

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Valentine's Day gift ideas from local cottage, small businesses, **BUSINESS**

The Forum

OF FARGO - MOORHEAD



UNLOCK DIGITAL AT INFORUM.COM/ACTIVATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021

▶▶▶ INFORUM.COM



David Samson / The Forum

Sarah Nygaard, Sanford Health's nursing clinical services leader, preps a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the former Gordmans store in Fargo on Friday, Feb. 5.

Prosecution asks judge to reinstate third-degree murder charge for Chauvin

Ex-Minneapolis police officer, 3 others charged in death of George Floyd

By Katrina Pross
St. Paul Pioneer Press

police officer Mohamed Noor's appeal in his own case.

ST. PAUL — The prosecution in the George Floyd case filed a motion Thursday, Feb. 4, to reinstate the third-degree murder charge against former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. A day later, Gov. Tim Walz activated the National Guard to prepare for unrest surrounding Chauvin's trial.



Chauvin

The motion also asks to add a third-degree murder charge against the other former officers charged in Floyd's death: Thomas Lane, J. Alexander Kueng and Tou Thao. On June 3, Chauvin was charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter for the May 25 arrest death of Floyd. Lane, Kueng and Thao were charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

The motion asks Hennepin County District Judge Peter Cahill to reinstate the third-degree murder charge against Chauvin or to file an amended complaint that includes third-degree murder, citing new legal precedent set in former Minneapolis

Chauvin's third-degree murder charge was dismissed in October because Cahill determined that there was no evidence that Chauvin's actions were "specifically directed at persons

CHAUVIN: Page A8

The secret to success

Deep community ties help ND dole out COVID-19 vaccine with maximum efficiency

By Jeremy Turley
Forum News Service

Bismarck

When shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine landed a few miles down the road from Nekoma, N.D., the shot immediately became the talk of the town.

Joyce Eskilsen first learned of inoculation's arrival in Cavalier County from a worker at the doctor's office. Later that day, a friend called her to chat about it. Then, another friend rang to share the exciting development.

News spreads fast "when you live out in the sticks," Eskilsen joked.

Within a few hours, the 85-year-old and her husband had signed



David Samson / The Forum

COVID-19 vaccinations are prepped for use at the former Gordmans location in Fargo.

up to get the jab, and on Jan. 14, they got their first doses at the county's public health office in Langdon. The online registration process, even with some technical difficulties, took no longer than 40 minutes, Eskilsen said.

"It was no trouble at all," Eskilsen said. "They did a fantastic job."

Eskilsen and about 750 others in the rural northeastern county have gotten their first shot — a full 20% of the population.

But in North

Dakota, Cavalier County's vaccination dissemination is no aberration. The state leads the nation in efficient vaccine rollout, with nearly 93% of its allocated doses already shot into residents' arms, according to the health department. Despite having received proportionally fewer doses than a handful of other states, North Dakota ranks third in doses administered per capita, behind only Alaska and West Virginia and several strides ahead of Minnesota and South Dakota. Altogether, about 11.5% of North Dakota's population has gotten its first jab,

VACCINE: Page A10

'It's only a small part of who I am'

ND native recounts 3 days stranded in frigid winter of 1989

By Tracy Briggs
tracy.briggs@forumcomm.com

All it takes is a scroll through 48-year-old Bennett Stebleton's social media accounts to understand that he's a bit of a Renaissance man — a talented communicator and artist, animal lover and activist. However, even with all of his accomplishments, there is one thing he hasn't been able to master.

"I can't play the guitar," he says with a big laugh as he holds up his hands to show that eight of his ten fingers end at



Special to The Forum
Despite his long stay in the hospital, Stebleton graduated on time from North Central High School in Rocklake, N.D., in 1990.

STEBLETON: Page A11

INSIDE TODAY'S FORUM

Lawmakers across region aim to limit transgender athletes

By Robin Huebner
rhuebner@forumcomm.com

Editor's note: If you or a loved one is in crisis, you can call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (1-800-273-TALK), which is answered locally. Other resources include Trans Lifeline at 1-877-565-8860 or translifeline.org

FARGO — Lawmakers in the tri-state region are considering bills that would impact transgender people, and specifically, in North Dakota and Minnesota, young transgender athletes.

However, organizations that govern high school sports said they

don't see the issue come up often enough to warrant a change.

In addition, transgender youth advocates say any such change would be harmful to a population already vulnerable to depression, anxiety and suicidality.

ATHLETES: Page A8



LIFE: Yard and garden tasks to take care of this winter.
PAGE B1

7 85186 00030 2
\$3.00
(Suggested retail price)
Copyright 2021 The Forum

Today's weather

Partly cloudy Details, D4

-4°
-20°

Classifieds	F
Comics	Z
Crosswords	F5, F8
Home&Abroad	C5
Life	B1
Obituaries	C8-12
Opinion	C6-7
Sports	D1

FARMLAND FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Sargent County Farmland, 200.8+- acres Southeast of Rutland, ND

FOR SALE: Barnes County Farmland, 260.36+- acres just NW of Tower City, ND Currently enrolled in CRP.

FOR SALE: Norman County Farmland. 220+ acres SW of Twin Valley, MN.

SOLD: Cass County Farmland, 120 acres East of Buffalo, ND.

SOLD: Grand Forks County Farmland, 135.99+- acres 7 miles West of Reynolds, ND.

Phone: 701-799-5213
Steven Johnson
steve@johnsonauctionandrealty.com
R.E. Broker Auctioneer Lic# 976

www.johnsonauctionandrealty.com
40 years of agricultural experience in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota