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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



# The Press



Locally Owned & Operated



Vol. 12 - Issue 28 | Wednesday, July 12, 2023



## School's out for summer, or is it?

Learning how to do hair in cosmetology camp.

By Serena Lapointe

Though summer break has just begun, many Northern Gateway Public Schools high school students are back in the classroom. Career Exposure Summer Boot Camps are al-

ways a big hit and have only grown in popularity. Camps feature two separate one-week sessions available to grades 9-12 students.

The boot camps are free for students and include mainly Hill-

top High School youth, with just over 50 students bussing in from other communities, including Mayerthorpe, Sangudo, Valleyview, and Onoway. Just over a

continued on page 6



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# MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA NOTICE OF VOTE



**MÉTIS VOICES.  
OTIPEMISIWAK  
MÉTIS GOVERNMENT.**

## **YOUR VOICE. YOUR OTIPEMISIWAK MÉTIS GOVERNMENT.**

**This September, the Métis Nation of Alberta will be holding a General Election for the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.**

From **September 13<sup>th</sup> to September 19<sup>th</sup>**, Citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta will have the opportunity to elect the first ever Otipemisiwak Métis Government. This is a historic step toward the true self-determination for which our ancestors fought. Don't miss this chance to make your voice heard, and help shape the future of our Nation.

Eligible MNA Citizens will have the opportunity to vote by one of the following methods:

### **IN-PERSON VOTING**

Polling stations will operate throughout Alberta from 8am to 8pm during the voting period. Exact dates and addresses of polling locations are yet to be confirmed, and will be posted at **MetisElectionsAB.com**

### **MAIL-IN VOTING**

A mail-in ballot will be sent to each Citizen who is eligible to vote. If you don't receive a mail-in ballot, or need a replacement, visit **MetisElectionsAB.com** to request one.

### **ELECTRONIC VOTING**

You can vote online at any time during the vote period. More details will follow about where and how to vote electronically.

To learn more about the vote, including the process for nominations or how to request voting assistance, visit **MetisElectionsAB.com**

**Dei Graff, Chief Electoral Officer**  
Métis Nation of Alberta

Notice issued on June 30, 2023



## **NOTICE TO CITIZENS NOTICE OF MEETING**

**Métis Nation of Alberta  
Annual Assembly  
August 12 & 13, 2023  
Métis Crossing, Alberta**

In accordance with the Bylaws of the  
Métis Nation of Alberta  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**  
that the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of  
the Métis Nation of Alberta  
will be held on August 12 & 13, 2023  
at Métis Crossing, Alberta

**Carol Ridsdale, Secretary**  
Métis Nation of Alberta



## **NOTICE TO CITIZENS DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTIONS**

**Métis Nation of Alberta Annual Assembly  
August 12 & 13, 2023  
Métis Crossing, Alberta**

Special or Extraordinary Resolutions for the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta, to be held at Métis Crossing in Smoky Lake County, Alberta, August 12 & 13, 2023 must be received at the MNA Provincial Office no later than **July 14, 2023 before 4:30 pm.**

Please send your resolution to:

**Special/Extraordinary Resolutions  
for the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly**

Attention: Ron Harrison  
Métis Nation of Alberta  
100 Delia Gray Building  
11738 Kingsway Avenue NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5

Email: [rharrison@metis.org](mailto:rharrison@metis.org)  
Fax: 780-452-8946

**Carol Ridsdale, Secretary**  
Métis Nation of Alberta



## If your life is in danger or you know someone's life is in danger DIAL EMERGENCY NOW 911!

If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, you need to know that you're not alone. You can also call if you are not in crisis, seeking additional information. The new Canada Suicide Prevention Service (CSPS), by Crisis Services Canada, enables callers anywhere in

Canada to access crisis support by phone, in French or English: toll-free 1-833-456-4566 Available 24/7  
Crisis Text Line (Powered by Kids Help Phone) Canada Wide free, 24/7 texting service is accessible immediately to youth anywhere

in Canada by texting TALK to 686868 to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to 686868 to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/SMS enabled cell phone.  
KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under

in Canada 1-800-668-6868 (Online or on the Phone). First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness 24/7 Help Line 1-855-242-3310  
Canadian Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line 1-866-925-4419  
Trans LifeLine – All Ages 1-877-330-6366

## Have you been bullied, and want to share your story?

Email [wctpress@telus.net](mailto:wctpress@telus.net) All submissions remain confidential

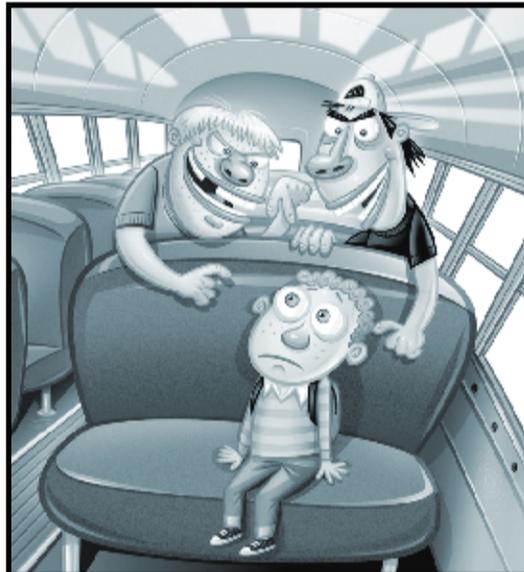


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.  
Let that sink in.



### Are you or someone you know being bullied?

Call the Bullying Helpline (Confidential)



Toll Free, open 24 hours per day, seven days per week

**1-888-456-2323**

Stand up! Don't be afraid of bullies!!

## Putting a face on suicide



Every 40 seconds somewhere around the world someone dies by suicide, that's 99 people every 66 minutes. Every day, that's almost 100 people in the United States alone, and over 2160 worldwide. Putting a Face on Suicide (PAFOS) is a suicide awareness project that creates posters and videos to pay tribute to those we have lost to suicide with dignity and respect. PAFOS humanizes the daunting statistics; lovingly replacing numbers with faces.

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- Tax program & Bag Lunch Program

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

**Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre**  
The Whitecourt Food Bank is operated by the Town of Whitecourt Food Bank Coordinator and dependent on volunteers to operate. The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food from individuals and organizations. Local grocery stores drop off baked goods including bread and pastries weekly. Other corporations and schools schedule food drives throughout the year.  
Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Phone: 780-778-2341



**WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

- Mondays 7:30pm
- Wednesdays 7:30pm

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.  
ZOOM ID: **818 413 483** PASSWORD: **gratitude**

**LORNE'S BLANKET**  
*is transitional housing for men.*

**We exist to help homeless men get back on their feet.**

**If you know of any male requiring assistance, please Call Lorne's Blanket at 780-778-0952**



**WHITECOURT CANCER & WELLNESS SOCIETY**

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

This can include help with parking costs for hospital visits, living expenses and unforeseen medical expenses. Applications can be made through the Drs at both Whitecourt Medical Clinics or (office hours, can leave a message): **Willow McIntyre** (Community Cancer Navigation Nurse, McLeod River PCN) **780-779-0079**, **Kim Nendsa** (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) **780-778-0932**  
wctcancerwellness@gmail.com  
*\*\*Monthly meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19*

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

**Preventative Education:**  
Provides Workshops, Information and Awareness to Schools, Community Organizations, Agencies and Businesses



**Family Resource & Crisis Centre**  
www.whitecourtshester.ca



**GRIEF SHARE®**

Weekly grief support group starting Tuesday, 19 September through Tuesday, 5 December, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm., at Crossroads Community Church, 4419 44 Avenue, Mayerthorpe. \$35 for 12 sessions includes your personal GriefShare Workbook. Pre-registration is required by calling **Reverend Ruth Lotholz at 780-786-2695.**

**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)  
More info Contact: (780)286-5144. Please Leave a Message for Our AA member or Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322

# PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 14



## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

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

### Here's How It Works:

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

## CROSSWORDS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10					
11						12						13	14	15	
16						17				18					
19				20	21			22	23				24		
25							26					27			
28							29					30			
					31	32				33					
34	35	36	37							38					
39							40	41	42						
43							44					45	46	47	48
49							50				51	52			
53				54						55					
56			57							58				59	
60							61	62						63	
						64									65

- 7. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 8. Belonging to me
- 9. Shoelace tube
- 10. Takes to court
- 13. Early multimedia
- 14. In a way, produces
- 15. Bowlers
- 20. Of I
- 21. Equally
- 22. Gets some sun
- 23. A place to stay
- 27. Town in Galilee
- 29. Aronofsky film
- 30. Klingon character, "Star Trek"
- 31. Equal to 100 square meters
- 32. Atomic #58
- 33. Arrived extinct
- 34. Loosen grip
- 35. A distinctive odor that is unpleasant
- 36. Membranes
- 37. Some is poisonous
- 38. Partner to Pa
- 40. Small brown gray rail
- 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 42. Sodium
- 44. Military official (abbr.)
- 45. Lighted
- 46. Took off
- 47. All
- 48. Ohio city
- 50. More abject
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Controversial tech product (abbr.)
- 54. Monetary unit
- 55. Passed with flying colors
- 57. A way to win a boxing match
- 61. The Golden State
- 62. Home of the Longhorns

## HOROSCOPE

### ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries, there are tips and tricks to learn through observation of others, particularly if those people are doing something with style. Keep your eyes peeled for inspiration.

### TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, let other people know what you are feeling by wearing your heart on your sleeve a little more often. You don't have to be stoic all of the time. It is alright to ask for help as well.

### GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



It may seem like the days this week will trickle by at a snail's pace, Gemini. It is perfectly fine to enjoy some slow-moving days for a change to help you recharge.

### CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Cancer, kick up your flirtatious nature, particularly if you have your eye on someone and are eager to start a relationship. Those who are attached can rekindle the passion.

### LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Leo, share your optimism and level-headedness with someone who could use your support right now. You have an uncanny way of making others feel relaxed just by being in your company.

### VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



An interesting travel opportunity comes your way, Virgo. However, at first glance it might not seem like the type of trip you would normally take. Keep an open mind and be surprised.

### LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Libra, if you do not like the way things are going in one of your relationships, it is alright to speak up and encourage change. You are an equal partner and compromise is necessary.

### SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, you have to jump on every opportunity to get ahead that is presented to you, even if it may temporarily upset your schedule and life. The investment will be worth it.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Get involved with helping others as much as possible, Sagittarius. This way you will be in the unique position to help someone close to you who needs it soon enough.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Capricorn, there is nothing that you cannot accomplish when you lay on the charm. Others will flock to you this week and want to hear what you have to say.

### AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Enjoy every meeting of minds that you encounter, Aquarius. Each relationship and discussion can help broaden your horizons, and you can use that information wisely.

### PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Pisces, no matter how good a partnership looks on paper, if you are not meshing with this individual then it is not a partnership worth pursuing. Focus your attention elsewhere.

## Crossword Clues

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Database management system
- 5. Medical procedures
- 11. \_\_\_ Clapton, musician
- 12. Defender
- 16. Exert oneself
- 17. Indicates position
- 18. Prevents river overflow
- 19. Atrocities
- 24. Mister
- 25. Ends
- 26. Slope or tilt
- 27. Taxi
- 28. The very ends
- 29. Actor Sean
- 30. Japanese persimmon
- 31. Sours
- 33. Beneficiary
- 34. Baseball official
- 38. Muddy, boggy ground
- 39. Not worldly
- 40. Actress Lathan

- 43. Soil
- 44. \_\_\_-Cola
- 45. Asleep
- 49. \_\_\_ Angeles
- 50. Give birth to a child
- 51. Beach shelter
- 53. Commercial
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Local jurisdictions
- 58. It cools your home
- 59. Dismounted from a horse
- 60. Charge with a crime
- 63. Close in
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Famed garden

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Draw a scene
- 2. Its sultan is famous
- 3. Unlucky accident
- 4. A way to ski
- 5. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- 6. Saw

## ON THE GRILL WORD SEARCH

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

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

### WORDS

- ASH
- BACKYARD
- BARBECUE
- CHAR
- CHARCOAL
- DELICIOUS
- ENTERTAIN
- EXTINGUISH
- FIRE
- FLAVOR
- FLIP
- GRATES
- GRILLING
- HARDWOOD
- MARINATE
- OUTDOORS
- PATIO
- ROTATE
- SEAR
- SMOKE
- SPIT
- TEMPERATURE

Three day long sourdough buns.



School might be out for summer, but several classrooms at Hilltop High School are full of eager learners. The Career Exposure Summer Boot Camp began last week and continues this week, wrapping on Friday. A large contingent of Hilltop students are willingly in class, learning, even though it's technically summer break.

continued from page 1

hundred students participated in the first week of camps, and 75 participated in week two.

Northern Gateway Public Schools Superintendent Kevin Bird discussed the camps during a recent school board trustees meeting. He joked that having so many students come back to school during their summer vacation was a virtual miracle. "I'm not sure what it would have taken to convince me as a student to come back for the first two weeks of

July," he laughed. "But then again, I never got to go the high schools that our kids get to go to and have the teachers that they get to have."

More than half of the students registered had chosen to be part of both weeks offered. "This year, there is a student photographer on site for the two weeks who will help out with social media for it," explained Bird. "Our major sponsors for this include the Royal Bank and Pembina Pipelines. Woodlands County is also a big sponsor of this activity and benefits di-

rectly from some of the programs that then feed into certain jobs they have."

The camps allowed students to try careers in technology, science, the arts, foods, and trades while earning high school credits toward their diplomas. Camps included a Learner's Permit Preparation course for youth over 14 years old, providing one credit. Students learned the skills necessary to pass their permit exam, vehicle maintenance, and routine care.

Let's Grow Together focuses on career op-

portunities in agriculture, while Let's Bake and Let's Get Cooking got students into the kitchen. Students who completed the Let's Get Cooking camp could earn their Safe Food Handling Certification. In week two, from July 10-14, students could learn about travelling the world and tourism through the Exploring the World of Travel camp. Those interested in having investigative careers could dig into the Forensic Science Investigations camp.

Those curious about industrial-type jobs

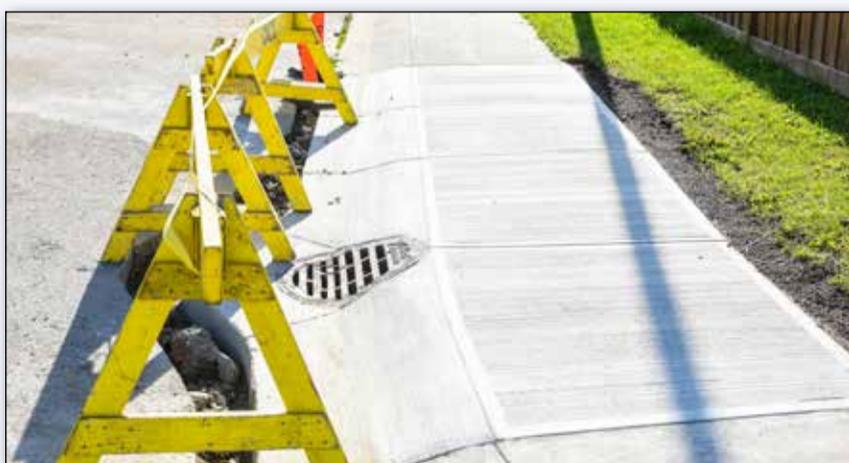
could take the Industrial Safety Certification camp, which took place at Brogan Safety and provided youth with industry-recognized three-year certification in several courses, including H2S Alive, Lockout Tagout Safety, Fall Protection and WHMIS (completed online).

Youths wanting to learn about welding and fabrication could earn up to three credits exploring both careers and making works of art. Those who like cars could work under the guidance of a journey-

man automotive technician in the Redline You Automotive Knowledge camp. At the same time, those interested in coding and robotics or cyber security could take camps on those.

There were camps on physical education, hairstyling, fashion and art and the option to enter the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) or grab a summer job and collect work experience while gaining one high school credit for every 25 hours they worked.

continued on page 7



Several different areas of town are seeing updates to curbs and sidewalks. Two sections across the street from each other, at the corner of Skagg's Cross and Spruce Road, looked mighty spiffy following recent improvements. Work is part of the community's roadway construction/ updating plan happening through the summer, which includes updates to the Mink Creek Road/55 Ave stop light intersection, among others. Some sidewalks along 55 Ave will also see new pavement.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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



### VITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Vitalization Grant Program offers businesses located in the downtown core and along the Highway 43 corridor up to \$10,000 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 1506 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](http://www.whitecourt.ca).

Applications will be accepted until 4:30 PM on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 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](mailto:planning@whitecourt.ca)

Career ads, online at:  
[www.whitecourtpress.com](http://www.whitecourtpress.com)

**NEED HELP? CALL ANYTIME! (24-7)**

Mental Health Helpline 1-877-303-2642  
 Addiction Helpline 1-866-332-2322  
 Health Link 811



Happy welders-in-training.



Close up of a student welding.

continued from page 6

"This is an immense amount of work, and it's spearheaded by Principal Jager at Mayerthorpe, and our other high school principals all work on this as well as a cohesive group. It is an incredible amount of work, but it is so worth it when you see the outcome and the students there. There are some incredible stories that come out of this about how students have either reconnected to school or connected for the first time even through this," explained Bird.

"Through this, the staff take every opportunity to connect with these kids. The effects of these boot camps roll on for years and years and years with the students that attend. We all know that a connection with a teacher, at least one, hopefully two, is a difference maker. Then, through the following year, they feel so much more confident and so much more ready for the programming they will be taking on," said Bird. He said the camps could provide a jumpstart on classes students may take in the fall,

boosting confidence.

The Career Exposure Summer Boot Camps started on July 3 and will end on July 14. Most camps were one week in length, allowing students to participate in more than one. Pembina Pipelines is hosting a wrap-up barbecue on July 13, where students can showcase some of what they've learned.

Hilltop High School principal Brent Northcott was at the school throughout both weeks and said what kept bringing him back, year after year, was seeing the joy on kids' faces. "They are here giving up two weeks of their summer vacation, but they are learning and are learning deeply. They enjoy what they are doing, and they are interested in it. You can see the results quickly."

Unlike a classroom, Northcott said the camps' approach gave students an "immersed" experience. "Students are in the program for a whole week at a time instead of one class per day, so they get a much richer experience in terms of what that career looks like." He said

they've had several students fulfill their interests, including students in welding, mechanics, and cosmetology, after experiencing a camp.

"This year, we've also added Calm and Phys ed for students that do not like Phys ed. We have 19 kids taking it, and they will fulfill their high school requirements in two weeks and not have to worry about it again," explained Northcott.

Since the camps began in 2016, students have flocked to them. Even during the pandemic, at least 80 young people did online learning during their summer holidays. Typically, they see between 175 and 200 kids. If the 50 youth who bussed in are removed from the total participants, and if the number was lowered slightly to account for students taking part in both weeks, that means roughly thirty percent of Hilltop's student population chose to stay in school into July. "No one is forcing them to be here, and they are here making great products and doing great things, and that's why I keep coming back every year."



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| Bunions                       | Corns & Callouses | Diabetic Foot Care |
| Fungal Toenails               | Flatfoot          | Forefoot Pain      |
| Heel Pain                     | Hammertoes        | Ingrown Toenails   |
| Prescription Custom Orthotics | Warts             |                    |



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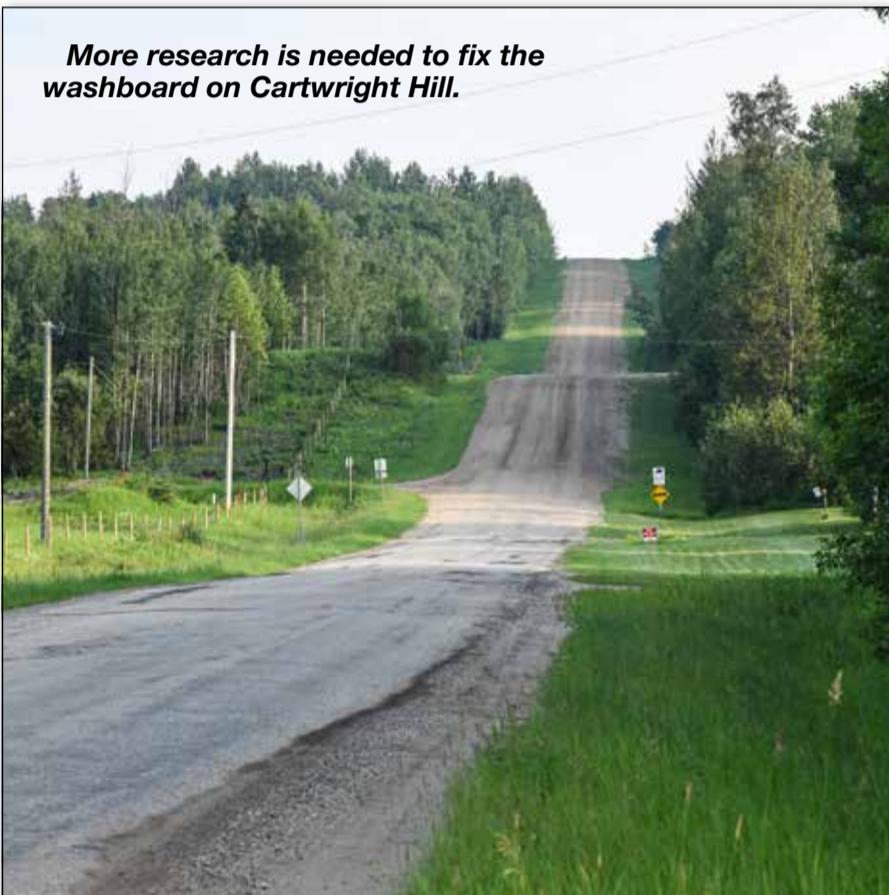


As we are spending more time outdoors in the summer season, let's not forget to follow our sun smart guidelines: protect your skin by covering up, avoid peak hours of sun exposure, and apply sunscreen.

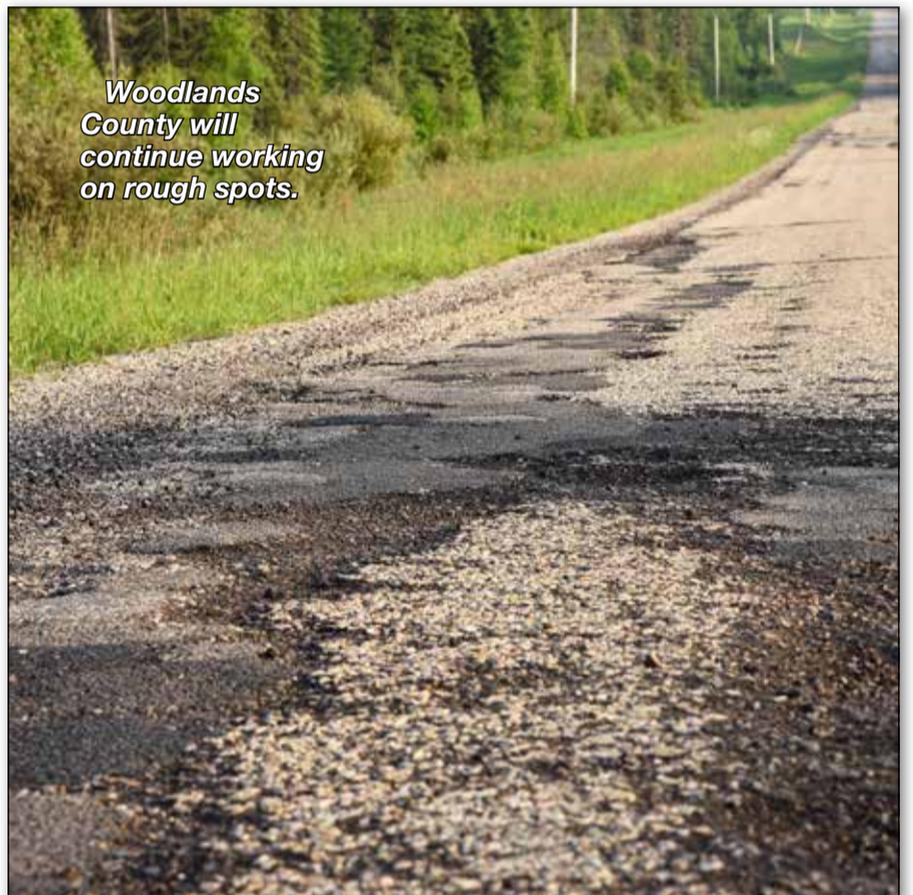
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## Product testing on County roads

More research is needed to fix the washboard on Cartwright Hill.



Woodlands County will continue working on rough spots.



The roads in Woodlands County need special care and consistent upkeep. Staff regularly try products and techniques to handle issues. Gravelock and Geoweb are two products currently being used around the County. At a recent meeting, Council learned how things are going.

By Serena Lapointe

Over the last few years, Woodlands County staff have tried several products while doing road work. At a recent Woodlands County Council meeting, Andre Bachand, Director of Infrastructure Services, provided an overview of two products. The first was called Geoweb. "It's a nylon material. If you look at it head-on, it looks like a net; however, it's ten to fifteen centimetres thick, and it gets spread out and filled with gravel or sand and is used to bridge over very soft areas," he explained.

He said the cells of the product work independently while at the same time supporting the surrounding cells. "We used it in three locations, and the results

were excellent. We will be using that material in the future where the conditions warrant that," said Bachand.

The second product was Gravelock, a liquid mixed with water. "It is applied to gravel where it is not as soft as where we would use the Geoweb, but it's more of a surface issue. It's mixed into gravel, spread out and rolled, and it can be reworked. We used it in three locations. Two, it worked well, and one, not so well. The product needs clay to show its strength. The one area where it did not work, there wasn't much clay." He said one of the "by-products" of Gravelock was that it acts as a dust suppressant.

Bachand said they had used Gravelock on

RR 120 and said it did well. "We did use it on one road where it did not work so good, and that was on Cartwright Hill (Tower Rd), but, again, it's a product that we will be using in a few locations this year on some of the hills on Range Road 121 and a couple of other spots." He said there isn't enough clay to use Gravelock, and the area doesn't work for Geoweb. "At this point, we are looking for other products that we might be able to use. Cartwright Hill has been an issue forever."

When asked how the determination was made that the products were working, Bachand said it was pretty straightforward. "We know the condition of the road before, how severely it rutted.

Once the Geoweb was applied, we haven't seen any rutting at all. That's pretty easy to quantify and determine that the product is working."

For the Gravelock, Bachand said they continue to monitor treated areas. Some distinctions they are making include whether the product is keeping the surface material together and if they can rehabilitate it, and how well it holds up. He said they would treat an area, grade the road, and see if the surface material holds its strength and if the dust is kept down.

Councillor Burrows asked about signage near areas treated with either of the two products to inform residents about it. "The signs went up, and then they came down, and then

they went up, and now they are down again. I would think that with a product that costs this much," paused Burrows, gathering his thoughts. "One of the best feedbacks that we get is from residents. Over a period of time, they are going to forget where it is. We might have it in our GIS, but we need that feedback. If a product is supposed to last for three years, then the signs should stay up for three years. If a product is supposed to last for 30 years, they should stay up for thirty years for that test section." Burrows felt that residents would know best if a product worked because they drive the roads and know the area.

Reeve Kusch agreed and wondered if a policy needed to be creat-

ed to ensure the signs stayed up. Bachand said it wasn't specified how long the signs would remain. "I know the Gravelock signs, I believe, are still up. The Geoweb signs, I would say it was an oversight. When they did the construction, they were removed. If Council's wish is that signs stay up for the life of the product, that's doable."

Councillor Kuelken said signs would give residents the knowledge they need to provide feedback, enabling them as Council to understand better the life cycles, cost, and value of the products. Bachand said Administration had received four calls from residents about the Geoweb but that most

continued on page 9

continued from page 8

were to ask what it was and what staff were doing. "Since it's been there, I don't recall getting any calls on it from the public." He added that he wasn't aware of any calls about the Gravelock test section.

The Geoweb is expected to last 20-25 years. Gravelock, being a newer product, doesn't have the same history of use behind it. "I believe there are some sites in Alberta that have had this for roughly five years but talking to the suppliers, they estimate an 8-10 year lifespan," said Bachand.

One area in the County that has proved tricky received attention from Councillor Wilhelm. "With regard to RR 120, I will give Administration props. The condition of 120 has gotten a lot better in the last couple of years. I do find still that section, where you are leaving Mountain Road East or entering Mountain Road East, still ruts up pretty bad, and I think it's because it's



Councillor John Burrows motioned to get signs put back up.

a hilled section where people have to accelerate into the hill or decelerate coming out of the hill. Would putting Geoweb into that section solve that issue?"

Bachand said that Geoweb would not

work there. "We did put Gravelock there, and it did improve it, but because the acceleration right off the asphalt and with people slowing down, it's not rutting, but it is getting washboard. As far

as resolving that on a gravel road, it's pretty tough."

Councillor Burrows motioned to send the conversation of signage for product testing sites to an upcoming Governance and Priorities

Committee meeting. "I think there's a really good opportunity here to get some good feedback. We've even talked about having a smart tag on the corner of the sign so you can walk up, and it'll take you to

a page where you can give feedback. If you ask for feedback, you'll get it. I don't think we've been asking for it and don't think we've been advertising it very well." The motion passed.

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# Paddling back in time 200 years to celebrate history, honour culture and explore the beauty of the Athabasca River



Brigadiers moments from takeoff



The bridge made a nice backdrop for the boats.

The second-oldest fur trading fort in Alberta, Fort Assiniboine, celebrated its 200 birthday over the weekend. A group of paddlers, over 170 strong, used the Athabasca River to reach the celebrations by voyageur canoe. They kicked off the journey in Whitecourt on Friday morning following a delicious pancake breakfast.

By Serena Lapointe

The 2023 Fort Assiniboine Bicentennial Voyageur Canoe Brigade kicked off the first leg of the trip on Friday morning at Riverboat Park in Whitecourt. Over a dozen canoes filled with excited participants slowly entered the water and got into formation on the McLeod River, a stone's throw from where it flows into the Athabasca River.

Before the journey began, paddlers and the ground crew supporting them sat down in the pavilion at Riverboat Park for a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Town of Whitecourt. Staff and volunteers worked alongside Mama Gray's Kitchen staff to feed over 200, including paddlers, the ground crew and the public that came to see them off.

Dan Moore, Chair of the 2023 Fort As-

siniboine Bicentennial Voyageur Canoe Brigade, has been brigading since 2016. He said getting on a boat with a group is a great way to learn from and about others. "It's a highly social affair. People who like to learn from other people or learn about other people and talk to people about different experiences, this is the group to do it with. Being in these big boats, you have nowhere to go once in the water, so you must get along with people and function as a team. There's a lot of camaraderie and a lot of laughs."

Moore said people had travelled from as far as Victoria, BC and Spokane, Washington, and throughout Western Canada. "It's a diverse group of people from all walks of life. There are 200 people involved and about 178 people on the boats."

Given the recent

flooding and the debris collected along the river, Moore said safety was even more critical. "This is a sanctioned event through the society. We are required to have a safety plan and communication devices like satellite phones and radios. We are lucky that we have a local councillor with Woodlands County (Councillor Kuelken) that has a jet boat, and he's patrolling the river for us and letting us know where we should be and shouldn't be. Safety is paramount."

Moore said seeing the public come out and attend the barbecue and get involved in Fort Assiniboine is fantastic. "One of the purposes of these brigades is to share knowledge regarding culture, history, and the communities. Many communities in this part of

continued on page 11



Dressed the part and ready to go.



Rory was by far the cutest member of the brigade.



A big crowd for breakfast.



Having fun paddling through history.

continued from page 10

the world came about because of the fur trade and trade on the river. These brigades were part of the fur trade 200 years ago. Fort Assiniboine started as a Hudson's Bay Company fort. That trade and the people 200 years ago in these types of boats helped build the communities that we live in today."

Deputy Mayor Derek Schlosser spoke before the send-off and brought greetings from the Town of Whitecourt. "The rivers have always had a significant part in our existence here; of course, as everyone knows, since humans were here, the rivers played a really important part in terms of trade, survival, and fresh water. The name Sagitawah means where the rivers meet,

so that's what Whitecourt is based upon. Not only do the rivers have historical significance, but they also have power, which we were reminded of the last couple of weeks of how powerful the rivers can be," said Schlosser, speaking of the recent floodings.

"This whole watershed area in Whitecourt and up the Athabasca that you guys are going to experience is quite the thing." Schlosser thanked Woodlands County for being part of the day too. "Things in our region tend to happen because we have a great partnership." Moore presented Schlosser with a hand-crafted birch box made by a brigade participant.

Moore then echoed Schlosser's comment about water being powerful, letting visitors

know how bad things had been recently. "Where we are standing right now, a few weeks ago, was underwater. This whole parking lot and the whole area was underwater, and the road over here was full of a bunch of logs and debris. For a little while there, we were a bit worried about what the infrastructure was like and if it suffered, but obviously, it came out of it looking pretty good. It was a great cleanup job by the Town crews."

Moore then introduced TJ Gladstone, the Nakota Sioux First Nation principal and Indigenous Education Facilitator with Parkland School Division. As Gladstone approached the mic, fifteen students followed her. "I'm really honoured

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#### A look at the local weather

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



**Wed., July 12**  
Chance of a shower  
30%  
23°C  
13°C  
SE 11 km/h  
<1mm



**Thu., July 13**  
Mainly sunny  
20%  
25°C  
14°C  
SE 12 km/h  
-



**Fri., July 14**  
Chance of a shower  
40%  
25°C  
14°C  
SE 14 km/h  
~1mm



**Sat., July 15**  
Mainly sunny  
70%  
26°C  
14°C  
N 3 km/h  
~10mm



**Sun., July 16**  
Rain  
70%  
22°C  
13°C  
E 3 km/h  
10-15mm



## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

### Now Hiring Security Guard Supervisor NOC 62029

**Responsibilities:**

- Co-ordinate, assign and review the work of security guards and other service workers not elsewhere classified
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition of supplies and materials
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Monitor quality and production levels
- May perform the same duties as workers supervised.
- Arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Assist clients/guests with special needs
- Co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Ensure smooth operation of computer equipment and machinery
- Establish work schedules and procedures
- Handle emergency situations
- Monitor quality and production levels
- Prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Requisition or order materials, equipment, and supplies
- Resolve work-related problems
- Supervise the operation of mechanical equipment and machinery
- Supervise, co-ordinate and schedule (and possibly review) activities of workers
- Train staff/workers in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies.

**Qualifications:**

- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is usually required.
- Certification or licensing AGLC.
- Must be able to complete Smart training course
- Must have a valid driver's license class 5
- Must be able to complete AML.

**Experience:** 2 – 3 years.

**Education:** Completion of secondary school an asset.

**Terms of Employment:** Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.

**Language:** English

**Employment Conditions:** Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

**Wage:** \$20.77 per hour.

**Benefits Package:** Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.

**Location:** Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.

**Address:** Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3

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## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Casino Shift Manager NOC 62022

**Responsibilities:**

- Co-ordinate, assign and review the work of casino workers
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition of supplies and materials
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- May perform the same duties as workers supervised
- Perform the same duties as workers supervised
- Assist clients/guests with special needs
- Co-ordinate, assign and review work
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition materials and supplies
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports.

**Qualifications:**

- Completion of secondary school is usually required.
- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is usually required.
- AGLC casino gaming license will be required.
- Must be able complete Smart training courses
- AML certificate

**Experience:** 3 – 5 years.

**Education:** Completion of secondary school is required, casino gaming license.

**Terms of Employment:** Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.

**Language:** English

**Employment Conditions:** Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

**Wage:** \$23.08 per hour.

**Benefits Package:** Vision, Dental, and Health after a 90-day probation period.

**Location:** Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.

**Address:** Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3.

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Please visit [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) for all employment opportunities and details on how to apply.

continued from page 11

to be here. This is only my second brigade, but I fell in love with the brigading community and what they stand for and how they come together. As a principal of a school, I wanted to share this experience with our students. We have cross-sectorial students from Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Slave Lake, Fox Creek, Onoway and Edmonton."

Gladstone helped the children recite a prayer moments before paddlers were set to leave. "Our kids are going to lead us in their school prayer, that they say every morning, in the Nakota Sioux language." Following a smudging ceremony,

Gladstone and her students walked down to the boat launch, put on their life jackets, and joined the brigade for what would surely be the adventure of a lifetime. A cute pup named Rory hitched a ride on one of their two canoes, sitting at the back with Gladstone.

Voyageurs left Whitecourt en route for Blue Ridge, where they stayed the night at the Recreation Area. After breakfast Saturday morning, the group took off for Fort Assiniboine, where they helped celebrate Fort Assiniboine's Bicentennial event, celebrating 200 years of history. Those interested in joining a future brigade event can visit [www.voyageurbrigade.org](http://www.voyageurbrigade.org).

# Back to reality: Alberta's exports remain elevated, but down from last year's post-invasion highs

By ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team

As a major seller of crude oil and natural gas to the United States, the value of Alberta's international exports are affected by swings in the prices of these commodities.

Last spring and summer, energy prices spiked in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and so did the value of Alberta's international exports.

Alberta's international merchandise exports were 85% higher in May 2022 than in May 2021, going from \$10.1 billion to \$18.7 billion.

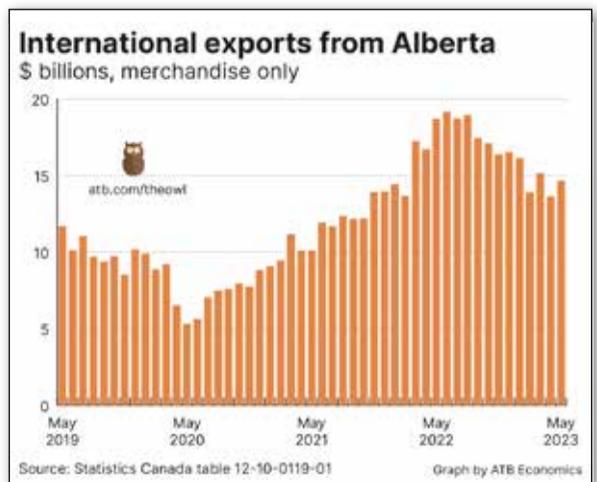
The value of Alberta's energy exports went up by 116% (\$7.9 billion) over the same

period.

Fast forward to May 2023, we see that Alberta's monthly exports were down by 21% (\$4.0 billion) compared to the previous May largely due to lower prices for oil and natural gas.

Energy product exports in May 2023 were higher than two years earlier, but down by 25% (\$3.7 billion) compared to May 2022.

This year-over-year pattern will, barring new energy price spikes, continue to prevail over the rest of the summer and fall as monthly export revenues come in lower vis-à-vis the sharp increases experienced last year.



## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

### Now Hiring Surveillance Supervisor NOC 62029

**Responsibilities:**

- Completes routine surveillance of the gaming floor identifying potential problems, such as poor game protection, suspicious individuals, and acting as a support unit to other departments in relation to the protection of company assets.
- Maintains accurate logs of all procedure violations or completing reviews of all material that is pertinent to site operations.
- Always maintain awareness of gaming operation and comply with security policies and procedures to secure company assets.
- This position requires the ability to communicate clearly, deal tactfully and work effectively with Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza, staff, and management.
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work.
- Monitor quality and production levels.
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports
- May perform the same duties as workers supervised.
- Handle emergency situations.
- Monitor quality and production levels.

**Qualifications:**

- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Completion of secondary school is usually required.
- Possesses detailed knowledge of casino table games, slots, poker policies, cash/slot cage, and count room policies and procedures.
- For this position you will be required to sit for long periods with computer monitors.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is usually required.
- Certification or licensing AGLC.
- Must be able to complete Smart training course
- Must have a valid driver's license class 5
- Must be able to complete AML.

**Experience:** 2 – 3 years.  
**Education:** Completion of secondary school an asset.  
**Terms of Employment:** Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.  
**Language:** English  
**Employment Conditions:** Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.  
**Wage:** \$20.77 per hour.  
**Benefits Package:** Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.  
**Location:** Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.  
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## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

### Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

**Responsibilities:**

- Greet customers
- Receive and process payments by cash, cheque, credit card, or automatic debit
- Provide information to customers
- Calculate foreign currency exchange
- Calculate total payments received at end of work shift and reconcile with total sales
- Verify the age of customers when selling lottery tickets, alcohol or tobacco products
- Operate cash register
- Process money, cheques, and credit/debit card payments
- Scan Items
- Tabulate total payment for goods or services required
- Receive payment for goods or services
- Calculate daily/shift payments received and reconcile them with total sales
- Suggestive selling
- Provide excellent customer service
- Assist customers with self-service items
- Participate in promotional activities

**Qualifications:**

- Some secondary school education is usually required. High school graduation may be required by some employers.
- Eligibility for bonding may be required.
- A casino gaming license may be required for cashiers working in gambling casinos.
- Must be able to complete Smart training courses
- Must be able to complete AML

**Experience:** 2 – 3 years, or we will train.  
**Education:** Some post-secondary, high school may require.  
**Terms of Employment:** Permanent full-time 40-hour work week.  
**Language:** English  
**Employment Conditions:** Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.  
**Wage:** \$15.00 per hour.  
**Benefits Package:** Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.  
**Location:** Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.  
**Address:** Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3  
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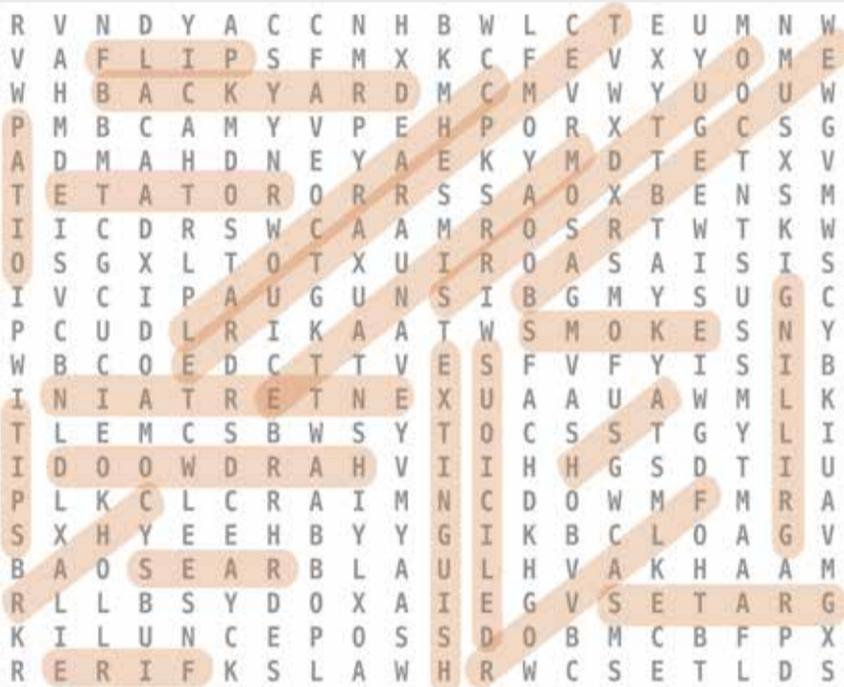
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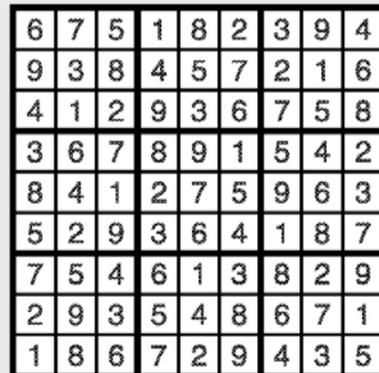
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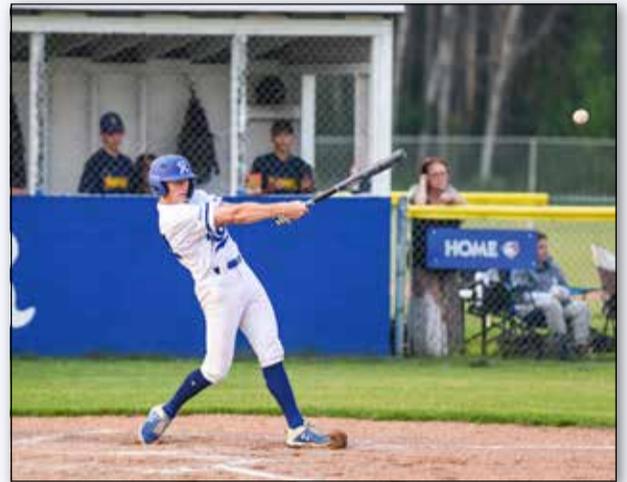
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### WOMBANIA™



by PETER MARINACCI



**The U18AA Royals took on the Edson Prospects on Wednesday evening at home in front of local fans at Graham Acres. The Prospects took an early lead, scoring four runs in the first three innings, but the Royals stayed with it, working hard to get back on track. Carter Strebchuk pitches nearly flawlessly in the second inning, sending strike after strike from his hand down to the catcher's glove. The U18AA Royals have a weekend blitz at home coming up in mid-July, with teams coming into Whitecourt for the action.**

### NOTICE OF DECISION

The following development permits have been conditionally approved under the provisions of the Land Use Bylaw

PERMIT	LOCATION	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	DATE OF DECISION	APPEAL DEADLINE
15-040-2023	PT SE 10-59-12-W5M Lot 9 Block 1 Plan 042-5710	Accessory Building: cold storage/ machine shed	5-July-23	26-July-23
15-041-2023	PT SW 19-59-11-W5M	Accessory Building: salt & sand shed	5-July-23	26-July-23

Any person affected by this decision may appeal to the Secretary of the Development Appeal Board by forwarding a written appeal along with a \$500.00 fee, to the address listed below, prior to **4:30 p.m. of the appeal date noted above.**

Attention: Peter McKay, Development Officer  
Woodlands County  
Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3  
Telephone: 780-778-8400  
Toll-Free: 1-888-870-6315

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring at the address noted.

### DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

The Municipal Planning Commission will be making a decision on the following development permit application as per the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw, at their regular meeting on **Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Whitecourt Municipal Office**, downstairs.

Section 19 of the 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](mailto:planning@woodlands.ab.ca) prior to **12:00 noon, July 19, 2023** or you may attend the meeting to voice any comments.

Comments received will be taken into consideration by the Municipal Planning Commission.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER	PROPOSAL
PT. SE 13-59-13-W5M Lot 10 Block 1 Plan 942-1248	15-043-2023	Secondary Suite within existing shop

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **12:00 noon, July 19, 2023.**

Attention: Peter McKay, Development Officer  
[peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca)

Woodlands County  
Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3  
Telephone: 780-778-8400  
Toll-Free: 1-888-870-6315



**DAVE KUSCH**  
Reeve  
Councillor for Area/area  
Division 1  
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Phone: 780-778-5337



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Central Division 3  
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Phone: 780-778-0834



**JEREMY WILHELM**  
Councillor for  
Whitecourt East Division 4  
[jeremy.wilhelm@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:jeremy.wilhelm@woodlands.ab.ca)  
Phone: 780-779-6554



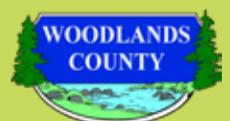
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