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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



The Press

Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 13 - Issue 7 | Wednesday, February 14, 2024

The number of impounded cats and dogs rose above 150 last year, keeping Municipal Enforcement and the Animal Control Contractor on their toes. Animal Control statistics were part of a recent Municipal Enforcement annual report provided to Whitecourt Town Council. Community Peace Officer 1 Lance Grywacheski (left) and past Bylaw Officer Steven Lang on bike patrol at last summer's Party in the Park.



Big jump in numbers for animal control last year as over 150 dogs and cats were captured

By Serena Lapointe

Each year, Whitecourt Town Council receives an update on the work done by Municipal Enforcement, including comparative statistical data on complaints and tickets issued and the overall enforcement activities in which officers took part. The duties of Municipal

Enforcement officers are broad, including everything from animal control to noise complaints and parking infractions.

Officers work collaboratively with local agencies, including the R.C.M.P and the municipal office, and are at the

continued on page 2

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continued from page 1

forefront of the community, focusing on safety and addressing and investigating concerns. Through 2023, the Town of Whitecourt employed one full-time Community Peace Officer and one full-time Bylaw Officer.

Officers are responsible for enforcing local bylaws and the following Provincial Statutes and Regulations: Traffic Safety Act, Provincial Procedures Act, Animal Protection Act, Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act, Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Dangerous Dog Act, Petty Trespass Act and the Tobacco, Smoking and Vaping Reduction Act. Municipally, the officers enforce the Traffic Bylaw, Animal Control Bylaw, Land Use Bylaw and the Community Standards Bylaw.

Community Peace Officer 1 Lance Grywacheski and Bylaw Officer Tapanga Lang, who joined the force in October, replacing Bylaw Officer Steven Lang, sat alongside Lee Hardman, Director of Community Safety for the Town of Whitecourt, at the January 22 Regular Meeting, to provide council with the report and answer any questions.

In 2021, officers responded to 1175 activities, including incoming complaints, warnings, traffic or animal control and violations. In 2022, they responded to 1313; in 2023, that number grew to 1772. The growth was mainly due to staffing issues rectified in 2023, leading to a higher

and more typical activity count last year.

In 2023, there were 162 complaints received by the Town of Whitecourt. There were 195 violation tickets written up, 272 warnings given, and 393 Community Patrols conducted. Officers also lent their assistance to other departments 48 times.

The report highlighted the stats for 21 activities that officers deal with. Officers deal with far more activities throughout the year but selected those 21 key activities to provide a breakdown of and three years of data to compare them against. "We probably have a couple of hundred items that we haven't got on that list. There are about three hundred-plus items," said Grywacheski, speaking of the extensive catalogue of activities they see in any given year.

Activities on the list included parking in front of a fire hydrant or in a fire lane, which saw a significant increase. In 2021, there were five infractions and ten in 2022. However, in 2023, 25 infractions were logged. Officer Grywacheski explained that there wasn't a specific area leading to the uptick, saying that infractions happened throughout the community.

Another category that increased from 2022 to 2023 was Unattached Trailers. Seventeen activities were logged in 2022 but rose significantly to 36 last year. This includes trailers left unattended or parked where they should not be, like a parking lot or on private property.

On the flip side, areas

that decreased significantly included towing due to snow removal, which dropped from 102 down to 19 due in part to less snow accumulation through early and late 2023 and more signage. Community Standards – Unsightly/Nuisance Property was another area to record a significant decline, dropping from 316 to 75, while No Parking infractions also fell from 207 to 85.

One area that recorded a high jump in activity was Animal Control. In 2021, 85 activities were logged, with a slight decline the following year, lowering to 75. But, last year, Animal Control activities ballooned to 149. The Town of Whitecourt employs an Animal Control Contractor to help deal with animal-related concerns. Last year, the contractor impounded 24 dogs, while officers impounded nine. For cats, officers seized 19, while the contractor impounded 106, totalling 158 animals between the two enforcement arms.

Grywacheski explained that the number of impounded cats can jump quite quickly depending on where and when the traps go out. He said that a recent trapping event led to the capture of 15-20 cats from one neighbourhood in one weekend. "It depends how many stray cats there are in that specific neighborhood," he said. Updates to Whitecourt's Animal Control Bylaw are anticipated this year.

Along with the previously mentioned activities, Municipal Enforce-

ment officers receive regular training and develop or help participate in public awareness campaigns and events. Being present within the community by attending public events such as Party in the Park, Canada Day, Run 4 Fun, and other town-sanctioned events is also a big part of the job. Officers patrol community streets and the vast trail system within Whitecourt, and in the spring/summer/fall, can often be seen on their bikes, weather permitting.

When asked if most tickets or listed activities result from a phone call from a concerned resident, Officer Lang explained that it's pretty even between phone calls and patrols. "When we're driving around, it's very easy to see that someone is, say, parking in front of a fire hydrant. Same with unattached trailers, typically it's more so that I'm driving around the community and I notice a trailer is unattached." She said there are many complaints, and they deal with those as they come

in, but regular patrols also bring in activities. "It's really 50/50."

In wrapping up the presentation, Hardman noted that Bylaw Officer Lang would be undertaking additional training, including the necessary steps to upgrade her to the Peace Officer designation. Training will also be undertaken by Community Peace Officer 1 Grywacheski as the pair continue to grow their skills, increasing the already top-notch quality of enforcement in the community.

Lanctot, Cyril Edward

On February 1, 2024, Cyril Edward Lanctot of Whitecourt, AB passed away at the age of 88 years.

The following will carry his memory, his loving wife of 53 years, Annetta; daughter, Holly; sons, Tim (Michelle) and Rod (Brenda); grandchildren, Jaime (Adam Boake), Tiffany (Fiancé, Dillan Cloutier), Evan, Paige, and Seth (Phoebe); brother, Gordon (Cathy); and many more dear family and friends.

Cyril is predeceased by his son, Randy; parents, Antwan and Edith; brothers, Harold (Sheila), Richard (Shirley) and Donald.

Sincere thanks to Dr. Joseph Ojedokun, the staff of Edson Parkland Lodge and The Manor at Whitecourt, for the comfort and care shown to Cyril and the family.

A private family ceremony will be held.

In lieu of other tributes, donations may be made in Cyril's memory to The Friends of Whitecourt Society, PO Box 1101, Whitecourt AB T7S 1P1.

~ Happy Trails Cyril ~

Photos, memories and condolences may be shared through www.parkmemorial.com



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The Press



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New year gain: Alberta employment off to a solid start in 2024

By Mark Parsons, ATB ECONOMICS

Canada's job market surprised with a solid job gain last month. The 37,000 employment improvement was ahead of the 16,000

Bloomberg consensus, though all the gains were in part-time jobs. More importantly, the unemployment rate actually declined for the first time since December 2022 to 5.7%,

supported by a lower labour force participation rate.

Employment in Alberta picked up steam in January, rising 10,100 following a 5,000 increase in De-

cember. The service sector was responsible for the January uptick, with a notable increase in transportation, finance/insurance/real estate, and educational services, offsetting declines in the goods sector (particularly construction). All the new jobs added were full-time, offsetting part-time losses.

Year-over-year employment growth in December stood at 3.5%—well ahead of the 1.7% national gain. Employment outpaced the labour force, nudging the unemployment rate down 0.1 points to 6.2%.

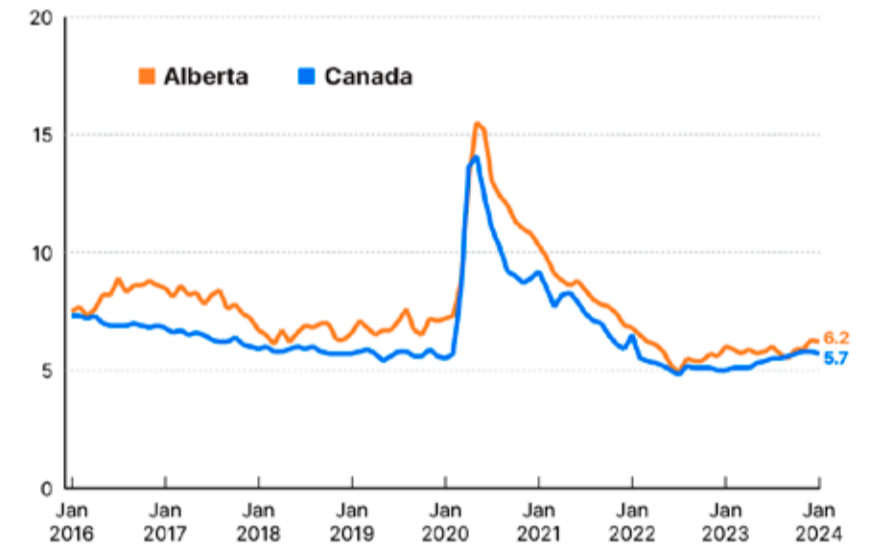
Today's report was stronger than expected. In 2024, we are still expecting a slowdown in job growth. Businesses have scaled back their hiring plans

amid slowing demand and prolonged exposure to higher financing costs. Job vacancies, while still well above pre-pandemic levels, have dialed down. However, as we've noted, there are pockets, like in construction, food and accommodation, and transportation, where vacancy rates remain elevated.

For the Bank of Canada, this report should reinforce a cautious approach. Wage growth is still running hot at more than 5% year-over-year—well above what the Bank says it should be for inflation to return to 2%, especially given lagging productivity. While the main gauge will be the upcoming Consumer Price Index readings, the Bank is keeping a close eye on the labour market and

will continue to raise wage stickiness as an inflation concern. That said, with rapid population growth and labour force entry, job growth will need to stay strong to prevent the Canadian unemployment rate from rising further. Recent declines in the participation rate have kept the jobless rate lower. The employment rate—the share of the 15+ population working—fell for the fourth consecutive month. This points to more slack in the labour market, which should ultimately translate into softer wage pressures going forward.

Unemployment rate % , seasonally adjusted



Source: Statistics Canada Table 14-10-0287-01



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.

DISCRETIONARY USE APPLICATIONS

DISCRETIONARY USE APPLICATION 15-002-2024

Location: PT. SW 26-58-10-W5M
Proposed Development: Garden Suite
Response Deadline: February 15, 2024, 4:30 pm
Decision Date: February 21, 2024, 4:00 pm, Whitecourt Municipal Office

DISCRETIONARY USE APPLICATION 15-005-2024

Location: PT. SW 23-59-12-W5M
Proposed Development: Home Occupation (Major): Bound to Detail
Response Deadline: February 15, 2024, 4:30 pm
Decision Date: February 21, 2024, 4:00 pm, Whitecourt Municipal Office

For full details on Development Permits visit <https://woodlands.ab.ca/>, Email: planning@woodlands.ab.ca, Call: 1-888-870-6315



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Whitecourt East Division 4
Phone: 780-779-6254



BRUCE PRESTIDGE
Councillor for Blue Ridge
Division 5
Phone: 780-779-3917



PETER KUELKEN
Councillor for Crown Lake
Frederick River Division 6
Phone: 780-284-2425



DEVIN WILLIAMS
Councillor for Fort Assiniboine
Times Division 7
Phone: 780-305-1825



Prestige 'Special Abilities' Program brings the joy of cheer to children with disabilities



Reaching new heights.



Athletes and their buddies.

By Serena Lapointe

Last fall, a trial run of a new, unique program was conducted at Prestige Athletics to see what kind of feedback the co-owners, Melissa Rempel and Jessica Haggith, would receive from parents and children taking part. "You always hear that cheer is a sport for everyone and that everybody can do it, but no one believes it because it is so physically demanding," said Haggith. The new program put that statement to the test.


Haggith's daughter has been doing cheer for years. In 2019, her son, who has special needs, was watching his sister perform when he commented that he wanted to learn cheer too. After showing his willingness to learn, Haggith's daughter choreographed a routine for him to perform alongside her. "I reached out to an event producer from a competition that we were going to that season in early 2020 and asked if they could make space for my son to perform a duo with his sister. The producer was all for it. When I saw him perform, I knew we had something special."

Ever since that experience, Haggith has been pushing to include children with disabilities in cheer, and when she and Rempel created Prestige Athletics two years ago, the conversation grew more. "Melissa and I always talked about how this was something we wanted to do, and finally, in 2023, we were able to do it. We didn't do it the year before because COVID was still kind of a thing, and many of these kids with special abilities have complex health needs, and we didn't want to add unnecessary risk," explained Haggith.

Through the fall, the women ran their first-ever Prestige Abilities class, allowing children with special

A unique opportunity is being offered locally thanks to a pair of business owners who jumped at the chance to do something beautiful.

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>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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Deadline to Apply February 26, 2024

For more info contact: **Alberta Emergency Management Agency** phone: 1-888-671-1111
email: drp.info@gov.ab.ca

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needs to participate in a class setting. "We had ten participants ranging in age from four to fourteen. We worked on different skills with them, like cheerleading skills, but also working together and teamwork. It was so great," said Haggith.

Rempel said the idea resonated well with their staff and volunteers. "We have another coach who also has a special needs son, and she was on board with it, too. We also have a few volunteers who help us with those kids," she explained. Rempel said that everybody volunteers their time for the program. "It's something that we could get behind and would love to keep doing it going forward."

Athletes with Prestige Athletics can choose to do cheerleading competitively or recreationally. Haggith said the goal is for those in the Prestige Abilities class to be able to put together a routine and perform it at a compe-

titution. "We got great feedback from those who took part, and they would like to see that happen too," she said.

Rempel said when they first started, they weren't sure if it would succeed in a smaller community like it does in bigger centers. "We didn't think we could run it with being a small town. There are gyms in Edmonton that have programs like

this, and when they go out on stage and perform, we all cry."

Haggith agreed. "The whole auditorium is crying because it's so cool to see. We thought, man, we would love to do that. Now, it's a reality. It's not so much a dream anymore because it's actually happening. This was something we dreamed up in

continued on page 14



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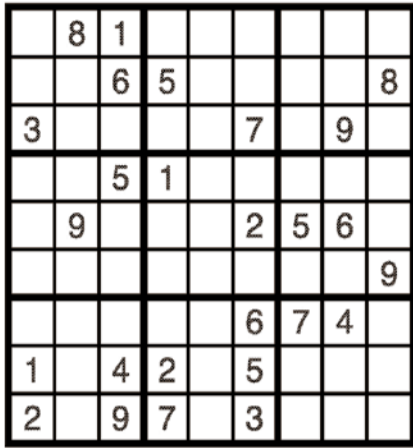


PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15



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!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Crossword Clues

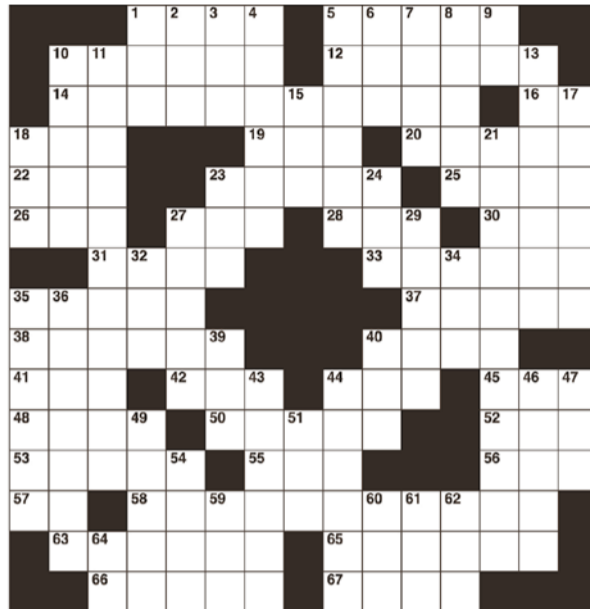
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Gene type
- 5. Persian male given name
- 10. Type of protection
- 12. Cloud
- 14. One who returns to life
- 16. Gym class
- 18. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 19. Baby's dining accessory
- 20. Enchantress
- 22. Prefix denoting "in a"
- 23. Spiritual leader
- 25. Cavities
- 26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 27. Foot (Latin)
- 28. Sweet potato
- 30. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- 31. Land
- 33. More inquisitive
- 35. Dog breed: _ Apso

- 37. Stood up
- 38. Direct and uninhibited
- 40. Authorless
- 41. Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
- 42. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
- 44. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 45. Macaws
- 48. Actress Remini
- 50. Polynesian wrapped skirt
- 52. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
- 53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two
- 55. Bowling alley must-have
- 56. A way to cool down
- 57. Ethnic group in Asia
- 58. A way to alter
- 63. Set of five
- 65. Removes from the record

- 66. Dummies
 - 67. Set period in office
- ### CLUES DOWN
- 1. DC Comics superhero
 - 2. Brew
 - 3. Play
 - 4. Single-celled animals
 - 5. Rough to the touch
 - 6. Small island (British)
 - 7. Often noted alongside cons
 - 8. Preparation of rootstock
 - 9. Atomic #44
 - 10. Egyptian unit of capacity
 - 11. About secretary
 - 13. Particular groups
 - 15. Poke fun at
 - 17. Make certain that something occurs
 - 18. Financial term
 - 21. Justify
 - 23. Arbiter
 - 24. 007's creato
 - 27. Czech name for Prague

- 29. Groans
- 32. American time
- 34. No seats available
- 35. _ Stahl, journalist
- 36. Cleft lip
- 39. Talk incessantly
- 40. Expresses atomic and molecular weights (abbr.)
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Curdled milk
- 46. Running competitions
- 47. A team's best pitcher
- 49. Carthaginian explorer
- 51. World-renowned city
- 54. Most common Japanese surname
- 59. The bill in a restaurant
- 60. They _
- 61. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
- 62. Distinctive practice
- 64. One quintillion bytes



HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Creativity may prove elusive this week, Aries. You want to get into a crafty project but you simply can't find traction just yet. Don't give up too soon.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, a distracted friend or loved one may not be good company over the next few days. Reach out and offer to be a sounding board to help this person re-center their focus.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Are you feeling preoccupied, Gemini? You can't seem to focus on one thing or another and friends will start to notice when you are in their company.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Romantic matters are going very well right now, Cancer, even if you may not feel entirely confident. The person who cares for you will not notice your insecurities.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



The more challenging path may prove the best one to take as your work on a certain task, Leo. Dig in and start figuring a way out to the other side.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Virgo, there is so much to do around the house that you may not know where to start. Spring cleaning comes a month or two early. Ask for help if you're feeling frazzled.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



You may be in the mood to expand your knowledge on one or more subjects, Libra. Visit the library or a bookstore and pick up something that piques your interest.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, you may pick up on some vibes when hanging out with others that just don't fit in with your line of thinking. Give it some time before you cut any ties. You may be misinterpreting.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



There has been a lot going on in your life, Sagittarius. You may be experiencing some apprehension about the future. Take every concern individually and give it thought.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Information coming to you could have you feeling nervous about your financial security, Capricorn. If this is outside your area of expertise, you may want to sit down with a planner.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Confusing messages from work may find you reconsidering plans that you already put into motion, Aquarius. Get more information before modifying your plans.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Pisces, your mind is all over the place right now, so it could be difficult to focus on mundane things like chores or other activities right now. However, don't push them off.

SWEETHEARTS WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

BOUQUET
BOYFRIEND
CARDS

CELEBRATE
CHOCOLATES
DATE
DINNER

ENAMORED
FEBRUARY
GESTURE
GIFTS

GIRLFRIEND
HEART
JEWELRY
LOVE

LOVING
MOVIES
PROPOSAL
RED

RELATIONSHIP
ROMANTIC
ROSES
SPOUSE
VALENTINE

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- Tax program & Bag Lunch Program

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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

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is transitional housing for men.

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

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



24/7 CRISIS LINE
780.778.6209
1.800.467.4049



WELLSPRING FAMILY RESOURCE & CRISIS CENTRE



@whitecourt_shelter

Shelter:

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

Outreach Support Program:

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

Child Support Program:

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

Preventative Education:

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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

www.whitecourtshester.ca



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**

Heroes on display



The front design.



A big group of Wolverine's fans.



Three super cute superheroes with their masks and capes.



The back design of the Spiderman-themed Wolverines jerseys.

There were many superheroes on and off the ice at a recent Whitecourt Wolverines home game. The 2nd Annual Superhero Night helps raise funds for Defeat Duchenne Canada, the only national charity fully dedicated to ending Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). Duchenne is the most common form of muscular dystrophy, affecting an estimated 800 boys and young men in Canada. The personal connection that the Whitecourt Wolverines organization has with DMD comes from the team's broadcaster, Wyatt Zieger, who lost his brother in 2021 after a lengthy battle with Duchenne. Fans were encouraged to dress up in their favourite superhero costumes to get in free, and adults who dressed up got in for only a five-dollar donation to Defeat Duchenne Canada (DDC). All proceeds from a PS5 draw also went to DDC, as did the money raised from auctioning off the Wolverine's worn jerseys through a silent auction. This year's Superhero Night jerseys featured a Spiderman theme in the team's red and black colours, which popped against the icy backdrop. Lots of young fans went all out with costumes and face paints (done on-site by Stardust Designs) to celebrate Superhero Night and help raise funds for a great cause.

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 Canadian Dental Care Plan is here: What you need to know

(NC) The federal government has begun to roll-out the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), which will cover some of the cost of most basic oral health care services for uninsured Canadians.

Once fully implemented, the plan will offer dental coverage for up to nine million people in Canada. It's targeted specifically towards Canadians with an annual family income under \$90,000 who do not have access to dental insurance.

The application process is opening in phases, starting with seniors.

How to apply

Individuals who may be eligible have begun receiving letters from the federal government, inviting them to apply for the plan.

Keep an eye out for one of these letters if you:

- will be 70 years old as of March 2024;
- have a family income of less than \$90,000; and
- have filed your 2022 tax return.

The letter includes instructions on how to confirm your eligibility and apply by telephone.

Only seniors who receive a letter will be able to apply before

May 2024. Here's when seniors can expect to receive their letter:

- December 2023: ages 87 and above
- January 2024: ages 77 to 86
- February 2024: ages 72 to 76
- March 2024: ages 70 to 71

As of May 2024, applications shift from telephone only to an online portal and will open for eligible seniors 65 and older. More information on this portal will be available closer to its launch date.

Canadians with a valid Disability Tax Credit certificate and children under 18 will be able to apply online starting in June 2024.

All other eligible residents will be able to apply in 2025.

After you have applied

If your application is successful, starting in March, you will be sent a welcome package by Sun Life, the administrator managing the plan on behalf of the government. The package will include a member card and a start date for your coverage.

Seniors will be able to start seeing an oral health provider as early

continued on page 11

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





**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

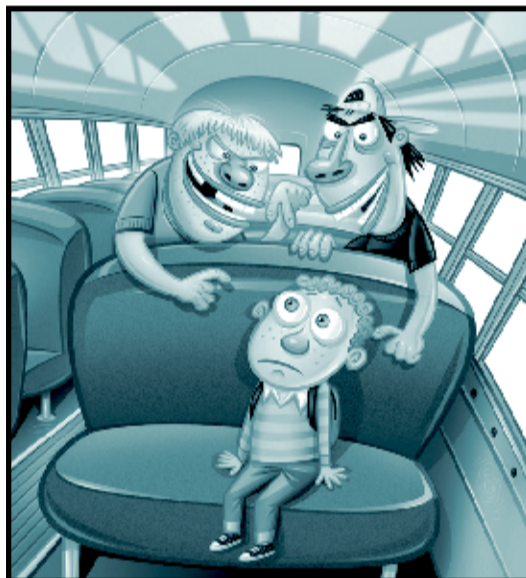


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.
Let that sink in.



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



Megan Victoria Edmunds
Age 14

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

SPONSORED BY

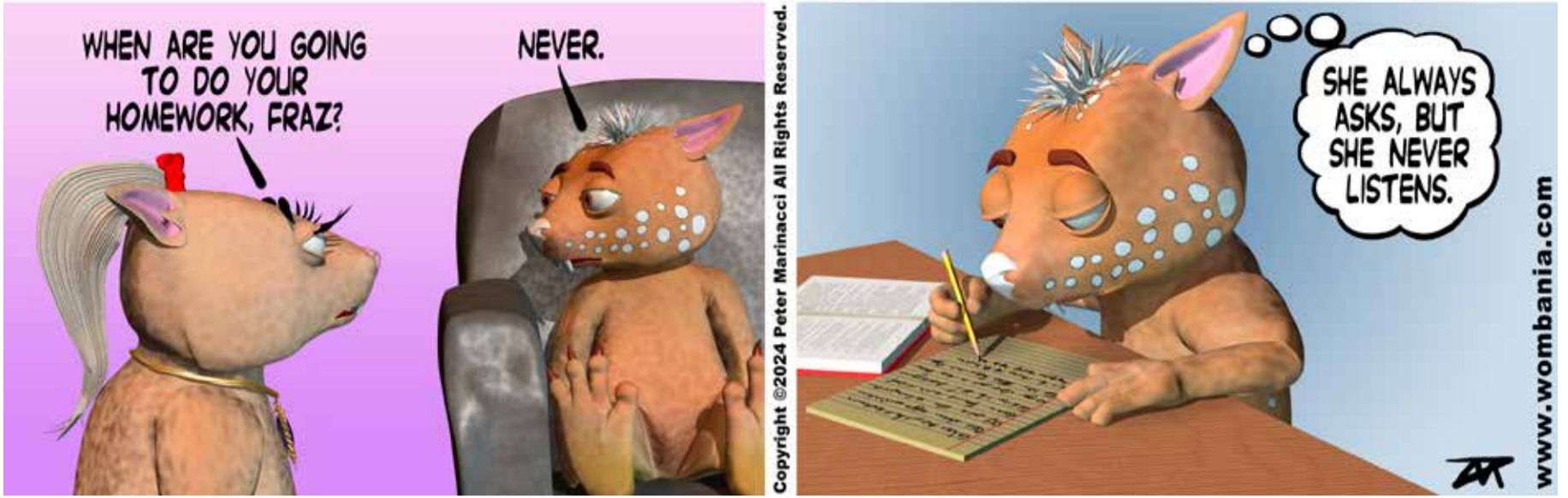
The Press
ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS
Call Valerie Winger at 780.706.1858 or email wctpress@gmail.com

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Robert Brown
Owner
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Whitecourt, AB T7S 0C3
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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:

- 1-2024-43-01 – Transfer Station Solid Waste and Recycling Services – Closes February 14, 2024 at 2:00pm.
- 963D-2024 – 963D CAT Rebuild – Closes February 16, 2024 at 2:00pm.
- 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.

GET INVOLVED....IT'S YOUR TOWN!

Opportunity for Public Participation

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

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

If you are interested in serving on this Board, please complete an application form which can be found on the Whitecourt website at www.whitecourt.ca or picked up at the Town Office. Applications must be received before 12:00 noon, Wednesday, February 21, 2024 to:

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

Applications will be presented to Town Council at the February 26, 2024 Regular Meeting.



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.

Announcements

EGG FARMERS OF ALBERTA is pleased to announce that our New Entrant Program will be running in 2024! *FEBRUARY 22, 2024 - webinar information session #1; *MAY 1, 2024 - application window opens; *MAY 2, 2024 - webinar information session #2; *JUNE 25, 2024 - deadline for applications. For more information and to register for the townhall webinars, please visit <https://eggs.ab.ca/healthy-farms/new-entrant-program/>

Auctions

BLANKET THE PROVINCE with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach almost 80 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903 Ext 225; www.awna.com.

Custom Homes

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.

Feed and Seed

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

ALBERTA FEED GRAIN: Buying Oats, Barley,

Wheat, Canola, Peas, Screenings, Mixed Grains. Dry, Wet, Heated, or Spring Thresh. Prompt Payment. In House Trucks, In House Excreta Cleaning. Vac Rental. 1-888-483-8789.

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

CASH PAID FOR GOLD, SILVER & PLATINUM! Buying coins, collections, 999 bullion, bars, ingots,

jewelry, nuggets, sterling, old money. PURCHASING ENTIRE COIN COLLECTIONS! Call Todd 1-250-864-3521.

continued from page 8

as May 2024 but start dates for coverage will vary based on when you can apply, when the application is received and when your enrolment is completed.

What's covered

The plan will help cover most basic dental services, such as check-ups, x-rays, teeth cleaning, fillings, dentures, root canals and some oral surgeries.

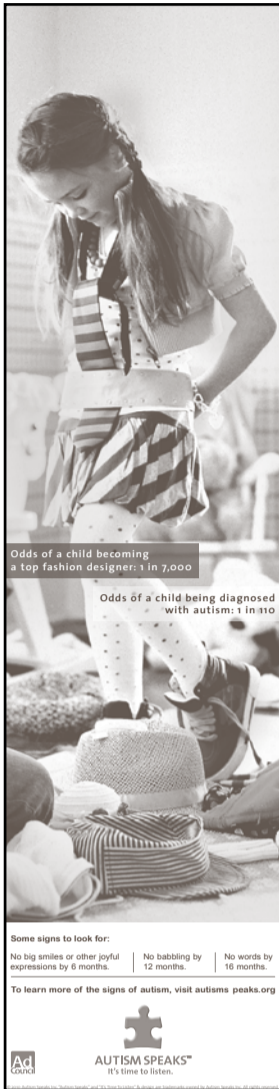
The CDCP will reimburse a percentage of the cost at the plan's established fees. These depend on the members' income level, and some people may have to pay the rest of the expense amount out of pocket. For example:

- if you have a family income under \$70,000, you can

have 100 per cent of eligible costs covered;

- if your family income is between \$70,000 and \$79,999, 60 per cent of eligible costs can be covered; and
 - with a family income between \$80,000 and \$89,999, 40 per cent of eligible costs can be covered.
 - You may have to pay fees in addition to the potential co-payment if:
 - your oral health provider charges more than the CDCP fees
 - you agree to receive care that the plan doesn't cover
- Before receiving oral health care, you should always ask your oral health provider about any costs that won't be covered by the plan.

Find more information at canada.ca/dental.



Some signs to look for:
 No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months. No babbling by 12 months. No words by 18 months.
 To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org



Do You Suffer from Foot or Ankle Pain?

Our Specialist Can Help!



Call Now To Book Your Consultation!

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

Medical and Surgical Services or Treatments Provided:

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

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

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



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www.bensefcikdpm.com

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 Pharmasave
 5112 50 St.
 Whitecourt, AB

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

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

A look at the local weather

	Wed., Feb 14	Thu., Feb 15	Fri., Feb 16	Sat., Feb 17	Sun., Feb 18
	Mix of sun and clouds	Mix of sun and clouds	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Sunny
P.O.P.	20%	30%	20%	10%	10%
High	-4°C	-7°C	-7°C	-6°C	-8°C
Low	-16°C	-15°C	-14°C	-19°C	-19°C
Wind	W 15 km/h	NW 7 km/h	W 13 km/h	NW 17 km/h	W 11 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	<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.



A scramble at the net with a loose puck visible in the blue paint.



A trip after a huge hit made for a funny looking picture.



The lone goal scored against the Wolverines.



After a wild shake-up in the AJHL over the last two weeks, which saw five teams leave for the BCHL and resulted in a reorganization of the remainder of the 2023/2024 season, the Whitecourt Wolverines had their second home game of February against the Bonnyville Pontiacs on February 9. With 490 fans in the stands, the Wolverines put on quite a show. After a scoreless first period, the Wolverines scored two goals in both remaining periods, combining for four goals on the night. The Pontiacs fought hard but could only muster one goal. The game was rough, with many big hits, including one in front of the Wolverine's net that left blood on the ice. At the end of the game, things blew up out of control with seven penalties in the final seconds, including a ten-minute penalty for Wolverine Colby Browne for his second fight of the game. Hunter Motley and Reid Larson took five-minute majors for fighting, and two Bonnyville players received game misconduct penalties. Talk about nasty! With the Wolverines in first place in the AJHL and Bonnyville in second, the game represented four points, which the home team was glad to put into their pockets.



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.



4331-52 Ave Unit 1
Whitecourt, AB

4216 Elko Drive
Whitecourt, AB



A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

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Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.74 US Dollar
at an exchange rate of **0.7414** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of February 14, 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



Pyramid pose fun!



How many smiling faces can you see?



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.

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the basement one day while we were having a conversation, and now to watch it come to life the way it has is awesome.”

Both Prestige Athletics owners were emotional as they explained what it's like to watch children do things they didn't think they could and see the parent's reaction to watching it all unfold. “On that first day, when those kids came in, and you heard them laugh and saw them smile and you heard the excitement and saw their faces light up, nothing prepared you for that wave of emotion—absolutely nothing. I thought I

would be cool because these are my people and that I wouldn't cry, but nothing prepares you to hear that laughter. There's just something about their laughter that is different,” said Haggith.

Rempel said being able to create something that parents can feel safe bringing their children to is a big deal, especially for those with special needs children. “There are very little things that can accommodate children like that and be safe for them. In the beginning, many of the parents sat and watched; by the end, they were going for coffee. They were

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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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like, we see that you guys are fine. We're going to go grab a coffee and be right back. And that's totally fine with us."

Haggith said sharing the joy of cheerleading is always fun, but this program reached another level. She also noted that experiencing it as a coach and a mom made it even more special for her. "When you are there as a coach, you have all the feelings (watching them learn). And when you're there as a mom, there's something that hits your heart. It's really special." She said the volunteers helping with the class were a mix of those who had interactions with children with special needs before and those who hadn't. "The ones who weren't quite sure were so eager to learn. They learned about our little friends that came to the gym and how to work with them."

Both explained that the lower-cost program is also fluid in that parents and children can come and go as needed. "If they sign up and it's not for them, that's ok.

This program is so different that if it doesn't work out, and if you or your kid doesn't like it, that's ok. No harm, no foul. It's a lot easier for them to come and go because we don't want to put that pressure on them," said Rempel.

"We are very adamant that this is not a negative experience for them," said Haggith. "When you have a special needs child, you don't trust anybody with your kid. You just don't. Especially when it's in a situation with other kids because you worry that your child isn't going to be paid attention to, but we make sure that we do."

After a successful launch, Rempel and Haggith look forward to starting up the next session in September. They plan on holding an open house in spring or summer to allow parents and children to try it out. They might even hold a summer program ahead of the September start. The program doesn't have an age range or required ability to take part. To learn more about this unique local opportunity, email info@pres-tigeathletics.ca.