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The Press

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Vol. 13 - Issue 17 | Wednesday, April 24, 2024

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Premier Smith - Provincial Priorities Act aims to have Alberta be treated "just like Quebec"



Premier Smith on the Alberta Update program. See story page 2.

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Premier Smith - Provincial Priorities Act aims to have Alberta be treated “just like Quebec”



Minister of Municipal Affairs Rick McIver.



Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta

A new bill in the provincial legislature is stirring some pots. Bill 18, the Provincial Priorities Act, aims to align federal funding with provincial priorities, requiring provincial entities like municipalities to get approval from the Alberta government before signing on the dotted line for federal dollars.

By Serena Lapointe

On April 10, Premier Danielle Smith introduced Bill 18, the Provincial Priorities Act, in the legislature. This act would require provincial entities to obtain a rubber stamp from Alberta’s govern-

ment before signing, changing, extending, or renewing any agreement with the Federal Government.

“People shouldn’t be surprised by this because I said right from the beginning that I wanted our prov-

ince to be treated just like Quebec. I discovered that Quebec has a piece of legislation that forces the federal government to stay in its own lane, particularly when it comes to signing deals with municipalities. The feder-

al government is compelled to partner with the provincial government so they can get fair arrangements,” explained Premier Danielle Smith during a press conference.

The Ministère du Conseil Exécutif (Min-

ister of the Executive Council) governs the approval and authorization process in Quebec, specifically for intergovernmental agreements between them and any other governments in Canada, including the Fed-

eral Government. Premier Danielle Smith said Bill 18 would give Alberta similar powers that Quebec has over how federal funding is used and under what restrictions or require-

continued on page 3

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WOODLANDS COUNTY

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

Bylaw 612-24 Procedures Bylaw was adopted and outlines procedures for Council and Committee meetings ensuring clear and functional governance. New to Woodlands County is a Public Input Session during the Governance and Priorities Committee meeting offering the public

an opportunity to speak to members of Council. Individuals wishing to speak during the Public Input Session are encouraged to register through the CAO’s office, though walk-in speakers are welcome if the allotted 15-minute time has not been exhausted by the registered speakers.

Woodlands County is providing a letter of support to Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors Devin Dreeshen requesting the Province to increase awareness and support for local and regional airports in Alberta. Following an RMA municipal working group meeting, the following

key areas were identified as opportunities to support local and regional airports:

- Increase in Provincial contributions to the Community Airport Program (CAP) to support both maintenance and expansion of airport development.
- Increase the scope

and eligibility of projects under CAP.

- Increase support and collaboration with the province to enhance the prominence of local and regional airports.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Governance and Priorities – Wednesday, April 17, 5:00 pm

- Regular Council – Wednesday, April 24, 9:30 am

Meetings are held in-person at the Municipal Office in Whitecourt and streamed on the Woodlands County YouTube channel. Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County CivicWeb Portal.



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CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD 2023 NORTHERN ALBERTA 13 YEAR

continued from page 2

ments, if any, it is given.

“We just saw a dramatic example of why this matters so much. In Quebec, they signed a one time, nine hundred-million-dollar housing accelerator agreement which allows for Quebec to treat all of its municipalities fairly and ensure that the money is going to the municipalities who need it most.” She said Alberta’s rollout was much different. “They’ve been flying in announcing one-time agreements, putting onerous restrictions on our municipalities, pitting urban against rural and one municipality against the other and massively shortchanging our province on what we’re entitled to on a per capita basis,” explained Premier Smith.

She said one of the fixes is treating the provinces like their French neighbour, where the provincial government governs

how and where money is divided, not the Feds. “Alberta continues to pay more in federal taxes than we get back in federal program spending. It is because of these kinds of unfair deals that they sign, and we are drawing a line. We are saying, you’re not going to do that anymore. If you want to have a cooperative federalism, treat us just like Quebec.”

If Bill 18 passes, agreements between the federal government and provincial entities, like municipalities, that don’t have provincial approval would be denied. However, Premier Smith did say it wouldn’t be retroactive, meaning agreements already signed. “We think this is the way that we can make sure that all of our municipalities get the funding that they need in order to fund a growing population,” she said.

Rick McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs, agreed. “Two,

three weeks ago, the Federal Housing Minister rolled into Edmonton and committed \$175 million, which is fine that they’re helping with housing, but while demanding a whole bunch of changes to their land use bylaws that the minister has no right to do. They’re way out of their lane trying to change municipal rules around land use and planning. Constitutionally, it’s one hundred percent provincial jurisdiction.”

Municipalities are listed under the Exclusive Powers of Provincial Legislatures in the Canadian Constitution (ss. 92, 92a, and 93 of the Constitution Acts 1867 to 1982), as are hospitals, property rights, and the management and sale of provincial public lands and natural resources. The Constitution lays out where the federal and provincial governments hold rank or where they share powers. For municipalities, the rank is held solely by the province.

Bill 18 would prevent the duplication of taxpayer-paid programs, such as dental care, by allowing the focus to be on expanding existing provincial programs. The legislation would also support the Alberta government in accessing a “fair share” of road, housing, and infrastructure funding. Last summer, the province only received 2.5 percent of the \$1.5 billion in federal housing funding despite being home to 12 percent of the country’s population and having the fastest-growing population (www.alberta.ca).

When questioned about Alberta’s plans at a press conference, Prime Minister Trudeau commented that Canadians essentially want money without caring much about whose responsibility it is. “They just want it to get done, and that’s why we are there to work hand in hand in full respect with those provinces who want to solve

the problem and ask those provinces that don’t want to solve the problem to just get out of the way while we solve that problem that Canadians are facing.”

Premier Smith said the bill was a “mechanism” to bring federal and provincial dollars to the table at the same time to support municipalities better. She noted that of the roughly 14,000 existing agreements in the province, only about 800 have been flagged as “problematic.” It was pointed out that most of those issues were related to minor problems, such as the placement of Canada Post mailboxes or Canada Day funding.

If Bill 18 is passed in the legislature, the next step will be to hold summer consultations, with implementation planned for 2025. Concerns were raised by staff and students from several post-secondary institutions over the funding they receive for research. Comprehensive stakeholder engagement will play

a critical role in developing the supporting regulations that will show how the approval process will work and what requirements will be needed while heeding raised concerns from those impacted.

“We’re not a subser-vient government under Canada’s Constitution. We’re a fellow government, and we want the same funding formula as what Quebec gets and has gotten for a long time. We’re not going to sit silently anymore while they treat us terribly and take us for granted,” said Minister McIver. Residents can learn more about the proposed legislation by visiting www.alberta.ca and searching for the “Provincial Priorities Act.”



RCMP ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Whitecourt RCMP arrests prolific property offenders

On April 11, 2024, Whitecourt RCMP were advised of a series of break-ins at a rural oilfield plant on Windfall Road. At the time of the call, RCMP was advised that the suspects were still on site with a rented transport truck. A multi-unit response, including Whitecourt RCMP General Duty and Roving Traffic Unit (RTU), attended the scene. Three offenders were located and arrested in the rented truck by Whitecourt RCMP RTU after they left the scene. The truck contained stolen materials from the plant.

Two other offenders

fled the scene in a pickup truck, driving into the bush until the vehicle was no longer driveable and then fleeing on foot. RCMP set up a containment and got assistance from Alberta RCMP Police Dog Services (PDS) and Alberta Sheriffs’ RAPID response. The suspects were not located at this time but stolen material was located in the box of the pickup.

On April 12, 2024, at approximately 8 a.m., the two remaining suspects were spotted, which resulted in another multi-unit response. Alberta RCMP PDS were able to track and locate the suspects. A male suspect received minor injuries

as a result, which were later treated.

As a result of the investigation, the following individuals were arrested, charged, and brought before a justice of the peace:

- Kyle Ferchuck-Schmutz (36), a resident of Edmonton, was charged with:
- Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000 (x2);
- Possession of unstamped tobacco; and
- Failure to comply with release order (x3).
- Kimberly Anderson (39), a resident of Edmonton, was charged with:
- Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000 (x2);

- Possession of unstamped tobacco; and
- Failure to comply with release order (x4).
- Roger Loyie (55), a resident of Edmonton, was charged with:
- Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000 (x2);
- Possession of unstamped tobacco; and
- Possession of break-in instruments.
- Ashley Ormonde (37), a resident of Parkland County, Alta., was charged with:
- Break and enter;
- Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000;
- Trafficking in property obtained by crime; and

- Laundering proceeds of crime.
- Cory Taylor (43), a resident of Parkland County, was charged with:
- Break and enter;
- Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000;
- Trafficking in property obtained by crime;
- Laundering proceeds of crime;
- Failure to stop; and
- Obstruct police officer.

Ferchuck-Schmutz was remanded into custody, to appear at the Alberta Court of Justice in Stony Plain, Alta., on April 17, 2024. Anderson, Loyie, Ormonde and Taylor were released on conditions by the justice of the peace

and are to appear at the Alberta Court of Justice in Whitecourt on May 14, 2024.

“We would like to thank the local industry for their assistance in this investigation and encourage them to call in all suspicious activity” stated Whitecourt RCMP Acting Detachment Commander Sgt. Matthew Clarke. “I would also like to take the opportunity to highlight the great work done by the various RCMP members and units, including RTU and PDS, as well as the ongoing partnership with the Alberta Sheriffs. We are your Alberta RCMP and will keep working hard in the name of all Albertans.”

After a busy 2023, FireSmart activities are already ramping up in Whitecourt



Photo by Town of Whitecourt

Whitecourt Town Council recently received an update from the Town's FireSmart Coordinator on what activities took place in 2023 and what's planned for 2024. Residents will once again have the chance to get a home assessment done and potentially receive financial help for any updates they do. Pictured is Fire Chief Wynn, FireSmart Coordinator.

By Serena Lapointe

When human development meets the edge of the vast forest, it's referred to as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Communities surrounded by densely treed forests are exposed to the risk of wildfire. Communities nationwide, including much of the province, felt that exposure intensified last summer.

In the WUI, risks come from vegetation (trees, shrubs) and man-made structures like buildings and infrastructure. To help mitigate the risk of living in such a beautiful but highly exposed part of the landscape, FireSmart techniques are becoming increasingly relied upon.

On April 8, at Whitecourt Town Council's regular meeting, Lee Hardman, Director of Community Safety, and Fire Chief Brian Wynn, the FireSmart Coordinator, provid-

ed the FireSmart Annual Report for 2023. In previous years, the department has successfully applied for funding from the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) to hire a summer crew for vegetation work in the community. Last summer, funding wasn't available. Summer crews clear out dead and dying vegetation, clear brush, and reduce the fuels in the forest. Areas around Centennial Park have received attention in the past, as well as the area surrounding Ecole St. Joseph's School.

With no crew last summer, the Whitecourt FireSmart Working Group, which began in 2021, focused heavily on community engagement and education to boost awareness of FireSmart and how it can help keep the municipality safe. The group aims to build a FireSmart culture in

the community that includes schools, industries, government policies, and planning.

One big piece of that education pie came through doing home assessments. Thanks to the Intact Public Entities and Intact Financial Corporation Grant (\$100,000), the department completed more home assessments than in previous years. "We completed 41 home assessments and handed out \$10,500 in home incentives to town residents. That worked extremely well. Obviously, if residents have incentive, they'll go and do the work with a little bit of support or help. I would say that was a huge win for getting community engagement," explained Fire Chief Wynn.

In 2021, they completed six home assessments. In 2022, they completed 38. Along with the 41 assessments done in White-

court last year, the department also did ten in Woodlands County. When asked by Councillor Derek Schlosser how long it takes to complete an assessment, Chief Wynn said it depended on the residence. "We book typically an hour minimum but some of them have been over two hours. We won't do a home assessment unless the owner is home because we want to get that engagement."

Assessments will continue this year, and Chief Wynn said a growing waiting list already exists. "We are waiting on weather to start. We have four or five lined up." Home Assessments are completed with two assessors and offer one-on-one engagement with residents on FireSmart best practices and ideas for lowering their home's risk.

continued on page 5

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:

- Engineering Services for East/West Mountain Road Resurfacing
- Engineering Services for Carlson Drive Drainage Improvement and Asphalt Surface Condition Assessment and Walk Path Redesign

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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Teresa Division 7
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continued from page 4

Also tied to the Intact grant was funding to complete the department's sprinkler trailer. "We already had a lot of the equipment, but the grant program allowed us to purchase a trailer and complete it to an SPU Level 2 Response Trailer. That's probably a quarter million dollars' worth of inventory in that trailer, including the pumps and hose, and over 200 sprinklers, tanks, chainsaws, absolutely everything you need," said Chief Wynn.

"It was already deployed last year, for its first year, to three communities, and it was deployed for 29 days. So, it's definitely a need and a huge success for us to be able to get out and support not only Woodlands County but also Fox Creek, Parkland County, and Edson. It's nice to have those resources and the people trained to go out and do it," he explained.

After a very busy summer with floods, fires and evacuees, the working group held its first BBQ, inviting all emergency services for a bite to eat, including forestry, wildland, RCMP, ambulance, fire department and town staff. About 150 first



The SPU Level 2 Response Trailer.

responders and industry partners attended the September event. "It was a tremendous event," said Chief Wynn.

The goals for 2024 include continuing home assessments and getting the summer crew back in action on April 29, after a year off. FireSmart activities have begun, with work in the bushes beyond the sidewalk along Dahl Drive. The FireSmart Working Group will again focus on community engagement as it continues

building the FireSmart culture in Whitecourt.

Chief Wynn said that, typically, \$400,000 is spent locally each year with grant funding for FireSmart projects. He also said they need to start looking East. "We've received over two million dollars' worth of grant funding over the years. We have treated all out mapped areas for mitigation strategy but with the new study from the University of Alberta they think our biggest threat is coming from the East. We need to

relook at that now and see what we need to do," he explained.

"Is there still going to be an incentive for residents to receive funding to remove certain trees or have assessments?" Councillor Tara Baker questioned. Chief Wynn said yes. "Good. When you see your neighbour getting it done, it creates questions and conversations. If a lot of people did little things and changed something, it would make our community a lot safer," said Councillor Baker. Any-

one interested in having a home assessment done is encouraged to call the fire department.

Following the presentation, Whitecourt Town Council heard about another Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) grant opportunity. One requirement for the grant was that the Council support it in the form of a motion. The grant was for the Community Fireguard Program. If approved, 100% of the project cost would be covered under FRIAA.

"This would be a fire guard within town limits. The benefits of that are that it would reduce the threat of wildfires in our community or the spread of wildfire into the community," explained Hardman. A fireguard's role is to slow a wildfire's movement toward the community with controlled lines like wide paths where fuel (brushes, trees) is removed. If approved, the project would start this summer. Council voted unanimously to put support behind the proposal.

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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.



PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15



SUDOKU

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60				61				62		63		
64				65					66			
67				68					69			

- 68. Greek mythological sorceress
- 69. Fluid suspensions
- 32. By or in itself
- 33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface
- 34. Partner to trick
- 36. British Air Aces
- 37. Ammunition
- 38. Supervises flying
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Flanks
- 43. Millimeters
- 44. Where wrestlers perform
- 46. Not around
- 47. Flightless bird
- 49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
- 50. Expressed concern for
- 51. Satisfies
- 52. Flew off!
- 53. Wings
- 54. Load a ship
- 57. Vigor
- 58. British title
- 59. Whiskeys
- 61. ___ Adams: founding father
- 62. Body of wate

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

You can get your spark back with some help from friends, Aries. You may have been struggling in one form or another, but others can provide the perspective needed.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Taurus, you are a dependable rock and that comes with a lot of responsibility. Sometimes you may feel overwhelmed, and in those instances feel free to delegate some tasks.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Too much joking around may strike a nerve of someone close to you, Gemini. Feel out every situation before you start communicating in such a laid back and jovial way.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

Cancer, like it or not, you have to stand by a promise or a commitment you made to someone, even if you no longer feel like doing so. Once it is finished, you can go your separate ways.

LEO (July 23 - August 23)

Leo, if others have underestimated you or written you off in the past, you will have an opportunity to prove them wrong this week, even if you already know the truth.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 22)

Your keen eye for detail has you pointing out a mistake that may have cost someone a lot of money, Virgo. Your reward could be a promotion or another commendation.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 23)

Making room for your needs right now is challenging as others seem to require all of the attention, Libra. You will have a chance to balance the scales soon enough.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Right now you may be reluctant to commit or comment on an issue that is affecting some in your circle, Scorpio. You can get involved once you dig further and do your own research.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Sagittarius, when you hang out with friends, you may be tempted to spend more than is in your budget at the moment. Set a limit, and perhaps leave your credit cards at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Capricorn, you are ready to move forward, but others in your orbit may be holding you back. Know when to cut loose and do things according to your bigger vision.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 18)

Thinking about all of the things in your life that may not be going to plan could have you feeling down, Aquarius. Flip the perspective and start focusing on the right things.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20)

Pisces, you are known for being a dreamer, but right now you have to come down from the clouds and develop a solid plan of action. There will be time for fanciful ideas later.

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Excessively theatrical actors
- 5. Footwear
- 10. A way to disfigure
- 14. Exchange rate
- 15. Hawaiian wreaths
- 16. North-central Indian city
- 17. Bungle
- 18. Extremely angry
- 19. A short note of what's owed
- 20. Criminal organization
- 22. Mimic
- 23. Try to grab
- 24. U.S.-born individuals
- 27. Some are covert
- 30. Order of the British Empire
- 31. Don't know when yet
- 32. Payment (abbr.)
- 35. Winged angelic being
- 37. Variety of Chinese

- 38. A way to be anxious
- 39. Famed wrestler Hulk
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Slang for sergeant
- 42. Canadian flyers
- 43. Actress Ryan
- 44. Highly unpleasant vapor
- 45. Body part
- 46. Halfway
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Consume
- 49. Salts
- 52. Upper bract of a floret of grass
- 55. Housepet
- 56. Cavalry-sword
- 60. Symbol of a nation
- 61. Frocks
- 63. Used to carry food
- 64. Portuguese folk song
- 65. Sharp mountain ridge
- 66. Ireland
- 67. Where golfers begin

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Mad Men" leading man
- 2. Water (Spanish)
- 3. Annoy
- 4. Bulgarian capital
- 5. Japanese title
- 6. Capital of Zimbabwe
- 7. Giraffe
- 8. A mixture of substances
- 9. Midway between south and southeast
- 10. Staffs
- 11. Turkish title
- 12. Type of acid
- 13. Thin, flat strip of wood
- 21. Russian river
- 23. Ribonucleic acid
- 25. Partner to flow
- 26. Airborne (abbr.)
- 27. Earthy pigment
- 28. Genus of earless seals
- 29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman

LAWN & GARDEN WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- AMEND
- BLOOMING
- BORDER
- COMPOST
- CUT
- DRAINAGE
- DROUGHT
- EDGE
- FERTILIZE
- GARDEN
- GREEN
- HEALTHY
- INSECTS
- LANDSCAPING
- LAWN
- MOSSY
- MULCH
- POLLINATOR
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SILVER Pre-1968 silver coins, rolls, bags or boxes, Royal Can. Mint sets, silver bars.

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No one should face cancer alone - Wellspring highlights available supports in Whitecourt

Wellspring Alberta, a leading organization dedicated to transforming cancer care across the province, is in Whitecourt to showcase their programming that supports Albertans with cancer in their local communities. Wellspring provides robust mental health, wellness, and community supports to the 1 in 2 Albertans who will be diagnosed with cancer and their loved ones.

"Our mission is to ensure that no one faces cancer alone," said Natalie Noble, CEO of Wellspring. "Wellspring is dedicated to filling the critical gap in mental health and wellness support for Albertans affected by cancer."

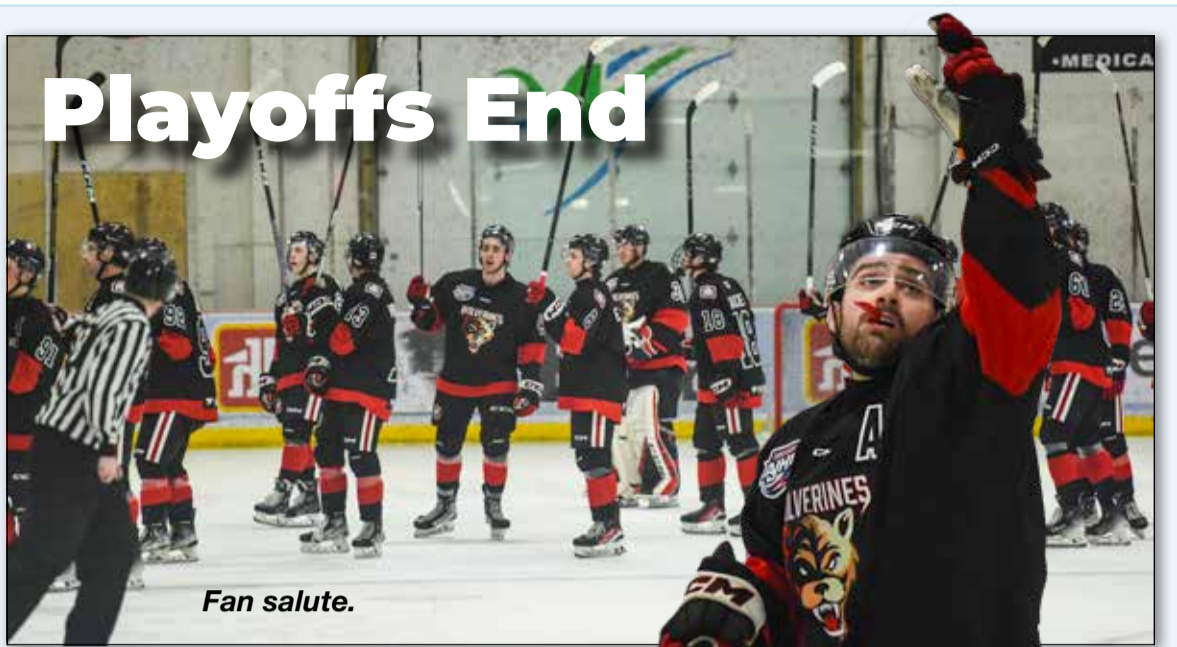
Wellspring's stop in Whitecourt is part of their tour across Alberta, highlighting the ways Wellspring partners with local healthcare and community organizations to make cancer support services accessible in every corner of the province. Their diverse programs, tailored for specific community needs, include peer support groups, nutrition and financial support work-

shops, yoga, meditation, and art therapy.

Unlike conventional healthcare services focused primarily on medical treatment, Wellspring fills a crucial niche by providing a wide range of programs and services designed to support the emotional, mental, and social well-being of individuals and families affected by cancer. Wellspring is the only organization in Alberta dedicated to offering mental health and wellness support for those affected by cancer.

"In rural communities, accessing cancer treatment and support services can present significant challenges," said Rebecca Perkins, Wellspring's Outreach Manager. "Our tour across Alberta reflects our commitment to building a future where every Albertan, regardless of their location, has the support needed to navigate their cancer journey with dignity and strength."

For more information about Wellspring Alberta and its tour across Alberta, visit wellspringalberta.ca or contact nicoleb@wellspringalberta.ca.

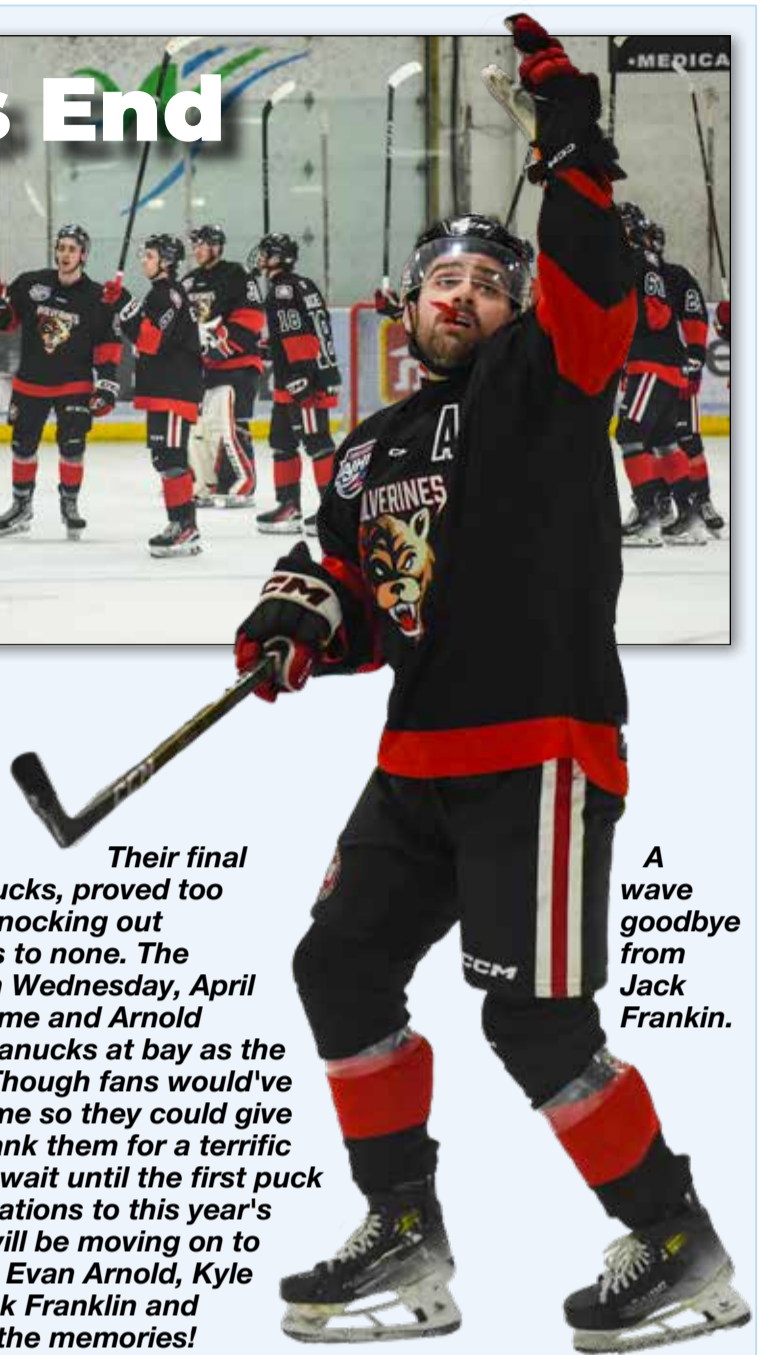


Playoffs End

Fan salute.

That's a wrap, folks. After a hard-fought season full of great hockey, the Whitecourt Wolverines have officially been knocked out of the running in the AJHL Playoffs. Their final competition, the Calgary Canucks, proved too mighty a mountain to climb, knocking out Whitecourt's team four games to none. The final nail in the coffin came on Wednesday, April 17. Two big goals from Rheaume and Arnold weren't enough to keep the Canucks at bay as the southern team took the win. Though fans would've preferred the loss to be at home so they could give their team a big cheer and thank them for a terrific season, they will now have to wait until the first puck drop in September. Congratulations to this year's graduating Wolverines, who will be moving on to new adventures: Dylan Leslie, Evan Arnold, Kyle Venneman, Ben Charette, Jack Franklin and Colby Browne. Thank you for the memories!

A wave goodbye from Jack Franklin.







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.

<u>Dates and Locations</u>	<u>Companies Attending</u>
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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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

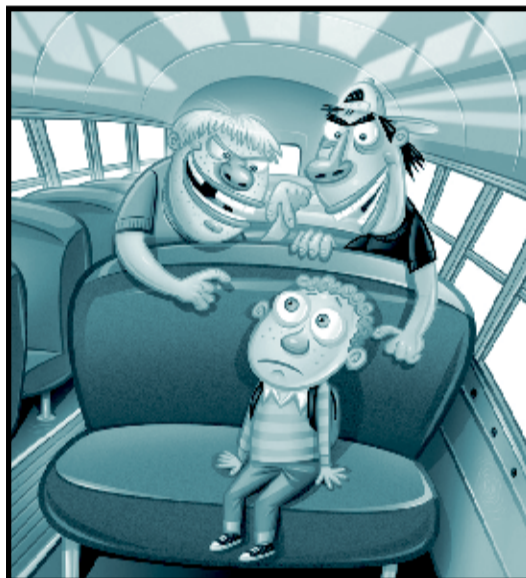


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.
Let that sink in.



Are you or someone you know being bullied?

Call the Bullying Helpline (Confidential)

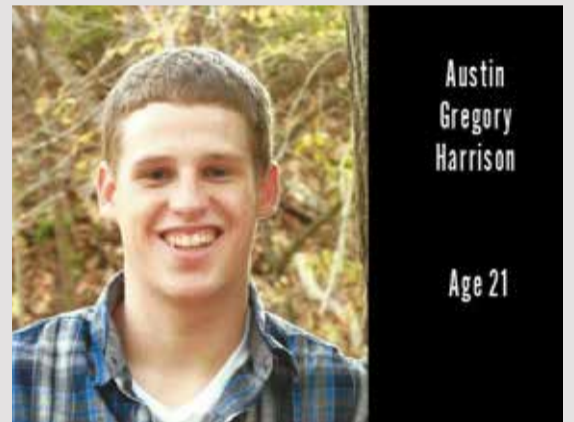


Toll Free, open 24 hours per day, seven days per week

1-888-456-2323

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

Putting a face on suicide



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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Another swallow? Core inflation moving in the right direction

By Mark Parsons
ATB ECONOMICS

Last Wednesday, Tiff Macklem said the Bank of Canada is getting more confident inflation is heading in the right direction.

They just want to see more data to be convinced. Or in the words of Governor Macklem, "We're seeing what we need to see. We just need to see it for longer".

In other words, one swallow doesn't make a summer, but maybe a couple more could.

Less than a week later, we now have another month of data, and it looks pretty good overall. Yes, the headline annual inflation rate rose from 2.8% in February to 2.9% in March. But that was expected because of higher gasoline prices. Consumer prices excluding gasoline decelerated 0.1 points to 2.8% year-



over-year (y/y).

The real progress came from trend or core inflation, which strips out some of the more volatile movements.

The trim measure of core prices eased 0.1 points to 3.1% y/y and the median measure dipped 0.2 points to 2.8% y/y. More importantly, annualized changes in the 3-month moving average, which

strips out base year effects, are below 2% for both measures.

Shelter remains the key source of inflation, rising +6.5% y/y. Mortgage interest costs remain a big driver, adding nearly a percentage point to headline inflation (excluding mortgage costs CPI inflation was 2%). This effect will dissipate as rates shift lower. Rent inflation

(+8.5% y/y) remains high and will likely prove more durable due to ongoing housing supply issues.

Food prices are very elevated, but they continue to rise at a slower annual rate. In March, the increase was 3.0% y/y.

So the burning question - is this enough to cut in June? On its own, probably not. But we do get another

inflation print next month, and that could be the deciding factor. Either way, we are getting close.

We still think that the easing core inflation trend (if it holds), along with recent cracks in the labour market, would be enough for the Bank of Canada to justify rate cuts in June. But we wouldn't be surprised if the Bank waits to cut in July to buy more time (and gather more data) and announce alongside a new set of projections.

In Alberta, the annual inflation rate eased from 4.2% to 3.5%, but remained above the national average due to faster growing energy prices.

Electricity prices continued to put upward pressure on headline inflation in Alberta, although the impact is fading. The 26% y/y

increase was entirely due to base period effects, as \$25 rebates and a rate cap of 13.5 cents kw/h were in place in March 2023. On a month-over-month basis, electricity prices have declined the last three months, and should soon start subtracting from the annual inflation rate.

Gasoline prices (up 10.4% y/y) added more to annual inflation in Alberta than nationally (up 4.5% y/y), with the partial reinstatement of the fuel tax starting January 1 likely a contributing factor. Natural gas prices fell between February and March, but remained 11% higher than a year ago due to low prices in March 2023.

Excluding energy and food prices, Alberta's annual core inflation rate was 2.5% - below the national rate of 2.9%.

Frank Alexander Benko

September 24, 1935 – March 10, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our father, Frank Alexander Benko. Frank passed away peacefully in his home, on March 10, 2024.

Frank was born on September 24, 1935, to Mike and Elizabeth Benko. Frank was born and raised on a farm in Punnichy Saskatchewan, alongside his eight siblings, where they learned to work hard, and appreciate the benefits of farm living, and his mothers wonderful cooking.

Frank completed high school in Wilcox Saskatchewan at Notre Dame High School, after which he set out in search of full-time work. Frank spent time in California working, before moving into his lifelong career with CN Rail, as a station operator in Saskatchewan, Ontario, Manitoba, and finally Whitecourt, where he and his family settled, and he eventually retired after 30+ years with CN Rail.

Frank was a proud and sometimes stubborn man, a man of great faith, compassion and generosity toward his friends, family, and others in need. Frank was an active member of his church and for many years volunteered his time with the Knights of Columbus. Frank could often be found out riding his bike or walking the path down at rotary park, greeting everyone as they passed by.

Frank is survived by his eldest son Michael (Michelle) Benko, his daughter Cynthia (Jace) Law, and his youngest son Patrick Benko, six grandchildren: Danika (Garrett) Peterson, Taylor (Brendan) Lamb, Kelsey (Devin) Law, Amanda (Matt) Brevner, Ryan Law, and Rebecca Benko, and two great-grandchildren, Calvin and Arthur Peterson. Frank was extremely proud of all his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, he found much joy being surrounded by pictures of his family and sharing the many stories and cherished memories he had of them.

Additionally, Frank will be deeply missed by his siblings: Irene (Vern) Merk, Helen Osborne, Gordon (Sharon) Benko. Together, they shared a lifetime of memories, laughter, and love.

He was predeceased by his siblings Margaret, Max, Julius, Gabriel, and Agnes, but their memories remained dear to his heart.

Funeral Service will be held on: **Tuesday, April 30th** at **St. Joseph Parish Whitecourt, AB** at **2:00 PM**, with a coffee/tea service provided after.

An interment service with the immediate family, will be held at a later date.



Career ads, online at:
www.whitecourtpress.com



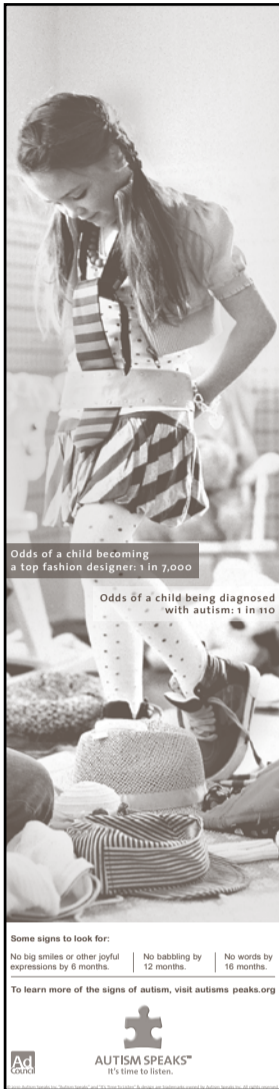
Congratulations were in order for Central School's 5Clarke for winning last week's Education Week trivia challenge. McDonald's had been kind enough to provide free ice cream cones to the winners. Last week's question had been "What was one place you could go to after school, other than home or a friend's house, if you needed an adult to look after you?" The question had received many answers! The before and after school support from all the great community partners was greatly appreciated.



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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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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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.

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FORAGE SEED FOR SALE: Organic & conventional: Sweet Clover, Alfalfa, Red Clover, Smooth Brome, Meadow Brome,

Crested Wheatgrass, Timothy, etc. Star City, SK. Birch Rose Acres Ltd. 306-921-9942.

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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COLLECTOR/ ENTREPRENEUR PURCHASING COINS & COLLECTIONS! CASH PAID! ROYAL CANADIAN MINT COINS, collections, rare & old coins, silver & gold coins, jewelry, nuggets, bullion, sterling, gold & silver! 250-864-3521.



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Evolution Foot and Ankle Clinic

www.bensefcikdpm.com

A look at the local weather

	Wed., April 24	Thu., April 25	Fri., April 26	Sat., April 27	Sun., April 28
P.O.P.	Mix of sun and clouds	Light rain	Mix of sun and clouds	Mix of sun and clouds	Mix of sun and clouds
High	30%	70%	20%	30%	30%
Low	15°C	11°C	13°C	14°C	14°C
Wind	3°C	1°C	1°C	2°C	2°C
24-Hr Rain / Snow	NE 11 km/h 2-4mm	NW 20 km/h 2-4mm	NW 9 km/h -	S 12 km/h -	NW 14 km/h <1mm



CANADIAN Kids Corner



What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. Dog rolling in grass 2. Flower in blue flower pot 3. Missing plant on cart 4. Tree has an extra branch

CANADA



HISTORY

1966

THE CBC BECOMES THE FIRST CANADIAN TELEVISION NETWORK TO BROADCAST IN COLOUR, FOLLOWED WITHIN DAYS BY THE CTV TELEVISION NETWORK.



THIS COMMON OUTDOOR PLANT CAN HELP PREVENT SOIL EROSION, MAKE A HOME LOOK NICE, AND CLEAN THE AIR.

ANSWER: GRASS



LAWN

an area of short, mown grass in a yard

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Mow

SPANISH: Cortar

ITALIAN: Falciare

FRENCH: Tondre

GERMAN: Mähen



CENTRE COURT AT WIMBLEDON IN ENGLAND IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE LAWN IN THE WORLD. THIS TENNIS COURT REQUIRES A LOT OF UPKEEP.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: GARDEN GNOME

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 0.7247 (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of April 24, 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.

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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or visit your community newspaper



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canfor's Forestry Plans Virtual Open House

This spring, Canfor will be holding a virtual open house on May 9th & 10th, to view our operating plans for the upcoming year. The general public and stakeholders have the opportunity to review our planned forestry activities in road development, harvesting, reforestation and herbicide treatment for the 2024-2025 forestry year. Public stakeholder input is gathered and utilized to influence operations where site specific concerns are identified such as trails, camping areas, recreational areas etc.

Please visit us at <https://www.canforforestmanagement.ca/whitecourt> to view a variety of maps available for all areas in which we operate and provide your input. We would appreciate all comments and concerns that you may have.

For more information, contact:

Cynthia Labrecque
Cynthia.Labrecque@canfor.com

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Celebrate



The Class of 2024

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!



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.

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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.
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Whitecourt Town Council updates

Whitecourt welcomes new Director of Infrastructure

The Town of Whitecourt is proud to announce the appointment of Drew Hadfield as the new Director of Infrastructure.

For Drew, this will be a return to our community. Drew previously worked for the Town of Whitecourt (between 1997 and 2006) in supporting the development and engineering functions of the community before heading to BC. Since that time, he

has worked with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Comox Valley Regional District and, for the past 14 years, with the City of Campbell River as the Director of Operations.

"I am excited to be returning to Whitecourt in this role," said Drew Hadfield. "The community has grown significantly since I left in 2006, and I look forward to supporting the Town operations in this continued growth."

As the Director of Infrastructure, Mr.

Hadfield will oversee public works operations; fleet maintenance; infrastructure and road maintenance operations; utilities operations; engineering services; parks and open spaces maintenance; and, the Whitecourt Cemetery.

"Drew brings a wealth of experience in municipal operations and infrastructure services," added Peter Smyl, Chief Administrative Officer. "I look forward to working with him as part of our senior management team."



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Fire Ban

Looking to have a campfire? It'll have to wait.



The sign outside the forestry building downtown shows high wildfire danger.

Not a surprise for most, but on Friday, April 19, at 9 am, the Town of Whitecourt issued a fire ban for the community. The current lack of precipitation in the forecast, warm temperatures and windy conditions likely led to the decision. The fire ban includes all open burning, fireworks, flame-propelled floating lanterns, charcoal briquettes, turkey fryers and tiki torches. The ban also includes backyard and campground fire pits, and all existing fire permits are suspended until conditions improve. As a reminder, the use of off-highway vehicles is prohibited within the Town (Traffic Bylaw 1573) between April 1 and November 30. Electric/propane meat smokers, propane/natural gas fire pits, CSA or ULC-approved/certified wood pellet smokers or catalytic/infrared-style heaters are still allowed. Anyone with questions is urged to call the Town of Whitecourt. With several fires in the region already this month, including one 12km north of Blue Ridge, now classified as extinguished, it's better to be safe than sorry.

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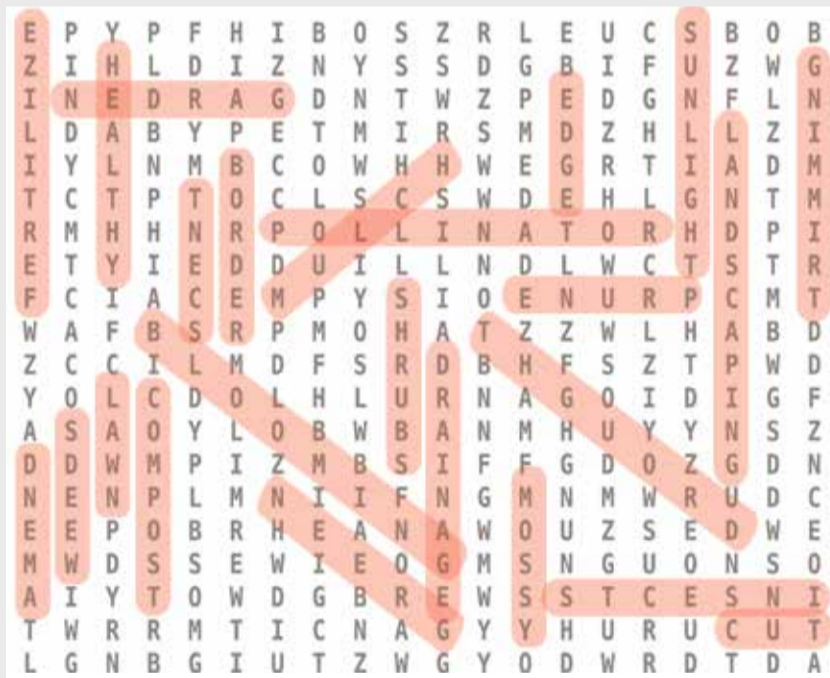


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1	4	7	8	6	9	2	5	3
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