

Former Census worker claims undue pressure
PAGE 2B

Dakota

Heitkamp outlines farm bill priorities
PAGE 5B

Medieval monks recorded climate

By E. KIRSTEN PETERS

Ireland enjoys a mild and stable climate. But even in Ireland there are years that stand out as unusual. Recently, a team of researchers led by Harvard's Francis Ludlow announced results of a study of Ireland's climate based on the Irish Annals, a body of writings containing more than 40,000 entries.

The Annals record events from 431 A.D. to 1642 A.D. During the Medieval period they were written by monks. From the 1200s onwards some entries were written by historians of the wealthy and aristocratic families of the period. Finally, toward the end of the Annals, entries were contributed by military historians as British colonialism took hold.

As recently reported on the website ScienceNOW, Ludlow's team looked through the Irish Annals for information about weather. Of particular interest were notes about cold times, such as years with ice on certain lakes or winters of heavy snowfall.

In the Annals, the researchers identified a total of 70 times of unusual cold. Ludlow thinks those who wrote the Annals likely recorded all the significantly cold seasons they experienced because cold has a profound effect on agricultural productivity.

Cold spells can arise for a number of reasons, including the simple natural variation that's always at work in weather and climate. But one specific cause of cold years is volcanic eruptions. Volcanoes eject ash and lava when they erupt, but they also sometimes spew tiny drops of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere.

Those droplets drift downwind and reflect sunlight back into space, cooling the ground below. For short periods of time volcanic eruptions can drop temperatures by a couple degrees Fahrenheit — enough to make a real difference.

As it happens, we have a pretty good natural record of volcanic eruptions near Ireland. It's based on variations in Greenland's glacial ice. Scientists have drilled into the icecap and pulled up layered cores of ice. Each pair of layers denotes summer and winter snowfall in Greenland, so researchers can simply count back in time to assign dates to deeper and deeper layers.

The glacial ice is marked by sulfates when volcanic eruptions occurred. During the time spanned by the Irish Annals, scientists found 48 layers denoting significant volcanic eruptions. Many of the eruptions occurred in the Northern Hemisphere at high latitudes, but we have other evidence to think that one large eruption occurred in the year 1600 in Peru.

How does the Greenland record match up with the Irish Annals? In short, there isn't a perfect fit but a number of the sulfate rich ice layers come from around the times the Annals report cold spells. That's good enough for me, as I wouldn't expect the two records to speak only with one voice. Climate is complex and volcanic eruptions are only one factor in what determines temperature.

But it's nifty from my point of view to think that the records of Medieval monks could now be fed into computer simulations of climate.

(E. Kirsten Peters, a native of the rural Northwoods, was trained as a geologist at Princeton and Harvard.)

Abplanalp pleads not guilty

Charged with human trafficking

By JENNY MICHAEL
Bismarck Tribune

A Dickinson man has pleaded not guilty to human trafficking. Bobby Abplanalp, 29, pleaded not guilty to the Class A felony Monday at the Burleigh County Courthouse. His next court hearing

is scheduled for Sept. 9. Abplanalp is accused of making contact on June 7 with a woman believed to be trafficking her underage daughters for money and making arrangements to pay \$200 for 45 minutes with a 17-year-old girl, according to court documents. He allegedly showed up at a public location with \$200 and "multiple condoms," documents said. He was charged June 13 with the offense, which carries a maxi-

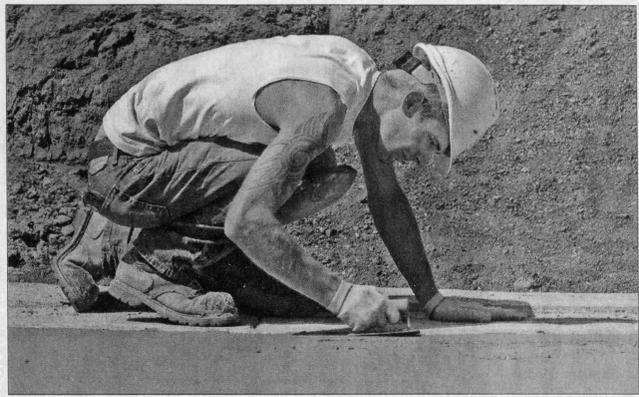
mum penalty of 20 years in prison. Abplanalp remains in the custody of the Burleigh County Detention Center in lieu of \$50,000 cash bond.

Abplanalp's case is one of three pending attempted human trafficking cases in Burleigh County. Aaron Collins of Tioga and Shawn Bergstrand of Bismarck are accused in similar cases. Collins, whose address also has been listed as Kelso, Wash., also has pleaded

not guilty and is scheduled to appear in court again on Aug. 26. Bergstrand's preliminary hearing is scheduled for Sept. 5.

Law enforcement officials have noted increases in complaints of human trafficking — one person forcing another person into prostitution — in the state in recent years. Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem listed human trafficking as one of his chief crime

Continued on 6B



Channing Bessette edges a fresh pour of cement along the curb of Sunset Drive in northwest Mandan on Monday morning. Bessette is an employee of Knife River Corp. TOM STROMME/Tribune

Construction won't conflict with the start of school

By LEANN ECKROTH
Bismarck Tribune

Working weekends has paid off for a contractor reconstructing Sunset Drive in Mandan for \$4.4 million.

Knife River Corp. representatives told city officials last Thursday it will finish paving in front Mandan High School entrances before classes start Aug. 22, despite soggy conditions its first two months of work. Sidewalks and landscape work will still need to be finished after the doors open, however, said an advisory engineer.

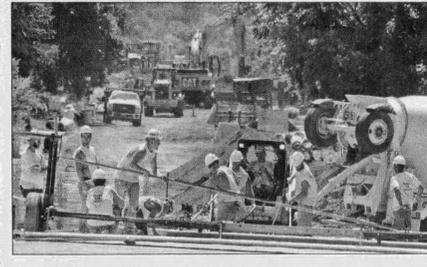
Casey Einrem of Houston Engineering said Monday that grading work has begun from Division Street Northwest down to Seventh Street Northwest in front of the high school.

"Paving on the east side of that should begin Aug. 9. Then, they'll start paving the west lane on Aug. 12," he said.

On the north side, 14th Street Northwest to Division Street Northwest, crews have paved the east side of the road — between the Buehler-Larson Funeral Home to 14th Street Northwest. Paving of the west side of that section began Monday, according to Einrem.

Sanitary sewer lines are being installed this week from 14th Street Northwest to Division Street.

"Then we'll do the water main and the storm sewers," Einrem said. "All the underground work



A crew from Knife River Corp. was busy with a cement pour on Sunset Drive in northwest Mandan on Monday. The arterial street is getting new water and sewer lines along with the new surface pavement.

there will be done Sept. 16."

Mandan's fork that splits Sixth Avenue Northwest and Sunset Drive above the Brave Center and high school will cease with the construction project. The Sixth Avenue Northwest portion of the merger will be blocked off permanently. In the future, traffic will have to turn at Division, 14th Street Northwest or 15th Street Northwest to reach the upper section of Sixth Avenue Northwest or to exit it.

The fork is being cut off because the intersection created too much of a crash risk for the merging traffic, Einrem said.

The contract calls for all work to be finished by Oct. 31, Einrem said.

What seemed to be constant rain in May and June slowed the contractor's progress, but Knife River crews have compensated by working seven-day weeks.

"They've worked every Saturday and Sunday through June and July and will likely keep it up through mid-September," said Einrem.

A map with a detour to the school can be found by visiting www.cityofmandan.com.

(Reach LeAnn Eckroth at 701-250-8264 or leann.eckroth@bismarcktribune.com.)

Judge: Convict's wife can't get policy money

By DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press

FARGO — The wife of a man convicted of bilking millions of dollars out of people in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and elsewhere in an investment fraud scheme cannot collect proceeds from his insurance policy, a federal judge ruled Monday.

Verlin Swartzendruber, of Laredo, Texas, was sentenced in 2010 to five years in federal prison after pleading guilty to one count of wire fraud. He was ordered to pay back about \$3.2 million, and court documents show he still owes about \$2.2 million.

His wife, Lois Swartzendruber, filed a motion in federal court asking to keep about \$10,000 in insurance proceeds, primarily to cover eventual burial costs for her husband, who has battled health problems. She said the money should be excluded from restitution because the law considers her an innocent spouse.

In denying the claim, U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson wrote that he's sympathetic to her financial hardship, but she's the primary beneficiary, not the owner, of the policy.

"Not only has Lois not identified a valid exemption, she does not have an ownership interest to protect," Erickson said.

Nick Chase, assistant U.S. attorney in North Dakota, said he was pleased with the ruling. "As I stated during the hearing on this, I am sympathetic to Ms. Swartzendruber's situation," Chase said. "However, I am also sympathetic to all of the victims of Mr. Swartzendruber's fraud scheme."

EJ Hurst II, attorney for the Swartzendrubers, said Monday that hadn't "fully reviewed" Erickson's orders and had not spoken with his clients.

"I can say that our immediate concern in Verlin's health," Hurst said.

Continued on 6B

Trial ordered for accused getaway car driver

By JENNY MICHAEL
Bismarck Tribune

A man accused of driving the getaway car in a January robbery at a Mandan bar may go to trial.

Brandon Peeters, 30, had pleaded guilty on June 6 to Class B felony conspiracy to commit robbery. He was scheduled to be sentenced on Monday at the Morton County Courthouse.

However, South Central District Judge Tom Schneider questioned conflicting statements made by Peeters to law enforcement at the beginning of the case and to an officer conducting a presentence investigation in recent months. Schneider entered a not guilty plea for Peeters and ordered the case set for trial.

According to an affidavit filed when Peeters was charged in February, Peeters knew Shane Wentz was going to rob the Last Call Bar, 118 W. Main St., on Jan. 21. Authorities also said Peeters received money from the \$2,800 Wentz got from the bar. Wentz was sentenced in July to serve 10 years in prison for the Mandan robbery and several attempted and completed robberies in Bismarck.

However, Peeters told an officer conducting a presentence investigation that he did not know Wentz was going to rob the bar, and Wentz did not give him money but did fill his car with gas.

Schneider questioned the discrepancies at the Monday sentencing hearing. Peeters reiterated that he did not know Wentz was going to rob the bar. Wentz called him looking for a ride, and he gave him one, Peeters said.

"I didn't know, really, what was happening," Peeters said. "He didn't hand me no money. He just put gas in my car."

Schneider said if Peeters didn't know what was happening, he would not be considered guilty of conspiracy to commit robbery. The judge said he could not accept a guilty plea in the case if Peeters said he wasn't in on the heist.

Morton County Assistant State's Attorney Brian Grosinger did not object to Schneider reinstating Peeters not guilty plea and setting the case for trial. Grosinger said Peeters changing statements gave him misgivings about the kind of sentence prosecutors had planned to recommend in the case. Former Assistant State's Attorney Jackson Lofgren had made a recommendation, not revealed in court, based on Peeters being a "stand-up guy" and accepting responsibility, Grosinger said. He said Peeters' changes in statements gave him reservations whether the offer was appropriate.

Peeters remains free on bond while the case proceeds. A Class B felony carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

(Reach Jenny Michael at 701-250-8225 or jenny.michael@bismarcktribune.com.)

Seven-day forecast

Table with 7 columns: Today, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday. Includes high/low temperatures and weather conditions.

Weather notebook

State forecast overview: Weather disturbances coming in from the north will keep temperatures cooler than average into the near future.

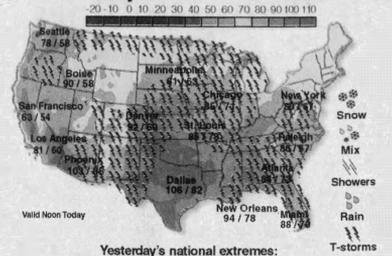
North Dakota facts and forecasts



Yesterday in N.D.

Table showing yesterday's weather in various North Dakota cities like Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Fargo.

The nation today



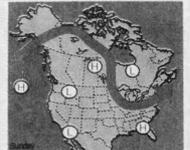
Yesterday's national extremes: High: 110 at Needles, CA. Low: 31 at Wisdom, MT

Around the nation

Table showing weather forecasts for various cities across the United States, including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

Next week

Five-day jet stream



10-day outlook

Table showing temperature and precipitation outlook for the next 10 days.

Today's weather history

1918 - Unusually hot weather began to overspread the Atlantic Coast States, from the Carolinas to southern New England.

Almanac

Statistics through 6 p.m. yesterday from Bismarck Municipal Airport. Precipitation is preliminary NWS totals valid for previous 24 hours.

Regional facts and forecasts

Tables for Montana and Minnesota showing regional weather forecasts and statistics.

Montana

Table showing weather forecasts for various Montana cities.

South Dakota

Table showing weather forecasts for various South Dakota cities.

Around the world

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations.

WEATHER UPDATES

Get the latest weather information online: Current conditions, 10 day forecast, Highway reports, and more.

Libertarian Party to hold convention

The North Dakota Libertarian Party will be holding its first statewide convention on Saturday in Carrington. The convention is set to run from noon to 6 p.m. at the Cheftain Conference Center.

Back-to-school health event is today

St. Alexius Medical Center and Kohl's Cares are hosting this year's Back to School Extravaganza from 1 to 6:30 p.m. today at Dykshoorn Park in Mandan.

Bubble Bliss event is Saturday

Gateway to Science is hosting its annual Bubble Bliss family event from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday. The event is free and open to all ages.

Bro Half featured at Gallery 522

Bismarck resident Bro Half is the new featured artist at Gallery 522 on Main Avenue in Bismarck. The opening reception for his exhibit, called "West Meets West: North Dakota to Hawaii at Gallery 522," will be 5-7 p.m. Friday.

Ward temporary housing drops

MINOT (AP) — The Federal Emergency Management Agency says that the number of temporary housing units still occupied in Ward County after the 2011 Souris river flood has fallen below 70.

Officials: Concerns noted in mineral lease auction

The state Game and Fish Department has recommended restrictions on many of the tracts to limit impacts on wildlife. "We didn't dispute any of his findings," State Lands Commissioner Lance Gaebbe said.

Magazine for adult adoptees launches

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — A new online magazine launching in Minnesota is aimed squarely at a group some say gets overlooked: Adult adoptees. The magazine's creators say most people think of babies or their adoptive parents when they think of adoption.

Convict's wife

In April, Erickson signed an order recommending Swartzendruber be released for medical treatment at Vanderbilt University Medical Center for throat damage that resulted after cancer treatments. Hurst said a medical furlough has been denied by prison staff at Butner, N.C.

Applanalp pleads not guilty

Concerns for North Dakota last week when he released 2012 crime statistics. There are no statewide statistics on the offense, and many investigations are carried out on the federal level.

Construction to start on \$150M N.D. ethanol plant

SPIRITWOOD (AP) — Officials this week plan to start construction on an ethanol plant in southeastern North Dakota that has been in the works for two years.

As soon as the governor sets the shovel down the construction crews will hit the ground

The plant will cost about \$150 million to build. Production is slated to begin in January 2015. The plant will employ about 36 people and will use about 23 million bushels of corn to produce about 65 million gallons of the alternative fuel each year.

Astronaut gives speech from space

GRAND FORKS (AP) — Astronaut and University of North Dakota graduate Karen Nyberg gave the university's summer graduates a speech that was literally "out of this world."

As soon as the governor sets the shovel down the construction crews will hit the ground

The plant will cost about \$150 million to build. Production is slated to begin in January 2015. The plant will employ about 36 people and will use about 23 million bushels of corn to produce about 65 million gallons of the alternative fuel each year.

As soon as the governor sets the shovel down the construction crews will hit the ground

The plant will cost about \$150 million to build. Production is slated to begin in January 2015. The plant will employ about 36 people and will use about 23 million bushels of corn to produce about 65 million gallons of the alternative fuel each year.