

northern sentry

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A photo illustration showing U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Randi Griffith, 91st Missile Security Operation Squadron tactical response force member, posing in uniform and boxing gear at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Feb. 27, 2026. Griffith is a nationally competitive boxer who competed in Silver Gloves, Junior Olympic and USA Boxing national-level tournaments. See story on A2.

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



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How boxing keeps a defender mission ready

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ANTHONY RAMEY, MINOT AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.

The bell rings, gloves raise, and the fight begins. For three minutes instinct and training guide every movement with precision and control. Airman 1st Class Randi Griffith is both a Tactical Response Force (TRF) member with the 91st Missile Security Operations Squadron and a nationally competitive boxer, two roles that demand discipline, resilience and focus.

Griffith was eight years old when she first stepped into a boxing gym in her hometown of Gouverneur, New York. What started as a way to spend time in the gym with her father and sister, evolved into structure, discipline and grit. Early morning training involved punching heavy bags and jump ropes.

"I fell in love with it," Griffith said. It taught me how to be tough physically and mentally."

As she progressed, the stakes increased. Amateur tournaments meant long weekends, weigh-ins before sunrise and waiting through multiple bouts before stepping into the ring. Under bright lights and in front of unfamiliar crowds, she learned to quiet nerves and trust preparation. Each three-minute round required calculated movement, reading opponents' tendencies and adjusting strategy in real time.

"If you didn't put the work in, it showed," Griffith said. "There's nowhere to hide in the ring."

Her love for the sport turned into discipline and competitive success. Griffith went on to win multiple Silver Gloves titles, Junior Olympic championships and compete at the USA Boxing National Championships.

Long before she wore the uniform, she was learning how to perform under pressure.

"When the bell rings, everything goes away," Griffith said. "I don't hear the crowd. I don't hear the coaches. I'm just locked in."

The lessons forged through years in the boxing ring found new purpose at Minot AFB. Just months after arriving on station she volunteered for the TRF, an elite security team within the missile security units trained in advanced tactics, close quarters operations and rapid response to neutralize potential threats to strategic assets. In the TRF, Airmen must remain physically prepared and mentally sharp, capable of making split-second decisions during high-risk security scenarios.

Boxing has conditioned her to function when her body is taxed and her heart rate is elevated, conditions that mirror high-intensity security scenarios faced by members of the TRF. Three-minute rounds demand sustained output, controlled breathing and mental clarity under physical strain, the same qualities required of Airmen responding decisively in high-threat scenarios.

"You learn how to control your breathing and slow your mind down even when your heart's racing," Griffith said. "If you can think clearly when you're exhausted in the ring, you can think clearly anywhere. That translates directly to TRF."

Years in the ring have also shaped what she describes as a warrior mindset: the ability to stay composed under pressure, absorb impact and continue forward. Boxing taught her that discomfort is temporary, fatigue is manageable and adversity is expected.

"Boxing teaches you not to panic," Griffith said. "You're going



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Randi Griffith, 91st Missile Security Operation Squadron tactical response force (TRF) member, raises her hand in victory during a USA Boxing match on Sept. 18, 2025. The conditioning and composure developed in the ring directly translates to her role as a TRF member.

to get hit. You're going to get tired, but you stay disciplined, you stay focused and you keep moving. No matter what's happening, you stay locked in and do your job."

The fundamentals overlap. In the ring, hesitation can mean taking a punch. In the TRF, the stakes extend beyond yourself.

"One wrong move on TRF could mess something up for your whole team," Griffith said. "So you have to think fast and trust your training."

Griffith credits her boxing background with building the

confidence required to operate in high-risk environments.

"Boxing has made me a better defender because it made me more confident," Griffith said. "I know I've been in hard situations before. I know I can handle myself."

For Griffith, readiness is not switched on in a moment; it is built, round after round. The discipline, resilience and focus learned in the ring ensures that when the bell rings, in the ring or on duty, she is prepared.



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Randi Griffith, 91st Missile Security Operation Squadron (91 MSOS) tactical response force (TRF) member throws a punch during a USA Boxing match on Sept 18, 2025. As a member of 91 MSOS TRF Griffith applies the same split-second decision making, situational awareness and endurance required in the boxing ring to high-risk security operations.

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

A LOOK BACK THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

HYPERSONIC BREAKTHROUGH
NASA SETS A NEW SPEED RECORD
MARCH 27, 2004



NASA's X-43A unmanned aircraft became the first jet to break Maj William J. Knight's X-15 record of 4,520 MPH. While the X-1, Skyrocket, X-2, and X-15 were rocket-powered, the X-43 featured an advanced scramjet engine, which allowed it to cruise at 4,780 mph (Mach 6.83) for 11 seconds at 95,000 feet.

Information courtesy of: afhistory.org

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TSgt Julianna Tipps



5th Medical Group
Hometown: Visalia, California
Technical Sergeant Julianna Tipps enlisted in 2016 out of Antioch, CA, as a Health Services Management Technician. She now serves at the 5th Medical Group where she works in the Medical Readiness Office as the Medical Emergency Manager. She met her husband, Finn, while they were stationed together at Offutt AFB, and they share one beautiful daughter, two cats, and two dogs. Her hobbies include reading books, the occasional DIY craft, and taking nature walks with her family when the weather is nice.

GAME SALUTE: FRIDAY, APRIL 3

A1C Chad Sanderson



69th Bomb Squadron
Hometown: Fairbanks, Arkansas
Chad is an Aviation Resource Manager with the 69th Bomb Squadron and is in charge of managing and verifying flight and training qualifications for 100 Aviators across four AFSC's for the B-52 mission. He also coordinates with 4 base agencies to accurately report the 5 BW's flying hour program.

GAME SALUTE: SATURDAY, APRIL 4

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

Minot's Warm Spell Interrupted by Snow

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

After days of sunshine and temperatures climbing into the low 60s, many residents on Minot AFB were starting to believe spring had arrived early. Snow had melted away, patches of brown grass reappeared, and the simple sight of bare ground felt like a small victory after a long winter.

Then, in true North Dakota fashion, winter made a brief comeback. The March 12th snowfall arrived just as many kids on Minot Air Force Base were enjoying their spring break, catching some families off guard after the unusually warm stretch. The fresh snow also brought some road concerns, reminding drivers that March weather can still be unpredictable.

For many families, the sudden return of snow wasn't all bad news. Across Minot AFB neighborhoods, kids bundled up and headed outside, taking advantage of the still manageable cold to build snowmen and play in the fresh snow. Base housing filled with the sound of shovels and snow blowers as neighbors cleared driveways and sidewalks.

Some families turned shoveling into a family affair. Parents could be seen outside with their kids, turning driveway duty into a team project. In other yards, you could see spouses working quickly with a shovel, making sure their partner would have a clear spot to park when they got home. Some parents helped their kids roll snowballs into the shape of a snowman, offering guidance along the way while repeatedly reminding them not to eat the snow.

While Minot often gets a reputation for its cold temperatures, moments like these are a reminder that winter here isn't just about the

cold. It's also about the memories made in the middle of it. March snowfalls may not always be ideal, especially when spring feels so close but for many families across the area, they still provide the kind of small, everyday moments that turn into lasting memories.



From Marian Weaver using a snowplow for the first time, to SMSgt Bries clearing their driveway, the Kennedy family turning shoveling into a team effort, and Lt. Greiner out shoveling with his little one, this snowfall had everyone pitching in.



March snow even brought the babies out to play: Kayce all bundled up and ready to sled, Camila sneaking bites of snow, Maya experiencing snow for the first time, and one not so thrilled little one Brian still insisted on joining the fun.



The Boggess kids enjoying the snow with their masterpiece snowman, "Tim"



A little March snow brought everyone outside kids, families, and even the dogs. Luna was loving every second, catching snowballs like a pro.



Girls just having some fun in the snow while shoveling, laughing, and making snow angels.

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MORE ABOUT US



STAY CONNECTED



It's Big "C" Community



**A VIEW FROM
 OUR SIDE**
 ROD WILSON

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

It's been a few years since I was educated about the moniker of Big "A" Airmen. As it was explained to me, capitalizing the "A" in Airmen noted their importance to the success of the Air Force. "Without them, we don't have an Air Force...the planes don't fly themselves...the missiles don't maintain themselves...we would have a large, but very useless arsenal" according to a speaker (whose name escapes me now) at an Air and Space Force Association presentation. It was an important lesson.

Fast forward to last night and the Minot Area Chamber/EDC annual banquet, which looked to be almost a sold out event held at the Regency Event Center in downtown Minot. This annual gathering not only brings the Minot business community together to celebrate the successes of the previous year, but it is also a time to say farewell, to Ryan Ackerman, outgoing Board of Directors Chair, or as he explains, "being put out to pasture". Carrying his "Bully Stick" to the podium was incoming chair Jarid Lundeen. Lundeen's speech talked about the future, probably more focused on his upcoming tenure as the 2026-2027 BOD Chair. Jarid Lundeen is now the Honorary Commander of the 91st Missile Wing and explained to the audience that when he gave a rousing shout of "Bully", the audience was to return the favor with their rousing shouts of "Bully". Those present accommodated Lundeen quite well.

Which brings me once again to the importance of the relationship between Minot and Minot Air Force Base. It cannot be said enough that what we have, the Community

that we have created with Minot, the surrounding Communities and Minot Air Force Base, is special. Yes, we have created a Big "C" Community. As Ryan Ackerman writes in his program notes, "Our partnership with Minot Air Force Base remains central to the fabric of our community (in 2025). Minot was one of just three communities nationwide to be recognized as a Great American Defense Community, reflecting the strong support our region provides to service members, their families and the Mission at Minot Air Force Base."

That honor might have been enough to drive home the dedication that exists to create this very special Community...but there is so much more. Minot Chamber EDC CEO Brekka Kramer was selected to join the U.S. Air and Space Force Civic Leader program, Operation Homebound sent 100+ Airmen Home for the Holidays paying for their airline tickets with proceeds of over \$91,000.00 raised through various fund raisers, with over \$31,000 raised in one day with a special promotion sponsored by Qdoba and Jersey Mikes. But it doesn't stop there. The MACEDC helped champion legislation that expanded opportunities for home based businesses operated by military spouses and other entrepreneurs across North Dakota.

Another accomplishment, which I was able to attend in person this year, was the Nuclear Triad Symposium in Washington, DC. The speakers often pointed out the importance of Minot Air Force Base to our national security.

And finally, although I know there are many more examples, a Military Welcome Center opened at Minot International Airport. The space was created to ensure Airmen, veterans, and their families feel welcomed the moment they arrive in Minot.

The guest keynote speaker for this year's MACEDC annual meeting was Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser, Commander of the 20th Air Force. Maj. Gen. Huser was stationed in Minot and ended her remarks with a thank you "We thank you for everything you do, it absolutely makes a difference for our Airmen and for our mission."

Big "C" "Community is truly what we have developed, and as Maj. Gen. Huser also pointed out, we already have what others are working towards. And as Col.



**UPSIDE DOWN
 UNDER**
 MARVIN BAKER

Most of us are aware that North Dakota has 18 ports of entry with three of those ports open 24 hours per day. And when we look at statistics, we see that Pembina is the busiest, followed by Portal then Dunseith. The following 15, with reduced hours, have ebbs and flows regarding traffic patterns.

Those of us who live near the international boundary are quite familiar with our surroundings as well as those on the immediate opposite side.

Once in a while, there will be

illegal activity, but it is certainly the exception not the rule. And in my entire journalism career of 31 years, I've dealt with only a handful of cases that involved law enforcement.

In one situation, a man from Winnipeg dressed up in camouflage, crossed the border without going through a port of entry and was holed up in the woods near Pembina. He was later arrested and evaluated to see if he had the mental capacity to stand trial.

During my years in Kenmare, there was a man from Alaska who kidnapped a child in Alaska, crossed the Canadian border into Yukon Territory, drove all the way through Yukon, British Columbia and Alberta before crossing the border at North Portal, Saskatchewan and into North Dakota. He was allowed to pass with the child, but law enforcement was immediately alerted and he was arrested before he got to Bowbells.

In another situation, a Canadian husband and wife, had an elaborate scheme of transporting immigrants, but this was to get them into Canada. The wife would often drive from Regina to Minot, pick up immigrants and take them to a point just short of the border. They would walk across and the husband



Brekka Kramer, MACEDC President | CEO, kicks off the 2026 Annual Meeting.



Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser, Commander of the 20th Air Force, shares a keynote address.



2025 MACEDC Board Chair Ryan Ackerman reflects on the successes of 2025.



2026 MACEDC Board Chair Jarid Lundeen shares comments on his optimism for the year ahead.

Jesse Lamarand has said on several occasions "this is as good as it gets. There is not another community and base that have the relationship that we have." Big "C" Community. All of us working together to create a great place to live.

last day. The snow is still good, and there is still fun to be had. Still time to have one of those one-day family trips.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

The best way to keep your chin up is to keep your mouth closed and quit complaining.

ONE LAST CHANCE

Bottineau Winter Park will be closing this weekend. Sunday is the

North Dakota's ports of entry are critical to commerce

would pick them up and take them to Regina, for a fee, of course.

In one situation, an agent of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police surveilled the woman picking up nine aliens at a Minot hotel. He followed them to a desolate spot near Northgate, where all nine got out, crossed into Saskatchewan and the RCMP picked them up.

That's what I've witnessed in my career.

On the other hand, the commerce that crosses into and out of North Dakota continues to strengthen. Although tourism and the Canadian dollar have all but dried up in our border towns, there is still a lot of cross-border commerce.

Every day hundreds of Canadian Pacific railcars cross the border both ways carrying everything from grain and lumber to fertilizer and medical equipment.

Tens of thousands of heavy trucks cross those 18 ports every year. Most of that is grain, but we also see a lot of farm machinery going north toward Portal. Trucks from Edmonton and Calgary often carry John Deere equipment to dealerships across Alberta.

There's also been a marked increase in heavy trucks from British

Columbia driving through North Dakota. We don't always know what the cargo is as we watch it pass, but the trailers are scanned at the border. Most of us think they are only passing through and headed to Toronto and Montreal, or returning back to Vancouver.

It seems like an awful lot of traffic, but if you think about the logistics, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver are three of the largest cities in Canada and many of those trucks cross at Portal, travel down U.S. Highway 52 to Minot and then either go south to Bismarck or east to Grand Forks.

At the very least, they have to pay a transport tax to use North Dakota's highways. That, in and of itself, is commerce, at least for the state's coffers.

There's also the retail trade, that although has tapered off considerably, still exists. Occasionally, we'll see a pickup truck with Saskatchewan license plates heading toward the border with a load of drywall or a refrigerator, or maybe other supplies. That spending helps Minot, Grand Forks and Williston, but is absolutely critical for the border towns.

On-ramps to belonging



SHE'S NOT FROM AROUND HERE
AMY ALLENDER

My whole life has been an endless pursuit of community and belonging. Whether that means I, myself was searching for a way to belong—or coming up with creative ways to draw others in to community, it's who I am.

From elementary school to adulthood, I've been drawn to "involvement." I joined clubs, teams, and hobbies. Then I created clubs, hosted gatherings, and became insatiably nosy about the possibility of fun. I was involved.

Some things were a good fit; others weren't for me—but I knew they'd be just right for someone else. So, I'd recommend them. Belonging is a powerful part of the human experience, and something I find endlessly fascinating. This desire to connect and foster connection for others has been a throughline of my entire life.

A couple of weeks ago, I was reminded of this. I was invited to attend a beginner clinic hosted by the Minot Area Pickleball Association and share about the

experience. If I'm honest, I wasn't immediately on board.

I like pickleball. I play occasionally with family. But I'm not naturally athletic, and it sometimes ends in what I lovingly refer to as a "rage quit." My curiosity won over my skepticism. So, I went to a meeting with the coordinators to learn a little more.

I expected a conversation about pickleball, and strategies for getting new players to sign up for the clinic. It quickly became clear that this wasn't just about the sport or churning out players. The real goal was creating an easy entry point — a simple, approachable way for people to find connection and community.

Athletic, I am not—but that's a mission I can support.

In Minot, where many arrive on military orders, that kind of entry point matters. The game itself is secondary. It's something to do with your hands while you meet people, learn names, and begin to recognize familiar faces.

It's a way in, an on-ramp.

I attended the clinic and invited three women I met while volunteering at the Minot Air Force Base thrift store — another unexpected on-ramp to connection in my own life. But that's a story for another day.

"Today isn't about becoming an advanced player," one of the coordinators told us at the start. "It's about learning techniques that help you play a more consistent game — because it's more fun when you're not always stopping to chase the ball."

The expectation wasn't perfection — it was participation.

More consistency, less rage quitting, more fun—that's what I signed up for.

Over the course of two hours, I not only sharpened my skills, but watched people introduce themselves, exchange contact information, and make plans to meet up to play again.

It wasn't complicated, it wasn't about the game. It was exactly what the coordinators described in our initial meeting: a touchpoint to belonging.

When people talk about moving to Minot, the hesitation is usually the same: cold weather and isolation. But what I've found — again and again — is that this is a community striving to ensure others are not isolated.

There are on-ramps to belonging everywhere.

Sometimes they look like a pickleball clinic. Sometimes they look like a volunteer shift, coaching t-ball, book club, open gym, or an invitation to dinner. They're created by ordinary people who simply decide to make space for others.

The beautiful thing is, creating these on-ramps doesn't require anything elaborate. It can come from an interest, a small amount of time or just willingness to include someone new.

But there's another side to this, too.

We don't need to wait for someone to come yank us up the ramp. At some point, we have to choose to step onto it.

That might look like saying yes when you're unsure. Showing up when you don't know anyone. Trying something that isn't



Anything can be a bridge to belonging when it's goal is connection and community. That's exactly what I found while participating with the Minot Area Pickleball Association.

AMY ALLENDER PHOTO

entirely in your comfort zone.

It might look like volunteering at a thrift store. Or agreeing to go to a pickleball clinic.

Not because you're trying to become an expert, but because you're open to what could come from it.

For more information on the

Minot Pickleball Association, find them on Facebook. To read more from me, join me at amyallender.com or on social media @heyminot. Come back next week when I share about an unexpected "on-ramp" to wellness I found at Cornerstone Chiropractic.



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Central Brew Kiosk, which won the Best Eatery on Base Award, Manager Morgan McIver "This is amazing, thank you MAFB for voting for us"

Best of Minot AFB Awards Does It Again...

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

Awards season is wrapping up, which means all those movie stars, TV icons, and red carpet pros can finally take a break from their fancy outfits. But don't worry... the real awards have been happening right here at MAFB.

That's right, we're talking about the 4th Annual Best of Minot Air Force Base Awards, hosted by the Northern Sentry!

Every year, nominations roll in and votes are cast to decide the best

of the best: restaurants, hangouts, nightlife, schools, and more, both on base and around Minot. We asked YOU what makes life here special, and you delivered.

Now... we do have some repeat champions. Ahem... Minotauros. But honestly, can we blame you? Fun, affordable, and great for the whole family, we get it. Still, there are always a few surprises that keep things interesting!

At the end of the day, this is our

favorite part, seeing what you all truly love (and maybe what you don't). It helps us serve you better while giving some well-deserved recognition to the standout spots in our community.

Huge thanks to everyone who nominated and voted! And congratulations to all our winners!

We'll catch you next year for another round of Awards Season: Minot Edition.



Rocker's Bar & Grill Food & Beverage Manager, Renee Price & the Rockers Team pictured: "This great team behind me deserves the all the credit!" Rockers won the award for the Best Hang Out on Base!

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| | <p>03.28 VS. GREAT FALLS ELECTRIC</p> | <p>05.09 VS. WILLAMETTE VALLEY JAGUARS</p> | |
| | <p>04.03 VS. GRANT COUNTY REDTAILS</p> | <p>05.15 VS. MESA MONSOONS</p> | |
| | <p>04.04 VS. GRANT COUNTY REDTAILS</p> | <p>05.16 VS. MESA MONSOONS</p> | |



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Ken Oda, Minotauros General Mgr said, "We love our Minot Air Force Base Fans, Thank you for voting for us again this year." The Minotauros have won the Best Winter Activity Award for the 4th year in a row!



Sabreena Deadmond Owner/Manager of Ebenezer's Eatery & Pub "We are proud to serve our Minot AFB guests, and honored that they voted us Best Restaurant in Minot"



Morgan & Sam Weddell from Atypical Brewery, which won the Best Nighttime Hotspot Award.



Medora was voted Best Day Trip Destination by our readers.

northern sentry
MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER

BEST of Awards

Thanks to all the MAFB community members who nominated and voted in the Best of Minot AFB Awards this year! Because of you, we are able to highlight the special places and businesses around town that are truly loved.

The 2026 Winners ARE.....

BEST EATERY ON BASE

Central Brew Kiosk

BEST RESTAURANT IN TOWN (MINOT)

Ebenezer's Eatery & Irish Pub

BEST HANG OUT ON BASE

Rockers Bar & Grill

BEST LOCAL WINTER ACTIVITY/RECREATION

Minotauros Hockey

BEST LOCAL SUMMER ACTIVITY/RECREATION

North Dakota State Fair

BEST DAY TRIP DESTINATION

Medora

BEST SCHOOL ON OR OFF BASE

North Plains Elementary

BEST LOCAL NIGHTTIME HOTSPOT

Atypical Brewery



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Giveaway Time: iMagicon is Coming

Mark your calendars: April 24–26, Minot is getting its annual dose of fantasy, comic books, cosplay, celebrity meet-and-greets, and all things nerdy and awesome at iMagicon!

And guess what... The Northern Sentry is giving you a chance to go FOR FREE!

We've got a limited number of 3-Day Convention Passes (valued at \$45 each) reserved just for the Minot AFB community. Yes, free. Yes, all three days. Yes, you want this.

HOW TO ENTER:

It's almost too easy... Just subscribe to our weekly email newsletter, the Weekly Post Brief, and you're automatically entered to win!

We know, we know... "another email." But this one only comes once a week and keeps you in the loop on all the fun, interesting, and sometimes downright entertaining things happening around base. Honestly, it's worth it.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Entry window: March 27 – April 8, 2026 (closes at 12 PM)
Winners notified by: April 13, 2026 (via email—so use one you actually check!)

RULES:

- One entry per email address
- Open to Minot AFB Airmen and their dependents
- Must be 18 or older
- Don't miss your chance to experience iMagicon for free—get entered and get ready to geek out!

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And so much more! Volunteer opportunities also available. Learn more at imagiconnd.com

Brass Band of Minot to Close Season with "Best of Brass" Concert

The Brass Band of Minot will conclude its 2025-2026 season with a concert titled "The Best of Brass" featuring great Brass Band music in a variety of styles and special guests, the Heritage Singers, on Sunday, March 29th at 4:00 PM at Minot State University's Anne Nicole Nelson Hall.

The concert will start with John Williams' Olympic Fanfare and Theme followed by an up-beat and dynamic arrangement of That's Entertainment. Baritone player Jeff Musgrave will solo with band accompaniment in a moving arrangement of Be Thou My Vision. Then, the band will play a fun (and funny) arrangement of Augustin Lara's Grenada. The band will take a break while the Heritage Singers sing No Need to Knock by Sally Albrecht, The Water is Wide by Miles Ramsay, Lean on Me by Mark Hays, Thankful by Mark Hays, and God Bless America by Roy Ringwald. The band will return with one of the greats of Salvation Army brass band repertoire, a rousing rock arrangement of Moses, Get Down. No brass greats concert would be complete without a march by John Phillips Sousa. The band will play the march with Sousa's greatest ever debut: Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. As the name suggests, the march was dedicated to the Shriners, and it is appropriately

quirky and mysterious. The concert will take a more serious turn with John Rutter's gentle and peaceful masterpiece, A Gaelic Blessing, and conclude with another of John Rutter's greats, the Lord Bless You and Keep You.

The Brass Band of Minot is directed by Wayne Schempp and consists of brass and percussion players from northwest North Dakota who share a love of British-style brass band music. Players range from high school students to professional music educators.

The Heritage Singers are an all-male choir originally founded in the early 1970's by MSU's Dr. Joe Hegsted to give men an opportunity to sing after college. About 30 to 50 choir members sing in a variety of musical styles and put on three major local performances in the Minot area each year. You can listen to more of the Heritage Singers by attending one of the Minot Symphony Orchestra performances of Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl on at 7 PM on May 2nd or at 3 PM on May 3rd or by attending their annual Spring Concert on May 14th at 7 PM at Christ Lutheran Church.

Brass Band of Minot concerts are free and open to the public though cash and check donations are very welcome and help pay for the band's expenses. The hall has

a hearing loop system for hearing aid users and an elevator accessible from the east side of Old Main.

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.

The band will be back in October for its 2026-2027 season.

The Brass Band of Minot is North Dakota's only British-style brass band and provides audiences with the opportunity to experience the unique brass band sound through a variety of distinctive styles of music. The band is directed by Wayne Schempp and consists of brass and percussion players from Minot and other communities in Northwest North Dakota who share a love of brass band music. Players range from high school students to professional music educators.

Playing in the brass band music is more challenging but also more rewarding than playing in other groups because the parts are more independent, have more variety, and give everyone a chance to shine. Audiences get the chance to see and hear instruments like the flugelhorn, altonium, and soprano coronet, that are not typically present in other ensembles and get to experience the variety and beauty of brass band repertoire.

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DAF completes records review for COVID-related separations

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- The Department of the Air Force recently conducted a proactive review and upgrade of personnel records, identifying 377 who were involuntarily discharged solely for declining the COVID-19 vaccination. This effort ensured individuals who met the eligibility requirements now receive the full amount of post-service benefits, such as a VA home loan and the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The Air Force Review Boards Agency announced completion of its review nine months ahead of the required deadline, demonstrating a commitment to the Secretary of War's guidance to "restore honor to service members separated under the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccine Mandate," in a Dec. 6, 2025, memorandum.

"Completing this review in record time is more than just an administrative update; it's how we restore trust and honor the commitment of those who raised their hand to serve," said the Under Secretary of the Air Force Matt Lohmeier. "This is one way we show how much we value your service and reflects our best effort to make things right."

The comprehensive review by the AFRBA ensured eligible veterans were entitled to the

following upgrades, among other administrative items, to enable a return to service without a waiver if they wish to serve again:

- An "Honorable" service characterization, indicating individuals met all standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty while in uniform.

- A reentry code, indicating individuals are eligible for immediate reenlistment provided they meet enlistment standards.

- A "Secretarial Authority" narrative reason for separation, indicating the discharge from service was not for misconduct or failure to meet standards.

In addition to the 377 cases that met the initial proactive review eligibility criteria, the AFRBA also reviewed an additional 218 involuntary discharge cases, addressing individuals whose separation fell outside the original scope. In total, these upgrades effected 595 active-duty and Air National Guard service members, ranging in rank from Airman 1st Class to Master Sergeant.

"Our team has worked tirelessly to upgrade nearly 600 cases for those previously given a 'General' discharge to now an 'Honorable' discharge, whose involuntarily

separation precluded their reentry to service or mischaracterized their discharge as anything other than COVID-related," said Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Richard L. Anderson.

"This work expresses how the Department of the Air Force went above and beyond the requirements given by the Office of the Secretary of War to take care of our veterans impacted by the now-rescinded COVID-19 vaccine mandate," Anderson said. "Today, we are reaching out to each individual to ensure they are aware of their updated records and take full advantage of the service benefits they deserve."

As an additional effort to support individuals who left service based on the previous COVID-19 vaccine mandate, the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness Anthony J. Tata, announced on March 13, 2026 that the Department of War is extending the deadline for service members to return to service until April 1, 2027, with more details to soon follow.

For more information, visit the DAF COVID Reinstatement website or contact SAF.COVID.TaskForce@us.af.mil.

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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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The Little Blue Elephant Returns to Minot AFB

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

The Little Blue Elephant food truck is officially back on Minot Air Force Base, bringing a flavorful mix of authentic Thai cuisine and fresh sushi that is sure to draw a crowd again. Since its return to the base on March 23rd the food truck has been giving Airmen and families a go to spot for a quick, satisfying meal. Conveniently parked next to the Central Brew Coffee Kiosk, it's an easy stop for lunch or an early dinner, open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Customers can choose from hearty platters to lighter sushi selections, ensuring there is something for every appetite. One standout item on the menu is the "Monkey Ball", tempura fried rolls stuffed with salmon, cream cheese, and topped with a special sauce. It's a filling and flavorful choice that lives up to its reputation, often leaving diners pleasantly surprised at just how satisfying it is.

Even the simpler offerings, like a classic Thai iced tea, add to the experience and provide a refreshing complement to any meal. With options including chicken, beef, shrimp, and tofu, customers can choose from a variety of Thai curries, noodles, and classic platters to suit their taste.

Since reopening on March 23rd, the food truck has already begun attracting attention from base residents eager to enjoy its bold flavors once again. Whether stopping by for a quick bite or a

full meal, the return of the Little Blue Elephant gives the Minot AFB community another delicious reason to get out and enjoy what Minot has to offer.



The Little Blue Elephant Thai & Sushi food truck is back at Minot AFB, serving up flavorful favorites and giving Airmen and their families a delicious new dining option.

| Little Blue Elephant | | |
|--|--|---|
| Authentic Thai cuisine and sushi | | |
| <p>APPETIZERS</p> <p>CHICKEN SATAY \$10 All famous Thai street food, marinated chicken with Thai herbs in sweet chili garlic sauce served with bamboo sticks.</p> <p>THAI SPRING ROLLS \$10 Clear noodles and vegetables wrapped in rice paper served with sweet chili sauce.</p> <p>POT STICKERS \$10 Crispy pork chops and vegetables wrapped in rice paper served with sweet chili sauce.</p> <p>CRAB PUFFS \$10 Crispy pork chops and vegetables wrapped in rice paper served with sweet chili sauce.</p> <p>LITTLE HERNAID \$12 Spring roll wrapped with homemade special sauce.</p> <p>SEXY GIRL \$10 Soft and tender marinated BBQ pork bun topped with special sauce.</p> <p>MR. BEANS (EDAMAME) \$10 Deep fried soy beans with salt.</p> <p>THAI CURRY Choice of Tofu \$14, Chicken, \$14, Beef \$16, Shrimp \$18</p> <p>RED CURRY Prepared with bamboo shoots, string beans, carrots, green peas, and basil cooked in red curry paste and coconut milk.</p> <p>GREEN CURRY Prepared with bamboo shoots, string beans, carrots, green peas, and basil cooked in green curry paste and coconut milk.</p> <p>PANANG CURRY Prepared with string bean, bell pepper, carrots, peas, and cauliflower in panang paste and coconut milk.</p> <p>YELLOW CURRY</p> | <p>THAI NOODLES</p> <p>PAD THAI Choice of Tofu \$12, Chicken \$12, Beef \$15, Shrimp \$18 Stir-fried rice noodles with peanuts, cashews, tomatoes, green onions and bean sprouts.</p> <p>DRUNKEN NOODLE Stir-fried rice noodles with peanuts, cashews, tomatoes, green onions, and bean sprouts.</p> <p>PAID SEE-EW Stir-fried rice noodles with rice cabbage, green onions, and special chili sauce.</p> <p>THAI CLASSIC Choice of Tofu \$12, Chicken, \$12, Beef \$15, Shrimp \$18</p> <p>HOT PEPPER BASIL Stir-fried with string beans, cashews, mushrooms, onions, bell pepper, tomatoes, and Thai garlic chili beef sauce.</p> <p>YOUNG GINGER Stir-fried with mushrooms, rice cabbage, onions, cashews, bell pepper, and bean sprouts in a spicy ginger sauce.</p> <p>SWEET 16 Stir-fried with cashews, broccoli, onions, carrots, bell pepper, tomatoes, cauliflower, and pineapple served with sweet sauce.</p> <p>MR. & MRS. NUTS Stir-fried with cashews, tomatoes, onions, and bell pepper.</p> <p>THAI PEPPER STEAK SEXY ONLY! Stir-fried with cashews, bell pepper, onions, tomatoes, and pineapple served with special sauce.</p> <p>FOR A HAPPY ENDING... 200+ delicious items and drinkable desserts.</p> | <p>SUSHI</p> <p>YAKITORI Crispy tempura with mixed vegetables in light tempura sauce.</p> <p>THAI FRIED RICE Stir-fried rice with carrots, peas, rice cabbage, cashews, onions and egg.</p> <p>PHO NOODLE SOUP SEXY ONLY! Stir-fried rice noodles with chili oil, bean sprouts, green onions, and special sauce.</p> <p>MONDAY</p> <p>SEXY ROLL Three rolls, cream cheese, shrimp tempura, carrots, and bean sprouts.</p> <p>SEXY SUMMER ROLL Three rolls, cucumber, avocado, mango, and bean sprouts.</p> <p>CRUNCHY ROLL Three rolls and avocado oil, topped with shrimp, chicken with spicy sauce and red house special sauce.</p> <p>TUESDAY</p> <p>HONEY ROLL Three rolls with cream cheese, shrimp tempura, carrots, and bean sprouts.</p> <p>CHERRY BLOSSOM FLOWER Three rolls, cucumber, topped with carrots, tomatoes, and bean sprouts.</p> <p>AMERICAN DREAM ROLL Strong tempura, cream cheese, cucumber, avocado, and topped with special sauce.</p> <p>SPICY CALIFORNIA Three rolls, topped with spicy sauce, red hot sauce, and special sauce.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>HEART ATTACK Tempura fried roll stuffed with salmon, cream cheese, and pineapple, topped with special sauce.</p> <p>JASMINE Strong tempura, topped with special sauce, cream cheese, topped with cashews, avocado and special sauce.</p> <p>THURSDAY</p> <p>BROKEN HEART ROLL Fried tempura roll with spicy sauce, cucumber, cream cheese, avocado, and pineapple.</p> <p>SUPERBOWL ROLL Strong tempura, cream cheese, cucumber, topped with red hot sauce, salmon, and special sauce.</p> <p>GET ON FIRE ROLL Three rolls, spicy rolls, cucumber, pineapple, topped with tuna, salmon, avocado, and special sauce.</p> <p>SPICY SALMON Three rolls, topped with special sauce.</p> <p>FRIDAY</p> <p>SPICY Tempura with chili oil, avocado, cucumber, topped with cashews and special sauce.</p> <p>RAINBOW ROLL California roll topped with fresh slices of fresh fish.</p> <p>CATERPILLAR 200+ roll, cashews, mixed chili topped with avocado and special sauce.</p> <p>ICE Three rolls, topped with special sauce.</p> <p>SATURDAY</p> <p>LOBSTER Tempura roll topped with lobster, avocado, cucumber, topped with special sauce.</p> <p>SEX ON THE MOON Strong tempura, cucumber, avocado, and topped with special sauce, pineapple, mango, and special sauce.</p> <p>BLACK DRAGON Strong tempura, cucumber, pineapple, topped with special sauce.</p> <p>MINOT</p> |

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All About Pets

Protecting pets from springtime pests

As the weather begins to warm up in North Dakota, people, pets, and wildlife are emerging from the comfort of home and springing into action. However, with springtime comes another nuisance for pet owners: bugs. There are a variety of pests that can be detrimental to your furry friend's health, and it's important to take the proper precautions to be sure no unwanted critters are making it into your home or on your pet! Some of the most common bugs that can cause harm to your pet include ticks, mosquitoes, spiders, and fleas. And just like humans, some animals can be highly allergic to stings and bites from everyday bugs.

Here are a few measures you can take to help protect your pet:

- Prevent fleas and ticks with one of the many veterinarian-approved products available. There are a variety of applications, including collars, shampoos, topical treatments, and even pills/chewables. Consult a specialist to determine which method is best for your pet.
- Check your pets! It's especially important to give them a once-over after they've spent time in grassy or wooded areas, but even a trip to the dog park or trail can warrant a look. Be sure to check in all the nooks and crannies, feel for abnormal bumps, and keep an eye out for itching, swelling, or lethargy.
- Regularly clean your house and keep your yard mowed and maintained to prevent bugs from nesting. If your pet has a hypersensitivity to bee stings, it may be best to keep any flowers, fruits, or vegetables in an area away from where your pet goes.
- When in doubt, contact your vet. If you notice symptoms of an allergic reaction (itching, swelling, difficulty breathing, vomiting, etc.) be sure to call immediately. It's important to have an emergency veterinarian set up just in case your pet is having a severe reaction. Some clinics that offer emergency services nearby include: Pinkerton Animal Hospital, Core Veterinary Clinic, and Rugby Veterinary Services. Due to the amount of pets in Minot versus the number of emergency vets available, it's imperative to catch any reactions as soon as possible to give yourself time to drive to an emergency clinic further away, if need be. Early detection can also prevent worse conditions that can seriously harm your pet if left untreated.

In North Dakota, the most common types of ticks are the Black Legged (or Deer) Tick, the American Dog Tick, and the Brown Dog Tick. Venomous spiders include the Western Black Widow and Brown Recluse, but they are not seen too often in household settings. Fleas are often transmitted from other carriers such as other pets or wild animals. And as many residents know, North Dakota is full of mosquitoes and other biting/stinging bugs, so it's never a bad idea to stay vigilant, not only for the health of your pet, but for your home and family as well!

NOTES ON BEING SAFE

SPRING THAW MEANS THIN ICE

The old saying, "You're on thin ice" usually means one is probably speaking of a subject matter best left alone. The reason behind the saying is obvious -- those who attempt to walk on thin ice are quite likely to be swimming in short order. Every year, people head out onto frozen lakes in search of that last good fishing spot and end up at the bottom of the lake. There always seems to be that one guy who is oblivious to the rapidly approaching spring weather.

There is no guaranteed "safe" thickness of ice. However, there are general ice thickness guidelines that will give a good approximation.

Rivers and river outlets, which flow into lakes, are dangerous areas all throughout the winter months. Currents can erode ice, even when there are no indications of weakening on the surface. The only sure way to know how thick the ice is would be to drill test holes along the intended path.

North Dakota regulations require ice fishing houses and shelters to be removed from lakes no later than March 15. However, this does not guarantee safe ice until that last weekend. If it has been a warm winter, those dates may be well past a safe time to go out on the ice with vehicles or recreational equipment.

However, one cannot count on "the other guy" or a government agency for protection when they venture out on the ice. It is the individual's responsibility to verify the ice conditions and be constantly aware of their surroundings.

In closing, here are a few tips if for those who venture out onto ice during the spring thaw:

- Use caution near bridges and trestles, as the structures conduct heat into the water, causing ice near these areas to be more dangerous. This is also true for areas where the water has a strong current running through it.
- Be watchful when traveling on the ice at night or in fog. Reduced visibility increases your chances of driving into open water or onto weak ice. This is a frequent cause of ATV and snowmobile related crashes.
- Use the buddy system. A friend may be able to rescue or go for help if one gets into difficulty. Before leaving home, a person should tell someone where he is going and what time he expects to return.
- Always wear a flotation suit or a lifejacket. Wearing a personal flotation device increases ones chance of survival if he should go through the ice.
- Take safety equipment. Ice picks, a rope and a cell phone can make a big difference.
- Avoid alcohol. Alcohol impairs ones judgment, coordination, and reaction time and speeds up hypothermia.

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Car care checklist for summer road trips • Part 1

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

Check tires and tire pressure

Inspect all four tires and, if you have one, the spare tire as well. Look for cuts, gouges or sidewall bulges. Insert a quarter upside down into grooves to check tire tread. If you see the top of George Washington's head, it is time for new tires.

Check tire pressure when the car has been idle and tires are cool. Inflate as needed to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended pressure. You will find it listed in the owner's manual and on the sticker of the driver side door jamb. Do not use the number on the tire sidewall.



Listen to and feel the brakes

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

Secure and test the battery

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

Top off engine oil and other fluids

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

Replace wiper blades and replenish windshield cleaner

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

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BACTRIAN CAMEL

CREATURE FEATURES

- The species' thick, brown coat changes with the seasons. During winter, it thickens to provide added insulation against the cold while large chunks of fur are shed in the summer to keep the animal cool.
- Their hairs can be more than 9 inches in length.
- They have large flat footpads which help them navigate rocky terrain and shifting desert sands without sinking.
- They can go for long periods without water. An adult camel can drink up to 30 gallons in only 13 minutes.
- A Bactrian Camel can run at speeds of 10 - 20 mph.
- Nomads in Asia depend on Bactrian Camels for wool, meat, milk and for transporting people and goods.

Fact File

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Life Span | 20 - 40 years |
| Weight | 1,000 - 2,000 pounds |
| Height | 6 - 7 feet |
| Head and Body Length | 9 1/2 feet |
| Wild Diet | Omnivore Carnivore Herbivore Grasses, Shrubs, Leaves |

FIND 5 DIFFERENCES

HOURS: DAILY 10AM-3PM

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A HOME FOR ART



HOPE ANDERSON

On the corner of Main St and Central Avenue stands an impressive building that once housed the Union National Bank, but now holds fine art treasures that can be enjoyed by all. The Taube Museum of Art has called this historically renovated building home since 1997 and has featured many talents from the surrounding area and beyond ever since.

One such collection that has recently found a home at the Taube is called The Sketchbook Project. For over 17 years, the project distributed hundreds of thousands of books with over 50,000 returned. Every book looked the same when it was distributed with a simple brown cover and blank lined paper, but when returned, each of the 50,000 books was as unique as the artist who created it.

The idea behind the project was to stretch an artist's imagination, be a part of a global movement of creatives, and watch the works travel to exhibits across North America. In May 2023, the project ended and there was a need for new homes for the collection. Fast forward to the present and this is how the Taube became one of the lucky homes to the world's largest collection of sketchbooks, 28,000 to be exact.

Because of the size of the collection, only about 3,000 are currently on display, but they will be rotated so that the works can be seen over time. Rachel Alfaro, executive director of the Taube explained the collection as "art you can touch and look through" and also explained it as interactive and collaborative. Looking through the books, you

can truly get a glimpse into the artist's thoughts and musings. They are sentimental journeys that get to the heart of what was happening in the life of the artist when they had their hands on the sketchbook.

The variety of art in these sketchbooks include fine art to junk journaling and textile art to writing. The only parameter was the prompt the artist was given when they received the book and the rest was up to artist imagination.

In the future, there is a plan to open the project back up to North Dakota artists because at this time, there are few sketchbooks by North Dakotans. Keep an eye on their Facebook at TaubeMuseumofArt or their website: taubemuseum.org to keep informed on this project.

In addition to housing the collection, the Taube is a non-profit art museum that is free and open to the public. They host many exhibits throughout the year including open call exhibits including Small Works, Festival of the Arts, and Solo exhibits. As an artist, this gives the opportunity to showcase your works in a beautiful museum where others can enjoy your work. In addition, they offer various classes for all ages and the museum can be rented for a variety of events.

Next time you are downtown, a stop at the Taube Museum of the Art is a must. Sit down and look through some of The Sketchbook Project or take in some of the other fine art on display. Immersing yourself in the arts is a great way to view the world through a different lens.



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Knighthawk of the Month

A1C Kyal Pickles



Help us celebrate A1C Kyal Pickles, our Knighthawk of the Month!
HOMETOWN: Vancouver, Washington
HOBBIES: Snowboarding
WHAT HE ENJOYS MOST ABOUT BEING A KNIGHTHAWK: "Being able to contribute to the mission directly."

A1C Pickles serves as a B-52 crew chief, ensuring our aircraft are mission-ready and prepared to TAKE FLIGHT at a moment's notice. His attention to detail, accountability on the flightline, and commitment to excellence directly impact sortie generation and mission success. As a Knighthawk, he takes pride in owning his jets and delivering results that keep the 69th Bomber Generation Squadron operating at full strength. TAKE FLIGHT, Kyal! Your hard work, professionalism, and dedication to the mission truly represent the spirit of the Knighthawks.

BADLANDS RESTAURANT BAR

Upcoming 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

APRIL 6TH 12 TO 2 PM

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

APRIL 10-11, 2026
 Friday 10am-8pm • Saturday 9am-5pm
 ND State Fair Center

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

23 APR **39TH ANNUAL PRAIRIE WARRIOR AUCTION**
4:30PM-8:30PM
 ND State Fair Center
 2005 Burdick Expressway East

Minot Area Chamber EDC is proud to present the 39th Annual Prairie Warrior Auction! An evening of food, fun and bidding. Open to the public and features a live and silent auction, buffet, cash bar and more. Proceeds will be used to support Operation Homebound, help squadrons fund events, meals and morale-boosting activities. \$25/person Active duty military are FREE!

APRIL 23 • 4:30PM • TICKETS: \$25 • PRESENTED BY

For more information:
 Facebook / Minot Area Chamber EDC / events

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.

APRIL 24-26, 2026
 North Dakota State Fair Center

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

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 Friday: 11:00 am - 10:00 pm
 Saturday: 11:00 am - 10:00 pm

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NEW Community at the Northern Sentry

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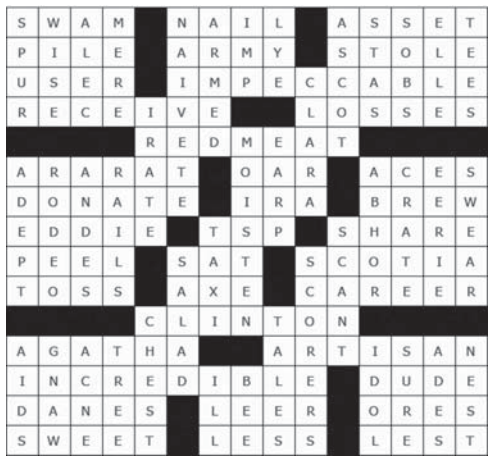
For more events visit our online Community Calendar at www.northernsentry.com/calendar/

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION



SUDOKU

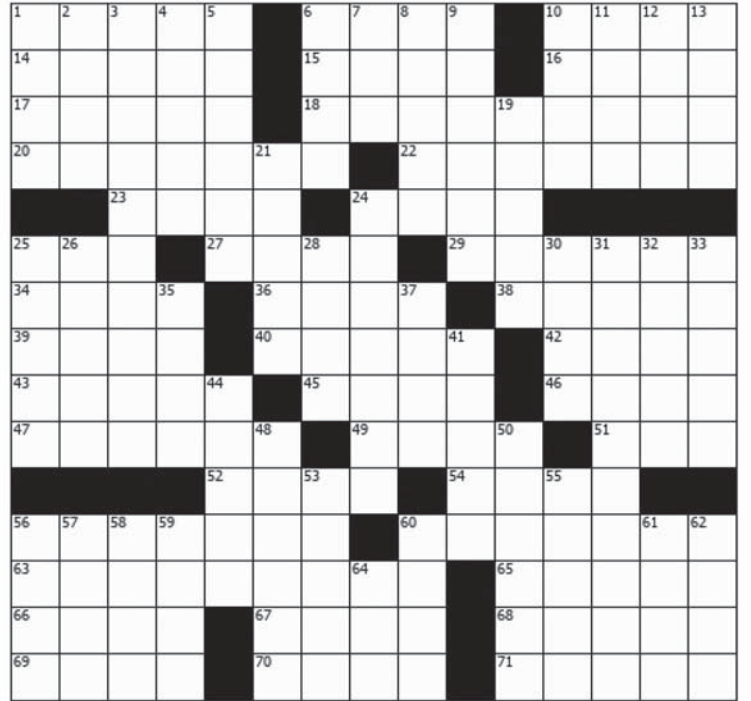
Solution to puzzle on page B10

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1. Pre-birth period
- 6. Riot queller
- 10. Lifeline locale
- 14. "___ by any other name ..."
- 15. Unholy figure
- 16. They're big in Australia
- 17. Chefs' protectors
- 18. Street sign
- 20. Flat-bottomed rowboats
- 22. One behind the wheel
- 23. Take it easy
- 24. Take seriously
- 25. Parisian article
- 27. Novel ending?
- 29. Searches for water
- 34. Goldberg and Field played them
- 36. It's straight from the horse's mouth
- 38. Brown tone
- 39. Third man
- 40. Per ___
- 42. Places for flowers
- 43. Series of ornamental loops
- 45. Shakespearean option
- 46. They have a queen but no king
- 47. We wouldn't have givers without them
- 49. Stamp-of-approval letters
- 51. Thirsty
- 52. Medical suffix
- 54. Contained herein (Abbr.)
- 56. Window deicer
- 60. Henry Hudson's skill
- 63. Pedestrian safety
- 65. Graph heading
- 66. Mare's meal
- 67. Prefix for lateral or librium
- 68. Licorice-flavored seed
- 69. Govt. investigators
- 70. Quarters
- 71. Latvians



Down

- 1. "The ___ of God"
- 2. Song from "Turandot"
- 3. Traffic jam
- 4. Path start
- 5. Secondhand transaction
- 6. Flirtatious woman
- 7. "Without further ___ . . ."
- 8. Thicket
- 9. Pleased as punch
- 10. Small Chinese dog
- 11. Mideast prince (Var.)
- 12. Debussy's "Clair de ___"
- 13. Fr. title of respect
- 19. Makeovers
- 21. To extremes
- 24. Odious
- 25. Not appropriate
- 26. Region from the Nile to the Red Sea
- 28. Pavilion
- 30. Friday on TV
- 31. Highway sign
- 32. Where to get down?
- 33. Flip, in a way
- 35. Fruit of the blackthorn
- 37. Small lumps
- 41. Image-maker's tool
- 44. Takes a spill
- 48. Drunk as a skunk
- 50. Twenty Questions category
- 53. Basra native
- 55. "Crazy" singer
- 56. William Wallace, for one
- 57. Stuff
- 58. Learning by memorization
- 59. Part of the NAACP
- 60. Tomba's transportation
- 61. Home in the woods
- 62. "Here ___ nothing!"
- 64. Big brute

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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North Plains Chapel
290 Peacekeeper Pl
(across from North Plains Elementary School)

Protestant Community Service Times:
Traditional Service 9:00am
Breakfast Fellowship 10:00am
Contemporary Service 11:00am
(Holy Communion 1st Sunday)
Children's Church available

Northern Lights Chapel
230 Missile Ave
(across from Rockers)

Catholic Mass

Sunday 1000
Daily Monday-Friday 1200

Open Circle (Wiccan/ Neo-Pagan)
1000 on 1st & 3rd Saturdays

Hof (Norse Pagan)
1700 on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

St. Peter The Aleut Eastern Orthodox Church

109 6th St. SE Minot • 838-3094

Saturday, March 28
5PM, Great Vespers

Sunday, March 29
10AM, Divine Liturgy

Father Bill Neumann



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3705 11th St. SW
Minot, ND 58701
701-852-6404
www.oslcminot.com

Pastor Dan Haugen

Sunday Worship
8:00am Traditional Service
9:30am Contemporary Service (w/Livestream)
9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
11:00am Contemporary Service

April 1
No Wednesday Activities
April 2
6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship
April 3
6:30pm Good Friday Worship

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Worship Service
10:45am Sundays

Sunday School
9:45am

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MinotBibleFellowship.org



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1024 2nd St. SE • 838-4425
Behind Town & Country Shopping Center

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Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship..... 11:00 a.m.

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People of Destiny

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10:00am Sundays

*Pastor Larry Borud
Pastor Bob Paulson*

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Northlandharvest.com

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

1000 NE 3rd Street 852-0315

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

Wednesday Evening Schedule
Community Dinner 5:30-6:30pm
Contemporary Worship 6:30pm
Youth Group & Small Groups.. 7:15pm
All are Welcome!
www.cornerstoneminot.com



Faith United Methodist Church

5900 Highway 83 N, Minot
www.faithumcminot.com

Pastor Rick Craig
701-838-1540

Sunday School (All Ages): 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Coffee Fellowship: 10:30 a.m.
Worship Services: Sunday 11 a.m.



Immanuel Baptist Church

1615 2nd St. SE
www.ibcminot.org
701-839-3694

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

WEDNESDAY 11:30am Soup Kitchen
5:45pm Family Supper
6:15pm K-5th & Middle School Start
6:30pm HS & Adult Start

Pastor Brian Keithline



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430 NORTH BROADWAY, MINOT ND
Sunday Service.... 11:00 am
Sunday School 11:00 am
Maundy-Thursday
April 2, 2026 ... 8:00 pm

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839-7076

Daily Mass Schedule:

Tuesday 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday - Friday 7:00 a.m.
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Fr. David A. Richter, Pastor
Parish website: www.stjohnminot.com



First Lutheran Church - ELCA
120 5th Ave. NW
852-4853

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

www.firstlutheran.tv
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Sunday 9:30 am
www.flcminot.com

Pastor Brandy Gerjets

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD

1805 2nd St. SE
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9:00 am / 10:30 am / Noon

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Sending the Glorious Light of Jesus Christ to a Dark and Needy World

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 p.m.

Independent/Fundamental/KJV
500 46th Ave NE • 839-1351
Pastor David Miller



Cross Roads Baptist

Southern Baptist Convention

Sunday School (all ages) 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays (Prayer & Missions) ... 6:30 p.m.

www.minotcrbc.org
email: minotcrbc@gmail.com
Gabe McCormick- Pastor

415 28th Ave SE (Behind Menards)
838-1873



West Minot Church of God
Family Worship Center

1105 16th St. NW • 839-1407

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church & Nursery
Wednesday Family Training Hour
Meal..... 5:30p.m.
Classes for All Ages 6:30 p.m.
Youth Center, Friday..... 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.
ABC Child Care Center 852-6352

westminot.com
facebook.com/westminot



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

Sunday Divine Service
9:30 AM

Sunday Bible Study & Sunday School
11:00 AM

Wednesday Kid Connection
6:00-7:00 PM

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

www.minotstmarks.com
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First Baptist Church

200 3rd St. SW • 852-4533
www.fbcminot.org

Classic Worship Service..... 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School (All Ages)..... 9:45 a.m.
Contemporary Worship Service..... 9:50 a.m.
Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship Service..... 11:05 a.m.
Children's Church 11:05 am.
Wed. AWANA (Sept. to May) 6:30 p.m.
Fridays, Celebrate Recovery 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Kent Hinkel, Senior Pastor
Elaine Carlson, Children's Ministry Director

Apostolic Faith Church, UPCI

2929 19th Ave NW • Minot
Located off Hwy 83 Bypass West
(701) 838-0609

Saturday School..... 2:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Jesse Starr, Pastor

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Call 839-0946

Only \$9.00 a space / per week



Gospel Tabernacle Church of God in Christ

9999 27th St NE
4 miles south of MAFB

James R. Henderson
Lorna Y. Henderson

Church: 701-838-4492
Cell: 701-240-3435

Sunday Worship... 11:00 a.m.



OUR REDEEMER'S CHURCH
A Church of the Lutheran Brethren

Sundays
Worship 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School (for all ages) 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study
Children's and Middle School..... 6:00 p.m.
Adult 6:15 p.m.
High School 7:15 p.m.

700 16th Ave SE • 701-838-0750
For more information visit us on the web at:
www.ourredeemers.org

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Only \$9.00 a space / per week

Gospel Tabernacle Church of God in Christ

9999 27th St NE
4 miles south of MAFB

James R. Henderson
Lorna Y. Henderson

Church: 701-838-4492
Cell: 701-240-3435

Sunday Worship... 11:00 a.m.



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Christ-centered PreK-12 Education

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info@orcsknights.org 701-839-0772
www.orcsknights.org

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Firearms Safety Training Supports Local Veterans

Together With Veterans - Minot hosted a Firearms Safety and Safe Storage Class this past Saturday, providing local veterans with hands-on training and essential knowledge to promote responsible firearm ownership.

Participants learned fundamental safety rules and proper handling techniques, along with best practices for securely storing firearms to protect themselves and others. The class concluded with a live-fire exercise at an indoor range, giving attendees the opportunity to apply their newly acquired skills in a controlled environment.

The event marked another success for the program, made possible through strong community partnerships. Organizers extended their gratitude to the Minot Rifle & Pistol Club for providing expert instruction and access to their range, the The Forgotten Warrior Foundation for funding training equipment and supplies, and Scheels for donating safety gear.

Together With Veterans - Minot plans to continue offering engaging and impactful events, encouraging the community to join them again next month for another opportunity to connect and learn. Find more of their events on their Facebook page.



TOGETHER WITH VETERANS - MINOT PHOTOS

Gardening Saturday April 18

Hosted by NoAH Garden Club

8am - 4pm @ Minot Area Workforce Academy
2100 21st Ave NW, Minot, ND

\$50 entry fee, includes
breakfast, lunch, and snacks

Four Speakers on Gardening Topics
Door Prizes and Vendors

Vendor Room is FREE and Open to the Public



More info or register at: gardeningnoah.com



VFW

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Monday-Thursday
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- 1 PM-4 PM
- 6 PM-10 PM

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MINOT'S PREMIER PARTY LOCATION

BIRTHDAY PARTY PACKAGES
(Priced Per Child)

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MINOT NORTH SENTINEL REPORT



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Long Jump, Pole Vault Make State & Softball Gears Up

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, STUDENT JOURNALIST

At the Williston invitational meet on March 19th, two Sentinel track and field athletes declared their prestige as a team, earning state berths in the season's opening weeks.

Junior Malia Magee launched herself into the state spotlight with a long jump of 16 feet, 10 inches, a leap that not only turned heads at the meet but punched her ticket to the state track and field championship later this year. A typical long jump requires athletes to jump from a 20 cm wide board and fly through the air into a sand pit where their distance is measured by judges. Their best jump from 3-6 attempts is recorded. It's the kind of mark that takes years of work to reach, and Magee made it look like business as usual.

Joining her at State later this year will be McKinnley Kragh, who cleared 10 feet, 3 inches in the pole vault, a height that earned her a state qualifier alongside her teammate. Pole vaulting is usually regarded as one of the most technically demanding events in all track and field, requiring equal parts athleticism, precision, and nerves of steel. The sport involves creating high potential for consequences, but also high stakes for success. Kragh displayed both in Williston.

To have two state qualifiers from a single school at one of the season's first major meets is no small feat. It speaks to the depth of Minot North's girls' track program

and sets an early tone for what could be a memorable spring.



Minot North Girl's Track: Kiarra Diaz
JP BEHIND THE LENS PHOTO

Pitching the ball over to Minot North softball, the team resumed practices on March 15th, and the mood inside the program is one of hungry determination. The team is pushing for a season better than the last. The 2025 Sentinels finished 13-19 overall, going 7-11 in conference play. A winning record away from home showed flashes of what this team is capable of, but too many close ones slipped away on the neutral and home

fields. This spring, the returners remember every one of those losses and the lessons learned.

Firing up this team with some stellar players, Seniors Kinzy Welstad, Tiecyn Hertz, Kate Coleman, and Aven Kelly headline a core that has grown up together in this program within travel and school ball. They enter their final season with something to prove. That kind of senior leadership, players who know the program, know each other, and know what it feels like to fall short, is the engine that might just drive a turnaround year.

The Sentinels softball open their season Thursday, March 27th, when both the softball and baseball programs play their first games of the year. For the softball squad, it's the first chance to show that 2025 was a foundation, not a ceiling.

The Sentinels won't stop at softball and baseball on opening day. Girls tennis opens its season on Sunday, March 30th, rounding out a week that marks the full arrival of spring athletics at Minot North.

It's a busy, promising stretch for the Sentinels across the board. With state qualifiers already secured in track, a softball roster loaded with senior leadership and young firepower, and tennis and baseball joining the mix within the week, Minot North fans won't have to look hard to find a reason to show up this spring.

Rummage Sale & Bake Sale

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Month of the Military Child - April 2026

The Month of the Military Child is an exciting month to celebrate students from all backgrounds who serve alongside their parents! These children move, on average, six to nine times throughout their educational career. School Liaisons throughout the world welcome and say goodbye to incoming/outgoing students and their families, assisting them with navigating their ever-

changing landscape. Quality of education is a top priority in all branches and contributes to force readiness and retention, and I am proud to support.

In honor of these military families, I have compiled a calendar of events that includes community freebies, discounts, and experiences unique to North Dakota. There's also my recommendation to listen to a song

or two! Please enjoy it all knowing you're seen, strong, and supported.

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.



YOUTH IN ACTION



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

Month of the Military Child - April 2026

MOMC is an incredible opportunity to show support for our military connected students and families!

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
|  | | | 1 -Glenburn dismissal 1pm- Free ice cream for mil children all month at Magic City Sweets & Hoagies* 2:45pm Youth Center Clap-in | 2 3:30pm MAFB Library & EFMP Story, Egg Hunt & Craft** North Hill Bowl \$3.25/game | 3 No School Tie a purple ribbon around a tree/wreath to pay tribute Read School Liaison's article "Attributes of Mil-Connected Students" | 4 School Librarian Appreciation - School Liaison giving United Through Reading Books to all 3 Minot AFB Schools |
| 5 April 5th-11th FREE Admission for active-duty, guard, reserves & families at the Magic City Discovery Center | 6 No School MPS District #1 Board Member Forms due to District Office Dakota E.S. Spirit Wk. 7-10 | 7 8:30am Dakota E.S. Clap-in*** Purple Up! Day Grand Forks MOMC Proclamation Signing with Gov Armstrong | 8 Pick up your very own copy of "A Parent's Handbook: How to Be Involved in Your Child's Education" from the SL Office at 168 Missile Ave | 9 MOMC Fair at Dakota Elementary School from 4:30pm-6:30pm North Hill Bowl \$3.25/game | 10 9am Dakota E.S. Assembly 1-2pm Convo with the Mayor at North Plains (Homeschoolers welcome!) Read SL's article "City Government Week: Minot's Magnanimous Mayor" | 11 Take the free Compact 101 Training on https://mic3.net/mic3training-net/ & get a certificate! MIC3 |
| 12 Memorial M.S. & North Plains E.S. MOMC Spirit Wk. 13-17. | 13 Listen to Farah Siraj's song "See the World" | 14 Pick up your very own copy of the Military Interstate Compact from the SL Office | 15 10am-2pm Spring Ed Fair at BX -MPS Early Release 1:15pm- | 16 North Hill Bowl \$3.25/game | 17 7:20am Memorial M.S. Clap-in*** & 8:30am North Plains E.S. Clap-in*** & Assembly Read SL's article "Lunch Visits" 3:15pm Purple Up Parade at CDC | 18 Celebrate America Event in Bismarck at 5pm |
| 19 North Dakota Day! Celebrate America Event in Bismarck 10:30am | 20 Magic City Discovery Center Sensory Friendly Night 4-5:30pm FREE | 21 9:30am Coffee and Conversations at Lil' Riders - Homeschool Students Minot Vets for Vets Meeting 5:30pm | 22 Administrative Professionals' Appreciation Day - School Liaison Office bestowing Gift Baskets to our PSMI Secretaries | 23 North Hill Bowl \$3.25/game | 24 Evening CYP Event at Youth Center Read SL's article "Continuing to Cherish our Mil-Connected Children" 6-8pm EFMP Pasta Making Event** | 25 Read the full range of publications available on MIC3 at https://mic3.net/publications/ MIC3 |
| 26 Write and mail a letter to a fellow military-connected student | 27 Listen to Randy Beard's song "You're Never Alone" | 28 Pick up a pencil/apple foam squishy from the School Liaison Office at 168 Missile Ave | 29 Homeschoolers: 12-1pm Stop by the School Liaison Office to Create Your Own Mini Canvas! | 30 North Hill Bowl \$3.25/game Gift Baskets to our PSMI Principals | ***All PSMI Students Receive a Pencil Case with Supplies from the School Liaison Office  | |

* Need coupon (inside pencil case) ** Registration Required

- **City Government Week (April 6-10, 2026):** Designated by the North Dakota League of Cities to promote local government, featuring activities like school visits and, in some cases, city trivia. April 10th: Conversations with the Mayor!
- **Celebrate America Event (April 18-19, 2026):** A special, free weekend for veterans and military service members at the Bismarck Armvets Club. Also, every 2nd and 4th Saturday: Peer Support Group. (Minot Vets for Vets Support Group 1st & 3rd Tues 5:30pm)
- **Minot AFB Library:** Star Wars Jedi Library Escape Room Game April 4-18, Star Wars Spectacular program 1300 on April 11

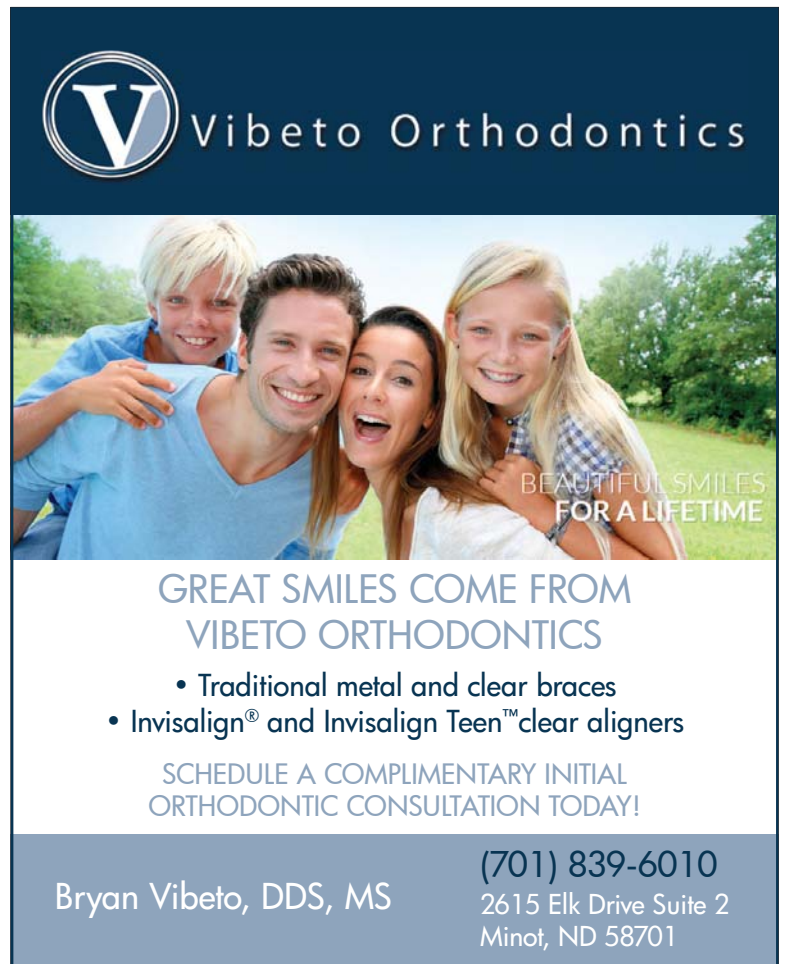
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Kim Fundingsland

I write about dogs a lot, but never enough. They deserve more.

No matter what I write about dogs it always seems inadequate, yet here I go again. Dog owners will understand. Dogs do not read. At least I don't think they do, at least not the written word.

Depending on what statistics you wish to follow, dogs reside in about half of all households in the United States. If the number were higher, I think it would be better for all of us.

There are special therapy dogs that improve people's lives. Cancer and stroke detecting dogs, emotional support dogs, herding dogs, hunting dogs, cuddly dogs, and good old friendly family dogs are just a few of the dogs that lift spirits and make lives better. I've owned several dogs and, while some were better at some things than others, all were very remarkable companions. Since I grew up in a hunting household my choice of dogs was always a hunting breed but, because hunting season only takes up part of the year, it was always important to have a combination family dog, boat dog, and overall fun dog too. That's exactly what you get if you spend just a little bit extra time with them. It doesn't take much.

As a judge on the field trial circuit, I often observed the real meaning of "every dog has its day." I would often watch dozens of different dogs perform in the field on a weekend. Fascinating stuff.

Of course, every owner thought their dog was the best, even when results in the field proved otherwise. They would pat their dog on the head while the dog looked in their eyes, praise them, give them fresh bowl of water, and find them a shady spot to lie down. It always made me smile to see a dog that had earned such family status.

Dogs earn a place in their owner's hearts. As an example, here are a few brief but touching incidents involving a golden retriever I owned.

Spice was giving birth in a child's swimming pool specially fixed up for her in the basement. After the third puppy was born, she got up and went upstairs. Huh? Now what?

I waited about a minute and then started up the stairs to see what the heck was going on. Spice met me, hurrying back down the stairs carrying her favorite soft toy. She placed it near her three new puppies and pushed it over to them with her nose, an act of kindness. Then she had seven more pups.

As gentle as that dog was, she showed a side I never knew existed during a hunt in the rolling sandhills of Nebraska. I had a far-ranging Brittany well out in front of me in search of prairie chickens. Spice



always stayed close.

Spice and I watched from a ridgeline as my Brittany was heading up a distant ravine. I could see a pack of coyotes at the top of the ravine. They were closely watching my Brittany who was oblivious to the trap he was about to enter.

I called him back. As he turned to come back the coyotes split into two packs, six in one and seven in the other, and began working to outflank my Brittany. I was too far away to do anything and was certain I was about to see my dog ripped up by coyotes. Fortunately, Spice was watching the same thing.

Completely out of character, at least I had never seen it, Spice advanced to the end of the ridgeline we were on and puffed herself up. Her tail was raised high, her hair standing on end, she was showing her teeth, and woofing loudly. Her presence caused all 13 coyotes to come to a stop as my Brittany, who never realized the danger he was in, slipped through their death trap.

The same dog that made sure her newborn puppies had a stuffed toy also sized up a dangerous situation and stepped forward to save my Brittany. Doggone good stuff.

Nope. I can never write enough good things about dogs.

Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser Tell Your Story

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

Maj. Gen. Stacy Joe Huser stepped to the podium at the Minot Area Chamber/EDC annual meeting as the keynote speaker. Maj. Gen. Huser was once stationed in Minot, and her 30 year journey through the Air Force has landed her at F.E. Warren as Commander of the 20th Air Force.



It would be normal for Huser to talk about national defense, or other similar topics, but tonight by her own admission she entertained the audience of over 250 with

her story. "Tonight I am going to talk about myself more than I am comfortable with, but I want to do it so I can illustrate a picture for all of you" Huser shared. Huser started with the statement that "You never go to war with the Army that you want...or the Army you envisioned having." But Maj Gen Huser was not talking military necessarily, she was also talking

about life. Huser shared that both of her parents were born and raised



U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser, 20th Air Force Commander, greets Airmen from the 91st Missile Security Operations Squadron (91MSOS) at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, March 11, 2025. Part of the 91st Security Forces Group at Minot AFB, the 91MSOS protects Team Minot's Minuteman III missiles and launch facilities.

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

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Amish, and to that she said that it was horse and buggy and no electricity...very typical Amish. Her Mom's parents actually met and got married in North Dakota. "They had 8 children here in North Dakota, and then my Grandfather decided to go back to Indiana, so he grabbed the oldest child and they traveled by train with most of the family belongings. Then a few months later my Grandma, who was pregnant with my Mom, also traveled by train to Indiana, and that was in January of 1941, so the family was reunited in Indiana. My Grandma had my Mom, and 8 more kids for a total of 17 children."

Huser's Mom helped raise her siblings. Huser shared her Mom's story, and that of an aunt who lived to be 95 and lived on her own and had 8 kids, 46 grandchildren and countless great, and great, great grandchildren.

Stacy Jo moved to Michigan and got married and had no idea that she would enlist in the Air Force. But a friend of hers who was in the Air Force "and he literally just read me his pay stub and I thought, wow. The Air Force was never anything I dreamt of doing, but I needed something, some kind of direction in life. So, I went down to the local recruiter and I was a female with a college degree, and they signed me right up." Gen Huser shared that her husband of less than a year did not know that she was doing it. "I came home and said, I joined the Air Force" says Huser.

After 4 years Huser said that she loved the mission of the Air Force, but she loved the work even more. "I absolutely love it."

"My husband and I have been

married for over 31 years, I have been in the Air Force for 30 years, we have moved 14 times, we have 2 amazing kids...but I didn't join the Air Force for any patriotic reason. I have met a lot of people like me who didn't join for any patriotic reason, but they stayed because they loved the mission."

Gen Huser pointed out to the audience that more than likely they were like her. "It's not that my story is super interesting, but I want to remind all of you that you have a reason for what you do, and all of you have a story, and you need to share your stories. Share how you got to where you are, what made you who you are. You need to share your struggles with the people who you work with, to people who you know."

Huser told the audience that their first Army was their family. Huser also shared another part of her story; how her husband has handled her Air Force journey. "He has been a stay at a home Dad when my job was extremely busy, when my job was less busy he would work. A lot of our Airmen are single parents. Some of them are struggling to be parents" but according to Huser they find a way to make it work.

The second Army for Huser was the Air Force. "We talk to people about your Air Force Family, but that often doesn't begin until people need their Air Force Family." Huser shared the story of her daughter who was born at 25 weeks, and weighed only 1 pound, 12 ounces. "She was born 100 days early, and I was working full time, and my husband was working full time. The people that I worked with in the Air Force were so incredible

and so supportive and were there for me and helped me" says Huser "we would not have been able to survive that experience had it not been for them. But my Air Force family was there for me, and when they needed me I was there for them."

Huser also spoke to the fact that there was a lot of times when she was the first woman, or the only women that did what she did. "I shouldn't be the first. There should have been hundreds that came before me. I shouldn't be the only, I should be surrounded by women. So, I tried doing things that would bring women into our career field. I wanted women to see that you could be in the Air Force, be a wife and be a Mom." And from that goal Huser organized and orchestrated an all-woman alert because "we had so many talented women missileers. Not only in Minot but in Great Falls and also in Cheyenne, Wyoming." And it happened during Women's History Month.

Her fourth Army, was that of Enterprise, and her final point. "Find the Army of your brothers and sisters, advocate for them, and make sure that you speak for those who may not have a voice."

Finishing Huser related that "our mission here at Minot and across Global Strike remains the cornerstone and bedrock of our national security. Maintaining an uninterrupted deterrent remains



U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser, 20th Air Force Commander, presents a coin to Senior Airman Abigail Christian, 91st Missile Security Forces Squadron, at the Dakota Inn Dining Facility on Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, March 12, 2025. Huser coined a few 91st Missile Wing Airmen and had a group breakfast with around 20 other Airmen.

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

the most important task in front of us. Every administration supports our enterprise. We need to maintain constant communication, it's critical to success. And if you ask what you can do if you absolutely want to help, it's very simple. Keep building relationships and keep loving our Airmen and their families. Here at Minot, you set an example for

the rest of the country. You show others what pride looks like. They want to be like you. They want to be like you because they see you making a difference, not necessarily just here locally, but across our nation. So, keep that up and from me personally, thank you guys for everything you do. You absolutely make a difference for our Airmen and our mission."

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MINOT AFB

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

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HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE FULL AND PART TIME OPENINGS for daytime and evening custodial positions cleaning buildings at the Minot Air Force Base. Pay is \$14.49/hour plus health & welfare benefit. Hours Days 8a or 9a-finish typically Monday through Friday, may include weekend work. Nights 5p-finish. Apply in person at: 605 27th St SE, Minot ND 58701 or contact: Alicia Mello by email or phone at amello@kalixnd.org 701-852-1014.

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

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 B3

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Bottineau Winter Park
Bottineau Winter Park, 1 Winter Park Road

Friday, March 27, 12 noon – 9:00 pm

Saturday, March 28, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
"Jersey Day"

LAST DAY OF THE SEASON

Sunday, March 28, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
"Costume Day"

Pond Skim at 1:00 pm
(Registration at noon)

Cardboard Conundrum at 4:30 pm
(Registration at 4:00 pm)

We have lots of snow!



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OUTDOOR REPORT



by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, March 23: 1,827.27 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 15,900 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,449.14 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.07 MSL.

• N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No reports from area lakes and use caution as shorelines start to deteriorate and ice honeycombing.

• Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Limited activity but those going continue finding occasional walleye. Use extreme caution with ice likely starting to honeycomb. Some white bass activity around 6-Bay.

• Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: No new reports from Lake Darling. Check ice conditions with honeycombing conditions possible with warmer weather.

• Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Fewer anglers on the lake but those going continue finding some bluegill activity. Better walleye success for anglers walking onto the ice remains at night but use caution with warm weather starting to deteriorate shoreline ice conditions.

• Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Increasing angler numbers on the Missouri River tailrace with improving walleye activity. Water on top of the ice along shorelines in areas on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Ice conditions will start deteriorating and anglers need to use extreme caution if

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.

- 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 Curling Club Shirtsleeve Bonspiel.
- March 27 – 29: Gun Show sponsored by the Minot Rifle & Pistol Club, free admission, N.D. State Fair All Seasons Arena, Minot.
- April 1: New 2026 fishing licenses required.
- April 10: Badlands Toms Nat'l. Wild Turkey Federation banquet, Outlaws Bar & Grill, Watford City, 5 p.m.
- April 11: Spring turkey season opens (lottery licenses only).
- April 11: Williston Ducks Unlimited banquet, Missouri Valley Fairgrounds, Williston, 5 p.m.
- April 11 & 12: Maple Sugaring Day, Fort Stevenson State Park, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 11 and noon to 3 p.m. April 12. Contact the park, (701) 337-5576, for details.
- April 12: 5K Sap Run, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison. 5K trail run, jog, or walk. Registration is required. Go to (runsignup.com/Race/ND/Garrison/FortStevensonStateParkSapRun5k) to register.

SAP Run 5K

Fort Stevenson State Park



considering walking out.

• Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Lake Sakakawea shoreline conditions becoming marginal but look for some pike activity in the back bays. Walking access only recommended and check ice for honeycombing. Limited walleye success. Lake Audubon ice conditions deteriorating with no new reports.

• Lake Sakakawea, New Town: No new reports from the Van Hook Arm.

• Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Increasing angler activity with warming temperatures bringing improving walleye success in the Missouri River tailrace. Try jigs and minnows or plastics working downstream of the chutes and throughout the river. Also try the chutes for ling with some walleye at night. Look for a few walleye from the wing walls.

• Lake Sakakawea/northwest

N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Missouri and Yellowstone rivers open around the Williston area with decent walleye success even with muddying water. Lake Sakakawea shorelines are marginal for access and anglers are advised to stay off the ice with warming temperatures.

• North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: No activity with anglers waiting for ice-out on area lakes.

MIGRATION:

• Good numbers of snow geese in north-central N.D. and look for additional snow goose movement north with warmer weather. Not much movement yet in northwest N.D. earlier in the week, however.

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 27

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP DoL Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- All-Star Membership Day, 1600-1730, Youth Center
- Community Game Night, 1600, Northern Paradise AMC inside Bomber Bistro
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

WEDNESDAY 01

- Registration Opens: Youth Outdoor Soccer, CYPBMS
- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- SNCO Foundation Course 700, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Storytime, 1030, Base Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Brown Bag Book Talk, 1200-1300, Base Library
- Rockin' Into Month of the Military Child, 1445-1730, Youth Center

FRIDAY 03

- SNCO Foundation Course 700, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Fun Fri-yay, 1630-2000, Jimmy Doolittle Center
- Airmen's Night Out, 1600, Outdoor Recreation
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY 28

THURSDAY 02

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- SNCO Foundation Course 700, 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

SATURDAY 04

- Jedi Library Escape Room Game Begins, Minot AFB Library
- Chess Club, 1200-1400, Minot AFB Library

SUNDAY 29

MONDAY 30

- Biggest Loser/Gainer Competition Mid-Term, McAdoo Fitness Center
- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- SNCO Foundation Course 700, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center

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: Parfait

TUESDAY 31

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- SNCO Foundation Course 700, 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
- UVAO Training, 1300-1400, M&FRC

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