

Leader-Record



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CONTINUING THE GONVICK RECORD AND CLEARBROOK LEADER
Serving the Communities of Clearbrook, Gonvick, Gully, Leonard and Trail



David and Sandy Knutson named Red River Valley Outstanding Leaders for 2020.



David Knutson and a grandson checking on cattle.

David and Sandy Knutson named Red River Valley Outstanding Leaders

By Darlene Sawyer
Farmers Independent
David and Sandy Knutson of rural Clearbrook have been named Clearwater County's Red River Valley Outstanding Leaders (formerly Valley Farmer and Homemaker) for 2020, according to Al Paulson of the Clearwater County Fair Board. The award is from the Red River Valley Development Association, of which Clearwater County is a member. The award will be presented to the Knutsons on March 28 at the University of Minnesota-Crookston.

David Knutson, 73, is a lifelong farmer from Leon Township near Clearbrook. He was the son of Carl and Mabel Knutson and has one sister, Karen Cook, in Waverly, Minn. David is a 1965 graduate of Clearbrook High School. He noted, "I did not participate in any extra-curricular activities in high school because I was needed to help with chores at home." However, by the age of 20, he did own a small herd of beef cattle which he had helped raise. He attended the Wahpeton School of Science where he studied plumbing, and then worked for six years for Northern Pipeline, followed by carpenter work around Clearbrook.

In 1980, David went to North Dakota where he bought a Simmental bull and to Canada where he bought a purebred heifer. His herd eventually "calved out" to over 100 cows. During this time, David started buying more pasture and hay land. He also constructed some cattle sheds and began cross-breeding Simmental cattle with Red Angus so he had a good Red Angus commercial herd. Then he met Sandy Larson....a friendly, pretty widowed neighbor.

After a brief courtship, David and Sandy were married in 1981. They built a new home on David's farm. The newlywed couple also shared fun in riding a Polaris snowmobile during the winter. During the summer they rode their Harley-Davidson motorcycle to the Black Hills in South Dakota and took several trips to various Wisconsin sites. Their farm grew to 500 acres on which they raised hay. Eventually, they retired in 2019 by selling over 60 cows to two grandsons, and their acres of land were sold to one neighbor and three grandsons. Both nodded their heads and smiled, "That was the best thing."

According to David, "The biggest changes in my farming career have been in animal genetics and the computerized farming equipment. As far as wild animal problems in Leon, they were non-existent."

The Knutsons are long-time members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Clearbrook.

David added, "I'm not a member of any boards. I've tried to avoid that! In retirement, I enjoy watching TV and visiting with our grandkids. I also enjoy the cattle shows at the Clearwater County Fair."

Sandra ("Sandy") Knutson was daughter of Harlan and Inga Nelson who farmed in Greenwood Township. Her one brother is deceased. She graduated in 1959 from Clearbrook High School and married Ray Larson in 1959. They had three children: John, Kim and Kay. Sandy and Ray raised both cattle and grain on a farm in Leon Township.

Ray passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack in 1978. Sandy and her son John farmed

together until 1981 when she married David Knutson. She sold the Larson farm to her son John and moved to the Knutson farm. At this time, she began a 15-year career at the Good Samaritan Home in Clearbrook as a general caregiver and as an assistant in rehabilitation.

She is also known for her great cooking. She said, "My favorite thing to cook and to eat is roast beef with the gravy and mashed potatoes. It is David's favorite meal, too, as well as our grandkids'. I also like to read a lot. I love detective stories. The only technology we have now is an I-Pad. We check it every day and keep track of our 12 grandkids and 10 great-grandkids. Our great-granddaughter McKenzie plays basketball and volleyball for the Clearbrook-Gonvick Bears."

The Knutsons don't travel much now; however, Sandy's favorite tourist place was Washington, D.C. "I loved the cherry blossoms and their odor as they were blooming....We saw all the statues and memorials, including President Kennedy's grave at Arlington and the changing of the guard at Arlington. Both David and I like old-time country music."

Sandy was treasurer for Leon Township for 34 years and retired last year. She was a member of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's WELCA, and an active parent in 4-H with the Leon Ramblers 4-H Club when her children were young. Her children liked to show cattle. She still enjoys seeing the 4-H exhibits.

They appreciate the recognition and thank the people who nominated them.

benefits are numerous," said Otter Tail Power Company Senior Commercial and Industrial Representative Roger Garton. "By converting to LEDs, the city of Gonvick will save on average approximately 40,000 kilowatt hours per year—the equivalent use of approximately three homes—and reduce CO2 emissions by nearly 35 tons."

Compared to other available lighting sources, LEDs are more energy-efficient using about 70

OtterTail

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Kitchen at Clearbrook-Gonvick Schools is Still Open

The coronavirus pandemic has caused schools to be closed across the state of Minnesota. But school kitchens are still open, providing meals to students who are staying home to learn. Just like students are learning in different ways from usual, their school meals are coming to them in a different way.

Robin Proffit and her food service staff at Clearbrook-Gonvick Schools are working hard to provide breakfast and lunches for their students. They know many of these children rely on school meals, not just to keep them focused for a regular school day, but also to stay strong and healthy.

Robin and her staff are providing free breakfast and lunches to students ages 0 to 18 in our district who are in need. Since the kids can't come to school, the meals are brought to the kids. Meals are delivered twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. Five buses from Stein's Bus Service are being used to transport the food to the students between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Besides her regular staff, Robin has some reinforcements-



Danielle Derby and Robin Proffit doing the work at the Clearbrook-Gonvick school getting meals ready for delivery. Photo by School staff folks.

paraprofessionals whose students are now required to stay home. Together, the Clearbrook-Gonvick food service is preparing 300 meals for each distribution day.

If families have students who need to be signed up to receive meals, they should contact Robin Proffit. She can be reached at 218-776-3112 ext. 320 or by email at robinp@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us.

Commissioners meet via teleconference to approve Covid-19 Emergency Executive Committee recommendations

By Karen Edelbach
When the Clearwater County Board of Commissioners met on March 31st, it was with significant differences from previous meetings due to the Corona Virus concerns in the County. Board Chairman Neal Illies and Commissioner Mark Titera were present in the Board room, along with County Auditor-Treasurer Allen Paulson. The remaining three commissioners, John Nelson, Dean Newland and Mark Larson were present using a conference call system, each announcing their name and presence at the meeting.

Covid-19 updates dated March 23, 25, and 26, 2020 from the Emergency Executive Committee were distributed showing motions passed by the committee.

The Committee recommended adding Sheriff Darin Halverson as a voting member of the committee, to which all Commissioners were in favor. A motion was made and approved to do so.

Summary of the Updates:
Incident Command: The Sheriff is the commander and public information officer. Sheriff Darin Halverson has a radio spot scheduled. Nursing Director Marissa Hetlund has a chart of a plan for a pandemic.

The Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement offices are asking the Governor to give a 48-72 hour notice if he orders Shelter in Place in Minnesota.

Screening and Quarantine Procedures: If anyone is sick, they should stay home until fever free for 24 hours. At this time, the period for which employees must quarantine if they have been in an area that is infected is 14 days, which may change.

Staff and anyone who needs to enter the county buildings are required to fill out and sign a screening questionnaire before entering. This form is on the intranet site. Employees may use sick leave if required to quarantine. Maintenance will do regular disinfecting in the entrance area of the courthouse.

Positive Test Steps: Ma-

riッサ has a list of steps that would need to be taken if someone tests positive in Clearwater County. These steps would include reporting to Department of Health and tracing where and whom the person has been around.

Supplies: Nursing Services purchased 60 masks from Community Oil. Digikey is shipping medical supplies and putting other business on hold. Requests are being made to B & M and Team Industries for any extra masks since they are both closed now.

Marissa said that people may be using masks unnecessarily and would like to see them saved for Hospital staff and people who need to enter into people's homes. Hand sanitizers, gowns, alcohol wipes and probes for thermometers are on order, but it is not known how long it will take to get them.

Marissa is planning to apply for a grant for health agencies to help with these costs.

Essential Employees: Al Paulson said all County employees are considered essential. A motion was made and passed stating that all County employees are considered essential.

Department Heads have the authority to temporarily adjust their staff levels to ensure continuity of operations.

VPN Access/Working Remotely: Virtual Private Network (VPN) access and working remotely was discussed with IT Director Stuart Lien. Nine extra laptops are updated and ready to use. Department Heads will decide who can work from home and give clear direction how to go about this. His department will make sure everything is secure with accessing the network remotely. Normal working hours will be available to help people who are working remotely.

Policy Manual: A policy manual to address Covid-19 issues and post them on the intranet site. At the beginning of the policy it states, "This is a fluid situation and subject to change."

Family First Response

Act: Al Paulson informed the Committee that effective April 2, 2020, the Federal Government passed that employees taking time off for Covid-19 will get 80 hours of sick leave given to them for this purpose. Private businesses will be reimbursed, the Counties will not.

He stated that employees will have to use their own sick leave or vacation for this order. The 80 hours under the Family First Response Act is only for employees required to quarantine.

Probation Procedures: Sara Ubel discussed these. Enhanced probationers will be permitted to see their probation agent at this time, and will go through a screening process before meeting with their agent.

Court Procedures: Vern Wittenburg, Al Rogalla and Candace Coulter discussed court procedures. They will be similar to probation procedures including screening at the door and escorting up to the courtroom.

Union Negotiations for March 27 were cancelled.

Board Chair called for a motion to accept the committee minutes and all motions the committee had made as if the Board had made them. A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Titera and seconded by Commissioner Dean Newland to that effect, and was passed unanimously by the commissioners.

Highway Department: Dan Sauvé said his department is between seasons right now. There is work to do but wants to keep all of the operators from being at work at the same time. It was suggested that half of the workers take a week off, then the other half take the next week off so they will not all be at work at the same time.

Assessor Jamie Freeman said boards are coming up and that most counties are setting up virtual boards. IT Department will use conference calling for it.

In the future, County Board meetings may be done with all present via the conference call system, and having a roll call at the beginning.

Attention Clearwater County Veterans:

Lindsey Lamwers
Clearwater County
Veteran Service Officer
Phone: 218-694-6618
E-mail: lindsey.lamwers@co.clearwater.mn.us

Governor Walz signed Executive Order 20-01: Declaring a Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota's Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19. Within this bill 6.2 million dollars were allocated to provide assistance to Veterans and their families that are adversely affected by the closures.

Applicants for funds must apply and show a financial loss on or after March 13, 2020 due to the

closures. There are two different grants to consider:

1)\$1,000 Disaster Relief Grant
2)\$3,000 COVID-19 Special Needs Grant

Eligibility:
1)A Veteran as defined by MN Statute 197.447, or the surviving spouse (who has not remarried) of a deceased veteran and

2)A Minnesota Resident, and
3)Have been negatively financially impacted by COVID-19

Applications will be accepted starting 04/06/2020

How to Apply:

\$1,000 Disaster Relief Grant:
1)Download the application via MDVA's website at https://

MinnesotaVeteran.org/CovidRelief

2)Self-Submit to the MN GI Bill portal via https://gibill.mn.gov

3)You may also apply by contacting your CVSO- contact information for Minnesota is: https://www.macvso.org/find-a-cvso.html \$3,000 COVID-19 Special Needs Grant:

Assistance Can Be Requested For: Rent/Mortgage/Contract for Deed, Security Deposits, Property Taxes, Home Repairs (related to habitability), Utility Bills, Medi-

Veterans..

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Otter Tail Power Company begins switch to energy-efficient LED street and area lights in Gonvick

Otter Tail Power Company is upgrading all company-owned street and area light fixtures in the community of Gonvick, Minnesota, to light-emitting diode (LED) technology. The company's LED tariff and replacement plan, which the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved on November 30, 2017, closed out all tariffs for high pressure sodium, metal halide, and mercury vapor lighting effective March 1, 2018, and likely will reduce customer costs.

Gonvick is one of several cities in Minnesota planned for a 2020

conversion. "We're converting our outdoor lighting systems to LED technology to enhance the quality of outdoor lighting service we provide in the communities we serve," said Otter Tail Power Company Market Planning Manager Jason Grenier. "LEDs are more energy-efficient, require less maintenance, and improve light quality and safety."

Benefits of upgrading street and area lighting are numerous

"Otter Tail Power Company carefully researched and evaluated the feasibility of adopting LED lighting systems and the

Community Calendar

Elim Mission Friends Meeting

The Elim Mission Friends meeting for Thursday, April 9th is CANCELLED.

The Clearwater Trails Snowmobile Club will not meet!

The Clearwater Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club will not be meeting due to all the things going on right now, we will meet on May 12th at 7:30pm at the clubhouse in Leonard. The trails are closed as of April 1st, 2020. We have postponed our Landowners Dinner that we had setup at the last meeting. No newsletter will be going out in April, one will be sent before the May meeting, if anyone has anything that they would like in the newsletter please let the secretary know by May 1st, 2020.

Northern State Bank lobby closed

The Northern State Bank lobby will be closed starting on Monday, March 30. They will have the drive thru only from 8:30 am to 4:00 p.m.

Northern Bait

Northern Bait & Convenience in Gonvick will be closing Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 pm. Starting March 27th. Have been until 10 pm.

Gully Cafe

The Gully Cafe is closed as of Friday, March 27 and will be closed until they will be able to open again following the coronavirus situation.

The Trap Bar and Grill

Serving our full grill menu with new hours.

1-9 Monday-Saturday
12-6 on Sunday.

Take out only
Off Sale liquor and Take Out Menu available.
Downtown Gonvick

218-487-5224

Clearbrook-Leonard Senior Meals

Wed., April 8 - Birthday Meal Pub Fish, Potato, Green Beans, Corn Muffin, Dessert and Milk.

Thurs., April 9- Easter Ham Dinner.

Fri., April 10 - Biscuits & Gravy, Peas & Pearl Onions, Apple Sauce and Milk.

Mon. April 13- Tatertot Casserole, Green Beans, peach Halves, Bread and Milk.

Tues., April 14 - Chicken, Brown Rice, Oriental Veg., Pear Halves, Bread and Milk.

Wed., April 15 - Roast Turkey, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli Florets, Cookie, Bread and Milk.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 18th Birthday Savanna
From all your family. RSC

NOTICE

Clearwater County Demolition Landfill

The Landfill will remain closed in accordance with Emergency Executive Order 20-20 (Stay at Home) to reduce person-to-person contact to slow the spread of COVID-19 infection in our residents and County employees. Please respect this emergency action and hold your items for disposal at home until we can re-open. We apologize for the inconvenience this will cause. RSTFC

OtterTail... Continued from front page

percent less energy than high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting.

•LEDs have a longer life—lasting four to five times longer than HIDs—resulting in increased reliability and reduced maintenance costs.

•Today's LEDs operate at a much higher color rendering index than HIDs, enabling drivers and pedestrians to observe nighttime conditions more safely due to improved light quality.

•LEDs provide increased illumination, more uniform and even lighting distribution on roadways and surfaces, meet most municipal Dark Sky regulations, and send much less light pollution spilling into the night sky.

LED streetlights impact both business and residential areas.

Otter Tail Power Company has allocated approximately \$30,450 for this capital project and will upgrade approximately 65 streetlights serving the city of Gonvick and 20 area lights illuminating privately owned properties. LED street lighting

technology has a more efficient lighting pattern that reduces glare and focuses the light directly downward on the area to be lit. "Because LEDs produce higher quality illumination, objects appear more visible to the human eye," said Garton. "LEDs aren't necessarily brighter, but their color rendition is greater. The color rendition of LEDs is closer to that of natural daylight, making you see better in nighttime conditions."

New LEDs could lead to customer savings

In most cases, Otter Tail Power Company anticipates customers with street or area lighting accounts will see a slight decrease in costs. Depending on the type of fixture used for lighting service, customers may see a change in their monthly bills. The company's most commonly used fixture—the 100-watt high-pressure sodium fixture, or HPS—will see no price change. Overall, Otter Tail Power Company expects no net change in

Minnesota weather awareness week

April 13 – 17, 2020

The week of April 13-17, 2020 is designated Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week. Severe Weather Awareness Week is a public education campaign promoted by the National Weather Service, Minnesota Department of Public Safety and local Emergency Management Agencies. Each day of the week features a different weather hazard, and two statewide tornado drills will be conducted on Thursday, April 16th.

Weather Alerts and Warnings are Monday's topic. Several different types of watches and warnings may be issued for an area. Remember that watches mean that conditions are favorable

for the development of severe weather or tornadoes, and warnings mean that severe weather or tornadoes are occurring, likely to occur, or are imminent. Advisories and special weather statements may come from the National Weather Service for storms that will impact an area but don't quite meet warning criteria. Thunderstorms are considered severe when they have one-inch hail or winds higher than 58mph.

Severe weather, including hail and lightning are covered on Tuesday. Hail develops during thunderstorms when a strong updraft is featured, especially in super cell thunderstorms. Hail causes nearly a billion dollars in

Red Lake Reservation restricts access

Due to the ongoing preventative planning measures regarding COVID-19, Medical Martial Law went into effect last Friday, April 3rd, at 5pm on the Red

Veterans.. Continued from Page 1

cal Bills, Furnace/AC Unit, Auto Repairs, Auto Insurance, Auto Loan Payments, Major Appliances

Note that this is different from the normal State Soldier Assistance Program Special Needs Grant which is still available for those that do not meet the qualifications for needs based after March 13, 2020.

For this grant you MUST contact your local CVSO to submit the application.

First Call

April is National Alcohol Awareness Month. Are you dealing with Drug/Alcohol Issues? Are you or someone you know looking for AA support groups/meeting? Are you needing to talk to a sponsor for AA? First Call for Help 211 has resources available to help find answers to these questions and many more! Call us at (218) 326-8565 or in Clearwater County dial (800) 442-8565 or 2-1-1.

revenue collected from street and area lighting customers.

"We're excited to partner with Otter Tail Power Company on this lighting upgrade," said Gonvick City Clerk Stacy Halvorson. "LED streetlights will help control costs and increase energy savings, improve safety and reliability, and enhance aesthetics and environmental performance for our community."

"The installation of LED streetlights in Gonvick is another way Otter Tail Power Company is investing in technology that improves customer service and our environmental performance," said Grenier. "This new technology is a proven long-lasting and energy-efficient lighting solution and it's the right time for our company to implement this change in partnership with the community of Gonvick."

For more information visit otpc.com/LEDStreetLighting, contact your local city administration, or contact the Otter Tail Power Company Idea Center at 800-493-3299.

Lake Reservation. This law restricts access to the Reservation.

Red Lake Nation Tribal members, community members and other individuals may enter the Red Lake Indian Reservation for the following circumstances:

To shop for necessities during the hours of non-curfew, care for elders and vulnerable persons or others requiring assistance, attend medical appointments and go to and from employment, only if determined to be an essential employee.

Semi-trucks will be allowed to deliver food to grocery stores on the Red Lake Nation or passing through to deliver food to another destination.

Other Law Enforcement agency vehicles passing through to get to another jurisdiction of the Red Lake Indian Reserva-

Building is Closed

Please DO NOT go into the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Clearbrook. In an effort to prevent the spread of the Covid19 virus, we need to limit the people entering the church building to Pastor Bob and Trudi only. We know this is a tough time, but need to ask that everyone refrain from entering.

Church News

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Clearbrook

Pastor Verlyn Strenge
Due to the concern over COVID-19, all church services and events have been canceled until further notice. A new Facebook page "First Baptist Church of Clearbrook" has been set up. Information will be posted and Pastor will live stream messages.

SAMHOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH - NALC

Church Service will not be held in the church.

Schedule is subject to change as new information is released about the coronavirus.

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Kris Snyder
8 miles North of Gonvick on County Rd 7
Lenten & church services canceled until further notice.

Ad deadline:
Noon Friday

Clear Waters Life Center Happenings...

We exist to offer hope to families and individuals. Our Facebook posts offer encouragement and greenhouse updates. Our website: www.clearwaterslife.org will allow you to explore ALL of CWLC.

We are able to continue to offer the following services to our communities:

Transportation Service for Clearwater County residents, 60 & over, who do NOT have MA: Call Karen 24 hours in advance at 218-776-2223 or 218-637-0509 to schedule your ride.

Delivery: If you need someone to pick up and deliver your groceries, we would love to serve you. Call the CWLC Clearbrook office at 776-2789 and leave a message with your name and call back number. We are available weekdays.

Mental Health Counseling services are still available on Thursdays. Call 218-776-2789 to schedule an appointment.

Adult Education is being offered virtually, and there is no better time to get started on your GED than when you are stuck at home. If you need help with your kids' school, I can offer you a refresher. E-mail Sherry at shjelle@nwservice.org

Grow It! Greenhouse & Garden Center: The plants are happy and growing. The virus isn't affecting them! They will be ready to go home with you as soon as the weather is warm enough, and we can open our doors.

Celebrate Recovery Support Group: If you need to talk to someone, please call 218-776-2789. Leave a message, and someone will call you back.

www.clearwaterslife.org, www.adulthoodservicesgonvick.org, www.mustardseedhomes.org and "like" us on Facebook pages.

Office Hours: Clearbrook, 256 2nd Ave., SW., office hours: 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Tues.-Thurs.

www.clearwaterslife.org, www.adulthoodservicesgonvick.org, or www.mustardseedhomes.org and "like" us on Facebook pages.

As a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, CWLC is able to provide a variety of free or low cost services to our area thanks to generous financial donors just like you. Be a part of making a difference, join our team. All donations to CWLC re tax-deductible.

This is sponsored by:



tion.

Funerals and wakes. Going home, taking Red Lake members or community members home.

Semi-trucks can pass through, unscheduled stops can lead to penalties.

Individuals may NOT enter the Red Lake Reservation to visit or pass through.

The Leader- Record and Richards Publishing

The Leader- Record and Richards Publishing in Gonvick will be shortening their hours during this coronavirus situation.

We ask that if at all possible send us what you need in the newspapers and for printing for your business by email or by telephone. We would much appreciate that.

There will be a rack outside of the office in Gonvick for you to pick up a newspaper after they are printed each week. There is also a red box for one to put in notices that you need to go in the paper as well.

Our email address is richards@gvtel.com and to call us at 218-487-5225.

Church News

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CLEARBROOK & OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH LEONARD
Pastor Robert Kirchman
Good Shepherd Our Savior's

Church Service will not be held in the church, but will be available on line on Facebook - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ELCA Clearbrook, MN and on Online service Log into GsLcClearbrook.com. And go to the blog - you can join the email list to get updates on everything.

ELIM LUTHERAN BRETHREN CHURCH Clearbrook
Pastor Adam Krog

All Public worship services at Elim Lutheran Brethren Church will be cancelled until further notice.

Pastor Adam Krog will continue to prepare and preach the Word during this season. It will be available on the internet at Soundcloud.com and search Adam Krog. Also you can listen on our weekly radio broadcast at 8:30am on Sunday mornings on 96.7FM.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Pastor Adam at 218-776-3750 or 218-556-5760.

Let us all join together in pray for each other and for our nation. May the God of all grace and peace be with you all.

CLEARWATER LUTHERAN PARISH
Mt. Olive - Nazareth Oak Park - St. Petri
Pastor Jeff Merseth

All churches in the Clearwater Parish (Mt. Olive, Nazareth, St. Petri and Oak Park) are closed the rest of March.

NEW JOURNEY CHURCH
Josiah Hoagland, Pastor
Tyler Stynberg, Youth Pastor

www.newjourneyfosston.com
A lot has changed in a week! With face to face gatherings now being limited to 10 people it drastically changes the way we will operate as a church family moving forward.

We will be doing church remotely for the foreseeable future. I have created a blog where I will post sermons via YouTube, along with prayer requests, announcements, articles, etc. Here is a link to our blog, where for now, you will find a welcome post and a link to an article. <https://newjourneyfosstonblog.blogspot.com/>

GULLY-TRAIL PARISH
Bethany * Lund
Sand Valley
Dawn Hanson,
Lay Minister
No Services or Confirmation classes until further notice.

BETHEL ASSEMBLY
Fosston
Seth Johnson,
Interim Pastor

We are moving online! Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services will be available via live video on Facebook only, until further notice. We will also have a radio program at 8:00am each Sunday morning on 96.7 FM.

The Leader Record

Published by Richards Publishing Co. Subscription rates \$30.00 per year in Clearwater County and East Polk County cities of Fosston, Gully and Trail and \$40.00 per year outside the county. Continuing by consolidation the Olberg Journal, established in 1901, The Clearbrook Leader, and the Gonvick Record.

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Today In Banking

Some "Straight Talk" On Banking Today ... That Can Make Banking Better For You...

Easter: A Celebration Of The Risen Christ

But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

~ Matthew 28:5-6

At Easter, we remember Christ's death on the cross at Calvary and celebrate his miraculous resurrection and victory over death.

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Thoughts from the Sheriff

Clearwater County Sheriff Darin Halverson

This month there seems like no other topic to write about but the coronavirus or COVID-19. I want to take this time to inform everyone of what changes we have implemented at the Clearwater County Sheriff's Office, what we have been doing to prepare and what you should be doing to help slow the spread of this virus.



There have been many executive orders issued by the Governor and some have been confused as to what they can and cannot do. I hope this article will answer some of those questions and enlighten you as to what changes to expect if you call or come to the Sheriff's Office. There is a lot of information to share so bear with me.

I have been on numerous conference calls with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the Minnesota Sheriff's Association and the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association in addition to locally with the Emergency Executive Committee established by the Clearwater County Board of Commissioners and neighboring counties and tribal governments. Our Emergency Management Director and Clearwater County Public Health have been in constant contact as well. All of this is to keep up to date with what is happening in the state as well as locally. Plans are developed from the information shared and

precautionary measures are implemented based off that information. Safety for everyone is paramount. Currently, we are in the midst of the "Stay at Home" order that went into effect on March 27th and is in effect until April 10th. There is a chance that this order will be extended, depending on how the spread of the virus is going. Many people are confused as to exactly what this order means. The confusion is easily shared as the order has many exceptions and without having a copy of the order with you to reference makes it almost impossible to know all of the rules. On top of that, there is a lot of misinformation and rumors going around that make it difficult for people to know what they are supposed to do. What we do need to remember is that this order is in place to help slow the spread of this virus.

The major question people seem to have is if they can leave their house to go get groceries? The answer is yes, you can leave your house to get any essential item, such as groceries, prescription medication, or any other item that is necessary for you to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of your home. This is a broad range of items that will fall into this category. You can also travel for doctor appointments or drive for pleasure. The order encourages you to enjoy outdoor activities such as walking, running, biking or hunting and fishing. Not going out of your house for days can wear on a person's mental and physical health and that is why you are allowed to drive or be in the outdoors. There is also no curfew in place that prevents you from being out of your house during certain hours. Keeping all that in mind, please follow the social distancing guidelines and refrain from gathering in groups to do these activities unless you can maintain the six-foot distance rule and use common sense. If you don't need to be out in public,

stay home. Another question that I keep getting is in regards to driver's license and vehicle registration renewal. If your driver's license is set to expire, there has been an order issued that will allow you to continue driving under your current license and it will give you two months after this state of emergency expires to get your license renewed. So hypothetically, if the state of emergency was over on July 31st, you would have until September 30th to get your license renewed. You will not be required to do anything different at that time to renew. As far as vehicle registration tabs, there is no extension for that. You can either mail in your renewal or go online at www.dvs.dps.mn.gov. In an effort to keep our staff safe as well as the public, we have implemented some changes to the normal operation of our office. First, we are no longer doing civil fingerprinting for employment or other needs. We are still accepting gun permits to purchase and carry, but I ask that if it is not an emergency, please hold off until business resumes as normal. Many counties have put a temporary suspension to accepting these permits and I do not want to do that. If you call our dispatch center requesting ambulance or other EMS, you will be asked some screening questions to determine if you may have or been exposed to the COVID-19 virus so responding units know to take extra precautions. Please do not get frustrated when being asked these questions as we are attempting to keep our first responders safe. In our jail, we have put a temporary ban on work release, sentence to serve, visitations and programming in the jail in an effort to avoid people coming and going from our facility and potentially introducing the virus into our jail. We understand that this is an inconvenience, but we must take every precaution we can

at this time. Throughout this pandemic, it has been amazing to see all the people risking their own safety by simply doing their jobs. Whether it is someone working in a grocery store, gas station, a delivery driver, doctors, nurses or other first responders, it is heartwarming to see the dedication and sacrifice that that these people are demonstrating. We have never experienced something like this and hopefully never will again, but knowing that we have such great people in our communities willing to step up is something to be proud of. My deepest gratitude goes out to everyone who is working during this pandemic and I say thank you. Please do your part to keep the COVID-19 virus at a minimum. Follow the "Stay at Home" executive order and limit your shopping to essential items only. Do not take your entire family shopping with you, but only send one person if possible. Those who have no choice but to be out in public because of their jobs appreciate your willingness to do your part to keep them safe. Some people feel invincible and want to disregard all the safety precautions and want to continue on with life as normal. We are not in a "normal" world right now and the carelessness of a few could cause a catastrophe for many others. This is not the time to panic, but to use common sense and follow the recommendations from local, state and federal governments. We must show resolve and we will get through this by working together. If you have questions that you would like answered or any suggestions, please email me at darin.halverson@co.clearwater.mn.us or call the Sheriff's Office at 218-694-6226. You can also find us on Facebook by searching for Clearwater County Sheriff's Office. Thank you and as always, I am honored to serve as your Clearwater County Sheriff.



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Clearbrook-Gonvick bus drivers from Stein's Bus Service getting ready to make the deliveries. The food is put on several tables outside, boxed and labeled, to help the staff get the right meals on the right bus. Photos by Clearbrook-Gonvick School staff.



We're all in this together.

These are unsettling times.

Like you, we're thankful for the professionals who work to keep communities safe and healthy during this COVID-19 crisis.

Our people live and work in communities like yours. We've taken steps to keep our employees healthy and safe—including alternative work arrangements to support social distancing.

Through these uncertain times, we know it's important we continue to deliver the affordable and reliable energy we all need to fuel our lives—with safety remaining our first priority.

Stay healthy. Stay safe. We're all in this together.



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