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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



The Press



Locally Owned & Operated



Vol. 12 - Issue 34 | Wednesday, August 23, 2023



Firefighter Terrance Corke, homeowner Lois Cartwright and Fire Chief Brian Wynn.

Curious about what it means to get a FireSmart home assessment? Here's some insight

By Serena Lapointe

After a record-breaking forest fire season that no one will soon forget, many homeowners are becoming more aware of the everyday dangers that surround their homes. From the physical space around the house to the décor and plant life added in and

the materials on or near the home, the conversation of what is and what isn't safe is growing.

One of the ways homeowners can learn about their risks is by having a FireSmart Home Assessment with the Whitecourt Fire Department. The Whitecourt Press tagged along for

a recent assessment in Woodlands County. The homeowner, Lois Cartwright, brought the department in to learn what she and her family could do to lessen their risks in preparation for spring and a new fire season.

Upon arrival at the

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## Looking at community well-being through the lens of a social needs assessment in Woodlands County

By Serena Lapointe

Woodlands County Council recently learned about the municipality's social needs through an assessment provided by HelpSeekers. Jesse Donaldson, EVP of Strategic Services, explained how the process worked, what a social needs assessment is and why it matters. "We know in a post-Covid world, the municipal and county governments (are) more important than ever to define, advocate and plan for local needs because no other level of government will do it effectively."

Using a mix of publicly available data and through focus groups and one-on-one interviews with residents,

HelpSeekers put together a map of the social needs in Woodlands County to help with future preparations for the needs of residents, from infrastructure to programming to policy changes.

The first topic Donaldson touched on was social infrastructure. "All communities, regardless of size, have and need a social infrastructure. In a smaller community, though, social infrastructure is just as much the informal support networks that hold together a community, like neighbours coming together to help each other if there's a fire in the community and everyone rallies around, as is the recreation programs

that support youth well-being."

Donaldson explained that they continually see a need for more complex supports like shelters, mental health counselling, food banks, and support for substance abuse. "The tricky part of it is perpetually balancing what you have today against community needs shifting more rapidly than I think we even understand."

She explained that they look for signals that show a misalignment between what the community needs and what is available. "When the signals become obvious, such as receiving concerns

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Woodlands County Council and Administration.



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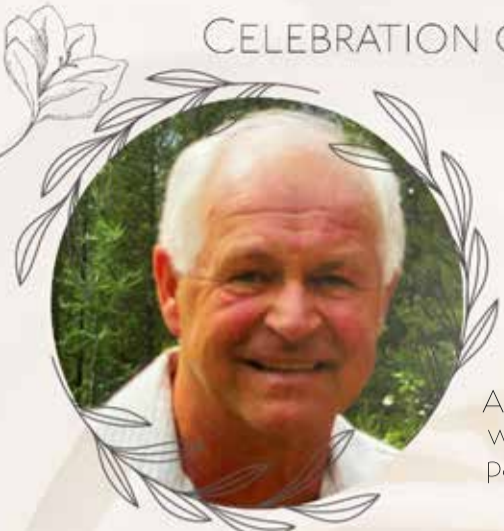
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CELEBRATION OF LIFE



**Claude Davio**  
February 26, 1948-  
June 29, 2023

As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of us, as we remember them. – **Elie Wiesel**

There will be a Celebration of Life for Claude Davio held on Saturday September 9, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the Whitecourt Senior's Circle. If you are able to attend please RSVP to **Robyn** by text or call **(780)222-2460** by **September 1, 2023**.

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

**Whitecourt**

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 23-095: Home Occupation – Piano & Cello Lessons – 11 Cochrane Road – Approved with conditions.

**Date of Decision:** August 10, 2023      **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** August 31, 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.



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- **District Captain** packages for **Districts 6, 20, and 22**
- **Citizens' Representative** packages for **Districts 2, 4, 6, 7, and 20**

These candidate registrations have been extended until **August 11<sup>th</sup>** at **5:00pm MST**. Only packages for the Districts listed above will be accepted. Visit **MetisElectionsAB.com** for more information.

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**[ACCLAIMED] Election by Acclamation:** Where the Chief Electoral Officer received only one candidate nomination for an elected office within the nomination period, pursuant to Section 44 of the Election Law. The certified candidates are to be acclaimed to their respective offices.

**[CONDITIONALLY DECLARED CANDIDATE]:** Where candidates have been conditionally declared pending the receipt of additional information to verify eligibility.

continued from page 1

from your constituents or seeing even one or two people experiencing homelessness, it generally means you are too late to the table."

Donaldson added that continually monitoring a community's needs can help make using limited resources more impactful because they can use it where it's best. "When I began this job three years ago, it was common verbiage that communities experienced a tipping point around a population of a hundred thousand. That's when homelessness, mental health, substance use, and intimate partner violence accelerated. Today, that's laughable because we now know that all communities are struggling in some sense with complex issues, both seen and unseen."

She said rates of hidden homelessness in rural areas have skyrocketed and continue to. "We know that affordability issues are partic-

ularly rural issues and growing inequity, income inequity, is prevalent in every province and every community. Negative outcomes on youth and childhood well-being post-covid are completely agnostic of town size, location,

or available supports." Knowing this, Donaldson said the prospect was for Woodlands County to create a strategic road map to address the municipality's present and future needs. "What kind of social infrastructure do

we need today and in five or ten years? What kind of services," she queried.

"From 2016 to 2021, there was a population decline in Woodlands County of 3.9 percent. Within that decrease was a 22.2 percent

drop in young adults between twenty and twenty-four years of age. However, there was a 32 percent increase in Woodlands County residents aged 65 plus.

That alone, those two stats, although very known to people in these rooms, this is going to dictate a very specific social infrastructure need," said Donaldson. "We found a third of individuals are characterized as low income, keeping in mind that the threshold for low income is extraordinarily low, so even people who technically aren't in that low-income category may likely experience issues with affordability, increased stressed, and family conflict, due to economic strain."

She explained that their data showed an eleven percent poverty rate among children aged 6-17. "While that is not a huge amount, the impact that children living in poverty can have from a multi-generational standpoint in your community can be

significant." Donaldson explained that housing is one of the most important ways they assess a municipality. "You have about 18 percent spending more than thirty percent on shelter costs and almost 2.5 percent spending more than fifty percent. Given the fundamental role of housing, these indicators are really helpful to signal unseen community stress." She said the correlation between housing needs and higher community rates of homelessness, family conflict, mental health challenges and substance abuse has been shown through multiple studies.

She said the impact on the County of a burgeoning mental health crisis may be significant given the small population and the informal connections' importance to residents. She added that mental health strain came through in their interviews with residents in a "pervasive

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**Tackling social needs while balancing limited resources and choosing when to act and how was all part of a recent presentation from HelpSeekers in the Woodlands County Council chambers. Jesse Donaldson walked Council through the assessment.**

**READY TO LEARN?**

**We can't wait to welcome you back to school**

**Sept. 5, 2023**

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wctcancerwellness@gmail.com  
*\*\*Monthly meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19*

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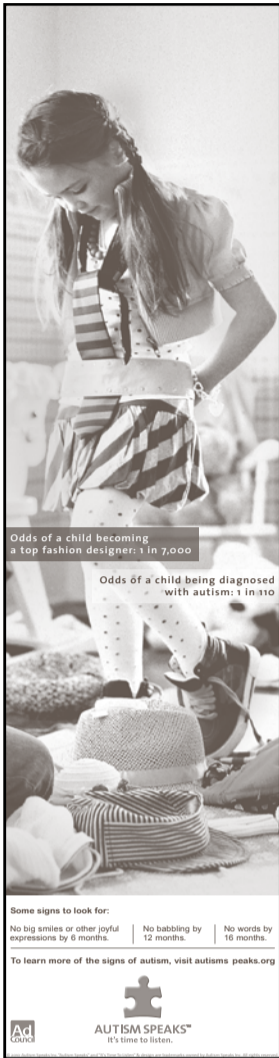
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- Wednesday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
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**A look at the local weather**

	<b>Wed., Aug 23</b> Chance of a shower	<b>Thu., Aug 24</b> Mix of sun and clouds	<b>Fri., Aug 25</b> Sunny	<b>Sat., Aug 26</b> Sunny	<b>Sun., Aug 27</b> Mix of sun and clouds
P.O.P.	40%	30%	10%	40%	20%
High	19°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	21°C
Low	11°C	11°C	12°C	12°C	12°C
Wind	W 11 km/h	W 5 km/h	SW 5 km/h	S 7 km/h	NW 15 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	1-3mm	-	-	-	-



*A pretty but potentially problematic wooden décor piece.*



*Chief Wynn praised the walking path and fire shed as being great ways to help protect the home.*

**Having a FireSmart Home Assessment done can help remove stress for homeowners when facing a wildfire situation. The knowledge gained from the experience can make a home more able to withstand a wildfire rather than succumbing to it.**

**continued from page 1**

property, and after introductions, Fire Chief Brian Wynn and FF1 Terrance Corke began assessing the home's exterior. "What we do for a FireSmart Home Assessment is start at the roof, come down the sides and then go 30 metres into the bush. We are looking at your residence's survivability and things you could improve on. We will also be talking about if we put you on evacuation alert, what things you should be trying to do at the same time, too, so that you will help us save your house if it comes to that," explained Chief Wynn.

Notes and pictures were taken of things that could be changed. "At the end of this process, you will receive a PDF of everything we discussed and a little summary," said Corke. "Your roof is a tin roof which is awesome. As we come down, we look for things like your eavestrough and what

kind of material they're made from. Yours look aluminum which is good."

With a mirror in tow, Corke checked to see if the eavestrough had debris inside. "The big thing with pine needles and leaves is to ensure eavestrough are cleaned out a couple of times a year. The biggest danger in a wildfire situation, especially out here in the County, is the embers that fly in front of the fire, not so much the fire itself. That's what we are trying to protect, is those areas where embers will build and could potentially fester enough to ignite the home."

Corke recommended that the homeowner get a cover for the eavestrough, negating the need to climb a ladder. Fire Chief Wynn added that homeowners with coniferous trees (needles) should be mindful of build-up in eavestroughs as needles become matchsticks. "We don't want them within ten metres of the home," said Chief Wynn, speaking of

coniferous trees. "When they burn, they burn up with some big BTUs. It'll be a one-minute fire, but it'll be an extremely intense fire."

From there, the trio looked at the siding. Corke explained that he was looking for gaps where wood beneath showed through. They also looked at outdoor vents. Corke explained that vents need flaps inside. He also mentioned the importance of cleaning screens inside vents too. "On the fire prevention side of things, clean those vents because it helps your furnace breathe so you don't get CO2 emissions in the house."

Chief Wynn homed in on a beautiful piece of driftwood made into a flower garden piece in front of a basement window. He said putting a wood piece out in

the yard would be a safer bet. Corke credited Cartwright for having a dirt-covered flower bed instead of the item they see often and always recommend against using. "Lots of people like to put bark mulch down. But our saying is mulch bad, rock good. As lovely as it is, it's one thing you wouldn't want beside your house."

Chief Wynn pointed out the mowed grass throughout the yard and into the tree line and said they had done a fantastic job. He also credited them for having mowed trails within the property. "Even something as simple as a trail can stop a ground fire from spreading. It's unbelievable what something like that can stop. Keep it up!" He said the complete mowing in County ditching, thanks to homeown-

ers, including the Cartwrights, is incredible. "That also helps protect your property. If you notice, it also helps protect the power poles because it takes the fuel away. If everybody did that, in the big picture, that makes it better and safer."

Corke recommended composite deck materials for future renovations as a better choice than wood. He also recommended keeping the space between deck boards tight so that embers can't get in underneath and to screen off under the deck, or get a non-combustible alternative, to keep swirling embers away.

Speaking about things they could do if placed under evacuation or alert, Chief Wynn said everything flammable should be removed from the deck. "Cushions, wood, even the planter pot. It's

just saying, land here and start me on fire. I wouldn't want to see anything on this deck. Same with hanging plants. They are fuel and likely have peat moss inside."

Corke then pointed out that the homeowner had their firewood piled up away from the home in a metal shed. "I love your old shed full of firewood. It's beyond ten metres from the house. It's perfect. When it's thirty below, it sucks a bit to go for a walk, but it's safer. Your last line of defence is 1.5 metres away from your house. That's the absolutely no combustion zone, as we say."

Advice given included cutting back plants that die off in the winter, like grasses, so there isn't an issue in the spring—cutting low branches on

**continued on page 12**



*Firefighter Terrance Corke highlighting a space between the stucco and wood.*

## **TRL** **Gas CO-OP Ltd.** **17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**Thursday, August 31, 2023**

**Anselmo Hall**

**Starting at 6:00 p.m.**

**Join us for a complimentary Burger**

**Meeting to follow**

**Financial Statements**

**Election of Directors**

**3 Door Prizes of \$100.00 Credit on Member's Gas Account**

**All TRL Members are invited and encouraged to attend.**

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

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From the batter's viewpoint.



Running to first base.



The Water Hammers crew.

The Whitecourt Slo-Pitch League recently welcomed over 30 teams from the region to Whitecourt for a big tournament at Graham Acres. Beautiful sunshine and warm weather made for a perfect two-day event. Around half a dozen teams were locally based, with a couple featuring mixed players from different communities. A large group of out-of-town players camped in the open field behind Graham Acres, overlooking the driving range at the Whitecourt Golf & Country Club. The newly formed Water Hammers team, comprised of local firefighters, had just wrapped up their first tournament game when they stopped to say "cheese!"

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# Joseph Nathan Davio

1979-2023

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, son, brother, and friend, Joseph Nathan Davio on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. Joe was born and raised in Whitecourt, Alberta, and was proud to be a member of the community, specifically as an active member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a devoted and hardworking man with passion for aviation, which is why he spent years in Northern Alberta as a helicopter pilot before continuing his career as an oilfield contractor.



more. Joe always wanted to be a dad and it was very apparent in the way that he behaved with Sarah. The patience, the kindness and the love that he filled his daughter with will leave a lasting impression for her entire lifetime.

Joe is survived by his loving wife, Megan Davio; his darling daughter, Sarah; his parents, Leon and Marion Davio; his siblings, Vicky (Derek) Thomas, Connie Davio, Roland

Davio, Ken (Debbie) Davio and Keith (Amber) Davio; his nieces and nephews, Logan and Gavin (Willow) Thomas, Evan, Isabelle, Brooke, Megan, Lauren and Broden Davio, Heidi and Veronica Stang; his in-laws; Robert, Elizabeth, Jason (Nicole) and Colin Stang, as well as by numerous extended family and friends.

The family wishes to extend their most heartfelt gratitude to those who have reached out with support and prayers during this most difficult time. A very special thank you goes out to Father Benji for all that he has done for our family.

In celebration of Joe's life, Funeral Mass will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 5538 Mink Creek Road, Whitecourt, Alberta, at on Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Condolences may be viewed or sent by visiting [www.affinityfuneralservice.ca](http://www.affinityfuneralservice.ca)

Joe enjoyed boating on the McLeod River, and was an adventurous man who loved to experience new places and new things. He spent a great deal of time working on his family farm, quadding, paragliding, traveling extensively, and proving why he was crowned the "Barbeque King." Joe was always the happiest when he had his friends and family gathered around him.

Joe was an adventure seeker and in 2021 he embarked on the greatest adventure of them all, he became not only a loving husband, but an amazing father. As much as he loved his job, he loved coming home to his beautiful wife Megan and remarkable daughter Sarah even

**Funeral Arrangements in the care of Taya Barrett, Licensed Funeral Director at:**



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# Juliana Helen Lindekugel (née Imberi)

February 16, 1931 – August 11, 2023

During the late hours of Friday, August 11, 2023, Julia Lindekugel, long-time resident of Whitecourt, Alberta passed away at The Manor at the beautiful age of 92 years. She is now resting peacefully in the arms of Jesus.



Julia is lovingly remembered by her children, Bradley (Carol) Lindekugel and Karen (Norm) Dyck; grandchildren, Tom Brewer, Phylene Brewer, Patti Noseworthy, Michael Lindekugel; great-grandchildren, Tanner Brewer, Jared St. Martin, Bryson Taylor, Shania Lakeman, Evan Lindekugel, Noah Lindekugel and Xenah Lindekugel; great-great-grandchildren, Avery Brewer, Jackson Brewer, Cynthia Lakeman (Zerb) and Adrian

Lakeman (Zerb); sisters, Janey Tinschert and Margaret Ane Engberg; numerous nieces and nephews, as well as by those who cared for her at The Manor.

Julia was predeceased by her husband, Kyle; son, Ronnie; brothers, Ernie, Andrew and Donny; sister, Susie; parents, Mike and

Elizabeth (Streifel) Imberi.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to Dr. Jane and the entire staff at The Manor for the wonderful care, love and compassion shown to Julia during her residency and illness.

A Funeral Service will be held from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, 5538 Mink Creek Road, Whitecourt, Alberta on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Condolences may be sent by visiting [www.affinityfuneralservice.ca](http://www.affinityfuneralservice.ca).

**Funeral Arrangements in the care of Joelle Valliere, Licensed Funeral Director at:**



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## Make-believe campfires, reading, imaginative play and social connections, all at the Whitecourt Library



Seven-year-old Jaanvi with her completed campfire craft.

Six weeks of learning and fun just wrapped up at the Whitecourt Library. Their super popular Summer Reading Program is always a hit for youngsters to adults and features something for everyone.

By Serena Lapointe

One of the Whitecourt & District Public Library's most popular programs is the Summer Reading Program which takes place through the hot months in the dip between school years ending and starting. The program features a weekly get-together for participants of all ages.

On Wednesday, August 9, the six to eight age group kids were busy making a camping-related craft with library assistant Barb

Madigan. "We did lots of things this summer. Our first week was about the importance of reading. In the second week, kids planted seeds to see grass heads grow over time at their houses. We made kites and paper airplanes, and today we made make-believe campfires. Kids love the little lights and pretending they are at the campground."

Madigan has worked at the library for seven years and always looks forward to the Summer

Reading Program. "It's a lot of work to set it all up, but I enjoy seeing how happy they are with what they created and how happy they are to share it with their parents after the fact. I'm glad they enjoyed their time here."

Jaanvi, 7, and her tablemate Eleanor, 8, had fun painting the cotton balls to look like roasted marshmallows. Once they completed their campfires, they lit their battery-operat-

continued on page 15



A room full of creative campfires.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

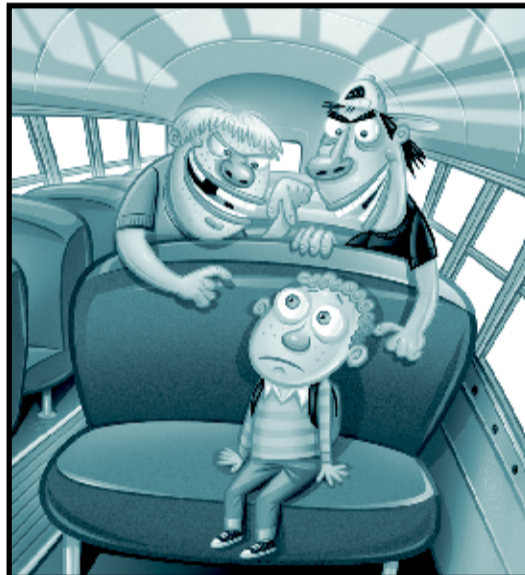


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.  
Let that sink in.



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

Call the Bullying Helpline (Confidential)



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

**1-888-456-2323**

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

## Putting a face on suicide



Ashley Rogers

Age 15

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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Learning about flower gardens near the house.

continued from page 8

trees so that a ground fire has a harder time travelling from the ground up the tree, and keeping grass cut.

The last item on the assessment was to show the homeowner how the W.A.S.P. sprinkler system works. Easily mounted onto the eavestrough, the system releases a low flow, steady stream of water as it spins, wetting a large area. He added that homeowners who evacuate and have sprinkler systems should place signs at the end of their driveways to inform firefighters. In the end, Chief Wynn asked Cartwright if she was a "FireSmarter," to which Lois said, with a big smile, "I think I am," and Chief agreed. "I think you guys are doing a great job."



Muddy debris along the fence line.



A mangled Adirondack chair.



Beautiful wildflowers amongst the debris.

**The waters around Whitecourt may have receded to levels residents are used to, but scars from the damaging effects of overland flooding due to high river water remain visible. Roadways in Woodlands County, like Old Ferry Loop, will show the aftermath for years. Whitecourt areas will also display it, including around the spurs alongside the Athabasca River at the end of 47 Street, just beyond Flats Road. Signs of high water are everywhere, from muddy debris accumulation on the fence line to a broader vantage point from the parking lot due to the loss of shrubbery and trees. Looking closely, you might even spot a red Adirondack chair amidst the downed trees, a reminder of just how powerful water can be. Even with the destruction, there is still plenty of beauty, like these wildflowers, embracing their new landscape.**



## 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.
- 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

**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.
- 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)

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continued from page 4

way." She also said that a mental health strategy required political savvy and creativity.

"Based on what we did see, that was one of the more obvious signals that there may be a growing misalignment between community needs and what exists today. We can't do everything for everyone, but we can look at priority populations based on where we are and the continuum of supports available for them."

For seniors, she said that could mean focusing on transportation needs, assisting with digital access for services, phone programs to keep them connected, Meals on Wheels, income supports, and age-appropriate infrastructure. She said positive after-school activities, school-based mental health programming, and crime prevention were all good ideas for youth.

The balance came from deciding what to prioritize and when. She explained that about 70 percent of the population has low needs and high well-being, 25 percent has moderate needs and moderate well-being, and five percent has low well-being and high needs. The five percent are people or families facing complex issues like mental health, substance use, and affordability.

Donaldson said which group the County focuses on and when should change frequently and that the most important thing was being intentional. Her ideas included enhancing telecommunications for remote service delivery and connectivity, mobile service units, flexible service delivery methods, community hubs, sustainable transportation between hamlets, and leveraging private-public partnerships to deliver services.

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**Money Matters**

**One Canadian Dollar = 0.73 US Dollar**  
at an exchange rate of **0.7381** (using nominal rate).

**Dollar Values as of August 23, 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.

**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  
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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

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

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

**Responsibilities:**

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

**Qualifications:**

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

**Experience:** 3 – 5 years.

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

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

**Language:** English

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

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

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

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

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

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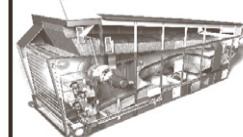


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**Eleanor, 8, holding one of her cotton ball marshmallows on a stick.**



**Barb Madigan helping making marshmallows.**

continued from page 10

ed candles and placed them into the heart of the tissue paper. The lights in the activity room were off, allowing the little lights to glow beautifully.

Madigan said the group typically gets to be outside more, but this year, they didn't get to be outside much.

"The weather didn't cooperate well, and it was also smoky outside at times. But when we could get outside and run around for a little bit, that was fun. With the kites, the kids and I went out into the parking lot and ran around with our kites and made them fly."

Library Director Joseph Kubelka said this

year's Summer Reading Program was another great time. "We had a couple of amazing summer students funded full-time, and they really contributed to this year's program. They added awesome touches to every program session, put up some decorations, went above and beyond for many kiddoes, and paid

attention to them."

He said the story walk along the sidewalk outside the library was another hit. "I hope the kids took away an awesome learning experience but also an awesome social experience. Knowing that you can still come together over the summer and have fun and learn things and make friends," he said.

Sasha Martin, library assistant, worked with two groups, the three to five-year-olds and the tweens/teens. "The 3-5's was a fun experience. It was about experimentation, so bringing out the sensory bins, playing with the sand, and trying to play in water or beads. Some of them hadn't tried watercolour painting before or playing with clay. Touching the air clay was an interesting experience for them."

For the older group, Martin said they wanted to get into everything. "We brought out the button maker and the 3D pens. Tie-dyeing is always a popular activity for them. This year, many kids hadn't tried tie dye before, which made it a fun, new experience. There were a lot of positive interactions. The teens enjoyed that too because they would find their buddy and sit down to do the day's project."

Adults in the program worked with resident artist Lisa Daye and created all kinds of neat things. On Thursday, August 10, the tweens/teens group and library staff were treated to a

pizza party celebration thanks to library supporter, Panago. Kubelka said they appreciate the community support received to help make programs happen, and in this case, delicious. Any businesses that want to sponsor an upcoming program or provide resources are encouraged to email the Library Director at [jkubelka@whitecourtlibrary.ab.ca](mailto:jkubelka@whitecourtlibrary.ab.ca).

"Our six weeks of summer programming for all ages is incredibly popular every year and usually fills up within three weeks of registration opening because it is one of the only free programs in the community that you can come to every week for six weeks. It has an incredibly high quality. Not only are we focusing on educational activities with literacy and STEM and arts, but we also try and make it a fun social experience and include hot new things," said Kubelka.

He said the variety of activities takes it beyond the book. "It's not just about reading. There's so much more. The reading mostly happens outside of the program. There is an online component where you can get book recommendations, and then everything comes together at the program, the social, the emotional and the learning." Martin added, "There's something for everyone here."

Roughly 100 youth and adults combined participated in this year's programming, slightly less than in

previous years. However, several significant barriers proved impactful. "This summer featured fires and floods. Through the fires, we saw a huge dip in attendance for those two, three weeks. Then we had the floods, so there was a lot going on," explained Kubelka.

"We definitely have some post-processing to do after this summer, and we have some ideas already for next year," said Kubelka. One of the ideas already in the works is online registration that would allow residents to sign up for the Summer Reading Program weekly rather than for the whole six weeks. "It would be nice for people travelling and allow us to plan more and include more people overall. If you can only come four out of the six weeks, that would open up those two weeks for someone else to participate." All library programming will be accessible through online registration once functioning.

Looking to the fall, Kubelka said they have more fun up their sleeves. "We've had an excellent summer with many great programs for all ages, and we will keep delivering amazing programming going into the fall. There isn't going to be something every week like we had through the summer, but something will happen every month. So, follow our Facebook page or come to the library and grab our monthly calendar to see what's going on."

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