

**Drug epidemic** from page seven

-rience acute cardiovascular or cerebrovascular emergencies, such as heart attack or stroke, which may cause sudden death. Cocaine abusers can experience severe paranoia, a temporary state of full-blown psychosis in which they lose touch with reality and experience auditory hallucination.

Signs of cocaine use include; red, bloodshot eyes. A runny nose or frequently sniffing, a change in eating or sleeping patterns, a change in groups of friends, a change in school grades or behavior, acting withdrawn, depressed, tired, or careless about personal appearance, losing inter-

est in school, family or activities he /she used to enjoy, and frequently needing money.

**Bath Salts**

In the last year more than 20 thousand deaths have been linked to a group of drugs referred to as "bath salts."

These bath salts should not be confused with traditional bath salts used for soaking in a bathtub. The term bath salts is a marketing tool distributors use to circumvent law enforcement.

The drugs generally come in the form of a white or brown crystalline powder and are sold in small plastic or foil packages. Generally, they are labeled "not for human

consumption." They are also marketed as plant food, jewelry cleaner, phone screen cleaner.

They are sold online and in drug paraphernalia stores under a variety of brand names, such as Ivory Wave, Bloom, Cloud Nine, Lunar Wave, Vanilla sky, White light, and Scarface. The hallucinatory effects often associated with users of bath salts are consistent with other drugs such as MDMA or LSD that raise levels of another neurotransmitter, serotonin. Bath salts have been linked to an increase in visits to the emergency departments and poison control centers across the country.



At an informational meeting March 28, Forest County Drug Task Force members brought samples of illegal drugs meth, heroin, suboxone, fentanyl, marijuana, cocaine and hydrocodone so attendees could see what the substances look like. Also, on display was a bag full of "Skittles" – a mixture of prescription drugs that would be taken in random combination for recreational use.

**Runway overhaul to begin April 30 in Kingsford****Bobbie Samme'**

A new runway is in the works for Ford Airport, with work to begin the end of April.

According to Tim Howen, airport manager, the runway asphalt will be milled down, and new asphalt poured, with Bacco Construction doing the work.

"The work will begin April 30 and will be finished by May 14," said Howen. "Being that this is our critical runway and we cannot afford for the airport to be out of commission for too long, Bacco will be working around the clock to get the work done, and the airport will be closed down for that period."

Ford Airport, which operates 20

flights per day, including private planes as well as commercial shipping flights, has two runways, one that is 3,800 feet long, and the main runway which is 6,500 feet, which is used for the commer-

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cial jets.

"The reason we are doing this work now is because the runway is almost 20 years old now and starting to deteriorate," said Howen. "The FAA inspected our runway recently and told us we needed to get this work done now."

Funding for the \$5 million project will

come from three sources, with the federal government being the primary source, and the remaining funds coming from the state and Dickinson County.

"According to federal government guidelines, we must maintain 10,000 boardings per year, which we have done," said Howen. "As a result, we received \$1 million from the FAA."

Howen is looking forward to the completed project, for many reasons.

"Safety is obviously our prime concern," said Howen. "This new runway project has been in the planning stages for the last four years and should last us another 20 years."

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