

Cake

so rather than close it down, why not leave it in capable hands?"

Over the past three months, Miller has been training her apprentice in every aspect of running the shop, from business management to more of her beloved baking techniques. This, the pair states, has ensured that Grasc is prepared for any situation that may come while still keeping quality and community at the forefront of her shop.

"The business end is a whole new experience for me," said Grasc, "but the rest has been very similar. I plan on keeping things just as they are- our services and recipes will stay the same, though we'll

of course be cooking up new specials from time to time."

April marks the first month of new ownership. This change is nerve-racking, but Miller and Grasc promise that the shop's customers will see a mix of old and new faces- all without jeopardizing the warm welcome and delicious taste that Mandan has come to love.

"It's a crazy feeling," said Grasc. "Crazy is the term I keep coming back to. It's all very, very exciting, and I'm very appreciative of everything she's taught me how to do. I've already gotten to build relationships with our clients and customers, and can't wait to welcome new and

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returning visitors when we reopen."

"The community response has been incredible," said Miller. "There's a lot of sadness for the fact that I'm leaving, but also plenty of support for Ariell, too. I didn't know we made that much of an impact in people's lives. For those who have supported us thus far, I just want to say 'thank you', and we hope you'll keep supporting our dream."

At the time of this article's publication, the bake shop has reopened under Grasc's leadership. More information about Cake Dreams can be found on the business's Facebook page, or by calling 701-226-1783.

Fatal crash in Mercer County claims life of seven-year old New Salem Boy

A two-vehicle crash which took place in the morning hours of Thursday, March 26 approximately 15 miles north of Glen Ullin on State Highway 49 claimed the life of a seven-year-old New Salem boy and left five others severely injured.

North Dakota State Highway Patrol announced that the accident, involving a 2022 Chevrolet Colorado and a 2014 Ford Escape, occurred at 7:12 a.m. at Mile Marker 84.5 at the intersection of 28th Street Southwest.

The driver of the Colorado, identified as a 35-year-old male from Beulah, was reportedly

traveling south on Highway 49 and approaching the intersection of 28th St. SW when the driver of the Ford, identified as a 40-year female from New Salem, approached the same intersection and failed to stop before entering. The Colorado then reportedly struck the Ford on the front passenger side, and both vehicles left the roadway.

The 35-year-old male was identified as the lone passenger of the Colorado, while four other juvenile occupants were identified alongside the 40-year-old female driver inside the Ford.

The driver of the

Colorado, the driver of the Ford, and three juvenile passengers of the Ford were all seriously injured and taken to Sanford Medical Center in Bismarck. One passenger inside the Ford, identified as a seven-year old boy, died from his injuries at the scene of the crash. Highway 49 was closed in both directions for approximately one hour.

Weather conditions at the time of the crash were noted as being Foggy, with road conditions noted as dry.

The crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota State Patrol. Names of juveniles will not be released.

Community Spotlight

Lynn Keller celebrates 50 years of employment at Elm Crest Manor

By Richard Mendoza

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50 years of time with one employer may seem like forever, but for Lynn Keller, her time spent working at Elm Crest Manor has flown by fast. Summarizing the last half century isn't an easy task, so when asked how she would describe her tenure at Elm Crest, Keller uttered one word - "Blessed."

Originally from Golva and raised in a family with 10 siblings, Keller said she had hoped to find work in a hospital once she finished college. Unable to find employment, she stumbled upon an advertisement listed by Elm Crest.

Keller, who said she was seven months pregnant at the time, figured she would start her nursing career at Elm Crest and move to a hospital once an opening was available. What she didn't realize at the time was how difficult it would be to stop working and move away from a job in New Salem she had become attached to.

"Once I started here, I just couldn't quit. My kids started going to school here in New Salem...if they needed something, school was right there. It was convenient [being at Elm Crest], and you just get so attached," Keller said.

Despite knowing the milestone was coming, Keller was overwhelmed by the public reaction and support she's received.

"I don't like being in the limelight - I come to work just to do my job [and] take care of the residents," she said. "I just appreciate everybody that I work with."

While Keller may not have been a huge fan of the spotlight placed on her recently, her co-workers stated there isn't a person more deserving to have been celebrated.

"She's so committed. She would do anything for anyone," Roxanne Eggers said.



photo | Elm Crest Manor

LYNN KELLER celebrated 50 years of employment at Elm Crest Manor on Wednesday, March 25.

"She's a positive angel. She never does anything wrong," Ruth Winckler added.

"We've worked together for many years," Kathy Bauer said. "[We] raised our families together. I learned a lot from Lynn when I first started. She definitely cares about these residents 100% of the time."

"Lynn has a huge heart. Not only just for the residents that are here, but for other employees," administrator of Elm Crest Carrie Zazewski said. "She always wants to help out other employees. She just cares about everybody and she's always willing to do anything."

Over the last 50 years, Keller has met and cared for many residents inside Elm Crest who have passed away. Part of what has helped her stay so long has been the relationships formed with the families of the residents who have passed.

"Even after somebody passes, if their family members spend a lot of time here, they come back to visit," Keller said. "It's just so nice to connect again, and so many of them just show their appreciation. That's what makes you come back; that's what makes you want to go to work the next day because they appreciate you, and their residents appreciate you too."

The relationships formed with her co-workers and past administrators has also

been a big reason as to why Keller has stayed with Elm Crest for so long. Keller recognized several individuals no longer with Elm Crest, including past administrators Dana Pazdernik, Rocky Zastoupil, Bob Owens, Janessa Vogel, Gary Kreidt, and Helen Kruger.

Described by her fellow co-workers and closest friends at Elm Crest as a prankster, Keller admittedly shared she's spent her time over the last 50 years pulling pranks on her fellow co-workers and administrators, including Kreidt, who started the same day as her.

Some of Keller's most notable pranks over the years involved her stealing for sale signs and placing them on occupied homes in the area and covering toolboxes of construction workers in Vaseline.

It comes as no surprise that Keller, now 70 years old, feels no reason to stop working so long as she physically can do so.

"If you like your job, it's not work," she said. "I've been here 50 years, and they say, 'well, aren't you going to retire?' No. This is my social life. I don't come to work for work. If I'd leave, I wouldn't find out what my friends are doing, or what the residents are doing. I look forward coming to work. Who wouldn't wanna work here? It's a good job, good benefits [and] just a good place to work."

Help Wanted

Looking for compassionate, dependable employees to work in various departments.

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Elm Crest Manor currently has openings for:

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- **Feeding Assistant/Activity Helper**
- **Laundry Aide (less than part time)**

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