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# The Press

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Vol. 13 - Issue 5 | Wednesday, January 31, 2024



## Roadtrippin' in Whitecourt and chatting up Canadian country music artist Michelle Wright

Wright and Thorsteinson with a crowd on the dancefloor glowing in the colourful smoke. See the story page 2.



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# Roadtrippin' in Whitecourt and chatting up Canadian country music artist Michelle Wright

**Award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter Michelle Wright, along with Jason McCoy and Doc Walker, was in town last week for the Great Canadian Roadtrip tour. Their Thursday night show at the AJMC blew the roof off the place as attendees enjoyed songs from all three acts, with many dancing the night away on the dance floor.**



*(Left to Right) Jason McCoy, Michelle Wright and Doc Walker.*



*Jason McCoy rocking the AJMC stage.*

**By Serena Lapointe**

Last Thursday night, the lights in the field-house at the Allan and Jean Millar Centre were turned down low as everything else was turned up: excitement, fun, and, most importantly, sound. The Great Canadian Roadtrip is a cross-country tour featuring three well-known country acts, and Whitecourt made the list of places it stopped to visit thanks to the Whitecourt & Woodlands Performing Arts Society.

Michelle Wright, Doc Walker, and Jason McCoy took the stage at the AJMC at 8 pm with a cheering crowd before them, ready to party. Singing all their hits and some new ones, the trio of acts meshed perfectly on the stage together and put on one heck of a show.

Wright is one of Canada's most awarded female country singers of the 90s, with many awards, including an induction into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame. The daughter of two performer parents, who also worked hard as farmers, Wright grew up in a musical household and holds fond memories of watching her parents perform on the local circuit of Merlin, Ontario, near Chatham.

Getting on the tour bus and travelling the country with Doc Walker and Jason McCoy has been a wonderful experience for Wright. The tour started late last year with the central leg, focused on Ontario, and they are now making their way through the west. They are planning an eastern leg this spring. "There's just something special and wonderful about playing music together, hanging out on the bus, and being with the fans. It's a real adrenaline rush. It's a unique experience that not everyone gets to have in their lifetime."

She said the camaraderie of life on the bus is like nothing else. "You're working together towards something, and you get up on that stage, and you get to feel that reward of the feedback from the crowd and just the fun of being together. It's a beautiful thing," said Wright, speaking to the Whitecourt Press before the show.

Seeing different generations out in the audience is another treat of tour life. "That's what you hope for. You put your music out there and hope that it stands the test of time and that the next generation will come and see you. I'm certainly very thankful to be experiencing that," said Wright. The crowd in Whitecourt featured youths up to seniors, with everyone having a great time.

When it comes to performing, Wright said her biggest hits remain favourites for her to sing live. "There's



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Wright with a tambourine in hand.



Doc Walker lead singer, Chris Thorsteinson.



Wright had fun performing for the Whitecourt crowd.

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no doubt that Take It Like A Man is still one of those magic moments every night for me, and Safe In The Arms of Love and He Would Be Sixteen and Nobody's Girl. People just love those. I look down at my set list and look forward to performing those songs every chance I get."

Hearing people sing her songs back to her from the audience is a feeling Wright said she will never forget. "It's a thrill. What more can I say? It's an exciting, wonderful, rewarding, humbling experience to have these songs that have been out there all these years and to have people singing them back to you. It's fabulous."

One of her biggest hits, He Would Be Sixteen, almost didn't happen. Wright explained that she wasn't sure if she should record it. "I wasn't going to record it initially. I thought, who wants to hear this song? But I guess it's just so honest and an experience that a lot of women have had to deal with. I could not have imagined that it would've been that special," she said, calling the song magical and special. The crowd in Whitecourt could be heard singing along, which Wright thanked

them for.

When asked how she felt performing in a small town versus a big city, Wright said once the show begins, it doesn't matter one bit. She said people come to shows to turn the world off for a bit. "Once we are all together under that rooftop, it's a universal thing, and we all come together to share a night of music. I count on the fact that once the lights come down and the music starts, the magic starts."


Along with her biggest hits, Wright also performed some of her latest songs from her 2022 album Milestone, celebrating the 30th anniversary of her biggest hit, Take It Like A Man. Wright said they kept everything the same from the original but freshened it up sonically. She even had four of the six original musicians join her in the studio to record it.

The record includes new songs and some she's kept undercover, waiting for the right time to bring them out. "Faithless Kind was a song I've had for twenty years. Lovin' This Day, I've also had it for twenty years. This album combines a celebration of Take It Like A Man and taking a moment to record songs that I loved with all my heart but couldn't get the record labels to agree to record them. I thought, you know what, this is my record, and I'm going to record these songs. And I finally did."

I'm With You, originally recorded by Delbert McClinton in 1990, caught Wright's attention one day on the radio. "I went, man, that song is so cool. Someday, I'll want to record that song. So, I recorded it on this record." Wright said she couldn't pick a favourite if she tried. The first single, Small Town, takes her back to her roots, growing up in a small farming community. "It's perfect for anybody from a small town," she said. The song even samples the Canadian anthem and mentions the Stanley Cup, which the Whitecourt crowd cheered over.

Wright said passion

continued on page 15

<b>DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM</b>		
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<p><b>Deadline is approaching for the Government of Alberta's Disaster Recovery Program, related to flooding in Woodlands County, June 16-22, 2023.</b></p> <p><b>If you need help submitting your application to the program, contact our office for support. Woodlands County: 1-888-870-6315</b></p>		
<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>		
<p><b>ONLINE</b></p> <p>1. Log-in to your Alberta.ca account. <a href="https://account.alberta.ca">account.alberta.ca</a> If you do not have an account, you can create one at the Log-in page.</p> <p>2. Apply using the Disaster Financial Assistance Portal. <a href="https://recovery.alberta.ca">recovery.alberta.ca</a></p>	<p><b>EMAIL OR MAIL</b></p> <p>1. Visit <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/DRP">www.alberta.ca/DRP</a> to download the application form that applies to you.</p> <p>2. Submit form via: Email: <a href="mailto:drp.info@gov.ab.ca">drp.info@gov.ab.ca</a> Mail: Alberta Emergency Management Agency 5th Floor, Terrace Building 9515 107 Street NW Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C1</p>	
<p><b>Deadline to Apply February 26, 2024</b></p>		

For more info contact:  
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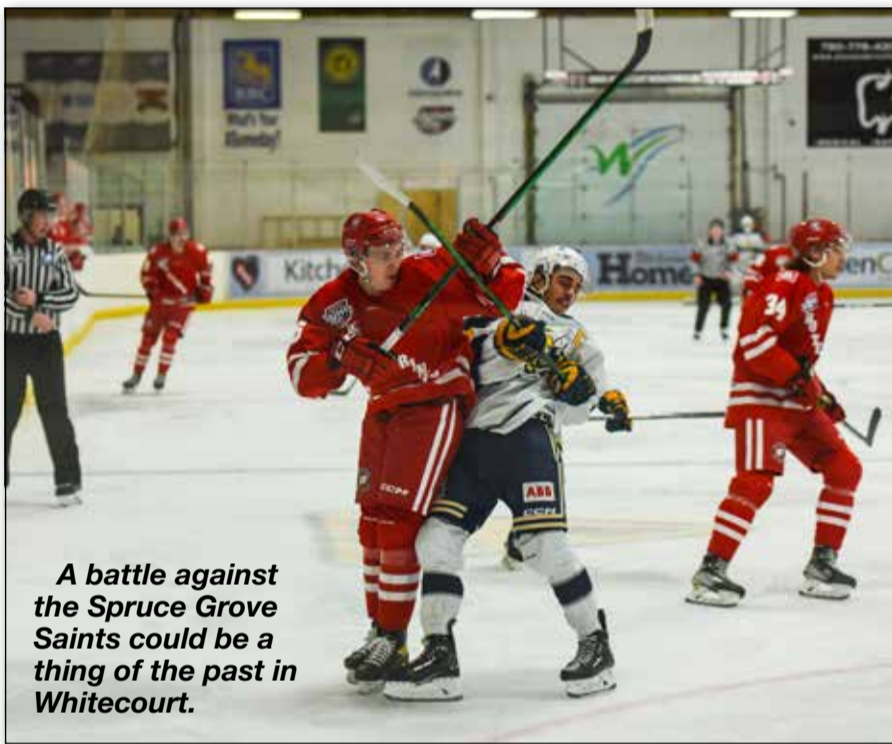


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## Contradictions and confusion surround a shake-up in the AJHL



**A battle against the Spruce Grove Saints could be a thing of the past in Whitecourt.**



**The face AJHL fans have been making since last week.**

**A massive shake-up is happening in the AJHL, with back-and-forth statements coming in fast enough to give fans whiplash. Two sides, with two different views and what looks to be an ill-timed announcement, are at the center of the controversy.**

**By Serena Lapointe**

At noon on Saturday, January 20, the British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL) threw an announcement up on its social media and main website, igniting a firestorm of questions and confusion for Junior A hockey fans in British Columbia and Alberta. The announcement was short, just 71 words long, and stated that five Alberta-based teams had “committed to terms” with the BCHL for the 2024-25 season.

The teams were the Blackfalds Bulldogs, Brooks Bandits, Okotoks Oilers, Sherwood Park Crusaders and Spruce Grove Saints. Four of the five teams make up the top four teams in the AJHL, and several, including the Brooks Bandits, have dominated the league for years.

Aside from mentioning that further information on the league structure would be forthcoming in the weeks ahead, the announcement said that no further comment would be coming until more information was available. One could say the BCHL had knocked down the proverbial Jenga tower and then left the room.

The difference between the BCHL and the AJHL is the connection to Hockey Canada. On June 1, 2023, the BCHL severed its ties with Hockey Canada and became independent with 18 teams, including one in Washington State. Their reasoning behind the change stemmed from a feud with Hockey Canada on various topics, including recruitment. “The BCHL will now be able to recruit

U18 players from other provinces, as well as from the USA and outside of North America,” read the BCHL’s release.

BCHL CEO Chris Hebb explained that players on major junior teams, one league above Junior A, are disqualified from playing in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) because the league is professional. Junior A leagues remain eligible. However, they can only play in their home province, which is limiting to those who have their hopes set to play somewhere else.

By separating from Hockey Canada, the BCHL could recruit 16- and 17-year-olds from other provinces and abroad and not be limited by the regulations under Hockey Canada. The BCHL said it

had over 400 alumni on NCAA Division 1 rosters last season, more than every junior league in Canada, combined. Their move to leave Hockey Canada made waves across the country.

Following BCHL’s January 20 release about five Alberta-based teams joining their now unsanctioned league, the AJHL took to its social media to react. They said the BCHL announcement informed them like it did for everyone else, appearing to insinuate that it was a blindside.

“No official notice has been provided to the AJHL from the respective teams,” read the AJHL’s announcement. “As a league, we are assessing next steps and schedule implications,” it continued, then listed four cancelled games that

same weekend, which included the five teams in question. The Whitecourt Wolverines, who were set to play the Brooks Bandits on Sunday, January 21, ended up heading home instead and those games are no longer listed on the schedule.

In the days that followed the back-to-back announcements, chatter online heated up, with the topic even being discussed on national hockey broadcasts with commentators chiming in on the situation. Online, some fans were upset to see the announcement coming mid-season, questioning the BCHL’s motives. “Why would you release this mid-season? Now, a lot of players, families and businesses are severely affected in Alberta. It should have been announced in May or

June. All of this could have been avoided,” wrote one fan. “It’s a big mistake to leave an established 60-year-old league,” wrote another, this time on a Whitecourt Wolverine’s Facebook post.

On January 25, the AJHL announced that all games between the five BCHL-bound hockey teams and the remaining AJHL teams were cancelled, but that the leaving teams could play their remaining scheduled games against each other. That means the Brooks Bandits cannot play against the Whitecourt Wolverines, but they can play against the Sherwood Park Crusaders, but only if a game was already scheduled to happen.

Shortly after, the confusion grew tenfold

**continued on page 5**



continued from page 4

as the five teams released a joint press release stating they “remain members in good standing of the Alberta Junior Hockey League, Canadian Junior Hockey League, Hockey Alberta, and Hockey Canada.” They said they hadn’t entered into any agreement to leave any of the above-listed organizations. They also said they hadn’t announced anything themselves, which was true. The only entity that had made any official announcement was the BCHL, when they said the five Alberta teams had “committed to terms” with them.

The AJHL quickly followed with a public response the next morning, demanding clarity. “The AJHL is aware of the contradictory statements coming from the BCHL

and five defecting clubs and the negative impact they are having on our players and their families,” read their release. The AJHL also pointed to media statements by Brooks Bandit’s President Paul Seaton days prior: “Nothing has been signed yet, but an agreement has been reached, and our board has agreed to it unanimously. The information wasn’t supposed to be out until May 1.” By Seaton’s own words, it sounded like the BCHL’s announcement was released a few months too early. Talk about a mistake!

The AJHL has called on the BCHL and the five clubs to provide “immediate clarification,” given that both sides presented contradictory statements. “Until such time as the AJHL is satisfied that there are no plans for the five clubs to de-



The future of the Blackfalds Bulldogs seems to be as up in the air as this puck.

part the league to play unsanctioned hockey, the current scheduling decisions remain in place.”

Should the five teams go through with leaving the AJHL, the

league will drop from 16 to 11 teams and the Whitecourt Wolverines will jump into first place based on current standings. As this situation develops, the Whitecourt

Press will continue to update fans. The Wolverines’ schedule remains in the air, as they were scheduled to play several of the now cancelled teams in early February. The next

possible match-up is on Friday, February 9, against the Bonnyville Pontiacs. Other schedule changes will be shared as updates roll out from the AJHL. Hang tight, fans!



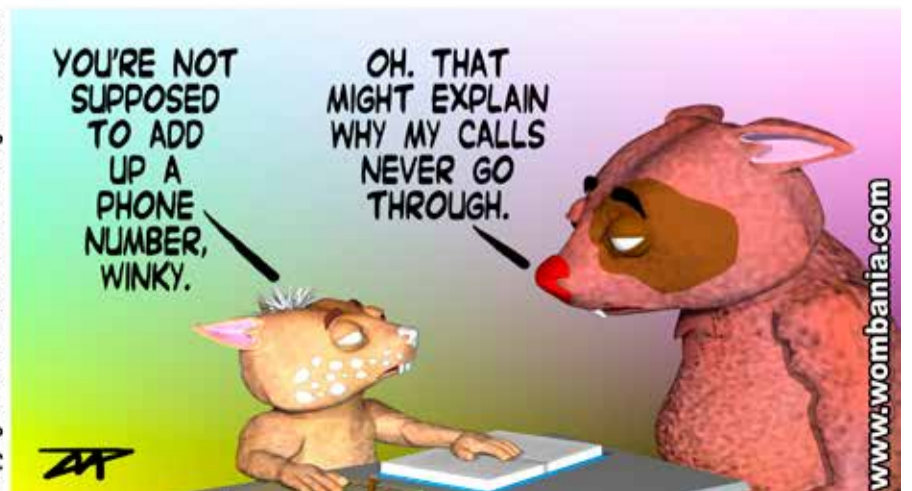
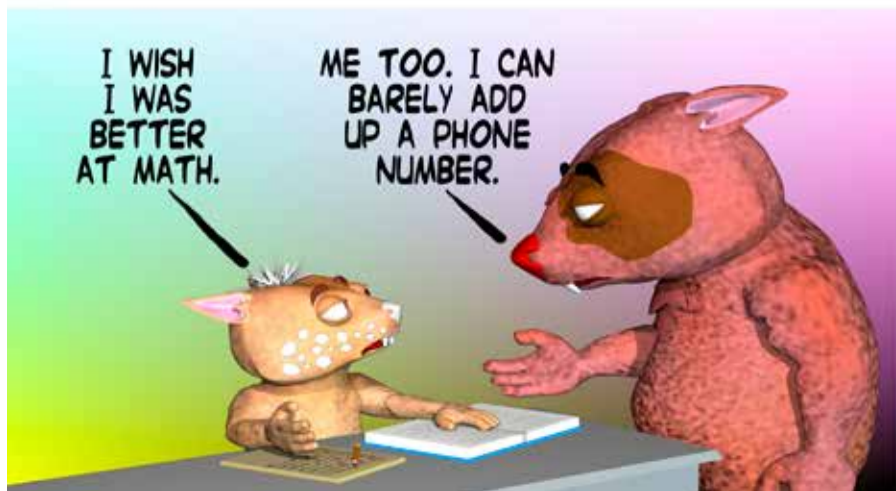
Photos by Revz Club Volleyball



Whitecourt Revz Club Volleyball held a bottle drive on Saturday and ended up with a mountain of bottle-filled bags. Pictures on the club’s Facebook page showed players all smiles, standing in the Whitecourt Bottle Depot with a massive pile of bottles bagged up behind them. People donating could either drop off in person in the Walmart parking lot or have their bottles picked up at home. A trailer on site from Eagle River Chrysler was full by the end of the event, and volunteers from Hendrickson Black kept everyone fed by working the grill. The bottle drive greatly supports the club, and its success is a testament to everyone’s hard work. Way to go!

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by PETER MARINACCI



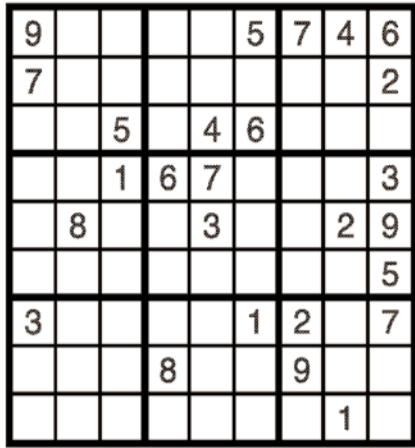
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# PUZZLES

## SUDOKU

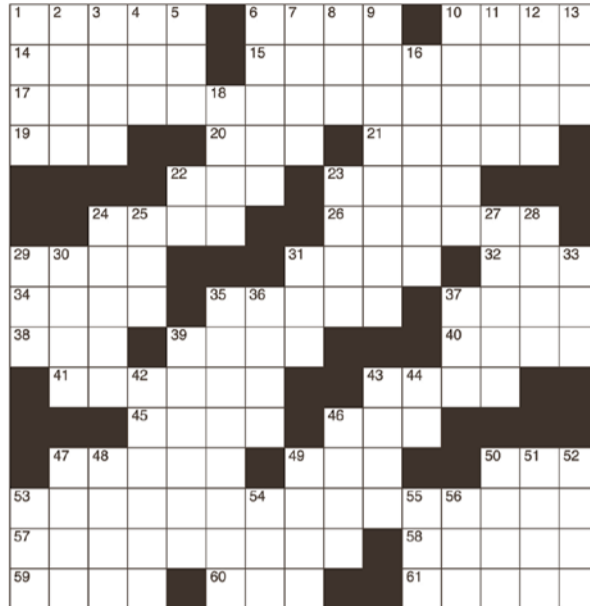


Level: Intermediate

### 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



## HOROSCOPE

### ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Something will occur this week that surprises you, Aries. You may even wonder if it is a trick being played on you. It is no trick, so buckle down for an adventure.

### TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



You have pushed your mind and body quite far over the last several days, Taurus. Now you have to slow down or pay the consequences. Do not add anything else to your list.

### GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Gemini, you may believe you have discovered a good thing and it could be right. But don't wait too long to act since this good thing has an expiration date. The clock is ticking.

### CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Cancer, you might not be able to control what is happening this week, but you can control how you react to different situations. Keep your distance if an altercation arises.

### LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Something you discover about a friend this week could leave you reeling, Leo. The signs have been there for awhile and you really should have seen it coming.

### VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Virgo, if you are on the move this week, there is a chance that you will experience some interesting people along the way. At least one person might be a good networking contact.

### LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



More than anything right now, this week you need to relax and unwind, Libra. Take things at a slow pace, and spend more time at home with family than at work.

### SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Try not to take any financial risks right now, Scorpio. If you are planning to invest, then you may want to get all of the facts before gambling too much in the stock market.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



This week you will be back to your best, Sagittarius. Things will work out, so use your positive attitude to the benefit of yourself and others.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Capricorn, even though you are conservative by nature, this week you are ready to take a chance of some sort. Enjoy the journey even if the efforts do not bring you enormous success.

### AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Aquarius, a kind word from you may be all that is needed to bring a smile to someone's face. Do not underestimate the power of a kind and simple gesture.

### PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



You don't usually lack confidence, Pisces. But you may not want to push ahead with a project for fear of failure. You should be more adventurous and not worry too much.

### 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

- Become less intense
- Variety of pear
- Religion native to China
- Type of tooth
- Fitted out
- Make every effort
- Autonomic nervous system
- Complete
- Alternate name
- River in France and Belgium
- Miami's mascot is one
- Turfs
- Most cognizant of reality
- Broad volcanic crater
- Canadian surname
- Satisfaction
- Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- Collide
- Immune response

- Feline
- High opinion of one's own appearance
- Thin strip to align parts
- Containers
- Convicted American spy
- Breathe noisily
- Taxi
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Swiss river
- I.M. \_\_\_, architect
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal
- Dutch and German surname
- Square measures
- 2,000 lbs.
- Degrade someone

### CLUES DOWN

- Siberian river
- Blessing
- Substitutes (abbr.)

- Principle underlying the universe
- Work unit
- Yellow edible fruits
- Gemstone
- A place ships dock (abbr.)
- Evergreen tropical tree
- Reality TV star Richards
- Nonflowering aquatic plant
- Stakes
- Antidiuretic hormone
- Make warm again
- Light beams
- Lethal dose
- Terrorist group
- Kids love him
- Naturally occurring solid
- German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- Popular cuisine
- Partner to cheese
- Type of horse
- \_\_\_ Diego
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Most shrewd
- It may be for shopping
- Midway between south and southeast
- A stock of foods
- The bindings of books
- Swiss river
- Megabyte
- Sammy \_\_\_, songwriter
- Dutch colonist
- Clare Booth \_\_\_, American writer
- Sun or solar disk
- Popular type of bread
- Transfers of money (abbr.)
- Association of engineering professionals
- Young women's association
- City
- Niger-Congo branch of languages
- Pointed end of a pen

## ORGANIZING WORD SEARCH

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

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

### WORDS

ATTIC  
 BASEMENT  
 BELONGINGS

CATEGORY  
 CHORES  
 CLEAN  
 CLOSETS

CLUTTER  
 DONATION  
 FILED  
 GARAGE

GARBAGE  
 HAZARD  
 HOARDING  
 LABEL

MESS  
 ORGANIZE  
 PATTERN  
 PROFESSIONAL

SORTED  
 STORAGE  
 SYSTEM  
 TASK  
 THINGS



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

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.

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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*



"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

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@whitecourt\_shelter

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### Child Support Program:

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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

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



Support group on Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:30 pm, starting February 20, 2024 at Crossroads Community Church, 4419 44 Ave, Mayerthorpe.

\$35 includes 12 weekly sessions.

**Pre-register by calling 780-786-2533.**

**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

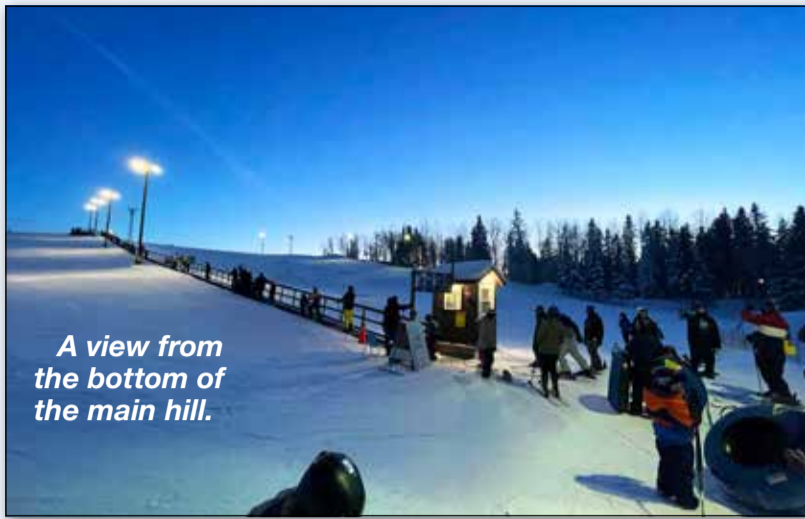
**New Women's AA Group on Saturdays @11 am**

Located at the United Church Basement 5201 - 50 St

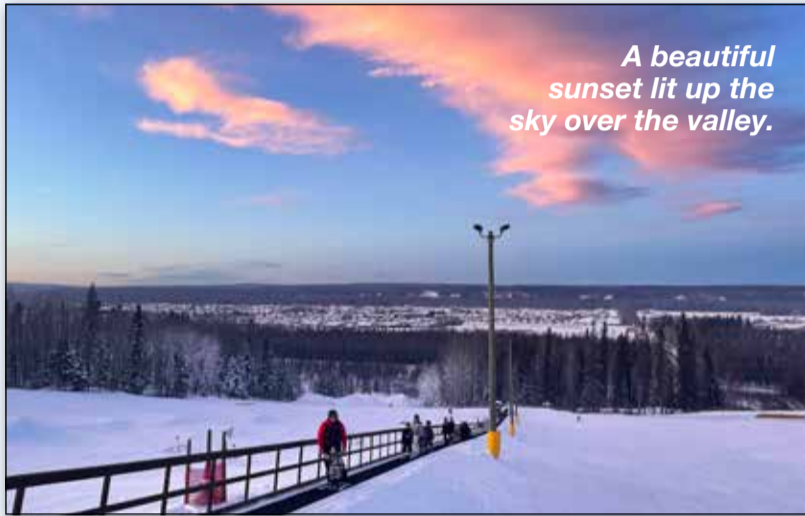
Please Leave a Message for AA member (780)424-5900

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





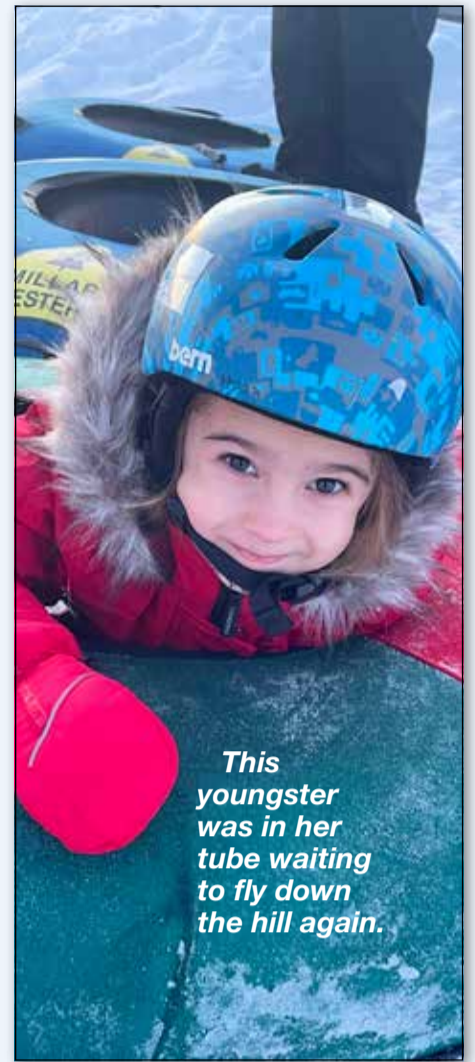
A view from the bottom of the main hill.



A beautiful sunset lit up the sky over the valley.



A family of four out for an evening ski.



This youngster was in her tube waiting to fly down the hill again.

After an extended delay due to a lack of snow and warmer-than-seasonal temperatures, Eastlink Park finally opened up its T-Bar on Friday to the delight of local skiers and snowboarders. The recent cold snap, compounded with recent snow accumulation, gave staff just what they needed to make tons and tons of the fluffy white stuff to move around and shape into perfectly groomed trails. On Friday, it was also Carlan Services Sponsorship night. The hill was free to ski, snowboard and tube down, excluding rentals, and many people took advantage of the opportunity. The big, bright, beautiful moon lit the slopes after a vibrant sunset, making for a perfectly mild evening to enjoy one of Whitecourt's gem attractions.



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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

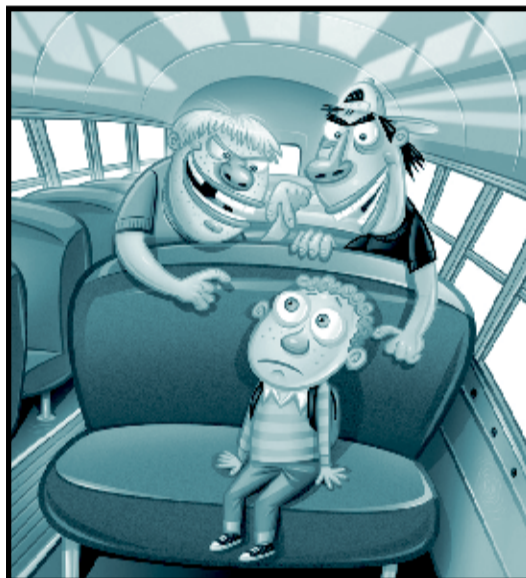


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.  
Let that sink in.



**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**



**Quinn, 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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# The Weekly Wrap: A Bank on hold and a western economic forum

By Mark Parsons  
ATB ECONOMICS

In this week's ATB Economics Weekly Wrap...

- A pause with no signal - Bank of Canada holds
- Chugging along - U.S. economy won't quit
- One up, one down - Differential narrows, gas prices slump
- Interesting Fact: The fascinating world of... forecasting!
- Chart of the Week: Western Canada ties - economic contributions and internal trade
- In next week's Wrap - productivity!

The main event this week was the Bank's rate pause, but we also have a feature on

western Canada on the heels of the first Western Canada Economic Forum held in Calgary on Wednesday. Next week we tackle labour productivity trends in Alberta and Canada.

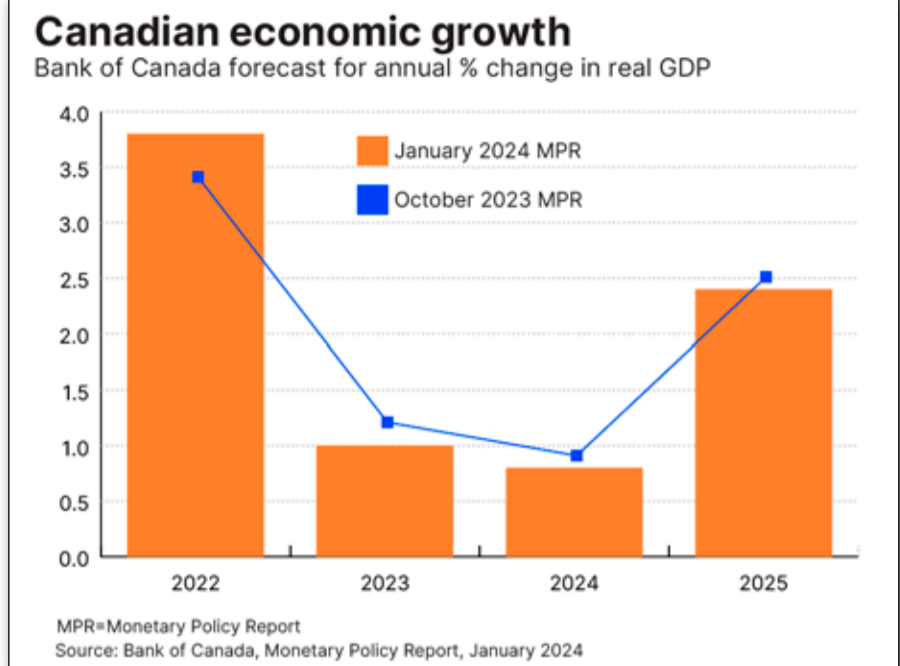
### Sticking to the plan

As expected, the Bank of Canada is holding the line on rates and providing few clues as to what's next. We are also 'holding' our call for the first rate cut in June, with our forecast putting the policy rate at 4% by year end.

This week's Bank of Canada rate announcement was as expected. The biggest news in our view? The Bank dropped their "prepared to raise" rates warning in the official

statement, a dovish move. But then Governor Tiff Macklem in the press conference said they'd raise rates if necessary. Still, the notable absence of the hawkish wording is a sign that rate hikes are in the rearview mirror.

In the fable, the tortoise wins the race. The Bank of Canada seems to agree. As it pivots to lower rates, it will remain patient and slow. The Bank is faced with a stagnant economy (contracting in per capita terms), which by itself should be enough to rein in inflation. But there are inflation pressures lingering: core inflation is hanging tough around 3.5%, inflation expectations are high,



and wage growth is sticky. Once we see these things soften, expect rate cuts to be around the corner.

On the forecast

front, there was little movement. Real GDP growth was revised down again (by only 0.1 percentage points) to 0.8% in 2024 and

2.4% in 2025. Inflation was also revised down slightly, with the Bank saying we should expect 2% 'in 2025'.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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### ONLINE VEHICLE AUCTION

Current opportunities are posted through Michener Allen Auctioneering on behalf of the Town of Whitecourt:

- Unit# 3601 – 2000 Ford F250 Super Duty ¾ Ton Pickup, 5.4 L V8, S/N 1FTNF20L3YED48318
- Unit# 3610 – 2011 Ram 1500 4.7 L V8, S/N 1D7RB1CP0BS566477
- Unit# 3307 – 2008 Ford F250 Super Duty ¾ Ton 5.4 L V8, S/N 1GCEC14C68E151091
- Unit# 3907 – 2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 ½ Ton 4.8 L V8, S/N 1GCEC14C48E151364
- Unit# 5807 – 2008 Ford F250 Super Duty ¾ Ton 5.4 L V8, S/N 1FTNF20558EB50048
- Unit# FC203 – 2003 Ford F250 Super Duty ¾ Ton 5.4 L V8, S/N 1FTNX21L03ED40990

The online auction on the aforementioned units will run from February 1-3, 2024. For more information, visit our website www.whitecourt.ca

### NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 24-006: 5296 48 Avenue – Industrial Use – General – Worm Farm & Accessory Rotary Towers – Approved with Conditions.

**Date of Decision:** January 25, 2024    **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** February 15, 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.

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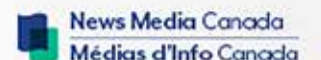


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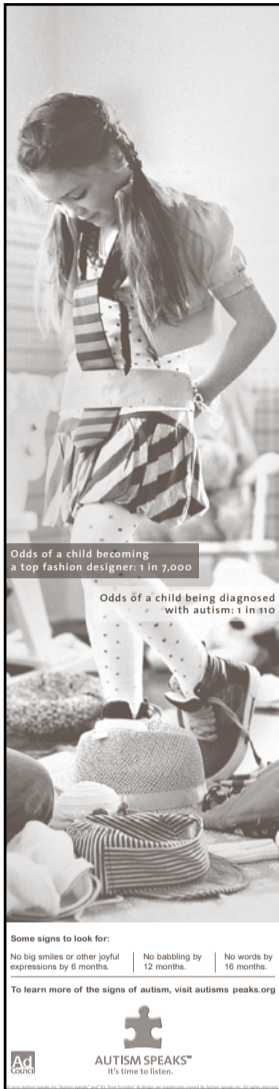




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or Value Ads reach over 600,000 Alberta readers weekly. Two options starting at \$269 or \$799 to get your message out! Business changes, hiring, items for sale, cancellations, tenders, etc. People are increasingly staying home and rely on their local 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.

### 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. Closing date: Until suitable candidate is found.

### Feed and Seed

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

### Wanted

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Valerie Winger at 780.706.1858 or email [wctpress@gmail.com](mailto:wctpress@gmail.com)



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- Bunions
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- Heel Pain
- Prescription Custom Orthotics

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

- Athlete's Foot
- Ankle Sprains
- Diabetic Foot Care
- Forefoot Pain
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Centre  
#202, 10127 121 Ave  
Grande Prairie, AB

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

### A look at the local weather

	Wed., Jan 31	Thu., Feb 1	Fri., Feb 2	Sat., Feb 3	Sun., Feb 4
P.O.P.	20%	30%	30%	60%	40%
High	5°C	6°C	1°C	-5°C	-10°C
Low	-1°C	-2°C	-6°C	-10°C	-3°C
Wind	E 9 km/h	S 4 km/h	W 16 km/h	NW 17 km/h	W 6 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	-	-	~1cm	1-3cm	<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.

Call Valerie Winger at 780.706.1858  
or email [wctpress@gmail.com](mailto:wctpress@gmail.com)

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

Mental Health Helpline 1-877-303-2642

- Addiction Helpline 1-866-332-2322
- Health Link 811

### 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).



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

[www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) | [facebook.com/TownofWhitecourt](https://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# 24-002:** Infrastructure Summer Labourers – Temporary, Full Time Position.
- **Job# 24-003:** Parks Summer Labourers – Temporary, Full Time Position.
- **Job# 23-004:** Festival Park Attendants – Temporary, Full Time Position.
- **Job# 24-005:** Utilities Summer Labourer – Temporary, Full Time Position.
- **Job# 24-006:** Landfill Summer Labourer – Temporary, Full Time Position.
- **Job# 24-007:** Visitor Information Counsellor – Temporary, Full Time Position.
- **Job# 24-008:** Summer Program Leader – Temporary, Full Time Position.
- **Job# 24-009:** Fire Department FireSmart Labourers – Temporary, Full-Time Position.
- **Job# 24-011:** Director of Infrastructure – Permanent, Full Time Position.
- **Job# 24-012:** Family Violence Prevention Worker – Contract, Part Time Position.

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







## 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**  
Full Time / Shift Work

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

### SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS

Please apply in person at the restaurant.



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## Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.74 US Dollar  
at an exchange rate of 0.7429 (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of January 31, 2024





## 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.

## Whitecourt Town Council updates

The 2023 Municipal Enforcement Annual Report has been accepted as information by Whitecourt Town Council. The report is prepared annually for the Alberta Solicitor General, and outlines activities conducted by Municipal Enforcement Services throughout the year. Over the course of the year, 1,772 activities were logged by the Whitecourt Peace Officer and Bylaw Officer.

Per the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Arbitration Award, Woodlands County must provide Whitecourt input on the use of the Whitecourt Fire Department's Aerial Pumper (Tower 1) within the fire services area. Woodlands County has requested that the Aerial Pumper not be utilized on any fires within Woodlands County or for any 911 fire calls within the fire/rescue response area for the 2024 calendar year.

Whitecourt will be submitting a grant application for \$2,754,258 in funding to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund for construction of the Arts, Culture and Convention Centre component of the Culture & Events Centre. Information on the Culture & Events Centre can be found at [www.cultureandeventcentre.ca](http://www.cultureandeventcentre.ca).

The Government of Alberta has requested municipalities prepare a Housing Needs Assessment so that it can develop solutions to address unique local needs. Over the last several months, Town of Whitecourt representatives have met with key community stakeholders to develop Whitecourt's assessment and the following priorities were

identified:

1. Non-Market Bachelor/1 Bedroom/2 Bedroom Housing with Tenant Supports;
2. Seniors Self-Contained Affordable Housing with Supports;
3. Transitional Housing with Support.

The Whitecourt Housing Needs Assessment will be submitted to the Province and utilized by local organizations and for-profit companies to support future grant applications.

Alberta Health Services is now providing the Assertive Outreach Services (AOS) program in Whitecourt. The program provides support services to adults living with severe and persistent mental illnesses. Individuals who qualify for the program will be able to access clinical and outreach services at no cost.

Whitecourt Town Council has approved a \$50,000 payment to the Whitecourt District Agricultural Society to be used for operating.

Whitecourt Town Council has approved the removal of reserve designations on two parcels of land in Festival Park. Once approved by the Alberta Land Titles Registrar, Whitecourt will be able to proceed with consolidating 13 parcels of land in Festival Park into one large parcel.

New Planning and Development fees will come into effect March 1, 2024. A review of Whitecourt's fee structure was completed to ensure development in Whitecourt remains competitive.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be attending the Alberta Municipalities Spring Leaders Caucus in March 2024.

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Y	A	N	D	I	B	E	L	O	N	G	I	N	G	S	G	O	E	U	D
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## CROSSWORDS

A	B	A	T	E		B	O	S	C		D	A	B	A	
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## SUDOKU

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

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**continued from page 3**

work very hard and do what it takes.”

is the key to those looking to follow their dreams, be it music or something else. Wright, who crisscrossed North America for nine years, performing six nights a week, before she landed her record deal, knows a thing or two about having passion. “If you feel a calling, follow it and see where it leads you, but be prepared to be very focused and to

Wright said she hoped everyone enjoyed the concert and was grateful to see folks dancing and singing along. “Thank you, Whitecourt, so much for being there with us, me and the boys in the Great Canadian Roadtrip, Doc Walker and Jason McCoy and myself. Thank you, it was magnificent!”

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## Edson RCMP charge male with attempted murder

On Jan. 24, 2024, at 2 a.m., Edson RCMP responded to a complaint of a disturbance at a local residence. Upon arrival, it was determined that two people were injured and both were transported by EMS to a local hospital. They have since been released from the hospital.

sued and, as a result, William Daniel Moyan (64), a resident of Edson, was arrested and charged with attempted murder.

Moyan was brought before a justice of the peace and remanded into custody. His next court appearance is set for Feb. 6, 2024, at the Alberta Court of Justice in Edson.

An investigation en-

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