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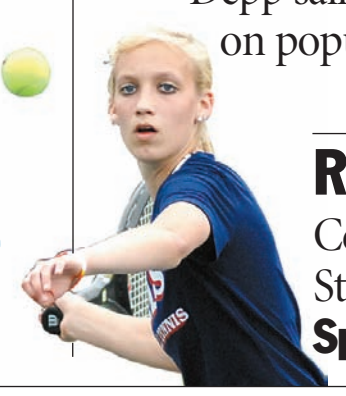

Region girls tennis

Century tops St. Mary's for team title

Sports, 1D

Rain on tap

Cool weather to follow

BY BRIAN GEHRING
Bismarck Tribune

A slow-moving low pressure system working its way into the state could bring thunderstorms and heavy rain to the area, prompting flood watches for the western half of North Dakota.

Ken Simosko, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Bismarck, said showers were starting to pop up in the Hettinger area by mid-afternoon Thursday and were expected to reach the Bismarck-Mandan area by sundown.

The heavier stuff — with the potential for 1-2 inches of rain through Saturday night — was exected to move in after midnight and continue this morning.

"There is the potential for heavy rain at times ... and the potential for creeks and streams to rise," Simosko said.

The flood watch is in effect through Saturday and includes everything west of a north-south line from Towner to Oakes.

Simosko said thunderstorms are likely this morning, with a continued chance for more storms throughout the day into Saturday evening.

That could enhance local rainfall totals, with the potential for some areas getting up to a half-inch of rain within a 5- to 6-hour period.

Things will be little cool throughout the weekend into the early part of next week, with highs in the mid-60s and easterly winds from 20 mph to 25 mph. Lows will be in the lower to mid-50s Saturday and Sunday, then dip down to around 40 by Monday.

Simosko said things look dry Monday and Tuesday but with highs only reaching the upper 50s.

Normal highs for this time of the year are around 70.

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

A borderline embrace

President pushes to base plans on 1967 borders

By BEN FELLER
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Exasperated by stalled Middle East peace talks in a season of tumultuous change, President Barack Obama jolted close ally Israel Thursday by embracing the Palestinians' terms for drawing the borders of their new nation next door. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel rejected the idea as "indefensible" on the eve of his vital White House meeting with Obama.

The U.S. president said that an independent Palestine should be based on 1967 borders — before the Six Day War in which Israel occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza — as adjusted by possible land swaps agreed upon by both sides. He said Israel can never live in true peace as a Jewish state if it insists on "per-

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President Barack Obama passes Secretary of State Hillary Clinton before delivering a policy address on events in the Middle East at the State Department in Washington on Thursday. (Associated Press)

LAUREN DONOVAN/Tribune

Trucks pulling up to this salt water well disposal site in southern Dunn County will soon find NO PARKING signs on the adjacent county gravel road.

MANNING — In Dunn County, signs are going up and oilfield trucks will have to quit parking on the gravel roads. Offenders will be ticketed, and hopefully the danger posed by trucks backed up on the gravel roads and out onto the highway will end.

The Dunn County Commission took action Wednesday to try to protect its citizens and its roads in a couple of key locations in the oil patch where a steady stream of drivers haul salt water from oil wells to disposal sites.

"If you're trying to curtail (the road parking), sign it and be done with it," Ross Sundeen, Dunn County state's attorney, told the commission. "I don't have much of a chance of getting a conviction without the signing." But, he pointed out, "Some guys are making enough money that a $20 ticket doesn't mean anything to them anyway."

> **"Some guys are making enough money that a $20 ticket doesn't mean anything to them anyway."**
> *Ross Sundeen, Dunn County state's attorney*

Still, the county feels it has to try something.

"The impact is tremendous," said commission chairman Daryl Dukart.

The disposal wells are where toxic salt water that comes up along with oil gets injected into deep underground formations.

The more producing oil wells that are drilled, the more wastewater is produced and the more the demand is for places to inject it.

Dukart

"It's going to get worse because there are not enough (disposal) wells," Dukart said. "Basically, this is about safety."

Depending on the day, dozens of trucks are lined up to unload. Drivers park on the shoulder of the county road and sometimes out on Highway 22 while waiting their turn, creating a hazard for other drivers and damaging the soft road shoulders.

Dukart said adjacent landowners have said they're willing to sell a couple of acres for truck parking to the well owners. The county's new no-tolerance position may force the well owners to buy and build off-road parking areas sooner rather

Continued on 7A

BY LAUREN DONOVAN/ TRIBUNE

Mountrail County says no more next spring

Mountrail County is giving fair warning: no overweight trucks next spring.

Even with the extra money being pumped in for road repair, oil patch counties need to take protective measures to keep their road systems functioning.

INSIDE
New oil field inspectors to step up oversight, **5B**

Mountrail County Commissioner Greg Boschee said roads in his county, where 40 percent of the state's oil is produced, are in such tough shape that even the oil industry jumped in to help with repairs in recent weeks.

"The oil industry helped us out a lot," bringing equipment and road fill materials to patch holes and repair damage alongside the country crews.

"We've got holes so deep, a pickup can't get across them. It's getting better, but if we get more rain ..." Boschee said.

In some places, trucks carrying heavy equipment got stuck, and Caterpillars sent to pull them out got stuck, too, he said.

Weight restrictions are posted every spring, when roads are most thawing and most vulnerable.

However, truckers who want to carry more weight than posted buy an

Continued on 7A

Troop morale takes a plunge

Afghanistan report shows costs of war

By PAULINE JELINEK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As fighting and casualties in Afghanistan's war reached an all-time high, U.S. soldiers and Marines there reported plunging morale and the highest rates of mental health problems in five years.

The grim statistics in a new Army report released Thursday dramatize the psychological cost of a military campaign that U.S. commanders and officials say has reversed the momentum of the Taliban insurgency.

Military doctors said the findings from a battlefield survey taken last summer were no surprise given the dramatic increase in combat, which troops reported was at its most intense level since officials began doing mental health analyses in 2003.

"There are few stresses on the human psyche as extreme as the exposure to combat and seeing what war can do," Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, the Army surgeon general, said at a Pentagon news conference.

Some 70 percent to 80 percent of troops surveyed for the report said they had seen a buddy killed, roughly half of soldiers and 56 percent of Marines said they'd killed an enemy fighter, and about two-thirds of troops said that a roadside bomb — the No. 1 weapon of insurgents — had gone off within 55 yards of them.

Most of those statistics were significantly higher than what troops said they experienced in the previous year in Afghanistan as well as during the 2007 surge of extra troops into the Iraq war, the report said.

Some 20 percent of troops said they had suffered a psychological problem such as anxiety, severe stress or depression. Considering the intense levels of combat they are seeing, that number may actually be small, said Col. Paul Bliese, who led the last three survey teams to the battlefield, in 2007, 2009 and 2010.

"We would have expected to see a much larger increase in the mental health symptoms and a much larger decrease in morale ... based on these incredibly high rates of exposure" to traumatic combat events, Bliese said. The report's authors took the statistics as evidence that the force is resilient, a trait the military has been working to develop in troops.

The report is a snapshot of the health of the forces in Afghanistan last year, drawn

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Unabomber suspect
May be same Tylenol poisoner from unsolved 1982 killings — 2A

Toast of the roast
"Roastmaster General" Ross roasts Bismarck May 27 — 1B

Saturday
New Life Church pastor writes of healing, recovery

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