

# The Roundup

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Wednesday, April 8, 2020

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## Sidney Churches Preparing For Easter Sunday

Pella Lutheran Church will be broadcasting service on 95.1 FM at 9 a.m. Sunday.



By Bill Vander Weele

Due to restrictions in relation to Coronavirus, area churches have been posting videos on their website and Facebook so their members can watch weekly services. That format will continue for the majority of them on this Easter Sunday.

Pastor Rolf Preus of Trinity Lutheran Church said the church's first video was two Sundays ago. Trinity also posted a video last Wednesday.

"We've pre-recorded services and then put the link to our congregation's Facebook page," Preus said. "We will keep doing it until this thing goes by and we're able to start gathering together again."

Faith Alliance Church Pastor Paul Turek said that they are taping services and then broadcasting them at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

"It's one way to keep people connected with our church family," Turek said.

Pastor Sione Fungalei of Lonsdale United Methodist Church said Lonsdale started posting its services three weeks ago. The Easter service will be on Facebook live at 11 a.m. on Sunday. They will also Facebook live a service for Good Friday.

Pella Lutheran Church has been a little ahead of the game. Pella started having videos of its services available

about a year ago.

"We had people who are shut-ins asked a year ago about why couldn't they have a video," Pella's Pastor Audrey Rydbom said.

Pella is trying something different for Easter Sunday. The service will be broadcasted on 95.1 FM at 9 a.m., and members are asked to listen from their vehicles in the church's parking lot. The service will also be on Facebook live.

"Hopefully, I will lead from the front steps if the weather permits," Rydbom said. "It's a difficult stretch of time and we're doing our best. Our goal is to have people hear the Word."

Pastors admit that putting together a video with few other people in the church is a strange experience.

"It feels weird preaching to an empty church," Preus said. "I'm just really happy we can do this. They can hear God's word."

Turek added, "It's a lot more awkward for sure. There's no feedback. It's a different feeling, but I preach just like there's people there."

The response has been great. Both Preus and Turek said that their broadcasts have attracted more than 300 viewers.

"It's more than what normally come here on a Sunday morning," Turek said. "I think there's a convenience factor. You don't have to move, you can still be in your pajamas."

Viewers aren't just from the area but also from other parts of the country.

"Churches of all sizes are doing this," Turek said. "You don't have to be a large church to do this, you just need the technology."

For now, it's the way that people will receive their religious services.

"All we can do is hope and pray and know that God is in charge," Preus said.

Check out our website  
roundupweb.com for coverage on:

- The latest Coronavirus updates for MT & ND
- Area School Honor Rolls

## Fabric Needed For Masks For Sidney Health Center

Communities in Action Crops members are requesting breathable fabric (cotton, flannel etc.) than can be made into masks for Sidney Health Center. Please consider dropping off donations at Richland County Health Department. There will be a drop box for fabric donation inside the main entrance doors.

## Watford City Sewing And Crafts Facebook Group Turns In To McKenzie County Mask Force



By Anna Dragseth

What once started as a Facebook group designed for members to share their craft and get ideas and inspiration from like-minded craft enthusiasts, turned into a community outreach program that is fulfilling the needs of several McKenzie County businesses.

The Watford City Sewing and Crafts Facebook group is comprised of over 300 members. Several members within the group have been busily gathering sewing materials, cutting out patterns, and constructing handmade masks.

So far, the group has made over 600 handmade masks, and they have an additional 600 underway that they will be supplying to McKenzie County Healthcare. The group has distributed handmade masks to many businesses throughout the McKenzie County area, including the McKenzie County Law enforcement, McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, and other companies who have essential workers.

Since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, businesses have been experiencing a shortage of factory-made masks. This is because the United States mask-making factories cannot keep up with the high demand of facemasks - and without a secure supply of masks, the risk to health care workers and essential employees increases significantly.

The Watford City Sewing and Crafts group quickly realized the community's need for facemask and started making homemade masks to give to Watford City area businesses.

The main goal of the Mask Force group is to supplement N-95 masks for medical and emergency frontline providers and to support grocery, pharmacy, and retail stores while they are providing curbside services to protect their frontline employees.

The facemasks that volunteers have been making are double-layered, 100% tight-woven cotton and some even have a pouch where a filter can be slipped in.

Businesses have been donating sewing materials to people interested in making homemade facemasks. Beaver Creek Creations and Barrett Pharmacy of Watford City has donated spools of elastic, and Barrett Pharmacy has also donated sewing fabric.

"It is so great to see first hand how people can come together to make things happen. It's amazing the team effort from absolutely everyone involved. It makes me proud to call Watford City home," said Vikki Williams, who created the Watford City Sewing and Craft Facebook group.

If you are interested in making facemasks, you are encouraged to join the Watford City Sewing and Crafts Facebook group, or if you would like to donate sewing material, you can contact Vikki Williams at 541-731-3778.

## Richland County Board Of Health Supports Social Distancing

By Stephanie Ler, RS, MPH, Richland County Health Department Public Information Officer

The Richland County Board of Health has reviewed and approved an order adopting Governor Steve Bullock's recent directive to shelter in place.

The order, released by County Attorney Janet Christoffersen's office, solidifies Health Officer and local Nurse Practitioner Jacquelyn Free's stance on social distancing and sheltering in place. "Due to the rapid spread of COVID 19, it is imperative that the citizens do not take the 'shelter in place' order lightly. In order to reduce exposure to the virus, you have to reduce your socialization patterns. Meaning, social distancing is our only means to combat the spread of this virus at this time," Free said.

The Richland County Board of Health members met via conference call in a special meeting on Monday, March 30, to consider and ultimately approve the order. The order cites the powers and duties afforded to the Board of Health and Health Officer to protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable diseases, particularly the po-

tential spread of COVID-19, as reasoning for adopting the Governor's directive.

The Board's order allows the terms of the Governor's directive providing measures to stay at home and designating certain essential functions to be implemented in Richland County, and allows for assistance from law enforcement agents in carrying out those provisions, where necessary.

In plain terms, this means that Richland County residents should stay home as much as possible, except to obtain necessary supplies and go to work in essential industries. For the purposes of enforcement, the Board is relying on the good-faith cooperation of community members to be compliant with these orders. If non-compliance becomes habitual, penalties may be assessed as needed to enforce the order.

The local order does not change what residents have already been asked to do. According to the Governor's orders and public health recommendations, all Richland County residents should stay home as much as possible, avoiding all gatherings with those outside their household

members. This means that adults, teens, and children should not be gathering publicly or privately.

Community members are reminded that they may still run essential errands, like picking up take-out food from local restaurants, as well as groceries and medications, but should limit these trips to about once a week. Governor Bullock encouraged all Montanans to take advantage of warmer weather by spending time outdoors with members of your immediate household as well, while maintaining social distancing of six feet from others.

While these orders and guidelines may mean making tough decisions, like cancelling or postponing birthday parties, proms and other get-togethers, we are all sharing in these tough decisions to help keep Richland County healthy.

For information about the local order, contact the Office of the County Attorney at 406-433-2505. For questions about COVID-19, call the Richland County Health Department's Information Line at 406-433-6947.



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**Managing FARM STRESS**

PHOTO BY BEC RITCHIE ON UNSPLASH

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**STATISTICS**

**LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT**

**Sakakawea**

Current Elevation ..... 1840.1  
Last Week's Elev. .... 1839.7  
One Year Ago ..... 1843.4  
Release For Day (C.F.S.) ..... 23,000

**SIDNEY WEATHER DATA**

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low
Precip.		
March 30.....	67	26
March 31.....	56	28
April 1.....	28	11
April 2.....	20	9
April 3.....	33	6
April 4.....	47	19
April 5.....	53	20
Total 2020 YTD Precipitation.....	0.760	

# OBITUARIES

## Kay Price, 71 Sidney, MT

Services for Kay Price, 71, Sidney, MT may take place later in the summer. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at [www.fulkersons.com](http://www.fulkersons.com).

Kay Lucille Price lost her valiant fight the evening of March 29, 2020 at Sidney Health Care Hospital. Let it be known that she fought to the very end, and that giving up was never an option. Kay was born to Rosella "Rosie" and Harold Stanford in Sidney, MT, on Jan. 28, 1949. She joined Carol, her older sister. In the years following, Kay's siblings Janet, Pete, Calena, Jeff, Ron, Mona, and Sheila joined the family.

May of 1965, Kay's first born, Dale, arrived in the world while living in California. In December of 1966, Dave was born in Sidney, MT. While still living in Sidney, Kay met Jerry, marrying him Feb. 1, 1969. Jodi joined her two older brothers, October of 1969. Kay and Jerry's youngest child, Chris, was born in Sidney in August, 1973. She sacrificed her dreams and goals to care for her family and only when they were all old enough, she pursued her dream.

In 1991 Kay graduated with her Associates of Science in Nursing from Dickinson State University. Although that was a great accomplishment, she returned to school and obtained her Bachelors of Science in Nursing, graduating at the top of her class in 1993. She was a bright star in whatever endeavors she pursued. Kay worked in many areas of nursing including public health, medical-surgical units, clinical setting, and long term care. Kay filled in at the Sunrise Manor when they were in need of an experienced nurse, until giving up her profession last year.

Kay enjoyed many outgoing groups and activities with family and friends. Ranging from bowling leagues, Red Hat Society, and devoting many hours to quilting and sewing. She was always teaching herself new crafts, sharing with anyone who offered interest.

Kay is preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Rosella and her sister Calena.

She is survived by her husband Jerry, siblings; Carol (Bill) Struckman, Janet (Melvin) Croxton, Pete (Joyce) Sifers, Jeff Sifers, Ron (Donna) Stanford, Mona (Ron) Bailey, Sheila (Mike) Blohm and brother-in-law Mike Anderson. Her children Jodi (Shane) Findlay, her sons Dale (Sue) Price, David (Joy) Price, and Jerry "Chris" (Nichole) Price. She loved her six grandchildren with a fiery passion, never forgetting birthdays, anniversaries, or any other events she felt were important.

There is no service planned at this time. The family appreciates any and all condolences. Condolences can be sent to 34277 Co Rd 111, Savage, MT 59262.

## Loren G. Lawhead, 78 Fairview, MT

Graveside services for Loren G. Lawhead, 78, Fairview, MT were held at 2 p.m., MST, Friday, April 3, 2020 at Yellowstone Point Cemetery, Cartwright, ND with Robin Trudell officiating.

From Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, at 1 p.m., MST, they headed to the cemetery. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at [www.fulkersons.com](http://www.fulkersons.com).

Loren passed away Saturday evening, March 28, 2020 at Glendive Medical Center, Glendive, MT.

## Leonard Hoffmann, 92 Bismarck, ND formerly of Watford City, ND

Due to COVID-19, funeral services for Leonard Hoffmann, 92, Bismarck, ND formerly of Watford City, ND are tentatively scheduled for May 29, 2020 at First Lutheran Church, Watford City, ND under the direction of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home.

Leonard passed away on Friday, March 27, 2020 in Bismarck, ND.

# RCEMA Providing Service For Elderly "Shut-Ins"

Submitted by Richard Evans

The Richland County Evangelical Ministerial Association has recognized that the virus that has shut down the globe has created specific difficulties for our elderly "shut-in" population. The book of James tells us that pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. (James 1:27) Therefore, we have partnered with the Richland County Commission on Aging in an effort to confront these difficulties.

We have worked together to establish a service designed to meet the needs of these persons who cannot get out of their homes to get essential grocery items, pharmaceuticals, mail, etc.

To qualify for this service; you can call the Richland County Commission on Aging at 433-3701. They will confirm that you have a verified need and coordinate with the Care Team(s). Approved services will be provided the following business day.

We are asking the people taking advantage of this service to ensure that where possible they have formulated a clear shopping list, and have paid for the items by phone. If they are not able to make a phone purchase, then a check made out to the payee, to be filled in by the volunteer is acceptable. The items purchased will be accompanied by a receipt at all times. If a participant must pay with cash (which we are trying to avoid for a number of reasons) then two receipts will be printed, one for the client, and one for our records to ensure that nothing untoward has occurred.

The participating congregations are: The Church of the Nazarene; Faith Alliance; People's Congregational; Pella Lutheran; Fellowship Baptist and Shepherd of the Valley.

Each church will provide these services through a two-person team of volunteers on a rotating basis.

Show me your faith without deeds, and I (we) will show you my faith by my deeds. James 2:18.



Kay Price

# Meals At Home With Limited Options

By Carrie Krug

MSU/Richland County FCS Extension Agent

With all the current changes we are all going through, and we are trying to figure out our new routines, you may find yourself making fewer trips to the grocery store, and when you go, your options might be limited. With making more meals at home and the possibility of fewer options at the store, you might be scratching your head trying to come up with breakfast, lunch, snacks, or dinner ideas. Have no fear the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has some meal ideas using what you have on hand. In Making a Meal with What's on Hand (2020), written by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, they have taken some very popular meal ideas and have provided some substitution suggestions:

How does pasta sound? But you realize you have no sauce, try using some olive oil (or vegetable oil) with garlic, or you could use chili or soup (maybe with less liquid for a thicker sauce).

How about a smoothie for breakfast? But you're out of yogurt, try using applesauce, fruit juice, milk, or even a frozen banana instead.

Your family decided on homemade pizza for dinner but, you don't have everything for your crust, try using a tortilla shell, biscuits, English muffins, Naan bread, etc. for your crust.

How about a casserole for dinner? But you ran out of pasta, try using another starchy food such as rice, potatoes, or sweet potatoes. You could also use carrots, beans (cooked or canned) or lentils.

Katie Greenawalt and Debra Griffie, of PennState Extension, wrote an article on Cooking from your Pantry (2020) and provided some ideas on how to use non-perishable foods. Try using canned tuna, chicken, or salmon in your main dishes; even canned beans could be used as they are also a good source of protein. If you are struggling to incorporate vegetables, try adding canned veggies into your soups, stews, or casseroles, adding more nutrition to your dishes. Katie Greenawalt and Debra Griffie, of PennState Extension, also suggested some non-perishable food items to stock up on. So on your next trip to the grocery store, try adding pasta, grains, cereals, oatmeal, and even shelf-stable milk and juice (remember to refrigerate after opening) to your cart. If you're not able to track down these items, try using some of the suggestions talked about in this article to make substitutions or additions to your family's meals.

## Sidney Swim Team Will Be Offering Online Registration

Swim team registration for Monday, April 13 and Tuesday, April 14 has been cancelled. Online registration will be offered this year, watch for more details.

## Girard Candidate Forum Cancelled

The Girard Candidate Forum that was scheduled for April 16 has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

# Paddlefish Snagging Harvest Season Canceled

The North Dakota 2020-22 fishing proclamation has been amended and the state Game and Fish Department is canceling the upcoming paddlefish snagging harvest season due to the coronavirus pandemic.

However, the amendment does allow for the possibility of a one-week snag-and-release season May 15-21, which is two weeks later than the normal opening day.

Fisheries chief Greg Power said safety of snaggers, caviar processors and data collection staff are a major concern.

"Paddlefish snaggers concentrate in large numbers in a small area, and often participate in snagging while shoulder to shoulder," Power said. "There is no realistic way to maintain proper separation."

Game and Fish is allowing for the possibility of a one-week, snag-and-release season, Power said, because data strongly suggests considerably fewer snaggers will participate.

"The snag-and-release season is considered acceptable as a lower-risk activity for those avid snaggers who just want some time outdoors, usually by themselves," Power said.

If there is a snag-and-release season, anglers would only need a fishing license. A paddlefish tag would not be required.

The Northstar Caviar fish cleaning, egg processing and boat shuttle operation will not be open this year.

# Partnership For Drug-Free Kids Where Families Find Answers

In this uncertain time, we know you may be concerned about keeping your families and communities safe and healthy.

Help is here: Our helpline remains open and available. If you are having difficulties accessing support or treatment during this time our specialists are here to guide you.

Connect now using the following options: Text a message to 55753 or call 1-855-378-4373.

Online community support: In response to the uncertainty and circumstances surrounding COVID-19, we are hosting a series of free, online gatherings for parents/caregivers designed to help you connect with others and gain helpful insight and ideas.

On Wednesdays, 8 p.m. EST; 5 p.m. PST for parents/caregivers of teens, <https://zoom.us/join/register/u5Akco-prjooPN897VVIDdmg59em4YMLA>.

On Saturdays 12 p.m. EST; 9 a.m. PST all parents/caregivers <https://zoom.us/join/register/uZY-vd-qupz4qqhYVZEI7IbZjUVEzM7aCIA>

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## MonDak Walleyes Unlimited Chapter Continues To Carry Out Its Mission

**By Anna Dragseth**

In 1997 Doug Hill, Kevin Mayer and Russ Wells established the MonDak Walleyes Unlimited Chapter. The purpose of starting this Chapter was to educate the public on the importance of warm water fishing, improve and conserve warm water fish, and promote fishing by funding community projects.

Since the start of the Chapter, MonDak Walleyes Unlimited members have gone above and beyond to accomplish their mission. Today there are approximately 150 members within the MonDak Chapter, and they have given back a total of \$125,000 to the community.

The MonDak Walleyes Unlimited Chapter strives to go beyond promoting warm water fishing. The Chapter is dedicated to improving fishing experiences in the area by kick starting several community projects. They have so far, partnered with the state of Montana to improve the MDU boat ramp and park, funded Gartside Lake handicap access, and this year committed to the refurbishment project of the Boat Ramp on the Yellowstone River at Sunheim Park east of Fairview. They have also funded Richland Park. "One project that we really put a lot of effort into is the Richland Park. Within this project, the Chapter has assisted in the boat ramp and playground. We also put up solar lights and planted all of the trees within the campground," explained Kevin Mayer, the MonDak Walleyes Unlimited Secretary/Treasurer.

The Chapter also promotes warm water fishing by coordinating a Kids Fishing Day at Gartside Lake for area sixth-graders. During this event, the Chapter supplies rod and reels to 160 young fishing enthusiasts and teaches them all about fishing and water safety regulations. The Chapter is hopeful to be holding this year's kids fishing day on May 12 but acknowledges that this event may not happen.

Mayer explained that "Over the past 23 years, the chapter has given back an excess of \$125,000 to the community." To continue their mission, the Chapter encourages new and existing members to renew their memberships.

In previous years, the Chapter has hosted a Walleyes Unlimited Annual Banquet, but this year it was canceled due to the novel coronavirus. This banquet is one of the Chapter's primary member recruiting and fundraising events, and even though the banquet was canceled, the Chapter still has many ongoing projects.

This year, new and existing members are encouraged to renew or obtain a individual or a family (which includes your spouse and all dependents under the age of 18). When you become a member, you will receive a subscription to the Walleyes Unlimited of Montana Fish Tales magazine, the ability to partake in Walleyes Unlimited Tournaments, and promote warm water fishing in your community. If you are interested in making a financial contribution to the MonDak Walleyes Unlimited Chapter, you can contact Justin Jones (President), Mark Binder (Vice President), or Kevin Mayer (Treasurer).



Kids practice casting their fishing rods at Gartside during the 2019 Kids Fishing Day

Walleyes Unlimited membership online; this can be done at [www.montanawalleyesunlimited.net](http://www.montanawalleyesunlimited.net). The annual cost per Walleyes Unlimited membership is \$35 for one

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## Williams County Declares Local State Of Emergency In Response To COVID-19

Williston, ND – Williams County Commission Chairman Steve Kemp signed a public health emergency declaration for Williams County in response to the ongoing local, national, and global COVID-19 situation. The declaration is in effect for 7 days and will be revisited during the April 7, 2020, regular Commission Meeting. By declaring a local state of emergency, additional financial resources can be expended from the County's emergency reserve fund as needed and the County will have increased flexibility for obtaining and securing resources for the COVID-19 response.

The declaration comes after weeks of mitigation by the County to reduce the risk and spread of COVID-19 by limiting access to its buildings and conducting government services over the phone, by email, and online and increasing cleaning efforts. "Williams County is committed to the health, well-being, and safety of its citizens" says Chairman Kemp.

Coinciding with the declaration, Williams County/Williston Emergency Management, in collaboration with the Upper Missouri District Health Unit, will be activating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and a Joint Information Center (JIC). The EOC will assist local first responders and agencies with developing and implementing emergency response plans and coordinating resources and equipment. The JIC will bring together government, health, and public safety stakeholders to share information related to COVID-19 and delivering messaging to the public. Both the EOC and the JIC will be operated remotely to abide by COVID-19 prevention guideline.

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### Richland County Drug Use Concerns Meeting Held March 11

**Submitted by Kali Godfrey**

The Richland County Health Department and Communities in Action received the Drug Free Communities grant at the beginning of 2020. This five-year grant will be focused on reducing substance use and misuse among youth, eventually leading to a reduction in the percentage of adults in Richland County reporting binge drinking (24%).

On March 11, the Communities in Action Steering Committee and 24 Sidney High School juniors and seniors met after school to discuss what concerns they see in our community in relation to drug use. Communities in Action partnered with Brad Faulhaber’s social science classes to engage local stu-

dents into the solution.

Participants identified problem statements using local data from the Richland County “Quality of Life” Assessment. Liliana Johnson, an 11th grade SHS student, said “I was really surprised by a lot of the data in the packet we got. Lots of the issues I thought were issues, really weren’t. I was surprised at what the data displayed the real issues were.” By the end of the meeting the participants used the data to create two problem statements; 1) The problem in Richland County is alcohol accessibility and 2) The problem in Richland County is binge drinking.

Sidney High School students and the Communities in Action Steering Committee members then came up

with root causes for each problem statement. Root causes are conditions in the individual’s and shared community environments which increase the likelihood that people become involved in substance use. The two most popular root causes identified for both problem statements were social availability and parental favorable attitudes.

The next step was to look at local conditions that contributed to root causes. Local conditions are how the root causes “operate” within the community. In other words, what the behaviors look like. The local conditions that participants identified included: open bars at events, family beer fridges/coolers left unmonitored and the observation

that most social gatherings (brandings, graduation parties, family reunions etc.) serve alcohol. Students also cited that there are parents who allow for minors to drink if it’s at their house. Students were eager to learn more about what the data meant for our community and how they could help. Sean Earle, 11th grade SHS student, said “I thought that students

in high school weren’t concerned with drinking being a problem in Richland County. At the meeting, I learned that students and adults in our community actually do care.”

With the implementation of the DFC grant, Richland County Communities in Action and the health department are able to address the serious issue of alcohol use in the county. The genuine

concern that the SHS students displayed in regards to alcohol use provides reassurance that the upcoming generation wants to see a cultural community change. The coalition is committed to helping the community respond to the needs related to substance use with local resources and involvement in a sustainable way.

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# Roosevelt Medical Center Prepares For Potential COVID-19 Patients, Urges Critical Social Distancing

**By Jaimee Green, Public Information Officer**

As the number of coronavirus cases continues to rise, healthcare officials are working tirelessly to limit the effects of the pandemic on their community. At Roosevelt Medical Center, the workflow has changed dramatically as all efforts have refocused on keeping the coronavirus outside its' doors and the community safe.

While RMC has not treated any COVID-19 patients, staff is busy with preplanning and mitigation measures to ensure they are prepared for the worst-case scenario. "Our team is working overtime. It is like a military operation, we're hammering out protocols, setting up potential treatment areas and working out logistics for all possible scenarios. We hope we never need to use the plans we have put into place, but we are ready if we do," said Jaimee Green, RMC public information officer.

Roosevelt Medical Center activated its' disaster response, incident command team on March 16, in an effort to ramp up its' ability to care for potential COVID-19 patients while maintaining the safety of its' long-term-care residents, patients and staff.

Meeting daily at 8 a.m., the IC team quickly began pouring over policies and procedures while walking through new processes and guidelines handed down by the Center's for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Human Services.

During the past few weeks, a careful count of supplies has been conducted and conservation efforts have been implemented. Last week, RMC received its' first of two supply shipments from the State. Currently, surgical masks and gowns are in limited supply.

Coincidentally, prior to the pandemic outbreak, the emergency medical services department ordered six new respirator suits to replace the old ones. While they haven't arrived yet, the order was placed before many other hospitals placed orders in their efforts to respond to COVID-19. They are also fortunate to have one operational ventilator and another awaiting maintenance. Many similar-sized hospitals have none.

"We are prepared to care for COVID-19 patients at the level we are able to as a small facility with limited resources. Our main objective is to transfer patients to a higher level of care as soon as possible," Green said.

Like all Montana facilities, the laboratory department is not "testing" patients for COVID-19. They are collecting samples and sending them to the State of Montana Health Lab, in Helena, via priority mail or a courier system that is in place. Collection samples arrive in Helena within 24-hours and, depending on prioritization, results are generally provided back to the collection facility within 48-hours. Currently, RMC has an adequate supply of collection swabs and viral transport media solutions.

Staff continue practicing their skills, the proper donning and doffing of PPE and are running through patient drills

several times a week to ensure everyone is familiar with the flow-of-care for treating isolation patients.

The emergency room has been separated into respiratory and non-respiratory care areas and plans have been made for safely housing potential COVID-19 patients while they are awaiting transfer to a larger hospital.

The leadership team determined right away it was necessary to keep the long-term-care residents away from all clinic, ER patients and visitors. The lobby design presented challenges for creating a barrier. The facility has essentially been "split-in-half" with residents living on one side of the facility and clinic and ER patients being seen and treated on the other.

The residents have been kept away from the front entrance where clinic patients are screened and then escorted down to the clinic. Activities and meals include social distancing measures at all times. Meals are brought down to the large North 40 activities room and served at two separate times to ensure there is enough space to keep everyone six feet apart. Many family members stay connected to their loved ones by calling and sending photos and cards. The activities department is also encouraging people to call and schedule a zoom or skype visit. "While we have to do what is necessary for their safety, we are also focused on ensuring we continue to enable them to do the things that bring them joy and keep them connected," said Vickie Grimsrud, RMC activities director.

RMC officials say it is absolutely critical for the community to follow all shelter-in-place mandates in order to slow the spread of the virus. "These orders are bigger than our own self interests. Staying at home is one of the most effective ways to ensure our facility, like others, does not become overburdened by COVID-19 patients," said Deb Heckmun, RMC incident commander.

People with mild symptoms should stay home unless their symptoms persist or get worse. The clinic is open and patients are being seen daily. However, many non-essential appointments have been canceled in an effort to save personal protective equipment in the event RMC has to respond to a large number of COVID-19 patients. Leadership is also working toward implementing more telehealth options to enable non-essential patient visits to begin as soon as possible.

In all cases, it is still necessary to call the facility before coming in for any appointment.

"The virus has shown us that while we are all vulnerable, we can be strong and resilient and work together to accomplish extraordinary things. I am very proud of the way staff and the community as-a-whole are working in unison to achieve the best possible outcome for our community during this challenging time," said Heckmun.

For more information from credible sources, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or [dphhs.mt.gov](https://www.dphhs.mt.gov).

## Mischel Files For Legislative Senate District 18

**Submitted by Pat Mischel**

Lifelong Eastern Montana resident Pat Mischel recently filed for Legislative Senate District 18, which encompasses Wibaux, Dawson, and Richland counties.

Mischel's reason for running is to promote better cooperation between state government, local schools, city and county governments, and the citizens who live here. SD 18 is a big area, 5,300 square miles with a population of 19,000." From Carlyle to Fairview to Richey and everywhere in between, the people of Eastern Montana need to be represented in Helena."

Mischel was born and raised in Glendive, attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and Dawson County High School. After graduation he worked local construction jobs, until his father, a railroad engineer, convinced him the best job in Glendive was the railroad. This choice lead to 41-year career with BNSF. His job took him to Sidney, Forsyth, Minot, Hettinger and Dickinson, ND and back to Glendive. "When you work that long and with so many

people, you learn everyone has different views and goals, but really we're all in this together". Everybody wants a good income, a decent place to live, and their kids to do well". Pat and his wife Brenda have four grown children, and have always been active in the community from coaching baseball and soccer and managing the concession stand, to serving on the school board to owning a local business, "I know it takes effort to make our communities succeed".

Mischel said his experiences as a union legislative representative sparked his interest in politics, and gave him great lessons on how to organize, talk to legislators, and get things passed, he currently serves as Dawson County Tax Appeal Board Secretary.

Mischel's three main campaign issues are economic development, educa-




Pat Mischel

tion, and access to our public lands. If elected Mischel said he would seek a seat on the Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee and the Senate Education Committee.

"In the coming months I look forward to campaigning and listening to the voters of Senate District 18". Pat Mischel for SD 18 can be reached at 377-6690-pmischel@midrivers.com or PO Box 474, Glendive, MT 59330.

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To prepare for your telemedicine appointment you will need to:

- 1) Call the Rural Health Clinic at (701) 842-3771 to assist you with the setup
- 2) Have access to a video capable smart phone, tablet, or computer with attached camera and speaker

If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 or would like to be screened please contact our health partners at ANOVA at (701) 842-6400. Questions after hours or on the weekend? Call the MCHS COVID-19 Hotline at (701) 842-3000, #9

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# Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,  
I am the current Republican Majority Leader in the Montana House. Early in the 2019 Legislative Session, I noticed Freshman Rep. Joel Krautter voting for bills that were contrary to established Republican Platform positions. I visited with him to ask about the basis of his votes, having knowledge of the values of voters in Richland County through my relationship with his predecessors, Reps. David Halvorson and Scott Staffanson, and his current Senator, Steve Hinebaugh. As the Republican Majority Leader, elected by the majority of the Republican caucus, I wanted to ensure his clear understanding of the conservative principles guiding our caucus, and his votes.

After I initiated the discussion by asking him to help me understand his decision-making process, he stated that he fully knew what he was doing and was comfortable with his choices. When I attempted to discuss the tenets of the Montana Republican Platform that he was disregarding, he said his choices were proper, in his eyes, and essentially dismissed me. The conversation ended there.

Rep. Krautter continued to make votes during the balance of the session that, simply, didn't follow fundamental principles of the Republican platform written by Montana citizens. Here's a list of some of the government expansion bills for which he voted: SB 338, increasing the hotel "bed tax" by 33%, about \$4 million of which is paid by Montanans; HB 661, needlessly increased aviation fuel taxes; HB 694, increasing fees/taxes

on investment advisors by \$7.5 million annually, passed onto Montana citizens; HB 658, Medicaid Expansion and; SB 24, raising fees on vehicle registrations. Krautter conceivably ignored the principles of the Republican Platform, and the will of his constituents, by unnecessarily raising taxes and fees on conservatives who elected him.

For Rep. Krautter to claim in any fashion that he "worked with" Republican leadership, of which I am a part, is a lie. Rep. Krautter ignored numerous attempts I offered to help him represent true conservative Republican ideals, the ideals of his constituents, choosing to vote in lockstep with Democrats nearly as often as any disingenuous "Republican".

Attempts are underway to show his high rating with groups like the Montana Chamber of Commerce, the Montana Contractor's Association. The Chamber and Con-

tractors based their ranking on bills that either increased taxes on working Montanans or added to our debt through unnecessary bonding. Since a good number of their "champion" legislators were Democrats, neither of these groups can claim to have the best interests of most small businesses, and working families, in Montana.

Joel Krautter ignored the requests of his caucus leadership, and the voters of Richland County, by helping Gov. Bullock pass "nearly everything he wanted" in the 2019 Session. He clearly does not represent Republicans or Republican ideals.

I urge residents of HD 35 to vote for Brandon Ler. Brandon is a native of Richland County, well known by his fellow residents and is a trustworthy, true conservative who will champion the interests of those he will represent in HD 35.

- Brad Tschida

Dear Editor,  
'Krautter is a Prolife Ally'

When considering support of a candidate, our first concern is whether or not that person is pro-life. Through talking with Representative Joel Krautter and reviewing his voting record, we have found him to be 100% pro-life. In addition, the Montana Family Foundation gave him a 100% score. If there were any concerns, he would not have received that score. Representative Krautter has also co-sponsored pro-life legislation in Helena.

It is deeply disturbing to read the lies being perpetrated about him supporting abortion, with even a billboard spreading those lies!

We are thankful for his vote that provided essential healthcare to people in need and also helped our rural hospitals to remain open. Contrary to what you may have read by those who are determined to take Representative Krautter down, this Medicaid reform bill does NOT include abortion coverage. We are grateful to have our local hospital – especially during this time of Covid-19.

Thank you for your service, Joel, and know that there are many of us who support you in your re-election. Keep fighting the fight. We are praying for you.

- Michael and June Backhaus, Sidney, MT



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# What the Governor's Order Means for Returning Travelers

By Stephanie Ler, RS, MPH, Richland County Health Department Public Information Officer

Governor Steve Bullock issued an order on March 30 requiring those travelling to Montana from another state or country to self-quarantine for 14 days. With the turn of the

seasons, this has implications for our local folks returning from their winter homes in the South.

The March 30 order applies to those who come to stay in Montana for any period of time for non-work related purposes, which includes those fondly referred to as "snowbirds",

to self-quarantine for 14 days upon their arrival. The intent of the order is to ensure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from one state to another by sheltering in place for the incubation period of the virus.

Self-quarantine means that you stay home and avoid contact with others that do not live with you; limit trips out in public, and monitor your health, watching for the development of a fever, cough or shortness of breath.

Those who are returning to Montana should prepare for quarantine before they arrive back in Montana by shopping for groceries and necessary supplies, like medication refills, prior to leaving. Travelers should also plan their route home to Montana to avoid contact with others as much as possible. This may mean staying in motels with outdoor access, and packing food and snacks rather than stopping to eat.

The intent of both the Governor's order and these public health recommendations are to protect those returning home to Montana, as well as those currently living in Montana. If you have questions about COVID-19, call the Richland County Health Department's Information Line at 406-433-6947.



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# ONEOK Announces Relief Fund

By The ND Community Foundation

ONEOK has partnered with the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) to create the ONEOK Hospitality Employee COVID-19 Relief Fund. ONEOK has contributed \$200,000 to start this fund managed by the NDCF to help hospitality workers with their immediate needs.

Employees who work

in the hospitality field as their primary job may apply at <https://www.ndcf.net/learn/oneok.html> for consideration. Funds will be dispersed as \$500 grants directly to qualified workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in Williston, Watford City, Killdeer, Keene, Belfield, Alexander, Dickinson, North Dakota; and Sidney, Montana. Applications will be reviewed weekly,

starting April 10, until the fund is exhausted.

**ND COVID-19 Community & Nonprofit Response Fund**

Because the COVID-19 virus will likely impact every corner of the state, individuals and businesses that wish to provide assistance to nonprofit organizations or others are encouraged to donate directly to their own local entities - e.g. senior

citizens center, soup kitchen, school system, hospital, etc. If these entities aren't able to accept donations, if the donor wishes to make a larger impact statewide, or if the donor prefers a tax receipt for his/her gift, donations may be made to the ND COVID-19 Community & Nonprofit Response Fund. The North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) established the ND

COVID-19 Community & Nonprofit Response Fund to assist nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic across the state. NDCF's Board of Directors has seeded the fund with \$50,000 of their Statewide Greatest Needs Fund 2020 grantable dollars. The grants from this fund are intended to support efforts to "flatten the curve" of COVID-19 infections in North Dakota by helping our communities follow public health recommendations and help address the financial impact of following those recommendations. Grants can also be used to assist organizations in delivering critical services in their communities or region, especially if their staffing levels or supplies have been reduced by COVID-19 impacts, or if they serve vulnerable pop-

ulations (like our senior citizens). Applicants may serve individuals, organizations, or communities, but individuals and businesses may not apply directly for grants.

A volunteer committee of North Dakota citizens will recommend the grant awards from the fund to assist in response and recovery efforts.

Individuals and businesses that would like to donate to the fund can donate online here, or mail your check made out to "North Dakota Community Foundation" with "COVID-19 Fund" in the memo line to:

North Dakota Community Foundation  
PO BOX 387  
Bismarck, ND 58502

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at 701-222-8349 or at [info@NDCF.net](mailto:info@NDCF.net).

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