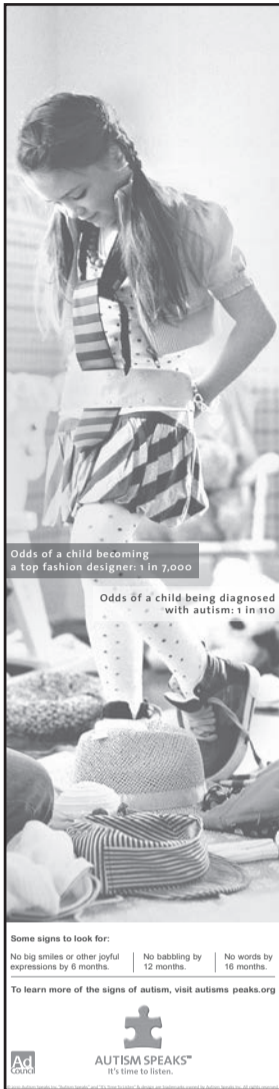




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**Employment Opportunities**

START 2025 WITH AN ADVENTURE. In DESPARE need of two Veterinarians in Yellowknife, NWT. Population

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**A look at the local weather**

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



**Wed., Feb. 5**  
 Sunny  
 40%  
 -15°C  
 -17°C  
 W 15 km/h



**Thu., Feb. 6**  
 Mix of sun and clouds  
 60%  
 -8°C  
 -20°C  
 W 12 km/h



**Fri., Feb. 7**  
 Mix of sun and clouds  
 20%  
 -10°C  
 -19°C  
 E 8 km/h



**Sat., Feb. 8**  
 Mainly cloudy  
 40%  
 -10°C  
 -19°C  
 NW 16 km/h



**Sun., Feb. 9**  
 Mainly sunny  
 30%  
 -12°C  
 -22°C  
 W 9 km/h

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

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

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

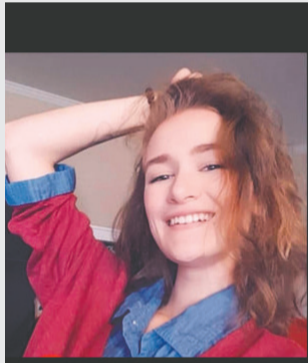
in Canada by texting TALK to 686868 to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to 686868 to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/SMS enabled cell phone. KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under

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

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

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

### Putting a face on suicide



Emily Sweazy  
Age 17

23-Jan-2002 ... 7-Jun-2019

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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### Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = **0.68 US Dollar** at an exchange rate of **0.6877** (using nominal rate).



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### HELP WANTED

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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.

## SCHOOL NEWS



Whitecourt Central's 5 Landry spent the day immersed in Chinese culture as they celebrated the Chinese New Year.



Pat Hardy School's annual gym riot was a hit.

# Outgoing Fire Chief Brian Wynn reflects on 31 years in the Whitecourt Fire Department



Photo by Whitecourt Fire Department

After just over three decades of service to his community, now-retired Fire Chief Brian Wynn is entering his first year as a retiree. The Press sat down with Wynn just before his last day to get his thoughts on his career, memories, and what he would miss most. Pictured is a cool snapshot from one of his many trainings.

By Serena Lapointe

Just before Christmas, on the afternoon of December 20, after 31 years of service to the Whitecourt Fire Department, now-retired Fire Chief Brian Wynn walked out of his office for the last time and stepped into his first moments as a retired man. After dedicating much of his life to keeping the community safe, Wynn said he was excited to be able to say yes more often.

“As chief, I was on call a third of the time, all year long. There are many things you can’t do when you are on call. You don’t go swimming. You don’t

go for walks. If we went to a restaurant, my wife and I took different vehicles because I’d left her at restaurants before. When we

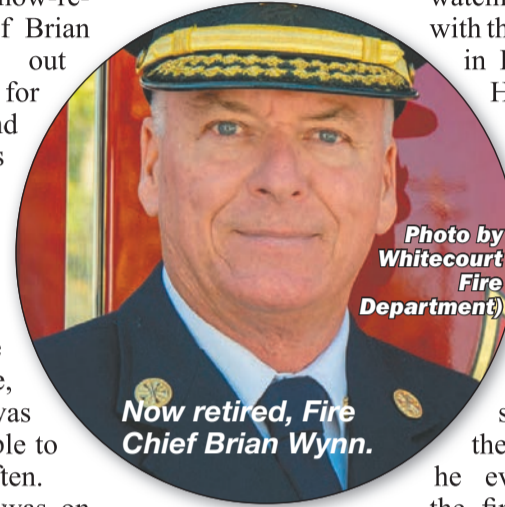


Photo by Whitecourt Fire Department

Now retired, Fire Chief Brian Wynn.

got a radio call, I would be in my truck within three minutes and going to the scene,” explained Wynn. These were sacrifices he and

his family made so that he could follow his dreams.

Growing up, Wynn developed his passion for firefighting by watching his dad work with the fire department in Rocky Mountain House. “My dad worked for the gas company, which before ATCO Gas was Northwestern Utilities, and he would have to go to all the structure fires as the gas guy, and he eventually joined the fire department. I thought that was cool.”

The experience of firefighting then was different than it is to-

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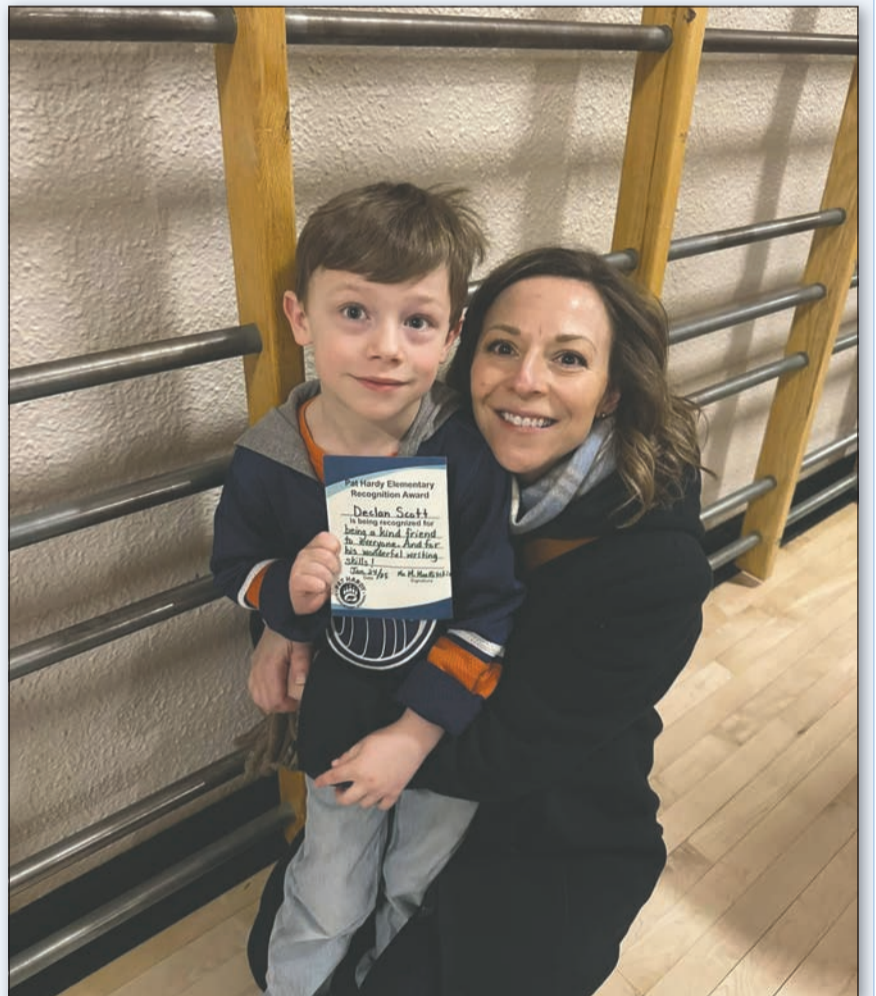


CONTACT: JOEL MELANSON

587-335-0322

joel@larrmanagementcorp.ca

## Appreciation for a job well done



Whitecourt and area students regularly receive awards for doing good things, excelling at their learning, and reaching milestones in their school journey. Declan Scott, a student at Pat Hardy Elementary School, recently received an award for being a kind friend to everyone. The award also pointed to his handwriting skills being wonderful. His mom, pictured, and his dad behind the camera, said they are "super proud" of him. Way to be awesome, Declan! Pictured is Youngster Declan Scott and his mom, posing with his recognition award.



Photo by Whitecourt Fire Department

Wynn, second from right, during one of the deployments to Jasper.

day. “We had the fire phone in the hallway at home, and it was either the siren in town that went off, or the fire phone would ring, or both.” He said his dad’s profession became part of the family, and as he grew up, he knew it was something he wanted to do too, but his jobs never left room for it.

“When we moved to Whitecourt, I worked for Halliburton and was always on the road. But in 1993, I took a lay-off from them instead of transferring out of town, and that’s when I started,” said Wynn. His passion for wanting to help others kept him invigorated through the highs and lows of firefighting. Being someone’s support on perhaps their worst day was something Wynn took very seriously.

That drive led to his desire to better himself with further training. The problem was that the training took a week at a time and was in Vermillion, which meant losing pay and taking a week off work. “I wanted to be the best I could be before the need arose. That’s what pushed me to be the

first 1001 firefighter in the department because it’s learning, and to me, learning needs to keep happening.”

It took Wynn four years to reach the NFPA 1001 Firefighter Certification, the first member of the Whitecourt Fire Department to do it. Towards the end of his training, the Ranger Board, where he worked, started covering his weeklong training with pay, supporting him in getting the certification. The investment ended up paying off. “I was doing the fire training of the entire plant site out there. They helped advance my training, and they received a better, more site-specific training for the plant.”

Wynn said his dad watched his rise in the department with pride. “When I was captain for sixteen years, my mom and dad, the whole family, was pretty proud of what I was doing in the community and driving that training. Unfortunately, my dad wasn’t alive when I became chief, but that would’ve been a very proud moment for him.”

Wynn also received

his 1041 Fire Service Instructor Certification, enabling him to help build an in-house training system so that members wouldn’t have to drive out of town and stay away for a week to train. Under past Fire Chief Bruce Parrent, a training ground (since named after Parrent) was established (one of the first of its kind), and training levels skyrocketed.

Wynn’s desire to be better paved the way for members today to get the same world-wide-recognized training in-house over two years instead of four. “You lead the way and show why it’s important, and then it sets a bar which becomes the new bar. There’s always going to be the first person who paves the path, and then it becomes the norm,” said Wynn.

He took over as Fire Chief in 2013, and one of his big pushes was for FireSmart practices to happen in the community and beyond. “It’s the biggest fire prevention thing we could be doing, and I hope it continues.” For the last eleven years, Wynn has helped increase

the awareness of what FireSmart is and why it’s vital and has helped bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding to help with preventative projects in Whitecourt, like funding equipment purchases, clearing dead and downed trees and cleaning up forests along the community’s forested edges.

“It’s been an honour to serve. I am very proud of myself, the department, and the support that we provide the community, which is such a high level of training. And to all those who pass through our community on the highway or when members have gone on deployments, like when we sent a crew to Jasper. Whitecourt really does shine for the members and their training level, work ethic and attitude. We get a lot of good comments from other departments, which makes me extremely proud,” smiled Wynn.

He’s also proud of some of the big projects he’s been part of, including the rescue truck purchased ten

continued on page 15

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## NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of Clifford Neil Berreth, who died on January 25, 2025.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by March 10, 2025.

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If you do not file by the date set out above, the Estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

If you enjoy a fast-paced, progressive work environment and you have a passion for serving the local community then this may be the opportunity for you! We believe that our values of diversity, collaboration, innovation and mutual respect bring out the best in our team, and we are currently looking to fill the following positions:

- Job#: 25-002,** Infrastructure Summer Labourers, Summer Student Positions.
- Job#: 25-003,** Parks Summer Labourers, Summer Student Positions.
- Job#: 25-004,** Festival Park Attendants, Summer Student Positions.
- Job#: 25-005,** Utilities Summer Labourer, Summer Student Position.
- Job#: 25-006,** Landfill Summer Labourer, Summer Student Position.
- Job#: 25-007,** Visitor Information Counsellor, Summer Student Position.
- Job#: 25-008,** Summer Program Leader, Summer Student Position.
- Job#: 25-009,** Fire Department FireSmart Labourers, Summer Student Positions.
- Job#: 25-010,** Engineering Student, Summer Student Position.
- Job#: 25-012,** Transit Drivers, Casual Positions.
- Job#: 25-013,** Facility Monitor/Program Leader I, Casual Position.
- Job#: 25-014,** Lifeguard/Instructor, Casual Position.
- Job#: 25-015,** Utility Maintenance Operator I, Permanent, Full-time Position.

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





**Trican has made a generous donation of \$1,000 to the Whitecourt Food Bank, supporting their efforts to help those in need within the community. Anyone interested in contributing can arrange a drop-off by calling 780-778-2351. The food bank is located in the Calran Services Community Resource Centre. For those wishing to make a cash or cheque donation, please visit the Town office at 5004 52 Avenue.**

# Over 50? Take note of RSV this winter



(NC) Of all the things you can get sick with this winter, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) should be top of mind. With positivity rates in Canada reaching record highs, it's especially important for older adults to be aware.

RSV is often thought of as a bug that children pick up in daycare with symptoms similar to a cold or flu. However,

adults aged 50 and older are among those at increased risk for serious infection. RSV can worsen conditions like COPD, asthma, and congestive heart failure and can lead to pneumonia, hospitalization and death.

Unlike the flu or COVID, there are no treatments for older adults who become infected with RSV. And

sadly, most deaths attributed to the virus occur in this age group, so prevention is key.

In addition to frequent handwashing and regularly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces around you, vaccination is available.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about RSV vaccination or learn more at [RSVandme.ca](https://www.rsvandme.ca)

# Woodlands County Council recap

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

Councillor Deane was nominated to sit on the Board of Directors for the Athabasca Watershed Council (AWC) with Councillor Kuelken acting as an alternate if the nomination is successful. The AWC is a not-for-profit organization focused on providing scientific reports on the state of

the Athabasca River watershed and outreach initiatives to inform the community about the importance of the watershed. In addition, Woodlands County is providing a \$1,500 donation to the AWC.

The 2025 Property Tax Auction is scheduled at the Woodlands County Municipal Office in Whitecourt at 2:00 pm, Friday, March 28, 2025. Properties listed in the auction will be advertised in local newspapers

and on the Woodlands County website and are offered for sale on an as-is, where-is basis with no guarantees or warranties.

Council has requested to meet with the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors Devin Dreeshen at the Rural Municipalities of Alberta 2025 Spring Convention to discuss CYZU Airport and Resource Road funding.

Woodlands County re-applied for grant funding from the Stra-

tegic Transportation Infrastructure Program under the Community Airport program for the Runway 11-29 Rehabilitation Project as the runway was assessed in 2023 to be in poor condition requiring resurfacing and upgraded lighting. CYZU plays a critical role in the safety of Albertans by providing access to patient transfers for AHS, STARS, Alberta Wildfire, and RCMP.

Provincial and mu-

nicipal roads are utilized by several industries to transport natural resources to their next location which can result in the roads requiring more maintenance due to the increased use and heavier vehicle load on the roads. Council would like to discuss funding options to build a resource road for industry use within Woodlands County.

### Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council –

Wednesday, February 12, 5:00 pm

- Governance & Priorities – Wednesday, February 19, 5:00 pm

- Regular Council – Wednesday, February 26, 9:30 am

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

## 2025 SMALL BUSINESS PROPERTY SUB-CLASS APPLICATION DEADLINE

The Small Business Property Sub-Class provides owners who paid a non-residential property tax levy in the previous year with an opportunity to apply for a reduced property tax rate in the current year.

Property owners who operate a business or have businesses leasing their property with fewer than 50 full-time employees in Canada can apply for a reduced property tax rate. Each application will be

reviewed before being approved for the tax rate reduction. Eligible properties must be in compliance with Woodlands County's Land Use Bylaw.

To qualify, each Small Business Property Owner must submit their application annually. Applications for the 2025 tax year are due **February 14, 2025**. Applications are available at the Woodlands County Offices or online at <https://www.woodlands.ab.ca/p/property-taxes>.



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**PETER KUELKEN**  
Councillor for Goose Lake/  
Freeman River Division 6  
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**DEVIN WILLIAMS**  
Councillor for Fort Assiniboine/  
Timeau Division 7  
devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca  
Phone: 780-305-1825



continued from page 13

years ago. “That was a five-year fight to go from the old Chevy 350 to a million-dollar rescue truck. It was a game changer to basically buy a big toolbox that could carry all our stuff. That’s what the rescue is. There’s no pump on it but it carries all the things we are going to need, everything. To this day, ten years later, there’s not one thing I would change about it. It’s serving us well.”

His favourite memories include the current and past members and their families. A community within the membership is vital to supporting each other. “You get to be part of everyone’s family. You know everyone’s kids. They’re my borrowed grandkids,” he chuckled. Wynn said watch-

ing people grow and learn is exciting, and he holds fond memories of watching members excel over the years. “It’s awesome,” he said.

Wynn and his family have been active in the community through the years, including helping create Eastlink Park. Wynn said they love their community and have no plans to leave. “You get some people together that like to ski, and you research it, and now look what we have. Almost everything in town was started by people that the community rallied behind. That’s probably one of the best things about living in Whitecourt. It’s a community that rallies for good intentions and makes stuff happen. It’s not just the residents; it’s the businesses that get behind them and support the vision because



Wynn showing off one of the many FireSmart related projects, a fully wrapped car.

they know it’s good for the community.”

As for his name change from Fire Chief to Brian, Wynn said it might take some time,

especially those who grew up calling him that their whole life, like members’ kids. But as for the community at large, Wynn chuckled,

“People might have to learn my name, and I think there are lots of people that don’t know it.” Thanks for 31 years of vigilant protection,

Brian. Here’s to a new wardrobe, being a pit crew member for your son, going for walks and getting to say yes. Enjoy retirement!

## Construction of the Community Fireguard has begun

Construction of the Community Fireguard Project commenced January 31.

The fireguard project is part of Whitecourt’s fire hazard

reduction and protection strategy to help with the on-going safety and security of the community. The fireguard is a strategically constructed

feature where trees, brush and fuel sources are removed, will break the path of wildfire that could potentially move towards property, infrastruc-

ture, and other values at risk. The project area extends from Ecole St. Joseph School in the north, to Highway 43 in the south.

• There will be increased heavy equipment and vehicular traffic during the construction in the project area. The public is

asked to remain out of the project area during construction. • Construction is scheduled for completion at the end of March 2025.

# PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

## WORD SEARCH

D	H	T	I	Y	E	P	R	S	L	M	S	V	T	N	G	G	T	C	Y
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## CROSSWORDS

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S	E	C	E	S	S	I	O	N		W	I	T	A	N	
A	R	E	S		T	O	N			E	B	E	R	T	

## SUDOKU

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

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