

UND hockey sets remarkable pace in pre-Christmas season, Page B1

Grand Forks Herald

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Frigid wind chills, light snow continue through the week

By Hannah Shirley
Grand Forks Herald

Frigid temperatures settled into Grand Forks on Monday, Dec. 9, as city residents dug out from nearly 6 fresh inches of snow. In East Grand Forks, a snow emergency was declared: Parking is not permitted on city streets, and the emergency will

remain in effect until all streets have been cleared.

East Grand Forks Department of Public Works Director Jason Stordahl said, despite the emergency, street conditions Monday morning were good and snow clearing was progressing as normal.

"There are areas that are a

little bit slippery, with the snow cover and the snow packed on, but, for the most part, all the streets are opened up, the main thoroughfares, the arterials are all open right now. Most of the side streets, alleys, we're still working on a few, but conditions are pretty good here in East Grand Forks."

In addition to the snow, greater Grand Forks residents woke up Monday morning to wind chill temperatures well into the range of 20 below zero. The frigid wind chill temperatures are expected to continue throughout the week, according to the National Weather Service in Grand Forks.

Grand Forks Police Lt. Derik Zimmel said police responded to a spike in motor vehicle accidents since the start of the storm, with 17 reported within Grand Forks between 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 and Monday morning. He added that no fatalities have been reported.

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'Clear and present danger'

Democrats' attorney summarizes case for impeaching president

By John Wagner and Colby Itkowitz
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - A lawyer for Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee called President Donald Trump "a clear and present danger" as he summarized the party's case for impeaching him for having abused his power and obstructed a congressional investigation into his conduct in Ukraine.

The testimony from Daniel Goldman before the House Judiciary Committee came amid a crucial hearing at which lawyers for both Democrats and Republicans are making cases for and against impeachment. Earlier, Stephen Castor, a lawyer for Republicans called impeachment "baloney" and said Democrats had failed to make a compelling case.

At the heart of the Democrats' case is the allegation that Trump tried to leverage a White House meeting and military aid, sought by Ukraine to combat Russian military aggression, to pressure President Volodymyr Zelensky to launch an investigation of former vice president Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden, as well as a probe of an unfounded theory that Kyiv conspired with Democrats to interfere in the 2016 presidential election.

Goldman, the top investigative counsel for the House Intelligence Committee, summarized the Democratic case for impeachment in his presentation.

"We are here today because Donald J. Trump, the 45th president of the United States, abused the power of his office, the American presidency, for his political and personal



Safari Market owner Sainab Yussuf has operated her business since 2015. On Oct. 24, police confiscated the market's computer, phone, surveillance cameras and numerous ledgers and documents in what Yussuf is now alleging was wrongful search and seizure.

GF market struggles after search, seizure

By Hannah Shirley
Grand Forks Herald

What started as a normal lunch hour at Safari Market on Oct. 24 was disrupted when about 20 officers from the Grand Forks Police Department and the Department of Homeland Security rushed into the store through both doors, telling

employees not to move and customers to vacate the premises.

Safari Market owner Sainab Yussuf recalls standing frozen, with her hands in the air.

"I'm shaking, I'm nervous, I'm scared. I couldn't even move. I was shocked. I said, 'what did I do wrong?'" Yussuf said, speaking through a

translator. "Imagine someone, out of nowhere, comes to you and does that. What would you do in your situation, put in that situation yourself?"

Yussuf, a U.S. citizen, has lived in the country for 19 years. She moved to Grand Forks from Anchorage, Alaska, in 2014, and opened Safari Market, a Somali restaurant,

cafe and grocery store, on South Washington Street in 2015. The store moved to its current location at 1305 Stanford Road in 2017.

On Oct. 24, police confiscated the market's computer, phone, surveillance cameras and numerous ledgers and

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Fisher students help Santa Claus Girls with moving day

Pamela Knudson
Grand Forks Herald

Sixteen eighth grade students from Fisher (Minn.) High School provided their muscle power to the Santa Claus Girls on Monday, Dec. 9, in preparation for Christmas gift distribution to needy families in the community.

The students volunteered to move dozens of boxes of toys and gifts from a second-floor storage area to the first-floor Hope Church Youth Center, the former Bingo Palace, at Grand Cities Mall.

Whalen's Moving and Storage employees brought flat, wheeled carts and also helped to move boxes, said Julie Ekberg, president of Santa Claus Girls.

Volunteer drivers will be needed to deliver the gift bags to families Thursday, Dec. 12, Ekberg said. However, instead of The Herald building in downtown Grand Forks, distribution will take place from Grand Cities Mall.

For years, distribution took place Fridays, but this year it was moved to Thursday due to a scheduling conflict, said Ekberg, who is hoping the change will not negatively impact the number of delivery drivers who turn out.

"We are so grateful for your help," Ekberg told the students Monday.

Several of the students formed a line in the staircase and passed the

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TRUMP: Page A7

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WEATHER

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“Part of the problem is people see that the roadway has been cleared, so they think they can drive the speed limit,” Zimmel said. “The problem with that is all of that snow and ice has been compacted into the roadway, and the roadway gets very, very slick. You don’t have normal stopping distance at normal speeds.”

He said accidents often occur at stop signs and other intersections in these weather conditions.

“As people come up, they approach intersections and realize a little bit too late that they’re not going to be able to stop for that stop sign,” Zimmel said. “They are preventable, if people take appropriate precautions, slow down, anticipating situations ahead of time.”

Across the river, East Grand Forks Police Chief Michael Hedlund said police responded to a



Kimberly Wynn / Grand Forks Herald
Emergency responders turn out for a vehicle crash at the corner of 10th Avenue and Cottonwood Street in Grand Forks on Sunday, Dec. 8.

number of storm-related calls, including a minor accident just before noon, vehicle stuck in a ditch, a semi with frozen brakes and a driver attempting to put air in her tires.

“There were a good number of parking tickets just related to snow removal during the middle of the night, but that’s normal,” Hedlund said.

Wind chills are expected to drop into the range of 20 or 30 below zero on Tuesday, Dec. 10, with the coldest hours early in the morning. Snow will be possible later in the week.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation has issued a travel alert for eastern North Dakota. Travelers should exercise caution and plan accordingly.

BRIEFS

Oil spill reported in McKenzie County

WATFORD CITY, N.D. — An equipment failure resulted in an oil spill at a well in McKenzie County, the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division reported Monday, Dec. 9.

Newfield Production Co. estimated on Saturday that 480 barrels of oil leaked from its facility, the Bismarck Tribune reported. That amount is equal to 20,160 gallons. All of the oil has been recovered, according to the division.

The spill occurred about 6 miles west of Watford City. A state inspector has visited the site and will continue to monitor cleanup, the division said.

Makoti man, companions claim Everest record

MINOT, N.D. — Ryan Wagner’s recent Nepal trip was one for the record books.

Wagner, who lives in Makoti, a Ward County city south of Minot, and his companions, Scott Loughney, from Vancouver, Wash., and Upendra Sunawar, from Nepal, set a world record for the fastest time in completing the Everest Mailrun last month, the Minot Daily News reported.

The trio began their grueling 400-mile run from Kathmandu, Nepal, to the Everest Base Camp on Nov. 11 and completed the journey on Nov. 16. It took them five days, 10 hours and 46 minutes.

Their feat is recorded on the site fastestknowntime.com.

The route at one time was used to bring mail back from the Everest Base Camp.

“There is nothing in the U.S. that compares to the terrain out there,” said Wagner. “It is just straight up and mountains over mountains over mountains.”

Wagner said the staying power it takes to complete such a run is as much mental as physical.

“Just like in life, keep on going, keep on going,” he said.

Williams County jail mistakenly releases prisoner

WILLISTON, N.D. — A paperwork mistake led to a prisoner being mistakenly released from the Williams County jail in Williston, according to the sheriff’s office.

Daniel Decoteau, 33, was sentenced Nov. 27 to serve two years after pleading guilty to felony burglary. He was released from jail two days later, and not arrested until Friday, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

“The incident has been investigated and the correctional center is taking steps to ensure this type of situation does not happen again,” Sgt. Detective Caleb Fry said.

— Forum News Service and wire reports

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documents in what Yussuf is now alleging was wrongful search and seizure.

The state maintains that the search warrant was legitimate, and that police had enough evidence that an illegal money transferring business was being run at the restaurant to justify the search.

She is requesting that an evidentiary hearing be held in the Grand Forks District Court as part of the process to request the Grand Forks Police Department return her property. A date for the hearing is expected to be set Jan. 13.

The North Dakota Department of Financial Institutions considered Safari Market’s money transmitting business illegitimate. Yussuf’s attorney, David Thompson, argues that she was operating in good faith without realizing any potential troubles with state law. Safari Market has operated as a sub-delegate of Minneapolis-based Olympic Financial Group since October 2016. However, Thompson said Olympic Financial Group didn’t properly request authorization for Safari Market’s business through the Department of Financial Institutions.

Yussuf said the Oct. 24 search and seizure has had lasting impacts. She said she has had trouble sleeping since the incident, and business at Safari Market is down about 90%.

“People are scared to come to the store now,” she said.

If business continues on the same trend it has since Oct. 24, she said she’s worried she’ll have to close the store.



Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald
Sainab Yussuf, owner of Safari Market, with interpreter Shadia Jeylani, says business is down 90% since Oct. 24 when Grand Forks police confiscated her computer, phone, documents and surveillance equipment.

If that happens, Somali-American Shadia Jeylani said she doesn’t know if she will have a reason to stay in Grand Forks.

Jeylani, Yussuf’s niece, works at Safari Market and as a translator for the city. She is working to become a registered nurse through Northland Community and Technical College and plans to graduate in spring 2020.

Once she graduates, she said she’s considering taking her children and moving to Seattle or California.

“This is the biggest store, I think, for East Africans that has everything, with the restaurant, the money transfer and everything,” Jeylani said. “If they close this, where are we going to go? Drive to Fargo one hour, or go to the cities? It’s tough. If they close the store, where are we going to go? I wanted to stay here forever, but if they close the store, I’m gone.”

Yussuf said that, since the Oct. 24 incident, especially, some Grand Forks residents have

associated local Somali people with terrorists.

She emphasized that she hates the East African jihadist fundamentalist group al-Shabaab and the violence it has committed in her home country. She said she, like many Somali immigrants, fled the country to escape those acts of violence, such as the attack in Kismayo, Somalia, that killed her cousin’s daughter, Hodan Nalayah, a prominent Canadian-Somali journalist in July.

According to a New Americans study done by the city, about 10.7% of Grand Forks’ immigrant population was refugees in 2015, with most coming from Bhutan and Somalia. The city reported that 155 Somali refugees were resettled in Grand

Forks from 2002 to 2015.

Yussuf said those who use the money transmitting business at Safari Market tend to be working people sending money back to their families. Generally, she said her money transfer customers come in about once a month, after all the bills and the rent have been paid, to send whatever money is left over.

The money transfer business makes up about 15% of Safari Market’s total revenue, Yussuf said, but their money transfer customers will frequently buy something from the store or have a meal in the restaurant.

Thompson said, as soon as the store found out the legality of its sub-delegate contract with Olympic Financial Group

was in question, the store immediately stopped transmitting money. As of Dec. 5, Safari Market is now a delegate of Olympic Financial Group recognized by the North Dakota Department of Financial Institutions and can legally transmit money in North Dakota.

“My auntie is innocent. She is a very good lady,” Jeylani said. “The whole city, the community, they look at her as model person, as a good leader. They come to her when somebody dies, they come to her to say, donate, and she donates, when it comes to anything health that needs the community. ... They just look at one little fact, one little wrong thing, and suddenly you’re a bad person.”

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