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The Press



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Vol. 12 - Issue 32 | Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Building back the baseball ranks in Whitecourt, one tournament at a time

Ashley digging deep. See story page 8.

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A fireguard around Whitecourt and Woodlands County is on the provincial table

By Serena Lapointe

At a meeting earlier this summer, Whitecourt Town Council learned about an expression of interest from Alberta Forestry Parks and Tourism for grant funding to create an emergency fireguard around communities at high risk for wildfires due to their proximity to the Boreal forest.

A fireguard is a strategically placed barrier intended to stop or slow the rate of the spread that a wildfire has in its approach to something, in this case, a municipality. Fireguards come in all shapes and sizes. From bulldozing a wide path, separating the forest from itself to pre-burn-

continued on page 3



The vast Boreal forest around Woodlands County and Whitecourt.

Whitecourt and Woodlands County are working on a project that could bring a fireguard to the area, protecting both municipalities. The Government of Alberta recently sent out a feeler to see how communities would take to building fireguards themselves with provincial funding.

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Rivers are natural fireguards.

continued from page 2

ing an area, like, for example, around a house, to reducing flammability through water or fire retardant chemicals. Fireguards of different kinds are used worldwide, with many using a combination of methods. The fireguard proposed for the area would entail separating the forest, creating a break in forest fuels, and slowing or potentially stopping an incoming wildfire.

Alberta Forestry Parks and Tourism's expression of interest was a dipping of the proverbial toe in the water to see what kind of interest there would be from municipalities to build the fireguard and receive funding for it. Town of Whitecourt CAO Peter Smyl explained that, if made, the fireguard would be in Woodlands County and placed in a way that would protect critical infrastructure for both municipalities.

He said Lee Hardman, Whitecourt's Director of Community Safety, chatted with Woodlands County about the project, ready to work together to create the funding application. The more they learned about the potential funding, the more they realized there was a better way to go about the project. "It (the fireguard) has to be done by March 31, 2024. To arrange a fireguard is not a simple process even though we are not dealing with a lot of private owners, but a lot of leaseholders and crown land."

Smyl explained that Whitecourt and Woodlands County agreed to send a letter to the Province instead. "Yes,

a fireguard would be a benefit. However, we would like to assist them (the Province) in doing the fireguard application. Because it's approved by the Province and a lot of different departments, and we are dealing with the Province's land and dealing with the Province's leaseholders, we would like to have the Province spearhead the application forward."

Having the Province spearhead the project, rather than having the communities do it themselves, means the Province could deal with their leaseholders instead of requiring municipalities to navigate those waters. Given the land where most of the fireguards would take place is either connected to the Province by leases or by the crown, seeking the Province's lead on the project sounded logical.

Whitecourt and Woodlands County co-signed the letter, seeking the Province's lead. Both municipalities' Councils made nearly the same motion to support it, with both motioning to enter into an agreement with Alberta Forestry, Parks and Tourism for the planning and assessment work required for an emergency fireguard around the communities.

At the meeting, Mayor Tom Pickard shared that he had spoken with Forestry Minister Todd Loewen about the matter at a conference with the Northern Alberta elected leaders. "The feeling of the Northern Alberta elected leaders' group was that the province should be leading this kind of initiative in areas where the predominance of properties around cer-

tain towns, villages, hamlets, were provincially owned." Mayor Pickard said that though Minister Loewen didn't make any commitments one way or another, he did agree with the premise. "He felt it was a good idea and that there were advantages. He felt it was worthy of further discussion with his ministry officials."

Roughly six years ago, the Whitecourt Town Council of the day sent a letter to the Province requesting they look into creating a fireguard for the area. "They indicated that they did not have a program for it and would work with the situations at hand, creating fireguards as needed, but not prior to," explained Smyl. "This process is new. I understand there are a couple of communities in Alberta looking at this program."

In early July, the Province of Alberta announced 175 million in wildfire response and recovery funding for municipalities affected by wildfire. Communities could access up to 90 percent of wildfire response-related costs, and no dollar cap was placed on applications. Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Minister Mike Ellis said applications would be reviewed on a case-by-case as received. Over 1.5 million hectares of land have burned this fire season, with over 50 communities being impacted. Creating fireguards around communities at the most risk could reduce costs to the Province and municipalities in future wildfire seasons.

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So long, farewell to graffiti, thanks to a new initiative from Communities in Bloom



Scars of paint downtown.

Though some graffiti can be beautiful, artistic, thoughtful, and inspiring, it can be a downright nuisance when done without a business or homeowners' permission or when vulgar or unsightly. To beautify the community and encourage new ways to showcase art through their mural project, the Whitecourt Communities in Bloom Committee has kicked off a graffiti and tagging removal initiative.

By Serena Lapointe

A new initiative is on the go in Whitecourt. Aimed at getting graffiti off the many buildings, signs, and infrastructure that feature it, the Whitecourt Communities in Bloom Tagging and Graffiti Removal Initiative is available for local businesses and residents to access products nearly guaranteed to remove unsightly and unwanted art.

Graffiti remains an issue for area businesses. From the more recent bright, neon green squiggles defacing the Canadian Tire sign pillars to the many random or affiliated pieces on buildings throughout the community, graffiti is an issue most can agree is a problem, and it's not just Whitecourt either.

The City of Edmonton has received more complaints this year

than last year. In January, they received 81 graffiti complaints, up from the 34 they received in January 2022. They received 143 complaints in February, up 155 percent from the previous year. In Edmonton, property owners have a specific timeline to remove graffiti or face a fine. One program in place offers up to \$750 of professional graffiti-cleaning support to affected property owners. Some owners have switched from constant cleaning to putting up murals since artists typically respect other artists and refrain from tagging art. The issue of graffiti is far spread, and many municipalities are trying to figure out how best to combat the problem.

After researching what other communi-

continued on page 5



Photo From agenda package

The graffiti used to test the World's Best system.



Photo From agenda package

After the system was used.

NOTICE OF DECISION

NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 15-045-2023
Location: PT NE 20-59-12-W5M Lot 6 Block 1 Plan 042-5274
Proposed Development: Accessory Building: Workshop

Decision Date: August 1, 2023
Appeal Deadline: August 22, 2023

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



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PUBLIC NOTICE

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NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 23-086: Home Occupation – David Green Tree Cutting Services – 33 Baly Road – Approved with conditions.

Date of Decision: July 27, 2023 Appeal Closes at 4:00pm: August 17, 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.

continued from page 4

ties do and testing out various products, the Communities in Bloom Committee members settled on a product called The World's Best Graffiti Removal System. With some elbow grease, the system removes graffiti from bare brick, stone, masonry and nearly every other type of material.

At a recent Whitecourt Town Council meeting, Council received an update on the program, which included pictures that showed the product in action. One Bloom committee member had graffiti just outside her home on an electrical box, a perfect test subject for the system to see how it would work. Pictures provided in the public package showed the steps of each product in the system, ending in the preferred final result, a graffiti-free electrical box.

The Communities in Bloom Committee provides the system in a kit format, which features everything needed in a bucket (solution, goggles, gloves, paintbrush and scrubber) at a subsidized rate. The

group purchased 100 Citizen's Kits for \$30 a piece and will sell them for \$20. Councillor Derek Schlosser asked why they decided to do a lowered cost. Chelsea Grande, Director of Community Services, explained that it was meant to boost the program. "With the amount of tagging and graffiti in town, they just really wanted to promote it."

Grande explained that the product, The World's Best Graffiti Removal System, works as the name suggests. "It works really well. They have two kits, one for sensitive surfaces and one for bare brick, stone, and masonry. They also tried the brick one, and it worked well." The sensitive surfaces kit is for painted surfaces or those with a coating that must remain. The product's ability to remove graffiti was also a pleasant surprise for Town staff. "It's better than the one we have for the Town's usage right now," added Grande. She said they would likely be purchasing the product in the future.

Depending on the

program's success, the Communities in Bloom Committee could bring in more kits for the next budget or change the subsidy offered. Businesses or residents that take part and pick up a kit will be asked to submit before and after pictures. The successes and challenges of the initiative will be tracked for any necessary changes or updates. One thing's for sure, depending on the amount of graffiti, it's likely cheaper to purchase a kit and remove it than to paint over top.

Residents and business owners interested in getting their hands on a kit can do so by visiting the Allan & Jean Millar Centre during business hours and inquiring at the front desk. The Communities in Bloom Committee is also in the beginner stages of creating a mural project in the community and already has a completed mural up at the FIC. Anyone wishing to contact the Communities in Bloom Committee about the mural project, or any other reason can do so through their Facebook page, "Whitecourt Communities in Bloom."



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

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www.whitecourtshester.ca

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- Friday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

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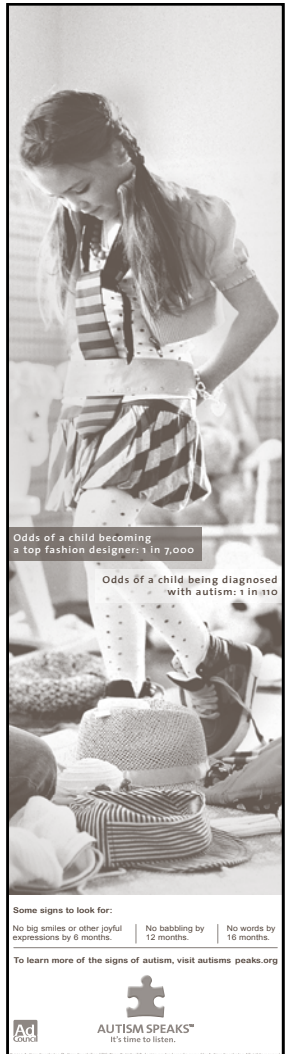
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Airdrie, AB

A look at the local weather	Wed., Aug 9	Thu., Aug 10	Fri., Aug 11	Sat., Aug 12	Sun., Aug 13
P.O.P. High Low Wind 24-Hr Rain / Snow	 Rain 70% 19°C 13°C SE 12 km/h ~10mm	 Mix of sun and clouds 30% 20°C 11°C W 15 km/h 1-3mm	 Mix of sun and clouds 30% 21°C 11°C W 14 km/h -	 Mix of sun and clouds 30% 21°C 10°C NW 14 km/h -	 Mainly sunny 30% 21°C 11°C NW 21 km/h -

Building back the baseball ranks in Whitecourt, one tournament at a time



No matter what, everyone has fun.



A big swing

The Whitecourt Slo-Pitch Association has a tournament this weekend with over 30 teams on the schedule. Six local groups will be in the mix, and players hope to see loads of fans cheering them on.

By Serena Lapointe

The Whitecourt Slo-Pitch Association is looking to grow its membership in a big way. The group has dwindled over the years, leaving players unable to fulfill the season as they would like. For player Brian Hatch, it's hard to watch. "When I moved here fifteen years ago, there were 34 teams. This year there were eleven."

A small number of teams meant a shortened season. "The season usually runs three

months, May through July, with playoffs at the end of July. This season ended at the beginning of July with no playoffs," said Hatch. When asked why he thought the player numbers had gone down, Hatch said COVID didn't help as many people picked up different hobbies, like golf, and haven't returned to the diamond.

As a whole, slo-pitch is a popular sport provincially. "It's a huge thing in Alberta. In the cities, there are 96 teams in each league.

In Grande Prairie, there are 250 teams," he said. Hatch said he enjoys slo-pitch because it's easier to hit the ball and it's easier on the body to play when compared to fastball. "You don't want to get hit by a ball from a pitcher doing 60 or 80 miles per hour." He said the lower risk of injury is a bonus.

The main issue now is building the league back up to where it once was and not worrying about having a shortened season

continued on page 12



Brian had a laugh coming into third.



An incoming pitch



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.

Temporary foreign workers in Alberta

By ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team

Temporary foreign workers are an important part of Alberta's labour force with about 45,000 permit holders coming to the province in 2022. This was a 62% increase over the number of arrivals in 2021.

Over the first half of 2023, the number of foreign workers coming to Alberta was 147% higher than at the same point in 2022. If this pace continues, Alberta is on track to welcome over 65,000 new foreign workers in 2023.

There are two programs under which foreign job seekers can apply to work in Canada: 1) the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP); and 2) the International Mobility Program (IMP).

The TFWP is aimed at addressing local labour shortage by allowing Canadian employers to hire foreign workers to fill temporary jobs when qualified Canadians are not available.

As such, the TFWP requires employers to complete a Labour Market Impact Assessment. "A positive LMIA will show that there is a need for a foreign worker to fill the job. It will also show that no Canadian worker or permanent resident is available to do the job."

TFWP permit holders tend to work in agriculture, food services and accommodation, or as caregivers.

The IMP does not require a Labour Market Impact Assessment and is aimed at providing "reciprocal

benefits for Canadian citizens" (i.e. so Canadians can apply

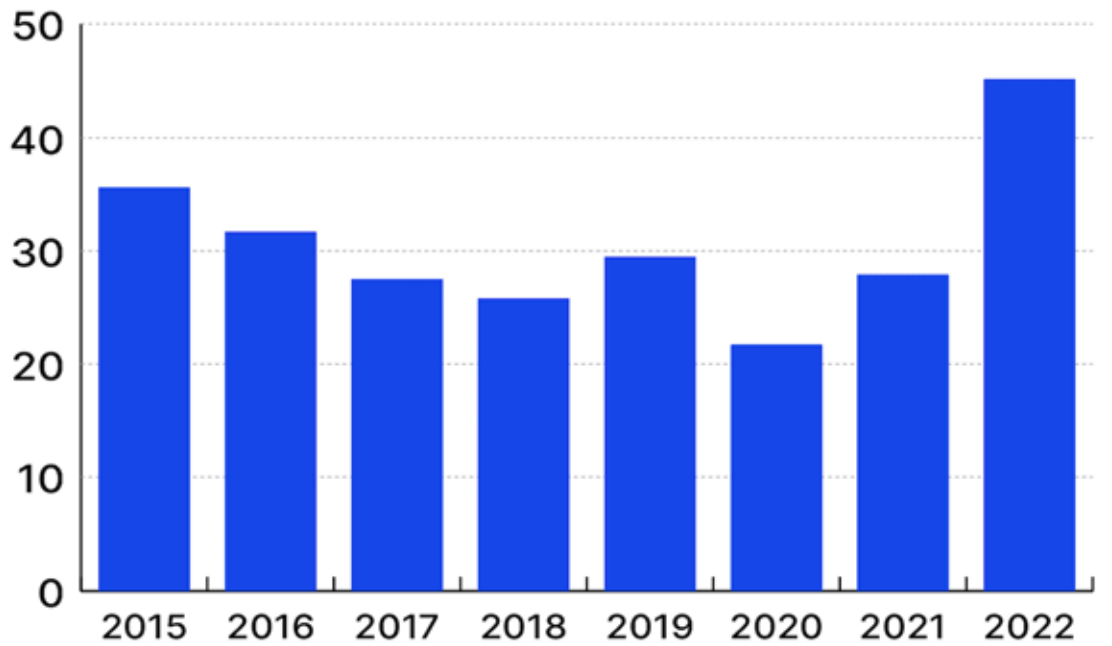
for temporary work permits in other countries), and providing

broad economic, cultural, or other competitive advantages to Canadians. The IMP also facilitates the movement of workers covered under free trade agreements such as the Canada-US-Mexico Agreement and intra-company transfers. Typical occupations

of IMP permit holders in Alberta include university professors, engineers, IT experts, and medical specialists.

The IMP is the larger of the two programs covering 75% of temporary foreign workers coming to Alberta in 2022.

Foreign workers arriving in Alberta Annual number of permits issued, thousands



Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and ATB Economics

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PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15



SUDOKU

			3					7
2				7	3			
	4		8					2
			5			7	3	
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	7			6				
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Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

CROSSWORDS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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64						65							66		
67						68							69		

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Things that have seemingly been holding you back should be reevaluated this week, Aries. You are looking elsewhere for solutions, when all you need to do is make a few tweaks.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, spend time reflecting on things this week, as you may have some difficult decisions to make in the near future. A close confidante can serve as a sounding board.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Gemini, now is the time to identify your priorities as they pertain to the job. Do you want a career and a company that you stick with? Or, are you satisfied with being a contract worker?

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Prepare for some stressful times ahead, Cancer. It is nothing you cannot survive, but it could throw a wrench in your plans for the time being. Reward yourself with some extra pampering.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Leo, you may have planned on staying to yourself, in order to knock things off of your to-do list. That simply will not pan out right now. Expect to be surrounded by people.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Virgo, others do not seem receptive to your way of doing things this week. You cannot please everyone, so figure out who you can work with and appeal to those people to get things done.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Libra, you may have to take off the rose-colored glasses for a little while. Although it's good to have a cheery outlook, a no-nonsense approach will serve you well in the days ahead.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, you could be having doubts about your role in your workplace. Maybe the work isn't stimulating or the responsibilities too great. If change is happening, do it soon.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Sagittarius, something from your past will come back to the surface in the days to come. Maybe it is an error you made or it could be an opportunity that you thought was lost.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Think about adding more hobbies or recreational activities to your slate, Capricorn. All work and no play is not healthy for you right now. It's time to find a greater balance in life.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Aquarius, the latest developments on the job have not been encouraging. You are tempted to cut back on your efforts, but you are worried about the implications of that.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



People who followed you in the past may now confront you with a difference of opinion, Pisces. No need to worry as a healthy dialogue could help the relationship grow.

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

1. A way to pick up
5. Presents
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Harness
18. Weight unit
19. You better call him
20. Utterly devoted
22. Male cat
23. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
24. Risk-taker
27. A team's best pitcher
30. Cool!
31. Women's __ movement
32. Georgia rocks
35. Step-shaped recess
37. The princess could detect its presence
38. Type of truck

39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Angry people see it
41. Lines where two fabrics are sewn together
42. Soviet city
43. Carpet
44. Traveled all over
45. Thin, straight bar
46. Body art (slang)
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Breaks apart
52. Arabic name
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bract of grass floret
63. Italian Seaport
64. Ancient Syrian city
65. Shoelace tube
66. The Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. Popular video game "Max

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Ancient Hebrew calendar month
4. Long-legged frog family
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in classical Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Belonging to a bottom layer
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Part of a ticket
13. Defunct Guinean money
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway dweller
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. Egyptian city

29. Partner to "flowed"
32. Widens
33. Old Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. European pipeline
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Root eaten as a vegetable
41. Sound units
43. Style of music
44. A way to drench
46. Hot beverage
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Urge to action
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Take a chance
61. Bland food
62. Consumed

IMMUNIZED WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- ACUTE
- ADJUVANT
- ALLERGY

- ANTIGEN
- ANTITOXIN
- ANTIVIRAL
- BACTERIA

- BIOLOGY
- BOOSTER
- CONJUGATE
- DELTOID

- DISEASE
- DOSE
- EXPOSURE
- IMMUNITY

- IMMUNIZE
- INACTIVATED
- INFECTION
- NEEDLE

- RESPONSE
- SHOT
- SORENESS
- VACCINE
- VIRUS



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 All submissions remain confidential

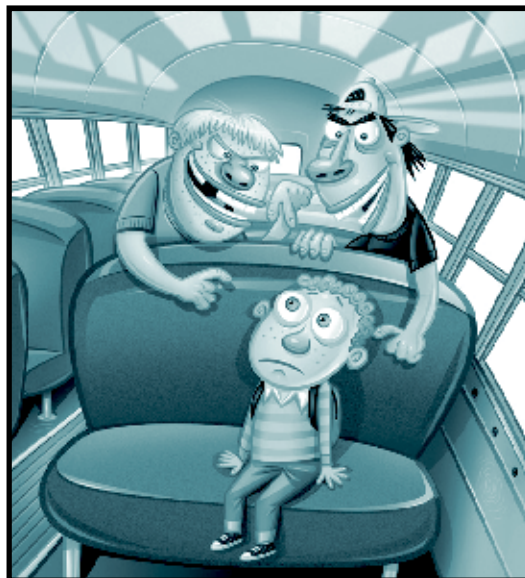


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.
Let that sink in.



Are you or someone you know being bullied?

Call the Bullying Helpline (Confidential)



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

1-888-456-2323

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

Putting a face on suicide



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

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The Whitecourt Royals U18AA baseball team ended off the 2022/2023 baseball season on cloud number nine after a big win. The team has had a great year with lots of growth and proved it when it mattered most. On Saturday, July 30, the group went down to Sherwood Park to participate in a weekend tournament to crown the winner of their provincial division. When all was said and done, the Whitecourt Royals U18AA team was on top of the mountain, taking home gold! The group has played together in lower levels for several years and has nabbed silver in the past, but this is the first gold for this crew in their first year at the U18AA level. Congratulations!

continued from page 8

again. Hatch said they are trying to build it up by holding several tournaments each season. “We hope these tournaments will help bring more local people to the sport. They might want to play but don’t like travelling, so the more tournaments we do here, the better. Also, we hope people who used to play will come out and watch and maybe decide to get back into it.”

The 2nd Annual Whitecourt Classic is one of the tournaments Hatch said they hope entices the masses back into the dugout. “We are going to have 32 teams here for the tournament this weekend.” As one of the most centralized locations between Edmonton and Grande Prairie, Whitecourt has the advantage of bringing teams in from around central Alberta for weekend events without having to drive too far.

Food will be on-site, games, beer gardens and great action to cheer on. “We are going to try and do eight games Friday night (August 11), and then we will likely be using all six diamonds all day Saturday (August 12). Then we will start play-offs Saturday night, and on Sunday, we hope to be done by 4 pm.”

Another way to grow the sport is through younger ages playing it and growing up loving the game. Hatch said Whitecourt Minor Baseball recently advertised about starting a slow-pitch league for youth with a tentative start date next season. Teens interested in slo-pitch can join the association as young as 14, provided they have parental consent. “It would be nice to have 30 teams again. Hopefully, we can get more people in next season.”

On Thursday last week, over twenty league members got

together for a Glove Toss evening at Graham Acres. With a shortened season, many people weren’t ready to call it done and wanted more opportunities to play. Thursday was the second time since the season ended that a make-shift night of baseball was put on. “We will keep it going as long as people are having fun and want to continue,” said Hatch.

For Ashley Johnston, baseball has been in her life since she was a young child. Over the last eight years, she has become more competitive with her play, travelling to tournaments with her Smokin’ Bases teammates. I love smashing a ball. It’s a lot of fun. It’s a vibe to hang out with the crowd and play with friends. It’s a good bunch of people around here in the league.” She encouraged anyone interested to give it a go. “We have a good mix. It ranges from competitive players to first-timers just starting and learning the sport and everyone in between them. Our main goal is trying to get people back out. Even if you’ve never played before, come out and try it and see if you like it. We don’t care if you’ve played before or not. We want to get more people out to play because it’s better when you have more people.”

With only thirteen players needed per team, it’s easy for friends and family to come up with a name and join next year’s league play. Those interested in joining the Whitecourt Slo-Pitch Association are encouraged to join the Facebook page.



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

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Money Matters



One Canadian Dollar = 0.74 US Dollar
at an exchange rate of **0.7475** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of August 9, 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

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



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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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 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.

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

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

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

Closing date: August 18, 2023



The Whitecourt Woodlands Rodeo took place over the long weekend, from August 4-6, at the Whitecourt District Agricultural Society Rodeo Grounds. This year's rodeo was postponed due to fires, pushing it back in the schedule. The jam-packed three-day event scored beautiful weather, bringing big crowds out to enjoy the action. On Friday night's kick-off, fans in the stands were treated to the excitement of chariot and chuckwagon races. Both gave attendees a reason to cheer as teams of horses screamed down the track, speeding toward the finish line. Whitecourt Woodlands Rodeo and the Wildrose Rodeo Association put on a great weekend of fun for locals and visitors alike, and was a great family hangout.



PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

WORD SEARCH

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

CROSSWORDS

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

SUDOKU

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

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