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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



# The Press

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Canada

Vol. 15 - Issue 4 | Wednesday, January 28, 2026

## Into the Woods Jr. is now in production with 21 area youth taking the stage for Pumpjack Players



An excited bunch of actors and actresses.

Work has begun for the next spring installment of Pumpjack Players' children's show. Over twenty kids are hard at work learning their lines and becoming a team. This year, a brand new director has jumped into the ring and is excited to share her love of acting with the kids. Pictured is First time director, Lily-Raine Levy.

| By Serena Lapointe

Drama in Whitecourt continues to grow, and the popularity of Pumpjack Players, Whitecourt's Drama Society, is also booming, as is

evident by how many youth auditioned for this year's spring children's play. Sixty kids came out to audition on January 12 and 14, overwhelming volun-

teers who needed more time than anticipated for callbacks.

This year's children's play is Into the Woods

continued on page 2



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- Every story shared helps bring us one step closer to ending the cycle of bullying.

We believe in the power of raising awareness. Your story could be the one that helps someone find hope and strength. Let's take a stand together.

I am 14 years old, and people say bullying is just part of growing up, but I don't think it should be.

It started in 5th grade. At first it was just jokes about my clothes and how quiet I was. People laughed when I walked by, and I never knew if they were laughing at me or not, but it always felt like they were. Then it got worse. Kids started calling me names, whispering things when teachers weren't around, and making group chats just to talk about me. I was never added to

those chats, but everyone made sure I knew about them.

I used to like going to school. I liked reading and art and sitting with my friends. After a while, I stopped raising my hand. I stopped eating lunch in the cafeteria and started hiding in the bathroom or the library. Every morning my stomach hurt, and I pretended I was sick because staying home felt safer than going to school.

The worst part wasn't the names. It was feeling invisible and alone, like something was

wrong with me. I started believing the things they said. I smiled at home so my parents wouldn't worry, but inside I felt small.

Bullying doesn't just hurt for a day. It stays in your head. Even now, when someone laughs, I wonder if it's about me.

If you are reading this and you bully someone, please stop. You don't know what they're carrying. And if you are being bullied, you are not weak, and you are not alone... even if it feels like it.

-Whitecourt resident.

## RCMP respond to serious multi-vehicle collision South of Swan Hills

By Haylee Winger

A serious multi-vehicle collision on Highway 32 south of Swan Hills claimed one life and left several others injured Monday afternoon.

Swan Hills RCMP say officers were called to the scene around 4:20 p.m. on Jan. 20, 2026, following a collision involving seven vehicles. Four pickup trucks, two semi-trucks and one sedan were involved in the crash, which occurred

approximately 43 kilometres south of Swan Hills near the Blue Ridge Haul Road.

Emergency crews, including RCMP, EMS and STARS air ambulance, responded and implemented full traffic control measures as the highway was blocked by vehicles and debris. Several occupants were extracted from damaged vehicles, including a woman and her baby, who



was secured in a car seat.

Despite life-saving efforts by first responders, a 60-year-old man from Whitecourt, who was driving one of the pickup trucks, was pronounced dead at the scene. Other individuals involved sustained varying degrees of injuries, though none were considered life-threatening. The mother and baby were transported by STARS

and are reported to be in stable condition.

An RCMP Collision Analyst attended the scene to assist with the investigation. Once the analysis was completed, vehicles and debris were cleared and Highway 32 was reopened to traffic.

While the investigation remains ongoing, RCMP indicate preliminary information suggests sun glare and reduced visibility contributed to the collision. Police believe an

initial crash between a pickup truck and a semi-truck occurred due to varying speeds caused by the glare. As those vehicles attempted to pull over, traffic behind them slowed. A second semi-truck, also affected by sun glare, reportedly failed to notice the slowing traffic and collided with multiple vehicles.

The Alberta RCMP expressed condolences to the family and friends of the deceased. Investigators are ask-

ing anyone who witnessed the collision or who may have dash camera footage from Highway 32 in the area at the time to contact Swan Hills RCMP. Those wishing to remain anonymous can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), submit tips online at P3Tips.com, or use the P3 Tips mobile app. Non-emergency RCMP assistance in Alberta is available by calling 310-RCMP (7267).

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continued from page 1

Jr., based on the Broadway show of the same name, written in 1987 by James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim, and the 2014 movie starring Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Johnny Depp and Chris Pine, to name a few from the star-studded cast, based on the same play.

The story is inspired by the Grimm Brothers' fairytales, including Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Rapunzel and Jack and the Beanstalk. The ongoing theme from Lapine and Sondheim is "be careful what you wish for," with the junior version of the play, created for middle school-aged children, centering on the moral struggles the characters face.

Taking on the director's role for the play is a recently aged-out Pumpjack Players actress who had previously performed in three children's plays. Lily-Raine Levy said she is excited to be joining her mother, Kristy Lovdahl, in the director's chair. "I spent a lot of time doing the children's productions and being with these kids, and a lot of them were really upset to see me go,

and I wanted to stay involved. Since my mom does a lot of directing work with Pumpjacks, we decided to direct together," she explained.

She said it's a big group, but that she is looking forward to seeing it all come together. "It's a lot of work and a lot of effort. It's a big production with a lot of lines and lots of singing and maybe some choreography, but we just haven't gotten that far yet. It's going to take a lot of teamwork, but I think it will all come together in the end and make a really good show."

Levy is a big fan of the movie and Broadway show and said that numerous kids who tried out said they were pumped to be able to perform it. She said the characters are really fun and she looks forward to seeing the kids bring them to life. "Personally, my favourite character is Little Red. I love her sense of humour and the childlike essence she has, with stealing the bread and baked goods from the baker and his wife. She's got this witty sense of humour that I really love," she explained.

There are over twenty kids acting in the play and four crew members, and almost every position is held

by a youth. "I do like that the kids have something for themselves and something that is pretty much kids only. It's kid-made, kid-acted, and kid-assisted. They really get to show their talents off," she smiled.

"There are a lot of really talented adults, and they have shows and people come and see that, but it's nice to see the kids really shine and to show how many talented kids there really are here. I didn't know there were so many. I like watching all the little stars become big stars. It makes me happy." Levy has also performed in an adult play with Pumpjack Players, now that she has aged out of the youth plays. She said she's glad the kids have something to call their own.

On Wednesday last week, the group was at their second rehearsal and were already on the stage, scripts in hand. "They are taking direction really well and standing where they should be and listening. They are studying their scripts and listening to their songs. They are ready. It makes me happy to see how excited they are to be here," said Levy.

Having never seen a play come together from the director's

side, Levy said she is absorbing everything. "I'm used to being on the stage, so I'm getting to learn all kinds of new things, and I'm getting to see things in a different way and picking up on the little things they do. It's an interesting perspective that I would have never seen before."

Over the next few months, the kids will come together as a group, ahead of their Mother's Day weekend shows. "For a lot of these kids, it's their first show or their first time in a bigger role. I'm excited to see them build their confidence and perform for people who maybe haven't seen them perform before and to have fun and enjoy what they are doing," she said.

With a great assortment of youth, from 8 to 18, Levy said learning about each of the actors is one of her favourite parts. "I like getting to know the kids. They all have cute little personalities, and it's wonderful to get to know them one-on-one. There are kids ten years younger than me, and they are so professional with how they listen. It's awesome. I love how seriously they take it and how passionate they are!"

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



**Wed., Jan. 28**  
Mainly sunny  
20%  
-9°C  
-12°C  
NW 8 km/h  
~1cm



**Thu., Jan. 29**  
Mainly sunny  
40%  
-9°C  
-10°C  
E 7 km/h  
-



**Fri., Jan. 30**  
Cloudy with sunny breaks  
30%  
-4°C  
-7°C  
E 14 km/h  
-



**Sat., Jan. 31**  
Cloudy with sunny breaks  
30%  
-1°C  
-5°C  
E 9 km/h  
-



**Sun., Feb. 1**  
Mix of sun and clouds  
20%  
-1°C  
-6°C  
N 7 km/h  
<1cm

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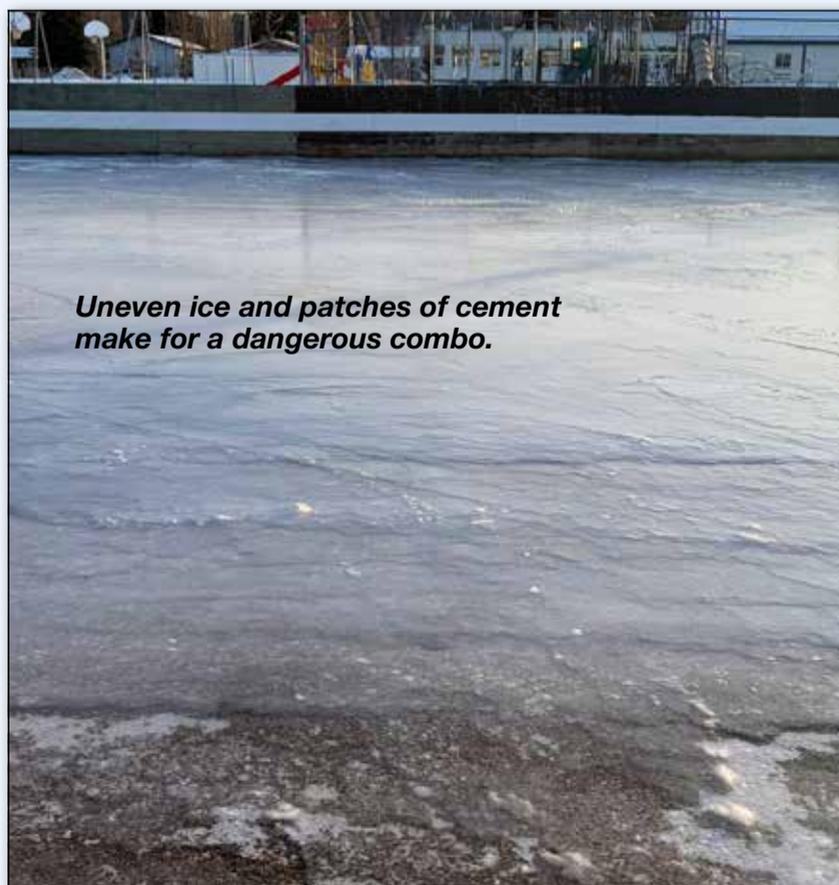


If you would like to meet Olafur, please contact the Whitecourt Pound at: 780-778-5767

## Rinks are coming soon



The rink at Central School is a no go for now.



Uneven ice and patches of cement make for a dangerous combo.

Those waiting for the outdoor rinks to be flooded can thank Mother Nature for the cold snap that is helping crews get them ready for use. Providing the weather doesn't warm up too much towards the end of the week, and that temperatures remain in the negative, the rinks should be ready for action soon. Rinks at Ecole Ste. Anne's and Percy Baxter were first on the list to get flooded, with the rest, including Central School, pictured, waiting on the weather to be more wintry than spring.

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# What a start to 2026 for the Whitecourt Wolverines



Pratt saved the day with the splits.



Rayan looking up ice for an open passing lane.



The ref took a hit from behind at the blue line.



Tucker moving up the ice.

**The Whitecourt Wolverines are on a roll to start the new year. As of January 21, the Wolverines sit atop the North Division, five points ahead of the next closest team, the Fort McMurray Oil Barons, and first overall in the AJHL, fifteen points ahead of the southern leader, the Camrose Kodiaks.**

## | By Serena Lapointe

Ever since the Whitecourt Wolverines' first game of the year, on Saturday, January 3, on the road against Bonnyville at R. J. Lalonde Arena, things have looked different for the boys. Their last two games of 2025, a loss against Lloydminster 6-1 on the 19th and against Camrose 6-4 on the 20th, left a mark they wanted to erase.

So, on that first game day of the new year, on the road in Bonnyville, the Wolverines hit the ice with force. Four and a half minutes into the first period, Captain Jalen Bianchet pocketed his 30th goal of the season, continuing the climb past his previous season high for goals (25). But the goal didn't just mean something for Bianchet. Last season, Kyle Tucker (#16) had 23 points, including 12 assists.

This season, he joins Bianchet in uncharted territory, with nearly double the points by mid-January. Bianchet's goal garnered Tucker his 27th assist. As if that weren't enough, Nolan Schmidt (#29) also assisted, nabbing his first AJHL assist and his second point as a Wolverine. Pretty good way to start the game, eh?

Still in the first, Wolverine Quentin Bourne (#8) scored his sixth goal,

assisted by Cole Barrett (#26) and Bianchet, on the power play, giving the Wolverines a 2-1 lead heading into the second. Two more goals, one in the second

(Gugyelka - #3) and the third (Nienaber - #13), gave the Wolverines four points on the scoreboard, which beat Lloyd's three. Wolverines win!

The next day, the Wolverines took on the Bobcats in Lloydminster. Two unanswered goals in the second half of the first period, from Alex Symes (#12) and Brendan Ruskowski (#11), started things on the right foot. In the second, the Bobcats scored twice, but the Wolverines responded for both, keeping the two-goal lead intact. No goals in the third locked things down, 4-2. Make that two wins for the Wolverines.

On Friday, January 9, the last road game of the stretch, the Wolverines were in Drayton Valley to

take on the THUNDER! However, much to the chagrin of their fans, Drayton Valley's team could not score against netminder Eliott Pratt (#33), who stopped all 19 shots that came his way. With goals from Kyle Tucker, Tristan Slywka (#19) and the captain (his 31st), the Wolverines quieted the thunder and came home with a shutout in hand. Three wins!

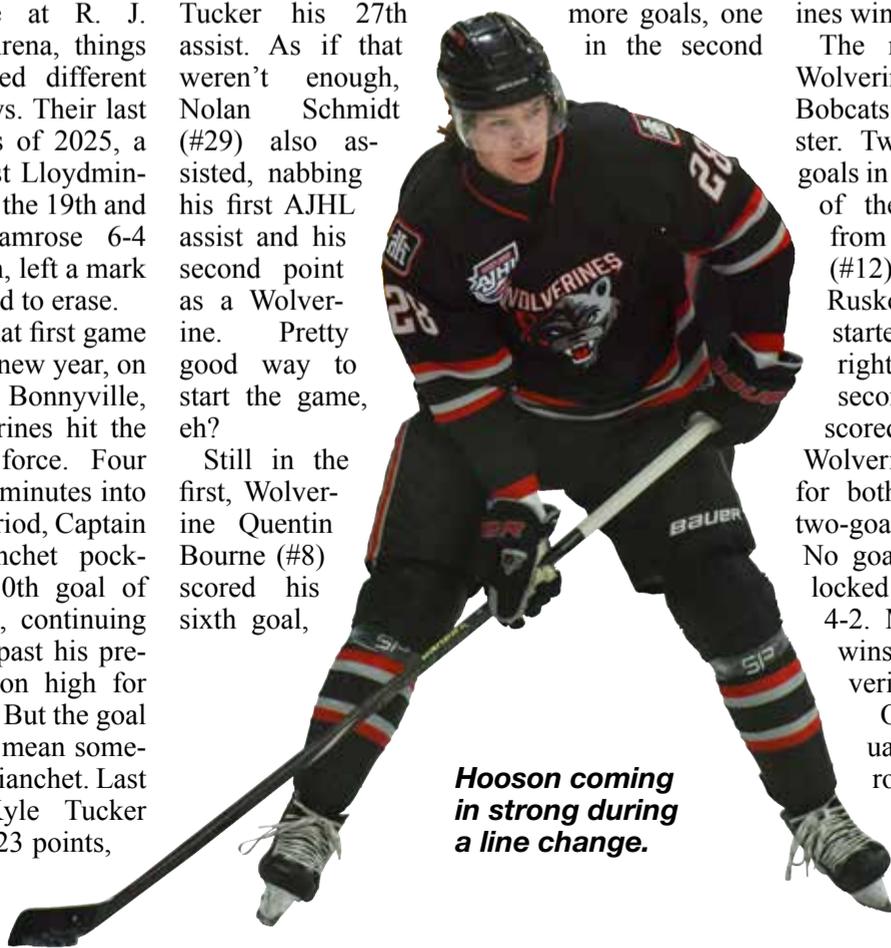
On Wednesday, January 14, the Devon Xtreme rolled into Whitecourt for the Wolverines' first home game of 2026, with over 540 fans in the audience to catch the action between the two rivals. Thirty-three seconds into the first period, the Xtreme caught a lucky bounce and managed to get one past Wolverine goalie Preston Lewis (#31).

Two minutes later, Wolverine Xander Schulte (#25) scored

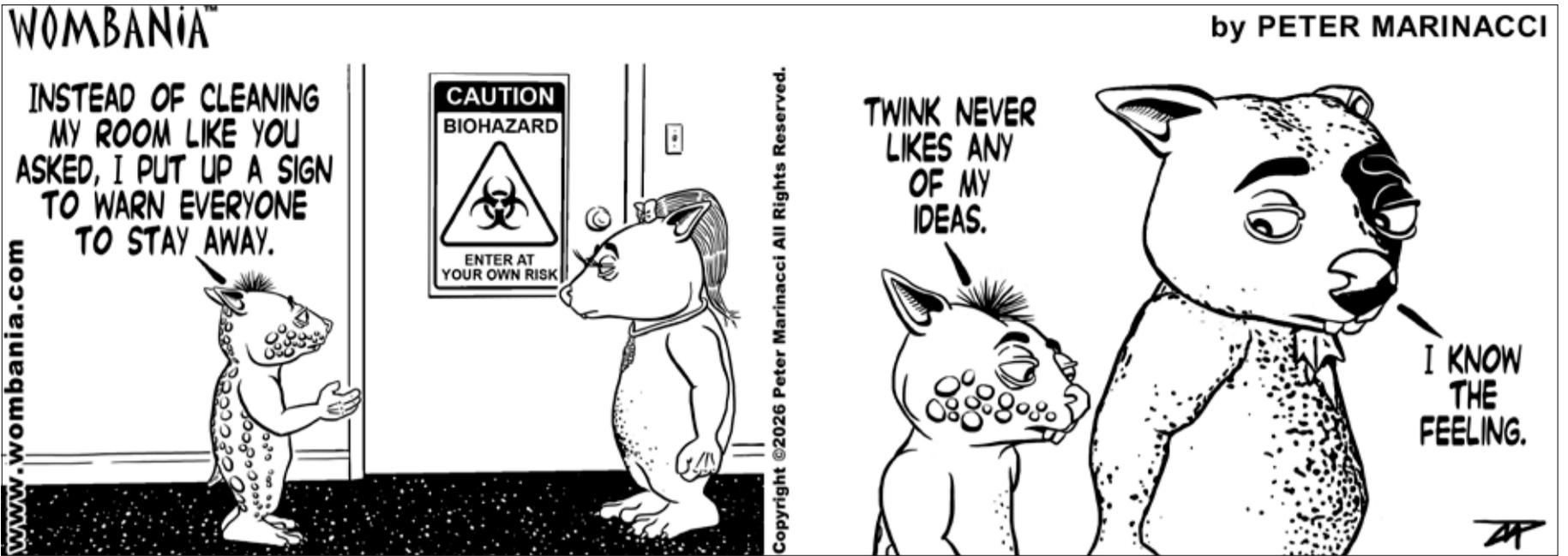
his sixth of the season to tie it up, 1-1. In the second, Captain Bianchet nabbed his 32nd goal of the season to make it 2-1, followed by Cole Barrett five minutes later, who scored to make it 3-1. Things got a bit spicy as the Xtreme saw their lead evaporate and took four penalties. The Wolverines also took a handful but still maintained control. In the third period, Sherwood Park-native Parker Fitzgerald (#10) scored his second goal of the season, assisted by Ty Rayan. The Wolverines won 4-1, stacking their fourth win of the year.

On Friday, January 16, the Wolverines welcomed Drayton Valley to town. Would they get another shutout? Just shy of 660 fans packed into JDA Place to watch the game. In the first, aside from one hooking penalty against the vis-

continued on page 7



Hooson coming in strong during a line change.



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# Resilience under the surface: 2026 global market outlook with ATB Investment Management

| By Siddhartha Bhattacharya, ATB ECONOMICS

Resilience under the surface: 2026 global market outlook with ATB Investment Management

While it is often said that "the market is not the economy," the two are certainly related. 2025 was a year dominated by U.S. tariff news and trade turmoil, and many Canadians are now looking ahead with a sense of unease—especially if they're following the news.

Our latest Quarterly Alberta Economic Outlook highlights significant crosscurrents for 2026, where the momentum from lower interest rates and easing inflation is being

countered by ongoing trade uncertainty and lower oil prices. Despite these factors, the positive alignment that propelled financial markets in 2025 is expected to persist.

The result is a disconnect between unsettling geopolitical headlines and the steady resilience shown by global equity markets. To help make sense of this environment, I recently sat down with Steve Xu, Senior Portfolio Manager at ATB Investment Management (ATBIM). We discussed the key takeaways from the inaugural ATBIM Global Market Outlook and why, despite a world that feels increasingly volatile, his team is maintaining a bullish

## The U.S. "earnings machine" vs. the noise

Even amidst the constant drumbeat of trade policy shifts, corporate earnings remain the most powerful driver for investors. Steve notes that the U.S. is still the "earnings capital of the world," with double-digit gains fueled by the artificial intelligence (AI) and data centre boom.

"At the end of the day, the one indicator we focus on above all else is earnings," Steve explained. He said that this "earnings machine" is enabling investors to look past the news cycle, even with persistent uncertainty over tariff policy. ATBIM's base case expects this multi-year rally to be sustained for the foreseeable future.

### Policy pressures

A significant factor for the U.S. market is the anticipated impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). This legislation will inject hundreds of billions in fiscal stimulus through tax refunds, stimulus cheques, and tariff-revenue dividends. Steve views

this as a powerful consumer tailwind, though cautioned that too much stimulus too quickly could risk overheating the economy.

When asked about global instability, Steve suggested that, while headlines are jarring, they often reflect strategic shifts rather than imminent market collapse.

### The emerging market wake-up call

Perhaps the most significant shift in ATBIM's strategy looking at 2026 is increased optimism toward emerging markets (EM). After more than a decade in a slumber relative to the U.S., Steve sees EM nations as the key drivers of sustained global growth, beginning to compete with developed markets.

"Emerging markets are finally waking up," Steve said, noting that improved governance and a burgeoning middle class are creating levers for global growth. Leading EM nations are moving away from producing low-value goods for the West and pivoting inward to serve their

own domestic consumers, creating more opportunities for investors.

### Sluggish sentiment in Canada

The outlook for Canadian equities remains neutral. While the S&P/TSX Composite posted strong gains in 2025, those returns were largely fueled by global factors—such as soaring gold prices—rather than internal domestic strength.

Steve highlighted the productivity emergency facing Canada, where a decade of lagging investment and difficulty in attracting capital has created a significant gap compared to the United States. While positive signals have been sent to improve Canada's performance, including the nation-building projects, progress depends on execution. Until changes are implemented in favour of Canada's growth, investor sentiment will likely remain subdued.

### The bottom line for 2026

The underlying economic story for this year is one of structural transition. As Canada moves beyond

headline volatility, economic resilience will depend on the tangible execution of major projects, the narrowing of the productivity gap, and the diversification of export markets.

Recent market volatility serves as a reminder that momentum has been led by an AI-driven productivity surge. To navigate this, the ATBIM team advises a disciplined approach where active asset allocation and a diversified portfolio serve as the cornerstones for managing the risks of an evolving global market. By remaining risk-aware, long-term growth opportunities can continue to be captured while protecting capital against short-term headline pressures.

Looking ahead, the global bull market appears supported by robust profit generation. While trade and geopolitical uncertainty remains a drag on headline GDP growth, under the surface, the global landscape is supported by accelerating U.S. earnings and the structural catch-up in emerging markets.



continued from page 5

itors, there was nothing to report. In the second, the Thunder scored at the midway mark, taking the lead 1-0.

In the third, the Wolverines answered back, thanks to Tristan Slywka's ninth goal of the season.

All tied up, the teams headed into overtime, but neither could find the back of each other's net.

In the shootout, Captain Bianchett and Quentin Bourne scored to lift the Wolverines into the win column. Make that five wins in a row!

The last game in this 2026 kickstart review came on Wednesday, January 21, and it was a special one to say the

least. The Wolverines and Camrose Kodiaks were selected to play in this year's AJHL Showcase at the Community Arena at Rogers Place. The afternoon game would be the fifth matchup between the two so far this season, with the Wolverines leading that series 3-1.

In the first period, Tyler Pretty lived up to his last name, landing a pretty one in the back of the net to give the Wolverines a 1-0 lead just thirty seconds into the game. Kyle Tucker notched his 30th assist on the marker and Quentin Bourne his twenty-third. Still in the first, the Kodiaks managed to get two past Wolverine netminder Elliott Pratt, taking the lead 2-1.

In the second, newly acquired Wolverine Jackson DeGraves (#27), in his first game with his new team, scored his ninth of the season to tie the game. He was traded to Whitecourt from the Drumheller Dragons, and the goal ensured he made his mark quickly. In the third, Wolverine's Captain Jalen Bianchett, born in Pickering, Ontario, scored his 33rd goal of the season, unassisted, to give his team the lead. An unassisted empty-netter by teammate Ty Rayan further sealed the deal, giving the Wolverines the win, 4-2, and if you've been counting, their sixth win in a row. What a way to start 2026!

*The Press*

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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 position:

**Job#: 26-013** – Facility Trades II – Permanent, Full-Time – Closes January 30, 2026

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



**SAGITAWAH**  
BREWING COMPANY

5117 50 Street, Whitecourt  
**Taproom & Eatery**

**Family Friendly Eatery**

Children must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian until 9pm. Take out is available  
Give us a call: 780-396-4433 or order online: <https://sagitawahbrewing.ca/eatery/>

Tues, Wed & Thurs 11:30am to 9pm • Fri 11:30am to 11:30pm • Sat 8:30am to 11:30pm • Sun 8:30am to 3:00pm

**FCSS GRANT FUNDING**

Are you a local organization delivering preventative social programs? We can help.

Woodlands County is now accepting applications for Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) grant funding for initiatives that:

- Strengthen children, families & seniors
- Build life skills & community wellbeing
- Support volunteerism
- Increase awareness of local services



**DEADLINE: February 27, 2026 (4:30 p.m.)**

Apply online or pick up a form at County offices in Whitecourt or Fort Assiniboine  
[woodlands.ab.ca/p/fcss](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/fcss)

Questions? Contact Community Services at 780-778-8400 or [communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca)

**RURAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS GRANT - APPLY NOW!**

**Do you have a new neighbour or want to get to know your existing ones?**  
It's the perfect time to connect and build relationships in your community.

Woodlands County is now accepting applications for the Rural Community Connections grant. Receive up to \$500 to cover expenses such as food and entertainment.

Applications:

- [woodlands.ab.ca/p/rural-connections](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/rural-connections)
- Pick up at the Whitecourt or Fort Assiniboine County offices

Completed applications can be submitted:

- In person at the Whitecourt or Fort Assiniboine offices
- By email: [communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca)
- By mail: Woodlands County, Attn: Community Services, Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3

For more information, contact Community Services at 780-778-8400 or [communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca).

**BULK WATER STATIONS - PREPAID ONLINE ACCOUNTS**

REMINDER! JANUARY 23 to JANUARY 26, all Bulk Water Fill Stations will upgrade to a prepaid online account system. During this 4-day window, there will be service disruptions and access to water may be unavailable.

IMPORTANT! BEFORE JANUARY 26, contact either County Office to create an online account. It will be required for access to all Bulk Water Fill Stations.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this transition!

Whitecourt Office: 780-778-8400, Fort Assiniboine Office: 780-584-3866  
[utilities@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:utilities@woodlands.ab.ca)

For more info: [woodlands.ab.ca/p/water-fill-stations](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/water-fill-stations)

**SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS – DON'T MISS THIS!**

Woodlands County's **small business property sub-class** offers eligible property owners the chance to apply for a **reduced non-residential property tax rate** for the 2026 tax year.

You may be eligible if:

- You own a non-residential property.
- Your business (or tenant businesses) has fewer than 50 full-time employees.
- The property complies with the County's Land Use Bylaw.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 13, 2026**

Applications must be submitted every year and are reviewed before approval.

Pick up an application at the Woodlands County Office or apply online:  
<https://www.woodlands.ab.ca/p/property-taxes>



**We're Hiring! Local work. Good people. Let's talk.**

- Manager, Infrastructure Services
- Administrative Assistant, Legislative Services
- Administrative Assistant, Community Services
- Lead Labourer, Parks & Recreation
- Community Ambassador(s)
- Seasonal Labourer(s)

For more information on these postings and to apply: [woodlands.ab.ca/p/careers](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/careers)

**YOUTH PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUPPORT!**

Do you have a youth aged 4–18 who could use a little financial help to join a recreation, sports, art, or culture program?

Woodlands County's Youth Enrichment Subsidy (YES) can provide up to \$600 per year to help cover program costs – and it can be used for multiple programs!

**IMPORTANT: Apply BEFORE starting the program.**

Call Community Services: 780-778-8400

More info & applications: [woodlands.ab.ca/p/yes-program](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/yes-program)  
Help your youth explore, create, and play!



**DAVE KUSCH**  
Reeve, Division 1 – Anselmo  
[dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca)  
780-778-9337



**PATRICIA MACNEIL**  
Councillor, Division 2 - Whitecourt West  
[patricia.macneil@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:patricia.macneil@woodlands.ab.ca)  
780-268-3000



**ALAN DEANE**  
Councillor, Division 3 - Whitecourt Central  
[alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca)  
780-778-0894



**KAREN ST. MARTIN**  
Councillor, Division 4 - Whitecourt East  
[karen.stmartin@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:karen.stmartin@woodlands.ab.ca)  
780-778-0822



**JENNA WRIGHT**  
Councillor, Division 5 - Blue Ridge  
[jenna.wright@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:jenna.wright@woodlands.ab.ca)  
780-779-6765



**PETER KUELKEN**  
Councillor, Division 6 - Goose Lake / Freeman River  
[peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca)  
780-284-2425



**BENNY WHITTEN**  
Councillor, Division 7 - Fort Assiniboine / Timeau  
[benny.whitten@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:benny.whitten@woodlands.ab.ca)  
780-305-4655



[www.woodlands.ab.ca](http://www.woodlands.ab.ca)  
780-778-8400  
1-888-870-6315  
[admin@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:admin@woodlands.ab.ca)  
1 Woodlands Lane,  
Whitecourt,  
AB T7S 1N3

# A great season so far for the TRAC U11 AA team



A near miss at the blue line.



Passing through the opposition's stick.



I'm coming through.

**The TRAC U11 AA hockey team is on a serious hot streak. The team recently participated in the 2nd Annual U11 AA Alberta Wide Showcase in Sherwood Park. Over three days, the team did not drop any of their seven games, ultimately taking the provincial champion's crown! Last year, the team was eliminated in the semifinals, making their gold placement this year all the more sweet. On top of that, last weekend, they hosted their only barn burner of the season at JDA Place, welcoming three teams to town. After a weekend of action, they held onto their record and still remain undefeated. Go, TRAC U11 AA! Go!**



A goal from one knee.



A big reach.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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



### NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application No. 25-152 – Side Yard Setback and Site Coverage Variance Request at 52 Pritchard Drive – Approved with conditions.

Application No. 26-002 - Discretionary Use, Home Occupation – Taxi Service at Unit 403, 4502 52 Avenue – Not approved.

**Date of Decision:** January 22, 2026

**Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** February 12, 2026

An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$315) 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.

### VEHICLE AUCTION

Current opportunities are posted on the Town's website via Michener Allen Auctioneering Ltd.:

- 2011 Ram 1500
- 2011 Ram 1500
- 2014 Chevrolet Silverado 1500

**Auction Opens:** January 29, 2026

**Auction Closes:** January 31, 2026

For further details on this opportunity, visit our website [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca).



### 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.

		11	34
2		15	27
	5		20
29	18	34	

8	5	7
15	10	2
11	3	20

Solution

## CANADA HISTORY



1803

First Canadian Paper Mill is built in Quebec. It is established by Walter Ware and Benjamin Wales, and is considered to be the beginning of Canada's pulp and paper industry.

## People FACT:



This term for restaurant workers typically refers to those who wait on tables.

Answer: Servers

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.  
**KMEA A SERVRENOTAI**

Answer: Make a reservation

## NEW WORD

### GRATUITY

a tip given for service



RE/MAX advantage (Whitecourt)

MLS® #: A2271610

### 2008 HILLTOP HOME - PRIME LOCATION !!

This 2008 built bi-level offers a beautiful open floor plan and is located at the end of a cul-de-sac in a family friendly hilltop neighborhood. The large kitchen has new quartz countertops, large pantry, tiled backsplash and plenty of cabinets and counterspace. The adjacent dining area is extra large. The kitchen and dining area are open to and overlook the huge 15'x12' living room. The primary bedroom offers a walk-in closet and has its own 3 piece ensuite. There is a full 4 piece bathroom and 2 more bedrooms on the main level as well. On the lower level, there is a massive 24'x12' partially finished family room, laundry/utility room, 2 framed future bedrooms, and a large closed-in storage area. All the flooring (except bathrooms) has been replaced with durable laminate flooring, no carpet at all, and the fridge, stove and dishwasher are only 1 year old. This home has a fenced back yard and a convenient 14'x12' covered back deck, accessible from the kitchen or back yard. There is back alley access, this home is close to the hospital and schools and Centennial Park. Great option if you're looking for a more affordable newer home.

24 BIRCH LANE  
WHITECOURT  
AB T7S1E3

\$349,900



Patrick Carew

780-778-0053 • pdcarew@telus.net

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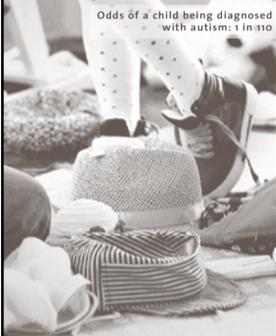
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Visit [www.whitecourtpress.com](http://www.whitecourtpress.com)



Odds of a child becoming a top fashion designer: 1 in 7,000



Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 110

Some signs to look for:  
No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months. No babbling by 12 months. No words by 18 months.  
To learn more of the signs of autism, visit [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)



### Announcements

"THINKING OF YOUR DREAM VACATION?" How about the Knights of Columbus Airdrie Dream Vacation Raffle. BUY YOUR TICKET TODAY! at [airdriedreamvacation.ca](http://airdriedreamvacation.ca)

### Autos

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### Buildings For Sale

INTEGRITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS since 2008 BUILT WITH CONCRETE POSTS. Barns, Shops, Riding Arenas, Machine Sheds and more, [sales@integritybuilt.com](mailto:sales@integritybuilt.com) 1-866-974-7678 [www.integritybuilt.com](http://www.integritybuilt.com).

### Commercial Property

PROMOTE YOUR MESSAGE THROUGHOUT Alberta. The Blanket Classifieds or Value Ads connect with more than 400,000 readers in the province each week. Choose from three packages beginning at \$269, \$299 or \$599 to share your message in over

70 Weekly Community Newspapers. Contact THIS NEWSPAPER today or email [classifieds@awna.com](mailto:classifieds@awna.com) for more information. Call 1-800-282-6903 or 780-434-8746 or visit [www.awna.com](http://www.awna.com).

### Health

HIP/KNEE REPLACEMENT. Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING? The

Disability Tax Credit allows for \$3,000 yearly tax credit and \$30,000 lump sum refund. Take advantage of this offer. Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide: Expert help. 1-844-453-5372.

### Services

Scribbly: a whimsical, monthly writing program mailed to your home! Experience new levels of writing skill

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### Travel

EXTRAORDINARY VILLA IN OSOYOOS, BC, breathtaking lake views, just 3 minutes from town. Vacation in Canada's warmest destination. Or warmer weather, two luxurious 5-star resort units in Phoenix, Arizona.

Doug 306-716-2671; [osoyooslakevilla.com](http://osoyooslakevilla.com).

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

THE LAKESIDE LEADER is hiring an editor, for a full-time position in Slave Lake. Salary \$55,000 per year. Email resume, cover letter and samples of writing and photography to [spnproduction@hotmail.com](mailto:spnproduction@hotmail.com).



Rotary Club of Whitecourt photo

Rotary Club of Whitecourt volunteers support Repeat Boutique during a community service evening in Whitecourt on January 20.

### Letter to the Editor policy

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



# The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

## Contact

Valerie Winger at 780-706-1858  
Email: [wctpress@telus.net](mailto:wctpress@telus.net)



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



Pat Hardy school photo

Pat Hardy Grade 5 students enjoyed a fun-filled skating outing last week, making the most of the ice with plenty of smiles and laughter.

**Whitecourt Veterinary Clinic 4439 - 52 Ave**

Thank you to all those loving families who've adopted the pets at the Whitecourt Vet Clinic.

Career ads, online at: [www.whitecourtpress.com](http://www.whitecourtpress.com)

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**Looking for Live-in Resident Manager for an apartment building in Whitecourt**

Duties to include: rent collection, bank deposits, show suites, leasing, notices, tenant concerns, dealing with contractors, common area cleaning. May include lawn care and snow removal. Training provided.

**Please send resume to [resadmin1@ayreoxford.com](mailto:resadmin1@ayreoxford.com)**

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

**Rawluk, Anthony Thomas "Tony"**

Anthony Thomas Rawluk "Tony" was born in Kenora, Ontario on October 19, 1938, and peacefully passed away on December 13, 2025, at the age of 87.

Tony is survived by his son, Kurt (Brenda) with grandchildren, Nick (Amanda-Brooke and great-granddaughter Everly) and Kelsey; his son, Ken with grandchildren, Nathan (great-granddaughter Sophie) and Stephanie; his daughter, Kristen (Lee); and sister, Josephine of Portland, Oregon; as well as several nieces, nephews and friends.

Some of Tony's greatest passions were playing music, dancing and entertaining. He was also gifted with several other talents such as sports and being a Red Seal Millwright. He will be greatly missed.

A gathering of family and friends will be held at a later date in Whitecourt, Alberta.

**Photos, memories and condolences may be shared through [www.parkmemorial.com](http://www.parkmemorial.com)**

**Park Memorial Ltd.**  
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