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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



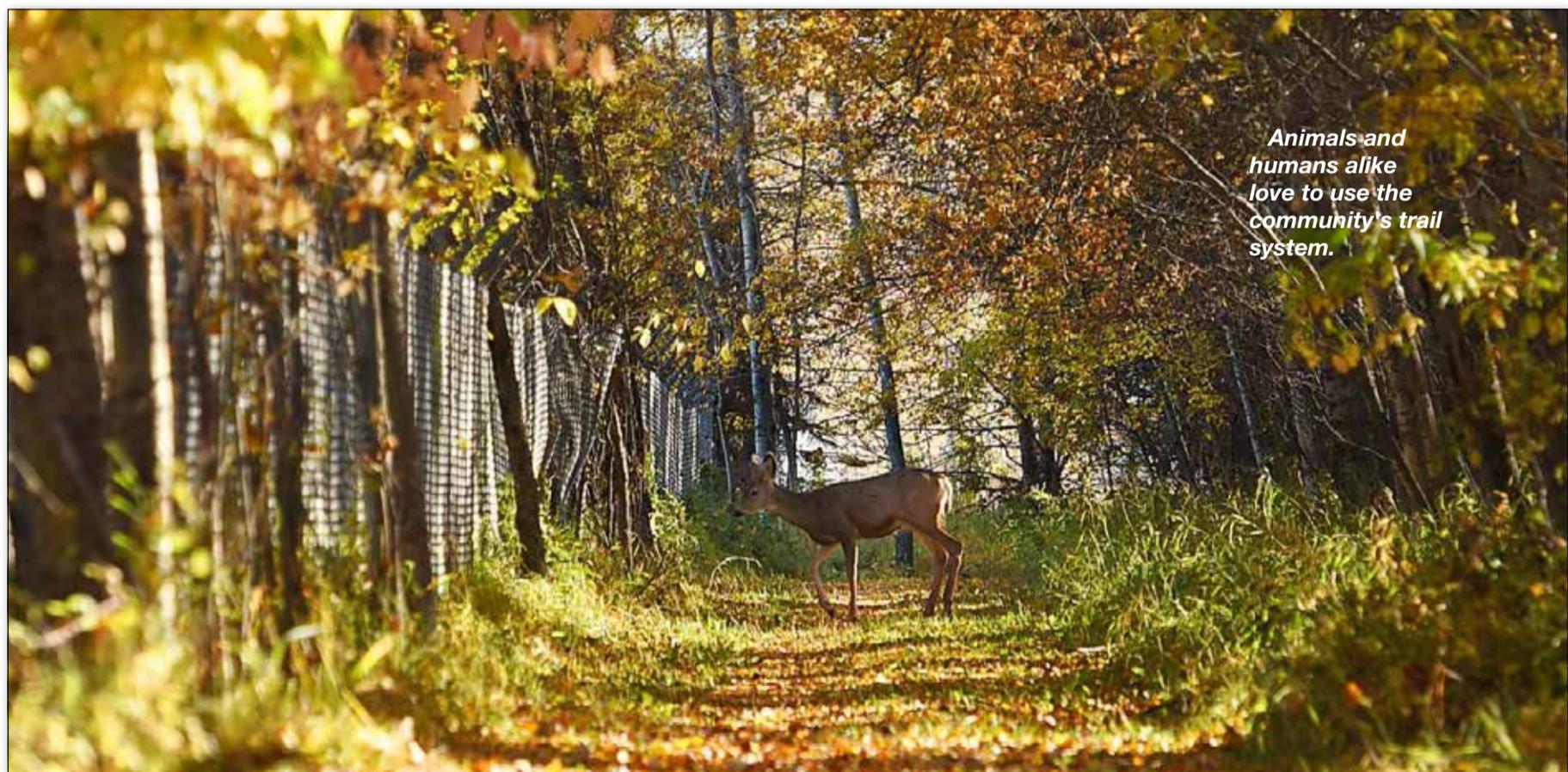
# The Press

Locally Owned & Operated



Vol. 12 - Issue 44 | Wednesday, November 1, 2023

## Upgrades coming to Centennial Park trail system



Animals and humans alike love to use the community's trail system.

Users of the Centennial Park trails will be happy to know that upgrades are on the horizon. Improving drainage and fixing erosion are two of the most significant pieces of the puzzle that E-Construction crews will be working to remediate this spring/summer for year one of a three-year phased plan. See story page 3.



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# PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15



## SUDOKU

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

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!

### 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. A way to drop
4. Bits per inch
7. Ghosts
12. Presents
15. Noises
16. Honorable fourth name in ancient Rome
18. Elevated railroad
19. A way to drench
20. The Tarheel State
21. Lilly and Manning are two
24. Where golfers begin
27. Harvester
30. Unit of subjective loudness
31. Jewish calendar month
33. Dash
34. Armed conflict
35. Daisy \_\_: Broadway actress
37. Jump

39. Get free of
41. A written proposal or reminder
42. Organic chemistry reactive structure
44. African country
47. Cool!
48. Used to treat Parkinson's disease
49. \_\_ route
50. Ed Murrow's home
52. Lethal dose
53. Give cards incorrectly
56. A treeless grassy plain
61. Famed R.L. Stevenson novel
63. In an incisive way
64. Mark Wahlberg's screen partner
65. Criticize

### CLUES DOWN

1. Mountain in the Julian Alps

## CROSSWORDS

2. A domed or vaulted recess
3. Trade agreement
4. Larger
5. Edged
6. Data
7. Something curved in shape
8. Root mean square (abbr.)
9. Farm state
10. Pre-1917 emperor of Russia
11. Short-term memory
12. Indigenous peoples of central Canada
13. Honor as holy
14. Monetary unit of Samoa
17. Company that rings receipts
22. City in Finland
23. Small finch
24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
26. Very willing
28. Partner to "oohed"
29. Turntable
32. Major Hindu deity
36. Move head slightly
38. Plain-woven fabric
40. Die
43. Shipped as cargo
44. Something highly prized
45. Individual thing or person
46. Humbled
51. Speak indistinctly
54. No seats available
55. Financial obligation
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. \_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Troubles
60. Singer Charles
62. Camper

## HOROSCOPE

### ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



You may have difficulty reaching people this week, Aries. Whether it's difficulty getting attention or tech issues affecting communication, use the situation as an opportunity to relax.

### TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, a challenging project may lead you to throw yourself into work even more than usual over the course of the week. Remember to take time to exhale.

### GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Visit someone in person if you are looking to catch up or have a meaningful conversation, Gemini. Skip impersonal text messages or social media posts and meet face-to-face.

### CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Unfortunate financial news may come your way, Cancer. Take the developments in stride and resolve to overcome them. Seek advice on how to do so, if necessary.

### LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Leo, there is a strong desire for romance surrounding you. Whether you want to spice up a current relationship or are seeking a new one, this is the week to put out feelers.

### VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Virgo, enjoy a unique chance to spend quality time with someone you love. Enjoy the experience in the moment and resolve to spend more time together.

### LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



An unexpected meeting with a friend and subsequent conversation could leave you feeling a little shaken, Libra. You will learn things that give you a new perspective.

### SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



You could experience a desire to make sudden changes to your home life, work situation or even a relationship, Scorpio. Stagnation has set in, but now is not the time for big moves.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Sagittarius, if a message arrives from someone who lives far away, you may be prompted to hop in the car or on a plane and visit that person. An impromptu trip could be fun.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Look into all of the facts surrounding an offer to increase your income, Capricorn. It could be too good to be true, or it might be a legitimate deal. You need to sort things out.

### AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Aquarius, this week you may encounter someone who is very interested in you. The resulting attention can be quite flattering. You'll need to decide if it should go further.

### PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Situations that arise this week could have you feeling stressed, Pisces. Find ways you can separate yourself from certain situations that rile you up, even if it means a five-minute break.

## TECHNOLOGY WORD SEARCH

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

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

### WORDS

- |        |                |          |        |            |            |
|--------|----------------|----------|--------|------------|------------|
| APP    | CABLES         | EMAIL    | MEMORY | REBOOT     | SPLITTER   |
| BACKUP | COMMUNICATIONS | FEATURES | MERGE  | RELIANT    | TABLET     |
|        | DATA           | FILE     | MODEM  | ROUTER     | TECHNOLOGY |
|        | DEVICE         | LAPTOP   | QUEUE  | SMARTPHONE | VIRTUAL    |
|        |                |          |        | SPAM       | WIFI       |

# Upgrades coming to Centennial Park trail system



Phase 1 includes a large stretch of Centennial Park leading up to Sakwatamau Trail.

By Serena Lapointe

The Town of Whitecourt is home to a whopping 50+ kilometres of paved pathways and unpaved trails, giving

residents and visitors a great free opportunity to stay safe while being active just by lacing up their sneakers or boots and going for a walk. The walking trails intertwine throughout the municipality, linking up-town with downtown, rural with urban, and neighbourhoods with other neighbourhoods.

One of the most significant single components of the trail system is the walking paths that traverse Centennial Park, which has been part of the community for 25-30 years. The massive expanse has numerous entrance/exits points throughout the Hilltop residential area, bringing users from the edge of town limits at the Forest Interpretive Centre to the edge of the hill that splits the municipality, giving walkers a great view of downtown Whitecourt from Memorial Point. The pathway is considered multi-use and was upgraded from gravel to a paved surface between 2008-2010.

Over the years, with lots of usage and weather, some areas of the Centennial Park network have gotten rough and need attention. The Town of Whitecourt adopted the Centennial Park Pathway Rehabilitation Phase Plan

into the 20-Year Capital Plan last year. The phased approach will see the rehabilitation of five kilometres of paved surface that is in a state of deterioration, including drainage improvements, and a widening of the pathway from 2.4m to 3.0m to diversify the usability of the trail. The first phase of the multi-phased plan is set for completion through this year and next year. The second phase will occur through 2024-2025, and the final phase will happen in

2026.

During the October 23 Regular Meeting of Whitecourt Town Council, Juan Grande, Manager of Infrastructure Services, brought forward the results from a recent tendering to find a contractor to complete the necessary improvements. Two companies, E-Construction (a Division of N.P.A. Ltd) and Knelsen Sand and Gravel, sent in bids.

When the bids were first received in September, both exceeded the budget available for

the project. A second look-over of the project plan was done, resulting in updates. The newly updated plan was then sent to both compliant bidders to see what their new pricing would be, with a deadline of October 19, 2023. Both responded within the timeline.

Town CAO Peter Smyl said it was great to see the bids come back within the parameters of the available budget. A chunk of the funding for the project will come from the 2023-2025 Operating

Budgets, but 60 percent of it will come from the Active Transportation Fund, a federal grant from Infrastructure Canada that funds projects that shift towards active transportation rather than cars.

The Federal Government has set aside \$400 million over five years to support expansion and enhancement projects. The term active transportation means the movement of goods or people powered by human activity. The

continued on page 13



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The entrance at Beaver Drive is part of Phase 3.

# A new support program for area seniors looks to bridge gaps and improve quality of life



Local doctors will be able to give their patients referrals as needed.

A successful grant application from the Town of Whitecourt will increase service delivery to area seniors and help identify gaps that impact the aging community. Funding from Healthy Aging Alberta and United Way will support a full-time position for two years.

By Serena Lapointe

At the beginning of October, the Town of Whitecourt received word that a bid to receive grant funding to provide social prescribing services for seniors in the area had been approved. At the October 23 Regular Meeting of Council, a breakdown

of what the program and services entail was provided. The program is called the Social Prescribing Program.

Chelsea Grande, Director of Community Services for the Town of Whitecourt, said the FCSS (Family and Community Support Services) team suc-

cessfully snagged grant funding for a two-year term, allowing them to hire a Seniors Resource Lead. Once in place, the lead will receive referrals for social prescriptions from those within the healthcare system, such as doctors, nurses, homecare, the Primary Care Net-

work, or the hospital following discharge.

Social prescribing links patients with non-medical activities and programs in their community, enhancing their quality of life. The programming is a holistic approach that addresses different social needs and helps seniors with limited natural support thrive in their community, staying put longer rather than transitioning to higher levels of care. Referrals can help with various things like housing,

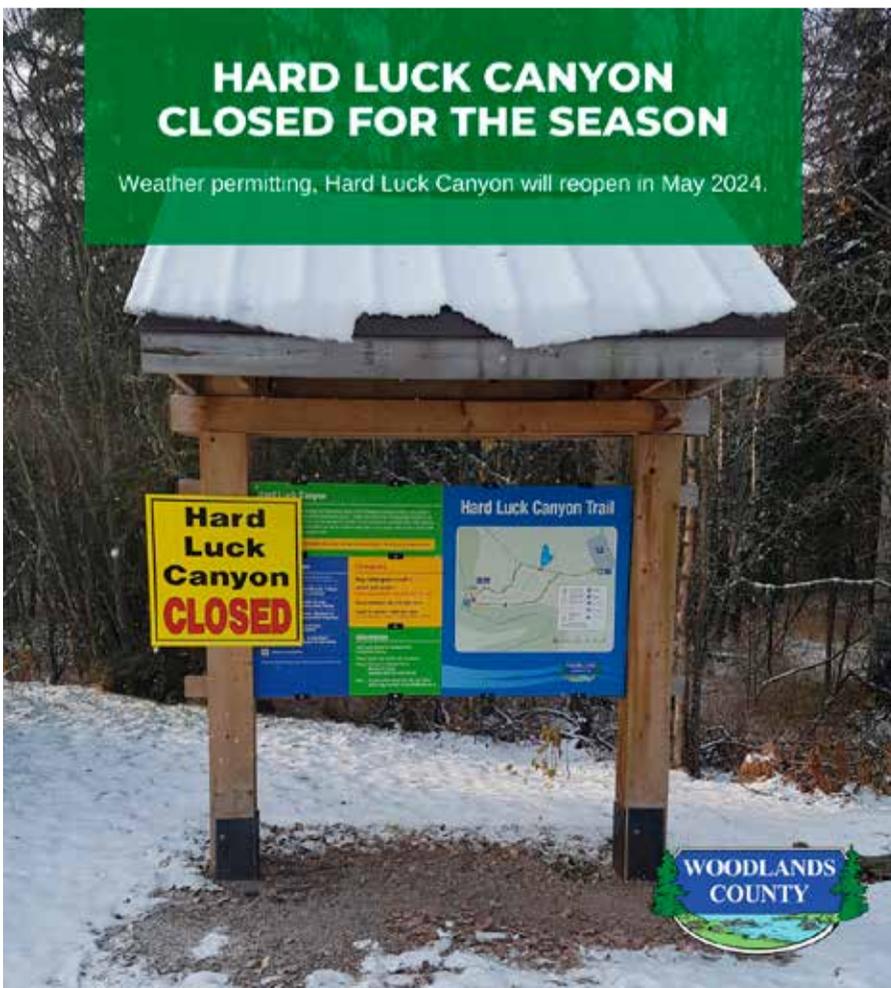
food, transportation, income, and social support.

"It's a 35-hour position that will provide wrap-around services for seniors in our community who are referred through the health system. They (professionals in the system) will make the referrals, and then the Seniors Resource Lead will provide wrap-around services," explained Grande. "This directly complements our Community Services Program Coor-

dinator position within the FCSS area as they were providing some of these services before, but not at a capacity that this will be able to do," she said.

By helping link seniors to the supports available to them, it quickens the window of time needed to connect them. "This is going to be great for the community because it's going to increase the assistance of seniors and the ser-

continued on page 5



## NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023, 6:00 PM  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023, 6:00 PM  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023, 6:00 PM

Notice is hereby given, Special Council meetings for 2024 Budget discussions are being held on Thursday, November 2; Thursday, November 23; and Monday, November 27, at 6:00 pm.

The meetings are open to the public and held at the Municipal Office in Whitecourt and streamed on the Woodlands County YouTube channel.

October 27, 2023



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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. For all open career opportunities, please check out our website at albertanewsprint.com → Careers.



Patients needing non-medical support after being discharged from the Whitecourt Hospital, can also receive referrals.

continued from page 4

ices for seniors. This position will also be working to build community capacity, so they will be looking at the gaps that they see when they meet with these seniors and then encouraging the community agencies that are providing services to seniors, or within our community, to try and fill some of those gaps so we can help seniors age well in place in our community," explained Grande.

The increase in service delivery this grant will provide for seniors in the Town of Whitecourt and the area could play a significant role in improving quality of life. It will also give service providers and stakeholders a chance to see where gaps still exist for seniors, encouraging the local system to fix needed areas.

"The funding that we are receiving for this program is from

the United Way and through Healthy Aging Alberta," said Grande. Healthy Aging Alberta is a province-wide network of community-based senior serving organizations and allies (<https://calgaryunitedway.org/healthy-aging-alberta>) with a shared vision of making Alberta one of the "best places in the world to grow older."

Healthy Aging Alberta (HAA) has built a framework that connects seniors to the organizations and community supports that exist to help them. HAA also advocates for investment in the senior sector and is working towards a regional approach to help build capacity.

From the program booklet attached to Council's agenda, many older adults in Alberta, especially those who live alone, often need to gain knowledge of the resources in their community, including those they need to com-

plement their medical care. Data provided by the Alliance of Healthier Communities stated that three months after receiving social prescription support, there was a 57 percent improvement in patients rating their health and well-being. Within nine months, there was a 41 percent decrease in repeated clinic visits.

There are five key outcomes of social prescribing for older adults: Improved physical and mental health, increased confidence to live at home, reduced isolation and loneliness, reduced length and frequency of hospital stays, and increased community connections and natural support networks.

The social prescribing approach will not only focus on the unique needs of aging residents but will help build relationships, making sure the area's seniors get the help they need when they need it.

# The wait for ice



Those who love using the outdoor rinks in the community are now on pause for the most part. Road hockey, basketball, rollerblading, skateboarding or any other warmer weather sports used to be happening within the boards, but snow now covers much of the rinks, including this one up at Ecole St. Anne's School. The switch in weather is keeping would-be players off temporarily. Once weather conditions cool down a bit more, town crews will be hard at work prepping each one of the outdoor rinks, icing them up, allowing families to lace their skates and enjoy some free winter recreation.

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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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**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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Family Resource & Crisis Centre

[www.whitecourtshester.ca](http://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

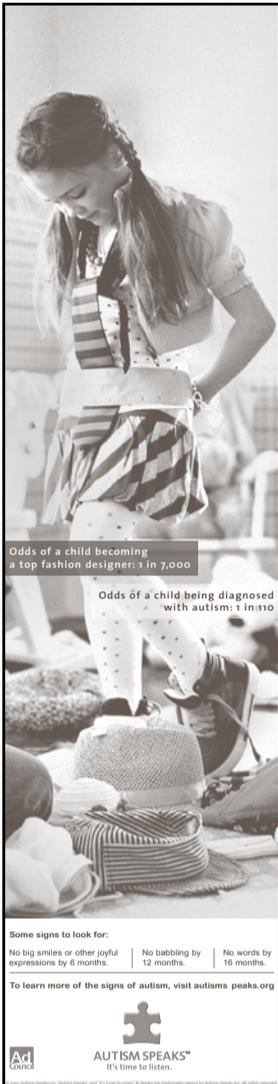
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### A look at the local weather

	Wed., Nov 1	Thu., Nov 2	Fri., Nov 3	Sat., Nov 4	Sun., Nov 5
P.O.P.	30%	40%	70%	20%	40%
High	4°C	1°C	-1°C	0°C	-2°C
Low	-3°C	-3°C	-4°C	-4°C	-4°C
Wind	NW 10 km/h	E 10 km/h	E 10 km/h	W 11 km/h	E 3 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	-	2-4cm	~1cm	-	-

# Stop bullying!

Wednesday, November 1, 2023  
www.whitecourtpress.com



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

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

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

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

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

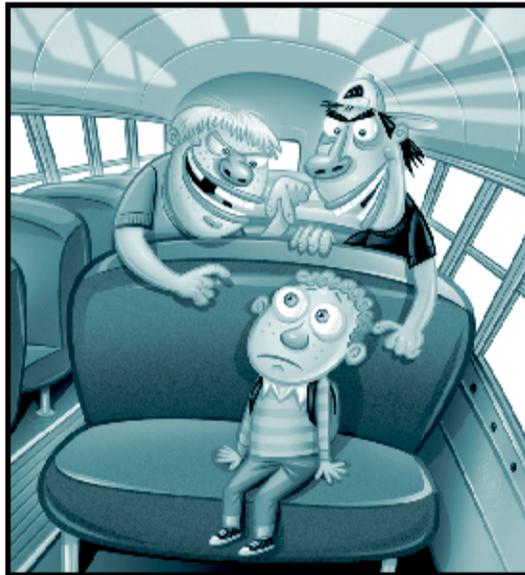
## Have you been bullied, and want to share your story?

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



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

Call the Bullying Helpline (Confidential)

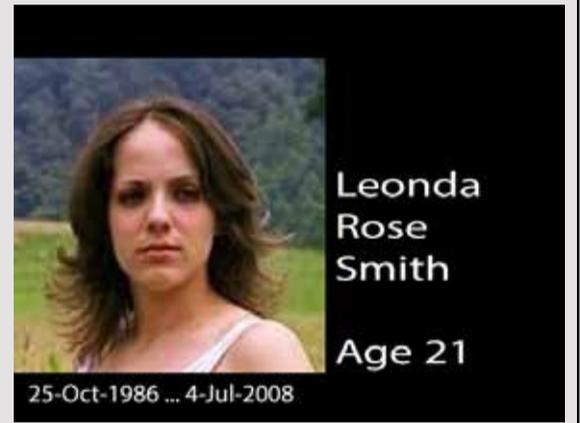


Toll Free, open 24 hours per day, seven days per week

**1-888-456-2323**

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

## Putting a face on suicide



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

## SPONSORED BY

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**Tri-Logging Ltd.**



**Tri-Logging is against bullying**

Robert Brown  
Owner  
3507 37th Avenue  
Whitecourt, AB T7S 0C3  
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# Woodlands County Council meeting review

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

At its annual organizational meeting, Council appointed Councillor Dave Kusch as Reeve for a one-year term. In addition, Councillors were appointed to serve as members of various

boards and committees which can be found on the Woodlands County CivicWeb Portal.

Sgt. Dallas Choma, peace officer with Lac Ste. Anne County, provided enforcement services update in Woodlands County. An agreement was signed with Lac Ste. Anne County to provide enforcement services to

Woodlands County for a five-year period beginning February 1, 2023. During Q3 2023, 51 tickets and 4 warnings were issued, and peace officers responded to 18 incidents in the county.

HM Aero Vice President Eric Hurley attended virtually to present the findings on the CYZU Airport

Airfield Pavement Requirements report. The wildfire base at the airport has seen a steady increase in use over the past 5 years. HM Aero investigated the current conditions of the runway and taxiways to ensure they will meet future needs for wildfire operations. The report also proposed recommendations and

projected timelines on runway rehabilitation to meet those needs.

Councillors John Burrows, Jeremy Wilhelm, Peter Kuelken and Reeve Dave Kusch were appointed to the Ad Hoc Taxation Committee. The Committee will discuss and recommend taxation strategies to support Council's annual tax

rate bylaw and budget planning.

A public hearing for Development Permit Application 15-060-2022 Natural Resource Extraction and Processing (Class 1 Pit) on NE 2-62-5-W5M & Plan 092-9270 Block 1 Lot 1 is scheduled for December 6, 2023, at 6:00

continued on page 11

## DRAFT MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OPEN HOUSE

Woodlands County would like to invite residents to provide feedback on our Draft Municipal Development Plan at our open house dates below. The document was last adopted in 2013 and some keys updates include:

- Updates to align with legislation and outdated language.
- Reconciliation and Recognition of Treaty 6 & Treaty 8
- Ease of Reference
- Vision and Principles
- Environmental with Development Strategies
- Better Agriculture Land

More detailed information will be onsite at the open house sessions. The draft document is available for review on Woodlands County Website [www.woodlands.ab.ca](http://www.woodlands.ab.ca)

**PLACE:** Fort Assiniboine Legion Hall

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>  
**TIME:** 6:00 – 8:00 pm

**PLACE:** Woodlands County Municipal Office

**DATE:** Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**TIME:** 6:00 – 8:00 pm

For more information or questions on the open house sessions, please contact [planning@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:planning@woodlands.ab.ca) or call 780-778-8400.

## MEMBERS AT LARGE REQUIRED

**BECOME INVOLVED IN THE DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY!**

Woodlands County is seeking applications and letters of interest from residents to serve as members on the municipality's Council Committees.

**Airport Advisory Committee – 1 fixed wing and 1 rotary vacancy** (\*must be resident or facility user/owner\*)

Positions are held for a **two-year period from November 1, 2023, to October 31, 2025**, (unless otherwise stated).

Learn more about each committee and apply online at [woodlands.civicweb.net](http://woodlands.civicweb.net) or submit letters of interest and/or resume and experience to either of our municipal offices.

**Application Deadline:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 4:30pm

**Submit Applications to:**

**Email:** [carey.stephens@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:carey.stephens@woodlands.ab.ca)

**In-Person:**

Woodlands County  
Municipal Office, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB  
Regional Municipal Office, 61053A Highway 33,  
Fort Assiniboine, AB

## WOODLANDS COUNTY RFQS AND TENDERS AVAILABLE

Woodlands County is seeking quotations for the following projects:

- Supply and Operation of a Motor Grader for the Anselmo area Grader Beat
- Supply and Operation of a Motor Grader for the Goose Lake area Grader Beat
- Purchase or Lease of New Grader

Detailed information on the proposal is available online on the Woodlands County website: <https://woodlands.ab.ca/pr/frps-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.

## DISCRETIONARY USE APPLICATION 15-062-2023

**Location:** PT NE 19-58-11-W5M Lot 26 Block 1 Plan 102-5167  
**Proposed Development:** Secondary Suite: 2 Story Garage with 2nd Floor Living Area  
**Response Deadline:** November 8, 2023, 4:30 pm  
**Decision Date:** November 15, 2023, 4:00 pm, Whitecourt Municipal Office

**For full details on Development Permits visit**

<https://woodlands.ab.ca/>  
**Email:** [planning@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:planning@woodlands.ab.ca)  
**Call:** 1-888-870-6315



**DAVE KUSCH**  
Reeve  
Councillor for Area 1  
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Phone: 780-778-8337



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Councillor for Whitecourt West  
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Councillor for Whitecourt  
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**JEREMY WILHELM**  
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**BRUCE PRESTIDGE**  
Councillor for Blue Ridge  
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Phone: 780-778-3917



**PETER KUELKEN**  
Councillor for Goose Lake/  
Friesman River Division 6  
[peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca)  
Phone: 780-284-2425



**DEVIN WILLIAMS**  
Councillor for Fort Assiniboine/  
Teresa Division 7  
[devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca](mailto:devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca)  
Phone: 780-305-1825



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## NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Development Authority:

**Application 23-137:** 7 White Crossing; Lot 24, Block 14, Plan 082 8863 – Administrative Variance – Over-width driveway 7.25m – Approved with Conditions.

**Date of Decision:** October 20, 2023 **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** November 10, 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.

## FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH NOVEMBER 2023

Whitecourt Town Council encourages the citizens of Whitecourt to recognize November as Family Violence Prevention Month. This year's provincial theme is #WhereToTurn and #GoPurpleAB. Family Violence Prevention Month focuses on addressing and reducing family violence in our community and citizens are encouraged to engage, take a stand, and join together to help end family violence.

## GET INVOLVED....IT'S YOUR TOWN! OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Town has various boards and committees that provide Town Council with perspective and recommendations regarding important civic issues. Whitecourt is a diverse, growing town, and citizens are in the best position to provide input on our changing community needs.

The **Subdivision and Development Appeal Board** currently has openings available for people to serve as part of a quasi-judicial board, to make decisions on appeals of subdivision or development decisions made by the Development Officer or Municipal Planning Commission. The Board meets on an as need basis, and the successful appointees will also attend a mandatory training session. The Board typically meets less than twice a year.

If you are interested in serving on this Board, please complete an application form which can be found on the Whitecourt website at [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) or picked up at the Town Office. Applications must be received before 12:00 noon, Wednesday, November 22, 2023 to:

Whitecourt Town Administration Office  
Attention: Executive Assistant  
5004 - 52 Avenue, Box 509  
WHITECOURT, AB T7S 1N6  
email: [administration@whitecourt.ca](mailto:administration@whitecourt.ca)

Applications will be presented to Town Council at the November 27, 2023 Regular Meeting.

## FRANCHISE FEE INCREASE NOTICE

Please be advised that the Town of Whitecourt is proposing to increase the local access fee, which is charged to FortisAlberta Inc. (FortisAlberta) for use of municipal lands for its power lines effective **January 1, 2024**.

The fee is recovered by FortisAlberta from its customers as the local municipal access fee on electric billings of all customers that receive electric service in the Town. This local access fee will be increased from \$2.78 (3.91%) to **\$3.39 (4.47%)** of the delivery charge of FortisAlberta, excluding energy related riders. This calculation is based on 640 kWh consumption in 30 days.

Questions or concerns should be directed to Judy Barney, Director of Corporate Services at (780) 778-2273.

Thank you.

## TOWN OF WHITECOURT NOTICE OF INCREASE TO THE FRANCHISE FEE ON NATURAL GAS BILLINGS

The Town of Whitecourt is proposing to increase the natural gas distribution franchise fee which it charges ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. for the exclusive right to deliver natural gas to the residents of Whitecourt and for use of municipal lands for its natural gas lines, effective January 1st 2024. The franchise fee applies to all customers that receive gas services in Whitecourt and is required to be billed as a separate charge on gas billings.

The current franchise fee is set at 27.17% of ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. delivery revenues and will increase to 33.55% effective January 1, 2024. For an average residential customer using 115 GJs per year, this will result in an annual increase of approximately \$37.35. The franchise fee is anticipated to account for approximately \$196.40 of the average annual residential bill in 2024.

For questions or concerns please contact:

Judy Barney, Director of Corporate Services  
5004 – 52 Avenue, Whitecourt Alberta, T7S 0B9  
1-780-778-2273, [judybarney@whitecourt.ca](mailto:judybarney@whitecourt.ca)

**GOT A NEWS TIP?**  
Call Valerie Winger at **780.706.1858**  
or email [wctpress@gmail.com](mailto:wctpress@gmail.com)

# Triumphant Tops

By Valerie Winger

Recently, Tops hosted a triumphant rally in Whitecourt, showcasing its status as a weight loss support group with chapters spanning across both Canada and the USA. This significant event marked the 40th anniversary of Tops, which had its inception in Whitecourt on March 3, 1983. The celebration aptly bore the name "Red Ruby Rally."

With an impressive turnout of 115 attendees hailing from locales as diverse as Sherwood Park to Hinton, the event promised to be memorable. The morning session commenced

with a thought-provoking speech from none other than the esteemed 2022 Chapter Queen, Claudette Dube. Later in the afternoon, Margaret Thibault, a compelling speaker, took the stage, focusing her talk on the themes of positivity and making choices that matter.

In the spirit of recognizing and honouring the achievements of its members, the rally featured a distribution of awards, both for the event itself and for individual milestones, emphasizing Tops' commitment to celebrating the accomplishments of its members.

Thank You!



**Thank you to all helped with the Tops Rally**

- Sandi's
- Tr- Logging Ltd.
- Stitch `N Time
- Mike & Rebecca's No Frills
- IGA
- McDonald's
- IDA Medhouse Pharmacy
- Whitecourt Pharmasave
- Town of Whitecourt
- OSPREY Lightweight & Machine
- Mayerthorpe Value Drug Mart
- Alberta Health Services
- MBS Grading
- MLA Martin Long
- MP Arnold Vierson
- Health Solutions
- Caine's Jewellers
- Whitecourt RCMP

continued from page 9

pm in Council Chambers at the Fort Assiniboine Regional Office.

Griffin Contracting Ltd. was awarded the 2023 Bridge Maintenance at a value of \$322,800 plus tax. Griffin Contracting will conduct maintenance work on bridges in the Timeu area and Blue Ridge area.

Due to the RMA 2023 Fall Convention being held from November 6 to 9, the regularly scheduled

Council meeting on November 8 is cancelled.

Council scheduled special meetings for 2024 budget discus-

sions:

- Thursday, November 2, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, November 23, 6:00 pm
- Monday, November 27, 6:00 pm

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Governance and Priorities Committee - Wednesday, November 15, 6:00 pm
- Regular Council - Wednesday, November 22, 9:30 am

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.

# Beauty on the Athabasca



The beauty of the Athabasca River.



Frozen waves and droplets adorn this fallen branch.



Bubbly shapes decorating the ice.

*It might technically be fall, but certain spots look more like winter. Early ice buildup on the Athabasca at Riverboat Park made for some beautiful snapshots last week. There were interesting, wobbly-looking shapes frozen in time, and a few fallen branches gathered at the edge of the river adjacent to the boat launch featured perfect drop-like designs made from small waves now motionless and twinkling in the midday sun. Adding to the beauty was the slightly wet surface of the ice reflecting the blue sky above it. We live in a beautiful place; make sure you go out and enjoy it!*



## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

**Responsibilities:**

- Greet customers
- Receive and process payments by cash, cheque, credit card, or automatic debit
- Provide information to customers
- Calculate foreign currency exchange
- Calculate total payments received at end of work shift and reconcile with total sales
- Verify the age of customers when selling lottery tickets, alcohol or tobacco products
- Operate cash register
- Process money, cheques, and credit/debit card payments
- Scan Items
- Tabulate total payment for goods or services required
- Receive payment for goods or services
- Calculate daily/shift payments received and reconcile them with total sales
- Suggestive selling
- Provide excellent customer service
- Assist customers with self-service items
- Participate in promotional activities

**Qualifications:**

- Some secondary school education is usually required. High school graduation may be required by some employers.
- Eligibility for bonding may be required.
- A casino gaming license may be required for cashiers working in gambling casinos.
- Must be able to complete Smart training courses
- Must be able to complete AML

**Experience:** 2 – 3 years, or we will train.

**Education:** Some post-secondary, high school may require.

**Terms of Employment:** Permanent full-time 40-hour work week.

**Language:** English

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

**Wage:** \$15.00 per hour.

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

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

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

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

**Visit our Website:** [www.eaglerivercasino.ca](http://www.eaglerivercasino.ca)

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



## 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 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 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

4216 Elko Drive  
Whitecourt, AB

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

Mental Health Helpline 1-877-303-2642  
• Addiction Helpline 1-866-332-2322  
• Health Link 811

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## Money Matters

**One Canadian Dollar = 0.72 US Dollar**  
at an exchange rate of **0.7204** (using nominal rate).



**Dollar Values as of November 1, 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](mailto: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.

### continued from page 1

Active Transportation Fund will cover just over 1.1 million dollars of the project, a big win for local ratepayers.

E-Construction bid \$1,966,698.53, while Knelsen Sand and Gravel bid \$2,619,413.17. Administration recommended that Council award the contract to E-Construction. Councillor Tara Baker asked what the difference would be between the two that would equal over half a million dollars. "Knowing that the quality would not be it, what is the difference? Is it material? Is it labour? Is it time?"

Grande explained that there could be several variables accounting for the difference. "Typically, with E-Construction, their source of materials is out of Whitecourt. All the procurements in terms of the materials used to produce the asphalt originated here. We can only assume that maybe Knelsen doesn't have a local source versus E-Construction, which already has a site that is well established. They also have contracts from working with the

region, so all of those factors are maybe an indicator of pricing. But the major one is definitely the material source being local."

Council voted in favour of awarding the Centennial Park Pathway Improvements project to E-Construction, a Division of N.P.A. Ltd, for \$1,966,698.53 plus GST. "This is going to span over the three-year phase. It's quite a lengthy project because there is a lot of detail work involved in terms of culverts and erosion control," explained Smyl.

Phase 1 will involve work along the Centennial Park pathway behind Chickadee Drive, Kimzey Crossing, Baxter Crescent and Feero Drive, ending at the entrance/exit on Sakwata-mau Drive and will be completed sometime next year. Phase 2 encompasses the pathway from Heritage Park and the Forest Interpretive Centre to just beyond Park Heights. The third and final phase will include the remaining portions of the path, including the entrance at Beaver Drive, split into 3A, 3B, and 3C, for completion in 2026

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## Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Security Guard Supervisor NOC 62029

**Responsibilities:**

- Co-ordinate, assign and review the work of security guards and other service workers not elsewhere classified
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition of supplies and materials
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Monitor quality and production levels
- May perform the same duties as workers supervised.
- Arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Assist clients/guests with special needs
- Co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Ensure smooth operation of computer equipment and machinery
- Establish work schedules and procedures
- Handle emergency situations
- Monitor quality and production levels
- Prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Requisition or order materials, equipment, and supplies
- Resolve work-related problems
- Supervise the operation of mechanical equipment and machinery
- Supervise, co-ordinate and schedule (and possibly review) activities of workers
- Train staff/workers in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies.

**Qualifications:**

- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is usually required.
- Certification or licensing AGLC.
- Must be able to complete Smart training course
- Must have a valid driver's license class 5
- Must be able to complete AML.

**Experience:** 2 – 3 years.

**Education:** Completion of secondary school an asset.

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

**Language:** English

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

**Wage:** \$20.77 per hour.

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

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

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

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

**Visit our Website:** [www.eaglerivercasino.ca](http://www.eaglerivercasino.ca)

**How to Apply:** Send resume to [HR@eaglerivercasino.ca](mailto: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

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- **Job#: 23-046**, Seniors Resource Lead, Contracted, Full-time position.

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## Whitecourt Town Council updates

Whitecourt Town Council made a number of public appointments to Council Committees at last night's Regular Meeting as part of the annual recruitment campaign. To everyone that submitted applications for Council Committees, thank you for your commitment and willingness to serve our community! All applicants will be contacted in the coming days regarding the status of Council Committee

appointments. There are still vacancies on the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. For information on how you can lend your skills, visit [www.whitecourt.ca/your-town/mayor-council/public-participation](http://www.whitecourt.ca/your-town/mayor-council/public-participation).

Council has re-named the fire training grounds to the Bruce Parrent Fire Training Facility. The name is in honour of former Whitecourt Fire Chief Bruce Parrent, who passed away earlier this

year. Mr. Parrent was instrumental in developing the training facility and worked with the Province during his tenure as chief to develop the NFPA certification training model that has been adopted throughout Alberta as the standard for fire-fighter training.

Whitecourt has been awarded grant funding for a two-year term from the United Way and through Healthy Aging Alberta to provide Social Prescribing for seniors in the region. The grant provides funding to support one full-time contract Seniors Resource

Lead position to help older adults access programs and services in the community.

Council has awarded a contract to E-Construction to complete the Centennial Park Pathway Improvement Project. The project will be completed in phases over the next three years and is valued at approximately \$1.9 million. Work will include rehabilitation of deteriorating paved surface, drainage improvements and widening of the pathway to allow for multiple uses.

Council has authorized a change to the

Power Franchise Fee. The franchise fee is paid to the municipality in exchange for giving FortisAlberta the exclusive right to supply power in Whitecourt. The approved 2024 franchise fee rate was set at 4.47%. This change will result in the average residential customer experiencing an increase of \$0.61 per month on their power bill.

Council authorized a change to the Gas Franchise Fee. The franchise fee is paid to the municipality in exchange for giving ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. the exclu-

sive right to supply gas in Whitecourt. The approved 2024 franchise fee rate was set at 33.55%. This change will result in the average residential customer experiencing an increase of \$3.11 per month on their gas bill.

Council has adopted the 2024 Whitecourt Economic Development and Tourism Strategic Plans. The Plans identify priorities over the next year, and outline how resources will be used to meet goals. Both plans are available for viewing on [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca).

# PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

## WORD SEARCH

K	L	T	Q	P	Y	H	V	E	E	H	G	Q	O	M	P	P	E	K	F
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9	7	4	3	8	6	1	2	5
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