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# The Forum

OF FARGO-MOORHEAD



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MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021

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Courtesy: Overflow Creative

Josh and Audrey Caughey of Perham are shown with their 2-year-old son, Otto, in this February photo.

## Making as many memories as possible

Lakes area couple faces uncertainty over cancer fight

Perham, Minn.

Josh and Audrey Caughey were engaged to be married when they learned he had a rare, cancerous brain tumor.

Still, they forged ahead with their wedding and spent their honeymoon at the Mayo Clinic instead of some vacation hotspot.

They forged ahead when Josh had two brain surgeries and multiple rounds of chemotherapy and radiation.

“We went through things that couples don’t necessarily go through until they’re ten, 15, 20 years into marriage ... and we did that our first summer,” Audrey Caughey said.

They forged ahead to have a family and welcomed now two-year-old son Otto into the world. They also got a dog.

Josh, 39, and Audrey, 31, have managed to squeeze a lot of life into a short amount of time — because they don’t know how much time they have left together.

Josh’s tumor, held at bay for more than three years, is



Special to The Forum

Audrey and Josh Caughey of Perham are shown in December 2020 after he went through an infusion treatment to treat his brain tumor.

growing exponentially. He’s lost some memory and mental function due to the cancer and treatments.

He had to quit his job in January, and Audrey, a teacher in Perham and their only source of income, is trying to keep everything afloat.

It’s not the first health challenge for Josh, who lost a leg in a farm accident as a teenager.

A GoFundMe account has been set up to see that Audrey can be at home with him.

They want to make as many memories as possible.

“Even though it’s horrible,” she said, pausing to reflect on the cancer fight, “it’s made us really focus on each other and our marriage, and living well together.”

**COUPLE:** Page A8

## ‘Overwhelming wave’ of vaping hits schools

Third graders among those inhaling nicotine in F-M area

By Robin Huebner  
rhuebner@forumcomm.com

FARGO — Local public health officials are sounding alarms about vaping among youth in the metro area, a problem that has only worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, they said.

Melissa Markegard, tobacco prevention coordinator at Fargo Cass Public Health, said the behavior once seen primarily in high schools spread to middle schools. Now, it’s happening in elementary schools, too.

“It just has this trickle down effect,” she said.

New data from the latest Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey found among high school students in the state who vape, more than 33% do it every day.

Jason McCoy, tobacco prevention coordinator at Clay County Public Health, said that’s double the 2017 number.

It’s even worse in Clay County, he said, where some school districts have daily use vaping rates among 11th graders as high as 43%.

“This is going to be an overwhelming wave that’s coming our way,” McCoy said.

Those in tobacco prevention paint a picture of nicotine addiction happening earlier than ever; kids as young as third grade who use the innocuous looking, easy to conceal devices to inhale a concentrated form of nicotine mixed with enticing flavors.

Derek Johnson, school resource officer at Fargo Davies High School, said in one case, parents provided the vaping device to their child, not realizing it was a problem.

With students back in school full time rather than distance learning, he said, they’re “constantly” being caught vaping, and more girls than boys.

“For every one boy, we’ll probably catch five females,” Johnson said.

Few kids are interested in the traditional way of smoking — it’s all about vaping.

In his four years as SRO at Davies, Johnson said he’s confiscated only one pack of cigarettes.

**New ‘disposables’ most popular**

The Juul pod reusable system was the first

**VAPING:** Page A3



Special to The Forum

These are some of the most popular nicotine vape devices being used by students in Fargo and West Fargo public schools, according to Melissa Markegard of Fargo Cass Public Health.

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#### Today's weather



38°  
25°

Periods of Rain/Snow  
Details, B8

## ‘Felony Lane Gang’ tie unclear in Fargo smash-and-grab thefts

By David Olson  
dolson@forumcomm.com

FARGO — Smash-and-grab thefts from vehicles recently reported in Fargo and West Fargo are similar to crimes that plagued the area in the past, as well as to cases reported elsewhere around the nation.

Law enforcement agencies sometimes refer to such crimes as the work of the “Felony Lane Gang,” but a spokeswoman for the Fargo Police Department says that phrase is often-

times more a description of a certain type of crime than it is a reference to a specific group.

“Please keep in mind, the word ‘gang’ refers to a group of people conducting these crimes and isn’t synonymous to a gang like the Gangster Disciples,” said Jessica Schindeldecker, public information officer for the Fargo Police Department.

The style of crime in question typically

**THEFTS:** Page A4

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**NEWS:** Hundreds march in opposition to alleged ‘White Lives Matter’ rally.  
**PAGE A2**

# Man fatally shot by police in Brooklyn Center

**By Kristi Belcamino**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

**BROOKLYN CENTER,** Minn. — Protesters and police in riot gear squared off Sunday night, April 11, in Brooklyn Center after officials say officers shot and killed a man during a traffic stop.

Brooklyn Center police stopped a car for a “traffic violation” in the 6300 block of Orchard Avenue shortly before 2 p.m. Sunday, according to a news release issued by the Brooklyn Center Police Department.

When officers found the driver had an outstanding warrant, they attempted to take the man into custody outside the vehicle,

the news release said.

“At one point as officers were attempting to take the driver into custody, the driver re-entered the vehicle. One officer discharged their firearm, striking the driver. The vehicle traveled several blocks before striking another vehicle. Officers in pursuit and responding medical personnel attempted life saving measures, but the person died at the scene,” the press release said.

A woman who was a passenger in the vehicle suffered injuries that were not life-threatening during the crash and was taken to North Memorial Health Hospital in Robbinsdale.



Nicole Neri for MPR News  
Protesters confront police near the scene of a fatal police shooting on Sunday evening, April 11, in Brooklyn Center.

People in the other vehicle were not injured. Brooklyn Center officers wear body cameras and police say they believe those cameras and dash cameras were activated.

People congregated at the intersection of 63rd Avenue North and Lee Avenue North to pro-

test the shooting, which is being investigated by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Several demonstrators jumped on police vehicles and attempted to throw bricks through the windows of the cars.

Footage from the scene shows a law enforcement officer shooting a demonstrator holding what appears to be a chunk of concrete with a less-lethal round at close range.

Katie Wright told media that she was the man’s mother. She said his name was Daunte Wright and he was 20 years old.

“All he did was have air fresheners in the car and they told him to get out of

the car,” Wright said. “He got out of the car, and his girlfriend said they shot him. He got back in the car, and he drove away and crashed and now he’s dead on the ground since 1:47. Nobody will tell us anything. Nobody will talk to us. The BCA just says that they are investigating it. I asked them to please take my son off the ground. He’s been there since 1:47 this afternoon.”

Police appeared to retreat from the area about 8 p.m. Wright could still be seen weeping at the scene of the crash, while a smaller crowd of protesters remained nearby.

## VAPING

From Page A1

that didn’t throw out a plume of smoke, making it popular among students looking to conceal it, Johnson said.

Markegard said kids in her tobacco education class talk about how they vape in the car with their parents without them knowing, because they hide the device in their hoodie and hold the vapor in their lungs until there’s nothing left to exhale.

In early 2020, a nationwide ban went into effect for many flavored e-cigarette products including cartridges and pods, but it did not apply to many other devices, including disposable vapes.

Now, those disposable products are all the rage, offered in a multitude of sweet, fruity and minty flavors with names like Skittles, Lucky Charms and Fruity Pebbles. Others are labeled similarly to energy drinks, with names like Bad Bull and Bang.

vape was using the same amount of nicotine as in six packs of cigarettes a day.

“You start to see how grave of an issue this is and how much we need to stand up and take a stand against these products,” McCoy said.

With the salt-based nicotine used, the stimulant drug is absorbed more quickly.

“You become addicted that much quicker, so it’s a challenging situation that we’re in right now,” Markegard said.

Johnson said another problem with vaping is that a user never really knows what they’re inhaling.

Regulation of the products can be minimal, patchy and different from city to city, state to state.

“The industry is moving so fast — faster than we can keep up with,” he said.

with flavored tobacco. Juniors and seniors caught with them are usually using marijuana concentrates.

Marijuana use in vapes is increasing in Minnesota youth, as well.

McCoy said that number increased from around 11% in 2017 to 18% last year.

Vape products containing THC, the main psychoactive compound in cannabis, can’t be purchased in stores locally.

However, pre-loaded pods containing THC are sold in states where recreational use of marijuana is legal.

“They’re easy to get a hold of,” McCoy said.

He urges parents to look for a green leaf on their child’s vape, a common way to distinguish between a nicotine and THC vape.

Parents should understand the consequences of their children using these concentrated forms, Johnson said.

A rolled marijuana cigarette might contain 8 to 10% of THC. With concentrates, it’s upwards of

90% THC, he said.

Kids using marijuana vape concentrates are getting sick and having lung issues, Johnson said.

The federal and state governments track these illnesses, known as e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury.

Vitamin E acetate, often used in THC vapes, is widely considered a safe dietary supplement, but it can cause chemical burns in the lungs.

It’s meant to be ingested through the stomach, not inhaled, Johnson said.

Changes in public policy are vital to reducing vaping among youth, McCoy said. When cities impose age restrictions and flavor bans, he said, use drops dramatically.

Starting April 27, the U.S. Postal Service will no longer mail vaping products. Other delivery companies are following suit, cutting off one avenue for teens to get them.

to spot, even in plain sight.

Fargo Cass Public Health has launched a vaping education campaign called Spot the Signs, aimed at parents and kids.

Parents can learn more about the signs of vape use and how kids conceal it.

Listen for things that might seem normal but aren’t, Markegard said. Kids may ask a friend to borrow a “book” and promise to return it after class.

“They’re not borrowing a book from anyone. They’re borrowing a vape,” she said.

The campaign also challenges youth to spot signs of their own addiction, learning to understand their need for the product and what it means.

“We have students who have panic and anxiety when they forget their vape at home,” she said.

Information about the new Fargo Cass Public Health campaign can be found at [spotthesigns.net](http://spotthesigns.net) and in social media ads

and on billboards.

Another option is a new text-to-quit line for teens called My Life My Quit; a no pressure, no shame program that is entirely free.

“It’s all about reaching them where they’re at and helping them to be able to quit when they’re ready,” McCoy said.

Parents can look for:

- Unusual, unfamiliar items; vapes can look like highlighters, erasers, lipstick or makeup compacts.
- New electronic items being plugged in or new chargers.
- New, sweet fragrances you don’t recognize.

Signs of nicotine withdrawal can include:

- Behavioral changes, including mood swings, agitation.
- Poor performance in school, loss of interest in activities.
- Abnormal coughing, throat clearing and shortness of breath.
- Nausea and vomiting, possible signs of nicotine poisoning known as nic-sick.

Some of the new disposable vapes contain as many as 2,200 puffs, McCoy said, amounting to as much as three cigarette packs worth of nicotine.

He said a Moorhead middle school student recently caught with a

### Use of THC vapes increasing

Johnson said when he finds a freshman student at Fargo Davies with a vape, it’s likely one filled

with flavored tobacco. Juniors and seniors caught with them are usually using marijuana concentrates.

### How to ‘Spot the Signs’

Signs that a child is using a vape can be hard

**fargopark DISTRICT**

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF FARGO WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M.** IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE PARK DISTRICT OFFICES AT 701 MAIN AVENUE, FARGO, WITH PRESIDENT STACEY GRIGGS, PRESIDING. Please note: This is an in person and MS Teams Live Event. Members of the public and media can view the meeting at [www.fargoparks.com/news/park-board-meeting-april-agenda](http://www.fargoparks.com/news/park-board-meeting-april-agenda)

**Consent Agenda**  
– APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

- Minutes – March 9, 2021
- March Bills
- Order of Agenda
- Approve and award the following bids:
  - 2021 Playground Improvements
  - Pickleball Courts at Valley View Park and Longfellow Park
  - Forestry Boom Truck

**Regular Agenda**

- Recognition of Audience
- Director’s Report
- Foundation Director’s Report
- Board to discuss and consider for approval a Garden of Healing proposal; Kevin Boe and Dave Leker, presenters.
- Board to discuss and consider for approval City of Fargo Flood Mitigation Project as it relates to Trefoil Park; Dave Bietz, presenter.
- Board to consider for approval and award bid for basketball courts at Centennial Park; Dave Bietz, presenter.
- Board to discuss and consider for approval remodel and replacement options for Island Park Pool; Kevin Boe and Dave Klundt, presenters.
- Board to discuss and consider for approval financing options for capital projects; Broc Lietz, presenter.
- Board to consider for approval resolution for providing general obligation bonds for Fargo Sports Complex project and Island Park Pool project; Broc Lietz, presenter.

Individuals who wish to attend Park Board meetings but need special arrangements, please contact the Fargo Park District office at 499-6060.

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• Parts Room, approx. 30x45 finished area w/suspended ceiling & O/H Mezzanine for storage  
• Main Shop, approx. 100x100  
• South Bay, approx. 100x30 for heated storage

41x46 HOOP STYLE BUILDING (BUILDING #2)

CONCRETE LOADING DOCK (ITEM #3)  
80x120 CHIEF BUILDING (BUILDING #4)  
• Heated Wash Bay w/full length drain pit & Alkota LP  
• Heated Shop Area, approx. 80x45

12x66 MOBILE HOME ON CONCRETE PAD W/CARPORT & LEAN TO GARAGE (ITEM #5)  
40x160x16 COLD STORAGE SHED (BUILDING #6)

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