

Casino proposal returns to Grand Forks

■ Sande wants to hear Turtle Mountain's plan

By Christopher Bjorke
Herald Staff Writer

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa is proposing a casino and entertainment complex in Grand Forks, an idea that failed to win support or the necessary approval in the past.

The Finance and Development Committee of the Grand Forks City Council will discuss the proposal at its meeting Monday and could make a recommendation to the council.

According to information included with the committee meeting's agenda, the tribe approved a resolution in October to seek approval for a "gaming, entertainment and hospitality complex" on land that would be acquired by the tribe.



Sande

Committee Chairman Dana Sande said he had already received calls from people with concerns about the proposal, but said council members should hear from its backers from the Turtle Mountain reservation before commenting its chances of success.

"I think there are probably lots of pros and cons for a casino in Grand Forks," he said. "We should at least listen to what (tribal representatives) have to say."

The complex would be located along the Interstate 29 corridor, according to meeting agenda information. Land acquired by the tribe would be held in trust by its members.

The Turtle Mountain tribe is based on the small Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation about 85 miles northwest of Devils Lake, near the Canadian border. A message left with an official at the reservation was not returned Friday.

Cooperation
The tribe's proposal offers to pay for the expansion of infrastructure, compensate the city for lost property taxes on land taken into tribal trust and share revenue with charities.

The Turtle Mountain Band "is requesting to work with the City of Grand Forks in a spirit of cooperation and to form a cooperative working group to hold discussions in coordinated and mutually beneficial manner" on the proposal, according to the city staff's report.

A city staff recommendation says the council members should "engage in a good faith dialogue and community conversation" with the tribe on the merits of the project.

Any recommendation from the committee would have to be approved by the full City Council. A tribal casino operating

CASINO: See Page B6

Artistic spirits



Eric Hylden, staff photographer

▲ Memo Guardia, artist in residence at the North Dakota Museum of Art, assembles a series of portraits from Spirit Lake to hang on the walls of the museum for "Songs of Spirit Lake," an exhibition opening today.

Major exhibit showcases Spirit Lake

Herald Staff Report

"Songs For Spirit Lake," a major art exhibit meant to capture the sights and sounds of life at the Spirit Lake reservation, opens today at the North Dakota Museum of Art on the UND campus.

Workers spent part of this week assembling the different art installations in time for the 4:30 p.m. public opening.

The exhibit had originally been shown in New York before going to the

Cankdeska Cikana Community College in the reservation town of Fort Totten, N.D.

Laurel Reuter, exhibit curator and NDMOA director, commissioned six artists involved in the project with a grant from the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation.

They bring vastly different perspectives to the subject of contemporary Indian culture at the reservation.

John Hitchcock, an artist of Comanche heritage who teaches at the University of

IF YOU GO

- **When:** 4:30 p.m. today, NDMOA
- **Where:** 261 Centennial Drive.
- **Price:** Free, but donations are accepted.

Wisconsin-Madison, created an installation featuring

simulated buffalo hides stacked on humps, representing the importance of buffalo to indigenous people, as well as a slow-motion video projection from last summer's powwow at Fort Totten.

He has said his work explores the past, present and future of American Indian communities across the Plains.

Winnipeg artist Tim Schouten created 46 paintings for the exhibit — four

EXHIBIT: See Page B6

TED-talking about her generation

■ Lecturer explains millennial entrepreneurship

By Ryan Bakken
Herald Staff Writer

Anna Hovet brought her hometown-girl-makes-good story back to Grand Forks Friday, sharing it with a rapt audience in the Empire Arts Center and also to countless others online.

A 2003 graduate of Red River High School, the 28-year-old's message at the

TEDxGrand Forks festival was that her generation is just as smart and hard-working as any other, "but we do it in a different way."

She poked fun at her age group with cracks such as "we treat cellphones as part of our body" and that "we understand that you can learn everything you need to know immediately on the Internet."

But her main point was that people her age, known as millennials or Generation Y, are "perfect" for entrepreneurship. Her five reasons for that fit are that they're marketable, efficient, hustlers, flexible and passionate.

She could have used herself as an example, based on her rebound from being laid off from her job as a de-

signer of baby clothes in 2008 during the recession. She owns two companies — in fashion design and academic tutoring — and also is a marketing teacher at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

"Even though it means I'm working 80-90 hours a week, I love being my own boss,"

TED: See Page B6

Healthier choices from GF Park District



Ryan Bakken

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Question: What is the biggest seller at Grand Forks Park District concession stands in each of the last two years?

Answer: Water.
Does that surprise you as much as it surprises me? From my many years of experience as a parent, a sportswriter and a fan, the concession stand was the equivalent of the non-filter Camel cigarette of unhealthy offerings.

However, times have changed, due in part to Molly Soeby's prodding. Soeby is a Park Board member who has brought a new angle to the park district, which typically deals with recreation and parks. For Soeby, it's about games and green spaces, but also about a healthy lifestyle.

I appreciate Soeby's approach. After one heart attack and two stents, I have paid more attention to diet and exercise. I'm neither svelte nor ready to tackle a marathon, but I no longer wear Medium Buffalo-sized clothing.

One of her emphases is to promote fitness through diet as well as exercise. At her nudging and fellow commissioners' agreement, recent park district concession stand changes include:

■ For making popcorn, a switch from trans-fat oil to canola oil.

■ A switch from white hot dog buns to whole-grain buns.

■ Hot dogs now are the all-beef variety.

■ Baked chips and SunChips have replaced deep-fried chips

■ Candy bars remain, but not the oversized variety. None are more than 250 calories.

■ Yogurt, fruit and string cheese are available.

■ Taco-in-a-bag ingredients have changed from beef to seasoned turkey and beans.

"The purpose is to make the healthy choice the easy choice," Soeby said.

Compromises were made along the way. For instance, the Snickers bar was revived after a nutritionist vouched for the value of its peanuts. However, the bar has to stay within the 250 calories.

And, because of a dietician's endorsement, chocolate milk was retained as a concession stand option because of its value for recovery from strenuous exertion.

Sobey said her ultimate goal is for the board to adopt a policy on concession stand choices.

"Obesity is a health epidemic," she said. "If this was smallpox, everyone would be up in arms about it."

Her health initiatives don't end with food, however.

Grand Forks parks are smoke-free, but they're not tobacco-free. She wants to ban all tobacco products in Grand Forks' parks, which likely will be a battle more uphill than the size of Snickers' bars.

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Website connects flaring solutions, industry

By Katherine Lynn
Forum News Service

DICKINSON, N.D. — In the fight to reduce flaring, communication may be key.

So one center has made a webpage to connect companies with technologies that may help reduce flaring with industry. The Grand Forks-based Energy and Environmental Research Center created the site, which got a plug in an industry flaring task force's presentation to the North Dakota Industrial Commission on Jan. 29.

"We wanted to set up a database that would allow them to easily look at who's offering which technologies so they can match their particular needs with what vendors are offering," said Chad Wocken, senior research manager at the EERC.

The different types of remote capture vary from power production on site to natural gas liquids recovery. The companies are both new, looking to take advantage of the opportunity to prove what their technology can do, to companies using "off-the-shelf" technology to address the need,

Wocken said. About 29 percent of natural gas that comes up with oil is flared off in North Dakota oilfields because of gathering infrastructure that lags behind rapid oil production. Worsening the problem is that the gas is only worth about 20 percent of what the crude oil is, so producers aren't as likely to put their money toward getting it.

The conditions add up to a golden business opportunity for the company that finds a way to capture the gas economically.

Nearly 40 companies were on the growing list as of Friday. Infinia Technology Corp. has received a lot of calls from interested parties since being added to the site, said Peter Brehm, company president.

The company's proposal, for technology under development, would enable the well-site processing of natural gas by separating out ethane and liquefying natural gas that can be used as a fuel for trucking and drilling/fracking operations in the Bakken.

The proposals vary in form. One, for example, is for a technology that would be part of a gas processing plant. A Siluria

Technologies proposal would use a catalytic process to turn the natural gas into ethylene and then gasoline — a cheaper and more scalable way than traditional gas-to-liquids technology.

Infinia is one collaborator with GTUIT, a service and technology company that can combine its gas processing technology with other liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas or power generation technologies that require "conditioned gas" to operate, said Brian Cebull, president of the company.

While it's not a technology that can be deployed at a remote flare, it can help the problem by making the gas more valuable in the end, said Rahul Iyer, senior director of corporate development for the company.

"It takes a lot of different types of solutions — infrastructure, technologies, best practices — to address this very complex situation," he said, "and we think we have something that can be part of the solution but the reality is it's a complicated situation on the ground."

Iyer said Siluria added its in-

formation to the website to connect with other stakeholders.

"If we don't build a consortium with all these different stakeholders ... the likelihood of success is less," he said.

"It's really just about reaching out and starting to build the relationships."

The EERC sent out a request for information in November that described the nature of Bakken gas and solicited help from vendors that may have technology to help.

That was to weed out any companies whose technology simply wouldn't work in the Bakken, Wocken said. Some people have contacted the EERC but backed off after learning more about the quality and quantity of the gas, like its high natural gas liquids content.

The problem is a complex one that requires different types of solutions, Iyer said.

"Flare mitigation has been a challenge globally for a long time," he said. "The Bakken isn't the first time or the first place, and it won't be the last place or the last time where dealing with flared gas is a really meaningful challenge."

Online lottery game spicy and controversial

By Don Davis
Forum News Service

ST. PAUL — Debate about online gambling already is hot, but it just got spicier.

Spicy 7's to be precise. That is the new Minnesota Lottery online scratch-off game that lottery officials say will not increase gambling, but critics bet the other way.

The game is simple: A player sees a tic-tac-toe-like game board and uses a computer mouse to click on squares, hoping to get three 7s in a row. If that happens, a player can win \$777.

The lottery made no announcement of the game going live, but sold 964 \$1 tickets in the first day after it started Thursday, Lottery Executive Director Ed Van Petten said. The lottery wanted to test it out quietly before the general public began visiting.

"So far, it is working perfectly," he said Friday.

A trial version of the game can be played for free, without any chance of winning. To play for money, funds must be put into an account that also can be used to play lotto-type games like Gopher 5. Only people in Minnesota may play online, although players do not need to be Minnesotans.

Minnesotans have been able to buy lotto tickets online for years, but the difference is that the in new online scratch game players know right away if they won, much like when they play traditional paper scratch-off games.

Van Petten said the game is aimed at attracting younger players to traditional games, and he expects many of the new players to buy paper tickets at retail outlets. He said the aim is not to build an online scratch-game following.

"We look at it more as brand awareness, more of a marketing tool than anything, to introduce our prod-

uct to a new demographic," Van Petten said.

Those who oppose gambling don't see things that way.

President Jack Meeks of Citizens Against Gambling Expansion said that state law does not allow the lottery to set up online games. If the game is to be legal, he said, the Legislature must specifically approve it.

"When the Minnesota Lottery was written into statute and enacted over 20 years ago, no one could have imagined that technology would advance to where it is now," Meeks said. "The lottery's unilateral decision to become the first state in the country to wade into online scratch-offs without legislative oversight is just further evidence that the lottery is overreaching and proves we need legislation to clearly define what they can and cannot do."

Van Petten said state law does allow the new game, but it is not designed to make the lottery more money. He said that existing retail outlets are his priority and they have produced all lottery sales growth over the years.

Lottery receipts are down 2.8 percent from a year ago, he said, and the new game could help make up the deficit. However, he added, lotto-type games are where most of the rebound needs to happen.

As the population ages, some of the older players no longer can take part, so the lottery is looking at younger players who may prefer to use online options.

"We definitely don't want (the online game) to be the primary source for these tickets," Van Petten said. "We still want our retailers to be. But we would like to initiate more contact with more individuals on the Internet."

Online players are limited to spending \$50 a week.



More information and a free trial Spicy 7's game are available at www.mnlottery-ilottery.com/eit/gamedetails/200.

Minnesota farmers gird for end to the corn boom

By Mark Steil
Minnesota Public Radio
News

WINDOM, Minn. — Corn farmers in the upper Midwest have seen record profits in the last three years. But those good times appear to be over.

The huge harvest last fall caused corn prices to tumble by nearly half from more than \$7 bushel.

That likely means lower profits this year for most crop farmers, said Mike Boehlje, a professor of agricultural economics at Purdue University. "We don't think we can continue to have the prosperity and the boom cycle that we've got," Boehlje said.

But the last few years will make for sweet memories when corn farmers recall their glory days in the decades ahead.

Michael Wojah, a farmer in southwest Minnesota who scraped and struggled for

most of his life to scrape by and keep ahead of debt is on solid financial ground for the first time.

"The pressure's off," Wojah said.

For corn farmers, the pressure release valve opened when corn prices reached \$8 a bushel, bringing them more than double what it took to grow the grain in some years. Other crops, such as soybeans and wheat, also have had some very profitable years.

Wojahn, 60, said the boom years have paid for his retirement.

"It really wasn't only until about the last five years that I could say that I was comfortable enough to feel good about an easy retirement," he said. "Up until then I was still wondering, how long am I going to have to farm, to keep living?"

A University of Minnesota

survey of more than 1,300 crop farmers shows just how good it's been. For the three years from 2010 to 2012, their annual median net farm income was an average of about \$188,000 per farm.

Data for 2013 isn't available yet, but corn prices were good for much of last year.

Although the good times are ending, farmers enjoyed quite a run.

Boehlje said there have been only three other periods of sustained high profits in farming during the last century. Both world wars saw economic prosperity in agriculture. The 1970's also saw high farm incomes.

However, every cycle eventually ended, sometimes with a farm bust. That happened in the 1920's, when depressed crop prices extended into the Great Depression.

The good times of the 1970's ended with a bust in land

prices and the farm crisis of the 1980's.

Still, Boehlje thinks there's a good chance the current boom will end without many farmers going out of business. If current assessments prove accurate, he said, soft economic landing is the most probable outcome.

"Soft landing doesn't mean that you don't have some financial challenges," Boehlje said.

Indeed, the U.S. Department of Agriculture projects a decline of about 20 percent in net farm income in 2015 and 2016.

Although such a drop hurts farmers' balance sheets, Boehlje said it should be manageable for most operations. Land prices could decline 15 percent or so. But no one is expecting what happened in the 1980's, when values declined by half, forcing many farmers out of business.

EXHIBIT/

Continued from Page B1

landscapes using encaustic, a hot wax medium; 10 text paintings; and 23 acrylic portrait studies.

"I hope that my work somehow captures a sense of the journey I have been on to understand life in this place, to understand the ties that bind this place with the rest of us and the

struggles that all of us go through to try to find a way to live together in this world," Schouten said in May at the New York show.

Other artists are Terry Jelsing, a Rugby, N.D., multimedia artist; Bill Harbort, an art professor at Minot State University; Mary Lucier, a New York video artist; and Rena Effendi, a photographer originally from Azerbaijan.

TED/

Continued from Page B1

she said. "It never seems like work to me.

"I fell into entrepreneurship twice, with my fashion company and my tutoring business. Many millennials are making up their own careers. They're just as smart and hard-working; they just do it in a different way."

TEDx events are smaller, local versions of TED Talks lectures on ideas in science and culture.

The TEDxGrand Forks event had nine speakers at the Empire and three more via videos. TED stands for technology, entertainment and design, with its mission being "ideas worth spreading." The program is designed to stimulate dialogue through TED-like events at the local level.

The TEDx local events are planned and coordinated independently, on a community-by-community basis.

The Empire had a sold-out crowd of 100 in attendance. A viewing party, organized independently, was also held in the Memorial Union's Loading Dock on the UND campus.

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CASINO/

Continued from Page B1

off of a reservation would require approval at several levels, including the federal Department of the Interior and the governor, according to information provided by city staff.

Before such a project could go ahead, it would also have to address financial viability, economic benefits, historic tribal connections to the off-reservation site of the casino, environmental effects, costs and other implications for nearby communities.

The tribe pushed for a Grand Forks casino in 2005 and 2006, but the effort lost to community opposition and lack of support on the city and state levels. The proposal was brought up again in 2009, but fizzled in part by not winning approval from then-Gov. John Hoeven.

Sande said he hoped to hear from casino supporters on what it would do for the city.

"There have to be benefits for the people of Grand Forks," he said.

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Missouri man accused of prostituting woman from China at Bismarck hotel

By Mike Nowatzki
Forum News Service

BISMARCK — A Missouri man is accused of prostituting his 41-year-old wife from China at a Bismarck hotel.

Marvin Rex Lord, 67, of Festus, Mo., was arrested



Lord

Thursday and charged Friday in Burleigh County District Court with facilitation of prostitution, a Class C felony

punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The woman, also listed as being from Festus, was arrested and charged with Class B misdemeanor prostitution in Bismarck Municipal Court. She pleaded not guilty

Friday and requested a court trial, which was set for March 6.

Forum News Service isn't naming the woman, who has a different last name, because police were investigating whether she might be a victim of human trafficking. Sgt. Mark Buschena said the woman came to the United States on a visa from China, but he didn't know her legal status.

Police set up an undercover operation after being called to the hotel Thursday afternoon by a manager, who reported suspicious activity because Lord was meeting men in the lobby, walking them up to his third-floor room and then waiting in the lobby until they left, an affidavit states.

An investigator contacted Lord by phone and was instructed to go to his room, where the woman offered the investigator sex for money,

the affidavit states. Police contacted Lord as he was trying to walk out of the hotel.

Lord told police that the woman was his wife, and when asked if he knew why police were there, he said prostitution, the affidavit states.

Lord made his first court appearance Friday afternoon, saying he and his wife had been in Bismarck for a little more than a week and that he had no prior criminal record. He requested a court-appointed attorney.

Assistant State's Attorney Marjorie Kohls recommended bail at \$10,000 cash only, noting Lord has no ties to the community and could pick up and leave. District Judge Bruce Romanick set bail at \$20,000 cash or \$2,000 bond.

"I don't have it," Lord said. Lord and the woman remained in the Burleigh County Detention Center on

Friday afternoon.

Facilitation of prostitution is normally a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine. But it can be charged as a Class C felony carrying up to five years in prison if prosecutors believe the suspect forced the person into prostitution, if the prostitute is the suspect's spouse, child or ward, or if the prostitute is less than 16 years old.

Prostitution reports are rare in Bismarck. Police received only one report in 2010, two reports each in 2008, 2009 and 2011, and three reports each in 2012 and 2013, Buschena said. One of the reports last year led to charges, and the two other cases were closed because one had a lack of evidence and the other report was unfounded, he said.

Reach Nowatzki at (701) 255-5607 or by email at mnowatzki@forumcomm.com.

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