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The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

Vol. 14 - Issue 30 | Wednesday, July 30, 2025

The Hometown Turnaround grant from Peace Hills continues to impact the community



Everyone loves a big check!

A much-needed boost in the pocketbook for one local club will elevate the safety and experience for members, thanks to a grant opportunity with hometown roots. The Hometown Turnaround from Peace Hills Insurance has touched several local sports clubs in the last three years and has now added another to its mantel. See story page 8.

Local news printed on local newsprint

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Whitecourt RCMP make multiple arrests in ongoing property crime investigation

By Haylee Winger

Whitecourt RCMP have made several arrests in connection with a string of property crimes reported throughout the area, part of an ongoing effort to tackle what has become a persistent issue in the community.

Thanks to coordinated efforts between Whitecourt RCMP and their counterparts in Edson and Mayerthorpe, as well as support from members of the public, multiple suspects were taken into custody following a series of break-and-enters reported on July 15, 2025, across rural areas in Whitecourt, Edson, and Mayerthorpe.

Witness statements and video surveillance were instrumental in identifying those involved.

One suspect was arrested in Whitecourt on July 17 while operating a stolen vehicle. Another was located and detained by community members on July 19 before being arrested by Whitecourt RCMP.

In a separate incident on July 16, a Whitecourt RCMP member on patrol conducted a traffic stop within town limits. During the stop, the officer identified an individual known to police as a property crime offender who was under conditions to remain at his residence.

The suspect was taken into custody at the scene.

Three individuals now face a series of charges in connection with these incidents, including multiple counts of break and enter, possession of property obtained by crime, failure to comply with court-ordered conditions, theft of a motor vehicle, and related offences.

All three were brought before a justice of the peace and remanded into custody. Two appeared before the Alberta Court of Justice on July 22, while the third is scheduled to appear on August 5, 2025.



The Whitecourt Court of Justice, where two individuals connected to a recent property crime investigation appeared on July 22. A third individual is scheduled to appear on August 5.

“We understand that property crime is a big concern within the community. We will

keep working towards protecting your hard-earned goods from those who would seek

to take them from you,” said Staff Sergeant Matthew Clarke of the Whitecourt RCMP.



Participants make their way through a cloud of foam during the Whitecourt Bubble Run on July 19. Proceeds from the event supported the Whitecourt Food Bank to help families in need.

Whitecourt Town Council supports local events, infrastructure and community development

By Haylee Winger

Whitecourt Town Council has approved several key funding initiatives and updates that will enhance community programs, support local events, and advance major infrastructure projects throughout the municipality.

The Whitecourt Minor Ball Association has received \$1,600 in funding through the Town's Sports Hosting Program to help organize the 11UAA and 18UAA Baseball Alberta Provincial Championships, which will take place from July 25 to 27, 2025. The event is expected to welcome 10 teams from across Alberta, with a projected attendance of 204 players, coaches, and managers. Family members,

friends, and community supporters are also anticipated to attend the weekend-long tournament, contributing to a vibrant atmosphere in Whitecourt.

In addition, \$1,000 has been granted to the Whitecourt Agricultural Society as part of the 2025 Tourism Enhancement Grant to assist with hosting the RCMP Musical Ride on August 29, 2025. The nationally recognized event is expected to draw strong attendance and contribute to Whitecourt's summer event calendar.

Through a partnership with Northern Gateway Public Schools, Whitecourt has committed \$2,500 to support the 2025 Career Exposure Summer Camps, which ran from

June 30 to July 11, provided youth across the region with opportunities to explore different career paths and technologies beyond those typically offered in standard school programs. Participants were also able to earn school credits through the experience. Details about the 2026 program will be made available next spring at www.ngps.ca.

Council also approved the award of a \$112,000 plus GST contract to MPE, a division of Englobe, to carry out engineering services for the Town's Flood Mitigation for Infrastructure Protection projects. Funded through the Alberta Drought and Flood Protection Program, these projects

aim to strengthen the community's ability to withstand flood events and protect key infrastructure. Work will include installing reinforced sheet piling and constructing an earthen berm to safeguard the raw water intake site, as well as raising the gravel access road. Additionally, Mill Road will be elevated and fitted with a culvert gate to secure access to the Water Treatment Plant and ambulance station. A protective flood wall will be built around the west Whitecourt sewer lift station, and the 47 Street access near the golf course's tee box #15 will be raised to improve access to the natural gas station. Construction and tendering for these projects will

proceed in 2026.

Whitecourt Work Wear Ltd. has been awarded \$10,000 through the Town's Vitalization Grant Program. This funding supports building owners in the Downtown Core and along the Highway 43 Corridor in upgrading their façades to align with the architectural standards set out in the Whitecourt Vitalization Plan, which emphasizes stone and wood design elements.

Council also approved a street closure for a car show organized by Ralcomm, set to take place on August 23. Reminders regarding traffic changes and access will be posted online as the date approaches.

In further support of future development, Council authorized a

letter of support for the Lac Ste. Anne Foundation to acquire a provincially owned parcel of land in Whitecourt. The acquisition is contingent upon approval of a proposed housing project.

The Town has also released its updated 2025 Project List, featuring 155 projects planned or underway. The list is available for public viewing at www.whitecourt.ca. In addition, the Whitecourt Quarterly Financial Report covering operations through the end of June 2025 has been posted online. The report outlines revenues and expenditures associated with delivering municipal services and highlights key achievements from the first half of the year.

Keep children safe around windows and balconies

Many Albertans cool off their homes by opening windows. However, open windows and balconies can be a serious fall risk to children.

Children often learn to climb before they learn to walk. Toddlers and preschoolers are at the highest risk of falling from a window or balcony, but falls can happen at any age.

Every year, young children fall from windows and balconies, resulting in EMS response, emergency department visits and, in some cases, hospitalization and death. Of the children who visited the Stollery Children's Hospital and Alberta Children's Hospital emergency departments for win-

dow fall-related injuries in 2024, 85 per cent were under six years of age.

Supervising children is the best way to prevent falls and other childhood injuries. If there are young children in your home or under your supervision:

- Be aware of open windows, even with screens. Screens are not strong enough to keep children in.
- Move furniture such as cribs, beds, stools and change tables away from windows.
- Install window guards on all windows on the second floor and above. These act like gates in front of windows.
- Install safety devices



es that limit how wide a window can open to a maximum of 10 cm (four inches). Safety devices should be installed so they may be opened by an adult or older child

without the use of any tools or special knowledge.

- Remove outdoor furniture and other items stored on balconies and decks that can be used to climb, resulting in a

fall over a railing.

- When spending time outdoors on balconies, ensure your balcony's vertical railings are no more than 10 cm (four inches) apart.
- For resources to pre-

vent falls for infants and young children, visit Healthy Parents Healthy Children or MyHealth.Alberta.ca:

- Keep your baby safe from falls
- Keep your toddler and preschooler safe from falls

Primary Care Alberta is a made-in-Alberta solution to improve access to the primary care services Albertans rely on. By delivering coordinated services, Primary Care Alberta allows for valued healthcare professionals to do what they do best — care for you. Together, we are creating a future where compassionate, timely and effective healthcare is available to every Albertan at every stage of life.

Four things you need to know about cyberbullying

(NC) Today, youth face dangers from more places than ever before. Every new technology that helps them communicate or find community can also be abused to harass, intimidate and bully. Cyberbullying is a difficult subject to talk about, but silence only creates more opportunity for the danger to grow. Making online spaces safer starts with educating ourselves on just what youth are

facing—here are four things you might not have known about cyberbullying:

1. **It's more common than you think.** Cyberbullying can take as many forms as there are ways of communicating online. Targets may experience private harassment like threatening or demeaning emails or text messages; the cyberbullying may also be public, like

embarrassing photos being released online, or a website or social media page built to make fun of the target. 31 per cent of Canadian youth report having been cyberbullied, but the real figure may be even higher.

2. **It leaves a lasting impact.** Unlike in-person forms of intimidation and harassment, cyberbullying can follow a target everywhere

they go, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The effects it has on someone experiencing it vary, but can include anxiety, hopelessness, shame, impacted school performance and even self-harm.

3. **It can cross borders.** While most cyberbullies and their targets know each other, the online nature of the harassment means that it can come from

anywhere. It also means that efforts to address cyberbullying in one region can potentially have a global impact.

4. **Spreading awareness is key.** It empowers targets and those around them to take action which has been found to significantly cut how often it happens. A Canadian communications agency recently found success with

a campaign that raised awareness around cyberbullying in Tunisia. The campaign, "Don't Feed the Monster," aimed to equip teen-aged girls and boys with tools to resist and prevent cyberbullying, while raising awareness among teachers and parents about the dangers waiting for youth online.

You can learn more about this effort to fight back against cyberbullying, as well as hear other stories of Canadian changemakers making a global impact in a new podcast at tap-pat.ca/canadian-changemakers.

Please be advised that **The Press** will not be publishing on **August 6** and **August 13**. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

Thank you for your continued support.

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The Press

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The Drop Spot.

A building across the road from the provincial building, just past the four way stop at the Town Office on 52 Avenue, and right beside The Turn Indoor Golf, has a new name, signaling that a new business is on the horizon. The Drop Spot is a gamer hangout touting a multitude of gaming possibilities from the classics in arcade games to board games and console games, and a fall opening is anticipated.

New sign unveiled in downtown core

PUBLIC NOTICE

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



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- 2025-07-18: **Professional Audit Services.** Closes: August 15, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. MST

For further details on any of this opportunity visit www.whitecourt.ca and search the project title.

WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI





What's Next Alberta? You Decide.

The Alberta Government is launching a province-wide consultation to chart our path, defend our economy, and assert our sovereignty within a united Canada.

Ottawa's continued attacks against our economy and future cannot continue.

We want to hear from you!

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Visit alberta.ca/next

Many of the ideas discussed will form questions for a provincial referendum in 2026.

Get informed. Get involved. Help protect Alberta and build our prosperous future.



Lieutenant Jessica Brown stands proudly between two fellow members of the Whitecourt Fire Department after receiving her official promotion. Holding her custom fire helmet, Brown is all smiles as she celebrates this well-deserved milestone. Her dedication, leadership, and passion for service have earned her the respect of her team and this exciting new role. The moment marks not just a personal achievement, but a testament to the strength and professionalism within the department.

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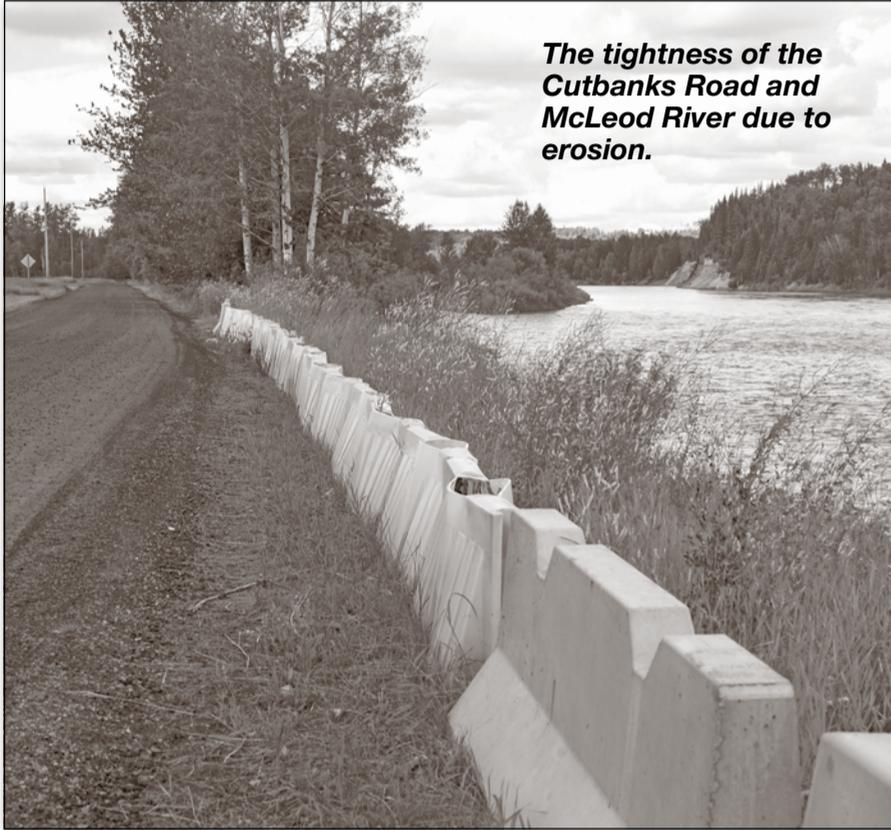
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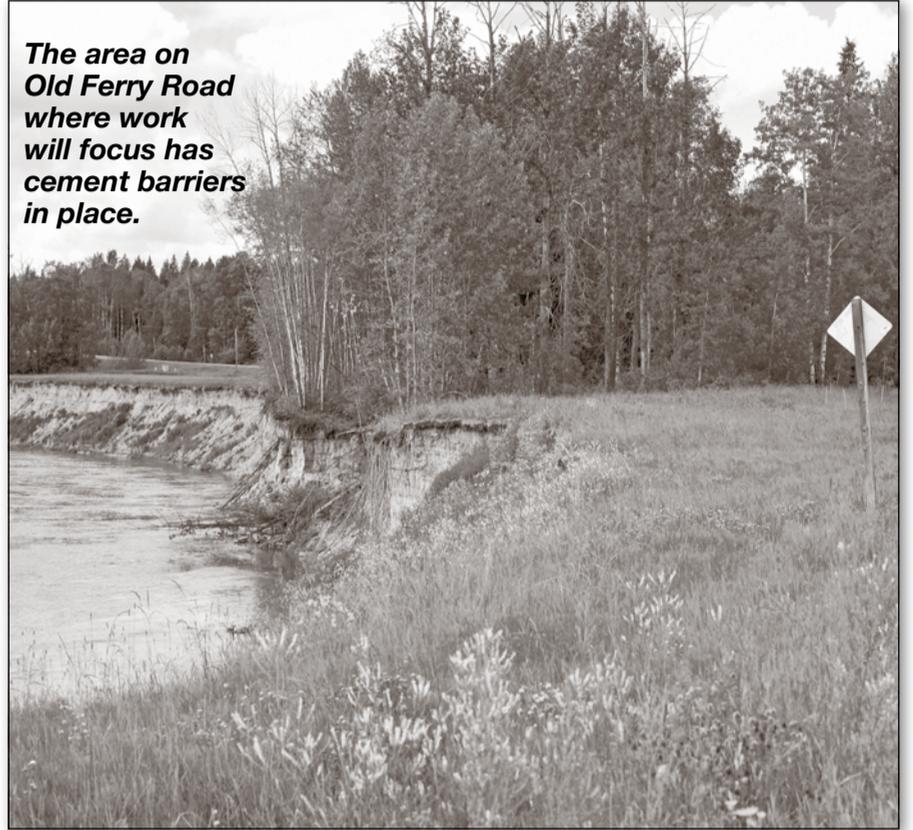
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Whitecourt Fire Department photo

New plan to stabilize cutbanks and Old Ferry Road against bank erosion



The tightness of the Cutbanks Road and McLeod River due to erosion.



The area on Old Ferry Road where work will focus has cement barriers in place.

Finding a solution to the erosion problems on Old Ferry Road and Cutbanks Road, following the floods in 2023, has been a long process for Woodlands County. A plan for moving forward was recently shared with the public, which includes provincial dollars and a tight construction timeline.

By Serena Lapointe

The topic of road erosion has been a continuing one for Woodlands County Council, especially since the 2023 floods, when the McLeod River burst its banks, exacerbating an already damaged area along Cutbanks Road and Old Ferry Road. On July 16, Jeff Zang, Director of Infrastructure, provided an update to Woodlands County Council.

Speaking to Cutbanks Road, Zang said floodplain information was not part of the consultant's report they received in June 2024, a report they used to plan a potential road restoration/realignment project. However, when staff superimposed the proposed road restoration project onto the floodplain information map, they realized there was a problem. "The proposed alignment would actually be within the floodway and flood fringes. This got us thinking that replacing a road that's currently in the floodplain back to a location in the floodplain and flood fringes isn't necessarily making a lot of sense," explained Zang.

A floodplain is a mainly flat area of land beside a river where floodwater regularly spills onto it. It's the first place water will go if a river is inundated with excess water. A flood fringe is the outer portion of a floodplain, the secondary location for flooding to reach, depending on how high a river swells. Finally, a floodway is a designated channel for floodwaters to flow through, whether made naturally through regular erosion or engineered for flood management. In the diagram provided in the Council package, the current portion of Cutbanks Road leading to the tubing drop off along the McLeod River is entirely in the floodway, from the bottom of the hill, just past the old greenhouses, to the dead end. The proposed road, which was to be a straight shot across the field (bypassing the two tight turns) and connecting to the base of Range Road 123, would have been in the floodway for part of it, near the swamp, and within the flood fringe for the remainder.

The damage caused to Cutbanks Road was

identified under the province's 2023 Disaster Recovery Program (DRP), which the County applied to for funding. At first, as stated in the agenda package, it was believed the province would contribute fully to realigning the roadway, as the cost to restore the eroded slopes was greater than a realignment would be.

However, funding from the DRP is not given until a project is completed, putting the risk on Woodlands County of completing a project without a guarantee of funding to help recover some of the cost of doing the work. "We were able to work with the province to encourage them to come to a determination before we proceed. Otherwise, it's a pretty hefty decision that the County has to bear if the province doesn't come through," said Zang.

In December, the province indicated the damage along Cutbanks Road already existed prior to the 2023 flood, citing satellite images comparing 2021 and 2024, which showed preexisting damage along the riverbank. Zang said they

contacted other County staff and confirmed that damages had occurred prior to 2023, but that the top-bank width retraction was from the 2023 floods. "The province tried to argue that because of the damages prior to 2023, they are not funding any repairs, but we were able to come out with our rebuttal and, subsequently, the province agreed with our assertion that 100 percent of the width erosion should be eligible," explained Zang.

Woodlands County submitted a project proposal for 1.6 million, representing 310 metres of riverbank restored to a pre-disaster functional state. Of the 310m, the province determined 140m was eligible. For Old Ferry Road, the process was both different and the same. Although the province didn't try to assert that all of the damage there was caused previously, it did pull back on the requested amount.

Woodlands County had come up with fifteen options for everything from road realignment to riverbank restoration for Old Ferry Road. The options

were sent to the province, and in June, the province determined that the same riprap installation as Cutbanks Road would be eligible, based on 90m of bank damage.

Zang said that even though the amounts were less than what was asked for, it would still be a significant improvement from the current condition. "It is best for us to take the benefit of DRP funding when it is available to us," he said. The portion the County pays on the eligible work under the DRP is 10 percent, with the province covering the remaining 90 percent. Zang added that to be eligible under the program, the bank work on both roads needs to be completed by November 2026.

The plans for Old Ferry Road prior to this were to create gravel turnarounds, just off the intersection of Township Road 593A, close the road in between them, removing the loop portion, rather than realigning the road, as realignment alternatives lacked public support. Councillor John Burrows asked if that plan was still a go or if the dollars set

aside for it could be used to add more riprap.

"The gravel turnarounds are still necessary. The reason being, with the ninety-meter protection, you're only protecting a portion (of the bank), so in the future after we build this, the water can still circumvent and go behind the riprap or if it's a larger event, more than the 1 in 38-year return, it may still wash all the bank protection riprap away. In my mind, the gravel turnarounds are cheap insurance that I still think is necessary," answered Zang.

The lifespan of both projects was estimated to be ten years, for the amounts the County requested, not the amounts determined eligible by the province. If flood activity isn't as tumultuous as it was in 2023 (considered a 1:38-year flood), the lifespan could last longer than that. Woodlands County Council approved the change of scope for both projects, within the limitations of the DRP funding. Engineering will now be sought as well as environmental permits, with work expected to start early next year.



PUZZLES

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15



SUDOKU

	3			4				9
	1	9						6
		5						1
	8		9					7
7			2			4	1	5
					8	7		
8	5		7	9			2	
								4

Level: Intermediate

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. Pacific Standard Time
- 4. Extracts through heating and melting
- 10. Express delight
- 11. More curvy
- 12. Expression of uncertainty
- 14. Indicates before
- 15. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- 16. Southwestern CA city
- 18. Unified
- 22. Less attractive
- 23. Base of jellies
- 24. A large and noisy party
- 26. He was traded for Luka

- 27. Wolverine genus
- 28. "Happy Days" actress Moran
- 30. Root of taro plant
- 31. Student environmental group (abbr.)
- 34. Silk garments
- 36. Unique power
- 37. Ray Liotta cop film
- 39. Leak slowly through
- 40. Notion
- 41. Atomic #55
- 42. Fixed in one place
- 48. About heat
- 50. Type of baseball pitch
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Large wading birds
- 53. Similar
- 54. Time zone

CROSSWORDS

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9			
					10				11				
12	13		14					15					
16		17						18		19 20 21			
22								23					
24					25	26			27				
					28	29			30				
31	32	33			34			35		36			
37			38			39							
40					41			42	43	44	45	46	47
48					49				50				
51									52				
					53				54				55
					56				57				
					59								60

- 55. Atomic #34
- 56. Program
- 58. Old world, new
- 59. Contrary belief
- 60. "To the __ degree"

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Plain-woven fabric
- 2. Classed
- 3. Suppositions
- 4. Midway between south and west
- 5. Tropical American trees
- 6. Leveled
- 7. Published false statement
- 8. Adolescent
- 9. Junior's father
- 12. Aurochs
- 13. Not low
- 17. Boxing's GOAT
- 19. Short musical composition
- 20. Small immature

- 21. Eavesdropper
- 25. Parcels of land
- 29. Anger
- 31. Irritations
- 32. Hindu holy man
- 33. Wicker basket for fish
- 35. Natural object
- 38. Transporting in a vehicle
- 41. A dog is one
- 43. Smaller portion
- 44. Sew
- 45. Belonging to a thing
- 46. Horsley and Greenwood are two
- 47. Scottish language
- 49. Producer
- 56. Exclamation of surprise
- 57. Russian river

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries, the week kicks off with a surge of vitality and determination. You're eager to take action, and the universe backs you. It's a perfect week to push ahead with goals.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Creative energy flows in and a long-dormant idea may spark back to life, Taurus. You're in the right mindset to pursue something artistic and innovative.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Gemini, you're in your element this week and buzzing with charm and curiosity. Engaging conversations abound. Opportunities to connect, both socially and professionally, come easily.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Cancer, a small act of courage pays off in a big way, and you'll find that trusting yourself leads to a fulfilling outcome this week. Embrace your instincts.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



Love and joy surround you, and this week is ideal for connecting with someone special or deepening an important bond, Leo. Your heart feels open, and good things are flowing your way.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



A chance to help or support someone brings a deeper sense of purpose. Kindness flows easily from you now, Virgo, and the gratitude you receive in return is touching and inspiring.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



This week your relationships are in harmony, Libra. You're feeling strongly supported. Conversations flow with ease, and people are drawn to your warm personality.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



A milestone is within reach, and the progress you've made starts to emerge this week, Scorpio. Your persistence and inner fire have been guiding you forward.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Sagittarius, a fresh perspective allows you to release old worries or doubts. This is a week of clarity and growth during which inspiration meets personal freedom.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Practical matters — especially career or finances — are looking up, Capricorn. A smart decision made now could lead to something even better down the line.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Aquarius, you've had your eye on the prize for some time now, and the good news is that the finish line is within arm's length. Stick with things for just a little longer.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Pisces, you have been making some changes this week. Your perspective and surroundings at home have changed. This can be a refreshing endeavor.

PROTECT PETS WORD SEARCH



I G F I G O M C X E M E R G E N C Y Y F
D R K H D A P L S O S K C I T M N Z S I
R N G H C E Z L X G S N I X O T L R E F
P L F O S N N A A I R A O A C R A T E K
S P R E P V E T E R I N A R I A N F S S
C D E F N R M X I V A C C I N A T I O N
S Z I T V C E E S F C S C G A M H D H V
S D D S P U E V C T I H N L Y O A A M M
O N M H G R H P E O L C L X V M Z P T H
A F I H E X O S L N L P A P O F A G A N
S I C L H A N O U N T L F T R M R R K E
U R R S R C T X F P O I A M I N D L L T
O P O S E K H S H I E I V R S O S I O P
R M C E S F C R T R N R T E F E N Y O H
E P H N T E O A L R C G V A X T C H S H
G X I R R M S H R O O O L I R C I U A R
N P P A A U S E G R S K O R S D I I R A
A H T H I D Y T O K I T E T K I Y U N E
D O N V N D E K C O L E V O D H O H P H
U O Z C T D X P U Y O M R P Y C F N S R

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

WORDS

- CARRIER
- COLLAR
- CORDS
- CRATE
- DANGEROUS
- EMERGENCY
- FENCE
- HARNES
- HAZARDS
- HEATSTROKE
- HYDRATION
- IDENTIFICATION
- LOCKED
- LOST
- MICROCHIP
- PET-PROOFING
- PREVENTIVE
- RESTRAINT
- SECURE
- SUPERVISION
- TICKS
- TOXINS
- VACCINATION
- VETERINARIAN

The Hometown Turnaround grant from Peace Hills continues to impact the community



Handshakes down the line to say, "thank you."



Kim Harper (left), Janet Mullin, Vanessa Irvine and Master Jim Rennie.

By Serena Lapointe

The Whitecourt Martial Arts Center houses three martial arts under one roof: Taekwondo, Muay Thai, and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu/MMA. For groups practicing Jiu Jitsu/MMA or self-defence-related training, having good mats is a given. Many moves involve being on the floor and being thrown or taken down, so a padded place to land isn't just a matter of preference, but also for safety.

The only problem is that specialized mats are expensive. "Jiu Jitsu incorporates a lot of throws and contact. It's a high-contact sport that requires a specific type of mat to ensure the safety of the participants. We were making do with the Taekwondo equipment," explained George Olynyk, Assistant Coach with the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club. Soon enough, the club won't have to make do with the mats from the Taekwondo club anymore, thanks to a program through Peace Hills Insurance called Hometown Turnaround, which provides funding dollars to various community groups for projects that make tangible differences in community spaces.

The project began in 2022 and has already hugely impacted groups where Peace Hills Insurance does business, from Alberta to Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories. Projects have

included things like a climbing wall in a Winnipeg school's gymnasium, a playground upgrade at Harry Balfour School in Grande Prairie, an outreach van to support youth aged 12 to 24 in downtown Yellowknife, a recreation centre expansion in Smithers, BC, a trail revitalization in Drumheller Valley that will allow cyclists and pedestrians to travel all over the area, connecting to the area's main tourism spots, and to Whitecourt Minor Baseball to help improve the facility's accessibility for spectators of all kinds.

"We really enjoy getting involved in the communities with our broker partners. Each year, we get a certain allotment of funds to help our rural broker partners partner with organizations like Whitecourt Taekwondo to help get the small projects off the ground and provide that little boost of funds that they need," explained Vanessa Irvine, Business Development Advisor for Peace Hills Insurance, Northern Alberta.

The neat thing about the program is that the funds spent get reimbursed to the cookie jar, so to speak, allowing advisors like Irvine to spend it again and again, year after year, on new projects. "We are always looking to support new groups. We initially focused on our rural broker partners for smaller communities, but we've

now expanded to cities. So, anyone looking for some funds to get a project off the ground, we are always looking for something to participate in," she said.

Irvine's Northern Alberta territory, from Lacombe to High Level, receives \$100,000 yearly to put towards projects. Southern Alberta receives \$25,000, and the rest of the company's reach outside of Alberta, which the department has dubbed "The Rock," receives \$100,000.

BrokerLink Whitecourt helps by finding the local groups and projects and encouraging people to apply. Kim Harper is the Customer Experience Leader - Personal Insurance at the Whitecourt Branch. Her son is active in sports, which has helped connect dollars to at least two deserving groups, so far. Rand Richards, a champion supporter of several community groups, is the connecting piece because she volunteers wherever her son plays sports. And he plays at least two: hockey and taekwondo. "A few years ago, they sponsored a pilot project for Whitecourt Minor Hockey for five thousand dollars," explained Richards, who was on the board.

"When we had the pilot project for self-defence for Taekwondo and Jiu Jitsu, we were wondering who a

continued on page 10

Betty Jane Fediuk

December 5, 1955 – July 14, 2025

"Count your age by friends... not years.
Count your life by smile... not tears."

On July 14, 2025, two best friends shared their final "I love you" and goodbyes as one of them had to leave. The heartbroken one knew he couldn't turn back because he had accepted that his beloved Betty Jane Fediuk had passed away on the same day. While each person she loved and cared for would always feel the loss, they would also be grateful for having experienced it.



deeply valued family. She saw herself as a guiding light for those who worked for her, providing them with unconditional love, mentorship, and guidance. Her leadership, rooted in a strong character and informed opinions, was complemented by an even more powerful force—her love. Betty served as a beacon of hope, offering second chances and assistance to those in need. Her unwavering belief in the transformative power of love made her an ideal role model for anyone to aspire to be.

Betty's cherished memories and love will be deeply held onto by her best friend and husband, Brian. They will also be cherished by their son Dylan; their grandson Finnigan (Laura) and Ryley; their nieces Tennielle (Darrell), Tristine, and great-niece Izzy, Crystal (Kelly), Nicole, Tara (Joel); their nephews Brian Jr; brother-in-law Brian Sr. (Katherine); their brothers-in-law Brad, Bruce (Marilyn), and Danny (Adelle); their nieces and nephews Devon, Derrick, Garrett, Daria (Paul and Reed), as well as numerous family and friends.

Betty was predeceased by her parents, Mack and Lena Swanson; her in-laws, Peggy and Matt, siblings Ken, Leona, Marie, Allan, Gordon, Elmer, Jerry, and Doreen; and her sister-in-law, Brenda.

During her busy life, Betty found solace in reading western novels and discovering a good fishing spot while camping. There, she could enjoy a rodeo and a game of canasta. She also developed a travel bug, and who better to accompany her than Brian? Together, they embarked on various adventures, including trips to Bahamas in Free Port, Alaska, Nashville, Disney, and numerous cruises.

Betty, a strong-willed and caring woman,

for anyone to aspire to be. Betty's infectious laughter drew people in with its warmth and joy. She cherished her family and friends, expressing her love through heartfelt words, thoughtful actions, and delectable meals. Her home became a haven of love and welcome, where everyone felt at ease and embraced. Betty's legacy continues to inspire people to radiate the love that she so profoundly embodied.

In her memory, Betty's family expresses its deepest gratitude to Dr. Nnaemeka Uzodike at the Whitecourt Hospital, Dr. Herman and Dr. Spowart, and the compassionate nursing staff in the ICU at the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital. During Betty's stay, they received the utmost care and support, and the kindness and compassion displayed by these healthcare professionals have left an indelible mark on the family.

As Betty loved to feed people, a donation in her name can be made to the Whitecourt Community Lunch Box Society, <https://www.communitylunchbox.ca/support-our-work> and click on the apple to donate.

A Celebration of Betty's Life was held on Monday July 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at Westward Community Hall.

Condolences may be sent to www.affinityfuneralservice.ca.

Funeral Arrangements in the care of Terri Shimenosky at:



Affinity
Funeral Service

780.778.3330
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PUBLIC NOTICE

**ANC Timber Ltd.
2025 HERBICIDE APPLICATION PROJECT**

Please be advised that ANC Timber Ltd. is looking for input on their upcoming herbicide application program for 2025. ANC Timber Ltd. will be conducting both aerial and ground herbicide application programs between August 6th and September 20th, 2025. The application will treat approximately 1200 hectares of existing cutover area. The applications will be in portions of:

Township	Ranges	Meridian
48	14	W5M
58	18, 19, 20, 21, 25	W5M
59	17, 21, 23, 24	W5M
60	23, 24	W5M
61	22, 24	W5M
62	23, 24	W5M
63	23, 24	W5M

Both the aerial and ground herbicide applications will be done using VisionMax® silviculture herbicide. The purpose of the applications is to control grass and shrub species that are limiting the survival chances of our planted seedlings on recent harvested areas. Access to all areas will be posted with signs upon completion and all applications will be done in accordance with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry regulations and the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides. For more information, please contact an ANC Timber Ltd. representative at (780) 778-7967 or visit ANC's website at <https://www.albertanewsprint.com/woodlands/>.

A house on 52 Avenue (4611), located in between the Preferred Properties Modern House Apartments, and the parking lot for the Whitecourt Apartments, has seen its last day. On Thursday and Friday last week, crews tore the property down. The street was temporarily down to one lane of traffic and the sidewalk closed to pedestrians as the big pieces were removed. The small home was done away with quickly, leaving an empty lot ready for a new project.

① The old door at 4611 52 Avenue.
 ② Boarded up and ready to go.
 ③ An excavator flattening the now empty lot.





Whitecourt welcomed teams from across Alberta for the Baseball Alberta Provincials, kicking off the weekend with a lively parade of teams, a heartfelt anthem sung by Deputy Mayor Derek Schlosser, and a ceremonial first pitch. With community spirit high and the stands full, the tournament began with excitement and pride.

continued from page 8

great partner could be. I reached out to Kim because we felt that it would be a good fit.

We put in an application for the Hometown Turnaround grant from Peace Hills Insurance, and it was the quickest response. We heard back the next day. They said it couldn't be more fitting for their program. They gave us the whole \$5,000 we asked for," said Richards. "My son started Taekwondo during COVID because it was one of the few sports that ran. He was five at the time. This year, in June, he celebrated receiving his junior black belt. It's been a rewarding journey, and he loves it. We love the whole program and what it brings to Whitecourt and to youth," said Richards.

For Harper, getting to help get dollars into the hands of deserving community groups is

a proud moment. "We have partnered with Peace Hills for quite a few years. They are a wonderful insurance company. They do a lot for communities and are great with our brokers and clients. I think it's really important that they take the time and designate the funds and reach out to some of these smaller projects, because there aren't a lot of opportunities sometimes for those projects to be funded." Her colleague, Janet Mullin, Customer Experience Leader - Billing Team, said the impact of the dollars through the Hometown Turnaround program is great. "The kids benefit. The community benefits. It has a great impact on the community."

Jim Rennie, Taekwondo Master and owner of the Whitecourt Club, said he really appreciates the

support from Peace Hills and BrokerLink. "It's directly going to affect the safety, which is so suitable for an insurance company, of all of our martial arts family, with the new mats we are going to be able to buy. It will enhance our martial arts experience, and safety will come along with that. We're very appreciative of Peace Hills. It's a great initiative to do this kind of sponsorship in rural communities because they have a harder time attracting what larger municipalities might attract. We think they are a great role model for businesses that are sponsoring local groups," said Rennie. On Wednesday morning last week, Harper, Mullin, Irvine, Richards, Olynyk, Rennie, and a small group of club members posed happily with an oversized check to celebrate, shake hands, and say "thank you."

The Press

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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**



WHITECOURT
CANCER & WELLNESS SOCIETY

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/>



"Serving the community for over 30 years"
The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food in order to help families in need.

Open Mon, Wed & Fri 11:00am to 2:00 pm
Phone: 780-778-2341

Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre
The Whitecourt Food Bank is operated by the Town of Whitecourt Food Bank Coordinator and dependent on volunteers to operate. The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food from individuals and organizations. Local grocery stores drop off baked goods including bread and pastries weekly. Other corporations and schools schedule food drives throughout the year.
Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Phone: 780-778-2341

LORNE'S BLANKET

is transitional housing for men.

We exist to help homeless men get back on their feet.

If you know of any male requiring assistance, please Call Lorne's Blanket at 780-778-0952



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WELLSPRING FAMILY RESOURCE & CRISIS CENTRE



@whitecourt_shelter

Shelter:

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

Outreach Support Program:

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

Child Support Program:

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

Preventative Education:

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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

www.whitecourtshelter.ca

Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous Group



Meetings are three times each week

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

Located at the United Church Basement on Legion Street (formerly 5201 - 50 Street)

Please Leave a Message for Our AA member or Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322



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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza RV Park Supervisor (NOC 62029)

This position is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Eagle River Tourism RV Park near Whitecourt. The incumbent must have a solid customer service orientation, be business-minded, conduct themselves professionally, and have a strong respect for the environment and wildlife. Working weekends, holidays, and evenings will be required.

In addition to providing excellent customer service to our guests, the responsibilities include:

- Processing payment from guests
- Preparation of morning and evening reports
- Reconcile daily / monthly receipts.
- Maintaining grounds and facilities:
 - Ensure maintenance of safety and sanitation standards and policies
 - Oversee maintenance of buildings and sites
 - Cleaning of all washrooms and communal areas
 - Sweeping and mopping floors
 - Moving of furniture during routine cleaning
 - Ensuring playground is maintained
 - Mowing grass and weed trimming
 - Shoveling snow
- Lifting 30-50lbs during maintenance of grounds
- Understand and carry out the security requirements.
- Work with fellow staff members as a team to ensure all guests receive the proper care and attention.
- Working with the broader team to develop promotions for the property.
- Understand the basic workings and operations of the RV Park
- Be punctual, professional, and knowledgeable regarding all functions and available services of the RV Park
- Understand security requirements to look after guests and property
- Any other duties as required

QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience in the customer service industry
- Strong mathematical skills for processing cash, credit or debit transactions
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Good physical fitness
- Ability to work independently
- Manual dexterity and mechanical aptitude
- Good problem-solving skills
- Valid class 5 Driver's License
- Must be 18 years of age.
- Current Standard First Aid & Level C certification, Pro serve, Protect, Deal Us In Phases 1 & 2, AML
- Must be able to obtain AGLC Security license

This is a full time, permanent position. Wage \$24.00/hr. Health benefits available. Interested applicants should apply with resume and cover letter to hr@eaglerivercasino.ca



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Sous Chef NOC 62200

Primary Responsibilities

- Supervise activities of specialist chefs, chefs, cooks and other kitchen workers
- 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.
- 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)
- Benefits Package:** Vision, Dental, and Health after 90-day probation period.

- Visit our website** www.eaglerivercasino.ca
- Address:** Twp Rd 602A, HWY 32N Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3
- Phone:** 780.779.2727
- Fax:** 780.706.7451
- How to Apply:** Send resume to hr@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail, or fax.



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. 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

Executive Chef NOC 62200

Responsibilities:

- Plan and direct food preparation and cooking activities of several restaurants in an establishment, restaurant chains, hospitals or other establishments with food services
- Consult with clients regarding weddings, banquets and specialty functions
- Plan menus and ensure food meets quality standards
- 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
Education: Completion of secondary school preferred
Language: English
Terms of Employment: Permanent, full-time (44 hours/week)
Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, and Health after 90-day probation period.

Visit our website www.eaglerivercasino.ca
Address: Twp Rd 602A, HWY 32N Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3
Phone: 780.779.2727
Fax: 780.706.7451
How to Apply: Send resume to hr@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail, or fax.



Whitecourt Fire Department photo

A representative from the Whitecourt Fire Department stands with a local resident and a FireSmart crew member to acknowledge participation in the Whitecourt FireSmart Homeowner Incentive Grant Program. The initiative encourages residents to complete free Advanced FireSmart Home Assessments, identify wildfire risks, and take steps to make their properties safer and more resilient.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

If you enjoy a fast-paced, progressive work environment and you have a passion for serving the local community, then this may be the opportunity for you! We believe that our values of diversity, collaboration, innovation and mutual respect bring out the best in our team, and we are currently looking to fill the following positions:

Job#: 25-042, Energy Manager, Contract, Full-time position.
Job#: 25-043, Lifeguard/Instructor I, Permanent, Casual position.

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



HELP WANTED

Tim Hortons in Whitecourt is looking to fill the following positions:

Food Service Attendant
Full Time / Shift Work

Food Service Supervisor
Full Time / Shift Work

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4331-52 Ave Unit 1 | 4216 Elko Drive
Whitecourt, AB | Whitecourt, AB



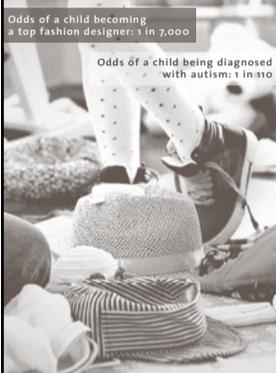
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Letter to the Editor policy

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




A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Contact

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



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