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YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

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February 11, 2026

WHITECOURT RCMP SEEKS ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING ARMED ROBBERY SUSPECT



Submitted by Whitecourt

RCMP

On Jan. 29, 2026, just before 11 p.m., an armed suspect entered the Ritz Café and Motor Inn in Whitecourt. The suspect pointed a firearm at the employee as he went to the safe. He

left the business with a cash box containing money.

The suspect was wearing black runners, a black jacket, grey sweatpants, and a grey face covering with the eyes cut out.

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CONFIRMED CASE OF MEASLES PROMPTS PUBLIC ALERT TO POTENTIAL EXPOSURES

Submitted by AHS

The Public Health Division in the Department of Primary and Preventative Health Services has been notified of a person with confirmed measles in the Edmonton Zone who has been in a public setting while infec-

tious. Additional locations may be released if necessary.

Individuals who were in the following locations during the specified dates and times may have been exposed to measles:

Location:
Tri Wellness MD Centre (Suite 100, 7 Tri Leisure Way, Spruce

Grove)

Exposure time period:
February 2: Approx. 10:45 a.m. - 2 p.m. (MST)

Location:
Mint Pharmacy: Tri Wellness (#104 7 Tri Leisure Way, Spruce Grove)

Continued on Page 2

SKATE NORTH 2026



Submitted

For nearly a quarter century, Bob Walker has been quietly changing lives through Skate North, a volunteer-run program that proves how far compassion

can travel. The idea was sparked in 2001 during a visit to Tsiigehtchic, Northwest Territories, when Bob learned that many northern children simply couldn't afford hockey or

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news@com-voice.com

Confirmed Case Of Measles Prompts Public Alert To Potential Exposures

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Exposure time period:
February 2: Approx. 10:45 a.m. - 2 p.m. (MST)

Anyone who attended these locations at these times, who was born in or after 1970 and has fewer than two documented doses of measles-containing vaccine or has never had measles disease, may be at risk for developing measles and may

be asked to take additional precautions if presenting to a healthcare facility. They should monitor for symptoms of measles and are strongly encouraged to review their immunization records.

Measles is an extremely contagious disease and the virus spreads easily through the air. Symptoms of measles include:

- Fever of 38.3° C or higher;

and

- Cough, runny nose and/or red eyes; and

•A rash that appears 3 to 7 days after fever starts, usually beginning behind the ears and on the face and spreading down to the body and then to the arms and legs. The rash appears red and blotchy on lighter skin colours. On darker skin colours, it can appear purple or darker than the skin around it, or it might be hard to see.

Complications of measles can include ear infections, pneumonia, inflammation of the brain, premature delivery, and rarely death. Persons who are pregnant, less than 5 years of age, or have weakened immune systems are at greatest risk of serious complications.

Skate North 2026

Continued from Page 1

skating equipment. Determined to help, he created Skate North, which now collects and delivers donated gear every February—chosen intentionally during Heart Month, because, as Bob says, “it’s an affair of the heart.” Donations are gathered from across Lac Ste. Anne County, with drop-off locations at thrift stores in Whitecourt, Mayerthorpe, and Onoway, including Repeat Boutique, ECHOS Thrift Store, and the Onoway Thrift Shop. From there, Whitecourt Transport and Air North generously carry the equipment north to Arctic communities, placing skates and sticks into eager hands. Now in its 24th year, Skate

North is about more than hockey—it’s about inclusion, confidence, and giving children the chance to play and thrive. For those able to help, even a single piece of equipment can make a lasting difference. To learn more or get involved, contact Bob Walker at 780-721-7443.

One donation. One child.
One incredible difference.



SCREEN TEST

A screening mammogram is the best way to find breast cancer early. And it can save your life.



Mobile mammography screening is coming to:

Whitecourt

Feb. 20 to Mar. 4, 2026

Call toll free to book an appointment:

1-800-667-0604

screeningforlife.ca/breast

If you're 45 to 74 years of age, have a mammogram every 2 years or as decided by you and your healthcare provider. No referral needed.



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Barrhead

family DAY

Join us for Community
Family Fun!
Grab your Skates and your
Grandparents!

February 12, 2026
3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
Cecil Martin Park, Barrhead

All ages welcomed at this intergenerational
community event!

Hot chocolate (Limited Quantity)

Hot dogs (Limited Quantity)



Pembina West

Barrhead



family DAY

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County News Highlights

MEETINGS & HEARINGS

[LSAC.ca/meetings](https://lsac.ca/meetings)

Meetings and public hearings are held at the County Administration Office near Sangudo, they are open to the public and available remotely. Explore the County's online calendar for agendas, minutes, and meeting details.

Council Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:30 am

Council Meeting

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 9:30 am

MPC Organizational Meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 9:30 am

Immediately followed by regular MPC Meeting.

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR SAFELY BUILDING & BURNING BRUSH PILES

[LSAC.ca/fire-services](https://lsac.ca/fire-services)

Spring and fall clean-ups often mean brush piles and land-clearing debris. While burning can be an effective disposal method, it's critical that piles are built and managed safely to protect people, property, and the environment.

Fire Services reminds residents that only "Allowable Burnable Debris" as defined under Fire Bylaw #29-2020, may be burned. These materials are permitted under provincial statutes and municipal bylaws designed to protect and enhance the environment.

ALLOWABLE BURNABLE DEBRIS INCLUDES— BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

- Straw and stubble
- Grass and weeds
- Leaves and tree prunings
- Brush and fallen trees
- Used power, telegraph, and telephone poles (not containing wood preservatives)
- Wooden materials from the construction or demolition of buildings (not containing wood preservatives)
- Solid waste from post and pole operations (not containing wood preservatives)
- Solid waste from tree harvesting operations

BRUSH PILE CONSTRUCTION AND BURNING BEST PRACTICES

When creating clean-up brush piles or larger land-clearing slash piles, Fire Services asks residents to keep the following important safety considerations in mind:

- **Plan before you clear.** Prior to land clearing, consider contacting a Fire Guardian or Fire Services to discuss acceptable dimensions for windrows and brush piles, and to assess appropriate burning conditions.
- **Choose the right surface.** Build piles on clean mineral soil such as clay, gravel, or sand.
- **Avoid high-risk areas.** Keep piles well away from peat moss and muskeg, which can smoulder underground for extremely long periods — even years.
- **Smaller is safer.** Smaller piles are easier to control and extinguish than large, dense piles.
- **Maintain safe distances.** Place piles well away from standing trees, brush lines, and any buildings or out-structures.
- **Talk to Fire Services before burning.** Fire Guardians and Fire Services staff can provide guidance on pile placement, burn timing, and best practices.
- **Watch the weather.** Ideal burning conditions include cooler temperatures and little to no wind. Avoid burning if fog is in the forecast, as it can significantly reduce visibility on nearby roads.
- **Get a fire permit.** Fire permits are required for all allowable fires, year-round.
- **Extinguish thoroughly.** Once burning is complete, douse the pile with plenty of water, stir the remains, and douse again to eliminate hot spots.
- **Monitor long after the burn.** Re-check the site regularly over the following days and weeks. Large piles can rekindle under dry or windy conditions — even many months later.
- **Check again in spring.** Inspect burn sites the following spring for lingering heat. Excavating, watering again, or cultivating the area is strongly recommended.

The County appreciates everyone doing their part to reduce wildfire risk and keep our community safe. If you have questions about brush piles, burning conditions, or permits, please contact your local Fire Guardian or County Fire Services before you burn.

Pop up play continues every WEDNESDAY until February 25 in Onoway

Interested? This drop-in program is geared for kids 0-5 years old, accompanied by parent(s) or guardian(s). It's a chance for parents/guardians with young children to connect with other families—with no registration required!

Questions? Contact Vivian McDonald at 780.284.9399 or email Childcare@LSAC.ca

Want to Contact the COUNTY'S ENFORCEMENT SERVICES?

To report a situation that requires the help of a Community Peace Officer, please call 780.785.3630 or use our online Report-a-Concern tool available at [LSAC.ca/report](https://lsac.ca/report)

Please note — for emergencies, please dial 911.



COUNTY URGES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER CLOSURE OF LACOMBE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Submitted by Lac Ste Anne County

Lac Ste. Anne County is calling on the federal government to reconsider the planned closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre, citing serious concerns about the regional and long-term impacts on agricultural research, innovation, and producer support across rural Alberta and the broader Canadian agricultural sector.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada recently confirmed plans to shut down the Lacombe Centre a historic agricultural research station, as part of broader efforts to reduce the size of the federal public service, affecting research facilities and several satellite research farms. Notices to affected employees—more than 1,000 across all sites—were issued in late January as part of the workforce reduction initiative.

“For more than a century, this research station has been a cornerstone of agricultural advancement in Western Canada,” said Lac Ste. Anne County Reeve, Jurgen Preugschas. “Once this facility’s specialized land, long-term trials, and institutional knowledge are lost, they cannot be replaced.”

The closure is expected to have significant ramifications for advancing agricultural innovation and scientific knowledge, eroding Canada’s research capacity at a time when producers face increasing climate, economic, and market pressures.

Loss of Long-Term Research Capacity

Agricultural research sites like Lacombe generate decades of continuous data crucial to food security, climate resilience, and innovation. The interruption of these programs undermines decades of scientific progress. Of particular concern is the diminishing availability of independent, publicly funded research. For decades, the Lacombe Centre has delivered science-based information free from commercial influence, supporting informed decision-making on meat production, crop and

livestock management, emerging technologies, and long-term sustainability.

The County is concerned that as federal, arm’s length research capacity declines, producers across rural Alberta will have fewer trusted sources of unbiased information—a gap that cannot be readily filled by private industry or short-term project funding.

Call for Federal Reconsideration
Lac Ste. Anne County is urging the Government of Canada to:

Pause the closure decision immediately to allow for a full assessment of regional and sector-wide impacts;

Engage in meaningful consultation with local governments, producer groups, and agricultural stakeholders, and;

Explore alternative approaches that preserve Canada’s long-term agricultural research capacity.

“The value of this institution extends far beyond its physical footprint,” added Reeve Preugschas. “It is essential to safeguarding Canadian agricultural competitiveness and innovation.”

Lac Ste. Anne County 56521 Range Road 65, Box 219 Sangudo AB T0E 2A0 Phone 780 785 3411 Toll-free 1 866 880 5722 Email LSAC@LSAC.ca

LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES IS OFFERING THE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) is a partnership between the Canada Revenue Agency and community organizations which arrange for volunteers to prepare income tax and benefit returns for eligible individuals.

Volunteers are ready to assist you in preparing your 2025 Income Tax Returns between February 28 and April 15.

Qualification Guidelines for this FREE service are:

Family Size	Total Family Income
• 1 Person	\$40,000
• 2 Persons	\$55,000
• 3 Persons	\$60,000
• 4 Persons	\$65,000
• 5 Persons	\$70,000
• More than 5 persons	\$70,000 plus \$5,000 for each additional person

Returns cannot be completed by our Volunteers if any of these situations apply:

- are self-employed or have employment expenses
- have business income and expenses (unless income is in box 048 on a T4A slip and less than \$1,000 with no related expenses)
 - have rental income and expenses
 - have interest income over \$1,000
 - have capital gains or losses
 - have foreign property (T1135)
 - filed for bankruptcy
- are completing a tax return for a deceased person
- are foreign workers

We require the following information in order to complete your return:

- Personal information (address, birthdate, Social Insurance Number, marital status)
- Dependents’ information (spouse/children’s names, birthdates)
 - All “T” slips (T4, T4A, OAS, etc)
- All forms, schedules and labels you have received from Revenue Canada
- Receipts for any expenses, such as medical, moving, tuition, sporting activities, etc.
 - Previous year’s tax return, if available

To book an appointment or for more information, please contact:
Taryn Monteith, Community Services Coordinator at 780.785.3411 or 1.866.880.5722

WE HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES PROMOTE THEMSELVES ONLINE: Shop the County and Support Hundreds of local businesses!
Find registered businesses in the Lac Ste. Anne region by name, category, or keyword! Visit ShoptheCounty.ca

FAMILY DAY WEEKEND

Winter Carnival

Saturday
February **14**

12:00-4:00pm
Festival Park

Activities & Highlights:

- Ice Slide
- Horse & Wagon Rides
- Skating
- Family Games
- Cross-Country Skis & Snowshoes
- Free Hot Chocolate, Hot Dogs & Bannock (while supplies last)
- And More Family Fun!

Snow Sculpture CONTEST

February 9-17

Families are encouraged to create their own unique snow sculpture and submit a photo for a chance to win prizes! Visit <https://rec.whitecourt.ca> for contest details and how to enter.

Family Day ACTIVITIES

Monday, February 16

Free Family Day Public Skating - JDA Place | 11:00am-12:30pm
Free with a Food Bank donation. Helmets mandatory for all.

Free Family Day Movie
Vista Theatre MLT | 2:00pm
Cash donations to the Whitecourt Food Bank are encouraged.



FAMILY DAY Winter Carnival!

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COUNTY SEEKS PUBLIC MEMBERS FOR: THE MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION & SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD

Submitted by Lac Ste Anne County

Help guide local land use, planning, and development decisions! The County is looking for public members to strengthen its Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) and Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB).

The MPC is a collective that provides recommendations and decisions on land use, planning, development, and subdivision issues and applications referred to it by the development authority.

The SDAB is an independent quasi-judicial body appointed by County Council to hear appeals from

those who have been affected by a decision of the local development or subdivision authority.

MPC Meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month.

SDAB Hearings are held on an as-needed basis.

Interested parties are invited to email a cover letter and resume to csuter@LSAC.ca. In your cover letter, please outline your expression of interest and include any relevant experience.

Please note: Due to conflict of interest, members cannot belong to both the MPC and SDAB.

IS IT TIME FOR YOUR MAMMOGRAM?

Submitted by AHS

Screen Test is coming to Whitecourt February 20 to March 4, 2026

Screen Test is a free service provided by Primary Care Alberta that offers screening mammograms. Our mobile screening units travel to 120 communities throughout Alberta to provide convenient access to breast cancer screening.

Having regular screening mammograms is the best way to find breast cancer early, before symptoms appear and when treatment

may work better.

Who should have a screening mammogram?

If you're 45 to 74, you don't need a referral to have a mammogram. Make screening part of your regular health routine. Plan to have a mammogram every 2 years or as decided by you and your healthcare provider.

If you're 40 to 44 or over 75, discuss the risks and benefits of screening with your healthcare provider. You will need a referral if you're 40 to 44 and it's your first mammogram, or if

you're over 75.

Call toll-free to book an appointment: 1-800-667-0604

Breast density scores are now included in your Screen Test result letter

Breast density is the amount of dense tissue compared to the amount of fat in a person's breasts. It can be harder to find cancer in dense breasts because this tissue appears white on a mammogram, the same colour as many kinds of breast cancer. It's common to have dense breast tissue.

Dense breasts are only

one of many risk factors for breast cancer. Other factors, such as age and genetics, have a bigger impact on your overall risk. You can't tell how dense your breasts are by size, look or feel. The only way to find out is by having a mammogram.

Talk to your healthcare provider about your breast density score and your personal risk of breast cancer.

For more information on Screen Test and breast cancer screening, visit screeningforlife.ca/breast

WHITECOURT TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

Submitted by Town of Whitecourt

Whitecourt Transit will launch a new Express Route starting this summer. The new Express Route will provide direct connections to public transit's most popular destinations, and will result in shorter wait times at stops, less time on the bus, and faster trips to select destinations for transit riders. Further details on the new service will be advertised in the summer.

The Whitecourt Trailblazers Snowmobile Club is hosting its Annual Family Snowmobile Rally on Saturday, February 14. Whitecourt will be hosting Checkpoint #2 at the Westward Community Centre. Join the rally and see why Whitecourt is the Snowmobile Capital of Alberta! Details on the event can be found at www.whitecourtrailblazers.ca.

Whitecourt Town Council has approved the following purchases:

- A topdresser (used to support parks maintenance by applying sand and materials to turf surfaces) for \$27,841 plus GST.

- A snow blower (loader mounted to support winter road and snow removal operations) for \$275,790 plus GST.

- A haul-all hook lift and garbage body (to replace existing body and hook lift currently on a unit) for \$173,293.76 plus GST.

The Town of Whitecourt will be participating in the 2026

Whitecourt Trade Fair. Hosted by the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce, the event will be held May 23 and 24, 2026 at JDA Place. Watch for details on the event on www.whitecourtchamber.com.

As part of the orientation process, members of Council have been authorized to attend professional development courses offered by the Elected Officials Education Program.

Classified Ads - Call 962-9228

Hall Rentals

Alberta Beach Agliplex, abagsociety@gmail.com

Alberta Beach & District Seniors 50+ Club. Air conditioning! Space Available! Val: 780-690-1655 or Dianne: 780-217-8482

Anselmo Community Hall, Phone 780-786-4280

Barrhead Royal Canadian Legion: Janet @ 403-938-0012

Bright Bank Hall, 780-968-6813

Cherhill Community Assoc. Hall, Kevin 780-785-8153

Darwell Centennial Hall, 780-892-3099

Darwell Seniors, Phone Debra 780-785-2907

Glenreagh Community Hall, now with free wifi Bookings call 780-674-4995 Baukje 780-674-1349 Darren

Goose Lake Hall, Contact Ellen 780-584-2452

Gunn Hall (G.A.R.S.) 780-951-9452

Hathersage Community Centre, Noreen at 786-2946

Magnolia Hall, 727-2015

Manley Goodwill Community Hall,

780-920-3217
Mayerthorpe Diamond

Centre, Charlotte at 786-4659
Mayerthorpe Legion, 786-2470.



SCHEIDL, Betty "Maybelle"
(née Henry)
July 9, 1935 - January 27, 2026

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Maybelle Scheidl on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at the age of 90.

Maybelle was born on July 9th, 1935 in Mildred, SK to Lou and Irene Henry. She grew up on the family farm (Brunswick Farm) with her six sisters and one brother. Farm life in the 30's and 40's was not easy but with a large, loving family and hard work, they made a good life. She was very proud of her time on the farm. As she lived in different places in Saskatchewan and Alberta, she would often compare the land to that of Brunswick Farm. Very few would be able to match up.

From an early age, Maybelle enjoyed learning, and this passion would evolve to her life's calling as a teacher. After graduating as valedictorian in 1953 she attended Teachers College in Saskatoon. In 1954, after one year of Teachers College, at the age of 19, she began her teaching career. Her first teaching position was in a one room schoolhouse 9 miles south of Broderick, SK called Wheat Plains School. She boarded with the Grunerud family and the first child she ever taught to read was their 6-year-old son Brian. That first year she taught grades 1, 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10 with a total of 13 students. From 1954 to 1961 she would teach in various schools in central and southern Saskatchewan. In 1961, she moved with her husband Jerome to a farm they had purchased 8 miles south of Sangudo, AB. She began teaching in the fall of that year at Sangudo Elementary until 1970 when she moved to the Sangudo Jr. & Sr. High School. The early years on the Bar 2J farm began with beef cattle and would transition into a herd of 35 Holstein cows and the usual mix of pigs, chickens, horses, herding dogs and one tough barn cat. Her love of gardening also began on the farm, always having a large garden. She mentioned "sometimes the pigs enjoyed the garden as well, which meant we would have a little extra bacon that year." The Bar 2J would be home until 1974 when they sold the farm and moved to an acreage on land they bought from Peggy and Vern Madlung.

This meant that up until 1974 she would be milking cows in the morning, and evening while teaching school during the day. Except for a two-year break owning a daycare centre in Edmonton, she would be teaching and counselling in Sangudo and Lac Ste Anne County until she retired in 1993 after 35 years shaping the youth of the future. Throughout her years in the classroom, she was regarded as a kind, caring, and compassionate person. One of her most notable accomplishments was the development of a program to assist students who found the traditional system of school challenging. She very much believed that no student should be left behind and you just had to figure out what pattern and pace of learning worked. To her, every student was an individual and she developed learning plans based on their needs and to achieve academic success.

In the early 1980's, Maybelle moved to the trailer court in Sangudo. She also rented the lot next to her and began a small project of landscaping the second lot. This small project would expand when she bought the two acres of land along the approach to Sangudo. This would become her labour of love transforming those two acres into her "Rainbow's End Gardens" and an oasis for all the birds she treasured. She would meticulously tend to these gardens for over 20 years, often with help from her sister and best friend Norma. She loved when people would come to walk through the gardens, have wedding pictures taken there or just stop in to visit and enjoy her work of art. With assistance from the Legion, she created a Veterans memorial garden where students and Legion members worked together to plant flowers and commemorate those who served. Maybelle was also a talented artist and spent many hours in her "painting studio" in the gardens. She found great enjoyment in her retirement years spending time with her grandchildren, and with the companionship of her huge Alaskan Malamute Husky, Chief. Eventually the work would become too much as she had very exacting standards and would move to Spruce Grove to be closer to her family.

As time passed, Maybelle eventually moved into the Mayerthorpe Auxiliary Long Term Care Facility. She asked to be in Mayerthorpe and in the community she had called home for so many years. We were fortunate that she was able to spend her last years in such a loving and caring environment.

Maybelle is survived by her sons, Jerry (Kelly) and Michael (Janie); grandchildren, Chase, Renée, Aimee, Carson and Jackson; sisters, Norma, Ruth and Judy (Paul); sister-in-law, Inga; numerous nieces, nephews and many close friends she made throughout her life. She was predeceased by her parents, Lou and Irene; former husband, Jerome; sisters, Mona (Roy), Ella (Eric) and Jessie (George); brother, Les (Fran); and brothers-in-law, Art, and Bob.

The family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to Dr. Jamal and all the healthcare staff at the Mayerthorpe Hospital and Auxiliary Long Term Care Facility. We could not have found a better group of people to trust Maybelle's care to. Cremation has been entrusted to Park Memorial. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Sangudo Community Hall, 4920 - 50 Street, Sangudo, AB.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Sangudo Sports Ground Society to assist with their beautification projects. This can be made by e-transfer to sangudosportsgroundsociety@gmail.com or by cheque payable to Sangudo Sports Ground Society, PO Box 576, Sangudo AB, T0E 2A0.

Photos, memories, and condolences may be shared through www.parkmemorial.com.

Park Memorial
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Onoway Heritage Center -
Gym/Classrooms, 967-1015

Onoway Legion , 780-973-
5361

Park Court Community
Hall, 727-4476

Parkland Village
Community Centre, 780-
298-9155 @PVCCentre

Pioneer Centre, Spruce
Grove 780-962-5020 or
email.

Ravine Community Hall,
Dawna @ 325-2460

Rich Valley Community
Hall, 967-5710 or 967-3696

Rosenthal Community
Hall, 963-7984

Sandy Beach Rec Hall,
967-2873

Sangudo Community
Hall, 780-785-3221 or 780-
785-2259

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email stonyplainseniors@
gmail.com for info.

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Wildwood Senior Citizens
Hall - Bookings - Tammy
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**ANSWER:
Last Weeks**

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

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

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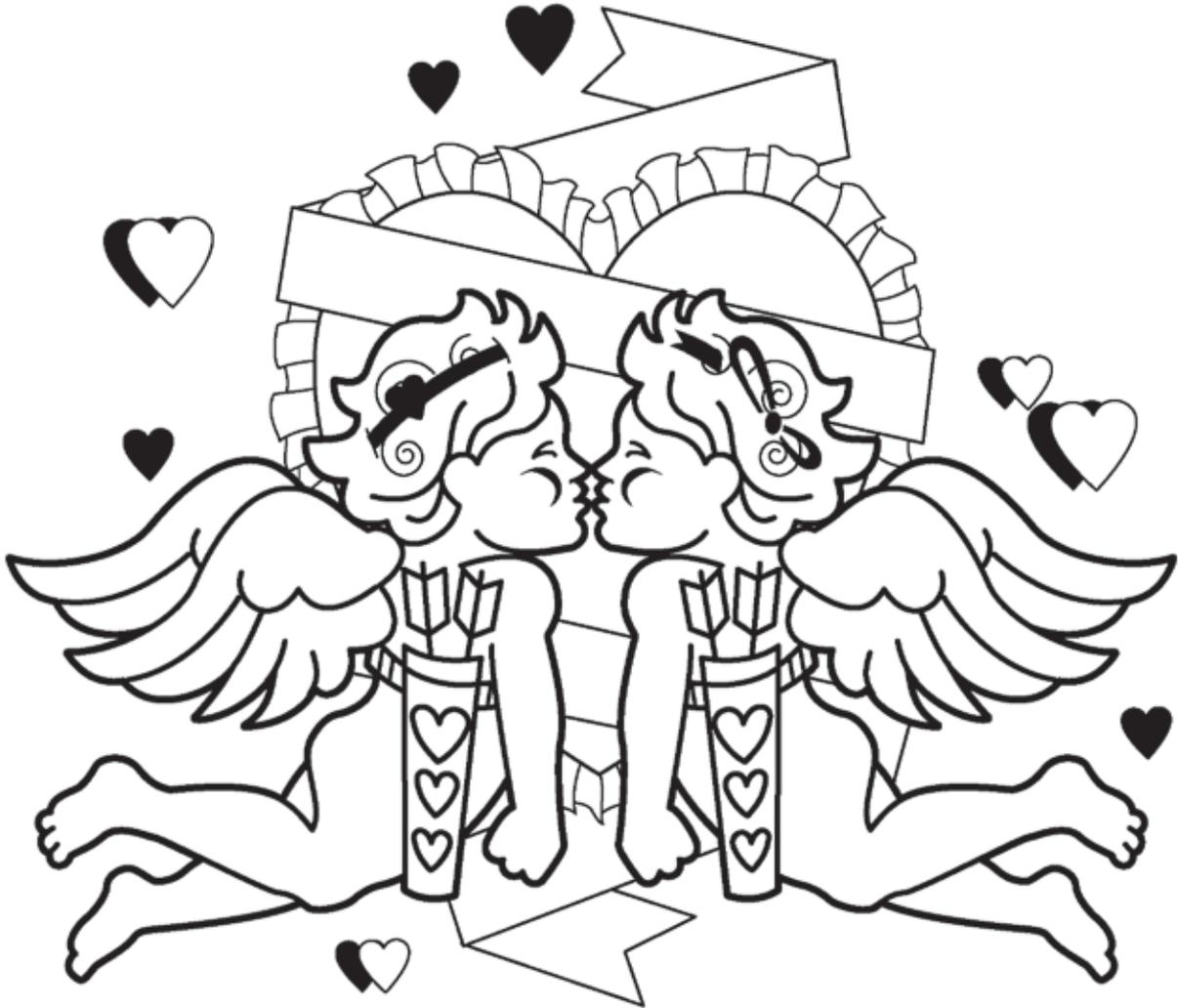
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