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# The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 15 - Issue 11 | Wednesday, March 18, 2026



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## Chamber requests from Town Council – carnival, nighttime market and event funding



One of the busiest seasons for the Whitecourt Chamber is coming up. During a recent Town Council meeting, the Chamber requested street closures and funding support for a large-scale event coming to the community. Pictured is The Stayk Gardens booths from the Fresh Community Market last year. See story page 2.



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# Chamber requests from Town Council – carnival, nighttime market and event funding



Last year's night market proved very popular.

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**| By Serena Lapointe**

Although it might have just snowed a whole bunch last week, that doesn't mean planning for spring events isn't ongoing for the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce. At a recent Whitecourt Town Council meeting, the Chamber had three requests for support, two of which sought permission for temporary road closures.

The first request was for one of the most popular events the Chamber of Commerce holds: May's downtown carnival. Similar to the Christmas Parade in

terms of popularity, the carnival brings thousands of visitors to the downtown core over the course of three days. This year's carnival is planned for a weekend stretch, May 8-10, and once again features Wil-drose Shows Inc.

The fun will open on Friday, May 8, at 3:00 pm and end on Sunday, May 10, at 5:00 pm. Each year, the Whitecourt Chamber asks Town Council for permission to close certain roads in the downtown core. Fifty-first Avenue, from 49th Street to 50th Street, will be closed starting on Tuesday, May 5, while 50th

Street, from 52nd Avenue to 50th Avenue, will be closed starting on Wednesday, May 6, to allow for a safe setup window for the carnival rides and booths. Streets were selected to provide optimal visibility for downtown businesses, stated the Chamber's request letter.

The Chamber of Commerce receives significant return on investment for bringing in the travelling carnival, with revenue accounting for 75 percent of its annual budget, enabling it to put on other community events.

The second road closure request is a new

event for the Chamber. For the last three years, the Chamber has held its Fresh Community Market event every Saturday through the summer near Walmart. This year, they are doing something different. Following the immense popularity of last summer's First Annual Fresh Community Night Market, the Chamber has decided to swap its Saturday morning markets for weekday evening markets.

Unlike previous markets, which happened every weekend, the newly scheduled for-

continued on page 3

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continued from page 2

mat will see monthly markets happening throughout the spring, summer and early fall, running from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The first event will take place on Wednesday, May 27. The next four will take place on Thursdays, June 25, July 23, August 20 and September 24, all in downtown Whitecourt.

The letter sent to Town Council stated that the nighttime markets were "unique" and allowed a different level of community engagement that tradi-

tional markets cannot offer. "By operating in the evening, we make the market more accessible to working families, shift workers, and those who may not be able to attend daytime events. The cooler temperatures, festive atmosphere, and opportunity for live entertainment will create a vibrant community gathering space, benefiting both local vendors and surrounding businesses. This event can enhance tourism, boost the local economy and continue the tradition that we started last year, which brings people together

while supporting small businesses and farmers."

The third and final Chamber request during the March 9 Regular Meeting of Town Council was for financial support. The Whitecourt Chamber was recently selected to host the 2026 Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) Annual General Meeting & Policy Plenary Session, a provincial event expected to attract roughly 140 business and chamber leaders from across more than 30 regions of the province.

With business leaders, policy makers and chamber representatives visiting the community for the event, it offers the municipality visibility from an economic development perspective, as well as an economic boost for local businesses and hoteliers.

Whitecourt Town Council voted unanimously to provide support. Funding through the Economic Development Projects Reserve will be used to provide \$5,000 to become the exclusive sponsor for the Chair's Gala Dinner, the main

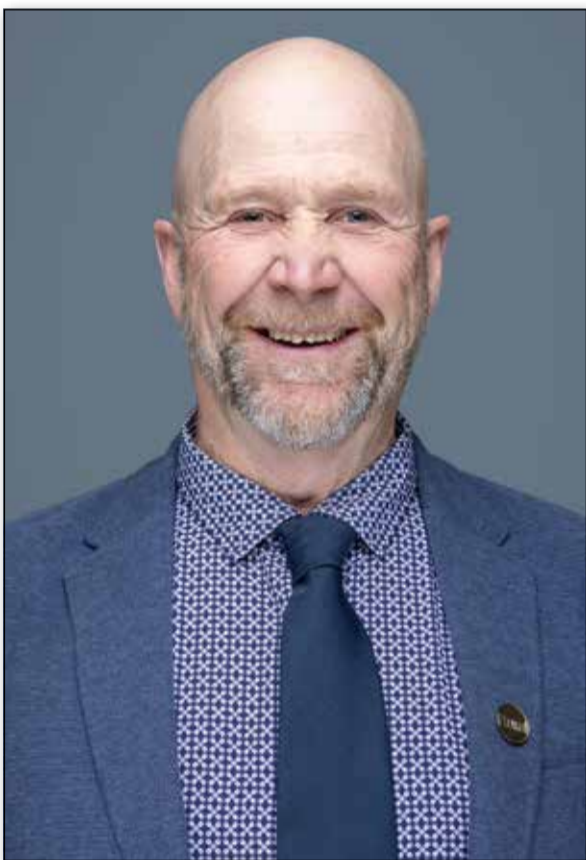
dinner event for the conference. As the title sponsor, the Town of Whitecourt will be promoted through materials and information set up at the event, as well as through welcoming remarks.

Town Council also approved \$2,500 to fund a joint event with Woodlands County during the conference, bringing both municipalities together to promote the region. When asked what it might look like, Rhonda Woods, Economic Development Officer, explained that it will be a decision made be-

tween both municipal camps. "We will meet with Woodlands County directly and come up with some joint promos. Maybe it's a joint event that we can do together. We will come up with some ideas to showcase our organizations."

The ACC will be held in Whitecourt on May 27 and May 28 at St. Joseph's Parish Hall. Visiting attendees will enjoy a regional mill tour, visiting key industry and local businesses, as well as panel discussions on Alberta's evolving business landscape.

# Woodlands County joins other municipalities in Alberta to request that the federal government reverse a closure decision



Councillor Peter Kuelken.



Woodlands County Council has joined a call to action, requesting the federal government reverse a closure decision on a research facility in Lacombe, which has provided valuable data for area producers, including those in Woodlands County, for over a hundred years. Pictured is The Lacombe Research and Development Center.

**| By Serena Lapointe**  
A research center in central Alberta, which has been in operation since the early 1900s, is slated to close within the next twelve months due to a government decision to reduce its services. The Lacombe Research and Development Centre opened in 1907 and has led in many agriculturally based areas over the last 119 years. The closure will be felt across

Western Canada, including in Woodlands County. The facility has been a leader in livestock and meat production research, crop sciences, weed science, plant pathology and integrated crop protection. Over the decades, it also generated significant continuous data on food security, climate resilience and innovation. In 1957, the facility even developed

national meat grading systems, focusing on sustainable livestock production and meat quality. As was explained at the Woodlands County Council meeting on March 12, the loss will not be small potatoes. "Many of the findings that occur at this particular facility are mixed farming systems, which are conducive to Woodlands County, and producers that you'll

typically find here," explained Joan Sloomweg, Community Planning Services Manager. She said that the research helps inform producers indirectly through various programs, groups, organizations, and conferences. Without the facility providing the data, the information sharing stops. Although other research facilities will remain in Alberta, the data may not be as help-

ful for folks living centrally. "There will still be two facilities in Alberta, which is Beaverlodge and Lethbridge; however, the central area would kind of be left out of that. And there are differences, of course, in your climates and things that carry different farming practices. So, that information wouldn't be coming forth necessarily without that facility." So, why the closure?

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) wishes to reduce the size of its public service, all part of a national workforce reduction effort over the next year. In Lacombe alone, the decision will impact 112 staff members and stifle ongoing research projects that benefit area producers, including those residing in Woodlands County.

continued on page 6

A look at the local weather		Wed., Mar. 18	Thu., Mar. 19	Fri., Mar. 20	Sat., Mar. 21	Sun., Mar. 22
P.O.P.		Snow				
High		70%	70%	40%	20%	30%
Low		6°C	6°C	4°C	4°C	3°C
Wind		0°C	-3°C	-6°C	-5°C	-9°C
24-Hr Rain / Snow		NW 10 km/h ~1cm	E 13 km/h <1cm	NW 32 km/h <1mm	SE 8 km/h	E 24 km/h



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Whitecourt Martial Arts Center photo

Whitecourt BJJ competitors showed heart and determination at the Elite Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Affiliates Youth Tournament in Edmonton on March 9, leaving proud and grateful for the experience.

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### COMMUNITY CLEAN UP PROGRAM FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Whitecourt is seeking non-profit organizations to perform refuse pickup duties within the community, including highway ditches and boulevards. The refuse pickup schedule will run throughout April to the end of October (weather permitting). At least one group is needed for July and one group for August.

To qualify for the program, groups must provide a written request to the Town, outlining how the funds would be used, confirming dates that the group would be available to perform the work, and providing an address and phone number for two group representatives.

**Please note: All those participating in clean-up activities must be 9 years of age or older. All groups awarded projects under the Community Clean-Up Program will be required to abide by all current public health guidelines. Information on protocols will be provided to groups prior to performing scheduled refuse pick up duties.**

Groups must provide a minimum of 12 volunteers, with at least one adult for every two youth (aged 9 to 17 years); Applicants can submit a proposal to complete between 50 and 100 hours of service; the time commitment must be confirmed prior to approval. Approved applicants shall receive \$12.00 for each hour of service, and total allocations for the program will be based on the annual budget.

For further details, please contact the Infrastructure Services Department at 780-778-2705.

Written letters of application must be received at the following address by **12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 7:**

TOWN OF WHITECOURT  
Re: Community Clean Up Program Application  
Box 509, 5004 - 52 Avenue, WHITECOURT, AB T7S 1N6, E-Mail: [cathysudderdean@whitecourt.ca](mailto:cathysudderdean@whitecourt.ca)

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- **RFP 2026-02-23: Canfor Culture & Events Centre Kitchen Lease & Coffee Lease. Closes: March 31, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

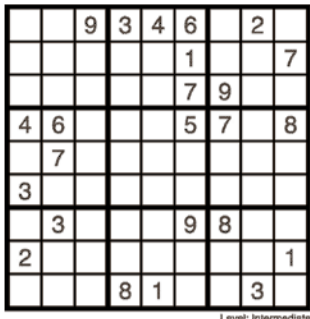
- **RFP 2026-03-06: Canfor Culture & Events Centre Audiovisual Equipment. Closes: April 20, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**
- **RFP 2026-03-11: Public Art Policy Development Consultant. Closes: April 8, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

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

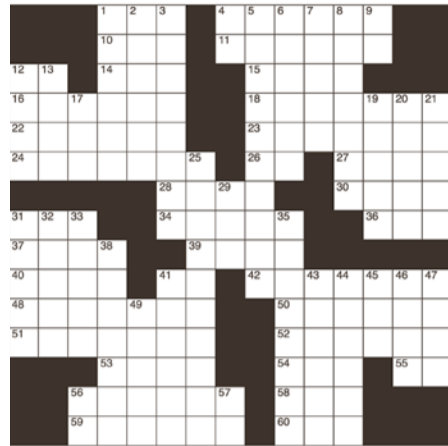
SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 11

# 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. Inclined to do
- 4. Sketches
- 10. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- 11. Atomic #58
- 12. Dorm official
- 14. Small Eurasian deer
- 15. Southern constellation
- 16. Workers' groups
- 18. Former
- 22. Excellent
- 23. Romance language related to Spanish
- 24. Reference
- 26. Equally
- 27. Dirty towels
- 28. A cargo (abbr.)
- 30. Ammunition
- 31. You get one in summer
- 34. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 36. Swiss river
- 37. Exchange rate
- 39. British School
- 40. College teacher
- 41. Foreign Service
- 42. Horse gear
- 48. Cost to fly

- 50. A salt or ester of boric acid
- 51. Mocking
- 52. One who bird-watches
- 53. Concluding passage
- 54. A major division of geological time
- 55. Sodium
- 56. A way to produce
- 58. Soak
- 59. Laughed loudly and harshly

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Moth species phalonia \_\_\_
- 2. Quantum of energy
- 3. Break the law
- 4. Location of White House
- 5. Official cancellation of a decision
- 6. Where rockers work
- 7. Cut of beef: \_\_\_ mignon
- 8. Nocturnal burrowing reptile
- 9. Atomic #62
- 12. Genus of evergreen subshrubs

- 13. Flowering plant of the legume family
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Tropical fruit
- 20. Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust
- 21. James \_\_, painter
- 25. Popular dessert
- 29. Payment (abbr.)
- 31. Cuisine style
- 32. Genus of true flies
- 33. City in western France
- 35. Arrogance
- 38. One holding a position of command
- 41. Weekday
- 43. An evening party
- 44. Print errors
- 45. Not good
- 46. Egyptian Sun god
- 47. East German town
- 49. Olfactory property
- 56. Atomic #37
- 57. "Pollock" actor Harris

continued from page 3

Even if the projects move to a different facility, the decades of trials, infrastructure and expertise may not be easily recreated elsewhere, potentially creating gaps in data collection and affecting the ultimate goal of the facility in the first place, which is providing accurate information, specific to an area of the province.

In response to the closure, Lacombe County has sent out a request for letters from concerned Municipal Districts and Counties wishing to see the decision reversed, asking that letters be addressed to the Government of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. And that's how the topic landed on the desk at Woodlands County.

The letter from Lacombe County states that the decision to close the facility will be a "weakening of Canada's independent agricultural research base at a time of heightened global uncertainty," adding that it will terminate or relocate "long-term scientific trials that cannot be replicated without irreparable loss of data and infrastructure value."

The letter also pointed to the effect the closure will have on students interested in agriculture careers due to the reduction in "hands-on student placements, mentor-

ship, and early career opportunities that are essential for Canada's agri-food workforce." It also stated that the loss would undermine the "research cluster" that connects "academia, industry, and the public sector innovation in Central Alberta."

Woodlands County Councillor Peter Kuelken said he supported joining the call for action and getting a letter sent to the federal government. "It's interesting that the Federal Government is now choosing to down-load some of the things onto the provinces. The problem we have in agriculture is that even the province has neglected the extension work that is really important for agriculture, in general. A lot of those services have been taken up by organizations like Grow and Farming Forward, and the problem with it is that it's deluded."

Kuelken explained that agriculture is changing, making the research all the more important for farmers. "Agriculture is evolving quite interestingly into a different space where a lot of that research is necessary, and yet the political powers who have, over a long period of time, distanced themselves virtually culturally from agriculture, are not seeing the value in that as much as the agricultural community does.

I am completely in support of trying to figure out how we lobby the federal government not to reduce those services because they are important."

Reeve Dave Kusch agreed. "Overall, in Canada, we have some of the highest standards in agriculture, and the testing and research that's done in the background helps ensure that what we have is top tier and viable." He agreed that sending the letter and joining the fight alongside Lacombe was a good idea. Councillor Kuelken agreed with the Reeve's comment about Canada's high standards. "You're one hundred percent right. What we're starting to see now in agriculture is that it's a top-down enforcement issue on food safety and other things which are absolutely not relevant. As you delude the bottom end part of it, the top end starts to do some of the things that become counterproductive."

Woodlands County Council voted in favour of sending a letter to The Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, urging him to reverse the decision to close the Lacombe facility. Three research facilities and four satellite research farms are also expected to close, leaving seventeen centres open. Well over 650 jobs are expected to be lost across Canada.

## HEALTHY HEART WORD SEARCH

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

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

- WORDS**
- AEROBIC
  - ARRHYTHMIA
  - ARTERIES
  - ATHEROSCLEROSIS
  - BEATS
  - BLOOD
  - CARDIAC
  - CARDIOVASCULAR
  - CHOLESTEROL
  - CIRCULATION
  - CORONARY
  - ENDURANCE
  - EXERCISE
  - HEALTHY
  - HEART
  - HYPERTENSION
  - INFLAMMATION
  - MUSCLE
  - PLAQUE
  - PULSE
  - STRESS
  - STROKE
  - VALVES
  - VEINS



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## Shoppers Drug Mart: A convenient healthcare option for the community

The dedicated team at Shoppers Drug Mart is always ready to assist with your health and wellness needs. From left to right Daniel John, Navjot Kaur, Margo Hana, Rowena Canilang, George Saeed.



By Haylee Winger

Shoppers Drug Mart provides a wide range of essential healthcare services that go beyond prescription dispensing. With offerings such as A1C testing, heart screenings, and strep tests, their pharmacy team is equipped to support your health needs efficiently. These services allow you to avoid long wait times at the emergency room and access



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continued on page 11

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Please apply in person at the restaurant.



4331-52 Ave Unit 1  
Whitecourt, AB

4216 Elko Drive  
Whitecourt, AB

### 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#: 26-021 – Heritage Collections Technician – Contract Position – Closes March 30, 2026**

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



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

### Pins and Pine Needles Quilt Guild

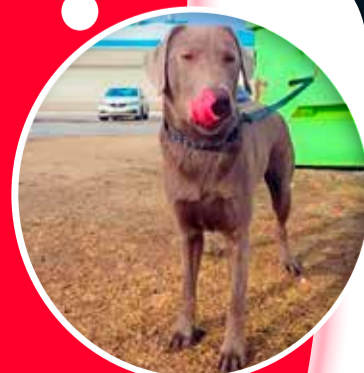
Ticket numbers 381-400 were stolen and will not be part of the draw on March 14, 2026.

### Meet Gunner

Gunner is a friendly, 1 1/2-year-old neutered dog, up to date on his vaccinations.

### WHITECOURT ADOPTABLE ANIMALS

He has high energy and loves to greet people with enthusiasm. Gunner enjoys swimming, playing, and cuddling, but he can be tough on plush toys. He has lived with dogs, cats, and children and has food allergies.



For more information or to visit Gunner, please contact the Whitecourt Pound at:  
**780-778-5767**

### REMINDER: SPRING ROAD BANS ARE COMING SOON

If you rely on hauling or heavy loads, now is a good time to prepare.

- Try to complete as much trucking as possible before restrictions begin
- Check regularly for updates on when bans take effect
- Ensure any required Road Use Agreements are in place

Road ban updates will be posted on the County website and shared on our Facebook page: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/road-bans>



WOODLANDS COUNTY  
**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

#### FIND A LOCAL BUSINESS

Check out our Business Directory for information and location on Woodlands County-based businesses!

Go to <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/business-directory>, or scan the QR Code with your phone:



#### ADD YOUR BUSINESS

It only takes a few minutes to be included in this helpful local resource - easily add it yourself!

Go to <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/add-a-business>, or scan the QR Code with your phone:



**BLUE RURAL ADDRESS SIGNS**  
WOODLANDS COUNTY

Did you know? **All properties with a residence in Woodlands County must have a blue rural address sign**, with one sign required for each residence. These rural addresses help emergency services quickly locate property access points.

Woodlands County coordinates the assignment, ordering, and installation of blue rural address signs.

If your sign is faded, incorrect, or no longer needed, please contact the County. Blue rural address signs are also available (optional) for recreational properties without a residence.

For more information or to request a sign, contact the Woodlands County office in Whitecourt at 780-778-8400.

Learn more: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/blue-rural-address-signs>  
Or scan the QR Code with your phone:



### WE'RE HIRING

- Temporary, Equipment Operator • Temporary, Ag Technician
- Coordinator, Facilities Maintenance • Manager, Infrastructure Services

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

### WOODLANDS COUNTY EASTER OFFICE CLOSURES & SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS:

Friday, April 3, and Monday, April 6, both municipal offices will be closed.

They'll reopen Tuesday, April 7, for regular hours.

Fort Assiniboine garbage collection will be deferred to Tuesday, April 7.

Blue Ridge waste collection will be Thursday morning, April 2.

### DUST CONTROL

Starting **March 16**, Woodlands County is accepting application forms from residents who want dust control applied to County roads adjacent to their property.

Rates for dust control are as follows:

- \$425 + GST for 100 metres • \$750 + GST for 200 metres
- \$750 + \$4.25 per additional metre over 200m + GST

Application forms and more information about dust control are available at [woodlands.ab.ca/p/dust-control](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/dust-control).

**Deadline for submitting your application form is Friday, May 1, 2026.**

Application forms are also available at:

Woodlands County  
Municipal Office  
#1 Woodlands Lane  
Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3  
Telephone: 780-778-8400  
Fax: 780-778-8402

OR

Woodlands County  
Regional Municipal Office  
P.O. Box 33  
Fort Assiniboine AB T0G 1A0  
Telephone: 780-584-3866  
Fax: 780-584-3988

**PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE WITH DEBIT, VISA, MASTERCARD, CHEQUE OR CASH AT EITHER COUNTY OFFICE**

### ARTS & CULTURE AND RECREATION GRANTS 2026

Applications for Arts & Culture and Recreation programming grants are being accepted until Friday, March 27, 2026.

Organizations that apply must be non-profit and demonstrate other fundraising efforts and funding sources. Priority will be given to programs that serve children and youth.

Applications, full policy, and all other supporting documents can be:

- Downloaded from our website: [woodlands.ab.ca](http://woodlands.ab.ca)
- Or, picked up at either of the Whitecourt or Fort Assiniboine offices

3 ways to submit your completed applications!

- Drop off in-person at either the Whitecourt or Fort Assiniboine offices • Mailed to: Woodlands County, Attn: Community Services, Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3 • Emailed to: [communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca)

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



**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)  
780-778-6822



**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 / Tarvie  
[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

**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**

**Putting a face on suicide**



*Every 40 seconds somewhere around the world someone dies by suicide, that's 99 people every 66 minutes. Every day, that's almost 100 people in the United States alone, and over 2160 worldwide. Putting a Face on Suicide (PAFOS) is a suicide awareness project that creates posters and videos to pay tribute to those we have lost to suicide with dignity and respect. PAFOS humanizes the daunting statistics; lovingly replacing numbers with faces.*

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Canadian-owned • Safe • Private

Join Free at [SeniorsPortal.ca](http://SeniorsPortal.ca)

*The Turn Indoor Golf & Lounge photos*

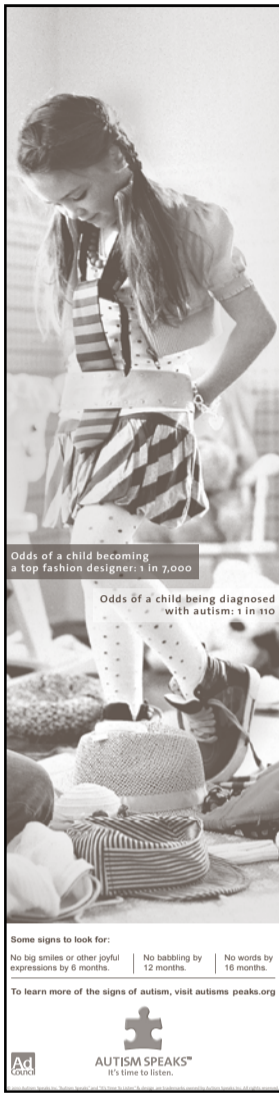
On March 10, the Whitecourt Wolverines visited The Turn Indoor Golf & Lounge for a team-building session ahead of their playoffs. The Turn offers an excellent way to escape the cold and enjoy a fun and relaxing environment. Whether for team events or a casual outing, patrons can enjoy indoor golf, drinks, and great company in a warm, comfortable setting. Located at 5011B 52 Avenue Whitecourt, The Turn is open Monday to Friday from 3 PM to 11 PM, and Saturday to Sunday from 11 AM to 11 PM.



# Blanket Classified Ads

Alberta and NWT for \$269 (up to 25 words) \$8.00 each additional word. These ads are placed in over 100 community newspapers throughout Alberta. We can also place ads in other provinces throughout Canada.

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)

**Ad Council** **AUTISM SPEAKS™**  
It's time to listen.

### 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).

### Coming Events

**FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2026 AUCTION PROGRAM:** Firearms, Ammunition, Accessories, or Militaria. Collections, Estates or single items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Contact us: 1-800-694-2609, Email: [sales@switzersauction.com](mailto:sales@switzersauction.com) or Visit us @ [www.switzersauction.com](http://www.switzersauction.com) for Auction Dates & Details.

### Custom Homes

**BLANKET THE PROVINCE** with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach 75 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903; [www.awna.com](http://www.awna.com); email [classifieds@awna.com](mailto:classifieds@awna.com).

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**THE LAKESIDE LEADER** is hiring a full-time reporter/photographer position in Slave Lake. Salary negotiable. Email

resume, cover letter and samples of writing and photography to [spnproduction@hotmail.com](mailto:spnproduction@hotmail.com).

### Feed and Seed

**BARLEY - \*NEW-AB Standswell\*** Smooth AWN, High Yielding, Grain and Forage Great Lodging Resistance. 1st NITROGEN USE EFFICIENT CEREAL IN CANADA. OTHER BARLEY: Cerveza, CDC Austenson, CDC Durango, CDC Maverick, Esma, Sundre. WHEAT - Pintail, Forage or Grain. OATS - AC Juniper, AC Morgan,

AC Mustang, Derby, CDC S01 Super Oat. PEAS - Very Early Yellow Peas, Forage Peas. ALSO AVAILABLE: Polish Canola & Spring Triticale. Special pricing on truckloads. [www.mastinseeds.com](http://www.mastinseeds.com); 403-556-2609.

### 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.

### Heavy Equipment For Sale

**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).

### Travel

**VACATION IN CANADA'S WARMEST DESTINATION.** Extraordinary villa in Osoyoos, BC, breathtaking lake views, just 3 minutes from town. Or warmer weather, two luxurious 5-star resort units in Phoenix, Arizona. Doug 306-716-2671 or visit [osoyooslakevilla.com](http://osoyooslakevilla.com).

# Whitecourt Town Council update

### Press release

Whitecourt is now accepting nominations to the 2026 Volunteer Awards Program. Tell us who is making a difference in our community by recognizing them with a nomination. Nomination forms are available at [www.volunteerwhitecourt.ca](http://www.volunteerwhitecourt.ca). National Volunteer Week is April 19 to 26, 2026, and Whitecourt will be recognizing and thanking volunteers from across the community for the time and energy they contribute to our community. Watch for information on our website and social media sites on events and activities planned to celebrate our volunteers. Whitecourt will be a sponsor of the Alberta Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting that is scheduled for May 27 and 28 in Whitecourt, and is also exploring partnership opportunities with

Woodlands County for the event. The event will increase awareness of Whitecourt with business leaders, policy-makers, and Chamber representatives from across Alberta. Whitecourt has allocated \$3,500 under the Sports Hosting Program to the Whitecourt Minor Hockey Association to host the U13 Provincial Championship event this month. The Sports Hosting Program provides an opportunity for the municipality and sport community to work together to maximize the economic and community benefits derived from hosting provincial sport events. Whitecourt Town Council has approved an application for a seasonal eating and drinking establishment (ice cream stand) at 5115 Highway 43 (Brooke's Creek). The Whitecourt & District Chamber of Com-

merce will be hosting a series of Nighttime Farmers Markets over the spring and summer in downtown Whitecourt. Temporary street closures have been approved along 51 Avenue and 50 Street to accommodate the events. Follow the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for details. The Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the annual Carnival in downtown Whitecourt May 8-10, 2026. Temporary street closures from May 5-11 in the downtown area have been approved to accommo-

date the event. Watch for further information on the Carnival on the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. Whitecourt has approved a Municipal Access Agreement with Slave Lake Communications Ltd. (operating as Whitecourt Communications) for non-exclusive use of the municipal right of ways to construct and operate a fibre optic network in the area immediately surrounding Whitecourt. This agreement will allow the company to install fibre to serve residents in surrounding Woodlands County.

### continued from page 8

timely care in a comfortable setting.

They also offer consultations on over 25 different health concerns, providing valuable guidance on ev-

erything from common ailments to chronic conditions. With convenient hours, Shoppers Drug Mart is open 7 days a week, from 9 AM to 9 PM, making it easier for you to take control of your health.

### 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.

## PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

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F L A H O F F S E V L A V M N O U O V I  
M A U O E K O R T S P V P H E A R T L P  
M U S C L E D Q S C O R O N A R Y T U C  
H S N P A N I R N E Q N K I X B M B D R  
A I S P E H C H O L E S T E R O L F I U  
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### CROSSWORDS

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### SUDOKU

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

**Whitecourt Veterinary Clinic 4439 - 52 Ave**



...where pets are family...



**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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780-778-3981 [mreschke@rflp.ca](mailto:mreschke@rflp.ca)

**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 [resumes@ayreoxford.com](mailto:resumes@ayreoxford.com)**

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**Edmonton** T: 780-489-9606   **Lloydminster** T: 780-875-7433   **Fox Creek/Whitecourt** T: 780-778-3091

**Fort Saskatchewan** T: 780-992-0266   **Evansburg** T: 780-727-2017

TOLL FREE: 1-877-489-9606   [METRIXGROUP.CA](http://METRIXGROUP.CA)

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

**WOODLANDS COUNTY**

**DEVELOPMENT PERMITS**

**DID YOU KNOW? HOME-BASED BUSINESSES REQUIRE A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT.**

Whether you're starting a home-based business, building a garage or accessory building, or expanding your home, a development permit is the first step:

- ✓ Ensure your business and /or project meets local bylaws
- ✓ Avoid costly delays or penalties
- ✓ Support smart, sustainable community growth

Woodlands County Planning Department is here to guide you through the process every step of the way:

- 📍 Learn what permits you need
- 📄 Get step-by-step application support
- 🕒 Stay informed on zoning rules and timelines

For more information, please visit our website at: [woodlands.ab.ca/p/planning-and-development](http://woodlands.ab.ca/p/planning-and-development)  
Or contact us at [planning@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:planning@woodlands.ab.ca) 780-778-8400

