



#### U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN RAUGHTON

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## On the flip side

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON J. AUDIT 5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORCE BASE, N.D. --Broken glass from the windows of abandoned houses lay on the street and bulks of trash covered whatever patches of grass were left, this was the young boy's view growing up in the inner city of Chicago, Illinois.

"I have seen people fight, get shot and people becoming drugs addicts," said Toy Airman 1st Class DuBois Toy, 5th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintainer. "If you were in the wrong place at the wrong time you could get jumped, robbed or worse."

Toy felt like an outcast. He stayed home most days and couldn't explore his interests or learn about himself due to his environment.

"I was always the outcast where I'm from, or at least the area I was in," said Toy. "I was into different things than other people in my school. I also dressed differently than everyone."

Tired of Chicago's inner city violence, Toy's parents moved the family to a better neighborhood in Dolton, Illinois. Where, Toy made friends much easier.

In this safer environment, Toy tried different sports and met friends with different interests, one in particular who just started to skateboard. Interested in the sport Toy bought his own board and joined his new friend.

"When we skated I enjoyed it because it felt like a challenge, we were in constant competition with each other," said Toy. "Thats when I started developing a passion for skateboarding."

This passion served as an outlet for the stressors of everyday life and a way to interact with people from all walks of life.

INOT AIR witnessed the skater lifestyle and began to see skateboarding as a culture. "Your mind just opens

up to how diverse it is," said Toy. "You meet tons of different people, overall it was super fun. I wanted to continue to live that lifestyle."

After high school, Toy wanted to experience new things. College didn't seem like the right fit, Toy said. Open to options for his future, he remembered his grandmother was in the military. This possibility piqued an interest.

"My grandmother was in the military and told me that she met all a lot people and had all these different experiences," Toy said. "I thought, 'Would I still be able to be myself in the military and have the same lifestyle?""

Hoping for a similar diversity and culture in the Air Force, he took a chance and joined August 16, 2016.

"Basic training was really tough for me because I wasn't used to military discipline," said Toy. "Sometimes, it was super hard to the point where I felt like quitting."

Even with the stressors of his new life, Toy didn't give up on the military, skateboarding or himself. While in technical training, he said skateboarding continued to serve as a stress reliever. That mentality carried forward to his first duty station at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota.

"Skateboarding makes me happy and it's definitely a good workout," said Toy. "It's a different place, a different world.'

Toy skateboards to work every day, practices as much as he can and always looks for new friends to share the culture with.

"It's my passion, I have an emotional attachment to it," said Toy. "Everyone has those times when they have troubles, and I went through a lot of that in my childhood. For a very long time the only family I really felt I had were the people at the skate park."



Airman 1st Class DuBois Toy, 5th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintainer, takes a break from skating in Minot Roosevelt Park Sept. 21, 2017. Being in the military has helped Toy realize he has become a stronger person socially, spiritually, mentally, physically and financially.

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Picture to the left: Airman 1st Class DuBois Toy, 5th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintainer, performs a front feeble stale in Minot Roosevelt Park Sept. 21, 2017. Toy enjoys skateboarding the most because it one of the toughest skills to master.

> U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLON J. AUDIT

"I found that skateboarding is the most fun, diverse and sociable sport out of all of them," he said.

As Toy got older, he



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## 20th AF aims to increase reserve footprint across missile wings

2ND LT. NIKITA THORPE | 90TH MISSILES WING

#### F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. --

Colonel Erich Novak, 20th Air Force mobilization assistant, discussed the decision and efforts being made to provide officers, in the 20th AF missile wings, the choice to continue to serve as a reserve Airman on F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Sept. 29, 2017.

According to Novak, every year the reserve command holds a staffto-staff meeting with each major command, and in March they met with Air Force Global Strike Command. Air Force Global Strike Command leadership requested Novak aid in increasing the reserve footprint throughout the missile wings.

With Maj. Gen. Anthony Cotton's support, Novak has tackled the task wholeheartedly with his primary focus on the 13N, nuclear and missile operations career field.

"In the past, we have had

a handful of positions with no clear [reserve] career path," said Novak. "The first duty the general tasked me with, was to build a 13N career development plan."

Since the plan's approval in April, Novak has focused his efforts on obtaining and building 13N reserve slots for captain through colonel across the three missile wings. This will ensure the officers hired have a career path allowing for development leading to promotion.

Novak views this manning progression as the perfect opportunity for missileers unable to continue on active duty and a benefit to the Air Force in general.

"Due to circumstances, whether it is medical, family or work oriented, there are a lot of people who cannot or do not desire to continue full time," said Novak. "For the ones who still want to serve our country, we are providing that opportunity and allowing active duty to reach back and use these highly experienced [reserve] Airmen."

First lieutenant Megan Hunter, 319th Missile Squadron missile crew commander, shared her reasons for making the decision to leave active duty.

"There comes a time when you just can't think about moving again," said Hunter. "I want to continue to serve my country and I want to stay in the local area, so I felt like now is a good time to transition to the Guard or Reserves. I think the Reserves is a great option for those that are not completely ready to say goodbye to the military life."

The effort to obtain missileer reserve slots is gaining traction and continues to move forward. All three missile wing commanders have given full support and have referred officers to Novak for hire. Novak's next focus is to simultaneously pursue other positions in various career fields such as intelligence, security forces, civil engineer and munitions and missile maintenance.

"My job is to retain those highly skilled, experienced and dedicated sharp individuals to augment the active duty to further the mission," said Novak. "In the reserves, we want to be highly selective to ensure that we are always value added."

For interested Airmen, the first step to pursuing this career path is to contact the base in-service recruiter. Novak is the senior reservist in 20th AF and welcomes those who are interested in contacting him with questions.

## Blended Retirement System Opt-In training now available to all Airmen

KAT BAILEY | AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) -- The Defense Department will implement the new Blended Retirement System next year. While no one needs to make a decision until Jan. 1, 2018, all Airmen should take advantage of training

and informational resources to research their options during the remainder of 2017.

Airmen eligible for the new Blended Retirement System began receiving email notifications in February from myPers to ensure they receive correct



information regarding their benefits to make the decision best suited for their individual needs.

The Opt-In course is designed to provide sufficient information for eligible Airmen to make an educated decision about their retirement system. However, Airmen are highly encouraged to discuss their personal situations with a personal financial counselor at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The Blended Retirement System Opt-in training is available on Advanced Distributed Learning Service under the "Selected Force Training" drop down menu. Only those active Airmen who, as of Dec. 31, 2017, have served fewer than 12 years, or reserve Airmen who have accrued fewer than 4,320 retirement points, will have the option of electing BRS or remaining in the legacy retirement system. These Airmen will be required to take the Opt-In training and should provide a copy of the training certificate to their Unit Training Manager upon completion. The Air Force recommends BRS training

for all Airmen and encourages them to take the Opt-In course. Many leaders may not be eligible to opt-in to BRS themselves, but still need to be knowledgeable about the new system to understand what their junior Airmen should know as they prepare to make their decisions in 2018. The leader training course is also available to those without a **Common Access** Card - to include family members - via an alternate website. **BRS** information is continuously updated on myPers. Click "Retirement" from any military landing page. In addition, a live chat feature on BRS is available for Airmen. To chat live with a Total Force Service Center representative, go to the page and allow about 30 to 60 seconds to enable a representative to come online.

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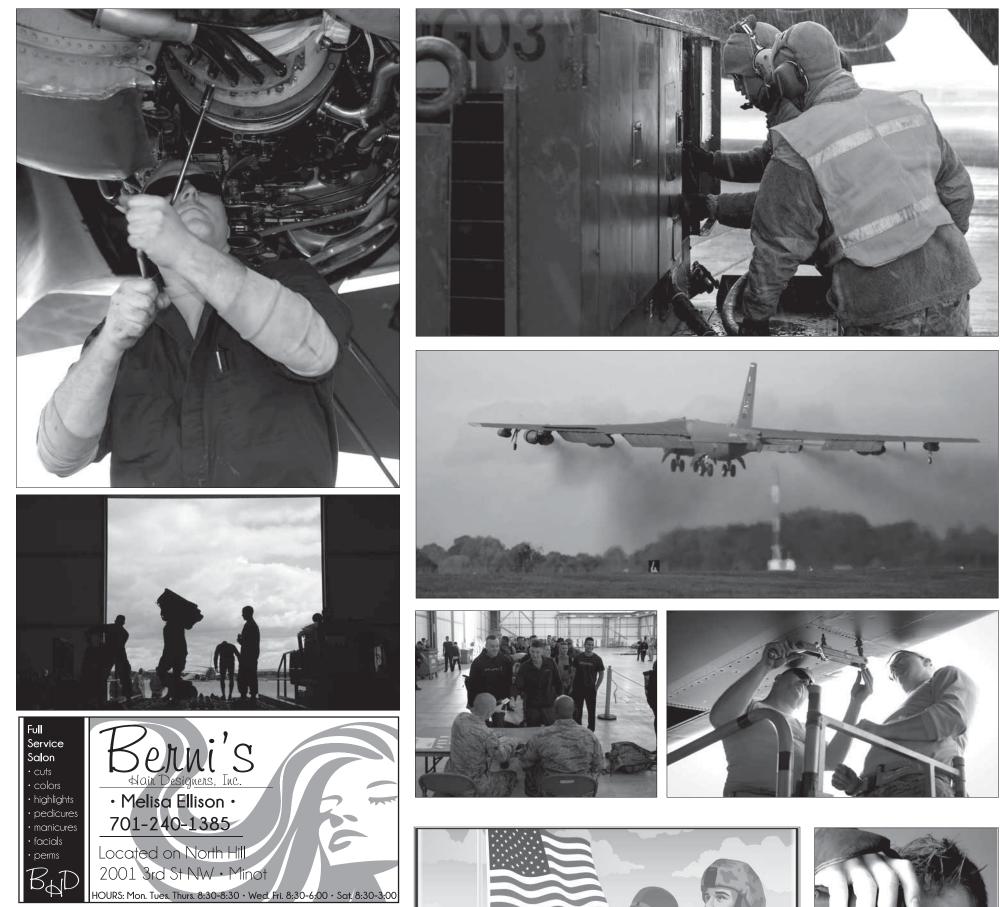
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# **B-52S ASSURE ALLIES IN EUROPE**

A B-52 Stratofortress taxis for a takeoff at Fairford Royal Air Force Base, Sept. 22, 2017. U.S. Strategic Command bomber forces regularly conduct combined theater security cooperation engagements with allies and partners, demonstrating the U.S. capability to command, control and conduct bomber missions across the globe. Bomber missions demonstrate the credibility and flexibility of the military's forces to address today's complex, dynamic and volatile global security environment.



U.S. Air Force photos | Staff Sgt. Benjamin Raughton



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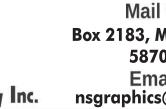




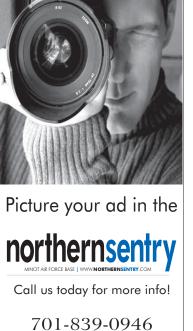
## **Saluting our Veterans**

BHG, INC Special Section, Deadline Oct. 31st Inserted: All BHG weekly newspapers, November 9th

We honor and recognize the men and women who served our country. Please submit your family photos of veterans, along with details about branch and years of service and we will include them in this special section.







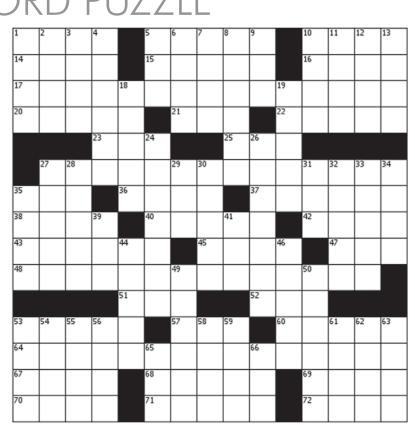
nsads@srt.com

## CROSSWORD PUZZ

#### Across

1. Short address Ecstacy 10. MacMurray of "My Three Sons" 14. Moisturizing ingredient Pillages 16. Red hot ooze 17. HONEY 20. Straight-billed marsh bird 21. Tobacco stuff 22. United States Postal Service symbol Kirkuk resource 25. Zeta follower 27. LOVE 35. Support for women? 36. Jib, for one 37. Matthau's "Odd Couple" costar 38. Prescribed ceremony 40. Sluggish 42. "Titus Andronicus" garb 43. Animadverts 45. Assist unadvisedly 47. Santa visitor 48. DARLING 51. Watson and Crick subject 52. Helios, to the Romans 53. They add up 57. Word with bag or cup 60. Carried on

- 64. DEAR
- 67. \_\_\_\_ mater
- 68. Fancy salad addition
- 69. Intellectually acute
- 70. Top of the line
- 71. Inventory item



dir.

72. Crooked

#### Down

- 1. Filing aids 2. Ladd who played
- Shane
- 3. Crafty Norse god
- 4. Continue doing
- 5. Journalist Nellie 6. Missing 7. "American Gothic" groups locale
- 8. Dorm room staple 9. Beirut-to-Jerusalem 10. Circus performer 11. Jingled 12. Stuntman Knievel 13. Have the nerve 18. Means of control 19. Playful tormentor Contact between



### SUDOKU Solution to puzzle on page 10

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## THE LEGO NINJAGO MOVIE • (PG) FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 • 1800 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 • 1500

Shunned by everyone for being the son of an evil warlord, a teenager seeks to defeat him with the help of his fellow ninjas.

KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE• (R) SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 • 1700



When their headquarters are destroyed and the world is held hostage, the Kingsman's journey leads them to

58. Some tic-tac-toe players 59. Inside recess 61. Regard 62. Always 63. Interdict 65. Home entertainment company 49. Those using scales 66. Superior finale 50. Home of the Tlingit 53. Many an Al-Jazeera

35. Facial feature

41. Single outcome,

44. Steve's singing

46. Rose grower's

54. Barn bundle

56. Chit chaser

55. Handy wallet fillers

39. Finish line

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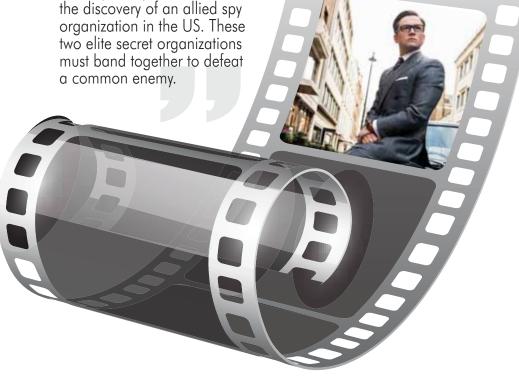
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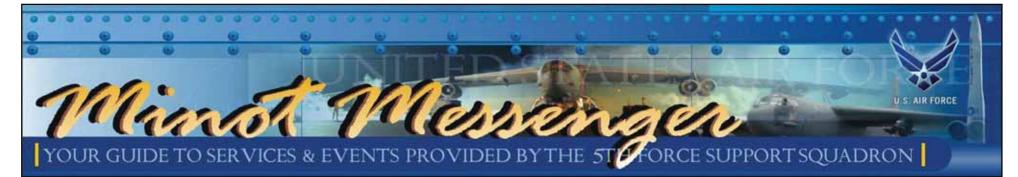
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Solution to last week's Crossword puzzle.

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### Don't Miss Spooktacular Rockers Halloween Party On Oct. 27 Lifeguard Certification



Rockers Bar & Grill has a spooktacular Halloween Party on tap for Friday, October 27 from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. You'll enjoy a hauntingly delicious buffet and great drink specials.

Be sure to come dressed for the Halloween costume contest. Prizes include \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place. There must be a minimum of 10 costume contest entries to award prizes.

Cost for this monsterously fun time is FREE for club members and \$7 for non-members. For additional details, call Rockers Bar & Grill at 727-ROCK.

### Lifeguard Certification Course Offered By ODR



## Enjoy Family Fun Fest At The Youth Center On October 27

Family Fun Fest is coming to the Youth Center on Friday, October 27 from 6-8 p.m. Children of all ages can enjoy wearing their costumes and trying their skill at a variety of games. There will be 2 full gyms of activities and a haunted maze.

The event is open to everyone with no registration necessary. Tickets for games are \$1 for 2 tickets and may be purchased at the door. You'll enjoy games, candy, prizes, food, and more at this annual event. The Family Fun Fest is sponsored by Dakota Kids Dentistry and Minot Spouses Club. *No Federal Endorsement of Sponsor Intended.* For more details, call the Youth Center at 723-2838.



## Free Admission For Club Members To UFC Fight Night



Club members receive FREE admission to the UFC 217 pay-per-view event at Rockers Bar & Grill on Saturday, November 4. Non-members price is only \$7. The action features the UFC Middleweight championship bout between current champion and The Ultimate Fighter 3 light heavyweight winner Michael Bisping and former two-time UFC Welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre. In other main event action, a UFC Bantamweight championship fight between current champion Cody Garbrandt taking on former champion T.J. Dillashaw while champion Joanna Jedrzejczyk battles former title challenger Rose Namajunas for the UFC Women's Strawweight Championship. The main card also features a welterweight showdown between #2 ranked Stephen Thompson and #4 ranked Jorge Masvidal.

Preliminaries begin at 7 p.m. with the main card starting at 9 p.m. This is an adults only event - no children. For more information, call Rockers Bar & Grill at 727-ROCK.

Get certified at the Lifeguard Certification Course offered by Outdoor Recreation from November 4-12. There will be a skills test on November 4 at 10 a.m. (location to follow). The online course will take place from November 5-10 with the practice skills and final test scheduled for November 11 & 12 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Cost for the Lifeguard Certification Course is \$200. Registration deadline is October 27. Class size is limited so sign up today!

If you have ever wanted to become a lifeguard you don't want to miss this great certification course opportunity. For additional information or to register for the upcoming Lifeguard Certification Course, please contact Outdoor Recreation at 723-3648.





## CLUB MEMBER DRAWING ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 WILL BE FOR \$450.

You must be present to win. Become a club member today to qualify. Simply visit Rockers Bar & Grill or the Jimmy Doolittle Center to obtain your application. The next weekly club member drawing will be held on Friday, October 20 at Rockers Bar & Grill and the Jimmy Doolittle Center. Drawing time varies each week between 5:30-6:30 p.m.

### FAMILY and YOUTH EVENTS & PROGRAMS

#### Nov 4 International Games Day

Come to the Base Library to play games and celebrate International Games Day on Saturday, November 4 at 1 p.m. This FREE event is open to all ages. Play any game in the library's collection or try a giant-sized game. You can also bring your own games to play if you prefer. For more information, call the Base Library at 723-3344.

#### Nov 9 Communication and Resolving Conflicts Seminar

The Child and Youth Behavioral Military & Family Life Counseling (CYP MFLC) will conduct a training seminar for parents entitled "Communication and Resolving Conflicts" on Thursday, November 9 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the Family Child Care office (located inside Rough Rider Pizza). This FREE seminar provides parents with information on how to better communicate with their children and also provides strategies on ways to resolve conflicts. Registration is not required. For additional information, contact the Family Child Care office at 723-6662. Don't miss this great training seminar opportunity.

#### Youth Indoor Soccer Registration

The Youth Center is holding Youth Indoor Soccer registration for Youth Center members 3-12 years of age now through October 31. Cost is \$30 for Smart Start ages 3 & 4 and \$40 for youth ages 5-12. Youth Center membership and a current immunization record as well as a sports physical must be on file to register. The Youth Indoor Soccer season begins January 2. For additional information, please call the Youth Center at 723-2838.

#### Family Fun Night

Take the whole family out for a delicious meal. Rough Riders invites you to enjoy their Family Fun Night every Tuesday from 5-9 p.m. Club members can enjoy 2 large one topping pizzas, 12 breadsticks, and 2 pitchers of soda for only \$25. Non-members can join the fun for only \$32. Plus children are sure to enjoy spending time in the Lil' Rider Indoor Playland. For more information, call Rough Riders Pizza at 727-4377.

For 5th Force Support Squadron job opportunities, visit www.nafjobs.org



- 11/6 Family Tag Archery 4pm to 5:30pm
- 11/7 Family Sports Night Come out and play Dodge Ball 4pm to 5:30pm
- 11/8 Centerpiece/Art Creations 4pm to 5:30pm
- 11/9 YP Give a HOOT about Family Time. Family Board Game Night 4pm to 5:30pm

OPEN TO YP MEMBERS/SCHOOL DE CARE & FAMILIES FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE YOUTH CENTER AT 723-2838



### YOUNG AIRMEN EVENTS & PROGRAMS

#### Oct 20 Friday Night Karaoke

Come and show off your talent during Friday Night Karaoke at Rockers Bar & Grill on October 20 from 8 p.m. to close. Sing solo, do a duet, or grab a group! Rockers has a great karaoke selection for your enjoyment. Gather up your friends, warm up your singing voice, and enjoy all of the fun. For additional information, please contact Rockers Bar & Grill at 727-ROCK.

#### Nov 13-16 Off-Base Budget Classes

Planning to move off base? The Airman & Family Readiness Center is hosting Off-Base Budget Classes on November 13, 14, 15, & 16 from 2:30-4 p.m. Airmen will obtain important information on leases, military clauses, renters insurance, complete a budget worksheet, and determine an affordable rental price range. Attendees should bring their current LESs and have knowledge of their bills. Call 723-3950 for additional information.

#### Nov 1 Brown Bag Book Talks

The base library invites you to Brown Bag Book Talks on Wednesday, November 1 at noon. No required reading; no scripted discussion questions. Come to the library to share what you are currently reading or listen to others doing so. Bring a brown bag lunch if desired. For additional information, call the base library at 723-3344.

#### Nov 5 Tumbling and Fitness Clinic

The Youth Center is hosting a Tumbling and Fitness Clinic on Sunday, November 5 from 9-11 a.m. The clinic is open to Youth Center members 7 years of age and older. Experienced tumblers can come work on their tumbling and fitness skills with an experienced and certified instructor. Cost is \$10 for members and free for deployed (must show proof of deployed spouse). Registration is now through November 3. For more details, call the Youth Center at 723-2838.

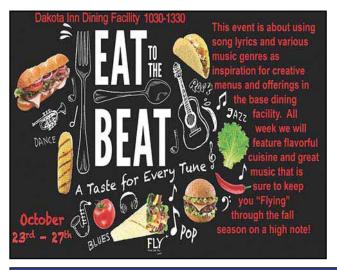
**Nov 6** *Family Child Care Pre-Orientation* Would you like to work in your home, make a difference on Minot AFB, and in the life of a child? Then attend the FCC New Provider Pre-Orientation at the Family Child Care office on November 6 from 6-8 p.m. to see if it is for you! All persons providing care in their homes for more than 10 hours per week must be licensed. People who become affiliated providers living downtown have the same opportunities as base providers. For more information, call the Family Child Care office at 723-6662.

#### Nov 11 Veteran's Day Bowling Special

Rough Rider Lanes will be celebrating our veterans with a Veteran's Day Bowling Special on Saturday, November 11 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Active duty and retirees bowl for just \$2 per game with \$1.50 shoe rental on open lanes (must show I.D.). All other family members can bowl for only \$2.50 per game and normal price shoe rental. For more details, call Rough Rider Lanes at 727-4715.









Visit our website at www.5thforcesupport.com

## Why Credit Unions Are Worth Celebrating

ARTICLE PROVIDED BY WWW.CUNA.ORG | CREDIT UNION NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

n 1924, Roy Bergengren, one of the architects of the credit union movement, reflected on what a credit union can do for people.

"The credit union is, in fact, a bridge," Bergengren wrote in the inaugural issue of "The Bridge," the official newsletter of the American credit union movement, which was then in its infancy. "It may be the bridge over which the tenant farmer travels the wide gap that separates him

from ownership. It may be the way that opens the great land of opportunity to the wage worker, who finds his savings the 'open sesame' to broader possibilities for himself and his family."

Twenty-four years later, in 1948, credit unions in America, and later around the world, began celebrating the philosophy and achievements of credit unions every year on the third Thursday in October. The theme for International Credit Union Day 2017 is "Dreams Thrive Here," harkens

International Credit Union Day North Star Credit unions believe in improving lives, every day! So far in 2017, credit unions in North and South Dakota have donated: to local communites Volunteered over ours NOT-FOR-PROFIT MEMBER-OWNED COMMUNITY BASED LOWER FEES See how a credit union membership can benefit you! CREDIT UNION Visit asmarterchoice.org to find a credit union near you Credit union statistics directly from cusocialgood.com. ASSOCIATION F THE DAKUTAS

## **Credit Union Curious?** GO TO TOWN.

Are you into low loan rates? ATM fee refunds? How about cash back on purchases? Do you like being treated right? If so, then you're going to love Town & Country Credit Union.

back to Bergengren's sentiment, and it's meant to serve as a reminder of how effective credit unions like North Star Community Credit Union and Town & Country Credit Union are at helping all people chase and achieve their biggest dreams in life.

This is because, unlike other financial institutions, credit unions are not-forprofit, so their primary purpose isn't to score record profits in order to cut distant shareholders bigger dividends checks. Rather, the primary purpose of credit unions is-and always has been-to be of service to their members. That means you.

This people-first philosophy doesn't just mean better service, it translates into a better financial deal for consumers. Credit unions, on average, offer higher rates of return on savings accounts, lower rates on loans, and fewer and lower fees than other financial institutions.

Through the first half of 2016, according to data collected by the Credit Union National Association, credit union members saved \$9.3 billion over what they would have paid at banks: \$1.9 billion through higher yields on savings, \$1.2 billion on lower fees, and \$6.2 billion on lower loan rates.

So join us at any of our branches on Oct. 19 to celebrate ICU Day. North Star Community Credit Union located at 210 Summit Drive on Minot Air Force Base will be holding open house from 10am to 3pm. And Town and Country Credit Union located at 615 S Broadway St, Minot will have coffee and cookies throughout the day.

## **Pumpkin French Toast**



#### INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup milk

- 1/2 cup pumpkin puree
- 4 eggs 2 Tbsp packed light-brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger
  9 slices Texas toast (or other white bread such as Challah or French
- bread) Butter', for griddle

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Preheat an electric griddle to 350 degrees (a non-stick skillet set over medium heat also works fine). In a mixing bowl whisk together milk, pumpkin puree, eggs, brown sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger until well combined. Pour into a shallow dish. Butter griddle and dip bread into egg mixture (allowing a few seconds for it to absorb mixture. I also squeeze gently to soak the mixture to center), then rotate and coat opposite side. Transfer to griddle and cook until golden brown on bottom, then lift, butter griddle once more and flip french toast to opposite side and cook until golden brown. Serve warm with butter and maple syrup.







## CHURCHDIRECTORY



Sunday School	9:00 am
Meet and Greet	10:00 am
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This beautiful property has so much to offer. The home is a 2002 manufactured home completed with post and pier foundation. This home has an open floor plan with vaulted ceilings. The kitchen includes an island with sitting room and plenty of storage. Call Micky Venable at 240-5257. #171275

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## A canvas of possibilities

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ALYSSA M. AKERS | MINOT AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. --

A vast, infinite blue covered the landscape with nothing but a small white line breaking the ever-changing shades. With a few simple, delicate brushstrokes, the sea began to flow off the canvas, detailing soft rushes of water.

Millions of these images exist, but each their own as only the artist knows how their mind will transfer to canvas.

"It isn't the same as what others see, it is my own impression," said Senior Airman Elihar David Toledo, 5th Medical Operations Squadron bioenvironmental engineering technician. "My art evolved from watching many different people's style and creating my own."

At the age of three, Toledo could sit and watch artists for hours.

"Instead of watching TV, I could watch somebody make something out of nothing," said Toledo. "The more I watched, the more I wanted to paint myself."

He first started drawing his toys. Through watching others and sometimes mimicking their work, Toledo grew to love art.

From then on, Toledo tried different mediums and styles,

favoring acrylic and pastel for their vibrant nature and ability to convey moods.

"I can pretty much bring out how I feel on a canvas," he said. "If I'm feeling stressed, I do a lot of sharp edges or explosions with the paint to release everything on the canvas. I want people to feel the mood I was in."

With his artistic ability, Toledo planned to attend art school and even received a scholarship for his choice school. Before the school year started though, he had a change of heart.

"I figured why not join the Air Force, travel the world, experience some things and gain as much knowledge as I could," said Toledo. "The Air Force has helped me achieve a higher education, and I feel like a better artist with my experiences than I would if stuck in one place at school."

Through painting, Toledo has developed sharper skills, including better attention-todetail. "Toledo has always been

able to find the things other technicians might have missed," said Staff Sgt. Guillermo Gonzalez, 5th MDOS NCO in charge of occupational health and industrial hygiene. "He is very dedicated when he identifies problems to fix." Patience and dedication are

also required to complete his work. "Some of those paintings can take anywhere from a couple of

take anywhere from a couple of hours to days," said Toledo. "I have to be really patient to get the best final project."

"When he works, I notice a switch flip in his brain," added Gonzalez. "He realizes in order to get a good product out – whether in his art or Air Force job – you have to put in good enough effort."

Not too long ago, Toledo started drawing chief master sergeants upon request of the Minot Chief's Group. On Oct. 3, he gifted the group his 17th chief portrait, featuring Chief Master Sgt. Kaleth Wright, the 18th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force.

"I didn't think I was going to be doing 17 portraits," said Toledo. "Knowing that these paintings will be part of Minot Air Force Base's history is amazing."

These portraits line the walls of a room in the Dakota Inn Dining Facility.

The majestic sea continues to flow, waves bringing in a large, wooden ship. Only Toledo knows what else the canvas will hold.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ALYSSA M. AKERS

Senior Airman Elihar David Toledo, 5th Medical Operations Squadron bioenvironmental engineering technician, paints at Minot, N.D., Oct. 3, 2017. Painting has helped develop sharper skills for Toledo, including attention-todetail, patience, dedication and creativity.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ALYSSA M. AKERS

A drawn photo of Chief Master Sgt. Kaleth Wright, 18th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, hangs in the Dakota Inn Dining Facility at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., Oct. 12, 2017. Senior Airman Elihar David Toledo, 5th Medical Operations Squadron bioenvironmental engineering technician, has drawn 17 Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force.



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