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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



The Press

Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 13 - Issue 8 | Wednesday, February 21, 2024



Breaking ground

How Alberta started Family Day



The ice slide is always a favourite spot.

This smiley group was getting ready to go skating.

Madisyn had lots of fun sliding. See article page 4.

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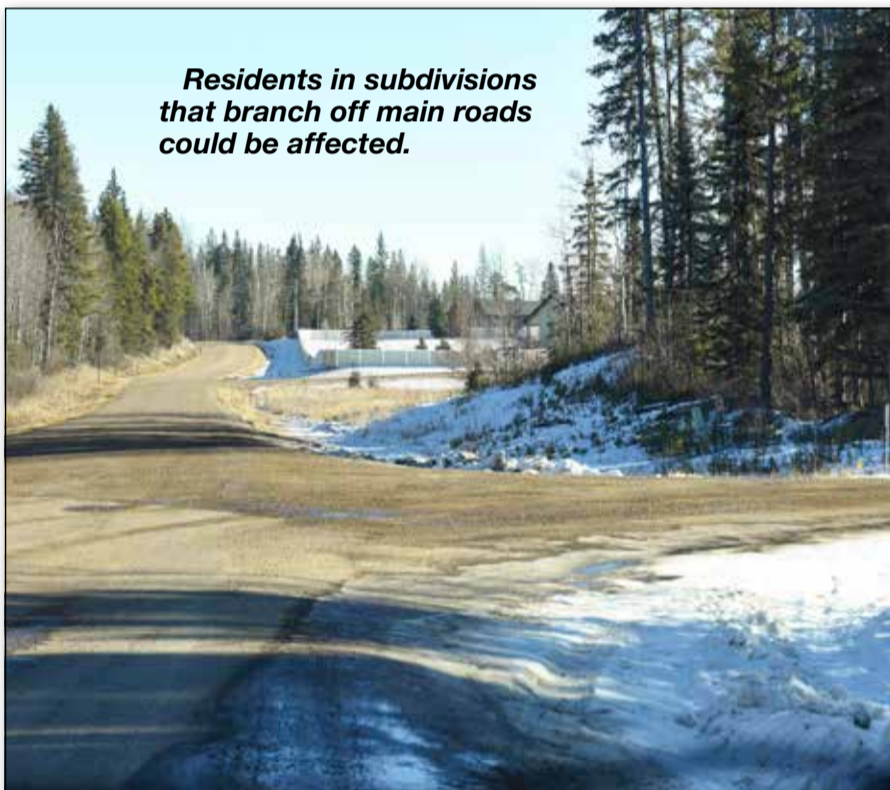


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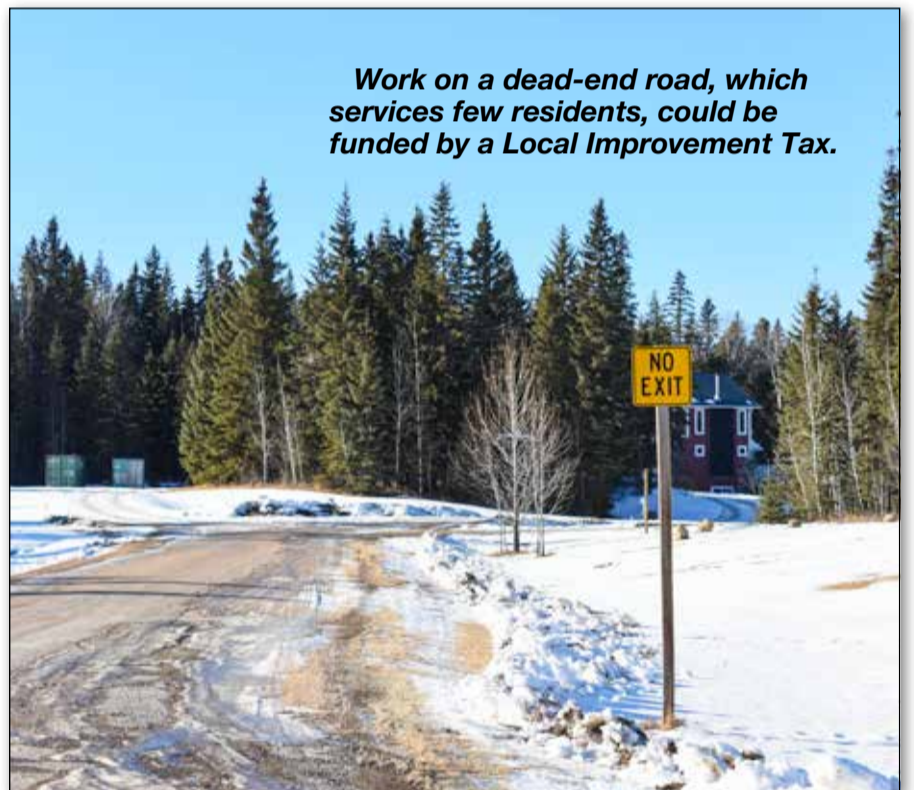


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Should cold mix road improvements in county subdivisions be partially or fully funded by those who live there?



Residents in subdivisions that branch off main roads could be affected.



Work on a dead-end road, which services few residents, could be funded by a Local Improvement Tax.

A Local Improvement Tax is a unique tool in a municipality's toolbox. It allows them to focus a magnifying glass on one specific area where work is needed and have residents directly impacted foot part of the bill. Woodlands County wants to hear from residents on this topic later this month.

By Serena Lapointe

During the last regular meeting of January for Woodlands County Council, the group briefly discussed the topic of cold mix roads and the use of a special tax that would enable a project that benefits a small population of the County to be partially or fully funded by those who directly benefit from the work.

At a previous meeting, the Council asked for options for using a Local Improvement Tax for their Cold Mix Program, which would share the cost of Cold Mix upgrades/maintenance with the residents in the direct vicinity. Rather than have the entire population of Woodlands

County pay increased taxes towards the cold mix for a road that services twelve homes, a Local Improvement Tax would focus cost on those who live in the subdivision, who most benefit from having the road fixed.

Some municipalities use this type of taxation to fund dust treatments, sidewalk improvements, drainage work, lane lighting, certain recreational services, various paving projects, or water/sewer upgrades and maintenance work that only benefits a small part of their population. Residents can even petition a municipality for an improvement tax to fund a project they feel is needed in their area.

That's precisely what happened in Calgary when at least 2/3 of the residents from a dozen neighbourhoods petitioned the city for boulevard maintenance and enhanced landscaping maintenance work, above and beyond what the city had already done. Using a Local Improvement Tax, the residents in the twelve neighbourhoods got what they wanted, and much of the cost came directly from them, not the rest of Calgary's population who didn't personally benefit from it happening.

"The criteria for the tax can be based on four different items: assessment, each parcel of land, frontage and unit of area," explained

Andre Bachand, the County's Infrastructure Services Director. The process from start to finish for implementing a Local Improvement Tax is between two and two and a half months, starting with creating a Local Improvement Plan, which identifies the groundwork.

Once the plan is created, notice will be mailed to landowners, and a 30-day timeline will begin allowing the public to petition. Then, the Council would give the first reading to the bylaw, followed by a two-week advertisement period, before they vote it into action. After that, if the County highlighted an area for a Local Improvement Tax, they would need

to let locally impacted residents know, give 30 days for residents to petition, and if nothing arose, they would have up to three years to impose the tax on those specific residents.

To show how a Local Improvement Tax would look financially, the Council was provided with an example subdivision featuring a 680m roadway that served twelve properties. The road ended in the subdivision and had one entry point to the main road. The cost of using cold mix on the roadway was \$90,000. That cost was then divided between the twelve properties based on each of the four criteria Bachand outlined above and at different

contribution levels.

Depending on which criterion is used, the cost changes. Using the average property assessment from the provided list, which was \$433,510, a resident would expect to pay about \$1,100 yearly for seven years if the County wanted to recoup 100 percent of the project's costs. If the County only wanted to recoup, say, 25 percent, the price would drop to \$277.98/year.

If the County decided to use frontage as the criteria to determine cost division, a resident with 125m of frontage could expect to pay \$295.43 for seven years (25 percent).

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A dwindling snowmobile path.



A ditch that looks more brown than white.

Winter in Alberta, especially in this area of the province, typically involves hearing snowmobiles from morning to night and seeing them zip along in the ditches or along groomed trails. These days, those areas are more brown than white, showing only remnants of the trails that once were, albeit temporarily. Rallies have been cancelled from Whitecourt to Swan Hills to Smoky Lake to Athabasca to Cochrane, with others holding out hope, praying for snow to fall. Low snow has been a disaster for winter enthusiasts, but the worst might be yet to come. Concerns continue to be raised by farmers and residents alike as precipitation levels remain low across the province. In southern Alberta, drought conditions and the fears of a low spring runoff have farmers worried, and rightfully so. According to the Canadian Drought Monitor, large swaths of the province sit under "severe drought" to "extreme drought" as of late January. The extreme level is considered a 1 in 20-year event. Whitecourt was coloured in bright yellow, which stands for "abnormally dry."

continued from page 2

At 100 percent cost recovery, the same landowner would pay just over \$1,200 annually. The County could also choose to split the cost down the middle and have each landowner pay the same amount regardless of assessment or land size. At 100 percent cost recovery, each landowner would pay \$1,071.43 per year for seven years. At 25 percent cost recovery, the cost would be just under \$270.

With several different ways to implement a Local Improvement Tax, four variables from which to decide how much residents pay and multiple percentage choices, Woodlands County Council

is looking to have conversations with residents so there is a better understanding of the process and how residents can use this form of tax to their benefit in their subdivisions.

Woodlands County will be piggybacking on its Budget Open House events planned at the end of this month, using them as an opportunity to speak about the topic of local tax improvement. Those with questions or concerns are encouraged to attend either the Woodlands County office in Whitecourt on February 26 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm or the Legion Hall in Fort Assiniboine on February 27 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Both events will feature a brief budget presentation at 6:00 pm.

Lana Banack

July 28, 1950 - February 3, 2024

Lana Banack nee Smiley passed away peacefully with her family by her side, February 3, 2024, at the age of 73 years.

Her memory will be cherished by her husband Rodger, children Shauna (Mike), Travis, grand daughters; Jessika, Mikayla (Kevin), Madison, a chosen grand daughter; Taya and great grand children Abel and Ophelia. Sisters Lucie, Judie (Scotty), Joan and Claire, numerous nieces and nephews.

Lana was predeceased by her Mother, Father, Stepfather, her Brother and a nephew. A Celebration of Life for Lana will be announced at a later date.

The Family would like to express a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Ryan Rosco, the Home Care team and the Whitecourt Health Center for the care given to Lana during her time with us.



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Breaking ground

How Alberta started Family Day

A packed games area.



Family Day fun.

Family Day was a groundbreaking move by Alberta 34 years ago. Aimed at bringing families together and relieving some of the winter blues, Family Day continues to evolve locally with fun events for families and friends to do together.



Building ice forts.

By Serena Lapointe

Alberta celebrated its 34th Family Day celebration on Monday, February 19, with cities and towns of all sizes putting on fun activities throughout the weekend. When Albertans first celebrated Family Day in 1990, they were the first Canadians to do so and were also the first Canadians to observe a statutory holiday in February.

The beginnings of Family Day are traced back to Alberta's 11th Premier, Don Getty. Long before he entered the political sphere, Getty was known provincially for his talents on the football field as a quarterback for the Edmonton Eskimos, a career which included

two Grey Cup wins. After he retired from the CFL, an Eskimo alum coaxed him into politics. And who might that alum have been? None other than Peter Lougheed, Alberta's 10th premier.

Getty served as premier from 1985 to 1991 and brought forward the Family Day Act to the floor of the legislature on June 1, 1989. There was a lot of debate on the topic, with politicians holding wide-ranging views on it, including many negatives. However, his act passed, and on February 19, 1990, Alberta's 12th Lieutenant Governor, Helen Huntley, the first woman to hold the position, proclaimed Family Day for the first time.

To help Albertans celebrate their first Family Day, Getty's government provided ideas for them. Ideas included creating a family newsletter, inviting friends or colleagues without family nearby to dinner, eating at the table instead of in front of the television, writing a family letter with contributions from each family member and sending it to distant relatives, looking at family albums together, and developing a Trivial Pursuit game or similar quiz game filled with family facts. The province also suggested creating a family tree and even provided a printable di-

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This teen took a spill and had a laugh about it.



Even the four-legged family members, dogs and horses, took part in the fun.



Kavish, 2.5, loved chasing the bubbles.

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agram to fill in. Though the day is widely celebrated now and is seen as a pleasant pause between New Year's and Easter, a reprieve if you will, from the monotony of a cold, dark winter, back in 1990, not everyone was happy about it, citing expenses or loss of productivity, among other complaints. Heritage Day, the first Monday of August, celebrated in Alberta since the early seventies, was eventually downgraded to an optional civic holiday due to complaints about Family Day.

During a conference, past-Premier Getty said he understood the shared concerns, noting that Family Day was "breaking new ground." Getty said they would be nothing but winners in the long run. "If this strengthens Alberta families, strengthens our province, they will find they are the winners. It will be a good investment." From the looks of the weekend event list for Whitecourt alone, it appears Getty was right.

Fifteen years following Alberta's kick-start of the holiday, Saskatchewan leaders began taking steps for their own provincial Family Day celebration and officially followed suit in 2007. The following year, Ontario joined the party, followed by New Brunswick in 2018. Alberta's neighbour to the west also joined the Family Day bandwagon but se-

continued on page 14

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DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM
DEADLINE APPROACHING

Deadline is approaching for the Government of Alberta's Disaster Recovery Program, related to flooding in Woodlands County, June 16-22, 2023.

If you need help submitting your application to the program, contact our office for support. Woodlands County: 1-888-870-6315

HOW TO APPLY

<p>ONLINE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Log-in to your Alberta.ca account. account.alberta.ca If you do not have an account, you can create one at the Log-in page. 2. Apply using the Disaster Financial Assistance Portal. recovery.alberta.ca <p>Deadline to Apply February 26, 2024</p>	<p>EMAIL OR MAIL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit www.alberta.ca/DRP to download the application form that applies to you. 2. Submit form via: Email: drp.info@gov.ab.ca Mail: Alberta Emergency Management Agency 5th Floor, Terrace Building 9515 107 Street NW Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C1
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For more info contact:
Alberta Emergency Management Agency

phone: 1-888-671-1111
email: drp.info@gov.ab.ca



PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15



SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

CROSSWORDS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12		13				14	
15						16				17	
					18			19		20	
						22	23			24	
25	26	27	28	29							
30								31			
32									33	34	35
					38	39	40		41	42	
						43			44		
47	48					49			50	51	52
55						56				57	
59						60				61	
62						63				64	

CLUES DOWN

- Pacific Standard Time
- Protruding ridge on nematodes
- Indian king
- Type of milk
- One who brings home the bacon
- More comprehensible
- Connected with sense of touch
- Red mineral
- Breezed through
- Therefore
- Supplement with difficulty
- Early kingdom of Syria
- Satisfy
- They confuse doctors (abbr.)
- Brass instrument
- Domesticated animal
- Ribonucleic acid
- Snakelike fish
- Woman (French)
- Economically-minded aircraft
- When you hope to get somewhere
- Tease
- Actress Gretchen
- Midway between northeast and east
- Inoffensive
- Yellowish cotton cloth
- Consume
- Does not tell the truth
- Improved something
- Spiritual leader
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Fix
- Evergreen tree genus
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Major C. European river
- Long, narrow strap
- Male parent

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries, a measure of controversy has found its way into your life, but you may want to avoid letting others know your feelings. Keep conversations to trivial topics this week.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Advice about how to handle a confusing financial matter may not be resonating right now, Taurus. You may need to review the data a few different times.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Gemini, consider another's perspective more closely in the days to come. A different point of view may help you to more clearly define your own outlook.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Setting boundaries right now could be difficult for you, Cancer. You are always caring for others and that may affect how involved you get in another person's issues.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Share your light and vitality with another person this week, Leo. You can boost this person's mood or even change his or her perspective dramatically if you so desire.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Virgo, heated emotions between you and a family member could drive a wedge in your relationship for some time. It is best to carefully weigh your words before speaking.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Libra, pursuing the truth about a situation may seem very important to you and even urgent. But will having all of the answers really change much right now?

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, be careful not to take everything that people say to you at face value right now. You need to vet all information for yourself before you make decisions about anything.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



You may be feeling sorry for someone even if they didn't ask you to weigh in on a situation, Sagittarius. You simply can't help getting involved, but remember to listen.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Capricorn, a quiet and practical approach is the way to sort through a confusing situation that arises this week. Your detailed-oriented nature will help you go through all the facts.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



You may not be happy with the direction a family member, friend or even your larger community is moving at the current moment, Aquarius. Consider ways you can help.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



You may be feeling pulled by the demands of a few different people in your life right now, Pisces. It's probably best to give things more thought before making any decisions.

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- Golf scores
- Shock therapy
- Ballplayer's tool
- Quench one's thirst
- Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
- Every one of two or more things
- Member of Muslim people
- Play
- Type of cheese
- Type of lounge chair
- __ King Cole, musician
- Fellows
- North, Central and South
- In an early way
- Foes
- Georgia rockers
- Cryptocurrency

- Narrow path along a slope
- Disallow
- Joyousness
- Inaccessible
- Evoke emotions
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)
- Sword
- Actor Idris
- Affirmative (slang)
- Afflicted
- One point north of northeast
- Born of
- Arabic name
- Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)
- Extremity
- Post

TIE THE KNOT WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

BAND
BETROTHED
BOUQUET

BRIDESMAID
BUFFET
CELEBRATION
CENTERPIECES

CEREMONY
CHURCH
COUPLE
DANCING

DINNER
FESTIVITIES
GUESTS
HAPPINESS

INVITATION
LIMOUSINE
MARRIAGE
OFFICIANT

RECEPTION
RINGS
SEATING
VOW
WEDDING

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WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

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

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.

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



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.

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

Outreach Support Program:

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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



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**

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BYLAW 611/24 – ADOPTING DRAFT WOODLANDS COUNTY MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PLACE	DATE	TIME
Legion Hall Fort Assiniboine, AB	Tuesday, February 27, 2024	7:15 p.m.
Woodlands County Municipal Office Council Chambers, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB	Wednesday, February 28, 2024	9:45 a.m.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 692 of the Municipal Government Act the Council of Woodlands County is considering the adoption of Draft Woodlands County Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 611/24 and repealing Bylaw 406/13 Municipal Development Plan. The purpose of Draft Bylaw 611/24 is to update the current MDP document in key areas, a snapshot of the changes are as noted below:

- Streamlined overall layout and organization of topic areas for ease of readability, and updated mapping;
- New categorization of "Agricultural Land" and Future Subdivision potential using Farmland Assessment Values vs Soil Classification;
- Added Objectives and Policies on Reconciliation;
- Added more context around the Environment responding to events, such as wildfire, flooding and development in more hazardous areas;
- Added context around emerging industries and more robust commentary in the Economic Development Section;
- New add – An Implementation Task Summary – outlines identified objectives that require follow up, who is responsible and time frame.

Pursuant to Bylaw 557 Public Hearing Procedures (copy of bylaw can be found on the County Website) any person wishing to file a written submission shall file that submission a minimum of 6 days prior to the date of the public hearing and will be included in the Council agenda package.

Written submissions shall be received no later than:
4:30 p.m. on February 21, 2024.

Submissions may be mailed or emailed to:
 Woodlands County, Box 60, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3
 Attention: Planning & Development/MDP Review
 Email: planning@woodlands.ab.ca

Or interested individuals may attend the public hearing to voice comments or concerns. Comments shall be kept to 5 minutes unless additional time authorized by the Chair.

If interested parties have questions regarding the draft document those should be addressed prior to the public hearing. Please contact the Planning & Development Department by Telephone: 780-778-8400 or the above Email.

A copy of Bylaw 611/24 Draft Municipal Development Plan may be viewed during regular business hours at the Woodlands County Municipal Offices in Whitecourt at #1 Woodlands Lane or Woodlands County Regional Office in Fort Assiniboine, on Hwy 33 or is available for review on Woodlands County website www.woodlands.ab.ca under Home > Services > Planning & Development > MDP Review.



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 Freeman River Division 6
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 Phone: 780-264-2425



DEVIN WILLIAMS
 Councillor for Fort Assiniboine/
 Timoua Division 7
devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-305-1825



**2024 BUDGET
 OPEN HOUSE**

LEARN ABOUT 2024 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS AND TALK TO STAFF ABOUT UPCOMING PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
 MUNICIPAL OFFICE, WHITECOURT
 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024, 4 to 7pm**

THIS SESSION WILL BE LIVESTREAMED AND MADE AVAILABLE FOR LATER VIEWING ON THE COUNTY YOUTUBE

**FORT ASSINIBOINE LEGION HALL
 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024, 4 to 7pm**

**COME & GO FORMAT
 BRIEF PRESENTATION ON THE 2024 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS AT 6PM DURING BOTH SESSIONS**



RCMP ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Evansburg RCMP charge repeat offender after flight from police

On Feb. 13, 2024, Evansburg RCMP were conducting proactive patrols in Parkland County when they located a vehicle committing multiple traffic infractions. RCMP attempted a traffic stop but the vehicle fled in a dangerous and erratic manner into oncoming traffic. Evansburg RCMP, with assistance from Whitecourt RCMP and Mayerthorpe RCMP, were able to arrest both occupants of the vehicle, after the successful deployment of a tire deflation device.

As a result of the investigation, the driver of the vehicle, Christopher Taylor (30), a resident of Edmonton, has been charged with:

- Flight from police;

- Operation of vehicle while prohibited;
- Fail to comply with release order (X3);
- Being in possession of body armour without permit;
- Forcible confinement; and
- Operate motor vehicle without registration and insurance.

Taylor was brought before a justice of the peace, who remanded him into custody. He is to appear at the Alberta Court of Justice in Stoney Plain on Feb. 21, 2024.

The passenger was not charged and has been released from police custody.





**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 All submissions remain confidential

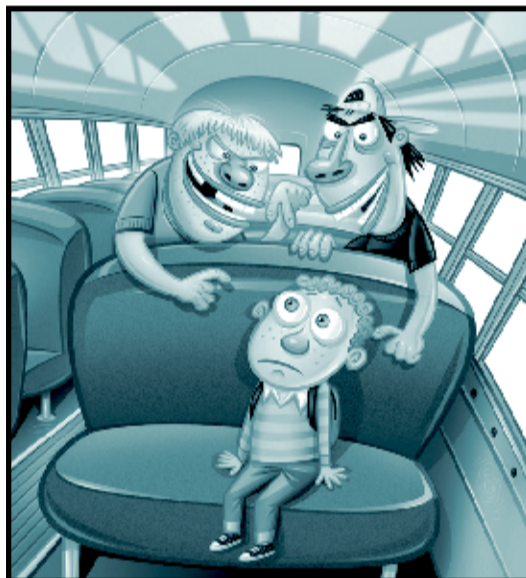


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.
Let that sink in.



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



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

SPONSORED BY

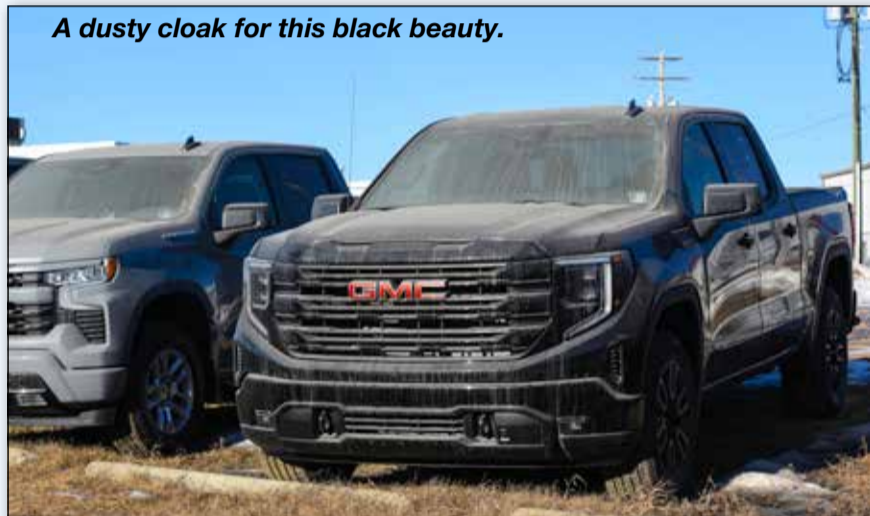
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WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI



These days, it seems there's more dust to clear off the windshield than snow, and that certainly looked to be the case for these vehicles parked alongside the roadway at the Smyl Chevrolet Buick GMC dealership on Highway 43 late last week. A thin layer of dust could be seen on most of them, especially the glass. But thankfully, the new vehicle shine still sparkled through the dirt.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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



Meet Town Council and share your thoughts on what is planned for 2024 and future budgets. Information on this year's budget, including budget allocations and service enhancements, will be available.

Drop in between 4pm and 7pm to see what is planned, ask questions and share your thoughts. Feedback received at this event will be considered by Council during final budget deliberations.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

Current opportunities are posted on the Town's website and when required, opportunities are posted on albertapurchasingconnection.ca. Currently, Whitecourt has the following opportunities:

- 2024-02-06 – Surveillance and Security System Infrastructure Review, Needs Analysis, and Implementation Plan – Closes March 8, 2024 at 4:00pm.

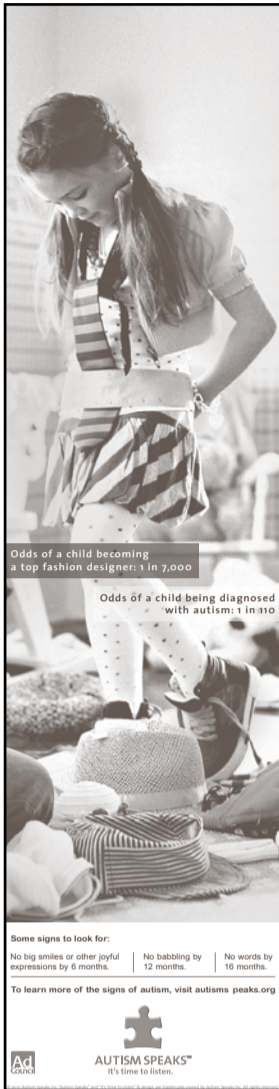
For further details on any of these opportunities visit www.whitecourt.ca and search the project title.



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.

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ONLINE AUCTION - ESTATE OF DAVE HOYBAK Feb. 22-27. Mammoth Collection of Diecast Construction, Ag, Cars, Trucks, G & HO Scale Trains. See montgomeryauctions.com or call 1-800-371-6763.

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Coming Events

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9/10 2024, 10 am - 4:30 pm. Lions Centre 11113 - 113 Street, Edmonton. Free market evaluations. Dealers from across Canada * Auctions * Displays * WATCHES * Family friendly! www.edmontoncoinclub.com/shows.

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2024 AUCTION PROGRAM: Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, Email Us at sales@switzersauction.com or Visit Us @ www.switzersauction.com.

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GET YOUR MESSAGE SEEN ACROSS Alberta. The Blanket Classifieds 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.

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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.

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

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Local news printed on local newsprint

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- Arthritis
- Corns and Calluses
- Flatfoot
- Hammertoes
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- Athlete's Foot
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Evolution Foot and Ankle Clinic
www.bensefcikdpm.com

A look at the local weather

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



Wed., Feb 21
Mainly sunny
20%
5°C
-4°C
W 17 km/h



Thu., Feb 22
Mix of sun and clouds
20%
7°C
-2°C
W 15 km/h



Fri., Feb 23
Mainly sunny
20%
6°C
-3°C
W 16 km/h



Sat., Feb 24
Mainly sunny
20%
5°C
-4°C
W 17 km/h



Sun., Feb 25
Mix of sun and clouds
20%
2°C
-5°C
S 8 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 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.

Whitecourt Town Council updates

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

Council has requested to meet with the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors Devin Dreeshen at the Rural Municipalities of Alberta 2024 Spring Convention to discuss CYZU Airport. Woodlands County applied for grant funding from the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program under the Community Airport program for the Runway 11-29 Rehabilitation Project. CYZU plays a critical role in the safety of Albertans by providing access to patient transfers for AHS, STARS, Alberta Wildfire, and RCMP. In 2023, the runway was assessed to be in poor condition requiring resurfacing and upgraded lighting.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Governance and Priorities – Wednesday, February 21, 5:00 pm
- 2024 Budget Open House and Cold Mix Roadway Local Improvement Tax Feedback – Monday, February 26, 2024, 4:00 – 7:00 pm, Council Chambers, Municipal Office, Whitecourt Brief Presentation on the 2024 Budget Highlights at 6:00 pm
- 2024 Budget Open House and Cold Mix Roadway Local Improvement Tax Feed-

back – Tuesday, February 27, 4:00 – 7:00 pm, Fort Assiniboine Legion Hall

- Brief Presentation on the 2024 Budget Highlights at 6:00 pm
- Special Council, Public Hearing for Bylaw 611-24 – 2024 Woodlands County Municipal Development Plan Tuesday, February 27, 7:15 pm, Fort Assiniboine Legion Hall
- Regular Council – Wednesday, February 28, 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.

Whitecourt Town Council has adopted the Culture & Events Centre Borrowing Bylaw 1574. The Bylaw allows the Town of Whitecourt to borrow up to \$5,595,840 for the construction of the Culture & Events Centre that includes an Administration Office, Library, and Arts, Culture and Convention Centre.

The Town of Whitecourt, Whitecourt Fire Department and Communities in Bloom Committee will be participating in the 2024 Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair. The Trade Fair will be held at JDA Place on May 11 and 12.



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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 **0.7411** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of February 21, 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

How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Casino Shift Manager NOC 62022

Responsibilities:

- Co-ordinate, assign and review the work of casino workers
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition of supplies and materials
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- May perform the same duties as workers supervised
- Perform the same duties as workers supervised
- Assist clients/guests with special needs
- Co-ordinate, assign and review work
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition materials and supplies
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports.

Qualifications:

- Completion of secondary school is usually required.
- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is usually required.
- AGLC casino gaming license will be required.
- Must be able complete Smart training courses
- AML certificate

Experience: 3 – 5 years.

Education: Completion of secondary school is required, casino gaming license.

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

Language: English

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

Wage: \$23.08 per hour.

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

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

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

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

Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca

How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax.



Family time at the park.

continued from page 5

lected the second Monday of February instead of the third.

Whitecourtians celebrated with a fun-filled Saturday afternoon at Festival Park for a Winter Carnival that featured all kinds of activities thanks to the Town of Whitecourt, Woodlands County, the Rotary Club of Whitecourt, and the Whitecourt & District Public Library. The park was packed as residents took full advantage of the beautiful sunny weather.

The always-popular ice slide was once again a big hit. Many children, and even some parents, walked up the snow hill to take their turn. This year's featured ice sculpture was straight out of a living room with a loveseat, chair and side table. Nearby, children coloured ice blocks with food colouring water and then stacked them to make ice forts. There was also a bubble-making station, tic/tac/toe, and other games.

On Festival Way, Rotary Club members had a barbeque offering free hot dogs and hot

chocolate, while another tent just down the path offered delicious Bannock made fresh on-site. The skating oval beside the food area was buzzing with activity as families laced up their skates to give it a whirl.

Just beside it, eventgoers could try cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, with numerous pairs lined up ready to go. Further back, near the trees, Cactus Patch Ranch provided horse-drawn wagon rides, giving riders a long trip along a large circular path beyond the trees. Finally, the Crokinole rink by the splash park pavilion brought out some families' competitive spirit.

On Monday, the official Family Day, there was free public skating at JDA Place and a free movie at Vista Theatre, thanks to Amanda St. Pierre at Primerica. Out in the community, some residents built snow sculptures for a chance to win prizes. One of the creations was a monstrous shark over at 115 Wellwood Drive, which had drivers doing a double take, with some even popping out to take a quick selfie.

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P	R	E	M	A	T	U	R	E	L	Y					
E	N	E	M	I	E	S		R	E	M					
T	A	L	E	R						B	E	R	M	E	
					B	A	N		E	L	A	T	I	O	N
					U	N	A	V	A	I	L	A	B	L	E
					R	E	S	O	N	A	T	E			
M	O	A	B		D	K	M		S	A	B	E	R		
E	L	B	A		Y	E	P			A	I	L	E	D	
N	E	B	N		N	E	E			R	A	B	I	A	
D	A	I			E	N	D			S	E	N	D		

SUDOKU

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

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Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

Responsibilities:

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

Qualifications:

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

Experience: 2 – 3 years, or we will train.
Education: Some post-secondary, high school may require.
Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 40-hour work week.
Language: English
Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.
Wage: \$15.00 per hour.
Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.
Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.
Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3
Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451
Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca
How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax

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

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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.

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