### **COLUMNIST**

# Expressing thanks as 2025 comes to a close

A new year is upon us! As 2025 comes to a close, we reflect with grateful hearts on all

that has happened and turn the page to what promises to be a bright 2026.

We have been blessed with many opportunities to make an impact as we educate the leaders of



MSU president

tomorrow. We look forward to continuing this important work as we develop new programs and more that will give us additional tools to assist with the workforce needs of our local area, state, region and country.

Mayville State experienced record enrollment growth this fall, including a headcount AND a full-time equivalent (FTE) figure greater than any recorded in the history of the university!

A record number of North Dakota residents is included in the final official headcount of

Residents of 47 of North Dakota's 53 counties were enrolled at Mayville State University during the fall semester that has just come to a close.

The spirit of positivity that is radiating from Mayville State University is truly unmistakable.

MSU is moving in great directions and is the university of choice for so many local

Many of the attributes that have made Mayville State exceptional since its establishment in 1889 are alive and well today, and an eye to the future is keeping these attributes fresh for the students of today.

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, the Mayville State University Foundation is experiencing many

As of Oct. 31, MSU Founda-

tion assets were at an all-time high of \$21,712,575, and the endowment balance was at \$12,148,272. The MSU Foundation board

has approved the highest allotment of scholarship dollars ever in 2026-27, \$805,610.

Financial support for our athletic teams is outstanding.

The Comet Athletic Club allotted the highest amount ever for scholarships in 2025-26, \$285,000. We are grateful to the Comet Athletic Club board members for their tireless support for Comet Athletics.

Over the last several years, the North Dakota Challenge Grant has been multiplying the impact of the generosity of our alumni and friends who very thoughtfully provide scholarship resources for our students.

For the current biennium, the legislature has made \$1.32 million available in matching funds for Mayville State University, up from the \$1.1 million allotted in the last biennium.

We are fortunate to have already exhausted more than half of the challenge grant funds available for the biennium, thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends whose private scholarship gifts are being matched at a rate of 50 cents on

Challenge Grant support from the state has made a huge impact at Mayville State in the past and continues to do so today.

It's not too late to leverage

the impact of Challenge Grant

Funding for this biennium! The entire matching grant pool must be used by Dec. 31, 2026 per legislative guidelines. For more information, contact MSU Foundation Executive Director Dr. Lon Jorgensen at lonny.jorgensen@mayvillestate. edu or 701-788-4787.

The future is bright at Mayville State University. We thank our employees, students, friends and neighbors for the part they played in making 2025 a fantastic year.

We look forward to continuing these important partnerships that will help to bring our beloved university to greater levels of success in 2026 and beyond. Our best days are ahead of us at Mayville State University.

As we turn the calendar page, we know that many high school seniors are taking a serious look at where they will make their college homes next

If you know of someone who would benefit from a Mayville State education, please encourage them to explore Mayville

### **Obituaries**

#### **Leon Sand**

Leon Sand, 80, of Clifford, N.D., passed away on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025 at his home, under Hospice care.

Leon Carter Sand was born March 7, 1945 to Peder and Olive (Foss) Sand. He was the youngest of seven children. He grew up and attended school in Clifford and Galesburg, N.D..

After graduating High School he joined the U.S. Navy for two years. He returned home and took an IBM Computers class in Fargo. He worked at Merchants Bank of Fargo in the computer department. Because he worked nights, he liked to work part-time day jobs to see and visit people. Leon mowed lawns, pumped gas and painted houses in his spare time.

Leon and Shirley were married in 1967. They were parents of three children: Kristi Brend, Tracy Sand and Troy Sand. The family moved to the farm near Clifford in 1974. Leon was a hard worker, putting in long hours, but he loved farming.

Leon enjoyed antique tractors, cars and Harley Davidson motorcycles. Going to "Cruise to the Island" car show in Mayville was his favorite "Holiday". He loved to buy the grandkids go-carts, mopeds or anything on wheels. He also enjoyed going to the casino to "make a buck"

He is survived by his wife: Shirley of Clifford; daughters: Kristi (Todd) Brend of Rochert, Minn., and Tracy Sand of Moorhead, Minn.; son: Troy (Amy) Sand of Mayville, N.D.; five grandchildren: Tanner and Taylor Brend, Meadow Skauge,



Ethan and Abby Sand; and 2 brothers: Jerry (Carol) Sand of McVille, N.D. and Ervin (Bertha) Sand of Galesburg, ND; sister-in-law: Darlene Sand of Mayville, and brotherin-law: Bennie Grandalen of Portland, N.D.

He is preceded in death by his parents: Peder and Olive Sand; sisters: Joanne Olstad and Patricia "Patty" Grandalen; brothers: Marvin and Delno Sand; and an infant granddaughter.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026 at the Norman Lutheran Church in Clifford.

Military honors by S.B. Aasen American Legion Post 210, May-Port Honor Guard and the North Dakota Military Funeral Honors.

Burial will be in the Clifford Cemetery in Clifford.

Condolences and memories can be shared at www. bakerfuneral.com

Arrangements by Baker Funeral Home, Mayville.

## **COLUMNIST**

# Cherishing people and places at Christmas

Holidays have changed since my parents moved out of my childhood home.

Visiting them no longer means traveling back to the 5-acre lot north of Bismarck, where a wooden fence frames a red barn and pasture behind the ranch-style house I grew up in.

Columnist It no longer means the sound of crackling gravel under my car tires as I pull into their driveway, or the sound of dogs barking in the

Holidays this year won't bring the smell of lilac trees that edge the south side of the property, or of fresh lumber and sawdust in the nearby shop.

This year, we won't breathe in the scents of a wood-burning stove while watching Christmas movies on leather couches the same leather couches that cradled me on sick days, for evening homework sessions, for first kisses and first heartbreaks.

Coming home no longer means the same flood of sense memories that leave me feeling suddenly aged and impossibly young at the same time.

But it will continue to mean the same soundtrack of Mom and Dad's favorite songs echoing through the house as playing cards hit the kitchen table.

It means the same blankets that have kept me warm in their guestroom for years, being greeted by the same hugs at the airport and the same chocolates on the night stand.

It means wild rice soup, candles and "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve.

It still means the scent of Mom's perfume, the scratch of my dad's beard on my forehead, arms wrapped tight for as long as we can.

And as we ring in my niece's second birthday, I can't help but wonder what she and my nephew will subconsciously register as the sounds, the smells, the feelings of home.

Will it be Dad's soft singing to them as they dance in the kitchen, the feeling of a Persian rug on their tiny bare toes?

Perhaps it will be the scent of fresh-pressed coffee in the pot, or the sizzle of food on the stove as my sister finishes dinner – a new recipe that, unbeknownst to them, will become a family

Maybe it will be the smell

of grass peeking through the window as they look out, waiting for Papa and Nana – and a suitcase of presents - to arrive.

It may be the sound of my dad letting out an exasperated gasp when my 4-year-old nephew steals a chip from his plate when Papa isn't looking.

Or the feel of Nana's hand on my niece's tiny one as they are lulled to sleep by bedtime stories and boundless love.

As we ring in the holidays and as I am reminded to cherish the people, places and senses that feel like home, I find an unexpected present in witnessing my niece and nephew forming those same connections.

What a gift to be able to create those memories, to fuel the subconscious pairings of physical sensations with the feeling being home.

### **Legal Notice**

CIVIL NUMBER: 49-2023-CV-00034 IN THE STATE OF NORTH DA-**KOTA, COUNTY OF TRAILL** IN THE DISTRICT COURT, EAST **CENTRAL JUDICIAL DISTRICT** U.S. Bank Trust National

Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust c/o U.S. Bank Trust National Association, Plaintiff,

Christine M. Nesheim and Eric N. Nesheim and Francis Sletten and Aasen Drug, Inc. and State of North Dakota by Workforce Safety & Insurance and Valley Bone and loint Clinic P.C. and L of America, acting by and through the Internal Revenue Service, and any person in possession, Defendants

NOTICE OF REAL ESTATE SALE

1. Judgment in the amount of \$113.077.16, having been entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants, which Judgment was filed with the Clerk of Courts of Traill County, North Dakota, on May 24, 2024, for the foreclosure of a real estate mort-

2. Notice is hereby given pursuant to said Judgment that the real property described as:

Lot 18 and all of Lot 19 West of ND Highway 18 in the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section 5, Township 146 North, Range 52 West; and Lot 4 of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section 5, Township 146 North, Range 52 West, Traill County, North Dakota.

Real Property address:915 Center Avenue S, a/k/a 825 Center Avenue S, Mayville, ND 58257

The above real property is the subject of the Mortgage dated June 20, 2006, which Mortgagors, Christine M. Nesheim, Eric N. Nesheim, executed and delivered to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems. Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Wachovia Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns and recorded in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Traill County, North Dakota, on June 26, 2006, Instrument Number 166673, in Book 225 of Mtgs. at Page 703, which is subject to the entered Judgment. Said Mortgage was assigned to Plaintiff, its successors or assigns, by Assignment of Mortgage recorded October 20, 2022, Instrument Number 198795. 3. In order to realize the amount

of \$113,077.16, as of May 24, 2024, plus interest accruing thereafter on said amount as awarded by the court, together with the costs and expenses of sale, will be sold subject to redemption as provided by law as subject to the lien for unpaid real estate taxes and assessments of Traill County, North Dakota, and easements and restrictions of record, to the highest bidder for cash under the direction of the Sheriff of Traill County, North Dakota, at the main entrance of the Traill County Courthouse located at 114 W Caledonia Ave. Hillsboro, ND 58045, on January 15, 2026 ("Sale Date"), at 10:30 AM.

4. If the sale is set aside for reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

DATED this 25th day of November2025.

> SHERIFF OF TRAILL COUNTY Steve Hunt Sheriff of Traill Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. Tyler S. Wirick Attorneys for Plaintiff 376 East 400 South, Suite 300 Salt Lake City, UT 84111 Tel: 801-355-2886 Email: tylerw@hwmlawfirm.com Bar: 10014

Publish Dec. 26, 2025, Jan. 2 & 9,

Health Mart.

Drug

Hillsboro

## North Dakota secretary of state OKs petition for circulation of K-12 school meals measure

NORTH DAKOTA MONITOR

North Dakota Secretary of State Michael Howe announced Tuesday he has approved the format of a constitutional ballot measure that would require the state to cover the cost of free school meals to K-12 students.

Sponsors of the ballot measure have one year to submit 31,164 signatures of qualified North Dakota electors to the secretary of state to be considered for the ballot, according to Howe's office.

If the signatures are submitted by July 6, and are validated, the measure will appear on the general election ballot Nov. 3.

Robin Nelson, chair of the ballot measure sponsoring committee, said the committee hopes to have the measure be decided on that November ballot.

#### **Legal Notice**

PROBATE NO. 49-2019-PR-00022 **EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT COURT, TRAILL COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA** 

In the Matter of the Estate of Harris O. Woell, Deceased **NOTICE OF HEARING** 

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing will be held regarding the Petition for Court Authorization of Settlement of Controversy at the Traill County Courthouse, 114 W Caledonia Ave, Hillsboro, ND 58045 on January 7, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. before the Honorable Reid Brady. Dated: November 11, 2025.

Cassie J. Tostenson ND #07915 Nilson Brand Law Office 36 Main St W Mayville, ND 58257 P: (701) 786-6040 E: cassie@nilsonbrandlaw.com Attorney for Special Administrator &

Publish Dec. 12, 19 & 26, 2025



time." Nelson said on Tuesday. "Once we get everything printed, we'll start collecting signatures in early January."

The organization, Together for School Meals, is heading up the informational campaign for the ballot measure, she said.

The ballot measure would require public schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to stu-

Private schools, Bureau of Indian Education schools and other tribal schools could opt in to participate in the program.

committee meeting, Lynelle Johnson, director of child nutrition and food distribution for the Department of Public Instruction, told lawmakers the estimated cost to provide free school meals for the 2027-29 biennium is \$134 million.

She also said the figure is pre-During a recent legislative liminary and may change as she continues to evaluate the measure.

> The measure says if the Legislature is unable to identify funding, the dollars should come from the earnings of the state Legacy Fund.

## STAY INFORMED

Read the news generated at the Traill County **Courthouse in the Hillsboro Banner** 

