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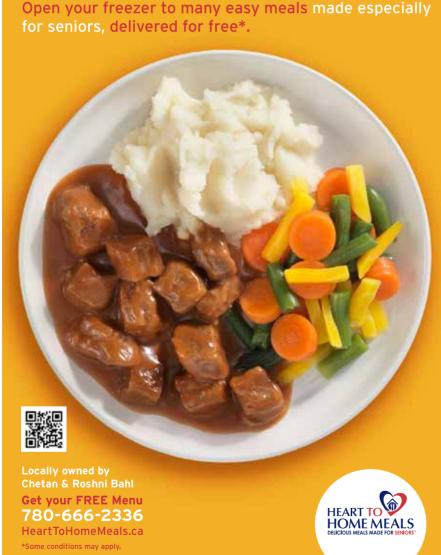
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Vol. 14 - Issue 9 | Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Numerous community groups have received impactful dollars through FCSS funding over the years

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A group of happy recipients in 2019.



One of the grants that supports community groups in providing services to residents, the Family and Community Support Services, was recently doled out to three eligible organizations. Nearly \$19,000 was provided, enabling the orchestration of three projects. Pictured is The Community Lunchbox staff accepting their funding check from Mayor Pickard.



Patrick Carew

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By Serena Lapointe

Since the fall of 2010, numerous community groups have received funding from the Town of Whitecourt through the Family and Community Support Services Grant Program (FCSS). Funding through the program is partially split between

the Alberta government and communities taking part, with the province kicking in eighty percent.

Dollars are doled out early each year, following an application window in the fall/ winter of the previous year. The primary focus is helping support community groups that want to provide social-related programs that have a preventive component and fall under the mandates of

Mandates include helping people become self-reliant and resil-

continued on page 2



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The Stepping Stones Early Learning Society was one of the 2023 recipients.

continued from page 1

ient while promoting and supporting residents in building positive social relationships and becoming socially engaged and contributing community members. The mandate aims nity and empower residents to highlight social issues and become influencers of change.

Over the last six years, over \$150,000 has been given to groups to fulfill the mandate, benefitting community members from various walks of life. In 2019, six decommunity serving groups received dollars for their programs, including Challeng-Baseball, which received just under Challenger \$5.000. Baseball is a program

for children with cognitive or physical disabilities. Funding received supported participants and their families.

Another recipient that year was Lorne's Blanket, which received \$4.268 towards hiring a Client Navito get and keep people gator. Lorne's Blanket active in their commuiss a transitional space for men over 18 facing homelessness in the community. Other recipients included the McLeod River Primary Care Network, the Whitecourt Pregnancy Group, Twice is Nice and the Community Lunch Box. All said and done, in 2019. \$50,000 went out into the community to support programming.

In 2022, the White-Indigenous court Friends Society received \$8,500 to host a two-day workshop for men. The Talking Stick

Workshop, facilitated by Brad and Candice Seneca of the Buffalo Keeper Niheyaw Centre, proved successful thanks to the funding. A talking stick is an Aboriginal tool used to regulate dialogue. The one with the stick has the floor to speak, promoting participation.

The West Yellowhead Pregnancy Care Centre is another group that received funding in 2022, with just over \$11,000. They put the dollars towards program operations and training for their staff and volunteer workforce. One year previous, in 2021, Soaring Eagle Support Services received iust over \$13,000 in funding, with just shy of \$30,000 going out in funding that year, spread amongst four recipients.

Four groups applied

for funding this year, with twenty thousand up for grabs in the 2025 Operating Budget: The Community Lunch Box Society, Wellspring Family Resource and Crisis Centre, McLeod River Primary Care Network and Soaring Eagle Support Society.

Director of Community Services Chelsea Grande explained how the funding works during the January 21 Regular Meeting of Council. "The Family and Community Support Services Grant Program funds preventative social services. Eligible expenses include funding for programming, program operations and funding to support volunteer training, coordination and supervision.

However, the policy caps volunteer coordination at one-third of the position to a maximum of fifteen dollars per hour."

The Community Services Advisory Board sorts and scores applications and recommends to Council how the grant dollars should be allocated amongst applicants. Grande explained that each eligible application was scored based on five criteria: strategy, residents served, volunteer involvement overall budget and social return on investment.

Soaring Eagle Support Society requested \$20.750 to enhance outreach services by adding an Outreach Worker to their staff to help support homeless and hard-to-house individuals in the community. Unfortunately, the request did not meet the grant criteria due to a contravention of the Town Land Use Bylaw. Soaring Eagle Support Society operates out of a motel on Highway

43, a C-7 District (commercial). The definition of a motel within the Town bylaw does not match the services offered at the motel, rendering the request ineligible.

The Community Lunch Box applied for \$20,000 to fund volunteer coordination and support.

Grande explained that only one-third of the Volunteer Coordinator wages and half of the volunteer training and development were eligible. Once adequately updated, the Community Lunch Box Society's ask was \$13,860.

The McLeod River Primary Care Network application focused on a project called Living Your Best Life, featuring various workshops on mental health, social engagement and physical wellness, aiming to introduce people to strategies for easier navigation through life. Two of the requests did not meet the requirements as they were more recreational: \$5,760 for a Kinesiologist and \$275 for exercise bands. Once ineligible portions were removed, the ask was \$2,544.

Lastly, the Wellspring Family Resource and Crisis Centre applied to update and reprint their keychain resource guide, which highlights services and supports available in the community on one handy keychain. Their request was \$2,200. Since their application was for under \$3,000, the board recommended covering it in its entirety. Whitecourt Town Council voted in favour of the recommendations the Community Services Advisory Board, approving funding for three of the four applicants totalling \$18,604. Councillor Tara Baker declared a conflict and was not present for the presentation portion of the meeting and did not vote.

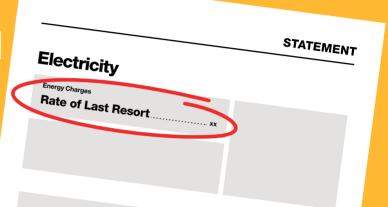


Wellspring Family Resource and Crisis Center received funding this year.

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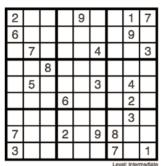
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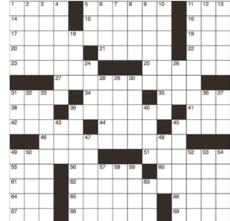
SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

SUDOKU

CROSSWORDS



Then you'll lov sudoku. This ouzzle will h sharpen your pencil and put



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

Crossword Clues

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cut a little bit off
- 5. State with confidence
- 11. River in NE Scotland
- 14. Not narrow
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Toadstools
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Challenged
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Showing extreme greed
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. Everyone has one
- 35. Lake in Botswana 38. E.T. rode in one
- 39. Juniors' parents
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Mother of Perseus
- 44. Ornamental box
- 45. Gov't investigators
- 46. Uncertain 49. A cotton fabric with
- a satiny finish
- 51. The vast grassy plains in S. America

- 55. Your consciousness of your own identity 56. Noted consumer
 - advocate 60. Spanish sports club
 - 61. Body part
 - 62. Tractability
 - 64. Woman (French)
 - 65. Ready and willing to be taught

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed aside
- 2. Water sprite
- 3. Ones to look up to
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. A number everyone has
- 6. Marine invertebrate 7. One who takes you
- to court 8. Indicates outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Strains 11. Cross
- 12. A way to remove
- 13. Some pages are
- dog. 18. Ukraine city
- 24. A citizen of
- Denmark 26. Summer month

(abbr.)

- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Jewelry brand
- 30. Fictional rider of Rohan
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Russian city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Furious
- 37. Drivers' licenses
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. They __
- 45. Women
 - 47. Inspire with love
 - 48. Japanese ankle sock
 - 49. Appears
 - 50. Old World lizard
 - 52. The leading performer
 - 53. Type of protein
 - 54. Pennsylvania town
 - 57. Art : around 1920
 - 58. __ Blyton, children's author
 - 59. Abnormal breathing
 - 63. A place to sleep
 - 66. Muslim ruler title
 - 67. Depressed
 - 68. Gradually gave way
 - 69. Clear-thinking

SCHOOL NEWS





Whitecourt Central's kindergarten students had an exciting and educational experience as they toured IGA. During the visit, the young learners had the opportunity to discover the important roles of bakers, cake decorators, butchers, grocery staff, and cashiers. The hands-on experience gave them a closer look at the various jobs that help keep the store running smoothly, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for the world of work!



Ms. Kalisz's Grade 3 class at Pat Hardy School recently learned a fun and engaging new math game that they will have the chance to teach their families during upcoming student-led conferences.

PET SITTER WORD SEARCH

Ι M L 0 U S R F U Υ G М Ε G В D V Υ G I D R s Ν Ι 0 Ν G В 0 Е U G U G I 0 c N K S R Ε c U ٧ I U Ε I М U G I Ε Ι Ε н Ι т S Ε L c I В Α D D Н т s R s U Н В N Ν U L L 0

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

WORDS

BOWL CARE CAT

COMPANION DOG

FAMILY FEEDING HELP **HOME INSTRUCT**

LEASH MEDICINE

TRUST VETERINARIAN **OVERNIGHT** WALKS PETS REFERENCES WELFAR

SITTER

SNUGGLE

TRAVELING

MLA Long adds Minister of Infrastructure to his title



Minister Long looking on as Premier Danielle Smith announced his appointment.



Minister Long alongside his colleague, Minister of Justice and Deputy House Leader, Mickey Amery.



Late afternoon on Thursday, February 27, news broke that West Yellowhead MLA Martin Long was selected by Premier Danielle Smith to fill the role of Minister of Infrastructure following the resignation of Peter Guthrie just days prior. In the announcement, Premier Smith said Long was an extremely hard worker, adding, "I have full confidence in his ability to work with me and our cabinet colleagues to deliver on our 8.6 billion school construction plan and our government's priorities." Minister Long, a resident of Woodlands County, previously served as a Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Tourism, Small Business, and Rural Health.



Gloriana Mae Tshigerl (Herrling)

July 6, 1943 - February 1, 2025

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Gloriana Mae Tshigerl known as Gloria, passed away on Saturday, February 1, 2025 with her loving family by her side.

Gloria found such happiness when she crocheted, Gloria has crocheted over 4000 pairs of slippers for the

Repeat Boutique in Whitecourt for the hospital auxiliary (Friends Of Whitecourt). She enjoyed gardening and growing vegetables, she had a small patch of roses she tended, along with a good day of fishing is a day well spent. Gloria took pride in all of her grandchildren, she made a point to go to tournaments, play card games with them and attend family dinners and get togethers. Gloria raised her sons to have a sense of purpose and meaning to everyday, she led by example, and raised them to understand a hard day's work and the benefits. Gloria passion was volunteering in her community of giving back, the hours she spent in service to her



community gave her a purpose and a renewed sense of self.

Gloria will be remembered by her sons, Micheal (Tanya), Terry (Kim), and Dwain (Heather); grandchildren, Steven (Keli), Amy (Brett), Jenna (Brandon), Logan, and Sean (Tiana); great-grandson Ryan; sisters, Denise and Pat (Geroge), along with nieces

and nephews.

Gloria was predeceased by her husband, Frederick, her parents, Barbara and Henry Tschigerl and brother-in-law Ed.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at the Whitecourt Hospital and Dr. Mustapha for the kind and compassionate care shown to Gloria during her stay.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation made in Gloria's name to the Friends of Whitecourt.

As per Gloria's wish there will not be a formal funeral service, she will be interned with her husband in Blue Ridge Cemetery at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to www.affinityfuneralservice.ca.

Funeral Arrangements in the care of Terri Shimenosky at:



Affinity

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- · Reception Catering /Flowers

- · Assistance with CPP Applications



Can I count on the Canada Pension Plan when I retire?

Pension Plan (CPP) has been in place for almost six decades, but there's a persistent – and unfounded – concern among some Canadians that it will not be there for them when they retire.

According to a recent survey, almost 30 per cent of respondents fear CPP benefits will not be available to them in retirement and another 25 per cent are not sure. The survey did not delve into the reasons why, but the concerns expressed by those surveyed could go back to the mid-1990s, when it was estimated that the Canada Pension Plan would not be able to cover benefits by the mid-2010s; or, perhaps it's the influence of the United States, where social security is forecast to be insolvent by the mid-2030s.

CPP Fund's financial stability: The fact of the matter is, the fund is on a firm financial footing thanks

to actions taken more

(NC) The Canada than 25 years ago by the federal government and the provinces that participate in the pension plan. They raised contribution levels and created CPP Investments, a professional investment management organization that is overseen by an experienced board of directors and is accountable to Parliament and the federal and provincial finance ministers.

manages excess funds that are not currently needed to pay pension benefits in the best interest of more than 22 million contributors and beneficiaries. As of September 30, 2024, the CPP Fund stands at \$675 billion. And it's worth noting that pension contributions that come off your pay can only be used to pay CPP benefits; and cannot be used by any governments for any

CPP Investments

> in place to ensure the financial sustainability of the system. Every six years, CPP Investments undergoes a special examination of its systems and practices by an independent examiner. In addition.

the Office of the Chief Actuary (OCA), an independent federal body, reviews the future costs and financial stability of the CPP every three years. The OCA's most recent report reconfirmed that

the Canada Pension Plan is financially sustainable under legislated contribution rates for at least the next 75 vears – the longest period actuarial forecasts can look out.

These factors – a

professional investment manager comwith strong bined oversight – means you can have confidence that your benefits will be there for you for as long as you live – for generations to come.



other purpose. Checks and balances for financial sustainabil**ity:** There are strong checks and balances

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WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

- Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:30pm at the Family **Worship Center upstairs**
- Fridays 7:30pm at the Whitecourt Baptist Church

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



"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

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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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Preventative Education:

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www.whitecourtshelter.ca

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.

Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous Group



Meetings are three times each week

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

New Women's AA Group on Saturdays @11 am

Located at the United Church Basement 5201 – 50 St

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

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

Winter Park Party



Fun around the fire.







The Town of Whitecourt's park parties are back for another year of fun. The first event of 2025 was held on Wednesday evening at Dahl Drive sliding hill, after a rescheduling due to chillier temperatures weeks prior. Attendees were supplied with hot dogs, hot chocolate, glow sticks and a roaring fire in the pit to enjoy between trips down the hill. The Light Up Toboggan Party was made possible thanks to support from The P.O.W.E.R. Hub (People of Whitecourt Encouraging Resiliency) and Pembina Pipelines.

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

PLACE

Woodlands County Municipal Office Council Chambers, Whitecourt, AB

DATE Wednesday, March 12, 2025

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 March 7, 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

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

5:15 pm 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.





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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

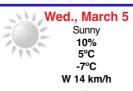
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<u>Airdrie</u>

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













Cloudy
30%
3°C
-6°C
W 11 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.

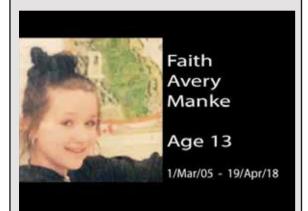
KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under

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?

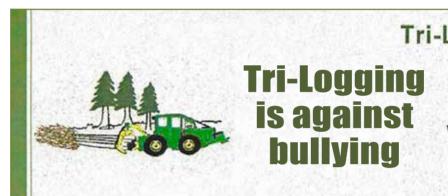
Email wctpress@telus.net All submissions remain confidential

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





Money Matters One Canadian Dollar = 0.69 US Dollar at an exchange rate of 0.6928 (using nominal rate).

Dollar Values as of March 5, 2025



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



Contact

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



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Culture and Events Centre construction is on schedule and on budget



Construction of the Culture & Events Centre continues. The project is on time and within budget and is expected to be complete by the fall of 2026.

The building's steel construction is 85% complete, and the exterior wall framing is scheduled to start in April 2025. Construction on the Culture & • Library – The new

Events Centre started in the summer of 2024. The facility will be a landmark for the community, and will include three components:

- Arts, Culture and Convention Centre – A venue designed to host a variety of concerts, trade shows, festivals, events, conventions, and celebrations.

library will provide increased floor area and space to better serve the region. It will provide a safe and accessible place for the community to learn and gather and increase operating ef-

Town Administration Office – The new office space will enhance customer ser-

ficiency.

vice and accessibility and provide an administrative facility that can grow with the community.

Sponsorship opportunities for the Culture & Events Centre are in the process of being finalized, along with sales packages for the listings of the current Town Office and Library buildings.





Five things you might not know about RRSPs

(NC) Most Canadians do not have a workplace pension. That's why the federal government created the Registered Retirement Savings Plan. If you're one of the roughly fifty per cent of Canadian wage earners who contribute to their RRSPs each year, there are a number of things you may not know about them. Here are five.

They provide a tax-deduction

One of the main benefits of contributing to your RRSPs is that you can get a deduction on your current taxes. Simply put, every dollar you contribute to your RRSPs is deducted from your income for the year. This will reduce the amount of income you pay taxes on, and may even move you into a lower tax bracket. Your investments in the RRSP are also tax-sheltered as they grow.

There's a contribution limit

There's a maximum amount that Ca-

nadians are allowed to contribute to their RRSPs each year. Your personal amount is based on 18 per cent of your previous year's income, up to a maximum of \$31,560 for the 2024 tax year. But, if you don't use all your contribution room, any extra can be carried over into the future. You can find your unused contribution balance on your annual Notice of Assessment you receive from the Canada Revenue Agency.

You can withdraw them before retirement

Generally, when you withdraw from your account before its time, you will get hit with a hefty withholding tax and the money you take out will be counted as taxable income for that year. But there are exceptions. For example, vou can withdraw up to \$60,000 from your RRSPs to use for a down payment if you



qualify as a first-time homebuyer. Similarly, you can withdraw up to \$10,000 a year (to a \$20,000 lifetime maximum) to use for a qualifying education program. Note that in both cases you must pay back whatever amount you withdraw into your RRSPs within a set period to avoid penalties.

They don't last

forever

Many people don't realize that you have to close your RRSP account by December 31st of the year you turn 71. At that point, you have three options: withdraw all the remaining funds, transfer them to a similar investment called a Registered Retirement Income Fund or purchase an annuity.

You can use you RRSPs to donate

Want to leave a legacy and make a big impact on a cause you care about? You can name a charity as a beneficiary on your RRSP. Your financial institution has a simple form for you to fill out where you list all the people and/ or registered charities vou'd like to receive your leftover funds. Note that in Quebec, you can only name a charity as a beneficiary of your RRSPs through your will.

An added benefit? Your estate will receive a donation tax credit that could eliminate much or all of the taxes that would have to be paid on any leftover RRSPs anyway.





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Woodlands County Council recap

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

Karen Pronishen, Executive Director of the Barrhead & District FCSS Society, provided an update on their 2024 operating year including programs and services provided to residents at the Fort Assiniboine office. As part of the agreement signed in 2023, the society opened an office in the Fort Assiniboine & District Arena to deliver FCSS services to Fort Assiniboine, Goose Lake and Timeu residents one day a week. The society is also looking at expanding their services to two days a week and increasing other programming.

Chair of the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) Adrian Foster joined virtually to provide further details on the organization. The CANHC is a not-for-profit association that supports local governments by

acting as a resource for all current, future and interested nuclear host communities. Council approved an associate membership of \$500 and appointed Councillor Burrows as the Woodlands County representative.

Council was provided an update on the Old Ferry Road erosion. Prior to seeking a second engineer to provide options, area residents will have an opportunity to provide comments regarding the future of the road. Woodlands County continues to communicate with the Province regarding the Disaster Recovery Program as well as seeking provincial funding through the Local Government Sustainability Grant. As a precautionary measure, Council approved the widening of two sections of Old Ferry Road in 2025 to allow for turnaround points in the road as a temporary measure in the event of an emergency until a strategy is determined.

Policy G1.001 - Municipal Handbook was

development, policy clarify responsibilities and introduce a standardized system for organizing, reviewing and approving policies, procedures and standards. As part of the policy review and modernization, several policies were adopted under the new policy handbook framework including Policy G-1.002 – Corporate Planning Tools, Policy AD2.001 – Purchasing and Expenditure Policy and Policy IS.R-6.201 Dust Control.

adopted to streamline

Policy AD2.001 -Purchasing and Expenditure Policy was updated to allow for more efficient procurement by expanding purchasing authority for Directors and designated staff and simplify purchasing for emergency situations. The revised policy introduces a local business component to encourage reinvestment in the community and prioritizing local vendors and service providers.

Per Policy IS.R-6.201 – Dust Control,

dust control rates remain at \$425 per 100 meters, \$750 per 200 meters, and \$4.25 for each additional meter. Dust control applications must be submitted and fees paid before Thursday, May 1.

Policy 1907 - Volunteer & Senior Appreciation was rescinded to allow for the efficient management of the program and greater flexibility in organizing the events. The Volunteer Appreciation & Senior's Recognition program will continue as it will be incorporated into the Community Services department's business plan.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council -Wednesday, March 12, 5:00 pm
- Regular Council -Wednesday, March 26, 9:30 am

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

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Job#: 25-016, Guest Services Associate II, Permanent, Full-time Position.

Job#: 25-017, Energy Manager, Contract Position.

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





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The Wolverines are on fire as the countdown to the playoffs is on



Wolverine goaltender Elliot Pratt.

By Serena Lapointe

Whitecourt's AJHL team, the Wolverines, are only a couple of games away from the postseason, with the team and fans alike excited to see playoff action back in the community, rocking the lid off JDA Place. Three of the last eight regular season games wrapped up last week, including two home games.

On Tuesday, February 25, the Whitecourt Wolverines welcomed the Bonnyville Pontiacs to town for their second last meet-up od, the Grande Prairie of the regular season Storm found the back schedule. The game of the Wolverine's net, started slowly, with no scoring twice, 1:20 scoring and three penalties in the first period. In the second period, the Wolverines opened up early, pummeling the Pontiacs with four games against.

In the third, the Wolverines managed to score two more. Tim Kim, the newly acguired Wolverine who proudly wears jersey number four scored his second goal for his sixth point in only six games so far as a Wolverine. Also on the scoresheet were Jalen Bianchet (#20, who

scored twice), Joey Vetrano (#11), Travis Verbeek (#12) and Braden Keeble (#16). Whitecourt won 6-2.

Two days later, on Friday, February 28, the Wolverines went on the road, taking on the Grande Prairie Storm at the Bonnetts Energy Centre in front of a crowd of nearly two thousand. Like on Tuesday, the first period was a nothing-burger, with no goals and only two penalties on the board.

In the second periapart including one shorthanded. With just over two minutes to go in the period, Jalen Bianchet snipped home his 22nd goal of the season, assisted by Kyle Tucket and Travis Verbeek, bringing life back into the Whitecourt team as they headed into the third.

In the final twenty minutes, the floodgates opened, and the Wolverines scored three unanswered goals, not only tying up the game

continued on page 15



A huge save and a massive hit, all in one photo.



Collision at the hashmarks.



It was a busy week for the Whitecourt Wolverines, with three hard games against division rivals Bonnyville and Grande Prairie. Pictured is Keeble's goal in the third.

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- 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
- 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.

Language: English

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

Wage: \$26.00/hour

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

15

continued from page 14

but taking their first and most crucial lead. Try as they might, the Storm players could not get another goal past Wolverines netminder Zac Onyskiw. The Wolverines took it 4-2.

Fan favourite Jalen Bianchet had an impactful February with four multi-point games, including two threepoint games. Number 18 had 46 points in 46 games to wrap up the month, obliterating his stats from last season. Bianchet is from Pickering, Ontario and is in his second season with the Whitecourt Wolverines franchise.

The first game of March was a home game on Saturday, March 1, against the Grande Prairie Storm, and the visitors were looking for payback after being handed a loss the night before. In the first, the Storm scored the period's lone goal, an unassisted marker from Cade Kozak. In the second period, Kozak scored again, for his second

of the night. The Storm notched one more goal with fifty seconds left to make it 3-0, taking a big lead going into the final period.

In the third, things got a bit dicey. Both teams picked up their stride, landing massive hits and increasing the speed and intensity of passes. It felt more like a playoff game than a regular season one. There was even one moment when a Storm player attempted to bat a puck out of the air in front of the Wolverine's net.

Forty seconds in, the Storm got a whistle after one of their players got caught kneeing a Wolverine. While on the powerplay, Wolverine Braden Keeble scored a beauty, assisted by Jalen Bianchet, his 24th, and Travis Verbeek, his 17th. The Wolverines were finally on the board. Eight minutes later, Wolverines Ethan Short was sent to the penalty box for holding, giving the visitors a chance on the powerplay. The Storm did not miss, landing another goal on the

scoreboard and extending their lead to 4-1.

Less than a minute later, Travis Verbeek added to his point totals, assisting on Ty Rayan's sixth goal. Mason Russell also assisted. The Wolverines were only two away from tying up the game.

With two minutes to go and needing a pair, the Wolverines pulled their goalie. With a wide-open net and a lucky bounce, the Grande Prairie Storm grabbed one more goal before the final whistle, ending the game with a 5-2 victory.

There are five games left for the Whitecourt Wolverines before playoffs begin. Thanks to the great season, the Wolverines have solidified home-ice advantage for the first round. The final two games will be at home at JDA Place on Friday, March 14 (against Drayton Valley) and Saturday, March 15 (against Camrose). The first day for playoff action will be on March 21 at home. Their contender is yet to be determined.

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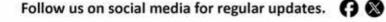






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