



The Bismarck Tribune

www.bismarcktribune.com

\$1.00

Serving the region since 1873 ■ 701-250-8210 to subscribe

E-cigarettes
Electronic cigarettes
booming among teens
Life, 1C



No Adrian
Peterson absent
from early workouts
Sports, 1D

3 N.D. friends safe in Nepal

Family members spend excruciating morning worrying over death toll

AMY R. SISK
Bismarck Tribune

When Nick Schwieters got wind of the earthquake in Nepal on Saturday morning, he monitored the mounting death toll feeling completely helpless.

The Bismarck resident didn't know whether his wife, Amanda, was one of the hundreds — now thousands — who perished in Kathmandu as the capital city's infrastructure crumbled. "It was awful sitting there watching all the reports," he said. "I assumed the worst."

Then the text message came in — several short sentences sent to the mother of his wife's friend, whose two daughters were with Amanda in Nepal: "We are OK. Phone is dying. Can't talk now. Call you later?" "Just knowing they were OK was a huge relief," he said.

Amanda called her husband by noon to fill him in on the details. She and friends, Rachel Nolz and Nikki Weigel, who grew up in McIntosh County, had just left Kathmandu when the 7.8-magnitude quake struck. *Continued on 8A*



Submitted photo

Bismarck resident Nick Schwieters was relieved to learn Saturday morning that his wife, Amanda, survived the 7.8-magnitude earthquake in Nepal. Amanda had arrived in Kathmandu to visit a friend less than 24 hours before the quake sent the city's infrastructure crumbling.



Associated Press

A man sits with a child on his lap as victims of Saturday's earthquake wait for ambulances after being evacuated at the airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Monday.

Quake death toll tops 4,000

Villages near epicenter plead for aid

KATY DAIGLE and
BINAJ GURUBACHARYA
Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — As the death toll from Nepal's devastating earthquake climbed past 4,000, aid workers and officials in remote, shattered villages near the epicenter pleaded Monday for food, shelter and medicine.

Help poured in after Saturday's magnitude-7.8 quake,

with countries large and small sending medical and rescue teams, aircraft and basic supplies. The small airport in the capital of Kathmandu was congested and chaotic, with some flights forced to turn back early in the day.

Buildings in parts of the city were reduced to rubble, and there were shortages of food, fuel, electricity and shelter. As bodies were recovered, relatives cremated the dead along the Bagmati River, and at least a dozen pyres burned late into the night.

Conditions were far worse in the countryside, with rescue workers still struggling to reach mountain villages two days after the earthquake.

Some roads and trails to the Gorkha district, where

the quake was centered, were blocked by landslides — but also by traffic jams that regularly clog the route north of Kathmandu.

"There are people who are not getting food and shelter. I've had reports of villages where 70 percent of the houses have been destroyed," said Udav Prashad Timal-sina, the top official for the Gorkha region.

World Vision aid worker Matt Darvas arrived in the district in the afternoon and said almost no assistance had reached there ahead of him.

Newer concrete buildings were intact, Darvas said, but some villages were reported to be devastated. He cited a "disturbing" report from the village of Singla, where up to 75 percent

of the buildings may have collapsed and there has been no contact since Saturday night.

In the villages that have been reached, World Vision said the greatest needs were for search-and-rescue teams, food, blankets, tarps and medical treatment.

Timalsina said 223 people had been confirmed dead in Gorkha district but he presumed "the number would go up because there are thousands who are injured."

He said his district had not received enough help from the central government, but Jagdish Pokhrel, a clearly exhausted army spokesman, said nearly the entire 100,000-soldier army was involved in rescue operations. *Continued on 8A*

House, Senate pass PSC budget with rail program

NICK SMITH
Bismarck Tribune

North Dakota lawmakers in each legislative chamber approved a Public Service Commission budget Monday, which included a compromise on a rail safety pilot program.

The Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 2008 by a 47-0 vote Monday morning and the House by an 85-4 vote in the evening.

The rail safety program had been a major source of debate within the PSC budget. The original bill had



provided for two inspectors and a rail safety manager, which were removed by the House earlier this month.

Under the compromise, the program would provide \$523,345 from the rail safety fund for the pilot program. A total of \$253,345 would be for the salary of one inspector and \$200,000 for a temporary employee. The remaining \$70,000 was for operating costs.

Language in SB2008

Online

For more on Monday night's Legislative action, visit www.bismarcktribune.com

states that the pilot program is intended to last through the 2017-19 biennium.

Senate debate

"We got a pretty good deal at the end of the day. It isn't all that we wanted, but it's a good start," Sen. Ronald Sorvaag, R-Fargo, said.

Continued on 8A

SESSION: DAY 76

Tuesday:

- House and Senate floor sessions
- Session expected to adjourn

"Quite frankly I'm sick and tired of the attacks on an industry where there's 65,000 direct jobs."

Rep. Roscoe Streyhle, R-Minot, who was chastising lawmakers in what he deemed attacks on the oil and gas industry during a floor debate.

Trial for accused Jamaican fraudster gets underway

ANDREW SHEELER
Bismarck Tribune

On Monday, after more than two years of investigations, subpoenas, warrant searches, interviews and legal proceedings, the trial for Sanjay Ashani Williams, of Jamaica, began in U.S. District Court of North Dakota.

Williams is facing multiple federal charges related to mail and wire fraud, all part of a massive case involving 32

defendants — 14 of whom are in Jamaica awaiting extradition to the United States — and more than 70 victims who claim to have been defrauded out of a total of more than \$5 million.

Williams was a "lead broker," according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Nick



Williams

Chase. Using sweepstakes mailers and other information-gathering tools, Williams allegedly would acquire the personal information about people and compile it into a "lead list" that is sold to scammers.

"It's also called a 'sucker list,'" Chase said.

Those lists name people whom alleged lead brokers, such as Williams, believe are ideal targets. Frequently, that includes the elderly, who are

targeted due to the perceptions that they have more money, are more vulnerable to manipulation, are less tech savvy and who may not have full mental capacity.

People, Chase said, like Edna Schmeets.

Schmeets, 86, lives in Harvey. In the fall of 2012, Schmeets received a phone call from a man identifying himself as Newton Bennett, which federal *Continued on 8A*

State of emergency

Riot, looting prompt curfew in Baltimore — 2A

Parks budget

State will take over Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center — 1B



Wednesday

For classic Alabama barbecue, only white sauce will do

Classified	3C	Money	6D
Crossword	7C	Morning Briefing	4A
Deaths	5A	Movies	2D
General Info		800-472-2273	
Circulation		701-250-8210	
Classified		701-258-6900	



18134 03250