

StormTRACKER

WDAYabc

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StormTRACKER Forecast

Almanac Through 12 AM Thursday

Temperature	High	Low
Wednesday	69°	42°
Normal	71°	48°
Record	96° in 1900	23° in 1947

Precipitation In Inches

Wednesday	0
Month To Date	2.16"
Departure From Avg Month To Date	-0.75"
Year To Date	5.55"
Departure From Avg Year To Date	.03"

Sunrise: 5:45 am

Sunset: 9:20 p.m.

	Today	Tomorrow
North Dakota	Hi Lo	Hi Lo
Bismarck	82 57	81 56
Fargo	84 58	83 58
Medora	85 49	82 52
Minot	84 58	82 56
Williston	84 51	83 54

	Today	Tomorrow
Minnesota	Hi Lo	Hi Lo
Alexandria	81 58	84 57
Duluth	81 47	65 48
International Falls	82 49	79 48
Minneapolis	84 59	84 57
Rochester	80 58	81 53

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

82 / 57

84 / 55

88 / 60

76 / 51

63 / 45

71 / 46

73 / 51

Sunny

Mostly Sunny

Sunny

PM Thunderstorms

Showers

Partly Cloudy

Partly Cloudy

Wind: W 12 mph

Wind: N 17 mph

Wind: SW 11 mph

Wind: NE 16 mph

Wind: N 18 mph

Wind: NW 12 mph

Wind: S 12 mph

\*Average wind speed for each day

Vancouver 71° / 56°

Seattle 76° / 55°

Portland 87° / 57°

Boise 91° / 61°

Billings 81° / 54°

Rapid City 82° / 55°

Minneapolis 84° / 59°

Green Bay 78° / 47°

Montreal 70° / 58°

Boston 77° / 59°

New York 76° / 60°

Washington 78° / 60°

Raleigh 82° / 58°

Miami 89° / 78°

Orlando 88° / 74°

New Orleans 88° / 70°

Houston 86° / 73°

Brownsville 93° / 78°

Dallas 81° / 63°

El Paso 91° / 68°

Albuquerque 89° / 63°

Phoenix 103° / 79°

Los Angeles 84° / 62°

San Francisco 70° / 52°

Denver 82° / 54°

Kansas City 81° / 60°

St. Louis 80° / 62°

Chicago 79° / 52°

Pittsburgh 67° / 55°

Detroit 77° / 52°

UV Index Today

7

0-2 Low, 3-5 Moderate, 6-7 High, 8-10 Very High, 11+ Extreme.

## West Fargo man appeals conviction for murdering wife

BY WENDY REUER  
The Forum

FARGO — A West Fargo man convicted of killing his wife is appealing his conviction based on the argument that the testimony of his children via Zoom rather than in person violated his constitutional rights.

On Oct. 23, 2024, a Cass County District Court jury found Spencer Moen guilty of murder for beating his wife, 30-year-old Sonja Moen, then leaving her in the bathtub to die in August 2023.

He was sentenced Dec. 30 to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Spencer Moen’s appellate attorney, Sam Gereszek, filed an appeal with the North Dakota Supreme Court on April 21, arguing the conviction should be overturned and a new trial held because the district court violated Spencer Moen’s “Sixth Amendment right to confront witnesses,” the court document said.

Documents claim Spencer Moen’s rights were

violated by “allowing two minor witnesses to testify remotely via Zoom without a finding that the minor children would suffer serious emotional distress or any other necessity for such remote testimony.”

The Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I § 12 of the North Dakota Constitution give the right of a criminal defendant to be confronted with the witnesses against him.

Two of the three Moen children were at home when their mother died, and they were called to testify by the prosecution during Spencer Moen’s weeklong trial.

Per North Dakota Century Code, closed-circuit video testimony from a minor witness can be used if the court finds that having the child testify in front of the defendant would cause “serious emotional distress or trauma that would impact the ability of the witness to reasonably communicate.”

Spencer Moen claims in his appeal that it was not established that the “live testimony would result in serious emotional trauma or without making factual findings to justify the necessity for

Forum file photo

Spencer Moen enters the courtroom in Cass County District Court on Oct. 18, 2024, the third day of testimony in the case against him. He was ultimately found guilty of killing his wife, Sonja Moen, in August 2023.

remote testimony.”

“The court’s order permitted the children to testify with the victim witness coordinator present, but did not ensure that they were free from outside influence,” Gereszek said in the appeal. “No findings of necessity, trauma or compelling state interest were made on the record.”

Cass County Prosecutor Renata Olafson Selzer responded to the appeal on May 21 and pointed out that the court allowed the testimony from the children via Zoom after hearing from their therapists that live testimony

would likely harm them.

Chase ruled it would be in the best interest of the children to testify remotely. During the trial, the children were asked questions by prosecutors and the defense in another room at the Cass County Courthouse. The interactions were then broadcast to the jury.

Gereszek requested that the state Supreme Court hear oral arguments on the appeal. Olafson Selzer also offered to present oral arguments. As of press time, the state Supreme Court had no additional hearings on the case scheduled.

## CALENDAR

The Community Calendar publishes events, meetings and fundraisers in The Jamestown Sun at no charge. To submit an activity, email it to [news@jamestownsun.com](mailto:news@jamestownsun.com).

**Friday, May 30**  
**Jamestown Overcomers Narcotics Anonymous**, 7:30 p.m., Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1201 4th St. NE.

**James River Alcoholics Anonymous**, noon (closed, topic) and 8 p.m. (open, birthday night potluck), AA Clubhouse, 518 10th Ave. SE.

**Overeaters Anonymous**, 5:30 p.m. Regular weekly step meeting; phone meeting only. Call 701-320-2386 before meeting time to get information on calling into meeting.

**Bird watching tour for ages 6-13 and their caregivers**, 8 a.m.-noon. Registration required at <https://www.jrvls.org/>

**Saturday, May 31**  
**Buffalo City Group**

**Alcoholics Anonymous**, 9 a.m. (open), AA Clubhouse, 518 10th Ave. SE.

**James River Alcoholics Anonymous**, noon (open) and 8 p.m. (open), AA Clubhouse, 518 10th Ave. SE.

**James River Alcoholics Anonymous**, 1:30 p.m., women (closed), AA Clubhouse, 518 10th Ave. SE.

**Fantasy Faire**, 1-3 p.m., Masonic building, across from Alfred Dickey Public Library. Free.

**Free planetarium show**, 1 p.m., room 309, Valley City State University Rhoades Science Center, 10110 College St. SW, Valley City. 1 p.m.: “Norse Sky,” 1:35 p.m.: “Target Earth: Asteroids, Comets and Meteors.”

**Jamestown Kite Festival**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Meidinger Park Field, 10 Street and 17th Avenue Southwest. Free admission; kids kite building, vendor show.

NORTHLAND OUTDOORS

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— First Amendment of the United States Constitution

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