



• Inside



Asian medley
Give dinner a twist with an Asian medley recipe.
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• ND rig count

187

Source: North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources.

SISK & CO.
Oil & Gas Insurance
www.tjsisk.com
1-888-333-6620

• Deaths

Gary Long Sr.
Lois Sande
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• Outside



Sunny
High: 90s
Low: 60s
High Thursday: 80s
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• Sakakawea

Levels	
Today	1834.9
Last Year	1835.2
Discharges	
Estimated Today	19,000
Yesterday	19,800

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‘Where there is no vision, the people perish’

Williston Herald



Senators mum on Syria vote

Hoeven, Heitkamp waiting for White House to present plan

BY JERRY BURNES
WILLISTON HERALD

North Dakota’s Senate representation in Congress is reserving judgment on any strike on Syria—for now, at least.

In a phone interview with the Williston Herald, Sen. John Hoeven said he was back in Washington, D.C. for briefings to hear the evidence the Obama Administration has on Bashar Assad’s alleged use of chemical weapons on his own people.

Hoeven said he was on a call with other GOP

senators, Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and other administration members.

“I’m reserving judgement at this point and they’re going to have to develop a plan and demonstrate they have a plan that can be effective,” Hoeven said of the president’s push for a strike. “Any strike would have to be no boots on the ground and we have to degrade Assad’s ability to use chemical weapons again.”

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp also returned to Washington

early for briefings on a potential strike on Syria.

Also reserving judgement, Heitkamp said in a statement she needs to closely study all sides of the debate and won’t make a final decision until all the evidence and intelligence is presented to her.

“Over the next week, I will be seeking more information from the administration on how potential strikes meet U.S. strategic needs, the end goal of them, and how they could impact our long-term standing in the Middle East,” Heitkamp

said. “The responses I get, as well as how the authorization for force is written and what I hear from North Dakotans, will all help me decide how I will vote.”

Hoeven condemned the use of chemical weapons but added he needs to see what the White House resolution for the strike contains.

He also said the decision by England to not support the U.S. was a “setback” and the U.S. should continue to get allies in Europe, Turkey, Israel and Jordan on board.

French president Francois Hollande supported the U.S. strike and was ready to lead the country to back Obama, but has decided to allow a democratic debate among lawmakers before making a final decision.

Many lawmakers here are taking Hoeven’s same line on the use of chemical weapons but are wary of attacks and giving Obama too much power over the conflict.

“That’s deplorable,” Hoeven said of chemical weapons. “But we have to be careful.”



Photo by Larry Griffin/Williston Herald

Farm Rescue

The combine used to harvest the crops, which J.R. Rutledge drove all afternoon on Tuesday.

Farm Rescue helps ailing Watford farmer

BY LARRY GRIFFIN
WILLISTON HERALD

David Hoffman is normally a one-man farming machine.

He manages his vast wheat, grain and durum crops in Watford City each season all by himself, with only the occasional helping hand from a local volunteer. But this year, he is bedridden and unable to farm at all due to coronary bypass surgery.

But the farming must go on.

David’s solution? Call Farm Rescue.

HELPING THE HOFFMANS

Farm Rescue is a service offered by trained farmers to help out those farmers who cannot work for whatever reason – usually illness or an illness in the family.

David’s brother Gary Hoff-

man has been working with Farm Rescue agents J.R. Rutledge and Blaine Bergstedt, among others, to do the work that David usually does by himself over a much longer period of time.

“It takes about a month [for David to do this],” Gary said.

But Farm Rescue will complete the job in roughly two and a half weeks using a much larger workforce. Farm Rescue supplies equipment, volunteers and most importantly, their time.

Gary said without Farm Rescue, they would “never get [the farming] done.”

Farm Rescue is not the only factor in the farm’s success this season, as the community that knows David and his family has also been helping out in any way they can.

“It’s all people who know

each other,” Gary said. “Kinda like family.”

FARMING IS LIFE

Farm Rescue employs more than 800 volunteers and helps around 50 farms a year divided between the planting and harvest seasons. Blaine Bergstedt, only three months into his tenure with the organization, has always worked with farmers.

“I got out of college and worked as a loan officer, and I worked with farmers,” he said. “Then I was in insurance, and also worked with farmers. I just grew up around them.”

The idea of Farm Rescue was born out of a love of farming as founder and president Bill Gross was a farmboy himself who just wanted to help out a few local farmers around his own area. The idea caught

on and they expanded into a much larger operation.

“Tragedies aren’t planted,” Gross writes in the organization’s pamphlet. “They happen at the least expected moments. For farm families, this could mean the end of an era or the end of life as they know it because farming isn’t just a job; it’s a way of life.”

As farms have increased in size and acreage over time, Farm Rescue acts to “bridge crises” so that families can continue viable operations for future generations, the pamphlet says.

Farm Rescue is a non-profit organization and is funded by several larger companies such as ClearChannel Outdoor, Newman Outdoor Advertising, KSB Classic Country 600, the North Dakota Farmer’s Union and many others.

Two public unions merge

BY SARA SPAULDING
WILLISTON HERALD

Public workers in North Dakota have bonded together to create a stronger force.

The North Dakota Public Employees Association and the North Dakota Education Association merged into one organization, North Dakota United, on Sept. 1. NDU has 10,000 members and is now the state’s largest public employee union.

The NDEA began in 1887, according to Kelly Hagen, field communications specialist. The NDPEA began in 1961.

The NDEA was associated with the National Education Association and the NDPEA was associated with the American Federation of Teachers.

NDU is now affiliated with both of the national unions.

As a result North Dakota public employees now share each other’s resources and are better able to promote their causes.

“This historic merger brings together employees who serve the public in many ways—from great public schools to safe roads to quality health programs—that are the foundation of North Dakota’s quality of life,” said American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten and National Education Association President Dennis Van Roekel in a joint statement.

“These workers will have a more united and effective voice.”

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Clerk of court a busy position in the oil patch

BY KATHLEEN J. BRYAN
WILLISTON HERALD

Katie Berwick, 28, clerk of the municipal court, was born in Williston, where she spent the first 10 years of her life before moving to Fargo with her family. She graduated from Minot State University with a degree in business management. In an interview with the Williston Herald, she addressed the city’s caseload and her hopes for a computerized docket. The following excerpt has been edited and condensed.

Q: What does a clerk of

the court do?

Katie Berwick: I shuffle paperwork for the court system. I keep track of everyone who has any outstanding conditions, jail time, any fines that are owed. I keep the court system running when we have court days. I hand our paperwork. I get the paperwork from the judge and provide customer service for anyone who has the unfortunate circumstance of being in court.

Q: What are the majority of cases that occur in the city?

City Talk with

Katie Berwick

We handle all B misdemeanors and below, so it’s going to be DUIs and theft of property under \$250. We see a lot of disorderly conduct and theft is really a big one, which is kind of surprising

to me. I thought it would be DUIs, but I think people really like to steal. That seems to be a very popular choice of crime.

Q: How many cases actually come to trial?

Many of them will transfer to district court, but they don’t usually get to the point where they have a jury trial. A lot of times they can come to an agreement before costing the county the money for a jury trial. We have anywhere from three to five bench trials in municipal court with the judge, the prosecuting

attorney, the officer and any witnesses for the defendant. When I started it was maybe two a week or two every other week, and now we’re a steady three to five every court day. A lot of the bench trials that we see are actually traffic cases.

Q: What is a bench trial vs. a jury trial?

A bench trial stays in municipal court with a judge, the prosecuting attorney, the arresting officer, any witnesses the city may have and any witnesses for the

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