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The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 14 - Issue 15 | Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Students witness crash recovery



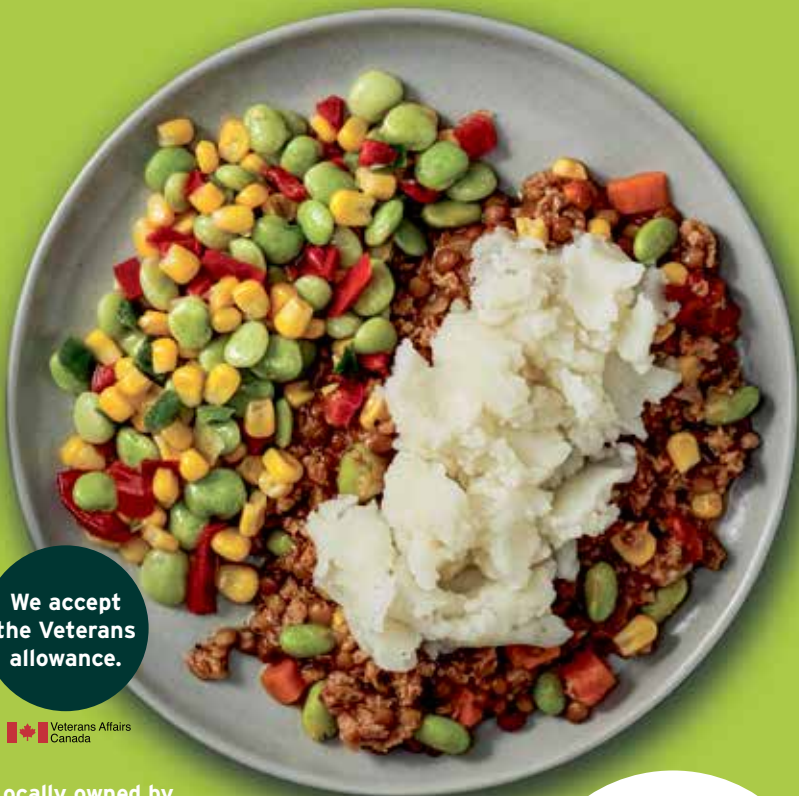
A vehicle ripped apart to access the victim.



The panel and the students.

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Firefighter Dustin Jendrick asked the youth to think about the consequences of their actions.

By Serena Lapointe

On Wednesday last week, grade nine students from Hilltop High School and Ecole St Joseph School witnessed a carefully orchestrated car crash recovery effort, including victims, first responders and the sounds expected from both, to highlight what

bad decisions can result in when done behind the wheel of a vehicle.

The RISK Program featured partners across the sector, from Associated Ambulance to the Whitecourt Fire Department, Alberta Health Services, Whitecourt RCMP and Traffic Division, RVSS

Victim Services, the Whitecourt Family Violence Initiative and Whitecourt Crime Prevention.

The scene featured young actors from Pumpjack Players acting as a group of friends coming back from a

continued on page 8



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The Whitecourt FireSmart Working Group toured the Community Fireguard Project site on April 9. The project is scheduled for completion this summer. The Community Fireguard Project is part of Whitecourt's fire hazard reduction and protection strategy to help with the ongoing safety and security of the community. The fireguard is a strategically constructed feature where trees, brush and fuel sources are removed, will break the path of wildfire that could potentially move towards property, infrastructure, and other values at risk. The project area extends from Ecole St. Joseph School in the north, to Highway 43 in the south.

Bright smiles: Protecting children's oral health

(NC) Did you know tooth decay is the most prevalent, preventable chronic disease among children worldwide? Ensuring children maintain good oral health is essential for their overall well-being. Not only do healthy teeth and gums support proper chewing and speaking, but establishing proper oral hygiene habits early on can prevent tooth decay

along with bad breath and gum disease.

Here are 3 key strategies to improve your child's oral health:

1. Create a daily oral hygiene routine.

Prevent cavities by encouraging regular brushing and flossing. Children should brush their teeth twice a day with a small amount of fluoride toothpaste to help strengthen tooth enamel

and prevent decay. Children under 3 years old should use an amount similar to the size of a grain of rice. For children 3 years and older, the amount of toothpaste should be similar to that of a pea. They should also clean between their teeth daily using floss or interdental brushes. If your child isn't old enough to do all of these things correctly on their own, you can help them

until they are old enough to do so.

2. Encourage healthy eating.

What children eat also plays a significant role in their oral health. Limiting sugary snacks and drinks can reduce their risk of cavities. Instead, opt for nutritious snacks like fruits, vegetables and cheese, and offer water throughout the day to help wash away food particles

and bacteria that lead to cavities.

3. Have regular oral health care appointments.

Scheduling regular appointments with an oral health professional is crucial to your child's overall health. Dental hygienists can provide preventive treatments such as fluoride varnish and dental sealants, which offer additional protection against cavi-

ties. Dental sealants are thin coatings applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth, where cavities are most likely to form. They last for many years. By encouraging good oral hygiene habits early on and making healthy dietary choices, parents and caregivers can help children maintain bright, healthy smiles for life.

Learn more at dentalhygienecanada.ca/kids.

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ARNOLD
VIERSEN



PIERRE
POILIEVRE

Authorized by the official agent for Arnold Viersen

Naylor, Grace Evelyn
(née Collins)

On April 7, 2025, Mrs. Grace Evelyn Naylor of Whitecourt, AB formerly of Peace River, AB peacefully passed away at the age of 97 years.

Grace will be lovingly remembered by her sister, Eva Holowaty; brother, Allen Collins (Pat Brendel); niece, Kelly Gray; and many more relatives.

She was predeceased by her husband, Raymond John "Jack" Naylor (1989); parents, Len and Inez Collins; brothers, Bobby and Floyd; sisters, Jean (Ken) King, Irma (Allan) Gray; and brothers-in-law, Vernon Roberts and Alex Holowaty.


Grace was a generous woman, sharing her baking and bedding plants from her own greenhouse with family. She took great pride in gardening, especially with her begonia flower beds. Grace was a strong and determined woman, which some would call stubborn. Secretly, she reveled in having a fuss made about her. As a lifetime member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #62 in Peace River, she held various positions within The Ladies' Auxiliary. She will be dearly missed.


Thank you to the doctors and staff of the Mayerthorpe Auxiliary Hospital for the compassionate care shown to Grace and the family.

A Graveside Ceremony will be held Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 1 p.m. in Whitecourt Cemetery, 3604 - 35 Street, officiated by Reverend Ruth Lotholz.

In lieu of other tributes, donations may be made to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #44 Poppy Fund, Box 874, Whitecourt, Alberta T7S 1N3.

Photos, memories and condolences may be shared through www.parkmemorial.com





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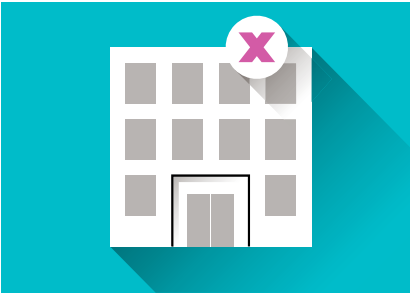
    
#ItsOurVote

There are ways you can vote early.

You can vote:



At your assigned
advance polling station
from Friday, April 18,
to Monday, April 21,
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



At any Elections Canada
office until Tuesday, April 22,
6 p.m.



By mail – Apply by
Tuesday, April 22,
6 p.m.

Check your voter information card or
visit elections.ca for all the ways you can vote.



Visit elections.ca for the official information you need to vote
1-800-463-6868 / elections.ca / TTY 1-800-361-8935





The Whitecourt Wolverines season might have ended before fans wanted it to, but there's still lots to talk about. Several players received accolades for hard work on and off the ice, and one past player will be starting his 2025/2026 hockey season in the NHL. Read more for a post-season wrap-up and some big news from the local hockey world. Tim Kim says so long until next season.

A season wrap-up for Whitecourt's AJHL team and exciting NHL news for a past Wolverine

By Serena Lapointe

The Whitecourt Wolverines playoff hopes were dashed on Tuesday night when the team lost in game four of its second-round post-season match-up against the Grande Prairie Storm. After taking on the Fort McMurray Oil Barons in the first round and doing very well, fans hoped to see the team do it again.

After a few days to catch their breath from their first-round win, the Whitecourt Wolverines welcomed the Storm into JDA Place on Friday, April 4, with over 800 fans ready to watch some good old-fashioned hockey.

A contingent of fans had made the trip from Grande Prairie to cheer on their team, making the rink loud as opposing fans tried out-cheering one another.

Early on, the Storm took the lead 2-0. In the second, the Wolverines struck, with Braden Keeble nabbing his second of the playoffs. Unfortunately for the home team, the night would not go in their favour, as Keeble's goal stood as the only time Whitecourt would get on the scoreboard.

GP took it, 4-1.

The following night, try as they might, the Wolverines could not get a puck past the Storm netminder. As

the seconds ticked by and periods ended, the Whitecourt team found themselves staring down a shutout situation, unable to break through the wall at the visitor's end of the ice.

The Storm took game two 2-0.

Game three, in Grande Prairie, awoke the inner Wolverine in every player as they fought tooth and nail to get themselves back into the series. After the Storm managed to take a 2-0 lead in the first, Wolverine Tyler Rowland scored his second goal of the post-season, assisted by Jalen Bianchet and player fans don't often see on the assist sheet, Wolverine

goalie Zac Onyskiw.

In the second, Jalen Bianchet scored his third playoff goal, assisted by Dylan Ruptash and Braden Keeble, tying things up 2-2. The Storm got two more in the back of the net, including a short-handed goal, leaving the Wolverines with a hill to climb. Wolverine Noah Milford scored his first of the post-season at 12:21 of the third, but that was as far as the team could get. The Storm won 4-3.

In the final game of the series, things were extremely tight. Both teams copied one another, parroting their

continued on page 5

DUST CONTROL

Residents who wish dust control applied adjacent to their property can submit an application to Woodlands County beginning **March 15th** until **May 1st**.

Rates for dust control are as follows:

- \$425 + GST for 100 metres
- \$750 + GST for 200 metres
- \$4.25/metre + GST for any dust suppression application over 100 or 200 metres

Application forms and more information about dust control are available at woodlands.ab.ca/p/dust-control.

Please submit an application prior to Thursday, May 1, 2025:

Application forms are also available at:

Woodlands County
Municipal Office
#1 Woodlands Lane
Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3
Telephone: 780-778-8400
Fax: 780-778-8402

OR

Woodlands County
Regional Municipal Office
61503A Highway 33
Fort Assiniboine AB T0G 1A0
Telephone: 780-584-3866
Fax: 780-584-3988

Payments Can Be Made With Debit, Visa, Mastercard, Cheque Or Cash At Either County Office

WOODLANDS COUNTY LAND USE AMENDMENT APPLICATION RESULTS:

The following Land Use Amendment Application and subsequent bylaws were reviewed on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at the regular Council meeting as further outlined below;

Approved - LAND USE AMENDMENT APPLICATION 2024LUA-02 BYLAW #622/25 – SW-24-58-12-5 Roll Numbers: 235954 & 35572 from “A2” Agricultural Two District to “ARE” Agricultural Rural Estates District



DAVE KUSCH
Elected
Councillor for Area 1
Division 1
dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-9337



JOHN BURROWS
Councillor for Whitecourt
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JEREMY WILHELM
Councillor for
Whitecourt East Division 4
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BRUCE PRESTIDGE
Councillor for Blue Ridge
Division 5
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PETER KUELKEN
Councillor for Goose Lake/
Fireman River Division 6
peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-284-2425



DEVIN WILLIAMS
Councillor for Fort Assiniboine/
Timber Division 7
devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-325-1825



Woodlands County Council recap

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

In accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act, Council appointed Tracy Mindus as the Returning

Officer for the 2025 Municipal Election. The election will take place on October 20, 2025. Nomination packages are available at both Woodlands County offices. For more information, visit <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/2025-election>.

In an effort to reduce waste in landfills, Woodlands County transfer stations will now accept bale twine for recycling and the Fort Assiniboine Regional Municipal Office will accept bale twine

and rolled grain bags. In addition, Council requested that the Town of Whitecourt consider accepting bale twine collection at the Whitecourt Transfer Station and the Whitecourt Regional Solid Waste Management Authority

expand their existing agricultural plastics recycling collection to include bale twine.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

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

- Regular Council – Wednesday, May 7, 5:00 pm

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 CivicWeb Portal.

continued from page 4

moves, leading to a back-and-forth game with tons of emotion and excitement.

Wolverine Tim Kim opened the scoring midway through the first period, followed by another from teammate Braden Keeble. But before the period could end, Grande Prairie scored two of their own, tying it. In the second, Tyler Rowland scored, giving the Wolverines back the lead, only to have a powerplay goal from the Storm ring true, tying things back up. Talk about a nailbiter!

In the third, it was more of the same. The Storm scored, then the Wolverines (Kyle Tucker).

Then, the Storm scored again, followed by the Wolverines (Jalen Bianchet). Grande Prairie wanted to close out the series and take the northern title, but the Wolverines wanted to desperately get back into the series and force game five at home. Ultimately, only one would get their way. Seventeen seconds into overtime, the Grande Prairie Storm took the win with a powerplay goal, ending the series and becoming the

champs in the north.

The top point-getter for the Wolverines through the regular and post-season was Jalen Bianchet. He amassed 55 points through the regular season and eleven through two rounds of playoff action. The top rookie of the playoffs was Tyler Rowland, with five points.

The AJHL also gave out accolades to players league-wide and a few Wolverines players were included. Xavier Lacoste made the 2024/25 Inter Pipeline AJHL All-Academic Team, which recognizes players who demonstrated qualities of exceptional student-athletes, succeeding in not only their athletic roles but also their academic roles and having a grade score that reflects their dedication.

Captain Braden Keeble was recognized for his exemplary commitment to the community as one of this year's RBC AJHL Community Ambassadors. Players selected for this recognition have contributed to their community meaningfully and are regularly giving back through volunteerism.

Lastly, Jalen Bianchet and Xavier La-

coste were named to the Viterra AJHL's North Division All-League Team following the conclusion of the second-round series.

New owners Cory and Terriann Masse said they were proud of the team's effort this year. "What an incredible season! From start to finish, you gave it everything you had, and as an owner, I couldn't be prouder. While the outcome wasn't what we all hoped for, it's important to recognize how much we accomplished together," said Terriann in a social media post.

She said that even through injuries and leaving players, the group remained committed to each other, making their first year as owners memorable. "It's not just about wins or losses. It's about the culture we're building, the memories made, and the lessons learned. You laid down a foundation that future teams will build on, and your impact goes beyond just this season," she said.

Masse added that though they wished they could have seen the team go all the way in the championship, they are proud, nonetheless. "Please know



A name to watch for on the Blue Jacket's roster next season



MacDonald always got in the way of the puck to defend the goalie, just like this block from 2023.

how proud we are of each and every one of you. Wherever life takes you next, we'll be cheering you on!"

In other Wolverine news, at the end of March, alumni Caleb MacDonald, who

played for the Whitecourt Wolverines from 2020 to 2023, signed a two-year, NHL entry-level contract starting this fall with the Columbus Blue Jackets. In 126 games as a Wolverine, MacDonald

tallied sixteen goals, 79 assists and 237 penalty minutes. In MacDonald's final year with the Wolverines, he was named the AJHL's most outstanding defenseman. Keep an eye out for him next season!

PUBLIC NOTICE

www.whitecourt.ca | facebook.com/TownofWhitecourt | 780-778-2273

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

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decision was made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application No. 25-015 – Discretionary Use – Recreational Arts & Culture Facility, Indoor & Variance to On-site Parking Regulations at 3911 37 Avenue – Approved with conditions.

Date of Decisions: April 10, 2025

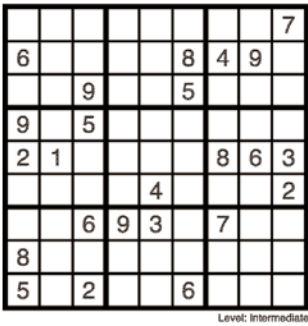
Appeal Closes at 4:00pm: May 1, 2025

An Appeal of the above decision(s) 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.

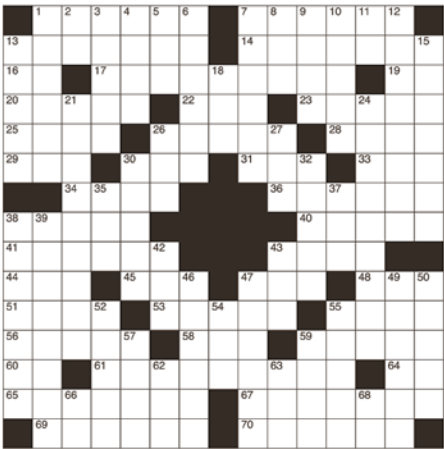
SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

SUDOKU

CROSSWORDS



Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



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

- 1. Dark blacks
- 7. Construct a wall to confine
- 13. Most inappropriate
- 14. A type of board
- 16. Sacred Hindu syllable
- 17. Flatterer
- 19. The Granite State
- 20. Tears down
- 22. China's Chairman
- 23. Former Houston footballer
- 25. Periods of time
- 26. Expressed pleasure
- 28. World alliance
- 29. A Brit's mother
- 30. Television network
- 31. Brother or sister
- 33. Type of spirit
- 34. ___ Ladd, actor
- 36. A medium oversees it
- 38. One time province of British India
- 40. Wrong
- 41. The highest parts of something
- 43. Insect
- 44. Baseball stat
- 45. A way to use up
- 47. Where wrestlers compete
- 48. It helps elect

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Winged nut
- 2. It cools a home
- 3. Kisses (French)
- 4. Oxford political economist
- 5. Keyboard key
- 6. Leaf pores
- 7. Agrees with publicly
- 8. Not around
- 9. Czech city
- 10. Muscle cell protein
- 11. Greek letter
- 12. Movements
- 13. Ned __, composer
- 15. Popular series Game of __
- 18. Exclamation that denotes disgust

- 21. Helper
- 24. Gift
- 26. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 27. Treat without respect
- 30. Trims
- 32. Slang for lovely
- 35. City of Angels hoopster (abbr.)
- 37. Guitarists' tool
- 38. Island nation
- 39. Delivered in installments
- 42. A baglike structure
- 43. Cooking vessel
- 46. Gets in front of
- 47. Wounded by scratching
- 49. More breathable
- 50. Medical dressings
- 52. Indiana hoopster
- 54. Married Marilyn
- 55. An ancient Assyrian city
- 57. Congressmen (abbr.)
- 59. Approves food
- 62. Ventura's first name
- 63. Between northeast and east
- 66. Atomic #71
- 68. Email designation

Building wildfire resiliency one step at a time



Whitecourt Fire Chief Aaron Floyd, Councillor Tara Baker and Director of Community Safety Lee Hardman.



A wide open expanse.



Equipment working with the valley below.

Whitecourt's Community Fireguard Project is well underway with completion expected to happen sometime this summer. The massive undertaking involves the creation of a 4.5 kilometre-long path, stretching 100 metres wide, from the town's boundary behind Ecole St. Joseph School to the southern border on Highway 43, behind the Woodlands County Office and the Kanata Hotel. The cleared stretch of land acts as a physical break, a natural barrier between the trees and brush, helping crews access hot spots and potentially slowing down an incoming fire by removing what it "eats." The Whitecourt FireSmart Working Group recently saw the project firsthand, and the Town of Whitecourt posted images from the tour on its social media (shown).

LOT OF BOOKS WORD SEARCH



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

WORDS

ABSTRACT
ALMANAC
ARCHIVES
AUTHOR
BOOKS
BROWSER
CARD

CATALOG

CIRCULATION
CITATION
COURSE
DESK
EDITOR
GLOSSARY
INDEX

JOURNAL

KEYWORD
LOAN
MOVIES
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Legion News

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.
Saturday May 3



Photo from the Government of Canada website

This Tribute celebrates our shared Canadian-Dutch history to inspire future generations to aspire to the values of freedom, democracy, and mutual respect. The people of the Netherlands are forever grateful for the significant role Canada played in the liberation of the Netherlands during the Second World War. Canada's tremendous sacrifice for our peace and freedom must never be forgotten.

Your participation is very welcome. For this event, we are asking for pot luck items with a Dutch theme. For Example: Bitterballen - meat-based snack; Broodjes haring- fish sandwich; Pannekoeken-Dutch pancakes; Stampot-mashed po-

tatoes and other ingredients together. Canadian items are also welcome. Please RSVP to Malcolm Pugh mpughedm@gmail.com before the 19th of April.

The event includes: Regular and Mega meat draws and special activities; On line 50/50 raffle draw winner announcement; Pot Luck with a Dutch theme; Remembrance ceremony "Liberation of the Netherlands" Minute of Silence.

A Bit of History

The First Canadian Army was more completely Canadian than ever before. The 1st Canadian Corps, which had been fighting since the summer of 1943 in Italy, transferred to northwest Europe. Two Canadian army corps

were fighting side by side for the first time in history. The 2nd Canadian Corps was to clear the northeastern part of the Netherlands and the German coast, while the 1st Canadian Corps was to root out the Germans remaining in the western Netherlands north of the Maas River. Town by town, canal by canal, Canadian soldiers pushed back the occupying German forces in the Netherlands. More than 7,600 Canadians died in the eight-month campaign to liberate the Netherlands, a tremendous sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

In Remembrance Malcolm Pugh, mpughedm@gmail.com.

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HAY EQ

* JD 566 Rnd Baler * JD 510 Rnd Baler* 9 of 2 Pack Plastic Twine* JD 640 SD Rake for 10 to 14 Bales * JD 14 T Square Baler * 10 Bale Stooker * As is 5W Rake *12 ft Vers 400 Swather w hay crimper

HARVEST EQ

* JD 6600 SP Combine w (2282 hr), Cab, S C, Belt Pick Up* JD 95 SP Combine w cab, SC* 15ft Veres 400 Swather w cab* 14 ft Vers 400 for parts* Westfield W70-41 Auger w 14 hp* 1970 IHC 1600 Grain Truck w 2spd, 16ft Woos Vox, hoist* Swather Movwe

METAL GRAINARIES

* Westeel Rosco (7 Ring) (6Ring) (2@ 4 Ring) * Hart Emerson 4 Roll Grain Cleaner

LIVESTOCK EQ

* IHC 1250 Mix Mill* Bundle of 50 of 6ftx5 in Sharp Posts * ^ Rolls od Used Bard Wire* 10 MetalCorral Gates* 11 or 30ft Free Stand Panels* 4HD Pipe Rnd Bale Feeders* 6 Rnd Bale Feeders* 2 Head Gates* Calf Puller* Calf Tip Table* 1 1/2 in Black Plastic Hose* 20 ft Culvert * EHC Chicken Plucker

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or email wctpress@gmail.com

The Press

continued from page 1

party. After watching a video clip, the room went dark as the actors got into position.

Students could see a severely damaged vehicle, one individual laying on the ground, bleeding from a head wound and not moving, one individual trapped in the car and three others, one about to dial 9-1-1 and one stumbling about, the intoxicated driver.

Then, audio started to play, with a young, frightened girl on the phone with 9-1-1, pleading for help but unsure of where she was. The voice that students were hearing was of a real teenager from the Edson area who was involved in a fatal accident with her friends years ago. As the audio played, the actors did what the caller said was happening but remained silent so students could hear the young girl's conversation with the dispatcher.

Once the call ended, the actors stepped into the roles, and screams began emanating from the trapped teenager in the front passenger seat. The three who could get out of the car checked on their ejected friend. They started crying because she wasn't responding to them, fearing she was dead. The driver walked around, saying, "What have I done?"

The scene was traumatic and meant to be so, lit only by police lights, flashing red and blue. "I think it's an important program for our youth because they are at that age where they are starting to get left alone a little bit more, are starting to get their learner's license and making some big choices. I think it teaches about smart choices and ultimately gives them some tools," said Tina Prodaniuk, Crime Prevention Coordinator.

As actors continued, first responders arrived, and the process of an accident scene response played out in front of the student-filled bleachers. "The fire department actually takes the car apart around the injured person inside it using jaws of life and all the things they need to get that victim out

safely," said Prodaniuk.

Fifteen-year-old Leah Astle was the convincing actress trapped inside the vehicle, screaming for much of the performance. She said that the experience was impactful for her too. "It gave me insight into the noises the first responders are making, how far they have to go and how much they do to try and save lives. And it's not always successful, but they do all they can. They were very supportive of me while they were doing it and talking me through it. I hope I made an impact on the students who watched."

Astle said the screaming was a lot but that, for her, it was more mental than anything. "You have to put yourself in that scenario. As an actor, you always try and do that. And I could hear all the noises around me. Like the doors popping off and the windows breaking. Hearing that and actually being in the car while it happens are two very different things."

With Astle in the vehicle, the fire department removed the roof, forced open the doors, popped the tires, and broke the windows, quite literally removing the vehicle from her. Once accessible, they took her from the car. Then, the lights went out. When they came back on, a dummy was in her place on the gurney as first responders did CPR, with her friends watching, weeping, saying they wanted to go home.

"Even though it was staged, I hope they realize it's a serious situation that takes a lot of lives. It affects a lot of people, especially in a small community. I hope they take something from this today and make better decisions when they get into a vehicle," said Astle. With two fatalities confirmed, the scene ended, and a panel was set up so students could ask questions and learn more about the first responders. One of the points made was that living in rural areas means longer wait times for help to arrive, especially if someone doesn't know exactly where they are to lead emergency services to them, as was the case



The aftermath of a realistic skit.



Paramedic Bill McAree showing a puke bag, which is an item he takes with him on every call.

Courtney Koopmans, AHS Health Promotion Facilitator, blending food to mimic a feeding tube meal.



The Pumpjack Players actors served up pizza following their performance.

A long-running program aimed at showing youth the consequences that can result from poor decisions behind the wheel recently took place. The RISK Program, formerly called the P.A.R.T.Y. Program, gives youth an up close, highly realistic viewpoint of a fatal accident caused by a bad choice.

with the real 9-1-1 call from the Edson area.

When asked if the panel enjoyed their jobs, Cst Christensen, with Whitecourt Traffic, said there are good and bad days. "When I go and do a next-of-kin notification, I darn near want to vomit every time I get to that door because that's the worst and hardest part of this job. But we also have fun too. We do things as a group. Everybody we work with is family."

He also said he wants the youth to understand that jumping onto social media when

something happens isn't the right choice. "The worst next-of-kin notification I've ever done in my career was where I walked up to the door, and the parents came outside and said they already knew."

They should not find out through a text message. It drastically affects how we do things properly and how we can help people deal with the trauma that they are going to go through."

When asked why they wanted to be first responders, Dustin Jendrick, Health and Safety Officer for the

Whitecourt Fire Department and Peace Officer/Sgt Of Operations in Lac Ste. Anne County said his reason stemmed from a traumatic experience in middle school.

"I was in a Coach bus on an event, and a drunk driver pulled out in front of us. I was at the front and was ejected." Jendrick said he walked away with only sore muscles, bruises and minor cuts, what some would call a miracle. His experience with first responders led him to join the Whitecourt Fire Department.

As the panel wrapped up, the message was clear. "You all have the power to decide this fate. I hate coming to (accidents) like this, and its preventable stuff. You guys have the power by the choices you make. When you drop a pebble in water, each ripple has an effect. If it's a fatality, think about the ripple effect on the family. The ripple can be nonstop. Please think about that," said Jendrick. Students were encouraged to bring the message home to their families and talk about it together.

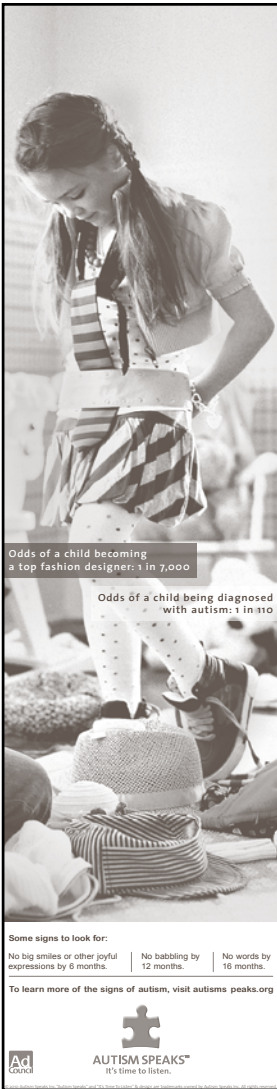




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A look at the local weather

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



Wed., April 16
Mainly sunny
20%
9°C
-1°C
NW 25 km/h

Thu., April 17

Mainly sunny
20%
14°C
2°C
S 8 km/h



Fri., April 18
Mainly sunny
10%
16°C
1°C
SE 14 km/h



Sat., April 19
Sunny
40%
11°C
0°C
SE 6 km/h



Sun., April 20
Mainly sunny
40%
8°C
-2°C
W 22 km/h

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

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

in Canada by texting TALK to 686868 to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXT0 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

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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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- Fridays 7:30pm at the Whitecourt Baptist Church in person only.

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<https://wctcancerwellness.com/>



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.



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Whitecourt Legion presents The 80th
Anniversary of the Liberation of the
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family events, meat draws, pot luck.

Starts 2:30 p.m. Saturday May 3, 2025 at the Legion
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780-778-3666 Thurs-Sat from 2:30 p.m.



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in order to help families in need.
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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.

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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.




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Love or money? More Canadians want a prenap

(NC) With wedding season around the corner, many couples are planning the final details of their upcoming nuptials. And for a growing number of them, that means signing a prenap.

More than half of Gen Z want their partner to sign a prenap if they get married or enter a common-law relationship, according to a recent survey by TD. This is compared to the already-high national average of 31 per cent.

Gen Z most concerned about relationship finances

Among those surveyed, Gen Z showed the strongest feelings around finances in relationships, with 65 per cent saying their partner's net worth is important to them when starting a relationship. One in four respondents also admitted they likely wouldn't date someone who earns less than them.

"We know that finances can be a big stressor in relationships and are clearly on the minds of many, especially Gen Z," says Nicole Ewing, principal wealth planning office, at TD Wealth. "Working together with your partner to tackle money conversations head on could help bring you both understanding and clarity in your relationship and respective financial futures."

Despite Gen Z taking the most definitive stance, all ages expressed strong concerns about finances in their relationships. The survey uncovered that some of the country's top relationship dealbreakers include being dishonest about finances, never offering to pay for anything and having bad spending habits.

"A key component of financial health as a couple is making sure you agree on your financial goals, so it's wise to have that conversation early on to ensure you're both on the same page," adds Ewing.

Building your financial plan as a young couple

Whether you're saving for a wedding, a down payment on a home or retirement, developing a shared financial plan alongside a qualified professional can encourage more open and frequent conversations about money with your partner—and help you stay focused on your priorities.

For singles and couples alike, establishing financial goals and developing a clear understanding of your spending preferences is essential. Whether you're looking to build a budget or create a plan with your partner to reach your shared investment goals, it's always a good idea to consider taking advantage of financial advice and available tools.

A happy delivery



Photo by Wct Rotary Club

There were lots of smiles during this big drop off.



Photo by Wct Rotary Club

Rotary volunteers set up at IGA.

Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Whitecourt were busy on Saturday, April 5, collecting much-needed food and household items, like toiletries, for the Whitecourt Food Bank. The friendly crew set up at IGA and No Frills from 10 am until 2 pm, hoping to fill up their trailer and help support those in the community who turn to the food bank for help in trying times. When all was said and done, the group brought everything collected up to the food bank. Thanks to a very generous community, and the bonus of lovely spring weather, the Rotary Club of Whitecourt collected nearly 2,100 pounds of food and over \$730 in cash donations.

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The Press

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

PAGE 13

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	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	 Easter Scavenger Hunt		

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Whitecourt Completes Energy upgrades at JDA Place

The Town of Whitecourt is pleased to announce that it has completed an energy project at JDA Place that will create operational cost savings and efficiencies.

The project, which received \$192,140 in funding through the Community Energy Conservation Program

and the Government of Alberta-funded Municipal Climate Change Action Centre, involved the replacement of the McLeod Arena roof, and installation of a REALice System. The REALice water treatment system eliminates the need for hot water when building and resurfacing the ice. Through both completed upgrades, it is estimated that a greenhouse gas reduction of 11% will be achieved, which equates to a reduction of 1,818.37 tonnes of carbon dioxide over the lifetime of the components.

“The facility enhancements will greatly impact recreation-alusers and visitors to our community, while at the same time making an impact on our environment,” added Whitecourt Mayor Tom Pickard.

“We know how important arenas are to our communities, and how much energy they can use,” said Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas. “Upgrades can carry a high price tag, which is why we’re pleased to help fund this project. The new arena roof and other upgrades will help lower utility costs for Whitecourt while supporting more fun at the rink.”

The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre is a partnership of Alberta Municipalities, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and the Government of Alberta. Funding for the Community Energy Conservation Program was provided by the Government of Alberta.

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- Estimate food requirements and may estimate food and labour costs
- Supervise activities of sous-chefs, specialist chefs, chefs and cooks
- Arrange for equipment purchases and repairs
- Recruit and hire staff
- May prepare and cook food on a regular basis, or for special guests or functions.

Employment requirements

- Cook's trade certification or equivalent credentials, training and experience are required.
- The certifications of Certified Working Chef (CWC) and Certified Chef de Cuisine (CCC), administered by the Canadian Culinary Institute (CCI) of the Canadian Culinary Federation (CCF) preferred.
- Several years of experience in commercial food preparation, including two years in a supervisory capacity and experience as a sous-chef, specialist chef or chef.
- Red Seal endorsement preferred.
- Management training preferred.

Experience: 3-4 years
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Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Sous Chef NOC 62200

Primary Responsibilities

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- Demonstrate new cooking techniques and new equipment to cooking staff
- Prepare and cook complete meals or specialty foods, such as pastries, sauces, soups, salads, vegetables and meat, poultry and fish dishes, and create decorative food displays for special events such as banquets
- Instruct cooks in preparation, cooking, garnishing and presentation of food
- Create new recipes
- May plan menus and requisition food and kitchen supplies
- May prepare and cook meals or specialty foods.
- May requisition food and kitchen supplies.
- Supervise cooks and other kitchen staff

Employment requirements

- Cook's trade certification or equivalent credentials, training and experience are required.
- The certifications of Certified Working Chef (CWC) and Certified Chef de Cuisine (CCC), administered by the Canadian Culinary Institute (CCI) of the Canadian Culinary Federation (CCF) preferred.
- Culinary Federation (CCF) preferred.
- Red Seal endorsement preferred.
- Sous-chefs, specialist chefs and chefs require several years of experience in commercial food preparation.
- Completion of secondary school preferred.

Experience: 3-4 years
Education: Completion of secondary school preferred
Language: English
Terms of Employment: Permanent, full-time (44 hours/week)
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- 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.
- 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.

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 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 multi-task and adjust to multiple jurisdictions.
- Smart Training course, preserve, deal US in phase 1, 2.
- Must be able to provide RCMP security clearance check.
- Working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint.

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Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Restaurant Assistant Manager NOC 60030

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 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.
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.
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Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza

Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 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 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

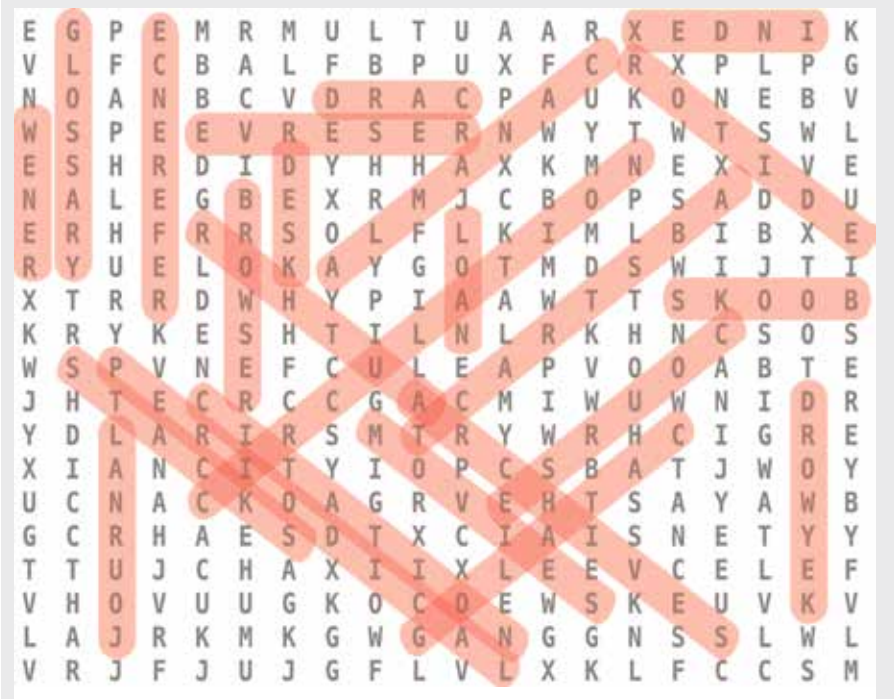
QUALIFICATIONS

- 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 be required for cashiers working in gambling casinos.
- Must be able to complete Smart training courses
- Must be able to complete AML

Experience: 2 – 3 years, or we will train.
Education: Some post-secondary, high school may require.
Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 40-hour work week.
Language: English
Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.
Wage: \$15.00 per hour.
Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.
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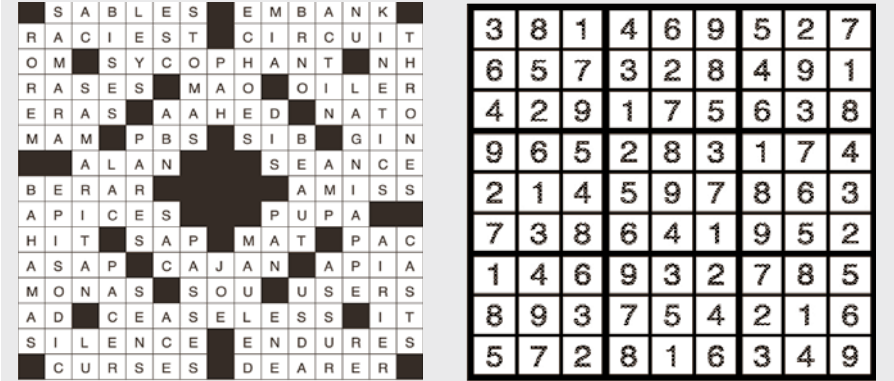
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