



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK:



A LEGACY OF VALOR: GROWING UP IN A MILITARY HOUSEHOLD

A5



PCS SEASON IS HERE: WHAT THAT MEANS FOR YOUR PPM

B6



\$110,197 RAISED FOR TEAM MINOT AT PRAIRIE WARRIOR AUCTION

B1



A warm welcome home for 118 traveling veterans to Minot International Airport, Minot, N.D., March 28, 2025. The mission of the Honor Flight Network is to transport America's veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honoring those who have served and sacrificed for our country. See page A3 for more on the trip.

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



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May Squadron of the Month

5th Logistics Readiness Squadron



The 5th Bomb Wing Command team would like to congratulate the 5th Logistics Readiness Squadron on being selected as April's Squadron of the Month. The 5th Logistics Readiness Squadron oversees five flights in 11 facilities executing a full range of logistics support for two wings. The 400 LRS Airmen deliver full spectrum logistics support to the 5th Bomb Wing's 27 B-52 strategic nuclear bombers and the 91st Missile Wing's 165 Minuteman III Interconnectional

Ballistic Missiles and launch control centers. In addition, they provide key support to the 54th Helicopter Squadron's eight Huey (UH-1) helicopters that provide close air support for two-thirds of the nuclear triad. LRS is driven by empowered, innovative, and resilient Airmen focused on communicating effectively and fostering excellence through continuous process improvement to deliver world-class logistics!



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EVENTS THIS WEEK

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FOREST RAY - LIVE MUSIC
Sunday, May 4 at 9:00pm

\$6 HAMM'S & GRILLED CHEESE
Tuesday, May 6 at 4:00pm

TRIVIA NIGHT
Wednesday, May 7 at 9:00pm

FREE NACHOS
Thursday, May 8 at 4:00pm-Close

NEW AGE PHONOGRAPH - LIVE MUSIC
Friday, May 9 at 8:00pm

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Welcome Home Heroes

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

“It was absolutely amazing” according to Western Honor Flight board member Jim Weaver. “It was a pretty good show” added banquet Emcee and Western Honor Flight board member George Masters. “I couldn’t believe the number of people that packed the airport” said Minot Mayor and Task Force 21 member Mark Jantzer. They were all talking about the hero’s welcome for the Western Honor Flight as it returned to Minot on Monday night. One member of the more than 1,000 gathered to welcome

home the over 118 veterans who returned on the chartered Allegiant plane said “WOW! Has the airport ever been this crowded?” Everyone on hand was already talking about the possibility of another Minot based honor flight next spring. “For the veterans, the flight is completely free. We go out and get sponsors to pick up the over \$160,000 in expenses for this flight” according to Masters. “They have already scheduled back to back flights out of Bismarck this fall, and we’re pushing hard to

have another Minot flight” said Weaver. In DC the trip went off as planned, right down to the banquet speech delivered by Lt. General Bruce “Orville” Wright. The honor flight was also greeted by Congresswoman Julie Fedorachak and now Secretary Doug Burgum. Col Jesse Lamarand, 5th Bomb Wing Command added “Thank you to all who made this happen! I am humbled and honored to see these veterans get the welcome home they deserve!”



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



Veteran Doug Hanna with Lt. General Bruce “Orville” Wright. Hanna still works at Minot Air Force Base.

GEORGE MASTERS PHOTO



Lt. General Bruce “Orville” Wright.

GEORGE MASTERS PHOTO

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A VIEW FROM OUR SIDE ROD WILSON

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It seemed so easy...you just scan the QR code on the sign, which takes you to a web site so you can sign up for both the silent auction and the live auction.

Hey folks, The Prairie Warrior Auction took place last Thursday night at the North Dakota State Fair Center, and I knew that after wandering past a few of the items that were on the silent auction, I would need to get registered for the online bidding system.

After I walked up to the table where the registration sign was, I was having issues getting my phone on the same page as me. A young Airman who obviously was assigned to help folks like me walked over and offered his assistance. Getting assistance from someone younger is pretty common for me, I have 4 grandkids who have a variation of tablets, iphones and Apple watches. For us grandparents the common joke is "if you are having trouble, ask your grandkids."

I had tried several times to use the QR code to get to the Prairie Warrior Auction web site, and was wondering why they couldn't have used those bidding sheets, like they

used to at silent auctions. "Well," the young Airman explained to me "this allows for everyone to be bidding on the silent auction items from their seats, while also enjoying the live auction."

At that point in time, I felt rather ignorant. But the young Airman just smiled and said, "we'll get this" with a tone of encouragement. Sure enough, we went through the steps together, but I have to be honest, I did hand him my phone a couple of times to speed up the process. Dang! Can those young kids type on a cell phone. Once the registration was complete, we went to a different screen and got my "Live" auction number, which another Airman wrote on a bidding sheet for me. I told the young Airman, "Hey thanks for your time," and he in turn said "I enjoyed working with you. Take care and I hope you get what you want tonight."

That really gets me to the point of my article this week. I am always, and I really mean always, impressed with the quality of the Airmen I meet at Minot Air Force Base. Not only at the Prairie Warrior Auction, but it starts at the gate when you enter Minot Air Force Base. While checking your ID card they give you a smile and wish you a great day, even on those days when it's below zero and the wind is blowing creating one of these "North Dakota only wind chills."

You might say "well Rod, that's what they are told to do" and I will agree. But it certainly would be easy to have a bit of a chip on your shoulder when weather conditions are extreme, and I am pretty sure

Big 'A' Airmen

that not everyone who drives up to the gate is having a Grade A day. Still, hats off to the folks at the gate for extending what we call North Dakota nice.

And then there was the older lady stopped on the side of the road on Highway 83, with her flashers on and a look of despair. It took me a bit to turn around and head back to where she was parked, but before I got there a couple of cars had already stopped. You probably guessed it. They were Airmen from Minot Air Force Base stopping to help. They were dressed for a trip to Minot for the evening, and it was certainly not comfortable standing out in the wind and cold. Soon it was determined that it would be wiser to provide a ride to Minot rather than attempt to fix the car out on the highway. I ended up providing the ride, but only after the Airmen offered their assistance.

AND FINALLY...A SHOUT OUT

I have often said that working for the Northern Sentry and being given the opportunity to meet and interview the Minot AFB leaders and Airmen is perhaps the best job I have ever had.

We know that Minot AFB has the largest number of first term Airmen in the Air Force. These Airmen do a great job and represent the Air Force and Minot Air Force Base well.

Because of the nature of what the Northern Sentry does on base, we work hand in hand with a group of Airmen assigned to Public Affairs. Our friends from PA (as we refer to them) are the liaison between the Minot

AFB and the Northern Sentry. Over the past 12-18 months the world has started to change, and so has the mission of the Minot Air Force Base. The group that is responsible for communicating the mission of Minot AFB to the community of Minot and surrounding communities, is Public Affairs. And they do that job so very well. Looking at the quality of the product including editorial and photos that they produce every day, it is top notch!

Yeah, a shout out to this group of professionals who do their job so very well. Not to say that others don't, but we are so very fortunate to have these folks on speed dial when we need information. Unfortunately, like almost every facet of the Air Force, these folks PCS out approximately every 2 years. That's the bad news. The good news is that we will soon get to meet someone new. It's kind of humorous as we struggle to learn the new person's names and where they are from. But soon they'll stop calling us Mr. and refer to us by our first names.

BEST KEPT SECRETS

Well it has to out to Bogey's this week...comfortably located in the downstairs area of Whisky Nine. The menu and the atmosphere are different from Whiskey Nine (still open), so stop on down for what is described as "the best damn Happy Hour in town!"

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.

Organic farming in North Dakota

Several elevators now exist within the state that handle 100 percent organic grain.

Consumer demand drives this, according to OFRF and the organic agriculture market is projected to grow another 28 percent through 2029 because of that demand and interest in climate-resilient agriculture.

Eighty-six percent of North Dakota consumers purchase organic products, which is well above the national average. It's a simple equation, consumer demand is far outpacing local supply.

Part of that drive is that over the past 10 years, the North Dakota Department of Agriculture has promoted the growing and use of organic products. Pride of Dakota Holiday Showcases promote organic agriculture and organic products made from those farms. Traditionally, the Ag Department has also reimbursed farmers and ranchers for some of the costs associated with organic certification.

Supermarkets in the state have also made it a point to get a slice of the organic pie. Nearly all of the major supermarkets in North Dakota, Leevers Foods, Hornbacher's, Cash Wise, Family Fare, Marketplace Foods, Target,

Walmart and Natural Grocers, have all increased their organic product lines.

These local increases in wholesale and retail has prompted the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to award more than \$2 million in grants to the state's research institutions for organic research, which translates to more than \$40 million in economic activity.

North Dakota State University has played a crucial role in organic agriculture, investing more than \$1.3 million in research on organic farming since 2021 that directly answers farmers concerns.

Dakota College at Bottineau has also been involved in organic research, but it is somewhat limited in its scope, catering primarily to its horticulture department and its partners.

One cutting-edge research project, according to OFRF, is investigating the scalability of already identified effective water – and bio-based mulch systems as an alternative to plastic mulching, which is an important system in organic production.

The Agricultural Research Service has historically funded eight projects in the state researching organic topics, but none of them are currently active.

Nationwide, organic research and growth continues to explode at a rate of 20 percent annually. Fruits and vegetables from California, apples, cherries and garlic from Washington, blueberries from Michigan, okra and sweet potatoes from the Carolinas and would you believe, organic cattle and beef from Hawaii, are all part of a nationwide push to meet robust consumer demand.

The Florida Department of Agriculture is also involved in serious research in organic oranges and orange products, as well as organic strawberries and tomatoes. These are major agricultural export products from the state of Florida and studies are looking at increasing shelf life of these products without jeopardizing flavor since strawberries and tomatoes, at least, will spoil faster than their conventional counterparts.

Certified organic farming is not new in North Dakota. It's been around for at least 52 years and some of those pioneers who started the trend are either still farming or are advising younger farmers on how to be better organic producers.



UPSIDE DOWN UNDER MARVIN BAKER

There's some new data from the Organic Farming Research Foundation that outlines the state of organic agriculture in North Dakota. Although our state lags behind the national average of organic farming and processing, there are some solid numbers that should be explained.

To start with, there are 113 organic farms in North Dakota encompassing 106,000 acres. That's down from it's all-time high of 142 farms. But those farms and 69 separate organic businesses generate annual sales of \$19 million.

The top crops coming from those acres include spring wheat, buckwheat and hay. Numerous other lesser known options exist here including cattle and sheep, poultry, grapes and vegetables.

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A Legacy of Valor: *Growing Up in a Military Household*

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS WESLEY DAVIES, 5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.

Growing up as a military child is a unique experience. From an early age, you understand your family is part of something greater than itself. When your parent is serving their country, there's a deep pride that comes from that. Life in the military can feel chaotic at times, but there's also a strong sense of stability—and that combination shapes your character in powerful ways.

My dad enlisted in the Navy in 2004 before I was born, and has spent nearly 21 years serving our country while providing for our family and way of life. Being raised around sailors and Marines, I always saw the military as a natural career path—one where I could serve my country, just like my dad, and support a future family of my own.

When I was 11, my dad was stationed overseas in Italy and I was thrust into a completely unfamiliar culture. At the same time, the presence of American traditions on base created a unique balance. When we were in Italy, I did my best to stay active on base with extracurriculars like clubs, sports teams or even just skating with the friends I had made.

I was a part of the base swim team for several years and although it wasn't my first choice and I wasn't Michael Phelps, being a part of the team helped me grow. Practices were rarely easy, and though I didn't appreciate it at the time, those hard practices made the easy ones that much more rewarding; not to mention the fact that my skill in the water increased every day.

Over a couple of years, I had gone from barely knowing how to stay afloat to consistently competing in meets and eventually making it to a couple of championship meets. One of the best parts about being on a sports team overseas is that regardless of whether it's a school sport or a club sport on base, there was often the chance to travel to other countries to compete with other schools or bases. Being a part of a team and working towards a goal helped me mature and traveling to other countries helped me become more independent, all from a younger age than I would've been able to if I was in the States.

During our time overseas, I made some of the best friends of my life—friends who have stayed close despite the hundreds of miles and years between us. I've been incredibly fortunate to begin exploring the world at such a young age and gain a broader perspective on life—something that wouldn't have been possible without my dad's service to the Navy.

While I'm grateful for the opportunities and friendships, being part of a military family also comes with sacrifices. We've spent long stretches away from extended family, moved frequently and had to leave behind people and places we loved. Each new duty station



Airman 1st Class Wesley Davies (left), Hospital Corpsman First Class Corey Davies (middle) and Airman 1st Class Owen Davies (right) pose for a picture in front of a A-10 Thunderbolt II after graduating Air Force Basic Training.

brought culture shock and the challenge of starting over. But even in the most unfamiliar places, the support of family, new friends and a tight-knit military community made each new location feel like home.

The military has played a huge role in my personal growth. I wouldn't be who I am today without the people I've met, the places I've been, or the experiences I've had. It's given me a greater resilience to overcome hard times, greater flexibility in the face of change or adjustment and taught me social skills from the times my

family would move and start over somewhere new.

The military means different things to different people. For some, it's just a job; for others, a calling. For me, it's been a constant—something that has shaped my values, my perspective and the path I want to follow. Without my dad's service and the life we've lived because of it, I might have never seriously considered joining. But now, I see it not just as an option, but as a meaningful way to create my own path and carry on his legacy of service.



Airman 1st Class Wesley Davies (right) poses with his dad Hospital Corpsman First Class Corey Davies (left) during a Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps promotion ceremony.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Airman 1st Class Wesley Davies (left) and Airman 1st Class Owen Davies (right) pose for a photo as children.

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All About Pets

Treat your Pet with Fresh Food

Most pet owners have to deal with food beggars at some point in their lives, and it's pretty easy to understand why. Some people opt to train their pets to leave them alone during mealtime, but for some of us, the big eyes are just too adorable to turn down. While small amounts of certain table scraps may not be immediately harmful to your pet, it's still not recommended to sneak Fido a taste. If you want to treat your furry friend with something off your plate, here are some great alternatives to this morning's bacon and pancakes.

- Green Beans
- Carrots
- Melon (Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Watermelon)
- Apples
- Bananas
- Pumpkin
- Berries (Blueberries, Strawberries, Blackberries, Raspberries)
- Kiwi

- Pineapple
- Mango
- Pears
- Peas
- Eggs
- Celery
- Sweet Potatoes
- Unseasoned, Boneless Meats (Chicken, Turkey, Lamb, Salmon, Beef)

Many of these can be fed fresh, frozen, or cooked and can be used in bones or stuffed toys, as well as for training treats. Cats and dogs can consume many of the same fruits, vegetables and meats, but it's important to do your research before handing out random foods, and the same goes for rodents and reptiles. Many fruits and vegetables need to be unseasoned, peeled and de-seeded before being given to your pet. Don't forget to monitor your pet's reaction afterwards. Keep an eye out for vomiting, diarrhea, itching, or other allergic reactions. If your pet has a sensitive stomach, be sure to ask your vet before handing out new foods. And of course, moderation is key as too much can still lead to health problems.

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Birds eye view of just a portion of the Eiker Hangar.

Dakota Territory Air Museum:

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

The Dakota Territory Air Museum is appropriately located on the northeast corner of the Minot International Airport. The museum was started in 1986, which was Minot & Ward County’s Centennial according to one of the museum’s founder and longtime president Don Larson, and the Chairman of the Centennial Celebration was Ed Schmidt. “He asked me if I would serve as Chairman of the Aviation Days for the Centennial” recalls Larson, “he wanted us to put on an air show as part of the Centennial Celebration.”

Larson agreed to take care of that part of the Centennial Celebration, and he immediately formed a committee of other folks interested in aviation to work on the air show, and from that stemmed the idea “of maybe starting a museum” shares Larson “so I guess that’s kind of where it started from. We put together our corporate paperwork I the later part of 1986.” People who were interested in the air museum would include Alfred and Warren Pietsch and of course Don Larson.

“We were the incorporators of the corporation.”

It would take until 1989 for the first building to be built on the site, followed by the current front entry building in 1991. The next addition would not come until 2000 “and that addition came about because of Oswin Elker” says Larson “who grew up in Surrey. Oswin flew with the Flying Tigers over in China. After Oswin got out of the service he ended with a heating and sheet metal business in Rochester, Minnesota.” According to Larson Oswin would make a yearly visit to the Minot area to visit family he had in the area, including a niece that lives in Surrey. It was the niece’s husband who was pretty interested in aviation. They would visit the Dakota Territory Air Museum “and show him (Oswin) what the museum was trying to get going, and he was really interested in what we were doing.” Oswin Elker ended up bringing some of his memorabilia from his Flying Tiger days to be displayed at the museum. “What he brought looked like brand

new” said Larson. The museum story would get a lot more interesting in 1994 when Don Larson received a call from Oswin from his home in Rochester. He had just received a diagnosis of cancer and was only given 6 months to live. Even though he would live another year and half, Oswin Elker would tell Larson that “he would like to give them a little money so they could get that thing (the museum) going up there (in Minot). The museum would end up getting \$325,000.00 from his estate when he passed away, which was huge. His donation couldn’t have been more timely. We were sitting at board meetings deciding who would have to kick in a few extra bucks to pay the utilities. We were really strapped (for operating money), it was touch and go” relates Larson. The money was used to build what is referred to as the Elker Wing, named after Oswin Elker, which would be added on to in later years. The original building was 100 feet by 100 feet, giving the museum a much needed 10,000

NOTES ON BEING SAFE

Fall Protection at Work and at Home - Ladder Safety



SSGT JOE VERGARA
5TH BOMB WING
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As summer arrives, many people will be working outside of their homes or summer residences.

In an average year, 93,000 American are injured while using a ladder. In fact, falls are the second leading cause of accidental death for Americans after traffic collisions.

When working off the ground in any capacity you need the right mindset. Always think about safety and the safest way to accomplish the task at hand. Don’t just jump on the ladder and go. Every time you use a ladder you need to inspect it, ensuring the base of the ladder is balanced and secure, the rungs are free from debris or liquids. If you are doing a high climb, it never hurts to have another person help balance the ladder - always error on the side of caution. Be sure to scan the work area for potential hazards especially if you’re near electrical power lines. Never use a ladder if you are overly tired, injured or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If you have any reservations about the climb - don’t do it.

When you begin to climb a ladder make sure that you make a three point climb and always face the front of the ladder, never climb backwards or sideways! For a lot of you climbing a ladder may be “old-hat” but you never know the moment when you will catch your toe and if your hands aren’t on the side rails, it will be nearly impossible to catch yourself. Lastly, keep your weight centered between the rails and walk one rung at a time. Climbing a ladder is all about balance and in addition

ladders are designed for the three point climb.

When climbing down a ladder the same three point climb applies. Balance is even more important on the decent. Make sure that you climb down one rung at a time and make sure that your foot is securely on the rung before moving the other foot. Visibility is more difficult on the way down and you may be carrying something that you weren’t on the way up.

Over the years there have been many fatalities caused through negligent ladder

safety measures taken by the user. Because some people have successfully used ladders in the past without problems, they develop the attitude that “it can’t happen to me”. How wrong they are? This is when things do go wrong, and being over confident can be true folly. There is no place in the workplace for a slack attitude as it not only endangers the life of the person with that attitude, but fellow workers as well. If commonsense is used in regard to safety, ladders can be an asset in the workplace. Safety really depends on the user.

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A Walk Through the History of Flight

square foot building. There would be another fund drive that would give the museum the funding it need to add on another 100 foot by 100 foot addition.

Then came the Texas Flying Legends and the arrival of the warbirds. “There were 2 guys from Houston, Texas. One guy in particular wanted to get into warbirds so he bought a P-51 Mustang from a Dr. Reichert in Bismarck, Dakota Kid II. He would bring that Mustang to our museum for about a month during the summer months. For many years he would take his Mustang from here down to Palms Springs.” It was a couple of partners Dr. Ed Bosarge and Bruce Eames that came to Minot with the intent of purchasing Dakota Kid II and having board member Warren Pietsch fly the plane in a couple of air show a year. The final destination for Dakota Kid II was always planned to be The Dakota Territory Air

Museum.

It was a desire by a couple of the partners in The Texas Flying Legends to display their airplanes in Minot during the hot summer days in Texas that eventually brought on the last building, The Flying Legends Hangar, now home to the fleet of warbirds that are mostly owned by Bruce Eames. “The Flying Legends Hangar was funded by half a million dollars from the City of Minot, along with 1.25 million dollars the ‘Texas Flying Legends’” says Larson. The building was dedicated on July 4th, 2013.

I shared with Don that my wife and I had been to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina just a few months back and we were able to tour the site of the Wright brother first flight. A replica of the Wright brothers Flyer plane, built by volunteers, is owned by and displayed in the Dakota Territory Air Museum. “How the Wright brothers Flyer came

about” says Larson “was quite a story in itself. It was built on the 100th Anniversary of the Wright brothers flight in 2003. It was a challenge because we worked with the Fargo Air Museum, and some Experimental Aircraft Chapters who had agreed to do some of the components for the Wright Flyer, and instead of making one, they made two and we assembled them in each of the museums.”

Operating capital for the Dakota Territory Air Museum is raised through their annual sweepstakes that gives the lucky winter a chance to win an airplane. A limited number of tickets are sold “and the sweepstakes continues to be extremely popular. A majority of our operating money comes through that sweepstakes” says Larson. “A majority of our planes have been donated to museum.”

So, has the museum been what Don Larson had dreamed it could be? “Oh, so much more” Larson says with a smile.



Don Larsen stands in front of the Wright Brothers Flyer. It is an exact replica of the original plane flown at Kitty Hawk.



Outside display of Dakota Territory Air Museum.



One of many planes housed in the Flying Legends hangar.



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Car care checklist for summer road trips • Part 1

It's time for a drive vacation. You mapped a route, booked hotels, and made a checklist of things to do before you go. AAA reminds you to also make car maintenance part of your summer road trip preparation. Use this car care checklist to ensure your vehicle is ready for summer travel.

Check tires and tire pressure

Inspect all four tires and, if you have one, the spare tire as well. Look for cuts, gouges or sidewall bulges. Insert a quarter upside down into grooves to check tire tread. If you see the top of George Washington's head, it is time for new tires. Check tire pressure when the car has been idle and tires are cool. Inflate as needed to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended pressure. You will find it listed in the owner's manual and on the sticker of the driver side door jamb. Do not use the number on the tire sidewall.



Listen to and feel the brakes

If you hear a grinding sound or feel a vibration when applying the brakes, take your vehicle to an auto repair shop for a brake inspection. A service professional will check the brake system for fluid leaks, and the pads, rotors, shoes and drums. If repair or replacement is needed, use the Repair Cost Estimator to help anticipate costs.

Secure and test the battery

Check the car battery to be sure cable connections are clean and tight, and the hold down hardware is secure. Have a service professional do a battery check to determine remaining capacity. AAA members may request a free battery check.

Top off engine oil and other fluids

Check that engine oil, coolant and brake, transmission and power steering fluids are at the correct levels for safe vehicle operation. When adding fluids, use products that meet the specifications listed in the owner's manual. Note that newer car models may have sealed automatic transmissions without a dipstick, and electric power steering that may not use fluid.

Replace wiper blades and replenish windshield cleaner

Rubber wiper blades naturally deteriorate over time. If wipers streak or fail to clear the windshield thoroughly, replace the blades. Fill the windshield washer reservoir with fluid formulated to remove insects and other debris, and test to make sure the nozzles spray adequately.

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- Known as the "kings and queens of swing", Siamang Gibbons move in the trees by hand over hand swinging, a locomotion known as brachiating.
- With an arm span of almost 5 feet, their arms are 2 ½ times the length of their body.
- A Siamang Gibbon can grasp and carry things with both their hands and feet.

Fact File	
Life Span	25 - 30 years
Weight	17 - 28 pounds
Height	30 - 36 inches
Wild Diet	Omnivore Carnivore Herbivore Fruits, Leaves, Small birds, Eggs, Spiders

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\$110,197 Raised for Team Minot at Prairie Warrior Auction

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC

Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC) is thrilled to announce that a total of \$110,197 was raised to support the personnel of Team Minot at the 2025 Prairie Warrior Auction on April 24. The funds were generated from a combination community and Minot AFB donated live and silent auction items, table sales, event games, and cash donations. The event was open to the public and cost \$25 per person, while active-duty military and spouses could attend at no cost.

“The Minot Area is incredibly proud of our friends at Minot Air Force Base, and the support shown by the community at the Prairie Warrior Auction is simply proof of how important to us the personnel are who live and work on base,” said Ryan Ackerman, 2025 MACEDC Board Chair. “We’re excited that so many individuals and companies are finding such creative ways to give back and are feeling optimistic that we’ll be able to beat last year’s record of sending people home to visit their families over the holidays. Thank you to everyone who made this year such a roaring success.”

Proceeds from the auction will be used to help squadrons

at Minot Air Force Base fund events, meals, and other morale-boosting activities aimed at improving day-to-day life for Team Minot through The Prairie Warrior Association. A portion of the proceeds goes directly to the Home for the Holidays program facilitated by MACEDC that purchases airline tickets for first-term airmen to go home and visit their friends and family members throughout the November and December holiday season. Over \$52,000 was raised through table sales and donations from Hess Corporation, Verendrye Electric Cooperative, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative for Home for the Holidays.

Verendrye Electric Cooperative was the event’s presenting sponsor for the third year in a row.

“Verendrye is honored to be the presenting sponsor as a way to recognize the sacrifices and hard work of our local military personnel and everyone on the Minot Air Force Base,” remarked Tom Rafferty, Chair of the MACEDC Military Affairs Committee and Verendrye Electric Member Services Manager. “We’re incredibly grateful to everyone who supported through item and



L-R: Tom Rafferty, Verendrye Electric Cooperative; Brad Doll, Verendrye Electric Cooperative; Col. James L. Schlabach, Commander 91MW MAFB; Col. Jesse W. Lamarand, Commander 5BW MAFB; Brekka Kramer, MACEDC; Ryan Ackerman, MACEDC

monetary donations, took the time to attend, and especially for the service members that serve our country and supported the event by crafting donations and volunteering their time. It’s because of you that we have such a great community and can continue to bring people together.”

“We’re consistently finding ways that we can help our military friends and neighbors feel at home and included the

community,” commented Brekka Kramer, MACEDC President & CEO. “Minot isn’t Minot without Minot Air Force Base, which is evident from the \$651 million economic impact of 2024, but it’s so much more than just the economic impact that makes Minot Air Force Base so special to the community. It’s about those who serve so putting on this annual event is just one way the community can give back and help.”

Military Support is one of the key pillars of the Minot Area Chamber EDC and is spearheaded by Keli Rosselli-Sullivan. Throughout the year there are many opportunities to get involved and support local military personnel through donations, volunteer opportunities, and more. To learn more, please reach out to Keli at keli@minotchamberedc.com or by phone at 701.852.6000.

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YOUTH IN ACTION

New Phone-Free K-12 Law Takes Effect August 1st 2025

House Bill 1160 passed the senate and the house last week. This bill requires all personal electronic communication devices to be stored away during instructional time in all North Dakota K-12 public schools. Governor Kelly Armstrong states, “This is a game changer for our public schools, giving students the freedom to focus on learning and to interact with teachers and friends without the constant tug of their cell phones and addictive social media” (<https://www.governor.nd.gov/news/armstrong-highlights-benefits-students-he-signs-bill-requiring-phone-free-k-12-public-schools>).

Conversely, what do our local leaders think of this new law? Superintendent of Minot Public Schools, Dr. Scott Faul, states, “Minot Public Schools remains dedicated to providing focused and engaging classrooms where students can grow academically and socially alongside their peers and teachers. I believe this legislation offers clear guidance for schools, families, and our community. There is still work to be done as we put this law in place for the 2025-26 school year.” Correspondingly, Mr. Larry



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



Derr states, “As Superintendent of Glenburn Public School, I fully support the new cell phone ban law for schools. This policy will help create a learning environment where students can stay focused, engaged, and free from unnecessary distractions. Over the past several years, we have seen firsthand how cell phones can interfere with academic performance, contribute to social challenges, and even impact student mental health. By limiting their use during the school day, we are prioritizing meaningful interactions, improving attention in classrooms, and fostering a safer, more respectful school community. I am confident that this change will lead to a stronger, more supportive environment where all students can thrive.”

It is no surprise that Dr. Faul and Mr. Derr have similar views, because their schools’ immediate operational goals match. The mission of Minot Public Schools is “to empower all learners to succeed in a changing world” and the mission of Glenburn Public School is “to provide a comprehensive educational experience through continued self-analysis in order to empower all students with knowledge, skills, and attitudes to meet the challenges of our changing world (emphasis mine).” The world is certainly ever-evolving politically, economically, socially, traditionally, culturally, and technologically; and now—through powering off—our local schools empower!

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Solution to last weeks
Crossword puzzle.

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

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Across**
- 1. "I've ___ Be Me"
 - 6. Anchor position
 - 11. Rolled dough?
 - 14. Israel's Sharon
 - 15. Popeye's rival
 - 16. "That's ___-brainer"
 - 17. Long Island UN headquarters from 1946-51
 - 19. Home of the NFL's Rams
 - 20. Loafers and pumps
 - 21. Decide on a dollar amount, in court
 - 23. "___ tu" (Verdi aria)
 - 24. Café au ___
 - 25. Whitman volume published in 1855
 - 31. Spring resort
 - 33. Kind of academy
 - 34. Razzle-dazzle
 - 35. Vittles
 - 37. Criticize
 - 39. Where many a strike is called
 - 40. Inuit relative
 - 42. Hindu gods
 - 44. Stitch
 - 45. Hugo classic
 - 48. Get under control
 - 49. Compete in a meet
 - 50. Real
 - 53. Dries completely
 - 57. Strummed instrument
 - 58. Dockers maker
 - 60. Drops on the grass
 - 61. End of ___
 - 62. Samantha of "The Collector"
 - 63. Airline to Oslo
 - 64. "The Maids" playwright Jean
 - 65. Arnaz, Sr. and Jr.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
						15						16		
14														
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		

- Down**
- 1. Guys' partners
 - 2. Vocally expressed
 - 3. Kon-___
 - 4. Cone on the plains
 - 5. Loser
 - 6. Basics
 - 7. Pampering, briefly
 - 8. Regrets
 - 9. What history often repeats?
 - 10. Mail fee
 - 11. Couldn't fathom
 - 12. Opposed
 - 13. Raggedy Ann, e.g.
 - 18. Pioneer mainframe
 - 22. Type of beer
 - 25. Bulletin contents
 - 26. Circumvent
 - 27. Last relief pitcher, often
 - 28. Three-time A.L. batting champ Tony
 - 29. Identical
 - 30. Brood
 - 31. Close tightly
 - 32. Faint
 - 36. Poison plant
 - 38. Maze runner
 - 41. Period between related events
 - 43. Shpoken thish way
 - 46. Unruffled
 - 47. Keep, as a pet bird
 - 50. Beer, slangily
 - 51. Home furnishings chain
 - 52. Square
 - 53. Jr.'s test
 - 54. Partner of kisses
 - 55. Morales of "The Real Thing"
 - 56. Georgia et al., once (abbr.)
 - 59. High dudgeon



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SRT Announces Scholarship Winners and Foundation for Rural Service Awards

SRT COMMUNICATIONS

Minot, N.D. – SRT has announced the 2025 winners of seven college scholarships totaling \$15,000, this year’s Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour student, and a \$2,500 FRS Scholarship winner. New this year, the SRT Board of Directors voted to nearly double the total dollar amount of scholarships given to students in the SRT service area.

The following six students each won a \$2,000 SRT General Scholarship:

- Josie Bryn (Rugby) – TGU Towner High School
- Alena Hall (Newburg) – Our Redeemer’s Christian School
- Cambel Johnson (Minot) – Minot North High School
- Melissa Kuhnhenh (Upham) – TGU Towner High School
- Rose Schiele (Balfour) – Velvea High School
- Wilson Wald (Minot) – Minot High School

Austin Lakefield of Mohall won the \$3,000 SRT Technical Scholarship. He will attend Valley City State University and study Career and Technical Education. “With more than 100 applications this year, we are thrilled to see such great reception from area students,” said Cassidy Hjelmstad, SRT CEO and General Manager. “Year after year, it’s incredible to see the outstanding community stewardship and scholastics, and SRT is so proud to support these

students in their next steps after high school.”

Additionally, a local winner of the \$2,500 FRS Scholarship has been selected. Tukker Fedje of Bottineau High School was one of 50 selected from a pool of more than 2,000 applicants nationwide. He intends to study Finance at the University of North Dakota.

Logan Weems of Newburg School will represent SRT at the three-day Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. this summer, an opportunity also provided by FRS. He will learn about the telecommunications industry, tour the nation’s capital, and meet with legislative leaders to discuss their experiences in rural North Dakota.

A panel of SRT Board Members and employees judged the applications on scholastic performance and achievements, as well as volunteerism and community involvement.

Students were required to write an essay discussing the ways technology has made community service or involvement more accessible.

The SRT Technical Scholarship can be awarded to a graduating high school senior or an undergraduate student currently enrolled in a two-year or four-year college. Applicants were required to submit volunteerism and community involvement, scholastic performance, and an essay describing how they can use their education and technology to reach rural and underserved populations. A letter of recommendation from a community member or educator was also required.

FRS Scholarship applicants were judged on scholastic performance and were required to write an essay about their intended field of study and how it could benefit their rural community.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Technical



Josie Alena Cambel Melissa Rose Wilson Austin

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Eastern Star - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00PM
Prince Hall - 2nd Saturday at 9:00AM



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MINOT NORTH

SENTINEL REPORT

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, FRESHMAN | MINOT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

BIG WINS AND TOUGH LOSSES ACROSS THE BOARD

It was a rollercoaster week for our high school sports teams as softball, golf, soccer, and baseball athletes competed across multiple games and tournaments with notable highs and hard-fought battles.

Softball Battles Back and Forth
The softball team had a dramatic series of games this week, beginning with a huge 12-4 win over Mandan, showing dominance at the plate and in the field. However, momentum shifted in the next game as they fell 4-10.

At a tournament in Dickinson, the girls bounced back strong, crushing Mandan twice with impressive scores of 16-5 and 17-4. The next day brought tighter contests. They lost a close one to Beulah, 9-14, followed by another nail-biter where they came up just short against Williston, 15-17. The team showed resilience and offensive power, preparing for competition ahead.

BOY'S GOLF SWINGS INTO THE LEAD

The boys' golf team had a standout performance against Watford City, finishing in first place overall.

Kasen Rostad led the pack with a stellar 132, earning 1st place individually.

Bennett Bartsch wasn't far behind, shooting a 139 for 3rd place.

Tyler Bast secured 9th place with a 146, and Kyler Weishaar followed closely in 10th place at 147. This dominance highlights the depth and consistency of the golf team this season

SOCCER STAYS COMPETITIVE

In girls' soccer, the team opened with a strong 3-2 win over Bismarck, proving their capability to edge out tough opponents. They then faced a setback with a 1-5 loss to Minot High, but quickly bounced back to fight Bismarck to a 2-2 tie in a hard-fought rematch. The team continues to show heart and grit, especially in close contests.

BASEBALL FACES CHALLENGING STRETCH

The baseball team began the week on a high note with a solid 9-4 win against Dickinson but struggled to maintain that momentum. They dropped the second game to Dickinson 5-10, followed by back-to-back losses to Century (0-5, 5-9). Against Williston, the team faced tough opposition again, falling 0-16

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and 4-9. Despite the losses, the team continues to battle through a difficult stretch and gain valuable experience. They are hard at work, practicing to come back soon.

UP NEXT

With more games on the horizon, teams will be looking to bounce back, capitalize on momentum and keep building through the season.



Baseball team shaking hands after a winning game.



Softball team ending a scrimmage on a good note

WDA SPORTS PHOTO



Golf team after their 1st place win



Soccer team celebrating and closing off a game

WDA SPORTS PHOTO




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Upcoming Events

2-4
MAY

**MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER
2ND BIRTHDAY!!!**
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Magic City Discovery Center,
1545 1st Street NW

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!

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

3
MAY

JUNKLOVER VINTAGE MARKET
9:00AM - 4:00PM
North Dakota State Fair Center,
2005 Burdick Expressway East

Hosted by: Granville JunkAholics
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7
MAY

BLUE RIDER TRIVIA
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
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.
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10
MAY

MOMS MIMOSAS AND MOCKTAILS
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
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Bring your mom, grandma, best friend or any other beautiful lady in your life to enjoy samples mimosas and mocktails!
Plus, new this year, sign up for a session of Yoga at the Fair building!
The instructor is from Ascend Wellness and mats will be provided by Trinity Gift Shop.
Cost is separate for this session. \$15. Sign up online at www.downtownminot.com.
Tickets for the walk are \$10 each. Must be +21 for mimosas.



**Moms
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PCS Season is Here:

KERRIANNE NOEL, NORTHERN SENTRY

It's about to be peak PCS season here in Minot. That time between May 15 and August 31 when the majority of military moves take place. What does this mean in light of the new Global Household Goods Contract (GHC)? Many at Team Minot may be relieved to hear, not very much has really changed at all.

After widespread coverage and more than one congressional inquiry directed at United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), which manages military moves, it was decided that a one size fits all approach would not be appropriate for the upcoming summer PCS cycle. On March 27, the Department of the Air

Force's Personal Property Activity Headquarters Advisory released PPA HQ-25-004, wherein they outlined the Air Force's updated plan for peak season moves. The verdict? A split approach. Some installations, mainly on the East Coast, will be fully participating in the GHC. Others, including those at Grand Forks AFB, Malmstrom AFB and Offut AFB, will operate through both the legacy system and the GHC. The largest category, however, includes Minot AFB, Ellsworth AFB, and, curiously enough, the home of USTRANSCOM, Scott AFB. These will be excluded from participation in the GHC through the end of peak season 2025, though the



It's PCS Season! And that means a plethora of rental trucks, PODs and other conveyances for personal property will be seen migrating to and from Minot AFB.

A LOOK BACK
THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

LT. COL. JOE JACKSON SAVES A
THREE MAN COMBAT CONTROL TEAM

MAY 12, 1968



Retired Col. Joe Jackson poses with a permanent Medal of Honor display at the Pentagon in Arlington, Va. (USAF Photo by Scott Ash)

During the Vietnam War on May 12, 1968, former Lt. Col. Joe Jackson was commander of an unarmed C-123 transport aircraft. The plane was flying an emergency mission in South Vietnam after a special forces camp at Kham Duc was overrun by the enemies, who were in complete control of the area. Over the radio, Jackson learned that a three-man combat control team had been accidentally left behind after the camp was evacuated. Jackson made the decision to respond and descended to the landing strip of the camp under heavy fire. After landing, enemy forces dropped a rocket near the plane, but fortunately it was a dud. Jackson was able to rescue the CCT and bring them to safety in Da Nang. Despite the amount of enemy fire during the rescue, the C-123 was found to have no damage or bullet holes upon arrival. For his heroism, Jackson received the Medal of Honor on January 16, 1969. He passed away on January 12, 2019.

Information courtesy of: af.mil

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What That Means for Your PPM

memorandum notes that this could change as capacity is ‘re-evaluated.’

What does this mean for families seeking the control that comes with a personally procured move or PPM? Those moving from a base that falls under the GHC will have their cost estimate calculated in the Milmove system and face significantly lower reimbursement rates as mentioned in a Northern Sentry Article dated March 6. Those who fall under the Tender of Service (ToS) or legacy system better known as DPS will have their reimbursement estimate calculated in that system, and may still benefit from a government-constructed cost that some feel better reflects the effort that goes into moving oneself.

Peak season reimbursement rates have historically been higher than non-peak rates due to a variety of factors. The larger volume of moves, mean scarcer industry resources such as rental trucks, packing supplies and labor. Another factor is the seasonal increase in fuel prices, linked, at least in part, to an annual switch to summer gasoline blends (yes, this is a thing.) These higher rates reflect real costs that service members incur while performing a PPM. Incentive payments (the difference between the government’s constructed cost and what it costs the member to move), reward the time and effort that goes into moving oneself, often while still performing primary duties at work. Those forced into an involuntary PPMs due to lack of contractor availability know this arrangement can be a necessity rather than a choice.

This is why some military families were alarmed when USTRANSCOM Commander General Randall Reed indicated in a March 5 House Armed Services Committee hearing that the new rates for 2025 peak season would be brought more in line with those under the GHC. In context, this comment had to do with eliminating an incentive for contractors to refuse to transition to the new system. However, this move would also impact the reimbursement families will receive for their PPMs in the legacy system. More information will come to light as new rates take effect this month. Thus far, evidence that peak season rates may be slightly lower than off season rates is still anecdotal. And as long as military families are not having to come out of pocket for their move, this may be a non-issue for many. It should also be noted that a lower peak season rate compared to summer of 2024 is to be expected when fuel prices, a major driver of cost, have decreased.

Regardless of these developments, members of Team Minot can rest easy knowing that whatever



All hands on deck! Getting moved out of base housing can be a whole family affair.

challenges the GHC had experienced during its transition phase should not be something they have to contend with during the upcoming summer PCS cycle. For those looking to put in the extra time and labor to move themselves, there are still benefits to cutting down on costs, but it will not be in order to stay financially afloat.

The key to success for those with an upcoming move will be the same as they have always been: get in touch with your local Traffic Management Office (TMO) as soon as they receive orders, accurately estimate the weight of household goods, and come up with an executable plan that stays within budget. Service members willing to take on the work of accomplishing their own move are an asset to the military during the busier peak season. Particularly in regions like Minot, where industry capacity for cross-country moves are more limited, they are part of what keeps the mission going no matter what

A quick internet search will turn up plenty of tips on how to efficiently conduct a PPM. Additionally, local Facebook groups can help identify vetted companies, packing materials, and labor. For



Life continues to happen as military families pack up their homes. Sometimes with new crawlers underfoot.

more information about PPMS, visit Military OneSource at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/tools/personal-property-resources/>

For more information about the on-going controversy surrounding the GHC, see the Northern Sentry’s previous article: <https://northernsentry.com/2025/03/06/new-global-household-goods-contract-sparks-controversy-amid-promised-reforms/>



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Capt. Knowles recognized as USSTRATCOM Company Grade Officer of the Year

SENIOR AIRMAN KENDRA A. RANSUM,
5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Air Force Capt. Shane Knowles, 91st Operations Support Squadron assistant director of operations and wing weapons officer, poses for a photo at the 91st Missile Wing headquarters on Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, April 23, 2025. Knowles was named U.S. Strategic Command's Company Grade Officer of the Year in recognition of supervising the wing's weapon system instruction programs and operations training for 240 crew and staff officers.

Knowles' duties include leading the wing's tactics program and advising the wing commander on tactics, techniques and procedures for intercontinental ballistic missile operations, security forces, helicopter crews and maintainers. A key initiative of Knowles' was reframing the mindset of training within the Weapons and Tactics shop and the Operations Group to increase preparedness and readiness in the era of Great Power competition.



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



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by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:
Lake Sakakawea elevation, April 28: 1,830.84 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 18,100 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.
Devils Lake elevation: 1,449.58 feet above mean sea level (MSL).
Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.58 MSL.
•N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No new reports from Lake Sakakawea, Devils Lake, and area north-central lakes.
•Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Minimal runoff coming into Devils Lake from area feeder channels. Anglers having to work on Pelican Lake for walleye success. Try the bridges from shore on Devils Lake, though, for walleye.
•Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Fair to good shore-fishing success from shore around the Grano area on Lake Darling.
•Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Try shore-fishing for pike with some walleye activity in the evenings but the lake still had some ice earlier in the week.
•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Water temperatures remain cool on the east end of Lake Sakakawea but weather permitting look for fair to good walleye activity in 7 to 8 feet using jigs and plastics or minnows. 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: Work shallow gravel points or locate shallow flats on the east end of Lake Sakakawea for walleye, pitching jigs and minnows or plastics in 2 to 10 feet. Also try Lindy rigs and minnows. Some nice fish showing up. Pumping water into Lake Audubon suspended until Snake Creek Pumping Station work completed. No reports of fishing success.
•Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Van

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), Facebook at (facebook.com/woodlandresortDL), telephone (701) 662-5996, extension 1, or email (woodlandresort@gondtc.com). They're located at 1012 Woodland Drive, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301.

- Paddlefish snagging season now open. Go to the N.D. Game & Fish Dept. website, (gf.nd.gov), for regulations and tag purchase.
- Lake Darling and Beaver Lodge Canoe Trail now open for boat fishing. Docks will be in place, weather permitting.
- 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 9 & 10: Evening Hike Series: Full Flower Moon Fairy Hike, 9:30 p.m. Friday and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison.
- May 11: Light Goose Conservation Order (hunting) ends.
- May 18: Spring turkey season closes.

TOURNAMENTS:
•May 10: Devils Lake, Woodland Resort.
•May 17: Lake Sakakawea, Lewis & Clark State Park; Devils Lake, Creel Bay.

Hook Arm slow for walleye with better success around the New Town area and farther west.
•Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace producing walleye from shore casting crankbaits in the evening and at night. Bite is somewhat inconsistent, possibly due to wind and weather. Look for some walleye success from the wing walls. Try spillway channel inlet from boats for walleye but overall success is somewhat limited. Better success at night in the chutes. East end of Lake Sakakawea producing walleye in the bays along the north shore. Try jigs and minnows or crankbaits. Look for the potential of some salmon along the U.S. Highway 83 embankment, as well.
•Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Missouri River lower than normal for paddlefish snagging season. Missouri and Yellowstone rivers muddy with slow walleye success. Look for some potential catfish activity, however. Try White Earth Bay on the upper end of Lake Sakakawea in 6 feet using jigs and minnows. Upper end is muddy after weekend rains. Boat ramp at Trenton Lake in poor condition and generally unusable. Try shore-fishing for crappie. Good pike numbers

from Epping-Springbrook Dam with a few walleye.
•North-central/central N.D. lakes, Townier Hdwe. Hank, Townier: Area lakes remain quiet. Not much activity on the Souris River around Upham.
N.D. RIVERS GAUGE HEIGHT AND STREAMFLOW (CONDITIONS CAN VARY RAPIDLY):
•Des Lacs River, Foxholm: Gauge height, 5.73 feet; streamflow, 14.3 cubic feet per second (CFS).
•Lake Darling, Foxholm: Gauge height, 96.51 feet.
•Little Missouri River, Medora: Gauge height, 1.66 feet; streamflow, 65.9 CFS
•Little Missouri River, Long X Bridge near Watford City, gauge height, 7.34 feet; streamflow, 98.6 CFS.
•Missouri River, Williston: Gauge height, 14.36 feet.
•Missouri River, Washburn: Gauge height, 8.96 feet.
•Souris River, Broadway Bridge, Minot: Gauge height, 41.33 feet.
•Yellowstone River, Cartwright: Gauge height: 63.76 feet.
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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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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THE “OFFICIAL” SPRING ARRIVAL

Patricia Stockdill

Yes, spring arrived on the calendar more than six weeks ago, well before an early April snow graced the North Dakota landscape.

Its arrival was well before light geese began trickling in before moving through en masse for their north-bound flight to Arctic nesting grounds.

And, yes, while many folks feel the first sighting of robins mark Day One of spring, there are others holding affirm conviction it's the arrival of another feathered friend signaling the true arrival of spring. For purple martin enthusiasts – and that's us – their arrival represents the official declaration of spring.

It's the sight and sounds of those few early arriving souls soaring high in the sky above their artificial housing structures; singing, chirping, trilling, and boisterously announcing they've completed their journey home for the summer.

Yes, they signal spring.

Like so many other wildlife species, they're smart and, while it's beyond human comprehension, they seem to know when it's OK to return north to nest early – as in mid-April depending on one's location. And they know when it's imperative to delay arriving at their destination later in to late April or even early May.

Granted, they occasionally get caught off-guard, much like the rest of wildlife and humans alike when Mother Nature throws everyone a curve ball in the weather.

Our location along Lake Sakakawea usually brings our martins back from their wintering grounds some 2,000 miles south sometime after April 15. Maybe they don't want to be around when income taxes are due or maybe they just know they could still get a blast of winter and wet, chilly spring weather.

Oftentimes the task of cleaning out their housing structures is undertaken about that Tax Day, mid-April timeframe.

While the dwelling structures we've chosen are large round artificial gourds hanging from brackets and a pole designed to be raised and lowered, others prefer the long-standing tradition of “apartments”. Opted for the gourds was simply because they're easy to clean. They also generate lots of questions from people when they see four or six round, white objects hanging from brackets on a pole, providing excellent opportunities to talk about the beloved

yard guests and perhaps piquing their interest enough to encourage others provide housing.

Oftentimes the first purple martin of the year seems to drop out of the sky from who-knows-where and who-knows-how-high-up, suddenly beginning their musical talent show.

How they know two humans are preparing their homes for occupancy is amazing but it seems it takes the cleaning of the gourds to entice their arrival.

But then again that might be our imagination and they're telling us we needed to get it done sooner.

At any rate, the martins are back, arriving – as usual – about the time their gourd homes were cleaned. At first it was the familiar chirp, heard but unseen. Then high in the sky, one martin made a rapid descent, soaring and sailing above a pole with four artificial gourds.

And a second martin appeared.

Next, more musicians joined in, heard but unseen.

Scanning the sky on the evening of their arrival, it seemed like there were four or five martins. But it was hard to tell as they flitted and flew and soared. A couple took a break from their aerial antics to sit on the bracket anchoring one of their gourds, watching us and then looking towards the sky as if to see if any of their family and friends made the same flight connections.

Martins are the largest member of the swallow family. Amazing aerial experts, they fly high in the sky catching their feast of insects.

Martins are sociable creatures, nesting in colonies. The Purple Martin Conservation Association says martins east of the Rocky Mountains rely on humans for housing, which is why things such as purple martin “apartments” or artificial gourds are used by dedicated martin enthusiasts to provide that necessary housing.

The gourds are modern plastic version of natural gourds once hollowed out and used by American Indians to carry things such as water.

They just happened to also work to put a gourd on a stick of tree, strap with sinew and because martins consume a huge amount of insects, the boisterous birds were welcomed.

Maybe those early providers of artificial housing also treasured their aerial antics and musical talents, just as we do today.

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WHAT'S GOING ON MINOT AFB

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

SATURDAY03

SUNDAY04

MONDAY05

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Yellow Belt Process Improvement Foundation Training, 0800-1500, Atomic Spark Innovation Lab, next to B-Fifty Brew
- Elevate Your Relationship, 1200-1600, Jimmy Doolittle Center, hosted by M&FRC
- Moving Out of the Dorms Budget Class, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Palace Chase/Front Briefing, 1400, Professional Development Center
- Intro to Crochet, 1630-1830, Arts & Crafts Center
- Writing Club, 1800, Minot AFB Library

TUESDAY06

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Yellow Belt Process Improvement Foundation Training, 0800-1500, Atomic Spark Innovation Lab, next to B-Fifty Brew
- Boots to Business, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- Elevate Your Relationship, 1200-1600, Jimmy Doolittle Center, hosted by M&FRC
- Quiet Book Club, 1800-1930, Minot AFB Library

WEDNESDAY07

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Boots to Business, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Pre-Deployment/Remote Readiness Training, 1000, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- SkillBridge Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Storytime, 1030, Minot AFB Library
- Brown Bag Book Talk, 1200, Minot AFB Library
- USO Special Delivery Baby Shower, 1600-1800, Jimmy Doolittle Center, hosted by M&FRC

THURSDAY08

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Pre-Separation Counseling, 0830-1130, M&FRC
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- Minot Myth Busters, 1045-1130, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center – Room 211
- Breakfast Quest Special Dinner, 1630-1830, McAdoo Fitness Center
- USO Coffee Connections – Military Spouse Appreciation Mandala Rock Painting, 1800-2000, Jimmy Doolittle Center, hosted by M&FRC

FRIDAY09

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- National Golf Day Tournament, 1300, Rough Rider Golf Course
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY10

- Defeat the Wizard's Curse, 1300, Minot AFB Library
- Book Edge Printing Class, 1300-1500, Arts & Crafts Center
- Mother's Day Bags, Bites, & Bingo, 1500, Jimmy Doolittle Center

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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