

October 29
5:30-7:30 pm

Black Cat Bash

First Season Community Center
1122 7th Ave. S. (Purpur Arena)

Calling all little pumpkins (8 yrs. & under) for a night of Halloween fun! Come dressed in a costume and bring one canned good item to donate.

gfparks.org
GRAND FORKS PARK DISTRICT

Hawks, Montana State square off at Alerus Center.
Page C1



Grand Forks Herald

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019

Weeding out fraud service animals

How will state's new law work in reality?



John Steiner / Jamestown Sun

Jeremiah Erickson works at Service Dogs for America in Jud, N.D.

By Sam Easter
Grand Forks Herald

Jeremiah Erickson served two tours with the U.S. Army in Iraq. When he came back, he — like many veterans — suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder.

But he also has a friend to help him along. His service dog, a Labrador named Ida, is an invaluable part of his daily life. When they're out in public together, she's a "passive barrier" who greets strangers before they can get uncomfortably close. She

knows how to bring Erickson out of a flashback, or even wake him from a nightmare.

"She used to be sweet when we were paired up together, but now she knows to keep our distances if I'm thrashing a little harder than normal," Erickson said. "I don't know how she does it, but she'll try to roll my carcass out of bed."

Erickson is among many Americans who depend on a service dog for day-to-day life. He works in client services at Service Dogs for America, in Jud, N.D., where there are 36

dogs in "inventory," a leader with the training group says, ranging from 6 months to 2 years old.

It's a vital industry for people who use the dogs. Jenny BrodKorb, the executive director of the group, compared service dogs to an elderly person's walker — an essential part of how they make their way through the world. What makes a service dog a true and real service dog, she said, is the significant amount of training they have.

FRAUD: Page A5

Boutique addresses service concerns

By Adam Kurtz
Grand Forks Herald

THIEF RIVER FALLS — The CEO of a regional airline that provides service to Thief River Falls visited the town to assure residents that the airline is working to fix recent troubles.



Simpson

Shawn Simpson, CEO of San Francisco-based Boutique Air, attended an Airport Authority meeting and also met with local business and community leaders to expand on the scope of issues the airline faces, including a pilot shortage and lack of aircraft in the region.

Boutique Air, which has operated out of Thief River Falls since July 2016, has seen its arrival and departure reliability percentage fluctuate from the high 90s to high 70s throughout the year. Some months have seen double-digit cancellations that have left passengers searching for alternative ways to get to Minneapolis. The airline operates as part of the Department of Transportation's Essential Air Service program, which provides eligible smaller communities access to a hub airport. Boutique Air receives more than \$3 million in federal subsidies to maintain its Thief River Falls-to-Minneapolis route.

"The driving factor for cancellations in the warmer months is going to be generally driven by ... the pilot shortage," Simpson told the Herald.

BOUTIQUE: Page A2

To get your Herald:

(701) 780-1215

(800) 811-2580

News tips:

(701) 780-1136

Sports:

(701) 780-1120

For the very latest in

news, read the Herald

online at **gfherald.com**.

GFAFB: CONSTANT ATTENTION

Base boosters say they always need to keep an eye on future

By Sam Easter
Grand Forks Herald

For more than half a century, Grand Forks Air Force Base has had take-offs and landings with a rotating cast of aircraft — from tankers to fighter jets to unmanned eyes in the sky — shifting to meet the needs of the Cold War and beyond. And there's been a lot of work to make sure things stay that way.

Local leaders are constantly eyeing "base realignment and closure," or "BRAC" — the process by which the federal government prunes defense spending or rearranges its assets to meet changing military needs. Historically, it has gobbled up bases and shifted missions around the country for decades — and with the Grand Forks base's huge local economic footprint, keeping local aircraft flying is of paramount importance.

Grand Forks Air Force Base has weathered numerous nationwide rounds of BRAC, which played out in the late 1980s, three times in the 1990s, and most recently in 2005, when Grand Forks lost a key tanker mission that was phased out in subsequent years. And a late 2017 report identified about 28 percent of the Air Force's infrastructure as "excess," according to congressional documents, raising the possibility that it could happen again, someday.

For now, though, it appears there's little political expectation of a BRAC process and there has been a wealth of new Grand Forks safeguards since 2005. But Tom Ford,



Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald

Tom Ford, Grand Forks County director of administration, is the self-described "quarterback" for local base retention efforts.

Grand Forks County's director of administration, speaks about BRAC the same way City Hall officials might talk about a big flood or some other natural disaster. It's hard to say when it will happen, and so it demands a permanent, guarded attention.

Ford is a self-described "quarterback" for local efforts to retain the base, and is highly active with the local committee of leaders dedicated to keeping it.

"With the current state of world affairs, all I'm hearing

is 'Now is not the time to downsize,'" Ford said. "But I want to stress: the threat of BRAC is always there."

In recent years, leaders hoping to keep the base have heard mostly good news. The base started hosting the RQ-4 Global Hawk — a high-powered surveillance drone — in 2011, and top Air Force leadership put the base in charge of the Global Hawk mission earlier this year. It's also seen the construction of the new Grand Sky tech park, which hosts unmanned aircraft

developers and gives them access to the base's runway, intertwining the base even further with the local economy. Grand Sky also announced the creation of the largest unmanned airspace in the U.S. earlier this year, running right over the northern Red River Valley. And the region's increasing industrial focus on unmanned aircraft is expected to make Grand Forks an attractive place for the Air Force to stick around.

GFAFB: Page A5

Past GF standards meeting today's realities

Flooding after rains drowning infrastructure in some areas

By Joe Bowen
Grand Forks Herald

Grand Forks engineers aim to build the city's stormwater systems to withstand a five-year rain.

The concept is a little tricky, but it essentially means an amount of rain — 2.93 inches, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — that has a 20 percent chance of falling in a given year shouldn't mean flooding in city streets.

So is that always the case? Several residents in Vale Circle and Glen Circle, a pair of adjacent subdivisions near the intersection of Columbia Road and DeMers Avenue, said large portions of their streets flood multiple times each year. And a storm last month that dumped more than 5 inches of rain on the city caused thousands upon



Sydney Mook / Grand Forks Herald

Residents say water was so high at the corner of South 25th Street and Seventh Avenue South that it was difficult to see this silver vehicle on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 21.

thousands of dollars' worth of property damage there.

It's tough to gauge exactly why that happens, said Al Grasser, the city's engineer, adding that the city may not have aimed for

the five-year mark when it built some of its stormwater infrastructure decades ago, and because the amount of rain that constitutes a "five-year" storm has increased over time.

"We don't know what the design was back in the '60s when they did it," Grasser said of the infrastructure in a central portion of Grand Forks that includes Vail and Glen Circles. "But even if it was a five-year, it would be shortchanged now just because the dynamics of climate change."

Other nuances — such as a shift away from "open flow" to "pressure" pipes in intervening years — complicate an answer even more, he added.

Cost may have been a factor, as well. Stormwater systems east of Washington Avenue were presumably inexpensive to install, Mark Walker, assistant city engineer, said. He notes that excess water could be drained to the Red River via gravity

STANDARDS: Page A6



Inside

Calendar: D4
Classified: EE
Editorial: A4

Nation/World: B1-2
Northern View: F3
Obituaries: D2

Puzzles: B3
Sports: C1
Weather: A2

Year: 140 Issue: 119
Copyright: 2019
Newsstand price:

\$2.50

Man found guilty after 2018 downtown incident

By Sydney Mook
Grand Forks Herald

A Grand Forks tattoo artist has been convicted on several felony charges related to an incident when he terrorized people with a knife and shattered a window at the Toasted Frog in November 2018.

A jury found Darin Charles Drummer, 40, guilty of two counts of terrorizing, a Class C felony. He also was found guilty of carrying a concealed weapon and criminal mischief, both of which are Class A misdemeanors. The jury found him not guilty of stalking.

Drummer allegedly pulled a switchblade on two men at the Toasted Frog in downtown Grand Forks on Nov. 24, 2018. Court documents state Drummer was standing outside of the downtown restaurant, staring at an employee through the window when one of the individuals told Drummer he was not welcome at the establishment and needed to leave.



Drummer

The employee had previously worked under Drummer, who opened Drummer Studios in 2017 at 1820 S. Washington St., as an apprentice, but the work relationship ended, court documents stated. The former apprentice had filed a report against Drummer previously.

Drummer returned to the Toasted Frog and “started causing a disturbance” while trying to enter the restaurant, police said. When two men tried to remove him, Drummer pulled out a knife and claimed he would “cut” them, according to court documents.

Drummer eventually dropped the knife, the court documents said. As Drummer left, he picked up the knife, but claimed he would come back and “tear your insides apart” before striking a Toasted Frog window, causing it to shatter, court documents said.

Drummer was sentenced to five years in prison with two years suspended. He also will be on probation for two years following his release.

Sydney Mook

BRIEFS

Minot man accused of embezzling \$100k

MINOT, N.D. — A Minot man who had been the branch manager at the Minot Wallwork Truck Center, is charged with embezzling about \$100,000 from his employer.

Ryan Michael Koble, 40, is charged with Class A felony theft, the Minot Daily News reported. According to court documents, Kolbe made multiple unauthorized refund transactions, adding up to \$100,737.28, to a credit/debit card. The alleged thefts were reported to police after Wallwork Truck Center conducted an internal investigation.

Under questioning by the Ward County Sheriff's Office, Koble allegedly admitted to finding a “loophole” in the system in July 2018. He refunded some of the money into his own bank account at Gate City Bank. He kept withdrawing money a couple of times a month until he was caught. Koble used the stolen funds to put a down payment on a new pickup and purchased a boat, golf clubs and two grills. Koble fabricated invoices and refunds and acknowledged using the loophole he had found in the system so it wouldn't affect the business's inventory report.

He told the investigator that “he knew this day was coming.” Wallwork Truck Center is based in Fargo with five other locations.

— Forum News Service

CALENDAR

Today, Oct. 27

► **Meatball dinner**, 11:30 to 1:30 p.m., Northwood Evangelical Lutheran Church, 307 Second Ave., Northwood, N.D. Served by the church men. Meatballs and gravy with all the fixings, plus lefse, assorted desserts. Free will offering, take outs available by calling the church office at (701) 587-5381. Also celebrating the confirmation of 13 youths from the Northwood/Washington parish.

► **Fall Festival**, noon to 3 p.m., Wesley United Methodist Church, 1600 Fourth Ave. N., Grand Forks. A baked potato bar, desserts and more, \$8/adults, \$6/children age 10 and younger. Also crafts, a bake sale, Rada knives, quilts and jewelry for sale. Proceeds go toward mission projects.

► **Sixth annual Family Voices Trunk or Treat**, 1 to 3 p.m., Lincoln Park, parking lot, Grand Forks. A trick-or-treating experience free of barriers for people with special needs, as well as their siblings and friends. Info: Joan Karpenko at (701) 330-8641.

► **Half Pint Haunt**, 1 to 4 p.m., Myra Museum, 2405 Belmont Road, Grand Forks. For families with small children. Admission is \$3 per person or \$10 per family. (701) 775-2216.

► **NELL (Northern Exposure to Lifelong Learning) program: Jane Skinner Peck: “Votes for Women, Jal,”** 1:30 p.m., Fosston Library and Arts Center, 403 Foss Ave. N., Fosston, Minn. Her theatrical presentation and lecture

traces the contributions of Nordic immigrant suffragists to voting rights in Minnesota. (218) 694-2856.

► **“Night of the Living Dead” performance**, 2 p.m., Red River High School Theatre, Grand Forks. \$8/adults, \$5/students and seniors. For tickets, call (701) 746-2411 or visit www.spacompany.org.

► **The Calvary Lutheran Church Fall Fest**, 4 to 5:30 p.m., at the church, 1405 S. Ninth St., Grand Forks. Families are invited to enjoy games, crafts, hayrides and activities from Safe Kids, Little Red Riding Bus and the Grand Forks Fire Department. Costumes are encouraged. Guests are asked to bring a donation item to support the Community and Violence Intervention Center.

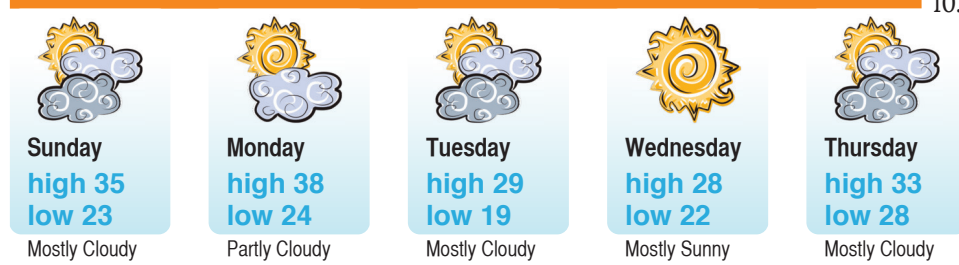
► **Hoot N' Howl Halloween Bash**, 6 to 8 p.m., Altru Family YMCA, 215 N. Seventh St., downtown Grand Forks. Carnival games, treats, prizes, cupcake walk, bounce house, costume contest and legendary haunted house. For children age preschool to grade five, accompanied by an adult. (701) 775-2586. www.gfymca.org.

Monday, Oct. 28

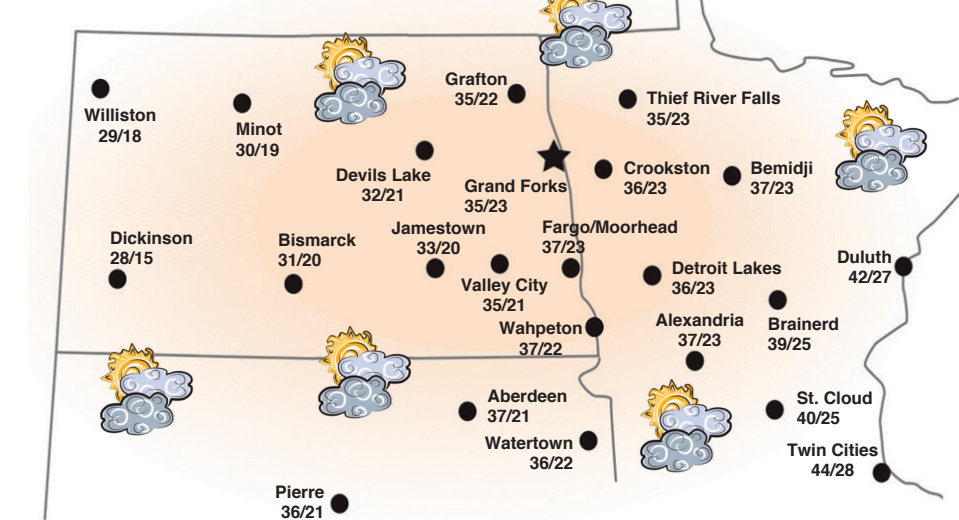
► **Red River High School Concert Orchestra, in concert with the Concordia College Orchestra**, 7 p.m., RRHS Performance Hall, 2211 17th Ave. S., Grand Forks. Sponsored by RRHS Orchestra department and the Northern Valley Youth Orchestras. Open to the public, free will donation.

today

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 35°, humidity of 59%. West northwest wind 13 to 18 mph. The high temperature on this day last year was 50°. The record high temperature for today is 76° set in 1983.



Today's regional forecast map

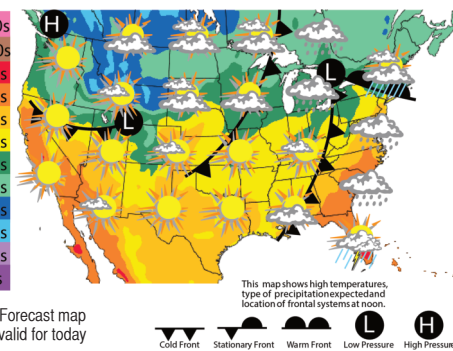


24-hour wind forecast (speed in mph)



national

City	Today HI/Lo/Wea
Albuquerque	73/40/s
Anchorage	46/42/cl
Atlanta	70/53/pc
Austin	79/55/s
Billings	30/20/pc
Boise	45/20/s
Boston	53/50/ra
Brownsville	83/69/s
Charlotte	80/57/t
Cheyenne	20/6/sn
Chicago	58/42/pc
Cincinnati	64/45/mc
Cleveland	60/48/sh
Dallas	77/53/s
Denver	29/12/sn
Des Moines	52/33/pc
Fairbanks	43/36/cl
Honolulu	88/71/sh
Indianapolis	62/45/pc
Kansas City	58/41/s
Las Vegas	69/42/s
Los Angeles	74/53/pc
Memphis	70/52/pc
Miami	86/81/sh
Milwaukee	55/40/pc
Nashville	67/49/mc
New Orleans	72/59/pc
New York	63/56/ra
Orlando	87/76/sh
Philadelphia	72/54/ra
Phoenix	84/57/s
Portland, OR	56/36/s
Raleigh	82/56/sh
Reno	44/23/s
St. Louis	65/47/s
Salt Lake City	41/22/sn
San Francisco	73/54/s
Seattle	53/39/s
Tampa	87/76/t
Tucson	85/54/s
Washington	75/54/sh



Forecast map valid for today. This map shows high temperatures, type of precipitation expected and location of frontal systems at noon.

Legend: Cold Front, Stationary Front, Warm Front, Low Pressure, High Pressure.

world

City	Today HI/Lo/Wea
Amsterdam	52/48/ra
Athens	77/63/s
Baghdad	85/67/ra
Beijing	65/42/s
Berlin	59/52/ra
Bermuda	74/72/ra
Cairo	80/62/s
Dublin	48/35/s
Frankfurt	58/51/ra
Geneva	65/47/mc
Helsinki	45/39/ra
Hong Kong	81/73/ra
Istanbul	66/61/ra
Jerusalem	78/63/ra
Kabul	60/47/mc
London	52/44/cl
Madrid	70/53/mc
Mexico City	75/61/ra
Moscow	56/51/cl
Oslo	40/32/pc
Paris	62/47/ra
Reykjavik	35/27/s
Rome	78/58/s
Seoul	61/40/s
Stockholm	42/39/ra
Sydney	77/51/pc
Vienna	70/48/s

online

For the latest local weather: grandforks.herald.com

Road conditions

(866) 696-3511

BOUTIQUE

From Page A1

“If we don't have enough pilots, even if we have extra airplanes we could bring over here, then we're not able sometimes to get them in position if we're too tight on pilots.”

Mechanical issues and problems getting parts also have been factors impacting the need for cancellations, according to Simpson.

“Some of the airplane types that we have gone with, they have their susceptibilities, so that's why we are trying out some new airplanes that we think may be more robust in terms of their reliability,” Simpson said. “Those are probably the two biggest driving factors, just having the pilots, and then having aircraft that work well under the circumstances.”

The Pilatus PC 12 makes up the bulk of the airline's fleet with 27 planes. The airline recently acquired two Piaggio P.180 airplanes, which it hopes to roll out in the coming months, after testing and pilot training are done in Texas.

Pilot and mechanical

problems account for two of the issues the airline has experienced, but airport manager Joe Hedrick identified communication as a third problem.

A situation that has occurred at the airport has been the airline's tardiness in deciding to cancel a flight, instead opting to tell passengers the flight is delayed, according to Hedrick. This leads to passengers waiting at the airport for an extended period of time, only then to be told the flight is canceled. That, in turn, causes customers to scramble for a way to get to Minneapolis if they have a connecting flight.

“I kind of hammered on that during the (airport authority) meeting,” Hedrick said. “I brought it back, and I was like ‘communication, communication.’ (Simpson's) whole methodology is these things will solve themselves if we had a substantial pilot pool and enough aircraft, and those two things are what he is really focused on. But for me, that third leg of the tripod is, when things go bad, you have to be able to communicate effectively with your passengers to minimize any negative feelings that

the passengers may have towards the airline, and minimize the disruption that it causes.”

Simpson said that he has added three Boutique ground staff to Thief River Falls airport. Hedrick finds that encouraging.

“That will be doubling their staff here,” Hedrick said. “That should help in that respect. I intentionally mentioned empowering the CSA's (customer service agents) because I've heard many times where the CSA's are in the terminal, they are looking at a two-hour delay, they might even know what the nature of what the mechanical (problem) is, and drawing from past experiences, know that two hours is not a realistic time. But they are handcuffed, they are not at liberty to tell the passenger it's probably not going to happen in two hours, we're looking at four hours minimum. Hopefully, (Simpson) takes it to heart and does in fact empower his staff to more quickly contact and share that information with passengers.”

Simpson said he intends to address the communication problems, though he was vague in how that would be accomplished.

region

	Yesterday HI/Lo/Prcp	Tomorrow HI/Lo/Prcp
North Dakota		
Bismarck	54/37/0.01	36/19/pc
Devils Lake	51/41/Trace	32/21/pc
Dickinson	52/36/0.00	32/14/mc
Fargo	55/41/0.00	36/24/pc
Grafton	52/41/0.00	34/23/pc
Langdon	48/41/0.00	30/19/pc
Williston	57/34/0.00	32/16/mc
South Dakota		
Aberdeen	57/39/Trace	37/22/pc
Rapid City	53/36/Trace	34/16/pc
Sioux Falls	63/39/0.00	37/22/mc
Minnesota		
Bemidji	56/40/0.00	33/23/mc
Brainerd	61/41/0.00	36/24/mc
Crookston	52/43/0.00	35/23/pc
Duluth	60/41/0.00	37/25/mc
Int. Falls	59/41/0.00	35/23/mc
Minneapolis	55/39/0.00	38/27/mc
Rochester	52/31/0.00	40/24/mc
Thief R. Falls	50/44/Trace	32/22/mc
Canada		
Calgary	34/27/0.00	16/7/fl
Churchill	36/32/0.00	36/28/rs
Vancouver	54/39/0.00	48/36/s
Winnipeg	50/43/0.00	30/23/cl

almanac

Statistics through 6 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	HI/Lo
Yesterday	53/41
Normal	49/28
Record	80/1990
	8/1976

Precipitation	Yesterday	Month to date	Normal MTD	Year to date	Normal YTD
	0.04	3.46	1.66	25.64	18.94

River/lake levels	Level	Change
Devils Lake	1448.69	+0.04
Red at EGF	34.08	-0.93
Park at Grafton	8.82	-0.04

skywatch

sun	Today	Tomorrow
Rises	8:04 a.m.	8:06 a.m.
Sets	6:18 p.m.	6:16 p.m.

moon	Today	Tomorrow
Rises	7:08 a.m.	8:29 a.m.
Sets	6:33 p.m.	7:02 p.m.

moon phases



TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1682, the city of Philadelphia was founded.

In 1787, the first of the Federalist Papers appeared in a New York City newspaper.

In 1904, the first underground New York City Subway line opened to the public.

In 2005, after three weeks of criticism, Harriet Miers withdrew her nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2018, a gunman killed 11 people at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Lottery numbers

Daily 3: 7-9-5
Northstar Cash: 1-3-10-17-19
2 by 2: Red numbers: 13-14
White numbers: 1-5
Lotto America: 23-24-34-39-50, Star Ball: 1
Powerball: 3-20-48-54-59, Power Ball: 4

Federal prisoner caught after crashing stolen vehicle into river

A federal prisoner is back in custody after he escaped during a medical appointment then stole a vehicle, according to a Friday news release from the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Fabian Wayne English, 33, escaped during a medical appointment at Riverview Hospital in Crookston, Minn., around 11:45 a.m. Friday. During the escape, English stole a pickup then crashed it into the river.

He was apprehended a short time later.

There is no danger to the public, the release said.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office and the Crookston Police Department are investigating the incident.

This case is ongoing, and authorities say no further information will be released at this time.

Herald Staff Reports