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## Setting the example for waste

### States look to emulate North Dakota's rules for radioactive material

By LAUREN DONOVAN  
Bismarck Tribune

In developing a detailed set of rules for radioactive waste disposal, North Dakota is going where no state has gone before.

Oil and gas development in what's generically called the Bakken shale formation has resulted in a deluge of radioactive waste unlike anything known before in the state's industrial history.

In modern regulatory history, it worked to have a rule that set the allowable disposal limit at 5 picocuries per gram. That number is so low that it's basically a back-

ground reading, one safe enough for sitting a children's day care, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

But the Bakken is creating new history, along with an excess of 1 million barrels of oil per day.

Because the oil is extracted from very deep and very old formations, drilling concentrates radiation that occurs naturally in the soils below. The concentrations show up on filters, pipes, proppants used in hydraulic fracturing and tank sludge.

#### Levels pile up

The resulting technologically enhanced naturally occurring

radioactive material, or TENORM, is not generally red hot. But the 75 tons of radioactive waste generated daily by oil and gas development in the Bakken is well beyond that safe-for-day care range, and the state's sampling finds readings from 8 pCi to as high as 9,800 pCi.

It appears most oil companies act responsibly and transport their radioactive waste to approved landfills in Montana, Colorado or Idaho, but not all do.

Ugly and widely publicized instances of illegal radioactive waste dumping have put pressure on state officials. They concluded the state needs to change its rules

**PUBLIC HEARINGS ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

- Williston Area Recreation Center in Williston Jan. 20
- Environmental Training Center in Bismarck Jan. 21
- Fargo Public Safety Building in Fargo Jan. 22

**Times:** Information presentations start at 5:30 p.m. and comment sessions start at 7 p.m.

**Comments:** The department will take comments through Feb. 6. Write to Scott Radig, Division of Waste Management, 918 E. Divide Ave. — Third Floor, Bismarck, N.D., 58501-1947.

and create a reasonable radioactive waste disposal program here and rules to keep track of it.

"It could go to other states, but are we OK to put that in someone else's backyard?" asks Scott Radig, the waste division manager of the

State Health Department.

Under proposed new rules, specialized oil and gas waste landfills will be able to apply for a modified permit to accept and bury waste with readings up to 50 pCi.

Continued on 4A

## Sex for sale in the oil patch

### Trafficking in N.D. is on the rise

(This is the first in a seven part series on human trafficking. For more stories and photos go to [bismarcktribune.com/news/trafficking](http://bismarcktribune.com/news/trafficking).)

By AMY DALRYMPLE  
and KATHERINE LYMN  
Forum News Service

Clayton Louis Lakey scrolls, and girls beckon.

Rather, their sellers do.

Like carnival barkers in an Internet sideshow, they tout their product: young women who will provide companionship. For a price.

"I have girls that are waiting for you to do with as you please," one online ad promises.

Lakey, 34, scrolls through the lurid postings, scores of them offering a break from the tedium and loneliness of his solitary job packing dirt in the Bakken oilfields.

Another ad grabs his attention. "Hot young girls!" it says. "They are experienced and ready to go if you are."

Lakey is ready. With a few clicks, he says he wants a girl. A young girl.

From a distant site, supply negotiates with demand.

"How old is she?" Do you have a place to host?"

"13 and yes I have a place to host."

"Can I hook up with her tomorrow when I get off work?"

"Sure, got cash?"

Lakey says he doesn't want to use a condom.

"That's fine."

They talk in text short-



A woman carrying a suitcase walks down a dark street in this photo illustration.

Forum News Service

#### RESULTS OF FORUM NEWS SERVICE INVESTIGATION

Over the past six months, Forum News Service has investigated an emerging issue in the Bakken oilfield region of western North Dakota: sex trafficking, including the trafficking of children.

What we found:  
■ Sex trafficking can be an incredibly lucrative business, but far more for the traffickers than for the women and girls they exploit. Traffickers near and far have shown themselves eager to supply a booming demand in the "market" that is the Bakken.

■ Sex traffickers operating in North Dakota frequently are engaged in drug trafficking as well, and the extent of that trade is growing, along with the severity of the drugs involved.

■ backpage.com, which has replaced Craigslist as the primary Internet prostitution marketplace, daily displays staggering numbers and varieties of

sex-for-money ads, especially in pages aimed at growing male-heavy populations in Williston and Minot. But there is disagreement over whether authorities should seek to end the practice, fearing the ads could migrate to sites less easy for police to monitor — or use to set up stings.

■ While many people may see prostitution as a life of choice, advocates and others close to the issue increasingly resist that characterization. Most of the women engaged in prostitution actually are victims, they say, and need to be treated as such. And while North Dakota lawmakers will consider a proposal this year to decriminalize prostitution in the case of minors, advocates insist more change is needed in societal attitudes and authorities' approaches to the problem.

Continued on 6A

uct" from running?

He agrees to pay \$250 for sex with the 13-year-old.

But when he arrives at the designated tryst spot, he learns the girl doesn't exist, her pimp is a cop, and Lakey is on his way to prison, his twisted yearnings captured in police chat logs and court affidavits.

#### The business

As local, state and federal authorities look to ramp up pressure on sex trafficking in the region, the initial arrest and conviction numbers may not seem terribly shocking.

In the past year, federal and state courts in North Dakota have charged seven people with offenses related to sex trafficking or felony facilitating or promoting prostitution.

Continued on 6A

### Snow, ice, rain a prelude to cold

CHICAGO (AP) — Snow, ice and rain fell Saturday in the Midwest and eastern parts of the U.S., a prelude to the Arctic temperatures due to arrive in the next few days.

The mix of precipitation affected a swath from the Oklahoma Panhandle — where several inches of snow were in the forecast — to southern New England, where up to a quarter-inch of ice is possible in the eastern Berkshires.

Freezing rain and ice factored into numerous accidents in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio and threatened an outdoor hockey game in Toledo.

And parts of the southern U.S. saw heavy rain and thunderstorms, leading the National Weather Service to issue tornado watches and warnings in Mississippi and Louisiana and a flash flood watch for portions of Arkansas.

The weather service reported at least two confirmed tornadoes in Mississippi. Greg Flynn of Mississippi's Emergency Management Agency said homes were damaged in several counties, power lines were downed and there were reports of flooding.

"Thankfully, in all of this, there are no injuries reported anywhere," Flynn said.

Meanwhile, blowing and drifting snow was a problem in the northeast Colorado plains, while a

Continued on 6A

#### Trial not delayed

Justice: Trial for suspected Boston Marathon bomber to start tomorrow — 2A

#### Wealth gap

The affect that money can have on siblings — 1B



#### Monday

Construction ongoing at Legacy High School despite bitter cold

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# Snow, ice, rain a prelude to cold

Continued from 1A

Bryce Funk clears a mixture of sleet and snow off the sidewalk in front of The Sammich Shop on S. Centre Street in downtown Pottsville, Pa., on Saturday. (Associated Press)



blizzard warning was issued for northern North Dakota and Minnesota. Winds between 30 to 40 mph blew snow that fell overnight in the Red River Valley, weather service meteorologist Tom Grafenauer said.

That area will be the first to feel the effects of a strong cold front, he said, with temperatures reaching 20 below and wind chills approaching minus 50 by this morning.

By Tuesday, parts of the Midwest will see below-zero temperatures, while lows will reach single-digits along the East Coast. The chilly weather is even expected to move as far south as New Orleans.

Meteorologist Ryan Mau of the private Weather Bell Analytics has called it "old-timer's type of cold."

## SEVERE WIND CHILLS FOR N.D. THIS WEEK

Burleigh and Morton counties can expect frigid temperatures and heavy wind chills to continue through Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service.

The National Weather Service said dangerous wind chills between 25 and 30 degrees below zero will continue until Wednesday morning. Sub-zero temperatures will continue throughout the weekend with a low of 12 below tonight, a high of 5 below during the day on Sunday, and a night-time low of 16 below.

A blizzard warning near Grand Forks was lifted Saturday, but the National Weather Service said blowing snow can still be dangerous. The National Weather Service warned that if your vehicle becomes stranded, you should not leave your vehicle, and to be prepared by dressing for the temperatures outside, having at least a half-full tank of gas and a winter survival kit.

A warm-up is expected on Thursday with temperatures around 15 degrees, but wind chills will still be below zero.

—Karee Magge

# Sex for sale in the oil patch

The cases involve allegations in Bismarck, Minot, Williston and Dickinson, including the case of one man who pleaded guilty to enticing women to travel to the "fracking areas" to work as prostitutes and two accused of operating brothels in oil patch cities.

More than a dozen men were convicted in the state in 2014 in federal and state courts for seeking to buy sex with underage girls. The sting that resulted in charges against Lakey snared so many prospective johns it had to be shut down early.

Paula Bosh, who has worked as a victim specialist with the FBI in Minot for 11 years, never encountered a human trafficking case until recently. She now estimates she has worked with 12 adult victims of sex trafficking in northwest North Dakota in the past 1½ years.

"They seem to be coming from all over," said Bosh, a Hilltop North Dakota resident.

She attributes the increase to a combination of increased activity in the state and a change in attitude about sex trafficking nationally that may contribute to more reporting.

"I think with greater awareness comes greater reporting," Bosh said. "We've just got to be ready for what to do when the reports come in."

The influx of young, unaccompanied men working high-paying oil jobs fuels the market for trafficking in the Bakken, said Siddharth Kara, a Harvard researcher who has traveled the world interviewing victims and traffickers.

The male-female ratio in western North Dakota — two busy Dickinson bars that scan IDs put it at 3-1 last year — exacerbates that demand.

With communities still catching up to the challenges of rapid growth, a general lack of awareness and strained law enforcement resources, the risk of getting caught is diminished.

Another factor complicating the issue: Drug crimes increased 19.5 percent from 2012 to 2013 in North Dakota, and many of the same people trafficking drugs are involved in sex trafficking, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said.

"Everybody used to specialize, and now they're diversifying," Stenehjem said. "They're all tied together."

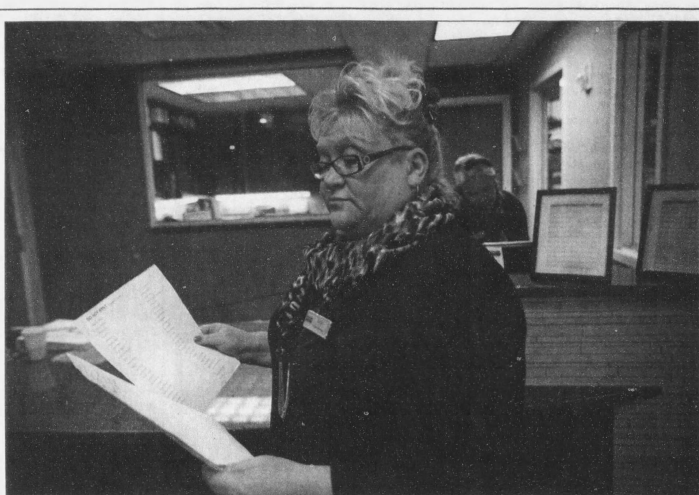
But the money is certainly there in the sex business, too.

"Traffickers and pimps are already three steps ahead thinking there's an opportunity to make some money," Kara told Forum News Service in a recent interview. Those engaged in human trafficking consider it to be a high-profit, low-risk business, he said.

In his book, "Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery," Kara estimated that North American profits from trafficked sex slaves were \$581 million in 2007.

Polaris, a national anti-trafficking organization, does the math: A trafficker who has a "stable" of three women with a quota of \$500 a night each, seven days a week, could "earn" more than \$500,000 tax-free in a year.

The same staggering numbers also quantify the "trauma experience" suffered by a woman under an



Judy Carlson has a Do Not Rent list at the hotel she manages in Williston.

Forum News Service

# Hotels try to curb human trafficking

By KATHERINE LYNN and AMY DALRYMPLE  
Forum News Service

Garnet Finchum's face says without words that she doesn't have time for nonsense.

She and husband Dwight manage Dickinson's Travel Inn, one in a row of plain motels just a couple of turns off of Interstate 94.

Before this, she managed the Tumbleweed Inn in Alexander, N.D. In both Oil Patch cities, she said, participants in prostitution are frequent visitors.

Motel managers in western North Dakota say they're reluctant to rent to single women because of the amount of prostitution they see. Finchum will break the rule if she knows the woman or her employer or if the woman looks "respectable," she said one night last fall. On a "Do Not Rent" list of about

60 names kept at the Travel Inn, a quarter of the people are banned for prostitution — some men for soliciting, but mostly women.

Over her time in the Oil Patch, Finchum has learned the signs, like a woman wanting to pay in cash. Other times, she and staff members scroll through Backpage.com, sometimes matching a face at the reception with a woman in an ad.

At the Vegas Motel in Williston, about half of the 400 names on a similar "Do Not Rent" list are women banned for prostitution, said general manager Jeff Smith.

The motel now requires every guest who comes to a room to register at the front desk, an attempt to deter prostitution, Smith said.

The Vegas accepts cash for payment, with a \$100 room deposit. Smith said that's his policy because a lot of decent

people don't have credit cards.

At Williston's HornStay Suites, a new policy to require a bank credit card at check-in led to about a 50 percent reduction in prostitution activity, said general manager Judy Carlson.

"We're trying every avenue to get them out," Carlson said.

Last February, Carlson came to Williston from a hotel on the eastern side of the state.

"We dealt with it in Fargo, but not on this scale," she said of prostitution activity in the rooms.

Carlson trains her staff to place women from Las Vegas, Milwaukee and Detroit on the ground floor so they can call police if they see lots of traffic to a room.

The pimps themselves are rarely present in the motels and hotels. They might be in a car outside, or even back where the pair calls home, several states away.

ambitious pimp's control. A quota of five customers a night means 1,825 forced sexual encounters a year.

Globally, 4.5 million people are victims of forced sexual exploitation, according to an estimate by the International Labor Organization.

## Under scrutiny

Adults who are coerced or forced into engaging in prostitution through the use of violence, threats, lies or other tactics are considered victims of sex trafficking under federal law. Anyone under age 18 who is involved in commercial sex is considered a victim regardless of whether force, fraud or coercion are involved.

In 2013, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimated that one in seven endangered runaways reported to them was likely a sex trafficking victim.

The issue has attracted more attention in North Dakota lately because of the rapid population growth, especially in young, unattached men with lots of money and limited social opportunities. But it is hardly new.

Kara, considered an authority on human trafficking, said sex slavery has been more present in rural America than many people realize, and anecdotal evidence from western North Dakota prior to the oil boom seems to bear that out.

Heidi Carlson, who was recruited into prostitution as a Minnesota college student, said she traveled a circuit in the 1980s that included the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

"I've always known North Dakota as a spot that's got a lot of trafficking," said Carlson, who has since worked to help trafficking victims in the Ivin Cities. "There were no man camps when I was in North Dakota. It was all the community guys."

But the oil boom has put a brighter spotlight on North Dakota and the issue of human trafficking, drawing several rounds of national media attention and a recent visit to Williston by a senior human trafficking adviser for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Polaris sent a staff member from Washington, D.C., to North Dakota last year to provide training sessions. Polaris CEO Bradley Myles said people who track online ads for commercial sex noticed a spike in the Bakken region, and anecdotal reports from victim advocates and nonprofit groups also raised red flags.

People are wondering, Myles said. "Is this a new hotspot for human trafficking, both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, of U.S. citizens and immigrants?"

That concern brought Windie Lazenko to North Dakota. The victim advocate and

sex trafficking survivor traveled to Williston from Florida in the fall of 2013 to survey the area, planning to report back to national groups.

But she stayed in the region and is assisting sexually exploited women and girls more than a year later through her organization, 4her North Dakota.

"I was so overwhelmed and broken over the amount of human trafficking that's going on here," Lazenko said. "There were no resources. There was not one person in the entire state of North Dakota that was working in human trafficking, serving victims or even doing training or education."

## Virtual track

It is mouse-click easy now for women and johns to connect. Sites like Backpage.com host the ads, and meetings can be arranged without a woman ever having to be seen soliciting sex.

Backpage.com has as many as 70 commercial sex ads in a typical night for Williston and sometimes 100 or more for Minot.

Minneapolis police Sgt. Grant Snyder, who trains law enforcement officers on human trafficking, was concerned about the potential for trafficking in the Bakken and monitored Backpage ads west of Bismarck for four months. He found that 70 percent of the ads had been posted in a different state the previous week.

## FROM 1A

Due to the nature of trafficking, women and girls caught up in the sex trade often go undetected and unaided until they have arrest records, mangled credit histories and other bruises that make it difficult to escape what they call "the life."

North Dakota sex service providers, including staff at domestic violence shelters, report seeing a growing number of women and girls they believe to be victims of trafficking, but the state has no dedicated shelters for trafficking victims and the facilities that offer such services are 500 or more miles from the oil patch.

Law enforcement agencies and victim service providers in western North Dakota, even if inclined to help, are maxed out, struggling to keep up with all the demands of a booming population and the crime that has followed. With the recent drop in oil prices projected to cut into state oil tax revenue, advocates for shelters, more investigators, more mental health and other social service providers may be competing for funds from a diminished pot.

ment pending, and one is set to go to trial next year.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Delorme told the judge during Lakey's sentencing that the catch-a-predator operations work, and they can prevent child sex from being abused in the Bakken.

"The money that's flooding in, the people that are flooding in, there's a problem out there," Delorme said.

But Heather McCord Mitchell, a federal public defender who represented Lakey and met with several of the defendants from being abused in the Bakken. "The money that's flooding in, the people that are flooding in, there's a problem out there," Delorme said.

McCord Mitchell doesn't necessarily think Lakey or the other men are predators and noted that many had lived mostly law-abiding lives.

"People do incredibly stupid things when they're suffering from depression and they're isolated and they have no support systems," she said.

Bill Schmidt, another federal public defender who represented some of the defendants from the sting, argued for a lesser sentence in another case, pointing out that many of the cases involved underage victims. "I think there are far bigger fish to fry in western North Dakota than undercover sting operations," he said.

But U.S. District Judge Daniel Howland responded that he wishes law enforcement agencies had resources to do more stings to "curtail the chaos the oil boom has created."

"These are troublesome crimes," Howland said during a court hearing. "We have a problem in this state, and we have to do something about it."

One still has a plea agree-