

# METRO + STATE



## Bad break

■ I-29 concrete blowout in Fargo will add a couple weeks to repair project timeline.

By Helmut Schmidt  
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FARGO – Sunday night’s concrete blowout on Interstate 29 at the 17th Avenue South overpass will add a couple more weeks to roadwork on that busy stretch of road and cost \$100,000 to fix, a state Department of Transportation spokesman said Monday.

Assistant Fargo District Engineer Kevin Gorder said the fact that there is already a major road repair project going on in the area should make it easier for motorists.

Gorder said the I-29 repairs between the Wild Rice River exit and Main Avenue were expected to take up to six weeks to complete, but could now require up to eight weeks, putting the end to

construction in mid- to late September.

“It will take us a little bit, because we have to do it in pieces,” he said.

There is now a temporary patch on the southbound road surface, which tented up about 3 inches and crumbled due to expansion pressure, Gorder said.

Heat was the primary factor in the blowout, he said. While the road surface is not old for concrete, it is still 14 to 15 years old, so problems and cracks will start to appear.

The blowouts, which can create potholes and leave debris on the road surface, normally occur in June when the region gets its first hot days. Blowouts at the end of

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### Vehicles pass over a foot-wide strip

of a temporary patch Monday on the southbound lanes of the Interstate 29 overpass of 17th Avenue South. The roadway buckled in Sunday’s extreme heat, and took approximately three hours for a work crew to patch.

Photos by Nick Wagner  
The Forum

## Allegiant flight landing caused confusion before Airsho practice

By Drew Trafton  
WDAY

FARGO – A flight that came into Fargo minutes before the Blue Angels began practicing for their AirSho performance landed safely at Hector International Airport – but not before some confusion between the pilot and air traffic control.

Allegiant Flight 426 flew on Thursday from Las Vegas to Fargo, a route the airliner makes a couple times a week.

But last week during AirSho practice, a notice to pilots was posted that limited the times when flights could land and take off.

Someone at Allegiant, apparently, did not get that notice. In a radio transmission between an Allegiant pilot and the air traffic control tower at Hector on Thursday, the pilot said the flight was running low on fuel.

“We’re down circling Fargo. We don’t have enough fuel to go anywhere else, and our guys are trying to get in touch with the tower manager right now to try to coordinate our landing,” the pilot said.

“We’re down circling Fargo. We don’t have enough fuel to go anywhere else, and our guys are trying to get in touch with the tower manager right now to try to coordinate our landing.”

**ALLEGiant AIR PILOT** in a radio transmission Thursday

Not hearing of the flight limitations, the pilot said he was left with few options.

“I’m going to have to declare an emergency and come in and land,” he said.

The tower responded with a phone number the pilot can call and offered a solution.

“There will be a window opening in about 20 minutes for landing,” the air traffic control tower operator said.

“Yeah, I don’t have 20 minutes,” the Allegiant pilot said.

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**Damon Kyle Taylor** is accused of harassing and then beating a homeless man in front of a downtown bar in Fargo on Friday.

## Fargo man accused of beating, taunting homeless man outside bar

By Emily Welker  
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FARGO – A Fargo man faces a felony assault charge after police say he taunted a man sitting in front of a downtown bar for being homeless before beating him unconscious.

The incident attract-

ed the attention of people in the 300 block of Broadway. Several called 911 about 9:44 p.m. Friday to report it, according to documents filed Monday in Cass County District Court.

One witness, Febroanio Monjares, told an officer that the uncon-

scious man lying face-down on the sidewalk had moments before been sitting on a bench nearby when four men walked past him.

The four began to taunt the man on the bench for being homeless, Monjares told Officer Justin Harken, so David Robinson stood

up and told them to leave him alone.

That’s when one of the foursome walking by, Damon Kyle Taylor, of Fargo, punched Robinson in the jaw with a closed fist, knocking him unconscious when he fell backwards and hit his head on the

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## Arrest warrant issued for mechanic accused of breaking customer’s leg in dispute over bill

By Emily Welker  
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FARGO – An arrest warrant has been issued for a Moorhead man after prosecutors allege he broke a customer’s leg in a dispute over a car repair bill.

Charging documents were filed Friday in Cass County District Court against Talib K.M. Al Saeedi.

Documents state that Adil Mohamed, a customer at Bilal Auto Repair, 1902 1st Ave. S., reported on April 16 to Fargo police that he was assaulted by one of the employees there.

Mohamed told police he got into an argument with auto repair employee Al Saeedi about the bill, and that Al Saeedi lost his temper and told him he couldn’t take the car.

Mohamed told police that when he told Al Saeedi he was done arguing and started to walking toward his vehicle, Al Saeedi grabbed him and tried to choke him.

Al Saeedi then kned Mohamed in the thigh, Mohamed told police, and he heard his leg crack.

Al Saeedi denied Mohamed’s accusations,

admitting the two got into an argument over the bill, but that when he walked over to Mohamed’s car and took the keys, Mohamed ran after him, colliding with the bumper of another vehicle nearby.

Mohamed fell to the ground and started screaming about 911, Al Saeedi told police, but claimed he didn’t touch Mohamed.

The manager at Bilal Auto Repair, Mohammed Mohammed, told The Forum on Monday that his employee, Al Saeedi,

did nothing wrong. He said the alleged victim “maybe was running or something” and injured himself.

Al Saeedi still works at the shop, Mohammed said.

Medical records confirmed that Mohamed’s thigh was broken, court records state.

Al Saeedi was charged with Class C felony aggravated assault. He could not be reached for comment.

His first court date has not yet been set.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Emily Welker at (701) 241-5541