



WHATS INSIDE THIS WEEK:



OPERATION
HOMEBOUND
FUNDRAISER
RAISES
OVER
\$31,000

A2



FROM
CLUTTER TO
CLEAN:
HELPING
FAMILIES STAY
ORGANIZED

A6



THE FUN OF
BEING ON
STAGE

A10



HOLIDAY HEROES

A U.S. Air Force Defender assigned to Minot Air Force Base helps a child pick out toys during the annual Cops and Kids event at Walmart in Minot, North Dakota, Dec. 14, 2025. Service members volunteered their time to assist children while they shopped for holiday gifts as part of a community outreach event.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN LUIS GOMEZ



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SATURDAY 11-3



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A LOOK BACK

THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

“OPERATION CHRISTMAS KIDLIFT”
BRINGS SOUTH KOREAN ORPHANS TO SAFETY
DECEMBER 20, 1950



Capt. Tone Nobile, a flight nurse, comforts an orphan before the airlift. (USAF Photo)

During the Korean War, Air Force Chaplains Lt. Col. Russell Blaisdell and Col. Wallace Wolverton set up the Seoul Orphanage Reception Center to provide food, clothing, shelter, and medical aid to approximately 4,000 orphans in the South Korean capital. When Chinese forces began pushing towards Seoul, the chaplains feared for the children’s safety in the midst of a war zone. On December 19, 1950, Blaisdell met Col. T.C. Rogers, Fifth Air Force Chief of Operations. Along with Lt. Gen. William Tunner, Commander of Combat Cargo Command, they were able to call in 12 C-54 Skymasters from the 61st Troop Carrier Group. Over 1,000 orphans were airlifted to safety on December 20. Nurses and medics from the 501st Air Evacuation Squadron also provided aid to the children, and most of them were able to make it out of harm’s way because of the valiant efforts of the Airmen involved.

Information courtesy of: airforcemedicine.af.mil / USAF Chronology by D. Haulman, P. Jones, R. Oliver



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Operation Homebound Fundraiser Raises Over \$31,000 to Support Minot Airmen Traveling Home for the Holidays

THE MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC (MACEDC)

The Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC) is proud to announce that the December 4 Operation Homebound fundraiser raised \$31,235 to help Minot Air Force Base Airmen travel home for the holidays. The communitywide effort, supported by locally operated Jersey Mike's and Qdoba, marks one of the most successful Operation Homebound fundraisers to date.

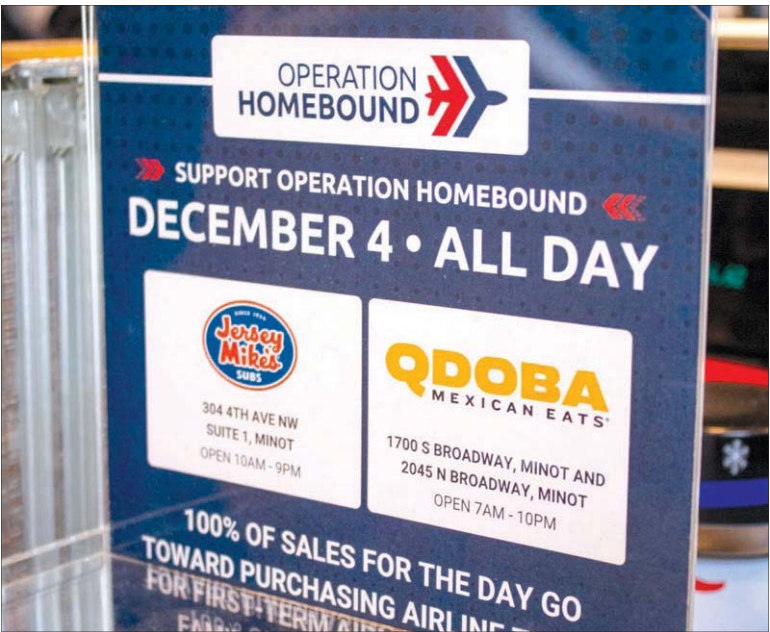
Throughout the one-day event, hundreds of community members came out to show their support by dining, donating, and spreading the word, demonstrating once again Minot's deep commitment to the Airmen who serve and protect our nation.


"Operation Homebound is special because it represents what Minot does best - taking care of those who take care of us," said Ryan Ackerman, MACEDC Board Chair. "Our community showed up in a big way, and these dollars will directly help first-term Airmen reunite with their families during

the holiday season. The continued growth of Operation Homebound is a testament to what can be achieved when local businesses and community members come together for a meaningful cause."

MACEDC extends heartfelt appreciation to Jersey Mike's, Qdoba, and the many individuals and families who contributed to this year's success. Their generosity continues to make a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of Minot's Airmen and their families. Additional donations are still being received through Venmo and individual contributions, further growing the support available for Airmen this holiday season.

Direct donations can be made through the MACEDC office or via Venmo at @MinotAreaChamberEDC. For more information on how you or your business can support Operation Homebound, please contact the Minot Area Chamber EDC at 701-852-6000 or email keli@minotchamberedc.com





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**A VIEW FROM
OUR SIDE**
ROD WILSON

northernsentry
MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER | WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM

It was in September of 1963 that the first LGM 30A Minuteman I would arrive at Minot Air Force Base, eventually becoming combat ready in April of 1964. Now some 62 years later as Minot Air Force Base waits for the eventual replacement of the Minuteman III which became combat ready in August of 1970 and is now 55 years old, Minot will be the host community for the annual Association of Air Force Missileers (AAFM) National Meeting on August 5th through the 9th of 2026.

There was an evening reception held at the Air and Space Forces Association conference this last September in Washington, D.C., for all missileers. Many Minot AFB personnel were in attendance and raised a couple of rousing “Bully” chants when Minot was mentioned. This would be the first time that the AAFM would have their annual meeting in Minot and as always the community wanted to make sure that everyone in attendance certainly felt welcome if they chose to attend this year’s annual meeting.

For more information on the AAFM annual gathering go to the AAFM website at AFMissileers.org. There is a lot of information on the AAFM on the site including a link to an application for membership.

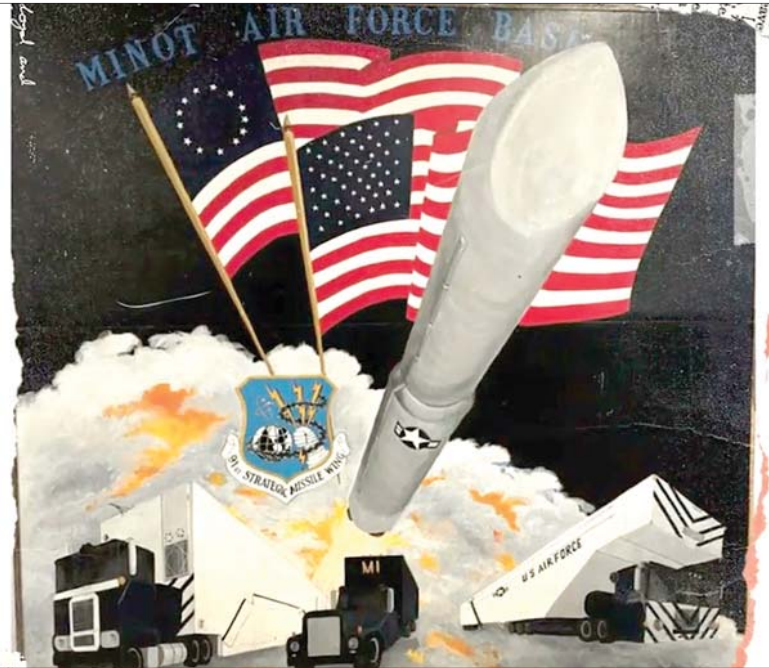
MISSILEER’S HALL OF FAME

As part of the program at the AAFM gathering at the AFA Director Linda Aldrich talked about the Missileer’s Hall of Fame. At the annual meeting in Minot the AAFM will induct members that were nominated and accepted by the Hall of Fame committee to the Missileer’s Hall of Fame.

Our local Air and Space Forces Association chapter is looking for missileers to nominate to be admitted to this very prestigious Hall of Fame. Besides forwarding



Association Of Air Force Missileers will meet in Mnot on August 5th - 9th.



A Proud History...AAFM

A Missileer’s Hall of Fame

name of people you may know who you think deserve recognition, you may want to nominate someone yourself. Nomination information is on the AAFM website. There is a lot of information about the Missileers Hall of Fame, as well as instructions on how to nominate someone. If you have a suggested name please forward it on to me at sentrysales@srt.com.

THE END, AND THE BEGINNING

This will be our last Northern Sentry for 2025. Because Christmas falls on a Thursday this year, which is the day that our papers are delivered to our distribution folks and carriers, it just didn’t make a lot of sense to publish a Northern Sentry on that day. We will have our normal “Year In Review” edition expertly crafted and edited by the head of our graphics Nikki Greening on January 2nd, and then it’s back to normal papers on January 9th.

The vision that we at the Northern Sentry have for our paper is to be the official source for news and events at Minot Air Force Base. Of course, that ties closely with getting news and events from Minot and surrounding communities to the Minot Air Force Base active duty military, their dependents and of course anyone else that takes an interest in just what is happening at Minot Air Force Base and on a larger scale what is happening in the U.S. Air Force.

It is absolutely amazing to me the depth of the leadership at Minot AFB. But it isn’t only me that appreciates those leaders who make Minot one of, or let’s just say THE BEST base in the Air Force. Hardly a day goes by that a major story breaks about something happening in the military arena that can’t be followed back to Minot AFB or someone who has had a leadership role at MAFB.

And here is where I step in and do a big shout out to these past leaders who when they recognize you are from Minot will go out of their way to talk about how proud they were to serve at Minot Air Force Base, and what a unique relationship the base and the community had “when I was there...and I hear it continues today.”

There isn’t enough room in this article to mention them all. Whether it be a VIP visit to the base or in a conference room at the Air & Space Forces convention, the light shines bright when Minot is part of any conversation.

Sure, it can be cold, and windy, and sometimes living here is a challenge, but as one former MAFB commander said to me “You know the cold weather is beat out every time by the warmth of the people.”

As we look ahead to 2026, and several mid-summer change of commands at Minot AFB, we

can rest assured that the mission that has been established for those serving at our base will continue... non-stop.

I close out 2025 with a story that shows the dedication of our Airmen. Thursday night we were traveling back from West Fargo. Our grandson had a choir concert, and of course grandparents don’t miss choir concerts. The wind was 24 miles per hour plus. The temperature had started to drop, and to add to this weather challenge, there was a freezing mist that coated everything with ice. About the time I was feeling sorry for myself having to endure all of this, I looked to my left, and there in a missile silo area that was lit up bright as day was a group of our Airmen doing maintenance work. I am not privy to what they were doing on this weather challenged evening, but if they had to be outside in the

elements, the weather definitely got their attention.

That’s what it takes to be the best...even when the chips do not quite fall into place. Back with you in 2026. Have a great holiday season.

THE WINTER ADVENTURE GUIDE

You’ll find our annual Winter Adventure Guide in this week’s paper, and on our distribution stands around Minot and Minot AFB. Grab one and learn about all of the exciting things to do right now! No need to wait. There’s a great world of North Dakota adventure waiting for you.

THIS WEEK’S CHUCKLE

It’s hard to know what to think of the younger generation. We’ll probably just have to wait until they’re old enough to talk.

History of Christmas in North Dakota

hints of grape, pineapple and floral.

5.) In 1917, the Gackle Republican newspaper ran a full-color front page drawing of Santa Claus holding up the earth and passing out gifts to children around the world, children of Allied nations that is, which reminded everyone that the United States was at war.

6.) In 1929, 80 students, parents and visitors attending a Christmas program at Herr School No. 2 in Sheridan County were stranded overnight in the schoolhouse because of a snowstorm. Parents led the group in games and songs amid the storm. Women and children slept on the floor or on desks pushed together.

7.) In 1932, Selvig’s Store in Plaza included the following special prices; 25 cents for a 2-pound jar of peanut butter, \$1 for men’s dress shirts and 7 cents a pound for fancy lutefisk. Christmas trees sold for 20 to 65 cents each.

8.) From 1922 to 1955, Harold and Eva Case were congregational missionaries at Elbowoods. Their mission helped eight churches on the Fort Berthold Reservation celebrate Christmas with candles, carols, trees and gifts from Santa Claus.

9.) In 1943, the state Capitol declined to put up a real tree, instead paper was used to shield windows, lit from inside, to create the image of a tree, a tradition that continued for decades.

Because most immigrants to North Dakota were German or Norwegian, some of their traditions continue to this day. As an example, Germans are credited with popularizing the indoor “tannenbaum,” or Christmas tree. Those early trees were decorated with candles, handmade ornaments and treats.

On St. Nicholas Day, Dec. 5, German children would place their boots outside their door to be filled with nuts, candy and small gifts by St. Nicholas.

A special Norwegian tradition that made its way to North Dakota, “Julebuk,” Christmas fooling. Groups of people would dress in masks and costumes, disguising their identities and go house to house in search of treats, drinks and merriment.

Norwegians celebrated “Julaften,” Christmas Eve, with Christmas Day reserved for quiet family time and religious observances. Parties continued until Jan. 13, the 20th day of Christmas.

For both Norwegian and German immigrants, food on Christmas was important. Some of the Norwegian items included lutefisk, lefse and rommegrot, while for Germans it included goose, ham, potato dumplings, red cabbage (rotkohl) and sausage.



**UPSIDE DOWN
UNDER**
MARVIN BAKER

Now that the Christmas season is upon us and we’re inundated with commercial advertising, seldom do we think about what Christmas was like before TV, before radio and before North Dakota was a state.

Christmas has been around a long time, our state hasn’t. But, this territory now known as North Dakota, has some Christmas traditions that go back at least to the time of Lewis and Clark and perhaps before when fur traders wandered the prairie.

Nowadays it’s shop-til-you-drop, attend craft shows, see the Holiday Train, open presents, get stuffed and watch football. It hasn’t always been that way and following is a glimpse of what Christmas was like for prior generations.

1.) It is written in the Lewis and Clark journals that on Christmas Day 1804, the men of the expedition, located at Fort Mandan, “celebrated by firing their weapons in the morning, followed by a drink of rum and the raising of the flag. The men then danced, ate their best food and celebrated until 9 o’clock.”

2.) In 1834, the Christmas Eve dinner at Fork Clark consisted of meat pies, bread, fricassee pheasant, boiled tongues, roast beef and coffee, made by Toussaint Charbonneau. People who shared the fine supper included Native people, Canadians, women and children.

3.) In 1868 at Fort Rice, German soldiers formed a singing group, entertaining on Christmas Eve. In addition to traditional songs, there was a supper and “weak” homemade beer.

4.) In 1872 in what is now Bismarck, with no tree to be found, pioneer Linda Slaughter decorated her husband’s mounted elk horns with ribbons, fringes and gifts. The Slaughters welcomed 11 children into their log home that Christmas Eve for songs and games. The next day, a military officer at Fort McKeen hosted a Christmas dinner of roasted pig with a bottle of catawba, a sweet, fruity wine with



SHE'S NOT FROM AROUND HERE
AMY ALLENDER

Last week, I didn't want to leave the house.

It was one of those cold, foggy mornings that convinces me staying inside with a good crossword puzzle is peak wisdom. The house was warm. The coffee was hot. But the to-do list was long. As much as I wanted to curl up on the couch, I knew I'd have regrets later. Not only would the list go unfinished, but I'd be restless and cranky if I didn't get out for at least a little fresh air.

So, I poured the coffee into a travel mug, threw some salt on my front stoop, and headed north of town to run a few errands on base.

As I drove, something shifted.

The fog was thick, low, and heavy, and as the road stretched out ahead of me, the landscape seemed to dissolve into it. Snowy fields melted seamlessly into the cloudy December sky. Everything felt still—like the world had paused mid-breath.

It reminded me of the scenery in those old Thomas Kinkadee prints my grandmother loved. Soft edges. Muted colors. A kind of quiet beauty that doesn't demand attention but rewards it if you're willing to notice.

The fog had frozen overnight into hoar frost, coating every tree branch, pine needle, and stray leaf in delicate crystals. Things that are

What Winter Can Teach Us If We're Willing to Look

there every day seemed different when highlighted that way.

It was beautiful in a way I didn't want to be distracted from, so I turned off the radio, willing myself to memorize it. I wanted something to recall the next time I was tempted to agree when hear someone describe North Dakota as a frozen, ugly wasteland.

I love an object lesson, and Minot is full of them.

Maybe it's because this place deals in extremes—weather, seasons, isolation, stillness—that it lends itself so well to these teachable moments. If you're paying attention, there's always something being revealed. The landscape teaches quietly, but persistently.

As I drove, I was reminded that this kind of beauty doesn't exist in places where the uncomfortable conditions that produce it don't occur. You don't witness hoar frost on a mild day. You don't see frozen fog clinging to branches unless temperatures drop and moisture hangs heavy in the air. This kind of beauty requires cold. It requires discomfort. It requires showing up when staying inside would be easier.

In life, we often judge seasons—both literal and proverbial—by how pleasant they look on paper. Comfort. Ease. Warmth. Clarity. Those are the conditions we're drawn to. We wait for them. We hope for them. Sometimes we even postpone living fully until they arrive.

But some of the most meaningful moments—the ones that shape us, soften us, or teach us something lasting—don't come from ideal circumstances. They come from the in-between. The foggy days. The cold mornings. The seasons that ask us to show up anyway.

That drive reminded me to look back on the proverbially cold seasons in my own life. Often, those were the times when something beautiful was revealed—something I wouldn't have seen unless the conditions were right. In the same way that pearls shine brightest against dark velvet, some of the best parts of life require contrast to be fully appreciated. Growth, more often than not, comes from endurance, not ease.

That doesn't mean we romanticize hardship or seek it out unnecessarily. Cold is still cold. Fog still limits visibility. Hard seasons are still hard. But it does mean we don't dismiss them outright. We stay curious. We keep our eyes open. We remember that not all beauty announces itself loudly, and not all value comes wrapped in comfort.

That morning, if I'd stayed home—if I'd let the cold and fog make the decision for me—I would have missed it. The stillness. The quiet awe. The reminder that sometimes the most extraordinary sights are reserved for those willing to step outside when conditions are less than ideal.

Minot has taught me that. So has life.

Sometimes, the most brilliant beauty only becomes visible when we move through the bleak, the uncomfortable, and the inconvenient. And sometimes, the simple act of showing up—of turning off the radio, slowing down, and really looking—is enough to remind us that even in the coldest seasons, there is something worth seeing.

Find more on life in North Dakota and finding a positive perspective at amyallender.com or by following along on Instagram at @HeyMinot.



The unique beauty of North Dakota winters invokes awe in me sometimes.
AMY ALLENDER PHOTO

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From Clutter to Clean: Helping Families Stay Organized

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

A new cleaning business is making its way into the Minot Air Force Base community, and it’s owned by someone who knows firsthand how busy military life can be. Hailey Nix, spouse of A1C Jaxon Nix, 705 MUNS, is a new local entrepreneur who has officially opened a cleaning company offering services both on and off base. Her cleaning expertise and willingness to jump start her business is why Hailey is also offering FREE cleans to those whose home needs an immediate reset on cleanliness.

Hailey’s passion for cleaning began early in life, as a child she spent many hours helping her grandmother clean and organize storage units. Hailey shared, “my grandmother struggled with hoarding, and working through the clutter left a lasting impact”. Those experiences helped shape Hailey into someone who appreciates cleanliness, organization, and visible results. Over time, this environment also led her to become highly aware of germs and cleanliness, reinforcing her love for creating clean, orderly spaces.

At just seventeen years old, Hailey took her first official cleaning job, working with a family friend after completing shifts as a server. What started as a way to earn extra income quickly became something she genuinely enjoyed. She found satisfaction in watching a space transform from messy to polished, noting that cleaning allows her to see the results of her work from start to finish.

Her business offers a variety of cleaning services tailored to the needs of military families. These include basic cleanings such as dusting, decluttering, and catching up on household chores, as well as deep cleanings for homes that need extra attention. She also provides move-in and move-out cleanings, assistance with packing household goods, and seasonal garage clean-outs, which are typically scheduled during



Hailey Nix helping the community get their homes organized.

warmer months. Most cleaning appointments take approximately two to three hours, depending on the size and condition of the home.

Hailey typically brings her own preferred cleaning supplies but is willing to use products requested by homeowners. Her flexible approach allows clients to feel comfortable knowing their preferences are respected.

In addition to paid services, Hailey offers free cleanings to families who may be overwhelmed or in need of extra help . These free cleanings are typically available to individuals or families experiencing hardship, such as medical challenges, mental health struggles, major life transitions, or financial stress. Hailey considers these cleanings because she

understands that maintaining a clean and organized home can feel impossible during difficult times, yet it can make a significant difference in a person’s well-being and ability to move forward. She currently offers two to three free cleanings per month, with the goal of continuing them as long as possible. While her availability may change in the future as her family grows, she remains committed to helping others whenever she can.

Since advertising on the Minot AFB family page, the response has been swift. Hailey quickly booked two new paid clients and received inquiries from three additional families seeking free cleanings. She is currently booked through February and typically opens her schedule two months



Before and after images of Hailey helping a military family get organized while dealing with a busy life.

in advance for both paid and free appointments.

With a strong work ethic, a personal connection to the military community, and a genuine passion

for transforming homes, Hailey Nix is building more than just a business. She is providing peace of mind, one clean space at a time.

Clean Freak Menu

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Hailey Nix not only providing cleaning service but also providing free cleaning services to those in need.

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791 MSFS PARTICIPATE IN WAA

Members of the 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron place wreaths in honor of fallen heroes during the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Rosehill Cemetery, Dec. 13. As the holiday season approaches, Airmen paused to remember the sacrifices of those who served and to say thank you.



GREEN KNIGHTS FOOD DONATION

Minot Air Force Base chapter 65 Green Knights MMC collected canned food donations during their annual haunted house in conjunction with The Drop Zone, bar and nightclub. The Green Knights donated these canned foods to the Minot Men's Winter Refuge to help those in need during the holidays.





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5TH MEDICAL GROUP EARNS TWO MAJCOM-LEVEL HONORS

Members of the 5th Medical Group celebrate after earning two Major Command-level awards. The 5th OMRS Dental Flight was named Medium Dental Clinic of the Year within Air Force Global Strike Command, and Senior Airman Jennifer Vannostrand of the 5th OMRS Human Performance Flight was recognized as Ophthalmic Airman of the Year. The awards highlight the unit's commitment to exceptional care for Airmen and their families



Medium Dental Clinic of the Year: 5th OMRS Dental Flight



Ophthalmic Airman of the Year: SrA Jennifer Vannostrand



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The Fun of Being On Stage

Mouse River Players

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ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

Dorian Garland works as a training officer for the 5th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and he is almost to the end of his tenure with the Mouse River Players. Allison Dickerson is a missileer with the 741st Missile Squadron, and she has just begun her time on stage with MRP. Their paths would cross in the recent MRP production of Scrooge. Dorian as the underpaid and overworked Bob Cratchit, and Allison as his loving and keep it all together wife, Mary.

For Dorian, it has been 5 years of being active in Mouse River Players, and other theater groups like the MSU Summer Theater, but Dorian will be leaving in March. Without much experience in theater, Dorian saw an opportunity to get involved and get involved he did. “Right now, I am Vice President of the Board of Directors at MRP, but I had my time as President and I’ve enjoyed the business side of MRP, too. I have had to recruit and organize volunteers, helping with the house...you know building set, lighting, sound.” And just because Dorian and other board members may end up on stage during a production “you can’t stop being a board member. You will need to be a peacemaker, manage personalities when needed, and just being more of an asset, doing those extra things. Being on the board comes with a lot of responsibility.”

Allison has been in Minot since January of last year and was waiting for the perfect time to get involved “and Scrooge kind of ended up being perfect as far as timing goes and my job” which as a missileer can mean ending up under ground for an extended time. “And the director and other people in the cast made it easy to work around my schedule.” But working with Allison’s schedule was indeed a stroke of luck, because Allison would end up taking on the role of Christmas Past just a few days before opening night. “The other actor lost her voice, and I was able to step in and do the role” according to Dickerson.

Besides the challenge of doing a musical like Scrooge, there was also the challenge of working with younger actors or “the kids”. “For them the time gets to be long” said Allison “and they get bored sometimes.” But according to Dorian the young actors are in a different time in their lives. “It’s amazing how quickly they can turn it one when it comes time to perform.” For the most part the Mouse River Players work without on stage mics “which certainly is a challenge to make sure they can be heard” adds Dorian.

Both Dorian and Allison said that Mouse River Players is certainly a great opportunity for active duty military personnel, and their dependents and friends, to get involved. Dorian talked about “a fantastic opportunity to get to know another group of friends. You have your military group that you hang out with, but you have another group with not as much military on the brain. Having a couple of different friend groups keeps you from feeling isolated.”

“When I came to Minot I wanted to get involved in the community” according to Allison “and it gives me a chance to show my talents to the community and of course to be creative. If you come here with a theater background it helps to keep up that passion.”

For Dorian and Allison Mouse River Players is part of a steppingstone in their life “as I always try to get other people involved” adds Dorian. “I know that if they volunteer they’ll have a good experience, at least that is what we want for them.”

As in all theater productions, the actors in the audience appreciate a sold out and excited audience. Allison said she had several of her co-workers from the 741st attend the shows. “And if they just couldn’t make it to the show, they were asking how it was going and showed a genuine interest in what I was doing.”

Even though their Scrooge experience was behind them “it’s kind of bittersweet” says Allison. “You are sad because for many



The Cratchit family celebrates Christmas, while the ghost of Christmas present and Ebenezer Scrooge look on.

weeks, often 2-3 times per week, you saw the cast, they were like family.” “A family you sometimes want to get rid of” Dorian says with a laugh. Each show is a bit of a roller coaster for those

who get involved in Mouse River Players, but for Dorian Garland and Allison Dickerson “it’s a great experience” says Dorian “it gets you involved” ads Allison.

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Dorian Garland as Bob Cratchit



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MOUSE RIVER PLAYERS PHOTOS



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“Much has been given to us, and so, much will surely be expected of us; and we must take heed to use aright the gifts entrusted to our care...So it is peculiarly incumbent on us here today so to act throughout our lives as to leave our children a heritage, for which we will receive their blessing and not their curse.”

That quote spoken July 4, 1886 in Dickinson, N.D. was from a man who would later in life be known as Pres. Theodore Roosevelt. He would also be considered the “conservation president” for his role in natural resource conservation.

The word “conservation” has many meanings. One dictionary alone (Merriam-Webster) listed three, including “the careful use of natural resources (such as trees, oil, etc.) to prevent them from being lost or wasted.”

Conservation is not preservation. Nor is it the blatant use of natural resources without regard to future generations.

Conservation, with all of its different interpretations, provides for the wise use of natural resources.

Perhaps we humans should think about the heritage and legacy we leave for future generations and that, too, is part of the meaning of the word “conservation”.

Actually, the United States has done quite well in that regard and Pres. Theodore Roosevelt laid much of the groundwork. When he was one of the founders of the Boone & Crockett Club, it wasn't to recognize the “big bucks” hunters are so enthralled with today.

Instead, it was to establish the concept of fair chase and setting a standard for the ethical manner of hunting. In turn, that helped conserve wildlife because, as hunters, it can establish a distinct connection to wildlife and the need for conservation.

As president, he created national wildlife refuges, parks, and forests.

In his belief that natural resources should be used wisely, he supported creation of several dams for water supplies.

He didn't believe in preservation that would keep or prevent the public from accessing the very land they owned – national parks, national forests, or national monuments, for example - because

preservation ultimately is detrimental to wildlife and natural resources.

After all, how can someone appreciate, respect, and value something when they have no access to it to understand it?

Equally, he didn't believe in abusing the nation's natural resources.

When a person thinks about everything used in one's daily life, the source comes from one place –Planet Earth.

It's obtained by only two means – it's mined or dug and grown.

Everything comes from the soil or below the soil. Plastics, wood, materials used to manufacture clothing, the material in products such as aluminum, steel, and iron.

Everything we eat; everything we wear; everything we use to power our lives – jets, trains, electricity, food, etc. - comes from either the soil or what's below the soil.

Conservation isn't about preservation.

But, equally, it isn't about going off the deep end of environmental extremism.

Conservation is about using the resources we have been blessed with wisely.

It's about using those resources so they are available for future generations.

Conservation is about giving back and it's about thinking beyond today.

It can be subtle things like picking up a piece of garbage so it's not polluting a wetland. It can be planting trees, native grasses, and plants that benefit wildlife of all sizes as well as people. It can be recycling products.

Conservation can be volunteering and dedicating part of yourself and your time to organizations that advance the definition of conservation, which coincidentally, ties in nicely with the role of being hunter. After all, hunters can and should be the leaders in conservation.

Perhaps that should be a New Year's resolution – to bring a little conservation into your life and work.

The results will live on forever.

“We are prone to speak of the resources of this country as inexhaustible; this is not so.” – Theodore Roosevelt.



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Keeping Christmas Alive, One Storefront at a Time



HOPE ANDERSON

Downtown Minot has always known how to do Christmas.

Long before glowing screens and online carts, this stretch of the city was the place where the season came alive. Where errands turned into experiences and shopping felt like celebration. It was where you ran into your neighbors, friends, and business acquaintances during the hustle and bustle of the season, but still took the time to catch up. Downtown Minot has long been a hub of holiday spirit so let's take a little trip down memory lane.

In December of 1965, Downtown Minot proudly called itself "the heart of the area's largest and most complete shopping district," home to nearly 700 businesses offering what they promised was the perfect trifecta: variety, service, and price. Their motto said it all, "If it's in town, it's downtown." With all these benefits, Christmas shopping wasn't a chore, it was a pleasure.

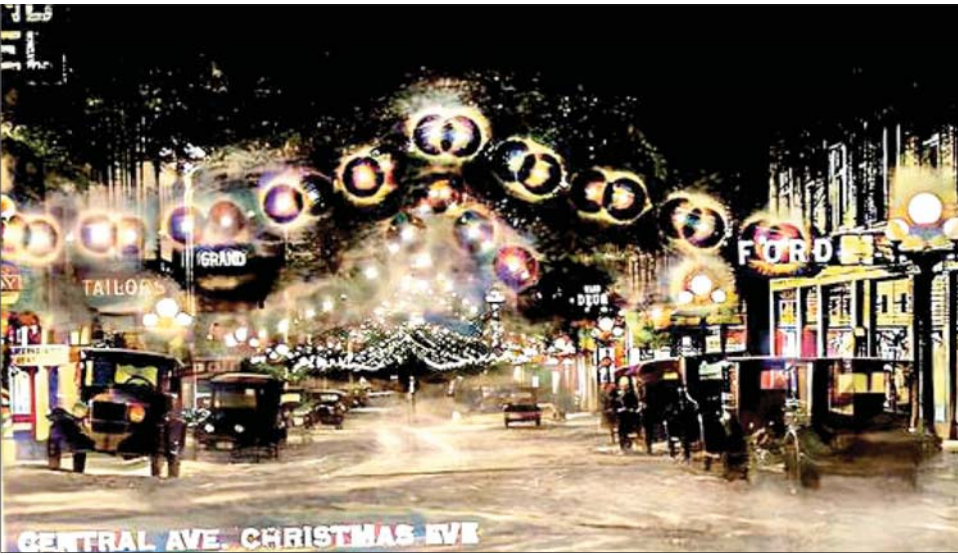
You can almost hear the jingle of the doorbells and feel the cold air brushing past wool coats as shoppers moved from store to store. At S&L Department Store in the early 1960s, practical met festive with fleece-lined snow boots for under four dollars, stylish leather boots for less than nine, mohair sweaters for \$12.95, and holiday dresses ready for Christmas Eve dinners and church services. Just down the street, The Jupiter Store tempted families with bicycles for under thirty dollars, board games like Sorry

and Monopoly, aluminum Christmas trees, rolls of wrapping paper, and cans of mixed nuts. Nearly everything you needed to make Christmas morning feel full and bright.

But the magic of Christmas downtown didn't start in the 1960s. It goes all the way back to 1886, when Minot itself was barely more than a beginning. With no churches yet built and only a handful of established congregations, the town gathered on the corner of what is now Main Street and Central Avenue. That's where Minot's first Christmas tree stood, decorated with care and hope. Gifts were hung from its branches, and every person, every single one, left with at least a bag of candy. It was messy and imperfect and exactly what a community looks like at the start.

Fast forward to present time and now, when I stand in my shop downtown and talk with people searching for Christmas gifts, the goals remain the same: something meaningful, something nostalgic and something that feels just right, I feel that same thread pulling through time. The prices have changed. The storefronts have evolved. Gone are the days of S&L Department Store, JCPenney, Sears, Woolworths, and Jupiter. But the heart? The heart is still here.

Now we find locally owned antique shops, specialty stores, coffee stops, restaurants, art studios, jewelry stores, boutiques, and more right in the heart of our community. These businesses are the heartbeat of the holiday season and keep the magic of this slice of



our city going strong and provide shoppers a unique experience that feels like a moment of nostalgia at every stop.

Recently, I visited with a lady who moved to Minot just a few weeks back and was looking for special gifts to send back home and to family around the country. She loved the opportunity to shop local and was enjoying the chance to make Minot feel just a little more like home. I also helped a long time customer finish up her holiday shopping with a handful of hand picked gifts for some tough to shop for people on her list. These are just a few of the opportunities I have to create community. It feels magical to know that we are a part of the history of our downtown and

are able to keep the spirit of the holiday alive one shopping experience at a time.

As I spend time shopping with my downtown neighbors, I love that each shop offers a different experience, but with a sense of comradery. It is a spirit of unity that allows the downtown core to thrive through the decades.

The magic of Downtown Minot at Christmas has never been about things alone. It's about warmth in the cold, conversation at the counter, stories shared while browsing, and traditions quietly carried forward. Every December, downtown reminds us that Christmas isn't just something we buy, it's something we keep alive, together.

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Forging Ahead... JEFC Trains Our Next Leaders

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

The 91st Missile Wing is forging the next generation of nuclear professionals! To prepare future Noncommissioned Officers for the unique demands of the deterrence mission, leaders from across the Missile Wing hosted the Junior Enlisted Foundations Course 300 in partnership with the 5th Bomb Wing Professional Development Center.

The Enlisted Force Development Model – Enlisted Airmanship Continuum (100–900) – connects institutional, functional and base delivered education, training and experiences. The Enlisted Airmanship Continuum is first introduced at basic military training, reinforced by foundational competencies in each AFSC’s career field education and training plan, and embedded throughout the entire continuum.

The curriculum was enhanced with content focused on Minot AFB’s unique mission, technological enhancements, and intelligence briefs on our nation’s competitors. This initiative graduated 28 mission-ready Airmen from the 5 BW and 91 MW, ensuring our force is equipped with the knowledge and skills required to lead in a complex global environment. This is how we develop lethal, ready, and mentally tough leaders to execute our nation’s most critical mission.

The Junior Enlisted Foundations Course 300 bridges the gap between tech school and Airman Leadership School. The course provides students with the foundational skills and knowledge needed to conform to standards, customs and courtesies, and offers guidance to help enhance the students’ focus on becoming highly efficient career field and 5-skill level agents.

The JEFC300 empowers Airmen to reflect on their behaviors in relation to the Airman Leadership Qualities. It facilitates the journey to developing supervisory and leadership skills, developing the competency of leading individuals and teams, and understanding the guardrails and guidelines of supervision.

The JEFC was created by the Air Force in late 2023, and as of 31 December 2025, it is a prerequisite for the Airman Leadership School (ALS). Airmen cannot attend ALS without first graduating from the JEFC 300. The next ALS is planned for January 2026. Typically, the 5 BW hosts the JEFC 300 course, but with the number of students who needed to complete it before the next ALS class, the 91 MW offered to host a course.

Those who attended the class seemed to appreciate the curriculum. Their participation and questions were excellent. Their



Airmen pose for a picture after graduating from the Professional Military Education (PME) Junior Enlisted Foundations Course 300 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Dec 11, 2025. The PME course was led by the 91st Operations Group focusing on Minot AFB’s unique mission, technological advancements and intelligence briefs.

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

probing questions allowed this class’ subject matter expert instructors to share detailed, relevant, location-specific information that cannot be captured in a curriculum intended for the broader Air Force.

The standard curriculum is good and was designed for this exact purpose: to allow expert instructors to tailor it to base-specific needs. We plan on hosting several more in 2026, but we don’t have exact numbers yet. The volunteer instructor cadre is growing by the day, so we have many Airmen (instructors and students) who would like this course to expand and continue.

Foundations Courses will replace our base-level professional enhancement seminars beginning October 2023 and become prerequisite courses for EPME in FY25. Content for all foundations courses will be updated and standardized by the Barnes Center, with the intent to remain current and relevant to maintain our competitive advantage. Foundations courses will be administered by base development advisors with support from local NCOs, SNCOs and subject matter experts. The duration for each level is five days: four days standardized content and one day MAJCOM/WG specific focus.



91st Missile Wing Junior Enlisted Foundations Course in progress.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks
Crossword puzzle.

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

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1. Some may be cold
- 5. Landed
- 9. Fervidness
- 14. "Doctor Zhivago" character
- 15. Seat of Irish kings
- 16. Regional animals
- 17. Straightforward
- 20. Type of blanket
- 21. Appearance
- 22. Names in publishing
- 23. Not quick on the uptake
- 25. Civil rights worker Medgar
- 27. Rightmost column, typically
- 29. Samara source
- 30. Fissure
- 33. Young cod
- 36. Viscount's superior
- 38. Vronsky's love
- 39. Straightforward
- 42. Party servers
- 43. Like a Marine's bed, usually
- 44. Genesis
- 45. Hold out one's paw?
- 46. Parked oneself
- 47. Homestead's county
- 49. Light sleeper
- 51. Peruse again
- 55. Part of F.D.R.
- 58. PC screen image
- 60. Born
- 61. Straightforward
- 64. Jerk one's knee, perhaps
- 65. Picked-on instruments, for short
- 66. Basic bit
- 67. Princess of Colchis
- 68. Jane of literature
- 69. Invigorates (with "up")

Down

- 1. Shortcomings
- 2. Backing for an exhibit
- 3. Muse of poetry
- 4. Cap with a pompon
- 5. It suits you
- 6. Type of edition
- 7. Castle with many steps?
- 8. Feather bed?
- 9. Maintain to be true
- 10. Balsa vessels, e.g.
- 11. Type of citizenship
- 12. Story start
- 13. Opposite of "yippee!"
- 18. Makes improvements to
- 19. 1887 La Scala premiere
- 24. Low barks
- 26. Knowledgeable
- 28. Group with a lot of bills
- 30. Black wildebeests
- 31. Cost for a deal?
- 32. Bygone era
- 33. Give the brush-off
- 34. Place for seeds
- 35. Bilbo Baggins' find
- 37. Explain further
- 38. Dogpatch denizen
- 40. Scythian warrior
- 41. Gnawing mammal
- 46. Musical composition
- 48. Wake from sleep
- 49. Terpsichore's forte
- 50. Daring
- 52. Growing outward
- 53. Fabulous fabulist
- 54. Judges to be
- 55. Where students may go at night
- 56. Fencing tool
- 57. Take charge on the dance floor
- 59. A Witch of Eastwick
- 62. Expected
- 63. Insignia spot



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(2004) Animation, Holiday, Family (G)

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COPS AND KIDS BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER TO THE MINOT COMMUNITY

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN LUIS GOMEZ



U.S. Air Force Defenders, law enforcement officers and community members pose for a group photo during the annual Cops and Kids event at a Walmart in Minot, North Dakota, Dec. 14, 2025. Service members volunteered their time to assist children while they shopped for holiday gifts as part of a community outreach event.



A U.S. Air Force Defender assigned to Minot Air Force Base shops with a child during the annual Cops and Kids event at a Walmart in Minot, North Dakota, Dec. 14, 2025. Cops and Kids provides local children the opportunity to select holiday gifts while building positive relationships with first responders and service members.



A U.S. Air Force Defender assigned to 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron gives a fist bump to a child during the Cops and Kids event at Walmart in Minot, North Dakota, Dec. 14, 2025. The event paired children with law enforcement officers and military personnel to shop for gifts, thereby strengthening community connections.



A U.S. Air Force Defender assigned to Minot Air Force Base helps a child check out holiday gifts during the annual Cops and Kids event at a Walmart in Minot, North Dakota, Dec. 14, 2025. The event paired children with law enforcement officers and military personnel to shop for gifts, thereby strengthening community connections.



U.S. Air Force Defenders assigned to Minot Air Force Base pose for a photo with a child during the annual Cops and Kids event at a Walmart in Minot, North Dakota, Dec. 14, 2025. The event brought together military members, law enforcement and families to support children in the local community during the holiday season.



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Minot Wrestlers Hit the Mat Strong to Start the Season

FATIMZAHRA ELBOUAB, AGE 16

On November 22, wrestlers in grades 7 - 12 from across North Dakota came to Magic City Campus for the season's first tournament. With four mats laid out for boys and girls, the matches were filled with shots, throws, and pins. The Minot United Girls Wrestling Team performed exceptionally well. Last year, the team won the individual state championships, with Maycee Boyce becoming the state champion in the 155-pound class. As a dual team, they finished second. Starting off the season strong at the Minot Early Bird Tournament demonstrates their commitment and intensity, showing that Minot's girls are ready for another competitive season. Girls Varsity Results - Minot Early Bird Tournament: 106: Brooklyn Ost, 3rd 112: Ella Brown, 1st 118: Khylie Schlotz, 1st; Lily Christianson, 6th 124: Martha Ward, 4th; Fatimazahra Elbouab, 5th; Aaliyah Laboy, 6th 130: Kierstyn Nevels, 3rd; Savannah Braaten, 4th 136: Payton Russell, 4th 142: Sava Nelson, 6th 155: Maycee Boyce 2nd; Alexia Schwanz, 6th 190: Jade'ence Fletcher, 1st These placements reflected the effort and determination the girls have put in during practice. However, not only did the girls perform well, but Minot United Boys Wrestling also had some notable placements. Boys Varsity Results - Minot Early Bird

Tournament 114: Jack Combs, 1st 121: Ian Halseth, 2nd 127: Elijah Rogers, 3rd 139: Jaxson Schumann, 3rd 152: Korbin Kraft, 1st 285: Dominic Concha, 3rd On December 4, the Minot United Boys Wrestling Team had a dual at Williston, followed by a two-day tournament in Sidney, Montana. Meanwhile, Minot United Girls Wrestling also had a successful dual in Williston. The Minot United Girls Wrestling Team defeated Williston with a score of 48 - 19. Meanwhile, the Minot United Boys Wrestling Team lost to Williston 40 - 20, with only four individual wins. Despite the results, the team remains focused and determined as the season continues. Both the girls and boys wrestling teams did an excellent job in the past few weeks, and are prepared for more!

Williston and Minot United wrestlers work for position early in the match.



Kierstyn Nevels (left) and Lyla Roehrich (right) engage in a hand fight.

AUDREY'S PHOTOGRAPHY.



JR. JOURNALISM PROGRAM northern sentry



SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS



Jade'ence Fletcher takes the top position as the referee signals for the match to start.

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MINOT NORTH

SENTINEL REPORT



Minot North Basketball Battles Through Busy Week

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, STUDENT JOURNALIST

Minot North basketball faced a challenging slate of games over the past week as both the boys and girls teams continued early-season play against strong competition.


The Sentinels boys team opened the week on the road, falling to Turtle Mountain Community 66-54 on December 12. Minot North stayed competitive throughout the contest but struggled to overcome Turtle Mountain's scoring runs. The following night, the Sentinels returned home to face Grand Forks Central, where they dropped a 75-61 decision. Despite the loss, Minot North showed improved offensive flow and effort as multiple players contributed on the scoreboard.

On the girls side, Minot North delivered an impressive performance, earning an 85-46 victory over Grand Forks Central on December 13. The Sentinels controlled the game from the opening tip, using strong defense and balanced scoring to pull away early and secure the decisive win.

As the season continues, Minot North will look to build off the week's experiences, sharpening execution and consistency as conference play approaches. With plenty of basketball ahead, the Sentinels remain focused on growth and improvement.




Minot North Basketball Girls with the Isaac Award.



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Cold weather safety

You can also opt to train your dog to use potty pads or a fake grass patch inside the home to avoid going outside at all. If the weather is tolerable, it can be safe to play outside or go for walks for short periods of time, but pay attention to the amount of snow/ice, wind chill, actual temperature, and your dog's breed/coat type. Dogs such as Huskies, German Shepherds, Akitas, and more have very thick coats that allow them to withstand colder temperatures than smaller or shorter coated dogs. However, it is still not a good idea to allow your dog to be outside in freezing temperatures for any extended period of time. Below is a chart created by Petplan that can give you an idea of how cold is too cold for your dog. Have fun this Winter, but always remember to stay safe!

As the cold weather creeps up on us, it is time to start thinking about how to keep your dog safe during Winter! If you absolutely must take your dog outside to use the bathroom, consider using booties for their paws and a sweater or jacket, especially if your dog takes its sweet time.

°C	°F				KEY	OTHER FACTORS
15°	60°	1	1	1	1. No evidence of risk: Have fun outside!	2+ If wet weather is present
12°	55°	1	1	1		1 If Northern breed or heavy coat
10°	50°	1	1	1		1 If dog is acclimated to cold
7°	45°	2	2	1	2. Risk is unlikely: Have fun outside, but be careful!	
4°	40°	3	3	2		
1°	35°	3	3	3	3. Unsafe potential, depending on breed. Keep an eye on your pet outdoors.	
-1°	30°	3	3	3		
-4°	25°	4	4	3		
-6°	20°	5	4	3	4. Dangerous weather developing. Use caution.	
-9°	15°	5	4	4		
-12°	10°	5	5	5		
-15°	5°	5	5	5	5. Potentially life-threatening cold. Avoid prolonged outdoor activity.	
-17°	0°	5	5	5		

Source: adapted from The Tufts Animal Care and Condition (TACC) scales

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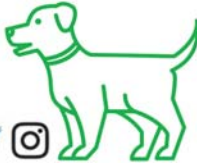
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North Dakota Early Learning Literacy

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI)—in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services—recently published a children’s book titled “Building Literacy Skills.” This is a Legendary Family Learning Guide that follows Theo Bison on his first day of Kindergarten and provides readers with an in-depth look on expectations for this milestone, as well as, tips and tricks to increase literacy skills. The book is funded by the Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant fund and is available free throughout North Dakota. The hope is that all children will enter school with a strong foundation of familiar literacy experiences – setting them up to become confident learners with a greater chance of success in school and life.

Ms. Bryn Iverson, Minot Public Schools’ Elementary Assistant Superintendent, gave me my very first copy and once read, I was impressed with the book’s jam-packed literacy tips, character’s enthusiasm for reading, and endorsement for rhyme (32)! Parents/FCC Providers/Educators: Stop by my office in the New Year to get your free copy/copies!

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NOTES ON BEING SAFE

HOLIDAY FIRE AWARENESS

The holiday season is up on us again! That time of year when friends and family travel, decorations are hung and festive meals are prepared. In the mist of the holiday cheer and sprit, let us not forget about safety. This is something that must be on the forefront of the activities we have planned and are engaged in. When comes to lights and decorating; inspect the condition of the electrical cords for frayed wires, kinks and cracked sockets. Only use appropriate replacement light bulbs. Do not over load wiring with more than three light strands connected together unless the safety label for the lights states otherwise. Overloaded and poorly maintained electrical circuits and cords present a serious fire hazard.

Decorations should be non-flammable or flame resistant and placed away from heat, electrical or ignition- source. Paper chains, strung popcorn garland, homemade or crafted items are great. However, this is could become a problem is not displayed and cared for properly!

Live trees should be freshly cut and not dried out. Once your tree is in place, away from a heat source, ensure that it is kept well hydrated and the needles are hard to pull out of the branch. Should a tree catch a fire, it can quickly engulf a room and fill the air with toxic smoke and fumes.

One more tip to leave you with, scented candles fill the room and air with smells that places you in a cheerful mood. Never leave a burning candle unattended. Unattended candles have been the cause of many house fires. According to the United States Fire Administration, each year fires claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage over

the holiday season alone. Sure this is the time to have fun and enjoy the current holiday season, let’s do our part to reduce these figures and the chances of an incidents occurring. By taking an extra second to practice personal risk

management, this can mitigate a lot of these avoidable incidents.



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Info from Feb 2025


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Upcoming
Events

21
DEC

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 away.
Fun for all ages
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](#)

UNTIL
JAN

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](#)

08
JAN

YOU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE GOING ON
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Blue Rider
118 1st Avenue SE, Minot

Clear your schedule and mark those calendars. Not only will there be accordion playing that is a solid 3 out of 5, but at 8:10, we will be hosting the LARGEST accordion sing-a-long in the history of Minot!!!*. The rest of the night will be filled with popcorn, nachos, punchlines and friends!
Sound interesting? Probably not...but hey, you probably don't have anything else going on :)



For more information:
[Facebook](#) / [Blue Rider](#) / [Events](#)

19
JAN

SUPERHERO BOOTCAMP
10:00AM-2:00PM
Magic City Discovery Center,
1545 1st Street NW, Minot

Calling all heroes-in-training! Join us for a dynamic day of mask-making, power practice, and mission-based fun. In Superhero Bootcamp, kids will create their own superhero persona, design gear and gadgets, and complete challenges that test their strength, speed, and smarts. Unleash your inner hero—it's time to save the day!
Ages: 5 - 12
Location: Community Rooms at the Magic City Discovery Center
Cost: \$25 for non-members, \$22.50 for members, \$20 for military members
Educator: Tessa



Sign up today:
<https://www.magiccitydiscoverycenter.com/camps>

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

PUZZLE ON PAGE B3

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

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MINOT AFB

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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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TITUS & PHILEMON

Everyday adventures of Titus and Philemon and their owner Joe.



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

TIMOTHY TIMM

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Taking advantage of the snow day to try to build the largest snowman.

KRYSTAL KENNEDY-
PHOTO



Giddy up.

STACI HAYNES-
PHOTO



Cozy reading time by the tree.

STACI HAYNES-
PHOTO



Veteran Owned



Carleen Gust
AGNP-C, MSN, APRN, CANS

2915 10th Street SW,
Suite A, Minot
701-852-8284

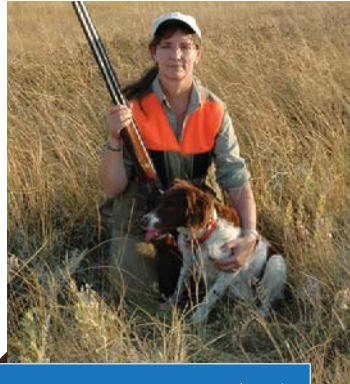


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by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, Dec. 15: 1,829.69 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 16,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases. Devils Lake elevation: 1,448.78 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Stump Lake elevation: 1,448.79 MSL.

- N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: Some activity on Lake Irvine but ice conditions vary greatly. Use caution. A few anglers on Devils Lake back bays but no reports of success.
- Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Continued walleye activity on northern Devils Lake feeder lakes with most anglers on Lake Irvine. Some anglers starting to go out on Devils Lake back bays but no reports yet.
- Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Some activity on Lake Darling but limited reports of success. Access is available at designed shoreline points only.
- Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Anglers now heading out onto Lake Metigoshe with some scattered walleye success but not much bluegill activity yet.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: No activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea with poor and dangerous ice conditions at best yet. Use extreme caution if venturing onto the back bays of Lake Audubon.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Some walleye activity on the south and east sides of Lake Audubon with the best time around sunset.
- Lake Sakakawea, New Town: No activity on Van Hook Arm yet but anglers are going to White Earth and Little Beaver bays for walleye as well as Tobacco Garden. No reports on success, however.

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.
- 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. 27 & 28: Free ice-fishing weekend. Residents can ice-fish for free throughout the state.
- 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. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 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.
- Jan. 2: Resident and nonresident Canada Goose Missouri River Zone season closes.
- Jan. 4 Resident and nonresident High Plains Ducks, Coots, and Mergansers season closes.
- Jan. 4: Resident and nonresident Light Goose season closes.
- Jan. 4: Archery deer season closes.
- Jan. 4: Pheasant, partridge, grouse, and turkey seasons close.

- Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Some walleye activity from the wing walls of the Missouri River tailrace but no reports from the river itself.
- Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Some walleye activity between Lewis & Clark State Park out to Hofflund Island area. No pickups or heavy vehicles advised yet, though. Decent panfish bite continues on Kota-Ray Dam. Look for continued crappie activity on Trenton Lake with a few walleye now showing up. Kettle Lake producing some rainbow trout.
- North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: No

activity on area lakes with a few anglers heading over to the Devils Lake area.

HUNTING:

- Pheasants: Fair numbers of birds in heavy cover but they're flighty with the crunchy snow and ice conditions.
- Waterfowl: Some birds remain on the open water of the Missouri River tailrace.

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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What's Going On Minot AFB

FRIDAY 19

- 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 Paint Class, 1730-1930, Rough Rider Bowling Center

SATURDAY 20

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

SUNDAY 21

MONDAY 22

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center

TUESDAY 23

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Base Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center

WEDNESDAY 24

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Jingle Jump, 0900-1600, the Turf
- 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

THURSDAY 25

- Christmas Day
- For a full listing of Christmas Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com
- Happy Holidays Meal, 1030-1330, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Happy Holidays Meal, 1630-1800, Dakota Inn Dining Facility

Scan for full event details



FRIDAY 26

- AFGSC Family Day
- For a full listing of Christmas Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com
- Jingle Jump, 0900-1600, the Turf
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2300, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Christmas Ornament Paint Class, 1730-1930, Rough Rider Bowling Center

SATURDAY 27

- For a full listing of Christmas Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com
- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page

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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