



Today's forecast
Patchy fog early on,
otherwise mostly
sunny skies / A2
High 29° Low 14°

WEST CENTRAL TRIBUNE

Thursday



75 cents

January 14, 2010

Willmar, Minn.

SPORTS / B1

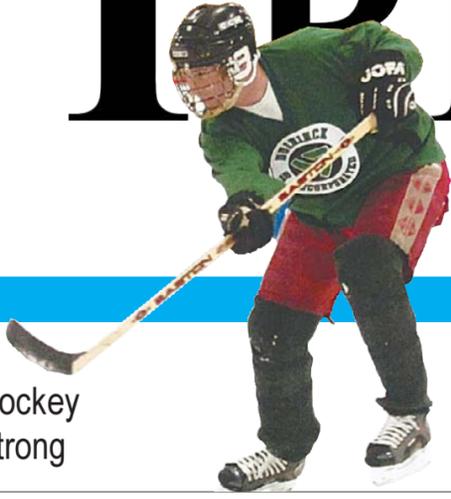
Willmar adult hockey league going strong

SHOWCASE / C1

Display showcases Willmar seniors' artwork

LOCAL / A3

Spicer teen gets jail for vandalism



Tribune photo by Don Davis
Rep. Bernie Lieder, DFL-Crookston, is obviously concerned Wednesday as he listens to a speech indicating the state likely will not have enough money to pay its bills this spring.

State looks at schools to fill huge hole in its bankbook

One lawmaker says state's actions are a slap in the face for responsible schools

By Don Davis
Minnesota Capitol Bureau

ST. PAUL — Minnesota schools may once again be asked to help pay bills when the state checking account is empty this spring.

Schools and their supporters are not happy.

"It is not just robbing the school districts, it is slapping them in the face for being fiscally responsible," complained Rep. Mindy Greiling, DFL-Roseville, the House education finance chairwoman.

Pawlenty administration officials Wednesday said they may delay more school payments this spring when the state runs out of money.

And while they do not expect to borrow money from outside state government before the end of June, Management and Budget Commissioner Tom Hanson said his department wants a plan to borrow \$550 million just in case money runs unexpectedly low.

All or part of state payments to schools in March, April and May could be delayed until June.

State law exempts from delays a handful of districts with small budget reserves.

Budget/ Page A2

HAITI QUAKE'S LOCAL IMPACT

Orphanage started by area couple unharmed

Orphanage, founded 10 years ago by Prinsburg couple, expects to see more orphans following quake

You can help

The Bonnemas continue to oversee the orphanage and the nonprofit organization they created. People who want to make financial contributions directly to the orphanage can do so by going to their Web site: www.childrenofthepromise.org

By Carolyn Lange and Tom Cherveney
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PRINSBURG — Tremors from the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti were felt Tuesday afternoon at the Children of the Promise orphanage, a facility created by a Prinsburg couple that is currently staffed by a family from Willmar.

Area churches and families that support the orphanage, and

local families that have adopted children from the orphanage, were relieved to learn Tuesday night that everyone there was unharmed.

"They felt a lot of the movement, but our buildings are fine and our babies are fine and our staff is fine," said Jan Bonnema, of Prinsburg, who along with her husband, Bud, founded the Children of the Promise 10 years ago.

Orphans/ Page A5



B. Bonnema: Orphanage currently has 60 kids it's caring for.



J. Bonnema: Orphanage was getting babies left and right.

THE AFTERMATH



AP Photo/Montreal La Presse, Ivanoh Demers

An injured person receives treatment Wednesday at a makeshift hospital at Hotel Villa Creole in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake the day prior left the poor Caribbean nation in ruin. The quake was the largest to hit the area in more than 200 years. Buildings crumbled and thousands of people are feared dead. The U.S. and other nations have already pledged their support.



AP Photo/The Miami Herald, Patrick Farrell

A family uses a motorcycle Wednesday to rush an injured girl to a hospital in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. An earthquake the day prior left a landscape of collapsed buildings and chaos.

Obama promises all-out relief effort in Haiti; U.S. troops put on standby

By Matthew Lee and Julie Pace

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials are laying out a massive military response to the Haiti earthquake, saying that ships, helicopters, transport planes and a 2,000-member Marine unit are either on the way or likely to begin moving soon.

Gen. Douglas Fraser, head of U.S. Southern Command, said Wednesday that one of the U.S. Navy's large amphibious ships will likely head to Haiti with a Marine expeditionary unit aboard. Fraser said other

U.S. military forces are on alert, including a brigade, which includes about 3,500 troops. Fraser said during a news conference with other U.S. officials that the Pentagon is "seriously looking at" sending thousands of Marines to assist with disaster relief efforts and security in Haiti.

President Obama promised earlier Wednesday to mount an all-out rescue and humanitarian effort to help the people of Haiti overcome a "cruel and incomprehensible" tragedy.

Aid/ Page A5

Americans trying to locate family in Haiti can call the State Department at 1-888-407-4747

For Willmar family, Haiti quake leaves slew of fears unanswered

Carlson family adopted their children from Haiti seven years ago, maintain a group of friends there

By Linda Vanderwerf
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WILLMAR — Sara and Mike Carlson spent a tense day Wednesday wondering — about earthquake damage in Haiti, about people they know, about what to tell their two children who were born there.

The two youngest Carlson children, 10 and 12, were adopted in Haiti and came home to Willmar seven years ago.

A number of other families in the area also have adopted children from Haiti.

"It's been a tense and anxiety-ridden day," Sara Carlson said in a telephone interview Wednesday afternoon. The children have some memories of Haiti, she said, and she has tried to find an age-appropriate way to explain the situation there.

Carlsons/ Page A5

Keeping track

Mike and Sara Carlson are monitoring the blog of their friends, the Livesay family, who have been living and doing missionary work in Haiti for most of the last five years. The blog can be found at <http://livesayhaiti.blogspot.com/>

Staying way ahead of the game

Completion of interceptor line a milestone for wastewater treatment project

By David Little
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WILLMAR — A milestone was reached when construction of 29,145 feet of interceptor sewer line in Willmar's \$86.2 million wastewater treatment project was completed in December, eight

months ahead of schedule.

The line generally follows 28th Avenue/30th Avenue Southwest and runs 5½ miles from a point near The Home Depot store, where the line joins a shorter section of interceptor built in 2006 and 2007 between the old treatment

plant on Willmar Avenue Southeast and the new interceptor. When the plant begins operation in October, the interceptor will carry municipal waste by gravity from the collection point at the old plant to the new plant.

Line/ Page A2



A truck prepares to unload concrete into the bucket of a backhoe carrying the concrete to workers from S.R. Weidema of Maple Grove. The workers were completing construction of the interceptor sewer line leading to Willmar's new wastewater treatment plant. The 5½-mile line was completed on Dec. 15, 2009, eight months ahead of schedule.

Submitted photo