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# The Forum

OF FARGO-MOORHEAD

LATE EDITION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2015

INFORUM.COM

# Ready for disaster



Nick Wagner / The Forum

Participants in an active-shooter training drill are led to safety by authorities Friday outside of Davies High School in Fargo. Laura Haugen Christensen, an English teacher at Davies who is pointing above, was a volunteer in the drill.

## Davies High focus of one of area's biggest active-shooter training scenarios

By Helmut Schmidt  
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Fargo

Police officers, sheriff's deputies and U.S. marshals donned body armor gear and grabbed shotguns and assault rifles from their squad cars and SUVs as they swarmed Davies High School on Friday.

With a National Guard helicopter flying overhead, they entered the building shortly after 1 p.m. singly or in twos and threes, training their guns on doors and upper-floor windows as part of the biggest active-shooter training scenario to be held in the area.

Fargo Police Sgt. George Vinson said the goal was to make the event as realistic as possible, with 60 volunteers acting as wounded, dead, or panicked teachers and students.

All that responding officers had to go on entering the building was the information they got from 911 dispatch center operators.

At Davies, they were faced with three gunmen (played by police officers), who they had to neutralize, Vinson said.

By the time the exercise was wrapped up 2½ hours later, one shooter was captured, one was "wounded" by officers, and the other was "dead" by his own hand. But that's not before five of the volunteers were declared dead and another 15 wounded.

"Overall, we felt the exercises went very well," Vinson said, adding that Fargo police would like to run a similar exercise annually.

TRAINING: Page A3

## Fargo activist proposes to simplify city's liquor license structure

Entrepreneur says Fargo's liquor licenses are too costly, complicated

By Tu-Uyen Tran  
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FARGO – For a restaurateur who wishes to sell alcohol to customers, the city offers a choice of 10 different liquor licenses.

It depends on how much food the restaurateur expects to sell compared to alcohol; if the alcohol is liquor, beer or wine; if there is a bar or not; if the restaurant is in the Renaissance Zone or at a golf course; if the restaurant has a license for live entertainment; and if there is a cap on the number of licenses.

That doesn't include licensing fees that can be as high as \$100,000.

There are 19 other kinds of licenses covering the needs of hotels, stadiums, breweries and riverboats, among others.

Joe Burgum, an activist trying



Burgum

to encourage a more entrepreneurial and creative atmosphere here, calls the licensing system a "cultural and economic bottleneck." If someone wanted to open a jazz club now, or a very intimate cocktail lounge or a neighborhood burger joint, he said, they would have a hard time, either because the business model doesn't match any of the city's licenses or it's too costly.

But there's kind of a reason for that. Garylle Stewart, a longtime member of the city's Liquor Control Board, said the city doesn't want "a bar on every corner." He said the fact that there are so many kinds of licenses available shows the city

has been flexible in adding more to accommodate business needs.

Burgum said he plans to ask the board to form a committee to study reforms to liquor licenses.

### Social lubricant

Burgum, who calls himself a "social entrepreneur," said it's not about expanding opportunities to get drunk, but expanding opportunities to connect. He started a business called Folkways that helps clients "nurture culture creators," but makes no distinction between work and volunteering.

Earlier in the year, he helped organize the downtown farmers' market after the previous one had to move because of dike construction. He also lobbied the city and state Legislature

ALCOHOL: Page A3

## INSIDE TODAY'S FORUM

# Fargo man found dead in camper at WE Fest

### Forum Staff Reports

DETROIT LAKES, Minn. – A 49-year-old Fargo man was found dead in his camper at WE Fest on Friday.

Authorities received a report about 11:30 a.m. from a family member of the man that he was unresponsive.

Medical and law enforcement officials determined at the scene that he had died.

No foul play is suspected and officials have no indication alcohol was involved in the man's death, said Becker County Sheriff Todd Glander.

Officials plan to release his name today after his family is notified, Glander said.


An autopsy will be done at Regions Hospital in St. Paul to determine the

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VARIETY: Four common yard problems and how to fix them. PAGE B1

  
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Today's weather  
  
83°  
62°  
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Details, D6

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# Colorado gunman gets life sentence for killing 12 in movie rampage

**Reuters**  
CENTENNIAL, Colo. — A Colorado jury sentenced movie rampage gunman James Holmes on Friday to life in prison, rejecting the death penalty for the 27-year-old who entered a midnight showing of a Batman film wearing a gas mask, helmet and body armor and shot dead a dozen people.

After less than a day of deliberations, and in a surprise to many legal experts and those in the packed courtroom, the jurors were not unanimous on a death sentence for Holmes. They found him guilty last month on all counts for the July 20, 2012, massacre. Seventy people were also wounded.

Holmes showed no reaction. The former neuroscience graduate student stared straight ahead with his hands in his pockets as

the judge read out the forms. The verdict brings to an end an often-delayed, lengthy and high-profile trial just a little more than three years after his rampage in a suburban Denver multiplex put a spotlight on gun control, mental illness and security in public spaces.

Sandy Phillips, whose daughter Jessica Ghawi was murdered by Holmes, commiserated outside the courtroom after the verdict with a wheelchair-bound survivor of the rampage, Caleb Medley.

"Justice is not served. Sorry, Caleb," she said. As two members of Holmes' court-appointed defense team walked past, Phillips said: "I wonder how it feels to save the life of a mass murderer? Good job."

Moments earlier, Arapahoe County District Court

Judge Carlos Samour read that the panel had been unable to agree, and that they understood Holmes would serve life as a result. They would have had to be unanimous for a death penalty to be imposed. The defense had said he suffered from schizophrenia and was not in control of his actions.

In his speech to the jury, District Attorney George Brauchler had argued that justice for Holmes meant execution for the "horror and evil" he wrought during his attack on the screening of "The Dark Knight Rises" at the Century 16 multiplex in Aurora.

During the trial, dozens of wounded survivors testified about how they had tried to hide from the gunman's hail of bullets, some of them steel-penetrating rounds, or stumbled over

the bodies of loved ones as they tried to flee.

Prosecutors said Holmes aimed to slaughter all 400 theatergoers. But he failed to kill more, they said, in part because a drum magazine he had bought to boost his firepower jammed.

The proceedings against Holmes began in late April and reached penalty phase closing arguments on Thursday after 60 days of trial, 306 witnesses, and the introduction of nearly 2,700 pieces of evidence.

**New record, mental illness**  
Defense lawyer Tamara Brady had stressed that Holmes had no previous criminal record. She had asked jurors whether they were ready to sign the death warrant of a mentally ill person and said they

would have to live with the decision for the rest of their lives.

While the jury rejected Holmes' plea of insanity, Brady said all the doctors the panel had heard from in court had agreed that he was seriously mentally ill.

Holmes had remained mostly expressionless throughout the trial, occasionally turning to look when a photograph of himself appears on a court television.

The defense said his "aloof or distracted" demeanor was caused by anti-psychosis drugs that treat, but do not cure, his mental illness.

He had been seeing a school psychiatrist and dropped out of a graduate program at the University of Colorado's Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora just weeks before the attack.

## DEATH

From Page A1

cause of death, he said. The incident had no impact on the festivities, Glander said, adding that his office was still investigating Friday night.

Two men died at the country music festival in 2009.

Carl Marvin Cymbaluk, 24, of Fosston, Minn., was found dead one morning before musical acts hit the stage. An autopsy determined that his death was the result of underlying heart problems.

Three days later, a 67-year-old man was found dead about 1:30 a.m. Officials later learned that the man had underlying medical conditions and said he died of natural causes.

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