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*The Press*

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



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Vol. 12 - Issue 30 | Wednesday, July 26, 2023

## Local hero becomes third Canadian firefighter to perish during record-breaking fire season & his family needs help

By Serena Lapointe

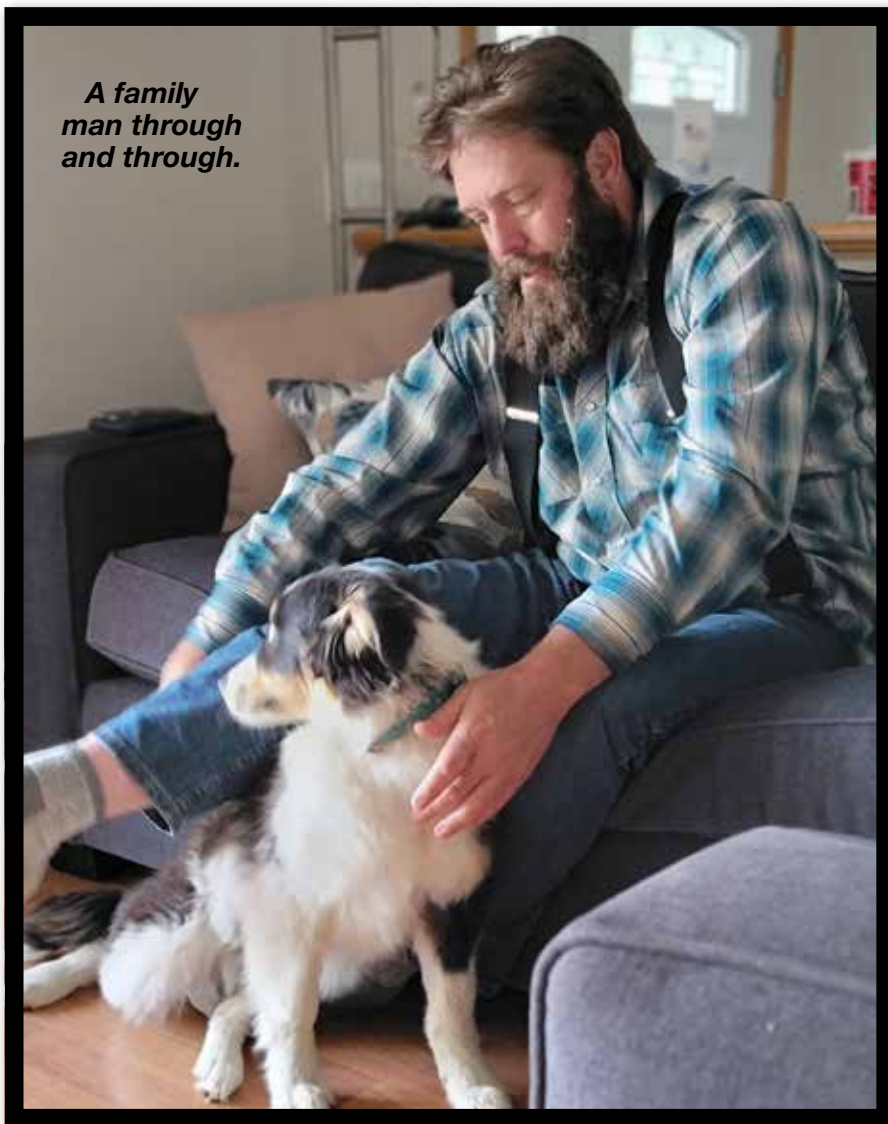
When an emergency happens and alarms are sounding, men and women across this great nation answer the call by hopping into action in the service of others. Being a firefighter, whether in a communi-

ty or the bush, is a dangerous profession, but that doesn't stop any of them from kissing their loved ones goodbye, putting on their gear, and heading out to do their part to save the masses.

Dangers are every-

where, and no one would deny that firefighters have more than their fair share on their plates with long, ever-changing days. The men and women who train, work hard and

continued on page 7



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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.

For all open career opportunities, please check out our website at [albertanewsprint.com](http://albertanewsprint.com) → Careers.

# A mixed bag: Crop prices ease while cattle prices set records

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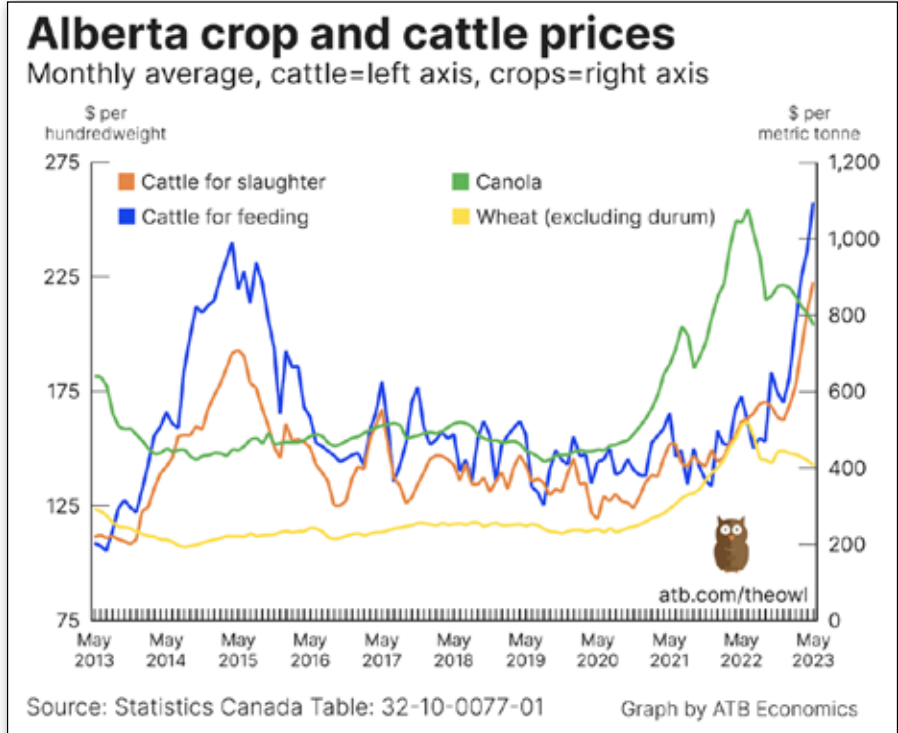
**NOTICE OF DECISION**

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

- Application 23-069: Discretionary Use Retail – General – 4703 52 Avenue – Approved with conditions.
- Application 23-073: Discretionary Use – Commercial – School – 5012 Caxton Street W – Approved with conditions.
- Application 23-074: Discretionary Use Oil and Gas – Services and Support – 5012 Caxton Street W – Approved with conditions.
- Application 23-076: Discretionary Use Commercial – School – 5012 Caxton Street W – Approved with conditions.
- Application 23-079: Discretionary Use Home Occupation – Sale of Custom Made Cookies – 14 Kreiner Crescent – Approved with conditions.

**Date of Decision(s):** July 13, 2023      **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** August 3, 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.



**By ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team**

The prices farmers and ranchers receive for their crops and animals are just one link in an often long chain between primary production and the food we purchase from grocery stores and restaurants.

Prices at the start of the chain, however, still have an impact on the retail end, so it is good news for consumers (less so for farmers) that major crop prices in Alberta (and around the world) have been on a downward trend from the highs seen last year.

Wheat prices in Alberta were 21% lower in May than 12 months earlier while canola prices were down by 26%. Barley prices have not come down as much, but were still

2% below where they were in May 2022. Lower prices for these crops were also the norm in the other provinces.

It takes time for recent prices to work their way through the food production system, and wheat, canola and barley are only slices of a much larger food pie, but the downward trend will reduce at least some of the upward pressure on food prices. (The year-over-year inflation rate for food purchased from grocery stores and restaurants in Canada was running at 8.3% in June.)

Working in the opposite direction is the collapse of the deal that was allowing for the safe shipment of Ukrainian grain via the Black Sea that was in

place since last summer. Russia let the deal expire a few days ago and already global wheat and corn prices have spiked. If the deal remains off, the downward trend in crop prices noted above is likely to reverse in the months ahead.

It's a different story for cattle with North American prices reaching record highs in May due to smaller herds and robust demand.

In Alberta, the price of cattle for slaughter and cattle for feeding was 38% and 49% higher, respectively, in May 2023 than the year before. In keeping with this upward trend, year-over-year beef prices at Alberta grocery stores were 13% higher in June and are poised to keep rising in the months ahead.



# Keep carbon monoxide safety top of mind

(NC) Carbon monoxide, commonly known as CO, is a colourless, odourless gas, and it can cause serious injury or even death. To help protect you and your family against this “silent killer,” here are some important safety tips to follow.

**Know the CO basics.** Carbon monoxide can be emitted by fuel-burning appliances, such as ovens, furnaces and boilers, and it is impossible to detect without a working CO alarm. Take extra caution during colder months as more use of home heating systems may heighten the risk of a CO leak.

**Be aware of the warning signs.** Symptoms of CO poisoning can include headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, chest pain and vomiting, mimicking those of the



common cold or the flu. If you suddenly experience any of these symptoms, exit the building and call 911 immediately.

**Know what to do in a power outage.** If power goes out, portable generators must only be used outside, at

least seven metres from the home. Never use them inside the home, in a garage or in any confined area that can allow CO to collect. Additionally, be careful to always follow operating instructions closely.

**Install alarms.** Fire and home safety ex-

perts from the National Fire Protection Association recommend installing CO alarms, like the First Alert Plug-In CO Alarm with battery back-up, on every floor of your home, including the basement. They should be in or near every sleeping area to ensure your whole home

is protected. Remember to test your CO alarms regularly and, if using battery-powered alarms, replace the batteries at least every six months.

**Have fuel-burning appliances inspected regularly.** Arrange for an annual profes-

sional inspection of all fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, clothes dryers and water heaters to help prevent a possible CO leak in your home.

Learn more CO safety tips and browse carbon monoxide alarms at [firstalert.ca](http://firstalert.ca).



## Do You Suffer from Foot or Ankle Pain?

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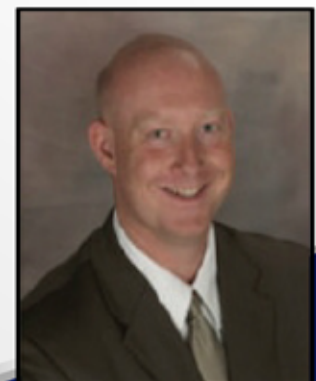
**Phone: 587-328-0743  
Fax: 1-888-289-2162**

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# Stop bullying!

Wednesday, July 26, 2023  
www.whitecourtpress.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**

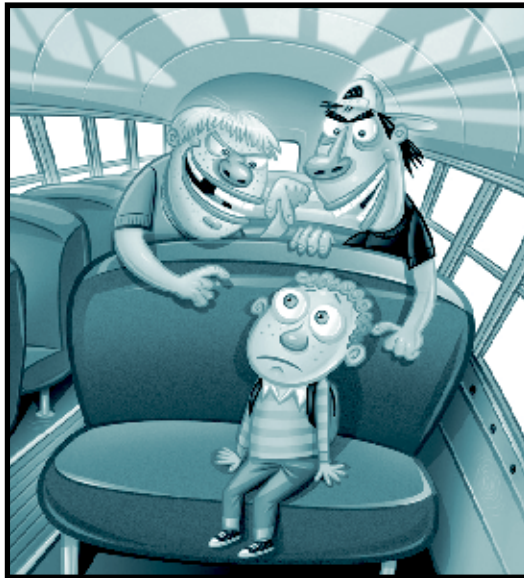
## Have you been bullied, and want to share your story?

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



### 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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## Soaring Eagle Support Society

Offering support services for marginalized individuals

- Outreach worker, laundry and shower facilities by appt
- 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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### Shelter:

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

### Outreach Support Program:

Ongoing Support, Advocacy, Follow-Up & Support Groups for Women, Men and Youth in Whitecourt and Surrounding Communities.

### 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

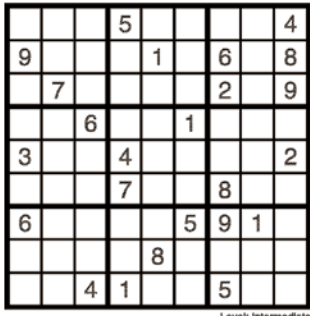
- Monday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Wednesday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Friday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

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



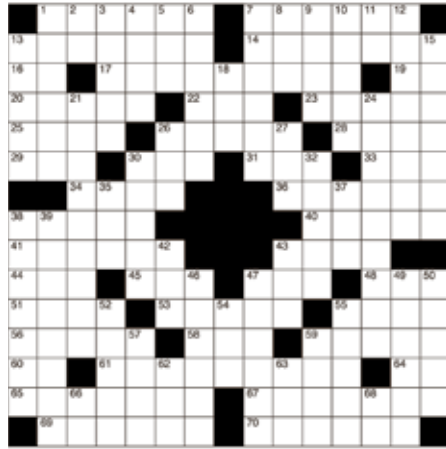
SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 13

# SUDOKU CROSSWORDS



Fun By The Numbers

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



**Here's How It Works:**

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

## Crossword Clues

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Commoner
- 5. Tea leaf
- 11. They save you a table
- 14. Submissions
- 15. Secretly revealed
- 18. Personification of the sea (Norse)
- 19. Unreal
- 21. No seats available
- 23. Bangladeshi currency
- 24. Leaders
- 28. Famed garden
- 29. Denotes past
- 30. Not living
- 32. Midway between south and southeast
- 33. Small island (British)
- 35. Woman (French)
- 36. Wife
- 39. Two-toed sloth
- 41. Blood group
- 42. Soaks
- 44. Biu-Mandara language of Cameroon
- 46. Japanese prefecture
- 47. Place to be during a

- rock concert
- 49. Fully grown humans
- 52. Emaciation
- 56. Sparkling
- 58. Fruits you peel
- 60. Derived from a noun
- 62. Popular items to grill
- 63. Port in Yemen

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Before
- 2. Actress Dunham
- 3. This (Spanish)
- 4. Director Peter
- 5. Dominant
- 6. English artists' society (abbr.)
- 7. NY Giants legend
- 8. It's in the ground
- 9. No No No
- 10. Pesky insect
- 12. Danish-American muckraking journalist
- 13. Kids love to do it
- 16. Good Gosh!
- 17. Fakes
- 20. A citizen of Denmark
- 22. Mystic syllable
- 25. Commercial
- 26. Letter of the Hebrew

- alphabet
- 27. Helpers
- 29. Water (French)
- 31. Young woman
- 34. Red-brown sea bream
- 36. Messenger
- ribonucleic acid
- 37. Comprehends
- 38. Walk with confidence
- 40. Home of the Flyers
- 43. Appetizer
- 45. News organization
- 48. Source of the Nile
- 50. A way to march
- 51. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 53. Egyptian bull-god
- 54. Children's author Blyton
- 55. Baseball pitching stat
- 57. Rude young person
- 58. Table napkin
- 59. Monetary unit in Asia
- 61. One-time AL MVP Vaughn



## COMMUNITY PAPER WORD SEARCH

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

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

**WORDS**

- ADVERTISEMENT
- ARTICLES
- CLASSIFIEDS
- COMMUNITY
- DELIVERY
- EDITOR
- EXPOSURE

**FEATURE**

- INFORMATION
- JOURNALIST
- LEARN
- LOCAL
- NEWS
- NEWSPAPER
- ONLINE

**OPINION**

- PAGES
- PRINTED
- READING
- REGIONAL
- REPORT
- RESOURCE
- SUBSCRIPTION
- TABLOID

Staff at The Brick Whitecourt held a fundraiser on Friday and Saturday. Both days featured a free BBQ with fresh hot dogs cooked up right outside the front door. Friday's line was long enough to sell out all the hot dogs requiring staff to go out and get more, happily. A lemonade stand was set up on Friday, and Diana with Stardust Designs offered face paintings on Saturday. Every dollar raised in the two-day event was donated to the Children's Miracle Network. The network supports the children's hospital closest to fundraisers that take place. For those who contributed to The Brick Whitecourt's fundraiser, every donation went to the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation. A long list of generous community businesses joined the fundraiser by donating items for the basket draws. Great job, everyone!



Continued from page 1

become firefighters know the risk behind the job they've chosen, and they are typically a proud bunch, as they should be.

Since the early fire season began, 11.4 million hectares have been burned across Canada thanks to 4358 fires, per the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre website. Parks Canada saw nearly five million hectares of land ignite with 57 fires within Canadian park borders. Some provinces saw disastrous land assault from fires, including Quebec, where 4.7 million hectares burned, the most of all provinces. In Alberta, where numerous communities faced evacuations leaving thousands of residents finding temporary homes, over 1.7

million hectares were torched from 758 fires, the second-highest fire total. British Columbia, which continues to be ravaged, has had over 1,200 fires, the most Canada-wide, with over 1.4 million hectares burned as of Friday, July 21.

Using historical data from the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre site, 2023 is the worst year on record for total area burned since recording began in 1980. The next closest year is 1995, when 7.1 million hectares burned. Given that 11.4 hectares is the current number and is expected to only grow over the coming weeks, this year's fire season will be off the charts.

Without the men and women across the country and those who graciously joined the fight from outside Can-

ada, these fires would have done even more damage than they already have. Communities that were spared the flames thanks to countless hours of work by front-line workers might not have survived. Those on the front lines are heroes. They risk everything they have to keep others safe, leaving their own families and homes behind to do it. Getting to go home after a shift is something everyone wants, but sadly, not everyone gets to do that.

On July 13, 19-year-old Devyn Gale was tragically killed when a tree pinned her while brush clearing by a fire outside of Revelstoke, BC, near where she grew up. She was the first wildland firefighter to be killed in BC in nearly a decade. Two days later, on Saturday,

July 15, Adam Yeadon, 25, was killed while battling the flames in Fort Liard, his community in the Northwest Territories, 37 kilometres north of the BC border. The young man was a father to a young daughter and was a loving partner.

Four days later, the loss of another hero hit much closer to home as a family man, born and raised in Whitecourt, working tirelessly to support the wildfire effort in northwestern Alberta, became the third life taken. On July 19, 2023, Ryan Gould, 41, was providing air support on a wildfire near Haig Lake, by Peace River, when his Bell 205A helicopter was reported missing. A short time later, the crash site was discovered, and Gould, the lone occupant, had sadly passed.

A father to two young

boys, aged seven and nine, and a husband of nearly fourteen years to his beautiful bride Carlyn, Gould is an unspeakable loss for his family. He was a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a co-worker, and a friend.

Gould had dedicated much of his life, the last twenty years, to being a firefighter and defending life and property from wildfires. Like many who devote their lives to the field, Gould gave up countless hours of memory-making time with his loved ones so that he could help people he would never meet. Gould is described by those who knew and loved him as a big guy with a big heart and was nicknamed "Panda" by his co-workers. His humour and bright blue eyes will never be forgotten, forever re-

maining as a memory in their hearts.

Born in Whitecourt in 1982, Gould had recently purchased a farm south of the community for his young family to lay its roots. To say his family is unprepared for his loss is an understatement. Without Gould, the family risks losing the farm they call home. A Give Send Go fundraiser was created by Kassidy Goodyer, with all funds raised going to Ryan's wife, Carlyn. The fundraiser is titled "Support for Ryan Gould's Family" and can be quickly found by typing the title into the Give Send Go main page search. A celebration of life will be held on August 5 at 1 pm at Anselmo Hall. All are welcome to attend. The Whitecourt Press wishes to express its deepest sympathies to the families of those lost.



Ryan leaves behind his wife and two young sons.



Ryan standing by his helicopter.

In the last two weeks, three Canadian firefighters have lost their lives in the fight to push back against the flames. The most recent death, a local father and husband, has the Whitecourt area reeling from the loss and seeking ways to support the family in their time of great need.

### NOTICE OF DECISION

#### NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 15-039-2023

Location: PT NW 9-59-11-W5M Lot 3 Block 1 Plan 922-0929  
Proposed Development: Transport Contractor Business (minor): Max: 2 trucks & trailers  
Decision: Approved with conditions  
Decision Date: July 19, 2023  
Appeal Deadline: August 9, 2023, 4:30 pm

#### NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 15-043-2023

Location: PT SE 13-59-13-W5M Lot 10 Block 1 Plan 942-1248  
Proposed Development: Secondary Suite: Addition to Existing Garage/Office  
Decision: Approved with conditions  
Decision Date: July 19, 2023  
Appeal Deadline: August 9, 2023, 4:30 pm

For full details on Development Permits visit <https://woodlands.ab.ca/> Email: [planning@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:planning@woodlands.ab.ca) Call: 1-888-870-6315



**DAVE KUSCH**  
Councillor for Area 1  
Division 1  
dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca  
Phone: 780-778-5337



**JOHN BURROWS**  
Councillor for Whitecourt West  
Division 2  
john.burrows@woodlands.ab.ca  
Phone: 780-708-4747



**ALAN DEANE**  
Councillor for Whitecourt  
Central Division 3  
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**JEREMY WILHELM**  
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**PETER KUELKEN**  
Councillor for Goose Lake/  
Friesen River Division 6  
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Phone: 780-264-2425

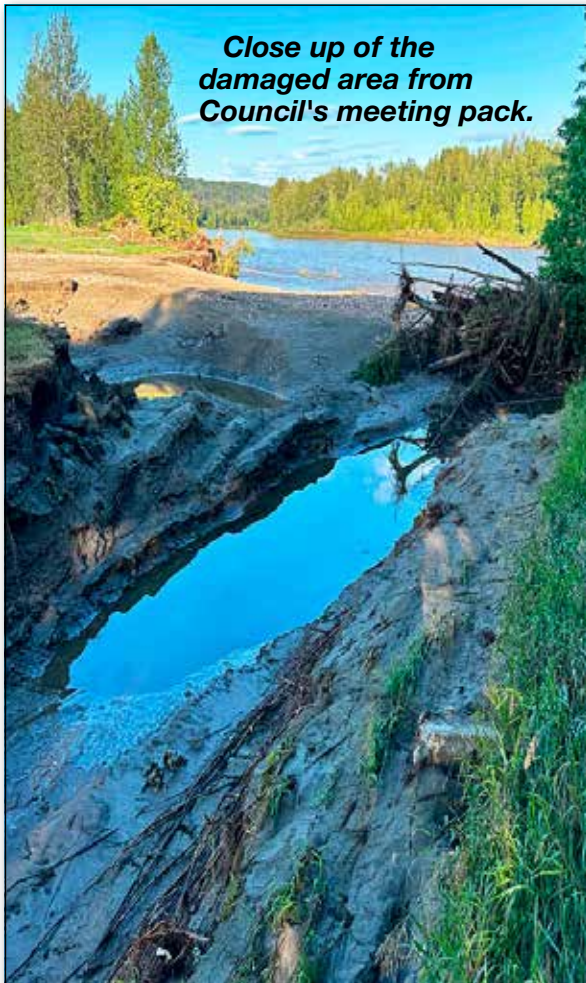


**DEVIN WILLIAMS**  
Councillor for Fort Assiniboine/  
Timber Division 7  
devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca  
Phone: 780-305-1825





# A hard no to give as Woodlands County Council turns down an impossible request



Close up of the damaged area from Council's meeting pack.



A aerial shot of the damaged bank from the agenda package.

**A hard vote took place at a recent Woodlands County Council meeting. Councillors were faced with a request from a landowner that suffered a tremendous loss on the riverside of their property during the recent flooding.**

By Serena Lapointe

A homeowner in Woodlands County, who suffered significant damage and loss along their riverside property during the recent flooding, sent a letter requesting help restoring the eroded portion of the riverbank. At the July 19 Woodlands County Council meeting, the landowner's letter and request were shared with Council.

Andre Bachand, Director of Infrastructure Services, explained that the riverbank portion the landowner sought help rebuilding was on private property. He said the County had obtained a legal opinion. He stated that the municipality is not responsible for "reestablishing land or legal access when a river or water body changes direction."

He said the portion eroded included approximately 65 metres of the homeowner's driveway. "The County did obtain emergency approval to reconstruct the roadway.

Given that the new riverbank is not identifiable at this time, we are constructing the road far enough to give them an approach to their property. However, the approach will not meet the guidelines of a twenty-metre setback from the property pin because there just isn't enough property there," explained Bachand.

He further explained that the setback would be, at best, two metres from the pin. "If the County was to reconstruct the bank as requested, we would be required to obtain the engineered drawings, get all the provincial approvals, apply to the province, hopefully, get approval to do the work, and the work to reestablish the bank would be well in excess of a million dollars."

Bachand noted that Woodlands County had applied for the Province's Disaster Recovery Program. If approved, private property owners would have the option to apply to the Province for help

mitigating the costs of flood damage and the subsequent repairs that are needed on their private properties. He said whether the Province would fund a bank reestablishment or protection would be identified then.

Two pictures included in the meeting's agenda package showed Council the immense erosion that took place. "The driveway is no longer there. The end of the road is no longer there," said Bachand. Administration recommended the Council deny the request to restore the bank and advise the property owner to file a claim if and when the government of Alberta approves the County's application to the Disaster Recovery Program.

Councillor Alan Deane asked for more information on the provincial program Bachand had spoken of. "Just so I understand the process, a resident can not apply for disaster relief funding unless the municipality

has already applied and has been approved?"

Bachand said if/when the Province of Alberta approves the County's disaster claim, it confirms that a disaster occurred and then allows private property owners to apply for support too. The County must be approved first, as step one in the process.

Bachand explained that Woodlands County crews would be repairing the damage to the roadway and that the road would extend roughly "eight or nine metres past the property

line so that we can give them an approach." He said the property owner could make a road on their own property to access their land from the newly created road. "They can build their driveway from there."

CAO Gordon Frank clarified that the County was not obligated to do so. "We are putting an approach to their property line, and they have to build to that point if they want. We have no legal obligation. However, we felt there was enough there to build the road to that point."

Councillor Peter Kuelken motioned to deny the claim, as recommended by Administration. After accepting his motion, Reeve Dave Kusch commented that it's a tough decision, adding, "This is where we're at."

With a motion on the table, Councillor Kuelken asked what would happen now that the river had changed.

"Is this now, because the river has changed direction, going to become an ongoing issue, and how would that be dealt with?" Bachand said it would likely cause future concern. "Our assessment is that given that the bank, as it's been eroded, comes to an abrupt end right at that corner, it's likely going to cause issues down the road."

Reeve Dave Kusch asked for more information on what would be done to protect the road. "With the dis-

cussion that the water is probably going to cause issues in the future, do we have a plan or any action that we are looking at to remediate that, to maintain our roadway?" Bachand explained that they plan to armour the end of the roadway and that any area that would affect the County's road allowance would also be armoured.

Councillor Deane asked if Administration had had the chance to speak with the landowner, given the letter was dated July 14. Bachand said he had not spoken to the property owners since the request was sent. "I did advise him the County was going to build an approach, and they would be required to construct a driveway at their cost. We did discuss the riverbank and that it would be expensive for the County and that once the Province declares a disaster, they would be eligible to apply (for funding) at that point."

Councillor Jeremy Wilhelm asked if there was a timeline for completing the approach. Bachand explained that it was weather dependent because the material there turns into "soup" when wet. He said the homeowners have temporary road access through the road allowance and hoped to get in to start working as soon as possible. The vote to deny the request was unanimous.



**Councillor Jeremy Wilhelm wondered how long the approach would take to build.**





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### A look at the local weather

	<b>Wed., July 26</b>	<b>Thu., July 27</b>	<b>Fri., July 28</b>	<b>Sat., July 29</b>	<b>Sun., July 30</b>
P.O.P.	Chance of a shower	Cloudy	Risk of a thunderstorm	Mix of sun and clouds	Risk of thunderstorms
High	40%	40%	60%	30%	60%
Low	19°C	18°C	20°C	21°C	22°C
Wind	12°C	11°C	12°C	12°C	13°C
24-Hr Rain / Snow	W 29 km/h <1mm	E 17 km/h ~5mm	N 6 km/h ~1mm	NW 12 km/h 1-3mm	NE 7 km/h 5-10mm





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## Simple precautions reduce risk of West Nile virus infection

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is reminding Albertans to take precautions to protect themselves against West Nile virus infection.

Some mosquitoes carry West Nile virus, so it's best to avoid being bitten at all. Whenever participating in outdoor activities, or even just relaxing outside, Albertans can minimize the risk of bites and protect themselves from West Nile virus by taking the following steps:

- Wear a long-sleeved, light-coloured shirt, pants and a hat.
- Consider staying indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use a Health Can-

ada-approved insect repellent (e.g., products containing DEET or Icaridin) and follow the product label instructions.

- When considering using products containing DEET:
- For infants younger than six months old, do not use an insect repellent containing DEET. Instead, use a mosquito net when babies are outdoors in a crib or stroller, and try not to be outside when insect activity is high.
- For children six months to two years old, use insect repellent only when there's a high risk of insect bites that can spread infections and diseases. Do not use

more than once a day.

- For children over two years old, you can use insect repellent up to three times a day.
- Wash off DEET with soap and water once back inside and away from the mosquito area.
- Sunscreen and insect repellent can be used together, but sunscreen should go on first.
- For more information on insect repellents, visit Personal Insect repellents - Canada.ca

After being bitten by a mosquito carrying West Nile virus, people can develop West Nile non-neurological syndrome (formerly known as West Nile fe-

ver) or the more serious West Nile neurological syndrome. Symptoms of non-neurological syndrome can include fever, chills, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, skin rash, swollen glands and headache. For people who develop neurological syndrome, symptoms can be more severe, and include tremors, drowsiness, confusion, swallowing problems, high fever, unconsciousness, paralysis and even death.

The first evidence of West Nile virus in Alberta was confirmed in 2003. From 2003 to 2021, 541 cases of West Nile virus were confirmed in Alberta, many of which were acquired here in the province and not travel-related.

Of all these cases, 460 were non-neurological syndrome.

Albertans can learn more about West Nile virus and ways to keep safe by visiting [www.fightthebite.info](http://www.fightthebite.info) or calling Health Link at 811.



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Odds of a child becoming a top fashion designer: 1 in 7,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 10

Some signs to look for:

- No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months
- No babbling by 12 months
- No words by 18 months

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)

AUTISM SPEAKS® IT'S TIME TO LISTEN.



### Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

#### Now Hiring Executive Chef NOC 6321

**Responsibilities:**

- Plan and direct food preparation and cooking banquets and specialty functions.
- Plan menus and ensure food meets quality standards
- Estimate food requirements and may estimate food and labour costs
- Supervise activities of sous-chefs, specialist chefs, cooks
- Arrange for equipment purchases and repairs
- Recruit and hire staff
- May prepare and cook food on a regular basis or for special guests or functions.

**Qualification:**

- Post Secondary diploma in Business Management, Culinary Arts, or Hospitality
- 3-5 years of supervisory or management experience in the Hospitality or Restaurant industry.
- Ability to provide leadership and communicate with all staff members.
- Ability to compute basic mathematical calculations.
- Knowledge of proper sanitation procedures and food safety guidelines.
- Understanding of food handling and sanitation standards.
- Understanding of restaurant operational procedures.
- Effective decision-making skills.

- Demonstrate new cooking techniques for and new equipment to the cooking staff
- Prepare and cook complete meals or specialty food, such as pastries, sauces, soups, salads, vegetables, meats, poultry, and fish dishes. Create and decorate food displays for special events such as banquets.
- Instruct cooks in the preparation, cooking garnishing, and presentation of food.
- Maintain records of food costs, consumption, sales, and inventory
- Analyze operating costs and other data

- Ability to acquire and maintain relationships e.g., associates, customers, and vendors.
- Positive communication and interpersonal skills.
- Positive attitude and a consistent display of professionalism.
- Innovative, detail-oriented, and quality conscious.
- Ability to endure abundant physical movements in carrying out job duties.
- Demonstrated ability to lead and direct a team.
- Ability to respond quickly in a dynamic and changing environment
- Knowledge of cost analysis, fiscal management, and budgeting techniques as an asset

**Education:** Post-secondary in business management, Culinary Arts or Hospitality **Experience:** 5 years or more

**Terms of Employment:** Permanent full-time, 44-hour work week **Language:** English

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

**Wage:** \$70,000 - 80,000 depending on experience.

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

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

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

**Contact:** 780-779-2727 or fax 780-706-7451 **Visit our website:** [www.eaglerivercasino.ca](http://www.eaglerivercasino.ca)

**How to apply:** Send your resume to [HR@eaglerivercasino.ca](mailto:HR@eaglerivercasino.ca), mail or fax.

## Whitecourt Town Council update

The Whitecourt Communities in Bloom Committee will be offering graffiti removal kits at a discounted price to community members. The Committee has investigated and tested different removal kits, and will be offering two different kits (one for sensitive surfaces and another for brick/stone/masonry) for \$20 at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. Those that purchase a kit will be asked to provide before and after photos so that success of the initiative can be tracked. For further information, visit [www.whitecourt.ca/play/communities-in-bloom](http://www.whitecourt.ca/play/communities-in-bloom).

Whitecourt Town Council received a quarterly financial report at the July 17 Regular Meeting. Council also had the opportunity to review the 2023 Project List that is available for viewing on [town. Whitecourt Town Council has awarded the Automated Traffic Enforcement \(ATE\) Contract to Conducent Business Services Canada Inc. for a three-year term, with a two-year option for extension. The current contract is set to expire in October 2023, and a request for proposals process was completed. The purpose of ATE is to facilitate the safe flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic resulting in safer roadways throughout Whitecourt. Since having ATE in Whitecourt, collision rates have decreased by 6% and injury collision rates have fallen by 15.4%.](http://www.whitecourt.ca/your-</a></p>
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July 25 has been declared by Whitecourt Town Council as World Drowning Prevention Day 2023. Drowning has caused 2.5 million deaths in the last decade, and the day helps to raise awareness on drowning as a public issue.



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## 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.

**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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## 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

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

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## 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.

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

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One Canadian Dollar = 0.75 US Dollar  
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Dollar Values as of July 26, 2023

**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](mailto:wctpress@telus.net).

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If you enjoy a fast-paced, progressive work environment and you have a passion for serving the local community- then this may be the opportunity for you! We believe that our values of diversity, collaboration, innovation and mutual respect bring out the best in our team, and we are currently looking to fill the following positions:

- **Job#: 23-029**, Guest Services Associate I, Part-time, Casual Position.

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





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# Woodlands County Council discussed the following items at their recent meeting of Council:

Bylaw 603/23 – Water and Sewer Bylaw was adopted. The full bylaw can be viewed on the Woodlands County website. The following rates will apply on the effective dates listed below:

Effective Date	Water			Sewer		
	Flat Fee (monthly)	Residential Consumption	Commercial Consumption	Flat Fee (monthly)	Residential Consumption	Commercial Consumption
September 1, 2023	\$25.00	\$2.00/m3	\$2.05/m3	\$25.00	\$2.00/m3	\$2.05/m3
January 1, 2024	\$30.00	\$2.15/m3	\$2.25/m3	\$30.00	\$2.15/m3	\$2.25/m3
January 1, 2025	\$35.00	\$2.30/m3	\$2.40/m3	\$35.00	\$2.30/m3	\$2.40/m3
January 1, 2026	\$40.00	\$2.45/m3	\$2.55/m3	\$40.00	\$2.45/m3	\$2.55/m3

Effective Date	Bulk Water	Ag Fill
September 1, 2023	\$8.00/m3	\$3.00/m3
January 1, 2024	\$9.00/m3	\$3.50/m3
January 1, 2025	\$10.00/m3	\$4.00/m3
January 1, 2026	\$11.00/m3	\$4.50/m3

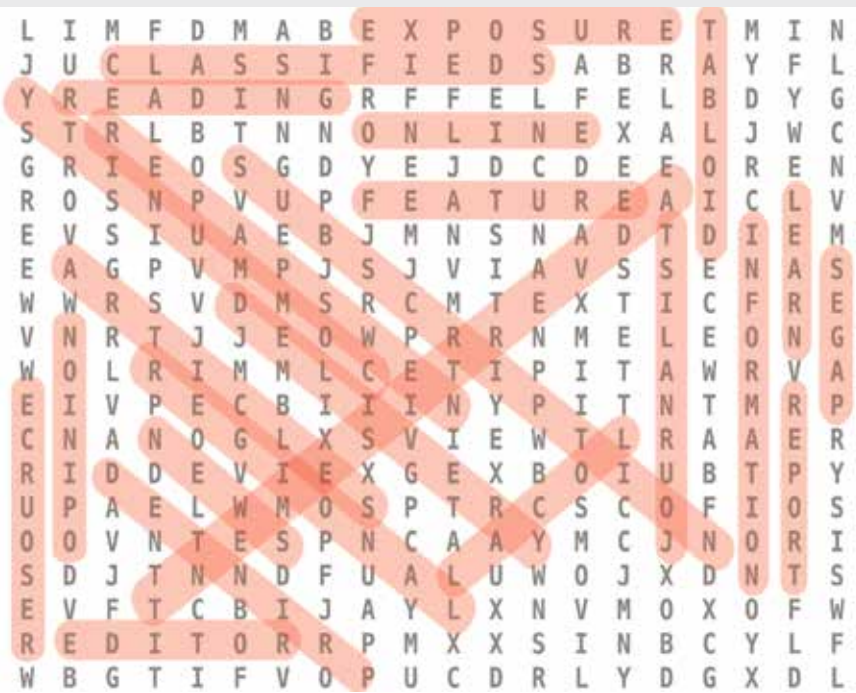
That the minimum invoice for bulk water and Ag fill be \$20.00

Woodlands County continues to support residents impacted by the flooding. Tax penalties were waived for the affected property owners with outstanding 2023 taxes. Free landfill access to the Whitecourt Regional

Landfill was also extended to September 5 for residents removing debris and damage caused by the flooding. The next scheduled Council meeting is on Wednesday, August 16, 9:30 am. The meet-

ing will be held in-person at the Regional Office in Fort Assiniboine and streamed on the Woodlands County YouTube channel. Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County CivicWeb Portal.

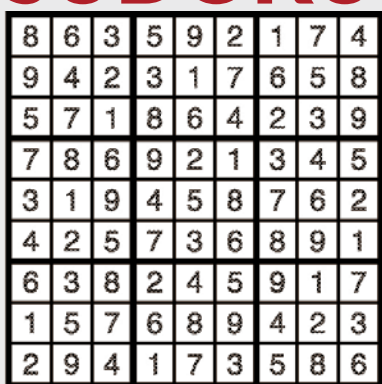
## PUZZLES SOLUTIONS WORD SEARCH



## CROSSWORDS



## SUDOKU



Whitecourt Taekwondo held a Fight Camp for all ages and levels from July 20 to 23. The camp ran from 10-5 pm and taught participants about Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Mixed Martial Arts, Taekwondo, and Muay Thai. Instruction provided included Olympic medalist Shelly Vettese-Baert. Children hit the mats on July 20 and 21, followed by teens and adults on July 22 and 23. On Saturday, July 22, the Press popped into the Whitecourt Taekwondo gym to see how participants were doing. A Taekwondo class was underway just after lunch, and the group was working on their high kicks. Great heights were reached as athletes worked hard to improve their abilities.





# Woodlands County Council votes for relief for residents affected by recent flood waters



*The view of the McLeod River on Old Ferry Loop is different now as the river is much closer to the road.*



*Damage along the river bank*

**Over 300 property owners in Woodlands County suffered flood-related damage during the recent high water events. Wanting to bring relief within their powers, Woodlands County Council recently passed two motions to give affected homeowners a break.**

**By Serena Lapointe**

At a recent Woodlands County Council meeting, elected officials discussed how best to offer help to landowners who suffered damage in the recent flooding. Councillor Alan Deane, whose home was one of those severely affected by floods, stated his pecuniary interest and left the room for both agenda items relating to

flood relief.

The first item involved offering a tax break to residents who hadn't paid their 2023 property taxes yet. Victoria Chan, Director of Corporate Services, explained that there were 329 affected properties from the high waters and that 49 had outstanding taxes—the amount from the 49 combined to \$68,000.

She said Adminis-

tration recommended Council waive the first tax penalty that came into effect after June 30. Homeowners would have until August 31, 2023, to pay their outstanding taxes without penalty. Chan explained that over 85 percent of affected property owners had already paid their 2023 property taxes. She said the tax penalty revenue they would forgo is about \$4,000.

Councillor Peter Kuelken asked why the recommended date was August 31 instead of the end of the calendar year. He thought Council had previously discussed extending the waived fees to December 31. Chan responded that Council could extend it as they wish. She explained that the first tax penalty is placed on outstanding accounts after the June 30 deadline, and the second is placed on September 1.

CAO Gordon Frank explained that since Council had already passed the Tax Rate Bylaw for 2023, they couldn't change it and add a third tax penalty for those who don't pay by the new proposed deadline of December 31, 2023. This would open the possibility for any of the 49 landowners with outstanding property tax bills to not pay until June 30, 2024, for their 2023

and 2024 property taxes. "You're forgiving taxes for a year, is basically what you're doing," he said.

Councillor Jeremy Wilhelm motioned to waive the six percent tax penalty in place since July 1 and to waive the second tax penalty, another six percent, that would have come into effect on September 1. Council voted in favour of waiving the two penalties. The cost to the County is roughly \$8,100.

Councillor John Burrows then brought up having an application-based program that would enable affected landowners who needed a financial break to apply to get their taxes back. Burrows wanted residents who had already paid their 2023 property taxes to have the option to apply to be temporarily refunded the cash to give them some "liquidity" while

dealing with flood-related costs.

"If you are a landowner and you made a lump sum payment, say I pay \$14,000 in taxes, and I gave you a check for \$14,000, and that's my tax bill. I could probably really use that \$14,000 in the flood to deal with stuff if I don't have insurance or I've been covering other expenses. I could really use that money," explained Burrows, using himself as a hypothetical example.

He felt that offering to refund paid 2023 taxes temporarily would "put everybody in the same boat" in terms of getting relief. He said that landowners who paid their taxes on time might not have done so if they knew they wouldn't incur a penalty for holding onto it during the flooding that took place shortly there-



**Massive erosion visible off a field on Township Rd 593A.**

**continued on page 15**



Opinion

continued from page 14

after. "It kind of turns us into a bit of a bank, but honestly, I don't know how else to do it in a way that helps people."

Frank explained that it was possible to do. "You're just lending their money back to them that they've already paid us. You can do it, but it just has to have an agreement that they are willing to pay that at such a time; otherwise, penalties get reapplied."

Councillor Bruce Prestidge brought up a current policy that involved property owners suffering a tragedy, like a burned home, and receiving \$1000 from the County. He wondered if the policy could work for the flood victims. Reeve Dave Kusch agreed and felt it might be a "cleaner way" instead of a refund. Administration explained that the policy, 6204-Relief Assistance for Catastrophic Events, is geared towards fires and the total or near loss of a person's personal belongings or home. Chan highlighted that giving out \$1000 to affected properties would amount to \$329,000 of non-payable grants, a significant cost for the County.

Burrows felt that applying for funds was better than an all-out refund or relief to everyone. He also thought it should be a standing policy since this was the second flood he'd seen in his six years on council. "Based on the way things are going, I don't think this it's going to be the last flood that Woodlands County is going to see. We should probably have something in our pocket that deals with this for a little bit of relief," he added.

Kuelken agreed that there needed to be a permanent policy for flooding and a reserve set aside for providing relief. "This discussion has really been good, and I'm glad that (Councillor) Burrows brought this to the forefront because I don't think we have a reserve fund at this point in time for a disaster, so I think that should be included in our policy tweak, and that would automatically go into our budget deliberations. I think this opens up a completely new responsibility for our council."

Councillor Kuelken motioned to have Administration bring back an updated disaster relief policy to include

flooding. Council will see the draft at their August meeting and decide how they want to move forward to provide further relief to affected residents.

The second item involved allowing affected property owners to use the landfill for free. Andre Bachand, Director of Infrastructure Services, said that since Council's vote to provide access took place in June, several bins had been put out for residents. He told Council that some bins that weren't being used were in the process of being removed. He added that they had received calls from property owners asking for more time to use the landfill without cost.

"Some of them are just getting to the further parts of their property and finding items that floated there," said Bachand. County's Administration recommended extending the free landfill access to those affected by flooding until September 5. He said they would write letters to affected property owners if approved, instructing them to bring the letter with them to gain free access. Council passed the motion without opposition.

# Keep on Truckin'... (grab a coffee; you got time)



By Dave MacNevin  
Special to Whitecourt Press

I don't like to get on here and complain, but what occurred yesterday demands some publicity. One of my drivers sent a voice message through his satellite that a deer had run into his trailer's side while heading south on Highway 751. He asked us to contact RCMP as the carcass was over the crest of a blind hill and was a serious risk to motorists, especially motorcycles.

So, I called 911, and the operator asked me, do you require Fire,

Ambulance or Police? I stated Police, and she transferred me on hold. I waited on hold for 5 minutes, and then the line went dead; they hung up on me. I called back, and this time, a recording said all services are busy; hold the line and do not hang up. After 5 minutes, I had enough and hung up. About three minutes later, my phone rang, but it said blocked number, so I didn't answer. A further 20 minutes passed, and my doorbell rang. It was a member of the RCMP following up on my 911 calls. I explained the situation, and he was very understanding and told me of late, people were on hold for ten minutes after they had called 911. He said he would follow up on the deer carcass on the road and departed.

Wow, so if you are being attacked and require help, it's quicker to call 911, hang up and don't answer their return call and voila, a member will show up. Unbelievable in this age of modern technology, our 911 system is such a mess. People need to know that 911 is not the immediate help they think it is, and I imagine this could end badly if the 911 call were a life-and-death situation.

The phone rang at my work. My boss asked, "Why don't you answer it?" I said, "I'll let it ring for a while. That way, they'll think I have other stuff to do than talk on the phone." My boss shouted, "ANSWER IT NOW!" I picked up the phone and said, "911, what's the emergency?"

Drop me a line  
davemac56@gmail.com.



Remnants of infrastructure visible in the river.

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by PETER MARINACCI



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