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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



# The Press

Locally Owned & Operated

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Vol. 13 - Issue 1 | Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Fefe Dobson tore up the Party in the Park stage with her energetic set.



2023  
LOOKING BACK ON



The face of a determined powerlifter.



Chariot racing at the Whitecourt Woodlands Rodeo event in August. See story page 4



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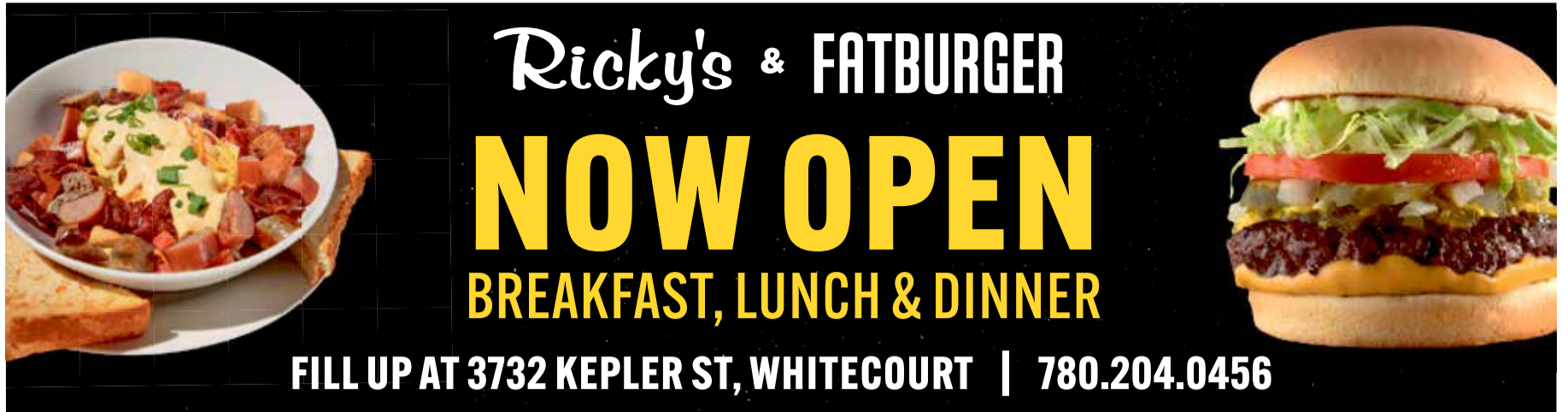
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## BGC Whitecourt is expanding its focus on socializing and mental health support for teens



**Teen programming opportunities at BGC of Whitecourt & District are growing thanks to a focused approach by their newly appointed Youth Programming Coordinator. Alvarez and Baranowski are excited to grow the teen programming options at BGC.**

**By Serena Lapointe**

The BGC (Boys & Girls Club) of Whitecourt and District is focusing more on teen-related programming, with several programs and events planned for the new year. Dawn Alvarez, Youth Programming Coordinator, has been with the club since June and said she is excited about what they have in store.

“My role at the club means providing a safe, inclusive environment for all our teens between the ages of 12-17. I want to cre-

ate programs that are important to our teens so that they will engage with them. This way, any of the needs of our community are met within those age groups,” she explained.

To find out what teens are interested in, Alvarez has held regular attendance with students. “I’m going into the schools and joining the grade seven and eights at their Lunch and Bunch, and I plan on doing that monthly. I hang out with them, and they tell me what they want. I ask them

questions, and they give me feedback, which is really cool.”

Alvarez said she plans also to attend the Northern Gateway Outreach School on Tuesdays and Thursdays. “I’m doing casual things like this with them so I can get to know them, and they can get to know me this way they will trust me and want to engage with my programs.” Building a trusting relationship with youth takes time and requires a multi-faceted approach, one that Al-

varez takes very seriously.

She said the programs the BGC is creating will be fun and free. They will also delve into more critical topics, like mental health. “I will be working with a psychologist who is just finishing her master’s and is from Indigo Counselling. Starting in January, we will be doing roughly a twelve-week program with different topics about mental health. It’ll likely be a BGC program as BGC Canada has many programs,

but we will tailor it to the needs of our community. It will be a very interactive, peer-based mental health group,” said Alvarez.

Unlike traditional mental health programs, where attendees are taught something or presented with information in a more educational-focused manner, Alvarez explained that it would be different. “This program will be discussion-based and have them doing a different hands-on activity each week. It’ll be a casual environ-

ment where they are doing interactive activities. We are excited to get started.”

When asked why she felt there was a need to provide teen programming, Alvarez said the isolation that everyone went through during COVID caused an increase in mental health issues while mental health programs simultaneously decreased. “There is an increased need for support. Mental health is always needed for adults, kids,

**continued on page 3**

continued from page 2

and teens. Those needs may change over time, but they are always needed. My job is to tailor what we offer to the needs we see in the community.”

Alvarez said she also works with community groups and agencies like the Doors Open program at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre and the Whitecourt & District Public Library. “I’m working with all of the community organizations to get my face out there and to get my program familiar to the teens. It’s also about engaging and supporting each other with our interagency network, so rather than planning a bunch of the same things, we work together.”

One way Alvarez said the BGC plans to help support the network is the creation of a Community Calendar. Kyra Baranowski, Executive Director of BGC Whitecourt and District, envisioned it as a way to link teens to all the programming available to them, like

a one-stop shop. “It features programming from the library, the Allan & Jean Millar Centre and anything the BGC is doing, all for ages 12-17,” explained Baranowski.

Alvarez said she was happy to see the interagency support. “It gives us as agencies and organizations a chance to come and help out and not duplicate the same events because many of us are non-profit or are working off of grants, so we don’t have a huge budget to play around with. It’s better to work as a team.”

She said she hopes teens understand they are welcome at the BGC and that “who you are is enough.” She also said that sharing ideas for future events is always encouraged. “My job is to find the need within the community for our youth and meet that, whether that’s fun events where they are just socializing or mental health groups that provide support. Anything that is needed for our teens, I will tailor it for them.”



**Eastlink Park opened for the season on Friday, December 22, with smiling staff ready to go at the check-in window. The popular winter spot typically opens closer to the beginning of December, but this winter's warmer-than-seasonal temperatures and a serious lack of precipitation made that impossible. The only reason Eastlink Park's gate was able to open before Christmas was hard work by staff and volunteers and long hours making snow. When the clock struck 4:30 pm, vehicles began arriving, with locals eager to test the hill for the first time. The first two enthusiasts to lace up their boots and hit the slopes this season were friends Dion and Dylan, and both gave the hill two thumbs up. One of the new things staff have in store for park users this year includes a three-walled firepit building featuring lights and benches. The warm-up spot is sure to be a big hit.**

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Switching to a different energy plan could save you hundreds of dollars on your bill annually. The Utilities Consumer Advocate is here to help, with unbiased information you can use to choose the right energy plan for you.



The erosion on Old Ferry Loop.



A massive check for the Boys and Girls Club thanks to Tim Horton's Smile Cookie Campaign.

# 2023

LOOKING BACK ON



Fresh veggies at the Chamber's Fresh Community Market.



The old Rotary Park signage before the name change to Festival Park.



RCMP officers and local youth at the Winter Park Party.



The Town of Whitecourt's picture celebrating Coach Babiuk for his longtime volunteerism with youth football.

Before locking arms and prancing forward together into 2024, let's briefly look back at 2023 with a little stroll down memory lane.

By Serena Lapointe

How is 2023 already over? I don't know about you, but these past twelve months were one of the fastest, if not the fastest, twelve months I've lived through. Each month seemed to go faster than the next, and before I knew what was happening, it was December. Now, here we are, in January, with our toes dipping into the pond of 2024, facing another flick of the calendar.

As with years past, it's time to look back

at 2023 and remember some of the things that happened in the community. With a grateful heart, thankful to be here, let's take a trip down memory lane before officially closing the door on 2023.

Early in the year, just in time for Valentine's Day, staff at the Whitecourt Food Bank created "kindness kits" to spread a little love. They made the kits with chocolates they received as donations and handed them out to single parents when they accessed food

bank services. It's one of the many ways the food bank goes above and beyond for the community.

In March, members of the local R.C.M.P. detachment laced up their skates to join community youth at Percy Baxter Rink for a Winter Skate Party hosted by the Town of Whitecourt, the P.O.W.E.R. Group and Pembina. Officers gave out good tickets, posed for pictures, gave high fives, played hockey, and made many new friends.

Local coach Kevin Babiuk was awarded Whitecourt's 2023 Volunteer Long-standing Achievement Award in April. Throughout his time in the community, Babiuk has dedicated uncountable hours to the Cats Football program since 1993. Babiuk has brought several previous Cats players into assistant roles within the program, creating a leadership core.

May is here. Did someone say fires? While Whitecourt,

thankfully, wasn't a hot spot for threatening wildland fires close to the community, it was surrounded by activity and played an integral part in providing a temporary home for hundreds of evacuees. Canada's worst fire season on record will undoubtedly go down filled with negatives, but one big positive that came of it was the community spirit it sparked. People helped where and when they could, offering their spare rooms, campers, food,

hugs, and Whitecourt hospitality to those in need.

Comments from the Whitecourt Support for Evacuees 2023 Facebook group showed how much it meant. "We felt safe and welcomed. Thank you for everything you did for all of us. God Bless," wrote Fred from Valleyview. "Thank you, Whitecourt, for opening your stores, homes, arms, and hearts for us. We will forever be

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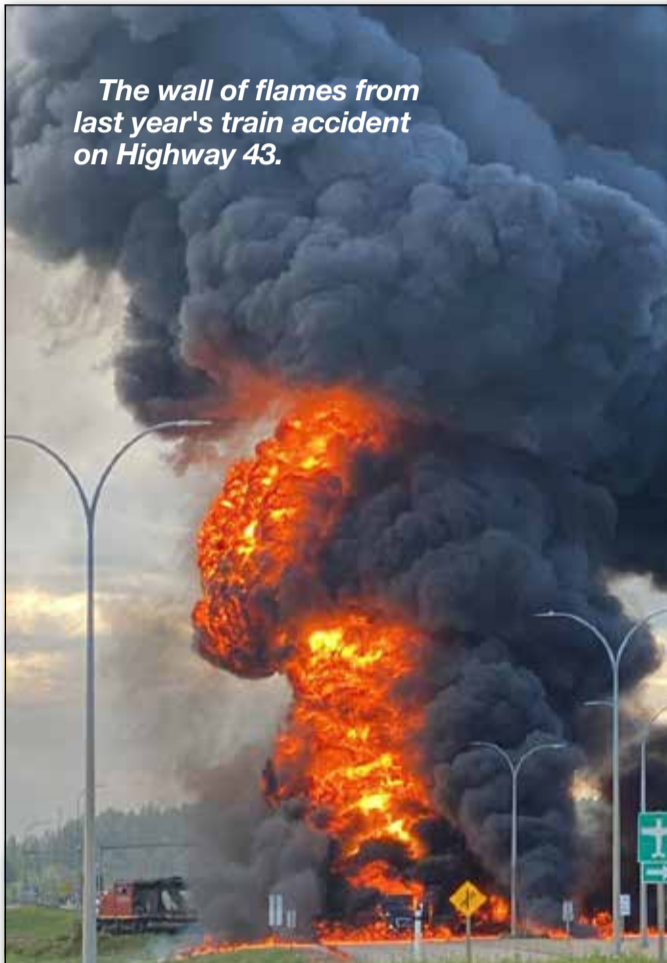
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Alberta Newsprint Company wishes you and yours a Merry Christmas and all the very best in 2024!

In the hustle and bustle of the season, splurge on moments of joy and togetherness. Spend time with those you cherish. And save the memories made along the way!

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



The wall of flames from last year's train accident on Highway 43.



A "very high" wildfire danger rating lasted much of the spring and summer.



The first get together for the Whitecourt cornhole league.



A vibrant pink Chinese lion from Street Fest.



Kindness kits from the kindhearted foodbank staff.

continued from page 4

grateful," said Kim. "You are now our community, too. You opened your doors and gave us shelter. You fed us and walked us through our most challenging days. We will never forget what you did for little old Fox Creek. We appreciate you all," wrote Sandra Hardy.

Evacuees from Fox Creek, Little Smokey, Valleyview, Edson and Yellowhead County took refuge in Whitecourt at varying stages

of their evacuations. Later in the summer, when the fires in the Northwest Territories threatened communities and forced residents to flee, Whitecourt was one of the communities selected to provide support. A four-member team and an apparatus from the Whitecourt Fire Department also made the trek up north to render aid. You did good, Whitecourt, really good.

In June, things flipped from hot to wet. High water flows

on the McLeod and Athabasca, and high rainfall resulted in a perfect storm of chaos. Numerous residents in Woodlands County and public areas within Whitecourt were significantly affected. Roadways along the river's edge in Woodlands, such as Old Ferry Loop, saw scary amounts of erosion as the banks gave way under the immense power of the swollen McLeod River. The videos of entire campers and sheds floating down the river will not

be soon forgotten.

Homeowners faced unimaginable loss as homes and property were significantly damaged. Other areas, such as Riverside Trailer Court, Sagitawah RV Park and Westview Trailer Court, faced evacuation or the threat of it for several days until the water flow started to go down. The Whitecourt Golf and Country Club was one area that received a direct blow from the Athabasca River.

Drone footage post-

ed on June 20 captured the utter devastation as the line between the Athabasca and the golf course disappeared. Every hole saw damage, with some seeing catastrophic damage. Once the water retreated, leaving behind mounds of sand and silt, the community rallied with volunteers coming out to support the grounds crew in the uphill battle they faced. Staff worked around the clock to get holes open, and golfers came out in force weeks later once the

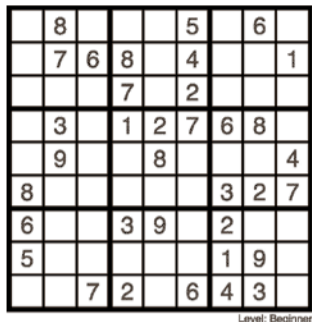
first chunk was back in commission.

The morning of August 11 will go down in infamy for many as a day to never forget after a massive fireball rose into the sky above town shortly after 9 am. A train and a transport carrying fuel collided just beyond the Highway 43/Highway 32 intersection, shutting down Highway 43 for hours. Black plumes of smoke could be seen across the municipali-

continued on page 13

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

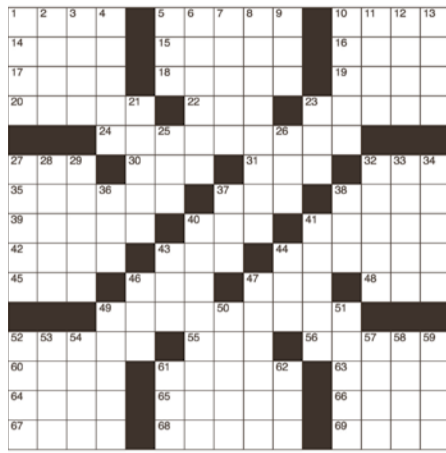
# SUDOKU CROSSWORDS



Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Beginner



**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. Droops
- 5. Subatomic particle
- 10. Not in danger
- 14. Nursemaid
- 15. Black band worn in mourning
- 16. Long song in opera
- 17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree
- 18. Chicago political family
- 19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another
- 20. Appetizer
- 22. Hill (Celtic)
- 23. Simple shoe
- 24. Songs to one you love
- 27. Secret activities
- 30. Upset
- 31. Popular hot drink
- 32. Body art (slang)
- 35. Fired
- 37. Blood relation
- 38. Identical
- 39. Porticos
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Type of sword
- 42. Enough (archaic)
- 43. Surface layer of ground
- 44. Cotton fabric woven like satin
- 45. Choose for a post
- 46. Father
- 47. Tell on
- 48. Indian title of respect

- 49. Fonts
- 52. Fencing sword
- 55. Mock
- 56. Vaccine developer
- 60. Atmosphere surrounding a person or place
- 61. Marten with a short tail
- 63. Chinese temple
- 64. Invests in little enterprises
- 65. Popular cut of meat
- 66. Charity
- 67. Iron-containing compound
- 68. River in Northern Europe
- 69. One point east of southeast

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Exhausts
- 2. Genus of fish related to gars
- 3. Impudent behavior
- 4. Adherents to Islam
- 5. They come after A
- 6. Spoke
- 7. Room to receive guests
- 8. About opera
- 9. End-blown flute
- 10. Heroic tales
- 11. Member of a Semitic people
- 12. Dog's name
- 13. Opposite of west
- 21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
- 23. Ocean
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Young woman about to enter society
- 27. One from central Caucasus
- 28. Indian city
- 29. A way to serve ice cream
- 32. Emaciation
- 33. Escort aircraft carrier
- 34. Italian city
- 36. Mythical settler of Kansas
- 37. Unhappy
- 38. High schoolers' test
- 40. Measured in pace
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Gullible person
- 44. Enclosed space
- 46. Substance used to color something
- 47. Shirt type
- 49. Discover by investigation
- 50. \_\_-Castell, makers of pens
- 51. Semitic Sun god
- 52. Grads wear one
- 53. French river
- 54. Part of a cap
- 57. Digestive fluid
- 58. Metrical foot
- 59. Body part
- 61. Very fast airplane
- 62. Supplement with difficulty

## ENTERTAINING WORD SEARCH

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

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

**WORDS**

- ACTIVITIES
- ARRIVAL
- BARTENDER
- BEVERAGES
- CHAFING DISHES
- CHARGERS
- ENTERTAIN
- FOOD
- GIFT
- GUEST LIST
- HOME
- HOSTING
- INVITE
- ITINERARY
- MENU
- MUSIC
- OVERNIGHT
- PARTY
- PLANNING
- PLAYLIST
- RECEPTION
- RSVP
- VALET

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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



### PUBLIC NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF WHITECOURT, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

**SECTION 251 - THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT**

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Town of Whitecourt, in the Province of Alberta, has given first reading to borrowing By-law No. 1574 which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize the proper officers of the said Town to borrow monies from the Province of Alberta by way of debenture issue, to pay for the cost of the following municipal purpose(s), namely the construction of the Culture & Event Centre that includes an Administration Office, Library and Arts, Culture and Convention Centre;

The total cost of the aforesaid project amounts to \$48,406,365. After deducting from this cost the amount of \$42,810,525 to be received by way of grants, reserves, sponsorship and sale of assets the net amount to be borrowed on the credit and security of the municipality at large by the issue of debentures is \$5,595,840. The debentures are to be repayable to the Province of Alberta up to fifty (50) equal consecutive semi-annual instalments of combined principal and interest, the semi annual interest not to exceed eight per centum (8.0%), or the interest rate as fixed from time to time by the Province of Alberta;

**NOW THEREFORE NOTICE** is hereby given by the Council of the Town of Whitecourt that, unless a petition of the owners for a vote on By-law No. 1574 is demanded, as provided for by the terms of Section 231 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the said Council may pass the said borrowing by-law.

All persons interested are hereby notified and they are required to govern themselves accordingly.

**DATED** at the Town of Whitecourt, in the Province of Alberta, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

Town of Whitecourt  
**PER:**  
 Judy Barney  
 Director of Corporate Services

### INFORMATION FOR ELECTORS

Pursuant to Section 1(i) of the *Municipal Government Act* an "elector" means:

- 1. A person who is eligible to vote in the election for a councillor under the Local Authorities Election Act.

Pursuant to section 47(1) of the Local Authorities Election Act a person is eligible to vote in an election if he:

- a) is at least 18 years old,
- b) is a Canadian citizen, and
- c) has resided in Alberta for the 6 consecutive months immediately preceding election day and is resident in the area on election day.

A poll may be demanded in the Town of Whitecourt by electors equal in number to at least

- a) in the case of a municipality other than a summer village, by electors of the municipality equal in number to at least 10% of the population and
- b) in the case of a summer village, by 10% of the electors of the summer village

in accordance with the provisions of section 223 of the *Municipal Government Act* and in accordance with the provisions of section 251 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

The petition for a vote must be received by the Chief Administrative Officer within 15 days of the last publication of this notice and shall contain on each page "an accurate and identical statement of the purpose of the petition". (Further requirements of the petition are provided in section 224 of the *Municipal Government Act*.)

DATE of the last publication of this notice is the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

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## Soaring Eagle Support Society

Offering support services for marginalized individuals

- Outreach worker, laundry and shower facilities by appt
- Tax program & Bag Lunch Program

5027 - 51 Avenue, Open: Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm **780-396-8777**



## WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

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

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.

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



WHITECOURT  
**CANCER & WELLNESS SOCIETY**

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

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

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

<https://wctcancerwellness.com/>

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



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

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

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

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

## LORNE'S BLANKET

*is transitional housing for men.*

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

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



24/7 CRISIS LINE  
780.778.6209  
1.800.467.4049



WELLSPRING  
FAMILY RESOURCE  
& CRISIS CENTRE



@whitecourt\_shelter

### Shelter:

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

### Outreach Support Program:

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

### Child Support Program:

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

### Preventative Education:

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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

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



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

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

## NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 23-143: 5027 51 Avenue – Indoor Recreational Facility – Approved with Conditions.

**Date of Decision:** December 14, 2023

**Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** January 5, 2024

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.

## 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, January 17, 2024 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 January 22, 2024 Regular Meeting.

## CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

Starting on Monday, January 8, crews will be picking up trees from across the community on a weekly basis throughout the month of January as time permits. There will be no set schedule, and pick up may be delayed due to snow or other higher priority tasks.

Please place your tree where you would normally place your garbage. For those residents in cul-de-sacs who place their garbage further out into the street, please don't place your tree where it will obstruct traffic.

**Trees must be free of all decorations and tinsel.** Please do not place the tree in garbage or tree bags.

The Whitecourt Regional Landfill also has a drop-off area for you to dispose of your tree. The Whitecourt Regional Landfill is open Monday to Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Government of Alberta has approved Whitecourt for Disaster Recovery Program funding to rebuild from the severe flooding experienced earlier this year due to heavy rainfall and spring runoff.

Whitecourt residents who had uninsurable costs from flood damage this year can now apply for disaster financial assistance. Information on who is eligible and how to apply can be found online at [www.alberta.ca/disaster-recovery-programs](http://www.alberta.ca/disaster-recovery-programs)  
Applications must be made by February 26, 2024. <https://www.alberta.ca/disaster-recovery-programs>

As this is a Government of Alberta program, all applications must be submitted to the provincial government directly. Questions can be directed to the Alberta Emergency Management Agency: Phone: 1-888-671-1111, Email: [drp.info@gov.ab.ca](mailto:drp.info@gov.ab.ca)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND TENDER OPPORTUNITIES

Current opportunities are posted on the Town's website and when required, opportunities are posted on [purchasingconnection.ca](http://purchasingconnection.ca). Currently, Whitecourt has the following opportunities:

- 2023-12-18: **FireSmart Vegetation Management**. Closes: January 5, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
- 12-05-2023: **Animal Pound Services**. Closes: January 5, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

For further details on any of these opportunities visit [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) and search the project title.

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by PETER MARINACCI

OUR FOOD HAS  
FAR TOO MANY  
PRESERVATIVES  
THESE DAYS.







**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

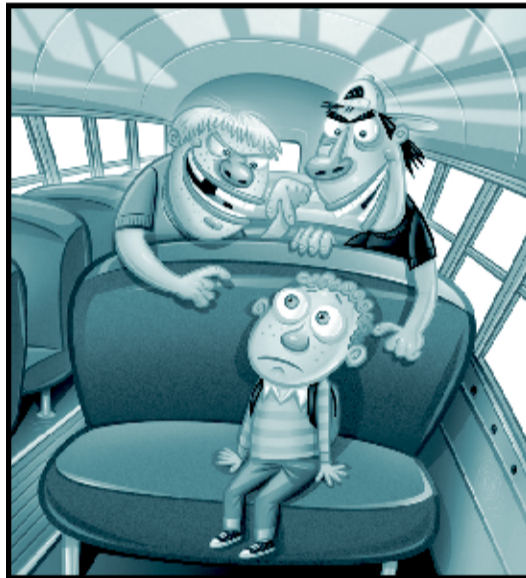


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.  
Let that sink in.



**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**



Jared Patric Perez  
Age 14

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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Last year gave area residents plenty of reasons to look up, from vibrant aurora borealis displays, massive full moons, jaw-dropping sunrises that painted the sky like a canvas and stunning sunsets to close the day. Here's one of the last sunsets of 2023, as seen from the top of Dahl Drive.

# Woodlands County Council recap

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

Following budget discussions over the past three months, Council adopted the 2024 Operating and Capital budgets. In accordance with the five-year financial plan, the budget reflects a 3% taxation increase and a 1% increase in operating funding. The Capital budget contains \$3 million in funding for capital projects through taxation, \$875,000 in additional funding, \$4.25 million in debentures, and \$1,993,404 transferred to reserves. The budget document can be viewed on the Woodlands County website: [https://wood-](https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/budgets)

lands.ab.ca/p/budgets Council approved a one-time grant of \$11,582 to the Fort Assiniboine Parent Society breakfast program from the 2024 budget. The Parent Society is required to provide a final report detailing the usage of funds, including a budget, to Council by the end of the 2024 school year.

Council adopted Policy 1520 – Asset Retirement Obligation. The policy outlines the accounting treatment for Woodlands County's tangible capital assets and their end-of-life obligations, such as sewage lagoons, landfills, gravel pits, and any other potential liability for environmental requirements.

Due to an increase in vandalism, after-hours usage, and improper disposal of waste at Woodlands County transfer sites, the Take-it-or-Leave-it areas will be removed. Woodlands County is reviewing methods and tools to increase safety and deter vandalism at the transfer sites.

Council endorsed a letter of support for the Growth Regional Economic Development Alliance's Northern and Regional Economic Development (NRED) program application. The grant will fund a local task force focused on creating discussion, understanding, and education surrounding national and international emissions legislation and

their effects on businesses in the region.

Council endorsed Woodlands County's Small Community Opportunity Program grant application for enhancing economic diversification and agri-foods growth. The grant will fund a Agri-Foods Local Market and Logistics Study and a Rural Alberta Economic Development Best Practices Benchmark Study. The studies will provide a better understanding of the current agri-foods industry in the County and provide economic benchmarks comparing it with other municipalities.

Strydhorst Enterprises was awarded the Erosion Repairs on Groat Creek Road project at a

value of \$129,535 plus taxes.

Due to the 2023 floods, the bank at Groat Creek Road eroded impacting the edge of the road allowance and a portion of the guardrail. Repairs are required prior to spring to ensure further erosion does not occur.

As part of the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework agreement, Council approved a cost share of \$61,000 to the Town of Whitecourt from the 2023 FCSS grant. Woodlands County residents can access FCSS programs in Whitecourt, Mayerthorpe and Barrhead.

The 2024 Whitecourt Regional Landfill Authority Operating and Capital budget in the

amount of \$366,573 was approved.

The regular Council meeting on January 3, 2024, is cancelled as staff return from holidays.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council – Wednesday, January 17, 5:00 pm
- Governance and Priorities – Wednesday, January 24, 5:00 pm
- Regular Council – Wednesday, January 31, 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.

## NOTICES OF MPC DECISION

### NOTICE OF MPC DECISION - APPLICATION 15-065-2023

**Location:** PT SE 3-59-10-W5M  
**Proposed Development:** Second Residence (replacement of previously approved residence)  
**Decision:** APPROVED with Conditions  
**Decision Date:** December 20, 2023  
**Appeal Deadline:** January 10, 2024

### NOTICE OF MPC DECISION - APPLICATION 15-066-2023

**Location:** PT SE 31-59-12-W5M Lot 9 Block 3 Plan 002-2432  
**Proposed Development:** Accessory Structure: 2 seacans with roof over, for storage  
**Decision:** APPROVED with Conditions  
**Decision Date:** December 20, 2023  
**Appeal Deadline:** January 10, 2024

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



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 Phone: 780-778-3337



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 Timea Division 7  
 devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca  
 Phone: 780-365-1825





# Blanket Classified Ads

Alberta and NWT for \$269 (up to 25 words) \$8.00 each additional word. These ads are placed in over 100 community newspapers throughout Alberta. We can also place ads in other provinces throughout Canada.



Odds of a child becoming a top fashion designer: 1 in 7,000  
 Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 310

Some signs to look for:  
 No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months. No babbling by 12 months. No words by 18 months.

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)

**AUTISM SPEAKS**  
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newspapers for information. KEEP people in the loop with our 90 Weekly Community Newspapers. Call THIS NEWSPAPER now or email classifieds@awna.com for details. 1-800-282-6903, 780-434-8746 X225. www.awna.com.

### Feed and Seed

WE BUY DAMAGED GRAIN - Heated, Mixed, Tough, Light, Bugs, Spring Thrashed....Barley, Wheat, Oats, Peas, Flax, Canola. "On Farm Pickup". Westcan Feed & Grain 1-877-250-5252.

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### Health

HIP/KNEE REPLACEMENT. Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING? The Disability Tax Credit allows for \$3,000 yearly tax credit and \$30,000 lump sum refund. Take advantage of this offer. Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide: Expert help. 1-844-453-5372.

### Services

CRIMINAL RECORD? Why suffer employment/licensing loss? Travel/business opportunities? Be embarrassed? Think: Criminal Pardon. US entry waiver.



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)

Find us on:



The Press is printed on high quality newsprint using vegetable based ink. We encourage you to share, save, reuse, rehash & recycle.

Record purge. File destruction. Free consultation. 1-800-347-2540. www.accesslegalmjf.com.

### Wanted

CASH PAID FOR GOLD,

SILVER & PLATINUM! Buying coins, collections, 999 bullion, bars, ingots, jewelry, nuggets, sterling, old money. PURCHASING ENTIRE COIN COLLECTIONS! Call Todd 1-250-864-3521.



## Do You Suffer from Foot or Ankle Pain?

Our Specialist Can Help!



## Call Now To Book Your Consultation!

Phone: 587-328-0743  
 Fax: 1-888-289-2162

### Medical and Surgical Services or Treatments Provided:

- Achilles Tendon Pain
- Athletic Injuries
- Bunions
- Fungal Toenails
- Heel Pain
- Prescription Custom Orthotics

- Arch Pain
- Arthritis
- Corns and Calluses
- Flatfoot
- Hammertoes
- Warts

- Athlete's Foot
- Ankle Sprains
- Diabetic Foot Care
- Forefoot Pain
- Ingrown Toenails



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 Parkland Medical  
 Centre  
 #202, 10127 121 Ave  
 Grande Prairie, AB

**Airdrie**  
 Apple Wellness Center  
 229 1 St. SW  
 Airdrie, AB

### A look at the local weather

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

**Wed., Jan 03**  
 Scattered flurries  
 40%  
 -5°C  
 -9°C  
 E 11 km/h  
 <1cm

**Thu., Jan 04**  
 Light snow  
 60%  
 -8°C  
 -9°C  
 E 6 km/h  
 1-3cm

**Fri., Jan 05**  
 Mix of sun and clouds  
 30%  
 -6°C  
 -9°C  
 E 16 km/h  
 -

**Sat., Jan 06**  
 Mix of sun and clouds  
 30%  
 -8°C  
 -11°C  
 E 8 km/h  
 -

**Sun., Jan 07**  
 Mix of sun and clouds  
 20%  
 -11°C  
 -13°C  
 S 4 km/h  
 -



## Human Resources Manager

Reports To: General Manager

### PURPOSE

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

### ROLES

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

### DUTIES AND REPONSIBILITIES

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

### IMPACT OF ACTION

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

### KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

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

### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

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

### CANDIDATE PROFILE

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

## HELP WANTED

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

**Food Service Attendant**  
Full Time / Shift Work

**Food Service Supervisor**  
Full Time / Shift Work

### SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS

Please apply in person at the restaurant.



4331-52 Ave Unit 1  
Whitecourt, AB

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

### BROAD REACH at an AFFORDABLE PRICE

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## SHOE REPAIR SHOP FOR SALE

Very Busy Shoe Repair Shop in Spruce Grove, AB.

Specializing in all Safety, Work and Cowboy Boots.

- » Must see to believe, how busy this shop actually is.
- » Will teach, coach and advise shoe repair business.
- » Possibility to develop multiple Shoe Repair Shops.

Call George at **780.819.3777** to discuss potential.

## Money Matters

**One Canadian Dollar = 0.75 US Dollar**  
at an exchange rate of **0.7567** (using nominal rate).



**Dollar Values as of January 3, 2024**

### 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 5

ty. It took several days for the intersection to be fully opened.

Through the chaos of the summer, one new event to the local artisan scene was largely successful and quickly grew a following. The Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce kicked off its Fresh Community Market in the Staples parking lot on June 24 and ran it until September 23. A variety of different businesses, both local and regional, brought their products and creations to local shoppers every Saturday morning.

A name change that came with a mix of emotions and feelings was the swap from Rotary Park to Festival Park. The order to change the name came down from Rotary International after a policy change. Though many locals will continue calling it by its old name, signs have changed, and Festival Park is now where it's at.

Last year, one of the most significant donations from the Smile Cookie Campaign shocked Tony Sgro, owner of both Tim Hortons franchises, and Kyra Baranowski, Executive Director of the B.G.C. Whitecourt & District. The week-long cookie fundraiser held in May raised nearly eleven thousand dollars. Sgro and Baranowski credited the community's outstanding generosity for the successful fundraiser.

The Whitecourt Woodlands Rodeo brought the fun of the rodeo to the area in early August after being delayed due to the fires. Chuckwagons and chariot races brought high excitement for fans in the stands, as

did the bull riding, barrels, and roping events. The Whitecourt Cornhole League kicked off its inaugural season last year and quickly garnered attention with a growing list of players. Cornhole isn't just a fun camping game anymore, it's a competitive sport!

Chinese Lions were one of the cultural experiences enjoyed by attendees at last year's Summer Street Fest, which merged a farmer's market, art workshops, cultural performances, live entertainment, and family-friendly activities into one fantastic day. And who can forget Party in the Park?! Local and regional artists did amazing on the big stage, as did the headliner acts, Fefe Dobson, Jojo Mason and Econoline Crush. We also can't forget that Whitecourt hosted the Alberta Provincials of the Canadian Powerlifting League. Those athletes lifting insane weights were an absolute thrill to watch!

Through 2023, Whitecourt had many ups and downs, but even through the downs, the community pulled together to help neighbours and strangers alike. Be it a car accident, a house fire, the passing of a loved one, a flood, a fundraiser, or anything else in between.

If there's one thing that 2023 has shown, it's that when push comes to shove, Whitecourt steps up to the plate. As we stare down a potentially hazardous spring thanks to low snow accumulation so far and the lack of rain through the fall, I know that no matter what happens, the citizens of this community will rally. Cheers to you, Whitecourt, and here's to 2024.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

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

- **Job#: 23-055**, Facility Monitor/Program Leader I – Casual 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)

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## Whitecourt approves 2024 interim budget

Whitecourt Town Council has approved the 2024 Interim Budget. The budget, totaling \$98,245,884, consists of a \$43,589,013 operating budget and a capital budget of \$54,656,871. The budget maintains service levels, and funds important capital investments with a 3.77% tax rate increase.

“Despite being faced with rising inflation costs, cost of living increases, reductions in provincial funding and federal carbon tax increases, Whitecourt continues to have one of the most competitive tax rates in our region,” stated Whitecourt Mayor Tom Pickard. “I’m proud of the budget approved. It maintains service levels, and allocates funding according to priorities outlined in our strategic plan and from public engagement.”

The 2024 Interim Budget Report can be viewed on the Whitecourt website at [www.whitecourt.ca/your-town](http://www.whitecourt.ca/your-town)

“The Culture & Events Centre is the biggest capital investment budgeted for next year; however, construction is still subject to the tender process,” added Mayor Pickard. “For 15 years, our community has been researching, discussing and planning for this facility. Whitecourt Town Council heard what residents had to say about the centre, and recently unveiled an updated design that incorporated this feedback. Similar to what the Allan & Jean Millar Centre has done for our community, the Culture & Events Centre will enhance our community’s quality of life, and drive economic development and investment attraction.”

#### 2024 Capital Budget Highlights:

- The Culture & Events Centre is budgeted for in the 2024 Budget; however, construction is still subject to the tender process. It is anticipated that the project will commence this year and have a two-year construction period. Information on the new design and budget for the Culture

& Events Centre can be found at <https://culture-andeventscentre.ca/>

- The 2024 Street Improvement Program includes street, lighting, and sidewalk repairs at locations throughout the community.

2024 Operating Budget Highlights:

- Whitecourt has received grant funding for a two-year period to undertake social prescribing services for seniors in the region. The grant, provided by the United Way and through Health Aging Alberta, supports a full-time contract Seniors Resource Lead position to help connect seniors with non-medical programs and services in the community to enhance their quality of life.

- Whitecourt is making it easier for community members to apply for a building permit. Starting January 1, 2024, Whitecourt will work directly with Safety Codes Agencies to create a “one-stop shop” for development and building permits. The change will create a single point of contact for applications, and more coordinated approach to the permitting process. This move has been made as part of Whitecourt’s commitment to reduce red tape.

- Whitecourt will continue to act as an Alberta Advantage Immigration Program “Designated Community” under the Rural Renewal Program and Entrepreneur Streams. These programs will support workforce development by helping to address long-term labour shortages by attracting newcomers; and encourage new investment in Whitecourt by attracting entrepreneurs and new businesses.

The 2024 Budget will be finalized in the spring of 2024 once the Provincial budget is adopted, and final assessment figures are established. Specific tax rate impacts will vary by property type depending on the assessed value of a home or business, and will be determined once the final budget is adopted.



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## CROSSWORDS

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**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

## Whitecourt Town Council updates

As announced by the Government of Alberta on December 6, Whitecourt has been approved for Disaster Recovery Program funding to rebuild from the severe flooding experienced in June 2023. Whitecourt residents who had un-insurable costs from flood damage this year can now apply for disaster financial assistance. Applications must be made by February 26, 2024.

Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw 1551-10 has been adopted to reflect rates and fees as outlined in the 2024 Interim Budget that will come into effect January 1, 2024. Included in the bylaw are new rates for the administration of building permits. Starting January 1, 2024, Whitecourt will work directly with Safety Codes Agencies to create a “one-stop shop” for development and building permits. The change will create a single point of contact for applications, and more coordinated approach to the permitting process.

Council has provided first reading of Borrowing Bylaw 1574, which will upon final approval, authorize the Town of Whitecourt to borrow a maximum amount of \$5,595,840 to pay for the construction of the Culture & Events Centre. The project, valued at \$48,406,365, includes an arts, culture and convention centre, library, and Town administration office.

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Screen Test is a free service provided by Alberta Health Services that offers screening mammograms. Our mobile screening units travel to 121 communities throughout Alberta to provide convenient access to breast cancer screening.

Having regular screening mammograms is the best way to find breast cancer early, before symptoms appear and when treatment may work better.

Who should have a screening mammogram?

If you're 45 to 74, you don't need a referral to have a mammogram. Make screening part of your regular health routine. Plan to have a mammogram every 2 years or as decided by you and your healthcare provider.

If you're 40 to 44 or over 75, discuss the risks and benefits of screening with your healthcare provider. You will need a referral if you're 40 to 44 and it's your first mammogram, or if you're over 75.

Call 1-800-667-0604 (toll-free) to book a mammogram with Screen Test.

Breast density scores are now included in your Screen Test result letter

Breast density is the amount of dense tissue compared to the amount of fat in a person's breasts. It can be harder to find cancer in dense breasts because this tissue appears white on a mammogram, the same colour as many kinds of breast cancer. It's common to have dense breast tissue.

Dense breasts are only one of many risk factors for breast cancer. Other factors, such as age and genetics, have a bigger impact on your overall risk. You can't tell how dense your breasts are by size, look or feel. The only way to find out is by having a mammogram.

Talk to your healthcare provider about your breast density score and your personal risk of breast cancer. Learn more about breast density on screeningforlife.ca

For more information on Screen Test and breast cancer screening, visit screeningforlife.ca

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