

METRO + STATE

A HISTORY UNEARTHED



Latest MSUM dig finds 'mind boggling' large area of artifacts from early bison hunters

MOORHEAD

A three-week archaeological survey on land that once was part of the Ponderosa Golf Course in Glyndon has discovered large "surface scatter" areas – up to a quarter mile long – filled with bison bones and dart tips left behind by native people that hunted there 800 to 2,000 years ago.

The latest dig by Minnesota State University Moorhead researchers started July 13, and was a follow-up to deeper excavations that found bones and tools of people who lived in the area about 8,000 years ago.



There will be a great story here when we finally put the pieces together.

GEORGE HOLLEY,
MSUM anthropology professor

Rather than going down 5 feet as done in June, the recent work by anthropology professor George Holley and three undergraduate students involved digging about 700 holes a foot wide and a foot and a half deep at MSUM's Regional Science Center.

The breadth of the site was a shock, Holley said. "I didn't expect to see anything" that big, he said Friday as he and his assistants cleaned, sorted and stored "bags and bags of bones," dart points and tools they found. "It was mind boggling."

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STORY BY HELMUT SCHMIDT
PHOTOS BY DAVE WALLIS / THE FORUM

Above: Jennifer Wolfgram, a senior at Minnesota State University Moorhead, examines a piece of bone discovered during a three-week archaeological dig on the former Ponderosa Golf Course in Glyndon, Minn.

Right: Small artifacts that were discovered during a three-week archaeological dig on the former Ponderosa Golf Course wait to be packaged in small clear envelopes for further study.



Dad was driving SUV that struck, killed toddler

By Archie Ingersoll
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FARGO – Police say it was a 20-month-old boy's father who was driving the SUV that struck and killed the boy Sunday in an alley behind their north Fargo house.

On Monday, the Fargo Police Department identified the toddler as Easton H. Schlicht and his father as 28-year-old Kyle R. Schlicht.

The boy's mother, along with other relatives, were

at the home at 1125 18th St. N. when the SUV, a Cadillac Escalade, struck him at a low speed, police said.

Emergency crews were dispatched to the house at 12:20 p.m. Sunday. Soon after they arrived, the boy, who suffered severe head injuries, was pronounced dead, police said.

Fargo police Lt. Joel Vettel said the boy's death is still under investigation and that police are still trying to determine whether the SUV was in reverse or moving forward when the

boy was struck.

Also unanswered is how the boy ended up in the alley, Vettel said.

Fargo police Lt. Mike Mitchell said criminal charges are not expected in the case. Mitchell said drugs and alcohol do not appear to be factors in the boy's death.

An autopsy was completed Monday, but as of late afternoon, police had not received the results, Vettel said.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Archie Ingersoll at (701) 451-5734



Archie Ingersoll / The Forum

Police say it was the 20-month-old boy's father who accidentally struck his toddler with an SUV on Sunday in north Fargo.



Dave Wallis / The Forum

A view looking toward the northeast from the MultiBand Tower in Fargo shows the wide-open storm water retention pond at Rabanus Park along 42nd Street South.

Work on new prairie garden in Fargo to begin next week

By Tu-Uyen Tran
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FARGO – Form-breaking on the new prairie garden at Rabanus Park southwest of the West Acres mall is planned for next week, but the ground itself, filled with tall rippling grass, was prepared months ago.

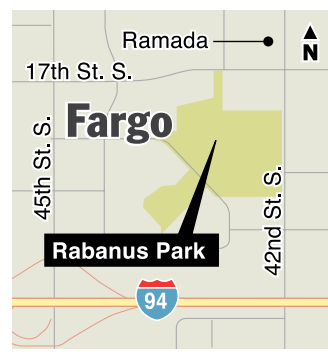
Nicole Crutchfield, the city's planning administrator, said Monday that the Park District had stopped mowing to let the native grass reassert itself in preparation for the big stormwater retention pond's transformation.

Next, workers will remove the concrete channel that runs down the mid-

dle of the pond and turn it into a waterfall that flows through wetlands and into a stream. The project would include an amphitheater, a viewing deck, a sculpture garden, a drum circle and a marimba large enough for children to walk on.

The park, which is just southwest of West Acres mall, is best known for its sand volleyball, tennis and basketball courts and Carl Rabanus' old barn, but not so much for the pond, the one feature that takes up more than half of the park's 32 acres.

The "Fargo Project," which Crutchfield works on with other volunteers in the community, aims



The Forum

to change what's now a functional but unbeautiful depression in the ground.

Crutchfield told city commissioners Monday that she hopes to apply for a \$1.2 million grant from the

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