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The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



Locally Owned & Operated



Vol. 12 - Issue 33 | Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Canadian rural newspapers now blocked by Meta; Google to follow

Canadian journalism is under attack as Meta blocks all Canadian news on its sites. Google has stated it will also block all Canadian news soon. These companies seem to think Canada is small enough to bully. The question is, will individual Canadians and companies respond to these American giants or let just Canadian journalism die?

News Media Canada, the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, and CBC/Radio-Canada have applied to Canada's Competition Bureau to investigate Meta's abuse of its power.

continued on page 5

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Staff at Steve and Dan's Fresh BC Fruit are a busy bunch.



Market Manager Colleen Stenning



Loading up on carrots at the Shining Moonlight Gardens booth.



One of summer's favourite treats, Taber corn!

June 24. The Fresh Community Market takes place every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm in the Whitecourt Staples parking lot and features a variety of vendors. Market Manager Colleen Stenning said the market's growth since it began has been incredible. "This market had ten vendors when it started, and today we have 20. It's a huge success." Stalls are 10x10 and only cost \$15. "It's fantastic. Today is the biggest one so far, and it will only get bigger from here. People are catching on, big time," said Stenning. She said they hope to add in vendors selling meat, eggs, and baking, both sweet and savoury. "Anything freshly made would be great. It would be nice to have someone who makes things like cinnamon buns, muffins, and cheese bread, ready-made food too. We have one booth right now with food for sale to eat right away, and then everyone else has pre-packaged stuff to take home. If we could have people that want to cook and serve food onsite, there are a few more hoops to jump through to do it, but that would be fantastic." Stenning said they would also like to see a preserves vendor offering jams. Within the first fifteen minutes of Saturday's market, over 70 shoppers had already come through. Markets take place every Saturday morning and will wrap up on September 23. "We are looking to have a big send-off. We will be taking input from vendors. We want them to see this as a place where they get a say in what we do because we want them to meet their goals." Fruit truck vendor Steve and Dan's has been taking part since the beginning. "Their manager here said this is his favourite market, and it's the one he won't miss. He gets his best business here. We love to hear that." To get a booth and join the fun, contact the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce.

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Summer Fest was the best



A big crowd of spectators.



Juggling always draws a crowd.



The Chinese Lions were a hit.



The mountain bike obstacle course.

Summer Street Fest 2023 brought out huge crowds. Visitors streamed into the downtown core on Saturday and enjoyed live music, arts and crafts, and a delicious taste of culture.

By Serena Lapointe

On Saturday, August 12, from 2 pm until 9 pm, several streets in downtown Whitecourt were buzzing with activity. Summer Street Fest 2023, put on by the Town of Whitecourt's Economic Development Committee, featured live entertainment and various cultural performances. Performers on the stage included Nicolas Melnychuk, Chinese Lion Dancers, Beauty and The Beats, a bagpiper, Sweet Disasters

and local rockers, Analog Smokeshow.

The Whitecourt Wolverines, only a few short weeks from pre-season action, sponsored Brews and Bites at Sagitawah Brewing, which made for a fun spot to stop. The Whitecourt Mountain Bike Association also brought their love for riding to the downtown core. The group set up an obstacle course to give attendees a taste of the sport. They also had a show & shine to show off their rides.

The Whitecourt Farmer's Market was underway during the event, enabling folks to shop for various products, including fresh veggies, baked goods, art, preserves, handmade items, different foods and much more. Twenty-five vendors signed up for the market, giving lots of selection. Vendors were both inside the Whitecourt Legion and outside on the sidewalk.

Several downtown

continued on page 10



Nicolas Melnychuk performed.

WOMBANIA™



by PETER MARINACCI

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The Press

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Two newly recruited family physicians now practising here

Local and area residents now have improved access to primary care with the recruitment of two family medicine physicians for the community.

Dr. Eghonghon Osagie and Dr. Olumayowa Mustapha are family medicine physicians who are now practising at the Whitecourt Healthcare Centre and Associate Medical Clinic. Dr. Osagie and Dr. Mustapha join a team of 14 other physicians providing service in the community.

"I'm pleased Dr. Osagie and Dr. Mustapha have chosen a rural community in northern Alberta to practise family medicine," says Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead. "They are both certainly a welcome addition to

the local medical team and will help increase our residents' access to primary care."

Originally from Nigeria where she completed her medical training, Dr. Osagie comes to Whitecourt from Calgary. Dr. Mustapha is also originally from Nigeria where he completed his undergraduate training before doing his post-graduate training in South Africa.

"It's a pleasure to welcome Dr. Osagie and Dr. Mustapha to Whitecourt," says Dr. Jane Ojedokun, Associate Zone Medical Director for Alberta Health Services (AHS). "The recruitment of additional family physicians will help increase our residents access to local healthcare and help support our current physicians."

With a focus on family medicine, Dr. Osagie has a young, active family that enjoys hiking and swimming. "I look forward to a community that is welcoming and pleasant; a community I can call home," she says.

Dr. Mustapha, his wife and young daughter also enjoy spending time outdoors. He says he is looking forward to "doing my best towards making Whitecourt a healthy community."

AHS continues to recruit for physicians across northern Alberta to meet community needs. AHS has physician resource planners who are dedicated to identifying and pursuing international and domestic physician recruitment opportunities. They work closely with various community partners

and organizations, such as local Health Advisory Councils, the Rural Health Professions Action Plan, and independent physician attraction and retention committees.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial

health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Our mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system

that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans. Our current focus is on reducing emergency department wait-times, improving EMS response times, increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow.

Oil market expected to remain tight: EIA outlook

By ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) released its latest Short-Term Energy Outlook yesterday.

Overall, it's good news for oil producers like Canada and Alberta with prices expected to rise and supply to remain tight even as production rises.

According to the new forecast, benchmark oil prices will continue to be supported by "voluntary cuts to Saudi Arabia's crude oil production and increasing global

demand."

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) is forecast to average just under US\$81 per barrel over the second half of 2023, or about 9% higher than in the EIA's July Outlook.

The average price next year is currently pegged at US\$81.48 compared to \$77.78 as of the previous forecast (+4.7%).

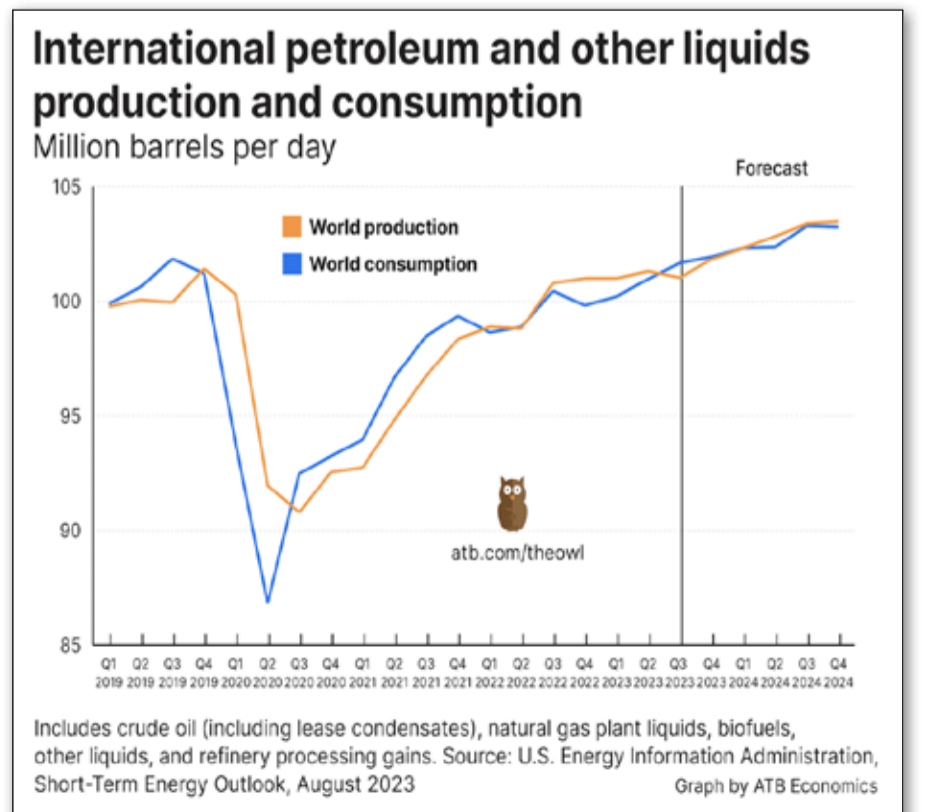
This bodes well for the prices received by Alberta producers as the higher WTI benchmark will also lift the price of our oil.

Global crude oil and liquids production is

forecast to average 101.3 million barrels per day (mb/d) in 2023, just a titch higher than in the July outlook (+0.2%) before rising to 103.0 mb/d in 2024.

Global consumption meanwhile, will keep markets tight, averaging 101.2 mb/d this year and 102.8 mb/d in 2024.

Even though domestic U.S. crude oil production is expected to rise in 2023 and 2024 to record levels, the total amount of crude and other liquids the U.S. will import is forecast to increase both this year and next.



Robyn Lynn Dempsey (McGrath) 1960-2023

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Robyn Lynn Dempsey (McGrath) on Friday August 4, 2023 at the Whitecourt Healthcare Centre.

Robyn was a strong woman that loved her family and friends. You could often find her having breakfast with her friends and family or serving breakfast to the families in the community.

She had a huge heart and would lend a listening ear to anyone in need of a safe place. Robyn spent the last five years of her life serving at the Ritz, after the 10 years she served at Humpty's prior. She loved her job, loved talking to members of the community, loved providing a fresh start to people's days, Robyn was just filled with love. Her Boston Terrier, Spike, had the best life any dog could ask for, treats, sun filled days, love, cuddle filled evenings, Robyn loved her furry friend and took such great care of him.

Robyn enjoyed her last family trip to Penticton, British Columbia with her daughters, filled with shopping and laughter, there could not have been a better final trip. Surrounding herself with family, Robyn maintained her high spirit and positive attitude even in her last days.



Robyn will be deeply missed by those she is survived by; her children; Jillian (Lisa) McGrath, Pamela (Dan) Stith, and Patrick McGrath; her grandchildren; Lincoln Walt-McGrath, Sophia Landman, Haidyn Landman, her father; Roger Dempsey, Cam and Kathie Walt; and numerous friends and extended family members.

Robyn is predeceased by her mother; Betty McLean, and after eighteen years Robyn is finally able to join her Late husband; Timothy McGrath, and her child; Kyle McGrath,

Robyn's family would like to thank not only the staff of Whitecourt Healthcare Centre for their continuous care and compassion that they showed to Robyn over the duration of her stay, but also Haley Landman for her more than generous donation of flowers and her kindness during this most difficult time.

Please join the family for a visitation on August 25th, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 4:00PM to pay your respects to our beloved Robyn, at Affinity Funeral Service 1- 4105 41st Avenue, Whitecourt, AB.

If you choose, memorial donations can be made to the Cross Cancer Institute 11560 University Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T6G 1Z2.

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

780.778.3330

Affinity Funeral Service #1 4105 41st Avenue, Whitecourt, Alberta



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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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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.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Current opportunities are posted on the Town's website. Currently, Whitecourt has the following opportunities:

• 2023 Fuel Contract - Closes: August 17, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

For further details on this opportunity, visit www.whitecourt.ca and search the project title.

Due to the online news act and being blocked from Meta (Facebook)

Find us on twitter



The Press (@ThePres99937993) / X (twitter.com)

continued from page 1

sition, as evidenced by its decision to block Canadian news content from its digital platforms in Canada.

The applicants also request that Meta refrain from discriminating, by algorithm or by any other means, against content from Canadian news organizations on its digital platforms accessible in Canada.

Background: Meta recently announced it is officially ending news availability in Canada. Meta has decided to block Canadian news content instead of following the requirements of Bill C-18. The law compels tech giants like Meta to pay Canadian news outlets for journalism they profit from, but do not pay for.

Google has now informed the Canadian government that they have made the decision that when the law takes effect they will be removing links to Canadian news from Google Search, Google News,

and Google Discover products.

Meta has now removed Canadian news for all Canadian users of its Facebook and Instagram platforms. —"we are announcing today that we have begun the process of ending news availability permanently in Canada," said Rachel Curran, head of public policy for Meta Canada.

Paul Deegan, president of News Media Canada, said this "intemperate" action will harm user experience and devalue the Facebook platform. "Without access to real fact-based news created by real journalists, Facebook will become far less attractive to users and advertisers. We expect more and more advertisers and their agencies will begin pulling advertising from the platform in response to this unilateral, undemocratic, and unreasonable move."

The Canadian Government's stance is that Meta's "bullying" tactics will not work

with the government, which it says is ensuring those companies do not weaken Canada's democracy by threatening its domestic media industry.

Meta's actions have led to Canada's Federal Government and Provincial Governments in B.C. and Quebec to boycotting Meta. Many companies have followed suit.

The point is, does anyone in Canada believe having Meta and American billionaires in charge of what news Canadian citizens will or will not read, is a good idea?

Since 2008, close to 500 media outlets in 335 communities across Canada have closed, with more than 20,000 journalists losing their job.

For local rural journalism to survive in Canada, this needs to serve as a wake-up call to many local advertisers and event organizers. Local advertising matters, shopping local matters, and supporting local events matters.

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



WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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

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ZOOM ID: **818 413 483** PASSWORD: **gratitude**

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

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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.**

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Meetings are three times each week

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- Wednesday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
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Airdrie, AB

A look at the local weather	Wed., Aug 16	Thu., Aug 17	Fri., Aug 18	Sat., Aug 19	Sun., Aug 20
P.O.P. High Low Wind 24-Hr Rain / Snow	Chance of a shower 40% 23°C 11°C NW 18 km/h <1mm	Mix of sun and clouds 30% 24°C 11°C SW 12 km/h -	Mainly sunny 30% 21°C 11°C W 14 km/h -	Mix of sun and clouds 30% 17°C 9°C N 8 km/h <1mm	Cloudy 40% 17°C 8°C NW 24 km/h -

“It’s like a brand new building!”

Massive interior facelift at Wellspring shelter increases safety and accessibility



Wells at the safety glass in the new waiting area.



Wells said she's excited for this industrial-sized fridge/freezer combo.

With a focus on increased safety for staff and residents, a barrier-free environment and greater use of space, the Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre building has undergone a massive transformation over the past eight months.

By Serena Lapointe

Over the last eight months, the interior of the Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre has been getting an overhaul. Thanks to two grants from CMHC (Seed Funding and Shelter Enhancement) totalling just over \$900,000, necessary upgrades to the building have been done with only the fi-

nal touches remaining. "CMHC has been amazing. It makes a big difference when you have a funder that's flexible and easy to work with," said Director Rebecca Wells.

One of the most significant changes in the centre is the layout. Before the renovation, staff and clients shared the two floors, but now, all clients will be

upstairs on the main floor, and nearly all of the staff will be downstairs. Both floors were also created to flow like a circle, a unique touch that Wells called purposeful. "We did that for a reason because we serve many Indigenous people, and we know that the circle, like the medicine wheel, is really important. It's also not

as confusing. Before, it was a little choppy in here."

Another significant change for the centre is the number of beds they offer. "We've gone from eleven beds to 22 beds," said Wells. They also removed the fluorescent lights in the bedrooms. "Anyone who has gone through a traumatic experience, especially kids,

can hear the humming from our fluorescent lighting. So, we've updated the space with LEDs."

The shelter is also barrier-free now. New rooms feature wider doorways to accommodate those with mobility constraints, a low countertop was added in the kitchen, there's an accessible shower and bathroom, and

a barrier-free washer and dryer. "It's important for us to be barrier-free," said Wells.

"Things have changed a lot. Our entrance inside isn't as big anymore, but there's a good reason. When we have someone come in the middle of the night, and we're not sure if they are the

continued on page 9

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All TRL Members are invited and encouraged to attend.

ANC Timber Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANC Timber Ltd.
2023 HERBICIDE APPLICATION PROJECT

Please be advised that ANC Timber Ltd. has received an approval for their herbicide application program for 2023. ANC Timber Ltd. will be conducting both aerial and ground herbicide application programs between August 6th and September 20th, 2023. The application will treat approximately 1500 hectares of existing cutover area. The applications will be in portions of:

Township	Ranges	Meridian
58	18, 19, 20, 21, 25	W5M
59	17, 18, 23, 24	W5M
60	17, 23, 24	W5M
61	22	W5M
62	22	W5M

Both the aerial and ground herbicide applications will be done using VisionMax® silviculture herbicide. The purpose of the applications is to control grass and shrub species that are limiting the survival chances of our planted seedlings on recent harvested areas. Access to all areas will be posted with signs upon completion and all applications will be done in accordance with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry regulations and the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides. For more information, please contact an ANC Timber Ltd. representative at (780) 778-7017 or visit ANC's 2023 Virtual Open House at <http://www.albertanewsprint.com/woodlands/> or email ANCTimber@albertanewsprint.com.



A new, wider staircase that's up to code.

continued from page 8

right fit for our facility, you don't want to turn them away, especially if it's -40 outside, but we also have to keep everyone safe," said Wells.

The design features a confined space with seating just beyond the main door so that staff can buzz someone in and separate them from the rest of the facility. Staff can then speak to them through the intercom and see them through a mirrored window. "The staff will quickly assess if they are the right fit. If they aren't the right fit, we can call the appropriate people to help them. But by doing it this way, I'm keeping the staff safe and the residents." The doors and entrance glass at Wellspring are also shatterproof and bulletproof.

Work on the building began in December, and staff have been working out of a temporary space ever since. Clients who needed support were

placed in one of the two available rooms at the temporary shelter or in hotels, which proved pricey. "We are not turning people away while the shelter is renovated but are accommodating them differently." The process of staff moving back in began early last week, and Wells said they plan on having a Grand Reopening next month. "It feels like a way better space, and we have used every bit of space the best we can," she said. "It's like a new building!"

The common area upstairs features a large island, a new industrial-sized fridge/freezer combo, updated lighting from a high-placed horizontal window, and a new bathroom. Downstairs, beyond the newly designed staircase (the old staircase wasn't to code), there is now a kid's area where clients who have appointments can safely leave their children under the close watch of centre staff.

The HVAC system is

new, which will eliminate the heating and cooling issues they'd had previously, and staff will finally have a boardroom. Wells said they would be sharing the space. "I know that when we were going through this transition, we had to rent spaces, and it's not easy. So, if a non-profit needs the space, they can let us know, and we can offer it up for free."

A firewall beside the downstairs access to the outside joins a new fire suppression system and an overhauled security system featuring new cameras. The garage behind Wellspring will also change with two smaller doors replacing the large one. "We never parked vehicles in there. It was losing a lot of heat and cooling throughout the year. We are trying to be more energy efficient and not pay so much for heating and cooling this building."

With the larger client space, Wellspring Family Resource &

continued on page 12

ATTENTION LAND OWNERS

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Minimum of 50 – 80 acres



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Why, hello there.



The roving mime artist.

continued from page 3

businesses extended their floorspace outside, inviting shoppers to dig into sales and see what they offer. Even companies outside of the street fest zone took advantage. Several businesses located elsewhere in the community set up booths along the sidewalk area of the festival.

As residents and visitors walked down 50 Street and along 51 Avenue, there were many things to see. There were glitter tattoos and hair tinsel, and a continuously long line for a face paint design by Diana Wedel from Stardust Designs. Those interested could even create a dream catcher at an ongoing workshop and make something unique to take home. Roving performers spiced things up even more, with a juggler and contemporary mime added to the mix.

When the drums kicked in for the Chinese Lion Dancers, the crowd shifted from

along the sidewalks to the centre of the road by CIBC. Three pairs of dancers donned Chinese lion outfits together, creating imaginative characters that danced up and down the streets, giving a close-up experience to those watching. The dancers climbed on each other, making the lions appear tall before jumping down quickly and throwing candy. Their colourful act was a bit hit.

The road in front of Sagitawah Brewing was home to an open doubles cornhole tournament, which was fun for players and spectators. Another neat addition to the event was the Sidewalk Art Challenge. Participants registered in advance for free, with up to ten spots available. Each artist was given a four-foot by six-foot space to work within and create something magical. Artists received five hours, from 2 pm until 7 pm, to complete their work of art. Once the bell sounded for 7 pm,

event participants went to work voting for the winners.

The top three vote-getters received some Whitecourt Bucks. The creativity along the sidewalk in front of Whitecourt Stationary and White Wall Wood was exceptional. Artists created elaborate pieces, blending colours and bringing their images to life. There was a two-sided barn owl with a colourful left and brown right, a seagull on a rock by the beach, a dragon rising from flames, a beautiful Indigenous person in full regalia, several landscapes, colourful ribbons, and a couple of anime characters.

Families, couples, teenagers, young and old, Summer Street Fest 2023 brought out a mix of everybody. Though the wind was a little intense at times, requiring vendors to weigh down their setups, the beautiful summer sunshine made for a fantastic day and evening.

From the safety classroom to a real-life scenario; local man heroically jumps into action during last week's train accident

By Serena Lapointe

On Friday morning last week, Michelle McIntee, owner of A-TEAM Training and Consulting, was nearly an hour into her Standard First Aid & CPR Recertification course. Her students for the day were settled in their seats, learning about various safety-related topics. Her office is just off Highway 43, on Caxton Street, beside the Ritz Café & Motor Inn. Just after 8:30 am, a big sound shook the ground and caught her attention.

"I had my back to the windows facing the highway while I was teaching, and suddenly, I heard a really big bang," she recounted. Before she could get her bearings and figure out what was happening, Cody Brown, one of the students in the class, jumped up and yelled, reacting to something happening outside.

Their classroom view was of Highway 43, including the train crossing near the exit of Highway 32. The scene unfolding in front of them was horrifying. A pair of train engines had collided with a transport carrying fuel, creating a massive fireball rising high up into the early morning sky.

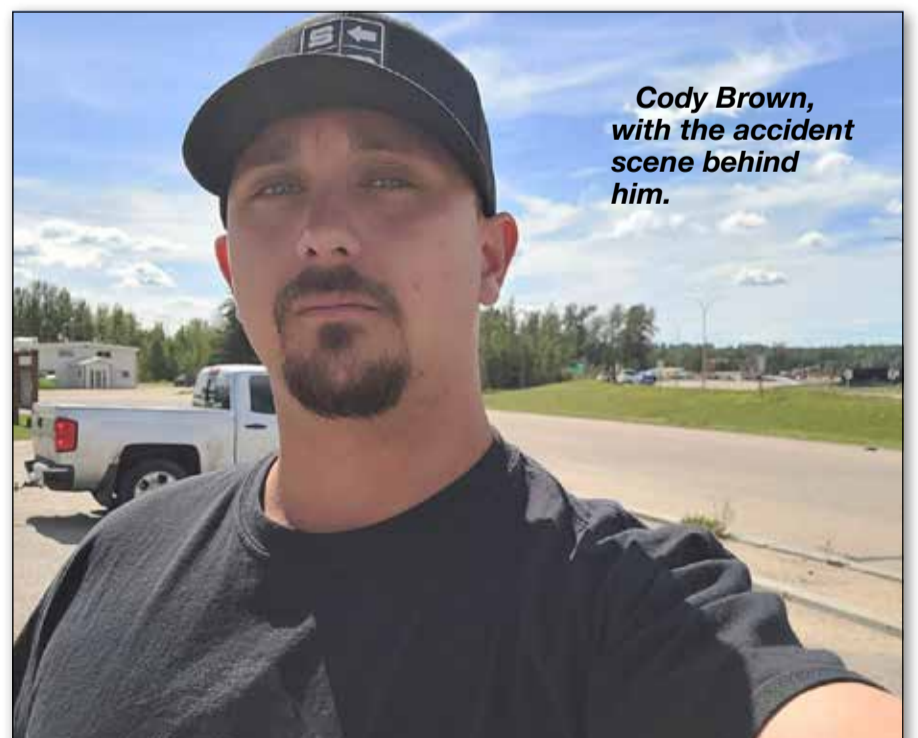
After yelling and notifying his classmates about the commotion outside, Brown grabbed his cell phone and immediately dialled 911. "That's how quickly he reacted. Not only did he call for help, but as he was doing that, he was running out the door to his truck." From their vantage point in the A-TEAM classroom, they saw that the truck driver needed help. "He was walking around, and you could tell he was in shock because he was going across the road, then back again, and fell to his knees in the middle of the road.

Cody got to him within less than five minutes of it happening."

For Brown, it was evident that he had to act quickly. "The driver was out of the truck, but he was only ten feet away from it, and I could see that he was in shock, and no one was helping him. I had to get him away from it." After going to the front of the line, Brown jumped out of his truck and ran to the driver. As he did so, another good Samaritan parked behind him and joined him. Both men worked together to get the driver into Brown's truck. "I brought him down the road until the police showed up."

Being a busy highway, it took only a short time for traffic to begin adding up on both sides of the train tracks. The transport was carrying two diesel-filled tanks (early reports said one

continued on page 15



Cody Brown, with the accident scene behind him.

A scary accident on Highway 43 last week brought traffic from both sides to a standstill. A transport carrying two fuel tankers collided with a short train of two engines, creating a massive plume of thick, black smoke visible across the community. Sitting in a safety class just beyond the accident, a local man sprung into action to help.



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Putting a face on suicide



Shannon Van Lanker

Age 24

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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Crisis Centre is looking for local groups or businesses interested in helping furnish the new bedrooms. They received grants from Cenovus and Chevron to help prepare some and still have a few to go. "Adopting a room means that you would be outfitting the whole space and buying everything from the linens to curtains to towels and décors like lamps and furniture."

Wells said the impact of the donation is immense. "Someone will feel safe in the room." She said more than one business or group could collaborate and furnish a room. A single room can be adopted for \$4,200 and a Family Room

for \$5,300. She also thanked all the businesses and groups that

have helped during the renovation. "We really appreciate the support

we've received during this time."

Wells added that with rising costs, and interest rates, she expects an increase in people needing support this fall. "Mental health has gotten worse. Domestic violence is a more hidden thing. No one wants to talk about domestic violence or being in a controlling relationship. It's a hard thing to talk about. But we are here to help. We also have an outreach team that can help people if they want support and don't want to come into the shelter." Those interested in supporting Wellspring by adopting a room are encouraged to contact Rebecca by email at wsdirector@telus.net or by phone at 780-778-6209.



Barrier free changes include this shower.



A full line up of golfers taking a swing or two, or ten.



A few practice putts before heading out on the course.



Pretty and busy.

The Whitecourt Golf and Country Club was a bustling place this past weekend. After dealing with a devastating flood when the Athabasca spilled over its banks and the aftermath and chaos the high water created, staff at the club have worked tirelessly to get as much of the course back up and running. Most of the course is now usable, to the pleasure and glee of golfers, visitors and locals alike. The golf course might have some scars, but its beauty shines through, and the staff deserves a serious pat on the back for it. The vibrantly green fairways and the driving range were full of activity as golfers enjoyed one of the community's gems.



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

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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.
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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.
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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

Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca

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



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.

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Closing date: August 18, 2023



Photos by Julie Davidson

In response to a collision between a train and a fuel truck on Highway 43, near the junction of Highway 32 in Whitecourt, the Whitecourt RCMP swiftly arrived at the scene. Acting upon a report received, the RCMP, along with Alberta Sheriffs, effectively managed the situation and contained the area.

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tank was gas and the other diesel, though unconfirmed). Explosions could be heard as tanks and tires caught fire, leaving terrified drivers to back up or do a U-turn to get out of the vicinity.

"You don't see that every day," said Brown. He credited his training over the years for helping him recognize the driver was in trouble and knowing what to do to help. "I'm a rig worker. Power tongs work with drilling rigs, all the safety training and drills we do, and the high-octane situations that we sometimes get into directly contributed to me running into the fire."

Brown has lived in Whitecourt for 16 years and has worked within the oil and gas industry since he was fresh out of high school. He has worked for Clarke's Power Tong Service for the last five years, and this was the first time he had taken a course with A-TEAM. Brown recommends safety train-

ing because you never know when it might be useful. "Sometimes you have to step up and help when someone's in danger. Safety training can help. Michelle (A-TEAM) did an excellent job. She was to the point with good information, kept it interesting, and had all the proper tools. It was a good safety course. One of the better ones I've been to, actually."

McIntee said her courses are meant to be interactive and fun, keeping them from getting dry. That morning's blended course gave students an online portion to do at their pace and a full day of hands-on training to solidify it all together. "I think they take away so much more from it this way. The biggest thing with safety is that they remember the training afterwards because if they don't, and they zone out, I feel I haven't done my job."

Keeping the rest of her class inside to watch from the safety of the window, McIntee said she paid close

attention to Brown once he returned. "As First Aiders, we can go into shock too. It's one of the most common things to happen. When you're dealing with something, your adrenaline spikes like crazy, and then when you're all done, it drops, and you might not feel very good. I watched him to see if he got pale, but he was good. He was calm as a cucumber."

McIntee said she is incredibly proud of what he did. "That's just who he is. If you met him, you would see that. He used the first aid skills that he's learned since he began taking first aid courses, and he put them to the test today and did an awesome job. I'm very proud of him. A huge pat on the back!"

For Brown, he said it's just like any other day. "I don't feel like a hero or nothing. I'm just glad I could help, as little as it was, and that everyone is ok. I'm glad to see the quick response time from the first responders. Great job."



The front row seat from the A-TEAM classroom.

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