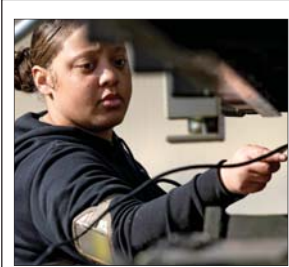


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WHATS INSIDE THIS WEEK:



AIRMEN DEMONSTRATE STRATEGIC READINESS DURING PV 25-1

A2



MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD HIGHLIGHT: PRESLEY ALDER

B1



BAKING BEYOND BORDERS

B7



During the recording of the “Why Not talk about Mental Health” episode, SSgt Brendan Miller, TSgt Dorian Garland, SrA Alyssa Bankston, MSgt Cassandra Woodard, 5th Bomb Wing Executive Services laugh at the “real talk” conversation. See page A2 for more.

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# Team Minot Airmen demonstrate strategic readiness during Prairie Vigilance 25-1

SENIOR AIRMAN KENDRA A. RANSUM, 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, took part in Exercise Prairie Vigilance 25-1 (PV 25-1) here.

Exercise PV 25-1 is a routine training operation designed to bolster the safety, security and reliability of the nation’s bomber-based strategic deterrence mission. The exercise supports readiness across U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command by sharpening operational proficiency and validating long-range, global strike capabilities.

Throughout the exercise, personnel from Minot AFB and Barksdale AFB trained intensively to sharpen readiness to respond to potential threats to the U.S. and its allies. Airmen emphasized the safe and secure handling of strategic assets and the honing of mission-essential skills.

Exercise PV 25-1 offers a dynamic training environment for Global Strike Airmen, reinforcing their ability to deliver flexible, strategic airpower. The exercise also assessed the readiness of Minot and Barksdale’s Airmen conducting strategic bomber operations concurrently.

“During PV 25-1, our Airmen demonstrated the readiness, reliability and precision that defines our nation’s global strike capabilities,” said Col. Jesse Lamarand, commander of the 5th Bomb Wing. “Exercises like this show our Allies and adversaries our ability to respond decisively in support of national defense



A U.S. Air Force B-52H Stratofortress assigned to the 96th Bomb Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, lands on the runway for Exercise Prairie Vigilance 25-1 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, April 9, 2025. As a routine training mission, Prairie Vigilance enhances the safety, security and reliability of the bomber leg of the U.S. nuclear triad.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KYLE WILSON

objectives.”

This exercise highlights the advantages of the resilience and adaptability of the U.S. Air Force. The collaboration fostered teamwork between squadrons and specialties and strengthened mission readiness across both wings.

“The 5th and 2nd Bomb Wings’ excellent performance is just a product of our everyday commitment to safe, secure and effective strategic deterrence,” Lamarand said.

Exercises like PV 25-1 are critical to ensuring U.S. Strategic Command forces remain organized, trained and equipped to carry out

daily operations and to respond effectively to emerging threats worldwide when needed. These are regularly-planned, multi-annual exercises conducted to continuously evaluate and enhance U.S. deterrence capabilities. These exercises are not scheduled or conducted in response to any specific geopolitical conditions or situations.



Airmen assigned to the 705th Munitions Squadron conduct convoy operations during Prairie Vigilance/Bayou Vigilance 25-1 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, April 11, 2025. As routine training missions, Prairie Vigilance enhances the safety, security and reliability of the bomber leg of the U.S. nuclear triad.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENDRA A. RANSUM

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Thursday	\$1 up for all Tall Taps (all day)
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Thursday	Pasta Pack

\*Changes Weekly – Check our Facebook Page

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## MCDC Celebrates 2nd Birthday with Family Fun, Surprises, & Sweet Deals!

Minot, ND — The Magic City Discovery Center is turning TWO—and you’re invited to the party! From May 2–4, families are encouraged to join in the celebration with \$2 off all admission, special birthday activities, and the launch of brand-new exhibits, TWO on each level of the museum. The celebration doesn’t stop there—May is also Member Appreciation Month, and the Discovery Center is showing the love with fun giveaways for members all month long.

To mark two years of hands-on learning and discovery, the museum will be decked out in festive décor and filled with birthday-themed activities in Creativity Studio and Spark!Lab. Guests can also explore exciting new exhibits, adding even more to experience during their visit. All visitors will enjoy \$2 off admission all weekend long, making it the perfect time to play, explore, and celebrate with us!

Starting May 2, guests can take advantage of 10% off new and renewed memberships (including our corporate magic memberships!) using code 100FF. Memberships are valid for a full 365 days from the

date of purchase and pay for themselves in just a few visits—plus, they’re the best way to enjoy the Discovery Center again and again!

Throughout May, the Discovery Center is celebrating members with weekly surprises! Every week, one lucky member will win a Family Fun Basket—but the winning day is a mystery. The more you visit, the better your chances of winning! Members also receive 10% off in the gift shop, 10% off camps and classes, and 50% off at over 200 participating museums through the ACM Reciprocal Network!

“Whether you’re new to town or looking for a reliable family outing, the Discovery Center is the go-to destination in Minot,” said Sara Brentrup, Director of Operations. “We are thrilled to celebrate two years of joyful learning and to continue building an inclusive space where every child can thrive.”

Whether you’re new to the Discovery Center or a long-time supporter, May is the perfect time to experience the magic. With expanded exhibits, member perks, and the energy of a birthday party, the Magic City Discovery Center is the place to be.

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# So, Minot AFB Has a Podcast... and It's Probably Not What You Think

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

Millennials are no longer the youngest generation in the room. Gen Z is here, and they're reshaping the way we communicate. According to Major Thomas Barger, Chief of Public Affairs at the 5th Bomb Wing, this generation prefers platforms that require less direct interaction and more authenticity. Facebook? Not their thing. So, in an effort to connect more meaningfully with today's younger Airmen, PA launched something new: a podcast.

The Why Not?, a Minot AFB-produced podcast created by Public Affairs, is led by Airmen and NCOs and is designed to speak the language of today's force in a way that's casual, relevant, and real.

While podcasts aren't exactly a revolutionary idea, they are a popular tool for connection, especially among younger audiences. Maj Barger saw an opportunity to bring "real talk" to the Air Force in a laid-back, yet impactful way.

Though it's unclear who exactly sparked the idea, The Why Not? has been a true team effort within Public Affairs. Recorded in their office (yes, complete with a hand-painted logo on the wall), the podcast covers real issues that matter to Minot AFB members and the military at large. And it's not another top-down communication forum. Every episode features a junior Airman, an NCO, and a senior NCO, offering a variety of perspectives.

That diversity is even represented in the podcast's logo, designed by SrA Alyssa Bankston, which includes the three distinct uniform patterns—BDUs, ABUs, and OCPs—worn by Airmen through the years.

So what's the podcast actually like? Honestly, this writer was skeptical at first. The debut episode title, "Why Not Maintain Healthy Relationships?", which launched on April 13, seemed like it would offer a basic, generalized discussion about relationships. But it offered a surprise...in a good way.

Put an Airman, an NCO, and a senior NCO in a sound booth, and what do you get? A candid, funny, and surprisingly heartfelt conversation about military life, long-distance relationships, and starter marriages. It was well-produced, refreshingly straightforward, and, most of all, real. The only thing missing? A spouse's perspective might have added another valuable voice to conversation centered around relationships.

Future episodes are already in the works. Topics include wartime mentality, financial management, and the process of commissioning from enlisted to officer. PA is still brainstorming and welcomes input. Listeners can suggest ideas via social media or directly through podcast comments. Maj Barger hopes this feedback loop helps keep content fresh and audience-driven.

If you're familiar with

podcasting, you know authenticity is key. The Why Not? follows this format, allowing unscripted, organic conversations to flow naturally. That approach does raise a fair question: can a casual tone and "real talk" coexist with military professionalism and OPSEC considerations? Maj Barger acknowledges the challenge, calling it a "delicate needle to thread," but he's confident that balancing relatability with credibility is worth the risk.

Minot isn't alone in this effort. Other Air Force bases have launched podcasts of their own: Altus AFB's The Debrief, Joint Base Charleston's Behind the Wing, and Tinker AFB's Tinker Talk. While this writer has not explored those shows in depth, it's clear Minot is part of a growing trend toward more modern, conversational communication.

Though Maj Barger oversees the project, he emphasized the podcast is a team effort, with nearly every member of the PA shop playing a critical role. Some brought prior experience, while others are learning on the



The first episode of "The Why Not? Podcast" is up!! Listen on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or Amazon Music/Audible. A new episode is scheduled to be released Monday, April 28.

MINOT AFB PA GRAPHIC

fly. SSgt Brendan Miller acts as the show's host since he had previous experience as radio DJ for the Armed Forces Network (AFN). A1C Vincent Padilla has only been in the PA gig for six months, but he has taken on sound recording and editing as the show's producer. SrA Trust Tate created an original sound bite for the show's intro music, and Ms. Abby Kinder painted the logo on the studio wall on

her own time. Making sure everything works together and in charge of finding guests for the show is TSgt Ryann Holzapfel.

The Why Not? releases new episodes biweekly and the next is set to be released on Monday, April 28, with the topic of "Good Followership/Leadership." Whether you're a podcast fan or just curious, give it a shot—you might be surprised too.

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CONTACTUS

**Ted Bolton**  
Publisher | Advertising  
701-240-5039  
bagroup@srt.com

**Rod Wilson**  
Business Development | Marketing  
sentrysales@srt.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY  
**Nikki Greening**  
nsads@srt.com

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Chief of PA**  
Maj. Thomas Barger

**NCOIC of Command Information**  
Tech. Sgt. Ryann Holzapfel

**Chief, Community Relations**  
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NEWS SUBMISSIONS  
Northern Sentry Office  
nsads@srt.com | 701.839.0946

MAFB Public Affairs Office  
v35bw.pa@us.af.mil  
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MAIL  
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MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER  
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SHE'S NOT FROM  
AROUND HERE  
AMY ALLENDER

"Why do you like Minot so much?"

I get asked that a lot. But last week, over the course of two days, I answered that question for four different people, in four different places. Even for me—a self-proclaimed "Minot guru"—that was a bit above average.

So that night, I shared a reel to my Instagram channel, @HeyMinot, with a simple script. On the screen, I used this text overlay:

Them: "Why do you like Minot so much?"

Me: "Obviously the -30° windchills."

JK. The real answer is... I live here."

It was short, snarky, and real.

And based on the comments, messages, and views—it struck a chord.

Because truthfully? I do like Minot. But not because I struck the PCS lottery and landed in a place that happened to check all my boxes.

I like Minot because I live here. And hard-won experience has taught me: life is more fun when you like where you live.

I didn't love it and then decide to live here. Like many military families, I found myself living here—so I decided to love it.



UPSIDE DOWN  
UNDER  
MARVIN BAKER

March 30, 1975 was not only Easter Sunday, but was a day that would resonate with two people for more than 50 years.

On that Easter Sunday an American teenager wrote a letter to an Australian girl. Forward 50 years and they remain close through email and regular Zoom calls.

I was 16 at the time, was growing up in Hazelton and am now retired and living in Carpio. Judy Bridge was 15 and was growing up in Warwick, Queensland. She is now retired and living in Melbourne.

The teenagers connected through a homemaker's magazine called Women's Household that was published in Seabrook, N.H. The magazine had a section called "Teensville," to which Judy submitted her bio along with

Why do you like Minot so much?

Before we arrived on military orders, I didn't know much about North Dakota—other than it wasn't the Dakota with Mount Rushmore. My story isn't unique. A PCS meant leaving behind work I loved, a best friend, and a community I was deeply invested in. I didn't get a say in if or when we moved. But I did get a say in how I'd approach it.

Negativity about Minot reached my ears before our orders were even official. But I've always been stubborn—and a champion of the underdog. So before arriving, I was already pretty determined to like it here. I decided to look beyond the military community and seek out people who chose to live in Minot. Instead of asking why so many people disliked it, I wanted to know why anyone would choose to stay. That question interested me most.

Then, I began intentionally feeding myself small, hopeful thoughts:

- "This is a good place."
- "There's a lot to do here."
- "I can't wait to find my favorite things."
- "I've never experienced anything like this before."

At first, it felt awkward to say those things out loud—especially when the popular narrative was, "Ugh, Minot? Good luck."

But slowly, those thoughts became normal. Then they became real. And before I knew it, they shaped my reality. I really did find favorite places. I found more to do than I ever expected. I found deep relationships within the community.

My mindset made it easier to connect with what was good—and that made a bigger difference than any weather pattern or zip code

ever could.

Now, those thought patterns are strong. They're well-worn, like a favorite trail. They're the default. I expect to find joy, fun, and friendship—and because that's what I'm seeking and expecting, I always end up finding it.

But here's the thing: I'm not unique. This applies to you, too.

About six months ago, a friend said something I haven't been able to shake: "Be part of creating the community you want to live in."

It's such a clear and beautiful way to say something I deeply believe.

We can't always choose our circumstances, but we can choose how we show up in them—and the story we create within them. We can always choose to be part of building something beautiful.

That might look like:

- Volunteering for projects you're passionate about
- Going to that thing, even if you don't know anyone yet
- Starting a group you think the community is missing
- Supporting local businesses
- Inviting the new neighbor over for coffee
- Telling someone else about a good experience you had in town

Community isn't something you stumble into; It's something created—one small action at a time.

I'm not suggesting toxic positivity or pretending hard things aren't hard. Pain will always be part of the human experience. But I've learned that what you look for, you'll find.

If you tell yourself there's nothing to do—guess what? You'll prove yourself right.

If you say you'll never make friends—you'll probably stay



"Sometimes I post something that seems to strike a chord locally. This was one of those posts."

SCREENSHOT FROM INSTAGRAM.

isolated.

But if you flip that script, even just a little—everything changes.

There is a lot to do here. There are good people here. There is beauty, culture, history, connection, and adventure—no matter where you are.

That's the truth. It doesn't mean every moment is magical. But it does mean your experience gets better when you decide to take part in shaping it.

So, why do I like Minot?

Because I live here.

And I want to love where I live.

And friend—you can, too.

Pen pals 50 years on...

a photo of her and her Afghan hound.

I answered Judy's request and we continue to stay in contact to this day. The pen pal connection started with traditional letters, later went to cassette tapes, then phone calls, emails and finally Zoom calls.

In a March 16 Zoom call, Judy read the original letter that I had sent to her. In that letter, I described hobbies, school, the baseball team, a job I had with the city and a disgusting blizzard that had just passed. Judy's passion at the time was in training her dog.

Over the years we discussed just about any subject you can imagine, including sports, family, community and friends, as well as many of the things unique to Australia.

After Judy married Geoff Fell, who spent a career in the Royal Australian Air Force, she continued to follow my path through college and through my career as a journalist. Judy spent a number of years working for Weight Watchers and often talked about the ebbs and floes of her job.

In her spare time, she knitted a lot and made clothes for joeys (baby kangaroos) that were abandoned after devastating fires that spread through southeastern Australia.

In August 1993, we met in person in Medowie, Queensland. Following a flight from Los Angeles to Sydney, I spent three weeks with Judy, Geoff and their son Charles, who was 7 years old at the time.

The Fells rolled out the red carpet and became tour guides. Before I left North Dakota, Judy asked what I would most like to see while in Australia. Kangaroos in the wild was the answer.

Geoff delivered and we saw a mob of kangaroos in a rural area of Queensland. We later went to a zoo where we saw numerous kangaroos sunning themselves.

I was asked to speak to Charles' class about North Dakota and the United States. Before I did, however, I presented the class with a North Dakota flag and the students sang Advance Australia Fair for their guest, which is the Australian National Anthem.

We visited, traveled, met friends, toured the city of Brisbane, attended an Australian Rules Football game and looked at and talked about the night sky in the Southern Hemisphere.

Also during our travel, we visited the city of Grafton, a community of 17,000 northeast of Sydney that is sometimes called the Jacaranda City. It was something I wanted to do because I had friends in

Grafton, North Dakota. While there, I mailed a postcard from Grafton to Grafton, as one of those quirky things people do sometimes.

And now that 50 years have passed, we are talking about a reunion on Australian soil. This time the trip would most likely be three months, rather than three weeks because there is so much to see and do. The culture of Melbourne, the Sydney Opera House, Ayers Rock, known now as Uluru, sprawling ranches in South Australia, the city of Adelaide and yes, rural Australia.

But there is another element here that didn't exist in 1993, other friends in Australia, as well as New Zealand. One of them is a New Zealand woman who spent time in North Dakota. She embraced the nickname "Kiwi Kate," the 17 years she lived here. She now lives in a suburb of Auckland and operates a hotel there.

The hope is that all of us can get together, along with other mutual friends Tom and Linda D'Aquino, who live in a Melbourne suburb called Balliang East. Tom is a musician who writes his own music. We were introduced because of our mutual desire for writing.

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# Starting To Hear That Word!



A VIEW FROM OUR SIDE  
ROD WILSON

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PCS...Permanent Change of Station. Some of my Airmen friends say PCS with a smile because they are happy with their new station, others are not happy at all, having grown fond of Minot Air Force Base and Minot. It could be because their kids have enjoyed going to school in Minot, it could be because they absolutely love the outdoors and what North Dakota has to offer, or it could be because they have made many friends, and now must leave those friends behind.

One of my first graders in Mrs. White's class explained in great detail, and I am guessing this was a family discussion around the kitchen table, that a PCS gives their family a chance to move to a new home, and make new friends, and "when we move I'll get my own room." So, are you happy you are moving? I asked. "No, not really. Because I like it here, and I have a lot of friends who I probably will never see again." Out of the mouths of babes, like they say.

I have shared in this column many times that I am one of those folks

who likes to auger into a situation, and really dislike changes in my life. PCS is kind of a 180 degree spin for me. The Airmen I work with at Public Affairs are great. We get to know each other pretty well. I have taken some of them sailing with me on Lake Sakakawea. Sue and I have hosted some of them at our home for a bar-b-que. I have watched them mature in their Public Affairs positions. I am amazed at how good they become at photography and writing. True professionals. And you certainly have to be happy for them when they get a chance to transfer to a new position that may be closer to home, or involve learning a new skill, or joining another team of Public Affairs professionals. So, for me, I am often saying goodbye and good luck to folks who I have worked with for 2-3 years. For a while they'll show up on my Facebook posts, but they lead busy lives where they are going, and reaching back becomes more of a challenge for them. So, like the little first grader said so well, "I have a lot of friends who I probably will never see again."

But hey, soon there will be new faces, and new names to learn, and once again I can share those special North Dakota experiences with them.

I will never be fond of PCS folks, not today...and not tomorrow. But life goes on....right?

**LEARNING ABOUT COOKIES**

I decided how better to teach kids about entrepreneurship, than to let them start their own business. My friend Casey, from Cookies for You, was a great help as Mrs. White's first graders at North Plains Elementary decided

to open their own cookie business, at least for one day, called Yeah For Cookies!

The class had learned about being an entrepreneur through their Junior Achievement classes. They had many ideas about starting a new business; a pet walking service, a hamster watching business or even a sidewalk chalking business. But with Casey's help a cookie decorating shop was something we could do in the roughly 40 minutes of class time allowed for Junior Achievement. Every student received a cookie shaped like a carrot. A carrot would be a lot easier to decorate than an Easter Bunny, and it only took 2 colors of frosting, green frosting for the top and orange frosting for the bottom. We had a blast, but keeping 21 young folks on task decorating carrots was a challenge. And to the janitor at North Plains Elementary, I am sorry for the many spots of frosting that we left on the carpet. "OOPS".



I'm taking my cookie home. Note: I helped with the "R" on this cookie.



Mrs. White's 1st Grade Class. The founders of "Yeah For Cookies!"

I am happy to share a photo of my Junior Achievement class for 2025, and a few photos of the cookies that we decorated. I told the kids that once we decorated the cookies, we had to sell them. That is what an entrepreneur would do. But it wasn't that way at all. Each young student got to keep their cookie for afternoon snack time. Thanks kids! I hope to return to Mrs. White's class again next year.



A great looking carrot shaped cookie.

Also, a big thanks to Al Schon at Oak Park Theater for providing each of the kids with a free movie ticket to Oak Park. And most of all, a final thanks to Ted Bolton, my boss at the Northern Sentry, for allowing me the time to teach Junior Achievement each year. I think this was my 6th year.

**BEST KEPT SECRETS**

There are so many trails that are within an hour of Minot, but I have 2 that I recommend every year. First is the North Country National Scenic Trail at Lake Audubon, roughly 40 miles south of Minot on Highway 83, and the many trails, including the Prairie-Marsh scenic drive at Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge just north of the Minot Air Force Base on the Souris River.

A quick google search will take you to the U.S. Government web sites that give you a lot of information about the trails, and the refuges.

**TODAY'S CHUCKLE**

A quitter never wins and a winner never quits, which is a good reason to just avoid starting in the first place.



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# George Masters Dakota Cruisin' For 31 Years

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

It 1993 when a group of car enthusiasts got together at what was then King's Food host, a drive in restaurant with drive-up ordering and real, honest to goodness car hops. One of those car enthusiasts was George Masters, brought to Minot by the U.S. Air Force. "We met there for about 9 months to a year informally" according to George "and then some of us said that you know what, we should form a club. Other people said, nah we don't need that because then you need to have officers and elections and dues." The car club folks eventually won out as the group met at the Eagles Club and "we formed the Dakota Cruisers" shares George.

The first order of business was to create a logo "which was a nice care with the words Dakota Cruiser words and we had it copyrighted, and we elected a President and it was me back then, and 31 years later here I am, still the President" Masters says with a chuckle.

By George's own admission, the club may have overlooked putting term limits on the Presidency "and over the years I just haven't mentored someone to take my

place. It seems that the club likes what I do, and so I just keep doing it."

There are now officially 584 Dakota Cruisers members, "plus we had some sign up at the last car show, so I am guessing we are probably at 600" according to Masters "and we have 242 lifetime members."

What having the large number of members means to George, and of course the car club in general is that you have a greater pool of members to recruit volunteers from. And the participation, especially during the summer, is pretty robust. "When I have a meeting during the summer I will have 80-90 members, or even up to 100 show up."

So what is the focus of the Dakota Cruisers? "Well, we offer scholarships, usually \$1,000.00 in locations mainly from Rugby west to anyone who is going to further their education in the automotive field, and it's all handled through their guidance counselors. We send out about 50 letters, and usually pick out 3 to 5 students for the scholarships" says George. The club has a scholarship fund that allows them to continue to award



the yearly scholarships. The club is also active in scheduling mini car shows at assisted living centers throughout the region "and we visit with the residents. We take them for a ride or let them sit in one of the cars and they can relate to the car they may have had, or a neighbor had. It's a little treat for them, they all love that."

The group also does their summer cruises at U-Haul on South Broadway. The first Wednesday of the month the club either goes to a small town and have cook out or meet at the Dakota Cruiser club house. On many Wednesdays you can catch the Dakota Cruisers on Broadway "but some of the guys don't even cruise, they just sit around and shoot the breeze or go out for dinner. Sometimes we have 5 to 10 cars. Sometimes we have 50 cars, or even up to 100."

On April 19th the group got together and took kids to a toy museum in Carpio. "You know we are trying to get the next generation interested in cars" says Masters "and what better way to get a kid interested than to take them on and event like that."



George holds the license plate FUN 71, which was on a 1971 Volkswagen Convertible.



In the foreground is a 1957 Chevy Bel Air 4-door sedan. In the background on the lift is a 1974 VW Super Beetle.



George's latest project. This 1955 Chevy Bel Air two-door hardtop is waiting for the radiator, front fenders & hood. It is Melenium Jade and Sunlit Sandstone. "Green and Champagne kinda colors" according to George.

## A TRIP BACK THROUGH THE YEARS

Even though George Masters says he has retired from Masters Restoration, a business solely dedicated to restoring old vehicles, his southeast Minot shop is a tour unto itself. George was in the Air Force, and part of his shop is tempered toward both the missiles and B-52's from Minot Air Force Base. Up close to the rafters is a

window from a B 52, on one wall is a collection of coins and pins given to George over the years.

There are now 3 vehicles in the Masters shop. A 74 Super Beetle, a 57 Chevy, and his newest project, a 55 Chevy Bel Air 2-door hard top, and there are other cars soon to arrive. "It'll be full" George says with a smile, and I know George to certainly be a man of his word.

If you are a car nut like me, you know that each and every car, no matter who owns it, comes with a story. The cars and the stories are what has made the Dakota Cruisers special for over 31 years. And of course, it helps to have someone like George Masters with a good idea and a vision of what it takes to keep the Dakota Cruisers on the road.

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# Hot Tots to Wear Red to Honor Deployed Service Members

Players to wear color rush red uniforms every Friday; Hotdish Members receive exclusive matching gear

MINOT HOT TOTS

The Minot Hot Tots are proud to announce the launch of a new in-season initiative: R.E.D. Fridays, standing for “Remember Everyone Deployed”. In partnership with Westlie Ford, the Hot Tots aim to honor the brave men and women currently serving overseas by painting Corbett Field red every Friday night.

Each Friday home game, Hot Tots players will take the field in special all-red uniforms as a bold and visual show of support for our deployed military members. Fans will also have a unique opportunity to get in on the action; Hotdish Members who purchase Scheels 5-Packs will receive exclusive replica game jerseys and hats, matching the ones worn by the



team. “This is more than just a promotion—it’s a commitment to stand with those who can’t be here with us on game day,” said Monica Hocking, Hot Tots General Manager and Managing Partner. “We’re excited to rally our community around this cause and show our support in a big, and visual way.”

Fans are encouraged to wear red, cheer loud, and join the Hot Tots in sending a powerful message of gratitude and solidarity to our deployed service members.

To secure your replica jersey and hat and become a hotdish member, visit hottotsbaseball.com or call the Front Office Team at (701) 838-8687.



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and women currently  
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# A Clinic That Cares Like Family

SABRINA WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

The Severson Ahart Community Clinic, located within the Souris Valley Animal Shelter at 1935 20th Ave. SE is an exciting new addition for pet lovers across Minot. Officially opening its doors just a few months ago, the clinic provides a wide range of veterinary services with a special focus on compassion, accessibility, and affordability, which is particularly helpful for military families stationed here at Minot Air Force Base.

The Severson Ahart clinic offers essential services such as wellness exams, vaccinations, spay and neuter surgeries, parasite control, microchipping, and limited minor urgent care. The clinic ensures pets can receive high-quality treatment at an affordable price and in a comfortable environment, an especially meaningful resource for those navigating military life.

Designed to support cats and dogs through every stage of life, the clinic provides both routine and advanced diagnostics, including blood panels and microscopic testing. Pet owners also benefit from personalized vaccination schedules tailored to their pets’ age, lifestyle, and local environmental risks. These

individualized care plans help protect against diseases like rabies and distemper while also offering preventive treatments for common parasites such as fleas and ticks. Notably, a general check-up at the Severson Ahart Community Clinic is priced at \$60, making it an affordable option for routine veterinary care.

The facility is equipped to perform basic surgeries, including dental cleanings and spay/neuter procedures, all delivered with the utmost care by a dedicated team of experienced veterinarians and veterinary technicians. Their professionalism and compassion ensure that each pet receives attentive, quality care in a comfortable environment.

The Severson Ahart Community Clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 701-852-6133 or emailing [clinic@svaspets.com](mailto:clinic@svaspets.com), making it easy for pet owners to find convenient times without lengthy waitlists. While not as overwhelmed as other veterinary clinics near Minot Air Force Base, the Severson Ahart Community Clinic still offers a much-needed

alternative for pet owners who may have difficulty finding an appointment elsewhere. The clinic maintains a steady schedule and works hard to accommodate pet owners in a timely manner, making it an excellent option for military families and other community members who want to ensure their pets receive the care they need without long delays.

In addition to the veterinary clinic, the Souris Valley Animal Shelter now serves as the City of Minot’s official animal pound. As of January 2025, it manages impounded animals and provides emergency housing for pets in need, further strengthening its role as a cornerstone of animal welfare in the community.

The Severson Ahart Community Clinic stands as a testament to the incredible impact of community support. Its creation was made possible through the generosity of local philanthropists Clint Severson and Conni Ahart, whose contributions enabled the construction of the clinic within the shelter. Today, it continues to rely on the community through donations, local events, and volunteer involvement.



Buddy is one of the many animals cared for at the Souris Valley Animal Shelter and Severson Ahart vet clinic

COURTESY PHOTO

“Community involvement is incredibly important to us; we’re always looking for more volunteers,” said a staff member at the shelter. Events such as the annual SVAS Gala not only build community spirit but also provide critical funding to sustain services like surgeries, vaccinations, and adoptions. Every success story that begins at the clinic reflects the compassion and commitment of the Minot community.

The Severson Ahart Community Clinic is more than just a veterinary facility; it’s a symbol of what can be achieved when the community comes together to care for its most vulnerable members. Whether you’re new to Minot or have called it home for years, the clinic is a trusted resource dedicated to helping your pets live long, healthy lives.

## NOTES ON BEING SAFE

# Protect yourself from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

### WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and deadly gas! When exposed to, CO inhibits your blood’s capacity to carry oxygen throughout the body, actually suffocating your tissues and organs. CO can escape into your home’s air through a faulty furnace, wood-burning stove, range, water heater, fireplace, or any device that burns combustible fuel.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms can often be confused with flu symptoms but can become much more serious. They include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Irregular breathing
- Mental confusion
- Unconsciousness
- Ultimately death

### WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

The key to protecting yourself and your family is prevention and the use of a quality carbon monoxide detector. Prevention is always the first and foremost important step to protecting your family from CO poisoning, but sometimes prevention tactics don’t always prevent a problem. Thus, having the life-saving backup of a reliable, quality CO detector is extremely important. It can warn your family when nothing else will save them.

### WHERE SHOULD I INSTALL A CO DETECTOR AND HOW MANY?

CO detectors should be installed near bedrooms, and homes with more than one living level should have at least one detector on each level. CO detectors should be installed between outlet level and 6-7 feet high. CO Detectors should not be installed in garages,

kitchens, furnace rooms or humid areas. Appliances in these areas can cause a detector to emit false alarms.

Always install detectors at least 15 feet away from a furnace or gas appliance and avoid installing detectors close to a fan, swamp cooler or other fresh or turbulent air sources as this may deter the unit from taking accurate readings.

Practice Prevention! Prevention can be both easy and life-saving. Remember to follow these steps:

- Have your furnace and heating system inspected and serviced annually.
- Never run an automobile in

the garage or any other type of enclosed space.

- Have your chimney and flu cleaned professionally.
- Make sure that the burner flames on your furnace and stove burn blue, not yellow-orange, and never use your gas range or oven for heating.
- Never use grills or hibachis inside your home.
- Never operate gas burning appliances in a closed room.


### REMEMBER:

Carbon Monoxide detectors should never be used as a replacement for prevention, only as a back up.



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# Discover Upper Souris National Wildlife Reserve!

HANNAH WATERS, NORTHERN SENTRY

If you’re looking to escape everyday and immerse yourself in untouched natural beauty, North Dakota’s Upper Souris National Wildlife Reserve is the perfect destination. Nestled in the northern part of the state, this little-known haven is a paradise for outdoor lovers, bird watchers, and serenity seekers alike.

Upper Souris isn’t your average tourist stop, and that’s exactly what makes it magical. Picture rolling prairies, tranquil wetlands, and expansive skies that go on forever. The reserve is a mosaic of ecosystems, offering refuge to an incredible variety of wildlife. It’s a living postcard of the Great Plains, alive with seasonal colors and rich biodiversity.

If birds are your thing, get ready to grab your binoculars. The reserve lies on the Central Flyway, making it a hotspot for migratory birds. During spring and fall migrations, you might spot sandhill cranes, snow geese, northern pintails, and even the elusive whooping crane. The melodic calls of waterfowl and the flutter of wings overhead turn every visit into a natural symphony.

Whether you prefer hiking, photography, or simply enjoying a peaceful picnic with a prairie view, Upper Souris has you covered. Several walking trails wind through grasslands and marshes, offering scenic vistas and quiet corners perfect for reflection (or your next Instagram-worthy photo). And don’t be surprised if a white-tailed deer or a curious fox makes a guest appearance!



Upper Souris in the Springtime, a calming evening hike. HANNAH WATERS PHOTO

Upper Souris is breathtaking year-round. Spring brings wildflowers and nesting birds. Summer offers sun-drenched grasslands and cool breezes off the wetlands. In fall, golden hues paint the landscape, and winter transforms the reserve into a silent wonderland of snow and frost — ideal for cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.

What makes Upper Souris truly special is its role in protecting North Dakota’s natural heritage. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the reserve prioritizes wildlife conservation, habitat restoration, and environmental education. Every visit supports these efforts, and leaves you feeling a little more

connected to the earth.

Upper Souris is located just a short 20-minute drive north of Minot AFB, making it an easy day trip or a peaceful weekend getaway. There’s no entrance fee, and facilities, like bathrooms are not available, which means fewer crowds, more quiet, and a truly immersive experience in nature. So pack a camera, bring your sense of wonder, and come see why Upper Souris National Wildlife Reserve is North Dakota’s best-kept secret waiting to be discovered. With places to hike and birdwatch, this Wildlife reserve is perfect for a warm weather day. Bring the kids along and enjoy the amazing beauty that is North Dakota!

# Minot Community Band In Concert

The Minot Community Band final performance of the year will be held on Monday, April 28 at 7:30pm at the Minot North High School Auditorium. It is free and open to the public. The band consists of approximately 70 members

from Minot and surrounding communities. Selections will vary and include Broadway Musical medleys, marches, concert band standards, and the music of living composers. A free-will offering is available to help support the ensemble.



Minot Community Band Concert Scheduled for April 28, 2025 at Minot North.

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MINOT MPF OFFICE



CROSSWORD

SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks  
Crossword puzzle.

A	N	T	I		M	A	T	C	H		T	A	S	S
M	O	H	R		A	D	I	E	U		R	I	C	O
O	R	E	S		R	A	N	I	S		O	N	A	N
U	M	P		T	R	I	A	L	B	Y	J	U	R	Y
R	A	I	N	I	E	R			A	A	A			
	R	A	N	D		B	A	N	K	N	O	T	E	
S	L	A	B	S		W	O	R	D	S		F	E	N
E	A	T	S		S	A	L	E	S		S	P	E	D
E	D	E		S	T	I	E	S		G	U	E	S	S
D	E	S	S	E	R	T	S		V	A	I	N		
	U	M	A			S	E	L	T	Z	E	R		
H	M	S	P	I	N	A	F	O	R	E		A	L	E
Y	E	L	P		D	R	A	B	S		A	N	T	E
P	E	A	L		E	M	C	E	E		E	C	O	L
E	T	T	E		D	Y	E	R	S		S	E	N	S

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Across**
1. Kind of shop  
5. Champagne overflow  
9. Half of a sixties group  
14. Treat for Cookie Monster  
15. Detach  
16. Dig for squares?  
17. Swimming lesson feat  
19. Polite turndown  
20. Unwind  
21. Southwest tableland  
23. Check for Hunter?  
24. Grp. concerned with clubs  
25. San Antonio-to-Corpus Christi dir.  
27. Return addressee on Wile E.'s packages  
29. Muscle cramp  
34. Taj Mahal feature  
37. Independent country as of 1932  
38. Susan's character  
39. "Beloved, follow not that which is \_\_\_\_" (3 John)  
40. Enjoy immensely  
42. Feta source  
43. Guy, informally  
45. Symbol of sadness  
46. Munitions  
47. Test of public opinion  
50. Destiny's Child, e.g.  
51. Apt name for a cook?  
52. "However," briefly  
55. Eponymous Belgian town  
57. 75 percent, say  
60. Rolle of "Good Times"  
62. Certain Ford, once  
64. Cincture  
66. Writer Chekhov  
67. Heaps  
68. Pop singer Murray  
69. On edge  
70. Desktop items  
71. Area away from the battle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17				18						19				
20							21		22			23		
24				25		26			27		28			
			29			30	31					32	33	
34	35	36			37				38					
39					40				41		42			
43				44		45					46			
47					48					49				
		50						51				52	53	54
55	56			57		58	59		60		61			
62			63			64		65						
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

- Down**
1. Bounce to the surface  
2. Malaysian swinger  
3. Record company founded 1929  
4. "Give Peace a Chance" collaborator, with 6-Down  
5. With maximum speed, on water  
6. See 4-Down  
7. First mate?  
8. Bit of dust  
9. Razzle-dazzle  
10. Hubbub  
11. Back tooth  
12. Bocelli piece  
13. Novi Sad native  
18. Net gains for the fleet?  
22. "Come to think of it . . ."  
26. Editorial goofs  
28. God portrayer Freeman  
29. Last place, in sports  
30. Spot for a boutonniere  
31. Counterparts  
32. Sucker play  
33. Victuals  
34. Adroit  
35. Concluded  
36. Some activists  
41. Some activities for some activists  
44. Cost of leaving?  
48. Example of scare tactics  
49. Overthrow  
52. Banquo, e.g.  
53. Plant used for dye  
54. Pandemonium's lack  
55. Argument  
56. Durable wood  
58. Pull the switch?  
59. Chronicle  
61. Vail transport  
63. Preschooler  
65. Charged atom



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# A Wing and a Prayer



HOPE ANDERSON

For the past nearly 2 years, I have been lucky enough to call Downtown Minot home for my small business. It has been a dream of mine to open a gift shop for many years and the opportunity to do just that came in the summer/fall of 2023.

Being a business owner is not for the faint of heart, but the camaraderie of the downtown business community is what drew me to Downtown Minot.

I opened Koselig: The Cozy Shop, a gift and handmade shop officially on August 19, 2023 on a wing and a prayer. Armed with a passion for community and a lot of knowledge of all things handmade with my background as a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, I set to work finding local artisans and crafters who wanted to collaborate on this adventure.

Koselig, means cozy in Norwegian, which is the familial heritage that abounds in my family tree and has deep roots in the Minot community. My goal was to create a shop that felt like a place where a

person could step in and the cares of the day melted away. I wanted everyone to walk in and feel a sense of a warm embrace.



Like any small business, everything was created on trial and error and a lot of blood, sweat, and tears. We have made many pivots as we have navigated the business world, but the biggest pivot is in progress as we speak.

You see, our little shop is currently closed and at the moment is covered with cardboard boxes filled to the brim with all sorts of cozy

inspired goods just waiting to be transported to their new home in the very heart of the city. We are moving and collaborating with another small business, Robyn's Place, to create a vintage, gift, and handmade shop in a space filled with historic character.

We will be opening the doors of our new space on May 3 at 106 Main St S. The hours of operation will be 11-5 Tuesday-Friday and Saturdays from 11-3.

If you are looking for a unique vintage piece, a gift for any occasion, love to support local artisans, or just want a shopping environment that is filled with warm vibes, you will find it at Koselig at 106 and Robyn's Place. Two shops in one location here to serve our community with the personalized touch that can only be found when shopping local.

And don't forget, Mother's Day is just around the corner. Get that special mother or mother figure in your life a gift as unique as they are and support local by shopping Downtown Minot.



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# Tire maintenance keeps drivers safe

Maintaining tires is an important component of safe driving. Tires are some of the hardest working parts on a car or truck and are subjected to wear and tear every time rubber meets the road. Tires affect many components of driving, including handling, braking and the comfort of the ride. Maintaining tires makes driving safe not only for drivers and their passengers, but also for fellow motorists. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says that, in 2017, 738 fatalities occurred because of tire-related crashes. Many of those crashes were no doubt preventable, and that only highlights the importance of maintaining tires and monitoring their performance. Poor tire maintenance can lead to premature wear and potentially result in a blowout. The automotive group AAA notes it is important to visually inspect tires as often as possible. Drivers should look for overall tread wear. Pay special attention to tread wear on one edge of the tires, which could indicate poor alignment. Erratic tread wear may mean tires are out of balance. Drivers also should pay attention to how their cars drive and sounds. Unusual vibration or thumping noises suggest issues with the tires. A car that pulls in one direction also may be experiencing tire problems. Vehicle owners should be aware of the routine maintenance steps that can keep them safe and improve the life expectancy of tires.

- Tire pressure: The NHTSA says only 19 percent of consumers properly check and inflate their tires. Keeping tires properly inflated is one of the most important steps to maintaining them. Tires lose around 1 psi per month, and underinflated or overinflated tires can contribute to unusual wear, blowouts and even excessive fuel consumption.
- Rotation: Check the owner’s manual or recommendations from the tire manufacturer, but know that most mechanics advise having tires rotated every 5,000 to 8,000 miles. Rotation helps distribute wear more evenly on tires.
- Balancing: AAA says balancing also helps minimize uneven wear and tear. Balanced tires are achieved by using small weights attached to the wheels to limit vibration of the tire and wheels as they turn. New tires should be balanced, and tires also should be balanced after one or more is removed to repair a puncture.
- Alignment: Vehicles have wheel alignment measurements that pertain to manufacturers’ specifications. Alignment that falls outside of the range can impact handling, fuel economy and tread wear. A drift or pull suggests alignment problems and should be addressed. Vehicle owners should keep tire inspection and maintenance in mind as part of their overall car care plan.



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## ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT



### RING-TAILED LEMUR

**CREATURE FEATURES**

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- The Ring-Tailed Lemur holds its tail vertically as it moves to serve as a flag to help keep the troop together while traveling or foraging.
- Their “sunning” posture is part of a behavior called Thermoregulation. Ring-Tailed Lemurs will sit upright with their forearms on their knees exposing their underside to the sun to rewarm themselves from the chilly nights.





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# MOMC Highlight: Presley Alder

KERIANNE NOEL, NORTHERN SENTRY

The intense lifestyle and need to quickly pick up their lives, means most military families opt for more traditional places to live - such as on base or in a nearby town. But for Presley Alder, an eleven year old fifth grader who attends Glenburn Public School, home looks a little different: she and her family reside on a ten-acre homestead.

In addition to her father, Captain Preston Alder, mom Stevie Alder, and younger siblings Grant, Hollis, and Beau,



Presley, with her siblings and dad Captain Preston Alder, getting ready to attend an April 2024 event at Memorial Middle School in honor of military kids.

Presley’s extended ‘family’ includes a menagerie of animals, both domestic and untamed. They have a dog, two cats, and also six goats, assorted ducks and chickens, and one sassy highland cow. “Earl is the most work because he’s getting bigger and pushier. I sometimes think he thinks he’s the same animal [as the goats],” she confided about their cow. Presley’s favorite animals are her dog Sansa followed by their goats. “They’re funny and climb everything. They’re just good company and cute.”

When asked what she liked about living on a farm Presley said that she enjoys all the space, having a playground and trampoline, and neighbors being farther away. She also really enjoys her family’s annual “Farm Fest,” where they invite friends and members of her father’s squadron to join them for a day on the farm. Events have included everything from petting zoos and corn hole to raffles and a woodchopping contest. “I liked seeing everyone petting the animals. And we get most of our wood chopped for the winter this way.”

When he isn’t homesteading part time, Captain Preston Alder is a pilot in the 54th Helicopter Squadron. “He flies the Huey, which, it’s like a really old

helicopter,” she said, adding that he used to be a navigator in the B-52. “He was in the bottom of the airplane and told the pilot where to go. He hasn’t talked about which is harder, but he enjoys flying helicopters because he can see [out the window].” Presley shared that her family has been incredibly happy with this career transition because it not only helped her dad fulfill a dream, but enabled them to keep and return to their farm after a year away for his training.

In addition to North Dakota, Presley has lived in Utah, Florida, Louisiana, and Alabama. “Alabama was fun because it was warm all year, but I like North Dakota more,” she said. Her favorite part: school and her friends. When asked what she loved about Minot AFB, Presley mentioned the Starbase program for local fifth graders. “You learn about the military. They also do a lot with STEM. We moved a [pretend] nuke to a safe zone with a contraption [that we made].” When not busy with school or farm life, Presley enjoys reading and coloring. Her current favorite is the Percy Jackson series, which has sparked an interest in Mythology. She also plays piano and saxophone and enjoys sports such as basketball and soccer.

To Presley the people and places



Presley Alder is a military kid who enjoys life on her family’s farm.



Goats, chickens, and a highland cow named Earl are just a few of Presley’s many “other” pets.

she has met and seen are some of the best parts of military life. On the flip side she has found, as many do, that leaving friends behind never stops being difficult and in fact becomes harder as you get older. Despite writing letters, or utilizing apps such as messenger kids, sometimes the distance causes people to drift apart and fall out of touch. Those with ties to the Team Minot know that these experiences have made our military kids all the more empathetic towards new students or those whose friend group has suddenly all PCSd. It is this quality that shines in military kids like Presley.

Presley’s thoughtful nature was evident when she shared her advice for military kids in search of new friends: “Try to make friends, but not too too hard. Let them find you so you know they’re good friends.” Well said, Presley.



The Alder family, selling goods from their home business “Alder Acres” up in Burlington.

# MINOT SHRINE CIRCUS

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YOUTH IN ACTION

# School Board Member Opening for Minot AFB School Board District #160

School Boards are responsible for the education of local children and address a wide array of issues to include establishing spending priorities, approving budgets, adopting school calendars, approving staffing changes, responding to changes in education law, and advocating for the needs of students, families, teachers and staff. Members work closely with the district superintendent and other administration and serve as public figures to support and respond to the needs of their communities.

For the Minot Air Force Base, School Board District #160 serves in this capacity. School board member duties include, using state and federal funds to ensure that the students on-base continue to receive the best education possible within the laws of the North Dakota Century Code, addressing concerns or questions from district families, and voting on matters that affect schools both on and off the installation. The Minot Air Force Base School Board is a co-terminous school board that works



ALYSSA KELLY  
SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM MANAGER, GS-12  
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM



alongside Minot Public Schools, School Board, District #1 with the mission of “Empowering all learners to succeed in a changing world”.

Minot Air Force Base, School Board District #160 and Minot Public Schools, School Board, District #1 consist of five board members, each member serves a three-year term. For the Minot Air Force Base, School Board, District #160 there are three position requirements for members. These include 1) Member must reside on the installation 2) Member may be active duty enlisted, a reservist, or a dependent family member. Officers are not eligible to serve as

school board members pursuant DoDD 1344.10, Para 4.2.2.4. 3. Members cannot be an employee of Minot Public Schools.

The Minot AFB School Board often has to fill vacancies due to member resignations related to the military lifestyle. If a member of the board resigns that position is filled to serve out the remaining portion of that term. Currently, the Minot AFB School Board has an open position. Interested parties can contact the School Liaison at alyssa.kelly.4@us.af.mil for more information and to receive an application. Applications due by 9 May 2025.

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# “What it Means to Be a Military Child”

## by Dakota Elementary Second Grade Students

“I pledge allegiance to the flag...” I like being a military child because I have more time to play after school. I don’t like being a military child because my parents move away for some time. I like being a military child because I can see lots of medicine. I also like it because of the colors of the military is red, white, and blue. I don’t like staying at my mom’s office. I don’t like it because purple is the main color. My parents have to work hard. I like that there is month of the military child. I love being a military child.

-Eriayo Ajulo

Being a military child to me is a little sad because my dad always has to leave on Thursday morning for eight days and comes back on Thursday after I am done with school. When he is gone I am bored because I don’t have anyone to play with that much and I miss him. Being a military child means you get to move and get to go to new places and I don’t like to move because you have to say bye to your friends. In conclusion, I like being a military child and sometimes don’t.

-Luke Bekaert

Being a military child means a lot because you get to travel lots of places and countries. You can be a military adult or a military child. You can be a military child too! Even if your not a military child, you can be treated the same way as military kids. Being a military kid is not that hard and not bad! If you are not a military child don’t feel sad at least you are treated the same way! The best part of being a military child is going on trips or on vacation. Both of your parents can be in the military or one of them. My BFF moved to a different state but i’m glad I have more friends. Being a military child is fun.

-Stephanie Brim

Being a military child is so fun. A military child is a child whose mom or dad is in the military. Like my dad, he is in the military to keep us safe. A military child is fun but sometimes moms or dads have to stay to 1 a.m. When you are a military child you will have to move a lot. When you move as a military child you will have more friends and it will be fun. The best part is moving. It is so much fun because you get to meet new people. Military children can live on base. As long you are a military child you can go on base. I love being a military child!

-Avigail DeRyke

I love being a military child. I like living in North Dakota. North Dakota is where lots of eagles come around. A military child is lots of fun! My dad works in the military. I also like being in Minot. North Dakota is the best place ever! I didn’t know that I was a military kid! I love being a military kid.

-Nova Driver

Did you know that I don’t like being a military child? I have to move every year. I feel shy when I go to a new school. What I like is my dad feeling happy. Another thing I like is to get new friends. I don’t like it when I lose my friends. I don’t like when I lose my favorite teacher. I love Dakota Elementary. If you are not a military child, this is how it is like.

-Sara Dunbar

I love being a military child because I go to the base. I live in Minot. My dad is in the military. My dad had to get more jobs. Jobs are important. I feel happy. I don’t want anyone to leave on base. Because I don’t like to leave my friends. I don’t want my dad to leave.

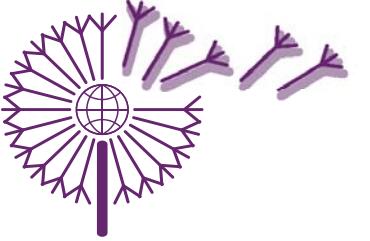
-Maya Faupel

“Intercom: next flight in a minute!” Being a military child means you can travel everywhere! Even to other countries like Japan! We are moving to California! California that has a beach I wanna swim in! My father got the job of a recruiter. Recruiters get a list where they can move. “Intercom: Plane is landing!” We gotta go see you later! In conclusion, I hope you learned about military children.

-Lily Frie

Being a military child means I get to meet new friends. I like that I get to play with snow. I don’t like that I had to say bye to my old friends. At home I get to play snowball fights sometimes. When it warms up I get to play outdoors, but if it’s cold I play inside. I like to play indoors more than I like to play outside. My favorite thing to do is play with my sister. I also like to play on the switch. It also means I have a parent in the military. I like being a military child.

-Killian Giese



Aww my friend is moving because they are a military child. That means their parents fight in the war. In Minot Air Force base there are soldiers to protect the world. I like military kids because they have cool parents. I do not like it when they are leaving. Being in the military is cool but it is hard to leave your kids behind even if you do not want to but you have to save the world. If I was a military kid I would love it so much because it is so fun you get to travel everywhere but it is hard to train for it. It is also hard when it is scary for you but you have to let your fear out. Your kids will be happy if you do it. I love the people that are in the military.

-Alayah Holt

I love being a military child. I do not want to move. I do not want to say bye to my friends. I like living in Minot. I like living on Minot Air force base. I only live on the base because my Dad is in the military. I do not want my Dad to leave the military. To get more money you need a job. If you do not have a job, you will be broke. In conclusion, I like being a military kid.

-Logan Kaza

“I pledge of allegiance...” I am a military child. I help the Air Force base. I help the military. I travel a everywhere a lot. I don’t like when I have to say bye to my friends. My parents work in the Air Force. I live somewhere near minot. My dad is strong. My dad trains in the military. In conclusion, I love being a military kid.

-Hunter Lawrence

“Vroom.. vroom!” Being a military kid is kind or hard. You’re parent’s are either working as a nurse or a soldier. For me, I don’t travel as a military kid. My mom joined the Airforce at 17 years old. She is one of the youngest Air Force Workers ever! My mom is brave too! My mom is so super! She is retired so she can come into any office. My mom was everywhere like Germany! I like being a military kid!

-Gwenevere Mathewson

“I pledge allegiance...” Being a military kid is fun. We can play games and we can make new friends. It is sad sometimes because our friends are moving and it is hard to say goodbye. We can make new friends when we are in a new country or state. Also we can still call our friends even when we are far away. The military is protecting us. Even our parents are protecting us. In conclusion, I love being a military kid.

-Konner Morris

I pledge allegiance to the flag of America... I don’t like it when my friend moves away. I like to see new friends. I like to see new schools. I like to see new backpack. I like to see new shoes. My dad works in the Air Force. My dad is an Airman. He works with his friends. In conclusion, I love being a military child.

-Avery Mose

What does being a military child mean? I do not like it when I have to move. It is very sad. I like it when I can meet new kids. I do not like it when I have to say goodbye to my friends. I like it when I go to a new school. I also like it when I can see family. When you are in the military you get to go to different bases. Sometimes you move into homes that only have one story and sometimes two stories. Sometimes you move on a base and sometimes not. Whoever is in the military will have to leave for a very long time. I like being a military child.

-Lukas Olson

I do not like moving as a military child! My dad is in the military and is always waking up really early. I do not like being a military child, but sometimes I do. Because I have to move. I like being a military child because I meet new people but always move. In conclusion, I love being a military child.

-Hadley Pittman

My flag colors are red, white, and blue. I am a military child. Being a military child means you have a parent in the military. Both of your parents can be in the military too. Sometimes you have to travel. My school is in Minot AFB. I have so many friends that are military children. Most people that live on bases are in the military. You should appreciate the people in the military. You get to meet different people. In conclusion, I love being a military child.

-Ana Quezada

“Dad! Could we see our best friend?” I have to say bye to my best friend. I have to deal with my dad being gone. I have to face fears. I feel happy on vacation. I have good days and bad. I feel like a war is happening when the military is practicing. We sometimes have fun and sometimes not. I feel like my dad is strong. My and my family feel safe together. I feel like being a military child is fun.

-Leo Richardson



# Make the Grade and Earn Rewards with the Spring 2025 You Made the Grade Program

Military children who earn top grades can enjoy exclusive discounts, prizes and savings with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service’s You Made the Grade program.

All military students in first through 12th grades, including those who are homeschooled, can bring their report cards to the PX/BX customer service area each grading period to receive prizes.

Students with straight A’s will receive a \$20 Exchange gift card while students with a B average will receive a \$10 Exchange gift card.

“Children in military families face unique challenges such as frequent moves and having to adjust often to new schools,” said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Rich Martinez, the Exchange’s senior enlisted advisor. “Now in its 24th year, the You Made the Grade program is an exciting way to show these young heroes that the Exchange is all in to support them no matter where their families’ service takes them.”

Students will also receive an Exchange coupon sheet, including:

- A free small fountain, frozen drink or bubbler beverage.
- A free kid’s meal at a participating Exchange restaurant.
- A free combo meal at a

participating Exchange restaurant.

- A free kid’s hair service or \$15 off hair service at The Barber Shop or Hair Studios.
- 10% off any pair of headphones (excluding Apple and Beats).
- 10% off apparel and footwear.
- A \$5 coupon at Exchange mall concessions or kiosks.

Students who are making progress on their specialized education programs can participate too. Parents can print this downloadable form on ShopMyExchange.com and have it signed by their child’s teacher or school official each grading period, indicating the modified grades of the student’s academic progress. The signed form can be handed in to the main customer service desk at the PX or BX to earn You Made the Grade prizes.

Students who make the grade can enter a biannual worldwide sweepstakes for a chance to win a \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$500 Exchange gift card. The spring 2025 drawing will take place in June.

To enter the drawing, students or parents can complete the form on the back of the gift card and mail it to:

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# Boys Golf: Making a Statement on the Course

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, FRESHMAN | MINOT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

While the track athletes are busy setting personal records, the Minot North boys golf team is swinging their way into the season with outstanding performances that are catching attention across the state.

At the Century/Legacy Invitational, standout rounds included:

Kasen Rostad – 75 (3rd place), followed by an 80

Walter Langhans – 81 (15th place)

Kyler Weishaar – 79 (7th place)

Bennett Bartsch – 83 (17th place)

Teegan Dangel – 88 (43rd place)

In the next tournament, the steady play continued:

Bartsch – 86 (24th place)

Tylar Bast – 87 (30th place)

Langhans – 81 (9th place)

Weishaar – 84 (16th place)

Dangel – 86 (24th place)

The team’s biggest moment came at the Bismarck High Invitational, where Minot North clinched 1st place overall—a massive achievement that showcases their talent and team depth. Building on that, they followed up with a 2nd place finish at the Dickinson Invitational, proving that they’re one of the top contenders in the region.

Each player has stepped up when it counts, showing consistency and composure under pressure. With each tournament,

they’re sharpening their game and positioning themselves as serious postseason threats.

From the track to the fairway, Minot North athletes are proving that hard work, teamwork, and a positive mindset go a long way. As the season rolls on, the community has every reason to be proud of these student-athletes and their accomplishments.

Whether it’s flying over hurdles, clearing bars in pole vault, or sinking crucial putts, the Minot North spring sports teams are making their mark. And with this kind of momentum, there’s no telling how far they will go, and we are all excited to see how the rest of the season will play out.



Minot North Golf Team travels to Bismarck to compete in the Century/Legacy Invitational.



Minot North Sentinels Golf Team.

## Do April Showers Really Bring May Flowers?

MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER

We’ve all heard the saying, “April showers bring May flowers.” But do all the rainy days in April really lead to lots of blooming flowers in May? Let’s explore the origins and scientific basis of this phrase and see how it connects to the experiences we offer at the Magic City Discovery Center.

**WHERE DID THE RHYME COME FROM?**

According to Phrase Finder, the rhyme dates back to at least the 16th century. English poet Thomas Tusser included the line, “Sweet April showers do spring May flowers,” in his 1557 collection A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry. While it’s not quite as catchy, it does reflect the observation that spring rains come before the blooming of flowers.

The Science Behind the Saying

While the proverb holds in regions like the United Kingdom, where April tends to be rainy, its accuracy varies based on local climate patterns. In some areas, says Missouri State University,

April isn’t necessarily the wettest month, yet flowers still bloom in May due to factors like temperature and soil conditions.

STM Weather says that rainfall does play a crucial role in plant growth. Spring rains provide essential moisture and nutrients, such as nitrogen, which support the growth of lots of foliage and vibrant blooms. However, excessive rain can lead to waterlogged soil and increase the risk of plant diseases. But gardeners can get around these issues by improving soil drainage and ensuring proper plant spacing.

Interestingly, as noted by Explore, the timing of flower blooms is influenced more by temperature changes than by precipitation. As temperatures rise and the last frost dates pass, plants are triggered to emerge and blossom. This means that while April rains contribute to soil moisture, warmer temperatures are a more significant factor in the timing of May blooms. So maybe the saying should be, “April

warmth brings May growth.”

**SPRING AT THE MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER**

At the Magic City Discovery Center, we embrace the wonders of nature and the science behind it. Our interactive exhibits encourage children and families to explore different aspects of nature. From using our microscopes to identify patterns to playing with the water that helps plants grow, science is always blossoming at the Magic City Discovery Center.

Celebrate Earth Day with us at our April Feature Friday! This month, kids will get hands-on with nature by creating their very own flower pots and planting marigold seeds. Learn about the environment, the importance of plants, and how to care for your plant. You will even get to take your flowerpot home with you and watch your marigold grow! It’s a fun, educational way to celebrate our planet and learn about sustainability!

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# Minot North Softball JV Teams Battle Hard Against Watford City

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, FRESHMAN | MINOT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Minot North’s JV softball teams showed their passion and resilience in their recent double headers against Watford City. Both JV 1 and JV 2 squads took to the field ready to compete, and the people were treated to a great display of determination and team spirit.

JV 1 came out strong in their first game, delivering solid defense and amazing hitting to secure the win. The team worked together well, stringing together hits and making great plays to keep Watford City off balance. In the second game, Watford City made adjustments and came back strong, handing JV 1 a tough loss, it was a hard game of pitching and offense. Despite the split, JV 1 continues to show

growth and promise early in the season.

JV 2 had a challenging start, dropping the first game despite a strong effort. However, they didn’t let that loss define the day. In game two, the team mounted an impressive comeback, fueled by aggressive base running and clutch at-bats. The energy in the dugout was electric as the team rallied to grab the win and earn the split. Both JV teams are showing strong potential and improving with every game. Their effort, teamwork, and never-give-up mentality are laying a great foundation for the rest of the season. Minot North softball is on the rise!

# Girls Track & Field: Hard Work, Heart, and High Hopes

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, FRESHMAN | MINOT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

The Minot North Girls Track & Field team is off to a strong start with an impressive 60 athletes committed to competing in events across the board—sprints, distance, throws, and jumps. Led by Head Coach Kaiya Chell and assistant coach Melissa Solper, the team has cultivated a fun, encouraging, and disciplined environment. “We have fun and do our best to create a positive athletic environment,” said Coach Solper. “They’re hardworking athletes who give it their best at practice and meets.” That hard work is paying off. As of April 9th, six athletes have already qualified for postseason competition—a strong indicator of the team’s potential this year. Standout performances include:

Kaiya Chell (Shot Put) – 36 feet

McKinnley Kragh (Pole Vault) – 9’6”

4 x 100 Relay Team – Codey Irwin, Riley Hansen, Nola Burgett, and Malia Magee

Outdoor meets have kicked off with promising signs. Times are dropping, throws are flying farther, and the team is growing in both skill and confidence. With a blend of experienced upperclassmen and eager underclassmen, Minot North Girls Track & Field is building momentum heading into the heart of the season. Coach Solper, who also teaches Physical Education at Roosevelt and John Hoeven Middle Schools, brings her energy and leadership into every practice, fostering not only athletic growth but also character and camaraderie among her athletes.



Minot North Sentinels Girls Softball Team



Minot Sentinels North Girls' Track & Field Team

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Haley Ledford is the winner of the Atypical Brewery Geo Dome giveaway.



SSgt. Jessie Devel, 50SS and winner of the iMagicon giveaway is excited to take his daughter, Gray Jindra to the event this weekend!



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**For more information:**  
Facebook/ Scheels (Minot, ND)/ Events

**30 APR**

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Blue Rider  
118 1st Avenue SE, Minot

Bring your quarters to buy your chances at free drink questions, and as always, earn style points and Blue Rider respect for creative team names. Why? Because it's Wednesday. And that means Minot's toughest trivia game is on!! Starts at seven. And feel free to bring your appetite; we've got Jimmy's Pizza, grilled cheese, pop-tarts and peanuts!



**For more information:**  
Facebook/ Blue Rider/ Events

**2-4 MAY**

**MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER 2ND BIRTHDAY!!!**  
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We're turning TWO! Come celebrate Magic City Discovery Center's 2nd Birthday with us from May 2nd to 4th and enjoy \$2 off admission! The museum will be decked out for the occasion, and we've got birthday-themed activities waiting for you in Creativity Studio and Spark!Lab!



**For more information:**  
Facebook/ Magic City Discovery Center/ Events

**3 MAY**

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# Baking Beyond Borders: Military Spouse, City, and Base Unite to Modernize ND Cottage Foods Law

SENIOR AIRMAN ALEXANDER NOTTINGHAM, 5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. --

On March 21, 2025, North Dakota Governor Kelly Armstrong signed Senate Bill 2386 into law, introducing significant amendments to the state's Cottage Foods Act. This legislation permits home-based food producers to ship their products out of state and accept orders via phone and online platforms. Previously, North Dakota was among the few states that restricted such businesses from engaging in interstate commerce. The new law also allows for the shipment of poultry products nationwide.

This development is particularly impactful for military spouses stationed at Minot Air Force Base (AFB). Frequent relocations often pose challenges for military spouses seeking stable employment. The enhanced Cottage Foods Act offers a viable solution by enabling spouses to establish and expand home-based food businesses with greater flexibility. North Dakota residents can now maintain and grow their customer base across state lines, ensuring business continuity despite relocations.

"When we learned in April of 2024 that our next duty station would be Minot AFB, we were so excited and invested in the community well before we arrived. But learning that the state's Cottage Food Laws prohibited shipping, online sales, phone sales and consignment, I knew it was going to move my business back a step," said Jenetta Sawyer, a 91st Missile Wing military spouse and home-based baker in Minot. "I began researching in May of 2024 on how to submit a bill and its process."

Sawyer has been a vocal advocate for these changes. Having operated her baking business in multiple states, Sawyer highlighted the limitations of North Dakota's previous regulations, which prohibited shipping goods out of state. She emphasized that many cottage food entrepreneurs, particularly military spouses, rely on clientele established in previous locations. The inability to ship products across state lines hindered business growth and sustainability.

After hearing the plight of a local Minot Air Force Base spouse,

Brekka Kramer, Minot Area Chamber Economic Development Corporation CEO, worked hard together with Sawyer to make this grassroots initiative come to fruition in the last hour.

Senate Bill 2386 is important as military spouses often depend on home-based businesses to achieve professional fulfillment and financial stability amid the uncertainties of military life. The revised law empowers them to leverage their skills and entrepreneurial spirit, contributing positively to their families and communities.

"According to the Air & Space Force Association, military spouses face a 24% unemployment rate, which is roughly four times the national average. With this law being enacted, the spouses and family of service members stationed at Minot AFB and other military bases in North Dakota will have the freedom to operate their cottage food businesses

efficiently--at the local level and between states," Sawyer explained.

The passage of Senate Bill 2386 reflects North Dakota's commitment to supporting small businesses and recognizing the unique challenges faced by military families. By embracing modern commerce practices, the state provides military spouses at Minot AFB with enhanced opportunities to thrive as entrepreneurs, fostering economic growth and personal development within the community.

"This law not only impacts Minot Air Force Base spouses, it helps those working small businesses that want to sell interstate commerce (across state lines)," said Kramer. "It means a military spouse at Minot knows the community cares and we are here to listen and help. Minot isn't Minot without Minot Air Force Base. We care and are here to help no matter how big or small the task is."



Brekka Kramer, Minot Area Chamber Economic Development Corporation CEO (left), and Jenetta Sawyer, a 91st Missile Wing military spouse and home-based baker in Minot (right), pose for photo under the Great Seal of North Dakota at the State Capitol Memorial Hall in Bismarck, North Dakota. Kramer and Sawyer worked hard together to make this grassroots initiative come to fruition in the last hour.

COURTESY PHOTO

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A LOOK BACK

THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

USAF AIRLIFTS FOOD TO NETHERLANDS DURING OPERATION CHOWHOUND

MAY 1-8, 1945

During WWII, the Third Air Division and the Royal Air Force began a humanitarian effort to feed starving citizens in the German-occupied Netherlands. Named Operation Chowhound for the Army Air Forces and Operation Manna for the RAF, the joint effort brought nearly 11,000 tons of food to millions of civilians. Lt. Col. Henry Cervantes recalled, "The agreement with the German area commander required that we stay under 500-feet, remain within strictly mandated corridors, and not carry gunners aboard our B-17s." The mission was a daring one, given that the Germans could attack at any given moment if any of the planes were to stray from target drop areas. However, they were successfully able to drop much-needed rations to the people of the Netherlands. In return, aircrews were greeted with messages of thanks plastered across tulip fields and grateful civilians waving Dutch and American flags. Operation Chowhound saved countless lives from starvation and many of the service members involved would remember it as one of the better memories of WWII.

Information courtesy of: Operation Chowhound by Stephen Dando-Collins / 100thbg.com

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# Mouse River Player's “The Play That Goes Wrong”

Everyone is familiar with Murphy’s Law right? If it possibly CAN go wrong, it WILL? Now imagine what Murphy’s Law might be like if someone decided to create a play based on that idea. This is the premise of Mouse River Player’s Community Theatre’s final production of the season, The Play That Goes Wrong by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields.

Welcome to the opening night of the Cornley Drama Society’s newest production, The Murder at Haversham Manor, where things are rapidly going from bad to utterly disastrous. The members of the Cornley Dramatic Society are an earnest group of amateurs whose performance is the victim of unfortunate circumstance. From an unconscious leading lady and a corpse who simply can not play dead, to actors who trip over everything including their lines, and a set subject to unforeseen mishaps, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through to the final curtain call. The humor of this farce hinges on the troupe’s unwavering endeavor to carry-on, the bad choices made in trying to get out of the situations they find themselves in, and their overwhelmingly optimistic belief that their luck will change.

Director Brittany Montez has brought together a seasoned group of actors to bring this award-

winning comedy to our local stage. Each of the actors is tasked with playing not one, but two characters, as they create a show within a show in portraying Cornley Drama Society members as well as the various roles of the 1920’s murder mystery. Wealthy Charles Haversham (Marcus DuPona) has been discovered murdered on the night of his engagement party to society darling Florence Collymoore (Nicole Swain). Attending family members Mary Collymoore (Amanda Lindstrom) and Cecil Haversham (Edward Montez) as well as the family butler Perkins (James Fisk) become suspects when the local police detective Inspector Carter (Cris Gifford) is called in.

Once the mystery play is underway, it is up to Stage Manager Annie (Lisa Michels) and the company’s lighting and sound technician Trevor (Connor Donovan) to hold the show together, both figuratively and literally with the assistance of their backstage crew (Justin Anderson, Ella Bartholomew, Wardah Husain, Michael Merchant, and Lauren Westphal). The question becomes, will Murphy’s Law win out over dedicated enthusiasm?

Show dates for The Play That Goes Wrong are May 9-11 and 16-18 with Friday and Saturday performances at 7:30. The Sunday matinees start at 2:00. Tickets for the production are on sale now through our online ticket service or by calling 701-838-3939. Seats may also be available at the box office on the day of the performance. Adult general admission is still \$15, with Students, Seniors, and Military members at \$13. Children 12 and under are \$10. Please note that there is some crude language and slap-stick style violence within the show.

Sounds like fun? Make sure to go online to [www.mouseriverplayers.com](http://www.mouseriverplayers.com) and click on “purchase tickets” to assure your reservations for this global phenomenon guaranteed to leave you aching with laughter while you see where the chips (and more) may fall!







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# OUTDOOR

## REPORT



by Patricia Stockdill

### FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, April 21: 1,830.91 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 18,100 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,449.63 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.54 MSL.

•N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: Look for a mix of salmon and walleye along the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Missouri River continues producing walleye. Lake Metigoshe still has ice on the main lake and no boat activity. No reports from Devils Lake.

•Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Lake still had ice on the main lake early in the week but continued walleye activity from shore with most anglers still working around the bridges.

•Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Lake Audubon generally slow for walleye. Not many reports from Lake Darling.

•Lake Darling, Upper Souris Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Foxholm: No new reports.

•Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Not much activity with no boat access yet as lake has ice with some open water shorelines. Try shore-fishing for pike along the docks or bridges.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Fair to good for walleye in 7 to 8 feet using jigs and plastics or minnows on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Try any of the north shore bays as well as the east end embankment along U.S. Highway 83. Missouri River tailrace continues producing walleye from boats. No reports from Lake Audubon.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Try jigs and minnows around any of the north shore bays on the east end of Lake Sakakawea, including 7 Sisters on the main lake. Shore-fishing for pike becoming more hit-and-miss. Look for walleye activity

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://www.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.



- May 1: Paddlefish snagging season opens. Go to the N.D. Game & Fish Dept. website, ([gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)), for regulations and tag purchase.
- May 2 through 12: Audubon Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge Migration Game, Interpretive Trail north of Visitor Center in celebration of May 10 World Migratory Bird Day. Free self-guided hikes along trail with educational games at each kiosk. Located a mile east of U.S. Hwy. 83 along the south shore of Lake Audubon.
- May 3: MonDak Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation banquet & N.D. elk tag raffle, Upper Missouri Valley Fairgrounds, 519 53rd St. E., Williston, 5 p.m.
- May 11: Light Goose Conservation Order (hunting) ends.

### TOURNAMENTS:

- May 10: Devils Lake, Woodland Resort.

around the pumping station on the north end of Lake Audubon while its lake levels come up with pumping from Lake Sakakawea.

•Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Van Hook Arm producing a few walleye but spawn is getting underway so look for slower activity until post-spawn lull ends.

•Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace continues producing walleye activity from boats and shore with good numbers of small walleye around the spillway channel. Also try down river. Bigger fish coming from the chutes at night.

Better walleye activity from shore is from the wings or boat ramp area in the evening. Increasing boat activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea with fair walleye success using jigs and minnows. Most activity is along the north side of the lake. Try smelt or herring for pike from shore.

•Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston:

Continued walleye activity on the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers but water is still muddy. Most walleye seemed to have spawned. Try slow presentation with minnows. Work 10 feet and shallower with jigs and minnows or plastics around White Earth Bay for walleye on the upper end of Lake Sakakawea. Lewis & Clark State Park and White Earth Bay ramps usable. Lund's landing low water ramp slated for cleaning to provide access. Trenton Lake producing some crappie activity.

•North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Not much activity on area lakes yet.

### TURKEY HUNTING:

•Birds generally active yet with fair hunter success.

### 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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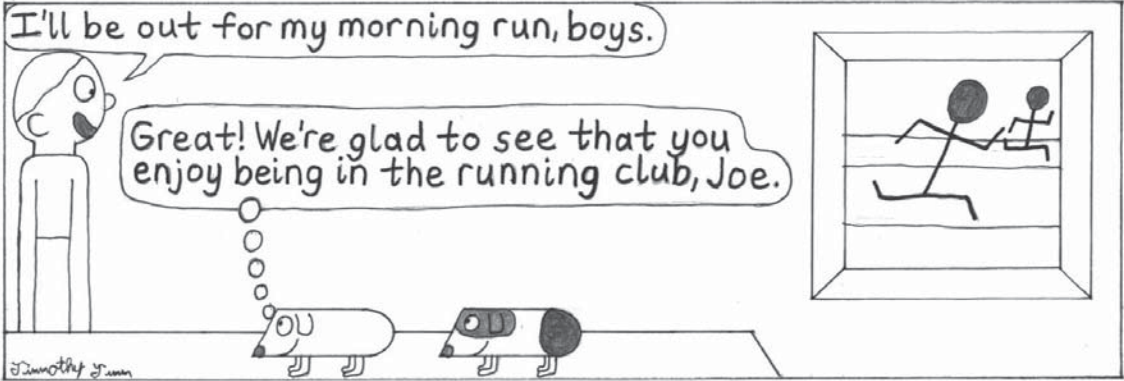
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TITUS & PHILEMON Everyday adventures of Titus and Philemon and their owner Joe.



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.

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

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MINOT AFB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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

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# 2025 DoD Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey



SAMANTHA MENDOZA, GS-12, USAF  
PRIVATIZED HOUSING RESIDENT ADVOCATE  
5TH BOMB WING



The FY25 Department of Defense (DoD) Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey is now open and will run through May 1. This survey gives Minot Air Force Base housing and dorm residents (*new this year*) the opportunity to provide valuable feedback that directly impacts the future of military housing.

Residents have two options available to obtain and complete a survey:

1. CEL and Associates, Inc will send out surveys via your Air Force email or the one on file with the leasing office. The message is from AirForceHousingSurvey@celassociates.com and is good for completion of one survey.

2. Use the QR Code to request text notification of survey availability.

The survey results help Department of the Air Force leadership and project owners identify areas for improvement, ensuring the long-term sustainability and quality of housing for service members and their families. All responses are **completely confidential**. CEL & Associates, the independent firm conducting the survey, will handle all responses, and no identifying information will be shared with the Air Force.

This feedback is essential in shaping the future of base housing/dormitories. For any housing concerns or questions, residents can contact the **Resident Advocate** at 701-818-7075 or on Facebook at **Minot AFB Resident Advocate**.



U.S. AIR FORCE

**It's time for the FY25 Department of the Air Force's Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey. Are YOU In?**

**Opt-In from your cell phone now to receive your Survey via text message.\***



U.S. phone numbers only at this time

The survey is being conducted online and is being administered through a third party, CEL & Associates, Inc. (CEL). All households living in privatized, or government managed Air Force Family or Unaccompanied Housing are invited to participate in the survey, and this is your opportunity to provide feedback on your housing and community. Households will also receive the survey via email but only one survey per household can be submitted or room/bed for Unaccompanied Housing. All surveys submitted are confidential and anonymous. For more information contact your Military Housing Office or management office for privatized housing.

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0704-0553 OMB EXPIRATION DATE: 05/31/2025



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## NORTHERN CELEBRATIONS

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### TIME TO "CAMP" – EVEN FOR A DAY

**Patricia Stockdill**

Mark May 1 on the calendar – it's the first day parents can register their children for a variety of day camps at Lake Metigoshe State Park.

Is your 8-year-old fascinated by fish? Or does that 15-year-old want to fly a drone or learn the basics of driving an off-highway-vehicle (OHV)?

Is there a young history buff in the family?

That's just a few of the one-day, outdoor-themed educational opportunities held June through August at the park north of Bottineau.

The hands-on activities are designed based on age level, described Lake Metigoshe State Park Outdoor Education Coordinator Amy Schimetz. Originating in 2017, day camps were created to get young people into the outdoors, focusing on outdoor and environmental education.

The program has expanded over the years. For example, the park collaborates with Metigoshe Ministries – Camp Metigoshe to offer children 13 through 16 years of age a chance to hone their high climbing skills on Camp Metigoshe's high ropes course. "Campers can push some personal comfort zones and do some team building 30 feet above the ground," Schimetz exclaimed.

Many Day Camp participants return the following year for a different activity within their age group or continue as they get old enough to attend camps for the "big kids". "Last year Lake Metigoshe State Park had our day camps come full-circle as we had a day camper from years ago work in our entrance station as a seasonal employee," Schimetz added. "Participants continuing to register also inspires us to create various opportunities to entice them back and continue feeding their interests and increasing both their knowledge and skill."

The "Fly & Pedal Camp" is collaboration between the park and Dakota College of Bottineau allowing 13 to 16 years of age to develop their piloting skills through guided flight practice and flight games with drones as they learn safety protocol and FAA drone operation regulations.

It also includes Recreation UAS Safety Test (TRUST) certification for them to legally fly drones. In addition, those Day Camp participants wrap up the day by biking the park's trails.

All camps except OHV certification provide participants some beach time by spending the end of the busy day along the park's Lake Metigoshe beaches.

Lake Metigoshe State Park Day Camp schedule and details:

- June 18: Gone Fishin', 7 and 8 year olds, \$35, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- June 19: Paddle, Pedal, & Archery Camp, 9 through 12 years of age, \$40, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your own bike and helmet, if possible although the park has a limited number available, if needed.
- June 25 or June 26: OHV Certification & Ride, 13 to 16 year olds, \$40, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- July 9: Wildlife Camp, 7 and 8 year olds, \$35, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- July 10: Survival Skills, 9 to 12 years of age, \$40, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- July 16: Critter Scene Investigation, 9 to 12 years of age, \$40, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- July 17: High Ropes & Archery: 13 to 16 years of age, \$65, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- July 30: Pioneers, 9 to 12 years of age, \$40, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- July 31: High Ropes & Paddles, 13 to 16 years of age, \$65, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Aug. 6: Eco Fun & Games, 7 and 8 year olds, \$35, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Aug 7: Fly (drones) & Pedal: 13 to 16 years of age, \$40, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your own bike and helmet, if possible although the park has a limited number available, if needed
- Aug. 13: All About Owls, 7 and 8 year olds, \$35, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

N.D. Parks and Recreation Department day use entrance pass or a 2025 annual pass (good for all North Dakota state parks) is required for park entrance.

Registration for all of the day camps begins 9 a.m. on May 1 online, (<https://bit.ly/LMSPShowClix>), which also more details. Day camp fees include snack and lunch. Parents can also contact Amy Schimetz, Lake Metigoshe State Park, (701) 263-4514, or email ([aschimetz@nd.gov](mailto:aschimetz@nd.gov)) with any questions.



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# WHAT'S GOING ON MINOT AFB

FRIDAY25

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Bootcamp, 0900, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Pre-Teen Late Night, 2000-2200, Youth Center
- Operation Megaphone Teen Lock-In, 2000-0800, Youth Center

SATURDAY26

- Zumba, 0800, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Intro to Paint, 1500-1700, Arts & Crafts Center

SUNDAY27

- Sunday Escapes Book Club, 1330, Minot AFB Library

MONDAY28

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Bootcamp Express, 0545, McAdoo Fitness Center
- TAP Overview, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Junior Enlisted Foundation Course, 0800-1600, Professional Development Center
- Bootcamp, 0900, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Palace Chase/Front Briefing, 1400, Professional Development Center
- Cycle, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Zumba, 1800, McAdoo Fitness Center

TUESDAY22

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Run Fast, 0600, Dome, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- TAP (VA) Services and Benefits Briefing, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Junior Enlisted Foundation Course, 0800-1600, Professional Development Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center — Room 211
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Zumba, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Run Far, 1900, Dome, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center

WEDNESDAY30

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Bootcamp Express, 0545, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP (DOL) Overview Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Junior Enlisted Foundation Course, 0800-1600, Professional Development Center
- Bootcamp, 0900, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Pre-Deployment/Remote Readiness Training, 1000, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- SkillBridge Brief, 1000, Education Center — Room 211
- Money Storytime, 1030, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Submissions Close: 2025 Air Force Art & Photo Contest, 1200, [forcesupport.awardsplatform.com](https://forcesupport.awardsplatform.com)
- Yoga, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Glow Skate Party, 1530-1730, Youth Center

THURSDAY01

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Informed Decision Seminar, 0800-1200, Professional Development Center
- TAP DOL Employment Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Junior Enlisted Foundation Course, 0800-1600, Professional Development Center
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center — Room 211

FRIDAY02

- Registration Ends: National Golf Day Tournament, Rough Rider Golf Course
- TAP DOL Employment Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Junior Enlisted Foundation Course, 0800-1600, Professional Development Center
- Fun Fri-yay, 1600-2100, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

SPECIALS

Bomber Bistro Featured Item  
**Banh Mi Sandwich**  
Marinated pork with a slaw and sriracha mayo sauce on a hoagie roll!

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item  
**Southwest Chicken Breakfast Burrito**  
Bell peppers, onion, black and pinto beans, eggs, cheese, and seasoned potatoes!

Rockers Bar & Grill Featured Item  
**Harvest Salad**  
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