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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



The Press

Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 13 - Issue 16 | Wednesday, April 17, 2024



A very happy fan blaring his box horn.

Unforgettable game seven slugfest between Wolverines and Eagles leads to tough start against Calgary Canucks in the AJHL Finals

By Serena Lapointe

As any die-hard sports fan knows, sudden death thresholds are both exciting and nerve-wracking. Whitecourt Wolverines and Canmore Eagles fans felt that roll-

er coaster rush last week as their second-round playoff battle extended to game seven, making for an exciting yet highly stressful final game.

With 700 fans in the stands at JDA Place, the

second-highest crowd size of the playoffs and third-highest for the season, the intensity and the volume were up. In the first period, Canmore

continued on page 6

Two community organizations left grateful after a 'Big Assist' from Kruger and Whitecourt Minor Hockey



Joanne Belke (left) and Rand Richards.

see story page 2



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Two community organizations left grateful after a 'Big Assist' from Kruger and Whitecourt Minor Hockey

By Serena Lapointe

The Whitecourt Minor Hockey Association (WMH) is competing to take home a \$75,000 grand prize from Kruger Big Assist. Kruger, the parent company for Cashmere, Purex, Scotties, Sponge Towels, and Bonterra, opened submissions for the program last fall. WMH was selected as one of five regional winners earlier this year, winning \$25,000, which they will use to help offset registration costs and other financial barriers that hinder youth participation in their association.

On top of the cash prize, they also received paper products from Kruger. The considerable delivery of paper towels and toilet paper arrived after the hockey season ended. Rather than find a spot for a bunch of boxes to



Talk about a great assist! Whitecourt Minor Hockey recently received a large delivery of paper products from Kruger as part of a competition they are in, and they decided to pass the prize on to two fantastic community partners. Pictured is Rand with boxes of paper towels and toilet paper.

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67% of wildfires are caused by people.

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[Alberta.ca/PreventWildfires](https://alberta.ca/PreventWildfires)

Alberta

continued from page 2

sit until next season, the association decided to pay it forward. “The program core value is that every assist counts, and in the true spirit of that, WMH decided to make a donation to Wellspring Family Resources & Crisis Centre and the Whitecourt Foodbank by splitting the big shipment in half,” explained WMH President Rand Richards.

“We believe our hockey program focuses on building good people and athletes on and off the ice. Our athletes always participate in initiatives that give back to the community. Both organizations, the Foodbank

and Wellspring, support vulnerable members in the community, so the decision was very easy,” she said. “Giving back helps unite the community and bridge some of the social and economic gaps,” added Richards.

Wellspring’s Executive Director, Becky Wells, said the donation was unexpected and very generous. “We are always needing things like paper products. We give those to clients and help set up others and also for use at our shelter. Everything has gone up in price, so this is really exciting, and we are really thankful.”

Wells said Joanne Belke, Wellspring’s

board Treasurer, was the initial point of contact. “Joanne had mentioned that Whitecourt Minor Hockey had received this wonderful donation, and unfortunately, it was kind of past the time that they could utilize it, so she asked if we could utilize it. I said absolutely,” explained Wells.

Wells said playing sports is good for kids as it helps them connect with others and be active. For those who find sports restrictive because of financial constraints, funding, like the \$25,000 WMH received in the first stage of the competition, will go a long way to helping community youth get on the ice. She said Well-

spring’s store, Twice Is Nice, also plays a role by helping provide sports-related items, along with many other things, to families in need. “People don’t realize that our store is tied to Wellspring. That’s part of us. And part of us is giving back to the community. If you can’t afford things, and your kid would like to play, come and talk to us. We can try to see what we can round up for you and see what we have at the store that can help you if that’s the barrier.”

The synergy of WMH sharing their prize and helping Wellspring and the Food Bank is another example of the power of community. As Richards alluded to, it plays right into the spirit of the competition they are still part of. On April 16, WMH will find out if they are crowned the overall champ, which comes with another check, this time for \$75,000.

Since 2021, The Kruger Big Assist program has given over \$600,000 to more than 40 hockey communities across the country. This year will add

another \$200,000 to that tally. The four other finalists alongside WMH, who received \$25,000 each and are awaiting the announcement for the extra \$75,000, are the Fernie Minor Hockey Association, St. Catharines’ CYO Minor Hockey League, Beaujeu Minor Hockey Association, and TASA Minor Hockey Association.

Kruger asked that associations REACH those in their community in need of financial assistance, INSPIRE youth to fall in love with the sport, SUPPORT youth in developing life skills they can use outside the arena, and ENCOURAGE diversity and inclusion in the community through hockey initiatives.

In its grand prize submission, WMH detailed how it would use the \$75,000 to create the Root Beer League Inclusion Initiative, a new, accessible format of hockey that would include all ages and skill levels with no formal teams or travel necessary. They would also create an Equipment Loan Program to loan out skates, sticks

and protective gear to remove financial barriers from parents whose children want to play but can’t afford the equipment needed.

The submission also detailed that they would promote the league throughout the community, including schools, community centers and local businesses, recruit and train volunteers to keep things fun and safe for everyone, and continuously evaluate the program for future expansion or enhancement possibilities. If Whitecourt Minor Hockey wins the top prize, the program will launch in late summer, just in time for the new hockey season.

“I voted for them. I’m rooting for them to win the big prize,” said Wells. WMH was named the finalist in the Prairies category, beating out associations across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Community members from each finalist association voted their hearts out last week. The grand prize winner will be announced on Tuesday, April 16, between 4:40 pm and 5:00 pm MDT on TSN.

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DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

The Municipal Planning Commission will be making a decision on the following development permit application as per the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw, at their regular meeting on **Thursday, April 18 at 4:30 p.m. at the Whitecourt Municipal Office**, downstairs.

Section 19 of the Woodlands C of their concerns indicating: th

If you have any comment or cc ing to voice any comments.

Comments received will be tak

WITHDRAWN

Development Officer, a written statement

11, 2024 or you may attend the meet-

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER	PROPOSAL
PT SW 2-59-13-W5M Lot 6 Block 1 Plan 092-1955	15-017-2024	Home Occupation (major): Tree Planting Base

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 pm, April 11, 2024**.

Attention: Peter McKay, Development Officer
planning@woodlands.ab.ca

Woodlands County
Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3
Telephone: 780-778-8400
Toll-Free: 1-888-870-6315

DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

The Municipal Planning Commission will be making a decision on the following development permit application as per the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw, at their regular meeting on **Wednesday, May 1 at 4:00 p.m. at the Whitecourt Municipal Office**, downstairs.

Section 19 of the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw provides opportunity for any person who may have comments on the proposed development to deliver to the Development Officer, a written statement of their concerns indicating: their full name and address and the reasons for their comments to the proposed use.

If you have any comment or concern regarding this proposal you may provide a written statement via email to planning@woodlands.ab.ca prior to **4:30 pm., April 25, 2024** or you may attend the meeting to voice any comments.

Comments received will be taken into consideration by the Municipal Planning Commission.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER	PROPOSAL
PT. SW 15-59-10-W5M	15-018-2024	Intensive Recreational Use: Gymkana Clubhouse

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 pm, April 25, 2024**.

Attention: Peter McKay, Development Officer
planning@woodlands.ab.ca

Woodlands County
Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3
Telephone: 780-778-8400
Toll-Free: 1-888-870-6315

WOODLANDS COUNTY RFPS AVAILABLE

The Request for Proposals (RFP) is an invitation by Woodlands County to prospective proponents to submit proposals for the provision of:

- **Asset Management and Enterprise Resource Planning Software & Services**
- **2024 Line Painting**
- **2024 Crack Sealing**

RFP documents are available on the Alberta Purchasing Connection (APC) Website at <https://www.purchasingconnection.ca/> and on the County's website <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/rfps-and-tenders>.

Woodlands County reserves the right to waive informalities in, or reject any or all proposals, or accept the proposals deemed most favourable in the interest of the County.



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Mayor
Councillor for Area/area
Division 1
dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
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Phone: 780-779-3217



PETER KUELKEN
Councillor for Goose Lake/
Friesman River Division 6
peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-284-2425



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



Whitecourt Town Council updates

Whitecourt Town Council has approved the 2024 Budget. The budget supports priorities identified by Council and its intention to sustain service levels, while at the same time making the right investments for the future to ensure the continued sustainability and growth of the community. A 3.77% tax rate increase is required to support the budget. Based on the approved budget, Administration is preparing the Tax Rate Bylaw which will be presented to Council at the April 22, 2024 Regular Meeting. The 2024 Budget Report will subsequently be published at the end of April, and will be posted online at www.whitecourt.ca and paper copies will be made available at the Town Office.

Whitecourt is applying to the Forest Re-

source Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) for funding a community fire-guard program. FRIAA recently announced that it will be allocating funds to communities across the province to construct fireguards in high-risk areas to reduce the risk of wildfires.

The 2023 Whitecourt FireSmart Annual Report is available to download on the Whitecourt website. The report details projects undertaken in 2023, and goals for the upcoming year.

The Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the Carnival in downtown Whitecourt May 3-5. To allow for set up and take down, area roads will be closed to traffic from April 30 through May 6. Details on the road closures will be posted closer to the event date.

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Alberta Newsprint Company

RCMP ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Mayerthorpe RCMP seize drugs after roadside stop

On April 4, 2024, Mayerthorpe RCMP responded to a driving complaint on Highway 43, near the Town of Mayerthorpe, where a vehicle with substantial body damage was reported as driving at high rate of speed. Mayerthorpe RCMP located the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop with a lone male occupant. This road-side interaction quickly evolved into a drug investigation, where the occupant was arrested without incident.

Upon search of the

vehicle, a large amount of suspected cocaine (approx. 926.5g), was recovered, as well as cash and drug sale paraphernalia. The street level value of the drugs is estimated at \$90,000.

Jeffrey Stephan Arsenie (41), a resident of Sylvan Lake, Alta., has been charged with one count of Possession for the purpose of trafficking as well as numerous Traffic safety act offences.

Arsenie was brought before a justice of the peace and released on conditions. He is to appear on May 9, 2024, at the Alberta Court of Justice in Mayerthorpe.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Regional Companies to Share Forestry Plans at Open Houses

WHITECOURT, ALBERTA, April 2024—This spring, forest companies ANC Timber (Alberta Newsprint Company), West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd. (Blue Ridge Lumber), and Weyerhaeuser Company - Pembina will be holding "joint open houses", to share forestry operating plans for the year ahead. These events provide the general public and stakeholders with the opportunity to review each company's planned activities in road development, harvesting, hauling, reforestation and herbicide treatment for the current forestry year. Public stakeholder input is gathered and utilized to influence operations where site specific concerns are identified such as trails, camping areas, recreation areas etc.

Dates and Locations	Companies Attending
April 29 – Fox Creek Multiplex Lobby – 5pm-8pm	BRL & ANC
April 30 - Whitecourt Allan and Jean Millar Centre 5pm-8pm	BRL & ANC
May 1 - Edson Repsol Place Main Lobby. 5pm-8pm	BRL, ANC & Weyerhaeuser
May 2 – Swan Hills Community Club 5pm-8pm	BRL

We would also like to invite you to visit the websites below to view each companies upcoming forest activities. We will have a variety of plans available for review including: Annual Operating Plans for 2024-2025 season; Company Reforestation Plans; and Herbicide Treatment Plans.

Alberta Newsprint Company (ANC) - alberta-newsprint-dot-com-slash-woodlands

West Fraser Timber Ltd - <https://www.westfraser.com/responsibility/forest-management/public-involvement/blue-ridge-lumber>

Weyerhaeuser Pembina – <http://PembinaTimberlands.ca>

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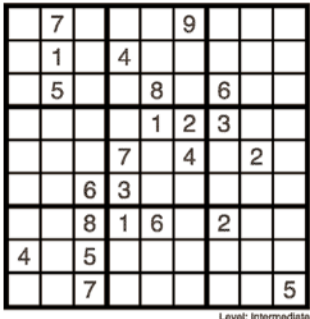
Learn More & Apply: woodlands.ab.ca/p/census

Apply Online: woodlands.ab.ca/p/census

WOODLANDS COUNTY

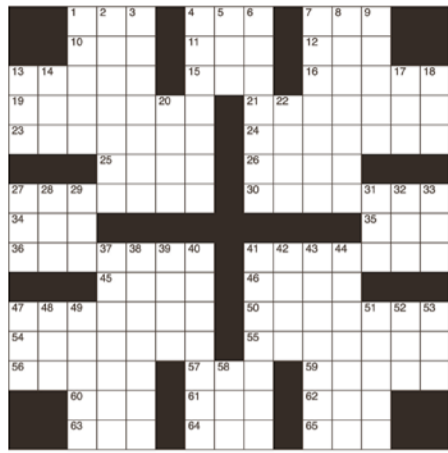
SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

SUDOKU CROSSWORDS



Fun By The Numbers

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



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. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. For each
- 7. Airborne (abbr.)
- 10. Photographs
- 11. They __
- 12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- 13. Monetary unit
- 15. Cool!
- 16. A son of Jacob
- 19. Cut off
- 21. Devour
- 23. Agent of one's downfall
- 24. Best
- 25. Network of nerves
- 26. Partner to "oohs"
- 27. Origins
- 30. Sewing utensil
- 34. Alias
- 35. Swiss river
- 36. Greek mythological figure
- 41. Type of whiskey
- 45. Lay to rest
- 46. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 47. Select jury
- 50. Feeling
- 54. Action regarded as morally wrong

- 55. Makes angry
- 56. Act incorrectly
- 57. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 59. Class of escort aircraft carrier
- 60. To what degree
- 61. Buzzing insect
- 62. The human foot
- 63. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
- 64. A place to stay
- 65. Sun up in New York

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An involuntary muscular contraction
- 2. Earnest
- 3. Cuts out surgically
- 4. Can't move
- 5. Baseball stat
- 6. British soldier
- 7. Traditional medicine plants
- 8. Political party controlled by managers
- 9. Hebrew prophet
- 13. Supporter
- 14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 17. Liberty Mutual mascot
- 18. Georgia rockers
- 20. A place where building is done
- 22. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 27. Clothing retailer
- 28. Supplement with difficulty
- 29. Annoy constantly
- 31. Founder of Babism
- 32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia
- 33. Sea eagle
- 37. Leave behind
- 38. Time of day
- 39. Colorless crystalline compound
- 40. They lay out course requirements
- 41. A diamond has three
- 42. Algerian coastal city
- 43. Remove cover
- 44. Rechristened
- 47. Distinctive practice
- 48. Defunct phone company
- 49. Turkish officer of high rank
- 51. Eliminate from the body
- 52. Witness
- 53. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 58. Founding Father Franklin



Handshake following the second series final.



Motley coming in hot.



Verbeek heading to the big cheer huddle following their game seven victory.

LOTS OF LAUGHS WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- APRIL FOOLS
- BELLY
- BRAY
- BRIGHT
- CACKLE
- CHEEKS
- CHUCKLE
- COMEDIAN
- COMEDY
- CONTAGIOUS
- CRYING
- FUNNY
- GIGGLES
- HAHA
- HICCUP
- JOKING
- LAUGH
- LOL
- MOOD
- POSITIVE
- RELIEF
- SMILE
- SNICKER
- SNORT

The league finals are underway in the AJHL as the Whitecourt Wolverines and Calgary Canucks vie for the Inter Pipeline Cup. But, before winning their second-round series against the Canmore Eagles, the Wolverines gave fans a game-seven fight they'll not soon forget.

continued from page 1

took a quick lead when a casual shot toward the net trickled in for an unassisted goal, surprising everyone.

In the second period, the Wolverines bounced back, with the tying goal and eventual game-winner coming within four minutes of each other, both on the man advantage. Travis Verbeek, a playoff powerhouse, scored his seventh of the playoffs, with assists from Matthew Ronn and Braden Keeble (his seventh assist).

Joey Melo scored his third of the playoffs, with assists from Evan Johnson and Matthew Ronn

(his sixth assist), giving the Wolverines the lead 2-1. Things got rowdy as the Canmore Eagles, with their season on the line, tried everything they could to get back into the game. The Eagles took three penalties and got lucky on several occasions where they probably should've been penalized, or so said the Wolverine faithful in the stands.

In the third period, with a one-goal lead, Whitecourt's Wolverines needed to hold on. The intensity was amplified as both teams knew this was it. Only one team was moving forward from the game, and the other was off to the golf course, as they say. There were big

hits, scrums following whistles, and lots of shots on the net.

Earlier in the game, the Wolverines held a wide gap for shots on goal, outshooting the Eagles by double digits. By the end of the game, the gap had all but disappeared, with the Wolverines edging the Eagles by only three shots, 35-32. Nearly fifteen minutes in, Travis Verbeek scored his second of the game, eighth of the playoffs, assisted by Braden Keeble and Joey Melo, making it 3-1.

With their goalie on the bench, the Eagles pushed hard, trying to get pucks into the net to keep their

continued on page 7



A tug o' war.



Talk about a close up.

continued from page 6

playoff dreams alive. A couple of close calls left fans standing up in their seats to see the action on the far side of the ice. The Wolverines had two big breakaways, during which they attempted to land a puck in the empty net, with one sliding just wide and another bouncing off the goalpost. It was wild!

The Wolverines took the win 3-1, ending the series against the Canmore Eagles and moving on to the finals against

the Calgary Canucks. The Wolverines and Canucks had not met in playoff action before. On Friday, April 12, they had their first opportunity to line up against each other for the first game in their best-of-seven series.

The Calgary Canucks finished the regular season in third place, one point behind the second-place Lloydminster Bobcats and eight points behind the first-place Wolverines. The two teams split their four regular-season games against each other, with

two apiece, so this series would likely be evenly matched and tough.

Just over four minutes into the game, Calgary got on the board first. The Wolverines retaliated six minutes later, making it a tied affair, 1-1, thanks to a powerplay marker from Braden Keeble, assisted by Travis Verbeek and Spencer Rheume (his ninth). The second period featured no scoring and only one penalty, a tripping call against Calgary. In the third period, things opened up, but not in the way the Wolverines fans

wanted. Calgary scored four unanswered goals, all at even strength, winning the game 5-1.

Putting the previous night's loss firmly in the rearview mirror and focusing on game two, the Whitecourt Wolverines laced up their skates on Saturday night, hoping for a better result. In the first period, the Wolverines came out swinging with a few big hits and hard pushes into the Canuck's zone. Neither team scored goals despite the effort, leaving them knotted at 0-0 after twen-

ty minutes.

In the second period, the Canucks lit up the scoreboard, similar to the night before. Three unanswered goals bewildered fans and players alike. Unable to answer back, the period ended with a goose egg for the Wolverines and three eggs in the Canuck's basket.

In the game's final twenty minutes, the Wolverines managed to land two big goals, giving them much-needed momentum. Unfortunately, the push stopped at two goals, and the Canucks

succeeded in extending their lead to five goals. Though hard-fought, the Wolverines dropped game two in a similar fashion to game one, with Calgary getting five goals past the Wolverine's goalie.

Whitecourt's team will face the Canucks on Calgary's turf for game three on Tuesday, April 16 and game four on Wednesday, April 17. If the Wolverines can snag a win in one of those two games (get both, boys!), then game five will be back at JDA Place on Saturday, April 20. Let's go, Wolverines!

PUBLIC NOTICE

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



ONLINE VEHICLE AUCTION

Current opportunities are posted through Government Surplus Auctions (GovDeals) on behalf of the Town of Whitecourt:

- Argo

The online auction on the aforementioned units will run from April 4 - 18, 2024 at 3:00pm. For more information, visit our website www.whitecourt.ca

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- **Asset Management Implementation – Phase 2.** Closes: May 3, 2024 at 4:00 PM MST

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

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION DAY IN WHITECOURT APRIL 23, 2024

Whitecourt Town Council encourages the citizens of Whitecourt to recognize April 23 as Royal Canadian Legion Day in Whitecourt.

The Whitecourt Legion supports numerous youth and adult groups in our community, and helps veterans and their families who may be in need of medical care or other needs. As a community member, you can help support these initiatives by becoming a Legion member, or attending their events. Please share with the Town in celebrating the accomplishments of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #44 in Whitecourt.



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Soaring Eagle Support Society

Offering support services for marginalized individuals


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

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



"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



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**

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



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

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

Wellspring
Family Resource & Crisis Centre
www.whitecourtshester.ca

GRIEF SHARE



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**



**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

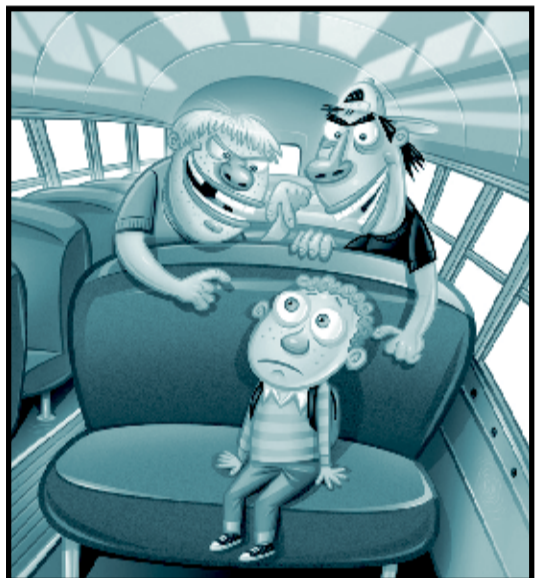


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.
Let that sink in.



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



Austin Gregory Harrison
Age 21

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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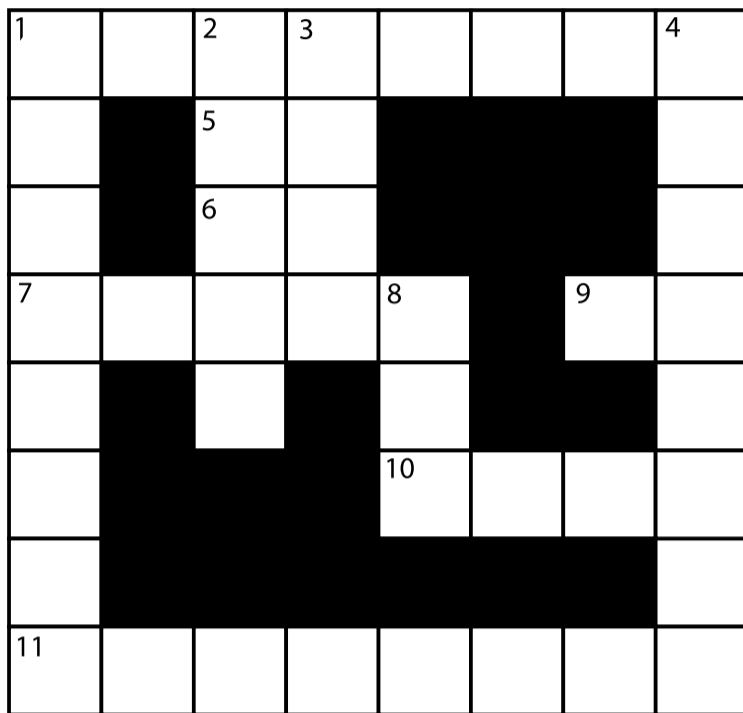
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CANADIAN Kids Corner



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Silliest, craziest
- 5. Account of (abbr)
- 6. To a great extent
- 7. Smiles slightly
- 9. Either ___
- 10. Not any
- 11. Response to a situation

DOWN

- 1. Happy sound
- 2. Calm, pleasant place
- 3. Midday
- 4. Unlucky number
- 8. Boy child

Answers:
 Across
 1. Looniest 5. AO 6. So 7. Grins 9. Or
 10. None 11. Reaction
 Down
 1. Laughter 2. Oasis 3. Noon 4. Thirteen
 8. Son

CANADA



HISTORY

1904

THE GREAT TORONTO FIRE DESTROYS MUCH OF THE CITY'S DOWNTOWN, BUT NO DEATHS RESULT FROM THE FIRE.



THIS ACTIVITY CAN RELIEVE STRESS AND DECREASE BLOOD PRESSURE, RESULTING IN A RELAXED FEELING.

ANSWER: LAUGHING

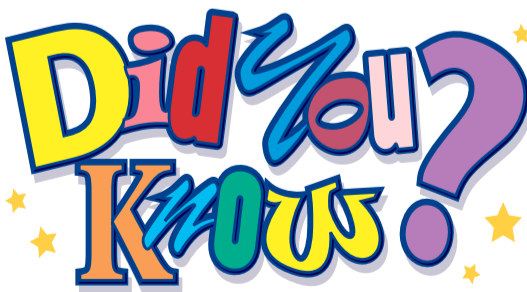


JOKE

something someone says to cause laughter

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Laugh
- SPANISH:** Reírse
- ITALIAN:** Ridere
- FRENCH:** Rire
- GERMAN:** Lachen



APRIL FOOL'S DAY FALLS ON THE FIRST DAY OF APRIL. IT IS A DAY WHEN MANY PEOPLE PULL PRANKS ON OTHERS OR TRY TO MAKE THEM LAUGH.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

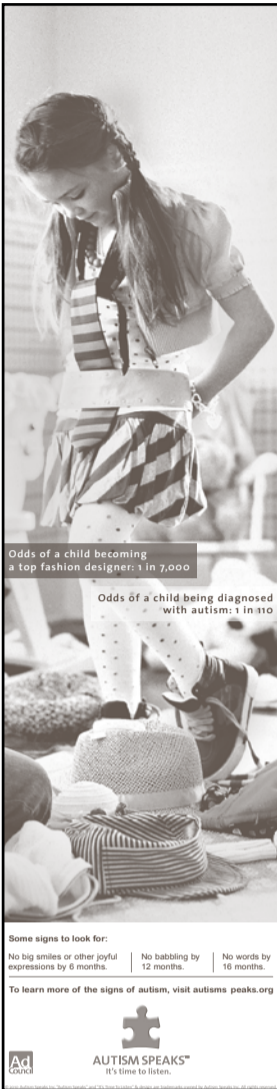
ANSWER: WOMAN LAUGHING



Blanket Classified Ads

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

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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.

Employment Wanted

GET YOUR MESSAGE SEEN ACROSS Alberta. The Blanket Classifieds or Value Ads reach over 600,000 Alberta readers weekly. Two options starting at \$269 or \$799 to get your message out! Business changes, hiring, items for sale,

cancellations, tenders, etc. People are increasingly staying home and rely on their local newspapers for information. KEEP people in the loop with our 90 Weekly Community Newspapers. Call THIS NEWSPAPER now or email classifieds@awna.com for details. 1-800-282-6903, 780-434-8746 X225. www.awna.com.

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BARLEY - * NEW-AB Standswell* Smooth AWN, High Yielding, Grain and Forage Great Lodging Resistance. 1st NITROGEN USE EFFICIENT CEREAL IN CANADA. OTHER BARLEY: Cerveza, CDC Austenson, CDC Maverick, Esma, Sundre. **WHEAT - Pintail, Forage or Grain.** **OATS - AC Juniper, AC Morgan, AC Mustang, Derby, CDC S01 Super Oat.** **PEAS - Very Early Yellow Pea Forage Peas.**

ALSO AVAILABLE: Polish Canola & Spring Triticale. mastinseeds.com; 403-556-2609.

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

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For Sale

WHITE SPRUCE TREES: 5' average \$50. Installation ONLY \$19. Includes: hole augered, Wurzel Dip enzyme injection, bark mulch application, staking. Minimum order 25. One-time fuel charge: \$150 - 200. Crystal Springs. 403-820-0961. Quality guaranteed.

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.

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- Hammertoes
- Warts

- Athlete's Foot
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- Diabetic Foot Care
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Airdrie, AB

A look at the local weather

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

Wed., April 17
Mix of sun and clouds
30%
4°C
-5°C
N 16 km/h

Thu., April 18
Mainly sunny
20%
6°C
-4°C
SE 12 km/h

Fri., April 19
Mainly sunny
10%
8°C
-4°C
SE 17 km/h

Sat., April 20
Sunny
10%
11°C
-2°C
SE 15 km/h

Sun., April 21
Mainly sunny
10%
13°C
0°C
W 10 km/h

Karate Tournament



Two Whitecourt fighters during Wednesday night practice.



Big kick.



One of the group's young fighters, Prezlie, with her new belt.

On April 19-21, Whitecourt Karate will hold its 18th annual tournament. This will be the first tournament for the group since 2018. Whitecourt Karate falls under the Shintani Wado Kai Karate Foundation of Canada and offers families of all ages the chance to learn martial arts together. Sensei Marlene Pinchbeck joined Whitecourt Karate years ago alongside her son and never looked back. "I always wanted to do it but didn't have time. Once I knew it was local, I went for it. Our group is close, and we have great camaraderie. You don't have to be young to join. I'm the oldest member, and I'm senior," she laughed, "and I'm still there!" Spectators are welcome to come out and watch the action from the overhead seating area at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre, up near the running track, on Saturday, April 20, starting just after 9 am and until 5 pm. Eight rings will be set up in the fieldhouse below for competitors of all ages and belt levels to compete in, both from the local area and provincially and nationally. Spectators will see Kata performances, which are detailed, choreographed movements and sparring between two fighters. Denis Labbe, the president of Shintani Wado Kai Karate, will also be in attendance. "Karate is a great way to build self-confidence, learn discipline and get physical exercise. We are always welcoming new members to our club," said Pinchbeck. Anyone interested in learning what karate is about is encouraged to check out the tournament. For further information, residents can call Sensei John MacAulay at 780-805-1586 or visit the club on practice night. Regular practice for Whitecourt Karate happens on Wednesday nights at St. Mary's School. Youth practice is from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, while adults practice from 7:10 pm until 9:00 pm.



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Food & Beverage Supervisor

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Actively promotes an environment conducive to high quality customer service and employee relations by being a positive leadership example.
- Assist for scheduling, disciplinary actions, training and mentoring for staff of food and beverage outlets.
- Inventory each month
- Work with Marketing & Advertising to promote the food & beverage outlets.
- Understand security requirements.
- Ensure maintenance of safety and sanitation standards and policies
- Provide overall direction, coordination, and ongoing evaluation of operations.
- Understand basic asset management.
- Must be able to work other duties assigned.
- We are in the people business and therefore it is part of everyone's job to actively provide customer service. This means that for every customer that comes in, you will attempt to make eye contact, greet and welcome to our business. This also means that you must always be attentive to the customer's needs so there are no undue delays and we will serve our customers in a cheerful and efficient manner. Our service attitude also implies and obligation to each other. We must greet and acknowledge each other in a sincere professional way. And seek to assist each other wherever practical, thereby demonstrating that success is a shared experience among our teams. Excellent customer relations and team work are essential part of every job in this environment.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- 4-5 years' experience in the Food & Beverage Industry.
- 3-4 years demonstrated experience in supervisory 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 but not required.
- Continuous training and education to keep abreast of changes in the industry and external environment.
- 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.
- Smart Training course, preserve, deal US in phase 1, 2.
- Must be able to provide RCMP security clearance check.
- Working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint.

Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451
 Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca
 How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax



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

Responsibilities:

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

Qualifications:

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

Experience: 3 – 5 years.
Education: Completion of secondary school is required, casino gaming license.
Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.
Language: English
Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.
Wage: \$23.08 per hour.
Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, and Health after a 90-day probation period.
Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.
Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3.
Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451
Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca
How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax.

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.



Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.72 US Dollar at an exchange rate of 0.7267 (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of April 17, 2024

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

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

Job# 24-022: Economic Development Assistant, Permanent, Full-time Position.

Job# 24-023: Grant/Finance Clerk IV, Permanent, Full-time Position.

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



The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Contact

Valerie Winger at 780-706-1858 Email: wctpress@telus.net



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

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Attention all businesses and individuals! It's that exciting time of the year again, as we approach the graduation of the remarkable Classes of 2024.

Do you want to send your heartfelt congratulations to these bright young minds? Whether you're a local business, a proud family member, or a supportive community member, now is your chance to shine!

Showcase your support and admiration by placing a congratulatory ad in our special editions dedicated to the graduating classes. Your message will be prominently featured, expressing your pride and well wishes.

To reserve your spot in this memorable edition:

Email: wctpress@telus.net Call: 780-706-1858

Let's come together to celebrate the achievements of these outstanding individuals and wish them success on their journey ahead. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of their special moment!

Thank you for your support and congratulations to the Class of 2024!



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The Press

The productivity imperative

By Mark Parsons
ATB ECONOMICS

Talk of Canada's sluggish productivity performance has been trending. Senior Deputy Governor Carolyn Rogers recently said the need to bolster productivity is "an emergency - it's time to break the glass".

Productivity is the ability to convert resources (raw materials, people and capital) into output. It ultimately determines a jurisdiction's living standards. Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman once remarked: "Productivity isn't everything, but, in the long-run, it is almost everything".

While that sounds

important, it also sounds a bit theoretical. It's easy to dismiss productivity as an abstract academic concept.

Incomes are more reliable. In a Hub article released last week, University of Calgary professor Trevor Tombe shows a clear connection between declining real earnings growth and weak productivity, warning the "Great Canadian Slump" is back.

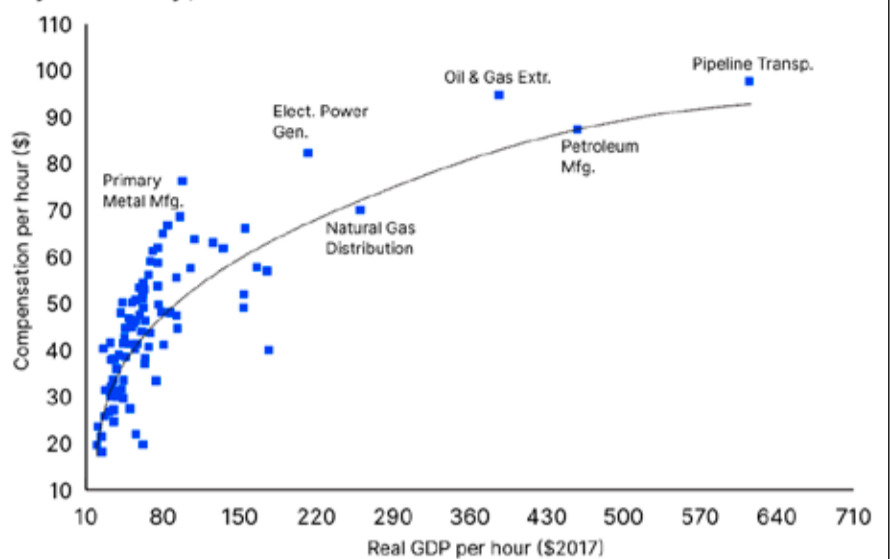
Another way to make the productivity-wage connection is by looking at industries. Statistics Canada maintains detailed productivity accounts for individual industries. As shown in the below figure, there is a strong relationship between the produc-

tivity of workers in an industry and the wages it pays.

Energy-related industries have among the highest levels of productivity and wages in Canada. We recently showed that the majority of Alberta's higher overall labour productivity (vs. the national average) is due to the province having a higher concentration of workers in these industries.

Bottom line: Productivity shouldn't be dismissed as a theoretical or academic concern. When labour productivity suffers on a sustained basis, it ultimately translates into lower overall wages for workers.

Canada Labour Productivity & Compensation
By industry, 2022



Source: Statistics Canada Table 36-10-0480-01 and ATB Economics



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Now Hiring Communications and Customer Experience Supervisor

Summary

The Communications and Customer Experience Supervisor will take the lead with development and implementation of all Eagle River Casino and Travel Plaza marketing programs and related communications strategies. They are responsible for developing consistent and cohesive messaging that speaks to our guests and the community at large. They will work closely with departmental managers to successfully launch and manage promotions and events, as well as report regularly on key metrics analyzing the performance of all marketing initiatives. The Communications and Customer Experience Supervisor must keep informed of current trends and be responsive to changes within the organization, the local/regional market, and the industry. They will have frequent interactions with external and internal clients.

Job Duties

- Interact with external and internal clients in order to deliver Eagle River Casino and Travel Plaza's message.
- Work with departmental managers to develop and implement new marketing programs for multiple platforms including direct mail, direct corporate sales, internet, and social media.
- Plan and execute special events and promotions in coordination with direct supervisor and appropriate members of the management team.
- Report on key metrics analyzing the performance of marketing activities.
- Identify changes in the market through the monitoring of various social media sites and online publications.
- Provide editing services to ensure that all communications are appropriately worded (both in grammar and in content).
- Determine target markets and their various characteristics, aiming to broaden the appeal of Eagle River Casino and Travel Plaza's brand.
- Work with designers, writers, editors and other creative staff to produce marketing collateral in accordance with brand messages.
- Monitor, evaluate, and report on industry activities; make recommendations based on findings/opportunities discovered.
- Analyze potential new products/media to enhance the marketing/communications work of Eagle River Casino and Travel Plaza.
- Ensure that all materials are developed and distributed according to an appropriate timeline and budget.
- Evaluate the return on investment for market spend.
- Oversee the development, management and maintenance of all online communication vehicles, including but not limited to:
 - Eagle River Casino and Travel Plaza website
 - Online social media (including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc).
- Develop internal communications to ensure department managers and associates are knowledgeable about marketing activities, events, and promotions.
- Other related duties as assigned.

Requirements

- University degree in Marketing, Communications or equivalent.
- Exceptional command of the English language, including grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- 2+ years of direct work experience in a marketing and/or communications capacity.
- Experience in creating and executing successful e-mail marketing, Internet marketing, and direct marketing programs.
- Direct experience with graphic design, Web page, and other marketing-related software tools considered an asset.
- Highly effective project management, prioritization, multi-tasking, and time management skills to meet deadlines.
- Tech-savvy, including fluency with common social media platforms and MS Office suite.
- Requires in-depth knowledge of the preparation of communications.
- Ability to manage and coordinate the end-to-end development process while meeting deadlines and budget requirements.
- Willingness to travel as required.

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A happy bunch of cadets following a busy morning at the Whitecourt Lions Campground.



Digging into some well-deserved grub.

Youth from the Whitecourt Air Cadets 721 Hawk Squadron and 2716 Mayerthorpe Army Cadets helped beautify the Whitecourt Lion's Campground on Saturday in preparation for the popular camping spot's season opener later this week. The youth raked up each site, path and road, picked up sticks and debris, moved tables to designated places, and cleaned up the greenspaces around the campground. Once the job was complete, the group had lunch together. The Whitecourt Lions Campground can be reached at www.whitecourt lionscampground.com or by calling 780-778-6782. Whitecourt Air Cadets meet every Wednesday from 6:30-9 pm at the cadet building (blue metal building beside Festival Park). The program is free and for youth aged 12-19.

HELP WANTED

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

Food Service Attendant
Full Time / Shift Work

Food Service Supervisor
Full Time / Shift Work

SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS

Please apply in person at the restaurant.

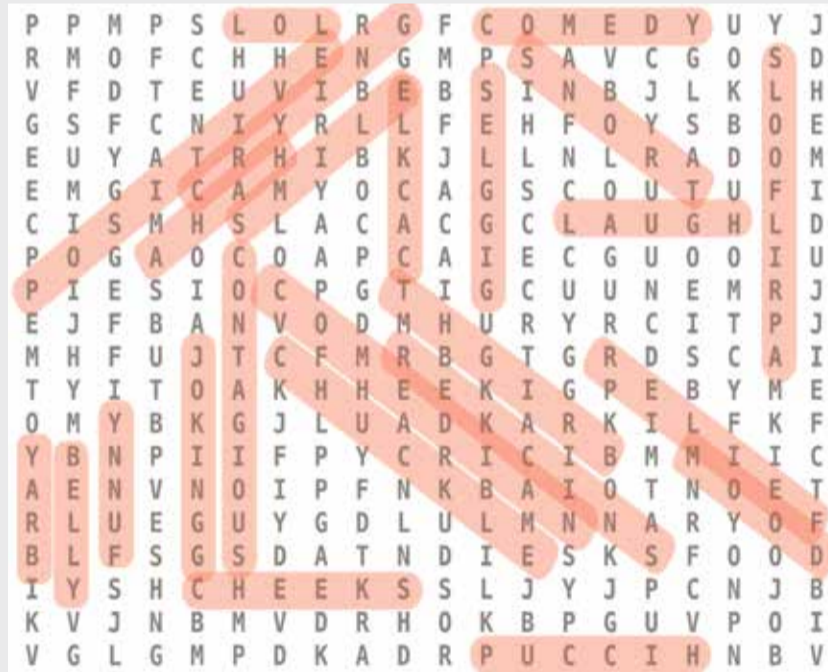


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Whitecourt, AB

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Whitecourt, AB

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WORD SEARCH



CROSSWORDS



SUDOKU

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

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