



WHATS INSIDE
THIS WEEK:



LEAVING
BASES BETTER:
JESSICA
WALKER'S
HOMESCHOOL
LEGACY AT
MINOT AFB

A2-A3



A SENSE OF
URGENCY
TASK FORCE
21 NUCLEAR
TRIAD
SYMPOSIUM

A6



ON-BASE
YELLOWFIN
BUSING
TOWN HALL

B7



Team Minot leadership signing the 2025 Fire Prevention Week proclamation at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 15, 2025. This year's theme is "Charge into Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home!" which serves to remind people of simple actions they can take to stay safe from fire year-round. See page B1 for more on Fire Prevention Week.

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



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Ashley Vanley Photography beautifully captured some of Jessica Walker and her family’s final moments at Minot AFB.

Leaving Bases Better: Jessica Walker’s Homeschool Legacy at Minot AFB

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

When Jessica Walker arrived at Minot Air Force Base in April 2024 with her husband, Master Sergeant Bradley Walker of the 5th Operations Support Squadron (5 OSS), and their four children ages 4, 6, 9, and 12, she brought more than just a military family settling into a new assignment. She brought vision, passion, and a deep commitment to building community.

Jessica quickly became a cornerstone of the Minot AFB homeschooling community, founding and leading the Brilliant Minds Homeschool Group, which would go on to support more than 60 children during her time there. Her leadership, rooted in faith, family, and service, created not just educational opportunities but a sense of belonging for dozens of military families.

Jessica’s journey into homeschool leadership began long before her family set foot in North Dakota. In 2022, while stationed at Keesler AFB, she was approached by the base’s school liaison with an

opportunity to start a homeschool group. Despite initial doubts, she accepted the challenge.

“It started as a small group of around 20 kids,” she shared in an interview. “By the time we left Keesler in 2024, we had over 80 children involved.”

Even before arriving at Minot, Jessica was planning a summer STEAM program for the community. Her goal was simple but powerful: to replicate the same sense of connection and support she had built at Keesler.

Jessica understood the isolation that can come with military life, especially in a northern post like Minot. That understanding fueled her efforts to make homeschooling families feel seen, supported, and empowered.

“Minot can be an isolating and lonely base, especially in the winter,” she said. “I wanted to bring a strong sense of community with me.”

Her impact was immediate. What began with a small group quickly grew into a vibrant, welcoming

network. By the time Jessica’s spouse received new PCS orders, Brilliant Minds had become a hub of weekly learning, social connection, and encouragement for families from all walks of life.

As a seasoned military spouse with nearly 15 years of experience navigating the ups and downs of service life, Jessica brought an invaluable perspective to her role. She understood the challenges military homeschoolers face, frequent PCS moves, deployment cycles, and the distance from extended family, and knew how to turn those challenges into strengths.

“Homeschooling gives military families flexibility,” she explained. “It helps ease transitions and lets us prioritize family time.”

She emphasized that one of the biggest hurdles for homeschool families is relocating, and she worked hard to help families both arriving and departing Minot make those transitions as smooth as possible.

Jessica’s proudest achievement

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Jessica Walker pictured with members of the Brilliant Minds Homeschool Group at Minot AFB, a community she founded and led with heart, vision, and unwavering dedication.



The Walker family cherishes one last beautiful fall at Minot AFB before beginning their next chapter at Eglin AFB.

ASHLEY VANLEY PHOTOGRAPHY IMAGE

was watching the group grow from just a few families into a flourishing community explaining that after a week, children arrived eager to learn and connect. “Seeing the kids each Friday morning with smiles on their faces and hearing, ‘Mrs. Jessica, what are we doing today?’ always brought me so much joy,” she recalled.

Under her leadership, the group became more than just a co-op, it became a safe space where children could flourish, and families could find their footing. Jessica’s influence has shaped the homeschooling landscape at Minot AFB in ways that will continue long after her departure. She believes that what made the program successful wasn’t just the activities, but the relationships.

“My hope is that by creating this group, we created a safe place for children to learn, socialize, and thrive,” she said.

She also noted the unique resilience of military homeschool communities. “These hardships, PCS seasons, deployments, build strength and a desire for closeness that homeschooling can meet in a powerful way.”

With her family now settled at Eglin AFB, Jessica left Minot with deep gratitude and full confidence in the future of the homeschool programs she helped nurture. Leadership of Brilliant Minds has transitioned to Ariel Harwood, while Amanda Hueber now leads Little Antlers, and Jennifer Robson continues to direct the local Classical Conversations group.

Her advice to those stepping into leadership roles is simple: “Stay true to yourself. Do what you love, and that joy will overflow to the students.”

Jessica Walker’s time at Minot AFB may have been temporary, but the impact she made is lasting. Through tireless dedication and genuine care, she transformed a small homeschool group into a thriving, supportive community that will continue to bless families for years to come.

Her parting words, a testament to both humility and hope, reflect not only what she believes, but how she lives: “With hard work and perseverance, you can do anything. Anyone can make a difference.”

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A VIEW FROM OUR SIDE

ROD WILSON



Last week I shared that the Air & Space Forces Association convention and conference was as the old saying goes, “like trying to drink out of a firehose.” Educational conferences are by their very nature that way. Evenings we spend looking through the agenda and trying to decide which of topics most interests me, and more importantly you, the Northern Sentry readers.

At the AFA convention and conference I am lucky to not be on an island, meaning that I’m not the only one here from Minot. On Sunday, Col Schlabach and his spouse Monica flagged us down (my spouse Sue was here, too) in the hotel lobby. Col Schlabach said that Col Lamarand was at the conference, too, as they were both on the same flight out of Minot and ultimately into DC.

Col Schlabach and I agree on the atmosphere of the AFA Conference and being “kind of indescribable. You connect industry with active duty and you have an exchange of information. Not only that but you

re-connect with networks you may not have seen for quite a while. How important can those contacts be? Well at the time you least expect it you find yourself reaching out to them for help or assistance” says Col Schlabach.

Both Col Lamarand and Col Schlabach talked about the ability to not only be ready for what happens today, but even more important is what may happen 5-10 years down the road.

My AFA partner throughout the convention and conference has been ND State AFA President and National AFA Member of the Year Jim Simons. Jim has been to so many AFA conferences that just mentioning Minot, or Minot Air Force Base will bring a smile and “so you’re here with Jim Simons?” I can’t thank Jim enough for taking me under his wing and guiding me through the convention and conference. As well, I can’t thank the staff of the 5th BW and 91st MW who are in attendance, and again who offer their assistance in bringing the messages down to ground level... where people like me, albeit I am exposed to almost daily information about Minot Air Force Base, can grasp and understand the messages.

AN EDITORIAL COMMENT
Why an AFA convention and conference? A year ago, I really couldn’t have answered that question, and I may not have the most perfect, well defined answer even today. Walking through the convention center venue today, now empty as the conference is over, there was a noticeable difference. Yes, now void of people, but also now absent of the energy that kept these hallways and conference



Jim recording information for the geocache.



Seriously, in the base of a lamp pole in a truck stop parking lot!



Information is often stored in something as simple as a pill bottle.

rooms alive. I can’t tell you the number of times that I stopped outside of one of the seminars and visited with someone about the end result of what we had just heard and experienced. The AFA (Air & Space Forces Association) is many small voices, combining into one large voice, to let people like you know the everyday challenges of our Airmen and their families.

The AFA creates a venue, if you will, for high level discussion and education to take place. My Dad used to say to me “if you went to school and didn’t learn anything. Rod, it’s because you forgot to listen.” I am in no way saying that anyone who attended the AFA conference forgot how to listen, in fact, it is quite the opposite. What part of the AFA are we going to take home? As active duty military, Col Schlabach and Col Lamarand feel that our nation’s leaders are listening and making changes. But as the AFA we need to champion their (our Airmen’s) cause. One small whisper, with enough voices becomes a roar. That, my friends,

was what was missing today. For 3 days it was a roar...applause... sharing...and it can’t stop here. Our security and our freedom depend on us supporting our military, our Air Force, with the resources they need to do their job, and do it well.

I met some amazing Airmen and Guardians (Space Force). They are the ones that will carry the message back to their bases and families. I know they will share the same experiences that I will, with all of my peers.

JIM’S PASSION... GEOCACHING

Jim Simons is a true geocaching fanatic, well at least he is to me. Driving hundreds of miles to find a pill bottle stuck in a lamppost base. Not once, but as Jim shared with me, over 20,000 times. “And I know people who have uncovered over 200,000 geocache locations” according to Jim. Not that I don’t recommend geocaching for those who want to find themselves in sometimes obscure locations, but in order to catch Jim, you best get started today...

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TODAY’S CHUCKLE

OLE’S WIFE, Lena: “There’s trouble with the car, sweetheart. It has water in the carburetor.”
Ole: “Water in the carburetor? That’s ridiculous.”
Lena: “Ole, I tell you the car has water in the carburetor.”
Ole: “You don’t even know what a carburetor is. I’ll check it out. Where’s the car?”
Lena: “In the lake.”

Military members are staying in North Dakota



UPSIDE DOWN UNDER
MARVIN BAKER

Ever since the early 1950s, there’s been a military presence in North Dakota beginning with the Minot and Grand Forks Air Force bases. And just like any other military reservation, personnel who staff those bases normally move on when their hitch is up.

First, there was Minot and Grand Forks, then several small radar bases were built with one remaining, near Cavalier. In addition, the National Guard began to grow. Once upon a time, the North Dakota National Guard was a weekend to get away from the routine for a couple of

days. And since Desert Storm, it has become the well-respected military branch it should have always been.

But the Air Force is the place to start here. Although Grand Forks has seen plenty of changes since it was built, Minot has been more consistent in its mission and its growth. At the front gate of the Minot Air Force Base is a large sign that says “Only the Best Come North.”

When people who may have grown up in Florida, Texas or California see that sign for the first time, I’m sure they wonder what they got themselves into. However, as their tours develop, they begin to see things that tell them Minot isn’t as bad as they’ve been led to believe.

Enter Task Force 21. This is an organization that exists solely to forge a better relationship between the city of Minot, the county of Ward and the Minot Air Force Base.

Some of the young airmen stationed here see that too and quickly understand the commitment the local community has made to the military.

For these reasons, numerous people who leave the Air Force choose to stay in Minot. Despite

being from places like Florida, Texas or California, they turn in their uniforms for Carharts.

The National Guard is becoming quite similar to the Air Force in that respect. Camp Grafton, near Devils Lake, has grown by leaps and bounds in the past 50 years. As that military reservation has developed, more and more full-time Guardsmen were brought in to operate the sprawling camp.

And, as the Army popularity of what was happening at Camp Grafton became apparent, leadership began looking outside of North Dakota to fill many of the full-time positions that were rapidly becoming available.

This is where the Guard is a bit different than the Air Force, but the end result appears to be the same. Soldiers come to Camp Grafton from all over the U.S. for short-term training on everything from operating a bulldozer to being a better cook in the kitchen.

Those training blocks usually run several weeks to several months and when they are done, those Soldiers typically go back to where they were originally from; Savannah, Georgia, Amherst, Massachusetts, Biloxi, Mississippi and even places like Guam and Puerto Rico.

Some of those Soldiers are offered full-time positions while they are here and accept the offer and Devils Lake becomes their new home.

But it isn’t just a good place to be a Soldier. Many of these people like it here and are committed to making Devils Lake a better place to live and work. Fishing and water recreation are obvious reasons to gravitate toward Devils Lake, but there are numerous other amenities that keep Soldiers here.

Many of them become pillars of the community, not just Devils Lake, but surrounding communities such as Lakota, Minnewaukan or New Rockford. In Minot’s case, Surrey, Burlington or Berthold and in Grand Forks’ case, East Grand Forks, Larimore, Hillsboro and even Grafton.

Having worked at Camp Grafton for eight years, I got to know many of the Soldiers from out of state who decided to stay here and make a life on the northern tier of North Dakota.

We’ve lived here all our lives and to us being here is a routine. But to those Airmen and Soldiers who come here and see what is to offer, they like what they see and they do something about it.

October Squadron of the Month

23rd Bomber Generation Squadron

The 5th Bomb Wing Command team would like to congratulate the 23rd Bomber Generation Squadron (23 BGS) on being selected as October's Squadron of the Month. The 23 BGS returned from their Bomber Task Force (BTF) mission in Guam, in support of Exercise RESOLUTE FORCE PACIFIC. The Barons strengthened deterrence, fostered interoperability, maintained readiness and reinforced the Wing's ability to operate anytime, anywhere. Shortly after returning, the squadron provided a brief respite from the busy operations tempo by bringing together family and friends to a Summer Bash!

This event catered to over 500 Airmen and dependents with engaging games and activities from the recreation center, and even a dunk tank where the 23 BGS Commander took the plunge, providing plenty of laughs for all.

Finally, the 23 BGS recognized 18 Dedicated Crew Chiefs, reflecting immense responsibility and direct ownership for their specific aircraft which is a proud tradition in aircraft maintenance. Amidst the fun, the mission never stops. The 23 BGS continues to power through a demanding schedule to maintain peak operational readiness.



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23 BGS Bomber Task Force



Summer Bash



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Wednesday, October 8 at 7:00pm

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Thursday, October 9 at 4:00pm-close

JAKE STACK - LIVE MUSIC
Friday, October 10 at 8:00pm

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A LOOK BACK

THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

LGM-118A PEACEKEEPER MISSILE PLACED ON ALERT

October 10, 1986



The LGM-118A Peacekeeper, a four-stage intercontinental ballistic missile, became operational near the end of the Cold War. (USAF Photo)

50 Peacekeeper missiles were brought to F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., and placed on alert in modified Minuteman III silos. The other ICBMs were meant to be deployed to railcar launch vehicles, but the railcar basing was never implemented. By the end of 1988, a total of 114 missiles were produced. The Peacekeepers were deactivated in 2005 and the United States switched to a missile force composed entirely of Minuteman IIIs.

Information courtesy of: media.defense.gov / nuka.fas.org / warren.af.mil / missilethreat.csis.org

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A Sense Of Urgency

Task Force 21 Nuclear Triad Symposium

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

For Task Force 21 the recent Nuclear Triad Symposium would be their 14th, and although the message has always been one of “Sustaining Strategic Deterrence” the 2025 Symposium also addressed in depth “Modernizing the Nuclear Triad for a Changing World.”

Because Minot Air Force Base supports 2 legs of the Nuclear Triad, that being the Minuteman III Missiles and the B 52 bombers, modernization of the nuclear triad is almost a daily conversation at Minot AFB as the 91st Missile Wing looks forward to the new Sentinel Missile program and the 5th Bomb Wing is anxious to receive the B 52 H.

Both weapons systems are well past their anticipated life expectancy, yet they are the weapons system, teamed with the Navy’s Ohio Class submarines, that are leaned upon to be the nuclear deterrent for adversaries like Russia, China and more recently North Korea.

The symposium started with Vice Admiral Johnny Wolfe Jr., Director for Strategic Systems programs for the U.S. Navy, along with Lt. General Andrew J. Gebara, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence Initiative and Nuclear Integration, U.S. Air Force, outlining and summarizing the importance of the Navy and the Air Force to work together to modernize the once dominant Nuclear Triad of the United State to compete with adversaries. “We must work together to collaborate and get modern weapons into our warfighters hands” according to Wolfe. The foundational triad needs to be modernized to stay ahead of Russian and China.”

Admiral Wolfe made another point clear, “If deterrence fails, I have every confidence that our warfighters will be ready.

Although their messages were similar, Lt. General opened his comments with a focus on the importance of deterrence “however the urgency for deterrence has certainly intensified. Global security is getting increasingly more complex. Now with Russia, China, North Korea, Iraq and more recently Pakistan, we must remain vigilant to a comprehensive deterrent,” and to accomplish that comprehensive deterrent Lt. Gen Gebara said it will take the continued support of Congress. “It’s important to



Lt. Gen. Andrew J. Gebara, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, U.S. Air Force.

continue to advocate for nuclear modernization” according to Gebara. “China has repeatedly talked about the invasion of Tawain in 2027. In order for China to wage war they must have, one: the capability and two: the will, and it seems that they have both.”

Much was said during AFA conference about the changing character of war, and the next speaker on the Nuclear Symposium Agenda, Dr. Rebecca L. Heinrichs, Senior Fellow and Director, Keystone Defense Initiative, The Hudson Institute told the audience that the United States may have to be prepared to deter and defeat 2 nuclear forces, each in a different theater.

“We are used to a U.S. led order, a U.S. system of alliances if you will that projects power abroad. It’s been a U.S. led deterrence.” And it is that deterrence that allows the United States to defend our core values. “We want to maintain our national sovereignty, and our strong alliances. Our adversaries want to break down those alliances, and in doing so they can threaten our homeland.

As a member of America’s Strategic Posture Commission, Dr. Heinrichs referred to the commission’s summary: The Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States was established by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and concludes that America’s defense



Lt. Gen. Michael J. Lutton, Deputy Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command and Deputy Commander, Air Forces Strategic-Air, U.S. Strategic Command.

strategy and strategic posture must change in order to properly defend its vital interests and improve strategic stability with China and Russia. Decisions need to be made now in order for the nation to be prepared to address the threats from these two nuclear-armed adversaries arising during the 2027-2035 timeframe. Moreover, these threats are such that the United States and its Allies and partners must be ready to deter and defeat both adversaries simultaneously.

“We must adapt nuclear forces for a new threat environment” according to Dr. Heinrichs “it must be not only deterrence, but assurance that if the United States needs the help of Allies, they will help. The U.S. strategy needs to be altered to increase nuclear weapons and forces. Even with the Golden Dome we know that our adversaries will try target the homeland and target the Americans with fear that will raise the threshold of a possible homeland attack, and we need prioritize what we think we need to defend first.”

On the other side we need to let our adversaries know that if they choose to target the homeland, it was a terrible mistake “and that they will become engaged in a war that would be absolutely awful” according to Heinrichs.

Looking ahead “we can see Russian and the Chinese collaborating to to supplant the U.S. order and create problems for the U.S.”

And according to Heinrichs we need to “consider what we don’t know. For example, Pakistan. Where are they in the world order, or where will they be? We absolutely need to cut through bureaucratic red tape to get Sentinel to go faster. Along with that we need to create a Nuclear Triad for Europe. We also need to make sure our Allies are on board and that they understand they need to play a larger role.”

And then there is the situation in Taiwan. “We either need to decide to defend Taiwan at all costs or decide that the cost to defend Taiwan is too high. If the Chinese think Taiwan is a battle they can



Dr. Rebecca L. Heinrichs, The Hudson Institute



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Our mission is to promote dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense; to honor and support our Airmen, Guardians, and their Families; and to remember and respect our enduring Heritage.

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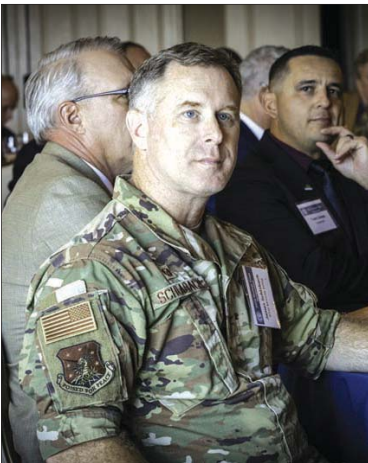
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MINOT, ND - MINOT AIR FORCE BASE

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Col Jimmy L. Schlabach, Commander of the 91st Missile Wing at Minot Air Force Base.



Col Jesse W. Lamarand, Commander of the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot Air Force Base.

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC (MACEDC) PHOTOS

win, then they will follow through. And in this battle there could be a case where nuclear weapons most likely will be used, and that is what we need to be prepared for.”

Next to the podium would be Maj General Michael Lutton, Deputy Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command. Sharing memories of the Midnight Hammer event, Gen Lutton shared “what was most memorable to me on that night was the professionalism up and down the force. You see a team fly 50 to 60% around the world and absolutely shock the Iranians. That is not embellishment. You are just unbelievably proud.”

Speaking to the Bomber Task Force Missions Gen Lutton pointed out “we have executed more Bomber Task Force missions in the last 12 months than in the last 20 years. Approximately 53 Bomber Taks Forces and almost 290 days on the road for the team. I believe it is over 45 countries that the bombers have integrated with. And then there’s the Minutemen III force. It is deterrence. The unflinching force of the 20th Air Force that is there deterring any potential adversaries and give the joint force freedom to maneuver to conduct global strike operations anywhere around the world. That force is critical to

Global Strike and critical to national security.”

Gen Lutton continued that “we will win or lose in the transition, but this is going to work, this is the mindset that you need to have. You need to get into the mindset that this is going to work, and we are going to modernize. We have to get this modernization done. If you are late in deterrent, there is a greater chance that deterrent is going to fail.”

As far as the manpower behind the force. “We owe the team behind us the Airmen that are going to replace us. We have to give them modern weapons systems that we know will deliver national security.

And as far as the B 21? “It cannot get here fast enough. Still, we have to maintain our B-1 and B-2 and modernize our B 52’s.”

The overriding theme of this year’s Task Force 21 Nuclear Symposium is the need to stay on point and work hard to modernize all 3 legs of the Nuclear Triad. Several times the Triad was referred to as the backbone of the U.S. national defense.

All of the seminars of the Nuclear Triad Symposium were recorded and for those interested, more information on how to find them online is forthcoming.

VINCENT UNITED METHODIST BAZAAR

*** Caramel Rolls at 9:00 am**
*** Delicious Lattes 9:00 am - 12:00 noon**
*** Lunch (Soups & Sandwiches)**

Quilts, Table Runners, Guest Towels, \$5 Gift Table
Bake Sale - Lefse, Bread, Kuchen, Pickles, Jellies, Pies

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025
9 AM - 2 PM

VINCENT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1024 2ND ST. SE,
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4 BLOCKS EAST OF TOWN & COUNTRY CENTER

Come learn about our organization and our affiliated organizations by stopping by before one of our meetings!

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Come learn about Freemasonry and its community of appendant organizations by attending a meet-and-greet session with our members before one of our regularly scheduled business meetings!

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

Upcoming Events

04 OCT

MIDWEST MONSTER CON!
10:00AM-6:00PM
Minot Municipal Auditorium
420 3rd Avenue SW, Minot

Midwest MonsterCon brings the ultimate horror experience to Minot, North Dakota. This fan-favorite convention unites lovers of all things spooky and macabre for a thrilling weekend filled with eerie excitement. Attendees can enjoy engaging panels, browse unique vendors, meet special guests, and take part in horror-themed activities that promise unforgettable memories. Whether you’re a die-hard horror fan or just looking for a frightfully fun time, Midwest MonsterCon offers a welcoming space to celebrate the creepy, the creative, and the curious. Costumes are encouraged, and all ages are welcome to join in the hauntingly good fun.

October 4-5
10:00 AM
Minot Municipal Auditorium
420 Third Avenue SW

For more information:
Facebook/ Midwest Monster Con!/ Events

08 OCT

MEET THE MINOTAUROS AT THE MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER
12:00PM
Magic City Discovery Center,
1545 1st Street NW, Minot

Join us on Wednesday, October 8th from 2–4 PM for an exciting afternoon with the Minotauros hockey team! Players — and their mascot, Tank — will be here to sign autographs, take pictures, and meet fans of all ages. Bring your family, wear your favorite Tauros gear, and get ready for a fun-filled event that combines hockey spirit with discovery and play. Don’t miss your chance to meet the team up close and make some unforgettable memories! Free with paid admission!

MINOTAUROS MEET & GREET
OCT. 8TH, 2 TO 4 PM

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

08 OCT

BLUE RIDER TRIVIA
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Blue Rider
118 1st Avenue SE, Minot

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

BLUE RIDER TRIVIA
It’s the toughest game in town | Every Wednesday

For more information:
Facebook/ Blue Rider/ Events

10-11 OCT

PUMPKIN WALK
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Woodland Trail, 3020 14th Ave SW
Minot

Friday, October 10th – Saturday, October 11th, 2025 | Woodland Trail | 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Visit Woodland Trail for Minot Parks sixth annual Pumpkin Walk! Stroll the path filled with lit jack-o-lanterns. This event is free to attend.

PUMPKIN WALK
at woodland trail
OCTOBER 10TH + 11TH | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

For more information:
Facebook/ Minot Parks/ Events

NEW Community at the Northern Sentry

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Car care checklist for summer road trips • Part 1

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

Check tires and tire pressure

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

Listen to and feel the brakes

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

Secure and test the battery

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

Top off engine oil and other fluids

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

Replace wiper blades and replenish windshield cleaner

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



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- INSPECTING TIRE PRESSURE
- CHECKING ENTIRE UNDERCARRIAGE

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BALD EAGLE

CREATURE FEATURES

- The national bird of the United States, it is the only eagle unique to North America.
- A Bald Eagle's eye is almost as large as a human's. Their eyesight is 4 times sharper than a human with perfect vision.
- Its skeleton weighs about 1/2 lb, only 5 to 6% of its body weight. Their bones are hollow. This allows the Bald Eagle to soar to altitudes of over 10,000 feet.
- Their beak tip is used for tearing. Bald Eagles kill their prey with their talons by penetrating flesh.
- A Bald Eagle's skin is protected by over 7,000 feathers lined with down. Their feet are cold resistant, consisting mostly of tendons.

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

WOODLAND

— wordsearch puzzle —

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

Find objects in the picture and in the puzzle and discover the hidden word

BOAR	FOX
HARE	OTTER
SQUIRREL	BEAVER
BEAR	MOLE
BADGER	DEER
LIZARD	COCKOO
FROG	RAVEN
HEDGEHOG	WOLF
WOODPECKER	

HOURS:
DAILY
9AM-8PM

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NATIONAL
FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK

This National Fire Prevention Week,
we proudly recognize the dedication and
service of the 5th Civil Engineer Squadron
at Minot Air Force Base.

Every day, these professionals work tirelessly to prevent fires,
ensure safety, and respond swiftly to emergencies, protecting
lives, infrastructure, and mission readiness.
Their commitment reflects the highest standards of the
Air Force core values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and
Excellence in All We Do.

To every firefighter and responder in the 5th CES—
thank you. Your work matters. Your courage inspires.

WE SALUTE YOU.



Fire Prevention Week 2025:
“Charge into Safety:
Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home!”

SENIOR AIRMAN ALYSSA BANKSTON, 5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. – The 5th Civil Engineer Squadron’s (5CES) Fire & Emergency Services flight will lead Minot Air Force Base’s observance of Fire Prevention Week (FPW), Oct. 5-11, 2025, with a focus on safe use and charging of lithium-ion batteries under the theme, “Charge into Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home!”

Throughout the week, firefighters will provide public education aimed at reducing fire risk on and off base.

On Oct. 4 from 8:45 to 10 a.m., a parade is scheduled to go through base housing, followed by an open house at the base fire station from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oct. 8 is scheduled to host story time with Sparky the Fire Dog, the National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) mascot, at the base library from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. FPW is the nation’s longest-running public health observance, with 2025 being its hundredth year of national observance. The NFPA has sponsored the week since 1922 and President Calvin Coolidge made it a national observance in 1925. It is held annually during the week of Oct. 9 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed about 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.

“Fire Prevention Week is a week dedicated to fire prevention activities,” said Mark Franceschini, lead fire inspector for the 5CES Fire & Emergency Services flight. “It was recognized that we needed to have something to remind people of safe practices as we go through the year.”

This year’s theme highlights everyday hazards tied to lithium-ion batteries found in laptops, e-bikes and scooters, power tools and other household devices.

“It’s a brand-new theme. Lithium-ion batteries are pretty new to the world and they’re very dangerous,” Franceschini said. “It takes a lot more to put them out than just a regular fire extinguisher. It takes a lot of water to put them out. Even then, it’s not guaranteed they’ll go out.

We want to make sure people are recognizing those dangers when they charge up, whether it be their car, their scooters or whatever they have that uses



A 5th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter Airman and Sparky, the official mascot of the National Fire Protection Association, pose for a photo at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 15, 2025. Sparky was created to entertain and teach children about fire safety.

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



U.S. Air Force Col. Jesse W. Lamarand, 5th Bomb Wing commander, and U.S. Air Force Col. Jimmy Schlabach, 91st Missile Wing commander, sign the 2025 Fire Prevention Week proclamation at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 15, 2025. Fire Prevention Week is an annual observance that aims to raise awareness about the importance of fire safety and prevention.

lithium-ion batteries, they do it as safely as possible to minimize that risk.”

Franceschini emphasized that computers are among the most common at-home risks because of how and where they are charged. “Almost everybody has a computer at home,” said Franceschini. “Don’t put them on the carpet. Don’t put them on a blanket. Put them on a flat, hard surface on your floor, if possible. You don’t want to kick them over. You want to just make sure you’re doing things as safely as possible

when you’re charging them.”

The Fire & Emergency Services flight encourages Minot AFB personnel and families to review basic precautions for lithium-ion battery safety at home:

- Charge devices on a stable, nonflammable, well-ventilated surface; avoid beds, couches, carpets and piles of clothing or papers.
- Keep chargers and batteries away from high-traffic walkways where they can be knocked over.
- Store batteries and devices at room temperature and away from direct sunlight or heating sources. Do not charge under pillows or blankets.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and home fire safety resources, visit the National Fire Protection Association’s website at [nfpa.org](https://www.nfpa.org).



The 5th Civil Engineer Squadron’s fire emergency services symbol is displayed on a tablecloth for the 2025 Fire Prevention Week proclamation signing at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 15, 2025. Fire Prevention Week is observed annually in October by fire departments across the United States.



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TEAM MINOT CHALLENGES THEMSELVES IN 2025 NORWEGIAN FOOT MARCH

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS | SENIOR AIRMAN ALYSSA BANKSTON



Team Minot start their ruck for the Norwegian Foot March at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 19, 2025. A total of 177 attendees consisting of military and civilian personnel participated in the march.



U.S. Air Force Col. Jesse Lamarand, 5th Bomb Wing commander (right), listens to a safety briefing for the Norwegian Foot March before giving opening remarks for the event at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 19, 2025. The 30-kilometer challenge was first held in 1915 as a test of marching endurance for soldiers in the Norwegian military.



Team Minot Airmen sprint toward the finish line of the Norwegian Foot March at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 19, 2025. Participants of the 30-kilometer challenge had the chance to earn the Norwegian Foot March badge if they managed to complete the route within par time.



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by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, Sept. 29: 1,831.85 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 13,900 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,448.66 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Stump Lake elevation: 1,448.57 MSL.

- N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No new reports.
- Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Tougher walleye bite yet with lots of small walleye. Try vertical jigging around the Towers, bridges, or deeper holes.
- Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Lake Darling closed to boat fishing but shore-fishing available at designated access points. Little activity with no new reports on success.
- Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Not many anglers on the water but those going continue finding some nice walleye. Little bluegill success, though.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Work 35 to 45 feet for walleye on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Move around.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Not many walleye reports coming from the east end of Lake Sakakawea but salmon activity improving along the south shore along Garrison Dam.
- Lake Sakakawea, New

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

- Lake Darling closed to boat fishing for the open water season.
 - Oct. 3: Pronghorn gun season opens (lottery license only).
 - Oct. 4: Nonresident waterfowl season opens.
 - Oct. 4: MonDak Pheasants Forever dinner and Upland Conservation Expo, Raymond Family Community Center, Williston. Expo opens at noon; dinner at 5 p.m.
 - Oct. 4 & 5: Youth pheasant season.
 - Oct. 5: Bonus teal season ends.
 - Oct. 8: Pierce Co. Ducks Unlimited banquet, Rugby Eagles Club, 5:30 p.m.
 - Oct. 10: McKenzie Co. Pheasants Forever banquet, McKenzie Co. Ag Expo, Watford City, 5:30 p.m.
 - Oct. 10 & 11: Pumpkin Walk, Minot's Woodland Trail, 6 p.m. each evening.
 - Oct. 11: Pheasant season opens.
 - Oct. 11: Fall turkey (lottery license only) opens.
 - Oct. 18 – 25: Kenmare GooseFest. Go to the website, (www.kenmarend.com/goosefest), for details.
 - Oct. 18: Boo at the Zoo, Roosevelt Park Zoo, \$3 admission, 11 a.m.
- TOURNAMENTS:**
- Oct. 18: Upper Missouri River, Lewis & Clark Bridge.

Town: Warm weather allowing anglers to be on the water in the Van Hook Arm but walleye generally remain slow with just occasional success.

- Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace producing some small walleye from boats during the day in the spillway channel. Try off the rocks at night from shore for nice walleye. Some nice-sized salmon in the tailrace with better success in the morning. Continued good smallmouth bass activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea but walleye bite remains tough. Most walleye coming from deep water in 30-plus feet. Work points, 7 Sisters, or Steinke Bay using spinners and heavy bottom bouncers. Work the south shore either side of the dam in 30 feet for salmon. Anglers marking them but the bite is slow.
- Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Best walleye success on the upper end of Lake Sakakawea remains from Lund's Landing to White Earth Bay with larger fish coming on creek chubs. Work shallow water with artificial bait or frozen smelt for nice-sized pike. Some crappie success from Trenton Lake.
- North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Area lakes and Souris River remain quiet.

HUNTING:

- Cranes: Some birds starting to move in along the northern tier of the state.
- Upland: Hunting success remains tough for grouse throughout much of the state with some pockets of partridge.
- Waterfowl: Mostly local birds across the state with minimal migration at best.

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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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks
Crossword puzzle.

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

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1. Chase anagram
- 6. Some matches end with them
- 10. Polio vaccine discoverer
- 14. "Masterpiece Theatre" host
- 15. Like a Shelley tribute
- 16. Lotion ingredient
- 17. Quip, part 1
- 20. Nursery offering
- 21. Feel ill
- 22. Earthquakes
- 23. Heirs, at times
- 25. Nile creatures
- 26. Quip, part 2
- 33. From port to starboard
- 34. Bic tip?
- 35. Is for more than one
- 36. Tall crop
- 37. Firewood stacks
- 39. Certain MIT graduate
- 40. Wine cask
- 41. Kicker's target
- 42. Decides to play
- 43. Quip, part 3
- 47. Troubles
- 48. Elevator man
- 49. Police accompaniment
- 52. Compass doodle
- 53. Maui garland
- 56. End of quip
- 60. "What's in a ---?"
- 61. Firefighter's handful
- 62. Longest river in France
- 63. Last word of the Bible
- 64. Wimbledon units
- 65. Surfer's enabler

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												62			
63															

Down

- 1. Circus lineup
 - 2. Pacific salmon
 - 3. Worked on weeds
 - 4. Barely manage (with "out")
 - 5. Setting for "The Perfect Storm"
 - 6. Kind of sausage
 - 7. Pastoral music
 - 8. Bird's beak
 - 9. Sewing kit implement
 - 10. Enjoyment of cruelty
 - 11. Beggar's request
 - 12. Good garden soil
 - 13. Janitor's noise makers
 - 18. Rave's partner
- 23. Examine the morning paper
 - 24. It offers resistance
 - 25. Impressed
 - 26. Prickly plants
 - 27. Shakespeare's "Much Ado --- Nothing"
 - 28. Gull cousins
 - 29. "What a way to --- living!"
 - 30. Central and southern African people
 - 31. Strong impulses
 - 32. Not long-winded
 - 37. Swiftest four-footed animals
 - 38. Artist's media
 - 39. Eve's grandson
- 44. Fifty minutes to three
 - 45. Sacher cakes
 - 46. What aquatinters do
 - 49. Sicilian peak
 - 50. Pretense
 - 51. Was in attendance
 - 52. Subordinate title (Abbr.)
 - 53. ___-back (easygoing)
 - 54. Ireland, another way
 - 55. Checklist bit
 - 57. Boot part
 - 58. Shade tree
 - 59. React to a bad performance



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5CES FIREFIGHTERS TACKLE THE BLAZE

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS | SENIOR AIRMAN ALYSSA BANKSTON



A 5th Civil Engineer Squadron fire protection specialist extinguishes an ongoing fire during a live jet fire exercise at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 16, 2025. A fire hose's typical operating pressure ranges from 116 to 290 pounds per square inch.



Chief Master Sgt. Anik Emery exits an aircraft fire training facility during a live structure fire exercise at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 16, 2025. It's customary for firefighters to wear helmets that indicate their rank: white for chief, red for crew chief or captain, black for lieutenant and yellow for fireman.



A 5CES fire protection specialist walks away from an extinguished aircraft fire training facility during a live fire exercise at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 16, 2025. These military firefighters protect the environment, people and property against fires and disasters.



The 5th Civil Engineer Squadron's fire protection team exits an aircraft fire training facility before a live structure fire exercise at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 16, 2025.



5CES fire protection specialists extinguish an ongoing fire during a live aircraft fire exercise at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Sept. 16, 2025. A fire hose's typical operating pressure ranges from 116 to 290 pounds per square inch.

NOTES ON BEING SAFE

ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS

While killer blizzards are rare in North Dakota, the state does get its fair share of smaller storms and blizzards. In some cases, these storms could cut off electricity to the base and local communities for hours or maybe days.

As we face another North Dakota winter, it's important to plan ahead and start storing emergency food and water supplies for the family before a crisis happens.

It's a good idea to store at least a two-week supply of water — about a gallon for each member of the family per day. Water is a necessity and it should be a priority when preparing for an emergency. We should also consider each person's age, physical condition, activity and diet, when storing water.

Children, nursing mothers and ill people have special needs and often need additional water for food preparation and hygiene. Don't forget to include pets.

Prepare an emergency stockpile

Healthy people can survive on half their usual food intake for an extended period and without any food for many days, as long as they cut back on their normal activity. Unlike water, people may safely ration food for most adults, although children and pregnant women may still need their regular intake.

Avoid foods high in fat and protein, and don't stock salty foods since they make people thirsty. People should switch to salt-free crackers, whole grain cereals and canned foods with high liquid content.

You don't need to buy unfamiliar foods for emergency supplies. Instead, stock canned foods, dry mixes and other staples already on their cupboard shelves. In fact, familiar foods are important because they can lift morale and renew people's sense of security during stressful situations. Also, canned foods don't need cooking, water or special preparation.

The following are some recommended food storage plans:

Storage tips

- Keep food in the driest and coolest spot in the house – a dark place if possible.
- Keep food covered at all times.
- Open food boxes or cans carefully so you can close them tightly after each use.
- Wrap cookies and crackers in plastic bags and keep them in tight containers.

- Empty opened packages of sugar, dried fruits and nuts into screw-top jars or air-tight cans to keep pests out.
- Inspect all food containers for signs of spoilage before use.

What to stock

Though it's unlikely an emergency would cut off our food supply for days or weeks, it's a good idea to prepare supplies to last that long.

A two-week supply can relieve a great deal of inconvenience and uncertainty until services are restored.

An easy way to develop a two-week stockpile is increase the amount of basic foods people normally keep on their shelves. We should compensate for the amount we eat from other sources, including restaurants.

Those who already keep a two-week supply of food on hand should rotate their supply once or twice a year.

Special considerations to remember

When stocking food, consider your family's unique needs and tastes and include foods everyone enjoys that are also high in calories and nutrition.

Foods requiring no refrigeration, preparation or cooking work best. Make sure you have a can opener and disposable utensils.

People with special diets and allergies as well as babies, toddlers and the elderly need special attention. Nursing mothers may need liquid formula in case they are unable to nurse. Canned dietetic foods, juices and soups may be helpful for the ill or elderly. Don't forget nonperishable foods for pets.

Cooking without power

In an emergency, use a charcoal grill or camp stove to heat up your food. Candle warmers, chafing dishes and fondue pots are also handy food warmers, but people who chose to heat food right from the can should open it and remove the label first.

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MINOT NORTH

SENTINEL REPORT



Minot North Game Ball-Delivered by a Helicopter??

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, STUDENT JOURNALIST

The Minot North homecoming football game featured a unique and unforgettable start on September 20 at Sentinel Stadium. Before kickoff, members of the Minot Air Force Base Honor Guard presented the colors during the national anthem, setting a

patriotic tone for the night. In a dramatic entrance, a UH-1 Iroquois helicopter touched down on the field, carrying leadership from the 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing. The helicopter crew delivered the official game ball for the matchup, thrilling

the homecoming crowd and showcasing the strong partnership between Minot North and the local military community. The special ceremony added to the excitement of the evening, which ended with the Sentinels' 28-7 victory over the Spartans.



The helicopter comes ready for "touchdown"!



The game ball is handed off to the Minot North Football team



Coach Holman expresses his gratitude



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On-Base Yellowfin Busing Town Hall on October 6

Student safety is a top priority for Minot AFB leadership. Yellowfin Transportation will be providing busing again this year for our on-base students attending Dakota Elementary School, North Plains Elementary School, and Memorial Middle School. Minot AFB is a remote and isolated installation with harsh winters; therefore, we are so lucky to have this service! Our on-base winter busing will run from Monday, November 3rd, 2025 through Thursday, April 2nd, 2026.

To register your student, please fill out a “Minot AFB Winter Bus Transportation Request and Agreement,” which can be found on my Facebook page or in my office. In addition, you may request a copy from yellowfin.minot@bragglines.com.

I will host a Busing Town Hall on Monday, October 6th from 6-8pm at the Jimmy Doolittle Center. At my Town Hall, hardcopies of the aforementioned agreement will be available. In addition, I will give a presentation on Yellowfin and its operations. I will also introduce their bus drivers. The evening will end



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



with a Q & A session in which numerous base leaders, our Yellowfin bus manager, and I will be available to answer questions.

As the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for our on-base busing contract, I monthly evaluate Yellowfin, ensuring all requirements and safety protocols are consistently implemented. Your students’ safety is my top priority, and I am always available to address any comments or concerns throughout the contract’s implementation. I look forward to seeing you!

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.

MINOT AFB WINTER BUSING TOWN HALL

6 October 2025 • 6:00PM - 8:00PM
Jimmy Doolittle Center

Join the School Liaison Office for a meeting to address the winter bus transportation of students attending Dakota Elementary School, North Plains Elementary School, and Memorial Middle School.

For details, call the School Liaison Program Manager at (701) 240-2380

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OCTOBER 2025



KELLI BREMER

What do you enjoy most about being an FCC Provider?

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What are your interests/hobbies?

I really love to read books in my free time! As a family we love camping and fishing!

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

Once you get into a rhythm everything becomes second nature and easier to accomplish. Take it moment by moment and lean on those around you. Many times I have messaged another FCC provider to answer questions, and they are always willing to share their knowledge. Start off slow and build your way up so your program can run at a pace that best serves you to avoid burnout. You are only one person doing a huge job. Give yourself grace!

For more information about FCC, please check out the following website:
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BECOMING A CITIZEN SCIENTIST
Patricia Stockdill

Hunters generally recognize they have serious responsibilities when they purchase licenses and go afield – safety and ethics, for example. However, there are other voluntary hands-on responsibilities that allow hunters to play a role in wildlife management: Filling out a harvest survey, for example. Or reporting a banded bird. In a way, hunters have the chance to become citizen scientists when they undertake the responsibility of submitting that information - it's a way for the average person to help wildlife managers gain important information by collecting their wildlife data and sharing it with the experts making management decisions. Being a citizen wildlife scientist can also involve saving some body parts from upland birds or waterfowl, such as wings and things. It's items like legs (think rooster pheasants here) or certain feathers to help determine the age of an upland bird. As long as a person is cleaning a bird, it's not that difficult to take a few minutes to get the necessary feathers, wings, or legs that reveal a plethora of information. And in a way when hunters submit information like harvest surveys or wing samples they're helping migratory and upland bird managers live up to their own responsibility of managing resources to the best of their scientific ability. Just what body part a hunter collects depends on the species. The information gleaned from analyzing those body parts provides hard data on whether a pheasant was an adult or juvenile rooster, for example. A large part of that information includes harvest data – what species, how many, and if a bird such a sharp-tailed grouse was male or female, which can be indicated by certain feathers. Consider this: The more information waterfowl managers have, the better they can determine season and bag limits, species restrictions, etc. For example, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows North Dakota to issue a limited number of tundra swan licenses. If there isn't accurate enough harvest information available to guide the decision-making process and provide enough of a confidence level, licenses numbers could be adjusted accordingly or season structure changed as managers err on the side of caution to best protect the resource. Essentially, if harvest numbers are uncertain,

managers tend to be cautious in management strategy, which could lead to more conservative regulations and fewer opportunities in the field. It's a case of the old adage "to ere on the side of caution." Money is another reason to participate in harvest surveys, report band information, and collect wing samples: Hunter pay to obtain the data. Hunters pay for banding operations. And banded birds provide valuable biological information about that particular species. Hunters pay for surveys and collecting and analyzing wing samples. Wildlife managers send out follow-up correspondence for things such as harvest surveys to help ensure they receive enough surveys to statistically validate their data, costing more hunter dollars. Money is wasted when wing sample collection packets are mailed out to hunters and no one bothers returning any – especially if they harvested birds. Oh, and one last thing – not only is it important to respond to surveys, submit wing samples, and report banded bird harvest information, it's equally important to be honest. Truly, people analyzing the information won't laugh if you didn't harvest a duck, goose, dove, pheasant, or grouse. They're not going to frown down on someone if a hunter answers "no" to the question "Did you hunt turkeys in the fall 2025 season?" A "zero" or "no" response is equally as important as any number of birds harvested. The reason: A "zero" falls into the average and when no one reports a "zero" for harvest, it skews harvest success rates, which could affect management decisions. They don't care if the rooster was bagged in Mountrail or McHenry County but the accurate harvest location helps to better determine population estimates. So be honest. Send in harvest surveys, band information, and wing samples. Take the time to live up to a hunter's responsibility because harvest surveys, wing samples, and banding information are critical for harvest management data. Besides, it's kind of fun to look be a hunter and citizen scientist.



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

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

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Air Force updates physical fitness program

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- In support of the Department of the Air Force “Culture of Fitness” initiative, the Air Force unveiled changes to its Physical Fitness Assessment and a new fitness program, which will apply to Total Force Airmen.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, the Air Force will pause all PFA testing to facilitate the transition to the updated program. The Air Force will then begin testing Airmen on the new PFA standards on March 1, 2026, with the release and implementation of the revised AFMAN 36-2905.

From March 1, 2026, through Aug. 31, 2026, all fitness tests will be diagnostic to provide Airmen time to adapt to the new standards. Beginning Sept. 1, 2026, the Air Force will resume official, scored testing under the new PFA standards.

“These fitness changes are about having a healthy, ready force prepared to meet today’s mission and the demands of the future fight,” said U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin. “The updated model reflects our high standards for fitness and ensures our Airmen have the tools they need to protect their long-term health.”

The new PFA reimplements the scored body composition component using the current Waist-to-Height Ratio program and introduces a two-mile run. Additionally, service members

will be required to take the PFA every six months regardless of their score. The updated scored components, to include body composition, and increased testing frequency introduce a more challenging physical fitness assessment to better gauge the fitness of the force.

The updated PFA features a 100-point scoring system across four categories:

- Cardiorespiratory (50)
- Waist-to-Height Ratio (20)
- Muscle Strength (15)
- Muscle Core Endurance (15)

All alternate exercises for cardiovascular, strength and endurance components remain an option for Airmen during their PFA; however, Airmen will be required to perform a two-mile run during at least one PFA every 365 days.

Active-Duty members can complete the body composition measurement up to five days before their PFA. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members may complete their body composition component during their drill period prior to their PFA. All members retain the option to take their body composition measurement during the PFA, but that is not mandatory.

To better foster a culture of fitness across the force, installation commanders may now direct units to conduct mass testing for PFAs twice per year on the

following cycles:

Cycle 1 – September to March
Cycle 2 – March to September

In addition to the PFA updates, the DAF is releasing “The Warfighter’s Fitness Playbook,” which provides guidance to Airmen and Guardians reinforcing the service’s efforts to ensure service members safely, healthily and effectively meet fitness and readiness standards.

“The Warfighter’s Fitness Playbook” is an adaptive and agile resource for Airmen and Guardians for implementing fitness and lifestyle management programs to include sleep and nutritional tips, and exercise and fitness guidance.

This toolkit emphasizes how physical fitness is essential for service members to meet and exceed the demands for airpower through strength and stamina and provides a comprehensive guide for Airmen to reach and maintain a high level of physical fitness.

This change augments the DAF’s approach to fitness, building a more ready and resilient force by empowering Airmen to prioritize their health and encourage excellent performance.

AFMAN 36-2905, “The Warfighter’s Fitness Playbook” and updated PFA scoring components can be found at <https://www.afpc.af.mil/Career-Management/Fitness-Program/>.



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CHAMPIONS CROWNED

Members of the 91st Missile Security Operations Squadron (91st MSOS) celebrate their first-place victory in the base’s extramural softball league, while the 891st Missile Security Forces Squadron (891st MSFS) proudly takes home second place honors. The season wrapped up with a competitive finale showcasing teamwork, sportsmanship, and squadron pride.





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Happy Halloween



It’s here! The trendy time of year where leaves fall, pumpkin spice everything resurfaces, and all North Dakotans cross their fingers for an Autumn season instead of heading straight into Winter. The Northern Sentry has compiled a community calendar glimpse for ALL the October/Halloween events going on in ONE place! Yep, everything on and off base, for kids and adults, is right HERE! Take a look, pick out the events for you and have some FUN before the cold and darkness take over.....Muahahah!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4			SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18			THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30		
10:00am-6:00pm	Midwest Monster Con! Minot Municipal Auditorium	\$	Business Hours	Haunted Stacks Begins Minot AFB Library	Free	10:00am-12:00noon	Trick or Treat Downtown Downtown Minot, Preschoolers	Free
6:30pm	The Witching Hour: Sip & Paint Party Carnegie Center, 18+	\$	11:00am-2:00pm	Boo at the Zoo Roosevelt Park Zoo	\$	6:00-8:00pm	4th Annual Trunk or Treat Kiddie Korral 2.0	Free
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9			4:00-5:30pm	Trunk or Treat Gymagic Gymnastics	Free	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31		
3:00-4:00pm	Pumpkin Carving Minot AFB Youth Center Parent Involvement Activity	Free	6:00-8:00pm	Adults Only Night Magic City Discovery Center	\$	Business Hours	Haunted Stacks ends Minot AFB Library	Free
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10			7:00-11:00pm	Burlington Haunted House Peace Lutheran Church	\$	10:00-11:30am	Trick or Treating The View Assisted Living	Free
4:00-6:00pm	Minot North DECA Fall Fest Minot North High School	Free	1:00-3:00pm	Trunk or Treat and Dog Costume Contest Prairie Wind Pet Lodge	Free	5:00-9:00pm	Halloween Party Clarion Hotel	Free
6:00-9:00pm	Pumpkin Walk Woodland Trail	Free	7:00-9:00pm	Pumpkin Carving Contest & Pumpkin Walk Prairie Wind Pet Lodge	Free	7:00-11:00pm	Burlington Haunted House Peace Lutheran Church	\$
6:00pm-Midnight	Fearsome Adventures Minot AFB Youth Center	\$	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24			SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1		
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11			4:00-5:00pm	Sensory Friendly Halloween Fun Hour Minot YMCA (kiddos with special needs and their families)	\$	10:00am-12:00pm	Silly Spooky Science Magic City Discovery Center	\$
9:00am-2:00pm	Fall Bazaar Cornerstone Church	Free	7:00-11:00pm	Burlington Haunted House Peace Lutheran Church	\$	7:00-11:00pm	Burlington Haunted House Peace Lutheran Church	\$
10:00am-12:30pm	Squash Spectacular A Pumpkin Pageant Oak Park	Free	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25			GET YOUR HALLOWEEN EVENT LISTED Please email event details to: nsads@srt.com		
1:00-2:00 pm	Creatures of the Night Minot AFB Library	Free	4:30-6:30pm	Tauros Trunk or Treat Tailgate Party MAYSA Arena	Free			
6:00-9:00pm	Pumpkin Walk Woodland Trail	Free	7:00-11:00pm	Burlington Haunted House Peace Lutheran Church	\$			
8:00-11:30pm	Monster Mash Halloween Variety Show The Spot, 21+	\$	8:00-10:00pm	Vampire Ball & Burlesque Show Clarion Hotel	\$	*Events are compiled based on public knowledge. The Northern Sentry is not responsible for time changes/event cancellations. Please verify date/time/cost before heading out to each event.		
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17			SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26					
7:00-11:00pm	Burlington Haunted House Peace Lutheran Church	\$	2:00-4:00pm	Halloween Pioneer Village Museum	Free			
			6:00-8:00pm	Skate and Scare Movie Skate MAYSA Arena Pepsi Rink	\$			

What's Going On Minot AFB

FRIDAY03

- SR TAP DOL Employment Track Shop, 0800, Military & Family Readiness Center
- Fall Festival Special Lunch, 1030-1330, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Chilifest/Car & Bike Show, 1600-2100, Turf Parking Lot
- Fall Festival Special Dinner, 1630-1830, Dakota Inn Dining Facility

SATURDAY04

- Operation Heroes, 1000-1400, Jimmy Doolittle Center
- Together Under the Same Sky — Celebrating International Observe the Moon Night, 1915, Base Library

SUNDAY05

MONDAY06

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- AMN Foundation Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- First Duty Station Office Financial Course, 1300-1500, Military & Family Readiness Center
- Palace Chase/Front Briefing, 1400-1500, Professional Development Center
- Minot AFB Winter Busing Town Hall, 1800-2000, Jimmy Doolittle Center

TUESDAY07

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- AMN Foundation Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Career & Certification Exploration Track, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Base Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- 4-H Club Informational Meeting, 1730, Youth Center
- Quiet Book Club, 1800-1930, Base Library

WEDNESDAY08

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- AMN Foundation Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Career & Certification Exploration Track, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- SkillBridge Brief, 1000, Education Center
- Pre-Deployment/Remote Readiness Training, 1000, Zoom Meeting
- Storytime, 1030, Base Library

SPECIALS

Bomber Bistro Featured Item
Beef Bulgogi & Rice

Rockers Bar & Grill Featured Item
Build-Your-Own Burger

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item
Chicken Fried Steak & Gravy

THURSDAY09

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- AMN Foundation Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Pre-Separation Counseling, 0830-1130, M&FRC
- Reintegration, 1000, Military & Family Readiness Center
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Rodeo Visit Homeschoolers Session, 1215-1245, Dakota Elementary School
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center
- Pumpkin Carving — Parent Involvement Activity, 1500-1630, Youth Center
- USO Coffee Connections — Book Swap 'N Talk, 1800, Base Library

FRIDAY10

- AMN Foundation Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Progressive Bingo — Fall Series, 1730, Rockers Bar & Grill
- History Walk — West Edition, 1800, Base Library
- Fearsome Adventures, 1800-0000, Youth Center
- Karaoke Nights, 2000, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY11

- Creatures of the Night, 1300, Base Library

Scan for full event details



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