

# northnentry

FREE | WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM | VOL. 64 • ISSUE 03 | MINOT AIR FORCE BASE | FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK:



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CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER GIVES BACK THROUGH ART AND SERVICE

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ICE ON THE INSIDE: A MINOT AFB WINTER CLASSIC

A2



A 54th Helicopter Squadron UH-1 Iroquois flies overhead during the Advanced Recapture Recovery Operational Warfighter (ARROW) exercise at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center's North Training Area near Guernsey, Wyoming, in August 2025. ARROW exercises train convoy response force teams from Minot Air Force Base, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, and Malmstrom Air Force Base through realistic scenarios, including ambushes and attacks, to strengthen their ability to protect and recapture military assets during transit in missile fields.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | AIRMAN NICHOLAS ROWE



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# Conversation With The Mayor

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

What’s your favorite color? What’s your favorite food? What do you like most about being Mayor of Minot? What do you like least? These were all questions that Mayor Mark Jantzer answered in the first schedule Conversation With The Mayor held at North Plains Elementary school on Friday, January 9th.

According to Alyssa Kelly, School Liaison Program Manager “Dr. Amanda Capote, Music Teacher at North Plains Elementary School, is pioneering this program. It is designed to provide military-connected students with the unique opportunity to engage directly with the Mayor of Minot. Through open dialogue, students will learn more about local government, share their experiences as military children, and build stronger connections between our school, the community, and local leadership. The Purpose and Goals: Civic engagement, connection, empowerment, education, and community partnership.”

In his first comments Mayor Jantzer explained his journey to being elected as Mayor of Minot. “I was on City Council and was appointed by the council as acting Mayor. Then I was elected to the position of Mayor replacing the former mayor who had resigned. Finally, we had an election to determine who would be Mayor in August of last year. I had to gather signatures to get my name on the ballot and run against 3 other candidates. I was elected Mayor on August 5th, and now we will have another election in June to see if the citizens of Minot who elected me the first time want me to keep my job (as Mayor)” Mark told the students.

Much of what Mayor Jantzer explained in his opening remarks

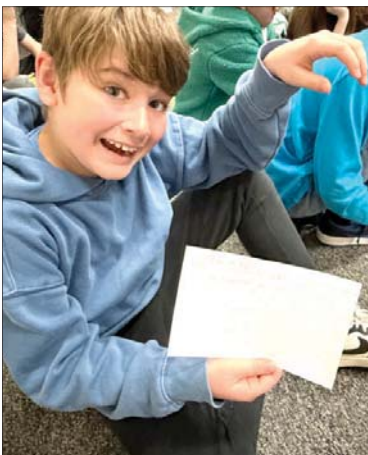


Minot Mayor Mark Jantzer answers questions from students at North Plains Elementary School.

was City Government 101. Mayor Jantzer explained the services that a city like Minot provides to its’ citizens including police and first protection. Other service like running water and garbage and recycling collections. But you could see that although they were somewhat interested in the job of Mayor, their real true interest was in asking questions of Mayor Jantzer who systematically orchestrated a question/answer period that took up much of the hour Jantzer would spend talking with the kids.

By random choice, the first student question was “What is your favorite color?” “Well,” answered Jantzer “I guess my favorite color is kind of a blue, sky blue.” There were tougher questions “What is the hardest thing you do as Mayor.” The answer revolved around the fact that Minot has over 50,000 citizens

“and they don’t all agree and so it isn’t easy to please all the people



One of the many students holds up a card with his question for Mayor Mark Jantzer.



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Students raise their hands and wait to their turn to be called on for their question(s).

at any given time” said Jantzer. The example the Mayor used was recycling “where some people are in total support of recycling, and others think it’s dumb and a waste of time and too expensive.” One of the questions asked what Mayor Jantzer does at City Hall which the mayor answered with examples and an invitation for the students to arrange a field trip to City Hall for a tour. One of the final questions about the distance between the City of Minot and Minot Air Force Base allowed Mayor Jantzer to talk about the relationship between Minot and the Minot Air Force Base, and how important that friendly relationship is. Finally, the question that perhaps brought as much thought as any “What is your favorite food?” After a bit of through the Mayor came up with “probably beef spareribs” which brought a few laughs from

the audience. There was time at the end of the question and answer session for a few one on one questions, photos, and of course a few hugs and thank

yous from appreciative students and teachers.



(L to R) Col Jesse Lamarand, Col Jimmy Schlabach, Command Chief Wayne Sharp and Command Chief Becky Thomas attended the Meet The Mayor forum.

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**A VIEW FROM OUR SIDE**

ROD WILSON

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I really hate to write anything about the recent trend in warmer weather in January as I am a bit superstitious that as soon as I do we will get one of those Arctic lows and be dealing sub-zero temperatures and wind chills. We have short memories though, as not too long ago we had -40 wind chills that forced some of us to change our plans and just stay home rather than wander out into the cold. But, unless it changes drastically 2026 has started out fairly nice.

This train of thought leads me to write about our recent Military Affairs Committee meeting where Security Forces talked about the training that they do with their forces to not only survive, but function efficiently in common ND winter conditions. Add to that



Senior Airman Jakob Simpkins from the 91st Security Forces Squadron the most junior enlisted member to be part of the Cold Weather Defender Course. NATALY ZARRELLA PHOTO



**UPSIDE DOWN UNDER**

MARVIN BAKER

Anyone who travels U.S. Highway 52 from the Canadian border to Minot or vice versa, most likely knows the old bank building in Carpio was recently demolished. The bank opened in 1904, and while Hebron Brick opened in 1904, the bricks for the Carpio bank had predate the opening of Hebron Brick. Unfortunately, none of the bricks salvaged after the demolition show a place or a date, so they could have been formed anywhere. There isn't a lot of information about brick making in North Dakota outside of the springing up and success of Hebron Brick. But, starting in 1873 in Fargo to 1936, there were brick manufacturers all over the state. Prior to Hebron, however, there

# It's a Mental State of Mind

training for an emergency when one, or a group of our Airmen may be forced to spend an extended amount of time in the elements. Easier put, how to survive by building shelters and fires in preparation to spend an entire night out in the elements. With today's modern technology that includes cell phones, more reliable vehicles and better outdoor gear, why bother? "Because we know that our adversaries are prepared to exist and function in these conditions" according to Security Forces personnel who informed the people attending the MAC luncheon about winter preparedness. They also talked about being mentally prepared to survive and function when it is North Dakota cold. "We teach our troops to prepare themselves to spend time in the cold and not just think about running from a warm vehicle to a warm building."

That brings me to my next thought. As a young kid I would almost beg my parents to let me go outside rather than spend hours in the house. We had a skating rink without a warming house and we would dress appropriately to spend not minutes, but hours playing a pick-up hockey game. We would take a handful of non-yellow snow to quench any thirst.

Later in life I would again spend hours, not minutes, out on an open lake ice fishing. We didn't have the ice houses (castles) that are common today. We considered any temperature about 15 degrees, without wind chill of course, to be perfect for ice fishing weather. We learned about what would later be called layering...i.e. putting as many clothes on as possible to keep from getting cold. And just like the Airmen who are being trained to "take on and defeat the cold" rather than let the cold beat them, we were mentally prepared to go outdoors.

So, in my opinion, we aren't only equipping our young Airmen, most who are residents of states where the average temperature is around 60 degrees, to not only work in North Dakota, but also to get involved in activities like ice fishing, hockey, curling, sledding and skiing, cross-country skiing and even winter camping. If you wait for perfect weather, and I guess I hesitate to define perfect winter weather in North Dakota, you'll be stuck indoors watching re-runs of Survivor on T.V. Instead, as I learned long ago, it's better to enjoy the outdoors in North Dakota on your schedule, plan a day and prepare for the worst because you can always adapt. Leaving a layer

of clothes at home is not all bad... being outdoors and being miserably cold is. Finally, I would like to share my experience(s) ice fishing. There are very few experiences that compare to a warm (again a mental state), sunny day out on the open ice. It's always nice to catch fish, but not necessary. If it's -40 I will agree that a well-equipped fish house is certainly nice but with a mind-set that if it gets nice we are going to abandon the fish house and sit on a 5-gallon pail on the ice. Like the Security Forces training you are teaching yourself to not only survive, but to function and most of all have fun in the winters of North Dakota.

**ONCE AROUND THE BLOCK**

Have you tried the new ice bumper cars at Citizens Alley? I have not, but it's certainly on my bucket list to make it happen this winter. Everyone I have talked to say they are a lot of fun. Information on rentals is on the Citizen's Alley web site citizensalley.com.

**TODAY'S CHUCKLE**

There's nothing wrong with your life being an open book, as long as you only hang out with people who can't read.



Enjoying an ice bumper car. CITIZENS ALLEY PHOTO

# Where did the bricks come from?

were several in northwestern North Dakota and one has to assume the brickyard was nearby because transporting bricks to Carpio based on weight could get expensive. In fact, there is an ad in a 1905 edition of the Ward County Independent newspaper in Minot. A business lists the different kinds of bricks and their prices: St. Louis Fire Brick \$60/thousand; Menomonie Sand Mold Brick, Menomonie Press Brick and St. Louis Press Brick, each \$20/thousand; Kenmare Brick and Burlington Brick, \$12.50/thousand and Grand Forks Brick, \$13/thousand. Locals know there were more than the yards listed. For instance Baden, between Kenmare and Donnybrook, had an operating yard for a short while. Most of the time, a company would stamp its name on one side of a brick such as "Hebron" or "Kenmare." It becomes a lot more difficult to identify when there is no identification. However, the bricks from the Carpio bank are lighter and less dense than Hebron Brick. I'm not sure what that means, but it could indicate the Carpio bank bricks were pressed rather than fired. According to a 1995 report by the North Dakota Geological Survey, the

bricks made in northwestern North Dakota prior to 1904 were either clay stone bricks or alluvial clay. Clay stone is a fine-grained hardened sedimentary rock of consolidated clay particles. Alluvial clay is fine-grained clay particles transported and deposited by flowing water. The brick industry rose quickly in the early days of Dakota Territory, mostly because of the need to find an alternative to wood buildings that easily caught fire. As a result, the many brick manufacturers popped up across the state so fire retardant buildings could be constructed. By 1902, North Dakota was producing 21 million bricks valued at \$157,000. That number only increased, but took a steep dive during the Great Depression. And, as a reference, that amount of money in 1902 adjusted for inflation, would be \$6.2 million today. According to some historical documents, Fort Stevenson was most likely the first place in Dakota Territory to see brick buildings, predating the Fargo brick yard by seven years. But, apparently, those bricks were shipped on riverboats from St. Louis because nobody knew about the location of the different types of clays in 1866. That said, Army engineers set out to find those places and most often

found heavy clay deposits near coal mines. But, as the Geological Survey pointed out, the alluvials could have been anywhere along a lake, a river or stream. I was able to salvage a few of the bricks from the Carpio bank site as a keepsake since they are almost as old as the town itself (1902). They are seriously dirty often times with concrete and/or mortar stuck to them. Most of them are broken into two or three pieces. But for those that can be salvaged, a hammer and chisel takes care of the mortar and sand paper grinds off any excess that won't come off from the chisel. The bricks are still quite dirty after that. So to clean them up, they are "washed" with acetic acid and honestly, some of those bricks look as if they just came from the brick yard. Vinegar is acetic acid and in this case it's a vinegar with a high percentage of acetic acid, such as 30 or 50 percent. For years, many of us who live in the gooseneck of Ward County wished that bank building could have been saved. Attempts were made to purchase it, historical societies didn't want it because the cost of repair and finally, the city had it demolished to nullify a safety hazard.



# Borrowed Traditions and the Gift of Belonging



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

The first time I ever saw a king cake, it was a cool, clear morning in a suburb of New Orleans.

One of my husband's pilot training classmates grew up just outside the city, and his family graciously invited us to spend the weekend at their home. After a late night in the French Quarter, I was grateful to wake up to the smell of fresh coffee wafting in from the kitchen.

"Good morning! You want some king cake?"

"What's king cake?" I asked.

"You've never had king cake?" our friend John said, incredulously.

Without missing a beat, his mom cut generous slices for all of us. The cake was decorated in unmistakably celebratory colors—green, purple, and yellow—and as we ate, she explained the tradition. She told us about King's Day and its significance, the symbolism behind the cake—both in spiritual and secular terms, and how a small plastic baby is hidden inside. Whoever finds the baby in their slice is responsible for bringing the next king cake to the following gathering.

In that way, King's Day and king cake usher in a season—not just a single celebration. A chain of gatherings stretches from early January through Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), which leads into Lent before Easter.

Her explanation wasn't rushed or formal. It was hospitality in its truest form—not just inviting us into her home, but into her culture, her rhythms, and something that mattered deeply to her family.

At the time, I didn't realize how much that moment would stay with me.

Later, when we moved to Louisiana, king cake became commonplace between January and Mardi Gras. It showed up everywhere—at offices, churches, grocery stores, and kitchen tables. And when we eventually moved away from the South, that tradition came with us.



I had no idea what king cake was until my mid-twenties. Now it's one of our families most cherished traditions

AMY ALLENDER PHOTO

When we relocated to a place where king cake wasn't part of the cultural fabric, I taught myself how to bake one. Partly because they're delicious, and partly because I love the tradition itself. Every January, as I bake, I think of that kitchen in Louisiana. I haven't been in that house for many years, but the kindness shown to us there remains—year after year—through a tradition I now carry forward.

That's one of the quiet gifts of military life: the way it places us, again and again, near people willing to share who they are and what shapes their lives.

Living this way gives us the opportunity to be drawn into customs that aren't our own. To learn traditions we didn't grow up with. To be welcomed into kitchens, celebrations, and stories we might never have encountered otherwise.



The most unique aspect of the king cake tradition is that a plastic baby is hidden in each one.

AMY ALLENDER PHOTO

Minot and our local friends have been generous in that way. They've shared lefse, Midsummer, and so many uniquely North Dakota traditions with us. In return, we've shared pieces of our own story. And more often than not, food becomes the bridge.

It's funny how recipes seem to soak up memories. They taste like home; like a time gone but not forgotten; like a season. One bite can recall a place, or a version of yourself you didn't realize you missed. Traditions do more than preserve nostalgia—they create belonging. They offer an on-ramp into community, something many of us crave, especially in a place where winters are long and so many people are far from where they started.

That's the kind of kindness I hope to practice—the kind that doesn't just open the door to a home, but to a culture and a story. The kind that says, This matters to us, and you're welcome to it.

Military life may scatter us across the map, but I keep discovering that traditions tether us together. They remind us that belonging doesn't always come from geography. Sometimes it comes from a borrowed custom, a shared table, or a cake baked in January that carries the weight of many places at once.

And sometimes, home tastes like sugar, coffee, and the generosity of someone who took the time to explain why something mattered.

*For more reflections on military life, and living well in North Dakota, connect with me at amyallender.com or on social media @HeyMinot.*

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# Central Middle School Teacher Gives Back Through Art and Service

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

Francesca Scott is many things, a middle school teacher, a military spouse, a coach, an artist, and a dedicated volunteer. At Central Middle School, she has become a familiar and valued presence, not only in the classroom but also around campus, where her latest contribution, a hand-painted mural, is bringing color, pride, and a sense of belonging to the school community.

Francesca, a teacher at Central Middle School, volunteered her time to paint the mural, donating her skills while the school provided paint and supplies through donations. She does not consider herself a professional artist, but rather someone who paints as a hobby and a personal outlet. Over the years, she has painted murals and artwork on military bases and donated pieces to schools and organizations for raffles and fundraisers. This project marks her first mural in a school setting. “I don’t like to say no when I’m asked to help,” Francesca said. “I think, ‘If I don’t do it, then who will?’”

Central Middle School Principal Nathan Freeman said Mrs. Scott’s willingness to step up made a lasting impression. “Francesca is a great asset to the team and a great person,” Freeman said. “She volunteered her time to help make this school better, and she didn’t hesitate when we asked. These murals not only make the place look better, but they also give the students and teachers a sense of belonging.”

Central Middle School, which reopened in 2024 as a middle school after previously serving as a high school, is now in its second year. Freeman said the school



Central Middle School teacher Francesca Scott with her husband, CMSgt Aaron Scott, after just six months at Minot she has already made a meaningful impact in the community she serves.


district does not provide funding for decorative projects like murals, making volunteer efforts and donations especially meaningful.

Francesca’s dedication to service is rooted in a life shaped by the military. She is the spouse of an active-duty Chief assigned to the 5th Bomb Wing and has been connected to the military community for most of her life. A former military brat herself, Francesca met her husband in Panama City, Florida, while he was stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base. The two have been together for nearly 23 years, including


assignments in places like New Mexico and Alaska, where Scott became accustomed to long winters.

The family moved to North Dakota in July of last year, and Francesca says the transition has been a positive one. “I love it here in North Dakota,” she said. “The people are kind, and the summers are beautiful.”

Francesca has been an educator since 2005, though her career has included pauses and pivots. After having children, she took time away from public education and became a licensed mortgage broker in Florida, work she still does on nights, weekends, and summers. When her children were old



## the northern sentry Salute



**SrA Leslie Phillips**

791st Maintenance Squadron  
Hometown: Corpus Christi, Texas  
SrA Phillips is a hard working Airman in the ELAB who consistently performs outstanding work. Not only did he make BTZ last year for his own hard work and effort, but because of that and his MX acumen, he was chosen as the next Team Chief in ELAB. He has been part of the last-minute Codes Vault troubleshoots, conducted several Missile Guidance Set build-ups, led small teams through critical troubleshooting actions and volunteered for standby shifts to ensure the job is always done right.

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If you wish to put a photo of your baby in the Northern Sentry, please send it to nsads@srt.com. Please include your name and the birth date of your baby.





A second mural takes shape at Central Middle School as Mrs. Scott volunteers her time and talent to build pride and a sense of belonging.



The Central Middle School bulldog mascot mural, painted by teacher and volunteer Francesca Scott.

enough to go to school, she did too, balancing teaching with entrepreneurship and family life.

Her commitment to education has not gone unnoticed. During a previous teaching assignment in Idaho, Francesca was named Idaho's PTA Educator of the Year in 2012–2013, an honor she credits to her enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer.

In addition to teaching, Francesca coaches the boys basketball team at Central Middle School. She also plays soccer on Minot Air Force Base with a group of airmen of various ages who come together to stay active and connected. The informal group, coached by Captain Beaverman, plays year-round, indoors during the winter and outdoors when weather allows. "They love having somewhere to go, get out of their dorms, and just play," Francesca said.

At home, Francesca stays just

as busy. She and her husband have two children, ages 10 and 11. In her spare time, she enjoys creative pursuits like cake decorating, using airbrushing and homemade fondant to design cakes for special occasions, including military balls. She has also hosted paint and sips at previous bases to bring military spouses together.

Francesca already started her next mural at Central Middle School last weekend and even though she is unsure when it will be completed, what is certain is her commitment to giving back. "I truly enjoy volunteering my time," she said.

For Central Middle School students and staff, Francesca's efforts go far beyond paint on the walls. They reflect a spirit of service, creativity, and community, qualities that are helping shape the school's identity, one mural at a time.



Francesca Scott winner of the 2013 Idaho PTA Educator of the Year award, continuing to give back as a teacher, coach, and volunteer her in Minot, ND



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**NOTES ON BEING SAFE**

**WINTER DRIVING SAFETY**

BY TSGT CHASE ROCHELEAU

As winter approaches, it's crucial to prepare for the increased hazards of driving in inclement weather. Taking proactive steps can significantly reduce stress and improve safety on the road. Here are some key considerations:

- 1. MONITOR WEATHER CONDITIONS**  
Before heading out, it's important to check the weather forecast using a reliable app or news source. Staying aware of any impending storms allows you to make informed decisions about your travel plans. If severe winter weather is expected, assess whether your trip is necessary. If possible, consider postponing your travel to avoid potential hazards.
- 2. OPTIMIZE VEHICLE TRACTION**  
**Winter Tires:** Installing winter tires provides improved grip and control on snow and ice. This is the most effective option for enhanced winter driving performance.  
**Snow Chains:** If winter tires are not feasible, consider using snow chains. Chains provide added traction in deep snow but should be used only when roads are snow-covered.
- 3. PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT**  
Keep a winter emergency kit in your vehicle, including a flashlight with extra batteries, a first-aid kit, jumper cables, a snow shovel, an ice scraper, a blanket, warm clothing, a cell phone charger, water, and non-perishable food.
- 4. PLAN FOR DELAYS AND ADJUST DRIVING HABITS**  
Winter weather can lead to slower traffic and more accidents, so it's important to anticipate potential

delays. Allow extra time for your trip to avoid rushing and reduce the risk of accidents. When driving in snow or ice, reduce your speed and increase your following distance, as braking distances are significantly longer in these conditions. By

adjusting your driving habits, you can stay safer on the road during the winter months.  
For more comprehensive information on winter driving safety, visit [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).



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# 4 factors to consider to maintain winter safety

Many changes are to be expected as fall gives way to winter. 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

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 snow to prepare the body for exercise. Go slowly and take frequent 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 fuel-burning 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

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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# ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT



## AMUR TIGER

### CREATURE FEATURES

- Once known as Siberian Tigers, Amur Tigers are the largest member of the cat family.
- Tigers are the only large wild cats with stripes. These stripes are camouflage that aid them while hunting. The stripe patterns of a tiger are not symmetrical from one side of the animal to the other. Their stripes are like our fingerprints.
- Amur Tigers have "built-in" ways to conquer the cold. They have a layer of fat on their flanks and belly, that helps protect them from the elements. Their thick, long coats also help keep them warm. And like most tigers, Amur Tigers have a ruff of fur around their neck and extra fur on the paws to protect them from the cold snow like built-in "snow boots".

Fact File	
Life Span	10 - 15 years
Weight	400 - 675 pounds
Head and Body Length	5 - 9 feet
Tail Length	2 - 3 feet
Tail Length	3.5 feet
Top Speed	40 mph
Wild Diet	Omnivore <u>Carnivore</u> Herbivore Deer, Pigs, Water Buffalo, Antelope

Photo by Amanda Cone



### PREHISTORIC crossword puzzle



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

1. Paleontologist 2. Dinosaur 3. Skeleton 4. Egg 5. Volcano 6. Cave 7. Bone 8. Nest

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# WINTERY PHOTO CONTEST



## northernsentry

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER





My 11 week old puppy Charley seeing snow for the first time on Minot AFB.  
KAILEY CISNEROS PHOTO



Sibling Christmas photo.  
ARIEL HERNANDEZ PHOTO



Cheers to 2026 - Wishing military and civilian families a year filled with warmth, love, and new beginnings. Here's to kindness, togetherness, and brighter days ahead. — Brian & Alisa.  
BRIAN MARYNOWITZ PHOTO



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# Ice on the Inside: A Minot AFB Winter Classic

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

Is North Dakota wind rattling your windows, and somehow leaving a layer of ice inside your house this winter? You’re not alone.

Welcome to winter at Minot AFB. When you live in a place where the air hurts your face, weird things are bound to happen, and frozen-shut windows are one of them.

Every year, base Facebook pages fill up with newcomers asking, “Why are my windows frozen?” followed closely by “Is my house broken?” For those not used to this climate, it can be a real shocker. But based on the annual flood of posts and comments, we can safely say this is a pretty normal way of life here. So don’t panic.

Why does it happen? Believe it or not, icy windows usually mean your windows are doing their job. The warm air inside your home presses up against the freezing-cold glass, turning into condensation. That moisture doesn’t stand a chance. The window is well below freezing, so the water vapor freezes on contact and can slowly build up over the winter as more warm air condenses and joins the party.

So... what can you do about it? A call to the base housing office a few years ago resulted in this advice: wipe down your windows daily once the weather gets breezy so condensation doesn’t have time to freeze. Now, maybe it’s just us, but running around wiping every window in the house every single day doesn’t feel realistic.

So you have options: Embrace it. Accept that ice happens and clean it up once temperatures rise, before you end up with window-sill puddles and future mildew problems.

Try a few hacks (if the ice is driving you crazy).

A quick disclaimer: The Northern Sentry takes zero responsibility for any of these “hacks.” Proceed at your own risk, with your own towels.

Some residents swear by plastic window insulation kits to add an extra barrier. Others recommend reducing indoor humidity, which means less moisture in the air to freeze in the first place. This can be done with dehumidifiers or by running bathroom and kitchen vents more often. One brave soul on a spouse Facebook group suggested using a hair dryer to melt the ice and mop up the water. Just know, it’ll probably come back as long as temperatures stay brutally cold.

The bottom line is that whatever route you choose, know



Welcome to Minot, where even the windows freeze.

this: window ice is relatively normal here. Just keep an eye on it and manage it as best you can. It’s simply one more unique experience you get while living in Minot, North Dakota, something

you can casually mention to friends later like it’s totally normal. Because around here... it kind of is. Welcome to the MAFB adventure.

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**Tuesday, February 19**

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**For more information contact:**

Jim Bowman- nd135.president@afa.org

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**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**



CROSSWORD  
SOLUTION

Solution to December 19  
Crossword puzzle.

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

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Across
- 1. Move nomadically
  - 5. Enters from the bench
  - 11. Reducing resort
  - 14. Beige shade
  - 15. Bring back from unconsciousness
  - 16. Take too much of
  - 17. Flying mimicker
  - 19. Back in time
  - 20. Cold climate food fish
  - 21. "Como \_\_\_ usted?"
  - 22. Big city haze
  - 23. Elicit
  - 25. Mexican mister
  - 27. Type of casual pants
  - 30. Let go
  - 33. Kindergarten subject
  - 36. Preachers' topics, often
  - 38. "Speed \_\_\_" (cartoon)
  - 39. High rocky hill
  - 40. Posh ride
  - 42. Decoder's tool
  - 43. It excites a sense
  - 45. Epitome of tightness
  - 46. Capri, for one
  - 47. City just south of Seattle
  - 49. Seed covers
  - 51. Eucalyptus leaf muncher
  - 53. Perch for Polly
  - 56. Microwaves
  - 58. Make less distinct
  - 61. Single-masted vessel
  - 63. Megalomaniac's problem
  - 64. What 17-Across, 11 and 35-Down all have in common
  - 66. Vietnamese holiday
  - 67. Big-time party person
  - 68. They're useful on links
  - 69. Sponsors' words
  - 70. Fireball
  - 71. Once, once

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

- Down
- 1. Radiation units
  - 2. "\_\_\_, All Ye Faithful"
  - 3. Jumped from electrode to electrode
  - 4. Inuit footwear
  - 5. Part of many Californian cities
  - 6. Push
  - 7. Fishing line attachments
  - 8. Deck divisions
  - 9. Melville's Potter
  - 10. Homer's righteous neighbor
  - 11. Fake jewelry?
  - 12. Walt Kelly's cartoon
  - 13. Extremely eager
  - 18. Nails' target
  - 22. Bean from which milk is made
  - 24. Assuage
  - 26. Not a single one
  - 28. Benevolent
  - 29. Mural beginning?
  - 31. Believe
  - 32. "Amen" deacon
  - 33. Machine gunner's syllables
  - 34. Half a Polynesian island
  - 35. Trademark slow cookers
  - 37. Speak like the inebriated
  - 40. The Crimson Tide, dialectically
  - 41. Islamic chieftan
  - 44. Sounds from the pasture
  - 46. Pinpoint
  - 48. Capital on the Hudson
  - 50. Not following
  - 52. Call heard often at the World Series of Poker
  - 54. Having more aches and pains
  - 55. Schleps
  - 56. \_\_\_-Jones ("Chicago" star)
  - 57. Like a fine wine
  - 59. West Point sch.
  - 60. Printer's load
  - 62. "Over here," quietly
  - 64. Temporary fashion
  - 65. No preceder

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# USAF Restores Duty Identifier Patches: ‘They’re Back, Baby’

GREG HADLEY, AIR & SPACE FORCES MAGAZINE

With a rip of Velcro and the slap of a familiar patch, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force David A. Wolfe announced the return of duty identifier patches in an 11-second Facebook video Jan. 9.

“THEY’RE BACK, BABY!” Wolfe’s post added, a nod to the loud calls to reinstate the simple spice brown and olive drab patches that indicate an Airman’s career field or responsibilities via a few letters or numbers—“SF” for Security Forces, “MUNS” for Munitions, or “PA” for Public Affairs, for example.

Also called Career Field Identifiers, the patches were banned 11 months ago when then-Chief of Staff Gen David W. Allvin declared that the 130 authorized patches encouraged Airmen to prioritize their individual identity over the Air Force team and cancelled their use. The move provoked an angry response from Airmen, and new senior leaders paid heed. Now Wolfe and new CSAF Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach are reversing that and other changes.

In a Jan. 9 memo announcing a updates to appearance standards, Wilsbach reauthorized duty patches, effective immediately.

“I’ve decided to bring duty identifier patches back because the Air Force is made up of many different specialties, each with a unique role in our mission to generate airpower,” Wilsbach said in a statement. “We are a unified force working together to win.”

“Your expertise matters. These patches are a reflection of the skills you earned, and every patch tells a



A U.S. Air Force Airman, assigned to the 354th Civil Engineering Squadron explosive ordnance disposal flight, wears an EOD duty identifier patch and a Pacific Air Forces patch at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, Sept. 20, 2024.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CARSON JENEY

story that ends with AIRPOWER,” Wolfe added. “They connect your role to the larger mission. We trust you to wear them correctly and help your wingmen do the same—we owe each other accountability every day.”

But not every previously authorized patch is coming back. The memo lists 90 approved patches (see below), down from more than 130, with “shred-outs”—specialties carved out from other career fields—eliminated.

In addition to the 90 authorized patches are 12 arch-shaped

tabs signifying a special, unique qualification or training, such as “Air Advisor” or “Arctic,” all of which had previously been authorized.

The return of the patches is the latest move by Wilsbach and Wolfe to boost morale. In November, leadership announced it would allow Airmen to wear unit morale T-shirts on Fridays and aircrew to wear nametags with their callsigns daily. New quarterly command-wide inspections ordered by Allvin have been reduced to once per year.



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# Minot Shrine Club Announces 2026 Minot Shrine Dates

MINOT SHRINE CLUB

The Minot Shrine Club Circus Board is pleased to announce that we will be having the 2026 Shrine Circus at the Minot Municipal Auditorium.

Performance Dates – Times  
Thursday, May 7th – 10:00AM and 7:00PM  
Friday, May 8th – 10:00AM and 7:00PM  
Saturday, May 9th – 10:00AM, 4:00PM, and 6:00PM

This year a kick-off reception was held on Thursday, January 8th at the Minot Municipal Auditorium which featured a ribbon cutting ceremony and announcements from our board members detailing the circus performances, children's ticket support, and business and corporate sponsorships.

We would like to thank all the local businesses and corporations that have supported us in the past. Their sponsorships have been tantamount to us being able to not only put on the Shrine Circus but to also distribute free tickets to school children in kindergarten through

grade six in our surrounding school districts and home school organizations.

The Shrine Circus has been a welcome, recurring event for Minot and the surrounding community for 70 years. We are preparing for this event and can't wait to see your smiling faces at the 2026 Northwest Shrine Circus.

The Minot Shrine Club serves

as the local representative body of Shriners International. Shriners are a fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic values of personal integrity, moral conduct, and community service, aiming to make men better through self-improvement, charity, and upholding the virtues of honesty, fairness, and tolerance.



Shaun Lewellyn, Minot Shrine Club Circus Chairman, and Dizzy the Clown cut the ribbon during the announcement event.



Members of the Minot Shrine Club and the KEM Temple Divan announce upcoming Shrine Circus dates for Minot and the circus's return to the Minot Municipal Auditorium, joined by the Minot Area Chamber EDC for a celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony.

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC PHOTOS



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## A LOOK BACK THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

OPERATION POWER FLITE PUTS B-52 BOMBERS  
IN THE RECORD BOOK

JANUARY 16, 1957



The three B-52s that completed Operation Power Flite, grounded at March, AFB, CA. (USAF Photo)

After a disheartening string of crashes in the 1950s, USAF Strategic Air Command wanted to re-ignite public confidence in the B-52 bomber and reiterate their powerful capabilities to the world. SAC initiated Operation Power Flite, in which three B-52B Stratofortresses and their crews circumnavigated the globe in a historic flight that took 45 hours and 19 minutes. The original five planes, which were stationed with the 93rd Bomb Wing, departed from Castle AFB, California at 1:00 PM on January 16, 1957. Two of the bombers experienced equipment malfunctions and had to land in the USA and England for maintenance. Each plane held the normal six man crew, as well as an extra pilot, navigator, and the crew chief of each plane. Nearly 100 KC-97s from air bases all over the world took part in the operation, providing essential air refueling for the B-52s. The planes landed at March AFB, CA on the morning of January 18 and became the first jet powered planes to circumnavigate the globe without landing to refuel.

Information courtesy of: [afgsc.af.mil](mailto:afgsc.af.mil)

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# MINOT NORTH

## SENTINEL REPORT



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# A week of Competition and Excellence at Minot North

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, STUDENT JOURNALIST

The past week at Minot North High School showcased the dedication and talent of students across athletics, activities, and STEM. From competitive games on the court and ice to championship-level performances in dance and robotics, Minot North students continued to represent their school with pride and determination.

Girls basketball faced a challenging slate of games against strong opponents. On January 6, Minot North competed against Century, falling by a final score of 78 to 38. Despite the outcome,

the team displayed effort and resilience throughout the game, with bench players providing noticeable energy. Their impact was recognized through the Isaac Award, which honors athletes who demonstrate leadership, effort, and a positive team presence.

Later in the week, the girls took on Minot High in another competitive matchup, finishing with a final score of 91 to 63. Minot North continued to battle against a tough rival, showing growth and persistence across all four quarters. Kinzy Welsand earned the Isaac Award in that game, recognizing her

contributions and commitment on the court. While the results did not favor Minot North, the team gained valuable experience that will benefit them as the season progresses.

Boys basketball also remained active this week, continuing to develop through high-level competition. The team emphasized disciplined play, defensive communication, and teamwork, focusing on long-term growth rather than short-term results. Each game provided opportunities for players to gain experience and strengthen chemistry as they prepare for upcoming

conference play.

Minot United hockey delivered a strong performance on January 5 against Devils Lake. The junior varsity team earned a dominant 4 to 0 shutout victory, setting the tone early in the night. The varsity team followed with an impressive 5 to 3 win, completing a sweep for Minot United. Easton Bradley recorded a hat trick, while Jayce Lemon contributed a strong all-around performance. Additional goals came from Schmeichel and Dahl, and Luke Richeson secured the win in net. Contributions throughout the lineup highlighted the depth and effort of the entire team.

The Minot United dance team had an outstanding weekend, earning first place in all four categories they competed in. The team took first in jazz, pom, hip hop, and kick, an exceptional achievement that reflects precision, athleticism, and countless hours of preparation. Their performances stood out for synchronization, energy, and execution, earning top

recognition across every routine and bringing significant pride to the Minot North community.

STEM students also celebrated success as Spare Parts FTC Team 32434 earned the Sustain Award at a FIRST Tech Challenge State Qualifying Tournament. Competing as a rookie team, Spare Parts was recognized for their commitment to sustainability, outreach, and long-term impact within the FIRST community. The award highlights efforts beyond robot performance, including community engagement and thoughtful team development.

Across sports, activities, and academics, Minot North students demonstrated resilience, commitment, and excellence. Whether competing on the court, battling on the ice, performing on the dance floor, or innovating in robotics, the past week reflected the strength of Minot North's community and the drive of its students to continually improve and succeed.




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Minot United Hockey Team after game win.

# Military Appreciation Night to Support Operation Homebound

The Minot North High School Girls and Boys Booster Clubs will host a Military Appreciation Night on Friday, Jan. 23, with all proceeds benefiting Operation Homebound. The Minot North Sentinels will face the Williston Coyotes during the evening’s games.

Operation Homebound is an initiative of the Minot Area Chamber EDC that helps send first-term airmen stationed at Minot Air Force Base home for the holidays. In 2025, funds

raised through the program provided more than 100 airline tickets, allowing airmen to travel home from November through December.

All military personnel and their families will receive free admission with a valid military ID.

Game times are as follows: Girls JV and Boys JV at 4:15 p.m., Boys Sophomore at 5:45 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6 p.m., and Boys Varsity at 7:45 p.m.



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## WHAT A SNARLED MESS

Kim Fundingsland



It didn't seem so bad with the door closed but, good grief, what a mess. A real, big time, embarrassing mess. What kind of person could create such an embarrassment? Ah...me.

Now, dear reader, I respectfully ask that you do not rush to judgement as to my general habits in creating such a mess. Rather, I think, and I'm certain you will agree, more details are needed before a verdict can be reached. In the following lines, I offer a precise reflection of all events pertaining to the messy room.

You see, one room of my modest home is dedicated entirely to fishing. Some might see it as a kind of shrine, but it is much more than that. It is there that I engage in lure making, tackle sorting, rod and reel maintenance, daydreaming and, on occasion, accidentally telling a few mild lies of the sort that might be attributed to any fisherman.

During the active months of the fishing season I am usually fishing, meaning there is less time to spend in the fishing room. At the conclusion of the open water season, and I'm sure you'll understand, the amount of "fishing stuff" returned to the room reaches the overflow level.

Fortunately, with some clever rearranging and sheer determination, I was able to close the door to the room and thereby hide a miserable mess. You know, out of sight out of mind. However, that only created the daily agony of knowing that eventually I was going to have to tackle the wicked mess of tackle for which I alone was responsible.

Those thoughts were accompanied by any number of reasons why the once organized room became such a nightmare, all of course that exonerated me from any responsibility. Reasons like more or better shelving was

needed, more bins for lure parts, the dog did it, there was an earthquake, Sundays are my day off and, I know you can relate, the need to watch a favorite movie for the 300th time.

Excuses. Excuses. Excuses. And the room was still a mess. There was only one responsible, adult thing to do – go fishing. Unfortunately, the weather was much too forbidding for that.

With lures to make and a workstation covered in tools, hooks, beads, connectors and so many miscellaneous parts that I could hardly remember what they were used for, I dove into the long-postponed task of cleaning up a mess entirely of my own making.

It proved to be a three-day task, but my fishing room is functional once again. I can wheel my chair wherever I want. All components for making and repairing lures are in their proper place. Rods, reels, tools, lure boxes too. I've promised myself never to repeat the situation. Lesson learned? We'll see.





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



Our Child and Youth Behavioral Military and Family Life Counselors (CYB-MFLCs) are instrumental in ensuring our military-connected families in and around Minot AFB are supported. I am the point-of-contact for our CYB-MFLCs, and it is a very rewarding position because our counselors are friendly and personable – it is easy to understand why they’re counselors! We currently have three on Minot Air Force Base: Ms. Thelma Watkins, Ms. Megan Armenta, and Ms. Erin Park. They assist children, families, and support staff with free confidential, non-medical counseling.

Each month, they give a free presentation on a different topic, which is decided based on data regarding current counseling trends and mission-readiness initiatives. This month’s session will be held on January 20th, 2026 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm at

the Youth Center and is on Parent and Child Conflict: Identifying Family Strengths and Collaborative Communication. Ms. Megan Armenta will lead the presentation and all attendees will receive a free plant!

You might think you don’t have time for this session. You might even think it won’t be beneficial. However, I encourage you to give it a try! Education is something no one can take from you. I believe there’s no more valuable use of your time (besides quality, device-free interactions with your child(ren), which—arguably—are enhanced via your own intentionally-scheduled and attended educational sessions) and this life-enhancement is paramount for your own, your child(ren)’s, and our country’s success! Live intentionally.

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12:00PM - 1:00PM • Youth Center



2026 SCHEDULE & TOPICS  
20 January: Parent & Child Conflict - Identifying Family Strengths & Collaborative Communication  
17 February: Managing Relationships When Service Member is in the Missile Field/TDY/Deployed

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Mouse River Players,  
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Join Mouse River Players for this production of “Lend Me a Soprano”. In the 2024-2025 season, MRP presented another of Ken Ludwig’s classics: “Murder On the Orient Express”. It’s 1934, and the clever and combustible Lucille Wiley, Manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, is ready to welcome world-class soprano Elena Firenzi for her one-night-only starring role in Carmen. Alas, Elena arrives late, her impassioned husband Pasquale has a fit of jealousy, and it remains to be seen whether Mrs. Wiley’s mousy but determined assistant Jo can save the day. Based on Ken Ludwig’s Tony Award-winning Lend Me A Tenor, this this madcap screwball comedy features ladies in the leading roles and is guaranteed to leave audiences teary-eyed with laughter.

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**ETERNAL WEEKEND LEGACY  
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Legacy Gauntlet Qualifier 2 - March 21st, 2026  
Legacy Gauntlet Qualifier 3 - May 23rd, 2026  
Legacy Gauntlet Qualifier 4 - July 18th, 2026  
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For more information:  
Facebook / chaosgamesnd/ events

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24 JAN

**FROZEN FUN DAY**  
10:00AM-2:00PM  
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For more information:  
Facebook / Minot Parks/ events

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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

PUZZLE ON PAGE B3

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

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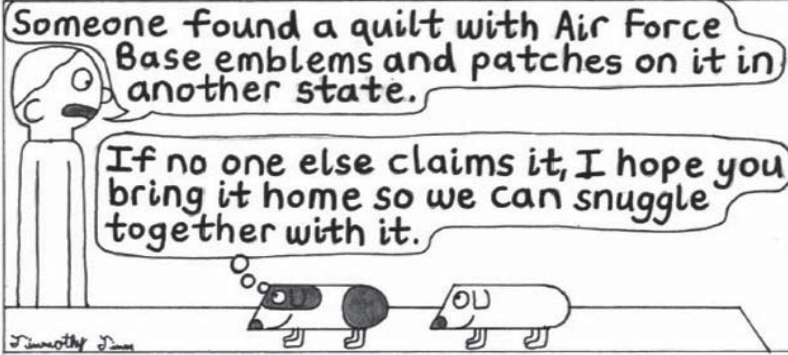
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Timothy Timm of Minot currently attends Minot State University, is a Minot High School graduate, artist, cartoonist, author and illustrator. Timm has also created other works of art that are on display in his art studio downtown located at 201 Main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

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# Fire-Smart Starts Here: SPARKY's January Safety Tips

- Ensure that space heaters are at least three feet away from anything that can burn and are turned off when you leave the room or go to sleep.

- If you have a real Christmas tree, check it daily for dryness, as dry trees are highly flammable. When taking down lights, inspect them for any damage, such as frayed wires or cracked sockets, and discard any that are damaged.

- With increased use of heating systems, the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning rises. Install CO alarms and smoke detectors on every level of your home and Test CO detectors & Smoke Alarms monthly.

- Never leave cooking unattended and be especially cautious when frying or grilling. It's also wise to create a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove.

- Take the time to create and practice a home fire escape plan



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- Everyone should know at least two ways out of every room. Also, ensure that all members of the household know to crawl low under smoke if they must exit through smoky conditions.

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by Patricia Stockdill

## FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, Jan. 12: 1,828.88 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 16,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,448.85 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Stump Lake elevation: 1,488.82 MSL.

- N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No new reports from area lakes.

- Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Perch bite remains somewhat tough but those taken are quality fish. Fair to good walleye success. Good accessibility with minimal snow on the ice.

- Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: No reports from Lake Darling. Lake Audubon fair for walleye.

- Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Continued bluegill success. Try low early morning or late evening light hours for walleye but fish are running small and anglers will want to sort through for keepers.

- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Fair to good walleye success on Lake Audubon. Some anglers going to Douglas Bay on the east end of Lake Sakakawea but no reports of success.

- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Stay north of a large pressure ridge in Centennial Bay on the east of Lake Sakakawea. Lots of activity on Lake Audubon. A large pressure ridge is also along the southwest end of Audubon so avoid that.

- Lake Sakakawea, New Town: No new reports.

- Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace

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

- 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.

- Jan. 18: Registration closes for WOW, Wild Outdoor Women outdoor educational workshop, at Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau. Go to (<https://bit.ly/WinterWOW2026>), for details and (<https://bit.ly/FEBWOW26>) to register.

- Jan. 23 & 24: Minot Curling Club Curling for the Cure Bonspiel, Minot.

- Jan. 24: Bakken Bag Fest Cornhole Tournament, (free), Clarion Hotel & Convention Center, Minot, 1:30 p.m.

- Jan. 24: Frozen Fun Day, Polaris Park, Minot. Winter activities, games, and treats. Free event begins at 11 a.m.

- Jan. 31: Evening Hike Series, Full Snow Moon Candlelight Hike featuring Team North Dakota Snow Sculpture creating a campfire scene snow sculpture, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison. Participants can hike, snowshoe, or cross-country ski depending on snow conditions with luminaries lighting the trail, which begins at the Visitor Center, 6:30 p.m.

## TOURNAMENTS:

- Jan. 17 & 18: Lake Sakakawea, Four Bears.

- Jan. 24: Lake Audubon, Totten Trail.

- Jan. 31: Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Arm; Devils Lake, 6-Mile Bay.

producing walleye from the chutes working down river in boats, weather permitting, using jigs and minnows. Wing walls slowed but fewer anglers on it, as well, when weather is good for boat fishing in the river. Better walleye success on Lake Audubon is at night but use extreme caution on the ice when traveling in low light hours, test ice depth, and watch for springs and pressure ridges. Walleye activity slowed during the day.

- Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Continued walleye activity between Lewis & Clark State Park and Red Mike on the upper end of Lake Sakakawea. Lots of activity so look for areas with fewer anglers but always test the ice. Missouri and Yellowstone rivers producing walleye and ling. Cottonwood Lake, Almont, producing quality pike. Try Kota-Ray for panfish with mostly bluegill and occasional perch.

- North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Lake Metigoshe producing nice bluegill success. Water clouded up on the small

dam on the Souris River near Upham so activity slowed. No reports from other north-central area lakes.

## DOWNHILL SKI REPORTS:

- Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, Mont., (800) 548-4486: 29- to 43-inch base with 267 runs and 33 lifts open.

- Bottineau Winter Park, Bottineau, (701) 263-4556: 12- to 24-inch base with 6 runs, terrain park, 1 chair, 1T-bar, and 2 carpets open.

- Frostfire Ski Area, Walhalla, (701) 549-3600: 7 runs open

- Huff Hills Ski Area, Mandan, (701) 663-6421: 12- to 20-inch machine groomed base with 5 runs, 1 lift, and 1 tow open.

- Terry Peak, Lead, S.D., (605) 584-2165: 14- to 24-inch base with 8 runs, 3 lifts, and 1 carpet open.

## 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

FRIDAY16

- NCO Foundation Course 500, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP DOL Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Elevate Your Relationship, 1200-1600, Sirocco Neighborhood Home, hosted by M&FRC Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Progressive Bingo, 1730, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Neon Lights Skate Night, 1800-2000, Youth Center
- Winter Karaoke Nights, 2000, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY17

- For a full listing of Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com
- Bottineau Winter Park Trip, 0730-1830, Outdoor Recreation
- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page
- Elevate Your Relationship, 1000-1400, Sirocco Neighborhood Home, hosted by M&FRC
- Reality Trivia, 1700, Rockers Bar & Grill

SUNDAY18

- For a full listing of Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com

MONDAY19

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- For a full listing of Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com

TUESDAY20

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- First Duty Station Officer Financial Course, 0900-1100, 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
- Thrift Savings Plan for Military Members, 1300-1400, M&FRC
- Quiet Book Club, 1800-1930, Base Library

WEDNESDAY21

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Bundles for Babies, 0900-1030, M&FRC
- Pre-Deployment/Remote Readiness Training, 1000-1100, M&FRC
- Storytime, 1030, Base Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Mosaic Masterpieces, 1730-1930, Youth Center

THURSDAY22

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Pre-Separation Briefing, 0830-1130, M&FRC
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Moving Out of the Dorms Budget Class, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center

FRIDAY23

- Airmen's Night Out, 1600, Outdoor Recreation
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Teen Night Bowl & Glow Bash, 1800-2100, Rough Rider Bowling Center

SATURDAY24

- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page

SPECIALS

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