

## Wynne is named ND's chief health strategist

Herald staff

Gov. Doug Burgum, on Wednesday, May 27, appointed University of North Dakota Interim President Joshua Wynne to be the state's chief health strategist and Dr. Andrew Stahl to serve as interim state health officer overseeing the North Dakota Department of Health. The governor thanked outgoing state health officer Mylynn Tufte for her leadership of the NDDoH for more than three years, including through the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.



Wynne

"This emergency has revealed a historic opportunity to develop a more comprehensive, collaborative and strategic approach to public health in North Dakota," Burgum said. "The scale, urgency and complex nature of the situation have underscored the need to provide additional capacity to carry out both the day-to-day operations and strategic direction. Dr. Wynne and Dr. Stahl have the broad expertise and experience we need to create a blueprint for development of the best public health system in the nation."

As the state's chief health strategist, Wynne will work within the NDDoH to create a vision and strategy for developing a world-class public health enterprise in partnership with the North Dakota University System, local public health entities, the private sector and local, state, federal and tribal governments. Wynne, whose term as UND's interim president expires May 31, will split his time between the temporary NDDoH leadership position and his role since 2010 as UND's vice president for health affairs and dean of the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences in Grand Forks.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to work with Gov. Burgum, the Department of Health and the great leadership team across the state of North Dakota to catalyze transformative change in the public health enterprise and contribute to the efforts to improve the well-being of North Dakotans across our state," Wynne said.

Stahl has been providing strategic medical analysis for North Dakota's COVID-19 response efforts and will begin serving as interim state health officer effective June 1. He has served as an officer in the North Dakota Army National Guard's Medical Corps since 2009, currently holding the rank of major, and as a member of the Guard's COVID-19 Task Force since March.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to come home to North Dakota and serve as the state health officer to confront the challenges presented by COVID-19," Stahl said. "I look forward to working with the outstanding team at the

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Photos by Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald

One officer carries a rosary as three Grand Forks police officers pause briefly outside an apartment complex where two of their own were shot while attempting to serve papers on Wednesday, May 27. The apparent gunman was also shot and wounded in the incident, and a female was found deceased in the apartment.

## GUNFIRE IN GF KILLS 2, INCLUDING AN OFFICER

Shots erupted within an apartment 'unexpectedly and without warning,' GFPD spokesman says

Herald staff

A Grand Forks police officer is confirmed to have died when an attempt to serve eviction papers elicited gunfire Wednesday, May 27, at a south Grand Forks apartment building.

The officer - whose name is being withheld pending notification of relatives - was a member of the Grand Forks Police Department. He is the second death related to the incident, which also took the life of a woman who was in the apartment at the time.

It started around 2:30 p.m. as a routine service of eviction papers at the residence of Salamah Q. Pendleton, 41, of apartment 303 at 2627 S. 17th Street, according to Lt. Derik Zimmel, a spokesman for the Grand Forks Police Department. It quickly escalated into gunfire, initiated by Pendleton, according to Zimmel.

The sheriff's deputies summoned additional officers to the scene.

"A male subject from within that apartment, unexpectedly and without warning, opened fire," Zimmel said. "The officers called for immediate assistance."

Among those shot were two officers,



Law enforcement officers investigate the scene of Wednesday's shooting at an apartment in the 2600 block of South 17th Street.

including one from the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office and the Grand Forks Police Department officer who has died, Zimmel said. The sheriff's deputy is in stable condition.

Zimmel said Pendleton suffered a gunshot wound and was transported to the hospital. He also said a woman was found dead inside the apartment.

"During the course of the incident, the male suffered a gunshot wound and was transported for that injury. Two officers suffered gunshot wounds (and

they were both transported for their injuries," Zimmel said. "And we do have a female in the apartment found deceased from apparent gunfire."

He said that because the Grand Forks Police Department and the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office are involved, the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation will take the lead in investigating the incident.

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page website, it is the first **SHOOTING:** Page 2

## UND med student among mass testing volunteers at state prison

By Hannah Shirley  
Grand Forks Herald

When patient rotations for medical students were canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, UND third-year medical student Brenna Espelien was left feeling a little sidelined. So when she saw an opportunity to return to patient care, she jumped at the first chance.

Espelien was one person on three four-person immunology

teams to conduct mass testing at the North Dakota State Penitentiary two weeks ago. About half of those teams are made up of medical student volunteers, said John Hagan, a UND School of Medicine professor who also oversees medical care in Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation facilities. Espelien had worked in the prison one other time, on a mental health rotation as part of her education, but her latest task at

the penitentiary - donning full-body personal protective equipment and administering COVID-19 tests to state prisoners in their pods - was unlike any she'd been asked to do before as a medical student.

"I was really excited to be able to talk to patients and do hands-on patient care for the first time in months," she said. "It was good to get back in the

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It was good to get back in the swing of things, and I really enjoyed talking to the residents there.



BRENNA ESPELIEN, UND student

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