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Star Herald

THURSDAY July 16, 2020 • Western Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming's daily newspaper

PPHD on masks in schools 3A • Conn lift Gering over Chadron 1B

BUSINESS



Keith Gilly, a coach and high school teacher poses for a photo in front of the Walmart in Scottsbluff Wednesday. Walmarts across the country will require shoppers to wear masks in all their stores Monday due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NO masks, NO service

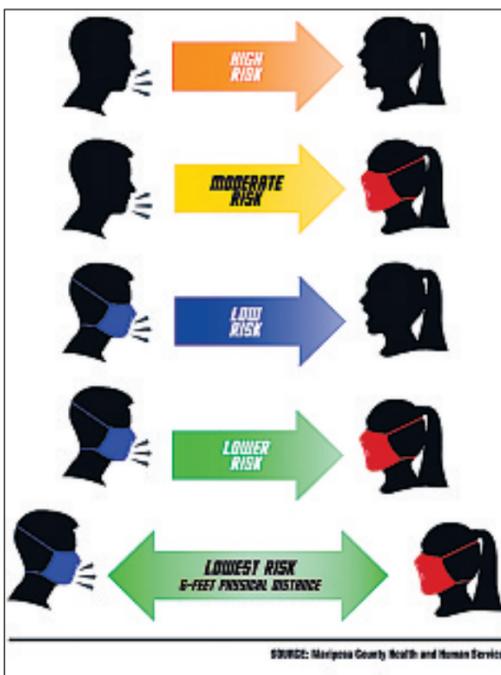
More Scottsbluff retailers requiring masks.

By Danielle Prokop
Star-Herald

More and more shoppers in Scottsbluff are seeing signs requiring masks to enter stores such as Menards, Safeway — and soon, Walmart.

More people in the U.S. are adopting wearing masks in public to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Masks have also been shown to be effective, with the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Tuesday citing a case in which masks prevented two hair dressers with COVID-19 in Missouri from spreading the virus to clients. According to the study, investigators found none of the 139 clients or secondary

see MASKS 3A



LEGISLATURE

Looking ahead to session

Stinner 'more optimistic' about budget despite COVID squeeze.

By Justin Garcia
Star-Herald

As the second half of the legislative session approaches, Nebraska's budget outlook is one thing Sen. John Stinner said he's optimistic about.

Closures meant to stem the tide of coronavirus infections and deaths have led to thousands of jobless claims in Nebraska.



"I'd tune in. It ought to be good political theatre for about 17 days."
Se. John Stinner

State budgets across the U.S. have also been slashed to adjust to a major economic contraction.

Despite this, Stinner, who serves as chairman of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, said he was "more optimistic" about the state's money now than when the pandemic started.

For example, Stinner said he predicted a \$95 million shortfall for June. Nebraska instead saw a net increase of \$10 million.

"I actually celebrated, I don't know about anyone else," he said.

He also noted federal stimulus — like the \$1,200 per person checks, increased unemployment insurance and the Paycheck Protection Program or PPP loans — as reasons for his new outlook.

see LEGISLATURE 3A

ALLIANCE

Annual Heritage Days is off to strong start

Here's what to look forward to in Alliance's annual celebration.

By Danielle Prokop
Star-Herald

ALLIANCE — Heritage Days kicked off Monday, but the week-long celebration in Alliance is only ramping up, with this year's theme

"Alliance Stronger Together," Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Susan Unzicker said.

"Friday, Saturday and Sunday, we'll have a kite festival 'My Wind Stuff,' flying kites at Laing Lake from 11 a.m.

until dusk, and a new event, making and launching paper rockets," Unzicker said.

The COVID-19 pandemic means the usual parade and carnival are canceled this

see ALLIANCE 2A

Danielle Prokop/Star-Herald

Serenity, 7, peeks over the edge of the bucket on a cherry picker provided by the Panhandle Rural Electrical Membership Association for its 75th anniversary at the Alliance Heritage Days celebration on Tuesday.



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