

Affinity Funeral Service

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Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 13 - Issue 10 Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Turning pain into purpose:

how a mother turned her unfathomable loss into a legacy of hope for her two angel sons

Tracy
Stark and
Stacy
Crossland
flanked by
Wolverines'
Coach
Shawn
Martin and
two past
Wolverine
players.
See story
page 5.



Patrick Carew

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Winter Park Party a big success as Wolverines join the fray for a night of skating at Percy

By Serena Lapointe

Last week might have started off on the extra chilly side, but by midweek, temperatures had warmed up nicely. For the organizers and volunteers of Whitecourt's Winter Park Parties, the change in temperature was welcomed. "We picked a good day! We weren't sure about the chilly weather on Monday, but today warmed up nicely. We really couldn't have picked a better day for this event," said Tina Prodaniuk, Crime Prevention

Coordinator for the Town of Whitecourt.

The events started in 2022 to help bring neighbours out of their homes to hang out with each other and get people back to a more com-

continued on page 2



Pembina Pipeline staff having fun serving up hot dogs.





VERHAEGHE LAW OFFICE

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The second Whitecourt Winter Park Party was held last week. In the previous two years, there have been five events each year (three in the summer, two in the winter) to get people out to the free local hangouts in their neighbourhoods, like parks and rinks, to help build community connectivity.

continued from page 1

munity way of life. Following a few years of separation, where people kept their distance from others and stayed home more than they went out, the events aimed to rekindle the neighbourly relationships that once were. "We are out here because we want to bring back the community's connectivity and show that something as easy as a pop-up event can do that," said Prodaniuk.

The first event was a summer Park Party held at Wedow Park, followed by two more events, one at Athabasca Park and one at Pine Park. A free barbeque, outdoor games, special guests, and good old-fashioned fun were the mainstays at each event, and the crowd

of attendees grew with each one.

The first winter party took place in February of last year, with over 100 people lighting up Dahl Drive Sliding Hill with glowsticks in hand. The following month, residents were invited to skate at Percy Baxter Rink. The winter events proved to be just as popular as the summer ones, with high attendance.

Not wanting to stop the momentum, organizers continued planning events through the summer, holding Park Parties at Baly Park and Southland Park. Last month, there was a Light Up Festival Park Party, where community members were invited to skate or snowshoe at the pond with glow sticks. Pembina Pipeline served over 150 hot dogs, and hot chocolate was provided by P.O.W.E.R. (People of Whitecourt Encouraging Resiliency).

This year's second winter event took place at the Percy Baxter Rink on Thursday last week. "It's fantastic to see so many people come out. We've got all kinds of people here, from hockey players to those who just want to come out and skate or learn to skate to those just in their shoes out on the ice who just want to be here, part of the fun, which is good too," smiled Prodaniuk.

She said it was nice to see everyone using the space together, even if they were doing different things. Prodaniuk said it should be that way at any other local rinks in the community. "If you're playing hockey and others want to skate, I encour-

age everyone to share the ice. Tonight, they shortened the rink to let skaters not playing hockey have ice space to use." One net was pushed closer to the middle ice, shortening the hockey play area and allowing skaters to use the unused ice.

responders. First from paramedics to firefighters and police officers, have often stopped in during the events as special guests, depending on availability. Last week, a group of special guests arrived spontaneously, much to the organizers' surprise. "We have the Whitecourt Wolverines out with us this evening. It was a really nice surprise. We weren't expecting them to be here. Not only did they show up, but they stayed the whole event," said Prodaniuk.

"They are having fun playing hockey with the kids. They've been very gracious with their time because there have been some kids who are just learning to skate."

Prodaniuk said another aspect of the party events is providing health-based materials. Courtney Koopmans, a Health Promotion Facilitator with A.H.S., gave healthy tips on smart choices, including helmet safety on the ice. "We are making sure people are taking care of their heads as well as their hearts." said Prodaniuk.

As with the previous event, Pembina Pipeline staff worked hard at the barbeque, serving hot dogs to attendees. Pembina Pipeline Corporation Supervisor Cianna Hunter said participating in community events is crucial. "It's great for us to be a good community partner in the communities we operate in."

She called the event super fun and said she was happy to be there. "It's great for so many community members to come out and support this event, including our Wolverines." Hunter said if any non-profit groups would like to use their large barbesupport, they can vis- ning kit.

it www.pembina.com and check out their Community Engagement Grant.

Prodaniuk said the day couldn't have gone any better. "My favourite part about these events is getting everybody together because we've had a few rough years. I think getting people out of their homes and with their neighbours and having fun like this is important. The Town was very good getting the ice ready for today and making sure the rink was in tip-top shape."

She hopes the event sparks residents' interest in having their own neighbourhood parties. "The Town of Whitecourt has a Block Party Program. All you have to do is apply to the Town of Whitecourt to host your own Block Party and they will reimburse you for the costs, up to \$500.

Prodaniuk said once a permit is in hand, which she called a seamless process, residents can hold similar events as the Whitecourt Park Parties and Winter Parties. "It's actually very easy," she commented. Residents can visit www. whitecourt.ca que for an event or search "Block Party" receive sponsorship for a guide and plan-





A few of the Wolverines that joined the action.

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

CROWN LAND TENDERS FOR FARM DEVELOPMENT LEASES AND GRAZING LICENCES

ALBERTA FORESTRY AND PARKS

Forestry & Parks is offering two farm development leases and fourteen grazing licences for tender in various locations throughout the province.

For more information and to get copies of each bid package visit https://www.alberta.ca/Agriculture tender notices I Alberta.ca

Sealed tenders must be received at Public Lands Disposition Management, 5th Floor, 9915-108 Street NW, Edmonton, Aberta T5K 2G8, by 2:00 pm MDT, Thursday April 4, 2024.

Public tender opening will take place immediately following tender closing in Boardroom 5A, 5th Floor, 9915-108 Street, NW Edmonton,







ucahelps.ca | 310-4822

utilitiesconsumer advocate Albertan





Building Red Deer Regional Health Centre



Olds College and Red Deer **Polytechnic expansions**



100 additional wildland firefighters



New K-5 school in Blackfalds



Twinning and upgrading Highway 11



PUBLIC HEARING RECESSED UNTIL MARCH 27, 2024

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

PLACE DATE TIME **WOODLANDS COUNTY MUNICIPAL OFFICE** WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 9:45 a.m. **Council Chambers** #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB

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
- 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 the 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 March 20, 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 is 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

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.

ADVERTISEMENT PUBLIC SALE OF LAND **WOODLANDS COUNTY**

Notice is hereby given that under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Woodlands County will offer for sale, by public auction, at the Administration Building, Whitecourt, Alberta, on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., the following lands:

Roll #	LINC	Title	Legal Desc
35638	0029654704	172244146	5-12-059-23-SW

Each parcel will be offered for sale, subject to a reserve bid and to the reservations and conditions contained in the existing certificate of title

he land is being offered for sale on an "as is, where is" basis, and Woodlands County makes no representation and gives no warranty whatsoever as to the adequacy of services, soil conditions, land use districting, building and development conditions, absence or presence of environmental contamination, or the developability of subject land for any intended use by the Purchaser. The Purchaser is responsible

No bid will be accepted where the bidder attempts to attach conditions precedent to the sale of any parcel. No terms and conditions of sale will be considered other than those specified by Woodlands Woodlands County may, after the public auction, become owner of any parcel of land not sold at the

Terms: 10% paid by cash or certified cheque due at the time of the auction and that balance of sale proceeds are required to be paid within 10 days after the auction. GST will apply to all properties sold at the public auction. The Purchaser will be responsible for the transfer registration fee.

Redemption may be affected by payment of all arrears of taxes and costs at any time prior to the sale.

Dated at Woodlands County, Alberta, January 31st, 2024.

Andre Bachand, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

2024 ANNUAL ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

Woodlands County is seeking interested volunteer groups to conduct roadside clean-up Saturday, May 4, 2024, with Saturday, May 11, 2024, being the alternate date. The roadways within Woodlands County

are as follows.	
Provincial Roads	County Managed Roads
Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park Road	Flats/Trestle Road
Secondary 661 - Esso to Gravel	Horse Creek Road
Secondary 661 - Gravel to Ferry	Pride Valley Road
Secondary 658 - Goose Lake to Hwy 33	
Secondary 658 - Christmas Creek to Goose Lake	Timeu (RR45)
Secondary 658 - Christmas Creek to Hwy 43	West Mountain Road
Secondary 751 - Hwy 43 to Secondary 647	East Mountain, Tower and Cutacross Road
Secondary 647 - RR100 and Secondary 751 south to TWP560A	Old Ferry Road
Hwy 32 South to TWP 580	Old Blue Ridge Highway Pavement
Hwy 32 North for 35 KM	Westridge
	Bison
	Robison
	Schuman Lake Campground

Woodlands County will donate \$100 per kilometer (includes both sides) of roadway cleaned.

Volunteer groups will be covered under Woodlands County general liability insurance policy.

A mandatory training session for "Road Managers" of participating organizations will be held at the Woodlands County Municipal Office in Whitecourt and at the Woodlands County Regional Municipal Office in Fort Assiniboine on Monday, April 29, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

Woodlands County reserves the right to assign roadway sections.

Deadline for letter of application: Friday, April 19, 2024

Please send an email or letter of interest, which includes your contact phone number, to:

Wilma Harris, Infrastructure Services Secretary Box 60. #1 Woodlands Lane Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3 Telephone: 780-778-8400 Facsimile: 780-778-8402

e-mail: wilma.harris@woodlands.ab.ca





Phone: 780-706-4747







BRUCE PRESTIDGE





DEVIN WILLIAMS





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

Turning pain into purpose: how a mother turned her unfathomable loss into a legacy of hope for her two angel sons



After a successful first year, the R&R Empowering Society of Alberta will hold its 2nd Annual Free Goaltending Camp this summer. Named after Ryder and Radek, two young boys tragically taken from the world in 2016, the society aims to reduce barriers for underprivileged youth.

By Serena Lapointe

When her world went dark before Christmas 2016, Tracy Stark could not have imagher two angels, would take her and how much light would come with it. After the murder of her sons, Ryder (13) and Radek (11), Stark promised them that she would keep their legacies alive and introduce them to the world.

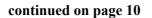
Out of unspeakable darkness, Stark created Nurturing Dreams, Honoring Legacies: The R&R Empowering Society of Alberta. Both Ryder and Radek were huge hockey fans, carrying their love for

sport throughout their young lives. Now, Stark shares their love of sports with others by helping underprivined where life, led by ileged children and need help, the R&R youth across the province have access to extracurricular activities.

The society first began locally under a different name, but Stark saw an opportunity to reach more children and eventually changed the name and opened the scope, allowing help to spread across the province. Just like the R&R heart stickers. which have been placed in locations around the world, giving Ryder and Radek wings to travel and explore, Stark wanted to be able to reach further and impact more children.

Along with helping individual youth who **Empowering Society of** Alberta started a goalie camp last year and is doing another one this year. In year one, they welcomed 24 goalies over two days, and the camp was a huge success. This year, they've upped it to 36 goalies and added an extra day.

The application deadline, March 31, is fast approaching. "We haven't chosen any goalies yet. We have over 60 applications right now,



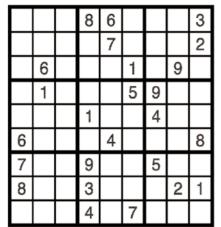


A happy goalie all suited up.





SUDOKU



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:

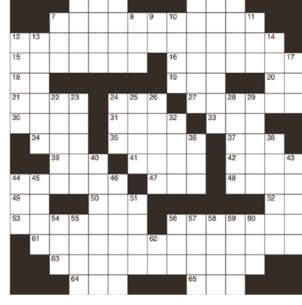
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Helps little firms
- 4. Political action committee
- 7. Allowed
- 12. Olivia Colman played
- 15. Open
- 16. He had a notable lamp
- 18. Promotional material
- 19. Domesticated animal
- 20. Larry and Curly's buddy
- 21. The best ever
- 24. TV network
- 27. Checked for 30. Dry or withered
- 31. Expression of
- annoyance 33. Dash
- 34. Fifth note of a major scale

- 35. A secret clique
- 37. Partner to cheese
- school: where to learn healing
- 41. City in ancient Syria 42. Gasteyer and de
- Armas are two
- 44. Established practice
- 47. Thanksgiving side dish 48. District in Peru
- 49. It's becoming more
- prevalent 50. State in India
- 52. Measure of illumination
- 53. Raised platform
- 56. Japanese warrior
- 61. R.L. Stevenson novel
- 63. Transitory 64. Advanced degree
- 65. Fiddler crabs **CLUES DOWN**



- 1. Prevent from seeing
- 2. Czech city
- 3. __ and Andy, TV show
- 4. A young pig
- 5. Removed surgically
- 6. Covered with 7. Chest muscle (slang)
- 8. Nigerian City
- 9. Midway between south
- and east
- 10. A way to shut
- 11. Stop playing
- 12 Marshy places
- 13. Takes apart 14. Ten cents
- 17. A gesture of assent
- 22. Scent
- 23. Teletypewriter 24. General's assistant
- (abbr.)
- 25. Hillside
- 26. Taxi driver
- 28. Semitic Sun god
- 29. Town in India 32. Traditional rhythmic

pattern

- 36. Fugitives are on the
- 38. Type of dance
- 40. Two letters, one sound
- 43. Having a strong, pleasant taste
- 44. Golf score
- 45. Mayhem
- 46. Drenched
- 51. River in northeastern
- Asia
- 54. Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)
- 55. Part-time employee
- 56. A very large body of water
- 57. Aboriginal people of Japan
- 58. Millisecond
- 59. Forearm bone
- 60. Subway dweller
- 62. Royal Mail

CROSSWORDS HOROSCOPE

(March 21 - April 20)

Aries, if you notice you have been running into obstacles as you work to achieve your goals, you may want to step back and try to figure out another course of action.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)

Taurus, an offer that notes your efforts and achievements comes your way. Do not let this immediately go to your head, but enjoy the fruits of your labors.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)

Lately your willpower has been week, Gemini. If diet plans are getting sidelined by your inability to stay on track, you may want to enlist a buddy to keep you motivated.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Cancer, take a break when you can because there is soon to be a whirlwind of activity coming in your direction. Enjoy down time while it is still available to you.

(July 23 - August 23)

Leo, exercise caution so that your actions are not misinterpreted. You do not want others thinking you are doing things for the wrong reasons. Try to lighten up and be positive this week.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)

This week you could find yourself being the center of attention at a gathering with friends or family, Virgo. Use the opportunity to get your thoughts out there and heard.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Libra, you will need to pick a course and stick with it, especially over the next few days. There is a lot of temptation out there but if you don't commit you'll never get things done.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Arguments that have been slowly building up may come to a head this week, Scorpio. Your best bet is to stay out of the fray by keeping your distance and avoiding commentary.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Sagittarius, it is possible that someone new you will meet this week can become a close friend who sticks with you through thick and thin. Look for this person in the days to come.

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Capricorn, now might be a time to figure out how to reduce some stress, especially if you find that people are avoiding you as of late. A change in attitude is all it takes.

(January 21 - February 18)

You might be ready to delve into the next chapter of a relationship, Aquarius. Figure out what means the most to you and move those priorities to the forefront.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)

Inspiration comes your way this week, Pisces. You will have plenty of time to do anything you want to put your mind to. Start making that running list of ideas.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH

0 N Ε 0 D Ι D U P В Ε D F R U K Ε Α J В D 0 U Ε U J ٧ D Ι D R C 0 F Ι D F P R С Ε 0 0 K В G R G C В В Ε Ε Ι C Ι R Ε J Н т Ι Ι C Ε G J Ρ J ٧ ٧ Т G C Н Ι R C Ι ٧ Α Н Α Α S S C Т N F C G Н C ۷ ٧ U М C Ε S R Т Ι G U S 0 Н В 0 N Н D Ε Ι Ι Т J R Ι М S S N Ε т Ρ М С В J М М ٧ L Ε В S т P Ρ Ε В S S Н K С С Α N Н U R Ι Т Ι R Т Ι J С K K R J D J N 0 Ι D Α G 0 Ε S М J U R Ε Α Α G N М P A R A D М s R L М Т S G F 0 Α Т S ۷ Н В Ι U Κ R L Ε Α Ι М P L В N Α В Ε N F U Н ۷ J A 0 Н С R Α М D Ε ٧ R 0 ۷ В K N Ε ۷ Т L N R D Н S Ι R Ι R Ρ J J Н 0 J Ρ Т G J A S Ρ R G U Н Ι С D N Ε G Ε U Ε R

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

WORDS CELEBRATION

CELTIC **CLOVER**

EMERALD ERIN FORTUNE GAELIC

GOLD HARP IRELAND IRISH

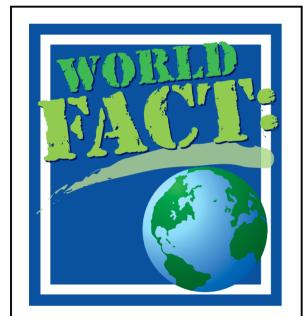
ISLAND JIG **LEGEND** LEPRECHAUN

LUCK MAGIC MARCH **MISCHIEF**

SAINT SHAMROCK TRADITION

CANADIAN Kids Corner



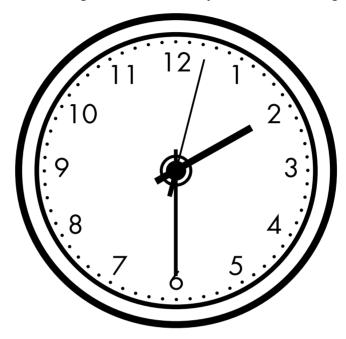


TRUE OR FALSE?
ONLY ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE
WORLD'S COUNTRIES PRACTICE
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.

ANSWER: TRUE

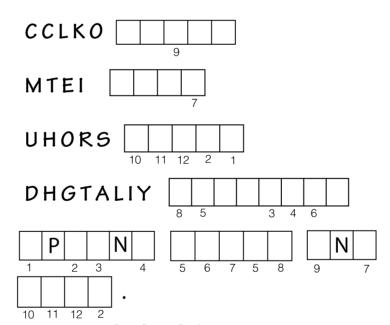
Creative Colouring

Colour in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

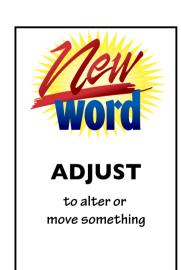


Answers: Clock, Time, Hours, Daylight; Spring ahead one hour.



1845

THE WELLAND CANAL,
A SHIP CANAL IN
ONTARIO, CANADA, AND
PART OF THE ST.
LAWRENCE SEAWAY
AND GREAT LAKES
WATERWAY, OPENS.





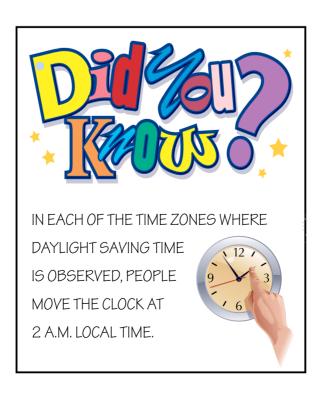
ENGLISH: Time

SPANISH: Tiempo

ITALIAN: Tempo

FRENCH: Temps

GERMAN: Zeit







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Supporting growth in Whitecourt since 1922, we salute our not-for-profit community.

Millar Western Forest Products Ltd. a resourceful company





Soaring Eagle Support Society

Offering support services for marginalized individuals

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

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



WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

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

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.

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



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



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.



"Serving the community for over 30 years" The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food in order to help families in need. Open Mon, Wed & Fri 11:00am to 2:00 pm Phone: 780-778-2341

Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre

The Whitecourt Food Bank is operated by the Town of Whitecourt Food Bank Coordinator and dependent on volunteers to operate. The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food from individuals and organizations. Local grocery stores drop off baked goods including bread and pastries weekly. Other corporations and schools schedule food drives throughout the year. Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Phone: 780-778-2341

LORNE'S BLANKET

is transitional housing for men.

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

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



24/7 CRISIS LINE 780 .778.6209 1.800.467.4049



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

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.whitecourtshelter.ca

Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous Group



Meetings are three times each week

- 8:00 pm 9:00 pm Monday
- 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

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 www.whitecourtpress.com

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

he Press

Canada to access crisis support by phone, in French or English: toll-free 1-833 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 68 68 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?

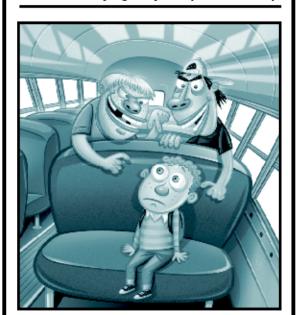
Email wctpress@telus.net All submissions remain confidential





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

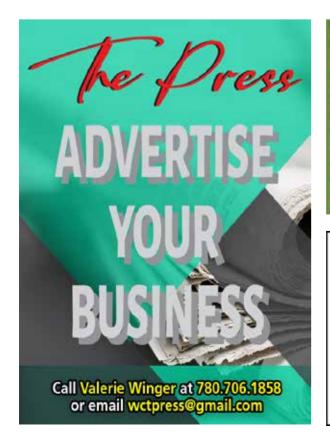
Stand up! Don't be afraid of bullies!!

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.

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continued from page 5

but we will wait until the deadline closes to go through all the applications. Our group of five people will go to pick who is accepted into the camp," explained Stacy Crossland, Social Media and Marketing for the R&R **Empowering Society of** Alberta.

goalies facing financial and extenuating circumstances," Crossland. She said there could be many reasons why someone might apply that aren't just based on finances, including divorce, a death in the family, or a lost job. "We don't is a really important want to base it solely on how much someone

makes. We want to hear out everybody."

Once the deadline comes and the group of five sits down to begin the process of selecting this year's goalies, the through and read them hard work begins. "It's very hard to choose. Everybody who applies probably deserves to be there, and we have to say no, which is really tough. Just like with everything, you can't "The camp is for help absolutely everybody, but the more people we can help, the better," said Crossland.

> The camp is free and is for youth from U9 to U18. Crossland said two sports performance coaches are lined up to speak to attendees this year. "Mental training

continued on page 12



PUBLIC NOTICE

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



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, March 20, 2024 to:

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

Contact the Executive Assistant at 780-778-2273 if you have questions about this Board and the application process.

Applications will be presented to Town Council at the March 25, 2024 Regular Meeting.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP PROGRAM FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Whitecourt is seeking non-profit organizations to perform refuse pickup duties within the community, including highway ditches and boulevards. The refuse pickup schedule will run throughout April to the end of October (weather permitting). At least one group is needed for July and one group for August.

To qualify for the program, groups must provide a written request to the Town, outlining how the funds would be used, confirming dates that the group would be available to perform the work, and providing an address and phone number for two group representatives.

Please note: All those participating in clean-up activities must be 9 years of age or older. All groups awarded projects under the Community Clean-Up Program will be required to abide by all current public health guidelines. Information on protocols will be provided to groups prior to performing scheduled refuse pick up duties.

Groups must provide a minimum of 12 volunteers, with at least one adult for every two youth (aged 9 to 17 years); and must contribute a minimum of 100 person hours of clean-up work to receive payment of \$1,200.00 per group.

For further details, please contact the Infrastructure Services Department at 780-778-2705.

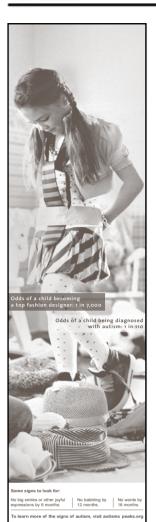
Written letters of application must be received at the following address by 12:00 noon on Monday, April 5:

TOWN OF WHITECOURT Re: Community Clean Up Program Application Box 509, 5004 - 52 Avenue WHITECOURT, AB T7S 1N6 Email: cathysudderdean@whitecourt.ca





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Coming Events

EDMONTON STAMP CLUB STAMP SHOW. March 23-24, 2024. Saturday 10 - 5 pm; Sunday 10 - 4 pm. Central Lion's Rec Centre, 113 St & 111

Ave. Stamps for sale, Exhibits, free evaluations, etc. Food Bank Donation www.edmontonstampclub.ca.

Employment Opportunities

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A look at the local weather

High Low Wind 24-Hr Rain / Snow Wed., March 13 Mainly sunny 6°C -5°C E 6 km/h <1cm

Thu., March 14 Mix of sun and clouds 30% 9°C 0°C NW 27 km/h

Fri., March 15 Mix of sun and clouds 30% 8°C -2°C

NW 15 km/h

Sat., March 16 Sunny 20% 10°C -3°C NW 27 km/h













The Whitecourt Minor Hockey U13 Wolverines Team #3 was recently captured in playoff action against Hinton. The kids played hard as their family and friends cheered them on, loudly. These pictures, taken in the McLeod Rink at JDA Place at the end of February by proud U13 hockey dad, James Stanchfield, show the puck in motion, often in midair, as players chipped the rubber from end to end.

continued from page 10

part of being a goaltender. I'm really excited to offer that to them because I know that will help them immensely going forward."

Crossland, worked for the Starks when Ryder and Radek lost their lives, said it is an honour to join Tracy's foundation. "I truly believe in what she's doing and that it's keeping the boys' legacy alive. It's a passion for me. When the foundation gets to help youth continue to play sports or get a piece of equipment they wouldn't be able to get otherwise, it's satisfying to see that."

The camp, which enables kids to participate in something that they wouldn't have been able to otherwise due to the cost, is also satisfying, said Crossland. "Not everyone can dish that out for their child. I know gaining those skills as a goalie is really important to keep moving your game forward. We wanted to help out in some way."

Last year, the goalies learned from various guest speakers and goalie coaches, including Koehn Ziemmer of the LA Kings. "He was a guest shooter, and he signed autographs and hung out for a bit. It was a great experience. I think the kids left the camp with much more knowledge and skill than they had coming in," said Crossland.

This year's camp will feature special guests, still unnamed, and lots of training opportunities for kids to grow their skills. Previous members of the Whitecourt Wolverines, and past goalie Carson Ironside, also took part last year. "It was great having them join us. The kids loved it."

For Stark, the camp is another way she brings her boys into her present. "We are all here, doing this, because Ryder and Radek lost their lives. We are here for one mission: to share Ryder and Radek's memory with the world. It started with stickers, and now we are changing kids' lives.

For me, it is empowering to be able to do that. I'm very humble, and I don't want recognition. I just do it because my kids are in me, and they give me the strength to do this every single day."

Stark said helping children is the purpose she feels called to on behalf of her sons. "Some days, it's so hard to wake up and do this and put one foot in front of the other and do this for other children and do life without my kids. As a grieving mother, you expect to die with your children. It's unfathomable that I've gone through this, and the only thing I can say is that my children make me a better person, and I have no doubt that they are pushing me every day."

With the camp and tournaments they do, Stark said she sees her boys in the smiles and happiness of attendees. "I see my boys in their faces, in their smiles. I see Ryder and Radek playing hockey and having fun on the ice. When the kids get their swag bags, I can see Radek getting his, showing it off, and being so happy about what he got. I envision my kids in these kids. My kids would be 18 and 21 now, but they were 11 and 13. It brings part of a childhood back to my life. I see these kids as my kids."

Stark said she is grateful for the support she has received for the events and fundraisers held to raise funds for the foundation. "It's empowering to be part of this and build it. But I don't do this alone. Anyone who attends including an event, watches a head coach Shawn show, buys a ticket, or Martin, Jaden Leslie, donates a prize is part of this community. Together, we are making a difference and changing kids' lives."

> Sponsorship from Whitecourt and across the province, as well as donations from as far as Ontario, make the camps and everything else they do possible. "We don't talk much about who receives money or who we help. We want to respect the applicants. But we are ac-

Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza 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

Qualifications:

- Some secondary school education is usually required. High school graduation may be required by some
- employers.
- Eligibility for bonding may be required.

- 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
- 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. Permanent full-time 40-hour work week. **Terms of Employment:**

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. Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada. **Location: Address:** Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10

> Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca

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

continued from page 12

tively helping youth throughout the year," said Crossland.

In just two short years, the R&R Empowering Society of Alberta has helped over forty youths, on top of those chosen for camps. With each child helped, Ryder and Radek's legacy continues to grow. One recent recipient of support was a Taekwondo athlete. "We sponsored him to attend the Canada and US Opens," said Stark. "Doing this is my purpose, and my boys are with me every step of the way."

Stark and Crossland encourage anyone interested in attending this year's 2nd Annual Free R&R Goaltending Camp, which will be held on July 19, 20, and 21 in Edmonton at the Terwilleger Rec Centre, to submit their applications by March 31. To apply, visit www.rnrempoweringsocietyofalberta. ca and look under Programs.

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DUTIES AND REPONSIBILITIES

- Support departments in developing and delivering strategic HR plans that fit with the overall business direction
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- 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
- preparing, updating, and recommending humanresources policies and procedures
- collaboration
- discretion
- Lead the recruiting function at the property

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
- HR Policy/Practice • Experience of negotiation and

• Demonstrated success in HR systems and

- influencing at senior management levels
- A leadership style that will incite

- Maintain management guidelines by
- Build strong relationships with external suppliers, fostering trust and promoting
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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 fastpaced environment

EAGLE RIVER

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

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

- 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.

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

Language: English

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

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Letter to the Editor policy

The Press welcomes readers to write letters to the Editor. A maximum of 300 words is preferred but not necessary. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. Please email letters to wctpress@gmail.com.





EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

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Job#: 24-017 – Transit Driver – Temporary Position.
Job#: 24-018 – Food Bank Intake Worker/Warehouse
Facilitator – Permanent, Part-Time Position.
Job#: 24-019 – Recreation Coordinator – Permanent,
Full-Time Position.

Please visit <u>www.whitecourt.ca</u> for all employment opportunities and details on how to apply.





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Contact

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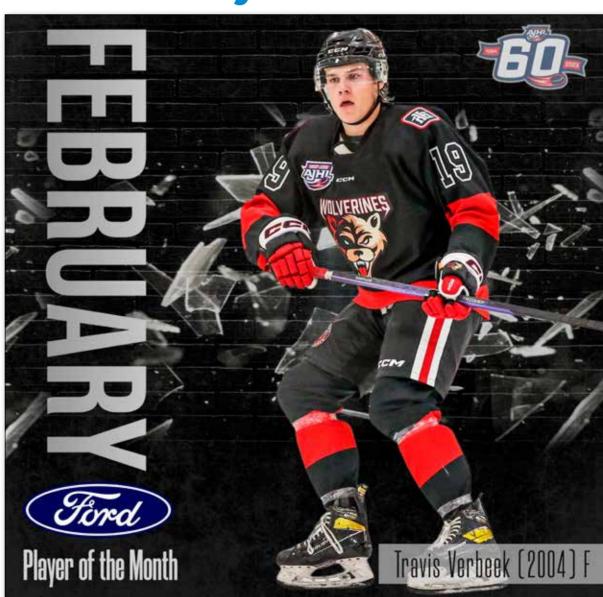
Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association toll free 1-800-282-6903 x225 email classifieds@awna.com or visit your community newspaper





Hip! Hip! Hooray! After attending a recent big tournament, the Whitecourt Minor Soccer U15 indoor boys team brought home the top prize. The team took part in the Edmonton West Zone Soccer Association Slush Cup at the beginning of the month, the largest indoor soccer tournament in North America, and came home with gold medals around their necks. Congratulations to the U15 boys' team and coaching staff for showing great sportsmanship, working hard, and making their community proud!

Travis Verbeek (Wolverines) Selected as Alberta Ford Dealers AJHL Player of the Month



March 4th, 2024 - The Alberta Ford Dealers AJHL Player of the Month for February 2024 is Travis Verbeek. The Wolverines forward and University of Alaska Anchorage (NCAA) commit led the AJHL with 17 points in seven games. Travis Verbeek (2004) built a seven-game point streak from January 28th to February 24th, which included five multi-point games, and a career high five-point game on February 24th. He scored three game winning goals through the month and is tied for a league-leading eight game winners on the season.



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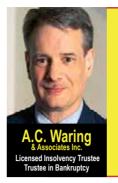
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