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The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 15 - Issue 18 | Wednesday, May 6, 2026



Following a spur-of-the-moment submission to perform at one of the province's most popular outdoor concert series, a Whitecourt teenager has found herself heading to Camrose in August to sing a little ditty and make her dream come true. Pictured is Finley holding up a sign at a Cameron Whitcomb concert, asking to be his future duet partner, another one of her dreams.

A local teenager's dream is coming true in a big way this summer

By Serena Lapointe

Seventeen-year-old Finley Melnychuk has her sights set on the bright lights, big stages and golden stars that come with a successful career in the music industry, and she's working hard to reach the goal. She's been singing in the region at various events, including Party in the

Park, building up her experience and shaking off the nerves that inevitably come with the view from centre stage.

A few months back, Melnychuk was scrolling on social media and caught a post from Big Valley Jambo-ree, highlighting this year's lineup. They were also advertising

that submissions were open for the Youth Talent Showcase on the Horizon Stage, which stopped her in her tracks. "I was like, you can submit to be there? I thought they picked you for that. So, I sent it to my mom to show her. A week later, we sent an email with my

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Smiling cookies, helpful volunteers, and dollars raised for a great cause

By Serena Lapointe

If only Maureen Sauve, a Tim Hortons franchise owner in Hamilton, Ontario, could've known that her idea to bake and sell special cookies in support of a community project would one day become a source of pride across the country.

That's the origin story of the Tim Horton's Smile Cookie. In 1996, Sauve initiated

the first-ever fundraiser using the happy cookies to support the Hamilton Children's Hospital, specifically a ward that was treating her daughter. Wanting to do something impactful, she used what she knew, her Tim Horton's franchise, and kick-started a movement.

But it's not just about the cookie. It's about the franchise owners who invest time in sup-

porting causes in their own communities, the staff who help and encourage volunteers as they prep cookies, those who receive dollars to support their programs and services, and the volunteers who show up and happily decorate hundreds of yummy cookies.

The Community Lunchbox (CLB) is in year two of receiving

continued on page 2



A tray full of cookies ready to go out

Well over 100 volunteer hours went into this year's Smile Cookie Campaign, with dollars raised going to the Community Lunchbox Society. Each year, the campaign brings out the best in everyone because it's hard to be anything but happy around a smiling cookie.



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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**



continued from page 1

the blessing that is the Smile Cookie Campaign. The Boys and Girls Club of Whitecourt and District received the funds for years, until its closure in 2024. Ahead of the 2025 cookie campaign, franchise owner Tony Sgro, who owns both Whitecourt locations, chose CLB as the new recipient.

In their first year, the CLB came out swinging and breaking records. Staff and volunteers worked hard to spread the word that the cookie campaign was coming, and it resulted in nearly double the cookies sold com-

pared to the previous year. A whopping 9,600 cookies in a municipality with approximately 10,000 residents is in no way a small feat.

This year, the CLB hopes to achieve big things again. Starting on April 27 and ending on Sunday, May 3, thousands of cookies made their way into the Tim Horton's ovens, and out to eager decorators, who added two blue eyes and a pink smile onto every single one. Chair of the Community Lunchbox, Tara Baker, was at the uptown Tim Horton's location on Friday afternoon, guiding a group of volunteers on the how-tos for making

the faces.

One by one, cookies received faces, each one different than the last. "There are some great big eyeballs over there," laughed Baker, as she looked over to the trays on the counter. "It's hilarious in the best way." One of the favourite parts about the campaign for buyers, aside from feeling good about the purchase, is getting to see what their cookie's face will look like, the funnier the better.

For Baker, seeing volunteers come in is always humbling. "This week alone, we have had 60 different volunteer shifts filled and over 120 volunteer


hours put into this. To organize and get that many shifts filled is amazing. We are grateful to have so many people step up and want to be a part of it."

Having a long list of volunteers to call on is a big help. "A pool of 144 volunteers allows us to be able to tackle something like this, and even this week we've been able to expand our volunteer base, including new volunteers to the Community Lunchbox. One of the highlights was having senior high students from both schools being able to participate," explained Baker.

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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 confirming investigation into inappropriate dissemination of Elector List

The Alberta RCMP can confirm correspondence from an individual associated to the Alberta NDP raising concerns about potential misuse of the provincial voter list maintained by Elections Alberta.

The RCMP has ini-

tiated an investigation and is working with other law enforcement partners in the province to determine if any offence(s) have been committed respecting the dissemination or handling of the information contained in the voter list.



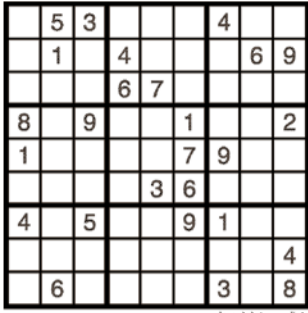
Jayden loading up the rack with another tray



Check out that big smile!

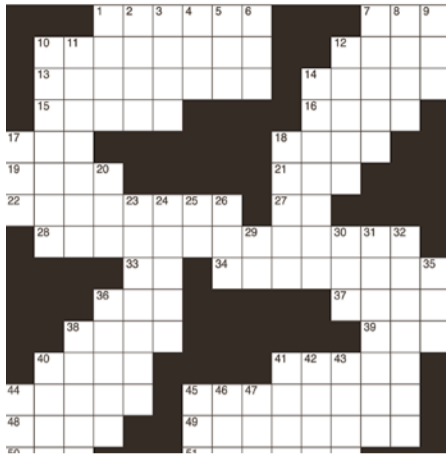
SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 14

SUDOKU **CROSSWORDS**



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Large dung beetle
- 7. Gambling game __ -lo
- 10. Further along
- 12. Type of tobacco
- 13. Looked for
- 14. Silk fabric
- 15. Computer method to solve equations
- 16. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- 17. Tear
- 18. Brews
- 19. "Famous" cookie baker
- 21. Women's Army Corps
- 22. Front parts of an animal
- 27. It's causing quite a stir
- 28. Beloved March holiday
- 33. 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 34. More impudent
- 36. Indicates center
- 37. Young woman (French)

- 38. A cause of distress
- 39. Santa's helper
- 40. Hillside
- 41. Many wombs
- 44. Is afraid of
- 45. Popular baked goods ingredient
- 48. Popular computers
- 49. Conceiving of
- 50. Google certification (abbr.)
- 51. Sturdy

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Peruse quickly
- 2. Automobiles
- 3. Razorbill genus
- 4. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 5. Consumed
- 6. A place to sleep
- 7. Small seeds
- 8. Legendary law man Wyatt
- 9. Female sheep
- 10. Indigenous peoples of eastern Siberia
- 11. A place ships dock
- 12. Reciprocal of sine
- 14. Discomfort
- 17. British Air Aces

- 18. Exit sleep
- 20. Solar energetic particle
- 23. Plagues characterized by starvation
- 24. Short musical composition
- 25. Trauma center
- 26. Habitual twitching
- 29. A place where checks are exchanged (abbr.)
- 30. Decameter
- 31. Hinged surface in a wing
- 32. Shouting
- 35. Sports official
- 36. Volcanic craters
- 38. Supportive device
- 40. It's part of a rosary
- 41. Two-toed sloth
- 42. Body art
- 43. Let out
- 44. Foreign medical graduate
- 45. Nonprofit journalism organization (abbr.)
- 46. Couples say it
- 47. Bird's beak

Fox Creek RCMP seeking public assistance in armed robbery investigation



On April 9, 2026, at 2:44 a.m., an unidentified male robbed the Circle K in Fox Creek. The man, armed with a kitchen knife and bear spray, demanded the cash out of the till then fled on foot. A black pickup truck left the scene at the same time, nearly colliding with a moving semi-truck. The suspect was described as pale complexion, average height and wearing a grey Carrhart sweater, blue jeans, black Under-armor running shoes, black facemask and black gloves. CCTV footage of the suspect

was obtained. Fox Creek RCMP is seeking public assistance in this investigation. Anyone who has any information on this incident, who can identify the suspect, or who has footage of the area around the Circle K in Fox Creek from April 9, 2026, around 2:44 a.m., is asked to please come forth. Furthermore, RCMP would like to speak with the driver of the black pickup truck seen leaving the area at the time of the robbery. Those with informa-

tion or footage, please contact the Fox Creek RCMP at 780-622-3580. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play store. To report crime online, or for access to RCMP news and information, download the Alberta RCMP app through Apple or Google Play. To contact RCMP non-emergency line within any Alberta RCMP jurisdiction call 310-RCMP(7267).

LOVING HORSES WORD SEARCH

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

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

- WORDS**
- BRIDLE
 - CANTER
 - CHESTNUT
 - COLT
 - CROUP
 - DRESSAGE
 - EQUESTRIAN
 - FETLOCK
 - FILLY
 - FOAL
 - FORELOCK
 - GALLOP
 - GELDING
 - HALTER
 - HOOF
 - MANE
 - MARE
 - MUZZLE
 - PASTERN
 - PONY
 - SADDLE
 - STALLION
 - TROT
 - WITHERS

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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






More Pictures, and Information Available on our Website.

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- Case 1370 2wd Tractor
- Case 1070 2wd Tractor w/ Dual PTO & 2 Hyd.
- Fordson Major 2wd Tractor w/ FEL & 3 pth
- IHC TD 14A Crawler Dozer w/ 11' Blade

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- JD 535 Rd Baler
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- NH 411 9' Discbine (Needs Repairs)
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- Crowding Tub
- Alley
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- Gates & Panels
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TRACTORS & CRAWLER

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- JD 5 Bottom Plow
- Alteen 9' PT Rototiller
- 6"x36' Grain Auger w/ Engine
- Wooden Grainery
- Farm King 8' 6 Way 3 pth HD Blade
- Bale Fork for a FEL w/ Global Mts

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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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.



Whitecourt Family Violence Initiative photo

Whitecourt RCMP detachment staff, Family Violence Liaison and members of the Western Alberta Regional Victim Serving Society stand together in support of Denim Day on April 29, wearing denim to raise awareness, challenge myths and support survivors of sexual violence.

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



Repeat Boutique photo

Volunteers from the Repeat Boutique join Canfor representatives as a \$25,000 donation is presented in support of the CT Scanner project—showcasing the power of community and corporate partnership.



STAYING SAFE IN WILDFIRE SEASON.

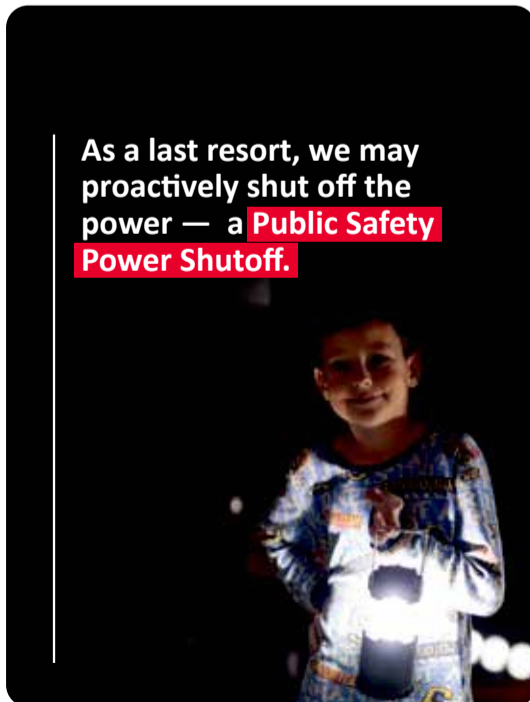
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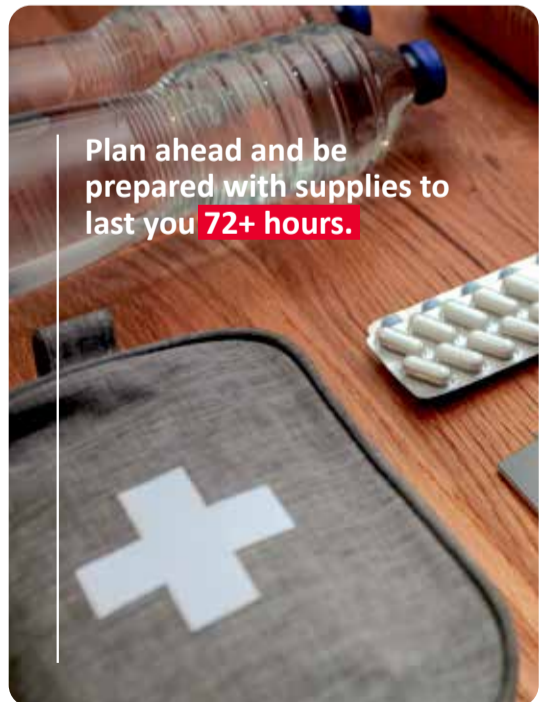
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Child Support Program:

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



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

SCHOOL NEWS



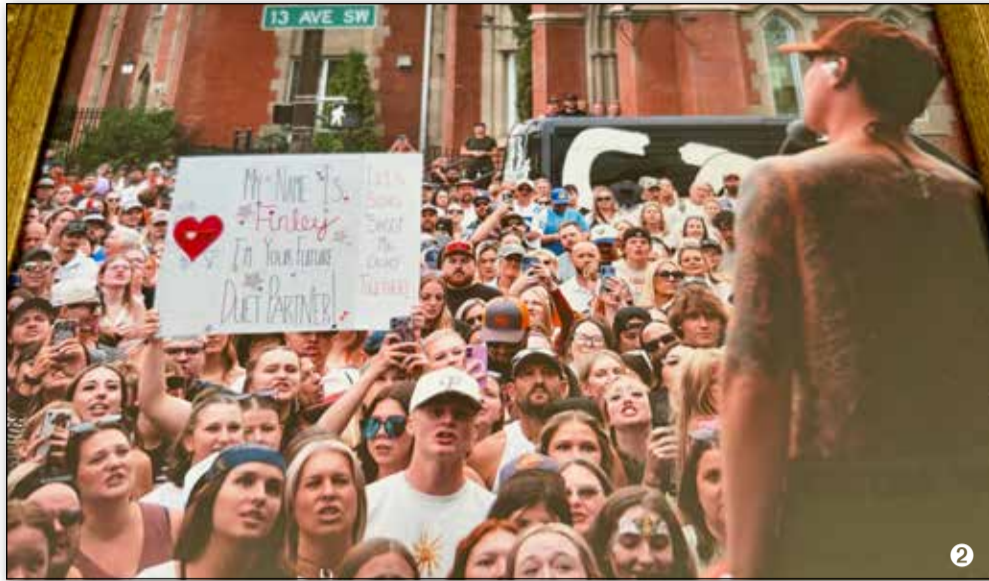
Pat Hardy School photo

Pat Hardy Schools' 3D Clementovich students participated in an outdoor scientific scavenger hunt, where they identified and sketched producers and consumers while constructing a food chain.



Central School photo

Central School extended a special thank you to Pembina Pipeline Corporation for its generous donation of Tim Hortons Smile Cookies for all staff and students. The school expressed its appreciation for the company's continued support of the school community, noting the impact of such thoughtful contributions.



① A close up of the sign she made for her dream of performing at BVJ. ② Finley holding up a sign at a Cameron Whitcomb concert, asking to be his future duet partner, another one of her dreams

continued from page 1

bio, a headshot, a video of a live performance and a link to my social media accounts,” explained Melnychuk.

Big Valley Jamboree, for those unfamiliar, is a large, multi-day annual concert in Camrose that regularly features big acts. This year’s lineup includes Keith Urban, Riley Green and Old Dominion. Each year, the show also offers up-and-coming acts the chance to feel the magic by holding the Youth Talent Showcase. Past performers include Brett Kissel, Tennille Townes, Aaron Goodvin and Lindsay Eli.

With her name in the stack of submissions, Melnychuk simply had to wait and see what would happen. After a month and a half with no word, she started to doubt her odds.

“Whenever I do anything, I usually think I’m going to succeed at it. I like to set the bar high, and then if I don’t

land really high, I’ll be ok because I know that I reached farther than I am realistically going to get. But after waiting so long and not hearing anything, my hope kind of dissipated.”

One night, while out celebrating with her fellow skaters at the Whitecourt Skating Club’s annual banquet, she noticed an email in her inbox. “I couldn’t believe it. I was accepted!” The news made for an extra special night as Melnychuk was awarded the club’s Unsung Hero Award. “It was awesome to receive that in my final skating year,” she said.

Melnychuk has been skating for about twelve years. And though she’s going to be getting up onto a big stage this summer at Big Valley Jamboree, and she’s performed on stage at Party in the Park, that doesn’t mean that she’s without fear when she’s got a microphone in her hand in front of a crowd, far

from it, actually.

“I have really bad stage fright. No matter what I’m doing, I try to pretend I don’t, but I totally do. Mom will ask me if I’m nervous before I perform at a bigger event, and I’ll say no, of course, but I’m actually really nervous,” she laughed. “I’ve gotten a bit more comfortable with it over the last couple of years, with skating and with singing, but that’s honestly only more recent.”

Her mom, Stacy Crossland, said her daughter has been pushing back against her stage fright for years. “She actually didn’t go into competitions because she was too scared.

She skated for twelve years, but she was only in two competitions during that time. By the time she was ready to go into competitions, which was around the same time she started singing on stage, it was kind of too late.”

But now Melnychuk gets to use her strength to walk out onto stages she wouldn’t have been able to walk out onto before, using all she’s learned to propel her feet forward, with the knowledge that she can do it. And even though Big Valley Jamboree might end up being her biggest stage yet, there’s no way that’s going to stop her.

In fact, two years ago, as she was starting to perform more and find her courage, Melnychuk created a vision board which included her dream of performing at Big Valley Jamboree. Right in the middle of her dream music section, she had superimposed her name onto one of the graphics that Big Valley Jamboree uses to announce its main lineup.

“Finley manifests her life. Two years ago, we went to the Canadian Country Music Awards, and she was like, I’m going to be on that stage one day. Then we

went to BVJ, and she said, I’m going to be up there singing one day. So, I’m not surprised that she’s actually going,” explained her mom.

Joining her on stage this August will be her big brother, Nick. The pair have been performing together for years, being each other’s backup and support. Melnychuk said she couldn’t imagine performing without him. When she was five, Melnychuk fell in love with a song called Burning House by Cam. Nick, then eleven, learned the song on guitar so he could play it while she sang. “We don’t agree on everything, and we argue a lot, but it always works out because I’m right and then we move on,” laughed Melnychuk. “I honestly love him so much. I’m so happy that he’s going to be with me up there.”

Melnychuk will be performing on Sunday, August 2. Cameron

Whitcomb is also performing that day, which is the main reason she picked it. He’s one of her favourite artists, and she hopes she gets to meet him. Though she hasn’t decided what she’s going to sing yet, Melnychuk figures she will be singing at least one of his tunes. “I’ve been trying to wrap my brain around what I’m going to do. But I’m kind of more like a wing-it-type-of-person. If I know too much, then I get too scared,” she grinned.

What she does know so far is that it will be a longer show than what she’s done before.

She will be singing two sets, with three songs per set, and she can choose to sing the same three songs twice or six different songs. With each passing day, Melnychuk’s excitement grows bigger and bigger. “I’m so excited! I haven’t stopped jumping for joy yet! I can’t wait!” Good luck, Finley!

Whitecourt Town Council update

| Town of Whitecourt release

Whitecourt Town Council passed Tax Rate Bylaw 1586 at the April 27, 2026 Regular Meeting, and property owners can expect to receive combined assessment and taxation notices next month. For details on how property taxes are calculated, and how tax dollars have been allocated in the 2026 Budget, read the 2026 Budget Report. The report is available on the Whitecourt website at www.whitecourt.ca/your-town. If you have questions about your tax notice or the 2026 Budget, please email administration@whitecourt.ca.

Town Council re-

ceived an overview of 2026 assessment figures by the municipal assessor at the April 27 Council Meeting.

- The valuation date for 2026 taxation of properties is July 1, 2025.

Assessment values for single family homes have increased by an average of 3%. The average house value in Whitecourt is \$354,700.

- Property owners can view the assessment report for their property online. Visit the Whitecourt website at www.whitecourt.ca/live/taxes-payments/taxes-payments under the section titled “Assessment Reports”

and follow the link and instructions to view assessment reports.

- Property owners will receive a combined assessment and tax notice in May.

Whitecourt approved the 2025 Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2025. The Town’s auditor, Curtis Friesen from Metrix Group, made a presentation to Council and reported that the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Town of Whitecourt as of the end of 2025.

Procedure Bylaw 1585-1 has been adopted and includes updates

to Council and Council Committee meeting processes.

Policy 31-016 – Crosswalks has been adopted. The policy states that crosswalks are marked as outlined in the Whitecourt Municipal Design Standards, and that altering of municipal crosswalks is not permitted.

Council has been authorized to attend the Grand Finale of the Touring Stage Event hosted by the Otipemisiwak Metis Government on July 26, 2026, at Festival Park. The event will showcase Metis performances, as well as artisan market.

Whitecourt has awarded the FRIAA FireSmart 2026 Vegetation Management contract to Cortex

Management Inc. for \$116,539.78, plus GST. The work will involve vegetation management in approximately 26.9 hectares of land in the east valley area.

The Mayor has been authorized to attend the Summer 2026 Municipal Leaders’ Caucus hosted by Alberta Municipalities.

Council has approved a street closure along a portion of 50 Avenue on May 31, 2026 so that The Garage Brewhouse & Pub can host the first annual Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Show & Shine. Details on the event can be found on The Garage Brewhouse & Pub’s Facebook page.

Whitecourt has awarded Tourism Enhancement Grant fund-

ing to the following organizations:

- \$3,900 to the Whitecourt Wolverines to assist with hosting the Junior A Spring Identification Camp;
- \$5,000 to the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce to assist with hosting the 3-day Western Canada Rib Fest Tour;
- \$8,200 to the Whitecourt River Boat Association to assist with hosting the Canada Series Jet Boat Racing Championship

The Tourism Enhancement Grant Program encourages partnerships with local non-profit organizations to enhance tourism-related events and/or products.

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

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 stair completion. Stay tuned for updates!)

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.

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

UPCOMING WOODLANDS COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following is a list of upcoming Woodlands County Committee Meetings:

- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – May 13 at 5:00 p.m.
- Airport Advisory Committee Meeting – May 14 at 10:00 a.m.
- Community Services Committee Meeting – May 14 at 5:30 p.m.
- Agriculture Service Board Meeting – May 19 at 10:00 a.m.
- Economic Development Committee Meeting – May 26 at 1:00 p.m.
- Westend Bus Committee Meeting – May 27 at 9:00 a.m.

JOIN US! All Committee Meetings are open to the public. All meetings are held at the Woodlands County Administration Building at #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, unless otherwise posted.

Access meeting schedules, agenda packages, minutes, and more by scanning the QR Code or going to our CivicWeb Portal: woodlands.civicweb.net/Portal/



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:



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/>



DAVE KUSCH
Reeve, Division 1 – Anselmo



PATRICIA MACNEIL
Councillor, Division 2 -



ALAN DEANE
Councillor, Division 3 -



KAREN ST. MARTIN
Councillor, Division 4 -



JENNA WRIGHT
Councillor, Division 5 -



PETER KUELKEN
Councillor, Division 6 - Goose Lake /



BENNY WHITTEN
Councillor, Division 7 -



www.woodlands.ab.ca
780-778-8400
1-888-870-6315
admin@woodlands.ab.ca
1 Woodlands Lane,

A look at the local weather

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



Wed., May 6
Mainly sunny
20%
22°C
6°C
NW 24 km/h



Thu., May 7
Partly sunny
30%
19°C
4°C
NW 10 km/h



Fri., May 8
Partly sunny
30%
18°C
5°C
SE 15 km/h



Fri., May 9
Mainly sunny
20%
17°C
5°C
N 12 km/h



Sun., May 10
Mainly sunny
20%
17°C
4°C
SW 9 km/h

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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 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.

Vitalization Grant Program

The Vitalization Grant Program offers businesses located in the downtown core and along the Highway 43 corridor up to \$10,000.00 to enhance the exterior facade of their business or property to meet the Town's architectural theme of stone and wood. The stone and wood theme has been incorporated in Land Use Bylaw 1577 and is now an integral part of renovations. This grant helps us to build a vibrant and beautiful community for both residents and visitors alike.

Information and application forms can be obtained from www.whitecourt.ca

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 PM on Wednesday May 20, 2026, at the following location:

Town of Whitecourt - Planning & Development Department
Re: Vitalization Grant Program
5004 52nd Avenue, Box 509, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6
Ph: 780-778-2273, Fax: 780-778-2062, planning@whitecourt.ca



GOT A NEWS TIP?

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

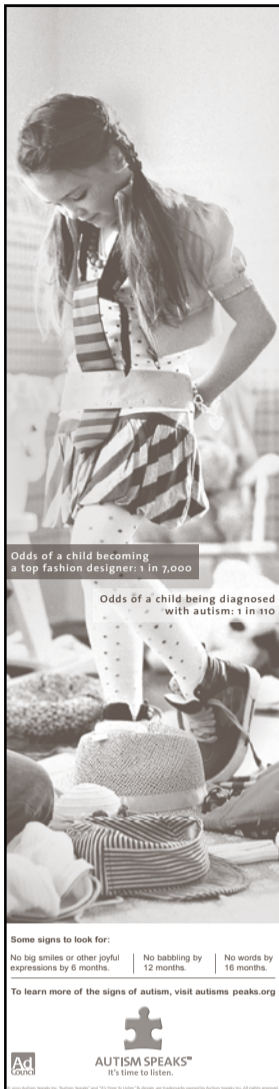




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AUTO BODY SHOP FOR SALE: Crowsnest Pass, Alberta. Established 2010; Only one within 45km; Leased building 5,000 sq. ft. **BLACKSMITH AUTO-BODY LIMITED.** Join our growing mountain community. Contact jacque.from@me.com.

403-583-5003.

Coming Events

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

Employment Opportunities

ROCKY MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT is NOW HIRING: AG Equipment Techs, Heavy Equipment Techs - JM & App, Assistant Parts Managers and Shop Foreman. View Open Roles & Apply: www.rockymtn.com/careers. Relocation and Signing Bonus Offered.

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on truckloads. www.mastinseeds.com; 403-556-2609.

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Heavy Equipment For Sale

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types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. 403-543-0927; www.firststandsecondmortgages.ca.

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Woodlands County Council Recap

Woodlands County release

Joan Sloomweg, Director, Community Services, presented the 2026 Q1 Community Services Operational Report to Council. The department includes Community Services, Recreation, Economic Development, Agricultural Services, Protective Services, Health & Safety, and Planning & Development. Q1 2026 focused on strengthening public safety through training, advancing strategic infrastructure and planning projects, and progressing consultant-led initiatives aligned with Council priorities. Council received the report for information.

John Orwa, Director, Finance & Business Supports, presented

the Q1 2026 Finance & Business Supports Report. The quarterly report provided a high-level overview of progress across the department, including Finance, Asset Management, Legislative Services, Communications, Human Resources and Information Technology. During the first quarter of 2026, divisional efforts were primarily focused on financial system modernization and the continued implementation of asset management practices. Council received the report for information.

Tracy Mindus, Manager, Legislative Services & Communications, presented the Service Request Tracker Reports for January, February, and March 2026 to Council.

Service requests in January, February, and March were dominated by winter maintenance activities, including snowplowing, sanding, and snowplow flags. Council received reports for information.

Council adopted a 1.5% Mill Rate increase for implementation in the 2026 taxation year and directed Administration to remove the 2025 \$500,000.00 operating surplus out of the Mill Rate Scenarios. The mill rate is the primary mechanism through which municipalities generate property tax revenue.

Council adopted the 2025 Audited Financial Statements, the 2026 Operating Budget, the 2026-2030 5-Year Capital Plan, and the 5-Year Operating Plan,

as presented. Council also approved the transfer of \$2,213,293.69 from the 2025 Surplus into the reserves and directed Administration to put \$1,850,000.00 from the reserve surplus towards the East Mountain Road slide repair capital project.

Greg Edwards, Director, Infrastructure Services, presented the Q1 Infrastructure Services Report to Council, summarizing departmental service delivery, activities, and major projects for the first quarter. The Infrastructure Services department, which includes Airport, Transportation/Operations, Environmental, Engineering, and Facilities Services, maintained service levels through a challenging winter, completed 97%

of work orders, and is now managing spring runoff risks while transitioning operations and strengthening internal systems.

Matthew Ferris, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the Q1 CAO Report to Council. The report outlines key initiatives undertaken by Administration, progress on Council-aligned priorities, and upcoming work planned for Q2 2026. Quarterly CAO reporting is intended to provide Council with a consistent and transparent overview of Administration's activities, focusing on delivery of Council priorities; organizational performance and service delivery; major projects and initiatives; and governance, financial, and operational

progress.

Lastly, Council received the Q1 2026 Policy Update Report for information.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council Meeting - Thursday, May 7 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting - Wednesday, May 13 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting - Thursday, May 21 @ 9:30 a.m.

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

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.

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Whitecourt Transport recently partnered with Ballard Group to build new storage lockers for animal waste, allowing farmers to access supplies after hours. Whitecourt Transport provided and funded the materials, while Ballard Group's construction program built the cabinets, highlighting a collaborative community initiative.



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