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Ballet company launches online classes, Page B1

Grand Forks Herald



FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020

ND leaders warn that scams on rise

By Andrew Weeks
Grand Forks Herald

Gov. Doug Burgum and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem on Thursday said scams are on the rise in North Dakota and elsewhere, and they urged North Dakotans to be wary in the coming weeks.

The two spoke during a televised press conference Thursday afternoon in Bismarck. They warned of scams coming via emails and telephone, including one with the caller or sender notifying the recipient there's a treatment for coronavirus.

Stenehjem said don't be fooled — there is no treatment. "If you click on a link, nothing but mischief will happen," he said. "The

cure doesn't exist."

He said another scam is one that asks for information so the victim can receive a stimulus check. He said the U.S. Treasury Department will, through due diligence, send the checks and will not ask for any information or fee from the recipient.

Burgum also addressed shopping issues, saying his office received notice from the North Dakota Grocers Association that people need to use extra caution when they shop.

"Everybody knows we have to shop, but for some people this might have turned into a way to get of the house" by taking the whole family with them, he said.

Burgum also urged people to use

extra caution while shopping, including maintaining six feet from others and using sanitation stations. He said it's also a good idea to have only one person shop at a time for the entire family.

Burgum said the state is doing everything it can to slow the spread of the virus, but cautioned there are no states with declining case numbers.

"The virus doesn't discriminate by geography or people. ... Everybody is susceptible to this," he said.

Also during Thursday's press conference, Burgum announced that school boards statewide can now opt to do mail-in ballots this election season.

Earlier in the day, the North Dakota

SCAMS: Page A3

UND campus member tests positive for COVID-19

By Sydney Mook
Grand Forks Herald

A member of the UND campus community has tested positive for COVID-19, according to an email sent Thursday, April 2, to UND students, faculty and staff.

"The individual is currently receiving care and has not been on campus since March 30," the email said. "The university is assisting public health officials in following up with any others that the individual may have recently come into contact with. Anyone who has been identified as a close contact will be notified by the North Dakota Department of Health and provided with additional information."

It was not clear if the individual was a

UND: Page A3

Altru decides to delay project

Weiser assures the community: 'We will have a new hospital'

By Korrie Wenzel
Grand Forks Herald

Altru Health System is putting its \$300 million hospital construction project on hold as it prioritizes its resources on the coronavirus pandemic.

The hospital made the announcement late Thursday afternoon, saying that it must focus on prioritizing operational resources on patient care and employee support during the pandemic.

"Like many other hospitals, Altru is making the adjustments required to ensure we can provide care to all patients during this unprecedented time," Dr. Steven Weiser, president of Altru Health System, said in the hospital's announcement. "We don't know exactly how COVID-19 will impact our community, only that it will. Pausing construction allows us to direct our focus to caring for patients and supporting the Altru team members who provide that critical care. It is the responsible

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8-YEAR-OLD'S FAST ACTION SAVES BROTHER

Quick-thinking and CPR by an area girl saves her 5-year-old brother from drowning

By Brad Dokken
Grand Forks Herald

Strathcona, Minn.

Madi Pulk often watches the medical drama series "Grey's Anatomy" with her mom, Heidi. So when she found herself in a life-and-death situation Monday afternoon, the third-grader put what she'd seen on TV to good use.



Madi Pulk

Madi, 8, saved the life of her 5-year-old brother, John, after he fell into a fast-moving drainage ditch and got swept through a large culvert on the

county road east of Strathcona, where the family lives.

If not for Madi's fast thinking, her brother might not be alive. Instead, he's back home after being taken by ambulance to LifeCare Medical Center in Roseau, Minn., and then to Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, where he spent Monday night as a precautionary measure against the possible onset of aspiration pneumonia.

The boy got a clear bill of health about noon Tuesday and returned home with his parents. He's on an antibiotic for a few days but shows no ill effects from his near-death experience.



Photo courtesy of Heidi Pulk

The drainage ditch John Pulk fell into on Monday, March 30, was much higher and faster moving when he was rescued by his 8-year-old sister, Madi. The forked stick he used as a pretend "fishing rod" can be seen to the right of the stop sign.

"Even talking with the doctors, they were shocked as well," Heidi Pulk said. "He didn't miss a beat. And this is definitely a skipping-a-beat type of situation."

Drawn to water

The mishap occurred late Monday afternoon, when

four of the family's five kids — Madi, John and his twin brother, Henry, and sister Emily, 7 — were playing outside and strayed to the county road at the end of their eighth-mile driveway. They only moved to the site in December from nearby

Wannaska, Minn., so the children had never seen the yard without snow on the ground, Heidi Pulk said.

Oldest sister Sarah, 11, was in the house.

"Literally the last thing I

PULK: Page A5

Spring snowmelt accelerated after Red River Valley storm

Winter storm warning remains in effect until 1 p.m. Friday

By Hannah Shirley
Grand Forks Herald

Rain and relatively warm temperatures will accelerate spring snowmelt, according to a report issued by the National Weather Service Thursday morning, April 2. A winter storm warning remains in effect for the region until 1 p.m. Friday, April 3.

Overnight rain resulted in 1/3 of an inch or less of precipitation by Thursday morning. Northeast North Dakota and northwest Minnesota are expected to receive 5 to 9 inches

of snow accumulation and up to 15/100ths of an inch of ice, according to the NWS, which could result in up to 2 inches of water equivalent on the ground by the weekend.

That precipitation won't immediately affect flood levels in the Red River, NWS meteorologist Jim Kaiser said in a Thursday briefing.

"The good news is this is snowfall, so our rivers are not going to respond rapidly as our temperatures are going to be hovering around that freezing mark over the next seven days for our daytime high," Kaiser said.

Updated projections show the Red River will crest at 46.6 feet on Monday, April 6, just above the cutoff for

STORM: Page A5

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