

'THERE'S AN ENERGY GOING ON'

Fargo, Moorhead downtowns blossom as places to live, eat work, play, BUSINESS

The Forum

OF FARGO-MOORHEAD

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021

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2nd teen faces murder charge in cab driver's fatal shooting

By April Baumgarten
The Forum

MOORHEAD — Another teenager will face a murder charge in connection to a May taxi driver robbery in Moorhead that ended with a fatal shooting.

Clay County District Court records showed Friday, Aug. 20, that Kristy Thi Vo, 18, of Fargo will be charged with a second-degree felony of murder without intent and two felony counts of aggravated robbery in the first degree. A criminal complaint was not filed in Vo's case as of Friday afternoon, but records listed the date of the offense as May 5.

That's the same day Doyle's Yellow Checker Cab driver Abdullahi Mohamed Abdullahi of Moorhead was shot while responding to a call for a pickup at 3015 20th St. S. in Moorhead.

Pamela Foss, who is the chief assistant attorney for Clay County, confirmed the case filed Friday was due to Vo's case being moved out of juvenile court into adult court. A motion to do so was approved Friday, Foss said.

Vo is scheduled to appear Monday in court on the charges.

Willie Alonzo Sparkman Jr., 18, of Moorhead was charged with felony counts of second-degree murder without intent,

attempted aggravated robbery and conspiracy to commit aggravated robbery in connection to the case. Court documents alleged he and a then-17-year-old girl, now known to be Vo, called Doyle's with plans to rob a taxi driver.

Police alleged Sparkman fired a .45 caliber handgun around 3:20 a.m. May 5 at Abdullahi, who then drove across 20th Street South and crashed into a ditch. Sparkman then fled the scene in a car.

Sparkman told police he and Vo devised a plan to rob people so they could pay rent, but he didn't mean for the shooting to happen, court documents said. He also said, "If I did this, she was involved too," court documents claimed.

Investigators also believe Sparkman was involved in at least two other robberies, including another Doyle's cab driver, in Fargo the same night of the shooting in Moorhead. A search warrant to collect DNA and gunshot residue from Sparkman referred to a third robbery involving a third Doyle's driver on April 3 at 2526 15th St. S. in Fargo.

The taxi driver in that case said a Black male pulled a handgun on him, threatened to

MURDER: Page A10

WINGED WONDERS

Moorhead woman, 97, raises monarchs from eggs to butterflies

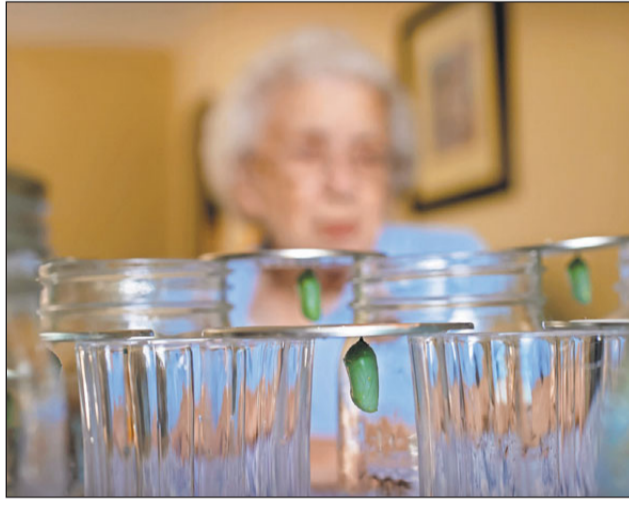
By Barry Amundson
The Forum

Moorhead
Gwen Erickson, 97, started a new hobby a few years back that she wishes others would undertake. The longtime Moorhead resident is

raising and releasing monarch butterflies.

Last year, she raised 27 of the nation's most popular and endangered butterflies. This year, she's up to 61 with about six or seven more to go.

MONARCHS: Page A11



Photos by David Samson / The Forum

Main photo: Gwen Erickson has a laugh as a female monarch butterfly lands on her cheek at her home in Moorhead on Wednesday. **Above:** Erickson raised 70 monarch butterflies this summer at her home in Moorhead.

Isaak guilty of Mandan slayings



Tom Stromme / The Bismarck Tribune

Chad Isaak, right, watches with defense attorney Jesse Walstad on Friday as jurors leave the courtroom after convicting Isaak on four counts of murder and other charges.

Chiropractor convicted of killing 4 at property business

By Michelle Griffith
The Forum

MANDAN, N.D. — After nearly three weeks of court proceedings that contained detailed testimony, jurors found Chad Trolon Isaak guilty on four charges of murder on Friday, Aug. 20, for the deaths of four employees of RJR Maintenance & Management in Mandan more than two years ago.

Jurors returned the guilty verdict after about 4 hours and 15 minutes of deliberation over two days. Isaak faces the possibility of life in prison now that he has been convicted of shooting and stabbing Robert Fakler, Adam Fuehrer, William Cobb and Lois Cobb

on April 1, 2019.

The verdict was the final step of Isaak's three-week trial that was delayed four times. Jurors heard testimony from almost 70 witnesses and were presented with hundreds of pieces of evidence, including weapons, clothing and video surveillance footage.

Judge David Reich read the guilty verdict, and family members in the court room audibly sighed and began crying and hugging one another.

Reich ordered a pre-sentencing investigation to learn more about Isaak himself and determine whether there are any extenuating circumstances that should influence his sentence.

ISAAK: Page A5

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INSIDE TODAY'S FORUM



LIFE: Long-term impacts of heat, drought on yards, gardens, **PAGE D1**

Liquor board backs mandatory ID scanners at all Fargo bars

By Barry Amundson
The Forum

FARGO — After Fargo Police Chief David Zibolski told the city's Liquor Control Board on Wednesday, Aug. 18, that a southside bar caught serving minors wasn't interested in purchasing an ID scanner to prevent underage patrons, the city's Liquor Control Board took the first step toward mandating the equipment at all city bars.

On a unanimous vote, the board agreed to ask the City Commission to have the city attorney's office look into changing city ordinances to require the scanners.

Assistant City Attorney Nancy Morris said they could then begin a more in-depth study of the issue, adding they've already been looking into it. She said city laws would have to be

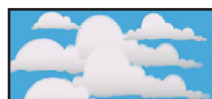
SCANNERS: Page A9



\$3.00

(Suggested retail price)
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Today's weather



Partly cloudy

72°
54°

Details, B12

Business	C1
Classifieds	F1
Crosswords	C6-7
Life	D1
Nation	B6-7
Obituaries	B8-11
Opinion	B4-5
Sports	B1

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FOR SALE: Nelson County, ND Farmland 159+- acres of CRP SE of Michigan, ND.

SOLD: Clay County, MN Farmland, 240+- acres NW of Ulen, MN

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

SOLD: Norman County, MN Farmland, 320+- acres NW of Ulen, MN

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Phone:

701-799-5213

Steven Johnson

steve@johnsonauctionandrealty.com

www.johnsonauctionandrealty.com

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