



# PROGRESS 2012

## Never better in North Dakota

Sunday, February 26, 2012

**The Bismarck**  
**Tribune**  
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Moving at the speed of light

### SECTION A

Progress is an annual inspection of the state of our state, a glimpse into the innovative minds of various leaders who reside here and a voice for the hopes of the future, all examined through the lens of the last year.



**A NEW HOME:** A 30-second camera exposure shows the headlights of the night traffic streak in front of the new University of North Dakota Center for Family Medicine facility, located at the corner of Seventh Street and Rosser Avenue. The three-story, 45,000 square-foot building will house the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, family medicine residency program and the School of Medicine and Health Services southwest campus. (MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune)

## State of success

### North Dakota's status is rising

North Dakota has become notable among the states. Low unemployment and state budget surpluses, while the rest of the country struggles economically, have made it so. It's even cool to name a nuclear submarine after the Peace Garden State.



**KEN ROGERS**

Bakken sweet crude and healthy farm prices have combined to put North Dakota ahead — that, along with a state law requiring a balanced budget.

Expectations are that the state will become the third-ranking state in oil production behind Alaska and Texas, surpassing California some time in 2012. In the third quarter of last year, North Dakota's taxable sales and purchases increased nearly 40 percent, the fifth consecutive quarter of more than 25 percent growth compared to the prior year.

North Dakota has not always been an economic dynamo. Not too many years ago, a depressed economy was pushing people out of the state. Reliance on the cyclic nature of agricul-

tural production alone — specifically wheat — stifled the state when commodity prices were poor and teased the state's citizens into hopes of long-term prosperity when farm prices were high. Sure, there were a couple of oil booms in the state's history, but they didn't last long and left behind caution in their wakes.

The present Bakken boom has people believing the good times will be here for a while. Oil and natural gas production have hit record levels.

At the same time, the state has worked hard to diversify its economy. Ranchers are flying cattle to Kazakhstan. People are thinking value-added when it comes to agriculture, to

oil and natural gas.

The state's economic strength made weathering the 2011 summer floods easier to take. With no outlet, Devils Lake continued to spread toward the edges of its basin. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ran the Missouri River above flood stage for much of June and July, finally backing off the record flows in August. And the Souris River in Minot raised absolute Cain with that city, the final result being some 4,000 homes, along with schools, churches and other buildings, damaged by floodwaters.

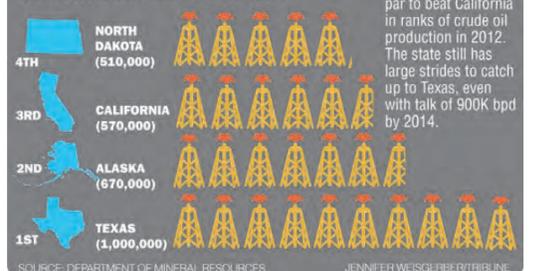
The federal government provided much of the financial help necessary for flood recovery. But having a growing nest egg in the state treasury gives people a sense of security.

The state no longer worries about pushing people out — workers and prospective workers have streamed into western North Dakota in hopes of hooking up with oil companies and the busi-

*Continued on 7A*

### OIL PRODUCTION RANKINGS

November 2011 totals



## Setting records across industry

### Economic goals exceeded

By NICK SMITH  
*Bismarck Tribune*

North Dakota's robust economy continued to gain strength in 2011, a year when the state brought in increased tax revenue and saw record oil production.

State officials say that tax revenue collections in the new biennium are already far ahead of projections, while oil and gas officials report that oil production continues to set new records each month.

Alison Ritter, public information officer for the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources, said year-end production numbers aren't finalized yet, but year-to-date total production through November was approximately 136 million barrels. This breaks the former record of 113 million barrels, set in 2010.

"We're still the No. 4 producing state in the country," Ritter said.

That may not be the case *Continued on 7A*

### INSIDE

■ Roving reporter Lauren Donovan reflects on the trials and tribulations of covering the ever-changing oil patch, **2A**

■ June elections will decide a variety of public offices, including two city commissioners for both Bismarck and Mandan, **3A**

■ A look back on how the powerful Missouri River changed its course in 2011, **4A, 5A**

■ Statewide, both political parties are confident about their chances going into elections this fall, **6A**

(prɔg'rɛs', rəs, prɔgrɛs')

n. 1. Movement, as toward a goal; advance. 2. Development or growth. 3. Steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. 4. A ceremonial journey made by a sovereign through his or her realm.



### SECTION B

#### Bismarck-Mandan

Talk and plans for growth in Bismarck-Mandan have shifted to steel and concrete in the metro area. Key community-wide projects are coming together, and economic ripples from the oil boom in northwestern North Dakota have reached Burleigh and Morton counties.



### SECTION C

#### Back to business

North Dakota's entrepreneurial spirit has found a base. Although still a government town, people from small businesses and large corporations are shaping the future of Bismarck-Mandan. Growth will mean new and interesting challenges for the community — one with a more diverse economy.



### SECTION D

#### Who lives here?

North Dakota's population has stabilized, showing an increase in the recent census. The change can be seen in Bismarck-Mandan, where there's more diversity among citizens. More young people are living in the community, and new residents are drawn by the opportunities, jobs and quality of life.

# Reflections in the patch

*'Somewhere between a 200-rig circus and a war'*

Two, sometimes three times a week, I pack up for a day trip to the oil patch.

Camera, notebook and pens go into my small black computer bag. An apple, two oranges and a Thermos of coffee get tossed on the passenger seat. Cellphone, Chapstick and an extra layer in case the weather goes south. I'm ready to go.

I top off my car with gas and wonder if I'll make it "there" and back without topping it off again, late at night at the end of a long road. Usually, I don't, and every other withdrawal on my electronic debit card statement originates from gas stations somewhere in the West that have become as familiar to me as the ones down the street from where I live.

It is not lost on me that some fraction of the refined oil I cover in the stories I work on week in and week out goes into my own four-cylinder Malibu. This comfortable sedan is a lightweight in the ring with the heavy industrial traffic where I'm going, and if I could find a Hummer that got 30 miles per gallon, I'd buy it in a heartbeat.

I've tried to do the math — whether the 500,000 barrels of oil a day produced from wells here is still only a break-even for the incredible amount of fuel it takes to develop an oil play of this scale.

As an aside, these gas stops are all the same — dozens of semi trucks idling, their drivers lined up inside, waiting while harried cashiers clear diesel fills at the pump and ring up purchases of chips, Mountain Dew, pizza, cold Pugsley sandwiches and cigarettes carried to the counter by men who look like they slept in their trucks and probably did.

For many, this oil boom is not fueled by good nutrition or a sound night's sleep.

The containers of this eat-junk-on-the-run lifestyle often get tossed out of the truck or pickup window. More than ever before in my life, I find myself cringing as I watch cups and paper wrappings flying from the truck in front of me on the busy highway. Deep in the oil patch, roadside ditches are so filled with trash I wonder if they can possibly be mowed for hay and what may happen to the livestock that ingested that hay.

Note: The North Dakota Petroleum Council needs to start an anti-litter campaign and flood the region with garbage bags that say, "Don't Trash the Patch."

This affront to the landscape is a personal insult. These drivers don't need to love this land, but at the very least, won't they respect it?

I'm not using litter as a clumsy metaphor for the



**LAUREN DONOVAN**

state of the oil patch. If I had to pin it down in those terms, I'd describe it as somewhere between a 200-rig circus and a war, complete with casualties to man and wildlife. It is one of the largest industrial building zones anywhere on Earth.

It's an entirely new resettlement of the western third of the state. On any given day out there, I talk to people who have migrated to the patch from Washington, Idaho, Florida, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, Minnesota, Colorado ... a list that could be a third-grader's "Name all the 50 states" quiz.

A common and heart-breaking sight is the lone guy in an out-of-state car, back seat piled high with his possessions, pulled over at a gas station. He's always studying a map as if his life depends on it and it probably does. He left people behind somewhere, and at the Highway 2 Cenex in Stanley, he looks like the loneliest man in town.

I want to tap on his window and reassure him that everything will be just fine. I don't — not because I'm worried for my safety, but because I don't really know if he will be fine. He could be sleeping in his car. He could be down to his last \$20 bill.

These resettlers aren't looking for a 160-acre homestead. They're here to make money, not a life, and only some of them will stay on for a stretch of time. I believe that even many of those hired on for the more permanent jobs of oil production will go back home, or closer to it, as soon as an opportunity presents itself.

Some will "stick," but most won't, and this oil-caused resettlement will actually be a constantly shifting population — nothing at all like the stability of the first settlers, now in their fifth generation of North Dakota citizenship.

As a journalist, this is the transformational story of a state — my state. This is new history being made while we watch, and worry, in wonder. I have seen the effects of living in the guts of the oil patch that make grown men and women cry, and I have seen new McMansions pop up on the prairie a half-mile from an oil well. I have seen the still-smoking charred frame of a motor home out on the highway near Williston, the same place where jobs at McDonald's



*It's a thrill to be out there in the oil patch. It's also a relief not to be.*

**OIL AHEAD:** These enormous vats store water for fracture-treating oil wells, located just outside White Earth in Mountrail County, where oil development is more intense than anywhere else in the oil patch. (LAUREN DONOVAN)



start at \$15 an hour.

I have seen familiar towns change so fast it's taken my breath away. In the last eight months, Watford City has become almost unrecognizable. Besides hundreds of temporary housing structures and new oil-themed businesses sprawling every which way, a whole new community of homes and apartments, equal in size to the original Watford City, is being grafted onto the northwest side of town.

I have seen local leaders borne down on and bear up to incredible challenges, and I can say they need more help and they need more money.

The scale, speed, complexity and investment in change in this vast industrial zone are breathtaking. The exposure to financial catastrophe is equally breathtaking.

It is a thrill to be out there in the oil patch. It's also a relief not to be.

When my work takes me into the more gentle, familiar parts of North Dakota, I relate to a story Mountrail County Commissioner Greg Boschee told of driving 100 miles from his home near Parshall — ground zero in the Bakken — over into Sheridan County, where it's so quiet you can hear cows chewing hay and a few trucks hauling contract grain over to the elevator.

I know how he felt that day — the contrast as comforting as it is surreal. "Remember this?" he asked his wife.

(Reach Lauren Donovan at 220-5511 or lauren@westtrib.com.)



**TOP:** According to the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association, trucking companies in the state have swelled to almost 2,800 due to the increase in oil activity in western counties. (MIKE McCLEARY) **ABOVE:** Campers and RVs park in nearly any free spot in oil-producing counties. (LAUREN DONOVAN)

## The Bismarck Tribune

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### ABOUT US

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Laid end-to-end, Progress 2012 would stretch **11 miles**, or **5.2%** of the way across North Dakota.

Compiled by HANNA BUSH

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# Variety of public offices on ballot

By LEANN ECKROTH  
Bismarck Tribune

Bismarck-Mandan area voters will decide who will fill local offices during the June 12 city elections, narrowing down the field of candidates in the June county primaries.

Mandan voters will be choosing two city commissioners and a new mayor. Mayor Tim Helbling is stepping down, while incumbent city Commissioner Tom Jackson is seeking re-election and Commissioner Sandra Tibke remains undecided about seeking another term. City Commissioner Dot Frank is running for mayor, and Trevor Vannett recently announced he is running for city commissioner.

Mandan voters will also be electing a municipal judge, an office currently held by Dena Kautzman. Voters will also be asked if they wish to have public meeting minutes printed in the Mandan News.

Two Mandan Park Board positions will also be decided in June. Incumbent Wanda Knoll, who has served eight years, is seeking another term. Incumbent Bruce Brucker said he will step down after serving eight years in office.

Voters will elect three Mandan School Board members. School board member Tim Tausend and Jill LaMont-Hanson said they planned to seek re-election. School board member Beth Allen said she is undecided about running for another term.

Morton County voters will be replacing at least two commissioners in 2012. There are three four-year terms. County Commissioners Mark Bitz and Richard Tokach will not be seeking re-election. Commission Chairman Bruce

Strinden will run for four more years after completing his first term in office. Bismarck-Mandan area businessman Scott Johnson and New Salem businessman Clint Feland are circulating petitions for office.

Two Burleigh County commissioners will be elected this year. Incumbents Jerry Woodcox and Brian Bitner are running for re-election.

Bismarck voters will choose two city commissioners. Incumbents Parrell Grossman and Mike Seminary are both seeking re-election.

Voters will also decide on a municipal judge and vote on whether to continue printing city meeting minutes in the Bismarck Tribune. The judgeship is held by Bill Severin.

Two Bismarck Park Board members will be elected in June. Board president Brian Beattie is running again. Board member Mike O'Brien said he is undecided about seeking another term.

Voters will select two Bismarck School Board members. Incumbent board president Lawrence King said he will run for another term. School board member Paul Govig will not seek re-election.

Two South Central Judicial District Court judges will be elected in 2012. District Judgeship 4 is now held by Bruce Haskell and the District 9 Judgeship is held by Bruce Romanick. Both are six-year terms.

Those interested in entering a local city or primary race should contact the entity's administrator about the requirements for filing for petitions — number of signatures needed, documents needed and other procedures on how to be placed on the ballot.

## POLLING SITES

The new combined Wilton-Regan Shop will serve as the voting site for south city voters in districts 3203-3207. Sterling voters will vote at Sterling School, Wing voters will be at the fire hall and Menoken voters will go to Menoken School.

Voters inside Mandan's borders will find the number of polling sites downsized from 11 to 6. Voters in precincts 6 and 7 will go to the First Lutheran Church — this includes people who used to vote at the former Mandan Community Center.

Voters from precincts 3, 4 and 5 will vote at the Eagles Club, including people who used to go to Liberty Heights and the Law Enforcement Center to vote.

Voters from precincts 32 and 17, including those who once voted at the Mandan Middle School, will vote at the First Church of the Nazarene.

Mandan Spirit of Life Catholic Church will collect votes from precincts 1 and 8, including votes from people who used to cast ballots at the Legion Park facility.

Voters from precincts 18 and 2 will go to Midway Lanes, including people who voted at Bethel Assembly of God Church in the past.

The deadline for filing enough petition signatures, certificates of endorsement, affidavits of candidacy and statements of interest is 4 p.m. April 13.

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



**NEW VOTING CHANGES:** Morton County Auditor Dawn Rhone shows where voting precinct changes have been made in the city of Mandan. (TOM STROMME/Tribune)

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# River wild

## Missouri River changes course

By KEN ROGERS  
Bismarck Tribune

Ice jammed the Missouri River in January, backing up water near homes along the river — reminding Bismarck-Mandan residents of the long summer flood of 2011. Then the ice dam was gone, and people could turn their backs on the river again.

During the past year, the Missouri River has been a trial, from Lake Sakakawea to the Gulf of Mexico. Heavy mountain and plains snow-pack, record spring rains and management of flood control at the Garrison Dam combined to cause the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to throttle up the Missouri, running her well above flood stage in June, July and part of August. Nearly 700 homes in Burleigh County were inundated. Thirteen million sandbags were filled in Bismarck, Mandan and rural Morton and Burleigh counties. The cost of loans and grants to cover flood losses in the Bismarck-Mandan area approached \$250 million.

It's the same Missouri River that had been a recreational magnet, drawing people to boat, fish, sunbathe, camp, swim and live the good life — the river that



*People are drawn to the water and the view. Soon, they will return to the Missouri.*

had become a focal point for Bismarck-Mandan for water sports and outdoor enjoyment.

But throughout last summer, the Missouri River was out of bounds. It wasn't until fall that fishing boats

returned. And instead of the lush thickets of willow and elm, the riverscape — its banks and benches — were covered with fine sand. After months of standing in water, many mature trees were leaning or downed. Huge chunks of the riverbank were eaten away by the current.

Park areas along the Missouri River in Bismarck were carpeted with drying silt, and it took skid-steer loaders and earthmoving machines to uncover stretches of the

recreation trails, volleyball courts and picnic areas. At Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, the staff hopes to have the camping area open June 1 after being closed all of summer 2011.

There are homeowners still unable to live in their homes along the river and in low-lying areas. Lifestyles and lives have been changed by a Missouri River we had forgotten — a Missouri River from before the Garrison and Oahe dams.

In the coming year, Bismarck-Mandan will redefine its relationship with the Missouri River.

People will be lured out onto the water by sun and sand. Fishing reports of a walleye bite will have boat ramps full. As more and more of the cleanup and recovery is completed, recreation interests of local residents will overcome their uncertainty about the river.

Before the dams were in place on the Missouri River, people in Bismarck-Mandan

*Continued on 5A*



WILL KINCAID/Tribune  
**ABOVE LEFT:** Cody Arneson, left, and Alex Lucier look over the ice flow of the Missouri River at the Fox Island boat ramp in southwest Bismarck on Jan. 14.  
**ABOVE:** A sign designating private property is submerged in the Missouri River near the Fox Island boat ramp in Bismarck on May 23, 2011.

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**LEFT:** Volunteers fill pallets with sandbags in Bismarck on June 5, 2011. (WILL KINCAID) **TOP:** The condition of trees along the Missouri River is still a concern. **ABOVE:** A thick blanket of fog covers the Missouri River and low-lying areas on June 20, 2011. (MIKE McCLEARY)

**BACK ON THE WATER:**

A fisherman pilots his boat between the concrete piers of the Liberty Memorial Bridge on the Missouri River on Oct. 11, 2011. The piers show how high the river rose during flooding. (MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune)



**River wild**

Continued from 4A

didn't have nearly as much to do with the river. The Missouri River then was more dangerous, more erratic in water levels, ice jams and floods.

There are no scenes captured on camera from historic Mandan or Bismarck with sunbathing crowds on the sandbars like we have today.

The dams changed all of that. And in recent decades, recreational use of the Missouri River has soared. Bismarck and Mandan, both of which had originally been built back from the river for fear of flood, began to turn

toward the Missouri. Years without a major flood gave the local communities increased confidence in the river, some of which is lost.

But people have lived here at the confluence of the Heart and Missouri rivers for a very long time, long before white settlement. People are drawn to water and the view. Soon, they will return to the Missouri.

Follow Ken Rogers on Twitter: @rogerstrub

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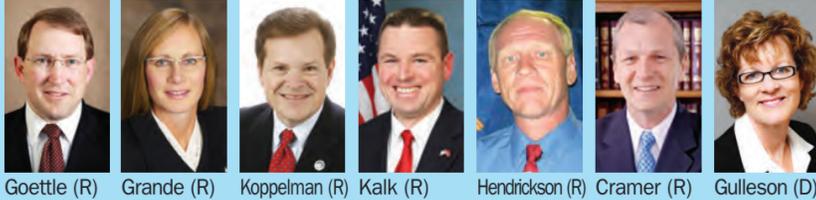
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**U.S. House of Representatives**



**U.S. Senate**



# Parties confident about election

By NICK SMITH  
Bismarck Tribune

The 2012 election cycle is already looking to be an exciting one for North Dakota voters, highlighted by competitive races for the U.S. House, U.S. Senate and governor's office.

All even-numbered districts in the North Dakota Legislature are up for election, as well as the seats in the newly-formed District 7, which wraps around Bismarck on the east and north and extends from south of Lincoln to the Missouri River.

Also on the ballot are the state auditor, state treasurer, insurance commissioner, superintendent of public instruction, justice of the Supreme Court and a member of the Public Service Commission.

Matt Becker, communications director for the North Dakota Republican Party, said the U.S. House race is going to be exciting both before and after the state GOP convention.

The delegate count for the convention, scheduled March 30-April 1 at the Bismarck Civic Center, was approximately 1,700 as of late January, with the final count expected to reach about 1,900, Becker said.

Shane Goettle, Rep. Bette Grande, R-Fargo, Rep. Kim Koppelman, R-West Fargo, Public Service Commissioner

**MORE REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS**

Bismarck Republicans heard from candidates running for governor, U.S. House, U.S. Senate and for several state departments prior to presidential candidate Ron Paul's speech last week. Republicans from districts 7, 30, 32, 35 and 47 held their district nominating conventions on Feb. 20, following the speeches.

Diane Larson was nominated for the District 30 House seat held by Rep. Dave Weiler, R-Bismarck, who chose not to run for re-election. Incumbent District 30 Rep. Mike Nathe, R-Bismarck, and Sen. Ron Carlisle, R-Bismarck, were also nominated.

In the new District 7, Nicole Poolman defeated District 8 Rep. Dwight Wrangham, R-Bismarck, for the District 7 Senate nomination. Jason Dockter and Dr. Rick Becker were nominated for the two District 7 House seats, beating out Marty Presler. In District 32, all three incumbent Republicans were nominated: Sen. Dick Dever, Rep. Mark Dosch and Rep. Lisa Meier.

Brian Kalk and Minot resident DuWayne Hendrickson are seeking the Republican nomination.

Public Service Commissioner Kevin Cramer announced Jan. 19 that he was bypassing the GOP convention and would be on the June 12 primary ballot. It's the first time the North Dakota GOP has faced this situation.

"The fact that we have six candidates seeking the nomination says a lot about our chances in November," Becker said. Republicans will rally around whoever wins the primary, he said.

"Ultimately, on June 12, it's going to be a unification of the party," he said.

Former state representative Pam Gulleson is the lone Democratic-NPL party can-

didate for the House. Gulleson served in the North Dakota House of Representatives for 16 years and as state director and chief of staff for retired Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., for nine years.

North Dakota Democratic-NPL Party Chairman Greg Hodur said the Democrats are working to build a more grassroots organization. Hodur said candidates like Gulleson are just what the party and North Dakota need.

"As long as Pam keeps running the type of campaign she's running, I'm confident she'll continue to receive the attention that her race deserves. It's going to be a close race," Hodur said.

Rep. Rick Berg, R-N.D., and Duane Sand are pursu-

ing the Republican nomination for the Senate. Heidi Heitkamp and Thomas Potter are seeking the Democratic nomination.

Becker said Republicans are confident in their chances in the Senate race.

"The Democrats are in a tough spot ... they have to get behind an unpopular president or they need to abandon him. We'll be able to capitalize on the mood of the electorate," Becker said.

Hodur said the competition between Potter and Heitkamp for the nomination is great for his party.

"I think it's going to add some excitement to the convention," Hodur said.

The Democratic convention is set for March 16-18 at the Canad Inn and Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

Democrats are confident of their chances in the Senate race no matter which candidate earns the nomination, said Alison Kelly, North Dakota Democratic-NPL Party communications director.

"I do think that what makes them both strong is that there's an extreme displeasure with the current Congress, and one of the members is Rick Berg," Kelly said.

Republican Gov. Jack Dalrymple is running for his first full term. Dalrymple took over for John Hoeven in December 2010, after Hoeven was elected to the

U.S. Senate. Paul Sorum is also seeking the Republican nomination, while Sen. Ryan Taylor, D-Towner, is running to be the Democratic nominee.

North Dakota Republican Party Chairman Stan Stein said the goal is keep the governor's office in Republican hands, where it has been since 1992. He said Republicans have gained control of nearly all state offices since then, and the party's leadership for the past 20 years gives them a strong position from which to make their case.

"I think we have a track record in this state that speaks for itself," Stein said.

The first major event on the political calendar for the Republicans is the March 6 North Dakota caucus. North Dakota is one of 10 states holding caucuses or primaries on that day, also known as Super Tuesday. Stein said the party hopes to be able to attract at least one presidential candidate to the state for Super Tuesday.

Party members statewide are fired up, especially after gaining seats in the Legislature in 2010 as well as picking up a U.S. House and U.S. Senate seat, Stein said.

"The quickest way to lose is to get complacent, which is what we will not do," Stein said. "We're not going to take anything for granted. We run races like we're 10 points behind."

Kelly said there are grow-

ing problems with infrastructure in the western part of the state, while flooding in the Devils Lake area continues to be an issue to the east. She said there needs to be more accountability and effort in creating long-term solutions in the governor's office.

"North Dakota has lacked a leader and lacked a people's governor," Kelly said.

North Dakota Democrats have been energized and are refocused following the defeats they experienced in 2010, Kelly said.

Hodur said about 1,000 delegates and alternates will be at the party's state convention in March.

With Republicans holding strong majorities in the Legislature and most of the offices in the Capitol, the Democrats will be facing stiff opposition to gain back ground, Hodur said. A good convention should add to the excitement growing among Democrats statewide, he said.

"I think we have a very good chance at bringing a lot more balance back to the state government than what currently exists," Hodur said.

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



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(prɔg'res', rəs, prɔgrəs') 1. Movement, as toward a goal; advance 2. Development or growth. 3. Steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. 4. A ceremonial journey made by a sovereign through his or her realm.

# Setting records across industry

Continued from 1A

for long. Ritter said if production continues to climb as it has, North Dakota may pass third-ranked California by mid-2012 and even overtake Alaska for second by late 2012 or early 2013.

"We have closed in faster than previously thought," Ritter said.

North Dakota oil production also passed 500,000 barrels per day for the first time in state history in November, with nearly 510,000 barrels per day. According to Department of Mineral Resources Director Lynn Helms, peak production could reach as much as 900,000 barrels per day by early 2014.

Increased oil production has led to record levels of oil tax revenue.

Joe Morrisette, assistant executive budget analyst with the North Dakota Office of Management and Budget, said oil tax collections are already ahead of the forecast for the 2011-13 biennium. The original OMB estimate was for oil tax collections of just over \$2.04 billion for the current biennium.

"It's already surpassed our expectations at this point," Morrisette said.

Through the first six months of the biennium, oil tax collections are at more than \$557 million. If oil tax collections continued at the current pace, the revenue collected would exceed the OMB estimate by nearly \$200 million.

The current OMB estimate predicts that the \$300 million cap in general fund allocations will be met. An estimated \$612.5 million would be transferred to the Legacy Fund, while \$341 million would be transferred to the Property Tax Relief Sustainability Fund and \$247.2 million would be distributed to cities and counties.

Morrisette said the oil industry is a "volatile" one. However, he said, all signs indicate that the oil industry will continue at a similar pace for the time being, leading to continually strong oil tax revenue collections.

Pam Sharp, director of the North Dakota OMB, said revenue collections overall are far ahead of revenue forecasts made by the OMB.

"We are way ahead of what our projections were," Sharp said. "Sales tax is particularly running higher than projected."

Through December 2011, sales tax collections were at approximately \$496 million during the first six months of the biennium. This was nearly 43 percent ahead of the April 2011 legislative forecast of \$347 million to be collected through the first six months.

"A lot of the sales tax collections have to do with western North Dakota," Sharp said. "I know the response to the flood has generated some additional sales tax."

## State of success

Continued from 1A

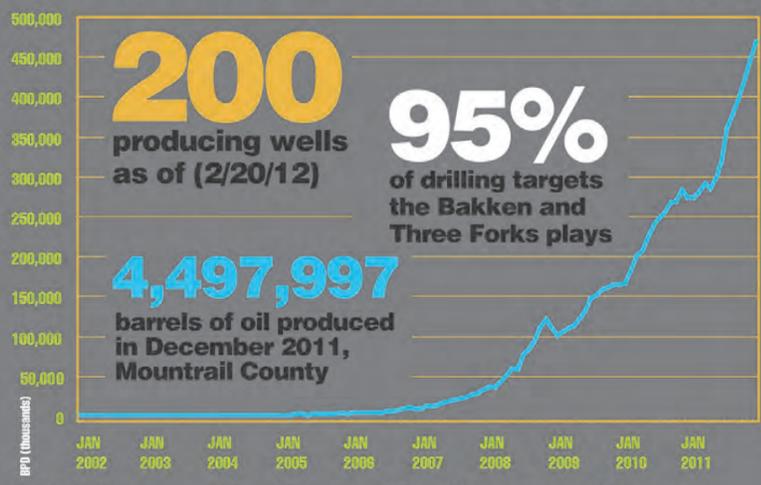
nesses that support them. Meanwhile, the oil boom continues to create jobs. The oil and gas exploration and production tax collections are swelling state bank accounts. North Dakota has become a serious energy exporter — not just of oil, but electricity from coal, wind and ethanol from corn.

Success, the state has grown to understand, comes with its own problems. Limited available housing has people frustrated. Heavy traffic on the roads has people frustrated. Stretched services has people frustrated.

State regulators and inspectors in the oil patch are constantly playing catch up. There are worries about oil spills and fires. There are emissions issues. Air quality issues. Flaring is a big problem that is just beginning to get resolved.

The state is stepping up. (Reach Ken Rogers at 250-8250 or ken.rogers@bismarcktribune.com.)

## BAKKEN BY THE NUMBERS



SOURCE: Department of Mineral Resources/Office of Management and Budget

### OMB ESTIMATES OF FUTURE DISTRIBUTION:

- \$612.5M** Legacy Fund
- \$341M** Property Tax Relief Sustainability Fund
- \$300M** Cap to General Fund
- \$247.2M** Direct money to cities and counties

**\$557M+** oil tax collections through first 6 months of biennium



JENNIFER WEISGERBER/TRIBUNE

She explained that the large quantities of materials and equipment being purchased in the oil patch are generating heavy sales tax revenue. She added that materials purchased by homeowners who are rebuilding in cities such as Minot are also a factor in increased sales tax revenue.

Sharp said eventually the growth will reach a peak since oil production, in particular, has its limits. She said the OMB is keeping a close eye on revenue and is trying to determine how factors

such as oil production are affecting revenue. This, she said, will help in being able to create accurate forecasts in the future. Sharp added that the levels of revenue coming in the past six months have been exciting — and shocking — to observe.

"I've never seen this before," Sharp said.

The state's agriculture industry also faced a challenging year. North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said a number of words described North Dakota agriculture in 2011:

volatile, unprecedented, extreme and bittersweet. Goehring said between the heavy snowfall and spring rain, moisture and flooding were major issues for producers in 2011.

"We dealt with the impact of flooding east and west. It just didn't seem to quit raining," Goehring said. He said difficult conditions for producers meant an unprecedented 25 percent of acreage in North Dakota went unplanted last year.

"In a \$7-8 billion industry, with 25 percent unplanted,

that's a couple of billion dollars you're taking out of the economy," Goehring said.

Goehring said there were a couple of areas that reported good yields. He said there was a thin band north of Washburn up to Max that recorded good yields as well as a thin stretch along U.S. Highway 2 near Rugby, stretching east to the border.

Looking forward, Goehring said, there is some anxiety about the lack of moisture this winter. However, he said, producers he has spoken with across the state

are confident that 2012 will be better.

"We should be able to get a lot more in the ground this year," Goehring said. "I think everyone is looking forward to a better year this year."

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



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# SECTION B

## PROGRESS 2012 Never better in North Dakota



(prög'rēs', rəs, prögrēs') 1. Movement, as toward a goal; advance. 2. Development or growth. 3. Steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. 4. A ceremonial journey made by a sovereign through his or her realm.

Build it ...



AND THEY WILL COME: Construction continues on a city block-sized, three-story office building with a restaurant and condominiums at the corner of Mandan Street and Broadway Avenue in Bismarck. MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune

# Bismarck's master plan

## Strategic planning process nearing completion

By LEANN ECKROTH  
Bismarck Tribune

Bismarck's master strategic growth plan is back on track after being stalled by the 2011 Missouri River flood. The city team renewed work in November with consultant Patrick Ibarra of The Mejorando Group. Final approval is pending before the Bismarck City Commission, with some wording being ironed out in the process.

"We've finished putting together the final touches on the mission statement," said Bismarck City Commissioner Josh Askvig, who is leading the plan.

"Now, we've started putting together our goals — economic vitality, how we continue economic success; civic engagement, how we continue to raise open public dialogue; community character — we are a destination community that is clean and safe to live, work and play work here," he said. "The Continued on 2B



FOCUSING THE VISION: Patrick Ibarra is a consultant for the city of Bismarck's strategic growth plan. (TOM STROMME/Tribune)

### INSIDE

- Mandan Mayor Tim Helbling reflects on his service to the city in different capacities, 3B
- Mandan's original high school is set to become low-income and senior-friendly housing, 3B
- Fort Lincoln State Park officials are hoping for a drier season to boost attendance, 4B
- Phone survey may show need for YMCA collaboration with parks department in Mandan, 4B
- \$64M North Dakota State Penitentiary expansion takes shape, 5B
- Bismarck's downtown sees continuing curb appeal, customers, 6B
- Quiet rail planning chugs along; could take another 18 months, 6B

**HUNGRY?** Server Tyler Schmaltz, right, slices strips of top sirloin for Nola Steier at her table at Harvest Brazilian Grill in Mandan. (TOM STROMME/Tribune)



# Filling up fast

## Business in Mandan? Booming

By HANNA BUSH  
Bismarck Tribune

Residential expansion and population growth in Mandan have made storefronts and commercial spaces hot commodities on Main Street and the "Strip." With the recent announcement of Walmart's intention to set up shop on the Interstate 94 corridor, business development in Mandan is booming.

Ellen Huber, Mandan's business development director, said collections of local sales taxes, occupancy taxes and restaurant and lodging taxes were all up in 2011. In addition, 2011 was the second-best year on record for commercial and industrial building permits.

"I think that's taking us into 2012 with good momentum," Huber said.

A total of eight businesses opened in Mandan in 2011, and eight others expanded their operations, Huber said.

Harvest Brazilian Grill, new to Mandan, opened on Main Street Oct. 10, 2011. Prior to operating in Mandan, the restaurant was based in Linton, where owner Edgar Oliveira's father works as a physician.

The family moved from their native Brazil to the U.S. in 1988. After moving to North Dakota, Continued on 2B

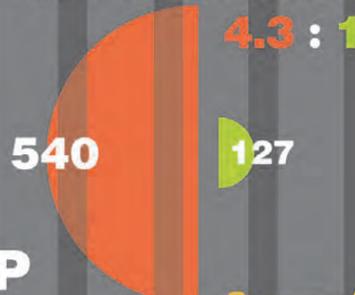


# BEHIND BARS IN BISMARCK

See story on 5B



Ratio of inmates to security staff



Average inmate age

35.97 years old

Average length of sentence

5.7 years

SOURCE: North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Unless otherwise noted, all data is from July 2011 at NDSP.

HANNA BUSH/TRIBUNE

# DEVELOPMENT IN MANDAN

## EXPANDING BUSINESSES IN 2011:

Dakota Travel Nurse - 502 W. Main St.  
 Harvest Brazilian Grill - 308 W. Main St.  
 Leingang Chiropractic - 301 1st St. N.E.  
 Mocha and More - 306 W. Main St.

## NEW BUSINESSES and EXPANSIONS IN 2012:

Lisa's Gluten Free & More - 211 W. Main St.  
 Capital Credit Union - 600 E. Main St.



## NEW BUSINESSES IN 2011:

Sunshine Shoppe - 105 3rd Ave. N.W.  
 Susie Q's Craft Emporium - 411 W. Main St.  
 Ultimate Body Fat Loss by Laser - 1302 1st St. N.E.  
 Bohegy - 108 1st Ave. N.W.  
 Mandan Nails - 403 1st St.

## NOT SHOWN: BUSINESS EXPANSIONS 2011

True North Steel - Memorial Highway  
 Planet Powersportz - 3930 Memorial Highway  
 Roughrider Academy - 2711 Old Red Trail N.W. #10  
 Keitu Engineering - 2610 Old Red Trail N.W.  
 Extreme Trailer Sales - 3700 Memorial Highway  
 Pioneer Seed & RDO Irrigation

ProFinish - Riverwood Drive  
 HIT, Inc. - Sunset Drive  
 Mandan Tesoro Refinery

## NEW BUSINESSES 2012

High Plains Apache Sales & Service - 1701 Eastside Court  
 Brea Women's Boutique - 906 2nd Ave. N.W.  
 Acteva Assisted Living Center

JENNIFER WEISGERBER/TRIBUNE

## Filling up fast

Oliveira's mother opened the Brazilian restaurant in Linton as a way to connect with the community, Oliveira said.

But when the family noticed that a majority of their customers were making the 120-mile trek from the Bismarck-Mandan area to Linton to enjoy the ethnic cuisine, they decided to move operations closer to their customer base. Oliveira closed the Linton location in June 2011 and opened the Mandan-based Harvest four months later.

"The community in Linton was just too small," Oliveira said.

The decision to move to Mandan was one of the business owner and his mother, who is also his business partner, weighed carefully. In the end, it came down to economics.

"The business development program was one of the reasons we decided to move into Mandan instead of Bismarck," Oliveira said. "The incentive program was very attractive."

The city of Mandan offers several incentives to new and existing business owners. The Storefront Improvement Program, launched in 2006, offers matching funds to downtown business and commercial property owners for improvements to the exterior of buildings on street-facing sides.

The retail and restaurant incentive program offers assistance for up to \$5 per square foot of operating space, not to exceed \$20,000 per property, to new and expanding businesses that meet certain criteria.

Oliveira took advantage of both opportunities. And because the restaurant is located in the Mandan Renaissance zone, the family received additional tax incentives to relocate the business.



WHAT WILL IT BE? Harvest Brazilian Grill in downtown Mandan offers beef, pork and chicken, all slow-cooked on a grill. TOM STROMME/Tribune

"It was a lot less expensive to move into Mandan," Oliveira said. "It required a lot less startup capital." He called the move a "calculated risk," but has faith that the restaurant will succeed.

"We're a destination restaurant anyway, so we figured if people will make the 120-mile roundtrip trek to eat with us in Linton, they'll drive 10 miles to eat with us in Mandan," Oliveira said.

That risk has paid off in spades. Since opening in October, business at the restaurant has been booming.

"Business is great," Oliveira said. "I can't complain."

While 2011 was a banner year for Mandan, 2012 looks to be even more exciting.

"The number of inquiries (about building or expanding) is significantly up," Huber said. "The national media exposure that North Dakota has received has been very good for Mandan."

She said that growth in the western part of the state, coupled with the city's increasing efforts to support existing entrepreneurs and

attract new businesses, has fostered unprecedented commercial and industrial development.

In addition to the Walmart project, five new businesses are already in the works and several businesses are planning expansions, including the Mandan Tesoro Refinery, Capital Credit Union and Montana-Dakota Utilities.

Mayor Tim Helbling isn't surprised about the progress. The small-town atmosphere and the proximity to the larger city of Bismarck make Mandan an

ideal location for any small business, he said.

"There are so many good people here," he said. "They care about the community and about their neighbors." It's a community anyone could be proud of, he said.

(Reach Hanna Bush at 250-8249 or hanna.bush@bismarcktribune.com.)



## MANDAN EXPANDS

Expanding businesses in Mandan in 2011:

- Harvest Brazilian Grill — 308 W. Main — new to Mandan, but had relocated from Linton with much larger facilities, extended hours and services and more employees.

- True North Steel expansion — addition to office complex and shop.

Upcoming expansions in Mandan for 2012:

- Extreme Trailer Sales, 3700 Memorial Highway (recently moved from smaller location farther east on Memorial Highway).

- Pioneer Seed & RDO Irrigation — new to Mandan, moving from Bismarck to expand in terms of square footage and employees. A new building is being constructed on 40th Avenue SE (south of Kist's Livestock).

- HIT, Inc. is constructing a new \$5.6 million, 43,000-square-foot building off north Sunset Drive and adding employees.

- Mandan Tesoro Refinery plans to invest about \$35 million to expand its oil refining capacity from 58,000 barrels per day to 68,000 barrels per day by the second quarter of 2012 and to invest another \$35,000 to expand its diesel production by 5,000 barrels per day by the end of 2013.

- Montana-Dakota Utilities has filed an application with the North Dakota Public Service Commission to construct, own and operate a new 88-megawatt simple cycle combustion turbine at the R.M. Heskett Generating Station near Mandan. If approved, the project is estimated to cost \$85.6 million. It is expected to be completed and operational in 2015.

## Bismarck's master plan

Continued from 1B

last one is about community services — clean water, good infrastructure, an airport that can advance and grow."

Askvig said the city had to reboot, in a sense, the planning process.

"After a six-month hiatus due to flood issues, we had more public (comment) meetings again to make sure we weren't going the wrong way," he said.

Askvig expected one project that might come out of this round of community planning is the creation of some type of a public square,

but that would have to be decided by the city commission.

"We need a downtown gathering place," he said. "Another area is strengthening the community's partnership with Bismarck Mandan Community Development to make the local environment advantageous to local economic growth."

Askvig said the strategic plan concept was driven by feedback received from public stakeholders, community groups, businesses and residents.

He said the commission will work with its community partners to make sure the city "is ahead of the curve" for future growth, so it isn't placed at a disadvantage of being unprepared as some of the state's communities in the West.

The strategic planning team includes Askvig, assistant city administrator Keith Hunke, city finance director Sheila Hillman, Jerry Henke of the city forestry department, Alyssa Conitz of the information technology department,

planner Jason Tomanek, planner Carl Hokenstad, city engineer Mel Bullinger, City Utilities Operations Director Keith Demke, Combined Communications Center Director Mike Dannenfelzer, information spokeswoman Gloria David, and Connie Griffin of Bismarck Burleigh Public Health. The Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce, St. Alexius Medical Center and Medcenter One are also stakeholders, he said.

"The important part is to

look where we are going to be in three to five years as a community," Askvig said. "We can't be a success without a road map. The vision statement is the direction we want to go. The mission statement is the map we use to guide us to get there and the goals and objectives are the roads we use to make it happen."

"We've had a lot of public input through social media," Askvig said. "We've had two good meetings with stakeholders on how to grow."

"The city commission has to decide how to grow. How do we provide the infrastructure to do that?" he said about following through on the plan's vision, mission and goals.

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



(prɔg'rɛs', rɛs, prɔgrɛs') 1. Movement, as toward a goal; advance. 2. Development or growth. 3. Steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. 4. A ceremonial journey made by a sovereign through his or her realm.

# Musings of a Mandan mayor

## Helbling reflects on leadership roles through the years

By LEANN ECKROTH  
Bismarck Tribune

There has been no coasting during Mandan Mayor Tim Helbling's tenure.

Helbling has four months remaining of an eventful four years in office. Earlier, he served 10 years as a city commissioner and eight years on the Mandan Park Board. He said he knew what to expect as a city leader, and he welcomed the challenge to help turn his hometown around.

Helbling will not be seeking re-election. He has guided the city through the early recovery of a diesel spill, the ice jam flood of 2009 and the open river flood of 2011.

"When I ran for mayor, I promised my wife (Sue) it would be for one time," he said. "It was very challenging. Overall, my experiences were very good."

Helbling said he ran for office "to see the community grow and prosper. I didn't like the way a lot of the things were looking ... so many things were in turmoil. There were so many things going in a positive direction. I didn't want to see that direction change."

He said he feels he brought an openness to Mandan city government.

"When I first came on as mayor, there was a lot of conflict and mistrust of the city," Helbling said. "I think by televising our meetings and being a lot more open to the public, that's calmed a lot of that down."

The mayor said his business, recreational vehicle sales, allows him more flexibility to receive people's comments and respond to emails.

Although soft-spoken, Helbling is firm in his efforts

to achieve goals for the city. He said the diesel fuel issue was the most challenging.

"Just trying to get the commission as a whole going down the same path was probably harder than anything going on, and getting the public to understand what the city's goals and objectives were," he said. "We weren't trying to tear down buildings for no reason."

Three-hundred collector wells now set up to collect the spilled fuel can shut down in a few years with permission from the North Dakota Department of Health. Buildings in downtown Mandan were obtained and sometimes torn down based on how they benefited the spill recovery, whether there was a willing seller and on the fairness of sale price.

BNSF Railway agreed to a \$24 million settlement with the Mandan Remediation Trust, which channels the money to entities affected by the spill. Much of it went to a consultant overseeing the recovery wells.

Helbling said he feels the city's efforts really stood out during the two recent floods, especially in 2011.

"The quickness that it was handled and the way the community reacted was phenomenal," he said. The city's small staff allowed everyone to respond quickly, he said, crediting the city's preparation.

"We spent a lot of time in engineering fees to get Mandan out of the flood plain to make sure the whole community was protected. If there was a spot that was 3 feet low, we filled it. We knew it was at a certain elevation," he said. Helbling said his biggest strength — and biggest weakness — as a

leader is being a micro-manager.

"If there is a problem, I don't like to stick someone else with (it). I want to be part of the solution," he said.

The city is trying to shrink a \$100 million debt that Helbling said was needed to replace aging infrastructure that had been neglected.

"I think it is a good debt because it was helping the community to turn around," he said. "I feel really good about the plans we have in place to pay off that debt. We (will have the) debt paid off in a reasonable amount of time."

A master plan will guide Mandan through long-term needs, and the city is drafting a policy that requires developers to pay for more infrastruc-

ture, he said.

"He has done a good job meeting issues head-on," city administrator Jim Neubauer said of Helbling. "He has the ability to make people feel at ease. He uses a common-sense approach to everything he does."

Helbling was a key to the city's settlement with BNSF over the diesel spill, Neubauer said.

"He doesn't enjoy public speaking, but he has matured in that way very much," Neubauer said. "He doesn't like the limelight, but he is willing to do what is needed to move the community forward." Neubauer said he believes Helbling will work for the city even after he leaves office.

For Mandan's future, Helbling wants to grow its retail: "To stop the flow of sales tax across the river to some extent so we can lower our property taxes," he said.

"We still need some type of community center, and I will work hard in my last few months to get that in some fashion. We need some gathering area for community events, small weddings, small gun shows and small gatherings," he said.

The decision to sell the former community center to the school district was based on "what was best for the community, not just the city," the mayor said. He urges city leaders to keep planning for growth and to make sure the infrastructure is in place to

allow that growth.

"Right now, the stability is there. We have a lot of the goals and objectives, and the new policies are in place. Now we need somebody who likes to talk to the media and go to the events and sell Mandan. I'm not that person. I don't enjoy it," he said.

Helbling, who has three children and two grandchildren, said his plans now "are to spend time with my wife."

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

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"Schools are excellent candidates for adaptation into residential housing," Knoll said.

make good apartments," said Fitterer, who attended the original high school before it became the junior high.

An elementary school was built on the property in 1954. Other additions include a 1966 boiler room addition and a 1977 science wing and gymnasium addition.

The property was used as the high school until 1957 and had been the junior high from then until 2008.

With large classrooms, lots of windows, high ceilings and wide hallways, the building can be remodeled into housing without changing the overall structure.



**FOR THE LOVE OF MANDAN:** Mandan Mayor Tim Helbling has served the city in numerous capacities, from seats on the park board, city commission and, for the last four years, as mayor.

MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune

leader is being a micro-manager.

"If there is a problem, I don't like to stick someone else with (it). I want to be part of the solution," he said.

The city is trying to shrink a \$100 million debt that Helbling said was needed to replace aging infrastructure that had been neglected.

"I think it is a good debt because it was helping the community to turn around," he said. "I feel really good about the plans we have in place to pay off that debt. We (will have the) debt paid off in a reasonable amount of time."

A master plan will guide Mandan through long-term needs, and the city is drafting a policy that requires developers to pay for more infrastruc-

ture, he said.

"He has done a good job meeting issues head-on," city administrator Jim Neubauer said of Helbling. "He has the ability to make people feel at ease. He uses a common-sense approach to everything he does."

Helbling was a key to the city's settlement with BNSF over the diesel spill, Neubauer said.

"He doesn't enjoy public speaking, but he has matured in that way very much," Neubauer said. "He doesn't like the limelight, but he is willing to do what is needed to move the community forward." Neubauer said he believes Helbling will work for the city even after he leaves office.

For Mandan's future, Helbling wants to grow its retail: "To stop the flow of sales tax across the river to some extent so we can lower our property taxes," he said.

"We still need some type of community center, and I will work hard in my last few months to get that in some fashion. We need some gathering area for community events, small weddings, small gun shows and small gatherings," he said.

The decision to sell the former community center to the school district was based on "what was best for the community, not just the city," the mayor said. He urges city leaders to keep planning for growth and to make sure the infrastructure is in place to

allow that growth.

"Right now, the stability is there. We have a lot of the goals and objectives, and the new policies are in place. Now we need somebody who likes to talk to the media and go to the events and sell Mandan. I'm not that person. I don't enjoy it," he said.

Helbling, who has three children and two grandchildren, said his plans now "are to spend time with my wife."

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

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"Schools are excellent candidates for adaptation into residential housing," Knoll said.

# High school housing

By KAY KEMMET  
Bismarck Tribune

The site of Mandan's original high school is leaving the school district's hands after a century of use.

Most recently, the property was the Mandan Junior High School. But after building a new middle school, the city of Mandan began looking for a new owner to redevelop the site. CommunityWorks and developer Metro Plains hope to turn the historic building into low-income housing.

"We believe it is something that will help out that particular area," said Wilfred Volesky, Mandan Public Schools superintendent.

The Mandan City Commission approved the project and agreed to sell the property for \$1 at its Jan. 3 meeting.

Before CommunityWorks can begin construction, it must receive funds from the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit program. Without the funds, the \$5.5 million project wouldn't be able to continue, said Rob Knoll, multi-family housing director for CommunityWorks.

If the nonprofit cannot secure the funding, the property will go back on the market, Business Manager Joe Lukach said. Volesky said he hopes CommunityWorks can secure funding, because "it would be an excellent project."

CommunityWorks plans to demolish most buildings on the property, except for the 1924 high school building. The two-story, 21,364 square-foot building will be renovated into 16 senior housing units. CommunityWorks will also add a large community space on the north side of the building. It also hopes to build 12 townhomes, with



TOM STROMME/Tribune

**SCHOOL'S OUT FOREVER:** Plans call for saving the facade of the old Mandan Junior High if the structure is renovated into 16 affordable senior apartments by developers. The new owners also plan to apply for historical designation.

eight townhomes facing Fifth Street and four facing Fourth Avenue.

Rents will range from \$350-\$690 for the senior apartments and \$445-\$775 for the townhouses.

The site originally was Mandan's first high school, which has since been torn down. The 1924 high school, the building that will be renovated into the senior apartments, is structurally intact, Mandan architect Al Fitterer said, but will need completely new electrical, plumbing and ventilation systems. He designed an elevator addition to the building in 1990 and renovated several rooms in 1994.

"It's a good, doable thing for the community and will

make good apartments," said Fitterer, who attended the original high school before it became the junior high.

An elementary school was built on the property in 1954. Other additions include a 1966 boiler room addition and a 1977 science wing and gymnasium addition.

The property was used as the high school until 1957 and had been the junior high from then until 2008.

With large classrooms, lots of windows, high ceilings and wide hallways, the building can be remodeled into housing without changing the overall structure.

"Schools are excellent candidates for adaptation into residential housing," Knoll said.

If everything comes together for CommunityWorks, the project will begin in August, Knoll said.

Right now, the building is vacant and unusable for the community. Lukach said if it's not sold, the city would eventually have to use taxpayer dollars to demolish it.

"We'd love to turn it into something useful — anything to make it useful to the city of Mandan," Lukach said.

(Reach Kay Kemmet at 250-8260 or kay.kemmet@bismarcktribune.com.)

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## Past PROGRESS



**ABOVE:** Mandan Junior High Principal Harlan Haak, left, and Assistant Principal Shawn Batterberry stand in front of students crowding near the school door at noon on Oct. 26, 1990.



**LEFT:** This photo, taken July 14, 1977, shows improvements being made inside Mandan Junior High. (Tribune file photos)



The former Mandan Senior High, then the Mandan Junior High School in this Aug. 17, 1983, photo. (Tribune file photo)

(prɔg'rɛs', tɛs, prɔgrɛs') 1. Movement, as toward a goal; advance. 2. Development or growth. 3. Steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. 4. A ceremonial journey made by a sovereign through his or her realm.

# Holding down the fort



## Fort Lincoln officials hoping for a drier 2012

By BRIAN GEHRING  
Bismarck Tribune

The good news is that the staff at Fort Lincoln State Park has experience dealing with floods.

The bad news is that the staff at Fort Lincoln State Park has experience dealing with floods.

After going through the 2009 flood, when ice jams backed Missouri River water into the campground, staff at the park were able to minimize the damage from this summer's flooding — but not through the duration.

Park manager Dan Schelske said the staff made the call to close the campground at Fort Lincoln at noon on May 25.

"Two hours later, there was water pouring into the campground," he said.

Schelske said park staff were able to get picnic tables and other items to higher ground before the river water inundated the campground and swept them away.

But some things weren't able to be salvaged. Schelske said electric pedestals and panels that service the campground were replaced following the 2009 flood and will have to be replaced again.

Fortunately, the electric panel that powers the lift station, a \$10,000 item, was saved, he said.

Still, Schelske said, the cleanup and repair bill for the flood will be in the neighborhood of \$200,000.

Aside from the cleanup and repair costs, there was lost revenue. Schelske said camping generated \$230,000 in revenue at the park in 2010. Last year, it was \$68,000.

About 100 mature trees were lost to the flood and there were an additional 2,500 newly-planted trees and shrubs that were also lost.

The park's two cabins at the campground are being rebuilt, as well as the campground's two comfort stations.

There was damage to the amphitheater as well, Schelske said, and every structure that had floodwater in it had to be sanitized before being repaired.

Half of the grass in the campground, some of which

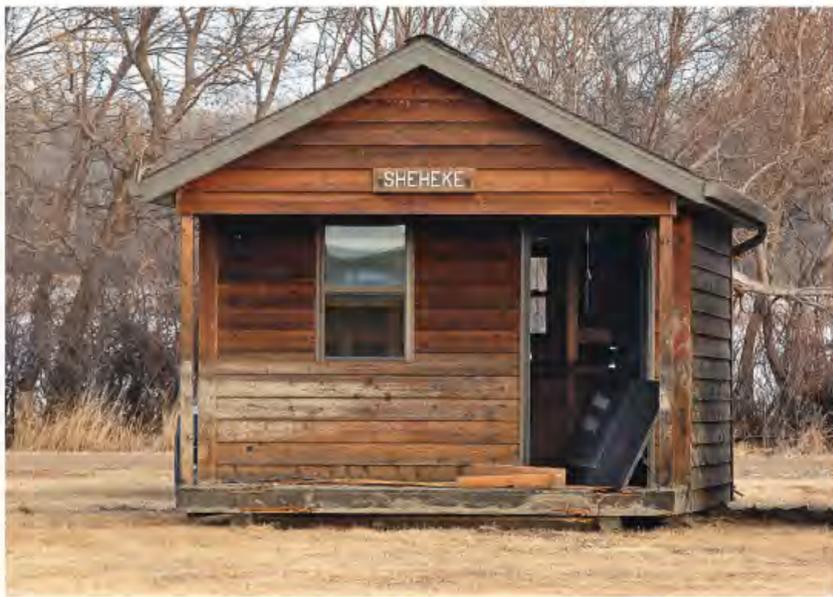


**TOP:** Giant cottonwood tree trunks reflect in several feet of water that filled the campground at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park on June 7, 2011.

**LEFT:** Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park Ranger Maureen Trnka shows how high water levels reached on trees in the park campground on Jan. 13.

**BELOW:** Water filled the Sheheke cabin during the summer flood, effectively making the structure uninhabitable. It is unsure whether the cabin will be torn apart and disposed of or burned.

(TOM STORMME/Tribune)



was under more than 7 feet of water, was replanted last fall.

Schelske said he hopes to have the grass on the south half of the campground reseeded this spring so it will become established for this year's camping season.

Even with the flooding, day use at Fort Lincoln State Park was about 100,000 vehicles compared to an average

year, which had between 130,000 and 135,000 vehicles, Schelske said.

The wild card in all of this, he said, is the river. When a flood warning was issued in January because of ice jams, park crews blocked a culvert to prevent water from backing up into the campground.

Schelske said about

800 sandbags are at the ready — just in case.

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



**SWEATING IT OUT:** Sarah Sanborn, top right, and Ashley Westbee, standing center, visit while working out on cross trainers in the busy Life Center at the Missouri Valley Family YMCA in Bismarck.

## YMCA, parks in Mandan to collaborate

By HANNA BUSH  
Bismarck Tribune

The possibility of a satellite YMCA location in Mandan will be the subject of a survey this month.

The potential collaboration between the Mandan Park District and the Missouri Valley Family YMCA has been in the works for several years, YMCA Executive Director Andy Dahl said.

Overcrowding at both the YMCA in Bismarck and the Raging Fitness facility in Mandan prompted the two entities to consider what a partnership might look like.

"We looked at trying to expand on our own and realized financially we just weren't able to do it," Cole Higlin, director of the Mandan Park District, said. He said the 24-hour fitness facility is popular but limited. "The public demand for an expansion is definitely there."

Dahl told a similar story. "We're bursting at the seams," Dahl said. When the possible partnership arose, "we saw an opportunity to expand our reach into Mandan and relieve pressure on our central location," he said.

This month's survey will include 600 calls to residences in the surrounding area and two focus groups — one in Bismarck and one in Mandan — to assess the feasibility of and public sentiment toward the expansion project. Survey questions will cover topics such as how likely respondents would be to use the facility and what amenities they would want to see.

After a preliminary survey several years ago came back with a much more positive result than expected, the YMCA and park district agreed to order a full market research survey last spring. But the flood put the project on the back burner — until now.

The preliminary plan would be to expand at the existing Raging Fitness site. The size and details of the facility will be determined after the results of the survey are studied.

After construction is completed, the park district would "let the YMCA do what they do best, which is operate recreational facilities," Higlin said. He said the park district would relinquish all operational responsibility to the YMCA.

"We would collaborate on the cost of the new facility and then lease it back to the Y. They would run it 100 percent," Higlin said. Because of that, any new jobs generated would be through the YMCA and not the city of Mandan. However, Higlin said, no jobs at the park district would be eliminated.

While Raging Rivers, Mandan's outdoor water recreation center, would be the new YMCA center, the park district will maintain operational control there, although a discounted combination entrance fee for both facilities is in the works.



TOM STORMME/Tribune

**ROOM TO GROW:** Cole Higlin, right, of the Mandan Parks Department, said an expansion of the current Raging Fitness in southeast Mandan is imminent. Higlin says the current facility has plenty of room to expand and ample parking already in place.

The survey will cost \$17,500, a bill the two entities split 50-50. Dahl wouldn't speculate on how much the expansion project might cost, but did say that after the survey is completed, the largest hurdle to clear would be raising enough capital to break ground.

So far, neither Higlin nor Dahl has heard any negative feedback about the project.

"As long as it doesn't affect the taxes, the public would be happy," Higlin said.

Dahl said the survey will wrap up by the middle of April, at which point they will begin crunching data.

"Then we'd have to launch a capital campaign, put the leadership team together," Dahl said. "We have some steps yet to take."

He said the YMCA also is considering expanding into north Bismarck in the future, to meet the rising demand of the growing population there.

"We're trying to stay ahead of the game," Dahl said.

For Higlin, this collaboration has taken center stage.

"We put some other projects on hold to see this one through. We've allocated anywhere from \$1.5 million to \$2 million at this point, so that we can participate in this program," he said. "This is our goal. Everyone that we've talked to has told us this is what they'd like to see in our community."

Both men are optimistic about the possibilities and excited about the collaboration.

"I think it's a win for both communities," Higlin said.

(Reach Hanna Bush at 250-8249 or hanna.bush@bismarcktribune.com.)



### HUNTING AND FISHING IN NORTH DAKOTA

**HOW SEASONS & REGULATIONS ARE SET**

1. Game and Fish biologists conduct population surveys.
2. Biologists incorporate population data and other information into a draft proclamation.
3. Draft proclamation is submitted to the governor for approval. If approved and signed, the proclamation has the force of law.

**WILDLIFE PERMITS DOWN**

<b>total deer licenses</b>	116,775 (2010)	109,950 (2011)
<b>mule deer licenses</b>	7,275 (2010)	4,550 (2011)
<b>nonresident small game licenses</b>	32,297 (2010)	26,443 (2011)
<b>nonresident waterfowl licenses</b>	23,603 (2010)	23,299 (2011)

**PLOTS acres**  
Private Land Open To Sportsmen

943,132 acres in 2011	915,936 acres in 2010
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SOURCE: North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Farm Service Agency  
JENNIFER WEISGERBER/TRIBUNE

(prōg'rēs', rəs, prōgrēs') 1. Movement, as toward a goal; advance. 2. Development or growth. 3. Steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. 4. A ceremonial journey made by a sovereign through his or her realm.

# Block by block, NDSP expands

## State Penitentiary's major renovation taking shape

By JENNY MICHAEL  
Bismarck Tribune

Like big concrete Legos, the new cells at the North Dakota State Penitentiary have been set in place to form a new cell block. By the end of February, common areas, floors and ceilings will enclose the new unit.

"They are all here, and they are all in place," Dick Frohlich, director of the physical plant at the state penitentiary, said about the cells built and put in place by Tindall Corp. of Spartanburg, S.C.

The new cell block is just one area of activity at the prison grounds, as the facility moves into the final phases of a major facelift.

After years of discussion about the State Penitentiary, the 2009 North Dakota Legislature passed a bill to fund a \$64 million expansion and renovation of the facility, parts of which were considered outdated and unsafe for prison staff. The prison construction project includes a new medical facility, larger administrative segregation and orientation areas and a new general population area.

Besides working on the new cell block, crews also are working on a new medical unit and new administration building. Much of the outdoor work on those buildings has been completed. Inmates employed at Roughrider Industries have made shelves, desks and other items for inside the new bunks, and they are in the process of completing the beds.

"We'll start moving in next year at this time," Frohlich said.

The move will be gradual,



**LIKE LEGOS:** Dick Frohlich, director of plant services for the North Dakota Department of Corrections, walks down a prison cell corridor under construction at the North Dakota State Penitentiary and reviews the large \$64 million project. (MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune)

especially in the cell block, where inmates will be moved one wing at a time. By mid-2013, vacant buildings will be torn down and new fences will be put up, finishing the project.

Leann Bertsch, director of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, said staff will need to learn new technology and security measures in the new buildings. But the new buildings will solve numerous issues the department has been having over the years.

The infirmary will be able to hold more ill or geriatric inmates and decrease the number of transports to hospitals. The pharmacy for all of the state's facilities will no

longer be housed in a "walk-in closet." The IT department will be able to move out of the basement of a "decrepit building." Staff in the new cell block will be able to monitor prisoners more efficiently in a more modern, secure building, Bertsch said.

"It will be just wonderful to have new, up-to-date facilities," she said.

The project will increase the number of beds at the prison from 562 to 810. Bertsch said that should be sufficient heading into the future, since the inmate population has remained steady in the last three years.

In fact, the number of inmates at the state penitentiary was as low on Dec. 31,

2011, as it has been on any day since 2006.

Bertsch said there are worries within the department of an "if you build it, they will come" effect on inmate numbers. When the James River Correctional Center opened, the number of inmates jumped about 15 percent, and a similar jump occurred when a women's prison opened in New England.

"We are all kind of concerned about that," she said. Bertsch hopes the judges sentencing people will continue to use alternatives to incarceration when appropriate, even though more beds will be available.

"Frankly, North Dakota should not want to ever

have to expand prison beds," she said.

The mild weather this winter has helped crews keep working outdoors without fighting the elements, meaning those beds should be ready on time for the move at the end of this year and early next year.

"You can just get more done if you're not fighting cold temperatures," Frohlich said.

"I don't think we could have asked for any better weather for this project," Bertsch said.

Other projects already completed include a new warehouse, a guard tower, fence expansion, new parking lots and roads, reroofing

existing buildings and utility work. The construction project has remained on schedule and on budget, though much work remains to be done in the next year and several months, Frohlich said.

"We're happy with where we are at," he said. "The weather has certainly been a treat, and good contractors — that makes all the difference in the world."

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



### Past PROGRESS



**TOP:** In this 1983 file photo, corrections officer Marvin Lang looks over construction from a new guard tower at the North Dakota State Penitentiary. This upgrade included more recreation and work areas. **ABOVE:** An undated photo shows a pristine-looking North Dakota State Penitentiary. **LEFT:** The south wall of the penitentiary is shown being torn down on Aug. 23, 1985. It stood for 96 years. "I wonder how many prisoners looked at that wall and counted the bricks," said Gil Bourgois, whose company demolished the 25-foot tall wall that was 560-feet long.



**RIGHT:** In this May 10, 1968 photo, the first Jaycee organization meets at the North Dakota State Penitentiary. (Tribune file photos)

# PROUD

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# Continued curb appeal

## Bismarck's downtown under development

By JESSICA HOLDMAN  
Bismarck Tribune

Shoppers peer through the window of Hey Ocean at flowing, bright-colored dresses and shirts. Michelle Kaufman moved her West Coast-inspired boutique into the Broadway Avenue shop in June. Before that, the location sat empty.

"I guess I just always knew this is where I wanted to be," Kaufman said. "Bismarck had the potential to do that, and I wanted to be a part of it." The downtown area of the city she grew up in was revitalized a few years back.

Downtown Bismarck is growing. About a dozen new businesses have opened downtown in the last year, American Bank Center is expanding and two new properties are being built. Downtowners Assistant Director Kate Herzog said. St. Alexius and Medcenter One are working together on plans to build another parking ramp between the two hospitals.

"Downtown is a much different place than it was three or four years ago," said Bismarck City Planner Jason Tomanek. "The downtown you see today competes with other commercial centers in the area. There's been an emergence of bars, restaurants, nightlife activities and niche retail. It may be a one-of-a-kind or mom-and-pop type store that focuses on things other places don't offer. That's what is making downtown successful."

Bismarck's metropolitan area population grew by about 14,000 between 2000-10, according to the latest U.S. Census. The influx of people and the emergence of new businesses has spurred downtown progress.

"You get one or two things in and then you see even more interest," said Rick Becker, a downtown developer. "You start the momentum, and I think it develops on its own."

Tax incentives given to businesses that move into buildings in the Renaissance zone have encouraged business owners to come downtown as well, Herzog said.

Justin Schmaltz, who opened Amish Country Furnishings on Main Avenue in August, likes the camaraderie of downtown business owners. He said many of his customers tell him they were at a store around the corner and the owner had suggested they visit his store, too.

Tim Meyer, owner of The Edge hockey training facility, which opened on Main Avenue in October, credits his success to the location and visibility he gets from being downtown. His building is halfway between the two main hockey rinks in Bismarck and he gets players



**OPEN-AIR PINTS:** The Blarney Stone Pub has expanded with an open air area via a bank of windows that can be raised in mild weather. TOM STROMME/Tribune

coming from both places, he said.

"South-siders can get here easily. North-siders can get here easily. It's a central location," said Jim Poolman, owner of The Blarney Stone downtown pub.

Bismarck City Administrator Bill Wocken said moving into existing buildings downtown is easier than constructing new ones on the edges of town because the downtown buildings already have amenities like water and sewer.

"It's a tax-efficient area of the city that produces property tax, liquor tax and sales tax," Herzog said. "It brings a large tax benefit and does not require a large amount of maintenance by the city."

Years ago, stores like JC Penney and Montgomery Ward moved out of the downtown area and that space filled in mostly with offices. Other buildings were left vacant and lost their property value, placing a larger property tax burden on the rest of the community. Now, downtown is seeing about \$30 million in private investment being put into properties left untouched for 20 or 30 years — Becker's plans for a building on Main Avenue and Steve Pine's

plans for a building on Broadway Avenue.

"In my mind, the development of the downtown area has been a long time coming," Becker said. "I wanted to be able to take advantage of that."

Becker's building will be two stories in the front and four stories in the back. A restaurant and bar with a rooftop terrace will occupy three levels and there will be four commercial spaces for rent.

Skywalks will attach the building to the parking ramp across the street. Becker said he expects his building to be done in August.

Pine will open condos, commercial space and a restaurant in his Broadway Centre building. The building also will have an underground parking garage for tenants.

As new businesses and buildings come in, business owners and city officials are talking about what it will take to keep the growth going. Many think more market-rate housing and a quiet rail project are the first keys to success. Herzog and several business owners said they get requests on a weekly basis for more places to live downtown. Implementing a quiet rail would help

encourage the building of apartments, said developer Jim Christiansen.

"Housing is a huge component to an active and thriving downtown, and it's one of the things that downtown Bismarck is lacking," Tomanek said.

With not much room to expand on the street level downtown, Herzog said, moving office spaces off that level will be an important step for retailers who benefit more from window shoppers.

"Really, it's going to be about how well we utilize the space downtown," she said.

A public plaza for community gatherings, pedestrian-friendly streets and encouraging the public to park in parking ramps instead of on the street also are among business owners' concerns moving forward.

"It's been a really great year downtown. Hopefully it will be a good 2012, too," Herzog said.

(Reach Jessica Holdman at 250-8261 or [jessica.holdman@bismarcktribune.com](mailto:jessica.holdman@bismarcktribune.com).)



**COMING THROUGH:** A freight train passes through downtown Bismarck at the Fifth Street crossing, pictured in 2007. Tribune file photo

# Quiet zone still in early stages

By LEANN ECKROTH  
Bismarck Tribune

Train whistles blaring at 110 decibels through the heart of downtown Bismarck aren't what city leaders want for the growing city and its economy. Yet the unwelcome shrills drone through downtown crossings several times a day.

A failed 2008 vote to fund all affected public crossings in city limits with city sales tax dollars prompted Bismarck to dial back the quiet rail projects to the Third, Fifth and 12th street crossings only. The latest project cost estimate is \$1.8 million (2008 figures), said Bismarck City Administrator Bill Wocken.

The Federal Railroad Administration has determined the horn can go silent at the public crossings if certain infrastructure is installed to protect both motorists and pedestrians. How the crossing improvements will be funded will be decided after the state Supreme Court rules on a lawsuit against the city on its Tax Increment Financing District. The lawsuit argues the TIF money built up over 33 years should have been shared completely with all taxing entities, not just used for downtown projects.

Bismarck Mayor John Warford said he favors using TIF district revenue for the crossings' upgrades if the higher court ruling finds the city's TIF district viable.

"If we are unsuccessful with the lawsuit and Mr. (Erling "Curly") Haugland wins the lawsuit, it looks most likely we'll go to the special assessment district at that time," he said. City commis-

sioners must decide which financial package is used.

Warford said the crossings need four-quadrant gates with vehicle detection and a pedestrian gate with an active warning device with pedestrian crossings and vehicle crossings.

Early steps are in place to move the quiet rail zone project forward. The city has notified the FRA that it intends to build the crossing improvements, the FRA notified the railroad about the city's plans and the railroad answered that it understands the city's wishes.

The 2009 Legislature authorized the city to receive \$225,000 in DOT money to help build the quiet rail improvements and city commission action allows staff to hire a consultant for the project. No consultant has been named. Warford said the consultant will take the city plan to the railroad and negotiate until building terms are reached.

"BNSF will build the crossings and the city will pay the railroad to build," he said. It will be 18 months before the quiet rail improvements are operational. "This is a rather step-by-step and slow-moving process, in my opinion, and can't happen fast enough for the people downtown," Warford said.

(Reach reporter LeAnn Eckroth at 250-8264 or [leann.eckroth@bismarcktribune.com](mailto:leann.eckroth@bismarcktribune.com).)



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SECTION **C**

**PROGRESS 2012**  
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(prɔg'rɛs', rəs, prɔgrɛs') 1. Movement, as toward a goal; advance. 2. Development or growth. 3. Steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. 4. A ceremonial journey made by a sovereign through his or her realm.

Megawatt CEO



ALL SMILES: MDU CEO Terry Hildestad, a North Dakota native, worked his way to the top of the corporation by beginning at an entry level job at MDU 38 years ago. MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune

# Bismarck-Mandan Inc.

## Corporate leaders relocating here

By JESSICA HOLDMAN  
Bismarck Tribune

Jay Feil grew up in Mandan, pushing a broom at his father's drugstore. He paid his way through Minot State University playing in a rock band. Now, he is president of the Mandan location of Starion Financial.



Feil



McQuade-Ely

Corporate leaders like Feil are choosing to locate companies in Bismarck-Mandan over bigger cities — investing money, hiring people and giving back to the community.

“Technology, tourism and energy all come together in Bismarck,” said Shannon McQuade-Ely of McQuade Distributing Company. “You can get any job in any field that you want here.”

McQuade-Ely was not expecting to work for the family business, but she came back from Fargo at the end of 2000 when her father announced plans to expand

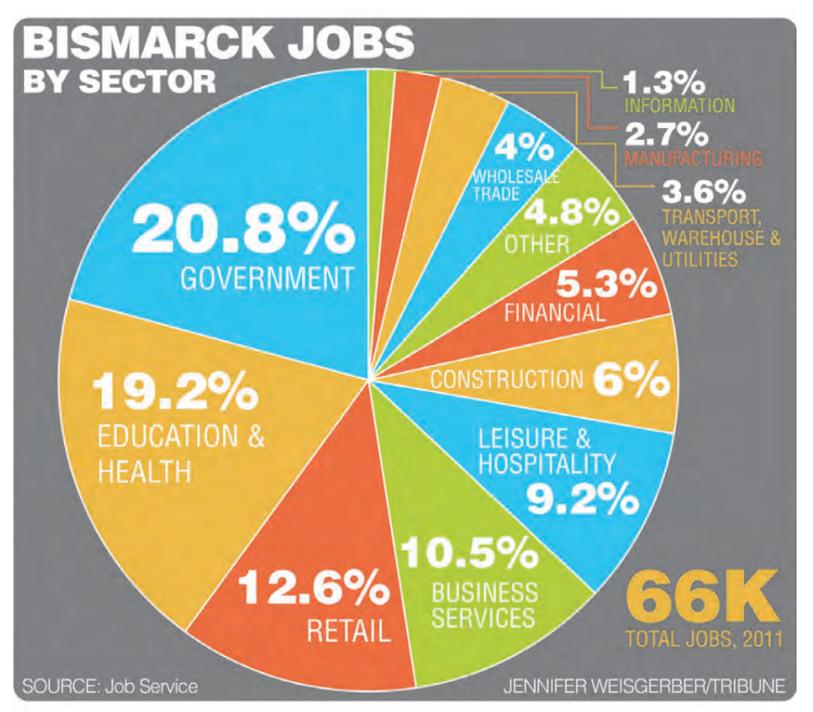
the company. She started out driving trucks and making deliveries. Now, she is president.

McQuade Distributing adds to the community by employing 29 people, but is more famous for its annual charity softball tournament. The tournament began in 1976 to raise money for muscular dystrophy. Since then, it has grown to 470 teams and brings in about 10,000 people from 13 states and two Canadian provinces. Two umpires drive from New Jersey at their own expense to be here every year.

“That’s how you know you’ve made a difference,” McQuade-Ely said.

The tournament’s influence even reaches overseas with its Defenders of Freedom division. Local National Guard members stationed in Bosnia in 2006 had never missed a tournament, so they held their own while abroad. While stationed in Iraq a few years later, they taught the people in a village how to play. Local sports stores donate the equipment for the tournament, and McQuade Distributing ships it to the troops, along with cell-phones and care packages.

MDU Resources Group, Inc. also encourages its



## Jobs, jobs, jobs

### Bismarck employment continues to grow

The government is Bismarck's largest employer, but the construction industry has seen the most growth over the past year.

Total employment in Bismarck was up 4.1 percent in December 2011, with 66,000

jobs compared to 63,400 the previous year, according to North Dakota Job Service's jobs report.

Being the capital, state, federal and local governments provide more jobs than any other sector in Bismarck, with 13,700 positions. This is a 3 percent

increase over December 2010. The increase stands in contrast to a 1,000 year-to-year job decrease statewide.

Other large sectors in Bismarck are education, health industries and retail. Those

Continued on 3C

# EXPANDING OUR HERITAGE CENTER

See story on 2C

## Completion date

### Dec. 2012



SOURCE: State Historical Society of North Dakota

## Project cost \$51.7M

The Legislature provided **77%** of funds

**\$39.7M** from Legislature

**\$12M** from private donors



It will occupy **97,000** square feet

on the Capitol grounds

HANNA BUSH/TRIBUNE

# Making history happen



**OLD IRONSIDES:** An iron worker welds on the roof of the North Dakota Heritage Center expansion as the \$51.7 million project continues to take shape on the east side of the state Capitol grounds in Bismarck. MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune

## Heritage Center expansion on budget

By BRIAN GEHRING  
Bismarck Tribune

When the North Dakota Heritage Center expansion project is completed later this year, the public can expect a year-long celebration leading into the state's 125th birthday in 2014.

Merl Paaverud, director of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, said when finished, the \$51.7 million expansion will complete a long-range plan for the center, which first opened in 1981.

Paaverud said the 97,000-square-foot expansion project is ahead of the scheduled December completion date, largely because of favorable winter weather conditions for workers.

"We're ahead of schedule and on budget," he said.

Paaverud said as the state agency charged with collecting, cataloging and preserving North Dakota's antiquities and history, the historical society simply ran out of space at the present Heritage Center.

Now, Paaverud said, space allows the museum, the state's oldest and largest, to display and interpret exhibits only through the 1930s.

One of the major features of the expansion project is the addition of three galleries that will allow the Heritage Center to house and display traveling exhibits, as well as one dedicated to the prehistoric story of North Dakota.

Paaverud said the new space will allow the Heritage Center to tell the complete story of North Dakota —



from a time when dinosaurs roamed here, to the story of its first peoples, to the present as agriculture, industry and technology have shaped the state into what it is today.

"It was intended to expand the Heritage Center 25 years after being built, and we are right in that vicinity," he said.

Paaverud said following the completion of the project in December, the Heritage Center will have a number of mini-grand openings as exhibits are placed and galleries are opened.

The big dedication will come in 2014 during the state's 125th anniversary.

Paaverud said the state historical society's foundation has raised \$9.3 million of its \$12 million goal toward the expansion.

Another feature of the expansion will be a theater within the Heritage Center to complement interactive displays such as the Hub of History.

The Hub of History will not only illustrate the history



**ABOVE:** A scale model shows the size and character of the 97,000 square-foot expansion.

**BELOW:** An exhibit of the history of the Native American Code Talkers of the U.S. military ran from August to September last year in the east corridor of the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck. (MIKE McCLEARY)

and geography of North Dakota, Paaverud said, but it will direct visitors to other attractions they can visit in person.

"North Dakota really is becoming an international destination," he said. "I think this will take us to the next level. We want people to be able to go out and experience

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



## Past PROGRESS



**ABOVE:** Photo during construction: Jul. 22, 1980.  
**BELOW:** Photo after construction: February 1981.



**LEFT:** Librarian Delores Barnard stands in front of boxes of then-newly acquired papers of former governor Art Link in this photo from February 1981.



**ABOVE:** This January 1973 drawing shows the proposed Heritage Center that was under consideration by the 43rd Legislative Assembly, calling for an initial appropriation of \$1M for the structure.

**BELOW:** This Aug. 12, 1984 photo shows, from left, Heritage Center volunteers Sharon Springer, Beth Hill, Hugh Mandigo, Anna Mae Mandigo, Shryrl Lindtgeren, Brenda Westphal, Adaline Perry, Erna Riskedahl, Grace Wantdaja, C. Phillip Nelson, Roxanne Kunnaz, Jack Bailey and W. Wise. (Tribune file photos)



**PICTURE PERFECT:** North Dakota state paleontologist John Hoganson points to a geologic feature in a drawing of the Heritage Center expansion on Dec. 16, 2011. Hoganson said the 80-foot petrified log on the west side of the Capitol grounds, just south of the legislative wing parking lot, will be placed in front of the Heritage Center. (TOM STROMME/Tribune)



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# New owners, new challenge

By CARRIE SANDSTROM  
Bismarck Tribune

A Lincoln restaurant has new owners, new food and a new experience for its customers.

Dan Christensen, 25, and Chelsea Christensen, 28, bought The Angus Grill in Lincoln last October. Since taking over, the Christensens have started injecting new life into the business, re-establishing a restaurant and lounge atmosphere.

"(Taking over the restaurant) has been extremely challenging," Chelsea Christensen said. "We're quickly learning everything."

A new menu, consistent specials and hours have become the hallmarks of the reinvented Angus Grill. The restaurant and lounge is working to provide a family environment by offering special deals for children and kid-friendly menus.

"The greatest reward is on the face of the customers when they receive our service and the return customers who come back," Chelsea Christensen said.

"Getting people to come in (has been a challenge)," Dan Christensen said. "(And) getting people to come back ... letting them know they can have a good experience here."

In order to guarantee that guests receive quality service, the Christensens rely on their previous experience in the restaurant industry. Both earned certification through Food ServSafe, a nationally certified program that addresses food safety in restaurants for both managers and employees. Their goal is to have all of their employees go through the certification process.



TOM STROMME/Tribune

**STEAK NIGHT:** The Angus Grill and Lounge in Lincoln is open daily at 4 p.m. and at noon on Saturday and Sunday.

"Our customer service has become our No. 1 priority," Chelsea Christensen said. Hard work and change, combined with the support of the community, has had a positive impact on the restaurant.

"Our sales are continually rising," Dan Christensen said. "(Things have) changed and (the restaurant has) gotten better."

Although their efforts are paying off, the couple admit that owning and managing their own restaurant isn't as easy as it looks. Despite the difficulties encountered early on, the pair said, they

have hopes that in 10 years the restaurant will be a well-established staple in Lincoln.

"Everyone has their doubts at first," Chelsea Christensen said. "You just have to be strong enough to not let the doubts get to you."

*(Carrie Sandstrom is an intern at the Bismarck Tribune. She can be reached at 250-8256 or carrie.sandstrom@bismarcktribune.com.)*



## Commercial space at a premium

By JESSICA HOLDMAN  
Bismarck Tribune

As Bismarck-Mandan is growing, so is the demand for commercial space.

"It appears that the available space that has been sitting around is filling up," said Realtor George Yineman of Aspen Group Real Estate. "From a retail perspective, there's less than 50,000 square feet of available storefront."

Leasing is up about 40 percent for Aspen Group, Yineman said. Kyle Holwagner, a Realtor with Daniel Companies, said the company has seen record growth in the last two to three years and higher demand for commercial space within the last six months. There is also increased interest in developing hotels and multi-family housing.

Many of the companies moving in are related to the energy industry. Supplemental companies are coming to North Dakota and realizing there is no space available in Dickin-

son or Minot, so they relocate to Bismarck.

"The companies that make that decision may be making a geographical decision, but it makes economic sense to run businesses from Bismarck," Yineman said. Bismarck has the benefits of more

*Less than 50,000 square feet of retail storefront is available*

available housing and retail. Bismarck-Mandan's position on Interstate 94 and U.S. Highway 83 also makes it easy to get to Dickinson and Minot.

Not only are these companies filling leasable space, they're helping Bismarck-Mandan by expanding the tax base, providing jobs and stimulating the economy by spending money here.

As new companies come in, they have fewer spaces to choose from. The same is true for existing companies that have outgrown their space and are looking for something bigger.

"They may take a smaller space than what they want and then wait to grow into larger one," Holwagner said.

In the current market, it takes Realtors about two months to place companies in an existing space. It takes about six to eight months to build a new facility. Even with increased demand, prices have not risen significantly.

"So far, we have only inched upward and we haven't seen drastic fluctuation like in the northwest," Yineman said.

To meet demand, Realtors are looking to new developments from investors. Aspen Group is working with investors to develop a 30,000-square-foot building in Bismarck's Capital Square and said other companies have more space in the planning stages. Conversion of old buildings into office space also is an option.

"Bismarck-Mandan is really in a good position," Holwagner said. "Both the city of Bismarck and the city of Mandan will be able to sustain growth."

*(Reach Jessica Holdman at 250-8261 or jessica.holdman@bismarcktribune.com.)*



## Jobs, jobs, jobs

Continued from 1C

industries and their supporting companies accounted for 12,700 positions in Bismarck for December 2011. Retail is the third largest industry, with 8,300 jobs in December 2011.

The construction industry in Bismarck has seen an 11.4 percent increase in jobs, the largest increase in the community. The percentage increase is deceptive, according to Michael Ziesch, manager of Job Service North Dakota Labor Market Information Center. The increase only amounts to 400 added jobs. Construction industry jobs totaled 3,500 in December 2010 and 3,900 in December 2011. Ziesch said part of this increase may be due to a mild winter.

Transportation, warehouse and utility companies have the second largest increase in jobs, followed by professional and business services and financial services. The professional and business services category includes companies such as engineering and law firms. Financial services include banks, credit unions and insurance companies. Transportation, warehouse and utility company jobs added 200 positions in December 2011 compared to December 2010, for a 9.1 percent increase.

Professional and business services added 400 positions, for a 6.2 percent increase, and financial services added 200, for a 6.1 percent increase. Leisure and hospitality businesses provided 6,100 jobs in Bismarck for December 2011. Wholesale trade companies provided 2,600 jobs.

The industry categories that have seen no growth in Bismarck on a year-to-year basis are manufacturing and information. Manufacturing stayed at 1,800 jobs in Bismarck, though it grew by 1.3 percent statewide. Information stayed at 900 jobs locally, while increasing 2.8 percent statewide. Statewide, mining and logging companies and construction companies added 5,100 jobs each, the highest year-to-year increase. Professional and business services added the second largest amount, 3,400 jobs.

— Jessica Holdman

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# Community Bowl is on track

## Fundraising totals near \$8M for complex

By KAY KEMMET  
Bismarck Tribune

After a few months of fundraising, the Community Bowl capital campaign is nearing its goal.

The nearly \$8 million fundraising campaign will fund a new building for concessions and restrooms, a new track, updated turf and a larger scoreboard. As of Feb. 9, \$7,190,500 had been raised by the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce, with \$809,500 to go. Officials hope to have funds raised by the end of February.

The funds will help improve both the student athlete and spectator experience by renovating the 15-year-old facility, said Dave Clark, executive vice president at Bismarck State College.

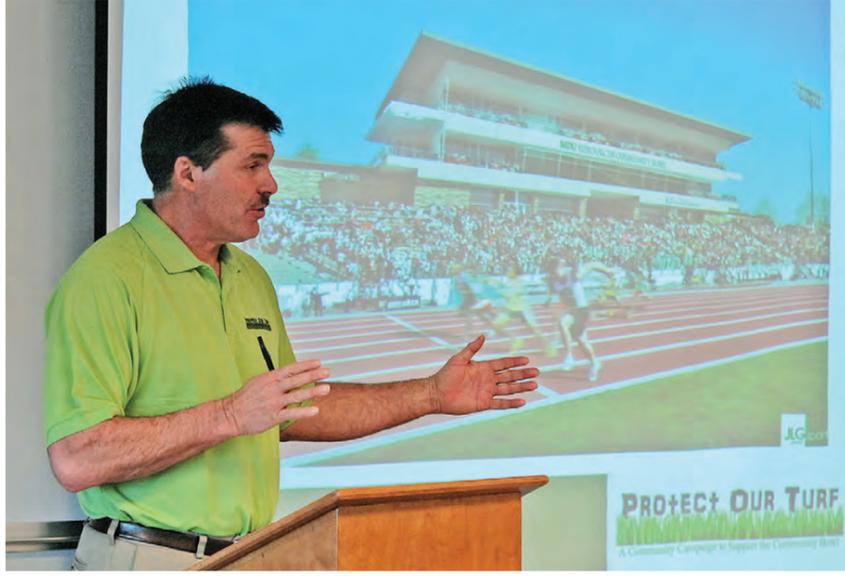
Since the Community Bowl was built in 1997, nearly 7,000 events have been held, including state track meets, college soccer matches and city-wide dances. Bismarck Public Schools, St. Mary's High School, Bis-

marck State College and the University of Mary all use the facility.

"If each were to have their own facility, it would be very costly," Clark said.

While the bowl has served the community well and receives heavy use, it has become outdated and the track is hazardous, Clark said. The concessions and restrooms are "grossly inadequate," said Bowl Authority Chairman Jim Haussler, who also is the Bismarck Public Schools activities director. Without improving the facilities, especially the track, Bismarck could be at risk of losing the state track meet — an important revenue source for the community — to a better facility, Haussler said.

Officials also have plans for two additional locker rooms, more storage space, administrative offices, spectator suites and a new entrance with ticket stands. The new suites and concessions will be continuing revenue sources to help the facility become more finan-



cially self-sufficient.

The fundraising began last July when the MDU Resources Group donated \$2 million to the cause, and the campaign hit full speed in September. The question with many businesses wasn't whether to donate or not, but at what level they would contribute, said Kelvin Hullet, Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce president.

"With what we are doing at the bowl and the recognition that we are providing (businesses) to receive, it's just been a win-win across the board," Hullet said.

Bismarck Public Schools also donated \$1.5 million, and the city of Bismarck also was expected to give \$1.5 million.

Officials hope to break ground on the renovations after this year's state track

meet in May. They plan to send out bid requests in March.

"It's an important part of our community, a venue for the student athletes and provides an economic impact in the community," Hullet said.

Most of the funding has come from local businesses, but community members can get involved as Friends of the Community Bowl.

**PROTECTING THE TURF:** Jim Haussler, president of the Bismarck Community Bowl Authority, has been involved with the development of the multi-sport facility on the campus of Bismarck State College since 1994. The bowl opened in August 1997 and is scheduled for an update, with Phase 1 of construction to begin this spring. (TOM STROMME/Tribune)

"It's a marriage of private and public funds," Haussler said. "That's good government."

(Reach Kay Kemmet at [kay.kemmet@bismarcktribune.com](mailto:kay.kemmet@bismarcktribune.com) or 250-8260.)



## Bismarck-Mandan Inc.

Continued from 1C

employees to volunteer for local charities, Chief Executive Officer Terry Hildestad said.

"This is our home. This is where we live and where our employees live," Hildestad said. For every 25 hours of volunteer work an employee does, the corporation's foundation donates \$250 to charity. MDU also invested

\$2 million in renovating the Bismarck Community Bowl.

Hildestad started working for Knife River Corp. 38 years ago, when the company mined coal. Now, MDU owns Knife River and other construction, oil, pipeline and electrical service companies in 44 states and employs 750 people in Bismarck-Mandan. Being in Bismarck has

allowed companies like MDU to work with state officials on issues of concern. Feil also credits area business leaders with creating a productive economy.

"They don't just sit on their hands and hope things happen on their own," he said. "They are planning for the future and trying to lay the groundwork."

Feil is the past chairman of the Bismarck-Mandan Development Association and chairman-elect of the North Dakota Bankers Association.

Now that these business people are here, they don't plan to leave.

The safe community, good schools and outdoor activities are why Feil decid-

ed to raise his family here. His sons have stayed for many of the same reasons.

"People are finding great jobs around here," he said. "There's very little talk about wanting to leave the state."

"If someone said I could move and change places, I wouldn't," McQuade-Ely said. "I like being in this size community as a busi-

ness person, a mother and a citizen."

(Reach Jessica Holdman at 250-8261 or [jessica.holdman@bismarcktribune.com](mailto:jessica.holdman@bismarcktribune.com).)



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SOURCE: IDEA Center, 2006 State of the Business Incubation Industry Survey

# Turning ideas into reality

By KAY KEMMET  
Bismarck Tribune

With podcasts, Tweets, Facebook likes and blogging, Wild Inspire Inc. knows social media.

The young Bismarck business has grown substantially since its inception in 2005. But it wouldn't be where it is today, serving clients like Kadrmas Lee & Jackson, without the IDEA Center, owner Scott Wild said.

"They are the only reason that we are growing," Wild said about the IDEA Center, a group that helps entrepreneurs jump-start their businesses.

The IDEA Center has consulted with about 200 entrepreneurs, including new businesses and ones that are just stuck, said Executive Director Julie Kuennen.

"For us, it's really about becoming a key player in North Dakota's diversified jobs," said Kuennen, who works with businesses in film development, medical devices and many other industries.

Wild said his business was stuck in a place, where he was working 80 to 100 hours a week and barely breaking even. Wild started working with the IDEA Center last



**ALL EARS:** Scott Wild, owner of Wild Inspire Inc., sits in a sound studio where he produces podcasts about integrating social media and other online marketing topics. (MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune)



**LEADER:** Julie Kuennen is the executive director of the IDEA Center, which helps real-life entrepreneurial business ideas.

August, hired his first employee in October and is now the busiest he's ever been. He said he hopes to hire two more

employees this year.

He also moved his business to the IDEA Center at 2720 E. Broadway Ave., where he rents a small office with a recording studio for podcasts — including a weekly broadcast on URL radio for Pride of Dakota that gets about 3,500 listeners.

From this office, Wild can work with local clients as well as clients in places like California and New Zealand. His business is social media and teaching his clients how to leave a positive digital footprint that will bring in more business.

"We change people's mindsets when it comes to

social media and their online presence," Wild said.

Unlike Wild, Larry Mosbrusker and Larine Zoeller started working with the IDEA Center before getting their businesses off the ground. Both were injured in 2005, but after rehabilitating themselves, they are turning their injuries into new businesses.

Mosbrusker was working on his family farm in New Salem when he fell off a semi truck loader. He broke both of his heels and eventually had to rent out his farmland and sell most of his equipment. He was told he might never walk again.

Now that Mosbrusker is literally back on his feet, he's still developing his first invention: the Stop Censor. The new device will help farmers load and unload grain by sensing where the grain auger is and beeping when the truck is in the correct position.

As a longtime farmer, Mosbrusker said, this is a huge time-consuming issue that farmers face every day. He saw the same issues while working in coal and energy industries.

The IDEA Center helped him find engineering firms, prototype firms and helped him with financing. After two years of working with people like Kuennen, Mosbrusker hopes to start manufacturing the Stop Censor in May of this year. He eventually wants to run an agricultural technology firm that would sell many of his inventions.

Zoeller slipped on a patch of ice and injured her back. She was bedridden for two years, and after several surgeries and physical therapy, she's able to work again.

Zoeller, a stylist with 20 years experience, is starting a homebound salon service, Hairstrong. She remembers what it was like to not be able to go out to a salon, and

wants to provide this service to people like her.

"When you look better, you feel better," said Zoeller, who started working with the IDEA Center in November.

She served her first client at the end of January — a pregnant woman on bed rest — and is now on Medcenter One's list of services. Zoeller's prices are comparable to most salons. She also does rollersets, manicure, pedicure, styles, acrylic/gell nails, facials, ear candling, UV polish and highlights.

Zoeller hopes to have satellite offices in Dickinson and Minot and hire four more stylists.

By working with businesses like Wild Inspire, the Stop Censor and Hairstrong, the IDEA Center fulfills its mission to help start diversified industries. While the oil development has brought in more job opportunities, Kuennen said, he hopes to create jobs in all industries.

(Reach Kay Kemmet at 250-8260 or kay.kemmet@bismarcktribune.com.)



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# SECTION D

# PROGRESS 2012

Never better in North Dakota

## INSIDE

■ Enrollment numbers in the North Dakota University system have been climbing for the past five years, **2D**

■ University of Mary announces plans to open an office for transfer students on the Bismarck State College campus, **2D**

■ United Tribes Technical College outlines intent to tackle severe rates of unemployment on reservations, **2D**

■ Bismarck-Mandan public schools are bursting at the seams — and student numbers are predicted to continue increasing, **4D**

■ Newly installed Bishop David Kagan says the Catholic school system is a 'great asset' for the church, reflects on experience in Bismarck so far, **6D**

(prɔg'rɛs', rəs, prɔgrɛs') 1. Movement, as toward a goal; advance. 2. Development or growth. 3. Steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. 4. A ceremonial journey made by a sovereign through his or her realm.

A creative life



**IS ONE WORTH LIVING:** Sunrise Elementary School student Kaylee Lunde, 9, left, traces her dinosaur drawing with glue as she and other students work on an art project during an after-school class lead by Theo Art School artist Jescia Hopper, right. In the background is Trevor Sorge, 7.

# Arts make life colorful

## Humanities efforts increase state's quality of life

By KAREN HERZOG  
Bismarck Tribune

Despite the challenges of working with smaller budgets, the North Dakota Council on the Arts and the North Dakota Humanities Council remain committed to programs that lift the quality of life in North Dakota.

As North Dakota's economy, landscape and people face fast-paced change, the role of the arts and humanities in speaking to those changes becomes more important, not less so, heads of both groups said. On the national level, budget cuts to both the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts mean that both North Dakota affiliates are trying to maintain valuable programs with less money.

In both the arts and humanities, North Dakota has a lot more to offer than the rest of the nation might think.

With a population of more than 680,000, one could imagine the state as a good-sized urban area, said Jan Webb, executive director of the North Dakota Council on the Arts.

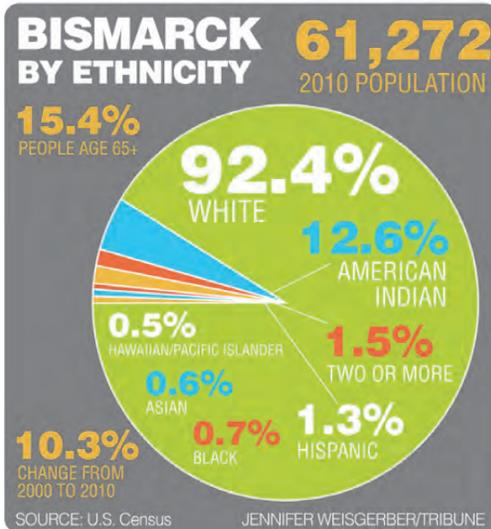
Webb pointed out that this "city" of more than a half-million people has two opera companies, four major orchestras and a handful of smaller ones.

Through its funding, the

*Continued on 6D*



**ABOVE:** Nevaeh Barth, 6, whips a hula hoop during Urban Harvest in downtown Bismarck on July 21, 2011. **BELOW:** Native American flutist Keith Bear performs with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra on March 17, 2011. (MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune)



# Ethnic pie

## Diversity on upswing

Recent economic activity is keeping the workforce young and bringing more ethnic minorities into the growing communities of Bismarck and Mandan.

While ethnic minorities still make up a small percentage of the Bismarck-Mandan area population — both Bismarck and Mandan are about 92 percent white — African and African-American, American Indian and Latino populations doubled in the

last 10 years, according to 2010 United States Census data.

"They are increasing by small numbers, but they are still increasing," said Kevin Iverson, North Dakota State Data Center director.

The average median age went up in both cities, but only by about two years. The number of 20- to 34-year-olds living in Bismarck-Mandan also increased.

*Continued on 6D*

# LEARNING CURVE

See story on 4D

Ratio of students to licensed teachers in Bismarck public schools

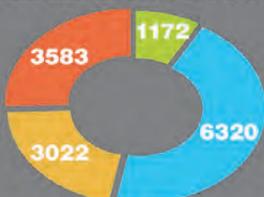


11.8

14,180 public school students in Bismarck-Mandan

Elementary schools house more than half the students in both districts

- kindergarten
- elementary
- middle school
- high school



Bismarck and Mandan will add **1520** students in the next **5** years

Mandan will need at least **9** more classrooms by 2015

Cost to build a school in Mandan: **\$11,600,000**

SOURCE: Bismarck Public Schools, Mandan Public School District

HANNA BUSH/TRIBUNE

# Ever-expanding higher ed

## Enrollment climb is dramatic over the past five years

By MARA VAN ELLS  
Bismarck Tribune

The number of students in the North Dakota University System has risen by 1 percent, or 128 students, between spring 2011 and spring 2012.

"That's really an indication that the campuses are doing a great job responding to student and workforce needs," said Mike Hellman, North Dakota University System vice chancellor of student affairs.

The number of students in the system has risen dramatically over the past five years. There were 5,437 — or 13 percent — more students in the system in spring 2011 than in spring 2006. The number of students in the system jumped 4.1 percent — or an increase of 1,794 students — from spring 2010 to spring 2011.

The official enrollment numbers represent a snapshot in time, Hellman said, as the number of students enrolled in a university fluctuates over the course of a semester. The 2012 census data was taken from all the colleges at midnight on Feb. 6.

Hellman said the increased number of students across the state could be due to offering more online courses and focusing on attracting older-than-average students. Today, he said, it is easier for students to have a job and be enrolled in courses at the same time,

whether in the evening, online or on the weekend.

The number of students attending North Dakota's two largest universities, University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University, has continued to grow since 2008.

UND was ranked 11th and NDSU was ranked 19th in U.S. World and News Report's "Most Popular National Universities" in January. The rank was determined by the school's yield — or the percentage of students accepted at a university who ended up enrolling in that university in the fall.

North Dakota State University enrollment numbers have been steadily increasing for the past decade, said Kate Haugen, associate vice president for student affairs.

Haugen attributed the increase in students to previous university president Joe Chapman increasing the number of courses offered, particularly at the graduate level, and recruitment strategies such as placing a full-time admissions representative in the Twin Cities.

"We know how important Minnesota is to us for enrollment. This last year, 58 percent of new students are from Minnesota," Haugen said.

She said the school has also received more attention since switching to Division 1 athletics a few years ago.

UND spokesman Peter Johnson said last fall was the university's largest enrollment



**BACK TO CLASS:** Students finish a day of classes as they walk out of the Jack Science Center on the Bismarck State College campus earlier this month. MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune

ever. The school is seeing particular growth at the undergraduate level in the School of Engineering and Mines, which increased its enrollment by 7.2 percent, adding 84 students in the fall. Also, the College of Arts and Sciences saw a marked increase in students at more than 4 percent, or 121 students. Graduate students make up about 18 percent of the overall student body.

Johnson attributed the growth to an increased number of programs. UND has the only unmanned aircraft assistance major in the country, he said.

"Certainly, when the economy is not so good — this is true historically — people tend to go to school," he said. "The honest response would be due to the overall economy, even though North Dakota's economy is really good."

Valley City State University enrollment numbers increased 7 percent, with an additional 1,306 students from spring 2011 to spring 2012.

Bismarck's three colleges also saw record enrollment in fall 2011.

■ 3,135 — Students enrolled at the University of Mary in fall 2011, compared

to 3,126 students in fall 2010.

■ 652 — Undergraduate students enrolled at United Tribes Technical College in fall 2011, a 12 percent increase from fall 2010 enrollment.

■ 4,392 — Students enrolled at Bismarck State College in fall 2011, a 5 percent increase from 4,177 students enrolled in fall 2010.

The number of students attending Bismarck State has steadily increased from 2006-11. However, the number of students attending BSC dropped 2.5 percent from spring 2011 to spring 2012.

"We anticipated the

decline in light of the activity and job availability in western North Dakota, along with the economy at large," said Donna Fishbeck, associate vice president of student affairs.

The number of students attending Dickinson State University peaked in 2009 after increasing steadily since 2005. In spring 2011, 2,248 students were enrolled. In spring 2012, enrollment numbers dropped to 2,008 students.

Marie Moe, director of university relations, said the decline in students is due to a

*Continued on 3D*



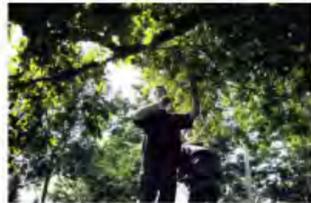
MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune

**NEW PARTNERSHIP:** On Nov. 29, 2011, the Rev. James Shea, president of the University of Mary, right, and Larry Skogen, president of Bismarck State College, announced a plan to allow students to transfer credits from 10 programs at BSC toward a four-year degree at U-Mary on Nov. 29, 2011.

## U-Mary opens office at BSC

The University of Mary will open its own office space devoted to transfer students on the Bismarck State College campus this month.

In November, BSC President Larry Skogen and the Rev. James Shea, U-Mary president, announced an articulation agreement that will allow a transition for students from BSC to U-Mary in 10 programs. The degree programs included in the agreement are athletic training, exercise science, physical education, respiratory therapy, sports and leisure management, music, music with emphasis in sacred music, music education, political philosophy, management and the computer support specialist program, which will transfer to U-Mary's information technology management program.



**GREEN THUMB:** BSC junior Bradley Fischer completes a botany class assignment at the campus on Sept. 19, 2011. (MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune)

The office will be located in the Horizon Office Building, down the hall from Dickinson State University, Minot State University and University of North Dakota transfer offices.

"Everything is on track," Skogen said. "We continue to be searching for ways to serve our students and U of Mary is another avenue for us to do that."

said Mike Heitkamp, director of admissions at U-Mary.

Tamara Barber, a trustee of the Bismarck State College Foundation, said U-Mary will staff the office.

"We're very excited about it and looking forward to continuing what I think is good for the Bismarck-Mandan community — and that's a strong relationship between institutions of higher learning," Barber said.

— Mara Van Ells

## UTTC tackling unemployment

By MARA VAN ELLS  
Bismarck Tribune

United Tribes Technical College is in the formative stages of a training initiative designed to tackle severe unemployment rates on reservations while meeting workforce demands.

UTTC is leading the Tribal College Consortium for Developing Montana and North Dakota Workforce project, a consortium of four tribal colleges that was awarded \$18.9 million through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program in October. UTTC President David Gipp said it is the largest single grant the college has received in his

35 years of serving as director.

"It's a huge deal ... we're all excited about it and I think the college is receptive and everything," said Dave L. Gipp

Archambault II, UTTC program director said.

Archambault said on some reservations, unemployment is as high as 60 percent.

"We also know there are high-paying, high-demand jobs in North Dakota," he said. "We're looking at what kind of opportunities are available and what we can do to better implement those trainings."

Before receiving the grant, each of the colleges approached stakeholders in the community to find out what jobs were in demand in the area. UTTC will be using its \$8 million allotment to build space for training programs in welding and geographic information systems, and expanding its energy auditor and electrician



MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune

**FRIENDS OF A FEATHER:** Preschool director Barb Strikes the Enemy, right, adjusts a star quilt wrapped around the shoulders of former First Lady Grace Link during a dedication ceremony of the Arthur and Grace Link Child Development Center on the UTTC campus in Bismarck on April 28, 2011.

programs over the next three years. The electrician program will likely start in February, the welding program will be introduced in April and the GIS and energy auditor programs will begin in mid-August.

Gipp described the program as a "more systematic" approach to poverty issues in the region.

"We have really designed the beginnings of some true partnerships between colleges participating and the kind of training we'll do and how it will link to employers in the region," he said.

The programs will have accelerated progress, meeting five days a week, eight hours a day, to speed up the graduation process. Students who complete the program will receive a National Career Readiness Certificate. Graduates also will receive entrepreneurship ideas or tools to use in case they want to be self-employed, Archambault said.

"It would be possible through new skills they've

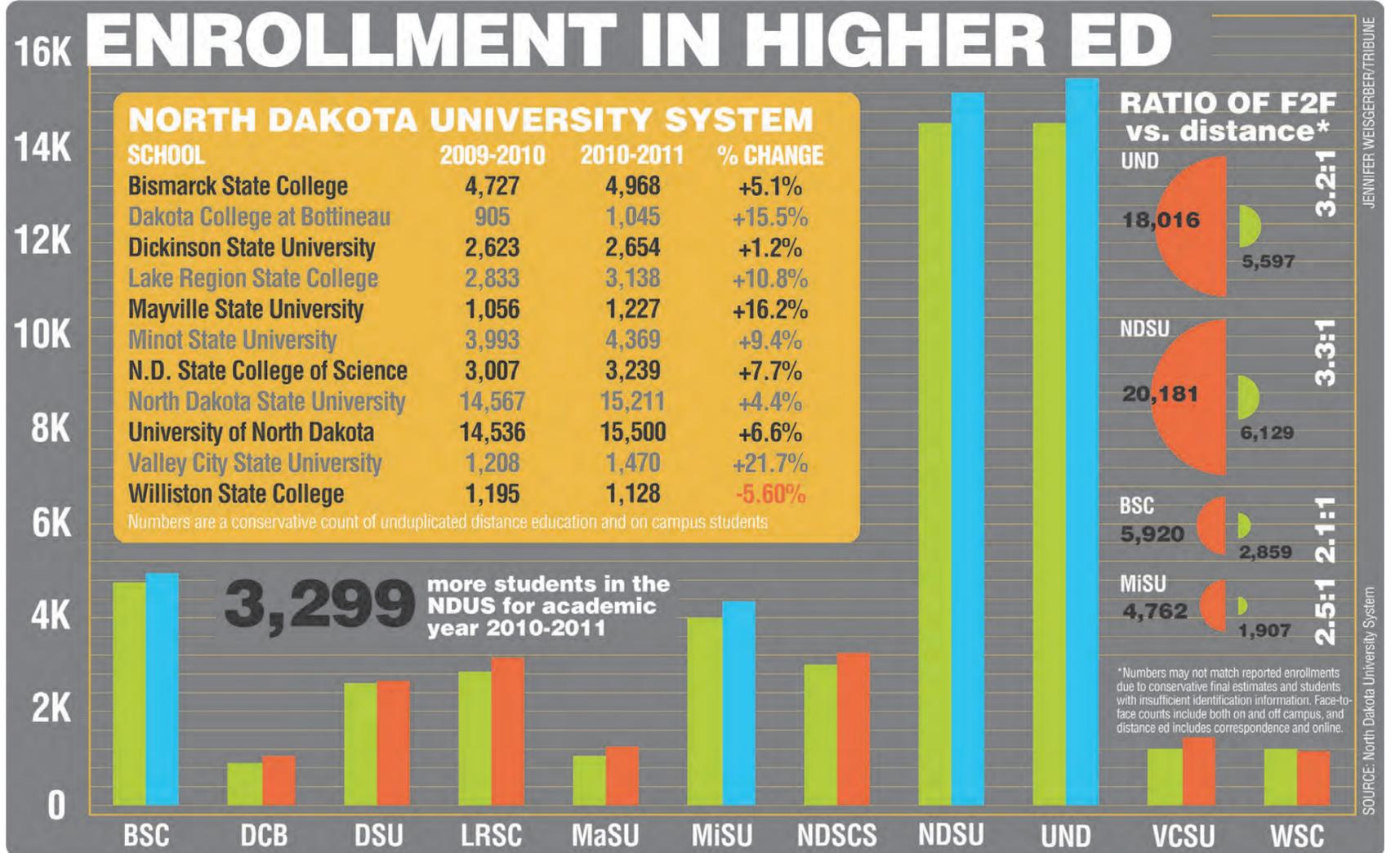
acquired," he said. Archambault said he hopes the four colleges will hold monthly webinars, conference calls or Skype conversations with one another.

"It's important that we ... come together to share ideas and ways to facilitate the process. We all need to be on the same page and work on this together," he said.

"It's a huge program and we want to make sure it's successful," Archambault said.

The three other colleges participating are Aaniiih Nakoda College of Harlem, Mont.; Fort Peck Community College of Poplar, Mont.; and Cankdeska Cikana Community College of Fort Totten.

"I think it can make a difference in what has been generational poverty. And we know there is a lot of young people that want to get out there and want a good life for themselves, a good life for their families," Gipp said. "From that point of view, it's very exciting and we're going to make this thing make a difference."



combination of declining birth rates in western North Dakota, job opportunities in the energy industry and a shortage of housing in Dickinson.

Moe said 62 percent of DSU's students come from the five counties surrounding Dickinson. The declining birth rate, which was projected to affect the number of students graduating from high school until 2014, was something the university was

aware of, she said.

"That's probably one of the things that has impacted us pretty heavily because (the region is) our major source of students," she said. "Put that together with increase in jobs in technical fields, which happened at the same time."

DSU offers more of a traditional liberal arts education and not as many technical courses, Moe said.

"We're working not to necessarily add technical pro-

grams, but looking at ways to serve the community by maybe brokering programs," she said, noting an agreement with BSC. She said another important strategy is "to make sure we're talking to students about how a four-year degree is definitely worth your time and how you benefit from it."

Finally, an increased number of people in the area has led to a shortage of housing in Dickinson, which has affect-

ed the university.

"Traditionally, our upperclassmen would live off campus. We're seeing them move back into the dorms," she said. "We start hearing, 'There's no housing at DSU.' Housing is a concern."

DSU's foundation is working with a private institute to create an additional space for upperclassmen that will be completed in August, Moe said. The building will be located about two blocks

south of campus, house 130 students and will be "Marriot-style," in that the apartments will be designed like suites.

"I think it's a mix of those three things. I really do ... and all of those things we're working to address," Moe said.

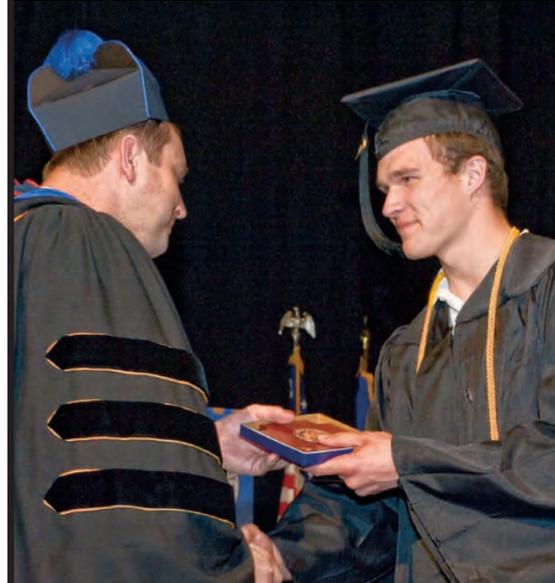
Hellman said enrollment numbers may fluctuate, but overall, campuses have done a good job of responding to student and work-

force needs.

"Overall, we're expecting enrollment to continue to grow across the state," he said.

(Reach Mara Van Ells at 250-8251 or [mara.vanells@bismarcktribune.com](mailto:mara.vanells@bismarcktribune.com).)

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(prōg'rēs', rəs, prōgrēs') 1. Movement, as toward a goal; advance. 2. Development or growth. 3. Steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. 4. A ceremonial journey made by a sovereign through his or her realm.

# BURSTING at the seams

**OPEN HOUSE, OPEN MINDS:** Sunrise Elementary School kindergarten teacher Danielle Klein, right, talks with her new student, Cade Pittenger, 5, and his dad, Tim, during an open house in northeast Bismarck on Aug. 24, 2011. (MIKE McCLEARY/Tribune)



## Bismarck-Mandan schools plan for major influx of new students

By HANNA BUSH  
Bismarck Tribune

Increased emigration to North Dakota, coupled with native population growth, has Bismarck and Mandan classrooms bursting at the seams.

"We're experiencing some growing pains," said Tamara Uselman, Bismarck Public Schools superintendent.

U.S. Census Bureau data from 2010 indicates that both cities' populations have grown about 10 percent since 2000, and newer data is bound to reflect the impact that oil has had on the area.

From 2000-10, Bismarck's population grew 10.3 percent. About one-fifth of the population — 20.8 percent — in 2010 was under the age of 18. In Mandan, the population grew 9.6 percent in the same time period, and 23.9 percent of residents were under the age of 18.

Enrollment numbers for both Mandan and Bismarck public schools have been increasing steadily. While spikes in Williston and other western North Dakota cities are certainly larger, the oil boom has also put pressure on the Bismarck-Mandan area. Public schools are feeling that pressure.

"We are seeing some of that growth here in our community," said Darin Scherr, director of facilities and transportation for Bismarck Public Schools.

A recent physical and educational assessment of Bismarck public schools found that 10 of Bismarck's 16 elementary schools are beyond capacity and three others have reached capacity. In addition, the company that performed the assessment, DLR Architects, found that all three high schools are over capacity and that the junior high schools have only 5 percent of room left.

Mandan's growth is even more surprising, considering that until 2008, school enrollment numbers were in decline. Since 2008, the district has gained more than 400 students, and growth continues to speed up.

Enrollment in Mandan has been at this level in the past; in 2001, the district had just three fewer students in elementary schools than it does now. However, until 2008, the school district had been leasing space in St. Joseph's Elementary School to accommodate all its students.

In addition, the state Legislature in 2008 funded all-day, every-day kindergarten for public school students, essentially doubling the amount of space needed for kindergarten classes in the district. Now, the same number of students is expected to share a significantly smaller amount of space. And growth is relentless.

Five years ago, the school board in Mandan imposed enrollment limits to keep

### BISMARCK SCHOOLS: 2,286 PREDICTED OVER NEXT 10 YEARS

Bismarck School Board members and the superintendent agree that the biggest challenge facing the district in the next 10 years will be addressing a growing student population.

A demographer hired by Bismarck Public Schools said the district can expect the number of students to steadily increase over the next 10 years. Rob Schwarz of RSP and Associates expects an additional 1,287 students in the next five years and a total increase of 2,286 students in the next 10 years.

"We've got issues we need to face by next fall ... we'll have some temporary adjustments to make," said school board President Lawrence King.

King said the district built eight schools — six elementary schools, the Richolt building that houses the district's early childhood education program, and the Hughes Education Center — in the span of nine years, from 1949-58.

"It seems to me that we're at that pivotal stage, again. Not to build eight buildings, but to see how we're going to look at the entire district and address all those needs," he said.

King said the district needs to know how expensive it will be to fix up older buildings versus the cost of taking a different approach.

"That's the kind of information, I feel, as board members, we have to have in order to make some good decisions," King said.

Superintendent Tamara Uselman said she sees the district responding with some immediacy to the at-capacity elementary schools.

"That bubble will move through the system; the middle schools will be more crowded. We have more breathing room to figure out the middle school situation," she said.

Apart from school expansion, Uselman sees curriculum as the most important piece the district

needs to focus on in the future. Uselman described the curriculum as the heart and soul of the district.

"Are we engaging kids, getting them ready for the next step in life?" Uselman said. "To be able to do that, the kids need to be in a building."

Board member Paul Govig said he could envision a third high school in the district in the future.

"Based on what's going on so far, it does appear that a third high school is in the future. In my opinion, it's at least five years out, depending on how the growth goes," Govig said.

King said the further out the board plans for, the more expensive the approach will be. However, he said he feels pressure from the community to create a long-term plan so the district won't be facing another space crunch two years from now.

"It's not something we want to revisit every few years," he said. — Mara Van Ellis

class sizes manageable, a goal that was well within reach. Now, those limits are being pushed.

For example, in grades K-2, the limit is 23. The 12 kindergarten classrooms in the district average 23.3 students each — not much overflow. However, those 12 classes must be condensed to 11 when the students move to the first grade due to space constraints. Add projected enrollment growth to those numbers, and soon classrooms in Mandan may have 26 or more students.

The district expects to add about 320 students in the next five years, Mandan Public School District Assistant Superintendent Mike Bitz said. But that projection is based solely on birth rates in Morton County. "I believe our enrollment projections are very conservative," Bitz said.

Both cities are considering building new schools, but the process is lengthy — and expensive.

Along with DLR, the Bismarck Public School District hired a demographer to help it effectively update its facilities master plan. Rob Schwartz, a demographer and consultant with the national planning and education firm RSP & Associates, told the Bismarck School Board in December that more than 1,200 students would come into the district in the next five years, and that most of that growth would be felt in elementary schools.

He said it would not be a stretch to have more than 1,000 students in kindergarten classes as growth continues.

"This is an exciting problem to have," Uselman said. She said that growth and enrollment spikes were preferable to having to shut down schools and cut jobs.

The consultants presented four options to address facilities master planning issues at three community meetings at the end of January. The options varied in cost and amount of work to be undertaken.

"Now we have to start making the tough decisions," Scherr said.

After considering enrollment growth and facilities planning, the Mandan School Board voted unanimously on Jan. 17 to put the issue of building a new elementary school to a vote in a bond election before Oct. 1.

The election was originally proposed for this spring, but because Measure 2, a proposed state constitutional amendment to abolish property taxes, may impact the process, the board voted to postpone the vote until the fall. The property tax measure will go before state voters in June.

"If Measure 2 passes, we're not even sure if the school or the community would be able to make that decision," Bitz said.

Mandan School Board member Tim Rector said according to Morton County birth rate numbers, the district will need to add nine classrooms by the 2015-16 school year to keep up with growth.

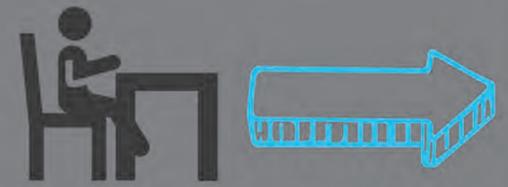
If the bond issue were to pass, construction on a new elementary school could break ground as soon as spring 2013. The estimated cost of the project is \$11.64 million. The school board has selected Al Fitterer Architects of Mandan to spearhead the project pending the passage of the bond issue.

In addition, in early February, the board hired RSP & Associates — the same firm Bismarck Public Schools

### WEIGHING THE OPTIONS OPTION 1



• Build 1 new high school, 1 new middle school and 2 new elementary schools



• Move 6th graders to middle school and 9th graders to high school

Cost: \$111,220,500

### OPTION 2



• Build 1 new high school and 2 new elementary schools



• Expand Horizon Middle School



• Move 6th graders to middle school and 9th graders to high school

Cost: \$98,673,000

**BOTTOM LINE:**  
The Bismarck School Board will make a final decision Feb. 27.



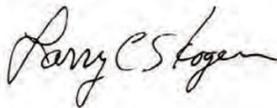
SOURCE: Bismarck Public Schools HANNA BUSH/TRIBUNE



(prɔg'rēs', rəs, prɔgrēs') 1. Movement, as toward a goal; advance. 2. Development or growth. 3. Steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. 4. A ceremonial journey made by a sovereign through his or her realm.

# Moving *beyond*

We are living in unprecedented times, an era rich with both opportunities and challenges. Technology is moving faster than most of us can comprehend. North Dakota's robust economy is changing the fabric of our state including our educational system. At Bismarck State we are meeting each new challenge with energy, innovation and vitality. In the years to come we will continue to be in front of change, serving our students and our community in unprecedented ways.



Dr. Larry C. Skogen  
BSC President



## A key player in the ND economy



Bismarck State participates in the robust North Dakota economy by preparing students to move quickly into the workforce, or by ensuring they'll be successful as they transfer to another institution of higher learning. To do that, we are always looking ahead, developing partnerships, adding programs, improving student services, enhancing our credit and non-credit program offerings, and improving our campus.

## Building(s) & Growing at BSC

### Campus facilities

- Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy opened in 2010
- BSC Technology Center remodeled and updated in 2010
- Mystic Hall remodeled in 2010 to house 30 students
- National Energy Center of Excellence 4th floor to be finished in 2012
- Robert A. Kuntz Physical Plant Building construction to begin spring 2012
- Student union remodel scheduled for 2012
- Pre-planning committee developing plans for a center to host community performing, visual and communication arts

### Programs

BSC has several programs in the works or recently launched that were established in response to industry needs and the direct and indirect needs caused by North Dakota's energy boom.

- Electronics Technology certificate (Fall 2010)
- Petroleum Production Technology (Fall 2011)
- Sustainable Construction Technology (Fall 2011)
- Petroleum Engineering Technology (January 2012)
- Wastewater Treatment Technology (Fall 2012)

## Enrollment moves beyond

The third largest college in North Dakota, BSC enrolled a record-breaking 4,392 students this fall. In the years to come, some of these students will move into technical careers, others will transition to four year degree programs, but all of them will move onto their own unique beyond.

## Engaged in the community

BSC reaches out to thousands of people through a myriad of public events and offerings including enrichment classes, exhibits concerts, plays and symposiums all of which are listed at [bismarckstate.edu](http://bismarckstate.edu).

- **Continuing education** – BSC's Division of Continuing Education, Training and Innovation (CETI) served more than 16,000 people through enrichment classes, workforce training, speakers' bureau and conferences last year and is on track to reach even more this year.
- **Symposium explores 9/11** – "September 11 Ten Years Later: Impact on the Heartland," brought scholars, military leaders and the public together to examine the effects the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks had on the Heartland of America.

## BSC Mission

Bismarck State College, an innovative community college, offers high quality education, workforce training, and enrichment programs reaching local and global communities.

701.224.5400 or 800.445.5073  
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Follow us and learn more about our programs, the Bismarck-Mandan community, student life, BSC in the news and more!

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# Bishop: Catholic education an asset

*Kagan says people have been friendly, welcoming, enthusiastic*

By KAREN HERZOG  
Bismarck Tribune

Among the things that Bishop David Kagan appreciates in his post as the new bishop of the Bismarck Catholic Diocese is the range of Catholic education available to parishioners here.

For a smaller diocese, he said, Bismarck is unique in that parents are able to give their children a Catholic education from preschool through the university level, which Kagan called "a great asset for the church."

Kagan has shared his office in the Chancery in Bismarck with his Border Collie, Dash, since his installation in November as the seventh bishop of Bismarck.

His move from the Diocese of Rockford, Ill., has been a smooth, easy transition, Kagan said.



TOM STROMME/Tribune  
NEW: Bishop David Kagan.

"Bismarck was well served by (retired) Bishop (Paul) Zipfel," he said.

A bishop must have a broad overview, balancing the needs of multiple parishes to find what will serve the diocese best. So Kagan is becoming acquainted with the parishes in the diocese,

which covers roughly the western half of North Dakota, as he travels among them for confirmation and receptions.

Visits to the diocese's five deaneries, or areas, help the bishop to assess the challenges of various parts of the diocese, as well as becoming acquainted with his priests.

Kagan is also pleased with the enthusiasm of the young priests in the diocese. The Rev. Thomas Richter, director of vocations, has done a great job, he said. Having younger priests serve as chaplains in the high schools has meant that high school students

have become very active in their parishes, he said.

And proportionately, the Bismarck Diocese's number of seminarians puts it ahead of other dioceses — in the next two years, it will ordain eight new priests, he said.

At the university level, students at the University of Mary have the opportunity through service trips "to experience what the Catholic church means about feeding the hungry, serving the poor," he said.

Areas of immediate challenge for the diocese include how to serve the area of the

Bakken oil boom and how to help Minot churches rebuild after last summer's flooding, he said.

In the Bakken, the population increase in oil workers means a certain percentage will be Catholic, Kagan said. The challenge will be, "how do we minister to them? Meet their spiritual needs?" he said.

The oil boom also will mean an increased need for social services, physical needs and housing — serious needs, he said.

"All of North Dakota is on the verge of blossoming,"

Kagan said. The new bishop said he grew up in a small farming community, so he also understands North Dakotans' concern about that growth.

"We don't want to spoil the way of life that's here," he said. "I understand that."

(Reach Karen Herzog at 250-8267 or karen.herzog@bismarcktribune.com.)



## Arts make life colorful

Continued from 1D

NDCA provides support to 55 to 60 major arts organizations in the state, such as community theaters and visual artists, and programs such as Artists in the Schools and traditional arts apprenticeships.

The apprenticeships work to preserve traditional arts and skills in areas as diverse as saddle-making, basketry and quillwork, flute-making, metalsmithing, music, Native American storytelling, Scandinavian hardanger needlework, dance and more. Apprentices are paired with traditional artists to learn and preserve arts which might otherwise be lost.

The NDCA's programs are community-based, and the beauty of them is that they allow access to the arts by the average person, rather than only being available to the wealthy, Webb said.

Cuts to the NEA budget on the national level mean that the NDCA is working with about \$60,000 less in its yearly budget this year, she said.

Webb is particularly concerned about the loss of arts programs in the school. Children benefit tremendously in their learning and development through arts education, she said.

The North Dakota Humanities Council puts its efforts behind the importance of lifelong learning to foster a more informed citizenry, said Brenna Daugherty Gerhardt, NDHC executive director.

Gerhardt said she considers North Dakota's small citizenry an asset "because people on all levels can be involved, active and engaged." This is not the case in all areas of the country, she said.

"North Dakota is on the cusp of change," Gerhardt said. As the energy boom

changes the physical landscape, it changes the fabric of the state's communities as well, she said.

Community conversation about the direction and nature of that change is vital, she said. Fostering lifelong learning through programs on history, philosophy and literature helps people develop a thoughtful perspective on the past and present and reach decisions about the future, she said. The value of promoting a better quality of life is also incalculable, she said.

"We want to be a resource to the rural communities, to have community conversations on history and heritage" through cooperating with the dedicated volunteers who keep their small museums and libraries alive, she said.

Though the state is considered geographically isolated, people here are connected with the larger events in the nation and world, she said.

Events such as last year's Eric Sevareid Symposium and an upcoming event in August in Fargo focusing on nationally acclaimed Dakota author Louise Erdrich should remain accessible to everyone, free and open to the public, she said.

The NDHC will keep an important focus on those kinds of Chautauqua public cultural gatherings. Cuts in funds mean hard decisions, she said.

"But when we feed the interest and curiosity about large-scale historical events, it just lights people up," Gerhardt said. "People want meaning in their lives, to make connections to something larger than themselves."

(Reach Karen Herzog at 250-8267 or karen.herzog@bismarcktribune.com.)

## Ethnic pie

Continued from 1D

According to the most recent U.S. Census, Bismarck and Mandan's total populations increased by about 10 percent in the last 10 years.

The largest minority population in Bismarck-Mandan is American Indian. As of 2010, there were 3,329 American Indians, or 5 percent of the population, living in Bismarck and 1,123, or 6 percent, living in Mandan. In 2000, there were 2,518 American Indians living in Bismarck and 645 in Mandan. The second largest minority, Latinos, increased from 415 to 812 in Bismarck and 130 to 325 in Mandan.

In Bismarck, the African and African-American population grew from 235 people in 2000 to 660 in 2010, and from 72 to 193 in Mandan. Africans and African-Americans still only make up about 1 percent of the population. A portion of this minority group are secondary migrant refugees from Sudan and Cameroon.

While these numbers seem quite small, they do show that Bismarck-Mandan is becoming a more diverse community because more people are migrating to North Dakota.

"With the influx of out-of-state workers, we are getting more of the minorities," said Rod Backman, chairman of the North Dakota

Census Committee. The community will naturally become more diverse, because the United States as a whole has a higher percentage of minorities, Backman said.

Bismarck also has a small refugee population, according to the Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota Center for New Americans. Eighteen Iraqi nationals joined the community in 2011. In a typical year, 20 to 30 refugees move to Bismarck. No refugees currently live in Mandan.

While the Bismarck-Mandan communities are getting older, it's at a slower rate than neighboring Midwestern states, Backman said. North Dakota's population is staying young because of job availability, he said. In the last 10 years, the median age increased by two years to 38 in Bismarck and to 37 in Mandan.

Bismarck-Mandan's largest age group, about 8 percent of the population, was 25- to 29-year-olds in 2010. The number of 20- to 34-year-olds increased overall from the 2000 census.

Since the census data was collected, Iverson said, the state has changed dramatically, especially with the development in western North Dakota. Data isn't available yet to track those changes.

— Kay Kemmet

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(prōg'rēs', rəs, prōgrēs') 1. Movement, as toward a goal; advance. 2. Development or growth. 3. Steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. 4. A ceremonial journey made by a sovereign through his or her realm.