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## Lawmakers to chart fiscal seas

### Legislative session starts on Tuesday

By NICK SMITH  
Bismarck Tribune

"Oil prices are going to  
set the tone."

Tax Commissioner Ryan  
Rauschenberger

North Dakota lawmakers return to Bismarck on Tuesday for the 2015 session with 80 days to chart the state's fiscal course for the next two years while reconciling a record budget proposal and concerns over falling oil prices.

Throw in demands for hundreds of millions of dollars in fast-track funding for staffing and infrastructure for the oil patch, conflicting tax proposals and debates over money for education, and the lawmakers' task becomes that much more difficult.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple's proposed

2015-17 executive budget contains a record \$15.72 billion in spending. "From my standpoint, the session's going to be a great opportunity to make further progress on issues we've pursued in the past few years," Dalrymple said. "I'm optimistic that we can make progress on all fronts."

Cause for concern

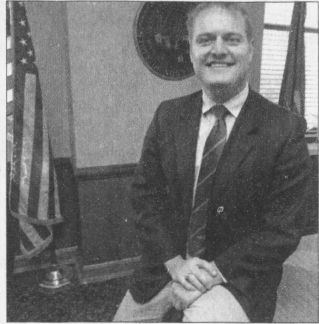
A drop in oil prices in recent

months, now settling into the low \$50s per barrel, has given lawmakers cause for concern. However, Senate Majority Leader Rich Wardner, R-Dickinson, doesn't see a long-term problem that will impact the budget substantially.

"The price of oil has gone down, but the sky is not falling," said Wardner, adding that lawmakers will, without question, need to make adjustments to the budget.

Dalrymple said his budget strikes a balance between investments in infrastructure needs, a strong financial footing and tax cuts.

Continued on 8A



North Dakota Tax Commissioner Ryan Rauschenberger and his staff have been busy for the past few months preparing the department's budget for the upcoming legislative session beginning Tuesday. (MIKE MCCLEARY/Tribune)

## Girls, women trapped in the Game

(This is the second in a seven-part series on human trafficking. For more stories and photos, visit [www.bismarcktribune.com/news/trafficking](http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/trafficking).)

By KATHERINE LYMN  
and AMY DALRYMPLE  
Forum News Service

It was the early 1980s, and the evolving Block E of downtown Minneapolis had life, with hustlers and prostitutes interspersed with the suit-and-tie crowd that spilled out of skyscrapers at 5 o'clock.

Jenny Gaines, 14, had heard about the place from a girl she'd befriended at a group home, a place where people had tried to tame her "hugely and rebellious, self-destructive behavior." The girl, Pam, was good at doing hair, wore Guess jeans and constantly talked about her "daddy." She drew elaborate pictures of herself in a fur coat, "Daddy" in his suit and the two of them getting into a limo. It all seemed so glamorous, her life in prostitution.

Gaines listened, hungry for a change. She'd recently swallowed a bunch of aspirin, hoping her somewhat absent father would come to the rescue. Between stays in behavioral homes, she fought stubbornly with her mom or fled to her dad, who was often gone overnight.

One night, a couple of weeks into a treacherous year at a big new high school, Gaines ran away. On the streets downtown, she could be someone else.

Standing next to the jukebox, playing "Superfreak," Gaines saw the man who would become her first pimp walk into the Fun Center arcade in downtown Minneapolis. She was in her Madonna phase, and he looked like "Beat It"-era Michael Jackson. He walked in, commanded the room with his dance moves, then took her hand and pulled her outside.

"You're gonna be with me," he said. Beneath his Jheri curl, the older "Alexander" looked Gaines in the eye, told her she was pretty and took her on a coffee date at the McDonald's a few doors down. His middle name is



Jenny Gaines is photographed from behind a curtain.

used here for safety reasons. "I couldn't believe that he was talking to me, you know?" Gaines recalls. It was the beginning of what would lead to decades in the world of sex-for-sale.

'A sixth sense'

Like Alexander, pimps generally have a knack for identifying vulnerable girls — girls like Gaines, whom they lure and then trap with threats of violence and distorted love. At bus stops, in malls or online, they're experts in catching the girls who feel belittled, misunderstood or deserted by family and society. Pimp as safety net.

"Any player can tell when a girl has the look of desperation that you know she needs attention or love," one Chicago pimp stated in a 2010 DePaul University study. "It's something you start to have a sixth sense about."

That same study found a pimp's prime candidate is a blonde runaway.

"These guys are better at their jobs than we are at ours," said Rob Fontenot, the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation agent

in charge of trafficking investigations. He describes pimp recruitment as being like a pursuing lion on National Geographic; the cunning predator doesn't go for the fastest gazelle, but the limping one with the broken leg. "Everybody thinks about

this as Laura Ingalls Wilder bounding through the prairie and gets snatched up. But that's not the common way this happens," Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., said. "The common way it happens is they look for the right person, the vulnerable person, and that's how they get in the life."

Once he's found that girl, the hungry one who's mad at Mom, he captures her with a feigned love interest. Then the perceived love turns into an ask. And then he turns her out for a profit.

The women whose names fill blacklists at oil patch motels, whose risque outfits draw attention and

scorn in small Dakota towns, whose sensual and often fake photos flood the Internet site backpage, aren't always operating of their own will, experts and former sex trafficking victims say. And, the girls aren't always brought in from the outside.

Pimps often recruit from within communities. "It is something that you need to be worried about if you have daughters and sons, grandkids or whatever," said Windie Lazenko, who works with victims in Williston. "It's your issue, too, because it doesn't discriminate, and it can happen to anybody."

'North Dakota's got a problem'

Alexander frequently would bring Gaines into the then-seedy Block E bars. Seven years shy of legal and running away for a few days

at a time, Gaines felt grownup. Other nights, they'd drive down Minneapolis' Lake Street. "There's a working girl right there ... what do you think?" Alexander would ask. Gaines would balk. "I couldn't imagine walking down a street and just getting into strange cars," she'd say. Dismissive.

"Only a strong woman can do that," he'd counter. Calculated.

"I actually admire her, you know, I respect the hustle in her," he'd say. "She's doing what she's gotta do to take care of her kids and her family and her man."

Today, just as the marketing of sex is moving toward the Internet, so too is the recruitment of victims. Pimps will browse social networking sites, looking for young frustrated girls who air their anxiety in sullen posts. "The pimps tell us that they can pick these girls out," St. Paul police Sgt. Ray Gaines said. "That they can just spot them."

American Indian reservations present especially vulnerable girls who often suffer

## Search begins in Boston for jury

By DENISE LAVOIE  
AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON — His accusers brandish a confession scribbled inside a boat during an intensive manhunt and a video they say shows him placing a backpack with a bomb a few feet from a little boy who died when it exploded seconds later.

His defenders bank on the story of a difficult childhood in a former Soviet republic and his radicalization at the hands of an influential older brother who could have pressured him into participating in the deadly attack.

Jury selection for the trial of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, accused in the Boston Marathon attacks, begins today. Those chosen from a pool of about 1,200 will decide whether Tsarnaev planned and carried out the twin bombings that killed three people and injured more than 260 near the finish line of the race on April 15, 2013. If they find him guilty, they will decide whether he should be put to death.

It's perhaps the most closely watched federal death penalty case since Timothy McVeigh was convicted and executed for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Tsarnaev's lawyers tried in vain for months to get the trial moved, arguing the Boston jury pool was tainted because of the number of locals with connections to the race and drawing parallels to the McVeigh case, which was moved to Denver for similar reasons. But U.S. District Judge George O'Toole Jr. has been unmoved.

Jury selection alone is expected to take several weeks because of extensive media coverage and the thousands of runners, spectators and others in



Tsarnaev

Forum News Service

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Tuesday  
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General Info	800-472-2273		
Circulation	701-250-8210		
Classified	701-258-6900		



# Native populations 'hugely at risk' to sex trafficking

By AMY DALRYMPLE and KATHERINE LYNN  
Forum News Service

**NEW TOWN** — As the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation reels from the impacts of producing a third of North Dakota's oil, the reservation must add human trafficking to its list of increasing hazards.

"We're in crisis mode, all the time, trying to figure out these new ways, these new crises that are coming up so that we never thought we'd have to worry about," said Sadie Young Bird, director of the Fort Berthold Coalition Against Violence. "No one was prepared for any of this."

The Three Affiliated Tribes are implementing a new tribal law designed to combat human trafficking at Fort Berthold.

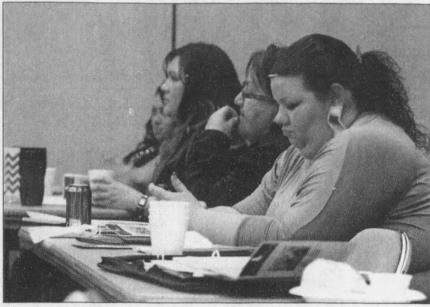
"I'm really hoping to send a message that we are not tolerating this on our reservation," said Chelsey Snyder, a tribal member who helped draft the law.

Meanwhile, victim advocates and leaders of tribal nations in neighboring Minnesota and South Dakota worry about reports of American Indian women and girls being trafficked to the Bakken.

Suzanne Koepfplinger, former executive director of the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, said she started to hear anecdotal stories in 2010 and 2011 about a boyfriend or friend telling women and girls, "Let's go to North Dakota over the weekend and make some money."

"Because of poverty and high rates of mobility with Native people, it's not unusual for them to go up to White Earth for a party and then say, 'Let's just buzz over to North Dakota and see a friend of mine,' and then she's gang-raped over there," Koepfplinger said.

Since 2010, Indian girls in Min-



Sadie Young Bird, director of the Fort Berthold Coalition Against Domestic Violence, listens during a breakout session during the statewide summit on human trafficking in Bismarck on Nov. 13, 2014.

nesota have reported to service providers that family members or friends have tried to talk them into going to North Dakota.

"Their girls go missing and then show up in the North Dakota child protection system, or are picked up by law enforcement in Williston, Minot," Koepfplinger said.

Erma Vizenor, chairman of the White Earth reservation in western Minnesota, said sex trafficking of women and girls has been a concern there for a long time, and the proximity of North Dakota's oil boom adds to that concern.

The White Earth DOVE Program (Down On Violence Everyday) has identified 17 adult victims of sex trafficking last year, said Jodie Sunderland, community advocacy coordinator.

The DOVE program received funding through the Minnesota State Harbor law and is connecting Indian youth who are victims of

sexual exploitation with services. The efforts will include collaborations with Red Lake and Leech Lake reservations in northwest Minnesota.

The vulnerability of Indian populations to become victims of sex trafficking, particularly at Fort Berthold with the impacts of the oil boom, is a major concern, U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., said.

"The grooming of the candidate for trafficking tends to go to lower income, tends to go to kids who've been victimized in the past, so automatically that puts them in a category that is hugely at risk," Heitkamp said during a discussion hosted by the McCain Institute for International Leadership and moderated by Cindy McCain.

Mark Fox, recently elected chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes, said he hears concerns about human trafficking at Fort Berthold from law enforcement

and social services. He's also noticed it himself.

"You can't help but sometimes, walking around the casino, you see individuals who would be highly suspect," Fox said.

Young Bird, whose program has seen a significant increase in domestic violence victims, has assisted some sex trafficking victims, although the women and girls don't usually identify themselves as victims. Some have returned to South Dakota reservations, she said.

"We see that most of the human trafficking victims want to leave, they just want to get out, they want to go back to where they came from, they want to go back somewhere safe," Young Bird said.

The domestic violence program, which has a new shelter in Mandaree and a new safe home elsewhere in the Bakken, primarily serves Indian women, but also will serve non-tribal members.

A meth epidemic on the reservation contributes to the violence Young Bird sees, including more severe sexual assaults.

"You can tell when there's no meth around and you can tell when there's a new shipment of meth around. The severity is worse when the meth is gone," Young Bird said. "When the new shipment comes, it's more that they head out and they leave and they leave their family with nothing. They spend all the money. Then when the wife is asking for money, that's when the violence occurs."

Heroin is a major problem for the reservation, too, she said. In one sex trafficking case, the pimp kept the woman compliant using heroin, Young Bird said. The woman did not want to press charges.

"They all want to leave. They don't want to stay around. And we can't force them. We're the advocates, we're not law enforcement.

We're there to support people," she said.

A recent law change will allow the tribal court to prosecute human trafficking cases that don't rise to the level of being charged in U.S. District Court.

"The law allows our reservation to take back ownership and take back the prosecution and penalties," Snyder said.

The law is called Loren's Law in memory of Loren White Horne, a behavioral health specialist from Fort Berthold who used to deal with sexual abuse and sexual assault cases on the reservation. White Horne was a driving force behind raising awareness about trafficking and working toward a new law before she died in a vehicle accident in 2013, said Snyder, who continued her work.

The law also requires defendants to pay for any expenses incurred by the victim, such as drug abuse treatment.

"These victims can seek help and they can get help without having to worry about any financial obligations," Snyder said, if the convicted trafficker has resources or such resources were seized.

Statistics show that minorities represent a disproportionate amount of sex trafficking victims.

That has been true in South Dakota, where the U.S. Attorney's Office has prosecuted sex trafficking cases involving several dozen victims. About half of those victims were American Indian women and girls.

In most cases, the victimization did not occur on the reservations, but in Sioux Falls and other larger cities.

"Most often, it is girls and some women who come from the reservation to Sioux Falls," said U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson. "When they are here, if they're coming without a lot of resources, they're often targeted by these guys."

## Girls, women trapped in the Game

fer generational violence, dysfunctional families and alcoholism causing fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, said Suzanne Koepfplinger, formerly the executive director of the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center. What's left is a population of girls, including at the Fort Berthold reservation in the heart of the Bakken, who may struggle to understand cause-and-effect and have a deep need to please.

"When you have vulnerable kids and particularly Native girls and Latinas, and you have a market, you've got a problem. And North Dakota's got a problem."

### Brainwashed

Lazenko calls it "sleeping with the enemy."

Now an advocate for victims in Williston, Lazenko lived the life of prostitution and sexual exploitation from age 13 to 32.

Pimp control is the art of making a girl feel wanted, enough that she suffers the punches for the emotional connection. Experts say trafficking shares the dynamic of domestic violence, but society's awareness and understanding of trafficking today is where domestic violence was 20 years ago. Through psychological manipulation, the pimp brainwashes his victims into thinking only he can provide for them and that no one else understands them, especially law enforcement. To police and domestic violence centers, a woman will call a pimp her boyfriend, her "daddy." And especially if she comes from a broken or violent home, she may not realize she's a victim.

"You wait on your man hand and foot," Gaines says. "You go to prison for him, you take cases for him, you go get his money every night, rain, sleet or snow. You pull all the women for him. You do all this stuff."

"That's the life; it's the Game. It's the life you live. And you buy into all of that, and you don't understand that you've been victimized or brainwashed."

Gaines can't entirely explain the control Alexander had over her at the time, but she remembers the way he made her feel.

"I wanted to please him, you know, because when it was good, things were really, really good. I mean he really knew how to make me feel so



Jenny Gaines' image is reflected in a window.

special, you know?" she says. "But as soon as I was getting too confident or whatever — she snaps her fingers — he knew how to shut it down, too. So after the abuse would happen, you're so broken, so then when they come with the love, I mean you just soak it up."

If not for the emotional element, the girls would leave, said Sandi Pierce, a St. Paul-based researcher who focuses on the sex trafficking of girls of color and is a survivor of sex trafficking.

"Violence is the heart and soul of pimping. ... But the psychological is what keeps the girls loyal and unable to escape," said Pierce, who is of Seneca Indian descent. When the psychological manipulation doesn't work, and a victim doesn't want to turn her sixth trick in a day, the pimp breaks her down and builds her up into what he wants her to be.

"They don't want to damage that girl because she won't be worth as much. (It's) more coaxing and lovey-dovey method," Pierce said. "But once she's in, there is a breaking process."

Lazenko, who said she was molested as a child, said she remembers the deep need to feel safe and wanted after a troubled upbringing.

"You'll take it from just about anywhere, even from someone who raped you or beat you the night before," she said.

Often these women are controlled through dependence on drugs, concern for

children fathered through their pimps or fears for their immigration status.

None of his threats may be true, but that's the psychology of pimping: control over what's real.

With tattoos, pimps brand the women in their "stables," as if they were cattle.

"They want people to know that this person is spoken for," said Vanessa Chauhan, North Dakota's representative from Polaris, a national anti-trafficking group.

And usually they are. Pimps will talk for their victims in hospital visits or on traffic stops, according to information presented to nurses and cops at trafficking detection trainings. The victims won't make eye contact. Like a batterer, a pimp will enforce trivial demands and monopolize a girl's world to keep her compliant and fearful.

A pimp recently convicted in Minnesota federal court had a guide in his possession when he was arrested: "Pimpology: The 48 Laws of the Game." The man, Dontre D'Sean McHenry, also had handwritten notes.

"Are you homeless?" one read. "Tired of your mom/dad getting on ur nerves?"

Pimps are masters at making unwanted, perhaps discarded women feel wanted, said Minneapolis police Sgt. Grant Snyder, who has trained law enforcement officers, including in North

Dakota, in handling trafficking cases. "They make them feel relevant when everybody in their lives has made them feel irrelevant."

The pimp will sift through a victim's emotional history and latch on to vulnerabilities. If she had issues with her father growing up, he'll be "Daddy" during the loving part of recruitment. If she has low self-esteem, he'll tell her she's the most beautiful woman in the world.

Sociologist Tim Pippert, who's studying sex trafficking as part of his research into the community effects of western North Dakota's rapid growth, said victims may say to themselves and others that they chose a life of prostitution as a survival mechanism. He compares it to homeless men and women who say they choose to live on the street.

"If you can say you choose to be there, you say to yourself that that's an option, right, that 'I could always leave if I wanted,'" said Pippert, an associate professor at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

### Control from afar

In one of the days between her escape from a pimp and his arrest, a 23-year-old woman was coloring at Lazenko's home. The woman looked at her phone and began shaking. Her face turned white.

Levell Durr had texted the woman a red dot. The dot was on a map showing exactly where she was sitting,

"That's the life; it's the Game. It's the life you live. And you buy into all of that, and you don't understand that you've been victimized or brainwashed."

Jenny Gaines

Lazenko said.

Durr is now in custody in Devils Lake, awaiting sentencing on a trafficking count of violation in federal court. He told his victims they couldn't look anyone in the eye, especially men, and had to kiss his hand when they handed him their money, one of those victims told investigators. They had to give him everything they'd made, less enough for them to buy food from a vending machine. In his plea deal, Durr admitted to enticing two women to work in prostitution in North Dakota, but he didn't admit to using force.

Once he was behind bars, his control just took a different form.

When another man began to follow Lazenko and the victim she was assisting around the Williston Walmart, he could've just been a pimp on the prowl, trying to recruit girls, Lazenko said. But as he followed the woman through the clothing aisles, and then when the same thing happened twice more, it became more apparent she was his target. The message was clear: Durr had eyes on her from behind bars.

"I was in jail, but his victim still wasn't free."

One of the men stalking her approached her in the checkout aisle at Wal-Mart. "Where's your man?" he asked, wanting her to say she had gotten him locked up. She froze.

"That's when I left our stuff at the checkout, just took her and walked out," Lazenko said.

A pimp's control is so insidious, so grounded in psychological abuse, that it's present even when he is not. "She still has a quota," Lazenko said of when pimps go to jail. "They're conditioned. They are trained to continue on and report to him because eventually he's going to get out. If they don't have their required money, they're going to suffer the consequences."

Pimping is a twisted game, and breaking the rules

brings penalties.

When one victim hid money from Durr, she was tending on a trafficking count of the kennels he keeps for dog-fighting, and she could barely walk when she was let out, another victim told investigators. This is believed to have occurred in the Milwaukee area, where Durr was known as a pimp to law enforcement, an FBI special agent testified in federal court in Bismarck.

Lazenko said nearly every trafficking case she's seen in North Dakota involved physical violence. In severe cases, girls have suffered broken jaws and other facial fractures.

### Free from pimp, but not from the Game

Gaines remembers once trying to leave Alexander. He found her, though, and kept her two days and tormented her.

"He was really angry that I had left him and (said) that I wasn't gonna leave him no more, and if I ever tried to leave him again he was gonna get my brothers and sisters and my mom — he knew where they all lived — and I better not ever try to leave him again," she said. "Every time he looked at me he'd just throw a shoe at me or something."

And then one last time, he exploited her.

"He wouldn't even let me wash up. I still had blood ... he just put me out on the street and he told me he'd be back in two hours and I better have some money."

That led her to dig out the card of a compassionate cop and get Alexander locked up. He went to prison, but his control was still there — his friend later saw her in the parking lot of a Kmart, took her money and beat her, punishment for snitching.

Gaines needed protection. She felt guilty because she wanted to be the "ride-or-die chick." So she went back to the Fun Center.

And soon she met her next pimp.

Continued from 1A