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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 13 - Issue 27 | Wednesday, July 3, 2024

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Interest-free loans for entrepreneurship from Community Futures Yellowhead East “a tremendous opportunity” for area youth

By Serena Lapointe

Canada's unemployment rate has steadily risen, hitting its highest point since October of 2021 in May of this year, reaching 6.2 per cent. It's also just over one percent point since April last year. Employment rates for students and youth have been declining, taking some of the biggest hits. Before the pandemic, the youth employment rate was 58.2 percent. In May, the rate was recorded at 55.6 percent, meaning fewer youth are employed now

than in 2019.

In its Proof Point Report published in January of this year, RBC touched on the issues facing youth and students, saying longer job searches for students and new grads are a significant factor behind the country's unemployment rate, even more than layoffs or new arrivals from abroad. RBC's January Proof Point, written by Carrie Freestone and Rachel Battaglia, also pointed out that they expected unemployment to grow through the first

half of the year, and they were right.

To try and help youth see a different path into the workforce, Community Futures Yellowhead East is focusing on growing entrepreneurs by providing a unique learning environment that can walk youth through the steps of starting their own businesses. “The whole idea behind it is to start introducing the idea of entrepreneurship at a younger age. There are many people out there

continued on page 4



Increasing numbers across Canada show the struggle faced by youth and students in finding employment. To help introduce them to entrepreneurship and to become their own bosses, Community Futures Yellowhead East is providing a unique opportunity. Lilian Wisser (left) and Michelle Jones (right), are two of the friendly faces at CFYE.



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FireSmart Home Incentive Program to continue following Intact funding end

By Serena Lapointe

Two years ago, the Town of Whitecourt received a \$100,000 grant from Intact Public Entities and the Intact Financial Corporation to create the FireSmart Home Incentive Program and purchase a sprinkler trailer. The FireSmart Home Incentive program's focus was to encourage homeowners to learn about their home's fire risk by doing a walk-through of their exterior property with members of the Whitecourt Fire Department.

Members would give homeowners feedback on changes they might want to consider making like removing certain trees, pulling vegetation away from the house, using non-flammable materials for decking or roofing and other risk-lowering FireSmart practices to mitigate the risk to their private property should a fire be near them. Depending on what changes residents made following their assessment, they could receive funding in return, giving them a great incentive.

The program was very successful through 2022 and 2023 with several area residents taking advantage of the opportunity. In 2023 alone, 41 home assessments were completed (31 in Whitecourt and 10 in Woodlands County) and over ten thousand dollars was given out. The year prior, in 2022, 38 assessments were done. In 2021, the first year of the program, before funding was available, only six were completed, indi-

cating that the cashback incentive worked.

The Town of Whitecourt and the Whitecourt Fire Department have prioritized FireSmart practices on public lands in and around the municipality for years, to help lower the community's wildfire risk. Last year, the reality of living surrounded by forest became even more obvious than it already was as the community became a safe haven for hundreds of visitors fleeing their wildfire-threatened communities. The FireSmart Home Incentive Program focuses on private properties, something especially important for residents living on the edge of the forest.

This year, the funding from Intact was no more, but Whitecourt Town Council, seeing the benefits of the program, decided to set aside funding from the budget to support the continuation of the program. In late May, Council went over updates for Policy 23-012: FireSmart Home Incentive Program at their Policies and Priorities meeting. Lee Hardman, Director of Community Safety detailed the necessary changes to the policy, including switching wording from Intact to the Town of Whitecourt.

He explained that the amount offered also changed. Under the Intact funding, up to \$50,000 was set aside for home assessment rebates, used over two years. Without that funding, the program now has a budget of

eight thousand yearly, which could change year by year depending on budget constraints.

Improvements that can result in cashback include up to \$1,000 for upgrading roofing material to something Class A ignition resistant or having an arborist remove conifer trees (\$500/each to a max of \$1,000). There's also \$500 each for things like converting existing mulch to rock, or something non-combustible, and putting a sheath or screen beneath a deck. Homeowners who are recommended to clean and cover their eaves-troughs can receive up to \$200. In total, each property assessed and improved can receive a maximum of \$1,000.

Changes in the policy also included an update on how funding will be divided out. Previously, homeowners could apply in rounds. In 2022, round one of applications were accepted until October and in 2023, round two applications were open until August. Going forward, applications will be accepted until October 31 each year, based on funding availability. To access funds through the program, residents must first complete a FireSmart Home Assessment with the Whitecourt Fire Department. The department will review and prioritize applications and allocate funding.

The Policies and Priorities Committee voted unanimously to move the updated policy forward for adoption at a future Regular Meeting of Council.



County homeowner Lois Cartwright during her home assessment.



One of several checks handed out last year.

After funding ended for a local program, that teaches homeowners how to make their home more externally resilient against fire, while offering financial incentives to make changes, the Town of Whitecourt decided to put some dollars towards it, to keep it going.

On week later Whitecourt Town Council voted unanimously again, officially updating the policy. "We've spent the funding from Intact and now we are going to continue this program, hopefully, into the future," said Hardman.

FireSmart Canada states that FireSmart programs are implemented through seven disciplines: education, emergency planning, vegetation management, legislation, development, interagency cooperation and cross-training. Each discipline is explained in detail on their website, www.firesmartcanada.ca.

"The grassroots implementation of FireSmart by empowered members of the public often results in the most robust neighbourhood programs,"

the website states. Having residents call their local fire department, taking the initiative to help increase safety at home, not just from forest fires but even a close neighbourhood fire, can lead to an educational home assessment and upgrades that can then be shared with neighbours, further increasing safety if more people take advantage of it because their neighbour shared their experience.

"Neighbours talk, friends talk, people share information that is important to them and FireSmart is no different. Phone calls and face-to-face conversations from residents and professionals can have a more meaningful and lasting effect on people," states firesmartcanada.ca.

Understanding how to mitigate risk could not only save some-

one's home, but it could potentially save their neighbourhood. "As neighbourhoods extend further into forested areas, homes and neighbourhoods are becoming more exposed to ignition from wildfire. A structure is more likely to be destroyed in a wildfire when it is located in a high-density area where homes can ignite and fire is able to easily transfer from building to building," further explains the site.

Homeowners interested in setting up a free home assessment are encouraged to call the Whitecourt Fire Department. Members from the department continue to train for the program enabling more assessments to happen. Residents can call 780-778-2342 Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm to book.



Swapping decor materials up against the house from mulch to rocks.

Sky High Canada Love



Highway.



Abraham Drive.



Curling Rink.



Green Gables Inn.



Festival Park.



United Rentals.



IGA.

Did you happen to see a few cranes over the weekend? At least six United Rentals cranes were spotted throughout the community, raised high to the sky, with Canada flags flapping off the forklift at the top to celebrate Canada Day in style. Cranes were seen by the Green Gables Inn sign, beside the Western Canada Coffee Company, at the United Rentals storefront on 34 Avenue, at Festival Park, beside the Carbonex Curling Rink on Highway 43, the end of Abraham Drive near the golf course and the corner of the IGA parking lot. Oh, Canada!



Public Notice

As part of Canfor's Whitecourt and Fox Creek 2024 Vegetation Management Program, we are proposing to apply glyphosate on cutblocks located within our Forest Management Area and timber licenses in the Whitecourt, Fox Creek, Fort Assiniboine, and Edson areas. A maximum of 4500 hectares are proposed for treatment throughout the following locations:

Township	Range	Meridian
50	10, 11, 12	W 5M
51	11, 12	W 5M
53	11	W 5M
58	13, 14, 16, 17, 21	W 5M
59	13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23	W 5M
60	11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18	W 5M
61	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21	W 5M
62	14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22	W 5M
63	6, 7, 8, 9	W 5M
64	6, 7, 8, 9	W 5M
65	6, 7, 15, 16	W 5M
66	6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16	W 5M
67	12, 13	W 5M
68	10, 11	W 5M
69	10, 11	W 5M

This treatment, part of our forest renewal program, will temporarily control herbaceous, shrub and deciduous competition, to improve the growth and survival of tree seedlings and saplings. Herbicide will be applied through either aerial or ground-based application.

Application of herbicides is scheduled to begin on or around August 10, 2024, pending approval from Alberta Forestry and Parks. The planned completion date for the program is September 15, 2024.

For more information, please contact our Silviculture Supervisor at (780) 778-2221 Ext 2164, or WCTSilviculture@Canfor.com

continued from page 1

who perhaps don't see themselves going on to post-secondary education, so this is an opportunity that they can turn into a career moving forward," explained Michelle Jones, Executive Director for Community Futures Yellowhead East (CFYE).

The Youth and Student Business Loans program has two parts, one for students between the ages of 15-24 and another for youth between 15 and 34. The board at CFYE decided several years ago to invest money into the region's youth and provide unsecured loans with no application fee, no security required and zero percent interest.

"We see a need, even more than ever before, especially this summer with the number of youths indicating that they cannot find employment. I think that because of the increasing population, many of the jobs previously filled by youth are now filled by others. So, we felt that it was really valuable to promote these programs this summer," explained Jones. "If you are one of those students or youths and you are struggling to find a job, we can help you look at what kind of things you are interested in or qualified in and see if we can flush out an idea that can turn into a business," she added.

Student Business Loans from CFYE are up to \$5,000 for a 1-2-year term. Students under 18 need parental consent. Of the two loan types, this one has the lowest amount. "It is more about students that want

to start a part-time or seasonal business. They have to prove they are registered in school to get this loan. It's a smaller amount because they are still in school, and it would be part-time," said Jones.

For youth not in school and between the ages of 15 and 34, the loan increases to \$15,000 for a three-year term. "It is for youth who want to start, expand or purchase a business. They have to have 50.1 percent ownership of the company. If they are within that, they can borrow up to fifteen thousand dollars, and it's the same thing as the Student Program with no interest, application fee or security required. We work with them to develop a business plan and some cash flow projections and then continue to coach them throughout the duration of the loan," explained Jones.

She said learning about entrepreneurship at a young age gives youth valuable life skills, regardless of whether they continue in the entrepreneur role. "The skillsets that an entrepreneur develops are second to none. They learn to be creative, to look at their hobbies and skill sets and how to put them to work and get paid to do what they like. They learn to budget, negotiate, speak to the public and deal with the public, trying to get business and making marketing plans."

She said she hopes parents and guardians share the information with the youth to help spread the word so that more take advantage of the opportunity. "They know that kids are struggling and

having difficulty finding jobs, so passing this information on is beneficial. If they want more information, please call our office, and we will sit down with them for an intake meeting and chat about some business ideas. If it looks like something they could do, we will walk them through it."

Youth and students must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents to take part. "We try to set them up as successfully as possible so that they are not only starting a business but also making sales and

revenue. We talk to them about expenses and how to price their product or service. It is a lot of valuable skills that are not necessarily taught any longer for numerous reasons. We feel that the more you can start to introduce entrepreneurship in youth and at a younger age and keep reinforcing it over and over again, it becomes an option and an opportunity for students because not everybody is a scholastic genius, but perhaps they have skillsets of being an entrepreneur," said Jones.

Both programs are

unique to CFYE and will not be found elsewhere, especially the one-on-one coaching that Community Futures is becoming more known for. "Normally, we are not allowed to do this (offer zero percent interest) because we are not in competition with the banks. But this is directly focused on encouraging more youth to come forward or even consider the idea of entrepreneurship."

Jones said people often think they are unqualified for entrepreneurship, and the thought of doing it scares them. "It

is not nearly as scary as people think, and the staff at CFYE are ready to help. So far, the ones we have given funding to have been terrific, and the success has been great. I anticipate it growing more as we continue to make the public aware. There are so many opportunities. I think it is a win-win!"

The Community Futures Yellowhead East office is located at Unit #1, 5023 - 50 Ave, down from Family Dental Health. Call the office at 780-706-3500, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm.

NOTICES TO ELECTORS

BORROWING BYLAW (618/24)

Project: Resurfacing East Mountain Road
Value: \$2,400,000
Term: Not to exceed 20 years
Interest Rate: Not to exceed 6%
Public Hearing: 10:30 am, Wednesday, July 17, 2024
Submission Deadline: 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 10, 2024

For full details on this Borrowing Bylaw visit:
<https://woodlands.ab.ca>
 Email: admin@woodlands.ab.ca
 Call: 1-888-870-6315

BORROWING BYLAW (617/24)

Project: Resurfacing West Mountain Road
Value: \$1,850,000
Term: Not to exceed 20 years
Interest Rate: Not to exceed 6%
Public Hearing: 11:00 am, Wednesday, July 17, 2024
Submission Deadline: 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 10, 2024

For full details on this Borrowing Bylaw visit:
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 Phone: 780-778-9337



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 Councillor for Whitecourt West
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 Councillor for Whitecourt
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 Freeman River Division 6
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 Phone: 780-284-2425



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





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

Canada to access crisis support by phone, in French or English: toll-free **1-833-456-4566** Available 24/7
Crisis Text Line (Powered by Kids Help Phone) Canada Wide free, 24/7 texting service is accessible immediately to youth anywhere

in Canada by texting TALK to **686868** to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to **686868** to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/SMS enabled cell phone.
KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under

in Canada **1-800-668-6868** (Online or on the Phone). First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness 24/7 Help Line **1-855-242-3310**
Canadian Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line **1-866-925-4419**
Trans LifeLine – All Ages **1-877-330-6366**

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

Email wctpress@telus.net All submissions remain confidential

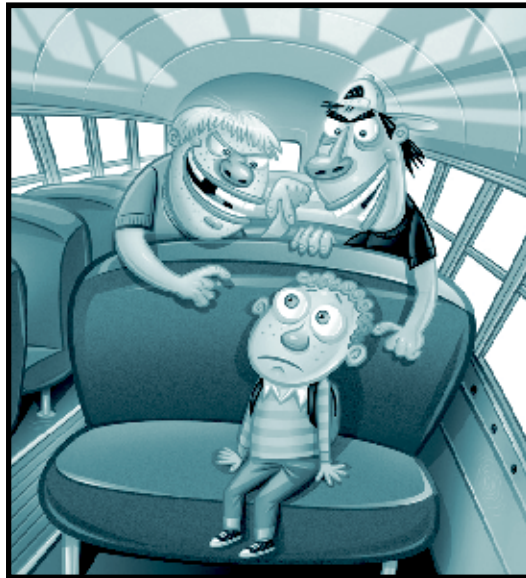


When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.
Let that sink in.



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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



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Aimee Grierson **780-262-0222**

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

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Child Support Program:
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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.

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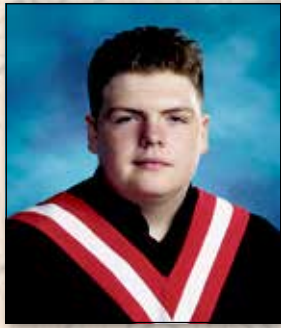
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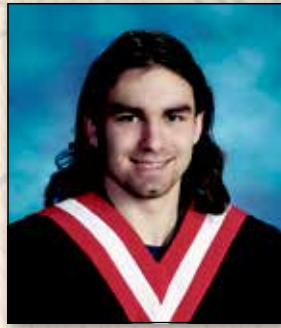
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Aiden Hough



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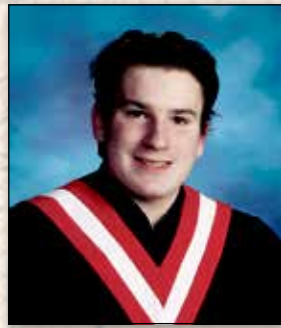
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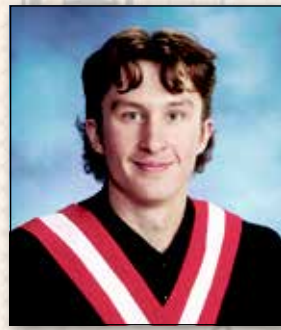
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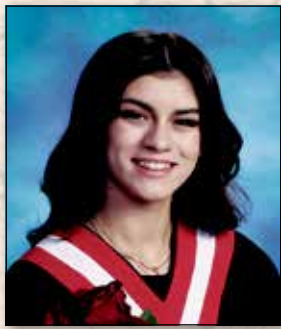
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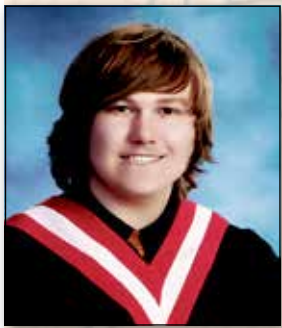
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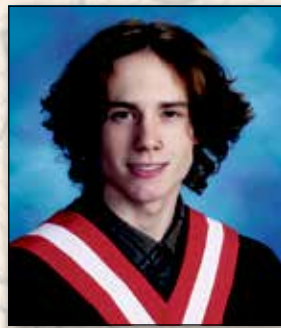
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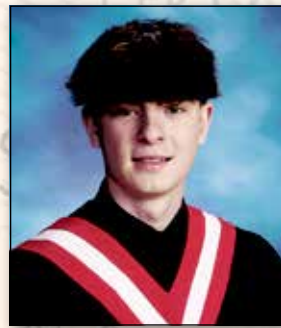
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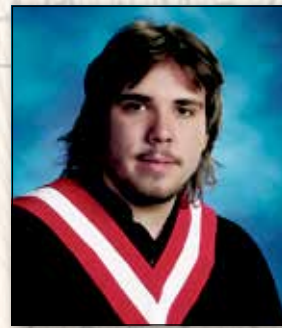
Cayden Doble



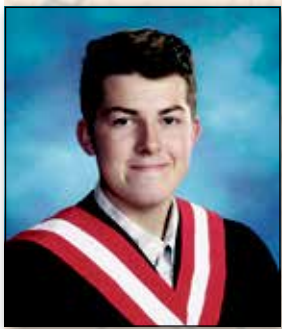
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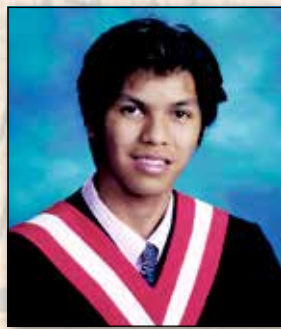
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Dwayne Palisoc



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Graduates Hilltop High School



Emma Layton



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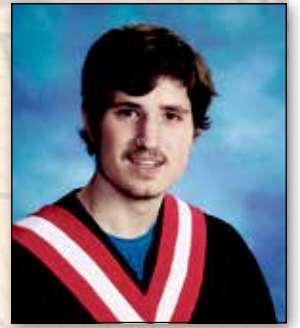
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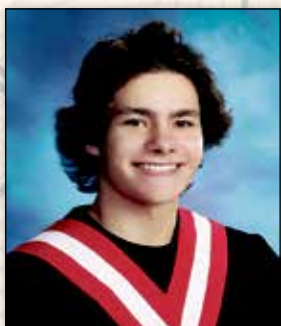
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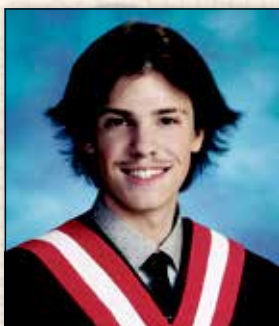
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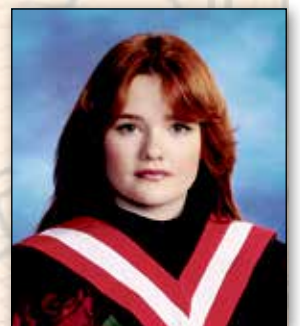
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Jackson McGhee Ste. Croix



Jade Lynn


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 Public Schools

2024 *class of* 24

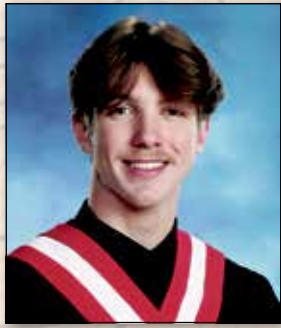
C O N G R A T S !

It has been a privilege to be a part of your journey.

Congratulations 2024 Graduates Hilltop High School



Jae Boudreault



Jamie Rhynold



Jayde Stevens



Jordynn Favreau



Jorja Amiot



Jorja Pfeifer



Josh Werzun



Julie Bisson



Justin Epp



Kaden Townsend



Kaitlyn LaBounty



Kara Gunderson



Karma Gibbs



Karson Wilson



Katie Motkoski



Katrina Milburn



Kavan Osborne



Kayden Spilman



Kayla Spivak



Kaylee Paine



Kayleigh Kelly



Keira Heard



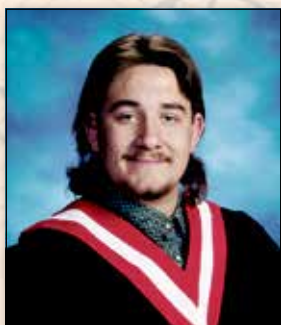
Kelsey Gaydar



Keyerra Speight



Kira Collins



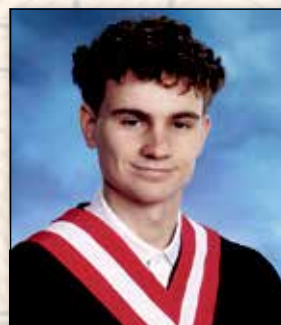
Korbyn Drosses



Kyla Barry



Kyle Penuela



Kyle Strebchuk



Lexie Potter



MARTIN LONG, MLA
West Yellowhead

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2024

Congratulations Hilltop High School graduates of 2024! All the best in your future endeavours.



Congratulations 2024 Graduates Hilltop High School



Liam White



Linden Graham



Lokadia Farrar



London Richmond



Lucien McCaffrey



Lukas Szmidt



Luke Erlandson



Mackenzie Greenwood



Makenna Barraclough



Marin Lybbert



Marlie Kennedy



Martina Auger



McKenna Dickson



McKenzie Raymond



Natalie Weed



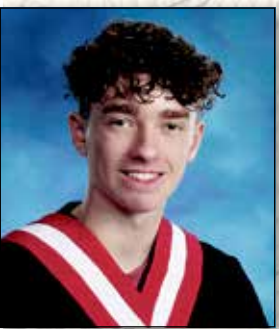
Nathalie Parsons



Nevaeh Dubois



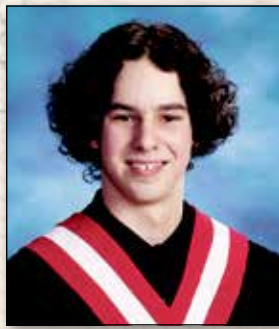
Nhu Nguyen



Nicolas Braun



Noah Blize



Owen Magdiak



Owen Merrill



Rachel Ruecker



Rebekah Erickson



Roan Ramstead



Rowen Camps-Daly



Ryker Pearson

CONVENIENCE AND WASH

Congratulations

CLASS OF

2024

Graduates



Congratulations 2024 Graduates Hilltop High School



Ryker Williams



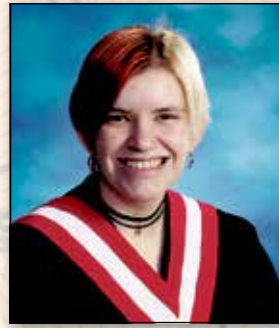
Sadie Hough



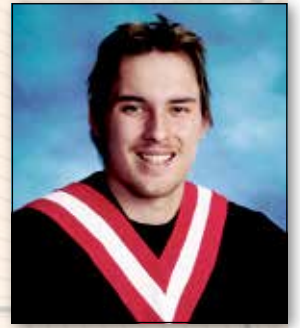
Sara Zsiros



Sarah Wesenberg



Serena Abraham



Seth McInnes



Shae-Lynne Walker



Soleil Dionne



Soren Hill



Taylor Gower



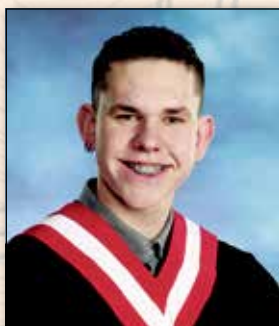
Taylor Wild



Teagen Halbert



Tiana Benard



Tiernan Blake-Pringle



Tristan Davenport



Trystin Rice



Tyrone Gallien-Jardine



Yara James

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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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 Protective Services Committee currently has an opening available for a term to expire in October 2026. As a member of the Committee, you will meet on a quarterly basis to ensure that the police needs of the community are met. Residents from both the Town and County are welcome to apply. When you submit your application, please provide a current Criminal Record Check. This document will be used as part of the consideration process for the candidate.

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, July 10, 2024 to:

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

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

Applications will be presented to Town Council at the July 15, 2024 Regular Meeting.



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

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Some signs to look for:
 No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months | No babbling by 12 months | No words by 18 months

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Heel Pain	Hammertoes	Ingrown Toenails
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Podiatrist

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A look at the local weather	Wed., July 3	Thu., July 4	Fri., July 5	Sat., July 6	Sun., July 7
P.O.P.	Mix of sun and clouds	Mainly sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Cloudy with showers
High	40%	10%	10%	20%	40%
Low	22°C	22°C	25°C	23°C	23°C
Wind	11°C	12°C	12°C	12°C	12°C
24-Hr Rain / Snow	W 15 km/h ~1mm	W 13 km/h	W 13 km/h	SW 9 km/h	N 17 km/h ~5mm

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.



The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Contact

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



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

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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#: 24-036, Arena Operator I, Temporary, Full-time Position.

Job#: 24-037, Arena Labourers, Casual Positions.

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



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Dollar Values as of July 3, 2024



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.
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Whitecourt Town Council updates

The Community Services Advisory Board completed a strategic planning session earlier this year, and presented results of the session to Council on June 24, 2024. The priorities identified by the Board will help to create policy, service level, budget and operational recommendations for Council. Top priorities identified by the Board for 2024 include:

- Exploring the potential to combine the Party In The Park and Canada Day events.
- Investigating the potential and drafting a budget for consideration for next year to host events welcoming newcomers to Whitecourt.

- Exploring venue/instructor options and cost to offer additional cooking classes as part of Arts & Culture Programming.

The Economic Development Committee presented a semi-annual report to Council on current initiatives and updates on projects undertaken in 2024. The report is available to view on www.whitecourt.ca/business.

The Turn Indoor Golf and Lounge has been awarded \$10,000 through the Whitecourt Launch Grant Program to develop a new entertainment business that will combine golf simulators and a lounge experience. Whitecourt Launch was cre-

ated last year to provide additional financial support for business development projects that stimulate business retention, growth and expansion. Applicants were required to provide a presentation to the Economic Development Committee to compete for the one-time grant. Thank you to all of the businesses that applied and shared their ideas!

The annual review of Off-Site Levies is complete and, based on the study, rates will be changing as of January 1, 2025. Off-Site Levies are a cost recovery tool that help pay for infrastructure projects that allow the community to grow, including roads, and water and sewage treatment.

Development Type	2024 Off-Site Levy Rate	2025 Off-Site Levy Rate
Residential		
Single Family Dwelling Units	\$4,710/dwelling unit	\$4,765/dwelling unit
Multi-Family Dwelling Units	\$2,051/dwelling unit	\$2,075/dwelling unit
Non-Residential	\$54,888/hectare	\$55,534/hectare

The 2023 Collision Report has been prepared and will be forwarded to the Whitecourt Protective Services Committee and Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors as information. Overall, traffic incidents were down 4% from 2022, with the largest decrease along Highway 43 with the number of collisions down 17% from 2022.

The 2024 20-Year Capital and Major Maintenance Plan has been adopted. The Plan, which includes 150 projects, provides a vision for the long-term development of Whitecourt's infrastructure; land development; parks and trails; and, building and recreational/

cultural facilities to meet the needs of our growing community. The Plan incorporates projects and timelines identified through engineering studies, planning sessions, workshops, budget deliberations, and public engagement activities. The Plan is available to view at www.whitecourt.ca/your-town

Records Retention and Destruction Bylaw 1492 has been amended to include retention of body-worn camera and in-car video system footage.

Councillor Tara Baker will serve as Deputy Mayor from July 1 to October 31, 2024.

A Special Meeting of Council has been scheduled for 4pm on Monday, July 8 at the

Forest Interpretive Centre to discuss the Culture & Events Centre.

Streets in the downtown core will be closed temporarily on Saturday, August 10 to accommodate the Summer Street Fest. A reminder will be posted closer to the event date. For information on Summer Street Fest visit www.whitecourt.ca/play/summer-street-fest

The Town of Whitecourt has approved an agreement with Canfor (Whitecourt) Forest Products Ltd. for the acceptance of Dry Kiln Wastewater into the Town's wastewater collect system and treatment through the wastewater treatment plant.

Fancy new threads



Thanks to a generous donation from local company R360 Environmental Solutions, the youth players on Whitecourt Minor Baseball's U11 House League Team 2, the Diamond Dawgs, have some spiffy new team swag to proudly wear. The group recently posed together with their new hats and hoodies on and their thumbs pointing way up.

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In Memory of Our Mom

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and our brother

Ronald Stephen Chayka,

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