

## Minnesota shooting suspect in custody after 2-day manhunt

BY MARY MURPHY  
Forum News Service

ST. PAUL — The two-day manhunt for 57-year-old Vance Boelter came to an end Sunday night after law enforcement reported he is alive and in custody. A high-ranking state official confirmed with Forum News Service at about 9:30 p.m. Sunday,

June 15, that Boelter was taken into custody in Sibley County. Law enforcement identified Boelter on Saturday as a suspect in the shootings of two Minnesota lawmakers and their spouses early Saturday, June 14, in what has been called an act of “targeted political violence.” More information on

the arrest was expected to be shared during a 10:30 p.m. press conference with Gov. Tim Walz and law enforcement officials, but was not available by this publication’s deadline. Former Speaker of the House Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, were shot and killed in their Brooklyn

Park home at about 3:35 a.m. Saturday, after which the suspect reportedly escaped on foot. Hortman was pronounced dead at the scene, and her husband died at the hospital, according to Hennepin County Medical Examiner reports.

ARREST on A4



Contributed / Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office  
Vance Boelter, the suspect in the shooting of two Minnesota lawmakers and their spouses, is placed under arrest Sunday in Sibley County.



Erik and Nicole Stewart talk about their short-term rental property Thursday in Fargo.

Alyssa Goelzer / The Forum

## ‘IT’S OUR LIVELIHOOD’

### Owners say short-term rental rule could shut them down in West Fargo

BY WENDY REUER  
The Forum

#### WEST FARGO

Owners of short-term rentals in West Fargo say they don’t oppose city regulation of their property, but a proposed provision requiring short-term rentals only be operated by homeowners who consider the property their primary residence would eliminate nearly all the short-term rentals in the city. Short-term rentals are those that offer rental periods of 29 days or fewer, often listed on sites such as Airbnb or Vrbo. West Fargo city commissioners initially asked staff in 2024 to draft an



Alyssa Goelzer / Forum file photo  
West Fargo Mayor Bernie Dardis at a West Fargo City Commission meeting in February.

ordinance to police short-term rentals. A draft ordinance was presented to the West Fargo Planning and Zoning Commission in March that included a provision that only

primary residences would be eligible for short-term rental licenses, meaning properties owned by a business entity or LLC would not be granted a license.

After hearing feedback from residents, the Planning and Zoning Committee removed the primary residence requirement and passed the ordinance on to the City Commission for approval. However, in May, city commissioners rejected that version of the ordinance and instead directed staff to draft the ordinance again with the primary residence requirement. At the May 5 commission meeting, residents Tyler Erickson and David Withee urged the commission to reinstate the primary residence requirement. Both men, the only two who spoke at the meeting regarding the ordinance, said they

RENTALS on A6

## Colleges monitor halt on international student visa interviews

FARGO — Local universities find themselves looking into a crystal ball, of sorts, to understand the impact of a pause on part of the process to bring international students to study in the U.S. The U.S. State Department, under the administration of President Donald Trump, late last month halted scheduling of new visa interviews for those students, while it prepares to expand screening of their social media activity for potential red flags.

Tom Reburn, dean of admissions at Minnesota State University Moorhead, leads that school’s international recruitment efforts. “The federal government seems to want to make sure they understand how to look at the full voice of a student



and try to understand their intent, before they allow them to visit the United States,” he said. The move comes at a time when many universities are making concerted efforts to maintain, and even grow, their enrollments. North Dakota State University has, by far, the

STUDENTS on A4

## Moorhead Fire Department eyes future growth

### Facing rising call numbers, leaders look at adding new station, more staff

BY INGRID HARBO  
The Forum

MOORHEAD — As Moorhead grows, so do the number of calls coming into the Moorhead Fire Department. In the last decade, calls for service to the department have nearly doubled. In 2014, there were 2,490 calls for service, according to the department’s 2014 annual report. Last year, the department had 4,722 calls for service. According to the 2010 census, Moorhead had around 38,000 residents. In 2020, that number grew to 44,500 people. However, staffing levels for the fire department have not followed the same trends. The department has 39 employees, with 33 employees

operating out of the city’s two fire stations, according to Fire Chief Jeff Wallin. “That number has been fairly stable for quite a while,” Wallin said. But looking toward the future, the department seeks to grow, both in personnel and locations, Wallin said. He said the department’s next five-year plan, which has yet to be released, addresses future growth. “One of our first goals was to align our fire department staffing with the city development, with regional standards and community expectations,” Wallin said. That goal includes increasing staffing and increasing the

STAFFING on A6



Anna Paige / The Forum  
Moorhead Fire Chief Jeff Wallin is pictured on Thursday at Moorhead Fire Department Station 1 on the corner of 12th Street North and Second Avenue North.

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