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Canada

Vol. 14 - Issue 13 | Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Stray animals continue to be troublesome for Woodlands County, but changes are coming



Woodlands County Council. See story page 4.

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Whitecourt's transit system just received three million dollars in grants

By Serena Lapointe

Regulars on Whitecourt Transit will see some changes over the next three years. The community has received two big thumbs up after applying to receive federal dollars to help replace aging infrastructure and improve the current system.

At the end of February, Chelsea Grande, Director of Community Services, shared the good news with the

Town Council during their regular meeting at the Forest Interpretive Centre. "The Town was successful on two capital grants for transit, which will assist with improvements and replacement of assets and infrastructure to continue providing and improving the transit program and the walkability to access transit," explained Grande. "With these grants,

most of the projects are

planned to take place over the next three years. Currently, we have a consultant reviewing transit routes, which will assist in identifying some of the locations for improvements or replacements. We anticipate having the results by the end of March," she said.

The first and most significant of the two grants is from the

continued on page 5

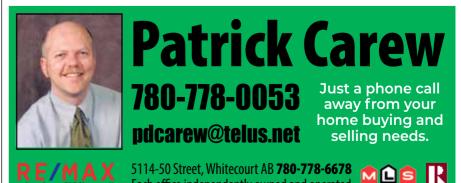


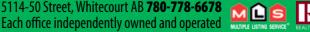


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Two significant federal grants aimed at improving transit systems across Canada were successfully applied for by the Town of Whitecourt. System users will see the impact of those dollars soon.







PUBLIC NOTICE

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ENHANCED DRIVEWAY CROSSING **Replacement Program**

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

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

The program application for 2025 must be completed, signed and submitted with a minimum \$800.00 deposit prior to April 30, 2025 to be considered for replacement in the current calendar year.

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

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

REQUEST FOR TENDER

Current opportunities are posted on the Town's website and when required, opportunities are posted on purchasingconnection.ca. Currently, Whitecourt has the following tenders posted:

- 47 Street Sewer Replacement Closes: April 15, 2025
- FireSmart Vegetation Management Project Closes: April 25, 2025

For further details visit www.whitecourt.ca and search the project title.

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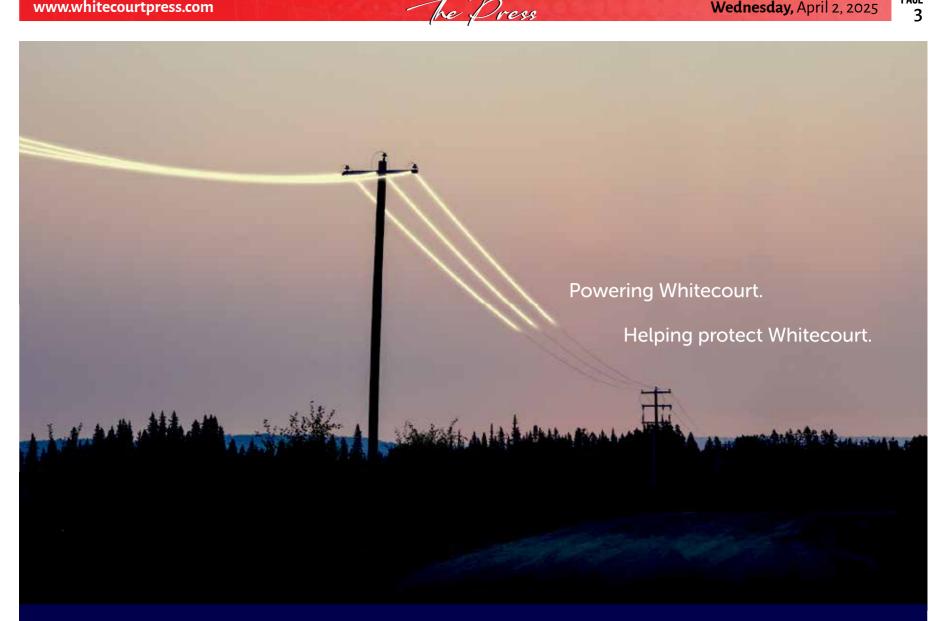
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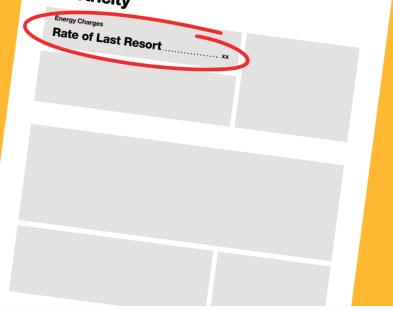
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STATEMENT





Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Stray animals continue to be troublesome for Woodlands County, but changes are coming

The Press

By Serena Lapointe

One only needs to do a quick online search to discover how widespread the issue of stray animals is across the province. Sargent Dallas Choma of Lac Ste. Anne County Enforcement Services discussed stray animals from a closer-to-home standpoint during a Woodlands County Council meeting on March 26. Woodlands has a contract with Lac Ste. Anne County to provide enforcement services through 2028.

Following a comment from Councillor Peter Kuelken about stray dogs being a significant issue on RR 64, Choma explained that the concern stretches far beyond the constraints of Woodlands County. "It's everywhere in Alberta, to be honest with you. All the rescues and shelters are extremely full, and kenneling facilities are tough to get."

explained Choma that they hold nonpure-bred dogs in facilities for three days and pure-bred dogs for ten. After that, the dogs need to have somewhere to go, and with kennels and shelters bursting at the seams, the solution is hard to find. "We are working closely with a vet out in the Onoway area, and we are trying to make contact with more rescue societies that will help us out," said Choma.

credited the He Whitecourt Veterinary Clinic for being easy to work with. "They accept dogs all the time, you guys have. That is and they have rescue something that we have societies that watch to take care of. Then it them, and people take them to watch them until they find someone to adopt them. They've worked with us extremely well." But Choma said the issue of stray animals is not going away. One of his requests to Woodlands County was to allow Peace Officers to utilize the Stray Animals Act, a provincial statute governing the handling of stray animals and the liability owners have for damages to private

property or costs to return their animals. Right now, Woodlands County does not have a livestock bylaw, and Choma said having one would give his officers more power when dealing with animal-related situations.

"We have been dealing with livestock in the Fort Assiniboine area. There are cows and horses on people's property, and we do not have a bylaw to accommodate that here, nor do we have the power to deal with it. My officers have been dealing with it the best they possibly can," said Choma.

He explained that they would still get into issues with where to put animals once collected from a property they should not be on, but said the act would allow them to write hefty fines. "Right now, people think, if they get out, they might eat the neighbour's hay. Who cares. What are they going to do? It gives us some teeth to do something about it."

Choma said he needed a motion and letter from the Council requesting that Peace Officers overseeing Woodlands be able to use the powers under the Stray Animals Act. "We would then submit it to the Solicitor General to get it added to our appointments, and hopefully, they would permit it," he explained. Councillor Kuelken said he wasn't aware that Woodlands County didn't have a livestock bylaw. "Now I understand the challenge that makes it easier for you guys to enforce it." Woodlands County CAO Matthew Ferris explained to the Council that they could go about it one of two ways. They could create an Animal Control Bylaw and regulate the responsibilities of residents and authorities for the Peace Officers to follow, or they could adopt the Provincial statute as is. "There are some perks to going the bylaw route, but there are also some perks to





going the (provincial) route," he said.

Sgt Choma said the one concern with the bylaw option was that it would create an issue with needing to find owners, something he explained is easier said than done. "All I could do then is take them (cows, for example) to the auction market, and hopefully, they are branded or have some identification that the brand inspector would information provide on. If not, again, those costs to recoup would be difficult because cattle farmers don't have their cattle on their property.

They lease a lot of land usually, and a lot of the time, the fences on those leased lands are not so good, and they (get) out."

we are

HIRING!

Choma also asked for more authority under two other provincial statutes. "We would like to get a Forest Protection Act out here so we can enforce the quads on those trails where they shouldn't be when there is a complete fire ban or a quad ban. If they are having campfires or squatting there, we could deal with it appropriately through the province instead of some sort of bvlaw. That would give us a little more grounds to enforce."

The third was to get powers under the Alberta Public Lands Act. "We know we have several people squatting on people's land, and again, off-highway vehicles would fall under that as well.

that on our appointment to accommodate municipality. your Granting these additional authorities would strengthen partnerships with the RCMP, Fish and Wildlife and Forestry and allow faster response times and more efficient enforcement throughout those areas."

Reeve Kusch said the requests made sense. "I don't believe any of these acts are outrageous.

Given our situation in the Forest Protection Zone, I feel that anything we can do to help that out would be beneficial." He spoke in favour of the others, also. "We will do what we can on our end," he said.

Devin Councillor We would like to get Williams said he sup-

Stray animals in Woodlands County might mean heftier fines for owners soon. Lac Ste. Anne Peace Officers contracted in Woodlands County recently requested more powers to handle the issue of animals running amuck.

ported the request to have authority under the Forest Protection Act. "We get a lot of residents concerned who see fires during fire bans, and there's no avenue. RCMP, a lot of the time, don't go out to it. So, it might be a good catch-all. They don't want their properties burnt by somebody camping in the bush with a fire, and you see tons of that up in the sandhills."

Woodlands County Council sent the Stray Animals Act and Alberta Public Lands Act conversations to a future Governance and Policies meeting where the group will have the chance to discuss both in greater detail before deciding how to support the enforcement request.

WOODLANDS

COUNTY

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PAGE

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continued from page 1

Rural Transit Solutions Fund for \$2,364,584. It will cover 80 percent of the total project cost (\$2,955,730) of replacing the Dial-A- Bus, purchasing one transit bus, relocating or replacing existing bus stops and shelters, replacing or adding sidewalks/paths leading to stops and replacing traffic signals. The second grant is from the Canada Public Transit Fund for \$697,030, which will be allocated annually for ten years, each year providing \$69,703 towards up to 40 percent of project costs outlined in the municipalities Transit Capital Plan. Grande explained that the Dial-A-Bus would see replacement first, as it was due this year, and that the transit buses would be next, as the fleet was nearing its end of life. She also explained that the supplier who provided the buses originally was no longer available.

"The company that makes the transit buses that we have went into receivership, and because we use our transit buses so much, they are starting to require more maintenance, and the parts are becoming harder and harder to get for that maintenance. These grants will definitely help with the replacement of the full fleet, with the Dial-A-Bus and the three transit buses," said Grande. She added that when the time came to replace the three transit buses, they would look at all of their options for which company to go with next. "We will be researching it and

putting out a request for proposals to see what we can get."

The Town Council voted unanimously to enter into an agreement with the Rural Transit Solutions Fund. The motion, made by Councillor Derek Schlosser, was one of the requirements to receive funding. "I'm really grateful for this grant," said Councillor Paul Chauvet. Councillor Schlosser agreed. "This is fantastic. I love other people's money."

Dial-A-Bus runs in the community 251 days of the year, from 9:30 am to noon and 1 pm to three, pausing only for statutory holidays or staff training. Although annual comparisons from 2022, 2023 and 2024 show an overall decline in ridership, with 237 fewer rides between 2023 and 2024, nearly 3,500 rides took place last vear. On the flip side, ridership last October, July and February was higher than in the previous two years, showing usage growth. In 2024, 764 riders with walkers and 205 riders with wheelchairs used the bus, along with 2,534 riders that walked on. On top of that, over one thousand free rides were given to assistants/supervisors accompanying a rider.

Usage on the transit buses also continues to do well, with over 33,500 riders captured in the 2024 statistics. The numbers were slightly down from 2023 when nearly 35,500 riders enjoyed a cruise on one of the town buses. However, both years are up significantly from 2022, when just over 23,000 riders were tabulated.

When looking at usage on a monthly scale, ridership between 2023 and 2024 remains tight, with only three months showing usage disparity. In 2023, more users took the bus in May, June and August than in 2024. However, October of 2024 saw a massive increase in ridership compared to the same month in 2023. When taking everything into account, the transit system in Whitecourt is being well utilized.

On average, last year, 6.98 riders were on the bus each hour, 113.96 daily riders and 2,804 monthly riders, making for a busy year of public cruising. The highest month for usage last year was May, with 3,766 riders, closely followed by February with 3,641 riders. On Earth Day, (April 22, 2024), 199 riders used the bus for free.

The two successful grants obtained by the Town of Whitecourt will save tax dollars for projects needed anyway. The portion of the projects not covered by the grants will come from the Fleet Replacement Plan and the Infrastructure Reserve.

In a letter in the Council package, the Honorable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, stated, "The Government of Canada is committed to helping you make our communities more sustainable and improving the quality of life for all residents.

Your project is an excellent example of the commitment and vision needed to make this a reality across our country."





Each year, without fail, spring comes, and snow follows, and this year was no exception. After losing much of the snow cover in the area thanks to recent warm temperatures, leaving everything brown with the slightest hint of green, a massive snowstorm came knocking, reminding us that it isn't quite patio season yet, no matter how much it's wanted. One big plus for area children was that Dahl Drive Sliding Hill was once again covered with a slippery blanket of snow, perfect for taking a toboggan down for a cruise, just like this youngster was doing on Friday afternoon.



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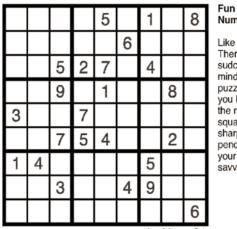
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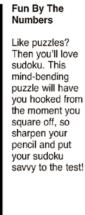
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SUDOKU





Here's How It Works:

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

Crossword Clues

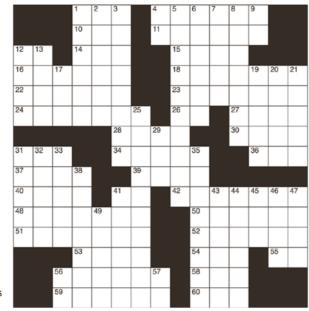
CLUES ACROSS

PAGE

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- 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

CROSSWORDS HOROSCOPE



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 currencv 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



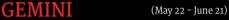
ARIES



Aries, you may encounter some stubborn people this week and that always has the potential for confrontation. Make yourself scarce if conversations veer in the wrong direction.



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.





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.



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, 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, 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.

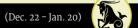
SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

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, 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.

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

AMORTIZATIONBONDEQUITYINVESTACCOUNTAPPRAISALBUDGETGROSSLIABILITIESACCRUALASSETSDEPRECIATIONINCOMEMARGINS	S RATE
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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.

AOUARIUS (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.



Your donations at work

citizens of The Whitecourt and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #44, Whitecourt, can be proud of the contributions towards the Poppy Fund. One specific place the Legion supports is Valour Place in Edmonton. Although it is housed in Edmonton, it serves all of Alberta.

A little about Valour Place. Valour Place is a home away from home for veterans of military and RCMP, first responders, and their immediate families when in Edmonton for medical reasons. These families sacrifice for our country and communities, and they are there to help when they need it most. Great medical care along with the support of loved ones nearby is necessary for successful recovery. Everyone stays for free at Valour Place. Since

2012, Valour Place has provided over 30,400 nights of stay and in 2024 alone, 2759 nights of stay for veterans and their families.

The Whitecourt Legion has twenty-four listed veterans on their roster. Since 2014 Valour Place has helped 9 Veteran families from Whitecourt with a total of 282 nights of stay. Last year alone, we helped 2 Veteran families with

71 nights of stay.

Any contribution will go a long way to ensure we are here for these heroes and their families. The Whitecourt Legion found value in supporting this endeavour.

We always encourage veterans to contact the Legion, 780-778-3666 Thursday to Saturdays from 2:30 p.m. or President Ralph Schutte, 780-779-8543.



President of the Whitecourt Legion, Ralph Schutte (left) and Executive Director of Valour Place Sylvie Keane. The presentation took place on March 19, 2025.

2025 ANNUAL ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

Woodlands County is seeking interested volunteer groups to conduct roadside clean-up Saturday, May 3, 2025, with Saturday, May 10, 2025, being the alternate date. The roadways within Woodlands County are as follows:

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

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

Deadline for letter of application:

Thursday, April 17, 2025

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

A mandatory training session for "Road Managers" of participating organizations will be held at the Woodlands County Municipal Office in Whitecourt and at the Woodlands County Regional Municipal Office in Fort Assiniboine on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

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

Tracy Caddey, Infrastructure Services, Administrative Assistant Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3 Telephone: 780-778-8400 e-mail: tracy.caddey@woodlands.ab.ca

peter kuelkan@woodlands.ab.ca Phone: 780-264-2425

Woodlands County reserves the right to assign roadway sections.



DAVE KUSCH sch@woodlands ab ca mc 180-778-9337



JOHN BURROWS Councillor for Whitecourt Wes dands.ab.ca burrows@woodlands.a Phone: 760-706-4747



ALAN DEANE

alan deane@woodlands ab ca Phone: 780-778-0894



JEREMY WILHELM jeremy.wilheim@woodlands.ab.ca Phone: 780-779-6594



PETER KUELKEN BRUCE PRESTIDGE Division 5 bruce prestidge@woodlands.ab.ca Phone: 780-779-3917



DEVIN WILLIAMS

devin williams@woodlands.ab.ca Phone: 780-305-1825





Wednesday, April 2, 2025



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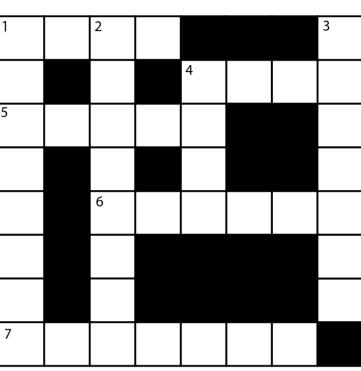


This type of activity keeps the brain active and can be relaxing and reduce stress.

Answer: Crafts/hobbies



Crossword Puzzle



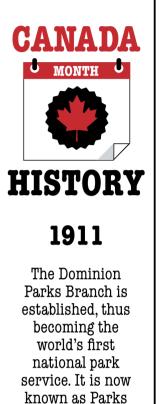
ACROSS

- 1. Infant
- 4. Uncultivated land
- 5. Without other
- people
- 6. A popular cereal "Cap'n"
- 7. Unique

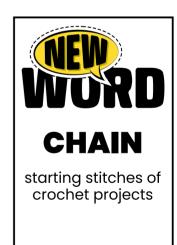
DOWN

- 1. Bed coverings
- 2. Holds books and items
- 3. Yarn craft
- 4. Lists restaurant offerings

Across I. Baby 4. Moor 5. Alone 6. Crunch 7. Special Down I. Blankets 2. Bookcase 3. Crochet 4. Menu



Canada.



Answers:





1 1 1

English: Yarn **Spanish:** Hilo **Italian:** Filo **French:** Fil **German:** Garn Crochet patterns feature a lot of abbreviations for stitches. Learning them can make projects easier.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Crochet project



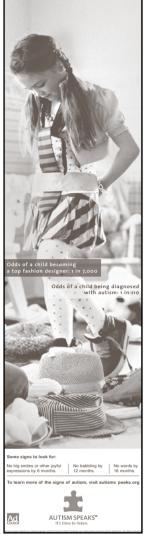
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EDMONTON COIN SHOW & SALE - April 12/13, 2025, 10 am -4:30 pm, Sunday,10 am - 3:00 pm.. Lions Centre; 11113 - 113 Street, Edmonton. Free market evaluations. Dealers from across Canada * Auctions * Displays * WATCHES * Family friendly! www. edmontoncoinclub.com/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

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<u>Health</u>

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



Locally owned and operated indoor artisan market. At Just Peachy, you will find over 100 artisans selling their creations. Everything from pottery and paintings to soaps and sun-catchers.

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Contact us about our workshops



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<u>Whitecourt</u>

Advanced Health Pharmasave 5112 50 St. Whitecourt, AB

Grande Prairie

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

<u>Airdrie</u>

Apple Wellness Center 229 1 St. SW Airdrie, AB

A look at the local weather	Wed., April 2 Mainly cloudy	Thu., April 3 Mainly sunny	Fri., April 4 Snow	Sat., April 5 Cloudy	Sun., April 6 Mainly cloudy
P.O.P.	40%	20%	60%	60%	20%
High Low	6°C -5°C	5°C -5°C	5°C -7°C	6°C -6°C	7°C -3°C
Wind	W 6 km/h	E 7 km/h	E 19 km/h	NW 17 km/h	NW 11 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	-	-	1-3cm	<1cm	-

life is in danger in danger someone's life or uou know

he Press

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

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

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

in Canada by texting TALK to 686868 to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and 68 to reach a French-speaking TEXTO to 686 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

Owner

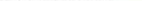
Have you been bullied, and want to share your story? Email wctpress@telus.net All submissions remain confidential

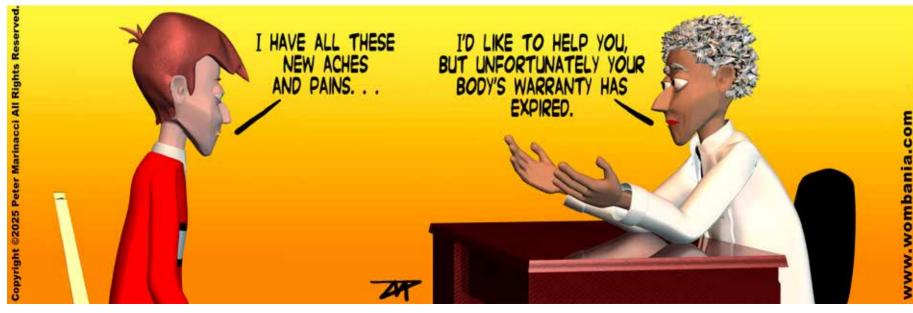
SPONSORED BY **Putting a face** on suicide Tri-Logging Ltd. Tri-Logging Robert Brown is against 3507 37th Avenue Edward Whitecourt, AB T7S 0C3 Schutt bullying Phone 780-778-0699 Age Fax 780-778-8431 18 Electrical & Instrumentation Fabrication & Modularization Every 40 seconds somewhere around the world someone dies by suicide, that's 99 people every 66 Maintenance & Turnarounds minutes. Every day, that's almost 100 people in the Insulation United States alone, and over 2160 worldwide. Putting a Face on Suicide (PAFOS) is a suicide awareness proj-A Division of ClearStream Facility Construction ect that creates posters and videos to pay tribute to 780-778-5000 Pipeline Integrity Digs those we have lost to suicide with dignity and respect. PAFOS humanizes the daunting statistics; lovingly 24/7 Callout Services replacing numbers with faces.

NEED HELP? CALL ANYTIME! (24-7) Mental Health Helpline **1-877-303-2642** Addiction Helpline 1-866-332-2322 Health Link 811

WOMBANIA

by PETER MARINACCI







11

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Soaring Eagle Support Society

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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



"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



vis 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







GRIEF

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

8:00 pm – 9:00 pm Friday 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



www.whitecourtpress.com

What happens to your money if your bank fails in Canada?



(NC) Many people worry about what happens to their money if their bank were to fail. In Canada, there are established rules and organizations to ensure our financial system is strong, resilient and well-regulated to help protect your savings.

One of these organizations is the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC). As part of Canada's financial safety net, it exists to provide deposit insurance on a federal level to keep your money safe if one of its member banks fails. For each member institution, they insure eligible deposits up to \$100,000 per category. This includes money in savings accounts, chequing accounts, term deposits (like GICs), and even money in foreign currency (like U.S. dollars).

In the unlikely event a bank were to fail in Canada, CDIC can help in a number of ways-from restructuring the institution to quickly reimbursing your insured money.

What is not protected?

Here's what's not insured by federal deposit insurance, but may be covered by other organizations: Mutual funds

• Stocks and bonds

- Cryptocurrencies (like Bitcoin)
- Items in safety deposit boxes

How can you keep your money safe?

To make sure more of your money is protected, you can put it in different banks that are covered by federal deposit insurance. You can also have different types of accounts, like personal or joint, to increase your coverage.

Banks in Canada don't fail very often because of strong rules and government safeguards. But if one does, understanding the protections in place can help you feel safer about your savings.

Alex John Chiasson October 18, 1936 - March 19, 2025

Well, hey-hey, the working man, the working man, like me. I ain't never been on welfare and that's one place I won't be. 'Cause I'll be working as long as my two hands are fit to use. I'll drink my beer in a tavern. Sing a little bit of these working man blues. -Merle Haggard

It is with deep sadness that the family of Alex John Chiasson announce Alex's passing, with the love of his family beside him, on March 19, 2025 in Whitecourt, Alberta. Alex was 88 years old.

Press

Alex was born in Petit Etang, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. He was the fifth of 11 children born to Marguerite and Joseph Chiasson and spent his childhood on a farm in this small Acadian community.

Speaking only French, Alex left his Cape Breton home at the age of 15 to find his way in the big cities of Halifax and Toronto. He worked a variety of jobs - washing dishes, loading postal trucks, delivering Toronto Star newspapers as well as beer and log-gaffing - before choosing the aircraft industry in Toronto, where he started out repairing and overhauling aircraft parts. In 1960 Alex met a 17-year-old Loretta Hofbauer at work, and two years later they married. Life was good, but adventure called and in 1973 Loretta and Alex moved west to St Albert, Alberta, their family complete with two children. After further work with airplanes, in 1978 Alex partnered with his brother, Clem, and the two became owners and operators of Chiasson Construction Inc. Over the next few decades, Alex's family spent time in St Albert, Irving, Texas and Brampton, Ontario and then finally settled in Whitecourt, AB, after Alex retired from Boeing Industries in 2001.

Alex claimed that he moved to Whitecourt "because of the golf course" and spent countless hours there - many new friends were made on the links. He was also a mean card player, able to tally his cribbage hand before you could blink. Also, a massive hockey fan, Alex initially cheered loudly for his Canadiens from the original 6 but eventually switched allegiance to the Pittsburgh Penguins, where his fellow Nova Scotian and hero, Crosby, shone.

Community involvement was always important to Alex. He coached minor sports



But nothing brought more joy to Alex than his family. From father-daughter bowling tournaments to father-son camping and canoe trips, Alex was always involved in his

children's lives. He felt his life complete once three grandchildren arrived and cherished each one for their own special qualities. And those grandchildren were the next generation to be treated to Grandpa's great love of storytelling and outstanding tales. We will all remember family gatherings where Alex wowed his audience with reports of "life on the farm", from mind-boggling feats of human strength to wondrous predicaments and outcomes.

For Alex, no problem or job was too difficult to tackle. He was a self-taught handyman, able to fix the plumbing or tear apart and re-assemble a car engine. He faced every challenge head-on with determination and a smile. He loved people and always saw the good in those he met. He will be dearly missed.

Alex is survived by his wife of 63 years, Loretta; children Andrea (Rick) and Basil (Joanna); grandchildren Isabella, Atticus and Ida; siblings Jeanne, Clem, Marie and Helena. He is predeceased by his parents Marguerite and Joseph as well as siblings Wilfred, Anna, Lenus, Pauline, Monique and Roderick.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Dr Eghonghon Osagie and the staff at the Whitecourt Manor for their kind and compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers a donation in Alex's name can be made to the Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre (Wellspring Women's shelter) in Whitecourt.

Funeral mass to be held Tuesday April 1 at 1:00pm at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Whitecourt.

Woodlands County Council recap

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

Dan Moore, Director of Environment non-residential assessand Regulatory Affairs for the Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA) provided an overview of the effects the United States tariffs on Alberta's forest industry and how municipalities can advocate for the industry to the provincial and federal governments. Woodlands County is providing a letter to Premier Danielle Smith and local Member of Parliament Arnold Viersen in support of the forest industry. Troy Birtles, Kris

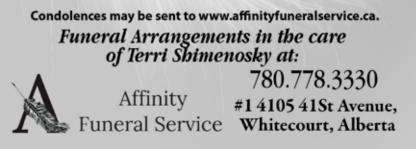
Meadows and Sean Barrett with Accurate Group Assessment (AAG) presented to Council a summary of the residential and ment in Woodlands County AAG com-

enforcement services. Lac Ste. Anne County Enforcement Services can be contacted through their direct line at 780-785-3630.

President of the Horse Whitecourt Club Alvnn Ward was

pared the 2024 assessment with the prior vear which showed an increase of 5% overall in assessment value. Sgt. Dallas Choma of the Lac Ste. Anne County Enforcement Services provided an enforcement service update for Woodlands County. In 2024, peace officers responded to 62 incidents and issued 164 tickets and 44 warnings. Woodlands County continues to contract Lac Ste. Anne County for municipal

in attendance to provide more information regarding the club's application to Forestry and Parks Alberta to become the Trailmaster of the Whitecourt Sandhills Public Land Use Zone. Forming in 2023, the Whitecourt Horse Club is seeking to become trailmaster at the Whitecourt Sandhills and provide safe riding trails for equestrians. Council approved a letter of support for the Whitecourt Horse Club's ap-



orities

16, 5:00 pm

Wednesday,

23. 9:30 am

- plication. Upcoming scheduled meetings:
- Regular Council Wednesday, April 9, 5:00 pm
- Governance and Pri-

Committee ipal Office in White-- Wednesday, April court and streamed on the Woodlands Coun-• Regular Council – ty YouTube channel. April Agenda packages are available on the Wood-Meetings are held lands County Civin-person at the MunicicWeb Portal.

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Library Ho Mon-Fri 10a Sat 12pm Sun Clos	m-8pm -4pm					ourt & Distric ic Library
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Free, Drop-	chool Programs: In at the Library, or all school ages.	1 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	2 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	3 Story Time 10:30-11:30 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30 French Homework Help 4-5pm Scrabble Night 6.00pm-7:30	4 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	5 Family Movie The Wild Robot 1:00
6	7 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30 Adult Book Club 2:00	8 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	9 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30 Yap & Yarn 6:00-7:30	10 Story Time 10:30-11:30 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30 French Homework Help 4:00-5:00	11 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	12 Family Movie Peter Rabbit 1:00 Soapstone Carving 1:00-3:00 Conversational Spanish 1:00-2:00
13	14 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	15 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	16 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	17 Story Time 10:30-11:30	18 Closed	19 Closed
20 Closed	21 Closed	22 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	23 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	24 Story Time 10:30-11:30 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30 French Homework Help 4:00-5:00 Beading Circle of Friends 6:00-8:00	25 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30 Crib Night 6:00-7:30	26 Family Movie The Emperor's New Groove 1:00 Adult Art Therapy 1:00 Conversational Spanish 1:00-2:00
27	28 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	29 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	30 Afterschool Program 3:30-5:30	Ea	nster Scavenger I	<u>lunt</u>

he Press

(www.facebook.com/whitecourtlibrary/)





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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> Also buying all Silver & Gold, Jewelry, Coins, Bullion, Nuggets, Gold Dust, Ingots, Bars, Dental Gold, Jewelers Scrap, Sterling Silver & Silverware!

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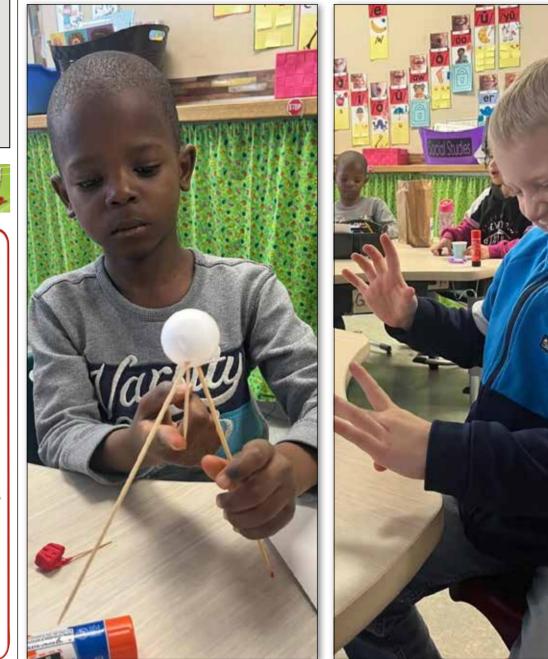
Editor. A maximum of 300 words is preferred but not necessary. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. Please email letters to wctpress@gmail.com





A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

SCHOOL NEWS



Students in 1 Mercer at Pat Hardy School explored motion and speed through handson experiments during a Scientists in Schools workshop. Each student received a kit of materials, which they used under the guidance of a scientist to conduct various investigations. The students later took the kits home to share their discoveries with their families.

Getting into the spirit





reuse, rehash & recycle.

A homeowner down by Percy Baxter, on the corner of Powers Cove and Leedy Drive, has gotten into the hockey spirit by putting up a sign to support the Whitecourt Wolverines in the playoffs. The sign is even illuminated by a spotlight to make sure everyone can see it, day or night. Way to support the local team!

EAGLE RIVER

Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Food & Beverage Supervisor

· 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,

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

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.

· 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

· Manages workload independently, and works well

Must display leadership skills, the ability to multi-

• Smart Training course, preserve, deal US in phase

• Must be able to provide RCMP security clearance

Working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, MS

formulating responses to problems.

through on the job experience.

Develops security and systems knowledge

task and adjust to multiple jurisdictions.

in teams.

1.2.

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PowerPoint.

specialized terminology.

way. And seek to assist each other wherever

greet and welcome to our business. This also

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 outlets.
- · 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 Industry.
- 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

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

QUALIFICATIONS

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

for managers of establishments serving alcoholic beverages. Several years of experience in the food service sector, including EAGLE RIVER **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

- 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

Experience: Education:

Terms of Employment: Language: **Employment Conditions:**

Wage: **Benefits Package:**

Location:

Address:

Contact: Visit our Website: How to Apply:

card payments

 Scan Items • Tabulate total payment for goods or services required

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

- 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 casinos

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

2 – 3 years, or we will train. Some post-secondary, high school may require. Permanent full-time 40-hour work week. English Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights. \$15.00 per hour. Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada. Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451 www.eaglerivercasino.ca Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax

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PAGE 15

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	certification	is	usually	y I	required

supervisory experience, are required.

Experience: Education:	3 – 4 years. 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
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.

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