



26
 Active cases in Otter Tail County as of Friday.

4,236,212
 Number of COVID-19 cases in the United States according to the CDC as of 4 p.m. Friday.

15,896,518
 Number of COVID-19 cases in the world according to the WHO as of Friday.

49,488
 Number of COVID-19 cases in Minnesota.

1,566
 Number of COVID-19 deaths in Minnesota.

4,852
 Number of cases that required hospitalization.

278
 Number of cases that are hospitalized as of Friday.

108
 Number of cases hospitalized in ICU as of Friday.

42,882
 Number of patients that no longer need isolation.

For health questions, contact the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Otter Tail County Public Health has a dedicated phone line, 218-998-8320, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, for COVID-19 related questions.

* Numbers based on Friday's counts.

OBITUARIES

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BRIAN HANSEL | DAILY JOURNAL

MASK: Fergus Falls resident Brian Olson wears a mask Thursday. A statewide mask mandate began Saturday at midnight.

A COVERED FUTURE

Local citizens ready to follow governor's lead

By Daily Journal Staff

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz wants everyone in the Gopher State to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

On Wednesday, Walz signed Executive Order 20-81 requiring people to wear a face-covering in indoor businesses and indoor public settings beginning on Saturday.

The order puts Minnesota in company with 30 other states across the country, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.

There were only 18 active cases of the coronavirus in Otter Tail County on Thursday out of the 47,457 known cases in the state.

Walz has announced some exceptions to the order. Individuals with a medical condition, a mental health condition or a disability that makes it unreasonable to maintain a face covering are exempt from the

rule. Children who are 5 years of age and younger are also exempt.

The goal of the executive order is voluntary compliance. Any individual who willfully violates the order will be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and upon conviction can be punished with a fine not to exceed \$100. Businesses willfully violating the order are guilty of a misdemeanor and can be hit with a 90-day jail sentence or a fine not to exceed \$1,000.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) the number of COVID-19 cases worldwide on Tuesday was 15,013,275.

Locally, several people have voiced their opinion on the matter. While there are multiple people on both sides of the mandate, a few community members spoke to Daily Journal reporters about their thoughts on the mandate.

Ben Schierer, mayor of Fergus Falls

"I have always advocated for local control over decisions that take into account local conditions. This being said, I understand that human beings make decisions they feel are best based on the information they have. I believe that these decisions are based upon a desire to keep our

economy open and get our children back in the classroom as soon as possible. We certainly do not all agree with every decision made, but let's do our part to support these decisions to keep our businesses open and put our school district in a position to return our kids to the classroom this fall."

John Waid, Fergus Falls

"If everybody has to wear a mask I don't think I'm better than anyone else. I'll wear a mask."

Elaine Iversen, Fergus Falls

"I have medical problems. I have trouble breathing so it's touch and go but if I have to, I will."

Jo McQuisten Moe, owner Mabel Murphy's

"As a private citizen, I don't agree with all decisions made at the Capitol, but wearing a mask is not a big inconvenience. As a restaurant owner, the only difference I can see is that guests will be required to enter and exit wearing a mask, and whenever they are not able to be properly distanced. It will be

SEE MASKS A8

County requests input for MHMP

By Shannon Terry
 For the Journal

Recently, Otter Tail County suffered extensive property damage and loss of life as a result of four tornadoes in a single day. As the county recovers from this disaster, it seeks to identify ways it can continue to prepare for future tornadoes and other natural disasters.

The Otter Tail County Office of Emergency Management is working with U-Spatial at the University of Minnesota Duluth to update the county's multihazard mitigation plan (MHMP). The plan assesses the natural hazards that pose risk to the county, such as tornadoes, straight-line winds, ice storms, blizzards, wildfire, flooding, and extreme temperatures and identifies ways to minimize the damage of future events. As the county works to update the plan, it wants to hear from the public.

The Otter Tail County MHMP is a multijurisdictional plan that covers Otter Tail County, including the cities of Battle Lake, Bluffton, Clitherall, Dalton, Deer Creek, Dent, Elizabeth, Erhard, Fergus Falls, Henning, New York Mills, Ottertail, Parkers Prairie, Pelican Rapids, Perham, Richville, Underwood, Urbank, Vergas and Vining. The plan additionally covers the portions of the cities of Rothsay and Wadena that are located within Otter Tail County. The Otter Tail County MHMP also incorporates concerns and needs of townships, school districts and other stakeholders participating in the plan. The plan will be updated by

SEE INPUT A2

Young artists look to support each other

By Johanna Armstrong
 The Daily Journal

Artists are among one of the most impacted groups of people during the COVID-19 pandemic as concerts and theater performances are canceled, museums and galleries closed and residencies are postponed or canceled. While many artist aid funds have popped up locally and nationally, including the Springboard for the Arts Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund, University of Minnesota Morris senior Evan Aanerud saw a gap where some artists weren't getting access to the financial, professional and emo-

tional help they needed.

"One thing that I saw when I was applying to relief funds was that a lot of them were really inaccessible for young people," Aanerud, who grew up in Fergus Falls, said. "They had requirements like you had to be in a union, or you had to have 5-10 years of professional work experience, or you had to make a certain percentage of income from your art, and those are all things that young people don't really have."

Aanerud took it upon himself to fill that gap, contacting friends he'd worked with

SEE ARTIST A7



SUBMITTED

HELPING ARTISTS: Evan Aanerud is a senior at University of Minnesota Morris and came up with the idea to start the Emerging Artist Initiative to help young artists facing difficulty during the COVID-19 pandemic.



1. News: China closes U.S. consulate in Chengdu in response to closing of Chinese consulate in Houston.

China has ordered the closure of the United States consulate in Chengdu, which is a direct response to the imminent closure of the Chinese consulate in Houston, Texas. A spokesman from the Chinese foreign ministry put all the blame on the U.S., and accused staff at the Chengdu location of "interfering in China's internal af-

fairs and harming China's national security interests."

2. News: ISIS exploits gaps in security due to pandemic.

ISIS appears to be exploiting security gaps in Iraq caused by the pandemic in order to launch more attacks in the country and its neighbor, Syria. A new report submitted to the U.N. Security Council says the group is consolidating in Iraq and Syria, which used to make up its core

region.

3. History: World's first "test tube" baby born.

In 1978, Louise Joy Brown, the world's first baby to be conceived via in vitro fertilization (IVF) is born at Oldham and District General Hospital in Manchester, England, to parents Lesley and Peter Brown. The healthy baby was delivered shortly before midnight by caesarean section and weighed in at 5 pounds, 12 ounces.



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