



WHATS INSIDE  
THIS WEEK:



CONNECTED  
BY FLIGHT

A2



TRIBUTE TO  
SERVICE

A4-A8



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FOR SUMMER

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MINOT AFB OUTDOOR  
POOL

B5

CAMPING WITH FRIENDS

B6



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# Connected By Flight

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

Life has a funny way of winding common threads through people that you meet. For Natalie Plavney, who works at Cornerstone Chiropractic, and Tanner Watts, a flight instructor at Minot Aero, and Coddie Samples, a B-52 co-pilot at the Minot Air Force base; the common thread was the inspiration and passion that they all have for flying.

For Natalie Plavney, the seed for her passion of flying was planted quite early in her life as she and her Grandfather, John Faulkner, would talk about his days as a B-24 pilot in World War II. John was a member of the 320th Bomb Squadron, and the 90th Bomb Group, self-proclaimed as “The Best Damn Heavy Bomb Group in the World” and flying the B-24 Liberator in the Southwest Pacific theater. “We talked about his flying experience, and I still have all of his flight and logbooks” says Plavney. And she still thinks about him when flying. But the seed that “Poppa”, how Natalie and her husband Scott Plavney refer to her grandfather, would not necessarily germinate right away. It would take a career as a first grade teacher in Texas, a move to North Dakota with husband Scott, and raising a family, before Natalie would finally decide that perhaps becoming a pilot may be something that she would like to do.

It wouldn’t take long for Scott to pick up the notion that Natalie may



Instructor Tanner and student Natalie getting ready for some time in the air.

want to pursue her private pilot’s license “after we kind of talked about me flying, it only took about a week for him to schedule my introductory flight at Minot Aero” and with that 30 minute flight Natalie knew she was all-in even though “I have never done anything

quite as scary as flying. So, I look at flying as doing something scary, safely. I did go skydiving once, but this was a whole new thing for me” says Natalie.

As fate would have it, her instructor at Minot Aero was fellow Texan Tanner Watts. They had a lot in common according to Tanner, “we talk a lot about the cold winters in North Dakota” he laughs “and being Natalie has been in North Dakota for several winters, and this was my first, she kind of coached me through it.” But conversation would bring out another thread in their relationship. Tanner’s wife, Coddie Samples, was a B 52 co-pilot at Minot Air Force Base. But first, Tanner’s story, and how he so quickly got bit by the bug of flying. “I was at the hospital one day, and I watched the medical helicopter land and take off. My Mom was a nurse at the hospital, and she pulled some strings and got me a ride along on the helicopter” and you guessed it...Tanner was hooked. “The experience was kind of like being on a magic carpet ride. The helicopter went wherever it wanted to” Tanner explains. That was almost 5 years ago, and before his now wife Coddie was assigned to Minot Air Force Base. But more on the Tanner-Coddie story later.

For Tanner finding an instructor position at Minot Aero was in his words “what I had hoped for.” Soon he would build his flight student base, which included Natalie, to around 20 “but really, there are only 5-7 that are really serious and fly as regular as Natalie.”

For Natalie, flying once a week, usually on weekends, is what her schedule allows. “I have a full-time job, and a family, so I am happy



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Natalie takes control in a Sunday morning flight.

with that schedule.” From flight instructor Tanner’s perspective “flying is not easy. It’s great if someone chooses to do it for fun. Most people would give it up with what they have to go through to become a pilot. But Natalie does it right. She prepares well, and she learns quickly” to which Natalie responds “Tanner is a great instructor. How he teaches is great. I don’t make a mistake. If I don’t do something right it allows the opportunity for a teaching moment.”

And now the story turns to now Capt. Coddie Samples. Certainly, she had the vision and was determined to fly? Coddie was commissioned into the Air Force in March of 2017. She was deployed to the Middle East as a Tactical Air Control Party, which means she was responsible for calling in air strikes. But yes, Coddie had a vision. The thought

of flying one of those planes “made me think, why not me?” she says. And sure enough her journey to flying a B 52 began in 2021. She and Tanner met at a flight school in Santa Teresa, New Mexico in 2021. Coddie was getting her private pilot’s license and Tanner was working at the school while “knocking out my pilot training” according to Tanner. Fast forward and Coddie will end up qualifying for Air Force flight training. After flight training, her first flight in the Flight Training Unit would be almost 7 years after she was commissioned, on March 12th of 2024. Just 6 short months after that flight, on September 17th of 2024, she would make her first flight as a qualified co-pilot of a B-52. That’s certainly a lot of ground to cover in just 3 years. In the Air Force there are only 2 B-52 bases, and so Tanner and Coddie packed up

and headed north after Coddie was assigned to the 5th Bomb Wing, and the 23rd Bomb Squadron at Minot AFB.

For Tanner and Coddie, there is certainly a commonality in their careers, but there is also a time “when we just leave it on the table” says when referring to their conversations about flying. Coddie will fly a B-52 mission on the average of once a week and “I am pretty sure we’re going to be in Minot for a while” which is good news for Tanner, albeit none of the three, Natalie, Tanner or Coddie are particularly crazy about the winters in North Dakota, but it seems that all 3 have taken the cold weather in stride.

For the Plavney family: Scott, Natalie, Scout (graduating this weekend from Minot North) and Aaron (7 years old and nicknamed AJ). Minot has been, and probably will continue to be home for a while. Scott works for Hess, and well, Natalie still has a few flying hours to log before she hangs the Private Pilot License plaque on the wall.

The common thread of a love of flying is what ties these 3 pilots together. They all took different paths to fulfill their vision(s) of being a pilot. From a first time flight on a medical helicopter, to a seed planted by a WW II B-24 pilot, to a “maybe that could be me” thought: Tanner, Natalie and Coddie certainly connected by flight. And none of them are looking back, only ahead to what life as a pilot brings for them in the future.



Coddie at Barksdale Air Force Base during her first Flight Training Unit flight on March 12th, 2024.



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# I’ve Never Been, But I’d Love to Go



**SHE’S NOT FROM AROUND HERE**  
AMY ALLENDER

I love visitor guides. When we travel, I’m the person who scans the brochure rack in the hotel lobby. I’ll read the guide cover to cover and relay any fun facts I find. At national parks, the pamphlets handed through the window upon entry are never relegated to the floorboards or that crevice between the console and seat. I carefully read those, too—ready to dazzle fellow passengers with my newfound knowledge.

This is who I am. I don’t recall a time I didn’t read tourist literature on trips. In college, while studying abroad, I became our group’s unofficial guide. My knack for devouring brochures and my willingness to ask locals for honest opinions made me a natural fit for the job.

But if I’m being honest, the travel guides I love reading most are the ones geared toward the place I call home. If there’s fun to be had right under my nose, I want to know about it. And that’s exactly what visitor bureaus are for—uncovering and publicizing all the fascinating things we have

at our fingertips. You may not always be able to travel far, but you can always be a tourist in your own town and state.

Months ago, I picked up the 2025 North Dakota Travel Guide. It’s been sitting in my nightstand ever since, with a pen and highlighter tucked inside as a placeholder. When I have a spare moment, I read a few pages—highlighting anything that strikes me as interesting. The goal? Learn more about what our state offers and build a mental rolodex of places I’ve yet to explore.

With summer upon us—or at the very least, summer break from school—I thought I’d share five attractions that caught my eye while flipping through the guide. These are places I’ve never been but hope to visit this season. Maybe they’ll inspire your summer plans, too.

**1. LEWIS AND CLARK RIVERBOAT – BISMARCK, ND**

This charming riverboat has a Mark Twain vibe and offers public cruises on the Missouri River from May through September. Cruises last 90 minutes, are family-friendly, and include a meal—either dinner or Sunday brunch. This looks like a one-of-a-kind experience I’d like to try at least once while living in North Dakota.

**2. LUND’S LANDING – RAY, ND**

Lund’s Landing is a full-service resort on Lake Sakakawea with a restaurant, cabins, tipi camping, and an array of lake rentals. I’ve heard rumors of legendary juneberry pie, gorgeous scenery, and unbeatable hospitality. I’m

curious to see what the hype is all about.

**3. WILLISTON WATER WORLD – WILLISTON, ND**

With our beloved Roosevelt Park Pool closed for the summer, I’m on the lookout for other pools and waterparks around the state. Williston Water World, set to open July 15, 2025, is one I’m especially excited about. The plans look promising, and I’m eager to see how it compares to Raging Rivers Waterpark in Mandan.

**4. JAMESTOWN, ND**

I’ve never been to Jamestown, but the number of circles it earned in the travel guide tells me I need to go. Attractions on my radar include the Jamestown Reservoir, Frontier Village, the National Buffalo Museum, and of course, seeing the giant buffalo in person.

**5. LONE BUTTE RANCH – GRASSY BUTTE, ND**

The opportunity to stay in a handcrafted cabin on a working cattle ranch, right on the edge of the North Dakota Badlands? Yes, please. While we love Medora, I’d love to experience the Badlands from a new perspective.

North Dakota is full of hidden gems waiting to be explored—and you don’t have to go far to feel like you’re on an adventure. So grab a travel guide, a highlighter, and see what sparks your curiosity. You might just discover your new favorite getaway is right down the road.

Want more ideas for loving your life in North Dakota?

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“Last summer our family had a blast at the Badlands. We’re already looking forward to discovering new places in the coming months.”

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A VIEW FROM OUR SIDE  
ROD WILSON

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My wife opened the door at CashWise foods and deposited her Saturday morning grocery purchase in the car, and asked “there are a couple of ladies in their selling poppies, should I go back and get some?” My answer was “of course” and then my mind slipped back to my young kid days when two of the ladies I knew from my small town would have a table set up in front of our grocery store and they were selling poppies. Out of curiosity I asked Mrs. Rice one day “what are these flowers for?” She answered with a very somber and stern look, “well Rodney (everyone called me Rodney when they wanted to get my attention), these are poppies, and we sell them because we are remembering our heroes.”

So why poppies? The tradition of selling poppies, particularly the red poppy, is deeply rooted in remembrance of war, and the men and women who served, especially World War I. It is a way to raise funds for veterans and their organizations. The practice began with organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion Auxiliary distributing poppies in exchange for donations. Today, these organizations, along with others, continue to distribute poppies, with proceeds going to

support veterans’ needs.

The red poppy is common on the many battle fields in Europe. Lt. Col John McCrae is given credit for bringing the red poppy to light in his poem, In Flanders’ Field:

*In Flanders fields, the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below*

There is also a Memorial Day tradition of releasing poppy flowers from a ship to commemorate those who died at sea during the WW I and WW II. In Minot, flower petals are released from the Veterans Memorial Walking bridge located on 8th Street NW. During the ceremony, Taps are played to honor the dead. For many years my son played Taps at this ceremony. The reverence is certainly amplified by the usually calm and quiet of the early morning as the sound of the bugle rings down the riverbanks.

There is also a Memorial Day ceremony at Rosehill Cemetery. Last year Col. Benjamin Jensen was the speaker and as over 1300 headstones of Veterans are decorated.

A TRIBUTE TO MY FRIEND

I am often asked “where did you learn to write, Rod?” And I will answer with a smile, “Well I haven’t learned to write, but there’s still time, right?” One would assume that a journalism major, which I was in college, is the same as a writer, you know someone who can sit down and tell a story on paper. However, this is not always true. There is a certain flair to telling a story through the pages of a book, or even a paper, and my friend, Marlan Hvinden, had that flair.

Marlan and I grew up in

the same town, Maddock, North Dakota. Marlan lived in a big house on the corner kind of across from the school. I would have to walk by the Hvindens on my way to and from school each day. As it is with every small town, you kind of know pretty much everyone in town, even though they may be a bit older than you. Marlan was about 15 years older than I was, but he and my older brother worked together at the local newspaper shop helping to produce the Maddock Standard.



Marlan Hvinden,  
My Friend & Mentor

I really got to know Marlan when we both attended the University of North Dakota, where Marlan had enrolled to get his journalism degree. He was one of those older than average students which were common in those days as many Vietnam vets were enrolled at UND after their tours of Vietnam were over.

After graduation Marlan would move to Garrison and eventually become the editor of the McClean County Independent. Fast forward a few years when Marlan and a couple of other writers started Dakota Country. That is when I realized the difference between Marlan, the journalist, and Marlan the writer.

His stories in Dakota Country kept you engaged, all the way to the end. In reading what Marlan wrote, because he was my friend from college, I quickly learned how to tell a story, not just write a story. Marlan was great on going

beyond the facts and combining life happenings.

Another fast forward would bring you to several of Marlan’s projects after he (sort of) retired. Who would have thought that Marlan would write a historical book entitled “Justice Was Swift... Tales of the Old West?” But he did. I forgot to mention that he met and married the perfect wife, Nancy, who is also a great writer. Together they formed Hvinden Publishing. Perhaps my favorite book, one that Marlan signed, and that I will cherish forever is “The Heroes Next Door- Stories about Benson County WW II veterans.”

Every story in the book is truly special. Ordinary folks, that were heroes, and now many of them have since passed away, but because of Marlan and Nancy Hvinden, their stories did not.

If I am a writer and not just a journalist it is because of Marlan Hvinden. Through the books he wrote he mentored me, even though he didn’t know it. I did have a couple of chances to visit with Marlan this past year. He had moved into an assisted living center in Grand Forks. We shared stories and he signed a few of his books for me. He even wrote something personal in the front of the books, humorous memories about his time in Maddock.

Marlan Hvinden left us on May 15th. The world lost a great journalist, and storyteller. Left behind though, are his books. Thanks Marlan...your passion for telling a story is certainly preserved in the books you wrote.

BEST KEPT SECRETS

Make sure to put a trip to the Peace Garden on your to-do list this summer. It’s a great day trip, and the perfect picnic stop for your family.

TODAY’S CHUCKLE

Beware of politicians with a lot of drive. They’re constantly shifting positions.



Entrance to the North Dakota Veteran’s Cemetery in Mandan.



Veteran’s Grave Adorned For Memorial Day.

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**This Memorial Day, we  
remember those heroes  
who courageously gave  
their lives for our  
freedom.**

A silhouette illustration of a soldier kneeling in a gesture of respect next to a fallen comrade. The fallen soldier's helmet and rifle are visible. The background is a solid orange color, and the entire scene is set against a white background.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR



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A graphic for Memorial Day. The background is a light blue field with a pattern of small, faint stars. A large, stylized American flag is positioned on the right side, with its stripes and stars flowing upwards. In the center, there is a row of thirteen dark blue stars. Below them, the words "MEMORIAL DAY" are written in large, bold, red capital letters. Underneath that, the words "REMEMBER AND HONOR" are written in smaller, dark blue capital letters. At the bottom left, the word "northernsentry" is written in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller font, is the text "MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER | WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM".

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# MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

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# Jewelry Meets Meaning



HOPE ANDERSON

Have you ever found yourself scrolling through social media, spotting a trend that makes you wonder, Why don't we have that here in Minot? That's exactly what happened to Brooke Jensen in 2022 when permanent jewelry started popping up on her feed. She was intrigued and inspired.

With a natural creative flair, Jensen knew she could master the art. So she took the leap and launched Permachain, bringing the trend to life right here in Minot.

So what is permanent jewelry? It's a custom-fit bracelet, anklet, necklace, and more that's tailored to your perfect size, adorned with charms, beads, and elegant embellishments. Then, instead of a clasp, Jensen expertly solders the ends together, creating a seamless piece designed to be worn 24/7.

For Jensen, it's about more than the jewelry. "The best part of what I do is building real relationships," she says. Her warmth, skill, and genuine care have created a

loyal following, many of whom return again and again, often bringing friends and family to share in what's now known as the "Permachain experience". It's a bonding moment that leaves everyone with a special, lasting piece to remember it by.

What started with permanent jewelry has now grown into a full-fledged fine jewelry studio. Permachain also offers handmade and custom metalsmith pieces, fine jewelry, and a build-your-own charm bar, making it a destination for one-of-a-kind beauty and

creativity.

You can explore Permachain's stunning work on Instagram (@permachain), Facebook, or at permachainfinejewelry.com. Her social channels are full of reels, photos, and updates to inspire your next timeless piece.

Last year, Jensen planted deeper roots in the community by opening her first brick-and-mortar studio at 100 Main St S in Downtown Minot (access via the north side on 1st Ave S). The space is warm and inviting—perfect for a girl's day out, a meaningful gift moment, or simply treating yourself.

Appointments are encouraged, and walk-in hours vary, so be sure to check social media for updates.

For Jensen, this isn't just a business. It's a passion. A promise of craftsmanship, creativity, and care. Whether you're celebrating a milestone, marking a memory, or just want to feel a little more like you, Permachain is the place where jewelry meets meaning.



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UPSIDE DOWN UNDER  
MARVIN BAKER

Did you know North Dakota has at least a dozen cold cases with one of them that dated back to 1945.

According to the attorney general’s website, there are actually 13, with one of them, the Anita Knutson case in Minot, recently in the news with a trial in Grand Forks. Nichole Rice who was on trial, was found not guilty.

But there are 12 others that remain open, but with few, if any leads who may be responsible. One of them that is shrouded in mystery since it happened in 1991 is the homicide of Joseph Anderson, 69, a prominent businessman from Jamestown.

On Sept. 12, 1991, Anderson had attended a Ducks Unlimited banquet. It was the last time anyone would see him alive.

Four days later, police were notified of a suspicious car in

the Gladstone Inn parking lot. The car appeared to have blood stains and a foul odor and may have been there since Sept. 14, according to hotel employees.

The car was Anderson’s 1979 Buick Riviera and his body was discovered in the trunk. He was only in his underwear and was wrapped in a green sheet that was later found to be from his home. His home was investigated, but didn’t appear to be disturbed. It remains unknown to this day what the actual cause of death actually was.

But an autopsy revealed that due to his stomach contents, he died within hours of eating at the banquet.

Anderson was a self-made man and was successful in business. He invented and had a patent for a hay grinder. He began manufacturing it in Minot in 1966 and moved the Haybuster Manufacturing plant to Jamestown three years later.

At the time of his death, he was looking at opportunities outside North Dakota and the plant employed 100 people. Although the timing remains unclear, the plant was later sold to the Vermeer agriculture equipment line.

As you might imagine, all sorts of rumors circulated around this

case for several years following the homicide. The police have said very little about this case and the attorney general’s website only shows a summary of what happened.

Several news reports have been published since the murder, but have been basically anniversary items that were regurgitated from original press releases.

The only other thing we can say positively about this case is that Anderson’s brother has offered a \$10,000 reward for information in the case.

And, if anyone knows information about the Anderson case not already published, they are asked to contact the Jamestown Police Department at (701) 252-2414.

Following are the other cold cases across North Dakota, according to the attorney general’s website:

Larry Phebus, March 27, 1963, near Alexander; Lora Jean Dugan, April 30, 1972, near Medora; Daniel Erick Johnson, June 27, 1974, near the Minot Air Force Base; William Wolf Jr., Aug. 20, 1978, near Kragnes, Minn.; Barbara Louise Cotton, April 11, 1981 in Williston; Clifton Wendell Marsh, Oct. 1, 1981, near Devils Lake; Kristin Joy Diede and Robert Michael Anderson,

Aug. 26, 1993, last seen in Wishek; Ronald Johnson, Nov. 6, 1994, near Dunseith; Sandra M. Jacobson, Nov. 16, 1996, in Bismarck; Russell Turcotte, Nov. 5, 2002, also near Devils Lake.

Local law enforcement agencies continue to investigate cases long after the case appears to have gone “cold,” using every resource available. If an agency has exhausted its resources, it may consider submitting a case for review by the state’ cold case unit. The unit considers a

submitted case against a list of criteria, including whether there is new evidence to justify filing charges, or new information is now available.

It’s not just a formality. Sometimes cold cases are solved. One of them happened in Jamestown, Sept. 19, 1945 involving Margaret Roeszler, who was shot and killed in her workplace.

That case was solved four years later involving a confession. We’ll have more on that case next week.

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Go Beyond the Flight



# Sensational SUMMER Photo Contest

There's just something magical about a North Dakota summer. Maybe it's the short season, or maybe it's the sunshine we've all been waiting for—but whatever the reason, summer here is truly special. It's the perfect time to fish, swim, hike, boat, or just enjoy the great outdoors.

Let's celebrate this season by capturing it!

## Enter the Sensational Summer Photo Contest

and show us your best moments under the North Dakota sun.

**We're looking for photos of:**

- Backyard fun with the kids
- Splashing at the base pool or playground
- Adventures in Medora or Teddy Roosevelt National Park
- Camping in ND's State Parks
- Family outings at the State Fair or a local baseball game

If it shows summer joy in North Dakota, we want to see it!  
**\*Selected photos may be featured in the Northern Sentry newspaper and/or on our Facebook page.**

So grab your camera and soak in the season—we can't wait to see your summer through your lens!

# WIN \$100 CASH

### How to Enter

Submit your photo and who/what/when/where description on our website by using the QR code



- CONTEST DETAILS:**
- One winner will be selected at random from all entries
  - Each photo submitted counts as one entry (limit one photo per person per day)
  - Contest runs from **Memorial Day to Labor Day 2025**
  - Winner will be notified by **email in September 2025**
  - Photos must be taken in **North Dakota during Spring/Summer 2025**
  - By entering, you grant the Northern Sentry permission to use your photo in print, online, and promotional materials
  - **Open to Minot AFB assigned members and their dependents only**



CROSSWORD  
SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks  
Crossword puzzle.

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

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Across**
- 1. It might interrupt a sentence
  - 7. Clowns, at times
  - 15. Declined
  - 16. Clearing
  - 17. Go places
  - 18. Disgraces
  - 19. United in a cause
  - 20. They don't persevere
  - 21. Bad marks
  - 22. Sudden jet
  - 24. "Ah"
  - 25. Anew
  - 27. Work on the street
  - 28. Writes
  - 29. Infatuates
  - 30. "A to Z Mysteries" kids' books author \_\_ Roy
  - 31. Son of, in Hebrew names
  - 32. Settled (down)
  - 36. Deli choice
  - 41. " \_\_ with a View"
  - 42. Overjoyed
  - 43. Some mil. personnel
  - 44. Part of a Yale cheer
  - 45. Asian wrap
  - 46. More than just pause
  - 48. Eponymous Dutch explorer
  - 50. Pithy pitch
  - 51. Barley tea
  - 52. "Spanglish" costar
  - 53. Fixes
  - 54. Completed the bill
  - 55. Gaucho gear

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					

- Down**
- 1. Chihuahua and Campeche
  - 2. James's costar in "Destry Rides Again"
  - 3. Speech
  - 4. Counsels
  - 5. Old blade
  - 6. Remains true
  - 7. With 36-Down, "The Village" actor
  - 8. Improvement
  - 9. Understand
  - 10. Punkie, e.g.
  - 11. Congregations
  - 12. Former Mexican president Zedillo
  - 13. Fall back
  - 14. Smart alecks
  - 23. Puppet
  - 26. Relevant, in law
  - 27. Uses for a month, say
  - 29. Splash
  - 31. Semitic god
  - 32. Bach's "Christen, ätzet diesen Tag" is one
  - 33. Like some formal entrances
  - 34. Mope, say
  - 35. White German wine
  - 36. See 7-Down
  - 37. Waters near Byrd Land
  - 38. Immovable
  - 39. 1966 Supreme Court case notable
  - 40. Not a good reception
  - 42. Curia \_\_; Papal offices
  - 44. Narrow-minded sort
  - 47. Pigeon tail?
  - 49. "Darling, Je Vous \_\_ Beaucoup"



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### CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD

(2025) Action, Adventure, Superhero, Sci-Fi (PG-13)

### A COMPLETE UNKNOWN

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# Splashing Into Summer: Opening Day Set for Minot AFB Outdoor Pool

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

As temperatures rise and summer approaches, Minot Air Force Base has announced the official opening of its Outdoor Pool on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. The pool will once again serve as a central hub for summer recreation, fitness, and family-friendly activities for all individuals with base access.

The Outdoor Pool will operate Tuesday through Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The facility will remain closed on Sundays and Mondays. Hours may be adjusted in response to weather conditions or safety requirements.

The pool is funded through Appropriated Funds (APF), because of APF, all military members and dependents can swim for free! This does not happen at every GSC or even all AF bases, so make sure and take advantage of the free swimming all summer!

To keep safety top priority, a minimum of five certified lifeguards will be on duty at all times... All lifeguards are trained in emergency protocols to ensure a prompt and effective response to incidents.

To help life guards prevent fatigue and maintain alertness, 10-minute breaks will be implemented each hour. Water quality is closely monitored, with testing conducted prior to opening at four corners of the pool and every two hours during operation. Additionally, the 5th Medical Group's Bioenvironmental Engineering team conducts monthly inspections to ensure compliance with all health and safety regulations.

### SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS

- Children 10 years and under must be directly supervised by someone 16 or older.
- That supervising person:
  - Can watch no more than 3 children total.
  - Of those, only 2 may be under age 6.
  - Must have:
    - American Red Cross Babysitting Training certification

on file.

- Written parental authorization to seek emergency care.
- Parent contact info on hand.

- If they do not meet those conditions, the supervisor must be at least 18 years old.

### UNATTENDED YOUTH (AGES 11-13)

Children aged 11 to 13 can be left unattended only if they pass a basic swim test:

- Swim 12 meters
- Tread water for 1 minute
- Exit the pool without using a ladder

If they pass:

- Their name is logged in a swim test book

- They receive a wristband every visit for the rest of the season (no need to retest)

**YOUTH AGES 14-15** can attend alone but are not eligible to supervise younger children.

**YOUTH AGES 16+** with Red Cross Babysitting certification and parent authorization, are eligible to supervise a maximum of 3 children. Of those, only 2 may be under the age of 6.

Only United State Coast Guard (USCG) approved flotation devices are permitted, patrons can determine if a flotation device is USCG approved by looking for the USCG Approved Number on the flotation device. Free USCG approved life jackets are available upon request to support safe swimming, especially for children and novice swimmers. Non-toilet trained children must wear swim diapers while at the facility.

According to Mrs. Renatta Molioo, 5th Force Support Squadron (5 FSS) Community Services Flight Chief, there is currently no snack bar available this year, but food from 5 FSS facilities such as the Bistro and Rockers is permitted within the pool area. Patrons are encouraged to bring refreshments and to help maintain cleanliness. Proper swimwear is required, and alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited. For hygiene and safety,

only water shoes or flip-flops are allowed on the pool deck—no sneakers or street shoes.

The facility also offers lap swimming on a first-come, first-served basis, with designated lanes available throughout the day.

In the case of inclement weather, updates and closures will be communicated via the Minot AFB Outdoor Recreation and 5 FSS Facebook pages. If lightning is detected within 10 miles, the pool will automatically close, and will only reopen 30 minutes after the last observed thunder or lightning strike. In situations where lightning is within 3 nautical miles, locker rooms will serve as shelter for patrons.

Plans are also underway to offer special events, including a potential dorm-only pool party designed to engage the younger Airman population. Final details for such events will be released once confirmed.

With a strong emphasis on safety, accessibility, and building community connections, the Minot AFB Outdoor Pool is prepared to kick off another memorable summer season. Whether patrons are looking to swim laps, enjoy time with family, or simply cool off, the facility stands ready to welcome them.

For the latest updates, guidelines, and event announcements, follow Minot AFB Outdoor Recreation and 5 FSS on Facebook.



Siblings Tripp, Charlie and Renny Lorie enjoying the kid area of the Minot AFB Outdoor Pool which allows younger guest an area of their own.



Minot AFB Outdoor Pool is a great way to stay cool and fit this summer with two lap lanes and a kid area for younger guest.

## NOTES ON BEING SAFE

### SPRING CLEANING POSES ITS OWN HAZARDS



SSGT JOE VERGARA  
5TH BOMB WING  
NCOIC OCCUPATIONAL  
SAFETY



One of the best times of the year is approaching us. Spring showers awaken the earth and calls forth new life. The birds will be chirping, the days will be longer and the trees will be in full bloom. It's also a dreaded time of year; spring cleaning!

Spring cleaning is a great time to get rid of clutter that was building up during winter, as well as getting rid of those winter time blues.

Whether you're tackling the spring cleaning or doing your weekly cleaning routine, it's important to use the cleaning products safely, especially if you have young children or pets. Be sure to read the label and use as directed, store them as directed and dispose of the empty contents safely.

Here are some spring cleaning tips:

- Make a list of things you want done.
- Schedule your family garage clean out. Create sufficient storage for all the summer equipment you may want this summer. Store all the winter stuff away.
- Inspect, clean and repair outdoor furniture.
- Clear away any remaining dead foliage and weeds from beds and lawn to make room for the new growth and it will also protect the new growth from damage and diseases.
- Wash the windows inside and out, to include the screens.
- Take down all draperies and window treatments to clean and vacuum.
- Change out the seasonal clothes. Set aside the ones the children out grew or the ones you

no longer wear for a garage sale.

- Clean out all of your closets and storage areas. Set aside those items that are not used any more to save room for new items.
- Spring clean your barbecue grill. Be sure to check for leaks and cracks and ensure propane tanks are properly stored

Remember, working safely in and around your home will not only keep you out of the emergency room, it can keep you from becoming the next Darwin Awards Winner!

Happy Spring Cleaning!

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# Summer Camping with Friends

KERIANNE NOEL, NORTHERN SENTRY

When planning a memorable North Dakota summer, there are many who embrace the great outdoors. And for camping, hiking, and fishing, North Dakota parks certainly do bring their ‘A game.’ However, for those who are newer to camping, in a season of smaller children, or living that single life, venturing into the great outdoors may feel like something that is outside of their comfort zone and simply too overwhelming. While camping is a chance to experience peace and solitude, it can also be an opportunity to share the planning and preparations with others. This summer, why not give group camping a try!

The first consideration is location. One of the most popular camp sites near Minot AFB is Fort Stevenson State Park. The simplest way to make reservations is online. Their web site allows one to easily see the sites, dates of availability and the amenities offered at a particular location. When camping with a group, this reporter highly recommends the modern group camp sites along the West and Middle Loops, which include electricity and water hook-ups that can accommodate multiple individuals or families, to include at least one RV per site. Sites 95 and 98 are particularly scenic, offer pleasant views, and are a short downhill ramble away from the water. With just over an hour’s drive from base, a beach, boat ramp, and many seasonal events, Fort Stevenson makes for a perfect first North Dakota camping experience. Visitors planning a trip to the park should also be sure to check out Ye Olde Malt Shoppe in Garrison for a delicious sweet treat, and to grab a photo with Wally Walleye to round out their visit.

For those not ready to fully invest in their own equipment, Minot AFB’s Outdoor Recreation is the perfect stop for most camping essentials, which can be rented on a daily, weekend, or weekly basis. These include cook sets, camping chairs, Coleman stoves and lanterns, as well as cots, sleeping bags/pads, and both 4 person and 8 person tents. For those who prefer not to rough it inside a tent, Outdoor Recreation has pull-behind campers, which can be rented for as little as \$100 a day, with discounted rates for weekend or weeklong rentals. A perk of camping with a friend group is that it can be very easy to divide and conquer, with regard to supplies. Someone is always bound to have an extra cooler or chair they can share.

Nothing will ruin a camping trip faster than planning poorly for meals, where space and convenience both need to be considered. It’s usually best to let each individual or family handle their own beverage decisions, snacks, and lunch. But breakfast and dinner can be a great excuse to work together. Whether you are camping with only a few individuals or with a larger group

that extends across multiple camp sites it’s often simpler for one family or a group of families to volunteer to take on a meal or, if it is a multi-day excursion, a particular day’s breakfast/dinner. And while hot dogs and hamburgers are tried and true stand by’s, a quick internet search will reveal a wider variety of creative yet camper friendly meals. This reporter is a huge fan of prepping on the front end by cooking and then reheating items such as taco meat, chili, and even bacon. The one thing that most will agree does not require much in the way of creativity: dessert. While there are lots of fun twists on this campfire classic, if you aren’t finishing your evening with a s’more, are you even camping?

The final consideration to make a group campout a success is to ensure everyone has a shared vision with regard to the schedule. Smaller groups can work this out as moods and needs evolve. For a larger crowd, however, it is helpful to agree ahead of time on things such as meal times or when certain whole-group activities are to take place so no one is left behind. If there are younger children involved, considering their entertainment needs and intentionally sharing childcare responsibilities will make it a better experience for everyone. Last but not least, be sure to have a few spontaneous

activities that can entertain as the need arises. Campfire games such as ‘Celebrities’ are simple to learn and fun for all ages.

The list of ways to enjoy North Dakota’s Summers are endless, however after a winter spent cooped up indoors, camping is a particularly popular choice. And while for some the ideal camping experience might mean getting away from it all, it is also a great way to bond with neighbors and friends for an experience that can truly be better together.

For more information about North Dakota’s various park offerings, visit the 2025 State Parks Guide at [https://www.parkrec.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/2025 State Parks Guide-WEB.pdf](https://www.parkrec.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/2025%20State%20Parks%20Guide-WEB.pdf)

Or check out the Northern Sentry Summer Adventure Guide:



Three camp sites, nine families, and 19 kids made for one epic Minot memory.



Medora is the perfect place to meet up with friends! Military get 50% off tickets and kids go free Wednesdays and Sundays!



Lake Sakakawea State Park is a close-by and scenic park! Pictured: Beene and Lawyer Families



Kids and Camping just go together!

## A LOOK BACK THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

### CITIZENS OF MINOT & MINOT AFB WORK TOGETHER TO FACE SOURIS RIVER FLOOD

MAY 31, 2011



The Souris River rose to 1,561.72 feet above sea level, the highest recorded in Minot’s history. (USAF Photo/A1C Aaron Forrest-Wainwright)

In early 2011, concerns of flooding began as local rivers and creeks ran abnormally high due to high soil content, above average snow pack, and persistent precipitation. The city of Minot began emergency operations on May 23, and by the 31st, a mandatory evacuation began. Over 10,000 residents of Minot, including over 500 off-base Airmen and families, evacuated to higher ground. The city partnered with Minot Air Force Base

personnel and the North Dakota National Guard to set up flood walls and provide aid to displaced families in the area. According to FEMA, about 11,456 acres of Ward County land were covered in anywhere between two to 15 feet of water, causing nearly \$700 million in damages. Minot AFB provided temporary emergency shelter for military members, DoD civilians and families who were unable to secure other arrangements. The 2011 flood was a tragedy of its own, but it proved the strong partnership and sense of community that Team Minot shares with the city.

Information courtesy of: [minotnd.org](http://minotnd.org) / [minot.af.mil](http://minot.af.mil)

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**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**PEYTON LILY**  
Friday, May 24 at 9:00pm  
**\$6 HAMM'S & GRILLED CHEESE**  
Tuesday, May 22 at 4:00pm  
**REVERSE COVER NIGHT + LIVE MUSIC**  
Tuesday, May 27 at 9:00pm  
(with Matt Woods)

**TRIVIA NIGHT**  
Wednesday, May 28 at 9:00pm  
**FREE NACHOS**  
Thursday, May 29, 4:00pm-Close  
**\$6 HAMM'S & GRILLED CHEESE**  
Tuesday, June 3 at 4:00pm  
**10 CENT BEER NIGHT**  
Wednesday, June 4, 4:00pm

**HOURS**

**Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu**  
4:00pm - 1:00am

**Fri/Sat**  
4:00pm - 2:00am

**MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY**  
**MAY 16**  
**FIRST DRINK FREE!**  
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WITH MILITARY ID

**118 1st Avenue SE, Minot, ND**

**Upcoming Events**

**24 MAY** **PEYTON LILY**  
**9:00 PM**  
Blue Rider  
118 1st Avenue SE, Minot

The Blue welcomes back Peyton Lily! Peyton is an 18 year old CGMA award winning singer and songwriter from Bismarck, ND. She began playing live shows at the age of 15 and has been chasing her dream of being a country singer and songwriter since. Come enjoy her unique of mix original music and classic country covers.



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

**25 MAY** **RACE DAY AT NODAK SPEEDWAY**  
**7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**  
NoDak Speedway  
2005 E Burdick Expy

Experience the thrill of North Dakota's fastest cars at Nodak Speedway! Home to top-notch dirt track racing, it's the ultimate adrenaline rush. Don't miss out!



**For more information:**  
<https://racenodak.com/>

**26 MAY** **HOT TOTS BASEBALL**  
**6:30 PM**  
Corbett Field,  
1124 E Burdick Expy

The Hot Tots Baseball season is here! Don't miss out on the fun as we cheer on the Minot Hot Tots for another exciting season at Corbett Field! This year promises thrilling games, community events, and plenty of family-friendly fun. Whether you're grabbing tickets for a group outing, joining Tate's Kids Club, or enjoying the Vibeto Ortho Fun Zone, there's something for everyone! Get ready for an unforgettable season of action-packed baseball and great memories. Let's make it a season to remember!



**For more information:**  
[www.northwoodsleague.com/minot-hot-tots/](http://www.northwoodsleague.com/minot-hot-tots/)

**27 MAY** **REVERSE COVER NIGHT**  
**W/ MATT WOODS**  
**9:00 PM - 11:30 PM**  
Blue Rider  
118 1st Avenue SE, Minot

REVERSE COVER means we pay you the cover! Come ready to party with Matt between 7:00 and 9:00 and get handed a \$5 for showing up - easy money! Matt Woods is a product of Appalachia. You can hear his East Tennessee roots tangled in the lines of his songs and it is through this filter he distills the world, both external and internal, into his unique brand of songwriting.  
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[www.youtube.com/user/therealmattwoods](http://www.youtube.com/user/therealmattwoods)



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

**30 MAY** **MOVIES IN THE PARK- WICKED**  
**9:30 PM**  
Oak Park  
1300 4th Ave NW

Grab your blankets, lawn chairs, and favorite movie buddies—Movies in the Park is back for another season of free outdoor films under the stars! Hosted by Minot Parks, this summer series features a lineup of fun, family-friendly movies, and plenty of space to kick back and enjoy the show. It's the perfect way to spend a summer night—free and open to all ages.



**For more information:**  
Facebook/ Minot Parks/ Events

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5TH AMXS COMPETES IN 2025 1ST QUARTER WEAPONS LOAD COMPETITION

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN ALYSSA BANKSTON



Senior Airman Nicholas Bowden, 69th Bomber Generation Squadron load crew member, secures an inert GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munition to a B-52H Stratofortress during the 1st Quarter Weapons Load Competition at Minot Air Force Base, May 2, 2025. Weapons load competitions play a significant role in enhancing mission readiness and strengthening global strike capabilities.



Senior Airman Joshua Boyle, 69th Bomber Generation Squadron load crew member, drives a missile carrier during the 1st Quarter Weapons Load Competition at Minot Air Force Base, May 2, 2025. For the inert munition to be loaded onto the aircraft safely and effectively, the crew must always have precise control over it.



Senior Airman Nicholas Bowden, 69th Bomber Generation Squadron load crew member, prepares to secure an inert GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munition to a B-52H Stratofortress during the 1st Quarter Weapons Load Competition at Minot Air Force Base, May 2, 2025. For the inert munition to be loaded onto the aircraft safely and effectively, the crew must always have precise control over it



A design is displayed on a tool cart used by the 23rd Bomber Generation Squadron during the 1st Quarter Weapons Load Competition at Minot Air Force Base, May 2, 2025. This competition allowed Airmen to show how efficiently and safely they could load inert GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munitions onto a B-52H Stratofortress in a high-stress environment.



Senior Airman Nathan Whistler, 23rd Bomber Generation Squadron load crew member, prepares to secure inert GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munitions to a B-52H Stratofortress during the 1st Quarter Weapons Load Competition at Minot Air Force Base, May 2, 2025. In addition to the practical test, crews were given a written and dress and appearance inspection for the competition.



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# Military Families Visit Museums for Free this Summer as part of Blue Star Museums

Program will run until September 1, 2025

BLUE STAR FAMILIES

Actively serving military members and their families have the opportunity to visit participating museums nationwide for free as part of the Blue Star Museums program, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and Blue Star Families (BSF) in collaboration with the Department of Defense. This year's program begins on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 17, 2025, and will continue through Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 2025. Participating museums can be found in all 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam, and include history, art, and children's museums; historical sites; botanical gardens; zoos; aquariums; and more. Additional information and a complete list of participating organizations are available at [arts.gov/BlueStarMuseums](https://arts.gov/BlueStarMuseums).

"The National Endowment for the Arts is honored to help connect military service members and their families with their communities through the Blue Star Museums program," said Mary Anne Carter, Senior Advisor for the National Endowment for the Arts. "Museums and cultural institutions offer countless opportunities for our military to create special memories, celebrate America's history, and connect with our country's heritage and culture."

"For 15 years, Blue Star Museums has opened doors for military families to explore, connect, and feel at home in their communities," said Kathy Roth-Douquet, CEO of Blue Star Families. "Thanks to our continued partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and participating museums nationwide, we're proud to continue this tradition of belonging and enrichment. Museums are more than cultural spaces—they're places where military families feel seen, welcomed, and celebrated."

Participating museums range from large institutions like the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago and the Heard Museum in Phoenix to smaller museums like Palmer Historical Society in Alaska and Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, Vermont. Other participants this year include the Henry Ford Museum of American

Innovation in Dearborn, Michigan; the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming; and the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, Massachusetts. A map of all participating museums is available on [arts.gov](https://arts.gov).

Museums can join the Blue Star Museums program all summer long and the map will be updated regularly. Military families are encouraged to check for participating museums in their community or along the road during their summer travels.



This free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States military—Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force, members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps—and up to five family members. Qualified

members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), DD Form 1173-1 ID card or the Next Generation Uniformed Services (Real) ID card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

The NEA and Blue Star Families rely on national service organizations to help us spread the word about the Blue Star Museums program, such as the National Assembly of State Art Agencies, American Alliance of Museums, American Association of State and Local History, Association of African American Museums, Association of Art Museum Directors, Association of Children's Museums, Association of Science & Technology Centers, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In addition, regional museum associations also helped with recruitment efforts, including the Association of Midwest Museums, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums, Mountain-Plains Museums Association, New England Museum Association, Southeastern Museums Conferences, and Western Museums Association.



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**Monthly Business Meeting Schedule • Meet-and-Greets**  
**Blue Lodge - 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:00PM**  
**Shriners - 2nd Wednesday at 6:00PM**  
**Scottish Rite - 1st Wednesday at 6:00PM**  
**Eastern Star - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00PM**  
**Prince Hall - 2nd Saturday at 9:00AM**

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FROM THE HILL TO THE HANGAR:  
REPRESENTATIVE FEDORCHAK VISITS MINOT AFB

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS WESLEY DAVIES



U.S. Air Force Capt. Britton Blake, a 69th Bomb Squadron B-52H Stratofortress pilot, explains air-launched cruise missile capabilities to Rep. Julie Fedorchak at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, May 5, 2025. Fedorchak is a fourth generation North Dakotan and visited the base to better understand the mission.



U.S. Air Force Capt. Daniel Hunt (left), a 69th Bomb Squadron weapon systems officer, and U.S. Air Force Capt. Britton Blake, a 69th Bomb Squadron B-52H Stratofortress pilot, explain their roles and responsibilities in the aircraft to Rep. Julie Fedorchak at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, May 5, 2025. Fedorchak was sworn into the United States House of Representatives in January, 2025.



U.S. Air Force Col. James Schlabach, 91st Missile Wing commander, explains capabilities of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile to Rep. Julie Fedorchak at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, May 5, 2025. Fedorchak was sworn into the United States House of Representatives in January, 2025



Tech. Sgt. Andrew Sigler (left) and Tech. Sgt. Kirby Keith (right), loading standardization crew members, show Rep. Julie Fedorchak static displays of inert conventional munitions used by the B-52H Stratofortress at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, May 5, 2025. The B-52H Stratofortress uses many different munitions to accomplish a variety of missions.



Tech. Sgt. Taylor Smith (middle), the 372d Field Training Detachment Non-Commissioned Officer in charge, and Staff Sgt. Austin Joyner (right), an electromechanical team instructor in the 372d Field Training Detachment, show Rep. Julie Fedorchak the outside of a training launch facility on Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, May 5, 2025. The training launch facility is used in tours to show prominent members of Minot and North Dakota an inert Minuteman III missile that is used to train Airmen.

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"The fact...people are so selfless that they can give a part of them to help other people without even knowing the why, I think that's amazing." – Raelynn

All donors who come to give blood, platelets or plasma May 1-31, 2025, will be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two family vacation packages to Universal's Epic Universe theme park. Package includes:4 tickets to Universal Epic Universe theme park at Universal Orlando Resort, Travel voucher to cover 4 airline tickets and hotel accommodations in Orlando, Fla. \$2,500 prepaid electronic gift card. Total trip package valued at \$12,500!



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# Hot Tots Announce Single Game Tickets and 2025 Promotional Schedule

Get ready for a summer of unforgettable baseball action as the Hot Tots unveil their 2025 Promo Schedule and launch Single Game Ticket Sales!

MINOT HOT TOTS

The Minot Hot Tots are thrilled to announce that Single Game Tickets for the 2025 season are officially on sale. Fans can now secure their seats for an action-packed summer at Corbett Field, featuring an exciting lineup of theme nights, community events, and unforgettable baseball moments.

In addition to ticket sales, the Hot Tots have also unveiled their 2025 Promotional Schedule, packed with fan-favorite theme nights and new surprises designed to bring even more excitement to the ballpark. Highlights of the schedule include:

- Kids TV Takeover: Your favorite kids' TV characters come to life for a night of family-friendly fun and nostalgia sponsored by Jerome's Collision Center! As a bonus, one of Minot's community leaders will be slimed.
- Lip Rippers Night: Reel in the excitement with a fishing-themed ballpark experience brought to life with the help of North Dakota Game & Fish, complete with a

jersey auction, special snacks, and the debut of our Lip Rippers alternate identity!

- Murder Mystery Night: Step into a real-life whodunit designed by Escape Point at the ballpark as fans work together to solve the mystery before the final inning!

Fans are encouraged to grab their tickets early, as popular theme nights are expected to sell out quickly. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://minot-hot-tots.nwltickets.com/SingleGame/Tickets> by phone, or at the Hot Tots Front Office.

For more information on the full promotional schedule and ticket details scan the QR below.



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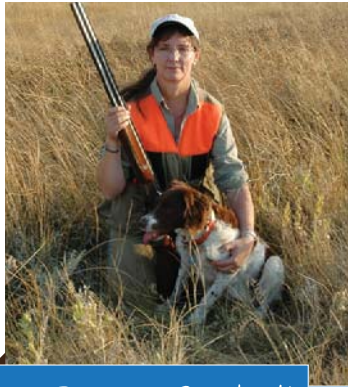
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by Patricia Stockdill

**FISHING:**

Lake Sakakawea elevation, May 19: 1,831.84 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 24,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,449.55 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.54 MSL.

- N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No reports throughout the region due to weather conditions.
- Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Anglers shore-fishing along the bridges on Devils Lake continue finding nice walleye activity despite poor weather conditions curtailing boat fishing.
- Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: No new reports.
- Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Weather continues limiting activity.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Limited activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea due to rain and wind but look for improving walleye success once conditions stabilize.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Prior to the recent cold and rain, lake Audubon was producing good smallmouth bass activity with a few walleye mixed in but no new reports. Not much activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea.
- Lake Sakakawea, Indian Hills Resort, Garrison: Water temperatures remain cool. Resort facility open for the season.
- Lake Sakakawea, New Town: No activity in the Van Hook Arm and river portion of Lake Sakakawea around the New Town area due to wind and rain.
- Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Bait & Tackle New Town: Not many reports with wind and rain. Facilities open for the season.
- Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River,

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

- OUTDOOR NOTES:**
- May 24: Golden Glow Walk, 10 p.m., Lewis & Clark State Park, east of Williston.
  - May 24: EMS Kind Event celebrating EMS week with family activity and tours of emergency equipment provided Public Service organizations, 4 p.m., Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison.
  - May 24 – 26: Sky Fest over Fort Stevenson Kite Festival with kite flying and array of other kite-related family activities beginning 10 a.m. each day, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison.
  - May 28: Conservation Days celebrating World Otter Day, Roosevelt Park Zoo.
  - May 30: Movie in the Park (free), Oak Park, Minot, 9:30 p.m.
  - June 4: N.D. deer gun and muzzleloader applications due. Go to the N.D. Game & Fish Dept. website, ([gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)), for information and application.
  - June 5: Nature Explorers for kids of all ages with Ward Co. Soil Conservation District, Minot Public Library, 10 a.m.
  - June 5: Family Camping 101, Lewis & Clark State Park east of Williston. Free opportunity – with park entrance fee – to learn the basics of ways to enjoy camping. Go to N.D. Parks & Recreation website, ([parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov)) and click on event listing for free registration.
  - June 7 & 8: Free fishing weekend. N.D. residents 16 years of age and older can fish for free this weekend.
  - June 7: Nat'l. Trails Day/American Legion Walk, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison, 2 p.m., with free park admission for military personnel in recognition of Military Appreciation Day,

- TOURNAMENTS:**
- May 31: Devils Lake, East Bay.
  - June 6: Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Arm.
  - June 7: Missouri River tailrace; Devils Lake, Spirit Lake Casino, Upper Missouri River.

Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Wind and weather continues limiting activity on the Missouri River tailrace and east end of Lake Sakakawea.

- Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Weather limiting activity with rain muddying up Missouri and Yellowstone rivers as well as back bays with feeder creeks on upper end of Lake Sakakawea.
- North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Weather permitting, anglers are finding some walleye success in the Souris River in the Towner area.

**N.D. RIVERS PADDLE CRAFT GAUGE HEIGHT AND STREAMFLOW** (conditions can vary rapidly):

- Des Lacs River, Foxholm: Gauge height, 6.4 feet; streamflow, 44.5 cubic feet per second (CFS).
- Lake Darling, Foxholm: Gauge height, 96.93 feet.
- Little Missouri River, Medora: Gauge height, 3.65 feet; streamflow, 792 CFS
- Little Missouri River, Long X Bridge near Watford City, gauge height, 8.8 feet; streamflow, 720 CFS.
- Missouri River, Williston: Gauge height, 19.14 feet.
- Missouri River, Washburn: Gauge height, 10.21 feet.
- Souris River, Broadway Bridge, Minot: Gauge height, 42 feet.
- Yellowstone River, Cartwright: Gauge height: 68.02 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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# Vehicle maintenance tasks drivers don't want to overlook

Savvy drivers recognize that maintenance is essential to keeping their vehicles running strong for years on end. Such maintenance ensures vehicles are safe to take out on the road, and basic upkeep also protects drivers' financial investments in their cars and trucks.

Drivers who are not mechanically inclined tend to put their vehicles in the hands of a trusted mechanic to perform routine maintenance like oil changes. But there's a host of simpler vehicle maintenance tasks that drivers don't want to overlook, some of which can be performed without visiting the auto body shop.

- **Brake inspections:** Brake inspections are best left to the professionals, who can check the thickness of brake pads and look for other indicators of excessive wear. The automotive resource Cars.com recommends having brakes inspected during routine tire rotations, which many automotive professionals suggest should be done every six months.
- **Car wash:** Car washes might not be the first task drivers associate with vehicle maintenance, but they can prevent long-term damage to cars and trucks. Damage from bird droppings and road salt and ice melt products in the winter can damage a vehicle's paint job and its undercarriage. Wash the car on your own at home or visit a professional car wash to

perform this simple yet vital maintenance at regular intervals and whenever you notice significant buildup of dirt and grime on the car's exterior.

- **Air filter:** The air filter on a car or truck prevents debris, dirt and other contaminants from getting into the engine. The auto insurance experts at Allstate® advise drivers to inspect their vehicle air filters once a year. Air filters in need of replacement may appear dirty, and reduced fuel economy, unusual engine sounds and reduced horsepower are some other potential indicators that an air filters needs to be replaced.

- **Windshield wipers:** Windshield wiper blades are easily overlooked, but various automotive experts recommend replacing wiper blades every six to 12 months. Old wiper blades won't perform at peak capacity, dramatically reducing visibility during heavy rain and snowstorms. Anyone can replace their own windshield wiper blades in a matter of minutes, and new blades won't break the bank.

Vehicle maintenance is not exclusive to tending to what's under the hood. Keeping a car running smoothly for years involves routine tasks that many drivers can perform without professional assistance.



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## ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT



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- The call of the Southern Ground Hornbill is a very deep, reverberating booming sound that can be heard up to 3 miles.
- The Southern Ground Hornbill has acute eyesight.
- Their long eyelashes act as sunshades.
- As the Southern Ground Hornbill ages, their facial skin becomes entirely red.



Fact File	
Life Span	40 - 50 years
Male Weight	7 - 13 pounds
Female Weight	5 - 10 pounds
Body Length	35 - 50 inches
Wild Diet	Omnivore (Carnivore) Herbivore Arthropods, Amphibians, Lizards, Snakes, Small rodents





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# Congrats 2025 GRADUATES

The Graduating Class of 2025 has earned their stripes. The families and members of the Minot Air Force Base Graduating Class of 2025 are proud to honor their hard work and dedication to get to this point of their lives. Graduation is a time honored tradition for any student, but means more to a military student. Countless schools and teachers have taught them but more often than not they are afforded an experience that not all students have. We have nurtured, taught, and encouraged these amazing young men and women in preparation for them to head out into the world.

## Minot AFB Graduating Class of 2025, We Salute You!



Devyn Bechel

Devyn was lucky enough to graduate a semester early from Minot North High School. She is working at Red Rock Auto in Watford City, ND and will start taking Accounting/financial manager classes from UND in August.

**Proud Parents:**  
Dwayne and Lynsey Bechel



Gabriel Black

**Future Plans:** In the future, I plan to graduate from college and commission as an officer in the United States Air Force.

"What I enjoyed most about my senior year was the sense of accomplishment I felt from finally finishing it."

**Proud Parents:**  
Brandon and Juanita Black



Avery Brockhoff

**Future Plans:** Avery plans on attending Weber State University in Ogden, UT.

Her favorite thing about senior year was hanging out with friends and going to events together.

**Proud Parents:**  
Brian & Gianna Brockhoff



Ashlyn Brockhoff

**Future Plans:** Ashlyn plans to study Humanities, Society, & Culture and minoring in International Relations from Anglo American University in Prague, Czechia.

Her favorite part of senior year was being able to help build the theater community at North High School, hanging out with friends, and stage managing for Oliver at Minot State University.

**Proud Parents:**  
Brian & Gianna Brockhoff



William Burrell

**Future Plans:** Attend UND in the fall majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

"What I enjoyed most about senior year was Robotics Team 10173. Having the opportunity to start a FIRST team in Minot and bring a whole group together from both high schools that I never would have met otherwise."

**Proud Parents:**  
Colonel John Burrell & Alicia Burrell

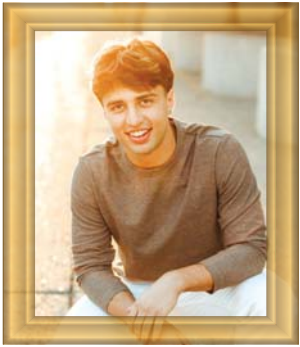


Dallin A. Chapman

**Future Plans:** Dallin will spend the next two years serving in the România Bucharest Mission as a full-time missionary, learning and speaking the Romanian language. Following his two-year mission, Dallin will study at either Brigham Young University-Idaho or Southern Virginia University.

"I enjoyed most about senior year was being able to strengthen old friendships and create new ones."

**Proud Parents:**  
George & Erin Chapman



Kaden Flavin

**Future Plans:** Attending college to further his education.

"Favorite Senior Memory was being WDA Football Champs"

**Proud Parents:**  
Chris & Amber Flavin



Jatin Gandadal

**Future Plans:** Jatin will be attending NDSU next year.

**Proud Parents:**  
Michelle and Malon Gandadal



Matthew A. Hart

**Future Plans:** To be successful, interested in doing auto body work/ maintenance.

"What I enjoyed most about senior year was working in the Auto Shop."

**Proud Parents:**  
Justin and Nancy Hart



Eleanor Kinglsey

**Future Plans:** Attending BYU Idaho in the fall of 2025 as a music education major and pursue theater.

"My favorite part of senior year was my music classes during my last few hours of the school day. I've gotten really close with the members of my acopella group and the low brass section in the band. Overall, I've had a blast with my fellow musicians."

**Proud Parents:**  
Katy and Peter Kingsley



Eliana Lindner

**Future Plans:** Plans to study Communications.

**Proud Parents:**  
Stephanie & Jeremy Lindner



Meredith Madrid

**Future Plans:** Attending Minot State University.

**Proud Parents:**  
Alejandro and Brenna Madrid



Marques K. Mallety

**Future Plans:** Attending Florida State College @ Jacksonville pursuing a degree in Computer Networking.

**Proud Parents:**  
Melvin and Carlette Mallety



Lilly McGough



Scout Plavney

**Future Plans:** After graduation she will be attending Minot State University pursuing a degree in communication disorders specializing in speech pathology.

She is part of the first group of seniors to graduate at Minot North. She likes North Dakota for the beautiful summers and the sense of community and belonging.



Shawn Roberts

Congratulations on completing this major accomplishment. We are so proud of you and look forward to seeing you work towards your Health & Physical Education degree at Minot State.

**Love, Mom and Dad**



Peter Wake

**Future Plans:** After graduation, Peter will serve a 2-year Christian mission in Saltillo, Mexico for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, where he looks forward to using his Spanish skills. After his mission, he will attend Brigham Young University to study pre-med with hopes of becoming a surgeon.

Peter's senior highlights include reconnecting with old friends, making new ones, and memorable experiences on the swim and track teams. He also enjoyed shadowing surgeons at Trinity Hospital through his Medical Careers II class at Minot North High School.

**Proud Parents:**  
Rob & Kim Wake



Margaret O'Riley

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## Minot North High School

Devyn Bechel  
Ariannah Billett  
Gabriel Black  
Avery Brockhoff  
Ashlyn Brockhoff  
William Burrell  
Dallin Chapman  
Carter Coleman  
Wyatt DeCoteau

Kaden Flavin  
Jatin Gandadal  
Matthew Hart  
Kaylee Jaensch  
Eleanor Kingsley  
Eliana Lindner  
Meredith Madrid  
Marques K. Mallety  
Isabella Montenegro

Tiana Pay  
Scout Plavney  
Cherie Rivers  
Elijah Roth  
Jake Spangler  
Aiden Wall  
Peter Wake

## Minot High School

Alex Austin  
Skylynn Broderick  
Makay Button  
Avelina Conejo  
Lucas Dunklee  
Rachel Feather  
Jaxon Guillory  
Benjamin Harris

Gray Jindra  
Claire Keeley  
Andrew Lansing  
Jaron Lefors  
Hailey McGinnis  
Madalyn Moore  
Leif Nelson Myers  
Todd Ouradnik Jr.

Akina Pallera  
Shawn Roberts  
Taya Siedschlag  
James Smith  
Ashlyn Stacy  
Brooklynn Steen  
Raegan Terrel  
Ai Yasumura

## Glenburn High School

Ryan Barlow  
Caylin Jones

Noah McIver  
Nicholas McIver

Addison Quick

## Bishop Ryan Catholic School

Lilly McGough

Margaret O'Riley

## Home School

Joycee Parker





# MINOT NORTH

## SENTINEL REPORT

# First Year at Minot North: Perspectives from a Teacher, Administrator, and Student

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, FRESHMAN | MINOT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

The first year at Minot North High School has come to a close, marking the beginning of what many hope will come to be a proud and lasting legacy. With its first year behind it, members of the school community—teachers, administrators, and students alike—have shared their thoughts on what it meant to be part of a brand-new school.

For english teacher Mrs. Michels, the transition to Minot North brought a mix of anticipation and tension. “A mixture of excitement and stress I think,” she said. “Excited to see what we would get to change and grow as a new school. I was excited to see previous students again and to have the chance to teach them again. The stress was that we were still a construction zone and I knew that stresses would come from that especially since some parts were not done.”

Despite the challenges, she adapted with resilience. “I tried to go with the flow as much as possible,” she said. “Learning to pivot became a part of the year for many of us and I think it went well because everyone maintained a great attitude and the excitement was evident with everyone.” One of her main hurdles was adapting to her teaching environment. “Learning

how to best use my spaces was a huge challenge,” she explained. “Dealing with technology issues and the echo of the room took some time to adjust to.”

Still, she brought years of teaching experience to the table when it came to building classroom culture. “I took what I already had and combined it with the culture that was with the school. I’m not sure it was really from scratch given that I have been teaching for 13 years.”

Mrs. Michels credited her success to the support system within the school: “My colleagues—my department is wonderful and we always build each other up. But also, other teachers have been wonderful, our custodians, IT department, office staff, and our librarian have been great at brainstorming new ideas and pivoting with our changes.”

Reflecting on her students, she noted, “Most students seemed to build on each other’s excitement to be in a new space. The many firsts this year only built on that thrill of being able to set new customs and traditions.”

One of her proudest accomplishments was launching the school’s newspaper. “Establishing a new school newspaper and continuing it in the form of a club

next year is one of my most exciting features.”

Looking forward, Mrs. Michels hopes for more engagement: “I would like to see more students being involved in clubs and activities in the upcoming year—if every student could find something they wish to be in would be wonderful.”

Furthermore, administrator Lynn Nord’s goals for the first year were simple but essential: “To have school ready for the first day of school. To have all the things teachers and students need to have a good school year.”

And despite the usual hiccups of a major launch, he was pleased with the start. “School opened on the first day as planned. Staff and students were excited to be in a new school and start new traditions.” But challenges did arise: “Like learning a new building and where everything is located. Dealing with contractors to try to complete projects that needed to be finished as school had started.”

Still, the school’s culture emerged as a highlight. “With the new school, there was a lot of positive energy,” Nord said. “There are more opportunities for students to participate in sports and clubs.”

One vivid memory stands out for Nord, demonstrating both the challenges and his commitment to resolving them: “Homecoming night after all the things that went on through the day, it came down to trying to find a way to dim the lights in the gym for the dance. Well, we looked for the breaker in the whole new part of the school, with no luck... Just about to give up and admit I could not get lights off... I remembered one last breaker and sure enough we found the right breaker to shut off lights in the gym.”

Nord emphasized the power of community: “Staff at Minot North has been very good to work with. We have some of the best teachers and custodians in the district of Minot.”

Feedback from outside the school was just as encouraging. “The community has been very positive

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Teacher Crystal Michels



Administrator Lynn Nord



Freshman Memphis Lynch



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# Minot North Athletes Deliver Big Wins Across the Board

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, FRESHMAN | MINOT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

The sports teams of Minot North High School turned heads this past week with standout performances across four sports, showcasing their talent and determination as the spring season hits its peak. From state-qualifying pole vaults to crushing wins on the softball field, Sentinel athletes proved they're ready for the postseason spotlight.

At the NDHSAA Girls Track & Field Regionals held May 17 in Bismarck, junior McKinnley Kragh soared to success in the pole vault, finishing second overall with a height of 10 feet, 9 inches. The performance not only earned her silver at Regionals but also secured her a spot at the North Dakota State Meet. Kragh's vault ranks among the top in the state this season. Alyvia Kopp got 7th at WDA in the 3200 with a new school record of 12:01.69, landing her a place at state as well! Both girls' steady progress and consistent form have been key to their success, and their qualification marks an exciting milestone for the Minot North track and field program.

In an offensive showcase, the Minot North varsity softball team rolled past Turtle Mountain Community High School, earning

a commanding 15-0 victory. The Sentinels set the tone early with powerful hits and smart baserunning, building a lead that quickly proved insurmountable. Defensively, the team was nearly flawless, with strong pitching and sharp fieldwork preventing TMCHS from mounting any threat. The dominant win is a testament to the team's chemistry and depth, and positions them well as they gear up for playoff contention in the coming weeks.

On the tennis court, Minot North's Zoe Bahr emerged victorious at a recent JV singles tournament, capturing first place after a string of strong matches. Known for her composed play and strategic shot selection, Bahr cruised through the bracket with determination and poise. Her performance highlights the strength of the growing tennis program at Minot North, and coaches could already be eyeing her as a future varsity standout.

The Minot North boys golf team traveled to Mandan on May 13 and delivered one of their strongest outings of the season at Prairie West Golf Course, finishing first as a team with a total score of 297. Walter Langhans led the charge,



Boys Golf Team Placing 1st at Mandan.

finishing first overall with a score of 70, while Kasen Rostad followed closely behind, taking second with a 71. The team's consistent play across the board helped secure the win in a highly competitive field. Walter also was granted medalist honors.

With major tournaments and state meets on the horizon, Minot North athletes are peaking at the perfect time. From the track to the tennis court, the softball field to the green, the sentinels are proving they're among the top contenders in North Dakota this spring.

Whether it's chasing records, championship banners, or personal bests, Minot North's student-athletes continue to show what it means to compete with pride, passion, and purpose.



Zoe Bahr JV Singles 1st place win.

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YOUTH IN ACTION

# Honoring Our Minot AFB Graduates: *A Celebration of Resilience and Achievement*

A heartfelt salute was given to 65 military-affiliated high school seniors this month, as they were honored with purple graduation cords and certificates, celebrating their unique journeys as part of military families. Thanks to the generous support of the Minot AFB Spouses Club, these purple cords symbolize the strength and resilience of students who have often changed schools six to nine times throughout their academic careers.

On May 14th, special recognition ceremonies were held at both Minot North High School, in the Minot North High School Auditorium, and Minot High School, in the Minot Area Workforce Academy. Minot Public Schools graciously hosted the events, where 5th Mission Support Group Commander, Colonel Ottinger, and Alyssa Kelly, School Liaison Program Manager at Minot AFB, addressed the students and their families. Their presence underscored the importance of honoring the sacrifices and accomplishments of these graduating seniors.


Additionally, military-affiliated seniors from Glenburn Public School and local homeschool programs were recognized last month at the Minot AFB Spouses Club Scholarship Banquet, ensuring no student was left uncelebrated.

“We salute you and thank you for serving alongside your parents,” said the Minot AFB School Liaison Office. “May your journeys ahead be filled with dreams and accomplishments!”




MINOT AFB SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE PHOTOS





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**THE NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD** have openings available in a variety of career fields across the state and in Minot. Continue your military career on a part-time basis. For more information call 420-5903 or 420-5904 in Minot.

### IMMEDIATE FULL AND PART TIME OPENINGS

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

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <u>TUESDAY, MAY 20</u>   | <u>WEDNESDAY, MAY 21</u>  |
| • <b>Harvey - 12:00 to 12:30 PM</b><br>Cobblestone Inn & Suites parking lot, back side (North) | • <b>Minot - 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM</b><br>Minot Municipal Auditorium<br>420 3rd Ave. SW<br>(South parking lot) |
| • <b>Drake - 1:30 PM</b><br>Street in front of City Park                                       |   |
| • <b>Velva - 2:30 PM</b><br>Verendrye Electric Coop parking lot                                |   |

ORDERS ARE NEEDED BY  
SATURDAY EVENING - MAY 17

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| • 4.5 - 5 lb. fryer chickens.....             | \$10.75 |
| • 4.5 - 5 lb. fryer chickens cut in 1/2.....  | \$11.00 |
| • 4 - 4.5 lb. smoked chickens.....            | \$14.00 |
| • 1 lb. sliced bacon (maple sugar cured)..... | \$7.25  |
| • 9" beef pot pie.....                        | \$10.25 |
| • 1 1/2 lb. pork breakfast sausage.....       | \$5.25  |

701-465-7224  
sknarreborg47@gmail.com

# BUSINESSES & SERVICES

## AUTOMOTIVE



### HOURS:

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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

PUZZLE ON PAGE B3

5	1	8	3	2	6	7	9	4
7	3	4	1	9	8	5	6	2
2	9	6	7	5	4	1	3	8
3	8	9	5	6	7	4	2	1
1	4	2	8	3	9	6	7	5
6	5	7	4	1	2	3	8	9
9	7	1	2	4	3	8	5	6
8	2	5	6	7	1	9	4	3
4	6	3	9	8	5	2	1	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](mailto:Brigitte.mikula@minotstateu.edu)

**PARK UNIVERSITY MINOT** – Your degree, Your way. Park University is enrolling now. Earn your CCAF credits, AU-ABC, and your Bachelor’s degree with PARK. Let’s maximize your military experience! Find how many credits you can get from your military experience by going to [military.park.edu](http://military.park.edu). and confirmed your credits Or Ask Alexa! Enable the Park University skill on your Alexa device and say “Alexa, ask Park, How many credit hours can I get from my military experience?” She’ll even tell you your graduation date! Minot AFB @ the Education Center RM 222 | 844-884-8612 | [mino@park.edu](mailto:mino@park.edu) PARK. YOU

### 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.

TIMMOTHY TIMM



## RESTAURANT & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



### Atypical Brewery & Barrel Works

510 Central Ave E, Minot  
Phone: 701.833.0567  
FB: Atypical Brewery & Barrelworks

### Applebee’s Grill & Bar

2302 15th St SW, Minot  
Phone: 701.839.2130  
[www.applebees.com](http://www.applebees.com)

### Badlands Restaurant & Bar

1400 31st Ave SW, Minot  
Phone: 701.852.7335  
[www.blgrill.com](http://www.blgrill.com)

### Bone’s BBQ Smokehouse & Grill

437 N Broadway, Minot  
Phone: 701.838.9140  
[www.bonesbbqminot.com](http://www.bonesbbqminot.com)

### Culver’s Restaurant

3000 S Broadway, Minot  
Phone: 701.852.4800  
[www.culvers.com](http://www.culvers.com)

### Ironhorse Kitchen + Bar

21 E Central Avenue, Minot  
Phone: 701.852.8183  
FB: Ironhorse Kitchen + Bar Minot

### Jamaican Vybz Kitchen

Dakota Square Mall, Minot  
Phone: 701-441-9309  
FB: Jamaican Vybz Kitchen

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### N.D. Asia

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[www.ND-Asia.com](http://www.ND-Asia.com)

### Noodles & Company

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[www.noodles.com](http://www.noodles.com)

### Pink’s Bar & Grill

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FB: PinksBarGrill

### The Blue Rider

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[www.theblueriderbar.com](http://www.theblueriderbar.com)

### The Starving Rooster

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[www.starvingrooster.com](http://www.starvingrooster.com)



## Weddings for Warriors

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

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

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



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

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- **Force Management:** Evaluations, Duty Information, G-Series Orders, Unfavorable Information File (UIF), Special Duty Assignment Pay (SDAP)
- **Career Development:** Permanent Change of Station (PCS), Outbound Assignment, Separation, Retirement, Retention, Promotion

DEERS (Appointment Only): Mon, Wed-Fri 0800-1600, Tue 0800-1500  
Walk-in hours: Tue-Thu 0800-1600, Wed 0800-1130  
Appointment hours: Mon-Fri 0800-1600, Wed 0800-1130

\*Closed for training every Wed from 1200-1630

## MINOT MPF OFFICE



YOUTH IN ACTION

# New Public Charter Schools Law Takes Effect August 1st 2025



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



Senate Bill 2241 passed the house and the senate last month. This bill requires public charter schools to be part of North Dakota's public education system. Governor Kelly Armstrong states, "Expanding school choice is a win-win for North Dakota families and for our state's workforce and long-term success. The public charter schools authorized by this bill can drive innovation, improve student outcomes and increase parent satisfaction" (<https://www.governor.nd.gov/news/armstrong-signs-bill-creating-framework-establishing-public-charter-schools-north-dakota>).

So, what is a charter school? It is a school that is within a district, but independent from the district and operates under a charter or contract. Created by teachers, parents, or community groups – the charter school receives public funding and has more flexibility with regard to curriculum,

instructional methods, and calendars. However, because it is part of the state's public education system, it must meet or exceed state academic and graduation requirements and be public or open to all students.

Traditional public and private schools, as well as, homeschool were the only options available to North Dakota families up until now. Emphasizing arts, theater, science, agriculture, you name it – each charter school could be radically different. I look forward to seeing all the new school choice options that become available. Our ND educational landscape just got more exciting!

*The information in this article is provided as a resource and does not constitute endorsement by Minot AFB, the United States Air Force, or the Department of Defense of the external website, or the information, products, or services contained therein.*

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# NORTHERN CELEBRATIONS

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## A JEWELLED CHAIN OF FISHING

Patricia Stockdill

They're little jewels of outdoor recreational opportunities.

Strung along an irrigation system snaking from Lake Sakakawea beneath U.S. Highway 83 (via the Snake Creek Pumping Station), into Lake Audubon and eastward across North Dakota, the McClusky Canal does more than water crops.

It provides North Dakota's "Chain of Lakes", spanning three counties before feeding into the Sheyenne River in east-central North Dakota:

West Park and East Park lakes are both south of Mercer in McLean County. The canal then slithers downward and eastward into Sheridan County where it grows a bit to become Hecker's Lake. From there it slinks southward into Burleigh County and New John's Lake before wandering back east and northward, where it loops back into Sheridan County and becomes South (Hoffer) McClusky Lake north of the community of McClusky.

Here's a peek into each little lake along the canal's journey:

West Park Lake is 9 miles south and 3 miles west of Mercer. While the 286 acre-foot lake doesn't have a boat ramp, it has shore-fishing access and can offer some fair walleye and northern pike action – maybe even a few bigger fish to brag about, as well. Its perch are small, though.

Its adjacent counterpart, East Park Lake, is pretty much a straight shot south of Mercer 9 miles. It, too, has fair walleye and pike numbers within its 186 acre-feet of water. Look for an occasional large walleye.

Tickling the borders of both Sheridan and McLean counties, Hecker's Lake is yet again south of Mercer. This time, though, anglers need to head about 2.5 miles east after their 9-mile trek to get to this little jewel covering almost 245 acre-feet of water.

It doesn't have a boat ramp, but anglers can still catch walleye – maybe some more than 20 inches long – in addition to pike and smallmouth bass. The perch, though, are small like they are on West Park Lake.

New Johns Lake is the lone canal lake in Burleigh County. It's the largest of the jewels dotting the canal, stretching out more than 287 acre-feet. It's also the best spot for smallmouth bass among the "Chain of Lakes" with the potential of landing some nice-sized smallies. It's a decent walleye fishery, as well, but – this will sound familiar – perch are small.

Call it what you want – South Hoffer or McClusky Lake – the canal treks all the way north of McClusky before becoming the last link in the Chain of Lakes.

But the really neat thing is South Hoffer is the canal lake offering both smallmouth bass and crappie even though it only covers 130 acre-feet. And, of course, don't forget walleye and pike on this gem 2 miles north and a mile west of McClusky.

The canal itself is fishable, as well.

The N.D. Game and Fish Department website, ([gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)) has details and maps for each of the Chain of Lake. Simply click "Fishing/Boating" on the home page menu bar and scroll down to "Where to Fish" under "Resources". Just type in the lake's name or "McClusky Canal".

The McClusky Canal and its lakes are part of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Garrison Diversion Unit (GDU), established by Congress in the mid-1960s.

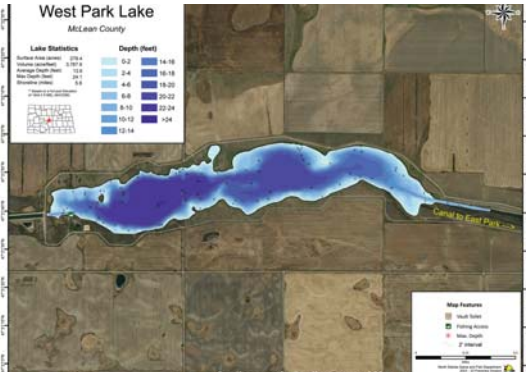
With the project completed in 1974, use of the recreation areas is governed by North Dakota's game and fish regulations as well as GDU recreational use rules. More information about the Chain of Lake and McClusky Canal are on its website, ([www.usbr.gov/gp/dkao/](http://www.usbr.gov/gp/dkao/)).

Scrolling down on the Dakota Area Office site leads to information on the right-hand for "Chain of Lakes" under "Recreation". Clicking maps of each of the lakes details their amenities.

Three other little jewels aren't quite on the McClusky Canal itself but they're nearby and close to the community of Turtle Lake. Lake Brekken, Lake Holmes, and Lightning Lake are all less than 2 miles from town. Lightning Lake, a half-mile east of Turtle Lake, has a fishing pier and a unique trout fishing opportunity. An electric motor only, no live bait lake, it's catch-and-release for trout from April 1 through June 30. The Game and Fish Department stocks it annually.

Lake Brekken and Lake Holmes, AKA Brekken-Holmes to many local anglers, are similar to the Chain of Lakes with walleye and pike – and small perch.

The entire series of prairie jewel lakes are little getaways - maybe net a fish and enjoy a day in the Great Outdoors.



West Park Lake is just one of a series of small lakes connected to the McClusky Canal. The canal is fed by water from Lake Sakakawea through a tunnel under U.S. Highway 93 via the Snake Creek Pumping Station. Water feeds into Lake Audubon and then the canal and is used for irrigation. The lakes provide fishing opportunities for walleye and pike.

N.D. GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT PHOTO



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# WHAT'S GOING ON MINOT AFB

FRIDAY23

- AFGSC Family Day
- For a full listing of Memorial Day Holiday facility hours, visit [5thforcesupport.com](https://5thforcesupport.com)
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY24

- For a full listing of Memorial Day Holiday facility hours, visit [5thforcesupport.com](https://5thforcesupport.com)
- Trading Post Rendezvous, 0800-2000, Fort Union, hosted by Outdoor Recreation

SUNDAY25

- For a full listing of Memorial Day Holiday facility hours, visit [5thforcesupport.com](https://5thforcesupport.com)
- Garden Plot Opening, Outdoor Recreation

MONDAY26

- Memorial Day
- For a full listing of Memorial Day Holiday facility hours, visit [5thforcesupport.com](https://5thforcesupport.com)
- Memorial Day Special Lunch, 1030-1330, Dakota Inn Dining Facility

TUESDAY27

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Run Fast, 0600, Dome, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- UVAO Training, 0900-1030, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Credit and Debt Management Workshop 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Run Far, 1900, Dome, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center

WEDNESDAY28

- Registration Closes: Science STEM Camp, <https://parent.afcyp.com/>
- Extramural Golf Starts, Rough Rider Golf Course
- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Bootcamp Express, 0545, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Base Right Start, 0730-1230, Jimmy Doolittle Center, hosted by M&FRC
- Family Strength & Tone, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Pre-Deployment/Remote Readiness Training, 1000, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- SkillBridge Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Storytime, 1030, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- 2nd Quarter Birthday Meal, 1630, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Yoga, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center

THURSDAY29

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Run Fast, 0600, Dome, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center – Room 211
- Run Far, 1900, Dome, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center

FRIDAY30

- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Intramural Softball: LOIs Due and Coaches Meeting, 1300, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Talent Extravaganza, 2000-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY31

- Medium Level Pencil Drawing, 1300-1500, Arts & Crafts Center

SPECIALS

Bomber Bistro Featured Item  
**Chicken Bacon Ranch Sandwich**  
Swiss cheese, chicken, bacon, lettuce, tomato, and bacon!

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item  
**Lotus Drinks**  
Pink, blue, white, and cream, club soda, or lemonade!

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