

# northern sentry

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## WHATS INSIDE THIS WEEK:




**MINOT MAF CHEFS FEED THE FORCE**

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**MINOT AFB COUPLE GIVES BIRTH TO NEW YEAR'S BABY**

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**EXERCISE PRAIRIE/BAYOU VIGILANCE 24-2**

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# MINOT AFB SCHOOLS RECEIVE PURPLE STAR AWARD



Dakota Elementary receives their Purple Star Certificate (from left to right): Minot AFB School Board Members Mr. Brian Lawley and Mr. Anthony Foerster, 91st Missile Wing Deputy Commander Colonel George Chapman, School Liaison Program Manager Joy-Nicole Smith, Dakota Elementary School Principal Mrs. Kathryn Lenertz, North Dakota School Superintendent and Administrator of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction Kirsten Baesler, 5th Bomb Wing Deputy Commander Colonel Benjamin Jensen, Minot Public Schools Assistant Superintendents Mrs. Bryn Iverson and Dr. Scott Faul. See page B2 for more on the event.

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# Minot MAF chefs feed the force

SENIOR AIRMAN ALEXANDER NOTTINGHAM,  
5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.

Missile Alert Facilities (MAF), which can be up to 75 miles away from Minot Air Force Base, operate with a lone chef that ensures the site has well-fed troops.

Missile Alert Facilities are the heart of the 91st Missile Operations Group's mission. The Group is composed of three squadrons, each responsible for up to 50 launch facilities. This 24/7 responsibility requires Airmen to be on alert and always ready. It is the goal of the Missile Alert Feeding Operation (MAFO) team to ensure every Airman deployed to a MAF is well-fed and can continue to accomplish their mission.

"MAFO differs from a regular feeding operation at the Dining Facility on base as chefs are deployed out to an isolated site and have to be capable of leading themselves," said Master Sgt. Brian Brockhoff, 5th Force Support Squadron dining facility section chief.

Chefs will feed 10 or more Airmen a day, which can be a tall order. Airmen from the 5th Force Support Squadron MAFO ensure MAF site teams are comfortable during their approximately one-week stay in the field.

"On average I'll make 36 meals per day, 12 meals per meal period," said Senior Airman Matthew Chan, 5th Force Support Squadron food

service specialist.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and sometimes a midnight meal for Airmen who were out late. A chef's job does not stop until everyone is fed with a warm meal that is made to order.

"From inventory inspections, checking the emergency Meals Ready to Eat (MRE), and required trainings, I can have a lot of responsibilities during the time I'm tripped out," said Chan.

A chef is in charge of their kitchen space while they are tripped out. A missile chef's duties at a MAF may include completing and stocking inventory as well as preparing, cooking and cleaning after each mealtime.

"My mom used to make us fried chicken tenders back home, so to get to make it here for Airmen at the MAF is like bringing a little bit of that joy to the team here," said Airman 1st Class Oscar Vega, 5th Force Support Squadron food service specialist.

Throughout the Air Force, we see Airmen taking care of each other, MAFO chefs are no different as they ensure Airmen on site are well cared for.

"To receive that thank you for a meal you made and getting to see how that directly affects the morale is one of the most rewarding parts of this job," said Vega.



Senior Airman Matthew Chan, 5th Force Squadron food service specialist, tops a chicken breast with seasoning at Missile Alert Facility Oscar, North Dakota, Dec. 21, 2023. A missile chefs' duties at a MAF include completing and stocking inventory as well as preparing, cooking and cleaning after each mealtime.



Senior Airman Alexander Guidry, Airman 1st Class Oscar Vega and Senior Airman Matthew Chan, 5th Force Support Squadron food service specialists, pose with a prepared meal at Missile Alert Facility Oscar, North Dakota, Dec. 21, 2023. During their deployment, missile chefs can make 20 to 40 meals a day for the Airmen stationed on site.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS | SENIOR AIRMEN ALEXANDER NOTTINGHAM



Chicken gets plated for a customer at Missile Alert Facility Oscar, North Dakota, Dec. 21, 2023. A missile chefs' duties at a MAF include completing and stocking inventory as well as preparing, cooking and cleaning after each mealtime.



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# Celebrate MLK Day with Acts of Service: A Day On, Not a Day Off

COL. JEFFREY HOLLAND, COMMANDER, 75TH AIR BASE WING

We are about to celebrate MLK Day, a day in which we remember the values for which Dr. King lived, and for which he died. But it's important that we do more than just remember, or even celebrate Dr. King's legacy. We must make MLK Day one in which we deliver on Dr. King's dreams of transformative love, uncompromising compassion, and selfless service.

The temptation is strong to see this day—and for many, an associated MAJCOM Family Day—as just a long weekend, a chance to catch up on that latest streaming series or sneak in an extra nap. But what if, just for a moment, we shifted our perspective? What if we viewed MLK Day as a chance to make a positive impact, to contribute to our communities, and to embody the spirit of service that Dr. King so passionately advocated?

Dr. King once said, "Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve." Whether it's volunteering at a local shelter, participating in a community cleanup, or simply reaching out to a neighbor in need, every small effort adds up

to create a ripple effect of positive change. Imagine this: instead of treating MLK Day as a day off, we turn it into a day on—for making a difference, on for creating connections, and on for building bridges. It doesn't have to be grand or elaborate; even the smallest gestures can have a profound impact.

Let's be honest—there's a lot going on in the world and in our lives. We're faced with challenges that can sometimes feel overwhelming. But each of us has the power to make a positive impact in our own way. MLK Day reminds us that change starts with us, with our actions, and with our commitment to building a better world for everyone.

So, how can you make a difference this MLK Day? Start by looking around your community and identifying areas where you can lend a helping hand. Reach out to local organizations, schools, or shelters to see if they could use volunteers. Consider organizing a neighborhood clean-up or a food drive. If you're not sure where to begin, you can find opportunities

online at sites such as americorps.gov/MLKday, justserve.org, and cfcgiving.opm.gov/offerings.

If you're unable to physically engage in acts of service on MLK Day, there are still plenty of ways to make a positive impact. Among the simplest is to contribute monetarily to causes included in this year's Combined Federal Campaign (cfcgiving.opm.gov), through which you can "Give Happy" in this year's campaign through 15 January 2024. You can also use this time to educate yourself about social justice issues, engage in conversations with friends and family, or support organizations working towards positive change. Every action, big or small, contributes to the collective effort to create a more just and equitable world.

In the spirit of Dr. King, let's make MLK Day a "Day On" that not only honors the legacy of a remarkable leader but also moves us one step closer to the dream of a community in which we all feel we belong. Together, we can make a difference—one act of service at a time.



Martin Luther King, Jr., Day is a day of service and positive impact. Col. Jeffrey Holland, 75th Air Base Wing commander, encourages finding ways to make a positive impact, such as identifying areas where you can lend a helping hand, reaching out to local organizations, schools, or shelters, and organizing a neighborhood clean-up or a food drive.

U.S. AIR FORCE GRAPHIC BY DAVID PERRY

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MEGHAN SHERROD AND JULIEN ZANOVELLO  
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DANIELLE ELLIS AND WILLIAM OCHSENBAUER  
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# The Purple Star Is a Big Deal!

Let's face it, there are those kids who can walk into a new school and immediately fit into the fabric. They find friends, they are not afraid to get involved, in general they fit in right away. Well, that would not have been me. In our small-town school, the traumatic move was from the grade school building to the high school building, which happened after 8th grade. Yeah, we spent 8 years (no kindergarten back then) in the same school building. We played outside on the same school yard. Walked to and from school with the same friends. And when we did have to move to the high school building, all 47 of us moved together. New school, but not a new class.

When we got a "new kid" in school, it was a big deal. We welcomed the opportunity to have another schoolmate, and more exciting was the opportunity to gain a new classmate. Having never moved from one community to another, I would have been on the welcoming side of the equation. If they were living in town, they were a "town kid". If they were from the rural area they were a "country kid". Those country kids would arrive on buses, while us town kids would gather on a certain corner and walk to school.

I am speaking to the choir a bit here, when I talk about the life of a student whose family is tied to the military. On average, these kids move 7 times over their school

years. Not only that, but they seldom know anyone in their new school. All new students, all new teachers, all new surroundings...7 times! That's the reason and the rationale for the Purple Star Award. Each school, and there are 3 receiving the Purple Star Award on Minot Air Force Base, must institute a program that helps bridge the gap for those new students who arrive at a school. The key word here is connect. The Purple Star program help students to connect to their new school.

Our congratulations to School Liaison Program Manager, Joy-Nicole Smith, and the many others who have worked hard to bring the Purple Star to Memorial Middle School, and North Plains & Dakota Elementary Schools. Through the network of Purple Star schools all across the United States, the groundwork is in place for every student to become a part of their new school and to connect quicker and easier.

**LET'S TALK WEATHER**

Or maybe we shouldn't talk weather, because it appears we are headed into a cold spell with below zero temps and double digit below zero wind chills. Face it, we've had a great November and December weather wise. A couple of days we didn't even have to wear jackets. That October snowstorm, well it's just a memory, as was the snow it brought. On Christmas we traveled



**UPSIDE DOWN UNDER**  
 MARVIN BAKER

There have been some new developments regarding Canadian Football League expansion, developments that could spawn teams in North Dakota and South Dakota.

I've written about this topic in the past, but this time there seems to be a bit more urgency.

For the past seven years, the CFL has been looking to expand to Halifax, Nova Scotia. However, shortly after the season ended in late November, the deal fell through and Atlantic Canada won't be getting a professional football team.

That said, the CFL is looking at expanding to other venues, with the first three in Canada; Quebec City, Moncton, New Brunswick and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Beyond that is where I took note. Syracuse and Rochester, N.Y., Erie, Pa, Fargo and/or Bismarck, N.D., Rapid City and/or Sioux Falls, S.D., Missoula, Mont., Spokane, Wash., and Seattle were all named as possible locations for expansion.

In 1993, the league expanded into the United States with the Sacramento Gold Miners. The following year, there was an entire American Division with San Antonio, Shreveport, Memphis, Las Vegas, Baltimore and Birmingham.

The mistake the league made then was to put teams far away from the border. This time, the

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**A VIEW FROM  
 OUR SIDE**  
 ROD WILSON



to Fargo and encountered pouring rain. The negative side of that scenario is the one inch of ice it left, coating trees, homes, and roads. My nephew in Bismarck was able to get the neighborhood kids together and have a hockey game on a parking lot across the street from his house. Rain does not belong in December!

**MODERATION**

If I could give Mother Nature a bit of advice, it would be "moderation, moderation, moderation". We can deal with those below zero temps, but double digit below zero temps with those chilling northwest winds, that makes for those nasty wind chills. You can keep all of that really cold air in Canada where they are used to dealing with it. Of course, we do live in North Dakota, and we are going to experience some of that really cold air, but just for a few days at a time. And then get above zero again. And when precipitation comes, even though I am not a fan of shoveling, snow is better than freezing rain.

Finally, we really don't need any of those weather "events". Let's just have middle of the road, North Dakota weather, Mother Nature. Enough said.

**BEST KEPT SECRET(S)**

Tubing Is great fun at Bottineau

Winter Park! Give it a try. There is always more snow in the Turtle Mountains than in Minot. Plan for a day of tubing, or skiing at Bottineau Winter Park or any of the areas around Minot. FrostFire is just a couple of hours to the east. Huff Hills an hour and a half to the south, and Holiday Mountain is north and east of here in Canada. May as well enjoy the snow, right.

Other Best Kept Secrets: The Minot Minotauros and the MSU Beaver hockey teams are having really great seasons.

**TODAY'S CHUCKLE**

On Christmas day my granddaughter received a "Barbie" doll house. It appeared that it would be my job to put it together with her. (She's my ONLY granddaughter). In reading the box I found out that there were over 100 action pieces. What ever happened to giving kids ice skates? You know the ones that have 4 action pieces. 2 skates and 2 laces. Then my son delivered the news that a storm front with freezing rain was moving into the Fargo metro area and that if we were going to hit the road, sooner would be better than later. I hated to let my granddaughter down, but...the doll house with 100 action figures was still in the box when we left.

# Expanding into the states...

plan calls for teams that are close to the border, which theoretically would have more of an impact on the entire league.

There are some pros and cons with locating a CFL team in Fargo. The first thing is NDSU is quite popular in the Red River Valley and it would take some savvy marketing to get a team off the ground.

The good thing about Fargo is it's reasonably close to Winnipeg and would make a great rivalry with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. The other plus is, despite NDSU's popularity, there are numerous CFL fans who live in and around Fargo, which is a start.

Bismarck would make a good rivalry with the Saskatchewan Roughriders. The down side with Bismarck is there isn't a venue that could hold a CFL game so one would have to be built.

Missoula would be a great rivalry with the Calgary Stampeders, but just like Fargo, there is a college

team in Missoula that's quite popular.

When you get to Rapid City and Sioux Falls, it's a stretch. Like Bismarck, Rapid City doesn't have a location to house a CFL franchise, and unlike Fargo, most people don't know about the Canadian Football League. It's the same in Sioux Falls. The only difference there is a greater population.

Another thing that the CFL has going for it is numerous college players in North Dakota have landed in the CFL which has brought some notoriety to Fargo, Grand Forks and Bismarck.

Weston Dressler, who is from Bismarck, played in the CFL for 11 years, winning a championship Grey Cup. Brady Olivera, who is currently on the Winnipeg Blue Bomber roster, played at UND. Donovan Alexander who played for the Edmonton Eskimos, also played his college football at UND. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Chris

Walby who played several years in Winnipeg. He played his college football at Dickinson State. Mike Trevathan played for the B.C. Lions. He played his college football at Montana State.

There are numerous others I could look up, but those are the names that roll off the top of my head.

In this latest expansion exploration announcement, it was also noted that the CFL could quite possibly play some of its pre-season games in the venues listed above and if it works out, the league would pursue playing at least one regular season game south of the border before actually expanding.

That kind of stuff doesn't happen overnight, as we now know with the possibility of a team in Halifax falling apart after seven years.

But who knows, at least Fargo and Bismarck are being considered.

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# Latest Freeze for Sakakawea



**SLICE OF LIFE**  
KIM FUNDINGSLAND

When the big water freezes is something that has captured my attention as long as I can remember. By big water, I'm talking about Lake Sakakawea, which is actually a reservoir.

Garrison Dam, Lake Sakakawea, call it what you want. By any name it is North Dakota's largest body of water and a major attraction in our state, particularly in the spring and summer. Camping, swimming, boating, fishing – you name it.

It is a kind of a measuring stick too for what kind of winter North Dakota experiences each year. Maybe that's why when Sakakawea freezes over and when it thaws out in the spring has always been a curiosity for me.

This winter season began with a dump of snow early but then, as the warming influence of El Nino began to take hold, our winter took a real slap in the face. Hoorah! That is, of course, unless you are one who can't wait for winter's arrival.

December of 2023 in North Dakota proved to be one of the most pleasant in recorded history. Minot had 12 days in December in which the daytime high temperature exceeded 40 degrees and two more over 50 degrees. Our average high temperature in December was 38 degrees and the temperature never got below zero. Other locales in the state experienced similar temperatures, hardly the kind of weather for making ice on an impoundment as large as Lake Sakakawea and a monstrous change from December 2022 that averaged a mere 8 degrees, 20 degrees less than in the recent December.

So, the main body of water on Lake Sakakawea has remained open. In fact, fishermen were on the lake after Christmas. Crazy stuff! Now the question is, when will Lake Sakakawea become officially frozen, a date and time declared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

First, let's look at the latest freeze dates for Lake Sakakawea:

- 1 – January 24, 2001
- 2 – January 18, 2012
- 3 – January 16, 2000
- 4 – January 15, 1987
- 5 – January 13, 2016
- 6 – January 12, 1976, 1998
- 7 – January 11, 2003, 2020

And, the warmest average high temperatures for December since record keeping began in 1905:

- 1 – 1939 29.0°F
- 2 – 1997 28.8°F
- 3 – 1999 28.7°F
- 4 – 2023 28.0

Does this mean that Lake Sakakawea is about to have its latest freeze date in history? Not guaranteed, but it'll be close if it doesn't. Colder weather is expected at least until later this January. Typically, below zero nights have a big impact on freeze up and below zero temperatures

are in the January forecast.

Many bays on Lake Sakakawea have been frozen, or partially frozen, for several weeks. The water temperature has been hovering near the freezing point, meaning cold temperatures with little or no wind could result in ice covering the entire lake in a few days' time.

No matter really. The big water is destined to have one of its latest freezes ever. How late is what I will be watching. I think it's interesting that five of the reservoir's seven latest freeze dates have occurred since 2000.

Will 2024 move onto that list? Never bet on what North Dakota weather will do, particularly in winter, but this one sure seems to have a chance.



Open water on Garrison Bay at Lake Sakakawea State Park is shown in this December 28, 2023, image.

KIM FUNDINGSLAND PHOTO

NORTHERN PLAINS  
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY  
CENTER'S

## Champagne AND Ice Gala

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## Ski the Jewel above the Prairie!

### SNOW REPORT

4 Inches of Fresh Snow with more expected before the weekend.  
Chairlift, New T Bar, Runs & Lifts Magic Carpets, Tubing Hills & Runs will all be open this weekend

### HOURS

Friday, January 12	4:00-9:00pm
Saturday, January 13	10:00am-5:00pm
Sunday, January 14	10:00am-5:00pm

Military Appreciation Day/Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
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### SSgt Shelby Moore



#### 5th Mission Support Group

SSgt Moore provides spiritual support to over 2,000 Airmen and their family members in the 5th Mission Support Group. She provides counseling, resiliency training, ministry of presence, and leadership advisement to ensure the Group's personnel are ready to provide agile combat support to the 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing. Ultimately, her efforts directly impact Team Minot's ability to provide global strategic deterrence to protect our nation.

Having served in the Air Force for 8 years, and being a prior Security Forces NCO, she brings

an added measure of expertise and is uniquely capable of preempting and meeting the emotional, spiritual and resiliency needs for nearly 600 Defenders performer high stress duties.

January marks 3 years that Shelby has been married to her husband Trey, a valued Security Forces NCO at Minot AFB. They have 2 beautiful children: a 2-year-old daughter, Cora, and a 6-month-old son, Cillian.

**GAME SALUTE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 12**

### A1C Audrey Smith



#### 91st Missile Maintenance Squadron

#### Hometown: Bement, Illinois

Airman First Class Audrey Smith is the Point of Contact for 5BW and 91MW Minotauros Hockey Games. She has personally volunteered for over 23 games and has trained 345 volunteers over 1500 hours to raise \$48,000 towards the military community. Additionally, Audrey has performed over 12 coding operations on the Minuteman III ICBM and has led crane operations replacing \$328,000 in equipment earning her Airman of the 2nd Quarter, 2023.

**GAME SALUTE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 13**

Recipients of the Northern Sentry Salute will be honored at the respective Minot Minotauros home game. In recognition, each recipient and three guests will receive V.I.P. seating to the noted home game, a \$25.00 Gift Certificate good for concessions at the game, and during the game they will be recognized by the Minotauros public address announcer as well as having their photo and nomination published in the Minotauros Magazine.



Defenders from the 5th Security Forces Squadron sweep of the flight line during a purge in support of Exercise Prairie Vigilance/Bayou Vigilance 24-2 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Jan. 5, 2024. A "purge" consists of a team of defenders sweeping the flightline for any hazardous material and securing the area.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | SENIOR AIRMAN ALEXANDER NOTTINGHAM

# 5th Bomb Wing and 2nd Bomb Wing work together for Exercise Prairie/Bayou Vigilance 24-2

SENIOR AIRMAN CALEB S. KIMMELL, 5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.

Airmen from the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota and the 2nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana participated in Exercise Prairie Vigilance/Bayou Vigilance 24-2 here, Jan. 4-7, 2024.

The Vigilance exercise series showcases Air Force Global Strike airpower and capabilities, ensuring Airmen are prepared and ready to execute their mission by providing a realistic training environment to exercise flexible, strategic airpower. Exercise PV/BV is designed to test both wings' ability to conduct strategic bomber readiness operations by enabling the 5th and 2nd Bomb Wings to work together.

"This exercise has certainly been tough", said SrA Dylan Carentan, 5th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons load crew technician. "This

exercise is a perfect way to measure our ability to show force and deter our adversaries. We want to show off what we've been training on for the past few months. It's one thing to train all the time, but this is my opportunity to show what I've learned, and I'm giving it my best."

The exercise tests maintenance Airmen, security forces Airmen, bomber aircrew and command and control Airmen to prepare them in the event of an attack against the United States and its allies.

Minot Air Force Base is home to two legs of the nuclear triad, with the 5th Bomb Wing having strategic bomber aircraft, and the 91st Missile Wing operating Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles.

A unique aspect about this year's Exercise PV/BV is the inclusion of our partners from the 2nd Bomb Wing from Barksdale AFB. With four B-52H Stratofortresses from

their fleet flying north to Team Minot, this helps Minot Airmen work with Airmen from other squadrons, while still perfecting the craft.

"We're out here to see how quickly we can respond and generate the aircraft on a short notice mission, while working with the 5th Bomb Wing," said TSgt. Jeremiah Hinsley, 2nd Bomb Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron NCO in charge of Avionics. "I respond to things aircrew may find in their preflight inspections, and things have been going very smoothly for us so far. It's my third time here for a PV/VB, and the spirits are high."

Exercises like Prairie Vigilance/Bayou Vigilance ensure the forces assigned to U.S. Strategic Command are organized, trained, and equipped for the tasks they are asked to do on a daily basis as well as respond to emerging crises.



An Airman assigned to the 5th Civil Engineer Squadron plows snow on the flight line during the Exercise Prairie Vigilance/Bayou Vigilance 24-2 (PV/BV) at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Jan. 7, 2024. Exercises such as PV/BV enhance skills such as resilience, competitiveness, innovation and process improvement.

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



Members of Team Minot load an Air-Launched Cruise Missile onto a B-52H Stratofortress during operation Prairie/Bayou Vigilance 24-2 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota Dec. 6, 2024. As routine training missions, the vigilance series enhances the safety, security, and reliability of the bomber leg of the U.S. nuclear triad.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | AIRMAN 1ST CLASS LUIS GOMEZ



Two Airmen assigned to the 5th Maintenance Group move hazard cones during Exercise Prairie Vigilance/Bayou Vigilance (PV/BV) 24-2 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Jan. 5, 2024. Exercises such as PV/BV ensure Team Minot Airmen stay proficient in a variety of key operational skills.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | SENIOR AIRMAN EVAN LICHTENHAN

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# Sentinel Program a Partnership

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

Minot Air Force Base is familiar territory for Brig General Colin Connor. General Connor served as commander of the 91st Missile Wing at Minot Air Force Base from June of 2016 through August of 2018.

General Connor returned to Minot and was the guest of the Military Affairs Committee on Tuesday in his new position as Director of Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Modernization, Site Activation Task Force. Under his direction the new Sentinel Missile Program will be constructed, which will lead to the stand down of the Minuteman III missiles now deployed at Minot Air Force Base, F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming and Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

“The meeting was just the beginning of the partnership between Minot and Minot Air Force Base” according to Connor “that will bring the Sentinel to Minot Air Force Base”.

On a timeline that was part of the presentation, there was proposed activity in 2027, with a finish date for the Minot portion of the Sentinel program in 2032. However, Gen Connor pointed out that these are only preliminary dates, that can and will be adjusted. For example, the activity in 2027 could come earlier as it may involve buildings and facilities to house equipment for control and maintenance of the Sentinel missile system. “When I arrived at Minot on Sunday, I

noticed that the current equipment for maintenance is still being stored outdoors. It just doesn’t make sense when are investing taxpayers’ dollars to continue to store that expensive equipment outdoors.”

Gen Connor also pointed out that the Sentinel missiles are larger and longer than the current Minuteman III missiles, and that they (the Sentinel missiles) will require all new facilities.

In addition, communication will be handled at all 3 of the Sentinel sites through over 8,000 miles of fiber optic corridors because the communication system needs to be faster and better than it is today according to Gen Connor.



Brigadier General Colin Connor addresses a meeting of the Minot Chamber Military of Affairs Committee about the Sentinel Missile Program.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | MINOT AFB PA

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**A1C OLIVIA PERKINS**

Since her arrival to Minot AFB in March of 2023 Olivia showed a strong desire for excellence. Her drive led her flight leadership to place her in an excelled role to become certified as a Flight Security Controller, a position typically reserved for more senior in rank personnel. On her downtime, Olivia has dedicated more than 65 hours supporting Airman Against Drunk Driving, and volunteering at multiple events around Minot. Finally, Olivia is a vital member to the 91st MSFS's sponsorship program, making sure all new Airmen inbound to Minot AFB have an immediate touchpoint they can reach out to at any time during their relocation process.

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# Minot AFB Couple Gives Birth to New Year's Baby



The Krofts – Stephen Sr., Meredith, Katie and Stephen Jr. welcome Evelyn Grace, their newest family member and this year's New Year's baby for the Minot area. Joining them is Naycee Labodda, RN, a nurse in the Trinity Health Family Birth Center.

TRINITY HEALTH PHOTO

New Year's Day came and went, but Trinity Health's Family Birth Center finally welcomed its first baby of 2024. Evelyn Grace Kroft came into the world at her own pace, arriving on January 2 at 10:16 a.m.

Parents Meredith and Stephen Kroft Sr., who reside at Minot Air Force Base, say they were surprised to claim the New Year's title but were happy to accept it. "I thought it was great," Meredith said. "When they told me the

position was still open I was bound and determined."

Evelyn Grace is the Kroft's third child. A 4-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter are looking forward to getting to know their new sister. "We're just excited that she's finally here," Meredith said.

Stephen Kroft, a Lieutenant Colonel, serves as Commander of the 5th Contractor Squadron at Minot AFB. He says it was a nice change to have their

daughter delivered at Trinity's new hospital. They've now experienced both the old and new facility.

"This is the best way we can imagine to start the year," Meredith added. "Dr. (Tim) Bedell and the Trinity team have been great."

The Trinity Health Auxiliary presented the family with a gift basket of items useful to a newborn.

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# 'Are You Ready?': DAF marks National Mentoring Month

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- The Department of the Air Force will host a series of events to show Airmen and Guardians how mentoring can help maximize their potential during National Mentoring Month in January.

The DAF theme for 2024 is "Are You Ready?" The service is committed to increasing deliberate mentoring for the Total Force and values mentorship as an enterprise imperative.

NMM was launched in January 2002 to connect people invested in the mentoring movement and to help people accomplish their personal and professional goals.

"Are You Ready?" is a call to action for all members to engage in mentoring relationships, both as mentors and mentees, recognizing that preparedness for any challenge is significantly enhanced through shared knowledge and experience. Mentoring can be a cornerstone in advancing key DAF strategic initiatives, and DAF NMM 2024 will focus on the relationship between mentoring and readiness in key areas such as Great Power Competition, civilian readiness, Air Force Generation, amplifying the Guardian spirit, Multi-Capable Airmen and more.

Mentoring, at its core, is a partnership that facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experience and wisdom. A mentor is someone who offers guidance, support and advice, helping to shape the career and personal development of their mentee. Conversely, a mentee is an individual who seeks growth, learning, and is open to receiving this guidance. This reciprocal relationship is fundamental in fostering a productive mentoring environment within the Air Force and Space Force.

"We are extremely excited to launch this year's National Mentoring Month. Mentoring is more than just sharing knowledge; it's about building the leaders of tomorrow," said Director of Force Development Crystal Moore. "By

investing in our people today, we are ensuring a more capable and resilient force for the future. Every conversation, every piece of advice, contributes to our collective readiness and adaptability. Finally, it's important to me that every Total Force Airman and Guardian recognizes that anyone can be a mentor - one of my best mentors was a peer."

As part of National Mentoring Month, the DAF will host a series of virtual, live events focused on the power of mentoring and the role it plays in Total Force Readiness.

Below are the virtual events scheduled for National Mentoring Month:

**National Mentoring Month Kick-off (Jan. 10 at 1100-1200 EST on Zoom):** This event will serve as a comprehensive introduction to the month's activities, emphasizing the importance of mentoring in enhancing strategic readiness. Key speakers will discuss how mentoring relates to each readiness strategy, offering insights and personal experiences.

Webinar ID: 161 974 5487  
Passcode: 123456

**Mentoring Impact on Resilience (Jan. 17 at 1100-1200 EST on Zoom):** This session will delve into how mentoring can build resilience, both at an individual and organizational level. Speakers will share strategies on how to mentor for resilience, drawing on real-world examples and best practices.

Webinar ID: 160 226 6898  
Passcode: 0123456

**Virtual Speed Mentoring (Jan. 18 at 1300-1400 EST on Zoom):** This innovative event will allow participants to engage in rapid, short-term mentoring sessions with a diverse range of leaders and experts. It's designed to provide quick insights and advice, fostering connections that can be developed further post-event.

Webinar ID: 161 314 8427  
Passcode: 123456

**Us-Mentoring-Us (Jan. 24 at 1800-1900 EST on Facebook):** Focusing

on peer-to-peer mentoring, this event will encourage participants to share their experiences and learn from each other in an informal, collaborative setting. It aims to highlight the value of horizontal learning and the sharing of diverse perspectives. This webinar can be found here.

**Civilian Leadership Development School (CLDS) - Mentoring in Action (Jan. 31 at 2100 - 0000 EST on Zoom):** CLDS will host a mentoring workshop to help build a solid foundation of supervisory skills. Supervisors are often the first level of mentorship, and it is crucial for them to be equipped with the skills needed to help develop the mentoring relationship. Experience a live virtual mentoring workshop to improve employee performance planning, goals and outcomes.

Webinar ID: 160 531 1680  
Passcode: 465635

**Establishing a Mentoring Program (Feb. 1 at 1100-1200 EST):** Aimed at unit leaders and program managers, this session will provide guidance on setting up effective mentoring programs within their respective units. Topics will include program structure, mentor/mentee matching processes and measuring program success.

Webinar ID: 160 401 0837  
Passcode: 123456

Information on virtual NMM events can be found on their website: <https://www.mentoring.org/campaigns/national-mentoring-month/>

Additional information on mentoring can be found at <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Mentoring2/>



## DARK HORSE BRINGS HOLIDAY JOY

Sending a special thank you to SrA Jaden Johnson, 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, who dropped off Christmas presents to the children of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Thank you for your kindness and thinking of our kids this holiday season.

DAKOTA BOYS AND GIRLS RANCH PHOTO

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# Bass Announces Departure Date as CMSAF, Reveals Advice for Her Successor

GREG HADLEY, AIR & SPACE FORCES MAGAZINE

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass' tenure as top enlisted Airman will end March 8, when she'll hand the reins over to Chief Master Sgt. David A. Flosi.

Bass announced her departure date during an AFA Warfighters in Action event on Jan. 4 as she detailed her priorities for her final few months in the position—including pay and compensation and health care.

"I've told my team, I said, we're not talking about transition yet," Bass noted. "But certainly it'll come very fast on March 8 ... and I couldn't be more excited to pass the torch off to Chief Flosi."

Bass also shared the advice she has given Flosi since he was announced as her successor and CMSAF 20 in December.

"Don't read the comments," Bass said she told Flosi. "Leadership can be tough, and everybody loves to throw out advice and give feedback. And some feedback's helpful, some is not, but you can't get caught up

in in the comments, right? You've got to talk to people in the ring. You've got to be aware, I think that's goodness. But don't get



caught up in the comments. You've got to lead. Leadership is not a popularity contest. Leading, by the way, is easy when nothing's going on. That is not the case today."

Bass has frequently used Facebook to offer updates to the force and livestream discussions with senior department leaders.

Early on in her tenure, there were several controversies involving her response to Facebook commenters, and she has warned about the effects of information warfare on Airmen.

Flosi, for his part, is not currently active on social media.

Bass also said she would tell Flosi to "stay focused" and find time to read every day, even if only for five minutes. Bass herself has shared several dozen books with Airmen through her "CMSAF Leadership Library," and she told AFA president and CEO retired Lt. Gen. Bruce "Orville" Wright that she is planning on adding to that list soon.

Among the new additions, Bass said, will be "Generation Z Unfiltered" and "We Don't Want YOU, Uncle Sam," two books that delve into the psychology of the youngest generation of Airmen currently serving.

# Chief Master Sgt. David A. Flosi named 20th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- Chief Master Sgt. David A. Flosi was selected Dec. 11 to be the 20th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, adding a deeply experienced and proven Airman to the top echelon of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin's emerging leadership team.

In announcing the selection, Allvin noted Flosi's experience, leadership and achievements across his Air Force career and said Flosi brings qualities to the job that are especially important when the Air Force is navigating one of the most challenging moments in its history.

"Our Airmen deserve the best leaders possible — and that's Chief Flosi," Allvin said. "He is a phenomenal leader and wingman who will empower our Total Force. His unique experiences, attitude and commitment will prove essential as we re-optimize our force for Great Power Competition. I am excited to work with him as we follow through on our efforts to meet today's pacing challenge."

Flosi emerged as the clear choice from a group of the most highly respected, experienced graduated command chief master sergeants from across the Air Force's global operations, officials said. These leaders were selected based on breadth of experience, recommendations from senior commanders and performance across each candidate's Air Force career.

"I'm honored and humbled to represent all Airmen as your 20th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force," Chief Master Sgt. David A. Flosi said. "We are serving at a time of great consequence where success hinges on our ability to optimize this team toward the changing character of war. I'm excited to serve the Total Force supporting the SECAF and CSAF's priorities. We have heard the call for action

from General Allvin ... it is time to follow through!"

With Flosi's selection, the current Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, JoAnne S. Bass, will soon close out her tenure as the service's highest ranking noncommissioned leader. Bass has been in the job since August 2020. She was the first woman in Air Force history to be named CMSAF, and the first woman in Department of Defense history to serve as a service-level Senior Enlisted Advisor.

"Chief Flosi is an incredibly strong leader who has proven himself in every role at every level," Bass said. "I have no doubt he will continue building and developing our Air Force to be the future force our nation needs to compete, deter and win in any domain."

Department of the Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall offered praise and his endorsement, as well.

"The Department of the Air Force relies on our Senior Enlisted Advisors to represent the needs and perspectives of all our enlisted Airmen and Guardians, the majority of our force," Kendall said. "I have high confidence that Chief Flosi will build upon the great example provided by his predecessors and serve with distinction as our twentieth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force."

Flosi moves into his new job from Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where he serves as the command chief master sergeant. That role is similar in many respects to the role he will assume at the Pentagon. At Materiel Command he is the senior enlisted leader and the primary advisor to the commander on all matters regarding the readiness, training, professional development and effective utilization of the command's 89,000 total force Airmen.

Prior to his tour at Wright-



Patterson AFB, Flosi served as the command chief master sergeant at the Air Force's Sustainment Center at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.

Flosi began his Air Force career in 1996 as a nuclear weapons specialist. That focus expanded over the years to include various leadership duties in conventional and nuclear munitions, as well as missile operations, program management and test and contingency operations.

Like his predecessor, Flosi has a deployment history, including tours in support of operations Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel.

Also, like previous CMSAFs, Flosi will be the public face for Air Force personnel to those in all levels of government. He will be a personal adviser to Allvin and other senior leaders, both military and civilian, and will be expected to provide insight on issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale and proper utilization and progress of the Air Force's entire cadre of Airmen.

Through his leadership, Flosi will provide direction for the Total Force and will represent the interests of all Airmen. A link to Chief Master Sgt. David A. Flosi's biography can be found at <https://www.afmc.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/1762190/david-a-flosi/>

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---	---	---

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By participating in the above contest, you give Badlands Restaurant & Bar and co-marketing partners permission to use your photo submission to announce you as a winner! Badlands Restaurant & Bar will not share your email information.



Wreaths Across America at the Rosehill Cemetery in Minot, Dec 16, 2023. Submitted by Andrea Johntson



During a dog walk in an on base neighborhood in late 2023, the frost on the trees made a stunning sight. Submitted by Gianna Brockhoff

For full details on the Northern Sentry Wintery Photo Contest, see details to the right.

Scan the QR code to submit your photo for a chance to win a Family Pack to Bottineau Winter Park!



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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY IS  
**MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY**  
AT BOTTINEAU WINTER PARK!  
Monday, January 15, 2024

**RESCHEDULED  
DUE TO WEATHER!**  
Join us on Monday, February 19, 2024

**\$30/PERSON!**  
(\$90 VALUE)  
**LIFT TICKET  
RENTAL  
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valid for active, reserved and retired military, as well as their immediate family members! Must show military ID

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**BOTTINEAU  
WINTER PARK**  
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701-263-4556

**WINTERY PHOTO  
CONTEST**

**DETAILS** Send us your winter-related or snow photos and you could WIN a FREE day on the slopes at Bottineau Winter Park!

Winter in North Dakota isn't lackluster after all! The frigid weather brings on snow activities, frozen experiments, unique outdoors activities and wacky weather too. We want to see the way you and your family experience the uniqueness of this North Dakota season.

Send us your photos of snowmen, snow angels, Northern Lights, sundogs, blizzards, snowmobiling, winter activities or anything that shows the way you choose to spend this season! Photos can be with or without people, but we'd love to see your smiling faces!

Each cold weather-related photo submitted could be displayed in the weekly newspaper and/or online too! Not only that, but each photo submitted secures you an entry to win a grand prize.

Winner will be chosen at random from the pool of entries and announced on March 8, 2024 on Facebook.

Additionally, our staff's FAVORITE overall photo could score a front page billing on the Northern Sentry FRONT PAGE!

**We can't wait to see all your photos!  
Good Luck!**

**HOW TO ENTER**

1. Message our Facebook Page (Minot Air Force Base Northern Sentry) with your photo and description. Please tell us who/what/when/where.
2. Submit your photo and who/what/when/where description on our website (QR)

**GRAND PRIZE**  
**FAMILY 5-PACK\* TO BOTTINEAU WINTER PARK!**  
The Bottineau prize is worth over \$300 & includes:  
(5) Lift Tickets  
(5) Ski OR Snowboard Rental Equipment for the day  
(5) 2 Hour Tubing Passes

**This opportunity is too good to pass up!  
Send us your winter photos now through February 28.**

**sentry**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

- The Northern Sentry reserves the right to refuse to post any photos that are deemed to be inappropriate, dangerous or go against the safety or purpose of the U.S. Air Force.
- By submitting your photo to the Northern Sentry permission is given to the Northern Sentry to use the photos online, on social media and in the print versions of the newspaper.
- One entry per person/per day
- Contest is open to Minot AFB military personnel and their dependents, and the prize recipients are intended to be MAFB-affiliated personnel. Must be 18 years of age or older to win and be able to prove MAFB affiliation.
- Prize must be used in its entirety in one day. The winter park entry cannot be spread over several days.
- \*Some restrictions may apply
- Contest will run from December 15, 2023 thru February 28, 2024
- Winner will be announced on March 8, 2024



## BALD EAGLE



**Fact File**

Life Span	15 - 20 years
Weight	10 - 14 pounds
Body Height	30 - 37 inches
Wingspan	70 - 90 inches
Top Speed	30 - 35 mph
Wild Diet	Omnivore (Carnivore) Herbivore Fish, Other birds, Carrion

**CREATURE FEATURES**

- The national bird of the United States, it is the only eagle unique to North America.
- A Bald Eagle's eye is almost as large as a human's. Their eyesight is 4 times sharper than a human with perfect vision.
- Its skeleton weighs about 1/2 lb, only 5 to 6% of its body weight. Their bones are hollow. This allows the Bald Eagle to soar to altitudes of over 20,000 feet.
- Their beak tip is used for tearing. Bald Eagles kill their prey with their talons by penetrating flesh.
- A Bald Eagle's skin is protected by over 7,000 feathers lined with down. Their feet are cold resistant, consisting mostly of tendons.

**Spot 5 differences**

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# WINTER DRIVING TIPS

## Oil Change Tips

It is recommended that you get an oil change on your vehicle every 3,500 miles for regular oil and every 5,000 miles for synthetic oil. Checking and changing the oil is essential to keep today's engines working properly and efficiently. Check the oil level with the engine and the car parked on a flat surface. Open the hood, remove the dipstick, wipe off with a cloth towel or paper, then back into the oil tank. Pull it again and see if the level is within the acceptable range marked on the dipstick. If you add the oil yourself, do not overfill. Overfilling can damage the engine. Most automobile manufacturers recommend oil changes every year or 7,500 miles of car and light truck gasoline engines. The usual recommendation is diesel engines and turbocharged gasoline engines every 3,000 miles or six months. You'll find that a once-a-year (7,500-mile) oil change is for vehicles driven in ideal circumstances. Most of us think "normal" driving is "severe service" driving. This includes frequent short trips (less than 10 miles, especially in cold weather), stop-and-go city traffic driving, driving in dusty conditions (gravel roads, etc.), and sustained highway driving speed during the warm season. For this type of driving behavior, the recommendation is to change the oil every 3,000 miles or six months. For maximum protection, most oil companies say to change the oil every 3,000 miles or three to six months regardless of what type of driving you do. Regular oil changes for preventative maintenance are cheap insurance against engine wear and will always save you money in the long run if you keep a car for more than three or four years. It's very uncommon to see an engine well-maintained with regular oil changes develop significant bearing, ring, cam, or valve problems under 100,000 miles.

**What About The Oil Filter?**  
 To reduce the costs of vehicle ownership and maintenance, many car makers say the oil filter only needs to be replaced at every other oil change. Most mechanics will tell you this is a false economy. The oil filters on most engines today have been downsized to save weight, cost, and space. The "standard" quart-sized filter that was

once common on most engines has been replaced by a pint-sized (or smaller) filter. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that a smaller filter has less total filtering capacity. Even so, the little filters should be adequate for 3,000-mile oil change intervals — but may run out of capacity long before a second oil change at 6,000 or 15,000 miles. Therefore, replacing the oil filter every time the oil is changed is highly recommended.

**Filter Replacement**  
 If you do your oil changes, make sure you get the correct filter for your engine. Follow the filter manufacturer's listings in its catalog. Many filters that look the same on the outside have different internal valving. Many overhead cam engines, for example, require an "anti-drain-back" valve in the filter to prevent oil from draining out of the filter when the engine is shut off. This allows oil pressure to reach critical engine parts more quickly when restarted. Filters that are mounted sideways on the engine typically require an anti-drain-back valve. Used motor oil should be disposed of properly. The Environmental Protection Agency does not consider used motor oil to be a hazardous chemical, but it can foul groundwater and contain traces of lead. The best way to dispose of used motor oil is to take it to a service station, quick lube shop, parts store, or another recycling facility. Your old oil will either be re-refined into other lubricants or petroleum products or burned as fuel. Do not dump used motor oil on the ground, down a drain, into a storm sewer, or place it in the trash. Many landfills will not accept used motor oil even if it is in a sealed container because it will eventually leak out into the ground. If you can't find an environmentally-acceptable way to dispose of the stuff, maybe you shouldn't change your oil. Service facilities that do oil changes have storage tanks and recycling programs to dispose of used oil. It is recommended that you get an Oil Change on your vehicle every 3,500 miles for regular oil and every 5,000 miles for synthetic oil. Checking and changing the oil is essential to keep today's engines working properly and efficiently.



**Auto Care - Valvoline Instant Oil - Tires**  
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# Receiving the Purple Star Minot Air Force Base Schools All Qualify for Special Award

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

For a year and a month Joy-Nicole Smith, School Liaison Program Manager, has worked to gain recognition for the three Minot AFB Schools as Purple Star Schools, a special recognition from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. "Military students move an average of seven times during their school years" according to Smith "the Purple Star program give them a sense of security, a network of schools that make sure students know they are welcomed at their new school once they move."

The Purple Star School Program is implemented across the United States, most notably in Ohio. Joy-Nicole Smith serves on the Purple Star Advisory Board for the State of North Dakota and facilitated the submission of the applications and meetings with NDDPI to take next steps with the review and approval of applications. The schools receiving the recognition are North Plains Elementary, Dakota Elementary, Memorial Middle School at Minot AFB and Twinning Elementary and Middle Schools at Grand Fork AFB. These five schools will be the first in North Dakota to receive this recognition.

The impact results in the creation of a network of schools focused on meeting the needs of military connected students across the Department of Defense. The following is a brief description of the program in North Dakota: "The Purple Star Award for military-friendly schools recognizes schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation's armed forces. Purple Star awardees receive a special Purple Star recognition to display in their buildings. The Purple Star Advisory Board (formed by representatives of the NDDPI, Minot and Grand Forks AFB, ND National Guard, Large and Small School District, School Counselors and Military parents) helps decide eligibility."

This is a special recognition from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction; however, the Purple Star School Program is implemented across the United States. The North Dakota schools receiving the recognition are North Plains Elementary, Dakota Elementary, Memorial Middle School, Twinning Elementary and Middle Schools (Grand Forks). However, North Plains Elementary, Dakota Elementary, Memorial Middle School schools will be the first in North Dakota to receive this,

According to a brief that was supplied by Smith to the 5 BW & 91 MW:

- To obtain this recognition, schools must demonstrate unwavering support of military connected students and families. Specifically - schools to designate a point of contact for military families who are new to the school; train school faculty and staffers about how to support students from military families; set up a network of student mentors to welcome newcomers and help them feel more comfortable; and establish a website to connect families to resources for academic and social support.

### TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- The School Liaison Program Manager, Joy-Nicole Smith provides professional development and resources for faculty and staff enrolled in Minot Public Schools on the unique challenges faced by military connected students and families.

### WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS AND FAMILIES AND CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- Memorial Middle School utilizes the Junior Student-to-Student program in which student members meet monthly and are responsible for creating a safe and welcoming environment for all students. In addition, this team also leads 5th grade student tours for our incoming classes.

- Dakota Elementary: Each month student ambassadors, comprised of 5th grade students conduct lessons to each lower class. 5th graders show leadership and mentorship through crossing guards, buddy classrooms and providing tours to visitors, new students, and or community partnerships.

In addition, if a student having a difficult transition the school supports them using best practices shared in training and professional development with the School Liaison Program Manager.

- North Plains Elementary: New students meet with school counselor in groups to discuss the transition to a new school environment. In addition, classroom teachers assign students to partner and help support and encourage incoming students.

### PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnerships drive results in ensuring quality education of all students. Minot Public Schools and Minot AFB are formidable partners in supporting military connected

students and all students in the region through programs such as STARBASE North Dakota and Federal Impact Aid.

On Tuesday, January 9, 2024 all three schools on Minot AFB held assemblies that were attended by Kristen Baesler, North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction, Col Benjamin Jensen and Col George Chapman, Deputy Commanders of the 5 BW & 91 MW respectively, and Dr. Mark Volmer, Superintendent of Schools for Minot Public Schools, as well as others from MAFB and Minot Public Schools. Superintendent Baesler awarded Certificates of Completion of the Purple Star Program.



ND Superintendent of Public Instruction, Kirsten Baesler and Principal Kathryn Lenertz celebrate the Purple Star Award at Dakota Elementary.



Superintendent of Public Instruction, Kristen Baesler, presents Dr. Steve Young with the official Purple Star Certificate at Memorial Middle School.



Joy-Nicole Smith, Superintendent Kirsten Baesler, Principal Ned Strand, Col Jensen and Col Chapman cut the ribbon for the Purple Star Award Celebration at North Plains Elementary.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS | MINOT AFB PA

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**GOLDEN TICKET Winner**

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**Samuel Savoie** found a \$45 Golden Ticket in the Northern Sentry delivered right to his home on base! Thanks for reading your community paper Sam!

YOUTH IN ACTION

# MAFB School Liaison Office Education Working Group (EWG)



JOY-NICOLE SMITH  
SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM MANAGER, GS-11  
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM



Navigating the K-12 education space across the United States of America can often be challenging and difficult to navigate. The systems and services in each state, county and/or city will vary. At times, this can be a matrix and if information is shared, it is dense, complex, and disconnected.

However, our greatest resource is our community! We can serve as "funds of knowledge" for one another. "Funds of knowledge" is a concept based on the premise that people are competent and have knowledge, and their life experiences provide knowledge and insight.

As a result, the Minot AFB

School Liaison Office is forming an "Education Working Group" (EWG) to provide families with tangible support and resources while navigating education in North Dakota. The focus of the group is to serve as a venue for questions to be answered with ample resources provided. In addition, this group will serve as advocacy group to affect change at the local, state, and national levels.

If you are interested in joining the EWG, please send an email to [MAFB.school.liaison@us.af.mil](mailto:MAFB.school.liaison@us.af.mil) or follow the Minot AFB School Liaison Page on Facebook. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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## Upcoming Events

**13 JAN** **MPL CHILDREN'S LIBRARY GRAND REOPENING**  
1:00-3:30PM  
Minot Public Library  
516 2nd Ave SW, Minot, ND 58701, USA

The Minot Public Library wishes to invite all community members, big and small, to our Grand Re-Opening Party on Saturday, January 13, 2024. The party will begin at 1:00 pm with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, speeches, and the rollout of our new reading challenge "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten." Followed by a dance party for kids, story times throughout the event, and games. The party will come to a close at 3:00 pm. For more information, please contact Children's Librarian Randi Monley at 701-852-1045 or email at [randi.monley@minotnd.gov](mailto:randi.monley@minotnd.gov).



For more information:  
Facebook / Minot Public Library / Events

**18 JAN** **JANUARY CANVAS, CORKS & CONSERVATION FEAT: HUGH**  
6:00-9:00PM  
Roosevelt Park Zoo  
1219 E Burdick Expy Minot, ND

EXCLUSIVE EVENT! Join us for an exciting Canvas, Corks & Conservation with a twist! Penguin Hugh will be making an appearance. January Artist: Keeper Quinn. January Chat: Paint a Penguin + Animal encounter with Penguin, Hugh. Ages: Must be 21+ to attend ONLY 20 SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR THIS EVENT Visit <https://rpzoo.com/canvas-corks-conservation> for more info Sponsors: Qdoba and Papa John's



For more information:  
Facebook / Roosevelt Park Zoo / Events

**20 JAN** **MIGHTY MOUSE ICE FISHING DERBY**  
12:00-3:00 PM  
North Dakota State Fair Grounds  
2005 E Burdick Expy Minot, ND

Game and Fishpond at the North Dakota State Fair Grounds Participants have the chance to enjoy a day of fishing and compete for exciting prizes. All teams must have one child (under 16) to participate in this event. There are two divisions for registration. One for those who need rental equipment and one for those who have their own equipment. Parents/Guardians are welcome to register and fish with their children. However, it is not a requirement. A Parent/Guardian is required to be present at all times. \$15 per fisher / \$4 to rent pole. Register at [MINOTPARKS.COM](http://MINOTPARKS.COM)



For more information:  
Facebook / Minot Parks / Events

**23 JAN** **MINOT FUN ZONE**  
9:00 AM  
Minot Auditorium-Old Armory (east side of the building) - 420 3rd Ave SW

The Minot Fun Zone is being provided free of charge to all area residents through the Minot Park District. The bouncy castles are provided in partnership with the Minot Area Community Foundation. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00am-Noon starting on November 28, 2023 and going through March 28, 2024 (\*\* There will be a two week break for the Christmas holiday. The Fun Zone will be closed from Tuesday, December 19-Thursdays, December 28, 2023. We will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.)



For more information:  
Facebook / Minot Parks / Events

### NEW Community at the Northern Sentry

It's more than Minot and more than Minot AFB, it's a Shared Community.



For more events visit our online Community Calendar at [www.northern Sentry.com/calendar/](http://www.northern Sentry.com/calendar/)

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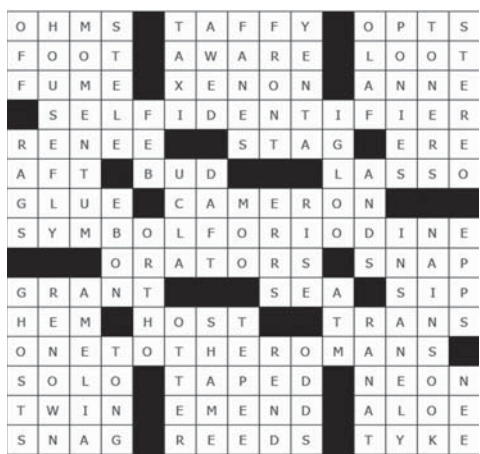
MONDAY NIGHTS

[BLGRILL.COM](http://BLGRILL.COM) | 1400 31ST AVE | MINOT, ND | 701-852-7335



**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

Solution to last week's Crossword puzzle.



**SUDOKU**

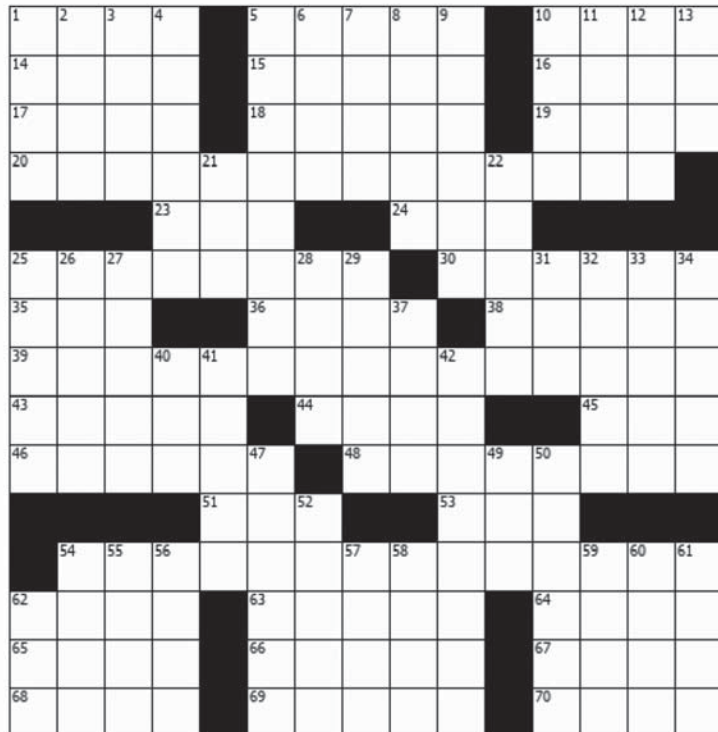
Solution to puzzle on page B9

			1		2		3
		4	2				5
	6		7		3	8	9
	8	9				7	
5		3				4	2
		7			3	6	
9		2	5		4		8
1			7		9		
3		8		6			

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**Across**

- 1. Film turkey
- 5. Odom of the NBA
- 10. "Open sesame!" utterer (with 31-Down)
- 14. Openly declare
- 15. Oil source
- 16. Over's partner
- 17. Expensive rental
- 18. Deep pink
- 19. Rex's admonition
- 20. "Good grief!"
- 23. \_\_\_ T
- 24. It can put you on public transit
- 25. Stop-and-go message?
- 30. Ancient Egyptian amulet
- 35. Suffix with Canaan
- 36. Let go of
- 38. Give the slip
- 39. "Good grief!"
- 43. Laces into
- 44. Dry as dust
- 45. Court decision
- 46. Lure and nab
- 48. They spew contempt
- 51. Yearbook sect.
- 53. Gaslight, e.g.
- 54. "Good grief!"
- 62. Music to a father's ears
- 63. Cauthen in the irons
- 64. Muscle Beach type
- 65. Ticked states
- 66. Ditties
- 67. Pennsylvania port
- 68. "Good grief!"
- 69. Abstract creations
- 70. "Good grief!"



**Down**

- 1. "Road" film destination (Hope-Crosby film)
- 2. Roman versifier
- 3. Interoffice item
- 4. "Jane Eyre" author
- 5. Gridiron Hall-of-Fame coach
- 6. Nautical position
- 7. Pepper pulverizer
- 8. Shy away from
- 9. Does certain library work
- 10. Diamond thief's target?
- 11. Opposing side
- 12. Gravy holder
- 13. Indefinite amount
- 21. \_\_\_ out (dress up)
- 22. Bad habits
- 25. Churchgoer's donation
- 26. Patriotic Allen
- 27. Opposite of the lion's share
- 28. They give hugs
- 29. Certain two-wheeler
- 31. See 10-Across
- 32. Coin worth 100 kopecks
- 33. Harmonica master Larry
- 34. Fleshy red vegetables
- 37. Opening for a dermatologist
- 40. Seasoned seaman
- 41. Hidden supplies
- 42. Most tranquil
- 47. Mazur's "quickly"
- 49. Recipient of many unhappy returns?
- 50. He's "up" each Christmas
- 52. Was straight in the saddle
- 54. Atlantic City action
- 55. Some poetic efforts
- 56. Dermatologist's study
- 57. \_\_\_ cava (major blood vessel)
- 58. Where ender
- 59. Distinct quality
- 60. Grow together
- 61. Barely manages (with "out")
- 62. Use a mattock

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Chapel Services at MAFB

*North Plains Chapel in Base Housing*


*Protestant*  
**Sunday Community Service**  
 1030  
 (Holy Communion 1st Sunday)  
 Children's Church during school year

*Wicca, Pagan, and Neopagan Services*  
**Open Circle**  
 1000 on the 1st and 3rd  
 Saturdays of every month

*Northern Lights Chapel across from Rockers*

**Catholic Mass**  
 Sunday ..... 1000  
 Daily ..... Monday-Thursday at 1200

### St. Peter The Aleut Eastern Orthodox Church



**109 6th St. SE  
Minot • 838-3094**

**Saturday, January 13**  
5PM, No Vespers

**Sunday, January 14**  
10AM, Congregational Prayer Service



### Break Forth BIBLE CHURCH

Wednesdays 7:00pm  
and Sundays 10:30am

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### An Evangelical Free Church

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 (Just North of Super Wal-Mart)

Sunday School & Fellowship ..... 9:00 a.m.  
 Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

[www.trinitychurchminot.org](http://www.trinitychurchminot.org)



Worship Service at 10:45am Sundays  
 Sunday School at 9:45am

**1720 4th Ave NW, Minot  
838-0916**  
[MinotBibleFellowship.org](http://MinotBibleFellowship.org)



### Vincent United Methodist Church

**1024 2nd St. SE • 838-4425**  
*Behind Town & Country Shopping Center*  
**Come As You Are!**

Sunday School ..... 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship Service ..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Fellowship ..... 11:00 a.m.

**Pastor Mark Ehrmantraut**  
[www.vincentumc.com](http://www.vincentumc.com)



### Faith United Methodist Church

**5900 Highway 83 N, Minot**  
[www.faithumcminot.com](http://www.faithumcminot.com)

**Pastor Ken Mund**  
 701-838-1540

Sunday School (All Ages): 9:45 a.m.  
 Sunday Coffee Fellowship: 10:30 a.m.  
 Worship Services: Sunday 11 a.m.

### Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

**1000 NE 3rd Street  
852-0315**

**Sunday Schedule**  
 Contemporary Worship ..... 9:00am  
 Sunday School (All Ages) ..... 10:00am  
 Traditional Worship ..... 11:00am

**Wednesday Evening Schedule**  
 Community Dinner ..... 5:30-6:30pm  
 Contemporary Worship ..... 6:30pm  
 Youth Group & Small Groups.. 7:15pm

**All are Welcome!**  
[www.cornerstoneminot.com](http://www.cornerstoneminot.com)

### St. Mark's Lutheran Church

*Missouri Synod*



**Sunday Divine Service**  
 9:30 AM

**Adult Bible Study and Sunday School**  
 11:00 AM

**Wednesdays Kid Connection**  
 5:15 PM

Reverend Philip Beyersdorf  
 2209 4th Avenue NW, Minot, ND  
**839-4663**  
[www.minotstmarks.com](http://www.minotstmarks.com)  
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### Immanuel Baptist Church

**1615 2nd St. SE • [www.ibcminot.org](http://www.ibcminot.org)  
701-839-3694**



**SUNDAYS:** 9:00 AM FELLOWSHIP  
 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 10:30 AM WORSHIP


**WEDNESDAYS:** 11:30 AM SOUP KITCHEN  
 5:30 PM FAMILY SUPPER  
 6:30 PM PRE-K/KIDS' CLUB / ABY & ADULT BIBLE STUDY



### Christ Reformed Church

Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday  
 234 14th Ave SE  
[www.christreformedchurchminot.com](http://www.christreformedchurchminot.com)

### St. John the Apostle Catholic Church



2600 West Central Ave • Minot, ND 58701  
**839-7076**

Daily Mass Schedule:  
 Tuesday ..... 5:15 p.m.  
 Wednesday - Friday ..... 7:00 a.m.  
 Saturday ..... 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday ..... 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Fr. David A. Richter, Pastor  
 Parish website: [www.stjohnminot.com](http://www.stjohnminot.com)



### First Lutheran Church - ELCA

120 5th Ave. NW  
 852-4853

Sunday Worship  
 9:30 am

[www.firstlutheran.tv](http://www.firstlutheran.tv)  
 (Live Stream & Recorded)  
 Radio Broadcast KRRZ 1390AM  
 Sunday 9:30 am  
[www.flcminot.com](http://www.flcminot.com)

Pastor Brandy Gerjets • Pastor Ellery Dykeman



### JOURNEY CHURCH

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

**1805 2nd St. SE  
838-1111**

**Sunday Services**  
 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

**Wednesday**  
 6:30 PM

### Minot Baptist Church

Sending the Glorious Light of Jesus Christ to a Dark and Needy World

Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday Evening ..... 7:00 p.m.

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**500 46th Ave NE • 839-1351**  
 Pastor David Miller



### Cross Roads Baptist

**Southern Baptist Convention**

Sunday School (all ages) ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship ..... 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
 Wednesdays (Prayer & Missions) ... 6:30 p.m.

[www.minotcrbc.org](http://www.minotcrbc.org)  
 email: [minotcrbc@gmail.com](mailto:minotcrbc@gmail.com)  
**Gabe McCormick - Pastor**

**415 28th Ave SE (Behind Menards)  
838-1873**



### West Minot Church of God

Family Worship Center

**1105 16th St. NW • 839-1407**

Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
 Children's Church & Nursery  
 Wednesday Family Training Hour  
 Meal ..... 5:30p.m.  
 Classes for All Ages ..... 6:30 p.m.  
 Youth Center, Friday ..... 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.  
 ABC Child Care Center ..... 852-6352

[westminot.com](http://westminot.com)  
[facebook.com/westminot](https://facebook.com/westminot)



### Gospel Tabernacle Community Church

9999 27th St NE  
 4 miles south of MAFB  
 James W. Henderson  
 Anna B. Henderson

Church: 701-838-4492  
 Home: 701-838-5759  
 KHRT 1320: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Adult/Children Worship.. 11 a.m.  
 Family Hour ..... 6:30 p.m.  
 Evening Worship ..... 7:30 p.m.  
 Bible Study/Child-Adult  
 Children Worship (Wed).... 7 p.m.  
 Prayer (Friday) ..... 7 P.m.

### First Baptist Church

200 3rd St. SW • 852-4533  
[www.fbcminot.org](http://www.fbcminot.org)

Classic Worship Service ..... 8:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School (All Ages) ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Contemporary Worship Service ..... 9:50 a.m.  
 Adult Sunday School ..... 11:00 a.m.  
 Contemporary Worship Service ..... 11:05 a.m.  
 Children's Church ..... 11:05 a.m.  
 Wed. AWANA (Sept. to May) ..... 6:30 p.m.  
 Fridays, Celebrate Recovery ..... 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Kent Hinkel, Senior Pastor  
 Elaine Carlson, Children's Ministry Director

### Apostolic Faith Church, UPCI

2929 19th Ave NW • Minot  
 Located off Hwy 83 Bypass West  
**(701) 838-0609**

Saturday School ..... 2:00 p.m.  
 Sunday Worship ..... 3:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday Bible Study ..... 7:30 p.m.

**Jesse Starr, Pastor**



### Grace Baptist Church of Minot

A Reformed Baptist Church

**Sunday Service: 4:00 p.m.**  
**Wed. Prayer: 5:30 p.m.**  
 at Living Word Lutheran bldg  
 710 46th Ave NE, Minot

Web: [gracebaptistminot.com](http://gracebaptistminot.com)  
 E-mail: [gbcminot@gmail.com](mailto:gbcminot@gmail.com)

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[www.oslcminot.com](http://www.oslcminot.com)  
 Rev. Heath Trampe  
 Rev. Brian Doel

Sunday Worship  
 8:15am Traditional Service  
 9:30am Contemporary Service  
 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study  
 11:00am Contemporary (w/ livestream)

Wednesdays from 6-7pm  
 Adult Choir  
 OSKids (age 4-5th grade)  
 Confirmation (grades 6-8)  
 High School Youth Group (6-8pm)



### OUR REDEEMER'S CHURCH

A Church of the Lutheran Brethren

**Sundays:**  
 Worship ..... 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**700 16th Ave SE • 701-838-0750**

For more information visit us on the web at:  
[www.ourredeemers.org](http://www.ourredeemers.org)




Our Redeemer's Christian School  
 700 16th Avenue SE  
 Minot, ND 58701  
[info@orcsknights.org](mailto:info@orcsknights.org) • 701-839-0772  
[www.orcsknights.org](http://www.orcsknights.org)

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Our Redeemer's Christian School's Preschool Program will be starting its 36th year the fall of 2023 and we would love to have your child be a part of it!

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Please contact our school office or visit our website for more information.  
**701.839.0772**  
 Email: [jschultz@orcsknights.org](mailto:jschultz@orcsknights.org)  
 Website: [www.orcsknights.org](http://www.orcsknights.org)



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# Children's Library Grand Re-Opening Party

THE MINOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Minot Public Library wishes to invite all community members, big and small, young and old, to our Grand Re-Opening Party on Saturday, January 13, 2024. The party will begin at 1:00 pm with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the rollout of our new reading challenge, "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten." Followed by a dance party for kids, story times throughout the event, and games. The party will come to a close at 3:00 pm.

Why remodel? The curriculum developed by the Association for Library Service to Children and Public Library Association, known as Every Child Ready to Read®, gives guidelines on early literacy standards. Talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing are five practices to fully engage families in early literacy initiatives. The Minot Public Library endeavors to bring these practices to the forefront of every library visit. The Minot Public Library is confident in our story time execution for the first four practices, and the remodel of the Children's Library to include a play area, architecture, and whimsical paint has completely changed the library experience for our littlest patrons.

Over the past 6 months, there have been a lot of changes in the Children's Section of the Minot Public Library. "We wanted our children's area to feel fun and

inviting and be a great place for kids to use their imaginations," said Library Director Zhaina Moya.

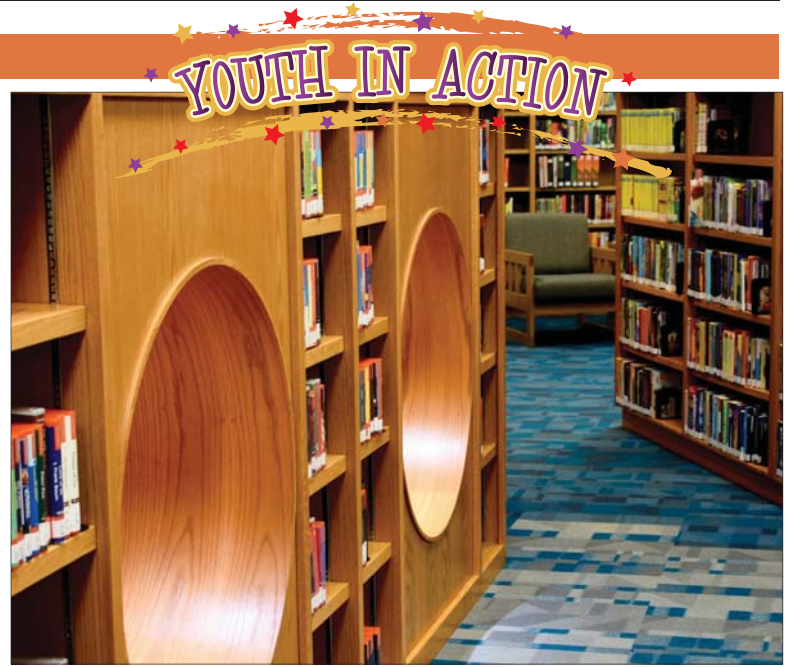
Where once there were beige walls and columns, families now enter seeing yellows and purples. Several large structural columns have turned into towering trees throughout the space. The library now has three reading niches for children and caregivers to read their new favorite books. There is a stage where patrons can read or entertain themselves with a short performance. Our new play area is perfect for kids to play in and explore the world around them.

Librarians have seen how the changes to the Children's Library have affected our family patrons. The bonds strengthen, creativity is explored, and social and emotional skills grow as families explore the reimagined library together.

Children's programming has started back up with monthly programs; however, story times will begin on Monday, February 5th. Maker Monday is for independent children who can separate from their caregivers, ages 3-6. Children will listen to stories and complete an activity. Space is limited, so come early to get your ticket. This program is Mondays from 10:00 - 10:30 am. Smart Start is on Tuesdays from 10:00 - 11:00 am. This story time is for children ages

3-5 and their caregivers. Children will work on basic motor skills such as cutting and writing. Lap Sit Story Time is on Wednesdays from 10:00 - 10:30 am. This is for children birth through age 3 and their caregivers. There will be stories, songs, and fingerplays.

Monthly programs include Family Story Time from 10:30 - 11:00 am on the second Saturday. During this program, community members read stories and answer questions about their work in the community for families. Family Story Time is for all ages. Kindness Knights is also on the second Saturday of the month at 1:00 pm. This is geared toward kids grades 2-6. Kids learn how to give back to their community by helping various organizations and individuals. For more information on other programs such as LEGO Club, READ Dogs, and Pokémon Club, please head to the Minot Public Library's website at [www.minotlibrary.org](http://www.minotlibrary.org), check out our Facebook page, or give us a call at (701) 852-1045.



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### MATH CROSSWORD

ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION

6	= 15	- 4 =
	+	-
	5	4
=	=	=
16 + 4 =	- 13 =	7
	-	+
	18	5
=	=	=

4 - 2 =	+ 10 =	3 =	9 + 10 =
	5	3	2
=	=	=	=
17 - =	7 =	15 =	1 + =
			14 =
=	=	=	=
8 - 5 =			

\* Fill in the missing numbers and signs



### JOKES OF THE WEEK

Q: What can bite, but has no teeth?  
A: Frost!

Q: What did the snowman do when the sun came out?  
A: He had a total meltdown!

Q: How did the snow globe feel after hearing a scary story?  
A: A bit shaken up!

Submitted by Waylon Cooper, age 8

HAHA!

Do you have a funny joke you would like to see in our Kids Zone? Submit to our website or email nsads@srt.com

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1. Pineapple 6.Grape  
7. Watermelon 9. Fig  
10. Bananas 11. Pear  
12. Melon 13. Cherry  
1. Pomegranate 2. Peach  
3. Lemon 4. Strawberry  
5. Dragon fruit 8. Orange

### NOTES ON BEING SAFE

## STAYING WARM IN THE WINTER



SSGT JOE VERGARA  
5TH BOMB WING  
NCOIC, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY



Did you know that cold stress or “hypothermia” could occur any time of the year? In fact, most cases of cold stress develop in air temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees Fahrenheit. People who are exposed to lower temperatures are at risk for injuries ranging from frostbite to serious loss of body heat to which could result in brain damage or death.

Knowing how to dress and keeping dry are the first steps to being prepared. Dress warm and in layers. Choose fabrics such as cotton and wool to which will insulate but also allow sweat to evaporate. Cover the head because over half of your body heat can get lost through it. Your limbs are especially important to protect since they’re the furthest things from your heart. Keep extra clothing around in case you get wet, especially for your feet.

Take breaks frequently especially during strenuous activities. If you become fatigued during physical activity, your body loses its ability to properly retain heat. This causes rapid cooling to which can quickly lead to cold stress. During your rest period, it would be wise to replenish your body with liquids or food. Eating a healthy diet provides your body with the right nutrients it needs to withstand cold stress.

The buddy system in work or play should be used. Look out for one another and know what to look for. A person with hypothermia might not be aware they have it. The first signs of hypothermia are uncontrollable shivering and the sensation of cold. The heartbeat slows down and may become irregular and the pulse weakens. Severe shaking and rigid muscles may be evident and that would be the second sign that the

condition is worsening. The victim may slur their speech, the memory lapses and may feel drowsy. Exhaustion, cool skin, slow, irregular breathing occur as the body temperature drops even lower. Immediate medical attention is needed.

With all of the cold winds we have here at Minot, frostbite can occur at any time especially if we’re not paying attention to the time limit we are spending outside. Frostbite can happen without hypothermia present. Frostbite is a serious condition where the fluids around the affected area freeze. It can be an irreversible tissue damaging affect and requires attention immediately. The most vulnerable parts are the

face, ears, hands and toes. Symptoms of this condition include coldness and tingling in the affected area, followed by numbness. The skin color may change to white or grayish-yellow. Pain may also occur in the affected area as the condition worsens and possibly blisters.

Whether you’re working out on the flightline, riding an ATV or snowmobile, or just simply building a snowman, stay alert for the possibility of cold stress. Monitor your coworkers or your children, whatever applies to your situation and remember what to look for. Take these steps to protect yourself and others.

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# DAF looking for Airmen, Guardians for grueling Army Ranger School

DEBBIE ARAGON, AIR FORCE INSTALLATION AND MISSION SUPPORT CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) --

It's been called "a laboratory of human endurance," testing the physical, mental and spiritual grit of the officer and enlisted leaders who undertake it. It's the Army Ranger School and the Department of the Air Force is looking for Airmen and Guardians who are ready for the challenge.

Through the Air Force Security Forces Center's Ranger Assessment Course, DAF candidates are taught, coached, tested and evaluated for nomination to the grueling 62-day Ranger School experience.

"The Air Force RAC delivers dynamic leadership evaluation and training, mirroring what a candidate will face at Ranger School, which helps drive increased success rates at Army Ranger School. Attendance to both courses ties directly into the Air Force chief of staff's priority of strengthening joint leaders and teams by directly placing them in joint leadership school and roles which have proven to build military leaders," said Gabriel Rodriguez, readiness training and RAC program manager at the AFSFC.

The next RAC, about a third of the length of Ranger School, is set for early spring at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis. Anyone from any Air Force or Space Force career field can attend.

"While the majority of Ranger School attendees come from combat arms career fields, individuals from other Air Force specialty codes can also attend if they meet the necessary prerequisites and requirements," Rodriguez said. "Ranger School can provide valuable leadership and tactical skills, regardless of the individual's primary AFSC."

One of the many misconceptions of the RAC and Ranger School is "that you must be 100% ready before you even attend the course – but that's where most people are wrong," said Master Sgt. Keegan Donnelly, RAC instructor with the AFSFC.

The RAC curriculum has undergone an intense review and rewrite to craft a leadership laboratory, he said, designed to teach and coach students before assessing their abilities.

Capt. Daniel Reynolds, assistant director of operations for the 4th Test

and Evaluation Squadron, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado, is the only Space Force Ranger School graduate to date. In his position, he interacts with tactical joint force warfighters on a daily basis to develop more resilient satellite communications toolkits. That warfighter-centric focus in his day-to-day job is what led him to the RAC and ultimately Ranger School.

"Ranger School, as the world's premiere combat leadership course, expertly teaches resilience, grit and perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds," Reynolds said. "It teaches leaders how to break down complex problems and craft decisive solutions to dynamic combat scenarios. This is incredibly relevant to any career field in any branch of military service."

According to its website, Ranger School is a small unit tactics and leadership course that develops functional skills directly related to missions that engage the enemy in close combat and direct fire battles. It's held at various locations in Georgia and Florida and is open to U.S. military members from all branches, as well as selected students from U.S. allied nations.

With less than 40% of those who attempt Ranger School succeeding, the Air Force developed a form of RAC, or pre-Ranger training, in the mid-1980s to send more competitive candidates forward to increase the odds of success.

Ranger students train to exhaustion, pushing the limits of their minds and bodies during three phases – Darby, Mountain and Swamp – which follow the crawl, walk, run training methodology, Rodriguez said.

With the punishing nature of Ranger School, preparation and an understanding of what attendees will encounter before they get to both the RAC and Ranger School is extremely important, he said.

"Candidates can increase their success at both RAC and Ranger School by focusing pre-training on being successful during the weeklong Ranger Assessment Phase," Rodriguez said. "At RAC, we hone in on tasks that could hinder a candidate from being successful at Ranger School. This includes strictly executing push-ups, sustaining the

mental and physical toughness to meet the time standard on the 12-mile foot march, and honing the basic navigation skills required to pass the land navigation test on the first attempt.

"A proven method to increase success at Ranger School is to take advantage of local training and attending RAC, then followed by Ranger School," he added.

"The bar to gain acceptance to Ranger School is high, and rightfully so," Reynolds said. "RAC allows prospective students to understand what will be expected of them if they accept the challenge to attend Ranger School. It also provides them with the tactical skillset necessary to be successful there, both in the assessment phase and in the course's three patrolling phases."

"Developing Ranger-qualified leaders within the Space Force is critical to our continued defense of the contested warfighting regime of space," Reynolds said.

"Every career field has a need for decisive, brave, tough and purpose-driven leaders of character. To put it simply, learning how to lead is something that Ranger School does on a world-class level. This is an invaluable resource to have for any service member in any career field," Reynolds said.

"The RAC and Ranger School were the catalysts for some of my life's greatest transformations," the captain said. "The experience transformed me into a much more



A U.S. Army Small Unit Ranger Tactics instructor walks alongside students, May 31, 2023. While going through the RAC, students not only learned about tactics, but they also conducted physical training and ruck marches to prepare them for the requirements at Ranger School.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | TECH. SGT. HAILEY HAUX

confident, capable and purpose-driven human being and that has affected every aspect of my leadership development for the better."

Airmen and Guardians who qualify to attend RAC, and ultimately the Army's Ranger Course, should be prepared for the monumental experience, Reynolds added, with "feeling drawn to attend" being the most important component to possess in preparation for it.

"A significant proportion of people who fail the course do so because they arrived without deciding that the experience was something that their life needed," the captain said. "Take the time to decide for yourself what your reasons for Ranger School

are, and how important joining the community is to you. When you're more cold, wet, tired and hungry than you've ever been in your life, those reasons will be what you will lean on to carry you through."

"Regardless of their recommendation to move onto Ranger School or not, [RAC attendees] are still returning to their units better trained, more lethal and adaptable leaders in the joint arena," Donnelly said.

To apply for RAC attendance or more information on the program, go to the Air Force Portal under Air Force Forces Generation Connect or email AFSFC.S3T.AFSFC\_RAC\_Program@us.af.mil.



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**Holiday Mountain**

**MOUNTAIN REPORT**

Snow conditions of the groomed trails are excellent. Groomed trails are bunny hill, Ridley, Macoubrey, Groff and Turner.

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FRIDAY	9:30AM - 5:00PM
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Provider of the Month Feature

JANUARY 2024



CAITLYN KNIGHT-DAISS

What do you enjoy most about being an FCC Provider?

I really love being an FCC provider and I'm so glad I got to meet new families at Minot. I have wonderful families who are very supportive! We all work together as a team to help their children learn and grow every day!

What are your interests/hobbies?

I love to travel and make memories with my family. I enjoy shopping local and I'm always on the hunt for hidden gems in Minot.

What advice do you have for new providers/those interested in being FCC Providers?

If you have any questions reach out! It can be overwhelming at the beginning and you don't have to do this alone. We will help and guide you throughout the process. When you open take notes of what works well for you, stay positive! Join in on the fun and be silly with the kids!

For more information about FCC, please check out the following website: <https://5thforcesupport.com/fcc/>.

SALMON WITH SPRING VEGETABLES AND PESTO



INGREDIENTS

- 4 (4 OZ EACH) SALMON, SKIN-ON, PIN BONES REMOVED
- 2 TABLESPOON OLIVE OIL
- KOSHER SALT AND FRESHLY GROUND BLACK PEPPER
- 2/3 BUNCH ASPARAGUS, BOTTOM THIRDS OF STALKS REMOVED AND SLICED INTO 1 INCH PIECES ON THE BIAS
- 2/3 POUND SUGAR SNAP PEAS, ENDS TRIMMED AND SLICED INTO 1/2 INCH PIECES ON THE BIAS
- 6 2/3 OUNCE CHERRY TOMATOES, RINSED AND HALVED
- 1 1/3 LEMONS, HALVED
- 1/3 CUP FRESH PESTO
- 2/3 LEMON, ZESTED
- FRESH BASIL LEAVES, FOR GARNISH

When ready to cook, set Traeger temperature to 500°F and preheat, lid closed for 15 minutes. Place a piece of parchment paper on a large baking sheet or in a roasting pan. Rinse the salmon and pat dry. Brush all sides of the salmon with olive oil, and sprinkle generously with salt and black pepper on all sides. Place the salmon pieces skin-side up on the sheet tray leaving 2 inches between each piece. Place the asparagus, snap peas, and cherry tomatoes in a bowl. Gently mix the vegetables with the remaining tablespoon of olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt and a fresh grinding of pepper. Scatter the vegetables evenly onto the sheet pan. Place the sheet pan on the grill. In addition, place the lemons cut-side down directly on the grill grate towards the front of the grill. Close the lid and cook for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, remove the lemons from the grill and stir the vegetables. Close the lid and cook for 5 more minutes, or until the fish reaches an internal temperature of 140°F and can be flaked with a fork.

Remove the sheet pan from the grill. Place the fish and vegetables on a serving platter and drizzle with the pesto. Squeeze the grilled lemon over the top of the fish and vegetables. Sprinkle the lemon zest over the fish and add a few basil leaves for garnish. Serve immediately. Enjoy!



Ryan Davy - GM Minot

[www.HofE.com/BBQHQ](http://www.HofE.com/BBQHQ)



by Patricia Stockdill

Fishing:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, Jan. 8: 1,838.34 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 16,300 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,449.25 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.17 MSL.

•N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No new reports.

•Devils Lake, Ed's Bait Shop, Devils Lake: lots of activity throughout Devils Lake, including 6-Mile and Creel bays. Look for a good perch bite in Creel Bay. Use caution because of numerous pressure ridges and late ice-over.

•Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Fair to good for walleye and perch. Try 15 to 20 feet walleye and 30 to 40 feet for walleye.

•Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Lake Audubon producing a few perch and pike with spotty walleye success. Try the east side. No reports from Lake Darling.

•Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Fair to good for walleye. Try jigs and minnows in 12 to 14 feet.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Lake Audubon producing walleye in short spurts in the morning and again in the evening. Try 30 to 40 feet with fair numbers of good-sized fish showing up. Lake Sakakawea main lake

Thanks to Woodland Resort, our Outdoors Report sponsor, for helping keep readers up-to-date on happenings throughout the region. For complete details about fishing Devils Lake and its array of recreational opportunities visit their website, ([www.woodlandresort.com](http://www.woodlandresort.com)), Facebook at ([facebook.com/woodlandresortDL](https://facebook.com/woodlandresortDL)), telephone (701) 662-5996, extension 1, or email ([woodlandresort@gondtc.com](mailto:woodlandresort@gondtc.com)). They're located at 1012 Woodland Drive, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301.

- Roosevelt Park Zoo winter hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.
- Ice is never completely safe. Avoid areas with vegetation, moving water, pressure ridges, and springs. Check conditions as you go along on the ice and don't move around at night.

•Jan. 20: Berthold Sportsmen annual banquet & auction, Sportsmen Club Building, Main St., Berthold, 5 p.m.

TOURNAMENTS:

•Jan. 13: Lake Darling; Lake Sakakawea, Lewis & Clark State Park; Devils Lake.

•Jan. 20: Lake Sakakawea, Tobacco Garden.

•Jan. 27: Devils Lake, 6-Mile Bay.

was still open on the east end earlier in the week.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Lake Audubon spotty for walleye. Try 20 to 30 feet.

•Lake Sakakawea, New Town: The Van Hook Arm iced over but unsafe yet for vehicle access.

•Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Fair to good walleye and ling success off the wing walls in the Missouri River tailrace using jigs and minnows. Slow boat activity with colder temperatures.

•Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Fair to good for walleye from Red Mike's to Lewis & Clark State Park on the upper end of Lake Sakakawea. Try tip-ups with colored treble hooks in 20 to 30 feet. Blacktail and Short Creek dams producing some decent-sized bluegill. Trenton Lake fair for crappie and pike.

•Lonetree WMA area lakes, Harvey: Decent reports of walleye activity on the west side of Goose Lake, Silver Lake WMA, and Hurdfield Lake. Ice conditions not safe enough for pickup access yet, however.

•North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Look for continued pike activity from Buffalo Lodge Lake.

Downhill ski report (conditions can change; contact the facility for recent updates):

•Bottineau Winter Park, Bottineau: 12- to 24-inch base with Bunny and Pony hills open and 2 trails. 2 Magic Carpets and T-bar, and tubing park open.

•Frostfire Ski Area, Walhalla: Open for skiing and snowboarding. Contact (701) 549-3600 for more information.

•Huff Hills Ski Area, Mandan: 12- to 15-inch machine groomed base. 3 runs, 1 lift and 1 tow open. Contact (701) 663-6421 for updates on snow conditions and snowmaking.

•Terry Peak, Leads, S.D.: 14- to 24-inch base. 9 trails, 1 carpet, and 3 lifts open.

Numbers to know:

•N.D. Game and Fish Dept., main Bismarck office: (701) 328-6300, website: (<http://gf.nd.gov>).

•Report All Poachers: (701) 328-9921.

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 mmackey@kalixnd.org  
 701-852-1014

### IMMEDIATE FULL AND PART TIME OPENINGS

for daytime and evening custodial positions cleaning buildings at the Minot Air Force Base. Pay is \$14.49/hour plus health & welfare benefit. Hours Days 8a or 9a-finish typically Monday through Friday, may include weekend work. Nights 5p-finish. Apply in person at: 605 27th St SE, Minot ND 58701 or contact: Matt Mackey By email or phone at mmackey@kalixnd.org 701-852-1014.

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8	9	5	4	1	6	2	7	3
7	3	4	8	2	9	6	1	5
2	6	1	7	5	3	8	4	9
6	8	9	3	4	2	7	5	1
5	1	3	6	8	7	4	9	2
4	2	7	1	9	5	3	6	8
9	7	2	5	3	4	1	8	6
1	5	6	2	7	8	9	3	4
3	4	8	9	6	1	5	2	7

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## MINOT AFB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is the world's pre-eminent university for aviation and aerospace education. However, our dynamic, hands-on programs will prepare you for careers well beyond the limits of the sky. Our Worldwide Campus has been working with U.S. military service members since 1970, helping them to earn a degree while on active duty or as veterans. And we do it at more than 90 military installations around the globe. The Embry-Riddle Minot Campus — located at Minot Air Force Base — offers associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees, as well as undergraduate and graduate certifications, that will help you whether you are an active-duty military service member, a veteran, or a civilian working at or around Minot Air Force Base, Embry-Riddle Worldwide is here to help you earn your college degree. A degree from Embry-Riddle Worldwide will help service members to become commissioned officers, will make veterans more desirable job candidates as they enter the civilian workforce, and will assist civilians with job advancement or career changes. Our modes of instruction are: Online, Eaglevision Home and Eaglevision Classroom. Our next upcoming term: 8 Jan-10 Mar. For more information, please visit us in Room 223 located in the Base Education Center Building (2nd floor), email: [minot@erau.edu](mailto:minot@erau.edu) or call office phone: 701-727-9007.

### PARK UNIVERSITY MINOT –

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### MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

Minot State University is excited to again offer face-to-face classes at the Minot Air Force Base. There is no application fee for active-duty military personnel. Military personnel can complete their Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) degree and earn a bachelor's degree from Minot State. For more information, contact Brigitte Mikula at 701-727-9044 or by email at [Brigitte.mikula@minotstateu.edu](mailto:Brigitte.mikula@minotstateu.edu)

**★ Hotel ★**  
**REVEL** *Weddings for Warriors*

Revel Hotel, a newly renovated hotel next to Dakota Mall, will be giving away use of the Pilot's Bar and adjoining banquet space at its venue to Airmen.

The new giveaway, **Weddings for Warriors**, will honor the men and women who serve the United States by giving away use of the Pilot's Bar and banquet space once every month.

*At least one partner must be serving or must be an active member of the U.S. Air Force.*

For further information, please send a message to the hotel at [revelnd.com](http://revelnd.com) or contact Chelewa Springs or Ashley Cutler at 701-607-4557 or 701-306-3338.

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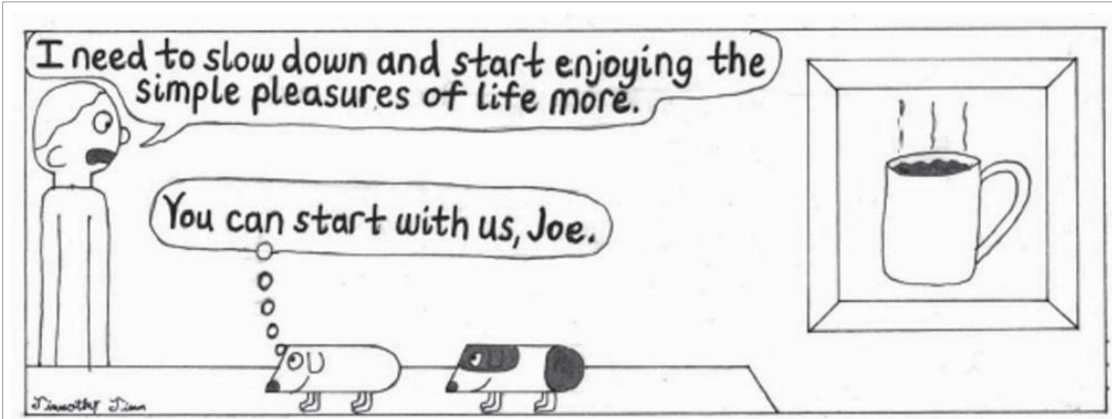
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## TITUS & PHILEMON

Everyday adventures of Titus and Philemon and their owner Joe.



TIMMOTHY TIMM

Timothy Timm of Minot currently attends Minot State University, is a Minot High School graduate, artist, cartoonist, author and illustrator. Timm has also created other works of art that are on display in his art studio downtown located at 201 Main St. S. in Minot.



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### AADD Volunteers

AADD is seeking volunteers to support various event requests. \*Here is a link to our regular schedule for weekends, if interested, please disseminate to your members. •REGULAR 2024 WEEKLY SCHEDULE- <https://volunteersignup.org/FHLLR>  
POC: SSgt Kristal A. Cruz Leon  
723-4633 [kristal.cruz\\_leon@us.af.mil](mailto:kristal.cruz_leon@us.af.mil)

### Meals on Wheels Volunteers

On behalf of the Hispanic Allies organization, we would like to offer a volunteer opportunity to help our community. We're working with "Meals on Wheels" to help feed elderly members of our community. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know. The Meals on Wheels delivery is every Tuesday & Friday. Volunteers can show up at the venue from 1045 to 11am. The route is simple, and it takes 45 min to 1hr, 2 members preferred. No supplies required. The address is 21 1st Ave SE B, Minot, ND 58701 at the Minot Commission On Aging. Please sign up using the following hyperlink: <https://volunteersignup.org/4E7QM>  
POC: SrA Brian Bermúdez, [brian.o.bermudezcartagena.mil@health.mil](mailto:brian.o.bermudezcartagena.mil@health.mil) or 723-5184.

### AF K12 STEM-to-Sky Program Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to assist with the AF K12 STEM-to-Sky program; a new annual outreach effort connecting Airmen & Teachers enabling them to produce direct classroom engagement. The purpose of this effort is to directly engage Airmen with classrooms around the world to share experiences, emphasize the importance of STEM education, and create personal military-to-classroom connections. Within the classroom, Airmen will discuss their associated roles and emphasize the importance of STEM (connect); and create propensity for students to pursue STEM and Air Force fields (inspire). The program entails for schools:  
• The Airmen to Classroom connection is a live two-way 30-45min interaction between a classroom and an assigned Air Force Airman, scientist, engineer or researcher.  
• Large-scale pre-scheduled live events will include a program link after registration.  
• In-person engagements may be available depending on location and availability of local personnel.  
Anyone can volunteer, and we especially encourage those who work in STEM-focused career fields!  
This program is a great way to help us spearhead the efforts to reach General Brown's community outreach priorities related to STEM and youth engagement. I am in the process of reaching out to local schools to get them involved, and we'd love to have you and/or your Airmen too. For Airmen sign-up and information/instruction - <https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/fkmqNeYulr>  
Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.  
POC: Abigail Kinder, Community Relations & Media Operations, Minot AFB PA, Comm: 701-723-6768, DSN: 453-6768

To have your volunteer opportunity posted, please contact Military & Family Readiness Center (M&FRC) at: [5fs.family.support@us.af.mil](mailto:5fs.family.support@us.af.mil)

### YMCA Referee Volunteers

The sports director at The Minot Family YMCA is looking for coach and referee volunteers. Most of the youth football games are played on Saturdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm and each game is an hour long. Anyone interested, please contact the YMCA Sports Director.  
POC: Shane Christiansen, Youth Sports Director, Minot Family YMCA  
701-852-0141

### Caring Edge Hospice Volunteers

Caring Edge Hospice is looking for volunteers to assist with a wide-range of support. It's an honor to be part of our patients' and their families' journeys. Making connections with our amazing hospice team is just one of the many personal and professional rewards you will experience through the gift of volunteering. Our team and our community would like to offer that gift to the Airmen at Minot Air Force Base.  
POC: Shelby Stuckey, Volunteer Coordinator  
(888) 223-4287  
[shelby.stuckey@caringedge.com](mailto:shelby.stuckey@caringedge.com)

### Magic City Civil Air Patrol Composite Squadron

The Magic City Civil Air Patrol Composite Squadron meets every Thursday at AvFlight, 1830-2030. Civil Air Patrol is the official, Congressionally chartered US Air Force Auxiliary open to all adults and children 12+. Its all-volunteer members serve in a multitude of roles in support of CAP's three primary missions: Cadet Programs, Aerospace Education, and Emergency Services. As adult opportunities include working as part of an Aircrew, sUAS operator, Aerospace and STEM instruction, and many other opportunities! The youth Cadet Program provides an opportunity to learn military structure while learning about Aerospace, Leadership, Flight, Cyber Systems, Outdoor Survival and much more! Whether you are looking to bring your skills to a new venue, expand your experience, or learn something new, there's certainly a role for you! No prior experience or military affiliation is necessary. For more information about Civil Air Patrol, visit <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com> or contact the POC below.  
Meeting location: AvFlight, Minot Airport, 2400 N. Broadway Suite E, 1830-2030 every Thursday  
POC: 1st Lt Jon McLemore, CAP, [Jonathan.mclemore@ndcap.us](mailto:Jonathan.mclemore@ndcap.us)  
701-720-6410 | <https://nd021.cap.go>



# Community VOICES

## Ode to Sweatpants

Sweatpants, you feel so great,  
 I wear a t-shirt as your regular mate.  
 Sweatpants, you're always informal,  
 In them, I feel comfy and normal.  
 I wear sweatpants when I sleep,  
 My warmth and dreams, you keep.  
 I wear sweatpants to do errands and chores.  
 Of course, I comb my hair before I walk out the door.  
 Sweatpants, you're my oversized treat.  
 I wear sweatpants when I feel blue,  
 And I don't need jewelry or a fancy hairdo.  
 I wear sweatpants to feel fancy free,  
 Oh, Sweatpants, you're so good to me.  
 The perfect garment for a relaxed state,  
 Sweatpants, you're so first rate.

-Martina Kranz

Do you have something you'd like to share with the world? Whether it's a pretty photo of Minot AFB, a fun piece of writing, or a picture of something your child made, send it to the Northern Sentry. Let us feature your creativity! Send all submissions to: nsads@srt.com

## A LOOK BACK THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

OPERATION POWER FLITE PUTS B-52 BOMBERS IN THE RECORD BOOK  
 JANUARY 16, 1957



After a disheartening string of crashes in the 1950s, USAF Strategic Air Command wanted to re-ignite public confidence in the B-52 bomber and reiterate their powerful capabilities to the world. SAC initiated Operation Power Flite, in which three B-52B Stratofortresses and their crews circumnavigated the globe in a historic flight that took 45 hours and 19 minutes. The original five planes, which were stationed with the 93rd Bomb Wing, departed from Castle AFB, California at 1:00 PM on January 16, 1957. Two of the bombers experienced equipment malfunctions and had to land in the USA and England for maintenance. Each plane held the normal six man crew, as well as an extra pilot, navigator, and the crew chief of each plane. Nearly 100 KC-97s from air bases all over the world took part in the operation, providing essential air refueling for the B-52s. The planes landed at March AFB, CA on the morning of January 18 and became the first jet powered planes to circumnavigate the globe without landing to refuel.

Information courtesy of: afgsc.af.mil

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# NORTHERN CELEBRATIONS

**EMBRACING OUR NORTH DAKOTA LIFESTYLE**

## HAVE FISH, WILL FISH

Patricia Stockdill

There's an adage that many anglers hold close to their heart: Have fish, will travel.

And Devils Lake has fish.

Particularly perch and walleye, two especially delectable species when taken from water blanketed beneath chilly air and ice.

In other words, winter is a great time to search for tasty Devils Lake fish.

For the past 40-plus years North Dakota's largest natural lake, Devils Lake, has been a go-to destination for winter fishing. It attracts anglers from North Dakota and the entire Midwest, described Woodland Resort owner Kyle Blanchfield.

Most North Dakota natural lakes are small "kettle" prairie lakes and wetlands formed when glaciers rolled across the region millions of years ago. But Devils Lake is an exception – a big exception. "Devils Lake is basically a giant prairie pothole," Blanchfield added.

Like North Dakota's ever-changing roller-coaster of weather extremes – drought, heat, cold, abundance and over-abundance of moisture, and just about everything in between – Devils Lake rides a roller-coaster in elevation. However, water levels stabilized in recent decades and few people recall a lake bed blowing soil during lengthy, ugly droughts.

Several factors account for its well-deserved notoriety, but Blanchfield credits a phenomenal natural freshwater shrimp forage base for much of its success. Toss in N.D. Game and Fish Department management strategy identifying ways to bolster the success of the lake's walleye, perch, white bass, and northern pike populations, water and soil qualities (yes, soil influences success or lack of success of a fishery), and Devils Lake, indeed, is North Dakota's premier winter go-to spot.

Yellow perch are a highlight, especially early season ice-fishing. This winter early season was at least four weeks behind what locals consider "normal", Blanchfield continued.

But the New Year rings and finally kicked in that perch bite, Mother Nature's holiday gift to anglers.

Blanchfield has several tips and tricks to fishing Devils Lake: For starters, while it's not as large as other natural lakes elsewhere in the country, it's large when it comes to natural North Dakota lakes. Plus, it's large when considering one can't travel via boat to get quickly from

one area to another.

Traveling on ice ranges from walking on and testing ice depths and conditions when there's early ice-over to vehicle travel on Devils Lake's plowed main access trails over snow-covered ice, then venturing out – something done once ice conditions permit. Safety is always paramount.

Scanning across Devils Lake's vast ice expanse can be intimidating, Blanchfield admits. He recommends anglers pick an area to try and make some phone calls. "Call a local bait shop," he suggested. "Don't be shy; ask questions... getting your intel is critical."

And local bait shops are typically that go-to spot for intel.

Ice-fishing doesn't equal being cold, Blanchfield added. Enclosures such as portable icehouses and proper heating system (portable propane heaters, for example) create toasty conditions even in a North Dakota breeze. Enclosures don't have to be hard-sided, insulated structures complete with all of the amenities of a fancy camper, even though they can be.

Devils Lake has several resorts dotting its shorelines and many have rentals available if someone doesn't have gear or an icehouse. There are even ice-fishing guides if a person doesn't want to go it alone.

But going it alone is totally do-able.

Another nice aspect to visiting local bait shops and resorts is that many offer military discounts. "It's our way to say "thank you,"" Blanchfield added.

Other gear includes ice auger and ice-fishing rod, which differs from a typical open water fishing rod.

Tackle, though, is pretty basic – what works in the summer can work in the winter. On Devils Lake that often means small rattling presentations of some type with a small minnow for perch or larger rattling presentations with larger minnows for walleye. While other colors work, "for some reason on Devils Lake gold is often the go-to color for both perch and walleye," Blanchfield suggested.

Another tip: Move around, testing ice along the way for depth and condition. "If you're not on a fish, move, drill holes, and then move if there aren't fish," he described.

And one last tip before that trip east to Devils Lake: "Winter walleye and perch are delicious," Blanchfield offered.

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# WHAT'S GOING ON MAFB

## FRIDAY 12

- AFGSC Family Day
- For a full listing of Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday facility hours, visit [5thforcesupport.com](http://5thforcesupport.com)
- Zumba Strong Nation, 1730, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Friday Night Mixed League, 1800, Rough Rider Bowling Center

## SATURDAY 13

- For a full listing of Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday facility hours, visit [5thforcesupport.com](http://5thforcesupport.com)
- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page
- Zumba, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Minecraft Party, 1300, Minot AFB Library
- R4R Free Bowling, 1700-2100, Rough Rider Bowling Center
- 9 Pin No Tap Tournament, 1800-2100, Rough Rider Bowling Center

## SUNDAY 14

- For a full listing of Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday facility hours, visit [5thforcesupport.com](http://5thforcesupport.com)
- Zumba, 1400, McAdoo Fitness Center

## MONDAY 15

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- For a full listing of Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday facility hours, visit [5thforcesupport.com](http://5thforcesupport.com)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Special Lunch, 1030-1330, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Zumba Strong Nation, 1730, McAdoo Fitness Center

## TUESDAY 16

- NCO Foundation Course, 0800-1630, Professional Development Center
- Thrift Savings Plan for Civilian Employees, 0900-1100, M&FRC
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Zumba, 1800, McAdoo Fitness Center

## WEDNESDAY 17

- NCO Foundation Course, 0800-1630, Professional Development Center
- Bundles for Babies, 0900-1030, M&FRC
- Pre-Deployment/Remote Readiness Training, 1000, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- SkillBridge Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Storytime, 1030, Minot AFB Library
- Moving Out of the Dorms Budget Class, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Zumba Strong Nation, 1730, McAdoo Fitness Center

## THURSDAY 18

- NCO Foundation Course, 0800-1630, Professional Development Center
- Pre-Separation Counseling, 0830-1130, M&FRC
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center – Room 211
- OSI Recruitment Briefing, 1500, Professional Development Center
- Yoga, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Extramural Bowling, 1730, Rough Rider Bowling Center
- Zumba, 1800, McAdoo Fitness Center

## FRIDAY 19

- NCO Foundation Course, 0800-1630, Professional Development Center
- JCM – 360 Degree Leader, 0800-1630, Professional Development Center
- Bistro Family Night, 1700-1900, Bomber Bistro
- Just Dance Competition, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Kids Canvas Painting Class, 1700-1800, Arts & Crafts Center
- Zumba Strong Nation, 1730, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Friday Night Mixed League, 1800, Rough Rider Bowling Center

## SATURDAY 20

- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page
- Zumba, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- R4R Free Bowling, 1700-2100, Rough Rider Bowling Center

## FAMILY NIGHT

19 January 2024 • 5:00PM - 7:00PM

Enjoy oatmeal cookies & buy one get one 50% off for kids meals!

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## Swim Clinic

Indoor Pool inside the Fitness Center

23-24 Jan 2024  
9am - 11am  
Register & pay by 19 Jan at Outdoor Rec

Cost: \$5 per child • \$10 per family  
Slots are reserved per person at 10 min each, & each day is maxed at 30 slots.

Get evaluated for swim classes with a swim test!

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## JAN SPECIALS

Bomber Bistro Featured Item  
**Veggie Cauliflower Pizza**  
Fresh veggies over melted cheese, on a cauliflower crust – a healthy alternative to a delicious classic.

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item  
**Sugar Free Red Bull Burners**  
Enjoy a delicious caffeine boost from sugar free Red Bull, your choice of flavor, and lemonade or club soda.

Rockers Bar & Grill Featured Item  
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