

## Weather

Date	High	Low	Rain
Sept 28	55	.41	.05"
Sept 29	71	.40	
Sept 30	63	.47	Tr.
Oct 01	51	.32	
Oct 02	52	.35	
Oct 03	54	.34	
Oct 04	61	.27	
<b>Total Rain</b>			<b>.05"</b>

By Watertown, SD NWS/CWO.

### Monday, Oct. 12 is Native American Day, early copy needed at Courier

The Clear Lake Courier, and many businesses, faces a Monday holiday next week. October 12 is the observance of Native American Day (Columbus Day) by the post office, federal, state, county (courthouse) and municipal (city) offices. They, along with some businesses, will be closed that day.

If you have news or advertising for the Courier of October 14, please contact us by Thursday or Friday of this week. Items mailed to us on Friday or Saturday will not reach us in time for publication.

Your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you.  
The Editor

### COVID-19 cases go up in Deuel County

Active cases of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 have gone up this week from 11 to 18. Total cases have gone up to 97 from 84 last week. Those numbers have the SD Department of Health terming the community spread of the coronavirus as "moderate."

In the total cases, 79 have recovered. Five people have ever been hospitalized. There have been no deaths in Deuel County.

The number of people who tested negative for the virus is now 652.

### Trinity Treadlers will not hold annual event

The Trinity Lutheran Church Treadlers sewing group has decided not to hold their annual open house and fall sales which is normally held this month.

If you have a special request, or want to purchase smaller items such as scrubies, dish towels or pot holders, they can be purchased at Sodak Gardens. See Liz there for details.

### FCA will Zoom

#### Wednesday meeting

The Deuel High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes will have their meeting on Wednesday, October 7, at 8:00 p.m. via ZOOM. The campfire that had originally been scheduled has been canceled.

For more information please contact Elise Hotzler or Becky Krause.

### Second half real estate taxes due October 30

Deuel County property owners have until October 30, 2020 to pay the second half of their real estate taxes without interest. The 2019 taxes, payable in 2020, can be paid at the county treasurer's office at the courthouse by Friday, October 30. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Taxes can also be mailed, with a postmark no later than Saturday, October 31.

Taxpayers are asked to bring in or send, if mailed, the stubs from their tax bill they received in January to insure proper credit. Receipts will not be mailed unless requested, according to Jen Mewherter, Deuel County treasurer.



### New view from courthouse

Staff in the the Deuel County courthouse offices will enjoy a new view. Boettcher Windows is replacing all of the windows in the building. The \$120,000 project is to be completed in October. The project includes the new windows, disposing of the old windows and all labor.

## Board reduces tax burden for school district taxpayers

Deuel's school board adopted its finance committee's recommendations and lowered the budget and levies over \$1 million for the district next year. That came with the adoption of changes in the proposed annual budget for 2020-21. The action was taken at a special meeting September 28.

The recommendations included a reduction of \$361 thousand in the general fund, \$115 thousand in special education and \$525 thousand in capital outlay. Board president Wade Gubrud stated it

was "reducing the tax burden by nearly 25%."

Board member Michelle Prins added "We are dropping over \$1 million and still \$250 thousand ahead without the Covid money." The school is to be reimbursed approximately \$500 per student.

The board's communications committee will be addressing the budget for district patrons in the near future.

**•Coronavirus Relief Funds**  
Deuel School will be reimbursed approximately \$250 thousand from Coronavirus

Relief Funds. That money may go in the general or capital outlay funds and used for covid related expenses.

Business manager Blaine Franken noted the expenditures do not have to be "tracked" like any other district expense.

He recommended another mini-bus be purchased with some of that money. Later in the meeting the board okayed such a purchase, \$51,459.

Minutes of the special meeting are published in this Courier.

## Coronavirus claims school classes and other events

Deuel School went to on-line education due to a surge in the cases of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 last week. The pandemic has claimed many events since then.

Last week, Deuel High School was dismissed to on-line classes due an outbreak and the number of close contacts associated with the posi-

tive cases. Middle and elementary classes were still in session, however those were pushed online, too, when the number of teachers who had been in close contacts, went up.

All school activities have been cancelled or if possible, rescheduled.

In-session classes and activi-

ties are scheduled to resume October 12.

#### •What we know

Here's what the Courier is aware of for cancellations and/or postponements due to the pandemic.

The Coteau Prairie Chapter of Pheasants Forever post-

**CORONAVIRUS—**  
continued on page 12

## School District Patrons,

On Sept. 28th, the Deuel School board approved the 2020-2021 budget. The new budget will result in significantly lower tax levies for 2021. Taxes collected for the district will be lowered by 23% or approximately \$1 million. The reduction will come from three funding areas, General Fund, Capital Outlay, and Special Education. The General Fund and Capital Outlay Fund constitute the majority of the reduction.

In anticipation of wind tax revenue, the board decided to reduce the General Fund levy by approximately \$360,000. By lowering the levy, the board is attempting to avoid losing state aid which could result from the additional wind tax funds. The additional wind tax revenue can only be utilized in the General Fund per South Dakota Codified Law. The primary function of the General Fund is to cover the daily operating expenses of the district such as utilities, staff salaries and benefits.

The Capital Outlay levy reduction is based on a sufficient fund balance previously collected in anticipation of a significant building project. As a result, the board and administration recognize the need to lower the Capital Outlay levy and pass the savings of approximately \$500,000 along to taxpayers. The board and administration will continue to evaluate the levy as the building plan timelines and funding needs become more clearly defined in the future.

The levy reductions are an opportunity to provide substantial savings for local taxpayers in the near term. The board and administration will continue to work to drive fiscal responsibility within the district each year and at the same time understand budgetary needs fluctuate on an annual basis.

We would also like to thank Jim & Linda Dailey, and Toben Limited Partnership, (Greg, Darla, Ross & Jason) for their monetary donation to the school this past month. It is greatly appreciated!

#### Deuel School Board

Wade Gubrud  
Michelle Prins  
Melody Budahl  
Joel Brandt  
Jessica TeKrony  
**Administration**  
Chad Schiernbeck-Superintendent  
Blaine Franken-Business Manager



## Amateur radio operators assist stranded motorist

Amateur radio operator Chuck Butzin, of Chamberlain, SD, was in the right place, at the right time, to assist a motorist in need. On Saturday, September 26, Butzin came upon a vehicle that went off the roadway. No injuries were reported, but the vehicle would need tow truck assistance to get back on U.S. Highway 85 between Lead, SD and Buckhorn, WY.

Butzin, who is known by his amateur radio call sign KØBBQ, was beyond cell phone coverage so he used a radio link on Terry Peak to request assistance. On the opposite end of the state, Matt Holden, KØBBC, Gary, SD, heard the call from Butzin and offered to assist. Holden relayed location details, via 911, to the dispatch center in Watertown, SD. On duty dis-

patcher, Denny Warrick, WØDQW, Watertown, SD, used the GPS coordinates, provided by Butzin, to determine the location of the incident and engage the closest law enforcement agency. Pennington County Sheriff was able to send a patrol car and summon a tow truck.

There are 1953 licensed amateur radio operators in the state of South Dakota. Many, like Butzin, have radios in their car so they can communicate without the use of cell phones or the Internet while on the road.

The Terry Peak link or repeater is part of SDLINK, a series of 12 amateur repeaters that connect South Dakota amateur radio operators along Interstates 29 and 90. More information about SDLINK can be found at sdlink.org.

## Kitchen safety is theme of Fire Prevention Week

South Dakota's Fire Marshal says while the kitchen can be one of the favorite rooms in the house, it can also be a deadly one.

Fire Prevention Week is October 4-10. This year's theme is "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!"

"Cooking is the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries while unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen," said State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman. "People need to be careful and attentive when using any type of heating source in the kitchen."

Fire Prevention Week is observed by fire departments nationwide. Merriman says firefighters use the week to remind the public, especially children, about making sure how to get safely out of homes during a fire and the importance of having working smoke alarms on all floors of the home.

For more on this year's theme, go to [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

The state Fire Marshal's Office is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.



## It's National Coop Month!

Come join our Coop, where YOU have a voice and YOU make the difference.

What are you waiting for?

Call 1-800-417-8667 or visit [www.itc-web.com](http://www.itc-web.com)

