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plan focus
of meeting
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Dakota

Property values
are climbing in
oil patch hub
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SECTION B

The House spars over higher ed

House Concurrent Resolution 3047, which reached the House floor Tuesday, had Majority Leader Al Carlson, R-Fargo, and Rep. Bob Skarphol, R-Tioga, exchanging barbs.

HCR3047 would put the creation of a three-member Commission of Higher Education on the 2014 general election ballot. It would create a full-time commission.



NICK SMITH

The resolution passed by a 55-34 vote.

Carlson, the primary sponsor of the bill, claimed the bill was a good idea to reform the state's higher education system.

Skarphol and Carlson exchanged words about the commission being a triumvirate, which it was labeled as last week in the Senate.

"I think if you look up the word triumvirate you will find that there have not been any outstanding triumvirates," Skarphol said. "Probably the most successful triumvirate is the Three Stooges."

Carlson quickly responded, "You hear about the triumvirate. There's probably some really good ones. If you look in the Bible, you might find one that's pretty good and it's not the Three Stooges," Carlson said.

Changing topics, Carlson went on to say that the state Board of Higher Education isn't a fourth branch of government in the state.

"They are responsible to us," Carlson said. "This needs a new facelift and this is the time to get it started."

Prior to the final vote on HCR3047, Skarphol took one last shot at the triumvirate concept.

"Rep. Carlson referred to a highly successful triumvirate that he was aware of, the biblical one. But I would suggest he's not going to find any of those biblical people to serve on this board," Skarphol said. "So we're back to having humans serve on this board without divine inspiration."

Tax talk

Floor debate on major tax bills quickly became a highlight of the session's final days.

Sen. Ray Holmberg, R-Grand Forks, gave his reason why lawmakers needed to trim the corporate and individual income tax cuts in House Bill 1250 down to size: balancing the budget.

"We are \$1 billion behind the eight-ball," Holmberg said. "But it's fixable."

As of noon Thursday, the Legislature still had a budget gap of \$1.26 billion.

The House passed HB1250 with a total of \$503.4 million in tax cuts. The bill has since been cut down to the \$125 million recommended in the governor's executive budget.

Cramer staff changes

Rep. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., announced three staff changes last week.

The freshman congressman announced that Mark Gruman has been promoted to chief of staff. Gruman originally joined Cramer's staff as his legislative director and legal counsel.

Gruman replaces former chief of staff Kim Badenhop. Chris Marohl, who had been serving as Cramer's legislative assistant, has been promoted to legislative director.

Legislative correspondent Matt Becker has taken over as communications director, replacing Tommy McKone.

(Reach Nick Smith at 701-250-8255 or 701-223-8482 or at nick.smith@bismarcktribune.com.)

Jail agreement talks ahead

By LEANN ECKROTH
Bismarck Tribune

The Morton County Jail Committee plans to meet with Burleigh County officials in mid-May to study shared jail agreements. Morton County Commissioner Chairman Bruce

Strinden said Friday the entities would study a joint agreement based on a sample agreement from Will County, Ill.

Strinden said he sensed jail committee members "are leaning toward an agreement with Burleigh County" because there

could be efficiency in staffing food servers, medical personnel and other services.

"We need to look at the long-term operation costs," he said. "We are making a decision about public safety for the next 30 to 35 years."

Strinden said consultant Kimme & Associates on Thursday night outlined its study results that showed whether Morton County builds a new jail with Burleigh County or expands its own facility, the costs would be similar — \$14 million to \$17 million

for Morton County. If Morton County builds alone, it could increase its holding capacity from 41 to 129.

In August 2012, a Kimme & Associates study favored the two entities building a \$50 million jail together.

Strinden said a transport *Continued on 6B*

'SUNDAE BEST'



TOM STROMME/Tribune

CHALLENGE MET: St. Mary's Grade School Principal Tony Fladeland made good on a promise to become a human ice cream sundae, if students at the school participated in a "Take The Reading Challenge" event and this is what he looked like as sundae-making came to an end on Friday afternoon. For two weeks, students kept track of their reading minutes, with each classroom setting a goal, said Valerie Kuntz, a teacher and event organizer at the Bismarck school. "Reading is such a pertinent part of everyday life, and everyone from the preschoolers to the eighth grade, including their families, took part," Kuntz said. As a reward for reading minutes, each student made one or more trips to add their favorite toppings to give Fladeland the "Sundae Best" look. Afterward, Fladeland said, "I tasted chocolate and coconut and got a marshmallow in my mouth."

NWS: Flood risk minimal in the Bismarck-Mandan area

By BRIAN GEHRING
Bismarck Tribune

Parts of northern North Dakota and the northern James River Basin are under a flood watch through the weekend, but the Bismarck-Mandan area should not have any problems.

Allan Schlag, hydrologist for the National Weather Service in Bismarck, said the only questionable area is Apple Creek near Menoken, which rose about a foot between Thursday and Friday morning.

Apple Creek measured 6.85 feet Friday morning, well below the 15-foot stage for minor flooding.

Schlag said the numbers suggest there's about a 30 percent chance of Apple Creek reaching that stage. However, there is not a lot of historical data to go by, given recent weather events.

"We had 17 inches of snow not that long ago," he said, but most of the runoff is soaking in. Temperatures are expected to reach

"We had 17 inches of snow not that long ago."

Allan Schlag, hydrologist for the National Weather Service in Bismarck

70 degrees this weekend. He said so far the melt in this area has been fairly gentle, with little runoff reaching rivers and streams.

The Cannonball River, at 3.11 feet on Friday morning, has a less than 5 percent chance of reaching its 10-foot flood stage.

The Knife River in Hazen has about a 5 percent chance of hitting flood stage and Spring Creek near Zap has about a 15 percent chance.

Beaver Creek near Linton was at 5.09 feet Friday morning and has about a 30 percent chance of reaching its flood stage of 9 feet.

Schlag said in the Souris River Basin, where there is still a good amount of snowpack in coulees, the wild card is how open the soils are, meaning how much soil will soak in as temperatures rise.

He said models suggest with the

rapid warm-up forecast for the weekend, heavy runoff should result.

Another wild card, Schlag said, is there's not much history to go by when temperatures reach the 60s with the amount of snow cover in the area.

Schlag said by Sunday, parts of the Souris River Basin and the northern James River Basin should be dealing with high water.

Counties in the flood watch include Divide, Burke, Renville, Ward, Bottineau, McHenry, Rolette, Pierce, Wells and Foster.

Flows through the Missouri River in Bismarck and Mandan should remain steady to increasing in May, since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is favoring the Oahe Reservoir this spring.

Releases from the Garrison Dam were around 19,300 cubic feet per second going into the weekend and are scheduled to average around 21,500 cfs in May and June.

Both Lake Oahe (1,596 feet projected) and Lake Sakakawea (1,831 feet) are expected to rise 2 feet and remain steady through June.

(Reach Brian Gehring at 701-250-8254 or brian.gehring@bismarcktribune.com.)

Man faces a federal charge of enticement

By JENNY MICHAEL
Bismarck Tribune

A Bismarck man is scheduled to stand trial in November for allegedly arranging to have sex with a teenage girl in Minot.

Thomas Michael Dietz, 34, was indicted in federal court in March for attempted coercion and enticement of a minor. He has pleaded not guilty to the charge and is slated to appear at a two-day trial beginning Nov. 19.

Dietz originally was charged in state court with human trafficking in February. The charge has been dismissed in lieu of the federal charge.

Ward County Sheriff's Sgt. Mark Holter wrote in an affidavit in the state court case that he was working on an undercover Internet Crimes Against Children investigation on Craigslist and Yahoo Messenger in early February when he was contacted by Dietz. Dietz made arrangements through Holter to have sex with a 14-year-old girl for \$100 to \$300. Holter told him to bring condoms and a gift for the child.

"Dietz was also explicit about the price for the sexual encounter *Continued on 6B*

Man pleads guilty to child porn charge

By JENNY MICHAEL
Bismarck Tribune

A Bismarck man faces at least five years in prison after pleading guilty to a federal child pornography charge.

Robert Schmalzt, 36, pleaded guilty on Friday to receipt of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors. As part of a plea agreement, prosecutors will dismiss a charge of possession of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors, Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Delorme said.

U.S. District Judge Daniel Howland will sentence Schmalzt, who was taken into custody Friday morning, at a later date. The charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison and a maximum sentence of 20 years.

Law enforcement officials identified Schmalzt as a possible participant in a peer-to-peer network that shared pornography in June 2012, Delorme said. Officials searched Schmalzt's home, and in a short interview, he told them they would likely find child pornography. *Continued on 6B*

Carvell named BPD's officer of the year

By JENNY MICHAEL
Bismarck Tribune

Officer Robert Carvell was named the Bismarck Police Department's officer of the year at a Friday reception.

The nomination of Carvell said he is a "constant worker" who saved a

2-month-old's life in December after a 911 call reporting the child was not breathing. Carvell also quickly cleared up a report of a robbery in another incident last year, finding evidence to cite a juvenile with false report to law enforcement and arrest another person on a warrant.

Carvell also received the department's distinguished service award for training more than 24 officers as a field training officer.

The police department honored numerous other officers, non-sworn employees and citizens at the Friday afternoon ceremony at the Bismarck

Public Library. Rod Hill, a maintenance worker at the department, was named the employee of the year among non-sworn employees. Hill started a recycling program in the department, is responsible for cleaning up squad cars and "never complains" and always

"has a smile on his face," according to his nomination.

Other people honored include:

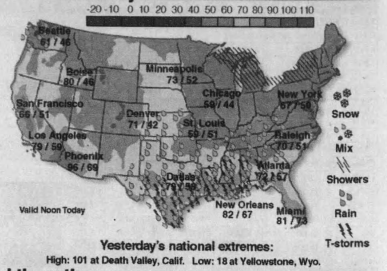
Officer Jeremy Curtis was presented with the hostile engagement award and the meritorious service award for a March 2012 *Continued on 6B*

Seven-day forecast

High 74 Low 46 Today Warmer than normal, more sunshine than clouds. Morning Noon Evening

Sunday 66/38 Monday 67/43 Tuesday 56/32 Wednesday 50/30 Thursday 52/30 Friday 55/35

The nation today



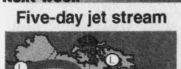
Weather notebook

State forecast overview: The final weekend of April will be absolutely beautiful. Warm and dry high pressure will keep conditions sunny to mostly sunny...

North Dakota facts and forecasts

Today across the state: High 75 at Bismarck Low 22 at Hettinger. Yesterday in N.D. Hi Lo Prep

Next week



Yesterday's state extremes:

High: 75 at Bismarck Low: 22 at Hettinger

Yesterday in N.D.

Table with columns: City, Hi, Lo, Prep. Cities include Devils Lake, Dickinson, Grand Forks, etc.

Around the nation

Table with columns: City, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow. Lists weather for various cities like Albany, Albuquerque, Annapolis, etc.

Almanac

Statistics through 5 p.m. yesterday from Bismarck Municipal Airport. Precipitation and snowfall are preliminary NWS totals...

Regional facts and forecasts

Area lake levels: Sakakawea, Devils Lake, etc. Lake levels valid as of yesterday.

Montana

Table with columns: City, Yesterday, Today. Cities include Billings, Bozeman, Butte, etc.

10-day outlook

Table with columns: Temperature, Precipitation. Shows above normal and near normal trends.

Minnesota

Table with columns: City, Yesterday, Today. Cities include Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Miles City, etc.

South Dakota

Table with columns: City, Yesterday, Today. Cities include Aberdeen, Buffalo, Huron, etc.

Around the world

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists weather for cities like Bangkok, Beijing, Berlin, etc.

Today's weather history

2011 - An estimated 305 tornadoes between the 27th and 28th sets a record for the largest outbreak ever recorded...

WEATHER UPDATES

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Day/Weather, Inc. logo and contact information.

Jail agreement

team might move prisoners from a Mandan holding facility to Bismarck. Morton County deputies could continue patrolling while the transport team moves them to Bismarck...

County could hold a home rule charter election is June 10, 2014, during the state primaries. Morton County is seeking candidates to serve on a home rule charter commission...

Child porn

Delorme said investigators found more than 1,500 videos and more than 81,000 still images of child pornography. He said Schmaltz edited himself into some images stored in encrypted files on a hard drive.

Schmaltz's attorney, Irv Nodland, said he would await a presentence investigation report before commenting on sentencing. Schmaltz told Hovind he was sexually abused as a child and recently has sought therapy for depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Enticement

and the extent of the sexual conduct he would be allowed with the minor, Holter wrote. He wrote that Dietz drove to a Minot hotel from Bismarck and met Holter, who arrested him.

allegedly used by Dietz. Officials also have seized Dietz's cellphone and a variety of items from his pickup, including condoms. Dietz has been released from custody on his promise to appear.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR TEETH



DEMONSTRATION: Noah Mayer, bottom left, leans in for a closer look as Travis Giese shows a kindergarten classroom at a Robert Miller Elementary School how the children should brush their teeth.

Obama signs emergency declaration for N.D. flooding

FARGO (AP) — President Barack Obama has approved an emergency declaration for flooding in North Dakota. The move announced Friday afternoon authorizes federal agencies to coordinate all disaster relief effort and makes money available to help with the flood fighting.

Students place sandbags in Fargo

FARGO (AP) — Hundreds of high school students were let out of school Friday to help place 100,000 sandbags around Fargo to protect homes against Red River flooding.

It's a routine that began in 2009 when the city fought the first of three straight major floods. Early Friday, about 40 high school students were laughing and singing as they tossed sandbags outside a home owned by Glenda Bro and her physician husband.

Bro said it's a relief to have the sandbagging help, and the singing helps.

Officer of the year

incident in which he responded to a domestic disturbance. A man with a knife would not obey commands and continued to walk toward Curtis and other officers in a threatening manner, and Curtis shot him, then helped handcuff him.

trying to arrest him. The newly retired, Jeff Marcyes and Peter Traynor received meritorious citizen awards and Lori Leifson and Tyler Kientopf received letters of recognition for their part in apprehending a man who robbed a pay-day loan store.

Residents in Fargo and Cass County are preparing for a flood that could be one of the top five of all time. It's expected to flood many of the 600 roads and 300 bridges in the county. The latest forecast for the Red River at Fargo predicts a crest between 38 and 40 feet.

North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple made the request earlier this week for the emergency declaration. The state's congressional delegation made an appeal in a letter sent to Obama earlier Friday.