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# Grand Forks Herald

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020

## N.D. sees highest single-day jump

By Jeremy Turley  
Forum News Service

BISMARCK — The North Dakota Department of Health on Monday, April 13, announced 23 new cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by coronavirus. The figure represents the highest single-day increase in cases

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Minnesota's coronavirus numbers stabilize as Gov. Walz moves to extend the peacetime emergency through May 13, PAGE A6

since the state's outbreak began in mid-March.

The total positive tests for the virus in North Dakota is

up to 331, however 127 people have recovered from the illness. There are currently 13 residents hospitalized with the illness.

A Ward County man in his 50s became the state's eighth casualty from the illness Sunday. The man, who the department reports as having underlying

health conditions, was the illness' youngest victim of the illness in North Dakota.

Nine of the new cases Monday came from Cass County, which encompasses Fargo and West Fargo. The county's total is now up to 116 — about 35% of the state's total and more than

double the amount of any other county. Only two of the new cases come in people 60 years or older.

Six new cases were also announced in Mountrail County, an emerging "hotspot" for the virus. Over the weekend,

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## GF bus driver gets reprimand, but will get to keep job

By Joe Bowen  
Grand Forks Herald

A Grand Forks bus driver has been reprimanded but will keep his job after a video of him confronting passengers circulated last month amid widespread coronavirus worries.

City Administrator Todd Feland on Thursday, April 9, issued a letter of written reprimand to Richard Gehl, a Cities Area Transit driver who spent several minutes on March 23 shouting at a handful of passengers. Another passenger recorded the mostly one-sided exchange and posted a video of it to a Grand Forks-area Facebook page. Gehl was put on leave after the incident.



Feland

In the video, Gehl accuses the passengers of putting him at risk "for no legitimate reason at all" and forcefully reminds them of widespread suggestions to stay home to prevent the virus' spread.

According to the woman who filmed the exchange, who gave a statement to a bus service administrator while the driver's discipline was being considered, Gehl believed three passengers had been drinking and wanted them to get alcohol another way. He also asks them where they were going, the witness said.

In the Facebook video, he does not directly accuse them of drinking, but does appear upset that they have "go get a damn bottle of booze" and suggests that some people use the bus out of boredom while most parts of everyday life are on hiatus.

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Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald

Hugo's cashier Cathy Lindenberg, right, gives Marilyn Holweger her receipt as she checks out Monday, April 13, at Hugo's on 32nd Avenue South in Grand Forks.

## Essential work

Hugo's workers proud of jobs, despite long hours and anxiety about pandemic

By Adam Kurtz  
Grand Forks Herald

Donated masks and customer appreciation help Hugo's Family Marketplace employees, among those essential workers on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic, get through anxious days on the job.

Hugo's staff, about 750 people in the region, are

putting in more hours to keep up with heavy in-store traffic. It isn't just restocking shelves. It's the stepped-up cleaning regimen, new policies about keeping distance and other changes to their work environment. These things combined with the ever-present threat of contracting COVID-19 weigh on employees' minds.

It isn't all doom and gloom, though. Torrie Enget, store director of Hugo's Family Marketplace on 32nd Avenue South, said customers have been saying thank you and expressing their appreciation to staff members. It goes a long way to putting their minds at ease.

"When you get that reinforcement from the

customers, it makes them feel good about coming to work, even though they might be anxious about it," Enget said.

Enget said some customers have donated cloth, homemade masks for store workers to use. In fact, most of the masks employees wear are homemade, as supplies have

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## Former nurse charged with stealing narcotics

Case first to be prosecuted by the state's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

By Hannah Shirley  
Grand Forks Herald

A former nurse at a long-term care facility who has been charged with stealing narcotics from her patients is the first person to be prosecuted by the state's new Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Charlotte Kay Reilly, 32, of Crystal, N.D., has been charged with 11 counts related to the alleged crimes: two felony counts of reckless endangerment with extreme indifference, nine felony counts of theft of a prescription

and one misdemeanor count of theft valuing less than \$500.

According to court documents, Reilly allegedly committed the thefts from March 2017 to Nov. 21, 2017, while she was a licensed practical nurse at Borg Pioneer Memorial Home in Mountain, N.D., where she was responsible for administering prescribed narcotic pain medication to residents in her care.

Reilly was fired from the home on Nov. 21, 2017, after it was concluded that she was diverting prescription pain medication from residents and using over-the-counter pain medications as substitutes, according

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A PSA from the Grand Forks Herald

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