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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



The Press



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Vol. 12 - Issue 3 | Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Residents looking for a great evening out have two more opportunities to take in **CLUE On Stage**, performed by Pumpjack Players. Based on the popular game, and movie, the play brings together all the favourite suspects for a hilarious whodunit full of one-liners, zippy comebacks, dramatic expressions, and full-blown silliness. It is not to be missed!



Pumpjack Players raise the bar with an outstanding dinner theatre production of CLUE On Stage

By Serena Lapointe

After too long without a play to share with the community, Pumpjack Players pulled back the curtain for the first of four performances of CLUE On Stage. Tables surrounded by couples, coworkers, friends, and

family filled the Whitecourt Central School gymnasium on Friday the 13th for the opening night of the hilarious whodunit. Written by Sandy Rustin, screenplay by Jonathan Lynn, and made famous by the 1985 hit movie starring

Tim Curry and the board game of the same name, CLUE On Stage brings chaos, comedy, and conjecture together in one superb concoction.

"Everyone has been working really hard. The

continued on page 6

Ms. Kinloch's cool students

By Serena Lapointe

When temperatures in Whitecourt dipped far into the minus thirties just before Christmas with a windchill dancing around -50, many planned events were postponed or outright cancelled. With buses not running for several days, community schools had to change their seasonal plans thanks to the frigid temps. For Pat Hardy Primary School students, that meant finding new dates for their yearly Christmas concerts.

Teachers moved the

two-day affair into January with no options to make up the dates ahead of Christmas. At the end of the first week back at school, students finally took the stage and sang their hearts out in front of their parents.

On Thursday, January 12, at 10 am, the first half of the kindergarten students kicked things off and did a wonderful job with their performances. Forty-five minutes later, the grade one students had their turn under the bright lights. Pat Hardy Primary School music

teacher Danielle Nimco guided her students from the front of the stage. First up was Ms. Klatt's class, who sang about a red bird flying away. Next was Mrs. Gouverneau's class, who brought a little bit of country to the concert by dancing arm in arm, playing air guitar and ending their performance with a boisterous "yeehaw!"

With winter gear on, including toques, mittens, sweaters and puffy jackets, Mrs. Merrick's

continued on page 2



After the chilly December weather forced a change to the planned Christmas concerts at Pat Hardy Primary School, students were finally able to showcase their hard work last week.



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Singing about the magic of a winter walk.



A black light performance by the grade one choir.

continued from page 1
class dressed the part perfectly for their winter-themed song. The group sang about bundling up and staying warm for their musical number and did a fantastic job staying in sync with their movements.

The next grade one class to perform was Mrs. Crouser's class. Students wore pretty crowns with shiny, silver snowflakes and used streamers and drums. The children sang about going outside for a winter walk and what it would be like. The fifth grade one class to perform

on Thursday morning was Ms. Kinloch's class. The youngsters wore sunglasses and bowler hats for their catchy rock and roll number about a cool snowman. After the classes wrapped up their performances, it was time for the grade one choir to

take the stage for two big numbers. The first performance had the large group dressed in dark colours with white gloves and big white snowflakes on their chests. The lights on the stage went dark as black lights made the snowflakes and gloves glow brightly. The choir sang

beautifully about snow falling at night, landing on the dark ground like a blanket. For their second performance, the grade one choir sang Deck the Halls. The performance can be viewed in full on the Whitecourt Press Facebook page. On Fri-

day, January 13, the second half of the kindergarten students, the grade two classes and the grade two choir performed their songs. Speaking after the Thursday concert, Mrs. Nimco said she was proud to see the students

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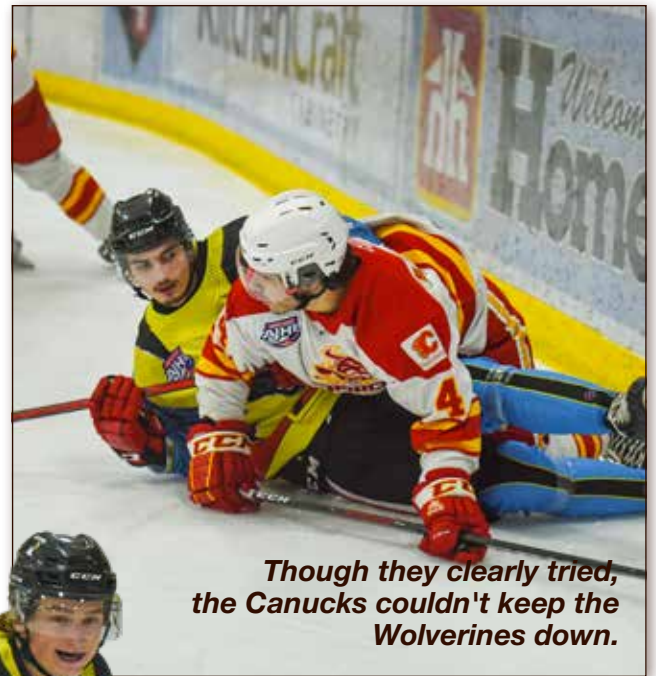
The Whitecourt Wolverines and their fans became superheroes last week to help raise money for a great cause



Dressed up fans had a group picture at center ice.



This looks like a job for, SUPER Wiltzie!



Though they clearly tried, the Canucks couldn't keep the Wolverines down.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is a relentless disease that primarily affects boys. It robs sufferers of mobility as it causes muscle weakness and deterioration of vital functions and organs. Saturday's superhero-themed Wolverines game at the Scott Safety Centre helped raise funds to support hundreds of Canadian boys and their loved ones access life-changing care and treatments and hopefully find a cure.

By Serena Lapointe

The Whitecourt Wolverines and the Calgary Canucks battled it out on Saturday night at the Scott Safety Centre for Superhero Night. The hometown squad was decked out in brand-new jerseys that stood out brightly against the stark ice surface. Bright yellow comprised most of the jersey body, with a bright red

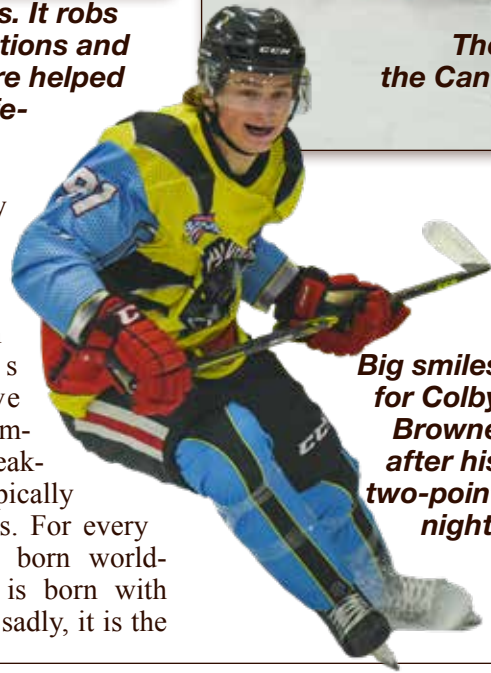
stripe as the belt buckle. The Wolverines looked the part of superheroes as they skated around the ice. All they were missing were capes.

Young fans who dressed up as their favourite superheroes got into the game for free, while adults who dressed up only had to pay five dollars. Throughout the arena, fans got into the

spirit of the night with all kinds of well-known costumes in the stands, from Spiderman to Superman, Batman to Batwoman, and Wonder Woman and Captain America.

Throughout the game, fans participated in an auction for the game-worn jerseys on the ice, helping raise funds for Defeat Duchenne Canada. Duchenne Muscular

Dystrophy is a rare genetic condition which involves progressive muscle damage and weakness and typically affects boys. For every 5000 boys born worldwide, one is born with Duchenne; sadly, it is the



Big smiles for Colby Browne after his two-point night.

most common fatal form of muscular dystrophy.

According to Defeat Duchenne Canada, the country's only national charity aiming to end the disease, there are about 800 boys and young men in Canada living with Duchenne. The unrelenting disease weakens the body's muscles and de-

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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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wctcancerwellness@gmail.com

***Monthly meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19*

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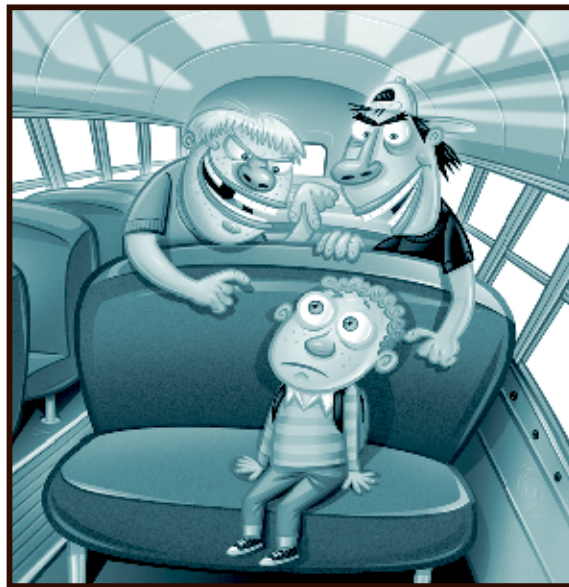


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continued from page 1

magnitude of the play itself, it's an extensive production. It's larger than what we've done in the past. It was performed in the fall at the Citadel in Edmonton, so the calibre of the play is tremendous," explained director Stephanie Black just a few hours ahead of showtime. "The actors have been helping build set and props and doing many other things on top of their acting roles."

Initially planned for November but bumped due to construction at the school, CLUE On Stage has been years in the making for the group, through restrictions. "Everyone has been putting in so many hours to get this ready. Our crew is fairly new, so they jumped right into it, and they've been doing awesome. Everyone on the board has also been involved in the play in a large capacity. The set was a huge thing for us and was pretty daunting, so much of our time went into that," explained Black.

Sleepless nights, anxious days and a full-time schedule for months have all been worth it. "Honestly, I told everyone not

to stress because, in the end, we all put in our best, and I think it will go very well. I'm excited to see the curtain open and to see all the work that has been put into it come together and show the community what we've been working on." The crew held rehearsals every day last week leading up to Friday's opening show, and Black said she is grateful for everyone putting their all into the project.

At 8 pm on Friday, following a delicious supper catered by Sherry and Ray Lachance (Abbie's Catering), Black, assistant director Billie-Jo House, and the cast and crew took a big collective breath as the curtain opened for the first time. Within minutes, the audience was already laughing.

One especially neat aspect of the show is that once the curtain opens, it remains that way until intermission, with set changes happening in the darkness, still visible to the audience. As the backstage crew swiftly moved set pieces in and out, the characters would march in place, bringing out giggles from the audience and adding to the

experience. There was never a moment where there wasn't something to see, stage lights or not.

With each murder, the suspense grows, as does the hilarity. The set created for the show is perfection, with period-correct props, décor and wallpaper straight out of a decades-old mansion with "old money" vibes. The countless hours put into creating the backdrops are clearly visible, far exceeding the professional bar Pumpjack Players was already known for.

"The cast did such a great job, and I'm really proud of them for persevering. We had a lot of forks in the road along the way, and I appreciate their patience with me and the process of community theatre. It's not always what we picture coming in as an actor. For the tech and crew, they really pulled everything together. It was monumental doing the set, and the tech was really heavy for this play too. I have teenagers on my soundboard and working the lighting. They've really pulled through, even with some last-minute roadblocks," said Black.

continued on page 7



The main cast of CLUE.



A not so quiet chat amongst the suspects.



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A big reaction from Mrs. White.



Attempting to be sneaky.

continued from page 6

As the cast took their bows in front of a loudly cheering audience at the end of the show, Black shed tears of joy. "I want to encourage anyone interested or has found a love of theatre through watching us and wants to support community theatre to do so in any way they can. There are a lot of behind-the-scenes things to get involved in. Anything that we do as a group really forms a sense of community. Honestly, we've made a lot of friendships and business relationships through this process. Whether it be people wanting to

get on the stage or behind the curtain, help out as a sponsor, or participate in any of the scenery things, we are encouraging that. We want people to understand that theatre is a hobby that many enjoy, and it's important to keep it alive in our community," explained Black.

She added that getting to perform doesn't happen without sponsors and that Pumpjack Players is "beyond grateful" for the backing received. "Ballad Training Group, Life Med Pharmacy, Millar Western, JB Cleaning, CJ's Liquor Unlimited, Eagle

River Cabs, Alberta Newsprint Company, Iron Wing Tank and Vac, Craft & Trade Company, Taiga Helicopters, Staples, and 1st Choice Truck and Car Wash are the reason we are here, performing. We want our sponsors to know that their contribution makes a difference in the arts community in Whitecourt and the surrounding area."

Residents who missed out on the first two showings of CLUE On Stage are in luck, as two shows are coming this Friday and Saturday (20/21) night. "We still have a few tickets left for each show. Any available tickets will be available at the door, or they can be purchased beforehand at the Whitecourt Public Library until Friday," said Black. Whitecourt! Don't miss out!

Yvette the maid upon discovering her boss had died.



Whitecourt Town Council updates

The 2023 Budget Information Open House is scheduled from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22 at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. The event will provide information to the public on the interim budget, provide an opportunity for ratepayers to comment, and allow for

two-way communication between the public and Whitecourt Town Council members and staff. Residents are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts! Watch for advertisements in the coming weeks.

Whitecourt Town Council has established a Board

that will provide a collective approach to support healthcare attraction and retention in the region. Two members of the public will be appointed to the Board, and Whitecourt is currently accepting applications from interested individuals. Information on the Committee, as well as the application form, can be found on our website. www.whitecourt.ca/your-town/mayor-council/public-participation.



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For more information, please contact Bryan Turner, Corporate Treasurer at bryan.turner@livingwaters.ab.ca

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For further information, please contact the Municipal Office in Whitecourt at 780-778-8400.



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The Open House will be your opportunity to learn more about the MDP, LUB and ASP projects, and to share your perspectives and feedback on what you would like to see in Whitecourt.

Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023
Time: 5:30-7:30 pm
Location: Allan & Jean Millar Centre Boardroom
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Summer Village of Island Lake Request for Proposals Development Officer Position

The Summer Village of Island Lake, being Alberta's largest Summer Village and located on the shores of Island Lake, approximately 20 minutes northwest of the Town of Athabasca, is looking for an outgoing and enthusiastic individual to fulfill a part time contract position for a Development Officer services within our community.

Please visit online for complete details and instructions: www.islandlake.ca

Summer Village of Island Lake, Box 8, Alberta Beach, T0E 0A0 svislandlake@wildwillowenterprises.com

Position will be open until January 12, 2023 or a suitable candidate is found

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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@telus.net.

Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association CMCA AUDITED

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The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY

Contact

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

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Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association CMCA AUDITED

The Press is printed on high quality newsprint using vegetable based ink. We encourage you to share, save, reuse, rehash & recycle.

A look at the local weather	Tue., Jan 17	Wed., Jan 18	Thu., Jan 19	Fri., Jan 20	Sat., Jan 21
	Mix of sun and clouds	Cloudy with sunny breaks	Mainly sunny	Cloudy with sunny breaks	Cloudy with sunny breaks
P.O.P.	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%
High	-3°C	-2°C	-3°C	1°C	3°C
Low	-11°C	-6°C	-7°C	-2°C	-3°C
Wind	SE 6 km/h	S 10 km/h	W 16 km/h	W 10 km/h	W 27 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	-	-	-	-	-



Drums for Mrs. Crouser's class.



Snazzy sunglasses and bowler hats for a rock and roll tune.

continued from page 2

perform. She said the students were sad when the concerts were cancelled in December. Getting to finally perform had everyone excited. "They were proud that their parents could finally come to see them."

The two-day concert was the first since before restrictions closed things down. "For some grade two students, this is their first time on stage. I am really, really, really happy to be back in the role (as a music teacher). Music is important for life because it's not only developing musical skills but it's developing confidence on stage. It's also developing a lot of phonemic awareness when your singing songs. For a lot of kids who are dysregulated, when they en-

ter into music, it actually reregulates them with beat and rhythm. So, it's important for all," explained Mrs. Nimco.

"It's also a way of assisting mental health with skills they can turn to when they are older. Those are some of the essential skills they develop, and it's all-encompassing. We do a lot of math with rhythm and beat, and notation. There's also a lot of literacy with learning a new vocabulary and expanding on rhythm, syllables, and rhyming words. It expands on culture because of the different songs and is also a bit scientific. So, it encompasses everything in the core subjects." Mrs. Nimco said the students should be very proud of themselves for a job well done.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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



GET INVOLVED....IT'S YOUR TOWN! Opportunity for Public Participation

Every fall, the Town of Whitecourt recruits citizens to fill volunteer positions on various boards and committees that provide Town Council with perspective and recommendations regarding important civic issues. Whitecourt is a diverse, growing town, and citizens are in the best position to provide input on our changing community needs.

Get involved! It's your town. Share your knowledge and meet new colleagues.

The Town of Whitecourt is now accepting applications for:

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

"To make decisions on appeals of subdivision or development decisions made by the Development Officer or Municipal Planning Commission."

(2) Members – terms to expire in October 2025

Whitecourt Tourism Committee

"To establish a brand and program to further the interests of the Town of Whitecourt in the tourism industry."

(1) Member – term to expire in October 2025

Municipal Planning Commission Committee

"To deal with land use planning matters with particular emphasis on the Land Use Bylaw."

(1) Member – term to expire in October 2024
(2) Members – terms to expire in October 2025

Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee

"To develop and support a sustainable and collaborative system for health professionals' attraction and retention that will support ongoing health care services to the community and provide a welcoming environment for health care providers and their families."

(1) Member – term to expire in October 2024
(1) Member – terms to expire in October 2025

If being on a Council Committee interests you, please complete an application form which can be found on the Whitecourt website at www.whitecourt.ca or picked up at the Town Office. Applications must be received before 12:00 noon, Wednesday, October 20, 2021 to:

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

Applications will be presented to Town Council at the February 13, 2023 Regular Meeting.

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decision was made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 22-124: 4752 51 Avenue – Freestanding Sign – Approved with Conditions

Date of Decision: January 12, 2023 **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** February 3, 2023

An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$300) 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.

continued from page 3

teriorates vital functions and organs, eventually taking the sufferer's life. Defeat Duchenne Canada is focused on helping families in the fight and on helping find a cure. Superhero Night is a fantastic way to spread awareness and raise necessary funds.

Over 600 fans filled the seats at the Scott Safety Centre, ready to see their Wolverines win. In the first period, Jack Franklin whipped the Wolverine's fans into a frenzy with a wicked goal assisted by Tanner Klimpke and Colby Browne. The goal came at 4:28 of the period. Nearly ten minutes later, the Calgary Canucks responded, tying things up 1-1. In the

first intermission, all fans in attendance who were dressed up as their favourite superheroes were invited out onto the ice to take a big group picture together.

In the second period, things got aggressive. Thirty-six seconds into the frame, a big hit on a Wolverine brought things to a screeching halt. It took the referees a few minutes to get things settled back down. Five penalties resulted from the kerfuffle, three for Calgary (boarding and roughing x2) and two for the Wolverines, with Bevington and Tatarenko getting pegged with roughing penalties.

At 3:55 of the second, Dylan Leslie hammered in his ninth goal of the season, assisted by Mi-

chael Lovsin. The Whitecourt Wolverines, aka The Superheroes, were back on top with the lead, 2-1. The period saw five more penalties before it wrapped, including a kneeling double minor against the Canucks and checking from behind and game misconduct against Wolverine Tanner Komzak.

In the third, the Wolverines were looking for an insurance goal. With the game being fast-paced from the start and only one goal between a lead and a tie, the hometown superheroes wanted some wiggle room. The Wolverines had two big chances on the powerplay after high sticking and tripping penalties against the Canucks but couldn't capitalize.

At 10:20, Calgary was

called for interference giving the Wolverines another chance with the man advantage. This time, the Wolverines did not miss. Colby Browne snapped up his second game point, scoring unassisted to give the Wolverines a 3-1 lead. Eight minutes later, the siren rang to end the game. The Superhero Whitecourt Wolverines had successfully overtaken their opponent.

Thanks to the generosity of fans, Defeat Duchenne Canada was the biggest winner at the game. Funds raised will go a long way to support the organization and ultimately help those dealing with the debilitating effects of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. To learn more, visit www.defeatduchenne.ca.



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PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are not-for-profit organizations and collaborations between local physician groups and Alberta Health Services to enhance comprehensive primary care services in a geographic area. The McLeod River PCN was established in 2010 and employs 20 staff to assist 38 Family Physicians working in 5 clinics to deliver primary care services in Edson, Fox Creek, Mayerthorpe, and Whitecourt. Bighorn PCN was established in 2016 and employs 7 staff assisting 19 Family Physicians working in 2 clinics to deliver services in Hinton and Grande Cache. We envision that our patients will exceed Alberta's average life expectancy and enjoy a high quality of life. Our patients will live healthier lives and require less hospitalization because of their involvement with our teams and enhanced access to comprehensive primary health care services. Our PCN will be an outstanding example to other PCNs across Alberta and Canada.

THE POSITION

The Executive Director is the senior executive officer of the PCN. The Executive Director is responsible and accountable for leading the operational team in planning, delivering, and evaluating PCN programs and services in support of the PCN's vision, mission, and Business Plan. The Executive Director will develop and maintain strong working relationships with key stakeholders and leaders to provide operational leadership and oversee all related programs and services. The Executive Director establishes and maintains positive relationships with essential local, provincial, and national representatives and healthcare stakeholders, including government departments and officials.

McLeod River and Bighorn PCNs are geographically neighbours and serve similar patient populations with similar healthcare needs. We share common programming and have some patient care flow between our communities. We have had some success with shared executive and administrative leadership and are looking to share an Executive Director. The position has some flexibility, while being located in one of our communities is preferential, we are open to virtual options for a strong candidate. Intermittent travel to our communities will be required at times (e.g.: board meetings, AGMs, staff meetings, town halls, etc.)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INCLUDE:

- Implementation and operationalization of the business plan through the PCN,
- Extensive collaboration with joint partners and other key stakeholders within the PCN and across the Zone,
- Leading the process of development and management of the PCN budget,
- Service program planning, implementation, and evaluation,
- Development and support of quality assurance and risk management strategies and,
- Management of a multidisciplinary team of professionals and support staff.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- The candidate should have proven strategic thinking, leadership, and business acumen and experience in system-level thinking, consensus building, and conflict resolution.
- Three or more years of leadership and management experience, demonstrating advancement in responsibility preferred.
- Three or more years of recent experience at various Alberta healthcare system levels is preferred.
- Clinical operations experience – either or both a) an administrator of services or b) direct provision of patient care
- Graduate degree/education in a health-related or business field is preferred.
- Experience in Governance, board relationships, business operations, information technology, project/change management, financial management, data analytics, human resources, communication, and relationship building is preferred.
- A demonstrated background in building high-performing multidisciplinary teams and managing multiple stakeholder relationships will be regarded highly.

The opportunity for a hybrid work environment exists in either remote or work-from-home

Interested candidates are invited to send a resume and letter of interest to HR@mrpcn.ca by

Friday, January 30, 2023; please use "McLeod River PCN Leadership Application" as the subject line.

In addition, **your letter of interest should answer the following in 300 words or less:** *Please tell us why you are interested in the Executive Director role at the McLeod River Primary Care Network and why at this point in your career? When answering this question, please focus on how your values, experience, and education align with the essential skills and competencies required for this role.*

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Career ads, online at: www.whitecourtpress.com

HELP WANTED

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

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Amanda Lind, CPA, CA will be in the Fox Creek office (20 Commercial Court) every Wednesday. To set up an appointment please contact our Whitecourt office.

Edmonton T: 780-489-9606	Lloydminster T: 780-875-7433	Fox Creek/Whitecourt/La Crete T: 780-778-3091	Audit and Review Engagements T: 780-928-9525
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