

## 2025 Deer Season Summarized by ND Game and Fish Department

A total of 36,353 North Dakota deer hunters took approximately 20,877 deer during the 2025 deer gun hunting season, according to a post-season survey conducted by the state Game and Fish Department.

Game and Fish made available 42,300 deer gun licenses last year.

Overall hunter success was 57%, with each hunter spending an average of 4.9 days in the field.

Hunter success for white-tailed deer was 53% for antlered and 45% for antlerless whitetails.

Mule deer license holder success was 82% for antlered and 82% for antlerless mule deer.

## Record Count of Bighorn Sheep

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's 2025 bighorn sheep survey, completed by re-counting lambs in March, revealed a record 378 bighorn sheep in the badlands of western North Dakota, up 8% from 2024 and 10% above the five-year average. The 2025 survey was the fifth record count in the past six years.

Brett Wiedmann, Department big game biologist, said 104 rams, 234 ewes and 40 lambs were

counted. Not included are approximately 40 bighorn sheep in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and bighorns introduced to the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in 2020.

A bighorn sheep hunting season is tentatively scheduled for 2026. The status of the season will be determined September 1, following the 2026 summer population survey.

## MAYVILLE STATE NEWS

BY PRESIDENT VAN HORN

### Mayville State demonstrates institutional effectiveness during HLC reaffirmation process

Mayville State faculty and staff have invested a great deal of time and effort in preparing for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaffirmation site visit which took place March 30 and 31, 2026. The visit involved hosting five peer reviewers who represented the HLC as part of its reaffirmation of accreditation process. Mayville State has been accredited by HLC for years, and this visit embodied a comprehensive review of the university's mission, operations, and outcomes. The purpose of the process is to verify Mayville State's ongoing commitment to academic quality, integrity, and continuous improvement.

The peer reviewers who are involved with the process for Mayville State come from institutions that are similar to ours, so they are familiar with the kinds of opportunities and challenges that exist for small rural colleges. Chair of the team is Dr. Kathy Parkison, professor emeritus from Indiana University Kokomo. Her team includes Dr. Elizabeth Ann Albright, assistant professor at Langston University in Oklahoma; Dr. Daniel Cullen, Director of Institutional Accreditation & Assessment at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI; Dr. Amanda Sauchuck, Associate Provost at Concord University in Athens, WV; and Dr. Lisa Toms, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, MO.

Preparation for the HLC visit involved broad campus participation. Faculty, staff, administrators, and students have worked for months to contribute narratives and evidence demonstrating how



**Dr. Brian Van Horn, Mayville State University President**

Mayville State fulfills four criteria set forth by the HLC: mission; integrity; teaching and learning; and institutional effectiveness, resources, and planning. The information gathered was included in a comprehensive report prepared by Mayville State personnel. The purpose of the site visit was for the HLC team to verify the details and evidence within the report and to ensure that Mayville State meets the criteria for accreditation.

While on campus, the reviewers spent time reviewing materials; meeting with campus constituencies, as well as State Board of Higher Education and North Dakota University System representatives; and gaining a holistic understanding of Mayville State University. Their role was to not only serve as evaluators, but also to be collegial in confirming compliance with HLC criteria while identifying strengths and opportunities for continued growth.

A couple members of the review team were able to take a tour of the Old Main renovation project. They were impressed with the great work that is happening there and excited about what this means

for the future of Mayville State.

The team led a wrap-up session at the completion of their work on campus. During 15-minute meeting that included members of the Mayville State HLC report writing team and the president's cabinet, the HLC visitors were very complimentary of their visit to Mayville State. They enjoyed and appreciated the hospitality extended.

In addition, they noted the positive and engaged interaction they experienced with Mayville State students. Students spoke openly about their academic experiences and expressed appreciation for the faculty and staff who support them both inside and outside the classroom, noting that these efforts play a significant role in their success and sense of belonging at Mayville State and will impact their lives not only as students, but also in the future as graduates who are enjoying their lives beyond the college and in their careers.

An HLC reaffirmation visit is a meaningful opportunity for us to reflect on our progress, celebrate our achievements, and demonstrate how our mission and the work that surrounds it supports student success and community impact. The process reinforces Mayville State's dedication to continuous improvement and its promise to provide a high-quality educational experience for students.

I am grateful to all Mayville State faculty, staff, and students who have contributed to the accreditation reaffirmation process. I specifically thank Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Brian Huschle and Kelly Kornkven for their leadership and Ashley Mueller for her coordination and support, as well as the members of the writing team for their development and writing of the report. We are grateful for the thoughtful work that has been instrumental in helping the HLC accreditation team to learn what "The School of Personal Service" is all about. The team will take what they have learned and make recommendations that will further inform the HLC's accreditation status of Mayville State. We anticipate receiving the final report and findings of the HLC team in a couple of months.

## NOTICE OF FILING DEADLINE

### NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION AND CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE

#### EMERADO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #127

Notice is hereby given that the Annual School Board Election for Emerado Public School District #127 will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at Emerado Public School.

The following offices will appear on the ballot:

School Board Member — **Three-Year Term**

School Board Member — **Three-Year Term**

School Board Member — **Two-Year Unexpired Term**

Any elector living in the rural or city residential area of the District may file for the position. At least one seat needs to be filled by an in town resident.

The deadline for filing to have a candidate's name printed on the ballot is Monday, April 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Candidates must file a document stating the candidate's name and the position for which the individual is a candidate, along with a **Statement of Interests form (SFN 10172)**, with the **Business Manager of Emerado Public School District #127** by the filing deadline.

Forms are available from the Business Manager or on the **North Dakota Secretary of State's website**.

*Publish March 17, 31 and April 7, 2026*



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## Board of Equalization 2026 Meeting Notice

The Northwood City Board of Equalization meeting will be held on

**Monday, April 13, 2026 at 6:30 pm**  
at the Northwood Community Center.  
All are welcome to attend.



## BILDEN-ASKEW

FUNERAL HOME

Patrick Askew  
Licensed Funeral Director

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