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Vol. 13 - Issue 14 | Wednesday, April 3, 2024



Wolverines split first two games of their second-round playoff matchup against the Canmore Eagles



By Serena Lapointe

RE/MAX

The second round of the AJHL playoffs kicked off last week, with the Whitecourt Wolverines taking on their next opponent,

the Canmore Eagles. Following a 4-1 series win against the Camrose Kodiaks in the first round, the local fan base was excited to get the second round under-

way, as they cheered extra loud on Friday night at JDA Place.

The Athabasca arena was packed for game

continued on page 14

Patrick Carew Just a phone call 780-778-0053 away from your

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selling needs.

Whitecourt facilities and programs looking in tip-top shape following annual report

By Serena Lapointe

Whitecourt Town Council recently received an annual report from the Community Services department, giving a snapshot of

2023. The report detailed usage data and maintenance completed at town facilities such as the arena, AJMC, and food bank, as well as ser-

vices like transit and programming, paring last year to the previous year. Department Director Chel-

continued on page 4





Arena usage jumped over 300 hours thanks in large part to Whitecourt Minor Hockey tournaments and extended seasons.



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Girls Hockey Tournament



Eleven U9/U11 female players from Whitecourt Minor Hockey and three from Fox Creek recently participated in the first all-female U9 Rouge Tournament in Edson. The girls made new friends and memories and developed their skills further through the experience. They played against four teams, Edson, Spruce Grove, Edmonton and Barrhead, and won every single contest. The group is already looking forward to playing in next year's tournament. Great job, girls!



The girls with Coach Teagan Halbert.



Locker room cheeeese!

Population growth in Canada and Alberta % change, year-over-year Canada Alberta 3 2 Jan 1 Jan 1 Jan 1 Jan 1 Jan 1 2015 2016 2017 2018 Statistics Canada Table 17-10-0009-01 and ATB Economics

Alberta continues to lead all provinces in population growth

By Rob Roach, ATB ECONOMICS

Annual growth remains red hot

added Alberta 202,324 residents roughly the population of two Red Deers—between January 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024 for a growth rate of 4.4%. You have to go back to 1981 to find a higher

pace of annual growth. That 4.4% was also the highest of any province and well above the national rate of 3.2% the highest it has been since 1957.

Just under two-thirds of Alberta's growth since January 2023 came from net international migration with net interprovincial migration accounting for 27% of new residents

continued on page 3

COMMUNITY NOTICE

ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Each year, CN is required to manage vegetation on its right-of-way. Managing this vegetation contributes to mitigating fire risks and enhances the efficiency of inspection of track infrastructure.

To ensure safe railway operations, the annual vegetation management program will be carried out on CN rail lines in the province of Alberta. A certified applicator (Davey Tree Expert Company Ltd., 1-800-465-6367) will apply herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 24-foot graveled area/ballast). Product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

CN only uses herbicides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the province within which they are applied.

The program is expected to take place from May to October 2024.

Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation for more information or to make an inquiry, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.

CN.CA







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- Clergy / Church and Halls
 Grief Support
 - Assistance with CPP Applications



2024 ANNUAL ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

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

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

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

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

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

Woodlands County reserves the right to assign roadway sections

Deadline for letter of application:

Friday, April 19, 2024

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

Wilma Harris, Infrastructure Services Administrative Assistant Box 60. #1 Woodlands Lane Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3 Telephone: 780-778-8400. Facsimile: 780-778-8402 e-mail: wilma.harris@woodlands.ab.ca

DUST CONTROL

Residents who wish dust control applied adjacent to their property can submit an application to Woodlands County.

Rates for dust control are as follows:

- \$425 + GST for 100 metres
- \$750 + GST for 200 metres
- \$4.25/metre + GST for any dust suppression application over 100 or 200 metres

Application forms and more information about dust control are available at woodlands.ab.ca/p/dust-control.

Please submit an application prior to Wednesday, May 1, 2024:

Application forms are also available at:

Woodlands County Municipal Office #1 Woodlands Lane Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3 Telephone: 780-778-8400 Fax: 780-778-8402

Woodlands County Regional Municipal Office P.O. Box 33 Fort Assiniboine AB TOG 1A0 Telephone: 780-584-3866 Fax: 780-584-3988

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE WITH DEBIT, VISA, MASTERCARD, CHEQUE OR CASH AT EITHER COUNTY OFFICE







ALAN DEANE



JEREMY WILHELM



BRUCE PRESTIDGE







continued from page 2

(births less deaths) for

Strong gains from non-permanent international residents* continued to be a key driver of population growth in Alberta. Of the 130,870 residents gained from international migration last year, 60% (78,370) were in the non-permanent category.

Ontario was the main source of interprovincial migrants to Alberta. accounting for 42% of Alberta's net gain from the rest of the country

of the total followed by Saskatchewan at 9%. While job opportunities are always a key factor keeping people in Alberta and attracting them to it, the relative affordability of housing has emerged as a driving force with average house prices several hundred thousand dollars higher in B.C. and Ontario than in Alberta.

Quarter-overquarter growth slower, but still strong

Zeroing in on the

population growth in Alberta slowed from 1.3% to 0.9%. Nationally, the growth rate also slowed, going from 1.1% to 0.6%.

Interprovincial migration, which can be quite sensitive to seasonal factors, fell from a net gain of 17,094 for Alberta in the third quarter to 9.913 additional residents in the fourth quarter (-42%). Despite the smaller gain, this was the 10th quarter in a row in which Alberta's popuquarterly losses that marked the period between mid-2015 and mid-2021.

The pace of growth from other countries also slowed, falling from the record high of 39,212 to 31,037 the third highest gain on record—for a drop of 21%. The pullback was much larger at the national level at -42%.

Our latest forecast (which uses the standard July 1 to June 30 period to assess annual population change),

with the result being more moderate population growth in 2024 and 2025 than we saw last year.

Alberta's population gains going forward will, however, still be strong compared to most other parts of Canada and developed economies around the world and, in turn, help drive ongoing economic expansion in the province.

*A non permanent resident is a person from another coun-

last year. British Co- change between the lation grew from inter- sees the slowdown evi- try with a usual place lumbia was the second third and fourth quarter provincial migration, dent in the fourth quar- of residence in Canalargest source at 28% of last year, the pace of a turnaround from the ter of 2023 continuing da who has a work or study permit or who has claimed refugee status. Family members living with work or study permit holders are also included, unless these family members are already Canadian citizens or landed immigrants or permanent residents.



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continued from page 1

sea Grande provided the report to Council during the February 26 regular meeting and was joined by Angie Mitchell, Manager of FCSS and Kelly Sadoway, Manager of Recreation, Arts, and Culture.

Grande kickstarted with a focus on the twin arenas and a big dehumidifier project completed last year. "We needed this addition because our seasons are getting longer and starting up sooner, so we operate a lot in the warm and hot weather. We have a dehumidifier on the McLeod (rink), but this one services the Athabasca (rink). We were getting fog on the glass and drips, which would make it kind of like a curling rink, with little droplets all along the ice. We would have to shave those off which was a lot of ice maintenance without that dehumidifier. It's in now, and it's working well."

The arena also faced power-related issues last year with two power outages, one in October and one in November. Grande

explained that Fortis had placed monitoring equipment in place for two months following the second outage. "We thought there wasn't an issue (anymore) because they didn't see anything. They took it off on a Wednesday, and we had a surge on a Saturday (mid-February 2024). We are still working on it because it does take us down for quite a bit of use. It also wrecks some of our equipment and requires a lot of staff time." Ice time at the arena increased by 300 hours from 2022 to 2023, thanks to several significant events held in the community.

One more extensive project at the arena complex last year was the installation of six hot water boilers and a reconfigured system. "We went to on-demand, and it freed up a lot of space and (improved) the quality of hot water in the arena. You don't have to wait and run the showers forever to get hot water. It was a win for us as well. It freed up a lot of room and is a lot safer in the zamboni room. We have about a meter extra around the



When comparing usage data at town-run facilities from 2022 to 2023, it's evident that residents are back in the swing of things. A recent report from the Community Services Department showed, among other increases, that the arena saw 300 hours of more ice time. Lots of event booked into the AJMC Fieldhouse, like this powerlifting competition.

one wall of space from taking out that system."

Mitchell, FCSS Manager, shared statistics from Senior's Week and was happy to report that attendance had jumped back up since 2022, with 540 taking part last year, compared to only 128 the year before. She said they also held the first intergenerational

bus trip during Senior's Week, which brought youth and seniors to Fort Edmonton Park for a day together. Mitchell said feedback was very positive, with seniors eager to do it again.

The Whitecourt Family Violence Initiative (FVI), which began in 2004 and is a stakeholders group, focuses on reducing the incidence

of family violence through intervention, support, awareness and referral. Trends showed increases in high-conflict child exchanges and custody disputes, property disputes/retrievals, and breaches of No Contact Orders. The RCMP received 273 domestic-related calls last year, and 474 individuals were con-

tacted by the FVI for support; both victims and accused can use this support.

Mitchell said, "We are higher in almost all aspects for family violence," when comparing previous years, but noted that there were successes to recognize. One big one was that

continued on page 5

WOMBANIA

by PETER MARINACCI



continued from page 4

there had been an increase in victims of domestic abuse who were in long-term committed relationships, leaving their partners. The FVI provides a high level of support to victims, with over 350 client referrals made for community and provincial supports last year alone. A recent grant obtained for this year will allow the group to offer more programming and staffing.

Mitchell said the food bank had also registered an increase. "We had a fourteen percent increase from 2022 of clients served in 2023. That does not include any of the evacuees that we had. Those numbers are separate." Mitchell said evacuees received per-

ishable boxes and other options like bagged food, but those numbers did not account for the increase in usage at the food bank. The increase came from the local community.

Ridership in transit rose significantly last year. In 2022, there were 23,193 riders. Last year, over 35 thousand rides were registered on Whitecourt's transit system. "We are seeing a lot more people using transit especially during our peak service hours for getting to school and to work," said Mitchell. An increase was also seen at the Doors Open Youth Program at the AJMC, a free after-school hangout from 3:30 to 5:30 pm for grades 6-12. Last year, staff added a

grade 4/5 program to introduce younger children to the main program.

The Youth Advisory Committee, an appointment-based committee for youth aged 13 to 18, accomplished two big goals. They started their "Here for You" Menstrual Product Campaign, which provided free menstrual products in town-run facilities, including the AJMC and FIC. The second goal accomplished saw them spearhead the movement of two outdoor community bulletin

boards to higher-traffic areas to increase youth communication.

Sadoway, Manager of Recreation, Arts & Culture, then explained how staff at the AJMC are working to find the "magic combo" between complimentary fitness programming and registered ones. "We saw complimentary classes increase in popularity last year, which is nice, but maybe a little bit of a decrease in registered classes. We've seen a bit of an upswing now in 2024. We are continuing to work on finding that balance."

She said that membership revenue for the AJMC increased last year, saying, "It's going in the right direction." Sadoway also said that recreation programming continues to grow in popularity. "It was just amazing last year. We had an increase of over 2,000 people involved in our rec programming, which is awesome." Programming includes things like Community Fun Nights, homeschool programs, and summer programming.

Mayor Tom Pickard

spoke to the state of Town facilities and the staff. "It has been noted on by people from many other communities. Their first impression is the cleanliness and the upkeep of our facilities. That first impression is then followed up with the professionalism of all of our staff." He said the programs offered receive numerous compliments. "This report reflects that. The numbers show that increase and the variety and inclusiveness of our programs is commend-



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

Woodlands County will send a formal request to Alberta Transportation to revert traffic control at Highway and Township Road 620A back to its previous set-up. In 2023, Alberta Transportation resurfaced Highway 661 through Fort Assiniboine. Prior to the resurfacing, there was a stop sign entering the intersection from Township Road 620A. After the resurfacing was completed, the stop sign was relocated to the bottom of the hill on Highway 661 giving the right-ofway to traffic entering the intersection from Township Road 620A which residents in the area consider unsafe.

Following a review of Policy 3203 - Dust Control, dust control rates will remain at \$425 per 100 meters,

\$750 per 200 meters, and \$4.25 for each additional meter.

GeodesyGroup Inc. was awarded the 2024 Orthophotography and Contours project for a value of \$116,000. To reduce costs, Woodlands County is part-

nering with Yellow-head County on the project. Western Star Trucks was awarded the tender for a Tandem Sander/Plow Truck at a value of \$468,090.

Rocky Mountain Equipment was awarded the tender for a Wheel Loader Backhoe at a value of \$213,728.

Finning CAT was awarded the tender for two 140AWD motor graders with a 7-year warranty at a value of \$1,324,000.

The regular Council meeting on Wednesday, April 10, is rescheduled to Monday, April 15, 5:00 pm, due to a scheduling conflict with the EDA Xperience 2024 Leaders' Summit & Conference.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council Monday, April 15, 5:00 pm
- 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 You-Tube channel. Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County CivicWeb Portal.



Eight new planter boxes were installed in the Community Garden.



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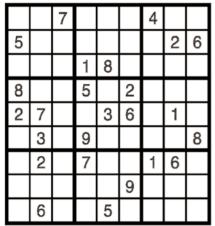
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SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A minute amount (British)
- 5. Mystical or magical
- 11. Shortening
- 14. More satisfying
- 15. Other side
- 18. Philippine island 19. More unnatural
- 21. Mutual savings bank
- 23. Famed designer
- Chanel 24. Makes less wild
- 28. At some prior time
- 29. The cops who investigate the cops
- 30. Immune system response
- 32. Distress signal
- 33. Engine additive
- 35. "No Scrubs" trio

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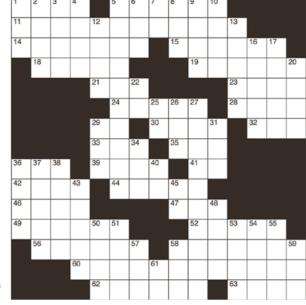
- 36. Very fast airplane
- 39. A reward (archaic)
- 41. Commercial
- 42. Spots where golfers start
- 44. Polite form of address (Indian)
- 46. French river
- 47. Reduce the light
- 49. Blood-sucking fly
- 52. A way to categorize
- 56. Procrastinates
- 58. Tall slender tower 60. Where researchers
- work 62. Office of the Pope

63. Office furnishing **CLUES DOWN**

1. Possesses

Т

2. American Board of Orthopedic Surgery



- 3. Ancient Syrian city
- 4. Clip
- 5. In a way, misleads
- 6. Human gene
- 7. The Golden State (abbr.)
- 8. Lizard genus
- 9. Parasites that invade the skin
- 10. Took apart
- 12. Mild yellow Dutch
- cheese 13. S. California town
- 16. Suffix plural
- 17. Painting technique
- 20. Small Eurasian deer
- 22. Mr. T character
- 25. Microsoft
- 26. Shock therapy
- 27. Able to be sold
- 29. A doctrine 31. These three follow A
- 34. Pulse

CAR CARE WORD SEARCH

36. Quantitative fact

- 37. Doctor __: children's book author
- 38. Hebrew calendar month
- 40. Designated hitter
- 43. Norther Poland village
- 45. A passport is one form
- 48. Hand (Spanish)
- 50. Hit with the open hand
- 51. Actor Idris
- 53. Shakespeare's
- nickname "The
- 54. Northern U.S. lake
- 55. Marvin and Horsley are two
- 57. Soak
- 58. Partner to cheese

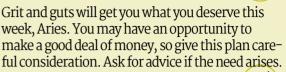
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- 59. Expression of
- disappointment
- 61. College dorm employee

CROSSWORDS HOROSCOPE

(March 21 - April 20)



TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, there has been change in your life and you may want to blame the stars. Things will move out of your comfort zone and you will have to sharpen your ability to adapt.

(May 22 - June 21)



Gemini, you may be questioning the relationships in your life at the time being, but don't worry too much. If you hit a rough patch, things will clear up in a few days.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



A big shift in your perception and attitude will bring new components to your life that you may not have anticipated. This week you'll certainly have a few eyes-wide-open moments.

(July 23 - August 23)

There will be no hiding out this week, Leo. You will soon learn that things will come your way at a rapid pace. Do your best to keep up, mighty Lion, as it's bound to be exciting.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Virgo, you might be willing to throw caution to the wind and get away on a moment's notice. There are affordable ways to do this if you are willing to do your homework.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)

Libra, even though some drama may be swirling in your universe, you find it tolerable because it's coming at you in small portions. Just stay on the sidelines as much as possible.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, if boredom has set in, it's better to look to new experiences instead of doing something rash just for the thrill. See which classes you can take or find new restaurants to explore.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Self-care and healing are what you should focus on right now, Sagittarius. You may have been pushing your needs to the side lately and you need to make this a priority.

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Capricorn, high energy may have you swinging at the fences every time you try to tackle something. You may want to dial things back and take a more measured approach.

(January 21 - February 18)

Try to create some tranquil spaces at home, Aquarius. You can use a haven, especially when a lot of stuff is thrown at you outside your home.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)

Pisces, you may be on a mission this week to get things done. Don't rush in your efforts to complete everything or you are bound to make mistakes that are not easily fixed.

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В

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

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AIR PRESSURE

BELT WORDS **ALTERNATOR ANTIFREEZE**

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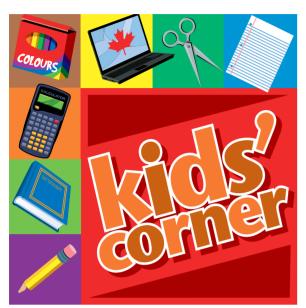
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CANADA

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THE CITY OF SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK IS INCORPORATED.





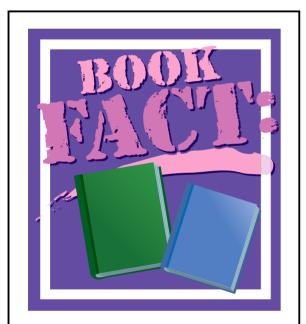
Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	10	2	16
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	15		26
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noitulol



IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS FORM OF LITERATURE CAME BEFORE LANGUAGE ITSELF, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT HAS CLOSE TIES TO MUSIC.

ANSWER: POETRY

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

HRYGNMI DSOWR

oetry Month

грлом Виітуля : чэмгля



METER

the rhythm of a piece of poetry



ENGLISH: Verse

SPANISH: Verso

ITALIAN: Verso

FRENCH: Strophe

GERMAN: Verse







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



WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

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

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.

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



Providing timely and easily accessible financial support for Whitecourt patients and their families who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

This can include help with parking costs for hospital visits, living expenses and unforeseen medical expenses. Applications can be made through the Drs at both Whitecourt Medical Clinics or (office hours, can leave a message):

Kim Nendsa (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) 780-778-0932 Aimee Grierson 780-262-0222

https://wctcancerwellness.com/ **Monthly meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19



Support group on Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:30 pm, starting February 20, 2024 at Crossroads Community Church, 4419 44 Ave, Mayerthorpe. \$35 includes 12 weekly sessions.

Pre-register by calling 780-786-2533.



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

Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre

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

LORNE'S BLANKET

is transitional housing for men.

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

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



24/7 CRISIS LINE 780 .778.6209 1.800.467.4049



FAMILY RESOURCE



@whitecourt_shelter

Shelter:

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

Outreach Support Program:

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

Child Support Program:

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

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

Family Resource & Crisis Centre

www.whitecourtshelter.ca

Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous Group



Meetings are three times each week

- 8:00 pm 9:00 pm Monday
- Wednesday 8:00 pm 9:00 pm
- Friday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

New Women's AA Group on Saturdays @11 am

Located at the United Church Basement 5201 - 50 St

Please Leave a Message for AA member (780)424-5900

or Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322



www.whitecourtpress.com

If your life is in danger or you know someone's life is in danger **DIAL EMERGENCY NOW 911!**

If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, you need to know that you're not alone. You can also call if you are not in crisis, seeking additional information. The new Canada Suicide Prevention Service (CSPS), by Crisis Services Canada, enables callers anywhere in

Canada to access crisis support by phone, in French or English: toll-free 1-833 Available 24/7

Crisis Text Line (Powered by Kids Help Phone) Canada Wide free, 24/7 texting service is accessible immediately to youth anywhere

in Canada by texting TALK to 686868 to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to 68 68 to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/

SMS enabled cell phone. KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under

in Canada 1-800-668-6868 (Online or on the Phone). First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness 24/7 Help Line 1-855-242-3310 **Canadian Indian Residential Schools Crisis** Line 1-866-925-4419

Trans LifeLine — All Ages 1-877-330-6366

Have you been bullied, and want to share your story?

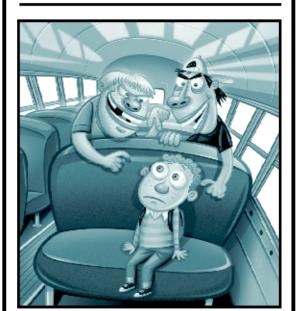
Email wctpress@telus.net All submissions remain confidential





Are you or someone you know being bullied?

Call the Bullying Helpline (Confidential)



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

1-888-456-2323

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

Putting a face on suicide

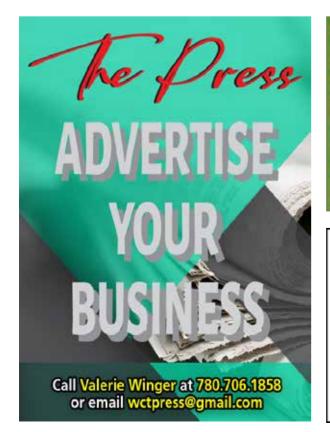


Tiffany Marie Neff

Age 25

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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PUBLIC NOTICE Whiteeou

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The Town of Whitecourt is hosting an Open House that will provide an opportunity for community members and stakeholders to provide final feedback on the Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw and Area Structure Plan documents before they go before Council for a decision on their adoption.

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Location: Allan & Jean Millar Centre Boardroom

Address: 58 Sunset Blvd., Whitecourt

GET INVOLVED....IT'S YOUR TOWN! Opportunity for Public Participation

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

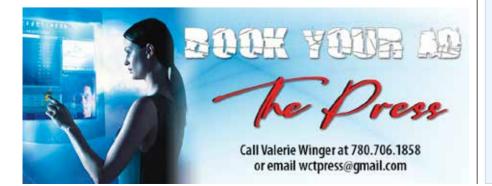
The **Subdivision and Development Appeal Board** currently has openings available for people to serve as part of a quasi-judicial board, to make decisions on appeals of subdivision or development decisions made by the Development Officer or Municipal Planning Commission. The Board meets on an as need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

If you are interested in serving on this Board, please complete an application form which can be found on the Whitecourt website at www.whitecourt.ca or picked up at the Town Office. Applications must be received before 12:00 noon, Wednesday, April 17, 2024 to:

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

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

Applications will be presented to Town Council.



Quilts of Valour



A beautiful handmade masterpiece.



This quilt, recently showcased at the guild's Bright & Beautiful quilt show, was given out.



Six quilt recipients alongside Holly and Tamela.



Tamela Belcourt Pudar and Holly Astill, both members of the Whitecourt Pins & Pine Needles Quilt Guild, represented the guild on Tuesday evening last week as they happily presented a handful of veterans from the Mayerthorpe Legion with quilts to call their own. Guild members created the six quilts as part of Quilts of Valour, a Canadian organization that supports injured Canadian Armed Forces members, past and present, by gifting them beautiful handmade quilts for comfort. Each recipient at the Mayerthorpe Legion posed with their quilt with a big smile, warmly wrapped by the love, care and hours of work that went into making their new favourite blanket.



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.

Visit www.mhilecouripress.com



Buildings For Sale

INTEGRITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS since 2008 BUILT WITH CONCRETE POSTS. Barns, Shops, Riding Arenas, Machine Sheds and more, sales@ integritybuilt.com 1-866-974-7678 www.integritybuilt.com.

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BLANKET THE PROV-INCE 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 EFFI-CIENT CEREAL IN CAN-ADA. 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.

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Trucks, In House Excreta Cleaning. Vac Rental.
1-888-483-8789.

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HIP/KNEE REPLACE-MENT. 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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LENDER. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. Toll free 1-866-405-1228; www. firstandsecondmortgages.ca.

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Warts

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



Dr. Ben Sefcik, DPM Podiatrist

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Airdrie

Apple Wellness Center 229 1 St. SW Airdrie, AB

A look at the local weather

P.O.P. High Low Wind 24-Hr Rain / Snow Wed., April 3
Mix of sun and clouds
20%
6°C
-3°C
W 22 km/h



Fri., April 5
Wet flurries
40%
2°C
-1°C
SE 13 km/h



Sat., April 6
Mainly sunny
20%
5°C
-4°C

SE 14 km/h

濃

Sun., April 7
Mainly sunny
20%
5°C
-5°C
SW 5 km/h

Whitecourt Town Council updates

An application for tree removal at 4420 52 Avenue (vacant property north of No Frills) was issued by Council. The property will be developed with a new commercial retail unit under a separate application. Work on the property is expected to begin shortly.

Council awarded contracts for Biosolids Disposal to Lambourne Environmental Ltd. for a 3-year term, with an option to extend for a further 2-year period. The Street Improvement Program contract for 2024 was awarded to E-Construction. The majority of roadwork will be in residential areas this year.

Administration reported on the status of 125 major maintenance and capital

projects completed or in progress for 2023. A Project List for 2024 will be presented once the 2024 Budget is adopted.

The 2024 Strategic Plan was adopted by Council and is available on the Town website. Top four priorities for the Plan include the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework agreement with Woodlands County, tendering for the Culture & Events Centre, interim documents for the Town's Planning Documents (Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw) and updating cost estimates for Downtown Vitalization.

The Town will be making a submission to the Minister of Municipal Affairs Awards for Municipal Excellence under the category of "Enhancing Community Safety" to recognize the Family Violence Initiative for its work in providing services and supports to prevent family violence/ sexual violence and to promote and foster safe, healthy, equitable relationships. Supports include assisting with court preparations and the New Hope program.

Council also entered into agreements for the provision of fire services with the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and Alexis Land Management Corp. and with the Alexis Hotel Corporation and Alexis Tourism RV Park Corp. The Animal Pound Services contract was awarded to Whitecourt Veterinary Clinic.







Northern Gateway Public Schools were fortunate to have school board trustees who not only visited the schools but also actively engaged with the students. On this particular day, the school board trustees took on the role of students and fully immersed themselves in learning, ranging from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5.



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

Responsibilities:

- Greet customers
- Receive and process payments by cash, cheque, credit card, or automatic debit
- Provide information to customers
- Calculate foreign currency exchange
- Calculate total payments received at end of work shift and reconcile with total sales
- Verify the age of customers when selling lottery tickets, alcohol or tobacco products
- Operate cash register

Qualifications:

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

Contact:

• Eligibility for bonding may be required.

- Process money, cheques, and credit/ debit card payments
- Scan Items
- Tabulate total payment for goods or services required
- Receive payment for goods or services
- Calculate daily/shift payments received and reconcile them with total sales
- Suggestive selling
- Provide excellent customer service
- Assist customers with self-service items
- Participate in promotional activities
- A casino gaming license may be required for cashiers working in gambling casinos.
- Must be able to complete Smart training courses
- Must be able to complete AML

Experience: 2-3 years, or we will train.

Education: Some post-secondary, high school may require. **Terms of Employment:** Permanent full-time 40-hour work week.

Language: English

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

Wage: \$15.00 per hour.

Benefits Package:Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.Location:Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.Address:Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10

Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3 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 = 0.73 US Dollar at an exchange rate of 0.7385 (using nominal rate).



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Dollar Values as of April 3, 2024

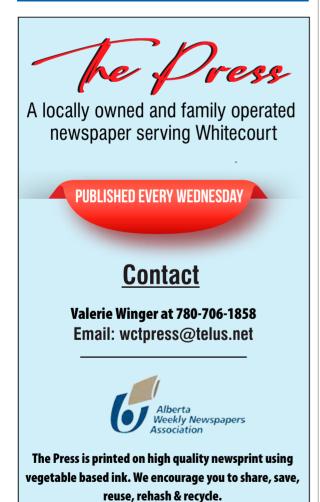
www.whitecourt.ca | facebook.com/TownofWhitecourt | 780-778-2273

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#: 24-021 - Asset Manager/Development Engineer, Permanent, Full-time Position.

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







Where to find extra cash with your name on it

(NC) Many of us are finding it hard to manage the rising costs of living like rent, groceries and other necessities. It may feel like you can't make ends meet, let alone get ahead. But what if there is cash waiting for you?

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) calculates that it has distributed approximately \$1.4 billion in cheques that have not been cashed yet, and one of these could have your name on it. Some of them date back to 1998 – a bit like finding an unclaimed lottery ticket in a drawer or \$20 in your old coat pocket.

In 2020, a grandparent discovered they had over 100 uncashed cheques worth almost \$50,000. As a pension-



er and primary caretaker for their grandchildren the money was very much needed and appreciated. The amount was a combination of many benefits. Make sure you check with the agency for any uncashed cheques you may have on file.

These cheques never

expire, and if you've already signed up for My Account, you should be able to see if you have one right away.

If you haven't signed up for the online account yet you can do it on the CRA website or by calling their general enquiries line at 800-959-8281.

While you're at it,

you may want to sign up for direct deposit to have your money securely deposited into your bank account. That way, you'll never miss a cheque again.

You can find more information on how claim uncashed cheques at canada.ca/ cra-uncashed-cheques.

Martin Long, MLA spring message



By Martin Long Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Tourism MLA

Spring is upon us, but it appears that it may not be time to get the sandals and shorts out just yet. While the transition to spring brings hopes of warmer weather and blossoming nature, it's also important to remain mindful of the potential challenges that come with it, such as the increased risk of forest fires. Every drop of precipitation, whether it's snow or rain, plays a crucial role in replenishing moisture levels and reducing the risk of wildfires.

The West Yellowhead region, like many other areas prone to wildfires. showcases resilience in the face of such challenges. However, it's essential to acknowledge that everyone has their limits, and prolonged exposure to the threat of wildfires can take a toll

on both individuals and communities.

My colleague, Minister Loewen, and myself were able to meet with concerned residents in Shining Bank and Wildwood areas to discuss 2023 fire response, and moving forward, the 2024 fire season. The Minister of Forestry and Parks was able to share important changes and enhancements coming up for

wildfire operations. For example, Budget 2024 plans to invest \$151 million over the next three years into wildfire preparedness, prevention, response. and mitigation, which will enable us to make use of leading-edge technologies in our wildfire response efforts including drones. artificial intelligence, and night-vision technology.

By leveraging these technoloadvanced gies, wildfire response teams can improve their situational awareness, response times. and overall effectiveness in managing wildfires. This proactive approach not only enhances the safety and well-being of communities but also helps to safeguard natural resources and ecosys-

It is encouraging to see such forward-thinking initiatives being prioritized in Budget 2024, and I'm sure these investments will have a positive impact on wildfire preparedness and response efforts across Alberta.

Working within my role as Parliamentary Secretary of Rural Health, I have been meeting with Health Advisory Councils all across Alberta, hearing their concerns, gathering information to support future initiatives to enhance best practices in healthcare. Rural healthcare often faces unique challenges, including issues related to access, resources, and specialized services. By actively lisperspectives of those on the front lines of rural healthcare delivery. we can help ensure that policies and programs are tailored to address these specific challenges effectively.

Minister of Health, Adrianna LaGrange and myself, have been also participating in the largest public consultation process in Alberta history. We have heard loud and clear that health care workers and Albertans want to be involved in every

step of refocusing and we want to ensure that we hear from as many people as possible. We have added an additional 22 in-person engagement sessions, for a total of 66 public engagement sessions.

At the end of February, we were able to announce that if passed, Budget 2024 will allocate \$20 million over three years to advance plans for a stand-alone Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton. We are steadfast in our commitment to ensure children in Edmonton and Northern Alberta continue to receive the world-class care they need, closer to home.

Now that spring has officially arrived, the Easter season is upon tening to the needs and us, which is indeed a time for reflection, gratitude, and celebration. It's a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the blessings in our lives, spend quality time with loved ones, and welcome the renewal and vitality of the spring season. Whether it's through Easter traditions, gatherings with family and friends, or simply taking a moment to appreciate the beauty around us. there's much to cherish and enjoy during this

continued from page 1

one, with 770 fans in the stands, including a group of fans who made the trek up from Canmore. The Eagles placed seventh in the regular season, twenty points below the Whitecourt Wolverines. Friday night's matchup was the first time the two teams met in the playoffs.

Just like in the previous round, fan art was hung around the arena, with a bunch taped to the glass surrounding the door that the Wolverines skate in and out of each period. Support from fans of all ages wishing their team all the best and cheering them on with all their might was also taped up in the stairwell and at the arena entrance. The love for Whitecourt's team was on full display at JDA Place.

From the moment the puck hit the ice, fans and players alike could sense the push coming from both teams. The second round is one step closer to the finals, and no team that's come this

far wants to come only this far. Though no goal was scored in the first, the Wolverines and Eagles exchanged big hits as both teams pushed each other to the edge. Each had a chance on the man advantage for a hooking call, but neither could score.

In the second period, three minutes and forty-five minutes after the halfway mark, fan-favourite Colby Browne, assisted by Jalen Bianchet, rocketed his third of the playoffs behind the Eagles netminder, giving the Wolverines a 1-0 lead. The crowd in JDA Place came alive, raining down cheers on the ice surface below, letting their team know how excited they were to be there.

Browne was a point beast in the regular season, racking up 68 points, nearly double his total from the previous season. So far in these playoffs, he's got five points. Aside from three penalties, one to the Wolverines (Bianchetinterference) and two to

continued on page 15



A frustrated Eagles captain.





The Whitecourt Wolverines and the Canmore Eagles kicked off the second round of the AJHL playoffs on Friday and Saturday night. Both teams showed intensity as they fought hard to take home the win.

EÂGLE RIVER

Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Now Hiring Human Resources Manager

Reports To: General Manager

PURPOSE

A structured Human Resources Manager role is critical to the success of the Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza. The primary purpose of the Human Resources Manager is to provide guidance and coaching on all Human Resources matters to our property.

DUTIES AND REPONSIBILITIES

- Support departments in developing and delivering strategic HR plans that fit with the overall business direction
- Plan, monitor, and appraise HR activities by scheduling management conferences, resolving employee grievances, training managers in how to coach and discipline, and counseling employees and supervisors
- Champion the onboarding process by ensuring that it's high-quality and up to date, and provide clarity and connection
- for employees so their roles serve the overall business vision
- · Maintain management guidelines by preparing, updating, and recommending humanresources policies and procedures
- Build strong relationships with external suppliers, fostering trust and promoting collaboration
- · Handle confidential matters with discretion
- Lead the recruiting function at the property

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- A minimum of 8 years of progress human resources experience in a medium to large organization with experience leading teams and assessing human resources services
- A minimum of 2 years in a senior role in and HR department
- · An affinity for the service sector is essential
- Demonstrated success in HR systems and HR Policy/Practice
- · Experience of negotiation and influencing at senior management levels
- A leadership style that will incite

- enthusiasm, provide vision, create a positive morale, role model standards of professionalism
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills are necessary to support diverse associate population
- Strong facilitation and interpersonal skills are essential
- Ability and willingness to develop presentation as required
- A track record effective human resources decision-making and an "urgency to execute" attitude is essential for the fastpaced environment

EÂGLE RIVER

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

Responsibilities:

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

Qualifications:

- Completion of secondary school is usually required.
- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is

- Perform the same duties as workers supervised
- Assist clients/guests with special needs
- Co-ordinate, assign and review work
- · Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- · Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- · Requisition materials and supplies
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports.
- usually required.
- AGLC casino gaming license will be required.
- Must be able complete Smart training courses
- AML certificate

Experience: 3-5 years.

Completion of secondary school is required, casino gaming license. **Education: Terms of Employment:** Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.

Language:

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

\$23.08 per hour. Wage:

Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, and Health after a 90-day probation period. Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada. Location: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Address:

Canada T7S-1N3. 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

Contact: Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca

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





Verbeek with a great shot attempt.



Posters on the far wall cheered on Whitecourt's team.

NEED HELP? CALL ANYTIME! (24-7)

Mental Health Helpline 1-877-303-2642

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

continued from page 14

the Eagles, the lone goal was the only addition to the scoreboard.

In the third period, things got rougher as the Eagles wanted desperately to tie the game while the Wolverines wanted to pull further ahead. Two minutes and fifty-five minutes in, Wolverine Kaiden Wiltsie scored his first

goal of the playoffs thanks to a wicked feed by Nathaniel Bannister, his fourth assist. Two nothing, Wolverines!

As things continued to escalate, with emotions running high, the Eagles were called for roughing seconds after the period's halfway point. With a chance to get up 3-0, the Wolverines did not miss. Crease troublemaker extraordi-

naire Joey Melo landed his first of the playoffs, assisted by birthday boy Travis Verbeek, who celebrated his twentieth birthday the day before. The fans went wild!

Try as they might, the Eagles fought to get back into the game, but Wolverines goalie Lukas Renaud was locked down tight, and no pucks could pass him. He saved all 36 shots he faced, taking

the shutout with a big smile on his face. The Wolverines had 38 shots in the victory.

Game two against the Eagles and Wolverines came the following night. There were 500 fans in the audience ready to cheer. Early in the first, Spencer Rheaume gave fans a reason to get loud, scoring his third of the playoffs. In the second, the Eagles tied things up just over seven minutes in. Wanting to get the lead back, Rheaume scored his fourth, two minutes later, putting his team back on top, 2-1. Both teams exchanged goals before the period ended making it 3-2.

In the final frame, The Eagles pulled ahead scoring twice in the second half. Unfortunately, the Wolverines couldn't manage to tie things up, taking the loss 4-3. Games three and four will occur in Canmore on April 2 and 3. Game five will be in Whitecourt on Friday, April 6, if needed. Go, Wolverines! Go!

Also in Wolverine news, Connor Ungar, Wolverines goaltender from the 2019/2020 season, recently signed a two-year entry-level contract with the Edmonton Oilers and will report to their AHL affiliate, the Bakersfield Condors. Ungar played nineteen games as a Wolverine, posting a 9-6-3 record, 2.58GAA and a .921SV% before he moved to the WHL. He recently won the OUA Rookie of the Year after a 20-6-0 record in his first season with Brock University. Congratulations, Connor!

HELP WANTED

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

> Food Service Attendant Full Time / Shift Work

Food Service Supervisor Full Time / Shift Work

SHIFT INCENTIVE FOR OVERNIGHTS

Please apply in person at the restaurant.



4331-52 Ave Unit 1 Whitecourt, AB

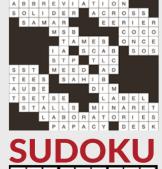
4216 Elko Drive Whitecourt, AB

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

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WORD SEARCH

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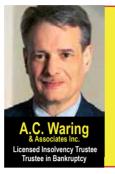












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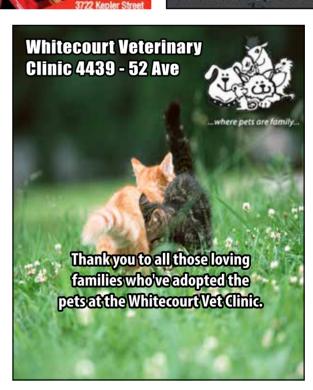
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