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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



The Press



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Vol. 12 - Issue 26 | Wednesday, June 28, 2023

MP Viersen updates Town Council on the Conservatives fight against carbon tax, inflation, and Bill C-21



Photo from MP Arnold Viersen's social media

MP Arnold Viersen and Whitecourt Town Council. (Missing: C. McAree). See story page 2.

Karson, the heart healer, support giver, and strength provider

By Serena Lapointe

The Eagle Tower Victims Services Society offers support and assistance to victims of crime during and after a crisis. A big piece of the puzzle comes in the form of a friendly black lab named Karson. Trained by the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, Karson can support a

wide range of people, regardless of age, ability/disability, or gender. The impact a dog can make while sitting next to a victim as they retell their account in court or an interview room is significant, especially for children. "Once victims go through court, he is such a comfort being on the stand with them, especially for

youth sexual assault. They basically look at Karson and answer the questions they need and don't really think of anything past that. He is a Godsend when it comes to that stuff," explained Crime Prevention Coordinator Tina Prodaniuk. "If you imagine an eight-year-

continued on page 3



Cpl Lajeunesse and Karson.



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MP Viersen updates Town Council on the Conservatives fight against carbon tax, inflation, and Bill C-21

By Serena Lapointe

During a recent meeting, MP Arnold Viersen provided a parliamentary update to Whitecourt Town Council. Viersen said the issue at the top of the list for the Conservative Party was the Carbon Tax. "The Carbon Tax continues to go up, and the government hopes to be able to triple it from where it is currently, so if you thought it was bad enough now, wait until it reaches the goal they are trying to achieve."

Viersen said the Conservatives had been fighting "tooth and nail" against it, calling it one of the primary drivers of inflation. He then turned to the Federal Budget, which had yet to pass at the time of his meeting with Town Council. "The government was prepositioning that it was going to be fiscal restraint. The Prime Minister said that the budget would balance itself, and we thought maybe this was the year that it would balance itself, but low and behold, it's a 43 billion dollar deficit projected and 60 billion dollars of new spending in this budget. Hardly the fiscal restraint that they were prepositioning. It is deficit spending, and we are all living and feeling the inflationary effects of all of that."

In a press release on June 5, Viersen said the Conservative Party attempted to stop the Liberal budget by tabling

904 amendments in the House of Commons and forcing over 600 recorded votes at Finance Committee. On June 8, despite pushback, the budget passed with 177 votes for and 146 against. The Liberals and NDP supported the budget, while the Conservatives and Bloc Quebecois did not.

Viersen then spoke about crime. "In 2018, the Liberal government changed the way the bail system works in this country. While us living in northern and rural Canada have been noting this and frustrated with the crime, this is now starting to affect every part and

corner of this country. Forty-three individuals in Vancouver were responsible for over 1100 incidents in Vancouver." He said the Catch & Release program introduced is "definitely not working."

Viersen said a new bill, Bill C-48, which aims to amend the Criminal code, should fool no one. "It will do nothing to stem the tide that we have. It is not really a bail reform. It adds reverse onus to a number of offences, mostly firearms offences." Reverse onus means the accused must show why they should be released instead of the prosecution proving

why someone should remain in custody. The bill focuses mainly on firearm offences and intimate partner violence offences. Viersen said repeat violent offenders in general, not just those listed in the bill, shouldn't receive bail by default. "They should be proving that they should be getting bail. That is a program that was in place prior to 2018, and it has been reversed. We are calling for jail, not bail."

Another bill Viersen focused on in his update was C-21. "It has now passed the House of Commons and is off to the Senate. It's continuing its

way through. The Liberals have walked back a big amendment that they had put in there that would have made a lot of rifles that people use for hunting illegal. They walked that back now, but they've basically been caught with their hand in the cookie jar. We know what they are about. They are fundamentally opposed to firearm ownership in this country and are doing whatever they can. They've taken a step back, but be assured that they will, when given the opportunity, they will try again," he explained.

Bill C-21 was introduced on May 30, 2022. As per www.canada.ca, the bill is "our country's most significant action on gun violence in a generation." It aims to strengthen rules to prevent gun violence by placing "responsible restrictions" on some guns used in the country. In May 2020, setting the stage for C-21, the Government of Canada prohibited over 1,500 "assault-style" firearms. The site explains, "these prohibited firearms are tactical and/or military-style design and function." C-21 also proposes a national freeze on the "sale, purchase and transfer" of handguns into law and addresses concerns over "mid-power replica air-guns."

Viersen called the bill the Liberals' "fix" to escalating crime. "If you take a grasp of the

violent crime in Canada, it's on a declining trend to 2015, and then it starts to peak up. But, in the last couple of years, it has seen exponential growth in violent crime. Their answer to this is C-21. They're saying, hey, there's increased violent crime; therefore, we have to take away the guns. It's not going to work. Even if they took all of the guns away, the vast majority of the firearms being used (for a crime) are illegal firearms."

Viersen said the Nova Scotia shooting was a prime example, saying it was done with "illegal firearms by a non-licensed gun owner. He didn't have a license to own firearms, let alone be in possession of them." Viersen said C-21 is to fix problems that "don't actually exist" because there are already laws in place. He said the topic has been a problem for the Liberals in their rural seats in parliament, saying, "They won't even let their rural guys speak to the committees."

At the meeting, Viersen thanked the Town of Whitecourt for its role in receiving hundreds of volunteers during the recent evacuations. "I've heard from many across Northern Alberta who are very grateful for the support Whitecourt has provided, Valleyview and Fox Creek residents in particular."



MP Arnold Viersen.

An update from Ottawa from MP Arnold Viersen was recently delivered in person. Viersen attended a Whitecourt Town Council meeting to share what the Conservative Party of Canada is fighting for and standing up against.

REMINDER TO ALL RATEPAYERS OF WOODLANDS COUNTY 2023 TAX NOTICES

Woodlands County mailed the 2023 tax notices on May 23, 2023. Payments are due **Friday, June 30, 2023**. Penalties will be applied on payments made after June 30th.

If you have not received your 2023 tax notice(s), please contact either Woodlands County office to request a copy.

County offices will be open from 8:15 am – 4:30 pm including the lunch hour from Monday, June 26 – Friday, June 30.

Woodlands County Municipal Office
#1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB
780-778-8400
1-888-870-6315

Woodlands County Regional Office
61053A Highway 33, Fort Assiniboine, AB
780-584-3866
1-866-584-3866

Gordon Frank, CLGM, Chief Administrative Officer



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Councillor for Anselmo
Division 1
dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-9337



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continued from page 1

old that has to tell their story in a sex assault case, Karson is typically there with them. He can help even debrief after in an interview room," she said.

"If somebody is coming to the detachment and they are reporting a crime, and they are having a hard time expressing it, because these are horrible stories that people are telling, sometimes him coming into the interview room or into the space, where they are talking to the victim, provides a night and day response," she added. "We've used him lots within our office."

Each day, Karson clocks into work at the Whitecourt RCMP detachment along with his handler, court liaison Suzanne Carlson. He has several beds to lounge in, including one massive one in his handler's office and several favourite toys to play with. "We've had Karson for a cou-

ple of years. He is an integral part of our unit. He stays at our office during the work day and goes home with her (Carlson) at night," said Prodaniuk.

Throughout the day, Karson goes where he is needed and has the complete run of the main detachment space. Often, he will sense that he is needed in a particular office and will go to it to offer support to the staff member, picking up on their emotional cues, whether visible or not. "When the officers have a bad day because there are lots of those, Karson will walk around and find the stress," explained Prodaniuk. "It's kind of interesting. He definitely is an aid for our office, and we use it for that. It's a wonderful thing."

For Cpl. Lajeunesse, Karson's presence at the detachment, brings peace. "He makes his rounds every morning, goes to every office, and nudges everybody. Some members give

him treats, and he goes straight to their offices first," he chuckled. "He's become part of the detachment. You'll be sitting here, and he will tap you with his nose, and you'll pet him a bit. It is a relaxing thing. We notice that people are more at ease."

With three dogs of his own at home, Cpl. Lajeunesse said he can't imagine a time when he won't have a dog. "They love you. And that's what Karson does with us. As soon as he comes in, he goes around and starts at one end and goes to the other. He gives extra love when needed." Whether he gives a nose bump or a rub, places his head on someone's leg, or wraps his paws around their feet while seated at their desk, Karson knows where he is needed and where his presence will do the most at that moment. "He seems to go to whoever needs help," said Cpl. Lajeunesse.

When a call to go out comes through, Kar-



Leaning on someone and giving them support.

The Whitecourt RCMP detachment has an extra special member on the team. Karson might not be able to drive a cruiser or respond on the radio, but what this pup lacks, he makes up for in his ability to make everyone smile, ease fears, and provide much-needed love and support.

son has a special spot in the hallway where he plants himself, awaiting the officers as they make their way toward the back door before hopping into their cruisers to meet an unknown scenario. "When the officers run out on a call, they tap him on the head for good luck before they go. It's just one of those things," said Prodaniuk.

Whether he is helping a young child as they recount a traumatic memory in court, calming someone in an interview space following a crime, or giving love to an officer after a

tough call, Karson is an asset beyond measure. "He could walk around this room and sit on someone's foot, and I would know that he has noticed something and that something is going on. It's a helpful tool to have. If we go to court, we don't have to tell him who the victim is; he finds them," explained Prodaniuk.

Eagle Tower's community fundraising helped pay for Karson and the ten-day training needed before he could come to Whitecourt. He is considered a Facility Support Dog Guide. Unlike other support dogs, who work with

one person regularly, Karson is trained to work with numerous people and has impacted both detachment members and residents in the municipality.

On March 29, Karson celebrated his fifth birthday. To follow Karson's adventures and learn more about him, check out Karson's Kareer on Facebook. There are regular posts about visits Karson makes in the community and his interactions with RCMP members and the general public. Information is also shared about Eagle Tower Victim Services and their work.



An eye-catching mural on a garage near the Whitecourt Post Office has brought a colourful element to the area. In the back alley, directly behind the Post Office, a once brown garage has been transformed into a vibrant purple with several flowers painted on the back and sides, including a gigantic sunflower. The project looks to still be in the works, with more designs expected to come. Keep your eye out for the mural next time you're in the area.



Karson on his big, comfy bed at the detachment.

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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**

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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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Wellspring Provides a Safe, Short Term, Supportive Residential Environment for Women With or Without Children, Fleeing Family Violence & Experiencing Crisis.

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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

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Public Notice

As part of Canfor's Whitecourt and Fox Creek 2023 Vegetation Management Program, we are proposing to apply glyphosate on cutblocks located within our Forest Management Area and timber licenses in the Whitecourt, Fox Creek, Fort Assiniboine, and Edson areas. A maximum of 4500 hectares are proposed for treatment throughout the following locations:

Township	Range	Meridian
50	10,11,12	W5M
51	10,11,12	W5M
53	11	W5M
58	13,14,16,17,21,25,26	W5M
59	11,13,14,15,16,17,18,22,23,25	W5M
60	12,13,14,15,17,18,22,23,25	W5M
61	12,13,14,15,16,18,19,21	W5M
62	15,18,19	W5M
63	6,7,9,21,22	W5M
64	6,7,8,9	W5M
65	6,7,14,15,16	W5M
66	6,7,8,14,15,16	W5M

This treatment, part of our forest renewal program, will temporarily control herbaceous, shrub and deciduous competition, to improve the growth and survival of tree seedlings and saplings.

Application of herbicides is scheduled to begin on or around August 15, 2023, pending approval from Alberta Forestry, Parks and Tourism. The planned completion date for the program is September 15, 2023.

For more information, please contact our Silviculture Supervisor at (780) 778-2221 Ext 2164, or Gareth.Carey@Canfor.com

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Addiction Helpline 1-866-332-2322

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Pembina West

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The Pembina West Co-op Board of Directors invites all members to attend our Annual General Meeting or Information Session.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

- Election of Directors
- Appointment of an auditor

MAYERTHORPE INFORMATION SESSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 27

6:30PM REGISTRATION

7:00PM CALL TO ORDER

MAYERTHORPE LEGION
5111 45 AVE
THIS SESSION IS INFORMATION ONLY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

6:30PM REGISTRATION

7:00PM CALL TO ORDER

BARRHEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD INN
CONFERENCE ROOM
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 28, 2023
10:00 AM

WOODLANDS COUNTY HQ
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WHITECOURT

RSVP TO MANAGER@GROWTHALBERTA.COM



**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?

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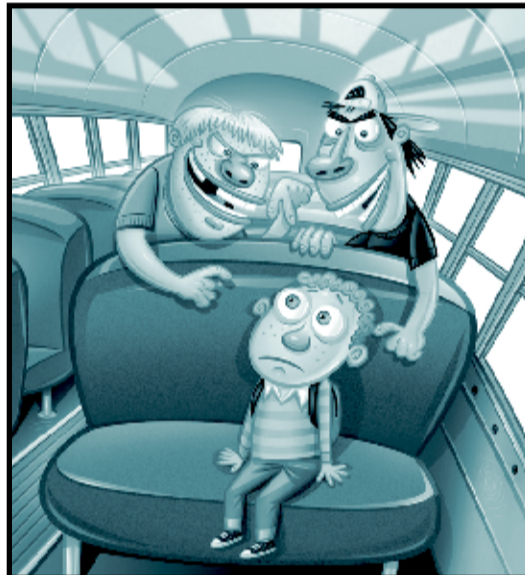


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.
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Putting a face on suicide



Kaleb Damion Knight

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4-Dec-1996 ... 24-Jun-2020

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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Bizeau, Sidney



Blain, Madeline



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Cartwright, Tayler



Chadd, Abbey



Chaisson, Andre



Charko, Grace



Clair, Amelia



Clark, Liam



Clusiau, Kayden



Eden, Donovan



Edmundson, Trey



Fairbairn, Kacy



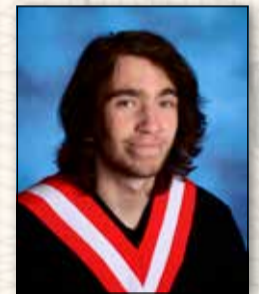
Fellows, Keegan



Fickell, Angel-Lee



Fowler, Kale



Gibbins, Will



Henault, Dawson



Hetherington, Gracie



Hill, Liam



House, Gale



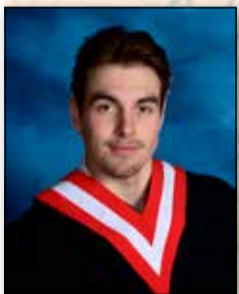
Husak, Ainslie



Johnston, Parker



Keough, Aden



Lewis, Deakin



Macdougall, Liam



Machuk, Ava



MacRitchie, Kenneth



Marin, Alexander



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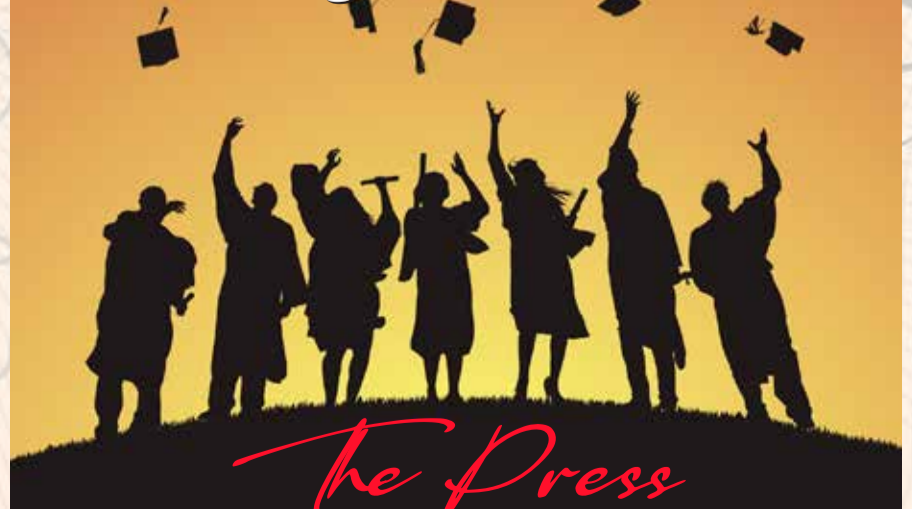


McDorman, Jordan

Congratulations Hilltop High School graduates of 2023! All the best in your future endeavours.



Congratulations Hilltop High School graduates of 2023



uates Hilltop High School



Bowman, Jesse



Bowman, Justin



Bradley, Cole



Brown, Sunshyne



Burke, Megan



Carlson, Logan



Carnell, Caleb



Coffee, Maggi



Cote, Emma



Cunningham, Stephanie



Davio, Megan



Day, Marcus



Delos Reyes, Hannah



Duchesne, Baylee



Goodings, Haily



Graham, Adria



Gray, Renee



Hamrin, Austin



Hay, Emily



Headington, Emma



Heidt, Dayton



Keyes, Ally



Klassen, Anna



Kostyk, Cambrie



Krog, Aspen



Lai, Kevin



Lang, Cassidy



Leighton, Caleb



McInnes, Brooke



McKennitt, Rylee



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Meier, Kyla



Mercer, Kylee



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Mihalus, Tessa

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2023

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Mosher, Ashleigh



Munro, Brynn



Nay, Lukus



Newton Robichaud, Gracie



Palisoc, Weiland



Phaneuf, Ashleigh



Philpott, Kasey



Pierson, Carson



Prystupa-Switzer, Kohin



Puddicombe, Simon



Rennie, Isabel



Ridland, Mikaila



Schar, Carter



Schwindt, Andun



Serne, Brady



Shuck, Jaelyn



Skrecek, Brooklyn



Skripitsky, Blane



Smith, Cali



Trudzik, Brandon



Trudzik, Tayla



Turple, Bradyn



Van Dyke, Tyson



Vandenhouten, Nik



VanderBurg, Ivy



Whitworth, Taylor

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2023!

Press on toward your goals with the knowledge and strength you have gained.



Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead

WHITECOURT



Well done all Hilltop School 2023 graduates!

Jacob Stoyles

Megan Davio

Tyler Birtles



Abbey Chadd

Brooklyn Skrecek

We are very proud of our employees with all their hard work and success.



Palmateer, Hayden



Pastoor, Jordyn



Paul, Cohen



Peach, Malachi



Pepper, Austin



Pepper, Logan



Perrin, Layla



Roberts, Ryan



Rodominski, Alexa



Romanchuk, Emma



Ruskowski, Alina



Sadoway, Aubree



Sanay, Kylie



Sawye, Koda



Sobremonde, Ralph



Stephan, Teagan



Stewart, Jessy



Stone, Braiden



Stoyles, Jacob



Tapp, Sean



Tremblay, Alex



Wilson, Holden



Wilson, Kailea



Wittmann, Carson



Wold, Tristan

No photo available:
Evarts, Gunnar
Long, Aiden
Miller, Jayden
Millett, Nate
Trigg, Lexie



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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
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- 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.

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Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca

How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax

Letter to the Editor policy

The Press welcomes readers to write letters to the Editor. A maximum of 300 words is preferred but not necessary. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. Please email letters to wctpress@telus.net.



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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.

Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca

How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax.

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Currently we have a management/sales opportunity at our Drumheller location. The candidate who fills this position would be responsible for all of aspects of the retail sales of that office as well as the efficient and profitable operations of that location.

Primary duties include sales and service of seed, fertilizer, and crop protection products as well as managing custom application. This individual would also be responsible for leading a small team of employees and managing plant operations.

Please email cover letter and resume to: Kneelj@telus.net

Closing date: July 15, 2023

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- **Job# 23-027**, AJMC Finance Clerk II, Permanent, Part-time Position.

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RFP 2023-04

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Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

Responsibilities:

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- 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

Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

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Traffic counts along the Highway 43 corridor see a drop in 2022

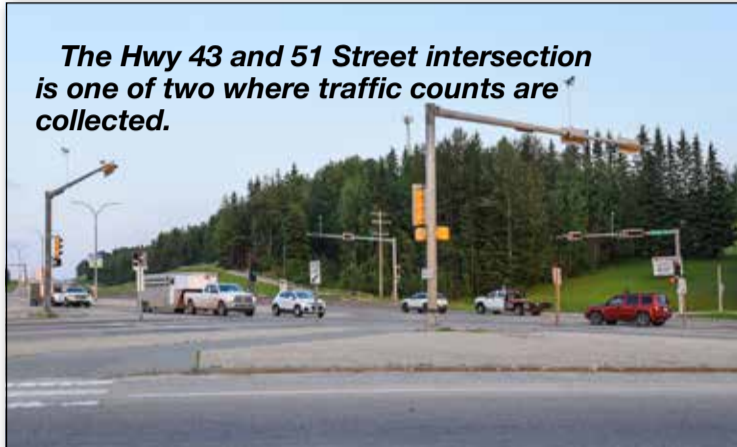
By Serena Lapointe

Whitecourt Town Council receives an annual presentation on collision incidents and recently looked over the data reported from 2022. The Collision Report shows trends and possible problem areas based on where incidents occur, when, and how often. Jennine Loberg, Director of Planning and Development, walked Council through the document.

She said the most significant increase in collisions occurred along the Highway 43 corridor. “We were up about 45 percent, which seems like a lot, but in looking at prior year trends, that is comparable to those reported prior to 2019.” Per the data, there were 42 collisions reported along the Highway 43 corridor last year. In 2021, there were 29 collisions. However, when looking back at the years before Covid, 2017 had 51 collisions along the corridor, 2018 had 45 and 2019 had 36, putting the 42 incidents in 2022 closer in line with trends from previous years.

The one factor that stands out on Highway 43 is the traffic count. The Town of Whitecourt uses traffic numbers collected by Alberta Transportation from two intersections, Highway 43/Dahl Drive and Highway 43/51 Street, to compile local traffic trends. A chart in the May 23 Council meeting package showed a fifteen percent decrease in traffic volume between 2021 and 2022.

The chart showed Westbound drivers at the 51 Street intersec-



The Hwy 43 and 51 Street intersection is one of two where traffic counts are collected.

Traffic trends and collision counts from 2022 are in. Whitecourt Town Council dissected the data at a recent meeting, looking at changes in driver frequency on the Highway 43 corridor and the types of incidents occurring most often.



Parking lot incidents rose in 2022.

tion on Highway 43 totalled 13,720 in 2021 and 11,660 in 2022, a difference of just over two thousand fewer drivers from one year to the next. However, the difference in traffic increases when comparing data further back. Using the same intersection above, there were 17,580 drivers in 2018, nearly six thousand more than in 2022.

When asked about it by Council, Loberg said she wasn't sure why Alberta Transportation's traffic counts were lower. “They did report it (the data) differently, but that is a good connection. There is a lower number of traffic, yet we are seeing a higher increase in collisions along the highway.” She said they would inquire into Alberta Transportation for further clarification. “We thought the counts looked low as well, but they seem to be low at all our intersections on Highway 43.”

A total of 183 collisions were reported last year, up ten from 2021. Compared to 2017, 2018, and 2019, incident numbers in 2022 are below average. The most considerable

increase in incidents was those on private parking lots. Fifty-five parking lot collisions were reported, making up 30 percent of the yearly total. Councillor Baker asked who was responsible for ensuring parking space lines were painted and updated, the private land owner or the municipality.

Mayor Pickard responded that Bylaw enforcement handles that issue, ensuring lines are visible. He added that in his experience, parking lot collisions are always an issue. “You go to Costco, and they have those super-sized parking spots, but as a business owner and you own a parking lot, you don't want to spend all your money on land for parking.”

Loberg said that since 2015, an amendment to Whitecourt's Land Use Bylaw requires more oversized parking stalls to accommodate larger truck traffic. “We do see the newer parking lots having fewer collisions than the older, smaller parking lots, but really we can only deal with those as new permits arise, so we work with property owners as they make changes to

their property to try and make betterments and improvements to mitigate incidents.”

The RCMP classifies collisions into five main groups: fatal, non-fatal injury, property damage reportable, property damage non-reportable, and failure to stop or remain at the scene. They also use an “unknown” category. In 2022, there were three fatal collisions, the highest reported in the Town's records. There are also seven key collision types. Those with increased numbers from 2021 include backing up, rear-ended, side-swiped, left turn across traffic, and object struck. Those that

decreased from 2021 were t-bones and hit-and-runs.

Of the 183 incidents in 2022, there were 22 non-fatal injuries, 119 reportable property damage incidents, 17 non-reportable property damage incidents, and two unknowns, all of which increased in number from the previous year. The only category to see a decrease was failure to stop or remain at the scene, which dropped from 49 in 2021 to 20 in 2022. On average, there were 15 collisions per month through 2022; December was the highest month, with 26 incidents, which is on par with other years.

Council unanimously voted to accept the information and forward the report to the Protective Services Committee and Alberta Transportation. The Protective Services Committee regularly makes recommendations to Council to help increase safety in the community. One of their most recent recommendations, which Council passed not too long ago, is the installation of Your Speed electronic signs at the south and north entrances to Whitecourt. The signs, which will be going up soon, are similar to those in school zones, which flash a driver's speed as they approach.



Many flower pots and baskets throughout downtown Whitecourt are in full bloom. This bright orange beauty stood tall on Thursday evening out front of the Registries office, in the flower bed near the intersection.

A look at the local weather

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

	Wed., June 28	Thu., June 29	Fri., June 30	Sat., July 01	Sun., July 02
	Mainly sunny	Risk of a thunderstorm	Risk of a thunderstorm	Chance of a shower	A Few showers
P.O.P.	20%	40%	40%	40%	60%
High	24°C	24°C	25°C	23°C	20°C
Low	13°C	14°C	14°C	12°C	12°C
Wind	SW 6 km/h	S 8 km/h	S 8 km/h	W 17 km/h	S 10 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	-	~1mm	~5mm	5-10mm	2-4mm



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Paying it forward:

The benefits of early-stage youth programs that encourage innovation, technology use and entrepreneurship

By ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team

There is little doubt that one of the many benefits of education is its correlation with increased economic success at both the individual and societal level.

With that said, it can be difficult to measure the effects of specific educational interventions aimed at increasing things like innovation and entrepreneurship.

To help address this shortfall, a recent study* was conducted to measure whether exposure to youth STEM programs improved outcomes.

The programming in question is the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition** and the support offered through initiatives such as MindFuel's Technology Futures Challenge (formerly known as geekStarter).

A longitudinal analysis of Alberta participants in the iGEM competition since 2007 found that:

- study participants identified key learnings such as "walking away with valuable skills in team management, communication, and critical thinking devel-

opment" that were applied in various ways in their future endeavours;

- the early exposure to synthetic biology innovation helped students better prepare for careers, with about 40% of participants continuing to use molecular biology skills in their current roles;

- respondents have also used their biotechnology skills to become problem-solvers and innovators with two in three reporting being part of a team that has created an innovation in their careers;

- along with being entrepreneurs and technologists more than 20% or study participants had started companies speaking to the innovative mindset created by the programs.

"Overall, the results of the study indicate a positive impact in the short term and long term for students who are mentored in innovation, have access to skills learning and training, and who are challenged to ideate through problem solving. These youth indicate they are "better prepared" for careers in critical thinking, in-

novation and new technology creation."

The study suggests that purposeful exposure to thoughtful STEM programming is not just a good idea in theory but can also work well in practice.

There is more to learn about the benefits. The study highlights that more investigation is warranted; namely, looking more closely at commercial, innovation, academic and social outcomes.

This is not the only study that has attempted to measure the impacts of STEM youth programs. In the US, a study published by the National Bureau for Economic Research performed a randomized controlled trial of students enrolled in STEM summer programs and compared them to a control group. It found that participants of the STEM programs were more likely to enroll and remain enrolled in college in their senior year and graduate from STEM fields relative to the control group.

For more information about the study, please contact Dan Semmens, SVP & Head, Data & AI, ATB Financial.

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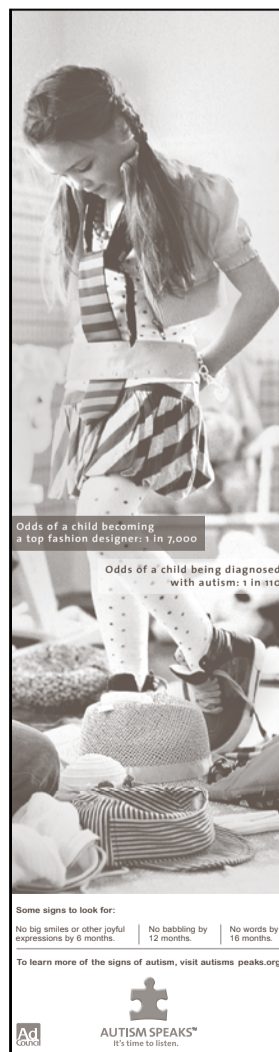
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NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 23-057: 3301 35 Street – Discretionary Use – Retail General – Refused.

Application 23-059: 12 King Court – Discretionary Use – Home Occupation: Piano Lessons – Approved with conditions.

Date of Decisions: June 22, 2023 **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** July 13, 2023

An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$300) to the Office of the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, Town of Whitecourt Administration Building, Box 509, Whitecourt, Alberta, T7S 1N6 prior to 4:00pm on the above noted date. Any person(s) affected by the said proposal(s), has the right to appeal prior to the above date.

The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY

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