

REGIONAL PRESS NEWS

FOX CREEK • SWAN HILLS • VALLEYVIEW

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Phone: 780-706-1858
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Valleyview PAL supports local students with reading skills



By Valerie Winger

For students in Valleyview and surrounding communities, developing strong reading skills is an important part of their education. The Valleyview PAL Society is a local organization working to support students as they build those skills. PAL's program helps

improve reading skills for students who live in Valleyview and surrounding communities, according to information provided to the Municipal District of Greenview. The program provides an additional community resource for students working to strengthen their reading skills and build a stronger foundation for their education.



Reading plays an important role throughout a student's time in school, with students using those skills across subjects as they progress through their education.

PAL has also worked with the Valleyview Municipal Library, with a 2024 Town of Valleyview council document noting that the Partnership Approach to Literacy program had partnered with the library to help build literacy and confidence and provide a place where children could learn and receive support.

The Valleyview PAL Society remains listed as a community organization by the Town of Valleyview. Families interested in learning more can contact PAL at 780-524-9332 or palliteracy@gmail.com. With its focus on helping local students improve their reading skills, Valleyview PAL continues to provide

literacy support within the community and surrounding area.



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Fox Creek residents encouraged to sign up for Voyent Alert



By Haylee Dianne

The Town of Fox Creek is reminding residents about VoyentAlert!, a notification service that provides important and time-sensitive information directly to the community. The system is used to

share information during emergency situations and public safety events, as well as provide updates about road conditions, snow removal, utility disruptions and other municipal services. Residents can receive notifications about emergency situations, road closures, changing road conditions, snow removal and maintenance,

water and utility interruptions and other community updates that may affect their daily routines. Voyent Alert! allows residents to choose how they receive notifications. Options include text messages, phone calls, email and notifications through the mobile app.

CONTINUED PAGE 11

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Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock

Your Guide to Voting

Referendum

In this referendum, electors will be asked to vote on 10 questions. Nine questions require a “Yes” or “No” response. One question asks electors to choose between two options.

You have three ways to vote:

1. **Vote during Advance Voting** from October 13 to 17, 2026, at an advance voting place in your electoral division.
2. **Vote on Election Day, October 19, 2026** at your designated voting place.
3. **If you’ve already requested a special ballot**, it must be received by mail at Elections Alberta by 5:00pm on October 16. Canada Post recommends you mail it no later than October 9.

Advance Voting Tuesday, October 13 to Saturday, October 17

During advance voting, you must vote at a voting place in your electoral division.

Advance voting places in your electoral division are listed below. Or visit elections.ab.ca to find your voting place.

Advance Voting Places		Tuesday, October 13	Wednesday, October 14	Thursday, October 15	Friday, October 16	Saturday, October 17
50+ Club 5632 Main St, Swan Hills				9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Athabasca Senior Citizens Society 4810 48 St, Athabasca		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Barrhead Senior Citizens Drop-In Centre 5437 49 St, Barrhead		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Ukranian National Hall 107 Willow Creek St, Smoky Lake				9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Westlock And District Community Hall 10711 104 Ave, Westlock		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm

Be referendum ready.

1. **Save time by registering to vote before advance voting or Election Day.**
Visit Voterlink.ab.ca
2. **Review identification requirements before you vote.**
3. **View referendum questions at elections.ab.ca/elections/referendum**



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Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock

Your Guide to Voting



Election Day Monday, October 19, 2026

Election Day voting hours are 9:00am to 8:00pm.

On Election Day you must vote at your assigned voting place, which will be one of the places listed below. To find your designated voting place, scan the QR code and enter your residential address.

ELECTION DAY VOTING PLACE: Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock

Amber Valley Cultural Centre 664006 Rge Rd 204, Amber Valley	Fort Assiniboine Legion 210 32 State Ave, Fort Assiniboine	Newbrook Community Centre 4801 50 St, Newbrook	Waskatenau Communty Centre 5104 50 St, Waskatenau
Ashmont Agriplex 4019 Agriplex Rd, Ashmont	Grassland Community Hall 4802 50 St, Grassland	Perryvale Community Hall 4905 50 Ave, Perryvale	Westlock And District Community Hall 10711 104 Ave, Westlock
Athabasca Senior Citizens Society 4810 48 St, Athabasca	Grosmont Hall 241071 Twp Rd 672, Athabasca County	Pibroch Community Centre 5017 50 St, Pibroch	 Scan to find your voting place
Barrhead Senior Citizens Drop-In Centre 5437 49 St, Barrhead	Jarvie Community Centre 4509 50 St, Jarvie	Pickardville Hall 4902 50 Ave, Pickardville	
Boyle Seniors Drop-In Centre 4800 3 St S, Boyle	Keyano Centre 5632 Main St, Swan Hills	Richmond Park Hall 683056B Rge Rd 220, Athabasca County	
Clyde Curling Club 5203 49 St, Clyde	Martin Recreation Centre 23B Horseshoe Bay, Horseshoe Bay	Thorhild And District Community Hall 11 7 Ave, Thorhild	
Flatbush Community Complex 661001 Hwy 44, Flatbush	Meadowview Community Center 58010 Hwy 764, County Of Barrhead No. 11	Ukranian National Hall 107 Willow Creek St, Smoky Lake	
Forfar Community Hall 242005 Twp Rd 654, Athabasca County	Neerlandia Christian Reformed Church 4913 50 St, Neerlandia	Vilna And District Cultural Centre 5431 50 St, Vilna	

Unofficial results will be posted after voting closes and ballots are counted at results.elections.ab.ca.
Official results will be posted October 29, 2026, at officialresults.elections.ab.ca.

Returning Offices

Main Office

4714 50 St,
Clyde, AB T0G 2J0

Returning Officer:

Liza Yakimovitch
Phone: 1-833-483-2343
Email: ed49@elections.ab.ca

Office Hours

Mon to Fri: 9am – 6pm
Saturday: 10am – 4pm
Voting Days: 9am – 8pm

Accessible Voting

Barrier-free Access

All voting places are evaluated and modified, where possible, to provide barrier-free access to voters. Visit elections.ab.ca/accessibility to view accessibility information for each voting place.

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Central Peace–Notley

Your Guide to Voting

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Cherry Canyon Recreation Centre 833075 Rge Rd 123, Bear Canyon				9am – 8pm		
Debolt Community Hall 65 Alberta Ave, Debolt			9am – 8pm			
Falher Regional Recreation Complex 32 Central Ave NW, Falher		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Fox Creek Greenview Multiplex 103 2A Ave, Fox Creek				9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Northern Lakes College – Fairview Atrium 11235 98 Ave, Fairview			9am – 8pm			
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 84 10315 110 St, Fairview		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Rycroft Ag Centre 5010 Hwy 49, Rycroft		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Sturgeon Lake Community Hall Twp Rd 703A, Sturgeon Lake No. 154		9am – 8pm				
Valleyview Sun valley Pioneer Centre 4715 51 St, Valleyview		9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm
Worsley Pioneer Club 413 Jubilee St, Worsley					9am – 8pm	

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2. **Review identification requirements before you vote.**
3. **View referendum questions at elections.ab.ca/elections/referendum**

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 elections.ab.ca/jobs



Central Peace–Notley

Your Guide to Voting

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On Election Day you must vote at your assigned voting place, which will be one of the places listed below. To find your designated voting place, scan the QR code and enter your residential address.

ELECTION DAY VOTING PLACE: Central Peace–Notley

Berwyn Agricultural Society Hall 5001 51 St, Berwyn	Eaglesham Senior Social Center 5113 50 St, Eaglesham	Little Smoky Community Center Little Smoky, Little Smoky	Sunset House Community Hall 70566 Hwy 747, Sunset House
Blueberry Mountain Hall 8125 Hwy 680, Blueberry Mountain	Eureka River Hall 61005 Twp Rd 862, Eureka River	McLennan Town Centre 19 1 Ave NW, McLennan	Tangent Community Hall 101 3 Ave, Tangent
Bonanza Community Hall 12407 Twp Rd 801, Bonanza	Falher Regional Recreation Complex 32 Central Ave NW, Falher	New Fish Creek Community Hall 73049 Rge Rd 221, MD Of Greenview #16	Valleyview Memorial Hall 4808 50 St, Valleyview
Brownvale Community Rec. Centre 300 4 Ave, Brownvale	Fox Creek Community Hall 200 – 1 St, Fox Creek	Ridgevalley Community Arena 71332 Rge Rd 262, Crooked Creek	Wanham Birch Hills Seniors Centre 4902 50 St, Wanham
Cleardale Menno–Simons Community School 521 Cleardale Dr, Cleardale	Fox Creek Greenview Multiplex 103 2A Ave, Fox Creek	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 84 10315 110 St, Fairview	Whitelaw Agricultural Hall 822046 Hwy 735, Whitelaw
Dave Shaw Memorial Complex 712 8 St, Hines Creek	Girouxville’s Club Etoile 5008 50 St, Girouxville	Rycroft Ag Centre 5010 Hwy 49, Rycroft	Woking Community Hall 5104 50 St, Woking
David Thompson Hall 835077 Rge Rd 33, Clear Hills County	Gordondale Community Hall 79144 Rge Rd 105, Gordondale	Savanna Recreation Complex 81378 Rge Rd 100, Saddle Hills County	Worsley Pioneer Club 413 Jubilee St, Worsley
Debolt Community Hall 65 Alberta Ave, Debolt	Guy Community Centre 4902 52 St, Guy	Spirit River Centennial Hall 4812 44 Ave, Spirit River	 Scan to find your voting place
Donnelly’s Club Des Pionniers 4918 3 St, Donnelly	Hines Creek Senior Drop-In Centre 920 – 2nd Ave, Hines Creek	Sturgeon Heights Community Hall 70451 Youngs Point Rd, Crooked Creek	
Duncan’s First Nation Band Office Twp 822 Rge Rd 254, Duncans No. 151A	Jean Cote Community Centre 4902 50 Ave, Jean Cote	Sturgeon Lake Community Hall Twp Rd 703A, Sturgeon Lake No. 154	

Unofficial results will be posted after voting closes and ballots are counted at results.elections.ab.ca.
Official results will be posted October 29, 2026, at officialresults.elections.ab.ca.

Returning Offices

 **Main Office**
5002A – 50 Ave, Office #153,
Valleyview, AB T4N 1T7
Returning Officer:
Elaine Muceniek
Phone: 1-833-483-2796
Email: ed55@elections.ab.ca

Office hours:
Mon to Fri: 9am – 6pm
Saturday: 10am – 4pm
Voting Days: 9am – 8pm

 **Satellite Office**
#153, 10209 109 St,
Fairview, AB T0H 1L0
Returning Officer:
Elaine Muceniek
Phone: 1-833-483-2797
Email: ed55@elections.ab.ca

Office hours:
Tue & Thu: 10am – 6pm
Saturday: 10am – 2pm
Voting Days: 10am – 8pm
And by appointment

Accessible Voting

 **Barrier-free Access**
All voting places are evaluated and modified, where possible, to provide barrier-free access to voters. Visit www.elections.ab.ca/accessibility to view accessibility information for each voting place.

Find everything you need to be referendum ready at elections.ab.ca



Swan Hills recycling program set for changes in October



By Haylee Dianne

Swan Hills residents will see changes to their recycling program beginning October 1, 2026, with residential curbside collection being introduced as part of Alberta's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program.

Under the changes, the Town of Swan Hills' recycling program will be managed by Circular Materials, a national not-for-profit organization focused on building an efficient and effective recycling system in Alberta.

The new program will include residential curbside recycling collection.

The Town has confirmed that the curbside collection program will not be managed by the municipality.

Residents are expected to receive information from Circular Materials by mail, with details about collection dates, acceptable materials, contacts and other program information available through Circular Materials' Swan Hills webpage.

Circular Materials has a dedicated webpage for Swan Hills where residents can find information about the community's recycling program, including accepted materials, sorting and set-out instructions, depot information and collection contacts.

The changes are part of Alberta's Extended Producer Responsibility framework for packaging and paper products.

Under the new system, Circular Materials will manage the recycling program for these materials and work with communities and service

providers to provide collection services.

The program is funded by producers – the companies that supply packaging and paper products to consumers – rather than municipalities and taxpayers.

Residents will also be able to recycle additional types of material through the expanded program.

Circular Materials lists glass containers, where they are not already accepted, foam packaging, flexible plastic packaging, empty aerosol containers, and laminated paper and plastic packaging among the materials being added October 1.

Across Alberta, participating recycling depots will also move to a single-stream collection system, meaning residents will no longer have to sort recyclable materials by type at the depot.

The recycling depot

behind the Swan Hills Town Office will remain available for residents to use, according to the

Town. Residents can find community-specific information and updates

on Circular Materials' Swan Hills recycling webpage as the October 1 transition approaches.



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New Horizon Co-operative supports Fox Creek Community Night



By Haylee Dianne

New Horizon Co-operative supported Fox Creek’s annual Community Night by providing burgers and hot-dogs for residents and helping raise donations for the Fox Creek Food Bank Society.

The co-operative’s team served food during the event, while a donation collection was held in support of the local food bank.

New Horizon Co-operative also

presented the Town of Fox Creek with a \$5,000 fuel sponsorship for the Fox Trot Express.

The Town thanked New Horizon Co-operative for its continued support and partnership with the community.

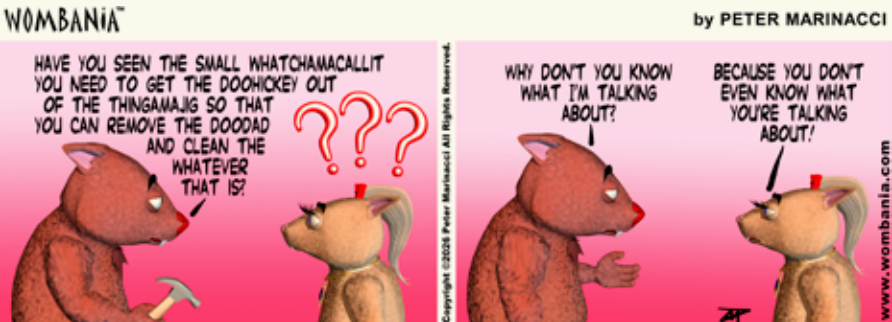
Pictured are CRC Program Facilitator Bree Burke, Town of Fox Creek CAO Kristen Milne, Councilor Chace Lamb, Mayor Sheila Gilmour, Councilor Eric Doran, New Horizon Co-operative Representatives Rick Yaremko, Amber Halbauer and Don Edmundson, Councilor Kim Norman, and Community Services Director Wendy Chaychuk.



Town of Fox Creek photos



Fox Creek School’s Senior Boys Golf Team represented the school well at competition, finishing with a combined score of 248. Reid placed fourth individually with a score of 79, followed by Carter with 90, Mason with 91 and Ryker with 92. The team finished just three strokes behind the third-place team on a challenging course. *Fox Creek School photo*



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Hillside Students capture Valleyview through the lens



Students in Hillside Jr/Sr High School's photography class in Valleyview recently put their skills into practice, capturing nature and scenes around the school while exploring composition, lighting and different perspectives. The class, led by Miss Benard, gave students an opportunity to develop their photography skills while using images to tell stories from their own perspective. *Hillside Jr/Sr High School photo*

WWW.REGIONALPRESSNEWS.CA

PAINT & PASS

FOX CREEK LIBRARY

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF LAUGHTER AND FUN FOR PAINT AND PASS NIGHT. THIS IS INTENDED FOR MINIMUM GROUPS OF TWO. FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE LIBRARY. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

AGES 18+

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Crocus Hill BBQ Cook-Off and Fair draws close to 300



By Shelley Winger

The second annual Crocus Hill BBQ Cook-Off and Fair brought close to 300 people from Valleyview and surrounding communities together for a day filled with food, games, music and community spirit.

Hosted by the Valleyview & Districts Agricultural Society, the event is also helping support the construction of the new Greenview Regional AgriPlex.

Dawn Knapp, office administrator with the agricultural society, said organizers were thrilled with the response to this year's event.

"It was amazing!"

Knapp said.

One of the notable successes was the increase in Bench Show entries compared with the previous year.

The fair also offered plenty of opportunities for people of all ages to take part in some old-fashioned fun.

Activities included donut bobbing, tug-of-war, three-legged races, gunny sack races and balloon pickup.

Crooked Creek Donuts sponsored the donut-bobbing contest, adding a sweet twist to one of the day's activities.

Along with the games, attendees could enjoy live music, a roving photo booth, a concession and beer gardens.

The BBQ competition remained a major attraction, with teams bringing their skills, creativity

and plenty of food to the event.

For Knapp, the BBQ teams and their ribs were the highlight of the day.

"The highlight was, of course, the BBQ teams and all those delicious ribs!" she said.

The teams put considerable time and effort into their entries, giving attendees the opportunity to see and taste what they had created.

The meal was rounded out by side dishes and desserts supplied by the Valleyview Colony.

"Everything was absolutely delicious!" Knapp said.

Beyond the food and entertainment, the event provided an opportunity for people from across the region to gather together while supporting a major community project.



The Grand Champion BBQ team celebrates its win at the second annual Crocus Hill BBQ Cook-Off and Fair.

All proceeds from the Crocus Hill BBQ Cook-Off and Fair are supporting construction of the Greenview Regional AgriPlex, giving the annual event an important fundraising role for the agricultural society.

Knapp said the turnout demonstrated the support that exists for both the event and the future facility.

"We welcomed close to 300 people from Valleyview and surrounding communities," she said. "It was wonderful to see people come from throughout the region to enjoy the event and

support the Greenview Regional AgriPlex."

With increased Bench Show participation, BBQ teams, games and entertainment, the second annual event provided a full day of activities while bringing the community together for a common cause.

For the Valleyview & Districts Agricultural Society, the strong turnout was another step toward its goal of building the Greenview Regional AgriPlex while continuing to create opportunities for the community to gather, participate and celebrate together.



Participants take part in the donut-bobbing competition during the Crocus Hill BBQ Cook-Off and Fair.

Town of Valleyview Council Highlights

Press Release

For the Regular Meeting held on September 14th, 2026

Council Highlights provide a brief, informal summary of key decisions made at the most recent Council meeting. This summary may not include all motions or resolutions passed.

For complete and official records, please visit our Council Meeting Portal: <https://valleyview.community-ca.highbond.com/Portal/>

Please note: Minutes remain unofficial until formally approved at the following Council meeting.

DELEGATIONS

Valleyview RCMP Detachment: Staff Sergeant Ryan Alexander, the new detachment commander, introduced himself and updated Council on the detachment's Community Priorities Plan. Council received the presentation for information.

Library Board 2027 Budget: The Board presented a preliminary 2027 budget with a projected \$17,017 gap including a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment. It asked the Town to match up to

\$8,500 in Library fundraising. Council received the presentation; no additional funding was approved at this meeting.

LAND USE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Land Use Bylaw #2026-09: Council deferred the proposed replacement bylaw while the MD of Greenview completes its review under the Intermunicipal Development Plan. Administration will assess Greenview's comments and return to Council with next steps. The proposed bylaw has not been adopted.

Non-Residential Development Incentive: Council gave First Reading to a proposed tax incentive for eligible new, expanded or substantially redeveloped non-residential property adding at least \$100,000 in assessed value.

Municipal tax on that added value would be reduced by 100% in each of the first three taxation years, 80% in the fourth and 60% in the fifth. Existing value and provincial education taxes would remain payable. The incentive is not yet in

effect.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE AND BUDGET

Municipal Borrowing Bylaw: Council passed a bylaw allowing the Town to arrange up to \$2.1 million in short-term operating financing with Scotiabank if needed for cash flow. No funds were borrowed by passing the bylaw, and Administration reported no immediate plans to use the facility.

2027 ATCO Franchise Fee: Council approved increasing the fee collected by ATCO from Town electricity customers from 7% to 8% for 2027. The percentage applies to electricity distribution charges, not the entire power bill. The one-percentage-point increase is estimated to bring the Town about \$33,245 in additional revenue.

RECYCLING AND WASTE SERVICES

Recycling Depot and Transfer Station: Producer-funded residential curbside recycling is scheduled to start October 1. Council asked Administration to study how to reduce the Town's recycling and

waste-transfer-station costs. Curbside collection will not cover business recycling or all materials. A service proposal with costs must return to Council; no depot closure or service reduction was approved.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Joint FCSS Board: Council approved an updated agreement with the MD of Greenview effective October 1. The board changes from seven members, including appointed community members, to five elected members: three Greenview Councillors and two Town Councillors. The Town's annual contribution is \$193,239.63 and does not change under this agreement.

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

Municipal Reserve Lot: Council began the process to consider removing municipal reserve status from Lot 15R, Block 6, Plan 7821186. Council must advertise and hold a public hearing before deciding. No sale was approved; a sale would require a separate Council decision.



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Swan Hills School kicks off new year with welcome back barbecue

Swan Hills School students, families and staff gathered for a welcome back barbecue on September 15. The picnic-style event was held outdoors and sponsored by community partner Pembina Pipeline to celebrate the start of the 2026-2027 school year. *Swan Hills School photos*



El Niño strengthens as Alberta heads toward winter



By Haylee Dianne

As Alberta heads into fall, a climate pattern developing in the Pacific Ocean could have an influence on the province's weather during the coming winter.

El Niño is strengthening in the tropical Pacific, with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reporting a greater than 90 per cent chance of a very strong El Niño during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter of 2026-27.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is also forecasting a 75 per cent chance that the October through December 2026 period will reach what it classifies as a historic-strength El Niño.

That would mean the three-month Relative Oceanic Niño Index, or RONI, reaches at least 2.5 C, exceeding the strength of previous El Niño events in NOAA's record dating back to 1950.

El Niño is part of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation, commonly known as ENSO. It occurs when ocean temperatures in the central and eastern

tropical Pacific become warmer than usual, affecting atmospheric circulation and shifting weather patterns in other parts of the world. According to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada is mostly affected by El Niño during the winter and spring.

El Niño often brings milder weather to western, northwestern and central Canada, although the effects can vary depending on the location and the individual El Niño event.

For Alberta, that means El Niño could contribute to milder overall winter conditions. However, it does not mean the province will avoid cold weather or major snowstorms.

Short-term weather patterns are influenced by many factors, and conditions can vary considerably from one community to another.

NOAA reported in September that sea surface temperature anomalies in the eastern equatorial Pacific had exceeded 3 C above average in some areas.

The August Niño-3.4 index was 1.8 C above average, while NOAA's Sept. 17 outlook reported a weekly Niño-3.4 value of 2.0 C.

NOAA's current outlook calls for El Niño to continue strengthening through the end of 2026.

The agency notes that with an event of this magnitude, the chances of experiencing impacts consistent with El Niño are larger, but those impacts are not guaranteed.

For northern Alberta communities, the broader climate pattern can provide some indication of what the season could look like, but it cannot predict individual storms or determine exactly how much snow a community will receive.

Seasonal forecasts are updated as new observations and model information become available. Environment and Climate Change Canada uses its Canadian Seasonal to Interannual Prediction System, known as CanSIPS, as part of its seasonal forecasting.

As winter approaches, El Niño will remain one of several factors meteorologists will be watching.

While the current event is expected to be unusually strong, its effects on Alberta will depend on how the larger atmospheric pattern develops over the coming months.



Participants at the Fox Creek Library's fall wreath program last week created their own seasonal wreaths, with each one turning out uniquely decorated for the fall season. *Fox Creek Library photos*





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Voyent Alert!

Continued from page 1

The service is free to register for, and residents can select their preferred notification methods. Alerts can help residents stay informed about issues that may affect their homes, properties, businesses or travel.

Voyent Alert! is designed to provide both emergency and day-to-day community notifications. The service states that users can select

multiple locations to monitor and receive notifications through their preferred communication channels.

The Town is encouraging residents who have not yet registered to sign up for the service so they can receive important information when it is issued.

Registration is available through the Voyent Alert! website at voyent-alert.us/community. Registration is free and

can be completed by selecting the appropriate community and choosing a preferred notification method.

The Town of Fox Creek reminds residents that Voyent! Alert is reserved strictly for local municipal emergencies managed directly by the town. Other public safety organizations such as the RCMP maintain their own separate emergency notification and public advisory systems.

New way for Albertans to receive cancer screening notifications

Primary Care Alberta's (PCA) Screening Programs is updating its communication methods to better serve Albertans.

Cancer screening notifications are moving towards becoming paperless. Starting in the fall of 2026, mailed invitation and reminder notifications for cancer screening will be phased out when possible and patients will get notifications and information through MyHealthAlberta's MyChart online platform.

The Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program implemented this change first on September 15, 2026. The Alberta Colorectal Cancer Screening Program and Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program will follow in 2027.

"Albertans increasingly expect to access services and information digitally. Moving cancer screening notifications to MyChart is a practical step that improves access to personal health information, supports participation in life-saving screening programs, and ensures we are delivering services in a more

efficient and sustainable way." **Justin Wright, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services**

Patients not enrolled in MyChart will continue to receive printed letters. Normal screening results will be available via MyChart or communicated through the patient's appropriate care provider. Abnormal test results will be mailed, available via MyChart or communicated through the patient's appropriate care provider.

"These changes are designed to make it easier to review messages, alerts and results, better keep track of your screenings and remind you when to book an appointment. Regular screening is the best way to find cancer early, before symptoms appear and when treatment is likely to be most effective." **Kimberley Simmonds, CEO of Primary Care Alberta**

This shift ensures Albertans have improved access to their health information, when and where they want it. Albertans who are able and not already signed up are encouraged to set up a

MyChart account by visiting myhealth.alberta.ca/help/KB/setting-up-my-health-records.

If you still receive paper letters and are concerned your mailing address is incorrect, call Primary and Preventative Health Services at 310-0000 (toll free) then dial 780-427-1432. If you'd prefer to make these changes by mail or in person, please visit Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan to find out how: alberta.ca/ahcip.

For additional information about screening, talk to your primary care provider or visit screeningforlife.ca.

Care is a lifelong commitment for Primary Care Alberta. We plan, fund and support primary healthcare across the province, improving access to care providers and offering front-line services through Health Link 811 and public health teams. Throughout the health journey, we are by your side – managing, preventing and reducing illness. Along with our partners, we nurture the connections our communities need to thrive and strengthen the health of all Albertans.

Smoke expected near Swan Hills as crews burn piles



By Haylee Dianne

Residents in the Swan Hills area may notice smoke this fall as crews carry out burning designed to help reduce wildfire risk around the community.

According to Alberta Wildfire, burn piles are located northwest of Swan Hills, near the

Swan Hills Cemetery and west of Highway 33.

The work is focused on removing excess flammable vegetation from around the community, reducing the amount of fuel that could contribute to a wildfire.

Smoke may be visible in the area while the piles are being burned.

After the burning is complete, firefighters will patrol the area to extinguish any remaining

hot spots. Crews will return when necessary to make sure the area is fully extinguished.

The burning is part of wildfire prevention efforts aimed at reducing wildfire risk around communities.

Residents can report wildfires by calling **310-FIRE (3473)**.

For current wildfire information and updates, residents can visit Alberta Wildfire online.



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