

Courthouse has drop box for ballots, taxes

Moody County Courthouse patrons have an option to pay taxes and vote without going inside the building. The county has installed a secure drop box outside the south door of the building where residents can put their tax payments and returned ballots.

"We just want to make it as convenient for the public as we can," said Linette Christensen, county treasurer. The second half of the year taxes are due Oct. 31, and Christensen said she expects more people will use the

October is a busy time at the treasurer's office. Moody County has 6,500 parcels of property, although many parcels are owned by one person.

box as it gets closer to the tax deadline.

"With the COVID thing, the less people that have to stand in line, the better. We just don't want a lot of people to have to stand in line and risk getting COVID," she said. The drop box also lets people who work during the day, pay their taxes after hours. It is locked and secured. So far, most of the envelopes dropped off outside the courthouse have been election ballots.

"They have been using it a lot," Auditor Kristina Krull said of absentee voters. "We have a good pile in there every day."



County residents can use a drop box outside of the courthouse's south door for absentee ballots and taxes that



So far, she 330 ballots that have been returned. "That's a high number for us." Some voters don't like to come to the second floor of the courthouse to vote absentee, but inside voting also is available, Krull said.

Signs on the courthouse door encourage visitors to wear masks, although they are not required. Because of the threat of coronavirus, "It's nice when the traffic flow is down a little bit," she said.

Krull said she still is getting requests for absentee ballots. She has had about 835 voters out of the county's 4,127 registered voters, ask for an absentee ballot.

She also has fielded questions from people about the process and the safety of absentee voting.

In South Dakota, anyone can request an absentee ballot by mail or can vote absentee in person before election day. None of those ballots are tallied until election day, with the courthouse designated as a precinct, including and workers there to do that job.

In order to request an absentee ballot by mail, the registered voter has to mail in a form, along with a copy of their identification. The auditor's office checks to make sure they are registered and mails out the ballot. Voter's then mark their ballot and put it in a provided return envelope that must be signed on the back. That signature is matched with other signatures they used to request the ballot, and the voter's ballot is put in a secure location until election day. Their name is checked off the list as having voted.

Ballots can either be dropped off at the courthouse or mailed back with proper postage attached.

Voters can check if their absentee ballot has been received back at the auditor's office by going to the voter information portal at the South Dakota Secretary of State's website, https://sdsos.gov.

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 3 election is Oct. 18.









TRIBAL PRESIDENTS



George Eastman 1937 – 7 Terms



John Allen 1938 – 1 Term



Jess Wakeman 1938 – 8 Terms



Benjamin Jones 1940 – 1 Term



Alexander Wakeman 1941 – 2 Terms



Francis Wakeman 1948 – 1 Term



Richard Wakeman, Sr 1953 – 12 Terms



George Allen, Sr 1956 – 7 Terms



Felix Heminger 1963 – 1 Term



Gordon Jones, Sr 1963 – 1 Term



Agnes Ross 1972 – 1 Term



Richard P. Allen 1974 – 2 Terms



Andrew Weston 1978 – 1 Term



Kenneth Allen 1979 – 1 Term



Carolyn Sorensen 1983 – 2 Terms



Elmer Weston 1985 – 1 Term



Judith Peterson 1987 – 1 Term



Lee Taylor 1990 – 1 Term



William Schumacher 1992 – 1 Term



Thomas Ranfranz 1998 – 1 Term



Leonard Eller 2002 – 1 Term



Mark Allen 2004 – 1 Term



Joshua Weston 2006 – 1 Term



Anthony Reider
-President-

2010-present

Pine Ridge Reservation going into lockdown due to COVID-19





One of the entrances to the reservation.

Oct. 23, 2020

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) - The Oglala Sioux Tribe is locking down the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation on Friday, in response to a surging number of COVID-19 cases in the state.

The lockdown begins at 10 p.m. and lasts until 6 a.m. Oct. 30.

During that time, all non-critical travel is barred.

The tribe said non-essential businesses should close to the public, and travel to non-essential work to or from the reservation should stop.

The lockdown comes as the state surpassed 9,000 active coronavirus cases on Thursday and reported an all-time high of 973 new cases in one day.

Thursday's numbers also matched a record high of 14 deaths in one day.



'It's very hurtful to read:' Calif. family receives anonymous complaint about daughter with autism

Dear Neighbors,

We reach out to you in the spirit of compassion, to address our concerns about the well-being of the neighborhood. As you may or may not be aware, many of us are being affected by your daughter's long periods of shrieking throughout the day. Please know that we have empathy for your very difficult situation. Unfortunately, we are quite disturbed by this as it has a very real impact on our peace and quiet, as well as the enjoyment of our backyards. Many of us are working from home and are on video calls with our clients who can hear this distressing sound. We would be so appreciative if you could try to reduce the length of time and frequency of these episodes so that we may resume some periods of tranquility that we previously enjoyed.

A California family are hurt after they received an anonymous complaint about their six-year-old daughter living with non-verbal autism.

EL DORADO HILLS, Calif. (KOVR) - A California family are hurt after they received an anonymous complaint about their 6-year-old daughter living with non-verbal autism.

Kayla Newton is a lover of the outdoors and lollipops. Living with non-verbal autism, she communicates through shouts and noises.

"It's a way for her to get out her energy and for her to relax. These noises calm her," her mother Monica Newton said.

However, the family received a letter of complaint from an anonymous neighbor saying Kayla's time outdoors is making it difficult for them to work from home.

"As you may or may not be aware, many of us are being affected by your daughter's long periods of shrieking," letter states.

The letter goes on to say they have empathy for the family but can't work from home because of the "distressir sound."

"It's very hurtful to read that stuff," Monica Newton said. "This is our child. If we could help her, we would."

Monica Newton says she feels pain for her child and the hours spent in therapy, always looking for ways to help talk. Going outside is Kayla's chance for some freedom.

"For somebody to say that she's shrieking and it's ruining their life, what about her life? What about her? She's a freaking child! She's 6 years old," Monica Newton said.

The cold complaint comes after three years living in El Dorado Hills.

The family is handling the situation with skills they've gathered from experience. They now hope those neighbors might walk a mile in their shoes.

"There's a whole world people don't see as parents like us experience day-to-day. That's what I would share," Monica Newton said.

The Newton family does not believe this is from their immediate neighbors. They want people to understand they are doing their best in the middle of a pandemic.



Valley FiberCom begins work on office building



Workers pour footings for a new building going up at the corner of Pipestone Avenue and Crescent Street. Valley FiberCom of Volga will build an office for a customer service representative and a service technician at the corner. The company, which is bringing broadband to rural areas of Moody County, plans by December to have the building enclosed with a working room for its electronics and fiber optics. It will open for business sometime next year.















Dental Health affects overall Wellness

By Debra Johnston, M.D.

I remember feeling jealous of my grandparents as

a child. During one of our summer visits, I realized that while my siblings and I were told to brush our teeth, my grandparents would simply pop their teeth out and drop them into a glass. That seemed like a lot less work! Besides, I thought that no teeth would mean no trips to the dentist, and thus no poking and prodding of sharp instruments in my mouth. Although our dentist and his team were unfailingly caring and gentle, I was always nervous.

As I recall, when I expressed my newfound enthusiasm for the convenience of false teeth, Grandma informed me that wearing dentures would mean giving up fresh corn on the cob. That was all the incentive I needed. I kept brushing.

Soon, I realized that a healthy smile meant something more than the ability to enjoy garden bounty. I sensed my tough-as-nails mother and grandmother each were ashamed of their smiles. Without understanding why, I could see that people were judged by the condition of

their teeth. Dental health seemed to be an indication of a person's place in society.

With the benefit of age, and medical training, I learned that the impact of dental disease goes well beyond dietary inconvenience and social embarrassment. People with unhealthy mouths may suffer from malnutrition, which can be both a cause and an effect of their dental problems. Others may unfairly perceive them as less trustworthy, and less employable.

Emergency rooms and medical clinics see the

consequences of delayed or absent dental care. Patients seek antibiotics and pain medicines to "get them by"

> until they can see a dentist. These treatments may convert a raging infection to a smoldering, but temporarily bearable, one. However, they don't fix the underlying problems.

There is another layer to the interplay between dental and physical health: many medical diseases and their treatments may cause or worsen dental problems. The antidepressant I give a patient might cause dry mouth, which worsens tooth decay. The medicine to prevent a broken hip may

severely damage the bone of the jaw. Diabetes increases the risk for dental disease which in turn, can worsen a person's diabetes management.

Additionally, research shows that poor dental

health increases our risk for heart attacks and could possibly lead to premature births.

myriad reasons to take care of our teeth and gums, no matter our age. So, thanks, Grandma, for convincing an impatient child to keep brushing.

All in all, there are

Debra Johnston, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc* team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc* library, visit www. prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc* on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc" a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



COVID-19 claims one county resident



A Moody County resident died last week as a result of the COVID-19 virus, the first death in the county since the pandemic began in March.

The death was listed as of Saturday on the state's coronavirus page on the state Department of Health's webpage. The state does not release names nor individual towns when reporting the data.

Moody County also has had nine people who have been hospitalized during the pandemic, a number that has increased slightly recently.

State data as of Monday noon showed that the county has had 144 positive cases, with 50 people still contagious. Another 996 people have tested negative over the last seven months.

The county's active positive cases on Monday accounted for 35 percent of those tested since the state started collecting data. On Saturday, nearly 73 percent of people tested were positive. That is the percent of those who were positive compared with the number tested that day, or 8 out of 11 people.

The Flandreau School District has had two additional students who are positive with COVID-19, both of them in the high school and in isolation. That brings the number of students who have had the virus to four since school started. The first two students and three staff who have tested positive are back in school. Colman-Egan does not publicly report their data.

Second person in county dies of virus

A second Moody County resident has died from COVID-19.

The person's death was registered Sunday, roughly a week after the first death, according to data from the South Dakota Department of Health. The state does not release names of individuals nor specific towns when reporting the data.

This past week, the number of positive tests in the county increased by 22 to 166 as of Monday noon. Of those, 50 still are active and 114 have recovered since data started being tracked when the pandemic started last March.

An additional 1,040 county residents have tested negative for the virus.

So far, 11 people have been sick enough to be hospitalized.

While Scott Hargens, Avera Flandreau Hospital administrator, can't speak specifically about local hospitalizations, he said that there are some things people can do to make the community environment safer.

"We 100 percent encourage the use of mask wearing. We do encourage the public when you're out in the public and you can't socially distance, masking is the next best thing we can do," he said.

People with questions about COVID-19 or symptoms, are invited to call the local health clinic.

Both schools in Moody County have had cases of the virus among students and staff since classes started in August.

At Colman-Egan, four staff members have tested positive in the last two weeks, making it difficult to find substitutes. In addition, a handful of middle and high school students have tested positive.

In Flandreau schools, one middle school and three high school students have tested positive since school started. One high school student still is quarantined. In addition, three staff members – two in the elementary and one in high school -- have tested positive but have all recovered.



Generations later, a Moody visits Moody

Co. A descendant of Moody County's namesake visited the community last week.

Brett C. Moody stopped in Flandreau for an overnight stay at the park and toured the courthouse and museum while in the area. Moody County was named after his great-great grandfather Gideon C. Moody, a Dakota Territory lawyer and judge who became the first U.S. Senator for South Dakota.

"It was quite exciting to see what was named after my great-great grandfather," he said.

Moody, 58, has lived all over the country and has visited all 50 states, saving South Dakota for last. He was on his way to move from Connecticut to Seattle, where his mother lives and where he was born, in order to help her out.

Sen. Moody, who was born in New York in 1832, never lived in Moody County but moved to Yankton from Indiana around 1865. He became a member of the Territorial House of Representatives and later was named judge of the Dakota Territory Supreme Court, where he was thought of as a stern judge, his great-great grandson said.

When South Dakota became a state, Gideon Moody served as the state's first U.S. Senator as a Republican from 1889 to 1891.

The Moody County Courthouse had a distinguished visitor on Monday, October 5. Brett C. Moody, greatgreat grandson of Gideon Curtis Moody, the judge for which Moody County was named, visited the building that carries his family name. The young Moody was on a trek from Connecticut to Washington. During the trip he made special plans to track down spots of interest to him because of his family's history. The stop at the courthouse was relatively brief but he did take time to record the building in photos. Interestingly, he did not find a photo of his great-great grandfather displayed.



Brett Moody didn't grow up hearing too many stories about his ancestor but was told some basics. The senator died in 1904, at age 71, in Los Angeles. The Moody name will live on for more generations, he said. He has a son, named Brandon, and his brother and male cousins have sons. Moody spent three hours at the county courthouse, visiting offices and the courtroom, taking pictures. He also did some research at the museum and shared information he had.

"It was interesting. I enjoyed it. I got to throw it out that my great-great grandfather was the first senator of South Dakota," he said. "It's nice to have a connection like that that lets you know more about a place."

While in South Dakota for four days, he also visited Mount Rushmore and the Black Hills. And, he stopped to play a round of golf in Brandon. The town bears his son's name, after all.



FLANDREAU SANTEE SIOUX TRIBE LOAN-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM JULY 30, 2020

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (the "Tribe") is developing a program to provide education and training opportunities to tribal and community members in exchange for service to the Tribe.

The Program will provide funding of up to \$10,000 per year for program participants to attend an accredited technical school, college, or university of their choice to fill important positions within the Tribe and its entities.

As repayment of the loan, an individual will work for the Tribe for each year of funding received. For instance, if the Tribe provides four (4) years of funding to a participant to receive a Bachelor's Degree, they will be required to work for the Tribe for four (4) years. This would be in addition to their salary and/or wages for their position.

In the event that an individual does not meet the program requirements, or does not work for the Tribe after completing their program, they will be required to pay back the Tribe for all funding provided. Participation in this program does not preclude tribal members from participating in other FSST Educational and Scholarship Programs.

ELIGIBILITY

Anyone is eligible to apply, but preference will be given to certain individuals who meet program guidelines. Participants must pass a pre-program background check which may include a P.L. 101-630 compliant background check for certain positions.

FUNDING PREFERENCE

Preference will be given to students in the following order:

- 1. Tribal Members living in Moody County
- 2. Tribal Members living outside Moody County
- 3. Lineal Descendants of the FSST living in Moody County
- 4. Lineal Descendants of the FSST living outside Moody County
- 5. Native Americans living in Moody County
- 6. Native Americans living outside Moody County
- 7. Non-Indians living in Moody County
- 8. Non-Indians living outside Moody County

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

- Must be enrolled in or accepted to a full-time educational program at an accredited technical school, college, or university.
- Participant must maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average during the program.
- Periodic reporting to the Tribe that will include academic performance, program completion date, and other parameters.
- If a professional license is required for a certain position, participant must also successfully obtain licensure.

HOW DO I APPLY?

The Tribe will announce positions that are eligible for this program, and post them on its website. Applicants will then download the Loan for Service Application, fill it out, and submit to <u>HR@fsst.org</u>.



FLANDREAU SANTEE SIOUX TRIBE LOAN-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM Request For Program Participation

REQUESTOR INFORMATION (this will be filled out by person	N: requesting the position within their department)		
Name (First and Last):	*		
Position:			
Department:			
Phone Number:			
E-Mail:			
POSITION REQUEST: (this portion of the request will d	describe the position to be filled)		
Position Title:		_	
Position Description:			
Type of Degree/Education Required:			
Potential Budget Funding:			
Potential Date of Hire:			
Justification for Position (please	e describe, in detail, why your department needs th	is position):	
Date of Request:	^		
Signature of Requestor:	4	×	
APPROVALS:			
Human Resources:	t.		
Approved: □ Denied: □	Signature:	Date:	
President:			
Approved: □ Denied: □	Signature:	Date:	
Treasurer:			
Approved: Denied:	Signature:	Date:	
COMMENTS (If Any):			

Effort to punish criminals for targeting law enforcement officers

Washington, DC – Sept. 17, 2020 – U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) today joined Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) and a number of their Senate colleagues to introduce the Protect and Serve Act, legislation that would create federal penalties for individuals who deliberately target local, state or federal law enforcement officers with violence.

"South Dakota's law enforcement officers are men and women with families just like ours, who put their lives in danger every day to protect our communities," said Rounds. "As a nation based on law and order, law enforcement officers have a critical role in our society. They do not have an easy job--it takes courage, selflessness and a desire to make your community safer. Our bill will help to make sure that individuals who target and violently attack officers will be held fully accountable for their criminal actions."

In 2020, there have been 37 law enforcement officers killed in the U.S. This is an increase of more than 20 percent since this time last year. Of those, eight were ambushed in premeditated attacks,

two were victims of an unprovoked attack, and the other 27 officers were killed in the line of duty. The Protect and Serve Act would address this problem by giving federal prosecutors the tools they need to hold accountable those who target law enforcement for assault and attacks.

The Protect and Serve Act would support law enforcement officers by:

 Making it a federal crime to knowingly cause, or attempt to cause, serious bodily injury to a law enforcement officer. Offenders are subject to imprisonment for up to 10 years.

 An offender could receive a life sentence if a death results from the offense, or the offense includes kidnapping, attempted kidnapping, or attempted murder.

This law would apply to federal law enforcement officers and would also apply to state and local officers in circumstances where the federal government can establish jurisdiction over the case.

In addition to Rounds and Tillis, the legislation was introduced by U.S. Sens. John Kennedy (R-La.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Kelly Loeffler (R-Ga.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio), David Perdue (R-Ga.), Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), James Inhofe (R-Okla.) and John Boozman (R-Ark.).

Companion legislation was introduced last year by Congressman John Rutherford (FL-4) and Congresswoman Val Demings (FL-10) in the House of Representatives.

The Protect and Serve
Act has been endorsed by the
Fraternal Order of Police, National
Association of Police Organizations,
Federal Law Enforcement Officers
Association, Sergeants Benevolent
Association and Major County
Sheriffs of America.



Flandreau School District COVID-19 Update

Last Updated: October 6 @ 10:00 a.m.

Flandreau School District Active Student/Staff Positive COVID-19 Cases

School	Current Number of Positive Cases	Current Number of Recovered cases
	Students – Staff	Students – Staff
Elementary School	0 - 0	0 - 2
Middle School	0 - 0	1 - 0
High School	1 - 0	1 - 1
District Total	1-0	2 - 3

The Flandreau School District has 1 active Positive COVID-19 Cases. All students/staff who tested positive are in their isolation period and have not been in school.

Please note that these case numbers are based upon our own school information and will be updated when we receive the official notification. The positive cases reported are the ones that we have been made aware of at the present time. Due to federal laws such as HIPAA and FERPA, as well as protecting individual privacy, no other specific information will be shared.

As a reminder when you see this weekly update, please remember these students/staff confirmed to be positive COVID-19 cases have already been put into "Isolation" by the South Dakota Department of Health/Health Care Professionals. Any confirmed student/staff Verified Close Contacts associated with a positive case have already been "Quarantined" by the South Dakota Department of Health/Health Care Professionals.

According to the SD DOH, staff members and students who **test positive** for COVID-19 are required to self-isolate for ten (10) days from the first onset of symptoms and must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Staff members and students who are verified **close contacts** are required to quarantine for fourteen (14) days since their last contact with a person who has COVID-19. This is for precautionary purposes.

Isolation is for people who are already sick with COVID-19 and quarantine is for people who are not sick, but MAY have been exposed to COVID-19. Isolation separates and restricts the movement of sick people so they cannot spread the disease. Quarantined people may or may not become sick. Quarantined people must stay at home or another location so they do not spread the disease.

You may find out from your family physician or the South Dakota Department of Health that your child has tested positive for COVID-19, which requires Isolation from school. You may find out that your child is a "Verified Close Contact" to someone that has tested positive for COVID-19, which requires Quarantine. In either case, please notify your child's principal immediately, as you may possibly know this information prior to our school being informed.

Please also indicate if the positive COVID-19 case or verified close contact was due to a possible exposure at school. This will allow for a much quicker mitigation and contact tracing for the safety of your child, as well as other children and staff in our school.









Pumpkins For Sale. Pumpkins for the Pantry will be opening Thursday, October 1st. We will be open daily from 9:00 am until dark. We are located 2 miles south of Lone Tree or 8 miles North of Dell Rapids on old Highway 77. Any questions call 530-0208. All proceeds go to the Moody County Food Pantry.





911 calls, traffic stops down in city, county



A Flandreau Police Officer makes a traffic stop on Pipestone Avenue.

The number of calls that the Moody County Sheriff's Office and the Flandreau Police Department is responding to this year is down, compared to last year. That's, in part, because of the coronavirus pandemic and a period of time when officers weren't making as many traffic stops for infractions such as speeding, not wanting additional contact with people last spring, said Police Chief Zach Weber. In the county's case, the sheriff's staff also has been short a person or two this year, meaning there were fewer deputies to make those more routine stops during patrol hours.

As of mid-September, Flandreau police numbers show 3,386 calls so far this year, compared to 3,509 for the same period last year, a difference of 123 fewer calls. At the Sheriff's Office, calls are down by 1,065, the report shows. So far this year, there have been 2,701 calls compared with 3,766 calls at the same time last year. "COVID may factor into it a little bit," Sheriff Troy Wellman said. "We've been consistently down at least one person basically all year. I think that's part of it, as well."





While call volume is down, some types of calls are more frequent, both said.

Because of the virus and more people staying home, the stresses of bills, children, working from home and other factors have led to additional domestic assaults, they said.

"We probably had more domestics in the time frame of we'll call it, 'the lockdown' than we do that time of year normally," Wellman said. "I think there's an increase in it, but I wouldn't call it a spike."

Deputies also noticed more trash that included beer cans on rural roads during the afternoon than is typically seen in the morning. The suspicion is that some people got out of the house and drove around to self-medicate, Wellman said. Weber said he too has noticed that it seems like there have been more assaults this year, but in checking, he lists only four more assaults that a year earlier. "Those were up, but not by a lot."

Traffic-related calls still are the biggest difference for his departmet, he said. This year, through August, there were 854 traffic calls, compared to 1,067 last year for those months. That's a 213 call-volume difference, which more than covers the lower number of overall calls for the year, Weber said.

Law enforcement calls are returning to a more consistent pattern, at this point,

Wellman said. "It's probably back to as normal as whatever normal is going to be now."





Plans for 'Remembering the Children' Memorial Park released

RAPID CITY – Plans for a memorial which will honor the students of the <u>Rapid City Indian Boarding School</u> were unveiled during the third annual Native American Day walk that remembers the children who died at the school.

The memorial will be named Remembering the Children and the plans can be viewed at <u>rememberingthechildren.org</u>, along with the names of attendants of the school, correspondence of school administration, and the names of the children who passed away during attendance.

The memorial, which will be placed on land between West Middle School and the Canyon Lake Methodist Church, is going to feature a long walking path, sweat lodges, and a large medicine wheel.

Grave sites remembering the more than 50 children who died at the school will be marked with decorative burial scaffolds and individual rocks will be engraved with their names.

The landscaping for the memorial park will "entail reintroducing traditional foods and medicine throughout the memorial including covering the hill," says Remembering the Children's website.

"So that the land provides prayer and nourishment available for all. The hope is to cultivate indigenous plants such as chokecherries, buffalo berries, currants, wild plums, timpsila, sage, mullein, bergamot, yarrow, prairie rose, and cheyaka, etc."



Linde Miller holds a sign for one of the unknown students who passed away at the Rapid City Indian Boarding School during the memorial walk on Native American Day in Rapid City, South Dakota, on October 12, 2020.

Along with indigenous plants in the landscape, a cook shack will be included in the park because "providing food as both an offering to the ancestors and to nourish your community is an essential component of the Oceti Sakowin culture."

The cook shack is the most expensive part of the plans and costs around \$150,000.



Congratulations Helena!!!!!









