

# NORTHERN VIEW

## SHOP'S MEALS HELPING LAKOTA RESIDENTS COPE



Photos by Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald

Elaine Brooks, owner of Elaine's House of Dreams, serves up hot meals for Lyle Pederson Thursday in Lakota.

## Flower and gift shop in area town doubles as a delivery restaurant

By Ann Bailey  
Grand Forks Herald

Lakota, N.D.

**E**laine Brooks is bringing it home for the Lakota community during the coronavirus pandemic.

The owner of Elaine's House of Dreams flower and gift shop for the past two months has made and delivered thousands of meals to dwellers of the town of about 650, about an hour's drive west of Grand Forks. Meanwhile, Brooks also serves meals, packaged in to-go boxes, through a drive-up window in her Lakota store.

Brooks has long served coffee and baked homemade rolls, bread pudding and other pastries in her flower and gift shop, and offered sandwiches and soups at lunchtime. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, she wanted to do more for customers, especially senior citizens, who were being advised not to leave their homes.



Elaine Brooks, owner of Elaine's House of Dreams in Lakota, baked bread pudding for Thursday's menu.

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## GF court considers ND veterans' court

If created, it would be 1st in the state

By Hannah Shirley  
Grand Forks Herald

As a former active-duty veteran, Sam Gereszek is used to speaking two languages: military-speak, and civilian-speak. Now a Grand Forks attorney, Gereszek said when he encounters offenders who are veterans, they often respond better

to one language than the other.

"If a veteran and I are sitting down over a beer together or talking, there doesn't really have to be a lot spoken to know that we both know that war is hell. That's kind of a foregone conclusion between us," Gereszek said. "Sometimes an average citizen who didn't go through those events would never understand why a decision was made - to end a life or not to end a life, to go through a door or not to go through a door, decisions that can and will haunt people for the rest

of their lives. And a veteran can understand that."

Northeast Central Judicial District Presiding Judge Donald Hager said that when a court doesn't recognize the different needs a veteran might have, the court system fails to effectively help them, making it easy for veterans to fall through the cracks and become repeat offenders. That's why he and Grand Forks County Court Administrator Scott Johnson - both of whom are veterans - have spent the last year working to establish the state's first

veterans' court, in Grand Forks.

In that time, Hager said they have spent time meeting with other veterans' courts in the region to study their successes and what might work in Grand Forks. The local court will have to put together a proposal for the state Supreme Court, which will ultimately decide whether to green light the project. While they're still in the early phases of putting together a proposal, Gereszek said he's hopeful the court will be up and running by January.

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Celebrate dairy, Fighting Hawks and move on

A promising UND hockey season ended abruptly. When the cheering was stopped, not by Gophers or Bulldogs but by a virus, we wondered what might have been. We wondered what Kawaguchi might have done.

I also wondered ... Might this be a good time to move on. You know, time to stop the defiant "Sioux Forever!" chants?

That thought will offend some of you. But let me explain ... with a package of butter.

It was done quietly, so you may have missed it: In February, the farmer-owned cooperative Land O'Lakes introduced new packaging for its butter. The familiar scene was there, the idyllic blue lake in the woods, but something - someone - was missing: Mia, an Indian maiden, kneeling by the shore.

She had been there, on Land O'Lakes packaging, since the 1920s, her appearance evolving until illustrator Patrick Desjarlait - an Ojibwe from the Red Lake Nation - redesigned the logo in the mid-1950s, giving us the image we've seen smiling from the dairy cases ever since.

Desjarlait also created the Hamm's Beer bear, cavorting in the land of sky-blue waters.

The reaction to Mia's disappearance has been mixed. Some American Indians applauded the change. Mia was a stereotype, they said. Her image, her native dress, had been exploited as a marketable commodity. Worse, some said, her pose on the butter box was sexualized, especially appalling considering the one of the great crimes of our time: the disappearance and murder of so many indigenous women.

Well, hold on there, others said, including Robert Desjarlait, Patrick's son.

"How did Mia go from being a demure Native American woman on a lakeshore to a sex object tied to the trafficking of native women?" the son wrote in the Washington Post.

"I know the meaning of stereotypes," he wrote. "I participated in protests against mascots and logos using American Indian images in the early 1990s, including outside the Metrodome in Minneapolis when Washington's team played the Buffalo Bills in the 1992 Super Bowl."

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