



Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald

Wall's Pharmacy on South Washington Street in Grand Forks is accommodating its drive-thru customers.

## Retail reacts: Wall's takes to car-hopping

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** During the coronavirus outbreak, the Herald is profiling efforts being made by local businesses to aid customers and to stay viable during this historic disruption to commerce.

By Adam Kurtz  
Grand Forks Herald

Unusual times call for unusual measures, and Wall's Medicine Center, 708 S. Washington St., has started car-hopping to meet customers' needs.

The pharmacy is open and busy, according to pharmaceutical tech Ashley Brickzin, with most business happening through the drive-thru window. In order to help reduce the spread of coronavirus, the lobby is closed.

"The foot traffic was getting to be a lot, with people milling around in here. That was not benefiting our social distancing at all," Brickzin said.

When the drive-thru line gets long, staff are prepared to run out to customers' cars.

"This is new; we're just trying to figure this out," Brickzin said. "We'll just go to the end of the (drive-thru) line, pull them aside and say you can pull over here. We'll give them a number, come in, process the stuff and bring it back out to them."

The pharmacy is well-supplied, said

Brickzin, though for a moment there were concerns that a much-needed medicine would not be available. Those concerns have been resolved.

"We were not able to get Lantus - insulin - that was something that was not available, and that was pretty scary for a minute," said Brickzin. "But we're able to get it in now, so that's good."

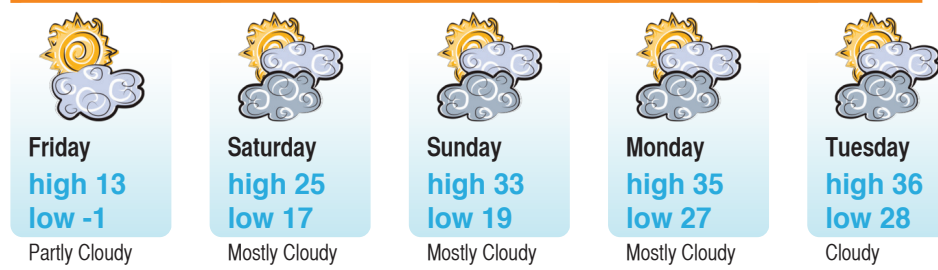
Brickzin said the pharmacy is busy with people filling prescriptions in preparations for having to stay home. Other retail items, such as over-the-counter medicine, soaps and bandages are available as well, either through the drive-thru or by staff coming to a customer's car.

"We're doing our absolute best. Our customers are our No. 1 priority, and we're really trying to take care of them," Brickzin said. "That's why we're all here and working together and just trying to get them what they need."

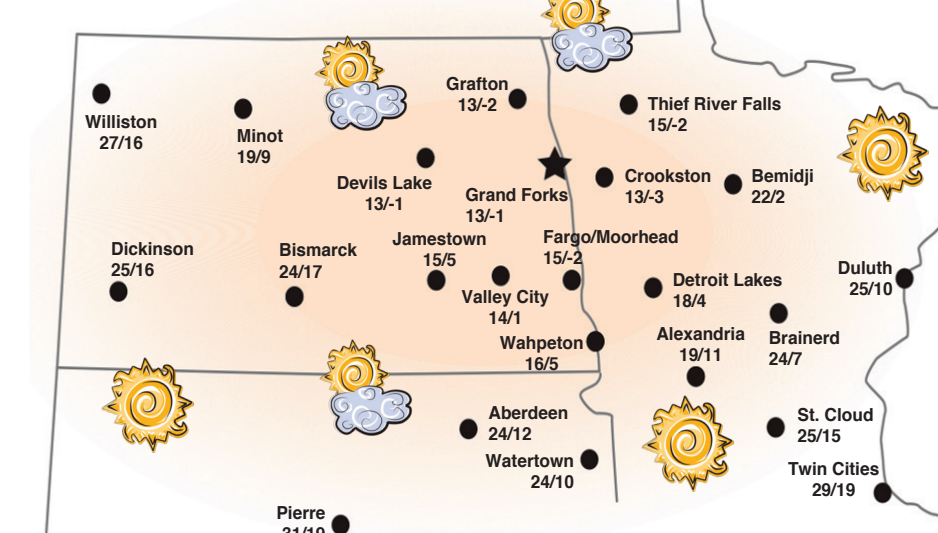
If you would like to be considered for "Retail Reacts," send a brief note that outlines your business' efforts to Adam Kurtz at [akurtz@gfherald.com](mailto:akurtz@gfherald.com). Not all requests will result in stories. The Herald will choose among a wide swath of Greater Grand Forks businesses.

## today

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 13°, humidity of 65%. North wind 5 to 15 mph. The high temperature on this day last year was 36°. The record high temperature for today is 60° set in 1946.



### Today's regional forecast map

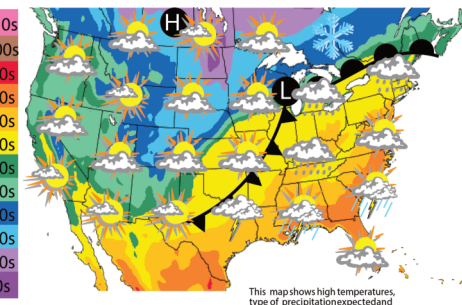


### 24-hour wind forecast (speed in mph)



## national

Today	Hi/Lo/Wea
Albuquerque	59/38/pc
Anchorage	35/26/pc
Atlanta	78/60/sh
Austin	65/49/sh
Billings	38/25/mc
Boise	57/36/pc
Boston	66/43/sh
Brownsville	87/69/mc
Charlotte	82/63/mc
Cheyenne	29/20/ss
Chicago	49/27/mc
Cincinnati	68/32/sh
Cleveland	64/29/sh
Dallas	63/43/sh
Denver	36/22/sn
Des Moines	34/26/pc
Fairbanks	39/21/sn
Honolulu	81/67/sh
Indianapolis	65/29/sh
Kansas City	40/27/pc
Las Vegas	59/48/sh
Los Angeles	63/50/sh
Memphis	73/42/sh
Miami	79/75/pc
Milwaukee	37/21/mc
Nashville	75/44/sh
New Orleans	81/67/mc
New York	70/49/sh
Orlando	86/69/pc
Philadelphia	77/50/sh
Phoenix	68/53/mc
Portland, OR	66/40/pc
Raleigh	83/65/pc
Reno	48/29/s
St. Louis	59/29/sh
Salt Lake City	51/38/s
San Francisco	63/49/pc
Seattle	58/42/pc
Tampa	87/68/s
Tucson	69/46/pc
Washington	79/53/sh



Forecast map valid for today. Legend: Cold Front, Stationary Front, Warm Front, Low Pressure, High Pressure.

## world

Today	Hi/Lo/Wea
Amsterdam	47/42/cl
Athens	62/46/s
Baghdad	76/57/pc
Beijing	74/44/pc
Berlin	50/43/cl
Bermuda	66/65/pc
Cairo	57/48/pc
Dublin	45/29/s
Frankfurt	63/51/ra
Geneva	58/44/pc
Helsinki	37/30/s
Hong Kong	77/68/cl
Istanbul	53/41/pc
Jerusalem	54/48/ra
Kabul	52/41/ra
London	49/41/cl
Madrid	59/48/mc
Mexico City	82/66/ra
Moscow	41/32/sn
Oslo	37/27/s
Paris	60/51/mc
Reykjavik	38/35/sn
Rome	67/46/s
Seoul	55/37/s
Stockholm	37/31/sn
Sydney	96/65/s
Vienna	64/46/s

## region

	Yesterday	Tomorrow
	Hi/Lo/Prp	Hi/Lo/Prp
<b>North Dakota</b>		
Bismarck	25/16/0.03	33/24/mc
Devils Lake	14/10/0.02	22/16/mc
Dickinson	21/12/0.09	35/21/pc
Fargo	25/17/0.06	28/21/mc
Grafton	16/10/0.00	22/15/mc
Langdon	16/9/0.00	19/14/mc
Williston	21/14/0.00	35/20/pc
<b>South Dakota</b>		
Aberdeen	32/23/Trace	36/24/mc
Rapid City	35/21/0.03	48/30/s
Sioux Falls	45/33/0.33	32/27/mc
<b>Minnesota</b>		
Bemidji	32/24/0.01	29/18/mc
Brainerd	38/34/0.03	30/22/mc
Crookston	23/16/0.01	25/18/mc
Duluth	36/30/0.03	29/22/mc
Int. Falls	31/27/0.09	30/15/pc
Minneapolis	40/37/0.44	36/30/mc
Rochester	40/36/0.51	34/29/mc
Thief R. Falls	27/18/0.02	25/17/mc
<b>Canada</b>		
Calgary	18/10/0.00	41/25/s
Churchill	0/-20/0.00	18/9/s
Vancouver	52/37/0.00	52/36/s
Winnipeg	18/9/0.00	21/16/s

## almanac

Statistics through 6 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	Hi/Lo
Yesterday	16/12
Normal	36/18
Record	74/2012
	-10/1908

Snowfall	Level	Change
Yesterday		1.7
Month to date		4.3
Normal MTD		5.2
Season to date		59.4
Normal STD		42.4

River/lake levels	Level	Change
Devils Lake	253.48	-1195.41
Red at EGF	17.87	+0.08
Park at Grafton	7.20	0.00

## skywatch

Sun	Today	Tomorrow
Rises	7:29 a.m.	7:27 a.m.
Sets	7:41 p.m.	7:43 p.m.

Moon	Today	Tomorrow
Rises	6:27 a.m.	6:55 a.m.
Sets	3:52 p.m.	4:57 p.m.

Moon phases	Day
New	3/24
First	4/1
Full	4/7
Last	4/14

## Grand Forks County Commission moves to close department offices

By Adam Kurtz  
Grand Forks Herald

The Grand Forks County Commission on Wednesday, March 18, moved to close all county department offices to the public.

The decision, which took effect at 5 p.m. Wednesday, was made at a special meeting that was called to address concerns about coronavirus. Another special meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Friday in the County Office Building, 151 S. Fourth St., will remain open, as the facility houses state services, which are open to the public.

County staff will continue to report to work until the close of business on Friday, March 20, though there will be no contact with the public. Meanwhile, county employees are making preparations to work from home. The courthouse will remain open until 5 p.m. Friday, and, though jury trials have been temporarily suspended by the courts, other court operations were expected to proceed as usual.

The meeting was characterized by a motion from Commissioner Tom Falck to close all county department offices, courthouse included, and send staff home. The proposal was met with several disagreements. County Auditor Debbie Nelson, for example, said her office was not prepared to immediately begin working from home.

Falck then made a second motion to close all county department offices on Wednesday at 5 p.m., while allowing coun-

ty staff to work in their offices until 5 p.m. Friday to prepare to work from home.

"I'm sorry we can't get it together. Everybody else around us seems to be getting it together," Falck said of the concerns of spreading the virus through public contact.

Sheriff Andy Schneider expressed concern, which prompted Falck to make yet another motion to allow the courthouse to remain open until the end of business on Friday.

This creates the unusual situation when the county courthouse would be closed, but court proceedings would continue, as district court operations are run by the state. Under the commission's ruling, the office of the state's attorney, as county employees, will be closed to the public from Wednesday evening. Should an attorney be necessary for a hearing, Falck said, the state's attorney would need to provide one.

"I'm hopeful that the court, they're going to get on board here. I'm quite confident, pretty soon," Falck said.

The county is taking steps to alert the public to this situation by placing signs on the county office building doors, with phone numbers people can call for information and services. The county website will, presumably, be updated to reflect the closure.

Friday's special meeting of the commission will be open to the public, as it is required under the state's open meeting laws.

## UMC students to finish the semester online

By Sydney Mook  
Grand Forks Herald

The University of Minnesota System announced Monday, March 16, that all classes after spring break would move to online for the remainder of the semester in an effort to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Students at the University of Minnesota-Crookston are encouraged to stay home and continue classes online. At this time, residence halls, dining ser-

vices and other student services are operational, but reduced. All events held on campus are canceled through the end of the semester.

Crookston's commencement ceremony is postponed at this time, University of Minnesota-Crookston Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause said, adding that the university does not yet know how long the postponement will last.

Students who went home for spring break, but still have belongings left at

the university's residence halls, are asked to call before they pick up any of their items.

"We're working through that on a case-by-case basis," Holz-Clause said. "We request that all students return home or remain home if they're able to do so safely."

Students should not return to campus to pick up their belongings in the residence halls at this time, Holz-Clause said.

"We're making arrangements with them to pick

them up when it's appropriate to travel," she said.

In an effort to reduce the number of people on campus, nonessential staff are beginning to work from home now, Holz-Clause said. UND is also having its staff work remotely throughout its period of online instruction.

More information about Crookston's efforts in response to COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.crk.umn.edu/coronavirus>.

## BRIEFS

### Police: Robber steals motorcycle he doesn't know how to ride, crashes

ST. PAUL — A robber jumped on a man's motorcycle this week in St. Paul. But the heist was complicated by the fact that he didn't know how to ride the bike, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported.

It happened Monday about 7:30 a.m. when two men in a Jeep Cherokee, which had been stolen from Minneapolis, flagged down the 28-year-old motorcyclist at Marshall and Cleveland avenues. He stopped on the shoulder, and they drove up and pointed a gun at him.

The man who got on the motorcycle demanded to know how to operate it and the motorcyclist, fearing he would be shot, told the robber how to drive it, said Sgt. Mike Ernster, a St. Paul police spokesman, on Wednesday, March 18.

The robber then drove through a red light and crashed into a pickup truck. The 68-year-old driver went to check on the man on the motorcycle, "thinking this was a normal traffic crash," Ernster said.

The man who'd been

robbed of his motorcycle was close enough to yell a warning to the pickup driver, telling him the man on the motorcycle had a gun. The suspect then ran to the pickup truck, got in and drove away.

The Jeep the men arrived in had been stolen from Minneapolis.

Police in both cities are investigating. No one has been arrested.

### Minnesotans on cruise return home after San Diego quarantine

ST. PAUL — Thirty-two Minnesotans who were quarantined after a two-week cruise on the Grand Princess cruise ship returned home early Wednesday, March 18 after Minnesota and federal officials coordinated their return.

Gov. Tim Walz on Wednesday told reporters that the federal government helped charter a flight home for the Minnesotans. And they arrived back in the state at 3:30 a.m. after days of a chaotic scene at the San Diego quarantine. The ship arrived in Oakland on March 9.

Walz said the individuals

were tested before returning to Minnesota, but their results had not yet been processed Wednesday afternoon. Metro Transit vehicles met the travelers on the tarmac and returned them to their homes around the state. Those 32 people will now go into self-quarantine, Walz said.

"I wanted Minnesotans back home. I accepted that if they'd been tested, if it was a chartered flight and we had the capacity to basically quarantine them on the transportation home and basically self-quarantine them in their home, we would do that," Walz said. "Much better situation than being on an airbase on a cot."

### 1st tow of the season pushes through Lake Pepin

LAKE CITY, Minn. — The Motor Vessel Miss Doris, originating from the Quad Cities in Iowa and Illinois and pushing 12 barges en route to St. Paul, entered Lake Pepin at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, and passed Lake City about noon.

"Lake Pepin on the Mississippi River is the last major barrier for ves-

sels reaching the head of the navigation channel in St. Paul," said George Stringham in a written statement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. "The lake is the last part of the river to break up, because the river is wider and subsequently the current is slower there than it is at other reaches of the river. If a tow can make it through Lake Pepin, it can make it all the way to St. Paul."

In 2018, the first tow came through April 11, and last year, with the late and harsh winter, the first tow didn't make it through Lake Pepin until April 24.

The St. Paul District maintains a 9-foot navigation channel and operates 12 locks and dams to support navigation from Minneapolis to Guttenberg, Iowa.

— Forum News Service and wire reports

Lottery numbers
Daily 3: 3-4-5
Northstar Cash: 9-21-22-23-24
2 by 2: Red numbers: 2-24
White numbers: 6-18
Lucky for Life: 13-19-24-38-42,
Lucky ball: 14