

IN THE HUNT

Fargo's Tom Hoge near top of leaderboard early at PGA Championship, SPORTS



The Forum

OF FARGO - MOORHEAD

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FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022

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'A tragedy and a nightmare'

Mother, baby recovering after being shot, family says

Fargo
An online gift registry hints of the promise to come for a young family.

Lucia Tiareh Garcia, 21, and Malik Lamar Gill, 24, wrote about their excitement for the arrival of "baby Gill."

Baby shampoo, pacifiers and a high chair were among the items



still on their wish list, posted Oct. 8, 2021.

But somewhere between then and the last few months,

something went horribly wrong.

Garcia is reported in critical but stable condition at Sanford Medical Center after being shot by Gill as she held their 7-month-old baby boy at Plaza Azteca restaurant in south Fargo on Wednesday, May 18.

According to a new

GoFundMe page for the family, Garcia's injuries included a gunshot wound to the upper right chest area.

Garcia required surgery and a blood transfusion, and she was stable and awaiting a second surgery Thursday evening.

SHOOTING: Page A3



Law enforcement officers investigate a shooting on Wednesday at Plaza Azteca Restaurant in south Fargo. Michael Vosburg / The Forum

KIDS KICK OFF MARATHON WEEKEND



David Samson / The Forum

Runners take off inside the Fargodome at the start of the Essentia Health Fargo Marathon Half-Mile Youth Run on Thursday.

Burgum bankrolls effort to unseat GOP lawmakers

Top budget writer among ND legislators targeted

By Jeremy Turley
The Forum

BISMARCK — In the lead-up to the June primary election, a secretive political committee entirely funded by North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum is flooding two Bismarck area legislative districts with advertisements in an attempt to beat out endorsed Republican candidates.

Forum News Service reported this week that Burgum, a former tech mogul, recently gave \$935,000 to the Dakota Leadership PAC. In 2020, Burgum bankrolled the committee's extensive political advertising campaigns with more than \$3.2 million of his personal fortune.

The group's latest advertising blitz targets legislative seats sought by several incumbent Republican lawmakers, including powerful House Appropriations Chairman Jeff Delzer,

R-Underwood.

Hazen Republican Rep. Bill Tveit, who is running for reelection as a team with Delzer, told Forum News Service he has so far received 18 Dakota Leadership PAC mailers in support of Republican challengers Anna Novak and Mark Pierce, who lost the local GOP endorsement to Tveit and Delzer.

None of the ads have attacked the incumbents' political records or characters, but Tveit said he expects the committee to go negative in

the near future.

Two years ago, Dakota Leadership PAC made an aggressive push to unseat Delzer in his race against two Burgum-backed Republican challengers, David Andahl and Dave Nehring. Delzer lost to Andahl and Nehring in the GOP primary, but Andahl died of COVID-19 before he could begin serving in the Legislature and local Republicans appointed Delzer to fill the vacancy.

BURGUM: Page A8

Detective under investigation for not disclosing relationship

Police chief unaware of relationship between detective and prosecutor



Hanson

By April Baumgarten
The Forum

FARGO — A Fargo detective is under internal investigation for dating a prosecutor, a police spokesperson has confirmed.

The Fargo Police Department is looking into whether policies were violated due to the relationship between Detective Troy Hanson and Cass County Assistant State's Attorney SheraLynn Ternes. Ternes disclosed the relationship to her office in mid-December, according to State's Attorney Birch Burdick.

Fargo Police Chief David Zibolski was not aware of the relationship before Wednesday, May 19, spokesperson Gregg Schildberger told The Forum. Wednesday was also when defense attorneys for 36-year-old Anthony Reese Jr., who was charged in November with three counts of murder for a shooting at Melet Plastics in Fargo, questioned why they weren't informed about the relationship before Friday, May 13.

"An internal investigation into this matter has commenced," Schildberger said in a

statement. "Until that is concluded, I will refrain from any additional comments."

Ternes declined to comment on this story, Burdick said. Hanson said he would defer questions to a spokesperson for the police department.

Hanson has been with the department since Oct. 15, 2012. He started serving as a detective in January 2017.

Police employees are supposed to "promptly" disclose to a supervisor the personal or business relationships that could create a conflict of interest, according to department policy.

The State's Attorney's Office does not have a policy addressing relationships between prosecutors and detectives, Burdick said Thursday.

"To my knowledge, a prosecutor/detective relationship like this has not arisen here before now," he said. "It highlights the value of a written policy. As such, we will develop one."

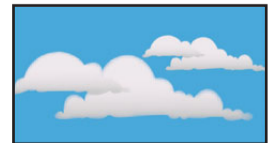
His office also plans to work on protocol "to ensure that, where a disclosure is warranted, we do it at an early stage."

DETECTIVE: Page A3

INSIDE TODAY'S FORUM

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Today's weather



52°
34°

Cloudy
Details, B8

BUSINESS: West Fargo's POW-MIA Plaza to host the Red River Market May 21.
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Minnesota legal sports betting gets final push

Legislature chambers differ as bill deadline nears

By Alex Derosier
The Forum

ST. PAUL — The odds of sports betting becoming legal in Minnesota got a small boost late this week after the Senate took up its proposal on the issue with just days left for the Legislature to finish its business — though a significant hurdle remains.

The Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, May 19, advanced a betting bill toward a

vote of the full Senate, but with a key disagreement with the House on which groups should be able to run mobile and in-person sports betting in Minnesota, it remains uncertain if the chambers will be able to reach a deal by late Sunday night, the deadline to pass any bills.

Minnesota is surrounded by states that allow legal sports betting in some form, and more than 30 states have legalized it since 2018 when the U.S. Supreme Court threw out a federal law banning the practice.

BETTING: Page A8

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DETECTIVE

From Page A1

State's Attorney's Office emails obtained by The Forum through an open records request did not say when the relationship began. Burdick previously told The Forum that he understood the relationship to be "fairly new" when he was informed about it in December.

It's unclear how many cases Ternes and Hanson worked on together. Burdick previously said he is unaware of any court-related violations due to the relationship.

"What I can tell you is that

my attorney has not been involved in any trials during that time in which the officer was called as a witness," he said. "After learning of the relationship, we have re-assigned cases in which that attorney might otherwise be taking that officer's testimony or disclosed the relationship to opposing counsel."

At least one other attorney asked why the relationship was not disclosed to her while defending a client charged in February. Ternes was replaced as a prosecutor on that case.

Ternes remains on the Reese case, and Hanson is listed as a potential witness

in court documents.

Burdick said Thursday his office decides which witnesses will be called to testify at trial. Multiple attorneys also work on larger cases, he added.

"Whether this particular detective is an essential witness in this case, or one of multiple witnesses of which we do not need all, is a decision we will make in the future," Burdick said of Hanson. "Whether Ms. Ternes remains on this case, and in what role, is a decision we will make internally."

Readers can reach Forum reporter April Baumgarten at 701-241-5417 or abaumgarten@forumcomm.com. Follow her on Twitter @aprilbaumsaway.



David Samson / The Forum

Prosecuting attorney SheraLynn Ternes makes her opening statements during the trial of Cody Plumlee in Cass County Court on March 30.

SHOOTING

From Page A1

The baby boy, named Dominique, was wounded on the left thigh and left side of his abdomen, with the bullet hitting his left hand.

Surgery was performed on his hand, and the boy is expected to make a full recovery, according to the GoFundMe, which seeks \$50,000 for the family's medical expenses.

Gill was found in a stolen vehicle across the Red River in Clay County less than two hours after the shooting in Fargo, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said. He'd crashed into a grove of trees near Hawley sometime after being pursued by sheriff's deputies.

It wasn't the first sign of trouble with the couple's relationship, and Gill had a violent criminal history.

The GoFundMe site said their relationship had always been troubled, but Garcia insisted on making it



Lucia Garcia and son Dominique.

work "for the sake of baby Dominique."

"This is a tragedy and a nightmare to everyone involved, and our only focus right now is keeping Lucia and Dominique safe and on their path to recovery," wrote Garcia's sister, Jessica Lopez Garcia.

A warrant for Gill's arrest was issued for a previous incident in Cass County in April on charges of domestic violence and simple assault.

Court documents said on or about March 13, 2022, Gill injured Garcia

by shoving her to the ground, grabbing her by the throat and pushing her.

The Forum requested a copy of that incident report but it was not made available by the county because the warrant was not served, a court clerk said.

Gill also should not have been able to possess a firearm following a felony conviction in Minnesota last year.

In May 2020, Gill pistol-whipped and injured a party-goer with a handgun at a

Moorhead home after he and others had been taking ecstasy, according to court documents.

In January 2021, he was convicted on one of four charges against him in that incident.

On the conviction for second degree assault with a dangerous weapon, a five-year prison sentence was suspended, and Gill was sentenced to 90 days in jail and five years of supervised probation.

In the Wednesday incident, Gill confronted Garcia with a handgun

inside the restaurant around 1:45 p.m., Fargo Police Chief David Zibolski said.

Several patrons and staff were also inside, but no one else was hurt.

Zibolski said multiple shots were fired inside and outside as Garcia tried to run to safety with the baby.

Witnesses at the restaurant were able to get a license plate number on the vehicle that fled the scene. Around 2:25 p.m., there was a report of a stolen vehicle nearby, and a license plate number was obtained.

Clay County Sheriff Mark Empting said about 3:30 p.m., Gill was involved in a high-speed pursuit after deputies spotted the stolen vehicle on Minnesota Highway 9 about three

miles south of the intersection with U.S. Highway 10.

Empting said law enforcement used OnStar tracking to follow the vehicle and stop sticks to flatten the tires.

After the vehicle later crashed, a drone was used to determine there was no movement in the vehicle, and officers located Gill's body.

Meanwhile, the restaurant where the shooting occurred was closed Thursday but will open Friday, May 20, for a fundraiser for Lucia Garcia and her young son.

In a Facebook post, Plaza Azteca said it would donate 50% of the day's sales to the family.

Readers can reach reporter Robin Huebner at rhuebner@forumcomm.com

FARGO THEATRE

TICKETS AND INFO AT FARGOTHEATRE.ORG

DOWNTON ABBEY: A NEW ERA [PG]

Fri 4:15, 7:00 • Sat 11:30am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30
Sun 1:30, 4:15, 7:00 • Mon CLOSED
Tues & Thurs 4:30, 7:15 • Wed 4:30, 7:45

The Crawley family journeys to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the dowager countess's newly inherited villa.

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TANKHOUSE



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★ Get ticket information and watch the trailer at inforum.news/movie ★



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We're proud to have our advertising and marketing efforts recognized by the North Dakota Newspaper Association!

First Place in Multi-Day

- Large (Apparel Ad) - Tammy Doyle, Tim Couchman
- Large (Ad Series) - Keith Harriger, Brenda Lawrence, Andy Goble, Bethany Loida
- Large (Small Space Ad) - Jen Phillips, Jamie Dettling
- Large (Use of Color) - Luanna Lake, Tim Couchman
- Large (Promo of Community) - Brenda Lawrence, Tim Couchman
- Division (Best Digital Ad) - Dan Young, Tim Couchman
- Division (NorthSCAN Top Seller) - The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
- Large (Sweepstakes) - The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead Staff

Second Place in Multi-Day

- Large (Vehicle Ad) - Rachel Poser, Keith Harriger
- Large (Outdoors/Sports Ad) - Carli Greninger
- Large (Single Ad) - Katie Hastings, Keith Harriger
- Large (Agricultural Ad) - Anne Malvin, Creative Team
- Large (Signature Page) - Creative Team
- Large (General Excellence) - The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead Staff

Third Place in Multi-Day

- Large (Food Ad) - Katie Hastings, Keith Harriger
- Large (Vehicle Ad) - Tasha Kenyon, Kevin Bauer
- Large (Signature Page) - Anne Malvin, Creative Team
- Large (Single Ad) - Rebekah Ness, Keith Harriger

Honorable Mention

- Large (Small Space Ad) - Tammy Doyle, Jen Strand
- Large (Use of Color) - Tasha Kenyon, Jamie Dettling

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL NEWS!