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The Press

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Vol. 13 - Issue 21 | Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Whitecourt's photo radar program gave out nearly 4,000 tickets last year



The stats for Whitecourt's Automated Traffic Enforcement program were provided to Council late last month. Starting next month, Whitecourt will switch to a new provider for the program. ATE is used in 30+ rotating locations in town. See the story page 2.

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Whitecourt's photo radar program gave out nearly 4,000 tickets last year

The goal of photo radar is to make community streets safer.



By Serena Lapointe

Municipalities that run Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) programs are required to keep the province and the public aware of how the program functions. Every quarter, each municipality must provide the province's Director of Law Enforcement Standards and Audits at the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services a report on various data points, including the number of vehicles monitored, collisions (based on severity), average daily traffic volume and the hours the ATE vehicle was deployed.

Municipalities must also provide a yearly report showing their ATE program's performance by May 1 each year. The annual report is sent to the Alberta Solicitor General and includes statistical information and revenue. Starting this year, Whitecourt Town Council will receive a presentation from that yearly report. During their April 22 Regular Meeting of Council at the Forest Interpretive Centre, Lee Hardman, Director of Community Safety for the Town of Whitecourt, presented

the 2023 numbers to Council so they could see how the program works in the community.

An ATE program has been active in Whitecourt since 2009. "The program's objective is to facilitate the safe flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic, resulting in safer roadways throughout Whitecourt," explained Hardman. Last year's program was completed by Global Traffic Ltd. Those operating the system are Peace Officers appointed by Alberta's Solicitor General, and all operations are done under the guidance of the local RCMP detachment's Traffic Safety Plan.

Last year, Global Traffic Ltd.'s officers used one truck for their operations in the community, parking it at thirty-four different spots. The truck was deployed for 1,114 hours, and just over 190,000 vehicles were monitored during that time. There were 3,810 speeding notices and thirty-four red light notices, combined for 3,844 total notices last year. There were also 7,150 speeding contraventions and 65 red light contraventions. "The difference between no-

tice and contravention is that notices are actual violations. Those are the tickets that were issued. Contraventions were observed but not ticketed," explained Hardman.

Councillor Braden Lanctot questioned why there was such a large number of contraventions. "Why would we observe and not fine? Can you help me understand the difference, why we have a contravention and a notice, and why we track that?" Hardman explained that there were various reasons why a speeding vehicle would be observed and not be ticketed.

"It could be because of a plate being obscured, license plate covers, or weather-related." He said snow-covered bumpers blocking the license plate could have been a factor or an out-of-focus shot. Hardman said those details are not part of the current reports he receives. "I have requested that report. That's another rationale with the RFD to change vendors," he said.

Next month, the Town of Whitecourt's ATE program will

continued on page 3

PRIME INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR SALE:

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continued from page 2

switch hands, moving from the current contractor, Global Traffic Ltd., to Conduent Enforcement Solutions. "We are currently in the process of finalizing the business rules and liaising with the Crown Prosecutor's office to ensure a smooth transition to services, which is expected in June." Hardman said the new vendor's contract already had it listed that details about observing versus ticketing would be required. "That was already worked into the next contract, that we are to get those reports given to us, which currently we are not getting."

The report showed three locations as the focus of ATE activities in Whitecourt: Stop/Red Light Zones, School Zones, and Speed Zones. The zone with the highest percentage of coverage from the ATE program was the Speed Zone, 85 percent. The Stop/Red Light Zones were next, with eight percent and the

School Zones were last, with seven percent.

When asked by Council why the school zone coverage was low, compared to the speeding zones, like the highway corridor, Hardman said he had already had those conversations with the new contractor. Unlike the current expiring contract, he said the Community Services Department would have direct input each month on the locations used.

When it came to collisions, Council received a three-year chart that displayed the numbers for 2021, 2022, and 2023. Last year, there were 176 collisions, compared to 183 in 2022 and 173 in 2021. There were no collision-based fatalities in 2021 or 2023, but 2022 had three. The chart detailing collision-based injuries showed that in 2021, there were 13, which grew to 22 in 2022 and to 23 last year.

"Most collisions in Whitecourt fall under the Property Damage-Reportable category. This is basically



Safe streets for pedestrians and motorists.

anything over \$2,000 in damage. That number has increased since January 1 of this year, up to \$5,000 now," said Hardman. The RCMP's five categories to classify collisions are Fatal, Non-Fatal Injury, Property Damage-Reportable, Property-Damage-Non-Reportable and Failure to Stop or Remain at the Scene.

There were 113 collisions classified as Property Damage-Reportable last year. In

2022, there were slightly more, with 119. In 2021, there were 103. All three years on the chart showed this category as the highest. The second-highest classification for collisions last year was Non-Fatal Injury, with twenty-three. Property Damage-Non-Reportable was next with twenty-two.

In 2023, Whitecourt's ATE program earned \$202,872. "Revenue is not the intent of the program. Funds from

the ATE program are allocated to community initiatives such as the RISK Program and to enhance crime prevention," explained Hardman. The RISK Program gives high school students an up-close look at a realistically created vehicle crash scene, hammering the importance of being smart behind the wheel.

Based on the vision for the ATE program, of making it safer for

vehicle and pedestrian traffic on Whitecourt streets, the report concluded that "we are on the trajectory of achieving this vision and have seen a downturn in the number of fatalities and a slight decrease in average collisions." The report also stated that Whitecourt's Community Safety Department "remains strong, with a commitment to keeping our streets and sidewalks safe for traffic and pedestrians."

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2.24 Acres - Land downtown Whitecourt, situated between Microtel Hotel and Holiday Inn, Zoned C1/C2 Downtown Commercial & Service Commercial.

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Whitecourt Town Council updates

Whitecourt Town Council has declared June 3-8, 2024, as Seniors' Week. A variety of activities are planned during the week to celebrate our local seniors. For details visit our website.

The entertainment lineup for the 2024 Party in The Park has been announced! For details on performances, activities and vendors scheduled for June 14 & 15, visit www.whitecourt.ca.

A portion of Sunset Boulevard will be closed on June 1 from 7:45 to 11:00am for the Run 4 Fun event. Registration for the event is open, and details can be found on our website.

A Pride Celebration and BBQ event, hosted in partnership with Pembina, BGC of Whitecourt & District, Whitecourt & District Library and the Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society, is scheduled on June

7 at Festival Park. The event will include crafts and activities to celebrate the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Whitecourt.

Tickets for the 2024 Whitecourt Children's Fest are available to purchase at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. The two-day event, which is scheduled for May 25 and 26, will include a variety of activities, workshops and performances geared towards children 12 and under.

Whitecourt Town Council has approved the development permit application for the Culture & Events Centre.

The proposed development is located in a Direct Control District where the Council is the Development Authority.

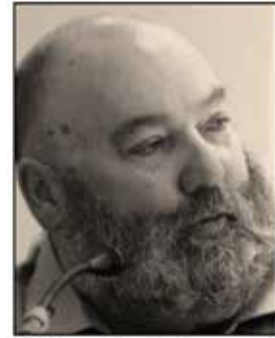
A portion of 47 Street and Flats Road will be closed from 9:00am to 3:00pm on August 25 to accommodate a 5km Bubble.

Run hosted by Anytime Fitness. Details on the closures will be published closer to the event date. Run hosted by Anytime Fitness.

The August Whitecourt Town Council Meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, August 20, 2024.

Opinion

Keep on Truckin'... (it's just smoke!)



By Dave MacNevin
Special to Whitecourt Press

So, it's been a while, but I will try and be here weekly from here on in. Hope that is a good thing?

Well, the Annual Trade Fair was last weekend and by all counts it was a huge success as around 2500 folks visited over the Saturday & Sunday. The smoke rolled in Saturday morning which resulted in poor attendance at both the Beer Gardens and the live band on The Whitecourt Transport Stage. But the band Dahlia & The Villains played through and for those of us who stayed it was great entertainment. They will return next year so we get another shot at a great show without the smoke. When you think of it how many of us in the old days including bands lived through a Saturday night at a bar filled with cigarette smoke for an entire evening. It had to be more dangerous than natural wood smoke

as Players nonfiltered cigarettes were oozing cancerous nicotine fumes throughout a tight enclosed indoor space.

I am helping the Trade Fair committee along with others to revive the Trade Show as Covid took its toll on the sham-wow dudes and all the vendors that used to flood the show. But after this year's success we believe we are on the comeback trail and invite you all, vendors and spectators to attend the 2025 show May 10 and May 11.

It will be bigger and better with tons of live entertainment in the parking lot.

If you have any questions or inquiries about attending or participating in any way, drop me a line at "davemac56@gmail.com"

We are seeking any musicians or entertainers wanting to get their name in the public eye to contact me or the chamber of commerce and we will get you on the stage.

Dahlia & the Villains will be headlining the show on May 10th from 5pm until 9pm.

Q: "How do you make a bandstand?"

A: "Take away their chairs."

Q: "What kind of music are balloons afraid of?"

A: "Pop music".

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Funeral will be held at **Whitecourt Baptist Church** (6240 47th Street, Whitecourt) **May 25th at 1:00pm**
Reception to follow.



Lana Banack

Family and Friends,
Please join us to Celebrate the Life of **Lana Banack**.
Which will take place, **June 8, 2024, 2 - 5pm**.
It will be held at the **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 44, 4928 - 51 ave, Whitecourt, AB**



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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**
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Destinee
Adrianna
Oliva
Age 16

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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New stairs and fencing, among upgrades planned for Hard Luck Canyon



Hard Luck Falls.



A rock seemingly floats midair below the bridge from degradation of the slope.

Some stairs and fencing need attention at Hard Luck Canyon, but a recent bid came back much higher than anticipated. Changes to the budget and project will hopefully have crews working on needed upgrades this fall.

By Serena Lapointe

One of Woodlands County's most popular spots for tourists and locals alike, Hard Luck Canyon, is due for some repairs. Carved out over the years by Hard Luck Creek, which runs through it, the canyon has rightfully become a must-visit spot during open season in the spring, summer and fall.

The area features a wide path from the large parking lot that leads walkers over one of two bridges. The first bridge spans a small creek fed by a nearby beaver pond. It typically overflows in early spring as the snow melts, creating magic over the falls. The second bridge is directly above the cresting falls and overlooks the canyon floor below.

Enthusiasts can either stay up top and sit at one of the provided picnic tables or venture down into the canyon. Years ago, adventurers needed courage to go down, rope in hand. These days, there are stairs, making enjoying the area much easier. From the high sandstone-layered walls of the Paskapoo Forma-

tion to the creek and the falls, the spot is a bed of activity during open months.

Recently, Woodlands County put out a tender, seeking bids for work needed at the site. The required work includes tree removal, removal of 45m of existing stairs and installation of new stairs, removal of seven meters of fence and the instal-

lation of new fencing, erosion protection, and slope stabilization for a twenty-six-meter-long parcel.

The tender window opened on April 15, 2024, and closed on April 29, 2024, with a budget of \$70,000 set aside for the work. Woodlands County's engineer, McElhenney, estimated that the project would cost just over

\$78,000, but the bid received by the closing date was much higher.

"The tender price ended up being 156 percent higher than our engineer's estimate and approximately 200 percent over our budget," explained Jeff Zhang, Director of Infrastructure Services. He said that due to the bid be-

continued on page 7

PUBLIC NOTICE

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VITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Vitalization Grant Program offers businesses located in the downtown core and along the Highway 43 corridor up to \$10,000 to enhance the exterior facade of their business or property to meet the Town's architectural theme of stone and wood. The stone and wood theme has been incorporated in Land Use Bylaw 1506 and is now an integral part of renovations. This grant helps us to build a vibrant and beautiful community for both residents and visitors alike.

Information and application forms can be obtained from www.whitecourt.ca.

Applications will be accepted until **4:00 PM on Thursday, July 18, 2024**, at the following location:

Town of Whitecourt - Planning & Development Department
Re: Vitalization Grant Program, 5004 52nd Avenue, Box 509
Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6
Ph: 780-778-2273, Fax 780-778-2062
planning@whitecourt.ca

ENHANCED DRIVEWAY CROSSING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Town of Whitecourt is continuing the Enhanced Driveway Crossing Replacement Program for those property owners wishing to upgrade their private driveway crossings. The Town will cost share with the owner up to 60% for the costs associated with the removal, disposal and replacement of the residential driveway crossing installed according to the "Minimum Standard for Local Improvements".

The program is intended for driveways in areas with high profile of older, rolled curb and gutter which create a harsh entrance into private driveways.

The program application for 2024 must be completed, signed and submitted with a minimum \$800.00 deposit prior to May 30, 2024 to be considered for replacement in the current calendar year.

Program information and an application form may be found on the Town's website at www.whitecourt.ca or by contacting:

Town of Whitecourt, Box 509, 5004 – 52 Avenue, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6
Email: administration@whitecourt.ca | Phone: 780.778.2273

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:

- **Downtown Vitalization Phase 1 and 2 Update.** Closes: May 22, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. MST.
- **Off-Site Levy Bylaw Review.** Closes: May 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. MST.

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

continued from page 6

ing over budget, he had brought forward two possible motions for Council.

The first option was that Council reject the bid submitted by C&I Ventures Corp., which was \$209,990.47, nearly \$140,000 over their \$70,000 budget. "This is the one and only bid that we have received," said Zhang. The second motion he brought forward was that Council approve an increase to the budget of \$65,374.60, increasing the total budget for the project to \$135,374.60, which would allow them to re-tender it in the fall, with a couple of minor changes. "The additional funding will be coming from the 2024 Capital Surplus," he added.

Council's agenda item read that the tender award from C&I Ventures Corp. appeared overpriced. It also explained that if the Slope Stabilization portion of the project were to be removed, the recommended increase to the budget would still be needed to allow them to re-tender and seek more bids. "The tender can be re-advertised in Fall 2024 when the market is expected to cool down," it continued.

Councillor Alan Deane asked about the condition of the stairs. "Is there a safety concern with stairs as they sit right now?" Zhang said he didn't believe there was an imminent safety concern for the 2024 season. Previous Director of Infrastructure Services Andre Bachand, acting CAO

of the meeting, explained, "We feel the stairs will be relatively safe for this year; we don't see an issue."

He did, however, caution Woodlands County Council on seeking to bump the project entirely. "Putting it off to 2025, that's one more winter of deterioration. We would recommend not to defer it to 2025." He then mentioned that the 2024 Capital Surplus housed roughly \$140,000, more than enough to cover the \$65,000 increase.

Councillor Deane then asked about the engineer's estimate, questioning how it could be as far off the bid as it was. Zhang explained that his department felt the engineer's estimate was in the right ballpark, not the bid. "We actually obtained two engineers' estimates, and they are all in the same ballpark of seventy-some thousand dollars. We do believe this is a situation where either the market is overheated, and the reason we believe that is that there's only one single bid that was received, or the second possible reason could be that the one single bidder didn't fully understand the scope of work or had overestimation of risk."

Councillor John Burrows also had a question about the engineers. "When we seek these engineers' input on how much to budget for these, what's the cost of those engineers to us?" Bachand responded that there wasn't a cost, to which Burrows queried, "The engineers do them for free?"

Bachand explained that the price is in the project when it goes out. "When we initially had the first consultant, we were not getting the services we required, so we went to the second consultant, and prior to the project proceeding, they gave us an estimate on what they think the cost will be before we tender. It's included in their price when we put the project out."

Councillor Deane motioned to reject the bid from C&I Ventures Corp., which passed unanimously. He then asked for clarification on the requested increase to the budget. "Our original budget was \$70,000. We're going to add \$65,000 to the \$70,000. We are expecting a bid to come in around \$135,000. Is that the logic there?"

Zhang said the additional \$65,000 for the budget represented removing one item from the tender. "There is one item in the bid from C&I Venture Corporation that was about seven times more than the consultants estimate. We believe that item (Slope Stabilization) can be either removed from the tender or significantly redesigned or reduced. That's the thought that we had was to take that bid item out and whatever remained will be the budget we ask for."

Councillor Deane motioned to approve the increased budget, adding \$65,374.60 to the existing budget of \$70,000. Re-tendering will happen in the fall, with construction to follow.



A portion of the stairs at Hard Luck Canyon.

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

SUDOKU

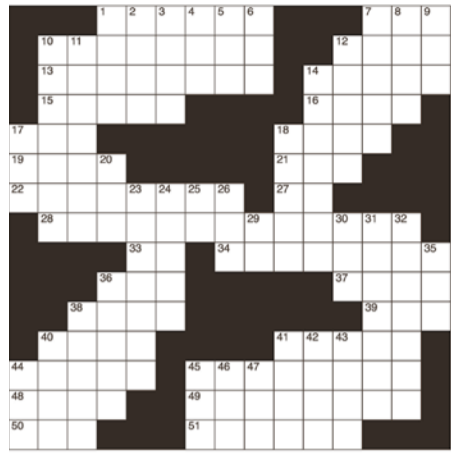
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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in 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!

CROSSWORDS



Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lunatic
- 7. Doctor of Education
- 10. Able to make amends
- 12. Tight-knit group
- 13. Gland
- 14. Intestinal pouches
- 15. Fungal spores
- 16. Erstwhile
- 17. Engine additive
- 18. Nasal mucus
- 19. Fit a horse with footwear
- 21. Consumed
- 22. Settle
- 27. Larry and Curly's pal
- 28. Basketball's GOAT
- 33. Exclamation of surprise
- 34. Made tight
- 36. Before
- 37. Actor Nicolas
- 38. Not hot
- 39. Talk
- 40. Pledge
- 41. Abandon a mission
- 44. Trims by cutting

- 45. Aspects of one's character
- 48. Boxing GOAT's former surname
- 49. Holy places
- 50. Body art (slang)
- 51. Attributes

CLUES DOWN

- 1. How one feels
- 2. American Nat'l Standards Institute
- 3. Information
- 4. Licensed for Wall Street
- 5. Keyboard key
- 6. Born of
- 7. Choose to represent
- 8. Small European freshwater fish
- 9. Everyone has their own
- 10. Line from the center of a polygon
- 11. Lebanese city
- 12. Type of watercraft
- 14. A way to twist
- 17. Soviet Socialist Republic

- 18. Greek island
- 20. Medical practitioner
- 23. __ DeGaulle, French President
- 24. Partner to "oohed"
- 25. Atomic #52
- 26. Santa's helper
- 29. Rapper __ Rule
- 30. Month
- 31. Word formed by rearranging letters
- 32. Nullifies
- 35. Young woman ready to enter society
- 36. Unemployment
- 38. Weight unit
- 40. Formal party
- 41. Computer language
- 42. Residue formula in math
- 43. Duty or responsibility
- 44. Part of (abbr.)
- 45. Time zone
- 46. Body part
- 47. Nucleic acid

HONOUR AND PRIDE WORD SEARCH

C I H V E H S I Y T R R B F Y U I B R M
 Y A S S E L R A E F U S I A T U S N K L
 P E P D E T L I D C O U M V U A F F L O
 U B G R G C P O O E T H N K D U P B A S
 R U D E B B E E D G M K M C R F E L H R V
 M S V B B P V D G G E L G C B C N R S K B
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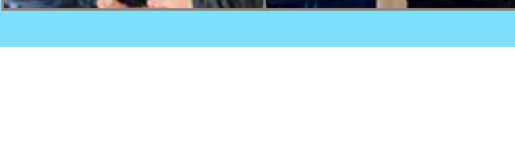
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

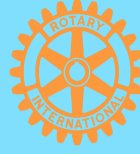
- BRANCH
- CEMETERY
- DRAFT
- DUTY
- ENLIST
- FALLEN
- FEARLESS

- FLAG
- HEROES
- HONOR
- MEMORIAL
- MEMORY
- MILITARY
- OBSERVED
- PLATOON

- REMEMBER
- RESPECT
- SACRIFICE
- SERVICE
- SOLDIER
- SOMBER
- THANKS
- TOUR
- VETERAN



Rotary Club of Whitecourt



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- Whitecourt Hockey Heros Society

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We do our best to recognize all our sponsors; we sincerely apologize if anyone is missing from this list. Thank-you!

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 0.7343 (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of May 22, 2024

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PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

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Pumpjack Players



The heroes.



The sidekicks.



The villains.

After months and months of twice-weekly practices following auditions back in January, Pumpjack Players' children's play hit the stage last weekend. Twenty-five area youth participated in Press Start, a new 8-bit musical which follows popular video game characters through a song and dance fundraiser so they can collect gold coins and keep playing. Created by Beat By Beat, written by Denver Casado and Brian Dawson, and directed by Brigette Moore, the show featured some well-known faces with a slight twist. Characters included a pair of Italian brothers who love stomping on mushrooms and smashing bricks for points to save a princess, a blue creature known for his ability to go fast, and an old-school round character known for running from ghosts through mazes. Though each character had slight variations to their name, so there wasn't a copyright issue, the characters were obvious to the audience. Pac-Ann anyone? How about Speedy Hedgehog? They even had Connor McDavid in the cast because, why not? The Saturday and Sunday shows at the Whitecourt Community Center were well-acted, hilarious and full of beautiful singing by the actors. The sidekicks, villains and heroes of the gaming universe would be proud.

Advertisement for The Press app, showing Google Play and App Store download buttons, and a tablet displaying the newspaper's content.

Data reveals the areas in Canada with the most credit card debt – Alberta named in ranking

- Barrie, ON has been named the area in Canada where residents have the most credit card debt
- St. John's, NL metropolitan area has the second most credit card debt per capita
- Trois-Rivières, QC residents have the least outstanding credit card debt in Canada

A new study reveals how the recent spike in living costs disproportionately impacted Canadians, with some residents now reporting extremely high levels of credit card debt.

“Most people will use short-term forms of credit, like credit cards, when trying to solve an immediate cash flow problem,” explains Romana King, Senior Editor at Money.ca, an online financial resource offering trending financial topics, money-saving tips, and exclusive deals and discounts.

To assess how often Canadians relied on higher-cost lending

solutions, Money.ca analyzed data from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to discover the metropolitan areas accumulating the most credit card debt.

Barrie, ON households carry the highest average balance when it comes to credit card debt. On average, each resident in Barrie, ON owes \$3,521.54 in outstanding credit card balances.

St. John's, NL residents carry, on average, \$3,451.95 in outstanding credit card balances, ranking the metropolitan area in second place.

Toronto, ON metropolitan area has the

third highest average of credit card debt in Canada, with \$3,428.63 in outstanding credit card debt per capita.

Peterborough, ON is fourth in the ranking, with an average of \$3,405.19 in outstanding credit card balances per capita.

The fifth highest amount of credit card debt in Canada is in Kelowna, BC. On average, the metropolitan area has \$3,394.11 of credit card debt per capita.

Brantford, ON is in sixth place, with an average of \$3,387.26 of outstanding credit card balances per capita.

Kingston, ON is next in the ranking, in sev-

enth place. Each resident in the metropolitan area has an average of \$3,344.16 in credit card debt.

In eighth place is Calgary, AB, with \$3,273.16 of outstanding credit card debts per capita.

Thunder Bay, ON metropolitan area has an average of \$3,270.76 in credit card debt per capita, resulting in the ninth position.

Finally, Hamilton, ON residents are in tenth place, with each resident having an average of \$3,264.93 in outstanding credit card balances.

Money-saving expert Romana King from Money.ca has comment-

ed on the findings: “A credit card is a powerful tool. It can help create a person's credit history and boost a credit score – tools that are integral to achieving important financial milestones, such as buying a car or a home.”

“However, there is a downside to credit. Digital transactions and the interest charged on borrowed money can add up, sometimes very quickly. People can get stuck in a cycle where they never pay down what they owe and barely pay the interest. This can lead to a cycle of debt.”

To stop this cycle, King suggests that people reconsider when and how they use credit cards: “There's nothing wrong with using a credit card for an unexpected expense. The key is to have a plan on how you will pay back that borrowed money.”

King suggests three strategies:

1. Use a low-interest credit card. The less

you pay in interest, the more of your earnings can be used to pay off your debt.

2. Consider a consolidation loan. A consolidation loan – or an installment loan with a lower interest rate – groups all higher-interest debt into one lump sum and charges a lower interest rate overall. Again, the idea is to pay less in interest and use more of your money to pay your debt.

3. Go on a spending diet. This doesn't mean don't spend, since most people who turn to credit cards and fast loans are often using them to pay for essentials. Instead, consider a system that only allows you to spend what's available. This can be cash envelopes or opening a no-fee bank account for each type of expense and only using the money in that account for those costs.

Research: <https://money.ca/>

Rank	Census Metropolitan Area	Outstanding Credit Card Balance per capita
1	Barrie, Ontario	\$3,521.54
2	St. John's, Newfoundland And Labrador	\$3,451.95
3	Toronto, Ontario	\$3,428.63
4	Peterborough, Ontario	\$3,405.19
5	Kelowna, British Columbia	\$3,394.11
6	Brantford, Ontario	\$3,387.26
7	Kingston, Ontario	\$3,344.16
8	Calgary, Alberta	\$3,273.16
9	Thunder Bay, Ontario	\$3,270.76
10	Hamilton, Ontario	\$3,264.93



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

Responsibilities:

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

Qualifications:

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

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



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Security Guard Supervisor NOC 62029

Responsibilities:

- Co-ordinate, assign and review the work of security guards and other service workers not elsewhere classified
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition of supplies and materials
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Monitor quality and production levels
- May perform the same duties as workers supervised.
- Arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Assist clients/guests with special needs
- Co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Ensure smooth operation of computer equipment and machinery
- Establish work schedules and procedures
- Handle emergency situations
- Monitor quality and production levels
- Prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Requisition or order materials, equipment, and supplies
- Resolve work-related problems
- Supervise the operation of mechanical equipment and machinery
- Supervise, co-ordinate and schedule (and possibly review) activities of workers
- Train staff/workers in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies.

Qualifications:

- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is usually required.
- Certification or licensing AGLC.
- Must be able to complete Smart training course
- Must have a valid driver's license class 5
- Must be able to complete AML.

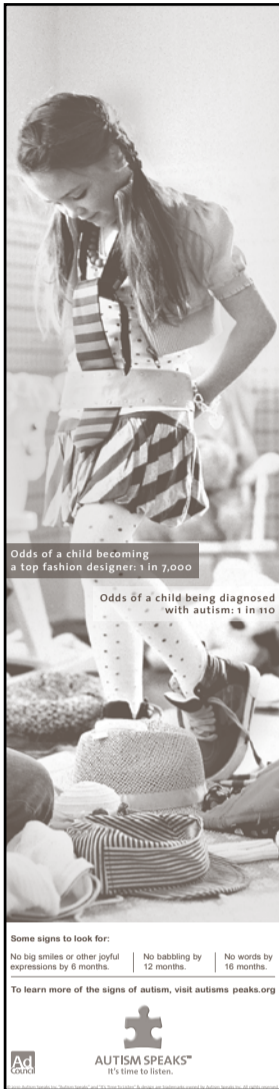
Experience: 2 – 3 years.
Education: Completion of secondary school an asset.
Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.
Language: English
Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.
Wage: \$20.77 per hour.
Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.
Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.
Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3.
Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451
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A look at the local weather

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



Wed., May 22
Chance of a shower
40%
12°C
2°C
E 13 km/h
1-3mm



Thu., May 23
Mix of sun and clouds
30%
14°C
3°C
E 9 km/h
-



Fri., May 24
Light rain
70%
15°C
4°C
N 7 km/h
2-4mm



Sat., May 25
Cloudy with showers
60%
17°C
6°C
NW 12 km/h
~5mm



Sun., May 26
Chance of a shower
40%
17°C
6°C
NE 11 km/h
~1mm

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Alberta RCMP reminds residents of simple tips with big crime reduction impacts

As the weather warms up, most Albertans are spending more time outdoors, and often away from their homes. Not securing your property can make you a prime target for theft.

In May 2023, there were 440 residential break and enters and 45 seasonal property break and enters in Alberta RCMP jurisdictions. Property theft is often a crime of opportunity. Learning how to properly secure your

residential and seasonal properties is the best defence. Following simple practices like crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) can have big impacts.

Some simple CPTED tips that can help keep your property safe are:

- **Lighting:** Ensure your yard is well lit. Consider installing motion sensor lights at all entryways.
- **Sightlines:** Keep clear sightlines to

yards, garages, and entry points so criminals have no where to hide. Make sure trees and bushes aren't overgrown, creating a cover for a potential thief.

- **Gates:** A locked gate can help deter a criminal who may not want to waste time trying to get past it.
- **Windows:** Keep windows covered and locked when you're not home. An empty house is a criminal's

- **Alarms:** Consider installing a security system, especially on seasonal properties or if you travel often. This will help ensure that if anything does happen to your property, authorities will be alerted immediately.

While these tips might sound obvious, CPTED is an international concept that has proven to discourage crime and promote security. Small, simple

changes and have big effects in our communities.

RCMP encourage the public to report any criminal or suspicious activity to police. If you discover a crime has taken place at your residence or seasonal property, you should report it to police immediately. Reports tell us where to look, who to look for, and where to patrol in the future.

If you see a crime in progress, dial 911. If you wish to report

a crime anonymously, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

For more tips and crime prevention information, follow #HereToHelp and our social media accounts on X (@RCMPAlberta), Facebook (@RCMPinAlberta) and YouTube (@RCMP-GRC Alberta).

NOTICE OF DECISION

A decision has been made regarding the following development permit application:

PERMIT	LOCATION	DEVELOPMENT	DECISION	DEADLINE
15-018-2024	PT SW 15-59-10-W5M	Intensive Recreational Use/ Facility: Gymkana Clubhouse & storage	1-May-24	23-May-24

Any person affected by this decision may appeal to the Secretary of the Development Appeal Board by forwarding a written appeal along with a \$500.00 fee, to the address listed below, prior to **4:30 p.m. of the appeal date noted above.**

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring at the address noted.

NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 15-018-2024

Location: PT SW 15-59-10-W5M
Proposed Development: Intensive Recreational Use/Facility: Gymkana Clubhouse & storage
Decision Date: May 1, 2024
Appeal Deadline: May 23, 2024

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

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

SENIOR'S WEEK

2024 Senior's Lunches – Music! Food! Dancing!

Anselmo Hall
Wednesday, June 5

Topland Hall
Thursday, June 6

Doors: 10:30 am
Program: 11:00 am

Entertainment by: John Wort Hannam
 Registration is required for these FREE events. Deadline to register: Friday, May 31, 2024

Call 1-888-870-6315 to register.

DEADLINE EXTENDED: SMALL BUSINESS SUB-CLASS FOR REDUCED PROPERTY TAX RATE

The 2024 application deadline is extended to Sunday, June 30, 2024.

The Small Business Property sub-class provides property owners who paid a non-residential property tax levy in the previous year an opportunity to qualify for a reduced property tax in the current year.

The refund rate for the Small Business Property Tax Rate for 2024 is 1.4426 per \$1,000 of assessment, which is an 11.3% reduction from the non-residential tax rate.

Property owners who operate a business or have businesses leasing their property with less than 50 full-time employees in Canada apply for a reduced property tax rate.

If the business qualifies for the reduced rate, a refund will be forwarded by cheque in July.

In future years, the mill rate reduction will be applied to the annual tax notice for those businesses that qualify.

Each application is reviewed before approval of the Small Business Property Tax Rate.

Download the application by visiting <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/property-taxes> or at Woodlands County offices.



DAVE KUSCH
 Mayor
 Councilor for Anselmo
 Division 1
dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
 Phone: 780-778-9337



JOHN BURROWS
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john.burrows@woodlands.ab.ca
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alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca
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 Councilor for
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We remind everyone to obey local fire bans as posted and be mindful with campfires and fire pits. Protect our forests by checking twice before leaving to ensure your fire is completely extinguished.

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

Messy for a Great Cause



The whole school took part in the fun.



Principal Ashley Floyd (blue) being pied by her sister, Corina Fennell, Division Curriculum lead.



No that's a face full!



Principal Ashley Floyd.



A young hockey fan lands a pie on his teacher.



A line up of teachers and admin staff to choose from.

On Thursday, Ecole St. Anne's students and staff had a blast and got really messy for their Pie Your Teacher event. Teachers faced whipped cream pies in support of the Soaring Eagle Support Society. Students and their families purchased a whopping 150 pies for the event. At 2:00 pm, students lined up in the schoolyard to throw a pie at a teacher of their choosing. The fundraiser coincided with Mental Health Week and was a fun way to raise awareness about an important topic. Ecole St. Anne's raised nearly \$800 thanks to a whipped cream donation from Mike and Rebecca's No Frills. All three Catholic schools in the community did the same type of fundraiser. Great job, everyone!

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- Tax program & Bag Lunch Program

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"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
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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:
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- Friday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

New Women's AA Group on Saturdays @11 am

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

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Foot steady on the gas: Alberta home construction gains momentum

By Siddhartha Bhattacharya, ATB ECONOMICS

Foot steady on the gas: Alberta home construction gains momentum

Housing construction intentions in Alberta posted an impressive increase through the first quarter.

The seasonally-adjusted value of residential building permits* issued by Alberta municipalities* reached \$3.2 billion in Q1, 40% higher than last year's level and the highest on record.

While the permit value of multi-unit dwellings (+44%) drove the majority of the increase (led by apartments), new single dwellings in the first quarter grew

36% compared to the same period in 2023..

Similar to last year, Calgary remains the key driver of new construction intentions in the province. However, the Edmonton market has been making strides since the end of 2023 and permit values jumped 51% year-over-year to reach a new high in the first quarter of 2024.

Meanwhile, residential construction intentions for the rest of Canada declined 2.4% from the same period in 2023, largely due to a 15% pullback in Ontario.

Alberta's strong growth in residential construction relative to elsewhere in the coun-

try is also evident in other indicators.

Despite the volatile monthly readings, housing starts have been trending up since July of last year and shot up to 45,910 units (annualized rate, seasonally adjusted) in April. Relative to the first four months of 2023, they are now up by 59% year-to-date while down by 2.2% in the rest of Canada.

These results are encouraging as many more homes still need to be built to meet the rising housing demand driven by record migration to Alberta.

*Statistics Canada's Building Permits Survey covers all Canadian municipalities that issue permits.

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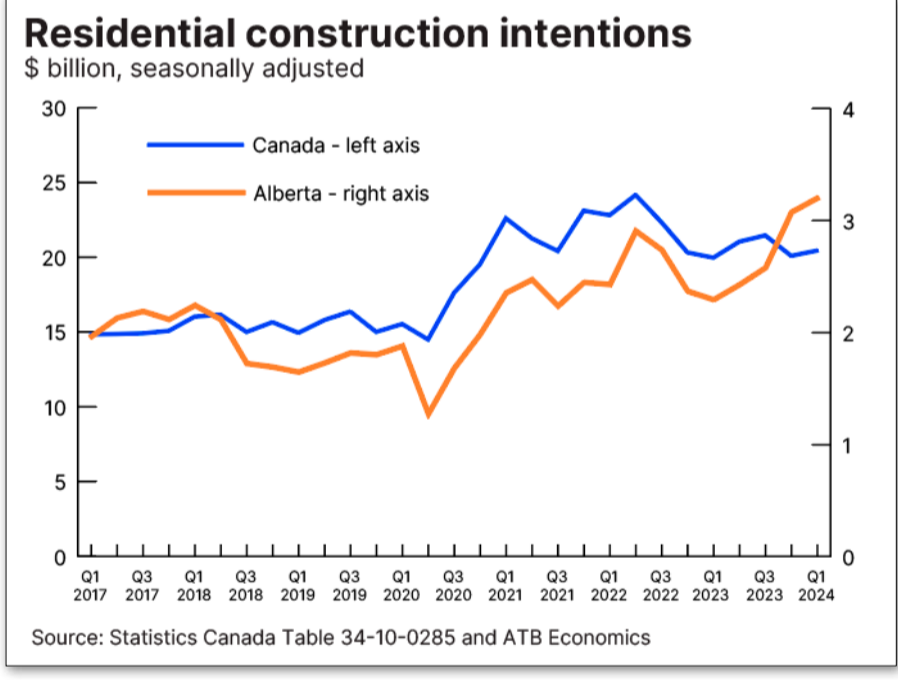
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