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Vol. 15 - Issue 17 | Wednesday, April 29, 2026

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Project Week 2026 at École St Mary's School



Students at École St. Mary's School poured themselves into Project Week, creating fun games and toys themed around a popular movie franchise. The weeklong event culminated on Thursday last week with students putting their projects on display for the community. Pictured: Mayor Hillts had fun testing out Maylee's bowling game. See story page 3.



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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



Jordan age 17

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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Letter to the Editor policy

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



The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Contact

Valerie Winger at 780-706-1858
Email: wctpress@telus.net



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

Alberta RCMP encourages Albertans to prepare emergency plan

Press Release

The Alberta RCMP is encouraging community members to prepare an emergency plan in the event of a flood or wildfire. As summer approaches, it's important to be prepared to act quickly in case of a natural disaster.

Keep the following in mind when making an emergency plan for your family:

- Consider the specific needs of your household, including older family members, special health or mobility needs, children, pets and service animals.
- Detail how your family will contact each other during an emergency and make sure family members have shared and saved each other's contact information. Re-

member, you may not be in the same location when these events are taking place.

- Determine the best and quickest way to evacuate your home. Include evacuation routes, meeting or muster points, etc.
- If you can't evacuate your home, be prepared to be self-sufficient for three days. This includes having enough food, water and a secondary power source if possible.
- Prepare an emergency kit, or "grab-and-go-bag." Along with water and non-perishables, your kit should include things like medications, personal hygiene items, copies of important documents, as well as a first-aid kit, manual

can opener, phone charger, power bank, flashlight, extra batteries, emergency blanket, extra cash and seasonal clothing.

- Ensure household members know the location of your emergency kit, fire extinguishers, and where water, electric and gas utilities are located.
- Learn the emergency plans for your workplace, school and community in case you're not at home in the event of a disaster.
- Listen to instructions from local police and first responders on how to evacuate your neighbourhood. Don't take shortcuts as you could end up in blocked or unsafe areas.

- If you are able, consider making an out-of-town contact, far away enough that they likely won't be affected by the same disaster, that your family can stay with in the event of evacuation.

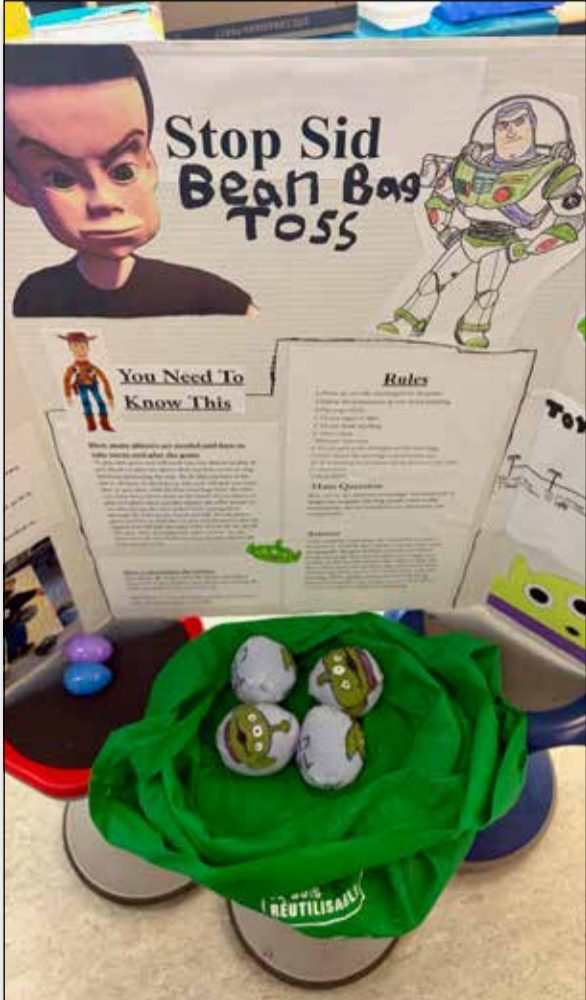
Practice your plan frequently so that you're ready in case of emergency. Remember, evacuation alerts warn the public of a potential or current threat. If an alert is issued, you should prepare to evacuate. Evacuation orders are mandatory and issued when the public must leave the area for their safety.

For more information on emergency preparedness, please follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta, X @RCMP-PAAlberta, and on YouTube @RCMP-GRC Alberta.

GOT A NEWS TIP?

Call Valerie Winger at 780.706.1858
or email wctpress@gmail.com

Project Week 2026 at École St Mary's School



Stop Sid Bean Bag Toss.



Job well done on these handmade and hand-painted bean bags.



Trying to push the ball through the upper slot is harder than it looks.

| By Serena Lapointe

With a theme like Toy Story 5, École St Mary's School certainly brought out the fun for this year's Project Week festivities, which wrapped up on Thursday last week with the highly popular Showcase Night. From 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm, students got to show off their creations to their family, friends, and community.

Madison Bryson has been teaching grade four at École St. Mary's School for four years, and Project Week is something she looks forward to experiencing with her students.

She said it all started on Monday with a school-wide assembly where students tried to guess the theme. Staff gave them clues until they finally figured it out.

"This year's theme is Toy Story since the fifth movie is coming out. We thought it would be a fun theme to use. On Monday, they got to participate in Toy Story-themed activities, and on Tuesday, they started working on their projects, and they've been working on them all week," she explained.

Bryson said once the theme was out in the open, students were given a guiding question and spent the rest of

day one playing themed games and figuring out what they wanted to do. "They get to be hands-on and create a project based on the question. It is amazing to see the creativity and how different all their projects are, and what they can come up with based on a single question."

She said watching her students use their imagination and creativity to come up with something unique was a proud moment. "You walk around the school, and each group has something different, even though it's all based on the same question, but everybody was able to create something different from each other."

The guiding question had students creating a game or a toy, themed like Toy Story.

Some students created a game based on an existing game, while others made something completely different. There were games that involved a computer with an AI competitor to play against, various board games, truth or dare, bean bag toss and cup toss, and even bowling.

Some games were more physical, including carefully falling to the ground, while others were mental, having to remember cards or make smart moves to

win. There were games made for one player and some that needed two or more contestants. Students created trifold poster boards to explain their creations, providing rules and instructions, as well as a treat upon completion.

Bryson said each year they do something different, but that this year was more game-related than the previous three she's been part of. A couple of years ago, they did a Willy Wonka theme, which featured some games. "Last year, it was creating a sustainable life, and it was related to Wild Robot because that movie was just coming out. They made some greenhouses and gardens for that one. So, it varies year to year."

As her students put their projects together, Bryson said the excitement was growing and that everyone was looking forward to showcase night. "That's the highlight for them."

They've been waiting for people to be able to play their games. We presented them in class today, and they just want everyone to come try them and to see what they have created. They are proud of what they have done."

Ten-year-old Maylee is one of Ms. Bryson's students. She created a

bowling game featuring handmade characters to knock over instead of basic pins. "It was really fun. I love bowling, and I thought it would be a good idea. It was really good to see people try my project." Mayor Ray Hilts enjoyed giving the game a roll (pictured).

École St. Mary's School principal, Sarah Whelen, said changing up the timetable for the week and letting the kids become the creators of their own learning makes for a busy, but rewarding, opportunity. "Our school is built on collaboration, connection and creativity, and Project Week hits all of those. The kids get time to plan and execute a project, game, or design that brings our classmates

or the community together. It's inclusive and focused on their own learning and how they want to promote each of their projects or games, and then they get to present it, which is amazing."

She credited the hard work of staff in making the week a reality for students. "They have been going to the dollar store on preps, and lunch breaks, and some were up late last night figuring out stuff for the kids," said Principal Whelen. The amount of work that went into the week was over the top, but the result made everything worth it. "It's been tough," she laughed. "But it's so exciting to see the kids learning come to life and for them to be able to present and showcase what they

know and what they've learned over the last few days."

As the principal, Whelen said she tried her best to play all the games and check out all of the toys. "I've been trying to get around. I spent a whole day yesterday in classrooms playing the games, and some I had to save for tonight. I am so proud of them and their hard work. They are so smart!"

With another successful Project Week coming to a close, Whelen said seeing her students smiling from ear to ear during the showcase, as they walked attendees through their games and projects, gave her a big smile too. "We have a wonderful school community of sharks here, and I'm always so proud of them!"



Maylee created Forky's Bowling Alley for her project.

BRANDED CONTENT

FortisAlberta expands its wildfire prevention efforts with new public safety measures

Extreme wildfire conditions are becoming more common across Alberta, with recent years seeing an increase in both the frequency and scale of wildfire activity. While the risks are a growing concern, there is positive work underway to help reduce the risk.

FortisAlberta takes a proactive approach to wildfire safety

FortisAlberta's wildfire preparedness efforts combine advanced technology, real-time awareness of local conditions and coordination with local authorities. This approach supports year-round wildfire mitigation measures, including regular inspections, vegetation management around power lines, early-warning technology to detect issues and infrastructure upgrades to improve resilience in wildfire-prone areas.

In rare cases, if conditions such as strong winds, low humidity and dry vegetation create extreme wildfire risk, FortisAlberta may implement a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) as a last resort safety measure. A PSPS involves temporarily turning off electricity in targeted areas where operating power lines could increase the risk of wildfire during these extreme conditions.



Although a PSPS event would be a rare occurrence, it's important that individuals and businesses are aware and prepared.

If conditions warrant, we will notify customers and coordinate with municipalities and emergency partners. We would also leverage social media to help warn residents and businesses that we will be shutting off power.

Denis Andre, Manager, Land Environment & Sustainability at FortisAlberta



This advanced notice helps residents and businesses prepare, particularly customers who rely on medical devices that require electricity. To stay informed, update your contact information with the retailer that issues your utility bill.

A community approach to wildfire mitigation

"Preparing for wildfire risk is a shared responsibility," says Lorena Charest, Crisis and Wildfire Communications Strategist. "Staying ready helps everyone. Steps such as keeping devices charged, assembling an emergency kit and staying informed about wildfire conditions and potential power outages can make a meaningful difference."

Alberta's provincial government advises individuals to take proactive steps to build wildfire resilience for their properties and be prepared.



Clear dead wood, pine needles, debris and firewood within 1.5 metres of your home to reduce wildfire risk.



Stay informed about local conditions and update your contact information with the retailer that issues your utility bill.



Build an emergency kit with water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, radio, medications and important documents.



Have an evacuation plan for your household, including pets and livestock.



Keep devices and medical equipment charged and check on neighbours who may need help.



Follow Alberta Wildfire fire bans and restrictions. When permitted, fully extinguish firepits and burn barrels.

Visit alberta.ca/wildfire-preparedness for more.

This is intended for general information only.



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Helping protect Whitecourt.

For more information on PSPS and how to stay safe this season, visit fortisalberta.com/psps

These images are for illustrative purpose only. Remember to keep a safe distance away from power lines. For more information visit fortisalberta.com/safety

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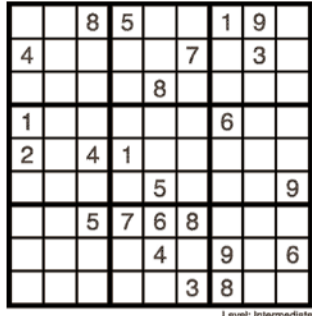
Visit alberta.ca/measles



SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

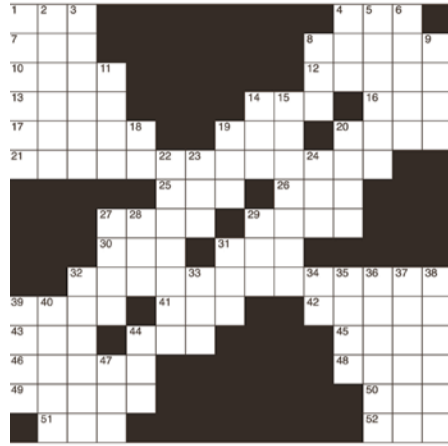
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Fun By The Numbers

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. Purchase
- 4. British news organization
- 7. Midway between northeast and east
- 8. Language specialist group
- 10. Fancy automobile
- 12. Small loop or series of loops
- 13. Exploiter
- 14. Don't know when yet
- 16. Group of languages
- 17. One who's finished
- 19. After B
- 20. Angled
- 21. A place to adopt pets
- 25. Swiss river
- 26. Young boy
- 27. Unexciting
- 29. American comedian Vidale
- 30. Peyton's little brother
- 31. Corporate higher-up
- 32. "All in the Family" star
- 39. Strike something

forcefully

- 41. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 42. Clay earth pigments
- 43. Means to record brain activity
- 44. Small constellation
- 45. Embraces
- 46. Brief description
- 48. Exclude
- 49. White (French)
- 50. Insect
- 51. A major division of geological time
- 52. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of whale
- 2. In tune
- 3. A citizen of Yemen
- 4. Actress Ling
- 5. One who supports
- 6. Circus performer
- 8. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 9. Quantitative fact
- 11. Utah city
- 14. Where a golfer begins
- 15. Attendant
- 18. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 19. Book of Chronicles

- (abbr.)
- 20. Benedictine monk
- 22. Not turbulent
- 23. Car mechanics group
- 24. Buffer used in chemistry
- 27. Fall heavily
- 28. Pie ___ mode
- 29. The Brits love it
- 31. Children's TV channel (abbr.)
- 32. Jacksonville footballer
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. ___ and behold
- 35. A way to resemble
- 36. Fingers
- 37. Excessive indulgences
- 38. You might be an "empty" one
- 39. "How the West Was Won" writer
- 40. European river
- 44. They begin the alphabet
- 47. The body's messenger

Oral health impacts your overall health



Primary Care Alberta release

During Oral Health Month, Primary Care Alberta reminds Albertans that maintaining good oral health has a positive impact on overall health and well-being. Your mouth can tell you a lot about the health of your whole body. Poor oral health, in particular gum disease, is linked to many chronic health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

Tooth decay, gum disease and oral cancer are all considered chronic oral diseases. The risk for oral diseases increases with poor oral hygiene, a diet high in added sugar and alcohol, and commercial tobacco use.

- You can help prevent oral diseases by:
- Making healthy food choices including limiting food and drinks that contain added sugars
 - Drinking plenty of water
 - Quitting or cutting

down on using tobacco or nicotine products

- Limiting alcohol use
 - Brushing twice a day with a toothpaste that contains fluoride
 - Seeing your dental care team regularly
- Oral health is more than just a nice smile. It affects how you speak, chew, swallow and express feelings or emotions. A healthy mouth can give you confidence in your work and social life. For more information visit primarycarealberta.ca/oralhealth.

SPORTS TIME WORD SEARCH



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

WORDS

- ATHLETE
- CHAMPIONSHIP
- COACH
- COMPETITION
- DEFENSE
- DRILLS
- ENDURANCE
- EQUIPMENT

FITNESS

- HALFTIME
- LEAGUE
- MVP
- OFFENSE
- OPPONENT
- OVERTIME
- REFEREE
- ROSTER

SCOREBOARD

- STADIUM
- TEAMMATE
- TOURNAMENT
- TRAINING
- TROPHY
- VICTORY



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Significant investment dollars poured into Woodlands County's first quarter of 2026 thanks to development permits



Woodlands County photo

Millions in approved development permits rolled into Woodlands County in the last three months, upping the excitement for Community Services staff. The Q1 report also highlighted successes in red tape reduction and online access for Groat Creek Campground bookings. Pictured: group camping at Groat Creek now utilizes an online booking system.

| By Serena Lapointe

Through the first three months of 2026, Woodlands County has seen a welcome spike in investment dollars, both in recreational developments and residential developments. The Q1 Community Services Report featured a breakdown of development permits applied for and approved from January through March, showing that all twenty applications received were approved.

Five million dollars was invested into recreational developments, and 3.587 million dollars on the residential side, totalling over eight and a half million dollars of investment. The County's Director of Community Services, Joan Slootweg, gave council the good news during her report at last week's regular meeting.

Councillor Patricia McNeil said she could tell by Slootweg's tone that it was something to be excited about. "I could tell from your level of excitement that this is definitely better than the past, but I was curious for context. Eight million now compared to say the last couple of years,

that's a substantial increase, is it not?"

Slootweg said it is for the first quarter of the year. "I think with the additional advertising we've been doing, we are getting more people coming in and getting their development permits." She noted that one of the recreational developments underway in Woodlands County is a project north of Fort Assiniboine. "They are doing some cabins. To find something like that is kind of exciting, and it's in addition to another project that administration has been working on with the landowner. So, we could see a couple of big projects up there that will advance our recreational opportunities for people to come and visit," she explained.

In the first quarter, the Community Services Department advanced a broad range of engagement activities, holding 25-30 meetings, events and stakeholder interactions spanning across departments and supporting coordination with municipal partners, community organizations, and regional stakeholders. From that, there were

4-6 meetings with developers, consultants, and regional partners to help support the advancement of planning initiatives and development-related activities, sending out the message that Woodlands County is open for business.

Thanks to red tape reduction strategies over the last while, the time applicants waited for permits to be decided on was tendays, something that McNeil pointed to as another thing to be excited about. "From what I've seen in years past, that seems to be another win and another good improvement (with) reducing that," she said.

Councillor McNeil asked if there was anything that council could do to help tighten up the permitting process further. "Are there any bottlenecks or processes that council may be able to help support removing in the future, still with the permitting process? It's good (the new average), but I'm just wondering if there's something that planning needs from us that could make it even better," she asked.

Slootweg said there wasn't anything else

needed from council but noted that one of the biggest factors they face in approving permits within a certain timeline comes through the referral process, where administration sends out a permit for a look-see from another agency. "We generally refer to various utility companies, transportation, Alberta Environment, and it's just a matter of getting those responses back," she explained.

Later in the report, Slootweg highlighted that her department will be working on several key pieces throughout Q2, including the finalization of an Airport Concept Plan as part of the Airport Master Plan. The Airport Master Plan is a strategic, long-term planning document (20+ years) that takes into account various impacts, including, but not limited to, financial feasibility, infrastructure needs and upgrades, safety-related changes, future demands, environmental impacts, and overall sustainability for the airport.

As the weather warms, Slootweg says her staff will focus on delivery of spring

and summer recreation programs, including planned community events, and increased usage at the county's facilities and campground. Popular courses held in Q1 included the Sourdough Workshop at the end of February and a Pasta and Prosecco class at the end of March. Both classes were fully booked with participants. Food-related programming activities continue to prove popular in both Woodlands County and Whitecourt.

Lastly, Woodlands County is utilizing an online portal this year for renting out its Groat Creek Group Camping site on Highway 32 towards Edson. The system can be accessed through the Woodlands County website or by visiting www.letscamp.ca.

Slootweg said that through the first quarter, nine weekends had already been booked for the 2026 camping season through the online registration system, as well as two PD days.



Woodlands County photo

Councillor Patricia McNeil said it was exciting to see the investment influx.

NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 15-018-2024

Location: NE 18-58-11-W5M - Lot 10 Block 3 Plan 1423727
Proposed Development: Home Occupation, Major

For full details on Development Permits visit
woodlands.ab.ca or contact below

Decision Date: April 17, 2026
Appeal Deadline: May 8, 2026

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

DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw provides opportunity for any person who may have comments on the proposed development to deliver to the Development Officer, a written statement of their concerns indicating: their full name and address and the reasons for their comments to the proposed use.

If you have any comment or concern regarding this proposal you may provide a written statement via email to planning@woodlands.ab.ca prior to **4:30 p.m., May 6, 2026**. The Development Authority will be making a decision on the following development permit applications following this deadline.

Comments received will be taken into consideration by the Development Authority.

Legal Description	Development Permit Application Number	Proposal
NW 31-58-10-W5M LOT 3 BLOCK 1 PLAN 152-5681	26-DP-028	Home Occupation Major: Contractor Services, Transport

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 p.m., May 6, 2026**.

Contact: planning@woodlands.ab.ca
 Woodlands County, Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt
 AB T7S 1N3, Telephone: 780-778-8400, Toll-Free: 1-888-870-6315

DUST CONTROL APPLICATIONS DEADLINE REMINDER MAY 1ST

Woodlands County is accepting application forms from residents who want dust control applied to County roads adjacent to their property.

Dust Control Rates:
 • \$425 + GST for 100 metres
 • \$750 + GST for 200 metres
 • \$750 + \$4.25 per additional metre over 200m + GST
 Additional information and application forms are available for pick up at either County office, or online at: woodlands.ab.ca/p/dust-control

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



Spring is here, and so are road bans! Weight restrictions in place in Woodlands County include:

- Gravel Roads: 75% legal axle weight
- Cold Mix Roads: 50% legal axle weight
- Pavement Roads: No restrictions

Road bans are temporary weight limits implemented during spring thaw to protect roads when they are soft and more vulnerable to damage. Conditions are monitored closely, and restrictions will be adjusted or lifted as needed.

Follow us on Facebook to stay updated! For more info and to read the full Road Ban Order, visit: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/road-bans>, or scan the qr code:



Share your thoughts on the future of Blue Ridge! Woodlands County is developing an Area Structure Plan (ASP) for the Hamlet of Blue Ridge and is inviting residents to provide input on this long-range community planning document.

The Survey will close on May 4, 2026, at 12:00 pm.

For more information, visit the Blue Ridge ASP Project webpage: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/blue-ridge-area-structure-plan>

The purpose of community engagement is to understand how residents want the Hamlet of Blue Ridge to look like over time. We want to learn what residents value about the community today and what they would like to see in the future.

You may also contact the Planning Department at any time with questions or feedback for the project team. Please email planning@woodlands.ab.ca or call 780-778-8400.

Access the short four-question Blue Ridge ASP Engagement Survey:



Use the link or QR code to go directly to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X29QWV9>



Join Woodlands County on **April 30** for our **FireSmart Community Drop-in Session**, where you can learn how to help protect your home and community from wildfires.

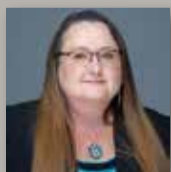
- Topics include:
- Creating a FireSmart community
 - Tips for homes and acreages
 - Wildfire preparedness

Learn more wildfire tips at <https://firesmartalberta.ca/>

Blue Ridge Community Library
 Thursday, April 30, 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM



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 780-778-9337



PATRICIA MACNEIL
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 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



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 Councillor, Division 7 - Fort Assiniboine / Timeu
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WOODLANDS COUNTY

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- ✓ 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
Or contact us at planning@woodlands.ab.ca 780-778-8400



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altalink.ca/wildfiresafety

Follow us on social media for regular updates.  

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Phone: 780-778-2341 Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre



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

Kim Nendsa (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society)
780-778-0932 Aimee Grierson 780-262-0222 <https://wctcancerwellness.com/>



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@whitecourt_shelter

Shelter:

Wellspring Provides a Safe, Short Term, Supportive Residential Environment for Women With or Without Children, Fleeing Family Violence & Experiencing Crisis.

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Child Support Program:

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

Preventative Education:

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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

www.whitecourtshester.ca



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

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



CALL Ruth
780-674-7182

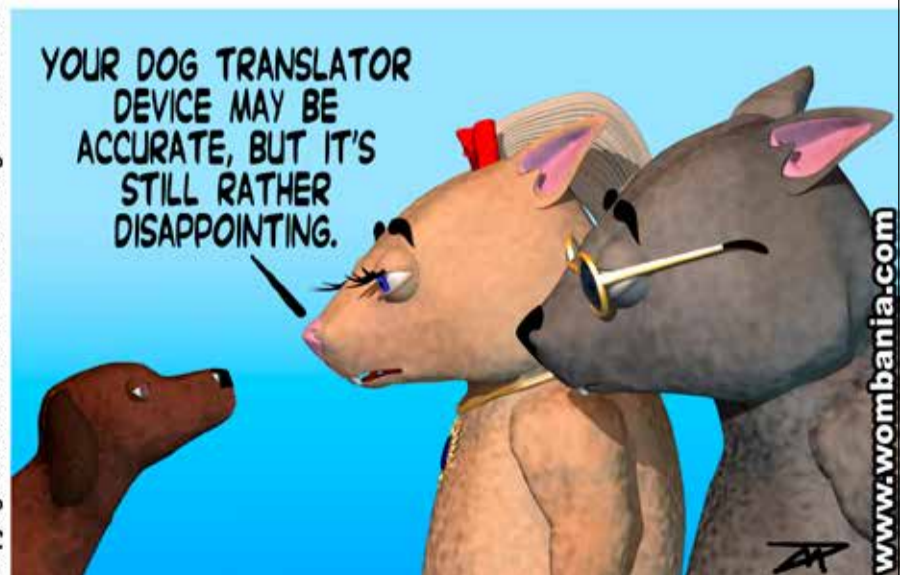
Support group on Tuesdays, February 17 to May 5.
Crossroads Community Church, 4719 44 Avenue
Mayerthorpe, Pre-registration is required



The Whitecourt Legion presents a Veterans Supper to celebrate the 100th year of the Royal Canadian Legion across Canada on May 23, 2026. Your local Legion will have military vehicles on display, entertainment, dinner and dancing to end the evening. For more information contact Elaine at 780-778-2711. Tickets are available at the Legion Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 2:30 p.m. 780-778-3666.

WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI



A look at the local weather

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



Wed., Apr. 29
Mix of sun and clouds
20%
14°C
-2°C
W 8 km/h



Thu., Apr. 30
Mainly sunny
10%
17°C
-1°C
S 9 km/h



Fri., May 1
Mainly sunny
20%
20°C
2°C
W 11 km/h



Fri., May 2
Mainly sunny
20%
17°C
0°C
N 17 km/h



Sun., May 3
Mainly sunny
30%
15°C
3°C
NE 10 km/h

Just Peachy Arts and Crafts a local space for creativity and connection



Cousins Easton and Peyton Chalmers work on their creations during the Trinket House Pottery Workshop on April 18 at Just Peachy Arts and Crafts



Easton works on his craft during the Trinket House Pottery Workshop on April 18 at Just Peachy Arts and Crafts, with owner Sandy Lovelace offering guidance and support throughout the creative process.



Easton's Trinket House project takes shape during the April 18 workshop at Just Peachy Arts and Crafts. The piece will require a second visit to complete the final stages of the project.



By Haylee Winger

Creativity is thriving at Just Peachy Arts and Crafts as it continues to evolve into a vibrant destination for inspiration and community. Located at 5014 50 street, the shop offers a wide range of supplies and experiences to suit every kind of crafter. From engaging classes to welcoming events, it is quickly establishing itself as a go-to spot for anyone looking to learn, create, and get involved.

The local craft space offers a wide range of workshops, drop-in sessions, and retail shopping opportunities for all ages and skill levels. On April 18, the shop held a Trinket House Pottery Workshop, where participants designed and created their own unique pieces. The finished pottery items can be used as trinket dishes, incense holders, decorative pieces, or candle holders, with the workshop requiring two visits to complete the final product.

In addition to pottery, Just Peachy offers a va-

riety of creative classes throughout the month. Oil painting classes by Debbie Hodges are held every Tuesday, while other workshops are scheduled at various times depending on availability. These include acrylic paint parties with Kristi Thebeau, watercolour classes with Karen Shilka, crochet and macramé with Shyla Richards, and hand-built pottery led by Sandy Lovelace.

Additional upcoming classes include beading with Kandie Ried, polymer clay earring making with Courtney Dubie and bracelet making with Sasha Martin.

The Craft Buffet is also available as a drop-in option any day and any time, offering participants flexibility to choose and complete projects at their own pace. Many of the programs also include homeschool-friendly options, with classes offered throughout the month based on scheduling and availability.

Looking ahead, Lovelace says the business is also working toward introducing a "paint your own pottery" option once fur-

ther kiln testing is completed for the in-house studio.

Just Peachy also hosts a "Craft and Connect" class held on the first Thursday of every month. The free drop-in session runs from 6 to 8 p.m. and invites participants to bring their own supplies, share ideas, and connect with other local crafters while receiving help or inspiration on ongoing projects.

Community members are encouraged to follow the shop's Facebook page to stay updated on upcoming classes, workshops, and new offerings.

Residents are also welcome to stop in to shop or take part in one of the many hands-on classes. The store features around 100 different vendors from local and surrounding areas, offering a wide selection of unique products and handmade items.

With its expanding lineup of workshops, strong community focus, and growing vendor marketplace, Just Peachy Arts and Crafts continues to establish itself as a creative hub and hidden gem in the region.

NEED HELP? CALL ANYTIME! (24-7)

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- Addiction Helpline 1-866-332-2322
- Health Link 811

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Break and enter reported at ECHO Society

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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#: 26-031 – Payroll Finance Clerk III – Permanent, Full-Time Position

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



HELP WANTED

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

Food Service Attendant
Full Time / Shift Work

Food Service Supervisor
Full Time / Shift Work

SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS

Please apply in person at the restaurant.



4331-52 Ave Unit 1
Whitecourt, AB

4216 Elko Drive
Whitecourt, AB

Career ads, online at:
www.whitecourtpress.com

The ECHO Society building is shown boarded up following a break and enter over the weekend of April 18-19.



By Haylee Winger

The ECHO Society is asking for the public's assistance following a break and enter that occurred over the weekend of April 18 and 19.

According to the organization, the facility was broken into and a number of items were stolen, including client assets, cash, fundraising gift cards, and door prize gift cards. Among the stolen items were donated Chevron fuel cards, No Frills gift cards, McDonald's gift cards, Subway cards, dollar store gift cards, as well as other payments and blank cheques.

The funds taken were intended to support individuals served by the organization and to help cover ongoing program needs.

ECHO Society says it is grateful that no one was injured during the incident but notes the break-in has resulted in unexpected repair costs that are not covered within their current budget. These additional expenses are expected to impact programming for clients.

Anyone who may have witnessed suspicious activity or has information related to the incident is asked to contact the Whitecourt RCMP at 780-778-2660.

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Regional Companies to Share Forestry Plans at Open Houses

WHITECOURT, ALBERTA, May 2026—This spring, forest companies ANC Timber (Alberta Newsprint Company), West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd. (Blue Ridge Lumber), Weyerhaeuser Co. Ltd., and CANFOR (Canadian Forest Products Ltd.) will be holding "joint open houses", to share forestry operating plans for the year ahead. These events provide the general public and stakeholders with the opportunity to review each company's planned activities in road development, harvesting, hauling, reforestation and herbicide treatment for the current forestry year. Public stakeholder input is gathered and utilized to influence operations where site specific concerns are identified such as trails, camping areas, recreation areas etc.

Dates and Locations

May 4 – Fox Creek Multi-Plex – Flex Room. 4pm-8pm

May 5 - Whitecourt Allan and Jean Millar Centre 4pm-8pm

May 6 - Edson Galloway Station Museum – 4pm-8pm

May 7 – Swan Hills Community Club 4pm-8pm

Companies Attending

BRL, ANC, CANFOR

BRL, ANC, CANFOR

BRL, ANC, WEYERHAEUSER

BRL, CANFOR

We would also like to invite you to visit the websites below or contact your company representative to view each companies upcoming forest activities. We will have a variety of plans available for review including: Annual Operating Plans for 2026-2027 season; Company Reforestation Plans; and Herbicide Treatment Plans.

Alberta Newsprint Company (ANC) - <https://www.albertanewsprint.com/woodlands/>

West Fraser Timber Ltd – BRL–Ryan Lanning (Planning Superintendent) – ryan.lanning@westfraser.com

Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (CANFOR) - www.canforforestmanagement.ca

Weyerhaeuser Co. Ltd. – Pembina– <http://PembinaTimberlands.ca>

Page sponsored by



For all open career opportunities, please check out our website at albertanewsprint.com → Careers.



Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce photo

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, volunteers with the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce are acknowledged for their ongoing contributions to local events and initiatives. From setup and coordination to behind-the-scenes support, their efforts play a key role in keeping the community connected and ensuring the Chamber's continued success.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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



TAKE PART! GIVE BACK! Opportunity for Public Participation

An opening has become available on the Town of Whitecourt Library Board. If you would like to be a part of the Library Board, where you can provide Town Council with perspective and recommendations relating to the Town of Whitecourt Library, please submit an application.

Town of Whitecourt Library Board

"To work towards maintaining the vibrancy of our library and meeting the social needs of community members through the creation of policies and planning."

(1) Member – term to expire in October 2029

Applications will be accepted from residents of Whitecourt or the Woodlands County agreement area.

Please complete an application form which can be found on the Whitecourt website at www.whitecourt.ca/your-town/mayor-council/public-participation or picked up at the Town Office. Applications must be received before 12:00 noon, Monday, May 18, 2026 to:

Whitecourt Town Administration Office
Attention: Executive Assistant
5004 - 52 Avenue, Box 509
Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6
email: administration@whitecourt.ca

You can also scan the QR code for a direct link to the application form:



Applications will be presented to Town Council at the May 25, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Questions?

Questions can be directed to our Administration Department at 780.778.2273 or email administration@whitecourt.ca.

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Subdivision Authority:

SUBDIVISION NUMBER: **W26-357 at 5123 Kepler Street West** was approved with conditions.

Date of Decision: April 9, 2026

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decision was made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application No. 26-038 – Variance to reduce building separation distance – 29 Davio Place - Approved with conditions.

Date of Decision: April 23, 2026

Appeal Closes at 4:00pm: May 14, 2026

An Appeal of the above decision 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.

Less negative: Canadian consumer confidence in Q1

By Rob Roach,
ATB ECONOMICS

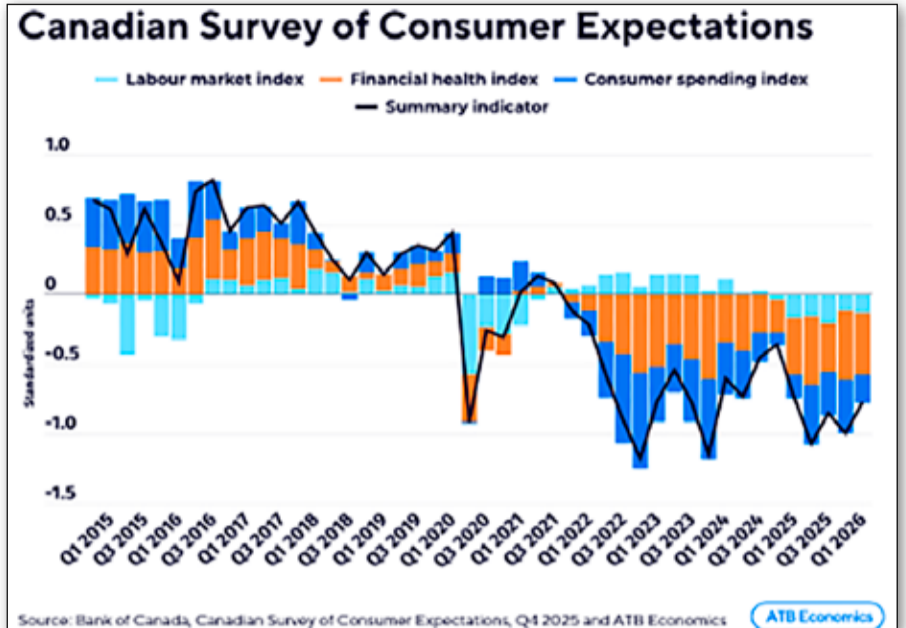
Less negative: Canadian consumer confidence in Q1

Canadians continue to feel rattled by the state of the economy and their finances.

The latest results from the Bank of Canada's Canadian Survey of Consumer Expectations* show that the combined level of pessimism consumers are feeling regarding their spending plans, personal finances, and the labour market improved marginally in the first quarter of 2026 (see the graph below). Despite the improvement, the index was in negative territory for the 18th quarter in a row.

The Bank of Canada attributes the improvement in sentiment to the easing of trade tensions with workers in trade-sensitive sectors being less negative about their spending plans than at the end of 2025. The survey was conducted before the Iran war began.

The generally pessimistic outlook of consumers is in keeping with other poll results. For example, 74% of respondents to a survey done in March said rising prices for essentials like food and gas were straining their finances and 67% of respon-



dents to a survey done in December said the cost of living where they live is the worst they can remember it being.

Despite the high levels of consumer anxiety, retail spending has been resilient. After posting annual growth of 4% last year, retail sales in Canada were off to a good start in January. Wealthier households helping to prop up overall spending, strong tourism numbers, and drawing on savings or credit to meet ongoing needs help explain the disconnect.

With the conflict in the Middle East already pushing up inflation and potentially more costs going up as higher energy and

fertilizer prices pass through to other goods and services, there is more downward pressure on consumer confidence. At some point, this could translate into lower retail sales as more consumers delay major purchases or run out of savings and credit. A special survey conducted by the Bank after the conflict in the Middle East began indicates that most consumers expect the war to weaken the Canadian economy and increase inflation.

While the risk that consumers could start to pull back their spending is real, our base case still assumes that the impact of the war will be brief enough that the resiliency we've seen to date will continue. In

this regard, Alberta—which faces a lower average tariff rate than other provinces and is getting a nominal economic boost from higher oil prices—is expected to be a particularly strong performer with annual retail sales growing by over 4% this year.

*The Canadian Survey of Consumer Expectations was conducted through an online panel from February 5 to 25, 2026, before the war in the Middle East began. This quarter's publication incorporates results from a special survey, conducted between March 26 and April 2, 2026, on how the war in the Middle East is affecting consumers' views and behaviours.

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Dollar Values as of April 29, 2026

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WILD ROSE ANTIQUE SHOW AND SALE. May 8 & 9, 2026. Friday 5 pm - 9 pm, Saturday 9 am - 5 pm at Edmonton Inn Conference Centre. 11834 Kingsway Ave. \$10 admission. Free parking. See wildroseantiques.ca.

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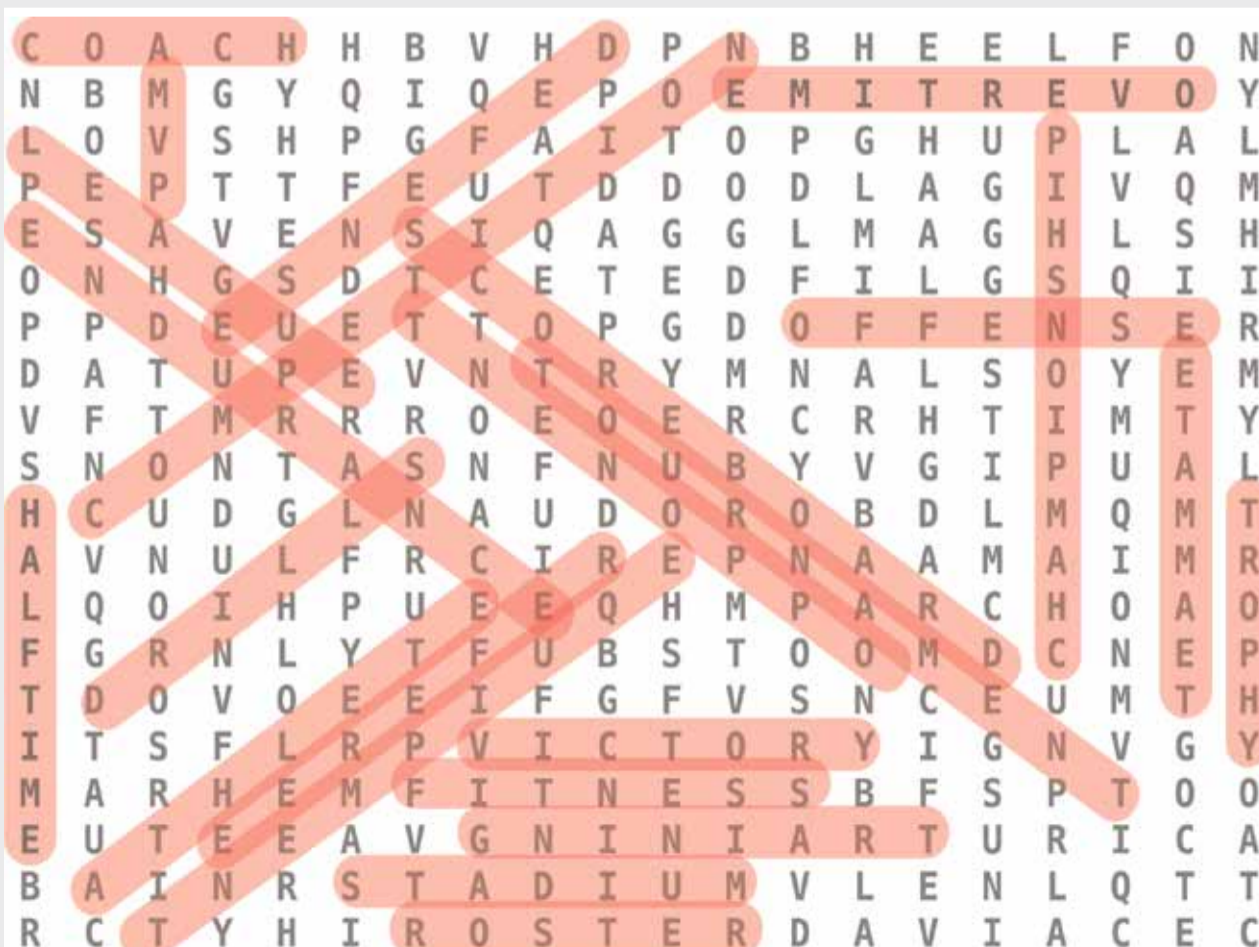
Kaleeah Yuhar (Practical Nurse Diploma) and Chase Opsal (Bachelor of Education) are awarded the 2026 Whitecourt Tuition Assistance Bursary, a program designed to support residents in accessing post-secondary education and building careers in high-demand sectors.

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

Leanne Gould
Mortgage Associate

toll free 1.866.235.9906
www.mortgagegroup.com

403.505.9906
leanne.gould@mortgagegroup.com



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Michael Epp CPA, CA, CMA Partner	Terry St. Laurent CPA, CGA, CA Partner	Braedon Nawrot CPA Manager Whitecourt	Kris George BMgt Manager Fox Creek
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CANFOR

Canfor (Whitecourt) Forest Management Plan Open House

This spring, Canfor Whitecourt will be holding an in-person open house on May 5th at the Allan and Jean Millar Centre from 4-8PM. The general public and stakeholders will have the opportunity to review and participate in the development of our 2027 Forest Management Plan (FMP). This provides the general public and stakeholders an opportunity to review the values, objectives, indicators and targets (VOIT's) that guide the FMP process. Join us to be a part of Canfor Whitecourt FMP development at the Allan and Jean Millar Center on May 5th from 4-8PM.

Alternatively, you can visit us at www.canforforestmanagement.ca to view information on our upcoming plans. This is your opportunity to influence our plans, so we would appreciate any comments and concerns that you may have.

For more information, contact:
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