

UND begins using concussion prevention helmets, Page A4

Grand Forks reraid

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2019

'Thank you for coming up with this idea'

ND man who pushed for first responder plates, park access honored

By Kim Fundingsland Minot Daily News

MINOT — He was so impressed with their volunteerism that he wanted to make sure their dedication was recognized state-

Norval Semchenko of Max received an award of appreciation late Friday morning, Aug. 2, in a brief ceremony held at the Burlington Fire Department.

It was a fitting location for the event.

Semchenko was being recognized for his tireless work on behalf of volunteer first responders in North Dakota. He championed Initiated Measure No. 4 that was on the ballot for last November's general election.

RESPONDERS: Page A2

About a dozen Triceratops skulls found in North **Dakota**

By Eloise Ogden Minot Daily News

BISMARCK — A California college student who found a 65-million-yearold Triceratops skull in the North Dakota Badlands made state and national news several days ago.

"Finding good skulls is difficult," said Clint Boyd, senior paleontologist with the North Dakota Geologi-

cal Survey.

He said Triceratops are rather common in the Hell Creek formation and finding bones of the Tricer-

atops in various places is not unusual.

The formation stretches over portions of North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming. Boyd said about a dozen

Triceratops skulls have been found in the state. These are the result of work by the N.D. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service and others.

The North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck has an exhibit on the Triceratops in its Adaptation Gallery: Geologic Time. Other places with Triceratops skulls displayed include the University of North Dakota and the Badlands Dinosaur Museum in Dickinson.

The Barnes County Historical Society Museum in Valley City has on display Gundy, an 18-foot replica of a fossilized Triceratops found in the Hell Creek

TRICERATOPS: Page A2



Photos by Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald

Too big, too fast

North Dakota's other housing problem

By Sam Easter North Dakota Newspaper Association

The South Unit of the North Dakota State Penitentiary in Bismarck.

Bismarck

at Bohn has spent a long time working in corrections long enough to climb from a rank-and-file parole and probation officer in the 1990s to a job heading North Dakota's entire parole and probation operation today. He's seen a lot of things change.

Chief among them is a philosophical shift in how North Dakota treats its criminals. Gone are the highly punitive, toughon-crime ideas of the 1990s. Now, state leaders — from the Legislature to the front offices at the state penitentiary — have come to embrace ideas they argue help criminals become better neighbors and citizens.

Average parole time that's the time spent finishing a sentence in the outside world — is going up in North Dakota, both as a result of legal changes and the parole board increasingly letting prisoners out earlier. State legislators, faced with growing prison populations, are decreasing criminal penalties and making it easier for offenders to find themselves on probation instead

Bohn's work is right where those ideas meet the rest of the

"You listen to people, right? And they think, 'You do the crime, you do the time,' type of analogy," he said. "That's where the disconnect is at. And I think that's where the tough work is ... ours is not about being harsh or lenient. Ours is about being reasoned toward finding a balance of accountability and behavior change. And that doesn't always mesh within our culture and what people want to see on the front page of the

Bohn is doing the work that the state has tasked him with.



Grand Forks County State's Attorney Haley Wamstad, seen here in her office in May, said she sees a public safety risk because of a strained parole and probation and system.

But for some observers, what the state is doing amounts to shifting a problem, raising questions about the wisdom behind — or at least, the dollars committed to — the criminal justice reforms.

For some, the effect of all these policy and attitude changes is taking the problem of prison crowding and making it an issue of probation and parole overload — to the public's detriment.

"It's absolutely a public safety risk," Grand Forks County State's Attorney Haley Wamstad said. "When these folks are returning from incarceration, that's probably when they're at the highest risk of reoffending and posing a risk to the public. When a judge places somebody on supervised probation, or places somebody in the North Dakota penitentiary, the judge does not do so lightly. These are folks who need supervision. They need monitoring in order to keep our streets safe and these people from reoffending."

Exactly what a parole and probation officer's experience is like, though, is hard to say. In researching this series, the Grand Forks Herald and North Dakota Newspaper Association reached out to dozens of sources, including state's attorneys, law enforcement, legislators and the highest-ranking members of the state's prison system. A reporter and photographer toured two prisons. A reporter read hundreds of pages of state documents.

At no point was a reporter granted the chance to speak with a rank-and-file parole and probation officer. A prison system spokesperson would not clarify the reason why despite repeated questioning.

Behind these changes are also questions about the resources states like North Dakota have to house prisoners. According to a state corrections spokesperson, the cost of incarceration is about \$43,000 per inmate per year. The equivalent cost of a parolee

is about \$1,700. This has grown more relevant as the cost of running North Dakota's correctional system has skyrocketed. In inflation-

NDNA

EDITOR'S NOTE

This series, sponsored by the North **Dakota Newspaper Association** and the Grand Forks Herald, aims to answer questions at the difficult intersection between budget crunches, criminal justice and the well-being of North Dakota's communities. As rising prison populations stress the state's corrections system, how will state leaders address what some say is a risk to public safety?

- ► Saturday: How corrections officials manage North Dakota's
- ► Sunday: The political sea changes that built North Dakota's
- ► Today: North Dakota's other housing problem
- ► Tuesday: Is North Dakota's criminal safety net too thin?
- ► Wednesday: How will North Dakota balance budgets and

criminal justice?

adjusted dollars, the department expended about \$120 million in the 1999-2001 biennium, according to state documents. But by the 2015-2017 biennium, it was spending \$232 million nearly double, after spending even more in the previous biennium. The department has added the equivalent of more than 260 full-time positions during the same period.

That's because, by almost any measure, the job the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has to do has grown precipitously in recent years. Its total number of adult inmates grew from fewer than 1,000 at the end of 1999 to an annual average of 1,761 in late 2016. The same explosive growth was happening in the parole and probation populations, too.

But this kind of steady growth has come as North Dakota's financial resources have ebbed and flowed. The state's tax and fee revenues peaked in the 2013-2015 biennium; general fund revenues still haven't recovered.

PRISONS: Page A3

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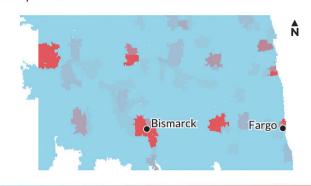
From Page A1

The tension between the prison system's explosive growth and the state's resources is one of the most important dynamics behind recent reforms. HB 1216, submitted to the Legislature during this year's session would have required a prosecutor to estimate the cost of the sentences they recommend for criminals sent to North Dakota prisons. It was

withdrawn before a vote. The state has acknowledged struggling to keep up with the demands of its criminal population. The DOCR's 2013-2015 biennial report, describing parole and probation, notes that "the number of offenders under supervision has surged and caused many challenges for the division. Parole officer caseloads have risen to more than 130 offenders in some areas, and staff has struggled to keep up with the workload increases." That problem has lessened, but it hasn't gone away. The 2015-17 biennial report still calls the number "higher than would be optimal," at about 75 parolees and probationers per supervisor, though "significantly lower." The report for the 2017-2019

Where parolees went in 2018

The map shows the number of parolees discharged to each zip code in 2018. The map's darkest color indicates 30 or more parolees.



10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30

Note: Only shows parolees discharged by DOCR in North Dakota. Some parolees with PO Box addresses not shown. Some trans-boundary zip

Source: North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

North Dakota Newspaper Association

released as of this report.

State employment data helps shed light on how the corrections department has managed these changes. In April 2013, the department's Parole and Probation Division employed 63 parole and probation officers, one of which worked part-time. By December 2018, that number had risen more than 30%, to 82, all fulltime. Total corrections agents, another group that supervises offenders on release, ticked up from 19 to 21. A department spokesperson said that April 2013 are the earliest available records that describe the division's

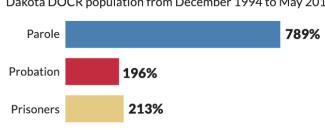
employment composition in such detail.

Bohn hesitates to say exactly what the average caseload is now. He said numbers can range as low as 25 cases for division staff in drug courts which can involve timeconsuming cases — and reach up to 100 or more for others. The department is refining its definition for average caseloads, which he said may grow to include averages over time or de-emphasize parolees who are supervised in other states.

Bohn said North Dakota's parole and probation officers often have persevered through

Parolees: The fastest-growing group

This chart shows the percentage growth in each key North Dakota DOCR population from December 1994 to May 2019.



Sources: North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, U.S. Department of Justice

those high caseloads, though. When he ioined the corrections department in 1995, caseloads could reach as

News

high as 120 or 130, he said. "Matter of fact, I think I still have some of my caseload sheets sitting in one of my drawers; pull that out every now and then," he said with a laugh. "But in terms of morale, (the job) can be stressful for people, because the staff that we have are really invested in wanting to help people change their lives ... I think our caseloads need to be down across the state — in that 25 to 40 range is where I'd like to see them go. Because then you can start doing real work with people.

But it's unclear if the state is doing enough. Some of the progressive policies passed in recent years are poised to put more pressure on the

North Dakota Newspaper Association

parole and probation system. The state's 2017 reforms include "presumptive probation," which makes probation the default sentence for low-level crimes. Though this has the effect of decreasing pressure on prison availability, it's designed to redirect that pressure on parole and probation resources.

Bertsch disagrees with the assessment that new policies lean too heavy on Bohn's officers, though, arguing that probationers and parolees, as a group, aren't growing any faster than the inmate population.

But that prisoner population is limited in part by the prison system's capacity — which state leaders are loath to expand. And according to a DOCR spokesperson, the department has a capacity for 1,624 men and 224 women — and,

as of July 10, the system included 1,555 men and 226 women.

But Linster and other state leaders point out that state reforms go beyond just shifting how North Dakota manages criminals — or where it stores them. Free Through Recovery, a behavioral health program founded for the formerly incarcerated, was launched by the state in 2017. One of its goals is to rehabilitate them more effectively, too, which helps cut down on crime overall — with the hope that leads to fewer offenders entering the

criminal justice system. In the meantime, though, the parole and probation workload remains heavy.

"I'm asking the court to put (many offenders) on probation, which then puts more people in the probationary system," Mountrail County State's **Attorney Wade Enget** said. "And I don't know that they've had that many more probationary officers in their system to supervise people that have been placed on probation (or parole)."

Those kinds of policies take a toll. "All I do is I ask the

probation officers, 'How's your caseload?'" Enget said. "And they just look at me and they say, 'it's extreme."



biennium had yet to be

Ask Amy

Amy Dickinson **SYNDICATED** COLUMNIST

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

CLERGY

The golfers wanted to use the driving range, so

they decided to - SWING BY THE COURSE

(Answers tomorrow)

The youngest two are bio-sisters and came to us when they

These sisters have always struggled, and we were in and out

They have accused us of abuse (not true).

They both have substance abuse issues, and have exhausted their brothers and sister, too, with their lies and behavior.

hurt and I do not know how to help. How can we mend this torn

-- Hurting Mom

MUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles

one letter to each square to form four ordinary words.

RIFTL

SUDEO

FRETOF

NSAATZ

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Print your answer here:

Saturday's Jumbles Answer:

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Jumbles: SPICY

Dear Hurting: You seem to have given your all to your children. I hope you have something left for yourself.

Ideally, adult children more or less take up where their parents left off and continue to raise themselves as they mature, his own experience led him, finally, to focus not on his failed,

but aware and sensitive families face a reckoning when they realize -- surprise -- there is no such thing as an ideal family.

According to information published by the National Institutes of Health, "Addictions are moderately to highly heritable. Family, adoption, and twin studies reveal that an individual's risk tends to be proportional to the degree of genetic relationship to an addicted relative."

Your youngest daughters may have entered the world already marked for the struggles with addiction disorders that they are facing now.

Unfortunately, you may not be able to mend your torn family. Parenting at this point for your challenging younger daughters may mean establishing firm boundaries and supporting recovery, but not enabling addiction. You may have to train yourselves and your other children to learn how to lovingly detach from them. Therapy at this point should focus on your own coping skills, as well as exploring concepts such as codependency.

Charles Rubin has written a tough, searing book based on his own experience being the parent of addicted children: "Don't Let Your Kids Kill You: A Guide for Parents of Drug and Alcohol Addicted Children." New Century Publishers (2007).

When I interviewed Mr. Rubin about his book, he told me that

futile and frustrating efforts to save his adult children from their addictions but on saving himself.

It might be time for you to surrender to your own powerlessness over your daughters' addiction, and make a choice to focus on your own health and recovery.

Sometimes, pulling back or detaching can disrupt the dynamic enough to nudge troubled people toward taking responsibility for their own recovery. Other times, detaching will have no effect on the family members you are trying to help, but it will help you. And you and your other children living good and healthy lives is better than everyone going down with the ship. Dear Amy: We recently put our home for sale. Our next-door

neighbors are nice. We say hello that's about it. The problem is that their property is unkempt. A pool in their yard collapsed years ago, and it's still laying

in the yard, along with the broken and rotted decking that was

The trim is coming off in some spots and missing in others. Several potential buyers have asked if the house was abandoned, or if anyone lives there. We've been asked, "What's the story over there?"

I don't believe my neighbors are breaking any laws. I don't want to create hard feelings. Can I say something, or should I just keep my mouth shut? -- Home Owner

Dear Home Owner: If I gave you permission to say something to these neighbors, what would it be? "Hello, nice people. Please, clean up your property, so I can sell mine and get you some new neighbors?

No, if these people won't clean up their property for their own sakes, they're not going to clean it up for you. If they aren't violating any local statutes, then it is what it is.

You could communicate this to prospective buyers: "In our time living here, we haven't really gotten to know the neighbors very well, but they seem very nice. We've never had any problems of any kind with them."

Dear Amy: "Empathetic from Afar" felt burdened by a friend's requests for support through social media.

I appreciated your suggestion that support doesn't always need to be financial. Maintaining contact and a connection is helpful, too.

to crowdsource support for their expenses. But support takes

Dear Amy: All five of my now-adult children were adopted. were four and five. of counseling as they grew up.

Amy, they refuse to even talk to us. My heart breaks for their

HOROSCOPE -

Note: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put

A baby born today has a Sun in Leo Moon in Gemini until 7:36 a.m. when the Moon moves into Cancer.

readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Aug.

5, 2019:

<u>8</u>5

BISHOF

This year, you flow through problems and warm up to many new ideas. When communicating, you demonstrate a special quality that encourages responsiveness from others. If single, you draw quite a few admirers. Your biggest problem will be sorting through your many potential sweeties! Don't get discouraged. If you're attached, your significant other appears to blossom in front of your very eyes. Your newfound receptiveness helps this person open up. Together, you relish a new form of closeness. LIBRA helps you see both sides of a situation.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic: 4-Positive: 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★ ★ ★ ★ ◆ Opportunities pop up from nearly everywhere. Although you might be thrilled by what you hear, making a choice could be difficult. A power play could be more complicated than you anticipate. You'll move in a new direction. Tonight: If you can dream it, then it can happen. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★ ★ ★ Pace yourself; you have a lot of ground to cover. A loved one or partner comes through in a big way. A family member could be touchy, or a matter involving property could arise. Tonight: Get some extra R and R. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) $\star\star\star\star\star$ Your imagination takes

over and allows unusual creativity. A partner or close associate speaks his or her mind. Avoid getting squeezed into a power play. Express your feelings, even if the other party might personalize the message too much. Tonight: Kicking up your heels. CANCER (June 21-July 22) $\star\star\star\star\star$ Your ability to create

and cause others to step back and think emerges. You know what's best for you, but you'll most likely look at what's best for the whole. The unexpected emerges and forces an adjustment but also provides opportunities. Tonight: Chill. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

★ ★ ★ ★ You might choose to approach a situation quickly; what comes up as a result gives you pause to think. You gain important information; your imagination comes forward and creates unusual opportunities. You know what you want. Head in that

Jacqueline Bigar Horoscope

direction. Tonight: Make calls quickly. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★You feel as though you're on a roll. A power play could stop you for a while, but you see a way around

the blockage. Don't lose your pace for too long; you have a lot of ground to cover. Tonight: Dote on a loved one

LIBRA (Sept. 23-0ct. 22)

★★★★ You are personality-plus.

You can achieve a lot just by staying focused. You find an interruption annoying but worth dealing with. You resent someone's decision to shove his or her way into what you deem is your choice. Tonight: Beam in what

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★ ★ ★ You sense that something might be going on behind the scenes, but you don't know what it is. If you ask questions, someone might pull away. Inviting a key person to munchies after work could cause that person to spill the beans. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) $\star\star\star\star$ Zero in on associates. long-term desires and a key friend. You feel different and unlike your usual state. Be careful not to push someone too far and draw a strong reaction. Getting a glimpse of behavior that you find to be a turnoff could be upsetting. Tonight: Where the crowds are. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Others turn to you for your leadership abilities. You could be questioning what might be possible if you relax and don't push someone away. You might not feel comfortable with this key person. Be honest with yourself. Tonight: Get the most out of the moment. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

 $\star\star\star\star$ You seem to make the best of any situation, especially when working with more than one person. Early in the day, make an important long-distance call. What you hear might encourage you to detach and see the big picture. Tonight: Respond to a loved one's efforts. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) $\star\star\star\star\star$ You have one person

with whom you enjoy brainstorming and sharing more than anyone else. Go find this person, especially to discuss a matter that could influence your work. Tonight: Indulge in a good dinner and a chat. **BORN TODAY**

Director/actor John Huston (1906),

musician/filmmaker Adam Yauch (1964), Nobel Prize winning economist Wassily Leontief (1906)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at

www.jacquelinebigar.com

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-CROSSWORD PUZZLE-

FOR RELEASE AUGUST 5, 2019

ACROSS

1 Clipper or galleon 5 Potpie

ingredients 9 Quebec or

Alberta: abbr. 13 Lubricated

15 Torn in two 16 "Penny __";

Beatles hit 17 Fraternity letter 18 Law

20 As light feather 21 Floor cleaner 23 Pinkie, for one

24 Cain & Martin 26 "__-fi-fo-fum..." 27 Wreak havoc on 29 Clergyman

32 Linda Lavin's role 33 "__ Were the Days"

35 Nickname for Margaret 37 Luxurious 38 Minimum

4 Hamster or

5 __ up; provides

6 Suffix for auction

support for

7 __ so forth; et

8 Hardest to bend

9 Mercury or Mars

10 __ up; phoned

or profit

cetera

11 Singly

12 Swerve

19 Family tree

member

22 Late bedtime

25 __ other; one

another

28 Hilo howdy

30 Tyrannical

31 Backsides

34 Head topper

38 Tear roughly

36 Small fly

33 Exam

29 JFK's mother

27 Knocks

14 Wreck

hound

39 Bridge 40 That girl 41 Adhesive

42 Baseball's Yogi 43 Druggie 45 Most rational 46 "Grand __ Opry"

47 Repairs 48 Most popular sport worldwide

51 Have supper 52 "Zip it!" 55 Not fated

58 Adios in Avignon 60 __ phones; Verizon store

display 61 Not slack 62 Bekins employee 63 Patella's place

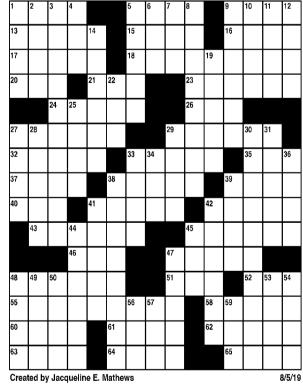
64 Hard-boiled edibles 65 Peddle

DOWN 1 __ pop; soft drink 2 Rushes 3 Foolhardy

Also Empathetic Dear Also: The current health care cost crisis has led people

Send questions via e-mail to askamy@tribune.com or by mail to Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60611.

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews 1 2 3 4



Saturday's Puzzle Solved

SALKS ARCH SILO PRONE LEES YEAH VASE LAS SCHEMEOPINIONS P H I L S G R I N D P E A RODSCLANGMEWS IRECAULK PORES G E S T U R E S S A L A R Y R E D BEND S U R E I I M M E N S I T Y
O P E N N E A R S N O O N
L O A D A M P L E G A R B
O N L Y L O S E S D E C

39 "__ in the Clowns"

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49 Baker's need 50 Composer Porter 54 Throw

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53 Part of the foot 56 In the __; like a sure thing

44 Tame 47 Encounters 48 Defensive

57 Oaf 59 Tijuana two

41 __ up; amassed 42 Feisty rooster 45 Aegean or Yellow tackle's coup

9 6 2 4 9 8 1 4 6 9 3 8 5 9

WOUND

-SUDOKU PUZZLE-

Sudoku puzzle

2 9 6 8 6 5 4 6 4 5 6 8 3 1 6 2 1 4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆ SOLUTION: 3 6 5 8 4 3 2 9 8 5 4 6 7 1 6 2 3 5 9 8 4 5 2 9 3 8 6 4 2 8 9 3 5 1 6 4 3 8 5 4 6 9 5 8 2 4 9 3 6 3

4

9

5

6

9

2

6

1

5

8