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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



The Press

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Vol. 12 - Issue 48 | Wednesday, November 29, 2023

A proposal for red tape reduction on building permits closer to reality for Whitecourt

Town Council is looking to whip out a giant pair of scissors and cut red tape. At a recent P&P meeting, the group learned about an opportunity to make getting a Building Permit at the Town office as easy as 1, 2, 3. See story page 9.



Long standing tournament shines spotlight on Whitecourt community thanks to a dedicated local club

By Serena Lapointe

Each year, Whitecourt Taekwondo holds a massive championship event that draws in hundreds of fighters from across the province and throughout Western Canada, as well as over a thousand spectators to take in all the action from the sidelines. The tourna-

ment features several fighters' divisions, from recreational and high-performance sparring and poomsae to tile smashing and a 2020 Armor competition.

This year marks 32 years for the tournament. Master Jim Rennie, tournament host and owner of Whitecourt Taekwondo said

they've always strived to continuously grow the strong reputation of the Whitecourt tournament. "We are the only rural tournament in the Alberta scene, so there are no other tournaments outside the three big cities, yet we still have one of the largest

continued on page 10



A huge kick for a young Whitecourt athlete.



Patrick Carew

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pdcarew@telus.net

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PIZZA 73

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Fall cooldown: Inflation moves in the right direction

By ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team

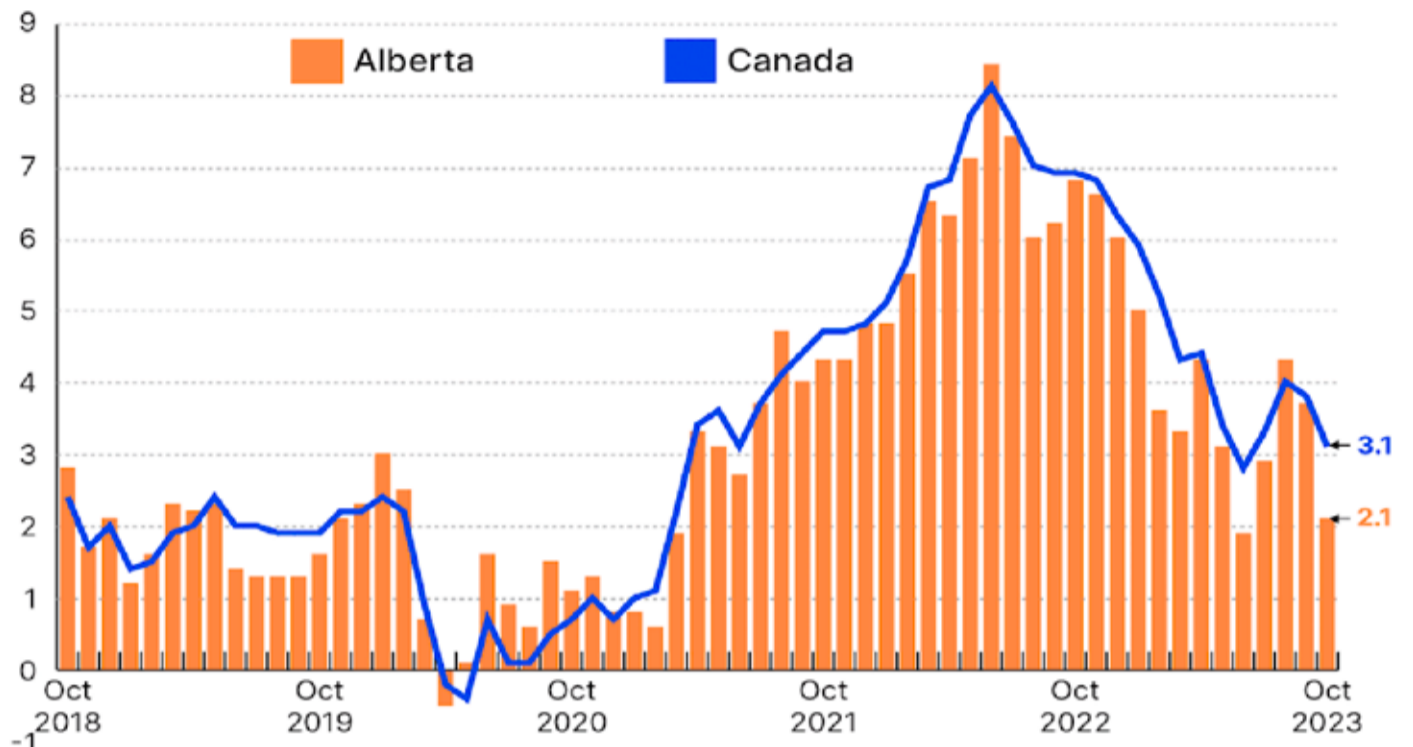
Last week, we watched as the U.S. reported a lower inflation rate in October. Today, Canada joined in with its own encouraging report.

The annual inflation rate cooled largely as expected to 3.1% last month—down from 3.8% in September. This is the lowest inflation rate since June and well below its peak of 8.1% in June 2022.

Most of the credit for last month's improvement goes to lower prices at the pumps (-7.8% year-over-year, y/y). Grocery prices rose 5.4% y/y, the slowest annual pace since November 2021, but still an uncomfortably high reading for households.

Inflation in Alberta and Canada

Year-over-year % change in the unadjusted Consumer Price Index



Source: Statistics Canada Table 18-10-0004-01

DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES

The Community:

Woodlands County is a vibrant rural municipality with a thriving economy. They are located approximately 150 kilometers northwest of Edmonton, with administrative offices in the Hamlet of Fort Assiniboine and adjacent to the Town of Whitecourt, Alberta. The economy is rooted in Energy, Forestry, Agriculture and Construction. Communities offer a wide range of lifestyle options including recreational facilities, campgrounds, trails and an abundance of access to natural settings, including lakes and rivers, a great place to live and raise a family.

Position Summary:

The County is recruiting a new Director, Corporate Services to facilitate Council financial plans, bylaws and policies. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to enhance the well-being of the municipality and help shape the future of the County resulting in long term sustainability and efficiencies for County residents.

Reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Director will assist in providing direction and leadership to all corporate and management service programs. Direct responsibility includes all finance functions, taxation, assessment, asset management, and risk management, management of external services, policy development, Information technology, human resource management and reception. The successful candidate will be required to attend at Council meetings as necessary.

Requirements:

A Bachelor's degree and CLGM designation (or willingness to obtain) combined with experience working in Municipal Government and comprehensive knowledge of PSAB practises.

Strong written and oral communications skills, public relations skills, practical problem solving ability combined with a demonstrated success in working effectively with elected officials, members of the public and managers and staff in a team environment.

The ability to work effectively and efficiently, performing well under pressure while dealing with contentious matters. Must have the ability to maintain strong attention to detail and possess solid financial and reconciliation skills.

Knowledge & experience with municipal IT programs with an aptitude and interest in Information technology.

Other:

Woodlands County offers an exceptional salary and benefits package.

Detailed information, such as a job description and organization chart will be forwarded upon request through the following contact:

(Submit a cover letter and detailed resume to Matt Noble, Ravenhill - Smith Search Inc.)
matt@ravenhillgroup.com

Any questions should be directed to Matt Noble, Team Leader, Ravenhill Group Inc.

1-888-447-5910 #709
 1-250-941-9066 or 1-236-655-2365

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 Toll Free: 1-888-447-5900

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 Calgary, Alberta, T1Y 6J7
 Phone: (403)

BC OFFICE

1280 Wilkinson Road, Suite 300
 Comox, BC, V9M 4B8
 612-5900 1-236-655-2365

WOODLANDS COUNTY RFPS AND TENDERS AVAILABLE

Woodlands County is seeking quotations for the following projects:

- 2024-100 – Geotech Monitoring
- 2024-101 – Road Resurfacing and Drainage Engineering
- 2024-102 – Airport Runway/Taxiway Resurfacing Engineering

- 2024-103 – Bridge Culvert Replacement Engineering
- 2024-104 – Building Condition Assessment

Detailed information on the proposals are available on the Woodlands County website: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/rfps-and-tenders>

Woodlands County reserves the right to waive informalities in, or reject any or all tenders, or accept the tender deemed most favourable in the interest of the County.



DAVE KUSCH
 Councilor for Assiniboine Division 1
 Phone: 780-778-9337



JOHN BURROWS
 Councilor for Whitecourt West Division 2
 Phone: 780-778-4747



ALAN DEANE
 Councilor for Whitecourt Central Division 3
 Phone: 780-778-0954



JEREMY WILHELM
 Councilor for Whitecourt East Division 4
 Phone: 780-778-6564



BRUCE PRESTIDGE
 Councilor for Blue Ridge Division 5
 Phone: 780-779-3217



PETER KUELKEN
 Councilor for Goose Lake/Traverse River Division 6
 Phone: 780-264-2425



DEVIN WILLIAMS
 Councilor for Fort Assiniboine/Texas Division 7
 Phone: 780-305-1825

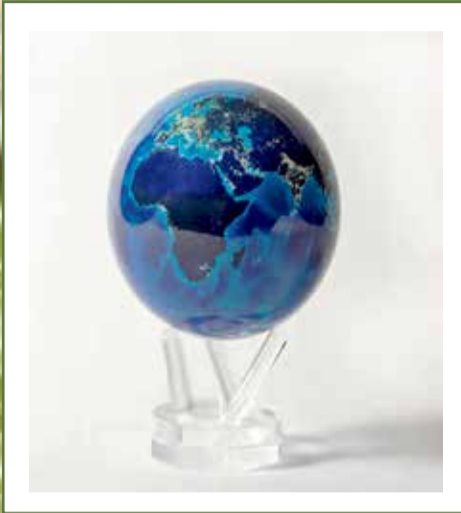


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JDA Ventures Ltd. welcomed as newest community partner with naming of JDA Place

The Town of Whitecourt is pleased to announce a new sponsorship agreement with JDA Ventures Ltd. Through a multi-year commitment, JDA Ventures Ltd. will receive naming rights for the twin arenas, now formally recognized as JDA Place.

“Kim and I were very excited to be able to support the community that the JDA families work and play in,” said Jarvis Dawson, President of JDA Ventures Ltd. “We consider it a privilege to have the naming rights for the Whitecourt arenas.”

“JDA Ventures Ltd. has been a long time community sponsor throughout the region, and is now extending

that corporate support here in Whitecourt,” added Whitecourt Mayor Tom Pickard. “I’m constantly impressed by the generous commitment of companies like JDA Ventures Ltd. for their investments and support in our community.”

About JDA Ventures Ltd.

Starting its journey in 1994, JDA Ventures Ltd. has skyrocketed from a humble one-truck operation to a powerhouse in light, heavy haul and hoisting across Alberta and BC. Boasting an arsenal of over 300 pieces of cutting-edge equipment and a dynamic team of 120+ passionate employees, JDA melds next-generation dis-

patching systems and GPS technology with a commitment to classic, hands-on service. Driven by a mission to transport equipment with integrity, we’re constantly elevating our staff’s expertise and spearheading innovation in the industry. Rooted in family values, our dedication extends beyond business boundaries, supporting local youth sports, children’s charities including Ronald McDonald House, and many others. For JDA, it’s not just about being a company—it’s about being a community leader, the employer of choice and the supplier of choice in the vibrant communities we serve with pride.



SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

SUDOKU CROSSWORDS

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

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!

Level: Intermediate

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12					13
14					15			16	17
	18			21	22		19		20
				24	25	26	27	28	
				29	30		31	32	
				33	34		35		
36	37	38		39		40		41	
42			43		44		45		
46							47	48	
49				50	51			52	53
	56					57		58	
						61			
						62			63

Here's How It Works:

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

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Old English letters
- 5. Sculpture
- 11. Showing up again
- 14. Tie the knot again
- 15. Washington city
- 18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
- 19. Mark over a vowel
- 21. Explosive
- 23. Popular race: __ 500
- 24. Pile up
- 28. Mint
- 29. Commercial
- 30. A minute amount (Scottish)
- 32. Small Eurasian deer
- 33. Baseball stat
- 35. Numbers cruncher
- 36. Japanese masked drama
- 39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 41. Blood group
- 42. Assist in wrongdoing
- 44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
- 46. Grayish-white
- 47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

- 49. Microorganism
- 52. Place under prohibition
- 56. Calm, dependable
- 58. Congressman
- 60. Force
- 62. As a result of this document
- 63. One of two main branches of Islam

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make a mistake
- 2. Gordon and Snider are two
- 3. Geographical region of Finland
- 4. Ejected saliva
- 5. A way of performing
- 6. Scotland's longest river
- 7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
- 8. Body art
- 9. Two-toed sloth
- 10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 12. Foolish person (Brit.)
- 13. Of the wind
- 16. Grand home
- 17. Sound
- 20. English river
- 22. Symbol indicating ownership
- 25. Exclamation of surprise
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Apart from
- 29. Satisfaction
- 31. The bill in a restaurant
- 34. Sea bream
- 36. Port in southern Japan
- 37. Double-reed instruments
- 38. Center
- 40. South Dakota
- 43. An orderly crowd
- 45. Indicates position
- 48. __-pedi
- 50. Nonsense (slang)
- 51. Republic of Ireland
- 53. Nocturnal flyers
- 54. American state
- 55. Clusters in fern fronds
- 57. Patriotic women
- 58. A person's brother or sister
- 59. Breed of sheep
- 61. Popular film "Despicable __"

MEN'S HEALTH WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- ANXIETY
- BALDING
- BENIGN
- CANCER
- COLONOSCOPY
- DEPRESSION
- DIABETES
- DOCTOR
- DYSFUNCTION
- EXAM
- GENETIC
- HEALTH
- HEART DISEASE
- INFERTILITY
- KIDNEYS
- MOVEMBER
- OBESITY
- OVERWEIGHT
- PROSTATE
- STRENGTH
- STROKE
- TESTICULAR
- TESTOSTERONE



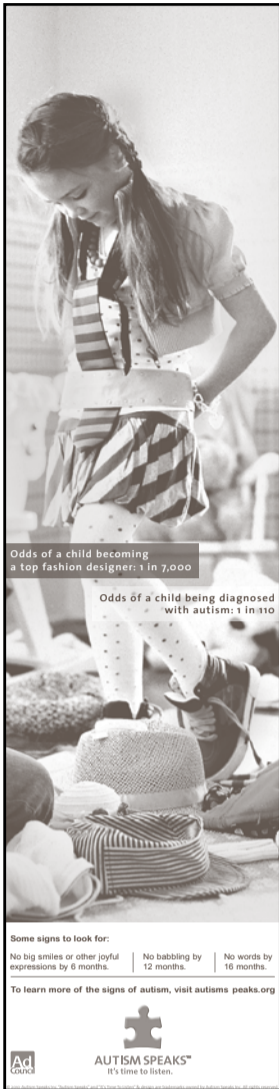
Submitted Parade on Saturday. Mild temperatures and no ice or snow on the road or sidewalks packed downtown as big crowds took in the long-standing event. Lots of candy was thrown, cheers shared, and smiles flashed. Ho! Ho! Ho!



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Airdrie, AB

A look at the local weather

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

Wed., Nov 29
A few flurries
40%
0°C
-7°C
NW 14 km/h
<1cm

Thu., Nov 30
Mainly sunny
20%
-4°C
-7°C
W 9 km/h
-

Fri., Dec 1
Mix of sun and clouds
30%
-2°C
-4°C
E 8 km/h
-

Sat., Dec 2
Mainly cloudy
30%
-1°C
-3°C
W 12 km/h
-

Sun., Dec 3
Mainly sunny
10%
-1°C
-5°C
E 6 km/h
-

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- Wednesdays 7:30pm

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.

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



"Serving the community for over 30 years"
The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food in order to help families in need.

Open Mon, Wed & Fri 11:00am to 2:00 pm
Phone: 780-778-2341

Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre

The Whitecourt Food Bank is operated by the Town of Whitecourt Food Bank Coordinator and dependent on volunteers to operate. The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food from individuals and organizations. Local grocery stores drop off baked goods including bread and pastries weekly. Other corporations and schools schedule food drives throughout the year.

Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Phone: 780-778-2341

LORNE'S BLANKET

is transitional housing for men.

We exist to help homeless men get back on their feet.

If you know of any male requiring assistance, please Call Lorne's Blanket at 780-778-0952



WHITECOURT **CANCER & WELLNESS SOCIETY**

Providing timely and easily accessible financial support for Whitecourt patients and their families who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

This can include help with parking costs for hospital visits, living expenses and unforeseen medical expenses. Applications can be made through the Drs at both Whitecourt Medical Clinics or (office hours, can leave a message):

Kim Nendsa (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) **780-778-0932**
Aimee Grierson **780-262-0222**

<https://wctcancerwellness.com/>

***Monthly meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19*



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WELLSPRING FAMILY RESOURCE & CRISIS CENTRE



@whitecourt_shelter

Shelter:

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

Outreach Support Program:

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

Child Support Program:

Child Care & After School Programs - Age Appropriate Programs & Support for Children Who Have Been Affected By Family Violence

Preventative Education:

Provides Workshops, Information and Awareness to Schools, Community Organizations, Agencies and Businesses



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

www.whitecourtshester.ca

GRIEF SHARE

Weekly grief support group starting Tuesday, 19 September through Tuesday, 5 December, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm., at Crossroads Community Church, 4419 44 Avenue, Mayerthorpe. \$35 for 12 sessions includes your personal GriefShare Workbook. Pre-registration is required by calling **Reverend Ruth Lotholz at 780-786-2695.**

Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous Group



Meetings are three times each week

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

Located at the United Church Basement on Legion Street (formerly 5201 - 50 Street)
More info Contact: (780)286-5144. Please Leave a Message for Our AA member or Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322

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MICHAEL EPP Partner CPA, CA, CMA	TERRY ST. LAURENT Partner CPA, CGA, CA	AMANDA LIND Associate CPA, CA
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Thank you to all those loving families who've adopted the pets at the Whitecourt Vet Clinic.

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 PARTNER

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Wednesday, November 29, 2023
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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**
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As the colours of autumn paint our forests, we remind you to take necessary precautions to make this a safe season. From the last days of camping and hiking to the start of hunting season and the inevitable snow that follows, take a moment to make sure you and yours are best prepared.

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A proposal for red tape reduction on building permits closer to reality for Whitecourt

By **Serena Lapointe**

An idea to help remove red tape from the permitting process recently came forward for review at a Policies and Priorities Committee meeting. The committee comprises the mayor and councillors of the Town of Whitecourt, meets monthly at the Town Office and allows for in-depth conversations on various matters ahead of a vote at a Regular Meeting of the Council.

The red tape reduction strategy proposed was a scope change with the Safety Codes Agencies (SCAs) that the Town uses for Building Permits. SCAs provide hands-on monitoring of projects, ensuring compliance with safety codes. Officers employed by SCAs do a multitude of things, from evaluating plans and performing inspections. SCAs are accredited by the Safety Codes Council, and any new SCA can apply to be approved for use by the Town.

The current function for an applicant seeking a building permit has

four steps. An applicant first applies for a Development Permit with the Town, which requires several forms and fee payment. Then, they need to hire one of the two SCAs approved by the Town, fill out their forms, pay their fee, and ensure the Town receives a copy of the Plans Examination Report. The last step for an applicant is to apply for their Building Permit with the Town, filling in more forms and paying another fee.

“What we are hoping to do is amend our contracts with our agencies where the Town would administer the Building Permits. For anyone coming to our planning counter, the Development Permit Process would stay the same, but at that very same time, they could also apply for Building Permits. There would be one set of fees, one form that they fill out, and we would remit their plans to whichever Safety Code Agency they choose,” explained Jennine Loberg, Director of Planning and De-

velopment. The change would lower an applicant’s steps from four to one.

Loberg said before bringing the idea forward to the committee, her department chatted with the two SCAs to see how they felt about it and said they supported the proposed contract terms. “The other nice thing about this is that it would be a standard set of fees.” She said that the current method has both SCAs charging their fees differently. Loberg said the change would make the fee standard.

She explained that, overall, it would also make the process smoother and less confusing. “We would be that the middle man. A lot of times, we find that there’s confusion. They don’t understand why they need a Building Permit from the Safety Codes Agency and the Town. Sometimes it gets lost in translation. I think this would clean it up for the applicants and make it easier for us, too.”

Loberg said the Town

of Whitecourt is responsible for annual reporting to the Safety Codes Council and that sometimes it can be tedious to ensure they have all the paperwork because it’s in two places: the Town and the SCAs offices. If they don’t have what they need, they must collect it, adding time to the process.

The scope change isn’t expected to add more work onto the desk of the Town’s Planning and Development department, said Loberg. “We already do a lot of the front-end work with applicants when they come in and talk to them about what the SCA office is going to need and things they should be aware of.”

She said the nice thing was that time would actually be saved on the back end. “We would have direct access to all the Safety Codes Council information. We could log it right into their system and anytime a Safety Codes Officer uploads any sort of report, plans, review, or inspection notes, we would have

instantaneous access to it so there would be no more back and forth. We could just log in and check.” Loberg added that it would also save time for year-end reporting as they could log in and print whatever they needed.

Loberg explained that fees would all be paid to the Town and no longer be split. The proposed fee structure would see the SCAs receiving 75 percent and the Town keeping 25 percent to cover administrative duties. She said they anticipate a slight increase in revenue from balancing out the current fees between the two SCAs.

“Right now, we charge a minimal application fee on the Town’s end. So, what we are looking to do is even out the amounts (between the SCAs) so that what an applicant is paying is similar to what they are paying regardless, Town and Safety Codes fees inclusive,” said Loberg. Depending on the permit an applicant is taking out and how many, the Town would either make similar to

what it makes now or a bit more.

When asked by the committee if they had received feedback from applicants on why they chose the SCA they did and if cost was the reason for choosing one over the other, Loberg said no. “From the comments we’ve received, it’s not so much cost as opposed to the agency’s ability to get to town to do the required inspections to get them their approvals faster.”

Mayor Tom Pickard motioned to send the committee’s recommendation to Council, authorizing the Town of Whitecourt to enter into amended contracts with the Town’s Safety Codes Agencies to include the administration of building permits. “I really think it’s a good idea. It actually is red tape reduction,” said Mayor Pickard. The motion passed. If approved by Town Council at an upcoming meeting, the changes would take effect on January 1, 2024. Proposed fees within the scope change will be discussed in December.

WOMBANIA™



by PETER MARINACCI

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turnouts.”

Whitecourt joins Edmonton, Calgary and Red Deer in hosting yearly sanctioned tournaments that draw in many athletes. This year’s event brought in over 300 fighters. “I didn’t think we could quite get there, but that was our goal, and we did it. Of those fighters, we have over 50 from Whitecourt and over twenty from our University of Alberta club,” said Rennie.

One thing that Whitecourt Taekwondo is known for is running an efficient event. “Some tournaments we’ve been to this year have gone until ten o’clock at night, and ours always finishes between 4 pm and 5 pm. We have been consistently able to do that, which also makes a big difference.”

Not only are they known for being efficient, but they draw big crowds. As one of only four sanctioned provincial events, participating helps athletes collect points towards funding for attendance at Nationals and the US

Open Championships. “If they miss it, they can pretty much count themselves out of full funding. The best black belts will never miss one of the four sanctioned tournaments.” To become sanctioned, tournament hosts must prove they can host a certain calibre of fighters. “We’ve been fortunate to do that,” said Rennie.

The event kicked off at the AJMC at 8:00 am on Saturday, November 25, with athlete check-in and coach registration. The opening ceremony began with a young singer at the microphone. “Spectators are going to see some of the coolest things ever. We have a little four-year-old girl who will be singing ‘Oh Canada’ for us, and we are really excited about that,” said Rennie.

Through the morning, recreational poomsae (patterns) began for colour and black belts for those under 17, followed by a sport poomsae competition for black belts of all ages. Before 11 am, the children’s colour belt sparring began for those under 17. Young fight-

ers showed off their hard work over the last year, landing kicks and punches and blocking opponents from doing the same.

“We have lots of the best up-and-coming black belt fighters in attendance, all the way down to small children performing patterns and fighting and some senior fighters. This is our largest turnout of adults ever, which I find interesting. Adult fighting is always exciting to watch. It’s going to be a highlight,” said Rennie.

One unique portion of the day gets spectators and athletes out of the AJMC and exploring the community, something Rennie said was “the best decision ever,” and it’s been happening for three years now. “Every other tournament in Western Canada tries to take a lunch break where some referees and volunteers go eat, and then others go eat after them and so on. It causes a lot of scheduling conflicts. Instead, we take a one-hour break and send everybody out of

continued on page 11



Coach Peyton cheering on her Whitecourt fighter.



Concentration in the ring.

Fighters from Whitecourt Taekwondo joined hundreds of athletes from across the province and Western Canada on the weekend for the 32nd Annual Championship, one of only four sanctioned provincial tournaments and the only rural one of its kind.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DECEMBER 18, 2023 – 4:00pm, Forest Interpretive Centre - Council Chambers

Pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, the Town of Whitecourt is proposing to remove the reserve designation on Lot R, Plan 4273KS and Lot R, 4737KS per the map below, for the purposes of consolidating these parcels with other Town owned lands.

A public information session will be held at **3:30 p.m.** in the foyer of the Forest Interpretive Centre (3002 - 33 Street) on December 18, 2023 prior to the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing will begin immediately afterward at 4:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow presentations for, or against, the proposed removal of the reserve designation. Any individuals or organizations may make presentations, speak at the hearing, or submit written comment for consideration. Written comments will be considered if presented to the Town Office before 12:00 noon on December 18, 2023.

Questions on the process or the Public Hearing should be directed to Samantha Kemp, Development Officer, at 780.778.2273 or emailed to Planning@whitecourt.ca.



NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application W21-348: Lot 7, Block 8, Plan 1123991; Lot 5, Block 8, Plan 9422819; Lot 6, Block 8, Plan 9422819; Lot 3, Block 8, Plan 8622565; NW & SW 35-59-12-5; Lot OT, Plan 4571 CL – Subdivision to consolidate seven (7) titled lots into two (2) condominium units with common area – Approved with conditions.

Date of Decisions: November 23, 2023

Appeal Closes at 4:00pm: December 15, 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.



A big kick took this fighter up into the air.



A fighter stares down her leg at her kick hitting its target.



Big smiles for a young fighter and Coach Ellie after a great fight.

continued from page 10

the gym to our restaurants in Whitecourt.

Rennie said the decision shares the wealth of the competition with the business community and residents of Whitecourt, many of whom support the club in various ways. "Our community has supported our club so much, and this is a nice way to support them back. It is a hit. I've heard from owners that they are shocked at the lunch rush that they get on a Saturday."

Following some local grub, fighters returned to the AJMC fieldhouse to continue with the competition. At 1 pm, sanctioned black belt sparring began, one of the most popular spectator divisions. "Black belts fight full head contact, so you get knockouts and exciting points scored and volleys of kicks that happen. It's a real rush to watch."

Families that take in the tournament and feel a spark of inter-

est in the sport are in luck. One free week is up for grabs anytime at Whitecourt Taekwondo, allowing people to try it before they buy it, so to speak. "We've never had somebody come and try it and not come back," said Rennie.

"There's something in Taekwondo for everyone. Parents can do it with their children to connect and be active because we have classes just for parents and their kids. We have classes on different nights of the week, too," explained Rennie. "After the first two people in a family register, everybody else in the household is free. We've only tried this for three months, and it was a big hit. Our club is the largest it's ever been in Whitecourt's history, and I'm sure that's why. It makes it more affordable if you have a big family and can do it together," Rennie smiled.

Focusing on abilities rather than the alternative, Rennie said everyone is good at

something, especially in Taekwondo. "I think society leads us to find the things we aren't good at and doesn't take the time to recognize what we are good at. So, when we find it, we focus on that because everybody is great at something."

Rennie is the Vice President of the Alberta Taekwondo Association and said Alberta used to be the team to beat in the eighties and nineties. Right now, Quebec and Ontario are on top. The association recently sent twelve fighters to Korea (the home of Taekwondo) to train for the summer. "We are seeing the benefits from investing that money as a provincial association," he explained.

The jam-packed tournament and record-breaking attendance this year at the local club prove that Taekwondo in Whitecourt and Alberta is alive and kicking. To learn more, visit www.whitecourttaekwondo.com.

Buck walk



This beautiful buck, featuring a heart-shaped left ear, was out for a golden sunset stroll earlier last week. With ten points on his antlers, he commanded space from pedestrians in the area, who stopped in awe to watch him slowly make his way through a gated section of the trail before disappearing out of sight into the thick bush.



Human Resources Manager

Reports To: General Manager

PURPOSE

A structured Human Resources Manager role is critical to the success of the Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza. The primary purpose of the Human Resources Manager is to provide guidance and coaching on all Human Resources matters to our property.

ROLES

Reporting to the General Manager, the Human Resources Manager oversee all aspects of human resources practices and processes.

DUTIES AND REPONSIBILITIES

- Support departments in developing and delivering strategic HR plans that fit with the overall business direction
- Plan, monitor, and appraise HR activities by scheduling management conferences, resolving employee grievances, training managers in how to coach and discipline, and counseling employees and supervisors
- Champion the onboarding process by ensuring that it's high-quality and up to date, and provide clarity and connection for employees so their roles serve the overall business vision
- Maintain management guidelines by preparing, updating, and recommending human-resources policies and procedures
- Build strong relationships with external suppliers, fostering trust and promoting collaboration
- Handle confidential matters with discretion
- Lead the recruiting function at the property

IMPACT OF ACTION

The Human Resources Manager has a direct impact on the ability to provide Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza staff and management with a safe and suitable environment in which to visit and/or work.

KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

This position requires the ability to communicate clearly, deal tactfully and work effectively with Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza staff and management. The incumbent in this position will provide a primary interface to other Casino & Plaza departments.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- A minimum of 8 years of progress human resources experience in a medium to large organization with experience leading teams and assessing human resources services
- A minimum of 2 years in a senior role in and HR department
- An affinity for the service sector is essential
- Demonstrated success in HR systems and HR Policy/Practice
- Experience of negotiation and influencing at senior management levels
- A leadership style that will incite enthusiasm, provide vision, create a positive morale, role model standards of professionalism
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills are necessary to support diverse associate population
- Strong facilitation and interpersonal skills are essential
- Ability and willingness to develop presentation as required
- A track record effective human resources decision-making and an "urgency to execute" attitude is essential for the fast-paced environment

CANDIDATE PROFILE

- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to meet deadlines in a rapidly changing business environment.
- Ability to work independently.
- Developed writing skills sufficient to prepare written materials involving detailed descriptions and explanations requiring the accurate use of specialized terminology.
- Self-planning skills sufficient to schedule, organize, and carry out work assignments according to established work plans, adjusting work schedules according to changing priorities.
- Developed judgment and problem-solving skills sufficient to interpret and/or analyze factual and conceptual information with the ability to adapt general procedures or approaches when formulating responses to problems.
- Manages workload independently and works well in teams.
- Develops security and systems knowledge through on-the-job experience.
- Must display leadership skills, the ability to multi-task and adjust to multiple jurisdictions.
- Models company values at all times. Shows strong teamwork skills.
- Working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint.

HELP WANTED

Tim Hortons in Whitecourt is looking to fill the following positions:

Food Service Attendant
Full Time / Shift Work

Food Service Supervisor
Full Time / Shift Work

SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS

Please apply in person at the restaurant.



4331-52 Ave Unit 1
Whitecourt, AB

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Whitecourt, AB

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- Health Link 811

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Tender deadline is **December 18, 2023**

Contact info@franciscolaw.ca for info package

Contact **Murray @ 306-304-1862** for viewing appointment

Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.73 US Dollar
at an exchange rate of **0.7347** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of November 29, 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@gmail.com.





Front of House Manager

Reports To: General Manager

PURPOSE

A structured Front of House Manager role is critical to the success of the Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza. The primary purpose of the Front of House Manager is to provide leadership and oversight for the food and beverage service and sales.

ROLES

Reporting to the General Manager, the Front of House Manager will be responsible for the daily operations of the outlets (the restaurant and the bar, as well as banquets, catering and special events). The Manager must ensure that service standards, appearance and cleanliness are of the desired levels. The Manager is also directly responsible for ordering inventory, inventory controls, budgeting, and cash floats.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Actively promotes an environment conducive to high quality customer service and employee relations by being a positive leadership example.
- Must ensure that staff maintains prompt, efficient, friendly and knowledgeable service.
- Scheduling, payroll, disciplinary actions, training and mentoring for staff of food and beverage outlets.
- Work with Marketing to promote the food & beverage outlets.
- Create, manage and implement departmental policies & procedure.
- Maintain compliance with AGLC regulations.
- Ensure alcohol is served responsibly.
- Maintain effective inventory controls and practices.
- Ensure maintenance of safety and sanitation standards and policies
- Provide overall direction, coordination, and ongoing evaluation of outlets operations.
- Budgetary, projections, and cost-control skills to be applied to the daily operations of the Department as outlined by the Manager.
- Use a "hands-on" approach to management. Able to coach staff effectively.

IMPACT OF ACTION

The Front of House Manager has a direct impact on the ability to provide Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza guests, staff and management with a safe and suitable environment in which to visit and/or work.

KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

This position requires the ability to communicate clearly, deal tactfully and work effectively with Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza guests, staff and management. The incumbent in this position will provide a primary interface to other Casino & Plaza departments.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- 4-5 years' experience in the Food & Beverage Industry.
- 3-4 years' supervisory/management experience within the Food & Beverage Industry.
- Experience in a casino setting preferred.
- Post secondary education in a related field preferred but not required.
- Training in management and employee development preferred.
- Continuous training and education to keep abreast of changes in the industry and external environment.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to meet deadlines in a rapidly changing business environment.
- Ability to work independently.
- Extensive food & beverage knowledge and ability to develop and apply practices, procedures, and principles in a casino environment.
- Developed writing skills sufficient to prepare written materials involving detailed descriptions and explanations requiring the accurate use of specialized terminology.
- Self-planning skills sufficient to schedule, organize, and carry out work assignments according to established work plans, adjusting work schedules according to changing priorities.
- Developed judgment and problem-solving skills sufficient to interpret and/or analyze factual and conceptual information with the ability to adapt general procedures or approaches when formulating responses to problems.
- Manages workload independently and works well in teams.
- Develops security and systems knowledge through on-the-job experience.
- Must display leadership skills, the ability to multi-task and adjust to multiple jurisdictions.
- Models company values at all times. Shows strong teamwork skills.
- Working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint.

WORKING CONDITIONS

The Schedule for this position may vary and would require the ability to work shift work, late nights, weekends and holidays.

Know your personal risk for heart attack & stroke

AHS release

Albertans aged 40-75 will now be able to find out what their risk of having a heart attack or stroke will be in the next 10 years using a new cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk screening tool and a simple blood test ordered by their health provider.

Enhanced Lipid Reporting (ELR) is a new, easy-to-use, lab-based approach to calculate CVD and stroke risk that ensures those at risk receive early treatment.

When your doctor does your screening, you will get a score that tells you how likely you are to have a heart attack or stroke in the next 10 years if you do not make any changes to reduce your risk. Patients will also receive their CVD risk results in their MyHealth Records account.

You and your doctor can use this personal screening score to plan and take steps to lower your risk and help prevent a heart attack or a stroke.

Everyone has some level of cardiovascular disease risk. Men are usually diagnosed with CVD between 55-64 years of age; and women between 65-74 years of age.

CVD is the second leading cause of death in Alberta, and the number one cause of death for women. Every hour, 12 Canadians over the age of 20 with heart disease die. Managing your risk is important for your health and quality of life. Many heart attacks and strokes can be prevented through healthy lifestyle changes and medication when risk is known. Identification of those who are at risk of CVD is an essential first step.

Knowing your personal risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke

can help you act to lower your risk by making healthy lifestyle changes and taking prevention medicines. Talk with your health-care provider to create a plan to help manage any health conditions.

Your risk can be influenced by factors such as:

- tobacco use
- blood pressure
- cholesterol levels
- diabetes
- family history
- activity level
- drinking alcohol
- eating habits
- stress levels
- weight

Where to get help to lower your risk? Starting to make these changes can seem overwhelming and it can be difficult to know where to start. As a first step, talk to your doctor.

To learn more about prevention, connect online to the many supports and resources, including patient videos, guidance on talking with your doctor; the CVD risk screening tool, making lifestyle changes, and more. Heart attacks and strokes are a serious medical emergency, and delaying treatment can have serious consequences. Knowing the signs of a heart attack or stroke and acting fast is important.

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.





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.

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

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

- **Job#: 23-049**, Mechanic I, Permanent, Full-time position.
- **Job#: 23-051**, Whitecourt Transit Driver, Permanent position.

Please visit www.whitecourt.ca for all employment opportunities and details

Woodlands County Council recap

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

The highly anticipated Dionne's Christmas Lights is returning this December. Woodlands County granted \$2,000 towards Ms. Dionne's event for wagon rides on December 9 and 16, and participant prizes through December. In 2022, Ms. Dionne collected 850 pounds of food donations for the Whitecourt Food Bank from the display attendants. The Dionne's Christmas Lights display is located on their private property on Range Road 121. They encourage public attendance and please consider bringing donations for the Food Bank.

STARS Air Ambulance Senior Municipal Relations Liaison, Glenda Farden provided an annual update on STARS current operations and activities in the region. This year, STARS attended 9 missions in the Woodlands County area, including 6 critical inter-facility transfers from the Whitecourt Hospital. From 2019 – 2023, STARS attended a total of 64 missions in the region. Woodlands County has pledged \$3 per capita, totalling \$14,250 annually for the existing council term through 2025.

John Grove, Municipal and Community Relations Manager, and Steven Day, Senior Right of Way Planner, with Altalink introduced the plan to rebuild the 799L Transmission Line. Originally built in 1964, portions of the line have reached the end of their lifecycle. The project will see the portions of the line replaced from the Entwistle substa-

tion to the Sagitawah substation on Highway 43, ~6 km southeast of Whitecourt. For more information about the project, visit the projects page on the Altalink website.

Woodlands County resident Lorraine Jackson presented to a petition from residents opposing outsourcing of grader operations in the Goose Lake and Topland area. To ensure Woodlands County was receiving the best value when replacing aging equipment, Council requested a cost analysis comparing the purchase of new graders, lease of graders, refurbishment of existing graders and contracting grader beats. Council commended Ms. Jackson for her efforts in rallying the community and voicing their concerns and feedback regarding this municipal service.

Following a cost analysis project, Finning Canada was awarded the tender of two 140AWD motor graders with a seven-year warranty at a value of \$1,305,000. The purchase of the graders will be funded through the capital equipment reserves and delivery of the graders is expected in spring 2024.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- 2024 Budget Discussions - Thursday, November 23, 6:00 pm
- 2024 Budget Discussions - Monday, November 27, 6:00 pm
- Regular Council - Wednesday, December 2, 5:00 pm in Fort Assiniboine

Meetings are held in-person at the Municipal Office in Whitecourt and streamed on the Woodlands County YouTube channel. Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County CivicWeb Portal.



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

Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

Responsibilities:

- Greet customers
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- Process money, cheques, and credit/debit card payments
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- Tabulate total payment for goods or services required
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- Suggestive selling
- Provide excellent customer service
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- 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
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Experience: 2 – 3 years, or we will train.
Education: Some post-secondary, high school may require.
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Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.
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Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451
Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca
How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax

Elaine Burgoyne

It is with profound sadness that the family of **Elaine Burgoyne** of Whitecourt, Alberta announces that on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, Elaine passed away peacefully at the age of 90 years at the Mayerthorpe Auxiliary Hospital. She will be mourned by her daughter Eunice (George) Veniot of Blue Ridge, AB, son: Ken (Darlene) Burgoyne of Whitecourt, AB. Paul Burgoyne of Stony Plain, AB, Don Burgoyne, daughter Patricia Burgoyne and son, Andrew Burgoyne all of Whitecourt, AB., also numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Raymond in 2017.

A private gathering of family and friends was held in Mayerthorpe Auxiliary Hospital. Cremation has taken place.



Whitecourt Christmas Hamper

51 years of providing Christmas for those who need a little help.

Application Location

**Whitecourt United Church
5201 50 Street, Whitecourt**

United Church is independent of the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper and cannot facilitate applications or answer questions.

Financial Donations

eTransfer: mrsngundy@telus.net

Include name and mailing address for tax receipt

Drop Off: RE/MAX Advantage, Main Street

Mail: c/o Whitecourt Christmas Hamper Fund
47 Ravine Drive, Whitecourt, T7S 1H5

Tax receipts available.

Gift Donations

We accept new, unwrapped **toys, stuffies, arts and craft kits, family games, gift cards, pre-teen books, toques, and mittens.**

Please no food donations or toiletries.

Donation bins are available at select participating businesses beginning mid-November.

This program is for families with dependant children age 17 and under, made possible by the generosity of our community.

Application Dates

Wednesday, November 29... 7pm to 9pm

Thursday, November 30..... 7pm to 9pm

Saturday, December 2..... 1pm to 3pm

Wednesday, December 6..... 7pm to 9pm

Thursday, December 7..... 7pm to 9pm

Saturday, December 9..... 1pm to 3pm

* no date or time exceptions

* no phone applications

Application Requirements

- Only one individual per family to attend interviews, with knowledge of all information required
- Proof of residency required (lease, gov't issued ID with address, utility bill)
- Eligible to residents of Whitecourt, Blue Ridge, and Woodlands County east, central, and west.

whitecourthamper@gmail.com

