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McLean County Primary Election

McLean County residents will be receiving an absentee application in the mail from:

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, McLean County Commissioners passed a resolution on April 2, 2020, to administer the Primary Election on June 9, 2020, **SOLELY VOTE BY MAIL (VBM)**.

This means **MCLEAN COUNTY WILL NOT HAVE ANY OPEN POLLING SITES** on Election Day. All McLean County residents in the current voting system will receive an application to complete and return by mail to the McLean County Auditor's Office. If you do not receive an application by April 30, 2020, please contact the McLean County Auditor's Office.

When completing the application, if you wish to VBM in the City, School, Special and General Elections please mark the **All Statewide Elections**. This will allow the Auditor's office to automatically take steps to insure you receive ballots for the elections you are requesting and does not require the voter to fill out another application for the November General Election.

Upon receipt of the completed application, the voter will be mailed a ballot for their precinct, along with a secrecy envelope, a return envelope and instructions for completing and returning.

The Express Vote equipment for anyone needing assistance with voting will be available at the McLean County Courthouse upon appointment, please call 701-462-8541 to make arrangements.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact the McLean County Auditor's Office at 701-462-8541. Thank You!

Beth A. Knutson
McLean County Auditor

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PRAIRIE FARE



Don't Let COVID-19 Make You a Couch Potato

BY JULIE GARDEN-ROBINSON
FOOD AND NUTRITION
SPECIALIST - NDSU

We should aim for 150 minutes per week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.

"Wow, I've counted 21 people," my husband noted as we walked around our neighborhood.

During the last several weeks, I had noticed only a few people out walking.

Most people have been confined to their homes due to the combination of cold weather and the social distancing that is helping ease the spread of COVID-19.

"I didn't realize so many people have dogs," I replied. "That's the 10th dog I have seen."

The dogs looked very happy as they trotted alongside their humans.

As we walked, we did the social distancing "dance." Every time someone approached on the sidewalk where we were walking, we crossed the street to another sidewalk.

I felt a bit antisocial in the process. However, most nodded or waved.

We had to make some minor leaps over puddles in the sidewalk as a result of melting snow. I made a mental note to wear rubber boots the next time.

Sometimes the social distancing process meant that we stepped into the soggy sod of the boulevard to maintain a minimum of a 6-foot distance.

With the cancellation of nearly every evening event, many people have become more sedentary. Some of my friends have joked they are wearing pants with elastic waistbands, binge-watching movies and eating more.

I work all day, sitting at a computer, then I "relax" at night by sitting in an easy chair or lying on the couch watching TV or movies. We drive around the city for a little amusement because most

retail stores and restaurants are closed except for pickup or delivery.

Lack of movement is not good for anyone's health. In fact, we should be aiming for 150 minutes per week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Physical activity researchers have studied the relationship between sitting and various health conditions. U.S. researchers reported that people who spent more than 23 hours per week in a combination of TV time and vehicle time had a 64% greater risk of dying from heart disease.

We are all aware of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) resources related to COVID-19. The <https://www.CDC.gov> website also provides a broad array of disease-prevention recommendations, including physical activity recommendations.

The more I studied the CDC physical activity information, the more I realized that I need to be moving more.

I probably need to set a timer to remind me to take a walking or standing break every hour. I also could stand, walk in place or stretch during phone calls and training sessions.

According to the CDC, getting 30 minutes of moderate physical activity on most days of the week could prevent one in 10 premature deaths, one in eight cases of breast cancer and one in eight cases of colorectal cancer.

Further, getting the recommended physical activity could prevent one out of 12 cases of diabetes and one out of 15 cases of heart disease, according to the CDC.

All the disruptions in our lives due to the pandemic probably are taking a toll on the mental health of some kids and adults. Physical activity improves mental health and ability to think. Physical activity also lowers our risk of stroke and high blood pressure and prevents weight gain.

Getting physical activity isn't expensive. Turn on some music and dance, try doing yoga to YouTube, rediscover old exercise DVDs, or dust off the treadmill, ski machine or other exercise equipment you might have purchased with good intentions.

As we watch the news or

scroll through Facebook or websites with a snack at hand, remember to keep your food choices nutrient-rich and lower in calories. Veggies with hummus dip made from chickpeas fill that bill.

Here's a delicious dip that Melissa, one of my spring interns, prepared and photographed in the comfort of her apartment. We could not be in the same space due to social distancing. She and her roommate gave the recipe rave reviews. I will trust their judgment.

Roasted Bell Pepper Hummus

2 whole red bell peppers
1/4 c. tahini (sesame seed paste)
1/4 c. lemon juice
2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
1 garlic clove, minced
1/2 tsp. cumin
Pinch of cayenne pepper
Salt to taste
1 (15-ounce) can of chickpeas, drained and rinsed
Vegetables, crackers to dip

Wash and cut peppers into quarters; scrape out the insides. Move oven rack directly under broiler. Set peppers skin side up on baking sheet; place baking sheet in oven on top rack. Set oven to broil and broil peppers for five to 10 minutes, until skin is charred. Let peppers cool. Remove charred skin and chop, or leave skin on and chop.

Blend tahini and lemon juice for one minute; scrape sides of container and blend for additional 30 seconds. Add olive oil, garlic, cumin and salt; blend for 30 seconds, scrape sides of container and blend for another 30 seconds. Drain and rinse can of chickpeas. Add half to blender and blend for one minute. Scrape sides of container and add other half of chickpeas. Blend until smooth, scraping sides of container. Add peppers and blend until smooth. Add water to thin, if desired.

Makes eight servings. Without added salt, each serving has 130 calories, 8 grams (g) fat, 4 g protein, 11 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber and 90 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. Follow her on Twitter @jgardenrobinson)

Cashier could face charges in 'robbery'

BY ALYSSA MEIER
EDITOR

An employee of the Washburn Cenex could face a Class A misdemeanor after reportedly fabricating a report that the gas station had been robbed.

According to the McLean County Sheriff's Department, authorities received a report on April 15 around 10 p.m. from Sapphire Leno, a cashier at Washburn Cenex. Leno reported that five men had come into the store and demanded money before

fleeing the area.

Officers responding to the call did not locate any suspects or suspicious vehicles in the area. Leno reportedly did not provide a description of the men or the vehicle.

After viewing surveillance video the next day, officers observed four males entering the location and exchanging large bills for small bills at the register before leaving.

No money appeared to be missing from the till.

A Class A misdemeanor charge of giving a false report to law enforcement is pending against Leno.

Fire warnings issued across state

BY ALYSSA MEIER
EDITOR

The National Weather Service issued Red Flag warnings two days in a row this week as much of the state sits at high or very high fire danger risk.

According to the warning, issued on Monday and on Tuesday for southwest and south central North Dakota,

low humidity and gusty winds, combined with dry vegetation created dangerous conditions for any local fires.

Both days, McLean County's fire danger index was very high, meaning any crop land ignition, fire works, campfires, charcoal grill use or garbage burning is illegal, according to the county's burn ban.

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CALENDAR

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Hazen jam session will be postponed until further notice.

Saturday, April 25

The Lord's Pantry is open from 10 a.m. to noon at Trinity Lutheran Church, 515 Kundert St., Turtle Lake.

Help Della Mae Boyko celebrate her 90th birthday, April 25 with a card shower. Send cards to 1955 22nd St. NW, Ruso, ND 58778.

Ryder Community Food Pantry, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., curbside pickup only

Garrison City Landfill open, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.- 5 p.m.

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

APRIL 27: Country fried steak, whipped potato with gravy, broccoli cuts, peaches.

APRIL 28: Oven baked chicken, baked potato with sour cream and beets, cranberry crisp and topping.

APRIL 29: Meatloaf, whipped potato with margarine, corn, strawberry short cake.

APRIL 30: Swiss steak, whipped potato with margarine, green beans, apricots.

MAY 1: Cordon Bleu, broccoli, coleslaw, pineapple in gelatin.

Spring spruce-ups getting underway

BY SUZANNE WERRE, Editor

Turtle Lake is diving in to some springtime spruce-ups, approving a bid of about \$378,000 from Tand Construction of Mandan for the Roosevelt storm sewer project, while also developing street and alley improvement projects.

"Winter was tough on streets and roads all over," said Darwin Saari, Turtle Lake Auditor.

At the April 13 city meeting, commissioners discussed improvements that could be done to Main Street in addition to work that will be continuing on storefronts through the Main Street Store Front project that was approved last year. The commissioners are also looking into developing full-service hookups in the city-owned trailer park.

The storm sewer project bid that was approved will create new inlet and route on Roosevelt from 3rd Ave. to Cty. 27, and should alleviate a long-standing drainage problem during and following big rains.

Of concern to the commissioners at Monday's meeting was the lack of response to the 2020 Census, the latest numbers showing only 35 percent of Turtle Lake residents have responded so far.

"I think people just aren't taking the time to do it," said Saari.

The easiest way for people to respond to the census is to go online to 2020census.gov. If they're not comfortable with doing it on their own, noted Saari, they can give him a call at the city hall and he will talk them through it.

"We can do it over the phone," he said. There is also WiFi available through the library, which is accessible while people are in their cars outside, he added. "We're going to have to try to put more notices up around town and make contact with people to make sure they do it."

The commissioners will also be contacting some locals to see if they're interested in being on the implementation committee following the city's comprehensive plan determinations. The goal is to have the committee formed by the June city commission meeting.

In other business, the commission:

Approved gaming site authorizations for the American Legion Post and Marv's Bar.

Was informed that the first quarter of 2020 resulted in one speeding ticket and one dog-at-large ticket through the municipal court proceedings.

State's Attorney tells County Coal Board wind farm being used to kill coal plant

Reprinted from the Western North Dakota Energy Association

Presenting to a special meeting of the Coal Conversion Counties Association last week, McLean County State's Attorney Ladd Erickson said he believes a proposal to build an 800-megawatt wind farm in the region is being used to justify shutting down Coal Creek Station.

Great River Energy, the owner of the 1,100 megawatt coal plant near Underwood, announced in January that it was considering shutting down one or both units and would replace the generating capacity with wind turbines backed by a natural gas-fired plant. Erickson said most wind farms offer an economic benefit to the region in which they are built, generating additional tax revenue, new jobs and lease payments to landowners. But he said the plan being considered by GRE is different.

"This is using wind turbines to destroy a perfectly modern, up-to-date, power plant that is desperately needed for baseload energy supply," Erickson said. "The grids have gotten so weak with this green energy that these power plants have become a security interest."

He told the CCC board, which is made up of city, county and school reps from McLean,



Coal Creek Station

What's going on is one of the most energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly lignite coal plants in the entire country is being attacked by a replacement economy that is like a penny on the dollar for North Dakota and our region."

- Ladd Erickson,
McLean County State's Attorney

Mercer and Oliver Counties, that the possible shutdown of the coal plant would be huge economic loser for communities that benefit from the plant and the associated Falkirk Coal Mine. Erickson said closing the plant would eliminate \$150 million in annual payroll, and mean loss of business for more than 1,000 vendors that sell filters, lubricants, chemicals and other products to the plant. He said the jobs associated with a wind farm pale in comparison.

"What's going on is one

Letter to county details plans

This is a portion of the letter sent to state and county officials March 25 by David Saggau, Great River Energy president and chief executive officer

GRE recently announced that it is considering the future of Coal Creek Station. In the event GRE decides to retire Coal Creek Station, GRE's preference would be to heavily reinvest in North Dakota and McLean County and continue for many decades our long partnership with the State and the County.

Unfortunately, the Wind Transmission Line Setback would effectively prevent those investments. Our plans for reinvestment in the event we retire Coal Creek Station likely include the following:

800 megawatts of wind energy that would be interconnected to GRE's high voltage direct current line (the "HVDC Line") on the site of Coal Creek Station. These wind projects represent approximately \$1.5 billion in investment and would provide North Dakota with 700-800 temporary construction jobs, additional permanent jobs, over \$100 million in property tax payments, and nearly \$100 million in landowner payments.

Associated transmission lines that would cross the Missouri River and would not be possible with a one-mile setback from the River.

A transmission substation located in McLean County near Coal Creek Station that would add to the County's tax base. This substation, the transmission lines, and related infrastructure represent approximately \$170 million in investment.

A significant payment by GRE to Blue Flint Ethanol that would allow Blue Flint to repower to natural gas and secure its own water supply. This would preserve the jobs at Blue Flint and allow it to continue to be an economic engine for the County

and the surrounding agricultural community for decades to come. This payment by GRE will not be made if GRE is prevented from completing the North Dakota wind projects.

Convert GRE's Spiritwood Station to operating on natural gas with an investment of approximately \$5 million, preserving those jobs, and adding to the market for North Dakota's abundant natural gas.

Voluntary payments by GRE to the County in lieu of the coal severance and conversion taxes paid to the County related to Coal Creek Station. These payments would total up to \$15 million over five years.

GRE would not make these payments if McLean County effectively closes its doors to GRE by finally adopting the Wind Transmission Line Setback. We are aware that GRE's recent announcement regarding Coal Creek Station has caused great concern in the County and among its residents.

We hope our proposed investments can ease the burden in the event Coal Creek Station is retired. But we must be clear. Closing McLean County to the transmission from wind projects will not keep Coal Creek Station open. If GRE decides to retire Coal Creek Station, we will do so even if we are unable to complete our projects in North Dakota. We believe the Wind Transmission Line Setback is not necessary for the County to achieve its goal of providing adequate land use standards and protections for its residents. The remaining provisions of the Amendments include, among other protections, the right to deny a site permit for transmission lines, "[i]f the county finds the site of an electrical power transmission line will unduly harm" such public interests as humans, the economy, agriculture, the

of the most energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly lignite coal plants in the entire country is being attacked by a replacement economy that is like a penny on the dollar for North Dakota and our region," Erickson said.

The power generated by Coal Creek goes to GRE's co-op customers in Minnesota via a high voltage DC transmission line. Erickson believes GRE intends to re-purpose the line to carry power from the proposed wind farm instead. But McLean County gained some leverage in the negotiation with its passage last month of amendments to its zoning ordinances, one of which would require a one-mile setback from the Missouri River, Lake Sakakawea, and Lake Audubon for electrical power transmission lines from permitted wind turbines. That requirement will make it much more difficult for GRE to build new transmission lines across the county to connect the power from wind turbines to the DC line.

GRE has said it will announce its decision about the possible plant closure some time this year. Details of the proposed arrangement were spelled out in a recent letter that GRE sent to the McLean County Planning and Zoning Commission.

environment and wildlife.

Our long history in McLean County has demonstrated that GRE also cares about these public interests. We will continue to adhere to high standards in any project we own or with which we are associated and will work closely with the County to ensure the public interest is protected. We also believe the Wind Transmission Line Setback is invalid. There is no justification for the setback to apply only to transmission lines associated with wind projects. Further, electric transmission lines already cross the Missouri River, and the named water bodies are under the regulation and protection of the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") and state agencies. Therefore, there is no reasonable basis for the County to apply the Wind Transmission Line Setback.

Instead, the setback is a transparent and targeted attempt to prohibit wind generation from being transmitted into or through the County from the south or west. If enforced as written, the setback completely excludes wind energy transmission lines from crossing the named water bodies. This type of exclusionary zoning is regularly struck down by courts. The setback unnecessarily interferes with potential wind development in neighboring counties and limits resource options for area utilities.

We urge you to consider the adverse impact of the Wind Transmission Line Setback, not only on McLean County, but on your neighboring counties and the entire State of North Dakota. Removing the Wind Transmission Line Setback would be a sign that McLean County is open to adapting to the new energy future that is coming to North Dakota. GRE values its relationship with the Co

GARDENING TIPS

Growing hibiscus

BY BEV JOHNSON M.G.
University of Minnesota Extension

There are 2 kinds of hibiscus, the tropical and the hardy. Bunkey gets Petunia a pot of blooming tropical hibiscus every May for her birthday. They sit on the patio and bloom all summer. Each bloom only lasts a day, but they keep pumping them out until frost. Several years ago, Petunia decided to bring an especially pretty plant in for the winter. Their house has a large south window, so it had quite a lot of sun. It did keep blooming for a while on the buds it had developed that summer, then, no flowers. Since the plant was quite a pretty foliage plant, she kept it and put it outside the next summer where it promptly began to bloom again.

Last spring Bunkey got a tip from next door George that there were hardy hibiscus. Why not get one or two of those so Petunia could have her favorite flower, but he wouldn't have to buy one every year?

In Minnesota, hardy hibiscus plants don't bloom all summer like their tropical cousins do but start in midsummer and continue till frost. The flowers are real showstoppers. The exotic looking flowers are enormous. They can be from 8 inches to a foot wide and come in shades of red, rose, pink, lavender and white often with contrasting 'eyes' and edges. The flowers can be ruffled, some petals can overlap, and others look like pinwheels. Just like their tropical cousins, each flower only lasts a day, but new buds

keep opening all summer. These babies can grow to be 6 feet tall and can be used as a hedge. There are shorter varieties, but these are still about 3 feet tall, not your shrinking violets. If you want them tall, plant them in light shade. They will not bloom as soon as their sisters that are in full sun, however. If you want a mass planting, plant them about 18 inches apart. To make them bushier, nip an inch from each growing tip when it is about 8 inches long.

These aren't fussy ladies. They will grow in most any soil but they prefer one that is a bit acidic. Work peat moss into the soil before you plant them and it will not only acidify the soil, it will help hold moisture. Their tropical cousins need fertilizer all

growing season. The hardy types only need the same fertilizer you put on your flower garden in the spring then again mid-summer.

Hardy hibiscus are well named. They will grow under either moist or dry conditions. They are quite drought-tolerant, but not resistant, once they are well established. You can even use them in a rain garden as they are also moisture tolerant.

Now Petunia can enjoy her favorite flowers most of the year. Bunkey went a bit wild and got 6 hardy hibiscuses for the flower garden. The only problem is that he planted one 6-footer in front of a window. Now, to see out of that window, one has to peer through the top left corner. Leave it to Bunkey.

Bid accepted for Mercer project

BY ALYSSA MEIER
BHG NEWS

The low bid for a local chip sealing project was accepted by McLean County Commissioners during their meeting earlier this month.

McLean County Commissioners evaluated bids from three Minnesota companies during the April 7 meeting, eventually picking the low bid for a chip sealing project on County road 33 near Mercer.

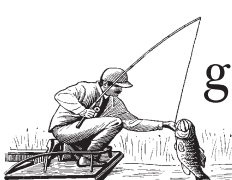
Bituminous Paving, Inc. bid the work at \$417,243.

Asphalt Surface Technologies Corporation bid the project at \$346,698.

Morris Sealcoat & Trucking, Inc. came in at the low bid of \$341,328

Engineer estimates on the project, which spanned 13.2 miles, were \$454,178.

Commissioner Steve Lee made a motion to accept Morris's bid, with Barry Suydam providing second. The motion passed unanimously.



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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.

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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43-TFN-E-X

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15-TFN-CIX

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HELP WANTED

Help wanted Coaching Positions

Garrison Public School District is seeking applications
URGENT* elem bbb start date to be determined & no coaches yet

- **HEAD AND ASST VOLLEYBALL** coaches need for 2020 season
- **ASST. FOOTBALL COACHES** for 2020 needed
- **JH FOOTBALL COACH** needed for 2020
- **CROSS COUNTRY COACH** for 2020 needed

Please stop by Garrison High School for an application.
Applicant must included a resume and three references.
Contact Nick Klemish at 463-2818 for more information.

HELP WANTED

- **HS Track Coach**
 - **FACS/Home Ec-HS**
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The City of Washburn, ND is accepting applications for a Deputy Auditor position.

A complete job description can be obtained by contacting the City of Washburn Auditor's Office at PO Box 467, Washburn, ND 58577; by calling 701-462-8558; or by emailing washaud@westriv.com. All resumes with cover letter must be received at the City Office no later than 4:00 PM on Friday, May 1, 2020.

The City of Washburn is an equal opportunity employer.

Public Works Employee

The City of Washburn, ND is accepting applications for a full-time Public Works Employee.

A complete job description can be obtained by contacting the City of Washburn Auditor's Office at PO Box 467, Washburn, ND 58577; by calling 701-462-8558; or by emailing washaud@westriv.com. All resumes with cover letter must be received at the City Office no later than 4:00 PM on Friday, May 8, 2020.

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Responsible for the direction, implementation, and supervision of all meal services and nutritional support for elders. Provides a quality assurance program that certifies elders therapeutic nutritional requirements are met. Manages the selection, training, development, and performance of assigned initial and ongoing clinical nutritional assessments and menu planning. Manages the department's budget.

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NOTICES

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PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE, City of Washburn, ND. For complete job description: call 701.462.8558 or email cityofwashburn@westriv.com. Resume with cover letter accepted until May 8, 2020 at 4:00pm.

HELP WANTED: PATZER Truck Repair of Harvey, N.D, is looking to hire a self-motivated, experienced farm machinery mechanic. Full family health insurance paid, competitive pay & benefits, 40 plus hours weekly, year round guaranteed. Call Brad or Butch at 701-324-4442.

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TACO LASAGNA

Ingredients
1 package of taco size flour tortillas (about 12 tortillas needed for this recipe)
1 1/2 lbs. of ground beef or turkey
1 packed of taco seasoning
Pico de Gallo (homemade or fresh store bought in the produce section)
2 cups of heavy cream
3 cups of shredded Mexican cheese
4 tbs. of butter
Cajun seasoning
Baking dish (aluminum 9×11)
Non-stick spray

Directions
Preheat oven to 400°
Brown meat and drain fat
Add Taco Seasoning packet to meat according to directions on packet (usually adding water to the powder).
In a separate pot, make the cheese sauce by melting the butter over medium-low heat. Add the heavy cream to the melted butter and gently mix with a whisk. Mix in 2 cups of shredded cheese into the pot. Mix gently with a whisk until the cheese is melted.
Add a dash of cajon seasoning to the melted cheese mixture
Prepare baking dish with non-stick spray. Cut tortillas in half. Line the baking dish (as pictured) with tortilla halves.
Add 1/3 of the taco meat over the tortillas. Add 1/3 of the cheese mixture over over taco meat. Sprinkle pico de gallo over cheese mixture. Repeat steps 10-13 two more times. Sprinkle the remaining 1 cup of shredded cheese on top. Bake for 20 minutes

PEANUT BUTTER CUP STUFFED BROOKIES (QUICK & EASY!)

Ingredients
1 (10oz) bag of brownie mix (plus the oil & egg to make the batter)
12 Peanut Butter Cups
1 (16oz) package of refrigerated cookie dough

Directions
Peheat your oven to 350 degrees and generously grease a regular size muffin tin.
Prepare the brownie mix according the package directions; set aside.
Separate the cookie dough into 12 even balls and then squish them down into the bottom of each muffin cup.
Place a peanut butter cup upside down on top of the cookie dough.
Evenly distribute the brownie batter on top of each peanut butter cup until the wells are about 90% full.
Bake for 18-20 minutes or until the brownie batter is cooked through.
Allow them to cool for about 5 minutes before removing from the pan, and then enjoy while they are still warm.

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.

Commission ok's vehicle order

Sheriff's Department buys one used, three used patrol trucks

BY ALYSSA MEIER
BHG NEWS

McLean County Commissioners approved the purchase of four vehicles for the Sheriff's Department on Tuesday morning.

With concerns over delays in vehicle orders, Sheriff JR Kerzmann approached commissioners during their regular meeting Tuesday to request approval to order vehicles now rather than later in the year.

"If we can get them ordered now, we get on the list," Kerzmann said, adding the vehicles would be delivered sometime this fall. Kerzmann said with several patrol vehicles getting into the hundreds for mileage, it was paramount to replace them

this year.

Kerzmann said he would like to order three Dodge pickups, which came in cheaper than the budgeted Ford Expeditions. He said the department was able to pay interest only on the vehicles through April 2021, if necessary.

The three Dodge pickups would cost a total of \$88,731.

Along with this Kerzmann requested approval to purchase a used Ford Expedition for \$17,000. He said the vehicle had been used by the Medora Police Department and had 40,000 miles.

Commissioners approved a motion to purchase all four vehicles for \$105,731, which would come out of the budgeted line item for sheriff's department vehicles.

Westridge open for golfers

Few changes on tap for now

BY SUZANNE WERRE,
Editor

Westridge Golf Course is open for the 2020 golf season, with just a few changes for at least the beginning of the season.

The doors officially opened to Westridge Golf Course on the west side of Underwood Friday, with golfers asked to use the honor system and abide by social distancing guidelines when using the golf course.

Inserts have been put inside the cups, leaving the ball easily accessible by hand without needing to take out the flag, according to Westridge President Graydon Ash.

"They should be able to reach in with their hand to pick it out, and we are asking people not to touch the flags," said Ash.

The club has already been getting memberships for the year, and nonmembers are asked to use the honor system on the course as the club house is still closed per Gov. Doug Burgum's orders.

Once the frost was gone, even with the social distancing guidelines and extra precautions people are asked to take, it was imperative to

get the golf course open this spring.

"It's a great way to practice social distancing," said Ash. People can still be working on their game like normal, while visiting with their friends, like normal.

"We are encouraging people to walk or use their own cart," he added, as the rental carts will have to have an extensive cleaning if used. When an employee is at the club house, the cart will be scrubbed down between uses. When no one is working, there will be wipes available for golfers to use.

Westridge is also asking that only those living in the same household share carts; otherwise it should be one person to a cart.

The weekly Steak Night is put off for now, noted Ash, and the beer and wine tour fundraiser is also canceled at this point. The clubhouse and bar will be opened as soon as Burgum lifts the shut-down order. Golfers are welcome to bring their own beverages onto the course, noted Ash, as he encouraged long-time Westridge golfers and new golfers to check out the course this spring.

HELPING WORDS

Like a thief

BY PASTOR TIM MANTEI

HOPE LUTHERAN OF RURAL SAWYER
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN OF BUTTE, ND

A few years back, when oil and fuel prices were high, there was an increase in theft of gasoline and diesel oil in North Dakota farmyards.

Following these thefts, padlocks were put on pumps. Cameras and motion sensors were installed on lampposts. A bit of grief followed all this because we perceived the loss of trust.

Where did the days go when we could leave things out in the open and no one would disturb us and our property? It's a shame that we now must

take these measures to protect our way of life.

Even if nothing is stolen, it's a feeling of invasion when someone unbidden has snuck into your property, your refuge, your privacy. Breaking and entering is a violation of self. It can cause us to get excessive in self-protection, becoming distrustful of everyone and might make us overly reclusive and fearful.

After Jesus' arrest and execution, his friends locked themselves in a room because they were afraid of getting nabbed too.

But Jesus broke in. The doors were locked but Jesus got in. And when they saw

him, his spoke to them and said, "Peace be with you!"

A week later they hid themselves in a locked room again. And again Jesus entered the room and said, "Peace be with you!" (John 20)

We can live our lives trying to shut Jesus out. But we can't. Jesus is no respecter of our doors, our padlocks, our alarm systems or even our arsenal. He comes to steal our fear. He comes to steal our sin and our idols. He comes like a thief. But he doesn't just take from us. He gives to us. He gives us peace, forgiveness, life, and light. He gives us himself. Peace be with you.

Washburn city-wide May 26-30

BY ALYSSA MEIER
EDITOR

City-Wide cleanup week for Washburn has been scheduled for the last week in May.

Unwanted items can be dropped at the city compound from May 26-29 during predetermined hours.

Drop offs are allowed from 3-7 p.m. May 26-28 and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 29.

Curbside pick up will be on May 30.

Approved items for curbside pick up include dressers, nightstands, wooden bed-frames, foot-boards, mattress/box springs, couches, love-seats, recliners, end tables, entertainment stands,

chairs, tables, paint (must be solidified), carpet (in manageable sizes), scrapes of wood, small appliances, TVs, computer screens and other electronics.

Circle Sanitation will accept the following items in the roll-off dumpsters: Vacuums, can openers, toaster and toaster ovens, microwaves, any small electrical appliance, pots and pans, barbecue grills, lawn furniture with metal framing, metal shovels, rakes, garden and other old tools including power tools, stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, humidifiers and dehumidifiers, water coolers, water heaters, air conditioners, central air

units, fans and space heaters, electronics, computer towers, laptops, metal window frames and doors, steel or aluminum siding, metal shelving, metal bed-frames, extension cords, heating ductwork, rain gutters, scrap wiring, bicycles, metal fire pits, car parts such as transmissions, motors, starters, hoods, doors, rims, tires and old plumbing parts, if brass or copper. Lawn mowers, tillers and motorcycles will also be accepted if all oil and gas is drained.

Circle Sanitation will not accept rocks, concrete, brick, dirt, cinder blocks, oil, chemicals, animal waste, ashes, hot tubs or railroad ties.



Did you know ...

64% of survey respondents said they read a community newspaper either in print (43%) or online (6%) (15% reading both).

2019 Community Newspaper Readership Survey

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4. Vote the ballot & return to the County Auditor's office by mail or secure drop box before Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

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