# northernsentry

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**LOVES TO** 



COMES HOME TO MINOT



ND IS BACK!



5th Security Forces Airmen pose with Mr. & Mrs. Claus during Team Minot's Frostival at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Dec. 6, 2025. Events such as these strengthen community bonds and provide Airmen with a sense of connection and holiday cheer. See more event photos on page A2. LLS AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN ALYSSA BANKSTON



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# TEAM MINOT CELEBRATES THE MINOT AIR FORCE BASE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

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



Families build ornaments during Team Minot's Frostival at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Dec. 6, 2025. Families participated in a variety of games and activities, including a visit from Mr. & Mrs.



Families play together during Team Minot's Frostival at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Dec. 6, 2025. Families participated in a variety of games and activities, including a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus.



as these strengthen community bonds and provide Airmen with a sense of connection and holiday cheer.

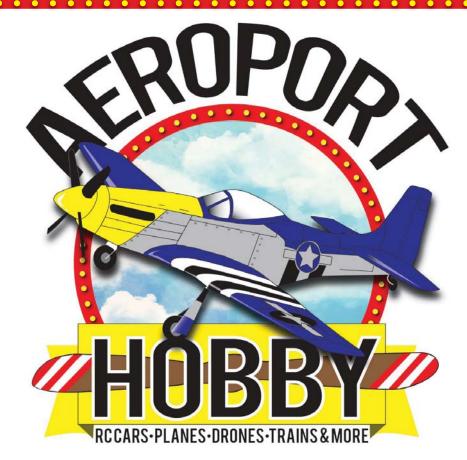


Santa waves to Team Minot as the Christmas tree is lit U.S. Air Force Col. Jimmy Schlabach, 91st Missile Wing during the Minot Air Force Base Christmas Tree Lighting at Commander (left), and U.S. Air Force Col. Jesse W. Minot AFB, North Dakota, Dec. 6, 2025. Ceremonies such Lamarand, 5th Bomb Wing commander (right), address Team Minot during the Minot Air Force Base Christmas Tree Lighting at Minot AFB, North Dakota, Dec. 6, 2025. Ceremonies such as these strengthen community bonds and provide Airmen with a sense of connection and holiday cheer.









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**Military** 

# A True Northern Tradition: **CPKC Holiday Train Coming to Minot Dec. 18!**

The Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Holiday Train is rolling into Minot this holiday season! Now in its 27th year, the brightly lit train brings live music, holiday cheer, and community giving to towns across Canada and the U.S. This festive event raises money and food donations for local food banks, helping families in need during the holidays. Since it began in 1999, the Holiday Train has collected over \$26 million and 5.4 million pounds of food for communities along its route.

### MINOT STOP DETAILS

Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2025 Time: 6:45–7:15 p.m.

Location: 10 Main Street North, downtown Minot (near the Depot) Performers: Lanco and Tiera Kennedy

The event is free, but everyone is encouraged to bring a monetary or non-perishable food donation for the local food bank.

### **ABOUT THE HOLIDAY** TRAIN

This year's Holiday Train will feature 196 live music shows across six provinces and 13 U.S. states. Thirteen new communities will welcome the train for the first time.



The 2025 CPKC Holiday Train will tour Canada and the U.S. Nov. 19 through Dec. 21, raising money, food and awareness to support food banks across our network. Professional musicians play free concerts from the brightly decorated train's stage. CPKC donates to the local food bank at each stop and encourages all attendees to make a monetary or heart-healthy food donation. CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY PHOTO

A new light display will also honor the legacy of "Rudy" and the retired Kansas City Southern Holiday Express, which served the U.S. South for nearly 25 years.

### **CAN'T MAKE IT DOWNTOWN?**

If you can't attend in person, you can watch the show live online on Facebook, YouTube, or at cpkcr.

com/holidaytrain

### **DON'T MISS THE MAGIC!**

Whether you're new to Minot or a lifelong resident, the CPKC Holiday Train is a must-see holiday tradition. Bundle up, bring your family, and enjoy this joyful evening of lights, music, and community giving.



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# RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- The Northern Sentry reserves the right to refuse to post any photos that are deemed to be inappropriate, dangerous or go against the safety or purpose of
- By submitting your photo to the Northern Sentry permission is given to the Northern Sentry to use the photos online, on social media and in the print versions of the newspaper.
- One entry per person/per day
  Contest is open to Minot AFB military personnel and their dependents, and the prize recipients are intended to be MAFB-affiliated personnel. Must be 18 years of age or older to win and be able to prove MAFB affiliation.
- · Prize must be used in its entirety in one day. The winter park entry cannot be spread over several days.

  • All photo entries will be counted as submissions (if they follow the guidelines)
- even if they are not chosen to run in the Northern Sentry newspaper print
- Photos must be taken in North Dakota and must be taken in the 2025/2026
- Contest will run from December 5, 2025 thru February 28, 2026 · By submitting a photo, a print release is automatically given to the Northern Sentry to use in print, social media or online promotions

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Commander: Col Matthew J. Crosman

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# **MORE ABOUT US**









A VIEW FROM **OUR SIDE** 

**ROD WILSON** 

# northernsentry

The Air and Space Forces Association has always been very supportive of the Civil Air Patrol. When I told someone that I had made arrangements for the CAP color guard to present the colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance at a recent Military Affairs Committee meeting, my friend replied "Hey, that's great. You're building the bench.

I hadn't thought of the Civil Air Patrol cadets as a feeder program for the U.S. Air Force, and in general the Civil Air Patrol is not an official recruitment agency for the USAF, but at the Air Force Academy 10% of all incoming Air Force Academy Cadets have had Civil Air Patrol experience. When you think of it in reverse, our Minot cadets have a good chance of being nominated for the Air Force Academy.

Right now, there are over 28,000 CAP cadets between the ages of 12 & 17. At a recent AFA convention that I attended there was a seminar on keeping your local CAP squadron strong. Of course there are many adults involved in the Civil Air Patrol, but much of the seminar was focused on giving the CAP cadets a positive experience and thus keeping them on track to look at an Air Force, or even other military branch, career.

So, thank you to Zeke Hoverson, Emma Slocum, Jeanie Dehaan and Isaac Sager for their

# **Building The Bench**

help in the presentation of colors at the December 4th Military Affairs Committee meeting.

### **OPERATION HOMEBOUND**

There are so many songs about going home for the holidays and over my younger years when I was not able to return home that first year away from home, it gave me an empty feeling. There are so many first term Airmen at Minot Air Force Base that are in that situation this year. Operation Homebound may be holiday focused when it comes to sending a number of these Airmen home, but the efforts of the Minot Chamber/EDC is a 365 day a year challenge. Right after the holiday season efforts turn to the Prairie Warrior Auction. Some of the proceeds from the PWA go directly to Operation Homebound. It's a great start to fund raising for Operation Homebound, but it takes a lot more events, like the December 4th Day of Giving from Qdoba and Jersey Mike's to keep the momentum going. Can't say "thank you" enough to the folks

who took the time to purchase their lunches or dinners that day because 100% of the sales went straight to Operation Homebound.

Last year I had the opportunity to interview on of the young Airmen who had been given a plane ticket home. It was quite the occasion as she stepped off the plane into the waiting arms of her family. Not only her family welcomed her home, but everywhere she went folks would give her a hug and thank her for her service. So, what were the final results of her trip home last year? "I plan to do everything I can to give someone else a chance to go home this year."

Suppose that you are a parent of a young person who joined the Air Force and was stationed at a base far from Minot. One day your Airmen sends you a text so excited about the community where she is based raising enough money to pay for her airline flight home to Minot. What would your thoughts be about that community? Probably something like "now there's a

community that cares!" Enough

# SKI, TUBE, SNOWBOARD!!!

Bottineau Winter Park is open for the season! Today (Friday), they will be open until 9 PM for night skiing. Haven't skied before? The have lessons, and rental equipment and most of all encouragement. Check out their Facebook page for hours of operation and snow conditions. Remember, the weather is a lot different in the Turtle Mountains, so make your plans for a family or group trip today!

### **TODAY'S CHUCKLE**

People with kids know necessity is the mother of intervention.

### **ONE OF THOSE MOMENTS**

I was standing next to the sled near the Downtown Minot Christmas Tree when a young man stepped out of the crowd and said "I suppose that Santa waits until Christmas Eve to come and get his sled? And then he brings the reindeer."



Civil Air Patrol Cadets advance the colors at the Military Affairs Committee meeting



C/CMSgt Emma Slocum, C/SrA Jeanie Dehan, C/ TSgt Isaac Sager and C/2nd Lt Zeke Hoverson lead the Military Affairs Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

# Williston wins '58 Canadian championship



**UPSIDE DOWN** UNDER

MARVIN BAKER

Baseball season has long passed since the Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series, but here is a North Dakota baseball story that doesn't really need a season to be told.

Die hard baseball fans in North Dakota who are now retired might remember this, but I'm guessing most of us won't. I've been following baseball my entire life, played 11 years, coached two years and was an umpire for two years. However, I hadn't heard of this story until a couple of weeks ago as I was looking for professional athletes from North Dakota.

In the 1950s Williston had a Minor League team called the Oilers. From 1954-57, they played in the Man-Dak League, which consisted of teams from North Dakota and Manitoba. It was a four-team league that included the Brandon Greys, the Minot Mallards and the Carmen Cardinals. In 1955 the Bismarck Barons and Dickinson Packers joined the league.

The Oilers had a mediocre team, but in 1955, they made the playoffs, but were defeated in round 1 by the Bismarck Barons.

A year later, things began to change in a big way. The Oilers won the Man-Dak pennant and went on to defeat Dickinson in the league championship.

Unfortunately, after the 1957 season, the entire league folded so the Oilers were left without a league to play in, at least for the short term.

In 1958, the team moved up a notch, however, joining the Western Canada Baseball League. So rather than small towns like Carmen and Dickinson, the Oilers were now matched up against teams from Edmonton, Moose Jaw, Regina, Lloydminster/North Battleford and

And despite having an even wonloss record in 1957, the Oilers went on to win the 1958 championship despite the competition being much stiffer than than it was in the Man-Dak League.

They did it with two players who would later join the Major Leagues. Yes, it takes at least nine players to have a baseball team, but these two players; Jerry Adair and Bill Heath, led the Oilers to the championship over the Lloydminster-North Battleford Combines.

Adair, who grew up in Oklahoma, played shortstop but pitched on occasion. He made three starts on the mound, which were all complete games. At shortstop, he hit .444 in 14 playoff games with four home runs and six doubles.

Immediately after the 1958 season ended on Aug. 30, 1958, Adair signed a Major League contract with the Baltimore Orioles and made his big league debut Sept. 2.

Heath, who grew up in Modesto, Calif., had a .370 batting average which helped the Oilers to the league title. A year later in 1959, his batting average was .321 for the Edmonton Eskimos.

By 1965, Heath was signed with the Chicago White Sox and would later play for the Detroit Tigers, Chicago Cubs and Houston Astros.

We often hear stories about Roger Maris, who played high school baseball at Fargo Shanley and went on to set a Major League record 61 home runs for the New York Yankees in 1961. We also get plenty of news about Phil Jackson, who grew up in Williston and probably attended some of the Williston Oilers games as a teenager. Jackson was a standout for the New York Knicks and New Jersey Nets and really became famous as head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Maris and Jackson deserve all the accolades because of their highly successful careers. But not as well known, are Adair and Heath, who also made their mark on Major League baseball, getting their start at Ardean Aafedt Stadium in Williston, which is still in use today and has hosted three Babe Ruth World Series.'

In all, there were 40 players either from North Dakota, or who played in North Dakota in the 1950s, who went on to play in Major League baseball.

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# MINOT FAMILIES CELEBRATE THE **HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE NORTH** POLL STROLL

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS VINCENT PADILLA



The Defender Dome is decorated for the North Poll Stroll at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Dec. 6, 2025. The North Poll Stroll is an event where families celebrate the holiday season with arts and crafts, food and games.



Airmen assigned to the 54th Helicopter Squadron fly over Minot Áir Force Base during North Poll Stroll, Dec. 6, 2025. The North Poll Stroll is a 91st Missile Wing event organized by different units on base to unify families during the holidays



A child interacts with holiday characters at the North Poll Stroll at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Dec. 6, 2025. The North Poll Stroll celebrates the holiday season with arts and crafts, food and games for families.

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

# MINOT MASONIC CENTER











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

# CORNERSTONE Map Out The Road To Good Health The gift of wellness

In a world already full of stuff, I oxygen therapy, and infrared can feel overwhelmed at this time therapy—tools that do. But as winter settles in and we spend more time indoors, the thought of bringing more things little full can be stressful. More stuff means more decisions, more piles, more visual clutter—and for

and December, I usually find myself already have what they need. The craving gifts that don't need a storage bin, a shelf, or a dedicated place in the closet. Gifts with meaning. Gifts that actually do something. Which is why this year, I've been thinking a lot about the I see you. I care about how you feel. idea of giving the gift of wellness.

mental clutter, too.

intentional way. Something that says, I want you to feel good in 2026. not just unwrap something for unwrapping's sake.

When I started a treatment more capable of showing up to my more present, less limited.

this is the kind of gift that lasts far pickleball). longer than the holidays.

therapies offer SoftWave, FX laser, hyperbaric

support of year. I love giving gifts. I truly healing, reduce inflammation, and help bodies function better. These are treatments many people wouldn't think to ask for, but once into a house that already feels a they experience them, many people find they make a noticeable difference.

And that's exactly why wellness me, that often translates into more makes such a meaningful giftespecially for the hard-to-buy-for Somewhere between November people in your life. The ones who ones who don't want more things. The ones who prioritize everyone else, but sometimes let their own self-care slip through the cracks.

Gifting a wellness service says,

It's also practical. Winter is Not in the generic "here's a notoriously hard on our bodies. gift card, go buy something you We're less active, more tense, want" sense—but in a thoughtful, more indoors. Old injuries speak up louder this time of year. Preventive care and supportive therapies can make a noticeable difference—not just physically, but emotionally.

And Cornerstone doesn't have plan at Cornerstone Chiropractic to stand alone in that idea. There back in January, I didn't fully are plenty of thoughtful ways to realize what a gift I was giving give the gift of health and wellmyself. I went in hoping to address being this season. A massage or spa some longstanding issues, but treatment that encourages rest. A what surprised me was how much fresh haircut or salon appointment better I could feel overall. Not that makes someone feel like just more mobile and less stiff, but themselves again. A membership to a gym, yoga studio, or Minot's everyday life without constantly indoor tennis facilities-perfect thinking about what hurt. I became for staying active through the long winter months (and maybe That's when it clicked for me: even trying something new like

What all of these have in At Cornerstone, chiropractic common is that they prioritize care is more than just adjustments. how someone feels, not what they like accumulate.

We often think meaningful



AMY ALLENDER

gifts need to be big or flashy. But sometimes the most impactful gifts are the ones that support someone's day-to-day life long after the wrapping paper is gone. Gifts that help people move, breathe, rest, and heal better.

And yes—while this idea works beautifully for giving, it also comes with an important reminder: you're allowed to give this gift to yourself. The holidays are a natural time to reflect, reset, and invest in the year ahead. Choosing wellness for yourself isn't indulgent. It's sustaining.

As we head deeper into winter and the season of giving ramps up, I'm encouraging myself-and maybe you, too—to think outside the box this year. Beyond the usual lists. Beyond the aisles of things. Toward gifts that last.

Because in a season already full of excess, choosing health, care, and well-being might be the most generous gift of all.

For more encouragement and reflections on life in North Dakota, find me at amyallender.com or on Facebook and Instagram @



Dr. Matthew Hanson

Dr. William Fielhaber

Dr. Benjamin Whitten



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Yellow Stone is a great place to visit while stationed at Minot AFB. Image shared by Janie Maitland (Aug 2025)



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GAME SALUTE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Recipients of the Northern Sentry Salute will be honored at the respective Minot Minotauros home game. In recognition, each recipient and three guests will receive V.I.P. seating to the noted home game, a \$25.00 Gift Certificate good for concessions at the game, and during the game they will be recognized by the Minotauros public address announcer as well as having their photo and nomination published in the Minotauros Magazine.

# The Base Everyone Loves to Hate

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

Mention Minot Air Force Base in a room full of military families and you'll witness something dramatic: widened eyes, sympathetic pats on the back, and at least one person whispering, "Oh no... not Minot." It's practically tradition. In fact, ask around and 99% of service members or spouses will admit that when they got the orders, Minot wasn't exactly their dream destination. But is this northern base really as apocalyptic as the online horror stories claim?

According to long-timers, newcomers, and the brave souls who have lived to tell the tale, Minot is a whole mixed bag of extreme, good, bad, pretty, ugly, freezing, sunny, and surprisingly lovable. And as it turns out, most of the loudest critics have never stepped foot anywhere

So "Why Not Minot?" Minot's reputation precedes it like a blizzard rolling over the prairie. New Airmen scroll through social media only to find comments like, "Anywhere but Minot!" and "Oh that's horrible, you got Minot?" Meanwhile, the

commenters themselves? Many have never been within 500 miles of North Dakota.

Yes, Minot is geographically isolated for mission-critical reasons. Yes, the winters are long, sometimes really long and yes, you may see snowflakes in September floating down with a smug little flourish. And yes, -40 degrees is exactly as cold as it sounds.

But here's the part nobody talks about: Minot also blooms. Literally. Come summer, the city explodes with sunflowers, golf swings, fishing trips, and sunsets that don't clock out until after 10 p.m. It's disorienting, but in the best kind of way. One minute you're getting off work, and the next you're squeezing in another five hours of daylight.

For many military families, especially those coming from diverse backgrounds, the toughest adjustment isn't the cold, it's the change in culture and cuisine. Foods you're used to might not exist here. Some families find themselves ordering ingredients online or asking relatives to ship

comfort snacks from home.

Locals will proudly tell newcomers, "There are plenty of Mexican restaurants!" Whether they're good depends on where you come from. Let's just say taste buds vary by zip code.

I always joke that my husband brought me to Minot to domesticate me, because I went from happily eating out at our previous bases to becoming a full-blown home chef. Culinary evolution, a Minot side effect no one warns you about.

There's no sugarcoating it, winter hits hard. Some folks work outdoors and face the bitter cold head-on, but the upside? There's always something good to look forward to. Cozy nights, Northern lights, and the unbeatable sense of accomplishment that comes with simply surviving February. On those days when the cold weather is tolerable, get your snow gear on and hit the slopes, maybe even learn how to ski or snowboard if you have never had the chance to experience it before.

Travel can also be pricey when



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flying directly out of Minot, but seasoned travelers know the trick, drive to Bismarck or Minneapolis and save a small fortune. Not glamorous, but effective.

Then there is the unexpected, good stuff. Here's the part that surprises almost everyone, Minot can be an incredible launching point for adventure. This may be the only time many families live in this part of the country, and those who take advantage of it discover a goldmine of road trips. One couple created a national parks bucket list when they arrived and thanks to Minot's unique work schedules, they checked off more sites in two years than they had in the

previous time together. Some travel to Canada since it's only 45 mins north of the base.

And with fewer distractions, no big beaches, little nightlife, and no temptation of city chaos many Airmen find time to focus on school, hobbies, and personal goals. Minot becomes their "productivity era".

Behind the jokes and the coldweather memes lies the truth: Minot AFB plays a huge role in the nation's strategic defense. Service members stationed here carry immense responsibility, and their families keep the home front strong, so the mission stays on track.

But the real magic? The community. People build friendships

here, deep ones. If you've got a hobby, there's a club. If you show up to an event, someone will welcome you. The key is simple: don't isolate yourself. Even if it's -20 and you'd rather burrito yourself in blankets, grab your wallet (or purse), head to the event, and meet people who are navigating Minot life just like you. One local shared, "making an effort to be part of the community is important, also my best advice is to save all those bench worthy shows you've been wanting to watch for those cold days in February, when you can snuggle up and enjoy a warm drink".

Love It or Hate It, Minot Moves You. Minot isn't forever for most military families. Some can't wait to leave, while others leave and find themselves unexpectedly missing it, the slow pace, the sunsets, the tight-knit friendships.

So, if someone gets orders to Minot, should they cry? Should they panic? Should they start Googling "how to survive -40°F"?

Maybe. But more importantly, they should keep an open mind. Minot might be the good, the bad, the pretty, and the ugly but it might also be the place they grow the most.

And hey, sunsets at 10 p.m. aren't



"One of the best things I've seen here! Been here about a year!" -Taylor White



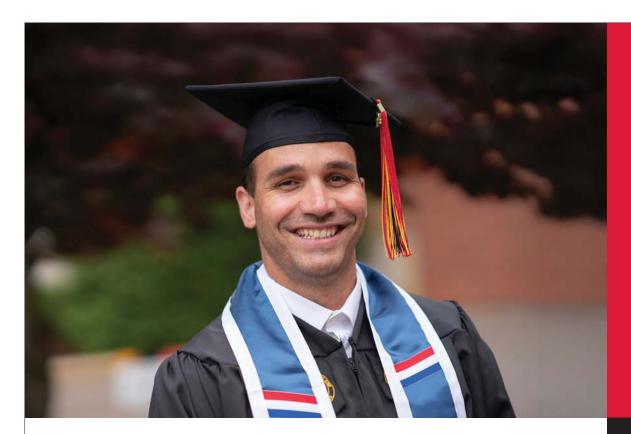
Morgan Evans and her best friend Beth who meet while stationed at Minot AFB light hunting and capturing the beauty of North Dakota.



Our military kids embrace and adapt to Minot just like adults. Alina Ransome daughter of MSgt Shawn and Kacie Ransome as the first varsity cheer captain for Minot North High School.



Snow blizzard April 2022 (images shared by members of Minot AFB)



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The Woodie crossed the stage at Barrett Jackson twice. Once when George sold it, and once when he bought it back.

# Tour our HOUSING OPTIONS





# **Woodie Comes Home to Minot**

GEORGE MASTERS, PRESIDENT, DAKOTA CRUISERS CAR CLUB, MINOT

Editor's Note:

George Masters was stationed at Minot AFB, and was also a civilian employee. He is currently Vice President of the Air and Space Forces Association chapter in Minot.

In April, 2015, I got a call from my buddy in Bismarck, that he was buying a car and in the back corner of the building was a Ford "Country Squire" Woodie wagon. He said that it was a really unique car and it would be fun to build. Of course I bought it. I had it towed to a yard in Bismarck where I could pick it up. The Woodie was not really too rusty, but there was not one piece of wood on the body. NOTE: Back in the late 40's, steel was more precious than wood, so the steel frames were covered with wood. With truck and trailer in tow, I went South from Minot to load this gem. It was such a gem, that it was placed on my flatbed with a fork-lift! Let the fun begin!

I decided that for this car, I was going to pull out 'all the stops'! I ordered a custom built chassis from the Art Morrison company in Washington. When it arrived, I really didn't know where to start. My motto is: Know your limits. This was about to reach mine. Anyway, I found a body man that could start the work. Since I had a body rotisserie we bolted this body to it where that work can get

started. While the body work was in progress, I had another crew start the chassis and work with the welding that would be needed. It came with a rear end housing and axles and 3rd member, front suspension, and front spindles. From there, we had to weld body mounting supports and exhaust hangers and lots more. But with the experts that I selected, we got all the welding completed and then I had the new frame powder coated. (chassis black would be fine). The wheels: Well, I wanted a stock looking car when I was done, so I had a custom wheel set built out in California. When I got them, I had them powder coated red and I got some Z-rated radial white-wall tires. I had the rims built so that stock '51 Ford hub caps would fit on them. I had in mind the 'look' that I wanted. Wilwood 4 wheel



Interior shot



disc brakes would be a must for the stopping this car. Next: Well, what engine and transmission would move this down the road. I had a company in Florida build an 408 Cubic Inch engine for me. It was built specifically for me with just under 450 horsepower. Bowler transmissions are strong enough to handle the power of this automobile. Motor mounts were welded and the engine and transmission were then mounted onto the chassis. Driveshaft-well, that had to be custom built and installed. So. now the drive-train was all done. The body work was started but not moving along as I had wanted, so, we decided to mount it on the rolling chassis and move it to my buddies in Lake Park, MN where they took over the project.

Now, while the above work was being done, what about the new I shopped around a bit wood? and settled in on a company in Washington state that is the top-ofthe-line builder of this wood. I made the order knowing it would take about 6 months to get finished and delivered. That timing was just right, as it turned out.

Now the car is in MN and the body work was under way, but one of the toughest decisions to make on a build of this sort, is: what color do I pick? It was winter in ND, and we were moving some of the club members cars into storage and this 2015 Camaro came in. It was the most beautiful 'Forest Green' color that I picked this as the vehicle color.

The wood arrives in a raw state, all crated up. The car is in primer, and ready for painting. But, the wood has to be custom 'fit' to this body. All of the pieces had to be slightly cut, sanded and aligned to this body. The wood, by the way, is oak and mahogany. So its placed on the car, fit as well as possible, then removed. The wood has to be stained and varnished. As that is getting done, the car gets painted. The paint is cut and buffed and now the wood is dry and ready to get installed on the car for the final time. All the wood is held on the car with stainless 'blind bolts').

The heads are polished for the look outside, but held on by screws that get installed inside and then covered.

You might think that the car is done, but this is only one major portion of the project. It has to be wired, a nice stereo system has to be installed, the interior has to get picked out, designed, assembled and installed. An upholstery shop in MN designed and installed the custom leather interior including high end carpet, leather seat material, a headliner that is extremely difficult to install and custom dash work. It might be noted, that the 'woodie' dashes are a different width than the regular 1951 Ford automobiles. Thus everything has to be build and designed around that width and unique feature.

I called another woodie expert and asked the question about getting all the trim re-chromed: How do you get, for instance, the tailgate hinges nicely chromed around the rivets and smaller areas? He told me to do it right, you have to take everything apart and get it separately chromed and then get new rivets and reinstall. So that's what I did. The little details on this car will really never be realized unless they are pointed out

So, we move forward to 2017. The car is all done (are they ever done) and I'm ready to show it at some shows in ND. I hit Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Bismarck,

Williston, Minot, Dickinson, and the Majestics Show in Regina, SASK. It took some Peoples Choice, Top Ten, Best of Show and other specific awards such as Best Interior. I showed it for 3 to 4 years, and for some dumb reason, I decided to sell it at the Barrett- Jackson in Scottsdale, AZ. So it was hauled there in Oct of '20 for the sale in January of '21. It sold to a defense contractor out of Michigan.

Fast forward to September '25. I got a call from one of my friends that "MY WOODIE" was going across the block at Barrett-Jackson in Scottsdale this October! WOW! So now the decision for me to make---do I want it back? I called another buddy and found out that he was going to be there and would be willing to buy it for me and store it for me until I could make arrangements to get it back HOME! Long story short, with his help, I won the high bid and it has been delivered back to me in Minot. I called the seller, who by the way was the same guy that had bought it from me, and I asked him if he had done any improving to the car. He told me that he put a new battery in it, changed the oil and put fresh gas in it. He said he never drove it!! WOW!

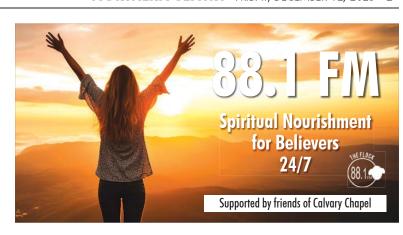
So, in summary, I have it back. I have it on display, and I probably will start showing it this winter around "THE TOWN".



George Master's Ford "Country Squire" Wagon

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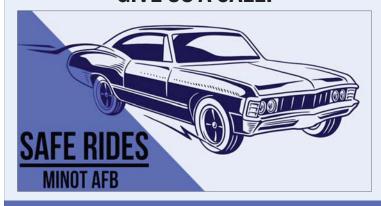
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# Financial Literacy Through the Holidays

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, STUDENT JOURNALIST

Holiday spending patterns this year show clear shifts in how both teens and adults approach the season, and financial counselor Gregory Barnhart of First Command says the biggest theme is one that returns every year: overspending. In his view, families often enter the holidays with solid intentions but underestimate the many small expenses that accumulate around the celebrations. "The holidays are a great time to show those around you how much they mean to you," he said, adding that the satisfaction of gift giving can overshadow the less visible costs that pile up throughout December. He noted that families tend to focus heavily on the gift budget while overlooking the increase in seasonal food purchases, extra travel, or the added fuel and entertainment spending that comes from having more unstructured time. I agree completely. Those supporting costs, not the gifts themselves, are often what push people over budget. Gift spending feels planned out and contained, while the daily extras feel spontaneous and harmless. By the time January arrives, people are often surprised by the total.

Barnhart says the most important step for families trying to stay within a budget is to plan ahead in a meaningful way. "Take some time and think about your holiday plans," he said. He encourages families to consider how their schedules will change, how much free time they will have, and what they hope to do with that time. The holiday break often leads to more social activities for teens and more hosting responsibilities for adults. These changes affect spending long before the actual gift exchange happens. In my own experience, people struggle less with creating a budget and more with connecting that budget to a clear purpose. When a budget is just a list of numbers, it is easy to adjust it on the fly. When it is tied to long-term goals, it becomes something worth protecting. Barnhart echoed that idea, explaining that many families unintentionally negotiate against their own financial plans because the goals behind the budget are not well defined. He said that families who know their priorities for the new year are better able to stay disciplined in December.

For teens who are just beginning to earn money, responsible holiday spending starts with defining responsibility Barnhart said that the foundation should be spending less than one earns. He added that teens vary widely in their goals. For some, responsibility simply means not running out of money. For others, it means avoiding debt or protecting savings earmarked for a car or college. I think this is an important distinction because teens often receive conflicting messages about spending. They want to be generous, but they also need to understand that every dollar spent now is one they will not have for future goals. Helping teens reflect on what they want financially in the next few years can shape healthier habits. Barnhart encourages teens to understand where they are, what they want to accomplish, and how their holiday spending fits into that bigger picture.

Adults face a different set of difficulties during the holidays. Barnhart said that one of the most common mistakes is adding last minute gifts that were never part of the plan. He sees this often, along with buying additional items to keep gift giving balanced among family members. He also pointed to what he called hidden overspending. Small, frequent purchases during the break can accumulate quickly, especially when routines are disrupted. I think many families underestimate how much routine protects their budget. When daily patterns change, spending opportunities multiply. Even something as simple as extra errands or several small outings can create a meaningful impact. Barnhart also warned about what he referred to as delayed overspending, where credit cards are used to fill budget gaps and the consequences do not appear until interest begins to accumulate in the

When asked whether it is ever smart to use credit for holiday purchases, Barnhart said that credit itself is not the problem. He pointed

out that cards offering rewards or cash back can provide value when used responsibly. The key, he said, is to know your cash flow and be certain the balance can be paid in full before interest applies. If not, the seasonal purchase can turn into a long-lasting burden. I agree with this perspective. Credit can be a useful tool when the user understands the terms and has the discipline to follow a plan. The

trouble comes when people use

credit as a substitute for savings, because that often leads to interest charges that wipe out any short term benefit.

As for avoiding post holiday debt, Barnhart emphasizes habits that extend beyond the season. He encourages families to put money aside whenever income arrives, limit spending to what remains, and avoid high interest debt whenever possible. I share that view. The best way to prevent financial stress

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in January is to make decisions in December that honor long term goals.

This year's trends make it clear that people want meaningful celebrations, but many underestimate the true cost of the season. Those who take time to plan, stay aware of their spending, and stay focused on their priorities are more likely to enter the new year with confidence rather than









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# The Remembrance Patriotic Call: Honoring Our Veterans with Heart and Warmth at Wreaths **Across America**

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Rosehill Memorial Park Cemetery will be blanketed in honor and love this Saturday as over 1,000 wreaths are laid upon the graves of our fallen heroes at the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony. The Civil Air Patrol Magic City Composite Squadron, alongside Minot's many veteran organizations and dedicated volunteers, will gather to ensure that every veteran is remembered, in name and spirit.

Despite North Dakota's winter chill, organizers encourage the community to layer up and join in the remembrance. "Jack Frost never misses a ceremony, and he may try to chase you off, but grab that oversized pom-pom hat, those old ugly boots that are oh, so toasty, the fuzzy blanket from your couch," requests Wreaths Across America Minot Coordinator Robyn Stoner. "Layer up in your North D'colda finery, channel your inner Ralphy'slittle-brother, and join us in making sure every veteran is remembered properly."

The ceremony will feature veterans and long-time WAA supporters Richard Reuer and Dean Verstraete, local Scout Troop 4412, Civil Air Patrol's competent cadets and Colonel Tom Joyce (retired), USAF will give a Patriot Address. A three-round volley of gunfire and

the playing of TAPS will conclude the formal ceremony. Guests are then encouraged to remain and lay wreaths personally.

This is the Remembrance Patriotic Call—a moment to slow down, reflect, and give each veteran the honor they deserve:

- 1. Place the Wreath... On the marker of our fallen hero.
- 2. Say Their Name... Out loud, so their legacy endures.
- 3. Salute their Service... To honor the sacrifice they made.
- 4. A Moment of Silence... Remember, freedom has a face, keep their memory alive.

"The difference between the ACT and the EXPERIENCE of remembering our veterans lies in the depth of our gesture," Stoner reminded. "As you stand with a wreath at the grave of our veteran, please take the moment to remember... there is a face and a family behind that headstone. "There was courage, sacrifice, and a deep love of America—a legacy that lives on in every name etched

Community members are invited to volunteer and help ensure every veteran is honored at noon on December 13, 2025 at Minot's Rosehill Cemetery. For details, visit MinotWreaths.org.



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# SANTA SKATE 9:00AM-12:00 NOON

Maysa Arena, 2501 W Burdick Expy, Minot

Join us for a cozy, festive evening at the Maysa Arena on December 21st at 6:00pm! We'll be showing The Santa Clause while you skate the night

Just \$5 to skate and \$5 for skate rentals – no pre-registration required! Grab your family and friends and come celebrate the season with us! Please note that we will not be able accept bills larger than \$20 as we have limited change for these events. Cards are also accepted.



# For more information:

Facebook / Minot Parks/ Events



# SERTOMA CLUB: CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN THE PARK 5:30-10:00 PM (SUN-THURS) 5:30-10:30 PM (FRI & SAT) Minot Oak Park, 19th Ave SW, Minot

Christmas in the Park is held annually in Minot's Oak Park starting in the Friday after Thanksgiving and running through New Years Eve. Please join us in celebrating the season with a lovely light display!

\$5 per car (\$7 if paying with card) Sunday – Thursday: 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm Friday & Saturday 5:30 pm – 10:30 pm Cash preferred, cards accepted with fee.



For more information: Facebook / Minot Sertoma Club / Events



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# 4 FACTORS TO **CONSIDER TO MAINTAIN WINTER SAFETY**

Many changes are to be expected as fall gives way to winter. snow to prepare the body for exercise. Go slowly and take frequent Temperatures drop for much of the country, and depending on where one lives, snow, wind and ice are to be expected.

As beautiful as snow-covered landscapes can be, winter presents unique hazards, notably slippery roads and surfaces. Chilly temperatures also can put people at risk if they spend prolonged periods outdoors unprotected.

According to the insurance company Carsurance, more than 156,000 crashes occur annually due to icy roads. Roughly 17 percent of all vehicle crashes happen in winter conditions. Winter hazards are not exclusive to driving, however. That means winter safety involves a consideration of a host of factors.

### 1. Changing visibility

While slippery surfaces may contribute to some accidents, visibility can quickly change with winter weather. Blowing snow can contribute to whiteout conditions. In addition, fog can be hazardous to drivers, aviators and mariners and contributes to thousands of travel accidents every year, advises the National Weather Service. It's important to slow down, leave plenty of distance, use your low-beam headlights, and recognize when it may be safest to pull over, such as when visibility is significantly compromised.

### 2. Snow removal

10AM-3PM

Shoveling snow or using a snowblower are common wintertime activities. Yet strenuous levels of activity in cold temperatures could put people at risk of heart attack, particularly if they are not acclimated to physical activity. Always warm up prior to shoveling

breaks. Avoid twisting and tossing snow over your shoulder, which can contribute to back injuries.

### 3. Carbon monoxide poisoning

Winter weather means turning up the heat or doing more indoor cooking. Carbon monoxide is produced through the burning of fuel in various forms, including stoves, engines, gas ranges, portable generators, and grills. The National Safety Council says carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can go undetected as it builds up in enclosed spaces. Never warm up the car inside of a contained garage. Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors, and have furnaces, water heaters and other fuelburning appliances checked and serviced by a qualified technician annually. Be sure that carbon monoxide alarms are on every floor of the home, and take it seriously if the alarm goes off.

### 4. Black ice

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Black ice is a common winter foe. Black ice forms when temperatures rise above freezing during the day, melting any snow on the ground and causing surfaces to become wet. If the temperature drops once more while the ground is wet, a thin, transparent sheet of ice can form. Black ice also may occur if moisture in the air condenses and forms dew or fog, and then the temperature drops below freezing, says the National Weather Service. Black ice gets its name because it looks black on asphalt roads. However, it also can form on sidewalks and overpasses, or spots shaded by trees or other objects. Slowing down and exercising extreme caution are essential.



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# COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING **COMMAND VISITS MINOT AFB**



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Chad W. Bickley, the Command Chief Master Sergeant of Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, speaks to Team Minot Airmen attending Airman Leadership School at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Dec. 2, 2025. Bickley gave Airmen the opportunity to ask questions and bring their concerns to the table.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN TRUST TATE



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sqt. Chad W. Bickley, the Command Chief Master Sergeant of Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, coins U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brandon Trinidad, 91st Security Forces Group chief of weapons and tactics at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Dec. 2, 2025. Bickley presented coins to recognize high-performing Airmen who excelled while supporting the Team Minot mission.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN TRUST TATE



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**POST 753** 

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# Patricia Stockdill

**A TRADITION 126 YEARS YOUNG** 

Some traditions come and go; others withstand in the 2026 CBC: the test of time for years, decades, and even well beyond a century.

Tradition is something woven throughout the fabric of the annual Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) taking place throughout the United States between Dec. 14 and Jan. 5 annually throughout most of its history.

It's a tradition that has become the nation's longest running citizen bird science project and it runs deep throughout fabric of the mission of the National Audubon Society, the CBC sponsor.

The 2025-20265 count marks the CBC 126th anniversary. While it's citizen science melding birders of all levels of expertise, it is an official ornithology census.

Because of that, participants must count within the parameters of a designated count area, which are 15-mile diameter circles in areas such as North Dakota's Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) northwest of Minot. Compilers coordinate each location's count. Details about counts throughout North Dakota are available on the National Audubon Society's CBC website, (/www.audubon.org/community-science/ christmas-bird-count).

Click on the link "Join the Christmas Bird Count" on the right-hand side of the home page and follow the steps for information on how to participate as well as historical count data and other details. There's even a link (CBC Circle Map) identifying count locations and contact information, including meeting location, start time, if pre-registration is needed, and other pertinent information specific to that count's

Be sure to zoom in to North Dakota to identify CBC locations – several are in northwest North Dakota. The main map is a collage of yellow, green, and red circles, which is testimony to the CBC's popularity. Yellow and green circles are open to new participants while red counts are full. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in the state have a long-standing tradition of participating in the counts. Several refuges, such as Des Lacs NWR, were established in the 1930s and joined the Christmas Bird Count soon afterwards.

Two are National Wildlife Refuges are participating

- Des Lacs NWR, near Kenmare: Dec. 16. Meet at the refuge office about 8 a.m. Call Laurie, (701) 629-9928, for details.
- Upper Souris NWR, northwest of Minot, Dec. 15. Meet at the refuge headquarters, 7:45 a.m. Call (701) 468-5468 for details.

Christmas Bird Counts began in 1900 when Frank Chapman, a member of the then-budding National Audubon Society, suggested counting birds on Christmas Day.

While most of the 27 locations participating in the 1900 count were located in the northeastern United States, they also included Toronto, Ontario, Canada and California.

Counts are open to birders of all levels of experience and coordinators work to pair beginner birders with veterans.

People living within specific count areas can report their feeder results, as well, but they must be within the parameters of the count.

Participants in field counts should dress appropriately for the weather, bring binoculars, bird field guide, and any desired snacks for the count period, along with a vehicle full of gas in the event they will be the one driving within an assigned area.

Basically, participants record the species and number of birds observed - as close as possible, especially when observing large numbers of birds concentrated in an area. Each compiler records the data and submits it to the National Audubon Society's CBC database.

The information helps scientists and researchers track long-term population trends and identify potential issues of concern, such disease outbreaks and habitat loss. The count allows the public to partake in scientific research while providing large-scale data that wouldn't be available otherwise.

Putting history and tradition into perspective, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Christmas Bird Count news release from a decade or so ago touted its tradition: "Data from Christmas Bird Counts at Upper Souris and J. Clark Salyer Refuge date back to 1954 with documents on file of bird count summaries signed by the "Father of the National Wildlife Refuge System," J. Clark Salyer



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Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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# **CROSSWORD**

- 1. Indisputable item 5. Underlying theme of
- "Se7en"
- 9. Gps. that may be charitable
- 13. "It's \_ misunderstanding!"
- 14. Working away
- 15. Created for a specific purpose, like a committee
- 16. It's good to hear after a spill
- 17. Out where the air is salty
- 18. Bleaching target
- 19. It's designed to be seen
- just above the beltline 22. Movie composer
- Morricone
- 23. Muntjac, for one
- 24. Area of London
- 25. Deg. involving 18-across 26. Palindromic computer language
- 28. Tap lightly, as with a paint brush
- 30. Zoroastrianism, e.g.:
- 31. The Cranberries' "\_
- Family' 33. Tries to be like
- 35. It's seen on workers just above the beltline
- 38. Be derisive to 39. "The Showbiz Show"
- host David
- 40. Bug on a farm 41. The sticky icky
- **43**. Get prepared for battle
- 44. "Don't let the door hit you on the way out," but nicer
- 47. Awestruck response
- 49. Horse with whitish hairs
- 51. Brown of CNN
- 53. They're seen (if you're not careful) just above the beltline
- 56. "Store in \_\_\_, dry place" 57. Tic-tac-toe board
- 58. Leonine noise
- 59. Coach driver's handful

Down

screen

- 1. Didn't even come close to acing
- 2. Kiss insertion? 3. Small-car occupants,

screen savers running

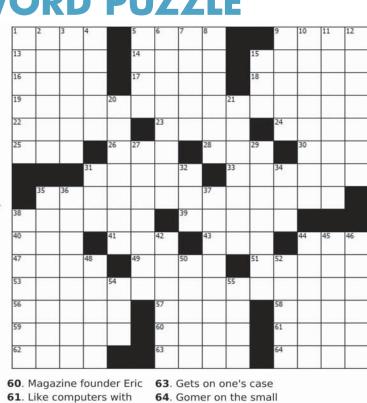
62. Fast jets, for short

- at the circus
- 4. Shatner and Nimoy's castmate
- 5. Makers of the 90, 900 and 9000
- 6. "I'll meet you then!" 7. Maria Shriver, to John
- F. Kennedy
- 8. Put up as a bet
- 9. "Awake and Sing!"
- playwright Clifford 10. Subject explored by Plato
- 11. Fall apart, politely speaking

- 12. Brown and Rice, for two
- 15. loss for words
- 20. It may pose a folding problem
- 21. Way to access 27. Oh, they owe
- 29. Cartoon attorney Harvey
- 31. Not just my
- 32. Where "scalpel" may be said, for short
- 34. Author Rita \_ Brown
- 35. Acts of atonement
- 36. "Sure, why not?"

- 37. Dominatrix duty
- 38. Team where Matt Jones plays wide receiver
- 42. "You can be my wing man anytime" movie
- 44. Dark and
- contemplative 45. Group address
- 46. Dinner special,
- usually 48. Certain subatomic
- particles 50. It's located just above
- the heart
- **52**. "Get 54. Golfer Ernie
- 55. Mid-month time





# NORAD ready to track Santa's flight for 70th anniversary year

NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PETERSON SPACE FORCE BASE, Colorado --

The North American Aerospace Defense Command is ready to track Santa on Dec. 24 and is celebrating the program's 70th anniversary. NORAD monitors and defends North American airspace 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. On Dec. 24, NORAD has one additional mission: tracking Santa Claus as he makes his way across the globe, delivering presents to

The NORAD Tracks Santa website (www.noradsanta.org) launched on Dec. 1. It features Santa's North Pole Village, which includes a holiday countdown, games, movie theater, holiday music, web store, and more. The website is available in nine languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Chinese and Korean.

The official NORAD Tracks Santa app is also in the Apple App and Google Play stores to countdown the days until Santa's journey on mobile devices. NORAD Tracks Sana will also be available on digital media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and X, and on contracture platforms Amazon Alexa, SiriusXM and OnStar. More information about our contributors is available on our website.

On Dec. 24, trackers worldwide can call 1-877-HI-NORAD (1-877-446-6723) to ask our live operators about Santa's location from 4 a.m. to midnight MST. Additionally, we are introducing a web-based calling option so children without the means to reach NORAD via phone number can call the NORAD Tracks



Santa Operations Center directly from our noradsanta.org website. Virtual translation services will also be able to support more than 200 languages via our call center.

While live operators will be unavailable after midnight MST, trackers can continue to follow Santa's flight until 3 a.m. on Dec. 25 by calling and listening to our Interactive Voice Response system or visiting our website.

NORAD Tracks Santa is a global experience, and the U.S. and Canadian personnel of NORAD are proud to continue the tradition of delighting families everywhere.

NORAD is a United States and Canada bi-national organization charged with the missions of aerospace warning, aerospace control and maritime warning for North America. NORAD prevents air attacks against North America,

safeguarding the sovereign airspaces of the United States and Canada by responding to unknown, unwanted and unauthorized air activity approaching and operating within these airspaces.

In addition to the phone line and website, children and the young-atheart can track Santa through our mobile apps and our social media platforms:

Facebook: https://www.facebook. com/noradsanta

YouTube: http://www.youtube. com/NORADTracksSanta

Instagram: https://www. instagram.com/noradtrackssanta\_ official

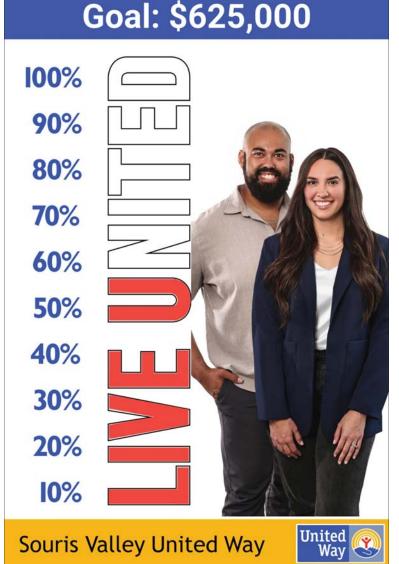
NORAD Tracks Santa Website: https://www.noradsanta.org

NORAD Tracks Santa Newsroom: https://noradsantanews.com/









# **Keystone Club Hosts Thanksgiving Skate Night**

FATIMZAHRA ELBOUAB, AGE 16

Keystone Club Hosts Thanksgiving Skate Night On November 21, high school Keystone Club members organized a Thanksgiving Skate Night from 6-8 p.m. The evening was filled with music, colorful lights, snacks from the Snack Bar, and lively skating games that brought friends together! Colorful disco lights reflected the fun that attendees had as children skated and played games. Keystone members worked behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly-from decorating the

Youth Center with a Thanksgiving theme to selling food and snacks at the Snack Bar and helping young skaters find the right shoe sizes.

Throughout the night, Keystone members led games, including limbo and four corners. These games kept the energy high and encouraged skaters of all ages to join in. With children of all ages participating, beginner to advanced skaters each had their place on the rink. This event is part of Keystone's ongoing fundraising for the National Keystone Conference in Orlando,

Florida. With Thanksgiving Skate Night marking their second event following Spookycon, the club will begin hosting monthly events at the Youth Center starting in January.

From then on, Keystone members will be offering even more opportunities for families on base to gather at the Youth Center and have Meanwhile, middle school Torch Club members will also be hosting events and staying involved, including a dance on December 19. Be sure to participate and support both clubs!





Four friends get ready for a night filled with skating and games!

Youth Center rink filled with skaters during Keystone Club's Thanksgiving Skate Night.

**Find specifics about** Northern Sentry's Jr. Journalism Program and how your story can be featured

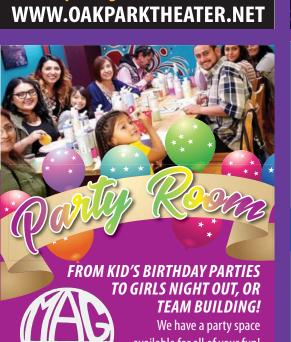












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# It has been a busy month for students at Ramstad Middle School

ILIANA MCBRIDE, AGE 12

Ramstad has school parties once a month and they are usually themed. November's was on the fourteenth, the theme was Neon Night. November's party held a volleyball tournament, dirty soda stand, and a glow in the dark gear to support the student council. Everybody had a lot of fun at the party and a lot of people showed up!

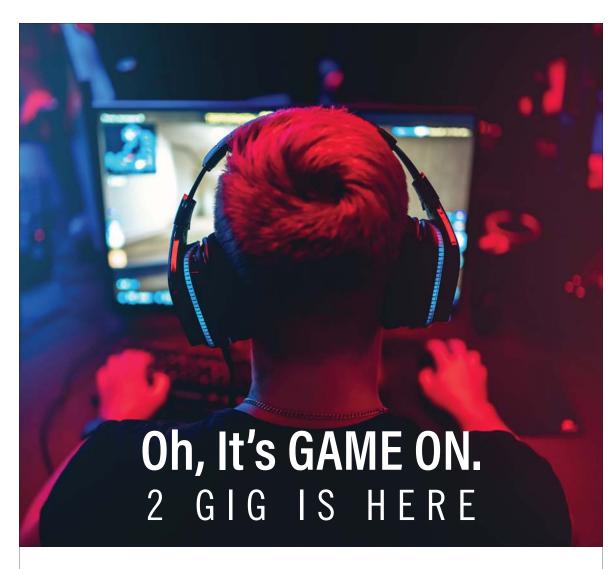
Ramstad's student council held a fundraiser this month. One of the principals was taped to the wall. The money was raised by the students donating a dollar. The total amount of money donated was \$326. All money raised went towards Ramstad's food pantry. She held up for a while but eventually fell. It was a fun sight to experience.

The chess club has meetings every other Thursday. The people in the club play games with friends. They are currently doing a tournament. All the winning players go against the others and the losing players play against other losing players!

Girls basketball and boys/ girls wrestling are ending before Christmas break. Boys basketball, cheerleading, and non-competitive dance are starting after Christmas

November was a very busy month and I cannot wait to see what happens in December.



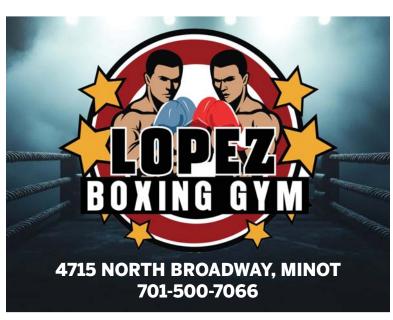


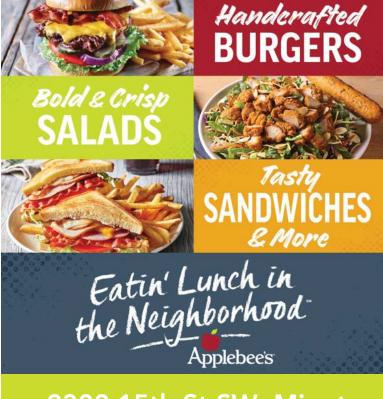




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# **STARBASE ND is Back!**

STARBASE ND is a program that "provides 25-hours of handson, minds-on, high-tech discovery and inquiry-based activities to fifth grade students using a common curriculum that meets or exceeds a variety of National The 25-hours of Standards. STEAM instruction is carried out as an extension of the traditional classroom, where classrooms of students are brought out to a military installation and, along with engaging in STEAM activities. are given opportunities to engage with positive role models and the technological environment found on military bases and installations" (starbasenorthdakota.com). Minot Air Force Base, STARBASE ND is located in North Plains Elementary School. Fifth grade classrooms from Minot Public Schools and regional schools attend the program. Additionally, STARBASE ND hosts two five-day STARBASE Summer Academies open to all regional students who just completed fifth grade and will be attending sixth grade in the fall.

The government shutdown affected a number of students scheduled to attend this year's STARBASE ND program on Minot Air Force Base. From October 10th to 31st, three Longfellow Elementary classrooms totaling 60 students were unable to attend. and in November, approximately 75 students from John Hoeven Elementary also missed out. A total of 135 local students were unable to participate and, unfortunately, this may occur again after January 30th, 2026.

On November 24th, I received word that our current continued resolution provided funds for the program and as the program's fiscal manager, this couldn't be more welcomed news! I eagerly notified Minot Public Schools! A special MPS District #1 Board



Ms. Hannah Powell and Mr. Jon Dawson: MPS Employees for STARBASE ND.

Meeting was held on December 2nd, 2025, and the board approved the contract for Mr. Jon Dawson, STARBASE ND Director, to facilitate the STARBASE ND program from December 3rd, 2025 to January 30th, 2026. The 5th grade students attending during this timeframe will be those in North Plains Elementary School and Dakota Elementary School on Minot AFB.

Although we do not know whether STARBASE ND will continue after January 30th, 2026, I remain hopeful and absolutely 100% grateful for both our STARBASE ND Director and teacher, Ms. Hannah Powell. They have professionally and faithfully stood by, waiting for funding, and jumped as soon as it dropped. We are lucky to have Mr. Dawson and Ms. Powell run this unpredictable—yet highly valuable—program with such aplomb!

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 War of the external website, or the information, products, or services contained therein.



# NOTES ON BEING SAFE

# TIS THE SEASON FOR **TOY SAFETY**



Tis the season team Minot! When you are spreading the holiday cheer and in a giving spirit, keep in mind, toy safety! There are hundreds of toys on the market today, which are produced from all over the world. However, not all of them are made with quality. While shopping you may not be thinking of safety but this is something that is often overlooked. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission more than 120,000 children are treated in the hospital emergency room for toy related injuries. When selecting a toy, the following things need to be considered: One, the age of the child should be the primary key, so that they are getting something that is appropriate for their group and skill level. Two, inspect the toy by looking for quality design and construction. Avoid items that have sharp points, glass, exposed metal edges, and small attachments. This will help reduce the chance of accidental hazards as choking and cuts. And three, read the label! We often neglect to read the warnings and precautions listed. This notice can be the deciding factor also if the toy will be a good idea as a gift. Remember, a toy for sale does not mean that the product is safe. If you encounter a toy that you feel is unsafe ensure you report your concern to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.







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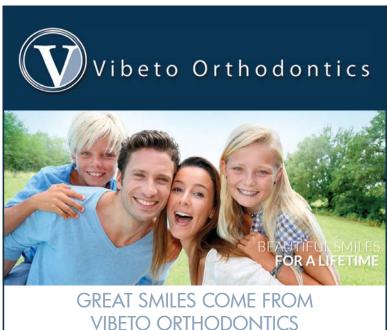
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CARRIE DRIVER PHOTO





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Snowy Sunrise in Glenburn

MELISSA BATTEN PHOTO

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# A LOOK BACK

THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

MINOT'S 91ST SMW BECOMES FIRST COMBAT-READY MINUTEMAN III WING IN THE AIR FORCE **DECEMBER 13, 1971** 



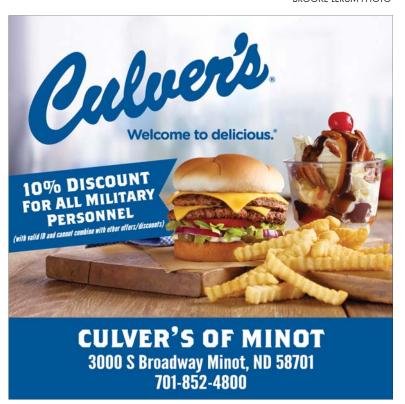
On December 13, 1971, the 91st Strategic Missile Wing (predecessor to the 91st Missile Wing) became the first fully operational and combat-ready Minuteman III wing in the United States Air Force. The missiles were first placed at Minot AFB in 1970 under the 741st Strategic Missile Squadron. MAFB was at the forefront of the "Force Modernization" Program, which

Minuteman III test launch (USAF Photo) oversaw the switch from earlier ICBMs to the updated Minuteman III missiles. After the transition was completed, the 91st SMW was ready to provide strategic deterrence with a fleet of 150 ICBMs spread across 8,000 miles of North Dakota. Each Minuteman III weighs about 76,000 pounds and has a range of over 6,000 miles and a maximum speed of approximately 15,000 miles per hour. Each missile was projected to have a service lifespan of 10 years. However, the Minuteman III has remained in service for over 50 years, making it the oldest deployed strategic ballistic missile in the world.





BROOKE LERUM PHOTO





**MINOT AFB** 

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Minot State University is excited to

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4	5	8	3	6	7	2	9	1
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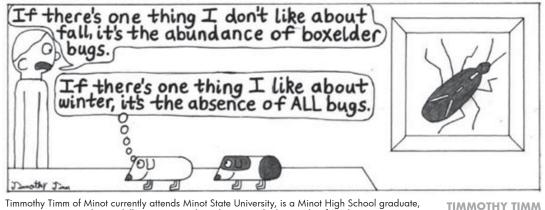
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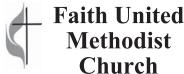
### 1000 NE 3rd Street 852-0315

**Sunday Schedule** 

Contemporary Worship ............ 9:00am Sunday School (All Ages) ...... 10:00am Traditional Worship...... ...... 11:00am

Wednesday Evening Schedule Community Dinner......5:30-6:30pm Contemporary Worship.......6:30pm Youth Group & Small Groups.. 7:15pm

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10:30 a.m.					
ry					
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5:30p.m.					
6:30 p.m.					
00 - 11:00 p.m.					

ABC Child Care Center ......852-6352 westminot.com facebook.com/westminot

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Sunday Bible Study & Sunday School 11:00 AM

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Reverend Philip Beyersdorf 2209 4th Avenue NW, Minot, ND 839-4663

www.minotstmarks.com Join us on facebook

# **First Baptist Church** 200 3rd St. SW • 852-4533



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# **B-52H CREWS JOIN F-35BS FOR** LONG-RANGE OPERATION OVER SOUTHCOM REGION

U.S. Air Force B-52H Stratofortress crews from Minot Air Force Base executed a long-range bomber air demonstration across the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Southern Spear, integrating in real-time with U.S. Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II aircraft to showcase the reach, precision and responsiveness of U.S. airpower. These joint missions reinforce our commitment to regional stability, strengthen interoperability with our sister services and reaffirm our commitment to a safe and secure hemisphere.





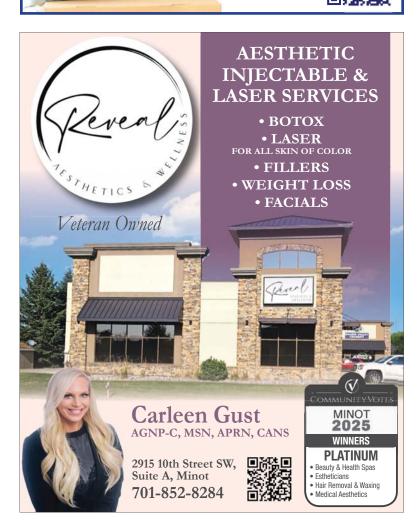


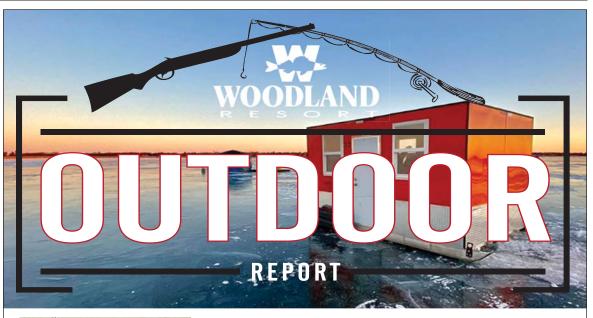


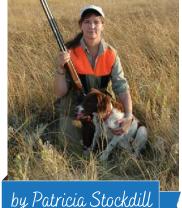
THEIR PLACE TO CALL HOME!











### FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, Dec. 8: 1,829.92 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 14,200 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,448.72 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Stump Lake elevation: 1,448.74

MSL. •N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game

wardens: Walking access only on lakes across the region. A few anglers walking onto small north-central area lakes and testing the ice but limited reports yet. No Devils Lake reports.

• Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Some walk-on activity on feeder lakes north of Devils Lake with anglers finding fair small walleye success.

•Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Some walk-on activity from Lake Darling's designated shoreline access points access but no reports on success.

•Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Aa few anglers walking onto Lake Metigoshe with fair bluegill success. Look for fair success on area trout lakes, also with walk-on access

•Láké Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: A few anglers walking onto Lake Audubon back bays but no reports on success. Use extreme caution and test ice depth.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Little activity on the back bays of Lake Audubon and anglers need to stay off Lake Sakakawea ice yet.

•Lake Sakakawea, New Town: No better ice conditions and weather.

Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Little activity on the open water of

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

•Ice is never completely safe. Avoid areas with vegetation, moving water, pressure ridges, and springs. Check conditions as you go along on the ice and don't move around at night.

•Keep hunting dogs away from ice on wetlands and lake shorelines with thin ice conditions possible.

•Registration now open for WOW, Wild Outdoor Women winter outdoor program Feb. 6 – 8, 2026, Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau. Go to, (https://bit.ly/WinterWOW2026), for more information.

• Dec. 12 & 13: Fort Stevenson State Park Dickens Village Festival Ornament Geocache with coordinates live on park's Facebook page at 8 a.m. Free with park daily entrance fee or annual pass

• Dec. 13: Wreaths Across America Ceremony Day, Rosehill Memorial Park, 700 11th Ave SE, 11: 30 a.m.

•Dec. 13: Resident and nonresident High Plains duck, coot, & merganser seasons open. Go to the N.D. Game & Fish Dept. website, (gf.nd.gov) for regulations and open hunting unit description

•Dec. 13: Ducks Unlimited Riverdale Raffle "Knight", Knights Bar & Grill, Riverdale, 5 p.m.

•Dec. 14: Deer muzzleloader season closes.

•Dec. 19 – Dec. 21: Holiday Puzzle Palooza, Lake Metigoshe State Park with festive drinks and snacks and a fun, friendly puzzle competition beginning Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

• Dec. 19 & 20: Mighty Mallard Bonspiel, Minot Curling Club

• Dec. 20: Resident and nonresident Canada Goose Eastern Zone season closes

•Dec. 25: Resident and nonresident Canada Goose Western Zone season closes.

•Dec. 30: Snooze, Stay, or Go Away Youth Day Camp, Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau, a day camp with various hands-on activities for children ages 9 to 12 focusing winter adaptations and fun outdoor recreation opportunities, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Dec. 31: Winter Survival Skills Youth Day Camp, Lake Metigoshe

State Park, Bottineau, a break day camp for children ages 9 to 12. featuring hands-on activities focusing on winter survival skills, including fire starting, orienteering, shelter building, and finding food and water.

•Dec. 31: Last Day Hike, Cross Ranch State Park south of Hensler. Meet at the Visitor Center, 4 p.m. with campfire, hot chocolate, and apple cider following a 1- or 3-mile hike on the Matah Trail.

•Jan. 1: Evening Hike Series, Self-guided Luminated First Day Hike, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison, dusk.

Sakakawea, even the back bays, with poor ice conditions yet.

• Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Small area lakes icing over for walk-on access but always check ice depth activity in the Van Hook Arm and while walking to an area. Continued around the New Town area of the nice crappie activity on Trenton river portion on Lake Sakakawea Lake with occasional walleye and with anglers waiting for safer and pike. Springbrook Dam producing occasional walleye with some nice-•Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, sized perch mixed in. Kota-Ray Dam fair to good for a mix of perch and bluegill. Upper end of Lake the Missouri River tailrace. Anglers Sakakawea starting Some walleye need to stay off any ice on Lake activity in Tobacco Bay.

• North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: No reports from area lakes or the Souris River

# **HUNTING:**

• Waterfowl: A few geese on the open water of the Missouri River tailrace but birds won't stay if there's too much snow and ice to feed.

# **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-



# n Minof AFB

- Junior Enlisted Foundation Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP DOL Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Frossen Krig Jotnar Joust, 0800-1630, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FCC New Provider Orientation Class, 0830-1330, Family Child Care
- Airmen's Night Out, 1600-2200, Maysa Arena, hosted by Outdoor Recreation
- 4th Quarter Birthday Meal, 1630-1800, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Christmas Ornament Craft Class, 1730-1930, Rough Rider Bowling Center
- Pre-Teen Holiday Hangout, 1800-Midnight, Youth Center

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Sponsorship Training, 0900-1030, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Base Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- MFLC Lunch 'N' Learn Sessions, 1200-1300, Youth Center
- Retraining 101, 1300-1400, Professional Development Center
- First Duty Station Officer Financial Course, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Quiet Book Club, 1800-1930, Base Library

# SATURDAY

- Frosty & Friends, 1300, Base Library
- Christmas Ornament Craft Class, 1730-1930, Rough Rider Bowling Center

# SUNDAY

MONDAY

• Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC

• FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center

. Moving Out of the Dorms Budget Class, 1300-1500, M&FRC

• Palace Chase/Front Briefing, 1400-1500, Professional Development Center

• AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center

AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center



# WEDNESDAY

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Informed Decision Seminar, 0800-1200, Professional Development Center
- Bundles for Babies, 0900-1030, M&FRC
- SkillBridge Brief, 1000, Education Center Room 211
- Pre-Deployment/Remote Readiness Training, 1000-1100, M&FRC
- Storytime, 1030, Base Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Financial Literacy Class, 1530-1630, Youth Center

# **THURSDAY**

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Pre-Separation Counseling, 0800-1130, M&FRC
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center
- Christmas Ornament Craft Class, 1730-1930, Rough Rider Bowling Center

# Scan for full event details





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# FRIDA



- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Quarterly Food Service Advisory Board, 1300-1400, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Christmas Ornament Craft Class, 1730-1930, Rough Rider Bowling Center

# SATURDAY 2

- Holiday Movie Trivia, 1700, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Christmas Ornament Craft Class, 1730-1930, Rough Rider Bowling Center
- Karaoke Battle, 1900, Rockers Bar & Grill

# SPECIALS

Rockers Bar & Grill Featured Item **Philly Cheesesteak** 

Bomber Bistro Featured Item Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, & Gravy

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item Biscuits & Gravy, Eggs, & 1 Choice of Bacon, Sausage Links, or Turkey Patty



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