



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK:



5TH CES  
ULTIMATE  
COMBAT  
DINING-OUT  
EXPERIENCE

A6



HOT TOTS  
BEGIN 2025  
SEASON

B1



FROM INTRO  
TO INSIDER:  
MAFB  
WELCOMES  
NEW  
SPOUSES

B4



# ROARING THUNDER IN ACTION

Airmen from the 91st Missile Security Forces Squadron maneuver through tactical drills during Operation Roaring Thunder, a week-long field training exercise held at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. The exercise, which began May 18, brought together 170 Airmen for intensive combat readiness training designed to enhance tactical skills, weapon system proficiency, and mission preparedness in high-intensity scenarios. See more on page A2.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | SRA NICK SUMAGANG



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# Operation Roaring Thunder: 91st MSFS Storms Camp Ripley

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

In a powerful demonstration of precision, perseverance, and preparedness, the 91st Missile Security Forces Squadron (MSFS) concluded Operation Roaring Thunder, a week-long field training exercise held at Camp Ripley, a premier facility operated by the Minnesota Army National Guard. After months of detailed planning, the training officially began on May 18, bringing together 170 Airmen from the 91st MSFS for a demanding series of combat readiness exercises. The mission: to sharpen tactical skills, increase weapon system proficiency, and simulate high-intensity operational scenarios reflective of real-world combat.

Spearheading the development and execution of Operation Roaring Thunder was the 91 MSFS Training Section, whose meticulous preparation was key to the operation’s success. The team included 1st Lieutenant Cole Lautt, Technical Sergeant Brian Zarrella, Staff Sergeant Scott Rader, Staff Sergeant Deven Manibusan, and Staff Sergeant Kai Leblanc.

According to Lt Lautt, the objective of the exercise was to build a more lethal and agile force by strengthening the combat capabilities of individual Airmen and fostering cohesive, mission-ready teams.

“This exercise gave our Airmen the chance to push themselves in realistic, physically demanding conditions,” said Lautt. “Training like this ensures they are not just qualified, but truly confident and capable with the weapon systems and tactics needed to protect the nation’s most strategic assets.”

The exercise encompassed a wide array of tactical operations, including M4 and M18 live-fire ranges and close-quarters battle (CQB) drills using simunition and Mk20 stun grenades. Simunition is a type of non-lethal training ammunition that fires paint-marking projectiles from modified real firearms, allowing for

realistic force-on-force scenarios while minimizing the risk of serious injury. The exercise also included heavy weapons training with the M240 and M320, engaging targets at distances of up to 800 and 450 meters, respectively.

One of the most complex and challenging events was a live-fire flight assault, in which teams planned, rehearsed, and executed a coordinated mission across more than a mile of terrain, targeting three high-value objectives. The final day of training featured a scenario centered on the recovery of a simulated stolen nuclear asset from a hostile village—an exercise designed to test leadership, decision-making, and teamwork under pressure.

Operation Roaring Thunder relied heavily on interagency cooperation. The Minnesota Army National Guard provided essential Light Medium Tactical Vehicles (LMTVs) and logistical support. Senior Airman Andrew Dye from the 5th Medical Group provided critical medical support at the Infantry Squad Battle Course (ISBC), ensuring the safety and viability of high-risk live-fire events.

Security Forces personnel played critical roles throughout the week. Staff Sergeants Benjamin Woolley and Charles Borden served as range safety officers, ensuring all weapons training was conducted safely and in compliance with established protocols. Staff Sergeant Anthony Hall, along with Senior Airmen Chantel Young and Jakob Simpkins, comprised the Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) team, standing by to deliver immediate lifesaving aid during live-fire operations. This coordination enabled the first-ever live-fire training exercise conducted by the 91st Security Forces Group at Minot Air Force Base, an operation led by Captain Arthur Yencho.

Participants endured three consecutive days of near-freezing temperatures and heavy rain, which tested their endurance

and adaptability. Despite harsh weather and multiple delays due to airspace restrictions, the squadron successfully maintained its training schedule through effective leadership and adaptable execution.

Amid these challenging conditions, several individuals stood out for their exceptional performance:

- Senior Airman Kennon Mangrum was named Outstanding Airman of the Week for demonstrating grit and leadership.
- Staff Sergeant Pedro Villafane earned Outstanding NCO for his exemplary troop-leading skills.
- Airman 1st Class Matthew Ondras and Senior Airman Robert Holloway received Top Shot honors for M4 and M18 marksmanship,



SSgt Guillermo Lomeli fireman carrying A1C Rathana Pich during the live firing part of Operation Roaring Thunder at Camp Ripley.

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS  
ANDREW VASQUEZ  
91 MSFS PHOTO

respectively.

- South Flight, led by 2nd Lieutenant Jordyn Ives, was recognized as Top Flight of the Week for its execution, teamwork, and morale.

As the global security landscape continues to evolve, so must the readiness of those guarding the nation’s nuclear deterrent. Operation Roaring Thunder reflects that evolution, offering realistic, combat-focused training designed to prepare for future conflicts. Leaders within the 91st MSFS have confirmed plans to make

this exercise a recurring annual event, with expanded objectives and continued collaboration with partner organizations.

“Our defenders are prepared to meet tomorrow’s threats head-on,” said Lt Lautt. “They’ve proven they’re not only ready but worthy of the responsibility entrusted to them.”

For the Minot, North Dakota community, the message is clear: the Airmen of the 91st MSFS remain vigilant, well-trained, and ready—rain or shine—to defend the most vital assets of the United States.



91 Missile Security Forces Squadron completed Operation Roaring Thunder, a week-long field training exercise held at Camp Ripley.

SRA NICK SUMAGANG | 91 MSFS PHOTO



A1C Marquis Dodd and A1C Nitchenny Angulo-Cisneros of the 91 MSFS conducting heavy weapon firing at Camp Ripley.

SRA NICK SUMAGANG | 91 MSFS PHOTO



91 MSFS Operations Officer, Captain Arthur Yencho conducting a safety brief with North Flight prior to conducting live firing at the Infantry Squad Battle Course (ISBC).

A1C ANDREW VASQUEZ | 91 MSFS PHOTO



# Oh, It's GAME ON.

## 2 GIG IS HERE



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# A Perfect Day To Remember

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

The sky was a vibrant blue, dotted intermittently with white puffy cumulus clouds. Rosehill Cemetery was in its finest glory. The carpet of green grass thickened by recent rains, was adorned with thousands of flowers as friends and relatives decorated graves of loved ones who had gone before.

There was a slight breeze, enough to give life to the hundreds of American flags that had been placed on the graves of the over 1,300 veterans who have been buried at Rosehill Cemetery. Many volunteers had answered the call and helped with this honorable task.

As color guards assembled and advanced the great flag of the United States of America and the many other service flags past rows of tombstones, veterans of America’s many wars stood at attention and gave salute as the flags passed by.



Lt Col Dan Langan, Deputy Commander of the 5th Maintenance Group at Minot AFB gave the Memorial Day address.

Taking the podium to give the annual Memorial Day address was Lt. Col Dan Langan, Deput Commander of the 5th Maintenance Group at Minot Air Force Base. We are proud to publish excerpts from his moving and very appropriate speech.

*I am honored to be among you on this Memorial Day. First observed 157 years ago, Memorial Day is a time-honored American tradition that brings those from all walks of life together for a common purpose: to pay homage to the courageous men and women who, in the words of President Lincoln, gave the Last Full Measure of Devotion for their nation. It is a day of solemn contemplation over the cost of maintaining our Republic, and a celebration of the heroic service*

*members whose sacrifices allow us to stand here today amongst our friends and family. From our earliest days, through the Revolution, Civil War, two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, the Global War on Terror, and conflicts that continue around the world today, a select few sons and daughters of this Nation continue to answer the call to stand in harm’s way. They are Airmen, Guardians, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Guardsmen... Americans, who were emboldened to step away from their familiar lives, to serve a cause bigger than any of us. Since the birth of our nation, over 1.3 million Americans have paid the ultimate price in the pursuit of freedom, a price that afforded us the families, the sense of community, and the prosperity that we now know—a debt that can never be repaid in full.*

*For decades, the Minot community has shared a special bond with the U.S. military. You have watched as Minot Air Force Base grew from a small unit of homeland defense interceptors to a force capable of striking targets anywhere on earth with the deadliest weapons mankind has ever devised. You have witnessed change, tragedy, and through it all, you have for decades welcomed those from all across the United States to become a part of this resilient and vibrant community. Some of you here, have served among the fallen, and carried their memory home from the front lines. Some of you are the family who watched their sons, daughters, and siblings travel to places far from the blue skies and green fields of North Dakota. Some of them, did not return. But all of us here are commemorating heroes, most of whom we have never met, yet we*

*owe our livelihoods to them.*

*Like many who have served since the events of Sept 11 2001, today has a personal meaning to me. During the height of the Afghanistan and Iraq surges, I and many of my friends deployed into hostile areas on multiple occasions. I counted myself fortunate not to lose anyone I was close to, though through those difficult years I paid tribute to a tragic number of acquaintances and friends of friends. While I was deployed to Al Udeid AB in Qatar in 2010, we had the solemn duty to perform transfers of the remains of fallen servicemembers to the aircraft that would bring them on their final journey back to the U.S. I remember the ceremonies vividly, because over the course of that deployment I participated in them 59 times. Each time I stood at attention on a parking ramp scorched by the Arabian sun as the aluminum transfer cases, all draped with immaculately folded star-spangled banners, passed by under the salutes of those who trod across a few acres of noisy concrete to pay our respects. Each of those men and women wore a uniform. They all died for a cause, willingly embraced by millions of their comrades over the centuries. They all had people in their lives they cared about, they all had families, they all had parents. As a dad myself, I couldn’t help but think about the expression on each of their parents’ faces when they took their first steps. I thought about where each of them were when they first looked up at the stars on a clear night. I thought about how it must have felt for each to walk the familiar streets of their homes, whether it was a dusty, dirt road in North Dakota, or in downtown Manhattan. I thought about where*



A row of perfectly parked motorcycles lined one of the roadways into Rosehill Cemetery.



American flags adorned the many graves of veterans buried at Rosehill Cemetery.

*they might have been when they volunteered to fight for an idea - an idea far bigger than themselves, and an idea for which Americans young and old have been fighting since the 18th century.*

*To all of you here today, as you leave and go about the rest of your day and your week, let the memory of the fallen serve to renew your commitment to our nation and our Minot community. Ask yourselves, “what must I do to be worthy of their sacrifice? What contribution can I make that will elevate the lives of those around me, even if only for a brief moment? What positive force within my sphere of influence can I exert to make my small corner of the world, of my*

*community, a better place for me and those I care about?” And with that renewed commitment to each other and to those who serve, we can fulfill the solemn responsibility charged to each generation of Americans, to ensure that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.*

Even though the community of Minot still pauses to remember those who died for their country on each Memorial Day, the number who take the time to attend the ceremony has dwindled over the years. We invite you to be part of next year’s Memorial Day Ceremony and join with others to remember those who died to preserve our way



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**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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**A VIEW FROM  
OUR SIDE**  
ROD WILSON

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MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER | WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM

Fresh from a trip to West Fargo to help celebrate the last day of school for my grandkids, my head was spinning with the number of activities that were planned for the summer.

I thought I had a grasp on my granddaughters’ schedule as she is into dance and will be doing a couple of dance camps. Later this summer Addely will also be attending the Y Camp at Garrison with a couple of cousins from Williston. “And what else do you have going on this summer” I asked. Expecting a “this is kind of it” answer, I was totally surprised when she said she was also going to take tennis lessons, and maybe golf lessons and “maybe if I have time I’ll play t-ball.” A busy summer indeed.

Then there are the 2 older boys who will be helping their Mom at a program call Safety Town. Carter plays baseball and both of them will be taking tennis lessons and attending a tennis camp. Again, a busy summer!

Finally, there is the youngest grandchild. He could only tell me that he was going to play t-ball, but based on the other kids’ schedules, I am thinking there is more.

As circumstance would have it, I happened to have a short conversation with a young man on base. He had just finished school and was excited for summer. In order to make conversation I asked about what he had going on this summer, and he said “well, we’re going to PCS” and then he went on to explain they were going to

# What Are You Doing This Summer

grandma’s house for a couple of weeks and hopefully able to get to their new home in July.

I wished him well on his transition, but his matter of fact approach to his PCS summer activities led me to think about how his summer, although probably busy with moving and transitioning to a new base, would be a bit disjointed.

We just finished month of the Military Child where the focus was on those young people who indeed lead a totally different lifestyle. Every 2 years for some, their lifestyle is interrupted with a move to a different base and then going through the process of getting re-established in a new home, a new neighborhood and a new community. I am sure it is an “all hands on deck” at the family level to sink new roots and get into a whole new lifestyle.

In the meantime, the continuity of learning how to play tennis, golf, baseball and do dance has been totally interrupted. The young guy that I talked to hoped he would be able to play soccer again in his new community. Something as common as soccer may be guaranteed, but what about an

activity like robotics? I did a story on kids who moved here from Viginia where they were heavily involved in robotics, only to find there wasn’t a robotics club in Minot. Their option was to just forget robotics and move on to something else or do like they did; get their parents interested and start a robotics club at Minot North High School. Soon they had a club started, a robot built and were competing in locations as far away as Duluth, Minnesota.

So, for those of you who are reading this article and looking at a summertime PCS. Best of luck! Safe travels, and I hope you can get started in family activities in your new home. Although I have been in this position for almost 6 years and have had many friends PCS out to new bases in the U.S. and around the world, what I have discovered is the resilience of military families as they pick up and move on. Invariably I will receive an email or text message with information about their new home, new community, and new activities...and even some new and exciting activities.

And on our end; let’s not forget it’s PCS season and we’ll have a lot of new families

arriving in our community. We have the responsibility, and the opportunity, to make them welcome and help them get involved.

**BEST KEPT SECRETS**  
Many of you will be traveling to Medora this summer and will probably chart your journey south to Bismarck and then west to Medora on Interstate 94. A second route, and granted it is 2-lane highway and maybe a bit slower, is to take Highway 23 west to New Town, and then south on Highway 22. The views on this highway are amazing. Native grasslands, badlands, river valley...a great experience. On your way you can stop at Crow Flies High Point just out of New Town and have a breathtaking view of the 4 Bears bridge.

And, if you have time, the new MHA Interpretive Center and Lodges area is just outside of New Town. Look for signs directing you to all of these locations.

**TODAY’S CHUCKLE**  
Money isn’t everything, but it does keep your children paying attention to you.



The view from Crow Flies High Point In New Town is breathtaking!

# A Dick Tracy story and a 1945 homicide



**UPSIDE DOWN  
UNDER**  
MARVIN BAKER

We briefly touched on the story of Margaret Roeszler last week, a woman of 42 years old who was shot dead in her Jamestown beauty salon on Sept. 19 1945.

Roeszler, whose body is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery in Ashley, was known as a good neighbor, someone who would always help out a friend or neighbor and who was just trying to make a living like everyone else.

Roeszler went to work that day. It was just like any other day. The Paramount Beauty Shop, which she owned and operated, was located in the Cran Hotel at 302

2nd Ave. NE, less than a block from where a 1991 unsolved murder took place. The Cran was demolished in the 1970s.

As she was styling a woman’s hair, an unknown assailant entered the beauty shop, gunned her down and fled the scene. Reports from the time don’t indicate if the man was wearing a mask or not, but nonetheless wasn’t identified.

Less than a year later, a \$1,000 reward was posted for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the murderer. That reward, in today’s dollars adjusted for inflation, would be just short of \$18,000.

Several years later, a man named John Crockard, a native of Denver who was serving time in a Michigan prison, confessed to killing Roeszler and another man named James Woods. As it turned out, Woods was Crockard’s partner in crime.

It was also learned that Woods had gotten “friendly” with Roeszler, who apparently was Crockard’s girlfriend, according to Crockard.

As this case unfolded, law enforcement found out there was a lot more involved than two homicides. When he confessed, Crockard said he and Woods

were running drugs into North Dakota from Canada. They had robbed a bank in an undisclosed location and Crockard was also forging checks.

Crockard told Michigan authorities the whole situation had put him on edge and he didn’t know what to do about Roeszler, who knew too much.

“Jimmie told her everything about the bank robbery and the narcotics and how hot we were in business,” Crockard was quoted as saying. “Her idea was to straighten us both up.”

Crockard went into the beauty shop to confront her. He went into a restroom and “shot up” while trying to decide what to do. When he came out, he told her he planned to take her with him and Woods, but became mixed up and shot and killed her.

Crockard said he was too high on narcotics to remember her name or whether he used his own gun or one owned by Woods, or how many shots were fired.

As Crockard and Woods left town traveling east, Crockard gave Woods a sedative that knocked him out and as darkness approached, Crockard stabbed Woods and killed him. That murder had previously been unknown to law enforcement.

And just like in reading a Dick Tracy story, he found a road construction site that was about to be paved, so he buried Woods and the weapons in a shallow depression in the roadbed.

Later, while staying in a hotel in Fargo, he overheard some people talking about the death of Roeszler. He then sold his car, picked a name out of the phone book and started forging checks. He then traveled to Bismarck where he was caught and later served 18 months in Fargo for the checks he bounced there.

He was then extradited to Michigan for an unknown reason.

Crockard said he found the Lord in 1949 and had to get it this off his chest. And after Stutsman County authorities interviewed him, they suspected he made it all up based on a Dick Tracy story.

An April 23, 1952 article in the Marquette, Mich., newspaper the Mining Journal, reported that Crockard and numerous other inmates in a Jackson, Mich., prison were involved in a mutiny in which nine prison guards were taken hostage. Crockard became a spokesman for the prisoners during the standoff.

# Safe Rides program offers free, confidential rides for military personnel

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ANTHONY RAMEY, 5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.

-- MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. -- The Safe Rides program, launched in March 2024, provides free and reliable transportation for military members and their dependents who may be impaired or facing potentially unsafe driving situations.

Operating Thursday through Sunday from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m., the program ensures service members have a safe alternative to driving or riding with someone who is impaired. Rides can be requested by calling 701-727-2233.

"Rides are completely confidential and will not be reported to leadership," said Senior Airman Jamari Daley, media coordinator for Safe Rides.

The program is staffed entirely by volunteers and is a non-profit initiative specifically aimed at increasing safety, reducing DUI's, and other impaired driving incidents within the base

community. Individuals interested in volunteering as drivers can sign up via QR codes posted throughout the base or email MAFB.Safe.Rides@us.af.mil.

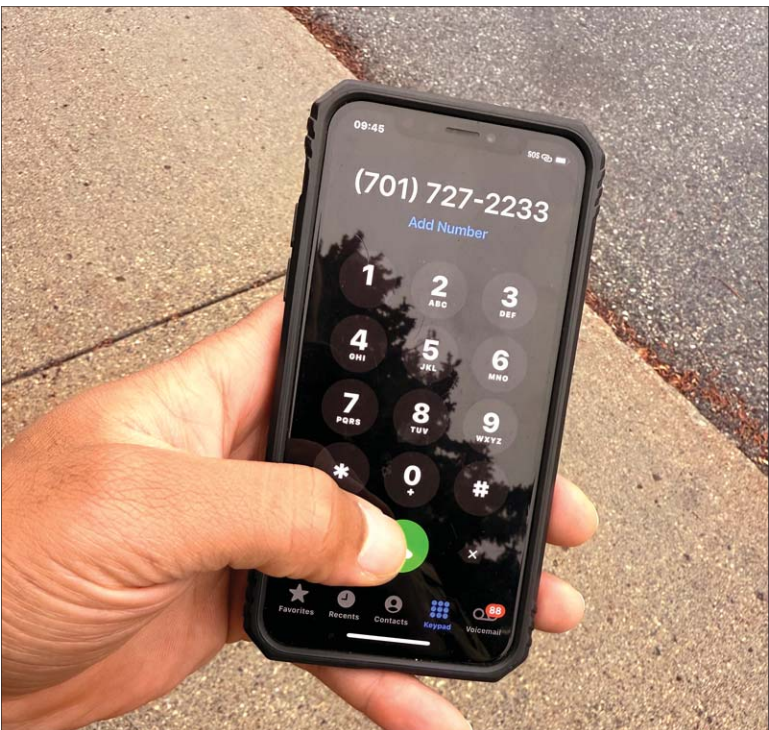
"On average, we receive about three to five ride requests each weekend," said Airman 1st Class Katherin Varela Loaiza, Safe Rides scheduler. "Fridays and Saturdays are usually our busiest nights."

Whether you're wrapping up a night out or see someone unfit to

drive, Safe Rides is just a call away. It's free. It's confidential. Call 701-727- 2233 Thursday through Sunday 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Interested in supporting the mission? Join the team of volunteers and help make a real impact in the community. Scan the QR codes located on base or email MAFB.Safe.Rides@us.af.mil to get involved.

One choice can save a life. Make it count.



A phone dialing the Safe Rides phone number. Providing safe reliable and confidential rides to prevent DUI's and potential fatalities.

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# 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
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# Mud, Sweat, and Team Spirit: 5th CES Ultimate Combat Dining-Out Experience

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

The 5th Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) recently traded hard hats, helmets and wrenches for water balloons and water guns as they held their much-anticipated Combat Dining-Out, an Air Force tradition that blends camaraderie, chaos, and celebration in a uniquely military way.

Held on May 22, 2025, and set against the backdrop of Minot’s improving spring weather, the event was more than just fun in the mud, it was a well-earned opportunity to recognize the hard work and endurance of a unit that literally keeps the base standing.

According to Lt Col Akira Nervik, 5th CES Commander, the event served a greater purpose beyond fun and competition. “You can’t spell deterrence without CE,” said Nervik. “The planes won’t take off, the missiles standing by and everybody else that works and lives on this base is supported by the infrastructure that the Civil Engineers maintain.”

The Combat Dining-Out is a longstanding Air Force tradition that mixes informal dining with military customs and an added twist of physical challenge and spirited rivalry. While dining-outs are typically formal affairs, the “combat” variant is its rugged, muddy cousin, complete with obstacle courses, tactical-themed attire, and a good measure of water balloons, food fights, and laughter.

“Love it! There should be more of it, and a place like this (Minot) should take advantage of the weather,” said Airman 1st Class Jacob Brown, clearly energized after several water balloon battles.

This year’s obstacle course was inspired by Tough Mudder endurance events, according to Master Sergeant Tyler Kurth, who took the lead in organizing the experience. Participants were divided into teams based on their shops, building both unit pride and healthy competition.

The course featured a series of physical and mental challenges from low crawls through thick mud and electrified obstacles to climbing walls and pool plunges. But more than a test of strength, it was a test of unity.

Lt Col Nervik emphasized that the event was a recognition of more than just physical grit, it honored the tireless commitment of Civil Engineers during one of the most challenging seasons of the year. “The men and women in Civil Engineering work incredibly hard, not just for the base, but for the missile field, the community, and everyone who calls this base home. We just came through a brutal winter, which is our playoff season. Everything breaks when it’s cold. These Airmen were out

there every day, after hours, solving emergencies tied to our aging infrastructure. Giving them half a day to genuinely celebrate each other and the hard work they’ve done was an easy decision.”

He added that the Combat Dining-Out also served to look ahead, reinforcing the squadron’s sense of unity and readiness. “People need a place to blow off steam, in a way that’s safe, contained, and builds

each other up. That’s what this is about, morale, cohesion, and pride in what we do.”

As the mud dried and the laughter faded into well-earned rest, the impact of the Combat Dining-Out remained clear: The 5th CES isn’t just building infrastructure, they’re building resilience, community, and combat-ready spirit, one muddy step at a time.



5th Civil Engineering Squadron at Minot AFB being team cohesion and enjoying their Combat Dining-Out.



Member of the 5th CES plunging into the obstacle course during their Combat Dining-Out event.



MSgt Tyler Kurth demonstrating how to complete the obstacle course at the Combat Dining Out.



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5th Civil Engineering members ready to their battle during their Combat Dining-Out event.



The Grog Bowl is a traditional item for dining in and out events. Grog Bowls come with rules and typically members are summoned to the Grog Bowl after an infraction of mess rules.



Members of the 5th Civil Engineering Squadron toasting during the POW-MIA Ceremony at their Combat Dining-Out event.



Water balloons, sling shots and tons of fun filled the field of Minot AFB during the Combat Dining-Out for the 5th Civil Engineering Squadron.

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## NOTES ON BEING SAFE

# SUMMER FOOD SAFETY: OUTDOOR GRILLING

SSGT JOE VERGARA  
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Grilling, one of the easiest low-fat cooking methods, can be a centerpiece for summertime meals. It is a great way to spend time with family and friends in an enjoyable setting.

While the art of grilling may come with practice, follow these pointers to enjoy a successful experience.

**Bring out the Barbecue** - Grills need annual cleaning after winter storage by scouring the grate with a wire brush. Spray the grid with oven cleaner and rinse thoroughly. Before each use, apply non-stick cooking spray to prevent food from sticking to the grill.

**Stock up on Charcoal** - Quality charcoal briquets light quickly and have a long burn life. Store charcoal in a cool, dry area. For instant-lighting charcoal, keep the bag tightly closed to prevent lighter fluid from evaporating. If you are using a gas grill, check the tank to make sure you have enough fuel to completely cook your meal.

**Use Proper Tools** - Tongs and a spatula help to turn food without piercing it to lose any juices. A vegetable grilling basket holds smaller foods. Other useful utensils include a wire brush for cleaning, long-handled tongs and flame retardant mitts to protect hands.

**Get Ready to Grill** - Arrange briquets in a pyramid at the bottom of the grill. Add approximately two ounces of lighter fluid and carefully light with a match.

Charcoal should be ready in about 20 minutes, with 70 percent covered with ash and displaying a slight red glow. To estimate the temperature, hold your hand, palm side down, about 6 inches above the coals.

two seconds - it's hot, about 375 degrees F. or more  
three seconds - it's medium-hot, about 350 to 375 degrees F.  
four seconds - it's medium, about 300 to 350 degrees F.  
five seconds - it's low, about 200 to 300 degrees F.

When coals are ready for cooking, spread in a single layer or bank them. Set the grilling grid in place and put on the food.

**Food Safety** - Food safety should be a high priority while grilling. If food is handled or cooked improperly, health risks can dampen the experience. Use these food safety suggestions:

Keep meat cold until ready to grill. Do not leave it out at room temperature.

Pre-cooked meats can still be grilled to add authentic flavor and shorten grilling time.

If starting with frozen products, thaw in the refrigerator or microwave. Grill immediately after thawing in the microwave.

Do not use the same platter or utensils to handle raw and cooked products.

Use a meat thermometer to check internal temperatures. Ground meat should be 160 degrees F, poultry at 180 degrees F., poultry breasts at 170 degrees F., pork at 160 degrees F., and steaks at 145 degrees F.

Once taken from the grill, keep the meat hot until serving in a warming tray or slow cooker.

Place leftovers in the refrigerator. Discard anything left out more than two hours. If you are outdoors and the temperature is above 80 degrees F., refrigerate leftovers within one hour, or discard them.

**Grilling Safety Tips**

Pick a safe area - Position the grill in a well-ventilated, flat, level surface away from overhangs, deck railings and shrubbery. Keep children and pets away from the grill when in use.

Handle charcoal carefully - Never add lighter fluid directly to hot coals since flames could travel up the fluid stream. Instead, place several new briquets in a metal can and apply lighter fluid. Transfer the briquets into the pyramid in the grill with pair of long-handled tongs and light with a match. Use proper utensils for safe handling of food and coals.

Putting out the fire - Place the cover on the grill, close the vents and allow the coals to burn out completely. Let ashes cool for at least 48 hours, and dispose in a non-combustible container. When using a gas grill, remember to allow it to completely cool before placing the cover over it.

**More Grilling Tips**

Before placing food on grilling surface, preheat the grill. Remove charred food debris to reduce exposure to possible cancer-causing substances formed during high heat cooking.

Avoid fire flare-ups by using lean meats and trimming away all visible fat. Raise the rack to the highest position away from the heat and keep food on one side of the grill and coals or other heat source on the other side.

Marinades enhance flavors, tenderize and keep foods moist. If you plan to use the remaining marinade later as a table sauce, it must be boiled for at least three minutes to eliminate bacteria.

Try grilling vegetables and fruits: eggplant, summer squashes, bell peppers, sweet onions, Roma or cherry tomatoes, mushrooms, mangoes, pineapple or peaches. Cut vegetables into half-inch slices or large chunks. Brush with warmed, seasoned oil. Turn only once, and grill until tender. Fruit should be halved with pits removed. Grill with the pulp (cut side) side down.

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# B-52s Kick Off Bomber Deployment to Spain

CHRIS GORDON, AIR AND SPACE FORCESMAGAZINE

B-52H Stratofortress bombers have arrived in Spain to kick off a new European deployment as the Air Force looks to make its nuclear-armed fleets more flexible.

The Air Force said in a news release that the bombers would operate from “smaller, more flexible locations across Europe and Africa,” a concept the service has also rehearsed with fighter, cargo, and refueling aircraft.

Recent bomber task force missions to Europe have operated mainly out of RAF Fairford, U.K., with long-range flights and air refueling extending their missions.

Two B-52s arrived at Morón Air Base May 20, a defense official told Air & Space Forces Magazine. The bombers are from Minot Air Force Base, N.D., and deployed as the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron with tail numbers 60-0044 and 60-0004.

“Bomber Task Force Europe is a clear signal of peace through the strength of airpower,” Lt. Gen. Jason T. Hinds, deputy commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, said in a statement. “This BTF deployment will ensure our forces remain resilient, dynamic, and capable of responding to evolving security challenges with speed and precision.”

U.S. defense officials did not preview the missions the bombers planned to conduct during the deployment. The Pentagon typically declines to comment on upcoming bomber operations.

The U.S. is not the only global power flexing its long-range strike capability. On May 20, the same day the B-52s arrived in Europe, two Russian TU-95 strategic bombers flew over the Barents Sea, according to Russia’s Ministry of Defense. The bombers appear to have been carrying air-launched cruise missiles, which are visible in a video released by the Russian government.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Vincent Noel, 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron commander, guides a B-52 Stratofortress aircraft to receive fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft assigned to the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, during Bomber Task Force Europe over the North Atlantic Ocean, May 20, 2025. BTF deployments allow Airmen to conduct Agile Combat Employment tactics to ensure forces remain resilient, dynamic, and capable of responding to evolving security challenges with speed and precision.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. BRYAN GUTHRIE

The B-52s appear not to have conducted any missions out of Morón since arriving in Spain, according to flight tracking data, though they hooked up with KC-46A Pegasus refuelers from McConnell Air Base, Kan., on their way across the Atlantic.

It is Minot’s second bomber task force deployment of the year to Europe, following another that ended in March. One of the bombers in the current rotation, 60-0044, also participated in the earlier visit, which was based at RAF Fairford and carried out missions across Europe and the Middle East.

Morón Air Base has been a strategic location for the Air Force since the 1950s, when it first served as a key Cold War bomber base and has routinely housed U.S. bombers since then. The U.S. no longer

maintains a continuous bomber presence overseas but sends them abroad multiple times a year for training exercises with foreign allies and partners.

U.S. conflicts in the Middle East have also led to rare bomber combat deployments. Four B-52s are currently stationed on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Those bombers arrived after six B-2 Spirit stealth bombers participated in the U.S. campaign against the Houthis in Yemen from late March to early May, when the U.S. agreed to a ceasefire with the group.

In November, six B-52s from Minot headed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, for a 45-day combat deployment, during which they bombed Islamic State group targets in Syria.



U.S. Airmen assigned to the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron arrive with a B-52 Stratofortress aircraft after arriving at Moron Air Base, Spain, during Bomber Task Force Europe on May 20, 2025. This BTF deployment demonstrates the U.S. Air Force’s ability to operate from flexible, dispersed locations while maintaining strategic reach and precision.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. BRYAN GUTHRIE

## All About Pets



Protecting your Pet from the Summer Heat

Summer in North Dakota is already off to a great start! It’s now the perfect time to go outside and get active with your pet. But with the temperature reaching record highs so early in the season, it’s important to take extra precautions to protect your four-legged friend. Since dogs are unable to sweat and cool down through panting only, here are a few things you can do to help them stay cool so you can all enjoy some fun in the sun:

- Stay off of hot pavement—if it will burn your feet, it will burn their paws. Try to take your dog for walks in the early morning or evening. Not only will the temperature be cooler, but the pavement won’t be as hot. You can also opt to take them on walks through wooded forests or on dirt or grass paths. Some pet owners may use “dog shoes” when there’s no other option, but most pets will probably not find this comfortable.
- Water your dog—yes, you read that right. Not only is important to have a constant supply of fresh, cool water when outside on a hot day, but it can be beneficial to literally water your dog! Fill up a kiddie pool and throw in their favorite ball, turn on the sprinklers, take your dog to a lake or creek, or grab the sprayer and hose them down. Not only are these fun ways to enrich your dog, but they will keep body temperature down so everyone’s happy. If your dog doesn’t like water, you can slowly work up to it through desensitization and counter-

conditioning, or you can just provide them with a shaded area or leave them inside.

- Never leave your dog in the car—does this need to be said anymore? It still happens often, so yes. If you can’t take your dog inside wherever you’re going, leave them home. If you can’t find a fully shaded parking spot and leave the AC on full blast, leave them home. If you’re going to be gone for an extended period of time, leave them home.
- Find indoor activities—sometimes it’s too hot for anyone, pets or parents alike, to be outside. To keep your dog busy on days like this, try getting creative with your indoor activities. You can play tug of war in the living room, let them watch dakrats scurry by out the window, play hide and seek, work on some training... the possibilities are endless. If you really want to get out of the house, there are many dog-friendly businesses where you can bring your pet inside. Any pet stores, Tractor Supply Co., and Hobby Lobby are a few favorites. (Be sure to call your location first before bringing any pets in, and make sure they’re mindful of their manners!)

Despite all our efforts, dogs are still at risk for heat stroke on a hot day. Watch out for excessive panting, confusion, vomiting, bright red gums, lethargy, body temperature over 104 degrees, and collapse, seizure, or coma. Take your pet to the vet immediately if you suspect they have excessive heat stress.

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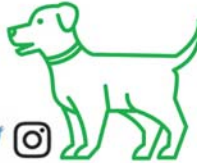
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# B-52 executes MIGHTY RHINO, integrating with African partners

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RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany -- A U.S. Air Force B-52H Stratofortress aircraft assigned to Bomber Task Force Europe executed mission MIGHTY RHINO on May 23, integrating with African partner forces in Morocco. The bomber integrated with Royal Moroccan Air Force F-16s fighter jets in support of African Lion, the

largest annual military exercise in Africa, demonstrating the reach of U.S. airpower and the U.S. Air Force's enduring commitment to collaboration with partner forces. "Posture isn't about being seen, it's about being ready," U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Vincent Noel, commander of the deployed expeditionary bomb squadron, said. "Our team trains to integrate into any theater

worldwide at a moment's notice, act decisively, and prove what credible combat power really looks like." Bomber Task Force Europe missions like MIGHTY RHINO reinforce the United States' ability to operate from forward locations with agility and precision while strengthening seamless cohesion through deliberate, disciplined operations across multiple theaters.



A U.S. Air Force B-52H Stratofortress assigned to the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron takes off in support of Bomber Task Force Europe (BTF) at Morón Air Base, Spain, May 23, 2025. BTF missions familiarize aircrew with air bases and operations in different geographic combatant command areas of operations to enable strategic access and integration with coalition forces in an effort to deter global conflict.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. BRYAN GUTHRIE



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# North Star’s Joann Bergrud Receives Award

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

North Star Community Credit Union is proud to announce that Joann Bergrud, Chief Operations Officer, has been named Professional of the Year by the Dakota Credit Union Association (DakCU). This prestigious award is presented to just one individual across North and South Dakota each year, recognizing a credit union professional who exemplifies extraordinary commitment to the credit union mission, advocacy, leadership, and community service. With a career spanning more than 25 years at North Star Community Credit Union, Bergrud has demonstrated unwavering dedication to the credit union philosophy of people helping people. She joined North Star in 1998 as a Member Services and Marketing Representative and

steadily rose through the ranks, holding positions in card services, marketing, operations, and now serving as the organization’s Chief Operations Officer since 2017. As Chief Operations Officer, she has led several major initiatives, including system upgrades and the development of new branch locations in Devils Lake and Minot. Her leadership has been key in driving innovation, improving internal systems, and enhancing the overall member experience. “Joann is a leader who shows up every day with vision, heart, and an unwavering commitment to our members. She has helped shape who we are today as a credit union and community partner. This recognition is a reflection of her years of hard work, advocacy, and the incredible impact she’s had

on both our organization and our communities.” – Bob Herrington, North Star Community Credit Union President/CEO Beyond her professional role, Bergrud is a dedicated volunteer and advocate. She founded the Maddock Food Pantry, serves on the Maddock Community Center Board, and leads community events through the Active Women of Maddock. She’s also active in her church, supports youth programs, and participates in financial education and charitable giving efforts within the credit union. “This award is incredibly humbling. It’s truly a reflection of the amazing people I work with every day at North Star and the supportive communities we serve. I’m passionate about the credit union movement because it’s about



L to R: Bob Herrington - President/CEO at North Star Community Credit Union, Joann Bergrud - Chief Operations Officer at North Star Community Credit Union, Mike Black - Chairman of North Star Community Credit Union Board of Directors, Jeff Olson - President/CEO at Dakota Credit Union Association.

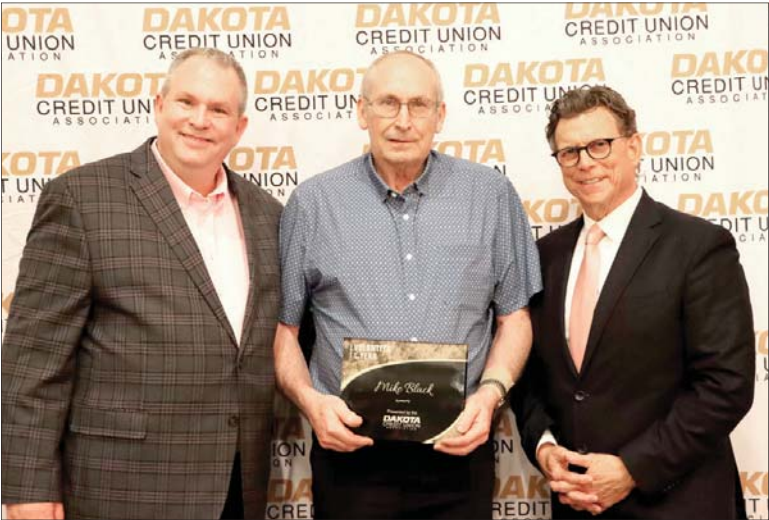
doing what’s right for people—and I’m grateful for the chance to be part of that mission.” – Joann Bergrud, North Star Community Credit Union Chief Operations Officer The Professional of the Year Award from the Dakota Credit Union Association honors individuals who go above

and beyond in demonstrating leadership, service, and dedication to cooperative principles. Joann Bergrud’s recognition stands as a testament to a career marked by integrity and innovation, a heartfelt commitment to improving the lives of others, and a legacy she continues to build.

# Mike Black Volunteer of the Year

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

North Star Community Credit Union is proud to announce that Mike Black, Chairman of North Star Community Credit Union’s Board of Directors, has been named Volunteer of the Year by the Dakota Credit Union Association (DakCU). The award recognizes a credit union volunteer who has selflessly contributed time, effort, and expertise to the growth and success of their credit union, while demonstrating unwavering commitment to the broader credit union movement, advocacy efforts, community service, and the cooperative principles that define the industry. Mike’s dedication to the credit union difference has spanned more than two decades. He has served on the North Star Board of Directors since 2003, including the past 11 years as Chairman, helping guide the organization through transformative growth while never losing sight of the credit union’s member-first philosophy. His volunteerism is rooted in a desire to uplift others—whether through thoughtful governance, charitable initiatives, or community partnerships—and his influence has created a lasting legacy within North Star Community Credit Union and the communities it serves. A tireless advocate for credit unions, Mike has represented North Star Community Credit Union at state and national levels, including



L to R: Bob Herrington - President/CEO at North Star Community Credit Union, Mike Black - Chairman of North Star Community Credit Union Board of Directors, Jeff Olson - President/CEO at Dakota Credit Union Association.

attending five Governmental Affairs Conferences in Washington, D.C.. He has also played a key role in North Star’s charitable efforts, most notably leading the credit union’s \$100,000 pledge in 2024 to support the MicroPremie Unit at Sanford Children’s Hospital through Credit Unions for Kids. His leadership has also enhanced fundraising partnerships with organizations like the Rugby Car Club, Farm Rescue and Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. The Dakota Credit Union Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes one individual each

year from North and South Dakota who goes above and beyond in demonstrating service, leadership, and dedication to cooperative principles. In receiving this award, Mike Black joins an elite group of credit union champions whose passion for people and commitment to the cooperative spirit continue to shape the future of the credit union movement. This recognition stands a testament to a lifetime of selfless contribution, a deep-rooted commitment to people helping people, and a legacy of leadership that continues to inspire.

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- Failure of or damages to the valve stem;
- Allowing air to escape from the valve or triggering damages through intentional puncturing
- Rubbing of the tire versus the roadway, tearing the tire, or splitting up of tire and rim by collision with additional objects;
- Too much wear of the tire tread causing explosive tire failing or permitting roadway fragments to tear through it
- Some tires, particularly a slow leakage, may be fixed and re-inflated; others, particularly those from worn tread, have to be changed.

Here are some simple methods to catch tire troubles before they become pricey or unsafe. Take a good examination of each tire in a well lit atmosphere. Examine for uneven tire wear, which can easily be created by:

- Too much or insufficient air pressure
- Issues with tire alignment or tire balancing
- Troubles with the suspension
- Unequal tire wear could be an indicator that you may have to have your tires rotated

These could suggest you need brand-new tires-- soon. Driving with a flat tire, specifically at high speeds, may cause a fatal accident. These troubles have the possibility to create a blowout, causing a loss of control that may be incredibly harmful.

- Fracturing or bulging treads or sidewalls that may suggest there is wear or weak point
- Foreign items that pass through in to the tire (nails, screws, glass)
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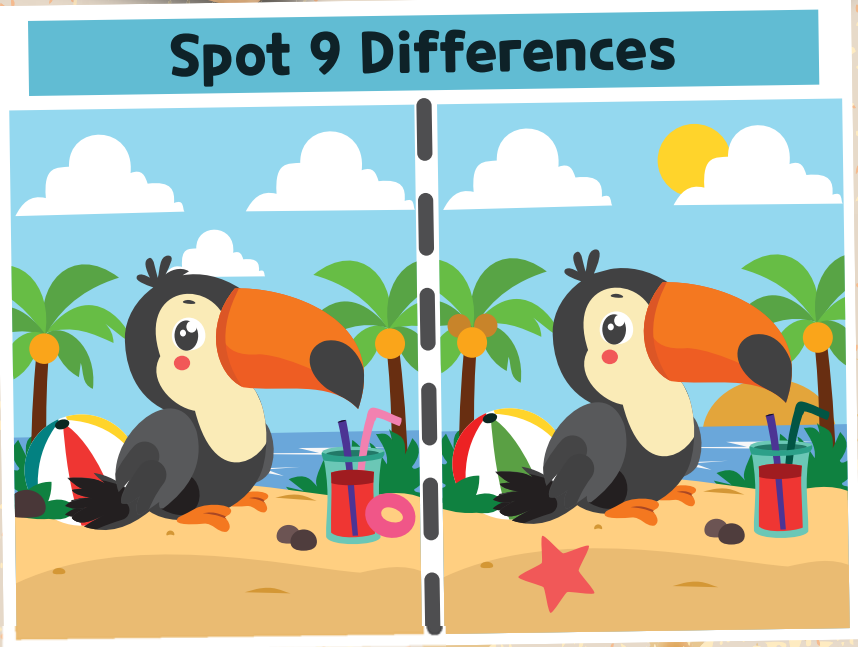
## WEST AFRICAN CROWNED CRANE

### CREATURE FEATURES

- West African Crowned Cranes are named for their striking straw colored bristle-like feathers on the top of their heads.
- West African Crowned Cranes are the only cranes that will roost in trees. While on the ground, they spend 50 to 75% of their waking hours foraging.
- Their booming call, that sounds like a honk, is made by inflating their red, gula sac.
- Their spectacular dances are for mating and an expression of joy.

#### Fact File

Life Span	25 years
Weight	6 - 8 pounds
Height	3 ½ feet
Wing Span	6 ½ feet
Wild Diet	Omnivore Carnivore Herbivore Insects, Reptiles, Small Mammals, Grasses, Grains



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FATHERS DAY  
JUNE 15

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# Take Me Out To The Ball Game Hot Tots Begin 2025 Season

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

It was a perfect evening for baseball. Temperature at game time around 70 degrees. A bit of a breeze to keep the American flag in center at Corbett Field waving, and a perfect sunlit blue sky. As we opened our door in the parking lot there was the familiar smell of brats cooking on a grill and the sound of baseballs popping leather gloves as players in white (The Hot Tots) and sky blue (The St. Cloud Rox) warmed up their arms, preparing for a 6:30 PM contest.

I had thought about the game all afternoon and really looked forward to the baseball game experience. I am pretty sure that my first summer organized sport experience was baseball. We started with herd baseball... that being one kid would hit the ball off of a tee, maybe run the wrong way around the bases, and every kid on the other team would run to try and retrieve the ball. Sometimes a battle would erupt in center field as 2 or 3 players vied for the chance to run after the runner, now rounding 3rd, or first depending on which way he went, and headed for home. The race to the plate would end as either the runner crossed the plate safely, or the fielder managed to dutifully smack the runner with the baseball glove. Didn't make any difference that the ball may have been in the other hand, and who (besides everyone) was keeping score

anyway. On the fence in either dugout was a big graphic of a baseball field. The coach would say a kid's name and then point to the area in the field where he, or she, was to play. We would never talk about details like the number of outs in an inning (what's an inning?) because every kid would bat. It was baseball, small town North Dakota, and every other small town in the United States, style, and whether the players from The Minot Hot Tots or St. Cloud Rox want to admit it or not, that is where they all started.

For the baseball purist, the Hot Tots belong to the Northwoods League which it states on their website, is the proven leader in the development of elite college baseball players. It is the largest organized baseball league in the world with 26 teams, drawing significantly more fans, in a friendly ballpark experience, than any league of its kind. It was explained to me once that the Northwoods League is a college level, wooden bat, baseball league. The 2 players I met tonight were from Orlando, Florida. "A long way from home?" I asked. One responded "yeah, but we like the weather up here so far." The other young player added "it is very hot in Florida this time of year." I thought to myself it was a good thing these kids' chosen sport was not hockey, and their first experience with North Dakota weather was playing for the Minot Minotauros; but

that is another story.

For a family looking for an entertaining 3 hours in the great outdoors, the Hot Tots are your ticket. According to General Manager Monica Hocking "a family of 5 can come to a Hot Tots game for as little as \$80.00." That may be only the tickets for admission, but I kind of look at a Hot Tots game as a way to not only experience baseball, but baseball food as well.

And there is no down time in a Hot Tots game. During inning breaks there are back to back games for kids (and the Hot Totties from Elison Assisted Living). The field is just barely cleared in time to the first pitch of the next inning.

One of the most entertaining inning breaks came as local celebrities, and GM Monica Hocking, competed for the right not to be slimed. This is one election you don't want to win folks. Monica took it all in stride and blamed her team of minions (you'll get this when you attend your first game) for stuffing the ballot box.

The outcome of the game may not have been what we wanted, but the entertainment certainly was. Pick up your phone and get your tickets for the next Hot Tots or Honeybees game..buy me some peanuts and cracker jacks. I don't care if I ever get back, cause its root, root, root for the Hot Tots!



Hot Tots GM won (or maybe lost) the right to be slimed. Wait for it...wait for it...



Here it comes!



She'll live to be slimed another day...



Every Hot Tots game is kid friendly. Lots of photo opportunities for the whole family.



GET YOUR GAME  
DAY TICKETS HERE:



From the first pitch to the last out, Hot Tots baseball, and Honey Bees softball is great family entertainment.



Strrrrikeee 3. Hot Tots pitching strikes out another one.



Hot Tots kept it close, but ended up losing 6-3.

HOT TOT PHOTOS BY KATELYN LUND



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# Captain Matthew Rogers Named 2024 Nuclear Deterrence Operations Reserve CGO of the Year

NORTHERN SENTRY

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. — The Twentieth Air Force Commander and Command Chief are proud to announce that Captain Matthew Rogers from Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, has been selected as the 2024 Nuclear Deterrence Operations Reserve Company Grade Officer (CGO) of the Year.

This prestigious award honors Captain Rogers’ outstanding leadership, technical expertise, and steadfast commitment to the nuclear deterrence mission. His exceptional performance as a Reserve officer has significantly contributed to the strength and readiness of our nation’s strategic forces.

Captain Rogers’ selection is a testament to his dedication and the professionalism he brings to the mission at Minot AFB. Congratulations on this recognition.

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SINCE 1994

JUNE 20

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(alcoholic or non-alcoholic)  
With Military ID

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

**\$6 HAMM'S & GRILLED CHEESE**  
Tuesday, June 3 at 4:00pm

**10 CENT BEER NIGHT**  
Wednesday, June 4, 4:00pm

**FREE NACHOS**  
Thursday, June 5, 4:00pm-Close

**1ST ANNUAL MAGIC CITY MUSIC FEST**  
Sunday, June 8, at 1:00pm

### HOURS

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

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

118 1st Avenue SE, Minot, ND

## BADLANDS

RESTAURANT BAR

# Upcoming 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.

MINOT PARKS  
**MOVIES in the Park**  
all movies begin at sunset

**WICKED**  
MAY 30, 2025 @ OAK PARK

ALL AMERICAN TROPHIES

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

30 MAY

**CODY BLOTTER - LIVE MUSIC**  
9:00 PM  
Blue Rider  
118 1st Avenue SE, Minot

Pride, Power, and a Keytar! Live at Blue Rider – May 30. We're closing out the Rainbow Bar Crawl in true Minot style — with live music, loud pride, and late-night vibes at Blue Rider, Minot's legendary dive bar. Cody takes the stage — a one-person party machine with a keytar and zero chill. Expect singalongs, dance breaks, glitter-soaked energy, and the queer joy we all came for. And when Cody wraps? A live DJ takes over to keep the dance floor shaking and the pride flowing all night long. Final stop of the Magic City Equality Rainbow Bar Crawl. Live music kicks off late, but the party doesn't end. Pride drink specials & all the weird bar art your heart desires. Come loud. Come proud. Come dance your face off. Blue Rider Bar – May 30. Be there or be a boring rectangle.

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

01 JUNE

**SUNDAYS AT THE PARK: HERITAGE SINGERS AND DANIEL STARKS**  
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Oak Park  
1300 4th Ave NW, Minot

Join us for the kickoff of our 2025 Arts in the City Summer Concert Series—a free evening of live music, art, community, and good vibes under the trees at Oak Park! Performances by: • 4 PM – The Heritage Singers of Minot • 7 PM – Daniel Starks. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, grab a bite from local food vendors, and enjoy featured artists, artisan booths, and a great community atmosphere. All ages welcome and encouraged! **FREE ENTRY | FAMILY-FRIENDLY | GOOD VIBES GUARANTEED.** Hosted by the Minot Area Council of the Arts.

KICKOFF

**ARTS in the City**  
SUMMER 2025 CONCERT SERIES

MINOT AREA COUNCIL OF THE ARTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 1st, 2025  
4 PM The Heritage Singers of Minot  
7 PM Daniel Starks

**For more information:**  
Facebook/ Minot Area Council of the Arts/ Events

4 JUNE

**SPY ACADEMY**  
9:00AM – 12:00PM  
Magic City Discovery Center,  
1545 1st Street NW

Welcome to Spy Academy, where aspiring secret agents like you will embark on thrilling missions, and develop undercover skills. Throughout the week, you'll learn the art of disguise, decode secret messages, solve complex puzzles, and master the skills needed to be a top agent. Get ready for hands-on training in robotics, cybersecurity, and surveillance techniques, all while building your own spy gear and using it to complete daring missions. By the end of the camp, you'll have the skills to pass any mission, work with a team of fellow spies, and uncover the ultimate secret: how to have an unforgettable summer! Class Size: Max of 20, Ages: 5 – 11 Dates: Three Day Class: June 4th – 6th or Day Class: June 11th – 13th. Location: Community Rooms (Both). Cost: \$144 for non-members, \$129.60 for MCDC Members, \$115.20 for Military MCDC Members

**SPY ACADEMY**  
JUNE 4TH TO 6TH OR  
JUNE 11TH TO 13TH  
9AM TO 12PM

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

## NEW Community at the Northern Sentry

**northernsentry community calendar**

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

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

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14 HANDS

CABERN

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks  
Crossword puzzle.

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

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1. Lounge up
- 6. Yuletide evergreens
- 10. Partner of carry
- 14. Butterfly locale?
- 15. Army group
- 16. Maui meal
- 17. Rosie of "White Men Can't Jump"
- 18. "The Circle Game" singer Mitchell
- 19. Loafing
- 20. Woman with a whoop
- 23. Meddle
- 24. Still in the oven, so to speak
- 27. Grp. drivers appreciate
- 30. Like some wine
- 32. Kind
- 33. Darn site
- 34. Zest
- 36. 1958 Rosalind Russell comedy
- 39. Cutting remarks
- 41. West from Brooklyn?
- 42. Snookered
- 43. Contribution to desktop clutter
- 46. "Runaway Bride" actor Richard
- 47. Seasoned sailor
- 48. Word with "questions?"
- 49. "Native ---"
- 51. Turf
- 52. Literary associate of Addison
- 54. Madhouse
- 56. Irene Dunne film
- 63. Multigenerational tale
- 65. Sneaking suspicion
- 66. City in Georgia or France
- 67. Words from those holding their noses
- 68. They make heads swell
- 69. On the horizon
- 70. Addition to the staff?
- 71. Stitches
- 72. Unpleasant, as weather

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21					22			
			23					24					25	26
27	28	29		30		31		32				33		
34			35		36		37				38			
39				40		41				42				
43					44				45		46			
47				48				49		50		51		
52			53						54		55			
		56				57	58	59				60	61	62
63	64					65					66			
67						68					69			
70						71					72			

Down

- 1. Conks on the head
  - 2. Crude bunch?
  - 3. Yukon, for one (Abbr.)
  - 4. Move like ivy
  - 5. Unavoidable danger
  - 6. Japan's highest mountain
  - 7. Wise to
  - 8. Evidence that one's taken?
  - 9. Response provokers
  - 10. Shinny up
  - 11. Driver's entertainment, sometimes
  - 12. Frivolous gal of song
  - 13. Color gradation
- 21. Ms. Breckinridge
  - 22. Like printing presses
  - 25. Cesar the Joker
  - 26. Couldn't live without
  - 27. Monks' leaders
  - 28. 1994 Peace Nobel
  - 29. Shipping service
  - 31. Delicious!
  - 32. Checkout units
  - 35. Kimono cincher
  - 37. Glasgow turndown
  - 38. Java vessel
  - 40. Fishy cover-up?
- 44. Kind of list
  - 45. Permeate slowly
  - 50. Mailer of books?
  - 53. Rub clean
  - 55. Malcolm X's birthplace
  - 57. Periphery
  - 58. Response from a teacher's pet?
  - 59. Ezio Pinza, for one
  - 60. They're unbeatable in war
  - 61. Middle Ages defense
  - 62. Pop painter Warhol
  - 63. Center of many an orbit
  - 64. Long trailer



## STARTING FRIDAY AT OAK PARK THEATER

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### SNOW WHITE

(2025) Fairy Tale, Adventure, Family (PG)

### PADDINGTON IN PERU

(2024) Adventure, Animation, Family (PG)

HELD OVER

### A WORKING MAN

(2025) Thriller, Action (R)

HELD OVER

1500 4TH AVE NW, MINOT, ND



# From Intro to Insider: MAFB Welcomes New Spouses

KERIANNE NOEL, NORTHERN SENTRY

Wendell Berry wrote that, “a community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared.” Acquiring this sense of place is a process each military spouse must start anew when they first arrive at a duty station. Fortunately, a quarterly event called the ‘Spouses Welcome on the Road,’ targeted at new-to-base spouses is designed to accomplish just that. Providing more than a surface level welcome, it is an opportunity to get to know faces and places around the base.

The initiative, run by the Military and Family Readiness Center (MFRC), had been around for many years under a previous iteration known as 'Heartlink. However, according to Suzanne Larson, MFRC Flight Chief, the format at the time was limited to a series of briefings to get base information and resources out to new spouses. In 2022, they decided to create a more dynamic experience with a post-lunch tour added on. The tour included stops at the base's Library, Thrift Shop, Arts and Crafts Center, and Outdoor Recreation. It was designed not just to familiarize new spouses with where these FSS-led facilities are located, but to decrease any apprehension first-time spouses might feel at utilizing them. The message from beginning to end of this day-long event: Team Minot is a true community in every sense and spouses have a vital role to play in its daily life.

What can spouses expect at this event? Free childcare, for one thing. While spots are limited, spouses with small children who RSVP by the childcare deadline are able to utilize the base's childcare program for the duration of the event, which runs from 8:30 to 2:30. After arriving at the MFRC, spouses were personally greeted at the door by MFRC staff then whisked along to a free continental breakfast, courtesy of the MAFB Spouses Club, and participated in an Information Fair. Here they received a taste of just some of the many helping agencies whose mission is to support them and their families to include the Exceptional Family Member Program, Family Advocacy, the Spouses Club, Education Center, and more. This fair was followed by a series of briefings that included a meet and greet with 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing leadership teams.

“Our leadership always takes time out of their busy schedules, no matter what they have going on to attend these events and make sure our spouses have everything that they need,” noted Mrs. Larson. The smaller group format lent itself to an informal conversation in which spouses were quickly put at ease, which helped set the tone for the rest of the briefings. Whether it was getting the word out about the Key Support Liaison (KSL) program, hearing from the Minot Area Chamber Economic Development Council about all the fun opportunities in and around Minot, or having their healthcare questions answered by 5th Medical Group leadership and Tricare, the conversation was wide ranging yet personalized. After these briefings, spouses enjoyed some lunch at the Dakota Inn and then proceeded on the base tour.

While the energy during the briefings was very positive, it was during the tour that this reporter saw individuals truly letting their guard down a bit more and coalescing as a group. As the event finished up numbers

were exchanged, and excited exclamations of “I just called your number!” and “text me!” were overheard. When asked about her overall impression of the event spouse Bianca Williamson shared, “the tour was incredibly helpful and I learned a lot. My favorite stop was probably at Outdoor Recreation - I just had no idea that they had so much to offer. I also enjoyed hearing from leadership. They were really friendly and approachable.” Spouse Ryan Reid agreed that, “this whole event was great. As someone new to

everything here, I enjoyed being able to get to know people around the base, the sense of community, and all these amazing resources.” When asked what they would say to a new spouse on the fence about signing up for the experience both had the same response: “Absolutely, yes. Go for it!”

For information about the next 'Spouses Welcome' visit the 5 FSS community events calendar at <https://5thforcesupport.com/events/> or contact the Military and Family Readiness Center at (701) 723-3950.



'Coffee and Chat' with 5th BW and 91st MW Leadership.



Treasure hunting at the Thrift Shop. Run by the MAFB Spouse Club, all proceeds go toward scholarships for spouses and dependents.



Welcome, Spouses! Pictured, Left to Right: Julie Slaton, Melissa Walker, Brianna Prete, Bianca Williamson, Ryan Reid, Sally Abell, Kiara Vigilia, and Abigail Wypyszinski.



A tour of the base would not be complete without an introduction to the Base Library.



Spouses try their hand at the virtual archery range, c/o Outdoor Recreation.

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# Minot Military Clothing Sales Announces New Hours of Operation

NORTHERN SENTRY

MINOT AFB, N.D. – Effective June 9, 2025, the Minot Military Clothing Sales store will be adjusting its hours of operation. The new hours will be Monday through Friday, from 0900 to 1600.

The store is operated by the Army & Air Force Exchange

Service (AAFES) and is located at 248 Missile Avenue, Minot Air Force Base, ND 58705.

For more information, customers may contact AAFES at their main phone number: (701) 727-4716. Additional contact numbers include (701) 723-3341 and the DSN line at 312-453-3341.

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A LOOK BACK  
THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

USAF THUNDERBIRDS PERFORM FOR THE FIRST TIME  
JUNE 8, 1953



The first Thunderbirds were F-84G Thunderjets. (USAF Photo)

Kanaga, and Major Dick Catledge. Since it's conception, the Thunderbirds have used several different planes including the F-100 Super Sabre, F-4 Phantom, and the current F-16 Fighting Falcon which has been in use since the 1983 season. Today, Thunderbird personnel and aircraft can be integrated into a fighter unit and can be combat-ready in 72 hours. They have performed in countries all over the world for millions of people and continue to embody the skill and professionalism of the USAF.

Information courtesy of: pacaf.af.mil / afthunderbirds.com / af.mil

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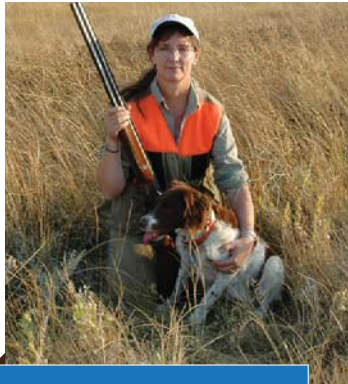
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WOODLAND  
RESORT

OUTDOOR  
REPORT



by Patricia Stockdill

**FISHING:**  
Lake Sakakawea elevation, May 26: 1,832.41 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 24,100 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.  
Devils Lake elevation: 1,449.57 feet above mean sea level (MSL).  
Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.57 MSL.

- N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: East end of Lake Sakakawea spotty. Missouri River tailrace producing occasional walleye. Devils Lake still somewhat slow for walleye with spotty success as water temperatures starts warming. Best walleye activity is around Mike's lake and some of the other northern feeder lakes as well as the west end around Minnewaukan. Not much activity on north-central area lakes.
- Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Improving walleye activity working shorelines with slip bobbers and leeches in shallow, warm water.
- Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Some walleye activity on Lake Darling.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Improving walleye success. Locate warm water and work shallow pitching jigs on the east end of Lake Sakakawea.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Fair walleye success on the east end of Lake Sakakawea working 15 to 25 feet around Steinke, Centennial, or Douglas bays. Lake Audubon continues producing nice smallmouth bass activity.
- Lake Sakakawea, Indian Hills Resort, Garrison: Look for continued improving walleye activity as water temperatures warm. Most activity remains in the bays where there's warmer water. Try slow presentation with minnows or crankbaits. Fair to good white bass and smallmouth bass numbers.
- Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Van Hook Arm starting to produce a few

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.

- 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: 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.
- June 7 & 8: Free fishing weekend. N.D. residents 16 years of age and older can fish for free this weekend.
- June 9 – 12L Summer Zoo Camp, Roosevelt Park Zoo, Minot. Ages 2 to 8th grade, 8:30 a.m.
- June 14: Monster Mash Halloween in June, Lewis & Clark State Park. Decorate camps and tents for an early spooky Halloween.
- June 14: Father's Day at the Zoo, Roosevelt Park Zoo, Minot, 9 a.m.

- 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.
  - June 13: Devils Lake, Grahams Island State Park.
  - June 14: Lake Sakakawea, Fort Stevenson State Park; Devils Lake, 6-Mile Bay.

walleye but overall mixed success. Work a little deeper.

- Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Bait & Tackle New Town: Look for continued improving walleye success with stable weather and warming temperatures. A few fish starting to come in 12 to 20 feet. Try the west or south end of the Van Hook Arm.
- Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace spotty for walleye from both boat and shore. Warmer weather bringing out lots of anglers. East end of Lake Sakakawea also spotty and inconsistent for walleye. Try the face of the dam, Douglas Bay, or Highway 83 embankment for salmon using crankbaits.
- Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Missouri and Yellowstone rivers dropping in elevation after recent rains but remain muddy. Trenton lake continues producing crappie. Work shallow, rocky shoreline areas deep in back bays on the upper end of Lake Sakakawea in about 2 feet for crappie. Best walleye activity remains east around 4 Bears Casino in 20 feet using jigs or spinners with minnows or nightcrawlers. Little Knife

Bay producing good smallmouth bass activity. Kota-Ray Dam and Kettle Lake good for rainbow trout.

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

- Des Lacs River, Foxholm: Gauge height, 5.95 feet; streamflow, 21.9 cubic feet per second (CFS).
- Lake Darling, Foxholm: Gauge height, 97.1 feet.
- Little Missouri River, Medora: Gauge height, 2.67 feet; streamflow, 305 CFS
- Little Missouri River, Long X Bridge near Watford City, gauge height, 8.46 feet; streamflow, 537 CFS.
- Missouri River, Williston: Gauge height, 18.22 feet.
- Missouri River, Washburn: Gauge height, 10.6 feet.
- Souris River, Broadway Bridge, Minot: Gauge height, 42.38 feet.
- Yellowstone River, Cartwright: Gauge height: 67.02 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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# MINOT NORTH

## SENTINEL REPORT



# Minot North Girls Excel at State Track

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, FRESHMAN | MINOT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Minot North girls’ track and field team capped off a season of growth and grit with a strong showing at the 2025 North Dakota State Track and Field Championships, held May 22–24 at the Bismarck Community Bowl. From the sprint lanes to the throwing pits, the Sentinels showed they could hold their own against the state’s top athletes.

One of the weekend’s most exciting achievements came from junior McKinnley Kragh, who earned a third-place finish overall in the pole vault. Kragh cleared 8 feet, 9 inches (8-09.00). This is a personal best and a new school record for Minot North. Her consistency throughout the season led to this breakout moment, and her vault not only secured a podium finish but set a new benchmark for future athletes in the program.

In sprint competition, Riley Hansen represented the Sentinels in the 100-yard dash, posting a time of 14.37 seconds in Heat 2. She ran alongside teammate Codey Irwin, who finished just ahead with a time of 13.72 seconds, showing depth in the short sprint events. Both sprinters held their own against tough competition and demonstrated the team’s speed development across the season.

The 100-meter hurdles featured a promising performance by freshman Ayla Jackson, who crossed the finish line in 20.21 seconds, placing third in her heat. The hurdles are one of the most technical events in track and field, and Jackson’s early success in the discipline is a sign of her potential to become a consistent contender in the coming years.

In the 200-meter dash, sophomore Gracen Rorem clocked a personal record of 30.13 seconds, reflecting significant improvement from earlier meets. Her stride and form carried her through the finish with confidence and strength, indicating continued potential in the sprinting events.

Minot North’s distance team also had a strong showing, particularly in the 800-meter run, where two athletes achieved personal bests. Alyvia Kopp finished with a time of 2:38.10, and Makenna Jackson followed closely with a time of 2:38.71. The duo ran in sync for

much of the race, demonstrating not just physical endurance, but smart pacing and determination. Their ability to PR on the state’s biggest stage underscores their hard work and competitive drive.

The Sentinels found their greatest success in the field events, securing two state titles that anchored their team performance.

In the shot put, junior Josie Rystedt delivered a standout performance, throwing 33 feet, 5 inches (33-05.00) to earn first place. Her throw was not only the farthest in the event but also among the top marks recorded at the meet. With excellent technique and explosive power, Rystedt showcased her strength in one of track and field’s most demanding disciplines.

Not far from the throws area, Jaylenn Zarr put together an extremely dominant performance for the weekend. Competing in the triple jump, Zarr leaped to a winning mark of 36 feet, 1 inch (36-01.00), capturing first place in commanding fashion. Her combination of speed,

agility, and coordination allowed her to control the event from the

start, making her jump one of the most impressive performances of the meet across all classifications.

Throughout the three-day meet, Minot North’s athletes demonstrated consistent progress and competitive spirit. With several top-three finishes and a host of personal bests, the team continues to build a solid foundation as one of the newer programs in the state. The season’s results reflect the dedication of the athletes and their ability to rise to the challenge of high-level competition.

As a team, the Sentinels left their mark in Bismarck with athletes competing across sprints, distance, hurdles, jumps, and throws. Many of them achieved season- or career-best marks at the most critical time, showing peak performances in a championship setting.

With rising underclassmen and returning upperclassmen, Minot North’s girls’ track and field program looks poised for continued success. The 2025 state meet will be remembered not only for its standout results but as a defining moment in the program’s early history.



McKinnley Kragh soaring at pole vault.

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# Minot North Celebrates Historic First Graduation

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, FRESHMAN | MINOT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

In a moment years in the making, Minot North High School marked a milestone on Sunday as the school celebrated its first-ever graduation ceremony, honoring the Class of 2025 in a memorable and meaningful event held at the Minot State University Dome.

The ceremony, rich with school spirit and significance, recognized the achievements of the pioneering class that helped shape the identity of Minot North in its inaugural year. From academics to athletics, music to leadership, the graduates have left an indelible mark on the school and community.

The ceremony opened with the 9th through 11th grade concert band, 12th grade band students cheering them on from their seats, diploma in hand, performing

“Pomp and Circumstance” as the graduates entered the venue in navy and silver caps and gowns. The band, conducted by faculty director Jeremy Meinert, continued to play a key role throughout the program, performing “The Star-Spangled Banner”, and the Minot North school song.

The class was led by Valedictorian Jack Starkey, who addressed his fellow graduates with a speech that reflected on the challenges and triumphs of building a school culture from the ground up. Starkey spoke of the unique opportunity the Class of 2025 had to be utilized, not just completing their education, but defining the identity of a new school community. His remarks earned a grand applause from both students and guests.

Also taking the stage was senior Cadey Shipman, who delivered a heartfelt speech about growth, resilience, and the power of friendship. Shipman recalled the shared experience of being part of Minot North’s founding class, the adjustments made during the school’s opening year, and the friendships that formed along the way. Her words captured the emotional journey of a class that faced the unknown, and thrived.

More than just a commencement, the ceremony was a celebration of what Minot North has become in its first year: a school built on ambition, innovation, and community spirit. The Class of 2025 is the first to graduate from Minot North since it opened its doors in the fall of 2024, and their

legacy is already being felt in the halls and history of the school.

The ceremony included a formal presentation of diplomas by Principal Mr. Harlan Johnson, who congratulated each graduate with a handshake and a smile. Family, friends, teachers, and local leaders filled the stands of the MSU Dome, cheering loudly for the students who helped launch a new chapter in Minot’s education history.

Each part of the event reflected Minot North’s values: respect, responsibility, and excellence. Decorations in school colors, featuring the Sentinel mascot, and the support of loved ones helped turn the MSU Dome into a space of celebration and reflection.

As the band played the school song one final time, graduates

tossed their caps into the air, marking the end of their high school journey and the beginning of the next chapter. For many, it was a bittersweet farewell. Not only to classmates and teachers, but also to a year that was unlike any other.

With their diplomas in hand, streamers falling, the members of the Class of 2025 leave behind more than just memories. They leave a foundation. They were the first to walk the new hallways, the first to wear the navy and silver proudly, and now, the first to walk across the stage and graduate as Minot North Sentinels.

Their story is one of firsts. But for the Class of 2025, it is also just the beginning.



Principal Harlan Johnson prepares opening speech.



First graduates stand, anticipating their future.



Excited graduate looks to family, diploma in hand.



Band view at Minot North High School 2025 Graduation.

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YOUTH IN ACTION

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ALYSSA KELLY

SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM MANAGER, GS-12

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM



House Bill 1144 took effect on May 2nd, 2025 and is considered an “emergency measure” due to its immediate implementation. It prevents K-12 public schools in North Dakota from having all-gender bathrooms. Any multi-stall bathroom must be designated as either a boys’ restroom or a girls’ restroom.

In addition to the boy or girl designation for all K-12 public school bathrooms, so the law requires school staff and teachers from adopting policies that permit students to use preferred gender pronouns or restrooms that do not match their biological sex. What’s

more, schools cannot adopt policies about a student’s transgender status without parental consent and must keep parents informed regarding their child’s status.

Lastly, parents can now file a complaint with their school district if they believe their school is not following the law. This complaint can then be elevated to include civil penalties up to \$2,500 per violation.

*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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PEOPLE AREN'T THE ONLY ONES BUSY IN JUNE

Patricia Stockdill

Summer flies by so quickly, especially June when it officially gets underway.

Perhaps it's because so many northerners anticipate its long, warm evenings after winter withers away.

Maybe it's because it seems there are so many things going on, whether it's children's summer Parks and Recreation activities, trying to steal time away to enjoy the lake, or sneak a day trip to a hidden outdoor treasure like western North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Yet as busy as summer is for humans, it's equally – of not more so – as busy for the wildlife that calls North Dakota home.

Just consider what all is going on just in the month of June, for example:

One would think rooster pheasants would have had enough crowing by now – after all, they've been perfecting it, fending off other competing roosters, and trying to garner the attention of any nearby hen they can for weeks and months.

But, nope, some roosters haven't given their vocal cords a rest quite yet and will continue crowing into early June. Meanwhile, as they're still trying to harmonize with themselves, hens are busy nesting. She's probably laid as many as 20 eggs, one a day, but about 11 eggs in a nest is the average in North Dakota. Once she starts sitting on the nest, she'll turn the eggs daily. That goes on until they hatch, typically after 23 days.

Some broods will hatch as late as July if the hen lost its nest and had to re-nest. In North Dakota, more than half of the broods hatch the last two weeks of June, though.

Sharp-tailed grouse are true survivors on the Northern Great Plains. They've called the region “home” for more than 10,000 years. Like the non-native pheasant, sharptails are also busy nesting in June but they, too, can have hatches into late July or even early August.

Yet another non-native bird has its share of work to do in June, especially hens –the gray partridge. They could still be nesting even into mid-August. Eggs usually hatch in 21 to 26 days.

The largest game bird in North Dakota, the wild turkey, is in the heart of its nesting season in June. Another ground-nester, hen turkeys scratch a shallow depression using nearby plant material to line the nest for her four to 17 eggs. They'll hatch in 25 to 31 days.

North Dakota's state bird, the western meadowlark, is also trying to keep up with some nestlings that

hatched as early as mid-June.

Birds aren't the only busy wild creatures in June. Most baby mammals have already been born by early to mid-June and are learning the ways of their wild world.

Coyote pups, for example, were likely born as early as March while bighorn sheep ewes can have lambs anytime from mid-April into early June.

Moose, beaver, elk, mule deer, pronghorn, whitetail, and red fox are usually born in mid-May into June, keeping mama busy feeding and protecting them.

For American Martens and badgers, though, are born in June.

It's even a busy month for a fish species found in some North Dakota lakes. Bluegill begin spawning in mid-May when water temperatures warm to about 71 degrees. The spawn lasts throughout June.

Just a reminder: With so many young wild animals embracing their Brave New World, please don't pick up what seems to be an abandoned or lost baby. The odds are good that the tiny fawn or any other baby animal hiding all alone isn't alone.

Mama – unless she's lying dead right in the area – is watching somewhere out of sight and really, really stressed that you're bothering her baby. She will work her way back to it and lead it to safety when the timing is right.

In the case of young birds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's NestWatch program recommends determining whether it's a fledgling, which is feathered, alert, and not helpless – or helpless nestling.

Leave fledglings alone – its parents are likely nearby and will care for it until it's on its own.

If it's a younger nestling not hopping around, watch it from a distance to see if its parents return (they won't if you're too close). Don't try feeding it or force-feed water.

Its nest is likely nearby. Try to locate it and return the nestling to its home. It's a myth that birds abandon their young if touched by a human. If the nest was destroyed, simply make a new one and place the little nestling in it.

The key is if it's hopping around, leave it alone – good advice for young wildlife in general.

As if all of this activity isn't enough for a month or so, the rest of the summer doesn't slow down much for humans and wildlife alike. We'll check up on these critters later - it's likely they'll be just as busy so stay tuned.



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**GLENBURN**, 3 bedrooms - 3 level duplex with 1 full bathroom and a 1/2 master bathroom. Attached single garage. Available now for \$600.00 monthly, plus a deposit, and the tenant pays utilities. Call 701-720-3089

## FRESH EGGS

**FRESH EGGS** Located just 20 minutes with delivery to the base. email: [esavelkoul@srt.com](mailto:esavelkoul@srt.com).



weekly post brief

**northernsentry**

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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## MINOT AFB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**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

### Meg-A-Latte

2045 N Broadway Suite #100, Minot  
Phone: 701-838-8479  
[www.meg-a-latte.com](http://www.meg-a-latte.com)

### Mi Mexico

3816 South Broadway, Minot  
Phone: 701.852.0777  
[www.mimexicominotnd.com](http://www.mimexicominotnd.com)

### N.D. Asia

3400 16th St SW, Minot  
Phone: 701.852.1240  
[www.ND-Asia.com](http://www.ND-Asia.com)

### Noodles & Company

304 4th Ave NW Minot  
701.491.9103  
[www.noodles.com](http://www.noodles.com)

### Pink's Bar & Grill

102 128th Ave NW, Minot  
Phone: 701.852-2385  
FB: PinksBarGrill

### The Blue Rider

118 1st Avenue SE, Minot  
Phone: 701.852.9050  
[www.theblueriderbar.com](http://www.theblueriderbar.com)

### The Starving Rooster

30 1st St. NE, Minot  
Phone: 701.838.3030  
[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.

★ *Hotel* ★  
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<https://discord.com/invite/xQtPFRBr>  
Minot AFB Musicians On Facebook  
Minotafb\_musicians On Instagram



## MINOT MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT

# SCAN TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.

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Snapshot of MPF Services:

- **DEERS:** Common Access Card (CAC), Dependent Update, CAC Unlock or Reset, Awards and Decorations
- **Customer Support:** Inbound Order Amendment, Accessions, Passport and/or Visa, Initial Enlistment Bonus (IEB), Quickship Bonus
- **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

MINOT AIRMEN HONE RIFLE SKILLS AT COMBAT ARMS TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE COURSE

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ANTHONY RAMEY



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Bryon Mordhorst flight chief and Senior Airman Dominique Henry, contracting specialist from the 5th contracting squadron disassemble the M4 at Minot Air Force Base, May 8th, 2025. Disassembly of the weapons allows Airmen to become more familiar with them, making them more deployment ready.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Deltron Banks, heavy equipment operator from the 5th civil engineering squadron, aims down range with the M4 at Minot Air Force Base, May 8, 2025. Banks trained on the M4 as a part of the Combat Arms Training and Maintenance course program designed to make him a more lethal Airman.



A group of Airmen load bullets into the M4 magazine on Minot Air Force Base, May 8, 2025. Airmen practiced loading bullets into the M4 rifle as a part of the Combat Arms Training and Maintenance.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Dominique Henry, contracting specialist assigned to the 5th contracting squadron, poses with her score sheet at Minot Air Force Base, May 8, 2025. Henry posed after receiving a passing grade for her shooting at Combat Arms Training and Maintenance training course.



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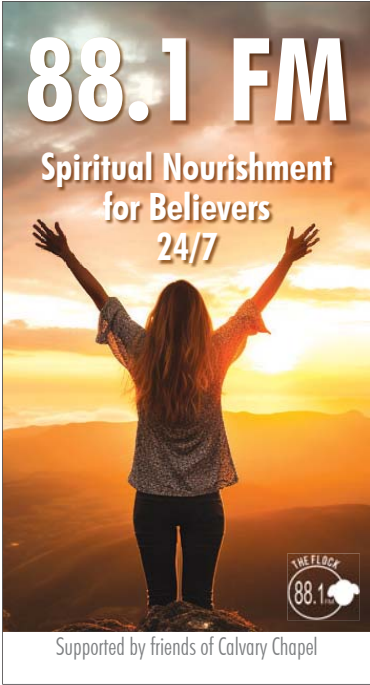
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MINOT AIR FORCE BASE





**SSGT JAMIE BATTEN**

Staff Sergeant Batten has been in the Air Force for 17 years and has been stationed at Minot for six months. His professional goal is to advance to the next rank and his personal goal is to bowl an 800 series game.



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# WHAT'S GOING ON MINOT AFB

FRIDAY30

- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Intramural Softball: LOLs 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

SUNDAY01

MONDAY02

- Kids Bowl FREE Begins, Rough Rider Lanes
- Get Golf Ready Ladies Begins, Rough Rider Golf Course
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Moving Out of the Dorms Budget Class, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Writing Club, 1800, Minot AFB Library

TUESDAY03

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Investing 101, 0900-1030, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- Civilian Employment Basis 101, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Quiet Book Club, 1800-1930, Minot AFB Library

WEDNESDAY04

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Sponsorship Training, 0900-1030, M&FRC
- Pre-Deployment/Remote Readiness Training, 1000, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- SkillBridge Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Storytime, 1030, Minot AFB Library
- EFMP Adult Master Chef Pizza, 1030, Jimmy Doolittle Center, hosted by M&FRC
- Brown Bag Book Talk, 1200, Minot AFB Library

THURSDAY05

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Pre-Separation Counseling, 0830-1130, M&FRC
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- Frist Duty Station Officer Financial Course, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center – Room 211

FRIDAY06

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY07

- Minot AFB 1997 Murder Mystery Begins, Minot AFB Library
- Summer Reading Program Begins, Minot AFB Library
- Summer Reading Program Squadron Contest Begins, Minot AFB Library
- Summer Reading Program Kick-Off Party, 1300, Minot AFB Library

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, dub soda, or lemonade!

Rockers Bar & Grill Featured Item  
**Harvest Salad**  
Spring Mix, cranberries, sunflower kernels, mozzarella balls, cherry tomatoes, crumbled boiled egg, and croutons. Add chicken or shrimp!

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE CLASSES

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