

Sunset swinging



David Samson / The Forum

Xavier Lippay, 9, swings on the tree in his front yard in north Fargo while his neighbors Isla and Harris Melby take a climb at sunset on Thursday, Nov. 5.

'I really worry for South Dakota'

Epidemiologist with Mitchell ties warns state

By **Jeremy Fugleberg**
Forum News Service

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Eric Feigl-Ding has fond memories of South Dakota. He spent part of his childhood in Mitchell, where his mom taught at Dakota Wesleyan University.

Feigl-Ding is now a noted epidemiologist and health economist, lauded for sounding an early alarm about the risk of a widespread and deadly COVID-19 pandemic. So when he looks at South Dakota, home of one of the worst COVID-19 surges in

the world, and sees a state not following basic public health recommendations for reducing the spread of the virus, it's personal.

"I really worry for South Dakota," Feigl-Ding said in an Oct. 30 interview with Forum News Service. "We don't want to talk about doomsday scenarios, we want to talk about how to avoid all that. But think of all the options: Political leadership? No. Local leadership? Patchy or none. And community organizing and community awareness and realization of this? It's — right now — low."

South Dakota on Thursday, Nov. 5, marked its deadliest day of the COVID-19 pandemic so far, with

health officials reporting 22 fatalities due to the virus, raising the state's death toll to 482.

Feigl-Ding, a senior fellow at the Federation of American Scientists in Washington, D.C., pointed a finger squarely at the state's political leadership, specifically Gov. Kristi Noem. Noem has roundly rejected calls for statewide restrictions to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including recommendations by public health officials for a masking mandate.

Feigl-Ding had a message for Noem: "It's incredibly shameful you're denying science and denying all we have learned from public health — whether

it be epidemiology, virology, immunology, medicine — all these things, you're denying all of them. In the name of what?"

"Just put in these simple rules of following science. You don't lose anything. It's not shameful to follow science to save people's lives."

Noem has said there are some times mask use is appropriate, but she has cast doubt on the benefits of a widespread, mandatory masking, calling the science behind its efficacy mixed.

Fugleberg covers regional health issues, with a focus on Sanford Health. He can be followed on Twitter at @jayfug and reached at jfugleberg@forumcomm.com or 605-777-3357.



Feigl-Ding

BRIEFS

Lake Agassiz Regional Library closing Veterans Day

MOORHEAD — All Lake Agassiz Regional Library branches and LINK sites will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

LARL branches are located in Moorhead, Ada, Bagley, Barnesville, Breckenridge, Climax, Crookston, Detroit Lakes, Fertile, Fosston, Hawley, Mahnommen and McIntosh. LINK sites are in Cormorant, Frazee, Gonvick, Halstad, Hendrum, Lake Park, Rothsay, Twin Valley and Ulen.

For more information, visit www.larl.org.

Arrest made in fatal shooting of teen in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — A juvenile suspect has been arrested and charged with killing a Sioux Falls high school senior outside a Halloween party in the eastern part of the city on Saturday night, Oct. 31.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens said the case has not been moved to adult court so the suspect's name or charges couldn't be released. He did report that authorities are investigating the shooting as a homicide.

The juvenile is accused of shooting Lincoln High School senior Venance Kitungano, 18, in the head outside the Red Sea Pub about 9:10 p.m. on Saturday.

Kitungano was taken to the hospital and died the next morning.

The suspect was arrested Tuesday, Clemens said.

No alcohol was being served at the party despite it being held at a pub, Clemens said at a news conference.

DAR sponsors wreath placement at Fargo National Cemetery

FARGO — The Dacotah Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution are sponsoring wreath placement at the Fargo National Cemetery this year.

The ceremony and wreath laying will take place at noon Saturday, Dec. 19. Members of the public are invited to attend and volunteer to assist in the wreath laying.

Wreaths can be sponsored for a cost of \$15 each by going to the website: www.wreathscrossamerica.org/nd0008p. The last day to order wreaths is Nov. 30.

More information can be found on the Wreaths Across America website: www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

RACE

From Page A1

night, while his margin in Georgia fell from 68,000 to 2,500. Those numbers were expected to continue to move in Biden's favor, with many of the outstanding ballots from areas that typically vote Democratic, including the cities of Philadelphia and Atlanta.

Biden saw his lead in Arizona contract from 93,000 to around 48,000; he was ahead in Nevada by only 11,000 votes.

Biden would become the next president by winning Pennsylvania, or by winning two out of the trio of Georgia, Nevada and Arizona. Trump's likeliest path



REUTERS / Eduardo Munoz

People gather with signs as votes continue to be counted following the 2020 presidential election, Nov. 5 in Philadelphia.

appeared narrower — he needed to hang onto Pennsylvania and Georgia while overtaking Biden in either Nevada or Arizona.

Most major television networks gave Biden a 253 to 214 lead in

Electoral College votes, which are largely determined by state population.

As demonstrators marched in several U.S. cities for a second straight day, the election lay in the hands of civil

employees who were counting hundreds of thousands of ballots, many of which were sent by mail amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Final results in each state could take days. Pennsylvania Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar said on Thursday afternoon the state still had about 350,000 ballots yet to count.

In Georgia, Gabriel Sterling, an election official, said it would "take time" to process tens of thousands of remaining ballots.

'Messy' democracy

Trump's remarks followed a series of Twitter posts from Trump earlier in the day that called for vote counting to stop, even

though he currently trails Biden in enough states to hand the Democrat the presidency.

Trump's campaign, meanwhile, pursued a flurry of lawsuits in Georgia, Michigan, Nevada and Pennsylvania, though judges in Georgia and Michigan quickly rejected the challenges. Legal experts said the cases had little chance of affecting the electoral outcome.

Biden wrote on Twitter shortly after Trump's White House appearance, "No one is going to take our democracy away from us." In earlier remarks from his hometown of Wilmington, Del., Biden expressed confidence he would win.

"Democracy's sometimes messy," Biden said. "It sometimes requires a little patience as well. But that patience has been rewarded now for more than 240 years in a system of governance that has been the envy of the world."

The close election underscored the nation's deep political divides, while the slow count of millions of mail-in ballots served as a reminder of the deadly pandemic that continues to upend American life.

Biden's lead in the national popular vote broke 4 million on Thursday night, though that plays no role in deciding the winner.

TRIAL

From Page A1

assuage the defendants' security concerns but instead is likely to heighten those concerns because the relevant courthouse would certainly be smaller than the Hennepin County Government Center," Cahill said.

The four ex-officers were charged after Floyd, a Black man, died in police custody. They arrested Floyd after a store clerk alleged he was trying to use a counterfeit \$20 bill.

Video shows Chauvin kneeling on the neck of a handcuffed Floyd for 8 minutes and 46 seconds as the other officers stand by. Floyd was pronounced dead after being taken to a hospital by an ambulance.

Chauvin was charged May 29 with murder and manslaughter in the second degree. A third felony of third-degree murder was dismissed last month.

Kueng, Lane and Thao, who were charged June



3, each face two felonies of second-degree aiding and abetting, one for manslaughter and the other for murder.

The defense argued publicity from the case may have tainted a pool of potential jurors to be biased against the defendants. Cahill countered, noting "no corner of the state of Minnesota has been shielded from pretrial publicity regarding the death of George Floyd."

Moving the trial likely would not make a difference, Cahill added.

The development means the trial will not be moved to the Clay County Courthouse in Moorhead. Court documents previously mentioned Clay, Dakota and Stearns counties as potential locations if Cahill allowed for a change of venue.

Floyd's death has sparked protests and riots across the country. The trial is likely to draw large crowds inside and out of the courtroom.

Moving the trial to Moorhead would have been "a tremendous nightmare," Clay County Sheriff Mark Empting previously told The Forum. He had concerns about space in courtrooms, the number of staff needed to handle the trial and the courthouse's proximity to Robert Asp Elementary School, which is across the street.

Empting agreed with the judge and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, whose office is leading the prosecution, when they said the trial should stay in Hennepin County.

"That's a case that



Forum News Service file photo

A little girl walks by a mural of George Floyd on the wall of Cup Foods in Minneapolis on June 1. Floyd died after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck a week prior.

started there," Empting told The Forum Thursday.

In another ruling, Cahill will allow cameras to livestream the trial.

MPR News contributed to this report.

Readers can reach Forum reporter April Baumgarten at 701-241-5417 or follow her on Twitter @aprilbaumsaway.

Saturday, November 14 - 10am to 4pm

Eclectic Complements Vendor Blender

DoubleTree by Hilton West Fargo

(825 E Beaton Drive)

Crafters with their beautiful creations and vendors such as Color Street, Tastefully Simple, and Scentsy. Come out for your chance to win door prizes. For more info, contact eclecticcomplements@outlook.com. Masks Required.