

Cavalier girl airlifted to Minneapolis, communities rally around family

By Borderland Press Staff



A young girl from Cavalier is fighting in a Minneapolis hospital after being diagnosed with measles, pneumonia and COVID-19, prompting an outpouring of support from her area communities, as she has family in Langdon,

Walhalla, and Cavalier.

Makayla Skjerva, 14, who has no immune system, was first hospitalized with measles and pneumonia. Her family says her condition quickly be-

came more serious because of her underlying health challenges, making it harder for her body to fight off infection.

"It's been incredibly tough on our family," her loved ones shared in an online update. "Because she has no immune system, her condition is much more severe than most."

On Feb. 20, the situation escalated when Makayla was diagnosed with COVID-19 in addition to the measles and pneumonia she was already battling. Doctors determined she needed more advanced care, and she was airlifted by helicopter to a hospital in Minneapolis. Later that day, her family confirmed she was on her way.

"Makayla is on her way to Minneapolis via helicopter! We are forever grateful for the prayers and donations," the family wrote.

By Feb. 21, Makayla had arrived safely.

"Makayla made it safely to Minneapolis! She is looking good right now but definitely not out of the woods yet," her family said in an update. "We are so grateful for the prayers and donations."

As Makayla continues her fight, the financial strain of extended hospital stays, travel, meals and other expenses has added to the family's burden. Loved ones say they want Makayla to focus on healing without worrying about mounting costs. Community members have begun sharing the family's story widely on social media, offering donations and prayers as Makayla remains hospitalized.

The family says every act of kindness - whether a donation, prayer or simply sharing her story - has meant more than words can express as they stand

by Makayla's side during her recovery.

Donations are being accepted on a GoFundMe account titled, "Standing with Makayla Through Her Recovery."

At press time \$6,620 was raised, with a goal of \$7,500.

Many family members are also in Minneapolis and have funds set up. Those include her biological mom's PayPal account (@CourtneyMondor) and Makayla's sister's CashApp (\$zo-eyes2010). Funds donated are being used for food and lodging to support Makayla's recovery.

Makayla was named Teen Miss Pumpkinfest in Walhalla in Sept. 2025 and competed with several of her family members, who also hold titles.

Cavalier County Sheriff's annual report shows increase in calls, highlights new deputy and major cases

By Sarah Hinnenkamp

Cavalier County Sheriff Matt Wright presented the county's annual report to Langdon City commissioners on Monday night. Wright reported a rise in activity over the past year, with calls for service increasing by 175 in 2025 compared to 2024. The busiest months were July and September, with deputies responding primarily to welfare checks, assisting other agencies, and investigating suspicious persons and activities.

The department also welcomed Deputy Lucero Cervantes, the first female deputy in the office's history. Originally from California, Cervantes moved to the area for school and began her law enforcement career in Towner County, where she worked for several years before joining the Cavalier County department. Wright described her as proactive and enthusiastic and said she has quickly become a valuable asset to the team.

"We're hoping that she loves it here and she sticks around because we love having her," Wright told commissioners. "She's a great deputy. She

is a great addition to our department and will continue to be."

K9 Reign was also an active part of the department, recording 27 deployments within the county for tracking and narcotics detection. Reign assisted in obtaining a search warrant in the city that led to arrests for methamphetamine paraphernalia. She also assisted neighboring agencies in Pembina, Walsh and Towner counties. One of the largest assists involved the seizure of 65.6 grams of methamphetamine by a neighboring agency, drugs that the sheriff said could have made their way into Langdon.

Among notable investigations, deputies solved the burglary at the Wales School through detailed evidence processing. Items were swabbed for DNA at the scene, and nearly a year later a positive match was returned. A search warrant was executed at a residence in Devils Lake, where two-thirds of the stolen property was recovered. The suspect faces felony burglary and drug charges. Officials say the case highlights deputies' thor-

ough investigative work and effective use of forensic tools.

In another case, two vehicles stolen in broad daylight were later located on a property in Lake Bronson. A deputy reviewing surveillance footage from the east side of town helped generate leads in the investigation.

The department also began using a new Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) system in December. Wright said the system has improved mapping capabilities and reduced delays by making it easier for responders to find locations. Dispatchers can now view real-time locations of deputies as they use the app on a phone or computer. The hope is to get the ambulance service on it next.

While the system is still new and staff continue to work through minor challenges, one dispatcher has taken the lead in its implementation. Wright expects the system to operate seamlessly within the year and said it is already proving to be a valuable tool for improving response times across the county.

Commission approves emergency funds for measles vaccination clinics

By Borderland Press Staff

At the Feb. 17 county commission meeting, Pembina County commissioners approved extra hours for Pembina County Public Health nurses as required for vaccination clinics throughout the county due to the measles outbreak. At the time of writing, 15 cases have been confirmed in Pembina County, one case in Walsh County and one case in Wil-

liams County, in addition to numerous cases across Manitoba. The extra hours will be paid through the county's emergency fund. Public Health reminds the community that they do not test for measles. If a patient or family suspects measles, they should call ahead before presenting to a clinic or hospital. Symptoms of measles may consist of fever, runny nose, red/watery eyes, cough, and rash.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to canned food.

ODGOS

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