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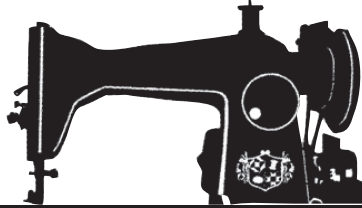
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MAX FARM SERVICES

NOTICE

Due to the unforeseen events caused by the Covid 19 outbreak, the annual meeting of Max Farm Services scheduled for April 7, 2020 will be postponed to a later date to be determined, most likely after springs work. Dividend and equity checks will be distributed via the postal service in early April.

Any questions regarding this postponement may be directed to

Dan Haugen at 701-679-2487.

Thanks for your cooperation.



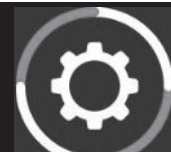
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COVID-19 UPDATE: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, the courthouse is CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

Some departmental staff will be available on limited basis during regular business hours on MONDAY through THURSDAY. Please CALL the courthouse offices/personnel you would like to do business with PRIOR to coming to the courthouse. The numbers for all courthouse personnel are shown below.

McLean County Courthouse Telephone Directory

Front Desk (Main Line) - (701)462-8541

Auditor's Office

Beth Knutson (701)462-8825
Lori Foss (701)462-8818
Nancy Leidholm (701)462-8817
Kayla Oberlander (701)462-8822
Terri Guderjahn (701)462-8541

Clerk of Court

Catherine Bailey (701)462-8829
Chris Buske (701)462-8821
Cassie Goetz (701)462-8828

DES/Risk Management/Highway

Noelle Kroll (701)462-8809

Highway Superintendent

James Grey (701)462-8802

Extension Service

Jan Hanson (701)462-8806
Calla Edwards (701)462-8808

Recorder's Office

Heidi Anderson (701)462-8826
Lori Blotske (701)462-8824
Pandora Hummel (701)462-8827

States Attorney's Office

Marcella Albers (701)462-8832
Karissa Rittenbach (701)462-8833

Tax Director/Veteran Services/

Planning & Zoning

Todd Schreiner (701)462-8804

County Assessor

Ryan Oberg (701)462-8820

Weed Board

Vance Tomlinson (701)462-8807

Social Services

Front Desk (701)462-3581

First District Health

Pam Fischer (701)462-8814

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- PAY By PHONE: 1-844-859-5984
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- WRT Techs are limiting onsite visits to essential services & are checking for at-risk situations before visiting.
- Late fees & disconnects will be waived for 60 days as part of the Keep Americans Connected pledge.
- WRT is working with area schools to ensure all students are connected to the internet, if needed for extended learning. If your student does not have internet at home, please contact your school.

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PRAIRIE FARE



Exercise caution when cleaning, disinfecting in time of COVID-19

BY JULIE GARDEN-ROBINSON
FOOD AND NUTRITION
SPECIALIST - NDSU

"Wow!" I exclaimed as I glanced at my husband while I was pushing my grocery cart by the meat and dairy departments of a retail store. The food areas were well stocked, so that wasn't the reason for my exclamation.

My nose picked up the pungent scent of a chlorine-based disinfecting solution.

My eyes almost started watering, so I quickly pushed our cart to another area.

I was not doubting that this major retailer knew the rules for disinfecting surfaces. Disinfecting uses a higher ratio of bleach to water than sanitizing.

Chlorine bleach solutions have become part of our lives as we battle the invisible viral enemy named COVID-19. This novel form of the coronavirus has become part of our daily conversations.

I have received questions about making homemade alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

Commercial hand sanitizers are in short supply at many retail locations.

However, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not recommend making the hand sanitizers you might see circulating on Facebook, Pinterest or other social media sites. Chemical burns from applying "homemade hand sanitizers" to skin have prompted trips to emergency rooms.

Although commercial hand sanitizers are safe, remember that hand sanitizing is not a substitute for hand washing. You know the drill: water, soap, 20 seconds of scrubbing, rinse

and dry.

Manufacturers are aware of the hand sanitizer shortage and the supply should catch up, according to the FDA.

Do you know the differences among cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting?

Cleaning, by definition, is removing dirt, food and some illness-causing germs from surfaces. Cleaning doesn't kill germs but helps remove them.

You need to clean surfaces before you can reduce the amount of germs, then you can sanitize or disinfect.

In kitchens, we often use the term "sanitizing." The sanitizing process involves very hot (171 F) water or the application of the correct amount of a chemical solution. Sanitizing agents used in food service include quats, iodine and chlorine. Prepare them according to the manufacturer's directions and apply to the surface for the specified amount of time.

A typical "sanitizing solution" for use on home kitchen surfaces is 1 tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water.

You probably won't smell the chlorine in that solution. Be sure to test sanitizers on inconspicuous places to avoid damaging finishes.

In the time of COVID-19, we are asked to take germ killing to the next level and "disinfect" surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets and sinks.

Do not apply undiluted bleach to a surface. More bleach isn't better and can be dangerous.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using an unexpired bleach product registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions for application time and the concentration of your solution.

To disinfect surfaces, the CDC provides a general recommendation of 1/3 cup of EPA-registered bleach per gallon of water, or 4 teaspoons per quart.

I write this column with a chlorine bleach bottle from a well-known bleach company in front of me. The recommendation on this bottle for disinfecting is a little different from the CDC: 1/2 cup in 1 gallon of water and a five-minute contact time, followed by rinsing with water and air-drying.

That's a case in point: Read and follow the manufacturer's directions for disinfecting. Bleach can vary in its concentration. Cool to warm (75 to 120 F) water, not hot water, is best for chlorine bleach solutions. Do not add other chemicals, and keep the container tightly closed.

Wear disposable gloves and discard them after cleaning

and disinfecting the area. Then wash your hands after removing the gloves.

Remember, you are a chemist when you are mixing these solutions. Be accurate.

Never mix a bleach solution with a household ammonia solution. Dangerous, potentially deadly gases can be released with certain combinations of chemicals.

In this time like no other in our collective history, we need to take care of ourselves and our community by following the CDC guidance.

On a happier note, remember, you don't need a cold or the flu to enjoy old-fashioned comfort food such as this delicious soup. Stay well. See

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/food> for more information.

Homemade Chicken Dumpling Soup

- 1 medium chopped onion (about 1 cup)
- 1 c. chopped fresh celery, including leaves
- 2 Tbsp. cooking oil of choice
- 2 c. sliced, fresh, peeled carrots
- 1/2 tsp. pepper (or to taste)
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 c. cooked, diced or chunked chicken
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 2 c. fresh spinach, large stems removed, chopped
- 2 quarts reduced-sodium chicken broth

Dumplings

- 1 egg, beaten
 - 2 c. all-purpose flour
 - 3/4 c. milk
- Heat oil in 3-quart or larger kettle or Dutch oven. Add chopped onion and celery and saute on medium-high heat until onion starts to get translucent. Add carrots, pepper, bay leaves, chicken and broth and bring to a very low boil (simmer). Cook for 20 minutes, covered. Add thyme and spinach and continue to cook, covered. Meanwhile, beat egg in bowl; add flour and liquid and mix until just moistened. Let sit to rest while soup starts to simmer. Simmer for 20 minutes. Drop dumplings into broth using one tablespoon to scoop and another to "drop" off the spoon. Be careful of hot liquid splashing (slide the dumplings into the liquid). Continue to add dumplings slowly, allowing each to cook. Cover kettle and simmer another 20 minutes. Remove bay leaves. Serve.

Makes eight servings. Each serving has about 260 calories, 7 grams (g) fat, 17 g protein, 31 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber and 660 milligrams sodium.

(Julie Garden-Robinson, Ph.D., R.D., L.R.D., is a North Dakota State University Extension food and nutrition specialist and professor in the Department of Health, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences.)

County, cities declare emergency

BY ALYSSA MEIER
BHG NEWS

In a move that will qualify them for emergency funding, McLean County and several of its cities have declared health emergencies this week.

During a special meeting on March 19, McLean County Commissioners approved a declaration of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The declaration, signed by chairman Steve Cottingham, justifies the step by stating the outbreak could have "serious financial effect" on McLean

County.

Washburn, Wilton and Underwood city councils and commissions approved similar declarations this week.

The declarations will make the entities eligible for any federal funding aimed at supporting those affected by COVID-19.

The county has also closed the courthouse facility to the public, effective immediately. Some essential staff will remain on site and available to take phone calls Monday through Thursday.

Tax deadline pushed back

BY ALYSSA MEIER
EDITOR

Americans will have an extra three months to file their taxes this year, as the Internal Revenue Service extends the deadline due to COVID-19.

According to a press release, the IRS ruled this week to move the nationwide income tax deadline to July 15, a full three months later than the usual deadline of April 15.

"The Secretary of the Treasury has determined that any person with a Federal income tax payment or a

Federal income tax return due April 15, 2020, is affected by the COVID-19 emergency for purposes of the relief," the formal notice states.

The change applies to both individuals and businesses filing 2019 tax returns and payments.

Taxpayers are not required to file extensions, as the change is automatic.

Congress is currently evaluating a bill to set the new date, but the IRS ruling ensures the deadline is delayed ahead of congressional action.

McLean free of confirmed cases

BY ALYSSA MEIER
EDITOR

While COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in neighboring counties to the North, West and South, McLean County has so far ducked the pandemic.

Statewide cases of COVID-19, also known as novel coronavirus, rose to 34 as of Tuesday afternoon,

with confirmed cases in three neighbors of McLean County. McLean is so far free of any confirmed COVID-19 cases.

As of Tuesday, there were 18 cases in Burleigh County, seven in Morton, three in Ward and two in Pierce. There was one confirmed case each in Cass, Dunn, Ramsey and Walsh Counties.

Classified Deadline Thursday • 9 a.m.

McLean County Courthouse will be closed on Fridays until further notice
Courthouse hours Monday-Thursday will remain the same.
Please visit www.mcleancountynd.gov or our Facebook page for more information

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
McLean Electric Cooperative puts the health and safety of our customers and employees first. After much thought and concern surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to follow the recommended social distancing practice. We have closed our lobby to customers until further notice. We are still available by phone during normal business hours M-F, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.
To make payments, please refer to the instructions below:

- Pay with Debit or Credit Card call the office at 463-6700 between 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
- SmartHub (<https://mcleanelectric.smarthub.coop/Login.html>)
- SecurePay phone payment system call: 1-833-890-4829
- Payment Drop Boxes at Krause's Super Valu and MEC

We will continue to keep you up-to-date with information regarding COVID-19 and follow recommendations from federal and state agencies through our website and FB. We apologize for the inconvenience, but we want to do everything we can to try and decrease and slow the spread of the virus. Thank you for your patience and stay well.

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CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 1

Wilton City Commission Meeting at 7 p.m.
 Whatever Wednesday - Trinity Lutheran Church, Turtle Lake, each Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. 448-2551.
 Underwood Civic Club meeting, noon, city hall.
 Free well baby clinic 1:30-3:30 p.m., Northland Health Center, 416 Kundert St., Turtle Lake. 701-448-9225

Thursday, April 2

The Community Cupboard of Underwood will be open from 4 to 6 p.m. at 208 Lincoln Avenue. All in need are welcome to receive food and household goods at no cost.
 The Share-Exchange at 221 Main St. in Turtle Lake will be closed until further notice.

The McLean County Council on Ageing Meeting scheduled for April 13 in Garrison has been cancelled until further notice.
 There is a food pantry located on the outside of the Mercer Baptist Church open 24 hours a day. Access to anyone

Submit an event

To announce your free public event in the Xtra Calendar, simply fill out the form below. The form must reach the Washburn office by Wednesday. Mail to the Xtra, PO Box 340, Washburn, ND 58577; email: leadernews@westriv.com; phone: 701-462-8126.

Event: _____
Date: _____ **Time:** _____
Location: _____
Contact: _____

MEALS ON WHEELS

- MARCH 30: Cordon bleu, seasoned rice, beets, coleslaw, pears.
- MARCH 31: Porcupine meatballs, whipped potato with gravy, country trio vegetable, tropical fruit.
- APRIL 1: Pork roast, potatoes au gratin, cheesy green beans, peach cake dessert with topping.
- APRIL 2: Hot beef sandwich, whipped potato with gravy, spinach/lettuce salad, cherries.
- APRIL 3: Cod, baked potato with sour cream and margarine, broccoli with cheese, peaches.

GARDENING TIPS

Spring seed starting

NDSU EXTENSION,
 MCLEAN COUNTY

Are you dreaming of spring? With the warmer temperatures and the snow melting it's beginning to look like spring will actually arrive at some point this year. I love to garden and work outdoors with flowers so each winter I start dreaming of warmer weather, fresh vegetables and colorful flowers attracting bees and butterflies. Every year the arrival of plant and seed catalogs in the mail seems to be encouraging these thoughts with the color pictures of tomatoes and dahlias on their front cover. Even though there is still ice on the lakes, now is the time to be planning your garden for the coming year and it's not too late to start your vegetable or flower seeds inside, especially as the weather warms up!! There are a few key pieces of information that will help you be successful this spring. Here are some tips to starting seeds inside:

- Lighting is key. If you have too little light or it is too

far above the seedlings they will reach for light resulting in long, weak stems that are prone to falling over. In the spring when I start seedlings I use grow light bulbs and have them roughly 1-2" above the tops of the seedlings. As the seedlings grow I slowly move the light up so I have strong stems for my vegetables and flowers.

- Use a high quality potting mix, not garden dirt, to start seedlings in. I often see people starting seedlings or growing houseplants in dirt brought in from the garden. Often that dirt has weed seeds, insects or diseases that can negatively affect the growing seedlings. The dirt can also turn into a rock after being watered just a couple times. You can buy a seed starting mix or use regular potting soil to start your seeds in. I've also used the peat pellets to start seedlings in as well and they work well for short term seed starting. Keep the soil slightly moist, but not overly wet. Too much moisture will encourage diseases.

- Transitioning the seedlings outside is key. The first year I started seedlings I had some beautiful tomatoes and marigolds which promptly burned when I moved them outside. Inside I have started to use a fan on low to strengthen the stems and get the seedlings used to wind. Once temperatures warm up I stick my seedlings outside in a protected location where they will only get a few hours of morning sun at a time then slowly lengthen the amount of light they are exposed to till they are getting full sun.

As you start your seeds this spring be sure to check the frost free date in your area and use that to help determine when you need to be starting seeds. In Washburn our average Frost Free date is approximately April 19th. With just a little patience and work you can get a head start on your garden for the spring!!! If you have any questions please contact our Extension office for the publication on Seed Starting at 462-8541. Happy Seed Starting!!!

Fort Mandan, Interpretive Center closed State Parks department shuts visitor centers

BY ALYSSA MEIER
 EDITOR

The Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan have closed to the public, as the state parks department takes precautions against COVID-19.

According to a press release, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has immediately closed all state park buildings, including both

facilities in Washburn.

"Out of an abundance of caution, employees of the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center are working remotely for the next couple of weeks," Site Supervisor Kevin Kirkey said. "We have been utilizing other formats, including social media, to connect with audiences while we continue to prepare for our upcoming season."

Interpretive and special events are being postponed or canceled, and campgrounds are closed until further notice. This includes the Downstream Campground below Garrison Dam, Wolf Creek and Douglas Bay campgrounds on Lake Sakakawea, and the East Totten Trail campground.

Trails, picnic shelters and boat ramps are to remain open to the public.



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HELPING WORDS

Lent

BY ANNIE

The season of Lent invites us to meditate on the cross's meaning for us who believe that Jesus Christ is Lord. On Ash Wednesday, the ashen cross that has marked the foreheads of Christians throughout the ages also marks the season's beginning and reminds us of our finitude. As Genesis 3:19 notes: "you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

In this strange and unprecedented time in our history due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this has been made painfully clear. As the news unfolds, we are reminded over and over again of our certain "dustiness." Our ultimate fragility as human beings in this wild world of ours.

But even more, I hope we remember that, dust though we are, we're in the hands of our creative and creating God. Who from the beginning has contended for life and life abundant-breathing life into dust and, through Jesus on the cross, bringing life out of death. All out of love. And may this perfect love remind us that our God does not create suffering to teach us a lesson. That is not the work of a loving God. Instead, our God fully enters into suffering to redeem it. Breathing in the suffering-taking it into God's very self and breathing out life into us.

We are dust in the hands of God: formed and reformed, claimed forever and always, loved to life over and over

again. This is the good news of Jesus the Christ and it has the final say. The bad, frightening, and anxiety-inducing news of COVID-19 does not have the final say. Nor does the bad, frightening, and anxiety-inducing news of any other trauma in this wild world of ours: addiction, divorce, depression, violence, natural disaster, cancer, or lost income. Or you fill in the blank...

All that which speaks a word of death does not have the final say. God's word of life always follows, always pursues us creating what it declares. Life and life abundant. For you, for me, for all.

We are dust in the hands of God. Now...go wash yours.

AE2S: Deficiency caused by under-assessment, filing issues

BY ALYSSA MEIER
EDITOR

Hundreds of thousands of dollars mysteriously absent from the Washburn debt services fund were either not filed correctly or not assessed in the first place, representatives of AE2S Nexus told the Washburn City Commission this month.

Ryan Graf of AE2S Nexus presented on March 5 results of a months-long analysis done of the Washburn City funds in order to identify the cause of a debt services fund that has been \$200,000 in the red the past two years.

Graf said some of the problem was projects being under assessed from the start, meaning the city paid more out than it was being paid through taxes.

Another issue, Graf said, was filing issues that were prone to happen when taxes

were not being managed in house. Larry Thomas said the county had been taking care of the city's taxes but that would change starting this year, and Graf said that would solve a large portion of the problem.

"In general, that should be good thing for general record keeping," Graf said.

Graf also explained that in the case of one two-year project in 2013 and 2014, the city started paying on the project before it was assessed, causing "lag" in that fund.

"You'll be behind until the last assessment and catch up then," Graf said.

Engineer Eric Lothspeich added that when it came to large projects, like those that affected almost 1,000 properties, the odds of having late payments from taxpayers increased.

"From what I remember there was about a five percent delinquency rate," Graf said of

one street project.

With all those factors considered, Graf went on to explain that the analysis projected that the deficit fund should be at negative \$232,000. Instead, the fund is at negative \$756,000. Graf recommended going to an accounting firm to do a "forensic" audit to determine the cause of this, though he noted there were other funds that looked like they were higher than necessary.

Some of these funds may have been incorrectly allocated money that was meant for the special assessment fund, Graf said.

Graf suggested transferring money from other funds to bring the special assessment fund to zero.

"Not to necessarily get it in the positive, but to get it out of the negative," Graf said.

Restaurants adjust, hope for the best

BY ALYSSA MEIER
EDITOR

Local restaurants are exploring new terrain this week, as statewide restrictions bring the axe down on in-house dining, forcing eateries to adjust quickly.

Cafe 77, Captain's Cabin and Dakota Farms all started offering delivery over the last week, either ahead of or in response to Governor Doug Burgum's executive order on March 19.

The order put an immediate ban on dine-in eating, limiting restaurants to take-out, delivery, drive-through and off-sale services through at least April 6.

Emmy Barnick, owner of the Captain's Cabin in Washburn, said she estimates the restaurant has seen a 60-70 percent decline in revenue since eliminating in-house dining.

"It's been a challenge,"

Barnick said.

The Cabin has shifted its practices to offer grab and go meals when possible, and started offering delivery and curbside pick up to keep things moving.

Still, the staff has been cut from around 30 employees to five, a painful call Barnick said was hard to make.

"I cried when I wrote the email," Barnick said.

Barnick said another challenge was posed with regular vendors running out of stock like gloves, to-go boxes and hand sanitizer, leaving the restaurant to pursue other means of getting necessities.

To curb the spread of germs, the eatery has taken steps both large and small to do its part.

"We have the doors propped open so people don't have to touch the handles," Barnick said. "And we do lots of credit card purchases to minimize how much we deal with

money."

Barnick said the dining room of the restaurant is also undergoing a deep clean while it is empty, something that is strange in itself.

"It is so weird," Barnick said of not having people eating in-house.

For now, Barnick said the restaurant is taking things one day at a time, thankful for the option to still offer some local services and keep the doors open.

"There are definitely some businesses who will not recover from this," Barnick said.

Jenny DuToit of Cafe 77 said the cafe has been significantly slower with in-house dining out of the picture, but that she was grateful for the community's continued patronage.

"I am very thankful for the take out and delivery orders we have received so far," Dutoit said.

Country Kitchen Recipes



PORK LOIN ROAST w/ HOT PEPPER JELLY GLAZE

Makes 4-6 servings

Ingredients

- 1 boneless pork loin roast (about 2 lbs.)
- 4 cups apple juice
- 1/2 cup Brown Sugar Rib Rub (see below)
- 1 cup hot pepper jelly
- Additional apple juice for spraying

Directions

1. Rinse pork under cold running water and pat dry. Place in a large sealable plastic bag and pour in apple juice. Seal bag and refrigerate for at least 8 hours and up to 12 hours.
2. Remove pork from marinade and pat dry. Discard marinade. Sprinkle dry rub over the surface of the meat, coating evenly. Set aside.
3. Prepare a fire in your smoker.
4. Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, melt hot pepper jelly over medium-low heat. Keep warm by the smoker.
5. Place pork directly on the smoker rack, add wood to the coals and close the lid. Smoke at 225 F to 250 F, spraying with apple juice every 30 minutes, for 2 hours. Brush with hot pepper jelly, close the lid and smoke, spraying with apple juice every 30 minutes, for 1 to 1 1/2 hours, or until a meat thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the pork registers 160 F for medium, or until desired doneness. Let rest for 15 minutes before slicing.

Brown Sugar Rib Rub

Makes about 3 1/2 cups

- 2 cups packed dark brown sugar or granulated maple sugar
- 1/2 cup fine kosher or sea salt
- 1/4 cup sweet Hungarian paprika
- 1/4 cup chili powder
- 1/4 cup ground lemon pepper
- 1/4 cup granulated garlic
- 1 tablespoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme

In a medium bowl, combine brown sugar, salt, paprika, chili powder, lemon pepper, garlic, black pepper, basil, and thyme.

CHAI SPICE MIX

Makes about 1/3 cup

- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 2 1/2 teaspoons ground cardamom
- 1 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

In a small bowl, mix all ingredients until fully combined. In a small saucepan, place water, tea bags, and 2 tablespoons chai spice mix. Bring to a boil; put the lid on, remove from heat, and let it steep for 15 minutes. Remove the tea bags and stir.

HAVE A RECIPE YOU WANT TO SHARE?

E-mail leadernews@westriv.com or give us a call at 701.462.8126 with your ingredient list and directions, and we'll include it in a future recipe column! We would love to share local, homestyle recipes from our readers.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANT TO SAVE some money? Check out the specials in this week's Xtra. If you're not receiving the Xtra, call 701-463-2201.

1-E-TFN-NC

58540

SUPPORT GROUPS: Alcoholics Anonymous Hotline, 888-680-0651. AA meetings in Center on Sundays at 5 p.m. CT at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (794-3381); in Garrison, Garrison Memorial Hospital Cafeteria, Thursday at 8 p.m.; in Washburn on Sundays at 7 p.m. at First Lutheran Church (701-460-1373 or 701-202-6701); in Wilton, Mondays at 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 734-6533. Open meeting, Butte, Call 626-7402 or write Box 244, Butte, ND 58723; in McClusky, Grace Lutheran Church, 402 4th St. W, Sundays at 8 p.m. Positive Changes NA, Fridays at 7 p.m., Washburn United Methodist Church, 701-460-0663.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE to be included in the 2020 McLean County phone book and do not have a land line, please call us with your cell phone number. You don't want to miss some important calls from friends and acquaintances. We do not sell our list. Please call or email your local newspaper.

40-4-P-X-NC

58577

This is the month your subscription comes due. Please pay careful attention to notices that are sent to you in the mail. You don't want to miss a week. If you have questions, please call your newspaper office. To pay online, go to bhgnews.com. And for a bonus: Add a free online or a give a free print to a friend.

45-47-P-E-NC

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44-47-P-X-DS

58577

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44-TFN

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47-XT-PD

58577

LIVESTOCK

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43-TFN-E-X

58577

GIVEAWAY

5 GALLON JUGS, for industrial purpose only: not to be used for human or animal consumption/food or beverage. Pick them up at the McLean County Independent office at 91 North Main Street, Garrison, ND.

15-TFN-CIX

58540

HELP WANTED



HELP WANTED

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• RN/LPN

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Apply at www.blcgarrison.com

or call Jody Lawson

at (701) 463-2226

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

THE WASHBURN PARK BOARD is recruiting for various summer positions: lifeguards, park maintenance and coaches for little league, pee wee and T-ball. Starting pay is \$9 per hour. Applications will be accepted until April 5. Interested individuals should send a letter of application and resume to: Washburn Park Board, PO Box 551, Washburn, ND 58577

47-48-P-X

58577

LOOKING FOR A FUN, flexible job? McLean County Independent is hiring a part-time sports/news reporter to fill out our staff. Writing skills a must. Flexible hours, work from home if you choose. Interest in sports, community school events helpful, but we can train the right person. Email jildg@restel.net or text 701-460-7130 if you're interested in learning more.

44-3TNCXI

58540

HELP WANTED

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•Facilities Manager

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For more information call

701-463-6503.

Apply online at

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Garrison Public School District is seeking applications

URGENT* elem bbb start date to be determined & no coaches yet

• HEAD AND ASST

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• ASST. FOOTBALL COACHES for 2020 needed

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Please stop by Garrison High School for an application.

Applicant must included a resume and three references.

Contact Nick Klemish

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\$25 per hour

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Contact:

Wayne Fox

Superintendent

743-4350 ext. 2205



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Mail your resume to CHS Garrison, PO Box 97, Garrison ND 58540 or stop by the office at 205 2nd Street SW to pick up an application.



HELP WANTED

The McLean County Weed Control is looking to fill positions for weed sprayer operator(s) for the upcoming spray season. Applicants must have a valid drivers license and be 18 years of age by May 1st, 2020.

For more information or to request an application, please contact the McLean County Weed Control at 701.462.8807 or 701.389.2576.

Application deadline : May 15, 2020

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Maintenance

The City of Coleharbor is seeking a motivated self starter for a part time maintenance position. Position includes operating and maintaining city water and sewer systems to include pump house, hydrant flushes and lubrication, turning water on and off for local residents, garbage bin relocation, mowing and grounds keeping, meter reading, miscellaneous highway maintenance may include road blading and weed spraying. Will pay for water operator certification training. Hours are flexible and will vary due to season. Wage will depend upon experience. Questions contact Mayor Pochant (701)400-7889.

Mail Resume to City of Coleharbor

PO Box 65 Coleharbor, ND 58531

HELP WANTED

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

is recruiting for the following positions to be located at Riverdale, ND.

Apply online at <http://www.usajobs.gov> under Vacancy Announcements:

Student Trainee - Electrical Engineering
(Announcement WTHI203111167200PI)

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Closing date is 06 April 2020.

For additional information please contact David Beck at (701)654-7754.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED



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is looking for
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or apply in person
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HELP WANTED



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HELP WANTED



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HELP WANTED: BARRETT PHARMACY in Watford City is seeking a Licensed Pharmacy Technician. Experience preferred but not required. Contact Josslyn Dodds, 701-842-3311.

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This is a salaried, full-time position with a pay range of \$39,000 - \$40,000 DOE annually with benefits. The city pays 80% single/family health and dental plan.

Please submit cover letter, resume, copy of law enforcement training record, and completed city application to Chief Travis Tesch, P.O. Box 459, Garrison, ND 58540, by 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday April 15, 2020.**

Applications and job description can be obtained at www.cityofgarrisonnd.com or by contacting garrisoncity@restel.com or calling 701-463-2296

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1-E-TFN-NC 58577

Pharmacy looking at 'new normal' delivery

BY SUZANNE WERRE, Editor

Curbside delivery is definitely not just for restaurants anymore.

Monday morning Turtle Lake Rexall Drug owner and pharmacist Mark Malzer announced that Turtle Lake Rexall, Underwood's Sodas and Things and McClusky Rexall would be closing its doors to foot traffic, but will be carrying on as usual by offering curbside delivery.

Noting that a pharmacy is where people typically go to get medications to help them get better, pharmacist Jamie Ziebarth said the pharmacy is doing what it can to keep its customers and staff members healthy. Malzer and Ziebarth don't want anyone, especially anyone with an underlying health condition, to risk coming in contact with the COVID-19 virus.

Prior to this, said Ziebarth, the staff at the pharmacies had been wiping off the door

knobs and other heavily customer-contacted areas hourly, but the decision to close the doors to customers was finally made out of an abundance of caution.

"We decided maybe it would be best to close the doors to help decrease potential exposure," said Ziebarth.

Prescriptions can still be called in, and over-the-counter meds and other items may also still be purchased. The customer just won't have to get out of his or her car to get it – it will be hand delivered to the customer's car.

"You can still get the meds you need – we're just going to come out to you," she said.

The pharmacy is currently not testing for COVID-19. While Gov. Burgum recently opened the possibility of pharmacies doing testing for the virus, Ziebarth speculates that pharmacies won't actually be doing any testing unless the statewide need increases substantially.

"If there is a need, that could be an option, but as of now, no pharmacies have that capability, Ziebarth said.

She's hoping once the word gets out and the customers are familiar with how things will be done, it will be an easy transition.

"Pretty soon hopefully all of our customers will be used to this new situation, and the new normal," said Ziebarth.

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Hoping for impact from 'Faces'

BY SUZANNE WERRE
BHG NEWS

The announcement by Great River Energy earlier this year that it was contemplating closing down Underwood's Coal Creek station power plant sent shockwaves throughout not just coal country but the entire state. Closure of the power plant would impact workers not only at Coal Creek Station but the adjacent Falkirk Mine, which supplies coal to the plant, as well as the communities the miners and plant workers call home.

Not everyone is willing to take a wait-and-see attitude regarding that possibility as Beulah's Mark Pierce has started a "Faces of North Dakota Coal" Facebook page in an effort to bring awareness to what coal and the ability to work at a coal-fired power plant or a coal mine means to the thousands of people in the area.

"It's a grassroots movement," is how Pierce described his Faces of North Dakota Coal FB page.

The Facebook page, which vaulted from about 200 followers to 2100 recently, is just the first step of many

he hopes to be taking as the movement moves forward and gains momentum. He figures he has several hundred people who are active on the page but not officially connected as "liking" or "following."

There was a Faces of North Dakota Coal rally planned for this Thursday night when McLean County has a public meeting scheduled to discuss power lines going through the county, but because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the rally was canceled. He was expecting about 500 people to show up to show their support for North Dakota coal and coal miners.

He's working on other events, he said, but until the COVID-19 pandemic allows gatherings, those plans are just that - plans.

For now he's focusing on the Facebook page, which highlights power plant and mine workers and their families, typically with a family picture and bio.

"I want people to see who we are, what we do, and the impact we have on the state, the region and all the other people that we have an impact on," said Pierce.

His effort is a way to really



(Submitted)

Mark Pierce of Beulah is the force behind the Faces of North Dakota Coal Facebook page.

humanize the impact a closure would have on the workers, families and communities would have. He's relying on the heavy hitters to do some major work on behalf of the miners and power plant, and a lot of those heavy hitters are friends of North Dakota coal.

"There are a number of public officials, numerous individuals from other organizations, pro-coal organizations that are on this - lots of public relations and government agencies, people from a lot of different companies that are on this

page," said Pierce.

He doesn't have proof, but he's been told that the Faces of North Dakota Coal Facebook movement is one of the top reasons why Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer earlier this month introduced an amendment that would repeal the wind production tax credit.

His "Faces" page is getting a lot of traffic and a lot of buzz. He's had others who are trying to do similar platforms reach out to him saying they'd love to have his traffic.

"I'm getting 10-fold what they're getting," he said.

And that translates to a lot of information getting out to the public.

"My ultimate goal is to be an ambassador and advocate for the coal industry," said Pierce, who works at the Coteau Mine near Beulah. "And to educate people on what this industry represents.

"Do I want to save that power plant? You're damn right, I do," he added.

The rally for this Thursday is off, but Pierce is working on setting a new date for the tailgating rally, and when it happens, it's going to be big.

"The plans are on hold due

to the COVID-19, but we just couldn't move forward with it at this time to hold that event," said Pierce.

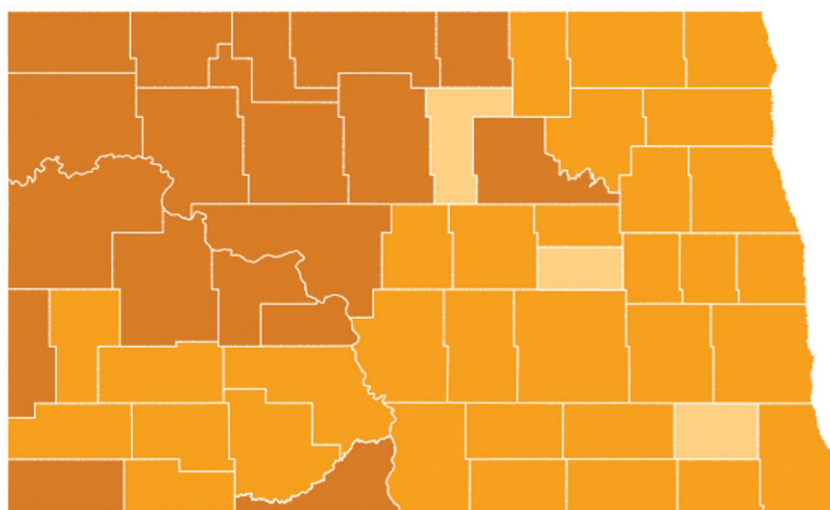
He suspects the COVID-19 outbreak may actually help the coal industry in a way, bringing to light the necessity of having reliable base load power coming from coal-fired plants.

"It's essential during a national emergency to keep hospitals going, to keep critical infrastructure up and going," said Pierce. "And this industry does it better or as well as anybody else. Honestly, in North Dakota we do it cleaner and better than anywhere else.

"I wholeheartedly believe that this industry is going to come through this fine," he added.

With the world working on its social distancing, Pierce plans to continue with his social media, using Facebook and the Faces of North Dakota Coal to keep the issues of the coal miners and plant workers, and their communities, in the forefront.

"My plan is to keep this thing going and see where it goes. I think it could have a big impact," said Pierce.



Self-Response Rate (%)
 0-15 16-30 31-40 41-50 51-56 57-62 63-68 69-74 75-85 86-100

(U.S. Census Bureau)

A map of North Dakota, provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, shows McLean County among the 18 counties in the state with under 15 percent of households reporting in the 2020 census.

State, county behind on Census reporting

BY ALYSSA MEIER
EDITOR

North Dakota and McLean County are lagging behind the country in responding to the 2020 Census.

As of Monday, 18.5 percent of households in the North Dakota had taken part in the Census, putting the state behind the national average of 19.2 percent. Neighboring states South Dakota and Minnesota were showing a 21.5 and 23.3 percent response rate, respectively.

McLean County trailed behind the state average, with just over 12 percent of households reporting.

McLean County is among 18

counties in the state with less than 15 percent of households reporting. A total of 32 counties had between 16 and 30 percent of homes responding, with three counties between 31 and 40 percent.

County Auditor Beth Knutson encouraged everyone to take part in the Census, noting that it is easier than ever now and takes only about 10 minutes to do.

"It is also very important to count everyone," Knutson said. "The last census the largest undercounted age group was 0-5 year olds. If we do not count these children, by the time the next census comes around, in 10 years, they will be in high School. Our schools will have

missed out on funding for them for all of those years."

Residents are able to take part in the Census by mail, phone or online. To take the census online, go to www.census.gov. Those wanting to complete by phone can call 844-330-2020.

In late May, census volunteers will check in at households that have not responded yet in an effort to get a complete count.

College students living in on-campus housing are counted through their university. Students who reside at home will be counted at their place of residence.

Producers shouldn't change planting plans

NDSU EXTENSION

Producers should not change their spring planting intentions because of the coronavirus outbreak, according to North Dakota State University Extension crops economist Frayne Olson.

"Don't change your plans based on what you see in the markets today because it's not going to be a good reference point," he says.

Livestock, grain and energy, mainly oil, prices and the stock market have dropped so dramatically because of the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak, and not because of a supply and demand issue, he notes. This situation is unprecedented, so people don't know what to expect and tend to think of the worst-case scenario.

"Right now, this is a psychological battle," Olson says.

The market volatility likely will continue until the number of new cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. starts to decline, he believes. That's when people will feel that the worst is over. But producers shouldn't expect

conditions to improve quickly. "It's still going to be a slow process," Olson cautions.

Energy and grain prices probably will recover more quickly than livestock prices, he says. Livestock prices likely will rebound more slowly than the other two because of consumer behavior, such as how quickly they are willing to return to eating at restaurants. The stock market will be the last to recover.

In the meantime, despite the low prices, some producers may need to sell grain they have in storage because they need the money or the quality of the grain is deteriorating.

"For those who have to sell, go ahead and sell," Olson advises.

The lowest risk strategy is to buy a call option if producers want to take advantage when prices start to rebound, he says. However, producers will need to select a broker to work with and set up an account if they don't already have one. He also recommends producers do a bit of research so they understand call options.



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