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Bringing back Bobcat jobs

35 workers to come back to Bismarck plant's former site

By CHRISTOPHER BJORKE
Bismarck Tribune

The Bobcat Co. will bring back some production to its Bismarck fac-

tory through the hiring of 35 workers by a logistics company that assembles its machines here.

Menlo Worldwide Logistics has done support operations for Bobcat at its building at the Northern Plains Commerce Centre since 2006. Menlo announced Wednesday that it will hire approximately 35 workers and use 25,000 square feet of the 463,000-square-foot production

plant that Bobcat closed in December 2009.

Menlo has 120 employees doing component logistics work and supply-chain management in Bismarck. The 35 new positions will be an extension of Menlo's work here and will perform pre-production machining, subassembly and delivery services, according to Menlo. "They've outgrown their capacity

at the MSC," said Bobcat spokeswoman Laura Ness Owens, referring to Bobcat's manufacturing support center at the NPCC.

She said the announcement should not be taken as a return of Bobcat's former manufacturing presence in Bismarck, and stressed that Menlo would use only a small portion of the factory. The plant is *Continued on 9A*

"Frankly, some of these companies didn't feel we could get this amount of runoff, but Mother Nature proved we can."

Dennis Fewless,
director of water quality for the state Health Department

SALUTE TO THE FALLEN



TOM STROMME/Tribune

IN THE LINE OF DUTY: Jackie Lundstrom, front, and other North Dakota Peace Officers Association Honor Guard members fire a rifle salute Wednesday afternoon at a ceremony to honor peace officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The annual ceremony on the Capitol grounds featured messages from Gov. Jack Dalrymple and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. A memorial wreath was placed at the Peace Officer Memorial. Members of the honor guard are from the Department of Corrections, Highway Patrol, Game and Fish Department and the Morton County Sheriff's Department. There are 59 peace officers' names on the memorial outside the Judicial Wing of the Capitol. In his remarks, Stenehjem spoke about Benson County Sheriff's Deputy Valence Pascal, who died in 1993.

Big fines for 47 flooded oil pits

By JAMES MacPHERSON
Associated Press

Nineteen oil companies working in North Dakota's oil patch face fines totaling several million dollars for failing to protect waste pits from spring flooding, state regulators and health officials said Wednesday.

Lynn Helms, the director of the state Department of Mineral Resources, told The Associated Press that 47 waste ponds were swamped this spring by meltwater from one of the state's snowiest winters on record.

The waste pit breaches came after widespread warnings of the spring flood potential following heavy snowfall across the state. Williston, in the heart of the state's oil patch, had nearly 100 inches of snow this year, topping the previous high of about 95 inches set in 1895, the National Weather Service said.

Helms said at least five swamped sites will be fined more than \$500,000 each because no action was taken to prevent the spills.

"Their response to the cleanup also was very slow or inadequate," he said.

Owners of 40 of the sites will be fined a minimum of \$12,500, he said.

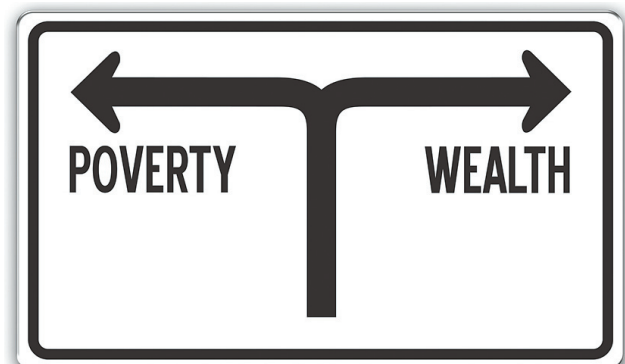
Complaints against the companies will be filed soon, and the total amount of the combined fines is still being tallied, officials said Wednesday.

Runoff from the waste pits, which are about the size of a large swimming pool and can contain oil, diesel, drilling muds and chemicals, has not threatened drinking water sources, said Dennis Fewless, director of water quality for the state Health Department.

"Having said that, there will be a continual process of testing," he said.

Cleanup is still going on at many of the spill sites and could take months, officials said. They said the number of polluted acres is still unknown.

Glenn Wollan, a field supervisor with the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division, said New York City-based Hess Corp. accounted for *Continued on 9A*



Gap between rich and poor growing

Average shoppers sticking to basics; wealthy splurging

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK — High gas prices are driving a wider wedge between the wealthy and everybody else.

The rich are back to pre-recession splurging: Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom customers are treating themselves to luxury items like \$5,000 Hermes handbags and \$700 Jimmy

Choo shoes, and they're paying full price.

At Target and Walmart, shoppers are concentrating on groceries and skipping even little luxuries. BJ's Wholesale Corp. said Wednesday that its customers are buying more hamburger and chicken and less steak and buying smaller packs to save money.

"The average shopper isn't in the game, except for necessities," said Faith Hope Consolo, chairman of retail leasing and marketing *Continued on 9A*

It's the end of the world as we know it ... or is it?

By TOM BREEN
Associated Press

For some, it's Judgment Day. For others, it's party time.

A loosely organized Christian movement has spread the word around the globe that Jesus Christ will return to earth on Saturday to gather the faithful into heaven. While the Christian mainstream isn't buying it, many other skeptics are milking it.

A Facebook page titled "Post rapture looting" offers this invitation: "When

everyone is gone and god's not looking, we need to pick up some sweet stereo equipment and maybe some new furniture for the mansion we're going to squat in." By Wednesday afternoon, more than 175,000 people indicated they would be "attending" the "public event."

The prediction is also being mocked in the comic strip "Doonesbury" and has inspired "Rapture parties" to celebrate what hosts expect will be the failure of the world to come to an end.

In the Army town of Fayetteville, N.C., the local chapter of the American Humanist Association has turned the event into a two-day extravaganza, with a Saturday night party followed by a day-after concert.

"Christians are openly scoffing at this."

Gerri Weaver, organizer of a "Rapture party" in Fayetteville, N.C.

"It's not meant to be insulting, but *Continued on 9A*



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