

Save a local business.

Order takeout.

A PSA from the Grand Forks Herald

Noah Wanzek facing new challenges in shot at the pros, Page D1

Grand Forks Herald

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

ND has 26 cases of coronavirus across 6 counties

By Jeremy Turley
Forum News Service

BISMARCK — The North Dakota Department of Health has confirmed seven new cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by coronavirus, on Friday, March 20. The state now has 26 known cases of the illness.

The new cases include two women and a man in Morton County, two men in Burleigh County, a woman in Ramsey County and a woman in Pierce County. The department has pre-

viously announced positive cases in Ward and Cass counties.

Gov. Doug Burgum said at Friday press conference the fact that the number of cases hadn't doubled in the past day is a sign that some of the initial measures taken may be working, but he noted the outbreak will almost certainly get worse in North Dakota before it gets better.

"We have to take very seriously the (positive test) numbers that are coming out of other states," Burgum said. "If we take a path

of denial that it cannot happen here, then we're ignoring the science and ignoring the basic underlying fundamentals of how pandemics work."

Some of the new cases could be seen as particularly troubling because they've come in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's identified "vulnerable population." Three of the new people whose positive tests were announced Friday are in their 70s. Two North Dakotans with the illness have been hospital-

ized, including the state's first case, a Ward County man in his 60s.

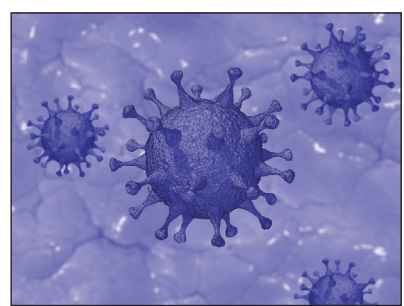
Burgum also noted that the new case in Pierce County, which lies in north-central North Dakota, signals that rural communities are not immune to the disease. All the other cases have come in counties with cities of 5,000 residents or more.

The state has reported 938 tests for the virus as of Friday morning, with 912 coming back negative. The department

no longer lists pending tests on its website because private providers don't need to get permission to send tests to the state lab. However, the department is currently monitoring 60 people, most of whom were found to have had close contact with those who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Burgum announced an executive order Thursday, March 19, that mandates gyms, movie

CONFIRMED: Page A5



Pet Linforth / Pixabay

Minn. sees COVID-19 surge by 26 cases

By Dana Ferguson
Forum News Service

ST. PAUL — The number of positive cases of the coronavirus in Minnesota grew to 115 on Friday, March 20, up 26 from 89 reported a day prior.

The uptick comes two weeks after the state announced its first positive case and days after officials to significant measures to curb public gatherings. And the new reports Friday included new cases in central and southern Minnesota, including the first reported cases in Chisago and Fillmore counties.

The positives were picked up among 3,856 total tests processed in the state, officials said.

Gov. Tim Walz in a radio interview with WCCO on Friday morning said the efforts to buckle down and reduce the spread of COVID-19 fueled "one of the most confusing and disrupting weeks" many Minnesotans had ever experienced. The first-term governor and health officials have maintained that the closures of Minnesota schools, restaurants, bars, gyms, salons and other public venues are crucial to containing the outbreak and preventing the overrun of intensive care units.

The governor said he is still considering a shelter-at-home order like the one underway in California and New York, but

MINN. SURGE: Page A5



Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald

Kittsona owner Tessa Hiney seals a brown bag lunch that she and volunteers prepared for children in the community during the coronavirus pandemic. Hiney and volunteers have made for than 1,000 lunches so far this week for children in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks.

COMMUNITY BITES

Businesses offer help to provide meals to children

By Ann Bailey
Grand Forks Herald

Instead of filling customer's shopping bags with clothing purchases, Kittsona owner Tessa Hiney is packing brown bag lunches for children.

Hiney, owner of Kittsona

in Grand Forks and Fargo, and her employees have made more than a thousand lunches this week for children in the two communities. Hiney decided to offer lunches after she noticed, through social media engagement with her customers, that parents were

worried about how children would be fed during the school closure due to concerns about coronavirus transmission.

She wanted to help and, at the same time, give her employees some work hours, so they switched gears from clothes sales to lunch makers

and deliverers. There is no charge for the lunches or for their delivery.

"The need is out there, so we're doing it," Hiney said.

Hiney and her employees are making the lunches, which

COMMUNITY: Page A6

Arctic Cat temporarily closes; Digi-Key expects to remain open

Herald staff

THIEF RIVER FALLS — Arctic Cat Inc., has temporarily closed the doors of its Thief River Falls, Minn., manufacturing facility, apparently due to difficulty in sourcing parts from overseas.

The plant, which employs approximately 800 or more in the northwest Minnesota town of approximately 8,800, manufactures snowmobiles, ATVs and side-by-side recreational vehicles, in addition to parts, garments and related accessories.

According to Thief River Falls Mayor Brian Holmer, the company has been

experiencing work slowdowns for over a week, due to the coronavirus pandemic. It was earlier this week the company made the announcement to shut down, though the closure should be temporary.

"They are currently shut down for, I think, three weeks," Holmer said in a Friday afternoon phone call with the Herald. He added the closure could extend beyond that time "until they get some parts, because a lot of their shipments come from overseas and such."

ARCTIC CAT: Page A5

Perfect present?

A gift card from a local business.

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A PSA from the Grand Forks Herald

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