



**Contributed / Fargo Police Department**  
The moose was spotted near Petco off 13th Avenue South in Fargo.

## Moose wanders into central Fargo

BY MICHAEL MCGURRAN  
WDAY

FARGO — A moose wandered from north Fargo into more central parts of the city on Thursday, Oct. 2, prompting officials to urge residents to keep their distance.

A WDAY news crew spotted the animal behind the Petco off 13th Avenue South, near an apartment complex. Wildlife experts worked with Fargo police to monitor the moose's movements.

Officials say the moose is not considered a threat at this time but warn people to give the animal plenty of space.

"If you do see a moose, whether it's in a residential area, just please try to give it as much space

as you possibly can. They're a large animal, very, very strong, quite unpredictable, and when they are spooked, if they are chased, if they are harassed, that's when they become even more unpredictable," said Doug Leier, outreach biologist with North Dakota Game and Fish.

The Fargo Police Department and North Dakota Game and Fish say they will continue tracking the moose as it moves through the city.

Officials also advise residents not to take photos and post the moose's location online, as that could draw crowds and create problems for the animal.

Reach WDAY reporter Michael McGurran at [mmcgurran@wday.com](mailto:mmcgurran@wday.com).

### LOCAL BRIEFS

#### GF man faces multiple charges after high-speed chase

GRAND FORKS — A Grand Forks man faces multiple charges following a high-speed motorcycle chase through town overnight on Wednesday, Oct. 1.

Deputies say they tried to stop Jamey Rice, 50, just after 1 a.m. for going through a stop sign and a red light near Altru Hospital.

The sheriff said Rice led police on a chase for several miles, driving on sidewalks, through yards and in between homes, reaching speeds of 90 miles per hour.

The pursuit ended when Rice put his bike down near the Senior Center. Deputies found him hiding in a window well of a home.

"This initial stop could have ended up with just a warning or maybe a traffic citation. Instead this individual decided to try and evade us. If you run, we are going to catch you, we are going to chase you and you will go to jail," said Sheriff Andrew Schneider of Grand Forks County.

Rice faces charges including fleeing, reckless endangerment and drug violations.

**Cass County partners with Essentia Health to help train deputies**  
FARGO — North

Dakota is facing a critical shortage of rural EMS volunteers, and the Cass County Sheriff's Office has partnered with Essentia Health to help fill the gap.

The collaboration created a specialized medical training course for deputies. Sheriff Jesse Jahner says the course gives officers deeper knowledge and more tools to help save lives in critical situations, whether it's a car crash, a farming accident or a mass shooting.

The training is certified through the North Dakota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, allowing the sheriff's office to provide it in-house to new deputies.

"In rural areas, our officers are usually the first on the scene," Jahner said, "which makes it critical for them to be trained in life-saving measures."

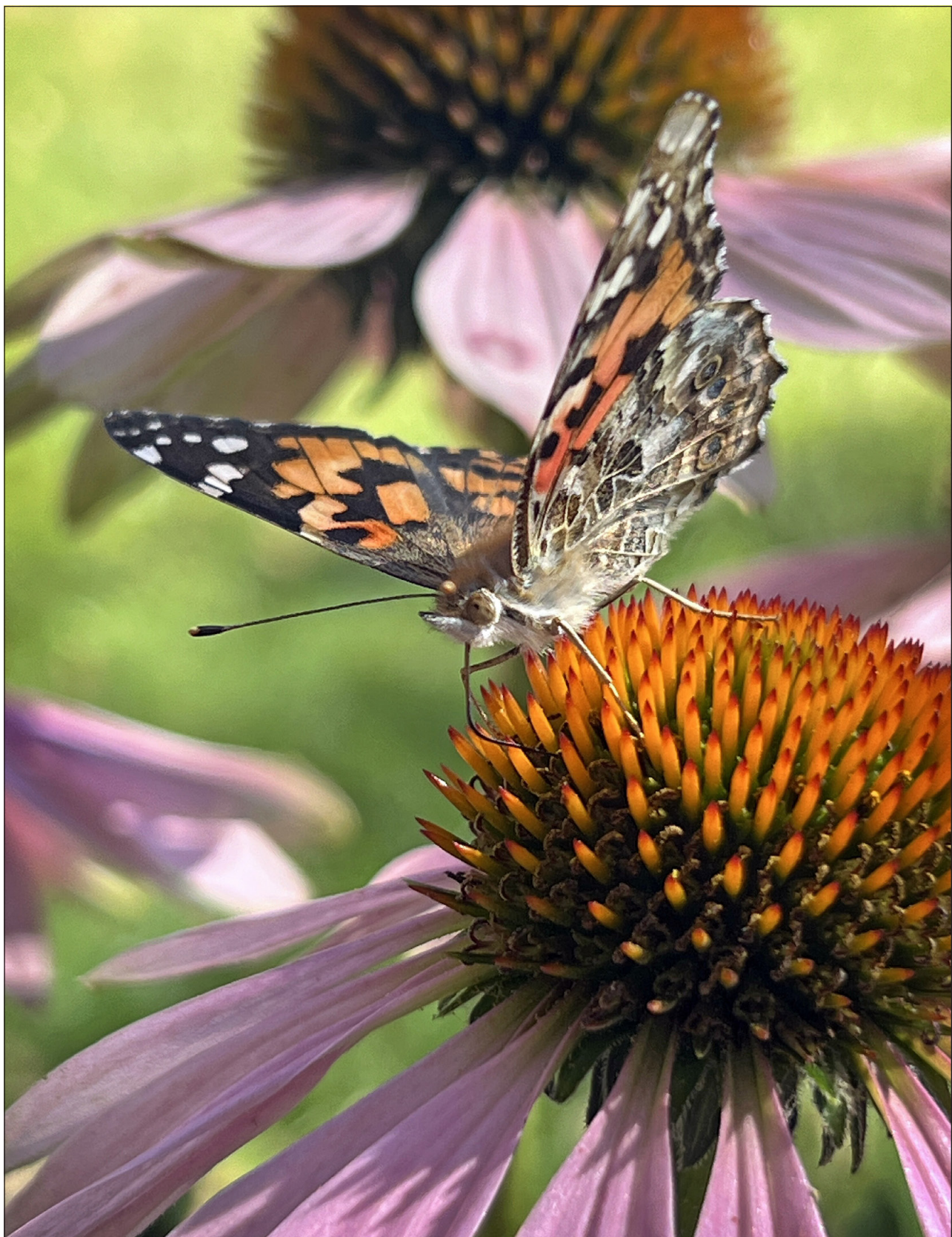
Vicky Black, trauma program manager at Essentia Health, emphasized the importance of acting quickly in emergencies.

"By providing that initial care really quickly, you actually extend that amount of time even longer, so there's a greater chance that people will not only survive but get back to their normal functional capacity," Black said.

After the latest session, 70 deputies are now prepared to assist in more critical injury situations.

Forum staff reports

## Sipping nectar



David Samson / The Forum

A painted lady butterfly gets nourishment from a coneflower on Thursday in a yard in West Fargo.

## What happened to Anne Fitzsimonds?

### Five years later, family still searching for answers

BY MATT HENSON  
WDAY

MANVEL, N.D. — She vanished into the North Dakota prairie without a trace.

It will be five years this weekend since the 48-year-old wife and mother from Grand Forks County disappeared after a party. The question remains: What happened to Anne Fitzsimonds?

Saturday, Oct. 4, marks five years to the day Fitzsimonds was last seen. The family has held out hope she would come home but realizes she is likely not coming back. They will hold a celebration of life at the Manvel Community Center on Saturday to mark the anniversary.

"It's hard, it's super

sad. I just ...," said George Niece, Anne Fitzsimonds' brother.

Five years after his sister disappeared, those tears have not dried.

"Whatever happened, if it was an accident, I wish somebody would tell us. I understand people panic in the moment and all sorts of stuff," Niece said.

Fitzsimonds walked away from a small gathering four miles north of Petersburg at about 1:30 a.m. on Oct. 4, 2020. Over the years, numerous ground and air searches have been conducted by police, family, friends and members of the community. Search warrants have been executed. To this day, there are still no clues as to what happened to Anne.

"It's up to me for as long as I live to find my sister," Niece said. "I'm hoping I find her before we meet in heaven."

George said the weekend's celebration of life is



Contributed / George Niece

George Niece, left, with his sister, Anne Fitzsimonds, who has been missing for five years.

not a funeral. It will be a party with 1970s and 1980s rock music, just like his sister would want. It will be a time to remember who Anne was and share good memories.

"She offered people what she could give, who cared about others and a lot of times, cared less about herself than the people around her," Niece said. "She loved her children and that's how we know she did not disappear on her own."

Niece said there will never be closure until his sister is found. There will always be a glimmer of light until that day comes.

"We're going to keep the lights on, it's like

Motel 6, we're leaving the lights on for her, hoping she's going to be back," Niece said.

The celebration of life will take place Saturday, Oct. 4, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Nelson County sheriff said the investigation remains active. He said his office receives a tip a month about the case. The North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigations has assigned an agent to the case.

Anne's family is still offering a \$10,000 reward for information that solves the case.

Reach WDAY reporter Matt Henson at [mhenson@wday.com](mailto:mhenson@wday.com).

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