April - Maga’Okada Wi - (Moon of Geese) Geese have returned and built their nest, lining their nests with soft down feathers.

Casino closes during COVID-19 threat

The Royal River Casino and Hotel closed its property last week with the commitment to pay its employees for an additional two weeks. The more than 250 employees have been furloughed with their jobs and benefits staying in place when they return to work, said Tim Morrissey, senior director of operations. The casino management and Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe announced March 31 that the casino property would close at 11:50 p.m. that night. The First American Mart remains open with a change in operating hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pumps are available 24-hours-a-day with a credit or debit card.
In addition, the tribe will use the casino kitchen to prepare meals for elders who relied on the Grace Moore Center, which is temporarily closed, or the casino to eat. Meals will be delivered to the elders’ homes, Morrissey said.

The decision to close the casino was based on the best interests of guests and employees during a time when there is a threat of COVID-19 spreading, Morrissey said. During the closure, the property will be deep cleaned, he said. It will reopen once the risk of exposure decreases. At the time of the property closure, there were no reported positive cases of COVID-19 in Moody County.

Employees whose jobs are suspended until the casino reopens are eligible for unemployment and benefits under the federal CARES act. The two weeks of pay is meant to help the employees get through the initial closure, Morrissey said. “The tribe has been extremely generous trying to make sure no team member suffers,” Morrissey said. For employees that rely on tips, the tribe will pay their minimum wage plus an average of what they usually collect in tips, he said.

Royal River has postponed its scheduled entertainment through May 31. The Tribute to Johnny Cash show, planned before the casino closed, has been moved to July 11, and the Buck Cherry concert, planned for May 9, has been rescheduled for Sept. 11. If patrons cannot use the tickets for those dates, they can arrange for a reimbursement.

The decision to temporarily close the property wasn't without a lot of consideration, Morrissey said. The tribe had a COVID taskforce in place and consulted with tribal health care to help with decisions. The federal CARES package helped with the decision because it meant employees would be eligible to be taken care of, he said.

“It was still a very difficult decision to close any operation,” he said. “We felt and knew our team members would be taken care of.”
EPA Encourages Americans to Only Flush Toilet Paper

WASHINGTON (March 30, 2020) — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging all Americans to only flush toilet paper, not disinfecting wipes or other non-flushable items that should be disposed of in the trash.

Flushing only toilet paper helps ensure that the toilets, plumbing, sewer systems and septic systems will continue working properly to safely manage our nation’s wastewater.

While EPA encourages disinfecting your environment to prevent the spread of COVID-19, never flush disinfecting wipes or other non-flushable items. These easy steps will keep surfaces disinfected and wastewater management systems working for all Americans.

Preventable toilet and sewer backups can pose a threat to human health and present an extra challenge to our water utilities and their workforce. Flushing anything other than toilet paper, including disinfecting wipes, can damage internal plumbing, local sewer systems and septic systems.

Fixing these backups is costly and takes time and resources away from ensuring that wastewater management systems are otherwise working properly.

EPA thanks wastewater utilities and their workforce for their courageous efforts at a time when resources may be stretched thin.

Having fully operational wastewater services is critical to containing COVID-19 and protecting Americans from other public health risks.

Our nation’s wastewater employees are everyday heroes who are on the frontline of protecting human health and the environment every single day.
Industrial hemp becomes legal in SD after Noem signs bill

By Lisa Kaczke

Pierre, SD – March 27, 2020 – Industrial hemp and CBD oil are now legal in South Dakota after a yearlong standoff between Gov. Kristi Noem and legislators.

Noem signed House Bill 1008 into law on Friday, and it goes into effect immediately. The bill includes $3.5 million in funding to set up the state’s industrial hemp program, though funding is subject to change as Noem has called for a special session in June to address the budget in the wake of the coronavirus.

Producers must wait to grow hemp until the U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved South Dakota’s hemp program, which legislators estimated could occur as late as June.

Noem and legislators said the industrial hemp bill would be passed within the first couple of weeks of the 2020 legislative session, but it was instead the last bill passed in the Legislature after it was used in negotiations on other bills throughout the final week.

The passage into law comes a year after Noem and legislators began their dispute over legalizing hemp. Legislators passed the bill in 2019 despite Noem’s calls to wait until the state was ready for it, but then they were unable to override Noem’s veto of the 2019 hemp bill. Legislators then spent the interim studying the issue to ready a bill for the 2020 session, but Noem continued to say she opposed hemp, writing in a Wall Street Journal column in September that she planned to veto the bill in the 2020 session.

But Noem announced in January that she would consider signing the industrial hemp bill if it contained four “guardrails” of reliable enforcement, responsible regulation, safe transportation and adequate funding.

Legislators and Noem had vastly different pictures of the amount of funding needed to set up a state hemp program, with state agencies requesting $3.5 million and the Legislative Research Council telling legislators that it would take about $245,000. But in the end, legislators gave Noem the $3.5 million she requested.

Track your stimulus payment using upcoming IRS tool

(WAFB) - By April 17, U.S. citizens will be able to track the date their COVID-19 relief payment is scheduled to be deposited into their bank account or mailed to them, officials said.

The Internal Revenue Service’s “Get My Payment” tool will also guide citizens through a process where they can submit their personal bank account information.

That process allows citizens to receive payments more quickly, as delivering paper checks may not begin until May.

The IRS is not contacting anyone to collect personal or bank account information.

Calls, texts, emails and official-looking postcards or printouts that suggest otherwise are scams.

Checks that appear to show an overpayment are also scams. People who earn up to $75,000 in adjusted gross income and have a Social Security number are set to receive a $1,200 payment under the law.

Married couples who file joint returns will receive $2,400 if their adjusted gross income is under $150,000.

Parents will receive $500 for each qualifying child.

The IRS announced it has already made an initial wave of stimulus payments.

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COVID-19 vs seasonal flu:
What you need to know about both

By Vivien Williams

Rochester, MN – Mayo Clinic – March 11, 2020 – SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, continues to spread into communities worldwide. Many are worried, as officials and medical experts urge people to take precautions to contain the virus. Dr. Gregory Poland, a Mayo Clinic infectious diseases and vaccine specialist, says that the threat of the coronavirus is real, but the seasonal flu still remains a bigger issue for most people.

“Right now, seasonal flu is causing many more deaths than COVID-19, and the tragedy is that many people die because they consider it ‘just the flu,’” says Dr. Poland.

The numbers are constantly changing, but as of now the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that more 34 million people have been sickened by the flu, from 350,000 to 620,000 people have been hospitalized, and from 20,000 to 52,000 people have died from it.

“Right now, the number of COVID-19 cases pales in comparison to the number of flu cases,” says Dr. Poland. “Unlike COVID-19, seasonal flu is in every state and every community in the U.S. Your best defense against the flu is to get the flu vaccine. If you haven’t gotten it yet, it is not too late. Go get it.”

Dr. Poland compares the flu vaccine to being a safety device similar to the seat belt of your car.

“It won’t protect you from every type of crash, but it will protect you from getting hurt in many kinds of accidents. And it will also reduce your chances of getting severely injured in a crash,” says Dr. Poland. “Similarly, The flu vaccine can’t protect you from all flu viruses, but it can reduce your chances of contracting one. And if you do get sick, the vaccine will help reduce the severity of symptoms.”

Dr. Poland says that while most people remain at higher risk of contacting the flu than COVID-19 at this time, he recommends people take these measures, to protect themselves against both:

Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

Use hand sanitizer. Cough into a tissue and immediately discard and wash your hands. If a tissue is not available, cough into your elbow.

Stay up to date on travel restrictions and other protective measures set up by national organizations such as the CDC and your local government.

If you develop symptoms such as cough, fever, body aches, shortness of breath and fatigue, stay in your home and contact a health care provider who can advise you.

Stay away from others who are ill with cough and fever.
Work together to contain COVID-19

By Andrew Ellsworth, MD

With the coronavirus causing school to be cancelled, my son brought his schoolwork home. He shared with us a Greek mythology worksheet about Pandora's Box. If you aren't familiar, the Greek god Zeus gave a wedding present to beautiful Pandora but instructed her not to open it. Like many of us, impatience and curiosity got the best of her and she opened it anyway which caused a lot of new problems.

Similarly, with COVID-19, this new virus is already out of the box. This is a global pandemic and we are being asked to be patient and conform to social distancing to help slow down the spread. This is our current challenge. Every day we hear about sporting events, concerts, schools, and travel plans being cancelled. This is the best-known method to slow the spread of COVID-19. The less we are mixing and mingling, the less the virus is spreading.

When we slow the spread, we give our healthcare systems the best chance at having the resources on hand to keep up with the number of people who need help at any given time. In areas of the world where cases of Covid-19 were allowed to spike, the healthcare systems are overwhelmed. Some hospitals don't have enough beds, enough ventilators, enough medicine to treat everyone that needs help. They don't have enough masks and gowns to protect their staff. In these situations, doctors are having to decide who gets treatment, and who doesn't.

Thankfully, of those who become infected, possibly 80 percent will have only mild symptoms. Some may not have symptoms at all. However, we need to understand that some will become very sick and some will die. Unlike influenza, COVID-19 is a new virus. Therefore, none of us have immunity from the past or from immunizations. There is no herd immunity.

That is why events are cancelled. That is why social distancing is urged. Since most people will only have mild symptoms and some people may not have symptoms at all, the virus can be spread easily without us realizing it. We all need to be patient and follow the instructions from health officials. By doing so, we can hopefully prevent a large spike of a lot of sick people at once and avoid a worst-case scenario.

My son's main impression from his school lesson was that despite the sickness and problems that were released, Pandora closed the lid and held hope inside the box. I have hope that together we will contain this virus and, in the end, this, too, shall pass.

Andrew Ellsworth, MD 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.
In coronavirus crisis, 575 groups urge halt to utilities shutoffs

Washington, DC – March 18, 2020 – More than 575 utility justice, labor, faith, consumer and environmental groups urged state governors, mayors and utility regulators today to put a moratorium on electricity and water-utility shutoffs in response to the coronavirus crisis and resulting job losses.

Today’s letter also called for deeper policy changes that deploy distributed solar and establish percentage-of-income water-payment systems to address the systemic issues leading to shutoffs.

The coronavirus crisis will likely cause widespread job losses across America, disproportionately hurting low-wealth households, communities of color, and American Indian and Alaska Native communities. These families face difficulties in affording basic utility services, and some have already been disconnected from water and electricity.

“It’s unconscionable that utilities are cutting off the electricity and water of families who have lost their jobs to the coronavirus crisis,” said Jean Su, director of the Center for Biological Diversity’s energy justice program. “The pandemic is worsening the already dire effects of poverty, climate change and dependence on fossil-fueled utilities. Stopping shutoffs is crucial, but governors should also work to transition families to clean energy systems that aren’t dependent on dirty corporate utility power that can be cut off in a crisis.”

“The rising costs of electricity due to the stressors of our fossil fuel-based economy exerts a crippling financial burden for many, especially workers earning low wages and seniors living on fixed incomes,” said Chandra Farley, just energy director at the Partnership for Southern Equity. “The resulting utility burdens on black, brown and indigenous communities and people of color are being amplified by this crisis, with no long-term economic relief strategy in place. We must remain steadfast in our push for equity-centered, clean energy policies that significantly enhance household economic stability and improve our collective health and well-being.”

Trump administration delays April 15 tax payment deadline by 90 days for many

Washington, DC – (AP) – March 17, 2020 – The Trump administration says it will allow individuals and businesses to delay paying their tax bills for 90 days past the April 15 deadline in an effort to inject as much as $300 billion into the economy at a time when the country is in danger of being pushed into a recession by the coronavirus.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said individuals will be able to delay paying up to $1 million in payments while corporations will be able to defer payment on up to $10 million.

Taxpayers will still have to file their tax returns by the April 15 deadline. But they won’t have to pay their tax bill for 90 additional days.

During that time, individuals and corporations will not be subject to interest or penalty payments.

All you have to do is file your taxes,” Mnuchin said.

The IRS has yet to release guidelines for the program.

According to the Associated Press, as of Feb. 21, the IRS had issued more than 37.4 million refunds averaging $3,125.

He also said that President Donald Trump wants checks sent to Americans within the next two weeks to help with the economic impact of the coronavirus.

“Americans need cash now, and the president wants to give cash now and I mean now in the next two weeks,” Mnuchin described.

He added that the impact of coronavirus on the airline industry has been worse than what they faced following 9/11.
$10 Billion in aid appears headed to Indian country in Senate coronavirus stimulus package

Washington, DC – Native News Online – March 26, 2020 – More than $10 billion appears to be headed to Indian Country with the passage of a bipartisan COVID-19 emergency relief package by the Senate last night.

The $2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which passed unanimously in a 96-0 vote late last night, calls for an $8 billion Tribal Government Relief fund, which would provide tribes with “one-stop” access to COVID-19 resources for economic recovery and the continuation of essential government services.

The agreement also contains $2.3 billion in emergency supplemental funding for Indian Tribes, Native communities and urban Indian health programs, including $1.032 billion for the Indian Health Service. Tribal programs for housing, education and food distribution would receive approximately a half-billion in aid, while the Bureau of Indian Affairs is due to receive $453 million to assist tribes.

“We worked hard to secure necessary resources to help Tribes combat the coronavirus outbreak,” Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.), chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, said in a statement today. “This legislation delivers important resources for Indian Tribes to help health care providers, small businesses, schools, communities, and individuals mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in tribal communities.”

Having cleared the Senate, the bill is headed to the House, where it is expected to be approved by voice vote on Friday. President Trump said he intends to sign the bill into law immediately.

Language Bowl

Students participated in a Language Bowl in Huron. Flandreau had two teams participate in the Dakota
Adele Cathryn (Lavato) Davis, age 72, of Flandreau South Dakota journeyed to the spirit world on Wednesday March 18, 2020. She was born on March 29, 1947 on the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota the daughter of Evelyn Grass Galvan. Adele attended Holy Rosary Boarding school in Pine Ridge before attending Oglala High School.

After graduation, she moved to Nebraska where she had her oldest son Andres followed by her son Joseph in Illinois of 1969. Aaron, was born in Georgia in 1974 with the first of her daughter’s, Kathryn, born in New Mexico in 1980. Rosalie, her last daughter was born in Nebraska in 1983.

Adele enjoyed her children and grandchildren, any activity that involved family and the children, she enjoyed the most. While living in Japan, she began to pick up hobbies such as ceramics along with macramé, cooking and collecting foreign furniture. In Omaha she enjoyed an occasional dance with friends and family. It wasn’t until 1980, her move from Clovis, NM to Omaha, NE she began her journey as a single mother with a family of 5. She worked tirelessly, a full-time job, one part-time job and attending school during the evenings. Adele was short of her Bachelor’s Degree in Business by 6 credits and always preached the benefits of an education to her children and grandchildren.

Adele is survived by her children: Andres Davis, Flandreau, South Dakota; Joseph Davis, San Diego, California; Aaron Davis, Puyallup, Washington; Katie Estrada, Flandreau, South Dakota; Rosalie Nelson, Flandreau, South Dakota; 17 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren; other relatives and friends.

All night wakes will be held Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22 beginning at 6 PM each night at Eastman Hall, Flandreau, SD.

Funeral service will be held Monday, March 23, 2020 at 11:00 AM at Eastman Hall, Flandreau, SD. Ken James will officiate. Drum Group is the Wakpa’ Ipaksan Singers.

Casket bearers are Matthew Davis, Thomas Perez, Sean Miller, Mike Polmateer, Delson Long, Jaime Long and Wiwokiya King.
Come celebrate FSST employees' Birthdays this month!

Wednesday, April 8th at Noon

April Birthday Cake

Marixza Najera 1st
Roxee Johnson 5th
Robert Charging 15th
Chantelle Blue Arm 19th
Sunshine Blair 19th
Jason Taylor 28th
Jody Piel 28th
Allen Pooler 28th

Wish our April Birthday Employees a Happy Birthday and enjoy a slice of birthday cake with them. A birthday cake will be placed in both the Tribal Office and the Tribal Health Clinic Breakrooms at noon. FSST Management would like to wish those of you with birthdays in April a Happy Birthday!
The FSST Education department and Demonstration Grant offered 2 ribbon skirt classes and an applique class to the community in February and March.

The classes were held at the Wicoicaga Otipi Community Center and led by Zintkada Zi Win (Leah Owen) who is originally from Tinta Winta (Prairie Island).

There were a total of 33 participants for all of the classes combined and most of the participants completed their projects.

The classes included the Dakota teachings of making items and adornments to be given and worn, basic sewing skills, appliqué sewing techniques, and the complete ribbon skirt design and sewing process.

Appliqué and ribbon work have been a part of Dakota attire for centuries. In a modern day, we continue to wear and adorn our relatives in our traditional designs.

We would like to say pidamaya to Zintkada Zi Win for all her teachings and all of our community participants. We hope to offer more classes in the future.
COLD & FLU
DO THE DAB

COUGH INTO YOUR ARM & DO NO HARM

Covering your coughs and sneezes prevent the spread of germs.
WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service today announced that distribution of economic impact payments will begin in the next three weeks and will be distributed automatically, with no action required for most people. However, some seniors and others who typically do not file returns will need to submit a simple tax return to receive the stimulus payment.

Who is eligible for the economic impact payment?

Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to $75,000 for individuals and up to $150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is reduced by $5 for each $100 above the $75,000/$150,000 thresholds. Single filers with income exceeding $99,000 and $198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to $1,200 for individuals or $2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive $500 for each qualifying child.

How will the IRS know where to send my payment?

The vast majority of people do not need to take any action. The IRS will calculate and automatically send the economic impact payment to those eligible.

For people who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed.

The IRS does not have my direct deposit information. What can I do?

In the coming weeks, Treasury plans to develop a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately as opposed to checks in the mail.

I am not typically required to file a tax return. Can I still receive my payment?

Yes. People who typically do not file a tax return will need to file a simple tax return to receive an economic impact payment. Low-income taxpayers, senior citizens, Social Security recipients, some veterans and individuals with disabilities who are otherwise not required to file a tax return will not owe tax.

How can I file the tax return needed to receive my economic impact payment?

http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus will soon provide information instructing people in these groups on how to file a 2019 tax return with simple, but necessary, information including their filing status, number of dependents and direct deposit bank account information.

I have not filed my tax return for 2018 or 2019. Can I still receive an economic impact payment?
Yes. The IRS urges anyone with a tax filing obligation who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 to file as soon as they can to receive an economic impact payment. Taxpayers should include direct deposit banking information on the return.

I need to file a tax return. How long are the economic impact payments available?

For those concerned about visiting a tax professional or local community organization in person to get help with a tax return, these economic impact payments will be available throughout the rest of 2020.

Where can I get more information?

The IRS will post all key information on www.irs.gov/coronavirus as soon as it becomes available.

The IRS has a reduced staff in many of its offices but remains committed to helping eligible individuals receive their payments expeditiously. Check for updated information on IRS.gov/coronavirus rather than calling IRS assistors who are helping process 2019 returns.

Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 31-Mar-2020

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Interim Guidance on Alternative Facemasks

CURRENT AS OF MARCH 27, 2020

Alternative facemasks can be homemade facemasks, or manufactured facemasks that are not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There are many versions of non-FDA regulated facemasks, and facilities should evaluate each product before use.

Every effort should be made to obtain FDA regulated facemasks and to comply with CDC’s Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE and Equipment (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html) for the purpose of protecting the health care worker from exposure to infectious particles. Alternative facemasks can serve as source control for an individual who may be infected (transmission may occur prior to the development of overt symptoms) as an approach to limit transmission of the virus. MDH recommends the use of source control at this time for all health care workers.

When is it appropriate to wear an alternative facemask:

1. FDA regulated PPE supply has been exhausted and all efforts to extend PPE use has been exhausted.
2. A worker in a health care facility does not have direct patient care responsibility (e.g. dietary staff, environmental services staff, administrative staff)
3. Use by patients who do not have respiratory symptoms.
4. Use by visitors or contract staff who are providing services to a healthcare facility.
5. Asymptomatic staff who have not had exposures to known or suspect COVID-19 cases.

Design principles:

1. Build a mask that tightly encloses the area around the nose and mouth, from the bridge of the nose down to the chin, and extending onto the cheek beyond the corners of the mouth, so no gaps occur when talking or moving.
2. Use mask material that is tightly woven but breathable. Possibly double-layer the fabric.
   - Masks must be made from washable material such as fabric. Choose a fabric that can handle high temperatures and bleach without shrinking or otherwise deforming.
3. The mask should be tolerant of expected amounts of moisture from breathing.
4. Other Considerations
   - Suggested materials- outer layer tea cloth, inner layer of a microfleece to wick away moisture, and an inner tea cloth layer. Use an accordion fold to mimic a hospital mask as much as possible and use a fat woven shoelace type material to bind the sides (such as quilt binding). For straps, use elastic straps that loop behind the ears.

Use of alternate facemasks:

1. Alternative facemasks should be donned and doffed per usual CDC protocol.
2. Alternative facemasks should be changed when saturated from condensation build up from breathing, or after a gross contamination event.

3. Dirty and clean facemasks must be housed in separate, clearly labeled containers to prevent cross contamination.

**Washing masks:**

Wash dirty masks between each use. Wash in hot water with regular detergent. Dry completely on hot setting.

**Design examples:**

There is no standard design for a homemade facemask therefore, consider innovation using the design principle above. Below are example designs for consideration:

**Videos:**

- Face Mask Kit (https://vimeo.com/399324367/13cd93f150), Providence St. Joseph Health
- How to sew a simple Fabric Face Mask (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOJ_sm137fQ), YouTube

**Written instructions:**

- How to make a facemask (www.allinahealth.org/-/media/allina-health/files/mask-sewing-how-to.pdf), Allina Health
- Facemask: A picture tutorial (https://buttoncounter.com/2018/01/14/facemask-a-picture-tutorial/)
- Taiwanese Doctor Teaches How to DIY Cloth Face Mask (https://mustsharenews.com/cloth-face-mask/)
- DIY Cloth Face Mask (www.instructables.com/id/DIY-Cloth-Face-Mask/)

**Articles:**

Dear Elders,

Even in these uncertain times Gayle & Cyndi do what they can, to make life normal as possible for our Elders.

Stay Strong FSST!!!
President Trump approves Major Disaster Declaration for SD

Washington, DC – April 5, 2020 – FEMA announced that federal emergency aid has been made available for the state of South Dakota to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020 and continuing.

Federal funding is available to state, tribal, eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct federal assistance under Public Assistance, for all areas affected by COVID-19 at a federal cost share of 75 percent.

Lee dePalo has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further assessments.

**WHEN SHOULD I PLANT?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetable</th>
<th>Best Time to Plant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asparagus</td>
<td>Mar 15-Apr 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bean, bush, Lima</td>
<td>May 10, June 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bean, bush, snap</td>
<td>Apr 25-July 15</td>
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<td>Beet</td>
<td>Apr 10-July 15</td>
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<td>Broccoli</td>
<td>Apr 10-May 1</td>
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<td>Cabbage</td>
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<td>Carrot</td>
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<td>Cauliflower</td>
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<td>Endive</td>
<td>Apr 1-May 1</td>
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<td>Garlic, from cloves</td>
<td>Mar 25-Apr 15</td>
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<td>Kale</td>
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<td>Kohlrabi</td>
<td>July 1-Aug 1</td>
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<td>Mar 25-Apr 5</td>
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<td>Muskmelon</td>
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<td>Mustard</td>
<td>Mar 25-May 16</td>
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<td>New Zealand spinach</td>
<td>May 10-June 15</td>
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<td>Okra</td>
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<td>Pumpkin</td>
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<td>Radish, spring</td>
<td>Apr 5-June 1</td>
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<td>Radish, winter</td>
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<td>Radish, spring</td>
<td>Aug 1-15</td>
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<td>Rhubarb</td>
<td>Mar 25-May 15</td>
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<td>Turnips</td>
<td>Mar 25-Apr 15</td>
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<td>Turnips</td>
<td>Aug 1-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watermelons</td>
<td>May 10-June 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Science Experiments

The Exploding Lunch Bag

All You Need

- Baking soda
- One small sandwich bag (zip locking)
- Warm water
- Vinegar
- Measuring cup
- A tissue

Directions

1. Go outside – or at least do this in the kitchen sink.
2. Put 1/4 cup of pretty warm water into the bag.
3. Add 1/2 cup of vinegar to the water in the bag.
4. Put 3 teaspoons of baking soda into the middle of the tissue.
5. Wrap the baking soda up in the tissue by folding the tissue around it.
6. You will have to work fast now – partially zip the bag closed but leave enough space to add the baking soda packet. Put the tissue with the baking soda into the bag and quickly zip the bag completely closed.

Put the bag in the sink or down on the ground (outside) and step back. The bag will start to expand, and expand, and if all goes well…POP!
This is the time to empower ourselves with prayer. As you well know, Colleen and her family have given a lifetime to develop a product line that serves the Native Peoples and the spirituality that accompanies them as they journey through life.

The most sought after prayer herbs currently are Sage, (both the local variety and that from California), Flat Cedar, Bitter Root (Sinkpe’), Bear Root, and two sizes of Sweet Grass braids.

We are blest to have supplies on hand specially for these trying times.

We offer a modest price of $8.00 to ship, and usually our packages arrive the day after we get them in the mail. In these contagious times, and with the encouraged non movement of ourselves and families for safety sake by our leaders, it makes sense to respectfully place the sacred herbs in a package and have it delivered to one’s door in a day or two.

From the website
Exceptional Native American Products

Colleen’s Gardens is your first choice for Native American products. As a family business going back generations, we take great pride in the quality of the items we sell. Our sole proprietor, Colleen Cordell, is a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, the great, great, great granddaughter of the Sioux Chief - “Little Crow.” Our Business is located in the tiny town of Marvin, South Dakota. Colleen learned her growing and crafting skills from her grandmother and great-grandmother and stays very busy harvesting making our beautiful, unique gifts.

Colleen’s Gardens & Native American Products
605.398.6923
www.indiangifts.com
Sota guest editorial –
‘We need clarification now’: Indian gaming industry being shut out of coronavirus relief program

By Acee Agyo

Indianz.com – April 3, 2020 – With the $33.7 billion Indian gaming industry at a standstill in the midst of the worst public health crisis in decades, tribal casino operations are in danger of being left out of a major coronavirus relief program.

The Trump administration on Friday morning began accepting applications for the new Paycheck Protection Program. But conflicting guidelines issued by the Small Business Administration the day prior are preventing tribes from accessing billions of dollars in funds that would enable them to keep thousands of casino workers on their payrolls.

“We need clarification now,” Dante Desiderio (Saponny), the executive director of the Native American Finance Officers Association, told Indianz.Com.

The matter is extremely time sensitive. The Paycheck Protection Program is open to millions of small businesses across America, and the fear is that Indian Country won’t get a fair shot with the guidelines affecting tribal gaming operations in dispute.

“They need to clarify this for tribes,” Desiderio said.

Some tribes already started working with lending institutions in hopes of securing backing through the Paycheck Protection Program. But the uncertainty from Washington, D.C., has put a hold on efforts to keep their economies -- which are often the major driver in their regions -- up and running amid the coronavirus crisis.

“We want to keep our employees, and we want them to keep the health insurance we provide,” President Bryan Newland of the Bay Mills Indian Community told Indianz.Com. “It is going to be a real challenge if we can’t access paycheck protection loans like other businesses can.”

The impact is significant in Indian Country. Newland said a loan covered by the Paycheck Protection Program would enable the tribe to continue paying 400 gaming employees -- including benefits, such as health care, that have become even more critical during the pandemic -- for at least the next two months in Michigan.

“The new guidance has upended our plan, leaving us to scramble for answers with one week left in our pay period,” said Newland.

The exclusion of gaming operations from the Paycheck Protection Program is also of national importance. The American Gaming Association blamed outdated and “discriminatory” regulations in Washington that will hurt “hundreds of thousands” of people unless the Trump administration changes course.

“This decision will affect hard-working Americans from Pennsylvania to Nevada, Ohio to Colorado, and everywhere in between who need and deserve the same level of support as anyone across the country during these unprecedented times,” President and CEO Bill Miller said in a statement on Friday, calling on Jovita Carranza, the head of the Small Business Administration, to take action before it’s too late.

The conflicting information from the executive branch comes after Congress, through H.R.748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, authorized the Paycheck Protection Program. The bipartisan law set aside $349 billion for small businesses to stay afloat during the crisis, which has already put millions of Americans out of work.

But while the application for the program states that loans are available to any “tribal business” leaders and advocates in Indian Country found out that a pre-existing definition -- buried elsewhere in thousands of pages of federal regulations -- excludes gaming establishments.

“It is really a big deal,” Desiderio told Indianz.Com. “This is the relief that tribes needed.”

The Trump administration has pitched the “unprecedented” program as a way for small businesses to secure loans quickly in a time of crisis. Administrator Carranza, who has addressed tribes at meetings like the National Congress of American Indians and previously represented the Department of the Treasury on the Tribal Advisory Committee, announced outlines on Tuesday.
“Speed is the operative word; applications for the emergency capital can begin as early as this week, with lenders using their own systems and processes to make these loans,” Carranza said in a news release. “We remain committed to supporting our nation’s more than 30 million small businesses and their employees, so that they can continue to be the fuel for our nation’s economic engine.”

Secretary of the Treasury Steven T. Mnuchin also boasted that Paycheck Protection Program loans could be “approved on the same day” as paperwork being submitted.

It wasn’t until Thursday, however, when the “interim” guidelines were released by official Washington. That happened to be the same day the Bay Mills Indian Community began putting together its loan application with a local bank, President Newland said.

The SBA, where Shawn Pensoneau, a citizen of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, serves as the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Native American Affairs, is set to discuss the conflicting guidance on Friday, according to advocates. A request for comment about the Paycheck Protection Program and tribal casinos has been placed with the agency.

According to the National Indian Gaming Association, 100 percent of casinos run by member tribes have closed as a result of the coronavirus. Some have laid off employees while others are keeping them on the payroll as long as possible.

“Kewadin Casinos is a committed community partner and, as such, we take our responsibility in assisting the stop of coronavirus seriously,” Allen Kerridge, the interim chief executive officer of the gaming enterprise for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the largest Indian nation east of the Mississippi. Kerridge said the tribe continues to pay 900 full-time and part-time employees at five establishments in Michigan.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is in a more precarious situation. Workers at the Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort and the Harrah’s Cherokee Valley River Casino and Hotel in North Carolina are only set to be paid through April 15, with furloughs for the “majority of employees” set to kick in on the following day, the operation said on Wednesday.

“Furloughed employees will continue to receive medical benefits which will be provided and paid for by the company through reopening or June 30, whichever comes first,” Harrah’s Cherokee Casinos said in a statement. June 30 happens to be the final date for which the loans obtained through the Paycheck Protection Program can be used to cover payroll costs.

As of 2018, the tribal casino industry employed more than 670,000 people, with more than $36 billion in wages paid to employees, according to a comprehensive study released by the American Gaming Association at the time.

Overall, the American gaming industry, including operations in Indian Country, supported a total economic impact of $261.4 billion of output, with 1.8 million jobs and $40.8 billion in tax revenue, according to the AGA.
Gov. Noem signs two executive orders to fight COVID-19

Pierre, SD – April 7, 2020 –
Yesterday, Governor Kristi Noem signed two Executive Orders to fight the spread of COVID-19 in South Dakota.

The first executive order (EO 2020-12) updates EO 2020-08’s guidelines for South Dakota residents by replacing “should” with “shall.” It also extends the timeline to May 31, 2020.

The second executive order (EO 2020-13) applies to Minnehaha and Lincoln counties. Specifically, the EO directs adults over the age of 65 and people of any age who have certain serious underlying medical conditions to stay at home. The EO includes exceptions for those who are in a critical infrastructure jobs, for essential errands, and the like.

“We are at a critical juncture. So we’re asking these two groups in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties—those who are most vulnerable—to really take this seriously and stay home for three weeks. That will help us further flatten the curve,” Governor Noem said.

To learn more about executive orders to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit COVID.sd.gov.

Update
Pierre, SD – April 8, 2020 –
Yesterday, Governor Kristi Noem signed an executive order to fight the spread of COVID-19 in South Dakota.

The executive order (EO 2020-14) suspends certain regulations, namely:

The regulatory provision governing teacher evaluations;
The requirements that a public body conducting a meeting by teleconference must provide a physical location for the public to listen and participate and that require a bid to be opened in the physical presence of a witness;
The statutory provision requiring the Department of Corrections to impose certain sanctions for parole violations regarding a positive urinalysis test for a controlled substance. This will allow the department to institute a policy in the best interests of the health and safety of the state’s institutions and inmates.

To learn more about executive orders to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit COVID.sd.gov.

Update
Executive order to extend SD COVID-19 emergency declaration
Pierre, SD – April 9, 2020
Today, Governor Kristi Noem signed an extension of her previous executive orders to continue South Dakota’s fight against the spread of COVID-19.

The new Executive Order (EO 2020-15) extends Governor Noem’s initial State of Emergency declaration from March 13th. A State of Emergency declaration allows the governor to activate certain emergency powers so that the governor and state agencies can respond to this emergency to the fullest extent necessary and use all resources available to fight the virus’ spread. The Executive Order also clarifies that other previous executive orders are extended through the duration of this emergency.


To learn more about executive orders to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit COVID.sd.gov.
Knowing the signs of meth abuse might help you save someone's life.

Certain behavioral and physical changes are common among meth users. Signs of meth abuse include:

- Hyperactivity
- Drastic weight loss
- Dilated pupils
- Talkativeness
- Increased distractibility
- Tooth decay and loss of teeth
- Aggression
- Irritability
- Agitation
- Grandiose behavior
- Twitchiness
- Loss of interest in normal activities, such as food, water, sex, and sleep
- Getting “sketched out,” or becoming agitated, nervous, moody, irritable, paranoid, and/or aggressive.
- Jumpy eyes
- Scratching, itching, or picking at skin
- Financial difficulties
- Not meeting financial obligations
- Absenteeism or tardiness at school or work
- Noticeable changes in behavior
- Cravings
- Social and interpersonal problems
- Impulsive behaviors
- Memory loss
- Bizarre and erratic behavior
- Repetitive behavior patterns that can last for hours, also called “tweaking” or “geeking.”
- Sleep deprivation, resulting in hallucinations, delusions, extreme paranoia, or violence
WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service today announced that distribution of economic impact payments will begin in the next three weeks and will be distributed automatically, with no action required for most people. However, some seniors and others who typically do not file returns will need to submit a simple tax return to receive the stimulus payment.

Who is eligible for the economic impact payment?

Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to $75,000 for individuals and up to $150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is reduced by $5 for each $100 above the $75,000/$150,000 thresholds. Single filers with income exceeding $99,000 and $198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to $1,200 for individuals or $2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive $500 for each qualifying child.

How will the IRS know where to send my payment?

The vast majority of people do not need to take any action. The IRS will calculate and automatically send the economic impact payment to those eligible.

For people who have already filed their 2019 tax returns, the IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount. For those who have not yet filed their return for 2019, the IRS will use information from their 2018 tax filing to calculate the payment. The economic impact payment will be deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on the return filed.

The IRS does not have my direct deposit information. What can I do?

In the coming weeks, Treasury plans to develop a web-based portal for individuals to provide their banking information to the IRS online, so that individuals can receive payments immediately as opposed to checks in the mail.

I am not typically required to file a tax return. Can I still receive my payment?

Yes. People who typically do not file a tax return will need to file a simple tax return to receive an economic impact payment. Low-income taxpayers, senior citizens, Social Security recipients, some veterans and individuals with disabilities who are otherwise not required to file a tax return will not owe tax.

How can I file the tax return needed to receive my economic impact payment?

http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus will soon provide information instructing people in these groups on how to file a 2019 tax return with simple, but necessary, information including their filing status, number of dependents and direct deposit bank account information.

I have not filed my tax return for 2018 or 2019. Can I still receive an economic impact payment?
Yes. The IRS urges anyone with a tax filing obligation who has not yet filed a tax return for 2018 or 2019 to file as soon as they can to receive an economic impact payment. Taxpayers should include direct deposit banking information on the return.

I need to file a tax return. How long are the economic impact payments available?

For those concerned about visiting a tax professional or local community organization in person to get help with a tax return, these economic impact payments will be available throughout the rest of 2020.

Where can I get more information?

The IRS will post all key information on www.irs.gov/coronavirus as soon as it becomes available.

The IRS has a reduced staff in many of its offices but remains committed to helping eligible individuals receive their payments expeditiously. Check for updated information on IRS.gov/coronavirus rather than calling IRS assissors who are helping process 2019 returns.

Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 31-Mar-2020

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25 Simple (And Free!) Things to do at Home with Kids

1. Take a walk around the neighborhood.
2. Read a book together.
3. Build a fort.
4. Play a card game.
5. Color each other a picture.
6. Build a card house.
7. Bake your favorite treat.
9. Throw the frisbee or football around.
10. Ride your bikes.
11. Play Hide & Seek
12. Build a block or magna-tile structure.
13. Paint a picture.
15. Listen to podcasts together.
16. Look through old photo albums.
17. Facetime a relative.
19. Do some yoga moves or easy exercises.
20. Play instruments.
21. Set up a pretend store.
22. Play with playdough.
23. Blast some music and do chores.
24. Have a tea party.
25. Watch a movie together.
Wopida! Royal River!!!

Royal River Casino employees make FSST elder lunch meals Mon-Friday

So far Gayle & Cyndi deliver 57 meals. Pictured below is Internal auditor Kelly Pisenberger, Kitchen manager Nick Ross, Slot tech manager Nonie McGhee, Players club Kayla Ullom, GM Jim Dermont, FSST Senior Center Director Gayle Soward, FSST Senior Center cook Cyndi Weddell, Marketing Tim Morrissey taking pictures.
Memories....... The late Fannie Armstorng FSST Enrollment clerk was on Royal River Casinos website ads & TV commercials.

Native Strong!

All South Dakota Schools are closed for the 2020 school year.

Happy Easter

Senior Center decorates for Easter. Trying to stay as “Normal” as they can in these uncertain days.
Noem: South Dakota to conduct hydroxychloroquine trial

Posted: Mon 9:53 AM, Apr 13, 2020 | Updated: Mon 5:37 PM, Apr 13, 2020

South Dakota is set to become the first state in the nation to test the efficacy of hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for COVID-19.

Gov. Noem announced Monday that South Dakota is working with health care providers in the state to conduct a state-wide clinical trial on hydroxychloroquine.

In a press release Monday, Sanford Health said it will lead the study. Other major state health care providers, including Avera Health and Rapid City-based Monument Health, say they are supporting the trial.

What is hydroxychloroquine?

Hydroxychloroquine is a drug used to treat malaria.

Sanford Health infectious disease expert Dr. Susan Hoover is the principal investigator in the study. She said while this drug has been widely administered in the hope that it can help people with COVID-19, without controlled research studies, doctors "aren't able to say for sure that it really works."

The drug gained fame after President Donald Trump touted it as a potential treatment for COVID-19, but so far there is little clinical evidence regarding the effectiveness of the drug on the disease. South Dakota's clinical trial aims to change that.

The president of the American Medical Association previously told ABC News the drug comes with potential risks of severe side effects, including heart rhythm problems. However, Sanford described the medication as a "well-tolerated medicine," saying most side effects are mild and that serious side effects are "rare."

"Going on offense"

Noem said Monday that while the state's mitigation efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 are working, the trial is a way for South Dakota to go on the offensive against the coronavirus.

Currently, there are no drugs or therapeutics approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to prevent or treat COVID-19, according to Sanford Health.

Sanford Health Chief Medical Officer Dr. Allison Suttle called the trial an "excellent opportunity."

Suttle said patients who test positive for COVID-19 can talk with their health care provider about taking part in the trial. There is no extra cost to the patient.

When asked how soon we could see results from the tests, Suttle said large clinical trials take up to five years, but she said the state could start seeing preliminary results from the trial soon after patients begin getting the treatment.

How the study works

According to their press release, Sanford currently has clinical guidelines in place to prescribe hydroxychloroquine to hospitalized COVID-19 positive patients. Sanford has developed this new randomized placebo-controlled research study to investigate prescribing hydroxychloroquine to health care workers and high-risk populations who have been exposed to the coronavirus. This part of the treatment trial is designed to determine whether the medication can prevent the illness or minimize symptoms in these individuals.

Researchers hypothesize that hydroxychloroquine could help an individual's immune system as it works to fight off the disease. The medication may slow the replication process of the virus in the human body and allow the patient's own immune system to get a better start in fighting the illness.
To keep our Members & Employees safe from the spread of COVID-19

- GWA paper checks will be mailed out eff. 4/15/20 until further notice. Direct deposit members remain the same as usual.
  REMEMBER There will be no checks to be picked in GWA office up on 1st or 15th until further notice
- May 1 Confirmation of Residency (COR) will be waived until Nov 1
- All loan programs (member credit, home improvement, energy asst., ERC, pay advances, quilts) are shut down until further notice
- All loan pmts (members credit, home improvement, energy asst. ERC, quilts) will be deferred until further notice. If you would like to continue your pmts as usual call finance @ 997-3891 Ext. 1250 (Shantel) or 1221 (Angie)
- Any updating Information will be mailed and posted on Tribal Office front door.

Stay home & be safe if you have to venture out
We can get through this together!

Executive Committee
4/6/2020
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