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Vol. 14 - Issue 12 | Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Grant funding cuts for a local club have them seeking help locally



A long-time non-profit in the community has a massive financial hill to climb following significant cuts to the grants they've been receiving for years. BGC Whitecourt & District staff are doing everything they can to find dollars elsewhere, and they are looking to their community for support. Pictured is BGC kid, Claire.

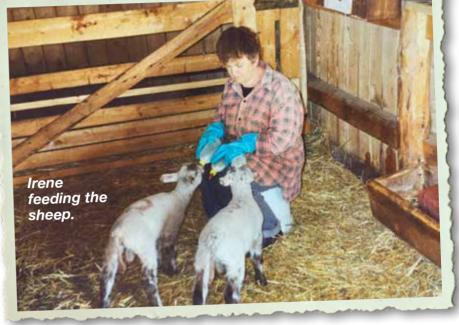
By Serena Lapointe

Unexpected changes to federal/provincial level grants and some private business ones have significantly impacted the BGC Whitecourt & District

(Boys and Girls Club). Some grants the club had been utilizing for years recently ended or changed, leaving the club unable to qualify for more funds.

the new Executive Director at BGC Whitecourt & District. When she started last year; the executive position had been vacant for

Danielle Summers is **continued on page 8**



Reminiscing with Residents: Spruceview edition with Jurgen Moll



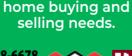
Patrick Carew



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By Serena Lapointe

For those who have lived in the area through the eighties, this interview in the Reminiscing with Residents series might bring forward some cherished

holiday memories, es- lived at Spruceview pecially if your family Lodge for three and a enjoyed having a fresh, half years. Before that, locally cut Spruce tree to decorate as part of vour Christmas traditions.

Moll Jurgen has he lived just outside Whitecourt, miles into Woodlands

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Teens alongside WCT Golf Course assistant golf pro Justin Berget (left) and BGC Youth Program Coordinator, Dawn Alvarez.



BGC Whitecourt & District is three weeks into an eight-week golf program for teens at The Turn Indoor Golf and Lounge. The free program is funded through Canadian Tire's JumpStart charity and is giving kids the chance to improve their golf game or learn the sport altogether. Whitecourt Golf & Country Club Assistant Golf Professional Justin Berget has joined the kids, giving them invaluable tips and helping to elevate the experience.

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21 school projects in northern Alberta



Replacing Beaverlodge Health Centre near Grande Prairie



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Upgrading Keyano College and expanding Northwestern Polytechnic

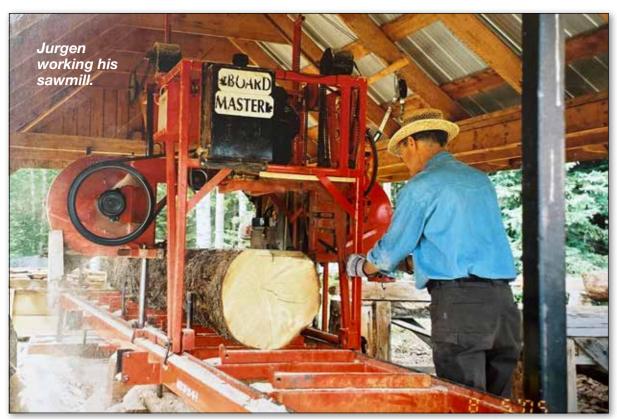


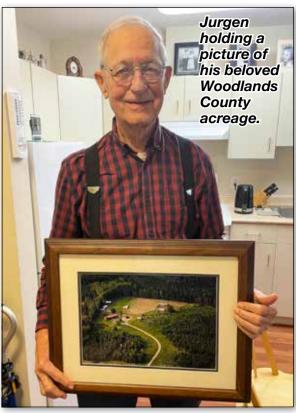
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Jurgen Moll has lived in Whitecourt for 35 years. During his career in forestry and fire management, he lived in numerous Albertan communities, traversing the province and collecting memories along the way. From sailing on a ship to building a bridge and owning a Christmas tree farm, here are some of his cherished stories.

continued from page 1

County, down Highway 32, on an 80-acre plot of land he and his wife Irene purchased raw and built a home on, developing the land into a dream property for their family to enjoy. He even sat on Woodlands County Council for three years.

But before telling stories from Whitecourt, we must start at the beginning. "I was raised on a farm, in a log home, about twenty miles south of Spirit River. I was born at home on July 28, 1938. We lived there until I was fifteen." Moll said he attended a one-room country school. "We had one teacher, and she taught twenty-five kids and eight grades.

She lived four miles from the school and rode a saddle horse back and forth to school.

Sometimes, she would carry one of her girls in front of her," he said. After leaving

school at sixteen, Moll worked in sawmills south of Grande Prairie. "They only ran in the wintertime because they were small mills. They sawed the lumber there and hauled it into Grande Prairie, where there was a planer mill. Big companies bought licenses from the government and would hire Gyppo mills (independent loggers running small-scale operations). They had lots of them here in Whitecourt. If you talk to any

of the old guys here, they were sawing lumber with small mills," said Moll.

After a few years of working sawmills in the winter and working on a large farm near Rycroft in the summer months, Moll wanted a change of scenery. "I had a sister who lived in Victoria, so I went there. But I needed a job and couldn't find one. "So, Moll, his sister and a friend drove to Vancouver to find a job. After learning that the

Seafarers International Union was hiring crewmembers for ships, Moll bought a membership to the union so he could apply.

"They hired me to work on the Yukon Star for the whole summer. I had to go and buy the right kind of clothes because I was going to be a porter, which is cleaning floors and bathrooms," explained Moll. "I worked there for three months on the night shift. It was a passenger ship that

carried 200 passengers. We sailed from Vancouver to Skagway, Alaska and back and forth every seven days." The experience of being on a ship off the Pacific coast for the summer of 1959 ended up being the change of scenery that Moll was looking for. "The inland was very nice. I enjoyed it." Following his ocean adventure, Moll was ready to work in Alberta again,

continued on page 5

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BYLAW 622/25 – AMENDING WOODLANDS COUNTY LAND USE BYLAW 490/17 LAND USE BYLAW AMENDMENT APPLICATION 2024LUA-02

 PLACE
 DATE
 TIME

 Woodlands County Municipal Office Council Chambers Whitecourt, AB
 Wednesday, April 9, 2025
 5:45p.m.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 692 of the Municipal Government Act the Council of Woodlands County is considering an application for amendment to Land Use Bylaw 490/17, by making the following amendments through proposed Bylaw 622/25. Re-zoning of SW-24-58-12-5 Roll Number's: 235954 & 35572 from "A2" Agriculture Two District to "ARE" Agriculture Rural Estates District. For the purpose to subdivide an additional 16-acre parcel.

Written comments or concerns on the above proposed bylaw amendment may be provided **prior to 4:30 pm on Friday, April 4, 2025**, to:

Woodlands County, Box 60, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3 Attention: Joshua Raposo, Manager, Planning Services or by email at planning@woodlands.ab.ca ATTN: Joshua Raposo

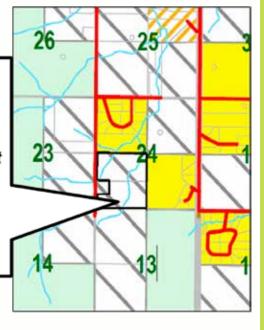
Phone: 780-706-4747

Written comments are preferred; however, this is a public hearing and interested individuals may attend in person to voice any comment or concern. The meeting may be viewed via YouTube: https://bit.ly/3boRlkn

The proposed land use amendment documents may be viewed during regular business hours at the Woodlands County Municipal office in Whitecourt located at #1 Woodlands Lane.

Bylaw 622/25 2024LUA-02 SW-24-58-12-5 Roll Number's: 235954 & 35572

Amending Land Use District within Appendix A of LUB 490/17 from "A2" Agriculture Two District to "ARE" Agriculture Rural Estates District.







ALAN PEANE

ALAN DEANE
Councilor for Whitecourt
Central Division 3
alan doone@woodlands ab ca



JEREMY WILHELM

Councilor for
Whitecourt East Division 4
jermy Whiteling 200,770,8564.



BRUCE PRESTIDGE
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PETER KUELKE Councillor for Goose Lake/ Freeman River Division 6 peter kuelken@woodlands ab ca Phone: 780 284 2425



DEVIN WILLIAMS
Councillor for Fort Assnibone/
Times Division /
devin williams@woodlands ab ca
Phone: 780-305-1825





The Yukon Star.

continued from page 4

returning to the Grande Prairie area.

"I got a job with forestry and stayed (in the field) for the next 33 years, working my way through the system," said Moll. "I worked two years with an initial attack crew in Grande Prairie. In the wintertime, we were building a bridge because, at that time, the government built many things themselves. It wasn't just everything contracted out," said Moll.

He then found himself in Keg River within timber management, living in a log house with power but no water warmed only with an oil heater in the center of the main living space. His soon-to-be wife was a teacher at a nearby Metis Settlement. "We got married, she moved in with me, and we were there for about six months. Then I got a promotion to Peace River, so we moved there," said Moll.

His 30+ years working in the forestry industry was an adventure, moving him from one community to the next. He also lived in Edmonton as his youngest son was deaf and needed to attend a school better suited for him. "We were there for two years. I'm a small-town person, and we didn't enjoy being in the city very much, but he couldn't get an education in Peace River. We had to move, and it was nice that the department moved me," explained Moll.

From Edmonton, the next stop in Moll's job trail landed the family in High Level and then in Edson, as they sketched a path from north to central Alberta and back again. In Edson, Moll was the

Chief Forest Ranger and was there long enough to build a beautiful two-storey family home. They enjoyed it a bit before moving again, this time to Coal Creek.

That's when the path finally landed in Whitecourt. "I was promoted to Forest Protection Officer for the Whitecourt Forest Area, and I stayed here until I retired because I knew this would be my last move," said Moll. After renting in town for two years, which so happened to be just across the street from his current residence at Spruceview Lodge, they found the best place to dig their roots and settled onto their acreage just inside Woodlands County.

Though the uptown area around Spruceview Lodge is all homes now, in the late seventies, Moll's forestry office and warehouse were a short walk away, where the condominiums now sit, kitty-corner from the lodge. "It looked very different back then."

One similar thing from then to now was the transient nature of the community. "I think people still move a lot. But at that time, people would move in and not expect to stay.

They would stay unjob or a promotion. We knew people, and then suddenly they were moving," he said.

Now people stay to retire, said Moll, which was not the case before. "People retire here because they stayed too long and got too old. I'm retired here because I got old," he chuckled "We talked about moving, but my wife finally said she wasn't talking about it anymore because we weren't changing our minds. We were

never going to move," laughed Moll.

In the eighties, after doing a lot of work on the acreage, including clearing 30 acres of willows that were growing back from the previous owners clearing attempts, Moll noticed that little Spruce trees were growing in abundance. "When he cleared the land and pushed together all the piles, he took the topsoil off a little bit. We have so many Spruce trees around us that it seeded it all in. It was covered with little trees," said Moll.

Not sure what to do, Moll put a fence around the area and let sheep roam it. "They ate all the willows that came up but never touched the Spruce." So, Moll kept the trees on the smaller side, pruning them into perfect Christmas trees. When November came, he and the family advertised their homegrown Christmas trees, starting a tradition that lasted a decade.

"Sometimes, would sell 100 trees. It was a U-cut. People would come and buy and cut a tree. A couple of people here at the lodge said they bought trees from us back then," laughed Moll. As the trees started thinning out, the business slowed to a halt, til they got a different but Moll said he holds onto memories from that time. "It was kind of fun."

> Thank you, Jurgen, for sharing stories from your many adventures with The Press and for the extra special sprinkle of Christmas magic vour family shared with the community from your much-loved acreage. Residents wishing to join this series and share their Whitecourt stories are encouraged to contact Serena Lapointe at the Whitecourt Press.



Jurgen, Irene and their three children.



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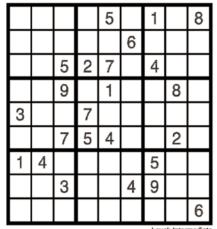
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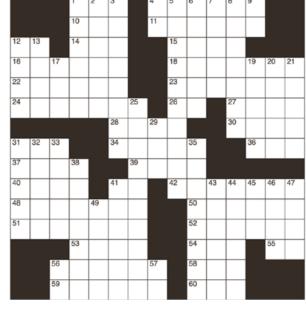
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. State in southwestern India
- 4. Pashto
- 10. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 11. Supervised release from prison
- 12. Greeting
- 14. Type of drug
- 15. __ Sagan, astronomer
- 16. Every year
- 18. Nasal cavities
- 22. Nova __, province
- 23. In an inactive way 24. Cream-colored root
- 26. Nervous system
- disease 27. Guitarist Clapton
- 28. Three came to see Baby Jesus

- 30. Lebowski's nickname
- 31. Play a role
- 34. Not fresh
- 36. Where golfers begin
- 37. Negatives
- 39. Wild goat
- 40. Releasing hormone
- 41. Makes up
- 42. Fastens
- 48. Exists in large numbers
- 50. A connecting word
- 51. A phase of the heartbeat
- 52. Northern Ireland county
- 53. An independent ruler or chieftain
- 54. Pacific sea bream
- 55. Commercial
- 56. Azure



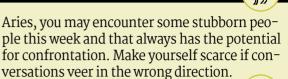
- 58. Doctor of Education
- 59. Protected oneself against loss
- 60. Car mechanics group **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Pastes for filling
- crevices
- 2. Acquire
- 3. Heralds 4. News group
- 5. Exact copies
- 6. Particles
- 7. Noted 20th C. performer Lena
- 8. Tempted
- 9. Midway between
- north and east 12. Slotted, hinged metal
- plate 13. South American
- hummingbird
- 17. Neither
- 19. Walk with confidence 20. Omit when speaking

- 21. Imperial Chinese currency
- 25. A bakery specializing
- in French pastry 29. Talk incessantly
- 31. Ethnic group of Nigeria
- 32. Longtime NY Times
- film critic 33. Beginners
- 35. Makes a trade
- 38. Sleep
- 41. Not moving
- 43. Popular drink: Pina __
- 44. Potential benefits
- 45. A place you can get stuck in
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Chalcedony
- 49. Rover
- 56. Digraph
- 57. Investment vehicle

CROSSWORDS HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)

Things might not be lining up perfectly for a whirlwind trip right now, Taurus. Don't let it get you down. In a few more weeks, an entirely different story may emerge.

(May 22 - June 21)

Gemini, this is a good opportunity to begin clearing up the clutter in your life. Start tackling the mess as soon as possible and enjoy the weight being lifted off your shoulders.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Try not to sweat the small stuff right now, Cancer. It often is easier said than done, but the little things could be dimming your light unnecessarily.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)

Leo, there are plenty of opportunities available to you now whether you realize it or not. Keep an open mind and equally open eyes to see if you can spot chances to learn and grow.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Virgo, your mind and heart are simply not able to let something go that happened in the past. Your emotions may feel restricted because of it.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Libra, you are going through a period of evaluation of certain things in your life. This may bring about tension and even some friction, but it's a necessary step for you.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)

This week there may be a weighty air that puts a damper on your jovial nature, Scorpio. Instead of getting down on yourself, use this time to focus and get a job done.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Sagittarius, you have a chance to make tremendous progress and further your career. It will take hard work, but the rewards will start to roll in soon enough.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Avoid questioning superiors or those in positions of authority right now, Capricorn. This is a surefire path into hot water. Take a break and sort through negative emotions.

(January 21 - February 18)

Aquarius, you might be going through a time of great preparation with a focus on building a major life project. This is not to be taken lightly and will require a lot of attention.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



There may be a sober feeling to the week that leaves you feeling a bit down, Pisces. Focus on finishing projects and these feelings will pass by before you know it.

FINANCIAL TIMES WORD SEARCH

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INTEREST LIABILITIES MARGINS MARKET

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PERCENTAGE PROFIT RATE

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Lemonade Day: A Growing Opportunity for Youth Entrepreneurs in Northern Alberta

By Haylee Winger

The annual Lemonade Day event, a free educational initiative designed to teach youth about entrepreneurship, is set to take place on June 14, 2025. This hands-on program empowers children to start, own, and operate their own lemonade stands, providing them with valuable skills in business management, financial literacy, and community engagement.

Lemonade originally launched in 2007 in Houston, Texas, has grown significantly over the years, reaching over 1.5 million children across 90 communities in the United States, Canada, and beyond. In Northern Alberta, the program has seen remarkable success since its introduction in 2018. Since then, Lemonade Day participants have generated more than \$144,900 in profit and donated over \$43,800 to local charities. In 2024 alone, over 1,300 kids took part in the event.

Amanda Robinson, Marketing Analyst for

Community Futures and City Director for Lemonade Day in Northern Alberta, highlighted the growth of the program. "We have more towns participating for Lemonade Day 2025 than ever before," Robinson said. "Lemonade Day is about so much more than selling lemonade and making money. The kids learn business skills and learn about their communities and the importance of giving back."

The program encourages participants to spend, save, and share their profits. In 2024, 93% of participants donated a portion of their earnings to charities, reinforcing the program's emphasis on community responsibility.

What makes Lemonade Day truly stand out, according to Robinson, is its inclusivity. "What I love most about the program is that it is open to kids of all abilities," she explained. It gives kids a chance to showcase their strengths in so many areas because

erything. Math skills, art skills, customer service skills and so much more."

Lemonade Day Northern Alberta is open to children from kindergarten through High School. Registration for the 2025 event is now open, with the deadline set for May 15, 2025. Upon registering, participants will receive a free backpack and an Entrepreneur Workbook at Lemmy University, which will guide them through the steps of planning, managing, and operating their business. The program focuses on goal setting, financial planning, and entrepreneurship, equipping young participants with essential skills for both business and life.

Robinson also noted the ever-growing creativity and dedication shown by participants each year. "Every year, Lemonade Day gets bigger and better. The stands become more elaborate, and the kids continue to amaze me with their dedication and creativity. It truly is an event the whole community can get involved in and enjoy."

continues to grow, it remains a valuable opportunity for youth in Northern Alberta to gain real-world business experience, develop essential skills, and contribute to their communities. On June 14, 2025, young entrepreneurs across the region will once again take part in this exciting event, showcasing their hard work and creativity. With the support of local businesses and families, Lemonade Day promises to inspire the next generation of leaders, business owners. and community advocates. For more information or to register. visit https://lemonadeday.org/northern-alberta before the May 15







Photos courtesy of Amanda Robinson, City Director for Lemonade Day





Young entrepreneurs participating in Lemonade Day 2024 showcase their creativity and business skills by operating their own lemonade stands, learning valuable lessons in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and community giving.

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continued from page 1

six months. She said joining the team meant learning the ropes as quickly as possible. "It was a ripple effect from not having any grants or fundraising for half a year and trying to catch up on that but also having lots of cancellations of grants and government sponsorships and agreements and not having that money allotted to us anymore. There were a lot of different grants cancelled or that weren't continuing that we had in 2024 and previous years," she explained.

This July, the Whitecourt & District BGC will celebrate twenty years. Summers hopes the local community can help them reach and surpass the milestone. "Through all of our fundraising, like our Halloween Howler and the Festival of Trees, which are all amazing and we do great with, it just wasn't enough for us to keep up with the months after."

One of the cancelled grants, given federally to BGC Canada and then dispersed amongst the Canadian clubs, was a big shock. "BGC Canada was denied an eight- million-dollar grant. So, that's going to limit our funds," said Summers. Another grant called Creating Spaces would've allowed the BGC to build or purchase a building and offer more programming to the community. "I thought, this is great, because I want to see us expand in the community, especially with us not having a vouth and teen centre anymore, which is something we want to support, but they took that grant away," explained Summers.

Though a new grant replaced it, updated requirements pushed it out of contention for the local BGC. "You have to either own the property/building have a minimum of a ten-year lease to qualify for it." She said having a more sizable space would allow them to have a daycare running for a regular income to help support the other programs they offer. "Right now, we don't have any kids during the day. It's just before and after school, and the waitlists are insane for the daycares in town."

Other grants they

can no longer get in-

clude one from the President's Choice Children's Charity. "They helped supply the food program. They are giving the food directly to schools now, which is great, but that doesn't help us with the kids we have. It used to go through BGC Canada, which would then distribute it. But they cancelled it across Canada and said they would only give it to the schools," explained Summers. Another loss was the Blue Jays Care grant. One of the biggest surprises, said Summers, was the loss of the Canada Summer Job Grant. "We had been getting it for years. Last year, they didn't get it. They didn't even get a response. We applied for it this year and still haven't heard back. It was something we've used for more staff in the summer months. Last year, we had to turn down about fifteen families because we didn't have the staff." said Summers.

In the meantime. Summers said she keeps applying to every grant under the sun. "I've applied to seventeen different grants already since the beginning of the year, and I've received maybe two of them, and for all the other ones, it's just a waiting game to find out when they are or aren't approved." She said they are also applying for grants offered by the Town and County. She said she's contacted the schools to see about synergies be-





A trio of BGC kids enjoying after school snacks.

tween them but hasn't heard back about possibilities yet. "I've been trying all my options, but it's been hard.

We don't have any extra money saved up for us to purchase a building, which I would love to do so that we can offer more and sustain ourselves. But right now it's just about being able to sustain."

BGC is a safe, supportive space for youth that also provides events for teens. Currently, the club has a golf program for teens at The Turn Indoor Golf & Lounge and an Indigenous art program coming up in conjunction with the Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society. Both are free for communitv vouth. "You don't get those activities and programs everywhere." said Summers.

"We are not a daycare. We are a social-recreational program, and we offer kids, youth and teens different programs to learn about healthy living, physical activity, education, job training, leadership, creative expression, dealing with emotions, and different make extra money at aspects," she explained.

Summers said she is working on grants for branding awareness to help update their website and provide brochures to the schools, letting parents and caregivers know what the club offers. "Twenty percent of Whitecourt's population is 0-14, and we don't have many before/after school programs. I don't want to see the club close. We've been here in Whitecourt for twenty years, which has been awesome, and the staff here are great.

There's a lot of potential for it to grow," said Summers.

Those wanting to help the club are encouraged to do so. "Community support is huge, especially for a non-profit. We don't staff show up to ensure the kids reach their developmental goals, especially those not as privileged as others. The BGC allows kids to have opportunities they might not have otherwise," said Summers.

The club recently created a sponsorship package and a few ways the community can support them, including an email to receive donations (etransfers@BGCWhitecourt. com). "Companies can

support us by being a sponsor or making a donation. That would be huge for us. ANC will be donating their bottles to us, so we have an account at the Bottle Depot, and anyone can drop their bottles off and put them on our account. People can also volunteer at mental health learning/ the end of the day. Our our fundraising events or help raise awareness through word of mouth. Any donation big or small is great."

Summers said community support is something the kids really feel. "Kids will remember the companies and people that showed up for them when they were vounger and needed it the most. Maybe that will intrigue them to apply to work there one day or to volunteer and help the community and make a ripple effect of their own."





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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.

Visit www.mhilecouripress.com



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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.

Coming Events

BLANKET THE PROV-INCE with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach 75 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903; www. awna.com; email classifieds@awna.com.

EDMONTON COIN SHOW & SALE - April 12/13, 2025, 10 am - 4:30 pm, Sunday,10 am - 3:00 pm.. Lions Centre; 11113 - 113 Street, Edmonton. Free market evaluations. Dealers from across Canada * Auctions * Displays * WATCHES

* Family friendly! www.

edmontoncoinclub.com/shows.

Feed and Seed

GET YOUR MESSAGE SEEN ACROSS Alberta. The Blanket Classifieds or Value Ads reach over 500,000 Alberta readers weekly. Three options starting at \$269, \$299 or \$599 to get your message out! KEEP people in the loop with over 75 Weekly Community Newspapers. Call THIS NEWSPAPER now or email classifieds@ awna.com for details. 1-800-282-6903, 780-434-8746 www.awna. com.

BARLEY - *NEW-AB Standswell* Smooth AWN, High Yielding, Grain and Forage Great Lodging Resistance. 1st NITROGEN USE EFFI-CIENT CEREAL IN CAN-ADA. Attracting Japanese Interest. OTHER BARLEY: Cerveza, CDC Austenson, CDC Maverick, Sundre. WHEAT - Pintail, Forage or Grain. OATS - AC Juniper, AC Morgan, AC Mustang, Derby, CDC S01 Super Oat. PEAS - Very Early Yellow Peas, Forage Peas. ALSO AVAILABLE: Polish Canola & Spring Triticale. mastinseeds. com; 403-556-2609.

Health

REPLACE-HIP/KNEE 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.

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Flatfoot

Hammertoes

Warts

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



Dr. Ben Sefcik, DPM Podiatrist

Whitecourt

Advanced Health Pharmasave 5112 50 St. Whitecourt, AB

Grande Prairie

Parkland Medical Centre #202, 10127 121 Ave Grande Prairie, AB

Evolution Foot and Ankle Clinic www.bensefcikdpm.com

No Referral Necessary • New Patients Welcome • Covered under most Insurance Plans •

<u>Airdrie</u>

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., March 26
Chance of flurries
40%
7°C
-1°C
SE 10 km/h

<1cm

Thu., March 27
Snow and showers
60%
5°C
-2°C
E 24 km/h

<1cm

Fri., March 28
Scattered flurries
60%
3°C
-4°C
E 19 km/h

~1cm

Sat., March 29
Partly cloudy
60%
2°C
-4°C
E 19 km/h

Sun., March 30
Cloudy with clear breaks
30%
3°C
-5°C
E 10 km/h



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

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

Canada to access crisis support by phone, in French or English: toll-free 1-833-456-4566 Available 24/7

Crisis Text Line (Powered by Kids Help Phone) Canada Wide free, 24/7 texting service is accessible immediately to youth anywhere in Canada by texting TALK to 686868 to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to 686868 to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/ SMS enabled cell phone.

KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under

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

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

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

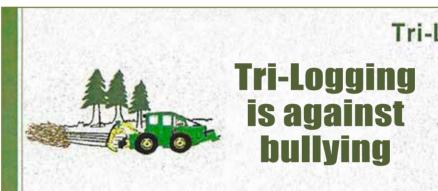
Email wctpress@telus.net All submissions remain confidential

Putting a face on suicide



Every 40 seconds somewhere around the world someone dies by suicide, that's 99 people every 66 minutes. Every day, that's almost 100 people in the United States alone, and over 2160 worldwide. Putting a Face on Suicide (PAFOS) is a suicide awareness project that creates posters and videos to pay tribute to those we have lost to suicide with dignity and respect. PAFOS humanizes the daunting statistics; lovingly replacing numbers with faces.

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WOMBANIA

by PETER MARINACCI







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Soaring Eagle Support Society

Offering support services for marginalized individuals

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

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



Recover Out Loud

- Mondays are in person, at the Family Worship Center upstairs, and online (hybrid) at 7:30pm
- Fridays 7:30pm at the Whitecourt Baptist Church in person only.

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.
Our next series starts Tuesday, February 4 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
WELLSPRING

WELLSPRING FAMILY RESOURCE & CRISIS CENTRE

@whitecourt_shelter

Shelter:

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

Outreach Support Program:

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

Child Support Program:

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

Preventative Education:

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

Family Resource & Crisis Centre

www.whitecourtshelter.ca

Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous Group



Meetings are three times each week

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

Located at the United Church Basement on Legion Street (formerly 5201 – 50 Street) Please Leave a Message for Our AA member or

Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322



PUBLIC NOTICE



TAKE PART! GIVE BACK! **Opportunity for Public Participation**

The Town is recruiting citizens to fill a volunteer position on an Advisory Board. Board members 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. Get involved! It's your town. Share your knowledge and meet new colleagues.

Community Services Advisory Board

"To create a healthy, strong community by meeting the leisure and social needs of the community."

(1) Member – term to expire in October 2027

Applications will be accepted from residents of Whitecourt or the Woodlands County agreement area.

If being on a Council Committee interests you, please complete an application form which can be found on the Whitecourt website at https://www.whitecourt.ca/your-town/ mayor-council/public-participation or picked up at the Town Office. Applications must be received before 12:00 noon, Monday, April 7, 2025 to:

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

Applications will be presented to Town Council at the April 14, 2025 Regular Meeting.

You can also scan the QR code for a direct link to the application form:



Questions?

Contact our Administration Department at 780.778.2273 or email administration@whitecourt.ca.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP PROGRAM FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Whitecourt is seeking non-profit organizations to perform refuse pickup duties within the community, including highway ditches and boulevards. The refuse pickup schedule will run throughout April to the end of October (weather permitting). At least one group is needed for July and one group for August.

To qualify for the program, groups must provide a written request to the Town, outlining how the funds would be used, confirming dates that the group would be available to perform the work, and providing an address and phone number for two group representatives.

Please note: All those participating in clean-up activities must be 9 years of age or older. All groups awarded projects under the Community Clean-Up Program will be required to abide by all current public health guidelines. Information on protocols will be provided to groups prior to performing scheduled refuse pick up duties.

Groups must provide a minimum of 12 volunteers, with at least one adult for every two youth (aged 9 to 17 years); Applicants can submit a proposal to complete between 50 and 100 hours of service; the time commitment must be confirmed prior to approval. Approved applicants shall receive \$12.00 for each hour of service, and total allocations for the program will be based on the annual budget.

For further details, please contact the Infrastructure Services Department at 780-778-2705.

Written letters of application must be received at the following address by 12:00 noon on Monday, April 7:

TOWN OF WHITECOURT Re: Community Clean Up Program Application Box 509, 5004 - 52 Avenue WHITECOURT, AB T7S 1N6

Fax: 780-778-2408

E-Mail: cathysudderdean@whitecourt.ca

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decision was made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 25-005: 14 Feero Drive - Discretionary Use Home Occupation, Family Day Home - Approved with conditions.

Date of Decision: March 13, 2025 Appeal Closes at 4:00pm: March 31, 2025

An Appeal of the above decision may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$310) to the Office of the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, Town of Whitecourt Administration Building, Box 509, Whitecourt, Alberta, T7S 1N6 prior to 4:00pm on the above noted date. Any person(s) affected by the said proposal(s), has the right to appeal prior to the above date.

The following decision was made by the Development Authority:

Application 25-006: 39 Riverdale Bend – Administrative Variance to Reduce West Yard Setback from 4.0m to 3.3m – Approved with conditions.

Date of Decision(s): March 10, 2025 Appeal Closes at 4:00pm: March 31, 2025

An Appeal of the above decision may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$310) to the Office of the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, Town of Whitecourt Administration Building, Box 509, Whitecourt, Alberta, T7S 1N6 prior to 4:00pm on the above noted date. Any person(s) affected by the said proposal(s), has the right to appeal prior to the above date.

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in a fun-filled, birthday-themed show hitting the stage at Central School on Mother's Day weekend. The show is about a birthday party where adults vanish and the kids must create a new society. Director Brigette Moore said the amount of talented youth in Whitecourt is unreal. "Whether it is singing, acting or being responsible and creative behind the scenes, it is truly wonderful to see the cast and crew grow their talents, self-esteem and friendships throughout the course of a production. This year, we had 45 youth auditions, and we wish we could have cast everyone." Moore said the overwhelming response to the play showed them how much live theatre and performing arts are needed in Whitecourt. She said they have also received amazing sponsorship, showing the community's willingness to support local theatre. "The cast and crew are working so hard to make this a great show and are excited to show off their talents to everyone who has supported them!" Pictured are actresses Rachel Penny (left), Avery Bergeron (front), Elleigha Mustus, Beretta Lomas.

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS *



Keep your dollars in Canada to strengthen communities and support local businesses, including your local newspaper.





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Wanted: Whole items or bits & pieces, watches, rings, necklaces, chains, bracelets etc, sterling silverware, Jewelers/Miner's gold dust, nuggets, wafers, coins, bars, ingots & dental gold.

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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

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.





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.

Woodlands County Council meeting recap

Kristen Belke and Rhonda Woods of the Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee (H-PARC) provided an update on their 2024 operating year and their five-year plan. The committee has welcomed five new doctors, three nurses and supported three physicians through the Doctor Loan Program. The committee has also hosted 14 community tours and provided 36 welcome packages to support the recruitment of healthcare professionals and medical students to the area. H-PARC plans

to continue supporting healthcare professionals and their families in the integration to the community, promoting careers in rural health and collaborating with Council in their advocacy for increased health services for Whitecourt and Woodlands County.

Chelsea Grande, Kelly Sandoway and Angie Mitchell with the Town of Whitecourt's Community Services department presented the department's 2024 highlights. The department noted membership and use of the Allan &

Jean Millar Centre is approaching pre-pandemic levels and there has been large increases in participation for free events and programming. There was also a 27% increase in clients accessing the Whitecourt Food Bank compared to 2023.

Continuing the modernization of County policies, Policy AD-2.002 – Electronic Signatures Policy was adopted establishing the usage of electronic signatures for County business operations.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

• Regular Council –

Wednesday, March 26, 9:30 am

- Regular Council Wednesday, April 9, 5:00 pm
- Priorities Committee – Wednesday, April 16, 5:00 pm
- Regular Council Wednesday, April 23, 9:30 am

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







Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Now Hiring Food & Beverage Supervisor

DUTIES AND REPONSIBILITIES

- · Actively promotes an environment conducive to high quality customer service and employee relations by being a positive leadership example.
- Assist for scheduling, disciplinary actions, training and mentoring for staff of food and beverage
- · Inventory each month
- Work with Marketing & Advertising to promote the food & beverage outlets.
- Understand security requirements.
- · Ensure maintenance of safety and sanitation standards and policies
- · Provide overall direction, coordination, and ongoing evaluation of operations.
- Understand basic asset management. Must be able to work other duties assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- 4-5 years' experience in the Food & Beverage · 3-4 years demonstrated experience in supervisory
- within the Food & Beverage Industry.
- · Experience in a casino setting preferred. • Post secondary education in a related field
- preferred but not required.
- · Training in management and employee development preferred but not required.
- · Continuous training and education to keep abreast of changes in the industry and external environment.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills. · Ability to meet deadlines in a rapidly changing
- business environment. · Ability to work independently.
- Extensive food & beverage knowledge and ability to develop and apply practices, procedures, and principles in a casino environment.
- · Developed writing skills sufficient to prepare written materials involving detailed descriptions and explanations requiring the accurate use of

· We are in the people business and therefore it is part of everyone's job to actively provide customer service. This means that for every customer that comes in, you will attempt to make eye contact, greet and welcome to our business. This also means that you must always be attentive to the customer's needs so there are no undue delays and we will serve our customers in a cheerful and efficient manner. Our service attitude also implies and obligation to each other. We must greet and acknowledge each other in a sincere professional way. And seek to assist each other wherever practical, thereby demonstrating that success is a shared experience among our teams. Excellent customer relations and team work are essential part of every job in this environment.

specialized terminology.

- · Self-planning skills sufficient to schedule, organize, and carry out work assignments according to established work plans, adjusting work schedules according to changing priorities.
- Developed judgment and problem solving skills sufficient to interpret and/or analyze factual and conceptual information with the ability to adapt general procedures or approaches when formulating responses to problems.
- · Manages workload independently, and works well in teams.
- Develops security and systems knowledge through on the job experience.
- · Must display leadership skills, the ability to multitask and adjust to multiple jurisdictions.
- Smart Training course, preserve, deal US in phase
- Must be able to provide RCMP security clearance
- · Working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint.

Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451 Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca

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



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Restaurant Assistant Manager NOC 60030

REPONSIBILITIES

- · Plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate the operations of a restaurant, bar, or other food or beverage service
- Determine type of services to be offered and implement operational procedures
- Recruit staff and oversee staff training
- Set staff work schedules and monitor staff performance
- Control inventory, monitor
- revenues and modify procedures and prices
- Resolve customer complaints and ensure health and safety regulations are followed
- Negotiate arrangements with suppliers for food and other supplies
- Negotiate arrangements with clients for catering or use of facilities for banquets or receptions.

QUALIFICATIONS

- · Completion of a college or other program related to hospitality or food and beverage service management is usually required.
- Responsible beverage service certification is usually required

for managers of establishments serving alcoholic beverages.

 Several years of experience in the food service sector, including supervisory experience, are required.

Experience: 3 - 4 years.

Education: Completion of secondary school is usually required. Terms of Employment: Permanent

full-time 44-hour work week.

English Language: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends,

Employment Conditions:

Benefits Package:

Holidays, Nights, Wage: \$26.00/hour Vision, Dental, and Health after a 90-day probation period. Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada. 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:

Address:

Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca.

mail or fax.



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

REPONSIBILITIES

- 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
- · Process money, cheques, and credit/debit

QUALIFICATIONS

Language:

Location:

Contact:

Benefits Package:

- Some secondary school education is usually required. High school graduation may be required by some employers.
- Eligibility for bonding may be required.
- A casino gaming license may

- 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

be required for cashiers working in gambling

- Must be able to complete Smart training
- courses Must be able to complete AML

2 – 3 years, or we will train.

Experience: Education: Some post-secondary, high school may

require.

Permanent full-time 40-hour work week. **Terms of Employment:**

English

Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends,

Holidays, Nights. Wage:

\$15.00 per hour. Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation

Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB

Canada. Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 **Address:**

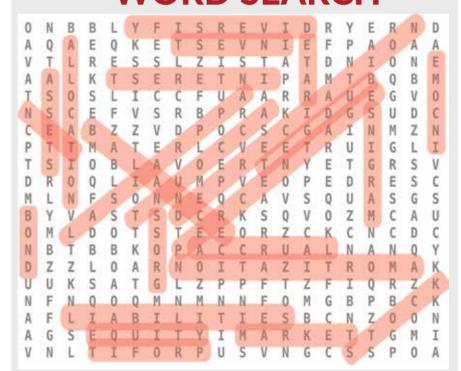
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