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Vol. 15 - Issue 19 | Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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Eagle River Provincial Recreation Area set to fall under Woodlands County's umbrella



Make that two new potential recreation sites for Woodlands County, following discussions with the Province of Alberta. Pictured: Councillor St. Martin asked if the trails were included in the maintenance of the staging area site. See story page 6.



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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



Bailey, 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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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.




WWE star Shane Carter III was part of the action at Canadian Wrestling's Elite 'Rage in the Cage 2026,' held Friday, May 8th at the Westward Community Center. The event also featured a lineup of CWE talent competing in a thrilling steel cage match, with fans treated to high-flying action and dramatic near-falls throughout the night.



PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

CROSSWORDS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16		
17					18							
19					20			21				
				22			23					
		24	25				26			27	28	
29	30						31				32	33
34					35	36				37		
38					39					40		
	41		42					43	44			
				45				46				
	47	48					49			50	51	52
53						54				55	56	
57										58		
59						60						

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries, a professional door you thought was locked is actually just heavy. Push a little harder. Your honesty is exactly what a stalled project needs to move forward.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Financial clarity is coming your way, Taurus. You might discover a subscription you don't need or a better way to save for that big-ticket item. Your future self will thank you.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Your words have extra weight this week, Gemini. Use them to bridge a gap between friends or to draft that important email. A sibling or close neighbor has some surprising news for you.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Don't ignore your dreams right now, Cancer. Your subconscious is trying to solve a puzzle while you sleep. Keep a notepad by the bed; a "Eureka!" moment arrives soon.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



You're the glue holding your team together this week, Leo. While you're busy leading, don't forget to delegate. You'll find that people are more than willing to help if you seek assistance.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



A change in your daily routine brings a massive boost to your mood, Virgo. Try a morning workout or a different lunch spot. Breaking the cycle opens the door for a fresh perspective.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Romance is leaning toward the intellectual this week, Libra. A deep conversation about your values or goals will bring you closer to a partner or a new interest.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, whether it's your home life or a long-term project, pay attention to the small details and you will prevent a headache later. A family member offers some sage advice.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Your curiosity is your best asset this week, Sagittarius. Take a deep dive into a topic that usually bores you —you'll find a hidden connection that benefits your career.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Patience is your mantra, Capricorn. You're waiting for an answer, and while the silence is frustrating, the result will be worth it. Use the downtime to refine your current strategy.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



You are a magnet for eccentric people this week, Aquarius. Embrace the weirdness. A chance encounter with someone outside your usual circle sparks a very profitable idea.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Quiet reflection is more productive than busy work right now, Pisces. Slip away for some solitude. You'll soon have the clarity you need to make a big decision about your living situation.

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Notable casino destination
- 6. Current units
- 10. Roman military unit
- 14. American lizard
- 15. Fates
- 17. The Yankees have lots of these
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Mimic
- 21. Remove from the record
- 22. Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
- 23. A way to fight
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Contract
- 29. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 31. Tree species
- 32. Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 34. Perfect
- 35. "Partner" to groans
- 37. Jewish calendar month
- 38. Where wrestlers work
- 39. Egotistical
- 40. Potted plants
- 41. Containers
- 43. Large, flightless birds
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. American spies
- 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Disfigure
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Early English council
- 59. Area units
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and __

- 3. An appliance has one
- 4. Every
- 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. Very skilled
- 7. No more than what is specified
- 8. Tire measurement
- 9. Towers
- 10. Forward
- 11. Jacob __, American journalist
- 12. Vale
- 13. Former CIA
- 16. Middle Eastern nation
- 18. Exhausts
- 22. South Dakota
- 23. The complete duration of something
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Singular
- 27. Cod genus
- 28. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 29. Resistance unit
- 30. Ancient kingdom near

- Dead Sea
- 31. Cast out
- 33. 60-minute periods
- 35. Most worn
- 36. European river
- 37. Atomic mass unit
- 39. Items of food
- 42. Body parts
- 43. Ireland
- 44. Partner to Pa
- 46. Sammy __, songwriter
- 47. Dutch settler
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Minute arachnid
- 51. From a distance
- 52. A monthly expense
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Brazilian state
- 55. Air freight provider
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

MEDITATION

WORD SEARCH



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

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

WORDS

- ALIGNMENT
- AWARENESS
- BREATHWORK
- CHAKRA
- CLARITY
- COMPASSION
- ENLIGHTENMENT
- EQUANIMITY
- FOCUS
- GRATITUDE
- INTENTION
- MANTRA
- MINDFULNESS
- MUDRAS
- NIRVANA
- PRANAYAMA
- PRESENCE
- SAMADHI
- STILLNESS
- TRANSCENDENCE
- VIPASSANA
- VISUALIZATION
- ZAZEN
- ZEN



WOODLANDS COUNTY

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- 📄 Get step-by-step application support
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Learn more or apply today: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/weed-control>



WOODLANDS COUNTY

BLUE RIDGE AREA STRUCTURE PLAN OPEN HOUSE

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 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.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPEN HOUSE May 26th!

Come learn about the project, ask questions, and share your input!

The purpose of this session is to:

1. Highlight survey results and share what the County heard at the first engagement session held on April 21, 2026
2. Present preliminary analysis findings from technical studies being conducted as part of the ASP project, noting that some studies are still ongoing.
3. Introduce concept plan ideas
4. Share high-level policy ideas developed from the "What We Heard" report
5. Allow residents to provide further feedback on the project.

Tuesday April 21, 2026

4:00pm to 7:30pm

Blue Ridge Community Hall & Community League, 304 2 Ave, Blue Ridge, AB T0E 0B0

It's a come-and-go session, and all Blue Ridge residents are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend, there will also be future open houses for residents to attend as we progress the project.

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

Contact the Planning Department if you have questions or feedback for the project team. Email planning@woodlands.ab.ca or call 780-778-8400.

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 15, 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 28-59-12-W5M LOT 1 BLOCK 2 PLAN 062-0123	26-DP-027	Accessory Structure: Setback variance from undeveloped road allowance: from 30m to 7.3m

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 p.m., May 15, 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

SCHOOL NEWS

Whitecourt RCMP and Crime Prevention Team Support School Safety

Local news printed on local newsprint



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Job#: 26-035 – Utility Plant Operator I – Permanent – Full-Time – Closes May 21, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
Job#: 26-036 – Utility Plant Operator II – Permanent – Full-Time – Closes May 21, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
Job#: 26-037 – Community Peace Officer I – Permanent – Full-Time – Closes May 27, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

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




Town of Whitecourt photos



Last week, Whitecourt RCMP and Whitecourt Crime Prevention staff presented cheques to École St. Mary School and Central School through the Whitecourt Community Crosswalk Grants program. The initiative is designed to help ensure that children in the community arrive at school safely and ready to learn.

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Get yourself and your family immunized.

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Eagle River Provincial Recreation Area set to fall under Woodlands County's umbrella

| By **Serena Lapointe**

Following Woodlands County's recent decision to enter into an agreement with the Province of Alberta to take over caretaker duties at the Centre of Alberta site near Fort Assiniboine, another opportunity has sprung up for the municipality to jump into a collaborative recreational role with the province.

At the Woodlands County Council Meeting on May 7, Heather Anderson, Community Liaison and Programming Coordinator, provided council with a breakdown. "Before you is another exciting opportunity for a recreation site. Our empire is growing," she said with a big grin. "The Government of Alberta has approached us to take over operations of the Eagle River Staging Area," she explained.

Up until recently, the Whitecourt Trailblazers had been operating the site. "They kept it open during the summer months. It's available for rentals. They also maintained it in

the winter as a staging area for their club. They have since told the Government of Alberta that they are not interested in doing that anymore. We've been approached to take over the operations, and we see tremendous opportunities in that," she explained.

Anderson said they went to the site to get a lay of the land. "We had our recreation staff go out and assess the site and say, ok what would this look like? What are we looking at for man-hours? What are we looking at for our own investment? I can tell you that the province has put about one million dollars in upgrades to that site," explained Anderson.

"There's a warming shelter, but it looks like a community hall to me. It's a little bit bigger than a cook shack. It's not quite a hall to be honest with you, but it is a fair size, and there's a warming cook stove. They've also built a little site there that has a big barbecue, a group fire pit, a tether

ball, and they've landscaped and opened up the area. They've done a lot of work." She said they were also putting in new bathrooms.

"They're asking us to just mow and maintain. We wouldn't have any capital investment, and if anything major happened, they would fix it. We would be on the hook if, say, the lock broke off the cook shack, but nothing major." Anderson said since the buildings were all new, they weren't expecting any major repairs or infrastructure needs at this time that might cause downtime in the use of the space. She anticipated that it would take eight to twelve man-hours per use of the space. "If it's rented, we would have to do it, but if it's not rented, we wouldn't have to go clean. There is a ball diamond out there that we would have to maintain. So, if it wasn't rented for a few weeks, we would have to go out and mow it so that the grass doesn't get too high," she ex-

plained.

Given the information provided, Anderson said they anticipate it being rented weekly during the summer months. "It's typically done very similarly to our Groat Creek Day Use Area and our Groat Creek Group Campsite in that it's rented for the weekend, for family reunions and other things. We are also seeing huge potential to do some programming at this site if it's not rented," said Anderson. "It's a huge area. We could host retreats there or host other events with our ambassadors to increase recreational opportunities and programming," she added.

Anderson said the average income per year for rentals is roughly six to ten thousand dollars, which would offset much of the cost to the county. "Right now, we see this mainly as a benefit as opposed to costing us money, and our recreation staff say they can easily incorporate this into our existing service levels.

It wouldn't take away from other sites," she explained.

Councillor Karen St. Martin asked about vandalism out at the site and if it was a problem. Anderson said that there have been some issues, similar to what they see at their other sites, like trees cut down or picnic tables damaged. She said if there were any issues like that, it would be up to the province to fix.

Councillor St. Martin then asked if taking over maintenance of the staging area also meant taking over the trails that surround it. "No. This is just for the site itself," answered Anderson. "There is a large parking lot there where the trails go out from. That access to those trails is not the site's responsibility. We would only be responsible for the site itself."

CAO Matthew Ferris noted that the province had installed large, glass windows in the cook shack, which looked nice; however, they presented poten-

tial issues, whether purposeful or from a wayward baseball from the nearby field. "We asked if there was a possibility of putting some type of shield over those windows, whether it be storm shutters or another thing and the province was open to that as a way to mitigate the potential vandalism."

Councillor Benny Whitten spoke highly in favour of taking over the site, saying that the potential was huge. "I think this is a fantastic avenue for us to go. It's another place that, even as a council, if we needed to do something, we could go. It's not that far out. It's a huge benefit to us as a county. It's something we can add to our tours," he said.

Woodlands County Council voted in favour of entering into an agreement with the province for the operations and maintenance of the Eagle River Provincial Recreation Area, subject to a final review of insurance and financial implications.

Whitecourt Central School receives generous donation from Pembina Pipeline Corporation

| By **Valerie Winger**

Students and staff at Whitecourt Central School enjoyed a sweet surprise thanks to a thoughtful donation from Pembina Pipeline.

The company generously provided Tim Hortons Smile Cookies for every student and staff member at the school. The donation brought smiles to faces across the building and highlighted the strong support Pembina Pipeline continues to show for local education and community initiatives.

School representatives expressed deep

gratitude for the gesture. "A special thank you to Pembina Pipeline for the generous donation of Tim Hortons Smile Cookies for all staff and students in the school," officials noted. "We are appreciative of all they do for our school community. You are truly amazing!"

Pembina Pipeline has built a reputation for giving back to the communities where it operates, and this latest contribution to Whitecourt Central School reinforces that commitment. The delivery of the cookies

created a positive and uplifting atmosphere, reminding everyone of the value of community partnerships in supporting schools.

Whitecourt Central School continues to foster a welcoming environment for learning, and gestures like this from local businesses help strengthen those efforts by boosting morale and building connections beyond the classroom.

The entire school community extends its heartfelt thanks to the team at Pembina Pipeline for their kindness and ongoing support.



Whitecourt Central School photo

Summer FRIAA funding to help further Whitecourt's fire resilience strategy



Maintaining the vegetation around a municipality is one impactful way of building up its fire resilience. More work is scheduled for this year and will be supported by grant dollars. Pictured: The FireSmart Treatment Map with this year's blocks lined out.

| By Serena Lapointe

Work to protect the community on the wildfire front will continue this summer. With devastating nearby fires still at the forefront of the municipality and residents' minds, and a dry start to the season, the steps taken to reduce risk, strengthen resilience and bring awareness are of utmost importance and a needed part of living amongst the beautiful boreal forest.

The Town of Whitecourt has been accessing dollars through the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) for years, whether for education and awareness on what homeowners can do to lower their risk of fire, resources for stakeholders and industry preparedness or as boots on the ground work being done in the forests that surround the community.

For many years, with a couple of exceptions,

the Town has successfully received funding to bring in a Summer Crew or hire contractors to do vegetation work in key areas that have been highlighted as hazards, given the density of the forest, proximity to residential areas, and likely spread from an approaching wildfire.

A couple of areas worth highlighting include the immense work done within Centennial Park, from one end to the other, behind the residential areas, where crews removed dead and downed trees, mulched the ground layer growth, removed large, low-hanging branches and gave an overall clean sweep of the overgrowth that had built up behind the homes.

Another spot was both sides of Dahl Drive, where the work was evident, quickly, as visibility into the forest for pedestrians and motorists went from al-

most none to high, giving forewarning of animals wanting to cross or proximity of them for walkers, both of which were handy by-products from a much larger goal of making the areas more fire resilient. The area beside and behind École St. Joseph's was also heavily treated to help protect the valley from east-approaching fires.

Removing dead and downed trees and overgrowth on the forest floor in areas at high risk of fire spreading into the community is not only about reducing fuel for a wildfire, but also about making it safer for fire crews to traverse the bush. Trying to fight a fire while stepping over downed trees or walking through tall grasses and shrubs adds another level of danger to an already dangerous situation, making vegetation management an ongoing focus for the municipality.

Back in January of this year, the Whitecourt FireSmart Working Group requested that Town Council provide a letter of support for a grant for vegetation management work to happen this summer. Town Council provided its support. Soon after, the news came that the group was successful in its application to have work done in two blocks of forest (Blocks 20 and 21), totalling approximately 26.9 hectares of land. One location is in the southern portion of the valley, and the other is just to the east of École St. Joseph's School.

At the April 27 Regular Meeting of Council, elected officials were asked to approve the results of the tendering process, which saw eight bids, ranging in cost from \$112,000 to \$260,000. The Town Council unanimously approved awarding the 2026 Vegetation Management Contract to

Cortex Management Inc. for \$116,539.78 plus GST, with funds provided through the successful FRIAA grant, following Deputy Mayor Bill McAree's motion. The total grant received was \$200,000. "We do feel comfortable with Cortex. While they have not done any work for us in the past, they have done work in many municipalities and for forestry," explained Lee Hardman, Director of Community Safety.

Councillor Brian Wynn asked if more of the funding would be used. "In the past, when we've had a \$200,000 grant and our bids come under, we can typically have the contractor do some more work to get the full use of the grant. Is that the plan for this?" Hardman said they were focused on completing the work in the two selected blocks first. Once completed,


they would discuss other work options with FRIAA, and if approved, they would aim to use the full \$200,000 grant.

There are approximately 26 vegetation management blocks surrounding the municipality, which have seen varying work over the years. The Athabasca River helps protect the community from the northwest side, allowing management work to focus on protecting the west, east and southern portions of the community, as well as the forest in between the valley and hilltop. The map (pictured) shows how the blocks are positioned around the hilltop area and along the east side of the valley, with one section on the western side, near the dog park in the back corner of Festival Park. The two blocks with lines through them are the ones being focused on this year.

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Lemonade Day Returns to Northern Alberta on June 13



By Haylee Winger

Young entrepreneurs across Northern Alberta will once again have the opportunity to test their business skills as Lemonade Day returns on June 13, 2026.

The annual program, presented by Community Futures, encourages children and youth to launch and operate their own lemonade stands while learning valuable lessons in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and customer service.

Since launching in Northern Alberta in 2018, participants have collectively earned

more than \$187,000 in profit and donated over \$55,000 to local charities.

Lemonade Day is open to students from kindergarten through high school. Registration for the 2026 program opened March 1 and closes May 22.

As part of the free program, participants attend “Lemmy University,” where they receive a backpack and entrepreneur workbook designed to guide them through the process of starting and running a small business. Lessons focus on goal setting, budgeting, planning, and customer interaction.

Amanda Robinson, Lemonade Day North-

ern Alberta City Director with Community Futures North Central Alberta, said the initiative continues to expand throughout the region.

This year, Lemonade Day is coming to 63 towns, including Whitecourt, Swan Hills, Woodlands County, Fox Creek, and others, as part of the collaboration of 13 Community Futures offices.

Robinson said the experience provides youth with skills that extend far beyond running a lemonade stand.

“Lemonade Day is really about more than just running a lemonade stand,” she said. “The kids learn busi-

ness skills, but they also use skills for life. They learn financial literacy, public speaking, how to set a goal and work to achieve it.”

She added that the program encourages participants to connect with their communities and local businesses while also giving back through charitable donations.

“The program encourages them to spend some, save some and share some,” Robinson said. “They will spend some of their earnings on a reward for their hard work, save some for a future goal, and share some with a charity of their choice.”

On June 13, stands will be set up across

more than 60 communities throughout Northern Alberta, bringing the program to both large and small towns across the region.

Organizers say the program’s goal is to inspire entrepreneurship while encouraging communities to invest

in local youth and future business leaders.

More information and registration details are available at www.lemonadeday.org/northern-alberta. Updates can also be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Lemonade-DayNorthernAlberta.



Unreserved Farm Sale for Allan Wilson

Directions: From the Village of Blue Ridge, Alberta, Go 22 Kms North of the Rail Road Tracks in Town on Hwy #658 to Rge Rd 91, West on Rge Rd 91 for 1 Km. Blue Sign: 611042A Rge Rd 91

Sale Starts 15th & Closes May 18th, 2026



TRACTORS & CRAWLER

Case IH MXU 125 FWA Tractor
Case 1370 2wd Tractor
Case 1070 2wd Tractor w/ Dual PTO & 2 Hyd.
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Wooden Grainery
Farm King 8' 6 Way 3 pth HD Blade
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NH 411 9' Discbine (Needs Repairs)
10 Wheel V Rake – Like New
JD 18' Disc w/ Manual Flip Up Wings
MF 43 13' (26 Run) End Wheel Seed Drill
Allied 40' Tine Harrow Draw Bar

CATTLE HANDLING

Field King 3 pth Bale Unroller
Cattle Squeeze Chute
Crowding Tub
Alley
Self Standing Cattle Panels
Gates & Panels
Plus Much More



Viewing is Available from May 13th to 18th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment. For More Information Please Contact Allan Wilson at 780-778-1027

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



FREE CLEAN UP WEEK

JUNE 3-6, 2026

To assist you with your spring cleaning, we will be offering free disposal at the Whitecourt Regional Landfill from June 3-6, 2026. FREE Clean Up Week is jointly offered to Whitecourt and Woodlands County residents. Excludes industrial and commercial customers.

DROP OFF DAY PREP

Residents will be required to show their Landfill Access Tag to receive free disposal. Two pieces of identification showing your residential address will also be accepted (i.e. driver's licence, tax notice, utility bill, etc.).

All items must be sorted, and bagged or bundled for disposal. Residents will be responsible for unpacking and placing items in designated areas at the Landfill so be sure to wear appropriate footwear for the Landfill.

DROP OFF HOURS

At the Whitecourt Regional Landfill
Located 17kms east of Whitecourt on Highway 43.
Wednesday, June 3 to Saturday, June 6
9:00am to 4:00pm

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 | 4216 Elko Drive
Whitecourt, AB | Whitecourt, AB

The Press **Got a news tip?**
Call Valerie Winger at 780.706.1858
or email wctpress@gmail.com

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

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.

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



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- 2026-05-01: Canfor Culture & Events Centre Furniture. Closes: May 25, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
- 2026-04-30: Pembina Gas Infrastructure Aquatic Centre Water Feature/Pool Toy Replacement. Closes: May 27, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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

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780-778-2226




"Serving the community for over 30 years"
The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food in order to help families in need.
Open Mon, Wed & Fri 11:00am to 2:00 pm
Phone: 780-778-2341 Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre



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/>

24/7 CRISIS LINE
780.778.6209
1.800.467.4049

WELLSPRING 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



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



Pat Hardy School photo

Santana Rivard, of Northern Gateway Public Schools, was recently inducted into the Alberta Teachers' Association during a ceremony recognizing new educators entering the profession. Rivard was joined by school division and association representatives during the event.

Visit www.whitecourtpress.com

Legion 


1926 • 2026

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

	Wed., May 13	Thu., May 14	Fri., May 15	Fri., May 16	Sun., May 17
	Shows	Risk of thunderstorm	Cloudy	Cloudy	Sunny
P.O.P.	40%	40%	30%	30%	10%
High	21°C	18°C	14°C	14°C	13°C
Low	7°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	3°C
Wind	NE 16 km/h	NW 19 km/h	W 19 km/h	E 9 km/h	W 23 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	<1mm	-	-	-	-

Pins and Pine Needles Guild donates \$338 to Whitecourt Food Bank

| By Valerie Winger

The Whitecourt Food Bank has received a generous donation of \$338 from the Pins and Pine Needles Guild.

The local guild raised the funds during a recent quilting retreat and proudly presented the donation to support the important work of the Whitecourt Food Bank.

This contribution will help provide essential food assistance to families and individuals in need throughout the Whitecourt area.

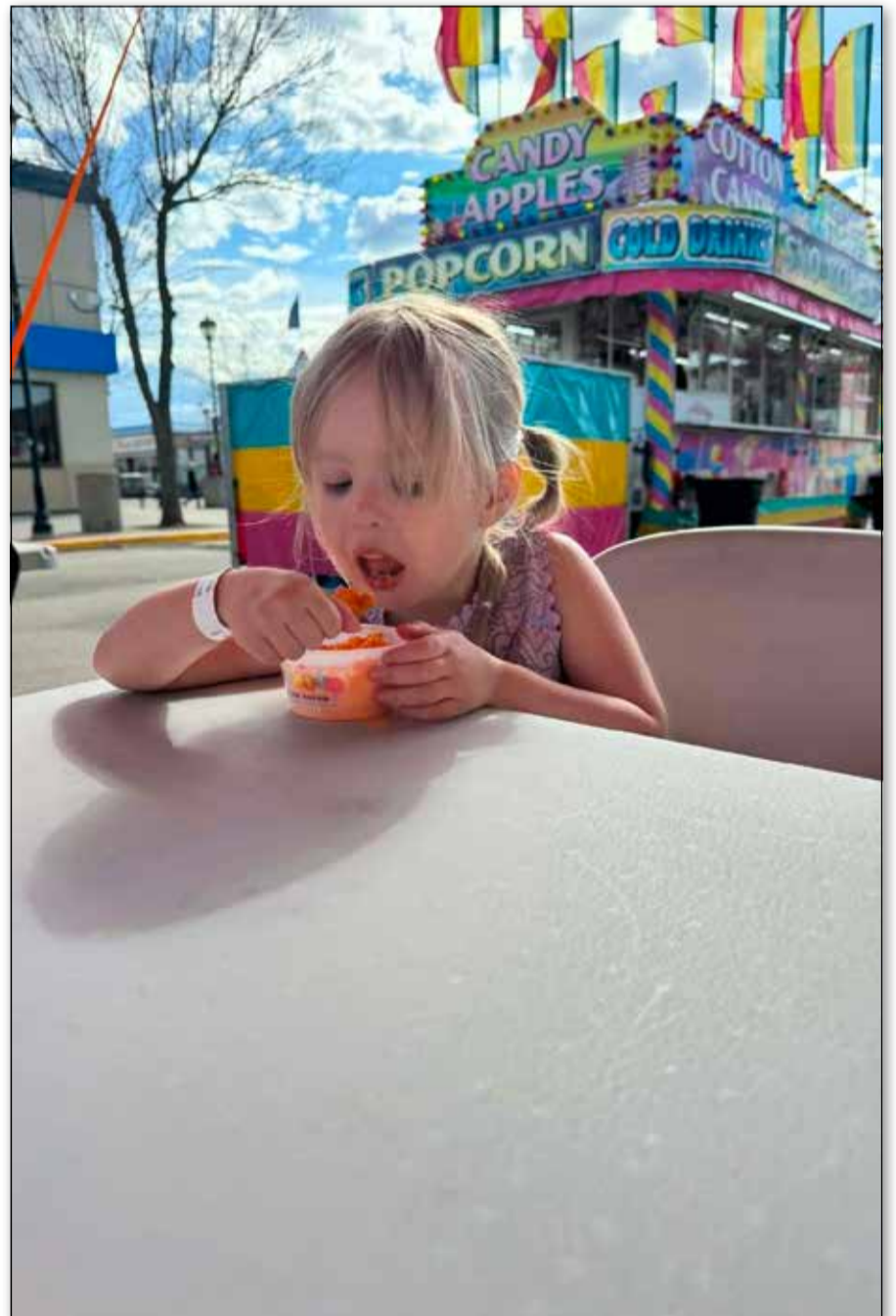
A heartfelt thank you was extended to the Pins and Pine Needles Guild for their thoughtfulness and community spirit. Their dedication to fundraising through quilting continues to

make a meaningful difference in the lives of local residents.

The Whitecourt Food Bank expressed deep appreciation for the guild's ongoing support and kindness. Contributions like this help strengthen the community and ensure that those facing food insecurity receive the help they need.



Town of Whitecourt Photo



A fairgoer enjoyed a quick ice cream break after taking in the variety of rides during the Whitecourt Chamber of Commerce fair, held May 8-10.

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:



WOODLANDS COUNTY ANSELMO COMMUNITY FIRESMART INFO SESSION

ALBERTA FireSmart

Anselmo Community FireSmart Info Session

Join Woodlands County on May 7 for our FireSmart Drop-in Session, where you can learn how to help protect your home and community from wildfires. Light snacks and refreshments will be available.

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

Anselmo Community Hall | Thursday, May 7 | Starts at 7:00 PM

Call 780-778-8400 for more information.

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

FORT ASSINIBOINE & BLUE RIDGE HAMLET CLEAN UP JUNE 3-6

Residents of Fort Assiniboine & Blue Ridge, it's time for spring clean-up!

County crews will be collecting items placed at your regular household garbage collection point during Hamlet Clean Up Week.

- Accepted items include:
- Household waste
 - Yard waste
 - "White" metals (small appliances, washers, dryers, BBQs, small fridges & freezers)

- Please note:
- No vehicles or vehicle parts
 - No large demolition or construction debris
 - No items requiring a loader or crane
 - Crews will not enter yards to collect items

For more information, please call 780-778-8400.

Please note, this event coincides with the Whitecourt Regional Landfill Clean Up Week. For more information on that free event, please visit: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/regional-landfill>

RECREATION AREAS OPENING DAY MAY 15TH

Depending on the weather, Friday, May 15th will be opening day for the following Woodlands County Recreation Areas and Attractions:

- Berry Nice Spray Park in Blue Ridge
- Hard Luck Canyon trail
- Schuman Lake Campground
- Hard Luck Canyon Trail (Pending. Stay tuned for more information).

MAY LONG WEEKEND OFFICE CLOSURES & SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS:

Monday, May 18, both municipal offices will be closed.

They'll reopen Tuesday, May 19, for regular hours.

Fort Assiniboine garbage collection will be deferred to Tuesday, May 19.



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
alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca
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 / Timeu
benny.whitten@woodlands.ab.ca
780-305-4655



WOODLANDS COUNTY
www.woodlands.ab.ca
780-778-8400
1-888-870-6315
admin@woodlands.ab.ca
1 Woodlands Lane,
Whitecourt,
AB T7S 1N3

Young shoppers celebrate Mother's Day while supporting local charity



Young shoppers from For Families Daycare browse a selection of costume jewellery at Caine's Jewellers during the store's Mother's Day charity event. Staff members helped guide the children as they picked gifts for their mothers, with all proceeds going to the Community Lunch Box Program.



Parents at For Families Daycare are delighted as they open Mother's Day gifts lovingly chosen and decorated by their children. The special event allowed children to select jewellery at Caine's Jewellers while supporting the Community Lunch Box Program.



By Haylee Winger

Children from For Families Daycare recently had the chance to play the role of thoughtful gift-givers, visiting Caine's Jewellers to pick out Mother's Day presents while supporting a local charity. The two-day event, held on April 28 and 29, combined creativity, community spirit, and the joy of giving.

Jaelynn Wilson, owner of For Families Daycare, shared how excited the children were to take part in the event. "Caine's Jewellers invited our children to come shop

for Mother's Day gifts, and we were thrilled to participate. They provided a variety of costume jewellery for the children to choose from. We pay a dollar for each piece, and all proceeds go directly to the Community Lunch Box Program. The children also get to colour the packaging themselves, making it a truly personal gift."

The children's visit was carefully prepared by Caine's Jewellers to make it a special experience. Kandice Izzard, of Caine's Jewellers, explained, "Caine's Jewellers had the privilege of welcoming our young shoppers from For Families Daycare to visit our store to shop for a gift for Mother's

Day. We set up a special showcase for these young shoppers of gently used items that community members had donated to us for the event. Each piece was purchased by donation, with every cent collected from this event being donated this time to the Community Lunch Box Program."

Izzard said the response from the children and families made the event an immediate success. "This was the first year Caine's Jewellers has held this event, and based on the success of this first sale, we hope to expand it next year to offer it to more young people in the community, and to help more charitable organizations in our

community with the donations collected."

She also encouraged community participation for future events. "If any of our community members have any gently used costume jewellery items that they would like to donate to this event, they can contact me via text at 780-778-3302 for more information."

By combining creativity, generosity, and a celebration of mothers, the collaboration between For Families Daycare and Caine's Jewellers created a memorable experience for children, parents, and the community alike showing that even the youngest shoppers can make a meaningful impact.

Meet Celestia

Celestia is a gentle adult cat looking for her forever home.

WHITECOURT ADOPTABLE ANIMALS

Celestia is currently awaiting her spay surgery and is up to date on her vaccinations. We are still getting to know her personality, but so far she enjoys a calm environment where she can relax and watch the world around her. She loves attention and affection from people.



If you're interested in meeting Celestia or would like more information, please call the **Whitecourt Pound** at: **780-778-5767**

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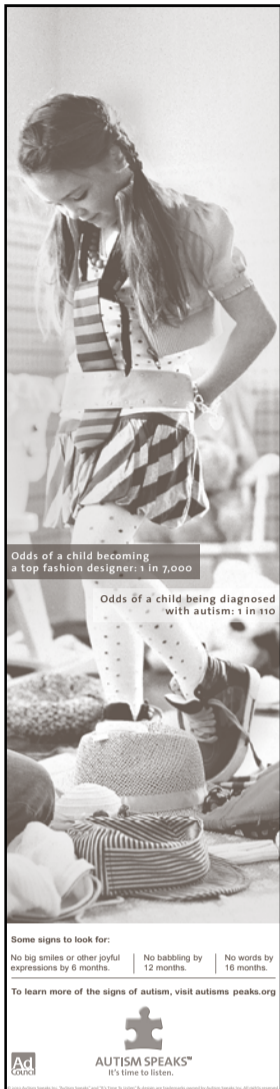
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 Some signs to look for:
 No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months. No babbling by 12 months. No words by 18 months.
 To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org
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com.

For Sale

WHITE SPRUCE TREES: 5' average \$50. Installation ONLY \$19. Includes: hole augered, Wurzel Dip enzyme injection, bark mulch application, staking. Minimum order 25. One-time fuel charge: \$150 - 300. Crystal Springs. 403-820-0961. Quality guaranteed. albertasprucetrees.com.

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25 words or less). Reach 75 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903; www.awna.com; email classifieds@awna.com.

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Wanted

WANTED: Collector paying top prices: old advertising signs, gas pumps, Red Indian, White Rose, Buffalo, Ford Dodge, GM. 1968-70 Chargers, 1970-71 Barracuda's. Running or not. 306-221-5908.

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Alberta RCMP investigating alleged misuse of Provincial Elector List

By Valerie Winger

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has confirmed it is investigating the alleged inappropriate dissemination of Alberta's provincial elector list.

In a statement released by Deputy Commissioner Trevor Daroux, the Alberta

RCMP said the investigation concerns the apparent misuse of personal information contained in the voter list maintained by Elections Alberta.

Police say the RCMP has taken carriage of the investigation and is coordinating investigative resources at the

local, provincial, national and international levels as needed.

Officials noted there has been significant public interest surrounding the matter, but said details remain limited in order to protect the integrity of the ongoing investigation.

"The apparent in-

appropriate release of your personal information is of great concern to the public and to the RCMP," Daroux said in the statement, while encouraging Albertans to rely on official RCMP updates rather than public commentary or third-party statements.

The investigation was first confirmed April 30, 2026, after the RCMP received correspondence from an individual associated with the Alberta New Democratic Party raising concerns about the possible misuse of the provincial voter list. The Alberta

RCMP says investigators are working with other law enforcement partners to determine whether any offences were committed regarding the dissemination or handling of information contained in the elector list. No further details have been released at this time.

Community Futures Yellowhead East partners with Town and County to launch regional survey to establish business priorities

Media Release

Community Futures Yellowhead East (CFYE) has officially launched a new Business Retention & Expansion (BR+E) survey as part of its larger Regional Investment Attraction & Marketing Strategy (RIAMS) initiative.

RIAMS is a multi-year regional economic development project designed to help communities across the Yellowhead East

region become more investment-ready, business-friendly, and competitive. Through this initiative, CFYE is working alongside participating municipalities to strengthen local business support, improve investment readiness, and create tools and strategies that encourage long-term economic growth.

A key part of that work starts with listening to the businesses already operating in

the region. The BR+E survey will help CFYE and participating municipalities better understand the future plans, challenges, and needs of local businesses, as well as how business owners and managers view the Yellowhead East region as a place to do business. The information gathered will help identify opportunities for business support, expansion, workforce

development, and future economic development priorities. CFYE has retained Deloitte Canada, an economic development and market research consulting firm to assist with the project. Deloitte will be working with staff at CFYE and the participating municipalities to review the completed surveys for challenges and opportunities that the local business community

is facing. Businesses are encouraged to participate in the survey and since selection is random, they may be contacted by phone or email between May 11 and June 5. The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. "The success of the region depends on the success of our local businesses," says Tara Zeller, Regional Marketing Strategist. "This survey is an important

step in helping us better understand the needs of our business community so we can take meaningful action to support them and build stronger communities across the region." The BR+E project launched in April 2026 and is expected to conclude in June 2026, when results will be analyzed and shared with participating municipalities to help guide future actions and priorities.

Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.73 US Dollar at an exchange rate of 0.7312 (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of May 13, 2026

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Alberta RCMP advise public on protecting personal information

Alberta RCMP Release

The Alberta RCMP are advising residents to take proactive steps to protect their personal information and reduce the risk of identity theft and fraud. Protecting personal identification information is an important part of everyday safety.

Criminals may attempt to obtain personal details through a variety of methods, including phishing scams, data breaches, mail theft, or social engineering, and use that information to commit fraud.

The Alberta RCMP recommend the following steps to safeguard your personal information:

- Review bank and credit card statements for any unauthorized transactions and report suspicious activity immediately.
- Consider requesting a free credit report from recognized Canadian credit bureaus and review it for unfamiliar accounts or inquiries.
- Fraudsters may use stolen information to create convincing phishing emails, phone calls, or text messages. Do not provide personal or financial information unless you have verified the source.
- Use strong, unique passwords for on-

line accounts and enable multi-factor authentication where available.

- Avoid sharing sensitive details such as your Social Insurance Number (SIN) unless necessary and ensure documents containing personal information are stored securely.
- You may contact a credit bureau to place a fraud alert on your file, which can help prevent unauthorized accounts from being opened in your name.
- When possible, deal with your financial institution in-person should one or more

of your bank accounts become compromised. Unfortunately, an internet search may provide a fake toll-free number to an individual who may victimize you further.

- If you believe you have been a victim of identity theft or fraud, report it to your local police service and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca. Early reporting can help limit potential damage and assist in ongoing investigations.

For more fraud prevention tips follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and on X @RCMPAlberta.

Alberta RCMP gives motorcycle safety reminders

Alberta RCMP Release

Motorcycle season has arrived, and the Alberta RCMP is providing safety reminders to riders and other motorists. By being aware of each other, following traffic laws and practicing safe driving behaviours, everyone can stay safe on the roads.

Last year, in Alberta RCMP jurisdiction, there were 288 reported collisions involving motorcycles. As a result of these collisions, there were 259 injuries and 16 fatalities.

Help stay safe this riding season by following the below tips:

- Complete a pre-ride check. Take time before getting on your bike to check fluids,

tires, lights/signals, chains and the overall condition of the motorcycle. Refer to Alberta Transportation's Rider Guide for a checklist.

- Gear up. Riders and passengers must wear helmets that meet safety requirements and state the date of manufacture. A proper coat, pants, boots that cover the ankles, gloves and shatter-proof eyewear can reduce the risk of injury in the event of a collision. Avoid buying used helmets as they could have defects.
- Be bright and in sight. Stay in sight of larger vehicles and avoid blind

spots. Wear a high visibility jacket and helmet, in colours such as orange, yellow or white to be noticeable on the road.

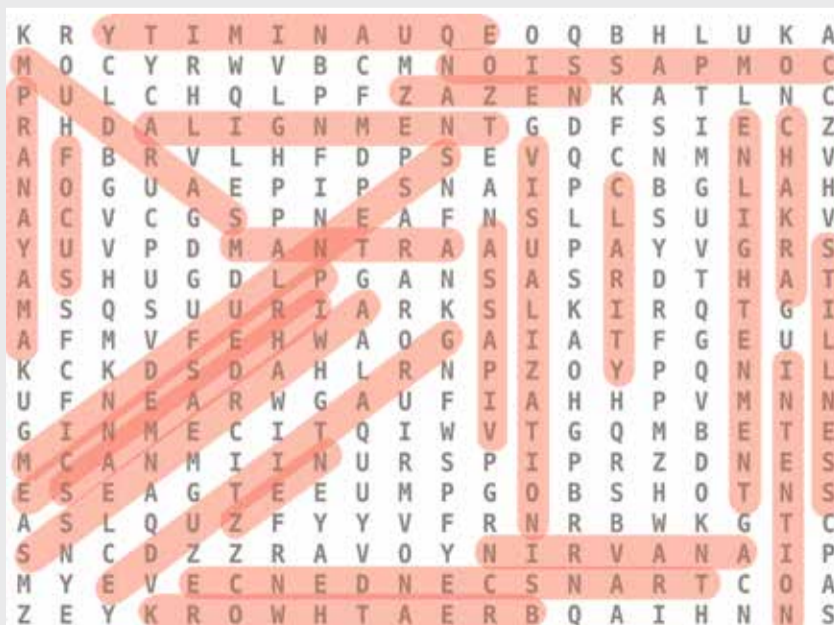
- Maintain a safe following distance. Stay clear of loose gravel or rocks thrown by other vehicles on roadways and be cautious as excess debris and sand may affect tire traction and overall handling.
- Avoid speeding and weaving. Speeding in and out of traffic on a motorcycle is illegal and dangerous. Safe handling, and sharing the road responsibly, reduces the risk of collision.

- Don't show off. Just because your bike can do it, doesn't mean your bike should do it. Slow down on unfamiliar roadways and don't feel pressure to keep up with more experienced riders.

"We can all work together for a safe riding season," says Sgt. Darin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic. "Last May saw 45 motorcycle collisions, making up approximately 16% of the total for last year. Look out for each other on the roads. If you're in a vehicle, make sure to complete a full check before changing lanes to ensure motorcycles and smaller vehicles aren't in your path."

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CANFOR

White Area Open House

Canfor along with its partners Millar Western, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and the Alexander First Nation will be holding two open houses at: MacKay Community Hall in MacKay, Alberta on May 27th from 4PM - 8PM and one at Goose Lake Community Hall in Lone Pine, Alberta May 28th from 4PM - 8PM. The general public and stakeholders will have the opportunity to review our planned activities for block and road development, harvesting, reforestation and herbicide treatment in the Hattanford, NoJack, Chip Lake, Hard Luck and Lone Pine areas. Public and stakeholder input is gathered and utilized to influence operations where site specific concerns are identified such as trails, camping areas, recreational areas etc.

Canfor would like to invite you to visit the MacKay and Goose Lake Community halls between 4PM - 8PM on May 27th and 28th for more information. Alternately, should you wish to visit the on-line forum please visit the Canfor website at <https://www.canforforestmanagement.ca/whitecourt>

Visit www.whitecourtpress.com