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The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 15 - Issue 12 | Wednesday, March 25, 2026



Pat Hardy was one of the schools that fundraised for the food bank last year.

Using outside dollars to impact the community on a large scale

| By Serena Lapointe

Well over four and a half million dollars impacted the Community Services Department at the Town of Whitecourt last year, funnelling down into the programs and services provided, significantly reducing costs, saving tax dollars, and growing the available resources with which staff create and implement programs and services for residents. Snagging grants from provincial and federal governments, partner entities and industry remains a highly suc-

cessful component of the Town's yearly budgeting process, with millions of dollars impacting its departments and available services.

Last year, the largest influx of dollars in the Community Services department came through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund, which, together with the Canada Public Transit Fund, is massively helping update the community's transit system. Dollars helped purchase three new transit buses, a new Dial-A-Bus, up-

grades at two traffic light intersections (51 Street/49 Avenue, and 52 Avenue/47 Street), and sidewalk/shelter upgrades throughout the community. Over 2.3 million is coming through one fund (RTSF), and nearly \$700,000 (CPT) from the other. The significant funding will enable the municipality to replace its aging bus fleet, thereby making the system more reliable for residents. Over the last few years, buses have broken down,

continued on page 6

Wolverines roar into playoffs after strong regular season

| By Serena Lapointe

Since the season began in September, the Whitecourt Wolverines have succeeded on numerous fronts, both jointly and singularly, collecting stats to be proud of as they enter into the playoffs now that all 55 games of the regular season have concluded for another year.

Though there were some dark days for the boys, including a 7-3 loss to Lloydminster in

front of the home fans on October 12 and a 6-1 road game loss to the same rival on December 19, there was much more sunshine than not, especially on Friday, February 20, when the Wolverines slammed Bonnyville 10-3 at home.

The ten goals by the Wolverines that night were the highest individual game total for the boys this regular season. Even better, the last time the Wol-

verines reached double digits in a single game was in 2017 during that year's AJHL Showcase against the Camrose Kodiaks. The team's overall record of most goals in a game stands at 14, stemming from a game just the year before against the Calgary Mustangs on December 2, 2016.

This season, there were quite a few high scoring games, includ-

continued on page 3



Three on one for Ruskowski.

Four goals in one game, double-digit scoring, records smashed, personal bests achieved and much more have made the 2025/2026 AJHL regular season a special one for the Whitecourt Wolverines.



Did Hoose the Goose lay an egg?



Patrick Carew

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CA MacLean Bursary Foundation

Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association

Don't take the bait: spotting AI scams before they spot you



This March, the Alberta RCMP shares a variety of tips and resources in support of the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association's (ACCPA) Fraud Prevention Month campaign. The campaign seeks to educate Albertans on the many ways that fraudulent activity negatively impacts their communities.

Today's theme is artificial intelligence (AI) scams, which may include any of the following:

- Voice cloning scams
- AI-generated kidnapping calls
- Deepfake video impersonation
- Romance scams enhanced by AI chatbots
- Fake customer support agents
- AI-generated investment advisors
- Phishing emails and texts written by AI
- AI-assisted job interview scams
- Synthetic identity fraud
- AI-generated rental or marketplace listings

"AI-generated content can look flawless, feel personal, and reach anyone. That is why

staying alert is crucial. The more we learn to spot the subtle warning signs, the harder it becomes for scammers to turn powerful tools into targeted traps."

Cpl. Sean Milne, Provincial Financial Crime Team, RCMP Federal Policing Northwest Region. To better protect yourself, consider the following resources:

- Learn how cyber criminals are using AI in their scams
- Learn how to spot AI-generated content and the risks it poses to online users
- Learn how AI can be used to generate content

If you are unsure of whether or not you are being targeted by a scam, visit the Government of Canada's website to learn about common scam types. If you have been the victim of fraud, report it to your local law enforcement agency and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at www.antifraudcentre.ca, or by calling 1-888-495-8501. Be sure to contact your bank and credit card company if you believe your personal or financial information has been compromised.

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Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.72 US Dollar
at an exchange rate of **0.7288** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of March 25, 2026



A ref cuddle at the end of the first.



Two arms up. One to celebrate and one to complain.



Sliding into the post season like ...

continued from page 1

ing a 7-0 win against the Bonnyville Pontiacs on October 8, an 8-5 victory against the Camrose Kodiaks on October 3, and an 8-1 pounding of the Drayton Valley Thunder on November 9, one of only four meetings between those two this season, all of which were wins for the Wolverines. Sorry, not sorry, Thunder!

For Wolverine's Captain Jalen Bianchet, this season has been one for the record books. The 2025/2026 season is his third with the club and is, without a doubt, his best. With 87 total points, 41 assists, and 46 goals, in 53 games in the regular season, Bianchet smashed his previous seasons, not only with the Wolverines but also with the Ajax/Pickering Raiders U18 AAA, where he played before playing in Whitecourt. His second closest points total was 55, from last season.

His ability to get pucks to the net this season broke records, giving him not only the season records for most goals and most points by a Wolverine, but it also nabbed him the all-time franchise record for goals (85) and the title for overall points leader, with a staggering 174 points. Bianchet had 30 multi-point games and a season high point streak of twelve games, where he racked up 23 points.

But, it wasn't only franchise accomplishments; he got league ones, too. He received the Bunge AJHL Player of the Game fourteen times, the Canalta Hotels AJHL Player of the Week three times, and was the Alberta Ford Dealers AJHL Player of the Month in

October. He also led the league, winning the Ernie Love Trophy as the AJHL's scoring champion and receiving the AJHL's Leading Scorer award, and he's a finalist for the 2025/2026 AJHL MVP Award. Talk about an overachiever!

The Whitecourt Wolverines wrapped up the regular season with 81 points, followed by the Grande Prairie Storm (78) in second, the Lloydminster Bobcats (75) in third, and the Fort McMurray Oil Barons (68) in fourth place. The Bonnyville Pontiacs (58) and the Devon Xtreme (44) did not make it into the playoffs. In the final two games of the season, Whitecourt and Devon battled it out. On Friday, March 13, at JDA Place, the Wolverines gave their fans a show. Nearly 600 attended with #30 Cam Hoose in net for the home team.

The first and last goals of the game were scored by the same person, #21 Mason Russell. This is Russell's second season with the Wolverines, and just like his cap-

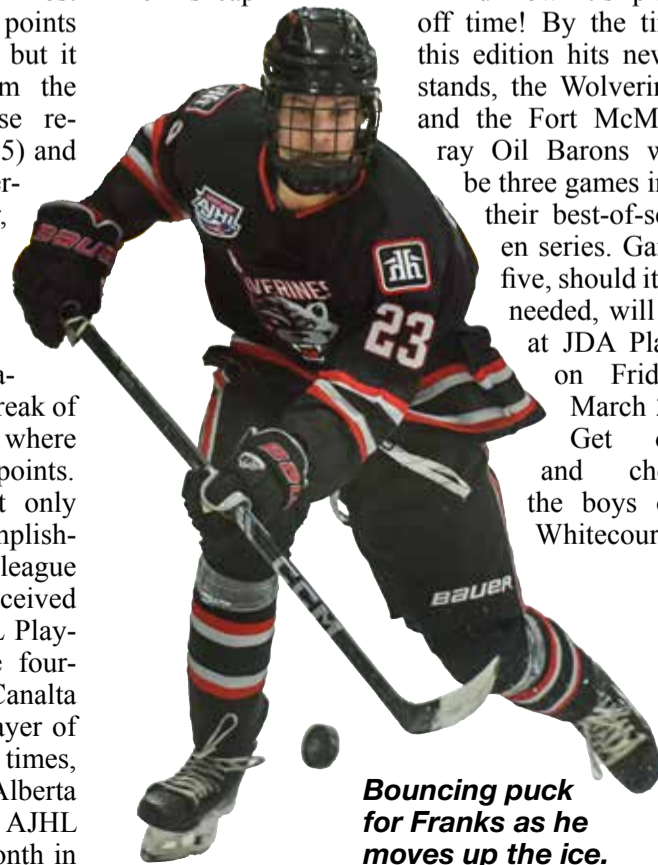
tain, he really came into his own this year. Last season, Russell played 37 games, scored five goals and nabbed five assists, for a total of 10 points. This regular season, Russell lit up the scoreboard fourteen times and racked up 21 assists, totalling 35 points in 54 games.

On March 13, against Devon, at home in front of the fans, Russell did not hold back. Not only did he score the first and last goals, but he also scored two in the second period, bringing his total in the game to four; a Texas Hat Trick! The Langley native will be someone to watch next season to see how much his game develops, considering his tremendous growth this season.

With the four goals from Russell, and a combined four from Alex Symes, Xander Schulte, Kyle Tucker and Parker Fitzgerald, the Wolverines won the game 8-4, sending the Xtreme packing.

However, in a cruel twist of fate, the final game of the season, in Devon the very next night, ended up a loss for the Wolverines, 2-1.

And now it's play-off time! By the time this edition hits newsstands, the Wolverines and the Fort McMurray Oil Barons will be three games into their best-of-seven series. Game five, should it be needed, will be at JDA Place on Friday, March 27. Get out and cheer the boys on, Whitecourt!



Bouncing puck for Franks as he moves up the ice.

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada

Join the Impact Assessment Roster:

Call for applications

March 18, 2026 — The Government of Canada is looking for individuals to join the Impact Assessment Roster. Ideal candidates will have one or more of the following:

- Knowledge or expertise in health, social sciences, economics, environmental science or a technical field related to impact assessment.
- Regional perspectives, especially from the Prairies or Atlantic Canada.
- An openness to understand and ability to incorporate Indigenous worldviews, Indigenous Knowledge, or experience working with Indigenous Nations or communities in ways that respect and support Indigenous protocols, rights, knowledge systems and self-determination.
- Experience working in the nuclear industry, oil and gas industry, or the energy sector, particularly in relation to major energy infrastructure projects such as pipelines.

Scan the QR-Code to visit the application page.

The Impact Assessment Roster is a list of eligible candidates who may serve on independent review panels. Review panels are made up of independent experts appointed by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to conduct impact assessments.

As a roster member, you have a unique opportunity to help shape some of Canada's major project decisions that aim to protect the environment, uphold Indigenous rights and serve the public interest.

For complete information on qualifications and the application process, please visit the application page at canada.ca/impact-assessment-roster. Applications will be accepted until April 18, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET.

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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 positions:

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

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



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Tim Hortons in Whitecourt is looking to fill the following positions:

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Eugene has a gentle temperament and has shown no signs of aggression during his veterinary assessment. He appears to get along well with other dogs. While he is very affectionate, Eugene can be somewhat nervous outdoors and is still adjusting to new environments. Please note that Eugene is not yet house-trained but is up to date on all vaccinations.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to meet Eugene, please contact the **Whitecourt Pound** at:
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- **RFT 2026-03-13: 2026 FRIAA FireSmart Program. Closes: March 31, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.**

- **RFP 2026-03-11: Public Art Policy Development Consultant. Closes: April 8, 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.**

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



Fireworks are a Canada Day staple, and funding helps make them possible.



Students use transit quite a bit.

continued from page 1

causing wait times for rides and affecting users, the opposite of what the service is meant to provide. The new fleet is expected to begin patrol on the community's streets in 2027. The Town's contribution to the project is just over 34 percent (from reserves), with the two funds kicking in for 65.2 percent of the project's cost. Whitecourt's transit system remains well utilized, with just un-

der 30,000 riders using it last year.

Time will tell on the ridership for 2026, especially with the introduction of an express route option, launching this summer. Once in action, one bus will run the faster route during peak hours, with the second bus running the regular route, which very well could increase usage further.

Funding also helps free up dollars to provide the Transportation Grant Program, which



Party in the Park is a must go event, rain or shine!

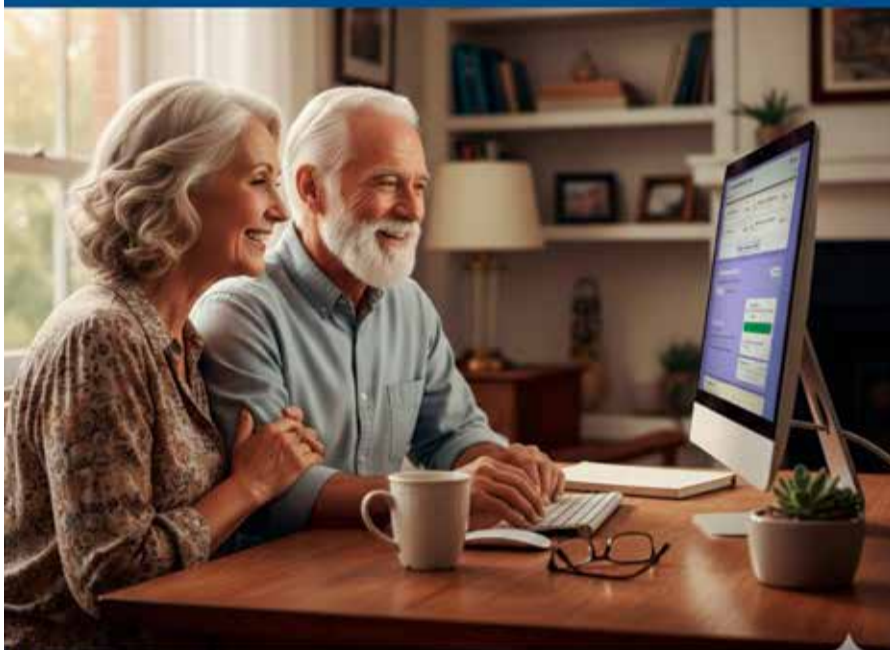
provides 24 vouchers yearly (twelve, twice per year) to qualified residents, including those at Spruceview Lodge, Woodlands Villa and Whitecourt Manor. Vouchers can also be used for taxi fares if the transit and Dial-A-Bus lines are down.

There were 55 registered users in the program. In total, 494 vouchers were used in 2025. The Town of Whitecourt has agreements in place with Caesar's Cabs and

Candy's Cabs and is invoiced \$5 per one-way voucher used.

Senior programs through the Town receive funding support as well. The Community Services Department received \$276,684 last year through the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services, as well as just over a grand from the Canada Revenue Agency Income Tax Program, which helps get yearly taxes done, without the financial burden.

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Print editions remain unchanged.

The Press

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by PETER MARINACCI

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24/7 CRISIS LINE 780.778.6209 1.800.467.4049 WELLSRING FAMILY RESOURCE & CRISIS CENTRE @whitecourt_shelter Shelter: Wellspring Provides a Safe, Short Term, Supportive Residential Environment for Women With or Without Children, Fleeing Family Violence & Experiencing Crisis. Outreach Support Program: Ongoing Support, Advocacy, Follow-Up & Support Groups for Women, Men and Youth in Whitecourt and Surrounding Communities. Child Support Program: Child Care & After School Programs - Age Appropriate Programs & Support for Children Who Have Been Affected By Family Violence. Preventative Education: Provides Workshops, Information and Awareness to Schools, Community Organizations, Agencies and Businesses. Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre www.whitecourtshester.ca

NA Recover Out Loud

- Mondays are in person, at the Family Worship Center upstairs, and online (hybrid) at 7:30pm
- Fridays 7:30pm at the Whitecourt Baptist Church in person only. ZOOM ID: 818 413 483 PASSWORD: gratitude

GRIEF SHARE CALL Ruth 780-674-7182

Support group on Tuesdays, February 17 to May 5. Crossroads Community Church, 4719 44 Avenue Mayerthorpe, Pre-registration is required

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 Located at the United Church Basement on Legion Street (formerly 5201 - 50 Street), Please Leave a Message for Our AA member or Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322

NEED HELP? CALL ANYTIME! (24-7)

- Mental Health Helpline 1-877-303-2642
- Addiction Helpline 1-866-332-2322
- Health Link 811

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Whitecourt Minor Hockey photo

Whitecourt Minor Hockey's U7 players celebrated the end of their season in Ardrossan March 13-15 with their dedicated hockey moms. Families and players alike reflected on a season full of teamwork, fun, and lasting memories on and off the ice.



Town of Whitecourt photo

The Whitecourt Minor Hockey Association hosted the U13 Hockey Alberta Provincial Championships in Whitecourt last weekend, supported by \$3,500 in funding from the Town's Sports Hosting Program, which assists local organizations in delivering events that contribute to the community's economy.



We're seeking dedicated Woodlands County residents to serve as members-at-large on the following committees and boards:

- Community Services Committee – 1 youth vacancy (Ages 16-25, 1-year term)
- Municipal Planning Commission - 1 vacancy
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board – 1 vacancy

For more information, please contact admin@woodlands.ab.ca

Become involved in the decisions that affect you and your community!

To apply, scan the QR Code or go to: <https://woodlands.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication/>



Woodlands County has some exciting job opportunities!

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

For more information and to apply, scan the QR Code, or go to: woodlands.ab.ca/p/careers

Local work. Good people. Let's talk.



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.

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

#woodlandscounty #dustcontrol #roadsmanagement

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
- 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

For more information, contact Woodlands County Community Services at 780-778-8400, or communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca

NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 26-DP-009

Location: SW 9-59-12-W5M, Lot 6, Block 1, Plan 0940743

Proposed Development: Secondary Suite, External **Decision Date:** March 18, 2026

Appeal Deadline: April 8, 2026

For full details on Development Permits visit <https://woodlands.ab.ca/>

Email: planning@woodlands.ab.ca **Call:** 1-888-870-6315

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.



DAVE KUSCH

Reeve, Division 1 – Anselmo
dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
780-778-9337



PATRICIA MACNEIL

Councillor, Division 2 - Whitecourt West
patricia.macneil@woodlands.ab.ca
780-268-3000



ALAN DEANE

Councillor, Division 3 - Whitecourt Central
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780-778-0894



KAREN ST. MARTIN

Councillor, Division 4 - Whitecourt East
karen.stmartin@woodlands.ab.ca
780-778-0822



JENNA WRIGHT

Councillor, Division 5 - Blue Ridge
jenna.wright@woodlands.ab.ca
780-779-6765



PETER KUELKEN

Councillor, Division 6 - Goose Lake / Freeman River
peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca
780-284-2425



BENNY WHITTEN

Councillor, Division 7 - Fort Assiniboine / Timeau
benny.whitten@woodlands.ab.ca
780-305-4655



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Wolverines capture 2025-26 regular season title and top team goaltenders award

| AJHL Release

The Whitecourt Wolverines are the 2025-26 Alberta Junior Hockey League Regular Season Champions and winners of the Dave Duchak Trophy. This marks the franchise's second league title with the first coming in the 2023-24 regular season. The Dave Duchak Trophy honours the first Commissioner of the Alberta Junior Hockey League.

The Wolverines held the best overall record in the Canalta Hotels AJHL Standings at 39-13-1-2 and 81 points; ranking the team first in the Bunge AJHL North Division for a third consecutive season. Whitecourt was 20-7-1-2 versus their divisional rivals and 19-6-0-0 versus the Bunge AJHL South Division.

Whitecourt Wolverines goaltenders Elliott Pratt and Preston Lew-

is are the recipients of the AJHL Top Team Goaltenders Award, which is presented annually to the goaltenders of the team with the lowest goals against average (GAA) in the regular season. This is the third consecutive Top Team Goaltenders Award for the Whitecourt Wolverines. The Wolverines allowed 144 goals against with a 2.62 GAA in the 2025-26 regular season.




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

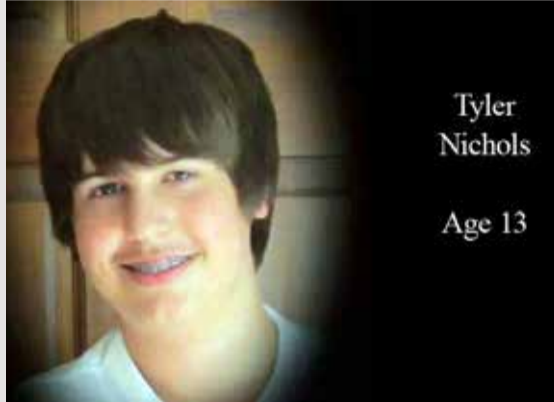
If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, you need to know that you're not alone. You can also call if you are not in crisis, seeking additional information. The new Canada Suicide Prevention Service (CSPS), by Crisis Services Canada, enables callers anywhere in

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



Tyler Nichols
Age 13

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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Woodlands County Council Recap

Council reviewed and adopted two Policies: the Tangible Capital Asset Policy (F-5.209), which permits capitalization of assets. The policy is intended to formalize existing practices, address audit recommendations, and align the County's asset accounting framework with current PSAB standards and guidance. The other Policy is the Acceptance of Donations and Donated Assets Policy (F-5.208). This policy establishes a governance framework for the acceptance, management, and use of monetary donations and assets donated to Woodlands County. For further information and to view these policies, please visit our website at <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/bylaws-policies>.

Council directed Administration to forward a letter of support to the Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, urging reconsideration of the decision to close the Lacombe Research and Development Centre, given the impact its closure would have on producers within Woodlands County. This was determined from a letter dated January 23, 2026, from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) announcing the slated closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre, resulting in the loss of approximately 100 positions after more than a century of agricultural research and innovation. Woodlands County is currently advancing the

Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) projects that require multiple provincial and federal regulatory approvals prior to tendering and construction. These projects must be completed within program timelines to maintain eligibility for DRP funding and to restore damaged infrastructure. Council directed Administration to prepare and send correspondence to the two local MLAs, relevant Provincial Ministers, the local Member of Parliament, and relevant Federal Ministers requesting expedited review of regulatory approvals required for Woodlands County Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) for the projects scheduled for completion in 2026. Woodlands County

launched a social media survey inviting residents to provide feedback on the 2026/2027 RCMP Community Policing Priorities. The results were compiled and presented to Council. The survey concluded that the top three priorities in the County are: Police Community Relations & Visibility, Traffic Safety and Crime Prevention. The survey results will be forwarded to the RCMP for compilation into their annual Community Priorities Plan. Council also directed Administration to promote the RCMP's Community Assisted Policing Through Use of Recorded Evidence (CAPTURE) Program to county residents. Alberta Parks & Forestry gave a presentation to Council on the

Recreation, Education, and Partnership Program, along with an overview of the recently completed Center of Alberta Walking Trail, and the obligations of becoming a Trail Manager. Trails are designated under the Trails Act and the Public Lands Act. The Public Lands Administration Regulation introduces new rules to enhance the management of provincial trails. Further information will be provided to Council at an upcoming Regular Council Meeting.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – Thursday, March 19 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, March 26 @ 9:30

a.m.

- Regular Council Meeting – April 9 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 15 @ 5:00 p.m.

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



A look at the local weather	Wed., Mar. 25	Thu., Mar. 26	Fri., Mar. 27	Sat., Mar. 28	Sun., Mar. 29
P.O.P. High Low Wind 24-Hr Rain / Snow	 Chance of flurries 40% -2°C -11°C E 12 km/h <1cm	 Chance of flurries 60% -4°C -16°C NE 11 km/h 2-4cm	 Partly sunny 40% -3°C -16°C E 9 km/h <1cm	 Partly sunny 30% 2°C -12°C W 10 km/h -	 Flurries 60% -1°C -10°C E 24 km/h <1cm



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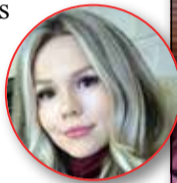
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Woodlands County and Whitecourt councils hold meeting, commit to ongoing joint sessions

By Haylee Winger

Officials from Woodlands County and the Town of Whitecourt recently gathered for a joint council meeting, marking an early opportunity for newly elected representatives to reconnect and re-open lines of communication.



The session included both elected officials and administrative staff, with discussions centred on issues that impact both municipalities. As neighbouring communities with shared interests in local services, infrastructure, and economic development, the meeting highlighted the importance of working together where it benefits the region.

A strong emphasis was placed on maintaining clear and respectful



Woodlands County photo

communication moving forward. Both councils agreed that regular joint meetings will be important for keeping discussions ongoing, sharing information, and addressing regional matters as they arise.

Woodlands County Reeve Dave Kusch said, "This meeting represents an important first step for our newly elected councils to reconnect and strengthen

the working relationship between Woodlands County and the Town of Whitecourt. We are committed to continuing these conversations on a regular basis to identify areas where collaboration makes sense, while always ensuring that the decisions we make reflect what is best for our respective ratepayers."

Mayor Ray Hilts of

Whitecourt added, "It was a great meeting, and I look forward to building a productive relationship, and defining a new era of collaboration with the County."

Both municipalities indicated they intend to continue meeting in the months ahead as they focus on strengthening communication and supporting a collaborative future for the region.

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.



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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.



Pat Hardy School photo

On March 13, Grade 5 students at 5Uttley celebrated their 1,000th day of school, marking a major milestone in their learning journey. From building projects to classroom activities and plenty of laughter, the students reflected on all the memories, friendships, and lessons they've gathered along the way.

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

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