

northern sentry

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INSIDE THE
5 MDG
TOPA FLIGHT

A6



INSIDE HAIRBALL
HEAVEN,
GIVING STRAY CATS
NEW LIVES

B2



MINOT UNITED ESPORTS
SNATCH THEIR FIRST
STATE TITLES

B7



LEGAL HELP STARTS HERE

Capt. Peter Harrison poses inside the Minot Air Force Base Legal Office in the 5th Bomb Wing Headquarters building at Minot AFB, North Dakota. The office offers legal assistance to eligible service members, dependents, and retirees, including help with wills, powers of attorney, and civil legal matters. Find out more on page A2.



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Free Legal Assistance Available at Minot AFB

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

Are you in need of legal advice? Well, good news, you can probably get it right here on base, and for free! The Minot AFB Legal Office is located in the 5th Bomb Wing Headquarters building at 205 Missile Avenue. Their services are available to many military-affiliated individuals, including Active Duty Airmen, their dependents, retirees and their dependents, and surviving dependents.

While many of the services they offer are by appointment only, a few matters, such as creating power of attorney documents or getting documents notarized, can be handled on a walk-in basis.

Appointments are available for legal advice on topics including will writing, divorce and child custody, legal problems with landlords or leases, consumer rights, protections under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), and other civil matters.

Airman First Class Isabella Andujar wanted to emphasize that “all legal assistance is covered by rules of client confidentiality and attorney-client privilege.” However, she added, “The two big things we cannot help with are criminal matters (whether the trouble is on base or off) and representing clients in court.”

Andujar was also asked what happens if someone needs legal advice about something not specifically mentioned in the list of services. Can they still talk to base legal? Her response was, “The best answer to your question is the common lawyer answer: ‘It depends.’ If the military member is just exploring their legal options or doesn’t know where to start, a military attorney is a great place to begin. If a member knows they want to go to court over a matter, a civilian attorney will have to represent them. Also, if the member has already retained a civilian lawyer, a military lawyer can no longer offer advice on the same issue.”

Realistically, divorce is one of the primary reasons military members and dependents seek legal guidance, especially when children or benefits are involved. Andujar explained how the base Legal Office can assist in divorce or potential divorce situations, saying, “Our office can advise on the legal and economic impacts of divorce, including how military benefits are affected for both the member and the dependent. We are happy to guide clients on how to use state bar referral services and what skills to look for when selecting an attorney. We recommend that in cases involving child custody, both parties hire an attorney. Most states’ laws do not specifically



Airman Stella Bangtson working hard and ready to help you with your legal needs.

account for the military lifestyle when addressing child custody.”

She also noted, “If both spouses seek divorce assistance, they will have to consult two separate attorneys in our office to avoid a conflict of interest. We can assist with understanding where and how to file for divorce or child custody, as well as explain procedures for submitting forms and the general divorce process.”

The Legal Office truly can help in many ways. They also want to reiterate the importance of being prepared in life, starting with putting legal affairs in order through wills, advance medical directives, and estate planning. They encourage everyone to take the time to plan ahead legally, and they stand ready to help.

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All About Pets

AF Life with Pets

Elmer Fudd, Dogs on Deployment Mascot 2019 with USAF Capt. Bryan Moore

As many Airmen and families already know, military life is not easy. Here are a few tips to help you manage your busy Air Force life while also taking proper care of your pet!

- Get a low maintenance pet—snakes, certain varieties of fish, hamsters and other rodents, and turtles are just a few ideas of pets that are relatively low maintenance compared to your everyday dogs and cats. It's still important to provide adequate enrichment, environments, and food for them, but if you do all those things, these pets will be just fine during long work hours. Be sure to check with your housing authority first to make sure these pets are allowed.
- Find a "lazy" pet—high energy and working dog breeds are not recommended for owners who are away from home a lot and do not have the time, energy, and resources to keep their dogs fully enriched. You could consider bringing home a characteristically "lazy" breed instead. Basset Hounds, Boston Terriers, Bull Mastiffs, and Maltese are a few dog breeds that pop up often in the conversation around low-energy breeds. However, it's still important to note that all dogs are different. You may find a dog that is a couch-potato by nature, or you may find a "low-energy" dog that wants to go 24/7. Make sure you consider the needs of certain breeds and individual dogs (or cats) before adopting, and even if you have a low-energy dog, you still need to meet their basic requirements. Which is why working people should consider...
- Outside help—for shorter periods (a week in the field, a 12 hour day at work), it would be beneficial to hire a pet sitter, dog walker, or even a neighbor or family member who is willing to help out. While some pets won't go crazy at home all day, they still need to be provided with socialization and enrichment. See if you can find someone to pop in every few hours to play with, feed, and let your pet outside! Doggy daycare is a great option for many canine parents, and while cats and other small pets are usually alright left alone, it's never a bad idea for them to have someone to play with. Don't be afraid to reach out to the base community through Facebook or your friends/family for help if you're feeling overwhelmed with your pet-parental duties. Chances are there is someone out there who is willing to help you and your pet out.
- For bigger challenges, consider finding a temporary foster home for your pet. Family members, close friends, and even willing community members are always options for long-term pet care instead of rehoming. There are also "deployed pet" help sites that can connect you with temporary fosters, such as Dogs on Deployment and Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pets. If you're thinking about rehoming your pet due to the cost of PCSing with them, consider applying for SPCA International's Operation Military Pets grant.

Taking care of pets is a big responsibility, but when we bring them into our home, it's our duty to treat them with the care and love that they give us as well. Military life can make it more difficult, but there are so many resources out there to help.

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Tom Joyce- It's Time to Give Back

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

Tom Joyce had a goal of becoming City Manager of Minot sometime, but when the current City Manager, Harold Stewart resigned his position to become the City Manager of Pasco, Washington, Tom was named interim City Manager of Minot, and soon was one of three vying for the position, and it was in October of 2025 that Tom Joyce was chosen as Minot's City Manager.

On the City of Minot web site is a short history of how Tom Joyce would arrive in Minot:

"Since 2021, Joyce has served as the Deputy to the Garrison Commander at the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, Co. In that position, Joyce was responsible for directing administrative, technical, and professional services supporting a population of more than 73,000 at a large, multi-mission military installation.

Joyce's education includes a Bachelor of Arts in American Government from the University of Virginia in 1986, a Master of Science from Purdue University in 1991, a Master of Military Operational Art and Science from Air Command and Staff College in 2000, and a Master of Strategic Studies from Air War College in

2005."

"I had worked for the Army in total for about eight and one half years as a civilian" shares Joyce "prior to Fort Carson we (he and his wife Caroline) were in Belgium. When I had retired from the Air Force in 2014 I was curious about local government, and I couldn't really find a job in San Antonio, so that's when I went into the Army and worked as civil service."

Through some friends and recruiters Joyce came across the Assistant City Manager position in Minot. "So, it seems that everyone I meet asks me if I was stationed here" according to Joyce "I was here for three days on TDY and that probably didn't count because it was in June" Joyce says with a smile. "I had a number of friends who had been stationed here, and I reached out to them and they had nothing by great things to say about the community. Most military members like the people and love the people they work with, but it's the community piece and was I willing to move here. Well Caroline and I are here and we have been here for a little over 2 years now. I've spent my whole life in military communities so I'm very comfortable in a military community. My Dad was retired

Army. The opportunity came this past fall when the City Manager position opened up and a few people talked to me and thought I should put my hat in the ring for that and I did and here I am. You know at this point in my career it's really about giving back. I'm just proud to take everything I've learned and try to make things a little bit better."

When Joyce talks about Minot as a military community he talks about the size of Minot, around 50,000, and the size of the military community, around 12,000 plus, he says you just see a different level of commitment. "Those folks who are born and bred here in Minot understand the importance of the installation militarily, two legs of the nuclear triad, but people here understand how the community itself benefits from having the military community here" says Joyce "it's a dual benefit. We're helping them (the people attached to Minot AFB) out, but they're helping us out. We get to learn something new and meet new people."

The Air & Space Forces Association was fortunate to connect with Tom Joyce through our current president, Jim Bowman. "I was over the phone talking with Jim and he told me about AFA. I read your article in the Northern Sentry about the Commander's Choice Award Banquet. I didn't know about that banquet. I go online to the AFA web site and Caroline had signed me up to be a lifetime member, but I was in the San Antonio chapter. So, the reality is that I had not done anything



Minot City Manager & AFA Member Tom Joyce.

with the AFA until I started to go to the AFA meetings a couple of months ago (at Rocker's, the third Tuesday of every month), and like I said before, it's the time of my life when I am giving back. I love going to the meetings and I love seeing the peers and working to get people in the community involved in the AFA and helping put on these Commander's Choice Awards, but it's also great to see the Airmen. It's just that time when I need to give back as much as I can. Besides AFA I am honored to be an Honorary Commander for the 5th Mission Support Group with Col Seigler.

So according to Tom Joyce when

you consider joining a group like the AFA, you reflect on how much you got out of serving in the Air Force, and how important it is to give back.

The most visible event that the David C. Jones Chapter 135 in Minot organize is certainly the Commander's Choice Awards, and we couldn't do what we do without volunteers like Tom Joyce. But beyond the Commander's Choice Awards is an organization that advocates for every Airmen, past & present. And like Tom Joyce, it's important that we work together and be proud to give back.



Tom Joyce presents an Employee Appreciation Award to Judy Norby of the Minot International Airport.

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68...and Counting



**A VIEW FROM
 OUR SIDE**
 ROD WILSON

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MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER | WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM

If you have been reading my column, you are familiar with my running total of "good first impression" greetings at the Minot AFB gates. We are at 68 Airmen in a row that have greeted us warmly and smiled and told us to "have a good day" or something similar.

On Thursday we were so very fortunate to have a young female Airman greet us outside the normal guard area. For folks going on to the base, the traffic flow was pretty much normal. But for those leaving base, there had been an incident that caused the outgoing line of cars to be stopped. The line had gotten quite lengthy and was sure to keep growing.

When we asked about the line of cars our Security Forces Airman informed us there was an alert and no one could leave the base. To her first statement she added "it's kind of one of those necessary things you know. We hope folks understand, and I hope things will be back to normal when it's time for you guys to leave." Again, hard to make a good first impression the second time. And by the way, this young Airman had an infectious smile. Easy to tell her, as we did, "thanks for all you do..."

**DID YOU USE THE
 83 DRIVE?**

During the last snowstorm the 83 Drive section of our web site got a lot of hits. Cameras 4 & 5 define quite well what Highway 83 looks like between Minot and the Minot Air Force Base. The 83 Drive idea was that of our Publisher, Ted Bolton. Ted was stationed at Minot Air Force Base, albeit a few years ago, but still remembers how

challenging that 12 mile drive from Minot to the Minot Air Force Base could be. We also have a direct link to the ND DOT road report so folks have the latest information.

It's not only a great resource for those travelling to Minot AFB, but the 83 Drive also has a collection of all of the area ND DOT cameras. So, if you are travelling anywhere during one of those weather events, take a few minutes and check out the 83 Drive. And thanks to our sponsor, Jerome's Collision Center.

**COMMANDER'S CHOICE
 AWARDS BANQUET**

The Air & Space Forces (AFA) annual Commander's Choice Awards banquet is on April 9th at the Jimmy Doolittle Center on base. The Commander's Choice Awards were set up to allow each win and squadron on Minot Air Force Base to nominate one person to be recognized for their extra effort or vision in the job they perform. There are a total of 45 recipients this year. The Commander's Choice Awards banquet is open to everyone, and tickets are now available on the local chapter website: jones.afa.org. The David C. Jones Chapter 135 is proud to organize and sponsor the Commander's Choice Awards and banquet.

ONLY FROM A KID

We were visiting a Minot Air Force Base family, the home of Michael and Stacy Haynes. Stacy Haynes had submitted a photo for our annual Wintery Photo Contest, and she was the photographer that was randomly picked to win

a family day at Bottineau Winter Park. There are 5 little girls in the Haynes family, the youngest a baby girl who was only 3 weeks old.

Ted Bolton and I were charged with getting a photo of the Haynes family. After the photo was done, one of the girls came over to me and wanted to see the photo. I was struggling to get the photo to show on Ted's phone when the young girl, probably around 4 years old pushed 2 places on the phone and you guessed it, the photo appeared.

I suppose I could be embarrassed that a 4 year old could was able to do what I could not. Instead, I had to chuckle as I walked back to the car thinking about the potential the little girl has as she grows up in the world of smart phone and AI.

**I'M LETTING YOU KNOW
 IN ADVANCE**

The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library opens on July 4th, the 250th Birthday of the United States. The library will be a popular destination in the summer and fall of 2026. Make plans to visit Medora and Teddy Roosevelt Presidential Library. It will certainly be worth your time and effort. For more information go to www.trlibrary.com.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

When you're young you want to set the world on fire. Then you get older and you just want to live close to the fire department.



The proposed plaza at the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora.

Spending more time with kids can curtail school violence



**UPSIDE DOWN
 UNDER**
 MARVIN BAKER

Note: This is an article I wrote in the Cavalier County Republican in Langdon on May 10, 1999, 20 days after the Columbine, Colo., school shooting.

Ever since the senseless tragedy in Littleton, Colo., a number of people have asked if we had any intentions of writing any articles about it. I told them probably not, as long as there isn't anyone locally who is connected to Columbine High School in some way.

But there is, and has been. In last week's Republican, correspondent Rita Maisel used her Langdon Long Ago column to talk about her connection to Jefferson County, Colorado, and how she followed the tragedy through the Denver newspaper Internet sites. She once worked in schools in that area. And despite the situation, Rita's article was well written. Her information is timely and to the point. She is to be commended for that.

We also received a letter from De Ann Danielson, the granddaughter of Ernest and Gay Agar, who lives in Englewood, Colo.

Our local school superintendent Bernie Lipp, also used his newspaper column School Zone, to write about the tragedy, but from a different perspective. His was sympathy from one school to another.

So we do have connections here in indirect ways. And what can one say that hasn't already been said.

On the Sunday morning TV news shows, Charlton Heston, who now heads up the National Rifle Association, agreed that Columbine was a senseless disaster but went

on to say roundabout that the guns didn't do the killing, the people who pulled the trigger did.

Dan Matheson, who hosts the Canada AM news program on CTV, reported on a similar shooting in Taber, Alberta several days after Columbine. He said TV and video can be a major part of the blame that has eroded our society to want to kill each other for nothing more than a jacket or a pair of shoes. He said today's generation will get what they want when they want it and if they don't, it doesn't matter who or what is affected.

We really didn't have any plans to cover this issue, however, as editor, I changed my mind while sitting at a Langdon School Board meeting Monday night. They talked about Columbine High School and pondered if it could happen in rural North Dakota. The answer is yes.

Although the chances are remote, Lipp and principal Rich Rogers both told the board that students have become scared of what might happen. Indeed that is the case of several high school students interviewed the Grand Forks

Herald last Sunday.

So what can be done to change this behavior? Who knows at the present time. But Rogers and Lipp both agree that communication is probably the best thing that can take place right now. Administrators, teachers, coaches and counselors need to talk more with the students and, if there may be a troubled student, they need to recognize the signs and try to deal with them.

Columbine is an institution about the size of Minot High School. By North Dakota standards, that's a large school. In Langdon, everyone knows everyone so the danger signs might pop up faster and could theoretically be fixed quicker.

Communication is probably the best answer as Lipp and Rogers pointed out. It is certainly better than seeing another public school shooting.

Since Columbine, there have been more than 430 public school and collegiate shootings in the United States that have affected 397,000 students, according to the Washington Post. There have been 1,728 fatalities since April 20, 1999.

A Quick Costco Run



SHE'S NOT FROM AROUND HERE
AMY ALLENDER

In the last week I found myself doing something very...let's call it North Dakotan.

I made a Costco run. On the surface, that probably doesn't sound unusual. Most of my extended family lives in northern Indiana, and Costco runs are pretty routine there. They can happen on a random Tuesday afternoon if you run out of paper towels.

That is not how it works in Minot.

Here, a Costco run is a full-day adventure.

It's nearly a two-hour drive, which means there are logistics. Will the kids come? Should I bring coffee? If I'm driving that far, I want it to be worth it, so I better check prices online first. I should probably double-check that the items I want are actually in stock. The list must be crafted carefully—this is not a trip you want to waste.

And since I'll already be in Bismarck, maybe I should call a friend who lives there. If nothing else, we could meet in the food court for \$1.50 hot dogs.

With all the logistics in place, I

set off. Coffee in hand, audiobook queued up, heading south out of Minot.

The one thing I probably should have checked was the weather.

Snow was blowing across the road and falling from overhead. At one point, the snow suddenly became a near white out. I ended up behind a sanding truck that was blowing so much snow I couldn't see the road—or even the shoulder line. With no safe way to go around, we crept along at a snail's pace for a mile or so until, just as quickly as it started, the conditions cleared again.

I will never fully understand North Dakota weather.

Eventually, I made it. I got my groceries. I met my friend for hot dogs. Then I wrestled my overloaded cart through parking lot slush, loaded the car, and turned around to do the long drive all over again.

And somewhere on the way back to Minot, I had a thought.

What am I doing? When did this become my version of "normal?"

Like a lot of people, I was thrilled when Costco opened in Bismarck. But somewhere along the way something about this whole routine started to feel a little...incongruous.

One of the things I love most about living in Minot is how close everything is. When I visit family out of state, I find myself complaining about their "long commutes." Anything more than 20 minutes and I start getting impatient.

My kids have no idea that in many places, driving 30 minutes to get to an activity is completely normal. Living in the heart of

Minot usually means we're at our destination in 10 minutes or less.

And yet, here I am—perfectly comfortable planning a Costco run that requires nearly four hours of driving.

It's funny how "normal" has a way of shifting.

It reminded me of when my husband was in pilot training at Enid Air Force Base in Oklahoma. At that point in my life, I had never even heard of Costco, and bulk shopping wasn't a priority. My heart's desire in those days was much simpler.

Target. Enid is charming. I loved the small community, hidden gems, and glorious sunsets.

But I missed Target. And so did my friends, who were also wives of pilots in training.

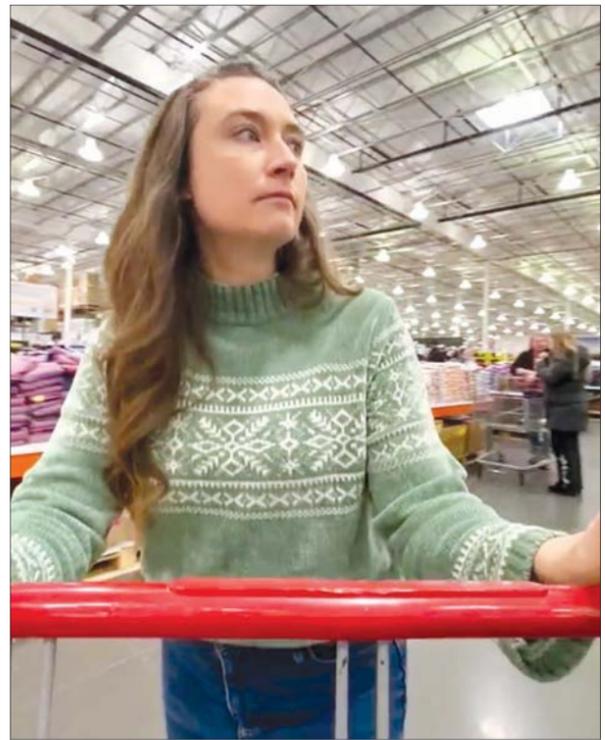
Regularly, we would plan "Target runs." It was an event. We would carpool, pack snacks, make our lists, and drive 90 minutes to Oklahoma City just to bask in the fluorescent glow familiarity—stocking up on brands we trusted, and impulse buys we didn't need but couldn't seem to pass up.

At the time, that felt completely normal.

It was something we bonded over. A shared adventure. A story we could laugh about later.

I hadn't thought about those Target runs in years, but my drive back from Costco brought the memory rushing back.

Sometimes the little inconveniences of life are also the things that create connection. They become the shared experiences that make a place feel familiar. The kind of stories that only make



What's normal in one place and time, may be very unusual in another—and that's both humorous and comforting.

sense to people who've lived them.

There's something comforting about that.

A day-long trip for a single errand might not always be normal. But right now, in this season of life, it is.

There's a unique comfort in knowing there are plenty of others

who understand exactly what I mean—and a quiet confidence in realizing we all have the ability to adapt and settle into a "new normal" when life calls us to.

For more on life in North Dakota join me online at amyallender.com or on your favorite social media platform @heyminot.

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5 MDG Tricare Operations and Patient Administration (TOPA) Flight

5TH MEDICAL GROUP

WHAT IS TOPA?

No, it's not just a funny word. For many service members and their families, navigating the complexities of the TRICARE system can be a daunting task. That's where the TRICARE Operations and Patient Administration (TOPA) flight steps in, serving as a crucial link between patients and their healthcare benefits. TOPA is responsible for outpatient records, benefits counseling, patient travel, release of information, referral management center, and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act considerations.

The TOPA flight, a key component of every Air Force Medical Group, is responsible for a wide range of administrative and patient support services. The TOPA flight, often referred to as the "business office" of the Medical Treatment Facility (MTF), handles most of the administrative tasks associated with patient care. This allows clinical staff to focus on providing medical services. TOPA strives to provide exceptional administrative support services to assist beneficiaries with their healthcare needs. The focal point in TOPA is taking care of our patients- to make sure they receive the tools they need in order to have a successful patient experience.

member is retiring or separating, medical records are mailed to various service branches medical record intake centers to be scanned into the electronic medical record system. We also assist with patient registrations.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Release of Information provides copies of all medical records to members, legal, and insurance companies as requested. However, dental or mental health information is released by either the Dental Clinic or the Mental Health Clinic respectively. Record requests may take up to 30 days to complete.



REFERRAL MANAGEMENT CENTER

One of TOPA's most critical functions is referral management. The Referral Management Center (RMC) serves as the single point of contact for patients, providers, and TRICARE for all referral-related matters. Acting as a one stop shop prevents confusion and ensures a smooth transition of care from a primary doctor to a specialist. When a primary care manager (PCM) determines that a patient requires specialty care not available at the base clinic, RMC then steps in to manage this process from start to finish. First, RMC determines the most appropriate location for the specialty care. They first check if the service needed is available within the MTF or another nearby military facility. This process, known as "Right of First Refusal" (ROFR) or "recapture," ensures that MTF capabilities are fully utilized before sending patients to more costly civilian providers. Its importance lies in ensuring patients receive the right care at the right time, while also optimizing the use of military healthcare resources. This ensures that patients receive the care they need in a timely manner. Seeking care from a civilian provider without prior authorization can result in significant out of pocket costs to you.



BENEFITS COUNSELOR AND DEBT COLLECTIONS OFFICER

The Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC) and Debt Collection Assistance Officer (DCAO) are a vital resource for service members, veterans, and their families, offering free guidance and support to help them navigate the complex landscape of military benefits. The BCAC is here to assist beneficiaries with billing questions, debt collection issues, and outstanding balances and act as a liaison between families and TRICARE contractors to resolve issues with billing, claims, referrals, and pre-authorizations. If a family is having trouble with a claim or has received a bill in error, the BCAC can investigate and help find a solution. They clarify eligibility, enrollment processes, and what services are covered. Counselors explain the various TRICARE plans, such as TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select, helping families choose the best option for their needs.



OUTPATIENT RECORDS

Upon receipt of permanent change of station, or PCS, medical records are packaged and mailed to the member's gaining unit. If a

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on their health without worrying about the financial implications of seeking necessary care far from home. If you're referred by your PCM for specialty care at a location over 100 miles (one way) from your PCM's office, you may be eligible for TRICARE Prime travel reimbursement. The patient travel benefit removes the financial barrier for military families to access necessary specialty medical care that is not available locally. This ensures that a family's location, especially in remote or underserved areas (like Minot), does not negatively impact their ability to receive the specialized healthcare they need.

HEALTH INFORMATION PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The TOPA flight is central to handling Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) considerations within a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). As the primary administrative and records-management arm of the MTF, TOPA is directly responsible for implementing and enforcing

the policies that protect patient privacy. The TOPA flight serves on the front lines of this compliance effort. HIPAA compliance is fundamental to the operation of any medical group. It is the framework that ensures patient privacy, secures sensitive data, and protects the medical group from costly penalties. By prioritizing HIPAA, a medical group not only meets its legal obligations but also fosters a culture of trust and safety that is essential for providing the highest quality of care.

ABOVE AND BEYOND TOPA

In the military, teamwork is more than just a buzzword; it's the bedrock of survival and success. A team that truly works together isn't just a group of individuals in the same uniform—they become a single, cohesive unit that is far more formidable than the sum of its parts. This concept is often referred to as unit cohesion. When a military team truly gels, they develop an almost intuitive connection. They can anticipate each other's moves, cover each other's weaknesses, and amplify

each other's strengths. This synergy turns a group of Airmen into a powerful, resilient, and effective fighting force, capable of overcoming challenges that would be impossible to face alone. This small but mighty team fit this definition to the T... T for TOPA!

In essence, the TOPA flight is the administrative heart of the MTF. It ensures that patients are properly registered, their medical records are maintained, they can access specialty care through referrals, and they receive the counseling and support needed to navigate the complexities of the military healthcare system. The smooth functioning of the TOPA flight is directly linked to the MTF's ability to provide high-quality and efficient healthcare to its beneficiaries. The TOPA flight plays a vital role in ensuring that service members and their families receive the best possible healthcare. By handling the administrative side of TRICARE, TOPA allows patients to focus on what matters most: their health and well-being.



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A LOOK BACK
THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

FIRST FLIGHT OF SIKORSKY HH-53B HELICOPTER
MARCH 15, 1967

On March 15, 1967, the "Super Jolly Green Giant," or the Sikorsky HH-53B helicopter, made its initial flight. At the time, the HH-53B was the largest, most powerful, and the fastest helicopter in the United States Air Force. The maiden flight of 66-14428 took place in Stratford, Connecticut and was piloted by James R. Wright and Patrick A. Guinn. The helicopters were then sent to the 37th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida and Vietnam to perform combat search and rescue missions, as well as special operations. The aircraft were key participants in the Son Tay Raid, where joint military forces flew a covert night mission to a POW camp in Vietnam to rescue American prisoners. By 1988, the HH-53s were modified to a new special operations configuration. In 2007, 66-14428 was retired to The Boneyard in Tucson, Arizona, and all of the models were withdrawn by September of 2008.

A flight engineer looks over a minigun while his helicopter flies in formation with a Sikorsky HH-53C Super Jolly Green Giant of the 40th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Vietnam, October 1972. (Ken Hackman, U.S. Air Force)

Information courtesy of: thisdayinaviation.com/history.net

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A RISKY SPLASH

Kim Fundingsland

I know what you are thinking, this guy must have hit his head in a foiled attempt to leap the net. There is no such thing as a talking tennis ball.

True, to my knowledge, but since you've already been lured in by a catchy headline and are curious about my sanity, at least let me offer the following explanation.

Dedicated readers of this vaunted column are aware that I have been a dog owner for years. I estimate the number to be well over 1,000 years. For those of you proclaiming this to be an impossibility and solid confirmation of my loss of faculties, it is a figure reached by dogs I've owned times years of age times seven. The latter number being the often accepted "dog years."

Please stop trying to figure out how many dogs I've owned through some sort of reverse mathematical calculation. The number is a clever estimate designed to challenge your thinking. In other words, I made it up. The point is - I'm a long-time dog owner who, as I suspect many dog owners are, always trying to figure out what a dog is saying.

If you are around dogs long enough you develop some understanding of postures, sounds, ear, tail, and eye movements that have meanings. We teach dogs a foreign language with words like sit, stay, and come but quite often do not understand how they communicate with us, or try to. Sometimes they will sit by the door when they want out. That's easy to understand.

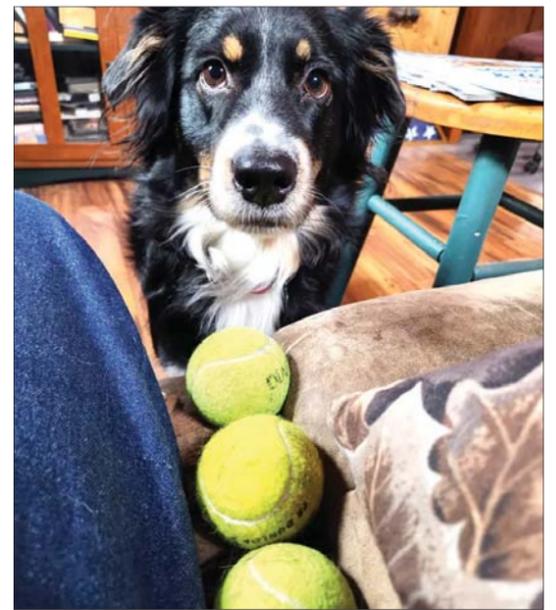
They get excited when certain boots or shoes are being pulled on, or when a leash gets pulled off a hook. The tail moves rapidly, the eyes get bright, and it is easy to understand their enthusiasm for getting out of the house. Sometimes though, dogs say things in other ways that are not so easy to understand.

I've had a dog that pawed at my leg or placed a paw on my foot every time I was away from my phone and a text message arrived. It took me a while to figure that one out. I guess she saw me responding to text messages and figured I should know about them even when I was outside, in the garage, or somewhere distant from my phone.

Here's another example of canine communication that is a harder sell to those who didn't witness it. I had a talking dog. No, we didn't have long, philosophical conversations, but rather just a single word.

You see, accompanied by this particular dog, I often visited my mother and father. Mom would always greet the dog in a very friendly way and there was usually a treat involved. The result was that my mother became a favorite person in this dog's life.

One day when this dog was sitting by the back door, a clear message she needed to go outside, I opened the door, but she just sat there. She looked up at me and, in a kind of yawning manner, said "mom." Shocked, I repeated the word mom, and my dog said the same thing back to me and went outside to sit next to my vehicle. How goofy am I, I thought as I opened the car door and the dog jumped in.



At my mother's house the happy dog greeted her with "mom." It was so clear and unmistakable that my mother had tears in her eyes. As we said mom to the dog the dog would return the word. Significantly, I never heard my dog make any sounds even close to sounding like "mom" in any other situation.

Question that story as you must, let us move on to the talking tennis ball which is the real inspiration for this writing. The dog I own today, an Australian shepherd named "Sally," does not verbally communicate in the English language but rather in many ways. She was quick to learn from me. I've been a bit slower to learn from her, which is the essence of this tale.

For reasons unknown to me, Sally has chosen tennis ball communication. It started during my occasional naps on either end of a couch with built-in recliners in my TV room. I'd wake up after nodding off for a few minutes to discover a tennis ball at my side. Sometimes it would be multiple tennis balls. Huh?

I knew Sally was responsible and at first just thought she wanted to play. When I tried that she just put the tennis ball back at my side and looked at me with sad eyes, telling me I wasn't responding as intended.

Out we go?" I asked, and Sally immediately turned toward the door.

Now she drops tennis balls on my lap whenever she wants to go outside. There are times though, when dropping a tennis ball on the couch means something else as she doesn't respond with any movement when I ask her if she wants to go out.

As near as I can interpret this tennis ball talk, she's asking, or rather telling me to take her for a walk or a run. At least that's what I think. Admittedly, I've still got a lot to learn about talking tennis balls.



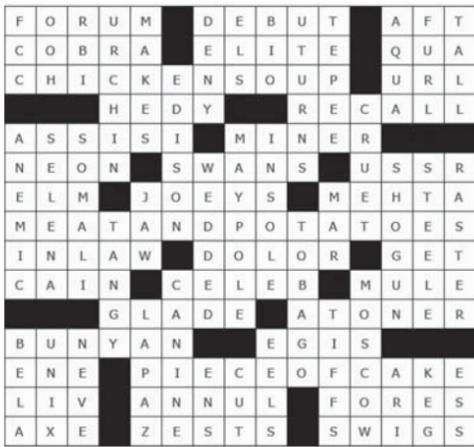
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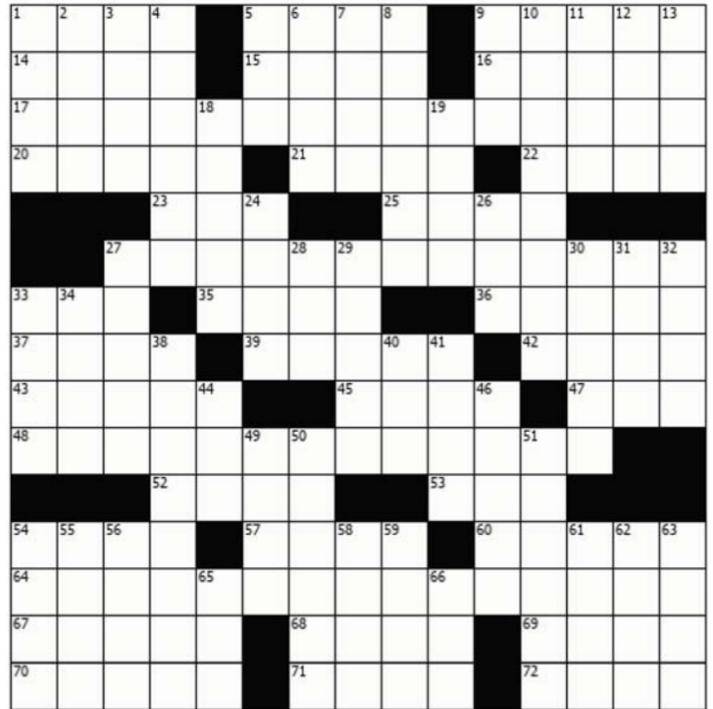
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CROSSWORD SOLUTION



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Across**
- "Terrible" tsar
 - Tiny power source
 - Like the "waves of grain"
 - Bach's "___, Joy of Man's Desiring"
 - H.H. Munro's pseudonym
 - Room, in Rouen
 - Whatnot display area
 - Twisted thread
 - Lamb-in-pita sandwich
 - Is in debt
 - Word after Big Band or Reagan
 - 10 C-notes
 - Rec room item
 - Hurricane center
 - Flower support
 - 2002 financial scandal company
 - Corker
 - Thrown weapon
 - Football field measure
 - Dancing Castle
 - Alum
 - Parts of psyches
 - Design on Charlie Brown's shirt
 - "Am ___ early?"
 - Outback runner
 - Car sticker abbr.
 - Vaulted church area
 - More strange
 - Beach wear
 - Cowboy contest
 - Religious abstention
 - Mtn. stat
 - Stockholm native
 - Ridge on a guitar neck
 - Harvest



- Down**
- H-M connection
 - Caesar's "I came"
 - Sale warning
 - Cell centers
 - Question
 - Orange-flavored instant drink
 - "You bet"
 - Millionth of a meter
 - Balaam's rebuker
 - Furniture wood
 - Overloaded, as a fuse
 - Model MacPherson
 - Football officials
 - Composer Jerome and others
 - King of filmdom
 - FBI employees
 - When the French fry?
 - "Moby Dick" ship co-owner
 - Energy
 - Last Greek letter
 - Gray matter
 - Prayer start
 - Comes to a stop
 - Mother of Chas.
 - Doctor Zhivago
 - Expanded, as a compressed computer file
 - Museum collection
 - \$.37 for the first ounce, e.g.
 - Chow down
 - Aim
 - Opine indiscreetly
 - Steering aid
 - GE and GM
 - Reduce the speed of
 - Carousel or ferris wheel
 - Mast
 - Cato's being
 - Cowboy Roy's partner
 - Zeno's home
 - "Let us know," on an invitation
 - Nemesis
 - ABA member

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B10

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

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

Wednesday Evening Schedule
Community Dinner 5:30-6:30pm
Contemporary Worship 6:30pm
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Worship Services: Sunday 11 a.m.



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SUNDAY 9:00am Coffee & Fellowship
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship

WEDNESDAY 11:30am Soup Kitchen
5:45pm Family Supper
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6:30pm HS & Adult Start

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Contemporary Worship Service 9:50 a.m.
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Contemporary Worship Service 11:05 a.m.
Children's Church 11:05 a.m.
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Build Big Ideas in the Building Gallery

MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER

What do skyscrapers, dinosaur skeletons, bridges, and bird nests have in common? They're all examples of building, and kids can explore every version of it inside the Building Gallery at Magic City Discovery Center.

The Building Gallery is an interactive construction zone where children become architects, engineers, artists, and problem-solvers all at once. Filled with hands-on materials and immersive experiences, this gallery explores building as both a noun (structures) and a verb (the act of creating). From towering foam arches to carefully balanced block cities, every exhibit invites kids to design, test, rebuild, and imagine.

WHERE STEAM MEETS ARCHITECTURE AND ART

Building isn't just about math and engineering...it's also about creativity, storytelling, and design! In the Building Gallery, children explore the science, technology, engineering, and math behind structures while also discovering the artistic side of architecture found in cultures around the world.

Large-scale building zones encourage cooperation and movement, while smaller stations invite careful planning, fine motor skills, and individual creativity. Surrounding it all are construction-site details like beams, girders, and bold graphics featuring real buildings (including familiar sights from Minot!), that make kids feel like they've stepped onto an active build site.

HIGHLIGHTS YOU'LL WANT TO TRY

Some favorite ways to build, test, and explore include:

- **Giant Foam Catenary Arch:** Work together to construct a massive foam arch and discover how shape, balance, and cooperation keep structures standing strong.
- **Lincoln Logs & GIANT Lincoln Logs:** Compare classic Lincoln Logs with oversized components to explore scale, proportion, and structural design.
- **Interactive Crane & Construction Role-Play Area:** Put on a hard hat, operate a kid-sized crane, move foam blocks and rocks, and knock it all down to try again.
- **Hardwood Unit Blocks:** Build tall towers, wide bridges, or complex cities using natural blocks designed for multi-age and multi-ability play.
- **What Does It Feel Like to Be a Column?:** Push up on a pediment and feel compression, stress, and support with your whole body (engineering you can experience firsthand!).

Each exhibit encourages trial and error, helping kids learn that failure is just part of building something better.

HOW ADULTS CAN SUPPORT THE BUILDING PROCESS

Adults play an important role in turning play into deeper learning. In the Building Gallery, you can support discovery by:

- Talking about what your child wants to build
- Is it dinosaurs, castles, bridges, or something entirely new?
- Letting kids lead the design and construction process
- Discussing what happens when a structure falls and brainstorming ways to make it stronger next time
- Asking open-ended questions like:
 - What helped this stay balanced?
 - What could you change?
 - What happens if you build higher?

These conversations help children connect cause and effect, persistence, and problem-solving.

WHY BUILDING MATTERS FOR GROWING MINDS

Construction play supports development in powerful ways. In the Building Gallery, children:

- Strengthen gross and fine motor skills through lifting, stacking, balancing, and placing materials

- Practice planning, sequencing, and goal-setting
- Learn teamwork and communication through cooperative projects
- Build confidence by testing ideas and revising designs
- Make connections between human-made structures and natural designs, like nests or webs

Kids are building more than towers; they're building reasoning skills, creativity, resilience, and curiosity.

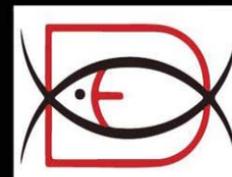
A FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

The Building Gallery aligns with North Dakota Early Childhood and K-12 Science Standards and Next Generation Science Standards, supporting concepts like balance, gravity, structure and function, scale, and engineering design. But more importantly, it gives children the freedom to explore these ideas through play.

Every beam stacked, block balanced, and structure rebuilt is a chance to think like an engineer, imagine like an artist, and discover like a scientist.

So grab a hard hat, roll up your sleeves, and come build something amazing—one idea at a time—in the Building Gallery.

Visit MagicCityDiscoveryCenter.com or call (701) 858-7529 to learn more!



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TSGT MARQUIS TINSLEY

Technical Sergeant Marquis Tinsley has been in the Air Force for 17 years and stationed at Minot AFB since April 2023. Sergeant Tinsley leads a 35-person Electrical systems shop where he has directed 2.7K electrical repairs and 2.4K preventative maintenance actions to sustain a \$4.3B infrastructure. Sergeant Tinsley also fabricated cold temperature alarms for aircraft hangers that alerts facility personnel to implement protective measures, safeguarding 8 hangars and \$40M in assets from freezing temperatures.

Info from Feb 2025



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Flat Tires may create the rim of the wheel to rest on the tire tread or on the ground possibly triggering in loss of control of the auto or irreparable damages to the tire. One of the most usual source for a flat tire is penetrating of the tire by a sharp object, such as a nail, allowing air escape. Depending on the size of the puncture, the tire could deflate slowly or swiftly. Which may lead to the following concerns:

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

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

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

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

- Fracturing or bulging treads or sidewalls that may suggest there is wear or weak point
- Foreign items that pass through in to the tire (nails, screws, glass)
- Tread tearing away from the body of the tire

If you find any of these issues, come see us for a thorough and speedy tire repair. We'll inspect and adjust your air pressure and do an aesthetic tire check, and receive you on the road in no time at all. Call us now to book your next flat tire repair or auto repair service. Trusted Tire is proud to be your local Minot AFB auto repair center and provider of tires.



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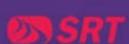
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Inside Hairball Haven, Giving Stray Cats New Lives

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

In a modest building in Minot, dozens of rescued cats lounge, curl up in blankets or cautiously watch visitors walking through the door. Each has a story, many rescued from harsh outdoor conditions, abandoned homes and soon will be coming from the city pound.

Their second chance is made possible by Hairball Haven Feline Rescue, a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating stray and neglected cats. Since 2018, the organization has been led by director Natalie Davy, a licensed veterinary technician who first became involved with the rescue by helping with routine vaccinations.

The rescue itself began in 2015, founded by a local animal control officer who operated on a small scale with only a couple of volunteers and foster homes. At the time, Natalie was working at a veterinary clinic where the rescue occasionally brought cats for vaccinations and medical care. "One day they asked if I would help vaccinate," Natalie recalled. "I said, I can do that, I already do that."

What started as occasional assistance soon turned into a leadership role. By 2018, Natalie had taken over the organization and shifted its focus. "That's when the mission changed to saving stray and neglected cats," she said. For seven years, Hairball Haven worked closely with the local pound, pulling cats every week. Natalie estimates the organization took in roughly 95 percent of the cats that entered the facility. Those that were too feral to live indoors were spayed or neutered and placed in barn homes where they could safely live outdoors.

The effort was part of a broader shift in the community. About 15 years ago, the pound regularly euthanized animals due to overcrowding. "When I started in 2005 at Minot Vet Clinic, they were euthanizing 20 to 30 animals a week," Natalie said. Today, thanks to the growth of rescues like Hairball Haven, euthanasia is largely reserved for animals that are suffering or pose a danger.

Hairball Haven's mission is, "To provide cats with the veterinary care they need and the love they deserve." The rescue focuses primarily on removing stray and neglected cats from the streets both to protect the animals and to prevent uncontrolled breeding. "Spaying and neutering is the only way we're going to combat the stray cat problem," Natalie said.

Originally, Hairball Haven operated entirely through foster homes. That changed in 2021 when the rescue moved into its current facility. Since then, growth has been rapid. "At one point we had 117 cats," said Operations Coordinator Rachelle Scheresky. "That was way too many." Today the organization caps its population at around 80 cats while continuing to rely on foster homes for the most vulnerable animals, such as nursing mothers and young kittens.

Every cat that enters the facility goes through a careful intake process. New arrivals spend about a week in quarantine to ensure they

are healthy before interacting with other cats. During that time they receive vaccinations, deworming treatments and testing for infectious diseases. Spay and neuter surgeries are performed by local veterinarians, while Natalie handles much of the day-to-day veterinary care. Once cleared medically, cats are allowed to socialize and begin the search for a permanent home.

Last year alone, Hairball Haven adopted out 405 cats and kittens. The adoption process is designed to match each cat with the right household. Applicants complete a form describing their home environment, other pets and family members. Volunteers then meet with potential adopters to help identify the best fit.

Despite careful placements, the rescue maintains a standing policy of taking back animals if an adoption does not work out. Returns are relatively rare, usually one to three per month. "Life happens, if a situation changes, we want the cat back so we can find the right home", Rachelle said.

The rescue also works with members of the local military community, who make up a significant portion of adopters and volunteers. While Hairball Haven primarily focuses on stray and neglected animals, the organization occasionally helps military families who must rehome a pet due to sudden relocation orders. "We don't take in owner's surrender cats very often," Natalie said. "But if someone adopted from us and receives orders somewhere they truly can't take the cat, we try to help when we can."

Volunteers from nearby Minot Air Force Base play a major role in the rescue's success. Many service members volunteer, foster cats or adopt animals before relocating to other parts of the world. "We wouldn't be as successful as we are without the military community," Natalie said. "They volunteer, they adopt, and our cats end up going all



Feline Rescue in Minot helping stray and endangered cats get the healthcare they need and find their forever home.

over the world."

Volunteers remain the backbone of the operation..

The rescue also relies heavily on donations. Veterinary expenses alone total about \$60,000 just last year, covering vaccinations, medical tests, medications, spay or neutering and treatments for common conditions such as respiratory infections and ear mites which mostly all cats arrive with.

One story in particular that was memorable for the whole team, was a large stray tomcat nicknamed "Sewer Bob," who had spent years surviving outdoors in the sewers of Minot Air Force Base. After being neutered and given time to adjust, the once rough street cat revealed a gentle personality, eventually becoming a nurturing companion to kittens before being adopted into a loving home. Natalie says stories like that reinforce an important lesson.

"Rescue cats are amazing," she said. "They've been through the worst, and when they finally have a warm place and food, they're incredibly grateful."

As Hairball Haven looks ahead, its goal remains simple, which is to rescue more cats, expand spay and neuter efforts and reduce the number of animals living and suffering on the streets of Minot.

While at Hairball Haven cats receive vaccinations, deworming treatments, testing for infectious diseases, and are spayed or neutered all while receiving the love and attention they deserve.



Hairball Haven is a safe place for recovering stray and endangered cats which operates with the help of the community and its volunteers.



Lucian a male cat learning to embrace love and ready to find his forever home.



"Sewer" Bob rescued from Minot Air Force Base once a street cat to now a nurturing dad to a baby kitty.

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GT 255: ICBM Test Launch Verifies Multiple Reentry Vehicle and System Reliability

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE GLOBAL STRIKE COMMAND

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. --

Air Force Global Strike Command conducted a test launch of an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile equipped with two test re-entry vehicles March 3, at 11:01 p.m. Pacific Time from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.

This launch, designated GT 255, was scheduled years ago, and is not in response to world events. It is a key component of a data-driven program that has been in place for decades, involving over 300 similar tests designed to validate the performance of the weapon system. The data collected from these routine tests is essential for ongoing and future force development.

"GT 255 allowed us to assess the performance of individual components of the missile system," said Lt. Col. Karrie Wray, commander of the 576th Flight Test Squadron. "By continually assessing varying mission profiles, we are able to enhance the performance of the entire ICBM fleet, ensuring the maximum level of readiness for the land-based leg of the nation's nuclear triad."

This test not only focused on the performance of the ICBM but also the performance of its multiple reentry vehicles, which are primarily used to increase missile effectiveness and overcome

enemy defenses.

"It is critical to test all aspects of our ICBM force, including our ability to deliver multiple, independently targeted payloads with absolute precision," said Gen. S.L. Davis, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command. "This test validates the intricate synchronization of the weapon system, from the initial launch sequence to the flawless deployment of each reentry vehicle."

During the test, the ICBM's two reentry vehicles traveled thousands of miles to a pre-determined target at the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. This long-range flight allows engineers and weapons experts from the 377th Test and Evaluation Group to collect invaluable data on the missile's accuracy and reliability, verifying that every component of the ICBM weapon system performs as designed.

The 377 TEG then provides the data collected from these test launches to a wide range of stakeholders, including the Department of War, the Department of Energy, and U.S. Strategic Command, for comprehensive force development evaluation. The program's primary goal is to evaluate the operational capability of the Minuteman III, ensuring the United States maintains a technically sound and dependable

weapon system.

"Test launches are the most visible and vital way we verify our capabilities and validate the performance of our systems," said Col. Dustin Harmon, 377 TEG commander. "The men and women of our missile community represent some of the most highly trained professionals in our nation's defense. These tests confirm their unmatched ability to support this critical mission and provide crucial data that ensures our systems remain ready and reliable."

The launch was the result of months of meticulous preparation involving multiple government partners. Airmen from the 91st Missile Wing at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, provided direct maintenance support, while operators from across all three missile wings initiated the launch.

"The data we gather ensures our long-range strike capabilities are not just a theoretical concept, but a proven, reliable, and lethal force, ready to defend the nation at a moment's notice," said Davis.

As the Minuteman III remains on alert, the Air Force is committed to its replacement, the LGM-35A Sentinel, which represents the modernization of the land-based leg of the U.S. nuclear triad.



An unarmed Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile launches during an operational test at 11:01 p.m. Pacific Time Mar. 3, 2026, at Vandenberg Space Force Base, Calif. ICBM test launches help ensure the U.S. ICBM fleet is ready, reliable and effective. This launch, designated GT 255, was scheduled years ago, and was not in response to world events. It is a key component of a data-driven program that has been in place for decades, involving over 300 similar tests designed to validate the performance of the weapon system. The data collected from these routine tests is essential for ongoing and future force development.

U.S. SPACE FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JOSHUA LEROI

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AMUR LEOPARD

CREATURE FEATURES

- The coat of the Amur Leopard is pale cream or reddish-yellow, which becomes lighter in the winter. In the summer, their coat hairs are 1 inch long but in the winter they are replaced by 3 inch long hairs. This helps them survive in extremely cold climate conditions.
- They have adapted long legs which enable them to walk on snow with ease.
- Primarily nocturnal, Amur Leopards have night vision which helps them to hunt and get around at night.
- Amur Leopards can jump 10 feet high vertically, 20 feet horizontally and are very good at climbing trees. They are solitary ambush hunters, stalking its prey alone and hiding its kill from predators, often in trees.

Fact File

Life Span	10 - 15 years
Weight	55 - 105 pounds
Head & Body Length	5 feet
Tail Length	32 - 35 inches
Height to Shoulder	2 - 2.5 feet
Speed	37 mph
Wild Diet	Omnivore Carnivore Herbivore Roe Deer, Sika Deer, Wild Boar, Badgers, Hares, Musk Deer

WHAT AM I?

I have black and white stripes. Who am I?

I am the king of the jungle and I roar loudly. Who am I?

I move slowly and carry my home on my back. Who am I?

I quack and swim in the water. Who am I?

I have a long neck and spots on my body. Who am I?

I have a bell-shaped body and long, stinging tentacles. Who am I?

HOURS:
MON-SAT
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Cast Your Vote: Best of Minot AFB Awards 2026!

The nominees for the Best of Minot AFB Awards 2026 are in, and now it's your turn to show some love! Celebrate your favorite spots both on and off base and help honor the best of our community.

Voting is open March 6-15 — don't miss your chance to make your voice heard!

The Nominees are....

BEST EATERY ON BASE:

- Central Brew Kiosk
- Bomber Bistro
- B-Fifty Brew

BEST HANGOUT ON BASE:

- Rockers
- Lil' Riders Indoor Playground
- Entertainment Social Center (ESC) Room
- Minot Air Force Base Library

BEST LOCAL RESTAURANT IN MINOT:

- Don Tapatio
- Basecamp Indian Kitchen
- Wurst Case Scenario
- Kroll's Diner
- Try Thai Food
- Ebenezer's Eatery & Irish Pub
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Pink's Bar & Grill



BEST LOCAL WINTER ACTIVITY/RECREATION:

- Bottineau Winter Park
- Minotauros Hockey
- Citizens Alley

BEST LOCAL SUMMER ACTIVITY/RECREATION:

- Lake Sakakwea
- Minot Food Truck Festival
- North Dakota State Fair
- Hair of the Dog 5K

BEST SCHOOL ON OR OFF BASE:

- Memorial Middle School
- North Plains Elementary
- Minot North High School

BEST LOCAL NIGHTTIME HOTSPOT:

- The Original Bar and Nightclub
- Atypical Brewery & Barrelworks
- Army's 2.0 Lounge & BottleShop

BEST DAY TRIP DESTINATION:

- Medora
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Vote now and help your favorites take the crown in the Best of Minot AFB Awards 2026!

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

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Air Force Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser to Headline 2026 Minot Area Chamber EDC Annual Meeting

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC

Minot, N.D. – The Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC) is pleased to announce that Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser, Commander of the 20th Air Force, Air Force Global Strike Command, will serve as the keynote speaker for the 2026 MACEDC Annual Meeting on Monday, March 23 at the Regency Event Center.

WHAT: The Minot Area Chamber EDC Annual Meeting
 WHEN: Monday, March 23, 2026 | Social at 4:30 p.m., dinner and program at 5:30 p.m.
 WHERE: Regency Event Center | 105 1st Ave SE, Minot, ND 58701

In her position, Maj. Gen. Huser leads more than 12,000 Airmen responsible for nuclear global strike and weapons sustainment for the U.S. Air Force. She is the first-ever woman to command the historic 20th Air Force, which oversees the nation's land-based intercontinental ballistic missile mission. Earlier in her career, she served as Commander of the 91st Operations Group at Minot Air Force Base from August of 2015 until June of 2017.

"We are incredibly honored to welcome Maj. Gen. Huser as the keynote speaker at our upcoming Annual Meeting," said MACEDC President | CEO Brekka Kramer. "Her leadership as Commander of the 20th Air Force – and as the first woman to hold that role – is truly inspiring. We are eager to hear her story, and reflections of how the mission of Minot Air Force Base intersects with every aspect of business and community life in the Minot area."



The Annual Meeting will also include a look back on 2025 from last year's Board Chair Ryan Ackerman, envisioning the year ahead with 2026 Board Chair Jarid Lundeen, and the presentation of the 2026 Impact Awards. Seating for this event is nearly sold out; anyone interested in attending is encouraged to RSVP here.



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For more information: Facebook/ Minot Loyal Order of the Moose/ Events

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 All Seasons Arena, 2005 Burdick Expressway East

The Minot Rifle & Pistol Club Gun Show has upcoming dates scheduled in Minot, ND. This Minot Gun Show is held at All Seasons Arena, North Dakota State Fairgrounds and hosted by Minot Rifle & Pistol Club. All federal and local firearm laws and ordinances must be obeyed.



For more information: Facebook/ Minot Rifle & Pistol Club/ Events

6 APR FAIRY GARDEN BUILDERS
 12:00 NOON-2:00PM
 Magic City Discovery Center, 1545 1st Street NW

Step into a world of magic, moss, and miniature wonder! In this nature-meets-creativity class, kids will design their own enchanted fairy gardens filled with tiny houses, clay creatures, and sparkling surprises. Along the way, they'll dream up magical characters, mix their own fairy dust, and explore storytelling through art. Perfect for imaginative kids who love nature, fantasy, and hands-on building! Ages: 5 – 11. Cost: \$25 for non-members, \$22.50 for members, \$20 for military members



For more information and tickets: <https://www.magiccitydiscoverycenter.com/>

10 APR THE BIG ONE – MINOT SPRING SHOW
 10:00AM-12:00PM
 ND State Fair Center, 2005 Burdick Expressway East

The 35th Annual Minot Spring Show includes over 250 booths showcasing products handmade from across the US. Over 175 exhibitors will fill their booths with arts, crafts, and baked goods that all have a touch of being handmade. Admission: \$5.00. Friday, April 10th, 2026 - 10am – 8pm. Saturday, April 11th, 2026 - 9am – 5pm



For more information: <https://thebigone.biz/minot-spring-show/>

24-26 APR IMAGICON 2026
 10:00AM-12:00PM
 ND State Fair Center, 2005 Burdick Expressway East

Whether you're a die-hard collector, a casual fan, or just looking for something unique, you'll find incredible treasures from local artists, creators, and top-tier vendors from across the United States! The event will feature four key performers from the iconic 1990s "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" franchise, and Mary Elizabeth McGlynn, a renowned voice actress, ADR director and singer. Dive into epic video game tournaments, battle it out in Warhammer showdowns, roll the dice in thrilling Dungeons & Dragons campaigns, and race to victory in the fast-paced Pinewood Derby. Plus, don't miss the rock-paper-scissors competitions, exciting panels, trivia, and so much more happening around every corner.



For more information: <https://imagiconnd.com/>

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Minot Symphony Orchestra celebrates 100th season with book reading & signing event

MINOT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

As part of its 100th season celebration, the Minot Symphony Orchestra is hosting a special community event featuring a reading and book signing of *The Nodak Do-Re-Mi's* on Saturday, March 14 at 10am at Main Street Books - 8 Main St. South, Minot.

Commissioned by the Minot Symphony Orchestra to commemorate its centennial season, *The Nodak Do-Re-Mi's* invites readers of all ages to learn musical terms through a fun and educational North Dakota lens.

"Max captures the heart of North Dakota in everything he creates. The way he connects musical terms to everyday Nodak life makes learning about music feel natural and fun," said Ellen Fenner, Executive Director of the Minot Symphony Orchestra. "As we celebrate 100 years of music, this collaboration helps us ensure the tradition continues on to the next generation."

This family-friendly event will feature MSO musician Tim Baumann reading the story aloud, followed by an opportunity for attendees

to meet the book's author/illustrator Max Patzner and have books signed. Copies of *Nodak Do-Re-Mi's* will be available for purchase at the event through Main St. Books.

The *Nodak Do-Re-Mi's* celebrates music, imagination, and North Dakota pride, making it a perfect introduction to the joy of music for young readers. The event is designed to inspire the next generation of music lovers while honoring the symphony's century-long tradition of enriching the community through education and live performance.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

A proud North Dakota native, Max Patzner describes himself as "a real-life North Dakota artist, writer, and musician." For over 15 years, Max has performed across the country with his folk-rock band Wild Hands, releasing five studio albums and earning features on *Paste Magazine's* Daytrotter sessions and *Prairie Public Television*.

Max published his first children's book, *Wild & The Animal Band*, in 2020 and

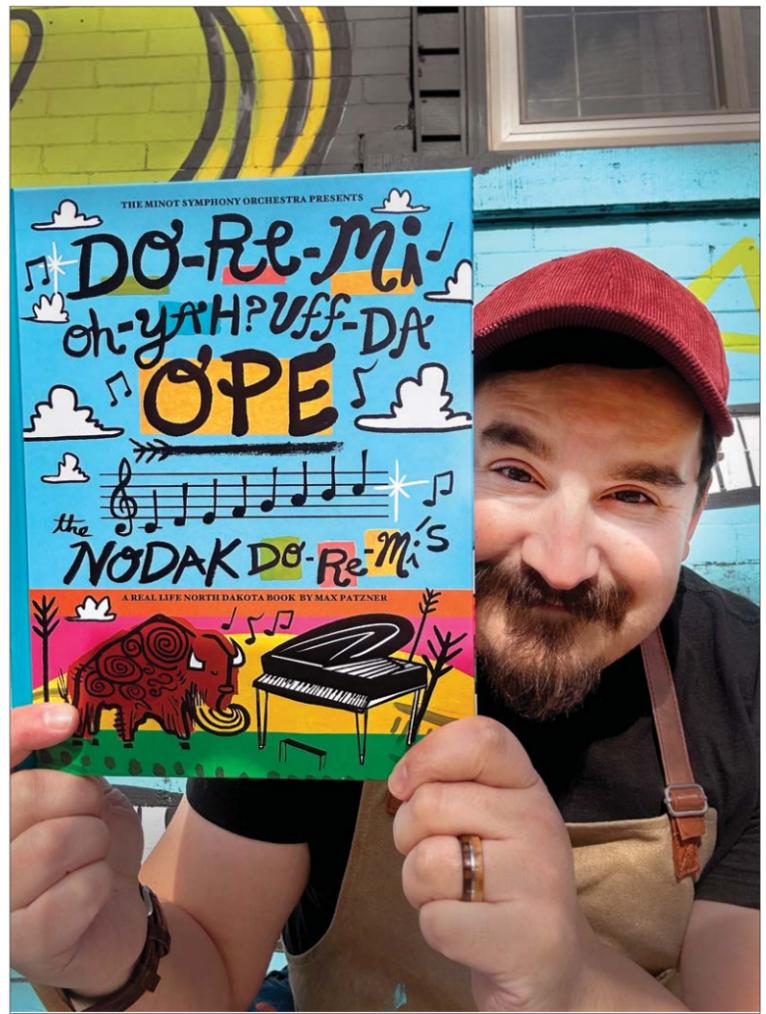
has since written several North Dakota-inspired titles. Beyond the page, Max's vibrant murals can be found throughout Minot and across the state, including the Minot Symphony Orchestra's own mural, painted in the fall of 2025 in downtown Minot.

Families are encouraged to attend for a cozy morning of storytelling, creativity, and connection. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information about the event or the Minot Symphony Orchestra's 100th season, visit Minot Symphony Orchestra on Facebook or www.minotsymphony.com.

The Minot Symphony Orchestra is a unique blend of student, community, and professional musicians from the Minot area. The symphony is directed by Maestro Efrain Amaya, Associate Professor of Performing Arts at Minot State University.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.




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ND Esports State Tournament: Minot United Esports Snatch Their First State Titles

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, STUDENT JOURNALIST

Lights glowing from monitors, controllers clicking, and teammates calling strategies through headsets, the North Dakota Esports State Tournament delivered two days of intense digital competition. Held February 27–28 in Grand Forks, the event brought together high school esports programs from across North Dakota to compete in a bracket-style championship. Much like traditional athletics, teams advanced through seeded rounds and elimination matches where every game determined who would move closer to a state title.

At the center of the action was Minot United Esports, a combined program representing both Minot North High School and Minot High School. The organization fields multiple teams across different competitive titles, allowing students to specialize in games that match their skills and interests. Each team name represents a separate roster within the Minot United program, competing in its own game against schools from across the state. Esports itself is competitive video gaming played in organized leagues where teamwork, strategy, and fast decision-making are just as important as mechanical skill.

The tournament opened with an incredible breakthrough as Minot United captured its first state championship. The Special Olympics Rocket League team,

Elizabeth Burrell (10th) and Leif Taylor (11th), powered through the bracket and claimed the state title. Elizabeth said that “Only at about 30 seconds left is when I would get into the game and start to actually play, but mostly it was him. We made it to finals. There I had to play more, but overall, it was super fun. We won 3–1 in the finals and got the title! We are going to continue SOND next year as a duo!” Rocket League is a fast-paced competitive game where players control rocket-powered cars to hit a massive soccer ball into the opponent’s goal. Matches require precise aerial mechanics, tight passing plays, and constant defensive rotations. Minot United’s duo demonstrated exceptional coordination throughout the tournament, combining quick reactions with strong communication to secure the championship.

Energy continued to rise as Minot United’s Valorant squads stepped into one of the most competitive brackets of the tournament. Valorant is a tactical first-person shooter where two teams of five players alternate between attacking and defending objectives. Each player controls a unique “agent” with special abilities that can change the course of a round, making teamwork and strategy essential. The team “Over” battled through difficult matches to finish seventh overall, while “The Rivals” fought their way into the quarterfinals before being eliminated in a close series. Throughout the season, additional Minot United players including Owen Carswell, Oliver Brunner, Parker Bailey, Dalton Allen, Matthew Bryl Bacor, Jordan Deleon, and Jack Reese also qualified for state competition in Valorant and other titles.

As the competition rolled into the second day, the “Smash” players stepped forward and immediately electrified the tournament floor. The Minot United Smash roster, Evan Guilmino (11th), Bryce Edwards (11th), and Weston Rom (9th), competed in Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, a popular fighting game where players battle one-on-one using characters from across Nintendo franchises. Instead of traditional team play, Smash focuses on individual skill, reaction time, and deep knowledge of character

matchups. Despite being relatively new to the competitive scene, Bryce Edwards, a rookie with the fewest hours of experience on the team, helped contribute to an impressive run through the bracket. He noted that, “State was a very fun experience, even though our teams didn’t do as well as we thought we would. I’m most excited to come back with more competitive experience.” The Minot United lineup ultimately secured second place in the state, finishing just short of the championship in a tightly contested final match.

Closing out the weekend was one of esports’ most strategy-heavy

titles, League of Legends. The Minot United team of Landon Taylor (11th), Vincent Williamson (12th), Michael Sander (12th), and Christian Dix (10th) competed in the multiplayer online battle arena game where two teams of five players fight across a three-lane map while attempting to destroy the opposing base. The Minot United roster demonstrated strong macro-level strategy throughout the tournament, controlling objectives and executing disciplined team engagements that helped them earn an impressive third-place finish.

By the time the final matches concluded, Minot United Esports

had proven itself as one of the most versatile programs in the state. Competing successfully across multiple titles is rare in high school esports, where many programs focus on only one or two games. Minot United’s ability to place in several different competitions highlighted the program’s depth, preparation, and growing competitive culture.

Minot United left the tournament with major momentum. The program now looks ahead to continuing its growth and showcasing its talent at future events, including their upcoming invitational tournament on March 20 at Minot State University.



Minot United Esports Team.



Evan Guilmino Claims his Second Place Win in Smash Bros.

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Student Registration for Minot Public and Glenburn Public School Districts amid New Infinite Campus System Integration



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



MINOT PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Enrollment for grades K-12 for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school year are open and will continue through the end of the school year. The first day of school for Minot Public Schools is August 19th, 2026. If your student was a current MPS student at the end of the 25/26 school year, you do not need to re-enroll.

Minot Public School District has a digital map on their school's website

listing boundaries that determine student attendance. If you would like your child to attend a school outside of the area in which you live, you can select whichever school you are requesting in your student's "pre-registration." Please note: you may receive a phone call asking why you would like to attend that alternate school. Then, closer to the start date of school the principal of the requested school will evaluate the request and notify each parent by email or via the postal service.

In North Dakota, your student must be five years old by July 31st, 2026 to register for kindergarten. To register for Kindergarten through Minot Public Schools, it is requested parents complete a Kindergarten Pre-Registration link, located here: <https://minot.ps.state.nd.us/public/formbuilder/form.html?formid=3937360>. After the Pre-Registration is complete, families will receive an email regarding next steps and online forms to complete.

These are the Documents Needed to Enroll:

1. State Certified Birth Certificate
2. Immunization record
3. Parent/Guardian ID
4. Proof of residency -

Examples: Lease Agreement/Mortgage Statement/Utility Bill/Homeowners/Renter insurance

If you do not have all of the documents listed, you are still welcome to start the registration process. MPS District Enrollment Specialist, Ms. Alexis Goulette, is very familiar with assisting military-connected students with enrollment and will work with you and your family throughout the process.

This year—for all incoming students—the MPS district asks that you please complete the enrollment process, providing all the documents and turning in any additional forms, documents, or IEP's by May 15th, as they have a

change in their enrollment system over the summer. If parents do not complete the process by that date, a student's information may be removed and may require repeating the process over in the new system after it becomes available on July 1st. The new system is Infinite Campus and links will be available after July 1st.

If incoming families arrive after May 15th and do not want to wait until July 1st to register, MPS is working on finalizing the details for an alternate hardcopy means of enrollment in the interim.

For any questions, please reach out to Ms. Goulette at 701-857-4444 or via email at enrollment@minot.k12.nd.us

GLENBURN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Enrollment for grades PreK-12 for the 2026-27 school year are not open until May 1st. After May 1st, parents may call the front office and speak with Linda at 701-362-7426 to schedule an appointment to meet with her and register their student(s). Birth Certificate and Immunizations are required. The first day of school for Glenburn Public School is August 19th, 2026. If your student was a current Glenburn student at the end of the 25/26 school year, you do not need to re-enroll.

Infinite Campus is expected to start on or around May 17th. The appointments will continue during the interim and when Infinite Campus comes online, Glenburn will provide additional information.

The information in this article is provided as a resource and does not constitute endorsement by Minot AFB, the United States Air Force, or the Department of War of the external website, or the information, products, or services contained therein.

NOTES ON BEING SAFE

NO MATTER HOW FAR THE TRIP, ALWAYS CHECK YOUR VEHICLE

Growing up, my father always taught me the importance of conducting a thorough safety check on your vehicle prior to a trip (long or short). He taught me to check all the fluids, lights, tire pressures, brakes, and the condition of all belts and hoses. Maybe this is why I have been blessed with not breaking down on the road in 40 plus years of driving.

Last summer while I was traveling with my family on another "Adventure Club" road trip we drove pretty much during the day, and making frequent stops "sight seeing" along the way, looking for old cars and trucks. We used all the safety rules that we stress to others: We got plenty of sleep the night prior to traveling and I as the primary driver was ready to take a break if I needed to, even if this delayed our return home and increased the cost of the trip. We left my headlights on to increase my visibility to other motorists, and wore comfortable clothes to keep the temperature in the car a little cool, but still comfortable.

As we were traveling from state to state I took notice of the changes in road signs, road surfaces and the occasional appearance of emergency vehicles. On one trip traveling through Nebraska I saw a car in the ditch that had evidently rolled over. The state patrol was already on site. I wondered what had happened? Was it rain? Did another driver cut them off? Were they drinking and driving? Did they just push it too far?

Thinking about what might have caused their accident prompted me to think about how I was driving. Was my speed too fast for conditions? Did I need to adjust my driving? If you can identify the cause of the accident you can adjust your driving and avoid the same fate.

We also noticed other signs

along the road and considered what we could learn from them. These signs told a sad story but did not present the details of what may have happened. As we traveled a mere 700 miles, we saw scores of crosses and wreathes on the side of the road, memorials to people that lost their life on that particular spot on that stretch of road. What happened? Who were they? Where were they headed? The crosses and wreathes provided no answers, but caused me to do some thinking. Were they military PCSing or going home to see family? Were they on the road as a means to make a buck? Were they moving to a new

place to find a better way of life? Were they on a family vacation trip? At one place there was a group of seven crosses in one place, was this a whole family that was lost? Discussing this with my wife, we came up with no real answers, only a lesson learned, traveling on the road is serious business, and lives can be lost.

Be prepared when you head out on the roadways of America, do the "Vehicle Check," plan for emergencies and delays, look for visual indicators of problem areas and come home safely. Don't make someone put up a cross for you.

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YOUTH IN ACTION

Calendar 1 Board Approved - 3/20/25

MINOT PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 3-14 - Floating PD
August 12 & 13 - All New Teachers
August 17 & 18 - Workshop Total Staff
August 19 - First Day of School

AUGUST 2026 9 Days							JANUARY 2027 18 Days						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1						1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31						31						

January 5 - Classes Resume
January 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18 - PD Day
(No School for Students)

September 4 - PD Day
(No School For Students)

SEPTEMBER 2026 20 Days							FEBRUARY 2027 19 Days						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28						
27	28	29	30										

February 15 - President's Day
No School

September 7 - Labor Day - No School
September -

OCTOBER 2026 20 Days							MARCH 2027 20 Days						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
27	28	29	30										

March 12 - No School
March 26 - Good Friday, No School
March 29 - Vacation Day, No School

October 15-16 - Admin Conv. Days
No School

NOVEMBER 2026 17 Days							APRIL 2027 18 Days						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	
29	30												

April 15 & 16 - Vacation Days
April 19 & 20 - P/T Comp Days

November 11 - Veterans Day
No School

DECEMBER 2026 16 Days							MAY 2027 18 Days						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	28	29	30	31			30	31					

May 26 - Last Day of School
May 30 - Graduation Day
May 31 - Memorial Day

December 23 - 31 - Vacation Days

JANUARY 2027 18 Days						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						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					

End of 1st Nine Weeks -
End of 2nd Nine Weeks -
End of 3rd Nine Weeks -
End of 4th 9 Weeks -

Parent-Teacher Conferences
Elementary School Parent-Teacher Conferences
Erik Ramstad, Jim Hill & Central Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences
Memorial Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences
Minot North Parent-Teacher Conferences
Minot High School Parent-Teacher Conferences

- Vacation Days - not contracted
- Holidays
- Parent/Teacher Comp Days
- Early Release Day - 1:15 pm
- Prof. Development Day - No School for Students
- Weather Make-Up Day

Glenburn Public School 2026 - 2027 School Year - Approved 2/10/2026

August 2026 9 days							January 2027 18 Days						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31						31						

1 New Years Day
4 Classes Resume after break
6 Early Out-1:00 Dismissal

September 2026 20 days							February 2027 19 Days						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28						
30	31												

17 PD Day/Open House
18 PD Day
19 1st Day of School
25 1st Day of College Classes

3 Early Out-1:00 Dismissal
15 No School - Presidents Day-Glenburn PD Day
18 Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:00-9:00
20 No School-In Lieu of Day

October 2026 21 days							March 2027 20 Days						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30	31												

2 Early Out-1:00 Dismissal
7 No School - Labor Day
24 Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:00-9:00
25 No School-In Lieu of Day

3 Early Out-1:00 Dismissal
17 End of the Third Quarter
18-19 Spring Break
26 No School - Good Friday
29 No School-Storm Day

November 2026 18 days							April 2027 21 days						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	
30													

4 Early Out-1:00 Dismissal
11 No School - Veterans Day
25 No College ITV classes
26 No School - Thanksgiving
27 No School - Thanksgiving break

7 Early Out-1:00 Dismissal
16 End of the First Quarter
23 No School - Teachers Convention

7 Early Out-1:00 Dismissal
26 No School

December 2026 14 days							May 2027 18 Days						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31						30	31					

2 Early Out-1:00 Dismissal
18 End of semester and last day of school before Holiday Break

20/21 Early Dismissal 1:00 both days
21 End of semester & Last day of ITV classes
22 Graduation 1:00 P.m.

1st semester ends: December 19 82 days
2nd Semester ends: May 20 93 days
Days of Instruction 175 days

MINOT PUBLIC SCHOOL



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UPCOMING

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ACTION TRAINING CLUB'S DOG CLASS REGISTRATION is currently open for the spring session beginning the week of March 23. A variety of classes are offered, including Puppy Manners and Obedience Class. Registration forms and class descriptions are available on our website <http://www.actionagility.com>.

03-13-26

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THE NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD have openings available in a variety of career fields across the state and in Minot. Continue your military career on a part-time basis. For more information call 420-5903 or 420-5904 in Minot.

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Or contact: Alicia Mello
By email or phone at
amello@kalixnd.org
701-852-1014

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MINOT AFB

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TITUS & PHILEMON Everyday adventures of Titus and Philemon and their owner Joe.

If working on my family tree has taught me anything, it's that it can sometimes be hard to get it right.

I assume there must've been some errors on some genealogy websites.

TIMOTHY TIMM

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.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

PUZZLE ON PAGE A9

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

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YOUTH IN ACTION

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DALLAS – Military kids worldwide can cash in on their grades with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's You Made the Grade Program in its 26th year of highlighting academic excellence.

Young scholars in grades first through 12th, including students in specialized programs, can present their report cards to their local PX or BX customer service associate to receive exclusive discounts, prizes and savings.

Students in specialized programs can print this downloadable form and have it completed by their school's official each grading period in place of a traditional report card.

"Military students have an unconventional educational experience due to the needs of their parent's service," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Rich Martinez, the Exchange's senior enlisted advisor. "The You Made the Grade program has successfully highlighted and rewarded our Nation's youngest heroes' sacrifices and accomplishments for a quarter century."

Students with straight A's will receive a \$20 Exchange gift card while students with a B average

will receive a \$10 Exchange gift card.

In addition to an Exchange gift card, students will also receive an Exchange coupon sheet with offers including:

- A free small fountain, frozen drink or bubbler beverage.
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- A free kid's hair service or \$15 off hair service at The Barber Shop or Hair Studios.
- 10% off any pair of headphones (excluding Apple and Beats).
- 10% off apparel and footwear.
- A \$5 coupon at Exchange mall concessions or kiosks.

Participating students can also enter the biannual You Made the Grade worldwide sweepstakes for a chance to win a \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$500 Exchange gift card. The spring 2026 drawing will take place in June.

To enter the drawing, students or parents can complete the form on the back of the gift card and mail it to:

You Made the Grade
PO Box 227398
Dallas, TX 75222-7398



by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, March 9: 1,827.42 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 16,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,448.97 feet above mean sea level (MSL).
Stump Lake elevation: 1,448.93 MSL.

• N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No new reports but be mindful of changing ice conditions throughout area lakes.
• Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Ice remained OK on Devils Lake earlier in the week with fair walleye success. Perch remain slow but those taken are nice-sized. Icehouse rentals close for the season at the resort March 15 but anglers can still ice fish as long as ice conditions and access remain safe.

• Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: No new reports from Lake Darling or Lake Audubon.

• Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Continued bluegill activity with anglers sorting through for the nice-sized keepers. Improving walleye activity in the evening but the key is staying until after sundown.

• Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: East end of Lake Sakakawea producing some pike and walleye spearing in Douglas Bay and around Indian Hills. Spearing season closes March 15, however.

• Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Fair pike bite on the east end of Lake Sakakawea around Centennial, Steinke, and Douglas bays although shorelines are getting mushy. No recent reports from Lake Audubon.

• Lake Sakakawea, New Town: OK walleye success yet in the Van Hook Arm but look for the potential for water on the ice with warmer weather and watch shoreline access conditions.

• Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River,

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 and honeycombing ice is extremely dangerous. Beware of slumping shorelines on reservoirs, as well.
- March 13: Muddy Buck Mule Deer Foundation banquet, Grand Williston Hotel & Convention Center, Williston, 5 p.m.
- March 13 – 15: KX Sport Show, N.D. State Fair Center, Minot.
- March 14: Turtle Mtn. Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation banquet, Cobblestone Inn & Suites, Bottineau, 5 p.m.
- March 15: Darkhouse spearing season closes.
- March 15: All unoccupied ice houses must be removed from all state water bodies and cannot be left unoccupied.
- March 17: Leprechaun Geocache, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison. Contact the park, (701) 337-5576, for details.
- March 21: Lonetree Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation banquet, Harvey Eagles Club, 5 p.m.
- March 21: Watford City Ducks Unlimited banquet, Youth & Ag Expo Center, Watford City, 5 p.m.
- March 21: Bird Dog First Aid Course, \$100 class fee with free canine first aid kit sponsored by Sakakawea Pheasants Forever chapter, Totten Trail (north end of Lake Audubon along U.S. Hwy. 83). Registration and more information available on the website, (events.pheasantsforever.org), selecting North Dakota for listings.
- March 25: Moose, elk, & bighorn sheep applications (residents only) due. Go to the N.D. Game & Fish Dept. website, (gf.nd.gov), for details and applications.
- March 27: "Wish"kers & FurBall Souris Valley Animal Shelter fundraising gala, RSVP at (secure.qgiv.com/events/svasgala), Sleep Inn Suites & Convention Center, Minot, 5:30 p.m.
- March 27 – 29: Minot Rifle & Pistol Club Spring Gun Show, N.D. State Fair Center, Minot.
- March 27 – 29: Shirtsleeve Bonspiel, Minot Curling Club.

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ND STATE FAIR CENTER
MARCH 27-29, 2026

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SAT. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
SUN. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Look for more activity on the Missouri River tailrace with more consistent weather.

• Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Upper end of Lake Sakakawea is somewhat slow with better walleye success still around Lund's landing towards the main lake and not in the bay itself.

• North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: No new reports with limited activity on area lakes.

DOWNHILL SKI REPORTS:

• Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, Mont., (800) 548-4486: 41- to 65-inch base with 266 runs open.

• Bottineau Winter Park, Bottineau, (701) 263-4556: 12- to 24-inch base with 6 runs, 2 carpets, chair, lift, and tubing and terrain parks open.

• Frostfire Ski Area, Walhalla, (701) 549-3600: 8 runs open.

• Terry Peak, Lead, S.D., (605) 584-2165: 16- to 36-inch base with all but 6 runs open with all lifts and 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

FRIDAY 13

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP DOL Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Leap Into Spring, 0900-1600, the Turf
- 1st Quarter Birthday Meal, 1630, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Karaoke Battle, 1730-1830, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Luck O' the Irish Skate Night, 1800-2000, Youth Center

SATURDAY 14

- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page
- Dr. Seuss Day, 1300, Minot AFB Library

SUNDAY 15

MONDAY 16

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Junior Enlisted Foundations Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Palace Chase/Front Briefing, 1400-1500, Professional Development Center

TUESDAY 17

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Junior Enlisted Foundations Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Base Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Strength & Mobility, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Retraining 101, 1300-1400, Professional Development Center
- First Duty Station Officer Financial Course, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Quiet Book Club, 1800-1930, Minot AFB Library

WEDNESDAY 18

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Junior Enlisted Foundations Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Informed Decision Seminar, 0800-1200, Professional Development Center
- Bundles for Babies, 0900-1030, M&FRC
- Storytime, 1030, Base Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Knotted Creations, 1700-1900, Arts & Crafts Center

THURSDAY 19

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Junior Enlisted Foundations Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Pre-Separation Briefing, 0830-1130, M&FRC
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Iron Endurance Circuit Training, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center

FRIDAY 20

- Junior Enlisted Foundations Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Quarterly Food Service Advisory Board, 1300-1400, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Airmen's Night Out, 1600, Outdoor Recreation
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Progressive Bingo – Winter Series, 1730, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Library Mini-Golf, 1800-1900, Base Library
- Winter Karaoke Nights, 2000, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY 21

- Chess Club, 1200-1400, Minot AFB Library
- BookTok Trivia, 1700, Rockers Bar & Grill

Scan for full event details



SPECIALS

Rockers Bar & Grill Featured Item
Fish and Chips Basket

Bomber Bistro Featured Item
Reuben Sandwich

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item
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