

## Hackers may have stolen U of M data

**MPR NEWS STAFF**  
MINNEAPOLIS — Personal information about students, potential students and employees at the University of Minnesota between 1989 and August 2021 may have been stolen by hackers, the university acknowledged on Thursday.

The breach potentially affects those affiliated with any of the University's campuses, including Rochester and Duluth, a

speaksperson said. "Broadly, this incident potentially affected individuals who submitted information to the University as a prospective student, attended the University as a student, worked at the University as an employee, or participated in University programs between 1989 and August 2021," he clarified for Forum Communications.

U officials sent out a

notice providing more information on a data breach initially reported last month. They said an investigation determined that someone likely gained unauthorized access to a university database in 2021.

Potentially breached information includes full names, addresses, birth dates and Social Security numbers, driver's license or passport information, birth dates and other

demographic information, the university said in a statement.

The U said it would post notices about the breach on its websites and email people potentially affected by the breach, if their email addresses are on file.

"The email will come from data-incident@notification.umn.edu and will provide more detail about the steps being taken in response to this

incident," the U said in its statement on Thursday, Sept. 21.

In the statement, the university said it's offering those potentially affected by the data breach 12 months of free credit and identity monitoring services.

The university said the data breach was not affecting its operations.

The U began investigating a potentially massive data breach in late July

after the tech journal The Cyber Express reported claims that a hacker had potentially gained access to more than 7 million Social Security numbers.

The U is facing a federal lawsuit that seeks class-action status over the breach, alleging the university failed to "establish appropriate security safeguards" for sensitive personal data in university records.

## MPO presents plan for 2050 streets

BY MATTHEW VOIGT  
Grand Forks Herald

**EAST GRAND FORKS** — The Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization wants people to ask them about its 2050 transportation plan.

"Did we get it right? Is our question to the public," said Teri Kouba, senior planner at the MPO. "The purpose of (the open houses) is to show them the information and letting people know so they can make informed decisions."

The MPO hosted its final open house for its 2050 transportation plan Thursday night at River Cinema in downtown East Grand Forks. Last week, the MPO presented the 2050 street and highway plan to both the Grand Forks and East Grand Forks City Councils. The final comprehensive plan will be presented at the end of the year.

That final plan will include transportation topics ranging from new bridges, to buses, to pedestrian traffic and everything in between. The plan helps organize priorities for the metropolitan area and provide a framework for future transportation studies. It is also a requirement for federal funding for projects.

Thursday's open house focused on the final part to this comprehensive plan, streets and highways. The biggest projects included in the plan are new Red River

**STREETS** on A11



Contributed/Drew Kiono

Stephen-Argyle was chosen this year as an Exemplary High-Performing School, which Kiono credits to the school's focused work over the past few years on improving students' skills.

## STEPHEN-ARGYLE SCHOOL EARNS NATIONAL HONOR

### Elementary school named one of 353 national Blue Ribbon Schools

BY DELANEY OTTO  
Grand Forks Herald

**ARGYLE, Minn.**

**A**s the first full week of classes for Stephen-Argyle Central Elementary is completed, Superintendent Drew Kiono is happy to announce the school has been selected for an important distinction.

The school has been named one of 353 National

Blue Ribbon Schools. "It's a huge honor," he said.

This distinction was given by the U.S. Department of Education in its 40th year of naming National Blue Ribbon Schools. This honor goes to schools across the country that are either labeled as Exemplary High-Performing, meaning they are among their state's highest performing schools in terms of

state assessments or nationally normed tests, or Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing, which means they are the highest performing schools in their state in terms of closing achievement gaps between the student groups and all students, a press release from the DOE said.

"The honorees for our 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award have set a national example for

what it means to raise the bar in education," U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said in the press release. "The leaders, educators and staff at our National Blue Ribbon Schools continually inspire me with their dedication to fostering academic excellence and building positive school cultures that support students of all backgrounds to thrive academically, socially and emotionally."

Stephen-Argyle was chosen this year as an Exemplary High-Performing School, which Kiono credits to the school's focused work over the past few years on improving students' skills.

"It's focusing on some of those skills in reading and math and trying to build better readers and kids who are better at these subjects," he said.

**STEPHEN-ARGYLE** on A11

## Minnesota attorney general again clarifies SRO force law

BY ALEX DEROSIER  
Forum News Service

**ST. PAUL** — As more law enforcement agencies pull officers from Minnesota public schools, Attorney General Keith Ellison has issued updated guidance on a new law police say places too many restrictions on the use of force on students.

Ellison said there has been a "significant" misunderstanding of the new law, which restricts the use of force like face-down restraints on students.

In his initial opinion

issued last month, Ellison, a Democrat, said it does not stop officers from using certain restraints to prevent serious harm or death. But that didn't stop more than 30 law enforcement agencies from pulling out of schools over concerns it would prevent them from physically restraining students.

Amid continued pressure from Republican lawmakers and law enforcement groups for a special legislative session to address what they say are issues with the new law, Ellison released an

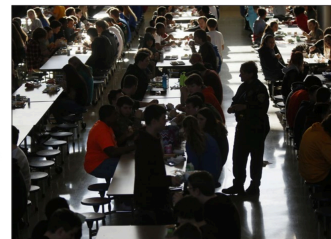
update to his opinion on Sept. 20 clarifying his opinion to address broader concerns about force.

He noted that force is not banned overall, though officers need to avoid using specific restraints mentioned in the new law, which came as part of a education bill passed earlier this year. An opinion from the attorney general is not a legally binding action, but local public officials can use it as guidance on state laws.

"If a student is misbehaving in a way that does not and will not harm

that student or anyone else, professionals in schools still have many tools at their disposal, including other kinds of physical contact," his office said in a news release announcing the opinion.

New language now in effect bans any "employee or agent of a district, including a school resource officer, security personnel, or police officer contracted with a district" from using "any form of physical holding that restricts or impairs a



Forum file photo

West Fargo Police school resource officer Rhonda Jorgensen walks through the lunchroom aisles to visit with students at West Fargo Sheyenne High School.



ANNIVERSARY



**70th Wedding Anniversary**

Larry and Ida Heuchert are celebrating 70 years of marriage. An open house is planned for Saturday, September 23rd from 2-4 p.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church (815 N. 20th Street). Please stop and congratulate them on this incredible milestone. No gifts please.

**Visit Modulist.news**

Listings for you or your business.  
▶ Choose your listing type  
▶ Choose the publications  
▶ Choose the Listing Dates  
▶ Design your listing

BUSINESS BRIEF



**Bank Forward hires Schmidt as Personal Banker**

Bank Forward is pleased to announce that Tina Schmidt has joined our team in our Grand Forks location as a Personal Banker. Tina comes to us with local knowledge and extensive customer service experience. Bank Forward has been an independent community bank for over 90 years. We operate under one charter with locations in North Dakota and Minnesota. The bank offers a complete line of personal and commercial financial, insurance and tax services.

**‘The Art of Giving’ annual art exhibition and auction set for Friday, Sept. 22 at Grand Forks Curling Club**

BY PAMELA KNUDSON  
Grand Forks Herald

GRAND FORKS — The Art of Giving (TAG) annual art exhibition and auction is set for 5:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, at the Grand Forks Curling Club, 1124 Seventh Ave. S. The sale will include nearly 350 paintings, sculptures, ceramics, photographs, mixed media, glass-blown, metal assemblage and other art pieces created by 88 regional artists, said Sally Miskavage, one of the founders of the TAG event, now in its 11th year. Artists receive 70% of sales and 30% goes to TAG; proceeds are given to charitable organizations.

Since TAG was founded, \$350,000 has been raised for local charitable organizations, according to its Facebook page. This year, proceeds will benefit the proposed Children's Museum, as was the case last year, when \$75,000 was donated to the museum, Miskavage said. "We're excited to support this great project,



Contributed

A sampling of the art that will be displayed at the TAG art auction Friday, Sept. 22 at the Grand Forks Curling Club

along with giving artists this great opportunity to sell art," event organizers announced in a Facebook post.

The nearly 550 artworks for this year's show is the most that TAG has exhibited, Miskavage said. Four hundred-fifty pieces were exhibited last year.

Bennett Brien, of

Belcourt, North Dakota, a renowned Native American artist, is showing more artworks than he ever has at a single show, she said.

Over the years, TAG has sold \$1.3 million in art, Miskavage said, and the artists "keep raising the bar" in terms of quality.

Jason Restemayer, of

Grand Forks, curated and installed the artworks in the show.

A bus that seats nearly 50 passengers will bring art-lovers from Fargo to see and purchase art at the show.

Knudson is a features reporter at the Herald. Call her at (701) 780-1107, (800) 477-6572 ext.1107 or email pknudson@gfherald.com.

SRO

CONTINUED from A1

pupil's ability to breathe; restricts or impairs a pupil's ability to communicate distress; places pressure or weight on a pupil's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen; or results in straddling a pupil's torso."

With the new language, law enforcement groups say they're concerned officers won't be able to restrain students who are damaging property or causing disturbances but

aren't necessarily posing a serious danger to others. They point to a change in a "reasonable force" standard language change, which they say narrows the use of force to life-and-death situations.

For the past few weeks, Republicans and law enforcement groups have been pushing for a special session to change the law. The issue initially came to light in mid-August, just weeks before most Minnesota K-12 public school students returned to class on Sept.

5. Agencies and cities that have withdrawn officers include Brainerd, the Clay County Sheriff's Office, East Grand Forks and the Moorhead Police Department.

On Wednesday, the police department of the Twin Cities suburb of Eagan removed its officers from schools in that city and in Apple Valley. The Eagan Police Department said it would evaluate the attorney general's opinion and make a final decision Thursday. Gov. Tim Walz, a

Democrat, had initially said he would be open to a special session to address the school resource officers issue. Lawmakers couldn't return to the capitol without his action.

But after a group of 44 Democratic-Farmer Labor senators and representatives signed a letter saying they opposed changing the law, Walz said the issue could wait until February when lawmakers are next scheduled to meet at the capitol in St. Paul.

Walz, DFL legislative

leaders, and Ellison say they have been working with law enforcement groups for the last few weeks to address concerns about the law, but so far no agreement has been reached.

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, one of the main groups spearheading the effort to pressure Walz and DFLers into a special session, couldn't immediately be reached for comment Wednesday afternoon.

Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson, R-East

Grand Forks called Ellison's revised opinion another sign that the law needs more work.

"Another opinion just demonstrates the need for legislative action to fix this law," he said in a statement. "Students, parents, educators, school staff, and Student Resource Officers all deserve a crystal-clear law that everyone can understand without needing further clarification."

Follow Alex Derosier on Twitter @xanderosier or email aderosier@forumcomm.com.



**Sells out at  
21,000**

# Our audience fills it 19 times.

Reach our audience. Get results.

**advertise.forumcomm.com/audience**

**Grand Forks  
Herald**  
GrandForksHerald.com ▶▶