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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



# The Press

Locally Owned & Operated



Vol. 13 - Issue 3 | Wednesday, January 17, 2024

## Warm hearts made the recent deep freeze a little easier to handle



Don Shaw posing while boosting his 22<sup>nd</sup> car of the day on Friday.



Dustin Nichols sporting a frozen mustache during a long cold shift.



Dustin Roche, working hard in the cold.

Photos Submitted



Jeremy Heard posed in front of his truck while outside at work.



Marion, a letter carrier, bejeweled by Mother Nature.



Ryan Woods, a true local "oiler."

See the article page 2.



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# Warm hearts made the recent deep freeze a little easier to handle

By Serena Lapointe

With extreme cold temperatures blanketing much of the province last week and through the weekend, Albertans had to dig deep. Layering up was a prerequisite to venturing outside into the elements, as was plugging in the car or truck for hours before even attempting to turn the key.

For some, plugging in their vehicle wasn't enough as the bone-chilling negative numbers on the thermostat froze everything up solid, leaving them with a dead battery to contend with. From Tuesday to Thursday last week, the Alberta Motor Association received over ten thousand calls from motorists who needed roadside assistance.

For residents in Whitecourt, their rescue came from various folks, both from businesses and the general public. Booster cables in hand, they left their warm homes and cars to help get motors running throughout the municipality. Long-time resident Don Shaw was one of those running around town with his boosting abilities and had already helped nine people by 10 am Friday. By noon, his number grew to 12. Two hours later, he was 18 vehicles in. By the end of the day, he had boosted 22 cars. Though this wasn't the first winter he'd done this, it was by far the most he'd ever done in one day.

"I don't mind helping. I know what it's like to need some help, and it's there when I need it," Shaw, whose family has run Furniture Den for 38 years, has grown up immersed in the community for much of his life. Hopping out of his warm truck on a frigid day to maneuver cables onto a lifeless battery box isn't something he felt he deserved credit or thanks for, but the countless comments on social media from grateful community members said otherwise. "I just like to help people. People

have supported me and my business for years and I'm sure they will support me with my next adventure that I'm working on, so I like to pay it back," said Shaw.

Another one of the generous area residents going out into the cold to free stranded drivers was Tyler James Fairley. "I love to help people. I will go out in this cold to help someone with a boost or a ride or even bring them anything they may need with nothing in return but to see them smile. Do onto others as they shall do onto you."

For Fairley, winter is his favourite time of the year, especially the cold, making him

continued on page 12



Photo Submitted

A visit from the polar vortex last week made for some brutal drops in temperature. At one point, the Edmonton International Airport's outdoor thermostat apparently "bottomed out" at -50. The cold might've stopped a lot of things, but one thing it didn't stop was Whitecourt's community spirit. Pictured are firefighters all smiles after helping fix a problem on a cold day.



How's this for a side-by-side comparison? Whitecourt's temperature (far left) was captured just after midnight on Saturday, January 13. To the right are three places one would expect to be colder, yet they weren't. Shown beside Whitecourt is Alert, Nunavut, which is located on Ellesmere Island way up near the Arctic Circle, home to Canada's northernmost people. Next is North Pole, Alaska, at a balmy -27 and finally, Vostok Station, Antarctica, at "only" -32. Not shown, but worth mentioning, is that Reykjavik, Iceland, was a tropical +2 at the same time. The polar vortex responsible for dishing out the bone-chilling temperatures seen across Alberta last week is thankfully not a permanent fixture for the area. Brrr.



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# Inferno's fire of determination grants them access to competition bid that will take them over 4,600km away



**A happy group of athletes after finding out the big news.**

**Inferno, Prestige Athletics' elite competition group, recently received news they never expected to get, and their excitement is reaching out of this world. Counting down the days until early May will be a true test of their patience!**

**By Serena Lapointe**

When friends Jessica Haggith and Melissa Rempel decided to join forces about two years ago and purchase equipment from Sabres Cheer to start their own company, Prestige Athletics, they couldn't have guessed what excitement awaited them in 2024.

At a recent competition in early December 2023 in Red Deer (New Era's Alberta Championships), Inferno, Prestige Athletics' elite competition team, was battling it out. The night before, Haggith and Rempel discovered that they could put their team in for a bid to attend a large, international competition called The Finals hosted by Nfinity in Orlando, Florida. Putting in the bid meant that Inferno would be in the pile from which the judges would choose to give one of just a handful of invitations.

Before going further, the pair spoke with the parents of the Inferno athletes to see what they thought. "They all agreed to put in for it, so we did," said Melissa. The next day, Inferno, comprised of 12 girls aged 8-12, performed and did a great job, coming in third. The team then left and headed home for Whitecourt, thinking

nothing about the bid since they didn't win.

As Haggith drove home, her phone rang. Another gym owner in Alberta, who was also at the Red Deer competition, was excitedly calling. Haggith, who had carpooled, kept the conversation quiet so no one in the car would know what was happening. "We had won our bid. They called to congratulate us. I couldn't believe it."

She then called Rempel. "I just balled. I couldn't believe it was real. It was pretty incredible," said Rempel, in tears. "My daughter is on the team, and I had to keep it a secret from her because we didn't want some kids to know and others not to know, so I had to keep it quiet all night. That was hard!" The next day, Haggith and Rempel convinced everyone to meet at the gym to discuss the Red Deer competition.

"We sat the girls down, and their parents were behind them. We had two banners. One banner was for getting third place, and the other was for winning the bid. We placed one banner in front of the other and held them up. They were excited to see that they had won third place. That's when we dropped the first banner and showed the second

one," said Rempel.

The parents saw the banner first because their daughters had turned around to thank them for their support. "There were actually some squeals from the parents when they saw the banner," said Haggith. The most remarkable thing was that the athletes knew nothing about it. "The girls had no idea where we were going because only their parents knew we had put in for the bid, not the girls. It was a big surprise for them because they didn't even know what was happening."

With the news out, Haggith said it's still just as unbelievable as December 9 when she got the call. "For me, I'm still looking at it like I'm watching someone else's life because this doesn't happen to little, tiny Whitecourt. We are a small gym compared to some gyms, with thousands of athletes competing every weekend. I'm so proud of these girls and everything they've done, and I'm proud of Melissa and everything we've been able to build over the last two years. It's hard to describe. It feels like a dream."

Competition judges don't always give out

**continued on page 5**



All smiles at their first competition.

continued from page 4

There are around 100 athletes in the club, boys and girls from toddlers to teens, and 70 are on one of the club's six competition teams. The experience in store for Inferno is shared with Rempel and Haggith just as much. "They've never seen a stage this big. We've never seen a stage this big, either! I don't think I've ever seen anything like what I will see when we go. There are 300 teams that are allowed to enter this competition, and they are international. It's huge!" Inferno has five competitions to focus on before hopping on a plane and heading to Orlando, giving them time to tweak their performances and grow even stronger. "I am proud. I am proud of the kids, and I'm proud of the parents for supporting their kids. I'm beaming with pride. These kids have overcome a lot," said Rempel. To support the club, visit www.prestigeathletics.ca.

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Posing with their "bid winners" and third place team posters.

REMINDER NOTICE

REGISTRATIONS FOR GRAVEL TRUCKS / EQUIPMENT are now available for 2024.

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Registrations forms are available at both Woodlands County offices and on Woodlands County Website <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/equipment-registration>

Whitecourt office: 1-888-870-6315, Fort Assiniboine office: 1-866-584-3866

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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.



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devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca  
Phone: 780-305-1825





# PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15



## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

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

## CROSSWORDS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11				12		13			14			
15						16			17			
	18				19	20			21			
				22	23				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	54
55					56				57			58
59					60				61			
62					63					64		

### 64. Partner to relaxation

#### CLUES DOWN

- "The world's most famous arena"
- Polite interruption sound
- Private school in New York
- Refuse of grapes
- \_\_\_ Tomei, actress
- Adult beverages
- Supporter
- Papier-\_\_\_, art material
- Forests have them
- Most ancient Hindu scriptures
- Downwind
- Marketplace
- Flowering plant genus
- Street where nightmares happen
- Admirer
- Dip lightly into water
- When you hope to get there
- Partner to cheese
- Egg

- A way to disqualify
- South American plant
- Fold-away bed
- Debbie Harry album "\_\_\_ Koo"
- Swedish krona
- Displaying warmth and friendliness
- Official orders
- Bowling alley necessity
- Stray
- About milk
- Expressed pleasure
- Caribbean dance
- If not
- \_\_\_ fide (Latin)
- Swiss river
- Hebrew calendar month
- One easily swindled
- Point that is one point south of southwest
- Small island (British)

### 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

- A way to injure
- Mutual savings bank
- Rock TV channel
- Large number of fish swimming together
- Military mailbox
- Female of a horse
- Category
- City
- Breezed through
- Officer who bears a mace
- Tax collector
- "Cheers" actress Perlman
- Pauses before acting
- Extracted information from a wave
- Tendency to revert to something ancestral
- No seats available
- Nocturnal rodents
- Moves gently to and fro

- Not good
- A way to ready
- One who makes something better
- Things associated with American history
- Ancient Phoenician fertility god
- A continuous portion of a circle
- Volcanic craters
- Units of electrical resistance
- Gamble on
- Ethiopian town
- One point east of northeast
- Polynesian garland of flowers
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- State of fuss
- Keyboard key

## WINTER WONDERS WORD SEARCH

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

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

#### WORDS

BLANKET  
BLIZZARD  
BRISK

BUNDLE  
DOWNHILL  
FROZEN  
HAZARD

HEAVY  
ICECAP  
ICE SKATING  
LAKE

MITTENS  
MOUNTAIN  
NOR'EASTER  
PARKA

SCARF  
SKIING  
SLED  
SLIPPERY

SNOWMAN  
TEMPERATURE  
WINTRY  
WOODBURNING  
WOOLEN

## HOROSCOPE

### ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



People may not be available this week to get together, and that is perfectly fine by you, Aries. Solitude is just what you can use right now after a busy stretch.

### TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, expect a delay or two this week as those who you are expecting simply keep you waiting and it's very frustrating. This will be a lesson in patience for now.

### GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Gemini, you may envision a plan in your mind, but now it is up to you to move it from your thoughts and into the reality of coming to fruition. It will take a little time.

### CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Cancer, give yourself some time to have fun and play around. The inner child in you needs the opportunity to explore and try new things. You'll have plenty of chances.

### LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



This week may bring many different feelings to the surface, Leo. You may not be ready to explore all of your deep emotions just yet, but you can start by being honest with others.

### VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Virgo, empathy may inundate you this week, as you are in tune with the feelings of many different people. Others will appreciate your thoughtfulness in the days to come.

### LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



You have many chores on your list but things keep pulling you in different directions, Libra. If you can't focus on something difficult, try a creative pursuit.

### SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, you may find if you look ahead that there are really no pressing matters on your calendar. This gives you the perfect opportunity to have an outing and enjoy yourself.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Past memories could put you in a funk, Sagittarius. Rather than dwell on what may have happened, think about the future in your control.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Focus your energy on ideas this week, Capricorn. You might not be changing the world, but each innovation you think up will have a positive impact.

### AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Aquarius, do not let moments of self-doubt derail you. Now more than ever, you need to believe in yourself. Think of this as a test that you can ace.

### PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Pisces, if you do not like what you are or where you are going right now, you have an opportunity to make any changes you want. This may be the ultimate resolution.

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All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

- Mondays 7:00pm
- Wednesdays 7:30pm

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.

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



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

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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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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

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Family Resource & Crisis Centre

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

## GRIEF SHARE®

Support group on Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:30 pm, starting February 13, 2024 at Crossroads Community Church, 4419 44 Ave, Mayerthorpe.

\$35 includes 12 weekly sessions.

**Pre-register by calling 780-786-2695.**

### Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous Group



Meetings are three times each week

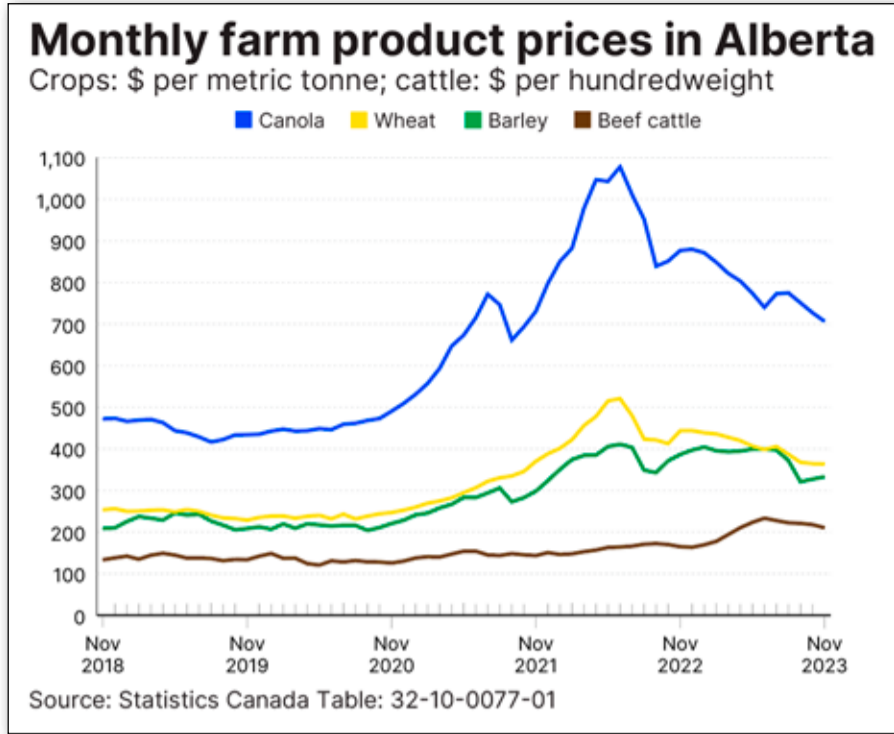
- Monday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Wednesday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Friday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**New Women's AA Group on Saturdays @11 am**

Located at the United Church Basement 5201 - 50 St

Please Leave a Message for AA member (780)424-5900

or **Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322**



# Softer but not soft: Crop and cattle prices in Alberta

The average monthly prices of Alberta's three largest crops in November were well below the records set back in June of 2022 (see chart).

The latest data from Statistics Canada show prices in November were lower than the previous November by 19% for canola, 18% for wheat (excluding durum) and 14% for barley.

According to a report from Farm Credit Canada, global wheat prices have fallen due to bumper crops in Russia and Turkey and improved transportation logistics out of Ukraine.

The same report cites a record canola

crop in Australia and movement to less expensive vegetable oil sources as factors putting downward pressure on canola prices.

According to a recent article in The Western Producer, the switch to other options when feed barley was in short supply and reduced purchases of barley on the global market by Saudi Arabia (formerly the world's leading buyer) have helped pull prices down from earlier highs.

Despite these downward trends, the price of all three crops remains higher than before the pandemic and well above the five-year averages.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture links

the elevated price environment to "inflation, extreme weather events, supply chain disruptions, high input costs, and Russia's war against Ukraine."

The story for beef cattle is a little different. The average monthly price of cattle for slaughter peaked in June 2023 rather than in 2022 and was still 28% higher in November on a year-over-year basis. Prices were driven up by smaller herds in the wake of drought conditions in Canada and the U.S.

The price of cattle for slaughter has, however, fallen five months in a row and was 10% below the peak due to weaker consumer demand.

# What to do if you accidentally click that phishing link

(NC) For many of us, fishing is a treasured pastime. But none of us wants to get caught in a "phishing" scam. That's when cyber criminals send you a message, like an email, text message, or something on social media, pretending to be someone you know or someone in authority. They try to trick you into clicking on a link or downloading an attachment, which turns out to be malicious software – or "malware" – that can take control of your computer.

## What to do if you fall victim to the attack

If you downloaded malware, step one is to disconnect from the

network to try to prevent other devices from being infected. Next, you'll need a malware removal tool or a computer technician to try and remove the malware.

Then, if you provided sensitive or financial information at some point, you'll need to change your passwords on your most important accounts. Let your financial institutions know about malware on your systems, so they can monitor your accounts and prevent further damage.

## How to prevent future attacks

If you're not already doing it, you should regularly back up your files to an external storage device or in a

cloud-based system so that you can return access and restore your systems after an attack.

You should also install anti-virus and anti-malware software on your computer. This will scan incoming messages for potential threats before they land in your inbox.

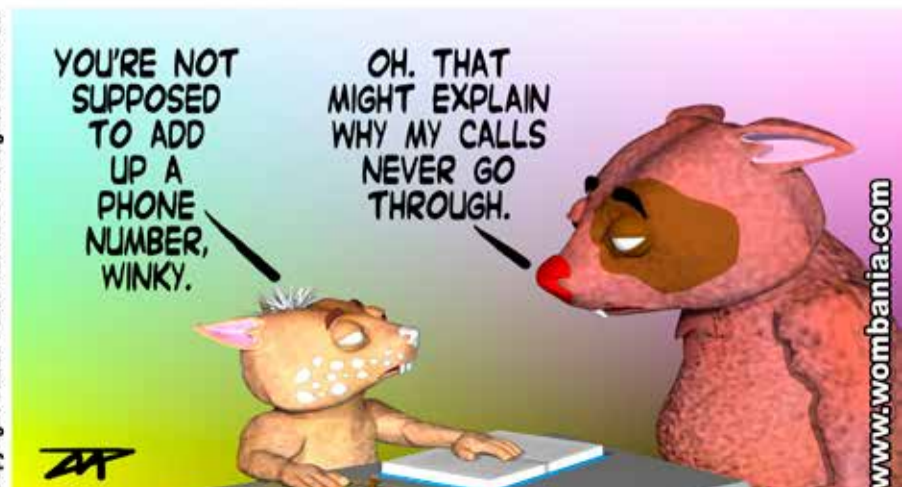
Only download files that you've confirmed came from a trusted source and avoid clicking on anything suspicious. Check the email address that the file came from – often the details don't match who it's supposed to be coming from.

Find more tips on how to protect yourself at [getcybersafe.ca/ransomware](http://getcybersafe.ca/ransomware).



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by PETER MARINACCI



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

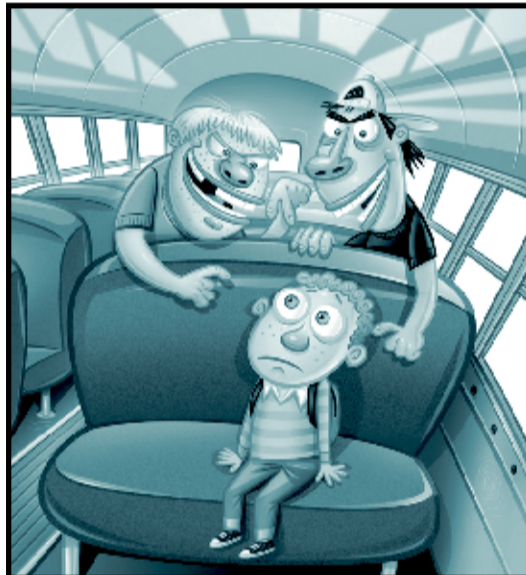


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.  
Let that sink in.



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

Call the Bullying Helpline (Confidential)



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

**1-888-456-2323**

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

## Putting a face on suicide



Logan Whelan

Age 15

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

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# Chilly Snow Angels



Rhett's creation.



He looks like he had lots of fun, despite the chilly temps.



In motion creating his snow angel.

It might've been about -29 with a windchill hovering around -36, but that didn't stop this cute youngster from momentarily enjoying a walk outside with his family and making snow angels. Four-year-old Rhett Golden loves being outside, so staying inside more than he's used to, thanks to the recent cold snap, was challenging. Friday afternoon, before the sun started to set, ushering in cooler temperatures, Rhett popped on his boots, mitts, knitted hat and a warm jacket and took advantage of some outdoor time. He made an excellent snow angel, if I do say so myself.

**Six-plex for sale in Keremeos, British Columbia**

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Be a land baron for under 1 Million ... 4 two-bedroom and 2 one-bedroom units on 2 levels. 1974 construction on a .331 AC lot. Well organized property with tons of future potential. Metal roof, 20 years old, new on demand hot water system 2 years old, Electrical is the responsibility of the tenants, parking is ample and open. Storage available for all units. City water, private septic. Private lot with tall hedges. Investment-wise, Cap rate in the range of 6% and with increase in rents you will be laughing all the way to the bank. Some upgrades may be required. This is a smart opportunity worth looking into.

Contact Chad Wozniak with Chamberlain Property Group in Penticton at 250-488-3304.

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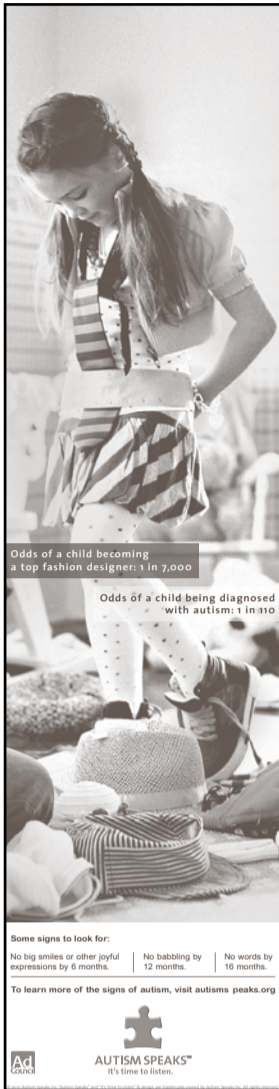
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### Employment Opportunities

SPRUCE POINT PARK Association now accepting applications for the position of: PARK MANAGER, 2024 season, May 1st to September 15th (end date flexible). Spruce Point Park Campground and Marina is located on Lesser Slave Lake

approximately 285 kms northwest of Edmonton, AB near Hamlet of Kinuso. Manager must live on site in own RV unit. Full-service lot provided. For complete job description package please call 780-775-3805 or email [sprucepointpark@gmail.com](mailto:sprucepointpark@gmail.com). Closing date: Until a suitable candidate is found.

### Feed and Seed

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### A look at the local weather

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

**Wed., Jan 17**  
Scattered flurries  
60%  
-15°C  
-26°C  
NW 8 km/h  
1-3cm

**Thu., Jan 18**  
Mix of sun and clouds  
20%  
-17°C  
-24°C  
W 11 km/h  
-

**Fri., Jan 19**  
Cloudy with sunny breaks  
30%  
-12°C  
-13°C  
E 5 km/h  
-

**Sat., Jan 20**  
Mainly cloudy  
30%  
-7°C  
-12°C  
E 6 km/h  
-

**Sun., Jan 21**  
Sunny  
10%  
-4°C  
-6°C  
SE 5 km/h  
<1cm



## 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.

continued from page 2

a good candidate for spreading community love during a stretch of extra chill. "I know it's super cold, but honestly, I live for this kind of stuff." With a high of only -28, Fairley was kept busy, helping over ten people throughout the day.

When temperatures dip, countless men and women don't have the option of staying indoors curled up on the couch with hot cocoa or making a blanket fort over a heat register. Many don't even have the option to work indoors. For those whose furnaces decide to quit or whose pipes freeze, someone must answer the call and help, weather be damned. Farmers, plumbers, rig workers, oil and gas employees, sanitation workers, tow truck operators, snowmakers, gas pump attendants, emergency services staff, and all those unmentioned who work outside do so in any temperature.

While many things are postponed when the mercury dips below -30, including school buses and extracurricular activities, oilfield employees like Ryan Woods, Jeremy Heard, Dustin Nichols, Shea Trudzik and Dustin Roche, for example, still head off to work, with proud families waiting for them at home. "All our oilfield workers out there braving the cold so everything can still operate! They're the real heroes," said Christy Lowen.

Throughout the province, specific industries experienced weather-related issues thanks to the cold, including WestJet, which saw nearly 90 cancellations last Thursday and over 100 on Friday. Once temperatures drop past a certain point, de-icing fluids are rendered almost useless, grounding the fleet. Even the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton faced problems when their emergency department and adjoining waiting area lost heat, causing them to divert patients elsewhere in the city.

Not surprisingly, temperature records were broken across the province. On Fri-

day, Calgary woke to a morning low of -38, breaking the city's previous record of -29 set nineteen years ago. Edmonton also broke a longstanding record, though older, by reaching down to -37, five degrees colder than the record in 1998.

On Saturday morning, records broke again, and Whitecourt was tied for fourteenth place on the list of the coldest places on earth, sitting at a teeth-chattering -41. When a call rang out that a carbon monoxide alarm was going off somewhere in town, the Whitecourt Fire Department members didn't think twice about the temperature. Firefighters Mark De Jong, Dave Turcotte, Shaylynn Auger, Jess Brown and Terry Corke (pictured) sent in this group shot taken once the call was finished and everyone was safe. Even though it was disgustingly cold, all five have big smiles as they give thumbs up. It's all in a day's work!

The polar vortex, which is responsible for dishing out the cold, is a large circulation of winds that usually wraps around higher altitudes, keeping the chilly arctic temperatures where they belong. However, if the circulation weakens, some of the vortex can spill out to lower altitudes, bringing frigid temps along for the ride. When this happens, it can either hit quickly or hang out for a few days, and "lucky" for Alberta, it chose to hang around and see the sights. Here's hoping that's the only visit we get from the polar vortex this winter; just please don't tell the ski hill folks I said that since they like the cold for making snow.





## 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.

## HELP WANTED

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

**Food Service Attendant**  
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**Food Service Supervisor**  
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### SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS

Please apply in person at the restaurant.



4331-52 Ave Unit 1  
Whitecourt, AB

4216 Elko Drive  
Whitecourt, AB

### 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).



## The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

### Contact

Valerie Winger at 780-706-1858  
Email: [wctpress@telus.net](mailto:wctpress@telus.net)

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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#: 24-010, Utility Maintenance Operator I – Permanent, Full Time Position.

Please visit [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) for all employment opportunities and details on how to apply.





## 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

**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.

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## Money Matters

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**Dollar Values as of January 17, 2024**



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

## CROSSWORDS

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

## SUDOKU

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

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- Tabulate total payment for goods or services required
- Receive payment for goods or services
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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
- Must be able to complete AML

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**Education:** Some post-secondary, high school may require.  
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**Wage:** \$15.00 per hour.  
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**Visit our Website:** [www.eaglerivercasino.ca](http://www.eaglerivercasino.ca)  
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## Whitecourt Town Council updates

An updated Traffic Bylaw was approved on January 8, 2024 by Whitecourt Town Council. Traffic Bylaw 1573 consolidates and simplifies existing regulations about issues such as parking, truck routes, sidewalk snow removal, off highway vehicle (OHV) regulations, and roads bans.

The new bylaw repeals and replaces four previous bylaws: the Snow Removal Bylaw, the OHV Bylaw, the Road Bans Bylaw, and the previous Traffic Bylaw.

**Key changes include:**

- The requirement for residents to have sidewalks adjacent to their property cleared within 24 hours of the end of a snow-fall.
- Updated Heavy Vehicle Route and OHV Route maps.
- The requirement for all advertising signs to have approval by the Town prior to being placed on public land.

Whitecourt will undertake a public education campaign on Traffic Bylaw 1573 in the coming weeks, and updated information is available on [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca).

The 2024 Budget Information Open House is scheduled on Tuesday, February 27 at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. The event will provide information to the public on the interim budget, provide the opportunity for ratepayers to comment, and allow for two-way communication between the public and Whitecourt Town Council and staff. Residents are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts. Watch for advertisements in the coming weeks.

Each year, Alberta Municipal Affairs compiles results of financial and governance performance measures for all municipalities. The performance measures are used as a benchmark by the Province to ensure Albertans live in viable municipalities that are responsible, collaborative and accountable. Whitecourt has not triggered any of the critical indicators.

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